



September 2nd, 2024

**Notice Of Meeting**

You are requested to attend the Council meeting to be held on **Monday, 2nd September 2024** at **6:00 pm** in **Council Chamber, Downshire Civic Centre.**

# Agenda

## 1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

## 2.0 Declarations of Interest

## 3.0 Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 5 August 2024

*For Information*

[Action Sheet Council Meeting 2024 08 05.pdf](#)

Page 1

---

### *Council Minutes For Adoption and Signing*

---

## 4.0 Minutes of Council Meeting held on 5 August 2024

*For Approval*

[Council Minutes 2024 08 05.pdf](#)

Page 4

---

### *Committee Minutes for Consideration and Adoption*

---

## 5.0 Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 31 July 2024

*For Approval*

[Audit Committee Minutes 2024-07-31.pdf](#)

Page 14

## 6.0 Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 12 August 2024

*For Approval*

[Economy Regeneration and Tourism Minutes 2024 08 12.pdf](#)

Page 20

## 7.0 Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 15 August 2024

*For Approval*

[Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee Meeting Minutes 2024-08-15.pdf](#)

Page 25

### 7.1 Minutes of Special Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held 27 August 2024

*For Approval*

[Special Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting Minutes 2024-08-27.pdf](#)

Page 36

## 8.0 Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 19 August 2024

*For Approval*

[Active and Healthy Communities Minutes 2024 08 19.pdf](#)

Page 38

## 9.0 Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 21 August 2024

*For Approval*

[Sustainabilty\\_and\\_Environment\\_Committee\\_Minutes\\_2024\\_08\\_21.pdf](#)

Page 45

---

### Correspondence

---

## 10.0 Correspondence Report

*For Information*

[Correspondence Report Council 2024 09 02.pdf](#)

Page 52

### 10.1 Correspondence from South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust

[20240807 letter Marie Ward NMDC Ward 15.pdf](#)

Page 55

### 10.2 Correspondence from Department for Infrastructure

[Response from Minister for Infrastructure re Newry Southern Relief Road.pdf](#)

Page 56

### 10.3 Correspondence from NI Water

[Correspondence from NI Water.pdf](#)

Page 57

### 10.4 Request for Local Government Representatives to be members of Area Integrated Partnership Boards

[6.5c ICS NI - AIPBs - Local Government Representative - letter to Council Chief Executive.pdf](#)

Page 59

[6.5c ICS NI - AIPBs - Local Government Representative - Application Form \(1\).pdf](#)

Page 61

[6.5c ICS NI - AIPBs - Local Government Representative - Application Form \(2\).pdf](#)

Page 68

### 10.5 Correspondence from NI Court & Tribunals Service

*For Information*

[Correspondence from NI Courts Tribunals Service.pdf](#)

Page 82

---

## **11.0 Notice of Motion - Good Relations Programmes**

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Truesdale:

*"That this is Council recognises the vital role of Good Relations programmes in supporting reconciliation in a society recovering from conflict, bringing communities together, creating shared spaces, challenging sectarian, racism and other forms of prejudice, and promoting respect for all cultural identities; strongly condemns the recent violence and targeting of businesses; encourages greater support and investment for sporting and cultural events as a mechanism for uniting local communities; registers its disappointment that an enhanced and fully-funded regional Good Relations Strategy has not been prioritised since the restoration of the NI Assembly; further records its disappointment that the reduction in good relations funding granted in 2023/24 to Councils by The Executive Office has not been reinstated to previous levels; and requests a review from Officers of the progress and future opportunities available to enhance Good Relations programmes in [council area] to be completed within 6 months".*

## **12.0 Notice of Motion - Addiction Support**

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Finn:

*"Newry, Mourne and Down District Council recognises the impact that addiction has on individuals, families and communities across our district. This Council commends the work of those organisations who are supporting people on their path to recovery and will write to the Health Minister to invite him to meet with organisations across the district along with a delegation of councillors to discuss how best we can work in partnership to support the invaluable work they do".*

---

## **13.0 Notice of Motion - Fast Tracked Cities**

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Feehan:

*"This Council recognises that ending the HIV epidemic requires a comprehensive approach that allows all those in need, to access quality lifesaving treatment, enhances prevention, care, and support services for HIV, tuberculosis (TB), and viral hepatitis.*

*Council further recognises that integrating these services into sexual, reproductive, and mental health services is critical to achieving universal access to health care. Seeks to eliminate stigma and discrimination by building on scientific evidence. Understanding that successful HIV treatment and viral suppression prevents HIV transmission which can help reduce stigma and encourage people living with HIV to initiate and adhere to HIV treatment.*

*Acknowledges by working together, cities and municipalities can accelerate local actions towards ending the HIV, TB, and viral hepatitis epidemics globally by 2030. As called for by the New Urban Agenda, we will leverage our reach, infrastructure, and human capacity to build a more equitable, inclusive, prosperous, and sustainable future for all our residents, regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, and social and economic circumstances.*

*Therefore, this Council will sign up to the Paris Declaration supporting the Fast-Track Cities aim of eliminating the stigma associated with HIV and AIDS as well as aiming for no new HIV diagnosis by 2030.”*

# Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews  
.....  
Cllr Callum Bowsie  
.....  
Fionnuala Branagh  
.....  
Cllr Jim Brennan  
.....  
Lorraine/Emma Burns/McParland  
.....  
Cllr Pete Byrne  
.....  
Mr Gerard Byrne  
.....  
Cllr Philip Campbell  
.....  
Cllr William Clarke  
.....  
Cllr Laura Devlin  
.....  
Cllr Cadogan Enright  
.....  
Cllr Killian Feehan  
.....  
Cllr Doire Finn  
.....  
Cllr Aoife Finnegan  
.....  
Ms Joanne Fleming  
.....  
Cllr Conor Galbraith  
.....  
Cllr Mark Gibbons  
.....  
Cllr Oonagh Hanlon  
.....  
Cllr Glyn Hanna  
.....  
Cllr Valerie Harte  
.....  
Cllr Roisin Howell  
.....  
Cllr Tierna Howie  
.....  
Ms Catherine Hughes  
.....  
Cllr Jonathan Jackson  
.....  
Cllr Geraldine Kearns  
.....  
Miss Veronica Keegan  
.....  
Mrs Josephine Kelly  
.....  
Mrs Sheila Kieran  
.....  
Cllr Cathal King  
.....  
Cllr Mickey Larkin  
.....  
Cllr David Lee-Surginor  
.....  
Cllr Alan Lewis  
.....  
Cllr Oonagh Magennis  
.....  
Mr Conor Mallon  
.....  
Cllr Aidan Mathers  
.....  
Cllr Declan McAteer  
.....  
Cllr Leeanne McEvoy  
.....  
Ms Tracie McLoughlin  
.....  
Maureen/Joanne Morgan/Johnston  
.....  
Cllr Declan Murphy  
.....  
Sinead Murphy  
.....  
Cllr Kate Murphy  
.....

Cllr Selina Murphy  
.....  
Cllr Siobhan O'Hare  
.....  
Mr Andy Patterson  
.....  
Cllr Áine Quinn  
.....  
Cllr Henry Reilly  
.....  
Cllr Michael Rice  
.....  
Cllr Michael Ruane  
.....  
Cllr Gareth Sharvin  
.....  
Donna Starkey  
.....  
Nicola Stranney  
.....  
Sarah Taggart  
.....  
Cllr David Taylor  
.....  
Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly  
.....  
Ms Sinead Trainor  
.....  
Cllr Jill Truesdale  
.....  
Mrs Marie Ward  
.....  
Cllr Helena Young  
.....

***ACTION SHEET – COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY 5 AUGUST 2024***

<b><i>Minute Ref</i></b>	<b><i>Subject</i></b>	<b><i>Decision</i></b>	<b><i>Lead Officer</i></b>	<b><i>Actions taken/ Progress to date</i></b>	<b><i>Remove from Action Sheet Y/N</i></b>
<i>C/127/2024</i>	<i>Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 01.07.2024</i>	It was agreed to note the action sheet.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	<b><i>Noted</i></b>	
<i>C/128/2024</i>	<i>Minutes of Council Meeting held on 01.07.2024</i>	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.  It was agreed item C/058/2024: Twinning Newry with City of Ramallah should remain on the action sheet.	<i>Democratic Services</i>  <i>Democratic Services</i>	<b><i>Noted</i></b>  <b><i>Noted</i></b>	
<i>C/129/2024</i>	<i>Correspondence Report</i>	It was agreed to note the Correspondence report.  <i>Appendix 1: Correspondence from DFI Roads in relation to proposed reduction in speed limit on Newry Road, Warrenpoint</i> It was agreed a copy of the correspondence be forwarded to the Crotlieve Councillors for their information.  <i>Appendix 2: Correspondence from Minister for Infrastructure in relation to proposed low bridge, Newry Southern Relief Road</i> It was agreed that Council write back to the Minister for Infrastructure to follow up on a timeframe for the project and requesting that he meet with Council, and if not that Council go to meet him.	<i>Democratic Services</i>  <i>Democratic Services</i>	<b><i>Actioned – Copy circulated 6/8/24</i></b>  <b><i>Correspondence issued - Response received</i></b>	
<i>C/130/2024</i>	<i>Notice of Motion: Communication</i>	<i>“That this council recognises the importance of ensuring that our parks and open spaces are inclusive and accessible to those with speech,</i>	<i>A Patterson</i>	<b><i>To be progressed via AHC Committee</i></b>	



<b>Minute Ref</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Actions taken/ Progress to date</b>	<b>Remove from Action Sheet Y/N</b>
	<i>Boards in Parks and Open Spaces</i>	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How communication boards would integrate with the required existing signage;</li> <li>• Identifying possible locations for the communication boards, such as a specific Tier of park; and</li> <li>• An indicative budget.”</li> </ul> <p>The Motion was referred to the Active &amp; Healthy Communities Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.</p>			
<i>C/131/2024</i>	<i>Emergency Notice of Motion – Recent Scenes of Violence</i>	<p>It was unanimously agreed that Newry Mourne and Down District Council, in light of the distressing scenes of violence that had unfolded in Belfast and other locations over the past few days unequivocally condemned these actions. We recognise the significant impact these events have had on our community and call for immediate measures to hold those responsible accountable. We reaffirm our commitment to inclusivity and unity, reaching out to and welcoming all individuals who have made and continue to make our District their home. Despite the actions of a cruel minority, we stand together as a community that embraces diversity and solidarity.</p>	<i>Democratic Services</i>	<b>Noted</b>	
<i>C/132/2024</i>	<i>Emergency Notice of Motion – Shimna House, Ward 15</i>	<p>It was agreed that Council noted with concern that services at Shimna House (Ward 15) at the Downshire Hospital may be at risk. This Council supports the retention of services at Shimna House Downpatrick and acknowledges the work of the management and staff who provide essential</p>	<i>Democratic Services</i>	<p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>Correspondence issued - Response received</b></p>	

<b>Minute Ref</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Actions taken/ Progress to date</b>	<b>Remove from Action Sheet Y/N</b>
		<i>services regionally to support those with alcohol and drug addictions and to support their journey to recovery. We agree to write to Minister for Health and CEO of The South Eastern Trust to note NMD Council's support for full retention of services and trust they will fully commit to ensuring this facility remains open. We also agree to invite the Trust to attend a Special Council Meeting at the earliest opportunity for them to outline their plans for the retention of Shimna House.</i>			
<i>END</i>					

**NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL****NMD/C/****Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 5 August 2024 at 6.00pm in  
Council Chamber, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick****In the Chair:** Councillor P Byrne

<b>In attendance in Chamber:</b>	Councillor T Andrews	Councillor J Brennan
	Councillor P Byrne	Councillor P Campbell
	Councillor W Clarke	Councillor L Devlin
	Councillor C Enright	Councillor K Feehan
	Councillor D Finn	Councillor A Finnegan
	Councillor C Galbraith	Councillor O Hanlon
	Councillor G Hanna	Councillor V Harte
	Councillor T Howie	Councillor J Jackson
	Councillor C King	Councillor M Larkin
	Councillor D Lee-Surginor	Councillor A Lewis
	Councillor A Mathers	Councillor L McEvoy
	Councillor S O'Hare	Councillor D Murphy
	Councillor K Murphy	Councillor S Murphy
	Councillor A Quinn	Councillor H Reilly
	Councillor M Ruane	Councillor G Sharvin
	Councillor D Taylor	Councillor J Tinnelly
Councillor J Truesdale	Councillor H Young	

**Officials in attendance:** Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services  
Mr C Mallon, Director of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism  
Mr A Patterson, Director of Active and Healthy Communities  
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)  
Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer

**C/125/2024****APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Bowsie, Howell, Kearns, Magennis, McAteer and Rice, Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive and Mrs S Murphy, Director of Sustainability and Environment.

The Chairperson congratulated the following:

- Armagh Senior men footballers on winning the All-Ireland. Members were informed Council was working with Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council to mark their fantastic achievement and Councillors would be kept updated on plans.
- Armagh Under-16 ladies footballers on becoming All-Ireland Champions.
- Armagh Minor men's team, LGFA ladies footballers and Senior Camogie team for their successes in the All-Ireland, beaten by narrow margins in the finals.

Councillor Magennis was thanked for requesting these acknowledgements also.

The Chairperson congratulated Down Senior men footballers on winning the Tailteann Cup and wished them all the best in the All-Ireland next year advising that contact had been made with the Down County Board on marking their success also.

Thanks were extended to all the soccer clubs across the District for their participation in the Chairperson's Be Active Cup. Conor Haughey, Francis Quinn and all staff involved in organising the successful tournament were thanked for their work. Ballynahinch Olympic were congratulated on winning the tournament after beating Cleary Celtic in the final and Councillors Harte, Mathers and Sharvin were thanked for their attendance at the final.

The Chairperson took the opportunity to acknowledge the fantastic work taking place across the District in Irish Summer Schools advising he had visited summer schools in Camlough, Kilkeel and Cullyhanna where over 400 kids were taking part in activities, learning and promoting the Irish language.

The Chairperson wished to recognise the work going on across the District to promote inclusion including the following:

- Accessibility to bowling greens improved through the launch of new bowling ramps in partnership with Department for Communities.
- Inclusive beaches programme on Cranfield beach in partnership with the Mae Murray Foundation to improve access to the beach and sea for people with disabilities.
- The Chairperson had visited two groups in South Armagh doing amazing work with kids with autism and special needs, Amazing Abilities in Silverbridge and Snap Kids in Forkhill. The Chairperson's theme for the year was inclusion and he advised he would continue to work with, meet and promote the fantastic work being done by groups across the District regarding inclusion.

Congratulations were extended to Cuan Mhuire and the Rural Health Partnership on their nominations for the Pride of Place Awards 2024. The Chairperson advised he had hosted two judges from Pride of Place to showcase the work being done by both groups and thanked Councillors Harte and Mathers for helping to promote the good work at Cuan Mhuire and Councillor Declan Murphy for promoting the work carried out by the Rural Health Partnership.

The Chairperson congratulated all the community groups who received Green Flag and Heritage awards at a recent ceremony in Lisburn and acknowledged the key note speech by Dr William Bird on the health benefits from green spaces. The Chairperson advised he had invited Dr Bird to give a presentation to Council through the Active and Heathy Communities Committee. Congratulations were extended to the Council green flag winners including:

- Kilbroney Park
- Castlewellan Forest Park
- Newry Canal (Heritage)
- Slieve Gullion Forest Park
- Warrenpoint Municipal Park (Heritage)

The Chairperson spoke of the hugely successful Classic Bike Festival Ireland event which took place in Bishopscourt Racetrack. He congratulated the organisers of the event which had been part funded by Council and was a welcome boost to the tourism and hospitality sector.

Congratulations were extended to the following with acknowledgement to Councillor Finnegan for requesting it:

- An Bonnán Buí who took home 8 gold medals at the Ulster Fleadh in Dromore.
- Turlough McMahon in his solo competitions winning under 12 harp, harp solo airs and accompaniment competitions.
- Iarla McMahon on winning 5 competitions: Senior Uilleann pipes, Tin Whistle, Tin whistle slow airs, duet with Tomás O'Cealligh and Trio with Tomás and Niamh Kelly. The two boys would now compete in the All Ireland Fleadh in Wexford and Council wished them well.
- Oriel and Colla Ceili bands took bronze and silver respectively and would also play at the Senior Ceili Bands competition in Wexford and Council wished them the best of luck.

The Chairperson spoke of the sadness in seeing the devastation caused by the fire at Greenbank a number of weeks ago and stated he hoped businesses could get back on their feet and reopen as soon as possible. Along with Councillor Selina Murphy, the Chairperson thanked the Council and emergency services for their response.

Congratulations were extended to Killough and Ardglass on hosting fantastic community festivals. The Chairperson advised he had visited Ardglass last weekend to launch the 'fish with friends' recipe book put together by the community through good relations funding and thanked Deputy Chairperson Councillor Lee-Surginor for the fantastic cooking demonstration provided.

Condolences were extended to the family of John Kearney who sadly passed away. John had worked in the Council's refuse collection for many years and the thoughts and prayers of everyone at Council were with his family at this sad time.

Condolences were extended to the family of Malcom McMahon from Warrenpoint who recently passed away. Malcom had worked in the recycling centre at Warrenpoint and the thoughts of everyone at Council were with his family at this sad time.

The Chairperson took the opportunity to remind Councillors of two upcoming events:

- Pride in Newry from 26 to 31 August 2024 with a range of events organised by the LGBT women and it was hoped as many Councillors as possible would attend. The Chairperson spoke of its importance and how this year there were two LGBTQIA+ members in the Chair and Deputy Chair of Council who would be together leading the parade through Newry.
- The Council Civic Awards were taking place on 27 September 2024 in the Canal Court Hotel and was an opportunity for every Councillor to nominate a group or person who should be recognised for a civic award. He advised that Democratic Services would be in touch with Members in due course.

The Chairperson reminded Members that anyone who wanted to raise something under Chairperson's remarks should send it to him and he would put their names to it.

Members were advised two emergency motions had been received and would be dealt with later in the meeting. He advised in order to hear the motions it would require a qualified majority vote to be achieved.

#### **C/126/2024                    DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **C/127/2024                    ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 1 JULY 2024**

*C/058/2024: Twinning Newry with City of Ramallah*

In response for an update from Councillor Feehan, Mr Mallon confirmed there had been no response received to date from the correspondence issued to the Mayor of Ramallah.

It was agreed at the request of Councillor Feehan that this item remain on the action sheet.

Councillor Enright queried why an action in relation to meeting with representatives from the Catholic Church, Newcastle regarding parking arrangements over the Irish Open had been omitted from the action sheet and Council Minutes.

At the request of the Chairperson, Democratic Services checked the transcript and it was later clarified that this action had not been raised at the Council Meeting but had been brought up at

the Sustainability and Environment Committee in June 2024, ratified at Council on 1 July 2024. Councillor Enright was advised a meeting was being set up with Church officials.

**Agreed:** **The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 1 July 2024 was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Enright.**

**It was agreed item C/058/2024: Twinning Newry with City of Ramallah should remain on the action sheet.**

**C/128/2024** **COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 1 JULY 2024**

**Read:** Minutes of Council Meeting held on 1 July 2024 (copy circulated).

**Agreed:** **The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 1 July 2024 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Enright, seconded by Councillor Sharvin.**

**C/129/2024** **CORRESPONDENCE REPORT**

**Read:** Report dated 5 August 2024 from Mrs Ward, Chief Executive, regarding an update on correspondence received for the attention of Council.

*Appendix 1: Correspondence from DFI Roads in relation to proposed reduction in speed limit on Newry Road, Warrenpoint*

The Chairperson requested a copy of the correspondence be forwarded to the Crotlieve Councillors for their information.

*Appendix 2: Correspondence from Minister for Infrastructure in relation to proposed low bridge, Newry Southern Relief Road*

In response for clarity from Councillor Finn and the Chairperson, Ms Taggart confirmed no specific timeframe had been given to the Minister to meet with Council and that in previous correspondence the Minister had outlined he was happy to meet with Council.

Councillor Finn proposed that Council write back to the Minister for Infrastructure requesting that he meet with Council, and if he was unavailable then a delegation from Council could go to meet him. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Devlin.

The Chairperson said it was important for Council to know the timeframe for the project and if the Minister could not come to meet then Council should meet with an official.

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

**Appendix 1: Correspondence from DFI Roads in relation to a proposed reduction in speed limit on Newry Road, Warrenpoint.**

**Appendix 2: Correspondence from Minister O'Dowd regarding proposed low bridge, Newry Southern Relief Road.**

**It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Finn, seconded by Councillor Devlin that Council write back to the Minister**

for Infrastructure to follow up on a timeframe for the project and requesting that he meet with Council, and if not that Council go to meet him.

C/130/2024

**NOTICE OF MOTION – COMMUNICATION BOARDS IN PARKS AND OPEN SPACES**

The following Motion was 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.”*

The motion was seconded by Councillor Howie.

**Agreed:                   The Motion was referred to the Active & Healthy Communities Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.**

**EMERGENCY NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

The Chairperson advised two emergency Notice of Motions had been received, the wording of which had been emailed to all Councillors and to enable them to be heard, it would be necessary to suspend Standing Orders 16.1.1 for which a qualified majority vote was required. (80% of Members present and voting).

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor to suspend Standing Order 16.1.1 at this point of the meeting to allow the tabling of the emergency notices of motion received by the Chairperson from Councillors Andrews and Hanlon.

The Chairperson put the matter to a recorded a vote, the results of which were as follows: (copy attached)

<b>FOR:</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>AGAINST:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>ABSTENTIONS:</b>	<b>0</b>

It was agreed by a qualified majority vote to suspend Standing Orders 16.1.1 (copy attached)

**C/131/2024: EMERGENCY NOTICE OF MOTION, RECENT SCENES OF VIOLENCE**

The following Emergency Motion was received from Councillor Andrews:

*“Newry Mourne and Down District Council, in light of the distressing scenes of violence that have unfolded in Belfast and other locations over the past few days unequivocally condemns these actions.*

*We recognise the significant impact these events have had on our community and call for immediate measures to hold those responsible accountable.*

*We reaffirm our commitment to inclusivity and unity, reaching out to and welcoming all individuals who have made and continue to make our District their home .*

*Despite the actions of a cruel minority, we stand together as a community that embraces diversity and solidarity”*

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor.

Councillor Andrews thanked the Chairperson and Members for agreeing to the Emergency Motion being heard and began by saying the thoughts and prayers of all were with the families, friends and community of the three young children who tragically lost their lives in Southport last week.

Councillor Andrews spoke at length of the widespread carnage and destruction to businesses, homes and properties witnessed in Belfast over the past number of days, as well as frontline services coming under fire and being targeted and subjected to missiles and abuse.

He pointed out that the scenes on tv screens and social media platforms in cities like Belfast and other towns being targeted by thugs who did not care about those that had lost their lives but used as an excuse to engage in thuggery, mayhem and wilful destruction. He spoke of how out of all that had happened the kindness of so many had shone through with residents, communities, churches and other organisations going out of their way to help.

Councillor Andrews said the Motion called on immediate action and more resources to be made available to bring those to account for their actions and who deserved the full rigour of the law to be enforced including those using social media to platform their hatred and inciting others.

Members were reminded that what had been witnessed was the actions of a small minority who did not represent the huge majority of people within the District who were fully inclusive and welcomed everyone who had made and continued to make the District their home. He summed up by saying it was important to show commitment as a community and District and stand together in embracing diversity, solidarity and friendship for all.

In seconding the Motion, Councillor Lee-Surginor stated he whole heartedly agreed with Councillor Andrews and spoke against the disturbing scenes of violence and disorder of the Streets in Belfast and parts of Great Britain which police were treating as hate crimes. He asked that all colleagues from all parties strongly condemn all forms of violence, racism, xenophobia, Islamophobia and to reiterate a commitment together to share peaceful and inclusive society throughout Northern Ireland and standing united as one.

Councillor Hanlon spoke at length in support of the Motion and on behalf of Sinn Féin offered ongoing support and solidarity to the ethnic minority community. She stated there was no place in society for racism or the attacks on minority communities which took place at the weekend. Councillor Hanlon pointed out the police, the justice system and politicians needed to do their job but more than that, people had to ask themselves, what could they do as good neighbours, as fellow parents, as members of community groups, other faiths or no faith.

Councillor Hanlon pointed out co-operation between the PSNI and An Garda Síochána was essential so that those responsible for causing and orchestrating the racist violence would face the full force of the law and as elected representatives and a society everyone must work together to deliver a shared, peaceful and inclusive society.

Councillor Jackson voiced support for the Motion on behalf of DUP grouping who recognised in any democratic society there was a right to protest but protest must be both peaceful and lawful. He added his party supported peaceful protest and people within communities who had concerns should be able to have discussions about issues that they face, whether that be



concerns about immigration policy or any other. However, there was no justification or excuse for violence as nothing was solved by attacking people or property.

Councillor Taylor condemned the violence that occurred stating it was totally unacceptable and no one should have to endure that. In any democracy people had a right to protest but with that right, was a responsibility for it to be done in a completely peaceful manner.

Councillor Taylor paid tribute to the police and other emergency services that were always at the forefront of protecting people.

In summing up Councillor Andrews thanked Members for their unanimous support and that his thoughts and prayers would be with the people in in Southport who over the coming days were preparing to lay young children to rest.

The Chairperson confirmed the Motion was unanimously approved.

**Agreed:** **It was unanimously agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor that Newry Mourne and Down District Council, in light of the distressing scenes of violence that had unfolded in Belfast and other locations over the past few days unequivocally condemned these actions. We recognise the significant impact these events have had on our community and call for immediate measures to hold those responsible accountable. We reaffirm our commitment to inclusivity and unity, reaching out to and welcoming all individuals who have made and continue to make our District their home. Despite the actions of a cruel minority, we stand together as a community that embraces diversity and solidarity.**

#### **C/132/2024: EMERGENCY NOTICE OF MOTION, SHIMNA HOUSE, WARD 15**

The following Emergency Motion was received from Councillor Hanlon:

*“This Council notes with concern that services at Shimna House (Ward 15) at the Downshire Hospital may be at risk.*

*This Council supports the retention of services at Shimna House Downpatrick and acknowledges the work of the management and staff who provide essential services regionally to support those with alcohol and drug addictions and to support their journey to recovery. We agree to write to Minister for Health and CEO of The South Eastern Trust to note NMD Council’s support for full retention of services and trust they will fully commit to ensuring this facility remains open”.*

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Campbell.

In presenting the emergency motion, Councillor Hanlon thanked the Chairperson for accepting the Motion and Members for voting for it to be heard stating it was a really important issue not only for Downpatrick and the wider area, but for the region.

Members were advised Shimna House was a regional facility and in recent days the Sinn Féin team had been contacted by family and friends of service users concerned that services at Ward 15, Shimna House were under threat. They along with staff, needed steadfast assurances from the Department of Health and the South Eastern Trust that these services were not at risk.

Councillor Hanlon advised she had had the privilege of visiting the facility and it had been a very humbling experience seeing first-hand the highest level of care that staff and Friends of Ward 15 provided to the most vulnerable in society. It provided a calm shelter at a time when service users and their families were in turmoil, with the support needed to battle through the lows of addictions and allow them a pathway to hope.

Members were reminded that with increasing numbers of people waiting on mental health support and with so many families across the island affected by addiction and other mental health issues, it was clear more investment into local services was needed to ensure we were equipped to deal with the crisis.

Councillor Hanlon pointed out it was vital that necessary action was taken to retain these services that were a lifeline for so many in Downpatrick and further afield. She added the South Eastern Trust and Department of Health must work together to ensure these services were not only protected but enhanced into the future.

In seconding the Motion, Councillor Campbell echoed the sentiments of Councillor Hanlon and reiterated the importance of the services for the local area.

Councillor Sharvin thanked Councillor Hanlon for bringing the motion and said similarly SDLP had been contacted regarding the situation with Ward 15 and that he had spoken with the Chief Executive of the Trust to highlight concerns about the situation being faced.

Councillor Sharvin stated he felt it was important to remember that Ward 15, Shimna House was a sub-regional addiction facility and did not just serve the South Eastern Trust. It also provided an important service to the Belfast Trust and to the Southern Trust and therefore it was vitally important that Council highlight to the Health Minister and the Chief Executive of the Trust the importance of that.

He advised it had been shared by the Trust that they had raised an early alert and there had been a positive response in trying to at least get a locum in place, a temporary solution given the consultant was leaving. He added it was important as a Council to hold the Trust to account and ensure that the provision of Tier 4 addictions in the Downshire hospital was continued to be supported and grow.

Councillor Sharvin proposed that the Special Council Meeting with the Health Trust be brought forward at the earliest opportunity when they would be in a position to provide Council with an update on how plans were going with the recruitment of a replacement consultant and also what the permanent plans were going forward, particularly in relation to Ward 15.

Councillor Hanlon accepted Councillor Sharvin's amendment.

In voicing support for the motion on behalf of Alliance, Councillor Truesdale advised she used to make referrals to Ward 15 and was aware there had always only ever been one consultant psychiatrist which had been an issue and skill shortages needed to be looked at within the field of addiction.

Councillor Reilly thanked Councillor Hanlon for bringing forward the motion and spoke of his shock at hearing it was under threat. He added to take such services away from the community beggared belief and that the service required enhancement and facilities vastly increased to facilitate the growing number of young people who needed help with addiction.

Councillor Taylor voiced support for the Motion as there was obvious issues of concern as a result of the developments in terms of staffing arrangements. He stated it was essential for Council to impress upon the Health Minister and the Trust the need to make sure there was a permanent and long term plan in place to protect the services that existed.

Councillor Jackson stated his party fully supported the motion and that it was clear for all to recognise the importance of Shimna House and the facility it provided for our local community.

In summing up, Councillor Hanlon thanked Councillors for the cross party support adding that Staff and patients deserved to have assurances and stability which was so needed when dealing with the most vulnerable.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanon, seconded by Councillor Campbell that Council noted with concern that services at Shimna House (Ward 15) at the Downshire Hospital may be at risk. This Council supports the retention of services at Shimna House Downpatrick and acknowledges the work of the management and staff who provide essential services regionally to support those with alcohol and drug addictions and to support their journey to recovery. We agree to write to Minister for Health and CEO of The South Eastern Trust to note NMD Council’s support for full retention of services and trust they will fully commit to ensuring this facility remains open. We also agree to invite the Trust to attend a Special Council Meeting at the earliest opportunity for them to outline their plans for the retention of Shimna House.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 6.49pm.

For confirmation at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 2 September 2024.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Chairperson**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Chief Executive**

**NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**RECORDED VOTE**

DATE: 5<sup>th</sup> August 2024VENUE: Downshire Civic CentreMEETING: CouncilSUBJECT OF VOTE: Suspension of Standing Orders to hear Emergency Motions

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
T Andrews	X			
C Bowsie				X
J Brennan	X			
P Byrne	X			
P Campbell	X			
W Clarke	X			
L Devlin	X			
C Enright	X			
K Feehan	X			
D Finn	X			
A Finnegan	X			
C Galbraith	X			
M Gibbons				X
O Hanlon	X			
G Hanna	X			
V Harte	X			
R Howell				X
T Kelly	X			
J Jackson	X			
G Kearns				X
C King	X			
M Larkin	X			
D Lee-Surginor	X			
A Lewis	X			
O Magennis				X
A Mathers	X			
D McAteer				X
L McEvoy	X			
D Murphy	X			
K Murphy	X			
S Murphy	X			
S O'Hare	X			
A Quinn	X			
H Reilly	X			
M Rice				X
M Ruane	X			
G Sharvin	X			
D Taylor	X			
J Tinnelly	X			
J Truesdale	X			
H Young	X			
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>

**NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Ref: AC/2024

---

**Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on Thursday 31 July 2024, at 2.00pm,  
in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick**

---

**Chairperson:** Ms B Slevin, Independent Chairperson

**In attendance  
in Chamber:**

Councillor C Bowsie	Councillor L Devlin
Councillor T Howie	Councillor C King
Councillor A Mathers	Councillor K Murphy
Councillor S O'Hare	Councillor G Sharvin

**Officials in attendance  
in Chamber:**

Mrs J Kelly, Director Corporate Services  
 Ms S Murphy, Director Sustainability & Environment  
 Mr A Patterson, Director Active & Healthy Communities  
 Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director of Finance & Performance  
 Ms C Hughes, Head of Performance and Improvement  
 (Acting)  
 Ms F Branagh, Democratic Services Officer

**Also in attendance  
in chamber:**

Ms K Doey	NIAO
Ms L Kerr	NIAO

**AC/056/2024: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillor O Hanlon, Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive and Mr C Mallon, Director of Economy, Regeneration & Tourism.

The Chairperson welcomed both new and returning Audit Committee Members to the meeting.

**AC/057/2024: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Bowsie queried what items should be raised under Declarations of Interest, noting that only a small number of Elected Members had registered membership of a religious order and queried whether Councillors could be given guidance as to what memberships should be declared under Declarations of Interest.

Ms Slevin and Mrs Kelly asked if Councillor Bowsie's query was relevant to the agenda and advised that they would discuss the issue with Democratic Services and revert to Members with guidance and possible training if required.

**AC/058/2024: ACTION SHEET OF AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 23 MAY 2024**

Read: Action Sheet arising from Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting held on Thursday 23 May 2024. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor O’Hare, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, it was agreed to note the Action Sheet for Audit Committee Meeting held on 23 May 2024.**

**AC/059/2024: AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT**

Read: Report dated 31 July 2024 from Ms Brona Slevin, Independent Chair of Audit Committee, relating to the Audit Committee Annual Report. **(Copy circulated)**

Ms Slevin presented the Annual Report of 2023 – 2024, noted that the Committee was performing to the required standard in line with best practice, was operating effectively and highlighted that the 2022 – 2023 financial statements had achieved an unqualified Audit. She asked if Members would consider four-year appointments to the Audit Committee, outlining that it can take some time to gain a full understanding of the remit of the Audit Committee.

Ms Slevin brought Members’ attention to the Internal Audit Report from ASM and highlighted the work that had been carried out to follow up on all Audit Recommendations. She asked Officers and Members to ensure that all legacy recommendations were carried out.

Ms Slevin thanked Members for the work and support to date and expressed her hope for the same work ethic over the coming year. Councillor Sharvin thanked Ms Slevin for her leadership in steering the Committee to date.

Mrs Kelly was delighted to announce that Ms Slevin would remain as Independent Chair following the recent completion of a recruitment process. Ms Slevin looked forward to continuing working alongside Councillors in ensuring an effective Audit Committee.

On proposing the Report, Councillor O’Hare noted her congratulations to Ms Slevin retaining her position as Independent Chairperson.

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor O’Hare, seconded by Councillor Bowsie, it was agreed to approve the Annual Report of the Audit Committee 2023-2024, and that the approved report be reported to Council.**

**CORPORATE SERVICES – OPEN SESSION****AC/060/2024: CORPORATE RISK REGISTER – S&E DIRECTORATE RISK REGISTER ALSO TO BE TABLED**

Read: Report dated 31 July 2024 from Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services, regarding the Corporate Risk Register. **(Copy circulated)**

Mrs Kelly presented the Corporate Services Risk Register and noted that no new risks had been added. She highlighted that the Risk Register had been reviewed with consideration of

the two limited Internal Audit reports and noted that it was decided to incorporate actions and controls in the Corporate and Directorate Risk Registers, rather than add a new risk.

Councillor Sharvin queried the lack of comparative statistics for the previous year in relation to the processing times of Planning applications. Mrs Kelly advised that she would request that comparative statistics were noted within the next Planning update.

Councillor Devlin stressed the importance of these statistics and referenced the large number of complaints she was still receiving regarding planning application delays.

Councillor Sharvin queried the outcome and next steps following a meeting whereby seven Councils had been notified of a reduction in their Rate Support Grant (RSG). He stated that Council should write to the Department highlighting the continual decrease in the RSG, which had had been established for good reason and to echo the sentiments of other Councils. Mr Byrne advised that the Department Consultant had met with Council Officers recently and Ms Slevin said that SOLACE was already following up on the issue.

Mrs Kelly said that a Report could be brought to a future Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee regarding an update on the RSG issue, to which Councillor Sharvin confirmed he was content with this action.

Councillor Mathers then queried whether the internal review of overturned planning decisions took account of decisions made by the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) or whether they solely related to the Planning Committee decisions and confirmed his belief that the Planning Committee Members had not received an opportunity to input into the review. Mrs Kelly advised that she would revert to the Member on his query.

Ms Slevin noted that there was an overall increase within the Sustainability & Environment Risk Register. She then queried the risk in relation to the operator license for the fleet Ms Murphy outlined the reason for the reflected risk level within the risk register and highlighted some significant improvements relating to the fleet operator license.

**AGREED:**

**On the proposal of Councillor King, seconded by Councillor Devlin, the following was agreed:**

- **To approve the updates to the Corporate Risk Register highlighted within the summary at Appendix 1. Full Corporate Risk Register can be evidenced at Appendix 2.**
- **To note the revised S&E Directorate Risk Register summary at Appendix 3 and detailed S&E Risk Register at Appendix 4.**

**It was agreed to explore the inclusion for the next planning update of comparative statistics regarding planning application times for the previous year.**

**It was further agreed that a Report be brought to the SPR Committee regarding the impact of the Rates Support Grant reduction**

**AC/061/2024: PROMPT PAYMENT STATISTICS – QUARTER 1 2024/2025**

Read: Report dated 31 July 2024 from Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director of Finance & Performance, regarding Prompt Payment Statistics for Quarter 1 2024/2025. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Mathers, seconded by Councillor Devlin, it was agreed to note the Q1 2024/2025 Prompt Payment statistics.**

**AC/062/2024: NMDDC ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK AND CODE OF GOVERNANCE**

Read: Report dated 31 July 2024 from Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director of Finance & Performance, regarding Assurance Framework and Code of Governance. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor King, seconded by Councillor O’Hare, it was agreed to note the Council’s Assurance Framework and the Code of Governance, illustrated and described at Appendix 1.**

**AC/063/2024: PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

Read: Report dated 31 July 2024 from Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director of Finance & Performance, regarding Performance Improvement Plan . **(Copy circulated)**

Ms Hughes advised that the Performance Improvement Plan had been approved by the Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee in June and published before the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024 in line with statutory responsibilities.

Ms Slevin commended the work of Ms Hughes and her team in completing the Performance Improvement Plan.

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor K Murphy, it was agreed to note Performance Improvement Plan 2024-25 (including the five performance improvement objectives), Consultation and Engagement Report 2024-25 and Objective Delivery Plans 2024-25.**



**CORPORATE SERVICES (CLOSED SESSION)****Items restricted in accordance with Part 3 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014**

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor O'Hare seconded by Councillor K Murphy, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during the following items which related to exempt information by virtue of Part 3 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (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 these items of business.

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor O'Hare, seconded by Councillor K Murphy, it was agreed to come out of Closed Session.

**AC/064/2024:** **2023/24 UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS AND ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

**Read:** Report dated 31 July 2024 from Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director of Finance and Performance, regarding 2023/24 Unaudited Accounts and Annual Governance Statement. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor King, seconded by Councillor Bowsie, it was agreed to:

- Approve the Annual Governance Statement 2023/24 at Appendix 1 (page 21-34)
- Note the draft Statement of Accounts and Financial Statements at Appendix 1.

**AC/065/2024:** **PROCUREMENT ACTION PLANS**

**Read:** Report dated 31 July 2024 from Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services, regarding procurement action plans. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor Mathers, it was agreed to note the update in relation to the Directorate Procurement Action Plans.

It was agreed that a standard template would be considered moving forward

Councillor Sharvin left the meeting at this stage – 3pm

**AC/066/2024:** **UPDATE ON FRAUD AND WHISTLEBLOWING (INCLUDING NFI)**

**Read:** Report dated 31 July 2024 from Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director of Finance & Performance, regarding Fraud and Raising Concerns Update. **(Copy circulated)**

- AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor O’Hare, seconded by Councillor Devlin, it was agreed to:
- Note the update in relation to Fraud and Raising Concerns cases which have been detailed at Appendix 1 of the Officer’s Report.
  - Note the progress on actions arising from the NIAO Internal Fraud Risk assessment.

**INTERNAL AUDIT (CLOSED SESSION)**

**AC/067/2024: ASM SUMMARY REPORT**

Read: Summary Report dated 23 May 2024 regarding a Summary Report to the Audit Committee. **(Copy circulated)**

- AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor King, it was agreed to accept the ASM Summary Report.

Councillor Howie left the meeting at this stage – 3.13pm

**AC/068/2024: INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2024/25**

Read: Internal Audit Plan 2024/25 **(Copy circulated)**

- AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor King, it was agreed to approve the Internal Audit Plan 2024/25.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 3:19pm.

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024.

**Signed:** **Ms J Kelly**  
**Director Corporate Services**

**Signed:** **Ms B Slevin**  
**Independent Chairperson**

**NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL****Minutes of the Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting  
held on Monday 12 August 2024 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, Monaghan Row****Chairperson:** Councillor C Bowsie**Committee Members  
in attendance:**

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor W Clarke
Councillor K Feehan	Councillor C Galbraith
Councillor O Hanlon	Councillor G Hanna
Councillor V Harte	Councillor D Lee-Surginor
Councillor M Ruane	

**Officials in attendance:** Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Regeneration  
Ms M Boyle, Head of Tourism, Development and Visitor Experience  
Ms S Burns, Head of Programmes  
Ms F Branagh, Democratic Services Officer  
Mrs N Stranney, Democratic Services Officer**ERT/064/2024: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Kearns, Murphy, Quinn and Truesdale and Mr C Mallon, Director of Economy, Regeneration &amp; Tourism.

**ERT/065/2024: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Ruane declared an interest in item ERT/0071/2024.

**ERT/066/2024: ACTION SHEET ECONOMY, REGENERATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING MONDAY 10 JUNE 2024****Read:** Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 10 June 2024. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Hanlon asked for an update on ERT/027/2024 – Artist in Residence and Arts Bursary Scheme 2024-25, in particular the review of the hours of opening for Down Arts Centre. Ms Boyle confirmed there had been a new Head of Service appointed recently who would be reviewing the issue and an update report would be tabled at a future Committee Meeting.

In response to a query from Councillor Andrews regarding ERT/032/2024- Down GAA Support for PeacePlus Application, Ms Burns advised that officers were continuing to work on the issue alongside officers from the Active and Healthy Communities Department.

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 10 June 2024.**

**FOR DECISION****ERT/067/2024: GAMING AND AMUSEMENT POLICY**

Read: Report dated 12 August 2024 from Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director of Regeneration regarding Gaming and Amusement Policy. **(Copy circulated)**

Mr McGilly presented the report advising the Policy had been reviewed and there had been no change to the Policy, therefore it was tabled for approval by Committee.

Councillor Lee-Surginor proposed the officer's recommendation, welcoming the Section 7 on safeguarding vulnerable adults, however raised concerns around amusement arcade machines being used by children as observed by members of the public and queried whether there was a policy prohibiting children from using said machines. Mr. McGilly advised that this would be covered under law, however this was a policy for the operation of the licence.

Councillor Hanlon seconded the officer's recommendation, welcoming the exclusions as there had recently been concerns regarding Planning applications and was happy to see plans for a more balanced approach.

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, it was agreed to consider and approve the Gaming and Amusement Policy.**

**ERT/068/2024: TRADE/CONSUMER SHOWS 2024/25**

Read: Report dated 12 August 2024 from Amanda Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism regarding Trade/Consumer Shows 2024/25. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Andrews welcomed the report and remarked on the success and high footfall at the Newry, Mourne and Down stands in previous years with attendance at the trade shows. He encouraged all Councillors to get involved in showcasing the District.

Councillor Hanlon enquired as to the level of involvement Councillor Andrews expected from Councillors, reminding Members that any attendance requests would need to be tabled at party leader meetings due to the associated financial costs.

Councillor Andrews advised he believed it would be beneficial for ERT Committee members to promote the District and support Council officers at these events.

Councillor Hanna queried whether attendance would be required at all the events and whether the budget allocated was sufficient to do so.

Ms Boyle stated that they applied to Tourism NI and Tourism Ireland for event participation, aiming to secure a place at relevant events, advising that consistent attendance would be crucial for building relationships with tour operators. She stated the budget was allocated with the understanding that some events were within Ireland and may only need an overnight stay, whilst some required flights and accommodation.

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Hanna, it was agreed to attend the tourism trade/consumer shows in conjunction with Tourism NI and Tourism Ireland to support the tourism industry and promote the destination.

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

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the following matters which related to exempt information by virtue of 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).

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Hanna, it was agreed to come out of Closed Session.

The Chairperson advised the following had been agreed while in closed session.

**FOR DECISION**

**ERT/069/2024: CASTLEWELLAN FOREST PARK – CAFÉ AND MOBILE VENDOR PROVISION**

Read: Report dated 12 August 2024 from Amanda Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism regarding café and mobile vendor provision for Castlewellan Forest Park. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed that the Council undertake a tender process to appoint a suitably experienced operator to deliver catering services at Castlewellan Forest Park as set out in section 2.1 of the officer's report.

**ERT/070/2024: FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CALL 2**

Read: Report dated 12 August 2024 from Conor Mallon, Director of Economy, Regeneration & Tourism regarding Financial Assistance. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to:

- Note the Appeals panel outcome
- Allocate letters of offer to projects as per Council Policy to the groups recommended for the award of funding within the budget allocation for each theme.

**ERT/071/2024: HALLOWEEN EVENTS**

Read: Report dated 12 August 2024 from Michelle Boyle, Head of Tourism, Product Development & Visitor Experience regarding Halloween Events. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Hanna, it was agreed to accept the contents of the report and issue SLAs to group's named in Section 2.1 of the officer's report.

**ERT/072/2024: NEWRY CHAMBER MUSIC SLA – ARTS & COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMME**

Read: Report dated 12 August 2024 from Amanda Smyth, Assistant Director, Economy, Growth & Tourism regarding Newry Chamber Music SLA – Arts & Community Outreach Programme. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Feehan, seconded by Councillor Harte, it was agreed to provide support via a Service Level Agreement between Council and Newry Chamber Music for the delivery of an Arts & Community Outreach Programme in the 2024/25 season.

**ERT/073/2024: RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SCHEME 2024/25**

Read: Report dated 12 August 2024 from Conor Mallon, Director of Economy, Regeneration & Tourism regarding Rural Business Development Scheme 2024/25. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor, it was agreed to approve the delivery of a new Rural Business Development Scheme for 2024/25.

**FOR INFORMATION****ERT/074/2024: IRISH OPEN – LEGACY PROJECT, APPLICATION TO DFC**

Read: Report dated 12 August 2024 from Amanda Smyth, Assistant Director, Economy, Growth & Tourism regarding Irish Open – Legacy Project, Application to Department for Communities. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to note an application had been submitted to DfC for an Irish Open Legacy Project as per summary in section 2.1 of the officer's report.

**ERT/075/2024: TOURISM, ARTS AND EVENTS PROCUREMENT**

Read: Report dated 12 August 2024 from Amanda Smyth, Assistant Director, Economy, Growth & Tourism regarding Tourism, Arts and Events Procurement. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to note the contents of this report.**

**ERT/076/2024: ERT SCHEME OF DELEGATION APRIL 2023 – MARCH 2024**

Read: Report dated 12 August 2024 from Conor Mallon, Director, Economy, Regeneration & Tourism regarding ERT Scheme of Delegation April 2023-March 2024. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor Hanna, it was agreed to note the scheme of delegation.**

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 6.47pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024.

**Signed: Councillor C Bowsie  
Chairperson  
Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee**

---

**Signed: Mr J McGilly  
Assistant Director of Regeneration**

---

**NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL****Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on  
Thursday 15 August 2024 at 6.00pm in the Council Chamber, Downshire Civic  
Centre****In the Chair:** Councillor T Howie**In Attendance in Chamber:**  
Councillor P Byrne  
Councillor C Enright  
Councillor A Lewis  
Councillor A Quinn  
Councillor G Sharvin  
Councillor W Clarke  
Councillor O Hanlon  
Councillor A Mathers  
Councillor M Rice**Non-Committee Members  
In Attendance:** Councillor T Andrews**Officials in Attendance  
in Chamber:**  
Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive  
Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services  
Ms S Murphy, Director of Sustainability & Environment  
Mr A Patterson, Director of Active & Healthy Communities  
Mr C Boyd, Assistant Director: Capital & Procurement  
Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director of Finance and Performance  
Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy  
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)  
Ms F Branagh, Democratic Services Officer**SPR/108/2024: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors King, McAteer, O'Hare, Reilly and Taylor and from Mr C Mallon, Director of Economy, Regeneration & Tourism.

**SPR/109/2024: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Lewis declared an interest in Item 17 – Fellowship Programme Request.

**SPR/110/2024 ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM STRATEGY, POLICY &  
RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 13 JUNE 2024****Read:** Action sheet of Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee meeting held Thursday 13 June 2024. **(Copy circulated)****AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Enright, it was agreed to approve the action sheet of Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held 13 June 2024.**



SPR/111/2024

**NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
CORPORATE PLAN 2024-2027**

26

**Read:** Report from Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy, regarding Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Corporate Plan.  
**(Copy circulated)**

Mr Moffett outlined the Report to be agreed today and the amount of consultation that was involved in collating it, with a resident survey of the District, Council employees, senior management, elected representatives and a 12-week public consultation.

On proposing the Report, Councillor Enright noted his delight at the inclusion of a reference to climate change and sustainability. He then requested an additional insertion as follows, **"amend the current area plan to reflect climate change"** where the Corporate Plan mentioned the Local Development Plan, advising that this would be reflective of the climate change emergency. He stated these had been agreed previously through Notices of Motion on climate change emergency.

Mrs Ward responded to advise that the current Area Plan was being reviewed as part of the Local Development Plan (LDP) and therefore it wasn't appropriate to discuss any amendments to it at this time. She advised that she would also like to review the detail surrounding the Notice of Motion and any amendments and outcomes, further reminded Members that there was a Corporate Plan, under which fell the Directorate Plans which referenced sustainability and climate change plans, and that the Local Development Plan (LDP) was addressed under the Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Directorate Plan.

Councillor Enright noted that the Motion for amending the Area Plan in 2019 had been tabled following a number of renewable energy applications being rejected due to a lack of consideration for climate emergency in the Area Plan. He noted that the 2019 motion was reflective of England Planning Area Plans being amended to include a statement that referenced climate change, and he advised that Planners would then be permitted to consider the climate change emergency when considering planning applications.

Mrs Ward reminded Members that England was legislatively different from NI in relation to Planning, acknowledged the issues around climate change in relation to the Area Plan, and reminded Members that the Area Plan was being considered under the LDP stating the issue was more appropriately dealt with under the relevant Directorate Plan. She further reminded Members that had the Notice of Motion to amend the area plan been successful then it would have been amended by this juncture.

Councillor Sharvin noted that the Corporate Plan was reviewed and updated each year but noted that as the Area Plan was not completed it was irrelevant to the agenda item as raised, but did acknowledge the merits of Councillor Enright's point.

Councillor Lewis also noted his understanding of the merits of adding in a point on climate change emergency and queried the time frame of completing the Area Plan review.

Mrs Ward advised that she did not have the date of the meeting to hand, however there was a process that had to be followed that involved the Planning Appeals Commission. She advised Members that the referenced 2019 Notice of Motion had been tabled at a Planning Committee meeting, which Councillor Enright did not attend, and it was then referred to the LDP working group, and reminded Members that it was not appropriate to discuss amending the Area Plan as that was more appropriate under the relevant Directorate Business Plan.

Councillor Enright then clarified that he was not proposing to amend the Area Plan, rather to include a simple planning statement regarding considering climate change emergency when making recommendations on planning applications.

Councillor Hanlon asked whether the Planners took climate change into consideration through statutory consultees, without adding in a statement to the Area Plan and queried when the LDP working group was to meet to discuss the Motion.

Mrs Ward advised that the meeting had taken place some time previous and suggested that this matter be referred back into the Planning Committee, and advised again that had the Motion been successful, any amendments would have been tabled and agreed.

Councillor Enright then referenced a meeting to discuss the Hilltown Wind Farm application and advised that a Council Officer had advised him that Planners were not allowed to take climate change into account when considering planning applications, and the Officer advised that the Area Plan be amended to consider this.

Councillor Sharvin queried whether a conflict of interest had now arisen as a live planning application was being discussed, along with Planning Policies, and whether Planning Committee Members should excuse themselves from the discussion.

Mrs Ward reminded Members again that this Motion had been discussed by the Planners and the ERT Committee, she couldn't comment on the statement from Councillor Enright, and advised Members that that Motion had been referred to the LDP Working Group, and no amendments had arisen from that debate. She advised that the detail of the conversation with the Council Officer would have to be checked before being able to comment on that. She reiterated Councillor Hanlon's point that while climate change emergency was not referenced currently in the Area Plan, the Planning Department would always refer applications to statutory consultees who advised on any climate change implications.

Councillor Sharvin noted that Councillor Enright had made a proposal and queried whether there was a seconder, to which Councillor Howie advised that she was happy to second the proposal and advised that the item should move to a vote.

Councillor Hanlon requested clarity on what was being voted on, and what relevance it had to the SPR Committee, or Council policies and procedures. She referenced the Hilltown Windfarm as mentioned by Councillor Enright and advised that the application had not been approved and queried whether Members had discussed climate change in relation to that application.

Mrs Ward advised that it was not appropriate for Council to discuss an ongoing live planning application that was with the department, reminded Members that it was not relevant to this discussion and that the question now was whether the area plan was to be amended, and the item tabled was the Corporate Plan that had already been amended by Council as requested when previously tabled.

Councillor Byrne requested clarity regarding the proposal relating to the 2019 Notice of Motion that had been referred to the LDP working group, confirmed that this was how motions were tabled and handled, and as Councillor Enright was not present at those meetings, queried whether he had knowledge of the discussions and agreed outcomes, or was he proposing a further amendment to the Area Plan without the required knowledge of

meetings where it was already discussed, and further queried whether the proposer and seconder had knowledge of the discussions to date with the LDP team.

Councillor Howie advised that she had not read the minutes of the relevant meetings but advised that she understood that adding a climate emergency contingency to planning policies was a good step towards tackling the climate emergency and understood the merit behind Councillor Enright's proposal.

Councillor Byrne clarified that Officers had been tasked with a piece of work regarding amending the Area Plan, and that the Alliance Party were now proposing further amendments without reading or understanding the work the Officer's had carried to date.

Mrs Ward interjected to advise that the matter of the climate emergency being included in the area plan was relevant to the Planning Committee and ERT, not this Committee.

Councillor Howie requested that the item be referred back to the relevant Committee regarding amending the LDP to include the climate change emergency.

Following further discussion on the item regarding the Council Officer's statement to Councillor Enright, Ms Taggart read the following extract from the minutes relating to the meeting to which Councillor Enright referred to:

"Mr Hay advised there was no need to fundamentally revise and amend the POP. He advised the POP had identified climate change as a key issue for the district, one that would be increasingly taken into consideration in the preparation of each of the development plan documents of the LDP, which was an ongoing process. To revise and amend the POP was not necessary and would only set the clock back in the preparation of the LDP for the district, which would be counterproductive".

Councillor Enright noted he was content to withdraw his proposal if the item was referred back to the relevant Committee.

In concluding the discussion on the draft Corporate Plan, Councillor Howie also noted her Party's opposition to the statement regarding the progression of the Mourne Mountain Gateway Project in its current form.

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Lewis, it was agreed to approve the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Corporate Plan 2024-2027.**

**On the proposal of Councillor Enright, seconded by Councillor Howie, it was agreed that the LDP amendment be brought back to the relevant Committee.**

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

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the following matters which related to exempt information by virtue of 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).**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Lewis, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

The Chairperson advised the following had been agreed whilst in closed session:

**SPR/112/2024**                      **PROPOSED LICENCE OF LANDS AT CASTLE PARK, NEWCASTLE FOR MOBILE BANK UNIT**

**Read:** Report from Ms E Cosgrove, Assistant Director Administration (Acting), regarding the proposed licence of lands at Castle Park Newcastle for a Mobile banking unit. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:**                              **On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, it was agreed to approve the recommendations as outlined in the Officer’s Report.**

**On the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Howie, it was agreed that Council would contact banking institutions to encourage additional mobile banking hubs across the District.**

**SPR/113/2024**                      **RENEWAL OF LEASE IN RESPECT OF OFFICE SPACE AT BESSBROOK COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**Read:** Report from Ms E Cosgrove, Assistant Director Administration (Acting), regarding the Renewal of Lease in Respect of Office Space at Bessbrook Community Centre. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:**                              **On the proposal of Councillor Mathers, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed to approve the recommendations as outlined in the Officer’s Report.**

**SPR/114/2024**                      **SURRENDER AND REGRANT OF LEASE FOR PITCH AT DONARD PARK, NEWCASTLE**

**Read:** Report from Ms E Cosgrove, Assistant Director Administration (Acting), regarding the Surrender and Regrant of Lease of pitch at Donard Park. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:**                              **On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to approve the recommendations as outlined in the Officer’s Report.**

**SPR/115/2024****WINTER GRAZING OF THE DUNES AT TYRELLA BEACH****Read:**

Report from Ms E Cosgrove, Assistant Director Administration (Acting), regarding Winter Grazing at the Dunes, Tyrella Beach. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:**

**On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Lewis, it was agreed to approve the recommendations as outlined in the Officer's Report.**

**SPR/116/2024****REQUEST FOR EASEMENT****Read:**

Report from Ms E Cosgrove, Assistant Director Administration (Acting), regarding a Request for Easement. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:**

**On the proposal of Councillor Mathers, seconded by Councillor Quinn, it was agreed to approve the recommendations as outlined in the Officer's Report.**

**SPR/117/2024****MONAGHAN ROW****Read:**

Report from Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services, regarding Monaghan Row. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:**

**On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Mathers, it was agreed to exercise the option to extend the Lease by 6 months. It was also agreed that Officers liaise with the Health Trust regarding access to the building.**

**SPR/118/2024****TYRELLA BEACH AMENITY BUILDING****Read:**

Report from Mr C Boyd, Assistant Director of Capital Projects & Procurement, regarding Tyrella Beach Amenity Building. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:**

**On the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, it was agreed to appoint a contractor to deliver the Tyrella Beach Amenity Building project as outlined in the Officer's Report.**

**SPR/119/2024****CIVIL ENGINEERING FRAMEWORK APPOINTMENT**

**Read:** Report from Mr C Boyd, Assistant Director of Capital Projects & Procurement, regarding Civil Engineering Framework Appointment. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, it was agreed to appoint the preferred contractor as NMDDC Civil Engineering Framework Contractor as outlined within the Officer’s Report.**

**SPR/120/2024** **BALLYNAHINCH COMMUNITY CENTRE CONTRACTOR APPOINTMENT**

**Read:** Report from Mr C Boyd, Assistant Director of Capital Projects & Procurement, regarding Ballynahinch Community Centre Contractor Appointment. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, it was agreed to appoint the preferred Contractor to deliver the Ballynahinch Community Centre Refurbishment project as detailed in the Officer’s Report.**

**SPR/121/2024** **THEATRE CONFERENCE APPOINTMENT OF IST & CIVIC AND REGIONAL HUB APPOINTMENT OF IST**

**Read:** Report from Mr C Mallon, Director of Economy, Regeneration & Tourism, regarding Theatre Conference Appointment of IST and Civic & Regional Hub Appointment of IST. **(Copy circulated)**

As there was dissent within the Chamber, the Officer’s Recommendations were put to a show of hands vote with the results as follows:

For	8
Against	2
Abstentions	0

The proposal was declared carried.

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Mathers, seconded by Councillor Byrne, the following was agreed:**

- **To issue intention to award letters to the successful tenderers for the Theatre Conference, Civic & Regional Hub and Public Realms as per the tender reports in Appendix 1 and 2 of the Officer’s Report.**
- **The appointment of the Integrated Supply Team for the NCCR – Theatre Conference and Civic & Regional Projects subject to the completion of the necessary standstill periods and planning approvals.**

- To approve Council's contribution as per the Officer's Report.

**SPR/122/2024**

**HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY 2024**

**Read:**

Report from Ms S Murphy, Director of Sustainability & Environment, regarding Health and Safety Policy 2024. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:**

**On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Lewis, it was agreed to adopt the updated policy, and that all Members be familiar with and abide by Section 6.2 – Chairperson and Elected Council Members.**

**SPR/123/2024**

**RATES SUPPORT GRANT (RSG)**

**Read:**

Report from Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services, regarding Rates Support Grant. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:**

**On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, it was agreed to write to the Minister expressing the importance of the RSG and the risk of reducing the RSG budget.**

Having previously declared an interest, Councillor Lewis left the room for discussion on the following item – 7.21pm

**SPR/124/2024**

**FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME REQUEST**

**Read:**

Report from Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services, regarding a Fellowship Programme Request. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:**

**On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Hanlon it was agreed to approve the payment of 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of the cost by the Council for the Fellowship Programme with the caveat that should the Member not complete the Programme or leave Council with the term, this funding would be reimbursed in full to the Council.**

Councillor Lewis rejoined the meeting at this stage – 7.27pm

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

**SPR/125/2024**

**AMGEN IRISH OPEN**

**Read:** Report from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability, regarding Amgen Irish Open. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed to note the required budget allocation to support the delivery of the event as set out in the Officer's Report.**

Councillor Enright left the meeting at this stage – 7.45pm.

**SPR/126/2024**                      **BRCD ANNUAL REPORT**

**Read:** Report from Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services, regarding Belfast Region City Deal Annual Report. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed to note the BRCD Annual Report for 2023/2024.**

**SPR/127/2024**                      **MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS**

**Read:** Report from Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director of Finance & Performance, regarding 2024/25 Quarter 1 Management Accounts. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed to note the Quarter 1 2024/25 Management Accounts.**

**SPR/128/2024**                      **NEWRY CITY CENTRE REGENERATION PROGRAMME BOARD EXEMPT MEETING MINUTES OF 12 APRIL 2024**

**Read:** Exempt minutes of Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board Meeting of 12 April 2024. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed to note the minutes.**

**SPR/129/2024**                      **NEWRY CITY CENTRE REGENERATION PROGRAMME BOARD PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES OF 12 APRIL 2024**

**Read:** Public minutes of Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board Meeting of 12 April 2024. **(Copy circulated)**



**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Rice, it was agreed to note the minutes.**

**SPR/130/2024**

**STATUTORY REPORTING**

**Read:** Report from Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy, regarding Statutory Reporting. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Rice, it was agreed to note the following:**

- **Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period April – June 2024**
- **Newry, Mourne and Down District Council’s Public Authority Statutory Equality and Good Relations Duties Annual Progress Report for the period 2023 – 2024 for submission to the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland by 31 August 2024**

**SPR/131/2024**

**COMPLIANCE TEAM 2023-24 YEAR END REPORT**

**Read:** Report from Ms E Cosgrove, Assistant Director Administration (Acting), regarding Compliance Team 2023/24 Year End Report **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Rice, it was agreed to note the monitoring statistics.**

**SPR/132/2024**

**MCHP COMPLAINTS PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER 4 2023/2024**

**Read:** Report from Ms E Cosgrove, Assistant Director Administration (Acting), regarding MCHP Complaints Performance Report Quarter 4 2023/2024. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Rice, it was agreed to note the monitoring statistics.**

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 7.57pm

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024.

**Signed:** **Councillor Tierna Howie**  
**Chairperson**

**Signed:**            **Josephine Kelly**  
                         **Director of Corporate Services**

**NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

36

**Minutes of Special Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 27 August 2024 at 5.00pm in the Council Chamber, Downshire Civic Centre****In the Chair:** Councillor T Howie**In Attendance in Chamber:**  
Councillor P Byrne  
Councillor C King  
Councillor D McAteer  
Councillor H Reilly  
Councillor O Hanlon  
Councillor A Mathers  
Councillor S O'Hare**Non-Committee Members****In Attendance:** Councillor T Andrews Councillor J Truesdale**Officials in Attendance in Chamber:**Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive  
Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services  
Ms C Mallon, Director Economy, Regeneration & Tourism  
Mr A Patterson, Director of Active & Healthy Communities  
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)  
Ms F Branagh, Democratic Services Officer**SPR/133/2024: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Enright, Lewis, Sharvin and Taylor.

The Chairperson noted that under Standing Orders 4.3, the issues discussed were to be considered as a matter of urgency.

**SPR/134/2024: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no interests declared

**ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2014****AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor King, seconded by Councillor Mathers, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the following matters which related to exempt information by virtue of 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).**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor King, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.**The Chairperson advised the following had been agreed whilst in closed session:**

**SPR/135/2024****LEGAL AGREEMENT****Read:**

Report from Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services, regarding a Legal Agreement. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:**

**On the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, it was agreed to approve the recommendations as outlined within the Officer's Report.**

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 5.08pm

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024.

**Signed:** **Councillor Tierna Howie**  
**Chairperson**

**Signed:** **Josephine Kelly**  
**Director of Corporate Services**

**NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Ref: AHC/2024

---

**Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on  
Monday 19 August 2024 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room,  
Downshire Civic Centre**

---

**Chairperson:** Councillor C Galbraith

**In attendance in Chamber:** Councillor L Devlin                      Councillor D Finn  
    Councillor A Finnegan                      Councillor R Howell  
    Councillor J Jackson                      Councillor D Lee-Surginor  
    Councillor A Lewis                      Councillor O Magennis  
    Councillor A Mathers                      Councillor L McEvoy  
    Councillor D Murphy                      Councillor K Murphy  
    Councillor H Young

**Also in Chamber:** Councillor T Andrews

**Officials in Chamber:** Mr A Patterson, Director, Active and Healthy Communities  
 Mr H Korkou, Assistant Director, Healthy Living (Acting)  
 Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer  
 Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)

**Also in the Chamber:** Mr D Cusin, Department of Education  
 Mr D Heaney, Department of Education

**AHC/065/2024:            APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

An apology was received from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development.

The Chairperson welcomed Mr H Korkou to the meeting as acting Assistant Director, Healthy Living.

Members were advised Mr D Cusin and Mr D Heaney from the Department of Education were present at the meeting and would be delivering a presentation.

**AHC/066/2024:            DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**AHC/067/2024:            ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM ACTIVE & HEALTHY  
COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 JUNE 2024**

**Read:** Action sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 17 June 2024. **(Copy circulated).**

**Agreed:**                                      **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Lewis, to note the Action Sheet of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 17 June 2024.**

**AHC/068/2024: ATTENDANCE MATTERS – DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Mr Patterson welcomed the delegation from the Department of Education who had agreed to attend the Committee Meeting following on from a presentation to the Community Planning Partnership Board on the Department's important work regarding school attendance rates and the need for a whole community based approach.

Mr Cusin from the Tackling Educational Disadvantage Team, Department of Education took Members through a presentation entitled 'Attendance Matters.' (Copy attached to these minutes)

The Chairperson thanked Mr Cusin for the presentation and invited questions and comments from Members as follows:

- There was understanding regarding the importance of attendance at school.
- There were benefits to not put pressure on young children to do GCSEs etc as school was not for everyone. Youth workers had been pushed out in the past and it was asked why was it now important to have youth workers as part of the solution.
- Concern at figures including that for local secondary school level and school refusers and how that had increased post pandemic. Reference had been made to the Scottish model and in terms of re-energising and getting people back into the system again. Was there going to be elements of that Scottish model included within the consultation and strategy that was to be released?
- Schools required advice and support particularly school managers and senior management teams as it was a very difficult thing to address, manage and support.
- It was vitally important parents knew that from a very young age, from preschool and health visitor input, that attendance for children at school was so important not just from an educational perspective but also social and emotional. It was an issue that the Department of Health had a role to play.
- Were there any plans for direct support and advice for parents who were struggling with managing attendance e.g. A helpline.
- In referring to the RAISE programme it was important that Councillors were fully informed of tools and options available to enable appropriate support to be provided to constituents.
- In terms of the programme for government what sort of outcomes would the Department like to see in terms of attendance?
- Financial pressures on families had an impact on attendance e.g. this time of year with the cost of uniforms and the cost of holidays with vast savings to be made by going during term time.

Mr Cusin and Mr Heaney responded to queries as follows:

- Youth workers had a vital role to play. There was an appreciation that school was not for everyone and it was important that all services should wrap around a particular child to find an education that was going to meet their needs and there was no issue with vocational qualifications and apprenticeships etc.
- It was important to have a range of professionals and options to support children.
- Reference was made to a partnership between Monkstown Boxing Club and Abbey Community College and how it had worked effectively in providing ways of learning and that programmes such as a youth leadership type were an important part of the solution.
- Scotland and particularly Glasgow showed an outline of what relational practice looked like with leaders in Glasgow being able to reduce expulsions to almost zero with significant reductions in suspensions due to their keenness to understand what was driving misbehaviour or poor behaviour amongst children at both the primary and post primary.

- Taking time for teachers and other professionals to understand what trauma there was within the children's lives and what was causing misbehaviour and to understand better what could be done to support them. That would be reflected within the strategy with a much more relational focused.
- It would always be a challenge, particularly for parents without the confidence or who may have had a poor experience of education themselves. There was support through the education welfare service and the Department would want to see that improving as time went on.
- Reference was made the RAISE programme which offered the opportunity for place based solutions to be identified and supported financially. This was a new risk based intervention programme which would be coming to schools. This was funded through the Shared Island Fund and would be helpful in terms of how to support parents more effectively.
- In terms of the RAISE programme, engagement with schools and organisations across 15 different areas would commence from September 2024 onwards to discuss a strategic plan for the areas.
- A copy of the presentation on the RAISE programme would be circulated to Members for their information with an offer to provide a focused presentation should Members wish.
- In relation to the programme for government it was more challenging as that was led by the Executive Office but increasingly collaboration was being talked about across departments with local councils.

**Agreed:**            **A copy of the presentation on the RAISE Programme to be circulated to Members.**

**AHC/069/2023:**        **DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORUMS UPDATE REPORT**

**Read:**                    Report dated 19 August 2024 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development presented by Mr A Patterson regarding an update on District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:**                    **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor, to note the report and approve the actions in the action sheets attached for:**

- **The Mournes DEA Forum Private Meeting held on 23 July 2024.**
- **Slieve Croob DEA Forum Private Meeting held on 18 June 2024**
- **Rowallane DEA Forum Private Meeting held on 16 May 2024.**

**AHC/070/2023:**        **LEISURE CLOSURE ARRANGEMENTS 2024/25**

**Read:**                    Report dated 19 August 2024 from Mr A Patterson, Director of Active & Healthy Communities, regarding Leisure Closure Arrangements 2024/25. **(Copy circulated)**

In response for an update in relation to the reopening of Newry Swimming Pool from Councillors Mathers and Finn, Mr Patterson advised he would bring a detailed update to Members in September.

Mr Patterson advised he had been on site and there was a lot of work ongoing with tiles removed and the process of retiling commencing soon. There would be a number of meetings with the contractor over coming weeks. Mr Patterson further advised he

would be meeting with club representatives from swimming clubs and school groups to establish how Council could support them.

Councillor Finn touched on the importance of keeping people informed of the timeline to which Mr Patterson confirmed he would provide updates on a public basis also.

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mathers, seconded by Councillor Magennis, to approve the leisure closure arrangements for 2024/2025 period.**

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

**Agreed:** **On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Howell, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on items 7 and 8, which related to exempt information by virtue of para. 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.**

**Agreed:** **On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.**

The Chairperson advised the following had been agreed whilst in closed session:

**AHC/071/2023:** **LEASING OF COUNCIL LAND AT CARRIGENAGH ROAD, KILKEEL**

**Read:** Report dated 19 August 2024 from Mr A Patterson, Director of Active and Healthy Communities regarding Leasing of Council Land at Carrigenagh Road, Kilkeel. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, to approve to progress the Council lands and facility at Carrigenagh Road, Kilkeel, though the Council's Sport and Community Leasing Policy.**

**RESTRICTED – FOR NOTING**

**AHC/072/2024** **DELIVERY PARTNER FOR BE ACTIVE FOR LIFE PROGRAMMES**

**Read:** Report dated 19 August 2024 from Mr A Patterson, Director of Active & Healthy Communities, regarding the Delivery Partner for Be Active for Life Programmes. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mathers, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor, to note the contents of the report.**



**FOR NOTING****AHC/073/2024: POLICING & COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (PCSP),  
NEWRY NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL PARTNERSHIP (NRP)**

**Read:** Report dated 19 August 2024 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development providing an update on the ongoing work of the Policing & Community Safety Partnership and the Newry and Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, to note the report and the following:

- Minutes of Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting held on 28 May 2024, approved at the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting on 30 July 2024.
- Minutes of Newry NRP Meeting held on 22 May 2024, approved at the Newry NRP Meeting on 26 June 2024.

**AHC/074/2024: CORRESPONDENCE REPORT**

**Read:** Report dated 19 August 2024 from Mr A Patterson, Director of Active and Healthy Communities regarding Correspondence to Council. **(Copy circulated)**

*Appendix 4: Response from Minister of Finance re: Funding for the Community/Voluntary Sector*

Councillor Finnegan welcomed the response from the Minister of Finance and that she was going to correspond with the British government as this was a matter that needed to be addressed every year because of the importance of the Community/Voluntary sector. Councillor Finnegan added that she looked forward to the response from the Minister for Communities.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, to note the report and appendices, including the following:

**Appendix 1: Correspondence from Council to the Minister for Health**  
**Appendix 2: Response received from Minister for Health**  
**Appendix 3: Correspondence from Council to Minister for Finance**  
**Appendix 4: Response received from Minister of Finance**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.00pm.

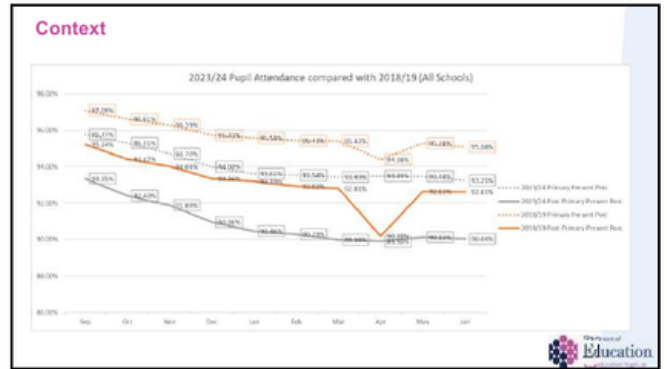
For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024.

**Signed:** Councillor Galbraith  
Chairperson

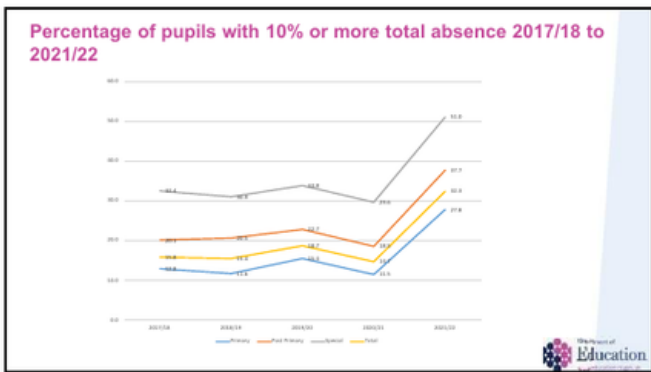
**Signed:** Andrew Patterson  
Director Active and Healthy Communities



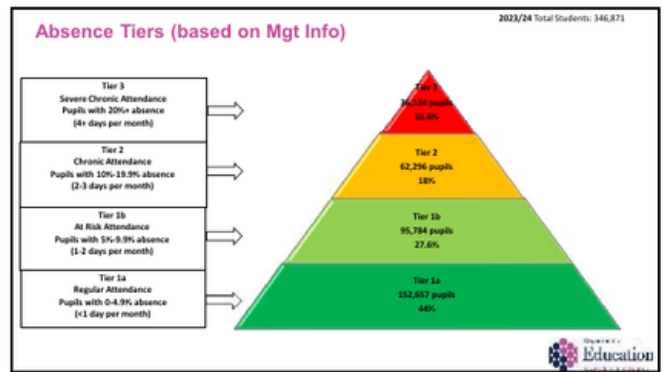
1



2



3



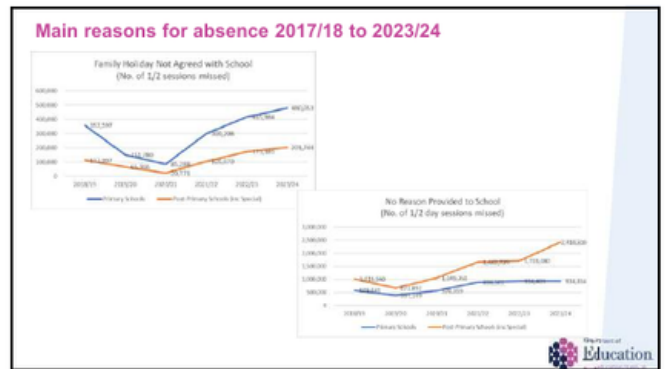
4

### Attendance and Absence Averages by FSME Band

Pupil Absence Data by Free School Meal Bands - September 2023 to June 2024

FSME Band	% Present	% Absent	% Authorised Absence	% Unauthorised Absence	Authorised as % of Total Absence	Unauthorised as % of Total Absence	% No. Abs	% Chronic	% Severe
2000 - 2009	89.2%	10.8%	3.3%	7.5%	38.7%	61.3%	44.4%	21.2%	8.0%
10000 - 10199	87.8%	12.2%	3.2%	9.0%	35.7%	64.3%	52.2%	12.2%	5.7%
20000 - 20199	87.2%	12.8%	4.1%	8.7%	47.0%	53.0%	47.8%	14.6%	8.6%
30000 - 30199	86.9%	13.1%	4.3%	8.8%	54.0%	46.0%	50.0%	19.2%	13.2%
40000 - 40199	89.8%	10.2%	5.2%	5.0%	49.0%	51.0%	29.0%	19.1%	14.2%
50000+	88.8%	11.2%	5.2%	6.0%	55.0%	45.0%	27.2%	17.2%	12.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>88.3%</b>	<b>11.7%</b>	<b>4.3%</b>	<b>7.4%</b>	<b>48.6%</b>	<b>51.4%</b>	<b>48.6%</b>	<b>19.7%</b>	<b>8.6%</b>


5



6

**Challenges**

- Children and Young People / Families**
  - Seemingly changing attitudes to attendance
  - Changing context – increased emotional health and wellbeing challenges (including Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA))
  - Parents / families / TIP / ACEs
- Schools / Teachers / System**
  - Sense of frustration on the part of schools
  - Suspensions and Expulsions
  - Children being unofficially “off-rolled”
  - Safeguarding and Child Protection
  - Industrial Action – teaching staff (now ended) and Education Welfare Service (ongoing)
  - Funding Challenges



7

**What works?**


- Leadership
- Close educational engagement with parents
- Tailored education programmes
- Creating a positive environment – Relational practice
- Removing barriers to learning
- Strategic monitoring, reporting and evaluating
- Incentives and disincentives



8

**What we are doing**


- Attendance Matters Strategy**
  - Miss school, Miss out strategy has been rewritten in post COVID world
  - Consult on the Strategy
- Self Evaluation and Practical Guide (issued to schools for Sept 24)**
  - Developed in conjunction with the Education Authority
- Promoting Good Practice – launched 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024**
  - Knockmore Primary Attendance Pilot (example)
  - <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/attendance-hero>



9

**What we are doing**


- Relational Practice
- Nurture
- Addressing Bullying
- Promoting Good Practice



10

**Opportunities**


- EWS Review
- Social worker in schools; Home School Liaison Coordinator (HSLC); School Nurse
- End to End Review of School Improvement: Supporting Children and Young People/ Removing Barriers Workstream. Links between suspensions and expulsions; behaviour; EHE and Restorative Practice – creating a greater emphasis on Relational Practice
- BoG raising the profile of pupil attendance within each school
- Collaborative working (with other depts)
- Wrap around support around the child
- Local (place-based) solutions / RAISE Programme
- Councils/ Employers / FE colleges / Youth workers
- Curriculum Delivery



11

**Thank you.**

**Happy to take questions.**



12

**NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Ref: SE/2024

---

**Minutes of Sustainability & Environment Committee Meeting held on  
Wednesday 21 August 2024 at 6.15pm in Council Chamber, Monaghan Row, Newry**

---

**Chair:** Councillor G Kearns**Committee Members  
in Attendance:**

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor J Brennan
Councillor P Campbell	Councillor D Finn
Councillor V Harte	Councillor J Jackson
Councillor M Larkin	Councillor O Magennis
Councillor M Ruane	Councillor D Taylor
Councillor H Young	

**Officials in Attendance:** Mrs S Murphy, Director Sustainability and Environment  
Mr C Sage, Assistant Director Sustainability  
Ms S Trainor, Assistant Director Environment  
Mr D Hanna, Head of Refuse and Cleansing  
Ms F Branagh, Democratic Services Officer  
Mrs N Stranney, Democratic Services Officer

**Officials in Attendance  
(Via Teams)** Miss Sarah Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)

**SE/088/2024: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Enright, Feehan and Reilly.

**SE/089/2024: DECLARATIONS OF "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"**

There were no declarations of interest.

**SE/090/2024: ACTION SHEET: SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT  
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12 JUNE 2024**

Read: Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 12 June 2024. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to note the Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 12 June 2024.**

**FOR DECISION****SE/091/2024: NOTICE OF MOTION – DOG FOULING**

Read: Report dated 21 August 2024 from Ms S Murphy, Director: Sustainability and Environment, regarding a Notice of Motion on Dog Fouling. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Howie thanked the officers for their detailed report and supported the recommendations. She highlighted that dog fouling was a persistent issue affecting community safety and cleanliness and welcomed the new online reporting form, hoping it will encourage more residents to report issues.

Councillor Howie emphasised the importance of responsible dog ownership and praised the Council's efforts through social media, billboards, and upcoming campaigns. She requested that the online form be promoted through social media once operational to maximise awareness.

Councillor Howie inquired about the current number of enforcement officers, the areas they cover, and whether there was a timeline for filling vacancies to improve dog fouling management.

Ms Murphy stated that the Council would pilot the online form, notify members of its availability, and ensure it was processed through the standard channels. She also mentioned that there were several vacancies and temporary posts for enforcement officers, which would be prioritised for recruitment.

Councillor Campbell welcomed the report's recommendations, acknowledging that the issue was something Councillors address regularly.

Councillor Finn emphasised the daily complaints Councillors received and suggested the launching a campaign similar to the recent "Right to Food" initiative. She inquired about potential collaboration between DEA coordinators and local schools, noting the success of similar efforts in other council areas, where schools effectively engaged children, who then influenced and educated their parents.

Mrs Murphy advised that the annual poster campaign run by the sustainability team covered various environmental and sustainability issues, with dog fouling having been highlighted by the children in the past. She stated that the winning posters from the campaign could be used to deliver messages on the sides of new bin lorries.

Councillor Taylor stated the issue of dog fouling had been discussed many times over the years. And welcomed the potential to reduce or eliminate the problem across the District. He stated that online reporting could encourage more reports and highlighted that current figures probably did not fully reflect how widespread the problem was. He asked that the online system be reviewed three to six months after its launch to assess its impact on reporting complaints and offered to add this amendment for consideration.

Mrs Murphy acknowledged that the statistics did not accurately reflect the on the ground situation. She highlighted the frustration of the cleansing teams, who often found new dog fouling appearing shortly after the streets had been cleaned. She suggested that exploring different apps and providing staff with devices to capture a comprehensive view of the problems would ensure hotspots were quickly identified and addressed more swiftly.

Councillor Young proposed the motion and agreed with Councillor Finn on the concept of partnering on a project with schools and the community. She queried when the stencils would be ready for use and whether they would be reserved solely for enforcement officers or available to elected representatives and community groups.

In response, Mrs Murphy advised there had been recent communication with the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) regarding the application for permissions and once permission was in place, the project could be implemented.

Councillor Ruane agreed with Councillor Taylor that the statistics did not accurately reflect the severity of the dog fouling problem and suggested that the public might have stopped reporting incidents because they viewed it as a pointless exercise. He noted that complaints about dog fouling were received on a weekly basis and there was a perception that the Council wasn't doing enough, however, stated that stencils had been very effective in the past, and the positive response led to a reduction in the problem. He stated that the Council needed to find a way to hold people accountable and asked whether a dedicated team would be assigned to handle requests promptly once the online reporting system launched.

Councillor Brennan agreed with other Councillors that the statistics did not reflect the true extent of the problems. He asked whether a letter previously used to inform residents about potential fines for offenses was still available.

In response to Councillor Brennan, Mrs Murphy advised that a similar letter was currently used by the Enforcement Officers, she stated this would be reviewed and reconsidered going forward.

Councillor Howie noted that a local Community Association in Killyleagh had collaborated with school children to create posters, which were then placed around the bins in their area. She supported the idea of implementing similar initiatives in other areas.

**AGREED:**                                       **On the proposal of Councillor Young, seconded by Councillor Campbell, it was agreed to note the report and approve the following:**

- **The development of an online reporting form for Residents and Elected Members to report dog fouling issues to the Council while exploring alternative digital options for reporting dog fouling and other complaints to the department; and**
- **A mapping exercise to be undertaken by Officers of identified hotspots or problem areas against litter bin provision data to determine if additional litter bins can be provided to assist with the disposal of dog fouling.**

**SE/092/2024:**                                       **CORRESPONDENCE FROM ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL REGARDING ADDITIONAL ENFORCEMENT POWERS**

**Read:**   **Report dated 21 August 2024 from Ms S Trainor, Assistant Director: Environment, regarding additional enforcement powers. (Copy circulated)**

Councillors Andrews, Magennis, Taylor, Young, and Jackson all reported never having received complaints from residents about bin storage and expressed doubts about the enforceability of the proposal. Consequently, they all agreed not to support the proposal from Ards and North Down Borough Council.

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Campbell, it was agreed that members would NOT support Ards and North Down Borough Council's proposal regarding additional Enforcement Powers and Newry, Mourne and Down Council will write to DAERA requesting similar enforcement powers.

**SE/093/2024: PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF HEIGHT RESTRICTING BARRIERS AT COUNCIL CAR PARKS**

Read: Report dated 21 August 2024 from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability, regarding Proposed Installation of Height Restricting Barriers at Council Car Parks. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Ruane proposed the officer's recommendation and welcomed the reinstatement of the barrier. He also asked for an update on the motorhome strategy. Mr Sage advised that the AHC Directorate had a draft strategy in place and agreed to revert to the Member on the matter.

Councillor Young highlighted the ongoing issue of camper vans in Castle Park carpark stating the byelaws were not being followed despite the presence of signage. She stated that a temporary barrier was appreciated, however, only a permanent barrier would effectively address the overall issue.

Mr Sage stated that a permanent barrier needed to be considered alongside the motorhome strategy, as making the barrier permanent raised concerns about where the motorhomes would be displaced. He emphasised that the motorhome strategy would need to be reviewed before a decision on the barrier could be presented to Committee.

Councillor Finn agreed that the decision regarding a more permanent barrier should be considered within the framework of the motorhome strategy to ensure that the problem was not relocated to another area.

Mr Sage provided committee with an update following additional discussions with Amgen, the parking arrangements at Downs Road in Newcastle had been reviewed and 70 spaces were now being made available for public parking during the Irish Open event.

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Campbell, it was agreed to approve the proposal to reinstate height restricting barriers at the Square, Warrenpoint and installation of temporary height restricting barriers at Castle Park, Newcastle for the duration of the Amgen Irish Open.

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

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Brennan, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the following

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 any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

The Chairperson advised the following had been agreed whilst in closed session:

**SE/094/2024:** **CHRISTMAS ILLUMINATIONS 2024, DIRECT AWARD CONTRACT FOR TESTING**

Read: Report dated 21 August 2024 from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability, regarding Christmas Illuminations 2024, Direct Award Contract for Testing. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Taylor, it was agreed to approve a Direct Award Contract for the testing of the 2024 Christmas Illuminations in November 2024.

It was also agreed to investigate the locations as highlighted by Councillor Harte regarding reported issues with Christmas illuminations and street lighting.

**SE/095/2024:** **DIRECT AWARD CONTRACTS – FACILITIES SERVICE CONTRACTS**

Read: Report dated 21 August 2024 from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability, regarding fixed firefighting equipment and intruder/fire alarm maintenance contracts. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to approve the Direct Award Contracts for a 6-month period.

**SE/096/2024:** **BUSINESS CASE FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF SPECIALIST TECHNICAL ADVICE**

Read: Report dated 21 August 2024 from Ms S Murphy, Director: Sustainability and Environment, regarding a business case to procure a contract for specialist technical advice to assist with the development of business cases and contracts for more complex requirements. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to approve the business case to procure a contract for specialist technical services.



**SE/097/2024: DIRECT AWARD CONTRACT EXTENSIONS – WASTE MANAGEMENT**

Read: Report dated 21 August 2024 from Ms S Trainor, Assistant Director of Environment, regarding the extension of two direct Award Contracts that exceed the Director's delegated limit of £30,000. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Campbell, it was agreed to approve two Direct Award Contracts as detailed at Appendix 1 of the Officers report.**

**SE/098/2024: BUSINESS CASE FOR INSURANCE BROKERAGE SERVICES**

Read: Report dated 21 August 2024 from Ms S Trainor, Assistant Director of Environment, regarding a business case to procure professional insurance brokerage services for Council. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Jackson, it was agreed to approve the business case to procure a contract for Insurance Brokerage Services.**

**FOR NOTING - ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2014****SE/099/2024: REPORT FROM SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP ON 19 JUNE 2024**

Read: Report from the Sustainability and Environment Working Group on 19 June 2024 **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Young, it was agreed to note the report.**

**SE/100/2024: ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERS' MONTHLY BULLETIN HELD ON 23 JULY 2024 AND IN COMMITTEE MINUTES OF THURSDAY 30 MAY 2024**

Read: Arc21 Joint Committee Members' Monthly Bulletin Held On 23 July 2024 and In Committee Minutes of Thursday 30 May 2024. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: It was agreed the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Young, to note the arc21 Joint Committee Members' Monthly bulletin of meeting held on 23 July 2024, and "in committee" minutes of meeting held 30 May 2024.**

**FOR NOTING**

**SE/101/2024: ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF THURSDAY 30 MAY 2024**

Read: Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting Committee Minutes of Thursday 30 May 2024. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** It was agreed the proposal of Councillor Finn, seconded by Councillor Ruane, to note the minutes of the Arc21 Joint Committee meeting of Thursday 30 May 2024.

**SE/102/2024: PROVISIONAL NI LOCAL AUTHORITY COLLECTED MUNICIPAL WASTE MAN STATISTICS JANUARY-MARCH 2024**

Read: Provisional NI Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Man Statistics January-March 2024. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** It was agreed the proposal of Councillor Finn, seconded by Councillor Ruane, to note the statistics from January-March 2024.

**SE/103/2024: ABANDONMENT AND DISPOSAL OF LAND AT CARNEYHOUGH INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, RATHFRILAND ROAD, NEWRY**

Read: Correspondence received from the Department for Infrastructure re: abandonment and disposal of land at Carneyhough Industrial Estate, Rathfriland Road, Newry. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Harte asked whether the abandonment occurred within the confines of the industrial estate. Mrs Murphy agreed to provide clarification on the matter and that she would revert to the member with the information.

**AGREED:** It was agreed the proposal of Councillor Finn, seconded by Councillor Ruane, to note the proposed abandonment.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.22 pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024.

**Signed:** **Councillor Geraldine Kearns**  
**Chairperson**

**Signed:** **Ms Sinead Murphy**  
**Director of Sustainability & Environment**

<b>Report to:</b>	Council
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	2 September 2024
<b>Subject:</b>	Correspondence to Council
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)

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			To provide an update on correspondence received for attention of Council.
<b>2.0</b>			<b>Key issues</b>
2.1			This paper refers to correspondence to be brought to the attention of Council. Items are referred to in 3.0 below.
<b>3.0</b>			<b>Recommendations</b>
3.1			That Council considers and notes the following correspondence: <b>Correspondence from South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust</b>  Council received a response from Chief Executive, South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust in relation to Notice of Motion C/132/2024 Shimna House, Ward 15.
3.2			<b>Correspondence from Department for Infrastructure</b>  Council received a response from the Department for Infrastructure in relation to C/084, C/093, C/129/2024 Newry Southern Relief Road.
3.3			<b>Correspondence from NI Water</b>  Council received correspondence from NI Water regarding Economic Constraints.
3.4			<b>Correspondence from Department of Health</b>  Council received correspondence from Department of Health regarding Request for local Government representatives to be members of Area Integrated Partnership Boards
3.5			<b>Correspondence from NI Courts &amp; Tribunals Service</b>  Council received correspondence from NI Courts & Tribunals Service regarding an increase to Court Fees from 1 October 2024.
<b>4.0</b>			<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1			Not applicable.

5.0	<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	<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> <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>

<b>7.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Background Documents</b>
	<b>None</b>

**Chairman**  
Jonathan Patton

**Chief Executive**  
Roisin Coulter

08 August 2024

Marie Ward  
Chief Executive  
Newry & Mourne District Council  
Downshire Civic Centre  
Downshire Estate, Ardglass Road  
DOWNPATRICK  
BT30 6GQ

Dear Marie

**SHIMNA HOUSE WARD 15**

I refer to your letter dated 7 August 2024 in relation to Ward 15 in the Downshire Hospital.

The South Eastern Trust understands the concerns raised within the community around the supposed closure of Ward 15 in the Downshire Hospital. The South Eastern Trust can offer assurances to the public and members of Newry & Mourne District Council that the Trust has no intention of closing this sub-regional addiction unit.

Ward 15 provides a much valued service to not just the South Eastern Trust population but also to those in the Belfast and Southern Trust areas. I can advise that an early alert has been raised to seek support from our Regional Colleagues and SPPG to maintain this critical service.

The Trust is actively pursuing all avenues to recruit to the imminent vacancy of the Consultant Psychiatrist post and at the time of writing, the Trust is encouraged that interest has been shown in the offer of a locum contract. As this is a temporary solution the Trust will continue to explore permanent recruitment and contingency planning to ensure the continued and safe provision of Tier 4 Addictions in the Downshire Hospital.

Yours sincerely



**ROISIN COULTER**  
Chief Executive



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

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

Room 708  
Clarence Court  
10-18 Adelaide Street  
BELFAST  
BT2 8GB  
Telephone: (028) 9054 0105  
Email: [Private.office@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Private.office@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk)

Via email:  
[Donna.Starkey@nmandd.org](mailto:Donna.Starkey@nmandd.org)

Your reference:  
Our reference: INV-1356-2024  
12<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Dear Ms Ward,

### **NEWRY SOUTHERN RELIEF ROAD**

Thank you for your invitation to DfI Minister John O'Dowd MLA.

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 Mr Sid Stevenson to arrange a meeting with him and members of the project team. They can advise on a timeframe for the proposed scheme and provide a presentation of the scheme to council, if required.

Mr Stevenson can be contacted at [Southern.SRI@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Southern.SRI@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk)

Thank you for your continued interest in the scheme.

Yours sincerely



**EMMA STOCKMAN**  
Private Secretary to the Minister

**Northern Ireland Water**

PO Box 1026  
Belfast  
BT1 9DJ  
[www.niwater.com](http://www.niwater.com)

Tel: 0345 7440088



Ms. Marie Ward  
Chief Executive Officer  
Newry & Mourne District Council  
Newry Office  
Monaghan Row  
Newry  
BT35 8DJ

30th July 2024

Email: [marie.ward@nmandd.org](mailto:marie.ward@nmandd.org)

Dear Ms. Ward,

**Re: NI Water Economic Constraints**

We are writing to inform you that NI Water has received its budget allocation for the 2024/25 financial year, together with an indication of a likely capital budget through to 2026/27 and beyond. The current budget allocation means there is limited ability to increase capacity to accommodate new connections in areas that are currently constrained by a lack of wastewater capacity.

Based upon enquiries from customers and discussions with stakeholders, NI Water are aware of approximately 37,000 units across Northern Ireland that may want to connect to the wastewater system over the next number of years. We have completed an assessment of the 37,000 units and estimate that approaching 18,000 units may still be able to connect to the wastewater system, with the majority requiring a developer funded zero detriment solution such as storm water offsetting, as long as this option remains viable.

The remaining 19,000 units are constrained by existing NI Water assets that are currently high polluting. These units are also currently outside the scope of developer funded solutions and would require a full capital upgrade before further new connections can be made to the wastewater system. These units include homes in private and social ownership schemes, commercial and public buildings. The current budget allocation means that at present, NI Water will not be able to make the necessary investments to enable connections for these units. In a scenario where NI Water's PC21 programme was fully funded, it would still only be possible to address 4,500 of these 19,000 units, as the solution to the capacity constraints will take several fully funded Price Control periods to resolve.





I appreciate this information will be unwelcome, and NI Water are aware that this may have implications not only for planning applications that are currently within the system but may also impact the Council aspirations within your Local Development Plan.

However, we would like to take this opportunity to inform the Council of the communications that are taking place. Currently Senior Managers within NI Water Developer Services are engaging with the top 20 key developers whose development proposals will be most impacted by these constraints and the communications will shortly be rolled out to smaller developers as well as developers' agents.

We will continue to work closely with the Council Planning and LDP teams to provide the Council with as much information as possible regarding these constraints and the effect on proposed investments.

Yours sincerely



Gary Curran  
Director Engineering & Sustainability





NI Council Chief Executives  
*via e-mail*

Castle Buildings  
Stormont  
BELFAST  
BT4 3SQ

[martina.moore@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:martina.moore@health-ni.gov.uk)

29 July 2024

Dear Chief Executive

### **ICS NI – Request for local Government representatives to be members of Area Integrated Partnership Boards**

You will be aware of the work underway on the development and implementation of the Integrated Care System for Northern Ireland (ICS NI).

As outlined in our correspondence of 28 June, it has been agreed that council representation on AIPBs will be undertaken by local councillors. I am therefore writing to advise that the Department of Health is now seeking to secure one local government representative from each relevant council within each shadow AIPB area. This process is being undertaken to identify local councillors for all five shadow AIPB areas, regardless of the phased timing of their establishment.

The Department is seeking a single councillor nomination from each relevant Council in the AIPB area, as shown below:

**Belfast AIPB** – Belfast City Council; Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council

**Northern AIPB** – Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council, Causeway Coast and Glens District Council, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council, Mid Ulster District Council.

**South Eastern AIPB** – Ards and North Down Borough Council, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council, Newry Mourne and Down District Council.

**Southern AIPB** – Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, Mid Ulster District Council, Newry Mourne and Down District Council.

**Western AIPB** – Causeway Coast and Glens District Council, Derry City and Strabane District Council, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council.

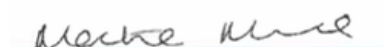
The attached **information pack** provides further detail for prospective applicants on the expression of interest process, and applications can be completed online via the following link: [ICS NI - Area Integrated Partnership Boards - Local Government representative - Expression of Interest - NI Direct - Citizen Space](#). Hard copies of the **application form** and **equality monitoring form** can be provided on request by contacting [aipb@hscni.net](mailto:aipb@hscni.net).

Applications must be submitted by **5pm** on **23 August 2024** and will be considered by a panel consisting of representation from the Department, NILGA, and an independent lay person.

I would be grateful if you could arrange for the attached information to be circulated amongst your Council members.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter and if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



**Martina Moore**

**Director, ICS NI Programme**

Enc



An Roinn Sláinte  
Máinystrie O Poustie



Health and  
Social Care



**Integrated Care  
System NI**

---

# Area Integrated Partnership Board (AIPBs)

## Local Government Representative

---

### Application Form

---

**July 2024**



An Roinn Sláinte  
Máinnystríe O Poustle



## ***Dear Applicant***

The Department of Health is seeking local government representatives to be members of the 5 Area Integrated Partnership Boards (AIPBs) that are being established for the roll out of the shadow [Integrated Care System for NI \(ICS NI\)](#).

Please read the information included in this Application Form **AND the separate Information Pack** before completing, ensuring you fully understand the expression of interest process, and can confirm that you have the skills, knowledge, experience, and time to participate on the AIPBs.

Applications will be considered by a panel consisting of representation from the Department, NILGA, and an independent lay person. The selection process may be extended to include an interview, by the same panel, depending on the number of applications received.

The Panel reserves the right to revert to Councils, if required, to support diversity and representation in terms of shadow AIPB membership with regards to e.g. geographical representation, demographics, political representation, etc.

If you require a different format or method of return or you have any other queries regarding the application process, please email [aipb@hscni.net](mailto:aipb@hscni.net) or contact Noreen Meehan directly on 028 9037 8711. **Completed Applications should be returned via email to: [aipb@hscni.net](mailto:aipb@hscni.net)**

**Closing date for Applications is 5pm on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2024**

**LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED**



An Roinn Sláinte  
Máinnystríe O Poustle



## **Guidance for Completing Applications**

1. Applications should only be made via the agreed Application Form. Additional pages will not be accepted. If you require a different format or method of return, please email [aipb@hscni.net](mailto:aipb@hscni.net).
2. Applicants are advised to review all the information contained within the application form, prior to completing and ensure that all relevant supporting information is read and understood prior to completing and submitting an application.
3. Via the application form, nominees should provide sufficient detail and information to clearly illustrate how they meet the criteria identified.
4. Applicants should provide their most recent examples, in brief, to clearly illustrate how they can meet all necessary criteria for selection.
5. Applicants are advised to check their application for completeness, prior to submitting. **Incomplete applications cannot be considered.**
6. Receipt of all applications will be acknowledged within 72 hrs. If you do not receive an email confirmation within this timeframe, please contact Noreen Meehan on 028 9037 8711.



An Roinn Sláinte  
Máinnystríe O Poustle



### Application Form

**ALL SECTIONS MUST BE COMPLETED**

#### SECTION 1: DETAILS

<b>Name of Applicant</b>	
<b>Address</b>	
<b>Postcode</b>	
<b>Telephone Number</b>	
<b>E-mail</b>	
<b>Name of Council</b>	
<b>Political party</b>	

#### SECTION 2: SHADOW AIPB AREA

Please clearly select the shadow AIPB(s) that you wish to apply for.

- Belfast Area
- Southern Area
- South Eastern Area
- Northern Area
- Western Area

**If more than one area, applicants should tick all relevant boxes.**



An Roinn Sláinte  
Máinnystrie O Poustie



Health and  
Social Care



Integrated Care  
System NI

## SECTION 3: CRITERIA

### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Councillors must be serving on a local Council within the area of the shadow AIPB as of July 2024.

Applicants must not be employed by the Department of Health, a health and social care body or a health service body.

Do you meet these criteria?

- Yes
- No

### ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

***\*MAXIMUM 300 WORDS PER CRITERION***

Criterion	Evidence
Broad understanding of current health and social care structures and services and appreciation of key issues affecting population health and social wellbeing.	
Experience in working effectively with a broad range of stakeholders from across the statutory and voluntary/community sectors, as well as with local communities, to achieve agreed objectives in a challenging and changing environment.	





An Roinn Sláinte  
Máinnystrie O Poustie



Health and  
Social Care



Integrated Care  
System NI

Criterion	Evidence
Demonstration of effective listening and communication skills – including negotiation and influencing skills, and interpersonal communication.	

### SECTION 4: OTHER INFORMATION

**Would you require support or reasonable adjustments to enable you to carry out this role including attending meetings?**

- Yes
- No

**If yes, please explain for example replacement care cover and/or access to video meetings:**

**Do you have access to and ability to use the telephone, email and the internet to communicate and take part in training, meetings and receive information?**

- Yes
- No

**If no, please explain what support is required:**

**Have you, or your immediate family, any other interests, which might be construed as being in conflict with the appointment for which you have applied, and might, in future, be raised in public?**

- Yes
- No

Department of  
**Health**An Roinn Sláinte  
Máinystrie O Poustle**HSC** Health and  
Social Care**Integrated Care  
System NI**

Completed Applications should be returned via email to:

[aipb@hscni.net](mailto:aipb@hscni.net).

**Closing date for Applications is 5 pm on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2024**

**LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED**



---

# Integrated Care System NI

---

## Area Integrated Partnership Board Local Government Representative Information Pack

---

**July 2024**

## SECTION 1 – BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 1.1. The Department of Health is inviting interest for members for each of its **shadow Area Integrated Partnership Boards** that are to be established as part of the **Integrated Care System for Northern Ireland (ICS NI)**.
- 1.2. ICS NI is the new [framework](#) for planning health and social care services in Northern Ireland. It is a single planning system that will help us to improve the health and wellbeing of our population and address demand by:
  - placing a focus on people keeping well in the first instance, providing timely, co-ordinated care when they are not, and supporting people to self-care when appropriate; and
  - ensuring we are maximising the resource we have available to deliver the best outcomes for our population, optimising our effectiveness and efficiency and reducing duplication.

The objective is to **improve health and wellbeing outcomes** and **reduce health inequalities** through collaboration and partnership working.

- 1.3. It recognises that the solutions to the many challenges and issues facing our system cannot be found in traditional ways of working but require a more agile and innovative approach, and they cannot be found by working in isolation. It provides the mechanism to bring together the constituent parts of the HSC system and those wider partners involved in improving the health and wellbeing of our population to work together to find solutions.
- 1.4. The ICS NI model is outcomes-based and underpinned by a population health approach, that is; looking at the entire life course from prevention, through to early intervention, treatment, aftercare and eventually end of life care.
- 1.5. ICS NI is a new way of working in terms of planning care and services in Northern Ireland. Within the model there are 3 core aspects:
  - working locally in partnership with others to identify local needs, agree priorities, and identify what collective action should be taken to effect change with a focus on prevention, early intervention and community health and well-being. To support this, we will establish five **Area Integrated Partnership Boards (AIPBs)**,
  - working regionally in partnership with others to support the work of AIPBs, identify areas for regional collaboration where this would bring the greatest benefit to the whole NI population, and support shared learning. A **Regional ICS Partnership Forum** will be established to lead this approach, and
  - applying this integrated approach in practice, with the **Strategic Planning and Performance Group (SPPG)** and **Public Health Agency (PHA)** planning care and services across the system, informed by local and regional collaboration.
- 1.6. In undertaking their responsibilities for service planning, SPPG and PHA will adopt an evidence-based and outcomes-focused decision-making approach, inclusive of the input from across the system, networks, communities, and service users, in line with the underlying principle of integration.

- 1.7. Work is currently underway to stand up ICS NI in shadow form from Autumn 2024 to allow for a period of learning and refinement. This will involve a phased approach, with work progressing on the establishment of the Regional ICS Partnership Forum as well as shadow Area Integrated Partnership Boards (AIPBs) in the following areas:
- Southern (transitioning from Test status);
  - South-Eastern; and
  - Western.
- The Belfast and Northern shadow AIPBs will be stood up in due course.
- 1.8. Further information about ICS NI can be accessed here: [Integrated Care System NI](#).

## SECTION 2 – ROLE OF THE SHADOW AIPB

- 2.1 The shadow AIPB is one component of the overall model and provides a way to bring together a wide range of partners with a responsibility and/or interest in the health and wellbeing of the local population.
- 2.2 The shadow AIPB enables all partners to work together to tackle the challenges being faced in their local area, drawing together their collective skills, resources and capabilities to develop plans that will deliver improved health and wellbeing outcomes, support sustainability, and ultimately reduce health inequalities. The shadow AIPB will be expected to undertake a population health approach with a focus on **prevention, early intervention and community health and wellbeing**.
- 2.3 There will be five shadow AIPBs established across NI which will be geographically coterminous with each of the Health and Social Care Trusts and intersect with boundaries of the 11 Councils.
- 2.4 Each shadow AIPB is a **planning body** for its geographical area with responsibility for:
- identifying the health and social care needs of their local population supported by a population needs assessment and an ongoing relationship with local communities and networks;
  - agreeing on the priorities from the identified need, aligned under a Strategic Outcomes Framework;
  - developing a plan to meet those needs; and
  - taking action within the resources available to support delivery of the plan.
- 2.5 Shadow AIPB priorities will be determined in line with the identified needs of their local population, and they must operate in line with the overarching strategic direction set by the Minister and the Department. To further support this, the Regional ICS Partnership Forum (RICSPF) will provide shadow AIPBs with guiding planning assumptions to support their work and clarify key strategic priority areas that they should reflect in their local planning approaches.

- 2.6 It is critically important that AIPBs are able to draw on the knowledge, experience and expertise of a broad range of clinicians, professionals, networks, organisations and other bodies when undertaking their work. AIPBs will engage and include these individuals and groups as required. Importantly, AIPBs will work with existing partnerships and networks to support alignment and remove duplication.
- 2.7 AIPBs will not commission services and their remit does not extend to making decisions about changing clinical and acute services. Such decisions remain the remit of health and social care bodies, in line with any relevant Departmental and Ministerial direction, as well as with the engagement and involvement of key stakeholders.
- 2.8 AIPBs do not hold specified budgets, rather they focus on how the available resources that their respective sectors and organisations are being used in terms of wider public health, prevention, and early intervention, working collectively to ensure that they are being utilised in the best possible way to achieve the best outcomes for their population.
- 2.9 In time, AIPBs will be established in statute in line with the duty set out at Section 15B of the [Health and Social Care \(Reform\) Act 2009](#). Until such time as the regulations are brought before the Assembly, AIPBs are to be established in shadow form. This means that shadow AIPBs will be established in line with the proposed procedures for the statutory AIPBs and will accordingly undertake their intended role. This will allow the regulations to be informed by any relevant learning from the shadow period. Roll-out of shadow AIPBs commenced from April 2024 with the selection and induction of members, with the shadow AIPBs being established on a phased basis from September 2024 onwards.

### **Shadow AIPB Membership**

- 2.10 The membership of each shadow AIPB will include representation from across organisations and sectors who have a role and/or interest in the health and social wellbeing of the population of Northern Ireland. It includes representation from across the HSC Trusts, Primary Care – GPs and Pharmacists, as well as local councils, the voluntary and community sectors, and service users, and carers.
- 2.11 Each shadow AIPB will also have Strategic Partners: one Public Health Agency (PHA) representative and one Strategic Planning & Performance Group (SPPG) representative. The Strategic Partners' role is to co-ordinate the administrative and analytical support and ensure AIPBs make the necessary connections with the wider system to support partnerships undertaking their work.
- 2.12 The SPPG Strategic Partner will also undertake responsibility to ensure alignment and linkages are made to the relevant Community Planning Partnerships (CPP) in the AIPB area. The role of the CPP and its processes and structures is recognised as the over-arching mechanism to address the wider determinants of health, with AIPBs supporting this work through creating the

space and opportunity for more in-depth exploration of health needs and challenges, focusing on more health-related opportunities and solutions. Consequently, the SPPG Strategic Partner to the AIPB will sit on both and make the appropriate linkages.

## SECTION 3 – ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

- 3.1 Evidence shows that health and wellbeing, and health inequalities, are shaped by many factors, including age, family, community, workplace, beliefs and traditions, economics, and physical and social environments.
- 3.2 It suggests that, while health and clinical services contribute 20% to improving health outcomes, the population's health is to a much larger extent affected by the economic and social factors (40%) and environmental factors (10%) in which people live and related lifestyle and health behaviours (30%).
- 3.3 There is also a robust and compelling evidence base to support Community Development as an effective approach in tackling health inequalities<sup>1</sup>. *Making Life Better* and *Delivering Together* acknowledge this and identify it as a key approach within health and social care to reduce health inequalities.
- 3.4 Local Government representatives are responsible for making decisions on behalf of the local community and Councils undertake a range of roles and responsibilities on behalf of their local population and communities. They provide services and programmes which look to improve the quality of life of their citizens – from improving wellbeing, supporting sustainable economic development to improving the lived environment and neighbourhoods and to facilitate and lead on Community Planning.
- 3.5 As such their responsibilities extend across areas that contribute directly to the improved health and wellbeing of their communities. From sports, leisure services and recreational facilities, to parks, open spaces, playgrounds and community centres, economic development, and neighbourhood renewal.
- 3.6 Councils sit at the heart of their communities. They provide access to a wealth of data, information and expertise on the needs of those communities, the challenges, opportunities, and what is currently being done, or is being planned, to meet those needs across the wider determinants of health.
- 3.7 Connecting the work of Councils, and the impacts they can have on the wider determinants of health, with that of shadow AIPBs will help to support improved health and wellbeing outcomes for individuals and communities.
- 3.8 In turn, representation on shadow AIPBs will help to ensure that the scope of Council's responsibilities is fully considered and taken account of where relevant to shadow AIPB discussions and proposals.
- 3.9 Representatives will help enable synergy between the work of the shadow AIPB and that of the Council, helping to identify where there is potential for alignment and complimentary actions and to achieve better coordination of activity.

---

<sup>1</sup> CDHN Fact sheet on Health Inequalities: [Layout 1 \(cdhn.org\)](#)



- 3.10 At all times, the work of the shadow AIPB will take cognisance of the statutory remit and responsibilities of Councils, including the priorities and actions detailed in Council corporate plans or statements. Shadow AIPBs will also ensure any relevant need for Councils to secure wider input, or approvals in line with their existing statutory and organisational governance arrangements, is taken into account and accommodated.

## SECTION 4 – KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- 4.1 Represent and act on behalf of the local community in the Council area with a commitment to link with relevant Council employees, networks, partnerships, or other groups where relevant to support the work of the shadow AIPB.
- 4.2 To contribute to the creation of a compelling vision for the future health and wellbeing of the local population, with a particular focus on identifying opportunities for synergy with Council plans and activities.
- 4.3 To communicate this vision within their organisation.

### **Understanding Need**

- 4.4 To contribute to the development of a collective understanding of the health and wellbeing needs of the local population utilising available population health data and local intelligence from all relevant partner organisations.
- 4.5 To provide and share intelligence and information relevant to the work of the shadow AIPB that has been specifically gathered, collated, or shared by the Council.
- 4.6 Help inform avenues for community engagement and support the shadow AIPB with wider engagement.
- 4.7 To support the collection of local intelligence and sharing of examples of good practice that complement the shadow AIPBs understanding of local need in their identification of priorities.

### **Agreeing Priorities**

- 4.8 Through analysis of the needs assessment, and in conjunction with the Strategic Outcomes Framework and guidance from the Regional ICS Partnership Forum, agree the priority areas on which the shadow AIPB will focus.
- 4.9 Identify key linkages with relevant Council plans and opportunities for alignment.

### **Planning**

- 4.10 Contribute to the development of local Area Plans to address the identified priorities based on a shared understanding of the local population and how people live their lives.
- 4.11 Consideration of all available financial and performance information, and pertinent issues and challenges, to make informed plans and recommendations – members are responsible for contributing such information from the Council perspective where relevant and/or appropriate.
- 4.12 Work closely with the Strategic Partners to support co-ordination of the Council contribution to plans, identifying where they are best positioned to lead on delivery against agreed objectives and working to remove any duplication.

4.13 To explore the use and contribution of resources, if appropriate, from the Council to advance shared goals and outcomes in Area plans.

4.14 Support co-production and co-design of shadow AIPB plans.

4.15 Contribute to Task & Finish groups where required to develop local plans.

### **Connecting with Communities**

4.16 To actively contribute to and support direct engagement with local communities, building on existing infrastructure and local arrangements – identifying opportunities for a joined-up approach to community engagement. This will evolve and develop over time.

4.17 To foster and enable communication, engagement, and active participation of local communities with the planning of actions to improve health and social wellbeing and reduce health inequalities.

### **Effective Leadership**

4.18 To be a source of leadership and expertise representing the local community and the Council within the shadow AIPB.

4.19 To engage with and communicate the views of the local community and Council effectively and efficiently as possible to the shadow AIPB.

4.20 Support the building of relationships and trust between shadow AIPB leaders and the Council, encouraging shared responsibility and accountability for collective gains and risks.

### **Collaborative Working**

4.21 To adhere to the principles of parity and inclusion between partners acknowledging the skills, experience and value that each partner can bring.

4.22 To agree clear and transparent ways of working together, having a mutual understanding of each other's existing governance arrangements and structures, ensuring shadow AIPB members are kept informed of relevant changes and pressures across the organisation.

4.23 To work collectively to identify, remove or avoid duplication, ensuring the most efficient use of available resources.

4.24 Identify and promote best practice and learning between partners, encouraging flexibility, agility and innovation to collectively meet and address challenges.

### **Commitment to Meetings**

4.25 To demonstrate commitment to the shadow AIPB structure, through regular attendance at Board meetings and be fully engaged in two-way communication with own sector and the shadow AIPB to facilitate the development of a comprehensive plan.

4.26 To support, lead and participate in shared learning events and keep up to date with issues relevant to the work of the shadow AIPB.

4.27 To ensure adherence to the confidential nature of information shared for the purpose of the shadow AIPB members role.

4.28 To promote the shadow AIPB's role in the community it serves.

## SECTION 5 – ROLE PROFILE

### **Training**

5.1 Appropriate induction training will be provided on commencement of the appointment to the shadow AIPB. Further refresher training will be delivered where required. This requirement will be an expected commitment additional to the commitment detailed at paragraph 5.3.

### **Period of Appointment**

5.2 It is expected that a shadow AIPB member will undertake a term of four years pending regulations approval.<sup>2</sup>

### **Time Commitment**

5.3 The implementation of ICS NI is an evolving and maturing process. Shadow AIPB members will typically be required to commit one day per month to attendance at shadow AIPB meetings. There may be a requirement for further work outside of meetings for reading of papers, preview of presentations, or involvement in workshops for the development of plans.

### **Expense Claims**

5.4 This is **not** a remunerated position. Payments are covered under the Departmental circular [HSC \(F\) 14 2024](#) which lays out what can be claimed and the appropriate rates.

5.1 The member Claim Form will be provided electronically on appointment to the AIPB. For further information relating to allowances, please contact [aipb@hscni.net](mailto:aipb@hscni.net).

---

<sup>2</sup> Members should note that AIPBs will ultimately be subject to statutory regulations, which will provide further detail upon legislative provision. Prior to this, any membership is based solely on shadow arrangements until formal legislation is enacted.

## SECTION 6 – SELECTION PROCESS AND CRITERIA

### Selection Process

- 6.1 Applications are required to be submitted for the position which will be considered by a panel consisting of representation from the Department, NILGA, and an independent lay person. The selection process may be extended to include an interview, by the same panel, depending on the number of applications received. If required, it is anticipated that interviews will be conducted week commencing 2 September 2024. Successful applicants will be notified by the Department.
- 6.2 The Panel reserves the right to revert to Councils, if required, to support diversity and representation in terms of shadow AIPB membership with regards to e.g. geographical representation, demographics, political representation etc.
- 6.3 Applications can be completed online. If required, hard copies of the application form and equality monitoring form can be provided on request by contacting [aipb@hscni.net](mailto:aipb@hscni.net).
- 6.4 Applications must be submitted by **5pm on 23 August 2024**.

### Eligibility Criteria

- 6.5 Councillors must be serving on a local Council within the area of the AIPB as of July 2024.
- 6.6 Applicants must not be employed by the Department of Health, a health and social care body or a health service body.

### Essential Criteria

- 6.7 Applicants must ensure they demonstrate that they have met the criteria. This needs to be clearly detailed otherwise they will not be considered for the role.
  - Broad understanding of current health and social care structures and services and appreciation of key issues affecting population health and social wellbeing,
  - Experience in working effectively with a broad range of stakeholders from across the statutory and voluntary/community sectors, as well as with local communities, to achieve agreed objectives in a challenging and changing environment, and
  - Demonstration of effective listening and communication skills – including negotiation and influencing skills, and interpersonal communication.

### AIPB and Council Area

- 6.8 A small number of electoral areas within the 11 Councils straddle the geographic areas of two AIPBs. Prospective applicants are asked to consider the information below (illustrated in **Appendix 1**, Local Government Districts and Health and Social Care Trusts). The Department is seeking a **single** Councillor nomination from **each** relevant Council in the AIPB area.

**Belfast AIPB** – Belfast City Council; Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council

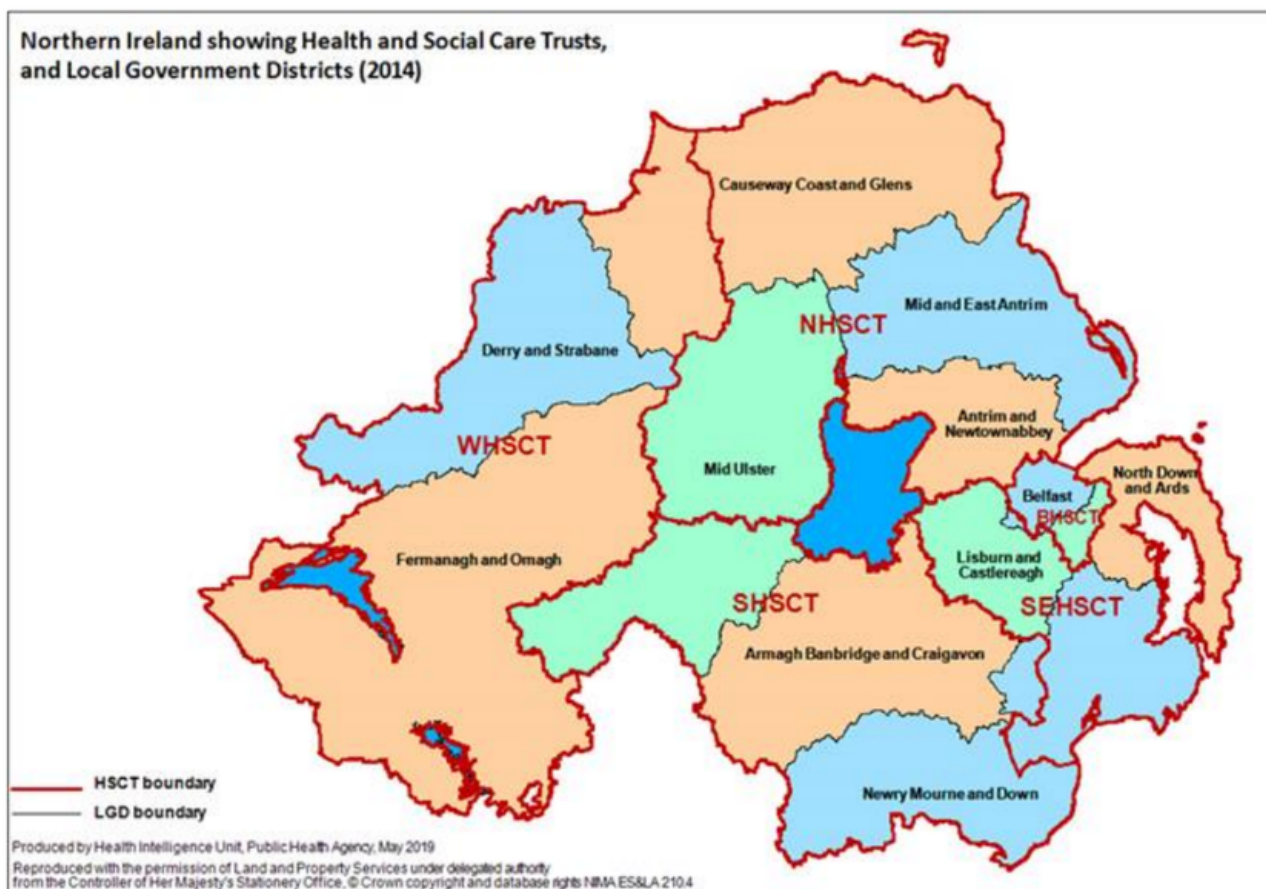
**Northern AIPB** – Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council, Causeway Coast and Glens District Council, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council, Mid Ulster District Council.

**South Eastern AIPB** – Ards and North Down Borough Council, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council, Newry Mourne and Down District Council.

**Southern AIPB** – Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, Mid Ulster District Council, Newry Mourne and Down District Council

**Western AIPB** – Causeway Coast and Glens District Council, Derry City and Strabane District Council, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council.

### Appendix 1





**NICTS Finance**

Laganside House, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
23-27 Oxford Street  
BELFAST BT1 3LA  
Tel: 030 0200 7812

Email: [feeconsultation@courtsni.gov.uk](mailto:feeconsultation@courtsni.gov.uk)

By e-mail: [marie.ward@nmandd.org](mailto:marie.ward@nmandd.org)

29 August 2024

**INCREASE TO COURT FEES FROM 1 OCTOBER 2024**

In October 2023, NI Courts and Tribunals Service (NICTS) wrote to stakeholders and regular customers to advise of a two-year phased increase to court fees.

At that time, we advised that uplifts would be applied to the majority\* of fees in recognition of high levels of inflation experienced since court fees were last increased in 2019. The initial increase was introduced on 1 November 2023.

**The purpose of this letter is to provide notice that the planned second phase increase to fees of 9% will be implemented on 1 October 2024.**

The fees currently charged by NICTS do not cover the full costs associated with running the civil and family courts; NICTS currently recovers around 80% of these costs. The purpose of the inflationary uplift is to move towards a position of full cost recovery in the provision of civil and family court business, a requirement that is a duty on all Government Departments.

The new fee rates are available in the fees section of the Department of Justice website: [Court Fees | Department of Justice \(justice-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

NICTS will continue to operate an Exemption and Remission Policy to protect access to justice for those individuals on low incomes who cannot afford to pay court fees or who need some financial assistance in paying the fees. If you require further information about fees or the Exemption and Remission policy, please contact your local court office or a member of the Civil Fee Team in NICTS Finance Branch whose details can be found above.

NICTS will continue to keep the cost recovery position under review and, as necessary, apply further inflationary uplifts to court fees. NICTS plans to launch a public consultation on court fees in early 2025.

Yours faithfully

*Louise Laverty*

Louise Laverty

**HEAD OF FINANCE, NICTS**

*\*Variable fees relating to taxation services and Money Judgment enforcement applications will not be increased.*

This e-mail (and any attachment) is intended only for the attention of the addressee(s). Its unauthorised use, disclosure, storage or copying is not permitted. If you are not the intended recipient, please destroy all copies and inform the sender by return e-mail. Internet e-mail is not a secure medium. Any reply to this message could be intercepted and read by someone else. Please bear that in mind when deciding whether to send material in response to this message by e-mail. This e-mail (whether you are the sender or the recipient) may be monitored, recorded and retained by the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service. E-mail monitoring and blocking software may be used, and e-mail content may be read at any time. You have a responsibility to ensure laws are not broken when composing or forwarding e-mails and their contents.