



January 13th, 2025

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Council meeting to be held on **Monday, 13th January 2025** 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 2 December 2024

For Information

[Action Sheet 2024 12 02.pdf](#)

Page 1

Council Minutes For Adoption and Signing

4.0 Minutes of Council Meeting held on 2 December 2024

For Approval

[Council Minutes 2024 12 02.pdf](#)

Page 6

5.0 Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 25 November 2024

For Approval

[Special Council Minutes - 2024-11-25.pdf](#)

Page 21

Committee Minutes for Consideration and Adoption

6.0 Minutes of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 9 December 2024

For Approval

[Economy Regeneration and Tourism Minutes 2024 12 09.pdf](#)

Page 39

7.0 Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 12 December 2024

For Approval

[Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting Minutes 2024-12-12.pdf](#)

Page 45

8.0 Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 16 December 2024

For Approval

[Active and Healthy Communities Minutes 2024 12 16.pdf](#)

Page 50

9.0 Minutes of Sustainability & Environment Committee Meeting held on 18 December 2024

For Approval

📄 [Sustainabilty_and_Environment_Committee_Minutes_2024_18.12.pdf](#)

Page 55

Correspondence

10.0 Correspondence Report

For Information

📄 [Correspondence Report Council 2025 01 13.pdf](#)

Page 62

10.1 Correspondence received from Lady Chief Justice's Office and the Minister of Finance

📄 [Ward Marie \(N M D District Council\) - Correspondence \(16 Dec 24\) - LCJO Response - 17.12.24.pdf](#)

Page 65

📄 [Letter from Minister Archibald DoF - non-molestation orders.pdf](#)

Page 66

10.2 Correspondence received from Ards & North Down Borough Council

📄 [Letter to Councils - Nappy Collection Scheme.pdf](#)

Page 68

10.3 Correspondence received from Planning Appeals Commission

📄 [Letter from Planning Appeals Commission.pdf](#)

Page 69

Notices of Motion

11.0 Notice of Motion - Newry Mourne and Down District an Apartheid-Free Zone Declaration

Notice of Motion from Councillor King:

"This Council endorses the recent findings of Amnesty International (December 2024), which conclude that Israel is committing genocide against Palestinians in Gaza and upholding a system of apartheid. In response to these grave violations of international law and human rights, this Council declares Newry, Mourne & Down District an Apartheid-Free Zone. By making this declaration, we commit to opposing all forms of apartheid and systemic oppression and to ensuring our policies and practices align with the principles of justice, equality, and human rights for all. This commitment is a stand of solidarity with oppressed communities worldwide and a step towards fostering a more just and equitable global society."

12.0 Notice of Motion - Sharing Financial Information with other Councils to tackle Climate Change

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Enright:

"Council notes its declaration of Climate Emergency in 2019 and the slow pace of progress in tackling this issue since then.

Council commits to finding and sharing knowledge on best practice projects with other Councils to both tackle climate change and to benefit the financial situation Council and Ratepayer.

Council notes that other Councils like West Suffolk, Dundee, Warrington and many others have generously shared detailed financial figures on best practice with Newry Mourne and Down District Council and other Councils across these islands.

Our Council undertakes to adopt a policy of also generously sharing all knowledge on ways of reducing cost, increasing revenues and broadening the rates base with a view to helping other councils identify financial opportunities arising from tackling the Climate Crisis".

13.0 Notice of Motion - Residential Rehabilitation Service

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Larkin:

'This Council notes with grave concern the 2024 report from NISRA on drug-related and drug misuse deaths, which found a significant increase in the number of deaths attributed to drugs and alcohol. This Council further notes the intrinsic connection between isolation, social deprivation, poverty, addiction and mental health issues.

This Council acknowledges with concern the NISRA figures which show that drug related deaths are highest among 25-34 year olds.

This Council calls on the Minister for Health, in co-operation with the Executive Ministerial Committee for Public Health, to urgently implement the provisions aimed at harm prevention, harm reduction and tackling addiction within the Substance Use Strategy 2021-31, including plans to develop a residential rehabilitation service in a regionally strategic location; and further calls on the Executive to commit to providing appropriate subsequent resources in the 2024-25 Budget for the Department of Health.'

14.0 Notice of Motion - Young People with Special Educational Needs Over 19

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Howie:

'This Council expresses its concern over the absence of legislation in Northern Ireland that provides legal protection and support for young people over the age of 19 with Special Educational Needs (SEN). This lack of statutory provision stands in contrast to existing protections in England and Wales, where legislation ensure that young people with SEN continue to receive the necessary support and resources to thrive in education, training and beyond. Council recognises that this legislative gap leaves many young people and their families in Northern Ireland without the assurances and protections afforded elsewhere in the UK. Council therefore will write to the Ministers for Communities, Economy, Education and Health requesting urgent action to enact the required legislation that will ensure legal protection and support for young people

over the age of 19 with SEN.'

15.0 Notice of Motion - 80th Anniversary of VE & VJ Day

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Hanna:

'This Council, in 2025, recognises the 80th anniversary of the end of WW2 on 8th May in Europe (VE Day) and VJ Day, surrender of Japan, 14th August 1945. These two days are major events in the history of the world, and this Council establishes a task and finish working group to plan and prepare for this momentous year.

As a Council we recognise the significant sacrifice of millions of allied troops who gave their lives in the cause of freedom, and we commit to ensuring their achievements are recognised in an appropriate way.

We further propose that council follow, as far as possible, the official VE Day and VJ Day programme of events and Council officers bring back a report to the working group with costings for consideration.'

16.0 Notice of Motion - Vital Role of Trees

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Truesdale:

"This Council recognises the vital role of trees in enhancing the health and well-being of people and communities, addressing climate change, and supporting biodiversity; commits to raising awareness among residents about these benefits and to actively support efforts to plant and protect the right trees in the right places and for the right reasons, ensuring that everyone can share in the benefits trees provide; and, will commit to exploring how we can education and raise awareness of trees, the role they play in all our lives across Newry, Mourne and Down District Council."

Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews
.....
Cllr Callum Bowsie
.....
Mr Caolain Boyd
.....
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
.....
Mr Conor Haughey
.....
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
.....
Jonathan McGilly
.....
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
.....
Ms Alison Robb
.....
Cllr Michael Ruane
.....
Mr Conor Sage
.....
Cllr Gareth Sharvin
.....
Mrs Amanda Smyth
.....
Donna Starkey
.....
Sarah Taggart
.....
Cllr David Taylor
.....
Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly
.....
Cllr Jill Truesdale
.....
Mrs Marie Ward
.....
Cllr Helena Young
.....

ACTION SHEET – COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY 2 DECEMBER 2024

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
<i>C/128/2024</i>	<i>Minutes of Council Meeting held on 01.07.2024</i>	It was agreed item C/058/2024: Twinning Newry with City of Ramallah should remain on the action sheet.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Ongoing	<i>N</i>
<i>C/180/2024</i>	<i>Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 04.11.2024</i>	It was agreed to note the action sheet. Letter of condolence to be sent.	<i>Democratic Services</i> <i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted Letter sent	<i>Y</i> <i>Y</i>
<i>C/181/2024</i>	<i>Minutes of Council Meeting held on 04.11.2024</i>	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	<i>Y</i>
<i>C/182/2024</i>	<i>Minutes of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 11.11.2024</i>	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted. <i>ERT/114/2024: Review of Financial Assistance</i> It was agreed to approve the Minutes of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 11 November 2024 with a further paper to be brought to ERT Committee in January 2025 regarding the consideration of an appeals mechanism for stage one.	<i>Democratic Services</i> <i>C Mallon</i>	Noted	<i>Y</i>
<i>C/183/2024</i>	<i>Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 13.11.2024</i>	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	<i>Y</i>
<i>C/184/2024</i>	<i>Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities</i>	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	<i>Y</i>

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
	<i>Committee Meeting held on 18.11.2024</i>				
<i>C/185/2024</i>	<i>Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 20.11.2024</i>	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	Y
<i>C/186/2024</i>	<i>Correspondence Report</i>	It was agreed to note the Correspondence report.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	Y
<i>C/187/2024</i>	<i>Notice of Motion: Farmers Inheritance Tax</i>	<p><i>It was that "This Council recognises the vital role of family farms in supporting rural jobs, safeguarding food security, and promoting environmental stewardship, as well as their integral contribution to the all-island economy.</i></p> <p><i>We acknowledge the significant challenges facing the farming community, including the £1 million inheritance tax threshold, which threatens generational farming, and the absence of a dedicated agricultural budget. Furthermore, the uncertainty and funding losses caused by Brexit has exacerbated these pressures on the sector.</i></p> <p><i>This Council calls on the British Government to reverse the changes to the inheritance tax threshold and urges the DAERA Minister to work with the Executive to establish a ring-fenced agricultural budget to secure the long-term future of farming in the north of Ireland.</i></p>	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Letters sent to DEARA Minister & Prime Minister	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/188/2024	Notice of Motion – Gender Based Violence Against Women	<p><i>It was agreed that this Council notes the growing concern regarding the epidemic of gender-based violence against women. This concern has been heightened by recent sexual assaults in Derry and the tragic deaths of five women in the past seven weeks in the North.</i></p> <p><i>In response to this, this Council writes to the Justice Minister and the Justice Department, urging them to expand the categories of "significant persons" when applying for a Non-Molestation Order, to include individuals who were in a significant relationship but did not cohabit. This would align with the provisions in the UK, where similar protections are offered, and with the "Safety Order" provisions in the Republic of Ireland.</i></p> <p><i>Additionally, this Council calls on other councils in the North to support this motion, thereby advocating for the extension of similar protections to women in the North, ensuring they are afforded the same legal safeguards as those in the UK and the Republic of Ireland.</i></p> <p><i>That Council write to the Lord Chief Justice asking for a review of how male offenders who have offended against women are given bail.</i></p>	Democratic Services	Letters sent to Lady Chief Justice, Justice Minister and all NI Councils	Y
C/189/2024	Notice of Motion – Trauma Informed Council	<p><i>"That this Council commits to becoming a trauma informed council.</i></p> <p><i>Trauma informed practice is grounded in the understanding that trauma has a significant impact on a person's life. The prevalence of trauma can have an impact on the emotional, physiological, and social well-being of a person.</i></p> <p><i>We live in a post-conflict society and we don't have a shared narrative of the troubles. Some of us have been impacted more than others but the trauma will</i></p>	Democratic Services		Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<p><i>have hit most families in the province and it can be passed down through the generations also.</i></p> <p><i>A trauma informed lens is one that means we all make the decision to avoid triggering others and are more conscious of sensitivities around troubles related incidents.</i></p> <p><i>A trauma informed approach has already been implemented in many councils across the water - but, in my mind, the need for it is higher here.</i></p> <p><i>As a Council we need to develop our understanding of what being trauma-informed means across councillors and council officers for this initiative to really benefit our residents.</i></p> <p><i>As a post conflict society we need to do better and that means being careful with others around sensitive anniversaries.</i></p> <p><i>There are organisations that do training in this area – I believe our Council would benefit from undertaking such training and moving forward to becoming more trauma-informed. You never know who you are speaking to or who may hear you and be triggered....”.</i></p> <p>The Motion was referred to the Active and Healthy Communities Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6</p>	A Patterson		
C/190/2024	Notice of Motion – Medium to Long Term Rates	<p><i>“That this Council recognises that the trajectory of our medium to long-term rates needs to be reduced as rates in NI are very high compared to other parts of these Islands.</i></p> <p><i>Council needs to aim to sustainably live within its means – delivering front line services affordably and at the best cost available to for the ratepayer.</i></p> <p><i>Council will ensure all discretionary non-front-line projects have a clear and dependable pay-back of 3</i></p>	Democratic Services		Y

<i>Minute Ref</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Lead Officer</i>	<i>Actions taken/ Progress to date</i>	<i>Remove from Action Sheet Y/N</i>
		<p><i>to 8 years that will increase revenues or reduce expenses within Council to ensure we can hold rate increases to a close to zero as possible for the next 5 years".</i></p> <p>The Motion was referred to the Strategic Finance Working Group in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6</p>	<p><i>J Kelly</i></p>		
<p><i>END</i></p>					

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**NMD/C/****Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 2 December 2024 at 6.00pm in Council Chamber, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick****In the Chair:** Councillor P Byrne

In attendance in Chamber:	Councillor T Andrews	Councillor C Bowsie
	Councillor J Brennan	Councillor P Campbell
	Councillor W Clarke	Councillor L Devlin
	Councillor C Enright	Councillor K Feehan
	Councillor D Finn	Councillor C Galbraith
	Councillor O Hanlon	Councillor G Hanna
	Councillor V Harte	Councillor R Howell
	Councillor J Jackson	Councillor G Kearns
	Councillor C King	Councillor D Lee-Surginor
	Councillor A Lewis	Councillor A Mathers
	Councillor D McAteer	Councillor S O'Hare
	Councillor D Murphy	Councillor S Murphy
	Councillor A Quinn	Councillor H Reilly
	Councillor M Rice	Councillor M Ruane
	Councillor G Sharvin	Councillor D Taylor
	Councillor J Tinnelly	Councillor J Truesdale

In attendance via Teams:	Councillor M Gibbons	Councillor T Howie
	Councillor M Larkin	Councillor H Young

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

C/178/2024**APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Finnegan, Magennis and McEvoy.

The Chairperson congratulated Aidan Crummy and his wife Karen from the Amazing Abilities Group in Silverbridge on receiving the County Armagh Person of the Year Award at the recent awards ceremony held in the Armagh City Hotel and commended their work in ensuring that young people have access to play facilities for all abilities.

The Chairperson extended congratulations to the Bolster Community who won the Consumer Facing Award at the Social Enterprise Awards in Belfast in November and commended their work across the District.

The Chairperson spoke of the Civic reception held in the Canal Court Hotel for Down GAA with the Tailteann Cup, Under 20 Footballers and Hurlers who had all earned titles in their respective

age range along with the Minor Footballers with the Seamus Heaney Cup and congratulated those involved in organising a great night.

The Chairperson advised the Tailteann Cup and Sam Maguire Cup had been brought to the Newry Leisure Centre that morning and it was fantastic to see both successes celebrated and enjoyed with the hall filled with children who would have memories for years to come.

The Chairperson wished Kilcoo GAC all the best for the forthcoming Senior Football Ulster Final against Errigal Ciaran GAA.

Reference was made to the recent Christmas light switch ons across the District including those held in Newry and Downpatrick and congratulations were extended to the Council's Event Team on their fantastic efforts. The Chairperson spoke of how instead of switching the lights himself children had been selected from the audience to start Christmas in the respective towns and in the City.

The Chairperson advised his Christmas Appeal had commenced and this year the focus was inclusion and diversity. Members were advised he would be visiting a number of groups right across the District to promote the great work they carried out.

The Chairperson advised he had had the pleasure of meeting the Dramability Group in Downpatrick and that he was very much looking forward to seeing their show at the weekend.

Members were informed Council, in collaboration with Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council had commenced the Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Campaign with 16 days of activism running from the 25th of November to the 10th of December with an event to be hosted in Crossmaglen in February 2025 following a recommendation from the women's group on Council.

On behalf of the Council, condolences were extended to the former Chief Executive of Newry and Mourne Council, Thomas McCall and his family on the passing of his sister Marie Graham and it was agreed to send a letter of condolence.

The Chairperson extended congratulations to Councillor Reilly on the recent arrival of his granddaughter Olivia.

C/179/2024 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

C/180/2024 ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4 NOVEMBER 2024

C/171/2024: Correspondence from National Association of Councillors (NAC) in relation to Conference in 2024/25

Councillors Hanna and Andrews voiced their concerns at it being agreed by the Party Representatives Forum that no representatives attend the NAC AGM.

The Chairperson advised it had been agreed by Council for the matter to be considered at the Party Representatives Forum and that there may have been miscommunication. Councillor Andrews stated he was disappointed at the breakdown in communication stating the conference had been a National AGM that he felt members of the NAC should have attended.

Agreed: The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 4 November 2024 was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews,

seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor.

C/181/2024 **COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4 NOVEMBER 2024**

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 4 November 2024 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 4 November 2024 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Kearns, seconded by Councillor Finn.**

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

C/182/2024 **MINUTES OF ECONOMY, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 11 NOVEMBER 2024**

Read: Minutes of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 11 November 2024 (copy circulated).

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

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Harte, seconded by Councillor Lewis, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion of the following item, which related to exempt information by virtue of para. Three 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 Lewis, seconded by Councillor Taylor, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.**

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

ERT/114/2024: **REVIEW OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Bowsie, seconded by Councillor Lewis to approve the Minutes of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 11 November 2024 with a further paper to be brought to ERT Committee in January 2025 regarding the consideration of an appeals mechanism for stage one.**

ERT/105/2024: Presentation from Ulster University regarding Newry, Mourne and Down Economic Outlook

Councillor McAteer took the opportunity to draw Members attention to the presentation slides (particularly that on page 10) which demonstrated Newry, Mourne and Down residents were one of the lowest paid economy and spoke of the need to encourage innovation into the District.

The Chairperson thanked Councillor McAteer for highlighting the presentation and spoke of the opportunity for Council through the Belfast City Region Deal to tackle that and it was the intention and direction for all Councils to do so.

ERT/116/2024: Removal of Ballykinlar Hut

In response to a query from Councillor Andrews, Mr Mallon confirmed applications would not be restricted to only applicants from within the District, however any application within the District would be given priority over one from outside it.

Agreed: **The Minutes of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 11 November 2024 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Quinn, seconded by Councillor Kearns.**

C/183/2024 **MINUTES OF STRATEGY POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 14 NOVEMBER 2024**

Read: Minutes of Strategy Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 14 November 2024 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 14 November 2024 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Hanlon.**

C/184/2024 **MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18 NOVEMBER 2024**

Read: Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 18 November 2024 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 18 November 2024 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor.**

C/185/2024 **MINUTES OF SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 NOVEMBER 2024**

Read: Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 20 November 2024 (copy circulated).

SE/138/2024: Repair of Corry's Corner, Drumaness Bus Shelter and Adoption by Translink
In response

In response to a query from Councillor Brennan, Mrs Murphy confirmed that a solar panel light would be installed at the bus shelter.

SE/137/2024: Business Case for the Removal of Newcastle Sand Bar

Councillor Devlin spoke of issues for sea swimmers regarding debris being placed at a section of the pebble beach the last time there was the removal of sand bar and asked that it be stipulated within the contract that debris be located in a location to prevent this. Mrs Murphy confirmed that would be included within the contract.

Agreed: **The Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 20 November 2024 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Taylor.**

C/186/2024**CORRESPONDENCE REPORT**

Read: Report dated 2 December 2024 from Mrs Ward, Chief Executive, regarding an update on correspondence received for the attention of Council (copy circulated).

Correspondence from Minister for Health and Dr Stephen Austin on behalf of Dr Maria O’Kane, Chief Executive of the Southern Health and Social Care Trust regarding Daisy Hill Maternity Services (NOM C/175/2024)

Councillors S Murphy and Feehan welcomed the response received and the reassurance that the Trust would continue to prioritise the maternity services at Daisy Hill Hospital.

Councillor Devlin spoke of the need to continue to highlight the need for a Women’s Healthcare Strategy and one that was adequately funded.

Correspondence from Minister for Health regarding Shimna House (C/032/2024)

Councillor Hanlon commented that it was timely to have received the response from the Health Minister in light of hearing the devastating news that the Ward was going to close for two weeks over Christmas. Service users and Friends of Ward 15 had been in contact displaying great concern at this news. She stated that whilst the Minister had commented that he was supportive of the service it flew in the face of the decisions that had been announced and asked that her disappointment be recorded.

Correspondence from Ards and North Down Borough Council and Minister for Communities regarding Winter Fuel Payments (C/147/2024)

Councillor Lewis welcomed the response from the Minister for Communities and spoke of the detrimental impact that the Labour Governments decision on Winter Fuel Payments. He welcomed the Minister’s announcement that he had secured £17million to mitigate the Winter Fuel Payment Policy changes and thanked the Minister for the provision of a £100 one off emergency fuel payment to pensioner households affected.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Feehan to note the correspondence report and the following correspondence:**

- **Correspondence from Department of Health**
- **Correspondence from Department of Health and Southern Health and Social Care Trust**
- **Correspondence from Ards and North Down Borough and Council and Department for Communities**
- **Correspondence from BBC Director General**
- **Correspondence from NI Ambulance Service**

Councillor Sharvin left the meeting at this stage – 7.22pm.

C/187/2024

NOTICE OF MOTION – FARMERS INHERITANCE TAX

The following Motion was received from Councillor Rice:

"This Council recognises the vital role of family farms in supporting rural jobs, safeguarding food security, and promoting environmental stewardship, as well as their integral contribution to the all-island economy.

We acknowledge the significant challenges facing the farming community, including the £1 million inheritance tax threshold, which threatens generational farming, and the absence of a dedicated agricultural budget. Furthermore, the uncertainty and funding losses caused by Brexit has exacerbated these pressures on the sector.

This Council calls on the British Government to reverse the changes to the inheritance tax threshold and urges the DAERA Minister to work with the Executive to establish a ring-fenced agricultural budget to secure the long-term future of farming in the north of Ireland".

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Hanlon.

In presenting the Motion, Councillor Rice spoke of how family farms were the backbone of rural communities, supporting thousands of jobs, ensuring local food production and contributing to environmental sustainability and their work was crucial to supporting biodiversity and protecting natural habitats across the countryside. He stated the £1 million inheritance tax threshold failed to account for the high value of farmland and essential equipment, jeopardising generational succession with the policy placing undue financial pressure on farming families and potentially forcing the sale of land to cover tax obligations. He added that many farmers had to work full time to keep their farms afloat and adding the additional tax burdens on an enterprise that already struggled to make a profit would be a death nail for many farming families across this District.

Councillor Rice asked for support for the Motion to call on the British Government to reverse inheritance tax changes that would harm generational farming and urge the DAERA Minister to secure a ring-fenced agricultural budget, providing stability and ensuring the sector's long-term future.

In seconding the Motion, Councillor Hanlon spoke of the many local farming families that had contacted her since the announcement with real life situations and scenarios of how it was going to affect them and effectively 'put their lights out'. She added that it was an ill thought out policy and it was going to hurt small local farmers. She referred to the crowds of farmers that had attended the protest at EIKON Exhibition Centre, crowds that had not be seen before which demonstrated the ferocity of feeling towards the decision and to think that the future of farming and succession planning was in a jeopardy was really worrying.

Councillor Reilly advised the DUP had put forward a similar motion and assumed that would have been incorporated with language that suited everyone. He stated the agriculture property relief tax was an essential component of farming right across the UK, particularly in Northern Ireland. He spoke of how the Chancellor of the Exchequer identified that extremely wealthy people were using agriculture land as a tax shelter and instead of actually targeting that small percentage of land owners who were using the system to put huge amounts of money into land for tax relief it had gone after the ordinary farmer and that included Northern Ireland farmers who were some of the most productive farmers in Europe, if not the world.

Councillor Reilly stated the Labour government must relook at this and introduce an active farmers test and if a farmer could prove they were an active farmer that they could qualify for tax exemption.

Councillor McAteer advised he had also submitted a motion along with Councillor Reilly and that the commentary and questions from constituents about this showed how important an issue people viewed this matter. He spoke of how what was proposed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer was to target large businesses and estates owned by investment companies and that the impact on farmers here was maybe a case of unintended consequences. Councillor McAteer spoke about how what the Government proposed would tax not only the land but livestock, the buildings that the livestock were housed in and machinery used to farm and it was a case for many that it was tax asset, rich and cash poor industry here created by high land prices.

Councillor McAteer proposed the following amendment to the Motion to read as follows, seconded by Councillor Feehan:

"This Council recognises the vital role of family farms in supporting rural jobs, safeguarding food security, and promoting environmental stewardship, as well as their integral contribution to the all-island economy.

We acknowledge the significant challenges facing the farming community, including the £1 million inheritance tax threshold, which proposes to tax land, associated buildings, livestock and machinery, and combined with the absence of a dedicated Agricultural budget, will create a financial time-bomb on many local agricultural holdings. The proposal to tax asset rich but cash poor farming families, highlights a lack of governmental understanding around this complex issue and threatens generational farming.

This District is set to suffer most, owing to our land prices and values set at well above the Northern Ireland average.

Furthermore, the uncertainty and funding losses caused by Brexit has exacerbated these pressures on the sector.

This Council calls on the British Government to reverse the changes to the Inheritance Tax threshold, given the differential between land values here compared to prices in England, and urges the DAERA Minister to work with the Executive to establish a ring-fenced agricultural budget to secure the long-term future of farming in the North of Ireland.

We agree to send this Motion to Rt Hon. Rachael Reeves M.P. Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rt Hon Hilary Benn M.P. Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and DAERA Minister Andrew Muir MLA".

Councillor Rice welcomed the comments however he did not accept Councillor McAteer's amendment.

At the request of Councillor McAteer the Chairperson put the amendment to a recorded vote, the results of which were as follows (copy attached):

FOR:	8
AGAINST:	22
ABSTENTIONS:	6

The amended Motion was lost.

Councillor Taylor spoke at length of the devastating impact the announcement would have for Northern Ireland farmers and that it was likely force many family farms that had been within the family structure for many generations out of business. He added it would not only be bad for the farming community, but also for food consumers and the public in general and that Council should offer the maximum support and appeal to the Chancellor, Prime Minister and to all those that had the power to review this decision and make necessary changes.

Councillor Truesdale spoke in support of the Motion on behalf of Alliance advising the DAERA Minister had strongly opposed the changes since they were announced and had undertaken extensive engagement with the UK Government to urge them to re-think. She

spoke at length of its impact including that despite the Chancellor's assurance that $\frac{3}{4}$ of claims would be unaffected by these changes, DAERA data suggested $\frac{1}{3}$ of farms here could be impacted and as many as $\frac{3}{4}$ of dairy farms. She highlighted that agricultural funding was critical for tackling climate change, protecting the natural environment and supporting the economically and socially significant agri-food sector.

Councillor Jackson reiterated the DUP's full support for local farmers against the Labour governments farmers inheritance tax and the party's campaign in opposition to the proposal. He proposed the following amendment to the Motion to read as follows, seconded by Councillor Hanna:

"This Council recognises the vital role of family farms in supporting rural jobs, safeguarding food security and promoting environmental stewardship, as well as their integral contribution to the all-island regional economy.

We acknowledge the significant challenges facing the farming community, including the £1 million inheritance tax threshold, which threatens generational farming, and the absence of a dedicated agricultural budget. Furthermore, the uncertainty and funding losses caused by Brexit has exacerbated these pressures on the sector. Regrets, furthermore, despite farm support budgets being maintained at pre-Brexit levels for the duration of the last Parliament, that Labour has abandoned the principle of a dedicated agricultural budget.

This Council calls on the British UK Government to reverse the changes to the inheritance tax threshold and urges the DAERA Minister to work with the Executive to establish a ring-fenced agricultural budget to secure the long-term future of farming locally in the north of Ireland "

Councillor Rice did not accept Councillor Jackson's amendment.

At the request of Councillor Lewis, the Chairperson put the amendment to a recorded vote, the results of which were as follows (copy attached):

FOR:	6
AGAINST:	30
ABSTENTIONS:	0

The amended Motion was lost.

Councillor Lewis said it was disappointing that the amendment had not been taken as the wording was more inclusive. He spoke at length in strong opposition to the changes to the inheritance tax threshold and other attacks by the Government such as that on pensioners.

Councillors Reilly and Bowsie voiced their disappointment that a compromise could not have been made regarding the terminology of the Motion so that DUP could support.

Councillor Hanlon advised Sinn Fein had reached out to the DUP but they decided to make an amendment on the night so the Party would not have been aware of what the amendment was.

At the request of Councillor Hanna, the Chairperson put the original Motion to a recorded vote, the results of which were as follows (copy attached):

FOR:	30
AGAINST:	5
ABSTENTIONS:	0

The Motion was carried.

Councillor Rice thanked Members for their support and stated that as a farmer himself, he felt people needed to know how disastrous this tax law was going to be for generations of farming. He wished to advise that the reason why Brexit was included within the Motion was

because since Brexit there had been exacerbated pressures put on the sector due to fears of funding cuts and as a farmer he knew and experienced it.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Rice, seconded by Councillor Hanlon that "This Council recognises the vital role of family farms in supporting rural jobs, safeguarding food security, and promoting environmental stewardship, as well as their integral contribution to the all-island economy. We acknowledge the significant challenges facing the farming community, including the £1 million inheritance tax threshold, which threatens generational farming, and the absence of a dedicated agricultural budget. Furthermore, the uncertainty and funding losses caused by Brexit has exacerbated these pressures on the sector. This Council calls on the British Government to reverse the changes to the inheritance tax threshold and urges the DAERA Minister to work with the Executive to establish a ring-fenced agricultural budget to secure the long-term future of farming in the north of Ireland.**

C/188/2024 **NOTICE OF MOTION – GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

The following Motion was received from Councillor Quinn:

"This Council notes the growing concern regarding the epidemic of gender-based violence against women. This concern has been heightened by recent sexual assaults in Derry and the tragic deaths of five women in the past seven weeks in the North.

In response to this, this Council writes to the Justice Minister and the Justice Department, urging them to expand the categories of "significant persons" when applying for a Non-Molestation Order, to include individuals who were in a significant relationship but did not cohabit. This would align with the provisions in the UK, where similar protections are offered, and with the "Safety Order" provisions in the Republic of Ireland.

Additionally, this Council calls on other councils in the North to support this motion, thereby advocating for the extension of similar protections to women in the North, ensuring they are afforded the same legal safeguards as those in the UK and the Republic of Ireland".

The Motion was seconded by Councillor D Murphy.

In presenting the Motion, Councillor Quinn referred to statistics revealing that 98% of women had reported experiencing at least one form of abuse in their lifetime. In recent years, the rise in femicide and sexual violence had caused great concern, particularly as recent statistics showed the North of Ireland having the third highest femicide rate in Western Europe. She explained that for these people, their only legal recourse was often a civil injunction, which could be very expensive if they were not eligible for legal aid, and which did not have a relief scheme like that of the Financial Assessment Domestic Violence Scheme available in circumstances when obtaining a Non-Molestation Order. An injunction could also take considerable time and therefore no real sense of urgency which created an unacceptable barrier to justice and safety.

Members were advised that since 2020, 58 women had been murdered on this island and that the unacceptable reality was that people were being let down by inequalities in legal protections. It was highlighted that the inconsistency of two separate legal institutions across Ireland further compounded the issue and it was therefore imperative to attempt to address these disparities and work together so that no one was left behind.

Councillor Quinn said she was conscious that there were males who too were victim to domestic violence and that people should not shy away from those conversations and the need to remove the stigma. A change in expanding the legalisation would enhance protections for all, regardless of gender and how safety for all must be created as every person deserved the right to live free from fear, to thrive in safety and to be supported by systems that work in their favour.

Councillor Hanna on behalf of the DUP voiced support for the Motion and his concern at how violence against women and girls had become significant. He spoke of the need for the Justice Minister to lead from the front and ensure laws were properly in place and were inclusive to protect women in vulnerable situations.

In voicing support for the Motion, Councillor Reilly referred to a case that had been discussed at a recent PCSP Meeting and how a man who had attacked and badly injured a female officer had been allowed bail. He said the PSNI were trying their best however it was the Judiciary that was letting women down by allowing people such as this back into communities.

Councillor Reilly proposed an amendment to the Motion, seconded by Councillor Andrews. The wording of which were as follows:

“That Council write to the Lord Chief Justice asking for a review of how male offenders who have offended against women are given bail”.

Councillor Quinn accepted Councillor Reilly’s amendment.

Councillor Taylor voiced support for the Motion and how the tragic cases of recent assaults and deaths demonstrated the clear need for this issue to be given the priority it deserved and ensure that legislation and regulations were appropriate in tackling the violence against women and girls in society.

Councillor Finn confirmed SDLP were fully supportive of the Motion and commended Councillor Galbraith for bringing a similar motion to Council earlier in the year and to Council for launching the campaign Ending Violence against Women and Girls through the 16 days of action. She stated there must be a societal response to violence against women and girls and that no woman should have to live with the daily threat of violence or have their lives ended in this way, however the sad and scary reality was that Northern Ireland remained one of the most dangerous places in Europe to be a woman, with a femicide rate twice that of Britain. She added Motions like this one were vital for raising the issue of violence against women and girls in society, as well as drawing attention to how to better society and create safeguards within the justice system to instil confidence in those victims who bravely come forward.

The Chairperson confirmed the Motion was unanimously approved.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Quinn, seconded by Councillor D Murphy that this Council notes the growing concern regarding the epidemic of gender-based violence against women. This concern has been heightened by recent sexual assaults in Derry and the tragic deaths of five women in the past seven weeks in the North.**
In response to this, this Council writes to the Justice Minister and the Justice Department, urging them to expand the categories of "significant persons" when applying for a Non-Molestation Order, to include individuals who were in a significant relationship but did not cohabit. This would align with the provisions in the UK, where similar protections are offered, and with the "Safety Order" provisions in the Republic of Ireland.
Additionally, this Council calls on other councils in the North to support this motion, thereby advocating for the extension of similar protections to women in the North, ensuring they are afforded the

same legal safeguards as those in the UK and the Republic of Ireland.

That Council write to the Lord Chief Justice asking for a review of how male offenders who have offended against women are given bail.

Councillors Reilly, Ruane and Taylor left at this point – 8.02pm.

C/189/2024 NOTICE OF MOTION – TRAUMA INFORMED COUNCIL

The following Motion was received from Councillor Truesdale:

"That this Council commits to becoming a trauma informed council. Trauma informed practice is grounded in the understanding that trauma has a significant impact on a person's life. The prevalence of trauma can have an impact on the emotional, physiological, and social well-being of a person. We live in a post-conflict society and we don't have a shared narrative of the troubles. Some of us have been impacted more than others but the trauma will have hit most families in the province and it can be passed down through the generations also. A trauma informed lens is one that means we all make the decision to avoid triggering others and are more conscious of sensitivities around troubles related incidents. A trauma informed approach has already been implemented in many councils across the water - but, in my mind, the need for it is higher here. As a Council we need to develop our understanding of what being trauma-informed means across councillors and council officers for this initiative to really benefit our residents. As a post conflict society we need to do better and that means being careful with others around sensitive anniversaries. There are organisations that do training in this area – I believe our Council would benefit from undertaking such training and moving forward to becoming more trauma-informed. You never know who you are speaking to or who may hear you and be triggered...."

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Enright.

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

C/190/2024 NOTICE OF MOTION – MEDIUM TO LONG TERM RATES

The following Motion was received from Councillor Enright:

"That this Council recognises that the trajectory of our medium to long-term rates needs to be reduced as rates in NI are very high compared to other parts of these Islands. Council needs to aim to sustainably live within its means – delivering front line services affordably and at the best cost available to for the ratepayer. Council will ensure all discretionary non-front-line projects have a clear and dependable pay-back of 3 to 8 years that will increase revenues or reduce expenses within Council to ensure we can hold rate increases to a close to zero as possible for the next 5 years".

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Truesdale.

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

The Chairperson took the opportunity to wish Members a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 8.06pm.

For confirmation at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 13 January 2025.

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 02/12/24 VENUE: Downshire Civic Centre MEETING: Council

SUBJECT OF VOTE: Amendment to Farmers Inheritance Tax motion – Proposed by Councillor McAteer, Seconded by Councillor Feehan

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
T Andrews	1			
C Bowsie			1	
J Brennan		1		
P Byrne	2			
P Campbell		2		
W Clarke		3		
L Devlin	3			
C Enright		4		
K Feehan	4			
D Finn	5			
A Finnegan				1
C Galbraith	6			
M Gibbons		5		
O Hanlon		6		
G Hanna			2	
V Harte		7		
R Howell		8		
T Kelly		9		
J Jackson			3	
G Kearns		10		
C King		11		
M Larkin		12		
D Lee-Surginor		13		
A Lewis			4	
O Magennis				2
A Mathers		14		
D McAteer	7			
L McEvoy				3
D Murphy		15		
K Murphy				4
S Murphy		16		
S O'Hare		17		
A Quinn		18		
H Reilly			5	
M Rice		19		
M Ruane		20		
G Sharvin				5
D Taylor			6	
J Tinnelly	8			
J Truesdale		21		
H Young		22		
TOTALS	8	22	6	5

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 02/12/24 VENUE: Downshire Civic Centre MEETING: Council

SUBJECT OF VOTE: Amendment to Farmers Inheritance Tax motion – Proposed by Councillor Jackson, Seconded by Councillor Hanna

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
T Andrews		1		
C Bowsie	1			
J Brennan		2		
P Byrne		3		
P Campbell		4		
W Clarke		5		
L Devlin		6		
C Enright		7		
K Feehan		8		
D Finn		9		
A Finnegan				1
C Galbraith		10		
M Gibbons		11		
O Hanlon		12		
G Hanna	2			
V Harte		13		
R Howell		14		
T Kelly		15		
J Jackson	3			
G Kearns		16		
C King		17		
M Larkin		18		
D Lee-Surginor		19		
A Lewis	4			
O Magennis				2
A Mathers		20		
D McAteer		21		
L McEvoy				3
D Murphy		22		
K Murphy				4
S Murphy		23		
S O'Hare		24		
A Quinn		25		
H Reilly	5			
M Rice		26		
M Ruane		27		
G Sharvin				5
D Taylor	6			
J Tinnelly		28		
J Truesdale		29		
H Young		30		
TOTALS	6	30	0	5

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 02/12/24VENUE: Downshire Civic CentreMEETING: Council

SUBJECT OF VOTE: Farmers Inheritance Tax Motion – Proposed by Councillor Rice, seconded by Councillor Hanlon

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
T Andrews	1			
C Bowsie		1		
J Brennan	2			
P Byrne	3			
P Campbell	4			
W Clarke	5			
L Devlin	6			
C Enright	7			
K Feehan	8			
D Finn	9			
A Finnegan				1
C Galbraith	10			
M Gibbons	11			
O Hanlon	12			
G Hanna		2		
V Harte	13			
R Howell	14			
T Kelly	15			
J Jackson		3		
G Kearns	16			
C King	17			
M Larkin	18			
D Lee-Surginor	19			
A Lewis		4		
O Magennis				2
A Mathers	20			
D McAteer	21			
L McEvoy				3
D Murphy	22			
K Murphy				4
S Murphy	23			
S O'Hare	24			
A Quinn	25			
H Reilly		5		
M Rice	26			
M Ruane	27			
G Sharvin				5
D Taylor				6
J Tinnelly	28			
J Truesdale	29			
H Young	30			
TOTALS	30	5	0	6

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMC/SC

Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 25 November 2024 at 6.00pm in Downshire Chamber

In the Chair: Councillor D Lee-Surginor

In attendance in Chamber:	Councillor T Andrews	Councillor C Bowsie
	Councillor P Campbell	Councillor C Enright
	Councillor C Galbraith	Councillor O Hanlon
	Councillor V Harte	Councillor R Howell
	Councillor J Jackson	Councillor G Kearns
	Councillor C King	Councillor A Lewis
	Councillor A Mathers	Councillor D McAteer
	Councillor L McEvoy	Councillor S O'Hare
	Councillor M Rice	Councillor G Sharvin
	Councillor H Young	

In attendance via Teams:	Councillor P Byrne	Councillor L Devlin
	Councillor K Feehan	Councillor M Larkin
	Councillor O Magennis	Councillor M Ruane
	Councillor D Taylor	

Officials In attendance in Chamber:

Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
 Mrs S Murphy, Director of Sustainability & Environment
 Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
 Mrs F Branagh, Democratic Services Officer

Officials in attendance Via Teams:

Ms S Trainor, Assistant Director of Environment

Also in attendance in Chamber:

SOUTH EASTERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST
 Ms Roisin Coulter, Chief Executive
 Ms Nuala Mageean, Senior Manager

SOUTHERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST
 Dr Stephen Austin, Medical Director
 Ms Cathrine Teggart, Director of Finance, Procurement & Estates

Also in attendance via Teams:

SOUTH EASTERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST
 Mr Andrew Dobbin, Consultant

SC/019/2024

APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Finn, Hanna, Howie, S Murphy, Reilly and Truesdale.

As the Chairperson attended the meeting remotely, it was agreed that the Deputy Chairperson would Chair the meeting.

SC/020/2024 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

SC/021/2024 SOUTH EASTERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST (SEHSCT)

The Chairperson welcomed the delegation to the meeting and invited them to make their presentation.

Ms Coulter thanked the Members for the invite to present to Council and stated she was going to outline the challenges, issues and progress within the South Eastern Trust over the past year. She introduced her colleagues Ms Nuala Mageean, who was currently undertaking a leadership development programme working with politicians and influencing public opinion, and Dr Andrew Dobbin who attended the meeting remotely.

Ms Coulter expressed her thanks to all staff that worked right across the South Eastern Trust, stressing the importance of that recognition, and highlighted that the Trust would not be able to provide any services without this most valuable resource. She further highlighted her support for all NHS staff to receive their pay award, noting that this was a wider debate that involved the Northern Ireland Executive. She stated that she wanted to avoid undue stress on the Trust staff particularly coming into the Winter period, and that work was ongoing with trade union colleagues and the Department of Health (DoH) in relation to the pay award.

In relation to winter pressures, Ms Coulter outlined the work involved in the establishment of the Regional Co-Ordination Centre for Northern Ireland, the aim of which was to organise the flow of patients across all Trusts, in association with the NI Ambulance Service, which should help equalise pressures across each Trust area. She stated that there was a need to manage services from end to end to help decrease the length of hospital stays.

Ms Coulter then confirmed that there were no plans to reopen the Downe Hospital Emergency Department, stating that the Bengoa report championed the model to have one major acute hospital at the Ulster Hospital, supported by local hospitals which were Lagan Valley and the Downe. She stated that a consultant led urgent care model was safer for patients, clinically appropriate and sustainable, further stressing the need to be honest and clear with the public about the Trust's plans for the Downe Hospital site.

Dr Andrew Dobbin then spoke about the Downe Hospital site, stating that an ED was the front door of a hospital, and behind that there needed to be a level of expertise and a minimum number of services available to be able to deal with life threatening injury or illness without prior appointment. Those services included emergency surgery, acute medicine, paediatrics, gynaecology services, anaesthetics, critical care and rapid turnaround labs and unfortunately this was something that could not be delivered at the Downe Hospital site. Reopening the ED at the Downe Hospital without all these required services and expertise in the background would just add to patient risk.

Dr Dobbin further confirmed that the Downe Hospital was not vacant, that all available beds were all being utilised, highlighting that a recent significant addition to the number of beds available was helping to deal with pressures in other areas.

Ms Coulter confirmed that Downe Hospital and Lagan Valley both played a vital role in the Trust, with both being used as regional day procedure centres providing services to the whole province with excellent feedback from patients. She noted that more investment was needed to help reduce waiting lists, highlighting that this was a priority for the Minister.

Ms Coulter then noted that the Trust funding was a challenge having recently managed a £200m budget cut and further advising that while there was still a gap of £100m relating to the pay award, there could never be enough investment to address waiting lists.

Ms Coulter ended by outlining the work over the last four years on working with children with complex needs, noting that the number of children requiring residential care had doubled which had an impact on the ability to deliver respite care for children with complex difficulties. She noted that the Minister had announced some further in year funding which could help to deliver some much-needed wrap around support for families.

Following the presentation the Chairperson invited questions and comments from Members:

- Members thanked the delegation for their clear communication and honesty with the public regarding the Downe Hospital.
- Support was noted on record for the Trust staff, with Members stressing that any reported issues were never directed towards staff, rather the inability to deliver services due to a lack of funding.
- Why was Ward 15 being reportedly closed for two weeks over the Christmas period, given that in July it had been reported that any staffing issues and risk of closure had been resolved, and was this a blanket closure or being taken on a case-by-case basis of the current residents?
- What was the expected breakdown of the recent £350m announced funding?
- What were the short-, medium- and long-term goals for the Downe hospital given the financial pressures faced by the sector?
- What was the Trust doing to address pressures at the Ulster Hospital and what role could the Downe play to help alleviate any pressures?
- How was the partnership with NI Ambulance Service working in relation to trained personnel being available to take calls from suicidal callers?
- The opportunity was taken to highlight the lengthy waiting list for the Child Development Clinic, which could have a detrimental impact on children and their support systems while waiting on a diagnosis.
- Was it possible to do more to highlight the availability of Urgent Care facilities and possibly expand on the opening hours to help alleviate the pressures on the Ulster ED?
- Members were supportive of the idea of promoting the Urgent Care model over the winter period.

The delegation responded as follows:

- Members were thanked for their appreciation and support of the Trust staff as any feedback was always appreciated.
- Addressing the issues across the health sector was a decision for the Executive to consider when talking about parity with the rest of the UK, alongside any decisions regarding lack of revenue raising measures such as fuel payments or water charges.
- Ms Coulter was grateful to Council for their support of Ward 15 recently, confirming that a consultant had been recruited internally and the Department was working with the wider Mental Health team to sustain Ward 15. She further recognised the concerns regarding the Christmas closure of Ward 15, stating that she was unaware of the full

reasons for the decision but advised that a meeting was scheduled for the following day regarding Ward 15 and she would update Members following this.

- Dr Dobbin highlighted that Urgent Care at Downe Hospital was open to 6pm Monday – Friday, and that the Minor Injuries unit at the Ulster Hospital was open 365 days a year until 6pm with plans to move premises in the new year with extended opening times until 8pm.
- The Trust scheduling rotas were more stable than ever with no locums being utilised in recent times at the Downe Hospital site, additional consultants had been recruited and plans were underway to improve access to and expand hours in the Ulster site to deal with patients not requiring emergency services.
- Ms Coulter stressed that it was important to be consistent with language for the services on offer, that Downe Hospital and Lagan Valley had consultant led Urgent Care facilities, where there was always a consultant on duty. The Ulster Hospital had an Emergency Department and a Minor Injuries unit, stressing that consistent terminology was important in helping the public understand what services were available at differing sites.
- As a method of alleviating pressures on the Ulster ED, Ms Coulter took on board the suggestion to promote the opening times and services available at each facility within the Trust area so people would be aware that they don't have to go to the ED to receive treatment.
- Future goals for services would include delivering more services in the Downe Hospital, while still being mindful of available resources, to try and reduce any reliance on bank or agency staff and the number of locums as the workforce was 70% of the Trusts resources.
- More day procedures within the Downe and Lagan Valley would be ideal, however additional investment was difficult to secure.
- A key priority for the Trust was to focus on improving the quality of services for frail and older people such as the hospital at home service, domiciliary care at home or as close to home as possible.
- 85% of services provided in the Down area were provided outside of the Downe Hospital, stressing that one building did not provide all of the services across the community.
- The partnership piece between the SE Trust and NI Ambulance Service, where Mental Health Nurse Practitioners had taken roles within the Ambulance Service to assist with suicidal callers, which had reduced ambulance call outs by approximately 40%, with a further benefit being that NI Ambulance Service Call Handlers felt more supported during those calls as they were not mental health trained.
- There were benefits with the Encompass Programme, especially in the NI Ambulance Service partnership, as all the relevant medical information was at the hands of those who needed it, when they needed it.
- The waiting list for AHD assessments was acknowledged, along with the subsequent impact on access to Special Needs Education, and the Trust was continually considering ways to try and address this.

Councillor Enright left the meeting at this point – 6.51pm

SC/022/2024 SOUTHERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST (SHSCT)

The Chairperson welcomed the delegation to the meeting and invited them to make their presentation.

Ms Teggart presented an overview of the services delivered within the past year, alongside a brief overview of the Southern Health and Social Care Trust. (Copy appended to these minutes)

Ms Teggart highlighted that the Trust was facing significant challenges, notably having begun the year in a financial deficit. She further outlined the difficulties the Trust had in recruiting staff across all specialities of medicine, alongside a high demand for social care, with 640 people currently waiting for domiciliary care. She noted that the Trust was aware of the excessively long waiting lists due to significant gaps across many SHSCT services. Ms Teggart noted that due to these difficulties, a long-term vision and strategy was required.

Ms Teggart then advised that the Trusts Strategic Plan for 2024/2025 was focused on stabilisation and driving reform and transformation to address the ongoing challenges within the Trust, highlighting the following points regarding Daisy Hill hospital:

- Daisy Hill was an essential part of Southern Trust Acute Hospital Network, alongside Craigavon, South Tyrone and Lurgan and there was a dedicated team of highly skilled and experienced staff working across a wide range of specialities.
- ED Continues to operate as a Type 1 Consultant Led ED, assessing all medical and surgical patients.
- Daisy Hill was appointed as a Regional Elective Overnight Stay Centre in October 2022, and the team have been working to rebuild planned surgery following the pandemic.
- 7 additional theatre lists were now offered at the centre, bringing the total weekly theatre list to 32, which was 91% of full commissioned levels of service, with projected full capacity by March 2025.
- A new modular CT scanner and MRI scanner were in place along with a new medical ambulatory unit was now open.
- A new discharge lounge was available for patients stable for discharge and a new Minor Injuries unit was planned with increased opening hours
- 2024 marked 10 years of the successful acute care home service, which prevented over 12,000 hospital admissions.
- The new Trauma and Orthopaedic Clinic and Woman's Health Hub that had recently opened.

Ms Teggart then outlined the work conducted by the Trust Medical HR Team with agency support on a recruitment drive to India, with the result being 70 newly recruited doctors working across a range of grades and specialities across the Southern Trust area. Following a period of transition following relocation to the region, these staff would help stabilise the services on offer further.

Following the presentation the Chairperson invited questions and comments from Members:

- Members noted their thanks to the Daisy Hill Futures Group for their tireless work in ensuring the security of the health facilities but also the vision to try and secure services across the district.
- What work had been done to stabilise and secure maternity services at Daisy Hill and the Trust areas as a whole?
- Was there a projected timeline for the completion of the Community Care Treatment Centre in Newry?
- While the Clinical Hub Treatment Centre in Newry that had not yet commenced build, what additional services did the delegation envisage would be on offer there?
- Was there a timeline on the proposed build of the Treatment Centre as similar services in Belfast and Banbridge had been completed, and what was the reason for the delay in Newry?

- Could the delegation comment on reports that the MRI scanner was not able to operate as there was a lack of sufficient power, therefore patients were being transferred to Craigavon hospital for MRI scans?
- Could an update be provided regarding the removal of Emergency Surgery from Daisy Hill and what impact this has had for the Trust patients?
- The Acute Care at Home team has proven very successful, were there any plans to expand on this?
- Dentistry had not been mentioned within the update provided, what information was available regarding health service dentistry and access to dental care?
- Concerns had been raised regarding the increase in diagnosis of gynaecological cancers, and the current waiting list, was there an issue with people languishing on waiting lists and not receiving treatment?
- Members were delighted to note some positive news regarding the new services now on offer at Daisy Hill Hospital
- Of the mentioned recruitment drive and the subsequent recruitment of 70 Doctors from India, how many of those were going to be based at Daisy Hill, or would they be rotated across the Trust area?
- Following the expiration of the GP contracts at Kilkeel Primary Care Centre, was there an update on any progress? And if no GP contract was agreed, would the centre be closed?
- Were there any plans for a review of suicide prevention protocols, as suicide placed a large demand on local charities, and the statistics were not improving which highlighted that fresh thinking and new approaches were required.

The delegation responded as follows:

- The Daisy Hill Futures Group had recently been engaging with the Trust regarding Maternity Services to try and get a better understanding of the needs, which had helped drive the work being conducted to stabilise the service. New staff were due to start working in January and further new staff had been inducted into the department to cover all shifts.
- On occasion, until the service was stabilised further with the new starts in the new year, the Trust occasionally had to divert care based on medical need, which was carried out following a very strict escalation protocol, for as short a time as possible.
- The Trust had been preparing a business case for the Treatment Centre and this was submitted to the Department in April, with a response still outstanding. It was proposed that the Centre would hold some space for Primary Care and community treatment to help relieve pressures within Daisy Hill by also delivering outpatient appointments.
- There was a medium-term issue with regard to consultant recruitment as there was a national shortage of trained and qualified consultants.
- Following the recruitment of 70 Doctors, approximately 40% of those would be based on Daisy Hill working on a medical rota in each speciality across the Trust. Given the cultural differences, they would not be rotated across the Trust area to allow time to adjust.
- The Acute Care at Home Service had been very successful, with up to 70 patients being supported in the Community, which helped reduce hospital admissions. It was currently working well so the only plans currently were to consider expanding the service.
- The Southern Trust don't provide Dentistry Services, however there were a number of dentists who were supported by the Trust and this was being considered as an area of expansion.
- It was noted that there was some time during the Covid Pandemic that patients were unable to access services and people were presenting with illnesses later than liked,

however it was stressed that anyone who had symptoms should come forward as soon as possible to receive treatment.

- The delegation stated that the changes to Emergency Surgery provision were successful, with every patient having access to the same model of care when needed. They also confirmed that recruitment was more successful as potential employees knew what services were available at which location.
- The delegation also confirmed that the overnight stay centre at Daisy Hill was operating better as day procedures were no longer disrupted or cancelled due to emergency surgeries at Daisy Hill hospital
- Ms Teggart was unaware of any issues with the MRI scanner, but advised she would investigate and respond.
- Dr Austin advised that following the resignation of the GP Partners in Kilkeel, the Trust had been asked to take over the management of the site and began the process to secure a new GP contractor and assured Members that this was still a priority as it was a resource better managed at a local level, but was still being managed by the Trust in the interim.
- Dr Austin advised that there was a suicide prevention team that focused on driving care on the community alongside a crisis response service supported by a team of dedicated psychiatrists and community psychiatric nurses. Following any suicide, an adverse incident investigation was undertaken to understand any lessons that could be learned and fed back to practitioners. It was noted that suicide was often a result of a myriad of factors and that a multi-agency response was required with an integrated approach as it was not just an issue for the Trust to help prevent.

Councillor Devlin left the meeting during the above discussion – 7.08pm
Councillor Campbell left the meeting during the above discussion – 7.26pm

The Chairperson thanked the delegation for their presentation and time.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.29pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 13 January 2025.

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive



Newry Mourne and Down District Council

25 November 2024



1



About our Trust

The Southern Trust geography covers the council areas of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon, parts of Newry Mourne and Down and Mid-Ulster.

The Trust provides health and social care services to residents of these areas and to others who travel to the Southern Trust to avail of regionally provided service.



Population

Serving a population of an estimated 391,796 adults and children.



Workforce

We employ a workforce of 15,797 people of many nationalities and cultures



Finance

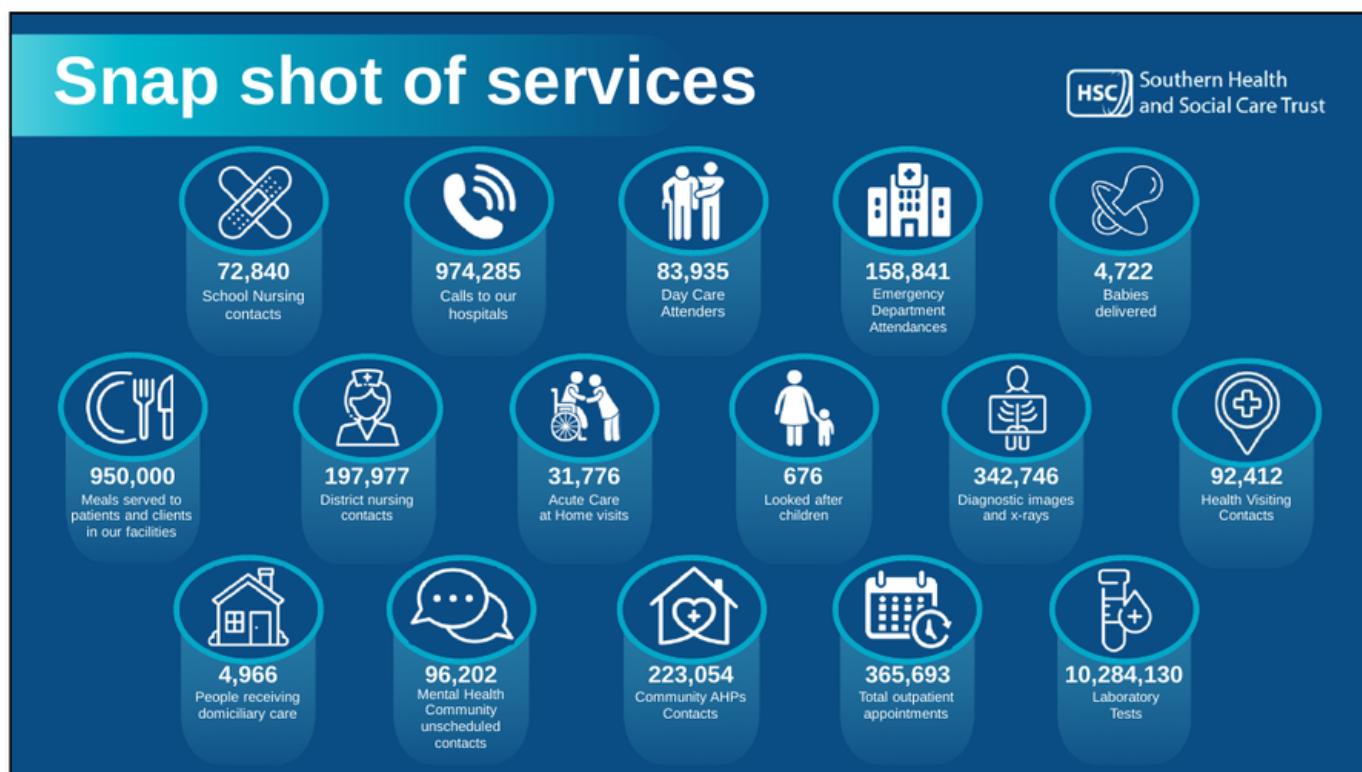
We spend almost £3.3m per day delivering care and support to local people



Estate

A range of sites comprising of 232 Trust owned buildings and 69 leased buildings

2



3

Challenges

- Finance
- Workforce
- Growing population/Rising demand
- Unscheduled care
- Social Care
- Waiting lists

HSC Southern Health and Social Care Trust

4

Working together Excellence Openness & Honesty Compassion

HSC Southern Health and Social Care Trust

2024/25
ANNUAL
STRATEGIC
PLAN

STRATEGY
2030

5

Daisy Hill Hospital

HSC Southern Health and Social Care Trust

Along with Craigavon Area, South Tyrone and Lurgan hospital, Daisy Hill is a key part of the Southern Trust acute hospital network

Category	Count
ED attendances	54,523
Inpatient admissions	8,982
Births	1,879

6

24/7 Type 1 ED



Consultant led assessing patients with both surgical and medical symptoms



7

Elective Overnight Stay Centre



8

Monaghan Row



Acquisition of the Monaghan Row site from Newry Mourne and Down District Council

9

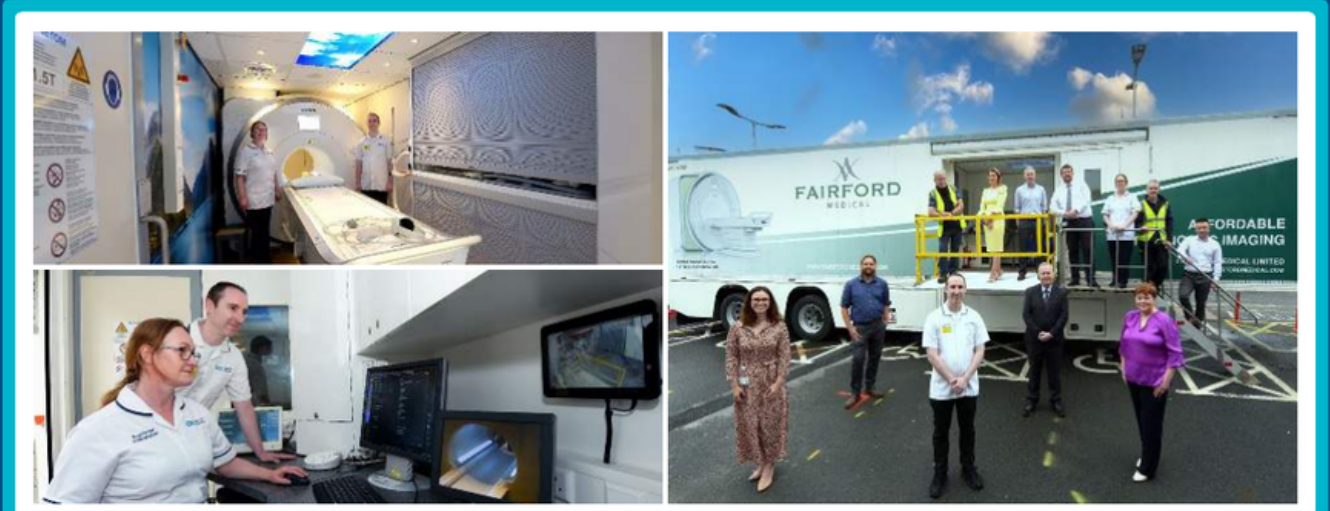
New Modular CT Scanner



10

MRI Scanner

 Southern Health and Social Care Trust



11

Medical Ambulatory Unit

 Southern Health and Social Care Trust



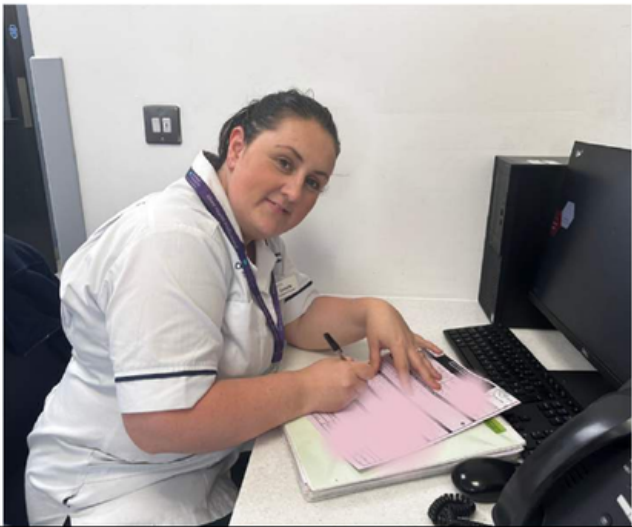
12

Discharge Lounge



13

Short Stay Unit



14

Urgent Care Centre



15

Welcoming international doctors



16

Women's Health Hub

HSC Southern Health and Social Care Trust



17

New Trauma & Orthopaedic Clinic

HSC Southern Health and Social Care Trust



18

25 years of award winning area wide renal services



19

Cardiology



Edith Donnelly, RCN Nurse of the Year and Dr Patricia Campbell, NI Lead for Heart Failure



20

Rathfriland patient praises hospital at home care



21



Quality Care - for you, with you

Follow us for more...



22

NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting
held on Monday 11 November 2024 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, Monaghan Row**

Chairperson: Councillor A Lewis

**Committee Members
in attendance:** Councillor W Clarke Councillor G Hanna
Councillor V Harte Councillor G Kearns
Councillor D Lee-Surginor Councillor M Ruane

**Committee Members
in attendance via Teams:** Councillor T Andrews Councillor C Galbraith
Councillor M Gibbons Councillor J Truesdale

Officials in attendance: Mr C Mallon, Director of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism
Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Regeneration
Ms A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth and Tourism
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
Mrs S Kieran, Democratic Services Officer

ERT/117/2024: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON’S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Feehan, Hanlon and S Murphy.

ERT/118/2024: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

**ERT/119/2024: ACTION SHEET ECONOMY, REGENERATION & TOURISM
COMMITTEE MEETING MONDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2024**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Economy,
Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 11
November 2024. **(Copy circulated)**

In response to a query from Councillor Hanna, Mr Mallon confirmed that expressions of interest for the removal of Ballykinler hut would be completed in January 2025.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor,
seconded by Councillor Harte, it was agreed to note
the Action Sheet arising from the Economy,
Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held
on Monday 11 November 2024.**

ERT/120/2024: FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CALL 1

Read: Report dated 9 December 2024 from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism regarding Financial Assistance Call 1 2025 - 2026. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Andrews queried whether any workshops would be held for applicants to access.

Mrs Smyth advised enhanced capacity building was agreed as part of the review therefore workshops would take place as part of the roll-out of the call and she would ensure the information would be circulated to Members once dates were agreed.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor, Lee-Surginor it was agreed to proceed with opening the first call for Financial Assistance for the period 2025 – 2026, commencing with the revenue themes, opening in January 2025, as detailed in section 2.1 of the Officer’s Report.**

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

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor Ruane, 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 Ruane, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to come out of Closed Session.**

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

FOR DECISION

ERT/121/2024: ACCESSIBLE BEACHES SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT

Read: Report dated 9 December 2024 from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding an Accessible Beaches Service Level Agreement. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Clarke, the following was agreed:**

- **To enter into an SLA with the organisation outlined within the Officer’s Report to provide Accessible Beach equipment for Tyrella and Cranfield Beaches project by 31st March 2025.**

- **To extend and update the Partnership agreement with the organisation outlined within the Officer's Report to operate Beach Loan Equipment service at Tyrella Beach in addition to Cranfield Beach**

ERT/122/2024:**LECALE WAY SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT**

Read:

Report dated 9 December 2024 from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Lecale Way Service Level Agreement. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to enter into a Service Level Agreement with the organisation outlined within the officer's report to deliver key recommendations from the Audit and Development Plan of the Lecale Way by March 2025, as funded by DAERA, and as outlined in Section 2.1 of the Officer's Report and Appendix.

ERT/123/2024:**ST PATRICKS DAY 2025 SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT**

Read:

Report dated 9 December 2024 from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth and Tourism, regarding St Patrick's Day 2025 Service Level Agreement. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor, it was agreed to issue SLAs to the organisations outlined within the officer's report to deliver schools engagement and enhancing float and parade content for Downpatrick and Newry St Patricks Day 2025 events.

ERT/124/2024:**PEACEPLUS THEME 1.1**

Read:

Report dated 9 December 2024 from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth and Tourism, regarding PEACEPLUS Theme 1.1. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Kearns, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor, the following was agreed:

- **When received from SEUPT, accept the letter of offer and commence procurement of the projects under strands 2 and 3 of the Action Plan as outlined in section 2.2 of the Officer's Report**
- **On receipt of the Letter of Offer from SEUPB, enter into a Partnership Agreement with the organisation outlined within the officer's report, for delivery as per section 2.2 of the report**

- **To update PEACEPLUS Partnership Membership in line with the Partnership Development process as agreed by SEUPB and to align organisational changes and other recruitment processes.**

ERT/125/2024:**PROCUREMENT FOR TOURISM & CULTURE EVENTS**

Read:

Report dated 9 December 2024 from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth and Tourism, regarding Procurement for Tourism & Culture Events. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to approve a competitive tender process as outlined in Section 2.1 of the Officer's Report for a period of 3 years, renewed annually for the purpose of appointing suitably qualified and experienced contractors to deliver the 4 following contracts:

- **Provide sand to the foreshore at Warrenpoint Beach**
- **Deliver a Visitor Experience Activation Programme at Forest / Country Parks and Beaches**
- **Videography and photography for tourism and tourism events**
- **Traffic management company for annual tourism events**

ERT/126/2024:**SLIEVE GULLION UPLAND PATH EROSION CONTROL**

Read:

Report dated 9 December 2024 from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth and Tourism, regarding Slieve Gullion Upland Path Erosion Control. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to approve the Business Case for path repairs on section of Slieve Gullion mountain path, and to approve the procurement and delivery of the project outlined within the Officer's Report, subject to NIEA funding being secured.

ERT/127/2024:**TREE TOPS WALK PROPOSAL**

Read:

Report dated 9 December 2024 from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth and Tourism, regarding a Tree Tops Walk Proposal. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Hanna, it was agreed to note the signing of the letter of intent, and to proceed to the

procurement and appointment of an Economist and Technical team to develop an outline business case for the project.

FOR NOTING

ERT/128/2024: DATA SHARING AGREEMENT BETWEEN NMDDC AND LPS

Read: Report dated 9 December 2024 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Regeneration, regarding a Data Sharing Agreement between NMDDC and LPS. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Kearns, it was agreed to note Data Sharing Agreement between NMDDC and LPS.

ERT/129/2024: DOCUMENT STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL SERVICES - PLANNING

Read: Report dated 9 December 2024 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Regeneration, regarding Document Storage and Retrieval Services - Planning. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Kearns, it was agreed to note the extension of the current contract, under the EPSO framework for a further 12 months, with the possibility of a further 12 months.

ERT/130/2024: NISS GO SUCCEED UPDATE

Read: Report dated 9 December 2024 from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth and Tourism, regarding NISS Go Succeed Update. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Kearns, it was agreed to note the update on the implementation of Go Succeed NI.

ERT/131/2024: RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANT SCHEME

Read: Report dated 9 December 2024 from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth and Tourism, regarding Rural Business Development Grant Scheme. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Kearns, it was agreed to note the update regarding the 2024 Rural Business Development Grant Scheme.

ERT/132/2024:**TASTE OF TOURISM**

Read:

Report dated 9 December 2024 from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth and Tourism, regarding Taste of Tourism. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Kearns, it was agreed to note that Council will be a co-sponsor at the Northern Ireland Hotel Federation, Taste of Tourism Summit & Artisan Market in March 2025.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 6.45pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 13 January 2025.

Signed: Councillor A Lewis
Chairperson
Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee

Signed: Conor Mallon
Director of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

45

Minutes of Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 12 December 2024 at 6.00pm in the Council Chamber, Downshire Civic Centre**In the Chair:** Councillor T Howie

In Attendance in Chamber:

Councillor C Bowsie	Councillor W Clarke
Councillor C Enright	Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor C King	Councillor A Mathers
Councillor D McAteer	Councillor H Reilly
Councillor M Rice	Councillor G Sharvin

Committee Members in Attendance via Teams:

Councillor P Byrne	Councillor S O'Hare
Councillor A Quinn	Councillor D Taylor

Officials in Attendance in Chamber:

Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services
 Mr A Patterson, Director of Active & Healthy Communities
 Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director of Finance & Performance
 Mr P Rooney, Head of Legal Administration (Acting)
 Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
 Mrs F Branagh, Democratic Services Officer

SPR/190/2024: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive.

SPR/191/2024: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

SPR/192/2024 ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM STRATEGY, POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 14 NOVEMBER 2024

Read: Action Sheet of Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee meeting held 14 November 2024 (**Copy circulated**)

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Enright, seconded by Councillor Bowsie, it was agreed to approve the action sheet of Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee meeting of 14 November 2024.**

FOR CONSIDERATION

SPR/193/2024**S95 AUDIT AND ASSESSMENT REPORT 2024-25**

46

Read: Report from Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director of Finance & Improvement, regarding S95 Audit and Assessment Report 2024-2025. **(Copy circulated)**

Mr Byrne presented the Report, which related to the NI Audit Office's (NIAO) assessment of Council's assessment of performance for 2023-2024 and the Improvement Plan for 2024 – 2025. He confirmed that the Report provided the performance arrangements within the Council with an unqualified audit opinion without modifications, further highlighting that there were no issues that required a formal recommendation for improvement.

Councillor Bowsie queried why a target had not been set in relation to the number of capital leisure projects progressed for 2024-25, as there had been targets set for previous years.

Mr Byrne advised he revert to the Member on the issue once he sought clarification.

Councillor McAteer asked for confirmation that the Report certified all processes and plans of Council for the year and the previous year were in order, as far as NIAO was concerned.

Mr Byrne confirmed that the financial audit report and the Report To Those Charged with Governance both achieved an unqualified audit opinion with a number of recommendations for improvement, stating that an unqualified audit opinion confirmed that all financial statements, documents and processes were in order, accurate and compliant.

Mrs Kelly stated it was not unusual to have recommendations for areas of improvement and highlighted the achievement of two unqualified audit opinions from NIAO.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, the Performance Improvement Audit and Assessment Report 2024-25 (Appendix 2) was agreed.**

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

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

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

SPR/194/2024

NEWRY CITY PARK

Read: Report from Mr A Patterson, Director of Active & Healthy Communities, regarding Newry City Park. **(Copy circulated)**

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

SPR/195/2024

AHC CAPITAL BUDGET REQUIREMENT

Read: Report from Mr A Patterson, Director of Active & Healthy Communities, regarding AHC Capital Budget Requirement **(Copy circulated)**

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

SPR/196/2024

DISPOSAL OF LAND

Read: Report from Mr P Rooney, Head of Legal Administration (Acting), regarding the Disposal of Land. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Bowsie proposed to defer the item to allow for discussion on an amendment to section 2.4 of the officer’s report. This was seconded by Councillor Reilly.

The proposal was put to a vote, with the results as follows:

FOR	3
AGAINST	12
ABSTAIN	0

The proposal was declared lost.

The officer’s recommendations were put to a vote, with the results as follows:

FOR	12
AGAINST	0
ABSTAIN	3

The proposal was declared carried.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, it was agreed to sell the lands outlined in red on Map 2 to the party outlined within the Officer’s Report at market value.**

Councillor Byrne left the meeting at this point – 6.40pm

SPR/197/2024**PROPOSED LEASE OF LANDS UNDER COUNCIL'S
SPORTS & COMMUNITY LEASING POLICY****Read:**

Report from Mr P Rooney, Head of Legal Administration (Acting), regarding Lease of Lands under Council's Sports & Community Leasing Policy. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Rice, seconded by Councillor McAteer, the following was agreed:

- **To enter into a lease with the successful group noted in the Officer's Report in respect of that portion of the lands known as Carrigenagh Road, Kilkeel as coloured yellow on map 1 attached for a term of 25 years as a peppercorn rent, subject to Departmental Consent.**
- **To enter into a lease with the successful group noted in the Officer's Report in respect of the portion of lands known as St Anne's Park, Mayobridge as coloured yellow on map 2 attached for a term of 25 years at a peppercorn rent, subject to Departmental Consent.**
- **To enter into a lease with the successful group noted in the Officer's Report in respect of the portion of lands known as Killough Playing Fields, Killough as outlined in blue on map 3 attached for a term of 25 years at a peppercorn rent, subject to Departmental Consent.**

FOR NOTING - ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2014**SPR/198/2024****STRATEGIC FINANCE WORKING GROUP ACTION SHEET
13 NOVEMBER 2024****Read:**

Action sheet of the Strategic Finance Working Group meeting held 13 November 2024. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Rice, it was agreed to note the action sheet.

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 6.50pm

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 13 January 2025.

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 16 December 2024 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room,
Downshire Civic Centre**

Chairperson: Councillor C Galbraith**In attendance
in Chamber:**

Councillor L Devlin	Councillor A Finnegan
Councillor J Jackson	Councillor D Lee-Surginor
Councillor L McEvoy	Councillor D Murphy

Committee Members in**attendance (via Teams):**

Councillor M Gibbons	Councillor K Murphy
Councillor H Young	

Non-Committee Members**in Chamber:**

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor S O'Hare	

Officials in Chamber:

Mr A Patterson, Director, Active and Healthy Communities
Mr C Haughey, Assistant Director, Healthy Living
Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer

AHC/108/2024: APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Finn, Lewis and Magennis.

The Chairperson sent condolences to the family of Jody Gormley and the wider GAA family on his recent sad passing. Jody was a former Loughinisland GAA Senior Manager and was also part of the Down GAA management team from 2004 to 2007.

He passed his commiserations to Kilcoo GAC who put up a great show of strength in the recent AIB Ulster Club Final, only to be beaten by a point by Errigal Ciaran.

The Chairperson congratulated Rio McMenamin, a local boxer who picked up the 9-Counties title. He also congratulated Philip Vint who recently completed his 100th marathon.

The Chairperson also congratulated Conor Haughey on his appointment as Assistant Director of Healthy Living.

AHC/109/2024: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

AHC/110/2024: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18 NOVEMBER 2024

Read: Action sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 18 November 2024. **(Copy circulated)**.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor D Murphy, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, to note the Action Sheet of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 18 November 2024.**

AHC/111/2024: DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORUMS UPDATE REPORT

Read: Report dated 16 December 2024 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding an update on District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor D Murphy, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, to note the report and approve the actions in the action sheets attached for:**

- **Slieve Gullion DEA Forum Meeting held on 12 November 2024.**
- **Mournes DEA Forum Meeting held on 26 November 2024.**

AHC/112/2024: DEA FORUM INDEPENDENT MEMBER RECRUITMENT

Read: Report dated 16 December 2024 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding DEA Forum Independent Member recruitment. **(Copy circulated)**

Mrs Robb advised that the report recommended the recruitment of independent members within the Mourne, Slieve Gullion and Rowallane DEAs, due to a current gap in representation.

Councillor Sharvin asked whether this could be completed across all DEA forums to ensure independent representation was sufficient across all of the forums.

Mrs Robb advised that a consultant would be engaged to assist in the development of a Community Development Strategy which would include a review of current working groups, forums and boards including the DEA fora. As part of the process Members would have the opportunity to input into the review.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor D Murphy, to approve proceeding with DEA Forum recruitment of Independent Members where a gap in representation had been identified.**

AHC/113/2024: NOTICE OF MOTION – RAISE PROGRAMME

Read: Report dated 16 December 2024 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding a Notice of Motion received from Councillor O'Hare at the Council Meeting held on 4 November 2024.
(Copy circulated)

Mrs Robb presented the report which recommended that officers engage with the Department of Education to gain a better understanding of the roll out of the RAISE programme.

Councillor D Murphy stated the motion that had been tabled was not to gain a better understanding of how the programme was to be rolled out, rather it was saying clearly that the programme was inadequate, did not meet the need, with evidence to support this and that the Minister should scrap the programme, go back to the drawing board and come up with something that would meet the objective need.

Councillor O'Hare stated she felt the recommendation did not reflect the motion and advised the issue with the programme was that it did not give poverty and deprivation the weighting it would deserve when determining what areas were eligible for funding.

Councillor Jackson advised although his Party recognised the programme as a predictor for tackling educational achievement, it was not the only one and rather than attaching funding to areas of economic deprivation, the process of targeting funding needed to be more sophisticated.

Councillor Lee-Surginor stated his Party had reservations about the programme given that South Down was such a large constituency, however, the programme only focused on Newry. He stated the criteria needed to be expanded or extended to implement the programme across the District.

Councillor Devlin asked for clarity on Councillor Murphy's proposal.

Councillor D Murphy stated he was proposing the replacement of the programme as it did not meet objective need. He stated that wealthy people could afford to pay a lot of money to have their children educated, however areas of social deprivation would not have that opportunity, therefore those were the areas that needed to be targeted.

As there was dissent within the chamber, the Chairperson put Councillor D Murphy's proposal, seconded by Councillor Finnegan to a vote, the results of which were as follows:

FOR:	9
AGAINST:	1
ABSTENTIONS:	0

Councillor D Murphy's proposal was carried.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor D Murphy, seconded by Councillor Finnegan, to ask the Minister to scrap the RAISE programme and to implement something that would target the objective need in areas of social deprivation.**

AHC/114/2024: POLICING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (PCSP) & NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL PARTNERSHIP (NRP) REPORT

Read: Report dated 16 December 2024 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding an update on Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) & Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership (NRP). **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor D Murphy, seconded by Councillor Finnegan, to note the report and the following:**

- **Minutes of the Policing Committee & PCSP held on 24 September 2024, approved at the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting on 26 November 2024.**
- **Minutes of the Newry NRP Meeting held on 11 September 2024, approved at the Newry NRP Meeting on 20 November 2024.**

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

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Jackson, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on items 8 and 9, 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 D Murphy, 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/115/2024: LEASING OF COUNCIL LAND AND FACILITIES

Read: Report dated 16 December 2024 from Mr C Haughey, Assistant Director, Healthy Living, regarding the Leasing of Council Land and Facilities. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Finnegan, seconded by Councillor D Murphy, to approve to progress the Council land facilities through the various stages of Council's Sport and Leasing Policy contained within the Officer's Report.**

AHC/116/2024: LEISURE FACILITIES DIRECT AWARD CONTRACT

Read: Report dated 16 December 2024 from Mr C Haughey, Assistant Director, Healthy Living, regarding the Leasing of Council Land and Facilities. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, to approve the appointment of a contractor via Direct Award Contract to undertake essential servicing and maintenance in facilities as contained within the Officer's Report.

AHC/117/2024: SPORTS AWARDS

Read: Report dated 16 December 2024 from Mr C Haughey, Assistant Director, Healthy Living, regarding the Sports Awards. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Finnegan, seconded by Councillor Devlin, to note the contents of the report.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 6.31pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 13 January 2025.

Signed: Councillor Galbraith
Chairperson

Signed: Andrew Patterson
Director Active and Healthy Communities

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**Ref: SE/2024**

**Minutes of Sustainability & Environment Committee Meeting held on
Wednesday 18 December 2024 at 6.15pm in Council Chamber,
Monaghan Row, Newry**

Chair: Councillor G Kearns**In attendance in
Chamber:**

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor C Enright
Councillor K Feehan	Councillor D Finn
Councillor V Harte	Councillor J Jackson
Councillor M Larkin	Councillor H Reilly
Councillor M Ruane	Councillor H Young

Officials in Chamber: Mrs S Murphy, Director Sustainability and Environment
Mr C Sage, Assistant Director Sustainability
Mrs S Trainor, Assistant Director Environment
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
Mrs S Kieran, Democratic Services Officer**SE/147/2024: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Brennan, Campbell, Magennis and Taylor.

SE/148/2024: DECLARATIONS OF "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"

There were no declarations of interest.

**SE/149/2024: ACTION SHEET: SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 NOVEMBER 2024****Read:** Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 20 November 2024. **(Copy circulated)***SE/138/2024 – Repair of Corry's Corner, Drumaness Bus Shelter and Adoption by Translink*

In response to a query from Councillor Andrews, Mr Sage confirmed that he would revert to the Member on the matter.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Finn, seconded by Councillor Jackson, it was agreed to note the Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 20 November 2024.**

FOR DECISION**SE/150/2024:****NOTICE OF MOTION – VAPING**

Read: Report dated 18 December 2024 from Ms S Murphy, Director: Sustainability and Environment, regarding a Notice of Motion on Vaping (**Copy circulated**)

Mrs Murphy presented the report stating it had been illegal since 2021 to sell vapes to anyone under the age of 18 in Northern Ireland. She stated that Northern Ireland were also set to ban the supply of single-use vapes by April 2025 in order to try to stop the disposal of vapes due to the huge litter problems they caused. She advised the recommendations included writing to the Ministers of Education and Health urging them to bring forward a plan to end vaping in school grounds and to reduce the number of young people vaping. Mrs Murphy said it was also recommended that officers write to all other Councils in the North asking for their support in tackling this issue.

Councillor Kearns thanked officers for the report stating the issue of disposal of vapes within schools was causing huge problems and it would be good to see vaping banned in schools.

Councillor Young thanked Councillor Kearns for bringing the motion forward and stated a harsh clampdown was required on shops selling to young people. She stated there were growing concerns around the amount of illicit substances and vapes that had been found on school premises. She proposed an amendment to the motion as follows: "and eradicate the sale of vapes to children."

This was accepted by Councillor Kearns.

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Kearns, seconded by Councillor Young, it was agreed that the Council recognised the 2024 Northern Ireland Audit Office report on tackling the public health impacts of smoking and vaping that showed an increase in 11-16 year olds vaping; that Council is concerned that children vaping in schools is detrimental to a child's health and educational outcomes; agrees that greater awareness must be raised with children in schools about the risks of vaping; acknowledges that teachers and school staff must have the support and resources they require to raise awareness and inform children on the risks of vaping; agree to write to both the Minister of Education and Health urging them to bring forward a plan to end vaping in school grounds, to reduce the number of young people vaping and to eradicate the sale of vapes to children. It was also agreed to write to all Councils in the North asking them for support in tackling this issue.

SE/151/2024:**NOTICE OF MOTION – NEWRY CANAL**

Read: Report dated 18 December 2024 from Ms S Murphy, Director: Sustainability and Environment, regarding a Notice of Motion on Newry Canal (**Copy circulated**)

Mrs Murphy presented the report and stated it was recommended to request support from Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council to write to the Minister for Infrastructure and the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs for the urgent establishment of a multi- agency Newry Canal regeneration taskforce to work in partnership to deliver on the potential of inland waterways across both Council areas.

Councillor Feehan thanked officers for the report and advised he had brought the motion forward as he had worked with several third-party stakeholders in relation to the enhancement of Newry Canal. He said it was critical to have a joint approach with Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council to rejuvenate Newry Canal and he was happy to accept the officer's recommendation.

Councillors Enright and Young spoke in support of the motion and welcomed the potential of the establishment of a taskforce to rejuvenate Newry Canal.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Feehan, seconded by Councillor Finn it was agreed to request support from support from Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council to write to the Minister for Infrastructure and the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs for the urgent establishment of a multi- agency Newry Canal regeneration taskforce to work in partnership to deliver on the potential of inland waterways across both Council areas.**

SE/152/2024:**DRAFT BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ASSOCIATED ACTION PLAN FOLLOWING PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

Read: Report dated 18 December 2024 from Mr Conor Sage, Assistant Director, Sustainability and Environment, regarding the final draft copy of the new Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (**Copy circulated**)

Councillor Reilly requested an officer to investigate the illegal use of quads at Dunavel beach area. Officers agreed to contact the Member outside of the meeting.

Councillor Enright raised the issue of sand dune habitats within the area and asked that this be included within the Biodiversity Strategy. Officers advised these habitats were contained within the high-level, overarching Theme 1 of the Strategy and actions arising out of this would be actioned within the Biodiversity Action Plan.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Enright, it was agreed to approve the final draft of the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan**

SE/153/2024: AMENDED WARRENPOINT AND NEWCASTLE PUBLIC CONVENIENCE OPENING TIMES

Read: Report dated 18 December 2024 from Mr Conor Sage, Assistant Director, Sustainability and Environment, regarding a revision to the closing times of public toilets in Newcastle and Warrenpoint, implemented following the adoption of the new schedules approved by the S&E Committee on 20th December 2023 (**Copy circulated**)

Councillor Ruane requested appropriate visible signage be installed within Warrenpoint in order that members of the public know what times the toilet facilities were opened.

Councillor Reilly requested an update on the toilet facility opening times at Cranfield Beach. Mr Sage advised the opening times were on the Council website, but he would also revert to the Member on the issue.

AGREED: **It was agreed to adjust the closing times of the toilet facilities at Newcastle and Warrenpoint on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Reilly. It was also agreed to install visible signage to update members of the public as to the opening times of the toilet facilities.**

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

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Harte, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on items 8-13, 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 Young, it was agreed to come out of closed session.**

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

RESTRICTED – FOR DECISION

SE/154/2024: BUSINESS CASE FOR ARBORICULTURAL ASSESSMENT AND TREE SURGERY

Read: Report dated 18 December 2024 from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director, Sustainability regarding Business Case for Arboricultural Assessment and Tree Surgery (**Copy circulated**)

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Enright, it was agreed to note the contents of the report and approve the business case to progress with a tender for two separate contractors as detailed within the officer's report.**

SE/155/2024: **BUSINESS CASE FOR MECHANICAL BUILDING SERVICES CONTRACT**

Read: Report dated 18 December 2024 from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director: Sustainability, regarding Business Case for Mechanical Building Services Contract **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Harte, it was agreed to approve the recommendations contained within the officer's report.**

SE/156/2024: **PERSONAL/PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**

Read: Report dated 18 December 2024 from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director: Sustainability, regarding Business Case for Personal/Protective Equipment **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Larkin, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to approve the recommendation to proceed with option 5 as detailed within the officer's report.**

SE/157/2024: **LANTRA NATIONAL HIGHWAY SECTOR SCHEME TRAINING BUSINESS CASE**

Read: Report dated 18 December 2024 from Ms S Trainor, Assistant Director: Environment, regarding LANTRA National Highway Sector Scheme Training Business Case **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Reilly, seconded by Councillor Feehan, it was agreed to approve the business case to procure a suitably qualified trainer to deliver essential LANTRA National Highway Sector Scheme Training for staff within the Sustainable and Environment Directorate.**

SE/158/2024: **BUSINESS CASE FOR REPLACEMENT OF SKIPS AND CONTAINERS AT HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRE'S**

Read: Report dated 18 December 2024 from Ms S Trainor, Assistant Director: Environment, regarding Business Case for Replacement of Skips and Containers at HRCs **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Larkin, seconded by Councillor Young, it was agreed to approve the recommendations as contained within the officer’s report.**

SE/159/2024: ECONOMIC APPRAISAL – LIQUID FUEL REQUIREMENTS

Read: Report dated 18 December 2024 from Mr Conor Sage, Assistant Director: Sustainability regarding Economic Appraisal – Liquid Fuel Requirements **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Larkin, seconded by Councillor Reilly, it was agreed to approve the recommendations as contained within the officer’s report.**

SE/160/2024: HARBOUR SURVEYS

Read: Report dated 18 December 2024 from Mr Conor Sage, Assistant Director: Sustainability regarding Harbour Surveys **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Jackson, it was agreed to approve the recommendations as contained within the officer’s report.**

SE/162/2024: WASTE CONTRACTS

Read: Report dated 18 December 2024 from Ms S Trainor, Assistant Director: Environment regarding Waste Contracts **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Jackson, it was agreed to approve the recommendations as contained within the officer’s report.**

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

SE/164/2024: CLEANSING AND REFUSE TASK GROUP ACTION SHEET - 20 NOVEMBER 2024

Read: Action Sheet arising from Cleansing and Refuse Task Group held on 20 November 2024. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **It was agreed the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Young, it was agreed to note the report from the Cleansing and Refuse Task Force Meeting held on 20 November 2024.**

SE/163/2024: ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING IN COMMITTEE MEMBERS' MONTHLY BULLETIN HELD ON 3 DECEMBER 2024 and ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING IN COMMITTEE MINUTES OF 31 OCTOBER 2024

Read: ARC21 – Joint Committee Members' Monthly bulletin of meeting held on 3 December 2024 and "in committee" minutes of meeting held on 31 October 2024. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Young, it was agreed to note the minutes.

FOR NOTING

SE/164/2024: ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF THURSDAY 31 OCTOBER 2024

Read: ARC21 Joint Committee Meeting In Committee Minutes of Thursday 31 October 2024. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed the proposal of Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor Larkin, to note the minutes of the arc21 Joint Committee meeting of Thursday 31 October 2024.

SE/165/2024: LETTER FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH RE: POLICY PROPOSALS PUBLIC HEALTH BILL

Read: Letter dated 21 November 2024 from the Department of Health Re: Policy Proposals Public Health Bill **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed the proposal of Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor Larkin, to note letter dated 21 November 2024 from the Department of Health Re: Policy Proposals Public Health Bill.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.16pm

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 13 January 2025

**Signed: Councillor Geraldine Kearns
Chairperson**

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

Report to:	Council
Date of Meeting:	13 January 2025
Subject:	Correspondence to Council
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-	
For decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For noting only
1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	To provide an update on correspondence received for attention of Council.
2.0	Key issues
2.1	This paper refers to correspondence to be brought to the attention of Council. Items are referred to in 3.0 below.
3.0	Recommendations
	That Council considers and notes the following correspondence:
3.1	Correspondence from Lady Chief Justice’s Office and the Minister of Finance Council received a response from Eamonn McConville, Principal Private Secretary to the Lady Chief Justice and the Minister of Finance regarding NOM C/188/2024 – Gender Based Violence Against Women.
3.2	Correspondence from Ards and North Down Borough Council Council received correspondence from Ards and North Down Borough Council in relation to Notice of Motion regarding Nappy Collection Scheme in Northern Ireland.
3.3	Correspondence from Planning Appeals Commission Council received correspondence from Planning Appeals Commission in relation to Regionally Significant Planning Application under Section 26 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 – Lands approximately 650m South West of 40 Mullaghgarraff Road, Hilltown, Newry in the townlands of Gruggandoo, Grugganskeagh and Mullaghgarve, BT34 5LT.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Not applicable.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)

5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></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><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></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><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	<p>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</p>
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If no, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	<p>Appendices</p>
8.0	<p>Background Documents</p>

	None
--	-------------



LADY CHIEF JUSTICE'S OFFICE,
ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE, BELFAST, BT1 3JF

TELEPHONE: (028) 9072 4614

E-MAIL: Eamonn.McConville@courtsni.gov.uk

Eamonn McConville
Principal Private Secretary

17 December 2024

Dear Ms Ward,

Re: Notice of Motion – Gender Based Violence Against Women

Thank you for your letter to the Lady Chief Justice dated 16 December 2024.

It is not appropriate for the Lady Chief Justice, or any judge, to enter into correspondence.

We can advise that, in general terms, the courts are required to apply the law governing bail as laid down in this jurisdiction and will hear all the arguments (along with supporting evidence) for and against admission to bail/variation of bail taking account of all relevant factors before arriving at a considered decision. The presumption of innocence means that the law must regard everyone charged with an offence – regardless of how grave it is – as innocent unless and until the contrary is proved to the required standard after due process of law. There is also a presumption in favour of releasing an accused person on bail unless the court is satisfied that there is a risk of e.g. flight, re-offending, or interference with witnesses which cannot be managed on bail. Where it is determined that any risks can be appropriately managed on bail then in addition to the issue of sureties and the setting of a recognisance which may be forfeited if the accused does not comply with the bail terms, the court will normally grant bail subject to certain bail conditions specifically designed to address those risks (such as curfew and electronic monitoring, regular reporting to a police station, living at an address away from the area, or abstinence from alcohol consumption as appropriate to the facts of the alleged offending). Those conditions must be no more restrictive of the accused's liberty than is required to ensure adequate safeguards against the stated concerns about abuse of that liberty. Breach of bail conditions renders the accused liable to be brought back before the court and his/her bail to be revoked.

In certain circumstances there is a right of appeal on the part of the prosecution pursuant to section 10 of the Justice (NI) Act 2004 allowing it to challenge in the High Court any bail decision made in the magistrates' court, where it considers the decision to grant bail inappropriate or wrong in law.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Eamonn McConville'.

Eamonn McConville
Principal Private Secretary to the Lady Chief Justice

Marie Ward
Chief Executive - Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
By email: Donna.Starkey@nmandd.org / democratic.services@nmandd.org

From the Minister of Finance

*Marie Ward
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
O'Hagan House
Monaghan Row
Newry
BT35 8DJ*

Private Office
2nd Floor
Clare House
303 Airport Road West
BELFAST
BT3 9ED

Tel: 028 9081 6116
Email: private.office@finance-ni.gov.uk

Your reference: C/188/2024
Our reference: COR-1647-2024
Date: 13th January 2025

Marie, a Chara

NOTICE OF MOTION – GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Thank you for your letter of 16 December to the Minister of Justice, Naomi Long MLA, regarding the above matter. While the Justice Minister has overall responsibility for domestic abuse legislation, my Department has an interest in civil law matters, including non-molestation orders, and your letter has therefore been passed to me for consideration and reply.

I have read the Notice of Motion, which you set out in full, that was agreed at the Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council on 2 December 2024 highlighting the issue of domestic violence against women in this jurisdiction. I note the figures provided therein and the Council's growing concern in relation to an "epidemic" of gender-based violence against women in the North, a sentiment with which I agree. I have therefore been, and continue to be, supportive of the recent changes to the law brought forward by the Justice Minister that will provide greater protection for all potential victims of domestic abuse.

You specifically seek an expansion of the categories of persons against whom a Non-Molestation Order can be made so as "to include individuals who were in a significant relationship but did not cohabit". You say that such a move would align legislative provision in this jurisdiction with the UK and South.

I acknowledge that legislation in other jurisdictions provides for circumstances where the applicant can seek a protection order against a person with whom they are, or were, in a relationship, with whom they do not reside and perhaps may never have, and who they neither agreed to marry nor enter into a civil partnership with.

A similar change in relation to non-molestation orders specifically would require primary legislation. At this stage, in what is already a compressed mandate with many competing Bills in the programme, a suitable vehicle would need to be identified that could permit consideration of this matter.

My officials are liaising with colleagues in the Department of Justice who deal with domestic abuse and domestic violence policy there, to see how this matter can be progressed. We have been informed that work is continuing with operational partners to explore all options in the development of a model for protection orders which would be operationally viable in this jurisdiction, and that part of that work will involve a review in Spring of lessons emerging from a protection orders pilot in England. My officials will continue to monitor developments and will engage further at the appropriate time with DOJ counterparts on these matters.

Is mise le meas

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Archibald'.

DR CAOIMHE ARCHIBALD MLA
MINISTER OF FINANCE

13 December 2024

Sent by email only

Dear Chief Executive,

At the November Council meeting of Ards and North Down Borough Council, the following Notice of Motion was agreed:

“That this Council notes the 70% recycling target set out in the Climate Change Act 2022 and that the current household recycling average is 50.7%. Further notes the aims and intentions around the consultation on “Rethinking our resources: measures for climate action and a circular economy in NI” includes the reduction in grey bin capacity by either volume of bin or three weekly collections. Further notes that nappy collection scheme was not referred to in Rethinking our resources: measures for climate action and a circular economy in NI” despite around 4% of residual waste being made up of disposable nappies and other absorbent hygiene products. Further notes with concern the impact reduced grey bin capacity will have on those households disposing of nappies and/or other absorbent hygiene products as well as the amount of recyclable materials such products contain.

This Council writes to the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs expressing its view that there is a need for a nappy collection scheme in Northern Ireland in order to meet recycling targets and to support households if grey bin capacity is reduced as a result of any future Departmental strategy and, further, that this Council would be happy to engage with the Department on how to best deliver such a scheme. And that a copy of this motion is sent to other Councils in Northern Ireland to encourage them to write to the Minister on similar terms.”

I would be most grateful if your Council could consider writing to DAERA in support of Ards and North Down Borough Council’s call for the Department to work towards the establishment of a disposable nappy collection and recycling service in Northern Ireland.

Many thanks for your consideration of this matter.

Yours sincerely



Susie McCullough
Chief Executive



Department for Infrastructure
Regional Planning Policy & Casework Directorate
Clarence Court
10-18 Adelaide Street
Belfast
BT2 8GB
By email only

4th Floor
92 Ann Street
Belfast
BT1 3HH

Phone: 028 9089 3918 (direct line)
Phone: 028 9024 4710 (switchboard)

Email: info@pacni.gov.uk

Website: www.pacni.gov.uk

Your Ref: P/2015/0218/F
Our Ref: 2021/C010

Date: 20th December 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

Regionally Significant Planning Application under Section 26 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Location: Lands approximately 650m south west of 40 Mullagharriff Road, Hilltown, Newry in the townlands of Gruggandoo, Grugganskeagh and Mullaghgarve BT34 5LT.

Proposal: Construction of a wind farm comprising 8 no. wind turbines (tip height not exceeding 142.5 metres), and electrical substation and control building, construction of internal access tracks, spoil deposition areas, temporary construction compound, formation of passing bays on Mullagharriff Road, delivery route improvements at Rostrevor Road, junction improvements at Rostrevor/Mullagharriff Road and all associated ancillary works.

Further to previous correspondence of 3rd December 2024 regarding the public inquiry and summary of arrangements. A postponement has been requested by the applicant and a new date has been set.

Please be advised that the public inquiry scheduled for 12th & 13th March 2025 has been **rescheduled and will now take place on 3rd September 2025** in the Newry Conference and Banqueting Centre, 39-41 The Mall, Newry, BT34 1AT and will continue as necessary on the following day.

The new deadline for statement of case is now by 4pm on 2nd June 2025. Your statement should not exceed 2500 words. Statements received will then be exchanged for comment by 30th June 2025.

Yours faithfully

Lori Austin

PAC Admin Team

SUMMARY OF ARRANGEMENTS

Statements of case by:- **4pm on 02/06/2025**
Rebuttal evidence by:- **4pm on 30/06/2025**
Inquiry opens at:- **10:30am on 03/09/2025 continuing on 04/09/2025 if necessary.**

