

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: AHC/2024

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

Chairperson: Councillor R Howell (Chamber)

In attendance in Chamber: Councillor A Finnegan Councillor C Galbraith
Councillor J Jackson Councillor D Lee-Surginor
Councillor A Lewis Councillor O Magennis
Councillor A Mathers Councillor A McMurray
Councillor D Murphy Councillor K Murphy
Councillor S O'Hare

In attendance via Teams: Councillor L Devlin Councillor D Finn

Non-Members in Chamber: Councillor T Andrews

Officials in Chamber: Mr A Patterson, Director, Active and Healthy Communities,
Leisure and Sport
Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development
Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer

AHC/009/2024: APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

An apology was received from Councillor Gibbons.

The Chairperson welcomed Mr Andrew Patterson to his first official meeting as Director of Active and Healthy Communities, Leisure and Sport.

AHC/010/2024: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor D Murphy declared an interest in item 5, Expressions of Interest, Leasing of Council land.

AHC/011/2024: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 22 JANUARY 2024

Read: Action sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 22 January 2024. **(Copy circulated)**.

AHC/005/2024: Saintfield Community Centre

Councillor Jackson asked for an update regarding the request for extension of land at Saintfield Community Centre and floodlighting.

Mrs Robb advised the request for land at the community centre was being processed through legal formalities in terms of the disposal of additional land and confirmed she would provide a more detailed response directly to Councillor Jackson. Councillor Lee-Surginor asked that he receive an update in relation to this matter also.

In terms of the Saintfield lighting upgrade, Mr Tamati stated this had been linked to the rates process, which had now been approved and officers would be commissioning the capital team to procure the services as soon as possible.

AHC/083/2023: Community Trails Update

In referring to the NMDDC Beach Access Framework, Councillor McMurray enquired how that might relate to the Changing Places Facility as there would be no beach access for some mobility issues until this was acted upon and enquired if it could be moved forward.

Mr Tamati advised a report would be brought back to Committee in due course and the changing places facility in Downs Road, Newcastle which was identified in that report was part of the public toilet strategy that was being progressed by the Sustainability and Environment Department. He stated he would follow up on the matter and come back to Councillor McMurray.

Councillor Devlin referred to the review of sea swimming at Newcastle Harbour, a task and finish group being formed and the possibility of a lifeguard at the harbour. She acknowledged that this was being dealt with by the Economic, Regeneration and Tourism Committee and enquired whether there had been much development in relation to it or if it was being referred to the Sustainability and Environment Committee.

Mr Tamati confirmed it had been agreed a report would be brought back in relation to the queries raised at Active and Healthy Communities and that there had been some transition in terms of areas of responsibility with regard to Newcastle Harbour. He referred to the ongoing Newcastle Harbour Regeneration Programme and confirmed a report would be brought back for further consideration.

Councillor Devlin thanked Mr Tamati and urged for movement on the matter given the Harbour would be even more popular with the summer months approaching.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor K Murphy, to note the Action Sheet of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 22 January 2024.

AHC/012/2023: DIGI HUB REPORT - EAST BORDER REGION APPLICATION TO 2.4 PEACEPLUS: SMART TOWNS AND VILLAGES

Read: Report dated 19 February 2024 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding Digi Hub. **(Copy circulated)**

In response for clarification from Councillor D Murphy as to what a Digi Hub entailed, Mrs Robb explained the purpose of a Digi Hib was to create mini ICT provision within existing community centres. She gave some examples being looked at by other Councils including the creation of hot desks where local businesses could avail of IT facilities or where a building could be furnished to run training courses with the provision of necessary computer and technology.

Mrs Robb advised it was to increase skills within the community and could be designed to meet the needs of whatever was required within local communities.

In response to a query from Councillor Lewis regarding inclusion for all of the District, Mrs Robb confirmed there was no restriction in terms of geographical area, however officers would be looking at buildings that were vacant or underutilised and identified as best fit.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor Lewis, to approve Council’s inclusion as a partner organisation in the East Border Region application to Peaceplus Under Investment Area 2.4

AHC/013/2024: EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST – LEASING OF COUNCIL LAND

Read: Report dated 19 February 2024 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport regarding expressions of interest for leasing of Council land at Playing Fields High Street, Bessbrook and at Carrigenagh Road, Kilkeel. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Lewis enquired if Council was retaining the use of changing rooms so that all clubs who were applying to use the different pitches could still use the facilities at those that were going out to lease.

Mr Tamati referred to the map attached to the report which showed the changing rooms were included in the lease arrangement. He stated the detail of that would be examined and if it did not allow other clubs to continue to utilise and book changing rooms, a report would be brought back separately in relation to playing fields at Carrigenagh Road, Kilkeel.

Mr Tamati in response for clarification from Councillor McMurray provided a brief overview of the process and criteria for the leasing of Council land.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mathers, seconded by Councillor Lewis, to approve to progress the playing fields at High Street, Bessbrook through the various stages of Council’s Sport and Leasing Policy and that a report be brought back to Committee in relation to the playing fields at Carrigenagh Road, Kilkeel.

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor D Murphy, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on items 11 to 14, 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 Magennis, seconded by Councillor O’Hare, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

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

AHC/014/2024: PROGRAMME DELIVERY PARTNER – PUBLIC TENDER

Read: Report dated 19 February 2024 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport regarding the annual Public Tender for a Programme Delivery Partner to assist with the delivery of both Outdoor Leisure and Indoor Leisure programme initiatives and classes ensuring service continuity.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor K Murphy, to approve the following:

- A Public Tender and appointment for up to 3 years for a Programme Delivery Partner for Leisure, subject to annual rates estimates provisions.
- The Business Case for this Public Tender as per appendix 1 and Councils Procurement Policy.

AHC/015/2024: FITNESS EQUIPMENT – SERVICING AND MAINTENANCE

Read: Report dated 19 February 2024 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport regarding the provision of Fitness Equipment Maintenance and Servicing.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mathers, seconded by Councillor Finn, to approve the additional spend for fitness equipment maintenance, parts, servicing and associated call out fees as outlined section 1.1 of the officer’s report.

FOR NOTING

AHC/016/2024: DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORUMS UPDATE

Read: Report dated 19 February 2024 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding an update on the District Electoral Area Forums. **(Copy circulated)**

In response for an update from Councillor Finn regarding an item under the Newry DEA Forum Action Sheet, Mrs Robb confirmed she would contact the Member directly.

Mrs Robb informed Members that with the appointment of the new Director, officers intended to meet with all DEA Councillors in order to address any specific issues they wished to raise and discuss utilising the DEA forum.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor O'Hare, to note the officer's report and the update on recent DEA activity and planned activity to be undertaken by the DEAs. It was also agreed to approve the actions in the Action Sheets attached for:

- The Mourne DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 23 January 2024.
- Newry DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Thursday 25 January 2024.
- Slieve Gullion DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Wednesday 31 January 2024.
- Crotlieve DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 6 February 2024.
- Rowallane DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Wednesday 7 February 2024.
- Downpatrick DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 13 February 2024.

AHC/017/2024: COMMUNITY COORDINATION HUB (CCH) UPDATE REPORT

Read: Report dated 19 February 2024 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding an update on the Community Coordination Hub. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor O'Hare, to note the report and approve the actions in the action sheet for the Community Coordination Hub Meeting held on Wednesday 17 January 2024.

AHC/018/2023: POLICING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (PCSP) AND DOWNPATRICK NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL PARTNERSHIP (NRP) REPORTS

Read: Report dated 19 February 2024 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding the Policing and Community Safety Partnership and Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership reports. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor O'Hare, to note the officer's report and the following:

- The Minutes of the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting held on Tuesday 28 November 2023, approved at the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting on Tuesday 30 January 2024.
- The Minutes of the Downpatrick NRP Meeting held on Tuesday 14 November 2023, approved at Downpatrick NRP Meeting on Wednesday 24 January 2024.
- The Downpatrick NRP Action Plan (updated November 2023), approved at Downpatrick NRP Meeting on Tuesday 14 November 2023.

AHC/019/2024: LIVING HIGH STREET FUNDING – DUNLEATH PARK

Read: Report dated 19 February 2024 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport regarding DfC Living High Street Funding for Dunleath Skate Park and Pump Track Project. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillors Magennis and Galbraith voiced support for the funding that had been secured.

Councillor Galbraith enquired if there was any update in relation to access from the cinema to which Mr Tamati advised he would follow up and revert directly to him on the matter. Mr Patterson advised updates would be best made available through the Downpatrick Regeneration Working Group.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor O'Hare, to note the contents of this report on the progression of DfC Living High Street Funding for the Dunleath Skate Park and Pump Track project.

AHC/020/2024: LIVING HIGH STREET FUNDING – NEWCASTLE

Read: Report dated 19 February 2024 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport regarding Living High Street Funding, Newcastle Centre, Meanwhile Use space. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor McMurray enquired if this would have positive effect on the wider Newcastle redevelopment to which Mr Patterson and Mr Tamati reiterated that there would future DEA meetings to allow Councillors further opportunity to discuss such projects moving forward.

Mr Patterson added that as proposals and business cases were progressed they would be brought to Committee for consideration and approval with such matters discussed at DEA level in the first instance.

In welcoming the funding for Newcastle Councillor Devlin thanked officers for their work in securing such funding.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor O'Hare, to note the contents of this report and update in relation to DfC Living High Street Funding for the Newcastle Centre – Meanwhile Use Space project as per section 4.1 of the officer's report.

AHC/021/2024: **NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL SPORTS AWARDS**

Read: Report dated 19 February 2024 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport regarding the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Sports Awards planned for 15 March 2024 in the Slieve Donard Hotel, Newcastle. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor O'Hare, to note the contents of this report and update in relation to the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Sports Awards.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 6.40pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 4 March 2024.

Signed: Councillor Howell
Chairperson

Signed: Andrew Patterson
Director Active and Healthy Communities, Leisure and Sport