

**NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Ref: AHC/2024

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**Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on  
Monday 20 May 2024 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room,  
Downshire Civic Centre**

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**Chairperson:** Councillor R Howell (Chamber)

**In attendance in Chamber:** Councillor D Finn                      Councillor A Finnegan  
Councillor C Galbraith                      Councillor M Gibbons  
Councillor J Jackson                      Councillor D Lee-Surginor  
Councillor O Magennis                      Councillor A Mathers  
Councillor S O'Hare

**Non-Committee Members**

**in Attendance in Chamber:** Councillor T Andrews

**Officials in Chamber:** Mr A Patterson, Director, Active and Healthy Communities  
Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development  
Mr A Beggs, Head of Evidence and Research, Community  
Planning and Performance  
Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer  
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)

**Also in attendance in Chamber:** Mr N McCrickard and Ms R McDonnell, Strategic Stakeholder  
Forum

**AHC/041/2024:                      APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Devlin, Lewis, D Murphy and S Murphy.

There were no Chairperson's remarks.

**AHC/042/2024:                      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**AHC/043/2024: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 22 APRIL 2024**

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

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor O'Hare, seconded by Councillor Finn, to note the Action Sheet of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 22 April 2024.**

**AHC/044/2023: THE STRATEGIC STAKEHOLDER FORUM: PARTNERING WITH CV SECTOR TO ACHIEVE BETTER OUTCOMES**

The Chairperson welcomed Mr N McCrickard and Ms R McDonnell from the Strategic Stakeholder Forum to the meeting and invited them to make their presentation. (Copy attached to these minutes)

The Chairperson thanked the representatives for their presentation and commended the work undertaken by the Forum with reference made to the fantastic community response during Covid. In referring to the work carried out regarding social prescribing within the community she highlighted the need for it to be built upon.

The Chairperson invited questions and comments from Members:

- The work of the Strategic Stakeholder Forum was commended with reference made to all that was being undertaken within DEAs including the Social Supermarket in Newry.
- The services provided by the Forum helped so many particularly those living in rural areas.
- How could Councillors assist particularly in terms of social prescribing to encourage people within communities to take part?

The delegation responded as follows:

- Members were encouraged to contact representatives of the Strategic Stakeholder Forum at any time.
- Multi-Disciplinary teams being rolled out by the Department of Health were a version of social prescribing undertaken within the community and voluntary sector and required merging over the next number of years to make it more accessible for people with less barriers.
- There was a need for a solid programme budget for the hiring of local clubs and facilities for example and to enable Partner Agencies to come and meet people within their own locations.
- Members should continue to encourage the Department of Health to involve community and voluntary groups more with the provision of funding for programming for the sector.

- The multi-disciplinary teams being rolled out are included within the Programme for Government and so far the model had almost excluded the voluntary and community sector which was a failure.
- There was a need for funding to be redirected to the community and voluntary sector to enable more to be done for the health system at a local level within communities.

Councillor Finnegan proposed Council write to the Minister for Health and the Minister for Communities with a call to make budget available for the projects being delivered by the community and voluntary sectors. Councillor Magennis seconded the proposal.

Councillor Finn proposed that Council write to the Minister of Finance also.

Councillor Finnegan agreed to accept Councillor Finn's proposal.

**AGREED:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Finnegan, seconded by Councillor Magennis that Council write to the Ministers for Health, Communities and Finance to make budget available for the projects being delivered by the community and voluntary sectors.**

**AHC/045/2023: DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORUMS UPDATE REPORT**

Read: Report dated 20 May 2024 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding an update on District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums. **(Copy circulated)**

In referring to the Funding Fair held on 24 April 2024 Councillor Magennis welcomed that a Sporting Funding Information Session had been arranged for the Newry and Downpatrick area.

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

- Slieve Croob DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 23 April 2024.
- Rowallane DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Thursday 16 May 2024.

**AHC/046/2023: COMMUNITY COORDINATION HUB (CCH) UPDATE REPORT**

Read: Report dated 20 May 2024 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding an update on Community Coordination Hub. **(Copy circulated)**

In response to Councillor Lee-Surginor querying if the Executive Office had been contacted about lack of information for funding for refugees and asylum seekers, Mrs Robb advised

officers attended a number of meetings, both at an operational and strategic level and sought to reinforce the need for funding at those. A formal approach had not been made to date as officers were awaiting confirmation of the final budget.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor, to note the report and approve the actions in the action sheet attached for the Community Coordination Hub Meeting held on Wednesday 17 April 2024.

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

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Mathers, seconded by Councillor O'Hare, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on items 6 to 8, 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 Mathers, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

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

**AHC/047/2024:** **ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES SERVICE DELIVERY PARTNER**

**Read:** Report dated 20 May 2024 from Mr A Patterson, Director of Active and Healthy Communities regarding Active and Healthy Communities Service Delivery Partner. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor Galbraith, to approve the extension of the current service provider as set out within the officer's report to ensure service delivery.

**AHC/048/2024: MARKETING AND DESIGN SERVICES**

Read: Report dated 20 May 2024 from Mr A Patterson, Director of Active and Healthy Communities regarding Active and Healthy Communities Service Delivery Partner. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor, to approve the business case and appointment of a supplier via public procurement for marketing and design services for the AHC Directorate as detailed within the officer's report.**

**AHC/049/2024: MULTI SPORTS HUB**

Report: Report dated 20 May 2024 from Mr A Patterson, Director of Active and Healthy Communities regarding Multi Sports Hub.

**Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mathers, seconded by Councillor Finn to approve the business case and appointment of an ICT utilising Council's current framework to advance the potential sports hub project as detailed with the officer's report.**

The Chairperson pointed out that this was her last meeting as Chair of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee and thanked Members and Officers for their support.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 6.48pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 3 June 2024.

Signed: Councillor Howell  
Chairperson

Signed: Andrew Patterson  
Director Active and Healthy Communities



# Strategic Stakeholder Forum: Partnering with the CV sector to achieve better outcomes

Nicholas McCrickard & Rosemarie McDonnell: SSF Chairs

AHC Briefing

## Introduction and background

### Our Vision:

“ To co-ordinate, communicate and engage with the priorities of the voluntary and community sector on community planning and other wider issues for the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area on an ongoing basis.”

- Formed in 2016
- 28 umbrella Community Voluntary organisations
- Set up to involve community involvement at all local levels
- Representatives on CP working groups and all DEA Forums
- Chair of Community Planning Partnership board
- Anchor organisations with proven track record over many years and embedded within and trusted by local community



## SSF Members

MyMy	Southern Aging Well partnership	KDA	Kilkeel DA	WAAD	Bolster
Down BC	Volunteer Now	Clanrye	Action for Children	CDHN	Clanrye
MHT	Farm Garden	CDRCN	nmd community growers	DCT	CCG
Advice NMD	PiPS hope&support	NMD Comm Transport	NMD Enterprise Agency	Rural Health Partner	Altnaveigh House
	NMD Comm Growers	RHPSA	Ballynahinch Counselling	Harmony Community trust	

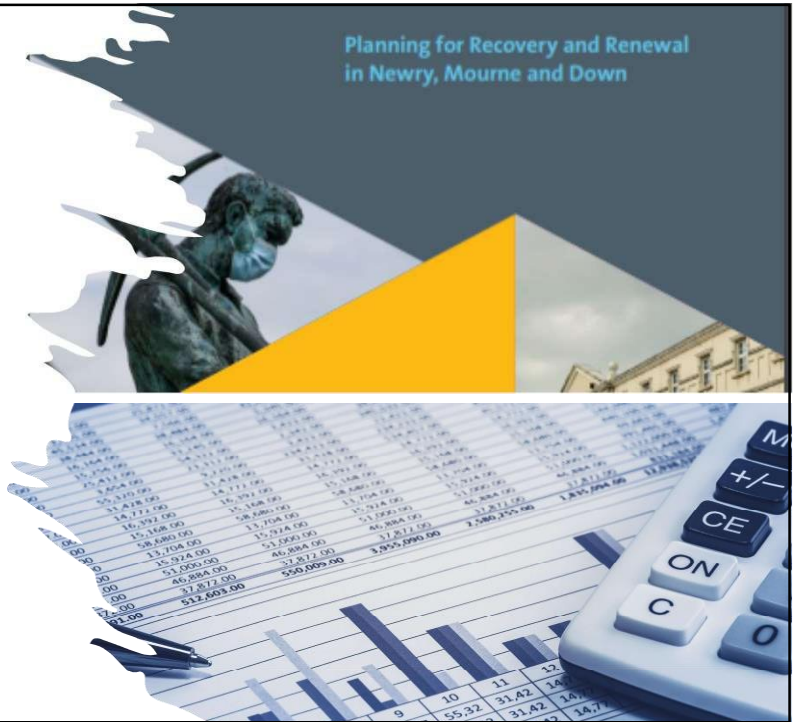
## Covid Response and Cost of Living Crises

- Through the Community Co-ordination hub, SSF co-ordinated local food box distribution, advice and sign posting
- 18,407 food boxes distributed
- £76,143.91 of funding distributed using trusted partners scheme
- Hardship Fund EOI Scheme
- Addressing Digital Poverty
- Social Supermarket – set up across NMD in 2023
- Recovery and Renewal Publication – Gaining traction with DfC
- Social Prescribing – 6 year project – May lead to a Pilot in South East (majority of GP patients do not need a tablet)



## Challenges

- Unprecedented demands for our services
- Falling Income and rising costs
- Budget & funding Cuts
- Sustainability & Full cost recovery almost impossible to achieve
- Uncertain job prospects in C&V sector makes recruitment problematic
- Increasing mental health issues in the population



## Opportunities

- Trust and good relations across the C&V sector and with Statutory partners (esp in NMD)
- Quick response to emergent trends and public emergencies
- Flexible and skilled workforce available to meet local needs
- C&V sector can adapt more efficiently and at lower cost to public sector
- Can and does work collaboratively across Government and Councils
- DfC, DoH, Trusts and others appear willing to pilot projects and programmes with C&V to test a better way of working

