

**NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Ref: AHC/2024**

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**Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on  
Monday 16 December 2024 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room,  
Downshire Civic Centre**

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**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 100<sup>th</sup> 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:

<b>FOR:</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>AGAINST:</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>ABSTENTIONS:</b>	<b>0</b>

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