

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: AHC/2025

**Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on
Monday 27 January 2025 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room,
Downshire Civic Centre**

Chairperson: Councillor C Galbraith

**In attendance
in Chamber:**

Councillor L Devlin	Councillor D Finn
Councillor A Lewis	Councillor A Mathers
Councillor D Murphy	Councillor K Murphy
Councillor H Young	

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

Councillor M Gibbons Councillor O Magennis

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

Officials via Teams:

Mrs M Flynn, Head of Engagement (Acting)

AHC/001/2025: APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Finnegan, Howell, Jackson, Lee-Surginor and McEvoy.

The Chairperson took the opportunity to praise NIE engineers, Council staff and wider agencies including community and sports organisations for their continued efforts in supporting those impacted by the storm.

The Chairperson advised Financial Assistance was open for Call 1 and encouraged all eligible groups to reach out to DEA Officers if they required guidance.

AHC/002/2025: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

AHC/003/2025: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16 DECEMBER 2024

Read: Action sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 16 December 2024. **(Copy circulated)**.

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor D Murphy, to note the Action Sheet of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 16 December 2024.

AHC/004/2025: DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORUMS UPDATE REPORT

Read: Report dated 27 January 2025 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 Devlin, to note the report and approve the actions in the action sheets attached for:

- Newry DEA Forum Meeting held on 3 December 2024.
- Slieve Croob DEA Forum Meeting held on 10 December 2024.
- Downpatrick DEA Forum Meeting held on 10 December 2024.

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

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor K Murphy, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on items 5 to 7, 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 K Murphy, seconded by Councillor Finn, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

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

AHC/005/2025: RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR HIGH PERFORMANCE ATHLETES

Read: Report dated 27 January 2025 from Mr C Haughey, Assistant Director, Healthy Living, regarding recognition of achievement for high performance levels in sport, criteria and processing procedures. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor K Murphy, to approve the updated Criteria and Processing Procedures for the Sports Development: Recognition of Achievement for High Performance Levels in Sport.

AHC/006/2025: DIGI-HUB PROJECT

Read: Report dated 27 January 2025 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding East Border Region Application to 2.4 Peaceplus, small towns and villages, Mini Digi Hub Project. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor D Murphy, seconded by Councillor Mathers, that Council confirm the site for the funded project as detailed within the officer's report with the Managing Authority in order to secure the funding available.

AHC/007/2025: NMDDC GOOD RELATIONS ACTION PLAN 2025/26

Read: Report dated 27 January 2025 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding the draft NMDDC Good Relations Action Plan for 2025/26. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor K Murphy, seconded by Councillor Devlin, to note the officer's report and the attached draft of the NMDDC Good Relations Action Plan for 2025/26.

FOR NOTING

AHC/008/2025: SOCIAL INCLUSION UPDATE REPORT

Read: Report dated 27 January 2025 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding an update on the Council's ongoing social inclusion work, highlighting key developments and emerging issues. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Young took the opportunity to acknowledge and recognise the fantastic work of the Newry, Mourne and Down Ethnic Minority Support Centre.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor K Murphy, seconded by Councillor Finn, to note the officer's report.**

AHC/009/2025: ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS UPDATE REPORT

Read: Report dated 27 January 2025 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding an update on the Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Initiative. **(Copy circulated)**

In welcoming funding to help education on ending violence against women and girls, Councillor K Murphy enquired if activities under Tier 2 funding for more extensive and longer running projects and education courses and workshops would be provided to secondary schools.

Mrs Flynn responded by advising the financial assistance calls and grants were open to organisations to apply to Council for funding and in terms of work that might take place within youth groups, education centres and community settings would be dependent on the applications received.

Members were advised officers were working very closely with Women's Aid and other organisations to encourage applications and it was hoped that part of that would form the basis of an outreach programme into schools, youth groups and community groups.

Mrs Robb advised there was a bespoke event with the Education Authority planned for February and asked Members to encourage groups within the community to apply for funding.

Councillor Finn enquired about the amount of applications received by Council and what Councillors could do to ensure groups were aware of the availability of funding.

Mr Patterson confirmed funding opened on 13 January 2025 and that information sessions were being rolled out, he spoke of the importance of getting as much information out there as possible and working with Members as Elected Representatives was welcomed.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor K Murphy, seconded by Councillor Finn, to note the officer's report.**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 6.29pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 3 February 2025.

Signed: Councillor Galbraith
Chairperson

Signed: Andrew Patterson
Director Active and Healthy Communities