

## **NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Ref: AHC/2025**

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### **Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 17 February 2025 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 J Jackson
Councillor Lee-Surginor	Councillor A Mathers
Councillor D Murphy	Councillor K Murphy

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

Councillor R Howell	Councillor M Gibbons
Councillor A Lewis	Councillor H Young

**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

**Also in attendance:  
(via Teams)** Mr Tony Morrison, Otium Consultants

**AHC/010/2025: APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Finn, Magennis and McEvoy.

The Chairperson congratulated local Saul man Conor Hazard on an outstanding performance in nets against Liverpool in the FA Cup recently.

Congratulations were extended to Downpatrick and County Down Railway on their two awards at the Heritage Railway Association Awards which was very well deserved after the journey they had been on since the devastating floods in the town.

Newcastle's Unit T were congratulated on being crowned Regional Champions at the Live Here, Love Here Community Awards. They were recognised for their work in reducing isolation and promoting health and wellbeing through projects such as clean ups, recycling, community lunches and the Newcastle Community Fridge.

The Chairperson also congratulated runners up in the same category, Crossgar's Community Village Green for their efforts to improve the local village through planting flowers, installing picnic tables and securing funding for the Riverside Project.

**AHC/011/2025: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**AHC/012/2025: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 27 JANUARY 2025**

Read: Action sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 27 January 2025. **(Copy circulated)**.

Councillor Mathers read an extract from the Newry Reporter prior to the Christmas period that reported works would be completed in December with the recommissioning of the swimming pool hall, including the refilling of the pools taking approximately 4 weeks. He made reference to a meeting he and Daire Hughes MP had with the Chief Executive and Mr Patterson when it was stated that the works were on track for the pools to reopen mid-February and asked for an update.

Mr Patterson confirmed very good progress had been made over the last number of weeks on the work within the pool hall and reminded members that it was a very significant piece of work, essentially removing all tiles and screed back to the concrete substructure within the main pool hall. Significant work had also been undertaken in the village changing area.

Members were advised the majority of those works had been completed and the pools were being recommissioned with the main pool refilled and heated and the learner pool to be filled by the end of the week.

Mr Patterson acknowledged the frustration of the public and stated that Council had to be cognisant of final safety checks and the importance of ensuring works were delivered to the highest quality standards. Mr Patterson confirmed updates would be issued later in the week.

Mr Patterson advised he invited Councillors to visit the site if they wished to have a look around and see the progress with the work themselves.

Councillor Mathers thanked Mr Patterson for the update advising that he was being contacted daily by members of the public and there was a need to ensure communication was provided to the public.

Mr Patterson reiterated the need for pool safety checks and protocols being in place and confirmed there were more meetings with contractors that week.

**AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mathers, seconded by Councillor K Murphy, to note the Action Sheet of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 27 January 2025.**

**AHC/013/2025: PRESENTATION: PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND WELLBEING STRATEGY**

The Chairperson welcomed Mr Tony Morrison from Otium Consultants to the Committee Meeting and invited him to deliver his presentation.

Mr Morrison took Members through a presentation entitled 'Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, Be Active Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2025-2030' (Copy attached to these minutes).

Members were advised the aim of the presentation was to give a flavour of the document that had been prepared for Council and its importance with the potential to make a difference in everybody's lives, not only people who were currently active, but more importantly, people who were probably not currently active enough.

The Chairperson thanked Mr Morrison for the presentation and invited questions and comments from Members with the following points raised:

- There were a superb variety of sporting clubs and activities that were run by the Council as well but there was always the need to do more.
- The need for the Be Active Sport and Physical Activity Strategy to be taken in tandem with the Sports Facility Strategy.
- The references made to female participation in sports was welcomed. This had been acknowledged within the District and there was a need to keep a focus on that and encourage it, particularly as data showed an increase in women in sports with leaderships roles and how that equated to success in working life and confidence.
- In relation to the Community Survey and the response of 600, was that an open call for information or targeted to certain people?
- It was felt there were more than the 20% figure of inactive people within the wider population.
- Reference was made to the figure of 27% for jogging and running and how a few months ago a Notice of Motion had been tabled at Council regarding the need for a running track. The survey underpinned that it was the backbone of most physical activity right across the District particularly with high female participation in running clubs locally and an update would be very welcome on progress of a track.
- In terms of the Education Survey, it was encouraging to see that more schools were open to arrangements for use of facilities outside of curriculum activities with Assumption Grammar School and Shimna College mentioned as examples.
- There was a need for more schools to come onboard as they were publicly funded facilities and usage should be maximised.
- Reference was made to Tollymore United and how they had accessed financial assistance for the delivery of Summer Sports Camps. The importance of these types of schemes was acknowledged.
- The importance of Sports Association Newry, Down and South Armagh (SANDSA) was raised and it was asked what was the role of SANDSA going forward.

Mr Morrison responded with the following key points:

- The Community Survey was an online survey which Council had been instrumental in helping with by pushing it through social media platforms, to sports clubs etc. There had been several repeated calls within the survey period, which was approximately 6 weeks to maximise the returns received from that.
- It was felt 600 was a very good level of response to a Community Survey knowing that there were many Community Surveys out there.

- One action was to review the future role and function of SANDSA with the view of developing a Sports Forum for the district.
- In terms of what the Council was doing in the longer term, there was much more potential in schools, particularly schools that currently had facilities that were underused by the public outside of curriculum time or not used at all.
- Several challenges for schools were highlighted in the provision for their facilities for community use, including management, insurance, etc. More work was needed to engage with schools to present the options and benefits of shared-use of facilities.
- Reference was made to case studies throughout the report and how they demonstrated the local benefits, whether it was a summer sports camp, financial grants, people attending the Be Active for Life programmes, etc. These emphasised the importance of Council's work and the input that Council had to people's lives and the potential to make a difference.

**AHC/014/2025: SPORT, PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND WELLBEING STRATEGY**

Read: Report dated 17 February 2025 from Mr C Haughey, Assistant Director Healthy Living regarding Council's new Physical Activity and Wellbeing Strategy 2025-30. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor D Murphy, seconded by Councillor Devlin, to approve the adoption and launch of the Physical Activity and Wellbeing Strategy 2025-30.**

**AHC/015/2025: DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORUMS UPDATE REPORT**

Read: Report dated 17 February 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:**

- **Slieve Gullion DEA Forum Private Meeting held on 14 January 2025.**
- **Mournes DEA Forum Private Forum Meeting held on 21 January 2025.**
- **Rowallane DEA Private Forum Meeting held on 30 January 2025.**

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

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor K Murphy, seconded by Councillor Mathers, 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 Jackson, seconded by Councillor Devlin, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

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

**AHC/016/2025: BE ACTIVE PROGRAMME**

Read: Report dated 17 February 2025 from Mr C Haughey, Assistant Director, Healthy Living, regarding the public tender for a Programme Delivery Partner for leisure programme initiatives and classes. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor D Murphy, seconded by Councillor K Murphy, to approve business case and appointment of a suitable supplier through a public procurement process for a Programme Delivery Partner as outlined within the officer's report.

**AHC/017/2025: FUEL POVERTY STRATEGY NI**

Read: Report dated 17 February 2025 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding a response in relation to the Consultation on a new Fuel Poverty Strategy for Northern Ireland. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor D Murphy, to approve the attached response within the officer's report be submitted to the Department for Communities on behalf of Council.

**FOR NOTING**

**AHC/018/2025: POLICING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (PCSP) & NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL PARTNERSHIP (NRP) REPORT**

Read: Report dated 17 February 2025 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 K Murphy, seconded by Councillor Jackson, to note the report and the following:**

- **Minutes of the Policing Committee & PCSP held on 26 November 2024, approved at the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting on 28 January 2025.**
- **Minutes of the Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Meeting held on 20 November 2024, approved at the Newry NRP Meeting held on 15 January 2025.**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 6.52pm.

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

Signed: Councillor Galbraith  
Chairperson

Signed: Andrew Patterson  
Director Active and Healthy Communities

*Newry, Mourne and Down District Council*

**Be Active**

**Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2025-2030**

**A Summary Presentation**

**Monday 17 February 2025**

### ***Be Active - Rationale***

Be Active has sprung from the clear message that participation in physical activity and sport leads to significant health and wellbeing benefits. This message is found in every strategic approach put forward by government and its agencies.



## *Be Active – The Picture*



The Council - facilities and services.



Sports Clubs - extent of; volunteers; support.



Community Survey - level and type of activity; motivation.



Education Survey - partnership, community use and barriers.



Activity Providers' Survey - partnership, locations.



Living Longer - case studies, benefits of being more active.

## *Be Active – Vision, Objectives, Themes*

Vision	Objectives	Themes
Being active is a lifestyle choice for everyone in Newry, Mourne and Down.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Activity and Sport</li> <li>▪ Active Lifestyle</li> <li>▪ Programme Support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community</li> <li>• Sports Providers</li> <li>• Partnerships</li> <li>• Telling Everyone</li> </ul>



## Objectives

<b>Fitness</b>	<b>Lifestyle</b>	<b>Support</b>
<b>Activity and Sport</b>	<b>Active Lifestyle</b>	<b>Programme Support</b>
Activities and sports suited to all ages and abilities for fun, fitness and competition.	Organisations working together to promote active lifestyles and deliver programmes in partnership.	Supporting the district's sports clubs and activity providers in delivering activity programmes that suit everyone's needs.

## Theme 1 – Community

### 5 strategic actions

#### Rationale

Encouraging individuals, families and community groups to take responsibility for their own physical activity and wellbeing profile, especially thinking of those who are less active than others.



#### Outcome

More people enjoying physical activity and sport at the level of their choosing and making it a lifestyle choice.

## ***Theme 2 – Sports Providers***

### ***5 strategic actions***

#### **Rationale**

A focus on the district's sports clubs and activity providers, encouraging them to embrace physical activity and wellbeing alongside their primary sport.



#### **Outcome**

Sports clubs and activity providers welcome the whole community and promote athletes and officials development at all levels of participation.

## ***Theme 3 – Partnerships***

### ***3 strategic actions***

#### **Rationale**

Working together to make the best use of resources and influence more people to adopt active lifestyles, especially people who are mostly sedentary.



#### **Outcome**

Shared responsibility and commitment by stakeholder organisations.

## *Theme 4 – Telling Everyone*

### *3 strategic actions*

#### **Rationale**

With the help of role models and effective marketing we need to constantly put the benefits of an active lifestyle in front of everyone in such a way that they decide to have a go and keep at it.



#### **Outcome**

Everyone knows about the opportunities for participation in sport and physical activity.