



December 31st, 2019

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Council meeting to be held on **Monday, 6th January 2020** at **6:00 pm** in **Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre.**

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 2 December 2019

 [Action Sheet from Council Mtg 02.12.2019.pdf](#)

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Council Minutes For Adoption and Signing

4.0 Minutes of Council Meeting held on 2 December 2019

 [Council Minutes-02.12.2019.pdf](#)

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Committee Minutes for Consideration and Adoption

5.0 Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 9 December 2019

 [ERT Minutes 09 December 2019.pdf](#)

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6.0 Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 19 December 2019

 [SPR Minutes -19 December 2019.pdf](#)

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7.0 Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 16 December 2019

 [Active and Healthy Communities Committee Minutes 16 December 2019.pdf](#)

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8.0 Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 17 December 2019

 [NS Minutes - 17 December 2019.pdf](#)

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9.0 Extract of Minutes of Planning Committee Meeting held on 11 December 2019

- Local Development Plan Steering Group Terms of Reference: Amendment
- Representation Response to Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council's Local Development Plan 2032 - Draft Plan Strategy


Correspondence

10.0 Correspondence dated 15 November 2019 from St Louis Grammar School, Kilkeel re Application for New Build

 *Correspondence from St Louis Grammar School Kilkeel Application for ne ... d.pdf*


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11.0 Correspondence dated 4 December 2019 from Mid Ulster District Council re Motion: C/186/2019 Location of Welfare Appeals

 *Correspondence from Mid Ulster DC re C.186.2019 - Location of Welfare ... s.pdf*

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12.0 Correspondence dated 10 December from R Pengelly re Motion: C/182/2019 Early Diagnosis of Bowel and Breast Cancer Notice of Motion

 *Correspondence from R Pengelly re C.182.2019 Motion - Early Diagnosis ... n.pdf*

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13.0 Correspondence dated 19 December 2019 from Northern Ireland Water re Wastewater Infrastructure crisis

 *NI Water - Wastewater Infrastructure Crisis - Newry, Mourne and Down D ... l.pdf*

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14.0 Correspondence dated 23 December from R Pengelly re: C/187/2019 Soft Opt Out Organ Donation Legislation

 *Correspondence from R Pengelly re C.187.2019 - Opt Out Organ Donation.pdf*

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Notices of Motion

15.0 Notice of Motion - Brown Bin Biodegradable Bags

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Owen:

“This Council will maximise food waste collection contributing to our recycling targets and reduction of our carbon footprint by simplifying its biodegradable bag delivery system to residents.”

16.0 Notice of Motion - Rural Development Funding

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Mason:

"This Council recognises the transformational impact that rural development funding has had on many of our local rural communities throughout the district; notes the negative impact that the loss of this funding opportunity will have for many isolated rural communities who would have availed of such funding opportunities; and therefore agrees to source ways in which this Council can continue to help invest in our rural communities".

ACTIONS OUTSTANDING FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETINGS

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/178/2019	Notice of Motion – C/131/2019: Live Animals in Circuses	At the request of Councillor McAteer it was agreed the motion remain on the action sheet.	Democratic Services		N

ACTION SHEET – COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY 2 DECEMBER 2019

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/190/2019	Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 4.11.2019	The action sheet was agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Actioned	
C/191/2019	Minutes of Council Meeting held on 7.11.2019	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Actioned	
C/192/2019	Minutes of Special Council Meeting held 25.11.2019	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Actioned	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/193/2019	Minutes of ERT Committee Meeting held on 11.11.2019	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Actioned	
C/194/2019	Minutes of SPR Committee Meeting held on 14.11.2019	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Actioned	
C/195/2019	Minutes of AHC Committee Meeting held on 18.11.2019	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Actioned	
C/196/2019	Minutes of NS Committee Meeting held on 20.11.2019	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Actioned	
C/198/2019	Correspondence from NAC Councillors UK Meetings	The correspondence was noted.	Democratic Services	Actioned	
C/199/2019	Correspondence from HM Revenue re Motion C/163/2019 – ATM Charges	The correspondence was noted.	Democratic Services	Actioned	
C/200/2019	Correspondence from NIO re Motion C/153/2019 –	The correspondence was noted.	Democratic Services	Actioned	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
	Equal protection for children				
C/201/2019	Correspondence from Causeway Coast & Glens B.C. re Motion C/160/2019 - Early diagnosis of bowel & breast cancer	The correspondence was noted.	Democratic Services	Actioned	
C/202/2019	Correspondence from DoJ re Motion C/183/2019- Attacks on Places of Worship	The correspondence was noted.	Democratic Services	Actioned	
C/203/2019	Housing Council Bulletin – Nov 2019	Noted	Democratic Services	Actioned	
C/204/2019	Appointment of Cllrs to the Board of Warrenpoint Harbour Authority	2 x SF – Cllrs Kimmins & Doran 2 x SDLP – Cllrs McKeivitt & McAteer 1 x DUP – Cllr Hanna 1 x UUP – Cllr McKee	Democratic Services.	Actioned	
C/205/2019	Extension to the term of appointment for members of the	Noted	Democratic Services.	Actioned	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
	Drainage Council for N.I.				
C/206/2019	Correspondence from DfC re Motion C/186/2019	The correspondence was noted.	Democratic Services	Actioned	
C/207/2019	Notice of Motion – Transport to Hospitals	<p>“This Council notes the extra challenges people in rural areas have in accessing hospital services vital to their health and well-being.</p> <p>This Council will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convene a meeting of Councillors, local Community transport providers and the Health trust to develop an action plan for rural areas in NM&D. • promote present support for people in rural areas and the new action plan in our own communications.” 	M Lipsett	The Motion was referred to the Health Working Group in Feb 2020 in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.	
C/208/2019	Notice of Motion – Support for Health & Social Care Workers	“This Council supports the overwhelming response from Royal College of Nurses’ (RCN) ballot in favour of industrial action; and the decision of other Health and Social Care (HSC) Trade Unions-including UNISON and NIPSA- decision to ballot members for industrial action.	M Lipsett	The Motion was referred to the Health Working Group in Feb 2020 in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<p>Health and Social Care workers are the systems greatest assets and they are entitled to fair pay and conditions.</p> <p>Over 7,000 non-medical vacancies - including 3,000 nursing post vacancies - that currently exist within the HSC system are having a detrimental impact upon patient care and adding enormous pressure to the existing HSC workforce, who are doing everything they can to care for patients. Health and social care workers are taking action as they are no longer willing to see patients being denied the care to which they are entitled.</p> <p>We call on the Permanent Secretary for Health to engage respectfully and meaningfully with Trade Union representatives on a pay deal.</p> <p>Furthermore, we call on this council to convene an all-party meeting with the Trade Unions representing Health and Social Care Staff to hear directly the challenges they are facing and take such action to support staff and patient care at this time".</p>			

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/209/2019	Notice of Motion – Fire & Rescue Budget	Council contact Mr Pengelly, Permanent Secretary, and ask all other Councils in the North to do likewise, to address the significant shortfall on the proposed budget for the fire and rescue service. The continuing cutting of budgets has left lifesaving services at a critical level. We also call on Mr Pengelly to look again at expanding and sharing emergency services and cover especially in rural areas.	Democratic Services	Letters sent	
C/210/2019	Notice of Motion – Reduction in Car Parking Fees	"As the Council members are aware, the retail sector are currently facing very difficult times due to falling sales, internet competition, Brexit and many other difficulties. Many high street household names both nationally or locally have gone or are going into liquidation. Even at this late stage I believe the Council should consider reducing car parking fees in our District Council area, in an effort to increase the footfall in our city and towns in the run up to Christmas. I firmly believe this gesture would be welcomed by our retailers and provide a much welcomed boost during very difficult times".	C Mallon	The Motion was referred to the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.	
C/211/2019	Notice of Motion – Elections	"That this Council supports the proposition to change in law the current practice and tradition of holding all elections whether Council, Assembly,	Democratic Services	Letter sent	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		Parliamentary or European on Thursdays, and further proposes to hold elections on Saturdays". Council write to the Secretary of State			
END					

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**NMD/C/**

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 2 December 2019 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick

In the Chair: Councillor C Casey

In attendance:	Councillor T Andrews	Councillor P Brown
	Councillor R Burgess	Councillor P Byrne
	Councillor W Clarke	Councillor S Doran
	Councillor C Enright	Councillor H Gallagher
	Councillor M Gibbons	Councillor O Hanlon
	Councillor G Hanna	Councillor V Harte
	Councillor T Hearty	Councillor R Howell
	Councillor M Larkin	Councillor A Lewis
	Councillor O Magennis	Councillor G Malone
	Councillor C Mason	Councillor D McAteer
	Councillor L McEvoy	Councillor H McKee
	Councillor K McKeivitt	Councillor A McMurray
	Councillor K Owen	Councillor G O'Hare
	Councillor B Ó Muirí	Councillor H Reilly
	Councillor M Ruane	Councillor G Sharvin
	Councillor G Stokes	Councillor D Taylor
	Councillor J Tinnelly	Councillor B Walker

(Officials)

Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
 Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
 Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities
 Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism
 Mr R Moore, Director of Neighbourhood Services
 Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
 Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer

C/188/2019**APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Curran, Devlin, Kimmins, Mulgrew, Savage and Trainor.

The Chairperson extended condolences of Council to Councillor Mulgrew on the recent passing of her mother, Mrs Philomena Evans and to the family of Abbie Nummy who tragically died following an accident near home.

The Chairperson congratulated Kilcoo GAC on winning the Ulster Senior Football Final.

C/189/2019 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Andrews, Burgess and Casey declared an interest in item 11 – National Association of Councillors.

Councillor Enright declared an interest in item 22 – Notice of Motion – Fire and Rescue Service.

C/190/2019 ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4 NOVEMBER 2019

Read: Action sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 4 November 2019 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 4 November 2019 was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hearty, seconded by Councillor McEvoy.**

COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING**C/191/2019 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4 NOVEMBER 2019**

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 4 November 2019 (copy circulated).

C/172/2019 Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 17 October 2019

In response to a query from Councillor Stokes Mr Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities confirmed a meeting of the Albert Basin Task and Finish Working Group had taken place. Consultants were to be appointed to carry out consultation on what people wanted to see in the park and that work was due to commence January/February 2020.

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 4 November 2019 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Hanna.**

C/192/2019 MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 25 NOVEMBER 2019

Read: Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 25 November 2019 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 25 November 2019 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor McAteer.**

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION**C/193/2019 MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 11 NOVEMBER 2019**

Read: Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 11 November 2019 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 11 November 2019 were agreed as an accurate record, on the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Reilly.**

ERT/179/2019 Visitor Servicing Review

In response to Councillors Enright, Reilly and Walker the Chief Executive highlighted the matter was discussed in closed session and related to exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 3 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).

The Chief Executive reiterated there was no proposal to close the Visitor Centre in Downpatrick and the Visitor Servicing Review would be discussed further at the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting in December.

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 11 November 2019 were adopted, on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Hanna.**

**C/194/2019 MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 14 NOVEMBER 2019**

Read: Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 14 November 2019 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Strategy Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 14 November 2019 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Doran.**

**C/195/2019 MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18 NOVEMBER 2019**

Read: Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 18 November 2019 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 18 November 2019 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Doran, seconded by Councillor McEvoy.**

C/196/2019 **MINUTES OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 NOVEMBER 2019**

Read: Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 20 November 2019 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 20 November 2019 were agreed as an accurate record, on the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Stokes.**

NS/069/2019 Action Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 19 September 2019

A lengthy discussion ensued during which Councillors Doran, McKee & Andrews expressed their disappointment at the Christmas tree in Killeel.

Councillor Lewis also highlighted the disappointment of residents of Spa not receiving a Christmas tree as had been promised from an Elected Representative outside of the District, and proposed that Council supply a tree to Spa residents for this coming Christmas and he would work with residents to ensure they follow the process for erection of a tree next year. This was seconded by Councillor Taylor.

Mr Moore, Director of Neighbourhood Services reminded Members that Council had a policy for the allocation of Christmas trees and that the Christmas Illuminations and Celebrations Working Group had been established to deal with such matters. Members were advised that Council chose to approve Councillor Lewis's proposal it would be outside of the existing policy and the Financial Assistance Scheme.

The Chairman put the proposal to a vote, the results of which were as follows:

FOR:	11
AGAINST:	22
ABSTAIN:	2

The proposal was LOST.

In response to queries from Members Mr Moore, Director of Neighbourhood Services advised of the following:

- Noted request for CCTV signage regarding dumping on the Carrick Road, Burren
- Noted request for labelling bins for dog fouling in Warrenpoint centre and would examine levels of enforcement in Warrenpoint.
- Examine security lighting at the amenity site on Chapel Road, Newry for road safety reasons.
- There was a Council Enforcement Action Plan already in place – discuss with the Committee Chairperson points raised in relation to target setting for enforcement.
- Killeel to receive a 9m Christmas tree within a week.
- A plan in place to introduce a permit system for householders with commercial vehicles so not to exclude them from household recycling centres.
- Notice of Motion – Glyphosate – A report to be brought to Committee before the next spraying season.
- The next meeting of the Christmas Illuminations and Celebrations Working Group was scheduled for February 2020 and it would examine this year's work, any lessons learned and ways to improve going forward.
- A copy of Council's legislative requirements regarding fly tipping, including that of

tyres to be forwarded to Councillor Owen.

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 20 November 2019 were adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Owen, seconded by Councillor Hearty.**

C/197/2019 **EXTRACT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13 NOVEMBER 2019**

Read: Extract of Planning Committee Meeting held on 13 November 2019 (copy circulated).

Noted: **There were no issues referred from the Planning Committee Meeting held on 13 November 2019.**

CORRESPONDENCE AND CONFERENCES

Councillor Burgess left the chamber for the duration of the following item – 7.00pm

C/198/2019 **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS UK MEETINGS 2020**

Read: Correspondence dated 29 November 2019 from National Association of Councillors UK Meetings 2020. (Copy circulated)

The Chief Executive advised Members Councillor Burgess had been appointed to the National Association of Councillors' UK Executive Committee and Councillor Casey had been appointed as Vice Chair of the Executive Committee.

Members were asked to note the dates for the National Association of Councillors Meetings in 2020 and advised Officers would work with Councillors Burgess and Casey in relation to any potential arrangements for attendance at the National Association of Councillors events.

Noted: **The correspondence dated 29 November 2019 from the National Association of Councillors regarding dates for UK Meetings 2020 was noted on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Doran.**

C/199/2019 **ATM CHARGES**

Read: Correspondence dated 31 October 2019 from HM Revenue re Motion C/163/2019 – ATM Charges. (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The correspondence dated 31 October 2019 regarding Motion on ATM Charges was noted.**

C/200/2019 **EQUAL PROTECTION FOR CHILDREN**

Read: Correspondence dated 11 November 2019 from NIO re Motion C/153/2019 – Equal Protection for Children. (copy circulated)

Agreed: **The correspondence dated 11 November 2019 regarding the Motion on Equal Protection for Children was noted.**

C/201/2019 **EARLY DIAGNOSIS OF BOWEL AND BREAST CANCER**

Read: Correspondence dated 21 November 2019 from Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council re. Motion C/160/2019 - Early Diagnosis of Bowel and Breast Cancer. (copy circulated)

Agreed: **The correspondence dated 21 November 2019 regarding Early Diagnosis of Bowel and Breast Cancer was noted.**

C/202/2019 **ATTACKS ON PLACES OF WORSHIP**

Read: Correspondence dated 18 November 2019 from Department of Justice re Motion C/183/2019 - Attacks on Places of Worship. (copy circulated)

Agreed: **The correspondence dated 18 November 2019 regarding Attacks on Places of Worship was noted.**

C/203/2019 **HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN – NOVEMBER 2019**

Read: Housing Council Bulletin for November 2019. (copy circulated)

Agreed: **The Housing Council Bulletin for November 2019 was noted.**

C/204/2019 **APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILLORS TO THE BOARD OF WARRENPOINT HARBOUR AUTHORITY**

Read: Correspondence dated 31 October 2019 from Department of Infrastructure re: Appointment of Councillors to the Board of Warrenpoint Authority (WHA). (copy circulated)

The Chief Executive sought six nominations to be considered by the Permanent Secretary for the Department for Infrastructure (DFI), for the appointment to the Board of Warrenpoint Harbour Authority.

Councillor Taylor nominated Councillor McKee
 Councillor Walker nominated Councillor Hanna
 Councillor Byrne nominated Councillors McKeivitt and McAteer
 Councillor Tinnelly nominated Councillor Gibbons
 Councillor Brown nominated Councillor Tinnelly
 Councillor Gibbons nominated Councillor Tinnelly
 Councillor Clarke nominated Councillors Kimmins and Doran

The Chief Executive pointed out eight nominations had been forward and only six could be accepted. She advised the appointments were not positions of responsibility which would require D'hondt and that last term the nominations that were put forward were 2 Sinn Féin, 2

SDLP and 2 from the Unionist community.

Councillor Walker proposed nominations to the Board of Warrenpoint Harbour Authority be 2 Sinn Fein, 2 SDLP, 1 DUP and 1 UUP. This was seconded by Councillor Hanna.

The Chairman put the proposal to a vote, the results of which were as follows:

FOR: 29
AGAINST: 3

The proposal was CARRIED.

Councillors Brown, Gibbons and Tinnelly expressed their disappointment at not being given the opportunity to represent their local community on the Warrenpoint Harbour Authority.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Hanna for nominations to the Warrenpoint Harbour Authority 2 Sinn Fein, 2 SDLP and 1 DUP and 1 UUP.

Nominations were as follows:

2 Sinn Fein: Councillors Kimmins and Doran
2 SDLP: Councillors McKeivitt and McAteer
1 DUP: Councillor Hanna
1 UUP: Councillor McKee

Agreed: The correspondence dated 31 October 2019 regarding the appointment of Councillors to the Board of Warrenpoint Harbour Authority was noted.

C/205/2019 **EXTENSION TO THE TERM OF APPOINTMENT FOR MEMBERS OF THE DRAINAGE COUNCIL FOR NORTHERN IRELAND**

Read: Correspondence dated 12 November 2019 from the Department for Infrastructure regarding the extension to the term of appointment for members of the Drainage Council for Northern Ireland.

Agreed: The correspondence dated 12 November 2019 regarding the extension to the term of appointment for Councillor Enright's to the Drainage Council for Northern Ireland was noted on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Burgess.

C/206/2019 **THE USE OF COURTHOUSES FOR WELFARE TRIBUNAL HEARINGS**

Read: Correspondence dated 29 November 2019 from the Department for Communities regarding the use of courthouses for welfare tribunal hearings and regarding delays in hearing appeals.

Agreed: The correspondence dated 29 November 2019 regarding the use of courthouses for welfare tribunal hearings and regarding delays in hearing appeals was noted.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Ruane that this Council contact Mr Pengelly, Permanent Secretary, and ask all other Councils in the North to do likewise, to address the significant shortfall on the proposed budget for the fire and rescue service. The continuing cutting of budgets has left lifesaving services at a critical level. We also call on Mr Pengelly to look again at expanding and sharing emergency services and cover especially in rural areas.

C/210/2019: REDUCTION IN CAR PARKING FEES

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor Malone:

"As the Council members are aware, the retail sector are currently facing very difficult times due to falling sales, internet competition, Brexit and many other difficulties. Many high street household names both nationally or locally have gone or are going into liquidation. Even at this late stage I believe the Council should consider reducing car parking fees in our District Council area, in an effort to increase the footfall in our city and towns in the run up to Christmas. I firmly believe this gesture would be welcomed by our retailers and provide a much welcomed boost during very difficult times".

Councillor Gibbons seconded the Motion.

The Chairperson advised that in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6 the motion would be referred to the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee.

Agreed: The Motion was referred to the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.

C/211/2019: ELECTIONS

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor McAteer:

"That this Council supports the proposition to change in law the current practice and tradition of holding all elections whether Council, Assembly, Parliamentary or European on Thursdays, and further proposes to hold elections on Saturdays".

Councillor Andrews seconded the Motion.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor McAteer advised he had brought it forward on behalf of two groups: Cross border workers and families with children at primary school.

Councillor McAteer highlighted the following points:

- It was estimated there were between 30,000 - 35,000 cross border workers, many of whom left for work before polls opened and returned late at night.
- Families with working mothers were having to take time off work or find childcare.

- Many polling stations were primary schools, and this had an impact on families and schools.
- School closures should be avoided as there were costs to education and the economy.
- 35 other European countries held elections on Sundays.
- 5 other European countries held elections on Saturdays.
- Only UK held elections on Thursday, with 2 other countries holding elections mid-week.
- The forthcoming election was to be held on 12 December with 15 hours of polling, a third of which would be held in the dark.
- Recognise there may opposition to Sunday voting, therefore the motion proposed voting to be held on Saturday.

Councillor McAteer advised that should the motion be passed that Council write to the Secretary of that State.

A discussion ensued during which members raised the following points:

- Wider reform required with lowering the voting age, online voting, flexibility and voting education in schools.
- Online research from Chief Executive of Association of Electoral Administrators Mr John Turner stated that moving elections from a week day to a non-week day may encourage a few voters but only a few.
- Previous Governments had looked at similar proposal and had rejected it on the basis of cost and premises availability.
- There was an issue with election posters, a waste of time, money and space.

Councillor Taylor stated his party would abstain at this stage as the motion needed more exploration of consequences and what would be required.

Councillor Hanlon proposed that the motion be deferred for further debate in the future.

Councillor McAteer did not accept the amendment and asked that the motion be put.

The Chairman put the Councillor McAteer's motion to a vote, the results of which were as follows:

FOR:	9
AGAINST:	4
ABSTENTION:	19

The proposal was CARRIED.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.55pm.

Signed:

Chairman

Chief Executive

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting
held on Monday 09 December 2019 at 5.00pm in the Boardroom, District
Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry**

Chairperson: Councillor D Curran (Deputy Chairperson ERT)

In Attendance: **(Committee Members)**

Councillor T Andrews
Councillor R Burgess
Councillor W Clarke
Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor G Hanna
Councillor V Harte
Councillor M Larkin
Councillor D McAteer
Councillor A McMurray
Councillor H Reilly
Councillor M Ruane
Councillor G Stokes

Officials in Attendance: Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism
Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events
Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration
Mr A McKay Chief Planning Officer
Mr C Jackson Assistant Director Building Control & Regulation
Ms L Dillon Democratic Services Officer

ERT/189/2019: **APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Councillor R Mulgrew

The Deputy Chairperson of the ERT Committee, Councillor Curran, spoke of the sad news regarding the passing of Councillor Mulgrew's mother Phyliss Evans. He said this was a particularly difficult time for Councillor Mulgrew as she had recently lost

her husband and he asked the Committee to hold a minute's silence as a mark of respect to Councillor Mulgrew.

ERT/190/2019: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

**ERT/191/2019: ACTION SHEET
MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION &
TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING
- MONDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2019**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 11 November 2019. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 11 November 2019.

ENTERPRISE, EMPLOYMENT AND REGENERATION ITEMS

**ERT/192/2019: DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES
FUNDING : JANUARY – MARCH 2020**

Read: Report dated 09 December 2019 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration regarding Department for Communities funding application towards year end revenue and capital initiatives across the District. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Ruane it was agreed Council submit two Funding Applications and accept Letters of Offer from Department for Communities for £100,000 for regeneration and marketing initiatives.

It was also agreed that subject to receipt of funding from Department for Communities, progress be made to carry out the necessary procurement to have the agreed number of project elements completed.

ERT/193/2019: REPORT OF WARRENPOSIT FRONT SHORE

**PUBLIC REALM SCHEME
TASK AND FINISH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY 29 OCTOBER 2019**

Read: Report dated 09 December 2019 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration regarding the Warrenpoint Front Shore Public Realm Scheme Task and Finish Steering Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 29 October 2019.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed:

- (a) Council Officers meet with Council Framework Consultants to commission RIBA Stages 1-3 of the project.**
- (b) A site meeting of the Task & Finish Committee to be arranged once consultants in place.**
- (c) Council Officers to work closely with the Framework consultants once appointed, to produce a more accurate project programme.**
- (d) Council Officers and consultants to proceed with the Topographical GPR and other associated studies as part of the design process.**
- (e) All relevant Council departments, DFI sections and other statutory and Utility Groups to be liaised with.**
- (f) Phasing priorities of Existing Town Centre Frontage, Baths to Balmoral and then to Cole's Corner, to be further considered once concept stage costings are known.**
- (g) Council officers to ensure the DFI maintain good communications with the local community regarding the out workings of future studies into the concept of a one-way system.**

ERT/194/2019: MASTERPLANS: PRIORITY ACTION PLANS

Read: Report dated 09 December 2019 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration, providing an update regarding Priority Action Plans for the following Masterplans:
(Copy circulated)

- Newry City Master Plan
- Ballynahinch Master Plan
- Downpatrick Master Plan

- South East Coast Master Plan

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Burgess it was agreed to approve the updated content and actions outlined in Priority Action Plans for each of the following 4 No. Master Plans:

- Newry City Master Plan
- Ballynahinch Master Plan
- Downpatrick Master Plan
- South East Coast Master Plan

Noted: Officers confirmed that the Newcastle Centre project was led through the Active & Healthy Communities directorate but that it would be referred to in the South East Coast Master Plan.

Officers also confirmed that the Warrenpoint Seafront development would also be referred to within the South East Coast Master Plan.

BUILDING CONTROL & REGULATIONS

ERT/195/2019: BUILDING CONTROL NI FIRE SAFETY PANEL : ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Read: Report dated 09 December 2019 from Mr C Jackson Assistant Director Building Control & Regulation, regarding the Building Control NI Fire Safety Panel Annual Conference to be held 6-7 February 2020. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Reilly seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed to appoint 2 No. Building Control Officers to attend the Building Control NI Fire Safety Panel Annual Conference to be held 6-7 February 2020 in Armagh City Hotel at cost of £600.

Noted: Council Officials to update Councillor Andrews regarding the Council's participation in the forthcoming Holiday World Exhibitions.

TOURISM CULTURE & EVENTS

ERT/196/2019: **REQUEST FOR FUNDING**
WARRENPOINT PANTOMIME CLUB 70th ANNIVERSARY

Read: Report dated 09 December 2019 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding a request for a financial contribution towards Warrenpoint Pantomime Group in recognition of the groups 70th Anniversary. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Tinnelly referred to Warrenpoint Pantomime Club which he described as being an institution which has been bringing mid-winter entertainment to many people across the District over the past seven decades. He said in the Club's 70th Anniversary year they would like to stage a production to mark the occasion and he said it would be a fitting tribute if the Council would recognise Warrenpoint Pantomime Club and give consideration to this request for financial assistance.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Ruane it was agreed as follows:

- (a) Council will cover facility hire costs in sum of £3,500 for the Warrenpoint Pantomime Group show in 2020.**
- (b) The Chairperson of Council to host a reception in recognition of Warrenpoint Pantomime 70th Anniversary.**

ERT/197/2019: **MASTER PLAN**
DELAMONT COUNTRY PARK

Read: Report dated 09 December 2019 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding a Master Plan for Delamont Country Park. **(Copy circulated)**

Noted: In response to issues raised Officials confirmed proposals regarding charges at Forest Parks and plans for trail development, including mapping of boundaries, would be reported back to the ERT Committee in due course.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Burgess it was agreed as follows:

- (a) Council initiate implementing recommendations for the Delamont Country Park Master Plan, on a phased basis**

beginning with Trails and Interpretation improvements in 20/21, followed by other recommendations.

- (b) Council to pursue relevant funding opportunities to support implementation of the Delamont Country Park Master Plan.

**ERT/198/2019: MARKETING / PR SERVICES
PROMOTION OF TOURISM EVENT PROGRAMME**

Read: Report dated 09 December 2019 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding the procurement of a Marketing/PR service to promote the Council's Tourism Events Programme 2020/21. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to procure a suitable provider to supply a Marketing/PR service to promote the Council's Tourism Event Programme.

EXEMPT INFORMATION

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor Burgess it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the following matters which related to exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 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).

(5.25pm: Councillor Tinnelly left the meeting)

**ERT/199/2019: APPOINTMENT OF
FESTIVAL OF FLIGHT DIRECTOR**

Read: Report dated 09 December 2019 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding the continuation of a contract for Flying Display Director for the Festival of Flight 2020. **(Copy circulated)**

**ERT/200/2019: REVIEW OF DESIGNATED SITES
STREET TRADING**

Read: Report dated 09 December 2019 from Mr C Jackson Assistant Director Building Control & Regulation, regarding a review of designated sites for Street Trading. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to come out of closed session.

(5.39pm: Councillor Tinnelly re-joined the meeting)

When the Committee came out of closed session the Chairperson reported the following decisions:

**ERT/199/2019: Appointment of Flying Display Director
Festival of Flight 2020**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to continue the contract for Flying Display Director for Festival of Flight 2020 with an option to renew for Festival of Flight 2021 following procurement exercise, as previously agreed at the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 8 October 2018.

ERT/200/2019: Review of Designated Sites – Street Trading

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Reilly seconded by Councillor Ruane it was agreed to revoke 2 No. Street Trading Licences for hot food trading within the Newry Mourne & Down District. The Licences are to be revoked due to a breach of Licence conditions at the trading pitch in The Square, Warrenpoint.

NOTICE OF MOTION

ERT/201/2019: NOTICE OF MOTION

Noted: It was noted that the following Notion of Motion which had come forward for consideration in the name of Councillor G Malone, had been withdrawn:

“As the Council Members are aware, the retail sector are currently facing very

difficult times due to falling sales, internet competition, Brexit and many other difficulties. Many high street household names both nationally or locally have gone or are going into liquidation. Even at this late stage I believe the Council should consider reducing car parking fees in our District Council area, in an effort to increase the footfall in our city and towns in the run up to Christmas. I firmly believe this gesture would be welcomed by our retailers and provide a much welcomed boost during very difficult times.”

FOR NOTING

ERT/202/2019: UPDATE

RE: GATEWAY TO MOURNES PROJECT

Read: Report dated 09 December 2019 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events providing an update on the development of the Outline Business Case for the Mournes Gateway Project as part of the Belfast Region City Deal Programme.
(Copy circulated)

Noted: **It was agreed to note the update regarding the Mournes Gateway Project as part of the Belfast Region City Deal Programme.**

ERT/203/2019: ALBERT BASIN BOAT TOURS

Read: Report dated 09 December 2019 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding an updated request from Silvery Light Sailing to operate a three month trail series of day sailings on Albert Basin and Newry Canal commencing Spring 2020.
(Copy circulated)

Noted: **It was agreed to note the updated request from Silvery Light Sailing regarding boat tours at Albert Basin.**

ERT/204/2019: CASTLEWELLAN FOREST PARK TASK & FINISH GROUP

Read: Report dated 09 December 2019 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration, regarding ongoing actions of the Castlewellan Forest Park Task & Finish Project Board.
(Copy circulated)

Noted: It was agreed to note the update regarding ongoing action of the Castlewellan Forest Park Task & Finish Project Board.

ERT/205/2019: PLANNING PERFORMANCE FIGURES

Read: Planning Committee Performance figures for month of November 2019. **(Copy circulated)**

Noted: To note Planning Committee Performance figures for November 2019.

**ERT/206/2019: HISTORIC ACTION TRACKER
ENTERPRISE REGENERATION & TOURISM**

Read: Action Tracker Report for Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee. **(Copy circulated)**

Noted: To note the Historic Action Tracker Report for Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee.

ERT/207/2019: SCHEME OF DELEGATION

Read: Scheme of Delegation. **(Copy circulated)**

Noted: To note the Scheme of Delegation.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 5.40pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 6 January 2020.

Signed: Councillor D Curran

Chairperson of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee

Signed: Mr C Mallon

Director of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

29

Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 19 December 2019 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick

In the Chair: Councillor M Savage

In Attendance:

Councillor R Burgess	Councillor P Byrne
Councillor O Hanlon	Councillor R Howell
Councillor A Lewis	Councillor C Mason
Councillor A McMurray	Councillor B Ó Muirí
Councillor G Sharvin	Councillor J Tinnelly
Councillor W Walker	

Officials in Attendance: Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
 Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
 Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism
 Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director of Corporate Planning & Policy
 Mr J McBride, Assistant Director of Community Planning and Performance
 Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director of Corporate Services (HR & Safeguarding)
 Mr K Montgomery, Assistant Director of Finance
 Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director of Leisure & Sport
 Mr G Scott, Safeguarding Co-Ordinator
 Mrs L Moore, Head of Legal Administration
 Mr G Ringland, IT Manager
 Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
 Ms L O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer

SPR/168/2019: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Gallagher and Mulgrew and Mr Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities.

SPR/169/2019: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

SPR/170/2019: ACTION SHEET OF THE STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 14 NOVEMBER 2019

Read: Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 14 November 2019. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, it was agreed that the Action Sheet of 14 November 2019, be noted, and actions removed as marked.**

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE**SPR/171/2019 MID YEAR ASSESSMENT OF THE PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2019-20**

Read: Report dated 19 December 2019 from Mr J McBride, Assistant Director of Community Planning and Performance, regarding Mid Year Assessment of the Performance Improvement Plan 2019-20 **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, the Mid Year Assessment of the Performance Improvement Plan 2019-20 was agreed.**

SPR/172/2019 IMPROVEMENT AUDIT AND ASSESSMENT REPORT 2019-20

Read: Report dated 19 December 2019 from Mr J McBride, Assistant Director of Community Planning and Performance, regarding Improvement Audit and Assessment Report 2019-20 **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Byrne, the Improvement Audit and Assessment Report and Action Plan 2019-20 were agreed.**

It was agreed to take Item 9 from the agenda at this point of the meeting.

SPR/173/2019 APPLICATION TO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION NI CIVIC INNOVATION PROGRAMME

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor McMurray, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, it was agreed to authorise Officials to submit a joint application with the Community Planning Partners to the Community Foundation NI Civic Innovation Programme concerning the potential establishment of a Citizen's Panel for Newry, Mourne and Down.**

SPR/174/2019 STATUTORY DUTY COMPLIANCE

Read: Report dated 19 December 2019 from Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director of Corporate Planning & Policy, regarding Statutory Duty Compliance **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, the following was agreed:**

- a) draft Equality Action Plan 2020–2023;**
- b) draft Disability Action Plan 2020-2023;**
- c) to re-endorse the Equality & Diversity in Local Councils, Equality and Diversity Framework and for both draft action plans to proceed to public consultation.**

SPR/175/2019 INTRODUCTION OF CAPITAL SCHEMES PROJECT BOARD

Read: Report dated 19 December 2019 from Mr T McClean, Head of Service Capital Projects, regarding Introduction of Capital Schemes Project Board (**Copy circulated**)

Councillor Byrne asked that determination of the scale, scope and complexity for the setting up of a project board needed to be made extremely clear as they cannot be established on monetary value alone. He requested that recommendation four be amended to remove the word 'record' and insert 'minutes/actions' to ensure transparency on decisions taken at the project boards.

Mr Mallon agreed that the establishment of project boards could not be determined on scale alone and every project in its own right would be considered and any decision to establish a project board would be brought back to SPR Committee for agreement. He advised that the template circulated with the papers would be the sensible way to progress with regard to minutes for the project boards.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, the following was agreed:**

- 1. To introduce the appointment of a Project Board made up from elected members to serve specific Capital Projects as decided by Council, via the SP&R Committee.**
- 2. Each Project Board to be made up of 7 Councillors: 2 Sinn Fein, 2 SDLP, 1 DUP, 1 UUP, 1 Independent Councillor.**
- 3. The Capital Projects attracting a Project Board would be determined by the scale, scope and complexity of the capital project. A Project Board would be established once a feasibility study has been completed and a preferred option agreed.**
- 4. The minutes/actions of such meetings to be presented at the SP&R committee for approval. The board to be administratively facilitated by the relevant department for the project.**

SPR/176/2019 SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Read: Report dated 19 December 2019 from Mr G Scott, Safeguarding Coordinator, regarding Safeguarding Policy (**Copy circulated**)

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Howell, it was agreed to adopt the updated policy.**

LEISURE AND SPORTS**SPR/177/2019 15 ACRE PARK ALBERT BASIN – APPOINTMENT CONSULTANTS**

Read: Report dated 19 December 2019 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director of Leisure, regarding 15 Acre Park Albert Basin – Appointment Consultants

(Copy circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Tinnelly, it was agreed to approve the procurement and appointment of consultants to carry out key stakeholder engagement and public consultation to inform concept designs for a 15-Acre Park at the Albert Basin in Newry.

FOR NOTING

SPR/178/2019 AMENDMENT TO THE SCHEME OF DELEGATION FOR OFFICERS

Read: Report dated 19 December 2019 from Mrs L Moore, Head of Legal Administration, regarding Amendment to the Scheme of Delegation for Officers **(Copy circulated)**

Noted: It was agreed to note the contents of the report.

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Howell, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matters which related to exempt information by virtue of para. 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

SPR/179/2019 McCREESH PARK

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Noted: The verbal update provided regarding the D1 process in relation to McCreesh Park was noted.

SPR/180/2019: PLANNING ADVISORY CONSULTANT

Read: Report dated 19 December 2019 from Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism, regarding Planning Advisory Consultant **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed to approve the appointment of the Planning Advisory Consultant for a period of 24 weeks.

SPR/181/2019: DOWN LEISURE CENTRE UPDATE

Read: Report dated 19 December 2019 from Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism, regarding Down Leisure Centre Update (**Copy circulated**)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, it was agreed to approve the revised Capital Budget for the scheme as detailed in the officer's report and proceed to Belfast Legal Services for the purposes outlined in the officer's report.

SPR/182/2019: CASH COLLECTION SERVICE

Read: Report dated 19 December 2019 from Mr K Montgomery, Assistant Director Finance, regarding Cash Collection Service (**Copy circulated**)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Tinnelly, seconded by Councillor Sharvin it was agreed to review the options in this area and report back to Committee in January 2020.

FOR NOTING**SPR/183/2019 ACTION SHEET FROM ALBERT BASIN TASK AND FINISH GROUP 26 NOVEMBER 2019**

Read: Action Sheet from Albert Basin Task & Finish Group held on 26 November 2019. (**Copy circulated**)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Howell, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Noted: It was agreed to note the action sheet from Albert Basin Task & Finish Group held on 26 November 2019.

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 7.45pm

Signed: Councillor Michael Savage
Chairperson

Signed: Dorinnia Carville
Director of Corporate Services

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: AHC/2019

**Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on
Monday 16 December 2019 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic
Centre, Downpatrick**

Chairperson: Councillor L Kimmins**In attendance:** (Councillors)

Councillor H Gallagher	Councillor M Gibbons
Councillor L McEvoy	Councillor McKevitt
Councillor A McMurray	Councillor G O'Hare
Councillor B Ó Muirí	Councillor M Ruane
Councillor M Savage	Councillor D Taylor
Councillor W Walker	

Also In Attendance: Councillor T Andrews**Officials in attendance:** Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing
Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement
Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sport
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer**AHC/195/2019: APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

An apology was received from Councillor Trainor.

An apology was also received from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities.

AHC/196/2019: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Gibbons declared in interest in item 19, No 16 The Square, Rostrevor.

AHC/197/2019: ACTION SHEET OF THE ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2019**Read:** Action sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 18 November 2019. **(Copy circulated)**

AHC/181/2019

ORNI Community Trails Legal Agreement and Ongoing Maintenance Costs

In response to Councillor McMurray, Mr Tamati confirmed the Service Level Agreement with Outdoor Recreational Northern Ireland was due to finish on 31 March 2020 following a two-year period with 4 projects having come to fruition at Drumkeeragh, Tivenadarragh, Corrywood and Seaforde Forests and at this stage there was no plan to extend.

Councillors McMurray, Walker and Ó Muirí expressed concern at the Service Level Agreement not being extended to enable roll out across the District and enable other DEAs to have the opportunity to have community trails.

Mr Tamati outlined there was a plan for an Open Spaces Strategy and community trails would be picked up as part of that process.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McMurray, Seconded by Councillor Walker to have the Service Level Agreement with Outdoor Recreational Northern Ireland extended beyond March 2020.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, it was agreed to note the Action Sheet of 18 November 2019.

Councillor Ruane joined the meeting during the above discussion – 6.08pm

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

AHC/198/2019

DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORA UPDATE REPORT

Read: Report dated 16 December 2019 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement, regarding updates on District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed to note the update report on the ongoing work of the DEAs.

LEISURE AND SPORT

AHC/199/2019

SUMMER ACTIVITY PROGRAMME FOR 2020

Read: Report dated 16 December 2019 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sport regarding Active and Healthy Communities 2020 Summer Activity Programme. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Ó Muirí enquired if the Summer Activity Programme would be available in each DEA and Mr Tamati advised this type of programme would be less restrictive in terms of operating summer programmes and therefore give more flexibility across the District. A draft programme would be brought back to Committee.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Gallagher to implement an

alternative and enhanced Summer Activity Programme for July and August 2020.

Councillor Savage joined the meeting during the above discussion – 6.15pm.

AHC/200/2019 CASTLE PARK SEASONAL OPERATIONS

Read: Report dated 16 December 2019 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sport regarding seasonal operations at Castle Park, Newcastle. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Ruane it was agreed to approve a public tender for a minimum of 5 years for the delivery of alternative and enhanced seasonal (Easter to September) operations and services at Castle Park in Newcastle.**

AHC/201/2019 EVERYBODY ACTIVE (EBA) 2020 DELIVERY CONTRACT – NEW TENDER

Read: Report dated 16 December 2019 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sport regarding tendering of the Everybody Active 2020 Delivery Contract for 12 months from the 1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021 with possible extension subject to funding. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor McMurray, seconded by Councillor Taylor it was agreed to approve Council to tender of the Everybody Active 2020 Delivery Contract for 12 months from the 1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021 with possible extension subject to funding.**

AHC/202/2019 SPORT NI YOUR SCHOOL YOUR CLUB FUNDING +1 ENCLOSURE

Read: Report dated 16 December 2019 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sport regarding an update of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council projects that applied for Your School Your Club Funding. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Taylor spoke of the need for Council to correspond with the Minister for Education if devolved Government was restored in January 2020 and highlight funding required for Newry High School.

Councillor Taylor also referred to a Community Facility Project regarding Newry City FC and asked that Council examine the availability of funds through the rates process to support them with carrying out drainage assessment.

Mr Tamati assured Members all appropriate formalities had been followed regarding the Sport NI Your School Your Club Funding.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor McKevitt to examine the availability of funding for Newry City Football Club with a follow up meeting with Council officials to be arranged.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Savage, the update on Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Projects that applied for Your School Your Club was agreed and approval given for the commissioning of the Tennis Bubble Project at Our Lady's in Newry.

AHC/203/2019 **RENEWAL OF THE LEISUREWATCH SCHEME**

Read: Report dated 16 December 2019 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sport regarding the renewal of the LeisureWatch Scheme for another 12 months. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor McKevitt, to renew the LeisureWatch Scheme and signoff the contract for another 12 months from 1 January 2020 with membership renewal on 1 January 2021.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

AHC/204/2019: **ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY CONSULTATION**

Read: Report dated 16 December 2019 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding a consultation response to the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs on NI Environment Strategy. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, to return the consultation response to the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs on the NI Environment Strategy. The response was returned by the required date on the proviso that it was subject to Council approval.

AHC/205/2019 **SINGLE USE PLASTICS STRATEGY**

Read: Report dated 16 December 2019 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding Single Use Plastics Strategy. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McMurray, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, to adopt a Single Use

Plastics Strategy for Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, including a Single Use Plastics Policy and Action Plan.

AHC/206/2019: ADOPTION OF SUICIDE DOWN TO ZERO

Read: Report dated 16 December 2019 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding the adoption of a Suicide Down to Zero approach for our District, the creation of a Financial Assistance strand in relation to Mental Health and Suicide and the creation of a Council led forum. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Gibbons that:

- **The Council formally adopt the approach and aspiration of Suicide Down to Zero. A suitable launch and media statement to be prepared for Council Chairperson.**
- **An amount of £10000 is allocated to a Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Small Grants Scheme administered through a Financial call subject to the estimates process.**
- **A working group involving the Council, the Southern and South Eastern Health Trusts and local relevant voluntary organisations is created to examine ways of attaining the goal of zero suicides across the District.**

AHC/207/2019: AUGHRIM HILL – LETTER OF SUPPORT

Read: Report dated 16 December 2019 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding a letter of support to IndiWoods in relation to tree planting at Aughrim Hill. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **In response to a query from Councillor McMurray, Mr Devlin confirmed contact could be made with IndiWoods to see if there were any other way that Council could get involved in similar projects.**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McMurray, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, to send a letter of support to Indiwoods in relation to tree planting at Aughrim Hill.**

AHC/208/2019: SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE FORUM ACTION SHEET

Read: Report dated 16 December 2019 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding the Sustainability and Climate Change Forum. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor O'Hare, to note the report and approve the actions arising from the Sustainability and Climate Change Forum Meeting on 21 November 2019.

FOR NOTING - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**AHC/209/2019: SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND – UPDATE**

Read: Report dated 16 December 2019 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement, regarding an update in relation to the Social Investment Fund.

Agreed: It was agreed to note the report and minutes of the Social Investment Fund Board Meeting held on 7 October 2019.

AHC/210/2019: DOWNPATRICK NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

Read: Report dated 16 December 2019 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement, regarding Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Report.

Agreed: It was agreed to note the Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Report, Minutes from the Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Meeting held on 17 September 2019 and the Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Action Plan 2019-2020.

AHC/211/2019: NEWRY NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL UPDATE

Read: Report dated 16 December 2019 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement, regarding Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Report.

Agreed: It was agreed to note the Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Report, Minutes from the Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Meetings held on 11 and 26 September 2019 and the Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Action Plan 2019-2020.

LEISURE AND SPORTS**AHC/212/2019: PLAY PARK STRATEGY UPDATE**

Read: Report dated 16 December 2019 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sport, regarding an update on the Play Park Strategy.

Agreed: It was agreed Mr Tamati would report back to Councillors Kimmins and Savage regarding the fencing at the new build Play Park at Carrievemaclone.

Agreed: It was agreed to note the report providing an update on the Play Park Strategy and Programme of Works for Play Parks 2019-2020.

Councillor Gibbons left the chamber at this point of the meeting having declared an interest in item 19 – 6.35pm.

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor O'Hare, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matters which related to exempt information by virtue of para. 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

AHC/213/2019 16 THE SQUARE ROSTREVOR – ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Read: Report dated 16 December 2019 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement, regarding 16 the Square, Rostrevor. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí to:

- Amend the business case to RDP for revised scheme to redevelop the entire building at 16 The Square Rostrevor.
- Approve the submission of the business case and begin procurement in advance of full council approval Jan 2020 (funding restrictions apply).
- AHC Director to provide RDP with a letter of comfort re Optimum Bias connected with project.

- **Continue to provide portacabin facility to the rear of 16 The Square, allowing the Men's Shed to continue with their activities.**

AHC/214/2019

MULLAGHBAWN COMMUNITY CENTRE

- Read:** Report dated 16 December 2019 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement, regarding an update on the lease of Mullaghbane Community Centre. **(Copy circulated)**
- Agreed:** **On the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.**
- Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí to:**
- **Extend the date for the parish to sign the lease from the 31 Dec 2019 to the 31 March 2020.**
 - **If the legal agreement cannot be agreed by that date Council to hand the building back to the parish committee.**
 - **Community Centre to remain closed until the lease agreement is finalised.**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 6.42pm.

Signed: Councillor L Kimmins
Chairperson

Signed: Mr M Lipsett
Director of Active and Healthy Communities

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 17 December 2019 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry

Chair: Councillor K Owen

Members:

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor D Curran
Councillor W Clarke	Councillor V Harte
Councillor T Hearty	Councillor L Kimmins
Councillor O Magennis	Councillor C Mason
Councillor K McKevitt	Councillor D Taylor
Councillor J Tinnelly	

Non-Committee Members Councillor Enright
Councillor Walker

Officials in Attendance: Mr R Moore, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director Facilities Management and Maintenance
Ms C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer

NS/101/2019: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillor Stokes and Mr J Parkes, Assistant Director.

The Chairperson wished everyone a happy Christmas and New Year and thanked officers for their assistance to her during the year.

NS/102/2019: DECLARATIONS OF "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"

No declarations of Conflicts of Interest were made.

NS/103/2019: ACTION SHEET OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2019

Read: Action Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 20 November 2019. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor McKevitt, it was agreed the Action Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 20 November 2019 be noted and actions removed as marked.**

In response to a query, Mr Moore advised that an issue regarding target setting for enforcement which had been raised at the Council meeting in December, would be

discussed with the Chairperson of Neighbourhood Services in the first instance and then agree a way forward.

Councillor Andrews congratulated staff on the excellent Christmas lights and tree which had been provided in Crossgar.

NS/104/2019: REVIEW OF COUNCIL MUNICIPAL CEMETERY RULES AND REGULATIONS

Read: Report dated 17 December 2019 from Mr K Scullion re: Review of Council Municipal Cemetery Rules and Regulations. The report recommended adoption of the revised Rules and Regulations Booklet as circulated. **(Circulated)**.

Councillor Tinnelly expressed his concerns in relation to the proposed Council Municipal Cemetery Rules and Regulations and proposed that the recommendations within the report be deferred until the following information had been obtained:-

- A record of triple grave requests received since these cemeteries were opened.
- In percentage terms how much burial ground has been utilised in each of the cemeteries to this point.
- An estimation of when the land may run out.

There was no seconder for this proposal.

Councillor Andrews proposed and Councillor Clarke seconded that the report and recommendation to adopt the revised Rules and Regulations for the Control of the Public Cemeteries within the Newry, Mourne and Down District be adopted and that Councillor Tinnelly be furnished with the information he had requested.

The proposal was put to a vote by a show of hands and was unanimously agreed.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Clarke it was unanimously agreed to adopt the revised Rules and Regulations for the Control of the Public Cemeteries within the Newry, Mourne and Down District and that Councillor Tinnelly be furnished with the information he had requested.

Councillor McKeivitt thanked staff for the excellent work done at Monkshill Cemetery in re-aligning grass to footways.

FOR NOTING

NS/105/2019: LETTER DATED 28 NOVEMBER 2019 FROM NIEA – NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL/FINAL RECONCILIATION 2018/19

Read: Letter dated 28 November 2019 from NIEA – Newry Mourne & Down District Council/Final Reconciliation 2018/19 – The Landfill

Allowance Scheme (NI) Regulations 2004 (as amended) 14th Scheme Year 2019/2020. ***(Circulated)***.

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the above report.

NS/106/2019: **LETTER DATED 9 DECEMBER 2019 FROM NIEA – AGENCY’S APPROACH TO TACKLING ILLEGAL WASTE DISPOSAL INCLUDING THE ILLEGAL DISPOSAL OF WASTE TYRES**

Read: Letter dated 9 December 2019 from NIEA – Agency’s approach to tackling illegal waste disposal including the illegal disposal of waste tyres ***(Circulated)***.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to note that Mark Cherry, Enforcement Branch, NIEA, would attend the NS Meeting to be held on 22 January 2020 to discuss illegal waste issues.

NS/107/2019: **Arc21 JOINT COMMITTEE MINUTES – 31 OCTOBER 2019**

Read: Arc21 Joint Committee Minutes – 31 October 2019 ***(Circulated)***.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Curran, it was agreed to note the above Minutes.

NS/108/2019: **Arc21 Members’ Monthly Bulletin – 5 December 2019**

Read: Arc21 Members’ Monthly Bulletin – 5 December 2019 ***(Circulated)***.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to note the above Bulletin.

NS/109/2019: **HISTORIC ACTIONS TRACKING SHEET**

Read: Historic Actions Tracking Sheet ***(Circulated)***

Councillor Tinnelly referred to page 4 of the report re: Memory Gardens. He asked that it be put on record that he was not happy with the way his Notice of Motion had been progressed. He said the Motion had been taken through the Neighbourhood Services Committee and the outcome ratified by Council. It had then been diverted off through the Equality and Good Relations Forum and work on it’s progress had been halted by this Forum.

Mr Moore advised there were sensitivities in relation to naming and memorials and the Council had a process for dealing with these issues. He said he hoped issues around the proposal Memory Gardens could be resolved at the next meeting of the Forum.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Tinnelly, it was agreed the Historic Actions Tracking Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee be noted and actions removed as marked.

EXEMPT INFORMATION ITEMS

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

Items 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 are deemed to be exempt under paragraph 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.

On the proposal of Councillor Hearty, seconded by Councillor Kimmins, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on these items.

NS/110/2019: BUSINESS CASE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF CONTRACTOR TO UNDERTAKE LEGIONELLA CONTROL MEASURES

Read: Business case for the appointment of Contractor to undertake Legionella Control Measures (*Circulated*).

NS/111/2019: BUSINESS CASE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A CONTRACTOR TO UNDERTAKE ASBESTOS CONTROL MEASURES

Read: Business case for the appointment of a Contractor to undertake Asbestos Control Measures (*Circulated*).

NS/112/2019: BUSINESS CASE FOR THE PROVISION OF COUNCIL WIDE SERVICE CONTRACTS FOR ALL COUNCIL PREMISES

Read: Business case for the provision of Council wide service contracts for all Council premises (*Circulated*).

NS/113/2019: BUSINESS CASE FOR THE PURCHASE OF SMALL SCALE MACHINERY FOR GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

Read: Business case for the purchase of small scale machinery for grounds maintenance (*Circulated*).

NS/114/2019: BUSINES CASE FOR THE PURCHASE OF NEW INDUSTRIAL HEAVY GRADE TRACTOR AND SIDE ARM FLAIL/CUTTING UNIT FOR GROUNDS MAINTENANCE AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS

Read: Business case for the purchase of new industrial heavy grade tractor and side arm flail/cutting unit for grounds maintenance at various locations **(Circulated)**.

NS/115/2019: BUSINESS CASE FOR THE PURCHASE OF 2 NEW INDUSTRIAL GRADE TRACTORS FOR GROUNDS MAINTENANCE FOR VARIOUS LOCATIONS DISTRICT WIDE

Read: Business case for the purchase of 2 new industrial grade tractors for grounds maintenance for various locations district wide **(Circulated)**.

NS/116/2019: BUSINESS CASE FOR APPROVAL TO TENDER FOR EXTERNAL UNDER-VEHICLE WASH SERVICE FOR FLEET

Read: Business case for approval to tender for external under-vehicle wash service for fleet **(Circulated)**.

NS/117/2019: FLEET REPLACEMENT (CAPITAL) UPDATE

Read: Business case for fleet replacement (Capital) update **(Circulated)**.

NS/118/2019: BUSINESS CASE FOR REPLACEMENT OF GANTRY VEHICLE WASH – GREENBANK DEPOT NEWRY

Read: Business case for replacement of gantry vehicle wash – Greenbank Depot Newry. **(Circulated)**.

NS/119/2019: REVIEW OF “BRING SITES” ACROSS THE DISTRICT

Read: Business case to review “Bring Sites” across the District **(Circulated)**.

NS/121/2019: IN COMMITTEE ITEMS Arc21 JOINT COMMITTEE 31 OCTOBER 2019

Read: In Committee Items Arc21 Joint Committee 31 October 2019 **(Circulated)**.

Councillor McKevitt proposed and Councillor Clarke, seconded to come out of closed session.

When the Committee was out of closed session the Chairman reported the following had been agreed:-

Item 10 – Business Case for the appointment of a contractor to undertake Legionella Control Measures

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Kimmins, it was agreed to note the content of the report dated 17 December 2019 and associated Business Case and to accept the conclusion of the Business Case that Option 3 be chosen as the preferred option. Option 3 would see the appointment, through a tender process, of a competent contractor to undertake a number of duties under the Councils Legionella Management Control Scheme for a three-year period.

Item 11 – Business Case for the appointment of a contractor to undertake Asbestos Control Measures

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to note the content of the report dated 17 December 2019 and associated Business Case and to accept the conclusion of the Business Case that Option 1 be chosen as the preferred option. Option 1 would see the appointment, through a tender process, of a competent contractor to undertake a number of duties under the Councils Asbestos Management Plan for a three-year period.

Item 12 – Business Case for the provision of Council Wide Service Contracts for all Council premises

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to note the content of the report dated 17 December 2019 and associated Business Case and to accept the conclusion of the Business Case that Option 3 was chosen as the preferred option. Option 3 would see the Facilities Management Section organising corporate wide maintenance and servicing of all services within all Council premises.

Item 13 – Business Case for the purchase of small scale machinery for Grounds Maintenance

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor McKevitt, it was agreed to note the content of the report dated 17 December 2019 and associated Business Case and to accept the conclusion of the Business Case that Option 3 was chosen as the preferred option. Option 3 would see the procurement through tender of a range of small scale machinery to the value of £150,000.

At the request of Councillor Andrews it was also agreed Officials investigate and report back on his query if machinery could be used to deal with dog fouling on footpaths.

Item 14 – Business Case for the purchase of new industrial heavy grade tractor and side arm/flail/cutting unit for Grounds Maintenance at various locations

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Hearty, it was agreed to note the content of the report dated 17 December 2019 and associated Business Case and to accept the conclusion of the Business Case that Option 3 was chosen as the preferred option. Option 3 would see the procurement through tender of an industrial heavy grade tractor & side arm flail / cutting unit.

Item 15 – Business Case for the purchase of 2 new industrial grade tractors for Grounds Maintenance for various locations District wide

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Taylor, it was agreed to note the content of the report dated 17 December 2019 and associated Business Case and to accept the conclusion of the Business Case that Option 4 was chosen as the preferred option. Option 4 would see the procurement through tender of two industrial tractors to replace existing tractors which were beyond their useful life.

Item 16 – Business Case for approval to tender for external under-vehicle wash service for fleet

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor McKevitt, it was agreed to note the content of the report dated 17 December 2019 and for Council to give approval to Fleet to test the market through a tendering exercise with a view to appointing one or more suppliers to provide under-vehicle washing operations for the Council's fleet.

Item 17 – Fleet replacement (Capital) update

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to note the content of the report dated 17 December 2019 and that Council approve the revised forecasted spend within the Capital Spend Budget, as detailed in Appendix 1 circulated at the Meeting and also that Officers develop a Fleet Transition Strategy in consultation with other relevant organisations. Officers continue to consider alternatives prior to completion of the Strategy.

It was also recommended that the hired small refuse vehicle (MacPac) be retained for a period of 12 months or until such times as the route remeasurement exercise was completed.

Item 18 – Business Case for replacement of Gantry Vehicle Wash – Greenbank Depot Newry

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McKevitt, seconded by Councillor Hearty, it was agreed to note the content of the report dated 17 December 2019 and that Council approve the replacement of the existing gantry wash unit with a similar automatic wash system at an estimated cost of £95,000.

Item 19 – Review of “Bring Sites” across the Council District

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor McKevitt, it was agreed to note the content of the report dated 17 December 2019 and that the Council grant approval to Council to undertake a review regarding the current provision of the bring-sites currently provided by the Council. The review to examine:

- Current usage at bring-site locations
- Cost benefits associated with provision of bring-site locations
- Options for repositioning of bring-banks
- Options for income-generation and licence considerations
- Maintenance costs
- Potential contractual issues
- Disposal options for any redundant stock

The review would consider removal of the banks which were not at the designated household recycling centres.

Item 20 – In Committee Items from Arc21 Joint Committee Minutes – 31 October 2019

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hearty, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to note the In-Committee Items from the Arc21 Joint Committee Minutes of 31 October 2019.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.05 pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 6 January 2020.

Signed: Councillor Owen
Chairperson of Neighbourhood Services Committee

Signed: Mr R Moore
Director of Neighbourhood Services

Newry, Mourne and Down Local Development Plan Steering Group

Terms of Reference

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Steering Group is to oversee and co-ordinate the delivery of the Newry, Mourne and Down Local Development Plan (LDP).

OBJECTIVES:

- To secure the necessary input from Council officers so as to deliver the LDP in accordance with the LDP Timetable agreed with the Department for Infrastructure (DfI), whilst meeting statutory requirements and various tests of 'soundness'.
- To ensure that the public and key stakeholders are engaged in the Plan process as provided for in the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).
- To secure the engagement of Councillors in the LDP process, particularly at key stages where a corporate Council view needs to be identified and presented to the public (e.g. Preferred Options Paper, Draft Plan Strategy, Draft Local Policies Plan).
- To take appropriate action to address any resource issues and/or address risks identified through the Chief Planning Officer.

MEMBERSHIP:

In accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) the LDP Steering Group will comprise of:-

- Elected Members; and
- Senior Council Officers

As determined by the Council, the membership shall be composed of:

Elected Members

- Members of the Planning Committee

Senior Council Officers

- Chief Executive
- Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism*
- Chief Planning Officer
- Principal Planning Officer

(*Note: the preparation of the LDP is a function of the Planning Department, which sits within the ERT Directorate, should this arrangement change membership shall pass to the relevant Director)

Other Senior Council Officers (e.g. Directors, Assistant Directors, and Heads of Service), and other Council Officers, will be invited to participate in the Steering Group meetings as and when required.

MEETINGS:

The Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Steering Group will be the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Planning Committee. In the absence of the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson will chair the Group. If both are not present, the meeting will nominate a Chair from those present.

The Steering Group does not have decision making powers, it makes recommendations only. Recommendations requiring decision will be tabled at the Planning Committee*.

(*Note: recommendations requiring decision will be considered and agreed by the Planning Committee. As the Planning Committee does not have delegated authority for decisions in relation to LDP business, the relevant extracts from the minutes of the Planning Committee in relation to LDP business will be reported to the Council for consideration and adoption.)

The Steering Group does not operate to any quorum and meetings will proceed regardless of numbers in attendance.

The Steering Group will normally meet on a bi monthly basis or otherwise as may be agreed or required.

Meetings of the Steering Group will be convened by the Chief Planning Officer.

Declarations of Interest:

Members of the Steering Group shall take responsibility to declare proactively any potential conflict of interest arising out of business undertaken by the Group.

Confidentiality:

Confidentiality must be maintained at all times. In the conduct of their duties, members of the Steering Group will be privy to material that is confidential, or which should reasonably be regarded as being of a confidential nature. This material must not be distributed outside of the Group.

Press:

Meetings of the Steering Group will not be open to the press.

Public:

Meetings of the Steering Group will not be open to the public.

Marie Ward
Chief Executive



Comhairle Ceantair
**an Iúir, Mhúrn
agus an Dúin**
**Newry, Mourne
and Down**
District Council

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Date: xx January 2020

Ref: LCCC LDP dPS

Local Development Plan Team
Civic Headquarters
Lagan Valley Island
Lisburn
BT27 4RL

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council's Local Development Plan 2032 – Draft Plan Strategy

Representation Response of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

I refer to the publication of your draft Plan Strategy for your Local Development Plan (LDP) and thank you for the opportunity to comment.

As an adjoining council/planning authority with a common boundary, Newry Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC) is a statutory consultee in the preparation of your LDP. In sharing a boundary with Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council (LCCC), this Council has an interest in the content of your draft Plan Strategy (dPS), the first of your two development plan documents.

We recognise that consultation and engagement with neighbouring Councils provides the opportunity to:

- identify cross border issues in the areas of economic development, housing, transport, general infrastructure, and the environment
- advise of matters of collective interest including the evidence base which informs the draft Plan Strategy,
- seek agreement and co-operation, where possible, on cross boundary issues identified,
- ensure that regional policy development, local transport plans and joint working is appropriately linked to the decision making role.

In this respect we acknowledge the mutual co-operation and constructive engagement through meetings and workshops that have taken place between officers from our respective Local Development Plan Teams during the preparation of your dPS to identify cross boundary issues and discuss areas of mutual interest.

The LDP will be tested at Independent Examination in respect of its 'soundness'. Departmental guidance as set out in Development Plan Practice Note 6: Soundness (DPPN6) advises that a council, *'must have regard to other relevant plans, policies and strategies, not only in its own district but also*

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Newry Office**
O'Hagan House
Monaghan Row
Newry BT35 8DJ

**Oifig Dhún Pádraig
Downpatrick Office**
Downshire Civic Centre
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Downpatrick BT30 6GQ

0300 013 2233 (Council)
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council@nmandd.org
www.newrymournedown.org

**Ag freastal ar an Dún
agus Ard Mhacha Theas
Serving Down
and South Armagh**



in its adjoining area. Reference in this respect is made to Consistency Test C4 and Coherence and Effectiveness Test CE1.

In respect of the above, it is vitally important that, in the progression of the dPS to Independent Examination, LCCC is satisfied that it is in compliance with soundness tests of C4 and CE1. Through continued cross border co-operation and collaboration, the economic, social and environmental interests of Newry Mourne and Down need to be fully taken into account in the strategic planning and economic development of our adjoining districts. In guiding future development and sustainable growth, and in the co-ordinated delivery of strategic development, infrastructure and services, it is important that LCCC, through its dPS, recognise, acknowledge and be ever mindful of Newry, Mourne and Down District as it borders the Republic of Ireland, in particular its placement on the Dublin – Belfast Economic Corridor. The city of Newry together with the neighbouring port of Warrenpoint is strategically positioned on the Dublin – Belfast Economic Corridor serving as both a regional and international gateway.

In reference to the dPS, and associated documents, the Council notes the development of six plan objectives to deliver the vision for the LDP and how they relate to and seek to achieve the spatial aspects of LCCC's Community Plan. It is also noted that these objectives also link directly and are implemented through the strategic policies, spatial strategy and operational policies.

LCCC's spatial strategy and associated settlement hierarchy are noted.

Under the objective 'A: A Quality Place' the strategic housing allocation has been informed by the eight indicators provided by the SPPS. The identification of land at West Lisburn/Blaris for additional strategic housing growth of up to 1500 dwellings is noted. The strategic policy for housing in settlements and the countryside in addition to education, health, community and culture are also noted. Operational policies for residential development including affordable housing in settlements and specialist accommodation are noted, as are the policies for community facilities in the settlements and development in the countryside.

Under objective 'B: A Thriving Place' the strategic employment allocation identifying a hierarchy of sites consisting of Strategic Mixed Use Sites at West Lisburn/Blaris and Purdysburn/Knockbracken and Local Employment Sites are noted as is the level of developable land for economic uses that remains in comparison to the likely need over the plan period. The Council notes the intention to retain the Maze Lands as a Strategic Land Reserve of Regional Importance while not forming part of the overall quantum of employment land.

The strategic policy for economic development in the countryside and mineral development are noted and in particular the acknowledgment that the areas most at risk in terms of environmental impacts of mineral development include the existing Area of High Scenic Value of Magheraknock Loughs which is a designation which extends into our District. In respect of this we would welcome discussion on your future work in identifying areas of mineral constraint. It is also acknowledged that minerals development is a regional issue and that the evidence base is still being developed. Operational policy, including that on Valuable Minerals and Unconventional Hydrocarbon Extraction is noted.



Under objective 'C: A Vibrant Place' the retail hierarchy excludes Sprucefield Shopping Centre and instead refers to it having its own policy in recognition of its importance as a destination. It also includes strategic policy for Town Centres, Retailing and Other Uses and the Evening/Night-time Economy. Operational policy for town centres, retailing and other uses is noted.

Under objective 'D: An Attractive Place' the strategic policy for tourism aims to promote a sustainable approach to tourism development, safeguarding key tourism assets while providing opportunities for growth. Strategic policy for open space seeks to protect and enhance existing open space and provide new open space in addition to supporting and protecting a network of accessible green and blue infrastructure and promote the development of strategic and community greenways. The Council acknowledges that further work is to be carried out in this respect and would welcome the opportunity for further engagement in the future. Operational policy in respect of tourism and open space are also noted.

Objective 'E: A Green Place' provides strategic policy for protecting and enhancing the historic and natural environment. The Council notes that while existing designations are carried forward from the existing development plan that further work in reviewing existing and future landscape designations will be assessed as part of the Local Policies Plan. Given our shared boundary and transboundary landscape there is a need to ensure there are no potential issues or adverse impacts arising from landscape designations and the Council would seek further discussion at the appropriate time. The operational policies for historic environment, archaeology, and natural heritage are also noted.

Objective 'F: A Connected Place' seeks to support sustainable transport and other infrastructure. It provides strategic policy for transportation infrastructure, renewable energy, telecommunications and other utilities, waste management and flooding. Given the transboundary nature of some of these issues the Council would welcome further discussion on matters such as improved transport connections, the facilitation of park and ride schemes, and strategic greenways. The acknowledgement that a joined-up approach in relation to waste management is needed and the Arc21 arrangements are noted as is the encouragement of the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems to alleviate surface water flooding. The associated operational policies for transport and infrastructure are also noted.

The Council notes the accompanying supporting documents, in particular the Technical Supplements, Supplementary Planning Guidance and the Sustainability Appraisal.

In conclusion, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council considers that the contents of your draft Plan Strategy documents are not in conflict with the ongoing development of our own draft Plan Strategy. We look forward to continued consultation and engagement with you on matters of common interest at the appropriate time in our respective work programmes.

Yours sincerely

Anthony McKay
Chief Planning Officer



St. Louis
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

151 Newry Road
Kilkeel, Co. Down, BT34 4EU

Marie Ward
Chief Executive Officer
Newry Office
O'Hagan House
Monaghan Row
Newry
BT35 8DJ

15 November 2019

Dear Mrs Ward

Saint Louis Grammar School, Kilkeel – Application for a new build.

I write as Chair of the Board of Governors of St Louis Grammar School.

We have recently submitted the attached bid for a complete new build of the school and request that you again vigorously lobby The Department of Education to ensure that they approve our bid as a matter of urgency as our school estate is no longer fit for purpose. There are immediate and very serious health, safety and welfare issues for pupils, staff and visitors. Increased pupil numbers have led to overcrowding in our limited physical circulation space. The corridors and stairwells are narrow and dangerous and not compliant with the legislation dealing with disabled access. We are working with an aging school estate which has suffered greatly through under investment over many years and now we are left with a poor and failing building fabric which fails to meet acceptable standards on a myriad of fronts. The layout and size of classrooms and associated service areas also fall far short of statutory requirements for a post primary school with over 700 pupils and growing. Therefore, a new school catering for circa 900 pupils is urgently required to meet basic health and safety, statutory and best practice guidance.

We are now in year two of our ambitious plans to increase admissions enrolment numbers from 80 to 130 per annum in year eight over the next two or three years and to increase the whole school enrolment from 570 to 860 in total over the next five or six years – currently our enrolment is around 700 and growing every year. These are, therefore, exciting but challenging times for us and we seek your continuing help and support to ensure that we get the necessary capital investment to allow us to achieve our plans and deliver a first class educational experience to our students. We need a new build as the present school estate is no longer fit for



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purpose and we need your help to achieve our aims. You are more than welcome to visit the school or if you require further information or background detail please do not hesitate to contact Mr Kevin Martin, Princip

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The school has met all the requirements of area planning, the sustainable school's policy and all other conditions as set out by the Department of Education, the EA, CCMS and Trustees, so there is no reason for any further delay. There is, however, a real expectation from students, parents and the wider community that a new school is imminent and that everyone will do their utmost to ensure it is delivered. We trust we have your full support in our campaign to make our new school a reality.

Thank you for you continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Sister Mary O'Connor SSL
Chair of Board of Governors



Specialist Schools
and Academies Trust
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Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

4 December 2019

Ms M Ward
Chief Executive
Newry Mourne and Down District Council
O'Hagan House
Monaghan Row
Newry
BT35 8DJ



Dear Ms Ward

At a meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on 28 November 2019 Members resolved to support the undernoted Notice of Motion moved by Newry Mourne & Down District Council

"This Council calls on the Appeals Service NI to cease the practice of holding Welfare appeals at local Courthouses, states that these venues are unacceptable for such tribunals as it further traumatises already vulnerable appellants.

Furthermore, that this Council goes about investigating the possibility of offering Council facilities for such tribunals to negate the need of appellants being forced into court settings. Council notes the protracted delays in getting appeals heard and calls on the Chief Executive to write to the head of the Appeals Service NI, and the Permanent Secretary for DFC, requesting an immediate review of venues for such appeals and the formation of a review panel tasked with addressing the unacceptable delays to appeals being heard."

Mid Ulster District Council in support of the motion has written to the Permanent Secretary for the Department for Communities and the Head of the Appeals Service NI requesting an immediate review of venues for appeals as aforementioned and for the formation of a review panel tasked with addressing the unacceptable delays to appeals being heard.

Yours sincerely

Martin Kearney

Chair
Councillor Martin Kearney

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4 December 2019

Ms M Ward
Chief Executive
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
O'Hagan House
Monaghan Row
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BT35 8DJ

Dear Ms Ward

At a meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on 28 November 2019 Members resolved to support the undernoted Notice of Motion moved by Newry Mourne & Down District Council

"This Council notes that early diagnosis of Bowel and Breast Cancer offers patients the best chance of successful treatment. England, Scotland, Wales and the Republic of Ireland all currently use the faecal immunochemical test (FIT) and have a lowered age for screening. NHS England are currently trialling Breast Cancer Screening at the lower age of 47 and the upper age of 72.

This Council will write to the Permanent Secretary for Health Mr Richard Pengelley highlighting the difference in the screening service provision across the UK and Ireland and calling for a review into Bowel Cancer Screening services in the North and to follow the English NHS lead in trialling Breast Cancer Screening at a lower age here in Northern Ireland.

Mid Ulster District Council in support of the motion has forwarded a letter to the Permanent Secretary for the Department for Health requesting that he commit to a review of Bowel and Breast Screening.

Yours sincerely

Martin Kearney

Councillor Martin Kearney
Chair

**From the Permanent Secretary
and HSC Chief Executive**



Marie Ward, Chief Exec
Newry, Mourne and
Down District Council

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Our ref: RP5007
SCORR-1103-2019

Date: 10 December 2019

Dear Ms Ward

Early diagnosis of Bowel and Breast cancer notice of motion

Thank you for your letter dated 11th November 2019 requesting a breast screening trial from the lower age of 47 and upper age of 72 years in Northern Ireland.

The NHS Breast Screening Programme (NHSBSP) Age X trial currently underway in England is a research study to determine if offering an extra screen to women aged 47-49 (who will be offered routine screening three years later) and of offering additional screening to women after age 70 (who will have been offered routine screening every 3 years at ages 50-70) will reduce mortality from breast cancer. It is expected that during the course of this trial more than 5 million women will be randomised to receive additional screening or usual screening. This very large number of participants is required to ensure that the research will produce reliable results which will inform future routine screening policy across the UK.

In the UK a major research trial such as the AgeX trial will not be approved unless it includes enough participants to be able to produce reliable results. Given the number of women in the relevant age groups in Northern Ireland a research trial here would not be able to provide sufficiently reliable information to inform future policy.

Yours sincerely

RICHARD PENGELLY

Northern Ireland Water
Westland House
Old Westland Road
Belfast
BT14 6TE



marie.ward@nmandd.org

Date: 19th December 2019

Dear Ms Ward

I am writing to you on behalf of the Board of NI Water to highlight Northern Ireland's current wastewater infrastructure crisis.

NI Water has been warning for some time that inadequate funding would eventually impact on delivery of service. Please see Appendix attached in relation to your Council area.

The level of funding made available to NI Water for the 2015 to 2021 period has already resulted in over 100 areas across Northern Ireland where Wastewater Treatment Works are at, or rapidly approaching, full capacity and where NI Water is unlikely to be able to accept additional sewer connections.

The economic consequences are clear with new housing, businesses, schools, hospitals and tourism all seriously affected. If current levels of funding are maintained we expect a further 33 Economically Constrained Areas (ECAs) to be added to this list by 2027 and 50% of Northern Ireland's sewer system will be full.

We are now facing a tipping point and collectively need to urgently make decisions about the structure and funding of NI Water if we are to continue to provide the water and sewerage services which are expected in a healthy economy.

NI Water's current governance model has been described as 'sub-optimal' both by economic commentators and the Utility Regulator. It is simply no longer fit for purpose. Currently NI Water receives a subsidy in lieu of domestic charging and has access to borrowings; however, it has been constrained in its ability to invest in capital infrastructure. We believe this accounting constraint needs further examination.

NI Water has identified a £2.5bn investment programme for Northern Ireland's water and wastewater infrastructure over the 2021 to 2027 period (PC21), this includes £1bn which is needed urgently to address significant wastewater capacity issues in Belfast and allow new wastewater connections there from 2021 onwards. This investment is critical to maintaining the supply of safe, quality water and to address a large number of wastewater capacity issues across our cities and towns. We need agreement and support from all sectors in Northern Ireland to secure funding to achieve this level of investment.



Northern Ireland's wastewater infrastructure is at serious risk and nearly every main urban area is impacted including; Belfast, Coleraine, Limavady, Newry, Downpatrick, Enniskillen, Omagh, Newtownards, Bangor, Cookstown, Dungannon, Magherafelt, Ballymena, Carrickfergus, Larne, Antrim, Ballyclare, Armagh, Portadown, Lurgan, Metropolitan Lisburn & Castlereagh, Derry/Londonderry and Strabane.

This is a situation which can be avoided. NI Water knows Northern Ireland's economic growth ambitions, and we have both the costed plans and the skills to deliver resilient water and wastewater infrastructure. We have proven we are an exemplar of how a GO-CO, a Government Company, can provide private sector levels of performance and efficiency.

Never before has Northern Ireland faced a situation where a lack of fundamental infrastructure will restrict the opportunities for economic growth and tourism as well as putting our natural environment and the health of our population at risk.

In the context of a possible return to a functioning NI Executive/Assembly (or even without it) I would ask you to actively support the immediate proper funding of Northern Ireland's water and wastewater infrastructure.

Should you have any questions or concerns please email press.office@niwater.com. We would welcome the opportunity to meet and discuss this further.

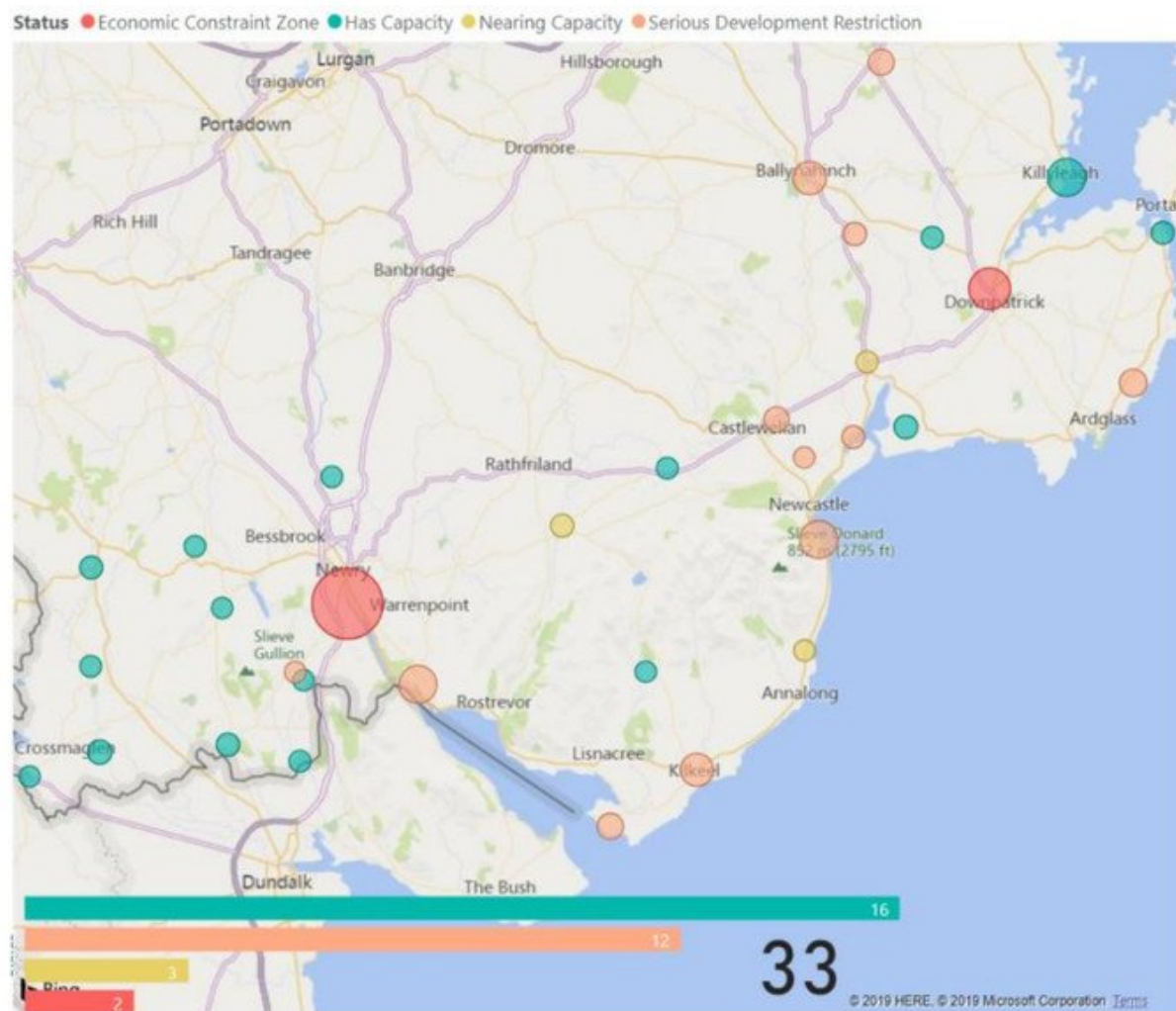
Yours sincerely



Mark Ellesmere
For and on behalf of NI Water Board



APPENDIX



**From the Permanent Secretary
and HSC Chief Executive**



Marie Ward
Chief Executive
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
council@nmandd.org

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Our ref: RP 5063
SCORR-1143-2019

Date: 23 December 2019

Dear Ms Ward

Soft Opt Out Organ Donation Legislation

Thank you for your letter dated 26 November 2019, following a meeting of the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council held on Monday 4 November where members supported the motion of the introduction of a soft opt out scheme for organ donation in Northern Ireland.

As you may be aware, following a detailed examination of all aspects of opt out systems, the Northern Ireland Assembly decided in 2016 not to proceed with specific legislation to introduce an opt out system as a possible means of increasing levels of organ donation in Northern Ireland. However, the Assembly, in recognition of the importance of promoting organ donation, passed legislation that places a statutory duty on the Department of Health to:

- promote transplantation; and
- increase awareness about transplantation and the donation of human organs.

The legislation also requires the Department to lay before the Assembly an annual report about transplantation in that year. The report must include every five years the opinion of the Department as to whether the legislation has been effective in promoting transplantation and any recommendations the Department considers appropriate for amending the law so as to further promote transplantation. This therefore provides the Assembly with the opportunity to review the policy at appropriate intervals. A Commencement Order is required to enact the statutory duty and this is currently under consideration; however, this has not delayed work progressing in this area.

In December 2018 the Department also launched a Policy Statement giving effect to the requirement to promote organ donation and transplantation.

Work on implementing the Policy Statement recently got underway with the establishment of an Organ Donation Steering Group to oversee its implementation. Arrangements are also being made to recruit a Regional Organ Donation Promotion Manager/Co-Ordinator, whose role will include working with local Councils, and to establish a sub-group for charities to further help to implement the Policy Statement.

Whilst there are currently no plans to introduce opt out legislation in Northern Ireland, I trust this letter assures you that work is ongoing to achieve higher rates of donation and transplantation to ensure that more people are able to receive the gift of an organ.

Yours sincerely



RICHARD PENGELLY