



June 26th, 2024

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Council meeting to be held on **Monday, 1st July 2024** at **6:00 pm** in **Council Chamber, Downshire Civic Centre.**

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

Apologies from Councillors Lewis, Reilly & Taylor

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 3 June 2024

For Information

[Action Sheet Council Meeting 2024 06 03.pdf](#)

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Council Minutes For Adoption and Signing

4.0 Minutes of Annual Meeting held on 3 June 2024

For Approval

[Minutes Annual Meeting 2024.06.03.pdf](#)

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5.0 Minutes of Council Meeting held on 3 June 2024

For Approval

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Committee Minutes for Consideration and Adoption

6.0 Minutes of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 10 June 2024

For Approval

[Economy Regeneration and Tourism Minutes 2024 06 10.pdf](#)

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7.0 Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 13 June 2024

For Approval

[Strategy Policy Resources Meeting Minutes 2024-06-13.pdf](#)

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8.0 Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 17 June 2024

For Approval

[Active and Healthy Communities Minutes 2024 06 17.pdf](#)

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9.0 Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Services Committee Meeting held on 19 June 2024

For Approval

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Correspondence

10.0 Correspondence Report

For Information

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Notices of Motion

11.0 Car Parking Strategy

Notice of Motion received from Councillors Feehan and Mathers:

“This Council recognises concerns in relation to car parking across the District.

We call, therefore, for a new parking strategy to be developed by Council for NMD District.

This strategy should consider and prioritise;

- The provision of adequate levels of car parking for the District*
- The introduction of 1-hour free on-street parking in Newry*
- The retention of existing free car parking spaces in Newry City Centre*
- Review the introduction of 1-hour free parking at Council parking sites*
- The identification and evaluation of waste ground and sites currently owned by Council that could be made available for car parking, park and share/ park and ride*
- Partnership working with government departments to explore the potential for development of bespoke car parking sites, including multi-storey facilities, where viable*
- The review of Seasonal Passes to ensure an affordable offering for local service users*
- A robust communication plan and engagement process with the public, including commuters, retailers, and business owners*

Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews
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Cllr Callum Bowsie
.....
Fionnuala Branagh
.....
Cllr Jim Brennan
.....
Cllr Pete Byrne
.....
Mr Gerard Byrne
.....
Cllr Philip Campbell
.....
Cllr William Clarke
.....
Cllr Laura Devlin
.....
Ms Louise Dillon
.....
Cllr Cadogan Enright
.....
Cllr Killian Feehan
.....
Cllr Doire Finn
.....
Cllr Aoife Finnegan
.....
Ms Joanne Fleming
.....
Cllr Conor Galbraith
.....
Cllr Mark Gibbons
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Cllr Oonagh Hanlon
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Cllr Glyn Hanna
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Cllr Valerie Harte
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Cllr Roisin Howell
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Cllr Tierna Howie
.....
Ms Catherine Hughes
.....
Cllr Jonathan Jackson
.....
Cllr Geraldine Kearns
.....
Miss Veronica Keegan
.....
Mrs Josephine Kelly
.....
Mrs Sheila Kieran
.....
Cllr Cathal King
.....
Cllr Mickey Larkin
.....
Cllr David Lee-Surginor
.....
Cllr Alan Lewis
.....
Cllr Oonagh Magennis
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Mr Conor Mallon
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Cllr Aidan Mathers
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Cllr Declan McAteer
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Cllr Leeanne McEvoy
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Cllr Andrew McMurray
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Maureen/Joanne Morgan/Johnston
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Cllr Declan Murphy
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Sinead Murphy
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Cllr Kate Murphy
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Cllr Selina Murphy
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Cllr Siobhan O'Hare
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Mr Andy Patterson
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Cllr Áine Quinn
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Cllr Henry Reilly
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Cllr Michael Rice
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Cllr Michael Ruane
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Cllr Gareth Sharvin
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Donna Starkey
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Nicola Stranney
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Sarah Taggart
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Cllr David Taylor
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Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly
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Cllr Jill Truesdale
.....
Mrs Marie Ward
.....
Cllr Helena Young
.....

ACTION SHEET – COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY 3 JUNE 2024

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
<i>C/102/2024</i>	<i>Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 07.05.2024</i>	It was agreed to note the action sheet.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	Y
<i>C/103/2024</i>	<i>Minutes of Council Meeting held on 07.05.2024</i>	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	Y
<i>C/104/2024</i>	<i>Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 29.04.2024</i>	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted. It was agreed Democratic Services would follow on the supply of boundary map regarding capacity issues and planning applications within the Newry area with NI Water and circulate to Members.	<i>Democratic Services</i> <i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted Email sent to NI Water on 5 June 2024, response received on 25 June 2024	Y Y
<i>C/105/2024</i>	<i>Minutes of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 13.05.2024</i>	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	Y
<i>C/106/2024</i>	<i>Minutes of Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on 16.05.2024</i>	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
<i>C/107/2024</i>	<i>Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 20.05.2024</i>	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	Y
<i>C/108/2024</i>	<i>Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 22.05.2024</i>	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	Y
<i>C/109/2024</i>	<i>Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 23.05.2024</i>	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	Y
<i>C/110/2024</i>	<i>Minutes of Special Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 30 May 2024</i>	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	Y
<i>C/111/2024</i>	<i>Somme Association</i>	It was agreed that one Councillor would attend services to commemorate the 108 th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme in France in 2024 with 3 Councillors to attend in 2025.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	Y
<i>C/112/2024</i>	<i>APSE NI: "Enviro NI" and AGM 2024</i>	It was agreed that any Members attending the APSE NI 'Enviro NI' Event and Annual General Meeting on 6 June 2024 contact Democratic Services.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	Y
<i>C/113/2024</i>	<i>Correspondence Report</i>	It was agreed to note the Correspondence report.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	Y

<i>Minute Ref</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Lead Officer</i>	<i>Actions taken/ Progress to date</i>	<i>Remove from Action Sheet Y/N</i>
		<p><i>Appendix 4: Correspondence from the Home Office in relation to C/080/2024 Notice of Motion, Fisheries and Aquaculture Industries and Seasonal Worker Visa Route.</i></p> <p>It was agreed that Council write back to the Home Office and challenge the response received regarding Seasonal Workers Visa for the Fishing Industry.</p>	<i>Democratic Services</i>	<i>Correspondence sent</i>	Y
<i>END</i>					

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**NMD/AGM/****Minutes of Annual Meeting of Council held on Monday 3 June 2024 at 5.00pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick**

In the Chair: Councillor V Harte 5.00pm – 5.22pm
Councillor P Byrne 5.22pm – 5.40pm

In attendance:**(Councillors)**

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor C Bowsie
Councillor P Campbell	Councillor L Devlin
Councillor C Enright	Councillor K Feehan
Councillor D Finn	Councillor C Galbraith
Councillor M Gibbons	Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor G Hanna	Councillor G Kearns
Councillor T Howie	Councillor C King
Councillor D Lee-Surginor	Councillor A Lewis
Councillor A Mathers	Councillor D McAteer
Councillor K Murphy	Councillor S Murphy
Councillor S O'Hare	Councillor H Reilly
Councillor G Sharvin	Councillor D Taylor
Councillor D Taylor	Councillor J Tinnelly
Councillor J Truesdale	Councillor H Young

(Officials)

Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism
Mrs S Murphy, Director of Sustainability & Environment
Mr A Patterson, Director of Active & Healthy Communities
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
Ms F Branagh, Democratic Services Officer
Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer
Mrs N Stranney, Democratic Services Officer

AGM/001/2024**APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Brennan, Clarke, Howell, Jackson, Magennis, D Murphy, Rice and Ruane and from Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services.

Outgoing Chairperson Councillor Harte stated that the role of Chairperson had been an honour and a responsibility she had been humbled to take. She expressed her heartfelt gratitude to her Sinn Fein colleagues for entrusting her with the role, and for their unwavering support, thanked Councillor Sharvin for his support as Deputy Chairperson and for working together so positively and further thanked the Senior Management Team and all Council staff for their hard work and commitment to the success of the Council, with a special mention to Democratic Services for their tireless work and support.

Councillor Harte paid tribute to those that she had met over the year whose hard work helped deliver the incredible events and initiatives across the district. She further noted the

many positive and negative events that had occurred over the year, such as the floods that highlighted the community spirit of the district, and also the opportunity she had to raise funds for local grassroots organisations.

Councillor Harte paid special tribute to her chosen charities; Down Right Brilliant; Life Change Changes Lives; Newry All Stars Special Olympic Club; Sound Friends; and Well Lane Warriors and highlighted the crucial role they played in transforming the lives of individuals and families within the community.

Councillor Harte then wished the incoming Chair and Deputy Chair the very best in their role and noted that leading was a challenging task but expressed her confidence in their ability to continue to make a positive impact on the community. She expressed her gratitude to her family for their unwavering and ongoing support, encouragement, and love.

Councillor Harte noted that her year had been filled with meeting such ordinary people doing such extraordinary things and ended by stating that in a world where you can be anything, be kind.

Outgoing Deputy Chairperson, Councillor Sharvin stated that it had been an honour to serve as Deputy Chairperson for the Council and that it was filled with such a variety of events and gave a special mention to the signing of the contract for funding for Newry City Park, the Christmas light switch on in Downpatrick, Newcastle and other areas and leading the St Patrick's day parade this year. He noted that one theme had been present at every event he had attended over the past year, and that was the warm welcome by the community, event organisers and Council Officers.

Councillor Sharvin then paid tribute to outgoing Chairperson Councillor Valerie Harte and to his SDLP colleagues for their support over the past year, extended his thanks to everyone for their support throughout his term in office, with a special thank you for all the staff in Democratic Services and wished the incoming Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson every success in their year ahead.

Councillor Devlin, on behalf of the SDLP grouping on Council, congratulated both the outgoing Chair and Deputy Chair for a successful year working together across the District for everyone and wished them well in their future endeavors.

Councillor Hanlon, on behalf of the Sinn Féin party grouping on Council, congratulated both the outgoing Chair and outgoing Deputy Chair for a successful year working across the District for the betterment of everyone.

Councillor Hanna, on behalf of the DUP party grouping on Council, congratulated both the outgoing Chair and outgoing Deputy Chair on their year in office and thanked them for the work they had carried out.

Councillor Taylor extended personal thanks to the outgoing Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson and noted how they had given the role their all and wished them well for the future.

Councillor Truesdale on behalf of the Alliance party grouping on Council, thanked both the outgoing Chair and outgoing Deputy Chair for their contribution throughout their term of office and wished them both good luck for the future.

Councilor Tinnelly extended his thanks to the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson for their hard work as ambassadors for the District and congratulated them for a successful year.

Councillor Harte and Councillor Sharvin thanked Members for their kind comments.

AGM/002/2024 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

AGM/003/2024 APPOINTMENT OF STATUTORY POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Read: Appointment to Statutory Positions of Responsibility Year 2. **(Copy circulated)**

Mrs Ward called upon Councillor Devlin as nominating officer for SDLP to nominate a Councillor for the position of Chairperson of Council for Year 2, 2024/25.

Councillor Devlin nominated Councillor Byrne for the position of Chairperson of Council for 2024/25, which was seconded by Councillor Sharvin.

Councillor Byrne subsequently accepted the post of Chairperson of Council for 2024/25.

Mrs Ward called upon Councillor Lee-Surginor as nominating officer for Alliance Party to nominate a Councillor for the position of Deputy-Chairperson of Council for 2024/25.

Councillor Lee-Surginor nominated Councillor Lee-Surginor, which was seconded by Councillor Truesdale.

Councillor Lee-Surginor subsequently accepted the post of Deputy Chairperson of Council 2024/25.

Councillor Byrne and Councillor Lee-Surginor were duly nominated as Chairperson and Deputy-Chairperson respectively of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council for the year 2024/25.

Mrs Ward then called upon the nominating officers of each of the parties to nominate to the following statutory positions of responsibility and the following nominations were made by the respective nominating officers and formally accepted by the nominees:

Chair of ERT Councillor Bowsie
Proposed by Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Lewis

Deputy Chair of ERT Councillor Clarke
Proposed by Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Harte

Chair of AHC Councillor Galbraith
Proposed by Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor Andrews

Deputy Chair of AHC Councillor Mathers
Proposed by Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Kearns

Chair of S&E Councillor Kearns
Proposed by Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Harte

Incoming Deputy Chairperson Councillor Lee-Surginor paid tribute to outgoing Chairperson, Councillor Harte and to outgoing Deputy Chairperson, Councillor Sharvin, for their work ethic in ensuring they represented the whole District. He thanked his Party colleagues for their support and thanked the people of Rowallane for their support in returning him as their Councillor. He expressed his optimism for the year ahead, to continue to grow and support the tourism sector and in showcasing the District. He further committed his support to those businesses affected by the floods, and to the voluntary and community sector who were facing funding cuts. He expressed his hope to continue the next year stronger than ever before by building on the success of the last.

AGM/005/2024 APPOINTMENTS TO STATUTORY COMMITTEES 2024/25

Read: List of Committee picks 2024/25 (**Copy circulated**)

Mrs Ward advised it had been agreed to use the default method of Quota of Greatest Remainder for appointment to Committees, with the remaining 7 positions being allocated by the d'Hondt method.

The positions were confirmed as follows:

Sinn Féin	Planning Committee
UUP	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
Councillor Gibbons	Active & Healthy Communities
Councillor Tinnelly	Planning
UUP	Sustainability & Environment Committee
Councillor Gibbons	Economy, Regeneration & Tourism
Councillor Tinnelly	Audit

The Chief Executive advised that the remaining names for committee selection should be given to Democratic Services as soon as possible.

Agreed: **It was agreed to approve the appointments to Committees using Quota of Greatest Remainder. (Copy of Committee List 2024/25 appended to these Minutes)**

AGM/006/2024 TO APPOINT REPRESENTATIVES TO EXTERNAL BODIES AND ORGANISATIONS (EXCLUDING STATUTORY POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY) AND INTERNAL BODIES AND FORUMS

Read: List of External Bodies and Organisations 2024/25.
(**Copy circulated**)

Noted: Working Group Terms of Reference will require updating at their first meeting.

Noted: **It was agreed to note the External Bodies and Organisations List. (excluding Statutory Positions of Responsibility)**

AGM/007/2024 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR INCOMING YEAR

Read: Schedule of Meetings for the year 2024/25.
(Copy circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, it was agreed to approve the Schedule of Meetings for the year 2024/25.

AGM/008/2023 **SCHEME OF ALLOWANCES PAYABLE TO COUNCILLORS**

Read: Newry Mourne & Down District Council Scheme of Allowances payable to Councillors. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Bowsie, seconded by Councillor Lewis, it was agreed to approve the Newry Mourne & Down District Council Scheme of Allowances payable to Councillors.

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 5.40pm.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Chief Executive

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**NMD/C/****Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 3 June 2024 at 6.00pm in
Council Chamber, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick****In the Chair:** Councillor P Byrne

In attendance in Chamber:	Councillor T Andrews	Councillor C Bowsie
	Councillor J Brennan	Councillor P Campbell
	Councillor L Devlin	Councillor C Enright
	Councillor K Feehan	Councillor D Finn
	Councillor A Finnegan	Councillor M Gibbons
	Councillor O Hanlon	Councillor G Hanna
	Councillor V Harte	Councillor T Howie
	Councillor G Kearns	Councillor C King
	Councillor M Larkin	Councillor D Lee-Surginor
	Councillor A Lewis	Councillor A Mathers
	Councillor D McAteer	Councillor L McEvoy
	Councillor S O'Hare	Councillor K Murphy
	Councillor S Murphy	Councillor A Quinn
	Councillor H Reilly	Councillor G Sharvin
	Councillor D Taylor	Councillor J Tinnelly
	Councillor J Truesdale	Councillor H Young

Officials in attendance: Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
Mr C Mallon, Director of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism
Mrs S Murphy, Director of Sustainability and Environment
Mr A Patterson, Director of Active and Healthy Communities
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer

C/100/2024 APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Clarke, Galbraith, Howell, Jackson, Magennis, D Murphy, Rice and Ruane and Ms J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services.

The Chairperson advised that he wished to set the precedent going forward that Members should advise him of any items they wish to have raised by him under Chairpersons Remarks and he would reference those Councillors when doing so.

The Chairperson urged Members to engage and support the Care for Caolan fundraising effort to raise much needed funds for Caolan Finnegan to receive treatment.

C/101/2024 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chief Executive declared an interest in Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 23 May 2024 item AC/043/2024, Update on Kilbroney Pitches.

C/102/2024 ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7 MAY 2024

Read: Action sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 7 May 2024 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 7 May 2024 was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Lewis.**

C/103/2024 COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7 MAY 2024

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 7 May 2024 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 7 May 2024 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Brennan.**

C/104/2024 SPECIAL COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 29 APRIL 2024

Read: Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 29 April 2024 (copy circulated).

SC/012/2024: NI Water

Councillor McAteer referred to Mr Larkin from NI Water undertaking to look at a boundary map regarding capacity issues and planning applications within the Newry area for Councillors information and enquired if this could be followed up.

Agreed: **It was agreed Democratic Services would follow on the supply of boundary map regarding capacity issues and planning applications within the Newry area with NI Water and circulate to Members.**

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 29 April 2024 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Truesdale.**

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION**C/105/2024 MINUTES OF ECONOMY, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13 MAY 2024**

Read: Minutes of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 13 May 2024 (copy circulated).

Councillor Bowsie took the opportunity to highlight the 80th anniversary of D-Day and spoke of the Districts strong connections to the historic events. He asked if arrangements to the mark the anniversary could be shared publicly at the meeting.

Mrs Ward confirmed activities were taking place in the Newry and Mourne Museum and newspaper articles and social media posts were being actioned regarding material in the museum collection relating to D-Day. This included an exhibition mounting a temporary display of uniforms worn by local individuals involved e.g. Major Gerald who resided in Newry and James Quinn from Kilkeel with Education Outreach Officers also organising a lecture.

Councillor Reilly advised Chair and Vice-Chairs from other Councils throughout the UK were attending 80th anniversary events in Normandy and enquired if Council had received such notification.

Mrs Ward and Ms Taggart confirmed they were not aware of any such notification but would follow up on the matter.

Agreed: **The Minutes of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 13 May 2024 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor S Murphy, seconded by Councillor Bowsie.**

C/106/2024 **MINUTES OF STRATEGY POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16 MAY 2024**

Read: Minutes of Strategy Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 16 May 2024 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 16 May 2024 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor McEvoy.**

C/107/2024 **MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 MAY 2024**

Read: Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 20 May 2024 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 20 May 2024 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Finn, seconded by Councillor Finnegan.**

C/108/2024 **MINUTES OF SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 22 MAY 2024**

Read: Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 22 May 2024 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 22 May 2024 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Kearns, seconded by Councillor K Murphy.**

C/109/2024 **MINUTES OF AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 23 MAY 2024**

Read: Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 23 May 2024 (copy circulated).

Councillor Sharvin enquired if Council had received any further information on when the rest of the funds were to be released for the Enhanced Payments Scheme for flooding.

Mr Mallon advised he could provide an update to Members on the current position around the payments that had been received and processed through the enhanced scheme.

In reference to additional money, Mrs Ward said Officers did not yet have clarity as to how it would be allocated but that work continued with Department for the Economy and the priority presently was to allocate the enhanced payments to businesses. She appealed to businesses to get the information in and if there were any issues to make contact with Officers who would provide assistance to them.

The Chairperson asked that once there was clarity on the next date that it be circulated to all Members as soon as it became available.

Agreed: The Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 23 May 2024 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Brennan, seconded by Councillor O'Hare.

C/110/2024 **MINUTES OF SPECIAL STRATEGY POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 30 MAY 2024**

Read: Minutes of Special Strategy Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 30 May 2024 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 16 May 2024 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Lewis.

CONFERENCES / EVENTS**C/111/2024** **SOMME ASSOCIATION**

Read: Invite from Somme Association to attend services to commemorate the 108th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, France. (copy circulated)

Councillor Lewis proposed that given the Election had been called that only one Councillor attend the services to commemorate the 108th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, France for 2024, with 3 Councillors to attend in 2025. Councillor Hanna seconded the proposal.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Hanna that one Councillor would attend services to commemorate the 108th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme in France in 2024 with 3 Councillors to attend in 2025.

C/112/2024 **APSE NI: 'ENVIRO NI' EVENT AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024**

Read: Information leaflet regarding APSE NI Free Member Event 'Enviro NI' and Annual General Meeting on 6 June 2024.

Councillor Andrews encouraged as many Members as possible to attend the free event and APSE Annual General Meeting.

Mrs Ward advised that any Members attending the APSE event and AGM were to contact Democratic Services in order for a record could be taken.

Agreed: **It was agreed that any Members attending the APSE NI 'Enviro NI' Event and Annual General Meeting on 6 June 2024 contact Democratic Services.**

C/113/2024 **CORRESPONDENCE REPORT**

Read: Report dated 3 June 2024 from Mrs Ward, Chief Executive, regarding an update on correspondence received for the attention of Council.

Appendix 4: Correspondence from the Home Office in relation to C/080/2024 Notice of Motion, Fisheries and Aquaculture Industries and Seasonal Worker Visa Route.

Councillor Enright voiced concern at the Home Office suggesting that fishing in Northern Ireland was not a seasonal activity and having spoken with fishing representatives in Ardglass they made a very convincing case that fishing only occurred for a couple of months a year.

Councillor Enright proposed Council write back and challenge their response and that fisheries within this area were seasonal and that the salary threshold in the region of £32,000 per annum was unreasonable. Councillor McAteer seconded the proposal.

The Chairperson welcomed the proposal stating it was important that Council did not accept responses when they were insufficient and in that in this case Council did not agree with the Home Office's interpretation of the Seasonal Workers Visa.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Enright, seconded by Councillor McAteer that Council write back to the Home Office and challenge the response received regarding Seasonal Workers Visa for the Fishing Industry.**

Additional Item: *Response from the Department for the Economy, C/088/2024 – Notice of Motion, Inclusion of Counties Armagh and Down in Ireland's Ancient East*

Mrs Ward informed Members that a response had been received from the Minister of the Economy confirming he would meet with Council to discuss the inclusion of Counties Armagh and Down in Ireland's East, subject to any urgent Northern Ireland Assembly business.

Mrs Ward confirmed officers would follow up on that and Members would be advised in due course.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Devlin to note the correspondence report and appendices including the following:**

Appendix 1: Correspondence from Derry and Strabane District Council in relation to a Notice of Motion, Autism Strategy.

Appendix 2: Correspondence from Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in relation to SC/006/2024 following Special Council Meeting on 25 March 2024 in relation to NIEA Sharing Information Protocol.

Appendix 3: Correspondence from Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities in relation to C/078/2024 Notice of Motion, Irish Language Resource Centre Glór Uachtar Tire.

Appendix 4: Correspondence from the Home Office in relation to C/080/2024 Notice of Motion, Fisheries and Aquaculture Industries and Seasonal Worker Visa Route.

Appendix 5: Correspondence from Department of Finance in relation C/099/2024 Notice of Motion, Baby Loss.

Appendix 6: Correspondence from Department of Health in relation to C/099/2024 Notice of Motion, Baby Loss.

Appendix 7: Correspondence from the Department for Communities in relation to C/093/2024, Arts Sector Calls.

Additional Item: Correspondence from the Department for the Economy, C/088/2024 – Notice of Motion, Inclusion of Counties Armagh and Down in Ireland’s Ancient East

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 6.35m.

For confirmation at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 1 July 2024.

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive

NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting
held on Monday 10 June 2024 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, Monaghan Row.**

Chairperson: Councillor C Bowsie

**Committee Members
in attendance:**

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor K Feehan
Councillor M Gibbons	Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor G Hanna	Councillor G Kearns
Councillor D Lee-Surginor	Councillor S Murphy
Councillor M Ruane	Councillor J Truesdale

Officials in attendance: Mr C Mallon, Director of Economy, Regeneration & Tourism
 Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Regeneration
 Ms A McVeigh, Head of Regeneration and Business Development
 Ms M Boyle, Head of Tourism, Development and Visitor Experience
 Ms S Burns, Head of Programmes, Economy, Growth and Tourism
 Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
 Mrs N Stranney, Democratic Services Officer

ERT/055/2024: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON’S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Clarke, Galbraith, Harte and Quinn.

ERT/056/2024: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Andrews declared an interest in item **ERT/062/2024**

ERT/057/2024: ACTION SHEET ECONOMY, REGENERATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING MONDAY 13 MAY 2024

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 13 May 2024. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 13 May 2024.**

ERT/058/2024: ERT – MEETINGS SCHEDULE JUNE 2024 – MAY 2025

Read: Paper recommending proposed dates and times for Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meetings from June 2024 to May 2025. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Hanna, the dates and times for Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meetings from June 2024 to May 2025 were agreed.**

FOR DECISION**ERT/059/2024: ECONOMY, REGENERATION AND TOURISM - BUSINESS & SERVICE PLANS**

Read: Report dated 10 June 2024 from Mr C Mallon, Director of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism regarding Directorate Business Plans. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Truesdale raised the withdrawal of partners from the PeacePlus Peatlands project and queried whether Council would apply for the DAERA Peatland Challenge Fund. Mr. Mallon advised that applications were continuously under review and members would be updated on progress with funding applications.

Councillor Truesdale inquired about the pricing structure for groups utilising Castlewellan Lake. Mr. Mallon explained that the pricing structure, approved at the beginning of the year, applied to all council tourism assets and was not specific to any single park. He added that officers process event applications for forest parks and tourism assets as they were received.

Councillor Truesdale stated the small settlement scheme, having not been involved before, was a great initiative and noted her appreciation for the dedication of staff along with the commitment shown by DFC and the elected representatives. She described the meeting as highly proactive and successful, with clear, measurable outcomes.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Ruane, the following was agreed:**

- **To note the Assessment of the ERT Directorate Business Plan 2023-24.**
- **To agree the ERT Directorate Business Plan 2024-25.**

FOR INFORMATION**ERT/060/2024: CHURCH STREET and DeCOURCY PLACE PUBLIC REALM**

Read: Report dated 10 June 2024 from Ms A McVeigh, Head of Regeneration and Business Development regarding Church Street and DeCourcy Place Public Realm. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Andrews endorsed the scheme noting that it was long overdue.

Councillor Hanlon welcomed the progression to the planning application stage and the business case and acknowledged the Downpatrick Regeneration Working Group for their diligent efforts in secure funding for Downpatrick.

Read: Report dated 10 June 2024 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director, Regeneration regarding APSE Performance Report 2022/23 for Building Control (**Copy circulated**)

Councillor Andrews expressed his appreciation for the efforts involved and congratulated the team on receiving this accolade from APSE.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor, it was agreed to note the content of the APSE report and recognise the hard work, commitment, and dedication of staff within the Building Control section on behalf of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.

ERT/063/2024: Go Succeed NI

Read: Report dated 10 June 2024 from Ms A McVeigh, Head of Regeneration and Business Development regarding an update on Northern Ireland Enterprise Support Service (NIESS) – Go Succeed NI.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor, it was agreed to note the update on the implementation of the NI Enterprise Support Service (NIESS) branded Go Succeed NI.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 6.20pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 1 July 2024.

Signed: Councillor C Bowsie
Chairperson
Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee

Signed: Mr C Mallon
Director Economy, Regeneration & Tourism

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on
Thursday 13 June 2024 at 6.00pm in the Council Chamber, Downshire Civic Centre****In the Chair:** Councillor T Howie

In Attendance in Chamber:	Councillor P Byrne	Councillor W Clarke
	Councillor O Hanlon	Councillor C King
	Councillor A Lewis	Councillor A Mathers
	Councillor D McAteer	Councillor S O'Hare
	Councillor H Reilly	Councillor G Sharvin
	Councillor D Taylor	

**Non-Committee Members
In Attendance via Teams:** Councillor C Bowsie**Officials in Attendance
in Chamber:**

Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
 Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services
 Mr C Mallon, Director of Economy Regeneration & Tourism
 Ms S Murphy, Director of Sustainability & Environment
 Mr A Patterson, Director of Active & Healthy Communities
 Mr C Boyd, Assistant Director: Capital & Procurement
 Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director of Finance and Performance
 Ms V Keegan, Assistant Director: Digital & Communications
 Ms M Hughes, HR and OD Manager
 Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy
 Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
 Ms F Branagh, Democratic Services Officer

SPR/092/2024: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Enright, Quinn and Rice.

Councillor Howie thanked members for the honour of being chairperson of the Committee and spoke of her excitement for the Committee to be a space for respectful debate and scrutiny.

SPR/093/2024: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In response to a query from Councillor King regarding whether he required to declare an interest in Item 8 – PeacePlusProject – Theme 1.3., the Chief Executive advised it was up to individual Members to decide whether they had a conflict.

**SPR/094/2024 ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM STRATEGY, POLICY &
RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 16 MAY 2024****Read:** Action sheet of Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee meeting held Thursday 16 May 2024. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, it was agreed to approve the action sheet of Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held 16 May 2024.

SPR/095/2024 **ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM SPECIAL STRATEGY, POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 30 MAY 2024**

Read: Action sheet of Special Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held 30 May 2024. **(Copy circulated)**

Following a query from Councillor Sharvin regarding the allocation of the funding, Mr Mallon advised that Council were currently preparing the Letters of Offer to the successful applicants which would be issued in the coming week.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, it was agreed to approve the action sheet of Special Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held 30 May 2024.

SPR/096/2024 **TO AGREE START TIMES FOR STRATEGY, POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2024-2025**

Read: Copy of Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee Meeting Dates and Times. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor O'Hare, the dates and times for the Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee Meetings 2024-25 were agreed.

SPR/097/2024 **CORPORATE SERVICES BUSINESS PLAN**

Read: Report from Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive, and Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services, regarding Corporate Services Business Plan. **(Copy circulated)**

Mrs Kelly presented the reports and highlighted that in 2024/2025 the Chief Executive and Corporate Services Directorate had been combined and would consist of one report moving forward.

Following a query from Councillor Reilly regarding how the Newry, Mourne and Down Citizens Panel would be selected, as outlined within the Corporate Plan, Mrs Ward advised that she would respond to the Member following the meeting.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Mathers, seconded by Councillor King, it was agreed to approve the following:

- **The assessment of the Chief Executive's Business Plan and Corporate Services Directorate Business Plan 2023-2024**
- **The Chief Executive and Corporate Services Business Plan 2024-2025**

SPR/098/2024**PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2024-2025**

Read: Report from Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director of Finance, regarding the Performance Improvement Plan 2024-2025. **(Copy circulated)**

In proposing the Report, Councillor Sharvin queried whether the target for Leisure should be amended given the challenges regarding Newry Leisure Centre.

Mr Byrne advised that this had been discussed when the targets had been agreed and advised that the NI Audit Office recommended not reducing a target after it had been set, provided an explanation could be given when reviewing targets at end of year.

Mrs Ward advised that she would encourage the target to remain unchanged as it would help Council monitor the impact of the ongoing closure.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, it was agreed to approve the following recommendations:**

- **The Performance Improvement Plan 2024-2025 (including the five performance improvement objectives), Consultation and Engagement Report 2024-2025 and Objective Delivery Plans 2024-2025.**
- **That the Performance Improvement Plan 2024-2025 is published before 30 June 2024, ahead of full Council ratification, in order to meet the statutory deadline.**

SPR/099/2024**PEACEPLUS PROJECT – THEME 1.3 BUILDING POSITIVE RELATIONS**

Read: Report from Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy, regarding PeacePlus Theme 1,3 – Building Positive Relations. **(Copy circulated)**

In proposing the Report, Councillor Hanlon noted that Foras na Gaeilge carry out a large amount of work across the island and it would be a positive step to assist them in any way possible.

In seconding the Report, Councillor Reilly expressed his concerns on spending money on academia that would not assist with any work on the ground. He noted that the legacy Newry and Mourne Council had an Ulster Scots Committee that received Cross-Party support and proposed that Newry, Mourne and Down Council look at the possibility of recreating a similar forum. This was seconded by Councillor Hanlon.

Mr Moffett interjected to advise that the Report was to agree on whether Council become an associate partner and was to develop a continuous personal development course for employees which would deal with awareness for Ulster Scots and the Irish Language. He further advised that Council had already agreed to consider language and culture in terms of Ulster Scots and had been liaising with the Ulster Scots Agency and Ulster Scots Community Network and was awaiting further information being returned, and once received a Report would be brought through the Equality and Good Relations Forum.

Councillor Taylor spoke in support of the proposal and noted as a member of the previous Ulster Scots Forum that the meetings were productive, and he was keen to see forward movement on this proposal to promote the culture and see the benefits that it could bring to the District.

Mrs Ward advised members that Mr Moffett had referenced the ongoing work in relation to Ulster Scots and confirmed that a Report would be brought to the Equality and Good Relations Forum in order to establish the formation of a new Ulster Scots Forum.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Reilly, it was agreed that Council agree in principle to be an Associate Partner of Foras na Gaeilge / Ulster University Consortium PeacePlus Project under Theme 1.3 Building Positive Relations.**

It was further agreed on the proposal of Councillor Reilly, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, that a Report would be brought back to the Equality and Good Relations Working Group on establishing an Ulster Scots Forum.

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

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor O'Hare, seconded by Councillor Clarke, 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).**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor O'Hare, seconded by Councillor Lewis, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.**

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

SPR/100/2024

REVISED PAY PROTECTION ARRANGEMENTS

Read: Report from Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services, regarding Revised Pay Protection Arrangements. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor McAteer, it was agreed to approve the amended Pay Protection Arrangements as outlined at Appendix 1 of the Officer's Report.**

SPR/101/2024 **NO 4 DAISY HILL**

Read: Report from Mr C Boyd, Assistant Director of Capital and Procurement, regarding No 4 Daisy Hill. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Mathers, seconded by Councillor McAteer, it was agreed to defer any decision and to bring a paper back to the August Committee with further detail.**

SPR/102/2024 **CORPORATE GRAPHIC DESIGN AND PRINT MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

Read: Report from MS V Keegan, Assistant Director of Digital and Communications, regarding Corporate Graphic Design and Print. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor McAteer, it was agreed to begin the tender process for the provision of Corporate Graphic Design and Print Management Services with the Business Case being amended.**

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

SPR/103/2024 **NMDDC RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON LGSC DRAFT MODEL DISCIPLINARY POLICY AND PROCEDURE.**

Read: Report from Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services, regarding NMDDC Response to Consultation on LGSC Draft Model Disciplinary Policy and Procedure. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor McAteer, it was agreed to note the contents of the Report.**

SPR/104/2024 **INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS UPDATE**

Read: Report from Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services, regarding an Industrial Relations Update. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor McAteer, it was agreed to note the contents of the Report.**

SPR/105/2024 **YEAR END MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS**

Read: Report from Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director of Finance & Performance, regarding Year End Management Accounts 2023-2024(Draft). **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor McAteer, it was agreed to note the year end 2023-2024 Management Accounts**

Councillors Reilly and Taylor left the meeting at this stage – 6.52pm

SPR/106/2024 **MINUTES OF STRATEGIC FINANCE WORKING GROUP MEETING OF 2 MAY 2024**

Read: Minutes of Strategic Finance Working Group Meeting of 2 May 2024. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor McAteer, it was agreed to note the minutes.**

SPR/107/2024 **SPECIFIC DELEGATED AUTHORITY – NEWRY LEISURE CENTRE**

Read: Report from Mr A Patterson, Director of Active & Healthy Communities, regarding Specific Delegated Authority – Newry Leisure Centre. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor McAteer, it was agreed to note that delegation had been exercised by the Chief Executive regarding a legal matter in the best interests of the Council and is being reported in accordance with section 3.1.11 of the Council's Scheme of Delegation for Officers.**

It was also agreed that an update report be brought back to a future committee meeting.

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 7.05pm

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 1st July 2024.

Signed: **Councillor Tierna Howie**
Chairperson

Signed: **Josephine Kelly**
 Director of Corporate Services

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: AHC/2024

**Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on
Monday 17 June 2024 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room,
Downshire Civic Centre**

Chairperson: Councillor C Galbraith

In attendance in Chamber:

Councillor L Devlin	Councillor A Finnegan
Councillor M Gibbons	Councillor J Jackson
Councillor D Lee- Surginor	Councillor A Lewis
Councillor A Mathers	Councillor D Murphy
Councillor K Murphy	Councillor H Young

Officials in Chamber:

Mr A Patterson, Director, Active and Healthy Communities
 Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development
 Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer
 Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)

AHC/050/2024: APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Finn, Howell, Magennis and McEvoy.

The Chairperson spoke of his privilege having been nominated by SDLP colleagues to take on the role of Chairperson of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee and looked forward to working with officers and Members to ensure provision of the resources and services required in the best interest of those that live in the District.

He thanked the outgoing Chair, Councillor Howell for carrying out the role with such professionalism.

Referring to Chairperson's remarks Members were advised that from the outset any requests for remarks were welcome, however, these should be submitted to the Chairperson in advance of meetings.

AHC/051/2024: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

AHC/052/2024: **ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 MAY 2024**

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

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor D Murphy, to note the Action Sheet of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 20 May 2024.**

AHC/053/2024: **TO AGREE DATES AND TIMES FOR ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2024/25**

Read: Schedule of Meetings for Active and Healthy Communities Committee meetings 2024/25. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor D Murphy, to approve the schedule of meetings for the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meetings 2024/25.**

AHC/054/2024: **ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES BUSINESS PLANS & ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE**

Read: Report dated 17 June 2024 from Mr A Patterson, Director of Active and Healthy Communities regarding Directorate Business Plans for Active and Healthy Communities. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor K Murphy, seconded by Councillor D Murphy, to approve the Assessment of the AHC Directorate Business Plan 2023-24 and the AHC Directorate Business Plan 2024-25.**

AHC/055/2023: DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORUMS UPDATE REPORT

Read: Report dated 17 June 2024 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding an update on District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums. **(Copy circulated)**

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

- The Mournes DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 21 May 2024.
- Crotlieve DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 4 June 2024.
- Newry DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Thursday 6 June 2024.
- Downpatrick DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 11 June 2024.

AHC/056/2023: DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORA TERMS OF REFERENCE AND OPERATING PROTOCOL

Read: Report dated 17 June 2024 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding District Electoral Area (DEA) For a Terms of Reference and Operating Protocol. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Mathers welcomed the report and the opportunity to move to monthly meetings when required particularly for those DEA Forums that had an extensive workload.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mathers, seconded by Councillor K Murphy, to note the report and approve the following amendment to the DEA Fora Terms of Reference & Operating Protocol:
DEA Forum private meetings would normally be held bi-monthly. However, meetings may be held more frequently i.e. Monthly, with the agreement of the Forum Membership.

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on item 9, which related to exempt information by virtue of para. 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business. And on items 8 and 10 to 13 which related to exempt information by virtue of para. Three of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local /Government (Northern Ireland) 2014 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor D Murphy, seconded by Councillor Mathers, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

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

AHC/057/2023: DONARD PARK WORKS

Read: Report dated 17 June 2024 from Mr A Patterson, Director of Active and Healthy Communities regarding a licence for works to Donard Park Pavilion and surrounding areas. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor D Murphy, to issue a Licence for Works to Donard Park Pavilion and surrounding area as set out in the officer's report.

AHC/058/2024 COMMUNITY COORDINATION HUB (CCH) UPDATE REPORT

Read: Report dated 17 June 2024 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding an update report on Community Coordination Hub. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor D Murphy, to note the report and approve the actions in the Action Sheet attached for the Community Coordination Hub Meeting held on Wednesday 22 May 2024.

AHC/059/2024: LEASING OF COUNCIL LAND – EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (STAGE 1)

Read: Report dated 17 June 2024 from Mr A Patterson, Director of Active and Healthy Communities regarding progression of sites via stage 1 of the Council's Sport and Community Leasing Policy. **(Copy circulated)**

Following a point of clarification from Councillor D Murphy, Mr Patterson advised he would investigate and advise the Member.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor, to approve that the Expressions of Interest process for leasing of areas contained within the report are progressed in line with Council's Sports and Community Facility Management and Leasing Policy.

AHC/060/2024: REQUEST FOR LETTER FOR SUPPORT

Read: Report dated 17 June 2024 from Mr A Patterson, Director of Active and Healthy Communities regarding a letter of support for an application to SEUPB for PEACE funding. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor D Murphy, to provide a Letter of Support as detailed in this report regarding the application to SEUPB for PEACE funding.

AHC/061/2024: MULTIPLY FUNDING INITIATIVE

Report: Report dated 17 June 2024 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding Multiply Funding Initiative .

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

AHC/062/2024: LEASING OF COUNCIL LAND AND FACILITIES – EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Read: Report dated 17 June 2024 from Mr A Patterson, Director of Active and Healthy Communities regarding an update on Expressions of Interest (EOI) received for the leasing of land and facilities as per the Sport and Community Leasing Policy. **(Copy circulated)**

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

FOR NOTING

AHC/063/2024: POLICING & COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (PCSP), NEWRY NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL PARTNERSHIP (NRP) AND DOWNPATRICK NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL PARTNERSHIP (NRP) REPORT

Read: Report dated 17 June 2024 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development providing an update on the ongoing work of the Policing & Community Safety Partnership and the Newry and Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mathers, seconded by Councillor D Murphy to note the report and the following:**

- **Minutes of Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting held on Tuesday 26 March 2024, approved at the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting on Tuesday 28 May 2024.**
- **Minutes of Newry NRP Meeting held on Wednesday 27 March 2024, approved at the Newry NRP Meeting on Wednesday 22 May 2024.**
- **Minutes of the Downpatrick NRP Meeting held on Wednesday 24 January 2024, approved at the Downpatrick NRP Meeting on Tuesday 4 June.**

AHC/064/2024: SUMMER ACTIVITY PROGRAMME REPORT 2024

Read: Report dated 17 June 2024 from Mr A Patterson, Director of Active and Healthy Communities regarding the planned Summer Activity Programme for Leisure for July and August 2024. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mathers, seconded by Councillor D Murphy, to note the planned Summer Activity Programme for Leisure for July and August 2024.

Councillor Jackson asked on behalf of Ballynahinch Hockey Club for an assessment to be carried out on the pitch at St Colman's High School. Mr Patterson advised he would revert to the Member directly on the matter.

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

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 1 July 2024.

Signed: Councillor Galbraith
Chairperson

Signed: Andrew Patterson
Director Active and Healthy Communities

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: SE/2024

Minutes of Sustainability & Environment Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 19 June 2024 at 6.15pm in Council Chamber, Monaghan Row, Newry

Chair: Councillor G Kearns**Committee Members
in Attendance:**

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor P Campbell
Councillor C Enright	Councillor V Harte
Councillor J Jackson	Councillor M Larkin
Councillor O Magennis	Councillor H Reilly
Councillor M Ruane	Councillor D Taylor
Councillor H Young	

Officials in Attendance: Mrs S Murphy, Director Sustainability and Environment
 Mr C Sage, Assistant Director Sustainability
 Ms S Trainor, Assistant Director Environment
 Miss Sarah Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
 Ms F Branagh, Democratic Services Officer
 Mrs N Stranney, Democratic Services Officer

SE/066/2024: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Brennan, Campbell, Feehan and Finn.

The Chairperson noted that item 16 – Business Case for Consultancy Services for Waste Contracts had been deferred to a future meeting.

SE/067/2024: DECLARATIONS OF "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"

There were no declarations of interest.

SE/068/2024: ACTION SHEET: SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 22 MAY 2024

Read: Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 22 May 2024. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to note the Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 22 May 2024.

SE/069/2024: TO AGREE START TIMES OF SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS, WORKING GROUP, AND CLEANSING & REFUSE TASK GROUP 2024-2025 SCHEDULE.

Read: Copy of Sustainability & Environment Committee Meetings, Working Group, and Cleansing & Refuse Task Group dates and times. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Enright, the dates and start times for the Sustainability & Environment Committee Meetings, Working Group and Cleansing & Refuse Task Group were agreed.

FOR DECISION

SE/070/2024: **SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE BUSINESS PLAN 2024-2025**

Read: Report dated 19 June 2024 from Ms S Murphy, Director: Sustainability and Environment, regarding Sustainability & Environment Directorate Business Plan. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Enright proposed an amendment to the Business Plan with the addition of the following on page 11 in Appendix 2 under Sustainability Supporting Actions: **“realise savings and additional revenues”**

Councillor Reilly expressed his opposition to the proposal, stating that Council should not be burdened with the goal of achieving net zero.

Following a request for clarification from Councillor Ruane, Ms Murphy advised the impact of any changes, along with savings through any of the sustainable strategies would be reported back to the Committee.

Councillors Reilly and Taylor sought confirmation that by adding the proposed wording, it would not constitute a commitment to implement but rather something to work towards. Ms Murphy confirmed this was correct.

Following the clarification, Councillor Reilly withdrew his opposition.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Enright, seconded by Councillor Young, it was agreed to approve the following:

- **The Assessment of the Sustainability & Environment Directorate Business Plan 2023 – 2024.**
- **The Sustainability & Environment Directorate Business Plan 2024-2025.**
- **Add the wording “realise savings and additional revenue” to the objective under Sustainability Supporting Actions**

SE/071/2024: **IRISH OPEN CAR PARKING PROVISION**

Read: Report dated 19 June 2024 from Ms S Trainor, Assistant Director of Environment, regarding Parking Request for Amgen Irish Open 2024. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Ruane addressed concerns raised by Councillor Clarke about using the entire Downs Road car park for the golf event as it was a primary parking area, therefore would displace

shoppers from parking to access local businesses. Councillor Ruane advised that Councillor Clarke proposed offering half of the Downs Road Car Park, along with the Donard Park green area and possibly the Islands Car Park, with a designated small area for dog walkers. Councillor Ruane requested a review of this car parking proposal and if alternatives could be looked at. Ms Trainor said it would be reviewed and brought to the Working Group to discuss and reconsider.

Councillor Enright relayed concerns raised by Councillor Truesdale, regarding local churchgoers who use Downs Road Car Park and the exit onto Shanslieve Road with a potential for gridlock if not managed properly. Councillor Enright requested an active meeting with church officials to discuss regular services and the accommodation of funerals.

Councillor Reilly confirmed his attendance at the working group meeting for the Irish Open and praised the efforts of Council officials. He welcomed the use of Donard Park, emphasising its potential to increase footfall throughout the town. Councillor Reilly also addressed concerns raised by Councillor Truesdale regarding churchgoers, noting that Mr Mallon provided assurances during the meeting that arrangements for churchgoers would be addressed.

Ms Trainor confirmed that engagement with the Church community had occurred and would continue, and that a designated parking area for their use had been identified. Ms Trainor advised that the report needed to be agreed to allow Amgen to put in place their transport plan which would inform the engagement with residents and businesses in the area to alleviate the points raised by Councillor Enright around Shanslieve Road.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to approve the parking arrangements for the Amgen Irish Open (AIO) in September 2024, as outlined within the Officer's Report.**

SE/072/2024: PROVISION OF PORTABLE TOILETS FOR EVENTS

Read: Report dated 19 June 2024 from Ms S Murphy, Director of Sustainability & Environment, regarding the Provision of Portable Toilets at events.
(Copy circulated)

Councillor Jackson proposed to accept the officer's recommendation that portable toilets for events over 10,000 people should be considered as part of the review, agreed by Council of Financial Assistance. He emphasised that providing toilets at these events was essential for health and safety and hygiene reasons and acknowledged the difficulty in estimating attendance numbers for some events.

Councillor Larkin inquired whether the Council owned portable toilets or rented them. Ms Murphy confirmed that the Council hired them.

Councillor Taylor asked whether the financial assistance scheme covered portable toilet hire and asked whether setting a 10,000 person threshold would be taking opportunities away from smaller attended events.

Ms Murphy advised the Financial Assistance Programme would consider applications and whatever a community group would require for their community event. She stated the threshold would be discussed at the Committee that would be reviewing the Financial Assistance, however, agreed to seek clarity on the threshold and revert to the Member.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor Larkin, it was agreed that the proposal for portable**

toilets for events over 10,000 people should be considered as part of the review, agreed by Council of Financial Assistance.

SE/073/2024: REPORT ON SUSTAINABLE NI MEMBERSHIP ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Read: Report dated 19 June 2024 from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability, regarding Request for support for Sustainable Northern Ireland (SNI). **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Enright proposed this report stating there would be a substantial challenge meeting the new reporting requirements and staff should be supported.

Councillor Reilly discussed the river running through Kilkeel, emphasising its urgent need for cleaning and requested an investigation into this matter, believing it to be a public health concern.

Mr. Sage said the paper emphasised a higher level of membership to help Council staff develop the Sustainability and Climate Change strategy. He stated this enhanced membership would ensure compliance with new climate change legislation from May 2024 as Council were required to report on its carbon baseline from April 2024 to March 2025.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Enright, seconded by Councillor Ruane it was agreed to provide the financial support at Accelerator Membership Level and sign an SLA with Sustainable NI for 2024-2025.

SE/074/2024: REPORT ON KEEP NI BEAUTIFUL ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Read: Report dated 19 June 2024 from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability, regarding Live Here Love Here Initiative and Eco Schools programme from Keep NI Beautiful 2024-2025 **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Reilly, it was agreed to approve the financial support and signing of an SLA for the period 2024-2025 as outlined in Section 2.3 of the report, and to support the Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful (KNIB) Live Here Love Here campaign and Eco Schools Programme across the District.

SE/075/2024: FOOD SERVICE PLAN 2024-2025

Read: Report dated 19 June 2024 from Ms S Trainor, Assistant Director of Environment, regarding Food Service Plan 2024/2025. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to adopt the Food Service Plan 2024/2025 as outlined at Appendix 1 of the Officer's Report.

SE/076/2024: UPDATE ON NEW SAFEGUARDING MEASURES FOR XL BULLY BREED TYPE DOGS.

Read: Report dated 19 June 2024 from Ms S Trainor, Assistant Director of Environment, regarding Update on New Safeguarding Measures for XL Bully Breed Type Dogs introduced by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA). **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Young, it was agreed to support the introduction of new safeguarding measures for XL Bully breed type dogs in NI.**

SE/077/2024: DAERA CONSULTATION –“RETHINKING OUR RESOURCES”

Read: Report dated 19 June 2024 from Ms S Trainor, Assistant Director of Environment, regarding DAERA Consultation – Rethinking Our Resources: Measures for Climate Action and a Circular Economy in NI. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Reilly raised concerns about the decrease in kerbside collections, particularly since the service was funded through rates and expressed his disappointment in the implementation of laws that were mandated by the EU before Northern Ireland's departure.

Councillor Andrews also voiced concerns about the reduction in collections and worried about the expenses being shifted onto rate payers.

Councillor Enright highlighted the 'producer pays principle', suggesting that large multinational companies should compensate Councils for excessive packaging waste, while agreeing. He that these costs should not be passed on to ratepayers.

Ms. Murphy clarified that the Council's consultation response did not endorse DEARA's proposals and noted the effectiveness of operating a single-stream collection system which the Council supported. Council also back the recycling target of 70% and believed each Council should decide how best to achieve this.

Regarding Councillor Enright's remark on the 'producer pays principle', Ms. Murphy highlighted there is ongoing work with Central Government led by DEFRA to collaborate with producers on the costs of packaging disposal, aiming to alleviate the burden from the rate payer through the implementation of new legislation.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Enright, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to approve the consultation response entitled “Rethinking Our Resources: Measures for Climate Action and a Circular Economy in NI”, published by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).**

Councillor Young left the meeting at this stage - 7.11pm
Councillor Jackson left the meeting at this stage - 7.16pm

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

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Enright, 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 para. 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local /Government**

(Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

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

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

SE/078/2024: FLEET REPLACEMENT UPDATE

Read: Report dated 19 June 2024 Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability, regarding Fleet Replacement Programme Update 2022 - 2025. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Ruane, the following was agreed:

- To approve the amended capital spend for Fleet replacement 2024-2025 as outlined within the Officer's Report.
- To approve the amendments to the 2023-2025 business case for vehicle replacement as outlined within the Officer's Report.

SE/079/2024: BUSINESS CASE FOR EV CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE

Read: Report dated 19 June 2024 from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability, regarding Installation of EV Charging Infrastructure at Council Facilities. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Enright, seconded by Councillor Magennis it was agreed to approve the business case recommendation for the installation of two double electric vehicle chargers at each site as detailed within the Officer's Report.

SE/080/2024: BUSINESS CASE FOR SERVICING, MAINTENANCE AND MONITORING OF COUNCIL'S FIRE AND INTRUDER ALARM SYSTEMS

Read: Report dated 19 June 2024 from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability, regarding a Business Case for servicing, maintenance and monitoring of Council's Fire & Intruder Alarm Systems, together with provision of call-out arrangements for required facilities. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Harte, it was agreed to note the report and to approve the business case recommendation that Option 2 is chosen as the preferred option.

Councillor Taylor left the meeting at this stage - 7.25pm

SE/081/2024: BUSINESS CASE FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR WASTE CONTRACTS

This item was deferred to a later date.

SE/082/2024: BUSINESS CASE FOR HRC WASTE STREAMS

Read: Report dated 19 June 2024 Ms S Murphy, Director: Sustainability and Environment, regarding a Business Case for Various Waste Streams from Household Recycling Centres. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Larkin, seconded by Councillor Harte, it was agreed to approve the Business Case to procure contracts for the collection/receipt, transport and processing (recycling/recovery/treatment) of various waste streams from Household Recycling Centres (HRCs)

SE/083/2024: SINGLE TENDER ACTION

Read: Report dated 19 June 2024 Ms S Trainor, Assistant Director: Environment, regarding a Single Tender Action. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Reilly, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to approve the STA as detailed in Appendix 1 of the Officer's Report.

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

SE/084/2024: ACTION SHEET AND PRESENTATION FROM THE CLEANSING AND REFUSE TASK GROUP HELD 22 MAY 2024

Read: Action Sheet and Presentation from Cleansing and Refuse Task Group meeting held 22 May 2024. **(copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Andrews, seconded by Councillor Enright it was agreed to note the action sheet and presentation from the Cleansing & Refuse task group held 22 May 2024.

SE/085/2024: ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERS' MONTHLY BULLETIN OF 30 MAY 2024 AND IN COMMITTEE MINUTES OF THURSDAY 25 APRIL 2024

Read: Arc21 Joint Committee Members Monthly Bulletin of 30 May 2024 and In Committee Minutes of Thursday 25 April 2024 **(copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Enright, it was agreed to note the documents.

FOR NOTING

SE/086/2024: ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF THURSDAY 25 APRIL 2024

Read: Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting Minutes of Thursday 25 April 2024 (**copy circulated**)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to note the minutes.

SE/087/2024: DISTRICT CLEANSING – SUMMER SEASON 2024 PREPARATIONS

Read: Report from Ms S Murphy, Director of Sustainability & Environment, regarding District Cleansing Summer Season 2024 Preparations. (**copy circulated**)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to note the planned summer season preparations as outlined within the Officer's Report.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7:35pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 1st July 2024.

**Signed: Councillor Geraldine Kearns
Chairperson**

**Signed: Ms Sinead Murphy
Director of Sustainability & Environment**

Report to:	Council
Date of Meeting:	1 July 2024
Subject:	Correspondence to Council
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-

For decision	x	For noting only	
1.0			Purpose and Background
1.1			To provide an update on correspondence received for attention of Council.
2.0			Key issues
2.1			This paper refers to correspondence to be brought to the attention of Council. Items are referred to in 3.0 below.
3.0			Recommendations
			That Council considers and notes the following correspondence:
3.1			Correspondence from Department for Communities and Department of Education Council received a response from Department for Communities and Department of Education in relation to Notice of Motion C/096/2024, Right to Food . Refer to Appendices 1 and 2.
3.2			Correspondence from Department of Health Council received a response from Department of Health in relation to Notice of Motion C/094/2024, Mental Health Service. Refer to Appendix 3.
3.3			Correspondence from Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media Council received a response from Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media in relation to Notice of Motion C/088/2024, Inclusion of Counties Armagh and Down in Irelands Ancient East. Refer to Appendix 4.
3.4			Correspondence from Prime Minister and Department of Finance and Department for Infrastructure Council received a response from the Prime Minister, Department of Finance and Department for Infrastructure in relation to Notice of Motion C/095/2024, Roads Maintenance. Refer to Appendices 5, 6 and 7.

<p>3.5</p>	<p>Correspondence from Derry City & Strabane District Council</p> <p>Council received correspondence from Derry City & Strabane District Council in relation to Vaping. Refer to Appendix 8.</p>
<p>3.6</p>	<p>Correspondence from NI Water.</p> <p>Council received a response from NI Water regarding C/104/2024 Special Council meeting. Refer to Appendix 9.</p>
<p>3.7</p>	<p>Correspondence from Department of Communities.</p> <p>Council received a response from Department for Communities in relation to the Financial Assistance Call SPR/090/2024. Refer to Appendix 10.</p>
<p>3.8</p>	<p>Correspondence from Ards and North Down Borough Council</p> <p>Council received correspondence from Ards and North Down Borough Council in relation to enforcement powers regarding bins. Refer to Appendix 11.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Resource implications</p>
<p>4.1</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>
<p>5.0</p>	<p>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</p>
<p>5.1</p>	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>5.2</p>	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>

<p>5.3</p>	<p>Proposal initiating consultation</p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
<p>6.0</p>	<p>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</p>
<p>6.1</p>	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If no, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>7.0</p>	<p>Appendices</p>
	<p>Appendix 1: Department for Communities Appendix 2: Department of Education Appendix 3: Department of Health Appendix 4: Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media Appendix 5: Prime Minister Appendix 6: Department of Finance Appendix 7: Department for Infrastructure Appendix 8: Derry City & Strabane District Council Appendix 9: NI Water Appendix 10: Dept for Communities Appendix 11: Ards and North Down Borough Council.</p>
<p>8.0</p>	<p>Background Documents</p>
	<p>None</p>



Department for

Communities

www.communities-ni.gov.uk

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Department fur

Commonities

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From: Tracy Johnston
Director

Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
Belfast
BT2 7EG
Email: tracy.johnston@communities-ni.gov.uk
Tel: 028 9082 9364
Our ref: TOF-1422-2024
Date 3 June 2024

Marie Ward
Chief Executive
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
O'Hagan House
Monaghan Row
Newry
Co. Down.
BT35 8DJ

Via email: Donna.Starkey@nmandd.org

Dear Marie

RIGHT TO FOOD

Thank you for your letter date 14 May 2024 to Minister Gordon Lyons MLA. I have been asked to reply on his behalf.

Poverty is a complex and multi-faceted issue and addressing these issues is a key priority for the Department. The Minister has stated his commitment to developing effective and sustainable solutions to tackle poverty in all its forms.

The Department is leading on the Executive's Anti-Poverty Strategy. Further engagement with the Executive is required before the next steps in the Strategy's development can be formally agreed.

As you are aware, the Department has been working with district councils on a co-design basis to roll out Social Supermarket models across Northern Ireland as an alternative to foodbanks. Your Council, via your Strategic Stakeholders Forum, has engaged in this process very positively and the agreed model and level of partnership



working demonstrated to date suggests this to be a valuable resource for those in food poverty in your district.

I note that Newry, Mourne and Down District Council has engaged in the Northern Ireland Food Strategy Framework being led by the Department of Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs. A Right to Food is one of the decision-making principles in the draft Strategy.

Through a long-term approach to tackling poverty, the social security system supports people on a lower income in a number of ways including, increasing working age benefits in line with inflation, increasing the National Living Wage, as well as increasing Universal Credit Childcare payments to support parents into work. Since April 2023 and to help with the cost-of-living crisis, a number of payments have been made to households on eligible means tested benefits, the latest payment of £299 was made in February 2024.

By connecting people with the benefits they are entitled to, the Department's Make the Call service helps improve the lives of vulnerable people, particularly those in poverty, older people and those experiencing illness or disability.

I trust you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely,

TRACY JOHNSTON
Director of Machinery of Government

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

Marie Ward
Chief Executive
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Donna.Starkey@nmandd.org



Rathgael House
43 Balloo Road
Rathgill
BANGOR
BT19 7PR

private.office@education-ni.gov.uk

10 June 2024

Your ref: C/096/2024
Our ref: CORR-1513-2024

Dear Ms Ward

Thank you for your letter of 14 May 2024 on the notice of motion agreed by Newry, Mourne and Down Council on the right to food.

I recognise the pressure on families, especially those with school age children, with the current cost of living and, in particular, the increasing cost of food. My Department has an important role to play in the cross-departmental efforts to tackle food poverty, led by the Department for Communities as the lead department in the development of the Executive's Anti-Poverty Strategy. This strategy will aim to bring focus to the Executive's collective efforts to tackle the root causes of poverty and I intend that my Department will continue to play a full role in its development.

My Department continues to support school-age children through the provision of free school meals to those low income families in receipt of certain benefits. I recognise the educational benefits that this provision brings to these children, particularly in terms of their ability to concentrate, their behaviours and ultimately their learning outcomes.

On 7 June 2024 I announced an interim rise in the income threshold for those applying for free school meals and uniform grants on the basis of being in receipt of Universal Credit. As a result, families in receipt of Universal Credit with annual net household earnings less than £15,000 are entitled to free school meals and uniform grants.

My Department also continues to deliver a range of policies and interventions in place to support children who may be impacted by social disadvantage or poverty. These include funding for schools which we have worked hard to protect as far as possible, given the very constrained budget settlement.

On 31 May 2024, I announced a new intervention entitled the RAISE programme. This programme will invest in place-based approaches to raise achievement to

reduce educational disadvantage; to enhance whole community-based partnerships which will offer a fair start for every child and young person regardless of background. The RAISE programme offers the opportunity to look afresh at the issues caused by deprivation and to drive forward a whole community place-based approach to education and the issues children and young people are facing. Funding of £17m is earmarked for the RAISE programme over a period of two years. My officials have already arranged to meet with schools in the Newry area about this programme and this engagement will extend to include voluntary, community and local government partners over the coming months.

In 2023/24, £75m was provided for Targeting Social Need and allocated to schools through the Common Funding Formula. This provided for a wide range of interventions including teachers, other education professionals, special educational needs support and literacy and numeracy support at all key stages.

£8.1m was provided for the Extended Schools Programme in 2023/24 which supported over 400 schools, 200,000 pupils, 80,000 parents and 30,000 community representatives. The interventions are wide ranging and include breakfast clubs and after school activities.

The Council's motion references the introduction of universal free school meals. You may be aware that my Department is currently carrying out a review of the Free Schools Meals and Uniform Grant Eligibility Criteria. The options being considered include the introduction of universal free school meals provision to pupils in some school years, raising the income thresholds that apply to some of the means tested criteria and those that are a combination of the two.

Ahead of any changes to the criteria being implemented, a full public consultation process is to be launched later this year and I would welcome the Council's input to this consultation.

However, I would emphasise that a key issue in this review is affordability. The Department of Education is facing significant funding pressures and struggling to support existing key services. There are potentially significant budgetary implications of increasing the number of children eligible for free school meals and the implications of these costs will need to be taken into account before any final decisions are made.

I will continue to seek to support children and young people from low-income families through a range of measures that seek to both provide ongoing practical assistance in areas such as free school meal and uniform grant provision, but also in ensuring that all children are able to enjoy the same educational opportunities irrespective of their socio-economic background.

I hope you find this information useful.

Your sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Givan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Paul Givan MLA
Minister of Education

FROM THE MINISTER OF HEALTH



Department of
Health

An Roinn Sláinte

Máinnystrie O Poustie

www.health-ni.gov.uk

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

Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
BELFAST, BT4 3SQ
Tel: 028 9052 2556
Email: private.office@health-ni.gov.uk

Your Ref: C/094/2024

Our Ref: COR-1649-2024

Date: 14 June 2024

Dear Marie,

Thank you for your recent correspondence, regarding the funding of mental health service providers in the Newry, Mourne and Down area.

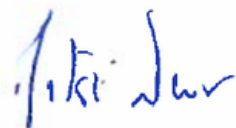
Firstly, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all those Community & Voluntary (C&V) organisations in the Newry, Mourne and Down area for the valuable work they undertake to support mental health and emotional wellbeing in the community. I have been greatly impressed by the response of C&V organisations in coming together to support those most in need.

As you may be aware, the 2024/25 Budget outcome was extremely disappointing for the Department of Health. This will mean that some extremely difficult decisions will be required to manage within the budget allocated. Therefore, our expectation is that we will not be able to do all that we want or need to do and the main focus will be on preserving and protecting existing services, with all the limitations that they currently have. In addition, the Mental Health Support Fund, which supported the C&V sector in providing vital mental health services over the last three years, has now ended as all monies have been exhausted.

However, despite the challenging financial position, the Department does recognise that effective delivery of mental health services is not possible without the full integration of the C&V sector, which is reflected in the Mental Health Strategy (MHS) 2021-2031. In delivering on Action 17 of the MHS - *'Fully integrate community and voluntary sector in mental health service delivery with a lifespan approach including the development of a protocol to make maximum use of the sector's expertise'* the Department commissioned a review in 2022/23, to consider the most effective mechanism and structure by which the sector could collectively use their experience, knowledge and skills to shape the implementation of the MHS and development of mental health services across Northern Ireland.

This year, the Department intends to consider this review as part of a wider study to assess the capacity and skillsets within the C&V sector to inform optimisation of existing structures and ways of working to co-deliver the full range of mental health services required for our population. It is hoped that this work will be completed by the end of March 2025 and significant engagement with the sector will take place as part of this priority piece of work.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mike Nesbitt'.

Mike Nesbitt MLA
Minister of Health

**An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir,
Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán**
Department of Tourism, Culture,
Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media



Ms Marie Ward
Donna.Starkey@nmandd.org

June 2024

Our Ref: CHG-MO-01321-2024

Dear Ms. Ward,

I refer to your correspondence of 14 May 2024 in relation to the objective of the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to secure the inclusion of counties Armagh and Down within Ireland's Ancient East tourism experience brand and their request to meet a cross-party delegation from Council in order to advance the matter.

As I outlined in my previous correspondence with you on this issue, Fáilte Ireland's remit does not extend to Northern Ireland and therefore it is not possible to include counties Armagh and Down in the Ireland's Ancient East brand. Fáilte Ireland develops, supports and promotes tourism at regional and county level within the State in line with the relevant tourism experience brands, including Ireland's Ancient East, which provide the overarching context for enterprise supports, tourism product development and related marketing.

Tourism Ireland in its role in marketing the island of Ireland overseas as a compelling tourist destination, promotes Ireland's four regional experience brands, as well as Northern Ireland's experience brand Embrace a Giant Spirit, on a range of platforms, including online, overseas trade platforms and other publicity.

One of this Department's strategic goals is to continue to promote increased north-south co-operation in tourism, working with the Northern Ireland Executive and through the North South Ministerial Council and the work of Tourism Ireland. The Minister welcomes the resumption of meetings of the North South Ministerial Council and this Department, Fáilte Ireland and Tourism Ireland will continue to foster north-south co-operation to enhance the all-island tourism offering and grow the value of tourism to the entire island.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Francis
Private Secretary



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA
www.gov.uk/number10

Head of the Direct Communications Unit

3 June 2024

Dear Ms Ward

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister to thank you for your letter of 14 May, regarding a Notice of Motion from the 7 May meeting of the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council about the condition of rural roads in Northern Ireland.

The Prime Minister appreciates the time you have taken to get in touch and share the Motion discussed by your Council. Regrettably, we are unable to comment on roads in Northern Ireland, as responsibility falls within the devolved responsibilities of the Northern Ireland Executive.

As I hope you will appreciate, I am unable to provide further information regarding the Council's request a commitment for funding for public services, due to the constraints of the current pre-election period.

Thank you, once again, for writing.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mandy Godridge'.

MANDY GODRIDGE

Ms Marie Ward

From the Minister of Finance

*Marie Ward
Chief Executive
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
Oifig Dhún Pádraig
Downpatrick Office
Downshire Civic Centre
Downshire Estate
Ardglass Road
Downpatrick
BT30 6GQ*

Private Office
2nd Floor
Clare House
303 Airport Road West
BELFAST
BT3 9ED

Tel: 028 90816216
Email: private.office@finance-ni.gov.uk

Our reference: COR-1264-2024
Date: 11 June 2024

Marie, a chara,

COR-1264-2024: NOTICE OF MOTION - ROAD MAINTENANCE

Thank you for your letter of 14 May 2024, regarding the Council's motion on road maintenance.

You explain that Council members expressed disappointment with the deterioration of roads and requested information on steps taken, to implement the recommendations of the Barton Review. You also requested that I commit to a multi-year budget to properly address the maintenance of roads.

I note that you have also written to the Infrastructure Minister on this matter. The Executive has agreed its Budget for the 2024-25 year, and this includes the budget allocations for the Department of Infrastructure of £559.5 million Non Ringfenced Resource DEL and £820.1 million Capital DEL. It is a matter for the Infrastructure Minister to decide on the prioritisation and internal allocation of his Department's budget including allocations to road maintenance.

In relation to multi-year budgets, the Executive can only set its budget within the allocation confirmed by the Westminster Government's Spending Review. 2024-25 is the final year of the current Spending Review period, and we do not know yet whether the Westminster Government's next Spending Review will be for a single year or multi-year period. I hope to have more certainty on this, following the general election in July this year.

Is mise le meas,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Archibald.', enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

**DR CAOIMHE ARCHIBALD MLA
MINISTER OF FINANCE**

From the office of the Minister for Infrastructure
JOHN O'DOWD MLA



Ms Marie Ward
 Chief Executive
 Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

Donna.Starkey@nmandd.org

Private Office
 3rd Floor, James House
 Gasworks Site
 2-4 Cromac Place
 BELFAST
 BT2 7AJ
 Telephone: (028) 9054 0540
 Email: Private.office@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Your reference: XXXX
 Our reference: COR-1380-2024
 05 June 2024

Marie, a chara,

ROAD CONDITIONS IN NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN COUNCIL AREA

Thank you for your letter dated 14 May 2024 regarding the continuing deterioration of the road conditions in Newry Mourne and Down Council area.

My Department has been operating in a difficult financial environment for a number of years due to underfunding and austerity by the British Government. This has had a significant impact on my Department's ability to deliver essential services such as road maintenance.

Article 8 of the Roads (Northern Ireland) Order 1993 places a duty on the Department to maintain all public roads in reasonable condition. In recognition of its duty of care, the Department has put in place a set of Maintenance Standards for Safety. These standards, which are designed to ensure a consistent service level and a safe highway while offering value for money, are based on best practice, research and consultation with both the public and other professional bodies and Industry.

Due to ongoing funding pressures the Department is restricted to providing a limited routine maintenance service across several activities including the repair of potholes. As a result, the defect intervention criteria has been increased and therefore not all carriageway defects that would have been recorded for repair under the normal level of service are being repaired. For example defects under 50mm deep on rural low traffic roads are not currently being repaired. The urgency of repair is determined from a number of factors including defect depth, volume of traffic, defect location in relation to carriageway width etc.

While my officials and maintenance teams have worked very hard to maintain the road network, they have, nonetheless, been operating with a higher than acceptable vacancy rate and are under significant pressure. This is the situation across all of the roads section offices including the Newry, Mourne and Down Council area. While staff have been doing all they can to manage this under resourcing it is evitable that it will impact on my Department's ability to carry out essential work such as road maintenance. My officials are aware of the condition of

the roads in the Newry, Mourne and Down Council area and they will continue to do all they can to carry out inspections and repair any defects meeting the current Limited Service maintenance policy.

The Review of the Structural Maintenance Funding Requirements for the Department for Infrastructure (Roads) (known as the Barton Report) was completed in November 2018. The Review made five recommendations, the main one relating to the level and timing of funding made available for structural maintenance of the road network. Greater certainty of budgets, that meet the level of funding recommended in the report, would allow my Department to bring forward much more effective and properly resourced maintenance programmes. The report suggests it should be entirely possible to achieve significant efficiencies if adequate long-term budgets were in place. These savings might allow the structural maintenance budget to be reduced longer term or, better still, allow my Department to make a much needed impact on reducing the maintenance backlog, which would, in turn, yield even greater efficiencies.

My Department continues to use the evidence to argue for increased funding in line with the recommended level of £143m (at 2018 prices). My Department has continued to submit bids in line with the recommendation and has included a pragmatic ramping up approach which reflects the capacity of internal and external resources. My officials continue to work closely with the Department of Finance to secure long-term funding options. I would support a multi-year budget; however this can only be delivered by the Executive if a multi-year budget is introduced by the British Government.

The value of our infrastructure cannot be overstated, and I will continue to work with Executive colleagues to ensure appropriate investment is made. It is abundantly clear that we need to increase the level of investment of our transport infrastructure. However, ongoing budgetary constraints mean that my Department cannot do all that we would like. I would also add that these constraints are also directly linked to the level of staff resources made available to my Department who are an essential element of planning and managing repairs.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Is mise le meas,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John O'Dowd', written in a cursive style.

JOHN O'DOWD MLA
Minister for Infrastructure



Derry City & Strabane
District Council
Comhairle
Chathair Dhoire &
Cheantar an tSratha Báin
Derry Cittie & Strabane
Districk Council

Our Ref: TJ/C238/24

14 June 2024

Marie Ward
Chief Executive
Newry Mourne & Down Council

marie.ward@nmandd.org

Dear Chief Executive

Schools Event Hosted by Derry City and Strabane District Council in relation to Vaping

Council recently hosted an event for post primary school children to raise awareness of the dangers associated with vaping. Various bodies from the local health and wellbeing community contributed to this event; providing information on the dangers and their experiences of both the health and environmental issues associated with vaping.

The event was very successful and the participating schools found it very beneficial. From a Council perspective, the event represented a model of good practice and being conscious that this is a prevalent issue for all Councils, it was agreed to encourage other Councils to offer a similar event to school children in their Council area.

Subsequently, at a Meeting of Derry City and Strabane District Council held on 29 May 2024, the following Proposal was passed:

That Council forwards the details to other Councils to encourage them to offer a similar event.

A copy of the Programme is attached for your information.

Derry

C/o Council Offices
98 Strand Road
Derry
BT48 7NN

Strabane

C/o Council Offices
47 Derry Road
Strabane
BT82 8DY

John Kelpie MEng., CEng., MStructE., MIEI

Chief Executive
Derry City and Strabane District Council

+44 (0) 2871 253 253
chiefexecutive@derrystrabane.com
www.derrystrabane.com

f Derry City & Strabane District Council
@dcsdcouncil

I trust you will recognise the benefits of such a Programme and will consider offering a similar event in your Council area.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Kelpie', with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

John Kelpie
Chief Executive

Enc

Awareness Event on Dangers of Vaping

Organised by Bogside and Brandywell Health Forum

Programme Schedule

- 1.0 Introduction by the Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council
- 2.0 Completion of Mentimeter (evaluation tool)
- 3.0 On the Table Workshops
- 4.0 Vaping Presentations (*at this point, teachers will leave the main hall and go to the Whittaker Suite for their own presentation re. testing kits and other substances used in vapes*)
- 5.0 Local Pharmacist – Mouth Health
- 6.0 Scenarios at Tables
- 7.0 Environmental Impact presentation from HIVE Cancer Support and Triax Neighbourhood Management Team (*teachers will return to the room for this presentation*)
- 8.0 Completion for Mentimeter
- 9.0 Closing comments from Public Health Agency

Additional Details:

- Workshops and Scenarios facilitated by Bogside and Brandywell Health Forum, Old Library Trust and North West Youth Services.
- On the table workshops will be creative and the young people will use art to display their knowledge of the different elements of vaping such as their health, their appearance, environmental factors, costs etc.

- The mentimetre will be measuring their knowledge at the start and at the end of the event and also gauging their opinions, pre and post.
- The scenarios are also developed by the Youth Staff who will be putting certain stories/lived experiences and asking them what they would or would not do in that given situation.
- The PHA rep. will speak about the Task and Finish Working group and the importance of that work in educating young people on the dangers of vaping.
- Around the room will be health and wellbeing stalls in relation to nutrition, smoking physical activity and cancer awareness.
- Contact for Bogside and Brandywell Health Forum: **Aisling Hutton | Health Programmes Manager**. T: 028 7136 5330 | M: 07510360473 | E: aisling@bbhealthforum.org | www.bbhealthforum.org

Hi Donna,

Thank you for your email below, apologies for the delay in responding.

In relation to information on capacity issues within the Newry Mourne and Down District Council area, the Strategic Planning team within our Investment Management section liaise directly with the Council Local Development Planners. A Wastewater Capacity sheet is issued to the Council on a yearly basis for the planners use in relation to their LDPs. This outlines the Wastewater Treatment Works within the area that are currently at operating at capacity, and also provides a high-level overview of the network status within the various catchments. The latest sheet has been issued to the Council within the last 2 weeks. NI Water also have a web page which provides high level information on capacity constraints within each Council area, which can be accessed at the link below:

[Wastewater System Capacity Information \(niwater.com\)](http://niwater.com)

Regarding the boundary map which you refer to, I attached the map of the Council area which was contained within the presentation on 29th of April this year. The is a **snapshot** of the current capacity constraints within the Council area, and outlines areas which are '**red**' currently subject to capacity constraints and '**green**' currently not subject to capacity constraints. I would stress that this information is taken at a point in time and is subject to change as more detailed information is received through Drainage Area Plan modelling, site surveys or the completion of capital works.

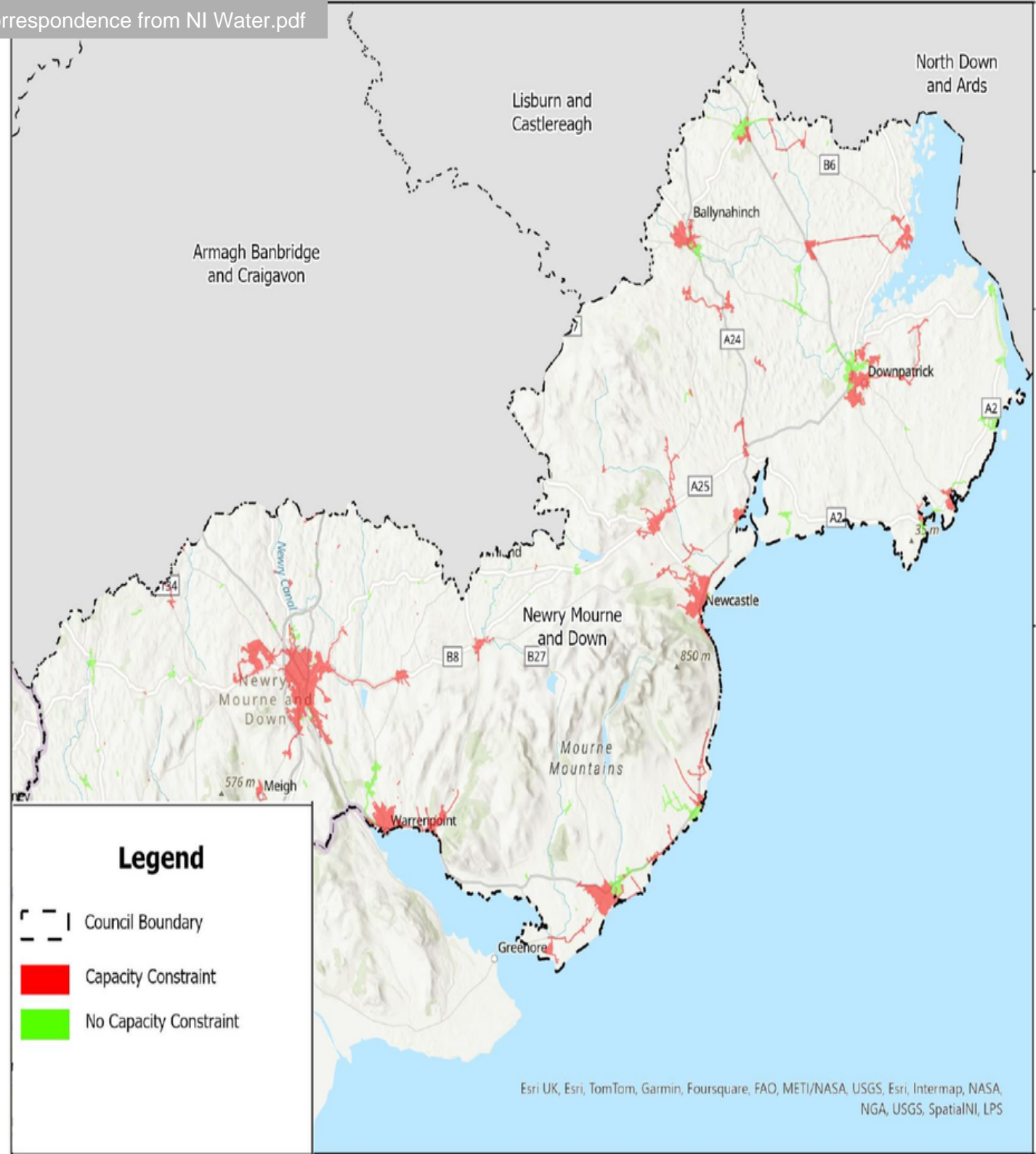
NI Water is working towards providing a map on our website to supplement the existing capacity information which would give a visual indication of the areas subject to capacity constraint throughout Northern Ireland. We would hope to have this map available on our website later this financial year.

Best Regards




Valerie

Valerie Crozier
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Investment Management
Engineering & Sustainability Directorate
northern ireland water
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Web: www.niwater.com

Newry Mourne & Down



Legend

-  Council Boundary
-  Capacity Constraint
-  No Capacity Constraint

Esri UK, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, Foursquare, FAO, METI/NASA, USGS, Esri, Intermap, NASA, NGA, USGS, SpatialNI, LPS

From: Sharron Russell
Director, Voluntary & Community Division

7th Floor Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
Belfast
BT2 7EG

e-mail: sharron.russell@communities-ni.gov.uk

Our ref: TOF-1479-2024

Date: 24th June 2024

Ms Marie Ward, Chief Executive Officer
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
Downshire Civic Centre, Downshire Estate
Ardglass Road
Downpatrick
BT30 6GQ

Dear Marie,

Financial Assistance Programme

Thank you for your correspondence to the Minister of 4 June, relating to Council's Financial Assistance Programme. This has been passed to me to respond.

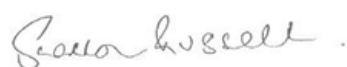
You will have received correspondence from me on 14 June 2024 to notify you of the Minister's decision to protect and offer a modest increase on current baseline allocations to VCS organisations, subject to the outcomes of his consultation on the equality impacts of his overall 2024/25 spending proposals.

For Councils, this means a non-recurrent uplift equating to around 5% of your Community Support Programme opening baseline allocation from last year. I understand that Council provides support for the Financial Assistance Scheme from within the overall CSP allocation.

I can reconfirm that you should now plan for the remainder of the 2024/25 financial year based on Council's opening baseline position from last year, plus 5% and that this will go some way towards easing existing pressures.

I hope this response is useful to you and I'm happy, as always, to discuss.

Yours sincerely,



Sharron Russell,

Director, Voluntary & Community Division.

18 June 2024

Sent by email only to: marie.ward@nmandd.org

Dear Marie

Ards and North Down Borough Council has recently written to the DAERA Minister asking for the introduction of enforcement powers for Councils to deal with instances of bins being left on streets for prolonged periods, causing undue obstruction.

Council would like to see powers modelled upon Section 46A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, whereby we would be able to issue a fixed penalty to a bin owner where they have failed to respond to informal requests to remedy a problem.

I am writing to ask if your Council would consider supporting this request of DAERA.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter, and I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely



Susie McCullough
Chief Executive