

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMD/C/

**Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 8 April 2024 at 6.00pm in
Council Chamber, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick**

In the Chair: Councillor V Harte

In attendance in Chamber:

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Councillor T Andrews | Councillor C Bowsie |
| Councillor J Brennan | Councillor P Byrne |
| Councillor P Campbell | Councillor W Clarke |
| Councillor C Enright | Councillor K Feehan |
| Councillor D Finn | Councillor A Finnegan |
| Councillor C Galbraith | Councillor O Hanlon |
| Councillor G Hanna | Councillor J Jackson |
| Councillor G Kearns | Councillor M Larkin |
| Councillor D Lee-Surginor | Councillor A Lewis |
| Councillor O Magennis | Councillor A Mathers |
| Councillor D McAteer | Councillor A McMurray |
| Councillor S O'Hare | Councillor D Murphy |
| Councillor K Murphy | Councillor S Murphy |
| Councillor A Quinn | Councillor H Reilly |
| Councillor M Rice | Councillor M Ruane |
| Councillor G Sharvin | Councillor D Taylor |
| Councillor J Tinnelly | Councillor J Truesdale |

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

C/064/2024

APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Devlin, Gibbons, Howell, Howie, King and McEvoy.

The Chairperson expressed condolences to the families of those tragically killed on the Districts roads over the last month.

She also extended condolences to the families and friends of the following people who had lost their lives over the last few weeks:

- Council employee Indigo (Dougie) Wolfsbane
- Bobby McKee, brother of former Councillor Harold McKee,
- Lorcan Brannigan from Hilltown who tragically died in Australia
- Dean Dobbin from Downpatrick who tragically died in Lanzarote

Armagh Ladies Gaelic team were congratulated on winning the Division One National Football League.

The Chairperson took the opportunity to praise Timmy Mallett on his cycle around the North to raise awareness for Down's Syndrome and in doing so showcasing the District.

The Chairperson congratulated the Council and its staff on organising the recent fantastic St Patricks Day events in both Newry and Downpatrick and the Newry Arts Festival.

The Chairperson congratulated Councillor Tierna Kelly, now Councillor Howie, on her recent marriage and wished her well in her married life.

Congratulations were extended to Charlie Smyth from Mayobridge on becoming the first ever Irish player to come through the NFL's International Player Pathway.

C/065/2024 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

C/066/2024 ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4 MARCH 2024

Read: Action sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 4 March 2024 (copy circulated).

Appendix 3: Derry City and Strabane District Council in relation to a motion passed regarding Violence in Gaza

Councillor Feehan enquired whether Council had sent a letter to the Mayor of Ramallah, regarding initiating the process of twinning Newry with the City of Ramallah and asked that the item remain on the action sheet until there was a response.

Mr Mallon confirmed the letter would be sent following the Council meeting.

Minutes of Special Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee Meeting 26.02.2024: C/029/2024 and SE/004/2024 Flood Relief Scheme

Councillor Lee-Surginor enquired when successful applicants would receive the Enhanced Flood Support Grant.

Mr Mallon advised applications were in the process of being assessed with a number of applications being allocated to the loss assessors with inspections and visit commenced. He stated there were two dedicated members of staff carrying out those inspections and it was hoped the process would be rolled out over the next number of

weeks.

C/056/2024: Appointment to Warrenpoint Harbour Authority

In response to a query from Councillor Hanna, Mrs Ward confirmed there were no restrictions on the number of applicants and that the process had started.

Agreed: **The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 4 March 2024 was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Hanlon.**

C/067/2024 **COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4 MARCH 2024**

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 4 March 2024 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 4 March 2024 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor K Murphy, seconded by Councillor Finn.**

C/068/2024 **COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 26 FEBRUARY 2024**

Read: Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 26 February 2024 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 26 February 2024 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Bowsie.**

C/069/2024 **COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 25 MARCH 2024**

Read: Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 25 March 2024 (copy circulated).

Councillor McAteer queried the detail of the minutes stating he had thought comments should be attributed to individual Councillors as the meeting had not been a standard Special Council. Ms Taggart advised Minutes were completed in the same format as previously and to her knowledge all Members' queries had been dealt with.

Mrs Ward added it was not practice for minutes of Council meetings to be verbatim however all Meetings were audio recorded and could be accessed for further detail should anyone wish to do so.

Councillor McAteer advised he had made comments particularly towards NIEA and he

felt these were not reflected in the minutes. He advised he would forward these to Democratic Services for consideration.

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 25 March 2024 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Hanlon subject to amendments to be forwarded to Democratic Services from Councillor McAteer.**

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

C/070/2024 MINUTES OF ECONOMY, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 11 MARCH 2024

Read: Minutes of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 11 March 2024 (copy circulated).

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

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion of the following item, 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 Andrews, seconded by Councillor O’Hare, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.**

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

ERT/032/2024: DOWN GAA SUPOORT FOR PEACE PLUS APPLICATION

The Chairperson advised that following a recorded vote (copy of which is appended to these minutes) it was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Clarke to amend proposal 4, ERT/032/2024 and sign Annex 1 as an associate partner.

The results of the recorded vote were as follows:

| | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| FOR: | 29 |
| AGAINST: | 6 |
| ABSTENTIONS: | 0 |

The proposal was **CARRIED**.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Sharvin to amend proposal 4, ERT/032/2024 and sign Annex 1 as an associate partner.

Agreed: The Minutes of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 11 March 2024 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Clarke, subject to the above amendment.

C/071/2024 **MINUTES OF SPECIAL HEARING OF ECONOMY, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 11 MARCH 2024**

Read: Minutes of Special Hearing of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 11 March 2024 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of Special Hearing of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 11 March 2024 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Kearns, seconded by Councillor Andrews.

C/072/2024 **MINUTES OF STRATEGY POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 14 MARCH 2024**

Read: Minutes of Strategy Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 14 March 2024 (copy circulated).

SPR/043/2024: Mourne Mountain Gateway Project

Councillor Truesdale enquired whether the National Trust would be a stakeholder on the Project Board and if not, why not.

Mr Mallon confirmed it had been reported at the Programme Board that the National Trust had been invited to become Members of the Board and had declined as they deemed they could be conflicted if the application reached the stage where a commercial lease would be entered into.

Agreed: The Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 14 March 2024 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Quinn, seconded by Councillor Sharvin.

C/073/2024

**MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19 MARCH 2024**

Read: Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 19 March 2024 (copy circulated).

Councillor Truesdale wished to point out there was no reference to the Newcastle Leisure Centre within the Corporate Plan and requested that this be included in the Council's 2024-27 Corporate Plan to show Council's commitment.

Mrs Ward explained that the project was listed within the Council's Capital Plan and not the Corporate Plan.

Agreed: The Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 19 March 2024 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor K Murphy, seconded by Councillor Mathers.

C/074/2024

**MINUTES OF SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 MARCH 2024**

Read: Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 20 March 2024 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 20 March 2024 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor K Murphy, seconded by Councillor Taylor.

C/075/2024

PLANNING SECTION

In response to Councillor Reilly, Mr Mallon provided an update on recruitment for the Planning department stating a recent recruitment exercise had been undertaken and four posts had been offered to staff. He stated the department was continuing to engage in a recruitment process and was hopeful to achieve a full complement of staff as soon as possible.

Councillor Taylor voiced concern at the time taken to allocate planning applications due to the number of case officers and asked how far off was Council in having a full complement of staff.

Mr Mallon confirmed a report would be presented at the next Audit Committee and Strategy Policy and Resources Committee Meetings.

Read: Report dated 8 April 2024 from Mrs Ward, Chief Executive, regarding an update on correspondence received for the attention of Council.

Appendix 1: Correspondence from Minister for Health in relation to C/040/2024 Notice of Motion, Daisy Hill Hospital

Councillor Feehan stated that whilst the offer to meet with senior health officials was to be welcomed, it was disappointing the Health Minister was unwilling to meet with Council to discuss fears of the diminishing services at Daisy Hill Hospital. He spoke of how for 5 of the last 7 years there had been no functioning Executive or Ministers in post with no way of challenging decisions made and that it was entirely reasonable to expect the Health Minister to meet to discuss such a consequential issue.

Councillor Feehan proposed Council respond confirming it was willing to meet with senior health officials however there was a strong desire and insistence that the Health Minister be present at that meeting.

In seconding Councillor Feehan's proposal, Councillor Mathers said it was disappointing that the Minister did not feel the need to meet a delegation which did not help with negativity that was generated around services in the hospital. He stated that with the Health Minister now in place it should be incumbent on him to protect services and listen to concerns of Council.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Feehan, seconded by Councillor Mathers that Council respond confirming it was willing to meet with senior health officials however there was a strong desire and insistence that the Health Minister be present at that meeting.

Appendix 4: Correspondence from Office of the Tánaiste in relation to C/061/2024 Notice of Motion, Rail Service from Belfast to Dublin.

In referring to the acknowledgement letter received Councillor Mathers spoke of a recent meeting he and Party colleagues had with senior Translink officials and welcomed the significant planned improvements for the Enterprise Rail Service.

Appendix 2: Correspondence from Education Authority in relation to C/195/2023 and C/013/2024, Notice of Motion, Transport & Availability of places for children with additional needs

Councillor Galbraith said whilst the response from the Education Authority was welcomed, the fact that it had taken 2 months for a response explaining information that he was already aware of was disappointing. He spoke of further developments since his colleague Colin McGrath MLA wrote to the Education Authority and the appointment of their new CEO Richard Pengelly and a letter received from the Education Minister regarding a school enhancement programme in which the Minister had said, "without significant additional investment, we are at risk of not meeting even our most basic

5. Could the EA consider a fast track recruitment process or a waiting list to ensure staff were readily available should the situation arise where a child requires that additional support traveling to/from school?
6. Could the Education Authority's cross-directorate team clarify what provisions would be in place for September 2024, to ensure there would be placements and travel arrangements for those requiring them and that these placements were within a reasonable distance from where the young people live?

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

Appendix 1: Correspondence from Minister for Health in relation to C/040/2024 Notice of Motion, Daisy Hill Hospital

Appendix 2: Correspondence from Education Authority in relation to C/195/2023 and C/013/2024, Notice of Motion, Transport & Availability of places for children with additional needs

Appendix 3: Correspondence from Department for Communities in relation to C/057/2024, Hybrid meetings

Appendix 4: Correspondence from Office of the Tánaiste in relation to C/061/2024 Notice of Motion, Rail Service from Belfast to Dublin.

Appendix 5: Correspondence from Department for Infrastructure in relation to C/029/2024 Notice of Motion – Flood Defences.

CONFERENCES

C/077/2024

LETTER FROM NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS REGARDING COUNCILLORS CONFERENCE ON LEISURE & TOURISM, THE ROYAL HOTEL, SCARBOROUGH 12-14 APRIL 2024

Read: Letter dated 6 March 2024 from National Association of Councillors inviting elected members to attend a Conference on Leisure and Tourism at the Royal Hotel, Scarborough 12-14 April 2024.

Mrs Ward outlined the costs to attend the conference and suggested a discussion take place with Party leaders as to how to deal with this going forward to ensure value for

Community Ownership Fund with regards to their pursuit to develop an Irish Language Resource Centre in Castlewella. It was agreed that Council also write to Jacob Young, Levelling Up Minister.

C/079/2024 **NOTICE OF MOTION – EVALUATION OF SPEND ON SLAS AND COUNCIL EVENTS**

The following motion was received from Councillor Truesdale:

"That this Council commits to bringing an improvement paper on options for a better evaluation of Council spends in SLAs and Council-run Events so we know the true impact on residents and value for money. That this Council makes improvements in reporting on the above so Councillors know the progress made over time through the inclusion of a baseline measurement, meaning there is a greater connectedness with departmental business plans and how they achieve the corporate plan through connected evaluation."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor.

Agreed: **The Motion was referred to the Strategic Finance Working Group in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.**

C/080/2024 **NOTICE OF MOTION – FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE INDUSTRY PRESSURES**

The following motion was received from Councillor Rice:

"This Council recognises the acute pressures that the Fisheries and Aquaculture Industries are currently under as a consequence of the severe shortage of seasonal workers. This Council calls on the UK Government to relax immigration rules to allow for visas for seasonal aquaculture to aid local businesses acquire necessary workers."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Clarke.

In presenting the motion, Councillor Rice said it was clear to see that sustainable employment was essential to keep fishing industries thriving and was a major economic driver in the communities of Ardglass, Kilkeel and Portavogie.

He said the acute pressures the local fishing industry were under was a direct consequence of the severe shortage of seasonal workers and that needed to be recognised. It was extremely worrying for small fishing businesses that immigration rules were restricting seasonal workers to the detriment of the productivity and sustainability of the local fishing industry.

The UK immigration authorities had begun to enforce a rule regarding foreign nationals having to stay outside 12 miles Offshore. The reality was enforcement officers were targeting the local ports resulting in numerous crews having to be sent home and told to

apply through the sponsorship route rather than the present transit visa system. The sponsor route had a process which included a very stringent language exam which many foreign nationals fail repeatedly.

Councillor Rice pointed out that if this issue was not resolved the future of the industry looked bleak and called on the British Government to relax immigration rules to allow seasonal workers to acquire visas and must act swiftly to ensure that issues surrounding seasonal work visas were rectified to ensure that the local fishing industry was supported.

Councillor Byrne spoke about a motion he had brought to Council in 2023 regarding mushroom pickers and seasonal workers visas. The response received from the Home Office received in August 2023 made reference to what they had done for the fishing industry through the Skilled Worker Visa route. There was no option for a seasonal visa for the fishing industry and that was wrong because the skilled worker visa meant people coming from overseas to do jobs in the water and seafood processing plants now had to meet the minimum salary threshold moved from £26,000 to £38,000 and that was going to destroy the sector. The Fisherman's Welfare Alliance representation had put forward a bespoke visa scheme for the industry to look at both seasonal and skilled workers.

In speaking in support of the motion on behalf of SDLP Councillor Byrne asked that the motion be amended to include requesting the UK Government to allow for visas for seasonal aquaculture, relaxes rules on the current skilled worker scheme and aid local businesses to acquire necessary workers.

Councillor Rice accepted Councillor Byrne's amendment.

Councillor Reilly spoke in support of the motion and the difficulties being faced by the fishing industry. He spoke of the need for the Home Office to get its priorities right and do all it could to retain and attract additional workers to the industry.

In supporting the motion Councillor Enright proposed a further amendment to write to the new DEARA Minister in support of the Minister's requests to the UK Home Office to add fishing in Northern Ireland as one of the industries to which seasonal working visas apply.

Councillor Rice accepted Councillor Enright's amendment.

Councillors Hanna and Taylor spoke of the challenges being faced by the industry and voiced support for motion.

Agreed: **It was unanimously agreed on the proposal of Councillor Rice, seconded by Councillor Clarke that Council:**

- **Recognises the acute pressures that the Fisheries and Aquaculture Industries are currently under as a consequence of the severe shortage of seasonal workers. This Council calls on the UK Government to relax immigration rules to allow for visas for seasonal aquaculture to aid local businesses acquire necessary workers.**

- Requests the UK Government to allow for visas for seasonal aquaculture, relaxes rules on the current skilled worker scheme and aid local businesses to acquire necessary workers.
- Write to the new DEARA Minister in support of the Ministers requests to the UK Home Office to add fishing in NI as one of the industries to which seasonal working visas apply.

Councillor Enright left the meeting at this point – 7.35pm.

C/081/2024

NOTICE OF MOTION – CANCER TREATMENT WAITING TIMES

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Hanlon:

"That this Council recognises that waiting times for cancer treatments are still unacceptably long and commits to write to the Minister of Health to request delivery of the department's 10 year cancer strategy and to build on existing cooperation on an All Island basis to ensure all patients receive timely treatment and support which is appropriate and compassionate."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Kearns.

In presenting the motion, Councillor Hanlon said the most recent figures were a clear indication that the North's healthcare system required immediate action from the Minister of Health and the situation for cancer sufferers was urgent and needed attention now.

Members were advised the Cancer Strategy needed to be urgently delivered, considering time delays and rising costs, with the need for the four party coalition to work collaboratively on budgets and timeframes to ensure sustainable, long-term planning and investment in cancer services.

Councillor Hanlon spoke of how behind every statistic there were hundreds of people waiting anxiously for treatment and healthcare staff stretched beyond their limits and to improve cancer prevention, diagnosis, treatment and quality of life, all tools available in the fight against cancer must be utilised including a greater north-south cooperation. An all-island approach would not only improve cancer services for patients, but also help to make healthcare across the island more sustainable.

Councillor Hanlon asked all members for support in writing to Mr Swann to work within the four party coalition collaboratively to deliver on budgets and timeframes to ensure sustainable, long-term planning and investment in cancer services.

In seconding the motion, Councillor Kearns stated that there was not one person in the Chamber who had not been touched by the devastation of a cancer diagnosis within family or friend groups and how for patients to receive a diagnosis and then have to wait for treatment was unacceptable and cruel. She spoke of how delays compounded the mental stress to patients and whilst many treatments had very positive outcomes the stress of having to wait presented other health problems.

Councillor Kearns spoke of how the cross-border health directive had proven to be a vital resource for those seeking a wide range of procedures and Sinn Féin had been lobbying to see that reinstated.

Councillor Kearns reiterated that to support the health service, all options to ensure patients get the care that they need and the cross-border health directive was something that needed to be looked at and built upon.

Councillor Andrews spoke at length in support of the motion on behalf of SDLP and stated that addressing the challenges facing the delivery of cancer services was a key priority for all, however cancer services in Northern Ireland were underfunded compared to other regions across the UK.

Councillor Andrews added that to deliver better health outcomes for the public and successfully implement the Cancer Strategy associated funding was essential and put forward the following amendment:

" Will also write to the Minister of Finance urging her to commit to the Department's identified funding plan for said strategy and deliver a multi-year budget."

Councillor Hanlon accepted Councillor Andrew's amendment.

Councillors Taylor and Lee-Surginor spoke in support of the motion.

In response to a query from Councillor Reilly regarding Council Health Forums Mrs Ward advised she would bring an update back to the Party Leaders Grouping for their information.

Agreed: **It was unanimously agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Kearns that this Council recognises that waiting times for cancer treatments are still unacceptably long and commits to write to the Minister of Health to request delivery of the department's 10 year cancer strategy and also write to the Minister of Finance urging her to commit to the Department's identified funding plan for said strategy and deliver a multi-year budget to build on existing cooperation on an All Island basis to ensure all patients receive timely treatment and support which is appropriate and compassionate.**

C/082/2024

**NOTICE OF MOTION – CROSS-BORDER TEACHING
REGISTRATION**

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Feehan:

"Newry, Mourne and Down District Council recognises the challenges faced by teaching graduates in securing permanent teachings posts in Northern Ireland, further recognises the obstacles faced by Northern teachers seeking to secure registration and employment in the Republic and commits to pursuing the submission of a bid to the

Shared Island Unit, in conjunction with Louth and Monaghan County Councils, for a review of cross-border teaching registration and employment practises."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Byrne.

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

Councillor Clarke left the meeting at this point – 7.51pm.

C/083/2024 NOTICE OF MOTION – ARTS SECTOR CUTS

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Finn:

"Newry, Mourne and Down District Council recognises the financial pressures on our artists, arts and culture schemes and cultural organisations who have lost funding from Stormont Departments, putting pressure on their ability to deliver existing arts and cultural schemes; and will write to the Communities Minister seeking his assurances that the cuts will be reversed."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Sharvin.

In presenting the motion, Councillor Finn spoke of how across the north, the arts sector supported 33,000 people employed in creative industries and contributed to economic growth and output and night time economy. Along with this, creative industries enriched the lives of all of those who participated or were impacted by them, with Arts encouraging diversity and social inclusion and supporting community and voluntary sectors.

Councillor Finn made reference to numerous Oscar winners and theatre performances that had gained acclaim across the world with television programmes rising to global fame, however the funding dedicated to support artists did not reflect their talent and dedication.

Members were reminded of examples of the wealth of talent across the District and were asked as a Council to support the motion and take a stand against these cuts not only to protect artists who deserved to be working in a sector that was adequately funded, but to help ensure that locally groups who availed of vital funding would have the capacity to continue their valuable and much needed work.

Councillor Sharvin thanked Councillor Finn for bringing forward the motion and spoke at length of the importance of the Arts Sector across Newry, Mourne and Down District which had unfortunately faced unprecedented cuts over the last number of years. Councillors Lee-Surginor, Finnegan and Taylor all spoke in support of the motion reiterating the vital role Arts had within society and highlighting funding concerns.

Agreed: It was unanimously agreed on the proposal of Councillor Finn, seconded by Councillor Sharvin that Newry, Mourne and Down District Council recognises the financial pressures on our artists, arts and culture schemes and cultural organisations who have lost funding from Stormont

Departments, putting pressure on their ability to deliver existing arts and cultural schemes; and will write to the Communities Minister seeking his assurances that the cuts will be reversed.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 8.08pm.

For confirmation at the Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday 7 May 2024.

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 08/04/2024 VENUE: Downshire Civic Centre MEETING: Council Meeting

SUBJECT OF VOTE: Proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Clarke to amend proposal 4, ERT/032/2024 and sign Annex 1 as an associate partner

| COUNCILLOR | FOR | AGAINST | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|----------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| T Andrews | 1 | | | |
| C Bowsie | | 1 | | |
| J Brennan | 2 | | | |
| P Byrne | 3 | | | |
| P Campbell | 4 | | | |
| W Clarke | 5 | | | |
| L Devlin | | | | √ |
| C Enright | 6 | | | |
| K Feehan | 7 | | | |
| D Finn | 8 | | | |
| A Finnegan | 9 | | | |
| C Galbraith | 10 | | | |
| M Gibbons | | | | √ |
| O Hanlon | 11 | | | |
| G Hanna | | 2 | | |
| V Harte | 12 | | | |
| R Howell | | | | √ |
| T Howie | | | | √ |
| J Jackson | | 3 | | |
| G Kearns | 13 | | | |
| C King | | | | √ |
| M Larkin | 14 | | | |
| D Lee-Surginor | 15 | | | |
| A Lewis | | 4 | | |
| O Magennis | 16 | | | |
| A Mathers | 17 | | | |
| D McAteer | 18 | | | |
| L McEvoy | | | | √ |
| A McMurray | 19 | | | |
| S O'Hare | 20 | | | |
| D Murphy | 21 | | | |
| K Murphy | 22 | | | |
| S Murphy | 23 | | | |
| A Quinn | 24 | | | |
| H Reilly | | 5 | | |
| M Rice | 25 | | | |
| M Ruane | 26 | | | |
| G Sharvin | 27 | | | |
| D Taylor | | 6 | | |
| J Tinnelly | 28 | | | |
| J Truesdale | 29 | | | |
| TOTALS | 29 | 6 | - | 6 |