

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMD/C/

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 2 December 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 J Brennan Councillor W Clarke Councillor C Enright Councillor D Finn Councillor O Hanlon Councillor V Harte Councillor J Jackson Councillor C King Councillor A Lewis Councillor D McAteer Councillor D Murphy Councillor A Quinn Councillor M Rice Councillor G Sharvin Councillor J Tinnelly	Councillor C Bowsie Councillor P Campbell Councillor L Devlin Councillor K Feehan Councillor C Galbraith Councillor G Hanna Councillor R Howell Councillor G Kearns Councillor D Lee-Surginor Councillor A Mathers Councillor S O'Hare Councillor S Murphy Councillor H Reilly Councillor M Ruane Councillor D Taylor Councillor J Truesdale
In attendance via Teams:	Councillor M Gibbons Councillor M Larkin	Councillor T Howie Councillor H Young
Officials in attendance:	Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services 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/178/2024

APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Finnegan, Magennis and McEvoy.

The Chairperson congratulated Aidan Crummy and his wife Karen from the Amazing Abilities Group in Silverbridge on receiving the County Armagh Person of the Year Award at the recent awards ceremony held in the Armagh City Hotel and commended their work in ensuring that young people have access to play facilities for all abilities.

The Chairperson extended congratulations to the Bolster Community who won the Consumer Facing Award at the Social Enterprise Awards in Belfast in November and commended their work across the District.

The Chairperson spoke of the Civic reception held in the Canal Court Hotel for Down GAA with the Tailteann Cup, Under 20 Footballers and Hurlers who had all earned titles in their respective

age range along with the Minor Footballers with the Seamus Heaney Cup and congratulated those involved in organising a great night.

The Chairperson advised the Tailteann Cup and Sam Maguire Cup had been brought to the Newry Leisure Centre that morning and it was fantastic to see both successes celebrated and enjoyed with the hall filled with children who would have memories for years to come.

The Chairperson wished Kilcoo GAC all the best for the forthcoming Senior Football Ulster Final against Errigal Ciaran GAA.

Reference was made to the recent Christmas light switch ons across the District including those held in Newry and Downpatrick and congratulations were extended to the Council's Event Team on their fantastic efforts. The Chairperson spoke of how instead of switching the lights himself children had been selected from the audience to start Christmas in the respective towns and in the City.

The Chairperson advised his Christmas Appeal had commenced and this year the focus was inclusion and diversity. Members were advised he would be visiting a number of groups right across the District to promote the great work they carried out.

The Chairperson advised he had had the pleasure of meeting the Dramability Group in Downpatrick and that he was very much looking forward to seeing their show at the weekend.

Members were informed Council, in collaboration with Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council had commenced the Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Campaign with 16 days of activism running from the 25th of November to the 10th of December with an event to be hosted in Crossmaglen in February 2025 following a recommendation from the women's group on Council.

On behalf of the Council, condolences were extended to the former Chief Executive of Newry and Mourne Council, Thomas McCall and his family on the passing of his sister Marie Graham and it was agreed to send a letter of condolence.

The Chairperson extended congratulations to Councillor Reilly on the recent arrival of his granddaughter Olivia.

C/179/2024 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

C/180/2024 ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4 NOVEMBER 2024

C/171/2024: Correspondence from National Association of Councillors (NAC) in relation to Conference in 2024/25

Councillors Hanna and Andrews voiced their concerns at it being agreed by the Party Representatives Forum that no representatives attend the NAC AGM.

The Chairperson advised it had been agreed by Council for the matter to be considered at the Party Representatives Forum and that there may have been miscommunication. Councillor Andrews stated he was disappointed at the breakdown in communication stating the conference had been a National AGM that he felt members of the NAC should have attended.

Agreed: The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 4 November 2024 was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews,

seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor.

C/181/2024 **COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4 NOVEMBER 2024**

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

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

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

C/182/2024 **MINUTES OF ECONOMY, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 11 NOVEMBER 2024**

Read: Minutes of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 11 November 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 Harte, seconded by Councillor Lewis, 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 Lewis, seconded by Councillor Taylor, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.**

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

ERT/114/2024: REVIEW OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Bowsie, seconded by Councillor Lewis to approve the Minutes of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 11 November 2024 with a further paper to be brought to ERT Committee in January 2025 regarding the consideration of an appeals mechanism for stage one.**

ERT/105/2024: Presentation from Ulster University regarding Newry, Mourne and Down Economic Outlook

Councillor McAteer took the opportunity to draw Members attention to the presentation slides (particularly that on page 10) which demonstrated Newry, Mourne and Down residents were one of the lowest paid economy and spoke of the need to encourage innovation into the District.

The Chairperson thanked Councillor McAteer for highlighting the presentation and spoke of the opportunity for Council through the Belfast City Region Deal to tackle that and it was the intention and direction for all Councils to do so.

ERT/116/2024: Removal of Ballykinlar Hut

In response to a query from Councillor Andrews, Mr Mallon confirmed applications would not be restricted to only applicants from within the District, however any application within the District would be given priority over one from outside it.

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

C/183/2024 **MINUTES OF STRATEGY POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 14 NOVEMBER 2024**

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

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

C/184/2024 **MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18 NOVEMBER 2024**

Read: Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 18 November 2024 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 18 November 2024 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor.**

C/185/2024 **MINUTES OF SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 NOVEMBER 2024**

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

SE/138/2024: Repair of Corry's Corner, Drumaness Bus Shelter and Adoption by Translink
In response

In response to a query from Councillor Brennan, Mrs Murphy confirmed that a solar panel light would be installed at the bus shelter.

SE/137/2024: Business Case for the Removal of Newcastle Sand Bar

Councillor Devlin spoke of issues for sea swimmers regarding debris being placed at a section of the pebble beach the last time there was the removal of sand bar and asked that it be stipulated within the contract that debris be located in a location to prevent this. Mrs Murphy confirmed that would be included within the contract.

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

C/186/2024 **CORRESPONDENCE REPORT**

Read: Report dated 2 December 2024 from Mrs Ward, Chief Executive, regarding an update on correspondence received for the attention of Council (copy circulated).

Correspondence from Minister for Health and Dr Stephen Austin on behalf of Dr Maria O’Kane, Chief Executive of the Southern Health and Social Care Trust regarding Daisy Hill Maternity Services (NOM C/175/2024)

Councillors S Murphy and Feehan welcomed the response received and the reassurance that the Trust would continue to prioritise the maternity services at Daisy Hill Hospital.

Councillor Devlin spoke of the need to continue to highlight the need for a Women’s Healthcare Strategy and one that was adequately funded.

Correspondence from Minister for Health regarding Shimna House (C/032/2024)

Councillor Hanlon commented that it was timely to have received the response from the Health Minister in light of hearing the devastating news that the Ward was going to close for two weeks over Christmas. Service users and Friends of Ward 15 had been in contact displaying great concern at this news. She stated that whilst the Minister had commented that he was supportive of the service it flew in the face of the decisions that had been announced and asked that her disappointment be recorded.

Correspondence from Ards and North Down Borough Council and Minister for Communities regarding Winter Fuel Payments (C/147/2024)

Councillor Lewis welcomed the response from the Minister for Communities and spoke of the detrimental impact that the Labour Governments decision on Winter Fuel Payments. He welcomed the Minister’s announcement that he had secured £17million to mitigate the Winter Fuel Payment Policy changes and thanked the Minister for the provision of a £100 one off emergency fuel payment to pensioner households affected.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Feehan to note the correspondence report and the following correspondence:**

- **Correspondence from Department of Health**
- **Correspondence from Department of Health and Southern Health and Social Care Trust**
- **Correspondence from Ards and North Down Borough and Council and Department for Communities**
- **Correspondence from BBC Director General**
- **Correspondence from NI Ambulance Service**

Councillor Sharvin left the meeting at this stage – 7.22pm.

The following Motion was received from Councillor Rice:

"This Council recognises the vital role of family farms in supporting rural jobs, safeguarding food security, and promoting environmental stewardship, as well as their integral contribution to the all-island economy.

We acknowledge the significant challenges facing the farming community, including the £1 million inheritance tax threshold, which threatens generational farming, and the absence of a dedicated agricultural budget. Furthermore, the uncertainty and funding losses caused by Brexit has exacerbated these pressures on the sector.

This Council calls on the British Government to reverse the changes to the inheritance tax threshold and urges the DAERA Minister to work with the Executive to establish a ring-fenced agricultural budget to secure the long-term future of farming in the north of Ireland".

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Hanlon.

In presenting the Motion, Councillor Rice spoke of how family farms were the backbone of rural communities, supporting thousands of jobs, ensuring local food production and contributing to environmental sustainability and their work was crucial to supporting biodiversity and protecting natural habitats across the countryside. He stated the £1 million inheritance tax threshold failed to account for the high value of farmland and essential equipment, jeopardising generational succession with the policy placing undue financial pressure on farming families and potentially forcing the sale of land to cover tax obligations. He added that many farmers had to work full time to keep their farms afloat and adding the additional tax burdens on an enterprise that already struggled to make a profit would be a death nail for many farming families across this District.

Councillor Rice asked for support for the Motion to call on the British Government to reverse inheritance tax changes that would harm generational farming and urge the DAERA Minister to secure a ring-fenced agricultural budget, providing stability and ensuring the sector's long-term future.

In seconding the Motion, Councillor Hanlon spoke of the many local farming families that had contacted her since the announcement with real life situations and scenarios of how it was going to affect them and effectively 'put their lights out'. She added that it was an ill thought out policy and it was going to hurt small local farmers. She referred to the crowds of farmers that had attended the protest at EIKON Exhibition Centre, crowds that had not be seen before which demonstrated the ferocity of feeling towards the decision and to think that the future of farming and succession planning was in a jeopardy was really worrying.

Councillor Reilly advised the DUP had put forward a similar motion and assumed that would have been incorporated with language that suited everyone. He stated the agriculture property relief tax was an essential component of farming right across the UK, particularly in Northern Ireland. He spoke of how the Chancellor of the Exchequer identified that extremely wealthy people were using agriculture land as a tax shelter and instead of actually targeting that small percentage of land owners who were using the system to put huge amounts of money into land for tax relief it had gone after the ordinary farmer and that included Northern Ireland farmers who were some of the most productive farmers in Europe, if not the world.

Councillor Reilly stated the Labour government must relook at this and introduce an active farmers test and if a farmer could prove they were an active farmer that they could qualify for tax exemption.

Councillor McAteer advised he had also submitted a motion along with Councillor Reilly and that the commentary and questions from constituents about this showed how important an issue people viewed this matter. He spoke of how what was proposed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer was to target large businesses and estates owned by investment companies and that the impact on farmers here was maybe a case of unintended consequences. Councillor McAteer spoke about how what the Government proposed would tax not only the land but livestock, the buildings that the livestock were housed in and machinery used to farm and it was a case for many that it was tax asset, rich and cash poor industry here created by high land prices.

Councillor McAteer proposed the following amendment to the Motion to read as follows, seconded by Councillor Feehan:

“This Council recognises the vital role of family farms in supporting rural jobs, safeguarding food security, and promoting environmental stewardship, as well as their integral contribution to the all-island economy.

We acknowledge the significant challenges facing the farming community, including the £1 million inheritance tax threshold, which proposes to tax land, associated buildings, livestock and machinery, and combined with the absence of a dedicated Agricultural budget, will create a financial time-bomb on many local agricultural holdings. The proposal to tax asset rich but cash poor farming families, highlights a lack of governmental understanding around this complex issue and threatens generational farming.

This District is set to suffer most, owing to our land prices and values set at well above the Northern Ireland average.

Furthermore, the uncertainty and funding losses caused by Brexit has exacerbated these pressures on the sector.

This Council calls on the British Government to reverse the changes to the Inheritance Tax threshold, given the differential between land values here compared to prices in England, and urges the DAERA Minister to work with the Executive to establish a ring- fenced agricultural budget to secure the long-term future of farming in the North of Ireland.

We agree to send this Motion to Rt Hon. Rachael Reeves M.P. Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rt Hon Hilary Benn M.P. Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and DAERA Minister Andrew Muir MLA”.

Councillor Rice welcomed the comments however he did not accept Councillor McAteer’s amendment.

At the request of Councillor McAteer the Chairperson put the amendment to a recorded vote, the results of which were as follows (copy attached):

FOR:	8
AGAINST:	22
ABSTENTIONS:	6

The amended Motion was lost.

Councillor Taylor spoke at length of the devastating impact the announcement would have for Northern Ireland farmers and that it was likely force many family farms that had been within the family structure for many generations out of business. He added it would not only be bad for the farming community, but also for food consumers and the public in general and that Council should offer the maximum support and appeal to the Chancellor, Prime Minister and to all those that had the power to review this decision and make necessary changes.

Councillor Truesdale spoke in support of the Motion on behalf of Alliance advising the DAERA Minister had strongly opposed the changes since they were announced and had undertaken extensive engagement with the UK Government to urge them to re-think. She

spoke at length of its impact including that despite the Chancellor's assurance that ¾ of claims would be unaffected by these changes, DAERA data suggested ⅓ of farms here could be impacted and as many as ¾ of dairy farms. She highlighted that agricultural funding was critical for tackling climate change, protecting the natural environment and supporting the economically and socially significant agri-food sector.

Councillor Jackson reiterated the DUP's full support for local farmers against the Labour government's farmers inheritance tax and the party's campaign in opposition to the proposal. He proposed the following amendment to the Motion to read as follows, seconded by Councillor Hanna:

"This Council recognises the vital role of family farms in supporting rural jobs, safeguarding food security and promoting environmental stewardship, as well as their integral contribution to the all-island regional economy.

We acknowledge the significant challenges facing the farming community, including the £1 million inheritance tax threshold, which threatens generational farming, and the absence of a dedicated agricultural budget. Furthermore, the uncertainty and funding losses caused by Brexit has exacerbated these pressures on the sector. Regrets, furthermore, despite farm support budgets being maintained at pre-Brexit levels for the duration of the last Parliament, that Labour has abandoned the principle of a dedicated agricultural budget.

This Council calls on the British UK Government to reverse the changes to the inheritance tax threshold and urges the DAERA Minister to work with the Executive to establish a ring-fenced agricultural budget to secure the long-term future of farming locally in the north of Ireland "

Councillor Rice did not accept Councillor Jackson's amendment.

At the request of Councillor Lewis, the Chairperson put the amendment to a recorded vote, the results of which were as follows (copy attached):

FOR:	6
AGAINST:	30
ABSTENTIONS:	0

The amended Motion was lost.

Councillor Lewis said it was disappointing that the amendment had not been taken as the wording was more inclusive. He spoke at length in strong opposition to the changes to the inheritance tax threshold and other attacks by the Government such as that on pensioners.

Councillors Reilly and Bowsie voiced their disappointment that a compromise could not have been made regarding the terminology of the Motion so that DUP could support.

Councillor Hanlon advised Sinn Fein had reached out to the DUP but they decided to make an amendment on the night so the Party would not have been aware of what the amendment was.

At the request of Councillor Hanna, the Chairperson put the original Motion to a recorded vote, the results of which were as follows (copy attached):

FOR:	30
AGAINST:	5
ABSTENTIONS:	0

The Motion was carried.

Councillor Rice thanked Members for their support and stated that as a farmer himself, he felt people needed to know how disastrous this tax law was going to be for generations of farming. He wished to advise that the reason why Brexit was included within the Motion was

because since Brexit there had been exacerbated pressures put on the sector due to fears of funding cuts and as a farmer he knew and experienced it.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Rice, seconded by Councillor Hanlon that "This Council recognises the vital role of family farms in supporting rural jobs, safeguarding food security, and promoting environmental stewardship, as well as their integral contribution to the all-island economy. We acknowledge the significant challenges facing the farming community, including the £1 million inheritance tax threshold, which threatens generational farming, and the absence of a dedicated agricultural budget. Furthermore, the uncertainty and funding losses caused by Brexit has exacerbated these pressures on the sector. This Council calls on the British Government to reverse the changes to the inheritance tax threshold and urges the DAERA Minister to work with the Executive to establish a ring-fenced agricultural budget to secure the long-term future of farming in the north of Ireland.**

C/188/2024 **NOTICE OF MOTION – GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

The following Motion was received from Councillor Quinn:

"This Council notes the growing concern regarding the epidemic of gender-based violence against women. This concern has been heightened by recent sexual assaults in Derry and the tragic deaths of five women in the past seven weeks in the North.

In response to this, this Council writes to the Justice Minister and the Justice Department, urging them to expand the categories of "significant persons" when applying for a Non-Molestation Order, to include individuals who were in a significant relationship but did not cohabit. This would align with the provisions in the UK, where similar protections are offered, and with the "Safety Order" provisions in the Republic of Ireland.

Additionally, this Council calls on other councils in the North to support this motion, thereby advocating for the extension of similar protections to women in the North, ensuring they are afforded the same legal safeguards as those in the UK and the Republic of Ireland".

The Motion was seconded by Councillor D Murphy.

In presenting the Motion, Councillor Quinn referred to statistics revealing that 98% of women had reported experiencing at least one form of abuse in their lifetime. In recent years, the rise in femicide and sexual violence had caused great concern, particularly as recent statistics showed the North of Ireland having the third highest femicide rate in Western Europe. She explained that for these people, their only legal recourse was often a civil injunction, which could be very expensive if they were not eligible for legal aid, and which did not have a relief scheme like that of the Financial Assessment Domestic Violence Scheme available in circumstances when obtaining a Non-Molestation Order. An injunction could also take considerable time and therefore no real sense of urgency which created an unacceptable barrier to justice and safety.

Members were advised that since 2020, 58 women had been murdered on this island and that the unacceptable reality was that people were being let down by inequalities in legal protections. It was highlighted that the inconsistency of two separate legal institutions across Ireland further compounded the issue and it was therefore imperative to attempt to address these disparities and work together so that no one was left behind.

Councillor Quinn said she was conscious that there were males who too were victim to domestic violence and that people should not shy away from those conversations and the need to remove the stigma. A change in expanding the legalisation would enhance protections for all, regardless of gender and how safety for all must be created as every person deserved the right to live free from fear, to thrive in safety and to be supported by systems that work in their favour.

Councillor Hanna on behalf of the DUP voiced support for the Motion and his concern at how violence against women and girls had become significant. He spoke of the need for the Justice Minister to lead from the front and ensure laws were properly in place and were inclusive to protect women in vulnerable situations.

In voicing support for the Motion, Councillor Reilly referred to a case that had been discussed at a recent PCSP Meeting and how a man who had attacked and badly injured a female officer had been allowed bail. He said the PSNI were trying their best however it was the Judiciary that was letting women down by allowing people such as this back into communities.

Councillor Reilly proposed an amendment to the Motion, seconded by Councillor Andrews. The wording of which were as follows:

“That Council write to the Lord Chief Justice asking for a review of how male offenders who have offended against women are given bail”.

Councillor Quinn accepted Councillor Reilly’s amendment.

Councillor Taylor voiced support for the Motion and how the tragic cases of recent assaults and deaths demonstrated the clear need for this issue to be given the priority it deserved and ensure that legislation and regulations were appropriate in tackling the violence against women and girls in society.

Councillor Finn confirmed SDLP were fully supportive of the Motion and commended Councillor Galbraith for bringing a similar motion to Council earlier in the year and to Council for launching the campaign Ending Violence against Women and Girls through the 16 days of action. She stated there must be a societal response to violence against women and girls and that no woman should have to live with the daily threat of violence or have their lives ended in this way, however the sad and scary reality was that Northern Ireland remained one of the most dangerous places in Europe to be a woman, with a femicide rate twice that of Britain. She added Motions like this one were vital for raising the issue of violence against women and girls in society, as well as drawing attention to how to better society and create safeguards within the justice system to instil confidence in those victims who bravely come forward.

The Chairperson confirmed the Motion was unanimously approved.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Quinn, seconded by Councillor D Murphy that this Council notes the growing concern regarding the epidemic of gender-based violence against women. This concern has been heightened by recent sexual assaults in Derry and the tragic deaths of five women in the past seven weeks in the North.**
In response to this, this Council writes to the Justice Minister and the Justice Department, urging them to expand the categories of "significant persons" when applying for a Non-Molestation Order, to include individuals who were in a significant relationship but did not cohabit. This would align with the provisions in the UK, where similar protections are offered, and with the "Safety Order" provisions in the Republic of Ireland.
Additionally, this Council calls on other councils in the North to support this motion, thereby advocating for the extension of similar protections to women in the North, ensuring they are afforded the

same legal safeguards as those in the UK and the Republic of Ireland.

That Council write to the Lord Chief Justice asking for a review of how male offenders who have offended against women are given bail.

Councillors Reilly, Ruane and Taylor left at this point – 8.02pm.

C/189/2024 NOTICE OF MOTION – TRAUMA INFORMED COUNCIL

The following Motion was received from Councillor Truesdale:

"That this Council commits to becoming a trauma informed council. Trauma informed practice is grounded in the understanding that trauma has a significant impact on a person's life. The prevalence of trauma can have an impact on the emotional, physiological, and social well-being of a person. We live in a post-conflict society and we don't have a shared narrative of the troubles. Some of us have been impacted more than others but the trauma will have hit most families in the province and it can be passed down through the generations also. A trauma informed lens is one that means we all make the decision to avoid triggering others and are more conscious of sensitivities around troubles related incidents. A trauma informed approach has already been implemented in many councils across the water - but, in my mind, the need for it is higher here. As a Council we need to develop our understanding of what being trauma-informed means across councillors and council officers for this initiative to really benefit our residents. As a post conflict society we need to do better and that means being careful with others around sensitive anniversaries. There are organisations that do training in this area – I believe our Council would benefit from undertaking such training and moving forward to becoming more trauma-informed. You never know who you are speaking to or who may hear you and be triggered...."

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Enright.

Agreed: The Motion was referred to the Active and Healthy Communities Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6

C/190/2024 NOTICE OF MOTION – MEDIUM TO LONG TERM RATES

The following Motion was received from Councillor Enright:

"That this Council recognises that the trajectory of our medium to long-term rates needs to be reduced as rates in NI are very high compared to other parts of these Islands. Council needs to aim to sustainably live within its means – delivering front line services affordably and at the best cost available to for the ratepayer. Council will ensure all discretionary non-front-line projects have a clear and dependable pay-back of 3 to 8 years that will increase revenues or reduce expenses within Council to ensure we can hold rate increases to a close to zero as possible for the next 5 years".

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Truesdale.

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

The Chairperson took the opportunity to wish Members a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 8.06pm.

For confirmation at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 13 January 2025.

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 02/12/24

VENUE: Downshire Civic Centre

MEETING: Council

SUBJECT OF VOTE: Amendment to Farmers Inheritance Tax motion – Proposed by Councillor McAteer, Seconded by Councillor Feehan

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

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 02/12/24

VENUE: Downshire Civic Centre

MEETING: Council

SUBJECT OF VOTE: Amendment to Farmers Inheritance Tax motion – Proposed by Councillor Jackson, Seconded by Councillor Hanna

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		6		
C Enright		7		
K Feehan		8		
D Finn		9		
A Finnegan				1
C Galbraith		10		
M Gibbons		11		
O Hanlon		12		
G Hanna	2			
V Harte		13		
R Howell		14		
T Kelly		15		
J Jackson	3			
G Kearns		16		
C King		17		
M Larkin		18		
D Lee-Surginor		19		
A Lewis	4			
O Magennis				2
A Mathers		20		
D McAteer		21		
L McEvoy				3
D Murphy		22		
K Murphy				4
S Murphy		23		
S O'Hare		24		
A Quinn		25		
H Reilly	5			
M Rice		26		
M Ruane		27		
G Sharvin				5
D Taylor	6			
J Tinnelly		28		
J Truesdale		29		
H Young		30		
TOTALS	6	30	0	5

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 02/12/24

VENUE: Downshire Civic Centre

MEETING: Council

SUBJECT OF VOTE: Farmers Inheritance Tax Motion – Proposed by Councillor Rice, seconded by Councillor Hanlon

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	6			
C Enright	7			
K Feehan	8			
D Finn	9			
A Finnegan				1
C Galbraith	10			
M Gibbons	11			
O Hanlon	12			
G Hanna		2		
V Harte	13			
R Howell	14			
T Kelly	15			
J Jackson		3		
G Kearns	16			
C King	17			
M Larkin	18			
D Lee-Surginor	19			
A Lewis		4		
O Magennis				2
A Mathers	20			
D McAteer	21			
L McEvoy				3
D Murphy	22			
K Murphy				4
S Murphy	23			
S O'Hare	24			
A Quinn	25			
H Reilly		5		
M Rice	26			
M Ruane	27			
G Sharvin				5
D Taylor				6
J Tinnelly	28			
J Truesdale	29			
H Young	30			
TOTALS	30	5	0	6