

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Special Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 30 May 2024 at 5.30pm in the Council Chamber, Downshire Civic Centre

In the Chair: Councillor S O'Hare

In Attendance in Chamber: Councillor C Enright Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor T Howie Councillor A Lewis
Councillor D McAteer Councillor A Mathers
Councillor H Reilly Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor D Taylor

Non-Committee Members

In Attendance in Chamber: 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
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
Ms F Branagh, Democratic Services Officer

SPR/088/2024: APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Byrne, Howell, McEvoy, Quinn and Rice.

The Chairperson noted that under Standing Orders 4.3, the issues discussed were to be considered as a matter of urgency.

SPR/089/2024: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

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

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Howie, seconded by Councillor Taylor, 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 Lewis, 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:

SPR/090/2024

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

Read: Report dated 30 May from Mr Conor Mallon, Director Economy, Regeneration and Tourism, regarding Financial Assistance Programme. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Taylor, it was agreed to take a short recess.**

The meeting did then recess – 6.28pm

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Lewis, it was agreed to resume the meeting.**

The meeting did then resume – 7.22pm

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Reilly, seconded by Councillor Taylor, the following was agreed:**

- **to note the contents of the report and that a full review of the financial assistance programme and procedures, as agreed at ERT Committee in April 2024, will be carried out when Call 2 has been closed;**
- **the re-allocation of a portion of the existing Council's Tourism Events Programme Budget to the Tourist & Events Theme under Call 1 of the Financial Assistance Programme as set out within the officer's report;**
- **that the Council will utilise Council budgets across each directorate to a minimum level to meet the financial shortfall of the Call 1 Financial Assistance Programme. This will be actioned in the 2024/25 year but the review of financial assistance will determine that the budget set at Rates process will be the allocation available in future years. It is noted that this will only apply to Call 1;**
- **will write to the department for communities to ask for any support they might provide to assist the programme themes within the Financial Assistance, recognising that Newry Mourne and Down is an area of deprivation which has faced cuts in Rate Support Grant in recent years;**
- **officers will table a report at SPR Committee on the implications across Directorates.**

Councillor Howie left the meeting during the above discussions – 6.44pm

Councillor Enright left the meeting during the above discussions – 7.15pm

SPR/091/2024

SINGLE TENDER ACTION APPROVAL.

Read: Report dated 30 May 2024 from Ms S Murphy, Director of Sustainability and Environment, regarding Single Tender Action Approval. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, it was agreed to approve the Single Tender Action as detailed in the Officer's Report.**

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 7:31pm

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 3rd June 2024.

Signed: **Councillor Siobhan O'Hare**
Chairperson

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