

## **NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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### **Minutes of Special Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 17 October 2024 at 6.00pm in the Council Chamber, Downshire Civic Centre**

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**In the Chair:** Councillor T Howie

**In Attendance in Chamber:**

Councillor W Clarke	Councillor C Enright
Councillor O Hanlon	Councillor C King
Councillor A Lewis	Councillor A Mathers
Councillor S O'Hare	Councillor A Quinn
Councillor H Reilly	Councillor M Rice
Councillor G Sharvin	Councillor D Taylor

#### **Non-Committee Members**

**In Attendance:** Councillor J Truesdale Councillor T Andrews  
Councillor H Young

#### **Officials in Attendance in Chamber:**

Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services  
Ms C Mallon, Director Economy, Regeneration & Tourism  
Mrs S Murphy, Director of Sustainability & Environment  
Mr A Patterson, Director of Active & Healthy Communities  
Mr C Boyd, Assistant Director of Capital Projects & Procurement  
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)  
Ms F Branagh, Democratic Services Officer

#### **SPR/158/2024: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Byrne and McAteer, and Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive.

Councillor Howie stated that she expected a respectful discussion on items that had been tabled at the Committee Meeting.

#### **SPR/159/2024: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Sharvin requested guidance with regard declaring an interest in item 10 – Financial Assistance, as his club had applied for financial assistance. He asked although the paper was anonymised, was it appropriate for him to remain within the chamber during discussions.

Mrs Kelly advised that it was for the Member to decide whether they had a perceived conflict of interest.

#### **SPR/160/2024 ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM STRATEGY, POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 12 SEPTEMBER 2024**

**Read:** Action Sheet of Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee meeting held 12 September 2024 **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor O'Hare, it was agreed to approve the action sheet of Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee meeting of 12 September 2024.**

## **FOR CONSIDERATION**

**SPR/161/2024** **OFFICER REPORT ON NOTICE OF MOTION – GOOD RELATIONS**

**Read:** Report from Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy, regarding Officer Report on Notice of Motion – Good Relations. **(Copy circulated)**

Mrs Kelly outlined the Report, advising that the Notice of Motion had been referred to the Equality and Good Relations Forum following the September 2024 Council meeting. She informed Members that it had been discussed at the Forum on 26 September 2024 where, following discussions, it had been proposed to amend the Notice of Motion as below.

In proposing the Report, Councillor Sharvin highlighted the fruitful conversations that had taken place at the forum meeting.

Councillor Truesdale also noted the constructive discussion at the forum meeting, stating that it was one of the things that Council did well.

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Howie, the following was agreed:**

- **To amend the notice of motion which was considered and discussed at the Councillor's Equality and Good Relations Reference Group on 26 September 2024 to read as:**

***"That this Council recognises the vital role of Good Relations programmes in supporting the reconciliation in a society recovering from conflict, bringing communities together, creating shared spaces, challenging sectarian, racism and other forms of prejudice, and promoting respect for all cultural identities; strongly condemns the recent violence and targeting of businesses; encourages greater support and investment for sporting and cultural events as a mechanism for uniting local communities; registers its disappointment that an enhanced and fully-funded regional Good Relations Strategy has not been prioritised since the restoration of the NI Assembly; further records its disappointment that the reduction in good relations funding granted in 2023/24 to Councils by the Executive Office has not been reinstated to previous levels."***

- That Council respond to the 'Consultation on the Executive Office budget allocation 2024-2025' outlining the concerns raised in the above Notice of Motion

**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 Quinn, 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 Hanlon, 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:

**SPR/162/2024**                      **SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT – RESOURCES REPORT**

**Read:** Report from Mrs S Murphy, Director of Sustainability & Environment, regarding Sustainability & Environment Resources. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Howie, seconded by Councillor Enright, it was agreed to approve the recommendations as outlined in the Officer's Report.

**SPR/163/2024**                      **CONTRACTOR PROCUREMENT AND APPOINTMENT**

**Read:** Report from Mr C Boyd, Assistant Director of Capital, Estates & Procurement, regarding Contractor Procurement and Appointment. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Mathers, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, it was agreed to commence the Invitation To Tender (ITT) procurement process to appoint a contractor and commence construction delivery.

**SPR/164/2024**

**CONSULTANT FEES REPORT**

**Read:** Report from Mr C Boyd, Assistant Director of Capital, Estates & Procurement, regarding Consultant Fees. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, it was agreed to approve the additional fees for the enhanced capital project value and works identified through progression of the works on site and continued statutory consultation.**

**SPR/165/2024**

**MOURNE MOUNTAIN GATEWAY PROJECT**

**Read:** Report from Mr C Boyd, Assistant Director of Capital, Estates & Procurement, regarding Mourne Mountain Gateway Project. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Sharvin proposed to accept the Officer's Report, this was seconded by Councillor Lewis. The Alliance Party members advised that as they were against the project they would be voting against the proposal. Councillor Howie requested a recorded vote on the proposal, a copy of which is appended to these minutes.

The results of the vote were as follows:

<b>FOR</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>ABSTENTIONS</b>	<b>0</b>

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Lewis, the following was agreed:**

- **To approve the appointment of a specialist Gondola Consultant for the Mourne Mountains Gateway Project.**
- **To approve the updated ICT fee as set out in section 4.2 of the Officer's Report.**

**SPR/166/2024**

**AHC CAPITAL BUDGET REQUIREMENT**

**Read:** Report from Mr A Patterson, Director of Active & Healthy Communities, regarding Capital Budget Requirement. **(Copy circulated)**

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

- **To approve the Capital Budget requirement for year 1 delivery of the Play Strategy Review as outlined within the Officer's Report.**
- **To undertake year 1 projects utilising the Council's current contractor framework.**

**SPR/167/2024**

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

**Read:**

Report from Mr A Patterson, Director of Active & Healthy Communities, regarding Financial Assistance. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:**

**On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Mathers, it was agreed to allocate Letters of Offer to the groups recommended for funding awards under Financial Assistance Call 2 for Sports Capital Facility grants utilising the budget allocation as set out in the Officer's Report, and to implement a scored and ranked list.**

**SPR/168/2024**

**APPROVAL OF TENDER AWARD AND FUNDING APPLICATIONS**

**Read:**

Report from Mr A Patterson, Director of Active & Healthy Communities, regarding an Approval of Tender Award and Funding Application. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:**

**On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, it was agreed to award the tender for delivery of the Capital Project and to accept the two grant offers from external funders as detailed in the Officer's Report.**

**Councillor Enright declared an interest in the following item and left the Chamber at this stage – 7.07pm**

**SPR/169/2024**

**FUNDING TO SPORTS CLUB**

**Read:**

Report from Mr C Mallon, Director of Economy, Regeneration & Tourism, regarding Funding to Sports Club. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:**

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

- To note the sanction panel's decision to apply a sanction that the club cannot apply or be in receipt of Council supported funding until the full amount is paid.**
- To note the repayment plan as set out in the report.**
- To note that the matter would be reviewed after 12 months.**

**Councillor Clarke left the meeting at this stage – 7.15pm**

**Councillor Clarke rejoined the meeting at this stage – 7.23pm**

**Councillor Enright re-entered the Chamber at this stage – 7.28pm**

**SPR/170/2024**

**SURPLUS ASSET REPORT**

**Read:**

Report from Mr A Patterson, Director of Active & Healthy Communities, regarding a Surplus Asset Report. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:**

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

- **To approve the marketing of the asset detailed in the Officer's Report through the D1 process for a further period of 6 months to identify any interested parties.**
- **That at the end of the 6-month period if there is no interest shown, to progress disposal of the asset through sale on the open market.**

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

**SPR/171/2024**

**MINUTES FROM STRATEGIC FINANCE WORKING GROUP MEETING HELD 10 OCTOBER 2024**

**Read:**

Minutes of Strategic Finance Working Group meeting held 10 October 2024. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:**

**On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor King, it was agreed to note the minutes.**

**Councillor Reilly left the meeting – 7.34pm.**

**FOR NOTING**

**SPR/172/2024**

**STATUTORY REPORTING: SECTION 75 POLICY SCREENING REPORT FOR QUARTERLY PERIOD JULY – SEPTEMBER 2024**

**Read:**

Report from Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy, regarding Statutory Reporting. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Sharvin requested that the layout of the website be reviewed in relation to the statutory reporting, stating that it was difficult to find the relevant report amongst the other years' statutory reporting.

**AGREED:**

**On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Howie, it was agreed to note the Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period July – September 2024.**

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 7.37pm

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 4 November 2024.

**Signed:**           **Councillor Tierna Howie**  
                          **Chairperson**

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

**NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**RECORDED VOTE**

DATE: 17/10/24

VENUE: Downshire Civic Centre

MEETING: SPR Committee

SUBJECT OF VOTE: Recorded Vote requested on Item 8 – Mourne Mountain Gateway Project

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COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
P Byrne				1
W Clarke	1			
C Enright		1		
O Hanlon	2			
T Howie		2		
C King	3			
A Lewis	4			
A Mathers	5			
D McAteer				2
S O'Hare	6			
A Quinn	7			
H Reilly	8			
M Rice	9			
G Sharvin	10			
D Taylor	11			
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>2</b>