

COUNCIL MEETING HELD TUESDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2023

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No.	Item	Decision
1.	The Mayors' Business	Received
2.	Apologies	None
3.	Declarations of Interest	None
4.	Deputation – Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA)	Received
5.	Minutes of Council Meeting held Tuesday 1 August 2023	Confirmed and signed as a correct record
6.	Minutes of Special Council Meeting held Monday 21 August 2023	Confirmed and signed as a correct record
7.	Matters for reporting to the Partnership Panel	None
8.	Conferences	Noted
(i)	La Touche Legacy Seminar of History	
(ii)	NAC Conference & England Region AGM	
9.	Correspondence	RESOLVED that Council write to the Permanent Secretary of the Department for Infrastructure requesting information on when the Regional Strategic Transport Network Transport Plan for 2020 – 2035 will be published for consultation.
(i)	Colin Hutchinson, Director of Major Projects & Active Travel, Department for Infrastructure, dated 14 August 2023	

(ii)	Karen Smyth, Head of Policy & Governance, NILGA, dated 21 August 2023	Noted
(iii)	Marie Ward, Chief Executive, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, dated 21 August 2023	Noted
10.	Consultation Schedule	Noted
11.	Seal Documents	Seal Affixed
12.	Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor P McCully, seconded by Alderman R Stewart	Referred to Environmental Services Committee

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE
ON TUESDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 7.00PM**

In the Chair : The Mayor, Councillor Callaghan (C)

Present : Alderman Boyle (C), Callan (C), Coyle (C), Fielding (C),
Hunter (R), Knight-McQuillan (C), John McAuley (C), S
McKillop (C), Scott (C), Stewart (C)

Councillors Anderson (C), C Archibald (C), N Archibald
(C), Bateson (C), Callan (C), Chivers (C), Holmes (C),
Huggins (C), Kane (C), Kennedy (C), Kyle (R), Mairs (C),
Jonathan McAuley (C), McCully (C), McGlinchey (C),
McGurk (C), MA McKillop (C), McMullan (C), McQuillan
(C), McShane (R), Nicholl (R), Peacock (C), Schenning
(C), Stirling (C), Storey (C), Watson (C), Watton (C),
Wilson (R), Wisener (C)

Officers Present : D Jackson, Chief Executive (C)
A McPeake, Director of Environmental Services (R)
M Jones, Council Solicitor, Corporate, Planning and
Regulatory (R)
S Gamble, Corporate Communications & PR Manager (R)
U Harper, Committee & Member Services Officer (C)
S Duggan, Civic Support & Committee & Member Services
Officer (R)

In attendance : Alison Allen, Chief Executive, Northern Ireland Local
Government Association (NILGA) (C)

A Lennox, Mobile Operations Officer (C)
C Thompson, ICT Operations Officer (C)

Press (2 No) (R) (C)
Public (1 No) (R)

Key – C = Attended in the Chamber
R = Attended Remotely

The Chief Executive undertook a roll call.

The Mayor opened the meeting and extended a welcome to members of the
press and public in attendance and provided guidance in relation to Council's
Remote Meetings Protocol and audio recordings.

* **Councillor McShane joined the meeting remotely at 7.04pm.**

1. THE MAYOR'S BUSINESS

The Mayor provided a summary of his key engagements and highlights since last Council Meeting as follows:-

"I would like to congratulate everyone across the Borough who took part in the High Street Heroes awards.

I pay special tribute to those who won in their categories: Ballymoney Chamber for winning the Best High Street of the year; W&J Walker Ballymoney for winning Best Homeware retailer; and Couples from Coleraine who won Best Fashion Retailer and was runner-up in the Overall Independent Retailer of the year. Congratulations also go to Finishing Touches Limavady, who collected a silver award for Best Generalist Retailer; the Winsome Lady Ballymoney, who collected a silver award in the Best Fashion Retailer category and bronze in the overall Independent Retailer category; and Real Health Coleraine for winning bronze in the Best Healthcare retailer.

I would like to thank and pay tribute to Peter Thompson and everyone connected to his teams who did a fantastic job at running the Lamma Fair. Thanks also go to the Events team, and the people from Environmental Services teams who kept on top of the litter issues. The event was a great success from start to finish and this was due, in no small part, to the support and role of council staff, who put in long hours; credit where credit is due.

I was delighted to see that Naturally North Coast and Glens has been shortlisted in the Northern Ireland Social Enterprise awards 2023 for the Consumer Facing award. The winner is chosen by public vote and the vote closes at midnight tomorrow. I would ask you all to cast your vote in support of our own producers. They do fantastic work at local Artisan markets and events. Over 30 of our local producers in the Borough won gold stars at a recent food awards event. They are to be commended for the work they do in the Borough.

I would like to congratulate Richard Baker on his appointment to Chief Executive of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council. I am sure it was well deserved, and I look forward to seeing who will replace him.

I have represented the council at 47 events during the month of August. I wish to thank and pay tribute to my Deputy Mayor who has supported me on the road and filled in for me when required."

2. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

3. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were no Declarations of Interest.

4. DEPUTATION – NORTHERN IRELAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

The Mayor welcomed the Chief Executive of Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) to the meeting and invited her to present to Council.

The NILGA Chief Executive delivered a presentation on the role and activities of NILGA. Key points covered included:

- Representing NI Councils' strong commitment to workforce
- Coordinated 11 Councils through recent industrial action
- Councillor guide and 17 councillors participated in regional learning programme
- Achieved Councillor Development Charter in January 2023
- Planning reform – Local Development Plan, role of Elected Members, checklist
- Climate action – Adaptation, council leadership
- Economic development – Review of Invest NI
- Code of Conduct – lobbying for change
- Local Government Finance & Replacement EU funding
- UK COVID-19 Inquiry
- Partnership Panel – regeneration, cost of living
- Councils Make it Happen campaign
- Be a Councillor, Make a Difference campaign
- Employee of the Year campaign.

The Mayor invited questions to the NILGA Chief Executive.

Alderman Callan thanked the NILGA Chief Executive for attending and paid tribute to the work of NILGA in championing the work of local government.

The Mayor thanked the NILGA Chief Executive for her attendance and for her very comprehensive presentation.

* **The NILGA Chief Executive left the meeting at 7.26 pm.**

5. MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD TUESDAY 1 AUGUST 2023

Copy, previously circulated.

Proposed by Councillor Watton
Seconded by Councillor Huggins and

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Council meeting held Tuesday 1 August 2023, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

6. MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD MONDAY 21 AUGUST 2023

Copy, previously circulated.

Proposed by Councillor Schenning
Seconded by Alderman Boyle and

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Special Council meeting held Monday 21 August 2023, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

7. MATTERS FOR REPORTING TO THE PARTNERSHIP PANEL

There were no matters for reporting to Partnership Panel.

8. CONFERENCES

The purpose of the report is to inform Elected Members of conferences and courses they may wish to attend.

The following were listed:

(i) La Touche Legacy Seminar of History

Date: 15th & 16th September 2023

Venue: Greystones Golf Club, Whitshed Road, Greystones, Co. Wicklow

Delegate Fee: €130

Seminar is open to all elected Members. Full details of the seminar are included in the previously circulated flyer.

Elected Members should contact Democratic Services to register interest.

(ii) NAC Conference & England Region AGM

Date: 22nd – 24th September 2023

Venue: Eastwood Hall, Eastwood, Nr Nottingham

Delegate Fee: £350 plus VAT

This Conference is open to all members of the NAC. Conference details are as follows:

Eastwood Hall, which is set in parkland just outside the village of Eastwood, is a very good venue for the NAC. Eastwood Hall has fantastic facilities for Conferences and hotel residents.

The subject that members have requested for this weekend is Anti-Social Behaviour.

All of our cities, towns and villages suffer from this type of behaviour and it is a blight on our communities. As councillors we need to be aware of what we can offer our communities to enable people to feel safer in their surrounding areas.

Speakers:-

- Local Government;
- Police;
- A specialist from an education unit which deals with only girls who are excluded from mainstream education.

There will be an opportunity to question the speakers after their presentations.

Elected Members should contact Democratic Services to register interest.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council consider the Conference listed.

RESOLVED – that Council note the Conference schedule.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to present correspondence for Members' consideration.

The following correspondence has been received:

- (i) **Colin Hutchinson, Director of Major Projects & Active Travel, Department for Infrastructure, dated 14 August 2023** (copy attached)

Dr Julie Harrison, DfI Permanent Secretary has taken a Northern Ireland (Executive Formation etc) Act 2022 decision on the prioritisation of the major roads programme. This letter sets out the implications of that decision.

Many of the projects within the current major roads programme enjoy various levels of political commitment including NI Executive Flagship status; are included within City and Growths Deals; or a previous Infrastructure Minister has committed to advance development works.

The prioritisation of Major Roads Projects is presented in Annex A (attached) and sets out the following hierarchy:

- Closing out projects that have been recently constructed or are under construction – 1A;
- Active Executive Flagship projects – 1B;
- Remaining Executive Flagship projects – 1C;
- Projects within signed City and Growth Deals – 2A;

- Projects under consideration within emerging City and Growth Deals – 2B;
- Projects with previous Ministerial commitments – 3A;
- Projects with cross cutting measures – 3B; and
- Other Projects – 4

Due to financial and resourcing pressures the Department will only deliver those road projects listed in tiers 1 and 2 of Annex A where there are identified alternative funding streams such as Flagship and City and Growth Deal projects.

All other schemes continue to be paused and their place on a future major works programme will be informed by the Department's emerging transport plans and a decision by a future Infrastructure Minister should an Assembly be restored.

Councillors should note the economic and growth deal implications of this decision.

Councillor Storey expressed concern regarding this decision made by the Permanent Secretary of the Department for Infrastructure. He stated that the decision was taken prematurely, given that the Regional Strategic Transport Network Transport Plan for 2020 - 2035 has yet to be published. He expressed his frustration at the delay in the publication of this strategy. Councillor Storey stated his view that the decision was taken because of the Climate Change Act and the green agenda, in order to reduce transport and road provision, and that the impact of this would be felt in towns such as Ballykelly and those living around the A26. He expressed frustration that there has been no mention of the provision for rail transport.

Councillor Storey proposed that the Council write to the Permanent Secretary asking when we can expect the consultation on the Regional Strategic Transport Network Transport Plan for 2020 – 2035.

Proposed by Councillor Storey
Seconded by Alderman Scott and

RESOLVED that Council write to the Permanent Secretary of the Department for Infrastructure requesting information on when the Regional Strategic Transport Network Transport Plan for 2020 – 2035 will be published for consultation.

(ii) Karen Smyth, Head of Policy & Governance, NILGA, dated 21 August 2023

At the NILGA Executive Committee NILGA on 23rd June, it was agreed to form a Strategic Policy Network. A Terms of Reference for this Network (attached) was agreed by the NILGA Executive on 11th August 2023.

Council nominations are therefore now being sought, to complement the NILGA nominated Chair and Vice Chair. No specific party membership is required for these nominations.

NILGA is seeking one (1) elected member from each council (who may or may not be one of its NILGA Full members) to participate in the NILGA Strategic Policy Network. This Network will meet on a bi-monthly basis, and it is anticipated that the first meeting will be either 19th or 26th September 2023, depending on member availability.

(iii) Marie Ward, Chief Executive, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, dated 21 August 2023 (copy attached)

At a meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council held during March 2023, the following motion was agreed:

"Newry Mourne and Down District Council calls for the voting age of 18 to be reduced to 16 and if this motion is adopted seeks the support of the remaining councils in Northern Ireland to write to the Secretary of State calling him to amend the necessary legislation to enable 16 year old and upwards to vote".

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council has since received a response from the NIO stating that the UK Government position remains unchanged.

Council is asked to give this matter consideration.

It is recommended that Council consider the correspondence.

RESOLVED – that Council note the correspondence schedule (Items ii-iii).

10. CONSULTATION SCHEDULE

Consultation schedule, previously circulated, presented as read.

- (i) Department for Communities Consultation on the McCloud Remedy in the Local Government Pension Scheme (Northern Ireland) Supplementary issues and draft regulations Submission by 1 September 2023
- (ii) Department of Health and Social Care Consultation: Proposal to enable dental hygienists and dental therapists to supply and administer specific medicines under exemptions Submission by 15 September 2023
- (iii) Department of Health and Social Care Consultation on amendments to regulations 3A, 19 and 247A of the Human Medicines Regulations 2012 to support the ongoing delivery of COVID-19 and influenza vaccination Submission by 18 September 2023

- (iv) Department of Health and Social Care Consultation: Proposal for the use of patient group directions by pharmacy technicians Submission by 29 September 2023
- (v) Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency Outputs Consultation Submission by 15 October 2023
- (vi) The Diversity and Inclusion Unit Queen's University Belfast Consultation seeking the views of staff, students, Trade Union representatives and external consultees on our new draft Equality Scheme and Action Plan 2024-2029 Submission by 23 October 2023
- (vii) Department of Finance Consultation on a review of energy efficiency requirements and related areas of Building Regulations Submission by 15 November 2023

Available to View:

- Department of Finance Equality Screening - Review of NICS Recruitment Advertising Policy | Department of Finance (finance-ni.gov.uk)
- Department of Finance EQAI Screening Document for Special Leave Policy 3.08 | Department of Finance (finance-ni.gov.uk)
- Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Annual Progress Reports to the Equality Commission (DAERA) | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (daera-ni.gov.uk)
- Department of Finance Equality Screening – Raising Concerns Operational Arrangements | Department of Finance (finance-ni.gov.uk)
- Department for the Economy has published a summary of its consultation on drafts of its Equality Scheme, Disability Action Plan and Audit of Inequalities.
- Department of Finance EQIA - NICS LGBTQ+ Role Models Guide | Department of Finance (finance-ni.gov.uk)
- Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Equality Screening – Policies screened for the period April – June 2023 | Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (newrymourneanddown.org)

Open Consultations were listed:

- Northern Ireland Policing Board - Northern Ireland Policing Board Engagement Strategy 2023-25 Consultation - submission by 5th September 2023
- The Executive Office - Provision of Free Period Products – Public Consultation – submission by 18th September 2023
- Department for Communities - Consultation on changes to Discretionary Support Scheme – submission by 25th September 2023
- Northern Health and Social Care Trust - Consultation on Draft Equality and Disability Action Plans 2023-28 – 25th September 2023
- Department of Finance - Equality Screening for fire safety changes to Building Regulations – 25th September 2023
- The Executive Office - Consultation on the Children's Rights Impact Assessment and Rural Need Impact Assessment for the Executive Office's Spending Plans for 2023-24 – submission by 2nd October 2023
- Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs - Consultation on Northern Ireland's 2030 & 2040 Emissions Reduction Targets & First Three Carbon Budgets & Seeking views on Climate Change Committee (CCC)

11. SEAL DOCUMENTS

- (i) Grave Registry Certificates, No's 5638 to 5649;
- (ii) Contract and Form 9 Transfer: Sale of land Station Road, Dunloy (Ref L&P 230320 / CP&R 280323 / CM 230404 Retrospective)
- (iii) North West Region Waste Management Group (1) Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, (2) ReCon Waste Management Limited - Provision for the services for the haulage, treatment, recycling and disposal of NWRWMG collected Local Authority Street Sweeping & Gully Waste (Ref ES 230613/ CM 230629)

Proposed by Alderman Callan
Seconded by Alderman Scott and

RESOLVED – that the Sealing of documents, as listed, be approved (Items i-iii)

**12. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR P MCCULLY,
SECONDED BY ALDERMAN R STEWART**

This Council is concerned by the recent blooms of blue-green algae in our waters; notes the detrimental impact these blooms have had on local businesses; asks the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs to swiftly convene a cross party meeting between affected Council areas to discuss the issue & to develop an action plan to address it; and calls for the establishment of an independent Environmental Protection Agency in line with New Decade, New Approach commitments.

The Mayor referred the Notice of Motion without discussion to the Environmental Services Committee.

This being all the business, The Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 7.35pm.

Mayor