

**THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD TUESDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2024
(ADJOURNED)**

Table of Contents

No.	Item	Decision	Estimated Timescale for completion
1.	The Mayors' Business	<i>Received</i>	
2.	Apologies	<i>Alderman McAuley, Councillors Bateson, Callaghan, Kennedy, McAuley and McGlinchey</i>	
3.	Declaration of Members' Interests	<i>Alderman Boyle Callan Coyle Hunter S McKillop Scott Stewart Councillor C Archibald McCully McMullan Storey Watton</i>	
4.	Deputation – DfI Roads Annual Report, Alan Keys – Divisional Roads Manager Ian Lowe – Section Engineer in attendance	<i>Received</i>	
5.	Minutes of The Council Meeting held Tuesday 1 October 2024	<i>Confirmed as a correct record</i>	
6.	Minutes of Planning Committee Meeting held Wednesday 25 September 2024	<i>Confirmed as a correct record</i>	
7.	Minutes of Environmental Services Committee meeting held Tuesday 8 October 2024	<i>Adopted and recommendations therein approved</i>	

8.	Minutes of Finance Committee Meeting held Thursday 10 October 2024	Adopted and recommendations therein approved	
9.	Minutes of Leisure and Development Committee meeting held Tuesday 15 October 2024	Adopted and recommendations therein approved	
10.	Minutes of Corporate Policy and Resources Committee meeting held Tuesday 22 October 2024	Adopted and recommendations therein approved	
11.	Matters for reporting to the Partnership Panel	None	
12.	Conferences	None	
13.	Correspondence		
(i)	(Alison McCullagh, Chief Executive, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, dated 21 October 2024	Noted	
14.	Consultation Schedule	Noted	
15.	Seal Documents		
(i)	Grave Registry Certificates, No's 5857 to 5873 inclusive	Seal Affixed (Items i – iii)	
(ii)	Permissive Path Agreement – Addendum to Agreement 1 June 2021 (Bengore Head, Portnagovna to Port na Truin) (Ref: L&D 240917/CM 241001);		
(iii)	Renewal of Commercial Lease, The Water Margin, Coleraine – Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and Tony Cheuk		
16.	Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Kane, seconded by Councillor McCully (abbrev Don't Mow Let it Grow)	Referred to Leisure and Development Committee	
	'In Committee' (Items 17-17.1)		

17.	Minutes of Corporate Policy and Resources Committee meeting held Tuesday 22 October 2024 'In Committee'		
	Matters Arising 'In Committee'		
17.1	Item 12 - Organisation Structural Review (Tiers 1 – 3)	<i>Meeting called to adjourn during debate</i>	

Adjourned Business

- Minutes of Corporate Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held Tuesday 22 October 2024 '*In Committee*' – Matters Arising- Item 12 - Organisation Structural Review (Tiers 1 – 3)
- Minutes of Environmental Services Committee Meeting held Tuesday 8 October 2024 '*In Committee*' - Matters Arising - Item 14 Planning Applications of Trading Units at West Bay & Portaneevy

**THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER ON
TUESDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2024 AT 7.00PM (ADJOURNED)**

In the Chair : The Mayor, Councillor McQuillan

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

Councillors Anderson, C Archibald, N Archibald, Chivers, Holmes, Huggins, Kane, Mairs, McCully, McGurk, MA McKillop, McMullan, McShane, Peacock, Schenning, Storey, Watson, Watton, Wisener

Officers Present : D Jackson, Chief Executive
M Quinn, Director of Corporate Services
A McPeake, Director of Environmental Services
P Mulvenna, Director of Leisure and Development
D Wright, Chief Finance Officer
J Richardson, Head of Capital works, Energy and Infrastructure (R)
T Vauls, Car Parks Manager (R)
M Jones, Council Solicitor, Corporate, Planning and Regulatory (R)
S Duggan, Civic Support and Committee and Member Services Officer

In attendance : A Keys – Divisional Roads Manager, Dfl Roads }
A Montgomery (Assistant Section Engineer, Dfl Roads } Item 4
I Lowe – Section Engineer }

D Stewart, Director, Local Government Staff Commission (Item 17.1)

Public 1no. (R)

Press 4 no. (R)

A Lennox, Mobile Operations Officer

M Kennedy, ICT Technical Support Officer

Key – (R) = Attended Remotely

The Chief Finance Officer undertook a roll call.

The Mayor advised Committee of its obligations and protocol whilst the meeting was being audio recorded.

1. THE MAYOR'S BUSINESS

The Mayor referred to a recent visit to Westminster where Council Members lobbied MP's and the Secretary of State to lift the pause on the Growth Deal. The Mayor thanked Elected Members and staff, both in Causeway Coast and Glens and the Mid South West and further afield, he stated Council can now be optimistic about the levels of economic growth to come.

The Mayor extended thanks on behalf of Council, to everyone who was involved in planning and executing the Halloween events across Ballymoney, Limavady, Ballycastle and Coleraine, making the Halloween season a memorable experience for all.

The Mayor stated that he had the honour of hosting a reception for Michael Dunlop, to celebrate his outstanding achievements in motorcycle racing, surpassing his Uncle Joey with an incredible 29 wins at Isle of Man TT, inspiring a whole new generation of riders.

The Mayor expressed gratitude to the Deputy Mayor for her support and assistance over the past month.

The Mayor expressed sympathy for the sudden passing of Christopher Steele stating he was a hardworking and dedicated member of staff who will be missed by all his friends and co-workers in Council. The Mayor stated thoughts and prayers were with the family at this time.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded for Alderman McAuley, Councillors Bateson, Callaghan, Kennedy, McAuley and McGlinchey.

3. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Alderman Boyle declared an Interest in Minutes of Environmental Services Committee meeting held Tuesday 8 October 2024 – Item 7, Planning Applications of Trading Units at West Bay and Portaneevy.

Alderman Callan declared an Interest in Minutes of Environmental Services Committee meeting held Tuesday 8 October 2024 – Item 7, Planning Applications of Trading Units at West Bay and Portaneevy.

Alderman Coyle declared an Interest in Minutes of Environmental Services Committee meeting held Tuesday 8 October 2024 – Item 7, Planning Applications of Trading Units at West Bay and Portaneevy.

Alderman Hunter declared an Interest in Minutes of Environmental Services Committee meeting held Tuesday 8 October 2024 – Item 7, Planning Applications of Trading Units at West Bay and Portaneevy.

Alderman S McKillop declared an Interest in Minutes of Environmental Services Committee meeting held Tuesday 8 October 2024 – Item 7, Planning Applications of Trading Units at West Bay and Portaneevy.

Alderman Scott declared an Interest in Minutes of Environmental Services Committee meeting held Tuesday 8 October 2024 – Item 7, Planning Applications of Trading Units at West Bay and Portaneevy.

Alderman Stewart declared an Interest in Minutes of Environmental Services Committee meeting held Tuesday 8 October 2024 – Item 7, Planning Applications of Trading Units at West Bay and Portaneevy.

Councillor C Archibald declared an Interest in Minutes of Environmental Services Committee meeting held Tuesday 8 October 2024 – Item 7, Planning Applications of Trading Units at West Bay and Portaneevy.

Councillor McCully declared an Interest in Minutes of Planning Committee Meeting held Wednesday 25 September 2024 – Item 5.2 LA01/2024/0799/S54, Major, 35 Ballywillin Road, Portrush. Councillor McCully did not leave the meeting during noting of this item.

Councillor McMullan declared an Interest in Minutes of Environmental Services Committee meeting held Tuesday 8 October 2024 – Item 7, Planning Applications of Trading Units at West Bay and Portaneevy.

Councillor Storey declared an Interest in Minutes of Environmental Services Committee meeting held Tuesday 8 October 2024 – Item 7, Planning Applications of Trading Units at West Bay and Portaneevy.

Councillor Watton declared an Interest in Minutes of Environmental Services Committee meeting held Tuesday 8 October 2024 – Item 7, Planning Applications of Trading Units at West Bay and Portaneevy.

4. DEPUTATION – DFI ROADS ANNUAL REPORT, ALAN KEYS – DIVISIONAL ROADS MANAGER, IAN LOWE – SECTION ENGINEER IN ATTENDANCE

The Mayor invited DfI Roads representatives to present their Annual Report.

Divisional Roads Manager highlighted the work completed and work for the year ahead. Divisional Roads Manager stated that it was recognised there was more to do to improve and protect the vital Road network and the Department was maximising its resources to deliver positive engineering impacts. He stated the 2024/2025 budget allocation was challenging, however, essential frontline services would be prioritised. Doubling the Capital budget for structural maintenance was short of the funding requirements to allow effective delivery of the priority resurfacing route stability and drainage projects. He advised the Department has operated within a constrained resource budget for many years, which has meant a continuation of a limited service for routine road maintenance activities, currently a full street lighting repair service will remain in effect during 2024/2025. The Senior Management structure in Northern Division had not changed during the past year.

Divisional Roads Manager introduced Ian Lowe as the new maintenance Section Engineer for Causeway Coast and Glens West, previously within Causeway Coast and Glens East section office. A new traffic engineer and Andrew Monaghan and Sean Hassan who joined the development control team in Coleraine.

Divisional Roads Manager referred to the following pages within the report:

- Pages 18 to 21 set out the local transport and safety measures delivered in the past year, including traffic signal upgrades at the entrance to causal hospital and traffic calming measures occurred and given.
- Pages 22 to 25 schemes that are being progressed or planned for delivery this year.
- Page 26, street lighting upgrade and LED retrofit work carried out throughout 2023/2024.
- Pages 28 & 29 maintenance work structures completed within the last year.
- Pages 30 & 31 the programme for 2024/2025.
- Page 34 to 36 expands some of the maintenance activities carried out by Department Pages 37 to 38 Winter service operations.
- Ballymoney depot would not be used for winter service this year, with the service being delivered instead from Northbrook Depot, the level of service will remain unaffected.
- Pages 39 to 46 - completed extensive resurfacing works across the council area and 2023/2024,

The Divisional Roads Manager referred to a number of safety improvements and resurfacing schemes in 2024/2025. The Department is committed to investing in pedestrian and cycling measures to provide greater active travel choices, particularly for shorter everyday journeys. A wider active travel delivery plan that includes an update over policies and design guidance for active travel, as well as network plans for larger towns and cities. The public will be consulted on this plan in 2024.

The Mayor invited questions from Elected Members.

Elected Members individually thanked the Divisional Roads Manager and local offices for their work.

Councillor Holmes referred to works that were in Kilrea, that when progressed, businesses had only two or three days' notice of it being undertaken, he stated it would have been useful to allow the businesses to make preparations. He queried whether funding had just become available?

Divisional Roads Manager clarified the reason was contractor availability, rather than funding related, whilst being aware that the scheme was required to be pushed on.

Alderman Scott queried the review of the Ballykelly Bypass that was to be undertaken by Minister O'Dowd, or whether there was a date for it.

Divisional Roads Manager advised the plan was out of date and now moving forward on a new strategic investment plan, a replacement for the Regional Strategic Transport Network Transport Plan, work was proceeding and there would be a consultation, this would set the basis for what The Executive would be investing in over the next 10 to 15 years.

Councillor Storey referred to recent fatalities, he queried plans for the upgrade of the dual carriageway from Ballymoney to Coleraine and Ballycastle Junction to Ballymena and whether they were a priority? Councillor Storey stated the Kells Junction outside Ballymena had a higher priority. Councillor Storey questioned when Council would see the Transport Strategy, he referred to the Climate Change Act, the Climate Change Bill 2022, the Environment Act 2021, and Planning Act 2011, with such restrictions in place. Councillor Storey further queried whether the process of prioritisation was weighted.

Divisional Roads Manager stated a combination of what the Minister would see as priorities, as a division they had been feeding into the early part of the process, the A26 three schemes would all be considered priority schemes, however how much of those would end up in an actual plan was going to be dependent on what funding was available and what other priorities may come in. Divisional Roads Manager stated there will be a Public Consultation and opportunity for Elected members to make their voice heard.

Councillor Storey questioned the rationale for not using the Ballymoney Depot for the winter programme.

Divisional Roads Manager advised the winter service voluntary, they were finding it difficult to get supervisor staff to operate the Depot safely.

Councillor Kyle referred to pages 18 to 25 of the Report, stating there were little scheduled works for Causeway Coast and Glens in the months ahead. Councillor Kyle referred to the A26 and black spot for accidents, he questioned whether DFI were aware of how many accidents had taken place on the stretch of Road in the last year and of plans to look at this. Councillor Kyle queried whether DFI were actively trying to resolve staff and issues in general to have a bigger squad.

Divisional Roads Manager clarified they do follow up with the police on all fatalities on all roads.

Divisional Roads Manager advised of difficulties with the attractiveness of the job in terms of the salary being offered. However, recently some staff starting had gone through the Skills Academy approach which was successful and now pursuing to get more staff into the Department to fill the roles.

Councillor Watson referred to a meeting on 29th July regarding the Glenshesk Road she requested an update on this and the PR that was to follow.

Divisional Roads Manager stated the PR package in the final stages. He clarified there was no update at the moment, and they were working through a couple of matters.

Alderman S McKillop referred to work that was needed to be carried out on the Whitepark Bay Road there had been several visits, contractors visits, engineer visits and the constituency had viewed this as a drain on resources. Alderman S McKillop questioned how long it would take for a permanent repair to follow a temporary repair?

Alderman S McKillop stated that it was coming up on three years and two active travel schemes did not feature in the report, she sought an indication of when they would be advanced. She stated active travel schemes, not just in relation to Greenways promote and encourage active travel and connects with Councils strategic objectives and policies and asked The Chief Executive to contribute.

Alderman S McKillop thanked Dfl for the completion of the disabled Bay at the school.

The Section Engineer stated they were on the list to be done dependant on the external contractor covering two or three different areas and priorities as well. He clarified Dfl's, internal contractor would carry out temporary repairs to make a pothole safe and the external contractor undertook the proper cut out patch, it could be up to four weeks for the timescale.

* **Alderman McAuley arrived at the meeting at 7.31PM.**

Divisional Roads Manager advised the Minister would be launching active travel next week, and a public consultation on the active travel delivery.

The Chief Executive confirmed health and well-being was a key priority for Council, as is sustainability and trying to reduce carbon footprint. There were opportunities through active travel, for example, the Greenway initiative between Portrush and the Giants Causeway and through the Local Development Plan.

Alderman Fielding questioned whether Dfl intervene to initiate legal proceedings for a Developer that was failing the responsibilities to resurface the roads in a Street up to required standard. Alderman Fielding asked whether Developers had been taken to court?

Divisional Roads Manager stated it was complicated as they were at the mercy of Developers and also difficult legally, confirmed they had taken Developers to Court in the past.

Councillor McShane stated disappointment that the active travel project that was included as a planned project for the 2023/2024 period around Whitepark Road and Clare Road, had fallen off the Report and sought a rationale for this.

Divisional Roads Manager advised it was likely more an oversight rather than it having disappeared and assured it had not disappeared. He stated there were a lot of issues with Whitepark Road in terms of land and would take a little bit longer getting that whole process on the ground.

Divisional Roads Manager confirmed there was a consultation being launched next week on the active travel delivery plan and discussion around Signature schemes, there may be at least one of those in Causeway Coast and Glens area that will be a high profile scheme looking to take forward.

Councillor Huggins asked for an approximate date the salt boxes would be filled up.

Divisional Roads Manager advised they had all been done, and he would follow up on any that had not been filled.

Councillor McGurk wished to follow up on the Dungiven Park and Ride and a timetable for being firmed up.

Divisional Roads Manager stated a discussion was taking place with Translink on that particular site, but also the potential of any other sites around them. Councillors would be invited to a discussion with DfI and Translink to set out the approach being taken and rationale for whatever site they were going to take. Divisional Roads Manager stated it would be taken forward as fast as they could.

Councillor Kane asked regarding communication around the portal, that items that were put on tended to disappear, he questioned the decision making around how reports on the portal were managed and communicated back to the people who were making the reports in the first place.

Assistant Section Engineer clarified there were plans to improve the portal in relation to responses received that it was reliant on the person making the query going back and to get the answer that would be put on. A standard response would be made to some enquiries, that it would be available on the next programme of works; that programme of works would take a year to follow through, and they could not follow through on each individual request. Assistant Section Engineer advised IT had higher priorities and do not have the staff, however, local staff were available to discuss if a matter did not get sorted within a reasonable amount of time.

Alderman Callan queried the claim unit and compensation with pothole damage. He stated there needed to be a review around the length of time it takes for a claim to be assessed and how that was worked out in the Department. Alderman Callan asked for the number of compensation or defects being reported.

Divisional Roads Manager advised the compensation system was under constant review and was faster for first time claimants. A balance was required with the need for the people and the need for a government bodies to be accountable for the money that they pay out as unfortunately they do get cases of fraud. Divisional Roads Manager advised the information was published online in the Open Access.

Councillor Anderson raised the Cromore Road cycle lane, he queried whether it was going to Portstewart or Coleraine or finish there? Councillor Anderson referred to marshland around the Hawthorns and asked for that to be looked at. Councillor Anderson considered active travel had been prioritised over safety and enquired regarding the entrance to Grassmere.

Divisional Roads Manager referred to the area linking the University, providing a connection towards the University for people, and in the longer term there was a plan to connect Portrush and Portstewart, a longer term ambition to connect up the Triangle.

Divisional Roads Manager advised the scheme was looking at the construction of the cycle path and other issues regarding drainage would require a more in depth investigation, that he would pass it to the Section office, but it sounded the issues may be more with the houses.

Divisional Roads Manager clarified active travel budget set aside and legislated for, the money had not been taken away.

Councillor Storey stated there was no assessment as to how active travel was used, and it had not reduced the number of people in cars. Councillor Storey asked whether active travel was being prioritised over issues where the money could be spent that would improve safety.

Divisional Roads Manager stated they always prioritise safety where they could. He advised it was the case that sometimes you have to put the infrastructure in place first to encourage people to make the shift and to encourage more people to cycle that they may not get it right every time, but that they were moving in the right direction.

The Mayor thanked the representatives from DfI Roads for their presentation.

* **The DfI Roads representatives left the Chamber at 8.00pm.**

5. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD TUESDAY 1 OCTOBER 2024

Copy, previously circulated.

Proposed by Councillor Schenning
Seconded by Councillor MA McKillop and

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of The Council Meeting held Tuesday 1 October 2024 were confirmed as a correct record.

6. MINUTES OF PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2024

Copy, previously circulated.

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held Wednesday 25 September 2024 were received and noted.

7. MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 8 OCTOBER 2024

Copy, previously circulated.

Proposed by Councillor Mairs
Seconded by Councillor MA McKillop and

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Environmental Services Committee meeting held Tuesday 8 October 2024 are adopted and recommendations therein approved.

The Chief Executive advised deferred Item 14 - Planning Applications of Trading Units at West Bay & Portaneevy would be considered *In Committee* at the end of the meeting.

8. MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD THURSDAY 10 OCTOBER 2024

Copy, previously circulated.

Proposed by Councillor Huggins
Seconded by Alderman Scott and

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on Thursday 10 October 2024 are adopted and recommendations therein approved.

9. MINUTES OF LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 15 OCTOBER 2024

Copy, previously circulated.

Proposed by Councillor McGurk
Seconded by Alderman Callan and

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Leisure and Development Committee Meeting held Tuesday 15 October 2024 are adopted and recommendations therein approve

10. MINUTES OF CORPORATE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 22 OCTOBER 2024

Proposed by Alderman Knight-McQuillan
Seconded by Councillor Watson and

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held Tuesday 22 October 2024 are adopted and recommendations therein approved.

The Chief Executive advised deferred Item 12 - Organisation Structural Review (Tiers 1 – 3) would be considered *In Committee* at the end of the meeting.

11. MATTERS FOR REPORTING TO THE PARTNERSHIP PANEL

There were no matters to report to the Partnership Panel.

The Chief Executive stated the December Partnership Panel meeting had been pushed back.

12. CONFERENCES

There were no Conferences to report.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

Copy, previously circulated, was presented by as read by the Chief Executive.

Purpose of Report

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

The following correspondence has been received:

- (i) **Alison McCullagh, Chief Executive, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, dated 21 October 2024** (copy attached)

Full Extract

Re: Motion - Racism

At the Regeneration and Communities Committee meeting held on 10 September 2024, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council unanimously adopted the following Motion:

That Fermanagh and Omagh District Council unreservedly condemns and deprecates the racist attacks and intimidation that so many have experienced in recent times.

There is no place in our society for racism, intimidation, hatred and discrimination.

Therefore, this council will work together with all other councils, government departments, the executive and the PSNI to oppose racism and deliver a shared, peaceful and inclusive society.

The Council looks forward to receiving your response.

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that Council consider the correspondence.

Council NOTED the correspondence.

14. CONSULTATION SCHEDULE

Copy, previously circulated.

Open Consultations

- Foras na Gaeilge Strategic Direction – Consultation process 19 November 2024 (online meetings)
- Health and Social Care NI Health and Social Care NI (HSCNI) Involvement and Consultation Scheme submission by 25 November 2024
- Northern Ireland Screen Equality Scheme submission by December 2024
- Department for Communities Consultation on strengthening Statutory Sick Pay submission by 4 December 2024
- Northern Ireland Electricity Networks Cluster Substation Update Consultation submission by 6 December 2024
- Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs Draft Environmental Principles Policy Statement submission by 9 December 2024
- Northern Ireland Policing Board Consultation Stakeholder Events on the Draft Policing Plan 2025-2030 submission by 10 December 2024
- Department for the Economy Design Plan for the Roll-Out of Smart Electricity Meters submission by 12 December 2024
- Police Service of Northern Ireland Race and Ethnicity Action Plan 2025 - 2027 Consultation submission by 16 December 2024
- Department for the Economy Support for Low Carbon Heat in The Residential Sector submission by 31 December 2024
- Maze Long Kesh Section 75 NI Act 1998 - Maze Long Kesh Development Consultation: Equality Action Plan, Disability Action Plan and Equality Scheme submission by 24 January 2025

Available to View

- Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs - NI's First Environmental Improvement Plan is an Important Framework For Protecting the Environment – Muir
- Department of Finance - Civil Service Inclusive Language Guide - Screening document
- Newry Mourne and Down District Council - Corporate Policy & Equality Section 75 Statutory Duties
- Department for Communities DfC Equality Equality Scheme,
- Department of Education Equality Screenings
- Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council Equality Screening Report
- Department of Finance Equality Screening for Part E (Fire safety) changes to Building Regulations - October 2024

Council NOTED the correspondence items.

15. SEAL DOCUMENTS

Members were advised of the undernoted items for signing and sealing by Council, approval having been previously granted and all necessary legislative requirements being met.

- (i) Grave Registry Certificates, No's 5857 to 5873 inclusive;
- (ii) Permissive Path Agreement – Addendum to Agreement 1 June 2021 (Bengore Head, Portnagovna to Port na Truin) (Ref: L&D 240917/CM 241001);
- (iii) Renewal of Commercial Lease, The Water Margin, Coleraine – Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and Tony Cheuk

Proposed by Alderman Callan
Seconded by Councillor Kane and

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

16. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR KANE, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR MCCULLY

This Council welcomes the success of the 'Don't Mow, Let It Grow' initiative, amongst many projects aimed at supporting biodiversity; commits to extending the scheme across the Borough, working with partners in the Department for Infrastructure Roads Service and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive to identify further sites for inclusion, whilst maintaining road safety and promoting recreation; and agrees to establish and coordinate a local Biodiversity Forum, bringing together local experts and organisations to share practice and advise Council on the development and implementation of a Local Biodiversity Action Plan for our Borough.

The Notice of motion was referred, without discussion to the Leisure and Development Committee.

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN COMMITTEE'

Proposed by Alderman Boyle
Seconded by Alderman Scott

- That Council move '*In Committee*'.

- * **Director of Corporate Services, Director of Environmental Services, Chief Finance Officer left the meeting at 8.06pm.**
- * **Head of Capital Works, Energy and Infrastructure and Car Parks Manager were ejected from the meeting at 8.06pm.**
- * **Press and Public were ejected from the meeting at 8.06pm.**

The information contained in the following item is restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

The Mayor advised Committee of its obligations and protocol whilst the meeting was being audio recorded '*In Committee*'.

17. MINUTES OF CORPORATE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD MINUTES OF CORPORATE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 22 OCTOBER 2024 'IN COMMITTEE'

Matters Arising

17.1 Item 12 - Organisation Structural Review (Tiers 1 – 3)

The Mayor invited the Local Government Staff Commission Director to present.

The Local Government Staff Commission Director provided an overview of the Organisation Review report Tiers 1-3 report that she stated was initially discussed at Transformation Programme Implementation Oversight Panel Sub Committee Meeting, Corporate Policy and Resources Committee meeting and now to Council for consideration.

The Local Government Staff Commission Director advised that engagement had taken place, as recommended in the Transformation Programme plan with Elected Members, Officers Tiers 1-4 and Trade Unions representatives on Council on at least four occasions. The Local Government Staff Commission Director provided a narrative on the options of models and indicative financial implications, that a full cost would be obtained when a business case undertaken.

Alderman Fielding thanked the Local Government Staff Commission Director for the work undertaken to date. Alderman Fielding stated he wanted to continue the work, he considered more information was required, and more thorough work to be done to have structures fit for purpose.

Proposed by Alderman Fielding

Seconded by Alderman Knight-McQuillan

- That the Transformation Programme Implementation Oversight Panel Sub Committee are tasked to continue to consider and review the current service Structures and Leadership arrangements.

Further Proposed by Alderman Knight-McQuillan

- that if required, the Transformation Programme Implementation Panel Sub Committee to be restructured to meet the needs, then that be undertaken.

Councillor Peacock as Chair of the Transformation Programme Implementation Oversight Panel stated it was not the place to take the matter forward, that the Transformation Programme Implementation Oversight Panel work was solely around the work to be done as part of the Extraordinary Audit which had now come to a close, with a further view Council would go back and review performance against the targets.

An Amendment was proposed by Councillor Peacock, that given the level of work that has been required of staff within this Council and the upheaval that has been caused as a result of many different things in recent times, that we come back as a Full Council to this matter at a later stage, in order to give the organisation time to recover and recoup and regroup after a period of upheaval because I do not think it would be beneficial for our staff to take forward another period of upheaval, given what we have experienced in the past number of years; that it is not sent to the Transformation Programme Implementation Oversight Panel Sub-Committee because it is not the right place for it; that we, as a Council, come back to this after we have allowed that period of reorganisation and regrouping.

Councillor Holmes reflected on the current structure and proposals and stated his preferred Directorate Model which he stated was a sensible option to go forward and not a huge amount of associated cost. Councillor Holmes stated Council would need a special committee to look into this, he stated it would be foolish not to make changes to a structure that was in place 10 years ago.

* **The Mayor declared a recess at 8.22pm.**

* **The meeting reconvened at 8.40pm.**

The Chief Executive advised due to matters beyond the control of the meeting, the meeting was required to adjourn.

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN PUBLIC'

Proposed by Councillor C Archibald

Seconded by Councillor Watson and

RESOLVED – that Council move *'In Public'*.

Proposed by Councillor Peacock

Seconded by Councillor Watson and

RESOLVED – that the meeting does adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 8.41pm, to reconvene at a date and time to be agreed.

Adjourned Business

- Minutes of Corporate Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held Tuesday 22 October 2024 *'In Committee'* – Matters Arising- Item 12 - Organisation Structural Review (Tiers 1 – 3)
- Minutes of Environmental Services Committee Meeting held Tuesday 8 October 2024 *'In Committee'* - Matters Arising - Item 14 Planning Applications of Trading Units at West Bay & Portaneevy