



**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD  
AT MOSSLEY MILL ON MONDAY 28 OCTOBER 2024 AT 6.30 PM**

- In the Chair** : Mayor (Councillor N Kelly)
- Members Present** : Aldermen – L Boyle, L Clarke, M Magill, P Michael, S Ross and J Smyth
- : Councillors – J Archibald-Brown, A Bennington, M Cooper, S Cosgrove, H Cushinan, P Dunlop, R Foster, J Gilmour, M Goodman, R Kinnear, AM Logue, R Lynch, V McWilliam, S Ward, B Webb and S Wilson
- Members Present Remotely** : Aldermen - P Bradley and T Campbell
- Councillors - M Brady, J Burbank, S Flanagan, H Magill, B Mallon, T McGrann, E McLaughlin, L O'Hagan, A O'Lone, L Smyth and M Stewart
- In Attendance (In person)** : Grainia Long, Chief Executive - Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE)  
Breige Mullaghan, South Antrim Area Manager – NIHE
- In Attendance (Remote)** : Frank O'Connor – North Regional Manager – NIHE  
Louise Clarke, Head of North Place Shaping – NIHE  
Ryan Brady, Planning Officer – NIHE  
Andy Kennedy, Assistant Director Asset Management – NIHE  
Mark Halliday – Assistant Director of Project Delivery - NIHE
- Officers Present** : Chief Executive - R Baker  
Director of Economic Development and Planning – M McAlister  
Director of Sustainability, Operations – M Laverty  
Director of Parks and Leisure, Operations – M McDowell  
Director of Finance and Governance – S Cole  
Deputy Director of Governance – L Johnston  
Borough Lawyer and Head of Legal Services – P Casey

**Officers Present Remotely** : ICT Systems Support Officer – C Bell  
ICT Helpdesk Officer – D Mason  
PA to Mayor and Deputy Mayor – S Fisher  
  
Director of Corporate Strategy – H Hall  
Head of Community Planning – R McKenna

## **1 BIBLE READING, PRAYER AND WELCOME**

The Deputy Mayor welcomed all present to the meeting, and advised Members of the audio recording procedures.

The meeting opened with a Bible reading and prayer by Alderman Magill. *The Mayor, Alderman Boyle and Councillors Cushinan, Goodman, Kinnear and Logue joined the meeting at this point.*

### **MAYOR'S REMARKS**

The Mayor took to the Chair and welcomed all present to the meeting.

## **2 APOLOGIES**

Aldermen - M Cosgrove and J McGrath  
Councillors - A McAuley and M Ní Chonghaile

## **3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

*The Mayor confirmed that the Presentation from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive would be taken at this point of the meeting. Alderman Clarke and Councillor Ward left the Chamber and returned during the presentation. Councillor Cooper left the Chamber during the presentation.*

## **9 PRESENTATION**

### **9.1 G/MSMO/7 PRESENTATION BY NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING EXECUTIVE**

The Mayor welcomed Grainia Long, Chief Executive and Breige Mullaghan, South Antrim Area Manager to the meeting. Attending remotely for questions were Andy Kennedy, Assistant Director Asset Management; Mark Halliday, Assistant Director of Project Delivery; Frank O'Connor, North Regional Manager; Louise Clarke, Head of North Place Shaping; and Ryan Brady, Planning Officer.

They updated Members on the Housing Investment Plan, responded to Members' queries and agreed to respond to individual Members in relation to specific requests.

The Mayor and Members thanked Ms Long and Ms Mullaghan for their presentation and they left the meeting.

Moved by Councillor Foster  
Seconded by Councillor Lynch and

**RESOLVED – that the presentation be noted.**

*Councillor Bennington left the Chamber.*

**4 MINUTES OF THE ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**

Moved by Alderman Smyth  
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

**RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Meeting of Monday 30 September 2024 be taken as read and signed as correct.**

**5 MINUTES OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING**

Moved by Councillor Gilmour  
Seconded by Alderman Smyth that

**RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Operations Committee Meeting of Monday 7 October 2024 be taken as read and signed as correct.**

**6 MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Moved by Councillor O'Lone  
Seconded by Alderman Smyth that

**RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Policy and Governance Committee Meeting of Tuesday 8 October 2024 be taken as read and signed as correct.**

**7 MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

Moved by Councillor Brady  
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

**RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Community Development Committee Meeting of Monday 14 October 2024 be taken as read and signed as correct.**

**8(a) MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING, PART 1**

Moved by Councillor Archibald-Brown  
Seconded by Councillor Cosgrove and

**RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting of Monday 21 October Part 1 be taken as read and signed as correct.**

**8(b) MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING, PART 2**

Moved by Councillor Archibald-Brown  
Seconded by Councillor Cosgrove and

**RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting of Monday 21 October 2024 Part 2 be taken as read and signed as correct.**

**8(c) MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING, PART 1**

Moved by Councillor Archibald-Brown  
Seconded by Councillor Cosgrove and

**RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting of Wednesday 23 October 2024 Part 1 be taken as read and signed as correct.**

**8(d) MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING, PART 2**

Moved by Councillor Archibald-Brown  
Seconded by Councillor Cosgrove and

**RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting of Wednesday 23 October 2024 Part 2 be taken as read and signed as correct.**

*Councillor Bennington returned to the Chamber and Councillor Cooper returned to the meeting during Item 10.1.*

**10 ITEM FOR DECISION**

**10.1 CCS/GEN/014 NORTHERN IRELAND EXECUTIVE CONSULTATION ON DRAFT PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNMENT 2024-2027**

**1. Purpose**

**The purpose of this report was to provide an update on the proposed consultation response to the draft Programme for Government 2024-2027.**

**2. Draft Programme for Government 2024-2027**

Following the NI Executive's agreement on a draft Programme for Government 2024-2027 'Our Plan: Doing What Matters Most', the public consultation exercise commenced on 9 September with a closing date of 4 November 2024.

The draft Programme for Government 2024-2027 plan document could be accessed via the following link <http://www.northernireland.gov.uk/PfG>

### Previous Council Decision

At the September Council meeting, a Notice of Motion was proposed and an amendment suggested. Following discussion, it was agreed that this matter be deferred until the October meeting to enable engagement with the TEO team to take place. This engagement session with Elected Members took place on 14 October 2024.

### 3. Proposed Consultation response

A draft response was set out below for Members' consideration which incorporated the Notice of Motion and Amendment, as well as highlighting the crucial role of Local Government in shaping and implementing the reforms cited within the document.

### **COUNCIL'S DRAFT RESPONSE - PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION RESPONSE**

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council welcomed the release of the draft Programme for Government document by the NI Executive and the commencement of the public consultation phase.

The Council considered the document at its monthly meeting in September and also took the opportunity to invite a representative from the TEO team to present at an engagement session with Elected Members which was held on 14 October 2024.

In welcoming the publication of the draft Programme for Government (PfG) by the NI Executive, Council;

- agreed that the PfG should include a standalone Mission on Peace and Peacebuilding;
- further agreed that peacebuilding, reconciliation, equality and inclusion were vital to achieving the key ambitions in the Programme for Government;
- noted that political instability and societal division were major barriers to growing our local and Northern Ireland's economy, improving local public services, tackling poverty and supporting our communities;
- agreed to write to the First and Deputy First Minister to call for the inclusion of a Mission on Peace and Peacebuilding in the Programme for Government before the PfG public consultation deadline on 4 November 2024 and,
- noted that the PSNI play a key role in the creation and maintenance of peace and peace building and that we support the Chief Constable in his desire to ensure adequate funding was provided to this key service.

In addition to the key points above, Council also wished to draw attention to the need for greater Local Government involvement which it would consider crucial in shaping and implementing the reforms cited within the Programme for Government.

In particular, the document recognised a critical need for reform and transformation of public services, citing issues such as unsustainability, rising costs, increasing demand and declining outcomes across sectors like health, education, and justice (p. 50-51). A new Reform and Transformation Unit was proposed to be set up at the heart of government to drive change across all departments.

This would be part of a broader Reform Package, including a Fiscal Framework, Sustainability Plan, and Transformation Programme (p. 52-53).

We acknowledged the creation of a Public Sector Transformation Board, through which £235 million would be invested from a new Transformation Fund. This board would work to increase financial sustainability, transform service delivery models, and focus on prevention and early intervention (p. 53).

The document outlined plans for service delivery transformation, productivity and digital transformation, and innovation and research transformation across the public sector (p. 54). However, the engagement and involvement of Local Government was not acknowledged:

- The document had mentioned working with Local Government to implement a planning improvement programme, with the goal of ensuring the planning system worked for businesses, people and the environment (p. 60).
- It had stated that the Executive would work with Councils and local partners to deliver a Sub-Regional Economic Action Plan. This would include enhancing the role of Invest NI and providing increased support for entrepreneurs (p. 19).
- £1.3 billion was planned to be invested over the next few years to stimulate regeneration and tourism across Northern Ireland, which must involve coordination with local Councils (p. 19).

However, beyond these specific mentions, there was limited detail as to how Local Government would be involved in the broader public service transformation agenda.

The document had not explicitly outlined a comprehensive role for Councils in the transformation process or as to how their existing responsibilities might change or expand.

There appeared to be a focus on centralised reform efforts led by the Executive, with less emphasis on devolving powers or responsibilities to Local Government as part of the transformation process.

In conclusion, while the document recognised the need for significant public service transformation and generally outlined certain high-level plans, the specific role of the Northern Ireland Councils in this process was generally omitted.

Greater Local Government involvement in shaping and implementing these reforms would be crucial, and this must be explicitly stated within the Programme for Government.

Alderman Michael raised concerns regarding the limited information within the document regarding funding for policing and housing and the challenges being faced by the Housing Executive, along with the Health Service, and in particular the potential closure of Causeway Hospital A&E with the redirection to Antrim Hospital A&E and he asked his concerns be recorded.

Moved by Alderman Michael  
Seconded by Councillor Webb and

**RESOLVED - that the draft response be submitted as the substantive Council response to the consultation exercise. In addition, Individual Members or Political Parties may wish to make a separate response.**

*ACTION BY: Majella McAlister, Director of Economic Development & Planning*

## **11 ITEMS FOR NOTING**

### **11.1 G/MSMO/024 REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICES AND PARADES**

#### **1. Purpose**

**A schedule had been compiled of the Remembrance Day Services and Parades taking place in the Borough (copy circulated).**

#### **2. Background**

Robes may be worn by those who wished to do so and these would be available from the Robing Room in Mossley Mill. On request, Member Services would transport these to Antrim Civic Centre for collection.

*A Member requested that the PA systems provided were checked for suitability for the venue and size of crowd.*

Moved by Councillor Foster  
Seconded by Councillor Bennington and

**RESOLVED – that Members note the schedule of Remembrance Day Services and Parades taking place in the Borough.**

*ACTION BY: Matt McDowell, Director of Parks and Leisure, Operations*

**11.2 FI/FIN/040 NI LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONER FOR STANDARDS -  
UPDATED PROCEDURES (CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COUNCILLORS)**

**1. Purpose**

**Correspondence (circulated) had been received from the NI Local Government Commissioner for Standards in relation to Code of Conduct for Councillors.**

**2. Introduction**

A recent survey and engagement exercise was undertaken and feedback was sought. This process focussed on Councillors' understanding of the Code of Conduct and interactions with the NI Local Government Commissioner's Office.

One aspect of the feedback from the survey and engagement was the need for procedures relating to the code to be clearer, simpler, and more straightforward.

In response to this, the Adjudication Procedures and Sanctions Guidelines had now been updated to make them more straightforward and emphasised the inquisitorial, rather than adversarial nature of the process.

Moved by Councillor Webb  
Seconded by Councillor Bennington and

**RESOLVED - that the report be noted.**

*NO ACTION*

**MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN COMMITTEE'**

Moved by Alderman Magill  
Seconded by Councillor Lynch and

**RESOLVED - that the Council proceeds to conduct the following business 'In Committee'.**

Members were advised that the live stream and audio recording would cease at this point.

**12 ITEMS IN CONFIDENCE**

**12.1 IN CONFIDENCE FI/PRO/TEN/567 SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION &  
MAINTENANCE OF STATIC COMPACTORS**

**CONTRACT PERIOD 1 NOVEMBER 2024 – 31 OCTOBER 2025 WITH THE OPTION TO  
EXTEND FOR UP TO A FURTHER 12 MONTHS (SUBJECT TO PERFORMANCE AND  
REVIEW)**



## 1. Purpose

**Approval was sought for the appointment of a suitably qualified and experienced organisation to supply six static compactors for the contract period.**

## 2. Introduction/Background

The static compactors at Council's HRC sites, such as Bruslee were nearing the end of their usable lives and required replacement. This contract would include the purchase of six static compactors, initially, their maintenance during the warranty period, and an option to purchase further compactors, where required, during the remainder of the contract period. The initial spend on this contract was anticipated to be approximately £ [REDACTED]

This tender opportunity was made available on eSourcingNI on 13 September 2024. One response was opened via the eSourcingNI Portal on 4 October 2024 and referred to the evaluation panel for assessment. The tender was evaluated on a two-stage basis as follows:

### STAGE 1 – SELECTION STAGE

The tender was evaluated on a pass/fail basis for the tenderer's professional conduct, economic and financial standing, management systems and practices, previous relevant experience and declarations and form of tender. The tender met the requirements of Stage 1 of the evaluation process and proceeded to Stage 2.

### STAGE 2 – AWARD STAGE

#### Sub-Stage 1 – Technical Assessment

The tender was evaluated on a pass/fail basis for compliance with the specification, ability to meet the timescales and warranty, servicing and aftersales service provision. The tender met the requirements of this stage and proceeded to the next stage of evaluation.

#### Sub-Stage 2 – Quality & Commercial Assessment

The tender was evaluated on the basis of cost (100%) and the recommendation was as follows:

<b>Supplier</b>	<b>Cost Assessment (out of 100%)</b>	<b>Total % Score</b>	<b>Total Cost for 6 Compactors (£) (Excl. VAT)</b>
<b>Numac Fabrications Ltd</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>£ [REDACTED]</b>

While there was only one tenderer, the costs were in line with current market rates and officers were satisfied that the costs represented value for money.

Moved by Councillor Goodman  
Seconded by Councillor Foster and

**RESOLVED – that, having achieved a score of 100%, Numac Fabrications Ltd be appointed to supply static compactors for the period of 1 November 2024 – 31 October 2025, with an option to extend for up to a further 12 months at the tendered rates.**

*ACTION BY: Melissa Kenning, Procurement Manager*

## 12.2 **IN CONFIDENCE** WM/FM/019 MAYOR'S CAR

### 1. Purpose

**The purpose of this report was to seek a replacement for the Mayor's Car for the next three years.**

### 2. Introduction/Background

Council agreed in 2015 to lease an executive car for Mayoral engagements. The current lease would expire in August 2025 and a replacement vehicle sought.

### 3. Key Issues (or the relevant titles for the main body of the report)

In line with the Fleet Strategy and Climate Change Action Plan, it was proposed to continue with the use of a zero emission electric car, especially due to improvements in battery technology providing greater mileage range compared to the current Mayor's car. In addition, previous reports had demonstrated that the electric powered vehicle was both financially and environmentally more advantageous than hybrid or diesel.

A range of models had been considered and it was felt that the Mercedes EQE and Volkswagen ID7 met the requirements of a Mayoral vehicle. Either of the models would achieve both financial savings and greater range than the current Mayor's car.

Both vehicles were available for viewing before the Council meeting and their performance was outlined in the table below:

	<b>Mercedes EQE</b>	<b>Volkswagen ID7</b>
Mileage Range (approx.)	375 miles	400 miles
Approx monthly cost (36 month lease)	£1,000	£700
Car Industry Reviews	What Car – 4/5 Carwow – 8/10 Auto Express – 3.5/5 Top Gear – 7/10	What Car – 4/5 Carwow – 8/10 Auto Express – 4/5 Top Gear – 7/10
Stated Positives from Reviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Impressive range</li><li>• Comfortable ride</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Long range between charges</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excellent interior</li> <li>• Good safety functionality</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good safety rating</li> <li>• Comfortable ride</li> <li>• Good interior</li> <li>• Practicality - large boot with charger point; good interior cabin capacity</li> </ul>
Stated Negatives from Reviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor rear visibility</li> <li>• Rear headroom lessened by design</li> <li>• No charge point in the boot</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Touchscreen controls a "bit fiddly"</li> <li>• Less dynamic than rivals</li> </ul>

NB – these costs were indicative as the final purchase mechanism was to be agreed.

The costs were based on a lease of similar terms to the current vehicle, for a period of 36 months with a mileage allowance of 75,000 miles over the duration of the 3 year lease. Officers were also considering other methods of purchase which would be financially advantageous.

#### 4. Financial Position/Implication

The annual cost would be approximately £8,400-£12,000 and would be included in the 2025-26 budget.

#### 5. Summary

The Mayor's car lease was due to expire in August 2025 and a number of replacement vehicles had been considered. Two models, the Mercedes EQE and the Volkswagen ID7 would achieve both financial savings and greater range than the current Mayor's car.

Moved by Councillor Webb  
Seconded by Councillor Lynch

that the Volkswagen ID7 be selected as the replacement Mayoral vehicle.

Following questions from Members, the Mayor took the proposal to a vote. 28 Members voted in favour of the proposal with 7 Members against and no abstentions.

The proposal was declared carried and it was

**RESOLVED – that the Volkswagen ID7 be selected as the replacement Mayoral vehicle.**

*ACTION BY: Lynda Gregg, Transport & Contracts Manager*

#### **MOTION TO PROCEED 'OUT OF COMMITTEE'**

Moved by Councillor Foster  
Seconded by Alderman Boyle and

**RESOLVED - that the Council proceeds to conduct any remaining business 'In Public'.**

Members were advised that the audio recording would restart at this point.

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending and the meeting concluded at 7.45pm.

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**MAYOR**

***Council Minutes have been redacted in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 2018, the General Data Protection Regulation, and legal advice.***