



**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD  
AT MOSSLEY MILL ON MONDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2021 AT 6.30 PM**

- In the Chair** : Mayor (Councillor W J Webb MBE JP)
- Members Present** : Aldermen – F Agnew, P Brett, T Burns, T Campbell, L Clarke, M Cosgrove, M Girvan, J McGrath, P Michael and J Smyth
- Councillors – J Archibald-Brown, A Bennington, M Cooper, H Cushinan, P Dunlop, G Finlay, S Flanagan, R Foster, J Gilmour, L Irwin, R Kinnear, A M Logue, A McAuley, N McClelland, T McGrann, V McWilliam, M Magill, B Mallon, J Montgomery, N Ramsay, V Robinson, S Ross, L Smyth, M Stewart, R Swann and R Wilson
- Officers Present** : Chief Executive - J Dixon  
Deputy Chief Executive of Economic Growth - M McAlister  
Deputy Chief Executive of Operations – G Girvan  
Deputy Chief Executive of Finance and Governance – S Cole  
Director of Community Planning - U Fay  
Director of Organisation Development – D Rogers  
Interim Director of Communications and Customers (Consultant) - S Hope  
Legal Services Officer (Solicitor) – E Keenan  
ICT Manager – P Allan  
ICT System Support Officer – C Bell  
Mayor & Member Services Manager – V Lisk
- In Attendance** : Assistant Director Corporate Planning and Capital Development, NHSCT – Alison Renfrew  
Head of Service, Adult Mental Health, NHSCT – Richard Basaka

In order to protect public health during the current COVID-19 emergency it was not possible to allow the public or the press to physically attend the meeting. The public and the press can access those parts of the meeting which they are entitled to attend via live stream (a link to which is on the Council website). The meeting minutes and audio recording will be published on the Council's website.

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

The 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 Councillor Magill.

Councillors Cushinan, Finlay, Kinnear, Logue, McAuley and McGrann joined the meeting.

### **MAYOR'S REMARKS**

The Mayor asked Members to observe a minute's silence in honour of former Mayor of Antrim and father of Councillor Paul Dunlop, Sam Dunlop who had passed away.

## **2 APOLOGIES**

Councillors – M Goodman, N Kelly and R Lynch

## **3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

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

Moved by Alderman Smyth  
Seconded by Councillor Montgomery and

**RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Meeting of Monday 25 October 2021 be taken as read and signed as correct.**

## **5 MINUTES OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING**

Moved by Councillor Logue  
Seconded by Alderman Girvan and

**RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Operations Committee Meeting of Monday 1 November 2021 be approved and adopted.**

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

Moved by Councillor McGrann  
Seconded by Councillor McAuley and

**RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Policy and Governance Committee Meeting of Tuesday 2 November 2021 be approved and adopted with the following amendment:**

**- point ii of the decision in relation to Item 4.5 Smoke and Vape Policy be removed.**

*ACTION BY: Member Services*

## **7 MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING**

Moved by Councillor Stewart  
Seconded by Councillor Dunlop and

**RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Community Planning Committee Meeting of Monday 8 November 2021 be approved and adopted.**

## **8 MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING PARTS 1 & 2**

Moved by Councillor Flanagan  
Seconded by Alderman Agnew and

**RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting of Monday 15 November 2021 Part 1 & 2 be approved and adopted.**

## **9. PRESENTATION BY NORTHERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL TRUST**

Representatives of the Northern Health and Social Care Trust (NHSCT) attended the meeting via Zoom to provide an update for Members on the proposed new Mental Health Inpatient Facility on the Antrim area site and responded to Members' questions

The Mayor and Members thanked the NHSCT representatives for their presentation and they left the meeting.

## **10 ITEMS FOR DECISION**

### **10.1 TO APPROVE THE SEALING OF 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:-

- Sale of land at 578 Doagh Road.
- Lease between Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council and NWP Ltd for premises at Orchard Way, Antrim

Moved by Councillor McClelland  
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and

**RESOLVED – that the documents be signed and sealed.**

*ACTION BY: Paul Casey, Head of Legal Services and Borough Lawyer*

## **10.2 HR/ER/002 LOCAL GOVERNMENT STAFF COMMISSION DISSOLUTION UPDATE**

Members were advised that the Mayor and Chief Executive had received correspondence from the Department of Communities requesting views as to whether there are any reasons Council would wish to reconsider the dissolution of the Local Government Staff Commission.

The letter (circulated at Appendix 1) referred to the 2014 decision that a statutory body of this type was no longer required.

### **Background**

The Local Government Staff Commission for Northern Ireland (the Commission) is an Executive Non-Departmental Public Body established under the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972. Its powers were later extended under the Housing Orders 1976 and 1981, and the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1992.

The terms of reference for the Commission are to exercise 'general oversight of matters connected with the recruitment, training and terms and conditions of employment of officers of councils and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and of making recommendations to councils and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive on such matters.'

The main key performance areas and statutory functions in line with the dissolution date and the dissolution plans are as outlined in Appendices 2 and 3 (circulated).

### **Dissolution**

The following information was provided to outline the steps taken to date to facilitate the dissolution and its subsequent extension.

In October 2013, following consultation on the future of the Commission, the then Environment Minister announced that a statutory body of this type would no longer be required. It was subsequently agreed by the NI Executive in June 2014, that the Commission would dissolve on 31 March 2017 (two years following the reorganisation of local government in April 2015).

When the Northern Ireland Assembly was suspended in 2017, it had not been possible to have the necessary Dissolution Order in place to wind up the Commission as planned and its work therefore remains ongoing.

Following further consultation by the Commission it was confirmed in April 2017 that there remained an ongoing need for the Local Government Training Group and all Councils agreed that Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council would facilitate the future work of the Local Government Training Group on behalf of the Commission.

The Department for Communities reconstituted the Commission membership with effect from 1 April 2017 up to the final dissolution date in order to ensure

ongoing effectiveness, and to discharge its statutory functions. The Commission developed a Management and Dissolution Plan to enable it to continue until final dissolution. Appendix 4 (circulated) outlined the apportioned arrangements for Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council. Members were advised that when operating at full capacity prior to 2015 the rate apportioned was in excess of £75000.

Members were advised that the current annual cost to the Council is £26,137.

In 2018 the Commission advised that following discussion with the Department for Communities, it was concluded that it was unlikely that the Dissolution Order to wind up the Commission would be in place in the near future.

In August 2019, Council wrote to the Permanent Secretary, Department for Communities, to record concerns regarding the lack of advancement to progress the required legislation in order to dissolve the Local Government Staff Commission and the need for continued Council funding. In her response, the Permanent Secretary reminded the Council that the previous Executive had agreed the dissolution of the Commission and work in this regard was progressing however in the current political situation this was no longer possible.

In November 2020, correspondence received from the Chairman of the Commission indicated that the earliest date for dissolution would be 31 March 2022 and the Department for Communities had advised the Commission to plan accordingly. However, further correspondence from the Commission in February 2021 stated that the Department had no new information in relation to the Dissolution Order and as such in order to implement their statutory functions, it was necessary for the Commission to determine a financial scheme up to March 2022.

In May 2021, the Council again wrote to the Minister for Communities, Deirdre Hargey MLA raising concerns regarding the advancement of the required legislation in order to dissolve the Commission which as a result requires continued Council funding. The Council asked for an update and a timescale to finalise this matter. In response the Minister advised that given the passage of time that had evolved since the review in 2012, a follow-up consultation would be carried out in order to ascertain if there are any reasons that the Executive decision to dissolve the Commission should be reconsidered.

#### Recent Communication.

In July 2021 the Council considered correspondence from the Commission relating to the establishment of a Regional Negotiating Machinery for local Councils.

Members were reminded that Council at this point acknowledging the status of JNC agreements, sought clarification on the role of this body to 'negotiate' on matters that from a governance perspective, individual Councils may not be bound. The Council asked for more time to allow it to make an informed decision on the matter.

In its response, the Commission advised that at their meeting in August they had agreed to proceed with the development of the governance arrangements around the re-establishment of a Regional Negotiating Machinery, which would be done in partnership and consultation with all the key Stakeholders.

No further clarification or communication had been received on this matter.

#### Additional Considerations

Council received additional correspondence from the Chief Executive of NILGA outlining the role of the Association in national negotiations and asserting that their position in regards to the dissolution of the Commission remains unchanged and highlighting the substantial costly and impactful measures already taken.

Members were reminded that in the interim period the Commission had facilitated the Local Government Mental Health & Wellbeing Strategy and Action plan 2020 -2023. In addition the Commission are in the process of launching a Talent Management Task and Finish Working Group to consider the development of a talent management strategy for the sector which provides a robust approach to succession planning, talent acquisition, identification, and development.

Members were aware that as part of our recovery plan a robust programme of Wellbeing is in operation and the development of an employee value proposition aligned to attract prospective talent and to retain them in a competitive job market is a key element of our recovery.

Moved by Alderman Cosgrove  
Seconded by Councillor Magill and

**RESOLVED – that the Council respond to say that it does not have any reason the Executive decision in 2014 to dissolve the Commission should be reconsidered.**

*ACTION BY: Debbie Rogers, Director of Organisation Development*

### **10.3 G/MSMO/008 (Vol 3) DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE – PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON MARRIAGE LAW**

Correspondence (circulated) had been received from the Department of Finance, Marriage Law Consultation Team advising of the launch of a public consultation on two aspects of the marriage law:

1. A proposed legislative change that would see the inclusion in our marriage law of belief marriage (marriage solemnised by a celebrant who subscribes to a non-religious philosophy such as humanism)

2. The minimum age at which people can legally marry or enter into a civil partnership, currently 16.

Full details of the consultation, including details of how to respond, were available at <https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/consultations/public-consultation-marriage-law>.

The consultation would be open until 18 February 2022.

Members were advised that they may wish to respond on a corporate, individual or party political basis.

Moved by Alderman Cosgrove  
Seconded by Alderman McGrath and

**RESOLVED – that Members respond on an individual or party political basis.**

*NO ACTION*

#### **10.4 G/MSMO/008 (Vol 3) PATIENT AND CLIENT COUNCIL – CONSULTATION ON DRAFT STATEMENT OF STRATEGIC INTENT 2022-2025**

Correspondence (circulated) had been received from the Patient and Client Council advising of a review of their delivery and consultation on their new draft Statement of Strategic Intent 2022-2025 (circulated) by completion of an online survey.

Full details of the consultation and a link to the survey are available at <https://bit.ly/3HkSIWV>. The survey will be open until 28 January 2022.

Contacts in relation to the consultation are: telephone 02895368093 - Anne-Marie Doone or email [Laura.O'Neill@pcc-ni.net](mailto:Laura.O'Neill@pcc-ni.net).

Members were advised that they may wish to respond on a corporate, individual or party political basis.

Moved by Alderman Cosgrove  
Seconded by Alderman McGrath and

**RESOLVED – that Members respond on an individual or party political basis.**

*NO ACTION*

#### **10.5 G/MSMO/008 (Vol 3) DEPARTMENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE – CONSULTATION ON THE NEW ROAD SAFETY STRATEGY FOR NORTHERN IRELAND TO 2030**

Correspondence (circulated) had been received from the Safe and Accessible Travel Division of the Department for Infrastructure advising of the launch of a consultation on the proposed content of the new Road Safety Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2030.

Full details of the consultation, including details of how to respond, were available at <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-proposed-content-new-road-safety-strategy-northern-ireland-2030>. The consultation would be open until 5 pm on 10 January 2022.

Alternatively if you wish to discuss this consultation the telephone number is 028 90540150 or email [safeandaccessibletravel@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk](mailto:safeandaccessibletravel@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk).

As part of the consultation process, the Department would also be facilitating a number of stakeholder engagement sessions in December thereby providing a further opportunity to input into the Strategy.

Any Member interested in attending one of these sessions should register their interest by 30 November 2021 at [RoadSafetyStrategyConsultation@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk](mailto:RoadSafetyStrategyConsultation@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk)

Members were advised that they may wish to respond on a corporate, individual or party political basis.

Moved by Alderman Cosgrove  
Seconded by Alderman McGrath and

**RESOLVED – that Members respond on an individual or party political basis.**

*NO ACTION*

#### **10.6 PBS/PS/001 ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING PROVISION - ON STREET RESIDENTIAL CHARGING SCHEME**

Members were reminded that at the November meeting of the Operations Committee, it was reported that correspondence had been received from the Department for Infrastructure relating to funding opportunities available for an On Street Residential Charging Scheme (ORCS) for electric vehicle charge points.

The purpose of the scheme is to increase the availability of on-street charge points in residential streets where off-street parking is not available, thereby ensuring that on-street parking is not a barrier to realising the benefits of owning a plug-in Electric Vehicle (EV).

The scheme, coordinated through the Department of Transport in England, is open to all UK local authorities. A total of £20million is available to provide 75% funding to local authorities for the procurement and installation of on street residential charging facilities. The Department for Infrastructure in Northern Ireland had indicated it will provide the remaining 25% funding shortfall. Applications to the Department of Transport must be made by March 2022, with the deadline for completion of the works set at March 2023.

In Great Britain local authorities are responsible for highways and in Northern Ireland therefore, Councils are at a disadvantage as any proposed works will need to be coordinated through the Department for Infrastructure as well as NIE Networks.



At the Operations Committee there was some discussion around the potential challenges in delivering the scheme in some areas and the possibility of locating charge points in Council facilities being a viable alternative.

All 11 councils are involved in a Northern Ireland Electric Vehicle Consortium on which the Department is also represented. This group, led by Derry and Strabane District Council, is working on a collaborative application which councils can choose to participate in. This type of approach seems to be the only feasible way forward in the context of the timeframes and challenges.

Each participating Council had been asked to identify up to 15 locations within their respective areas that could be considered for the on street charging infrastructure programme. Each location will be reviewed by the Department for Infrastructure and NIE Networks for suitability and it was not possible to determine at this stage if all will be suitable but submission of a list of locations in the Borough will ensure that Council's interest in the scheme is secured.

It had been confirmed that where a location is deemed as being suitable for installation of a charge point, works will be undertaken by contractors responsible to DfI and NIE Networks and that once installed, charges will be levied and the operation, including tariff setting and maintenance of the charging facilities, will be undertaken by a third party contractor for the entire network of chargers.

Officers had identified a proposed list of possible locations (2 per DEA) and these were circulated. In drawing up the proposals account has been taken of locations which are:

- situated adjacent to housing stock that has no access to off-road charging capability,
- on main arterial roads that can accommodate dedicated charging areas and are not detrimental to traffic flow
- within housing developments that are centrally located to maximise the opportunities for use and are not detrimental to traffic flow
- situated on main arterial routes/within housing developments that are not detrimental to the enjoyment of the adjacent properties or pose a difficulty with established residents' parking.

Members were advised that if they know of any potentially more suitable locations within their respective DEAs they should contact the Head of Property and Building Services by Monday 29 November at 5 pm.

Moved by Councillor Dunlop  
Seconded by Councillor Ramsay and

**RESOLVED – that approval be given for the submission of 12 of the locations listed as part of a collaborative application to the On Street Residential Charging Scheme and that the Fountain Street and Riverside locations be reconsidered.**

*ACTION BY: Stephen Hipkins, Head of Property and Building Services*

## 10.7 CP/CD/394 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT AID PROGRAMME SMALL GRANTS FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS 2021/2022

Members were reminded of the Small Grants Programme which was agreed by the Council in October 2014 as part of the new Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Community Development Grant Aid Programme.

The purpose of the Small Grants programme is to provide financial assistance to groups within the Borough of up to a maximum of £1,000 (revised and approved by Council in October 2021) towards seeding costs and/or insurance or a small activity and/or insurance. Members were advised that groups who apply for a small grant are not permitted to apply for any other funding available under the wider Community Development Grant Aid Programme during the course of the 2021/22 financial year.

In December 2019 Members agreed that from 1 April 2020 all Small Grant requests of £500 (now £1,000) or less be assessed on the basis of Pass/Fail against eligibility criteria and not subjected to a scored assessment process. All proposed awards are subject to the receipt of a Group Constitution, List of Committee Members, Bank Statement, Annual Accounts and a signed disclosure from the group confirming that all other appropriate supporting documentation is in place and can be provided on request or the offer of funding will be withdrawn.

During the month of November two applications totalling £1,700 were received and assessed by Officers as outlined below.

Group Name/Project Promoter	Project Description/Title	Pass/Fail	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
Whiteabbey Village Business Association	Small Activity Grant Decoration of Christmas Tree and Village Switch On Event took place on Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> November 2021 2pm -5pm – request for retrospective approval	Pass	£1,000	<b>£1,000</b>
Parkgate and District Community Group	Small Seeding Grant Insurance (Due to lapse 4 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2021)	Pass	£700	<b>£700</b>
<b>Total</b>			<b>£1,700</b>	<b>£1,700</b>

The total budget available for the Small Grants Programme for the 2021/22 financial year was £10,000 however this had been exhausted.

The total amount of financial assistance requested by the two applications outlined above was £1,700 and if the two applications are approved by Council then these will be funded by cost savings identified within the Community Planning Budget.

In the event that further applications are submitted before the end of this financial year these will be brought to Committee for consideration in January 2022.

Moved by Alderman Smyth  
Seconded by Councillor Finlay and

**RESOLVED – that the two Small Grant applications outlined above be approved at a total cost of £1,700 and be funded from cost savings identified within the Community Planning Budget.**

*ACTION BY: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator*

## **10.8 ED/GEN/006 ENTERPRISE SUPPORT INITIATIVES**

Members were reminded that the Council has a statutory responsibility for new business start-up and entrepreneurship.

### **Regional Start-Up Support**

The 'Go For It' programme offers regionally consistent support to entrepreneurs, helping them to develop a business plan. It has been running since October 2017 across all the Council areas and the current programme will complete on 31 March 2023. The programme is funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), Invest NI and the local Councils and is managed by Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council on behalf of all Councils. The programme is delivered by Enterprise NI through their network of Local Enterprise Agencies. The Council has an annual statutory job creation target of 80 jobs to be created as a result of participation on a Regional Start-up Initiative.

### **Business Start Coaching**

To help entrepreneurs convert their 'Go For It' business plan into a trading business, Council has in place a Business Start Coaching Programme which offers up to 5 hours of business coaching and a bursary of up to £200 to support the set-up of businesses in the Borough. This programme is delivered through a partnership of Antrim Enterprise Agency, Mallusk Enterprise Park and LEDCOM. The original programme was extended from March 2021 in order to support participants whose start-up plans had been adversely impacted by Covid-19, with the same overall budget and targets of supporting 108 'Go For It' participants with coaching support and 108 benefitting from the bursary. A programme evaluation was completed in September 2021 and it reported that the programme exceeded its coaching participation target, with 120 entrepreneurs having benefited from 499 hours of coaching support, resulting in 81 new start businesses registering as self-employed (against a target of 76)

and 52 participants benefitting from the bursary. Feedback from the programme is excellent, with 100% of surveyed participants feeling more confident in running their business as a direct result of the coaching support received.

Officers were currently considering options for a new programme of post entrepreneurship support up to at least March 2023, to fit within the programme of work in the Social Enterprise Workspace Development Fund and will provide a further report in due course. In the meantime, in order to provide continuity of support for entrepreneurs, it was proposed to extend the current post Go For It programme of coaching and bursary support up to March 2022 at a cost of £10,000 provision for which exists within the Economic Development Budget. The extension will allow another 40 participants to benefit from coaching and bursary support.

### **Pre-start support**

Officers were currently exploring initiatives to promote self-employment and entrepreneurship, in particular to provide support at pre start-up stage. Data provided from the 'Go For It' programme over the five month period Apr-Sept 21 shows a slower rate of conversion in the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough than the NI average, from both enquiry to Initial Assessment Meeting (69% against NI average of 73%) and from Initial Assessment Meeting to Business Plan completion (62% against NI average of 75%).

It was proposed to pilot an offer of up to 2 hours of mentoring support to those who are interested in starting a business, but require more support to develop their business idea prior to participation on the 'Go For It' programme. It was anticipated that this will improve the conversion rate from Initial Assessment Meeting to Business Plan, create better quality referrals onto the 'Go For It' programme and improve progression from enquiry to Initial Assessment Meeting. This in turn will help the Council to meet and exceed its statutory job creation targets. It was proposed to run the pilot from December 2021 – 31 March 2022 for up to 60 participants at a cost of £50 per hour, in line with other mentoring provision supported by Economic Development. The cost for this pre start-up support was estimated at £6,000 to cover the pilot programme period.

The Economic Recovery Subgroup which includes representation from all local Councils is currently reviewing entrepreneurship support post March 2023 once the current 'Go For It' programme ends and ERDF funding is no longer available. Stephanie Morrow has been appointed to undertake this work on behalf of the 11 Councils, and a further update report will follow.

Moved by Alderman Cosgrove  
Seconded by Councillor McClelland and

### **RESOLVED - that**

- i) the Business Start Coaching Programme is extended to 31 March 2022 at a cost of £10,000, provision for which exists in the Economic**

### **Development Budget.**

- ii) **the Pre 'Go For It' Support mentoring pilot programme be approved at a total cost of £6,000 until 31 March 2022, provision for which exists in the Economic Development Budgets.**

*ACTION BY: Sara Thompson, Economic Development Officer*

### **10.9 AC/GEN/072 TOWN CENTRE RECOVERY ACTION PLANS AND REVITALISE FUNDING**

At the September Council meeting Members agreed to provide free car-parking at Railway Street in Antrim and Ballyclare Square from 4 October through to 30 November 2021. This was subject to positive trader engagement and was intended to support the roll-out of the High Street Voucher Scheme. The High Street Voucher Scheme was subsequently extended to mid-December 2021. In light of this further engagement was undertaken with DEA Members and Traders in Ballyclare and free car parking in the Town Square Car park had been extended to 31 December 2021. Similar engagement was taking place in Antrim with a view to extending free car park provision in Railway Street to the end of December also.

For customer convenience and consistency of marketing messages some promotion relating to this extended free car parking period had already taken place.

Moved by Councillor Ramsay  
Seconded by Councillor McClelland and

**RESOLVED - that free car parking in Antrim Railway Street and Ballyclare Town Square Car parks to 31 December 2021 be approved.**

*ACTION BY: Colin McCabrey Head of Economic Development*

### **10.10 P/FP/LDP/97 CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE: CONSULTATION – PROPOSALS FOR THE RAILWAYS (SAFETY MANAGEMENT) (AMENDMENT) (EU EXIT) REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2022**

Correspondence (circulated) had been received from the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) advising on the publication of a consultation.

**PROPOSALS FOR THE RAILWAYS (SAFETY MANAGEMENT) (AMENDMENT) (EU EXIT) REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2022**

The proposed regulations were being introduced to amend an earlier set of Regulations – The Railways (Safety Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006. The revised 2022 Regulations will introduce the necessary changes to make provision for single safety certification here in Northern Ireland. The introduction of a single safety certificate is therefore intended to streamline the safety certification process and reduce or remove duplication.

The consultation opened on 11 November 2021 and will close on 16:00 3 February 2022. The consultation documentation is available at:  
<https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-railways-safety-management-amendment-eu-exit-regulations-northern-ireland-2022>

Stakeholders could respond to the consultation exercise in writing, to be forwarded:

Via email to [railsafety@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk](mailto:railsafety@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk), or

Via hard copy in post to:

Rail Safety Branch  
 Department for Infrastructure  
 Room 306, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
 Clarence Court  
 10-18 Adelaide Street  
 Belfast BT2 8GB

Members were advised that they may wish to respond on a corporate, individual or party political basis.

Moved by Alderman McGrath

Seconded by Councillor Magill and

**RESOLVED – that Members respond on an individual or party political basis.**

*NO ACTION*

#### **10.11 ED/REG/070 HIGH STREET TASK FORCE - CALL FOR EVIDENCE**

The Executive Office had requested views on potential solutions for the issues facing local high streets. The call for evidence opened on 25 October 2021 and would close on 6 December 2021. Further information regarding the High Street Task Force can be found here: [www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/consultations/call-evidence-high-street-task-force](http://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/consultations/call-evidence-high-street-task-force).

The call for evidence sought views across the fourteen themes listed in the table below:

Partnerships	Capacity
Follow Best Practice	Energy, Climate Change and Sustainability
Investment	Housing and Other Infrastructure
Planning	Getting to and from the High St
Public Realm	Tourism
Fiscal – Including Rates	Digital High Streets
Rural Settlements	People, Localism and Well-being

The document reflected on the fact that our high streets are changing, and the Executive is committed to helping communities adapt. It aimed to restore the vibrancy of our high streets across a number of phases over a period of

years. It acknowledged that a one-size-fits-all solution does not exist and that our towns and villages need bespoke local solutions.

The call for evidence is an important opportunity for people to have their say to inform a draft report and recommendations which the Executive hopes to present for agreement in Spring 2022.

The Council's draft response was circulated for consideration.

Moved by Alderman Cosgrove  
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and

**RESOLVED – that Members approve the draft corporate response (circulated) to the High Street Task Force Call For Evidence for submission.**

*ACTION BY: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development*

#### **10.12 PK/GEN/078/VOL 3 & PK/PG/007 COMMUNITY PLANTING REQUESTS**

Members were advised that two separate requests had been received from groups which have secured funding through Live Here Love Here Rural Community Pollinator Grant Scheme. Having been notified that their funding applications were successful, Crumlin Integrated Primary and Templepatrick Action Community Association had contacted Council seeking permission to use the funding for planting in Crumlin Glen and Wallace Park respectively.

This pilot scheme is wholly funded by DEARA via Live Here Love Here and provides grants to community groups and schools wishing to establish, enhance or develop a local community pollinator garden to increase the biodiversity value in the area. It was the intention of both groups to both plant and maintain the areas agreed. Both projects align with the local Biodiversity and Climate Change Action Plans.

If approved, Officers would liaise with the groups to agree suitable locations, in consultation with DEA members.

Moved by Councillor Finlay  
Seconded by Councillor Magill and

**RESOLVED - that approval be granted for Crumlin Integrated Primary School and Templepatrick Action Community Association to plant a pollinator garden in Crumlin Glen and Wallace Park respectively, exact locations to be agreed.**

*ACTION BY: Matt McDowell, Deputy Director of Operations (Parks & Leisure)*

#### **10.13 P/FP/LDP/40 CORRESPONDENCE FROM DAERA REGARDING PLANNING CONSULTATIONS**

Correspondence (circulated) had been received from DAERA Natural

Environment Division setting out actions to improve planning consultation delays and temporary impact on caseload management practices.

In order to deal with the increase in planning applications in Northern Ireland and a backlog of planning responses, DAERA , a statutory consultee, was taking a number of actions to address the situation with the aim of reducing the backlog over the coming months including the redeployment of staff and recruitment of additional casual workers, In addition DAERA would no longer provide indicative response times for any consultation until further notice; would not be accommodating any prioritisation requests until further notice and had updated its webpage accordingly advising customers of this (copy circulated). It was anticipated that this would allow officers to focus on processing planning consultation replies as a significant contributory factor in the escalation of backlog had been the large volume of queries from agents, planners and citizens seeking updates and prioritisations.

In addition, DAERA had also issued a further update (circulated) advising that any Council who proceeds to determine a planning application without a response from DAERA (where they have been consulted), cannot assume that DAERA has no objections to the proposal or that the Department would not recommend appropriate conditions to protect the environment. DAERA stated that where a Council proceeds to issue a decision in such cases, that the responsibility to ensure all impacts have been considered lies with the Council.

Officers were concerned regarding the impact of a backlog within NIEA Natural Environment Division on the timely processing of Council planning applications as well as the potential impact in the increase on planning applications in the system on other statutory planning consultees.

It was recommended the Council consider writing to the Department of Infrastructure Minister Nicola Mallon regarding this matter and highlight the need to ensure that statutory consultees are adequately resourced and that measures are put in place to ensure statutory consultee responses are issued on a timely basis.

Moved by Alderman Cosgrove  
Seconded by Alderman Campbell and

**RESOLVED - that the Council write to the Department of Infrastructure Minister Nicola Mallon regarding the matter and highlighting the need to ensure that statutory consultees are adequately resourced and that measures are put in place to ensure statutory consultee responses are issued on a timely basis.**

*ACTION BY: Sharon Mossman, Deputy Director of Planning*

## 11 ITEMS FOR NOTING

### 11.1 CE/OA/013 NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL

As agreed at the August 2019 meeting of the Council, the Northern Ireland



Housing Council's November 2021 monthly bulletin was circulated for Members' information. A copy of the minutes of the Housing Council meeting of 14 October 2021 was also circulated.

Moved by Alderman Smyth  
Seconded by Alderman Agnew and

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

*NO ACTION*

**11.2 G/MSMO/060 CORRESPONDENCE FROM DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES IN RESPONSE TO UNIVERSAL CREDIT MOTION**

Members recalled that at the Council meeting of 27 September 2021 a Motion was carried in relation to the Universal Credit uplift and requested that the Council write to the Communities Minister (copy circulated).

A response had now been received on behalf of the Minister and a copy of the response was circulated for Members' information.

Moved by Alderman Smyth  
Seconded by Alderman Agnew and

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

*NO ACTION*

**11.3 G/MSMO/14 MOTION – DERRY CITY AND STRABANE DISTRICT COUNCIL – PARENTAL BEREAVEMENT LEAVE AND PAY**

Members were advised that correspondence had been received from Derry City and Strabane District Council regarding a Motion passed by that Council in relation to parental bereavement leave and pay, the Coalition for Bereaved Workers' campaign objectives in relation to this and requesting consideration of this matter.

A copy of the correspondence was circulated for Members' information.

Moved by Alderman Smyth  
Seconded by Alderman Agnew and

**RESOLVED - that the correspondence from Derry City and Strabane District Council be noted.**

*NO ACTION*

#### **11.4 CE/OA/005/VOL2 CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (NILGA)**

Members were advised that correspondence had been received from Mr Derek McCallan, Chief Executive of NILGA, formally confirming that he will step down from the NILGA CEO role at the end of November 2021.

A copy of the correspondence was circulated for Members' information.

Moved by Alderman Smyth  
Seconded by Councillor Magill and

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

*NO ACTION*

#### **11.5 ED/ED 160 BALMORAL SHOW**

Following the success of hosting local micro- and small businesses from the Borough at the 2019 Balmoral Show, Members recalled the decision to extend and continue with this initiative. The cost of a 6x3m stand in the Food NI Pavilion was covered by the Council, and micro- and small local businesses were invited to apply for a presence on the stand for a single day. After the postponement of the 2020 event, the organisers, the Royal Ulster Agricultural Society (RUAS) scheduled the 2021 iteration to take place from 22-25 September, 2021.

As part of the selection process, a competition was run in the early part of 2021 to seek applications from suitably qualified local businesses (subject to Food NI criteria) to secure a day on the Council stand to display their produce and goods, and to represent the Borough. Seven local businesses were successful and represented the Borough as follows:

- The Lock Keeper's Cottage
- Lylehill Farm
- Ten Watch Chocolates
- Mann Café
- Lough Neagh Tours
- Tasty Grub Club
- Murphy's Barkery

The Balmoral Show is one of the premier public events held in Northern Ireland, and although the ongoing pandemic meant that the estimated footfall for this year's event was approximately 75-80,000 visitors over the four days of the Show (a drop of c.30% from the 2019 levels), both the event organisers and the exhibitors were extremely pleased.

In terms of marketing and promotion, the event nonetheless provided both the Council and each of the participating local businesses with an unprecedented opportunity to raise their profile. A Council delegation including the Mayor and Deputy Mayor also visited the newly branded stand

to see for themselves, the enthusiasm and effort that was put in by staff and the businesses. This had been reinforced by an informal reception hosted by the Mayor for the participant businesses, providing a further promotional opportunity and press release.

Following the event, a short evaluation survey was undertaken of the participant businesses and the overall findings had been extremely positive and all had offered to provide testimonials for future iterations. A competition for spaces on the Council stand for the Balmoral Show 2022 will be launched after Christmas, with the event returning to its traditional May slot, and Members will be updated on progress.

Moved by Alderman Smyth  
Seconded by Councillor Magill and

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

*NO ACTION*

#### **11.6 ED/ED/140 GROW SOUTH ANTRIM LOCAL ACTION GROUP MINUTES**

A meeting of the GROW South Antrim Local Action Group was held on Friday 3 September 2021 and the minutes recorded at the meeting were circulated. Members noted that some commercial business details had been redacted in line with operational requirements.

Moved by Alderman Smyth  
Seconded by Councillor Magill and

**RESOLVED - that the minutes of the GROW South Antrim Local Action Group Meeting be noted.**

*NO ACTION*

#### **11.7 P/FP/LDP/96 PUBLICATION, LIVING WITH WATER IN BELFAST: AN INTEGRATED PLAN FOR DRAINAGE AND WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT IN GREATER BELFAST**

Correspondence (circulated) had been received from the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) advising of the publication of Living with Water in Belfast: An Integrated Plan for Drainage and Wastewater Management in Greater Belfast (LWWP) on 9 November 2021.

The Plan aims to deliver a long-term approach to drainage and wastewater that will protect the Metropolitan area of Belfast from flooding, provide a cleaner and greener environment and ensure that Belfast is open for business and investment.

Members were reminded that the Council previously responded to the public consultation of the draft Plan indicating support for the priorities identified and need for investment, specifically improvement works to the Whitehouse Park wastewater treatment works (WwTW). DfI had indicated in their response that capacity issues at Whitehouse WwTW would be explored further with the

Council through the Catchment Delivery Plan process. The Plan, Consultation Report, Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment can be viewed at:

<https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/topics/living-water-programme>

A copy of the Plan was circulated for information.

Moved by Alderman Smyth  
Seconded by Councillor Magill and

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

*NO ACTION*

## **11.8 CE/OA/035 LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARIES REVIEW**

Correspondence (circulated) had been received from the Local Government Boundaries Commissioner updating Members on her Review of the Local Government Boundaries in Northern Ireland and advising of her intention to publish Revised Recommendations on 18 January 2022 for a six week period of public consultation.

Information on the review can be accessed at <https://www.lgbc-ni.org.uk/>.

Moved by Alderman Smyth  
Seconded by Councillor Magill and

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

*NO ACTION*

### **MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN COMMITTEE'**

Moved by Councillor Dunlop  
Seconded by Alderman McGrath 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 COMMITTEE**

### **12.1 IN CONFIDENCE G/MSMO/005 MAYORAL CAR REPLACEMENT**

As Members were aware Council agreed in 2015 to lease an executive car for Mayoral engagements. The current lease was due to expire in March 2022 and a review was conducted by officers for a replacement of the current vehicle.

A report was presented to the Policy and Governance Committee with a recommendation to replace the existing car with an Audi E-Tron electric powered vehicle in line with the Fleet Strategy Climate Change Action Plan. It was also the most economically advantageous option from the same manufacturer. The following table was included in the report to Policy and Governance Committee – setting out the three Audi Options:

<b>Crown Commercial Services Framework</b>	<b>Option 1 Electric</b>	<b>Option 2 Hybrid</b>	<b>Option 3 Diesel</b>
Total Lease Cost over 36 months	£41,194	£42,487	£42,149
Approximate Fuel Cost over 36 months	£3,000	£5,500	£6,000
Total Approximate Vehicle Cost over 36 months	£44,160	£47,987	£48,149
CO2 Emissions Over Contract Period	0	6.2 Tonnes	18 Tonnes

Note: Prices based on the supply from the Audi range.

While Members of the Committee were content with the transition to an electric powered vehicle, they requested that details of alternative makes and models of electric cars be provided for the November meeting of Council. A minimum range in excess of 200 miles on a single electric charge was the baseline requirement to ensure that no adverse impacts on the Mayor carrying out their duties.

A number of alternative models were set out below for information.

<b>Car Make</b>	<b>Model</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Per Month</b>	<b>Lease Term Cost</b>	<b>Approximate Mileage Range</b>
<u>Executive Saloons</u>					
<b>Mercedes</b>	EQS	Executive Saloon	£1,693	£60,960	453
<b>Audi</b>	E-TRON	Executive Saloon	£1,144	£41,194	274
<u>SUVs</u>					
<b>Jaguar</b>	I PACE	SUV	£900	£32,402	292
<b>Skoda</b>	ENYAQ	SUV	£776	£27,942	333
<b>TESLA</b>	Y	SUV	£833	£30,003	315

NB – these costs are indicative - lease price is dependent on the final specification

The costs were based on a lease on 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. Costings were provided through the Crown Commercial Services Framework Fleet Portal for Vehicle Leasing.

Moved by Alderman Cosgrove

Seconded by Alderman Smyth that approval be given to lease a fully electric powered car, Option, 1, Audi e-tron Sportback 300KW 55 S Line, from Crown Commercial Services Framework for a period of three years.

## AMENDMENT

Moved by Councillor Wilson

Seconded by Councillor Logue that the Skoda SUV option be approved

On the Amendment being put to the meeting, 8 Members voted in favour, 29 Members against and 0 abstentions. The Amendment was declared not carried.

Alderman Cosgrove's proposal was then put to the meeting, 30 Members voted in favour, 7 Members against and 0 abstentions, it was declared carried and it was

**RESOLVED - that approval be given to lease a fully electric powered car, Option, 1, Audi e-tron Sportback 300KW 55 S Line, from Crown Commercial Services Framework for a period of three years.**

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

### **12.2 IN CONFIDENCE G-LEG-85 DUAL LANGUAGE STREET SIGNS**

In August 2018 the Council agreed that a new Dual Language Street Signs policy be drafted for consideration.

Members were reminded that in October 2019 it was agreed that the dual language street signage policy should be referred to the Group Leaders forum for discussion and a report was subsequently taken to the Community Planning and Regeneration Committee for consideration.

Group Leaders subsequently provided the feedback of their parties. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 emergency the matter was delayed and more recently the Group Leaders had provided the feedback from their respective parties.

A draft Policy was circulated for consideration. Any agreed policy would be subject to legal advice and a 12 week consultation process. The outcome of this would be reported to Council in due course.

In response to a query from a Member, the Chief Executive advised that Members would be informed when the consultation commenced.

Moved by Alderman Brett

Seconded by Alderman Cosgrove that the circulated Draft Dual Language Street Sign Policy Consultation document be approved and, following completion of the consultation process and an external legal review, a report be brought back to Members for consideration.

## AMENDMENT

Moved by Councillor Finlay

Seconded by Councillor McAuley that the following be amended in the draft policy 4) i) "one third" be amended to 25% and 4 iii) "two thirds" be amended to 50% plus 1.

On the Amendment being put to the meeting, 11 Members voted in favour, 24 Members against and 2 abstentions. The Amendment was declared not carried.

Alderman Cosgrove's proposal was then put to the meeting and a recorded vote was requested by Councillor Logue. Members voted as follows:

<b>In favour of the Motion Members viz 28</b>	<b>Against the Motion Members viz 7</b>	<b>Abstentions Members viz 2</b>
Aldermen – Agnew, Brett, Clarke, Cosgrove, Girvan, McGrath, Michael and J Smyth  Councillors – Archibald-Brown, Bennington, Cooper, Dunlop, Finlay, Flanagan, Foster, Gilmour, Irwin, McWilliam, Magill, Mallon, Montgomery, Ramsay, Robinson, Ross, L Smyth, Stewart, Swann and Webb	Alderman Burns  Councillors - Cushinan, Kinnear, Logue, McClelland, McGrann, and Wilson	Alderman Campbell  Councillor McAuley

The Motion was declared carried and it was

**RESOLVED - that the enclosed Draft Dual Language Street Sign Policy Consultation document be approved and following completion of the consultation process and an external legal review, a report be brought back to Members for consideration.**

*ACTION BY: Paul Casey, Borough Lawyer and Head of Legal Services*

### **12.3 IN CONFIDENCE CE/GEN/017 DISPOSAL OF LAND AT CASHEL DRIVE, MONKSTOWN**

Members were advised that a D1 form, a copy of which was circulated, had been received from Land and Property Services regarding land declared surplus by the Housing Executive at Cashel Drive, Monkstown.

Officers had reviewed the information provided and had not identified a need for this asset.

[REDACTED]

Moved by Alderman Cosgrove  
Seconded by Councillor Cooper and

**RESOLVED – that the Council does not express an interest in this land.**

*ACTION BY: Liz Johnston, Head of Governance*

**12.4 IN CONFIDENCE ED/ED/173 OUR PROSPERITY OUTCOME DELIVERY GROUP MINUTES**

The Our Prosperity Outcome Delivery Group met on the 18 November 2021 to review progress on strategic economic development and tourism matters and to consider priorities as a result of the pandemic and its economic impact. A copy of the minutes from the meeting held on 18 November 2021 was circulated for Members' consideration.

Moved by Alderman Cosgrove  
Seconded by Alderman Smyth

**RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Our Prosperity Outcome Delivery Group of 18 November 2021 be approved.**

*ACTION BY: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development*

**12.5 IN CONFIDENCE G-LEG-LEGAL LEGAL UPDATE**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**RESOLVED** – that Members note the contents of this report.

*NO ACTION*

**12.6 IN CONFIDENCE G-LEG-LEGAL & ED/ED/127 Vol 2 STEEPLE SITE, ANTRIM**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Moved by Councillor Dunlop  
Seconded by Councillor Montgomery and

**RESOLVED – that**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

*ACTION BY: Paul Casey, Borough Lawyer and Head of Legal Services*

**MOTION TO PROCEED ‘OUT OF COMMITTEE’**

Moved by Councillor Dunlop  
Seconded by Councillor Magill and

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

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending and the meeting concluded at 7.52 pm.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**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.***