



22 April 2020

To: Each Member of the Council

Dear Member

MEETING OF ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBAY BOROUGH COUNCIL

A remote meeting of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council will be held on **Monday 27 April 2020 at 2.00 pm.**

The Mayor, Party Group Leaders, or their nominees, and the Independent Member, Councillor Stewart, will participate.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jacqui Dixon'.

Jacqui Dixon, BSc MBA
Chief Executive, Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council

For any queries please contact Member Services:

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A G E N D A

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Declarations of Interest
- 3 To take as read and confirm the minutes of the proceedings of the Council Meeting of the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council held remotely on Monday, 30 March 2020, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 4 ITEMS FOR DECISION
 - 4.1 Scheme of Allowances Payable to Councillors 2020-2021
 - 4.2 Planning Protocol during the COVID-19 Emergency
 - 4.3 Energy Strategy Call for Evidence
 - 4.4 NILGA Consultation – Council Reform/Driving What's To Come
- 5 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION
 - 5.1 Emergency Governance Arrangements
- 6 ITEMS IN COMMITTEE
 - 6.1 Emergency Financial Plan
 - 6.2 Replacement of the NI Planning Portal

REPORT ON BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY 27 APRIL 2020

4. ITEMS FOR DECISION

4.1 G/MSMO/1 SCHEME OF ALLOWANCES PAYABLE TO COUNCILLORS 2020-21

Members are reminded that the Council is required under the Local Government (Payments to Councillors) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 to make a scheme for the payment of allowances to Councillors and Committee Members in respect of each year.

Circular LG 08/2020 Consolidated Councillor Allowances – Updated April 2020, **enclosed**, has been received from the Department for Communities reflecting an increase in the maximum rates for Dependants' Carers' Allowance applicable from 1 April 2020. The Council's Scheme of Allowances Payable to Councillors (**enclosed**) has been updated to show the new maximum rates.

Should the Department for Communities issue any future notifications in relation to changes to the allowances payable for the 2020-21 financial year, the Scheme shall be updated and reported to Members for their approval.

RECOMMENDATION: that the Scheme of Allowances payable to Councillors for 2020-21 be approved.

Prepared by: Richard Murray, Management Accountant

Agreed by: John Balmer, Head of Finance

Approved by: Sandra Cole, Director of Finance and Governance

4.2 G-LEG-44 PLANNING PROTOCOL DURING THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY

Members will be aware that the normal operation of the Planning function has been impacted by Covid-19. To date the Council has agreed to relax its approach to enforcement, specifically around essential deliveries and also for pubs, restaurants and cafes providing takeaway services during this period.

With respect to decision making on applications during this period, a new Protocol has been developed, a copy of which is enclosed. In terms of general arrangements the Protocol states that Planning Committee meetings are suspended until further notice and that no planning refusals will be issued until further notice. Routine enforcement is suspended with the exception of priority breaches which will be considered for appropriate action. The Scheme of Delegation through which Officers determine planning applications will continue as normal and Officers will continue to issue the weekly list of applications, provided it is possible to upload and validate applications received onto the NI Planning Portal. The normal 'call in' procedure will apply.

This Protocol also sets out the arrangements to manage applications which would normally come before the Planning Committee for determination. For reference purposes the key dates linked to the Protocol for the month of May are also enclosed.

RECOMMENDATION: that the new Planning Protocol be approved until normal Council business resumes.

Prepared and Approved by: Majella McAlister, Director of Economic Development and Planning

4.3 ED/ED/070/VOL2 ENERGY STRATEGY CALL FOR EVIDENCE

The Department for the Economy has undertaken a Call for Evidence in relation to the new Energy Strategy for Northern Ireland. This exercise seeks to gather the views of key stakeholders and the general public in relation to the approach which should be adopted here, the specific considerations and implications for the region and the role that local government and others can play in supporting and advancing the transition to a zero carbon society.

Officers have completed the required response template, a copy of which is enclosed.

It is noted that both NILGA and Sustainable Northern Ireland have submitted responses, which it is proposed should be endorsed by the Council.

RECOMMENDATION: that the Council's response to the Energy Strategy Call for Evidence be approved.

Prepared and Approved by: Majella McAlister, Director of Economic Development and Planning

4.4 PT/GEN/22 NILGA CONSULTATION – COUNCIL REFORM / DRIVING WHAT’S TO COME

Members are advised that correspondence was received from NILGA inviting the Council to complete a questionnaire to ascertain the Councils views in relation to reform to date and developing additional and improving existing powers, resources and services of local government in Northern Ireland. A response has been prepared and **enclosed** for Members' consideration.

RECOMMENDATION: that the response be approved.

Prepared by: Helen Hall, Head of Performance and Transformation

Approved by: Sandra Cole, Director of Finance and Governance

5. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

5.1 EMERGENCY GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

Members will be aware of the Emergency Governance Arrangements currently in place. Decision Logs are being circulated on a daily basis. The Decision Log as of Friday, 24 April 2020 will be circulated to Members on Friday afternoon and will be noted at the meeting on Monday 27 April 2020.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive