



**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD
AT MOSSLEY MILL ON MONDAY 25 MARCH 2024 AT 6.30 PM**

- In the Chair** : Mayor (Councillor M Cooper)
- Members Present** : Aldermen – L Boyle, P Bradley, L Clarke, M Cosgrove, M Magill, J McGrath, P Michael, S Ross and J Smyth
- In Attendance (In person)** : Grainia Long, Chief Executive - Northern Ireland Housing Executive
Breige Mullaghan, South Antrim Area Manager – Northern Ireland Housing Executive
- In Attendance (Remote)** : Andy Kennedy, Assistant Director Asset Strategy – Northern Ireland Housing Executive
Louise Clarke, Head of Place Shaping North – Northern Ireland Housing Executive
Ryan Brady, Planning Officer – Northern Ireland Housing Executive
- Officers Present** : Deputy Chief Executive, Director of Economic Development and Planning – M McAlister
Director of Community Planning – U Fay
Director of Sustainability Operations – M Laverty
Director of Parks and Leisure Operations – M McDowell
Director of Corporate Strategy – H Hall
Deputy Director of Governance – L Johnston
Borough Lawyer and Head of Legal Services – P Casey
Head of Corporate Affairs – J McIntyre
ICT Systems Support Officer – C Bell
ICT Change Office – A Cole
Member Services Manager – A Duffy
- Officers Present (Remote)** : Accessibility and Inclusion Officer – E Boyd

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 Pastor George McKim.

Alderman Boyle and Councillors Burbank, Goodman, Kelly, Kinnear, McLaughlin, McAuley, McGrann, Ní Chonghaile, O'Hagan and O'Lone joined the meeting.

MAYOR'S REMARKS

The Mayor congratulated both Councillor Dunlop on his recent marriage and Councillor Archibald-Brown on the birth of her new baby boy.

2 APOLOGIES

Alderman Campbell
Councillors – Archibald-Brown, Cosgrove, Cushinan, Foster, Logue, Smyth and Ward

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 12.1 – Councillor McLaughlin

4 MINUTES OF THE ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

Moved by Councillor Webb
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Meeting of Monday 26 February 2024 be taken as read and signed as correct.

5 MINUTES OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Moved by Councillor Burbank
Seconded by Councillor McWilliam and

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Operations Committee Meeting of Monday 4 March 2024 be approved and adopted.

6 MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Moved by Alderman Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Stewart and

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Policy and Governance Committee Meeting of Tuesday 5 March 2024 be approved and adopted with

the removal of recommendation (c) of Item 5.2 following the recent communication from the Department on the pending reinstatement of remote/hybrid meetings.

7 MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Moved by Councillor McGrann
Seconded by Councillor Lynch and

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Community Planning Committee Meeting of Monday 11 March 2024 be approved and adopted.

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

Moved by Councillor Webb
Seconded by Councillor Flanagan and

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting of Tuesday 19 March 2024 Part 1 be taken as read and signed as correct.

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

Moved by Councillor Webb
Seconded by Councillor Flanagan and

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting of Tuesday 19 March 2024 Part 2 be approved and adopted.

9 MINUTES OF THE AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING

Moved by Councillor Goodman
Seconded by Councillor Mallon and

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the proceedings of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting of Wednesday 20 March 2024 be approved and adopted.

Aldermen Boyle, Bradley, Clarke, Magill and Ross left and returned to the Chamber during the presentation.

Councillors Burbank, Flanagan, Magill, Mallon, O'Lone and Wilson left and returned to the Chamber during the presentation.

Alderman McGrath left the Meeting during the presentation.

10 PRESENTATION

10.1 G/MSMO/7 PRESENTATION BY NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING EXECUTIVE

Representatives from the NI Housing Executive were in attendance to update Members on the Housing Investment Plan, a copy of which was circulated.

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 Strategy; 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.

11 NOTICE OF MOTION

Proposed by Councillor Brady
Seconded by Councillor Gilmour

'This Council recognises the importance of ensuring our parks and open spaces can be enjoyed by everyone. It notes the positive impact that Neurodivergent Communication Boards have had in achieving this aim in other areas and resolves to install these boards in selected Council owned playparks across the Borough.'

RESOLVED – the Motion was unanimously declared carried.

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

12 ITEMS FOR DECISION

12.1 CCS/EDP/025 DUAL LANGUAGE STREET SIGN APPLICATION UPDATE

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to recommend that the Dual Language Street Sign applications at Stage 1 and 2 be noted, and the applications at Stage 3 be approved.

Members were reminded that in accordance with the Dual Language Street Sign Policy, adopted by Council on 30 May 2022 (circulated), the following update outlined the current status of applications received.

2. Application Status

STAGE 1: PETITION VERIFICATION

Two applications had been received at Stage 1, requesting signage to be erected in Irish for the following area:

1. HOLLYBROOK ROAD, NEWTOWNABBEY, BT36 4ZT
2. ST JOSEPHS COURT, CRUMLIN, BT29 4WG

The occupiers signing the petition would be evidenced by their listing on the current Electoral Register. Officers would conduct this verification week commencing 1 April 2024 to ensure the one third threshold as required within the approved Policy.

STAGE 2: RESIDENTS CANVASS

One application had progressed to Stage 2:

1. MILL ROAD, NEWTOWNABBEY, BT36 7BA

Canvass letters were being issued to residents' week commencing 1 April 2024.

STAGE 3: STREET SIGN INSTALLATION

Two applications had progressed to Stage 3:

1. BAWNMORE PARK, NEWTOWNABBEY, BT36 7BN
2. FINLAY PARK, NEWTOWNABBEY, BT36 7DB

The occupiers of the above streets had been canvassed and the threshold of two thirds or more in favour of the erection of a second language street sign had been met as required within the approved Policy. The cost for fabrication and installation of these two signs would be approx. £1,000 (£500 per sign).

Moved by Councillor McGrann
Seconded by Councillor Goodman and

RESOLVED - that

the Dual Language Street Sign applications at Stage 1 and 2 be noted, and the applications at Stage 3 be approved.

ACTION BY: Ellen Boyd, Accessibility and Inclusion Officer

12.2 G-LEG-462-6 COUNCIL REMOTE/HYBRID MEETINGS DRAFT REGULATIONS

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to provide Members with an update regarding the draft Regulations allowing for Councils to have remote/hybrid meetings.

2. Introduction/Background

The circulated letter and draft legislation from the Department for Communities provided an update regarding the draft Local Government (Remote Meetings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024.

Members were reminded that the Communities Minister, Minister Lyons, decided not to extend the Order under the Coronavirus legislation which allowed Councils to have remote/hybrid meetings so therefore from 6 March 2024 there was no legislation in place for Councils to be able to facilitate Members attending Council meetings remotely.

Instead, the Minister asked that the Department proceed with regulations under The Local Government (Meetings and Performance) Act (Northern Ireland) 2021, which provided a power for the Department to make regulations for the purpose of or in connection with ensuring district councils meetings may be held remotely.

3. Key Issues

The enclosed draft Local Government (Remote Meetings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024 provided Councils with the option to hold remote/hybrid meetings.

Any reference to a Member, or a member of the public, attending a meeting or being in attendance included that person attending by remote access.

There was no difference between a Councillor attending remotely and a Councillor attending in person in relation to, for example, being deemed to be present, being able to participate, and being able to vote at a Council meeting.

For the purposes of the draft Regulations a Councillor who is in attendance remotely is deemed to be in attendance at the meeting if all of the following conditions were satisfied:

1. The member in remote attendance was able at that time— to hear, and where practicable see, and be so heard and, where practicable, be seen by, the other members in attendance;
2. To hear, and where practicable see, and be so heard and, where practicable, be seen by, any members of the public in attendance in order to exercise a right to speak at the meeting; and
3. To be so heard and, where practicable, be seen by any other members of the public in attendance.

There were no mandatory requirements for a Member to be able to be seen, i.e., to have their camera turned on at meetings.

4. Legal update

A Departmental Official informed the Local Government In-house Lawyers Group (of which the Borough Lawyer is a Member) that they hope to have the Regulations before the Assembly by the summer. They confirmed that the Regulations were discretionary and not mandatory. They also said that there

would be a second draft of the Regulations circulated following the current consultation period.

Based on the above clarification from the Department the Borough Lawyer was content with the draft Regulations.

The current consultation period of 26 March would be extended to allow more time for responses.

Moved by Councillor McGrann
Seconded by Councillor Webb and

RESOLVED - that

Members respond to the Department's letter and the draft regulations on a Party or individual basis.

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

Councillor Mallon left and returned to the Chamber during Item 12.3.

12.3 CE/CS/032 DIRECTORATE BUSINESS PLAN – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to present to Members for consideration and approval the Economic Development & Planning Directorate Business Plan 2024-25

2. Introduction/Background

Members were reminded that Part 12 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 (the Act) put in place a framework to support the continuous improvement of Council services.

Specifically, the duties in the Act relate to Section 84(1), 85(2) and 85(9) whereby the Council had a statutory duty to make arrangements to:

- Secure continuous improvement;
- Secure achievement of its improvement objectives; and
- Exercise its functions so that any Departmental specified standards were met.

It was proposed to adopt a formal approach and methodology to business planning which would support and be an integral part of the Council's performance management and delivery arrangements.

A Business Plan for the Economic Development and Planning Directorate 2024-25 was circulated for Members' approval.

3. Previous Decision of Council

The Council approved a strategic performance management framework as part of the Corporate Performance and Improvement Plan (draft for consultation) 2024-25 in January 2024.

4. Purpose of the Directorate Business Plan

The purpose of the Directorate Business Plan was to:

- Demonstrate how the Directorate was supporting and achieving Council's priorities.
- Provide a clear sense of purpose of the Directorate and the challenges it faces.
- Illustrate how it was aligning its resources to meet the challenges ahead.
- Measure performance and hold ourselves to account to ensure we deliver for the Council and its residents.

5. Format of the Directorate Business Plan

The proposed format was robust and followed best practice, to bring together all the key aspects of the Directorate into one place to provide transparency and consistency. It provided alignment with the Corporate Plan; Corporate Performance and Improvement Plan; Financial Plan; Resourcing and Risk Register.

The format included:

- Introduction and Background to Directorate
- Directorate Structure
- Directorate Risk Register
- Achievements in 2023-2024
- Alignment with draft Corporate Plan 2024-2030
- Directorate Business Plan 2024-25
- Financial Position 2024-25
- Progress Report (bi-annual report)

6. Governance/Reporting Arrangements

It was proposed that a bi-annual progress update be reported in September 2024 and April 2025.

7. Financial Position/Implications

As agreed as part of the Council's rate setting process.

8. Summary

In summary this proposed approach and methodology to Business Planning would provide a more streamlined and integrated method of tracking and analysing performance and providing enhanced visibility.

Moved by Alderman Magill

Seconded by Councillor Goodman and

RESOLVED - that

Members approve the Economic Development and Planning Directorate Business Plan 2024-25.

ACTION BY: Helen Hall, Director of Corporate Strategy

12.4 P/PLAN/092 REQUESTS FOR COUNCIL ENGAGEMENT

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to recommend that Members consider opportunities for further engagement with stakeholders following a number of recently organised events and meetings in relation to the environment and social housing provision.

2. Background

A number of events and meetings had recently been held following agreement by the Planning Committee. These are outlined below for information:-

- Workshop on Local Development Plan preparation – Members requested a meeting with Historic Environment Division (HED) to discuss its roles and responsibilities in relation to the protection of the historic environment.
- Meeting with Chief Executive of Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA), Mr Richard Reid and the Chairperson of the Planning Committee – both parties considered the value of NIEA providing an update to Council on what steps were being taken forward in relation to algae bloom on Lough Neagh.
- Presentation by Northern Ireland Federation of Housing Associations (NIFHA) - the Chief Executive, Mr Seamus Leheny and the Chairperson of the Planning Committee considered the value of NIFHA being invited to the Council on an annual basis to provide an update.

Moved by Councillor Goodman
Seconded by Councillor Brady and

RESOLVED - that

the Chief Executive writes to his counterparts in HED, NIEA and NIFHA to invite them to engage further with the Council on their work programmes and to set up the necessary arrangements.

ACTION BY: Sharon Mossman, Deputy Director of Planning and Building Control

12.5 EL/207 APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF AN ENTERTAINMENTS LICENCE (OCCASIONAL OUTDOOR) – SHANES CASTLE STEAM RALLY, SHANE’S CASTLE, ANTRIM

1. Purpose

The purpose of the report was to seek Members approval for an Entertainments Licence for the Shanes Castle Steam Rally.

2. Introduction

An application had been received for the grant of an Entertainments Licence (occasional licence) for the following area.

Licensee	Location of Premises	Type(s)and hours of entertainment	File Number	New Application or Renewal
Mr Ian Duff	Shane's Castle Estate, Castle Road, Antrim, BT41 4NE	Singing, Music, Dancing or Entertainment of a like kind Friday 3 May 5pm – 11pm Saturday 4 May 5pm – 11pm Sunday 5 May 11am – 11pm Monday 6 May 11am – 6pm	EL207	New

In line with the Council Protocol for the hearing of Entertainments Licence applications, approved in December 2016, the application must be considered at a full meeting of the council.

Council could decide the following:

- I. Grant the licence
- II. Grant the licence with specific additional terms, conditions and restrictions
- III. Refuse the licence
- IV. Defer an application for further consideration or to obtain further information.

If Council makes a decision against an Officer's recommendation, then members must state their reasons for doing so. In such circumstances, a recorded vote would be taken.

3. Main Report

The Shane's Castle Steam Rally, was scheduled to run from Friday 3 May 2024 to Monday 6 May 2024 at Shanes Castle Estate, Castle Road, Antrim. This event would showcase a display of over 800 vintage vehicles including steam engines, vintage cars and tractors. Supported in part by Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council, the rally typically draws in excess of 15,000 people.

Designed as a family event, the rally offers on site camping and entertainment. Tickets were pre-paid and purchased online, however should remaining tickets be available they could be purchased at the gate on the day of the event.

The event organiser and the Safety Officer is Mr Ian Duff. He would oversee the coordination of the rally and act as the primary liaison with various government bodies, such as Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS), Department for Infrastructure (DFI) and NI Ambulance Service (NIAS) through a Safety Advisory Group. While the rally would be contained within a secure perimeter on Shane's Castle Estate, neither the event nor entertainment area would be enclosed by barriers. To facilitate the sale and consumption of alcohol within the entertainment area, the event organiser would apply to the Court Service for an occasional liquor licence.

The operating hours for the event are detailed below;

Friday 3 May
5pm – 11pm

Saturday 4 May
5pm – 11pm

Sunday 5 May
11am – 11pm

Monday 6 May
11am – 6pm

4. Summary

Application for an occasional entertainments licence had been received from Mr Ian Duff for an event - The Shanes Castle Steam Rally. In accordance with Council, protocol for the hearing of Entertainments Licence applications a decision by Members was needed on the granting of the licence.

Moved by Councillor Burbank
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

RESOLVED - that

an Entertainments Licence (Occasional Licence) be granted to the applicant, Mr Ian Duff, Shane's Castle Estate, Castle Road, Antrim, BT41 4NE with the following conditions;

- a) That all relevant licensing requirements are met**
- b) That statutory consultees have no objections to approval**

ACTION BY: Kelly Squance, Environmental Health Officer

Alderman Smyth left the Chamber during Item 12.5.

13 ITEM FOR NOTING

13.1 G-LEG/38/118 REVIEW OF GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES COMMITTEES/WORKING GROUPS

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to inform Members that a review was being conducted considering the purpose, structure and Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Council's Committees, Sub-committees and Working Groups, aligned to the organisational structure and services of the Council.

2. Introduction

As the Council was now in its third term since the Review of Public Administration, and following evolution both deliberately and as a consequence of the Covid pandemic, a periodic review of governance structures was appropriate.

This review would consider the purpose, structure and Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Council's Committees, Sub-committees and Working Groups, aligned to the organisational structure and services of the Council.

Its main purpose was to ensure that the Council's Governance arrangements helped to deliver the best services for our citizens by seeking to improve and refine decision-making processes.

3. Principles of Governance

Relevant to Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council, Governance was about how we ensure that we are doing the right things, in the right way, for the right people, in a timely, inclusive, open, transparent, honest and accountable manner.

It comprises the systems and processes, and the cultures and values, by which we are directed and controlled and through which we account to, engage with and, where appropriate, lead our communities.

Reporting – Led by the Chief Executive, supported by the Borough Lawyer, officers would present a report to the Council via the Policy and Governance Committee with recommendations for consideration. Members would be consulted during the review.

4. Relevant Legislation

- Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - Section 2, Part 4, Part 5.

5. Included in the review:

- The Scheme of Delegation as laid out in Council Constitution Part 2: Responsibility for Functions.
- The committee structure and alignment with the Council's organisational structure and services.
- The names, descriptions and Terms of Reference (ToR) of each committee, reflected in the Scheme of Delegation and specific service area responsibilities.
- The requirement for sub-committees, based upon role specialisation and any special circumstances/limitations.
- The methodology and report format in which the recommendations of Committees were being reported to the Council.
- The purpose, requirement for, responsibilities and limitations of working groups in which Councillors were involved, ToR and membership.
- The methodology and minute format in which the work of working groups was being reported to the relevant Committee.

6. Excluded from the review:

- Matters pertaining to the delegated authority of the Planning Committee.
- Matters pertaining to Procurement, Financial Regulations and Treasury Management.
- Standing Orders were considered separately by the Standing Orders Working Group.
- Officer working groups, steering groups, directorate/services areas activities that were generally classified as operational and did not involve Councillors.

7. Independent/External Review

In order to apply a critical evaluation of the review and recommendations, APSE would be consulted throughout the review, using the existing procurement arrangements and APSE appointments.

8. Financial Implications

There were no cost implications associated with the review.

9. Time Frame

The intention was to complete the Governance review to allow the implementation of approved recommendations for the June 2024 Annual General Meeting.

Moved by Councillor Goodman
Seconded by Councillor Kelly and

RESOLVED - that

Members note the report.

ACTION BY: Richard Baker, Chief Executive

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN COMMITTEE'

Moved by Councillor McGrann
Seconded by Councillor Brady

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.

Alderman Smyth returned to the Chamber at this point.

Councillor Ní Chonghaile left and returned to the Chamber during Item 14.1.

14 ITEMS IN CONFIDENCE

14.1 IN CONFIDENCE PBS/PS/012 STRATEGIC ASSET MANAGEMENT – UPDATE ON SALE OF LAND AT NURSERY PARK, ANTRIM AND LAND ADJACENT TO ALLEN PARK, ANTRIM

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Moved by Councillor Goodman
Seconded by Alderman Michael and

RESOLVED – that

this Item be deferred to a future Council Meeting and that Officers clarify the issues raised by members.

ACTION BY: Liz Johnston, Deputy Director of Governance

14.2 IN CONFIDENCE P/PLAN/091 PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON ONSHORE PETROLEUM LICENSING POLICY

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to recommend to Members the approval of the Corporate response in relation to the public consultation on onshore petroleum licencing policy and its subsequent submission to the Department for Economy.

2. Background

Members were reminded, as previously reported to a meeting of the Council on 29 January 2024, that the Department for Economy had launched a public consultation exercise relating to onshore petroleum licensing policy in Northern Ireland.

3. Previous Decision of Council

At the meeting of the Council, four policy options contained within the public consultation, were presented to Members concerning onshore petroleum licensing. It was resolved that a corporate response be drafted in line with policy option 4 and that the response be brought back to the Council for consideration prior to the consultation closure.

Policy Option 4 comprised of a moratorium and eventual legislative ban on exploration and production of all forms of onshore oil and gas in Northern Ireland.

Officers had now drafted a response based around option 4 which was circulated for Members' consideration. A copy of the consultation document was also circulated for background information. The Council response when approved would be uploaded onto Citizen Space.

Moved by Councillor Burbank

Seconded by Councillor Webb and

RESOLVED – that

The corporate response based on the agreed policy Option 4 be approved and submitted to the Department for Economy.

ACTION BY: Sharon Mossman, Deputy Director of Planning and Building Control

14.3 IN CONFIDENCE ED/ED/195 Vol.2 MINUTES OF THE GOVERNANCE MEETINGS OF THE LEVELLING UP FUND PROJECT BOARD HELD ON 15 FEBRUARY 2024 (GLENGORMLEY SCHEME) AND 22ND FEBRUARY 2024 (ANTRIM SCHEME)

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to recommend to Members for approval the minutes of the Levelling Up Fund Project Board meeting held on 15 February 2024 (Glengormley scheme) and 22 February 2024 (Antrim scheme).

2. Governance

The Levelling Up Fund award required that a governance structure be put in place to oversee the management and implementation of the approved schemes:

- LUF0037 Glengormley Integrated Economic and Physical Regeneration Scheme
- LUF0080 Antrim Integrated Economic and Physical Regeneration Scheme

Copies of the minutes from the meetings were circulated for Members' consideration.

Moved by Councillor Goodman
Seconded by Alderman Cosgrove and

RESOLVED – that

the minutes of the Levelling Up Fund Project Board meetings held on 15 and 22 February 2024 be approved.

ACTION BY: Jill Murray, Executive Officer

14.4 IN CONFIDENCE PBS/BC/001 FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF BUILDING CONTROL AND LAND AND PROPERTY SERVICES (LPS) PARTNERSHIP WORKING

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to recommend to Members that an updated Land and Property Services (LPS) data sharing agreement with the Building Control service be extended across all of the Council area.

2. Background

As previously reported to Council on a number of occasions a joint working arrangement between Land and Property Services (LPS) and Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's Building Control Service (BCS) had been operating successfully for a number of years within the legacy Antrim area. The aim was to improve upon this existing arrangement by extending the data sharing service across all of the Borough area, thus improving the rating assessment process for the benefit of the Council, central government and the ratepayer.

The benefits associated with the data sharing agreement were:

- Higher rate revenue/lower rate poundage for Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council and Central Government resulting from increased valuation activity and earlier assessment. The data sharing agreement generates increased domestic property capital values in the rating list thus benefitting the Council who receive repayment through higher list growth.
- More accurate Estimated Penny Product (EPP)
The EPP, derived from the rating list and used to calculate the Council's District Rates, would be more accurate thus enabling Council to ensure that the burden of District Rates was spread more fairly across all eligible properties.
- Lower cost of individual assessments by reducing overall time involved in data collection.
- Less disruption and confusion for the ratepayer by avoiding duplication of surveying/inspection activities at domestic properties.
- Minimise backdating of rate bills by facilitation of a "just in time" assessment programme.
- Demonstrate "joined up government" in action.

3. Partnership arrangements

The Building Control Service provides the LPS valuer with the physical data necessary to allow for the valuation of domestic new builds and extensions for rating purposes. (Further discussions to undertake surveys of non-domestic buildings would be considered during 2024/25).

The arrangements would cover the "on site" data collection process and subsequent transfer of relevant information between the BCS and LPS.

On a monthly basis Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council would invoice LPS for the cost of the surveys based on £68 per unit surveyed.

The existing data sharing agreement between Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council and Land & Property Services (currently effective for the legacy Antrim area of the Borough) had been updated to reflect the proposed new arrangements. Correspondence from Commissioner of Valuation for NI and details of the updated data sharing agreement were circulated.

A commencement date of April 2024 was proposed for the new data sharing agreement.

4. Financial Position/Implication

Current Income:

In the last five years, the Building Control Service had generated circa £30,000 per year through LPS survey workloads in the Antrim area

Estimated Additional Income:

The expansion of the agreement into the legacy Newtownabbey area was anticipated to produce an average of an additional 700 rateable commencements per year, this would generate an additional income of circa £50,000 per year.

The above figures reflected the direct income received through survey workload. The Council also received an indirect income from the data sharing arrangement with an improved rating list. This indirect income strand was not quantified by Building Control.

Having considered the additional workloads associated with the development of the data sharing arrangement, and mindful of the efficient working practices demonstrated by staff for existing data sharing arrangements, the Head of Building Control was content that no additional resources were required by the service to facilitate the expansion of the data sharing agreement.

Moved by Alderman Cosgrove
Seconded by Councillor McLaughlin and

RESOLVED – that

Members adopt the updated LPS data sharing agreement across all of the Council area.

ACTION BY: Stephen Hipkins, Head of Building Control

14.5 IN CONFIDENCE ED/ED/165 BELFAST REGION CITY DEAL: ADVANCED MANUFACTURING INNOVATION CENTRE (AMIC) - CONTRACT FOR FUNDING



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Moved by Alderman Cosgrove
Seconded by Councillor Flanagan and

RESOLVED - that

Members note the update on the Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Centre (AMIC) project at Global Point; and approve the draft Contract for Funding with Queens University Belfast (QUB) for an award of [REDACTED] towards the construction of the project, including the controls set out in the report, subject to final legal review.

ACTION BY: Michael McKenna, Deputy Director of Investment and Business Development and Alison McDowell, Council Lawyer

All Officers left the Meeting at this point.

The Mayor, Councillor Cooper left and returned to the Chamber during Item 14.6.

Alderman Magill and Councillor Webb left and returned to the Chamber during Item 14.6.

14.6 IN CONFIDENCE CE/STC/88 ORGANISATION STRUCTURES

A report relating to Organisation Structures (circulated) was presented by Matt McDowell, Director of Parks and Leisure, Operations.

Moved by Alderman Cosgrove
Seconded by Councillor Bennington and

RESOLVED – that the revised structure for Property Services be approved, provision for which has been made in the 2024/25 Parks and Leisure, Operations budget.

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

MOTION TO PROCEED 'OUT OF COMMITTEE'

Moved by Alderman Boyle
Seconded by Alderman Magill 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 8.34 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.