



**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD  
AT MOSSLEY MILL ON MONDAY 29 JANUARY 2024 AT 6.30 PM**

**In the Chair** : Mayor (Councillor M Cooper)

**Members Present (In Person)** : Aldermen – L Boyle, T Campbell, M Cosgrove, J McGrath, P Michael, S Ross and J Smyth

Councillors – M Brady, J Burbank, H Cushinan, P Dunlop, S Flanagan, J Gilmour, M Goodman, N Kelly, R Kinnear, H Magill, A McAuley, T McGrann, E McLaughlin, V McWilliam, M Ní Chonghaile, L O'Hagan, A O'Lone, S Ward, and B Webb

**Members Present (Remote)** Aldermen – P Bradley, L Clarke and M Magill

Councillors – J Archibald-Brown, A Bennington, S Cosgrove, A Logue, R Lynch, Mallon, M Stewart, and S Wilson

**In Attendance :** Alison Allen, Chief Executive Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA)

**Officers Present** : Chief Executive – R Baker  
Director of Finance and Governance – S Cole  
Director of Community Planning - U Fay  
Director of Sustainability – M Lavery  
Director of Parks and Leisure Operations – M McDowell  
Director of Corporate Strategy – H Hall  
Deputy Director of Governance – L Johnston  
Deputy Director of Investment and Business Development – M McKenna  
Deputy Director of Regeneration and Infrastructure – S Norris  
Council Lawyer - A McDowell  
Head of Corporate Affairs – J McIntyre  
ICT Systems Support Officer – C Bell  
ICT Helpdesk Officer – J Wilson  
Member Services Manager – A Duffy

## **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, Cushinan, Goodman, Logue, Kelly, Kinnear, McLaughlin, McGrann, Ní Chonghaile and O'Hagan joined the meeting.

*Councillor Mallon entered the meeting remotely at this point.*

A Member expressed their congratulations to Ballyclare Ruby Club in becoming All Ireland junior club winners, congratulations were also echoed by the Mayor.

The Mayor expressed congratulations to Councillor O'Lone who recently got engaged.

## **2 APOLOGIES**

Councillors – R Foster and L Smyth

## **3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Item 12.6 – Councillor McGrann

## **4 NORTHERN IRELAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONER FOR STANDARDS, OUTCOME – ALTERNATIVE ACTION**

Following the recommendation by the Northern Ireland Local Government Commissioner for Standards that there may have been a breach of the Code of Conduct for Councillors at the Council meeting in August 2018, Councillor Goodman made a public apology in open session on behalf of himself and Councillor Logue.

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

Moved by Alderman Cosgrove  
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and

**RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Meeting of 18 December 2023 be taken as read and signed as correct.**

## **6 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 8 January 2024 be approved and adopted.**

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

Moved by Alderman Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor Brady and

**RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Policy and Governance Committee Meeting of Tuesday 9 January 2024 be approved and adopted.**

**8 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 15 January 2024 be approved and adopted.**

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

Moved by Councillor Cushinan  
Seconded by Alderman Campbell and

**RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting of Monday 22 January 2024 Part 1 be taken as read and signed as correct.**

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

Moved by Councillor Cushinan  
Seconded by and Alderman Campbell

**RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting of Monday 22 January 2024 Part 2 be approved and adopted.**

*Councillor Mallon left the meeting remotely at this point.  
Councillor Archibald-Brown left the meeting remotely during the presentation.*

**10 PRESENTATIONS**

**10.1 NORTHERN IRELAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (NILGA) UPDATE**

The Mayor welcomed Alison Allen, Chief Executive of NILGA to the meeting. Mrs Allen updated Members on the roles and benefits of NILGA and responded to Members queries.

The Mayor and Members thanked Mrs Allen for her presentation and she left the meeting.

*Alderman Magill left the meeting at this point and did not return.  
Councillor Cosgrove entered the meeting remotely during Item 10.02.*

## **10.2 FI/FIN/11 DRAFT RATES ESTIMATE UPDATE 2024/25**

An update on the 2024/25 Estimates was provided by the Head of Finance.

The Mayor thanked the Head of Finance for his presentation and he left the meeting.

## **11 NOTICE OF MOTION**

Proposed by Alderman McGrath  
Seconded by Councillor Gilmour

"This Council is committed to supporting the most vulnerable in local communities and has successfully engaged in several support programmes and initiatives. This Council commends its officers, staff, community workers, volunteers, and other relevant agencies for these efforts, which have been aimed at addressing and mitigating the challenges faced by vulnerable members of our community.

To create a single guiding strategic framework that provides agency for residents, fosters economic empowerment, maximises stakeholder partnership opportunities, enhances social inclusion, and improves access to essential services for all our residents, we propose the establishment of a cross-party steering group to develop a coordinated, comprehensive Anti-Poverty Strategy for our Borough".

**RESOLVED – the Motion was declared carried and it was unanimously agreed that a cross-party steering group be established to develop a coordinated, comprehensive Anti-Poverty Strategy for our Borough.**

## **12 ITEMS FOR DECISION**

### **12.1 PBS/BC/003 VOL 2 STREET NAMING – BALLYROBERT ROAD**

The purpose of this report was to agree a new street name for a development at Ballyrobert Road.

A development naming application had been received from Patrick Morwood on behalf of Kenny Homes regarding the naming of a residential development off Ballyrobert Road, Ballyclare. The development consisted of 5 No dwellings, these being a mixture of detached and semi – detached. The development names and developer's rationale had been submitted as outlined below, with the developer's application, location map and site plan circulated.

1 – Forthaven Mews – The development backs directly onto Forthaven, which was also developed by Kenny Homes. The new development site layout for 5 homes was in the style of an enclosed 'Mews'.

2 – Kingsfort Mews – The dismantled railway crossing at Kingsbog was adjacent to the development site and the old rath was a site of local conservation importance. The new development site layout for 5 homes was in the style of an enclosed 'Mews'.

3 – McCombs Mews – McCombs bridge was the name of an old footbridge which crossed the disused railway line behind the site. The new development site layout for 5 homes was in the style of an enclosed 'Mews'.

Should the Council not wish to select one of the above names; the matter would be referred back to the developer via the Building Control section for further consideration.

Moved by Alderman Boyle  
Seconded by Councillor Goodman and

**RESOLVED: that the name Kingsfort Mews be approved for the above development.**

*ACTION BY: Liam McFadden, Principal Building Control Surveyor*

## **12.2 PBS/BC/003 VOL 2 STREET NAMING – BALLYCRAIGY ROAD**

The purpose of this report was to agree a new street name for a development at Ballycraigy Road.

A development naming application had been received from Brian Reid on behalf of Clady Properties regarding the naming of a residential development off Ballycraigy Road, Antrim. The development consists of 13No dwellings, these being a mixture of detached and semi – detached. The development names and developer's rationale had been submitted as outlined below, with the developer's application, location map and site plan circulated.

- 1 – Maryville – The old Maryville factory occupied the site
- 2 – Carlisle Lane – The Carlisle family were prominent in the area historically
- 3 – Oak Hill – There are oak trees on the site and it was located on a hill

Should the Council not wish to select one of the above names; the matter would be referred back to the developer via the Building Control section for further consideration.

Moved by Council Dunlop  
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and

**RESOLVED: that the matter be referred back to the developer for further consideration and that name Manor be included in their recommendation.**

*ACTION BY: Liam McFadden, Principal Building Control Surveyor*

### 12.3 CE/GEN/017 DISPOSAL OF LAND AT SPRINGFARM ROAD, ANTRIM

The purpose of this report was to inform Members of the decision by the Department for Communities to declare land surplus at Springfarm Road, Antrim.

Members were advised that a D1 form, a copy of which was circulated, had been received from Land and Property Services regarding a portion of land at Springfarm Road, Antrim (map circulated) being declared surplus by the Department for Communities.

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

Moved by Councillor Brady  
Seconded by Councillor Dunlop and

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

*ACTION BY: Liz Johnston, Deputy Director of Governance*

### 12.4 P/PLAN/091 PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON ONSHORE PETROLEUM LICENSING POLICY

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' instructions in relation to a public consultation on onshore petroleum licensing where the preferred option was to introduce a moratorium and legislative ban on the exploration and production of all forms of onshore oil and gas in Northern Ireland.

The Department for Economy (DfE) had launched a consultation on onshore petroleum licensing policy in Northern Ireland which includes a range of policy options for onshore petroleum licensing policy. This had been informed by independent research from Hatch Regeneris on the environmental, social and economic impacts of onshore petroleum exploration and production in Northern Ireland and other relevant international research.

Four options were presented as follows: -

Option 1: Status quo – Do Nothing;  
Option 2: Change from open door policy to licensing rounds in defined areas;  
Option 3: Moratorium and eventual legislative ban on exploration or production of unconventional hydrocarbons;  
or  
Option 4: Moratorium and eventual legislative ban on all forms of onshore petroleum exploration and production.

The preferred policy option is Option 4, a moratorium and eventual legislative ban on exploration and production of all forms of onshore oil and gas in Northern Ireland.

The final decision on onshore petroleum licensing in Northern Ireland would be taken by a future Executive, informed by the responses and evidence submitted through this consultation process.

The details of the consultation could be found on the [DfE website](#) and a copy of the consultation paper was circulated. The closing date for a response is 12 April 2024.

There were a number of options available to the Council in responding to the consultation by DfE:

1. Provide a corporate view.
2. Provide no corporate view. In this case individual Members or parties may respond directly.

Moved by Councillor Burbank  
Seconded by Alderman Ross and

**RESOLVED – that a Corporate response be prepared based on Option 4, that a moratorium and eventual legislative ban on exploration and production of all forms of onshore oil and gas in Northern Ireland and that the corporate response be brought back to Council for consideration prior to the consultation closure.**

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

## **12.5 PT/CI/060 CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2024/25, DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION**

The purpose of this report was to seek approval for the draft Corporate Performance and Improvement Plan 2024/25, subject to consultation.

Members were reminded that Part 12 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 puts in place a framework to support the continuous improvement of Council services, in the context of strategic objectives and issues.

Section 85 of the Act requires a Council, for each financial year, to set itself improvement objectives for improving the exercise of its functions and to have in place arrangements to achieve those objectives. The identified objectives must bring about improvement in at least one of the specified aspects of improvement as defined in Section 86: Strategic Effectiveness; Service Quality; Service Availability; Fairness; Sustainability; Efficiency; Innovation.

The Council is committed to continuous improvement, recognising that improvement is more than just quantifiable gains in efficiency or internal effectiveness. Rather, it means a course of action that enhances the sustainable quality of life and environment for ratepayers and communities.

The draft Corporate Performance and Improvement Plan 2024/25 was circulated at Appendix 1 provided an overview of some achievements to date, details our statutory targets and identifies six improvement objectives for the year. These improvement objectives focus on how we would:

- Support our residents through the Cost of Living Crisis,
- Protect and improve the environment, supporting Antrim and Newtownabbey to become a sustainable and climate-adapted Borough,
- Achieve high levels of customer satisfaction,
- Maintain staff attendance levels across the Council,
- Increase the speed in which we pay suppliers,
- Increase the number of visitors to our service areas, to include pitch bookings, visitor attractions, theatres, community centres and parks.

Departmental guidance indicated that Councils should *“develop an on-going dialogue with our communities and areas that it serves, so that the setting of improvement objectives are a jointly owned process centred on a balanced assessment of the needs of the community as a whole, rather than any particular organisation or interest group within it”*.

The draft Corporate Performance and Improvement Plan 2024/25 would undergo a twelve-week consultation period to actively seek feedback from our stakeholders. This consultation would commence on 5 February 2024 and close on 29 April 2024.

Following consultation, the final Corporate Performance and Improvement Plan 2024/25 and Executive Summary would be reported to the June 2024 Council meeting, along with a summary of the consultation responses. The Plan had been screened for equality and there were no implications to the equality of opportunity or good relations of the Section 75 equality categories. A Rural Needs Impact Assessment of the Plan had been carried out to ensure Rural Proofing. A copy of the screening was circulated at Appendix 2 for information.

Moved by Councillor Webb  
Seconded by Councillor Gilmour and

**RESOLVED: that the draft Corporate Performance and Improvement Plan 2024/25 be approved, subject to consultation.**

*ACTION BY: Katherine Young, Organisation Development & Employee Engagement Manager*

*Having declared an Interest in Item 12.6 Councillor McGrann left the Chamber.*

*Councillor Bennington left the meeting remotely at Item 12.6.*



## **12.6 CCS/EDP/025 DUAL LANGUAGE STREET SIGN APPLICATION UPDATE**

The purpose of this report was to provide an update on the current status of dual language street sign applications.

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

### **APPLICATION STATUS**

#### **STAGE 1: PETITION VERIFICATION**

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

1. BAWNMORE PARK, NEWTOWNABBAY, BT36 7BN

*The occupiers signing the petition had been evidenced by their listing on the current Electoral Register and met the one third threshold as required within the approved Policy.*

#### **STAGE 2: RESIDENTS CANVASS**

Four applications had progressed to Stage 2:

1. FINLAY PARK, NEWTOWNABBAY, BT36 7DB

*Canvass letters were issued to residents week commencing 15 January 2024.*

2. GLENVILLE MEWS, NEWTOWNABBAY, BT37 0ZU
3. BAWNMORE TERRACE, NEWTOWNABBAY, BT36 7BY
4. MOUNT STREET, NEWTOWNABBAY, BT36 7BZ

*Canvass letters had been issued to residents for response by 19 January 2024, the outcome of which would be reported to Council in February 2024.*

#### **STAGE 3: STREET SIGN INSTALLATION**

Three applications had progressed to Stage 3:

1. BAWNMORE GROVE, NEWTOWNABBAY, BT36 7BP
2. BAWNMORE PLACE, NEWTOWNABBAY, BT36 7BW
3. NEWTON GARDENS, NEWTOWNABBAY, BT36 7BX

*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 three signs would be approx. £1,500 (£500 per sign).*

Moved by Councillor McLaughlin  
Seconded by Councillor Ní Chonghaile and

**RESOLVED: that**

- **The updates in relation to Stages 1 and 2 be noted.**
- **The Stage 3 applications be approved.**

*ACTION BY: Ellen Boyd, Accessibility and Inclusion Officer*

*Councillor McGrann returned to the Chamber.*

## **12.7 FI/FIN/050 DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE CONSULTATION DOMESTIC AND NON-DOMESTIC RATING**

The purpose of this report was to obtain Members approval for the Council response to the public consultation on Domestic and Non-Domestic Rating.

Members were reminded that correspondence was received from the Department of Finance in relation to the launch of the public consultation on Domestic and Non-Domestic Rating. This correspondence and the consultation documents were presented to the December 2023 meeting of the Policy & Governance Committee.

It was agreed at the meeting that the Council would liaise with NILGA and respond on a corporate basis.

The draft response to both consultations was circulated for Members approval.

Moved by Alderman Cosgrove

Seconded by Councillor Brady that Members approve the consultation response.

On the proposal being put to the meeting, and a recorded vote having been requested by Councillor Goodman, Members voted as follows:

<b>In favour of the Motion Members viz 15</b>	<b>Against the Motion Members viz 0</b>	<b>Abstentions Members viz 18</b>
Aldermen – Bradley, Clarke, Cosgrove, Michael, Ross and Smyth  Councillors – Brady, Cooper, Dunlop, Flanagan, McWilliam, H Magill, M Stewart, S Ward and S Wilson		Aldermen Boyle, Campbell, and McGrath  Councillors – Burbank, Cushinan, Gilmour, Goodman, Kelly, Kinnear, Logue, Lynch, McAuley, McGrann, McLaughlin, Ní Chonghaile, O'Hagan, O'Lone and Webb

**RESOLVED – that the Motion be declared carried.**

*ACTION BY: Richard Murray, Head of Finance*

*Alderman Campbell left the Chamber at Item 12.8.*

## **12.8 ED/REG/059 LABOUR MARKET PARTNERSHIP MINUTES**

The purpose of this report was to share with Members the minutes of recent Labour Market Partnership meetings, and seek approval of same.

Meetings of the Antrim and Newtownabbey Labour Market Partnership were held on Thursday 14 September and 22 November 2023 and the minutes recorded at the meetings were circulated.

Moved by Councillor Goodman  
Seconded by Councillor Webb and

**RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Antrim and Newtownabbey Labour Market Partnership Meetings of 14 September and 22 November 2023 be approved.**

*ACTION BY: Michelle Pearson, Business Development Officer (Skills)*

## **13 ITEMS FOR NOTING**

### **13.1 G/MSMO/14 MOTION – NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL – CYSTIC FIBROSIS MEDICATION**

Members were advised that correspondence had been received from Newry, Mourne and Down District Council regarding a Motion adopted by that Council and requesting support.

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

Moved by Councillor Lynch  
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and

**RESOLVED: that the correspondence from Newry, Mourne and Down District Council be noted.**

*NO ACTION*

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

Moved by Alderman Cosgrove  
Seconded by Councillor Wilson

**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 Campbell returned to the Chamber.*

## **14 ITEMS IN CONFIDENCE**

#### 14.1 **IN CONFIDENCE** FI/PRO/TEN/542 INSTALLATION OF CCTV SYSTEM AT CORONATION GARDEN

**CONTRACT PERIOD 5 FEBRUARY 2024 - 31 MARCH 2025 WITH THE OPTION TO EXTEND FOR UP TO A FURTHER 12 MONTHS (SUBJECT TO PERFORMANCE AND REVIEW)**

The purpose of this report was to obtain approval for the appointment of a suitably qualified and experienced CCTV contractor to install a new CCTV system at the Coronation Garden in Hazelbank Park.

The CCTV system would provide high quality images which would be monitored, day and night, in the CCTV monitoring suite in Mossley Mill, Newtownabbey. The installation would be as discrete as possible, in keeping with the surroundings, and includes the ability to audio challenge via speakers installed on each CCTV column. When the site was closed the cameras would use advanced analytics to raise an alarm in the CCTV monitoring suite if intruders enter the site.

This tender opportunity was made available on eSourcingNI on 28 November 2023. Two tender responses were opened via the eSourcingNI Portal on 21 December 2023 and referred to the evaluation panel for assessment. The tenders were evaluated on a two stage basis as follows:

##### **STAGE 1 – SELECTION STAGE**

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

##### **STAGE 2 – AWARD STAGE**

###### **Technical Assessment**

The tenders were evaluated on a pass/fail basis for compliance with the specification. The tenders met the requirements of this stage and proceeded to the next stage of evaluation.

###### **Quality & Commercial Assessment**

The tenders were evaluated on management of the contract (20%) and cost (80%). The recommendation was as follows:

Rank	Supplier	Quality Assessment (Out of 20%)	Cost Assessment (out of 80%)	Total % Score	Estimated Cost for Installation and 2 Years Maintenance (£) (Excl. VAT)
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1	VIS Security Solutions Ltd	20%	80%	100%	£ [REDACTED]
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Moved by Alderman Cosgrove  
Seconded by Councillor Flanagan and

**RESOLVED: that having achieved a score of 100%, VIS Security Solutions Ltd be appointed to install a new CCTV system at the Coronation Garden in Hazelbank Park at the tendered rates and maintain the system until 31 March 2025 with the option to extend for up to a further 12 months (subject to performance and review).**

*ACTION BY: Melissa Kenning, Procurement Manager*

#### 14.2 **IN CONFIDENCE** FI/PRO/TEN/553 **SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF SUMMER BEDDING PLANTS 2024 AND 2025**

The purpose of this report was to obtain approval for the appointment of a suitably qualified and experienced contractor for supply and delivery of summer bedding plants for 2024 and 2025.

This tender opportunity was made available on eSourcingNI on 12 December 2023. Two tender responses were opened via the eSourcingNI Portal on 05 January 2024 and referred to the evaluation panel for assessment. The tenders were evaluated on a two stage basis as follows:

##### **STAGE 1 – SELECTION STAGE**

The tenders were evaluated on a pass/fail basis for tenderers' professional conduct, delivery timescales and declarations and form of tender. Both tenderers met the requirements of Stage 1 of the evaluation process and proceeded to Stage 2.

##### **STAGE 2 – AWARD STAGE**

###### **Technical Assessment**

The tenders were evaluated on a pass/fail basis for compliance with the specification. The tenders met the requirements of this stage and proceeded to the next stage of evaluation.

The Director of Parks and Leisure, Operations reassured Members that measures were in place with supplier to ensure plants meet the required standard.

###### **Quality & Commercial Assessment**

The tenders were evaluated on quality of goods (20%), transportation plan (20%), business continuity arrangements (10%) and cost (50%). The recommendation was as follows:

Rank	Supplier	Quality Assessment (out of 50%)	Cost Assessment (out of 50%)	Total % Score	Estimated Cost for 2 Years (£) (Excl. VAT)
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1	Hanna Nurseries	50%	50%	100%	£	
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Moved by Alderman Clarke  
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and

**RESOLVED:** that having achieved a score of 100%, Hanna Nurseries be appointed to supply and deliver summer bedding plants at the tendered rates for 2024 with the option to extend for the supply of plants in 2025 (subject to performance and review).

*ACTION BY: Melissa Kenning, Procurement Manager*

#### 14.3 **IN CONFIDENCE** ED/ED/213 NAME AND BRAND OF NEW WORKSPACE HUBS

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Moved by Alderman Cosgrove  
Seconded by Councillor Burbank and

**RESOLVED: that**

[REDACTED]

**(b) a further report would be presented to Members in due course**

*ACTIONS BY: Steven Norris, Deputy Director of Regeneration and Infrastructure.*

#### 14.4 **IN CONFIDENCE** ED/ED/232 GILBERT STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

The purpose of this report was for members to approve the below listed students as the four top scoring candidates to partake in the Gilbert Student Exchange Programme 2024.

Members were reminded that the 2024 Sister Cities Student Exchange Programme was approved by Council in October 2023. The Sister Cities Student Exchange Programme is a cross-community programme that typically provides eight students, four from Antrim and Newtownabbey and four from Gilbert, Arizona with an opportunity to develop an understanding of a different country, its culture, and its people through a family living experience. The programme lasts approximately six weeks during the summer with half the time spent in Gilbert and half in Antrim and Newtownabbey.

The application process involves the completion of a written application form, nomination from school teacher or youth leader, and an interview with students.

Thirteen applications were received in total, with eight eligible applicants proceeding to interview. The interview panel consisted of Alderman Stephen Ross, Councillor Billy Webb and Sara Thompson, Economic Development Officer.

The four top scoring candidates selected to represent Antrim and Newtownabbey during the 2024 Student Exchange Programme were;



Members, the Mayor and past participants would be invited to meet the American students and their host families at a reception during the summer.

Moved by Councillor Webb  
Seconded by Alderman Ross and

**RESOLVED: that Members approve [REDACTED] as the four highest scoring candidates, to take part in the 2024 Student Exchange Programme. It was also agreed that delegated authority be given to the interview panel in future years to approve successful candidates.**

*ACTION BY: Matthew Mulligan, Business Development Project Officer*

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

The purpose of this report was to seek approval for the minutes of the Our Prosperity Outcome Delivery Group meeting held on 19 December 2023.



A copy of the minutes from the meeting were circulated for Members consideration.

Moved by Alderman Campbell  
Seconded by Councillor Webb and

**RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Our Prosperity Outcome Delivery Group of 19 December 2023 be approved.**

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

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

Moved by Councillor Brady  
Seconded by Councillor Dunlop 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 7.49pm.

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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.***