

March 24th, 2026

To Each Member of Council

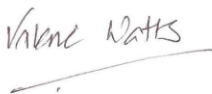
NOTICE OF MEETING

You are requested to attend a Meeting of the

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council

to be held on Monday, 30th March 2026 at 6:30 pm in Council Chamber, The Braid, 1-29 Bridge Street, Ballymena and via remote access.

Yours sincerely



Valerie Watts
Interim Chief Executive, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council

Agenda

1 FORMALITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1.1 Notice of Meeting

1.2 Apologies

1.3 Declarations of Interest

Members and Officers are invited to declare any pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests, including gifts and hospitality, they may have in respect of items on this Agenda.

1.4 Minutes of Council Meeting

1.4.1 Council Meeting held on 16 February 2026 - Circulated

📎 *02-26 Full Council Mins.pdf*

Not included

1.4.2 Special Meeting (Conferment of Freedom of the Borough & Insurance) held on 16 March 2026 - Circulated

📎 *03-26 Special Council Mins.pdf*

Not included

1.5 Mayor's Announcements

2 QUESTIONS

2.1 Members

2.1.1 Tabled question in the name of Councillor A Barr

I have received numerous complaints from residents and an MLA regarding dog fouling within MEABC.

Therefore, may I ask for clarification on MEABCs position regarding the provision and deployment of enforcement officers and any changes to staffing levels within that department?

Moreover, what is the current capacity and resourcing of street cleansing services?

2.2 Public

None

3 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- 3.1 Corporate Resources, Policy and Governance Committee held on 23 February 2026 - To follow**
- 3.2 Neighbourhoods and Communities Committee held on 24 February 2026 - Circulated**
 📄 *02-26 NC Mins.pdf* *Not included*
- 3.3 Planning Committee held on 26 February 2026 - Circulated**
 📄 *02.26 Planning Minutes.pdf* *Not included*
- 3.4 Environment and Economy Committee held on 2 March 2026 - To follow**
- 3.5 Audit and Scrutiny Committee held on 3 March 2026 - Circulated**
 📄 *03-26 A&S Mins.pdf* *Not included*
- 4 POLICY FRAMEWORK AND BUDGET**
- 5 STRATEGIC ISSUES**
- 6 ITEMS FOR DECISION - OPEN COUNCIL**
- 6.1 Disability Lived Experience Group Update - Circulated**
 📄 *Disability Lived Experience Group Update.pdf* *Not included*
- 📄 *Appendix 1 Notes and actions - Disability Lived Experience Group 9 March 2026.pdf* *Not included*
- 📄 *Appendix 2 MEABC Disability Lived Experience Group - Terms of Reference.pdf* *Not included*
- 📄 *Appendix 3 - Disability Lived Experience Group - Guidance Document.pdf* *Not included*
- 📄 *Appendix 4 - Application Form Draft.pdf* *Not included*
- 6.2 Inclusive Summer Opportunities Grant Funding Scheme - Circulated**
 📄 *Inclusive Summer Opportunities Grant Funding Scheme Report.pdf* *Not included*

7 MOTIONS

7.1 Proposed by Councillor A Clarke, seconded by Councillor G McKeen

“This council resolves to establish a Retail Task Force for Mid and East Antrim Borough, comprising elected members, council officers, representatives from local retail and hospitality sectors, business organisations, town-centre partnerships, and any other relevant stakeholders.

The Task Force will undertake a comprehensive evaluation of the Borough’s three town centres, including:

footfall patterns and consumer behaviour;

infrastructure, accessibility, and public- realm considerations;

opportunities for diversification and investment.

The Task Force shall review existing town-centre boundaries, assessing whether these should be compressed or redefined to better reflect current economic activity and to support more targeted regeneration.

This may include proposals for the creation of Enhanced Zones within each town centre, where focused interventions - such as public-realm improvements, business support initiatives, marketing campaigns or investment incentives - can be prioritised.

The task force will aim to bring forward a strategic action plan outlining short, medium and long term measures to support local retail and strengthen town centre resilience.”

7.2 Proposed by Councillor A Henry, seconded by Councillor A Smyth

"This Council, in endometriosis awareness month, notes with concern the growing crisis in gynaecology services in Mid and East Antrim and across Northern Ireland, which has left thousands of women waiting extended periods for diagnosis and treatment while suffering serious pain.

Council recognises that conditions such as Endometriosis, Adenomyosis, Polycystic Ovary Syndrome and other gynae disorders can have profound impacts on physical health, mental wellbeing, employment and family life and that prolonged delays in diagnosis or treatment can significantly worsen outcomes for patients.

Accordingly, this Council calls on the Minister of Health to:

1. Bring forward a clear plan to tackle the backlog in gynaecology waiting lists.

2. Increase investment in gynaecology services

3. Report publicly on progress in reducing waiting times for gynaecology services.

This council agrees to write to the Minister of Health outlining these concerns and urging immediate action to address the crisis in women's health services."

8 SEALING

(i) Mid and East Borough Council -and- Mascott Construction (Europe) Ltd (Carrickfergus Amphitheatre Spa refurbishment)






(ii) The NI EV Consortium -and- WEEV.IE LTD (To supply , maintain and operate Electric Vehicle Charging Units within 9 of the Councils in Northern Ireland)

Closed Council - In accordance with Council policy, members of the press will not be in attendance for this section of the Meeting.




9 STRATEGIC ISSUES - CLOSED

10 ITEMS FOR DECISION - CLOSED

10.1 Business Case for Card Machine Services - Circulated

 <i>Council Finance Procurement Business Case for Card Machine Services MH.pdf</i>	<i>Not included</i>
 <i>Appendix 1 - Business Case for Card Machine Services .pdf</i>	<i>Not included</i>
 <i>Appendix 2 - Equality Screening Card Machine Services.pdf</i>	<i>Not included</i>
 <i>Appendix 3 - RNIA Card Machine Services Business Case.pdf</i>	<i>Not included</i>
 <i>Appendix 4 - DPIA Screening Card Terminal Business Case.pdf</i>	<i>Not included</i>

10.2 Bonfire Consultation Outcome & Bonfire Management 2026 - Circulated

 <i>Bonfire Consultation Outcome & Bonfire Management 2026.pdf</i>	<i>Not included</i>
 <i>Appendix 1 Proposal from ACT Initiative.pdf</i>	<i>Not included</i>
 <i>Appendix 2 ACT Initiative MEA Final Report.pdf</i>	<i>Not included</i>

 *Appendix 3 Bonfire Management Equality Screening.pdf* *Not included*

 *Appendix 4 Bonfire Management Rural Screening.pdf* *Not included*

 *Appendix 5 Bonfire Management Sustainability Screening.pdf* *Not included*


10.3 HMO Notice of Motion Update - Circulated

 *HMOs Notice of Motion Update.pdf* *Not included*


 *Appendix 1 NIHMO Enforcement policy.pdf* *Not included*

10.4 Revised Policies following finalisation of rate for 2026/27 - Circulated

 *Revised Treasury Management Strategies and policies 2026 27 post rate striking cover report MH (004).pdf* *Not included*

 *Appendix 1 - MEABC Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2026-27.pdf* *Not included*

 *Appendix 2 - Capital Asset Strategy 2026-27.pdf* *Not included*

 *Appendix 3 - Medium Term Financial Plan 2026 -2030.pdf* *Not included*

OPEN COUNCIL