July 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, 27th July 2026 at 6:30 pm in Council Chamber, The Braid, 1-29 Bridge Street, Ballymena and via remote access.

Yours sincerely

Valerie Watts

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 8 June 2026 - Circulated

***Attachment: 06-26 Full Council Mins draft.pdf*** ***Page 1***

## 1.5 Mayor's Announcements

## 2 QUESTIONS

## 2.1 Members

### 2.1.1 Tabled Question in the Name of Councillor C Harwood

<u>Question:</u>

"In light of recent public comments concerning victims of violence against women and girls, will the Council consider providing training for Elected Members on the harmful effects of victim blaming, including how comments about a victim's clothing, behaviour or personal choices can discourage victims from reporting violence against women and girls?"

## 2.2 Public

A period of up to 15 minutes will be available to allow questions that have been submitted by members of the public who live, work or study in the Borough. Any questions not answered within the timescale will be provided with a written response.

## 3 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

## 3.1 Planning Committee held on 11 June 2026 - Circulated

***Attachment: 06-26 Planning Mins draft.pdf*** ***Page 10***

## 3.2 Corporate Resources, Policy and Governance Committee held on 15 June 2026 - Circulated

***Attachment: 06.26 CRPG Mins draft.pdf*** — ***Page 20***

## 3.3 Neighbourhoods and Communities Committee held on 16 June 2026 - Circulated

***Attachment: 06.26 N&C Mins draft.pdf*** — ***Page 26***

## 3.4 Environment and Economy Committee held on 22 June 2026 - Circulated

***Attachment: 06-26 EE Mins draft.pdf*** — ***Page 31***

## 3.5 Audit and Scrutiny Committee held on 23 June 2026 - Circulated

***Attachment: 06-26 Audit Scrutiny Mins draft.pdf*** — ***Page 38***

## 4 POLICY FRAMEWORK AND BUDGET

## 5 STRATEGIC ISSUES

## 6 ITEMS FOR DECISION - OPEN COUNCIL

## 6.1 Street Renaming/Naming Update - Circulated (24.7.26)

***Attachment: Street Renaming Naming Report.pdf*** — ***Page 43***

## 6.2 Change in Position of Responsibility - Circulated

***Attachment: Change in Position of Responsbility.pdf*** — ***Page 46***

## 7 MOTIONS

## 7.1 Notice of Motion Proposed by Councillor A Skinner, seconded by Councillor L Gray

"This Council recognises the importance of keeping residents informed about local events, funding opportunities and council activity.

Council further recognises that while we operate as one borough, residents experience services and events at a local level, and communication is most effective when it reflects that reality.

We therefore call on officers to bring forward proposals for a series of opt in WhatsApp broadcast channels, allowing residents to subscribe to updates relevant to their area or interests.

This should include, for example, town specific event channels for Ballymena, Carrickfergus and Larne, alongside dedicated channels for business and community grant opportunities.

Any such approach should ensure full compliance with data protection requirements, taking account of the widespread use of similar communication methods by other public bodies and large organisations.

This approach would support more effective engagement by ensuring residents receive information that is timely, relevant and useful to them."

## 7.2 Notice of Motion Proposed by Alderman W McCaughey, seconded by Councillor R Lawrence

“This Council notes the increasing demands placed upon Shared Environmental Services (SES), both in terms of financial cost and officer resource, and recognises the significant pressure this places upon the ability of a single local authority to effectively administer and deliver the service.

Council further notes that SES, while hosted by Mid and East Antrim Borough Council to support local planning authorities in undertaking Habitat Regulations Assessments, is not a statutory or decision-making body and should not be treated as such.

Council expresses concern that changes to the way SES assesses agricultural and rural planning applications, together with significant delays in the provision of advice, are creating barriers to economic growth, investment, and necessary development across the rural economy. Council also recognises the vital role that SES plays in supporting planning processes and environmental compliance but, believes the current arrangements risk undermining confidence in the planning system and delaying the progression of rural businesses.”

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

1. Undertake a review of the current provision of Shared Environmental Services, including its associated costs, staffing implications, governance arrangements, accountability, political oversight and scrutiny requirements, and the impact of current service delivery on planning outcomes and economic development.

2. Reaffirm that advice and assessments provided by Shared Environmental Services are advisory in nature and are not determinative of Council planning decisions, which remain the responsibility of the relevant planning authority.

3. Reaffirm, in circumstances where an advisory body, including SES, fails to respond to a planning consultation within a prescribed timeframe, the planning authority may proceed to determine an application utilising its own authoritative powers.

4. Write to the other ten local councils in Northern Ireland seeking their support for a collective review of the role, remit, funding and operation of Shared Environmental Services, with a view to restoring effective accountability and oversight, preventing unnecessary delays, and ensuring that sustainable economic development, particularly within the rural economy, is not unnecessarily hindered."

## 8 SEALING

(i) Mid & East Antrim Borough Council -and- Knox & Clayton LLP (Mini Competition ICT Services for

Seven Towers Leisure Centre Refurbishment, condition report)

(ii) Mid & East Antrim Borough Council -and- Michael Herron Architects (ICT Services for Ballymena Civic Spaces, Fairhill and Springwell)

(iii) Mid & East Antrim Borough Council -and- WDR & RT Taggart (ICT Services for Cullybackey to Galgorm Greenway Project)

(iv) Mid & East Antrim Borough Council -and- McGurk Architects (Mini Competition ICT Services for Greenisland Trim Trail)

(v) Mid & East Antrim Borough Council -and- Nigel Jones Architects Ltd (Jones Ramage Robinson) (ICT Services for the Development of the Eglinton Yard & Barn, Glenarm)

(vi) Mid & East Antrim Borough Council -and- Design ID Consulting Ltd (ICT Services for the Braid River Walk)

(vii) Mid & East Antrim Borough Council -and- CivCo (Supply & Installation of Pop Up Build, 15 Main Street to 28 Point Street, Larne)

(viii) Mid & East Antrim Borough Council -and- GOSS Interactive Ltd (Provision of a Content Management System to manage and deliver website with expansion modules)

***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 Transfer of Encroached Lands at Waveney Road, Ballymena - Circulated

***Attachment: Council - Transfer of Encroached Lands at Waveney Rd.pdf*** ***Not included***

***Attachment: Appendix 1 - Draft Transfer Map - Waveney Road encroachment.pdf*** ***Not included***

***Attachment: Appendix 2 - Photos encroachment Waveney Road.pdf*** ***Not included***

***Attachment: Appendix 3 - Updated valuation -23 March 2026_Redacted.pdf*** ***Not included***

## 10.2 Sale of Freehold Property at the Former Caravan Site at Ecos Centre Ballymena - Circulated

***Attachment: Sale of freehold property at the former caravan site at Ecos Centre Ballymena.pdf*** ***Not included***

***Attachment: Appendix 1 - Report & Council approval 21.07.2025.pdf*** ***Not included***

***Attachment: Appendix 2 - Map of land at former caravan site at ECOS Centre,*** ***Not included***

Ballymena.pdf

*10.3* ***Purchase of Freehold Title from Department for Communities (DfC) for the c. 2.63 Acre Site at the junction of Kernohans Lane, Ballymena - Circulated***

***Attachment: Purchase of Freehold From DfC for site at junction of Kernohans Lane, Ballymena.pdf*** ***Not included***

***Attachment: Appendix 1 - Report & Council Approval 14.10.2024.pdf*** ***Not included***

***Attachment: Appendix 2 - Land at Kernohans Lane.pdf*** ***Not included***

## 10.4 Sale of land at Lisnafillon, Gracehill, Ballymena - Circulated

***Attachment: Sale of land at Lisnafillon, Gracehill, Ballymena.pdf*** ***Not included***

***Attachment: Appendix 1 - Map showing Council land to be sold.pdf*** ***Not included***

***Attachment: Appendix 2 - OKT valuation of land_Redacted.pdf*** ***Not included***

## 10.5 Contract Award - Small Scale Groundworks - Circulated

***Attachment: Contract Award - Small Scale Groundworks.pdf*** ***Not included***

## 10.6 Waste Harmonisation Project - Circulated

***Attachment: Waste Harmonisation Report.pdf*** ***Not included***

***Attachment: Appendix 1 Waste Harmonisation Timeline and Forward Plan.pdf*** ***Not included***

## OPEN COUNCIL

**MID AND EAST ANTRIM BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 8 June 2026 at 6.30pm in the Council Chamber, The Braid, 1-29 Bridge Street, Ballymena and via remote access**

| | |
|---|---|
| **In the Chair**: | Alderman T Gordon, Mayor |
| **Vice-Chair:** | Councillor B Carson-Ferris, Deputy Mayor |
| **Present**: | Alderman B Ashe<br>Alderman R Glover<br>Alderman W McCaughey<br>Alderman S McDonald<br>Alderman P Reid<br>Councillor M Armstrong<br>Councillor A Barr<br>Councillor R Beggs<br>Councillor M Donnelly<br>Councillor I Friary<br>Councillor J Gibson<br>Councillor L Gray<br>Councillor A Henry<br>Councillor T Hoey<br>Councillor P Johnston<br>Councillor R Lawrence<br>Councillor G McKeen<br>Councillor J Minford<br>Councillor L Philpott<br>Councillor A Rae<br>Councillor Mrs A Smyth<br>Councillor M Warwick |
| **Present remotely:** | Alderman Mrs M Morrow<br>Alderman A Wilson<br>Councillor A Clarke<br>Councillor M Collins<br>Councillor B Hadden<br>Councillor C Harwood<br>Councillor C Jamieson<br>Councillor B Lyness<br>Councillor J McKeown<br>Councillor R Quigley<br>Councillor A Skinner |
| **In Attendance**: | Mrs V Watts, Interim Chief Executive<br>Mr M McDowell, Director of People<br>Mr R Moore, Director of Place<br>Mr R Black, Director of Growth and Major Projects<br>Mrs S Williams, Assistant Director-Business Support |

| | |
|---|---|
| | Ms C Grant, Acting Corporate Solicitor<br>Mr S Sheils, Solicitor<br>Ms L McCloy, Policy, Performance and Partnership Manager<br>Mrs C McIntyre, Governance & Democratic Services Officer<br>Ms R Salt, Governance & Democratic Services Officer |
| **Press**: | There were no members of the press present |
| **Public:** | There were no members of the public present. |

| Item | Minute |
|---|---|
| **1.** | **FORMALITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** |
| **1.1** | **Notice of Meeting** |

The Interim Chief Executive read the Notice of Meeting.

The Mayor encouraged all Members to attend Standing Orders training on Thursday 11 June 2026 at 6.30pm to be delivered in the Chamber with the option to attend remotely. The Mayor also reminded Members to complete their Annual Member's checklist and Declaration of Interest form.

**1.2 Apologies**

Apologies were received from:

- Alderman R Logan

**1.3 Declarations of Interest**

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

There were no declarations of Interest received.

**1.4 Minutes of Council Meetings**

**1.4.1 Council Meeting held on 11 May 2026**

On the proposal of Councillor Gibson, seconded by Alderman McCaughey, it was

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 11 May 2026 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

**1.4.2 Annual Meeting held on 1 June 2026**

On the proposal of Councillor McKeen, seconded by Councillor Mrs Smyth, it was

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 1 June 2026 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

**1.5 Mayor's Announcements**

The Mayor expressed his sadness at the closure of McGroggans in Ballymena after over a century of trading and wished the owners and employees well.

The Mayor gave his congratulations to various people and businesses in the Borough, including:

- Peter McCauley, on the continued success of Nomadic Watches founded in Carrickfergus in 2021.
- Wrightbus on securing an additional order with Transport for Greater Manchester.
- Ella McDonald, making her professional boxing debut at the Waterfront Hall.
- Lacey and Kain Stewart, who recently travelled to Barnsley to compete in elite combat sports competition. Lacey, 12, was crowned WKO European K1 Novice Champion and Kain, 10, captured two European boxing titles.

The Mayor announced his chosen charities this year as NI Air Ambulance and Rural Support.

Councillor Philpott gave congratulations to Ballymena United FC Learning Disability team who won the final of the Inclusion League Cup against Orchardville Disability Football Club (DFC) Belfast.

Councillor Donnelly congratulated Larne Lions Football Squad on beating Glentoran in the final South Belfast Youth League (SBYL) Inclusion League Cup.

**2 QUESTIONS**

**2.1 Members**

There were no tabled questions received this month.

**2.2 Public**

There was one eligible public question submitted.

The Mayor read out the question on behalf of the Member of the Public and the Interim Chief Executive provided the answer.

Details of the accepted question and answer would be published within five working days on the Council website.

## 3 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

### 3.1 Planning Committee held on 14 May 2026

On the proposal of Councillor Rae, seconded by Councillor Mrs Smyth, it was

**RESOLVED**: To approve the adoption of the minutes and the noting of decisions taken under delegated authority and ratified recommendations as decisions of Council with the amendment of a typographical error at item 6.2.

### 3.2 Corporate Resources, Policy and Governance Committee held on 18 May 2026

On the proposal of Alderman McCaughey, seconded by Councillor McKeown, it was

**RESOLVED**: To approve the adoption of the minutes and the noting of decisions taken under delegated authority and ratified recommendations as decisions of Council.

### 3.3 Neighbourhoods and Communities Committee held on 19 May 2026

It was proposed by Councillor Warwick, seconded by Councillor Friary and

**RESOLVED**: To approve the adoption of the minutes and the noting of decisions taken under delegated authority and ratified recommendations as decisions of Council.

### 3.4 Audit and Scrutiny Committee held on 26 May 2026

On the proposal of Alderman Ashe, seconded by Councillor Henry, it was

**RESOLVED**: To approve the adoption of the minutes and the noting of decisions taken under delegated authority and ratified recommendations as decisions of Council.

### 3.5 Environment and Economy Committee held on 27 May 2026

On the proposal of Councillor A Clarke, seconded by Councillor Hadden, it was

**RESOLVED**: To approve the adoption of the minutes and the noting of decisions taken under delegated authority and ratified recommendations as decisions of Council.

## 4 POLICY FRAMEWORK AND BUDGET

### 4.1 Performance Improvement Plan 2026/27

Report previously circulated providing Members with the draft Performance Improvement Plan for 2026/27 for review and approval, prior to publication.

On the proposal of Alderman McCaughey, seconded by Councillor Gibson, it was

**RESOLVED**: To approve the draft Performance Improvement Plan for 2026/27, prior to publication before the statutory deadline of 30 June 2026.

### 4.2 Corporate Plan Update 2025/26

Report, previously circulated seeking approval of the Corporate Plan Update 2025/26.

On the proposal of Councillor McKeen, seconded by Councillor Carson-Ferris, it was

**RESOLVED**: To approve the Corporate Plan Update 2025/26.

## 5 STRATEGIC ISSUES

No items to consider.

## 6 ITEMS FOR DECISION - OPEN COUNCIL

### 6.1 Srebrenica 31st Anniversary Commemorations

Report, previously circulated, sought to present a draft response to correspondence from the Chair of Remembering Srebrenica for Members' approval.

A Member suggested that Council should not express support for either side of the conflict and discussion ensued.

On the proposal of Councillor Gibson, seconded by Councillor Friary, it was

**RESOLVED**: To approve the draft response and the actions contained therein.

## 7 MOTIONS

### 7.1 Notice of Motion Proposed by Councillor T Hoey, seconded by Councillor M Armstrong

In accordance with the notice on the agenda, it was proposed by Councillor Hoey;

This Council notes that:
Many residents, particularly those who are autistic, neurodivergent, or have sensory processing difficulties, can find busy public environments challenging. Simple sensory aids such as fidget toys and calming objects can help individuals regulate sensory overload and access public services with greater comfort and dignity.

This Council believes that:
Mid and East Antrim Borough Council should ensure its buildings are welcoming and accessible to everyone in our community, particularly those with hidden disabilities. Providing sensory supports is a small, low-cost step that can make a meaningful difference for families and individuals accessing council services.

This Council resolves to:
Request that officers assess the feasibility and modest cost of introducing sensory toy boxes in publicly accessible Council-owned buildings, and report back with recommendations for implementation in order to improve accessibility and inclusion across the borough."

Councillor Armstrong sought Councillor Hoey's agreement to add the words "to engage with business owners across the Borough"; this was accepted by Councillor Hoey.

Councillor Donnelly sought Councillor Hoey's agreement to add the words "to provide costings of sensory rooms in leisure centres."

Councillor Hoey, with the agreement of his seconder accepted this, subject to Officers bringing the costings back for decision.

There was broad support for the motion, with Members reiterating that it would be relatively inexpensive and a worthwhile investment.

**RESOLVED**: That the amended motion was carried:

"This Council notes that:
Many residents, particularly those who are autistic, neurodivergent, or have sensory processing difficulties, can find busy public environments challenging. Simple sensory aids such as fidget toys and calming objects can help individuals regulate sensory overload and access public services with greater comfort and dignity.

This Council believes that:
Mid and East Antrim Borough Council should ensure its buildings are welcoming and accessible to everyone in our community, particularly those with hidden disabilities. Providing sensory supports is a small, low-cost step that can make a meaningful difference for families and individuals accessing council services.

This Council resolves to:

Request that officers assess the feasibility and modest cost of introducing sensory toy boxes and sensory rooms in publicly accessible Council-owned buildings, including leisure centres, and engage with business owners across the borough, and report back with costings and recommendations for implementation in order to improve accessibility and inclusion across the borough."

Officers to take the proposal forward with the relevant financial and equality assessment, and that this comes back to a future Council meeting for a final decision on implementation.

**7.2 Notice of Motion Proposed by Councillor A Smyth, Seconded by Councillor M Collins**

In accordance with the notice on the agenda, it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Smyth and seconded by Councillor Collins;

"That this Council recognises the importance of accessible summer scheme provision for children and young people with Special Educational Needs, particularly those with complex needs who benefit from structured activities and familiar support during the school holiday period.

Council notes that many families rely on such schemes for both support and respite, yet access to appropriate provision can be limited.

Accordingly, Council agrees to request that officers undertake a review of current SEN summer scheme provision across the Borough, including Council-supported, school-based and community schemes, and engage with parents, carers and local organisations to identify gaps and barriers to participation.

Council further agrees to engage with other councils across Northern Ireland to identify best practice in delivering inclusive summer provision and to report back with recommendations on how Mid and East Antrim Borough Council can strengthen and expand opportunities, ensuring that our most vulnerable children and young people are supported and included."

Members expressed their support for the motion, with one Member wishing to draw attention to the work of the Inclusion and Equality Committee who recently secured grants to run activities over the summer.

**RESOLVED**: That the motion was carried.

Officers to take the proposal forward with the relevant financial and equality assessment, and that this comes back to a future Council meeting for a final decision on implementation.

**8 SEALING**

(i) Mid & East Antrim Borough Council -and- Work Connections (Department for Communities fully funded project - Labour Market Partnership Action Plan 2025-2027)

(ii) Mid and East Antrim Borough Council -and- Arlingclose Ltd (Treasury Management Services)

It was proposed by Councillor Warwick, seconded by Councillor Beggs, and

**RESOLVED:** To approve that Council authorise the Mayor and the Interim Chief Executive to execute and seal the documents.

On the proposal of Alderman Reid and seconded by Alderman Glover, it was

**RESOLVED**: that the Meeting goes into Closed Council.

In accordance with Council Section 42(4) of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2024 and Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act members of the Press and the public were excluded for this section of the Meeting. The Mayor reminded Members that business discussed in Closed Council should remain confidential.

**9 STRATEGIC ISSUES – CLOSED**

There were no strategic items this month

**10 ITEM FOR DECISION – CLOSED**

**10.1 Update on Title issues with the Radar Tower, Carrickfergus**

The item was restricted as information fell under the prescribed exemptions: Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information)

Paragraph 2 Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual

Paragraph 5 Legal Professional Privilege Applies

The report will become unrestricted from publication sometime in the future.

Report previously circulated, updating Members on the legal position with the Radar Tower, Carrickfergus further to the report to Council in January 2026.

Members discussed the complications, noting that this was a complex matter involving a listed building and it was

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**RESOLVED:** To note the updated position.

On the proposal of Councillor Beggs and seconded by Alderman Reid, it was

**RESOLVED**: That the Meeting goes into Open Council.

The Mayor thanked everyone for their time.

The Meeting ended at 7.35pm.

-------------------------------------------------------- Mayor

-------------------------------------------------------- Interim Chief Executive

-------------------------------------------------------- Date

**MID AND EAST ANTRIM BOROUGH COUNCIL**
**PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 11 June 2026 at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, The Braid, 1-29 Bridge Street, Ballymena and via remote access**

| | |
|---|---|
| **In the Chair**: | Councillor A Barr |
| **Vice Chair**: | Councillor J McKeown |
| **Present**: | Alderman R Glover<br>Alderman T Gordon<br>Alderman R Logan<br>Alderman S McDonald<br>Alderman P Reid<br>Councillor T Hoey<br>Councillor J Minford<br>Councillor A Rae |
| **Present remotely:** | Councillor Mrs A Smyth |
| **In Attendance**: | Mr R Moore, Director of Place<br>Mr K Patterson, Acting Head of Planning & Building Control<br>Mr G McGuinness, Principal Planning Officer<br>Mr H McAlister, Senior Planning Officer<br>Mr S Shiels, Solicitor<br>Mr S O'Kane, Senior Planning Officer (observing)<br>Ms F McLernon, Office Manager, Planning and Building Control<br>Ms C Connor, Governance & Democratic Services Officer<br>Mrs C McIntyre, Governance & Democratic Services Officer |
| **Also in attendance:** | Councillor B Thompson<br>Councillor M Armstrong<br>Mr D Monaghan (MBA Planning, Agent)<br>Mr R Agus (Transport Consultant, MBA Planning)<br>Mr D McLaughlin (Architect, MBA Planning)<br>Ms R Orr (Community representative) |
| **Also in attendance remotely:** | Mr T Stokes, TSA Planning<br>Ms S McAvoy, TSA Planning |
| **Public:** | 14 members of the public were present |
| **Press:** | No members of the press were present. |

**ITEM MINUTE**

**1 Notice of Meeting**

Members were advised that the meeting would be audio recorded and broadcast live on Council's website.

Those who had registered speaking rights would be given an opportunity to address the Committee in person or remotely.

Each Member and Officer introduced themselves.

The Director of Place read the Notice of Meeting.

**2 Apologies**

Apologies were received from:
Councillor A Skinner

**3 Declarations of Interest**

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

There were no declarations of interest.

**4 Schedule of Planning Applications**

**4.1 Planning Application No. LA02/2026/0294/F – replacement of the existing natural grass surface within the main arena with a high-performance 3G / hybrid full-size pitch system at Ballymena Showgrounds, 30 St Patricks Link, Ballymena, BT43 7FU.**

The Senior Planning Officer introduced the Planning Report by way of visual aid presentation to the Committee and advised that, as Mid and East Antrim Borough Council was the applicant, the proposal must be determined by the Planning Committee.

The Officer provided an overview of the site location and its context within the already established sports facility. He confirmed that all consultees listed in the report had been consulted with during the determination process and had raised no objections subject to conditions.

The Officer further advised that the proposal complied with all relevant policies outlined in the report and on that basis recommended approval of the application subject to the conditions outlined in the report

It was proposed by Councillor Hoey seconded by Councillor Minford, to approve the application.

The Chair put the motion to the vote.

Voting on the proposal was as follows –

| For | Against | Abstain |
|---|---|---|
| 11 | 0 | 0 |

**RESOLVED**: to approve Planning Application No. LA02/2026/0294/F – Replacement of the existing natural grass surface within the main arena with a high-performance 3G / hybrid full-size pitch system at Ballymena Showgrounds, 30 St Patricks Link, Ballymena, BT43 7FU in accordance with the Officers' recommendation to approve, subject to the conditions outlined in the report.

**4.2 Planning Application No. LA02/2025/0907/O - Residential development comprising 28 dwellings and associated features on Land 160 metres south-east of No 19 Dunluce Park, Ballymena.**

The Principal Planning Officer introduced the Planning Report by way of visual aid presentation to the Committee and gave an overview of the site location and surrounding context. He advised that this was an outline application and therefore sought approval for the principle of the development rather than the detailed design.

The indicative layout was for illustrative purposes only and the planning authority considered the proposed concept to be acceptable as it reflected the character of the existing and approved residential development within the surrounding area. It was further noted that an area of open space had been incorporated between the proposed development and the River Braid taking account the flood risk considerations.

The Officer advised that detailed consideration of design was not possible at outline application stage but would be assessed at subsequent reserved matters stage and explained that the indicative layout had been reviewed and considered acceptable in principle. He further explained that the proposed pumping station would be subject to detailed assessment at the reserved matters stage, including consideration by the Council's Environmental Health department to ensure that any potential impacts relating to noise and odour would be appropriately addressed.

The Officer confirmed that no objections had been received from consultees, subject to planning conditions and that the proposed development lay outside the flood plain as defined by Department for Infrastructure (DfI) Rivers.

Six letters of objections had been received and one petition with over 800 signatures. Concerns raised were relating to road safety, capacity, flood risk and the loss of open space. The Officer advised that these matters had been fully considered and addressed within the report.

To conclude, the Officer informed that the Planning authority had considered the development to be acceptable and was therefore recommending that planning permission be granted subject to conditions.

Mr Monaghan (Agent) from MBA Planning spoke in support of the Officer's recommendation and provided an overview of the proposed development, including the site layout and location. He advised that an illustrative site layout plan had been submitted showing how the site could be sensitively developed. With the key feature being the Braid River, the application documents confirmed that it would be protected with access improved. A green space buffer would be provided between the development and the river, and the proposed dwellings would be set further back from the river than existing properties. He further advised that the proposal included a new parking layby within the site to address existing on-street parking associated with River access walkway from Dunluce Park, as well as a new pedestrian link to the river.

An ecological appraisal and a construction and environmental management plan had been submitted with the application outlining measures to protect the river. No objections were received from the Environment Agency or Shared Environmental Services. It was also noted that NI Water had approved the scheme following storm water offsetting which had freed up capacity for the proposal. A wastewater pumping station had been proposed and the required separation distances from nearby dwellings, as specified by NI Water, would be achieved.

DfI Rivers raised no objections, noting that no development was proposed within the floodplain. It was confirmed that sustainable drainage measures would be implemented to ensure that surface water run-off was maintained at existing greenfield rates, thereby avoiding any increase in flood risk.
In relation to roads infrastructure, junction modelling has been undertaken which demonstrated that the existing road network had the capacity to accommodate the predicted increase in traffic. DfI Roads offered no objection to the proposal.

Mr Agus, (transport Planner) and Mr McLaughlin (architect) made themselves available to answer questions.

In response to a Member's question, Mr Agus confirmed that DfI Roads were happy with the safety and volume of traffic in the area. He advised that, while such detailed assessment was typically only required for developments of 100 dwellings or more, DfI Roads had requested that traffic in the area be analysed in greater detail.  Traffic Counts subsequently undertaken on Dunluce Park, taking into account existing dwellings. The resulting computer modelling demonstrated that there was sufficient capacity within the network to accommodate the proposed development.

Mr Monaghan confirmed that there would be no loss of open space. advising that the land within the development limit was classified as agricultural land rather than designated open space. He noted that the proposal included a substantial area of open space within the site, located adjacent to the river, with a direct link to the Braid River walkway and the provision of a parking lay-by, thereby enhancing access to the area. He also confirmed that no development was proposed within the floodplain.

In response to a query regarding Roads, Mr Agus advised that following a request to consider a layby adjacent to Dunluce Park, the applicant was currently in discussions with the Department for Communities (DfC) regarding the matter. He emphasised that this element did not form part of the current application but was being explored by the applicant to help address concerns raised by residents. He further noted that a parking layby was included within the proposed development which would assist in addressing existing parking issues.

Mr Agus advised that the level of assessment typically required for developments of 100 dwellings had been undertaken in this instance, including consideration of the intensification of traffic on Dunluce Park. He also informed Members that existing traffic calming measures were in place along the road, including a low-speed bend. Speed surveys had been carried out, and extensive work had been undertaken to provide DfI Roads with the necessary information to confirm that the proposal was acceptable in terms of road safety.

In response to a Member's query, Mr Monaghan advised that there had been substantial engagement with residents and Elected representatives, including a pre-application community consultation carried out. Two public events were held, and letters distributed to residents of Dunluce Park and surrounding streets. The events were advertised on the website and in newspapers. Local Councillors were invited via email.

Mr Monaghan also clarified that, in accordance with Policy HOU5, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) was consulted as part of the application process and identified both a social housing need and an intermediate housing need in the area. He advised that, should planning permission be granted, the applicant would engage further with NIHE, and the subsequent reserved matters application would include provision for affordable housing. The extent of this provision would be informed by the level of identified need at that time.

Mr Monaghan confirmed that several existing dwellings were located closer to the river than any of the proposed houses.

Mr Monaghan advised that the current evening peak traffic was 111

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vehicles, with an anticipated increase of 22 vehicles associated with the proposal. The morning peak was presently 127 vehicles, with a projected increase of 28 vehicles.

Ms Orr speaking on behalf of the Stop the Build Community Group, Dunluce Park residents, petition signatories and the wider community who would be directly affected by the proposal, addressed the Committee in opposition to the Officer's recommendation. She outlined concerns regarding the increase in volume of traffic through the streets of the estate originally designed to accommodate 130 houses and not to function as a through road to a major construction site.

She emphasised that the roads were used daily by elderly residents, families, children, and those accessing the nearby river walkway. The proposed development, she stated, would result in both construction and domestic traffic being routed through residential streets, thereby compromising safety and adversely impacting the health and wellbeing of residents.

Ms Orr also expressed concern that there may be longer-term intentions to develop the surrounding lands for additional housing, citing the pattern of recent land acquisitions as indicative of this. She warned that such development would place further strain on local roads, infrastructure, and the River Braid. She noted that the community had consistently and strongly opposed further housing development in this area since the 1980s.

In addition, she raised concerns regarding recent flooding of the River Braid and highlighted the presence of a wide variety of protected wildlife species in and around the river. She further stated that trees had been removed in connection with the development.

While acknowledging the need for additional housing, Ms Orr emphasised that such development should be located in areas with sufficient infrastructure capacity, where flood risk and environmental degradation would not be exacerbated. She expressed concern regarding the potential impact of a pumping station, the loss of green space, and the displacement of wildlife.

Ms Orr concluded by thanking the Committee and requested that Elected Members reject the proposal in order to preserve the River Braid and the surrounding land for the benefit of the community, wildlife, and future generations.

In response to Members' queries Ms Orr advised that a professional engineer had not been commissioned to discredit the Officer report. However, she emphasised that residents across the estate had consistently raised concerns regarding the volume of traffic, the associated dangers, and the increased risk of accidents. She added that further speed reduction measures would not reduce road safety as the issue was with

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volume of traffic.

She also confirmed that no formal survey had been undertaken in relation to badgers and existing wildlife. However, she noted that badgers had been observed on the site and that an ancient sett was believed to have been present on the site. Due to a lack of funding, she requested that the Council consider supporting an environmental assessment on behalf of the residents. She further invited all Members of the Council to visit the site and meet with residents in order to witness first-hand the concerns and potential dangers.

Although acknowledging the river walk itself would not be affected by the development, she emphasised that the surrounding green space would be affected by further building in the area. She added that she did not have all the details or figures to answer questions regarding green space but explained that residents would see large areas of land slowly eroding.

In response to a query regarding flooding, Ms Orr clarified that while properties themselves had not been directly flooded, floodwater did encroach onto Dunluce Park, with recreational seating having been submerged. She noted that home insurance premiums had been adversely affected as a result and further construction would affect the water flow and habitat in the area.

In response to a query from a Member, the Officer advised that consideration could only be given to the recommendations provided by DfI Roads. He noted that additional information requested by DfI Roads had been submitted by the applicant and was subsequently deemed acceptable. The Officer also confirmed that the land associated with Phase 3 of the development was designated as 'white land' and housing development was therefore permitted.

The Officer advised with reluctance that a condition could be added at the reserved matters stage to restrict construction traffic accessing the site at certain times, provided such a restriction was considered reasonable. The Acting Head of Planning further confirmed that this could be considered at the next stage.

The Officer informed that he was not aware of any recommendations made by DfI for additional junctions within the site. He further added that the applicant had exceeded the typical requirements for development of this size and that DfI Roads were satisfied with the proposal.

It was proposed by Alderman Reid, seconded Alderman Logan to approve the application and a recorded vote was requested by Alderman McDonald.

| For (9) | Against (2) | Abstention (0) |
|---|---|---|
| Aldermen: P Reid, T Gordon, R Glover, R Logan, Councillors: A Rae, T Hoey, Mrs A Smyth, J Minford, J McKeown | Alderman: S McDonald Councillor: A Barr | |

The Chair declared the proposal approved.

**RESOLVED**; to approve Planning Application No. LA02/2025/0907/O - Land 160 metres south-east of No 19 Dunluce Park, Ballymena for residential development comprising 28 dwellings and associated features.

All Members of the public left the meeting at 10.50am.

Mr Monaghan, Mr Agus, Mr McLaughlin and Mrs Orr left the meeting at 10.50am.

**4.3 Planning Application No. LA02/2025/0959/RM - Erection of a residential development for 96 no. residential units, comprising 17no. detached dwellings, 58no. semi-detached, 6no. townhouses, 2no. bungalows, 4no. maisonettes and 9no. apartments with open space and all associated infrastructure and site works at lands immediately adjacent to the rear and southwest of Nos 92-105 Blackthorn Rise, Larne.**

The Principal Planning Officer presented the Planning Report to the Committee using visual aids, providing an overview of the site location and its surrounding context. It was noted that the reserved matters application follows on from outline Planning permission LA02/2018/0050 which established the principle of residential development and formed part a wider master plan for housing zoned lands in this area of Larne.

The Officer advised that all statutory consultees had raised no objections subject to conditions within the report. In particular, NI Water confirmed they were content with the proposal, noting the applicant's intention to provide an on-site wastewater treatment solution, which remained subject to approval by NIEA. He further confirmed that the required traffic signal works at Donaghy's Lane would be delivered in accordance with the relevant planning condition.

In relation to Policy HOU1 (Quality in New Residential Developments), the Planning Authority considered that the proposed development complied with the requirements of the policy.

Objections received raised concerns including overdevelopment, loss of views, impacts on biodiversity, and effects on the road network. These matters were fully considered and addressed through the relevant policy assessments.

The Principal Planning Officer recommended that planning permission be granted subject to conditions.

Mr Stokes (MBA Planning) who was in attendance to answer questions in support of the Officer's recommendation, advised that open spaces on the proposed development would be completed in a phased manner. The Principal Planning Officer added that all soft and hard landscaping should be completed on the commencement of the development or before occupation of the first residential unit. He further added that the signalisation of Donaghy's lane would be likely to commence towards the end of 2027 when the trigger of 150 houses was reached.

The Principal Planning Officer confirmed that the trigger of 150 units was a strict condition for the timeframe to complete signalisation, and he didn't envisage there would be any problem reaching this.

It was proposed by Alderman Reid seconded by Councillor McKeown to approve the application.

The Chair put the motion to the vote.

Voting on the proposal was as follows –

| **For** | **Against** | **Abstain** |
|---|---|---|
| 11 | 0 | 0 |

**RESOLVED**: to approve Planning Application No. LA02/2025/0959/RM - Lands immediately adjacent to the rear and southwest of Nos 92-105 Blackthorn Rise, Larne. Erection of a residential development for 96 no. residential units, comprising 17no. detached dwellings, 58no. semi-detached, 6no. townhouses, 2no. bungalows, 4no. maisonettes and 9no. apartments with open space and all associated infrastructure and site works.

**5 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

There were no plans for consideration.

**6 PLANNING APPEALS UPDATE**

**6.1 New Appeals**

One new planning appeal submission was presented for noting:

- LA02/2025/0580/F - 49 Waveney Road, Ballymena, BT43 5BB – Change of use from 4 bed dwelling to 5 bed / 5 person HMO.

**RESOLVED**: to note the new appeal submission to the Planning Appeals Commission.

**6.2 Appeal Decisions**

There were no new appeals decisions.

**RESOLVED:** to note that there were no new appeal decisions.

**7 CORRESPONDENCE**

**7.1 NILGA letter to Chairs of Planning Committees**

With reference to the NILGA letter to Chairs of Planning Committees previously circulated, the Chair sought a nominee from the Committee to attend an engagement event with the Minister for Infrastructure.

**RESOLVED:** that Councillor Rae would attend the engagement event with the Minister for Infrastructure as outlined in the correspondence from NILGA.

The meeting ended at 11.04 am.

------------------------------------------------- Mayor

------------------------------------------------- Interim Chief Executive

------------------------------------------------- Date

**MID AND EAST ANTRIM BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CORPORATE RESOURCES, POLICY & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 15 June 2026 at 6.30pm**
**in the Council Chamber, The Braid, 1-29 Bridge Street, Ballymena**
**and via remote access**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Chair:** | Councillor G McKeen |
| **Vice Chair:** | Councillor R Quigley |
| **Present:** | Alderman R Glover<br>Alderman W McCaughey<br>Councillor B Carson-Ferris<br>Councillor C Harwood<br>Councillor T Hoey<br>Councillor C Jamieson<br>Councillor B Thompson |
| **Present remotely:** | Councillor R Beggs<br>Councillor A Clarke<br>Councillor M Collins<br>Councillor M Donnelly<br>Councillor J Gibson<br>Councillor L Gray<br>Councillor A Henry<br>Councillor B Lyness |
| **In Attendance:** | Ms L Donnan, Interim Director of Corporate Services<br>Ms M Hegarty, Assistant Director-Finance<br>Ms C Grant, Acting Corporate Solicitor<br>Mrs L Kerr, Information Governance Manager and DPO<br>Ms LJ McCloy, Policy, Performance & Partnership Manager<br>Mr J McGrandle, Programme Director<br>Mr P McKinney, Customer Service & Digital Strategy Manager<br>Mrs C McIntyre, Governance & Democratic Services Officer |
| **Press:** | No members of the press were in attendance. |
| **Public:** | No members of the public were in attendance. |

**ITEM MINUTE**

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

**1 Notice of Meeting**

The Interim Director of Corporate Services read the Notice of Meeting.

The Chair extended his thanks on behalf of Council to the Interim Director of Corporate Services in her last meeting, noting the significant improvements achieved during her tenure.

**2 Apologies**

Apologies were received from:

Councillor Armstrong

**3 Declarations of Interest**

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

No declarations were received.

**4 ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION / DECISION**

**4.1 Review of Information Governance Policies**

Report and policies, previously circulated, which sought approval of renewal of Council's Information Governance policies following a review exercise.

It was proposed by Councillor Carson-Ferris, seconded by Alderman McCaughey and

**RESOLVED**: To approve the amended policy documents for implementation and publication on Council's website.

**4.2 Social Value in Procurement - Policy Development Update**

Report, previously circulated, which updated on emerging social value requirements across Northern Ireland and the UK and sought approval to progress with the development of a Council Social Value Policy.

The Programme Director answered Members' queries in relation to the timescale of implementation of a Policy following initial consultation with Members, stakeholders, (Small and Medium-sized Enterprises) SMEs, other Councils/public bodies and stakeholders and assured that the provision of adequate education and upskilling for Officers would be considered within the Policy.

It was proposed by Alderman McCaughey, seconded by Councillor Gibson and

**RESOLVED**: To
(i) note the update in this report
(ii) approve that officers progress the development of a Social Value Procurement Policy for future consideration.

Councillor Gray entered the meeting remotely at 6.40pm.

**4.3 Performance Improvement Plan 2025/26 Year-End Report**

The report, previously circulated, provided an update of the Performance Improvement Plan 2025/26 Year-End for scrutiny and approval to publish on the Council's website.

The Policy, Performance and Partnership Manager undertook to respond to Members' queries following the meeting in relation to the number of participants in events related to the Objective: 'People: We will help to prevent violence against women and girls' for the 2025/26 period and to consider measures within current business planning for the 2026/27 period which could be implemented to assess the Borough's economic performance.

It was proposed by Councillor Harwood, seconded by Alderman Glover, and

**RESOLVED**: To approve the Performance Improvement Plan 2025/26 Year-End Report to publish on Council's website.

**4.4 Extension of Equality and Diisability Action Plans**

The report, previously circulated, sought approval to extend Council's current Equality and Disability action plans by one year to align with the development of the next Corporate Plan.

In response to a Member's query, the Policy, Performance and Partnership Manager confirmed that upcoming associated action plans would be prepared in advance to progress in line with the development of the next Corporate Plan.

It was proposed by Alderman McCaughey, seconded by Councillor Carson-Ferris and

**RESOLVED:** To approve the extension of the current Equality and Disability action plans by one year to align with the development of the next Corporate Plan.

**4.5 Public Consultation Briefing**

Report previously circulated, which updated on the public consultations in which Council was involved, namely:
(a) those where the Council is a stakeholder and submitting a response; and
(b) those where the Council is responsible for conducting the consultation.

**RESOLVED**: To note the content of the consultation summary report.

**4.6 Quarterly Complaints Report – Q4: January – March 2026**

Report, previously circulated, that Committee note the quarterly overview of the complaints processed by Council during Quarter 4 of 2025/26 ie between 1 January 2026 and 31 March 2026.

**RESOLVED:** To note the overview of the complaints processed by Council during Quarter 4 between 1 January 2026 and 31 March 2026.

**4.7 Fraud & Bribery Policy and Fraud Response Plan**

The Assistant Director-Finance provided a summary of the report, previously circulated, to seek approval for the updated Fraud and Bribery Policy and the accompanying Fraud Response Plan. She highlighted the proposed policy duration of three years, noting that the policy had historically been reviewed annually, with the understanding that it would be amended earlier if required.

It was proposed by Alderman McCaughey, seconded by Councillor Harwood and

**RESOLVED:** To approve the updated Fraud and Bribery Policy and Fraud Response Plan.

**4.8 Modern Slavery Act: Transparency Statement for the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 and Action Plan**

Report, previously circulated, to update on the proposed publication of a Modern Slavery Transparency Statement by Council for the year 2025/26 and an action plan for the period 2026/27.

The Chair noted that Members were requested to approve the draft Statement and that the appointment of a Lead Officer would be considered by the Senior Management Team.

It was proposed by Councillor Hoey, seconded by Councillor Thompson and

**RESOLVED**: To approve the draft Modern Slavery Transparency Statement for the period 2025/2026 and that a Lead Officer would be appointed by the Senior Management Team.

**4.9 Update on Notices of Motion**

Report, previously circulated, to update on the progress of Notices of Motion from 2022 to 30 March 2026.

The Chair noted a further update to the Motion related to raising awareness of the 'Nip it in the Bud' Campaign, agreed on 1 September 2025, which was being progressed by the Communications Team via a social media campaign.

The Interim Director of Corporate Services responded to provide updates in relation to a number of Motions and confirmed to amend the typographical error to the Motion agreed on 1 September 2025 on the vital role of trees to read that Councillor Johnston proposed and Councillor Gray seconded this.

**RESOLVED:** To note the update on progress of Notices of Motions from 2022 to 30 March 2026 and to amend the typographical error to the Motion agreed on 1 September 2025 on the vital role of trees to read that Councillor Johnston proposed and Councillor Gray seconded this.

**4.10 Councillor Development Charter Sub Committee**

Report, previously circulated, to present for information the notes from the Councillor Development Charter Sub Committee Meetings held on 23 April and 28 May 2026.

**RESOLVED:** To note the minutes of the Councillor Development Charter Sub Committee meetings held on 23 April 2026 and 28 May 2026.

**5 ITEM FOR RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL**

None

**6 TABLED QUESTIONS**

No questions had been submitted.

**The information contained in the reports associated with the following items was restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.**

It was proposed by Alderman Glover, seconded by Councillor Thompson and

**RESOLVED**: That the Meeting goes into Closed Committee.

In accordance with Council policy, members of the press and the public were not in attendance for this section of the Meeting.

## 7 ITEM FOR CONSIDERATION/DECISION – CLOSED COMMITTEE

### 7.1 Procurement Update

The item was restricted as information fell under the prescribed exemptions: Local Government Act (NI) 2014, Schedule 6, Part 1, Paragraph 3 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information) (commercially sensitive information).

The report would never become unrestricted from publication.

Report, circulated, updating Members of the outcomes of Tenders, Direct Award Contracts (DACs) and contracts awarded through Framework Agreements for the period 9 May 2026 to 5 June 2026.

**RESOLVED:** To note the appointments made in the report.

## 8 ITEMS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL – CLOSED COMMITTEE

None

**OPEN COMMITTEE**

It was proposed by Alderman Glover, seconded by Councillor Thompson, and

**RESOLVED:** That the Meeting returns to Open Committee.

## 9 FORWARD PLAN FOR CORPORATE RESOURCES, POLICY AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Members noted the Agenda for the next Committee Meeting to be held on 3 August 2026 and the Forward Plan for the Committee.

The Chair thanked all for their participation and contribution to the meeting and extended best wishes to the Interim Director of Corporate Services.

The Meeting ended at 6.59pm.

............................................................ Mayor

............................................................ Interim Chief Executive

............................................................ Date

**MID AND EAST ANTRIM BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**NEIGHBOURHOODS AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 16 June 2026 at 6.30pm in the Council Chamber, The Braid, 1-29 Bridge Street, Ballymena and via remote access**

| | |
|---|---|
| **In the Chair**: | Alderman B Ashe (Chair) |
| **Present**: | Councillor L Gray (Vice Chair)<br>Alderman R Glover<br>Councillor I Friary<br>Councillor T Hoey<br>Councillor R Lawrence<br>Councillor J Minford<br>Councillor A Rea<br>Councillor B Thompson |
| **Present remotely:** | Alderman Mrs M Morrow<br>Councillor M Armstrong<br>Councillor M Collins<br>Councillor B Carson-Ferris<br>Councillor J Gibson<br>Councillor B Lyness<br>Councillor G McKeen<br>Councillor Mrs A Smyth<br>Councillor M Warwick |
| **Attendance**: | Mr M McDowell, Director of People<br>Mr R Moore, Director of Place<br>Mr C Kennedy, Environmental Health Manager<br>Ms C Black, Acting Head of Community Planning<br>Mrs G Carmichael, Governance and Democratic Services Officer |
| **In Attendance remotely:** | Mr J McVeigh, Assistant Director - Capital |
| **Press:** | No members of the press were present. |
| **Public:** | No members of the public were in attendance. |

| ITEM | MINUTE |
|---|---|
| **1** | **NOTICE OF MEETING** |

The Director of People read the Notice of Meeting.

**2 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from:

Councillor M Donnelly

**3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**4 ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION / DECISION**

**4.1 Consultation response on Animal Welfare Policy Reform Proposals**

Report previously circulated advising that DAERA had launched a public consultation on proposed reforms to animal welfare policy in Northern Ireland and sought approval on the draft response to the consultation.

Members voiced their concerns regarding the additional workload to Council without the additional funding or resources from DAERA.

Following a request from the Chair, the Environmental Health Manager agreed to provide an analysis of costs based on 2015 compared to the cost of the additional workload being proposed.

It was proposed by Councillor McKeen, seconded by Councillor Minford, and

**RESOLVED:** to approve the draft response for the DAERA public consultation on proposed reforms to animal welfare policy.

Councillors Gibson and Gray voiced their opposition.

**4.2 Tobacco and Vapes Act 2026**

Report circulated, which outlined the key provisions of the enactment of the Tobacco and Vapes Act, and its implementation arrangements in Northern Ireland.

In response to the Chair, the Environmental Health Manager advised that the additional work would be carried out by current staff.

**RESOLVED:** To note the enactment of the Tobacco and Vapes Act and the key provisions and implementation arrangements.

**4.3 Registration of Skin Piercing Businesses**

Report previously circulated seeking approval for the registration of one business under the Council's Skin Piercing Bye Laws.

The Environmental Health Manager advised Members that the premises had been inspected by staff and was happy to recommend approval.

It was proposed by Councillor Hoey, seconded by Councillor Thompson, and

**RESOLVED:** To grant approval to register the following business under the Council's Skin Piercing Byelaws:

(i) Darren Kerr, Sinjin Ink, Unit 4 Raceview Mill, 29 Raceview Road, Broughshane – for the business of tattooing.

**5 ITEMS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL**

There were no items for recommendation to Council.

**6 TABLED QUESTIONS**

There were no tabled questions.

**The information contained in the reports associated with the following items is restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.**

It was proposed by Alderman Glover, seconded by Councillor Rae and:

**RESOLVED:** That the Meeting goes into Closed Committee.

In accordance with Council policy, members of the press and the public were not in attendance for this section of the Meeting.

**7 ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION / DECISION – CLOSED COMMITTEE**

**7.1 Business Case Approval – Play Park Investment 2026/27 – Castleview Play Park, Whitehead**

The item was restricted as information fell under the prescribed exemptions: -

Local Government Act (NI), 2014, Schedule 6, Part 1, Paragraph 3 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

If restricted from publication, the report would become unrestricted: Sometime in the future

Report previously circulated which sought approval of the Business Case for the refurbishment of Castleview Play Park, Whitehead.

It was proposed by Councillor McKeen, seconded by Alderman Glover and

**RESOLVED:** To approve the Business Case of Castleview Play Park refurbishment.

**7.2 Reset and Recovery – Update and Procurement of a Strategic Partner**

The item was restricted as information fell under the prescribed exemptions:

Local Government Act (NI), 2014, Schedule 6, Part 1, Paragraph 3 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

If restricted from publication, the report will become unrestricted: Never

Report previously circulated, which provided an update on the activity of the Reset and Recovery Plan following the public disorder during June 2025. The report also sought approval to commence procurement and appointment of an Independent strategic partner, to support the development of a Reset and Cohesion Framework.

Members discussed their views and opinions on the disturbances in June 2025 and received clarification from the Officers on the following:

- Funding for the appointment;
- Framework to be borough-wide and would include Officer engagement
- A breakdown of stakeholder engagement
- Housing to be included in the framework
- Monitoring and measuring success of the framework.

The Director also confirmed that regular updates would be brought to the Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor McKeen, seconded by Councillor Gibson and

**RESOLVED:** To

(i) Note the activity relating to the Reset and Recovery Plan following the public disorder of June 2025, and
(ii) Approve to commence procurement and appointment of an independent strategic partner to support the development of a Reset and Cohesion Framework.

Councillors Armstrong and Warwick voiced their opposition.

**OPEN COMMITTEE**

It was proposed by Alderman Glover, seconded by Councillor Rea, and

**RESOLVED:** That the meeting returns to Open Committee.

**8 FORWARD PLAN FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE**

Committee noted the circulated forward plan for the Committee and Agenda for the next meeting on 4 August 2026.

The meeting ended at 6.56pm.

------------------------------------------------------------ Mayor

------------------------------------------------------------ Interim Chief Executive

------------------------------------------------------------ Date

# MID AND EAST ANTRIM BOROUGH COUNCIL

## ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY COMMITTEE

**Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 22 June 2026 at 6.30pm in the Council Chamber, The Braid, 1-29 Bridge Street, Ballymena and via remote access**

**In the Chair**: Alderman A Wilson

**Present**:
Alderman B Ashe
Alderman R Logan
Alderman W McCaughey
Councillor J Gibson
Councillor B Hadden
Councillor P Johnston
Councillor G McKeen
Councillor J McKeown
Councillor A Skinner (Vice-Chair)
Councillor M Warwick

**Present remotely:**
Alderman M Morrow
Councillor A Clarke
Councillor M Collins
Councillor C Harwood

**In attendance**:
Mr R Black, Director of Growth & Major Projects
Mrs U O'Loughlin, Assistant Director
Mr J McGrandle, Programme Director
Ms C Hunter, Acting Climate Change & Sustainability Manager
Mr A Oliver, Car Park Manager
Ms R Salt, Governance and Democratic Services Officer

**In attendance remotely**: Mr R Moore, Director of Place
Mr J McVeigh, Assistant Director

**Press:** No members of the Press were in attendance.

**Public:** No members of the Press were in attendance.

**ITEM** **MINUTE**

**1 Notice of Meeting**

The Director of Growth and Major Projects read the Notice of Meeting.

**2 Apologies**

Apologies were received from:

Councillor Henry
Councillor Beggs
Councillor Stewart
Councillor Jamieson

**3 Declaration of Interest**

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

The following declaration was received:

Councillor Johnston, declared an interest in item:
4.5 - Labour Market Partnership Update

The Member did not leave the meeting during this item but did not participate in discussion.

**4 ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION / DECISION**

**4.1 DfE: Geothermal Regulation Consultation**

Report, previously circulated, updating Members on the Department for Economy Geothermal Regulation consultation and seeking approval for the draft response.

In response to Members' queries, the Acting Climate and Sustainability Manager agreed that the response should be updated to include more detail about how Council resources might be impacted, including planning and Shared Environmental Services.

It was proposed by Councillor Gibson, seconded by Councillor Johnston and

**RESOLVED**: To approve the draft response to this consultation with the inclusion of detail about how Council's planning and Shared Environmental Services (SES) resources might be impacted.

**4.2 Draft Operations Sub Committee Notes – 20 May 2026**

The draft notes previously circulated from the Operations Sub Committee meeting held on 20 May 2026.

It was proposed by Councillor McKeen seconded by Councillor Warwick and

**RESOLVED**: To approve the Operations Sub Committee Notes of 20 May 2026

**4.3 Church Street 3 Car Park Barriers report**

The report, previously circulated, sought approval from Elected Members for Council Officers to install automatic barriers in the Church Street 3 car park to address the issue of anti-social behaviour (ASB).

Members queried whether limiting access in this way may push the Anti-Social behaviour to other areas in the Borough, and enquired whether there would be scope to change the barrier opening and closing times when certain events were scheduled. It was suggested that ramps had been successful in other areas, and that barriers could be vandalised.

The Car Park Manager reassured Members that the barriers could be opened when necessary, and that ramps had been considered but were a potential trip hazard.

The Director of Place advised that the PSNI had been involved in complaints at this area and the situation would continue to be monitored. It was noted that the barriers would not solve the problem across the Borough, but it was a good first step and had been proportionately costed.

It was proposed by Councillor Gibson, seconded by Alderman McCaughey and

**RESOLVED**: To approve the installation of automatic barriers at Church Street 3 Car Park.

Alderman Ashe requested that it be recorded that he was against the proposal.

**4.4 Economic Development Activity Report**

The report, previously circulated, provided an update on current Economic Development activity.

**RESOLVED**: To note the updated Economic Development Activity report.

**4.5 Labour Market Partnership Update**

Report, previously circulated, updating Members on the delivery of the Mid and East Antrim Labour Market Partnership (LMP) Action Plans.

**RESOLVED:** To

(i) Note the update on the LMP Action Plan 2025-2026 and promote the forthcoming initiatives to clients and contacts.
(ii) Note the current 2026-2027 funding situation and plans for the development of the 2027-2030 Action Plans which will be tabled at a further meeting for Members consideration and approval.

**4.6 Town Centre Task Force Update**

The report, previously circulated, provided an update on the progress of establishing a Mid and East Antrim Town Centre Task Force.

Discussion ensued, and the Assistant Director of Economic Development asserted that Council would access an Independent Consultancy to shape the remit and focus of the Town Centre Task Force, replicating the success of the Manufacturing Task Force.

Members noted that this was an extremely important matter and urged Officers to bring a paper to the next meeting of the committee.

The Director of Growth and Major Projects agreed that momentum and pace was important, but that the scoping element of the project was key to ensure the right voices were included.

**RESOLVED**: To note the update on the progress of establishing a Mid & East Antrim Town Centre Task Force.

**4.7 Local Growth Fund Consultation Response**

Report, previously circulated, providing Members with a draft Council response to the Local Growth Fund Consultation for consideration and approval.

It was proposed by Councillor Hadden, seconded by Councillor Gibson and

**RESOLVED**: To approve Council's draft response to the Local Growth Fund Consultation including amendments from Members as required.

**4.8 Service Level Agreements with Enterprise Agencies**

The Assistant Director provided an overview of the report, previously circulated, to present Members with the outcomes of the 2025-2026 Service Level Agreements (SLAs) with the Local Enterprise Agencies (LEAs) and to seek approval to continue these Service Level Agreements during 2026-2027.

Members discussed the focus of Council budgets and spending and suggested that more targeted investment and engagement with local partners was needed. Members requested that consideration be given to provide additional money under the SLA's, particularly as the allocation had remained static for a number of years.

In response to Members' queries, the Director of Growth and Major Projects reminded members that the allocations under the SLA had been agreed as part of the 26/27 rates setting process. He noted that budgets were continually scrutinised throughout the year to review budget challenges and opportunities. He advised that it was too early in the financial year to determine any budget slippage that may provide an opportunity for a potential 'in year' uplift to SLA's, however advised that he would keep this under continuous review and would update the committee if any opportunity became available.

It was proposed by Councillor Skinner, seconded by Alderman Ashe and

**RESOLVED:** To

(i) Note the achievements of the three Local Enterprise Agencies during 2025/26.
(ii) Approve a joint Letter of Offer for up to £19,000 for Carrickfergus Enterprise and Ballymena Business Centre to support the Enterprising Women Network.
(iii) Approve £9,500 to LEDCOM to fund delivery of a business development mentoring support programme as part of the Service Level Agreements for 2026/27.

**5 ITEMS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL**

There were no items for recommendation.

**6 TABLED QUESTIONS**

No tabled questions had been received.

The information contained in the reports associated with the following items was restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

It was proposed by Alderman McCaughey, seconded by Alderman Logan and

**RESOLVED**: That the Meeting goes into Closed Committee.

In accordance with Council policy, members of the press and the public were not in attendance for this section of the Meeting.

A Member raised an issue with the permission of the Chair regarding community groups having difficulties in obtaining invoices. The Director of Growth and Major Projects advised that he would look into the matter.

## 7 ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION/DECISION – CLOSED COMMITTEE

### 7.1 City Deal Update - i4C Outline Business Case Addendum

The item was restricted as information fell under the prescribed exemptions - Local Government Act (NI) 2014 Schedule 6, Part 1, Paragraph 3 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)

The report would become unrestricted sometime in the future.

The report, previously circulated, sought to provide Elected Members with an update on the i4C Outline Business Case Addendum.

The Director of Growth and Major Projects advised he was open to hosting more workshops with the Economists who authored the City Deal Business cases, who could provide more information, should Members find this helpful.

**RESOLVED:** To note the Addendum to the i4C Outline Business Case.

### 7.2 Local Economic Partnership

The item was restricted as information fell under the prescribed exemptions: Local Government Act (NI) 2014, Schedule 6, Paragraph 3 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information) as it includes decision on grants which can only be confirmed upon receipt of a Letter of Offer from the Department for the Economy under the Regional Ballance Fund.

The report will become unrestricted when all the necessary funding approvals had been secured.

The report, previously circulated, sought to provide Members with an update on the Mid and East Antrim Local Economic Partnership Action Plan and to seek approval for grants under Phase 1 of the Workspace Development Programme subject to securing a Letter of Offer from the Department for the Economy (DfE).

It was proposed by Councillor Gibson, seconded by Councillor McKeen and

**RESOLVED:** To

(i) Note the extensive work required to fully develop business cases and grants programmes with LEP member working groups.
(ii) Approve the grant awards for Phase 1 of the Workspace Development Programme to the value of £118,060 subject to

securing a Letter of Offer from DfE and subject to subsidy control measures.

**8 ITEM FOR RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL – CLOSED COMMITTEE**

**8.1 Tender for Reprocessing of Materials from Household Recycling Centres – Economic Appraisal**

The item was restricted as information fell under the prescribed exemptions: Local Government Act (NI) 2014, Schedule 6, Part 1, Paragraph 3 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information).

The report would never become unrestricted.

The report, previously circulated, sought approval to procure a contract for the reprocessing of materials from Household Recycling Centres for a period of one year with option to extend for two further periods of 12 months as outlined in the Economic Appraisal.

It was proposed by Councillor Skinner seconded by Alderman McCaughey and

**RECOMMENDED**: To approve the Economic Appraisal previously circulated for the Reprocessing of Materials from the Household Recycling Centres Contract.

**OPEN COMMITTEE**

It was proposed by Councillor Warwick, seconded by Alderman McCaughey, and

**RESOLVED**: That the Meeting returns to Open Committee.

**9 FORWARD PLAN FOR ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY COMMITTEE**

Members noted the circulated Forward Plan and Agenda for the next Environment & Economy Committee scheduled for 10 August 2026.

The meeting ended at 7.27 pm.

------------------------------------------------------------ Mayor

------------------------------------------------------------ Interim Chief Executive

------------------------------------------------------------ Date

**MID AND EAST ANTRIM BOROUGH COUNCIL**
**AUDIT & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 23 June 2026 at 6.30pm in the Council Chamber, The Braid, 1-29 Bridge Street, Ballymena and via remote access**

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|---|---|
| **In the Chair:** | Councillor C Harwood |
| **Vice Chair:** | Alderman P Reid |
| **Present:** | Alderman B Ashe, MBE<br>Alderman T Gordon<br>Mr E Kelly, Independent Member |
| **Present remotely:** | Councillor R Quigley |
| **Attendance:** | Mrs V Watts, Interim Chief Executive<br>Ms M Hegarty, Assistant Director – Finance<br>Ms L McEvoy, Deloitte representative<br>Ms S Bonar, Deloitte representative<br>Ms C Connor, Governance & Democratic Services Officer |
| **Press:** | There were no members of the press present. |
| **Public:** | No members of the public were in attendance. |

**ITEM MINUTE**

**1 NOTICE OF MEETING**

The Interim Chief Executive read the Notice of Meeting.

**2 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from

Councillor A Henry
Mr T Wilinson (NIAO)

Members queried why there was no representative from NIAO present, given that the year-end accounts were being presented. The Assistant Director – Finance noted that these were draft accounts which NIAO would audit and then present at the September meeting. Members also queried the lack of attendance in the context of the Council's higher audit fee compared with other councils and recalled that NIAO's attendance at a greater number of meetings had previously been given as one of the reasons for this. The Interim Chief Executive undertook to raise the matter with NIAO.

**3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

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

No declarations were received.

**4 ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION / DECISION**

**4.1 Internal Audit Progress Report**

Ms L McEvoy from Deloitte gave an overview of the previously circulated report on Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Internal Audit progress. She noted that the Labour Market Partnership commenced on 11 June 2026 and that the draft Terms of Reference for the Fleet Management had since been finalised. She further added that progress was on track.

The Chair expressed thanks to Ms McEvoy and commended the progress achieved, noting that it was positive to see work progressing ahead of schedule.

**RESOLVED:** to note the Mid and East Antrim Internal Audit Progress Report.

**4.2 Corporate Risks**

Report previously circulated to update Members on the current status of Corporate Risks, including the updated corporate risk register tabled under agenda item 7.1 for discussion in closed business.

**RESOLVED**: To note the contents of the report on the corporate risks.

**5 ITEMS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL**

There were no items for recommendation.

**6 TABLED QUESTIONS**

No questions had been received.

**The information contained in the reports associated with the following items was restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.**

It was proposed by Alderman Gordon, seconded by Alderman Ashe, and:

**RESOLVED:** that the Meeting goes into Closed Committee.

In accordance with Council policy, members of the press and the public were not in attendance for this section of the Meeting.

## 7 ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION/DECISION – CLOSED COMMITTEE

### 7.1 Corporate Risk Register

The item was restricted as information fell under the prescribed exemptions:
Part 1, Schedule 6 Local Government Act (NI) 2014 – Paragraph 3 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information) – as this item includes commercially sensitive information.

If restricted from publication, the report would never become unrestricted.

The report, previously circulated to present Elected Members with the latest Corporate Risk Register, following its recent review by SMT, including the Risk Management Policy was noted.

**RESOLVED:** To note the updated Corporate Risk Register and update Risk Management Policy Framework (incorporating risk appetite statement).

### 7.2 Summary Report: Unaudited Financial Statements for year ended 31 March 2026

The item was restricted as information fell under the prescribed exemptions: Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information)

If restricted from publication, the report would become unrestricted: Once the NIAO and Council approval of full accounts, the full accounts would be published on the website.

Report previously circulated to note the unaudited financial accounts of Mid and East Antrim Borough Council for the year ended 31 March 2026.

A Member welcomed the allocation of funds back into the reserves.

In response to a Member's query, the Assistant Director – Finance advised that the legal costs outlined on page 4 of the report were elevated due to a Judicial Review that had not been budgeted for. She further confirmed, in response to a subsequent query, that as the Judicial review had been withdrawn, both parties had agreed to meet their own legal costs for defending the case.

In response to a further query regarding the invoicing procedures for Councils facility lettings, the Interim Chief Executive undertook to liaise with relevant Service Directors. She acknowledged Members' concerns about the potential loss of income arising from delays in issuing invoices to community groups for their use of Council facilities and noted that Finance was unable to raise invoices without timely and accurate information from the relevant service areas. Members commented that some staff within service areas appeared reluctant to follow the established process for providing Finance with the necessary information to enable invoices to be issued. The Interim Chief Executive emphasised the need for disciplinary procedures where established processes were not adhered to. The Assistant Director – Finance noted that if community groups were not receiving invoices, they could contact the Finance team directly and the matter would be investigated with the relevant service area. She also asked that the details of the specific community group referred to by the Member be passed to her so that she could investigate and follow up accordingly.

Members raised concerns that leisure facilities do not record who is on the premises, noting that in the event of an incident such as a fire, the Council would not have an accurate record of who was present to ensure everyone had exited safely. The Interim Chief Executive acknowledged these concerns and agreed that a system should be implemented to record access to Council leisure facilities for health and safety reasons.

With reference to the financial statements, Mr Kelly commended Officers on the surplus achieved and noted that the background report was clear and demonstrated very sound financial management.

In response to a further question regarding underspend and reserves, the Assistant Director highlighted the areas of underspend and outlined the reasons for these, referring Members to section 3.42 of the report which detailed the reserve allocations and the rationale for each.

**RESOLVED**: to note the unaudited financial accounts of Mid and East Antrim Borough Council for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Councillor Quigley left the meeting remotely at 6.54pm.

**8 ITEMS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL – CLOSED COMMITTEE**

There were no items for recommendation to Council

**9 TABLED QUESTIONS – CLOSED COMMITTEE**

No questions were received.

On the proposal of Alderman Reid, seconded by Alderman Ashe, it was:

**RESOLVED:** that the Meeting returns to Open Committee.

## 10 FORWARD PLAN FOR AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Members noted the circulated Forward Plan for Audit and Scrutiny Committee.

**RESOLVED:** To note the Forward Plan for the next Audit & Scrutiny Committee meeting to be held on 11 August 2026.

The meeting ended at 6.56pm.

------------------------------------------------------------ Mayor

------------------------------------------------------------ Interim Chief Executive

------------------------------------------------------------ Date

Back to Agenda



Mid & East Antrim Borough Council

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|---|---|
| **Council/Committee:** | Full Council |
| **Date:** | 27 July 2026 |
| **Report Title:** | **Street Renaming/Naming Update** |
| **Publication Status:** | Open |
| **Author:** | Cathy Grant, Acting Corporate Solicitor |
| **Approver:** | Valerie Watts, Interim Chief Executive |

## 1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Elected Members on the legislative provisions and powers of a Council to rename a street following a decision of Council on 12 January 2026 to rename Prince Andrew Way in Carrickfergus. Prior to the Council meeting in January 2026 a Notice of Motion was agreed by Council on 24 November 2025 to work to rename Prince Andrew Way while seeking to ensure the important link to the Royal Family is maintained. A report was brought to Full Council on 12 January 2026 to update Members on the matter.

## 2. Background

2.1 Following the Council meeting on 12 January 2026 and the decision to rename Prince Andrew Way, a solicitor in another council contacted the Acting Corporate Solicitor to advise that their predecessor had previously provided advice on changing a street name. The advice was that a council does not have power, under the provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995 (the 1995 Order) to change the name of a street. The solicitor was of the view that the 1995 Order repealed the previous street naming and postal numbering legislative powers of councils and the power to rename a street was not en-acted in the 1995 Order.

2.2 In light of the correspondence from a solicitor in another council, it was considered prudent to obtain an opinion from a barrister on the matter. The decision to rename Prince Andrew Way is unlikely to generate much controversy and therefore a legal challenge would not be likely, however the concern would be that further down the line a decision could be taken on a more controversial issue which could potentially create difficulties for Council.

Mid & East Antrim Borough Council

2.3 An opinion has been obtained from a barrister who has provided detailed and comprehensive advices on the issue. The barrister is of the view, that whilst the issue of whether or not the 1995 Order confers a power on a council to rename a street is not straightforward, a court would be likely to conclude that the 1995 Order does confer on the Council a power to rename streets.

## 3. Key Issues for Consideration

3.1 Article 11(1) of the 1995 Order is the legal authority relied on in respect of council powers in relation to street names and numbering of buildings. This article provides that a council may erect at or near each end, corner or entrance of any street in its district a nameplate showing the name of the street. Article 11(1) further provides that a nameplate erected under this provision shall express the name of the street in English and may express that name in any other language.

3.2 The barrister has advised that whether or not the provision of article 11(1) affords councils the power to rename streets is a matter of statutory interpretation. There is no case law which has considered whether it affords such a power. The barrister is of the view that it is permissible to imply into article 11(1) that the power to name and rename streets rest with the council that is entrusted with the power of erecting the nameplates.

3.3 The barrister states that he does not think that there is much sense in making a distinction between the initial naming and the subsequent renaming of a street, which in his opinion seems to be an artificial distinction. He concludes that whilst the issue is not free from complexity given the absence of any authoritative case law on the interpretation of article 11(1), he is of the view that a court would likely conclude that article 11(1) does confer on the Council a power to rename streets.

3.4 The barrister has also advised that in his opinion there is no requirement to have a policy in place in order to make a decision on street naming. He further states that whilst there is no requirement to have a policy, it is often a good idea to have one. Ultimately, it is for the Council to decide where the balance lies between the benefits and disbenefits of adopting a policy in this area.

## 4. General Considerations / Implications

4.1. Financial implications N/A
4.2. Human Resources N/A
4.3. Equality Screening N/A
4.4. Assets N/A
4.5. Alignment with Corporate Priorities and Link to Corporate Plan N/A
4.6. Rural Proofing and Environmental Impact N/A

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## 5. Proposed Way Forward

5.1 It is proposed that having regard to the opinion of the barrister, with regard to the power of Council to rename streets, that Officers proceed with the work required to rename Prince Andrew Way, in line with the decision of Council on 12 January 2026.

## 6. Recommendation or Decision

6.1. It is recommended that Elected Members note the content of the report and the barrister's advice that, whilst the issue of council powers to rename a street is not without risk or complexity in the absence of any settled case law, a court would be likely to conclude that a council does have power to rename a street by virtue of the provisions of article 11(1) of the 1995 Order.

## 7. Appendices / Links

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Mid & East Antrim Borough Council

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|---|---|
| **Council/Committee:** | Full Council |
| **Date:** | 27 July 2026 |
| **Report Title:** | Change in Position of Responsibility |
| **Publication Status:** | Open |
| **Author:** | Pauline McLaughlin-Donaghy, Governance & Democratic Services Manager |
| **Approver:** | Jason Lewis, Interim Assistant Director-Business Support |

## 1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to note a recent change in a position of responsibility.

## 2. Background

2.1 Schedule 1 of The Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 provides for appointments to positions of responsibility.

## 3. Key Issues for Consideration

3.1 Following the Annual Meeting in June Councillor R Quigley, Independent, notified Officers that he wished to relinquish the position of responsibility as one of Council's representatives on the following external body:

- Arc 21

3.2 The current Membership of Arc21 also includes Alderman Mrs M Morrow and Councillor G McKeen; Arc21 representatives also currently sit on the Operations Sub Committee.

3.3 Members are appointed to positions of responsibility using d'Hondt. Council is therefore asked to note that the Alliance Party's Nominating Officer has notified Officers that, as the next party with a pick using the d'Hondt process, Councillor A Skinner has now been nominated to this position.

3.4 Both Arc21 and Council's own records have now been updated to reflect this change.

Mid & East Antrim Borough Council

## 4. General Considerations / Implications

4.1 Financial implications: not applicable.
4.2 Human Resources: not applicable.
4.3 Equality Screening: not applicable
4.4 Assets: not applicable
4.5 Alignment with Corporate Priorities and Link to Corporate Plan: not applicable
4.6 Rural Proofing and Environmental Impact: not applicable.

## 5. Recommendation or Decision

5.1 It is recommended that Council notes the change in the Position of Responsibility of representation on Arc 21 from Councillor R Quigley to Councillor A Skinner with immediate effect.

## 6. Appendices / Links

N/A