

17 May 2016

To: All Agents

Re: **Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Planning Department Stakeholder Engagement Session**

You will be aware that in the period since January 2016 the Council has undertaken a review of the operation of the development management aspects of the planning system. A Planning Review Task Force was established within the Council and Jim Mackinnon CBE was invited to undertake the review. Many of you will have engaged with Mr Mackinnon during that exercise.

Mr Mackinnon brought a report and a series of recommendations to Council in February 2016. These were accepted and the work required to give effect to those recommendations commenced immediately. Now is an appropriate time to review with agents the work that has been done and to provide some briefing on the changes shortly to be introduced.

It is hoped to cover the following areas at the session on Wednesday 25 May 2016:

- To present a review of the changes that have been proposed and/or already carried out within the development management function;
- To introduce the revised scheme of delegation;
- To introduce the revised protocol for the operation of the planning committee, including the introduction of speaking rights;
- To identify future areas for improvement within the development management function;
- Allow time for general discussion and exchange of views.

It is hoped that as many of you as possible will be able to attend this event on **Wednesday 25 May 2016 at 3.00pm, Newry Arts Centre – Main Auditorium**

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I would be grateful if you would confirm your attendance and e-mail Lorraine Burns at [rts-pa@nmandd.org](mailto:rts-pa@nmandd.org).

We look forward to meeting with you.

Yours faithfully

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**Anthony McKay**  
**Chief Planning Officer**