

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 8 October 2018 at 5.00pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry

Chairperson: Councillor Ruane

In Attendance: (Committee Members)

Councillor R Burgess
Councillor M Carr
Councillor C Casey
Councillor G Hanna
Councillor H Harvey
Councillor R Mulgrew
Councillor D McAteer
Councillor B Quinn
Councillor G Stokes
Councillor J Tinnelly

(Non Committee Members)

Councillor C Enright

Officials

in Attendance:

Ms M Ward, Director Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism
Mr J McGilly, Asst. Director, Enterprise, Employment & Regeneration
Mr A Patterson, Asst. Director, Tourism, Culture & Events
Ms P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer

ERT/153/2018: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Clarke and Curran.

ERT/154/2018: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

ERT/155/2018: ACTION SHEET MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM MEETING OF MONDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2018

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 10 September 2018.
(Copy circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 10 September 2018.

ENTERPRISE, EMPLOYMENT AND REGENERATION ITEMS

ERT/156/2018: CREST Skills Enhancement Programme

Read: Report dated 8 October 2018 from Mr Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration regarding CREST Skills Enhancement Programme. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Mulgrew it was agreed:

- To note the evaluation report of the Crest SRC skills enhancement programme
- To Approve a £10,000 contribution towards the SRC / SERC Colleges Connected programme that will secure delivery of the below outputs in this District Council area
 - 64 participants engaged on the Skills programme, with 35% engaged in further education and employment upon completing the programme and 12% in employment upon leaving the programme.

TOURISM, CULTURE AND EVENTS ITEMS

ERT/157/2018: AUDIO TOUR GUIDES FOR NEWRY AND MOURNE MUSEUM

Read: Report dated 8 October 2018 from Mr Andy Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture and Events regarding audio tour guides for Newry and Mourne Museum. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Quinn asked if the audio tour guides could be used across all council sites, Mr Patterson said the system currently in place in Down County Museum was different to that in Newry and Mourne Museum, however they would endeavour to procure a system that could work across a number of council sites.

Councillor Tinnelly said he would like to see the range of languages broadened to include Russian, Mandarin / Cantonese and Spanish.

Mr Patterson said the cost implications of including additional languages could be explored and reviewed as part of the proposal.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Stokes the following was agreed:

This project will contribute to enhancing Newry's product as a destination for tourists, with the audio guides enriching the visitor offer at the Museum.

Recommendation - go out to Tender for a new audio tour system.

ERT/158/2018: TRADE AND CONSUMER SHOWS

Read: Report dated 8 October 2018 from Mr Andy Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture and Events regarding Trade and Consumer Shows. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Burgess asked why the recommendation didn't include a Councillor to attend. Mr Patterson replied the format was mainly officer engagement and meetings with buyers.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew, seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed that:

- 1. Council Officials to attend World Travel Market 5 to 7 November 18.**
- 2. Council Officials to attend Dublin Holiday World 26 to 27 January 2019.**

ERT/159/2018: NARNIA INTERPRETATION PROJECT

Read: Report dated 8 October 2018 from Mr Andy Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture and Events regarding Narnia Interpretation Project. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Tinnelly, seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed:

- To utilise the dwelling at Kilbroney Park as part of the proposed Narnia Experience subject to all statutory approvals for delivery of this project**
- To provide match funding of £5,000 toward the project and Council Officers to assist with the overall implementation where necessary.**

NOTICES OF MOTION

ERT/160/2018: COMMUNITY LED FESTIVALS

Read: To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Enright regarding Community Led Festivals:

"Council recognises that a small number of community festivals running for 20 years or more – especially in the Old Down Council Area – are also important markers on the tourism trail. Council recognises that current annualised funding arrangements make funding for these festivals precarious and uncertain from year to year and inhibit festival organisers booking in advance to get best prices or tie up that might be used to get match funding elsewhere. Council resolves to create a multi-annual funding mechanism similar to that for Service Level Agreements used for community centres to allow recognised festival committees to enhance and expand their work secure in the knowledge that they have core funding."

In proposing the motion, Councillor Enright referred to Ardglass festival saying it had been running for 49 consecutive years and was one of many community festivals that had been unsuccessful in securing council funding in recent years. He continued, saying the new 63 page application form was very off putting for applicants and said that a timeline of all festivals across the district could be mapped out several years in advance, this would ensure Tourism NI were aware of all upcoming festivals and the funding for these festivals could be secured via Service Level Agreements similar to those currently in place for community centres under the Active Healthy Communities Directorate.

Discussion took place among members and there was general agreement that while community led festivals were very important in terms of boosting tourism in the district, it would be difficult to guarantee future funding for these community led festivals.

Councillor Mulgrew said every effort should be made to support community led festivals in terms of providing practical assistance with funding applications and this could be done via the DEA structures.

Councillor Hanna said there was confusion as to the difference between a tourism event and a community event asked that a clear definition be circulated to councillors.

Councillor McAteer asked if it would be useful to allocate a minimum amount of funding to community groups.

Ms Ward said there was a process in place and it would not be possible within governance structures to guarantee any one group minimum funding, however a minimum funding level could be set.

In summing up, Councillor Enright said the current funding mechanism in place for community festivals was inadequate. He continued, saying that festivals ran at the same time each year in the Down area and it would not be a difficult task to publish a calendar that would cover a 5 year period, to include both tourism and community events. The introduction of a calendar would have several benefits in that it would ensure no overlapping of festivals would take place in the same area and also Tourism Operators and Tourism NI would be aware of all events well in advance of them taking place and each event could be marketed to best effect. He continued, saying Service Level Agreements should be the mechanism for funding for community groups and the onus would be on the groups to prove how their event would attract tourism and fill the tourism objectives of the Council.

In response to a query from Councillor Carr as to scheduling a workshop regarding community / tourism events, Ms Ward replied that consideration would be given to

events as part of the annual review into the rates process and a workshop would be arranged in the coming months looking into events generally.

Councillor Tinnelly asked if a calendar of events could be introduced, Ms Ward said this would be a consideration for the DEA officers to undertake but it could be included as an item for discussion at the forthcoming workshop.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Casey seconded by Councillor Stokes the following was agreed:

- **Council Officers continue to undertake the review of the Financial Assistance programme in relation to the funding support provided via the Tourism Events Fund – including the timing on the provision of potential funding, with the view that all festival and event organisers require as much lead-in time and assurity of funding support as possible.**
- **A workshop to be scheduled to look at events generally in the district.**
- **The definition of Council events and community led events to be circulated to all Councillors.**

FOR NOTING

ERT/161/2018: SCHEME OF DELEGATION

Read: Report on Scheme of Delegation. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: The Scheme of Delegation was 'noted'.

ERT/162/2018: ACTION TRACKER UPDATE SHEET

Read: Action Tracker Update Sheet. **(Copy circulated)**

ERT/104/2018 ARTISAN MARKETS

Councillor Hanna asked if an Economic Impact Assessment had carried out on the performance of the artisan markets. Mr McGilly replied that a report had been done previously but said a further updated report could be brought forward to a future ERT committee meeting.

ERT/178/2016 CARAVAN AND CAMPSITE MANAGEMENT

Councillor Tinnelly asked why this item was still on the list, Ms Ward replied that the process was very slow and there were legal implications that had to be considered.

ERT/059/2018 ERT BUSINESS PLAN 2018/19

Ms Ward referred to the visit that both she, and Councillor Mulgrew (in her position as Chairperson of Council) had made to the MIPIM Property Conference in Cannes in March

2018 in connection with business development, and said she wanted to advise members that the Belfast Region City Deal grouping were looking at partnering with MIPIM as a region, this would require a £10,000 contribution from Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, however, she said she would bring a detailed report regarding this to the next ERT Committee Meeting.

'Noted'

Agreed: An updated report on the performance of the artisan markets to be brought to a future ERT committee meeting.

On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed to 'note' The Action Tracker Sheet.

ERT/163/2018: RDP UPDATE

Read: Report dated 8 October 2018 from Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration regarding the RDP Update. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed to 'note' the RDP Update Report.

ERT/164/2018: CASTLEWELLAN FOREST PARK

Read: Report dated 8 October 2018 from Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration regarding Castlewellan Forest Park. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed to approve the attached Castlewellan Task and Finish Action Sheet dated 7.9.18

ERT/165/2018: REVITALISATION PROJECTS – CATHEDRAL CORRIDOR, NEWRY AND WARRENPOINT.

Read: Report dated 8 October 2018 from Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration regarding Revitalisation Projects – Cathedral Corridor, Newry and Warrenpoint. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed to 'note' the content of the report.

ERT/166/2018: NI BUSINESS START UP PROGRAMME – UPDATE.

Read: Report dated 8 October 2018 from Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration regarding the NI Business Start up Programme – Update.

Agreed: To note the above update on delivery and performance of Business Startup activity.

To agree that officers continue to engage via the NI NIBSUP Programme board to develop a proposal and subsequent funding for a new NI / regional Business Start Up Programme commencing in 2021.

ERT/167/2018: CITY OF MERCHANTS FESTIVAL.

Read: Report dated 8 October 2018 from Mr Andy Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture and Events regarding City of Merchants Festival.

Councillor Stokes said he had noticed the City of Merchants Festival appeared to have been removed from the Council's Facebook page and said it was very important to ensure this festival was widely promoted.

Agreed: To 'note' the content of the report.

ERT/168/2018: 'MUSEUM LATES' EVENT AT NEWRY AND MOURNE MUSEUM, BAGENAL'S CASTLE ON FRIDAY 19 OCTOBER 2018.

Read: Report dated 8 October 2018 from Mr Andy Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture and Events regarding the 'Museum Lates' event at Newry and Mourne Museum.

Agreed: To 'note' the content of the report.

EXEMPT INFORMATION

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Mulgrew it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the following matters which related to exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

ERT/169/2018: TENDER FOR FLYING DISPLAY DIRECTOR

Read: Report dated 10 September 2018 from Mr Andy Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture and Events regarding Tender for Flying Display Director. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.**

When the Committee came out of closed session the Chairperson reported the following had been agreed:

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor Tinnelly it was agreed that procurement is undertaken to appoint a Flying display Director for the Festival of Flight in 2019, with the option of extending the appointment to cover the event to 2020, and in 2021 in order to be assured that the airshow is managed safely, in compliance with the necessary regulations, and provides value for money.**

ERT/ 170/ 2018: NUCLEAR FREE LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETING

Councillor Carr advised he would be attending a Nuclear Free Local Authority Meeting in the Council Offices, Dundalk on Friday 12 October, he said an invitation had been sent to all NMDC Councillors.

'Noted'

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 6.10pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on 5 November 2018.

Signed: _____
Councillor M Ruane
Chairperson of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee

Signed: _____
Ms M Ward
Director of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee