

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 9 November 2015 at 3.00pm in the Mourne Room Downshire Civic Centre Downpatrick

Chairperson:	Councillor D Curran
Deputy Chairperson:	Councillor R Mulgrew
In Attendance:	(Committee Members) Councillor T Andrews Councillor W Clarke Councillor G Donnelly Councillor S Doran Councillor G Hanna Councillor V Harte Councillor H Harvey Councillor T Hearty Councillor D McAteer Councillor B Quinn Councillor M Ruane Councillor G Stokes
	(Non Committee Members) Councillor S Doran
Officials in Attendance:	Mr L Hannaway Chief Executive Ms M Ward Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Mr K Scullion Assistant Director Facilities Management & Maintenance Mr M Mohan Senior Tourism Initiatives Manager Ms M Boyle Tourism Development Officer Mr G McVeigh Estates Surveyor Ms E McParland Democratic Services Manager Ms L Dillon Democratic Services Officer

ERT/126/2015: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Councillor Curran extended congratulations to Ms M Ward Director of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism and to everyone involved in organising the Economic Regeneration and Investment Strategy – The Brexit Debate, which was held on 29 October 2015 in the Canal Court Hotel Newry and added he found the event very professional indeed.

The following apology was received:

Councillor S Ennis

ERT/127/2015: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were received:

**ERT/128/2015: ACTION SHEET
MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE REGENERATION & TOURISM
COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY 12 OCTOBER 2015**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 12 October 2015. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Minutes of the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 12 October 2015.

NOTED: Ms Ward explained that a report on forthcoming Consumer Promotion events would be reported back to the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee in December 2015.

ENTERPRISE EMPLOYMENT AND REGENERATION ITEMS

ERT/129/2015: UPDATE – REGIONAL START INITIATIVE

Read: Report dated 9 November 2015 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism providing an update on the Regional Start Initiative and the Service Level Agreement. (Copy circulated)

NOTED: It was agreed to note the following in relation to the Regional Start Initiative:

- (a) To continue to deliver the RSI programme under the SLA with Invest NI to 31 March 2016 and beyond if required. Any extension on a the SLA beyond 31 March 2016 will be extended on a month by month basis up to October 2016. (SLA contract includes both service delivery and PR activity).
- (b) To continue in conjunction with other NI Councils, to finalise the Economic Appraisal for a new Regional Business Start Programme.
- (c) To progress a funding application for a new Regional Business Start Programme through the ERDF EU Investment for Growth and Jobs programme. Application for funding is being led by

Antrim and Newtownabbey District Council on behalf of NI Councils.

- (d) To progress preparation of tender documents for a new Regional Business Start Programme. The tender for a new Service Delivery model is being led by Lisburn City and Castlereagh District Council on behalf of NI Councils, and will be issued when EU funding is in place.

ERT/130/2015: UPDATE
RE NEWRY BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Mr McGilly explained the Council received formal notification that Newry Business Improvement District had been approved following a voting procedure. He said an action plan of activity had been agreed as to how the bid would be implemented for year one and it related to marketing and other business development programmes.

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism arrange to circulate details of the Newry Business Improvement District to ensure the public were informed on this initiative.

ERT/131/2015:NEWRY LINKAGES PUBLIC REALM SCHEME
- RELEASE OF BOND

Read: Report dated 9 November 2015 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism regarding the release of the Bond taken out by the Contractor regarding delivery of the Newry Linkages Public Realm Scheme. (Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed to approve the recommendation contained in Report dated 9 November 2015 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism, that as the defects liability period had expired and all elements had been adopted by the relevant authorities, that the Council proceed to release the Bond in regard to Earney Contracts Ltd for works completed in delivering the Newry City Linkages Public Realm Scheme.

TOURISM CULTURE & EVENTS ITEMS

ERT/132/2015: ARTS COUNCIL NI FUNDING PARTNERSHIP

Read: Report dated 9 November 2015 from Ms M Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism advising the Arts Council has agreed to establish a Local Government Challenge Fund for each of the 11 Council areas with the provision that it is matched and is additional to current levels of funding provided by each Council. The

proposal is to delegate a part of Arts Council Lottery Funds to each Council, which would in the first instance be a sum of £150,000. Newry Mourne and Down District Council would then be responsible for distribution to local Arts organisations/activities.

Members raised a number of queries including details of the amount of match funding that would be offered to other Councils such as Derry and Belfast, and also the risks involved with partnership funding arrangements whereby the Council could potentially be left to meet costs if other bodies did honour their part of the arrangement.

Ms Ward explained Officials would only be investigating the offer for partnership funding from the Arts Council NI at this stage.

With regard to the level of funding offered to other Councils, Ms Ward said that funding amounts would depend on the revenue available in a Council and that a Council could opt to accept a lower amount of funding if it wished to do so. She added that details on the level of capital funding in other Councils could be obtained and would be reported back to Councillors for information.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hearty seconded by Councillor Harte it was agreed to note contents of Report dated 9 November 2015 from Ms M Ward Director Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism, and that the Council to reply to Roisin McDonagh Chief Executive Arts Council NI advising the Council welcome the opportunity for a funding partnership with the Arts Council NI and that this proposal will be considered by Council via the rates process 2016/17.

It was also agreed to obtain details on levels of Capital funding from other Council areas, ie Derry City & Strabane Council and Belfast City Council and report back for information, via the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting in due course.

ERT/133/2015: TENDER
RE: NEWRY TOWN HALL PHASE II

Read: Report dated 2 November 2015 from Mr G McVeigh regarding Tenders in respect of works at Newry Town Hall – Phase II.
(Copy circulated)

Members asked for clarification on the figures contained in the Report and if the proposed works would include connecting the Town Hall and Arts Centre buildings.

Mr McVeigh provided clarification on the figures for Phase II works at Newry Town Hall. He also explained Phase II consisted of two sections, ie:

- Internal working, operation for staff and stage rigging
- To address the Disability Discrimination Act, access, fire risk audits including existing fire escapes.

Mr McVeigh added that under the current proposals the Town Hall and Arts Centre buildings would not be physically linked.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hearty seconded by Councillor Mulgrew it was agreed as follows:

- (a) To transfer £170,000 from the 2015/2016 Capital Budget to the 2016/2017 Capital Budget for consideration under the 2016/17 Rate Estimates process for works at Newry Town Hall Phase II.
- (b) A Newry Town DEA Briefing Meeting be arranged to which all interested Councillors be invited to attend, to discuss in detail the proposed works for Phase II Newry Town Hall, in particular a link between the Newry Town Hall and Arts Centre buildings.
- (c) After a Newry Town DEA Briefing Meeting was held as per above, a report to be tabled at a meeting of the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee in due course regarding Phase II works at Newry Town Hall.

NOTED: The amount of £170,000 together with proposed budget of £500,000 in Capital Budget 2016/17 would allow completion of both stages of Phase II works at Newry Town Hall.

**ERT/134/2015: APPOINTMENT OF PRGRAMME ADVISOR
- ST PATRICKS FESTIVAL – DOWNPATRICK 2016/18**

Read: Report dated 9 November 2015 from Mr M Mohan Senior Tourism Initiatives Manager giving an update on progress relating to the St Patrick's Festival project for Downpatrick 2016-18. (Copy circulated)

Mr Mohan explained that letters of financial offer had been received by both Councils, ie, Newry Mourne & Down District Council and Armagh City Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council to a collective value of £293,446. He referred to the 3 Key Performance Indicators (KPI) specified by Tourism NI which must be met annually as part of the funding package which has been offered. With regard to KPI 1, which requires the establishment of an Event Development Group, Mr Mohan said a the first meeting of the Group had already taken place and that a further meeting was due to take place later in November 2015.

Noted: Councillor W Clarke joined the meeting at this point. (3.30pm)

Mr Mohan also said that a Memorandum of Understanding had now been drawn up between the two Councils.

In response to a query regarding how to target the North American market it was noted that a Choral Director had been contracted to develop a Tourism Ireland driven Choral initiative as part of the wider St Patrick's Festival which would aim to develop interest from other markets such as Canada and the USA.

Members suggested providing more up to date information on the history of St Patrick in the Newry & Mourne, Armagh and Downpatrick areas as these areas contained several historic monuments connected to St Patrick but were not identified on the trail map.

It was noted that proposals from McAdam Design would in the first instance be discussed at the Sub Group Meeting and then be tabled at the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting in December 2015.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed to approve the appointments of a Programme Advisor and a Choral Director who will be contracted on a freelance basis to develop the St Patrick's Festival Programmes across the two hubs of Downpatrick and Armagh.

**ERT/135/2015: MOURNE/STRANGFORD COASTAL WALKING PATH
- TECHNICAL AND FEASIBILITY STUDY**

Read: Report dated 9 November 2015 from Mr M Mohan, Senior Tourism Initiatives Manager regarding the Mourne/Strangford Coastal Walking Path Technical and Feasibility Study. (Copy circulated)

Members welcomed the benefits the project could bring in terms of attracting tourism and spoke of the need to build confidence in landowners when addressing the land issues. They also referred to the need to bring representatives from the local business community on board with this process and that officials perhaps look at the future possibility of developing a walkway from Carlingford to Newry .

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hearty seconded by Councillor Clarke it was agreed to proceed as follows regarding the Mourne/Strangford Coastal Walking Path:-

A phased approach be taken with regard to walking `hubs' and be developed as priority, followed by the development of linear coastal path stretches in areas of high beauty or interest and then stitched together to create one continuous coastal path in line with three phases as follows:

**Phase 1 – Develop walking hubs as priority, including:
- Key linear, coastal path sections linked to hubs**

- Looped walks feeding off the coastal path around hubs
- Connections between coastal path and Mourne Coastal Driving Route
- Maintain/reinstate/enhance existing walks
- Develop experiences/attractions/viewpoints
- Encourage business development

Phase 2 – Develop linear stretches in areas of beauty, high interest and/or secondary ‘hubs’:

- Annalong
- Ardglass – Killough
- Greencastle – Cranfield

Phase 3 – Stitch all of the above together to create one long-distance coastal path.

**ERT/136/2015: SLIEVE GULLION FOREST PARK
- FORWARD PLANNING**

Read: Report dated 2 November 2015 from Ms M Boyle Tourism Development Officer regarding the Report of a Meeting between Slieve Gullion DEA Councillors, Forestry Service, Clanrye Group and Grounded Express Bars held on Tuesday 27 October 2015 regarding forward planning for Slieve Gullion Forest Park. (Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Donnelly it was agreed to approve the Recommendations contained in Report of Slieve Gullion DEA Meeting held on Tuesday 27 October 2015 regarding Slieve Gullion Forest Park, as follows:

- (a) Ms J McCann Area Community Development Officer to forward details regarding a tree inspection to Ms M Ward Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism.
- (b) Ms M Boyle Tourist Development Officer to liaise with Estates Department in arranging for a survey and evaluation of the land offered by Forestry Department.

ERT/137/2015: SLIEVE GULLION PARK & RIDE TOUR GUIDE

Read: Report dated 3 November 2015 from Ms M Boyle Tourism Development Officer regarding Park & Ride Facilities and Tour Guide Provision at Slieve Gullion Forest Park. (Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Donnelly it was agreed to approve the following with regard to

the provision of Park & Ride Facilities and Tour Guide provision at Slieve Gullion Forest Park, as per the recommendations contained in report from Ms M Boyle Tourism Development Officer dated 3 November 2015:

- (a) To advertise for land suitable for a Park & Ride Facility close to Slieve Gullion for 2016.**
- (b) To advertise for a Bus Company to service a Park & Ride facility to Slieve Gullion for 2016.**
- (c) To seek quotations for a tour company to provide guided tours for Slieve Gullion for the 2016 season with option for renewal.**

**ERT/138/2015: RING OF GULLION AND MOURNE AONBs
- NPA PROGRAMME (ASCENT)**

Read: Report dated 14 August 2015 from Mr D Rice Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership Scheme Manager regarding the Ring of Gullion AONB and Mourne AONB NPA Programme – ASCENT (Apply Skills and Conserve our Environment with New Tools – Upland Recreation) (Copy circulated)

Mr McGilly explained this was an exploratory application under an Interreg project – Northern Periphery & Artic: ASCENT and was identified as a project which would potentially be of advantage in terms of conservation and erosion issues.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Donnelly seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to proceed as follows regarding NPA Programme – ASCENT:

- (a) Submit application to NPA programme ASCENT, with Donegal County Council as the lead partner, Newry Mourne & Down District Council as a partner and Mourne Heritage Trust as a sub-partner.
(NB: Other partners are: Norway, Iceland, Republic of Ireland and Finland. Scotland have not confirmed if they are going to proceed – this will impact the budgets)**
- (b) If the application is successful, Council proceed to sign letter of offer and carry out the project as per the application.**
- (c) Cash match funding to be considered at Rate Estimates 2016/17.**

CONFERENCES/EVENTS

ERT/139/2015: AGRICULTURE & FOOD CONFERENCE 3 DECEMBER 2015 DUNADRY HOTEL COUNTY ANTRIM

Read: Report dated 9 November 2015 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding the Agriculture & Food Conference to be held on Thursday 3 December 2015 in the Dunadry Hotel County Antrim at a cost of £210 inc VAT.
(Copy circulated)

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Harvey seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to appoint the following delegates to attend the Agriculture & Food Conference to be held on Thursday 3 December 2015 at the Dunadry Hotel Antrim at a cost of £210 including VAT, per delegate**

- **Chairperson of ERT Committee
(or Vice Chairperson of ERT Committee)**
- **1 No. Council Official**

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

ERT/140/2015: MAP RE: MOURNE GULLION COOLEY

Councillor Ruane referred to the omission of Narrow Water Warrenpoint from the Mourne Gullion Cooley map which he had previously raised with Geotourism but said he had heard no further update as to whether another version of the map had been produced.

Ms Ward said a response had been received from Geotourism which would be circulated to Members. She added the Geotourism section could look at printing another run of the Mourne Gullion Cooley map which would show Narrow Water.

AGREED: **It was agreed the response from Geotourism regarding the omission of Narrow Water Warrenpoint from the Mourne Gullion Cooley map to be circulated to Members for information.**

ERT/141/2015: CHRISTMAS FAIR - WARRENPOINT

Councillor Ruane referred to a request from the organisers of the Warrenpoint Christmas Fair seeking funding from the Council towards this year's event and asked if any funding had been made available.

Ms Ward explained Officers had worked with the organising group of the Christmas Fair and in order for the event to tie in with the Year of Food it was agreed a food

market be included in this year's Christmas fair event and will be sponsored by the Council. She confirmed funding had been identified within the budget to proceed with sponsoring this food market.

Councillor Ruane expressed his disappointment local Councillors had not been informed about this decision.

Noted: Councillor Andrews joined the meeting at this point. (3.45pm)

Ms Ward advised a report would be tabled at the SPR Committee Meeting regarding support to forthcoming Christmas events.

The meeting concluded at 3.50pm.

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 7 December 2015.

Signed: **Councillor D Curran**
Chairperson

Signed: **Ms M Ward**
Director of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism