

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 10 December 2018 at 4.00pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry

Chairperson: Councillor Ruane

In Attendance: (Committee Members)

Councillor R Burgess
Councillor P Byrne
Councillor M Carr
Councillor C Casey
Councillor W Clarke
Councillor D Curran
Councillor G Hanna
Councillor H Harvey
Councillor R Mulgrew
Councillor D McAteer
Councillor O McMahon
Councillor B Quinn
Councillor G Stokes
Councillor J Tinnelly

Officials

in Attendance:

Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive
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

Others

in Attendance:

Ms K Doran, Lanyon Communications
Ms D Emerson, ARUP
Mr P Beatty, ARUP

ERT/195/2018: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

There were no Apologies were received.

ERT/196/2018: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

ERT/197/2018: ACTION SHEET MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM MEETING OF MONDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2018

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 12 November 2018.
(Copy circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Byrne it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 12 November 2018.

ERT/198/2018: PRESENTATION FROM LANYON COMMUNICATIONS – INNOVATION NATION 2018

The Chairperson welcomed Ms Katie Doran from Lanyon Communications and invited her to deliver her presentation.

Following the presentation, members expressed their support saying it had been an excellent event and had showcased Newry in a very positive way.

Ms Ward said it was very much a partnership that had brought the event to fruition and it was important to recognise the local businesses that had contributed to the success of the event including Norbrook, First Derivatives, Stat Sports, KPMG and Invest NI. She continued, saying the event was about putting Newry on the map in terms of innovation and it had been a great opportunity to build a market and interest in the area, prior to the construction of the new theatre and conference facilities. She said there was a potential to hold a further event in 2019 and she would bring a paper back to Committee in January 2019.

The Chairperson thanked Ms Doran for her presentation and she left the meeting.

ERT/199/2018: PRESENTATION FROM ARUP – BELFAST TO DUBLIN RAIL CONNECTIVITY

The Chairperson welcomed Ms D Emerson and Mr P Beatty to the meeting.

Mr Hannaway provided background saying the vision was for improved connectivity along the Eastern Corridor and to deliver a rail service whereby access to either Dublin or Belfast could be made within 30 minutes from Newry. He then invited Ms Emerson and Mr Beatty to deliver their presentation.

Following the presentation there was a question and answer session and the following issues were raised:

- The overall vision for improving rail connectivity between Dublin and Belfast would be delivered in phases over the next ten years.
- The proposed link to Dublin Airport would be subject to a detailed engineering process.
- Engineering designs would need to be carried out prior to any projected costings.
- Cross border rail journeys throughout Europe operate without any issues.

Mr Hannaway said it was critically important to be project ready in terms of infrastructure

and he advised he was seeking a meeting with the new Permanent Secretary of DFI that would include the CEOs of Belfast City Council, Dublin City Council, Louth County Council and Translink, he also advised there was to be an Eastern Corridor Conference to be held on 28 February 2019.

The Chairperson thanked Mr Beatty and Ms Emerson for their presentation and they left the meeting.

ENTERPRISE, EMPLOYMENT AND REGENERATION ITEMS

ERT/200/2018: CASTLEWELLAN ON-STREET CAR PARKING

Read: Report dated 10 December 2018 from Mr Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration regarding Castlewellan On-Street Car Parking. **(Copy circulated)**

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

- 1. Council supports the enforcement of parking restrictions in Castlewellan, subject to a permitting system being put in place for residents in affected areas and exploring if Bann Road Council facilities could be used for car parking by staff working in town centre businesses etc.**
- 2. Council using existing car park in Square to understand that is the reason for all day parking at this location and consider similar restrictions as those to be imposed on street.**

ERT/201/2018: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS FORUM

Read: Report dated 10 December 2018 from Mr Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration regarding International Relations Forum. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke seconded by Councillor McMahon it was agreed to approve the recommendations from the 27 Nov International Relations forum meeting:

- 1. Approve SLA between Council and Confucius Institute, Ulster University of £5K to provide staff time ie translation services etc.**
- 2. email video of China visit to Elaine McKeown SERC**
- 3. Council to host a Russian student for 2019/20 subject to Council approval in January 2019. Council would meet the salary costs of the post holder only.**
- 4. Council officers to develop a programme of work for the Russian student by rotating departments in which the student would work in order to give a variety of experience across Council co-ordinated via HR.**

5. Council host along with St Pauls Bessbrook host Students and Teachers from Kirovsk in March 2019 as per the agreement with the Kirovsk with Council securing accommodation and working with the teachers in St Pauls to develop an itinerary for the group for the duration of the stay.
6. Council submit an application with partners as invited to URBELAC Network, a programme co-funded by DG REGIO and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

ERT/202/2018: CORRESPONDENCE FROM FERMANAGH AND OMAGH DISTRICT COUNCIL RE RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Read: Report dated 10 December 2018 from Mr Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration regarding Correspondence from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council re Rural Development. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Mulgrew it was agreed that Council supports Fermanagh & Omagh District Council in their endeavours and this Council continues to lobby and make a case for a future programme via DAERA and all other relevant platforms.

ERT/203/2018: YOUNG ENTERPRISE N.I.

Read: Report dated 10 December 2018 from Ms Marie Ward, Director Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism regarding Young Enterprise N.I. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Byrne seconded by Councillor Burgess it was agreed not to support Young Enterprise Digital and Tourism Masterclass / Quick start Programme in this financial year.

ERT/204/2018: RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME – COOPERATION SCHEME NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC YELLOW FRAMES

Read: Report dated 10 December 2018 from Mr Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration regarding Rural Development Programme – Cooperation Scheme National Geographic Yellow Frames. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Mulgrew said the site for the yellow frame should be Slieve Gullion and not Giants Lair as indicated on the report.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew, seconded by Councillor Harvey the following was agreed:

- To approve the request for match funding of the project and give the relevant permissions to allow the project to proceed.
- Amend report to reflect the site for the yellow frame to be Slieve Gullion and not Giant's Lair.

ERT/205/2018: DAERA SMALL BUSINESS GRANTS SCHEME

Read: Report dated 10 December 2018 from Mr Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration regarding DAERA Small business Grants Scheme. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor McAteer asked if there was any difference with DAERA Small Business Grants Scheme and the LAG funding programme, Mr McGilly replied the DAERA Small Business Grants Scheme was pilot scheme that was aimed at small businesses with a maximum grant of £5,000 allocated.

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

1. To further engage with DAERA to secure the delivery of a Rural Business Small Grant scheme in the District
2. In order to resource the administration and delivery of the grant scheme, to utilise the allowance of 15% contribution (£7,500) towards administration costs which would be taken from each Council's £50,000 allocation

ERT/206/2018: HILL STREET NEWRY PHASE III PUBLIC REALM SCHEME

Read: Report dated 10 December 2018 from Mr Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration regarding Hill Street Newry Phase III Public Realm Scheme. **(Copy circulated)**

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

1. Council to make engage, BT (Openreach) and NIE in regards to the upgrading of their networks in advance of the proposed Newry Lower Hill Street Public Realm Scheme (Ph III).
2. Council to cover the cost from its Public Realm Budget of an advance Site Investigation Survey for the proposed Newry Lower Hill Street Public Realm Scheme (Ph III).

ERT/207/2018: CASTLEWELLAN FOREST PARK TASK AND FINISH BOARD

Read: Report dated 10 December 2018 from Ms Marie Ward, Director Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism regarding Castlewellan Forest Park Task and Finish Board. **(copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Hanna the following was agreed:

1. Approve the attached Castlewellan Task and Finish Action Sheet dated 16.11.18
2. RFQ to be issued by NMDDC for Topographical Survey to assist with Planning Application.
3. RFQ to be issued for Horticultural Consultant to assist with DAERA works in Rhododendron Wood, Walled Garden and Bothy Yard.
4. Tender documentation for works in Walled Garden/ Bothy Yard/ Rhododendron Wood to be prepared prior to the HLF decision date.
5. Funder timetables: In the case of successful applications to HLF and DAERA. There will be an ongoing process to ensure both funders are satisfied and projects are delivered within the required timescales.
6. Await outcome of decision on HLF funding application. Correspondence has been received from HLF acknowledging that the application process is very competitive.
7. In the event of an unsuccessful HLF application, the project will have to look at prioritising works to be undertaken and look into the potential of applying for smaller grants. This will be for decision when the application outcome is decided.
8. In order to submit the DAERA application in time (prior to 31st January 2019) a tender for works will have to be issued by mid-December to ensure the costs are returned in time for inclusion in the application as required.
9. Economic Appraisal: The recommended option includes a Welcome Centre in the Walled Garden which will allow access via lift to the upper part of the Walled Garden. The draft EA has been circulated to Task and Finish Board for consideration.
10. An Agreement to Lease needs to be in place before a Round 2 application is submitted. NMDDC to work with FS over coming months to have this agreement in place for August 2019.

TOURISM, CULTURE AND EVENTS ITEMS

ERT/208/2018: TOURISM EVENTS PROGRAME 2019/20

Read: Report dated 10 December 2018 from Mr Andy Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture and Events regarding Tourism Events Programme 2019/20. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Mulgrew said she had attended the recent Tourism Events Workshop and congratulated Ms Ward and staff for the very successful range of tourism events that had taken place throughout the year, all of which had been hugely beneficial to the area. Councillor Mulgrew also congratulated Newry Rainbow Community on their recent successful bid to host the UK and Ireland Pride festival in 2019.

Councillor Harvey said he did not agree with the £60,000 underspend being allocated to one group of people, he said it was grossly unfair and this underspend should be split evenly across the district. Councillor Hanna agreed with Councillor Harvey.

Councillor Byrne said the £60,000 underspend would be better utilized with one group rather than splitting it up among numerous groups and the event had the potential to attract huge numbers of visitors to Newry and the wider district. Councillor Byrne thanked Ms Ward for agreeing to meet with the Newry Rainbow Community.

Ms Ward said the wording in No. 1 Recommendation should be amended to include the words 'and contractual documents for any bookings made'.

Agreed: On the proposal of Mulgrew , seconded by Councillor Byrne the following was agreed:

To approve proposals for:

- 1. Provision of £60,000 budget within this 18/19 Financial Year to Newry Rainbow Community by way of a Service Level Agreement and contractual documents for any bookings made, in order to support the planning and delivery of the UK and Ireland Pride Festival in Newry in 2019.**
- 2. Commitment of Council Officer's time to be part of a multi-agency team of relevant stakeholders to support Newry Rainbow Community in the preparation for the UK and Ireland Pride festival.**
- 3. The provision an additional level of funding from the Tourism Events Programme budget in the 19/20 Financial Year, to be agreed, once the final cost breakdown and budget of the Festival has been set and agreed.**
- 4. All members to be invited to a meeting early in January 2019 with the event promoters to appraise the full details and cost breakdown of two event funding bids.**
- 5. Approval of the draft Tourism Events Programme, with final budgets to be tabled with members in line with the rates setting process in January 2019.**
- 6. The Financial Assistance Call for Tourism Events to be open as possible in 2019.**

ERT/209/2018: ASSESSMENT OF COLUMBANUS PROJECT & ST. PATRICKS WAY

Read: Report dated 10 December 2018 from Mr Andy Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture and Events regarding Assessment of Columbanus Project & St. Patricks Way. **(Copy circulated)**

The members supported the recommendation, however they advised there were other established groups working to try and link various walking trails and they asked that the recommendation be amended to explore other potential walking trails currently being undertaken by various groups.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed to:

- To make a contribution of £5000 to undertake a feasibility on pilgrimage/heritage routes with particular reference to Columban Way and Turas Columbanus projects and the St. Patricks Way.
- Explore other potential walking trails currently being undertaken by various groups.

ERT/210/2018: ST. PATRICK'S CENTRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Read: Report dated 10 December 2018 from Mr Andy Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture and Events regarding St. Patrick's Centre Development Plan. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Burgess it was agreed to approve proposals for the development of a new Five-Year Business Plan for the St Patrick's Centre, to be developed in partnership with the Council and Tourism NI.

ERT/211/2018: VISITOR SERVICING REVIEW

Read: Report dated 10 December 2018 from Mr Andy Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture and Events regarding Visitor Servicing Review. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor McMahon it was agreed to approve proposals for the review of Visitor Information Services within the district, in line with Tourism NI's Visitor Information Plan.

ERT/212/2018: TENDER FOR REMOVAL OF SAND BAR AT NEWCASTLE HARBOUR

Read: Report dated 10 December 2018 from Mr Andy Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture and Events regarding Tender for Removal of Sandbar at Newcastle Harbour. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Quinn it was agreed to tender for the provision of a contractor to remove the sandbar at Newcastle Harbour in compliance with the Marine Construction Licence. The contractor would be appointed for a 3 year term.

FOR NOTING

ERT/213/2018: WARRENPOINT PARK STEERING GROUP

Read: Report dated 10 December 2018 from Mr Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration regarding Warrenpoint Park Steering Group. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed to 'note' the contents of the Warrenpoint Park Steering Group report.

ERT/214/2018: NMD & LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING

Read: Report of NMD and Louth County Council Joint Committee Meeting 20 June 2018. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Byrne asked if it would be possible to get the reports of the NMD and Louth Joint Committee Meetings sooner, Ms Ward said she would review the current timescale involved in bringing this report to Committee.

**Agreed: It was agreed to 'note' the contents of the NMD & Louth County Council Joint Committee Meeting report.
Ms Ward to review current timescale in bringing the NMD and Louth County Council Joint Committee report to Committee.**

ERT/215/2018: AUDIT ACCESS TO STRANGFORD LOUGH

Read: Report dated 10 December 2018 from Mr Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration regarding Audit of Access to Strangford Lough for water-based recreation report complete. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed to 'note' the contents of the Audit Access to Strangford Lough report.

ERT/216/2018: SOUTHERN RELIEF ROAD – IWAI PREFERRED OPTION

Read: Letter dated 21 November 2018 from IWAI regarding NSSR Preferred Option. **(Copy circulated)**

Discussion took place regarding tall ship access to the Albert Basin and concern was expressed by some members at the new preferred option regarding the lifting bridge.

Mr Hannaway said although Council would be involved in the consultation process, this was a DFI project. He continued, saying there were cost implications regarding the provision of a lifting bridge to allow tall ship access to the Albert Basin that would have

to be considered, however, he said the lifting bridge had been budgeted for at this stage.

Agreed: It was agreed to 'note' the IWAI letter dated 21 November 2018 regarding Preferred Option.

ERT/217/2018: BETTER CONNECTING DUBLIN and BELFAST – STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Read: Translink Report regarding Better Connecting Dublin and Belfast – Strategic Development Plan. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed to 'note' the Translink Report regarding Better Connecting Dublin and Belfast – Strategic Development Plan.

ERT/218/2018: ACTION TRACKER UPDATE SHEET

Read: Action Tracker Update Sheet.

Agreed: It was agreed to 'note' the Action Tracker Update Sheet.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 5.10pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on 7 January 2019.

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

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