

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 12 November 2018 at 3.00pm 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 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

ERT/171/2018: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillor Quinn.

ERT/172/2018: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

ERT/173/2018: ACTION SHEET MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM MEETING OF MONDAY 8 OCTOBER 2018

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 8 October 2018. **(Copy**

circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 8 October 2018.

ENTERPRISE, EMPLOYMENT AND REGENERATION ITEMS

ERT/174/2018: ATLANTIC CULTURE SCAPES

Read: Report dated 12 November 2018 from Mr Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration regarding Atlantic Area Successful Bid: Atlantic Culture Scapes. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Byrne asked if there would be any impact on resources for the Landscape Partnership Scheme, Mr McGilly replied that this was completely separate and would not impact the Landscape Partnership Scheme in terms of resources.

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

- 1. Accept and sign Letter of Offer from Atlantic Area.**
- 2. Forward for consideration for rates estimate.**

ERT/175/2018: DFC SMALL SCALE CAPITAL SCHEMES UNDERSPEND

Read: Report dated 12 November 2018 from Mr Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration regarding Department for Communities – Proposed Small Scale Capital Schemes Underspend Report. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Clarke referred to the overarching across the six areas and said street cleansing should be a priority and a maintenance schedule should be in place as a requirement of this initiative. He continued, saying if there were sufficient funds the street furniture would need to be replaced in Newcastle.

Councillor Byrne said he had an issue with the fact that Crossmaglen was not included in Tier 2 of the Local Development Plan and asked was there a reason as to why Crossmaglen would not be included for potential funding. Mr McGilly replied that the Department for Communities had set the criteria in terms of eligibility for funding and Crossmaglen had not been considered eligible. Councillor Byrne asked if the criteria used to determine eligibility could be made available to Committee Members, Mr McGilly said he would bring this information to the next Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting.

Councillor Burgess said the tourist signage in his area was barely legible and would need to be cleaned, Councillor Clarke agreed and said the signage in Newcastle would also

need to be cleaned. Ms Ward said she would raise this with Neighbourhood Services Directorate.

Councillor Casey referred to the Refit of Canal Maintenance Boat and the Victoria Lock Works saying that he believed funding should have been set aside for both of these projects instead of relying on a potential underspend by the DFC.

Mr McGilly replied that both of these projects would fall under the regeneration type works within the District.

Councillor McAteer said he believed a second 'scrubber sweeper' had already been purchased and if this was so, why was it included in the overarching list. Ms Ward replied that she would contact Neighbourhood Services and revert back to him.

Councillor McAteer also referred to the creation of event space on the front shore saying he thought this project of works was already in the pipeline. Ms Ward replied that the projects included for potential funding were ones that were in the pipeline and every effort was being made to draw down funding for these projects so that they are not going against the rate.

- Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed that:**
- 1. Council submit the Attached List of small scale projects to DFC for consideration over the next 3-4 years.**
 - 2. Council approve the prioritising of the list into ranking bands:
Priority 1 – Overarching Schemes
Priority 2 – Ballynahinch / Kilkeel
Priority 3 - Warrenpoint / Newcastle
Priority 4 – Newry / Downpatrick**
 - 3. If DFC funds are received, progress is then made to carrying out the necessary procurement to have the agreed number of projects completed.**
 - 4. Officials bring back a report later in the financial year to confirm what monies have been provided and what projects were undertaken.**
 - 5. DFC funding criteria to be brought to December ERT Committee Meeting.**
 - 6. The cleaning of tourist signage in the area to be referred to the Neighbourhood Services Directorate**
 - 7. Clarify with Neighbourhood Services if a second 'scrubber sweeper' has already been procured and advise Councillor McAteer.**

ERT/176/2018: BREXIT FORUM

Read: Report dated 12 November 2018 from Ms Marie Ward, Director Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism regarding Brexit Forum . **(Copy**

circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor McMahon seconded by Councillor Harvey it was agreed that:

1. Council compile a list of Brexit technical notice and issue Council website.
2. These notices to be tabled at future meetings of Brexit Forum.
3. Council signpost Businesses accordingly to relevant agencies that can support Businesses work through technical notice detail and implications for their business.
4. UU present at the next forum meeting on the various scenarios and implications.
5. Council continue to liaise with INI regulatory potential of lands at Carnbane.

ERT/177/2018: EER PROGRAMME ACTIVITY

Read: Report dated 12 November 2018 from Mr Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration regarding EER Programme Activity 2018 - 2024. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor Mulgrew it was agreed to approve the report and projects currently under consideration and the progress on others.

ERT/178/2018: MASTERPLANS UPDATE

Read: Report dated 12 November 2018 Ms Marie Ward, Director Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism regarding Masterplans: Progress Update. **(Copy circulated)**

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

1. With reference to the 4 Master plan updates, to note the comments provided in relation to progress to date and next steps
2. Over the coming months to engage with members at a DEA level to consider the Masterplans, existing priority action plans, and to reprioritise projects within the Action Plans as required.

ERT/179/2018: WARRENPOINT MUNICIPAL PARK

Read: Report dated 12 November 2018 from Mr Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration regarding Warrenpoint

Municipal Park. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Carr referred to the removal of the flower beds and asked if they would be reinstated. Mr McGilly replied there were no plans to have this done. Councillor McAteer said the park was very bare without the flower beds and he believed the plan included ensuring the park was brought back to its original layout. The Chairman said the agreement had been to make the park a more useable space and that included the removal of the flower beds, Mr McGilly concurred with this and said it had been part of the deliberations that had taken place with the HLF and agreed upon.

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

- 1. Approve the attached Warrenpoint Municipal Park Action Sheet dated 2.10.18**
- 2. Obtain a total cost for cleaning and painting of perimeter railings as part of refurbishment works. If HLF are content with price, council proceed with carrying out these additional works as part of contract.**
- 3. Establish cost for Wi-Fi hotspot in Warrenpoint Park and proceed with this on the basis of being within budget.**

ERT/180/2018: BELFAST REGION CITY DEAL UPDATE – FILM PRESENTATION

Mr Hannaway said the £350m from the Treasury would be a major benefit to the region and could deliver a number of key strategic projects, however he said it was important that all heads of agreement were signed first so that the deal was locked down and guaranteed, he said it was hoped to have this signed with the British Government before Christmas. He continued, saying discussions were on going with the government regarding new programmes that had been announced under the prosperity programme initiative and also other potential funding streams in terms of new EU Programmes.

The Belfast Region City Deal Update Film Presentation was then played for the Committee.

ERT/181/2018: MIPIM 2019

Read: Report dated 12 November 2018 from Ms Marie Ward, Director Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism regarding MIPIM 2019. **(copy circulated)**

Councillor Byrne asked for clarification on what the £16,000 included. Ms Ward replied that each Council had agreed to contribute £10,000 which was the sponsorship package that had been offered and included the opportunity to pitch to investors, branding, twitter feeds, private lunches and that NMDDC would be hoping to get additional

opportunities for the £10,000 investment in terms of partnering with leading organisations and networking with the delegation and the wider MIPIM audience.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed Council contribution to partner as Belfast Region £10,000 plus £6000 for travel and accommodation for Council delegation of Chair and Chief Executive and one officer.

TOURISM, CULTURE AND EVENTS ITEMS

ERT/182/2018: TOURIST ACCOMMODATION FUNDING

Read: Report dated 12 November 2018 from Mr Andy Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture and Events regarding Tourist Accommodation Funding. **(Copy circulated)**

General discussion took place among members. Ms Ward said Council would continue to work closely with Invest NI on the roll out of this initiative and she pointed out this funding should not become a subsidy to the Invest NI arrangement but rather create additional funding where necessary. She continued saying that each application would be treated on merit and the current investment of £1M would be monitored, she said it was hoped to have the application process open early in 2019.

Councillor Carr said he had some concerns regarding the budget for this saying that he understood for items to be included under capital budgets would require Council have an entitlement to it in terms of ownership or leasing and if it were to be assigned to revenue budgets this would mean a 2% increase in the 2019 rates. He continued to say the most recent tourism accommodation study did not see a need for additional accommodation provision in the Warrenpoint / Rostrevor areas.

Ms Ward acknowledged the most recent accommodation study did not currently see a need for additional accommodation provision in the Warrenpoint /Rostrevor areas. With regard to the capital budget, Ms Ward replied that Council would follow a model similar to that of Belfast City Council, however she said she would bring more detail on this issue to a future ERT Committee Meeting.

Councillor Carr said it was not Council's statutory responsibility to provide this funding and he had concerns it would adversely affect the rate payers. Ms Ward replied that she accepted whilst it was not a statutory responsibility of Council, the initiative would undoubtedly be of significant benefit to the tourism industry in the district.

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

- 1. Approval for the Council to develop its own Financial Assistance Programme to support eligible capital costs for tourist accommodation developments that have received planning permission.**
- 2. More detail on the capital budget funding for the tourist**

accommodation developments to be brought to a future ERT Committee Meeting.

ERT/183/2018: MOURNES GATEWAY PROJECT

Read: Report dated 12 November 2018 from Mr Andy Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture and Events regarding Mournes Gateway Project. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Hanna the following was agreed:
Approval to appoint a suitably qualified Integrated Consultancy Team to: progress the Mournes Gateway Project in line with BRCD requirements; to develop a comprehensive outline business case; and to develop exemplar concept design to a point where Council can apply for all statutory approvals required with a project of this scale and size. This will also include the development of a detailed programme to achieve project delivery within timescales allocated.

ERT/184/2018: NIEA ENGAGEMENT – NEWCASTLE & WARRENPOINT BEACHES

Read: Report dated 12 November 2018 from Mr Andy Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture and Events regarding Update on sand provision at Newcastle Beach & Warrenpoint Beach. **(Copy circulated)**

General discussion took place among Members and it was agreed they would welcome the opportunity to meet with NIEA officials in January 2019 to discuss in more detail all aspects concerning sand provision to both Newcastle Beach and Warrenpoint Beach.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed that Council officials will bring a final report to January 2019 ERT, with representatives from NIEA invited to attend this meeting.

FOR NOTING

ERT/185/2018: ERT BUSINESS PLAN 2018/19 MID YEAR REVIEW

Read: ERT Business Plan 2018/19 Mid Year Review. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor McAteer referred to Planning and asked why there were only nine planning applications scheduled for consideration at the next Planning Committee meeting on 21 November, Ms Ward replied that a workshop to discuss the implementation of a new Scheme of Delegation was to be held on 14 November and that from December 2018 onwards the numbers of applications to be considered at the monthly Planning Committee Meetings would be increased.

Agreed: It was agreed to 'note' the contents of the report.

ERT/186/2018: ERDF UPDATE

Read: Report dated 12 November 2018 from Ms Marie Ward, Director Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism regarding Update: Business Mentoring Programmes support via European Regional Development Fund and Invest NI . **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed to 'note' the contents of the ERDF Update report.

ERT/187/2018: HLF – DOWNPATRICK TOWNSCAPE

Read: Report dated 12 November 2018 from Mr Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration regarding Downpatrick Townscape Initiative application to Heritage Lottery Fund. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed to 'note' the contents of the HLF – Downpatrick Townscape report.

ERT/188/2018: NEWRY PUBLIC REALM PHASE 111

Read: Report dated 12 November 2018 from Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration regarding Newry Hill Street Phase III Public Realm Scheme – Task and Finish Steering Committee. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Casey said it was important that all traffic management concerns are raised with the consultants, Mr McGilly replied that this issue would be dealt with at the public consultation stage.

Agreed: It was agreed to 'note' the Newry Public Realm Phase 111 Report.

ERT/189/2018: ARTISAN MARKETS

Read: Report dated 12 November 2018 from Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration regarding Artisan Markets – Downpatrick and Newcastle – Economic Impact.. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Hanna asked about the financial implications in running the two markets and said the Notice of Motion had proposed the establishment of farmers / artisan markets and he had concerns the agri foods sector was not represented at either market. In response, Ms Ward said the cost was £10,000 p.a. for the two markets and this had been agreed on a trial basis. She continued, saying she acknowledged the Notice of Motion had included both agri foods and artisan but the artisan providers element of the market was proving to be a bigger attraction. Councillor Clarke said he believed the

artisan markets were a major success and supplied niche products, he continued saying that to include agri foods at the market would result in having a negative impact on local greengrocers and businesses in the area.

Agreed: It was agreed to approve the Artisan Markets – Downpatrick and Newcastle – Economic Impact Report.

ERT/190/2018: GEOPARK UPDATE

Read: Report dated 12 November 2018 from Mr Andy Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture and Events regarding regarding Aspiring Geopark Project update. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed to 'note' the content of the report.

ERT/191/2018: SCHEME OF DELEGATION

Read: Scheme of Delegation

Agreed: It was agreed to 'note' the Scheme of Delegation

ERT/192/2018: ACTION TRACKER UPDATE SHEET

Read: Action Tracker Update Sheet.

ERT/218/2017: ARDGLASS HARBOUR DEVELOPMENT

Mr McGilly said officials had been liaising with both the Department of Agriculture and the Department for Economy. He said recent correspondence received from the Department had indicated they were now looking at conducting a wider strategic exercise for future development of the whole fisheries and seafood industries. Mr McGilly continued, saying Council had responded to the Department asking for clarification and stating that both Ardglass and Kilkeel harbours had previously been identified for future investment. He said Council was committed to both harbours and he wanted to ensure Members were kept up to date and he would bring back a report to a future ERT Committee meeting.

ERT/140/2017: CLANBRASSIL BARNES AND TEA ROOMS, TOLLYMORE FOREST PARK

Councillor Clarke said two summer seasons had passed and there was still no tea room provision at Tollymore Forest Park. Ms Ward replied that Council was liaising with Forest Service and draft leases had been agreed however they were still waiting on evaluation from LPS and this was a lengthy process but officials would endeavour to progress this as quickly as possible.

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

ERT/193/2018: STUDY VISIT TO SEAMUS HEANEY HOME PLACE

Read: Invitation from Co-operation Ireland regarding Study Visit to Seamus Heaney Home Place, Bellaghy (Mid Ulster District Council)
(Copy circulated)

Agreed: It was agreed that any Member interested in attending the study visit should notify Eileen McParland, Democratic Services.

EXEMPT INFORMATION

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor McAteer 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/194/2018: SLIEVE GULLION AND KILBRONEY PARK AR/VR VISITOR EXPERIENCE

Read: Report dated 12 November from Mr Andy Patterson regarding the Digital Tourism Product Development in Kilbroney and Slieve Gullion Forest Parks. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Approval to submit an application to the Tourism NI Challenge Fund for the development of digitally focused AR/VR visitor experiences at Slieve Gullion and Kilbroney Forest Parks, and in allocating £150k match-funding to the project within this 18/19 Financial Year.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 4.30pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on 3 December 2018.

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

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