**NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Ref: ERT/2015**

**Minutes of Inaugural Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 13 April 2015 at 3.00pm in the Boardroom, Monaghan Row, Newry**

**In the Chair: Cllr D Curran**

**In attendance: (Councillors)**

 Cllr T Andrews Cllr R Burgess

 Cllr W Clarke Cllr G Donnelly

 Cllr S Ennis Cllr G Hanna

 Cllr V Harte Cllr H Harvey

 Cllr T Hearty Cllr D McAteer

 Cllr R Mulgrew Cllr B Quinn

 Cllr M Ruane Cllr G Stokes

 **(Non Committee Members)**

 Cllr P Clarke Cllr H Reilly

 **(Officials)**

Mr G McGivern, Acting Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism

Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager

Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of District Development

Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer

**(Blu Zebra Consultants)**

Mr P McDonagh

Ms T Hogg

**ERT/01/2015: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON’S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Liam Hannaway, Chief Executive.

Councillor Curran welcomed Members to the inaugural meeting of the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee.

**ERT/02/2015: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**ERT/03/2015: TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE**

**Read:** Report on Terms of Reference for Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee

**NOTED:** It was agreed to mark the report on terms of reference noted.

Councillor Harvey jointed the meeting at this point – 3.05 pm.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**ERT/04/2015: PRESENTATION FROM MR GERARD MCGIVERN – OVERVIEW OF ENTERPRISE REGENERATION & TOURISM DIRECTORATE**

Mr Gerard McGivern provided an overview of the Directorate advising the key areas it would be involved in were:

* tourism/development/facilities
* events/arts/museums
* economic development
* Strangford Lough and Lecale Partnership

Mr McGivern advised the Committee agendas would be focused on economic development; tourism; urban and rural regeneration; culture and arts. He also highlighted some significant events which would be taking place across the District over the coming year namely:

* Irish Open from 28th-31st May 2015
* Gran Fondo Giro d’Italia – 20th-21st June 2015
* National Famine Commemoration – 26th September 2015

**NOTED:** The information contained within the presentation was noted.

**ERT/05/2015: PRESENTATION FROM BLU ZEBRA CONSULTANTS – TO CONSIDER ISSUES EMERGING FROM DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN ECONOMIC REGENERATION AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY**

Mr McGivern advised some work had been completed by the Shadow Council and Transition Management Team in relation to the Newry, Mourne and Down Economic Regeneration and Investment Strategy and the consultants were in attendance at the meeting to provide an update on the issues emerging from this work.

Therese Hogg and Philip McDonagh, Blu Zebra then gave a presentation on the issues emerging from the development of the Newry, Mourne and Down Economic Regeneration and Investment Strategy. (copy attached)

Councillors made the following comments:-

* Rates bills in small rural towns have increased significantly, in some places more than 55%, this is unacceptable and Council may need to address this issue.
* Council may need to investigate the retention and sustainability of existing jobs and businesses.
* Activity tourism could be huge business in the area attracting young people with high disposal incomes into the area.
* Activities could be tailored for different people and sectors.
* There were huge opportunities to showcase the District with the forthcoming Irish Open, and repeat business will be hugely important.
* An economic development conference should be convened in the area to encourage local business start-up and investment opportunities.

**AGREED**: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor D McAteer, seconded by Councillor Stokes to note the contents of the presentation.**

**AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hearty, seconded by Councillor Donnelly that the Committee write to the Minister asking for a meeting with a delegation from the Committee and members of the local Chambers of Commerce, along with representatives from the rural business community, to highlight the issue of the increase in business rates.**

Councillor Harte left the meeting at this point – 4.00 pm.

**ERT/06/2015: REQUEST FOR MEETING**

Councillor Reilly requested that a Mournes DEA meeting be convened to discuss an

urgent issue regarding flooding in the area.

Mr McGivern advised that Council policy was not to convene ad-hoc meetings and

Mrs McParland clarified that such matters could be referred to the quarterly meetings

scheduled for each DEA.

Councillors Burgess and Reilly left the meeting at this point – 4.15 pm.

**ERT/07/2015: SUPER FAST BROADBAND VOUCHER SCHEME**

**Read:** Report dated 13 April 2015 from Mr J McGilly recommending:- (copy circulated)

* That Newry, Mourne and Down District Council approves in principle to be part of the scheme and work with partnering Councils to work up the best model of delivery within the budget as outlined.

**AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Hanna, to approve the above report and recommendation.**

**ERT/08/2015: WARRENPOINT PARK HERITAGE LOTTERY REGENERATION PROJECT – OPTIONS APPRAISAL**

**Read:** Report dated 13 April 2015 from Mr J McGilly recommending:- (copy circulated)

* That Newry, Mourne and Down District Council submit a planning application based on agreed detail, subject to Officers finalising the position in respect of the tennis courts in consultation with funder and user groups.

**AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor D McAteer, seconded by Councillor Hanna, to approve the above report and recommendation.**

**ERT/09/2015: UPDATE RE: DERELICTION FUNDING FOR ANNALONG, KILKEEL, BALLYNAHINCH AND SAINTFIELD**

**Read:** Report dated 13 April 2015 from Mrs M Quinn, Project Development Officer, recommending:- (copy circulated)

* That the funding which has been secured from DOE will be used to enhance derelict properties at:
1. 145 Kilkeel Road, Annalong
2. 138 Glassdrumman Road, Annalong
3. Property beside 346 Newry Road, Kilkeel (junction at Benagh Road)
4. Property beside 241 Newry Road, Kilkeel
5. 2 Bridge Street, Kilkeel
6. Property beside 170 Newcastle Road, Newry
7. 10 Belfast Road, Saintfield
8. 63 Main Street, Saintfield
9. 18-20 Belfast Road, Ballynahinch (2 properties)
10. 8-10 Windmill Street, Ballynahinch (2 properties)

The Chairman read a letter received from Councillor McGrath regarding the possibility of extending the scheme to include two properties in Downpatrick town centre.

Mr McGivern advised there was only a small amount of money and both legacy Councils had identified the above properties as those in most urgent need of repair ahead of the Irish Open. He suggested that the Committee could write to the Department asking for additional funds to carry out repairs on other properties.

**AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor W. Clarke, to approve the above report and recommendation and to write to the Minister asking for additional monies in order to carry out repairs to additional properties in the District – should additional monies become available, the Council to prepare a list of properties to potentially avail of such funding.**

**ERT/10/2015: TO DISCUSS PLANNED CUTS IN FUNDING TO:**

1. **Mourne Heritage Trust**
2. **Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership**
3. **Strangford Lough and Lecale Landscape Partnership**

Mr McGivern advised there were to be significant cuts to the above partnerships and a letter has been sent to the Minister seeking a meeting asking him to reconsider these proposed cuts.

**AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Donnelly, seconded by Councillor Andrews to request a meeting with the Minister on this issue.**

**ERT/11/2015: TO CONSIDER SPONSORSHIP OF THE GRAN FONDO GIRO d’ITALIA FOR 3 YEAR PERIOD**

**Read:** Report dated 13 April 2015 from Mr G McGivern recommending the Council agree to become an official sponsor of the Gran Fondo Giro d’Italia for the next 3 years with costs being:

Year 1 2015/16 £6,000

 Year 2 2016/17 £15,000

 Year 3 2018/19 £20,000

**AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor W Clarke, seconded by Councillor Quinn to accept the above recommendation, subject to review after year 1 and year 2 to ensure value for money is being achieved.**

**ERT/12/2015: TO NOTE GRAPHICS FOR IRISH OPEN – 26-31 MAY 2015**

**Read:** Report dated 13 April 2015 from Mr M Mohan recommending that Council note the graphics designed for the promotional activity for the Irish Open

Councillor Ruane asked officers to remember that a bilingual policy has been passed by Council and should be used in any literature designed by Council.

**NOTED: It was agreed to note the above Report.**

**ERT/13/2015: TO CONSIDER PROCUREMENT OF COASTAL REGENERATION PROJECTS – SEA FLAG FUNDING AND APPOINTMENT OF CONTRACTOR FOR MEELMORE LODGE**

**Read:** Report dated 13 April 2015 from Mr J McGilly recommending the following:-

* To appoint the most economically advantageous quotation for the fabrication of 2 art pieces for the Mourne Esplanade Recreational and Amenity Improvement scheme. Detail of the successful contractor to be tabled at May 2015 Economic Regeneration & Tourism Committee.
* To note the appointment of McAvoy Contracts Ltd to undertake the Cranfield Beach Amenity Improvement Scheme at their tender value of £279,840.25 and their appointment to carry out the Cranfield Beach Shoreline Protection Works at a cost of £42,000.00.
* To appoint the most economically advantageous tender to carry out the Meelmore Lodge Amenity Block extension and new car park works. Detail of the successful contractor to be tabled at the June 2015 Economic Regeneration & Tourism Committee.

**AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor D McAteer, seconded by Councillor Quinn to accept the above report and recommendations.**

 **ERT/14/2015: DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

**Read:** List of future Committee Meeting dates.

**NOTED: The list of meetings was noted.**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 5.00 pm.

For adoption at the Monthly Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to be held on Tuesday 5 May 2015.

Signed: Councillor D Curran

 Chairperson

Signed: Mr L Hannaway

 Chief Executive