

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 Mourne 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:**
(i) **Mourne Heritage Trust**
(ii) **Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership**
(iii) **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

Newry Mourne and Down Economic Regeneration Vision and Investment Strategy

Emerging Issues Presentation

13th April 2015

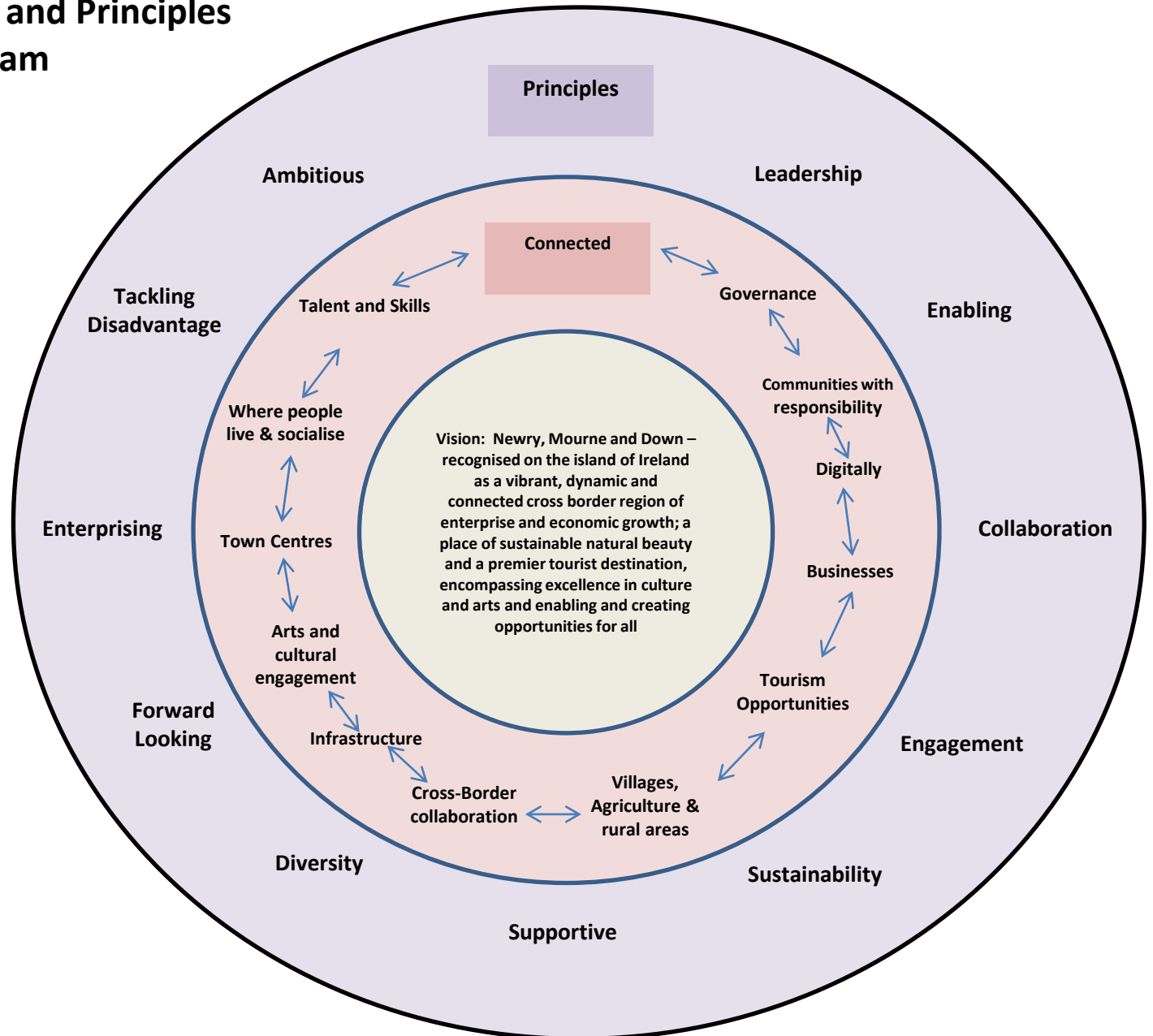
Strengths and Weaknesses

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Strategic importance of location on North / South economic corridor and Eastern Seaboard● Strong entrepreneurial tradition● Outstanding natural beauty of the area● Availability of wide range of outdoor activities● Strong agricultural and fishing tradition● Diverse cultural offering● Several key cultural assets and active local arts communities● Good cross border linkages	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Poor connectivity – roads, broadband● Business networks fragmented● Aging workforce● Natural resources not creating business opportunities/jobs● Lack of strong, identifiable brand for the region● Some areas of disadvantage still remain● Over reliance on domestic and Irish visitor markets● Lack of cohesion of cultural sector and few links with tourism● Contribution of culture and arts to economy not recognised

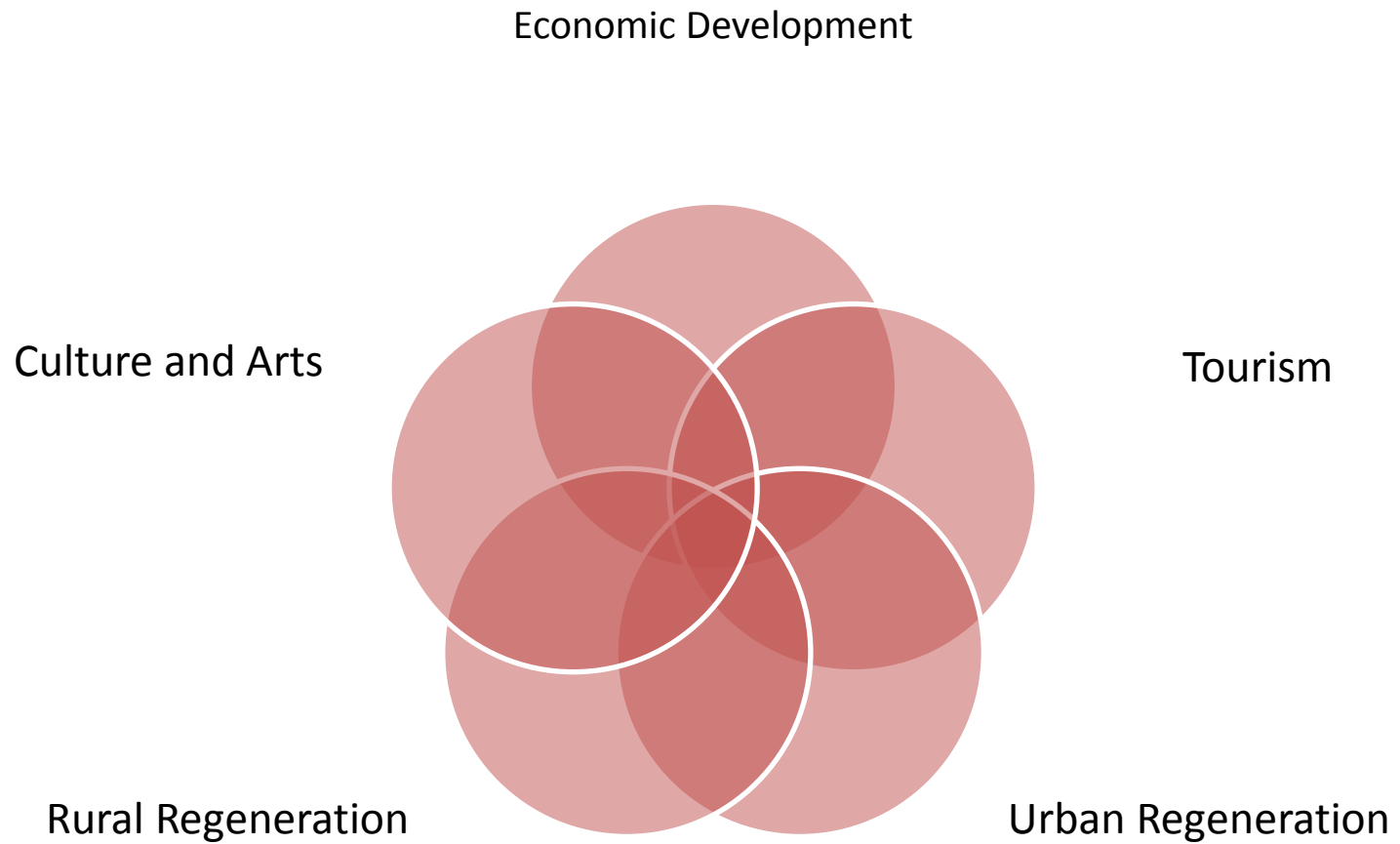
Opportunities and Threats

Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strategic opportunities at Warrenpoint & Kilkeel Harbours• Business support for growing businesses• Collaboration with Invest NI & Tourism NI to attract investment• Use of the diaspora, local business champions• Engagement of Colleges & schools• Mourne as a tourism destination• Location for outdoor/adventure tourism & food tourism• Community asset transfer model• Public/private cultural and tourism partnerships• Stronger cross border linkages and partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Slow economic growth• Competition from Belfast and Dublin for new investment• Reduced public spending resources• Currency fluctuation creates uncertainty• Development pressures• Political legacy - need for rural regeneration• External negative perceptions of border area as area to visit or invest in• Concern that much of the focus will be on the 'Newry' part of the new Council

Collective Vision and Principles Diagram



Relationships between the Different elements of Newry Mourne and Down Economic Regeneration Vision and Investment Strategy



2015 Baseline Position from which to set Targets

Indicator	Newry, Mourne & Down	Relative to Northern Ireland
No of Jobs	51,000	7% of NI jobs
No of Businesses	7,500	11% of NI businesses
No of Medium/Large Businesses	85	7% of NI medium/large businesses
No of Business with 10+ employees	670	9% of NI businesses with 10+ employees
% Achieving NVQ Level 4+	28%	28.5% NI average
No of tourist visitors pa	453k	11% of NI total
% from outside NI	34%	NI average = 51%
Total spend pa by tourist visitors	£50m	7% of NI total

Theme 1: Economic Development

- Supporting the growth of the indigenous business base
- Promoting investment in the area
- Establishing business-friendly approaches to the planning process
- Working for investment in infrastructure
- Building links between business and education
- Addressing problems of employability

Theme 2: Tourism Development, Marketing, Promotion and Events

- Creating premier outdoor/adventure destination on the island - innovative Flagship Project?
- Focusing on a number of large scale Festivals and Events
- Networking, clustering and package initiatives
- Developing the evening economy
- Providing business supports and training for tourism stakeholders
- Working with the Diaspora to promote tourism

Theme 3: Urban Development and Regeneration

- Developing a joint urban and rural regeneration strategy
- Defining disadvantage
- Promoting high quality and well-designed public spaces and strategic urban realm schemes
- Using innovative financial instruments
- Reconfiguring Village Plans into clusters with Master Plan status
- Building on the Revitalisation work on initiatives like the Newry Cathedral and Creamery Quarters
- Developing speedily the Local Development Plan

Theme 4: Rural Development and Regeneration

- Complementing investment through the Rural Development Programme
- Exploring other EU cross border and EU wide funding opportunities
- Creating effective IT infrastructure & enabling communications for Rural Areas
- Creating Strategic Rural Activity Packages
- Building Village Networking Programmes
- Establishing a Rural Business Investment Scheme

Theme 5: Culture and the Arts

- Maximising the economic and social return on investment in cultural assets
- Co-ordinating and facilitating of networking
- Providing incubators and innovation hubs for creative and cultural industries
- Inspiring and motivating young people to develop cultural micro-businesses
- Developing marketing systems to promote events and opportunities
- Providing a cultural venue for Newry with 500 seat auditorium