

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held
on Monday 13 August 2018 at 5.00pm 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 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 A Patterson, Asst. Director, Tourism Culture & Events
Ms P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer

Also in Attendance: Councillor T Andrews
Councillor W Walker

ERT/116/2018: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillor Mulgrew

Councillor Ruane acknowledged the very positive tourism figures that had recently been announced and invited Ms Ward to expand. Ms Ward advised that recent tourism figures published showed an increase in spend into the local economy from £48m in 2015 to £90m in 2017 and said this was a very significant increase that would have a positive impact for local businesses.

ERT/117/2018: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

ERT/118/2018: ACTION SHEET MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM MEETING OF MONDAY 11 JUNE 2018

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 11 June 2018. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor Burgess it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 11 June 2018.**

ENTERPRISE, EMPLOYMENT AND REGENERATION

ERT/119/2018: PLATO REPORT

Read: Report dated 13 August 2018 from Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration regarding the PLATO Programme Report. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Byrne asked if a breakdown of the types of businesses that was included in the programme for last year could be made available, Ms Ward agreed to make this information available to Members.

Councillor McAteer asked for more information on the PLATO programme and who the point of contact was. Ms Ward replied that the programme was managed through PLATO and although she did not have more detailed information to hand, she would ensure that Members would be updated on the detail of the PLATO programme in advance of the next Council Meeting on 3 September 2018.

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

- **Newry, Mourne and Down District Council agree funding of up to a total of £8,000 to implement the Plato Programme in the District.**
- **Members are provided with a breakdown of the types of businesses that were included in the PLATO programme last year.**
- **More detail on the PLATO programme to be made available to Members in advance of the next Council Meeting on 3 September 2018.**

ERT/120/2018: CASTLEWELLAN FOREST PARK

Read: Report dated 13 August 2018 from Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration regarding the Castlewellan Forest Park. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor Clarke it was agreed to:**

- **Note the contents of the Castlewellan Forest Park Task and Finish Action Sheet dated 13.06.18**
- **To proceed with procurement of consultant to carry out an Economic Appraisal at Castlewellan Forest Park**
- **To approve and adopt contents of the Castlewellan Forest Park Task and Finish Action Sheet dated 06.07.18**
- **Proceed with submission HLF and DAERA applications based on the costs that have been provided by Consultants reports.**
- **NMDDC to proceed with procuring a Multi-Disciplinary Team for DAERA and HLF works in Walled Garden and Bothy Yard in Castlewellan.**
- **NMDDC to identify and explore element of HLF Development works that can be undertaken prior to December 2018.**

ERT/121/2018: SOCIAL ENTERPRISE NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN PROGRAMME UPDATE

Read: Report dated 13 August 2018 from Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration regarding the Social Enterprise Newry, Mourne and Down Programme. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Byrne seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed that Newry, Mourne and Down District Council approve the additional activity and outputs for the Social Enterprise Newry, Mourne and Down Programme.**

ERT/122/2018: DOWNPATRICK REGENERATION PROJECT

Read: Report dated 13 August 2018 from Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration regarding Downpatrick Regeneration Project **(Copy circulated)**

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

- **Council offices continue to progress land purchase to include the additional property at No.39 Irish Street which is adjacent to Former Police Station.**
- **Officers explore with relevant government departments any issues that may arise due to Heritage Merit of the site**

- **As the site was purchased on the basis that the link road not being included in the brief. DEA Cllrs request via DEA officers a meeting with Transport NI**
- **Officers bring back to council via ERT suitable governance structures for the project**

ERT/123/2018: BELFAST REGION CITY DEAL UPDATE

Read: Report dated 13 August 2018 from Liam Hannaway Chief Executive regarding Belfast Region City Deal – Update on Emerging Proposition.
(Copy circulated)

In updating Members on the Belfast Region City Deal, Mr Hannaway advised that projects were being prioritised in terms of which would achieve the most significant impacts for economic growth in the area.

Councillor Hanna referred to the Newcastle Gateway project being on the reserve list and asked what this meant. Mr Hannaway replied that strategic outline cases were being undertaken for each project and that although work on Newcastle Gateway was still progressing, it was less developed than the Southern Relief Road project which was at an advanced stage with DFI leading on it. Mr Hannaway continued, saying that Council was still committed to progressing both Kilkeel and Ardglass harbours however they would not be included within the City Deal proposition.

Ms Ward said Newcastle Gateway was a £63m project and that although Tourism NI was committed to the development of the project, it could not commit to any funding. Ms Ward continued, saying a detailed business case would need to be done and Officers would continue to work to try and deliver this project.

Councillor Clarke said it was very important that the Newcastle Gateway Project remained at a high level on the reserve list. He welcomed the inclusion of the Southern Relief Road in the proposal but said it was important to ensure that capital projects such as this would provide employment locally and this should be built in at early development stage.

Councillor Byrne asked if there could be more focus on digital infrastructure, employment and skills. Mr Hannaway replied that a full fibre network was proposed with additional funding that would enhance the broadband facility and improved regional connectivity.

Councillor McAteer referred to both Warrenpoint Marina and Narrow Water Bridge and said they both delivered GVA in terms of tourism. Mr Hannaway replied saying that the development of the Southern Relief Road would be critical for the future of Warrenpoint Port in terms of connectivity and business development and additionally, it would be fully funded by Department for Infrastructure.

Councillor Carr expressed disappointment that Warrenpoint Marina had been removed from the list. Ms Ward replied in order to fit the criteria for inclusion in the City Deal proposal the GVA must have an impact across the region, not just locally. She continued, saying that Council would continue to liaise with Harbour Authorities regarding progressing this project.

Agreed: It was agreed to note the contents of the report and progress on the proposition in from Belfast Region City Deal.

ERT/124/2018: DFI Letters Of Offer for further Greenway Project development work.

Read: Report dated 13 August 2018 from Jonathan McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding DFI Letters of Offer for further Greenway Project development work.

Councillor Hanna asked for more detail on who would be included on the Steering Group and who would represent Council on it and also whether the proposed route would impact the railway line at Downpatrick. Ms Ward replied that the work carried out so far was at a very high level and that public meetings had taken place. She said she had met with Ulster Farmers Union and was aware of the deep concerns within the farming community and she said more meetings were needed at local level.

Councillor Clarke said a positive proactive approach was needed and it was important that the opportunities for establishing businesses should be pointed out to the farming community he continued, saying that it might be beneficial to invite people to a future local level meeting who had set up new businesses and who have already benefitted from the development of greenways such as on the Wild Atlantic Way.

Councillor Burgess said there was opposition from farmers due to the concern surrounding animal insurance and people crossing their land. With regard to laneways and Rights of Ways, he said there were issues in the Down area where some were being closed to facilitate housing development and referred to a list that was being compiled by Council officials and asked if this had been completed and if he could be updated on it. Ms Ward replied that this work was being undertaken by Corporate Services and she would ensure this information was made available to him.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor Clarke it was agreed that:

- **Council accept both DFI Letters of Offer for the Downpatrick to Newcastle and Downpatrick to Comber proposed Greenways.**
- **Council proceed to appoint Consultants, via Scape Framework to assist in Project Bid/Detail Design stages.**
- **Council work in Partnership with Ards & North Down Borough**
- **Council to establish a steering committee to oversee this next stage of the projects to ensure that all interests particularly those of local landowners are being considered.**
- **Councillor Burgess to be sent updated list on the Rights of Ways in the Down area.**

ERT/125/2018: Changchun Region Friendship Agreement

Read: Report dated 13 August 2018 from Liam Hannaway, Chief Executive regarding Visit to Changchun October 2018 – Changchun Region Friendship Agreement.

In response to a query from Councillor Byrne as to the benefits to be gained from this visit, Mr Hannaway replied that this friendship agreement was about building relationships, it was not a twinning arrangement. He said the Council would be joined by a representative from Newry Chamber of Commerce and one member of staff representing Southern Regional College and South Eastern Regional College. A Business and Education Cooperation Agreement would be signed. He continued, saying it was a very structured trip and that Council and other delegates would make a presentation on the Newry, Mourne and Down District at a Business Conference that was to be held in Changchun.

Councillor Carr asked if Council was only funding the cost of the trip for their own officers, Mr Hannaway replied that the services of a translator from the Confucius Institute would be required and that Council would fund this.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Hanna to note contents of the report and agree to the following recommendations:

- **The attendance of the Chair, Chief Executive and one other officer to attend the Leaders' Summit in Dalian and agree future working relationships with Changchun City and Region.**
- **To sign the Friendly Cooperation Cities Agreement.**

ERT/126/2018: C8 Eastern Economic Corridor Conference

Read: Report dated 13 October 2018 from Marie Ward regarding C8 Eastern Economic Corridor

Councillor Byrne said he was in full support of the report although he was not aware of the existence of the Steering Group. Mr Hannaway said the Steering Group had been set up as a result of a meeting he had had with the CEO of Fingal County Council. He continued, saying it was in the very early stages and the primary focus of the group was planning for the future and a vision for 20 years time.

Councillor Byrne referred to the Council contribution towards the Conference to include 50 delegates at a cost of £15,000 and asked if this had already been agreed. Mr Hannaway replied that it was still a very new concept and not formalised at this stage. and that it would be presented to all 8 Councils at the same time.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed that:

(1) A Study on the Eastern Corridor to be completed by Ulster University and Dublin City University that will analysis the real economic opportunities along the corridor and potential projects of economic merit that can be delivered in collaboration

- **Completion of the study is 5 months (draft: Early October,**

Final Dec 18)

- **The overall aim for the research is to profile the Eastern Economic Corridor on the island of Ireland and establish an evidence base for potential local government-led collaboration along the corridor.**
- **The specific objectives for the research project include:**
 - **To provide an evidence base for an economic corridor on the Eastern seaboard of the island of Ireland;**
 - **To identify the basis for collaboration and potential interventions and actions that might assist in the development of an Eastern Economic Corridor.**

(2) Early in 2019, a Conference will be held to look at the combined strengths of the 8 Council regions, and how the Dublin-Belfast economic corridor is the primary region on the island of Ireland with the potential to compete with the world's largest cities and metropolitan zones. The objective of this Conference is to highlight and explore in greater depth the significant economic potential and benefits of a cohesive Eastern Economic Corridor achieved through greater connectivity

- **The event will bring together an influential group of leaders, thinkers and investors from around the world, to show what the corridor can offer through investment in vastly improved connectivity and partnership growth.**
- **It will also see key figures from the private, public and third sectors from both sides of the border discuss how best to pool the resources of the corridor to compete on a global basis and address the diverse opportunities from across the investment community.**
- **It will explore how and where complementary skills can be combined along the Eastern Economic Corridor, where economies of scale can be found and where the joint efforts of both cities can produce a global force which is even more powerful than the sum of its parts. Critical to success is connectivity along the corridor and between the cities, both physical and digital**
- **Workshops Themes might include: (opportunity to each Council to lead on a Theme)**
 - **Infrastructure and accessibility**
 - **Social innovation**
 - **Sectoral cluster growth**
 - **Employability, skills and talent**
 - **The developing position on Brexit**
 - **Global competitiveness**
 - **Attracting investment**

TOURISM CULTURE AND EVENTS

ERT/127/2018: NEWRY TOWN HALL/SEAN HOLLYWOOD ARTS CENTRE – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Read: Report dated 13 August 2018 from Andy Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture and Events regarding Expression of Interest sought for Provision of a Hospitality Service at Sean Hollywood Arts Centre and Newry Town Hall (Copy circulated).

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to seek approval for an Expression of Interest to provide a bar/hospitality service at the Sean Hollywood Arts Centre and Newry Town Hall on a set number of occasions throughout the year.

ERT/128/2018 MOURNES GATEWAY PROJECT – OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE

Read: Report dated 13 August 2018 from 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 it was agreed that approval be granted to appoint a suitably qualified provider to develop the Outline Business Case for the ongoing considerations for the Belfast Region City Deal bid.

ERT/129/2018: GOLF TOURISM

Read: Report dated 13 August 2018 from Andy Patterson, Assistant Director Enterprise, Tourism, Culture and Events regarding 2019 Golf FAM Trip on conjunction with TNI. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Byrne said all rural golf courses throughout the District should be identified and advised of the potential business opportunity of this initiative.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Carr it was agreed to hold an International Golf Familiarisation Trip to promote golf tourism, along with other tourism experiences within the region in conjunction with Tourism Northern Ireland as this will be will be excellent opportunity to target international golfing tour operators to further promote, showcase and grow the fantastic golfing product within the Newry, Mourne and Down region.

All rural golf courses throughout the district to be notified of opportunities of promoting the region in the lead up to

July 2019.

ERT/130/2018: DELAMONT COUNTRY PARK MASTERPLAN

Read: Report dated 13 August 2018 from Andy Patterson Assistant Director Tourism, Culture and Events regarding Masterplan for Delamont Country Park

Councillor Walker said Rowallen Councillors were very keen to ensure the tourism potential of Delamont Country Park was realised and he was fully supportive of the Masterplan.

Councillor Burgess said some maintenance was required with the redistribution of woodchip in the play areas of the park. Mr Patterson advised this issue would be addressed.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Harvey seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed that approval be granted to begin a comprehensive engagement process on the development of this Masterplan with local residents, user groups, stakeholders, and businesses, etc on the development of Delamont Country Park.**

Contact to be made with the relevant personnel of Delamont Country Park to address the need for the redistribution of woodchip in the play areas of the park.

ENTERPRISE EMPLOYMENT AND REGENERATION - FOR NOTING

ERT/131/2018: FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – TOURISM EVENTS FUND SUMMARY

Read: Report dated 13 August 2018 from Andy Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture and Events regarding Financial Assistance Programme: Tourism Events Fund. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Byrne pointed out that only 66% of the available 100% funding was paid out to the successful applicants and he said going forward, both Councillors and user groups needed clarity on how to secure 100% funding. Additionally, he said that there was a lot of ambiguity in the Guidelines. Mr Patterson replied that a financial assistance review was being undertaken, information workshops will be held before future funding calls and that he would be happy to meet with prospective groups to address any concerns they had prior to future financial assistance calls.

Councillor Carr agreed with Councillor Byrne and said that one of the factors that determined the level of funding granted to applicants was based on the number of visitors to an event, but Councillor Carr said it was impossible to answer this until after the event had been held.

Mr Patterson agreed to look at these points.

Agreed: **The Financial Assistance – Tourism Events Fund Summary was 'noted'.**

Mr Patterson to review the current guidelines for the Financial Assistance Programme.

ERT/132/2018: NEWCASTLE HARBOUR DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

Read: Report dated 13 August 2018 from Jonathan McGilly Assistant Director of Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration regarding Newcastle Harbour Development Proposals. **(Copy circulated)**

Discussion took place among Members regarding the proposed development of the harbour and it was generally agreed that careful consideration would have to be given to what would be included within the development and that Members and the local community should be involved in this process.

Ms Ward emphasised that Council was not in discussions with any developer at this stage and that proper procedure would be followed in that a development brief would be worked up that would go out as an Expression of Interest and that all comments made by Members would be noted.

Agreed: **The Newcastle Harbour Development Proposals report was 'noted'**

ERT/133/2018: SCHEME OF DELEGATION

Read: Scheme of Delegation Report. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **The Scheme of Delegation Report was 'noted'.**

ERT/134/2018: ACTION TRACKER UPDATE SHEET

Read: Action Tracker Update Sheet. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **The Action Tracker Update Sheet was 'noted'.**

EXEMPT INFORMATION

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor Harvey 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/135/2018 CITY OF MERCHANTS FESTIVAL

Read: Report dated 11 June 2018 from Andy Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture and Events regarding City of Merchants Festival. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor Harvey 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 Hanna seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed that the City of Merchants Festival be moved (from the 22/23 September) to 1 – 4 November; and that event budget is reallocated as necessary.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 6.55pm

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

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

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