

## **NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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**Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 9 May 2016 at 3.00pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry**

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**Chairperson:** Councillor D Curran

**Deputy Chairperson:** Councillor R Mulgrew

**In Attendance:** **(Committee Members)**

Councillor R Burgess

Councillor W Clarke

Councillor P Byrne

Councillor S Ennis

Councillor G Hanna

Councillor H Harvey

Councillor T Hearty

Councillor D McAteer

Councillor M Ruane

Councillor B Quinn

Councillor G Stokes

**(Non Members)**

Councillor P Clarke

**Officials in Attendance:** Ms M Ward, Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism  
Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism  
Mr M Mohan, Senior Tourism Initiatives Manager  
Ms M Boyle, Tourism Development Officer  
Ms L Dillon, Democratic Services Officer

### **ERT/70/2016: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Councillor Curran said he would be standing down as Chairperson of the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee after today's meeting. He extended his thanks and appreciation to the Committee Members for their help and assistance throughout his year as Chairperson.

Councillor Curran expressed his thanks to Ms Marie Ward Director of Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism and the Officers in her Department for their help and guidance over the past year.

Finally Councillor Curran extended thanks to Councillor Roisin Mulgrew, Vice Chairperson of the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee, for her effort and support.

The following apologies were received

Councillor V Harte  
Councillor T Andrews

Ms Ward made an announcement to the Committee regarding the location of a Tourism NI staff member in the District and said she was pleased to announce that Mr Andy Patterson would transfer from Tourism NI to work with NMDDC in June 2016 and would be based in the Newry Offices. She said Mr Patterson would be meeting with the Tourism Strategy Task & Finish Working Group on Tuesday 10 May 2016.

**ERT/71/2016: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

**ERT/72/2016: ACTION SHEET  
MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE REGENERATION & TOURISM  
COMMITTEE MEETING  
MONDAY 11 APRIL 2016**

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Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 11 April 2016. (Copy circulated)

**AGREED: It was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 11 April 2016.**

**ENTERPRISE, EMPLOYMENT & REGENERATION ITEMS**

**ERT/73/2016: MASTERPLAN REVIEW**

Read: Report from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding the prioritisation of Master plans. (Copy enclosed)

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor W Clarke it was agreed to hold a facilitated Member Workshop to consider the Master Plans and agree a Prioritisation of Projects.**

**It was agreed Council Officials ensure the date of the Member Workshop will not clash with any other pre-arranged appointments already in the Council Diary.**

**ERT/74/2016: FORKHILL GREENSPACE SCHEME**

Read: Report from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding a response to a letter of offer from DARD regarding the Forkhill Greenspace Project. (Copy enclosed)

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hearty seconded by Councillor Mulgrew it was agreed to accept the letter of offer from DARD in the sum of £250,000 for the Forkhill Greenspace Project and proceed with arrangements to appoint consultants and contractors in order to have works completed by 31 March 2017.**

**ERT/75/2016: NEWRY ARTS CENTRE – REFURBISHMENT SCHEME**

Read: Report dated 9 May 2016 from Ms A Magill, Enterprise Employment and Regeneration regarding the Refurbishment Scheme at Newry Arts Centre. (Copy circulated)

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed the Council proceed to tender for the flat roof refurbishment, external doors replacement and painting of the Sean Hollywood Arts Centre building, with all works to be completed by 31 March 2017.**

**ERT/76/2016: NEWRY BID**

Read: Report from Ms M Ward, Director of Enterprise and Regeneration regarding a BID levy operating agreement and data sharing agreement between Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and BID Company. (Copy circulated)

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Byrne it was agreed Council Officials be granted approval to finalise an agreement between Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and BID Company, in line with internal policies and procedures and in**

**due course, have the Agreement signed and thereafter commence the invoicing process as soon as possible.**

**ERT/77/2016: REGIONAL START INITIATIVE INTERIM MANAGER ARRANGEMENTS**

Read: Report dated 9 May 2016 from Mr M Patterson, Enterprise Development Officer regarding contribution towards costs for recruitment of an Interim NIBSUP Programme Manager. (Copy circulated)

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed Newry Mourne & Down District Council contribute £2,440.37 (as detailed in appendix "Indicative Council Salary Contributions for RSI Interim Manager), towards the cost of Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council recruiting and employing an Interim NIBSUP Programme Manager for an initial six month period.**

**ERT/78/2016: SMALL BUSINESS RATE RELIEF SCHEME**

Read: Report dated 9 May 2016 from Mr M Patterson, Enterprise Development Officer regarding a discussion paper from Department of Finance and Personnel – "Alternative to the Small Business Rate Relief Scheme." (Copy circulated)

Councillor W Clarke said clarity should be sought on the following issues:

- To identify if there are mechanisms within the Community Planning DEAs to look at shaping our High Streets., ie, the possibility of carrying out an audit of businesses on the high streets in towns in the District to identify needs in terms of other types of businesses.
- To identify if there are any kind of incentives to support rural economies.

Councillor McAteer said high rates were contributing towards the closure of many shops and small businesses and he felt that any review needed to target areas where problems already lie and to ensure better use of monies the Small Business Rate Relief Scheme should be done in consultation with Councils which may bring a better outcome.

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor W Clarke seconded by Councillor Burgess it was agreed to submit a response on behalf of the Council regarding the Small Business Rate Relief Scheme, as**

recommended in report dated 9 May 2016 from Mr M Patterson Enterprise Development Officer, subject to including comments made by Members regarding the following:

- An audit of businesses on high streets
- Supporting economies in rural economies
- The Scheme should be implemented in consultation with Councils

**ERT/79/2016: HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT FUND**

Read: Report dated 9 May 2016 from Mr M Patterson, Enterprise Development Officer regarding a response to the Department of the Environment "Historic Environment Fund" consultation document. (Copy circulated)

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor W Clarke it was agreed to submit a response on behalf of the Council regarding the Historic Environment Fund consultation, as recommended in Report dated 9 May 2016 from Mr M Patterson Enterprise Development Officer.**

**FOR NOTING**

**ERT/80/2016: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
NORTHERN IRELAND PROTECTED AREA NETWORK (NIPAN)  
RING OF GULLION AONB / STRANGFORD & LECALÉ P'SHIP**

Read: Report dated 15 April 2016 from Mr D Rice, Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership Scheme Manager regarding Ring of Gullion AONB and Strangford & Lecale Partnership Memorandum of Understanding with NIPAN. (Copy circulated)

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Harvey seconded by Councillor Mulgrew it was agreed the Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership Scheme Manager and the Strangford & Lecale Partnership Manager be granted authority to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with the Northern Ireland Protected Area Network (NIPAN).**

## **TOURISM CULTURE & EVENTS**

### **ERT/81/2016: CAFÉ FRANCHISE – SEAN HOLLYWOOD ARTS CENTRE**

Read: Report dated 9 May 2016 from Ms A Magill, Officer, regarding three year Licence for café franchise facility at Sean Hollywood Arts Centre, Newry. (Copy circulated)

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed the Council proceed to seek expressions of interest from caterers for a new three year Licence of the Café facility at the Sean Hollywood Arts Centre to be effective from June 2016 – May 2019 and review the rental value of the Café area at the Sean Hollywood Arts Centre, incorporating the payment of rates as per addendum to Licence.**

### **ERT/82/2016: ST PATRICK'S COUNTRY - USA AND GB MARKETING ACTIVITY PLAN**

Read: Report dated 9 May 2016 from Mr M Mohan, Senior Tourism Initiatives Manager regarding a Marketing Activity Plan for St Patrick's Country in USA and GB. (Copy circulated)

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor W Clarke it was agreed as follows, as per recommendation contained in Report dated 9 May 2016 from Mr M Mohan Senior Tourism Initiatives Manager:**

- (a) To grant approval for Council Officials to proceed with the implementation of the St Patrick's Country USA & GB Marketing Activity Plan.**
- (b) To approve the use of the services of Newry based Tour Operator, Brack Tours and Crossmaglen based Coach Operator, Matthew Coaches in the US & GB markets as required under the terms set out in a Service Level Agreement.**

### **ERT/83/2016: REQUEST FROM NEWRY MARITIME ASSOCIATION COMMEMORATIVE SEAT AT ALBERT BASIN NEWRY**

Read: Letter dated 7 March 2016 from Newry Maritime Association regarding the placing of a commemorative seat at the Albert Basin, Newry. (Copy circulated)

Read: Letter dated 6 April 2016 from Mr L Hannaway Chief Executive, in response to letter dated 7 March 2016 from Newry Maritime Association regarding a request for a commemorative seat at Albert Basin Newry.

**Noted:** At the Party Representatives' Forum Meeting held on Tuesday 22 March 2016 it was agreed Mr L Hannaway Chief Executive write to Mr O Hare Newry Maritime Association advising that the Council are currently considering a policy on the naming of Council facilities and when the policy is finalised the Council will advise on the position in relation to the placing of the commemorative seat at Albert Basin Newry.

**ERT/84/2016: SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT  
- MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST**

Read: Report dated 9 May 2016 from Ms M Ward, Director of Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism regarding a Service Level Agreement with the Mourne Heritage Trust. (Copy enclosed)

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor Quinn it was agreed to approve the Service Level Agreement (Core Funding Agreement) between Newry Mourne & Down District Council and the Mourne Heritage Trust.**

**ERT/85/2016: TOURISM DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY  
LEARNING JOURNEYS**

Read: Report dated 9 May 2016 from Ms M Ward, Director of Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism regarding proposed learning journeys for the development of the Tourism strategy. (Copy circulated)

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor W Clarke seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed to approve the proposed learning journey to the Cairngorms in Scotland, as recommended in Report dated 9 May 2016 from Ms M Ward Director of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism.**

**ERT/86/2016: PROPOSALS RE: YEAR OF FOOD**

Read: Report dated 9 May 2016 from Ms M Boyle, Tourism Development Officer and Ms Tracey Kearns, Tourism, regarding proposals for the Year of Food. (Copy circulated)

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor W Clarke seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed to appoint Food NI to facilitate a Newry Mourne & Down Food Network Forum for Year of Food and Drink, as recommended in report dated 9 May 2016 from Ms T Kearns Tourism Department.

**ERT/87/2016: FORWARD PLANNING – SLIEVE GULLION**

Read: Report dated 18 April 2016 from Ms M Boyle, Tourism Development Officer regarding the Report of the Slieve Gullion DEA Councillors, NI Forest Service and Clanyre Group regarding Forward Planning for Slieve Gullion held on 15 April 2016. (Copy circulated)

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Hearty it was agreed to approve the following recommendations which were agreed at the Slieve Gullion DEA Councillors Meeting with NI Forest Service/Clanyre Group held on 15 April 2016:

- **Park & Ride Service to operate from JADE Centre until September 2016.**
- **The appointed bus company to be extended to September 2016.**
- **The Park & Ride bus to avoid Adavoyle Road if possible.**
- **NI Forest Service to be approached regarding native tree planting along new fence on the driveway**
- **Clanyre Group to liaise with Council officials on date of food event.**

**ERT/88/2016: FORWARD PLANNING – MUSEUMS**

Read: Report dated 9 May 2016 from M King and Noreen Cunningham, Museum Curators regarding forward planning for Down County Museum and Newry & Mourne Museum 2016 -2019. (Copy circulated)

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed to approve the content of the Forward Plan for Down County Museum and Newry & Mourne Museum for 2016 – 2019, as per Report dated 9 May 2016 from Ms N Cunningham and Mr M King Museum Curators.



**Noted:** It was noted Officers will continue to report back to the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee on progress regarding forward planning for the Council's Museums.

**FOR NOTING**

**ERT/89/2016: MOUNTAIN BIKE WORLD CUP EVENT  
FORT WILLIAM (4-5 JUNE 2016)**

Read: Report dated 8 April 2016 from Ms M McKeown regarding attendance of Council Representatives at the Mountain Bike World Cup Event in Fort William from 4-5 June 2016, to assist in the promotion of Rostrevor and Castlewellan Mountain Bike Trails. (Copy circulated)

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Quinn it was agreed to note the attendance of a Council representative along with the Trail Head Provider for Kilbroney Mountain Bike Trail and the main provider at Castlewellan Mountain Bike Trail, at the Mountain Bike World Cup event in Fort William on 4 – 5 June 2016.**

**It was also noted the Council would have a stand at this event.**

**ERT/90/2016: FESTIVAL OF FLIGHT  
APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR**

Read: Report dated 9 May 2016 from Mr M Mohan Senior Tourism Initiatives Manager regarding the appointment of a Festival of Flight Flying Display Director. (Copy circulated)

**Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on this matter which related to exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 1 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).**

**Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed the Committee come 'out of closed session'.**

**Agreed: When the Committee came 'out of closed session', the Chairman reported it was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burgess**

**seconded by Councillor Harvey, to appoint Mr Rick Peacock-Edwards as Festival of Flight Flying Display Director for 2016, and annually thereafter for a further 2 years, subject to a successful post event review each year, and confirmation of continuance of the festival and annual costs being considered prior to each Festival of Flight event by the Director of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism.**

**ERT/91/2016: GEOPARK PROJECT APPLICATION**

**Noted:** It was noted Council Officials received confirmation from Louth County Council confirming that following a meeting they had with the Irish Farmers Association, that the organisation was very clear that it was not prepared to support any application for Geo Park status, therefore, Louth County Council will not be proceeding with the application.

Ms Ward explained that the Geopark application depended on having a cross border partner and therefore in light of the announcement from Louth County Council not to proceed with this application, the project could not stand. She suggested tabling this matter for discussion at the forthcoming Meeting of the Louth MOU.

Several Councillors expressed their disappointment at the decision by Louth County Council to withdraw from the Geopark Project funding application.

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed:**

- (a) The Council write to all Louth TDs regarding the Geopark Tourism Project.**
- (b) To include an item on the agenda for the forthcoming meeting of the Louth MOU regarding the Geopark Tourism Project.**

Councillor Stokes expressed his thanks to the outgoing Chairperson of the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee, Councillor Curran, for his work over the past year in chairing the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee meetings which he said was a very important Committee of Council.

Councillor Hearty commended Councillor Curran on his year chairing the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee and said he was a very good and fair Chairperson and both he and Vice Chairperson, Councillor Mulgrew worked very well together.

Councillor Hanna concurred with the comments of Councillor Stokes and Councillor Hearty.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 3.50pm.

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 6 June 2016.

**Signed: Councillor D Curran**  
**Chairperson**

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