

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 9 October 2017 at 5.00pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry

Chairperson: Councillor P Byrne

Vice Chairperson: Councillor D Hyland

In Attendance: **(Committee Members)**

Councillor R Burgess
Councillor C Casey
Councillor D Curran
Councillor G Hanna
Councillor H Harvey
Councillor T Hearty
Councillor D McAteer
Councillor O McMahon
Councillor B Quinn
Councillor M Ruane
Councillor G Stokes
Councillor W Clarke
Councillor M Carr

(Non Committee Members)

Councillor M Savage
Councillor P Brown
Councillor W Walker
Councillor G Craig
Councillor R Mulgrew
Councillor G Fitzpatrick
Councillor M Murnin
Councillor J Tinnelly
Councillor T Andrews

Officials in Attendance: Mr L Hannaway Chief Executive NMDDC
Ms M Ward Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism
Mr J McGilly Asst. Director, Economic Regeneration & Tourism
Mr A Patterson Asst. Director, Tourism Culture & Events
Ms M Boyle Tourism Development Officer
Ms P McKeever Democratic Services Officer

ERT/168/2017: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

No Apologies were received.

The Chairperson asked that congratulations be relayed to the Events staff responsible for the very successful events that took place throughout the summer months. The Chairperson also made reference to the visit to Rockwell Collins due to take place on the 18 October and said only those who had responded by Friday 13 October would be permitted to attend. Councillors Hyland, Carr, Harvey and Quinn asked that their names be put forward to attend.

ERT/169/2017: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Curran declared an interest in Item Number 7 on the Agenda – Union Priority 4 (SEAFLAG) **(copy circulated)**

Councillor Byrne declared an interest in Item Number 6 - Rural Development Programme Broadband Application **(copy circulated)** and Item Number 8 – Application to Heritage Lottery Fund for Great Place Scheme **(copy circulated)**.

FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION

ERT/170/2017: ACTION SHEET MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING MONDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2017

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 11 September 2017. **(Copy circulated)**

The following issue was raised:

ERT/156/2017 Councillor McAteer raised the issue of overgrown grass in a lot of public areas in the District and asked if a letter could be written to Transport NI regarding this matter. Mrs Ward stated that Transport NI is to attend a Council Meeting on the 23 October 2017 and this issue can be raised at that meeting.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Hyland the following was agreed:

- **The issue of overgrown grass public areas to be raised with Transport NI at the Council Meeting scheduled for 23 October 2017.**
- **To note the Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 11 September 2017**

ENTERPRISE, EMPLOYMENT & REGENERATION

ERT/171/2017: GREENWAY DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

Read: Report dated 9 October from Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director regarding Greenway Development Project. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Hyland asked for an update to the Newry / Omeath Greenway. Mr McGilly advised that Phase 1 is complete and Phase 2 is underway. A Steering Group has been set up to progress the next Phase from Victoria Lock, funding has been secured and completion should be in 2020.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed as follows as per report dated 9 October 2017 from Mr J McGilly regarding Greenway Development Project

- **Council approval to work up project bids and detailed designs for the Department of Infrastructure's Capital Grants Programme for Greenways should the Programme become available.**
- **Council explores how the work relating to the negotiation with landowners can be progressed**

ERT/172/2017: NORTHERN IRELAND EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND PROGRAMME 2014-2020

Read: Report dated 9 October 2017 from Mr J McGilly regarding Northern Ireland Social Fund Programme 2014-2020. **(Copy circulated)**

Concern was raised that there would not be suitable employment for young people on completion of their training. Councillor Quinn said that tool kits cost a lot of money and employers did not want to employ people without them and said a scheme was needed to try to help young people build up a toolkit. Mrs Ward replied that a Skills Audit was to be undertaken which would test needs and demands.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor Casey it was agreed as follows as per report dated 9 October from Mr J McGilly regarding Northern Ireland Social Fund Programme 2014 - 2020:

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (a) authorise Council officials to engage with relevant organisations to develop potential ESF applications and report back to Council in due course and (b) provide £50,000 per annum within the 2018/19, 2019/20 & 2020/21 financial years to match fund and lever in potential new economic and employment projects under the European Social Fund programme 2014 - 2020. This would be made available within the economic development budget.

ERT/173/2017: RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME BROADBAND APPLICATION

Read: Report dated 9 October 2017 from Mr J McGilly regarding Rural Development Programme Broadband Application. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke seconded by Councillor Harvey it was agreed as follows as per report dated 9 October 2017 from Mr J McGilly regarding Rural Development Programme Broadband Application.

- **Accept the RDP Letter of Offer from Rural Development Programme to conduct this feasibility study;**
- **Implement project as per application and report back to committee in February 2018 with a report on recommended outcome and way forward.**

ERT/174/2017: UNION PRIORITY 4 (SEAFLAG)

Read: Report dated 9 October 2017 from Mr J McGilly, regarding Union Priority 4 (SEAFLAG) **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Clarke asked if Newcastle fishing communities could be included as part of this funding application. Mr McGilly replied that this was not possible but said it could be considered at a future date.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Quinn seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed as follows as per report dated 9 October 2017 from Mr J McGilly regarding Union Priority 4 (SEAFLAG)

That Committee notes the SEAFLAG appointment and that consideration be given to including £100,000 in the 2018/19 budget to facilitate potential match funding requirements.

ERT/175/2017: APPLICATION TO HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND FOR GREAT PLACE SCHEME

Read: Report dated October 2017 from Mr J McGilly regarding Application for Heritage Lottery Fund for Great Place Scheme. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hearty seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed as follows as per report dated October 2017 from Mr J McGilly regarding Application for Heritage Lottery Fund for Great Place Scheme.

- **To agree that the Council act as a lead partner for this application and submit the preliminary application.**

- **To pursue all relevant funding opportunities to match fund the application, if it is successful to the final stage.**
- **Recommend the on-going support from all relevant NMDDC departments for the applications.**

ERT/176/2017: NEWRY CANAL LOCK GATE NO. 5 RESTORATION

Read: Report dated 9 October 2017 from Mr J McGilly, regarding Newry Canal Lock Gate No.5 Restoration. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Hyland it was agreed as follows as per report from Mr J McGilly, regarding Newry Canal Lock Gate No.5 Restoration.

Council accept the Letter Of Offer from the Landfill Communities Fund for £92,445 towards the 'Newry Canal Lock No.5 Restoration' and now proceed to commission the required procurement processes for consultants and contractors to have the scheme designed and delivered.

ERT/177/2017: OUTLINE REGENERATION FORWARD WORK PLACE - DFC

Read: Report dated 9 October 2017 from Mr J McGilly regarding Outline Regeneration Forward Work Place – DFC. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor McAteer said that although he was delighted regarding the plans for the urban regeneration of Warrenpoint Front Shore in 2019/20, he expressed concern that the £1m allocated would not be enough to cover all works needed to enhance the whole area. In particular he was concerned at the poor condition of the footpath from Warrenpoint towards Moygannon and Rostrevor and said in places it was less than one foot wide and was very dangerous. Councillor Carr agreed with Councillor McAteer and asked that a letter be sent to the Permanent Secretary to address this issue as a matter of urgency. Mrs Ward replied that a letter had already been sent requesting a meeting and a response was not yet received.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Carr it was agreed as follows as per report from Mr J McGilly regarding Outline Regeneration Forward Work Place – DFC to Approve the attached 'Outline Urban Regeneration Public Realm Future Work Plan', to allow continued lobbying of DFC in regards their Newry Mourne and Down budget allocations.

ERT/178/2017: REGIONAL BID TO DIGITAL CATAPULT FOR LPWAN (LOW POWERED WIDE AREA NETWORK)

Read: Report dated 9 October 2017 from Mr J McGilly regarding Regional Bid to Digital Catapult for LPWAN (Low Powered Wide Area Network). **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Harvey seconded by Councillor Clarke it was agreed as follows as per report dated 9 October 2017 from Mr J McGilly regarding Regional Bid to Digital Catapult for LPWAN (Low Powered Wide Area Network).

- **Currently 10 other Councils have expressed an interest in the scheme and have been asked to provide £10,000 each to fund and coordinate challenge funds to launch small scale trials and explorations of the technology.**
- **It is recommended that Council commit £10,000 to fund the implementation of the network allowing SME's to develop innovative solutions using LPWAN technology to overcome the key challenges.**
- **Timescales: If the bid is successful, the network is required to be operational by March 2018**

ERT/179/2017: CITY DEAL UPDATE

Read: Report dated 9 October 2017 from Mr L Hannaway regarding the City Deal Update. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed as follows as per Report dated 9 October 2017 from Mr L Hannaway regarding the City Deal Update.

- **To commit to participation in the Belfast Region City Deal and its objective of creating for the region "more and better jobs, inclusive growth, improved skills and growth of the domestic business base and FDI"**
- **To approve an initial contribution of £10,000 towards phase 1 research for the development of a Skills Barometer and labour market analysis for the City Deal Region (part contribution with total costs shared among participation Councils)**
- **To note that additional costs will be incurred in developing and implementing the City Deal; as the Deal develops and detail of further costs become available these will be reported on through Councils normal procedures.**
- **Given the strategic importance of Council's involvement in the City Deal initiative, members may wish to consider a workshop with Full Council and KPMG (City Deal consultants) prior to the full Council meeting on 6th Nov,**

to enable the City Deal initiative and benefits to the area to be further discussed.

ERT/180/2017: BREXIT (VERBAL REPORT)

For this Item, Councillor Savage joined the Members table from the public gallery and the following points were raised:

- Newry was in a very unique location, situated approximately sixty miles from Belfast and Dublin and with a port in the District. It was important therefore that we assert ourselves as a gateway post Brexit and not lose out on opportunities to other UK cities.
- Newry, Mourne and Down District Council was very proactive in its preparations for Brexit.
- Concern that the Agri Food / Fisheries industry would be adversely affected post Brexit.
- The report conducted by University of Ulster had indicated that border councils were under a major threat.
- Important that Newry was not passed over in favour of Belfast in terms of employment opportunities
- It had been agreed previously to have an Advisory Group set up to discuss Brexit which would consist of various agencies and party representatives as follows - 2 x Sinn Fein, 2 x SDLP, 1x Unionist and 1 x DUP. Invest NI had done a presentation some time ago and they should be invited back to provide an update.
- A common sense approach as opposed to a political approach is needed and the focus needs to be what is best for the Island of Ireland.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Harvey it was agreed as follows as per verbal report on Brexit by Councillor Savage

The Chairperson to convey at the Launch of the Research Paper / Brexit in Brussels on 11 October 2017 that the priority for the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council is to focus on what is best for businesses and the farming industry both North and South of the Border.

Invite Invest NI back to a future Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting to provide an update on investment opportunities and sites in the District.

ERT/181/2017: NEWRY CIVIC CENTRE REGENERATION

Read: Report dated 9 October 2017 from Ms M Ward regarding Newry Civic Centre Regeneration. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Brown asked what sites were currently being considered as possible locations for the new Civic Centre. Mrs Ward replied that at present there were three potential sites under consideration, a vital factor would be the footfall stimulus, an update would be available at the next Strategic, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Casey seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed as follows as per Report dated 9 October 2017 from Ms M Ward regarding Newry Civic Centre Regeneration

Public and Business Information Sessions to be hosted in Newry

TOURISM, CULTURE & EVENTS

ERT/182/2017: EVENTS VIDEO AND ECONOMIC IMPACT

Due to an IT fault, Mr Patterson was unable to play the events video. However, He talked about the very successful Summer Events Programme that resulted in bringing 260,000 visitors to the area and securing £11.5m economic return to the District.

AGREED: It was agreed to note update provided by Mr Patterson on the Events Video and Economic Impact.

FOR NOTING

On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to 'note' the following reports:

ERT/183/2017: MASTERPLANS – BALLYNAHINCH, DOWNPATRICK, NEWRY, SOUTH EAST COAST

Read: Report dated 9 October 2017 from Mr J McGilly regarding Masterplans – Ballynahinch, Downpatrick, Newry, South East Coast. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was unanimously agreed that the presentation given to the Committee by Newry 2020 prior to the Meeting would be used to form the basis of discussion going forward.

ERT/184/2017: STRANGFORD AND LECALE AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

Read: Report dated 9 October 2017 from Mr J McGilly regarding Strangford and Lecale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Agreed: It was agreed to note Report dated 9 October 2017 from Mr J McGilly regarding Strangford and Lecale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

ERT/185/2017: NEWRY BID

Read: Report dated 9 October 2017 from Mr J McGilly regarding Newry BID. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed to note Report dated 9 October 2017 from Mr J McGilly regarding Newry BID.

ERT/186/2017: RING OF GULLION UPDATE

Read: Report dated 9 October 2017 from Mr J McGilly regarding the Ring of Gullion Update. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed to note Report dated 9 October 2017 from Mr J McGilly regarding the Ring of Gullion Update.

ERT/187/2017: PRIORITY 6 OF THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Read: Report dated 9 October from Mr J McGilly regarding Priority 6 of the Rural Development Programme. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed to note Report dated 9 October from Mr J McGilly regarding Priority 6 of the Rural Development Programme.

ERT/188/2017: LOUTH/NMD JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING MAY 2017

Read: Report of Meeting of Joint Committee of Elected Members between Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and Louth County Council Meeting dated 17 May 2017 **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed to note Report of Meeting of Joint Committee of Elected Members between Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and Louth County Council Meeting dated 17 May 2017

ERT/189/2017: ACTION TRACKER UPDATE SHEET

The following point was raised

***ERT/107/2016* Closed Session Item – Killeavey Castle**

Mrs Ward advised that although all lease agreements were in place, the anticipated completion date of Christmas 2018 may be delayed.

ERT/190/2017: SCHEME OF DELEGATION

Read: Scheme of Delegation for ERT from April 2017 to end March 2018

Agreed: It was agreed to note Scheme of Delegation for ERT from April 2017 to end March 2018

ITEM TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

ERT/191/2017: CAMLOUGH LAKE – LAND RELATED MATTERS

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor Hyland 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 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).

Read: Report dated 11 October from Mr A Patterson regarding Camlough Lake – Land Related Matters **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Hearty it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: When the Committee came out of closed session the Chairperson reported it had been agreed on the Proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Hearty:

- **To enter into negotiations with Richardson Estate to settle any outstanding mortgage they hold pertaining to Camlough Lake**
- **To complete detail design and submit planning associated with multi purpose building at Camlough Lake to assist in informing land acquisition requirements**

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 6.35 pm.

These minutes are being circulated in accordance with Standing Orders and will be tabled for adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 6 November 2017.

Signed: Councillor P Byrne
Chairperson of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee

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