

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on
Monday 10 April 2017 at 3.00pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices,
Monaghan Row, Newry**

Chairperson: Councillor R Burgess

Vice Chairperson: Councillor D Curran

In Attendance: **(Committee Members)**

Councillor T Andrews
Councillor C Casey
Councillor W Clarke
Councillor G Hanna
Councillor H Harvey
Councillor D McAteer
Councillor B Quinn
Councillor M Ruane
Councillor G Stokes
Councillor J Tinnelly

(Non Member)

Councillor O McMahon

Officials in Attendance:

Mr L Hannaway	Chief Executive
Ms M Ward	Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism
Mr J McGilly	Assistant Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism
Mrs M Quinn	Project Development Manager
Mr M Patterson	Enterprise Development Officer
Ms A Smyth	Enterprise Development Officer
Mr A Patterson	Tourism NI
Miss S Taggart	Democratic Services Officer

Also in Attendance:

Mr E McGuinness	University of Ulster
Mr R Christie	Invest NI
Mr S Anderson	Invest NI
Mr M Bleakney	Invest NI
Ms S Keenan	Invest NI

ERT/063/2017: APOLOGIES / CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The following apologies were received:

Councillor N Bailie
Councillor A McMurray

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Oksana McMahon to the Committee Meeting stating she had taken over from former Councillor, Sinead Ennis.

Mrs Ward advised BE Aerospace had invited the Committee to visit their premises and she would report back to Members with possible dates for this visit.

ERT/064/2017: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

**ERT/065/2017: ACTION SHEET
MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION & TOURISM
COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY 13 MARCH 2017**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 13 March 2017.
(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 13 March 2017.

PRESENTATIONS

**ERT/066/2017: PRESENTATION
NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN STATISTICAL RESEARCH**

Read: Mr Eoin McGuinness from University of Ulster delivered a presentation on Newry, Mourne and Down Statistical Research.

Mrs Ward advised Council had signed an agreement with University of Ulster to conduct some research on how the Council could promote the local economy.

Mr McGuinness delivered a presentation during which the following issues were highlighted:

- Business Services and ICT are likely areas of growth in terms of job creation.
- The Northern Ireland economy is growing at a much slower rate than UK or Republic of Ireland.
- Projected job creation shows jobs across a mix of sectors however business services, professional, scientific and some construction jobs are most likely. Projections show potential losses in education and public administration jobs.

- Newry, Mourne and Down has a higher than average share of private sector jobs, good affordable housing and good quality of life however the tourism spend is much lower than may be expected for the Council area and the Northern Ireland average.
- NM&D shows a higher spread across Wards from high to low levels of unemployment than in most Council areas. The inactivity rate within the District was much higher than the rest of Northern Ireland.
- Projections for the future show jobs are more likely to be in services due to the natural shift that was likely to occur. Manufacturing and tourism were likely to add growth in terms of employment.
- Brexit is an issue for consideration - its impact and how to mitigate against this; the easing of austerity could also be a factor.
- Need for Council to develop employment and economic development strategies with continued focus on tourism.

The Chairperson thanked Mr McGuinness for his presentation and invited questions from Members.

Members raised the following issues:

- Will freedom of movement be affected for cross border workers following Brexit?
- What can the Council do to improve tourism spend figures?
- Do the figures reflect the threat to the interdependency between North and South in terms of supply and manufacturing?
- With ICT services being an economic driver is there opportunity for Council to increase average wage?
- UK only provides 43% of its own food – is there opportunity for Northern Ireland farmers?
- Would special status mean that Northern Ireland would receive all the disadvantages of being in the EU and none of the advantages of being outside?
- Could Council capitalise on potential growth of industries, ie, arts and crafts, music and film, software apps etc?
- Reasons for decrease in jobs within quarrying and mining sector?
- Are infrastructure difficulties proving problematic for other Council areas?

Mr McGuinness responded to the queries as follows:

- Impact of Brexit on cross-border workers will depend largely on common travel area arrangements.
- Although there were a large number of visitors to the District as outlined in the tourism figures, their spend per head was lower than other areas. Council need to investigate age profile of tourists and whether they were visiting family etc as they tend not to spend as much.
- The agri-food sector was seeing flat growth with structural changes to the sector over a long period. Brexit impact had been inputted into the forecast as the agriculture sector was quite exposed.
- Firms seeking to expand/invest in areas, generally concentrate large investments within cities that have a concentration of younger graduates ready and willing to work. Typically these have been in areas such as Belfast and Dublin.
- Import substitution is huge for farmers and Northern Ireland offering to the Great British market would only be credible if there was an arrangement in place to allow all-island flow.

- It is difficult to speculate on likely impact and outcome of Brexit – need to identify where risks were likely and try to mitigate against those risks.
- Ulster University will provide statistics as part of a bi-annual presentation to the Department of Economy and Finance and work closely with Invest NI.
- The District performed well in terms of creative industries, however these are employing lower numbers of people and a lot are self-employed. Creative industries could feed into tourism and as the District is well known for natural assets and scenery, the creative, food and retail outlets should try to attract people to stay.
- Employment numbers were down within the quarrying and mining sector due to the increase in automation. The increase in automation over the next 10-20 years will further reduce employment numbers in this sector even while the industry is growing.
- Infrastructure remains a challenge for local regions particularly roads infrastructure as this underpins sectors such as manufacturing, food firms, quarrying and mining. Many Councils had complaints regarding access to markets and broadband speed was a key factor. Although there has been improvements within recent years, these improvements must continue over the next 10 year period as inward investors will query broadband speeds and roads infrastructure before deciding to invest.

The Chairperson thanked Mr McGuinness for attending the meeting.

(Councillors Clarke and Tinnelly entered the meeting during the above discussions – 3.04pm)

ERT/067/2017: PRESENTATION
INVEST NI

The Chairperson welcomed Mr Richard Christie and Mr Seamus Anderson from Invest NI and invited them to make their presentation. He also welcomed Mark Bleakney and Sharon Keenan to the meeting.

Mr Christie advised he was part of the investment team who deal with first time projects who were considering Northern Ireland as a place to do business. He advised the team hosts 120 visits per year which could range from half day visit up to 2/3 days showcasing Northern Ireland.

He said despite Brexit and the uncertainties with the local Executive a lot of business was conducted last year with a significant amount post-Brexit. He advised that although the team promote Northern Ireland as a whole, the first place investors want to investigate is Belfast. The team aimed to receive investment from businesses and spread this investment across other parts of Northern Ireland.

Mr Anderson referred to the three industrial estates in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area. He said Carnbane Industrial Estate in Newry was expanding with 21 acres available and four viable interests at present. He explained the first phase was completely taken up in the Down Business Park there was interest expressed in 4.3 acres of the available 26.3 acres. He said that within Killough Road Business Park 11.5 acres of the site was still available.

The Chairperson thanked the delegation for their presentation and invited questions from Members.

Members raised the following issues:

- What type of questions are businesses asking when they come to Northern Ireland?
- Would Invest NI consider taking businesses on tours around other parts of Northern Ireland, for example, Downpatrick, in order to let the Council showcase what they have to offer?
- When showcasing Northern Ireland to potential investors, where does Newry, Mourne and Down and particularly Newry sit in the pecking order?
- Newry should be showcased as an important place to do business given its proximity to both international airports.
- Shortage of industrial estates in Kilkeel.
- Possibility of Council attending international trade missions?
- Suggest tourism team from Invest NI present to Council's ERT Committee regarding type of proposals that would be funded.
- How can Invest NI and Council work better regarding development plan and zoning of land in increase business investment.?
- Implications for US businesses in Northern Ireland following change in US administration.

The delegation responded to the queries as follows:

- Businesses were seeking for value for money and a highly competitive place to do business. Invest NI had been successful in attracting first time businesses into Northern Ireland, usually in Belfast and hope they may reinvest a second time usually outside of Belfast.
- Where appropriate, Invest NI have arranged visit programmes for companies to visit places in Northern Ireland. Invest NI are often under non-disclosure agreements and businesses prefer details of possible locations they are considering, to remain confidential.
- There is no priority list order. Invest NI's role is to showcase and promote the whole of Northern Ireland.
- Newry has been an ideal area to showcase given its close proximity to airports.
- Invest NI have invested in Kilkeel. In order to expand, land needs to be zoned.
- Invest NI are involved in community planning and the local development plan and provide statistics on qualifying businesses, look at existing zonings and work with planners to ensure adequate provision for the life of the plan.
- It would be difficult to predict any impact following change in US administration and there are currently no issues in terms of projects coming from America.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives from Invest NI for attending the meeting.

ENTERPRISE, EMPLOYMENT & REGENERATION

ERT/068/2017: FORKHILL GREEN SPACE SCHEME

Read: Report dated 10 April 2017 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism regarding a Licence Agreement regarding Forkhill Green Space Scheme. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Harvey it was agreed as follows as per Report dated 10 April 2017 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding Forkhill Green Space Scheme:

- Council to enter into and sign a License Agreement with Forkhill Parish Church for an access are on Church/School property to provide a 3rd entry point to the newly installed Forkhill Greenspace Project.
- Council to utilise at least £10,000 funding from its 2017/18 Capital Contribution set against this scheme to match fund additional DEARA monies to cover additional contract works that had to be carried out on-site.
- Council accept an additional DEARA Letter of Offer amount (£30,000) for the Forkhill Greenspace Project.

(Councillor McMahon left the meeting at this stage – 4.53pm)

ERT/069/2017: BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES OF SUPPORT

Read: Report dated 10 April 2017 from Ms A Smyth, Enterprise Development Officer regarding the delivery of Business Development Programme. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Clarke it was agreed as follows as per Report dated 10 April 2017 from Ms A Smyth Enterprise Development Officer, regarding the delivery of the following business engagement activities which will result in job creation, the up-skilling of employees/entrepreneurs, and knowledge transfer activity that will encourage business sustainability and growth:

- SRC Crest Programme that will provide training opportunities to the unemployed;
- Mentoring Programme for existing businesses;
- Short term business development workshops (i.e. digital marketing, brand development, procurement, e-commerce, sales development, idea generation for new starts)

ERT/070/2017: INTERREG EUROPE PROJECT INSIDE OUT OF EU

Read: Report dated 10 April 2017 from Ms A Smyth, Enterprise Development Officer regarding participation on the Stakeholder Group for implementation of the Interreg Europe Project – Inside Out of EU. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Ruane it was agreed as per Report dated 10 April 2017 from Ms A Smyth Enterprise Development Officer to approve participation on the

Stakeholder Group with the DFE for the implementation of the Interreg Europe Project: Inside Out EU.

**ERT/071/2017: DEPARTMENT FOR THE ECONOMY
INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY CONSULTATION RESPONSE**

Read: Report dated 10 April 2017 from Mr M Patterson, Enterprise Development Officer regarding a response to the Department for the Economy Industrial Strategy Consultation Response. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed as per Report dated 10 April 2017 from Mr M Patterson Enterprise Development Officer, that the Council approve the Industrial Strategy consultation response as presented and submit same in advance of the closure date on Tuesday 25th April 2017.

**ERT/072/2017: NEWRY CHAMBER
TRADE VISIT TO SZCZECIN, POLAND**

Read: Correspondence dated 24 February 2017 from Newry Chamber of Commerce & Trade regarding a trade visit to Szczecin, Poland 15-17 May 2017. **(Copy circulated)**

Mrs Ward advised the Chairperson of Council and an officer had been invited to attend the trade visit and costs to Council would involve flights only.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed to appoint the Chairperson of Council and 1 No. Council officer to attend the Newry Chamber of Trade and Commerce Business Trip to Poland.

TOURISM, CULTURE & EVENTS

**ERT/073/2017: SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT
KILKEEL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION**

Read: Report dated 10 April 2017 from Ms M Boyle, Tourism Development Officer regarding the Service Level Agreement with Kilkeel Development Association. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Quinn asked if this issue could be kept under review.

Mrs Ward advised there would be a review of all Council visitor information centres within the next few months.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Quinn it was agreed as per Report dated 10 April 2017 from Ms M Boyle Tourism

Development Officer, to approve the SLA with Kilkeel Development Association with a budget of £20,000 and a Co-operative Marketing Campaign valued at £10,000 on Coastal Flavours.

**ERT/074/2017: SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT
ORNI**

Mrs Ward advised this item had been withdrawn from the agenda and forwarded to the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting for consideration.

**ERT/075/2017: CLANBRASSILL BARN & TEA ROOMS
TOLLYMORE FOREST PARK**

Read: Report dated 10 April 2017 from Ms Boyle, Tourism Development Officer regarding expressions of interest for an economic operator to utilise the Clanbrassil Barn & Tea Rooms at Tollymore Forest Park. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Clarke it was agreed, as per Report dated 10 April 2017 from Ms M Boyle Tourism Development Officer, that the Council, in partnership with DAERA (Forest Service) seek Expressions of Interest from interested parties for service provision in Clanbrassil Barn and Tea Rooms at Tollymore Forest Park.

**ERT/076/2017: WARDENS HOUSE
KILBRONEY PARK, ROSTREVOR**

Read: Report dated 10 April 2017 from Ms M Boyle, Tourism Development Officer and Ms B Magill, Administration Officer regarding the letting of the Wardens House, Kilbroney Park, Rostrevor. **(Copy circulated)**

In response to a query regarding a 1 year lease, Mrs Ward advised there was a possibility of including a 2 year extension onto the lease.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor D McAteer, seconded by Councillor Ruane it was agreed to approve a one year lease of the Wardens House at Kilbroney Park, Rostrevor to the proposed tenant at a rental cost of £200 per month. Electricity, heating, insurance, rates etc, will not be included in the rental figure but will be paid separately by Lessee, as per Report dated 10 April 2017 from Ms M Boyle Tourism Development Officer

It was also agreed to include the possibility of a 2 year extension to the lease if required.

ERT/077/2017: NEWRY AGRICULTURAL SHOW

Read: Report dated 10 April 2017 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism regarding the development of Newry Agricultural Show. **(Copy circulated)**

Members queried whether the Council could support the other shows within the District also.

Mrs Ward advised the show this year included award winning Aberdeen Angus cattle which would draw an international crowd and this was an opportunity for the Council to engage with the sector and being to develop linkages with farm groups and agri food producers to develop a platform to assist businesses to adapt to the challenges and opportunities posed by Brexit.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor D McAteer, seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed the Council work with Newry Show Committee to develop a range of interventions and programmes to support both agri food and agriculture sectors, as per Report dated 10 April 2017 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism.

ERT/078/2017: POLICIES – NEWRY & MOURNE MUSEUM ACCREDITATION APPLICATION

Read: Report dated 10 April 2017 from Ms N Cunningham, Museum Curator regarding Newry & Mourne Museum Policies for Museum Accreditation. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed to approve the following policies to be supplied with a signed copy of the Council Minutes to the Northern Ireland Museums Council as a central part of the Museum’s Accreditation application in June 2017, as per Report dated 10 April 2017 from Ms N Cunningham Museum Curator:

- **Collections Development Policy**
- **Documentation Policy**
- **Access Policy Statement**
- **Environmental Sustainability Policy Statement**
- **Collections Care and Conservation Policy Statement**

ERT/079/2017: FAMILIARISATION VISIT TO STRANGFORD

Read: Report dated 10 April 2017 from Ms M Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism regarding a familiarisation visit to Strangford. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Harvey it was agreed to approve the familiarisation visit to Strangford and the

surrounding area in June 2017, as per Report dated 10 April 2017 from Ms M Ward Director of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism.

ERT/080/2017: TOURISM EVENTS SUPPORT 2017/2018

Read: Report dated 10 April 2017 from Mr M Mohan, Senior Tourism Initiatives Manager regarding Tourism Events Support 2017/2018. **(Copy circulated)**

In response to queries from Members, Mrs Ward advised conditions were attached to the funding and developmental aspect of the events.

She referred to how festivals and events were organised differently within the two legacy Councils and said capacity building could be investigated for groups throughout the District. how festivals and events were organised

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor D McAteer it was agreed as follows as per Report dated 10 April 2017 from Mr M Mohan, Senior Tourism Initiatives Manager that Council approve a financial contribution of £10,000 to the following non-Council led music festivals/events:

- **19th International Blues on the Bay Festival, Warrenpoint 24-29 May 2017**
- **SOMA Festival, Castlewellan 14-23 July 2017**
- **Fiddlers Green Festival, Rostrevor 21-30 July 2017**
- **Iúr Cinn Fleadh, Newry 7-10 September 2017**
- **Newry Chamber Music Mid-summer Festival/programme June 2017**

It was also agreed that a financial contribution in the sum of £5,000 be granted to the following non-Council led key tourism events:

- **GI Jive Festival, Kilkee 29 July-4 August 2017**
- **Newry City Pride Festival, Newry 2 September 2017**

It was further agreed that capacity building workshops be investigated to support local community groups to set up and run festivals/events.

FOR NOTING

**ERT/081/2017: FESTIVAL OF FLIGHT
FLYING DISPLAY DIRECTOR**

Read: Report dated 10 April 2017 from Mr M Mohan, Senior Tourism Initiatives Manager regarding an extension of the appointment of the Festival of Flight post of Flying Display Director. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to note Report dated 10 April 2017 from Mr M Mohan Senior Tourism Initiatives Manager regarding an extension of the appointment of the Festival of Flight post of Flying Display Director.

(Councillor Ruane left the meeting at this stage – 5.14pm)

**ERT/082/2017: CONFERENCE – DEVELOPING & MANAGING
RECREATION IN PROTECTED AREAS**

Read: Report dated 10 April 2017 from Mr M Mohan, Senior Tourism Initiatives Manager regarding co-hosting a Conference on developing and managing recreation in protected areas. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor D McAteer it was agreed to note the co-hosting of a conference on developing and managing recreation in protected areas as per Report dated 10 April 2017 from Mr M Mohan, Senior Tourism Initiatives Manager.**

ERT/083/2017: STUDENT PLACEMENT 2017/2018

Read: Report dated 10 April 2017 from Mr M Mohan, Senior Tourism Initiatives Manager regarding the placement of students from the Tourism Marketing & Events Management Degree Courses at the University of Ulster. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to note the support the placement of students from the Tourism Marketing and Events Management Degree Courses at the University of Ulster as per Report dated 10 April 2017 from Mr M Mohan, Senior Tourism Initiatives Manager**

FOR NOTING

ERT/084/2017: ERT ACTION TRACKING UPDATE

Read: Action Tracking Update. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **It was agreed to note the ERT Action Tracking Update.**

**ERT/085/2017: JOINT TOURISM NI
COUNCIL INITIATIVES 2016/2017**

Read: Report dated 10 April 2017 from Ms M Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism regarding a review of the Joint Tourism Initiatives between Tourism NI and the Council. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **It was agreed to note Report dated 10 April 2017 from Ms M Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism regarding a review of the Joint Tourism Initiatives between Tourism NI and the Council.**

ERT/086/2017: MARINE PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT

Read: Report dated 10 April 2017 from Ms C Nolan, SLLP Manager regarding a Shared Management Scheme for the Marine Protected Area. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed to note the report Report dated 10 April 2017 from Ms C Nolan, SLLP Manager regarding a Shared Management Scheme for the Marine Protected Area.

ERT/087/2017: SCHEME OF DELEGATION

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

AGREED: It was agreed to note the Scheme of Delegation.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 5.17pm.

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday 2 May 2017.

Signed: Councillor R Burgess
Chairperson of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee

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