

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on
Monday 14 March 2016 at 3.00pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices,
Monaghan Row, Newry**

Chairperson: Councillor D Curran

Deputy Chairperson: Councillor R Mulgrew

In Attendance: **(Committee Members)**

Councillor T Andrews

Councillor R Burgess

Councillor W Clarke

Councillor P Byrne

Councillor G Hanna

Councillor V Harte

Councillor H Harvey

Councillor T Hearty

Councillor D McAteer

Councillor M Ruane

(Non Members)

Councillor H Reilly

Officials in Attendance: Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive
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/28/2016: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Councillor Curran welcomed everyone to the meeting. He referred to an article in the Sunday Times newspaper which featured places to visit in Northern Ireland and was delighted to see that Ardglass had been voted number one best place to visit.

The following apologies were received:

Councillor B Quinn
Councillor G Stokes

ERT/29/2016: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor V Harte declared an interest in the agenda item relating to Newry Business Improvement District as she was a member of Newry City Centre Management Partnership.

**ERT/30/2016: ACTION SHEET
MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE REGENERATION & TOURISM
COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2016**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 8 February 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 8 February 2016.

PRESENTATIONS

**ERT/31/2016: PRESENTATION BY TEAM
RE: DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM STRATEGY**

Ms S Scott from TEAM Consultants explained she would deliver a presentation on the development of the Tourism Strategy for the Council. She said the presentation would focus on a number of key elements which included the following:

- Industry performance, ie, assessing this against performance in other parts of Northern Ireland and the country
- Policy context, ie, to ensure full alignment with other strategies and ongoing work
- Market and industry trends on a global and national scale.
- Overview of Visioning Workshop which was attended by 45 members from the various stakeholder groups.

When the presentation concluded discussion took place during which Members raised a number of points as follows:

- TEAM Consultants should ensure part of the process involves meeting with local elected representatives in order to gain a better knowledge of areas.
- Proposals for further workshops – local elected representatives should be included in these workshops.
- Low spend figures indicate the need to focus on how to encourage visitors to stay over when they are visiting the District.
- Proposals to link main towns along the coast as tourist destinations.

- Bed nights - off peak business opportunities
- Look at ancient events/sites/myths/legends in various areas which link into the Eastern corridor.

NOTED: Further workshops will be held during May/June together with ongoing consultation with the public and industry stakeholders.

Consultants are looking specifically at linking towns as being the main driver for spend and are currently mapping attractions, visitor accommodation, retail, places to eat. They are also working on a review of the Masterplan and this will be key to driving spend forward.

A Tourism Strategy project website is due to be launched on 15 March 2016 which will allow people to register their views via an online survey.

The project will complete by July 2016 and TEAM Consultants will ensure interim updates are provided to the Council.

Councillor Curran thanked Ms Scott TEAM Consultants, for attending the meeting.

ENTERPRISE, EMPLOYMENT & REGENERATION ITEMS

ERT/32/2016: REGIONAL START INITIATIVE - EXTENSION

Read: Report dated 14 March 2016 from Mr M Patterson, Enterprise Development Officer regarding an extension to the Regional Start Initiative (RSI) and recommending Newry, Mourne and Down District Council agree to extension of the Regional Start Initiative Programme to include Marketing until October 2016. (Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor W Clarke it was agreed Newry, Mourne and Down District Council agree to the extension of the Regional Start Initiative Programme to include Marketing, until October 2016, as per recommendation contained in Report dated 14 March 2016 from Mr M Patterson, Enterprise Development Officer.

ERT/33/2016: EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND REQUEST FROM SOUTHERN REGIONAL COLLEGE

Read: Report dated 14 March 2016 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration regarding a request from the Southern Regional College for Council to match fund an offer of funding received from the European Social Fund for the Rise Project. (Copy circulated)

Mr McGilly explained the Southern Regional College had confirmed that it would not be possible for the Rise Project to proceed on the basis of reduced contributions from NMDDC and ABC and that the project would not be proceeding.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed as follows: -

- (a) The Council note the position of the Southern Regional College and that while it cannot contribute to the full level of match funding requested the Council are not the sole source of match funding.**
- (b) Council Officials continue to work with Southern Regional College and SERC to explore the potential for other joint initiatives where there are benefits for Council in delivery on corporate objectives.**

ERT/34/2016: HERITAGE LOTTERY FUNDING - TOWNSCAPE

Read: Report dated 14 March 2016 from Ms M Quinn, Project Development Manager regarding Townscape Heritage Schemes under the Heritage Lottery Fund. (Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Harvey it was agreed as follows: -

- (a) To approve the development of a proposal for Irish Street, Downpatrick as an initial project for a Townscape Heritage Scheme for submission to the Heritage Lottery Fund.**
- (b) That a phased approach to future Townscape Heritage Schemes is adopted with projects being ranked in order of feasibility and the level of commitment from property owners with potential match funding etc.**
- (c) Consideration to be given to the development of project ideas in those areas where Heritage Lottery Fund Projects have not been delivered or where previous plans have been developed but not delivered but could be revisited from the following areas:**
 - Scotch Street, Downpatrick**
 - Castlewellan**
 - Killough**
 - Killylea**
 - Ardglass**
 - Bessbrook**
 - Newry**

- **Strangford**

NOTED: Council Officials were actively exploring possible funding from Heritage Lottery Fund for other areas in the District which due to their present state are currently below the threshold for eligibility for conservation funding

ERT/35/2016: NEWRY BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

(Councillor Harte left the Meeting at 3.40pm)

Read: Report dated 14 March 2016 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration regarding a Newry Business Improvement District.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed as follows: -

- (a) The Council to release an advance, at the start of 2016/2017 financial year, £10,000 estimated levy costs on Council properties in the Business Improvement District Area.**
- (b) To release £30,000 to the Business Improvement District budgeted for City Centre Management.**
- (c) The above will be subject to normal monitoring and governance arrangements being in place.**

(Councillor Harte re-joined the meeting at 3.45pm)

ERT/36/2016: HOTEL DEVELOPMENT

Read: Report dated 14 March 2016 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration regarding hotel accommodation needs. (Copy circulated)

Several Members stressed the need for hotel development in the District, in particular Downpatrick, South Armagh and Newcastle areas and concerns were expressed at the closure of Hillyard House in Castlewellan.

Mr Hannaway explained the Strategic Investment Working Party would be looking at how the Council can use its assets to lever a number of identified capital strategic projects.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor W Clarke it was agreed Newry, Mourne and Down District Council commission site option appraisal and business case/appraisal for hotel provision in Downpatrick and Newcastle.

Noted: The Council are actively working with the private developer at the proposed Killeavy Castle Hotel. Council are currently reviewing land holdings in Newry City to put forward development proposals for the area. Council Officials have been in discussions regarding a proposed hotel in the Rostrevor/Warrenpoint.

ERT/37/2016: APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN ECONOMIC FORUM

Read: Report dated 8 March 2016 from Ms M Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism regarding the appointment of members to the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Economic Forum.

Noted: This matter was discussed at the Party Representatives Forum on 3 March 2016 with the recommendation that the make-up of the Taskforce be increased by 1 to 7 Elected Members, with the breakdown being as detailed: -

2 Sinn Fein
2 SDLP
1 DUP
1 UPP
1 Representative from either Alliance/Independents Grouping or TUV

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed appointments of Members to the Newry Mourne and Down Economic Forum be made as follows:

**2 No. Members to be appointed from Sinn Fein
(names will be forwarded in due course)**

**2 No. Members to be appointed from SDLP
(Councillor D Curran / 2nd name to be forwarded in due course)**

**1 No. Member from DUP
(Councillor H Harvey)**

**1 No. Member from UUP
(Councillor R Burgess)**

**1 No. Member from either Alliance/Independent/TUV
(name to be forwarded in due course)**

ERT/38/2016: APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO MARINE TASKFORCE

Read: Report dated 8 March 2016 from Ms M Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism regarding appointment of members to the Marine Taskforce.

Noted: This matter has been discussed at the Party Representatives Forum on 3 March 2016 with the recommendation that the make-up of the Marine Taskforce be as follows: -

2 Sinn Fein
2 SDLP
1 DUP
1 UUP
1 Representative from either Alliance/Independents Grouping or TUV

AGREED: **It was unanimously agreed appointments of Members to the Marine Taskforce be made as follows:**

**2 No. Members to be appointed from Sinn Fein
(names will be forwarded in due course)**

**2 No. Members to be appointed from SDLP
(names to be forwarded in due course)**

**1 No. Member from DUP
(Councillor G Hanna)**

**1 No. Member from UUP
(Councillor R Burgess)**

**1 No. Member from either Alliance/Independent/TUV
(name to be forwarded in due course)**

TOURISM, CULTURE AND EVENTS ITEMS

ERT/39/2016: IAGTO NA – GOLF CONVENTION REPORT

Read: Report dated 24 February 2016 from Ms M Boyle, Tourism Development Officer regarding the International Golf Association of Tour Operators (IAGTO) Conference to be held in June 2016 at Pine Hurst North Carolina. (Copy circulated)

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to appoint 1 No. Council Official to attend the IAGTO North**

America Golf Conference to be held from 26 – 29 June 2016 in Pine Hurst North Carolina.

ERT/40/2016: **RESPONSE TO DECAL
RE: CONSULTATION ON CULTURE, ARTS AND STRATEGY**

Read: Report dated 14 March 2016 from Ms M Magill, Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Department regarding a response to The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DECAL) regarding a strategy for Culture and Arts 2016 to 2026.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Harvey it was agreed to approve the response contained in Report dated 14 March 2016 from Ms M Magill, Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Department regarding a response to DECAL regarding the strategy for Culture and Arts 2016 to 2026.

ERT/41/2016: **RURAL TOURISM CALL**

Read: Report dated 14 March 2016 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism regarding the Rural Tourism Scheme 2015/2020.
(Copy circulated)

Several members referred to projects in other areas and said they needed to be advanced to a more progressed stage which would allow these projects to qualify for funding, ie, Narrow Water Keep, Silent Valley, Tollymore Park, Annalong Harbour.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed as follows: -

- (a) The Council grant retrospective approval to submit EOI applications and based on the outcome develop full application or carry out necessary development work for next call.**
- (b) Council Officials explore other potential projects for further calls under this theme.**
- (c) A copy of the criteria for Rural Tourism Call funding be forwarded to Councillors for information.**

ERT/42/2016: **EVENTS PROGRAMME 2016/2017**

Read: Report dated 14 March 2016 from Ms M Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism regarding tourism events 2016/2017.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Harvey it was agreed to approve the schedules of events for 2016/2017.

**ERT/43/2016: INVITATION - DR MARY MCALEESE
OPENING OF EXHIBITION
"WOMEN IN NEWRY AND MOURNE IN THE 20TH CENTURY"**

Read: Report dated 9 March 2016 from Mr K Abraham, Assistant Curator regarding an invitation to Dr Mary McAleese to open a forthcoming exhibition in Newry and Mourne Museum entitled "Women in Newry and Mourne in the 20th Century."

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Burgess it was agreed the Council forward the invitation to Dr Mary McAleese to open an exhibition in Newry and Mourne Museum called "Women in Newry and Mourne in the 20th Century" on 22 May 2016 at 7.00pm.

ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE PRESS AND PUBLIC EXCLUDED

**ERT/44/2016: AGREEMENT – RNLI
RE: LIFEGUARD SERVICES**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer 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 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).

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Andrews 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 Hanna seconded by Councillor Burgess, that the Council continue with the contractual agreement with RNLI for Lifeguard Services for 2016 at Cranfield, Murlough and Tyrella.

**ERT/45/2016: SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT
RE: (ORNI) OUTDOOR RECREATION NORTHERN IRELAND**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer 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 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).

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Andrews 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 Andrews seconded by Councillor Harvey, to approve the terms contained in the Service Level Agreement for (ORNI) Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland, for the purposes of developing forest parks for tourism.

It was also agreed the Council write to Forestry Service requesting they arrange to have signage repaired in Donard Forest.

**ERT/46/2016: SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT
RE: ST PATRICK'S VISITOR CENTRE**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer 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 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).

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Andrews 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 approve the terms contained in the Service Level Agreement for St Patrick's Visitor Centre for the period 2016/17.

FOR NOTING

ERT/47/2016: UPDATE RE: BROADBAND VOUCHER SCHEME

Read: Report dated March 2016 from Mr M Forster Business Support Coordinator providing an update regarding DARD Connection Vouchers and DETI Satellite Broadband. (Copy circulated)

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note that the Satellite Broadband Scheme appeals to those residents and businesses that cannot achieve adequate speeds using Fibre. DARD and RCVS Schemes cannot be promoted further.

ERT/48/2016: UPDATE RE: REGIONAL START INITIATIVE (RSI)

Read: Report dated 14 March 2016 from Mr M Patterson Enterprise Development Officer providing an update regarding the Regional Start Initiative (RSI). (Copy circulated)

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note report from Mr M Patterson Enterprise Development Officer providing an update regarding the Regional Start Initiative (RSI).

ERT/49/2016: HOLIDAY WORLD 2016

Read: Report dated 2 March 2016 from Ms M McKeown providing an update regarding Holiday World 2016. (Copy circulated)

AGREED: It was agreed to note update report from Ms M McKeown Assistant Tourism Development Officer regarding Holiday World 2016.

Councillors Andrews extended thanks to the Council Officers for presenting the report to the Committee and paid tribute to staff for their hard work during the Holiday World events in promoting and showcasing the District.

**ERT/50/2016: UPDATE RE:
PUBLIC REALM SCHEME WARRENPOINT
PUBLIC REALM SCHEME – NEWRY CATHEDRAL QUARTER
NEWRY LINKAGES REVITALISATION – TASK & FINISH**

Read: Report dated 14 March 2016 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration providing updates on the following:
Public Realm Scheme Warrenpoint
Public Realm Scheme Newry Cathedral Corridor
Newry Linkages Revitalisation
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note and approve recommendations contained in the following Reports:

- **Report of Newry Cathedral Corridor Public Realm Scheme Task & Finish Steering Committee Meeting held on 16 February 2016.**

- **Report of Warrenpoint Public Realm Scheme Task & Finish Steering Committee Meeting held on 22 February 2016.**
- **Report of Newry Linkages Revitalisation Task & Finish Steering Committee Meeting held on 25 February 2016.**

The Meeting concluded at 4.30pm.

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 4 April 2016.

Signed: Councillor D Curran
Chairperson

Signed: Ms M Ward
Director of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism