

## NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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**Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 12 March 2018 at 3.00pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry**

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**Chairperson:** Councillor P Byrne

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

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

**Officials**

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

**Also in Attendance:** Mr M O'Neill, AV Browne  
Mr M Dunne, AV Browne  
Ms N Waite, Tourism NI

**ERT/040/2018: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Mrs M Ward.

**ERT/041/2018: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Byrne declared an interest in Item no. 5 – Forkhill Former Barracks Site as he was a member of the Steering Group.

Councillors Clarke and Hanna declared an interest in Item 9 - SLAs Tourism 2018/19 as they were both on the Board of the Mourne Heritage Trust.

**FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION**

**ERT/042/2018: ACTION SHEET MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING MONDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2018**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 12 February 2018.  
**(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor Harvey it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 15 January 2018.**

**ERT/043/2018: JOINT PRESENTATION BY AV BROWNE & TOURISM NI RE TOURISM MARKETING PLAN 2018**

The Chairperson welcomed the representatives from AV Browne and Tourism NI and invited them to deliver their presentation.

Following the presentation there was a question and answer session and the following points were raised:

- The promotional video shown as part of the presentation showcased the District in an extremely positive way.
- Consideration should be given to attractions and tourism stakeholders in Newry, such as The Canal Court Hotel, for inclusion in the marketing presentation. .
- The 2017 NISRA statistics showed a 27% increase in visitor numbers to N. Ireland.

- Although Downpatrick didn't feature on the video shown, there was a separate video that showcased an upcoming festival in Downpatrick that could be made available to Councillor Curran.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives from AV Browne and Tourism NI and they left the meeting.

## **ENTERPRISE, EMPLOYMENT & REGENERATION**

### **ERT/044/2018: FORKHILL FORMER BARRACKS SITE**

**Read:** Report dated 12 March 2018 from Marie Ward, Director Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism regarding DFC sale of former Forkhill Barracks Site. **(Copy circulated)**

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

- 1. Council Officials continue to work closely with DFC to ensure that Councils interest in the site is maintained and any follow up Business Cases are completed and submitted to the Department for Communities.**
- 2. Council Officials and DEA reps on the Forkhill Site Development Steering Group to liaise closely with DFC and any other registered government departments to ensure that a balanced mixed use development of the site takes place.**

### **ERT/045/2018: DFC YEAR END UNDERSPEND**

**Read:** Report dated 12 March 2018 from Marie Ward, Director Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism regarding Planning for DFC year-end underspend.

Discussion took place among Members. There was general agreement there was a need for more investment in the smaller towns and villages throughout the District. The addition of floral displays would enhance these areas and make them more attractive to visitors.

Mr McGilly advised the DFC funding for regeneration was allocated for main urban centres in the district and DFC Officials were working closely with Newry BID and were keen to invest in concepts put forward by Newry BID that could spend money before end of this financial year. He agreed to note the comments put forward by Members and said this issue could possibly be addressed via the Village Renewal Scheme for areas not covered by DFC funding. Mr McGilly added that although the issue of funding for floral displays did not come under the ERT Committee remit, input could be put forward on the concerns expressed to the relevant Committee –

RTS Committee, via the appropriate officers who had responsibility for this service.

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Ruane seconded by Councillor Casey it was agreed that:

1. Council Officials continue to work up a Call Off Capital List of smaller projects that would be eligible for potential DFC under-spend in 18/19 financial year.
2. Council approve a Letter of Offer for £15,000 that will come from DFC in regards to small elements of Newry City Christmas Illuminations, Dereliction Decoration and Floral Planters that they wish to fund in 17/18.
3. Report back to ERT Committee in due course on progress with the longer term 18/19 underspend list across our urban centres.
4. A report regarding the provision of floral displays across smaller towns and villages in the district be sent to the RTS Committee and brought back to ERT Committee in due course.

#### **TOURISM, CULTURE & EVENTS ITEMS**

**ERT/046/2018:** **TOURISM MARKETING PLAN 2018/19**

Read: Report dated 12 March 2018 from Mr Andy Patterson, Assistant Director Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism regarding Marketing Plan and Campaign Development. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Ruane seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed to consider and approve the attached Marketing Plan to implement specific campaigns and initiatives, that will drive tourism growth in the Newry, Mourne and Down district in the 2018/19 Year.

**ERT/047/2018:** **COUNCIL ATTENDANCE AT TWO INTERNATIONAL GOLF TRADE SHOWS**

Read: Report dated 12 March 2018 from Andy Patterson, Assistant Director Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism regarding Council attendance at two international Golf Trade Shows. **(Copy circulated).**

Noted: Councillor Carr said it was important to promote the smaller golf

clubs in the District and they are encouraged to attend the trade shows in partnership with NMDDC.

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Hyland seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to consider and approve the attendance of one council officer at the two international golf trade shows detailed in this paper.

**ERT/048/2018**      **SLA'S TOURISM 2018/19**

**Read:** Report dated 12 March 2018 from Marie Ward, Director Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism regarding Service Level Agreements for 2018/19. **(Copy circulated)**

Mr Patterson advised Members the funding allocated to groups for the 2018/19 year would remain the same as the 2017/18 year and the figures quoted in the report would be checked and verified to ensure this is the case.

During general discussion Councillor Quinn requested SLAs for the previous two years be made available to the Committee in order that comparisons could be made.

Councillor McAteer stated the National Trust were trying to prohibit pony trekking in the Murlough National Nature Reserve area and said that prior to granting them funding of £9,000 it would be prudent to look at what prohibitions they were intending to put in place. Mr Patterson advised that a meeting had been arranged with National Trust to look at this issue.

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed to consider and approve the list of Service Level Agreements for 2018/19 as detailed within this report.

**Service Level Agreements for previous two years (2016/17 and 2017/18) to be made available to Members**

**FOR NOTING**

**ERT/049/2018:**      **SOUTH ARMAGH OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN**

**Read:** Report dated 12 March 2018 from Marie Ward, Director Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism regarding Implementation of Outdoor Recreation Action Plans within Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Hearty seconded by Councillor Casey, the following was agreed to agree the

**contents of the South Armagh Outdoor Recreation Action Plan**

**ERT/050/2018      UPDATE IN PERFORMANCE ON NI BUSINESS START UP**

**Read:** Report dated 12 March 2018 from Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration regarding NI Business Start Up Programme: Update. **(Copy circulated)**.

**Agreed:** **On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to note the contents of the report.**

**ERT/051/2018      WARRENPOINT PARK STEERING GROUP**

**Read:** Report dated 27 February 2018 from Seamus Crossey regarding Warrenpoint Park Restoration Task and Finish Steering Committee. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** **On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Carr it was agreed to note the contents of the report.**

**ERT/052/2018:      TOURISM EVENTS FUNDING CALL**

**Read:** Report dated 12 February 2018 from Andy Patterson, Assistant Director of Tourism, Culture and Events regarding Financial Assistance Programme: Tourism Events Fund. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor McAteer asked if it would be possible to have more information regarding the names of applicants and proposed amounts allocated to each of them. Mr Patterson replied this was a preliminary report that would go to full Council after which the full details of applicants and specific funding would be available to Members.

Discussion took place regarding the awarding process and although Councillors Ruane, Quinn and Clarke agreed it was good governance not to be aware of the identity of the applicants during the invigilating process, Councillor Quinn said he would like to know the identity of the applicants before the Letters of Offer were issued. He also stated that applicants should be advised there is an appeals process should they be unsuccessful in their application.

Councillor Ruane proposed that the fund should be reopened for a further round of applications when feasible. Councillor Carr expressed concern that too much emphasis was based on ensuring the application form was completed correctly as

opposed to the contribution the event would make to the District. The Chairperson advised more discussion would take place surrounding this issue at the next ERT Committee Meeting.

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Ruane seconded by Councillor Clarke it was agreed to note the contents of the report, and that officers should open the fund for a further round of applications when feasible.

**ERT/053/2018**      **SCHEME OF DELEGATION**

**Read:** Scheme of Delegation report for ERT from April 2017 to end March 2018. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Harvey seconded by Councillor Ruane it was agreed to note the Scheme of Delegation report for ERT from April 2017 to end March 2018.

**ERT/054/2018:**      **ACTION TRACKER UPDATE SHEET**

**Read:** Action Tracker Update including January ERT 2018. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Harvey seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed the Action Tracker Update Sheet be noted.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 4.00pm.

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

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