

NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting
held on Monday 09 May 2022 at 6.00pm in the Chamber Council Offices
Monaghan Row Newry, and remotely via Microsoft Teams**

Chairperson: Councillor R Howell (Chamber)

Deputy Chairperson: Councillor T Andrews (Chamber)

In attendance: (Committee Members)

Councillor R Burgess (Teams)
Councillor D Curran (Chamber)
Councillor W Clarke (Teams)
Councillor M Gibbons (Teams)
Councillor G Hanna (Teams)
Councillor V Harte (Chamber)
Councillor M Larkin (Teams)
Councillor Mulgrew (Chamber)
Councillor A McMurray (Teams)
Councillor M Ruane (Teams)
Councillor M Savage (Teams)
Councillor G Stokes (Teams)

Officials in attendance: Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration Tourism
Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture & Events
Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment Regeneration
Mr A McKay, Chief Planning Officer
Mr C Jackson, Assistant Director Building Control & Regulations
Ms L Dillon Democratic Services Officer
Ms P McKeever Democratic Services Officer

Also in attendance: Mr Eoin Magennis University of Ulster

ERT/077/2022: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

No apologies.

ERT/078/2022: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Burgess declared an interest in Item 6, regarding International Relations Agreement with Municipalite de Lamorlaye North France.

Councillor Savage declared an interest in Item 8, regarding Newry River Channel Markers Maintenance Agreement.

PRESENTATIONS

ERT/079/2022: PRESENTATION EOIN MAGENNIS UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER RE: UUEPC SPRING 2022 ECONOMIC FORECASTS

Mr Eoin Magennis University of Ulster was in attendance to deliver a presentation to Members on the University of Ulster EPC Spring 2022 Economic Forecast.

He provided an update on forecasts which were published in March 2022, and since then has shown an uncertain picture with rising inflation which will impact on consumer demand which will have an effect locally in terms of tourism and retail.

Labour market recovery has been sharp following the pandemic with employment in the North expected to recover strongly in 2022/23 and surpass pre-pandemic levels.

GDA is expected to increase this year but reduce in 2023 and with possibly no growth at all, bringing potential for a mild recession.

Inflation could go higher than the predicted 9%, however it could come back sharply next year depending on energy prices as they contribute to more than 50% of the drive on inflation.

Household income will fall for the first time since the 1970s and will have a negative effect on demand over the next 2 years.

Forecasts show a sharp recovery locally in growth in 2021 from the pandemic which will be an important driver for employment growth and a 3-4% growth is expected in Newry Mourne and Down this year.

Expect to see strong employment growth of up to 78,000 jobs in the Council area by

2030 which will be a 7% increase from present figures, mainly in manufacturing and construction however construction will be very dependent on inflation as projects will be postponed if costs rise. Retail distribution has declined and shifted across to wholesale with impact on the high street.

In terms of the labour market we are already in a period of full employment and there are issues around filling vacancies, where labour will be obtained and a reduction in the working population age group between 18 – 64.

Challenges are faced in terms of how to attract labour into the area and how can we facilitate people to return to the workplace?

In summing up Mr Magennis referred to the following areas of uncertainties the Council may focus on:

- Work quality
- Labour Market
- Cost of living pressures
- Protocol

He also referred to:

Innovation - in terms of how jobs will change, ie remote working, etc.

Investment - in terms of skilling and re-skilling the workforce

Inactivity - in terms of bringing people closer to the labour market

Councillors commented on the following issues:

Construction - Schools and colleges to promote careers in the construction sector

Brexit – need to identify ways to attract labour from elsewhere

Inflation – impact on young families

The Chairperson referred to the cost of living crisis and hoped that this would be addressed, and she thanked Mr Magennis for delivering the presentation.

**ERT/080/2022: ACTION SHEET
MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION &
TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY 11 APRIL 2022**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 11 April 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by

Councillor Harte it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 11 April 2022.

ENTERPRISE EMPLOYMENT & REGENERATION

**ERT/081/2022: 4C UR FUTURE
SKILLS BASE EVENT: 09 JUNE 2022**

Read: Report dated 09 May 2022 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration regarding contribution to 4C UR Future Skills Base event on 09 June 2022.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed Council enter into a collaboration agreement with 4C UR Future for delivery of a 4C UR Future Live event in Council area in June 2022 at a cost of £6,000.

**ERT/082/2022: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AGREEMENT
MUNICIPALITE DE LAMORLAYE**

Read: Report dated 09 May 2022 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration, regarding a proposal from the Municipalite de Lamorlaye North of France, and the Rowallane and Slieve Croob Community Twinning Group for the establishment of an International Relations agreement between the two regions. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed to support Rowallane and Slieve Croob Community Twinning Group in an international partnership arrangement with the Municipalite de Lamorlaye, North of France, and that an annual contribution of £10,000 to be made to Rowallane and Slieve Croob Community Twinning Group against the 5-year proposal, subject to annual reports of previous year performance and a detailed schedule of activity for the forthcoming year.

**ERT/083/2022: SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT
- LUNASA FESTIVAL 2022**

Read: Report dated 09 May 2022 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration, regarding Service Level Agreements for the Lunasa Festival 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Savage it was agreed:

- a) To note that Newry Mourne & Down District Council through the AONB Partnerships Lunasa Festival Working Group have delivered an annual festival since 2015 (with the exception of 2020 due to Covid).**
- b) To approve the establishment of a Service Level Agreement with the Lunasa Festival Working Group, c/o Oriel Events who the working group have nominated as lead and Chairperson on behalf of the working group. Service Level Agreement is for a maximum of £25,000. The Oriel Events have been involved with the working group in the development and delivery of the annual festival since its inception.**

EXEMPT INFORMATION

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the following matters 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).

(6.30pm – Councillor Savage left the meeting)

**ERT/084/2022: NEWRY RIVER CHANNEL MARKERS
- MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT**

Read: Report dated 09 May 2022 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding the renewal of the Maintenance Agreement with Carlingford Lough Commission for Navigational Markers. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Harte it was agreed to come out of Closed Session.

(6.39pm -Councillor Savage re-joined the meeting)

When the Committee came out of closed session the Chairperson reported on the following decisions taken:

ERT/085/2022: Newry River Channel Markers – Maintenance Agreement

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Gibbons it was agreed Council enter into a new Service Level Agreement with Carlingford Lough Commission (CLC) to maintain 10 Navigational Markers within the Newry River from Narrow Water to Victoria Lough Gates, and to approve payment for maintenance costs for the past five-year as set out in Section 4.1 of Report dated 09 May 2022 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events.

FOR NOTING

ERT/086/2022: UPDATE RE: ARTISAN MARKETS

Read: Report dated 09 May 2022 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding Artisan Markets in Downpatrick, Newcastle, Newry and Warrenpoint. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Mulgrew it was agreed to note the annual attendance figures at the monthly Artisan Markets.

ERT/087/2022: UPDATE RE: BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Read: Report dated 09 May 2022 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding an update on

Business Development Programmes. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Mulgrew it was agreed to note the update provided under the following business development initiatives:

- Go for It
- NMD Growth
- Digital Growth
- Tender for Growth
- Sales Accelerator
- Digital Transformation Programmes

ERT/088/2022: REPORTS OF CASTLEWELLAN FOREST PARK TASK AND FINISH MEETINGS

Read: Report dated 09 May 2022 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment Regeneration regarding actions arising out of Castlewellan Forest Park Task & Finish Board Meetings. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Mulgrew it was agreed to note the action reports of the Task and Finish Board Meetings regarding Castlewellan Forest Park.

ERT/089/2022: ERT HISTORIC ACTION TRACKER

Read: Action Tracker Report for Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Mulgrew it was agreed to note the Historic Action Tracker Sheet for Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee.

ERT/090/2022: REPORT OF LOUTH / NMD STRATEGIC ALLIANCE MEETING - 23 FEBRUARY 2022

Read: Report of Louth / NMD Strategic Alliance Meeting held on Wednesday 28 February 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Mulgrew it was agreed to note the Report of Louth / NMD Strategic Alliance Meeting held on Wednesday 28 February 2022.

ERT/091/2022: PLANNING PERFORMANCE FIGURES

Read: Report regarding Planning Performance Figures for April 2022.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Mulgrew it was agreed to note the Planning Performance Figures for April 2022.

ERT/092/2022: `SLOANE LAB PROJECT' – COUNTY DOWN MUSEUM

Read: Report dated 09 May 2022 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding the `Sloane Lab Project' at County Down Museum. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Mulgrew it was agreed to note the contents of Report dated 09 May 2022 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding the `Sloane Lab Project' at County Down Museum.

ERT/093/2022: INVEST NI ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACTION PLAN

Read: Report dated 09 May 2022 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding and update on the Economic Research projects funded by the Invest NI Economic Recovery Action Plan (ERAP). **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Mulgrew it was agreed to note the update provided on the 4 research pieces:

- 1. NMDDC, A Framework for Future Economic Development and Business Support Interventions for SMEs.**
- 2. A Business Support Needs Analysis for a Sustainable Low Carbon Economy across the South East Region.**

- 3. Revised Business Start Up Approach – Business Case Development and Resourcing Strategy, involving all 11 NI Councils, led by Belfast City Council.**
- 4. Place Based Approaches to supporting Economic Development, involving all 11 NI Councils, led by Derry City and Strabane District Council.**

The Chairperson, Councillor Howell, said this was her last time chairing the ERT Committee Meeting and she extended thanks to the Council officers, Deputy Chairperson Councillor Andrews and her party members, for the advice and guidance during her term.

The Deputy Chairperson, Councillor Andrews, said it was a pleasure to work with Councillor Howell, and he extended thanks to Council officers for ensuring meetings ran smoothly and he extended best wishes to the new incoming Chair and Deputy Chair of the ERT Committee.

Councillors Mulgrew, McMurray and Curran extended thanks to Councillor Howell and Councillor Andrews for their term as Chair and Deputy Chair of the ERT Committee.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 18.40pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 06 June 2022.

Signed: Councillor R Howell
Chairperson
Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee

Signed: Mr C Mallon
Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism
