

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMC/SC

Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 28 August 2018 at 6pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick

In the Chair: Councillor M Murnin 6 pm – 6.20 pm
Councillor O McMahon 6.20 pm – 7.55 pm

In attendance:

(Councillors)

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor P Byrne
Councillor C Casey	Councillor D Curran
Councillor C Enright	Councillor T Hearty
Councillor R Howell	Councillor D Hyland
Councillor L Kimmins	Councillor M Larkin
Councillor K Loughran	Councillor J Macauley
Councillor D McAteer	Councillor A McMurray
Councillor R Mulgrew	Councillor B Ó Muirí
Councillor J Rice	Councillor M Ruane
Councillor M Savage	Councillor D Taylor
Councillor JJ Tinnelly	Councillor J Trainor
Councillor W Walker	

(Officials)

Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive
Mrs M Ward, Director Community Planning & Performance
Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director Human Resources
Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration
Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer

Also in attendance: Mr G McLaughlin, Service Delivery Manager, Translink
Mr C McHugh, Service Delivery Manager, Translink
Ms A Connor, Area Scheduler, Translink

SC/26/2018

APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Bailie, Burgess, Carr, Clarke, Doran, Fitzpatrick, Harte, Harvey, Quinn and Stokes.

An apology was also received from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities.

SC/27/2018

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

ADDITIONAL ITEM

ITEM RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 4 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2014

SC/28/2018 ON-GOING INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor McMahon, 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 Part 4 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the Council or a government department and employees of, or office holders under, the Council.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Curran, it was agreed the Council come out of closed session.

Agreed: When the Council came out of closed session, the Chairperson advised the update provided on on-going industrial relations was noted.

Councillors Hyland and Larkin joined the meeting during the above discussion – 6.10pm and 6.15pm respectively.

Councillor Murnin left the meeting at this point and Councillor McMahon assumed the Chair – 6.20pm.

Councillor Trainor left the meeting during the following discussion – 6.25pm.

SC/29/2018 PRESENTATION FROM TRANSLINK

The Chairperson welcomed Mr Ciaran McHugh, Mr Greg McLaughlin and Ms Avril Connor from Translink to the meeting and invited them to make their presentation.

Mr McHugh thanked the Chairperson for the opportunity to present to Council once again and confirmed all actions taken from the last meeting had now been completed. A copy of these actions would be forwarded for circulation to Members for their information.

Mr McHugh highlighted the following points from the Downpatrick and Newcastle area:

- An increase in the frequency of Saturday 215 Express Services from Downpatrick to Belfast, now offering 8 return trips from 0745-1845.
- 240 Newry Service had been aligned to connect with the new X5 Services improving Dublin connection with Strangford/Lecale. From September 2018 there would be 2 additional connections on the timetable with X5 and X1 in Newry on the 0655 and 1800 departures from Downpatrick.

- A trial of the Midnight Movers from Belfast to Downpatrick and Newcastle had taken place and it was anticipated that by late November, early December in the run up to Christmas, these would be replicated.
- The 237 Express departing Newcastle at 1300 and 1430 had run throughout the summer however this had to be reduced due to resources implications. The plan would be to reintroduce early 2019.
- There had been an introduction of two additional return trips to/from Killyleagh on a Sunday, departing at 1205 and 1745, and to/from Strangford at 1205 and 1745.
- Following a review of the Ballykinalr 16c Service it would now provide a connection to the Clough Medical Centre from September 2018 under the 16g Service .
- Translink meets three times a year with a passenger focus group and from this Ballynoe had now been added as a point on the 16d Services to Ballylucas from September 2018.
- The timings for the 16a Service for Ardglass had changed from 1100 to 1105, Monday to Friday to allow better connection with the Belfast Service.
- The Saturday departure time from Killyleagh had been changed to 0830 as a direct response from a customer enquiry enabling customers to get to work for 9am.
- Plans were in place to trial a bus service every Thursday to Sprucefield, Lisburn from Downpatrick early/mid November to December.
- Intend to review services from Newcastle and Downpatrick to achieve a more streamlined service through Carryduff.
- There was a new URBV service which would operate the 622 from Cairnshill Park n Ride site.
- Review the possible introduction of a service to Downpatrick using the motorway in the evening similar to the current 237a Newcastle Service.
- Reference was made to a you tube production called 'Roadshare' which demonstrated the effectiveness of double decker bus services and Members were urged to watch it.

Mr McLaughlin then provided an update on services within the Newry Area including the following:

- Newry had its own dedicated service following the development and implementation of a new direct Newry to Dublin service from June 2018. This Express Service to Dublin (X5) was operating from 0715 to 1815. Outside these hours the service was operated by Belfast (X1).
- Belfast Express Services were near capacity and Translink were looking to run a more direct service to Belfast. The morning and evening peak services would bypass Dromore and Hillsborough reducing the travelling time to/from Belfast. This would be introduced by November 2018.
- It was hoped the Goldline fleet which operated to Belfast and Dublin would be replaced with higher capacity and specification buses next year.
- Work was ongoing with Council in a joint initiative to pilot late night services from November in the lead up to Christmas for Newry to Crossmaglen, and Newry to Kilkeel, on Friday nights. This pilot would operate from 5 October 2018, for 12 weeks, with each bus leaving Newry at 2130.
- Translink were hoping to introduce two additional Belfast services on Saturdays to cater for the increasing demand.
- It was hoped late night services would operate from Belfast on a Friday & Saturday night from mid-November on in the lead up to Christmas.

- Service 39 Warrenpoint/Rostrevor was to be reviewed with a view to building in extra capacity as we envisage growth on this route.

Representatives from Translink then responded to queries as follows:

Downpatrick DEA

Councillor Enright asked that Translink revisit the original Downpatrick (via Newcastle) to Dublin Service which had stopped despite being successful approx 10 years ago. He also highlighted issues with traffic congestion in Strangford due to Ferry traffic and commented that both Northern Ireland Ambulance Service and Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service had appealed to have this matter resolved.

Rowallane DEA

Councillor Walker commended the team at Translink for all their efforts throughout the area and appealed to them to closely monitor bus routes for children commencing the new school year.

Councillor Walker also highlighted the need for a Park n Ride facility for the Downpatrick to Belfast route with ever increasing volumes of traffic parking in villages such as Crossgar.

Newry DEA

Councillor Savage thanked Translink for the provision of the late night service which was so valuable to the night time economy of Newry.

Councillor Savage asked Translink to examine the route from Derrybeg, the Meadow, Father Cullen Park, Bessbrook and Camlough Road and asked if it could work in reverse as many found the route took too long.

In response to a query from Councillor Hyland regarding the advertising of services and changes to services, Mr McHugh explained another department dealt with advertising and that it was mostly done through the website, various social media platforms and journey planners.

Councillor Hyland enquired about the harmonization of passes for people 60 years+. Mr McHugh explained it was a cross border issue with passes made available to those 60 years+ in Northern Ireland and to those 65 years+ cross border.

Slieve Gullion DEA

Councillor Hearty raised concerns regarding transport between Crossmaglen and Newry, particularly in the evenings. He welcomed the introduction of the Friday night service however expressed concern around the timing of its implementation being October. He commented there was a missed opportunity of enabling people, especially younger people to avail of this service during the summer months.

Councillors Hearty and Byrne asked that the service be well advertised and that Translink ensure it was provided next summer to give people access to the new leisure centre, cinema and city centre facilities.

Mr McHugh undertook to examine the points raised. He highlighted there was now a pathway for Council to have input on such issues with funding partially provided by Council and Translink providing the resources on pilot schemes.

Crotlieve DEA

Councillor Tinnelly enquired about a bus stop at the Victoria Lock following the recently opened Greenway.

Mr McLaughlin confirmed that it was Bus Eireann that would be required to seek an application for a bus stop at that point, and that Bus Eireann would also need to liaise with Roads Service.

Councillor McAteer enquired if Translink would extend the Mourne Rambler Service to include the Carlingford Ferry and Greenway as it would be an opportunity for developing these areas.

Mr McHugh advised the Mourne Rambler Service was always under review due to the level of tourism and confirmed he would take the matter forward for further consideration.

Councillor McAteer also enquired about the potential to provide services to places such as universities in Dublin.

Mr McHugh explained it was doubtful that licences would be granted to pick up outside of the Express Service to Dublin and Dublin airport.

In response to a query from the Chairperson, Councillor McMahon, Mr McHugh agreed to provide an update at a later time in relation to a bus shelter at Spelga Park, Hilltown.

The Chairperson thanked the delegation for their attendance and extended the thanks of the Council to the team across the whole District.

Mr McHugh confirmed Translink had scheduled a 'Meet your Manager' Event to take place at the Downpatrick Bus Station on Friday 21 September 2018 from 10.30am-12.00pm and extended an invitation to any Councillors who wished to attend.

Councillors Howell, Curran, Enright, Taylor, McAteer, Rice, Byrne and Loughran left the meeting during the above discussion – 6.55pm, 7.00pm, 7.05pm, 7.05pm, 7.17pm, 7.20pm, 7.20pm and 7.20pm respectively.

SC/30/2018

BELFAST REGION CITY DEAL – UPDATE ON EMERGING PROPOSITION

Read: Report from Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive, dated 28 August 2018, regarding an update on Belfast Region City Deal (copy circulated).

Mr Hannaway delivered a presentation providing an update on the Investment Proposition for the Belfast Region City Deal (copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes).

Mr Hannaway advised the Belfast City Deal Councils were still working towards the deadline of 21 September 2018 to reach a final agreed prioritised list of investment proposals.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Savage to approve the contents of the report and presentation provided and agree to Council continuing to work on the Belfast Region City Deal Proposition and that the City Deal Councillor Reference Group be delegated the power to oversee the progress on the economic proposition and take decisions in relation to the Council's interests in the Deal and decide on the need for further Council Meetings to consider any major changes to the proposition.

Agreed: It was agreed to circulate a copy of the presentation to all Members for their information.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.55pm.

For adoption at Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to be held on Monday 1 October 2018.

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive

28.8.18

Belfast Region City Deal

Update on Investment Proposition

Liam Hannaway,
Chief Executive

Ag freastal ar an Dún agus Ard Mhacha Theas
Serving Down and South Armagh



Comhairle Ceantair
an Iúir, Mhúrn
agus an Dúin

Newry, Mourne
and Down
District Council

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Belfast Region City Deal: Recap

- A City Deal is a **bespoke package** of funding negotiated between Treasury, NI Executive and local authorities, involving finance outside normal funding streams
- A City Deal is based on an **innovate strategy** for growth, via smarter, more localised and growth focused investment decision making
- A City Deal investment package will address economic challenges, drive productivity and growth, and create employment in a manner that ensures **inclusive economic growth** across our rural and urban areas
- We believe that a City Deal in the range of £1bn is an **instrumental** part of the solution needed in order to make a step change in economic performance within the Belfast Region, and right across NI.



The City Deal Vision

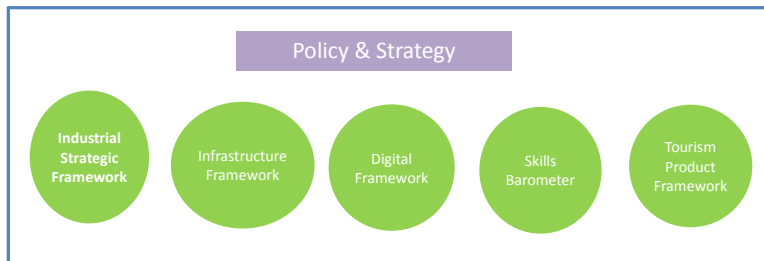
It's about more than headline economic growth. It's also about...

- Providing more and better quality jobs
- Retaining existing talent
- Encouraging experienced talent to return to their roots
- Improving skill levels and match skills to opportunities
- Growing domestic business and encouraging more foreign direct investment
- Sharing the benefits – creating the conditions for balanced and inclusive growth



Strategic & Policy Framework

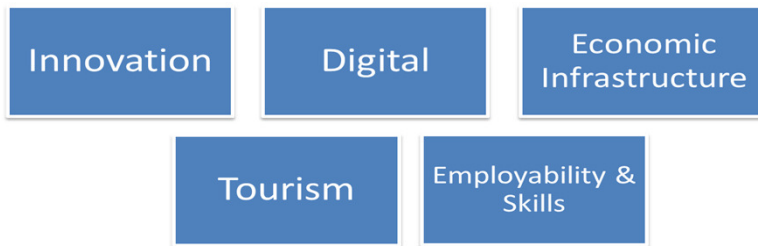
A strategic & policy framework is now in place to direct the development of the programme and ensure alignment with the UK and draft NI Industrial strategies





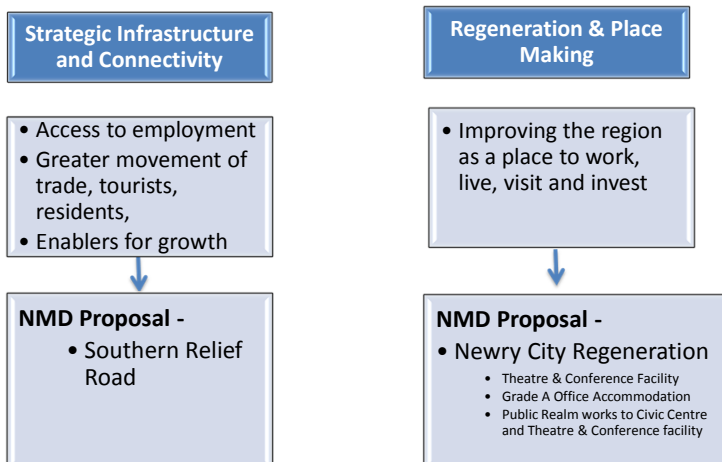
The Proposition

The Belfast Region City Deal partners have agreed 5 key Investment Pillars that is believed, will deliver the change necessary to drive forward economic growth



Economic Infrastructure

Vision: Building a dynamic, inclusive and connected region





Tourism

Vision: A world class destination based on landscape, heritage and culture

Authentic & Customer Centric Experiences

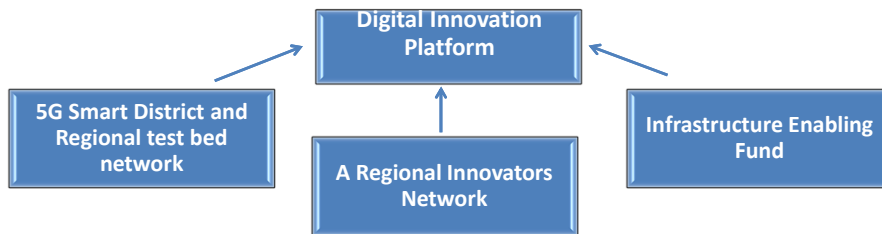
Uniqueness of Natural Landscape and Heritage

- **NMD Proposal - Newcastle Gateway to the Mournes**
 - Provision of a visitor experience at Thomas Quarry and Gondola ride infrastructure



Innovation & Digital

Vision: Development of an innovation eco system and digital infrastructure that will realise the transformational potential of emerging technologies



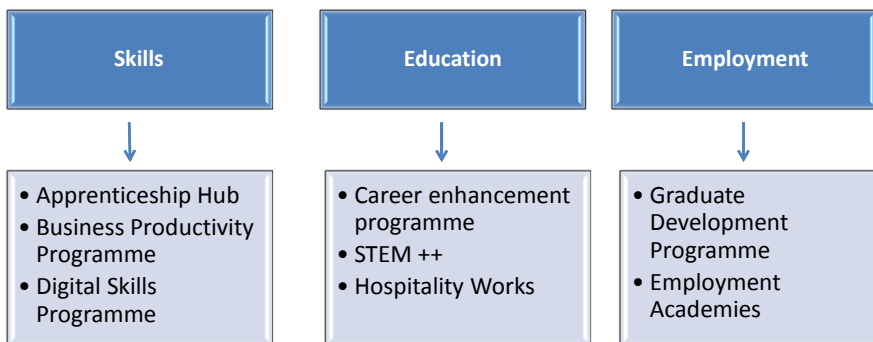
NMD potential Benefits -

- A 5G Smart District Testbed focused on logistics and SMART tourism
- A Maker Space located within the District focusing on the Creative Industries and Performing Arts Sector
- A connectivity project that will ensure access to super-fast connectivity for all premises, and meet the digital infrastructure needs of City Deal projects



Employability & Skills

Vision: Creating Skills that will enable the region to compete on a global stage and deliver inclusive and sustainable growth



Finalizing the Proposition

- Assessment of proposals
 - against economic impact, (capturing robust cost and economic project data for each project)
 - against inclusivity impacts, and the mapping of impacts across the City Deal region
- Completion of Strategic Outline Business Cases
- Prioritisation of projects
 - ensuring the final and agreed investment package is balanced against the City Deal vision of inclusive growth, better and more jobs, and an impact on the most deprived communities
- Negotiation and engagement with partners and key stakeholders: Universities, Colleges, Permanent Secretaries, NIO and key Department Officials

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Financing the City Deal

Proposal: £1 Billion investment package

Funding Split*: 45% from HM Treasury,
45% from NI Government,
10% from NI City Deal Council's,
Additional funding from Universities, private sector

* based on other City Deal agreements

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Financing the City Deal

MHCLG have indicated that the funding allocated by HM Treasury will be against the Digital and Innovation investment proposal

Theme	Project	Proposed Financing Dept
Infrastructure	Southern Relief Road	NIO / DfI
	Newry City Regeneration	NMDDC with support from NIO / DfC
Tourism	Newcastle Gateway to the Mournes	NMDDC with support from NIO / DfE
Digital & Innovation	Digital Innovation Platform Regional Innovators Network 5G Smart District Testbed Programme Infrastructure Enabling Fund	HM Treasury with support from Universities, NI Councils
Employability & Skills	Regional skills and employability programmes	NIO / DfE with support from NI Council's



Next Steps

- 21st September will commence a period of engagement and negotiation with Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) with the aim of agreeing Heads of Terms for a deal by late October, in time for inclusion in the November Budget Statement
- In preparation for this Council will:
 - Continue to refine and develop the economic and cost analysis of projects
 - Submit to MHCLG Strategic Outline Business Cases for the City Deal investment proposals
 - Agree a prioritised list of investment proposals by 21st September
 - (following negotiation with City Deal Councils, key NI Government Departments, and MHCLG)
- A Joint Council Members Engagement Forum will be schedule for mid / late September to update members on progress

Recommendation

- To enter period of negotiation with MHCLG to reach agreement for a Belfast Region City Deal, using the NMD City Deal Councillor reference group as required for communication and advice