

August 12th, 2021

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee meeting to be held on **Monday, 9th August 2021 at 6:00 pm** in **The Mourne Room Downshire Estate Downpatrick** and via **Microsoft Teams**.

Committee Membership:

Councillor R Howell **Chairperson**

Councillor T Andrews **Deputy Chairperson**

Councillor R Burgess

Councillor W Clarke

Councillor D Curran

Councillor M Gibbons

Councillor G Hanna

Councillor V Harte

Councillor M Larkin

Councillor R Mulgrew

Councillor A McMurray

Councillor H Reilly

Councillor M Ruane

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's remarks.

2.0 Declarations of Interest.

3.0 Action Sheet: Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting - Monday 14 June 2021. (Attached)

 *Action Sheet - For ERT Aug 2021.pdf*

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Notices of Motion

4.0 To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor A McMurray: (Attached)

That this Council endorses and supports the Fishing and Seafood Development Programme Report, as produced by the Strategic Investment Board, and presented to DAERA. To demonstrate support and continuing assistance, this Council shall:

- Send written confirmation of our support to the respective Ministers for the Departments: of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs; of the Economy; of Finance.
- Request a ministerial meeting between the Minister of Finance and NMDC Senior Management Team to ensure the business case, and the securing of funds, for this project is progressed in a timely manner.
- Establish a Project Board made up of representatives from all parties with a dedicated Council Officer to liaise between both Ardglass, Kilkeel and Portavogie Harbours, DAERA and Ards and North Down Council to assist in the development and implementation of the respective projects within our district.
- Actively include the FSDP recommendations to develop the Blue Green Economy - and the associated requirements for skills development - within council promotions and strategies."

 *ERT Report - Notice Of Motion - Fishing & Seafood Development Programme.pdf*

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 *Appx - Fishing & Seafood Development Programme - Report to June ERT.pdf*

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5.0 To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor W Clarke: (Attached)

"With the ever increasing numbers of Motorhome owners opting to use car parks and other locations for overnight stays in Newcastle, Council acknowledge the signs of

tension that are now growing between local residents and motorhome users. Council recognise that freedom camping has become unsustainable at some key areas. In turn this is placing operational and environmental pressure on visitor attractions originally designed for day time recreational use only. Council develop a motorhome strategy for Newry Mourne and Down Council region, encompassing Newry and the main towns and villages."

 *ERT Report - Notice Of Motion - Motorhome Strategy.pdf*

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6.0 To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Councillors Sharvin, Trainor and Curran: (Attached)

"That this council recognises the importance of supporting the revival of Downpatrick town centre post pandemic and beyond. This motion calls on council to appoint a town centre manager for Downpatrick. A Town Centre Manager who can liaise with the business community creating initiatives, opportunities and developing programmes that would support the future development of the county town."

 *ERT Report - Notice of Motion - Revival of Downpatrick Town Centre.pdf*

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Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration Items

7.0 AONB NIEA Challenge Fund. (Attached)

 *ERT Report - AONB NIEA EF Challenge Fund 2021.pdf*

Page 26

 *Appx 1 - AONB NIEA EF Challenge Fund_Business Case.pdf*

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 *Appx 2 - AONB NIEA EF Challenge Fund Application Form and Business Case.pdf*

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8.0 Derrymore Demense Peace IV Funding.. (Attached)

 *ERT Report - Derrymore Demense Peace IV funding.pdf*

Page 94

 *Appx - Derrymore Demense Peace IV Funding Business Case.pdf*

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9.0 Dublin - Belfast Corridor Delivery Plan. (Attached)

 *ERT Report - Dublin Belfast Econ Corridor.pdf*

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10.0 Labour Market Partnership. (Attached)

 *ERT Report - Labour Market Partnership.pdf*

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 *Appx - Labour Market Partnership Summary.pdf*

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11.0 Revitalisation Schemes - Newry & Downpatrick. (Attached)

 <i>ERT Report - Revitalisation Schemes Newry & Downpatrick.pdf</i>	<i>Page 114</i>
 <i>Appx 1 - Revitalisation Scheme Business Case - Lower Hill Street Newry.pdf</i>	<i>Page 117</i>
 <i>Appx 2 - Revitalisation Scheme Business Case - Church Street Downpatrick.pdf</i>	<i>Page 120</i>

Tourism, Culture and Events Items

12.0 Tourism NI Market Led Product Development Programme 2021/22. (Attached)

 <i>ERT Report - TNI Market Led Product Development Programme.pdf</i>	<i>Page 123</i>
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Exempt Information Items

13.0 Annalong Harbour North Pier Restoration. (Attached)

This item is deemed to be restricted 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) and the public may by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

 <i>EXEMPT ERT Report - Annalong Harbour North Pier Restoration.pdf</i>	<i>Not included</i>
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For Noting

14.0 Update re: AONB and Geopark. (Attached)

 <i>ERT Report - AONB and Geopark Update.pdf</i>	<i>Page 126</i>
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15.0 Update re: Business Development Programme. (Attached)

 <i>ERT Report - Business Development Programme Update.pdf</i>	<i>Page 131</i>
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16.0 Economic Forum. (Attached)

 <i>ERT Report - Economic Forum.pdf</i>	<i>Page 136</i>
 <i>Appx. Economic Forum Presentation.pdf</i>	<i>Page 139</i>

17.0 ERT Historic Action Tracker Sheet. (Attached)

 <i>ERT Historic Action Tracker Sheet - for Aug Mtg 2021.pdf</i>	<i>Page 161</i>
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18.0 European Ladies Championship Golf. (Attached)

19.0 Planning Performance Figures: (a) June 2021 - (Attached) (b) July 2021 - (Attached)

📄 *Planning Performance Figures June 2021.pdf*

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📄 *Planning Performance Figures July 2021.pdf*

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20.0 Update re; SEAFLAG. (Attached)

📄 *ERT Report - SEA FLAG Update.pdf*

Page 181

21.0 Department for Infrastructure re: Southern Relief Road. (Attached)

📄 *Letter from DFI Re Southern Relief Road Lifting Bridge.PDF*

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22.0 TNI Co-operative Marketing Funding. (Attached)

📄 *ERT Report - TNI Cooperative Marketing Funding.pdf*

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ACTION SHEETENTERPRISE REGENERATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETINGMONDAY 14 JUNE 2021

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/105/2021	START TIMES ERT COMMITTEE MEETINGS JUNE 2021 – MAY 2022	The start time for ERT Committee Meetings from June 2021 - May 2022 will be 6pm.	C Mallon/L Dillon	Actioned	Y
ERT/107/2021	NOTICE OF MOTION RE: ADDITIONAL FUNDING	To accept the Amendment to the Notice of Motion as proposed by Councillor Malone and seconded by Councillor Gibbons, that a Special Meeting of the Economic Forum be convened to which all Members of the ERT Committee be invited, to discuss the Levelling Up Funding Strategy, and that a comprehensive paper be circulated in advance of the meeting outlining all opportunities offered by this funding initiative, in order that Councillors and Economic Forum members can be prepared to table suggestions, and also a timetable of future application dates for Levelling Up calls for submissions, to be tabled at the above said meeting.	J McGilly	WIP date to be advised at ERT in August	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/108/2021	NOTICE OF MOTION RE: MENTAL HEALTH – COVID RECOVERY STRATEGY	<p>To note the content of Report dated 14 June 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration, in regard to the Notice of Motion relating to additional funding to ensure:</p> <p>This Council will ensure that the mental health services, support and resources are made a priority within the Covid-19 recovery strategy;</p> <p>This Council will create specific action plan for supporting the mental health of our business owners and local self-employed.</p>	J McGilly	Funding agreed AHC managing the call	y
ERT/109/2021	ERT DIRECTORATE BUSINESS PLANS	<p>To approve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The assessment of the ERT Emergency Business Plan (October – March 2021) • The ERT Directorate Business Plan 2021-22. 	C Mallon	Noted	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/110/2021	BUSINESS START UP SCHOOL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council to support a 6 month free pilot programme with the Rebel Business School – Rebel On Demand Virtual Platform, providing support to businesses who are at the pre-start, start-up and early start up stage. Council to enter into a collaboration agreement with 4C UR Future for delivery of a 4C UR Future Live event in Council area in spring 2022. The approximate cost to support the event will be £3,000. 	J McGilly	Actioned	Y
ERT/111/2021	ELECTRIC CHARGING POINTS	To approve the request to procure consultancy services to investigate the feasibility of identified sites in order to work towards the submission of a full application to Office of Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV).	J McGilly	Work in progress	N
ERT/112/2021	ERDF DIGITAL TRANSFORMATI ON PROGRAMME	<p>(a) To sign the collaborative agreement with all 11 Councils subject to review and commentary from Council's legal team.</p> <p>(b) To approve a budget allocation of £35,000 in total for the duration of the programme, with £17,500 allocated in 2021/22 and £17,500 allocated in 2022/23.</p>	J McGilly	Work ongoing	y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/113/2021	GREATER NEWRY AREA BUSINESS AWARDS	Newry Mourne & Down District Council support the Newry Chamber of Commerce & Trade by being the main sponsor of the Greater Newry Area Business Awards event to be held Thursday 09 September 2021 in the Canal Court Hotel Newry.	J McGilly	Actioned	Y
ERT/114/2021	LABOUR MARKET PARTNERSHIP	<p>To proceed as follows regarding the establishment of an LMP Unit:</p> <p>(a) Submission of a strategic assessment and action plan to Department for Communities for the establishment of a Local Labour Market Partnership.</p> <p>(b) To accept a letter of offer from the Department for Communities for the implementation of a local Labour Market Partnership.</p> <p>(c) To approve Business Cases for LMP activity and proceeding to procurement of the required deliver agents (including where relevant the establishment of Service Level Agreements), which will enable implementation of LMP activity.</p> <p>(d) To establish an LMP resource following</p>	J McGilly	Wip update and next step action to be tabled at August 2021 ERT	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<p>Council HR policies and procedures.</p> <p>(e) To note for 2021/2022 delivery NMDDC are able to apply for a budget from Department for Communities of up to £669,209.96, inclusive of programme delivery costs and 20% allocation to administration / resourcing.</p>			
ERT/115/2021	LUNASA FESTIVAL 2021 SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT	<p>(a) To note that NMDDC through the AONB Partnerships, the Lunasa Festival Working Group have delivered an annual festival since 2015 (with the exception of 2020 due to Covid)</p> <p>(b) To approve the establishment of a Service Level Agreement with the Lunasa Festival Working Group, with the working group Chairperson nominated as lead on behalf of the working group, for the period May 2021 – October 2021, for the total of a maximum of £25,000. Budget has been profiled from within existing Tourism budgets (£20,000), and Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership Legacy Fund (£5,000).</p> <p>(c) The delivery of the 2021 Lunasa Festival will be subject to favourable covid-19 easing of restrictions. The event</p>	J McGilly	Actioned	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		organisers must comply with all current health and safety guidance at time of event delivery.			
ERT/116/2021	WARRENPOINT FRONT SHORE PUBLIC REALM SCHEME	<p>To accept the recommendation arising from the Warrenpoint Front Shore Public Realm Task & Finish Steering Group Meeting held on 04 June 2021 as follows:</p> <p>(a) Agree the Public Realm Design proposals as presented by AECOM, with inclusion of the suggested adjustments / amendments following consideration of the Public Consultation Report.</p> <p>(b) Proceed to submission of a Planning Application for the Warrenpoint Front Shore Public Realm Scheme and shared with the Task & Finish Steering Group and wider public when available.</p> <p>(c) Complete an Economic Appraisal seeking Council match funding for consideration at the future Council meeting, in advance of formal submission to the Department for Communities.</p> <p>(d) Progress discussions with Warrenpoint</p>	J McGilly	Work in progress Updates via task and Finish working group	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<p>Harbour Authority in regards future works to the Breakwater.</p> <p>(e) Extend AECOM appointment and develop & approve a Business Case to enable Breakwater design works RIBA Stages 1-3, at a projected cost up to £20,000, from the Council's own existing Capital Budget, to be undertaken to allow a separate DfC Economic Appraisal to be completed and Planning Application submitted.</p> <p>(f) Proceed to procurement and appointment of Interpretation Plan consultants within the available budget of £15,000, with design costs to be covered from the Council's own existing Capital Budget, with the agreed Interpretation elements to be delivered via the DfC funding subject to Economic Appraisal approval.</p> <p>(g) DfI to advise when the local community will be informed of the next steps following the completed One Way System study for Warrenpoint.</p>			
ERT/117/2021	ANNALONG HARBOUR SEAFLAG	(a) Council to note approval of funding from the Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG)	A Patterson	Ongoing	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<p>of the North West and North East Quay Restoration and Slipway/Boat Car Park Wall Works and the requirement to provide 20% match funding of £16,117 from its Harbour Repair and Harbour EI Capital Budgets.</p> <p>(b) Council to now accept FLAG letter of offer and approve the relevant Business Cases before proceeding to appoint its Framework Contractor to carry out the North West and North East Quay Works and Slipway/Boat Car Park Wall repair.</p>			
ERT/118/2021	FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – TOURISM EVENTS AND ARTS	Council open a Financial Assistance funding call to support Tourism and Arts Festivals and Events that are being planned for delivery from September 2021 to March 2022, with all applicants required to demonstrate strict adherence to Covid regulations via the submission of detailed event management plans, risk assessments and public liability insurance, etc.	A Patterson	In progress	Y
ERT/119/2021	INTERNATIONAL TOURISM EVENTS 2022	To provide a letter of support, in principle, to the promoter of the International Tourism Event in 2022.	A Patterson	Complete	Y
ERT/120/2021	RPT OF COVID RECOVERY WORKING	To approve funding from the Covid 19 Recovery Reserves for the following, as per	C Mallon	Noted	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
	GROUP MEETINGS	<p>the Covid 19 Recovery Working Group Meeting held on 25 May 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public Rights of Way Maintenance - Tourism Sector Support - Tourism Events - Newry & Mourne Museum, Down Museum Engagement - Golf Tournament <p>It was also agreed to approve funding from the Covid 19 Recovery Reserves for the following, as per the Covid 19 Recovery Working Group Meeting held on 07 June 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Application to NIEA Challenge Fund for AONBs - Community Centres Additional sanitisations systems - Community Centres Additional programmes - Be Active Cup – District Wide Junior Soccer Competitions - COVID and Capacity Training for Sports Clubs - COVID Equipment for 16 Sports Pavilions - Additional Resources for Suicide Prevention financial call 			

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional Resources for Men's Health/Mental Health - initiatives - Economic Recovery Support for BME Community in the midst of Brexit - Minority Support Bulgarian Interpreter - Minority Support Romanian interpreter - Minority Support Arabic interpreter - Minority Support ESOL classes for BME - DEA Programme The Check in, Check u - Raising Campaign - DEA Programme Mental Health Roadsho - DEA Programme Youth Media Programn - Sports capital minor - funding shortfall - Sports Capital major - funding shortfall - Additional sports capital minor 			
ERT/121/2021	KILBRONEY TRAILS: THE FALLOWS WALK PHASE 2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To approve the Business Case for Fallows Phase 2 which is based on blend of funding from DAERA and match funding from Councils capital programme. 2. To appoint a contractor to carry out the Fallows Phase 2 based on receiving a successful funding bid to DAERA and receipt of letter of offer which is part of an application currently being considered. 	A Patterson	In progress	Y

Report to:	Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	9 August 2021
Subject:	Notice of Motion – Fishing and Seafood Development Programme
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly – Assistant Director EER
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly – Assistant Director EER

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-

For decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p><u>Purpose:</u></p> <p>To provide some context and background to the notice of motion as detailed below as proposed by Cllrs McMurray and Brown</p> <p>“That this Council endorses and supports the Fishing and Seafood Development Programme Report, as produced by the Strategic Investment Board, and presented to DAERA. To demonstrate support and continuing assistance, this Council shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send written confirmation of our support to the respective Ministers for the Departments: of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs; of the Economy; of Finance. • Request a ministerial meeting between the Minister of Finance and NMDC Senior Management Team to ensure the business case, and the securing of funds, for this project is progressed in a timely manner. • Establish a Project Board made up of representatives from all parties with a dedicated Council Officer to liaise between both Ardglass, Kilkeel and Portavogie Harbours, DAERA and Ards and North Down Council to assist in the development and implementation of the respective projects within our district. • Actively include the FSDP recommendations to develop the Blue Green Economy - and the associated requirements for skills development - within council promotions and strategies.”
2.0	Key issues

2.1	<p>Council has been engaged in the development proposals for both Ardglass and Kilkeel Harbours in partnership with harbour stakeholders, DAERA and NI Fisheries Harbour Authority. Council along with Invest NI, DAERA and NIFHA co funded the initial research that lead to the development of the Fisheries Seafood Development Programme.</p> <p>As part of the governance around the Councils Economic Development Strategy, Council also works with stakeholders in this area to support the development of initiatives via the Economic Forum working groups on skills and business development.</p> <p>A detailed paper on this report was tabled at June ERT meeting and has been appended to this report by way of a summary of the key recommendations of the report.</p> <p>The report focusses on the development of the harbours, the fish processing sector and the development of the wider harbour estates with a focus on the Blue Economy sector and its ever increasing potential to support harbour viability moving forward.</p> <p>DAERA as the lead department on this programme, have recently met with Council officials and stakeholders to give an overview of the report and map out the next steps and key milestones. The SOC is currently being finalised by DAERA for submission to DoF and will hopefully be signed off by DoF in the Autumn paving the way for commencement of procurements for the technical studies etc.</p> <p>As the lead Department, DAERA are also working on plans to establish governance structures, including the establishment of a Project Board to progress all aspects of the report and will involve the appropriate stakeholders as required.</p> <p>DEARA, as the Lead Department, will work with and liaise with the Department of Finance and other government departments to progress the development of the Strategic Outline Case and develop funding packages as required.</p> <p>There has been positive engagement with the DAERA officials and they are keen to meet with elected members to outline the key findings but more critically detail the plans to progress the work ahead and agree key milestones etc. This will detail how stakeholders will be engaged going forward.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<p>DAERA Officers are invited to September ERT to present to members on the FSDP and in particular</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance proposals for this project • NMDDCs Role in the project • Current progress with the Strategic Outline Case • Timelines for delivery of the Strategic Outline Case • Key next steps.

4.0	Resource implications
4.1	N/A
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service

	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices
	1. Fishing & Seafood Development Programme Report to June 2021 ERT
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A

Report to:	Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	14 June 2021
Subject:	Fishing and Seafood Development Programme.
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly - Assistant Director EER
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly – Assistant Director EER

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-

For decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u> The purpose of this paper is to update members on the Fisheries and seafood Development programme as launched by DAERA, the key recommendations arising that relate to Ardglass and Kilkeel Harbour and the next steps.</p> <p><u>Background</u> The Fishing and Seafood Development Programme (FSDP) was established in response to calls from the Northern Ireland (NI) fishing industry to make significant investments in fishing harbour infrastructure. The FSDP involved a strategic review of the opportunities for developing the sea fishing and seafood sectors in NI as a whole, including the potential role of new public investment in infrastructure. This requires a long-term view as port infrastructure has a long life (50+ years).</p> <p>The Stage 1 report focused on the current and future needs of Northern Ireland's fishing industry.</p> <p>Stage 2 of the FSDP focused on seafood and other port-based sectors. These reports, along with DAERA assessments of future needs and opportunities resulting from the UK's exit from the EU (specifically the UK/EU Fisheries Agreement and the NI Protocol) contribute the evidence base for the FSDP.</p> <p>The UK government has committed to replacing EU fisheries funding with an equivalent UK programme. Some of the needs identified for NI's fishing and seafood sector (including support to the private sector in production efficiencies, innovation, marketing and training) can be addressed through a future fisheries & aquaculture support programme. However, with an expected annual funding limit of £4m, this is not of a scale that will fund the infrastructure investment needed to make NI's fishing ports fit for the 21st century. It is also important to recognize that the investments in port infrastructure proposed will benefit other sectors and contribute to growth in Northern Ireland's Blue Economy.</p>

2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>The FSDP outcomes and recommendations can be best summarise as below.</p> <p>The FSDP Harbours Programme consists of three projects at each of the NIFHA harbours:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kilkeel harbour expansion• Ardglass harbour enhancement• Portavogie harbour estate preparation <div><div><p>Infrastructure development</p><p>NIFHA fishing ports</p><div><div>Ardglass £20m*</div><div>Kilkeel £73m*</div><div>Portavogie £5m*</div></div><div>Non-NIFHA landing sites</div></div><div><p>Other sector development:</p><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Innovation• De-carbonisation• Efficiency• Training• Marketing• Aquaculture• FSDP studies?*</div><div><p>Harbours programme £98m*</p></div><div><p>Future fisheries grant scheme £4m p.a.</p></div></div> <p>Fishing Objective: Fishing operations are sustainable in economic, environmental and social terms: sufficiently profitable to invest in a fleet that can operate efficiently, attract crew and reduce its carbon emissions.</p> <p>Blue Economy Objective: Northern Ireland grasps future opportunities in the existing and emerging sectors of the Blue Economy.</p> <p>Harbours Objective: Northern Ireland’s fishing harbours are developed to support the needs of the fishing industry and enable growth in other sectors of the Blue Economy.</p> <p>Kilkeel becomes an Irish Sea Marine Hub: port capacity is increased, making it more accessible with increased water depth, for fishing, vessel repair and offshore services. The harbour estate is increased with additional land for business expansion and new opportunities.</p> <p>Ardglass harbour capacity is enhanced to secure fishing and processing industries. Harbour properties are acquired to enable coherent harbourside development.</p>

	<p>Portavogie harbour is maintained for its fishing industry and the harbour estate is prepared for future Blue Economy opportunities.</p> <p>In terms of next stages DAERA economists are completing final review of figures in the SOC, this will then go to DoF for review by Economists, when this has been finalised then the SOC will revert to DAERA for Ministerial sign off and agreement of next steps - commencement of Technical studies. It is anticipated the Ministerial sign off of SOC will be September 2021 at earliest.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<p>That Council note the report and recommendations:</p> <p>Officers continue to liaise with DAERA and NIFHA, NIFPO, ANIFPO etc to progress the report findings to the next stage and establish a robust governance structure to ensure ongoing engagement as the projects move through various stages of development.</p>
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Not at this stage
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>

5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	<p>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</p>
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	<p>Appendices</p>
	<p>N/A</p>
8.0	<p>Background Documents</p>
	<p>N/A</p>

Report to:	Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	9 August 2021
Subject:	Notice of Motion – Motorhome Strategy
Reporting Officer	Andrew Patterson Assistant Director Tourism, Culture and Events
Contact Officer	Andrew Patterson Assistant Director Tourism, Culture and Events

For decision	X	For noting only	
1.0			Purpose and Background
1.1			<p><u>Purpose:</u> To seek approval for the recommendation set out in section 3.1 of this report on the Notice of Motion on the development of a Motorhome strategy for the district.</p> <p><u>Background:</u> The following notice of motion was received from Councillor Clarke at the July 2021 Council meeting:</p> <p>“With the ever increasing numbers of Motorhome owners opting to use car parks and other locations for overnight stays in Newcastle, Council acknowledge the signs of tension that are now growing between local residents and motorhome users. Council recognise that freedom camping has become unsustainable at some key areas. In turn this is placing operational and environmental pressure on visitor attractions originally designed for day time recreational use only. Council develop a motorhome strategy for Newry Mourne and Down Council region, encompassing Newry and the main towns and villages.”</p>
2.0			Key issues
2.1			<p>This paper provides detail on several points for consideration by members with regards the proposed development of a motorhome strategy for the district.</p> <p>1. <u>Increased Tourism Demand</u></p> <p>Due to the ongoing impacts of the pandemic, including reduced demand for foreign travel, there has been a huge increase in domestic tourism this summer with very high bookings/occupancy levels in all forms of tourist accommodation in the district, including at established caravan/camp sites. Throughout the pandemic members will be aware of ongoing challenges with car parking, litter and the influx of large crowds at popular tourism sites within the district. The reopening of tourism and hospitality businesses at the end of May helped to relieve some of the pressures experienced in the Mournes and at more rural tourism sites, etc. However,</p>

Newcastle and other towns continue to be extremely busy now in the main summer season.

2. Increased use of Motorhomes

In line with the increase in domestic tourism/staycations, the popularity of motorhomes has grown significantly in recent years, with demand for motorhome parking and services increasing in tourism areas across Northern Ireland. Within NMD demand for parking and calls for motorhome services has increased in Newcastle and to a lesser extent Warrenpoint this year. Often motorhome users want to park in town centres to have ease of access to tourism amenities, shops and restaurants, etc.

Currently in Newcastle motorhome users have access to free 'shared parking' provision in a number of bays in Castle Park car park. These bays are larger than standard parking bays and can be used by motorhome or car users on a first-come basis.

The Council's Tourist Amenity Bye-Laws for Castle Park stipulate users can park for a maximum duration of 12-hours and overnight stays prohibited. Council enforce these bye-laws with signage in Castle Park and via patrols by Enforcement Officers, however there is a large onus placed upon the car park users to adhere to these regulations. Specific challenges exist in the effective enforcement of bye-laws. The Off-Street Parking Order (NI) allows the Council to issue fixed penalty notices and this is considered a more effective way of enforcing compliant use of car parks where this legislation applies.

Several car parks within Newcastle have had height restriction barriers installed, thus enabling maximum use of the available parking space in prime sites, as oversized vehicles, (not solely motorhomes), were previously entering these locations and occupying several parking bays to the detriment of other users. The barriers facilitate a practical, cost-effective method of optimising the finite parking capacity within the town.

Motorhome owners can also use one of the many local caravan parks/camp sites across the district for secure overnight parking. Owners are required to book for the duration of their stay, and have access to services (air, water, waste disposal) whilst at sites.

3. Challenges between Motorhome users & local residents

Since early summer Council has received complaints from Motorhome users with regards the availability of dedicated parking and services. A number of complaints have also been received by local residents in Newcastle and Warrenpoint with regards the volume of motorhome users using local car parks or obstructing views by parking in front of homes, etc. With the increase of motorhome use and domestic tourism this year, there is evidence to suggest that the volume of similar complaints is rising at popular tourism destinations throughout the UK. Challenges have also come from private sector caravan park/camp site owners in NI – many of whom have invested significantly to develop their facilities, but feel the provision of motorhome

	<p>service points (aires) and free overnight parking facilities in popular tourism areas could create unfair competition and damage their business.</p> <p>4. <u>Future Provision for Motorhome Users</u></p> <p>Any proposals in relation to Council-managed car parks/ motorhome sites will require compliance with the applicable legislation, and appropriate advice will be taken on the legal position in the development of a strategy.</p> <p>With consideration of the above points, it is recommended that the Council meets with the following stakeholders to inform the development of a future Motorhome Strategy; and to present this information to members in due course:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DfI Officials • Tourism NI • Other Local Authorities which receive a high-volume of motorhome users • Representatives from motorhome user groups • A representation of local-residents in Newcastle & Warrenpoint, etc • Local private sector caravan park/camp site owners
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To note the contents of this paper and to provide approval for officers to consult with several key stakeholders to inform the development of the Terms of Reference for a future Motorhome Strategy for the district.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	No budgetary resources will be required at this time.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p>

	<p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale: Consultation to gather the views of key stakeholders will be undertaken in the first instance to inform the decision taken by Council on the requirement for a future motorhome strategy for the district.</i></p>
6.0	<p>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</p>
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	<p>Appendices</p>
	<p>N/A</p>
8.0	<p>Background Documents</p>
	<p>N/A</p>

Report to:	Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	9 August 2021
Subject:	Notice of Motion – Revival of Downpatrick Town Centre
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly – Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly – Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-

For decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p><u>Purpose:</u> To provide some context and background to the notice of motion as detailed below as proposed by Cllrs Sharvin, Trainor and Curran.</p> <p>"That this council recognises the importance of supporting the revival of Downpatrick town centre post pandemic and beyond. This motion calls on council to appoint a town centre manager for Downpatrick. A Town Centre Manager who can liaise with the business community creating initiatives, opportunities and developing programmes that would support the future development of the county town."</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>In recent years there has been a significant investment in public realm regeneration in Market Street and Irish Street along with revitalisation programmes to help enhance shop fronts. These initiatives have all been delivered via steering groups made up of elected members and town centre stakeholders, this in turn had a positive impact for the Town Centre and has encouraged private sector investment. A successful business case also led to DfC purchasing the former PSNI site. Council is currently working with DfC and a steering group of local business people and elected reps to bring forward a mixed use regeneration plan for the site which is due to go out to the market in late summer.</p> <p>Council is also establishing a new working group to bring forward a revitalisation initiative for the Church Street area and expressions of interest are being sought from businesses in the Church Street area to contribute to the development a robust business case for submission to DfC to secure funding.</p> <p>Council support to business in Downpatrick as a result of Covid included an extensive support package to assist businesses with grants to help make their premises covid secure, enhance shop frontages and improve digitisation. Council</p>

	<p>also have a range of support programmes to assist businesses develop through targeted programmes for growth, digital transformation, tendering and sales.</p> <p>The DEA forum and the DEA co-ordinator also provides a conduit for Council to engage with business and high light business related issues.</p> <p>Councils "Make it Local" marketing campaign and artisan markets programme has resulted in a range of promotion campaigns and events before and during Covid to support local businesses.</p> <p>Council to date has found that developing initiatives in partnership with stakeholders has been extremely useful in building partnerships and securing funds which are ultimately required to realise actions.</p> <p>Council does not employ a dedicated Town Centre manager in any of the Districts urban centres. A proposal to appoint a dedicated officer as Town Centre Manager would require extensive research, careful consideration, be supported by a robust business case and tabled at Councils SPR committee for consideration.</p> <p>In moving this matter forward it may be of benefit to establish a working group with Councillors and key stakeholders from Downpatrick Town Centre to the determine the most suitable way forward for the Town.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<p>To note the content of this report in the discussions on the notice of motion, and recommend that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officers carry out a detailed options appraisal in partnership with local elected members and Businesses reps, looking at the most suitable option going forward, that best represents the needs of the Town Centre • Report back to this committee the findings of the options appraisal exercise
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	<p>None at this stage however funding would be required to develop a business plan if there was broad agreement to progress.</p>
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	<p>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</p>
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	<p>Appendices</p>
	<p>N/A</p>
8.0	<p>Background Documents</p>
	<p>N/A</p>

Report to:	Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	9 th August 2021
Subject:	AONB - Application to NIEA Challenge Fund
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly Assistant Director of Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Darren Rice AONB and Geopark Manager

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-

For decision	X	For noting only
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To note that Council have submitted a funding application for £279,500 from NIEA Challenge Fund to undertake additional works at in the AONB. An outcome is anticipated in August 2021 with a funding deadline of 31 March 2022, In the event that an application is approved and given the limited period for implementation, it is requested that in preparation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject to a Letter of Offer being secured, Council approve the Business Case for implementation of the project as outlined in the funding application "The Ring of Gullion AONB and Strangford And Lecale AONB Management Action Plans Challenge Fund" for additional capital works onsite. Subject to a Letter of Offer being secured, Council approve to carry out the required procurement exercises in line with policy for the implementation of the project, and following assessment and award, appoint the relevant suppliers, if within available budgets <p><u>Background</u></p> <p>RGSL Challenge Fund will implement measurable key environmental outcomes identified and detailed in the various designated sites Management Action Plans (MAPs) developed during the previous NIEA EF delivery phase. RGSL Challenge Fund is needed in order to ensure key recommendations and actions from the MAPs will be implemented to deliver against environmental obligations detailed in various laws, PfG and regional and local policies and MAPs. For the PfG, RGSL will help to improve wellbeing for all by providing healthy landscapes for communities to enjoy and creating places where people want to live, work and visit. RGSL will contribute to reversing habitat and species decline; improving river and marine water quality; and obtain favourable management in the AONBs designated sites. RGSL will have positive environmental impacts at a sub-regional scale that will be measured and monitored.</p>

2.0	<p>Key issues</p> <p>Challenge Fund is expected to be secured, which will further invest £279,500 into the AONB. The project will be 85% funded.</p> <p>The project will deliver the following works:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advanced Mooring System feasibility and pilot in Strangford Lough. 2. Don't Mow Let it Mow 3. Forkhill Greenspace Project – Phase 2 - Welcoming Nature Back. 4. Ring of Gullion Way enhancement works scheme Gledhu, Ballard Rd, and Forkhill River. 5. Strategic access connections (bridge over Forkhill River, and fencing to join onto Maphoner road). 6. Slieve Gullion SAC Erosion Control on path corridor to planning stage. 7. Ring of Gullion Way re-route to planning stage 8. Carrive summit loop 9. Forkhill River walk consultation 10. Ringhaddy Quay, slipway, and car park consultation and development 11. Access gateways across Ring of Gullion, Strangford and Lecale and the Mournes 12. Forkhill River Blueways feasibility, consultation and development 13. AONBs Go Digital - 14. Visitor monitoring - mobile visitor counter
3.0	<p>Recommendations</p>
3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To note that Council have submitted a funding application for £279,500 from NIEA Challenge Fund to undertake additional works at in the AONB. An outcome is anticipated in August 2021 with a funding deadline of 31 March 2022, • In the event that an application is approved and given the limited period for implementation, it is requested that in preparation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Subject to a Letter of Offer being secured, Council approve the Business Case for implementation of the project as outlined in the funding application "The Ring of Gullion AONB and Strangford And Lecale AONB Management Action Plans Challenge Fund" for additional capital works onsite. ○ Subject to a Letter of Offer being secured, Council approve to carry out the required procurement exercises in line with policy for the implementation of the project, and following assessment and award, appoint the relevant suppliers, if within available budgets
4.0	<p>Resource implications</p>
4.1	<p>The total costs associated with the project is £279,500 – 85% funded</p> <p>External funding of £238,716</p>

	<p>Internal funding of £40,784</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> £20,010 (Budget approved from ERT Covid-19 recovery funding /paper approved on 14th June 2021) £20,774 (Internal funding across ERT and Neighbourhood Services - budgets confirmed as available within existing budgets)
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p>

	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Business Case – The Ring of Gullion AONB and Strangford And Lecale AONB Management Action Plans Challenge Fund 2. Application and Business Case - The Ring of Gullion AONB and Strangford And Lecale AONB Management Action Plans Challenge Fun
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A

Full Business Case Template

Expenditure: £100,000 < £500,000

This pro forma is designed to document expenditure appraisals for expenditures between £100k and £500k with appropriate and proportionate effort. It identifies the main elements of a business case to be covered, followed by spaces or tables for inserting the relevant information. ***The spaces and tables should be enlarged or modified as required to accommodate all the necessary information.***

There are no precise rules about the length of business case documents for small expenditure decisions, but, as an indication, it might be anything from a few pages in the simplest cases to 20 pages or so in more complex cases.

For detailed guidance on business cases and expenditure appraisal, consult the [Northern Ireland Guide to Expenditure Appraisal and Evaluation](#) (NIGEAE) or seek advice from the Procurement Department.

Project Title:	The Ring of Gullion AONB and Strangford And Lecale AONB Management Action Plans Challenge Fund	
Directorate:	ERT	
Prepared by:	D Rice	
Date:	20/07/2021	
Checked by Assistant Director:		Date:
Director Approval:		Date:
Committee Approval: (AHC, SP&R, RTS or ERT)		Date:
Council Approval: (minutes ratified)		Date:

Note: The level of detail should be proportionate and appropriate to the level of expenditure to be incurred.



Section 1: Project Background, Strategic Context and Need

- **Explain the background to the proposal - detail what the expenditure is for and why it is needed?**
- **Please provide the strategic context.**

Ensure that you have clearly identified the need for the new project or service

1. Explain the background to the proposal including its strategic context – i.e. departmental business plan, corporate plan, community plan, regional strategies and government strategies, relevance to NI Government or Departmental strategic aims and policy objectives.
2. Identify the key stakeholders and explain their commitment and any outstanding issues.
3. As specifically as possible, explain the nature of the needs or demands that are to be addressed, and detail any deficiencies in existing service provision.
4. Include suitable quantification of needs/demands/deficiencies where possible.
5. Outline the proposed timescale for implementation of the project.
6. Is this project subject to a conditions survey/other survey?
7. Please provide any other relevant information to support the need for this project. i.e. drawings, plans, photographs...

A funding application has been submitted to NIEA challenges Fund for a project - RGSLL Challenge Fund.

The RGSLL Challenge Fund will implement measurable key environmental outcomes identified and detailed in the various designated sites Management Action Plans (MAPs) developed during the previous NIEA EF delivery phase. RGSLL Challenge Fund is needed in order to ensure key recommendations and actions from the MAPs will be implemented to deliver against environmental obligations detailed in various laws, PfG and regional and local policies and MAPs. For the PfG, RGSLL will help to improve wellbeing for all by providing healthy landscapes for communities to enjoy and creating places where people want to live, work and visit. RGSLL will contribute to reversing habitat and species decline; improving river and marine water quality; and obtain favourable management in the AONBs designated sites. RGSLL will have positive environmental impacts at a sub-regional scale that will be measured and monitored.

Projects contained with the application are as follows:

1. Advanced Mooring System feasibility and pilot in Strangford Lough.

Advanced Mooring Systems (AMS) or environmentally friendly moorings are designed to have less impact on the seabed than conventional swing moorings. They aim to minimise abrasion and therefore the potential to damage sensitive habitats.

RGSLL Challenge would like to work with local stakeholders and harbour authorities to fund, plan, install and trial AMS in areas of seagrass to help improve



the condition of the habitat. We are keen to gather better evidence on the effectiveness of these systems in Strangford Lough and in particular evaluate feedback from users

We will trial 3 different designs: Hazelett (www.hazelettmarine.com), Seaflex (www.seaflex.net) and the Stirling mooring system (adapted conventional mooring with floats). To further reduce impact to the seabed we would also like to trial helical screw type anchors where appropriate. The AMS trials will be monitored and evaluated over the course of the project to inform a best practice guide to using AMS. This guide will be useful for managers, boat owners and conservationists to help inform decisions on the use of AMS in Strangford Lough in the future.

2. Don't Mow Let it Mow

This project is for two Grillo FD 2200TS machines one for Ards and North Down BC, and one for NMDDC. Both machines will work inside the AONBs in the respective council areas, but also on other prime locations to increase the DMLG sites.

Don't Mow, Let It Grow project will focus on the conservation of semi-natural grassland over the next ten years. Specifically, on the management of road verges and amenity grasslands across the Ards and North Down Borough Council and Newry Mourne and Down District Council areas.

Small changes in management give big benefits to biodiversity and ecosystem services. RSGLL Challenge will use the practical management toolkit developed by Causeway Coast And Glens Borough Council.

The project will identify trial verges and amenity grassland sites in order to:

- highlight and develop a range of management options
- assess biodiversity, ecosystem services and cost benefits of this alternative management
- train land managers and volunteers in management options, grassland selection, species identification, Invasive Alien Species and monitoring
- promote the benefits to wider public

3. Forkhill Greenspace Project – Phase 2 - Welcoming Nature Back.

The Site is situated along School Road in the centre of Forkhill Village, Co. Armagh.

The existing site has huge potential for biodiversity to encourage the development



of native wild species and allow the provision of access paths to appreciate the nature within the site.

As a former Army Barracks in the centre of Forkhill Village, a number of projects have been developed on the site in recent years in terms of Social Housing, Boundary Pathway and Play-area. What remains is 3-4 acres in the centre of site, which has never been developed and is beginning to grow wild, which if not addressed, will become dense and totally overgrown and inaccessible to the community.

Given a recent Public Consultation Process, the community confirmed that they do not wish for any further housing development to take place on the site, but rather work with the Council to bring forward future initiatives to secure the central Greenspace for the village.

4. Ring of Gullion Way enhancement works scheme Gledhu, Ballard Rd, and Forkhill River.

At present these three access points along the Ring of Gullion Way have had major alterations through land management that are outside the scope for the annual maintenance budget. There is currently no access along the Glendhu and Forkhill River sections, and unusable access along the Ballard Road section from the summit of Slieve Gullion.

The Ring of Gullion Way is part of the Ulster Way and is a part of a strategic network of paths through the area.

Providing access along the way has been identified in the AONB MAP and the Outdoor Recreation Action Plan. The council has agreed to maintain the path network once created through the Ring of Gullion AONB Partnership.

5. Strategic access connections (bridge over Forkhill River, and fencing to join onto Maphoner road).

This works will allow access from a 26acre woodland with permissive use access, through a farm and onto the Maphoner road. This is closer to Ring of Gullion Way access, and the eventual aim will be to connect the villages off-road. This is an important first step

6. Slieve Gullion SAC Erosion Control on path corridor to planning stage.

7. Ring of Gullion Way re-route to planning stage

8. Carrive summit loop: lower hills and Jacksons Folly consultation and development to planning stage

9. Forkhill River walk consultation

10. Ringhaddy Quay, slipway, and car park consultation and development

11. Access gateways across Ring of Gullion, Strangford and Lecale and the Mourne

The car parking, and public transport routes across the honey pot sites in the three AONB are beyond capacity. Particularly in the Mourne AONB at peak times there can be several miles of cars parked on roads. This study will look at all those issues, provide recommendations, concept proposals and high level costings.

12. Forkhill River Blueways feasibility, consultation and development

13. AONBs Go Digital - Ring of Gullion, Strangford and Lecale and Mourne AONB websites enhancement and integration

The three new websites will attract new users to the AONBs and be more aware of our messages - such as leave no trace etc. 81% of people research a business or service online prior to making a visit or purchase. A website can be available 24/7/365 even when the team is not. A website acts as your "always-on" messaging advocate during and outside of office hours.

A professional website adds instant credibility to the AONB and our messaging simply by having a website.

People are skeptics; in fact, 56% of people stated that they won't trust an organisation without a website. Having a good website instantly boosts credibility as a legitimate organisation.

First impressions count, and websites allow you to make a very strong impression with a well designed introduction for your AONB.

A website can help showcase our expertise and better position ourselves to communicate messages about the AONB.

Having a professional up-to-date website will end up saving time. Websites can save you that time by providing answers to common questions and inquiries.

Websites help position organisations and stay in control of the brand.

A website acts as a platform for our messaging and shapes the online perception of your AONBs in a way that social media channels cannot provide.

14. Visitor monitoring - mobile visitor counter

When creating new trails, moving existing trails and for monitoring braids on trails



mobile counters provide evidence for need.

Is or will there be any perceived cross EU Border interest for this requirement/project:

Yes ☒ No ☐

Section 2: State Objectives & Constraints

1. *Explain and list the project objectives in specific measurable terms.*
2. *Include quantifiable targets where possible.*
3. *Identify any likely constraints to the project e.g. timing issues, legal requirements, professional standards, planning constraints and so on.*

Refer to appendix 1, page 13 - 19

Challenge funding from the NIEA DAERA should be secured August 2021 which will further invest £279,500 into the Ring of Gullion and Strangford and Lecale AONBs. The project will be 85% funded.

The funding provided by the Challenge Fund must be spent by March 2022. Risks are ability to complete project within budget given the nature of the works and pressures on human resources. However, based on pre project estimates this can be achieved, and all works will be subject to value for money assessment / procurement process.

Once funding is confirmed, statutory approvals were required will be processed.



Section 3: Identify the Options and indicate the risks, costs and benefits of each option – this includes monetary and non-monetary.

- **Options - Please identify all available options and provide a description of each option.**
 - Identify all available options and provide a full description of each.
 - This should include a do nothing option (status quo).
 - Other may include, 'do minimum' and then a number of 'do something' options.
 - Explain each option and how it would meet the aim and objectives.
 - Provide advantages and disadvantages of each option

- **Risks - Please indicate if there are any notable risks associated with the project/acquisition.**

A risk could be any factor which would have a negative impact on the project running smoothly. Consider a range of risks such as:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| - Financing | - Timeframe |
| - Contractor capabilities | - Reputation |
| - The requirements for statutory approvals | - Poor take-up of new service / acquisition (if applicable) |
| - Land ownership | - Health and safety, etc. |
| - External Funding Uncertainities | - Insurance |

Indicate how these risks could be mitigated against.

- **Monetary Costs and Benefits**

Outline the full range of monetary costs for each option.

Please explain how these costs have been estimated e.g. previous experience. If there are any monetary benefits, these should be included here e.g. savings.

Include:

- Capital costs
- Ongoing revenue costs, (e.g. warranty costs, maintenance costs, service charges etc. whole life costs, insurance)
- Income generated
- Savings made
- Any other monetary benefits
- Net cost to Council.

- **Non-Monetary Costs and Benefits**

Please identify the non-monetary costs and benefits associated with each option.

Non-monetary costs and benefits to include (costs which cannot be measured in financial terms): Not all of these may be applicable to each option.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| - Sustainability | - Collaboration |
| - Environmental | - Improved Service Delivery |
| - Social | - Local Economic Multiplier |
| - Health and Well being | - Corporate & Community Plan objectives |
| - External Funding Uncertainities | |
| - Reputation | |

The number of Options will vary according to each project.

Option 1)	Status Quo							
<p>Description to include how this option meets the Aims & Objectives identified in Section 2:</p> <p>Advantages:</p> <p>Disadvantages:</p> <p>Risks:</p> <p>Monetary Benefits:</p> <p>Non-Monetary Costs & Benefits:</p>	<p>Not secure / accept the funding – no</p> <p>Refer to Appendix 1 – page 20 - 29</p>							
<p>Monetary Costs:</p> <p>This is a sample and should be adapted as required or replaced with a spreadsheet</p>	Option 1 Status Quo	Year 0	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Totals
	Capital Costs							
	Total Capital Costs							
	Revenue Costs		0					
	Total Revenue Costs		0					
	Income							
	Savings							
	Whole Life Costs							

Option 2)	Do something							
<p>Description to include how this option meets the Aims & Objectives identified in Section 2:</p> <p>Advantages:</p> <p>Disadvantages:</p> <p>Risks:</p> <p>Monetary Benefits:</p> <p>Non-Monetary Costs & Benefits:</p>	Only Priority projects delivered - Refer to Appendix 1 – page 20 - 29							
<p>Monetary Costs:</p> <p>This is a sample and should be adapted as required or replaced with a spreadsheet</p>	Option 1 Status Quo	Year 0	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Totals
	Capital Costs							
	Total Capital Costs							
	Revenue Costs		119,800					
	Total Revenue Costs		119,800					
	Income							
	Savings							
	Whole Life Costs							

Option 3)	Do Something							
Description to include how this option meets the Aims & Objectives identified in Section 2:	Deliver in full proposed and funded project							
	The total costs associated with the project is £279,500 – 85% funded							
	These costs have been arrived at through market value for money exercises.							
	External funding of £238,716 Internal funding of £40,784							
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">£20,010 (Budget approved from ERT Covid-19 recovery funding /paper approved on 14th June 2021)£20,774 (Internal funding across ERT and Neighbourhood Services - budgets confirmed as available within existing budgets)							
Monetary Costs: This is a sample and should be adapted as required or replaced with a spreadsheet	Option 1 Status Quo	Year 0	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Totals
	Capital Costs							
	Total Capital Costs							
	Revenue Costs		279,500					
	Total Revenue Costs		279,500					
	Income							
	Savings							
	Whole Life Costs							

Section 4: Social Value and Rural Proofing

a. Social Value - The additional benefit that a contract can deliver to the local community over and above the benefit of the goods and services themselves.

This benefit could be social, economic or environmental. For example, what are the opportunities to the community through the overall project if they do not directly benefit i.e. Creating skills and training opportunities.

Example the development of a new football pitch, the direct benefit is the provision of a football pitch, the social value could be the an opportunity of apprenticeship with the construction firm awarded the contract, an opportunity for local coaches to provide skills and fitness training on the new pitch.

Has social value been considered and indicate how?

The project will deliver social benefit through environmental improvements and if appropriate the engagement of the local community through volunteering opportunities.

b. Rural Proofing - The process by which policies, strategies and plans are assessed to determine whether they have a differential impact on **rural** areas and, where appropriate, adjustments are made to take account of particular **rural** circumstances.

Have you considered if this project could have a different impact in rural areas and, if so how you might change, implement the project differently to ensure equitable treatment for rural dwellers?

The physical project to be delivered are largely focused on environmental benefit to the rural areas.

c. Equality Screening – Should the project / service being discussed be subject to an Equality Screening?

No.

Section 5: Analysis and Selection of Preferred Option

Clearly document the preferred option – why has this option been selected?

Option is the delivery of the project which is approved and detailed in a Letter of Offer. Any variance on the project, to including scaling back would be in breach of the funding terms and conditions and could only be done so within the agreement of the funder.

Section 6: Monitoring and Evaluation

1. identify who will manage the project,
2. detail how progress and budget will be monitored,
3. how are you going to report on the aims and objectives outlined for this proposal?
4. how will variances be managed and reported,
5. how the benefits will be measured?
6. State proposed evaluation arrangements e.g. when it will happen, who will do it, what factors will be evaluated?

he basis for achievement of the objectives is oversight by the two AONB Partnerships (volunteers). The Partnerships are also the channel whereby a broad based partnership, representative of the various relevant stakeholder groups, provides feedback and agrees to a shared agenda for action on environmental and landscape management in our designated areas.

he AONB and Geopark Manager will provide the bulk of the planning and management to deliver the practical projects to achieve the outputs and outcomes set out, as well as the necessary liaison with key partners and representatives of landowner and recreational user interests, statutory consents etc. The range of activities will include design of prescriptions for the various enhancement and protection works, planning and guiding delivery. The AONB teams also undertake much of the best practice research, development and promotion that we have outlined and, as touched on earlier, we envisage will take a more strategic role in relation to conservation planning, notably SAC Management Planning, in the incoming period.

Newry, Mourne and Down District, as the body corporate, takes strategic decisions (in partnership with Ards and North Down Borough Council in relation to Strangford Lough and Lecale AONB), employs staff, holds the bank accounts and authorises payment. AONB Staff will oversee day to day operations of the Partnerships and delivery of the outcomes securing and managing staff and finance and planning work programmes. The manager also leads development of new projects and identifies and secures funding sources, ensuring that synergies are maximised to achieve optimum outcomes for the AONB. In addition, the managers are responsible for overseeing all strategy development, undertaking partner and community liaison and acting as a 'champion' for AONBs through input to policy development. They will also drive the partnerships communications and networking within the eNGO sector and with complementary sectors.

VOLUNTEERS will significantly augment the staff function, primarily in environmental research/ monitoring and practical environmental and visitor management projects but also in other areas including administration and promotions.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION: The AONB and Geopark Desk Officer provides essential support to the delivery of outcomes by providing administration services and day to day financial management including accounting and funding management/claims. The Officer is also responsible for assisting in servicing the Partnerships, visitor information and corporate communications. The post is essential to allowing the council to undertake the range of activities set out.

Section 7: Financing

Please indicate how the project / service will be financed. Has this been included in the estimates?

Yes ☒

No ☐

If yes, where in the estimates

Account Code: 3354

Cost Code:

Project Code:

If the proposal is for Capital expenditure, has this expenditure been included within the four year rolling capital plan? If so, how much has been put in the plan?

The total costs associated with the project is £279,500 – 85% funded

These costs have been arrived at through market value for money exercises.

External funding of £238,716

Internal funding of £40,784

- £20,010 (Budget approved from ERT Covid-19 recovery funding /paper approved on 14th June 2021)
- £20,774 (Internal funding across ERT and Neighbourhood Services - budgets confirmed as available within existing budgets)

Section 8: Appendices

Please name the document and reference the relevant section of the document to be attached.

Application form – Environment Challenge Fund

Section 9: Glossary

Key to Abbreviations:



N/A

DAERA Environment Fund ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGE FUND COMPETITION 2021/22

Application Form/Business Case

This form is for projects which are seeking support during 2021/22 to:

- (i) Enable not-for-profit organisations to deliver CAPITAL projects that produce long term sustainable significant environmental benefits through land purchase and/or access and recreation; and/or
- (ii) Provide not-for-profit organisations the opportunity to deliver strategic PROGRAMME/RESOURCE projects with the aim of getting eNGOs to work collaboratively together.

Closing date for applications is NOON on 1 June 2021

Funding MUST BE SPENT and claimed by 15 March 2022

This is a competitive fund. Successful projects will be those which meet the eligibility criteria and will help to achieve the Environmental Impact Priorities we have identified. These are outlined in the Environment Fund (EF) Eligibility Criteria and Environmental Impact Priorities document. DAERA will allocate the budget available to those projects which, together with current activity, will most efficiently help to meet DAERA priorities.

We will not be able to process your application until we receive all the information relevant to your project by the closing date.

Applications must be received by e-mail to EFgrants@daera-ni.gov.uk including a signed Certificate (the last page of the form) by the closing date.

**THE INFORMATION PROVIDED ON THIS FORM MAY BE
MADE AVAILABLE TO OTHER DEPARTMENTS/AGENCIES OR FUNDING PROVIDERS
FOR THE PURPOSES OF PREVENTING OR DETECTING CRIME.**

SECTION A: YOU AND YOUR ORGANISATION

1) Applicant Organisation

Name:	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council,		
Address:	Crossmaglen Community Centre, O'Fiaich Square, Crossmaglen		
Postcode:	BT35 9HG		
Telephone:	0300 137 4000	Web address:	
www.newrymournedown.org			
Please only give business information. Personal e-mail/telephone number, address details should not be submitted.			



Is any other organisation going to be a partner in delivering this project? **Yes** ☒ **No** ☐

If Yes, please list the organisation/s here: The Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership and the Strangford Lough and Lecale Partnership

2) Grant Officer

Name:	Darren Rice
Position in Organisation:	AONB and Geopark Manager
Telephone:	07713 089225
E-mail:	darren.rice@nmandd.org
Address:	as per above
Postcode:	as per above
Only supply business information. Personal e-mail/telephone numbers or address details should not be submitted.	

3) Project Manager (if different from Grant Officer)

Name:	
Position in Organisation:	
Expertise relevant to the project:	
Telephone:	
E-mail:	
Only supply business information. Personal e-mail/telephone numbers or address details should not be submitted.	

4) Not-for-Profit Organisation

Are you a Local Authority? **Yes** ☒ **No** ☐ (If Yes, move to next Q)

Are you a not-for-profit organisation? **Yes** ☐ **No** ☐

Are you registered with the Charity Commission? **Yes** ☐ **No** ☐

Does the Constitution of your organisation allow you to apply for funding and to undertake this project?

Yes ☐ **No** ☐

Have you uploaded your current Constitution and associated required documents to the Government Funding Database (not required for councils)?

Yes ☐ **No** ☐

Date last updated:

If No, please explain:

SECTION B: THE PROJECT

5) Project Title

The Ring of Gullion AONB and Strangford And Lecale AONB Management Action Plans
Challenge Fund
Acronym:RGSSL Challenge Fund

6) Previous DAERA Funding

Have you obtained DAERA (including Challenge Fund and Rural Development Programme) funding for this or a similar project on a previous occasion?

Yes ☒ No ☐

Previous DAERA Funding Reference Numbers ENF14

7) Project Timetable

Project start date: July 2021

Completion date: March 2022

Length of project: 9 months

What is the latest date you would require a grant offer letter to issue to enable works to be complete 1st July

Have you undertaken a similar project successfully before? Yes ☒ No ☐

Please provide details of a similar project you have delivered successfully before (include project delivery dates and value):

ENF14 - Covid-19 related in-year - £36280 - Sep 2020:Mar 2021

ENF14 - Covid related in-year - £8000 - Jan 2020:Mar 2020

ENF14 - Covid related in-year - £10500 - Dec 2019:Mar 2020

ENF14 - Covid related in-year - £23000 - Nov 2019:Mar 2020

ENF14 - Covid related in-year - £10000 - Jul 2019:Mar 2020

ENF 14 - RGSSL - £143430 - April 2020:Mar 2021

ENF 14 - RGSSL - £143430 - April 2019:Mar 2020

8) Project Location Information

List all key areas in which your project will be carried out

Address or area(s) in which the project is to be carried out:	Ring of Gullion AONB and Strangford Lough and Lecale AONB
Council area (HQ):	Newry, Mourne and Down DC
Council areas (Operational Area):	Newry, Mourne and Down DC
and Ards and North Down BC	
Parliamentary Constituency (HQ)	South Down

Parliamentary Constituencies (Operational Areas)	South Down; Newry and
Armagh; and Strangford	
Assembly Constituency Area (HQ)	South Down
Assembly Constituency Areas (Operational Area)	South Down; Newry and
Armagh; and Strangford	
Grid reference (if relevant):	

9) Project Summary (BRIEF overview of the project – 100 words maximum)

RGSLL Challenge Fund will implement measurable key environmental outcomes identified and detailed in the various designated sites Management Action Plans (MAPs) developed during the previous NIEA EF delivery phase. RGSLL Challenge Fund is needed in order to ensure key recommendations and actions from the MAPs will be implemented to deliver against environmental obligations detailed in various laws, PfG and regional and local policies and MAPs. For the PfG, RGSLL will help to improve wellbeing for all by providing healthy landscapes for communities to enjoy and creating places where people want to live, work and visit. RGSLL will contribute to reversing habitat and species decline; improving river and marine water quality; and obtain favourable management in the AONBs designated sites. RGSLL will have positive environmental impacts at a sub-regional scale that will be measured and monitored.

ASSESSMENT OF NEED FOR GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION THROUGH GRANT AID

10) Strategic Context - Environmental Need for project

What is the strategic context for this project – **WHY** does it need to be done? **WHAT EVIDENCE** do you have that it needs undertaken?

If there are similar activities currently being provided in the area, how does this project complement and not duplicate the other activities?

Strategy/Policy/Evidence of Need – Title	Description of Environmental Need and Evidence of this Need	How will proposed EF project deliver/meet the Need and fill a Gap in current provision?
Shared Horizons policy statement	<p>This evidences the need for the department to manage NIs most treasured landscapes; Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.</p> <p>The statement considers the rationale for statutory designation and how the areas concerned can subsequently be managed. In doing so, it sets down the current role of the Environment and Heritage Service (EHS) of the Department of the Environment (the Department) in these matters and outlines future action based on the opportunities and challenges presented. Specifically, the statement seeks to illustrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • why the protection and management of our special landscapes is important; • what EHS currently does, both through its own actions and in partnership with others, to manage this resource and facilitate the sustainable use of these areas; and • what the future plans of the Department are with respect to designating and managing further areas of high landscape quality and reviewing the status of some of our existing areas. 	<p>The proposed EF project will meet the needs of the Shared Horizons policy statement by managing the Ring of Gullion AONB, and the Strangford lough and Lecale AONB for both conservation and recreation by implementing the respective AONB Management Action Plans.</p> <p>The management process can be indirect and needs to involve, inform and empower as many people and organisations as possible. Working together, the hope is that there can be created a common agenda or ‘shared horizons’ in both these AONBs.</p>
Draft NI Programme for Government Framework 2016-2021	The draft Programme for Government contains 14 strategic outcomes which, taken together, set a clear direction of travel and enable continuous	The entirety of this proposed project is based on the principles of the AONB sustainable management and delivers for the

	<p>improvement on the essential components of societal wellbeing. A key feature of the new Programme is its dependence on collaborative working between organisations and groups, whether in the public, voluntary, or private sectors, and it is a Programme in which individuals and communities can also play an active part.</p> <p>This proposed EF project will directly address the following outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We live and work sustainably — protecting the environment - We enjoy long, healthy, active lives - We have created a place where people want to live and work, to visit and invest - We connect people and opportunities through our infrastructure - We give our children and young people the best start in life 	actions detailed for the Draft NI Programme for Government Framework 2016-2021
<p>NI Biodiversity Strategy</p> <p>NMDDC LBAP</p> <p>Draft ANDBC LBAP</p>	<p>There are a number of international targets which Northern Ireland is required to meet, many as part of the UK.</p> <p>Aichi Targets - maintaining the functionality of ecosystems as key to protecting biodiversity and delivering benefits for humanity</p> <p>EU Biodiversity Strategy - From the six targets in the EU Strategy this proposed EF project will focus on the following four–</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • better protection and restoration of ecosystems and the services they provide, and greater use of green infrastructure; • more sustainable agriculture and forestry; 	

- tighter controls on invasive alien species; and
- a greater EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss.

And for the purpose of the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy our mission for this proposed EF project will:

“To make progress towards halting overall biodiversity loss in the Ring of Gullion and Strangford lough and Lecale AONBs, establish an ecosystem approach and help business and society in general have a greater understanding of the benefits that nature can bring to everyday life in Northern Ireland.” as set out in the NI Biodiversity Strategy.

The Newry, Mourne and Down Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) outlines a plan of action to:

- Conserve and enhance the rich biodiversity of the District for both current and future generations;
- Educate and raise awareness of the importance and variety of biodiversity found within the Newry, Mourne and Down District, and;
- Encourage local ownership of Newry, Mourne and Down District's biodiversity.

The project strives to ensure that the biodiversity of Newry, Mourne and Down is maintained and enhanced through the preparation and implementation of individual action plans, covering a range of habitats and species, which reflect European, national and local priorities. It is based largely on the targets set out in the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy, translating regional strategy into local action.

	<p>Everyone who lives in the District has an important part to play, and only with your support can we help protect our valuable flora and fauna.</p> <p>Ards and North Down BC LBAP is in draft and SLLP will engage with the Biodiversity Officer.</p>	
Uplands Community Study - Irish Uplands Forum	<p>The purpose of this Research, the first of its kind, is to create a snap shot in time of where the most prominent and representative upland community groups are in relation to the way they are organised, what they do and the obstacles they face. Significant engagement took place with twenty five projects over a five month period from October 2015 until early 2016 across the whole island. The list of participants is representative of all upland communities on the island of Ireland</p>	<p>The entirety of this proposed project is based on the principles of the AONB sustainable management and helps to address the findings in this report.</p>
<p>All Ireland Pollinator Plan</p> <p>Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands Order 1985 (Article 14).</p> <p>EC Habitats Directive - Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995</p> <p>Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002</p>	<p>Addresses pollinator decline and protects pollination services.</p> <p>The designation was made by the Department of the Environment (NI) as an under the Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands Order 1985 (Article 14). This enables government to: 'Conserve or enhance the natural beauty or amenities of an area, conserve wildlife, historic objects or natural phenomena within it, and promote its enjoyment by the public'.</p> <p>Under Articles 13 and 14(5) of this legislation the Department may formulate proposals for the management of these areas. Accordingly there has been a long, history of provision for management services by NIEA and its predecessors.</p>	<p>The entirety of this proposed project is based on the principles of the AONB sustainable management.</p>

<p>The Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011</p> <p>Ring of Gullion AONB Management Action Plan 2017-2022</p> <p>Ring of Gullion Landscape Conservation Action Plan 2014-2019</p> <p>Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership Scheme Legacy Plan 2019-2029 (DRAFT)</p> <p>Strangford Lough & Lecale Management Action Plan 2017-2022 (DRAFT)</p>	<p>The Ring of Gullion AONB Management Action Plan outlines an agreed set of objectives and actions for the period 2017-2022 for the Ring of Gullion AONB. The action programme identifies what needs to be done and provides details of when it will be done and who will take responsibility for leading the action. In Northern Ireland, the legislation does not provide statutory status for management plans for AONBs. Instead they are implemented through voluntary agreement.</p> <p>Through extensive consultation, an agreed set of themes for the Ring of Gullion AONB Action Plan has emerged. Principle among them are the conservation of built, natural and cultural heritage in the Ring of Gullion and increasing access and understanding of the areas important heritage.</p> <p>The scheme will help to conserve some of the most threatened habitats in Northern Ireland, such as the heather moorlands, the woodlands, and the wildflower meadows as well as the threatened species such as the red squirrel, the barn owl and many more. The bank of skills learned along the way by all those involved will ensure that this project leaves a long-lasting legacy.</p> <p>The Strangford Lough and Lecale AONB Management Action Plan outlines an agreed set of objectives and actions for the period 2017-2022 for the Strangford Lough and Lecale AONB. The action programme identifies what needs to be done and</p>	
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	<p>provides details of when it will be done and who will take responsibility for leading the action. In Northern Ireland, the legislation does not provide statutory status for management plans for AONBs. Instead they are implemented through voluntary agreement</p>	
Our Great Outdoors: The Outdoor Recreation Action Plan for Northern Ireland	<p>The various actions set out later in this application also contribute to the achievement of a number of the Actions set out in the ORAP as listed below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •1B Establish a ‘National Outdoor Recreation Forum’ to address strategic issues, solutions and actions •1C Create a network of ‘Local Outdoor Recreation Forums’. •2C Ensure that full account is taken of outdoor recreation in any Management Plan for each Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). •3A Audit current hubs for outdoor recreation and identify geographical gaps and mechanisms to develop access and opportunities. •3B Develop and provide information and guidance/tools for local authorities and land managers on how to manage/develop •3F Provide clearer information of what people can do near to where they live. •4F Promote the value of and signpost opportunities for volunteering. •4G Provide training for volunteers and share good practice across the outdoor sector. •5B Provide clear communication on environmental responsibility for users and providers in the outdoors. 	
Ring of Gullion Outdoor Recreation Plan		
Strangford Lough and Lecale Outdoor Recreation Plan		
Strangford Lough Audit of Access		

Slieve Gullion SAC Management Plan	<p>•5C Disseminate information on good practice in the management of recreation and especially large scale events on protected sites and habitats and minimise disturbance of protected species.</p> <p>•6D Research into current and needed infrastructure for camping in key areas</p> <p>This plan was commissioned by NIEA, and produced through the Ring of Gullion Partnership. There is a need to maintain favourable condition in all NIs SACs.</p>	
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11) Additionality and Duplication

What other provision is there that meets the Needs you have identified? Would any of the Options impact on any existing project or organisation in Northern Ireland? If yes, give details of the expected impacts.

Other Provision and Providers	How will you minimise Duplication and maximise Additionality
<p>Newry, Mourne and Down District Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Biodiversity Officer - Countryside Officer - Heritage Officer 	<p>Both AONB teams work closely with these three officers, as well as with other section heads in order to not duplicate any work, and to provide additionality to the EF project and to the council outcomes. NMDDC and ANDBC have carried out a Strategic Review of AONB Management of RGSLL, duplication and additionality was a focus in the terms of reference. Both councils, and AONB teams have a structure in place to avoid any duplication</p>
<p>Ards and North Down Borough Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Biodiversity Officer - Countryside Officer - Heritage Officer 	<p>SLLP staff work closely with these three officers, as well working closely on a day-to-day basis with the Head of Tourism in order to provide an overarching strategic approach to avoid duplication and to provide additionality to the EF project and to the council outcomes. NMDDC and ANDBC have carried out a Strategic Review of AONB Management of RGSLL, duplication and additionality was a focus in the terms of reference. Both councils, and AONB teams have a structure in place to avoid any duplication</p>
	<p>RGSLL Challenge Fund has the ability to look holistically at an area and identify the various constituent elements and work on a wide range of these. Its success in</p>

	<p>delivering against the requirements of its funders is evidenced in past NIEA funds, and HLF funding programmes. RGSLL offers value for money delivered through the operation of the AONB Staff. RGSLL has the ability to act in a complementary way to existing services and to increase their impact.</p> <p>In relation to the issue of similar activities being conducted in the area, while there is conservation work by individual small and large landowners, no other organisation provides the coherent, holistic approach to AONB that RGSLL has been supported to deliver. In relation to some areas of activity - e.g. wildfire prevention, erosion control, visitor interface management - we not only avoid duplication but, through our specific skill set and experience, lead others and are developing cutting edge best practice.</p>
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12) **Lessons Learned from previous EF Funding.**

Outline all lessons learned from any previous EF funding. (If this is new project move on to the next question).

Lesson Learned	How will the Lesson Learned be integrated into the proposed new project?
Obtain agreements from external partners early on in the project; eg Planning Permisssion; Licenece Agreements etc	Any project relying on external permission will be started first in order to obtain all permission at an early stage.
In order to effectievly manage the landscape for AONB outcomes, year to year funding from the NIEA is not ideal. Environment and landscape projects are multi-year complex projects that do not neatly fit into financial years, for this reason NMDDC bear a lot of risk when undertaking the projects within this application, in the expectation that NIEA issue subsequent letters of Offer for the four year project.	
In-year funding, while welcome, is difficult to manage espeically at that time of the year. NIEA should look at profiling their budgets in order to reduce the in-year funding and increase, or keep current funding levels. Many biodiversity projects can not be delivered in the depths of winter.	

PROJECT OUTCOMES, TARGETS AND MEASUREMENT – based on the Needs and Gaps you have identified above

13) Delivery of EF Challenge Competition Environmental Impact Priorities

WHAT are the overall outcomes your project aims to bring about?

HOW do they contribute to the EF Environmental Impact Priorities?

HOW you are going to achieve the outcomes? **HOW** are you going to measure that the Targets have been achieved?

Only fill in whichever Priorities you propose to meet (not all of them).

What Environmental Outcomes do you aim to deliver? How will they deliver the Environment Fund priorities?	Indicator/Targets, Baselines and Milestones (SMART) to achieve outcome	Method of Assessment/ Monitoring
<p>1. Advanced Mooring System feasibility and pilot in Strangford Lough - TOP PRIORITY PROJECT</p> <p>Advanced Mooring Systems (AMS) or environmentally friendly moorings are designed to have less impact on the seabed than conventional swing moorings. They aim to minimise abrasion and therefore the potential to damage sensitive habitats.</p> <p>RGSLL Challenge would like to work with local stakeholders and harbour authorities to fund, plan, install and trial AMS in areas of seagrass to help improve the condition of the habitat. We are keen to gather better evidence on the effectiveness of these systems in Strangford Lough and in particular evaluate feedback from users</p> <p>We would like to trial 3 different designs: Hazelett (www.hazelettmarine.com), Seaflex (www.seaflex.net) and the Stirling mooring system (adapted conventional mooring with floats). To further reduce impact to the seabed we would also like to trial helical screw type anchors where appropriate. The AMS trials will be monitored and evaluated over the</p>	<p>TARGET FOR 1</p> <p>1.Consultation with local community /local representatives to establish demand and buy in.</p> <p>2.Undertake a site visit and GIS map the proposed moorings.</p> <p>3.Identify and consult with owners and agree way forward</p> <p>4.Consult with all statutory consultees (NED, HED, FSNI, DfC DFI) and ensure any other statutory requirements are met e.g HRA.</p> <p>5.Produce a feasibility study with high level costings for approval by stakeholders and which can be take forward the to 'shovel ready' status</p> <p>Then the next stage will be to install a pilot project so we can test the AMS in Strangford Lough</p> <p>1.Undertake further consultation with the Community and individual moorings owners resulting in agreed final trial.</p> <p>2.Prepare the detailed prescription documents for the trial and all associated GIS mapping</p> <p>3.Put together the necessary agreements.</p>	<p>1. Feseasbility study complete</p> <p>2. Pilot moorings installed, and evaluation report complete.</p>

<p>course of the project to inform a best practice guide to using AMS. This guide will be useful for managers, boat owners and conservationists to help inform decisions on the use of AMS in Strangford Lough in the future.</p>	<p>4.Undertake detailed consultation with statutory consultees particularly those who may have planning or licencing concerns. 5.Appoint and manage specialists to install the pilot moorings 6.Final report on efficacy of pilot study</p>	
<p>Don't Mow Let it Mow:</p> <p>This application is for two Grillo FD 2200TS machines one for Ards and North Down BC, and one for NMDDC. Both machines will work insdie the AONBs in the respective cuoncil areas, but also on other prime locations to increase the DMLG sites.</p> <p>Don't Mow, Let It Grow project will focus on the conservation of semi-natural grassland over the next ten years. Specifically on the management of road verges and amenity grasslands across the Ards and North Down Borough Council and Newry Mourne and Down Distroct Council areas.</p> <p>Small changes in management give big benefits to biodiversity and ecosystem services. RSGLL Challenge will use the practical management toolkit developed by Casueway Coast And Glens Bourough Council.</p> <p>The project will identify trial verges and amenity grassland sites in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - highlight and develop a range of management options - assess biodiversity, ecosystem services and cost benefits of this alternative management - train land managers and volunteers in management options, grassland selection, species identification, Invasive Alien Species and monitoring 	<p>TARGET FOR 1 'Don't Mow Let it Grow' scheme across the ANDBC, covering 5 hectares in year 1, increasing by 1 hectare p.a. for ten years minimum. Increase semi-natural grassland, increase pollinators and provide pollinator corridors to mitigate against habitat fragmentation. Extensive route ways will be created for pollinator expansion measured across the district and mapped again utilising ESRI.</p> <p>TARGET FOR 2 The key point of this project, would be to carry out a study with the local community to see what is the best combination of biodiversity, access and green space that could then be developed into a future plan for the site. This plan would then be an agreed template, which could be used to take forward to secure future monies for the site.</p> <p>The Study would be undertaken between July and Oct 2021</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Equipment bought 2. Data gathered and maps created for areas managed for DMLG 3. Study produced for Forkhill Green Space

<p>- promote the benefits to wider public</p> <p>2. Forkhill Greenspace Project – Phase 2 - Welcoming Nature Back</p> <p>The Site is situated along School Road in the centre of Forkhill Village, Co. Armagh.</p> <p>The existing site has huge potential for biodiversity to encourage the development of native wild species and allow the provision of access paths to appreciate the nature within the site.</p> <p>As a former Army Barracks in the centre of Forkhill Village, a number of projects have been developed on the site in recent years in terms of Social Housing, Boundary Pathway and Play-area. What remains is 3-4 acres in the centre of site, which has never been developed and is beginning to grow wild, which if not addressed, will become dense and totally overgrown and inaccessible to the community.</p> <p>Given a recent Public Consultation Process, the community confirmed that they do not wish for any further housing development to take place on the site, but rather work with the Council to bring forward future initiatives to secure the central Greenspace for the village.</p>		
<p>1. Ring of Gullion Way enhancement works scheme (Gledhu (£5500), Ballard Rd (£10600), Forkhill River (£5900)).</p> <p>At present these three access points along the Ring of Gullion Way have had major alterations through land management that are outside the scope for the annual</p>	<p>TARGETS FOR 1 AND 2</p> <p>1. 1.5km of trail brought under control and made accessible. All discarded brash removed, fencing repaired, hedges cut etc on Glendhu section</p> <p>2. 800m Fencing, 2 kissing gates and 1 farm gate installed along trail on Ballard Road side of Slieve Gullion trail</p>	<p>1. Ring of Gullion Way accessible</p> <p>2. Connections between permissive access forest to Maphoner Road - and onto Slieve Gullion</p>

<p>maintenance budget. There is currently no access along the Glendhu and Forkhill River sections, and unuseable access along the Ballard Road section from the summit of Slieve Gullion.</p> <p>The Ring of Gullion Way is part of the Ulster Way and is a part of a strategic network of paths through the area.</p> <p>Providing access along the way has been identified in the AONB MAP and the Outdoor Recreation Action Plan. The council has agreed to maintain the path network once created through the Ring of Gullion AONB Partnership.</p> <p>2. Strategic access connections (bridge over Forkhill River, and fencing to join onto Maphoner road). This works will allow access from a 26acre woodland with permissive use access, through a farm and onto the Maphoner road. This is closer to Ring of Gullion Way access, and the eventual aim will be to connect the villages off-raod. This is an important first step</p> <p>3. Slieve Gullion SAC Erosion Control on path corridor to planning stage -TOP PRIORITY PROJECT</p> <p>4. Ring of Gullion Way re-route to planning stage</p> <p>5. Carrive summit loop, lower hills and Jacksons Folly consultation and development to planning stage</p> <p>6. Forkhill River walk consultation</p> <p>7. Forkhill River Blueways feasibility, consultation and development</p>	<p>3. River has eroded 40 m of trail running alongside river. repair 40m and put in protection for 15m either side - 70m total. This is in the middle of a long section of RoG Way.</p> <p>4. Bridge over Forkhill River and 500m fencing</p> <p>TARGETS FOR 3,4,5,6 AND 7</p> <p>1.Consultation with local community /local representatives to establish demand and buy in.</p> <p>2.Undertake a site visit and GIS map the proposed routes.</p> <p>3.Identify and consult with land-owners and agree way forward e.g licence, PPA, lease etc.</p> <p>4.Consult with all statutory consultees (NED, HED, FSNI, DfC DFI) and ensure any other statutory requirements are met e.g HRA.</p> <p>5.Produce a concept trail design with high level costings for approval by stakeholders and which can be take forward the following year to 'shovel ready' status</p> <p>Then the next stage will take it right through to submitting Planning Permission so we can apply for capital funding the next year.</p> <p>1.Undertake further consultation with the Community and individual landowners resulting in agreed final trail corridor.</p> <p>2.Prepare the detailed concept trail prescription documents for the trail and all associated GIS mapping</p> <p>3.Put together the necessary agreements.</p> <p>4.Undertake detailed consultation with statutory consultees particularly those who may have planning concerns.</p> <p>5.Appoint and manage specialists e.g ecologists, car park designers, to get projects through to planning submission phase</p>	<p>3. 5 projects with planning permission shovel ready</p>
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<p>1. Ringhaddy Quay, slipway, and car park consultation and development</p> <p>2. Access gateways across Ring of Gullion, Strangford and Lecale and the Mourne</p> <p>The car parking, and public transport routes across the honey pot sites in the three AONB are beyond capacity. Particularly in the Mourne AONB at peak times there can be several miles of cars parked on roads. This study will look at all those issues, provide recommendations, concept proposals and high level costings.</p>	<p>6.Submit full Planning Application</p> <p>TARGET FOR 1</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Consultation with local community /local representatives to establish demand and buy in. 2.Undertake a site visit and GIS map the proposed access to the lough. 3.Identify and consult with land-owners and agree way forward e.g licence, PPA, lease etc. 4.Consult with all statutory consultees (NED, HED, FSNI, DfC DFI) and ensure any other statutory requirements are met e.g HRA. 5.Produce a concept design with high level costings for approval by stakeholders and which can be take forward the following year to 'shovel ready' status <p>Then the next stage will take it right through to submitting Planning Permission so we can apply for capital funding the next year.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Undertake further consultation with the Community and individual landowners resulting in agreed final project design. 2.Prepare the detailed concept design prescription documents for the access and all associated GIS mapping 3.Put together the necessary agreements as necessary. 4.Undertake detailed consultation with statutory consultees particularly those who may have planning concerns. 5.Appoint and manage specialists e.g ecologists, car park designers, to get projects through to planning submission phase 6.Submit full Planning Application <p>TARGET FOR 2</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Planning permission for Ringhaddy project 2. Concept study completed for across three AONB for visit management
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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Consultation with local community /local representatives to establish demand and buy in. 2.Undertake a site visit and GIS map the proposed access to the lough. 3.Identify and consult with land-owners and agree way forward e.g licence, PPA, lease etc. 4.Consult with all statutory consultees (NED, HED, FSNI, DfC DFI) and ensure any other statutory requirements are met e.g HRA. 5.Produce a concept design with high level costings for approval by stakeholders and which can be take forward the following year to 'shovel ready' status 	
<p>1. AONBs Go Digital - Ring of Gullion, Strangford and Lecale and Mourne AONB websites enhancement and integration</p> <p>The three new websites will attract new users to the AONBs and be more aware of our messages - such as leave no trace etc. 81% of people research a business or service online prior to making a visit or purchase. A website can be available 24/7/365 even when the team is not. A website acts as your “always-on” messaging advocate during and outside of office hours.</p> <p>A professional website adds instant credibility to the AONB and ur messaging simply by having a website. People are skeptics; in fact, 56% of people stated that they won't trust an organisation without a website. Having a good website instantly boost credibility as a legitimate organisation.</p>	<p>TARGET FOR 1</p> <p>Three new websites using the same platform that are integrated with each other, with the Geopark Website and the tourism desitaion website.</p> <p>All three websites will have functioning data capture forms for eZines, and integrated social media platforms.</p> <p>Three staff trained on back of website operations and two years maintenance.</p> <p>Our new professional websites will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tell our Story 2. Expand our Reach 3. Drive New Interest 4. Givs the right Impression 5. Your Audience Will Be Able to Find You On the Go 6. Will Help Boost Your Real-World Efforts 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Three functioning websites 2. mobile counters purchased

<p>First impressions count, and websites allow you to make a very strong impression with a well designed introduction for your AONB.</p> <p>A website can help showcase our expertise and better position ourselves to communicate messages about the AONB.</p> <p>Having a professional up-to-date website will end up saving time. Websites can save you that time by providing answers to common questions and inquiries.</p> <p>Website help position organisations and stay in control of the brand.</p> <p>A website acts as a platform for our messaging and shapes the online perception of your AONBs in a way that social media channels cannot provide.</p> <p>2. Visitor monitoring - mobile visitor counter</p> <p>When creating new trails, moving existing trails and for monitoring braids on trails mobile counters provide evidence for need.</p>	<p>TARGET FOR 2</p> <p>Two new mobile counters supplied and ready for deployment across the three AONB</p>	

SECTION C: OPTION APPRAISAL AND FUNDING PROFILE

Sufficient information must be contained in this Section to meet with the requirements of a **NIGEAE economic appraisal (similar to Green Book)**. A separate Economic Appraisal is not required.

14) Consideration of Options

Describe the options considered to deliver your aims.

No Funding Option (if your organisation was to receive no funding from the EF).

Outline the WHAT THIS WOULD DELIVER, and WHAT IT WOULD NOT DELIVER – the consequences of this option, including the elements of the objectives or targets in Q13 and Option 1 that will not be achieved.

None of the above projects would be carried out

Option 1 - your preferred option/proposal

All projects will be carried out as described in Section B

Option 2 – another way of delivering the outcomes or a reduced option (particularly if at least 20% less funding was received than the Status Quo option.

Outline the WHAT THIS WOULD DELIVER, and WHAT IT WOULD NOT DELIVER. Outline the consequences of this option, including the elements of the outcomes and targets in Q13 and Option 1 that will not be achieved.

Priority projects only delivered in 21/22

15) Monetary Costs of Options

Provide a breakdown in the tables below of the costs for each of your options you have brought forward for further analysis. **For applications which comprise a number of distinct projects, the costs should be outlined on a project-by-project basis.** Costs should be listed under the following headings and broken into CAPITAL COSTS (eligible for support) and PROGRAMME/RESOURCE COSTS.

- Site works;
- Land purchase;
- Equipment (itemised);
- Promotion, including signage;
- Data Creation – including mapping, collection of statistics and data, monitoring;
- Salary costs (may be being used as match funding);
- Volunteer costs (may be being used as match funding);
- Other overheads (may be being used as match funding);

- Other.

a) No Funding Option (Any elements of the project you would still deliver without any EF funding).

Item Of Expenditure	Cost (£) 28 July 2021 – 31 March 2022
NONE	NONE
Total Annual Cost (£)	NONE

b) Option 1

Item Of Expenditure (CAPITAL ONLY)	Tick if EF support sought	Cost £ 28 July 2021 - 31 March 2022	Cost £ 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023 (as match funding only)
Eco-moorings feasibility and pilot	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£36,000	
Don't Mow Let it Mow: 2 Grillo FD 2200TS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£68,000	
Ring of Gullion Way enhancement works scheme (Gledhu, Ballard Rd, Forkhill River)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£22,000	
Strategic connections (bridge over Forkhill River, fencing to join onto Maphoner road)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£18,500	
	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Item Of Expenditure (CAPITAL ONLY)	Tick if EF support sought	Cost £ 28 July 2021 - 31 March 2022	Cost £ 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023 (as match funding only)
	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Total CAPITAL Cost		£144500	
Total Eligible CAPITAL Cost		£144500	
Amount sought from EF		£122825	
Match Funding		£21675	
% EF: whole project cost		85%	
% EF: eligible project costs		85%	

Item Of Expenditure (PROGRAMME ONLY)	Tick if EF support sought	Cost £ 28 July 2021 - 31 March 2022	Cost £ 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023 (as match funding only)
	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Slieve Gullion SAC Erosion Control on path corridor to planning stage (95%)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£12,000	
Ring of Gullion Way re-route to planning stage (85%)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£10,000	
AONBs Go Digital - Ring of Gullion, Strangford and Lecale and Mourne AONB websites enhancement and integration (77% Funding)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£11300	£1500
	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Carrive summit loop, lower hills and Jacksons Folly consultation and development to planning stage (85%)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£13,500	
Forkhill River walk consultation (88%)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£4500	
Forkhill River Blueways feasibility, consultation and development(100%)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£9500	
Visitor monitoring - mobile visitor counters(100%)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£9,600	
Forkhill Greenspace Project – Phase 2 - Welcoming Nature Back(80%)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£5000	

Item Of Expenditure (PROGRAMME ONLY)	Tick if EF support sought	Cost £ 28 July 2021 - 31 March 2022	Cost £ 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023 (as match funding only)
Access gateways across Ring of Gullion, Strangford and Lecale and the Mourne (80% funding)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£60,000	
	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Total PROGRAMME Cost		£135000	£1500
Total Eligible PROGRAMME Cost		£135000	£1500
Amount sought from EF		£115891	
Match Funding		£19109	£1500
% EF: whole project cost		86%	0%
% EF: eligible project costs		86%	0%

c) Option 2

Item Of Expenditure (CAPITAL ONLY)	Tick if EF support sought	Cost £ 28 July 2021 - 31 March 2022	Cost £ 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023 (as match funding only)
Eco-moorings feasibility and pilot (85%)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£36000	
Don't Mow Let it Mow: Ards and North Down (85%)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£34000	
Ring of Gullion Way enhancement works scheme (Gledhu, Ballard Rd, Forkhill River)(85%)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£22000	
	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Item Of Expenditure (CAPITAL ONLY)	Tick if EF support sought	Cost £ 28 July 2021 - 31 March 2022	Cost £ 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023 (as match funding only)
	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Total CAPITAL Cost		£92000	
Total Eligible CAPITAL Cost		£92000	
Amount sought from EF		£78200	
Match Funding		£13800	
% EF: whole project cost		85%	
% EF: eligible project costs		85%	

Item Of Expenditure (PROGRAMME ONLY)	Tick if EF support sought	Cost £ 28 July 2021 - 31 March 2022	Cost £ 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023 (as match funding only)
Slieve Gullion SAC Erosion Control on path corridor to planning stage (95%)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£12000	
Ring of Gullion Way re-route to planning stage (85%)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£10000	
AONBs Go Digital - Ring of Gullion, Strangford and Lecale and Mourne AONB websites enhancement and integration (77% Funding)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£11300	£1500
Forkhill Greenspace Project – Phase 2 - Welcoming Nature Back (80%)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£5000	
	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	<input type="checkbox"/>		
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	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Item Of Expenditure (PROGRAMME ONLY)	Tick if EF support sought	Cost £ 28 July 2021 - 31 March 2022	Cost £ 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023 (as match funding only)
	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Total PROGRAMME Cost		£38300	£1500
Total Eligible PROGRAMME Cost		£38300	£1500
Amount sought from EF		£33830	
Match Funding		£4470	£1500
% EF: whole project cost		88%	0%
% EF: eligible project costs		88%	0%

16) Monetary Benefits

Are there any monetary benefits associated with the options for your project?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If Yes please provide details on these below:

Option	Monetary Benefit
No Funding	
Option 1	
Option 2	

17) Non-Monetary Factors

Identify and describe the wider non-monetary benefits of each option using the **weighted scoring method**. This involves:

- assigning numerical weights to each factor to reflect its comparative importance;
- scoring the performance of each option against each factor on a numerical scale;
- calculating a 'weighted score' for each option (multiply weight by score).

Detailed guidance can be found at www.finance-ni.gov.uk/articles/step-seven-weigh-non-monetary-costs-and-benefits

Table 1

Non-Monetary Benefit - title	Weight (w) %	Description
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Environmental	34	Conservation and enhancement of the landscape qualities natural heritage and conservation designations of the Ring of Gullion and Strangford Lough and Lecale AONBs. Cohesive AONB management and implementation. Data and opinion collection. Direct habitat improvement / species protection. Public engagement. Collaboration at a strategic level across NIs Landscapes.
Social	33	Provision of a local champion and actioner for conservation and of a voice to the needs and strategic importance of the AONBs at both a governmental and societal level. We will know it has been achieved by evidence of attitudes of the local people and visitors, by the evidence of the special qualities of the area being taken into account in policy making and resource allocation by local and regional agencies and in the actions of local groups and visitors. Delivering action through engaging, coordinating and directing the many organisations with responsibilities and interests in the AONBs, promoting awareness and understanding of the principles of conservation and sustainable development and leveraging these organisations to deliver required projects and programmes that benefit the AONBs. This is crucial to community and land owners contributing to conservation outcomes and fundamental to AONB management given the fragmented nature of public services in NI and need for continuity in a time of flux. We will know it has been achieved by monitoring of the above indicators and as well as monitoring delivery of actions set out in both AONB Management Plans. Data and opinion collection. Public engagement. Collaboration at a strategic level across NIs Landscapes.
Health	33	Provision and maintenance of opportunities for public enjoyment and recreation in the AONBs in a sustainable manner. Provision of opportunities for recreation, education and enjoyment are central to AONBs and pressures on the environment arising from this use must be managed. We will know this has been achieved through monitoring of recreational use and its impact. SportNI are conducting research into the benefits of outdoor recreation and are using the Strangford Lough and Lecale community Skiffy project. Data and opinion collection. Public engagement. In relation to the actions proposed in this application benefits centre on the physical and mental health and well-being derived from access to and appreciation of the countryside along with the substantial economic benefits from sustainable tourism.

Total: 100%

Table 2

Non-monetary Benefit title	Weight (W)	No Funding		Option 1		Option 2	
		Score (S)	Weighted score (WxS)	Score	Weighted score (WxS)	Score	Weighted score (WxS)
Environmental	34	1	34	10	340	5	170
Social	33	1	33	10	330	5	165
Health	33	1	33	10	330	5	165
Total Weighted Score	100%		100		1000		500
Ranked			3		1		2

18) Risk and Uncertainty

Outline the possible risks and uncertainties (to delivery of outcomes, financial and otherwise), associated with each option, the potential effects of these risks and uncertainties on the outcomes of the project and any action which you will take to minimise or overcome these risks.

L: Likelihood: 1 Low – 5 High

I: Impact on Benefit/project outcomes: 1 Low – 5 High

R: Risk Score LxI

Risk description	No Fund			Opt 1			Opt 2			How will you reduce the risk? - Countermeasures
	L	I	R	L	I	R	L	I	R	
No volunteer engagement	3	3	9	2	3	6	2	3	6	Re-engage with volunteers early
No available consultants	1	1	1	2	5	10	2	5	10	Put out viable tenders as early as possible
No available external to carry out works	1	1	1	2	5	10	2	5	10	Put out viable tenders as early as possible
Covid restrictions not being eased - winter lockdown	3	1	3	3	4	12	3	4	12	Make sure all work started early
Total Risk Score			14			38			38	

19) Preferred Option

Rank the options (1, 2, 3, 4), in terms of which offers the greatest potential benefits.

Option	Total Project Cost £	EF Funding Request £	Match Funding £	Non Monetary Score	Risk Score	Ranking	Reason for Ranking
No Funding	£0	£0	£0	3	14	3	No EF Funding will result in no environmental outcomes being delivered in Ring of Gullion or Strangford Lough and Lecale AONBs as outlined in section B
Option 1	£279500	£238716	£40784	1	38	1	This is the preferred option as match funding can be secured; and the proposed project delivers priorities in a substantial way.
Option 2	£119800	£101830	£17970	2	38	2	This reduced programme will not delivery as many environmental and access outcomes

20) Are you VAT registered?

Yes ☒ No ☐

If Yes, at what level and is this constant across the year? (These VAT costs should be *excluded* from the funding applied for from DAERA).

Local Authority - VAT has been excluded in all of these budget lines.

21) Sources of funding

a) Provide details of *all* of the sources of funding you are seeking to enable delivery of this project:

Sources of Funding	Applied For £	Secured £
This funding	£238716	N/A
Other government funding, including other DAERA funding (state which)		
Local Council	£40784	
European Programme (state which)		
Private Sector (state which)		

Own Resources		
Volunteer Effort (Evidence must be provided of how this has been calculated)		
Other (specify which)		
TOTAL COST OF PROJECT	£279500	
% OF OVERALL COST SOUGHT FROM EF	85% (rounded to nearest whole number - 85.408%)	

b) **Further details** including detail about any other leverage such as through voluntary and community activity.

22) State Aid

Is it likely that there will be Economic Gain as a direct result of this project (e.g. will a product be sold; will a charge apply for a service provided; or will your costs of production be cheaper than another business if this funding is awarded to you)?

Yes ☐ No ☒

Is there potential for distortion of the market if this funding is awarded to you?

Yes ☐ No ☒

Further details

SECTION D: PROJECT DELIVERY and MONITORING FOR THE PREFERRED OPTION

23) Project Implementation

Describe the actions you intend to implement to achieve the project objectives and targets, if funding is awarded– **HOW, WHEN, WHO?**
This may include employing staff/contractors, undertaking surveys or conducting site work.

A time schedule of the whole project and a work plan and monitoring plan must be appended.

If any project has site based elements, including outdoor recreation, provide detailed maps/drawings of these elements of the project and design drawings if appropriate.

Implementation - Actions required to achieve targets (SMART)

<p>The staff structure is detailed below.</p> <p>STAFF STRUCTURE: AONB and Geopark Manager AONB and Geopark Officer AONB and Geopark Officer AONB and Geopark Desk Officer</p> <p>(AtlanticCultureScape Manager and AtlanticCultureScape Finance Officer)</p> <p>This sturcture reports into the Head of Regerenation and Business Development in NMDDC. Both AONB are overseen by Partnerships that meet at least once a quarter. There is also a joint officers meeting across both councils including MHT that meets once a quarter, and a biannual funders meeting.</p> <p>The method for delivering the outcomes and targets specified is through the corporate and governance structure, expert staff, specialist equipment and other resources of the partnerships.</p>
<p>THE BASIS: THE RING OF GULLION Landscape Partnership AND THE STRANGFORD LOUGH & LECALÉ Partnership; THE PARTNERSHIPS</p> <p>The basis for achievement of the objectives is oversight by the two AONB Partnerships (volunteers). The Partnerships are also the channel whereby a broad based partnership, representative of the various relevant stakeholder groups, provides feedback and agrees to a shared agenda for action on environmental and landscape management in our designated areas.</p> <p>Newry, Mourne and Down District, as the body corporate, takes strategic decisions (in partnerhsip with Ards and North Down Borough Council in relation to Strangford Lough and Lecale AONB), employs staff, holds the bank accounts and authorises payment.</p>

PROJECTS AND SERVICES - DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT

The AONB and Geopark Manager will provide the bulk of the planning and management to deliver the practical projects to achieve the outputs and outcomes set out, as well as the necessary liaison with key partners and representatives of landowner and recreational user interests, statutory consents etc. The range of activities will include design of prescriptions for the various enhancement and protection works, planning and guiding delivery. The AONB teams also undertake much of the best practice research, development and promotion that we have outlined and, as touched on earlier, we envisage will take a more strategic role in relation to conservation planning, notably SAC Management Planning, in the incoming period.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS AND SERVICES - DELIVERY

AONB and Geopark OFFICERS: The AONB and Geopark Officers act as the outreach into the community and a link the landowners and recreational users as well as those elements of the local community involved in conservation work. They will oversee the conservation and visitor management projects as outlined in our targets as well as resolving environmental management and access issues on a reactive basis, helping to manage the Conservation Volunteers and carrying out much of the environmental monitoring and research outlined. Officers will also have the responsibility of management of recreational impacts and access infrastructure, litter control and site works for wildfire control, heathland and erosion control works and some of the biodiversity projects e.g. tree planting, citizen science projects etc

VOLUNTEERS will significantly augment the staff function, primarily in environmental research/ monitoring and practical environmental and visitor management projects but also in other areas including administration and promotions.

MANAGEMENT AND ESSENTIAL ENABLERS

Staff will oversee day to day operations of the Partnerships and delivery of the outcomes securing and managing staff and finance and planning work programmes. The manager also leads development of new projects and identifies and secures funding sources, ensuring that synergies are maximised to achieve optimum outcomes for the AONB. In addition, the managers are responsible for overseeing all strategy development, undertaking partner and community liaison and acting as a 'champion' for AONBs through input to policy development. They will also drive the partnerships communications and networking within the eNGO sector and with complementary sectors as outlined in the network list in Q13.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION: The AONB and Geopark Desk Officer provides essential support to the delivery of outcomes by providing administration services and day to day financial management including accounting and funding management/claims. The Officer is also responsible for assisting in servicing the Partnerships, visitor information and corporate communications. The post is essential to allowing the council to undertake the range of activities set out.

OPERATING BASES AND DEPLOYMENT OF EQUIPMENT: Offices and meeting spaces at Crossmaglen Community Centre and Downpatrick Civic Centre, tool depot at Slieve Gullion Forest Park and a tree nursery in Mullaghbane, will all be maintained and utilised when necessary. Contractors will be employed to carry out small scale practical works. Other contractors will provide research, best practice guidance and other professional and technical services.

PROJECT SCHEDULES AND WORK PLANS

As touched on above the framework for our work is largely set by the AONB Management Plans 2017 to 2022 and the work programme for all staff (along with other stakeholders) by the accompanying Action Plan.

24) Project Promotion

How will you promote the receipt of any funding received?

Both partnerships release an annual newsletter, a bi-monthly eZine and have active social media accounts.

25) Sustainable impact of the project & long-term Management/Maintenance

How will each of the outcomes delivered by your project be sustained in the future?

Outcome	How will the outcome be sustained after EF funding finishes?	Who will do this?
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Eco-moorings feasibility and pilot	Eco-moorings will be installed and piloted by NMDDC. They will then be passed over to moorings owner. Pilot study will be published and/or circulated ti NIEA	NMDDC
Don't Mow Let it Mow: Ards and North Down	DMLIT - ANDBC will own and operate the grass cutter and hooper	ANDBC
Ring of Gullion Way enhancement works scheme (Gledhu, Ballard Rd, Forkhill River)	NMDDC will continue to maintain after all enhancement works have been carried out	NMDDC
Strategic connections (bridge over Forkhill River, fencing to join onto Maphoner road)	Landowner will maintain bridge, fence and grass cutting for a period of ten years.	Privaet landowner
Slieve Gullion SAC Erosion Control on path corridor to planning stage	All these reports will be made available to relevant NMDDC and ANDBC staff.	NMDDC
Ring of Gullion Way re-route to planning stage	AONB and Geopark staff will directly manage and continue to work on these projects where resources allow	
Carrive summit loop, lower hills and Jacksons Folly consultation and development to planning stage		
Forkhill River walk cosultation		
Forkhill River Blueways feasibility, consultation and development		

AONBs Go Digital - Ring of Gullion, Strangford and Lecale and Mourne AONB websites enhancement and integration	AONB and Geopark staff will maintain and update weekly	NMDDC
Visitor monitoring - mobile visitor counters(100%)	MHT will house this equipment for use throughout the three AONB	
Access gateways across Ring of Gullion, Strangford and Lecale and the Mourne	Strategic project across the AONB. NMDDC will apply for funding to deliver outcomes	NMDDC
Forkhill Greenspace project		

26) Statistical Reporting

You outlined the project targets and monitoring in Q 13. There are a number of statistics that we will require ongoing monitoring of. Please fill in your relevant baselines and targets for these in the tables below.

Benefit profile	Benefit	Benefit to be Measured	Baseline Value	Method of measurement	Target Value	Current position
Favourable management and associated reporting of habitats and species.	Meet the Habitats Regulations and other relevant legislative requirements for favourable management and reporting of habitats and species.	Area of terrestrial designated site under favourable management.	Slieve Gullion SAC and ASSI Unfavourable European dry heaths and fens.	Condition Assessment Plots Survey	Favourable	Degradation to grassland. Fens Partially destroyed. Needs grazing and scrub control.
		Protected marine area under	Strangford Lough, SAC, SPA, ASSI Parts 1,2,3 & RAMSAR site	Condition Assessment Plots Survey	Favourable	Strangford Lough MPA management scheme in

		favourable management	<p>SAC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Large shallow inlet and Bay -Favourable-Coastal Lagoons - Favourable but concerns for deterioration-Mudflats and sandflats not covered by sea water at low tide Favourable-Reefs - M modiolus communities Unfavourable-Annual vegetation of drift lines Unfavourable-Atlantic salt meadows (Glaucopuccinellietalia maritima) - Unfavourable-Perennial vegetation of stony banks Unfavourable-Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand Unfavourable-Harbour Seal (Phoca vitulina) Unfavourable			development to enable sustainable management of conservation features
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			<p>SPA</p> <p>-Terns that breed here in summer: Sandwich Tern (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>) Favourable ; Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) Unfavourable ; and Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) Favourable</p> <p>-The overall assemblage of waterfowl that overwinter here Favourable</p> <p>-Light-bellied Brent Goose. (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>)Favourable</p> <p>-Knot (<i>Calidrus canutus</i>)Unfavourable</p> <p>-Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>)Favourable</p> <p>-Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) Unfavourable</p> <p>-Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>)Favourable</p>			
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			-Shelduck (Tadorna tadorna)Favourable			
		Area of priority habitat in favourable condition				
Water quality	Meet the Water Framework Regulations requirements for inland and coastal waters	Water quality status in freshwater and marine waters				
Air quality	Meet the UK Air Quality objectives	Air quality - annual mean nitrogen dioxide concentration				
Public environmental awareness and action	Raise environmental awareness and action with the public	Level of public concern for the environment	No baseline figure.	Sign in sheet. Aim to evaluate this in the evaluation in this proposed EF project.	Public to increase value for the environment. Increase recruitment of volunteers to increase capacity to conserve and protect habitats/biodiversity	Limited by staffing resources
		Number of people who "Volunteer to help care for the environment".	17/18 165 of people who volunteered with LPS to help the environment. SLL 17/18	Volunteer Register Form / Sign in sheet	Maintain volunteer commitment increase recruitment of volunteers,	Limited by staffing resources

			152 people volunteered with projects equiv 114 volunteer days		opportunities & training	
		Schools working towards Eco-Schools Awards				
People undertaking outdoor recreation in the natural environment.	People undertaking outdoor recreation in the natural environment.	Number of people who walk for recreation	28,586 journeys for 2017/18 on Slieve Gullion SAC. Full people counter report attached SLL no baseline figure for walker usage	People counter on Slieve Gullion Mountain.	Remain the same increase access and medium to long distance quality provision	People counters on site. 34 quality walks = 90.2miles, lots of informal walking
		Number of people undertaking outdoor recreation in the natural environment.	81,927 vehicles in Slieve Gullion Forest Park 17/18. 18,736 Camlough Lake footfall SLL no baseline figure for OR users 5 coastal rowing clubs, 12 sailing clubs	People counter on Vehicle counter Slieve Gullion Forest Park car park and people counter Camlough Lake.	Increase as there was works been carried out at both 2017/18. increased sustainable OR as per 'Outdoor Rec. Plan for SLL'	These sites are growing in popularity and we would expect that these numbers will increase as more facilities are provided.

						sailing, rowing, canoeing, diving, walking, running. horse riding, cycling, coasteering, paddling, windsurfing etc
		Length of outdoor recreation trail/path being developed				
		Length of outdoor recreation trail/path repaired				
OTHER (your choice)						

Designated Sites Statistics
These statistics will need to be reported against by grant recipients every 3 months.

List all the designated sites you plan to manage.	Designations - SAC, SPA, ASSI, RAMSAR etc.	Size of managed area (Ha)	Area proposed to be under favourable management (ha)			
			Yr1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4
Slieve Gullion SAC	SAC	1.44 direct works, however by providing sustainbale path network mantainance, the rest of the SAC will not be subject to erosion caused by footfall. See Strategic Path Review.	0.36			
Strangford Lough	MCZ, SAC, SPA, ASSI, NNR & RAMSAR	Not known - site features will be improved. Breeding birds and seal haul out ranger services and communication outreach, litter removal and reduction all will help to improve or retain current condition.				

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SECTION E: CONSTRAINTS AND BARRIERS, LEGAL REQUIREMENTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

Now outline the key issues or constraints that have the potential to impact on the proposed, any mitigation and monitoring.

27) Land Ownership

If this project is based on a piece of land, do you own the land, have legal approval or have authority to carry out the work on it? Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐

Details (attach evidence if appropriate):

The partnerships works with a range of public and private landowners to address environmental and visitor management issues. This includes National Trust and councils with whom longstanding relationships are in place. Where work is agreed with a private landowner a written agreement is put in place.

28) Provision of Access

A) If this is an access project, does it relate to:
▪ An asserted public right of way. Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐
▪ A permissive path. Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

Details:

Not solely an access project but impacts on multiple routes across the AONBs

B) If you are NOT a District Council, do you have a written undertaking from the council to maintain and keep open the access route for public use if you are no longer able to do so? Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐

Details:

Please include relevant copy of agreement.

29) Environmental Statement

Describe any potential negative environmental impacts that your project could have and how these impacts will be addressed:

Potential Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures proposed	Residual Risk, Monitoring, and action required
--------------------------------	------------------------------	------------------------------------------------

Biodiversity/Ecology		
Water Environment		
Landscape/Visual	<p>The proposal aims to reduce the increasing impact on the SAC features and, therefore, is necessary for the management of the site. It will provide robust, safe and sustainable access for users including recreational (informal and organised events), landowners and emergency services. This work will prevent further damage to the SAC and help to re-establish habitat at the eroded sites.</p> <p>However, there will be minimal impact on the SAC during the works but this will be short term, minimised by appropriate management, and be recoverable.</p> <p>There is unlikely to be any significant negative impact on the Slieve Gullion SAC Natura 2000 site as a whole as a result of these works. The works aim to provide stable paths and routes thus preventing users from walking on adjacent habitats and causing damage to SAC habitat selection features, and it will enable restoration of damaged areas. The</p>	<p>Loss There is unlikely to be any loss of habitat as a result of the proposal. In fact following works the eroded areas will regenerate.</p> <p>Reduction of habitat area Up to 5km of paths requiring repair and providing sustainable alternatives to unsustainable trails are within the Natura 2000 site. These are existing paths and routes and there is unlikely to be a reduction in habitat area. See Loss above.</p> <p>Disturbance to key species N/A</p> <p>Habitat or species fragmentation No fragmentation will occur although damage to habitats adjacent to the paths during the works is possible both through the repair process and re-routing of walkers. Use of eco grids may mitigate damage of wet heath/bogs. NMDDC also suggest replacing 'removed' vegetation caused by the works, reseed with NIEA approved seed and allowing natural re-generation. However, the works aim to provide stable paths and routes thus preventing users from moving onto adjacent habitats and causing damage.</p> <p>Reduction in species density There is unlikely to be a reduction in species density as a result of the works.</p>

	<p>project should be viewed as a positive for active conservation management of the SAC. Therefore there is no requirement to move into Stage 2 - Appropriate Assessment. However, in order to develop mitigation to ensure that there are no impacts, stage 2 has been completed.</p> <p>NMDDC, Ring of Gullion Partnership will manage the project and have experience of this type of work. All works shall be completed within the scope, and to the standards, of the Upland Pathwork Manual (SNH, 2015) www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/heritagemanagement/UplandPathwork.pdf</p>	<p>Changes in key indicators of conservation value</p> <p>N/A</p>
Noise/Vibration/Air Quality/Community Effects including Vehicle movements		
Cultural Heritage		
Population/Waste		
Geology		
Biodiversity/Ecology		

For further guidance please use the following link: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/ef-challenge-competition-2020-2021-environmental-statement-guidance>

30) Designated Sites Appropriate Assessment

- a. Will any of your project be carried out on, adjacent to or is there any link to a designated site (e.g. watercourse flowing into the site)?

Yes ☒ No ☐

If NO Proceed to question 20.

If YES:

- b. What sites may it have an effect on (list all ASSIs/SACs/SPAs/RAMSAR sites affected)?

Slieve Gullion SAC

Strangford Lough MCZ, SAC, SPA, ASSI, NNR & RAMSAR

- c. Are you the owner/occupier of the land? Yes ☐ No ☒

If NO, you must provide the written permission of the landowner to carry out the works.

- d. Are you a public body? Yes ☒ No ☐

If YES, you must provide a copy of the Appropriate Assessment for the works on site where the site is designated SAC, SPA or RAMSAR.

- e. Has Consent/Assent already been obtained for the proposed project?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If YES, provide a copy of the Consent/Assent with your application for funding and proceed to the next question. If you are a public body (and therefore a Competent Authority) and your proposal has the potential to affect a European site (SAC/SPA/RAMSAR) please also include a copy of your HRA.

If NO, complete the following questions for the proposed operations. If you are working on multiple sites, append the answers for every site to your application.

- i. Where will the works be undertaken? You must provide a map.

Various sites

- ii. How will the works be carried out? Include full details, including number of people, machinery tools, materials, transport etc.

The works will be carried out in partnership with NIEA and other best practice experts.

- iii. Who will undertake the works? Include the number of people and experience and nature of employment e.g. contractors.

A procurement exercise will be carried out prior to the works for contractor element.

A group of highly trained volunteers under supervision from staff will maintain smaller sections

iv. When will the works be undertaken (exact date if possible)?

v. What is the proposed duration of the works?

6 months

vi. For repeat operations/works, when were they last undertaken?

Maintenance work is ongoing. Maintenance work is currently funded through the ASCENT project which comes to an end in August 2019. The ASCENT project focused on refining best practice, and knowledge sharing.

vii. Detail any mitigation measures or pollution prevention measures to be incorporated where appropriate (such as timing outside bird breeding season, buffer zones to water courses etc.).

viii. Is the work required for the maintenance or restoration of the site features?

31) Planning Permission

If this project requires Planning Permission, has the permission been obtained?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Details:

Include a copy of any relevant Planning Permission.

32) Is there a Historic Building, Monument or Archaeological feature on the site?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If YES please give details:

Please provide evidence, relevant copy extracts, the name of the person you consulted etc.

- 33) Does the project require Scheduled Monument or Listed Building Consent?
Yes ☐ No ☒
If YES has this been obtained? Yes ☐ No ☒

Provide evidence, relevant copy extracts, the name of the person you consulted and any other relevant information.

- 34) Are there any other Constraints or Barriers that might impact on the delivery of your proposed project?
Yes ☐ No ☒

If YES please give details:

SECTION F: FURTHER INFORMATION AND AUTHORISATION

35) Enclosures

	Submitted electronically	To be sent by post	Enclosed
Map	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drawings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
District Valuer's Certificate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Work Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring Plan (for project delivery an longer term monitoring of outcomes)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proof of ownership or permission to carry out project on land	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Undertaking of District Council to maintain access route	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Appropriate Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Designated site notifiable operations consent/assent authorisation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Signed Certificate by applicant	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Submit this form and all required documents via e-mail to:

EFgrants@daera-ni.gov.uk

You are welcome to send feedback on this programme to the above address.

DAERA ENVIRONMENT FUND

CERTIFICATE BY APPLICANT ORGANISATION/ APPLICANT

PROJECT TITLE: _____

This form must be signed and countersigned by 2 mandated individuals who are authorised to sign on behalf of the organization.

I certify that the information contained in this application is correct and confirm that this project will be carried out as described.

I confirm that this organisation/I will undertake regular monitoring of the project to ensure it conforms to the application and the Regulations and to keep adequate records for this purpose.

I will consult DAERA immediately in writing if any significant changes to the project are proposed.

Signature of applicant: _____

Name in block capitals: _____

Status of signatory: _____
(E.g. Secretary, Director, project manager, etc.)

Countersigned: _____

Name in block capitals: _____

Status of signatory: _____
(E.g. Secretary, Director, project manager, etc.)

Date: _____

Please print and sign this certificate and send a scanned signed copy along with your application to the following e-mail address: EFgrants@daera-ni.gov.uk

Report to:	Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	9 th August 2021
Subject:	Derrymore Demesne - Peace iv Funding
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly Assistant Director of Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth Head of Regeneration and Business Development

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-

For decision	X	For noting only	
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To note that Council have secured £50,000 from Peace to undertake additional works at Derrymore Demense. To Approve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Derrymore Peace Funding Business Case for additional capital works onsite at 100% funding rate and no cost to Council That Council now proceed to carry out the required procurement exercises in line with policy for the implementation of the project, and following assessment and award, appoint the relevant suppliers, if within available budgets <p><u>Background</u></p> <p>A significant capital programme of activity has just been completed at Derrymore Demesne, which has opened the site up for recreational purposes to the local community through the creation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pathways Play areas Site interpretation Site infrastructure: access system, car parking toilet facilities <p>Officers in ERT have been working with Officers in the Programmes Unit to develop a follow-on project through utilisation of Peace Funding.</p>
2.0	<p>Key issues</p> <p>Peace Funding has now been secured, which will further invest £50,000 into Derrymore Demesne. The project will be 100% funded at no cost to Council.</p> <p>The project will deliver the following works:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peace IV funding will be used to upgrade and extend a section of the trail network within the demesne, and to create a ‘Peace Reflection Area’ at the trail head. • The restored pathway will lead to the ‘Peace Reflection Area’ which will contain seating benches inscribed with messages of peace and reconciliation provided by local schoolchildren, and which will be surrounded by wildflowers which are natural to the area. • Investment in this project will communicate to all sections of the local community that the Demense is very much open and accessible to all. • In addition to the ‘Peace Reflection Area’, links of an iron chain will be re-forged. This part of the project would see the missing parts of an iron chain, once connecting large boulders within the demesne, re-forged and replaced. The work would be carried out by people from the local area, who would take part in organised blacksmithing workshops. When the links have been made, it is proposed that the Blacksmith team will bring a mobile forge to Derrymore and the individual links, hand-made by the participants, will be joined to create new lengths of chain, which can then be connected to the existing chain. • Council officials are working with property owners National Trust to progress the project. National Trust will provide expertise to support project development and implementation; SEUPB have approved the use of Council’s framework contractor to implement the core of the project works. • National Trust will maintain the works after completion.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To note that Council have secured £50,000 from Peace to undertake additional works at Derrymore Demense. • Council to approve Derrymore Peace Funding Business Case for additional capital works onsite at 100% funding rate and no cost to Council • Council to proceed to carry out the required procurement exercises in line with policy for the implementation of the project, and following assessment and award, appoint the relevant suppliers, if within available budgets.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £50,000 funding has been secured for the project – 100% funding • Project will be implemented within the funding budget, at no direct cost to Council other than officer time
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)

5.1	<p>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p>Proposal initiating consultation</p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	<p>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</p>
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	<p>Appendices</p>

	Business Case – Derrymore Peace iV funding
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A

Business Case (Short Form)

£30,000 < £100,000 Expenditure

Project Title:	Derrymore Demesne - Peace 4 Funding
Directorate:	Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism
SECTION A	
Tell us about your project:	<p>A significant capital programme of activity has just been completed at Derrymore Demesne, which has opened the site up for recreational purposes to the local community through the creation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pathways • Play areas • Site interpretation • Site infrastructure: access system, car parking toilet facilities <p>Peace Funding has now been secured, which will further invest £50,000 into Derrymore Demesne. The project will be 100% funded at no cost to Council</p> <p>Peace IV funding will be used to upgrade and extend a section of the trail network within the demesne, and to create a 'Peace Reflection Area' at the trail head.</p> <p>The restored pathway will lead to the 'Peace Reflection Area' which will contain seating benches inscribed with messages of peace and reconciliation provided by local schoolchildren, and which will be surrounded by wildflowers which are natural to the area.</p> <p>Investment in this project will communicate to all sections of the local community that the Demense is very much open and accessible to all.</p> <p>In addition to the 'Peace Reflection Area', links of an iron chain will be re-forged. This part of the project would see the missing parts of an iron chain, once connecting large boulders within the demesne, re-forged and replaced. The work would be carried out by people from the local area, who would take part in organised blacksmithing workshops. When the links have been made, it is proposed that the Blacksmith team will bring a mobile forge to Derrymore and the</p>
1. What is the current provision?	
2. What is the proposed provision (what options have you considered)?	

<p>3. What is the need and how is it evidenced?</p> <p>4. Are all statutory approvals in place – please outline?</p> <p>5. Are there any risks associated with this project – please outline?</p> <p>6. Any other relevant information? i.e. drawings, plans, photographs...</p> <p>You are not limited to one page, please expand where necessary.</p> <p>All of the above questions must be addressed.</p>	<p>individual links, hand-made by the participants, will be joined to create new lengths of chain, which can then be connected to the existing chain.</p> <p>A feasibility study is in place supported by consultation document which outlines need for regeneration of the site.</p> <p>This project is replacement of like for like therefore statutory approvals are n/a</p> <p>The funding provided by Peace must be spent by September 2022. Risks are ability to complete project within budget given the historical nature of the works. However, based on pre project estimates this can be achieved, and all works will be subject to value for money assessment / procurement process.</p> <p>N/A</p>
SECTION B	
<p>7. Is your expenditure linked to the Corporate Plan/Community Plan/Directorate Business Plan – please reference</p>	<p>The expenditure is linked to the ERT Economic Strategy within Regeneration initiatives.</p>

the relevant section.			
8. Has this project been identified as a priority in your Directorate?	<input type="checkbox"/> Conditions Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Strategy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other
Please provide details:	The implementation of regeneration initiatives is a priority of the Directorate.		
9. Preferred Option – Please detail your preferred option and a rational why this option was selected	The preferred option is implement the project as agreed with the core funder, utilizing the expertise of national Trust, Council capital project team and preferred contractor.		
10. Please provide a breakdown of all costs, including running costs (whole life costs). Please provide information on how these costs have been arrived at.	The total costs associated with the project is £50,000 – 100% funded National Trust will maintain the works after completion.	Account Code / Cost Centre / Project Code (if applicable): 9923	
11. Please indicate how this project will be financed. Please provide details	<input type="checkbox"/> Internal Funding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> External Funding	
	Grant aid of £50,000 – Peace 4		
Is or will there be any perceived cross EU Border interest for this requirement/project:			Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Prepared by:	Amanda Smyth	Date Submitted:	19/07/2021
Validated by Assistant Director	Sign: Date:		

Director Approval:	Sign: Date:
Committee Approval:	Date:
Council Approval	Date:

Report to:	Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	9 August 2021
Subject:	Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Conor Mallon Director, Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment & Regeneration

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-

For decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input type="checkbox"/>
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u> To approve the Recommendation as detailed in section 3 of the report that :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council support the proposal and brief to deliver a Development Plan, Strategy and Action Plan in respect of the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor. 2. Council contribute, pro rata, to the research at a cost of £15,700 <p><u>Background</u> Since 2018, a network of eight Councils located along the Corridor and two universities came together to work collectively to find ways of realising the potential benefits of further development of the area. The partnership includes; Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council; Belfast City Council; Dublin City Council; Fingal County Council; Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council; Louth County Council; Meath County Council; and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, Dublin City University and Ulster University.</p> <p>The partnership came together with a shared recognition of the potential benefits that could arise from such an initiative and the challenges that might face it in the coming years, not least the outcome of the UK's exit from the EU and in the course of the project, the COVID-19 pandemic has further significantly shifted the economic trajectory. Both issues highlighting the need for greater collaboration across the region.</p> <p>In September 2018, Ulster University and Dublin City University undertook to provide an economic profile of the Corridor, which would support potential local government-led cooperation. This research placed a fresh impetus to the development of the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor, outlining opportunities for collaboration for mutual benefit within the region.</p>

	<p>The report details the recent strong economic performance of the Corridor, as well as the significant impacts that COVID-19 is having and likely to continue having on local economies, this included: This profile outlined the economic position of the corridor which highlighted;</p> <p>The Dublin Belfast Economic corridor was official launched in early 2021 and aims to strengthen collaboration and boost economic growth and opportunity across the corridor area.</p> <p>Belfast City Council on behalf of the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor (DBEC) Partnership propose to deliver a development plan, strategy, and action plan for the partnership in order to progress this work to the next stage and establish a range to initiatives that will aim to realise the potential of the region.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>The development plan will address key issues to support the partnerships development such as governance, legal & operating structures, identify funding opportunities and resource requirements (human and financial). This should build on the research undertaken to date, including priority areas of cooperation and should take account of existing governance and consider the current funding landscape.</p> <p>The strategy and action plan will then clearly articulate the role of the partnership in the regional economy, identifying key stakeholders and a framework that will enable collaboration and delivery.</p> <p>The focus of the work is to identify priority areas of action for the partnership and the strategic asks and interventions required to ensure long term sustained economic growth across the corridor area.</p> <p>This work will be led by the DBEC partnership but the engagement of and alignment with the work of key partners across the public, private and third sectors will be central to its effectiveness. This partnership approach will be a key feature of the strategy development process and is likely to be reflected in the propositions for action, given the range of responsibilities across a number of organisations.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council support the proposal and brief to deliver a Development Plan, Strategy and Action Plan in respect of the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor. 2. Council contribute, pro rata, to the research at a cost of £15,700
4.0	Resource implications

4.1	£15,700 from existing in year agreed budgets for development work
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p>

	Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/>
7.0	Appendices
	N/A
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A

Report to:	Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	9 th August 2021
Subject:	Labour Market Partnership
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly Assistant Director of Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth Head of Regeneration and Business Development

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-

For decision	X	For noting only
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u> To note the update provided on Labour Market Partnership and to approve the next steps as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council submits to DFC a Strategic Assessment and Action Plan for funding in 2021/2022 • Council commences the process for establishing a strategic Assessment and Action Plan for 2022/2023 and submission of same to DFC by February 2022 • Council signs and accepts a Letter of Offer from DFC for funding of a NMD Labour Market Partnership Action Plan • Council to recruit, following HR protocol, for LMP staff posts to be created and funded (100%) through NMD LMP Action Plan • Council to approve LMP Business Cases for LMP Action Plan activity • Council to proceed to carry out the required procurement exercises in line with policy for the implementation of the LMP Action Plan, and following assessment and award, appoint the relevant suppliers, if within available budgets. • Given restricted timescales for implementation during the current financial year, procurement may be the establishment of Service Level Agreements, where appropriate, and following an application / assessment process to confirm capability. <p><u>Background</u></p> <p>Labour Market Partnerships sit as an initiative under DFC's Employability NI programme. DFC in October 2020 approached all Council's to establish a LMP for their local area. <u>The aim of an LMP is to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help improve employability outcomes and labour market conditions locally by working through coordinated, collaborative, multi-agency partnerships,

	<p>achieving regional objectives whilst being flexible to meet the needs presented by localised conditions and helping to connect employers with employees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring together, in a single body, the necessary local knowledge and expertise, to build on existing structures locally, operating in a holistic, streamlined and joined up way <p>The LMP has <u>3 Strategic Priorities</u> set by DFC:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To form and successfully deliver the functions of the local Labour Market Partnership for the area 2. To improve employability outcomes and/or labour market conditions locally 3. To support delivery of Employability NI <p>The role of Council is to provide the governance, administrative and financial support and controls to the LMP, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To fully administer the LPM, providing secretariat and resource support • To be responsible for all day to day management, strategic and operational management <p>DFC will allocate a budget to LMP activity, which Councils can draw down budget from, subject to the successful submission and assessment of a LMP Strategic Assessment and Action Plan aligned to local needs and priorities.</p> <p><u>Strategic Assessment – based on Consultation + data analysis</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify local issues • Identify underlying causes of employability • Analysis local labour market issues • Provide an analysis that informs the LMP to focus on the challenges, the areas and the actions required • Provide an analysis that brings understanding to the reasons and causes behind the issues + make recommendations for addressing same <p>Action Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informed through the Strategic assessment • Outlines actions against each of the 3 strategic priorities • Allocates resources at identified priority areas • Uses an outcomes based approach
2.0	<p>Key issues</p> <p>Council in October 2020 launched a new Regeneration and Economic Development Strategy, which was underpinned by 3 key Strategic Priorities, and against which 3 working group were established, one of which is Employability and Skills. The NMD Interim Labour Market Partnership (LMP), has been developed by using these existing structures, namely the Employability and Skills working group and the Economic Forum. These established and successful groups combine a wealth of rich and diverse experience and knowledge and have enabled council to respond quickly to the introduction of a local Interim Labour Market Partnership (NMD LMP).</p>

DFC notified Council's in April 2021, that DFC were able to secure a budget to support LMP activity in the current financial year; on this basis, Council's were requested to progress with a Strategic Assessment and LMP Action Plan for submission to DFC, for implementation of LMP activity up to 31st March 2022.

The following activity has been completed:

- Research and Data Analysis on Labour Market, completed by Ulster University Economic Policy centre. This exercise was undertaken to identify underlying employability / labour market issues relevant to the local area, and to establish priorities that will address the most persistent problems
- Engagement with the NMD LMP (Skills and Employability Working Group) on key labour market issues to be addressed, and priority actions
- Engagement meetings have also taken place with key businesses and representatives of the education sector, to ensure alignment between the action plan and employability needs of businesses.
- The establishment of an LMP Action Plan (2021 / 2022) against each of the Strategic Priorities which identifies a number of Themes, Aims and Key Activities which are evidence based and focused on outcomes which improve employability and labour market conditions across the NMD area

An overview of the Strategic Priority Themes, Aims and Key Activities is outlined at appendix 1. This action plan is an interim action Plan, up to 31st March 2022. A further interim action plan and strategic assessment will be developed for the period 01 April 2022 – 31st March 2023 and will be submitted to DFC by 25th February 2022

Next Steps

- Officers are taking commentary from DFC on the draft Strategic Assessment and Action Plan (early August)
- Council are to submit a final Strategic Assessment and Action Plan by mid-August to DFC, for assessment DFC in September
- Council, will receive a Letter of Offer from DFC in September for approved activity
- Council are to then to establish a LMP Resource / team (fixed term contracts in line with funding), which will be 100% funded through the LMP Action Plan. This resource will be focused on implementation and delivery of the LMP Action Plan 2021/2022, and creation and submission of an action plan for delivery 2022/2023.
- Council are to establish the necessary procurements / service level agreements to enable implementation of agreed and funded Action Plan
- Council will continue to inform and engage with the NMD Labour Market Partnership on progress against the Action Plan

Budget

- Council can develop an Action Plan for activity in value up to £669,209.96 for 2021/2022
- This is to include all costs associated with LMP including, LMP Resource, Administration and Governance, and Delivery

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The grant aid to be awarded to council, is subject to assessment of the Action Plan by DFC, and agreement on level of activity that realistically can be implemented and delivered in full by 31 March 2022 All approved activity including staffing resource is 100% funded by DFC The final approved budget allocated by DFC to Council will be reported to a further meeting of ERT. An outcome is anticipated in September 2021. DFC anticipate that a further budget will be allocated for 2022/2023, details of which are to be confirmed. <p><u>Staff Resource</u></p> <p>A staff complement will be required to administer the Labour Market Partnership and associated Action Plan. The Action Plan proposed has a staff complement of 1 x Manager, 1 x Officer, and 1 x Finance and Administrator officer. All posts will be 100% funded through the LMP Action Plan with no direct cost to Council. Posts will be appointed on a fixed terms basis in line with the funding period of the LMP.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<p>To Approve that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council submits to DFC a Strategic Assessment and Action Plan for funding in 2021/2022 Council commences the process for establishing a strategic Assessment and Action Plan for 2022/2023 and submission of same to DFC by February 2022 Council signs and accepts a Letter of Offer from DFC for funding of a NMD Labour Market Partnership Action Plan Council to recruit, following HR protocol, for LMP staff posts to be created and funded (100%) through NMD LMP Action Plan Council to approve LMP Business Cases for LMP Action Plan activity Council to proceed to carry out the required procurement exercises in line with policy for the implementation of the LMP Action Plan, and following assessment and award, appoint the relevant suppliers, if within available budgets. Given restricted timescales for implementation during the current financial year, procurement may be the establishment of Service Level Agreements, where appropriate, and following an application / assessment process to confirm capability.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council can apply for a budget up to £669,209.96 The grant aid to be awarded to council, is subject to assessment of the Action Plan by DFC, and agreement on level of activity that realistically can be implemented and delivered in full by 31 March 2022 All approved activity including staffing resource is 100% funded by DFC An outcome is anticipated in September 2021 of the final approved budget DFC anticipate that a further budget will be allocated for 2022/2023, details of which are to be confirmed.

5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>

7.0	Appendices
	A Summary of Themes, Aims and Key Activities agreed by the NMD LMP
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A

Appendix 1 -

A Summary of Themes, Aims and Key Activities agreed by the NMD LMP is below:

Strategic Priority 1: To form and successfully deliver the functions of the

Theme 1: LMP Delivery	
Aim	Key Activity
1.1 Effective delivery of the LMP through the appropriate Administration and Governance structures.	Administration of LMP & Action Plan PR, Marketing and Engagement
1.2 Effective delivery of the LMP via the establishment of an LMP Resource	Establish LMP Resource - Establish an appropriate LMP resource managed by NMDDC Forward Planning: 2022 / 2023 - Develop a strategic assessment and interim action plan for 2022 / 2023

Strategic Priority 2: To improve employability outcomes and/or labour market conditions

Theme – 1: LT Unemployed & economically inactive		
Aim	Key Activity	
1.1 Labour Market Analysis - (Supply)	Intelligence - Research to define the hardest to reach groups within the unemployed and economically inactive population and implementation proposal for 2022/ 202	
1.2 Business Needs Analysis	Intelligence. To scope out what the employability / skills requirements are of employers. Undertake a sectoral analysis to identify and inform current and future employability and skills supply v's employer demand to which future employability initiatives can be targeted	
1.3 Pre-Employment Support for unemployed	Work Ready Employability Support WRES – Plus - To provide additionality to the WRES Programme through the implementation of additional interventions which ensure continued support to those furthest from the labour market, ensuing they progress on their pathway back to employment	
1.4 Upskill those unemployed, or those working PT seeking FT employment	Engagement – employer led, identify where opportunities exist	Access Support - Removing Barriers - Support to remove barriers to accessing opportunities for training and / or employment provision
1.5 Work Experience for those unemployed, or those working PT seeking FT employment	Sectoral Academies - Academies aligned to local employment opportunities	
	Work Experience Placement Programme - To work with local employers to offer short placements that offer job sampling, and an opportunity to build work ready skills.	
Theme – 2: Covid-19 related unemployment / redundancies		
Aim	Key Activity	
2.1 Reskilling: Recently unemployed / those at risk of unemployment (due to redundancy / covid-19)	Engagement – Identify Employees at risk of unemployment and / or those recently unemployed	Access Support - Removing Barriers - Support to remove barriers to accessing opportunities for training and / or employment provision
	Non Accredited Reskilling Interventions – Mentoring: one to one - mentoring and sign posting support. Non accredited Reskilling - support aligned to requirements of identified and suitable employment opportunities	
Theme 3: Graduate Employment Programme		
Aim	Key Activity	
	Engagement - To scope out and identify were jobs opportunities exist across NMD at graduate level.	

3.1 Graduate Employment Programme	Graduate Awareness Programme - To deliver a Graduate Awareness programme promoting the opportunities available to work / and or live in NMD
	Graduate Placement Programme - targeting graduates on completion of their degree, those underemployed or unemployed, provide additional skills training were required, and offer a 6-month paid placement
Theme 4: Labour Market Upskilling	
Aim	Key Activity
4.1 Labour market non-accredited upskilling programme	Engagement - identify where progression opportunities exist for existing staff Labour market upskilling /skills growth programme - upskill staff into better employment / emerging areas of work, in order to open up employment vacancies for those entering the labour market. Ensure skills match with those demanded by Employers.
Theme 5: NMD Employment Opportunities – NMD a Place to work	
Aim	Key Activity
5.1 Promotion and showcasing of local employment opportunities	Promote local employment opportunities - To create awareness among job seekers (NMD and beyond) of the range of career opportunities available local and pathways for accessing same. Develop an Interactive tool / platform that collates NMD employability opportunities and creates awareness on pathways to local employment opportunities:
5.2 Aligning Skill supply with Employers	Job & skill Matching - Support delivery of Jobs and Career fairs and events, including sectoral focused events where scope and opportunity exists Enhanced Career Guidance aligned to local opportunities
5.3 Stimulate self-employment as an "employment" opportunity	Business Start: Wrap Around Support – Mentoring Up to 5 days Specialised mentoring / business support between Go for It participation and establishing a trading company. Business Launch support - Financial incentive (retrospective payment) to the value of up to £1000 per business, to support the launch and establishment of the business

Strategic Priority 3: - To support delivery of Employability NI

Theme 1: Support Regional Employability Programmes	
Aim	Key Activity
1.1 Apprenticeships - Grow apprenticeships as a recognised pathway to employment	Increase the number of employers engaging in apprenticeship opportunities Increase the number of students considering apprenticeships
1.2 Enhanced awareness for DFC Employability Programmes and DFE / Colleges Accredited Programmes	Support awareness locally among job seekers of the wider range of support available to support pathway to employment
1.3 Support ESF Employability Programmes	NMD DC match fund 5 ESF programme via an SLA, which is supporting those unemployed (or students) to access programmes that enhance employability & skills as stepping stone into employment /self-employment.

Report to:	Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	9 th August 2021
Subject:	Revitalisation projects – Newry and Downpatrick
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director, Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Margaret Quinn, Regeneration and Business Development Officer

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either -

For decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input type="checkbox"/>
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u> To note that Council will accept and sign Letters of Offer for 2 revitalization schemes: Lower Hill Street, Newry and Church Street, Downpatrick</p> <p>To approve Council allocation of the required match funding –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower Hill Street, Newry – match funding of £25,000 • Church Street, Downpatrick – match funding of £20,000 <p>To approve Business Cases for each Revitalisations scheme</p> <p>To approve that Council proceeds to carry out the required procurement exercises, and following assessment and award, appoint the relevant suppliers, if within available budgets</p> <p><u>Background</u> The Department for Communities (DFC) has identified funding for Council to implement two Revitalisation projects in Newry, Mourne and Down. The two locations are Church Street, Downpatrick and Lower Hill Street, Newry. The available funding is £250,000 for Lower Hill Street, Newry and £200,000 for Church Street, Downpatrick. Council is required to contribute a 10% contribution to each project.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>Council to now agree the progression of the two Revitalization Schemes and the allocation of match funding to facilitate delivery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church Street, Downpatrick (DFC £200k + £20k NMDDC) • Lower Hill Street, Newry (DFC £250k + £25k NMDDC) <p>Next steps are:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council will establish Steering groups aligned to each Revitalisation Schemes. Steering groups will include local elected members and business representatives from the relevant areas, to progress the Revitalisation projects. • Working with each Steering group and DFC, officials will develop an Action Plan for each revitalisation scheme, when will be agreed for each location and submitted for approval to DFC. • The steering committees will meet regularly to progress the projects and will be serviced by Council Officials. • The funding spend deadline for the revitalisation schemes is 31st March 2022
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<p>To note that Council will accept and sign Letters of Offer for 2 revitalization schemes: Lower Hill Street, Newry and Church Street, Downpatrick</p> <p>Council to now agree the implementation of the two revitalization projects via steering groups and the allocation of the required match funding –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower Hill Street, Newry – match funding of £25,000 • Church Street, Downpatrick – match funding of £20,000 <p>To approve Business Cases for each Revitalisations scheme for completion of projects as proposed within the Revitalisation Action Plans and agreed by the respective Steering Groups, up the value of the budgets available</p> <p>To approve that Council proceeds to carry out the required procurement exercises in line with policy for the implementation of the Action Plans, and following assessment and award, appoint the relevant suppliers, if within available budgets</p>
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	<p>Match funding is available within existing budgets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower Hill Street, Newry – match funding of £25,000 • Church Street, Downpatrick – match funding of £20,000
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i>

	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p>Proposal initiating consultation</p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale: Consultation relating to the project has been undertaken.</i></p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A Business Case for Procurement of goods and services for Lower Hill Street, Newry 2. A Business Case for Procurement of goods and services for Church Street, Downpatrick.
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A

Business Case (Short Form)

£30,000 < £100,000 Expenditure

Project Title:	Lower Hill Street Revitalisation projects.
Directorate:	Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism
SECTION A	
Tell us about your project:	The project is the implementation of a Department for Communities funded Revitalisation project in Lower Hill Street Newry
1. What is the current provision?	The scheme is a new project which will be delivered by a steering committee comprising elected members and local business representatives.
2. What is the proposed provision (what options have you considered)?	An action plan will be produced identifying individual projects as part of the Revitalization project. The total spend will be £275,000 across a range of projects. It is anticipated that a significant proportion of the budget will be administered through the allocation of business grants. It is indicative that other projects may include actions such as shop front improvements schemes, market development, measures to address dereliction and promotional activity It is anticipated that these other projects will range in value from £1,000 to up £100,000 which approval of this business case considers.
3. What is the need and how is it evidenced?	The need will be evidenced in the agreed action plans as agreed by the steering committee.
4. Are all statutory approvals in place – please outline?	It is not anticipated that statutory approvals will be required for the project.

<p>5. Are there any risks associated with this project – please outline?</p> <p>6. Any other relevant information? i.e. drawings, plans, photographs...</p> <p>You are not limited to one page, please expand where necessary.</p> <p>All of the above questions must be addressed.</p>	<p>The funding provided by DFC must be spent by 31 March 2022. Therefore, there could be a potential risk of not utilizing the funding by the deadline. This will be mitigated by regular monitoring of expenditure.</p> <p>N/A</p>		
<p>SECTION B</p>			
<p>7. Is your expenditure linked to the Corporate Plan/Community Plan/Directorate Business Plan – please reference the relevant section.</p>	<p>The expenditure is linked to the ERT Economic Strategy within Regeneration initiatives.</p>		
<p>8. Has this project been identified as a priority in your Directorate?</p> <p>Please provide details:</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Conditions Survey</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Strategy</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other</p>
<p>9. Preferred Option – Please detail your preferred option and a rational why this option was</p>	<p>The implementation of regeneration initiatives is a priority of the Directorate.</p> <p>The preferred option is to procure good and services as agreed in the Action Plan.</p>		

selected			
10. Please provide a breakdown of all costs, including running costs (whole life costs). Please provide information on how these costs have been arrived at.	<p>The total costs associated with Lower Hill Street, Newry are £275,000.</p> <p>The agreed action plans will determine the individual projects to be delivered but indicative projects may include actions such as shop front improvements schemes, market development, measures to address dereliction and promotional activity.</p>		<p>Account Code / Cost Centre / Project Code (if applicable):</p> <p>Code to be allocated.</p>
11. Please indicate how this project will be financed. Please provide details	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Internal Funding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> External Funding	<p>Grant aid of £250,000 is being provided by DFC.</p> <p>Council is providing match funding of £25,000.</p>
<p><i>Is or will there be any perceived cross EU Border interest for this requirement/project:</i></p>			<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
Prepared by:	Margaret Quinn	Date Submitted:	19/07/2021
Validated by Assistant Director	<p>Sign:</p> <p>Date:</p>		
Director Approval:	<p>Sign: _____ Date: _____</p>		
Committee Approval:	<p>Date: _____</p>		
Council Approval	<p>Date: _____</p>		

Business Case (Short Form)

£30,000 < £100,000 Expenditure

Project Title:	Church Street, Downpatrick Revitalisation project.
Directorate:	Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism
SECTION A	
Tell us about your project:	The project is the implementation of a Department for Communities funded Revitalisation project in Church Street, Downpatrick.
1. What is the current provision?	The scheme is a new project which will be delivered by a steering committee comprising elected members and local business representatives.
2. What is the proposed provision (what options have you considered)?	An action plan will be produced identifying individual projects as part of the Revitalization project. The total spend will be £220,000 across a range of projects. It is anticipated that a significant proportion of the budget will be administered through the allocation of business grants. It is indicative that other projects may include actions such as shop front improvements schemes, market development, measures to address dereliction and promotional activity. It is anticipated that these other projects will range in value from £1,000 to up to £100,000 which approval of this business case considers.
3. What is the need and how is it evidenced?	The need will be evidenced in the agreed action plans as agreed by the steering committee.
4. Are all statutory approvals in place – please outline?	It is not anticipated that statutory approvals will be required for the project.

<p>5. Are there any risks associated with this project – please outline?</p> <p>6. Any other relevant information? i.e. drawings, plans, photographs...</p> <p>You are not limited to one page, please expand where necessary.</p> <p>All of the above questions must be addressed.</p>	<p>The funding provided by DFC must be spent by 31 March 2022. Therefore, there could be a potential risk of not utilizing the funding by the deadline. This will be mitigated by regular monitoring of expenditure.</p> <p>N/A</p>		
SECTION B			
<p>7. Is your expenditure linked to the Corporate Plan/Community Plan/Directorate Business Plan – please reference the relevant section.</p>	<p>The expenditure is linked to the ERT Economic Strategy within Regeneration initiatives.</p>		
<p>8. Has this project been identified as a priority in your Directorate?</p> <p>Please provide details:</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Conditions Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Strategy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other
	<p>The implementation of regeneration initiatives is a priority of the Directorate.</p>		
<p>9. Preferred Option – Please detail your preferred option and a rational why</p>	<p>The preferred option is to procure good and services as agreed in the Action Plan.</p>		

this option was selected			
<p>10. Please provide a breakdown of all costs, including running costs (whole life costs).</p> <p>Please provide information on how these costs have been arrived at.</p>	<p>The total costs associated with Church Street Revitalisation project is £220,000.</p> <p>The agreed action plans will determine the individual projects to be delivered but indicative projects may include actions such as shop front improvements schemes, market development, measures to address dereliction and promotional activity.</p>		<p>Account Code / Cost Centre / Project Code (if applicable):</p> <p>Code to be allocated.</p>
<p>11. Please indicate how this project will be financed.</p> <p>Please provide details</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Internal Funding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> External Funding	<p>Grant aid of £200,000 is being provided by DFC.</p> <p>Council is providing match funding of £20,000.</p>
<p><i>Is or will there be any perceived cross EU Border interest for this requirement/project:</i></p>			<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
Prepared by:	Margaret Quinn	Date Submitted:	19/07/2021
Validated by Assistant Director	<p>Sign:</p> <p>Date:</p>		
Director Approval:	<p>Sign: _____ Date: _____</p>		
Committee Approval:	<p>Date: _____</p>		
Council Approval	<p>Date: _____</p>		

Report to:	Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	9 th August 2021
Subject:	Tourism NI Market Led Product Development Programme 2021/22
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Andy Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture and Events
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Michelle Boyle, Head of Product Development and Visitor Experience

<table border="1"><tr><td>For decision</td><td>X</td><td>For noting only</td><td></td></tr></table>		For decision	X	For noting only	
For decision	X	For noting only			
1.0	Purpose and Background				
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u> To approve the recommendations set out in section 3.1 of this report to submit an application to the Tourism NI Market Led Product Development Programme 2021/22 for £150,000 of grant funding, with no match funding required from Council.</p> <p><u>Background</u> This programme will be delivered via partnership with Tourism NI and Local Authorities. The programme aims to deliver the following outcomes: (1) Provide more reasons for visitors to travel to and within NI (2) Enhance and animate the visitor experience for NI and ROI visitors whilst here (3) Encourage more opportunities for visitor spend</p>				
2.0	Key issues				
2.1	<p>The programme will provide NMDDC with grant funding support to enhance the NI visitor experience within the district, and which in turn will support the Northern Ireland “Embrace a Giant Spirit” Campaign in the 2021/22 financial year. A service level agreement between Tourism NI and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council will be put in place as part of the governance arrangements of the programme.</p> <p>Newry, Mourne and Down Council are applying to this programme for funding to the value of £150,000 to enhance and develop new experience within the Visit Mourne destination. No match funding is required but payment will be in arrears for programme activity undertaken. Interim payments can be agreed where programme activity is demonstrated to the satisfaction of TNI.</p> <p>Due to the criteria set by Tourism Northern Ireland all industry partners featured within the experiences must be registered in the “Good to Go” scheme. Project spend must occur between September 2021 and 31 March 2022.</p>				

	The programme will be delivered with tourism product providers which are currently engaged in experience development activity with Council in the district.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Application to the Tourism NI Market Led Product Development Programme 2021/22 for £150,000 of grant funding, with no match funding required from Council. 2. A Service Level Agreement to be entered into between Council and Tourism NI as part of the governance arrangements of the programme. 3. The programme will be delivered with tourism product providers which are currently engaged in experience development activity with Council in the district.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	No match funding from Council required. Payment will be in arrears for programme activity undertaken. Interim payments can be agreed where programme activity is demonstrated to the satisfaction of TNI.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation N/A</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p>

	<div> <div>Consultation period will be 12 weeks</div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> </div> </div> <div> <div>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided)</div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> </div> </div> <div> <div>Rationale:</div> <div></div> </div>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<div> <div>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</div> <div> <div>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></div> <div>No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></div> </div> <div> <div>If yes, please complete the following:</div> <div> <div>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed</div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> </div> </div> </div> </div>
7.0	Appendices
	N/A
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A

Report to:	Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	9 th August 2021
Subject:	AONB and Geopark Update
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly Assistant Director, Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Darren Rice AONB and Geopark Manager

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-

For decision		For noting only	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u></p> <p>1. To note the update provided in section 2.1 on the following AONB initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ring of Gullion AONB and Strangford and Lecale AONB Environment Fund project implementation • Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership Scheme Legacy Phase • Atlantic CultureScape • Geopark • Dragons in the Hills project • AONB management review recommendations implementation • Other <p><u>Background</u></p> <p>This report summaries the achievements of the AONB and Geopark team for Q1 2021/22 (Apr-Jun 2021).</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>Ring of Gullion AONB and Strangford and Lecale AONB Environment Fund project implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bi-Monthly eZine issued in both AONB – sign ups on respective websites continues to grow • Slieve Gullion summit trail network maintenance annual contract awarded to Mourne Heritage Trust. Q1 work complete. Summer volunteer/training underway. • A letter will be posted out to all landowners owning Slieve Gullion Path from lake to Ballard Road asking permission to maintain path – this was postponed to now to align better with potential funding opportunities.

- AONB Videos – 17 videos covering wildlife disturbance, partnership working, volunteers etc. Follow social media channels to see them released over the spring and summer
- Fixed Point Photography Landscape Monitoring Q1 21/22 complete
- AONB 2022 photo competition opened – 97 entries to date.
- Annual Moved by Nature calendar of events published and promoted
- Interagency wildlife disturbance workshops continue to be held to mitigate against issues in 2021 summer season – flyers designed, trailer marking scheme organised.
- 13,500 alder trees planted in the AONB.
- Red Squirrel Management Plan for RoG submitted to Forest Service.
- Supported Outdoor Recreation NI in developing a Community Trail at Carrive Forest
- LHLH funded 'extreme clean' project to clean-up one island in Strangford Lough completed – Taggart Island in June in partnership with Strangford Lough National Trust team and volunteers.
- Claim submitted to LHLH for litter lifting equipment, high vis vests and skip to remove litter collected on the island.
- Adventure WiSe training delivered 15th & 16th June online by the Wise Scheme. This was an NI wide course. We were able to fund 18 places on the course to a wide range of interest and participants, including some pwc/jetski users
- Terms of Reference for Strangford Lough Marine Protected Area Management Steering Group drafted
- Worked with SA community group to launch Tidy SA Villages Competition - rules/criteria on RoG website

Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership Scheme Legacy Phase

- Lúnasa Festival Working Group have prepared Lúnasa Festival line up. SLA approved by council, to be signed in July by both parties.

Atlantic CultureScape (ACS)

- Continued engagement with ACS partners and relevant virtual Steering committee and partner meetings were organised.
- Reporting via AA Sigi portal was monitored by LP NMDDC as per the project's reporting deadlines and communicated back to ACS Projects.
- Since 15 April 2021 the Atlantic CultureScape project has continued to progress with it's targets which has involved working with the NMDDC cultural heritage communities across Mourne Gullion and Lecale.
- This has involved 16 intangible cultural heritage providers who are all actively working as small businesses and developing ICH Visitor experiences for the ACS ICH transnational route. This marketing route is currently being developed by our Rio Maior partners in Portugal.
- The 17 NMDDC emerging ICH experiences are spread across the district as follows:

- 5 Mourne- Dry Stone wall building, Stone Masons, Poteen distilling & Catch to Cook at Kilkeel cookery school, My Name is Patrick Living history production
- 7 Lecale- Irish harp & Uilleann Pipes, traditional bread making, Dancing at the Crossroads, Gaelic Games Experience, St Patrick's Pilgrim Path, Irish Language and St Brigid Cross Experience
- 5 Ring of Gullion- Glass from the Past, Celtic Wood Turning, Irish Ballads and Poem exp, Armagh Lace and Mountain Farm exp.
- 14 of these ICH experiences require further deep dive training which has been organised and scheduled to commence over the coming 6 months.
 - 3 (Poteen, Bread & Catch to Cook) are being brought to market via NMDDC Coastal Favours Cluster but their finalised food/ICH experiences will also link with ACS Marketing plans
- 3rd ACS newsletter published - <https://mailchi.mp/9b4174e08121/atlantic-culturescape-project-news-8180537>

Geopark

- UNESCO Evaluation Mission has not been given the go ahead yet – due to global Covid restrictions.
- 3 virtual site visit educational videos will be released with a suite of digital media over the rest of the year.

Dragons in the Hills project

- Winners of Children's Art Competition for Dragons in the Hills Project selected.
- New project officer for Dragons in the Hills Project appointed.

AONB Management Review – final report and recommendations

- All new members have completed induction and welcomed to their first meetings at both AONB Partnerships.
- Final nomination from RoGLP for Geopark Management Group received.
- Bi-annual funders meeting held on 20th April
- Quarterly Officers meeting held between officers of both councils and Mourne Heritage Trust with regards to AONB Deliverables – June 2021.
- Out of 15 recommendations, 9 have been actioned to date, 1 has been postponed due to Covid.

Other

- PEACE+
 - Met with Woodland Trust regarding proposal for Mourne Woods.
 - Took part in EBR Biodiversity and Climate Change Funding Workshops.
 - Requested NIPAN meet to discuss potential collaborative proposals.
- Successful application to the Co-operation North South Grant for €15,000 for a project focusing on the Songs of the People of South Armagh/ North Louth and Monaghan in partnership with Creggan Historical Society, Colleen Savage Oriel Events and Oriel Traditional Orchestra.
- Attended and represented the AONB & Geopark at the National Outdoor Recreation Forum

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application submitted to DAERA/NIEA Challenge Fund totalling £279,500. Notification expected late July
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<p>1. To note the update provided in section 2.1 on the following AONB initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ring of Gullion AONB and Strangford and Lecale AONB Environment Fund project implementation Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership Scheme Legacy Phase Atlantic CultureScape Geopark Dragons in the Hills project AONB Management Review implementation Other
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	All projects are delivered within Letter of Offer and match funding agreed and approved budgets.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p>

	<div> <div>Consultation period will be 12 weeks</div> <div>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided)</div> </div> <div> <div>Rationale:</div> <div>NA</div> </div>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)	
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.0	Appendices	
	n/a	
8.0	Background Documents	
	n/a	

Report to:	Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism
Date of Meeting:	9 th August 2021
Subject:	Update on Business Development Programmes
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly Assistant Director
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth Head of Regeneration and Business Development

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-

For decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To note the opening of the Rural Business Development Grant Scheme (RBDS) 2021 administered by the ten rural Councils funded by DAERA's Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation fund to provide up to £4,999 grant funding to rural micro businesses. To note the update provided under the following business development initiatives: Go for It, NMD Growth, Digital Growth, Tender for Growth, Sales and Trade Programme and Digital Transformation Programme. <p><u>Background</u></p> <p>Newry, Mourne and Down District Council provide various business development programmes to assist local SME's in all aspects of business growth advice, for both start-up and existing businesses.</p> <p>The main programmes as outlined below are funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), Invest NI and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.</p> <p>Eligibility for the business support and growth programmes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Businesses with less than 50 employees Business who have the potential to create jobs.
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p><u>Rural Business Development Grant Scheme 2021</u></p> <p>A regional programme administrated by all Councils on behalf of DAERA. The regional programme opened for applications from 1st July 2021 to 12 noon on 30th July 2021.</p> <p>The programme will support capital only grants up to a maximum of £4,999 (50% grant rate). Grants are available to existing micro enterprises based in rural areas of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, from all sectors.</p>

The grant is available to support rural businesses with less than 10 full time equivalent employees, to recover, sustain and grow through DAERA's Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation (TRPSI) Programme, but who have not previously received funding under the TRPSI Rural Business Development Scheme administered by local Councils during 2019-2020 and 2020-2021.

Eligibility criteria includes:

- located within a rural NMDDC area (<5,000 residents)
- existing and registered private business or social enterprise, actively trading
- currently employing less than 10 full-time equivalent employees (based on 30 hrs per week)
- appropriately insured
- dedicated bank account used by the business
- provide a detailed specification and two "like for like" quotations
- can complete the project before 17 December 2021 to include all works completed and payments cleared
- aged 18 or above at time of application deadline
- Only one application can be accepted per business/legal entity.

In August and September Officers will be working with DAERA to agree assessment of the applications, with Letters of Offers / rejection letters being issues end of September – early October.

The level of grant available to Council to administer through the programme is £125,000 of grant aid; for any Council that doesn't allocate their grant, there will be an opportunity to redistribute grant to those Council's with a higher level of approved applications than grant aid available.

Programmes Update:

Go for It – NI Business Start-Up Programme

The NI Business Start-Up Programme continues to support those wishing to establish a new business. The programme is currently ahead of target for the current year.

Go for It				
2021 / 2022 period	Target Business Plans	Actual Business Plan	Target – Job promoted	Actual - Job promoted
April, May June	78	96	47	58
July, August Sept	73		44	
Oct, Nov Dec	71		43	
Jan, Feb, Mar	90		54	
	312		187	

NMD Business Growth (Oct 2018 – December 2022)

Recruitment and delivery of this tailored business support programme continues and is 65.4% complete as at 14th July 2021 being month 34, of a 52-month programme. NMD Business Growth has achieved the following outputs as outlined below.

NMD GROWTH			
	Target	Actual to date	% Achieved

	(up to Dec 2022)		
Businesses Supported	740	524	71%
Mentoring Hours Delivered	8015	6128	76%
Workshops	30	26	87%
Thematic Programmes	10	9	90%
Job Creation	470	80* 221.5**	17% 47%
INI Referrals	40	18***	45%
Stakeholder Signposting	100	49	49%

*Immediate job creation, excluding projected job creation within 12 months

**Immediate plus projected job creation within 12 months of mentoring completion

***INI confirmed number of quality referrals as per eligibility criteria

Digital Growth (January 2020 – December 2022)

Programme recruitment and delivery continues with a view to providing essential tailored digital support for businesses. Digital Growth is currently 47% complete as at end of May 2021, being month 17, of a 36-month programme.

DIGITAL GROWTH			
	Target (up to Dec 2022)	Actual to date	% Achieved
Businesses Supported	260	95	37%
Mentoring Hours Delivered	4410	1459.5	33%
Workshops	18	10	56%
Masterclasses	4	2	50%
Job Creation	185	11.5	6%
INI Referrals	20	6	30%

Tender for Growth (June 2020 – December 2022)

Recruitment is currently ongoing with this programme being 13 months (42%) complete of a 31-month programme which offers support to businesses to develop their procurement processes and secure new contracts. This programme focuses on supporting local businesses to access new contracts in both the public and private sector, both locally, regionally and internationally. Data as at end June 2021. The programme has in July 2021 released a date for the first of two meet the buyer events, which will engage local businesses in a virtual engagement event with potential private and public sector buyers.

TENDER FOR GROWTH			
	Target (up to Dec 2022)	Actual to date	% Achieved

	Businesses Supported	170	58	34%
	Mentoring Hours Delivered	3367	1106.7	32.8%
	Workshops	10	4	40%
	Meet the Buyer Events	2	0	0%
	Job Creation	145	18	12%
	INI Referrals	15	3	20%
	Stakeholder Signposting	20	3	15%
	<p><u>New Programmes commencing in 2021 / 2022</u></p> <p><u>Sales and Trade Programme</u> The key aims of the Sales & Trade Programme is to provide trade focused mentoring, to support businesses to develop their sales capacity to grow sales in existing markets, as well as explore new and grow existing sales in GB. The programme will also assist businesses with preparations for Brexit and the ensuing new trading regulations. Officers were working with the lead Council of this programme and CPD regarding procurement of an appropriate Delivery Agent, who has recently been appointed. The programme is due to launch in August 2021.</p> <p><u>Digital Transformation Programme</u> The Digital Transformation Programme is a regional programme in collaboration with the 11 Councils which will support businesses throughout NI to enhance their productivity and digital capabilities. Enabling business transformation and to incorporate digital technology into business operations, 198 core participants will be selected for intensive support, identified as those with the highest potential for digital transformation. The programme is expected to be rolled out in early autumn when an appropriate Delivery Agent has been procured.</p>			
3.0	Recommendations			
3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To note the opening of the Rural Business Development Grant Scheme (RBDS) 2021 administered by NI Councils through DAERA's Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation fund to provide up to £4,999 grant funding to rural micro businesses. To note the update provided under the following business development initiatives: Go for It, NMD Growth, Digital Growth, Tender for Growth, Sales and Trade Programme and Digital Transformation Programme. 			
4.0	Resource implications			
4.1	All programmes are being implemented within existing and approved budgets.			
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)			
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i>			

	It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices
	N/A
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A

Report to:	Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	9 th August 2021
Subject:	Economic Forum
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly Assistant Director of Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth Head of Regeneration and Business Development

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-

For decision		For noting only	X
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u> To note the update provided at a recent meeting of the Economic Forum.</p> <p><u>Background</u> In November 2020 Council launched the District's Regeneration and Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan 2020 - 2025, which sets out an important strategic direction for the recovery and revitalisation of our District. Key to the delivery of this is collaboration with our businesses and key stakeholders, through the role of our Economic Forum.</p> <p>The strategy sets out 3 clear strategic priorities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supporting Entrepreneurship, Business Growth and Innovation 2. Improving Employability and Skills 3. Investing in Regeneration and modern infrastructure <p>The strategy recognises the role of the Economic Forum as a vehicle for facilitating debate, focused decision making and action planning with tangible and specific outcomes on key strategic economic development issues. The Forum will be focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing an update on the strategic plans taken forward by Council and key stakeholders • Providing a Forum for our businesses to discuss common issues and agreeing short / medium terms actions in response • Creating networking opportunities for local businesses; opportunities to show case business achievements, and share expertise where learning for others is relevant <p>Council have already established collaborative working groups which will lead on delivery of actions against each of our 3 strategic priorities. The Economic Forum is a key partner in overseeing this delivery, ensuring the needs of businesses are</p>

	addressed, and that local ideas for improvements and progression are considered and adopted
2.0	<p>Key issues</p> <p>The Economic Forum met in March 2021 for an update and discussion on the below items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on key Pillars of investment: Business Growth, Skills and Employability and Regeneration • Update on Belfast Region City Deal • Discussion on emerging priorities for the Economic forum: Covid-19 revitalisation investments and recovery working group <p>A copy of the presentation from this meeting is attached as an appendix document to this report.</p> <p>The Economic Forum noted the update. In discussion at meeting other points noted were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update from SRC on the new innovation space, which will be targeted at Advanced Engineering. Work is due to commence in 2024 • Need to look at development opportunities along the North South Economic corridor, including strategic development sites, land availability, attraction of high value end jobs, and opportunities arising from Dublin overheating.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To note the above updated provided on the Economic Forum
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	N/A
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
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	<p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices
	Presentation from meeting of the Economic forum (March 2021 / PDF PowerPoint presentation)
8.0	Background Documents
	n/a

NMD Economic Forum

30th March 2021



Meeting of the NMD Economic Forum

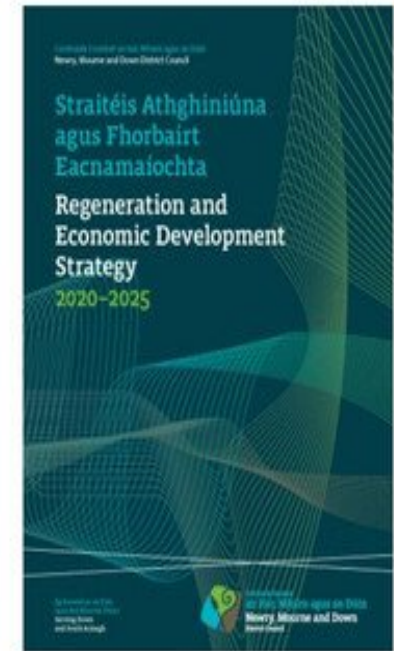
- Welcome, Introductions and Role of the Economic Forum
- House keeping for virtual meeting

Agenda Items

- Regeneration and Economic Development Strategy - Pillars for Investment
- Belfast Region City Deal
- Emerging priorities for the Economic Forum – Covid-19 Recovery

Our Strategic Aims

1. Achieve sustainable and inclusive economic growth
2. Address economic inequalities
3. Create more and better jobs
4. Stimulate productivity through new technologies and innovation
5. Develop the infrastructure and regeneration required to support economic growth
6. Become more internationally competitive through export growth and developing a more outward-looking economy open for investment



Strategic Priority 1: Supporting Entrepreneurship, Business Growth and Innovation

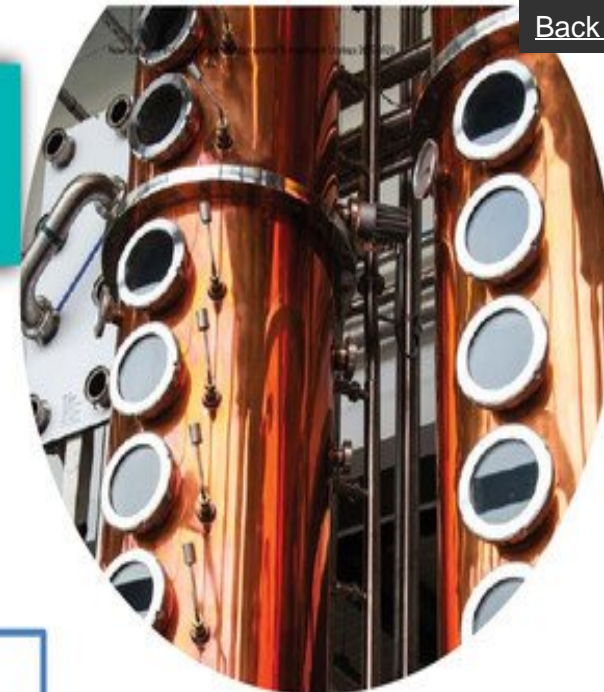
We will work with our partners to:

Support the growth and creation of new businesses starts

Support growth in innovation and digital technologies

Build and extend our international relations

Strengthen our business engagement



Supporting Entrepreneurship, Business growth and Innovation

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Sub Group Actions underway

Brexit

- Social media campaign underway.
- Regular workshops taking place via main partners
- Sub group looking at case studies to raise awareness of good practices

Positioning the District

- Sub group looking at initiatives to promote the District as a place to work, live, invest
- Promotion of Investment plans

Connectivity

- Information circulated to working group on connectivity investment underway via FFNI and Stratum

Business Survey

- NMDDC business survey to be issued to identify medium term business needs for next 12 months

Strategic Priority 2: Improving Employability and Skills

144

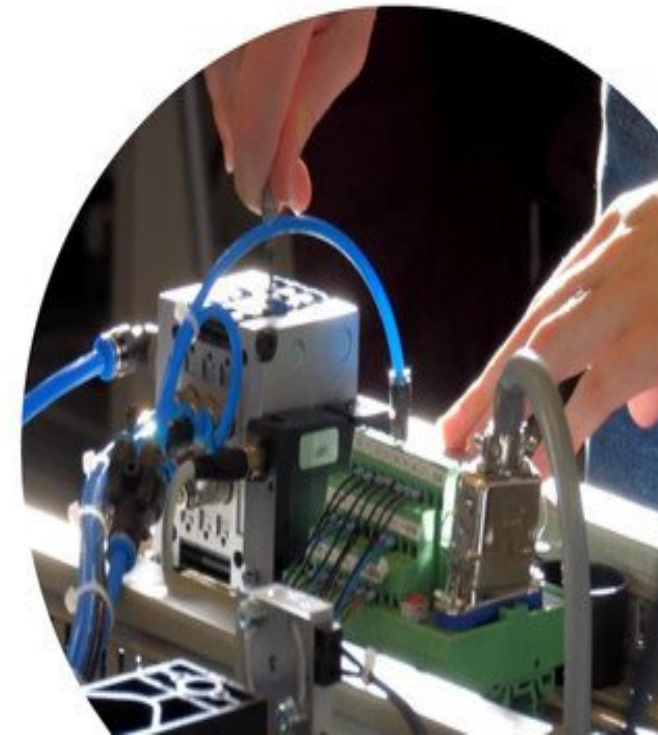
We will work with our partners to:

Address skill gaps and future skill needs,
through education to industry engagement

Promote employment opportunities and
attract appropriately skilled labour to the area

Upskill / reskill those in employment, unemployed,
underemployed or economic inactive

Promote alternative pathways for employment



Improving Employability and Skills

Working Group Actions underway

Labour Market Partnership

- LMP for NMDDC area will be incorporated into the role of the working group
- LMP Strategic assessment + action plan to be established

Employability and Skills Mapping

- Underway working with SRC & SERC
- Purpose - understand the existing employability and skills provision in the District. What are the interventions currently on offer? Where to the gaps lie? Where interventions should be

Greater awareness of NMD Employment Opportunities

- Sub group –virtual tours of businesses to showcase availability of local employment opportunities, skill set required by the business, upskilling and reskilling opportunities to fit needs of business

Strategic Priority 3: Investing in Regeneration and Modern Infrastructure

We will work with our partners to:

Deliver digital transformation: creating a connected region

Regenerate our City, towns and villages

Deliver on Strategic Investment proposals



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Investing in Regeneration and Modern Infrastructure

Working Group Actions underway

Future of Town Centres

- Establishment of a town centre taskforce for the District;
- Inform the future development / rejuvenation of urban and rural town centres.

Greater Awareness of strategic Investments

- Working group updated on current regeneration programmes underway across the District
- Advocacy for strategic infrastructure projects

Development Land

- Information collated on available strategic sites for development / investment
 - Belfast Region Investment guide launched Feb 2021
 - INI 3 sites available within District & promoted at <https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/commercial-property-finder>
- Opportunities within Development Plan to identify future industrial land

Agenda Item

- Belfast Region City Deal



Ambition



£1 billion Investment to boost economy

Delivering more and better jobs by investing in



High growth sectors



Innovation and digital capabilities



Tourism and regeneration



Connecting people to opportunity



Achievements & Next Steps

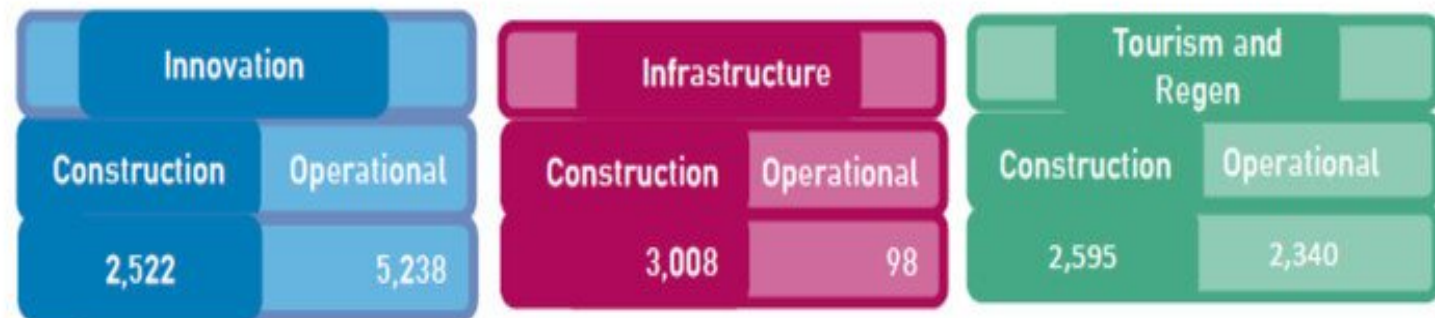
Dec 2020: Project OBC's completed and submitted

April 2021: NI Executive and UK Government approvals

Signing of Deal Document and Implementation plan

Job Opportunities at a City Deal level

- 7676 Operational
- 8125 Construction



Council City Deal projects

1. Newry City Centre Regeneration
2. Southern Relief Road
3. Gateway to the Mournes

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Seed Projects



NEWRY CITY CENTRE RE:GENERATION

Newry is the district's city, a strategic gateway between Belfast & Dublin. It is a key investment location that can stimulate economic growth and provide new and better employment opportunities for the whole district.

The Newry City Centre Regeneration programme aims to create an active city centre, diversifying its offer to attract visitors to an all-day economy, increasing the city's performance and resilience.

PROJECTS



£16m Theatre/ Conference & Digital Innovation Hub

will enhance the cultural, digital production and business conferencing offer of the city



Civic & Regional Hub of £11m

will create conditions for modern ways of working and service delivery for Council and other public sector partners



£5m Public Realm

will create linkages, places and focal points around the city's heritage for people to socialise and animate



Office Accommodation Fund of £3m

will help realisation of additional high quality office accommodation to support investment of new and better jobs



A budget Hotel

will serve the increasing visitor market, anticipated as privately funded in response to the funded programme elements



Albert Basin Park

will create a new 15-Acre park at the heart of the city's maritime past for leisure, exercise and play

TIMELINE

It is planned to complete the **Theatre/ Conference, Civic & Regional Hub & Associated Public Realms by 2024**

The New Office Accommodation and the Hotel will be realised by the private sector over a longer timescale

The Albert Basin Park is currently at concept stage, the timeline will be informed as proposals develop



FUNDING

£26m
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

£9m
levered from Belfast Region City Deal

BENEFITS



£155m
Gross Value Added



300+
Jobs Created



£5.3m
Salaries in Local Economy



235
Construction Jobs



£1.8m
Tourism Spend/
Evening Economy



Belfast Region

City Deal

Mourne Mountain Gateway

- protecting and enhancing the natural heritage and habitat

Mountain trails, thrilling cable car ride and architecturally iconic visitor centre offering unobstructed mountain and sea views

367,000

visitors per annum
by 2030



Creation of up to

400

jobs in construction
and operational
phases



up to

£5.1m

GVA per annum
by 2030



Southern Relief Road

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- Strategic road link between A2 Warrenpoint Road and A1 Belfast/Dublin road, providing access to Warrenpoint Port and removing traffic from Newry.



Benefits

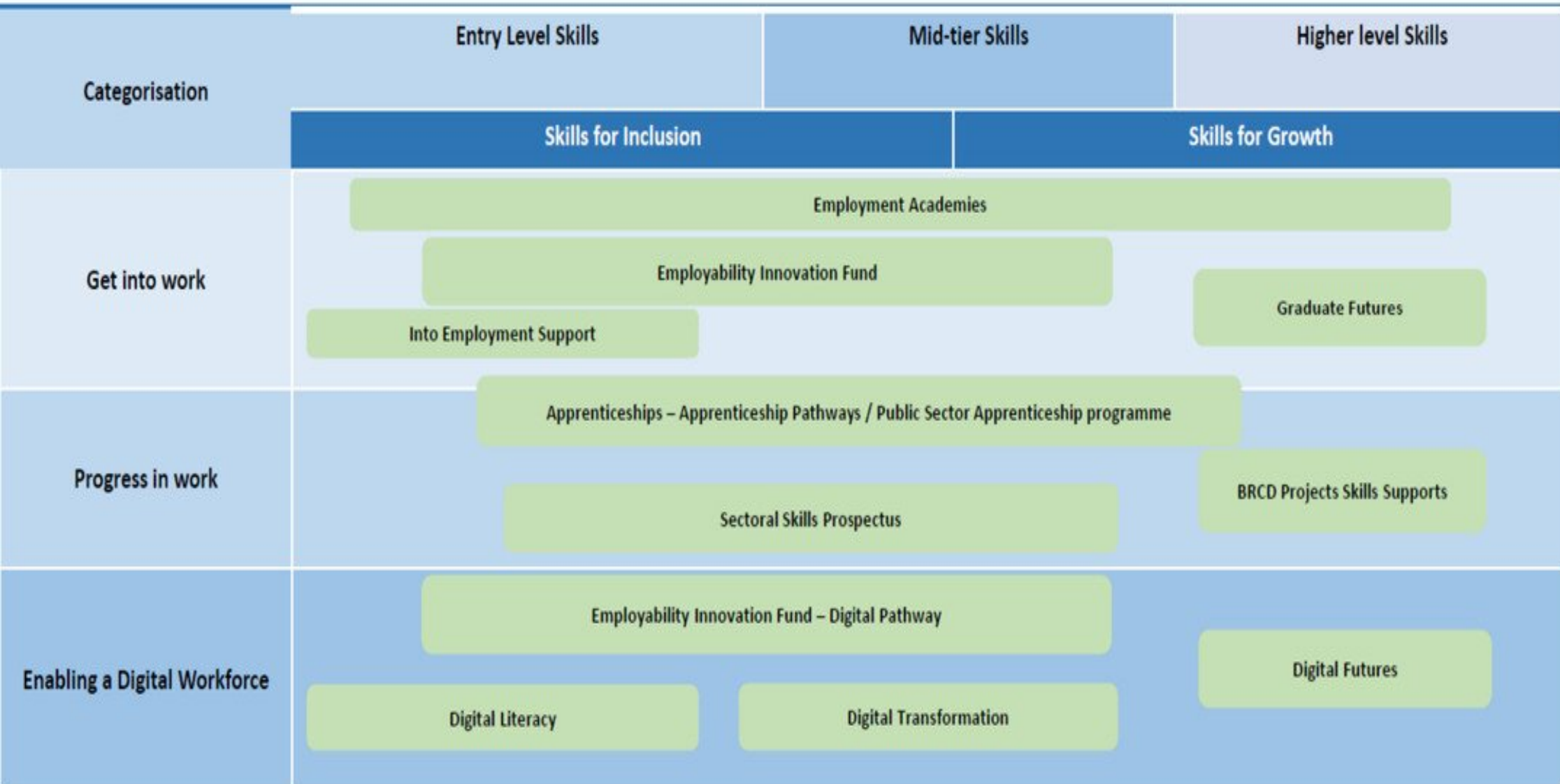
- Reduces congestion / Improves air quality and reduces noise pollution
- Journey time savings and safety improvements
- Access to port

Current Position

- OBC for the scheme issued to BRCD
- Infrastructure Minister in discussion with NMDCC and other stakeholders regarding Newry Ship Canal bridge
- Stage 3 scheme assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment progressed pending stakeholder consultation

BRCD Regional Projects: Employability and Skills

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Our commitment to inclusive growth: we will utilise our approach to skills to address barriers to participation and create accessible employment opportunities, enabling individuals to enter and progress in employment.

BRCD Regional Projects: Digital proposition



Accelerate superfast broadband (30 Mbps+) access across the Belfast Region, filling the gaps left by other broadband schemes and commercially viable propositions.



A regional platform to share expertise and data infrastructure. A regional partnership to facilitate collaborative working .



5 sector-focussed testbeds in health, logistics, construction, agri-food and advanced manufacturing.

Creation of testbeds at visitor sites to test new digital technologies



A network of innovation spaces, or 'makerspaces' to involve communities in skills building and to support local businesses.

Innovation Hub – Newry City

Innovation Pillar – University Lead initiatives

Innovation and digital projects will seek to strengthen innovation and research capability in sectors that have proved resilient during the current crisis and which are well positioned to continue to grow after the pandemic

BRCD have appointed a Digital Innovation Commissioner who will be effective in addressing major societal challenges, such as digital exclusion, and boosting the digital innovation capabilities of businesses across the region



Centre for Digital Health Technology



Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Centre



i-REACH



Screen & Media Innovation Lab



Global Innovation Institute

Agenda Item

- Discussion: Emerging priority - Covid-19 recovery;
 - Covid-19 revitalisation investments
 - Covid-19 recovery working group

Covid-19 revitalisation investments

Funding Allocations Received	DFC	DAERA	DFI	Revenue (DfC)
	£966k	£361k	£527k	£52k
Total Funding	£1,906,000			

Business Recovery – Covid-19 Compliance Grants

- Phase 1 – Sanitisers, screens and Covid signage
- Phase 2 - Business Front Enhancement Scheme + purchase of digital equipment
- 631 Letters of Offer issued - £932,742.58 grant
- 174 applications remain under assessment
- £164,165.91 paid out to business to date
- *Estimate £1.2 m of grant will be distributed following all assessments*

Other elements

- Artisan Market Development – capital investments
- District wide marketing campaign to promote open the business message
- Enhancement of Outdoor space for covid-19 compliance (dereliction, seating)
- Active Travel Strategy and Educational programme
- Carlingford Lough Greenway upgrade works
- Pilot Sustrans Active Travel - Leading Way For Business
- Installation of Bike Shelters
- Walking/cycling path @ Dunleath Park Downpatrick and Dundrum to Murlough route
- Murlough car park road crossing improvements

- Covid-19 recovery working group

Discussion

HISTORIC**ACTION TRACKER SHEET****ENTERPRISE REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE****(For Noting at ERT August 2021)**

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ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		October 2019			
ERT/138/2019	CARLINGFORD LOUGH GREENWAY	<p>(a) The Council proceed to commence the PQQ contractor procurement stage for the Northern section of the Carlingford Lough Greenway.</p> <p>(b) Council Officers to update Councillor McMurray regarding plans for Greenways at Comber/Downpatrick.</p>	J McGilly	Negotiations ongoing with landowners and funder. Revised submission submitted to funders May 2020. Planning submitted and awaiting decision. SEUPB considering additional funding bid. Economic appraisal completed and with SEUPB and DfI	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		(JUNE 2020)			
ERT/064/2020	(Exempt) WARRENPOINT BATHS	<p>(a) Council formally concludes the current EOI process.</p> <p>(b) Officer review the above options and forward recommendations on the options outlined in the Report.</p>	J MC GILLY	Council agreed to pursue development of former baths site in line with planning approval. Procurement commenced of consultants to complete business case and explore funding options	Y
		(AUGUST 2020)			
ERT/090/2020	PUBLIC REALM ENHANCEMENT SCHEME	<p>It was agreed as follows regarding the Public Realm Enhancement Scheme:</p> <p>(a) Subject to final approval of the funding application and confirmation from the funder, Council proceed to accept the relevant Letter Of Offer once received from DFC for £500,000 for the 'Public Realm Enhancement Scheme'.</p>	J McGilly	Work in progress	Y

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		<p>(b) Council approve relevant Business Cases in association with the carrying out the required procurement/appointment of consultants/contractors/suppliers for the 'Public Realm Enhancement Scheme'.</p> <p>(c) Council proceed to carry out the required procurement exercises for the 'Public Realm Enhancement Scheme' and following assessment and award, appoint relevant suppliers, if within available sectional programme budgets.</p>			
ERT/095/2020	CAR PARK BANN ROAD CASTLEWELLAN	To progress the proposed redevelopment of the Bann Road parking area in collaboration with DFI and approve the submission of a planning application for a change of use for the area concerned.	C Jackson	Planning Application submitted, Sept 2020, approved May 2021. Work in progress.	N
		SEPTEMBER 2020			
ERT/129/2020	(Historic Action) NEWCASTLE HARBOUR	A paper be brought to a meeting of the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting outlining proposals to	J McGilly	Work in progress	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		move forward with the regeneration of Newcastle Harbour.			
		(OCTOBER 2020)			
ERT/143/2020	(Exempt) CASTLEWELLAN FOREST PARK	<p>It was agreed as follows with regard to the development of Castlewellan Historic Demensne:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To note the action reports from the Task and Finish Board meetings held on 15 May 2020 ,19 June 2020 and 14 August 2020. • To progress a licence agreement with Forest Service to facilitate the DAERA funded works. • Agree a draft lease for Castlewellan Forest Park with Forest Service to facilitate the NHLF works and activities. • To appoint an archaeologist and ecologist to fulfil conditions in planning permission for the DAERA project. • To appoint the most economically advantageous tenderer to undertake the construction and refurbishment of the Bothy Yard. • For the Integrated Design Team, Council officers and Task and Finish board members to continue with the 	J McGilly	In progress DAERA funded works ongoing – NHLF funding approved March 2021. Work commenced on approval to start and next stages of project	Y

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		<p>value engineering exercise on the NLHF project while ensuring delivery against the key objectives of the project i.e. Heritage, people and community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For the NLHF project to progress design development from 24 November 2020 to 9 March 2021 to ensure that if Council receives funding from NLHF that the project is “shovel ready”. Officers arrange to have details of the model used circulated to Members for information. 			
		(JANUARY 2021)			
ERT/010/2021	WARRENPOINT FRONTSHORE PR SCHEME	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Members area asked to accept the broad Concept Design proposals as presented by AECOM, with suggested adjustments and proceed to a Consultation Process in early 2021. Officers report on feedback from the consultation process to the Task and Finish Group, before proceeding to finalise the design for submission to planning. Officers complete and submit the Economic Appraisal to Council and the 	J McGilly	<p>Scheme consultation launched April 2021</p> <p>Scheme approved following consultation now moving to submit planning and complete Economic Appraisal</p>	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		<p>Department For Communities for consideration of the funding package for the scheme.</p> <p>4. Members approve the Business Case to carry out a Site Investigation Survey and other smaller surveys costs as required to prepare for the planning submission.</p> <p>5. Once completed officers will present the DFI One Way system proposal for Warrenpoint at a future meeting of Crotlieve Cllrs in early 2021.</p>			
		(FEBRUARY 2021)			
ERT/034/2021	(EXEMPT) RENT RELIEF	To offer rent relief for the period 23 March 2020 – 16 June 2020 for tenants at Café in Delamont Country Park and Kilbroney Park Rostrevor.	A Patterson	Complete	Y
		(MARCH 2021)			
ERT/051/2021	WARRENPOINT BATHS	<p>1. Council continue to ensure that ongoing measures are taken to monitor and address Health and Safety concerns as they arise at the existing Baths Structure.</p> <p>2. Council officials to continue discussions with potential funders given the development of new funding</p>	J McGilly	Cavanagh Kelly currently working on SOC for project as approved for planning	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		<p>programmes - Peace Plus; Shared Prosperity Fund; NLHF, Tourism NI, etc, based on the development of the facility as per the planning approval that is currently in place on the site.</p> <p>3. Council officials proceed with appointment of a consultancy team to prepare a business case / economic appraisal on the existing Council approved scheme based on the Planning approval in place for the Warrenpoint Baths site.</p>			
		(MAY 2021)			
ERT/089/2021	NOTICE OF MOTION RE: DOWNPATRICK TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENT	To defer the Notice of Motion until such times as the Development Brief has been submitted to the Downpatrick DEA Councillors for consideration and allow a more informed decision thereafter.	J McGilly	Complete	Y
ERT/093/2021	LEVELLING UP FUND	1. The Council do not submit an application in the current call for 18 June 2021 Levelling Up Fund, but explore and develop initiatives that best fit the criteria utilising the Development fund that will become available early summer.	J McGilly	Work in progress	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		2. In respect of CRF, the Council explore potential joint funding bids with FE sector aligned to economic development and regeneration strategy.			
		(JUNE 2021 – TO FOLLOW)			

Report to:	Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	9 th August 2021
Subject:	European Ladies Amateur Team Championship
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Andy Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture and Events
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Michelle Boyle, Head of Product Development and Visitor Experience

<table><tr><td>For decision</td><td></td><td>For noting only</td><td>X</td></tr></table>		For decision		For noting only	X
For decision		For noting only	X		
1.0	Purpose and Background				
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u> To note the contents of this paper, which provides details of Council support to Golf Ireland in hosting a welcome reception and dinner for the European Ladies Amateur Team Championship event which took place at Royal County Down on 3rd to 10th July 2021.</p> <p><u>Background</u> The European Golf Association (EGA) hosted the European Ladies Amateur Team Championship in Northern Ireland this year. The hosting course for the event was Royal County Down on 3rd to 10th July.</p>				
2.0	Key issues				
2.1	<p>20 teams of six players competed in the competition, with competitors staying in Newcastle for the duration of the competition. The number of tourism bed nights generated to the region was over £1,390.</p> <p>Newry, Mourne and Down District Council supported hosting the European Ladies Amateur Team Championship to the value of £1,000.</p>				
3.0	Recommendations				
3.1	To note the contents of this paper.				
4.0	Resource implications				
4.1	The contribution to Support hosting was £1,000.				
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)				

5.1	<p>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p>Proposal initiating consultation</p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices
	N/A
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council – June 2021

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1. Live Applications

MONTH 2021/22	NEW APPLICATIONS	LIVE APPLICATIONS	LIVE APPLICATIONS OVER 12 MONTHS
April 2021	206	1,195	232
May 2021	204	1,238	228
June 2021	172	1,219	236

2. Live Applications by length of time in system

Month 2020/21	Under 6 months	Between 6 and 12 months	Between 12 and 18 months	Between 18 and 24 months	Over 24 months	Total
April 2021	770	193	81	54	97	1,195
May 2021	818	192	76	53	99	1,238
June 2021	777	206	82	43	111	1,219

3. Live applications per Case Officer

Month 2021/22	Average number of Applications per Case Officer
April	83
May	85
June	89

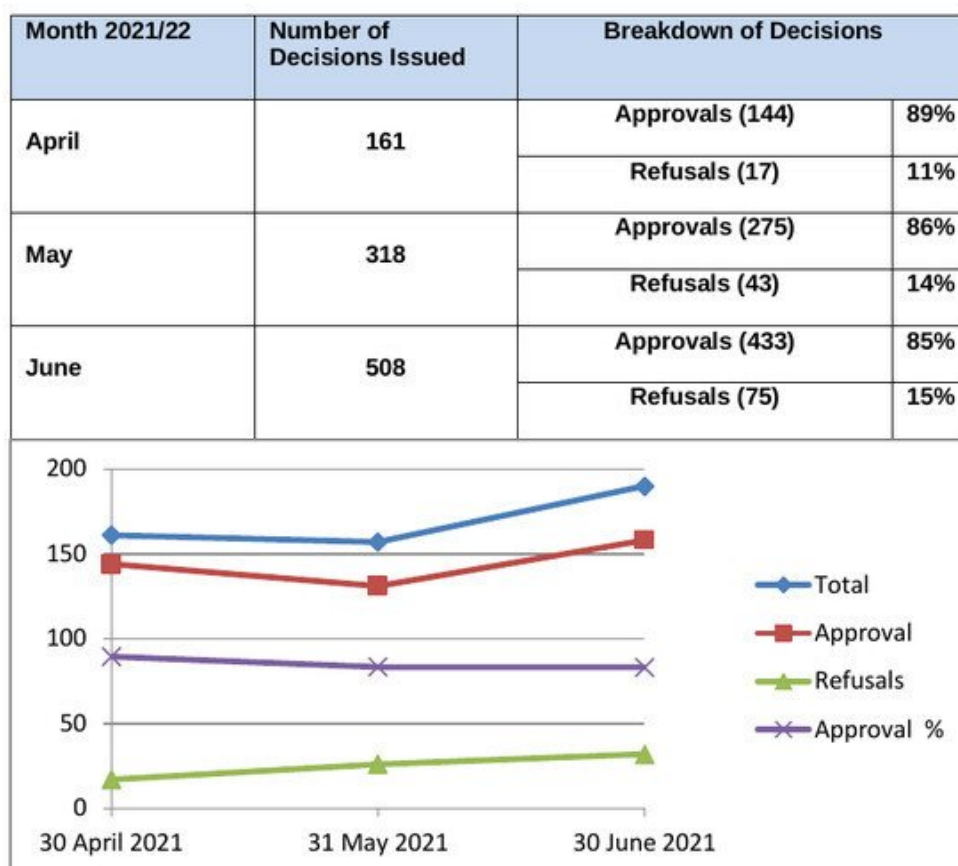
4. Decisions issued per month

Month 2021/22	Number of Decisions Issued	Number of Decisions Issued under delegated authority
April	161	155
May	157	146
June	190	184

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council – June 2021

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5. Decisions Issued YTD



6. Enforcement Live cases

Month 2021/2022	<=1yr	1-2 yrs	2-3 yrs	3-4 yrs	4-5 yrs	5+yrs	Total
April	285	133	127	122	62	101	830
May	291	134	122	128	64	104	843
June	267	132	121	136	60	102	818

7. Planning Committee

Month	Number of Applications presented to Committee	Number of Applications Determined by Committee	Number of Applications Withdrawn/ Deferred for future meeting	Number of Officer recommendation overturned
8 April 2021	14	11	3	3
5 May 2021	16	8	8	3
2 & 30 June 2021 (Meetings cancelled)	-	-	-	-
Totals	30	19	11	6

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council – June 2021

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8. Appeals

Planning Appeal Commission Decisions issued during period 1 June 2021 to 30 June 2021

Area	Number of current appeals	Number of decisions issued	Number of decisions Allowed	Number of decisions Dismissed	Withdrawn
Newry & Mourne	14	0	-	-	-
Down	24	1	0	1	0
TOTAL	38	1	0	1	0

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council – June 2021

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Statutory targets monthly update – 1 April – 31 May 2021 (unvalidated management information)

Major applications (target of 30 weeks)					Local applications (target of 15 weeks)				Cases concluded (target of 39 weeks)					
	Number received	Number decided/withdrawn ¹	Average processing time ²	% of cases processed within 30 weeks		Number received	Number decided/withdrawn ¹	Average processing time ²	% of cases processed within 15 weeks		Number opened	Number brought to conclusion ³	"70%" conclusion time ³	% of cases concluded within 39 weeks
April	2	-	0.0	0.0%		172	142	16.4	43.7%		44	19	69.8	52.6%
May	2	1	35.4	0.0%		160	137	17.2	41.6%		28	31	69.4	64.5%
June	0	-	0.0	0.0%		0	-	0.0	0.0%		0	-	0.0	0.0%
July	0	-	0.0	0.0%		0	-	0.0	0.0%		0	-	0.0	0.0%
August	0	-	0.0	0.0%		0	-	0.0	0.0%		0	-	0.0	0.0%
September	0	-	0.0	0.0%		0	-	0.0	0.0%		0	-	0.0	0.0%
October	0	-	0.0	0.0%		0	-	0.0	0.0%		0	-	0.0	0.0%
November	0	-	0.0	0.0%		0	-	0.0	0.0%		0	-	0.0	0.0%
December	0	-	0.0	0.0%		0	-	0.0	0.0%		0	-	0.0	0.0%
January	0	-	0.0	0.0%		0	-	0.0	0.0%		0	-	0.0	0.0%
February	0	-	0.0	0.0%		0	-	0.0	0.0%		0	-	0.0	0.0%
March	0	-	0.0	0.0%		0	-	0.0	0.0%		0	-	0.0	0.0%
Year to date	4	1	35.4	0.0%		332	279	16.8	42.7%		72	50	69.6	60.0%

Source: NI Planning Portal

Notes:

1. CLUDS, TPOS, NMCS and PADS/PANs have been excluded from all applications figures

2. The time taken to process a decision/withdrawal is calculated from the date on which an application is deemed valid to the date on which the decision is issued or the application is withdrawn. The median is used to avoid the potential to inflate the mean, leading to a result that may not be considered as "typical".

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council – June 2021

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3. The time taken to conclude an enforcement case is calculated from the date on which the complaint is received to the earliest date of the following: a notice is issued; proceedings commence; a planning determined by sorting data from its lowest to highest values and then taking the data point at the 70th percentile of the sequence.

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council – July 2021

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1. Live Applications

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July 2021	787	179	79	44	101	1,190

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4. Decisions issued per month

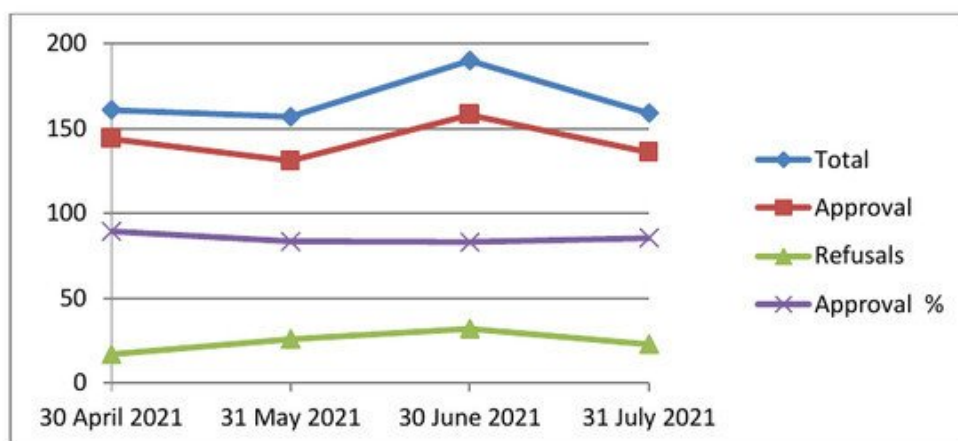
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June	190	184
July	159	150

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council – July 2021

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5. Decisions Issued YTD

Month 2021/22	Number of Decisions Issued	Breakdown of Decisions	
April	161	Approvals (144)	89%
		Refusals (17)	11%
May	318	Approvals (275)	86%
		Refusals (43)	14%
June	508	Approvals (433)	85%
		Refusals (75)	15%
July	667	Approvals (569)	85%
		Refusals (98)	15%



6. Enforcement Live cases

Month 2021/2022	<=1yr	1-2 yrs	2-3 yrs	3-4 yrs	4-5 yrs	5+yrs	Total
April	285	133	127	122	62	101	830
May	291	134	122	128	64	104	843
June	267	132	121	136	60	102	818
July	269	134	114	137	68	102	824

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council – July 2021

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7. Planning Committee

Month	Number of Applications presented to Committee	Number of Applications Determined by Committee	Number of Applications Withdrawn/ Deferred for future meeting	Number of Officer recommendation overturned
8 April 2021	14	11	3	3
5 May 2021	16	8	8	3
2 & 30 June 2021 (Meetings cancelled)	-	-	-	-
28 July 2021	15	7	8	2
Totals	45	26	19	8

8. Appeals

Planning Appeal Commission Decisions issued during period 1 July 2021 to 31 July 2021

Area	Number of current appeals	Number of decisions issued	Number of decisions Allowed	Number of decisions Dismissed	Withdrawn
Newry & Mourne	14	2	0	2	0
Down	26	1	0	1	0
TOTAL	40	3	0	3	0

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Statutory targets monthly update - June 2021 (unvalidated management information)

Newry, Mourne and Down

Major applications (target of 30 weeks)					Local applications (target of 15 weeks)				Cases concluded (target of 39 weeks)					
	Number received	Number decided/ withdrawn ¹	Average processing time ²	% of cases processed within 30 weeks		Number received	Number decided/ withdrawn ¹	Average processing time ²	% of cases processed within 15 weeks		Number opened	Number brought to conclusion ³	"70%" conclusion time ³	% of cases concluded within 39 weeks
April	2	-	0.0	0.0%		172	143	16.6	43.4%		44	19	69.8	52.6%
May	2	1	35.4	0.0%		162	137	17.2	41.6%		31	31	69.4	64.5%
June	1	1	49.8	0.0%		170	173	16.8	42.8%		30	40	90.4	45.0%
July	0	-	0.0	0.0%		0	-	0.0	0.0%		0	-	0.0	0.0%
August	0	-	0.0	0.0%		0	-	0.0	0.0%		0	-	0.0	0.0%
September	0	-	0.0	0.0%		0	-	0.0	0.0%		0	-	0.0	0.0%
October	0	-	0.0	0.0%		0	-	0.0	0.0%		0	-	0.0	0.0%
November	0	-	0.0	0.0%		0	-	0.0	0.0%		0	-	0.0	0.0%
December	0	-	0.0	0.0%		0	-	0.0	0.0%		0	-	0.0	0.0%
January	0	-	0.0	0.0%		0	-	0.0	0.0%		0	-	0.0	0.0%
February	0	-	0.0	0.0%		0	-	0.0	0.0%		0	-	0.0	0.0%
March	0	-	0.0	0.0%		0	-	0.0	0.0%		0	-	0.0	0.0%
Year to date	5	2	42.6	0.0%		504	453	16.8	42.6%		105	90	76.8	53.3%

Source: NI Planning Portal

Notes:

1. CLUDS, TPOS, NMCS and PADS/PANs have been excluded from all applications figures

2. The time taken to process a decision/withdrawal is calculated from the date on which an application is deemed valid to the date on which the decision is issued or the application is withdrawn. The median values have the potential to inflate the mean, leading to a result that may not be considered as "typical".

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council – July 2021

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3. The time taken to conclude an enforcement case is calculated from the date on which the complaint is received to the earliest date of the following: a notice is issued; proceedings commence; a planning application is submitted. The average time taken to conclude an enforcement case is determined by sorting data from its lowest to highest values and then taking the data point at the 70th percentile of the sequence.

Report to:	Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	9 th August 2021
Subject:	SEA FLAG 2
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment & Regeneration
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Fiona Rooney, SEA FLAG Development Manager

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-

<table><tr><td>For decision</td><td></td><td>For noting only</td><td>X</td></tr></table>		For decision		For noting only	X
For decision		For noting only	X		
1.0	Purpose and Background				
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u> To provide an update on the delivery of Union Priority 4 of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund.</p> <p><u>Background</u> As previously reported, the Council has been appointed by the Department of Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) to lead on Union Priority 4 (SEA FLAG) of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF).</p> <p>South East Area Fisheries Local Action Group (SEA FLAG) is responsible for administering a funding package of just over £2.3M to allocate to projects and administration costs across the fishing dependant villages of Ardglass, Kilkeel, Portavogie and surrounding areas.</p> <p>To date SEA FLAG has approved funding of around £1M, creating two new businesses, one in Ardglass and one in Kilkeel and anticipates the creation of 21 new jobs. Benefits of this funding has also been received by community and voluntary sector organisations for new facilities and upskilling projects. The FLAG continues to carryout assessment of current applications.</p>				
2.0	Key issues				
2.1	<p>As previously reported, due to the unique and extremely challenging circumstances the COVID19 pandemic led to, it had been agreed to allow administrations to make commitments through EMFF into 2021, in order to maximise the benefits from the funding.</p> <p>DAERA have therefore revised plans to allow commitment of EMFF applications until 31 December 2021, with spend by 31 December 2022.</p> <p><u>SEA FLAG administration letter of offer</u> The current administration Letter of Offer runs until 31 December 2021. It was always anticipated that an extension to the current administrative arrangement would be</p>				

	<p>required to successfully conclude all projects supported by SEA FLAG and to close and evaluate the scheme as required by the EMFF Regulations. The need for the extension has also been exacerbated by the unprecedented times associated with the global pandemic of Covid-19.</p> <p>The FLAG is now working towards full commitment of funds by December 2021 which will mean that some later supported projects will not be completed until December 2022. Therefore, an extension to the SEA FLAG administration letter of offer was requested to ensure appropriate administrative and management arrangements are in place to facilitate delivery and evaluation of the programme. This extension to the current administrative arrangement will help ensure there is continuity and successful delivery of the FLAG strategy across all years and consistent evaluation of individual projects across the funding period.</p> <p>In order to provide sufficient time to complete the programme a Letter of Offer to extend the end date for the drawdown of administration funding has been approved by DAERA until 31 March 2023.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	Note the letter of offer which will extend the existing programme.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	The administration budget is 100% funded through the programme.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>

5.3	<p>Proposal initiating consultation</p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p> <p>N/A</p>
6.0	<p>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</p>
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If no, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	<p>Appendices</p>
	<p>N/A</p>
8.0	<p>Background Documents</p>
	<p>N/A</p>



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From the office of the Minister for Infrastructure
Nichola Mallon MLA

Marie Ward
Chief Executive
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Room 708
Clarence Court
10-18 Adelaide Street
BELFAST
BT2 8GB
Telephone: (028) 9054 0105
Email: Private.office@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Your reference:
Our reference: CORR-1104-2021
14 July 2021

Dear Ms Ward,

NEWRY SOUTHERN RELIEF ROAD – PROPOSED BRIDGE OF NEWRY SHIP CANAL

Thank you for your letter of 17 June 2021, received on 30 June 2021, which was accompanied by the findings of an independent economic assessment on the potential future economic benefit a lifting bridge on the Newry Southern Relief Road would bring to Newry City.

This assessment concludes that the loss to the NI economy by not having a lifting bridge at Newry, would be £198k over the 60 years. Officials have advised me the additional cost of an opening structure is in the range of £18m- £32m, including ongoing operation and maintenance costs, over the same 60 year period.

The demonstration of value for money and the economic assessment for the proposed Newry Southern Relief Road will be important considerations informing my decision on the type of bridge to be provided over Newry Ship Canal.

I fully acknowledge the Council's preferred option is for a lifting bridge over the Newry Canal. I also appreciate the importance of the maritime heritage of the Newry Ship Canal.

I intend to engage with other stakeholders, including DfC Historic Environment Division, before making a decision on the next steps.

NICHOLA MALLON MLA
Minister for Infrastructure

Report to:	Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	9 th August 2021
Subject:	Tourism NI Cooperative funding
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Andy Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture and Events
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Michelle Boyle, Head of Product Development and Visitor Experience

For decision		For noting only		X
1.0	Purpose and Background			
1.1	<u>Purpose</u> To note the contents of this paper, which provides details of a grant award to Council of £20,000 from Tourism NI's Cooperative marketing funding. <u>Background</u> Tourism NI's Co-operative partnership Marketing Fund is designed to support Northern Ireland's Tourism Industry through recovery by extending the reach of the Northern Ireland "Embrace a Giant Spirit" Campaign. NMDDC has been awarded funding of £20,000 of a total committed spend of £26,250			
2.0	Key issues			
2.1	Due to the criteria set by Tourism NI campaign activity must be delivered by 31 August 2021 and all expenditure incurred by this date. Given the tight timescale Council will utilise the services of TNI's agencies to assist with development and delivery of the creative content in line with the Embrace the Giant Spirit guidelines. Assets created will be available for future reuse by Council in further campaigns.			
3.0	Recommendations			
3.1	To note the offer of funding to deliver a digital tourism marketing campaign during August 2021 and use of TNI's creative and marketing agencies to assist with delivery.			
4.0	Resource implications			
4.1	Total project cost is £26,250. TNI will provide £20,000 inclusive of VAT Match funding of up £9500 provided from Council marketing budget.			
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)			

5.1	<p>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p>Proposal initiating consultation N/A</p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices
	N/A
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A