

May 5th, 2021

Notice Of Meeting

You are invited to attend the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee meeting to be held on **Monday, 10th May 2021 at 6:00 pm** in **Boardroom Council Offices Monaghan Row Newry.**

Committee Membership:-

Councillor A McMurray (Chairperson)

Councillor M Ruane (Deputy Chairperson)

Councillor R Burgess

Councillor W Clarke

Councillor D Curran

Councillor G Hanna

Councillor V Harte

Councillor R Howell

Councillor M Larkin

Councillor D McAteer

Councillor R Mulgrew

Councillor H Reilly

Councillor M Savage

Councillor G Stokes

Agenda

- 1.0 Apologies and Chairmans remarks.
- 2.0 Declarations of Interest.
- 3.0 **Action Sheet: Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting - Monday 12 April 2021. (Attache)**

📎 *Action Sheet - ERT April 2021.pdf*

Page 1

Notices of Motion

4.0 To consider the following Notice of Motion in the names of Councillor C Enright and Councillor P Brown: (Attached

"Council welcomes the change of tone in the Downpatrick Town Centre Development Project. The Department has accepted that there has been a market failure on these lands and that some public investment may be required to make the project happen. Council lauds the cross party consensus that made this change possible. It is no longer a fire sale of the public land bank to the private sector and notes that there will be public money invested in this realm project as is proposed in Newry.

Council now directs Management to ensure the original footprint of this vital town centre development is included in the project to protect Downpatrick's options for the long-term. In particular:

1. That the land that will be required for access out onto Saint Patrick's Avenue as envisaged in the Downpatrick Master Plan is acquired and protected as part of this project, and;
2. That the public investment also deals with the upgrade and integration of the private car parks abutting the development to ensure that the Town Centre Development is not left half done. This would not require acquisition of this land but assistance to ensure the public realm is brought up to standard while allowing those retail outlets to reserve their own parking areas.

This should either be done as part of the existing project, or as part of a 'Stage 2' for which the planning should start now so the Town Centre Upgrade will be a coherent overall credit to the people of Downpatrick".

📎 *Notice of motion - Downpatrick Regen.pdf*

Page 6

Exempt Information Items

5.0 Economic Assessment of Water Based Activities. (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 of business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public my by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

 *Exempt - ERT Report - Economic Assessment of Water Based Activities.pdf* *Not included*

 *Exempt - Appx 1 - Executive Summary - Maritime Leisure & Tourism at Albert Basin.pdf* *Not included*

Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration Items

6.0 Business Programs Update. (Attached

 *ERT Report - Business Programme Update.pdf* *Page 10*

7.0 Covid 19 Recovery Working Group. (Attached)

 *ERT Report - Covid 19 Recovery Group Recomendations.pdf* *Page 17*

8.0 Levelling Up Fund - access the capacity funding. (Attached)

 *ERT Report - Levelling Up Fund.pdf* *Page 20*

 *Appx - Levelling Up Fund - NI relevant FAQ answers.pdf* *Page 24*

9.0 Newry Chamber Corporate Patrons. (Attached

 *ERT Report - Newry Chamber Corporate Patrons Programme.pdf* *Page 28*

10.0 NIFDA Associate Membership. (Attached)

 *ERT Report - NIFDA Membership.pdf* *Page 31*

 *Appx - NIFDA Membership Benefits Brochure.pdf* *Page 34*

11.0 Small Rural Business Micro Grant Programme 2021. (Attached)

 *ERT Report - Small Rural Business Grant Scheme.pdf* *Page 42*

For Noting

12.0 Brexit Forum Action Sheet. (Attached)

 *Brexit Forum Action Sheet -20 April 2021 - Final.pdf* *Page 46*

13.0 ERT Historic Action Tracker Sheet. (Attached)

14.0 Updates re: AONB and Geopark. (Attached

ERT Report - AONB and Geopark Update.pdf

Page 64

15.0 Re-opening of facilities. (Attached

ERT Report - Reopening of Facilities.pdf

Page 69

16.0 Update re: Trading Pitches. (Attached)

ERT Report - Update on Trading Pitches Tender.pdf

Page 72

17.0 Planning Performance Figures - April 2021. (Attached)

Planning Committee Performance Report April 2021.pdf

Page 75

Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews

Ms Kate Bingham

Cllr Patrick Brown

Cllr Robert Burgess

Cllr Pete Byrne

Mrs Dorinnia Carville

Cllr charlie casey

Cllr William Clarke

Cllr Dermot Curran

Cllr Laura Devlin

Ms Louise Dillon

Cllr Sean Doran

Cllr Cadogan Enright

Cllr Aoife Finnegan

Cllr Hugh Gallagher

Cllr Mark Gibbons

Cllr Oonagh Hanlon

Cllr Glyn Hanna

Cllr Valerie Harte

Cllr Roisin Howell

Mr Colum Jackson

Mrs Sheila Kieran

Cllr Mickey Larkin

Cllr Alan Lewis

Mr Michael Lipsett

Cllr Oonagh Magennis

Mr Conor Mallon

Cllr Gavin Malone

Cllr Cathy Mason

Mr Johnny Mc Bride

Colette McAteer

Cllr Declan McAteer

Cllr Leanne McEvoy

Cllr Harold McKee

Patricia McKeever

Cllr Karen McKevitt

Cllr Andrew McMurray

Cllr Roisin Mulgrew

Cllr Declan Murphy

Cllr Barra Ó Muirí

Linda O'Hare

Cllr Gerry O'Hare

Cllr Kathryn Owen
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Mr Andy Patterson
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Cllr Henry Reilly
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Cllr Michael Ruane
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Cllr Michael Savage
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Cllr Gareth Sharvin
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Donna Starkey
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Cllr Gary Stokes
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Sarah Taggart
.....
Cllr David Taylor
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Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly
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Cllr John Trainor
.....
Central Support Unit
.....
Cllr William Walker
.....
Mrs Marie Ward
.....

ACTION SHEETENTERPRISE REGENERATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETINGMONDAY 12 APRIL 2021

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/065/2021	PRESENTATION RE: HOSPITALITY SECTOR COLLABORATIO N	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council send a letter to the Department for Communities requesting the Minister consider altering regulations to Licensing laws to support introduction of Pub is the Hub model for Northern Ireland and revitalise rural communities. 2. The Hospitality Ulster Recovery Plan be circulated to all Councillors for information. 	A.Patterson	In progress	N
ERT/066/2021	(EXEMPT) PRESENTATION RE: ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT OF WATER BASED ACTIVITIES	To defer consideration of Report dated 12 April 2021 from Mr C Mallon Director of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding the economic assessment of water based activities to the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting to be held on Monday 10 May 2021.	A.Patterson	Report deferred	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/067/2021	(EXEMPT) ICONIC PLAY STRUCTURE: TOLLYMORE FOREST PARK	To approve the updated Licence Agreement for the play structure at Tollymore Forest Park.	A.Patterson	In progress	Y
ERT/068/2021	(EXEMPT) SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS: ST PATRICKS VISITOR CENTRE – NETWORKED VISITOR SERVICING	To approve funding support to St Patrick's Visitor Centre to operate the visitor information services and provide the necessary standards to meet Networked Status. The value of this support is £3,000 to be added to SPVC Service Level Agreement for 2021/22FY.	A.Patterson	In progress	Y
ERT/070/2021	ALL IRELAND SMART CITIES FORUM	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To approve the cost of renewal of membership of €4,809 per annum. This cost includes facilitation support of Maynooth University Business School, the bi-monthly meetings and the Annual All Ireland Smart Cities Conference. To note Newry Mourne and Down District Council continue to avail of the expertise from the All Ireland Smart Cities Forum. An ERT Officer and representative from East Border Region will continue to attend the meetings and disseminate the information to relevant stakeholders. 	J McGilly	In progress	y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/071/2021	CASTLEWELLAN FOREST PARK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To note the extension to DAERA Letter of Offer to 31 August 2021. • To accept the award from National Lottery Heritage Fund and proceed with the • implementation of “Re-rooting Our Past in the Future: Castlewellan Historic Demense” project as per award offer via Task and Finish Board. • To note the continuation of Integrated Design Team. • To note the submission of the Planning Application for Castlewellan Forest • Park. • To note the action report from the Task and Finish Board meetings held on 12 March 2021. 	J McGilly	In progress	y
ERT/072/2021	FREEPORTS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council remain involved in the Invest NI lead working group and participate in the research work as per the term of reference summarised as per Report. 2. Council provide information on the top sectors within the District that would need to be included in any proposal going forward. 3. Council seek clarity on the proposed governance and decision making 	J McGilly	In progress	y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		structures in relation to a Freeport in Northern Ireland and what, within this, would be the role and expectations of Councils, including any resources required.			
ERT/073/2021	SHARED HISTORY FUND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To sign Service Level Agreement with Ms Una Walsh Lead Facilitator, for the period April 2021 to March 2022, for the total £15,000. To sign Service Level Agreement with Queen's University Belfast, for the period April 2021 to March 2022, for the total £7,500. 	J McGilly	In progress	y
ERT/074/2021	RESIDENTS SURVEY – RENAMING OF NEW PHASE AT FOREST HILLS NEWRY	Given the exceptional circumstances in this case, it was agreed Council set aside policy and undertake a Residents' Survey for a proposal to name the phase of new sites at Nos 23A to 23Q Forest Hills Newry, as Forest Hills View, and thereafter renumber this new phase.	C Jackson	Surveys issued and awaiting results.	Y
ERT/075/2021	ON STREET CARPARKING - NEWRY	Council write to the Minister for Infrastructure seeking a review of the legislation associated with On Street Car	C Jackson	Awaiting Full Council approval in May	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		Parking in Newry City Centre and to include the Council, Newry Chamber of Commerce and Trade and Newry BID as key stakeholders in the design of any alternatives.			

Report to:	Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism
Date of Meeting:	10 May 2021
Subject:	Notice of Motion – Downpatrick Town Centre Development
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 context and background for the committee in relation to Notice Motion proposed by Councillor Enright and seconded by Councillor Brown.</p> <p><u>Background</u> “Council welcomes the change of tone in the Downpatrick Town Centre Development Project. The Department has accepted that there has been a market failure on these lands and that some public investment may be required to make the project happen. Council lauds the cross party consensus that made this change possible. It is no longer a fire sale of the public land bank to the private sector and notes that there will be public money invested in this realm project as is proposed in Newry.</p> <p>Council now directs Management to ensure the original footprint of this vital town centre development is included in the project to protect Downpatrick’s options for the long-term. In particular:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the land that will be required for access out onto Saint Patrick’s Avenue as envisaged in the Downpatrick Master Plan is acquired and protected as part of this project, and; 2. That the public investment also deals with the upgrade and integration of the private car parks abutting the development to ensure that the Town Centre Development is not left half done. This would not require acquisition of this land but assistance to ensure the public realm is brought up to standard while allowing those retail outlets to reserve their own parking areas. <p>This should either be done as part of the existing project, or as part of a ‘Stage 2’ for which the planning should start now so the Town Centre Upgrade will be a coherent overall credit to the people of Downpatrick”.</p>

2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>Council has been working in partnership with DfC to realise a regeneration scheme within Downpatrick. When the former PSNI station became available via public sector D1 process Council Commissioned a feasibility study exploring options for how the site could be developed along with Council owned Irish Street carpark adjacent.</p> <p>The study concluded that a mixed use development of the site would be the best option to realise development. DfC purchased the site and in the interim Council purchased an adjoining strip of land to the ensure the site assembly was concluded as per the feasibility study assumptions.</p> <p>A project board has been established involving all Downpatrick DEA Councillors and a number of local stakeholders from the Downpatrick area. This group has progressed the project by carrying out a soft market test exercise to seek the views of developers and the local community around the future use of the site and the potential opportunities and constraints of the site as bound by the “red line” (Appendix1), ie land owned by DfC and Council.</p> <p>Based on this feedback a development brief has been worked and will go to market in the coming weeks. A prior information notice (PIN) has been issued by DfC via Central Procurement Directorate which will inform developers of this pending opportunity.</p> <p>All of the work to date has focussed on site access via current access routes from Market Street and Irish Street.</p> <p>As part of the feasibility study which explored options for development potential of the site, an option was explored to purchase land to provide access onto Saint Patricks Avenue for the purpose of providing a link road across the site. This option was discounted.</p> <p>To explore purchase of additional lands at this stage would mean the development brief process would have to be suspended and business case revisited in line with land valuations. The Development brief has been drafted in such a way to allow developers to bring additional lands that they may own or choose to acquire to enhance their plans.</p> <p>As part of the development brief car parking provision will have to be demonstrated and how that is achieved will again be up to the innovation of bids brought forward. Car parking will be a key requirement in the assessment process and indeed planning approval process.</p>
3.0	Recommendations

3.1	That members note and consider the content of the paper as background information for members in relation to the notice of motion and the debate.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	NA
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 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
	Appendix 1 site map showing red line development opportunity site boundaries
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A

Report to:	Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	10 May 2021
Subject:	Update on Business Development Programmes
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly Assistant Director, Enterprise, Employment & 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	<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></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To note the update provided under the following business development initiatives: Go for It, NMD Growth, Digital Growth and Tender for Growth To approve the signing of a Deed of Variation for the extension of NIBSUP Central Services team between April 2023 and September 2023 at a cost of £8,490 <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>Go for It – NI Business Start-Up Programme (Implemented Sept 2017 – March 2021)</p> <p>The NI Business Start-Up Programme continues to support those wishing to establish a new business. Quarter 1 (April/May/June) experienced a significant drop in performance attributed directly to the Covid19 pandemic.</p> <p>Levels of enquires and engagement in the programme improved following a media campaign to raise awareness of the opportunities self-employment presents. Additionally, programme delivery was provided virtually in order to adhere to social distancing regulations.</p>

Both factors, consequently resulted in the following achievements up to the end of the contact period, being March 2021:

Go for It			
2020 / 2021 period	Target (20/21)	Actual April 20 – March 21	% Achieved
Business Plans Approved	293	266	91%
Jobs Promoted (Stat Target)	155	164	106%
Business Start ups	199	181	91%

NMD Business Growth (Oct 2018 – December 2022)

Recruitment and delivery of this tailored business support programme has continued throughout the Covid19 pandemic and is 60% complete as at the end of March 2021 being month 31, of a 52-month programme. NMD Business Growth has achieved the following outputs as outlined below.

At the outset, initial target was to deliver 23% of programme targets during 2020 / 2021. In considering the performance delivered during the 2020/ 2021 financial period, the programme overperformed which was a direct result of support offered in respond to Covid-19

NMD GROWTH					
	Target (up to Dec 2022)	Total Actual to date	% Achieved	2020/2021 Financial Year Period	2020/2021 Annual % Achieved against overall target
Businesses Supported	740	465	63%	198	27%
Mentoring Hours Delivered	8015	5820	73%	2860	36%
Workshops	30	25	83%	13	43%
Thematic Programmes	10	9	90%	6	60%
Job Creation	470	78* 284.5**	17% 60%	36	8%
INI Referrals	40	16***	40%	5	13%
Stakeholder Signposting	100	40	40%	18	18%

*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

Following the completion of the programme interim evaluation from the period November 2018 to October 2020 (48% complete), the key findings are presented in appendix 1. The full NMD Business Growth Interim Evaluation Report is available upon request.

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 42% complete as at end of March 2021, being month 15, of a 36-month programme.

DIGITAL GROWTH					
	Target (up to Dec 2022)	Actual to date	% Achieved	2020/2021 Financial Year Period	Annual % Achieved against overall target
Businesses Supported	260	90	35%	90	35%
Mentoring Hours Delivered	4410	1407	32%	1407	32%
Workshops	18	9	50%	7	39%
Masterclasses	4	2	50%	2	50%
Job Creation	185	5.5	3%	5.5	3%
INI Referrals	20	5	25%	5	25%

Tender for Growth (June 2020 – December 2022)

Recruitment is currently ongoing with this programme being 10 months (32%) 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.

TENDER FOR GROWTH					
	Target (up to Dec 2022)	Actual to date	% Achieved	2020/2021 Financial Year Period	Annual % Achieved against overall target
Businesses Supported	170	39	23%	39	23%
Mentoring Hours Delivered	3367	737.8	22%	737.8	22%
Workshops	10	2	20%	2	20%
Meet the Buyer Events	2	0	0%	0	0%
Job Creation	145	6	3.5%	6	3.5%
INI Referrals	15	0	0%	0	0%
Stakeholder Signposting	20	3	15%	3	15%

New Programmes commencing in 2021 / 2022**Sales and Trade Programme**

	<p>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 are working with the lead Council of this programme and CPD to procure an appropriate Delivery Agent, with a view to the programme launching in June 2021.</p> <p>Go for It NI Business start programme</p> <p>A new two-year Go for It NI Business Start programme will be delivered in partnership with all 11 Northern Ireland Councils, providing support for new business startups and encouraging new job creation. Lisburn and Castlereagh Borough Council (LCCC) will continue as lead Council for the new programme for the period 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2023.</p> <p>Outputs to date include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Enterprise Northern Ireland has been appointed to deliver the new NIBSUP Programme 2021–2023. <input type="checkbox"/> ASG and Partners appointed to deliver the marketing and promotion element of the Programme. <input type="checkbox"/> The enquiry handling tender is currently under procurement. <p>As part of the programme governance structure, a Central Services Team (CST) working on behalf of all the partner Council will look after the administration of the Go for It Programme for the Lead Council and on behalf of the Partner Councils. This Central Services Delivery team comprise of one Programme Manager, one Finance Officer and one Project Support Officer managed by the Lead Council.</p> <p>A Legal Agreement is already in place for the management of the programme between the partner Councils, a budget approvals are in place for Council contribution in this current year. However in planning for the end of the programme in March 2023, it is recommended that a Deed of Variation is completed in respect of the Collaborative Agreement between Lisburn and Castlereagh Borough Council and each of the partner Councils, in order to extend the contracts of the central delivery team for a period of 6 months, between March 2023 and September 2023 in order to support the completion of the 'Go For It' Programme (final claims, monitoring and evaluation as required under funding contracts). There would be a cost of £8,490 between April 2023 – Sept 2023 associated with this Deed of Variation which is NMD Council's share of contribution towards this cost.</p>
<p>3.0</p>	<p>Recommendations</p>
<p>3.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To note the update provided under the following business development initiatives: Go for It, NMD Growth, Digital Growth and Tender for Growth • To approve the signing of a Deed of Variation for the extension of NIBSUP Central Services team between April 2023 and September 2023 at a cost of £8,490
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Resource implications</p>
<p>4.1</p>	<p>All programmes are being implemented within existing and approved budgets.</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>
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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

Appendix 1

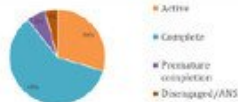
NMD BUSINESS GROWTH INTERIM EVALUATION
KEY FINDINGS

Based on programme delivery of 52-months, the interim report considers data up to the end of October 2020, effectively a 23-month period. The NMD Business Growth Programme is 48% complete at this point.

PERCEIVED PARTICIPANT GENDER SPLIT



PARTICIPANT STATUS



AVERAGE MENTORING RECEIVED



TOP 5 REFERRALS

- InterTrade Ireland 19%
- Invest NI 13%
- NMDDC 12%
- SRC/LEAs 7%
- SERC 3%

TOP 3 ADDITIONAL SUPPORT TOPICS

- 1 - Marketing
- 2 - Financial Support
- 3 - Social media

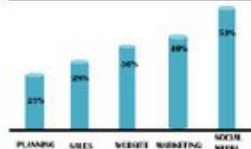
FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE



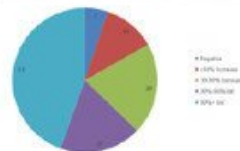
DURATION



TOP 5 MENTORING TOPICS



PROJECTED SALES WITHIN 12 MONTHS



JOB CREATION

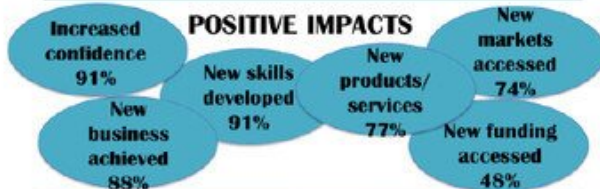


IMMEDIATE JOBS CREATED

IMMEDIATE JOBS PLUS PROJECTED

72 jobs were created immediately after completion of the NMD Business Growth Programme, followed by a further 156 jobs projected one year after the completion of mentoring support. Of the immediate jobs created, 42 (58%) were created pre-pandemic.

POSITIVE IMPACTS



PARTICIPANT SATISFACTION



Report to:	Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	10 th May 2021
Subject:	Covid 19 Recovery Working Group
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Conor Mallon –Director Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Conor Mallon –Director Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism

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 consider recommendations from the Covid 19 Recovery Working Group at section 3 of this report.</p> <p><u>Background</u> The NMDDC Covid 19 Recovery Working Group is responsible for setting the strategic direction for the council through the recovery phase of the Covid 19 pandemic to support the return to full service delivery.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>Bids for funding from the Covid 19 Recovery reserves have been submitted to the working group for consideration.</p> <p>The recommendations of the working group are subject to consideration by ERT in advance of formal ratification by Council.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<p>Corporate Planning and Policy Department /Communications and Marketing Section</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To recommend the continuation of a prioritisation approach to media which is agreed on and signed off by the Director/Chief Executive (similar to last 12 months approx). This approach provides clear and simple direction and prioritisation for the most important communications work to be developed and delivered during the crisis.

	<p>Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To recommend the funding of an Economic study led by UJJ Economic Policy Unit to understand the impact of Covid 19 on the future travel to work behaviour of our working population across the district
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A budget of £30,000 to develop and deliver on digital and traditional communications for 2021/2022 (similar to last 12 months approx). A budget of £2.5k for the development of Economic Travel to work study.
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 yee, 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:	10 th May 2021
Subject:	Levelling up Fund
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 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 consider the opportunities provided via the Levelling Up Fund and the recommendations at section 3 of this report.</p> <p><u>Background</u></p> <p>LEVELLING UP FUND The Levelling Up Fund will invest in local infrastructure that has a visible impact on people and their communities. This includes a range of high value local investment priorities, including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local transport schemes, • urban regeneration projects • cultural assets <p>The Fund is jointly managed by HM Treasury (HMT), the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and the Department for Transport (DfT). This cross-departmental Fund represents a new approach to local investment and will end siloes in Whitehall that make it difficult to take a holistic approach to the infrastructure needs of local areas.</p> <p>At the Spending Review, the UK Government committed an initial £4 billion for the Levelling Up Fund for England over the next four years (up to 2024-25) and set aside at least £800 million for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The UK Government will use the new financial assistance powers in the UKIM Act to make the Fund available to the whole of the UK, enabling all communities to receive the investment and support they need to recover from the pandemic. As such, up to £4.8 billion until 2024-25 will be available for the Fund across the UK, with at least £800 million invested in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.</p>

	<p>3% of this allocation is available for NI with £20m available in current financial year</p> <p>COMMUNITY RENEWAL FUND</p> <p>In Northern Ireland, the UK Community Renewal Fund will take account of the different local government landscape in Northern Ireland compared to Great Britain. There will be a pre-determined national allocation for Northern Ireland, set at £11m. NI will be treated as one geographical area rather than identify priority places to ensure that all communities have equal access to apply for the Fund. Bids will be accepted directly from a range of local applicants, including but not limited to universities, voluntary and community sector organisations, and umbrella business groups.</p> <p>To nurture innovative thinking and offer flexibility, projects may align with one, or deliver across several, of the following investment priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment in skills • Investment for local business • Investment in communities and place • Supporting people into employment <p>90% of the fund will be for revenue based projects. Successful UK Community Renewal Fund bids will be for 2021/22 only and should be scaled accordingly. Interventions must be financially completed (i.e. all delivery activity concluded) by 31 March 2022.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>In relation LUF, following discussion with representatives from MHCLG, there is no detail around future bids and when they will be called for or the value of each call. While multiple bids can be submitted there is no guarantee that more than one bid will be successful as the fund aims to spread opportunity across the themes and across the region where acceptable bids are received. MHCLG will make capacity/development funding available to all local authorities to develop proposal but this will not be available until June, if a bid is made in June 2021 applicants will not be able to utilise this funding to build strong bids. For an application to be successful in this initial round the project would need to have Business cases completed and be ready to start constructions work in this financial year. As part of the information dissemination process potential applicants have been invited to submit queries and on 30 April MHCLG issued response to the FAQs which have been appended to this report.</p> <p>In respect of CRF this is a one year funding programme and is being promoted as an opportunity to pilot innovative initiatives in advance of the launch of Shared prosperity fund. Application are encouraged for projects that are regional and of scale in the region of 500k however smaller projects aligned to the themes outlined above will be considered.</p>

3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In respect of LUF it is recommended that Council do not submit an application in current call for 18 June but explore and develop initiatives that best fit the criteria utilising the Development fund that will become available early summer 2. In respect of CRF Council explore potential joint funding bids with FE sector aligned to Economic development and regeneration strategy.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	None 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>

	<i>Rationale:</i>
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
	Response to Frequently asked questions relevant to NI
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A

FAQ answers issued on 30 April 2021 Information extracted relevant to NI

2. What level of spend are you looking for in 2021-22?

As the prospectus published at Budget sets out, for the first round of the Fund we will ***prioritise bids which are able to demonstrate investment or begin delivery on the ground in this financial year (2021-22).***

We are not specifying a percentage to be spent this financial year, but we do require (through a pass/fail gateway criteria) that bidders must be able to spend some funding in this financial year. Our assessment of a place's bid will take account of the ability to spend some funding this financial year.

Eligible expenditure in 2021-22 could include capital development costs.

6. Capacity funding: can you provide more details on when it will be paid out, what it can and can't be used for and the time period it is meant to cover.

We are providing £125,000 of capacity funding to all eligible local authorities which are the 93 English local authorities in category 1 of the index of priority places, all local authorities in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, as well as the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. There are no plans to have an application process for this funding.

This revenue funding will not be ringfenced and the primary intention is to support the relevant local authorities to develop their bids for later rounds of the Levelling Up Fund. As such, capacity funding will not be paid before the deadline for submitting bids on 12 noon 18 June 2021. We will make payments later this year.

14. Can we bid for a project to add onto an existing programme/project?

Yes, however applications to the Levelling Up Fund must meet the pass/fail gateway criterion where bids will be assessed against whether they can deliver some LUF expenditure in 2021-22, and demonstrate how they fit with the criteria set out in the [prospectus](#) and [technical guidance](#).

15. Are you still eligible to bid for funding for a project you have already received government funding for?

Yes, but as part of the strategic fit assessment we ask that bidders set out very clearly the case for further government investment.

17. Package bids: What can be submitted as part of a package bid, can projects be divided into sub-projects and what is meant by "a coherent set of interventions"?

Package bids can have up to two or three projects only. Package bids must clearly explain how their component elements are aligned with each other and represent a coherent set of interventions. Package bids can include a mix of projects from the Fund's three investment themes but should not include multiple unrelated investments.

Projects within a package bid should support common objectives and be mutually supportive so that the package delivers greater benefits than the individual projects would achieve in isolation. For example, a transport intervention and public realm regeneration project in an area may together support greater footfall and access to a local high street.

Package bids can be concentrated in a specific location or cover a wider area as long as the component projects represent a coherent set of interventions.

19. Will government select one or two projects for appraisal from a package bid?

Applications to the Levelling Up Fund will be appraised and considered at the bid level rather than as individual projects. ***If there are weaknesses in one of the projects, places should be mindful that it will adversely impact the overall score of their bid.***

31. Will feedback be provided so that any unsuccessful scheme can be developed further for submission in future rounds?

Yes. Feedback will be provided to bidding authorities where bids pass the gateway criteria and progress to full assessment. This is to help the development of bids for future rounds of the Fund. ***Bids that are unsuccessful in the first round of the fund can be resubmitted for future rounds if so desired.***

36. What is the approach in Northern Ireland?

We are taking a different approach to delivering the Levelling Up Fund in Northern Ireland. Recognising the different local government landscape in Northern Ireland, different organisations will be eligible to bid compared to in Great Britain. The UK government will accept bids from a range of local applicants including but not limited to businesses, voluntary and community sector organisations, district councils, the Northern Ireland Executive and other public sector bodies.

For transport projects specifically, the Northern Ireland Executive holds many of the relevant powers. Where they are the lead bidder they must engage with and secure the support of the relevant district council for the area in which the bid is based in order to be considered for funding.

Northern Ireland Executive Departments are not eligible to bid for projects under the other ***two investment themes***, where the lead bidder should operate at

a more local level. In all cases the lead bidder will need to have the powers to deliver the projects that form part of their bid.

37. What types of projects are Arm's-Length Bodies in Northern Ireland eligible to bid for?

The Fund is targeted at interventions taking place at the most local level.

For culture and regeneration projects this will mean we are accepting bids from district councils or local applicants operating at that level, which may include Arm's-Length Bodies.

For transport projects specifically, we recognise the Northern Ireland Executive holds many of the relevant powers, so will be eligible to bid for these projects. Where they are the lead bidder they must engage with and secure the support of the relevant district council for the area in which the bid is based, to be considered for funding.

38. How will local areas with the highest level of need be identified and have funding targeted towards them to address existing regional disparities and imbalances given that Northern Ireland is not part of the index?

For the first round of Levelling Up Fund, bids from ***Northern Ireland will only be assessed against strategic fit, value for money and deliverability.*** As part of the strategic fit part of their applications, Northern Ireland applicants will be expected to provide evidence of ***the specific local challenges and barriers to growth that exist. We expect bids that are able to explain this best, including how they will target funding at areas of need, to be most likely to be successful.***

39. Are there restrictions on the number of successful bids an eligible applicant in Northern Ireland can have over the lifecycle of the Levelling Up Fund?

For the first round of the Levelling Up Fund there are ***no limits*** to the number of bids from bidding entities in Northern Ireland. We will publish more details about future rounds of the Fund, including limits on bid numbers, later this year.

40. Is the £20 million indicative for Northern Ireland for the first round an annual figure or a total?

For the first round of the Levelling Up Fund, allocations for projects in Northern Ireland will be made from a ringfenced pot that is in the region of £20 million. This ringfenced pot is an indicative amount and is subject to the quality of bids we receive. The number of projects we fund will be dependent on the bid assessment process, which we have published details of in the [technical note](#).

As set out in the prospectus, for the first round of funding, 3% of total UK allocations will be set aside for Northern Ireland. Across the whole fund, at least £800 million will be set aside for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland over four years from 2021-2022 to 2024-2025.

41. Why can Executive Departments not bid for the other two themes?

The Fund is targeted at interventions taking place at the most local level.

For culture and regeneration projects this will mean we are accepting bids from district councils or local applicants operating at that level.

For transport projects, we recognise the Northern Ireland Executive holds many of the relevant powers, so will be eligible to bid for these projects.

General

42. Are we expecting annual rounds? When will more information be available about this?

Further detail on how future rounds of the Fund will operate from 2022-23 onwards will be set out later this year.

Report to:	Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	10 th May 2021
Subject:	Newry Chamber of Commerce and Trade Corporate Patrons Programme
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Martin Patterson, Regeneration and Business Support 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> Newry Chamber of Commerce and Trade have written to request that the Council renews its Corporate Patron Programme membership for the period 2021-2024.</p> <p><u>Background</u> The programme provides the Council with the opportunity to be involved with one of Northern Ireland's most proactive, successful and growing Chambers with 13,000 plus followers on their Social Media Channels, an opportunity to profile the Council across the District and provide priority access at engagement events with decision makers, senior officials and government ministers.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>Newry, Mourne and Down has been a Corporate Patron of the Chamber for the last three years. The Corporate Patrons Programme provides the Chamber with important commercial support, to deliver a range of activities for Chamber members, and the patrons with additional support and access to key decision makers.</p> <p>They have now relaunched their new Corporate Patrons Programme for the Chamber and have requested that the Council continue with their Corporate Patrons support as a Bronze Patron. The package will benefit the Council by promotion by the Chamber through all of its activity including social media, events, training, sponsorship and networking.</p> <p>The Corporate Patron Programme has recently been enhanced and one of the new features includes a Directors Club. The purpose is to create a network for Senior Managers across the Greater Newry Area. The first Directors Club meeting is at lunch time on 27th May and guest speaker is Kevin Holland, CX of Invest NI. At the end of June, the Chamber are planning an evening reception for Corporate Patrons</p>

	at the Hinch Distillery outside Ballynahinch, as well as a number of other events through the year.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to renew the membership of the Corporate Patrons Programme for 2021 – 2024.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Total cost is £1,000
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	<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
	NA
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A

Report to:	Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	10 th May 2021
Subject:	Northern Ireland Food and Drink Association
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Martin Patterson, Regeneration and Business Support Officer

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

For decision x For noting only

1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u> The Executive Director of the Northern Ireland Food and Drink Association (NIFDA) have written to request that the Council considers becoming a member of its organisation in 2021.</p> <p><u>Background</u> NIFDA is a voluntary organisation which represents and promotes the interests of Northern Ireland food and drink companies at home and abroad and has relevance to and experience working with local Councils.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>NIFDA's role is to work in partnership with existing providers, associations, government and companies to promote the competitiveness of the industry.</p> <p>Their approach to industry matters includes: exporting, regulation, marketing and promotion, food and drink sector strategy, research and development, technology and innovation, sector attractiveness and skills development.</p> <p>Membership benefits include keeping up to date with the latest industry news and developments, lobbying of government on key issues affecting the industries, networking and build relationships with industry colleagues, hearing from expert speakers and sharing of best practice, developing your business with insights and trends, member discounts on relevant events and training courses, access relevant grants and support programmes for your business, understand the retail environment with specialised training and reports, help with challenging media issues and crisis management.</p>
3.0	Recommendations

3.1	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council subscribe to the 2021 membership of the Northern Ireland Food and Drink Association.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	The total cost of membership for one year is £729
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)

<p>6.1</p>	<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>
<p>7.0</p>	<p>Appendices</p>
	<p>NIFDA Benefits Brochure</p>
<p>8.0</p>	<p>Background Documents</p>
	<p>N/A</p>



MEMBERSHIP



NIFDA

Helping our Vibrant Food & Drink Industry to Grow

NIFDA is a voluntary organisation which represents and promotes the interests of Northern Ireland food and drink companies at home and abroad.

We are passionate about our world class food and drink sector, and together with our members we are committed to growing a sustainable, internationally competitive food and drink industry in Northern Ireland.

We provide services to **enhance, promote, inform, educate** and **develop** our members' businesses. Whether you are a burgeoning SME with big plans, or an established global brand, we can help support you in achieving your business goals.

Our Role

NIFDA's role is to work in partnership with existing providers, associations, government and companies to promote the competitiveness of the industry. We adopt a '**One Voice**' approach to industry matters including:

-  Exporting
-  Regulation
-  Marketing & Promotion
-  Food & Drink Sector Strategy
-  Research & Development
-  Technology & Innovation
-  Sector Attractiveness & Skills Development

A Flavour of What We Do

Your voice, where it matters

NIFDA is actively engaged in **lobbying government on key issues** affecting the sector, including migrant labour shortages and sector attractiveness.

We commissioned a detailed report into the expected impact of Brexit in 2016 and this has been a vital tool in engaging with key stakeholders as we seek to influence government policy. We frequently travel to Westminster and continue to lobby government on behalf of our members to make sure their voices are heard at this crucial time.

We also work closely with our local public representatives to ensure agri-food is given the focus it deserves.



Market Development

NIFDA is involved in a number of export programmes including **Access 6** and the **Atlantic Area Export Programme** which have been hugely successful in helping local SMEs to grow and expand into new markets.

We are also involved in an industry wide programme called **Harvesting Tomorrow's Skills**. This is a network of companies and organisations which are working together to tackle the people and skills shortage within the agri-food industry and, in doing so, drive growth for the future. Led by NIFDA and supported by Invest NI, the aim of the programme is to help recruit an additional **15,000 people to the sector by 2020**.

Training

We were the first organisation in Northern Ireland to offer **Grocery Code of Practice Training**. This is proving to be a valuable resource for our members and training is ongoing at various locations across Northern Ireland.



Partnerships

NIFDA is a partner in the **Agri-food Quest Competence Centre** – which is playing a vital role in supporting the industry with world class research and innovation.

We support the future talent of the industry with the **NIFDA Educational Trust Fund**, and we are actively involved with the farming community through our work with **Agri-Search** and the **Open Farm Weekend** initiative.

For more details on our work with partners please visit nifda.co.uk

Membership Costs

We are funded by membership subscription. Membership fees are calculated based on number of employees and start from just **£350 per year**.

Membership gives you access to leading research, strategic thinking, networking events, industry news and expert advice.

Alongside our core membership we also offer **Affiliate membership**.

To find out more about joining NIFDA, contact Jill Devenney:

✉ jill@nifda.co.uk

☎ 028 9024 1010

What our members say...

NIFDA represents producers right across the spectrum, from the smaller artisans to Northern Ireland's largest food companies. We all face challenges and issues in our businesses from time to time and I find that NIFDA is the perfect forum to discuss these and seek solutions. The wealth of knowledge and experience within the association is an asset that all members can tap into - advice and guidance which can be invaluable to any small manufacturer.



Arnaldo Morelli, Managing Director

NIFDA has become the "strong voice" of our Food and Drink Industry. The organisation has helped enhance the reputation of our members and it continues to promote the importance of the industry and their products within Northern Ireland and beyond. It plays a pivotal role in our discussions with governments and other organisations.



Gerry Maguire, Managing Director

Membership Benefits

- **Keep up to date** with the latest industry news and developments
- **Lobbying of government** on key issues affecting the industry
- **Network and build relationships** with industry colleagues, hear from expert speakers and share best practice
- **Develop your business** with insights and trends, member discounts on relevant events and training courses
- Access relevant **grants and support** programmes for your business
- Understand the retail environment with **specialised training and reports**
- **Help** with challenging media issues and crisis management

By lobbying on our behalf, NIFDA works tirelessly to improve the Food and Drink industry. Its “Harvesting Tomorrow’s Skills” programme is a great initiative to promote the Food and Drink sector as an exciting industry for prospective employees to work in, especially after the loss of migrant workers due to the uncertainty of Brexit. I also benefit from the networking opportunities provided by NIFDA and love getting the email updates on what is going on in the industry.



Eileen Hall, Director

NIFDA provides support to food companies, and valuable expertise, knowledge and information to its members through dedicated seminars and events. Lobbying is vital across issues that are peculiar and potentially threatening to this region. These initiatives, combined with strong business networking opportunities offer real and tangible benefits to companies.



Ross Thompson, Managing Director



Report to:	Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	10 th May 2021
Subject:	DAERA Rural Small Business Grants scheme 2021 / 2022
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly Assistant Director, Enterprise, Employment & 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

1.0	Purpose and Background												
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u> To agree that Council will participate in a 2021 / 2022 Small Rural Business Grant Scheme, including the implementation of the next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Officers will continue to work a regional basis to agree the new programme formation, including completion of a business case, eligibility criteria and programme application & assessment processes ▪ When received, Council will sign and accept a Letter of Offer from DAERA to enable implementation of the programme, with detail of final grant aid awarded to be presented to a later Council meeting ▪ Council to open and administrate the grant process which will be agreed within the programme business case <p><u>Background</u></p> <p>For the last two financial years Council have implemented the delivery of 2 Rural Business Capital grant programmes (2019/20) and (2020/21) which were funded by The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).</p> <p>The grant aid awarded over the last 2 financial years is as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Grant awarded aid</th> <th>Businesses receiving Grant</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2019/2020 – pilot scheme</td> <td>£70,667.99</td> <td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020/2021</td> <td>£165,749</td> <td>59</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>£236,4163.99</td> <td>78</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>DAERA have now approached NI Council's regarding a need and aspiration for delivery of a 3rd Small Rural Business Grant Scheme in this current financial year – 2021/2022</p>		Grant awarded aid	Businesses receiving Grant	2019/2020 – pilot scheme	£70,667.99	19	2020/2021	£165,749	59	Total	£236,4163.99	78
	Grant awarded aid	Businesses receiving Grant											
2019/2020 – pilot scheme	£70,667.99	19											
2020/2021	£165,749	59											
Total	£236,4163.99	78											
2.0	Key issues												

2.1

It is proposed that grant offered through this Scheme will assist participating businesses in their continued recovery efforts by providing capital assistance for equipment/machinery for new business practices or planned growth plans.

The Scheme objectives will be developed through a business plan, however it is expected that the following objectives will apply:

- 1) A capital grant will be awarded of £4,999 to eligible & successful businesses at a match funding rate of 50% from DAERA and 50% from participating businesses;
- 2) The focus of the grant will be to support businesses in recovery and sustainability of their business following the COVID-19 pandemic;
- 3) To support businesses to grow and develop their business;
- 4) To support businesses maintaining or increasing staffing levels

Eligibility

- The scheme will be open to rural micro businesses (Rural is defined as all areas outside of settlement limits with over 5,000 inhabitants).
- A micro business is a business with less than 10 full-time employees
- It is anticipated that existing micro businesses and social enterprises operating commercially will be eligible to apply to the Scheme

Complementary

- This Scheme will also complement the Councils' current business support programme offerings which provides bespoke mentoring assistance (one-to-one support and workshops) to micro and small businesses to drive growth and stimulate new job creation

Grant Available for implementation / administration

- DAERA are awaiting final budget confirmation for this NI wide programme, however it is anticipated to be approx. £1 Million. This is a smaller budget than available in 2020/21 when £1.8 million was allocated in response to covid-19
- The apportioned split across the NI Councils will be outlined and agreed in a programme business case. However, it is anticipated that the allocation to NMD Council may be in the region of £113,000 - £142,000
- The programme will be designed to be flexible, where a Council area that may experience an underspend in grant aid will redistribute grant to a Council area where a higher demand for grant exists,
- Of the budget allocated 10% will be allocated to Council for administration of the programme (approx. £11,300 - £14,275)
- While previous programmes had an allocation of 15% administration budget, DAERA have reduced this to 10% in order to maximise the contribution available to business grants, given the smaller programme budget available; However in order to make the administration more efficient the 10% will be allocated on the actual amount of grant aid distributed, therefore if Council receive a reallocation of grant aid, the 10% will be on the higher grant aid amount.

Next Steps

- Officers will continue to work a regional basis to agree the new programme formation, including completion of a business case, eligibility criteria and programme application & assessment processes

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When received, Council will sign and accept a Letter of Offer from DAERA to enable implementation of the programme, with detail of final grant aid awarded to be presented to a later Council meeting Council to open and administrate the grant process as agreed within the business case,
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<p>To agree that Council will participate in a 2021 / 2022 Small Rural Business Grant Scheme, including the implementation of the next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officers will continue to work a regional basis to agree the new programme formation, including completion of a business case, eligibility criteria and programme application & assessment processes When received, Council will sign and accept a Letter of Offer from DAERA to enable implementation of the programme, with detail of final grant aid awarded to be presented to a later Council meeting Council to open and administrate the grant process which will be agreed within the programme business case
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	<p>While final financial resources are still to be agreed for the 2021 / 2022 Small Rural Business Grant, the below are approximate indications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DAERA are awaiting final budget confirmation for this NI wide programme, however it is anticipated to be approx. £1 Million. The apportioned split across the NI Councils will be outlined and agreed in a programme business case. However, it is anticipated that the allocation to NMD Council may be in the region of £113,000 - £142,000 Of the budget allocated 10% will be allocated to Council for administration of the programme (approx. £11,300 - £14,275)
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>

	The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.3	Proposal initiating consultation	
	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"/>
	Consultation period will be 12 weeks	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<i>Rationale:</i>	
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	
	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	If yes, please complete the following:	
	Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.0	Appendices	
	N/A	
8.0	Background Documents	
	N/A	

**ACTION SHEET
BREXIT FORUM MEETING
21 April 2021 at 11:00 am**

Attending:

Councillor G Stokes, In the Chair
Councillor G Hanna
Councillor C Mason
Councillor M Savage

David Holmes Warrenpoint Harbour Authority
Kieran Grant Warrenpoint Harbour Authority

Jonathan McGilly
Sinead Murphy
Sandra Magee

Apologies:

Councillor M Larkin
Councillor D Taylor
Councillor H Reilly
Conor Mallon
Eoin Devlin

SUBJECT	ACTIONS
Action Sheet from Meeting Tuesday 23 March 2021	It was proposed by Cllr Savage and seconded by Cllr Mason that the report be adopted as a true and accurate copy.
Matters Arising	None Raised
Update from Kieran Grant, David Holmes, Warrenpoint Harbour Authority	Kieran Grant stated that trade wise the last quarter of 2020 was busy and we thought it was pre-Brexit, busy prior to Christmas, GB/NI. It has transpired that in the first quarter of 2021 we are actually busier, possibly due to unfettered access from NI to GB. Dublin Port has lost out on trade as Dublin would have been the lead due to more choice of ferry routes and times. However, complications at Dublin Port due to paperwork has meant that Northern Ireland is now busier in the Roro trade. GB to NI is more complicated to get goods in but as we have gone thru the quarter the Trader Support Service has assisted with support to traders & hauliers. Our other cargo, timber, steel and animal feed goods can continue to go freely North and South with animal feed being busier than last winter, due to a wet winter, and this

affecting crops. Steel, we have a lot of Turkish steel and we have had issues with quotas. First quarter has been busy with trade aspect. Any Questions?

Councillor Stokes thanked Kieran Grant, WHA for the update and asked Councillors if they had any questions.

Councillor Savage – is the capacity there to work through the issues, or are the issues insurmountable? The Minister was on the news last night saying can we take the barnacles off this issue, what can you tell me from the coalface?

Kieran Grant stated that in terms of support, Trader Support Services were assisting traders with paperwork on how to complete re: customs, etc. and SeaTruck have been trying to assist their hauliers to try to streamline process as much as possible during this grace period. He advised that DAERA, Port Health and Customs – at least 3 bodies interested in each trailer that is coming across from GB to NI. He stated that trade has to carry on and traders have to get their goods back and forth, so hauliers are coming to grips with the new paperwork process. He confirmed that trade is flowing all right and people are getting to grips with it prior to commencement of Phase 2.

Councillor Savage – are we at the stage that the core issues of trade from NI to GB and GB to NI are being addressed, are the issues being crystalised? Kieran Grant advised that Warrenpoint Port is historically the longest sea route so it is more manufactured goods than perishables, he confirmed that the grace period is assisting us with allowing trade to continue to move in as unhindered a fashion as possible.

David Holmes advised that the business community have said the less friction the better in order to continue to trade as effectively as possible. Vessel traffic was down by 19% at the end of February. All sorts of easements are prevailing, Phase 2 not enacted at present and Warrenpoint Port are currently receiving work displaced from Dublin Port but we don't know how long that will last.

	Councillor Stokes thanked Kieran Grant and David Holmes, WHA for attending the meeting to provide an update.
Officers Update	<p>Sinead Murphy – the grace period for retail trade allows the continuation of a more simplified approach with just one form instead of hundreds of export certificates for each load. We are now into April and reviewing the last few months, we can see the pattern of repeat traders. We continue to work with importers and hauliers, with DAERA on the wider platform and with hauliers individually. Opportunity is being given to get documentation right and where we have repeat issues with the same importer, we are following through where they are not doing it. It will be interesting to see with Covid easements, if there will be an increase in trade coming through destined for the hospitality industry, e.g. consignments of fresh/frozen fish. There have been more retail consignments coming through than expected and generally we get overflow trade into Warrenpoint Port from Belfast & Larne. Warrenpoint Harbour Authority & SeaTruck have worked really well with Council Officers, helping to get descriptions right on the paperwork so processes can run more smoothly.</p> <p>Sinead advised that we continue to work operationally and meet challenges of changing ferry times and an additional sailing on Saturday, which she attended herself and stated it was interesting to see first-hand what is coming in and how well it is working. We continue to work with DAERA and Food Standards Agency on operational issues and future delivery.</p> <p>Jonathan McGilly stated that from a business perspective there continues to be an interest in business support programmes, and businesses are guided by Officers to this support on various platforms that assist with requirements/paperwork on importing/exporting through our Ports. He advised that Officers expect some uptake of concern as leeway period comes to an end and Phase 2 is introduced.</p>
Date of Next Brexit Forum Meeting	Monday 7 June 2021 at 2:00pm

Date of next meeting of the Brexit Forum: Monday 7 June 2021 at 2:00pm via Microsoft Teams

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

49

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		SEPTEMBER 2019			
ERT/119/2019	PUBLIC REALM SCHEME PHASE III HILL STREET NEWRY	The Council accept the Letter of Offer from the Department for Communities (DFC) totalling £1.6 million and proceed to deliver the next stages of the Lower Hill Street Public Realm Scheme	J McGilly	Scheme practical completion stage April 2021	Y
		October 2019			
ERT/138/2019	CARLINGFORD LOUGH GREENWAY	(a) The Council proceed to commence the PQQ contractor procurement stage for the Northern section of the Carlingford Lough Greenway. (b) Council Officers to update Councillor McMurray regarding plans for Greenways at Comber/Downpatrick.	J McGilly	Negotiations ongoing with landowners and funder. Revised submission submitted to funders May 2020. Planning submitted and awaiting	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
				decision. SEUPB considering additional funding bid. Economic appraisal completed and with SEUPB and DfI	
		DECEMBER 2019			
ERT/194/2019	MASTERPLANS: PRIORITY ACTION PLANS	To approve the updated content and actions outlined in Priority Action Plans for each of the following 4 No. Master Plans: - Newry City Master Plan - Ballynahinch Master Plan - Downpatrick Master Plan - South East Coast Master Plan	J McGilly	Ongoing implementation – updates provided through DEA Priority actions reviewed and agreed at March ERT	y
		(MARCH 2020)			
ERT/043/2020	MEETING: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS FORUM – 25 FEBRUARY 2020	To approve the following recommendations arising from the Report of the International Relations Forum Meeting held on Tuesday 25 February 2020:	J MC GILLY	Southern Pines and Russia: Engagement has been ongoing; new proposals for	y

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		<p><u>China</u></p> <p>(a) To note update provided to the International Relations Forum on recent activity with China.</p> <p>(b) To continue to progress opportunities to strengthen the relationship between Newry, Mourne & Down and China and facilitation of international exchanges for purposes of economic and trade growth, investment, education/skills development and growth of tourism industry.</p> <p>(c) To approve the participation in an NI Innovation Mission China, in partnership with Invest NI, NI Bureau, other NI Councils, Colleges and Universities</p> <p>(d) To approve the delivery at a local level a series of Spot Light in China Business workshops, promoting trade opportunities with China and building capacity among local businesses to engage in these opportunities.</p> <p>(e) To discuss further with NI Bureau in China, and write to Changchun FAO regarding the potential of upgrading the Council to</p>		<p>further international relations activity to be received by both partners and assess against adopted policy for International Relations Activity</p> <p>China: Proposals for Spotlight in China workshops and an Innovation Mission to China were postponed as a result of Covid-19. Engagement on-going with NI Bureau in China, with a view to delivery of workshops in 2021, seeking alternative methods of delivery of an Innovation Mission, and revisiting the</p>	

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		<p>Changchun City partnership from a Friendship Agreement to a full Sister Cities agreement</p> <p>(f) To renew for a further 12 months the MOU between Council and the Confucius Institute at Ulster University for support in China – NMDDC relations (translation services, interpretation services, support in cultural activities etc.</p> <p>Russia, Southern Pines, Pinehurst and <u>Aberdeen</u></p> <p>(g) Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor McKeivitt and seconded by Councillor Tinnelly that Officials would share Council's International Relations Strategy with representatives of Kirovsk and Southern Pines, Pinehurst and Aberdeen. Any proposal to then to be assessed against the International Relations Strategy.</p> <p>(h) As the International Relationship with both Russia and Southern Pines, Pinehurst and Aberdeen have expired, the relationship will not be renewed until a further proposal is submitted and assessed.</p>		<p>upgrading of the Council to Changchun City partnership from a Friendship Agreement to a full Sister Cities Agreement.</p> <p>North East America: Proposal for attendance as a platinum sponsor the New York-New Belfast Conference in New York in June 2020 was postponed as a result of Covid-19. Officers will continue to explore through alternative channels the opportunity to establish an international relationship with an appropriate region</p>	

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		<p><u>Lamorlaye, France</u></p> <p>(i) To establish a new International Relations Agreement with Municipalité de Lamorlaye, North of France, on the basis that this proposal meets the essential criteria and at least 2 primary criteria as detailed in the strategy.</p> <p>(j) Council to explore the opportunity to establish an international relationship with an appropriate region in North East America that would complement our international strategy. The Council engages in the opportunity to attend as a platinum sponsor the New York-New Belfast Conference in New York on 11-12 June 2020 at a cost of £5,000 (+ flights / accommodation) as the first step in exploring this potential.</p> <p>To appoint 1 No. Officer only, to attend the New York – Belfast Conference to be held in New York on 11-12 June 2020 at a cost of £5,000, plus flights and accommodation.</p>		in North East America	
		(JUNE 2020)			

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
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	N
(AUGUST 2020)					
ERT/089/2020	CARLINGFORD LOUGH GREENWAY	<p>It was agreed as follows regarding the Carlingford Lough Greenway:</p> <p>(a) Council to note submission of the Formal Planning Application for the Carlingford Lough Greenway (Northern Section) and Council Officials to follow-up with Planners to ensure progress and a decision by early 2021.</p> <p>(b) Council to note the submission of an</p>	J McGilly	Work in progress	y

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		<p>amended Business Case to the Interreg funder seeking the required additional funding to deliver the project.</p> <p>(c) Council to enter into the required legal tenure agreements with Land Owners along the Northern Section of the route.</p> <p>(d) Subject to SMC approval, phase 1 repairs to be agreed with Council and its consultant, with the existing Contractor to proceed with completion of the works.</p>			
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> <p>(b) Council approve relevant Business</p>	J McGilly	Work in progress	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		<p>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/093/2020	WARRENPOINT BATHS	<p>(a) Council to note the ongoing progress on looking at options for the Warrenpoint Baths site and identification of learning from other similar projects.</p> <p>(b) Council consider including £10,000 funding for the 21/22 financial year to progress options and carry out consultations within the local community.</p>	J McGilly	Work in progress	y

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
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, awaiting approval.	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 move forward with the regeneration of Newcastle Harbour.	J McGilly	Work in progress	N
		(OCTOBER 2020)			
ERT/143/2020	(Exempt) CASTLEWELLAN FOREST PARK	<p>It was agreed as follows with regard to the development of Castlewellan Historic Demense:</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. 	J McGilly	In progress DAERA funded works ongoing – NLHF funding approved March 2021. Work commenced on approval to start and next stages of project	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 value engineering exercise on the NLHF project while ensuring delivery against the key objectives of the project i.e. Heritage, people and community. • 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. 			
		(DECEMBER 2020)			

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
ERT/180/2020	COVID 19 RECOVERY WORKING GROUP	<p>To approve the establishment of a NMDDC Covid 19 Recovery Working Group as per the Terms of Reference contained in Report dated 14 December 2020 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism.</p> <p>Note: Terms of Reference would be amended to reflect the recommended membership of the Working Group</p>	J McGilly	Work In Progress	y
ERT/194/2020	(EXEMPT) NEWRY BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT (BID)	Based on the detail presented to date in the Draft Business Plan, to approve the Strategy subject to submission of the final draft ahead of Council Meeting on 04 January 2021.	J McGilly	BID revote complete and successful.	y
		(JANUARY 2021)			
ERT/008/2021	FORKHILL FORMER BARRACK SITE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council to note the Report of the meeting on the 17/11/2020 and acknowledge the work of the sub-group set-up to agree the community consultation questionnaire on the future of the Former Forkhill Barracks site. Subject to full partnership group sign off in January 2021, support the Public Consultation process in early 2021. 	J McGilly	Work in progress Survey to be completed with steering group to meet March to review outcome and next steps. Survey results confirm that additional housing not preferred option	y

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Council agree to the putting in place/extension of the License Agreement between it and the Department for Communities for those pathway and play elements of the Forkhill Greenspace Site that it is currently responsible for. 3. Council agree to the finalisation/extension of the License Agreement between it and Forkhill Parish to enable the Church Car Park Access point to the site to be maintained. 		for local community. D1 EOI to be reviewed by council and reported back to SFWG May 2021	
ERT/010/2021	WARRENPOINT FRONTSHORE PR SCHEME	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 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. 2. Officers report on feedback from the consultation process to the Task and Finish Group, before proceeding to finalise the design for submission to planning. 3. Officers complete and submit the Economic Appraisal to Council and the 	J McGilly	Scheme consultation launched April 2021	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>			
ERT/015/2021	(EXEMPT) CAR PARKS – FUTURE SERVICE PROVISION	Council officially inform the Department for Infrastructure of the Council's intention to test the market and seek options outside of the current Agency Agreement for the service delivery of the Off-Street Parking enforcement contract post October 2022.	C Jackson	In progress & referred to SOLACE to seek a consistent approach across all Councils.	Y
ERT/017/2021	UPDATE RE: PROJECT STRATUM	Officials to invite representatives from Fibrus to attend a future meeting of the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee to give a presentation to Members on work they are carrying out in the District.	J McGilly	Work in progress, date to be agreed for workshop in April 2021 - Workshop completed	y

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		(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	In progress. Financial Year-end review to be completed.	N
		(MARCH 2021)			
ERT/051/2021	WARRENPOINT BATHS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 2. Council officials to continue discussions with potential funders given the development of new funding 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. 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. 	J McGilly	In progress	n

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		(APRIL 2021 – TO FOLLOW)			

Report to:	Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	10 th May 2021
Subject:	AONB and Geopark Update
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly Assistant Director, Enterprise, Employment & 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	<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>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 • AONB management review recommendations implementation <p><u>Background</u></p> <p>This report summaries the achievements of the AONB and Geopark team for Q4 2020/21 (Jan-March 2020).</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 • Increased erosion due to increase in visitor numbers at Slieve Gullion summit – additional £21800 secured from NIEA – work complete in March 2021 • First annual Slieve Gullion Path Maintenance has worked really well, problems were caught early and fixed resulting in better visitor experience and financial savings in years to come. • Next 3 months a letter will be posted out to all landowners owning Slieve Gullion Path from lake to Ballard Road asking permission to maintain path. • Wildflowers across the district – successfully applied for additional grant aid for Amazone Grasshopper and wildflower meadows. Grounds Maintenance will

commence Don't mow Let it Grow regime in order to increase pollinators and help achieve a more sustainable council, and manage new wildflower meadows at Bessbrook, Tourism Dept will manage meadow at Slieve Gullion.

- AONB Annual Content Plan drafted
- AONB Assets Maintenance Plan drafted
- Delamont Ecological Survey Plan implementation – fences installed for hedge rows
- Farm Plans – Farm in Portaferry survey and report produced
- 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 Q4 20/21 complete
- AONB 2021 Calendar distributed, and 2022 photo competition opened.
- Annual Moved by Nature calendar of events published and promoted
- Wildlife disturbance signage developed/installed for Strangford Lough and Minerstown.
- Interagency wildlife disturbance workshops held to mitigate against issues in 2021 summer season
- Water Quality Improvement Grant- £15,000 – 340 soil samples taken on 40 farms in the Ring of Gullion.
- Placement Student – finished report for Bessbrook Pond Field – work underway to deliver recommendations
- Replacement signs at Moyry Castle, Kilnassagart Inscribed Stone and Killeavy Old Churches.
- RoG Way maintenance ongoing – fencing at Forkhill complete, Mullaghbane River walk works complete

Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership Scheme Legacy Phase

- Iron-age roundhouse in Mullaghbane complete. BBC covered the project, video available here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xZdBvrMHFOg> It will be open for schools visits in May or June, and again for the Lúnasa Festival 21, and European Open Heritage Day in September.
- Lúnasa Festival Working Group held first meeting of 2021 and are keen to host a festival in August. Report submitted to ERT Committee for decision

Atlantic CultureScape (ACS)

- All modification requests for a 6-month extension have been submitted to the funder – new end date: Sep 2022

Geopark

- UNESCO site assessment has been postponed, waiting update on new date to be issued.
- In preparation for the assessment visit an action plan for progressing Geo Park evaluation mission is 90% complete
- Geopark Development Plan and Action Plan has been reviewed and updated in preparation for the assessment visit.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 virtual site visit educational videos have been produced to accompany the education brochure <p>Shared History Fund - My Townlands Story 1921-2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £55,000 Funding secured, and SLA approved at April ERT Committee <p>AONB Management Review – final report and recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both AONB ToR in place; new membership call closed – 3 new members for SLLP and 15 new members for RoGLP • Funders meeting established, 1st meeting in April 2021 • 2 nominations from SLLP and 1 from RoGLP for Geopark Management Group • Third quarterly Officers meeting held between officers of both councils and Mourne Heritage Trust with regards to AONB Deliverables. • Volunteer Policy drafted and approved by AHC Committee. <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response submitted to SEUPB PEACE+ consultation • Response submitted on behalf of NMDDC to Forest Service Armagh Forest Plan consultation • Collated responses from both SLLP and RoGP re. DAERA Stakeholder Consultation 'The provision of access for outdoor recreation in NI' for inclusion in NMD council response • EF LoO secured from NIEA for 2021/22 - £143,430 (Both AONB) • Rates agreed by NMDDC for 2021/22 - £117,180* (Both AONB) • Rates agreed by ANDBC for 2021/22 - £24,500 (SLL Only) • Ring of Gullion LPS Legacy deferred income - £199,858*; spend for 21/22 - £27,500 • Secured funding from Shared history fund for my Townland Story project across all three AONB - £55,000 • Compendium of projects submitted to NIEL for PEACE+ funding • Compendium of priorities submitted to Dept for PfG funding • Application submitted 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.
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 • Shared History Fund - My Townlands Story 1921-2021 • 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> <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> NA</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:	10 th May 2021
Subject:	Reopening of Tourism facilities
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Andrew Patterson Assistant Director Tourism, Culture and Events
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Michelle Boyle Head of Product Development & Visitor Experience

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> This paper provides an update on the phased reopening of a range of outdoor facilities including Campsites, Harbours, Slipways</p> <p><u>Background:</u> As part of COVID restrictions Council have had to open and close facilities in line with Government Guidance. Since 27th May 2020 Forest Parks and most outdoor sites reopened they have remained open with additional signage, hand sanitiser and adhering to strict COVID risk assessments. The opening of the campsite, harbours etc has not been permitted until April 2021 as per latest Government guidance</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>From 30 April, overnight stays are permitted in self-contained tourism accommodation (such as caravans and motor homes). This is accommodation with no shared facilities, which can be exclusively used by a single household/ bubble. – Kilbroney Caravan Park and Delamont Country Park will open to caravans and motor home from 30 April 2021. It is hoped Communal facilities will reopen on 24 May 2021 subject to Government guidance which would facilitate campsite booking thereafter.</p> <p>From 30 April outdoor areas at hospitality venues at Café can reopen which will facilitate café provision to provide outdoor eating at both Kilbroney and Delamont, Slieve Gullion is managed by Clanrye.</p> <p>Harbours and slipways have now reopened facilitating access for boats.</p> <p>The provisions also now allows Steamers train in Delamont to reopen as an outdoor visitor attraction.</p> <p>An indicative date of 24 May has been set for the reopening of indoor visitor attractions including museums, arts centres, hospitality venues and all tourism accommodation. This will be subject to review by NI Executive prior to this date.</p>

3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To note the reopening update provided in section 2.
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> NA</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:	10 th May 2021
Subject:	Update on Trading pitches tender
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Andrew Patterson Assistant Director Tourism, Culture and Events
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Michelle Boyle Head of Product Development & Visitor Experience

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 note the following:</p> <p>Completion of the tendering process for the provision of mobile vendor at 4 Tourism Amenity locations across the District, and the successful appointment of mobile traders</p> <p><u>Background</u> Council agreed in March 2021 to issue a tender for the provision of trading pitch provision at for key tourist facilities in 2021. The Council agreed to seek providers who would provide light refreshments. The 4 sites were Tyrella Beach, Ballyhornan Beach, Quoile Recreation Area and 12 Arches Carpark</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>The tender process was issued through the Councils E Procurement system and advertised in the local press and Council social media channels</p> <p>The process resulted in a good number of applications.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<p>A successful appointment was made for each respective location to service the mobile trading requirements requested by Council.</p> <p>The successful awards are based on a 3 year term.</p> <p>The annual income to the Council across the 4 sites as a result of this procurement is £43,700</p>
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	An annual income to Council of £43,700
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>
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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	Background Documents
	N/A

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council – April 2021

75

1. Live Applications

MONTH 2021/22	NEW APPLICATIONS	LIVE APPLICATIONS	LIVE APPLICATIONS OVER 12 MONTHS
April 2021	206	1,195	232

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

3. Live applications per Case Officer

Month 2021/22	Average number of Applications per Case Officer
April	83

4. Decisions issued per month

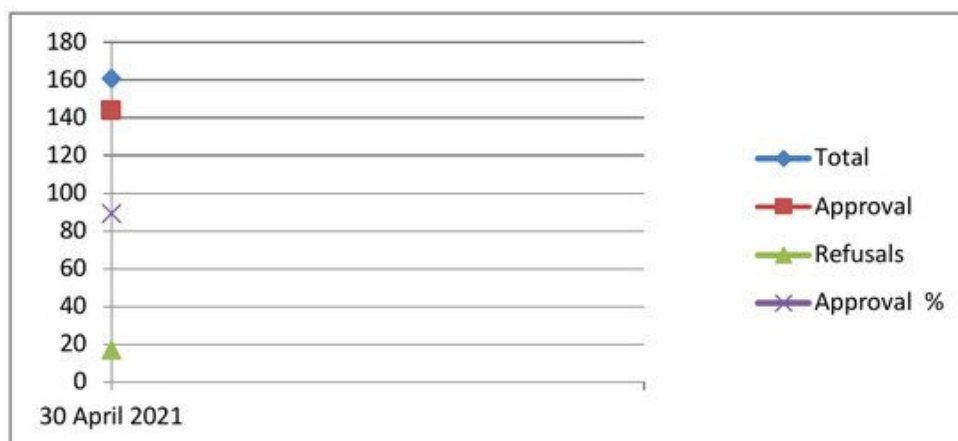
Month 2021/22	Number of Decisions Issued	Number of Decisions Issued under delegated authority
April	161	155

5. Decisions Issued YTD

Month 2021/22	Number of Decisions Issued	Breakdown of Decisions	
April	161	Approvals (144)	89%
		Refusals (17)	11%

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council – April 2021

76



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

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
Totals	14	11	3	3

8. Appeals

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

Area	Number of current appeals	Number of decisions issued	Number of decisions Allowed	Number of decisions Dismissed	Withdrawn
Newry & Mourne	7	1	1	0	-
Down	16	0	-	-	-
TOTAL	23	1	1	0	0

*Allowed in part

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council – April 2021

77

Statutory targets monthly update – March 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	1	-	0.0	0.0%	63	3	18.2	33.3%	17	18	146.8	33.3%
May	1	-	0.0	0.0%	96	93	24.2	17.2%	9	68	229.3	14.7%
June	1	3	87.0	0.0%	122	161	26.4	18.6%	49	31	111.8	41.9%
July	2	1	31.8	0.0%	137	113	20.0	25.7%	41	19	91.8	31.6%
August	1	-	0.0	0.0%	138	115	21.2	32.2%	29	23	35.4	73.9%
September	0	1	64.6	0.0%	147	148	19.4	33.8%	26	22	36.5	72.7%
October	1	-	0.0	0.0%	147	115	17.0	34.8%	28	58	100.3	53.4%
November	1	-	0.0	0.0%	158	160	16.9	43.1%	36	37	109.8	35.1%
December	0	-	0.0	0.0%	159	161	15.0	50.9%	21	24	187.5	25.0%
January	1	2	160.8	50.0%	123	122	18.0	41.0%	30	33	166.4	42.4%
February	2	-	0.0	0.0%	152	160	18.3	35.6%	37	29	85.4	41.4%
March	1	-	0.0	0.0%	189	118	16.7	42.4%	24	31	76.4	54.8%
Year to date	12	7	64.6	14.3%	1,631	1,469	19.0	34.8%	347	393	121.6	41.0%

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 – April 2021

78

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.