

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: NMD/DC

**Minutes of the Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
Development Committee held on Thursday 27 January 2015 at 6.00pm in the
Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry**

In the Chair: Cllr. W Clarke

In attendance: (Councillors)

Cllr. R Burgess	Cllr. D Curran
Cllr. G Donnelly	Cllr. S Doran
Cllr. G Hanna	Cllr. G Fitzpatrick
Cllr. L Kimmins	Cllr. D Hyland
Cllr. M Larkin	Cllr. K Loughran
Cllr. D McAteer	Cllr. R Mulgrew
Cllr. B O Muiri	Cllr. B Quinn
Cllr. D Taylor	Cllr. B Walker

(Non Committee Members)

Cllr. H McKee	Cllr. H Reilly
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(Officials)

Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive Designate
Mr J McBride, Change Manager
Mr C O'Rourke, Director of Environmental Services
Mr G McGivern, Director of District Development
Mr M Lipsett, Director of Recreation and Community Services
Mr J Farrell, Director of Environment, Health and Building Services
Mrs M Ward, Group Chief Building Control Officer
Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager
Mrs H McKee, Community Planning Manager
Mrs C Miskelly, Head of HR
Mr E McManus, Deputy Director Technical/Leisure Services
Mr R Moore, Waste Management/Engineering Officer
Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of District Development
Mrs A Smyth, Enterprise Development Officer
Mr J Devaney, Geo Tourism Officer
Mrs C McAteer, Committee Administrator

DC/84/2015: APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors M Murnin, P Clarke, T Andrews, M Carr and S Ennis.

AGREED: Councillor W Clarke said Councillor Andrews was currently in hospital and he would like to wish him a speedy recovery. It was **AGREED** to send a letter of best wishes to Councillor Andrews on behalf of the Shadow Council.

DC/85/2015: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

PRESENTATION

DC/86/2015: PRESENTATION FROM BLU ZEBRA CONSULTANTS – ECONOMIC REGENERATION AND VISION STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN

Background

Mr McGivern said the Council had agreed to commission an Economic Regeneration Tourism Strategy with an ambition to have the Strategy formally launched in April 2015. Blu Zebra Consultants had been appointed to undertake this work.

Therese Hogg; Philip McDonagh and Eileen McGloin, Blu Zebra then gave a presentation on the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Economic Regeneration Vision and Investment Strategy. (Copy attached).

A question and answer session followed during which Councillors made the following comments:-

Economic Development

- A big driver in the Council area was the promotion of tourism but it was important to identify and focus on emerging trends and ensure a skilled workforce is available to fill jobs associated with these – work in close proximity with the Regional Colleges in the area.
- Will the Council have backing from Central Government in terms of backing and funding for initiatives.
- There are no viable opportunities in the Mournes area/Kilkeel for businesses to find suitable premises and grow. New businesses are being directed towards existing Industrial Estates such as WIN and Carnbane and the growth of small home grown businesses is being stifled.
- It is very difficult for new businesses to get planning approval and they are faced with a lot of bureaucracy trying to get established.
- Rates on businesses have just been assessed and these are partly based on turnover which is another form of taxation.
- The Newry, Mourne and Down area has some of the top second level schools in Northern Ireland who consistently top the league tables but the skilled young people of the area are going elsewhere to work and this needs to be looked at. Long term there should be consideration given to some sort of university provision in Newry city.
- There has been under investment in this region over many years, particularly with regard to the roads infrastructure. The tourism industry has been

neglected by NITB who have concentrated on the Causeway Coast and there has been little investment in terms of building on the tourist attractions of the Mourne.

- There is a need for a business zone to be developed in Kilkeel and in other towns throughout the District to encourage businesses to locate in these areas.
- It is important that new business starts be encouraged and that the Consultants work with the Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency and the Down Business Centre.
- There are still a large number of young people in the area leaving school with little or no skills and this needs to be addressed. The issue of very long term unemployed and sick people in Newry is also one of concern. The upgrading of public housing in Newry should be looked at which would help the construction industry and also the people who live in the area.
- The creation of small businesses seems to be the way forward for this area but issues such as difficulties in getting planning and areas where businesses can be located need to be looked at.

Councillor Reilly left the meeting at 6.45 pm.

- The Council is in a position of strength following the amalgamation of both Councils and this should be built on. Newry City is a potential economic hub as it is situated between Dublin and Belfast and there are opportunities for investment. The area also has a dock facility and with planning powers transferring to Councils there should be opportunities to streamline the planning application process.
- The District has to be visionary and look at emerging sectors such as the creative arts; the film industry; social media; activity tours; food tourism and apps/games.

Tourism and Urban, Rural and Culture and Arts

- East Down has great tourism potential with a large number of visitors but there is no hotel accommodation in Downpatrick and this needs to be addressed.
- There is a need to develop a suitable venue to show case the local talent of the area in terms of arts and plays etc.
- A need for improved roads infrastructure in the South Armagh Area and also for an industrial zoned area in Crossmaglen.
- The existing tourism potential in the area needs to be looked at and developed e.g. Narrow Water Keep is mostly closed for visitors.
- How to encourage more visitors from the South of Ireland.
- The need for a festival/event with an international dimension.
- Market the agricultural products of the area and work with the farming community in developing artisan opportunities.
- Look at the further tourism development of the Silent Valley.
- Encourage the creation of more b & b accommodation and bed spaces.
- An inadequate public transport system after 6.00 pm.

- Encourage activity holidays – support for the Newry Canal Greenway Albert Basin to Victoria Locks scheme.
- It is important to look at the development of tourism across the region – develop tourism events which will spread tourism throughout the area and allow visitors to experience different activities e.g. an All-Ireland Festival of Flight.
- The need for a vibrant night time economy in the towns throughout our District.
- To consider what particular brand will make Newry, Mourne and Down District Council stand out from other areas and bring in visitors – to be bold and visionary.
- A request that data be presented which will show the level of investment by Government agencies across the 11 Councils.

The Chairman thanked the representatives from Blu Zebra for attending and presenting to the Members.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

**DC/87/2015: ACTION SHEET – DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
18 DECEMBER 2014**

Read: Action Sheet arising from the Development Committee Meeting held on 18 December 2014. **(Copy circulated).**

NOTED: Mr Hannaway confirmed that all actions had been progressed.

Councillor O Muiri left the meeting at 7.20 pm.

DC/88/2015: CALL FOR VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION APPLICATIONS

AGREED: It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Kimmins, **SECONDED** by Councillor Doran that the deadline for the receipt of applications for voluntary contributions for external bodies (30 January 2015) be extended by two weeks as this was a new system and there was some confusion in relation to details in the application form.

It was **AGREED** that Council officials ensure the extension of the deadline is publically advertised and also put on social media and that Councillors also advise of the extension through social media etc.

Councillor Larkin and Councillor McKee left the meeting at 7.30 pm.

SERVICE CONVERGENCE

**DC/88/2015: SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNCIL
AND DETI/INVEST NI**

Read: Report dated 21 January 2015 from Mr G McGivern recommending:- (Copy circulated)

- That the Council enters into and signs the Service Level Agreement between the Council and DETI/Invest NI in respect of the Regional Start Initiative and Social Entrepreneurship Programme.
- That approval is given to officers to work in partnership with the other 10 Councils to deliver a Terms of Reference for new initiatives to replace the RSI and SEP Programmes on a cluster and/or individual Council basis.

AGREED: It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Curran, **SECONDED** by Councillor McAteer, to approve the above report and recommendations.

Councillor Kimmins left the meeting at 7.35 pm.

DC/89/2015: **UPDATE ON THE IRISH OPEN PREPARATIONS**

Read: Report dated 27 January 2015 from Mr L Hannaway noting the progress in relation to preparations for the Irish Open to be held in Newcastle in 2015 and recommending that the Council ring fence £60,000 in the Estimates process to facilitate the Irish Open. This will be supplemented with “in kind” support (i.e.) cleansing; use of Newcastle Centre for volunteers; marshalling and general support and advice. (Copy circulated).

NOTED: Mr Hannaway gave a detailed verbal update on the preparations which had been put in place to date to host the Irish Open.

AGREED: It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Curran, **SECONDED** by Councillor Burgess to approve the above report and recommendations including the Council ring fencing £60,000 in the Rates Estimates process to facilitate this event.

Councillor Walker left the meeting at 7.40 pm.

DC/90/2015: **BUS SHELTER POLICY**

Read: Newry, Mourne and Down Bus Shelter Policy and Procedures for Erection/Removal of Bus Shelters (Ref: MW Bus Shelter Policy 2014 Version 1). (Copy circulated).

AGREED: It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Hyland, **SECONDED** by Councillor Burgess, to approve the above Bus Shelter Policy.

NOTED: It was noted that any provision of bus shelters would be subject to the budgets being made available through the rate setting process.

Councillor Curran left the meeting at 7.45 pm.

DC/91/2015: ALIGNMENT OF STREET TRADING FEES (LICENSING SECTION)

Read: Report dated 6 January 2015 from Mr C Jackson seeking approval to align street trading fees for Stationary, Mobile and Temporary Street Trading Licences for the new Council as follows:-

<u>TYPE OF LICENCE</u>	<u>APPLICATION FEE (Non-refundable)</u> £	<u>LICENCE FEE (Including Application Fee)</u> £
Stationary Licence	£75.00	£875
Mobile Licence	£75.00	£300
Temporary Licence	£75.00	£75 for first application £45 for each subsequent application (maximum of four) Increase the fee for a double pitch to £120 standard pitch size is 5 x 2 m
Variation	£50.00	n/a

AGREED: It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Hanna, **SECONDED** by Councillor Doran to approve the above street trading fees.

DC/92/2015: PAVEMENT CLEANSING PROPOSAL

Read: Report dated 27 January 2015 from Mr C O'Rourke seeking approval for the proposed way forward with respect to the cleansing (washing) of granite pavements in town centres across the new District and recommending:-

- Arrangements are made for a demonstration of a range of sweeper vehicles currently in operation in both Councils, to effectively review their potential for street pavement cleaning
- A demonstration is organised for a hybrid sweeper/washer to clean areas of Newry and Newcastle, prior to Irish Open Event
- Following these demonstrations, recommendations are made as to whether to purchase a hybrid washer/sweeper as an alternative to a sweeper (currently in the rates estimates), for use throughout the Council District as required. Thereafter the Council to consider future upgrade for town centre sweepers on a rolling basis.

- As sweepers/washers will not remove gum, this equipment would need to be supported by a twice annual clean for key areas, carried out by 3rd party industrial standard power wash contractors, to address all surfaces and street furnishings.
 - A total of £25,000-£30,000 to be ring-fenced in this respect for 2015/16
- This recommendation would incur no additional cost in the current financial year but would rely on the existing budgets being made available for power-washing of key areas by external contractor on two occasions during the year. This would be reviewed as an outcome of the planned demonstrations, to determine budget needs in 2016/17 and beyond.
- It is proposed that the functional responsibility for pavement washing should reside within the street cleansing operational area, within the new Council.

AGREED: **It was AGREED on the PROPOSAL of Councillor Donnelly, SECONDED by Councillor D McAteer, to approve the above report and recommendations.**

TRANSFERRING FUNCTIONS

DC/93/2015: **POSITION PAPER ON THE TRANSFER OF RESOURCES**

Read: Letter dated 20 January 2015 from Linda McHugh informing of the financial allocation which will be paid to Newry, Mourne and Down District Council in connection with the transfer of responsibility to Local Government for planning, off-street car parks, economic development and water recreation sites (subject to the Assembly voting the budget through). (Copy circulated).

AGREED: **It was AGREED to mark the above correspondence `noted`.**

DC/94/2015: **TRANSFER OF PLANNING FUNCTIONS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT: POSITION PAPER ON TRANSFER OF RESOURCES**

Read: Letter dated 15 January 2015 from DoE on the transfer of Planning Functions to Local Government: Position Paper on the Transfer of Resources. (Copy circulated).

AGREED: **It was AGREED to mark the above correspondence `noted`.**

DC/95/2015: **DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE - PCSPs**

Read: Letter dated 19 January 2015 from the NIPB/DoJ re: guidance on steps required to finalise PCSP business for 2014/2015 and to prepare for the Partnerships which will be reconstituted in early June 2015. (Copy circulated).

AGREED: It was **AGREED** to mark the above correspondence `noted`.

NOTED: Mr Hannaway advised there would be a gap between the ending of the current PCSP and the beginning of the reconstituted PCSP. The independent members would not be appointed to the new PCSP until early June.

Mr Hannway said he would be tabling a report at the February Governance Meeting on the constitution of the PCSP and also on the appointment of Councillors.

DC/96/2015: URBAN REGENERATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND THE COMMUNITY PLANNING PROCESS

Read: Letter dated 23 December 2014 from Mervyn Storey MLA, Minister for Social Development on issues relating to the transfer of urban regeneration and community development to the Council which will not take place until 1 April 2016. (Copy circulated).

AGREED: It was **AGREED** to mark the above correspondence `noted`.

DC/97/2015: DELOITTE DUE DILIGENCE EXERCISE – PROPOSED FUNDING TRANSFERS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Read: Letter dated 18 December 2014 from Mark H Durkan, Minister of the Environment re: concerns arising from the Deloitte due diligence exercise which examined the proposed funding transfers to Local Government. (Copy circulated).

Read: Letter dated 7 January 2015 from Danny Kennedy, Minister for Regional Development re: concerns arising from the Deloitte due diligence exercise particularly in respect of funding for the maintenance of car parks and for the transfer of Donaghadee Harbour. (Copy circulated).

AGREED: It was **AGREED** to mark the above correspondence `noted`.

COMMUNITY PLANNING

DC/98/2015: COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERS MEETING – WEDNESDAY 7 JANUARY 2015

Read: Report of Community Planning Partners Meeting held on Wednesday 7 January 2015. (Copy circulated).

AGREED: It was **AGREED** to mark the above report `noted`.

DC/99/2015: COMMUNITY PLANNING EVENTS

Read: Details of a range of Community Planning engagement events taking place throughout the District in February and March 2015. (Copy circulated).

AGREED: **It was AGREED to mark the above information `noted`.**

NOTED: In response to concerns expressed by Councillor D McAteer and Councillor Quinn about the importance of ensuring that the engagement process is very localised and that events are held throughout the towns and villages of the District, Mrs McKee confirmed that this would be the next step of the process. She said engagement would be much more targeted and there was an option for people to reply via a questionnaire on-line.

CONFERENCES/EVENTS

DC/100/2015: NILGA SMALL BUSINESS SUMMIT

Read: Invitation from NILGA to attend a Small Business Summit to be held on Thursday 12 February 2015 at Island Hall, Lagan Valley Island, Lisburn (9.15 am – 1.30 pm) (no fee).

AGREED **It was AGREED Councillor R Burgess and any other interested Councillor be granted approval to attend this event.**

DC/101/2015: REGENERATING LOCAL SPACES THROUGH EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY PLANNING

Read: Invitation to attend the “Regenerating Local Spaces Through Effective Community Planning” event to be held on Thursday 26 February 2015 in Dublin Castle.

AGREED: **It was AGREED to appoint Councillors W Clarke, R Burgess, D McAteer, K Loughran and Mrs H McKee, Community Planning Manager, to attend this event.**

CORRESPONDENCE

DC/102/2015: PUBS OF ULSTER – VAT RATE CAMPAIGN

Read: Letter dated 16 January 2015 from Pubs of Ulster seeking the Council’s support to their campaign calling on the Government to reduce VAT rates for businesses in the tourism sector in NI by allowing Pubs of Ulster to incorporate the Council logo on the campaign marketing material. (Copy circulated).

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed that Newry, Mourne and Down District Council support the VAT rate Campaign by Pubs of Ulster.

DC/103/2015: BEST KEPT AWARDS

Read: Letter dated 15 January 2015 from NI Amenity Council Best Kept Awards seeking confirmation that the Council will continue to pay their affiliation fee of £2,300.

AGREED: It was **AGREED** on the proposal of Councillor Fitzpatrick, **SECONDED** by Councillor Hanna, that the Council continue as Members of the Best Kept Awards and pay the fee of £2,300 (to be included in the Rates Budget).

“IN COMMITTEE” ITEMS

AGREED: It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Donnelly, **SECONDED** by Councillor Burgess, to discuss the next items “In Committee” due to the staffing and contractual matters to be discussed. (Local Government Act NI, part 8, para (5), Schedule 6, part 1, para.3).

DC/104/2015: ADOPTION OF ARC21 TERMS OF AGREEMENT

Read: Report dated 27 January 2015 from Mr C O'Rourke seeking approval of the arc21 “Terms of Agreement”. (Copy circulated).

DC/105/2015: COSTS OF NEWRY AND MOURNE COUNCIL WITHDRAWING FROM SWaMP

Read: Report dated 27 January 2015 from Mr L Hannaway on the dissolution of SWaMP 2008. (Copy circulated).

DC/106/2015: WASTE MANAGEMENT CONTRACTS

Read: Report dated 27 January 2015 from Mr C O'Rourke giving an overview of the existing Waste Management Contracts in both legacy Councils. (Copy circulated).

DC/107/2015: OPERATIONS OF NEW NEWRY LEISURE CENTRE

Read: Report dated 20 January 2015 from Mr R Moore seeking approval for the operational arrangements of the new Newry Leisure Centre to ensure the new Councils Leisure Services will be consistent throughout all centres. (Copy circulated).

DC/108/2015: US STUDY VISIT – 8 -20 MARCH 2015 INCLUSIVE

Read: Verbal update from the Chief Executive Designate seeking approval for the Community Planning Officer to undertake a US Study Visit from 8-20 March inclusive.

AGREED: It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Hanna, **SECONDED** by Councillor Fitzpatrick, to come “Out of Committee”.

AGREED: The Chief Executive Designate reported that whilst “In Committee” the following had been agreed:-

- 1) On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Burgess, **SECONDED** by Councillor Hanna, it was **AGREED** to approve the recommendations contained in the report dated 27 January 2015 from Mr C O’Rourke in relation to the arc21 “Terms of Agreement” and also that authority had been given to the Chief Executive Designate to sign the Terms of Agreement on behalf of the Council.
- 2) On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor D McAteer, **SECONDED** by Councillor Donnelly, it was agreed to approve the recommendation contained in the report dated 27 January 2015 on the dissolution of SWaMP2008 and notify the Department of Environment accordingly.
- 3) The overview of the existing Waste Management Contracts in both legacy Councils was noted.
- 4) On the **PROPOAL** of Councillor Mulgrew, **SECONDED** by Councillor Hanna, it was agreed to approve the recommendations in the report dated 20 January 2015 in relation to the operational arrangements for the new Newry Leisure Centre.
- 5) It was **AGREED** that Mr R Moore investigate issues raised by a Councillor relating to a Club’s usage of the existing Newry Swimming Pool.
- 6) It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Donnelly, **SECONDED** by Councillor Burgess to grant approval to the Community Planning Manager to undertake a US Study Visit from 8-20 March 2015 inclusive.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 8.40 pm.

For consideration at the Shadow Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday 3 February 2015.

Signed: **Councillor W Clarke**
Chairperson

Signed:

Mr L Hannaway
Chief Executive Designate

**Newry, Mourne, and Down District
Council
Economic Regeneration Vision and
Investment Strategy**

**Initial Engagement Workshop with Newry,
Mourne and Down District Council,
Development Committee**

27th January 2015

Introduction

- The Team
- Methodology
- The Five Themes +
- High level indicators
- Consultation and Engagement
- Seeking your views
- The next steps



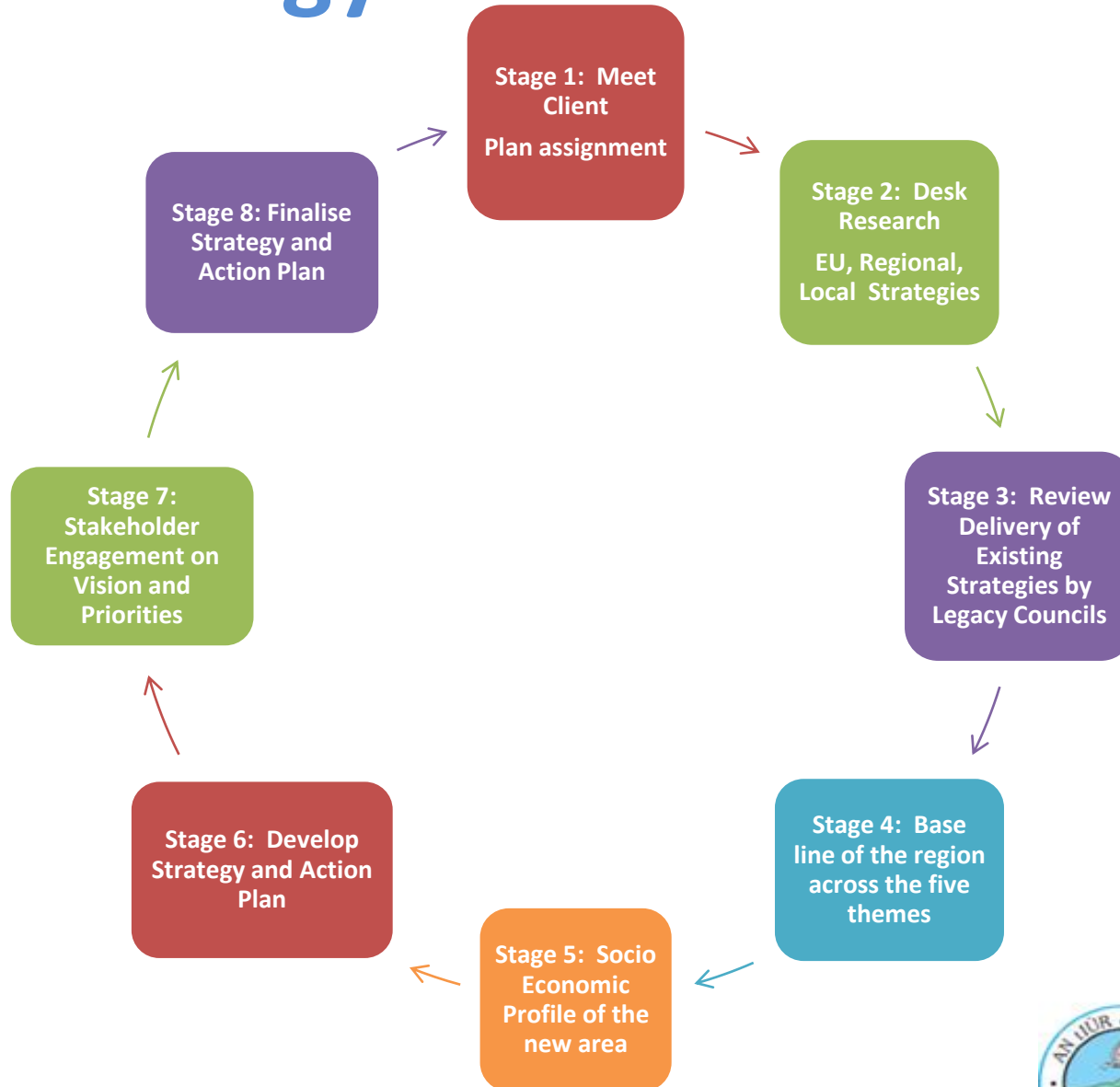
The Team



- About the team - Blu Zebra
 - Philip McDonagh – Economist
 - Maureen O'Reilly – Economist
 - Dr Eileen McGloin - Tourism
 - Karen Thompson - Economic Development
 - Therese Hogg – Urban and Rural Regeneration
 - Joy Hadden – Rural Development
 - Heather Maitland - Arts and Culture
 - Assisted by Bruce Hogg and Breige Jennings



Methodology



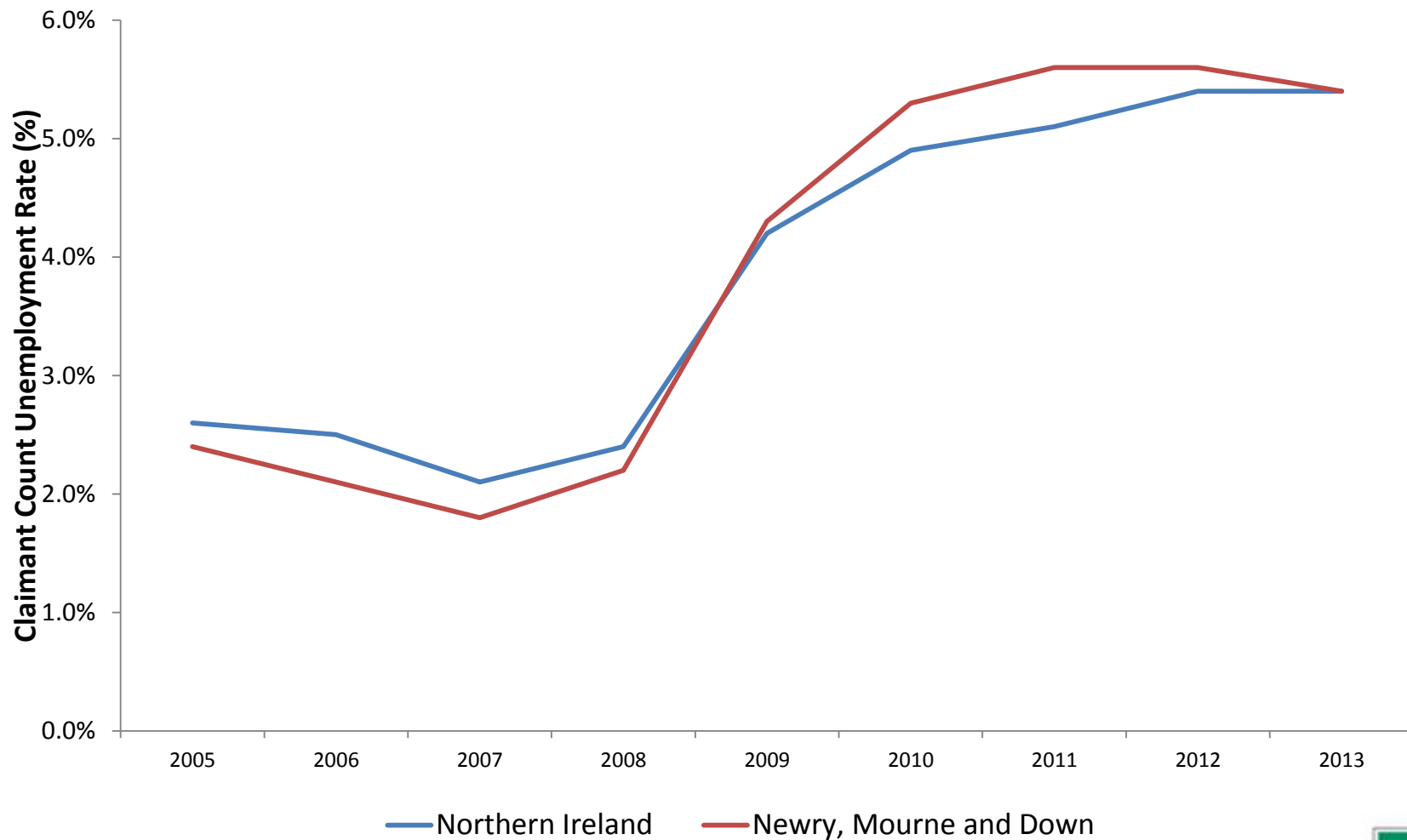
The Themes



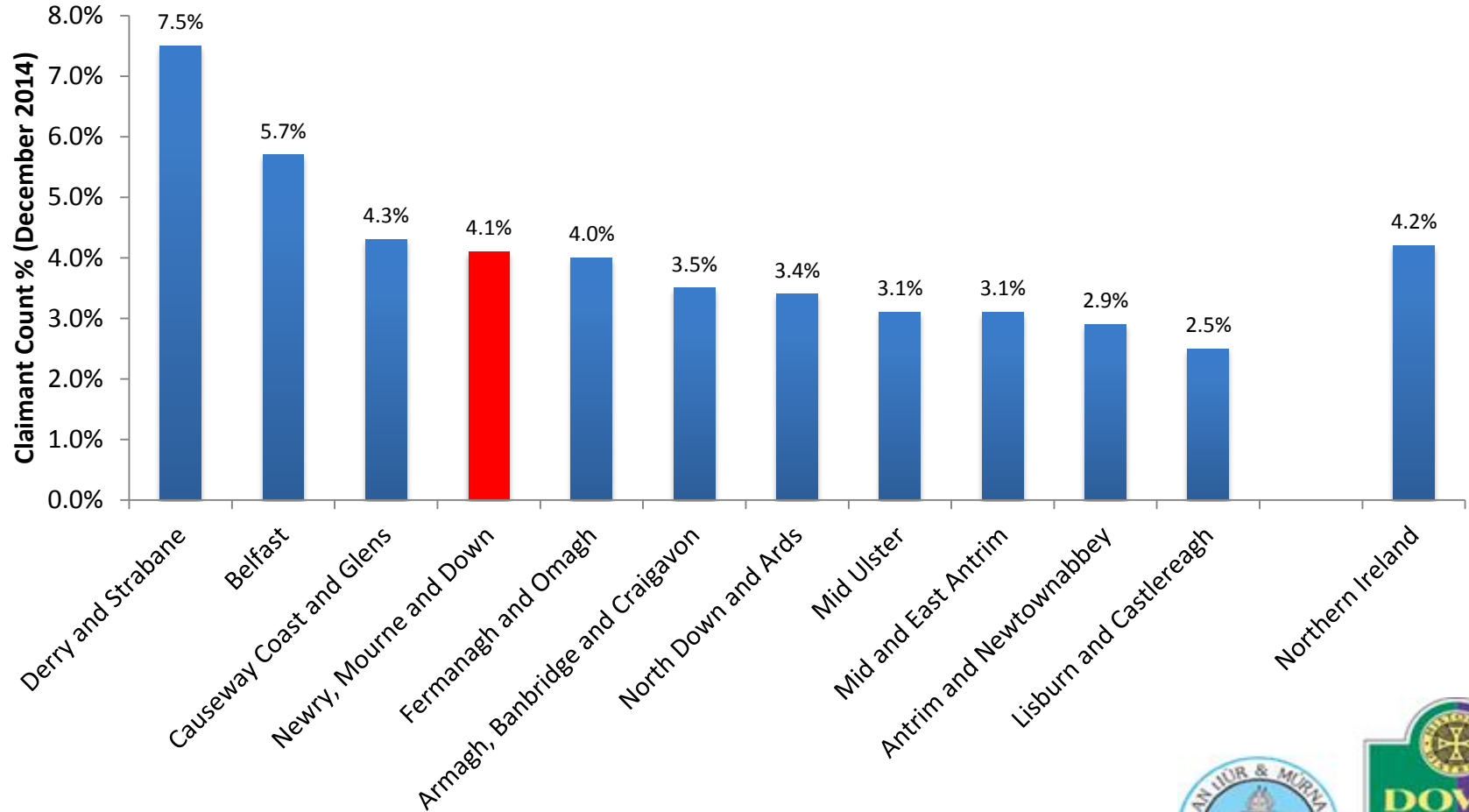
Consultation and Engagement



High level indicators - Newry, Mourne & Down unemployment below average in boom & above average in recession



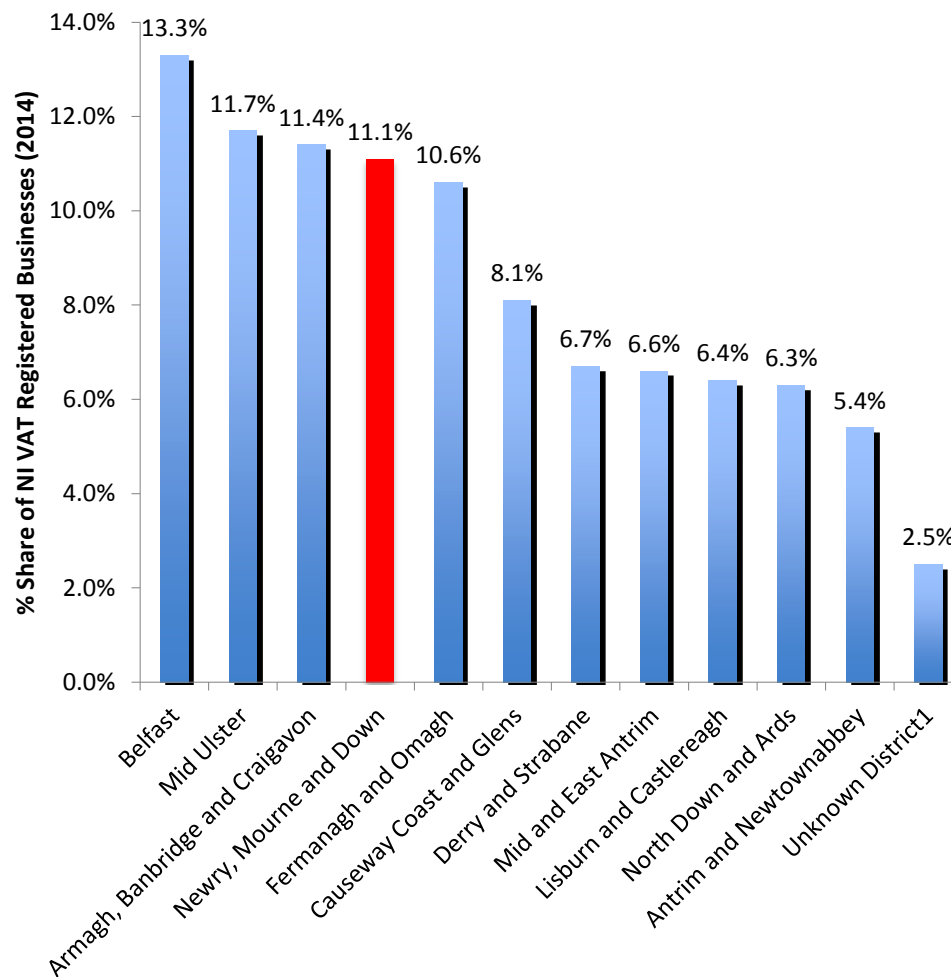
High level indicators - Unemployment rate in Newry, Mourne & Down now below NI average



High level indicators- Newry, Mourne & Down Business Base

- 7,500 VAT registered businesses
- 99% less than 50 employees
- Higher share of self-employed than NI average (11.5% vs. 8.9%)
- More business 'deaths' than 'births' in 2012 (same in NI)
- 357 start-ups through the Regional Start Initiative in 2013, 10% of NI
- 457 InvestNI offers in 2013 (8% of NI total) and assistance per head at £11,900 just 30% of NI average
- 3,765 farms or 15% of NI total and more likely to be very small farms compared to NI average (83% vs. 76%)
- Overnight visitors to the area represented 12% of the total visitors to Northern Ireland (2009) decreasing slightly to 11% in 2013
- Revenue generated by Overnight visitors in was 7.4% of total NI (2009) and 7% in 2013
- Tourism in the area is characterised by a strong dependence on visitors from within Northern Ireland and primarily on the day visitor market

Share of Northern Ireland's Business Base, 2014



Seeking Your Views – Economic Development

- What do you think are the main **strengths and weaknesses** of the economy of the Newry, Mourne & Down area?
- What is your **vision for the economy by 2030** for Newry, Mourne and Down?
- What should the **key economic development priorities for the new Council** be for the next 5 years? New business starts? Growing existing business? Attracting FDI? Skills development?



Seeking Your Views - Tourism

- Given the new Council area what are the **opportunities for tourism expansion and development?**
- What are your views on how best to **maximise the benefits of events/festivals** for the local economy?
- What are the **barriers** to development of the **tourism sector** in Newry, Mourne and Down?
- How might the **council support tourism businesses** to develop?



Seeking Your Views – Urban, Rural and Culture & Arts

- What are the main opportunities for **rural development investment** in the area?
- Given the **transfer of the urban regeneration function** to Council from DSD, what do you see as the main opportunities and challenges for urban regeneration planning and investment in the council area?
 - How important is **addressing disadvantage and poverty** in economic development (Neighbourhood Renewal and Areas at Risk ?
- What are the **opportunities for the development and expansion of the culture and arts sector** in the area
 - creative industries; visual arts; performing arts; participatory/ community arts; crafts sector; other



Next Steps

- Party Representative Forum Workshop
- Stakeholder Forum Meeting
- Socio economic profile and base line against the five themes
- Series of one to one sessions
- Online Survey
- Desk research
- Draft Strategy and Presentation to Members

