

February 3rd, 2026

**Notice Of Meeting**

You are requested to attend the meeting to be held on **Monday, 9th February 2026** at **6:00 pm** in **Boardroom, Warrenpoint Town Hall**.

**Committee Membership 2025-26**

Councillor D Lee-Surginor **Chairperson**

Councillor K Feehan **Deputy Chairperson**

Councillor T Andrews

Councillor W Clarke

Councillor C Galbraith

Councillor O Hanlon

Councillor G Hanna

Councillor V Harte

Councillor G Kearns

Councillor A Lewis

Councillor S Murphy

Councillor A Quinn

Councillor M Ruane

Councillor J Tinnelly

Councillor H Young

# Agenda

## 1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

## 2.0 Declarations of Interest

## 3.0 Action Sheet of Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Meeting held 19 January 2026

📎 *ERT Action Sheet - 2026-01-19 inc. historic actions updated.pdf*

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### *For Discussion/Decision*

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## 4.0 Officer Report on Notice of Motion - Water Quality C/190/2025

📎 *ERT Report - NOM Water Quality.pdf*

*Page 4*

## 5.0 Financial Assistance Call 2 - Capital Schemes

📎 *ERT Report - Financial Assistance Call 2 - Capital Schemes 2026-2027.pdf*

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## 6.0 Peace Plus

📎 *ERT Report - PEACEPLUS.pdf*

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### *Exempt Appendices*

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### 6.1 Peace Plus Appendix

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information). and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

📎 *Appx 1- Peace Plus Business case 3.2 Minority Community Support Programme (restricted doc).pdf*

*Not included*

📎 *Appx 2 - Peace Plus Business case 3.2 Cultural Language Schools (restricted doc).pdf*

*Not included*

📎 *Appx 3 PEACEPLUS 29 01 2026 - Minutes (restricted doc).pdf*

*Not included*

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## **7.0 Newry BID**

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information). and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

Report to follow

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***FOR NOTING Items deemed to be exempt under Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014***

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## **8.0 International Relations Friendship Agreement**

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information). and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

Report to follow

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***For Noting***

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## **9.0 Quarterly Museum Report**

*For Information*

📎 ***ERT Report - Quarterly Museums Report.pdf***

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# Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews

Cllr Callum Bowsie

Ms Michelle Boyle

Fionnuala Branagh

Cllr Jim Brennan

Ms Sonya Burns

Mr Gerard Byrne

Cllr Pete Byrne

Cllr Philip Campbell

Cllr William Clarke

Cllr Laura Devlin

Cllr Cadogan Enright

Cllr Killian Feehan

Cllr Doire Finn

Cllr Conor Galbraith

Cllr Mark Gibbons

Cllr Oonagh Hanlon

Cllr Glyn Hanna

Cllr Valerie Harte

Cllr Martin Hearty

Cllr Roisin Howell

Cllr Tierna Howie

Ms Catherine Hughes

Cllr Jonathan Jackson

Joanne/Noelle Johnston

Cllr Geraldine Kearns

Miss Veronica Keegan

Mrs Sheila Kieran

Cllr Aurla King

Cllr Cathal King

Ms Elaine Kirk

Cllr Mickey Larkin

Cllr Niall Lawlor

Cllr David Lee-Surginor

Cllr Alan Lewis

Cllr Oonagh Magennis

Mr Conor Mallon

Cllr Aidan Mathers

Cllr Declan McAteer

Jonathan McGilly

Mr Martin McKibbin

Ms Tracie McLoughlin

Ms Aveen McVeigh  
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Cllr Selina Murphy  
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Cllr Kate Murphy  
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Cllr Declan Murphy  
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Sinead Murphy  
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Cllr Siobhan O'Hare  
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Mr Andy Patterson  
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Cllr Áine Quinn  
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Cllr Henry Reilly  
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Cllr Michael Rice  
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Cllr Michael Ruane  
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Mrs Amanda Smyth  
.....  
Donna Starkey  
.....  
Sarah Taggart  
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Cllr David Taylor  
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Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly  
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Cllr Jill Truesdale  
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Mrs Marie Ward  
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Cllr Helena Young  
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ACTION SHEETECONOMY, REGENERATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING – MONDAY 19 JANUARY 2026

| Minute Ref   | Subject                                                                   | Decision                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Lead Officer | Actions taken/<br>Progress to date | Remove<br>from Action<br>Sheet Y/N |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ERT/003/2026 | Action sheet of ERT meeting 08/12/2025                                    | It was agreed to note the action sheet                                                                                                                                                                                                             | C Mallon     | Noted                              | Y                                  |
| ERT/004/2026 | Officer Report on Notice of Motion – Festival For Newry City (C/173/2025) | it was agreed that the request for the establishment of a festival for Newry City be tabled for consideration by the Arts Working Group and that a paper is brought back to the Committee within six months to provide an update on progress made. | A Smyth      | In progress                        | N                                  |
| ERT/005/2026 | Downpatrick Growing Together (Grove)                                      | it was agreed to accept a Letter of Offer for Downpatrick Growing Together funded via PEACEPLUS 1.2 Empowering Communities, and to approve the implementation of the project including any necessary procurements was also agreed.                 | A Smyth      | In progress                        | Y                                  |
| ERT/006/2026 | Make It Local                                                             | it was agreed to approve the procurement and appointment of a creative communications consultancy to engage and support Council with delivery of a Make It Local campaign throughout 2026/27.                                                      | A Smyth      | In progress                        | Y                                  |

| Minute Ref   | Subject                   | Decision                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Lead Officer | Actions taken/<br>Progress to date | Remove from Action Sheet Y/N |
|--------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ERT/007/2026 | ERT Facility Hire Charges | <p>the following was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To approve the updated hire charge fee structure for Caravan / Camping as set out in section 2 of the officer's report.</li> <li>To approve the updated hire charge fee structure for Circus fees for use of Council / ERT lands, as set out in section 2 of the officer's report.</li> <li>To approve the updated hire charge fee structure for Down County Museum, Bagenal's Castle, Down Arts Centre and Warrenpoint Town Hall as set out in section 2 and appendix 1 of the officer's report.</li> </ul> | A Smyth      | In progress                        | Y                            |
| ERT/008/2026 | Newry City Music Festival | <p>the following was agreed;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To approve the pilot 2-day music festival in Newry City at Albert Basin site and to enter in discussions on hire of the site for the event;</li> <li>To approve the financial support for the event as set out in section 4.1 of the officer's report, subject to approval in the 2026/27 budget.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                 | A Smyth      | In progress                        | N                            |

| Minute Ref   | Subject                                | Decision                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Lead Officer | Actions taken/<br>Progress to date | Remove from Action Sheet Y/N |
|--------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ERT/009/2026 | Warrenpoint Pontoon And Breakwater     | it was agreed to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approve the removal of the Pontoon at Warrenpoint breakwater;</li> <li>• Progress the provision of access to the water on Carlingford Lough through the Shared Island Project;</li> <li>• Renew the license agreement for pedestrian access to the Breakwater promenade subject to WHA agreeing to carry out the necessary inspections, surveys and repairs to the sheet pile wall.</li> <li>• Continue engagement between Council and all key stakeholders.</li> </ul> | A Smyth      | In progress                        | N                            |
| ERT/010/2026 | Newry Bid Revote 2026                  | the following was agreed; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To note the receipt of the Business Plan for the Newry BID renewal for period 2025-2031</li> <li>• To note the issue of the ballot notice to Newry BID by the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026.</li> <li>• The appointment of the named organisation with the procurement and cost met by Newry BID.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                     | C Mallon     | In progress                        | N                            |
| ERT/011/2026 | Planning File Management And Retention | it was agreed to note the extension of the current contract, under the EPSO framework, with Iron Mountain UK Ltd for a further 12 months, from 16 January 2026 to 15 January 2027.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | J McGilly    | Actioned                           | Y                            |
| ERT/012/2026 | Rural Business Development Grant       | the update on the 2025/26 Rural Business Development Grant Scheme was noted.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | A Smyth      | Noted                              | Y                            |

|                                                     |                                                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Report to:</b>                                   | Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee                                 |
| <b>Date of Meeting:</b>                             | Monday 9 February 2026                                                      |
| <b>Subject:</b>                                     | Notion of Motion: Water Quality                                             |
| <b>Reporting Officer<br/>(Including Job Title):</b> | Amanda Smyth<br>Assistant Director: Economy, Growth and Tourism             |
| <b>Contact Officer<br/>(Including Job Title):</b>   | Michelle Boyle<br>Head of Tourism Product Development & Visitor Experience. |

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

|            | For decision                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | X | For noting only |  |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|-----------------|--|
| <b>1.0</b> | <b>Purpose and Background</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |   |                 |  |
| 1.1        | <p><u>Purpose</u><br/>Approve recommendation as set out in section 3.1 of this report</p> <p><u>Background</u><br/>Notion of Motion brought forward by Cllr Finn and referred to ERT states:</p> <p><b><i>C/190/2025 <u>water quality</u></i></b></p> <p><i>Notice of Motion received from Councillor Finn:</i></p> <p><i>"Newry Mourne and Down District council notes with disappointment recent figures that suggest water quality levels at two lakes in the district were of poor quality; recognises the environmental importance of ensuring our District has clean bodies of water; further recognises the economic potential of ensuring bodies of water such as Newry Canal and Camlough lake are clean and fit for use; and will work with DAERA and other external bodies to support improvements to water quality"</i></p> <p>The Motion was referred to the Economy, Regeneration &amp; Tourism Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6</p> |   |                 |  |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Key issues</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |   |                 |  |
| 2.1        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is recognised that bodies of water such as Camlough Lake and the Newry Canal are vital, natural and heritage assets that provide an important resource for a wide range of recreational uses while significantly contributing to the tourism potential of the district.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |   |                 |  |

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|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Both waterways support activities such as walking, cycling, angling, kayaking, open-water swimming events, and nature observation, promoting healthy lifestyles and community wellbeing. Their scenic landscapes, rich biodiversity, and cultural heritage attract visitors throughout the year, supporting local businesses, hospitality, and outdoor recreation providers.</li> <li>Ensuring these bodies of water are clean, accessible, and well-managed enhances their appeal as destinations, strengthens the district's reputation for high-quality natural environments, and underpins sustainable tourism growth that benefits residents and visitors alike.</li> </ul> <p><u>Water Quality testing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The water quality testing undertaken at Castlewellan and Camlough Lakes is based on "The Quality of Bathing Water Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008" which is used for designated bathing waters.</li> <li>While both lakes are not designated as bathing waters, due to level of recreation activity which takes place at both locations, Council have undertaken water quality testing from May - September 2025. While this is not a statutory obligation, it is undertaken to provide users with guidance regarding the quality of the water, at a particular sample point in time.</li> <li>Water Testing at Camlough Lake undertaken between May – September 2025 provided an overall Excellent Water Quality with only one poor sample during that period.</li> </ul> |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 3.1        | Council acknowledges the economic potential of ensuring bodies of water such as Newry Canal and Camlough lake are clean and fit for use;                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 3.2        | Council agrees to continue to work with DAERA and other external bodies to support improvements to water quality.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Resource implications</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 4.1        | N/A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>5.0</b> | <b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 5.1        | <p><b><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></b></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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| 5.2 | <p><b><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></b></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><b><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></b></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>                                                         |
| 6.0 | <p><b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b></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><b>Appendices</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|     | <p>n/a</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 8.0 | <p><b>Background Documents</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|     | <p>N/A</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

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|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Report to:                                  | Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee                                  |
| Date of Meeting:                            | Monday 9 February 2026                                                       |
| Subject:                                    | Financial Assistance – Call 2 – Capital Themes                               |
| Reporting Officer<br>(Including Job Title): | Amanda Smyth<br>Assistant Director Economy, Growth and Tourism               |
| Contact Officer<br>(Including Job Title):   | Sonya Stephenson – Head of Programmes<br>Natasha Smyth – Project Coordinator |

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|     | For decision                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | X | For noting only |
| 1.0 | Purpose and Background                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |   |                 |
| 1.1 | <p><u>Purpose</u><br/>To approve the recommendations as set out in section 3.</p> <p><u>Background</u><br/>As per the financial assistance review, we are now implementing 2 calls per year starting with revenue themes and then the second call will be capital themes.</p> <p>Call 1: Revenue. This funding call closed on 12 January 2026 and assessment panels are currently underway.</p> <p>Section 2.2 below sets out the proposal for management of the capital financial assistance call for 2026 / 2027, subject to rate estimate process and confirmation on budget availability</p> |   |                 |
| 2.0 | Key issues                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |   |                 |
| 2.1 | <p><u>Opening of Financial Assistance 2026-2027: Call 2: Capital</u></p> <p>As per Financial Assistance timeline, it is proposed that this call will open in March/April 2026, subject to confirmation of rates and review/approval Guidance Notes.</p> <p>The following themes will open in Call 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Community Capital - Community Facilities</li><li>• Community Capital - Minor Items</li><li>• Sports Facility Capital</li></ul> <p>Guidance Note</p>                                                                                             |   |                 |

|            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
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|            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guidance Notes are currently with AHC Budget Holders for amends/review/approval.</li> </ul> <p>Workshops</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In person and online workshops will be offered to potential applicants and advertised across NMDDC platforms. However, attendance at these for the last call was poorly attended, particularly for the in-person workshops. Opportunities to engage in these sessions will be offered in the evenings to accommodate the community and voluntary sector, with the online session taking place over lunchtime.</li> </ul> |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 3.1        | To approve that Financial Assistance Call 2, Capital for 2026/2027 will open in March/April 2026. The call will be opened and managed subject to confirmation of budgets.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Resource implications</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 4.1        | <p><b>Revenue/Payroll:</b></p> <p><b>Capital:</b> All budgets are internal.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>5.0</b> | <b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 5.1        | <p><b><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></b></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><b><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></b> 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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| 5.3        | <p><b><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></b></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> |
| <b>6.0</b> | <b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 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:<br/>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>7.0</b> | <b>Appendices</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|            | N/A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>8.0</b> | <b>Background Documents</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|            | N/A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

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| <b>Report to:</b>                                   | Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee                                  |
| <b>Date of Meeting:</b>                             | Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2026                                         |
| <b>Subject:</b>                                     | PEACEPLUS Theme 1.1                                                          |
| <b>Reporting Officer<br/>(Including Job Title):</b> | Amanda Smyth<br>Assistant Director Economy, Growth and Tourism               |
| <b>Contact Officer<br/>(Including Job Title):</b>   | Sonya Stephenson – Head of Programmes<br>Sarah McClory – Project Coordinator |

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

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|---------------------|----------|------------------------|--|
| <b>For decision</b> | <b>X</b> | <b>For noting only</b> |  |
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| <b>1.0</b> | <b>Purpose and Background</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 1.1        | <p><u>Purpose</u><br/>To approve the recommendations as set out in section 3.</p> <p><u>Background</u><br/>The PEACEPLUS Partnership met on the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026. The recommendations arising from these meetings require ERT Committee approval.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Key issues</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 2.1        | <p><b>Claims</b><br/>We are currently up to date with all JEMS partner and project reports for periods 1-6 and with period 7 due to be submitted at the end of January 2026. First payment has been received for the periods one to four claims.</p> <p><b>Community Engagement events</b><br/>Seven face to face and one engagement opportunity were delivered throughout December in each of the Councils DEAs to highlight the projects that will be delivered under the action plan and encourage participation onto these projects.</p> <p>These engagement events will be duplicated week beginning 8th April throughout the Council District however these will be delivered during the evening. These events will be advertised via social media, local press and via appropriate contact databases.</p> <p>The PEACE team produce a bi-monthly newsletter (PDF) to highlight the projects being delivered and contact details to assist with recruitment of participants onto these projects. This will be shared with Partnership members, DEA forum members, PEACEPLUS webpage and PEACE contact database. Council's Marketing Department</p> |

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|            | <p>will also be assisting with the promotion of the newsletter via a press release beginning of February.</p> <p><b>Conflict of interest</b><br/>Conflict-of-interest declaration forms are to be updated by all members of the Partnership Board.</p> <p><b>Projects to be progressed: Strand 2 and 3 of the Co-designed Local Action Plan</b><br/>The Partnership have agreed the procurement and delivery of the below activities under Strand 2 and 3 of the Co-designed Local Action Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.1 Capacity building and Engagement Programme: Events training for community groups for Newry and Crotlieve DEA.</li> <li>• 3.2 Minority Community Support Programme: 7 Minority Communities Social Support projects and 7 Minority Community Integration projects to be delivered in each of the DEA's.</li> <li>• 3.2 Cultural Language Schools: 14 Language and Cultural Summer Schools. 1 project to be delivered in each DEA over the Summer of 2026 and 2027.</li> </ul> |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 3.1        | <p>Member approve the procurement and delivery of the below activities under Strand 3 of the Co-designed Local Action Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full Business Case PEACEPLUS 3.2 Minority Community Support Programme</li> <li>• Full Business Case PEACEPLUS 3.2 Cultural Language Schools</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 3.2        | Members note the minutes of PEACEPLUS Partnership on 29 <sup>th</sup> January 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Resource implications</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 4.1        | Revenue/Payroll: Project 85% funded by the EU and 15% by the two Governments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>5.0</b> | <b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 5.1        | <p><b><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></b></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><b><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></b></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

|     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
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|     | <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><b><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></b></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>                                                                                             |
| 6.0 | <p><b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b></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><b>Appendices</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|     | <p>The below items are deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 – <b>information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information)</b> and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.</p> <p>Appx. 1 Full Business Case PEACEPLUS 3.2 Minority Community Support Programme</p> <p>Appx. 2 Full Business Case PEACEPLUS 3.2 Cultural Language Schools</p> <p>Appx. 3 PEACEPLUS Partnership Board Minutes 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026</p> |
| 8.0 | <p><b>Background Documents</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|     | <p>N/A</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

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|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Report to:</b>                                   | Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee                      |
| <b>Date of Meeting:</b>                             | Monday 9 February 2026                                           |
| <b>Subject:</b>                                     | Quarterly Museums Update (Q3 25/26 Oct-Dec)                      |
| <b>Reporting Officer<br/>(Including Job Title):</b> | Amanda Smyth,<br>Assistant Director: Economy, Growth and Tourism |
| <b>Contact Officer<br/>(Including Job Title):</b>   | Alan Freeburn<br>Museum and Heritage Services Manager            |

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

|                     |                        |          |
|---------------------|------------------------|----------|
| <b>For decision</b> | <b>For noting only</b> | <b>X</b> |
|---------------------|------------------------|----------|

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| <b>1.0</b> | <b>Purpose and Background</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 1.1        | <p><u>Purpose</u><br/>To note the update on the activities, programming and achievements of NMD Museums.</p> <p><u>Background</u><br/>NMD Museums consists of Down County Museum, Downpatrick and Newry and Mourne Museum, Newry. Together they provide a museum service for the whole of NMDDC.</p> <p>This paper sets out an update on the activities, programming and achievements of NMD Museums.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Key issues</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 2.1        | <p><b>Newry and Mourne Museum (NMM)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Exhibitions</u><br/>NMM launched <i>Making Waves: Newry's rise as a global trade centre</i>, an exhibition celebrating the maritime and commercial history of the area, on 16<sup>th</sup> October. The exhibition includes many items that had not previously been on display and has been well received by visitors and well-reported in the local and regional press.</li> </ul> <p>A new display exploring local VJ celebrations was unveiled in October, and a toy themed display and family trail, <i>Escape from the Grotto</i>, was installed in December to support the schools and Christmas programmes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Donations/Acquisitions</u></li> </ul> |

NMM purchased a set of 19<sup>th</sup> century Newry glass goblets formerly belonging to the Earl of Kilmorey and items relating to the local railway services from the late Lord O'Neill's collection.

Donations include a significant collection of 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century lace and linen embroidery from the Convent of Mercy needlework school, and a receipt/order book from McCann's bakery.

- Conservation

Conservation was completed on the *Ages & Capabilities* ledger, an important document from 1824 which includes records of customs service employees from Newry, Warrenpoint and other County Down ports.

- Funding

NMM received a grant of £4,711 from the Northern Ireland Museum's Council (NIMC) for a new display case to provide an opportunity for a dynamic monthly display of objects to be chosen by visitors, community groups or members of staff.

The Museum was also successfully awarded £95,000 over 30 months for an innovative community collection project, *Collecting Together: Communities as Curators*, a two-year initiative that empowers communities to shape the museum's collection through inclusive acquisition and commissioning.

NIMC also awarded £500 to NMM to programme workshops for under 5s as part of the Playful Museums Festival. These workshops will combine storytelling, music, and songs.

- Visitor Nos

|                                   |             |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Schools                           | 1872        |
| Other Groups/Room bookings/Events | 357         |
| Outreach                          | 1205        |
| General Visitors                  | 610         |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>4015</b> |

- Events

Halloween family event  
Christmas family events

- Misc

12 articles were published in local media including pieces on maritime history, the Second World War, local ghost stories and Warrenpoint baths. These have also been published on the website.

## Down County Museum (DCM)

- Exhibitions

A collection of 25 artworks from the collection are now on permanent display throughout the museum. This includes a large painting of Constance Malleson (nee Annesley) by William Conor and 12 watercolours of the Lecale area by R D Perceval as well as notable scenes from Co Down towns.

DCM installed new welcome signage at the main entrance and cell block reception. This is part of an ongoing programme of improved visitor wayfinding and site interpretation.

- Donations/Acquisitions

DCM received a donation of objects relating to Downpatrick's medical history including signage from a local pharmacy, a bell from the Downe Hospital and 20<sup>th</sup> century photographs for digitisation.

The museum acquired two paintings for the collection.

- Bowden's Farm, Tullybrannigan by Colin Middleton (purchased by Friends of Down County Museum)
- Across the Marshes of the Quoile by Jack Hil from the late Lord O'Neill's collection.

- Visitor Nos

|                     |             |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Schools             | 399         |
| Other Groups/Events | 319         |
| Outreach            | 0           |
| General Visitors    | 1685        |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>2403</b> |

- Events

Oughley Shed Talk – Dr Tom Hulme, QUB

Free tours for Good Relations Week

Thomas Russell Bus Tour

The Lifeboats of Dundrum Bay talk, Dr Barbara Lomas

Halloween family event

Femina Culpa poetry reading

Christmas family days

- Misc.

The museum published two blogs:

The Wonderful World of Ceramics

Finding Fossils at Down County Museum

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| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 3.1        | To note the update on the activities, programming and achievements of NMD Museums.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Resource implications</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 4.1        | N/A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>5.0</b> | <b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 5.1        | <p><b><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></b></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><b><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></b></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><b><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></b></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>                                                         |

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| <b>6.0</b> | <b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 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> |
| <b>7.0</b> | <b>Appendices</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|            | N/A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>8.0</b> | <b>Background Documents</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|            | N/A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |