

May 8th, 2026

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the meeting to be held on **Monday, 11th May 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 arising from Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Meeting held 20 April 2026

📎 *ERT Action Sheet - 2026-04-20 inc. historic actions updated.pdf*

Page 1

For Discussion/Decision

4.0 Arts Outreach Programme 2026/27

📎 *ERT Report - Arts Outreach Programme 2026-27.pdf*

Page 6

Exempt Appendices

4.1 Appendix - Arts Outreach Programme 2026/27

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 1 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 - Arts Outreach Programme - Resource Requirements (restricted).pdf*

Not included

For Discussion/Decision

5.0 Graphic Design, Artwork & Print Management Services

📎 *ERT Report - Graphic Design, Artwork & Print Management Services.pdf*

Page 9

Exempt Appendices

5.1 Appendix - Graphic Design, Artwork & Print Management Services

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📎 *Appx 1 - Graphic Design, Artwork & Print - Resource Requirements (restricted).pdf*

Not included

📎 *Appx 2 - Graphic Design, Artwork & Print - Business Case (restricted).pdf*

Not included

For Discussion/Decision

6.0 Local Economic Partnership – Professional Services

 *ERT Report - Local Economic Partnership Professional Services.pdf*

Page 12

Exempt Appendices

6.1 Appendix - Local Economic Partnership – Professional Services

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 1 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 -LEP Professional Services - Business Case (restricted).pdf*

Not included

For Discussion/Decision

7.0 UNESCO Together Project

 *ERT Report - UNESCO Together Projects.pdf*

Page 16

Exempt Appendices

7.1 Appendix - UNESCO Together Project

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 1 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 - UNESCO Together Project Business Case (restricted).pdf*

Not included

For Discussion/Decision

8.0 Newry BID

 *ERT Report - Newry BID.pdf*

Page 19

Exempt Appendices

8.1 Appendix - Newry BID

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 1 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.

Items deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014

9.0 Food Curator – Tourism Events

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 1 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

ERT Report - Food Curator Tourism Events_2026.pdf

Not included

10.0 Hotel Accommodation Scheme

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 1 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.

ERT Report - Hotel Accommodation Development Grant.pdf

Not included

Appx 1 - Hotel Accommodation Development Grant (restricted).pdf

Not included

For Noting

11.0 Kilcurry Subcatchment Water Assessment Project

ERT Report - Kilcurry Subcatchment Water Assessment Project.pdf

Page 22

12.0 NMD Museums Quarterly Update

ERT Report - NMD Museums Quarterly Update.pdf

Page 25

Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews
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Cllr Callum Bowsie
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Ms Michelle Boyle
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Fionnuala Branagh
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Cllr Jim Brennan
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Ms Sonya Burns
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Lorraine/Emma Burns/McParland
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Mr Gerard Byrne
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Cllr Pete Byrne
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Cllr Philip Campbell
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Cllr William Clarke
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Cllr Laura Devlin
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Ms Louise Dillon
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Cllr Cadogan Enright
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Cllr Killian Feehan
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Cllr Doire Finn
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Cllr Conor Galbraith
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Cllr Mark Gibbons
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Cllr Oonagh Hanlon
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Cllr Glyn Hanna
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Cllr Valerie Harte
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Cllr Martin Hearty
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Cllr Roisin Howell
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Cllr Tierna Howie
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Ms Catherine Hughes
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Cllr Jonathan Jackson
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Joanne Johnston
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Cllr Geraldine Kearns
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Miss Veronica Keegan
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Mrs Sheila Kieran
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Cllr Aurla King
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Cllr Cathal King
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Ms Elaine Kirk
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Cllr Mickey Larkin
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Cllr Niall Lawlor
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Cllr David Lee-Surginor
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Cllr Alan Lewis
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Cllr Oonagh Magennis
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Mr Conor Mallon
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Cllr Aidan Mathers
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Cllr Declan McAteer
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Jonathan McGilly
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Mr Martin McKibbin
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Ms Tracie McLoughlin
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Ms Aveen McVeigh
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Sinead Murphy
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Cllr Kate Murphy
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Cllr Selina Murphy
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Cllr Declan 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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Ms Maria Rogan
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Cllr Michael Ruane
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Mrs Amanda Smyth
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Conor Smyth
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Donna Starkey
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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/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
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	Completed	Y
ERT/008/2026	Newry City Music Festival	the following was agreed; - 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; - 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.	A Smyth	Completed	Y
ERT/009/2026	Warrenpoint Pontoon And Breakwater	it was agreed to: - Approve the removal of the Pontoon at Warrenpoint breakwater; - Progress the provision of access to the water on Carlingford Lough through the Shared Island Project; - 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. - Continue engagement between Council and all key stakeholders.	A Smyth	In progress	Y

MONDAY 9 MARCH 2026

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/025/2026	NMD Labour Market Partnership 2026/27	It was agreed to approve the following, subject to funding, • The business case for implementation of NMD Action Plan for 2026/2027 as outlined in appendix 1 of the officers' report. • Acceptance of a DFC letter of Offer for NMD LMP activities, including administration and operational budget. • Progression of all required procurement and commissioning activity to secure delivery agents for the initiatives detailed in appendix 2 of the officers' report.	A Smyth	In Progress – awaiting LoO	Y

MONDAY 20 APRIL 2026

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/034/2026	Action Sheet ERT Committee Meeting Monday 9 March 2026	It was agreed to note the action sheet. It was also agreed to establish a dedicated Events Working Group, comprising representatives from the community, voluntary and business sectors to enhance and develop existing events, including St Patrick's Day celebrations across the Newry, Mourne and Down district, with a view to increasing economic opportunities	C Mallon C Mallon		N

		and strengthening the district's tourism offering. It was further agreed that Council write to Communities C Mallon Minister Gordon Lyons MLA, seeking support for St Patrick's Day events across the district in 2027.			
ERT/035/2026	Officer Report On Notice of Motion - Night Time Economy In Downpatrick	The following was agreed; - To engage with Downpatrick Regeneration Working Group to host an engagement event with local businesses and relevant agencies to scope an action plan for the development of Downpatrick's nighttime economy, looking at all aspects of economic growth in Downpatrick to enhance foot flow and visitor experience and promote Downpatrick as a positive place to visit, shop, dine, and stay. - Officers to engage with Belfast City Council to develop proposals for a Purple Flag accreditation application for Downpatrick, Newry and Newcastle. - It was also agreed that the Council hosts an engagement event with local businesses and relevant agencies in Newry and Newcastle to scope an action plan for the development of their nighttime economy.	A Smyth	In Progress	Y
ERT/036/2026	Local Economic Partnership	It was agreed to note the action reports as outlined in Appendix 1 and approve the business case outlined in Appendix 2 contained within the officer's report.	A Smyth	In Progress	Y
ERT/037/2026	Pavement Café Policies	It was agreed to consider and approve the Pavement Café Policies and the additional item '6.9 (b)The minimum footway width may need to be greater than 2 m in areas with medium/high pedestrian footfall. The Pedestrian Comfort Guide for London can be used as guidance to determine the clear footway width for recorded high pedestrian flows.	J McGilly	complete	Y
ERT/038/2026	PEACEPLUS Theme 1.1	It was agreed to note the minutes of PEACEPLUS Partnership on 26th March 2026 and approve the business case for procurement and delivery of the Social and Emotional Support Programme –	A Smyth	In Progress	Y

		intergenerational Music and Dance under Strand 2 of the Co-designed Local Action Plan.			
ERT/039/2026	NI Regional Planning IT System	It was agreed to approve the associated costs of the Shared Service for the Planning system.	J McGilly	complete	Y
ERT/040/2026	Temporary Road Closure Policy	It was agreed to consider and approve the Temporary Road Closures on a Public Road for the Purposes of Holding a Special Event Policy.	J McGilly	complete	Y
ERT/041/2026	Financial Assistance Call 1 Tranche 2 2026/27	It was agreed to issue Letters of Offer to projects as per Council Policy to the groups recommended for the award of funding within the budget allocation for each theme. Letters of Offer to successful applicants and notification to unsuccessful applicants will be issued in mid May 2026. It was also agreed that Pre-Letter of Offer conditions are to be met prior to issue of full Letter of Offer and where conditions are not satisfied, the budget will be re-allocated to score and rank list, if applicable. It was further agreed to open a Financial Assistance Revenue Call (Call 2) mid-May 2026 for 4 weeks for the following themes: Good Relations, PCSP and Community Events & Festivals. It was agreed to move two applications for assessment from summer scheme theme into Sports programme theme.	A Smyth	In Progress	Y
ERT/042/2026	Tha Hairtlan Festival 2026	It was agreed to support the new outreach and programmes proposed for Tha Hairtlan Festival in 2026 as set out in Section 2.1 of the officer's report. It was also agreed to allocate 20% of the total event cost towards delivery of the event to include all the activities set out in appendix 2 of the officers' report.	A Smyth	In Progress	Y

ERT/043/2026	Rural Business Development Scheme 2026-27	It was agreed to approve the delivery of the Rural Business Development Scheme for the year 2026/2027, subject to DAERA Business Case approval.	A Smyth	In Progress	Y
ERT/044/2026	BT Street Hub Proposal	It was agreed to note the proposal and current planning applications submitted by Global and BT and that all installations are subject to the appropriate planning approvals. It was also agreed to note the strategic benefits of the proposal, including enhancing digital infrastructure, promoting digital inclusion, and town centre regeneration across the district. It was further agreed to support continued engagement with Global and BT to explore opportunities for Council use, particularly in relation to civic messaging and data sharing insights.	A Smyth	In Progress	Y
ERT/045/2026	Castlewellan SMART Forest	It was agreed to note the update provided on the Castlewellan Smart Forest Project.	A Smyth	Completed	Y
ERT/046/2026	ERT Scheme of Delegation Apr 25 – Mar 26	It was agreed to note the document	C Mallon	Noted	Y
ERT/047/2026	Institute Of Directors Ni (IOD NI) Infrastructure Report Launch	it was agreed to note the recent launch of a report and its recommendations, "Getting Infrastructure and Investment Back on Track".	A Smyth	Completed	Y
ERT/048/2026	Building Control 6 x Monthly report	It was agreed to note the report.	J McGilly	Noted	Y
ERT/049/2026	Licensing 6 x Monthly Report	It was agreed to note the report.	J McGilly	Noted	Y

Report to:	Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 11 May 2026
Subject:	Arts Outreach Programme for 2026/2027
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth Assistant Director – Economy, Growth & Tourism
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Janine Walker Arts Officer (Programming)

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

For decision	x	For noting only	
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1.1	<u>Purpose</u> To approve recommendations set out in section 3 of this report.
1.2	<u>Background</u> In 2023 Newry, Mourne and Down District Council established the Artist Bursaries Programme. The aim of this initiative is to encourage, enable and support arts development for artists living in the district. The Programme acknowledges excellence in the arts throughout Newry, Mourne & Down and offers artists and arts professionals the opportunity to research and develop their practice. Council also established an Artist in Residence and Theatre Company in Residence programme for Down Arts Centre. The Programme supports and promotes an artist's personal development by providing residencies that would contribute to the development of a vigorous, visible arts sector across the district. The programme creates new opportunities for artists to engage in high quality artistic experiences that are inclusive and developmental and deliver social and educational outcomes for participants.
2	Key Issues
2.1	<u>The Artist Bursary Programme 2026 - 27</u> It is proposed to deliver the Artist Bursary Programme for 2026/27 as per previous years. An artist can develop their project substantially and the potential audience/participant reach is much more considerable) • Individual Artist Bursary – 2 bursaries • Tyrone Guthrie Artist Bursary – 4 bursaries • John Hewitt International Summer School Artist Bursary – 2 bursaries

2.2	<u>Theatre Company in Residence</u> • In residence from to 31st March 2027. <u>Artist in Residence</u> • 6-month residency from 1st September 2026 to 31st March 2027 • Expression of Interest call out in June and close in July with a panel meeting in August to appoint the Artist in Residence so they can be in place from September onwards. • EOI process will involve engaging with graduates from Art Schools as well as Artists living and working in NMD. • KPI's ○ A piece of Public Art. ○ Contribute a piece or pieces of artwork to the August 2026 Craft Month exhibition in Down Arts Centre Gallery and/or a solo/group show in the Gallery in 2026/27. ○ Working with 4 Community Groups. ○ Working with 3 local Primary Schools and 2 Secondary Schools. ○ 3 eight-week workshops for Children ○ 3 ten-week workshops for Adults
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To approve the following recommendations: - To deliver an Artist Bursary Programme, awarding Letters of Offer for 6 bursaries - To deliver 2 Artist Bursaries through a Service Level Agreement for the John Hewitt International Summer School - To deliver a Theatre Company in Residence programme, establishing an SLA for delivery against KPI's - To deliver an Artist in Residence programme, establishing an SLA for delivery against KPI's
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	The current budget requirement for 2026/2027 is available within ERT departmental budgets and set out in appendix 1.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i> It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations ☐

5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i> Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened ☐ The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation ☐
5.3	<i>Proposal initiating consultation</i> 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 ☐ Consultation period will be 12 weeks ☐ Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) ☐ <i>Rationale:</i>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed ☐
7.0	Appendices
	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 Appendix 1: Arts Outreach Programme – Cost breakdown
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A

Report to:	Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 11 May 2026
Subject:	Graphic design, artwork and print management services
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth, Assistant Director – Economy, Growth and Tourism
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Michelle Boyle, Head of Product Development and Visitor Experience

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

	For decision	X	For noting only	
1.0	Purpose and Background			
1.1	<u>Purpose</u> To approve recommendations set out in section 3 of this report. <u>Background</u> There is a need within the tourism section to provide a range of visitor servicing materials which will assist in promoting Council tourism facilities, geopark, tourism events and the wider tourism product and arts offering across the destination The Council Tourism Strategy and Arts & Heritage Strategy identified it is important to have a compelling market presence both locally, nationally and internationally. To meet this requirement, it is necessary to have marketing materials which can be taken to market when meeting potential consumer and tour operators. Marketing materials are also key when the visitor is in destination and looking information on what they are going to do when visiting in the area, and for raising local awareness of events and activities associated with the Arts Sector. In addition, other key visitor servicing materials such as interpretation, signage, banners etc are required in promoting the Destination, Geopark and Tourism Events and Arts.			
2.0	Key issues			
2.1	The Tourism Section has had a contract since 2022 but it is due to expire in August 2026.			

	The current contract to deliver tourism-related graphic design and print of visitor materials and interpretation panels, expires in August 2026. A procurement is now requested to appoint a Graphic Design and Print Company on a three-year contract who can deliver design and print requirements. The appointment will be pivotal in seeking to raise awareness of the product and experiences on offer within the destination encouraging: • Increased visitor duration within the district • Greater visitor spend within the district • Improved visitor satisfaction • Greater awareness locally of what is happening across the Arts sector
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To approve the business case and necessary procurement exercises to appoint a graphic design, artwork and print management services contract for tourism, culture, arts and events.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Within confirmed budgets. Refer to appendix 1.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i> It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations ☒
5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i> Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened ☐ The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation ☐

5.3	Proposal initiating consultation Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves ☐ Consultation period will be 12 weeks ☐ Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) ☐ <i>Rationale:</i>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed ☐
7.0	Appendices
	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 1. Resource Requirements 2. Business Case
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A

Report to:	Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 11 th May 2026
Subject:	Local Economic Partnership – Professional Services
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth Assistant Director: Economy, Growth and Tourism.
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Aveen McVeigh Head of Regeneration and Business Development

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

For decision	X	For noting only	
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<u>Purpose</u> To approve the recommendations in 3 of this report.
1.2	<u>Background</u> Council is in receipt of a Letter of Offer (LoO) from Department for Economy (DfE) to deliver a range of projects that were developed by the Local Economic Partnership (LEP) with a focus on delivering Regional Balance.
2.0	Key issues
2.1	Council is progressing with the mobilisation of a Revive and Reimagine Commercial Property Grant and Property Façade Renewal Scheme. To support the delivery of both grant programmes, procurement of professional services is required.
2.2	<u>Revive and Reimagine - Commercial Property Grant</u> The Revive and Reimagine Commercial Property Grant is a targeted intervention developed to encourage private sector investment that will in turn stimulate local economic activity, attract new businesses and provide grow on space for existing enterprises. It will deliver a capital grant for commercial properties across urban and rural settlements (within the settlement limits). The grant supports the restoration and / or expansion of underused derelict properties / upper floors into high quality, functional commercial spaces.

	Capital grant is available from £50,000 to a maximum of £200,000. 50% match funding is required. The grant will be processed via Council's online grant portal. It is envisaged the grant will be launched in the next 4-6 weeks. The application process will open for 3 months.
2.3	<u>Revive and Reimagine Property Façade Renewal Scheme</u> Following the completion of a feasibility study of St Patrick's Avenue in Downpatrick the findings enabled Council to secure funding for a Property Façade Renewal Scheme, for St Patrick's Avenue in Downpatrick. Capital grant is available from £5,000 to £20,000. 50% match funding is required. The grant will be processed via Council's online grant portal. It is envisaged to launch in the next 4-6 weeks. The application process will be open for 2 months.
2.4	<u>Revive and Reimagine Property Façade Renewal Scheme - Research</u> Council is progressing with the procurement for the completion of Property Façade research in Rostrevor, Kilkeel, Newry, Ballynahinch, Castlewellan and Crossmaglen. Following the research, businesses will be able to apply to Reimagine Property Façade Renewal Scheme (subject to eligibility and budget).
2.5	<u>Procurements to support above programmes</u> Business case approval is required to progress the procurement of professional services (Chartered/Building Surveyor) to support the assessment of grant applications. These professional services will assist in evaluating applications against the relevant eligibility criteria, including the review of technical information, scope of proposed works, cost reasonableness, and compliance with scheme requirements, to ensure a robust and consistent assessment process.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To approve procurement of professional services required to support the delivery of two capital grant programmes on behalf of the Local Economic Partnership: Revive and Reimagine - Commercial Property Grant and Property Façade Renewal Scheme
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	LEP is 100% funded by DfE.

5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i> It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations ☒
5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i> Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened ☐ The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation ☐
5.3	<i>Proposal initiating consultation</i> 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 ☐ Consultation period will be 12 weeks ☐ Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) ☐ <i>Rationale:</i>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following:

	Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed ☐
7.0	Appendices
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8.0	Background Documents
	N/A

Report to:	Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 11 th May 2026
Subject:	UNESCO Together project
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth Assistant Director - Economy, Growth and Tourism.
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Darren Rice AONB and Geo Parks Manager

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

For decision	x	For noting only	
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<u>Purpose</u> To approve the recommendations in section 3 of this report.
1.2	<u>Background</u> Council was successful in securing funding from PEACEPLUS (UNESCO Together Project) to establish a cross-border UNESCO network across the island of Ireland, connecting UNESCO designations including Geoparks, Biospheres, World Heritage Sites and Creative Cities.
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<u>UNESCO Together (PEACEPLUS Project)</u> The UNESCO Together project represents a strategic cross-border initiative under the PEACEPLUS Programme. The project focuses on people-to-people contact, reconciliation, youth engagement, and shared natural and cultural heritage, directly supporting Programme objectives around peacebuilding and community cohesion. The aim of the project is to establish grassroots, cross-border UNESCO network connecting designated sites across Northern Ireland and Ireland, fostering collaboration through shared heritage, landscape and identity. Key Themes • Peacebuilding and reconciliation • Youth engagement and leadership • Shared natural and cultural heritage • Environmental cooperation and sustainability Core Activities

	• Development of a UNESCO network across the island of Ireland • Delivery of cross-border exchange programmes and events • Community-led heritage and environmental initiatives • Knowledge exchange between UNESCO designations This project: • Positions NMDDC as a leader in UNESCO collaboration • Strengthens links between Geoparks, Biospheres and World Heritage Sites • Builds long-term relationships across communities • Supports delivery of the Council's peacebuilding and community planning objectives Outcomes • Increased cross-border cooperation and trust • Enhanced youth participation in heritage and environmental action • Stronger identity and understanding of shared landscapes • Creation of a sustainable UNESCO partnership model
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	1. To approve acceptance of the Letter of Offer for UNESCO Together (PEACEPLUS) and the completion of all necessary legal and administrative requirements to enable project delivery. 2. To approve the attached business case and subsequent procurements to enable delivery of the UNESCO Together (PEACEPLUS) project.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	• UNESCO Together Project: ◦ 100% PEACEPLUS funded ◦ Staff resource required for delivery, coordination and reporting
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i> It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations ☒
5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i> Yes ☐ No ☒

	If yes, please complete the following: The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened ☐ The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation ☐
5.3	<i>Proposal initiating consultation</i> 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 ☐ Consultation period will be 12 weeks ☐ Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) ☐ <i>Rationale:</i> NA
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed ☐
7.0	Appendices
	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 Appendix 1 – Business case - UNESCO Together (PEACEPLUS)
8.0	Background Documents
	n/a

Report to:	Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 11 th May 2026
Subject:	Newry BID Update
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth Assistant Director: Economy, Growth and Tourism.
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth Assistant Director: Economy, Growth and Tourism

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

For decision	X	For noting only	
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<u>Purpose</u> To approve the recommendations in 3 of this report.
1.2	<u>Background</u> Newry BID was established in 2016 following introduction of legislation to permit Business Improvement Districts to be established. This allowed businesses within a defined area to develop a business plan, put it to a formal ballot of all businesses within that area and if approved apply a levy based on Net Asset Value (NAV) of properties which could be used to implement the Business plan objectives. Newry BID have operated 2 BID terms, commencing in 2016 – 2021, followed by 2021 – 2026. Following a revote for a 3rd term that commenced on 29th January 2026 and closed on 12th March 2026, a successful result was declared for the commencement of a 3rd BID Term. The business plan for 2026 -2031 which contains 9 “Strategic Priorities” was presented to January 2026 ERT Committee.
2.0	Key issues
2.1	Following the successful BID revote, Council have renewed the “BID Levy Operating Agreement” with Newry BID that will set out roles and responsibilities within the new BID term: • collecting the BID Levy; • the recovery mechanisms for collection of the BID Levy; • the procedures for accounting and transference of the BID Levy; • the monitoring and review of the collection of the BID Levy; • the manner in which the Council’s expenses incurred in collecting the BID Levy shall be paid.

2.2	The renewed BID Levy Operating Agreement has also implemented the audit recommendations (2025 audit report) including the legislative responsibilities and the practical responsibilities of both parties, and the overall governance arrangements in the management of the BID. <u>Next Steps</u> Newry BID will table for their Board's consideration, acceptance and signing of the renewed BID Operating Agreement, that will enable the parties to progress with BID Levy collection and management. Newry BID will agree with their Board, the position on Debt write off for period ending 2025/26, that will in turn be considered by SPR Committee, for reflection in accounting period 2026/27. Council will progress the appointment of a BID Debt Collection officer for management of Debt Collection A Monitoring Group has been established to meet quarterly, and Council will continue to be represented as an observer on BID Board BID will submit quarterly update reports to Council on delivery against BID strategic priorities, with an annual presentation to Council ERT Committee on annual performance.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	1) To note the update provided against Newry BID successful re-vote for a 3rd BID Term, 2) To agree that Council sign the renewed the "BID Levy Operating Agreement" and work with Newry BID in ensuring adherence to the conditions contained within.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i> It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations ☒
5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i>

	Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened ☐ The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation ☐
5.3	<i>Proposal initiating consultation</i> 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 ☐ Consultation period will be 12 weeks ☐ Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) ☐ <i>Rationale:</i>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed ☐
7.0	Appendices
	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 1) Newry BID Operating Agreement 2026 – 2031
8.0	Background Documents
	Data Sharing Agreement: Newry BID, NMDDC and LPS

Report to:	Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 11 th May 2026
Subject:	Kilcurry Subcatchment Water Assessment project
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth Assistant Director, Economy, Growth and Tourism.
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Darren Rice AONB and Geo Parks Manager

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

	For decision	For noting only	x
1.0 Purpose and Background			
1.1	<u>Purpose</u> To note the recommendations in 3 of this report.		
1.2	<u>Background</u> Council applied in partnership with the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) to DAERA Environment Fund for a project focusing on assessment on the ecological status of water bodies within the Kilcurry Subcatchment in the Ring of Gullion AONB.		
2.0 Key issues			
2.1	This project supports community-led initiatives to improve ecological status of water bodies. The project will deliver a targeted sub-catchment assessment, including: • Desk-based analysis and field surveys • Identification of pollution sources and pressure pathways • Development of a spatially specific options report Proposed interventions may include: • Riparian tree planting • Wetland creation and restoration • Nature-based solutions to reduce nutrient and sediment runoff The project will be delivered in collaboration with: • LAWPRO (match funding partner) • Catchment Community Forum • Dundalk Institute of Technology (H2O Heroes) • Local schools, farmers, anglers and community groups Activities will include:		

	• Citizen science initiatives (e.g. kick sampling) • Community workshops and engagement events • Awareness and behavioural change campaigns Outcomes • Improved understanding of water quality pressures • Increased community ownership of local water environments • Evidence base for Phase 2 delivery (implementation of measures) • Contribution to AONB Management Plan objectives
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To note acceptance of the Letter of Offer for Kilcurry Subcatchment Water Assessment project (DAERA Environment Fund) and the completion of all necessary legal and administrative requirements to enable project delivery.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	• Water Quality Project: ◦ 85% NIEA funding ◦ 15% match funding provided by LAWPRO ◦ Officer time required for coordination and delivery
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i> It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations ☒
5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i> Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened ☐ The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation ☐

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

Report to:	Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 11 May 2026
Subject:	Quarterly Update Report for Museums (Q4 25/26 Jan- March)
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth and Tourism
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Alan Freeburn Museum and Heritage Services Manager

For decision		For noting only	X
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<u>Purpose</u> To note content of report providing quarterly update from NMD Museums
1.2	<u>Background</u> To provide a regular update on the activities, programming and achievements of NMD Museums. 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.
2.0	Key issues
2.1	Newry and Mourne Museum (NMM) <u>Exhibitions</u> NMM launched a new exhibition <i>Categorically Celtic: traditional design in art, politics and popular culture</i> opened in Temporary Gallery 1 in March 2026. This was developed in partnership with the Irish Language Unit and features loans from Armagh County Museum, Gaeláras Mhic Ardghail, the Newry Felons, as well as work from local artists and makers. <u>Donations/Acquisitions</u> Notable donations in this quarter include: Collection of material relating to Danny Kennedy’s political career in local government and Stormont, including Hansard Reports, political memorabilia, political posters, photographs etc.

- Two early 20th century quilts, dress, jacket and photographs belonging to the Cromie family of Rockmount, Rathfriland.
- Maps, photographs and papers from John Fisher's collection.

Funding

NMM underwent a Security Audit and a Collections Audit that were fully funded by the Northern Ireland Museums Council.

Projects

Two PeacePlus funded projects have commenced.

1. Homes for Everyone- a history of social housing
2. Flowering in the Mournes

Both involve community outreach and a full programme of events at NMM.

Events

- A History of Printing from the Book of Kells, through Newry's Magowan's to the Digital Age with Billy McAlpine
- Andrew Johson Lecture
- Playful Museums
- St Patrick's Day

Misc

The museum continues to publish articles in the local press and online on subjects of local historical interest.

Visitor Nos

Schools	440
Other Groups/Room bookings/Events	241
Outreach	268
General Visitors	1079
Total	2028

Down County Museum (DCM)

Exhibitions

A new art gallery was opened in January with the launch of the AONB's annual calendar photography competition. This new gallery will showcase the museum's own art collection and host external exhibitions.

	<u>Donations/Acquisitions</u> Following the liquidation of the Down Recorder, curatorial staff were invited to visit the premises to collect any material of historic interest. Items acquired include glass plate negatives, photographs and print material. <u>Funding</u> DCM underwent an Access Audit that was fully funded by the Northern Ireland Museums Council. <u>Events</u> • Playful Museums • Hidden Gems at Home • St Patricks Day workshops with Down Community Arts • St Patricks Day <u>Misc.</u> DCM featured on UTVs St Patricks Day Coverage. DCM has begun placing its <i>Object of the Month</i> and an article of local historical interest in the Mourne Observer and its Down Recorder issue every month. <u>Visitor Nos</u> <table> <tr> <td>Schools</td><td>514</td></tr> <tr> <td>Other Groups/Events</td><td>939</td></tr> <tr> <td>Outreach</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr> <td>General Visitors</td><td>3598</td></tr> <tr> <td>Total</td><td>5090</td></tr> </table>	Schools	514	Other Groups/Events	939	Outreach	0	General Visitors	3598	Total	5090
Schools	514										
Other Groups/Events	939										
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General Visitors	3598										
Total	5090										
3.0	Recommendations										
3.1	To note content of report providing quarterly update from NMD Museums										
4.0	Resource implications										
4.1	N/A										
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)										
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i> It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations ☐										

5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i> Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened ☐ The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation ☐
5.3	<i>Proposal initiating consultation</i> 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 ☐ Consultation period will be 12 weeks ☐ Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) ☐ <i>Rationale:</i>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed ☐
7.0	Appendices
	n/a
8.0	Background Documents
	n/a