

## **NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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### **Minutes of the Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 13 November 2023 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, Monaghan Row, and remotely via Microsoft Teams**

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**Chairperson:** Councillor M Ruane (Chamber)

**Deputy Chairperson:** Councillor G Kearns (Chamber)

**In attendance:** **(Committee Members)**  
Councillor T Andrews (Chamber)  
Councillor C Bowsie (Chamber)  
Councillor P Campbell (Teams)  
Councillor W Clarke (Teams)  
Councillor K Feehan (Chamber)  
Councillor C Galbraith (Teams)  
Councillor C King (Chamber)  
Councillor D Lee-Surginor (Teams)  
Councillor S Murphy (Chamber)  
Councillor A Quinn (Chamber)  
Councillor J Truesdale (Teams)

**Officials in attendance:** Mr C Mallon, Director of Economy, Regeneration & Tourism  
Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Regeneration  
Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth & Tourism  
Mr Michael Forster, Full Fibre NI Operations Lead  
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)  
Ms S Kieran, Democratic Services Officer

#### **ERT/141/2023: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

There were no apologies.

Councillor Ruane welcomed Councillor Killian Feehan to the meeting. Councillor Feehan is replacing Michael Savage SDLP Councillor for Newry.

#### **ERT/142/2023: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Andrews and Truesdale declared an interest in agenda item 5 regarding Carlingford Lough Greenway Update.

Councillor Campbell declared an interest in agenda item 7 regarding St Patrick's Day Parade 2024.

#### **ERT/143/2023: ACTION SHEET ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING MONDAY 9 October 2023**

**Read:** Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 9 October 2023.

(Copy circulated)

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Campbell, it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 9 October 2023.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **ERT/144/2023 – PRESENTATION – MICHAEL FORSTER FULL FIBRE NETWORK NORTHERN IRELAND**

Mr Forster, Full Fibre NI Operations Lead, Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism delivered a presentation regarding Digital Transformation Flexible Fund (DTFF). He stated this was the first of its kind cross growth deal programme for Northern Ireland and was a new funded delivery approach through local authorities. Mr Forster advised the delivery model adds value to the existing delivery mechanisms offered by Councils, colleges, universities, Invest NI and Government departments.

The Chairperson thanked Mr Forster for his presentation (copy of which is appended to these minutes).

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to note the presentation by Michael Forster, Full Fibre Ni Operations Lead.

Having previously declaring an interest, Councillors Andrews and Truesdale left the meeting at this stage – 6.15pm

## **ECONOMY GROWTH AND TOURISM**

### **ERT/145/2023: CARLINGFORD LOUGH GREENWAY UPDATE**

Read: Report dated 13 November 2023 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director: Regeneration, regarding Carlingford Lough Greenway Update.  
**(Copy circulated)**

**NOTED:** The update on Planning and overall approvals process and the update on the scheme procurement were noted.

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Quinn, seconded by Councillor Campbell, it was agreed to underwrite any spend over the approved funding envelope, subject to business case and funding approval through relevant committee.

Councillors Andrews and Truesdale re-entered the meeting at this stage – 6.17pm

## **EXEMPT INFORMATION**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Bowsie, seconded by Councillor Galbraith, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the following matters which related to exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to come out of Closed Session.

The Chairperson advised the following had been agreed while in closed session.

## **RESTRICTED – FOR DECISION**

**ERT/146/2023: NORTHERN IRELAND ENTERPRISE SUPPORT SERVICE  
(NIESS) SLA** \_\_\_\_\_

Read: Report dated 13 November 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director, Economy, Growth and Tourism, regarding Northern Ireland Enterprise Support Service (NIESS) Go Succeed NI **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed:-

- 1) To approve the SLAs between Council, Belfast City Council and the delivery agents.**
- 2) To approve the collaboration agreement between Belfast City Council and Newry, Mourne and Down (subject to approval by Legal Services).**

Having previously declaring an interest, Councillor Campbell left the meeting at this stage – 6.20pm

**ERT/147/2023: ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE, DOWNPATRICK 2024**

Read: Report dated 13 November 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding St. Patrick's Day Parade, Downpatrick 2024 **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to approve that Council provide a grant offer to Downpatrick Town Committee in partnership with Down Community Arts to deliver elements of the St. Patrick's Day parades in Downpatrick in March 2024.

Councillor Campbell re-entered the meeting at this stage – 6.23pm

**ERT/148/2023: ULSTER UNIVERSITY ECONOMIC POLICY CENTRE (UUEPC) SLA**

Read: Report dated 9 October 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Service Level Agreement UUEPC **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor, it was agreed to approve the Service Level Agreement with University of Ulster: Economic Policy Centre as detailed in the circulated report**

**ERT/149/2023: ERT HISTORIC ACTION TRACKER**

Read: Action Tracker Report for Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Quinn, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor it was agreed to note the Historic Action Tracker Report for Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee.**

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 6.40pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 4 December 2023.

**Signed: Councillor M Ruane  
Chairperson  
Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee**

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**Signed: Mr C Mallon  
Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism**

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### Overview

Aims and Objectives

- Designed to enable small and micro businesses to begin their **Digital Transformation** journey.
- Removes the barrier to entry for new and emerging digital technologies.
- Not for 'digitalisation' of existing business models or operation.

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### Funded technologies

DTFF will enable the purchasing of capital equipment and/or resources for 'off the shelf' software solutions and/or bespoke system development, based on the following advanced digital technologies:







Smart technologies




Robotics




Big data



Immersive technologies



Artificial intelligence



Blockchain

DTFF will not cover the on-going revenue costs of leasing software or any ongoing maintenance, update or training costs, which should be borne by the applicant.

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### What is not funded?

Ineligible Investment Types



DTFF **will not fund** capital investment in the following which could be viewed more as 'digitisation of existing operations', rather than digital innovation/transformation:

- Website and e-commerce development
- Social media strategies
- Mobile marketing, paid advertising, blogging and content creation
- Search engine optimisation
- Purchase of generic IT equipment (laptops, printers etc)
- Customer relationship management, database systems
- Non-industrial 3-D printing.

This list is not exhaustive and the DTFF Operations Team have the discretion to omit costs if deemed ineligible and/or not within scope of the project.

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## How much grant is available?




Funding is available between £5,000 - £20,000 (ex VAT) for an investment project.

Successful applicants will receive up to 70% of the total value of an investment project and be required to provide a 30% matched co-investment.

£5,000  
ex VAT



£20,000 ex  
VAT




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## Benefits



600 DTFF projects expected to be delivered.

Competitive call process, proactive monitoring of funding dispersal to maximise equitable dispersal of benefit

District Council Area	% of NI Business Population (excluding agriculture & fisheries)	Indicative Split of DTFF Funded Projects
Northern Ireland	100%	600
Armagh & Newtownabbey	6%	36
Ards & North Down	7%	42
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	11%	66
Belfast	19%	114
Causeway Coast & Glens	7%	42
Derry City & Strabane	7%	42
Fermanagh & Omagh	8%	48
Lisburn & Castlereagh	8%	48
Mid & East Antrim	6%	36
Mid Ulster	10%	60
Newry, Mourne & Down	11%	66

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## DTFF Stakeholder Reference Group



DTFF has been developed around a wide range of Stakeholders:

- Further Education College's across NI;
- Queens University Belfast;
- University of Ulster – Smart Manufacturing DataHub;
- Local Authorities – Enterprise Support Service;
- Innovate NI;
- Digital Catapult
- Catalyst Inc



DTFF will coordinate a Stakeholder Reference Group to coordinate existing / future support and avoid duplication.

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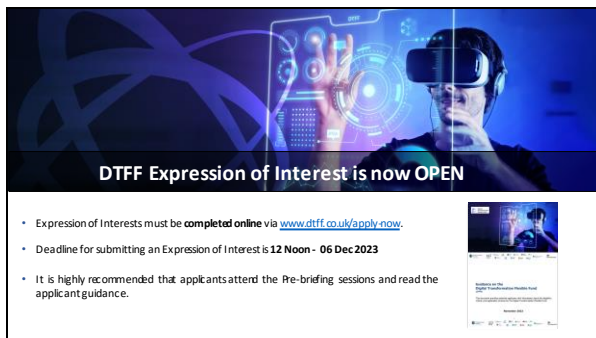
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**DTFF Expression of Interest is now OPEN**

- Expression of Interests must be **completed online** via [www.dtff.co.uk/apply-now](http://www.dtff.co.uk/apply-now).
- Deadline for submitting an Expression of Interest is **12 Noon - 06 Dec 2023**
- It is highly recommended that applicants attend the Pre-briefing sessions and read the applicant guidance.



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**For more information contact the DTFF team:**

[dtff@mmandd.org](mailto:dtff@mmandd.org)  
Tel: 0330 137 4052  
[www.dtff.co.uk](http://www.dtff.co.uk)



**Any Questions?**  
[www.dtff.co.uk](http://www.dtff.co.uk)

The Digital Transformation Flexible Fund (DTFF) is delivered by all local authorities in Northern Ireland under the Full Fibre Northern Ireland Consortium (FFNIC) and supported by Invest NI. The project is part funded by the NI Executive, UK Government, Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and all local authorities in Northern Ireland.

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