

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

**Minutes of the Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting  
held on Monday 15 January 2024 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, Monaghan Row, and  
remotely via Microsoft Teams**

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**Chairperson:** Councillor M Ruane

**Committee Members  
in attendance in chamber:**

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor C Bowsie
Councillor P Campbell	Councillor G Hanna
Councillor G Kearns	Councillor S Murphy

**Committee Members  
in attendance via Teams:**

Councillor W Clarke	Councillor C Galbraith
Councillor C King	Councillor Lee-Surginor
Councillor J Truesdale	

**Non-Committee Members  
Members via Teams:**

Councillor J Brennan	Councillor G Sharvin
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**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  
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)  
Ms F Branagh, Democratic Services Officer

**ERT/001/2024: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Tinnelly and Feehan.

**ERT/002/2024: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Campbell declared an interest in Item 4 – Notice of Motion – Town & City Gift Cards.

**ERT/003/2024: ACTION SHEET ECONOMY, REGENERATION & TOURISM  
COMMITTEE MEETING MONDAY 11 DECEMBER 2023**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 11 December 2023.  
**(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Truesdale wanted to note that action ERT/154/2023 – engaging with DAERA was not necessary as DAERA have already agreed to this testing and noted that it was the lack of an Executive that had caused the delay. Councillor Truesdale requested that officers investigate the cost of water monitoring on Newcastle Beach only. Mr Mallon confirmed this would be actioned.

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Campbell, it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 11 December 2023.**

**Having previously declared an interest – Councillor Campbell left the meeting at this stage – 6.09pm**

### **NOTICE OF MOTION**

#### **ERT/004/2024 – NOTICE OF MOTION – TOWN AND CITY GIFT CARDS** **(C/248/2023)**

Read: Report dated 15 January 2024 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director – Economy, Growth and Tourism regarding Notice of Motion – C/248/2023 Town and City Gift Cards **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Lee-Surginor presented his motion stating the community resilience shown by the residents of Downpatrick, Newry and beyond following the flooding in recent months had been remarkable. He spoke of the hard work and collaborative efforts of the Downpatrick Regeneration Working Group in laying a solid foundation for Downpatrick's recovery and he accepted the recommendations contained within the officer's report. He expressed his confidence in the initiative serving as a catalyst for Downpatrick's economic recovery, and the whole Council area if expanded.

Councillor Galbraith queried whether previous similar schemes were successful. Councillor Ruane advised that it would need to be taken into consideration by the working group.

Councillor Hanna queried whether the Council or Chamber of Commerce would administer the scheme. Mr Mallon advised the scheme was currently being considered by the Downpatrick Regeneration Working Group only for Downpatrick and until the scheme was advanced, outcomes regarding the success or otherwise of the scheme would not be known.

Councillor Clarke spoke of his Party's support for the recommendation within the officer's report, and how it would encourage many to spend local. He spoke of the immense devastation of the floods, and stated anything that could be done to get extra business into towns should be welcomed, however cautioned that a one size fits all approach would not be feasible and any further rollout of the scheme would need to be tailored to individual areas.

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor Truesdale, it was agreed that Council continue to support Downpatrick Regeneration Working Group and Downpatrick Town Committee as proposals for a Shop Local Loyalty Card Scheme are advanced.**

### **FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION**

**ERT/005/2024: ECONOMY, REGENERATION & TOURISM BUSINESS PLANS 2023-2024**

Read: Report dated 15 January 2024 from Mr C Mallon, Director – Economy, Regeneration and Tourism regarding Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Directorate Business Plan 2023-24 **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Truesdale reiterated her Party's ongoing opposition to the gondola proposals as part of the Mournes Gateway Project.

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to consider and agree the Mid-Year Assessment of the Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Directorate Business Plan 2023-24.**

**ERT/006/2024: ECONOMY, GROWTH & TOURISM – BATHING WATER OPERATOR – SANDY BOTTOM, WARRENPOINT**

Read: Report dated 15 January 2024 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director – Economy, Growth & Tourism regarding Bathing Water Operator at Sandy Bottom, Warrenpoint **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Kearns, it was agreed that Council act as Bathing Water Operator for Sandy Bottom, Warrenpoint with bathing Water Operator duties required from June – September annually.**

**ERT/007/2024: ECONOMY, GROWTH & TOURISM -FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CALL 1**

Read: Report dated 15 January 2024 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director – Economy, Growth and Tourism regarding Financial Assistance Call 1 **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Truesdale, it was agreed to add two additional themes to Financial Assistance Call 1, Arts and Culture and Sports Programmes (summer schemes) (All themes are subject to agreement through rates process and via external funders if relevant)**

### **EXEMPT INFORMATION**

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor Murphy, 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 Truesdale, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor, 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/008/2024: OUTSCOPE SLA**

Read: Report dated 15 January 2024 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director, Economy, Growth and Tourism, regarding Lecale Way SLA with Outscope 2024 **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed that Council enter into a new Service Level Agreement with Outscope (ORNI) for the 2023 – 2024 financial year.

**ERT/009/2024: TOURISM FACILITIES CLEANING CONTRACT SERVICES**

Read: Report dated 15 January 2024 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth & Tourism regarding the Provision of Cleaning Services at Council Forest Parks and Tyrella Beach. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Bowsie, seconded by Councillor Hanna, the following was agreed:

- 1. Approve the business case to procure and appoint a suitably qualified and experienced contractor to provide cleaning services at Council's four Forest Parks and Tyrella Beach between 1 July 2024 and 31 March 2028**
- 2. Approve the uplift in the current contract rate of the current supplier between April and June 2024 as detailed in this report.**

**ERT/010/2024: TOURISM FACILITIES AND EVENT HIRE SCHEDULE**

Read: Report dated 15 January 2024 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director, Economy, Growth and Tourism, regarding Event and Hire Schedule – Tourism Facilities **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Kearns it was agreed to approve the implementation of a facility/event fee structure as detailed in this report.

**FOR NOTING**

**ERT/011/2024: DUBLIN BELFAST ECONOMIC CORRIDOR (DBEC) UPDATE**

Read: Report dated 15 January 2024 from Mr C Mallon, Director, Economy, Regeneration and Tourism, regarding Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor Partnership Update (**Copy circulated**)

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Galbraith it was agreed to note the update provided against the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor Partnership**

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 6:36pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 5 February 2024.

**Signed:** **Councillor M Ruane**  
**Chairperson**  
**Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee**

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**Signed:** **Mr C Mallon**  
**Director Economy, Regeneration & Tourism**

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