

NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 10 February 2025 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, Monaghan Row

Chairperson: Councillor A Lewis

**Committee Members
in attendance:**

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor W Clarke
Councillor K Feehan	Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor G Hanna	Councillor V Harte
Councillor G Kearns	Councillor D Lee-Surginor
Councillor S Murphy	Councillor M Ruane
Councillor A Quinn	

Committee Members

in attendance via Teams: Councillor C Galbraith Councillor J Truesdale

Officials in attendance:

Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Regeneration
Ms A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth and Tourism
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
Mrs S Kieran, Democratic Services Officer

ERT/012/2025: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Mr C Mallon, Director of Economy, Regeneration & Tourism.

ERT/013/2025: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

**ERT/014/2025: ACTION SHEET ECONOMY, REGENERATION & TOURISM
COMMITTEE MEETING MONDAY 20 JANUARY 2025**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Economy,
Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 20
February 2025 **(Copy circulated)**

In response to Councillor Hanlon, Ms Smyth confirmed that the first meeting regarding the Sub Regional Economic Plans had taken place with relevant stakeholders. She advised that the LEP would begin within the coming months to consider potential investment projects, and when the information was available an update would be provided at a future meeting of the Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee.

In response to Councillor Andrews, Ms Smyth confirmed there was no further information currently regarding the Sustainable Tourism Conference. She said further information would be tabled at a future Committee Meeting.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surgionr, it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 20 January 2025.**

FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

ERT/015/2025: **DOWNPATRICK PUBLIC REALM SCHEMES: CHURCH STREET AND DECOURCY PLACE**

Read: Report from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism regarding Downpatrick Public Realm Schemes: Church Street and DeCourcy Place. **(Copy circulated)**

Ms Smyth presented the report and confirmed a conditional letter of offer had been received from the Department for Communities to fund the capital works associated with Public Realm Schemes at Church Street and De Courcy Place, Downpatrick.

In response to Councillor Andrews, Ms Smyth confirmed the Department of Communities had been working with other departments on the future roll out of funding for regeneration schemes. She stated that Council was waiting for further information from the Department, which would be tabled at a future meeting of ERT.

Councillor Hanlon welcomed the scheme for the Downpatrick area, noting that it was the result of many years of hard work by the Downpatrick Regeneration Group, Elected Members and the Living High Street. She praised it as a great example of collaborative working between Departments and Council.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, the following was agreed:**

- **To accept the Department for Communities Letter of Offer for Downpatrick Church Street and DeCourcy Place Public Realm Scheme.**
- **To re-appoint design consultants via framework procurement to take forward RIBA Design Stages 4 – 7.**
- **To approve commencement of the required procurement and appointment of contractor to deliver the capital scheme.**

**ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2014**

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

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

ERT/016/2025: PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS FOR 2025/26

Read: Report from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Partnership Agreements for 2025/26. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, it was agreed to approve the list of Service Level Agreements, Memorandum of Understanding, Letters of Offer and Partnership Agreements for 2025/26 as outlined within the Officer's Report.

ERT/017/2025: TOURISM EVENTS PROGRAMME 2025/26

Read: Report from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Tourism Events Programme 2025/26. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Kearns, the following was agreed:

- To approve the proposed schedule of Giant Events for 2025-26 as outlined within the Officer's Report.
- To approve the financial assistance awards associated with the delivery of community events, community Christmas events and community Halloween events as detailed within the Officer's Report.
- To approve the necessary procurements and appointment of suppliers for the delivery of the annual tourism events programme.

FOR NOTING

ERT/018/2025: PEACEPLUS THEME 1.1

Read: Report from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth and Tourism, regarding Peace Plus Theme 1.1. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to note the minutes of the Peace Plus Partnership Board meeting of 19 December 2024, ratified at the Peace Plus Partnership Board meeting of 23 January 2025.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 6.28 pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 3 March 2025.

**Signed: Councillor A Lewis
Chairperson
Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee**

**Signed: Conor Mallon
Director of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism**
