

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

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

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**Chairperson:** Councillor A Lewis

**Committee Members  
in attendance:**

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

**Committee Members**

**in attendance via Teams:** Councillor W Clarke Councillor J Truesdale

**Non-Committee Members  
in attendance:**

Councillor C Bowsie

**Officials in attendance:**

Mr C Mallon, Director of Economy, Regeneration & Tourism  
Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Regeneration  
Ms A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth and Tourism  
Mrs F Branagh, Democratic Services Officer

**Officials in attendance  
via Teams:**

Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)

**ERT/019/2025:**

**APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

An apology was received from Councillor Kearns

**ERT/020/2025:**

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**ERT/021/2025:**

**ACTION SHEET ECONOMY, REGENERATION & TOURISM  
COMMITTEE MEETING MONDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2025**

Read:

Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Economy,  
Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 10  
February 2025 **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:**

**On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by  
Councillor Hanna, it was agreed to note the Action  
Sheet arising from the Economy, Regeneration &  
Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 10  
February 2025.**

## **FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION**

**ERT/022/2025:**

### **BALLYKINLAR HUT REMOVAL UPDATE**

Read: Report from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism regarding Ballykinlar Hut Removal Update. **(Copy circulated)**

Mrs Smyth confirmed the expression of interest process was completed with two applications received, one for the hut and contents, and a second for digital assets associated with the structure. She advised the recommendation was to accept the request for the hut and contents, which was in line with eligibility criteria defined within the Expression Of Interest (EOI). If approved, Council would engage with the applicant regarding a work plan to support the removal of the hut and contents to another location and investigate a copy of digital contents to be made available to the second applicant. Members were advised there could be a requirement for capital works following the removal of the structure with an update report would be brought to Committee if required.

In proposing the officer's recommendations contained within the report, Councillor Hanlon stated her Party had always expressed their wishes for the hut to remain within the District and she believed the proposed approach was sensible to the two applications.

Councillor Andrews seconded Councillor Hanlon's proposal and spoke of his delight at reaching an historic milestone in relation to the preservation of the importance of the Ballykinlar Hut.

Councillor Hanna also spoke of his delight that the hut would be restored and located in a place that would appreciate the history.

Councillor Bowsie thanked officers for their work, commenting it was important for this vital part of history to be sustained and commended Mike King for his work on the project over the years. He queried if the interpretation panels could be reprinted by the new owners at a later date or would the application for the hut and contents have exclusive rights to the content.

Mrs Smyth advised Council would retain copyright of the content but the request could be considered.

Councillor Truesdale spoke of her Party's support for the recommendations and commended officers for their hard work. She queried if a clause could be added that stated the contents must remain with the hut and not be separated in the future.

Following a request for clarity from Councillor Hanlon with regard to Councillor Truesdale's question, Mr Mallon advised that the applicant was the most appropriate person to advise on their intentions and that this issue could be raised with them.

Councillor Andrews expressed confusion regarding Councillor Truesdale's query as he believed that option 2 of the officer's report regarding the hut and contents being relocated together would support the preservation of the hut.

Mrs Smyth stated that if the recommendations were approved, Council would engage with the applicants as outlined within the report.

**AGREED:**

**On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by**

**Councillor Andrews, the following was agreed:**

- **To note the update on the expression of interest process relating to the Ballykinlar Hut**
- **To accept the Expression of Interest from Applicant 2 for the Ballykinlar Hut and all physical contents, subject to an agreed work plan**
- **To approve the request from Applicant 1 for a copy of the digital information associated with the Ballykinlar Hut project held by the Council**

**ERT/023/2025:**

**DESTINATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

Read:

Report from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism regarding Destination Management System. **(Copy circulated)**

Mrs Smyth outlined the report, advising that the Destination Management System related to the Council tourism website that held all the tourism and arts and culture information. She advised that the delivery partner, Tourism NI, had recently reprocurd their delivery partner and it was for the approval of Members to continue to partner with Tourism NI for the provision of the management system.

**AGREED:**

**On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Hanna, it was agreed to continue as a partner with Tourism NI for the provision of Destination Management system for provision of Council's Tourism Website, which now includes Arts Services and Museum Services, and to extend the Deed of Agreement which sets out the Terms and Conditions as required.**

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

**AGREED:**

**On the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Harte, 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 Hanlon, 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/024/2025:**

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CALL 1 REVENUE**

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 Hanna, seconded by Councillor Lewis, it was agreed to accept the Officer's Recommendations. It was also agreed that the call for the 80<sup>th</sup> Commemoration for VJ day be re-opened to utilise the underspend due to the short turnaround time for this call only.**

**ERT/025/2025:**

**FOOD CURATOR SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT**

Read:

Report from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Food Curator Service Level Agreement **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:**

**On the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to establish a Service Level Agreement with the organisation named within the Officer's Report for delivery of the Food Curator element of both Wake the Giant and Eats and Beats 2025 Festivals.**

**FOR NOTING**

**ERT/026/2025:**

**LOCAL ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP**

Read:

Report from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth and Tourism, regarding Local Economic Partnership. **(Copy circulated)**

Following a query from Councillor Hanlon regarding the mention of a presentation with the report, Mr Mallon advised that the presentation had been included as part of the Local Economic Partnership meeting papers and could be shared with Members if requested.

**AGREED:**

**On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Hanna, it was agreed to note the update on the establishment of the NMD Local Economic Partnership and the action report from their inaugural meeting of 27 January 2025.**

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 6.37pm

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 7 April 2025.

**Signed:       Councillor A Lewis**  
**Chairperson**

**Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee**

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

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