

NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 14 April 2025 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, Monaghan Row

Chairperson: Councillor W Clarke

**Committee Members
in attendance:**

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

Committee Members

in attendance via Teams: Councillor C Galbraith Councillor A Quinn
Councillor J Truesdale

Non-Committee Members

in attendance via Teams: 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
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager

**Officials in attendance
via Teams:**

Ms F Branagh, Democratic Services Officer

ERT/027/2025:

APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

An apology was received from Councillor Kearns and Lewis.

As the Chairperson was an apology for the meeting, it was agreed that the Deputy Chairperson would Chair the meeting.

Councillor Clarke advised that due to technical difficulties the video feed from the Chamber was unavailable, however the audio was working therefore the meeting could be facilitated.

Councillor Bowsie requested clarity on why Item 7 – Financial Assistance Call 1 was to be held in closed session as he believed that the information should be available to the public.

Mr Mallon advised that the restriction applied as the item related to the business or financial affairs of an individual, or the Council holding that information.

Councillor Bowsie reiterated his disagreement with this position and advised he still believed that it should be held in open session, Mr Mallon stated that he was satisfied that the item met the test to be in closed session due to the financial information contained within the item.

Councillor Clarke offered his congratulations to Rory McIlroy following his win at the Masters, stating that it highlighted the golfing product for the island in general, and would hopefully

provide a tourism boost for the District.

ERT/028/2025: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

**ERT/029/2025: ACTION SHEET ECONOMY, REGENERATION & TOURISM
COMMITTEE MEETING MONDAY 10 MARCH 2025**

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

ERT/022/2025 – Ballykinler Hut Removal Update:

Councillor Andrews requested an update on any actions taken to date, to which Mr Mallon advised that the agreement was subject to approval at full Council meeting of 7 April 2025 and following the 5-day call in period, all appropriate actions would be taken.

ERT/125/2024 – Procurement for Tourism & Culture Events:

Councillor Hanna requested an update on the provision of sand at Warrenpoint foreshore, to which Mrs Smyth advised that work was underway and sand would be placed by mid-May.

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

FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

**ERT/030/2025: COASTAL MONITORING AND ADAPTATION PLAN (CMAP)
ADVANCED MOORING SYSTEM**

Read: Report from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth
& Tourism regarding Coastal Monitoring and Adaptation Plan
(CMAP) Advanced Mooring System. **(Copy circulated)**

Mrs Smyth provided an overview of the report, advising that a funding application was led by Ulster University, in partnership with Council, to SEUPB Peace Plus fund. She confirmed that a Letter of Offer had been issued to Ulster University as the project lead. Council, as a partner, would lead elements of the project as outlined within the Officer's Report.

In response to Councillor Hanna's request for further detail regarding the advanced mooring techniques in comparison to traditional techniques, Mrs Smyth advised that it involved replacing mooring systems that used chainage techniques that damaged sea grass but would provide further information to the Member.

As Councillor Truesdale advised that she had a query relating to the exempt appendix relating to the item, the Chairperson asked for a proposer and seconder to go into closed session.

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

- AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor S 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 S Murphy, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to come out of Closed Session.
- AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor, the following was agreed:
- To note Coastal Monitoring and Adaptation Plan Project (CMAP) grant award – 1 April 2025 for 48 months
 - To approve the completion of required documentation, including partnership agreement with Ulster University and associated legal agreements to allow commencement of CMAP.
 - To commence the recruitment process for 1 FTE according to the terms and conditions of the Letter of Offer.
 - To approve the Business Case for the implementation of the Advanced Mooring Systems project which is the identified lead partner for the Coastal Monitoring and Adaptation Plan Project.

ERT/031/2025: GO SUCCEED UPDATE

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

Mrs Smyth outlined the report, advising that the Go Succeed programme was the mechanism through which Council delivered support for business startups and support for businesses that were in the early stages of growth. She advised that the report outlined the number of businesses that had received support from April 2024 to March 2025, alongside those that had benefitted from grant funding over the same time period.

Mrs Smyth confirmed that Belfast City Council were leading on the Go Succeed programme for all eleven Councils, confirming that a Memorandum of Understanding had been issued by the funder to Belfast City Council to advise of an extension of the programme for a further year.

In proposing the report, Councillor Andrews welcomed any programme that helped support local businesses within the District.

Councillor Hanna queried whether there were any statistics highlighting whether those businesses in receipt of grant funding were still trading.

Mrs Smyth advised that the businesses would still currently be trading as this was a recent programme delivery with many businesses still in the implementation stage, however she confirmed that Council would be monitoring the businesses as part of the ongoing support to assess the impact of any support grant.

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Hanna, the following was agreed:

- **To note the update provided on the implementation of Go Succeed 2024/25**
- **To approve Council entering into a MoU / Collaboration agreement with Belfast City Council (subject to Legal approval) to guarantee implementation of Go Succeed in 2025/26.**

ERT/032/2025:

LDP REVISED STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (SCI)

Read:

Report from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Regeneration, regarding LDP Revised Statement of Community involvement (SCI). **(Copy circulated)**

Mr McGilly advised that the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) was a required step within the Local Development Plan (LDP) process, which had recently been tabled at Council on 31 March 2025, with an agreement to launch the consultation of the draft LDP at the end of June 2025. He advised that the minor changes were detailed at section 2.3 of the Officer's Report.

AGREED:

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

- **The amendments to the Statement of Community involvement (SCI) as contained within the Officer's Report and the associated appendix.**
- **To submit the revised SCI to the Department for Infrastructure for their agreement.**

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 Ruane, seconded by Councillor Hanna, it was agreed to come out of Closed Session.

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

ERT/033/2025: FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CALL 1

Read: Report from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Financial Assistance Call 1. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Hanna, it was agreed to allocate the 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.

It was also agreed on the proposal of Councillor Feehan, seconded by Councillor Andrews, that the level of funding available within the Irish Language revenue stream be considered for increase through communication with the Irish Language Working Group and DfI.

FOR NOTING

ERT/034/2025: BUILDING CONTROL 6 MONTHLY UPDATE

Read: Report from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director: Regeneration, regarding Building Control 6 Monthly Update. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to note the contents of the Officer's Report.

ERT/035/2025: LICENSING 6 MONTHLY UPDATE

Read: Report from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director: Regeneration, regarding Licensing 6 Monthly Update. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to note the contents of the Officer's Report.

ERT/036/2025: LABOUR MARKET PARTNERSHIP 2024/25 UPDATE

Read: Report from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Labour Market Partnership 2024/25 Update. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to note the outputs to date against targets per initiative delivered by NMD Labour Market Partnership against 24/25 Action Plan regarding Employability and Skills Programme.

ERT/037/2025: **PEACEPLUS**

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

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to note the minutes of the PEACEPLUS Partnership on 23 January 2025 and 27 March 2025 as attached and outlined at section 2.2 of the Officer's Report.

ERT/038/2025: **RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SCHEME**

Read: Report from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Rural Business Development Scheme. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to note the update provided on the 2024 Rural Business Development Grant Scheme.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 6.37pm

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday 6 May 2025.

Signed: **Councillor W Clarke**
Deputy Chairperson
Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee

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