

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

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### **Minutes of the Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 12 May 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 O Hanlon	Councillor G Hanna
Councillor D Lee-Surginor	Councillor S Murphy
Councillor A Quinn	Councillor M Ruane

**Committee Members**

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

**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 F Branagh, Democratic Services Officer

**Officials in attendance  
via Teams:**

Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager

**ERT/039/2025:**

**APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Gibbons, Hanna and Harte.

The Chairperson advised that in an effort to be more transparent, many of the reports were tabled in open session while the appendices were in closed session. He asked that should Members have any questions regarding an appendix that they wait until the meeting was in closed session to raise any queries.

**ERT/040/2025:**

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Andrews declared an interest in Item 12 – DBEC Application to SEUPB.

**ERT/041/2025:**

**ACTION SHEET ECONOMY, REGENERATION & TOURISM  
COMMITTEE MEETING MONDAY 15 APRIL 2025**

Read:

Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Economy,  
Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 14  
April 2025 (**Copy circulated**)

**AGREED:**

**On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by  
Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to note the Action  
Sheet arising from the Economy, Regeneration &  
Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 14**

**April 2025.**

**FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION**

**ERT/042/2025:**

**ARTS OUTREACH PROGRAMME**

Read: Report from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism regarding Arts Outreach Programme. **(Copy circulated)**

Mrs Smyth outlined the report regarding the outreach programme that was to be delivered over the 2025/26 financial year, directing Members attention to section 2.1 of the report that contained all the pertinent details of the proposal while working in partnership with two schools to continue the programme into the coming year.

Councillor Lee-Surginor commended the work involved within the proposal, noting that the report referenced "local" primary schools. He queried whether this applied solely to Downpatrick or would it extend to nearby locations, such as Crossgar.

Mrs Smyth advised that the proposal incorporated schools that already had the shared education programme established, and both of these were Downpatrick based.

Councillor Hanlon commended the good work that was ongoing and welcomed the fact that funding would continue for the groups involved. She requested that officers reconsider the opening hours of the Down Arts Centre, stating that it was unfortunate that the work on display could not be accessed on a Saturday when the town had the largest footfall.

Mr Mallon advised that proposals were being developed regarding the Arts Centre in Downpatrick and how they could be aligned with the Museum opening hours.

**AGREED:**

**On the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, the following was agreed:**

- **To deliver an Artist Bursary Programme, awarding Letters of Offer to 6 bursaries.**
- **To deliver 2 Artist Bursaries through a Service Level Agreement with the John Hewitt Programme**
- **To deliver a Theatre Company in Residence Programme, establishing a Service Level Agreement for delivery against KPIs between June 2025 and March 2026**
- **To deliver an Artist in Residence programme, establishing a Service Level Agreement for delivery against KPIs between September 2025 and March 2026**
- **To support a Schools Shared Education Project through issue of a Letter of Offer for implementation of a Streets Mural Arts Project.**

**ERT/043/2025:**

**DATA SHARING AGREEMENT BETWEEN DAERA AND 11 COUNCILS**

Read: Report from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Regeneration, regarding Data Sharing Agreement between DAERA & 11 Councils. **(Copy circulated)**

Mr McGilly outlined the report, advising that the Service Level Agreement (SLA) was due to be extended for a further three years. He advised that the SLA was part of the planning process to allow for the exchange of data when processing planning applications that required consultation with DAERA.

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to approve the Data Sharing Agreement between DAERA and the 11 Councils regarding planning applications on agricultural land.**

**ERT/044/2025: KILKEEL CHAMBER**

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

Mrs Smyth noted that Council supported a number of artisan markets across various locations within the District, advising that this report proposed to work in partnership with Kilkeel Chamber to deliver three markets over the coming year around holiday periods.

Councillor Clarke noted the positive addition the market would make to Kilkeel, noting that it would need a visible presence within the area to encourage footfall. He also commended the Kilkeel Chamber which had a track record of delivering different events within the area.

In seconding the proposal, Councillor Andrews welcomed the proposed market and officers acknowledged his request for consideration to be given to the establishment of an artisan market in Rowallane DEA.

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to approve the establishment of a Service Level Agreement with Kilkeel Chamber to deliver three artisan markets in 2025/26.**

**ERT/045/2025: NI REGIONAL PLANNING IT SYSTEM**

Read: Report from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Regenerations, regarding NI Regional Planning IT System. **(Copy circulated)**

Mr McGilly advised that the SLA existed between 11 Councils and the Intelligent Client Function (ICF), which was the organisation established to manage the Master Gov system established in 2022 to manage all planning applications. He advised that the SLA was due for renewal for a further three-year period.

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by**

**Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to approve the Service Level Agreement between the Intelligent Client Function (ICF) and the 11 partner Planning Authorities and associated costs of the Shared Service for the Planning System.**

**ERT/046/2025:                    RING OF GULLION LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP SCHEME  
LEGACY FUND**

Read:                                      Report from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership Scheme Legacy Fund. **(Copy circulated)**

Mrs Smyth outlined the report, noting that the Ring of Gullion Partnership Scheme had been underway for some time. She directed Members attention to section 2.1 of the report that detailed the three projects that had been identified to utilise funding for legacy-based projects.

**AGREED:**                                      **On the proposal of Councillor Quinn, seconded by Councillor Feehan, it was agreed to issue Service Level Agreements for the delivery of 3 Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership Legacy phase projects as set out in section 2 and 4 of the Officers Report, to include:**

- **Workshop Teaching Space – SLA with Mountain Ways Ireland**
- **Heritage across the Generations – SLA with Rural Health Partnership**
- **Ring of Gullion Heritage Festival – SLA with Oriel Events**

**ERT/047/2025:                    YOUNG ENTERPRISE NORTHERN IRELAND (YENI)**

Read:                                      Report from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Young Enterprise Northern Ireland. **(Copy circulated)**

Mrs Smyth advised Young Enterprise NI had approached Council following their successful application to deliver a project to post primary schools requesting match funding and assistance to extend delivery of their programme to all post primary schools within the District.

**AGREED:**                                      **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor, it was agreed to issue a Letter of Offer to Young Enterprise NI to deliver the "Building Aspirations" project in 25/26.**

**ERT/048/2025:                    NEWRY RIVER CHANNEL MARKERS**

Read:                                      Report from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Newry River Channel Markers. **(Copy circulated)**

Mrs Smyth outlined the report, noting that the ten navigational markers were currently maintained by Carlingford Lough Commission on behalf of Council and the proposed SLA was to enable the continuation of this agreement.

Councillor Feehan queried what actions had been taken on behalf of Council following the announcement to develop Carlingford Lough as a sustainable tourism region by the Shared Island Unit.

Mr Mallon advised that Fáilte Ireland were leading on delivery of the project and would be engaging with Council and Louth County Council to set out plans and proposals following the successful application.

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Feehan, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to approve that Council enter into a Service Level Agreement with Carlingford Lough Commission (CLC) to maintain 10 Navigational Markers within the Newry River from Narrow Water to Victoria Lock Gates.

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

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Ruane, 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 Clarke, it was agreed to come out of Closed Session.

The Chairperson advised that the exempt appendices were noted and the following had been agreed while in closed session.

**ERT/049/2025: TYRELLA BEACH – SEASON PARKING PERMIT**

Read: Report from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Tyrella Beach Season Parking Permit. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Lewis, it was agreed to approve the proposal to continue to operate a seasonal carpark permit at Tyrella Beach.

## FOR NOTING

**ERT/050/2025:**

### **DBEC APPLICATION TO SEUPB**

Read:

Report from Mr Mallon, Director of Economy, Regeneration & Tourism, regarding DBEC Application to SEUPB. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:**

**On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor S Murphy, it was agreed to note the following:**

- **That a funding application has been submitted to SEUPB PEACEPLUS Programme under Investment Area 6.1 – Strategic Planning & Engagement, seeking €2 million to enable the delivery of a programme.**
- **To note Newry, Mourne and Down District Council as the lead Partner for the project.**

**ERT/051/2025:**

### **EATS & BEATS - BUSKFEST**

Read:

Report from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Eats and Beats - Buskfest. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:**

**On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor S Murphy, it was agreed to note the partnership between Eats & Beats Event and Banbridge Buskfest by offering the Overall Winner of Buskfest 2025 a performance slot on stage at the Eats and Beats Festival 2025.**

Councillor Lewis thanked officers and Members for their patience and work since taking on the role of Chairperson of the Committee. He further thanked Councillor Clarke for assuming the role of Chairperson at the previous meeting in his absence.

Members present thanked Councillor Lewis for his fair and impartial conduct when chairing meetings.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 6.25pm

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 2 June 2025.

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

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**Signed: Conor Mallon**

