

NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 13 October 2025 at 6.00pm in Boardroom, Warrenpoint Town Hall

Chairperson: Councillor D Lee-Surginor

**Committee Members
in attendance:**

Councillor G Hanna
Councillor S Murphy
Councillor M Ruane
Councillor H Young

Councillor G Kearns
Councillor A Quinn
Councillor J Tinnelly

**Committee Members
in attendance via Teams:**

Councillor W Clarke
Councillor C Galbraith

Councillor K Feehan

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

Councillor C Bowsie

Officials in attendance:

Mr C Mallon, Director of Economy, Regeneration & Tourism
Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth and Tourism
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager
Mr C Smyth, Democratic Services Officer

**Officials in attendance
via Teams:**

Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director, Regeneration

ERT/094/2025

APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillor Andrews, Hanlon, Harte and Lewis.

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/095/2025

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

ERT/096/2025

**ACTION SHEET ECONOMY, REGENERATION & TOURISM
COMMITTEE MEETING MONDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2025**

Read:

Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Economy,
Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 8

September 2025 (Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Kearns, it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 8 September 2025.

FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

ERT/097/2025 INCOMING TOUR OPERATORS ASSOCIATION IRELAND WORKSHOP 2025

Read: Report from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism regarding ITOA Ireland Workshop 2025 (**Copy circulated**)

Mrs Smyth outlined the benefits of the ITOA Workshop, which was scheduled to take place in November 2025 at the Slieve Donard Hotel, Newcastle, advising the costs were provided in Appendix 1 of the officer's report.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor S Murphy, it was agreed to provide sponsorship for the ITOA Ireland Workshop which in November 2025 is being hosted in the Slieve Donard Hotel, Newcastle.

ERT/098/2025 SUMMIT OF THE CITIES 2026

Read: Report from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Regeneration & Tourism, regarding Summit of the Cities 2026. (**Copy circulated**)

Mrs Smyth explained that the report sought Council approval for its role as a key partner in the Summer of the Cities 2026 event. She provided an overview of the Summit of the Cities and its associated benefits, as outlined in Sections 2.1 and 2.2 of the officer's report.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Quinn, it was agreed to approve Council as a key partner on the Summit of the Cities 2026 event.

ERT/099/2025 WARRENPOINT BATHS

Read: Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Regeneration & Tourism, regarding Warrenpoint Baths Update. (**Copy circulated**)

Mrs Smyth presented the report and referred to Section 2.0, which had been shared with Members at the meeting held on 10th September. Members were asked to approve the recommendations set out in Sections 3.1 and 3.2 of the report, and to note the associated costs

as outlined in Appendix 1.

AGREED:

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

- **Commission a comprehensive intrusive structural condition survey of the Baths structure and buildings.**
- **Continue to explore and progress any relevant / appropriate funding opportunities for delivery of the approved project.**

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 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 Quinn, seconded by Councillor Kearns, it was agreed to come out of Closed Session.

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

ERT/100/2025

BELFAST INNOVATION REGION FUNDING

Read:

Report from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Belfast Innovation Region Funding application. (Copy circulated)

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Young, seconded by Councillor Quinn, it was agreed to:

- **Approve acceptance of the Letter of Offer from Department for Science, Innovation & Technology (DSIT) for Castlewellan Forest Park,**
- **Approve the business case for the procurement for the project via the Crown Commercial Service Network Services 3 Framework (RM6116),**
- **Approve the allocation of match funding towards the project, as set out in Section 4.**

FOR NOTING

ERT/101/2025**BUILDING CONTROL X 6 MONTHLY UPDATE**

Read:

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

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Quinn, seconded by Councillor S Murphy, it was agreed to note the report.

ERT/0102/2025**EBR BRIDGE PROJECT**

Read:

Report from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding PEACE PLUS – BRIDGE Report. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Quinn, seconded by Councillor S Murphy, it was agreed to note the award of funding to East Border Region, from the SEUPB PEACEPLUS Programme for the BRIDGE Project.

ERT/0103/2025**LICENSING 6 X MONTHLY UPDATE**

Read:

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

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Quinn, seconded by Councillor S Murphy, it was agreed to note the contents contained within the Licensing 6 monthly report.

ERT/0104/2025**NMDDC ECONOMIC OUTLOOK**

Read:

Report from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding UUEPC – Economic Outlook NMDDC. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Quinn, seconded by Councillor S Murphy, it was agreed to note the update on the Council's Economic Outlook compiled by Ulster University Economic Policy Centre (UUEPC).

ERT/0105/2025**PEACEPLUS**

Read:

Report from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding PEACEPLUS Theme 1.1. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Quinn, seconded by

Councillor S Murphy, it was agreed to note the minutes of the PEACEPLUS Partnership on 18th September 2025 and the Partnership's agreement on the next phase of implementation against action plan:

- **Strand 3.7 Piece Work Embroidery – Flowering in the Mournes**
- **Strand 2.3 Learn the language of my neighbour**
- **Strand 3.6 Crossing Paths: Stories in Motion**
- **Strand 3.6 Home is a Journey: Migration in Film and theatre**

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 6.18pm.

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

Signed: Councillor D Lee-Surginor
Chairperson
Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee

Signed: Conor Mallon
Director of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism
