

**NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

---

**Minutes of the Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting  
held on Monday 10 August 2026 at 6.00pm in Boardroom, Warrenpoint Town Hall**

---

**Chairperson:** Councillor K Feehan

**Committee Members:** Councillor T Andrews Councillor G Hanna  
Councillor G Kearns Councillor Lee-Surginor  
Councillor N Lawlor Councillor A Lewis  
Councillor M Ruane Councillor H Young

**Committee Members**

**in attendance via Teams:** Councillor W Clarke Councillor C Galbraith  
Councillor O Hanlon

**Officials in attendance:** Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth and Tourism  
Ms S Stephenson, Head of Programmes  
Mr C Smyth, Democratic Services Officer

**Officials in attendance  
via Teams:** Ms F Branagh, Democratic Services Officer

**ERT/073/2026: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

An apology was received from Councillor S Murphy and Mr C Mallon, Director of Economy, Regeneration & Tourism

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/074/2026: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**ERT/075/2026: ACTION SHEET ECONOMY, REGENERATION & TOURISM  
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 8 JUNE 2026**

**Read:** Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Economy,  
Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on 8 June 2026.  
**(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:**

**On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on 8 June 2026.**

**FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION**

**ERT/076/2026:**

**PEACEPLUS**

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

Mrs Smyth outlined the report, advising members that Council had recently been advised that the funding opportunity detailed at section 2.1 had been unsuccessful and asked members to note that the application had been submitted. AS – 2.1 business cases, for approval as attached.

**AGREED:**

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

- **To note the minutes of PEACEPLUS Partnership on 30 July 2026.**
- **To note that an application for additional funding for delivery of summer programmes had been submitted.**
- **Approve the following business cases and commencement of procurement based on same:**
  - **3.2 Children’s Language Scheme (one district wide project).**
  - **3.2 Learn the Language of your Neighbour (one district wide project).**

**ERT/077/2026:**

**RING OF GULLION LPS LEGACY PROJECTS**

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

Mrs Smyth outlined the report, advising Members that the Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership had sought Expressions of Interest from its partnership members for the delivery of projects during the current financial year with those approved by the Partnership were detailed at Section 2.1 of the report, with further information on the proposed projects provided in the appendices.

**AGREED:**

**On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to approve the issue of Service Level Agreements (SLA) for the delivery of**

**three Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership Legacy phase projects as set out in section 2 of the officers' report.**

**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 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 Lewis, seconded by Councillor Young, it was agreed to come out of Closed Session.

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

**ERT/078/2026: BRCD ANNUAL REPORT**

**Read:** Report from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Belfast Region City Deal – Annual Report. (Copy circulated)

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Kearns, it was agreed to approve the BRCD Annual Report 2025/26.

**ERT/079/2026 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CALL 1.1 & 2**

**Read:** Report from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Financial Assistance: Call 1.1 Revenue and Call 2 Capital. **(Copy circulated)**

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

- To issue 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.

- To agree that Pre-Letters of Offer conditions are to be met prior to issue of full Letter of Offer and where conditions are not satisfied, the budget will be reallocated to score and rank list if applicable.
- To issue a Letter of Offer under Community Events and Festivals theme following consideration of appeals.
- To proceed at risk to award funding under the Community Events and Festivals theme, to enable groups to deliver upon the objectives outlined in their applications.

**ERT/080/2026**

**NEWRY CHAMBER MUSIC**

Read:

Report from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Newry Chamber Music – Ensemble in Residence & professional music programme. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

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

- To issue a Letter of Offer to Newry Chamber Music for the delivery of an Ensemble in Residence programme.
- To issue a Letter of Offer to Newry Chamber Music for the co-ordination of two Professional Music Performances: Irish Doctors Choir and the Fews Ensemble and Christmas Miscellany.

**ERT/081/2026**

**ST PATRICKS DAY 2026/27**

Read:

Report from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding St Patricks Day 2026-27: SLA for Community Engagement and Carnival Floats. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

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

- To approve SLAs to the organisations named in the report to deliver schools engagement and enhanced float and parade content for Downpatrick and Newry St Patricks Day 2027 events.

- **To approve a pilot financial assistance call for community groups and businesses for the provision of St Patricks Day fringe activities.**

**ERT/082/2026:**

**STRANGFORD & LECALÉ LANDSCAPE CONNECTIONS**

Read:

Report from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Strangford and Lecale Landscape Connections (NLHF application). **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:**

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

- **To note that an application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for the Strangford and Lecale Landscape Connections project has been successful for the initial development phase.**
- **To approve an additional match funding commitment for the Development Phase of the Strangford and Lecale Landscape Connections project, to be used only if external funding is not secured.**

**FOR NOTING**

**ERT/083/2026:**

**GO SUCCEED UPDATE**

Read:

Report from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Go Succeed funding and future planning. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:**

**On the proposal of Councillor Young, seconded by Councillor Kearns, it was agreed to note the update on Go Succeed funding and future planning.**

**ERT/084/2026:**

**NEWRY BID**

Read:

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

Councillor Young placed on record her recognition and congratulations to the Newry BID team, noting that the comprehensive report demonstrated the hard work and effort undertaken and highlighted the wide range of activities delivered. She congratulated the team on their achievements.

**AGREED:**

**On the proposal of Councillor Young, seconded by Councillor Kearns, it was agreed to note the quarter one update from Newry BID on delivery performance against BID Strategic Priorities 2026-2031.**

**ERT/085/2026**

**LOCAL GROWTH FUND CONSULTATION RESPONSES**

Read:

Report from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Local Growth Fund Consultation. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:**

**On the proposal of Councillor Young, seconded by Councillor Kearns, it was agreed to note Council's consultation response to Local Growth Fund.**

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 6.34pm

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 7 September 2026

**Signed:**

---

**Councillor K Feehan  
Chairperson  
Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee**

**Signed:**

---

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