

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting
held on Monday 10 February 2020 at 5.00pm in the Boardroom, District
Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry**

Chairperson: Councillor R Mulgrew

In Attendance: (Committee Members)

Councillor T Andrews
Councillor R Burgess
Councillor W Clarke
Councillor D Curran
Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor G Hanna
Councillor V Harte
Councillor M Larkin
Councillor D McAteer
Councillor A McMurray
Councillor H Reilly
Councillor M Ruane
Councillor G Stokes

(Non Committee Members)

Councillor C Mason

Officials in Attendance: Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism
Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture &
Events
Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment &
Regeneration
Mr A McKay Chief Planning Officer
Mr C Jackson Assistant Director Building Control &
Regulation
Ms L Dillon Democratic Services Officer

ERT/019/2020: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

An apology was received from the following Councillor:

Councillor C Enright

ERT/020/2020: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest.

**ERT/021/2020: **ACTION SHEET
MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION &
TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING
- MONDAY 13 JANUARY 2020****

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 13 January 2020. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane seconded by Councillor Hanna, it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 13 January 2020.

ENTERPRISE, EMPLOYMENT AND REGENERATION ITEMS

**ERT/022/2020: **2020 AGENDA NI
ECONOMIC CONFERENCE****

Read: Report dated 10 February 2020 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration regarding the 2020 NI Economic Conference delivered by Agenda NI. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Harte seconded by Councillor Hanlon it was agreed to support the 2020 NI Economic Conference delivered by Agenda NI, through a lead sponsorship at a cost of £10,000.

Noted: Members suggested that Officers should consider the possibility of hosting this event in Newry in the future.

ERT/023/2020: NEWRY CHAMBER CROSS BORDER CONFERENCE

Read: Report dated 10 February 2020 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration regarding the Newry Chamber Cross Border Conference, to highlight the importance of the cross border economy. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed the Council contribute £5,000 towards the costs associated with running this event.

**ERT/024/2020: BELFAST CITY REGIONAL DEAL
– DIGITAL INNOVATION PROJECT**

Read: Report dated 10 February 2020 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration regarding the Belfast City Regional Deal Digital Innovation Project. **(Copy circulated)**

During discussion Officers explained the process for the allocation of monies and noted that Officers were awaiting advice from Public Health England regarding 5G test beds.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to approve the appointment of an external consultant to assist officers with the design, development and implementation of key Belfast City Regional Deal digital projects.

TOURISM CULTURE & EVENTS

ERT/025/2020: TOURISM PROMOTIONS EVENTS

Read: Report dated 10 February 2020 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding the Council's plan in respect of attendance at a range of tourism trade shows in 2020/2021. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Burgess it was agreed to approve the Council's Tourism Trade Show Plan for 2020/2021.

**ERT/026/2020: FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANT FUND
TOURISM EVENTS & TOURISM PARTNERSHIP MARKETING**

Read: Report dated 10 February 2020 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding grant award within Call 1 of the Financial Assistance Grant Programme for Tourism Events and Tourism Partnership Marketing Fund. **(Copy circulated).**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed to approve grant awards within Call 1 of the Financial Assistance Grant Programme for Tourism Events and Tourism Partnership Marketing Fund.

ERT/027/2020: NEWRY & MOURNE MUSEUM FORWARD PLAN

Read: Report dated 10 February 2020 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding a forward plan for Newry & Mourne Museum. **(Copy circulated).**

Noted: Members felt that adequate signage needed to be provided to indicate to visitors the location of the Museum in Newry.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor Reilly it was agreed to approve the Forward Plan for Newry and Mourne Museum 2020-2023.

ERT/028/2020: TOURISM ACCOMMODATION FUND

Read: Report dated 10 February 2020 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture and Events, regarding a capital grant fund for Tourism Accommodation. **(Copy circulated).**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed the Council open a Capital Grant Fund, closed call for expressions of interest,

to support the construction of new hotel developments of scale in the District, in line with agreed funding criteria.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor McAteer, it was agreed to note the criteria included “Projects that are seeking maximum grant support of £400,000”, not £300,000 as was incorrectly stated in the Officers Report dated 10 February 2020.

NOTICES OF MOTION

ERT/029/2020: RURAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor C Mason:

“This Council recognises the transformational impact that rural development funding has had on many of our local rural communities throughout the District; notes the negative impact that the loss of this funding opportunity will have for many isolated rural communities who would have availed of such funding opportunities; and therefore agrees to source ways in which this Council can continue to help invest in our rural communities.”

Councillor Mason presented the above Notice of Motion highlighting the benefit of Rural Development Funding to rural communities in the District and made the following points:

- Capital grant aid provides sustainability and efficiencies for farms, access business development groups and allow them to survive in the market in turbulent economic times.
- Benefit for community groups to address rural isolation for the elderly.
- Enable sporting clubs to improve facilities and provide much needed activities for youth thus improving health and wellbeing.
- Health development teams have been able to operate health and wellbeing projects to benefit rural communities.

Councillor Mason said that ceasing this funding has highlighted the negative impact of Brexit and she urged the Council to actively seek alternative sources of funding to continue helping rural communities.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to adopt the Notice of Motion.

All members of the committee voted in favour of the Notice of Motion.

Noted: It was noted workshops were presently being held on Rural Development and that it was important Council worked with all relevant groups to ensure clarity on the provision of future rural development funding.

EXEMPT INFORMATION

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor Ruane Andrews it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the following matter 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).

ERT/030/2020: **LEASE: DOWN ARTS CENTRE**

Read: Report dated 10 February 2020 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding extension of office space at Down Arts Centre. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane seconded by Councillor Burgess it was agreed to come out of Closed Session.

When the Committee came out of closed session the Chairperson reported the following decision:

ERT/030/2020: Lease re: Office Space at Down Arts Centre Downpatrick

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon seconded by Councillor Burgess it was agreed to extend the Lease in respect of office space at Down Arts Centre Downpatrick to current tenants for a further 5 year period, effective from the date of expiry of the current Lease, as per recommendation contained in correspondence dated 14

January 2020 from Land and Property Services.

FOR NOTING

ERT/031/2020: PLANNING PERFORMANCE FIGURES

Read: Planning Performance Figures for January 2020.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: It was agreed to note Planning Performance Figures for January 2020.

ERT/032/2020: CASTLEWELLAN FOREST PARK TASK & FINISH

Read: Report dated 10 February 2020 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding Castlewellan Forest Park. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed to note Report dated 10 February 2020 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding Castlewellan Forest Park.

ERT/033/2020: DOWNPATRICK REGENERATION PROJECT

Read: Report dated 10 February 2020 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director, Enterprise Employment and Regeneration regarding Downpatrick Regeneration Project. **(Copy circulated).**

AGREED: It was agreed to note Report dated 10 February 2020 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director, Enterprise Employment and Regeneration regarding Downpatrick Regeneration Project.

ERT/034/2020: HISTORIC ACTION TRACKER ENTERPRISE REGENERATION & TOURISM

Read: Action Tracker Report for Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee. **(Copy circulated)**

Noted: To note the Historic Action Tracker Report for Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee.

ERT/035/2020: SCHEME OF DELEGATION

Read: Scheme of Delegation. (Copy circulated)

Noted: To note the Scheme of Delegation.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 5.45pm

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 2 March 2020.

Signed: Councillor R Mulgrew

Chairperson of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee

Signed: Mr C Mallon

Director of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee