

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting
held on Monday 9 September 2019 at 5.00pm in the Boardroom, District
Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry**

Chairperson: Councillor R Mulgrew

In Attendance: **(Committee Members)**

Councillor T Andrews
Councillor P Brown
Councillor R Burgess
Councillor W Clarke
Councillor D Curran
Councillor C Enright
Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor G Hanna
Councillor V Harte
Councillor M Larkin
Councillor D McAteer
Councillor H Reilly
Councillor M Ruane
Councillor G Stokes

(Non Committee Members)

Councillor Casey
Councillor W Walker

Officials in Attendance: Ms M Ward 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

Also in attendance: Mr Eoin Magennis University of Ulster

ERT/112/2019: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

No apologies.

Councillor Mulgrew thanked Deputy Chairperson of the ERT Committee, Councillor D Curran, for deputising at the ERT Committee Meeting in August 2019 and she thanked him for all his support.

Councillor Reilly conveyed his best regards to Councillor Mulgrew.

ERT/113/2019: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

**ERT/114/2019: ACTION SHEET
MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION &
TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING
- MONDAY 12 AUGUST 2019**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 12 August 2019. **(Copy circulated)**

The following issues were raised arising from the above Action Sheet:

ERT/098/2019 – NI Economy House of Commons Event

Noted: The NI Economy event in the House of Commons to be held in September 2019 has been oversubscribed therefore the Council will not be represented at this event.

ERT/096/2019 – Transfer of Tourism & Heritage Assets

Record: Councillor Reilly asked that it be recorded that at the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held in June 2019 it had been agreed the Council take no action at the moment regarding the request for Cinema seats at Kilkeel Town Hall, until the future of Kilkeel Cinema is discussed at a DEA Meeting. He said this meeting had not yet taken place and that a `Call-in' has now been submitted regarding the decision taken at the Council Meeting September 2019. He added it was important the seats at Kilkeel Cinema were not removed.

Councillor Clarke said that due to the negative publicity surrounding this matter the Newcastle Community Cinema group are no longer interested in the cinema seats at Kilkeel Cinema.

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 12 August 2019.

PRESENTATIONS

ERT/115/2019: PRESENTATION NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN ECONOMIC SUMMER 2019 OUTLOOK

Mr Eoin Magennis University of Ulster delivered a presentation on Newry Mourne & Down Summer Forecast 2019.

He explained the forecasts are seen as a guide as to what may happen regarding future potential policy direction and decisions in areas such as planning and economic development, and are set under the following 3 scenarios:

Baseline – The forecast assumes an orderly exit from the EU, which despite everything still remains the likely outcome.

Upper – The forecast is consistent with a move towards convergence with the current UK employment rate.

Lower – The Forecast shows a fall in consumer and business confidence linked to a more severe global slow-down

Following the presentation Members raised the following issues:

Is there evidence of Northern Ireland businesses putting investment decisions on hold waiting on the outcome of Brexit?

Manufacturers who export goods do appear to be putting such plans, ie employment and investment plans, on hold whereas domestic demand business appear to be continuing with their investment plans, ie, hotels, office space, etc.

Are figures available regarding current Brexit discussions and the potential positive flow for a Northern Ireland specific deal on Brexit? Could Northern Ireland be in the most ideal situation which would stimulate the economy?

Depends on the baseline, ie, Northern Ireland remaining, a backstop, a hard Brexit or no deal Brexit. Northern Ireland remaining as it is, would be seen as having a smaller negative effect in the event of a back stop. A good firm certain deal will be

key for the economy here, ie, Northern Ireland staying within the Customs Union and single market, but the uncertainty still remains.

Backstop is designed on basis of the relationship between the Canary Islands and mainland Spain which is very rigid and damaging to the Canary Islands – How can it be to our benefit to have a similar arrangement if GB became competitive yet Northern Ireland would remain with the rigid EU arrangement. Would there be a problem in Newry Mourne & Down with automation?

Carbon neutral economy – how can Northern Ireland agriculture maintain it's present output if it will be forced into low carbon measures.

With regard to automation we need to understand the extent of tasks that have already been automated. Its key to ensure emphasis on skills and prepare people for that and focus on reducing the number of people coming out of schools with low qualifications.

Low carbon may come in two ways, ie, tax the products we use or mitigate against it in the production processes.

Are businesses more prepared than what people are led to believe as some are quite optimistic. Is the decline in farming due to farmers leaving the business or jobs on farms.

People are moving from full time farming to occasional farming and these jobs tend to be accounted for elsewhere in other sectors such as construction, etc. Large firms appear to be up to speed in terms of Brexit preparation but it's a considerable cost for smaller businesses to bring in assistance to help them prepare.

Speculation suggests going back to the original proposal of having GB outside of the EU common market and Ireland as an island remaining in the common market. This would appear to be the best option as NI would be part of the UK market and the Common market also. Would this change the forecast?

In the short term even with the NI only back stop it will be a difficult couple of years as the backstop could be replaced with something else therefore the uncertainty would remain. There will be a number of years transition before it would be known if the above said scenario would be a good option for the economy.

Councillor Mulgrew thanks Mr Magennis for his presentation.

ENTERPRISE, EMPLOYMENT AND REGENERATION ITEMS

ERT/116/2019: DRAGONS IN THE HILLS PROJECT

Read: Report dated 9 September 2019 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration regarding a partnership project called Dragons in the Hills.
(Copy circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Larkin seconded by Councillor Clarke it was agreed Council proceed as follows:

- (a) To provide a letter of support for the project for the funders.**
- (b) To sign a Memorandum of Understanding to confirm and further develop the long-term partnership between Amphibian and Reptile Groups of UK (ARG UK) and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC). This MoU has been checked by the legal team and they are happy that is it not binding and is for the purpose of developing projects.**
- (c) If funding is successful, to work with HR Department regarding the hosting of a staff member who will have responsibility for project delivery.**

Noted: Officials to note the possibility of bringing this project to Delamont Country Park in the future.

ERT/117/2019: ARTISAN MARKET PROVISION

Read: Report dated 9 September 2019 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration providing an update regarding Artisan Market provision.
(Copy circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed as follows based on facilitating one market in each DEA area:

- (a) Crotlieve**
Following the successful Pilot markets during summer 2019, a Service Level Agreement is entered into to deliver up to 4 markets in Warrenpoint within this financial year. SLA budget for 2019/20

for 4 markets is £2,000. The SLA to be reviewed for 2020/21 and subject to further consideration and approval.

- (b) Downpatrick**
The established market in Downpatrick continues to be supported by Council, with a SLA in place for £5,000 during 2019/20. This will be reviewed at the start of each financial year before contracts are renewed.
- (c) Mournes**
The established market in Newcastle continues to be supported by Council, with a SLA in place for £5,000 during 2019/20. This will be reviewed at the start of each financial year before contracts are renewed.
- (d) For the following DEA's, officers will engage with DEA Forums regarding Artisan Market provision in the following DEAs as outlined above:**
- Newry
- Rowallane
- Slieve Gullion
- (e) Council Officers procure 8 marquees which would be used exclusively to support Artisan markets at a cost of £5,000 which is available within existing budgets, to ensure that marquees are always available for market use. Additional marquees can be borrowed, when required, from the Community Service section of Council.**
- (f) Officials to bring back a report to the ERT Committee Meeting in October 2019 providing a financial breakdown regarding Artisan Markets.**

LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP SCHEME (LPS)
RE: STRANGFORD & LECALÉ AONB

Read: Report dated 9 September 2019 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration regarding an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a Landscape Partnership Scheme (LPS) for Strangford & Lecale AONB. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Enright seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed as follows:**

- (a) Officers to explore the possibility of applying to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for a Landscape Partnership Scheme (LPS) type project for the Strangford and Lecale AONB before March 2020.**
- (b) If feasible, submit an EOI to the National Lottery Heritage Fund in 2020.**

ERT/119/2019: PUBLIC REALM SCHEME PHASE III
HILL STREET NEWRY

Read: Report dated 9 September 2019 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration regarding the Public Realm Scheme Phase III – Hill Street Newry (Lower Hill Street / John Mitchel Place)
(Copy circulated)

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Harte it was agreed the Council accept the Letter of Offer from the Department for Communities (DFC) totalling £1.6 million and proceed to deliver the next stages of the Lower Hill Street Public Realm Scheme.**

TOURISM CULTURE AND EVENTS

ERT/120/2019: SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT
WOODLAND TRUST

Read: Report dated 9 September 2019 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding a Service Level Agreement with the Woodland Trust. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed the Council proceed and sign a Service Level Agreement with the Woodland Trust to cover the four-year project.

Noted: Officers to advise Councillor McAteer regarding who is eligible to apply for the Woodland Trust projects.

**ERT/121/2019: BELFAST CITY REGION DEAL
(JOINT COUNCIL FORUM)**

Read: Report dated 9 September 2019 from M Ward Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism, seeking nominations from Council for the City Deal Members Engagement Forum. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed to nominate 4 No. Members from Newry Mourne and Down District Council to sit on the City Deal Members Engagement Forum on the basis of the following structure:
2: Sinn Fein
1: SDLP
1: Unionist

Agreed: It was further agreed to approve the following nominations from Sinn Fein and SDLP, and that 1 No. nomination from Unionists will follow:
Sinn Fein: Councillor C Casey
Sinn Fein: Councillor W Clarke
SDLP: Councillor P Byrne

BUILDING CONTROL & REGULATIONS

**ERT/122/2019: DEVELOPMENT NAMING, POSTAL NUMBERING &
ERECTION OF NAMEPLATES POLICY**

Read: Report dated 9 September 2019 from Mr C Jackson Assistant Director Building Control, regarding a review of Street Nameplates and Development Naming Policy.
(Copy circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to approve the Development Naming, Postal Numbering & Erection of Nameplates Policy.

TOURISM, CULTURE & EVENTS

ERT/123/2019: HERSTORY LIGHT FESTIVAL PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

Read: Report dated 9 September 2019 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding the Herstory Light Festival 2020 from 31 January 2020 – 3 February 2020.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed the Council participate in the Herstory Light Festival 2020 and to programme a series of events, activities and light projections onto our arts venues and museums.

EXEMPT INFORMATION

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor Hanna 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).

ERT/124/2019: AONBs STRUCTURES

Read: Report dated 9 September 2019 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Regeneration & Employment regarding structure for the AONBs. **(Copy circulated)**

(6.05pm: Councillor Larkin left the meeting)

**ERT/125/2019: **EXTENSION OF RAILWAY LINE
BALLYDUGGAN DOWNPATRICK****

Read: Report dated 12 August 2019 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism, regarding an extension to the Railway Line at Ballyduggan Downpatrick. **(Copy circulated)**

ERT/126/2019: **DUTCH BARGE – ALBERT BASIN NEWRY**

Read: Report dated 9 September 2019 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism, regarding the use of Albert Basin Newry for a dutch barge. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

When the Committee came out of closed session the Chairperson reported the following decisions had been agreed:

ERT/124/2019 – AONB Structures

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Larkin it was agreed to present a report to the SPR Committee Meeting in September 2019 setting out a proposal for a new staffing structure for AONBs.

ERT/125/2019 – Extension to Railway Line – Ballyduggan Downpatrick

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Enright seconded by Councillor Curran, it was agreed to proceed with a vesting application in relation to the Downpatrick and County Down Railway extension, and to utilise the necessary budgets to proceed with this process.

ERT/126/2019 – Dutch Barge (Albert Basin)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Clarke it was agreed to approve the request by Silvery Light Sailing to operate a trial series of day sailings using their vessel Volharding to take place on the Albert Basin and Newry Canal on a pilot basis, from now until December 2019.

FOR NOTING

ERT/127/2019: PLANNING PERFORMANCE

Read: Planning Committee Performance Report.
(Copy circulated)

Noted: To note Planning Performance figures for July 2019.

ERT/128/2019: ERT BUSINESS PLAN REVIEW 2018/19

Read: Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Directorate Business Annual Assessment Business Plan 2018/2019.
(Copy circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed to note the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Directorate Business Annual Assessment Business Plan 2018/2019.

ERT/129/2019: UPDATE RE: GREENWAYS

Read: Report dated 9 September 2019 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding updates on the Proposed Carlingford Lough Greenway and Downpatrick to Comber and Downpatrick to Newcastle Greenways Studies.
(Copy circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed to note the Council will proceed as follows regarding Greenways:

- (a) NMDDC continue to work with Louth County Council and SEUPB to progress the Carlingford Lough Greenway.**
- (b) Subject to Planning Permission, Newry Mourne and Down Council to now assist Louth County Council regarding the procurement and appointment of a contractor to carry out Greenway works on the Northern side between Victoria Lock and the Border.**
- (c) NMDDC to carry out procurement of other required Site Investigation, Tree Survey and Road Survey Audits.**

- (d) In view of the previously completed funding Economic Appraisal for the project, Council to proceed to contractor procurement and appointment, once Planning has been confirmed.

**ERT/130/2019: UPDATE:
(ERDF) EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND
(NIBSUP) NI BUSINESS START UP PROGRAMME**

Read: Report dated 9 September 2019 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration regarding an update on ERDF Programmes. **(Copy circulated)**

Noted: On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed to note the update provided on performance under the following business development programmes;

- Northern Ireland Business Start-Up Programme
- NMD Business Growth Programme
- NMD Procurement and Supply Chain Programme
- Digital Development Programme

ERT/131/2019: TOURISM PROMOTION EVENTS

Read: Report dated 9 September 2019 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding Tourism Promotion events. **(Copy circulated)**

Noted: On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed to note Tourism Promotion events as per Report dated 9 September 2019.

ERT/132/2019: SCHEME OF DELEGATION

Read: Scheme of Delegation. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed to note the Scheme of Delegation.

ERT/133/2019: ACTION TRACKER
ENTERPRISE REGENERATION & TOURISM

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

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor
 Andrews it was agreed to note the Action Tracker Report for
 Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee.**

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 6.20pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 7 October 2019.

Signed: **Councillor D Curran**

**(Deputy) Chairperson of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism
 Committee**

Signed: **Ms M Ward**

Director of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee