

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

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**Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting  
held on Monday 11 April 2022 at 6.00pm in the Chamber Council Offices  
Monaghan Row Newry, and remotely via Microsoft Teams**

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**Chairperson:** Councillor R Howell (Chamber)

**Deputy Chairperson:** Councillor T Andrews (Chamber)

**In attendance:** **(Committee Members)**  
Councillor R Burgess (Teams)  
Councillor D Curran (Teams)  
Councillor W Clarke (Teams)  
Councillor M Larkin (Teams)  
Councillor A McMurray (Teams)  
Councillor H Reilly (via Teams)  
Councillor M Ruane (Teams)

**Non Members:** Councillor P Brown (Teams)  
Councillor O Hanlon (Teams)

**Officials in attendance:** 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 & Regulations  
Ms L Dillon Democratic Services Officer  
Ms C McAteer Democratic Services Officer

### **ERT/063/2022: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were recorded for:

Councillor G Hanna  
Councillor M Gibbons  
Councillor R Mulgrew  
Councillor V Harte  
Councillor M Savage

The Chairperson, Councillor Howell extended deepest sympathy to Councillor Aoife Finnegan on the sudden and tragic passing of her cousin Jody Keenan.

On behalf of the SDLP grouping on Council, Deputy Chairperson, Councillor Andrews extended sincere condolences to Aoife, her family and friends.

**ERT/064/2022: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest.

**ERT/065/2022: ACTION SHEET  
MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION &  
TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING  
MONDAY 14 MARCH 2022**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 14 March 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Howell it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 14 March 2022.**

**ENTERPRISE EMPLOYMENT & REGENERATION**

**ERT/066/2022: LABOUR MARKET PARTNERSHIP ACTION PLAN 2022/23**

Read: Report dated 11 April 2022 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration regarding the implementation of a Labour Market Partnership Action Plan 2022/2023. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed:**

- a) **To note Council have prepared and submitted to DFC a Strategic Assessment and Action Plan for implementation of a LMP across the District. This action plan has been approved by the Regional LMP on 25th March 2022.**
- b) **To accept DFC Letters of Offer for LMP / Skills and Employability activity, including administration and operational costs**
- c) **To approve Business Case for the implementation of the LMP Action Plan for 2022/2023**
- d) **Council to procure and appoint external delivery agents to implement the range of initiatives outlined in the attached business case, subject to DFC funding**
- e) **To establish an Service Level Agreement with Newry and Mourne Enterprise / Down Business Centre for implementation of the Self-Employment: Business Start Development Programme - £65,000, subject to DFC funding**
- f) **To establish Service Level Agreements with Southern Regional College and South Eastern Regional college for the delivery of initiatives under apprenticeship awareness - £20,000, subject to DFC funding**
- g) **To establish Service Level Agreements with Southern Regional College and South Eastern Regional college for delivery of upskilling programmes to local employers and their employees, - £62,000 , subject to DFC funding**
- h) **Council write to DFC regarding the delay in issue of Letters of Offer for LMP operational and resource activity, highlighting the subsequent impact on delivery at a local level**

## **TOURISM CULTURE & EVENTS**

### **ERT/067/2022: STRATEGIC REVIEW OF MUSEUMS SERVICES TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Read: Report dated 11 April 2022 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding the Terms of Reference for the Strategic Review of Museums Services. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor McMurray said concerns regarding the condition of the Down Museum had been raised by many people and in view of the fact the facility

was unable to function due to staffing issues, he asked if this review would address these problems.

Councillor Curran asked when the Down Museum would be open to the general public.

Mr Patterson confirmed the Museum was currently open and as part of the review process, opening hours would be reviewed and extended on longer term basis going forward.

Councillor Hanlon asked when the review process would commence. She also asked if the Down Museum would be open over the Easter period.

Mr Patterson said it was hoped to begin the process as soon as possible and following ratification of the Terms of Reference at the Council Meeting in May 2022. He explained current opening hours would be from Wednesday to Friday going forward.

Councillor Hanlon said it was very disappointing the facility would not be open during the Easter period.

Councillor Andrews said elected representatives had been contacted regarding concerns about staffing levels in the Down Museum and the impact this will have on the future of this popular facility and he also expressed concern the facility would not be open over the Easter weekend which would be one of the busiest weekends of the year and said was very disappointing. He highlighted the need to approve the Terms of Reference as this review would be very important for the future development of the Down Museum facility.

Councillor Brown said as being the proposer for the motion along with Councillor Hanlon, to carry out a review of the Down Museum, he welcomed the fact this review was moving forward on a relatively quick timeframe.

He concurred with previous speakers regarding staffing issues at the facility and the impact the downgrading of this facility and reduction in staffing levels is having on the opening hours of the museum over the Easter period.

He said as we emerge from Covid it was important that facilities were opening up and bringing people into the District and as the Down Museum needed to play a vital role in this he expressed disappointment the facility would not be open at weekends over the next number of weeks. He hoped the review would address the problems causing the closures and asked for a timeframe for it's commencement and completion, stressing the need that stakeholders are given a clear indication of same.

He asked for clarification regarding the independent specialist to undertake the review

work given that most of the knowledge on the workings of the Museum existed within the Council.

He said it was important to include within the Terms of Reference objectives, consideration of a leadership role for the Down Museum as one of the major issues of concern was regarding the fact a full time Museum Curator was based in the Newry Museum but no full time Curator was provided in the Down Museum.

With regard to stakeholders, Councillor Brown suggested including the following as stakeholders as they had all been involved in opposing the downgrading of the Down Museum:

- Downpatrick Railway Museum
- Killylea Family History Society
- U3A
- Ulster Architectural Heritage Society
- Local business owners, ie, Stephen Magorian Denvers

He also asked Officers to note the new name for Lecale & Down Historical Society.

**Noted:** It is anticipated the review will be concluded in a timely way following the appointment of the Independent Specialist who will lead the process.

There are only a select number of independent assessors who would have the necessary skills and knowledge of the Museum Sector and appointment will be subject to the procurement process.

Staffing resource will be considered as part of the review and will include museum management.

Officers will include the additional stakeholders suggested by Councillor Brown subject to Members approval.

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed to approve the Terms of Reference and the list of stakeholders, as per Report dated 11 April 2022 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism, and to include the additional stakeholders as outlined by Councillor Brown.**

## **EXEMPT INFORMATION**

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor Andrews 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/068/2022: ULSTER RALLY SPONSORSHIP**

**Read:** Report dated 11 April 2022 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding entering into a Service Level Agreement with Mourne Heritage Trust (MHT) to support an Engagement Ranger Service. **(Copy circulated)**

### **ERT/069/2022: GRAPHIC DESIGN CONTRACT**

**Read:** Report dated 11 April 2022 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding a Graphic Design contract. **(Copy circulated)**

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

When the Committee came out of closed session the Chairperson reported on the following decisions taken:

### **ERT/068/2022: Ulster Rally Sponsorship**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Burgess it was agreed Council enter into a sponsorship agreement with the event promoters with regard to the Ulster Rally event in Newry in August 2022.

**ERT/069/2022: Graphic Design Contract**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Howell it was agreed to approve the Business Case and Council to undertake the necessary procurement exercises to tender and appoint a graphic design, artwork and print management services contract for tourism, for a 3 year term.

**FOR NOTING**

**ERT/070/2022: ULSTER ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE SOCIETY  
SUMMER SCHOOL**

Read: Report dated 11 April 2022 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding the Ulster Architectural Heritage Society Summer School. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** It was unanimously agreed to note approval to provide financial support to the Ulster Architectural Heritage Society (UAHS) and the Irish Georgian Society (IGS) to support a Cross Border Summer School Study Day being held in Newry in June 2022.

**ERT/071/2022: BUILDING CONTROL – 6 MONTHLY REPORT**

Read: Building Control 6 monthly report. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** It was unanimously agreed to note the Building Control 6 Monthly Report.

**ERT/072/2022: LICENSING – 6 MONTHLY REPORT**

Read: Licensing 6 monthly report. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** It was unanimously agreed to note the Licensing 6 Monthly Report.

**ERT/073/2022: DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES  
ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING FEES**

Read: Report dated 11 April 2022 regarding correspondence dated 23 March 2022 from Department for Communities regarding a review of reduced fees for Entertainment Licences. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the above Report and support the hospitality sector with a nominal £1 fee for the renewal of Entertainment Licence applications for the 2022/23 financial year.**

**ERT/074/2022: ERT HISTORIC ACTION TRACKER**

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

**AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the Historic Action Tracker Sheet for Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee.**

**ERT/075/2022: PLANNING PERFORMANCE FIGURES**

Read: Report regarding Planning Performance Figures for March 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the Planning Performance Figures for March 2022.**

**ERT/076/2022: SLIEVE GULLION FOREST PARK  
TRANSFORMING THE VISITOR EXPERIENCE**

Read: Report dated 11 April 2022 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding the Slieve Gullion project on transforming the visitor experience. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the update on the Slieve Gullion project and extensions to the letter of offer.**



The Chairperson wished everyone a happy Easter.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 6.30pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 03 May 2022.

**Signed: Councillor R Howell**  
**Chairperson**  
**Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee**

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**Signed: Mr J McGilly/Mr A Patterson**  
**Assistant Directors**  
**Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism**

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