

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

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**Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting  
held on Monday 13 December 2021 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room  
Downshire Estate Downpatrick, 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 (via Teams)  
Councillor D Curran (Chamber)  
Councillor G Hanna (via Teams)  
Councillor V Harte (Chamber)  
Councillor M Larkin (via Teams)  
Councillor R Mulgrew (Chamber)  
Councillor A McMurray (Chamber)  
Councillor M Ruane (via Teams)  
Councillor G Stokes (via Teams)

**Non Members:** Councillor J Tinnelly (via Teams)  
Councillor P Byrne (via Teams)

**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 & Regulations  
Ms S Taggart Democratic Services Manager  
Ms L Dillon, Democratic Services Officer  
Ms P McKeever Democratic Services Officer

### **ERT/226/2021: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Councillor W Clarke  
Councillor M Savage

## **ERT/227/20201: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **ERT/228/2021: DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES RE: ENABLING PLAN**

Mr Damian Mulholland Department for Communities delivered a presentation to Members regarding the Newry Enabling Plan.

Mr Mulholland explained he worked on urban regeneration projects and the presentation focused on Newry. He referred to the amount of projects that were in the pipeline for Newry and the substantial level of public and private investment for these projects.

He then elaborated on the following key points contained in the Enabling Plan for Newry:

- To understand private and public sector planned investment for Newry over the next 15 years together with the Council's growth aspirations.
- Establish if Newry's infrastructure network can support future development.
- Enable public sector to prioritise proposals.
- Identified key projects.
- Identified the reasons for change
- Identify risks that may prevent achieving potential
- Develop strategic actions needed to ensure development can be brought forward.
- Recommend the next steps

Mr Mulholland highlighted the following drivers for change, and risks that may hamper development and added that a substantial amount of investment could potentially be available for Newry city over the next 15 years.

- Housing growth
- COVID 19
- Climate Change
- Brexit
- Changing high street

With regard to transport and movement, he said the Southern Relief Road scheme would have a major impact on Newry city eliminating all the south down, and Port traffic, and removing congestion in the area at the bottom of Hill Street. He also referred to issues which needed to be examined in order to enable future development, ie, carparking;

frequency of transport services; active travel; sewage systems capacity; flood risk.

He said Newry had a high number of people living close to and within the town centre and highlighted the importance of community engagement with future development planning as studies have shown in England that many young people now want to live in town centres as opposed to living in the country.

Mr Mulholland gave detail on the following actions that would be required to address the impact of future growth:

- A joint approach from Council's, the Department and the business community to work with NI Water to establish needs and solutions to network issues.
- A collaborative partnership to provide homes.
- A strategy to enhance connectivity/movement across the city to address impact on the public transport system.
- Engagement with Translink regarding the key projects and the impact these will have on increasing car dependency in the absence of an accessible public transport system.

He said it was hoped to achieve £400m - £500m of investment over the next 15 years but it was important to identify infrastructure issues that will have a negative impact on future growth, and establish the actions required to overcome these issues creating a frameworks where all stakeholders will work together.

Discussion took place during which Member raised a number of points as follows:

- Newry's geographic location along the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor
- Opportunities within Newry city centre
- Lack of investment by NI Water to address flood risk and waste water capacity resulting in negative responses from NI Water regarding Planning applications.
- Need for more housing.
- Need for investment to provide adequate public transport connections for Newry's satellite communities.
- Car Parking technology
- Identify reuses for vacant town centre buildings.
- Lack of investment for the regeneration of basic infrastructure.
- How will all the desktop exercises carried out by the various departments/bodies link up to bring delivery and ensure an enabling plan for Newry will connect with all the outlying surrounding areas.
- Changes to development plans for towns and cities in light of Brexit, Covid 19 and climate change.

Mr Mulholland responded as follows:

- NI Water have been making a case for increased investment over the past number of years - important to continue to engage with NI Water to ensure Newry is made a priority in terms of NI Water's future infrastructure plans, and bring forward a Living with Water and Sewage strategy for Newry.
- Out of town Park n Ride facilities need to facilitate people coming to Newry and not only the people travelling to Dublin/Belfast.
- The Department are now for the first time looking to see what is needed to achieve and drive forward the potential that exists for Newry and create a body of people to bring this forward.
- Out of town retailing and more use of online shopping has already brought fundamental change which has been accelerated by Covid19 and has created a problem for town and city centres. We need to make town centres places that people want to live in which will in turn attract people who will want to visit.

The Chairperson thanked Mr Mulholland for delivering his presentation and spoke of the importance of engaging with those who live and work in the area in terms of planning for the future and she welcomed the announcement from the Minister for Finance approving £16m for the development of a city centre park at the Albert Basin Newry.

**AGREED: A copy of Department for Communities "Newry City Centre Development Enabling Plan 2035" and "Newry Enabling Action Plan", to be forwarded to Councillors for information.**

**ERT/229/2021: ACTION SHEET  
MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION &  
TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING  
MONDAY 08 NOVEMBER 2021**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 08 November 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 08 November 2021.**

**ERT/230/2021: MID YEAR ASSESSMENT  
BUSINESS PLANS 2021-2022**

Read: Report dated 13 December 2021 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding Directorate Business Plan 2021-2022 in respect of the ERT Department. **(Circulated)**

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Howell seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to approve the Mid-Year Assessment of the ERT Directorate Business Plan 2021-2022.**

**ENTERPRISE EMPLOYMENT & REGENERATION**

**ERT/231/2021: NEWRY CHAMBER CROSS BORDER CONFERENCE**

Read: Report dated 13 December 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration regarding the Newry Chamber Cross Border Conference in March 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed the Council issue an SLA to Newry Chamber of Commerce and Trade for Sponsorship of £5,000 towards a Cross Border conference to be held in March 2022.**

**ERT/232/2021: RING OF GULLION AONB  
WATER IMPROVEMENT GRANT**

Read: Report dated 13 December 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration, regarding grant for water improvement at Ring of Gullion AONB. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McMurray seconded by Councillor Mulgrew it was agreed as follows:**

- a) **To note that Council have successfully received £25,500 at up to 85% of eligible costs from Northern Ireland Environment Agency through their Water Improvement Fund.**

- b) **To approve a Service Level Agreement of £2,500 value with the Dundalk Institute of Technology for delivery of their H2O Hero's Education Programme with schools in the Ring of Gullion area, including engagement with local secondary schools in GIS mapping of the rivers.**
- c) **Officers examine the possibility of extending this programme to provide water improvements to other areas in view of the poor statistics issued by the Water Framework Directive with regard to water standards in lakes and rivers etc in other parts of the District.**

**ERT/233/2021: SALES ACCELERATION PROGRAMME TRADE VISIT**

Read: Report dated 13 December 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment Regeneration regarding attendance at the two Sales Accelerator Programme Trade Visits. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Mulgrew it was agreed to approve the attendance of the Chairperson (or their nominee) and one Officer at the two Sales Accelerator Programme Trade Visits: the first to be held in Edinburgh for 2 nights (1 – 3 February 2022 - proposed dates), with the second to be held in South of Ireland (dates / venue to be agreed).**

**ERT/234/2021: SOUTHERN REGIONAL COLLEGE BIG APPRENTICESHIP EVENT 2022**

Read: Report dated 13 December 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment Regeneration regarding a Service Level Agreement for the SRC Big Apprenticeship Event in February 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor McMurray it was agreed to issue of a Service Level Agreement (SLA) to Southern Regional College (SRC)**

**for sponsorship towards the delivery of their Big Apprenticeship Event scheduled to take place during Northern Ireland Apprenticeship Week 2022 in February 2022, at a cost of £5,000.**

**ERT/235/2021: UJJ RESEARCH - CROSS BORDER CONNECTIVITY AND CO-OPERATION**

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Read: Report dated 13 December 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment Regeneration regarding an amendment to the Council's Memorandum of Understanding with Ulster University to include the completion of a research on cross-border connectivity and cooperation. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed to approve an amendment to the Council's Memorandum of Understanding with Ulster University to include the completion of a further research on cross-border connectivity and cooperation at a cost of £12,000.**

**BUILDING CONTROL & REGULATIONS**

**ERT/236/2021: ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING - EXTENDED OPENING HOURS**

Read: Report dated 13 December 2021 from Mr C Jackson Assistant Director Building Control & Regulations, regarding. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Howell seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to take into consideration the extended opening hours that can be applied for under the amendments to the Act and to process applications for extended Entertainment to process requests in line with current practices. ie to approve extended hours applications under delegated authority and to refer refusals to committee for consideration.**

## **EXEMPT INFORMATION**

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Burgess 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/237/2021: BANN ROAD CASTLEWELLAN - PARK & RIDE**

Read: Report dated 13 December 2021 from Mr C Jackson Assistant Director Building Control & Regulations, regarding the development of a Park 'n' Share facility within Castlewellan, in partnership with DFI. **(Copy circulated)**

### **ERT/238/2021: CLEANING SERVICES CONTRACT - TOURISM FACILITIES**

Read: Report dated 13 December 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding procurement/appointment for a cleaning services provider to Council tourism facilities. **(Copy circulated)**

### **ERT/239/2021: CAR PARK DOWNPATRICK STREET SAINTFIELD**

Read: Report dated 13 December 2021 from Mr C Jackson Assistant Director Building Control & Regulations regarding the refurbishment of Downpatrick Street Car Park Saintfield. **(Copy circulated)**

### **ERT/240/2021: GREENWAY AND ACTIVE TRAVEL - DFI FUNDING**

Read: Report dated 13 December 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding confirmation of funding for Greenway and Active Travel projects. **(Copy circulated).**

### **ERT/241/2021: MANAGEMENT LEADERSHIP NETWORK (MLN) EVENT**

Read: Report dated 13 December 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration, regarding



sponsorship for a high-profile leadership event in 2022 that will seek to build on the theme of empowering potential, focusing on the opportunities around talent, skills and employability.

**(Copy circulated)**

**ERT/242/2021: PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY SERVICES**

Read: Report dated 13 December 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding tender for a 2 year contract for videography and photography. **(Copy circulated)**

**ERT/243/2021: PROJECT DEVELOPMENT RESOURCE - LEVELLING UP FUND**

Read: Report dated 13 December 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding resources to assist the ERT Directorate with funding submission, including the Levelling Up Fund. **(Copy circulated)**

**ERT/244/2021: SMALL SETTLEMENT REGENERATION PROGRAMME**

Read: Report dated 13 December 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding COVID 19 Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Programme. **(Copy circulated)**

**ERT/245/2021: WARRENPOINT PONTOON**

Read: Report dated 13 December 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding appointment of a supplier to repair the pontoon at Warrenpoint Breakwater. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Hart 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/237/2021: Bann Road Castlewellan - Park & Ride**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Howell seconded by Councillor McMurray it was agreed:

- a) Committee members approve the attached business case for a Capital spend to develop a 72 bay Park 'n' Share facility at Bann Road, Castlewellan.
- b) Members approve the revised Capital budget as set out in Section 4.1 of Report dated 13 December 2021 from Mr C Jackson Assistant Director Building Control & Regulations.

**ERT/238/2021: Cleaning Services Contract - Tourism Facilities**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Howell it was agreed to procure and appoint a cleaning services provider to Council's four Forest Parks and Tyrella Beach between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2025.

**ERT/239/2021: Downpatrick Street Car Park Saintfield**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to approve the business case for the Capital spend required to carry out the refurbishment project for Downpatrick Street car park, Saintfield.

**ERT/240/2021: Greenway and Active Travel - DFI Funding**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor McMurray seconded by Councillor Ruane it was agreed as follows:

- a) Subject to DFI Business Case sign off, Council to accept DFI Letters of Offer once received for the Newry City Greenway, Newry to Warrenpoint Greenway and Downpatrick Green/Blue Way Feasibility/Design Studies.

- b) To approve attached Business Case, to appoint consultants to deliver the feasibility & costed options for all 3 outlined schemes.**
- c) To approve a contribution from the Capital programme to match fund DFI grant aid as set out in section 4.1 of Report dated 13 December 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration.**

**ERT/241/2021: Management Leadership Network (MLN) Event 2022**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Howell it was agreed to approve that Council sponsors Podium / MLN for the development, management and implementation of a high-profile leadership event in 2022.

**ERT/242/2021: Photography and Videography Services**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Howell it was agreed to appoint a supplier via tender for a two-year contract using an existing Council Framework for videography and photography to assist the tourism and arts sectors by creating videography and photography content.

**ERT/243/2021: Project Development Resource - Levelling Up Fund**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to approve the procurement and appointment of a suitably qualified consultant to assist council officials with the preparation and submission of bids to the Levelling up fund.

**ERT/244/2021: Small Settlement Regeneration Programme**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Howell seconded by Councillor McMurray it was agreed as follows:

- 1) To accept the letter of offer.**

- 2) To approve 10% match funding required by DfI, DAERA and DfC.
- 3) To submit outline proposals by 31 December 2021 with detail finalised early in 2022 via engagement with DEAs and report back to the ERT Committee.

**ERT/245/2021: Warrenpoint Pontoon**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Ruane seconded by Councillor Harte it was agreed to approve the appointment of a supplier via the existing Council framework to repair the pontoon at Warrenpoint Breakwater and to undertake the dredging of the pontoon pocket area by Warrenpoint Harbour Authority.

**FOR NOTING**

**ERT/246/2021: CONSULTATION  
RE: BUILDING CONTROL PRESCRIBED FEES**

Read: Report dated 13 December 2021 from Mr C Jackson Assistant Director Building Control & Regulations regarding a consultation on Building Control Prescribed Fees.  
**(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** It was unanimously agreed to note the Council is broadly in favour of the proposed uplift in the Building Control fees for Schedule 1 and 2 applications in a two-phase process with a full review proposed within the next 5 years.

**ERT/247/2021: CONSULTATION  
RE: BUILDING REGULATIONS PART F**

Read: Report dated 13 December 2021 from Mr C Jackson Assistant Director Building Control & Regulations regarding a consultation on Building Control Regulations Part F.  
**(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** It was unanimously agreed to note the Council is broadly supportive of Option 3, the recommendation to provide a

**40% betterment for new houses and 25% for new flats and 15% for new buildings other than dwellings within NI.**

**ERT/248/2021: BUSINESS NEEDS SURVEY**

**Read:** Report dated 13 December 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding the findings of NMD Business Needs Survey 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** **It was unanimously agreed to note the update provided on findings from the Business Needs Survey 2021.**

**ERT/249/2021: DAERA RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANT - TRPSI UPDATE**

**Read:** Report dated 13 December 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding the DAERA Rural Business Development Grant Scheme 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** **It was unanimously agreed to note the update provided on the Rural Business Development Grant Scheme 2021 regarding application numbers and total grant value awarded.**

**ERT/250/2021: 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 Report for Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee.**

**ERT/251/2021: MARKETING PLAN**

**Read:** Report dated 13 December 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding an update on Visit Mourne Marketing Plan 2021-2023. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** It was unanimously agreed to note the report on the Tourism Marketing Plan for the district for 2021-23.

**ERT/252/2021: NEWRY AND DOWNPATRICK REVITALISATION SCHEMES**

Read: Report dated 13 December 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding an update on Revitalisation Schemes for Newry and Downpatrick. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** It was unanimously agreed to note the update on the implementation of 2 revitalisation schemes:  
-Lower Hill Street, Newry  
-Church Street, Downpatrick

**ERT/253/2021: PLANNING PERFORMANCE FIGURES**

Read: Report regarding Planning Performance Figures for November 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** It was unanimously agreed to note the Planning Performance Figures for November 2021.

**ERT/254/2021: REGIONAL INNOVATION DATA HUB**

Read: Report dated 08 November 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding Community Renewal Fund - Southern Regional Data Innovation Pilot Project. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** It was unanimously agreed to note the update provided on the Community Renewal Fund – Southern Regional Data Innovation pilot project and the roll out of pilot projects across the NMDDC region.

**ERT/255/2021: TRADE SHOWS**

Read: Report dated 13 December 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding tourism trade shows

attended by NMDDC Officers . **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the above Report.**

**ERT/256/2021: TRADITIONAL ARTS PARTNERSHIP EXCHANGE VISIT**

Read: Report dated 13 December 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding tourism trade shows attended by NMDDC Officers . **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the Ring of Gullion Traditional Arts Partnership (TAP) have been invited to take part in Irish Arts week at Celtic Junction Arts Centre, St Pauls Minnesota and their exchange visit will be supported with a contribution from the Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership Scheme Legacy Fund.**

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 7.30pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 10 January 2022.

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

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**Signed: Mr C Mallon**  
**Director of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee**

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