

NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting
held on Monday 08 November 2021 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room
Downshire Estate Downpatrick, and remotely via Microsoft Teams**

Chairperson: Councillor R Howell (Chamber)
Deputy Chairperson: Councillor T Andrews (Chamber)

In attendance: **(Committee Members)**
Councillor R Burgess (via Teams)
Councillor W Clarke (via Teams)
Councillor D Curran (Chamber)
Councillor M Gibbons (via Teams)
Councillor G Hanna (via Teams)
Councillor V Harte (Chamber)
Councillor M Larkin (via Teams)
Councillor R Mulgrew (Chamber)
Councillor A McMurray (Chamber)
Councillor H Reilly (via Teams)
Councillor M Savage (via Teams)
Councillor G Stokes (via Teams)

Non Members: Councillor C Casey (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 C McAteer Democratic Services Officer

ERT/201/2021: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Councillor M Ruane.

ERT/202/20201: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest.

**ERT/203/2021: ACTION SHEET
MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION &
TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY 11 OCTOBER 2021**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 11 October 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Savage it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 11 October 2021.

ENTERPRISE EMPLOYMENT & REGENERATION

ERT/204/2021: AONB / GEOPARK

Read: Report dated 08 November 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration regarding an update on the AONB and Geopark initiative. **(Copy circulated)**

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

- a) To note the update provided in Report dated 08 November 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration.**
- b) To approve the submission of an application to Atlantic Area for Atlantic Culture Scape phase 2 – September**

2022: December 2023, and approve match funding of £27,500, subject to approval of funding bid.

ERT/205/2021: NEWRY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EVENTS

Read: Report dated 08 November 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration, regarding Council sponsorship for Newry Chamber of Commerce events.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Savage it was agreed as follows:

- a) Newry Mourne and Down District Council support the Newry Chamber of Commerce and Trade Workplace Health and Wellbeing Conference on 30 November 2021, at a sponsorship cost of £5,000.**
- b) Newry Mourne and Down District Council take 2 No. tables of 10 at the President's Banquet event on 19 November 2021, at a cost of £1,300 (£650 per table).**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Howell it was also agreed that should any remaining seats be available, that they are offered to Council staff and then to the mental health charities who took part in the chairpersons recent workshop.

ERT/206/2021: WARRENPOINT MUNICIPAL PARK

Read: Report dated 11 November 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment Regeneration regarding National Lottery Heritage Funding for Warrenpoint Municipal Park.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Savage seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed to accept an extension to the Letter of Offer, if awarded by National Lottery Heritage Fund, to 30 June 2022.

ERT/207/2021: MASTERPLANS
NEWRY EAST CITY CORE STUDY

Read: Report dated 08 November 2021 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding the Newry City Masterplan. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Howell seconded by Councillor Mulgrew it was agreed to approve the review of the Newry City Centre Masterplan and match funding as set out in Section 4, of Report dated 08 November 2021 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding the Newry City.

TOURISM CULTURE & EVENTS

ERT/208/2021: AONB VISITOR ACCESS PROJECT

Read: Report dated 08 November 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding Visitor Access projects for AONBs. **(Copy circulated)**

Noted: It was noted Visitor Access Projects would look at sites across the District.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor McMurray it was agreed to approve the sum of £12,000 from the existing tourism budget to match fund £48,000 secured from the Challenge Fund for the Visitor Access Project for AONB, noting this amount is currently within available budgets.

ERT/209/2021: COASTAL FLAVOURS FOOD AND DRINK EVENT
- APPOINTMENT OF FACILITATOR

Read: Report dated 08 November 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events & Tourism regarding the appointment of a facilitator using the Tourism NI Framework to oversee all aspects of developing a new Coastal Flavours Food & Drink Safari. **(Copy circulated)**

Members requested more clarification on the proposed event including, to explore holding a competition for a regional dish; queries on the cost to Council and sourcing reports from the former Newry & Mourne District Council on similar work that was done.

Noted: The event will be 100% funded by Tourism NI and specifications from previous similar initiatives would be reviewed and that when appointed, the Facilitator will work in liaison with relevant stakeholders, to establish the details of the event.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Clarke it was agreed to appoint a facilitator using the Tourism NI Framework to oversee all aspects of developing a new Coastal Flavours Food & Drink Safari to include new experiences and to enhance existing experiences and to market test these food and drink experiences.

ERT/210/2021: NEWRY CANAL STRATEGY

Read: Report dated 08 November 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events & Tourism regarding correspondence from Inland Waterways Association of Ireland regarding Newry Canal. **(Copy circulated)**

During discussion reference was made to whether Newry Canal had been deemed obsolete and if this was the case, had the NI Assembly a role to ensure necessary funding was made available to have the Canal refurbished, and indeed reverse this decision.

Members also spoke of the history connected to Newry Canal and the links many families who lived in the area had with the Canal, and stressed the importance of working with Armagh Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council and Inland Waterways to progress the development of the Canal thus enhance tourism potential and provide a link to the Albert Basin, and the possibility of navigating from this point to Portadown and on to Lough Neagh.

Reference was also made to how well the towpath was used by walkers, runners and cyclists and the benefits to health and tourism and how pivotal the canal was to the development of Newry and its link to maritime history, and if there was merit in exploring the development of the Canal in line with initiatives to develop greenways and blueways.

Noted: The points raised by Members would be taken into consideration

during engagement with Armagh Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council and a report would be brought back to the ERT Committee in due course.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed to liaise with Council Officials in Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council to consider correspondence from Inland Waterways Association of Ireland (IWAI) Newry & Portadown Branch, with a view to investigating joint working for the future development of Newry Canal and revert back to the ERT Committee with proposals to progress this.**

BUILDING CONTROL & REGULATIONS

**ERT/211/2021: REVIEW OF PROTOCOL
RE: HEARING OF REPRESENTATIONS/REFERRALS FOR
LICENSING**

Read: Report dated 08 November 2021 from Mr C Jackson Assistant Director Building Control & Regulation, regarding a review of the revised protocol which has been amended in line with the Council's review process and recent advice from Legal Services.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Savage it was agreed to review and approve the revised protocol for Hearing of Representations and Referrals for Licenses and Permits, as per Appendix A, in Report dated 08 November 2021 from Mr C Jackson Assistant Director Building Control & Regulation.**

EXEMPT INFORMATION

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor Savage 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/212/2021: COVID 19 RECOVERY WORKING GROUP MEETING
THURSDAY 21 OCTOBER 2021**

Read: Report dated Report dated 08 November 2021 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting regarding recommendations arising from the Covid 19 Recovery Working Group Meeting held on Thursday 21 October 2021.
(Copy circulated).

**ERT/213/2021: DOWNPATRICK & COUNTY DOWN RAILWAY
- SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT**

Read: Report dated 08 November 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding Service Level Agreements with Downpatrick & County Down Railway.
(Copy circulated)

ERT/214/2021: REVIEW OF TOURISM EVENTS

Read: Report dated 08 November 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding a review of Tourism Events. **(Copy circulated)**

ERT/215/2021: RNLI LIFEGUARD SERVICES

Read: Report dated 08 November 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding a Service Level Agreement with RNLI Lifeguard Services. **(Copy circulated).**

**ERT/216/2021: WARRENPOINT TOWN HALL
RE: VENTILATION WORKS**

Read: Report dated 08 November 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding ventilation works at Warrenpoint Town Hall. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Harte 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/212/2021: Covid 19 Recovery Working Group Meeting
- Thursday 21 October 2021**

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

- a) To support the implementation of a Jobs and Careers fair, focusing on the Hospitality and Tourism Sector.
- b) That works are carried out to improve beach access and provide facilities at coastal areas across the District including Warrenpoint, Rostrevor and Lecale.
- c) Development of a Masterplan to develop walking linkages at Quoile Downpatrick.

**ERT/213/2021: Downpatrick and County Down Railway
Re: Service Level Agreements**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed to issue a Service Level Agreement to Downpatrick and County Down Railway for the period 01 December – 31 March 2022, subject to updated COVID risk assessment, ensuring buildings are safe for visitor access and schedule of opening provision.

ERT/214/2021: Review of Tourism Events

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Howell it was agreed Council appoint a Creative Producer/Director to:

- a) Carry out a full review of the existing flagship events historically delivered by Council during the Summer season.
- c) Make recommendations to Council on a programme of Summer event for 2022.

ERT/215/2021: RNLI Lifeguard Services

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McMurray seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed to approve a continuation of the Agreement with RNLI Lifeguard Services for the period 2022 to 2026 inclusive, to provide lifeguard service at Tyrella, Murlough and Cranfield Beaches, subject to completion of legal formalities and approval of Service Level Agreement in Annual Programme of Service Level Agreements considered at the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting in February 2022.

**ERT/216/2021: Warrenpoint Town Hall
Re: Ventilation Works**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Savage seconded by Councillor Gibbons it was agreed to approve the allocation in the Capital Programme as outlined in Section 4.1 in Report dated 08 November 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, to enable the completion of works to Warrenpoint Town Hall within the current financial year.

FOR NOTING

**ERT/217/2021: UPDATE
RE: BUSINESS PROGRAMMES**

Read: Report dated 08 November 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed as follows:

a) To note the update provided under the following business development initiatives:

- Go for It**
- NMD Growth**
- Digital Growth**
- Tender for Growth**
- Sales Accelerator and Digital Transformation Programmes**

b) To approve the proposed Trade Mission to Glasgow/Edinburgh as part of the Sales Accelerator Programme in conjunction with Lisburn Castlereagh City Council.

ERT/218/2021: UPDATE
RE: E-CHARGE

Read: Report dated 08 November 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding an update on the feasibility of installing e-charge points at 7No. sites across the district. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **It was unanimously agreed to note the uplift in the budget allocation for the feasibility study element of the project with a view to preparing an application to the Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) for the capital infrastructure.**

ERT/219/2021: UPDATE
RE: ECONOMIC FORUM MEETING

Read: Report dated 08 November 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding an update arising from a Special Meeting of the Economic Forum including ERT Committee Councillors, and all interested Councillors held on 4th October 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **It was unanimously agreed to note the update arising from a Special Meeting of the Economic Forum including ERT Committee Councillors, and all interested Councillors held on 4th October 2021.**

ERT/220/2021: EMPOWERING POTENTIAL EVENT

Read: Report dated 08 November 2021 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding an event to showcase Council's achievements in stimulating regeneration, investment and employment across the District. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note Council will refresh the Open for “Business, Empowering Potential” messaging and take forward a communications and engagement campaign thorough a public event in early 2022.

ERT/221/2021: 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/222/2021: PLANNING PERFORMANCE FIGURES

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

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

ERT/223/2021: PURPLE FLAG INITIATIVE

Read: Report dated 11 October 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding implementation of the Purple Flag Night time economy initiative. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the update provided on the status, development and implementation of the ‘Purple Flag’ night-time economy initiative.

ERT/224/2021: REGENERATION SCHEMES

Read: Report dated 08 November 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding an update on the completion of 7 No. Environmental Improvement Schemes and Derrymore Demesne Regeneration. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the update provided on the completion of 7 No. Environmental Improvement Schemes and Derrymore Demesne Regeneration.

**ERT/225/2021: ERT SCHEME OF DELEGATION
APRIL 2021 – SEPTEMBER 2021**

Read: Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Department Scheme of Delegation April 2021 – September 2021.
(Copy circulated)

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 6.45pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 06 December 2021.

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

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