

**NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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**Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting  
held on Monday 11 January 2021 at 6.00pm remotely via Microsoft Teams**

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**Chairperson:** Councillor A McMurray

**In attendance:** **(Committee Members)**

Councillor R Burgess

Councillor D Curran

Councillor W Clarke

Councillor G Hanna

Councillor V Harte

Councillor R Howell

Councillor M Larkin

Councillor D McAteer

Councillor R Mulgrew

Councillor H Reilly

Councillor M Ruane

Councillor M Savage

Councillor G Stokes

Councillor J Tinnelly

**Non Members:** Councillor T Andrews

Councillor C Enright

Councillor D Murphy

**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 of Building Control &  
Regulation  
Ms L Dillon Democratic Services Officer  
Ms C McAteer Democratic Services Officer  
Ms T McLaughlin PA to Director ERT

**ERT/001/2021: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

No apologies.

Councillor McMurray thanked officers for sending a letter to St Malachy's Primary School, Castlewellan.

**ERT/002/20201: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest.

**ERT/003/2021: ACTION SHEET  
MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION &  
TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING  
- MONDAY 14 DECEMBER 2020**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 14 December 2020. **(Copy circulated)**

**ERT/206/2020 – Update re: Irish Street Car Park**

**Noted:** Following a request for an update from Cllr Curran, Mr Mallon advised it had not been possible to secure a meeting prior to Christmas with representatives from the Department regarding the Irish Street Car Park Regeneration, however a meeting had now been arranged for Thursday 14 January 2021 to discuss the proposed development brief, including a timeline, and a date for the next meeting, which it is hoped would be held by the end of January 2021 or early February 2021.

**AGREED:** **It was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 14 December 2020.**

## **NOTICES OF MOTION**

### **ERT/004/2021: NOTICE OF MOTION RE: HOUSING SYSTEM**

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the names of Councillor D Murphy and Councillor V Harte:

“This Council welcomes the recent announcement by Communities Minister, Caral Ni Chuilin regarding her plans to fundamentally address the significant challenges facing our housing system. We call on the Planning Service to urgently place more emphasis on planning as an activity that is both integrated with other local government agencies and is focused on delivery.”

Councillor Murphy formally proposed the Motion.

He referred to the housing crisis and that he supported the announcement by the Minister for Communities, Caral Ni Chuilin to address the challenges facing the housing system.

He referred to the widening gap between what was needed and what was available in terms of housing provision and gave a breakdown of waiting list figures for the Newry area which was in severe housing stress.

Councillor Murphy said a radical plan was needed to provide high quality affordable housing to ensure people remained longer in areas sustaining and investing in communities. He said adequate housing was a basic human right and in light of the recent ministerial announcement he stressed the importance of all relevant public sectors working together to help tackle the housing crisis.

Councillor Harte formally seconded the Motion. She stated that adequate housing was universally viewed as a basic human right and that in light of the Minister’s announcement she stressed the need for all sectors to work together to help tackle the housing crisis.

Read: Report dated 11 January 2021 from Mr A McKay Chief Planning Officer regarding a Notice of Motion on the Housing System.  
**(Copy circulated)**

Mr McKay presented his report. He said the Planning Department supported the essence of the Motion and whilst the Minister’s announcement was ambitious and wide ranging in it’s scope, the Planning Department would endeavour to help deliver on housing provision across the District. He referred to ongoing interagency work with Planning Department to progress applications to assist in the delivery of social housing. He spoke of the scope of the Area Development Plan and said work was also required on the Council’s Community Plan and he hoped the Minister would bring forward a reform to create mechanisms that will allow the Planning

Department to assist in the future delivery of housing.

Discussion followed during which Members indicated cross party support for the Motion and the following points were raised:

- Reference was made to the successful Social Housing Needs Symposium which was held in Newry in 2018 and Members called for this event to be held again.
- Concerns were expressed at the rising figures for people in housing stress in Newcastle and Warrenpoint but in particular the Newry area.
- The development of the new Area Plan needs to be addressed.
- Impact housing stress has on families due to being separated and effects on development of children.
- The need for an asset review to be carried out across all statutory/social agencies to identify land and for all sectors to work collectively to tackle the housing crisis.
- Greater input needed from the Stormont Executive to ensure delivery of the plan announced by the Minister.

**AGREED:**                    **It was unanimously agreed to adopt the Notice of Motion formally proposed by Councillor Murphy and seconded by Councillor Harte regarding the Housing System.**

**AGREED:**                    **Mr Mallon Director ERT to contact Councillor Savage regarding a potential Social Housing Needs Symposium in 2021.**

**ERT/005/2021:**            **NOTICE OF MOTION  
RE: NZEB CODE  
(NEARLY ZERO ENERGY BUILDING)**

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the names of Councillor C Enright and Councillor P Brown:

“This Council calls upon Finance Minister Conor Murphy to immediately implement the NZEB Code (Nearly Zero Energy Building Code) that the EU Directive requires the NI Department of Finance to implement by the end of this year. This Directive has is adopted into UK law 13 Council alerts the Minister to the following facts;

1. NI building code is 20 years behind GB. Every private sector house built between now and 2030 will have to be retrofitted to meet the UK’s energy efficiency targets at 2030.
2. Every new house built in RoI is now more than £1000pa cheaper to run than an equivalent house in NI because of out of date building standards. All new homes in RoI thus have a typical Building Energy Rating (BER) of A2 or better.
3. RoI in November 2019 signed into law the nearly zero energy buildings (NZEB) regulation under part L of the Building Code for all domestic homes – not just public buildings as in GB. New Public Buildings in RoI have already been NZEB since 31st December 2018.”

Councillor Enright formally seconded and presented the Motion. He said the Motion focused on ending fuel poverty, preventing millions of pounds flowing out of the Northern Irish economy annually in fossil fuel payments and to fight climate change in a way that will help keep money in the pockets of families across Northern Ireland. He explained 4/5 of properties across Great Britain will fail the carbon targets set for 2030-50 and as result all properties will have to be part of a retro fit programme on a massive scale of expenditure. The equivalent figure in the Republic of Ireland is 2/3.

He said as Northern Ireland failed to adopt and implement the last 3 versions of Building Code - uneconomic and out of date properties were still being built and we are approximately 15 – 20 years behind Great Britain and Republic of Ireland, which will result in every new build having to undergo retro fit to meet UK wide climate change targets.

Councillor Enright said the NZEB Code is now law in the UK as a whole, but that the regulations to have the law implemented have not been issued by the Department of Finance in Northern Ireland – the Department have only adopted the latest NZEB code in order to catch up with neighbouring jurisdictions.

He said failure to implement the NZEB Code was leaving families in new homes in Northern Ireland less well off than a family living in a new build home in the Republic of Ireland.

Councillor Enright asked that the Motion be copied to the other 10 Councils in Northern Ireland.

Read: Report dated 11 January 2021 from Mr C Jackson Assistant Director Building Control & Regulation Chief regarding a Notice of Motion on the Nearly Zero Energy Buildings Code (NZEB).  
**(Copy circulated)**

Discussion followed during which Members indicated their support for the Motion. Issues were raised with regard to measures to ensure energy efficiency; the likely timescale for Northern Ireland to upgrade regulations and the implementation of a Green Deal.

**AGREED:**                   **On the proposal of Councillor Tinnelly seconded by Councillor Hanna, it was agreed to adopt the Notice of Motion regarding the Nearly Zero Energy Buildings Code (NZEB) which was formally proposed by Councillor P Brown, and seconded by Councillor Enright, with an amendment included that the Motion be copied to the other 10 Councils in Northern Ireland.**

### **ENTERPRISE EMPLOYMENT & REGENERATION**

**ERT/006/2021:**       **CARLINGFORD LOUGH GREENWAY**

Read:                    Report dated 11 January 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding Carlingford Lough Greenway. **(Copy circulated)**

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

- 1. Council now approve the Business Case for the Carlingford Lough Greenway 'Site Investigation Study' and issue the relevant Purchase Order, following tender assessment and award.**
- 2. Council asked to include funding towards the Carlingford Lough Greenway project within the Capital Programme for 2021/22.**

**ERT/007/2021:**       **ERDF RECOVERY PROGRAMME**  
**DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME**

Read:                    Report dated 11 January 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding the 11 Council collaborative bid to ERDF Recovery Programme – Digital Transformation. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:**                   **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by**

**Councillor Savage it was agreed the Council work in partnership with 11 Councils to develop and submit bid to Invest NI by 31 January for a regional business support programme looking at digital transformation/ innovation for SMEs. As the application progresses further detail to be provided on likely number of participant companies for each Council area. Cost to Council is £25,000 over 2 financial years.**

**Noted:** Councillor Mulgrew asked for it to be recorded that she welcomed any assistance to support businesses at this time but added that until the necessary infrastructure is put in place to provide digital support, many businesses will fall behind and this was utterly unacceptable as digital access was a basic need in today's society.

**ERT/008/2021: FORKHILL FORMER BARRACK SITE**

**Read:** Report dated 11 January 2021 from Mr J McGilly Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding an update on the Forkhill Former Barrack site. **(Copy circulated)**

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

- 1. Council to note the Report of the meeting on the 17/11/2020 and acknowledge the work of the sub-group set-up to agree the community consultation questionnaire on the future of the Former Forkhill Barracks site. Subject to full partnership group sign off in January 2021, support the Public Consultation process in early 2021.**
- 2. Council agree to the putting in place/extension of the License Agreement between it and the Department for Communities for those pathway and play elements of the Forkhill Greenspace Site that it is currently responsible for.**
- 3. Council agree to the finalisation/extension of the License Agreement between it and Forkhill Parish to enable the Church Car Park Access point to the site to be maintained.**

**ERT/009/2021: SRC BIG APPRENTICESHIP EVENTS**

**Read:** Report dated 11 January 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding the Southern Regional College Big Apprenticeship Event.  
**(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Howell seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed the Council issue a Service Level Agreement to Southern Regional College for sponsorship towards the delivery of their Big Apprenticeship Event in April 2021.**

**Mr C Mallon Director ERT to report back to Councillor H Reilly regarding access to the apprenticeship levy.**

**ERT/010/2021: WARRENPOINT FRONTSHORE PR SCHEME**

**Read:** Report dated 11 January 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding Warrenpoint Frontshore PR Scheme.**(Copy circulated)**

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

- 1. Members area asked to accept the broad Concept Design proposals as presented by AECOM, with suggested adjustments and proceed to a Consultation Process in early 2021.**
- 2. Officers report on feedback from the consultation process to the Task and Finish Group, before proceeding to finalise the design for submission to planning.**
- 3. Officers complete and submit the Economic Appraisal to Council and the Department For Communities for consideration of the funding package for the scheme.**
- 4. Members approve the Business Case to carry out a Site Investigation Survey and other smaller surveys costs as required to prepare for the planning submission.**
- 5. Once completed officers will present the DFI One Way system proposal for Warrenpoint at a future meeting of Crotlieve Cllrs in early 2021.**



## **TOURISM CULTURE & EVENTS**

**ERT/011/2021:      FRAMEWORK: ACCOMMODATION/CATERING/VENUE HIRE**

Read:                      Report dated 11 January 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding a business case for a 3 year Accommodation / Catering / Venue Hire framework. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:                      On the proposal of Councillor Savage seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed to accept a business case for a Framework appointment for a three-year accommodation/venue hire/ catering procurement for the entire Council valued at circa £165,000 per annum.**

**ERT/012/2021:      DAERA: RURAL TOURISM COLLABORATIVE EXPERIENCE PROGRAMME**

Read:                      Report dated 11 January 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding the appointment of a Facilitator for the DAERA Rural Tourism Collaborative Experience Programme. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:                      On the proposal of Councillor Clarke seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to issue a tender for a Facilitator at a cost of £37,500 which includes market research.**

## **EXEMPT INFORMATION**

**Agreed:                      On the proposal of Councillor Reilly seconded by Councillor Hanna 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/013/2021: ANNALONG NORTH PIER WALL RESTORATION**

Read: Report dated 11 January 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Arts, regarding Annalong Harbour North Pier Wall restoration. **(Copy circulated)**

**ERT/014/2021: CLOSING ORDER APPEAL  
RE: BAY OF BENGAL**

Read: Report dated 11 January 2021 from Mr C Jackson Assistant Director Building Control & Regulation regarding an Appeal to the Closing Order for the Bay of Bengal premises. **(Copy circulated)**

(7.40pm – Councillor Mulgrew left the meeting)

**ERT/015/2021: CAR PARKS – FUTURE SERVICE PROVISION**

Read: Report dated 11 January 2021 from Mr C Jackson Assistant Director Building Control & Regulation, regarding the appointment of a consultant to assist the ROSPG regarding the future service delivery of Off-Street Parking Enforcement. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed to come out of closed session.**

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

**ERT/013/2021: Annalong North Pier Wall Restoration**

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Reilly seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed:**

- 1. Council approve the Business Case for the Annalong Harbour North Pier Project and issue the relevant Purchase Orders to Contractor and Consultant.**
- 2. Council include the necessary funding towards the Annalong North Pier project within the Capital Programme for 2021/22, and seek funding through FLAG (Fisheries Local Action Group)**

**ERT/014/2021: Closing Order appeal – Bay of Bengal**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed to amend our Closing Order to permit the premises to open to 1am from Friday to Sunday and close the premises at 12 midnight on weekdays and, that the owner provides a self-closing device on the external door.

**ERT/015/2021: Car Parks – Future Service Provision**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed:

1. Council officially inform the Department for Infrastructure of the Council's intention to test the market and seek options outside of the current Agency Agreement for the service delivery of the Off-Street Parking enforcement contract post October 2022.

**FOR NOTING**

**ERT/016/2021: DOG EUTHANASIA**

**Read:** Report dated 11 January 2021 from Mr C Jackson Assistant Director Building Control & Regulation regarding Dog Euthanasia. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** To note the update provided regarding Dog Euthanasia in Report dated 11 January 2021 from Mr C Jackson Assistant Director Building Control & Regulation.

**ERT/017/2021: UPDATE RE: PROJECT STRATUM**

**Read:** Report dated 14 December 2020 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration providing an update on Full Fibre Northern Ireland (FFNI). **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** To note the update provided regarding Project Stratum, in particular:

- Details of the deployment plan available on Hyperfast NI portal <https://hyperfastni.com>
- Postcode checker will be added to the portal over the

coming weeks and actively promoted when available.

- DfE and Fibrus will engage with Local Councils regularly throughout the deployment.
- Local Council Engagement is essential to keep stakeholders informed and to encourage citizens to take up enhanced services.

**AGREED:** Officials to invite representatives from Fibrus to attend a future meeting of the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee to give a presentation to Members on work they are carrying out in the District.

**ERT/018/2021: RURAL VILLAGES – CONSULTATION**

Read: Report dated 11 January 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding a consultation completed in 5 rural area on future public realm/environmental improvement works that may be eligible for inclusion on the Department for Communities capital forward work plan. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** To note the consultation reports, completed in 5 rural areas regarding future public realm/environmental improvement works that may be eligible for inclusion on the Department for Communities capital forward work plan.

**ERT/019/2021: BREXIT FORUM MEETING  
– 15 DECEMBER 2020  
(ACTION SHEET)**

Read: Action Sheet arising from the Brexit Forum Meeting held on 15 December 2020. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** To note the Action Sheet arising from the Brexit Forum Meeting held on 15 December 2020.

**ERT/020/2021: UPDATE RE: ARTISAN MARKETS**

Read: Report dated 11 January 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding Artisan Markets. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** To note Report dated 11 January 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding Artisan Markets

**ERT/021/2021:** **ERT HISTORIC ACTION TRACKER**

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

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

**ERT/022/2021:** **PLANNING PERFORMANCE FIGURES – DECEMBER 2020**

Read: Report regarding Planning Performance Figures for December 2020. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** It was agreed to note the Planning Performance Figures for December 2020.

The Chairperson wished everyone a happy new year.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 7.50pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 01 February 2021.

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**Signed:** Councillor A McMurray

**Chairperson of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee**

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**Signed:** Mr C Mallon

**Director of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee**

