

NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting
held on Monday 11 September 2023 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, Monaghan Row,
and remotely via Microsoft Teams**

Chairperson: Councillor M Ruane (Chamber)

Deputy Chairperson: Councillor G Kearns (Chamber)

In attendance: **(Committee Members)**
Councillor T Andrews (Chamber)
Councillor C Bowsie (Teams)
Councillor P Campbell (Teams)
Councillor W Clarke (Chamber)
Councillor C Galbraith (Teams)
Councillor C King (Chamber)
Councillor D Lee-Surginor (Teams)
Councillor A Quinn (Teams)
Councillor M Savage (Chamber)
Councillor J Tinnelly (Teams)
Councillor J Truesdale (Teams)

(Non Committee Members)
Councillor J Brennan

Officials in attendance: Mr C Mallon, Director Economy, Regeneration & Tourism
Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Regeneration
Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth & Tourism
Ms L Dillon, Democratic Services Officer
Ms L Cummins, Democratic Services Officer

Also in attendance: Mr Eoin Magennis University of Ulster

ERT/115/2023: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

The following apology was received:

Councillor S Murphy

ERT/116/2023: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest.

ERT/117/2023: ACTION SHEET ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING MONDAY 14 AUGUST 2023

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 14 August 2023.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Savage it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 14 August 2023.

PRESENTATIONS

**ERT/118/2023 – PRESENTATION – EOIN MAGENNIS
UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER UUEPC LOCAL GOVERNMENT OUTLOOK**

Mr Magennis explained by way of introduction, that the economic forecast for Newry Mourne and Down is based on the most recent UUEPC Northern Ireland Outlook, which forecasts that the local economy will narrowly avoid a recession in 2023, both in employment and GVA terms, followed by a few years of low or little growth.

He said the Spring 2023 Outlook forecasts the rate of inflation will start to decrease in 2023, however prices will still rise but at a lower rate than last year, but it will be at least 2025 before the target rate of 2% is reached meaning costs of living pressure will continue accompanied by higher interest rates and costs of borrowing.

He said two scenarios are offered in each forecast, with the following assumptions based on the current information:

Baseline – a policy neutral position where higher interest rates and inflation and pressures on public spending led to sluggish rates of growth for much of the 2020s. Employment continues to grow (to a rate of 78%) and the tight labour market remains.

Upper – higher growth rates improve through a series of public investments and productivity improvements and the employment rate catches up with the UK average.

Mr Magennis then delivered a presentation on the Newry Mourne & Down Economic Outlook, September 2023.

Discussion followed during which Mr Magennis responded to Members on issues relating to attracting jobs within local government sector; sustaining jobs within the health sector; the role of SRC and LSRC in developing the future workforce and up-skilling the workforce; impact of a non-functioning Assembly on the construction industry and the need for social housing; green new deal; digital jobs and AI opportunities.

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the presentation by Eoin Magennis University of Ulster regarding UUEPC Local Government Outlook.

ECONOMY, GROWTH & TOURISM

ERT/119/2023: CAFÉ AT DOWN COUNTY MUSEUM

Read: Report dated 11 September 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Café at Down County Museum.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke seconded by Councillor Savage it was agreed officer's seek Expressions of Interest for re-opening of the café at Down County Museum in October 2023.

It was also agreed Officers report back on the operation of the Down Arts Centre on Saturdays.

EXEMPT INFORMATION

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor King 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).

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Savage seconded by Councillor Kearns it was agreed to come out of Closed Session.

The Chairperson advised the following had been agreed while in closed session.

ERT/120/2023: CAMPSITE SECURITY

Read: Report dated 11 September 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Security Provision at Council campsites.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Tinnelly seconded by Councillor Savage it was agreed to approve to procure and appoint a suitably qualified and experienced contractor to supply and manage certified security personnel at Council-managed campsites for a period of 3 years (2024 to 2026), subject to annual budget approvals.

ERT/121/2023: STREET TRADING POLICIES

Read: Report dated 11 September 2023 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment & Regeneration regarding Street Trading Policies.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Campbell seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to approve Street Trading Policies as set out in section 2.1 of the report and to improve the amendment to item 6.13 of the Stationary Licence Policy as set out in section 2.2 of the report.

ERT/122/2023: TRADING PITCHES AT COUNCIL TOURISM FACILITIES

Read: Report dated 11 September 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Trading Pitches at Council Tourism Facilities. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Kearns it was agreed to approve to issue a competitive tender process for the purpose of appointing suitably qualified and experienced operators to the tourism facility trading pitches.

ERT/123/2023: WARRENPOINT PUBLIC REALM SCHEME

Read: Report dated 11 September 2023 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director: Regeneration, regarding Warrenpoint Public Realm Scheme. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane seconded by Councillor Clarke it was agreed to approve the Outline Business Case to deliver the Warrenpoint Front Shore Car Parks Public Realm Scheme and accept the Dept for Communities Letter of Offer to follow, it was also agreed to approve all Consultant and Contractor Procurements required to progress the Warrenpoint Front Shore Car Parks Public Realm Scheme.

FOR NOTING

ERT/124/2023: BUILDING CONTROL 6 MONTHLY REPORT

Read: Building Control 6 Monthly Report 01 March 2023 – 31 August 2023. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Savage seconded by Councillor Kearns it was agreed to note the Building Control 6 Monthly Report 01 March 2023 – 31 August 2023.

ERT/125/2023: ERT HISTORIC ACTION TRACKER

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

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Savage seconded by Councillor Kearns it was agreed to note the Historic Action Tracker Report for Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee.

ERT/126/2023: LICENCING 6 MONTHLY REPORT

Read: Licencing 6 Monthly Report dated 01 March 2023 – 31 August 2023.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Savage seconded by Councillor Kearns it was agreed to note the Licencing 6 Monthly Report dated 01 March 2023 – 31 August 2023.

ERT/127/2023: DOWN ARTS PROGRAMME

Read: Report dated 11 September 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Down Arts Programme.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Savage seconded by Councillor Kearns it was agreed to note the programme and other activities at Down Arts Centre.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 7.55pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 02 October 2023.

Signed: Councillor M Ruane
Chairperson
Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee

Signed: Mr C Mallon
Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism
