

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

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**Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting  
held on Monday 09 August 2021 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room Downshire  
Estate Downpatrick, and remotely via Microsoft Teams**

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**Chairperson:** Councillor R Howell  
**Deputy Chairperson:** Councillor T Andrews

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

**Non Members:** Councillor H McKee  
Councillor O Hanlon  
Councillor G Sharvin

### **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  
Mr C Quinn, Assistant Director Estates & Capital Programmes  
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager  
Ms C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer  
Ms P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer

**ERT/132/2021: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

No apologies were received.

**ERT/133/20201: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of Interest were made.

**ERT/134/2021: ACTION SHEET  
MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION &  
TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING  
MONDAY 14 JUNE 2021**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 14 June 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

ERT/111/2021

In response to a query from Councillor Andrews, Mr McGilly said officers were currently going through a procurement exercise to appoint a team to identify sites for electric charging points and he confirmed they would explore having discussions with ESB and report back to Committee.

Newcastle Harbour

In response to a query from Councillor Clarke re: Newcastle Harbour Regeneration Plan and the timescale for short term work to be carried and then a longer term strategy, Mr McGilly confirmed an update report would be brought back to the September Committee Meeting.

**AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 14 June 2021.**

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

**ERT/135/2021: NOTICE OF MOTION  
RE: FISHING AND SEAFOOD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the names of Councillor

A McMurray and Councillor P Brown:

*That this Council endorses and supports the Fishing and Seafood Development Programme Report, as produced by the Strategic Investment Board, and presented to DAERA. To demonstrate support and continuing assistance, this Council shall:*

- *Send written confirmation of our support to the respective Ministers for the Departments: of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs; of the Economy; of Finance.*
- *Request a ministerial meeting between the Minister of Finance and NMDC Senior Management Team to ensure the business case, and the securing of funds, for this project is progressed in a timely manner.*
- *Establish a Project Board made up of representatives from all parties with a dedicated Council Officer to liaise between both Ardglass, Kilkeel and Portavogie Harbours, DAERA and Ards and North Down Council to assist in the development and implementation of the respective projects within our district.*
- *Actively include the FSDP recommendations to develop the Blue Green Economy - and the associated requirements for skills development - within council promotions and strategies."*

Read: Report dated 09 August 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment & Regeneration, regarding the Notice of Motion on the Fishing and Seafood Development Programme Report.  
**(Copy circulated)**

In proposing the Motion, Councillor McMurray said the publication by The Strategic Investment Board of the 'NI Fishing and Seafood Development Programme' paper provided an opportunity for Council to re-commit to ensure the development and investment at both Ardglass and Kilkeel.

Councillor McMurray said it was important the communities in both Kilkeel and Ardglass as well as the various Ministers were aware that Council was actively working to ensure investment and development in these areas.

Councillor McMurray said investing in this industry would be instrumental in developing a circular economy and said it was important the roles played by Council Officers and Elected Representatives be looked at to ensure the development was completed in a timely manner.

Mr McGilly said the report circulated to Members provided a context and background to the Notice of Motion.

Councillor Hanna expressed concern regarding a potential duplication of work between DAERA and Council and asked what Council was doing to move the project forward. Mr McGilly said Council had been engaged with key stakeholders in the development proposals for both Ardglass and Kilkeel Harbours but ultimately DAERA would be driving the project forward.

Councillor Curran expressed support for the Motion but said if DAERA were to establish a Project Board, there would then be two Project Boards and he could not see this working. He asked if Council could work with the Department and have only one Project Board or if the Committee had to make a decision regarding this issue at tonight's meeting. In response, Mr McGilly said this was the direction the Department was going in and governance structures were being put in place, however Mr McGilly said when the Department was in attendance at the September ERT Committee Meeting, there would be an opportunity to look at this issue in more detail.

Councillor Clarke expressed support for the Motion. He said he did not agree with having two Project Boards but a decision could be made on how to move forward following the meeting with the Department at the September ERT Committee Meeting. He said it was vital the harbours' were upgraded as the fishing industry was one of the main industries in our District.

Councillor Reilly expressed support for the Motion. He asked if Mr McGilly could supply him with results of the studies that were done that included Kilkeel Harbour in relation to the City Deal. Councillor Reilly also asked that Council support the Fishing Representatives in their call for a maritime college to be set up in place of the current Southern Regional College facility in Kilkeel which was to close.

Mr McGilly said the studies done in relation to Kilkeel Harbour had been completed by the Strategic Investment Board and not City Deal, and had been funded through DAERA, Council and the Fish Producers Organisation. Mr McGilly said he would provide Councillor Reilly with the information he requested.

Mr McGilly said a consultation process was open in relation to SRC and Elected Members could feed into the consultation.

Councillor Reilly proposed to support the fishing representatives in their call for the current SRC facility in Kilkeel to be converted to a maritime college. Councillor Clarke seconded the proposal.

Councillor McKee fully supported the Motion saying investment would enhance and benefit the entire fishing industry.

Councillor McMurray thanked the Councillors for their support.

**AGREED:** It was agreed to defer a final decision on proposed governance until after DAERA Officials present to the ERT Committee Meeting in September 2021 on the Fishing and Seafood Development Programme, and in particular:

- Governance proposals for the project
- NMDDC role in the project
- Current progress with the Strategic Outline Case
- Timelines for delivery of the Strategic Outline Case
- Key next steps

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Reilly, seconded by Councillor Clarke it was agreed that Council support the Fishing Representatives in their call for the current SRC facility in Kilkeel to be converted to a maritime college.

**AGREED:** Mr McGilly to provide Councillor Reilly with the results of the studies that had been carried out in relation to Kilkeel Harbour.

**ERT/136/2021: NOTICE OF MOTION**  
**RE: MOTORHOME STRATEGY**

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the names of Councillor W Clarke:

*"With the ever increasing numbers of Motorhome owners opting to use car parks and other locations for overnight stays in Newcastle, Council acknowledge the signs of tension that are now growing between local residents and motorhome users. Council recognise that freedom camping has become unsustainable at some key areas. In turn this is placing operational and environmental pressure on visitor attractions originally designed for day time recreational use only. Council develop a motorhome strategy for Newry Mourne and Down Council region, encompassing Newry and the main towns and villages."*

Read: Report dated 09 August 2021 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture & Events, regarding the Notice of Motion on a Motorhome Strategy. **(Copy circulated)**

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Clarke said there had been a significant increase in motorhome and campervans to the area particularly during Covid and this had led to

tensions in local communities where residents were unable to use car parks or access premises and he said whilst it was great to see people visiting our District, it was important it was managed properly.

Councillor Clarke said a strategy was needed that would look at all the towns and villages across the District and the availability of suitable car parks / green spaces that could accommodate motorhome / camper van bays. He said dispersing a number of designated motorhome / campervan bays throughout the entire District would ensure an economic benefit for all.

Councillor Clarke said it was important to work with the private sector. He recommended a consultation be carried out with stakeholders, an online consultation with residents and a 'fit for purpose' strategy devised that ensured visitors to the District had a joyful experience and residents daily lives were not compromised.

Councillor Andrews seconded the proposal saying a simple policy was needed that suited all parties. He said it would be beneficial to look at places such as Carlingford where they worked in tandem with other providers in the area and catered for motorhomes to deliver a first class tourism offering which had so many positive spin offs for the local economy.

Councillor Andrews recommended the relevant motorhome association representatives or overarching body for motorhome owners be invited to a future council meeting.

Councillor McMurray welcomed the Motion and proposed an amendment to it that would cover the practice of freedom camping. He said this was a serious issue whereby people were camping in tents overnight in public spaces with total disregard for the countryside and environment. Councillor McMurray proposed to amend the Motion to read:

"With the ever increasing numbers of Motorhome owners and campers opting to use car parks and other locations for overnight stays in Newcastle, Council acknowledge the signs of tension that are now growing between local residents and those wishing to use public spaces for overnight stays. Council recognise that freedom camping has become unsustainable at some key areas. In turn this is placing operational and environmental pressure on visitor attractions originally designed for day time recreational use only. Council develop a public space overnight stay strategy which includes both motorhomes and tents for Newry Mourne and Down Council region, encompassing Newry and the main towns, villages and rural areas."

Councillor Clarke accepted the amendment.

Councillor Hanna expressed support for the Motion. He said overnight camper van parking was also an issue in Mourne Esplanade and Kilkeel carparks and asked if overnight parking in public carparks was considered illegal.

In response, Mr Patterson said there was different legislation in place for particular areas and he could revert back to Councillor Hanna on specific sites.

Councillor Hanna said there were safety precautions in place in caravan parks, one of which was a separation distance of 5 metres between each motorhome and he asked if the Council would be liable if there was an accident in a council owned car park where camper vans were parked closely together creating a potential fire risk.

Mr Patterson said Council had sought legal advice on this issue and there were byelaws in place at certain sites. He said enforcement officers were employed at certain sites encouraging responsible use, however there was a large onus placed on the motorhome users to act responsibly.

Councillor Hanna asked if an Economic Impact Assessment had ever been carried out on camper vans coming into the area to ascertain the contribution they made to the local economy.

Mr Patterson said work had been done with Tourism NI previously and as part of the consultation process it was proposed to meet with Tourism Board officials to look at the economic assessment impact. He said discussions had taken place with representatives from the Motorhome Users Group and they had indicated they contributed significantly to the local economy, however Mr Patterson said it was a balancing act and whilst we welcomed motorhome users to our District, it could not be at the detriment to tourism and residents.

Councillor Reilly expressed support for the Motion and said there had been a significant increase in the numbers of motor homes / campers coming into the Mourne. He said emptying tanks seemed to be an issue and residents had been complaining about problems accessing the beach. He said a basic infrastructure was needed to be put in place to facilitate this.

Mr Patterson noted Councillor Reilly's concerns and said Officers were aware of the impact the increased influx of Motorhomes was having right across the District and he said all issues raised would be reviewed and proposals brought back to a future ERT Committee Meeting.

Councillor Mulgrew said motorhomes were an expensive investment for owners and she anticipated the increase the District had seen over the past two summers would continue and she asked if Officers could ascertain if there had been any planning applications from the private sector for provision of facilities for motorhome users and bring this information back to Members.

Mr Patterson agreed to look at this and report back to Committee.

Councillor McKee said a balanced approach was needed and more discussion and research carried out.

Councillor Clarke thanked Members for their support and said a number of areas were blighted by campers leaving disposable tents and litter and he said this could be incorporated into the Strategy.

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Clarke seconded by Councillor Mulgrew it was agreed to note the contents of Report dated 09 August 2021 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture & Events, and to approve for officers to consult with several key stakeholders to inform the development of the Terms of Reference for a future Motorhome Strategy for the District.

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor McMurray seconded by Councillor Clarke it was agreed to amend the wording of the Notice of Motion to read:

**"With the ever increasing numbers of Motorhome owners and campers opting to use car parks and other locations for overnight stays in Newcastle, Council acknowledge the signs of tension that are now growing between local residents and those wishing to use public spaces for overnight stays. Council recognise that freedom camping has become unsustainable at some key areas. In turn this is placing operational and environmental pressure on visitor attractions originally designed for day time recreational use only. Council develop a public space overnight stay strategy which includes both motorhomes and tents for Newry Mourne and Down Council region, encompassing Newry and the main towns, villages and rural areas."**

**AGREED:** Mr Patterson to contact Councillor Hanna in relation to specific car parks and legislation regarding overnight stays.

**AGREED:** Mr Patterson to advise Members if any planning applications had been received from the private sector for the provision of facilities for motorhome users.

**ERT/137/2021: NOTICE OF MOTION**  
**RE: REVIVAL OF DOWNPATRICK TOWN CENTRE**

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the names of Councillor G Sharvin, Councillor J Trainor and Councillor D Curran:

***"That this council recognises the importance of supporting the revival of***



***Downpatrick town centre post pandemic and beyond. This motion calls on council to appoint a town centre manager for Downpatrick. A Town Centre Manager who can liaise with the business community creating initiatives, opportunities and developing programmes that would support the future development of the county town."***

Read: Report dated 09 August 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment & Regeneration, regarding the Notice of Motion on the Revival of Downpatrick Town Centre.  
**(Copy circulated)**

In proposing the Motion Councillor Curran said the appointment of a Town Centre Manager would have the potential to help revive the town and provide a vital link between the business community, government departments and statutory agencies.

Councillor Curran said in moving this forward it would be beneficial to establish a working group consisting of Downpatrick Councillors and key stakeholders to determine a way forward, with the appointment of a Town Centre Manager being included for discussion. Councillor Curran said it was important to have a timeline in place to ensure this was progressed in a timely manner.

Councillor Andrews seconded the proposal saying he fully endorsed all the sentiments and views expressed.

Councillor Sharvin said the development of Irish Street referred to in the Officers report had been a Department led project with no money from Council and the Church Street development was Stormont led with £20k from Council to be committed at a later date.

Councillor Sharvin acknowledged that Council did not recruit Town Centre Managers but said the Legacy Down Council had done so with great success. He said Downpatrick town centre had more than 25 vacant units of varying sizes and this did not include office space. He referred to various pages on the Council's websites and said he considered Downpatrick was not promoted or represented to its best potential.

He said a Town Centre Manager would be fully focused on regenerating the county town and he referred to the Tourism Strategy and said he considered the points highlighted with regard to Downpatrick had not been addressed by Council.

In response Mr McGilly said if a Town Centre Manager was to be appointed then a plan would need to be put in place and a meeting be arranged with business owners to look at the various options to move this forward. Mr McGilly anticipated work could begin on this soon after the September Council Meeting.

Councillor Hanna said he would not support the Motion and expressed some concern that if a Town Centre Manager was appointed in Downpatrick, it would set a precedent for other towns.

Councillor Savage fully supported the Motion saying he had a business in Downpatrick for over 10 years and considered the issues raised by Councillor Sharvin as genuine and factually correct. He said as a Newry Councillor, he saw first hand the benefit of having a Town Centre Manager. Councillor Savage said there had been a huge lack of investment in Downpatrick over the past few decades and as it did not have a core industry, inward investment was needed and agreed a Working Group should be set up and carry out a full review of how Council could engage and develop Downpatrick to its full potential.

Councillor Clarke said he was happy to support the Motion at this stage, but he would be keen to see the model of how it would be rolled out and the Options Paper when it was brought back to Committee.

Councillor Clarke said he would want to see all the towns and Newry City doing well and if Downpatrick was lagging behind then that should be investigated. He did not agree, however there had been a lack of investment in Downpatrick over the past few decades and said there had been huge investment from Council and the town had significant attractions such as the Arts Centre, Museum, Ballymote Centre and the Leisure Centre.

Councillor Burgess expressed full support for the Motion and said he considered Downpatrick had been largely forgotten since the council amalgamation. He said the appointment of a Town Centre Manager would be very beneficial and the appointee could also possibly be responsible for promoting the Rowallen area as well as Downpatrick.

Councillor Hanlon expressed support for the Motion but said it was important that Downpatrick was portrayed in a positive way. Whilst she agreed Downpatrick did need investment, she said it was already getting significant investment in both Irish Street and Church Street and she said the town had a lot to offer and it was important to work with the business owners to realise its full potential.

Councillor Hanlon said there was a lot of work being done within the DEA forum and it was important to focus on the entire area and not just the town centre.

Councillor Gibbons said he agreed with Councillor Hanlon that a lot of work was being done within the DEAs and he agreed with Councillor Hanna's comment that it would set a precedent for other towns in the District.

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to note Report dated 09 August 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment & Regeneration, and proceed as follows:

- Officers carry out a detailed options appraisal in partnership with local elected Members and business representatives, looking at the most suitable option going forward, that best represents the need of the Town Centre.
- Report back to the ERT Committee with findings of the options appraisal exercise.

### **ENTERPRISE EMPLOYMENT & REGENERATION**

#### **ERT/138/2021: AONB / NIEA CHALLENGE FUND**

Read: Report dated 09 August 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration regarding a funding application to the NIEA Challenge Fund to undertake additional works at the AONB. **(Copy circulated)**

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

- 1) To note that Council have submitted a funding application for £279,500 from NIEA Challenge Fund to undertake additional works at the AONB. An outcome is anticipated in August 2021 with a funding deadline of 31 March 2022.
- 2) In the event an application is approved, and given the limited period for implementation, it is requested that in preparation, to proceed as follows:
  - Subject to a Letter of Offer being secured, Council approve the Business Case for implementation of the project as outlined in the funding application "The Ring of Gullion AONB and Strangford and Lecale AONB Management Action Plans Challenge Fund" for additional capital works onsite.

- **Subject to a Letter of Offer being secured, Council approve to carry out the required procurement exercises in line with policy, for the implementation of the project, and following assessment and award, appoint the relevant supplier, if within available budgets.**

**ERT/139/2021: DERRYMORE DEMENSE PEACE IV FUNDING**

Read: Report dated 09 August 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration, regarding Peace IV Funding to undertake works at Derrymore Demense. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew, seconded by Councillor Harte, it was agreed:**

- 1) To note Council have secured £50,000 from Peace to undertake additional works at Derrymore Demense.**
- 2) To approve Derrymore Peace Funding Business Case for additional capital works onsite at 100% funding rate and no cost to Council.**
- 3) To proceed to carry out the required procurement exercises in line with policy, for the implementation of the project, and following assessment and award, appoint the relevant suppliers, if within available budgets.**

Councillor Mulgrew said she wanted to place on record her thanks to the Council Officers who had worked so hard to identify funding streams for this project, which had been a phenomenal success. She also thanked the local Community Group for their work and support for the project.

**ERT/140/2021: DUBLIN – BELFAST CORRIDOR DELIVERY PLAN**

Read: Report dated 09 August 2021 from Mr C Mallon, Director Enterprise Regeneration Tourism, regarding a Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor Development Plan, Strategy and Action Plan. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed as follows:**

- 1) **Council support the proposal and brief to deliver a Development Plan, Strategy and Action Plan in respect of the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor.**
- 2) **Council contribute, pro rate, to the research at a cost of £15,700.**

**ERT/141/2021: LABOUR MARKET PARTNERSHIP**

Read: Report dated 09 August 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration, regarding the Labour Market Partnership. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew, seconded by Councillor Stokes, it was agreed as follows regarding the Labour Market Partnership;**

- a) **Council submits to DFC a Strategic Assessment and Action Plan for funding in 2021/2022**
- b) **Council commences the process for establishing a strategic Assessment and Action Plan for 2022/2023 and submission of same to DFC by February 2022**
- c) **Council signs and accepts a Letter of Offer from DFC for funding of a NMD Labour Market Partnership Action Plan**
- d) **Council to recruit, following HR protocol, for LMP staff posts to be created and funded (100%) through NMD LMP Action Plan**
- e) **Council to approve LMP Business Cases for LMP Action Plan activity**
- f) **Council to proceed to carry out the required procurement exercises in line with policy for the implementation of the LMP Action Plan, and following assessment and award, appoint the relevant suppliers, if within available budgets.**
- g) **Given restricted timescales for implementation during the current financial year, procurement may be the establishment of Service Level Agreements,**

**where appropriate, and following an application / assessment process to confirm capability.**

**ERT/142/2021: REVITALISATION SCHEMES – NEWRY AND DOWNPATRICK**

**Read:** Report dated 09 August 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration, regarding Letters of Offer for 2 revitalisation schemes – Lower Hill Street Newry and Church Street Downpatrick. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Savage, it was agreed to proceed as follows regarding Revitalisation Schemes for Lower Hill Street Newry and Church Street Downpatrick:**

- (a) Council will accept and sign Letters of Offer for 2 Revitalisation Schemes for Lower Hill Street, Newry and Church Street Downpatrick.**
- (b) To approve the implementation of the 2 revitalisation scheme projects via steering groups and the allocation of the required match funding as follows:  
Lower Hill Street, Newry – match funding £25,000  
Church Street, Downpatrick – match funding £20,000**
- (c) To approve Business Cases for each Revitalisation Scheme for completion of projects as proposed within the Revitalisation Action Plans and agreed by the respective Steering Groups, up the value of the budgets available.**
- (d) Council proceeds to carry out the required procurement exercises in line with policy for the implementation of the Action Plans, and following assessment and award, appoint the relevant suppliers, if within available budgets.**
- (e) To note for 2021/2022 delivery NMDDC are able to apply for a budget from Department for Communities**

**of up to £669,209.96, inclusive of programme delivery costs and 20% allocation to administration / resourcing.**

## **TOURISM CULTURE & EVENTS**

### **ERT/143/2021: TOURISM NI MARKET LED PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2021/22**

Read: Report dated 09 August 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding a Tourism NI Market Led Product Development Programme 2021/22.  
**(Copy circulated)**

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

- (a) To submit an application to the Tourism NI Market Led Product Development Programme 2021/22 for £150,000 of grant funding, with no match funding required from Council.**
- (b) A Service Level Agreement to be entered into between Council and Tourism NI as part of the governance arrangements of the programme.**
- (c) The Programme will be delivered with tourism product providers which are currently engaged in experience development activity with Council in the District.**

## **EXEMPT INFORMATION**

**Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Clarke, 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/144/2021: ANNALONG HARBOUR NORTH PIER RESTORATION**

Read: Report dated 09 August 2021 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding the Annalong Harbour North Pier Restoration. **(Copy circulated)**

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

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

**ERT/144/2021: Annalong Harbour North Pier Restoration**

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

- 1) To approve the Annalong Harbour North Pier Restoration works and the amended Business Case outlining the change to the delivery programme and Consultant/Contract cost implications, as a direct result of the additional works now required and further storm damage in early 2021.**
- 2) Subject to approval of Recommendation 1, Council issue new Purchase Orders to its Framework Contractor and Consultants to oversee the works. Given the urgency of site works, Council to proceed with recommendations in advance of the Ratification of the Report.**

**FOR NOTING**

**ERT/145/2021: UPDATE RE: AONB AND GEOPARK**

Read: Report dated 09 August 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration regarding and update on AONB and Gepark. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to the update provided, in Report dated 09 August 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration, on the following AONB initiatives;**



- **Ring of Gullion AONB and Strangford and Lecale AONB Environment Fund project implementation.**
- **Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership Scheme Legacy Phase**
- **Atlantic CultureScape**
- **Geopark**
- **Dragons in the Hills Project**
- **AONB Management Review implementation**
- **Other**

**ERT/146/2021: UPDATE RE: BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

Read: Report dated 09 August 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding the Business Development Programme. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: It was unanimously agreed:**

**1) To note the opening of the Rural Business Development Grant Scheme (RBDS) 2021 administered by NI Councils through DAERA's Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation fund to provide up to £4,999 grant funding to rural micro businesses.**

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

- **Go for It**
- **NMD Growth**
- **Digital Growth**
- **Tender for Growth**
- **Sales and Trade Programme**
- **Digital Transformation Programme**

**ERT/147/2021: ECONOMIC FORUM**

Read: Report dated 09 August 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment & Regeneration regarding the Economic Forum. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note Report dated 09 August 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment & Regeneration regarding the Economic Forum.**

**ERT/148/2021: 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/149/2021: EUROPEAN LADIES AMATEUR GOLF EVENT**

Read: Report dated 09 August 2021 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture & Events regarding Council support for European Ladies Amateur Team Championship event held 3-10 July 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note Report dated 09 August 2021 from from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture & Events regarding Council support for European Ladies Amateur Team Championship event held 3-10 July 2021.**

**ERT/150/2021: PLANNING PERFORMANCE FIGURES**

Read: Report regarding Planning Performance Figures for: June 2021 and July 2021 **(Copy circulated)**

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

**ERT/151/2021: UPDATE RE: SEAFLAG 2**

Read: Report dated 09 August 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding SEAFLAG 2. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the Letter of Offer which will extend the existing programme.**

**ERT/152/2021: SOUTHERN RELIEF ROAD**

Read: Correspondence dated 14 July 2021 from Department for Infrastructure regarding the Southern Relief Road proposed bridge of Newry Ship Canal. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note correspondence dated 14 July 2021 from Department for Infrastructure regarding the Southern Relief Road proposed bridge of Newry Ship Canal.**

**ERT/153/2021: TNI CO-OPERATIVE MARKETING FUNDING**

Read: Report dated 09 August 2021 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding the award of grant from Tourism NI Co-operative Funding. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the offer of funding to deliver a digital tourism marketing campaign during August 2021 and use of TNI's creative and marketing agencies to assist with delivery.**

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 8.00 pm.

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

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**Signed: Councillor R Howell**

**Chairperson of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee**

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**Signed: Mr A Patterson**

**Assistant Director of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee**