

NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 13 September 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 G Hanna (Chamber)
Councillor M Larkin (via Teams)
Councillor R Mulgrew (via Teams)
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 (via Teams)
Councillor O Hanlon (Chamber)
Councillor J Tinnelly (via Teams)
Councillor L Devlin (via Teams)

Officials Ms M Ward Chief Executive
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
Mr C Quinn, Assistant Director Estates & Capital Programmes
Ms L Dillon, Democratic Services Officer
Ms C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer

Also in attendance: Mr Owen Lyttle Director of Fisheries & Marine Division DAERA

ERT/154/2021: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

An apology was received from Councillor V Harte.

ERT/156/20201: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest.

**ERT/157/2021: ACTION SHEET
MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION &
TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY 09 AUGUST 2021**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 09 August 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

ERT/136/2021 – Motorhome Strategy

Noted: In response to a query from Councillor Andrews seeking an update on progress regarding a Motorhome Strategy, Mr Mallon said Officers were due to start developing proposals in the coming weeks.

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 09 August 2021.**

PRESENTATIONS

**ERT/158/2021: PRESENTATION BY DAERA
RE: FISHING & SEAFOOD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
KILKEEL AND ARDGLASS HARBOURS**

All Members were invited to attend the meeting for discussion on this item.

Mr Owen Lyttle Director of Fisheries & Marine Division DAERA, explained it was hoped the project would successfully deliver an infrastructure in harbours and build the necessary relationships to realise opportunities and benefits for the development of the fishing and Seafood Development Programme. He gave an overview of Fishing and Seafood Development Programme Report including the key areas of work, and work that needed to be undertaken for the harbour capital investment.

A detailed discussion took place during which Members raised the following points:

- Concerns regarding the 2025 timeline for the harbour project
- Progress should be made regarding deepening of Ardglass Harbour to provide the infrastructure needed for larger vessels
- Mitigating the risk involved to ensure funding is released
- Role of Council Officers within the stakeholder grouping in driving the project forward
- Environmental / technical studies done to date.
- Possibility of commencing with smaller components of the project, ie, dredging of Ardglass Harbour.
- Details regarding training for new technologies, renewable energy and reduction in carbon.
- Brexit obstacles
- Creation of an economic legacy between the Ports
- Length of time funding will remain available
- Design options

Mr Lyttle responded to the points above and said a major project such as this involved a significant amount of public money and due to the work involved would have a lengthy timeline in order to progress a project of this size. He said the sites to be examined interfaced with marine environment therefore technical difficulties could arise.

He said approval of the Strategic Outline Case would allow the project to proceed to the next stage with Department of Finance and the necessary procurement processes that would follow and he assured the project was a priority at ministerial level. The Environmental and Technical Studies would be procured following DoF approval of the Strategic Outline Case - it was hoped to commence the studies by the end of the financial year and these would progress into 2022 and 2023, with other services in the meantime to undergo procurement, ie, OBC development; Habitats Regulation; Environmental Impact Assessments.

Mr Lyttle said whenever the Strategic Outline Case was confirmed costs could then be identified and the necessary bids submitted to the Department for Finance with political and stakeholder support, adding that DEFRA Ministers had sought to seek funding from the UK Government for this project. He explained the importance of communication and collaboration as this would tie in with the different elements of the project as it

progressed, ie, bids with Council involvement for onshore projects, and move forward with a joined up approach.

He said that subject to the outcome of Environmental & Technical studies, and the Strategic Outline Case, that if this allows for preliminary works to start then where possible this will happen, and added that it was important that a mechanism was in place to ensure issues at a particular harbour would not result in a delay for the entire programme.

He referred to the importance of Department of Economy involvement and Councils to ensure the various strands of the project were brought forward and necessary training provided.

He said Brexit matters are being addressed by the various departments and this would be an ongoing process should any issues arise to ensure they are resolved as soon as possible.

He advised some projects will commence sooner than others and progress faster but all projects will have to be delivered to meet the objectives of value for money.

Mr Mallon said Council Officers were prepared to engage with DEARA when required and that actions arising out of meetings officers attend would be reported to Members.

With regard to the indicative timeline of 2025, Mr Lyttle said where possible the department will endeavour to reduce the timeline however, any issues that arise, ie, appeals, etc, will have to be dealt with in the appropriate way and can bring delays.

He said it should be recognised this was a modern harbour infrastructure project and will be a catalyst to push the blue economy and bring modern facilities to the fishing industry and he gave assurances that he would remain engaged with the Council and endeavour to drive the project forward and avoid delay.

Councillor Howell thanked Mr Lyttle for presenting to Members.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

ERT/159/2021: NOTICE OF MOTION RE: STAFF SHORTAGES WITHIN HOSPITALITY

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the names of Councillor L Devlin and Councillor M Savage:

"Recognising the significant and growing staff shortages within the Hospitality sector, this Council calls for the establishment of a forum with representatives from the South Eastern and Southern Colleges, Department for the Economy and other key stakeholders to undertake an assessment of the training needs to address the shortage within the hospitality sector with the aim of providing short, medium and long term solutions to tackle this crisis and to enable our hospitality industry to survive and to aid our covid recovery."

Read: Report dated 13 September 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment & Regeneration, regarding the Notice of Motion on staff shortages within hospitality. **(Copy circulated)**

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Devlin said the hospitality industry was in crisis as a shortage of chefs was having a detrimental impact on the industry's ability to keep businesses open. She said without chefs there is no food or drink industry; kitchens are closed and restaurants unable to open their doors.

Councillor Devlin referred to the food and drink industry in the Newry Mourne and Down area and the exceptional culinary variety that exists and stressed the need that this is a key element of our Covid recovery and as staycation demand in our coastal towns has been huge, without chefs tourists are not getting the full culinary offering our towns and businesses have to offer as many establishments have had to reduce opening hours while others have had to close. She said the staff shortages in the hospitality has left a huge gap in this industry and given the emphasis the Council place on tourism in the District, that urgent intervention is required by Council in the form of economic development and the promotion of local tourism in the District and she hoped the Council would do all in its power to address this significant economic situation.

She referred to an initiative in Mid Ulster Council area which offers significant support in tandem with Invest NI to target industrial sectors including manufacturing and engineering and asked if a similar initiative be explored by the Economic Forum for Newry Mourne and Down that would offer significant support for the hospitality industry to assist with equipment, re-skilling, etc, and she also suggested input from SERC and SRC specific to hospitality.

Councillor Savage concurred with Councillor Devlin and said Newry Mourne and Down had a unique offering and he supported the suggestion to explore an initiative similar to Mid Ulster and support our key industry. He also referred to the importance of encouraging young people to become involved in the hospitality industry as a future career.

Councillor Savage formally seconded the Motion.

Councillor Clarke supported the Motion and highlighted the need for adequate training to be provided to allow people to enter the catering and hospitality industry and suggested the Council examine the possibility of holding a jobs fare for the hospitality industry which would give representatives from the hospitality industry and the people seeking jobs the opportunity to meet together and he suggested this as a possible amendment to the Motion or include in the officer Report.

Mr Mallon confirmed this work would be carried out through the Economic Forum.

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

- (a) To adopt the Notice of Motion regarding staff shortages within hospitality.**
- (b) To note Report dated dated 13 September 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment & Regeneration, and that Officers proceed to action the content of the Motion through the Economic Forum structures which exist, taking into consideration issues raised by Members including supply and demand within the hospitality industry and to explore the possibility of a Jobs Fare.**
- (c) Officers to report back to the ERT Committee in November / December 2021.**

ENTERPRISE EMPLOYMENT & REGENERATION

ERT/160/2021: FORKHILL FORMER POLICE BARRACKS

Read: Report dated 13 September 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration regarding the assessment of options regarding the future of remaining land on the former Barracks site at Forkhill. **(Copy circulated)**

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

- 1) Council and Department for Communities ensure that the Partnership Committee are kept updated in relation to the ongoing Land Transfer Process.**

- 2) **Council commission a Value for Money process to appoint a facilitator to draw up a Biodiversity & Access Plan for the Forkhill Former Barracks Site in consultation with the local community.**
- 3) **Council approve a Business Case for the £50,000 on offer from the Peace Programme and undertake the required procurement/framework appointment once a final plan has been agreed.**
- 4) **Council work closely with the Peace Programme and Challenge Fund to ensure the eligibility of whatever items are being put forward in the proposed Biodiversity & Access Plan.**

ERT/161/2021: WARRENPOINT FRONTSHORE PUBLIC REALM SCHEME

Read: Report dated 13 September 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration, regarding the Warrenpoint Frontshore Public Realm Scheme Task & Finish Steering Group Meeting held on 13 August 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane seconded by Councillor Savage it was agreed to approve the following recommendations arising from the Warrenpoint Frontshore Public Realm Scheme Task & Finish Steering Group Meeting held on 13 August 2021:

- 1) **To accept the Breakwater Concept Design proposals as presented by AECOM, with inclusion of the suggested adjustments / amendments following consideration by the Task & Finish Steering Group and proceed to a Public Consultation Process and Planning Application thereafter.**
- 2) **To approve Business Case and Payments to Department for Infrastructure (60,000) and BT (£20,000) for future elements of works as part of the overall scheme.**

ERT/162/2021: WARRENPOINT MUNICIPAL PARK

Read: Report dated 13 September 2021 from Mr C Mallon, Director Enterprise Regeneration Tourism, regarding Warrenpoint Municipal Park National Lottery Heritage Fund. **(Copy circulated)**

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

- 1) To note the Action Report from the Steering Group meeting held on 26 August 2021.**
- 2) To approve a Business Case for a landscape scheme at the sea view entrance of the Park in anticipation of National Lottery Heritage Funding approving the plans and there being sufficient time left in project delivery**
- 3) To appoint an artist to design an interpretative art piece and install it in the Park. The themes of the art piece will reflect the heritage and landscape of Warrenpoint Park and Town.**
- 4) To appoint a Horticultural / Arboricultural Consultancy to undertake a survey of Warrenpoint Municipal Park.**

TOURISM CULTURE & EVENTS

ERT/163/2021: CONSUMER TRADE SHOWS 2021 - 22

Read: Report dated 13 September 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding attendance at tourism and consumer trade shows in conjunction with Tourism NI Tourism Ireland. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed 1 No. Council Officer attend tourism trade and consumer shows in conjunction with Tourism NI and Tourism Ireland to support the tourism industry in the recovery period from Covid 19.

ERT/164/2021: EXTERNAL SIGNAGE FOR NEWRY & MOURNE MUSEUM

Read: Report dated 13 September 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding the installation of new signage at Newry & Mourne Museum. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to approve capital funding to install new signage at Newry & Mourne Museum.

ERT/165/2021: SPONSORSHIP FOR HOSPITALITY EXCHANGE CONFERENCE

Read: Report dated 13 September 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding sponsorship for Hospitality Exchange Conference and Exhibition 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Burgess it was agreed to approve Council support in the form of sponsorship for the Hospitality Exchange Conference and Exhibition 2021.

BUILDING CONTROL & LICENSING

ERT/166/2021: CONSULTATION RE: BUILDING CONTROL REGULATIONS

Read: Report dated 13 September 2021 from Mr C Jackson Assistant Director of Building Control & Licensing regarding a consultation by Department of Finance on Part R of the Building Regulation (NI) 2020 Changing Places Toilet Provision (CPT). **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Burgess it was agreed to note Report dated 13 September 2021 from Mr C Jackson Assistant Director of Building Control & Licensing and approve the response provided by Officers as per Appendix 2, regarding a consultation by Department of Finance on Part R of the Building Regulation (NI) 2020 Changing Places Toilet Provision (CPT).

It was also agreed if Members have any additional comments for inclusion in the response to the Department that these are forwarded directly to Mr C Jackson Assistant Director of Building Control & Licensing.

EXEMPT INFORMATION

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, 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/167/2021: COVID RECOVERY WORKING GROUP MEETING
20 AUGUST 2021**

Read: Report dated 13 September 2021 from Mr C Mallon regarding recommendations from the NMDDC Covid 19 Recovery Working Group Meeting held on 20 August 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

ERT/168/2021 HALLOWEEN EVENTS PROGRAMME

Read: Report dated 13 September 2021 from Mr A Patterson regarding Halloween Events – Service Level Agreements. **(Copy circulated)**.

ERT/169/2021: NEWRY CHAMBER MUSIC PROPOSALS

Read: Report dated 13 September 2021 from Mr A Patterson regarding Newry Chamber Music Arts and Community Outreach Programme. **(Copy circulated)**

**ERT/170/2021: STRANGFORD LOUGH TOURISM CLUSTER MEMORANDUM
OF UNDERSTANDING**

Read: Report dated 13 September 2021 from Mr A Patterson regarding Memorandum of Understanding with Ards and North Down BC and Strangford Lough Tourism Cluster. **(Copy circulated)**.

ERT/171/2021: TNI PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT FUND – SLA AGREEMENTS

Read: Report dated 13 September 2021 from Mr A Patterson regarding TNI Product Development Fund – SLA agreements. **(Copy circulated).**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Burgess 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/167/2021: Covid Recovery Working Group Meeting – 20 August 2021

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McMurray seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to seek a recommendation to access Covid recovery funding for sustainability, biodiversity, general upgrade works and feasibility study for a pump track at Islands Park, Newcastle.

ERT/168/2021: Halloween Events Programme

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed to recommend approval to issue Service Level Agreements for the delivery of Halloween or Christmas events to five community/development groups in 2021, with named event organisers required to ensure events can be delivered safely, whilst taking all reasonable measures to limit the risk of transmission of the Covid-19 virus.

ERT/169/2021: Newry Chamber Music Arts and Community Outreach Programme

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Howell it was agreed to recommend approval to establish a Service Level Agreement between Council and Newry Chamber Music for the delivery of an arts and community outreach programme in the 2021/2022 season.

ERT/170/2021: Memorandum of Understanding with Ards and North Down BC and Strangford Lough Tourism Cluster

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Burgess it was agreed to note the Memorandum of Understanding between NMDDC; Ards and North Down BC and the Strangford Lough Tourism Cluster (SLTC) which outlines a model of collaboration for the promotion and development of tourism providers within the Cluster.

ERT/171/2021: TNI Product Development Fund – SLA Agreements

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Howell seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to recommend approval for Council to enter into Service Level Agreements with the Newry, Mourne and Down Tourism Businesses detailed in the report to deliver a programme of events/experiences as part of the Tourism NI Market Led Product Development Programme 2021/22.

FOR NOTING

ERT/172/2021: APPROVAL OF GRANT OFFERS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – TOURISM EVENTS

Read: Report dated 13 September 2021 from Mr A Patterson regarding approval of grant offers for financial assistance for Tourism and Arts Events. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the contents of this paper on financial assistance grant funding to support Tourism and Arts Festivals and Events that are being planned in the remainder of 2021/22.

ERT/173/2021: CASTLEWELLAN FOREST PARK

Read: Report dated 13 September 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding Castlewellan Forest Park. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **It was unanimously agreed:**

- **To note the extension to DAERA Lo0 to 31 January 2022.**
- **To note the action report from the Task and Finish Board meetings held on 23 April; 25 June and 26 August 2021.**
- **To note the phased permission to start approach.**

ERT/174/2021: COVID 19 REVITALISATION PROGRAMME

Read: Report dated 13 September 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment & Regeneration regarding the DFC/DAERA/DFI Covid 19 Recovery Revitalisation Programme. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **It was unanimously agreed to note the update report provided on progress of delivering the Covid 19 Recovery Revitalisation funding.**

ERT/175/2021: 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/176/2021: NEWCASTLE HARBOUR UPDATE

Read: Report dated 13 September 2021 from Mr J McGilly regarding Newcastle Harbour. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **It was unanimously agreed to note the report and recommend Council to review the Conservation Plan for Newcastle developed in 2011 as part of an overall review of the Councils 4 Masterplans, a proposal for which is being developed with DfC and will be brought to a future ERT Committee.**

ERT/177/2021: PLANNING PERFORMANCE FIGURES

Read: Report regarding Planning Performance Figures for August 2021
(Copy circulated)

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

**ERT/178/2021: SUBMISSIONS TO DFI
RE: GREENWAY AND ACTIVE TRAVEL PROJECTS**

Read: Report dated 13 September 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding DFI Greenway and Active Travel – call for applications.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the submission to the DFI Active Travel Section in regards to the applications outlined in the report and report back in due course on the outcome.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke seconded by Councillor Howell it was agreed that given their importance to the District's tourism industry, Task and Finish Working Groups be set up for:

- Development of Greenways**
- Newcastle Harbour**

An update be provided to Councillor Stokes regarding the application in respect of Newry Greenway.

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

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 04 October 2021.

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

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