

NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting
held on Monday 13 March 2023 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, Monaghan
Row, and remotely via Microsoft Teams**

Chairperson: Councillor R Burgess (Chamber)

Deputy Chairperson: Councillor D Curran (Chamber)

In attendance: **(Committee Members)**
Councillor T Andrews (Chamber)
Councillor W Clarke (Teams)
Councillor C Enright (Teams)
Councillor G Hanna (Teams)
Councillor V Harte (Chamber)
Councillor R Howell (Teams)
Councillor G Kearns (Chamber)
Councillor M Larkin (Teams)
Councillor D Lee-Surginor (Teams)
Councillor H Reilly (Chamber)
Councillor M Ruane (Teams)
Councillor G Stokes (Teams)

Non Members: Councillor O Hanlon (Teams)
Councillor J Tinnelly (Teams)
Councillor H McKee (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 & Licensing
Ms L Dillon Democratic Services Officer
Ms C McAteer Democratic Services Officer
Ms T McLoughlin PA Director ERT

ERT/040/2023: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

No apologies.

Councillor Burgess acknowledged this was his last meeting as Chairperson of the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee for the 2022/23 term.

He extended best wishes to Councillor Curran who would be retiring from Council after 50 years service, thanking him for his contribution to the Council, in particular the ERT Committee, and describing him as a good friend.

He extended best wishes to Councillor Stokes and Councillor Trainor who would be stepping down from Council at the end of the current term.

Finally Councillor Burgess welcomed Councillor Kearns to the Council, extending best wishes to her going forward.

Councillor Curran thanked the Chairperson, Councillor Burgess for his kind remarks acknowledging the many friendships he has made across the board during his time serving as a Councillor.

Councillor Curran referred to the successes of the film An Irish Goodbye which won an Oscar. He said the film had been shot in and around the County Down coast and he paid tribute to the entire cast and crew behind the film, in particular James Martin whom he said was a great ambassador for Northern Ireland over the course of the awards season. He said the film and television industry across Northern Ireland was going from strength to strength and an Oscar win for An Irish Goodbye should encourage young people in pursuing a career in film or television.

Councillor Burgess concurred with Councillor Curran regarding an Oscar win for An Irish Goodbye, and the contribution made by James Martin.

ERT/041/2023: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest.

**ERT/042/2023: ACTION SHEET
MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION &
TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2023**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 13 February 2023. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 16 February 2023.

NOTICE OF MOTION

**ERT/043/2023: NOTICE OF MOTION
RE: HOUSING – LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (LDP)**

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor O Hanlon:-

" Newry Mourne and Down District Council is responsible for the preparation of a development plan for the District and has commenced work on the Newry Mourne and Down Local Development Plan (LDP). The LDP will provide a 15 year plan framework to support economic and social needs in the District, in line with regional strategies and policies, while providing the delivery of sustainable development . We commend the work of our Council planning staff and the diligent work to date by members of the Planning Committee in the preparation of the plan however, we are concerned the plan will not meet the huge housing need within the District reside in social housing in the District has remained at a very high level since 2010 with a 31% increase from 2012. This Council is committed to ensure housing need is met within this District and therefore will commit to developing a housing led regeneration plan through the strategic assessment and use of public sector land assets and adjoining private sector lands. Members will be consulted and included within the development of the strategy and good practice evidence will be gathered from similar Councils to inform its development."

Councillor Hanlon presented the Notice of Motion. She referred to the urgent need for social and affordable housing across the District and the importance of Council playing a

role in addressing this issue as housing is the most critical issue being raised in constituency offices.

She said the Sinn Féin party grouping on Council urge the Housing Executive to work with local Council's as a Community Planning Partner, to identify and assess potential sites of public sector land for usage for public housing and increase housing supply, including provide assistance on land availability; planning; infrastructure issues such as water and sewage, transport, energy and digital networks; finance and investment and more.

Councillor Hanlon made reference to Housing-Led Regeneration Plans which require local partnerships to deliver over 100,000 homes over the next 15-year period as set out in the draft Housing Supply Strategy, and added this should include Council officials carrying out audits with regard to council land and property.

In consultation with our local community, she said the Council had a unique ability through the LDP-process, to not only lead efforts to identify potential locations for housing development, but also to be forward-thinking in terms of building design, accessibility, sustainability and energy efficiency and that this should be done based on a shared aim of realising long-term social, environmental and economic benefits for the people of Newry, Mourne and Down.

Councillor Enright said statistics show the Newry Mourne and Down District as significantly worse than other areas in Northern Ireland in terms of social and affordable housing need, in particular within rural areas, and he suggested including within the Notice of Motion, that Planning Department consider methods of speeding up the introduction of a replacement for PPS21 before 2027/28, or devise an interim process whereby land can be identified for Social and Affordable Housing.

Several Councillors indicated their support for the Notice of Motion highlighting issues including developing sewerage and roads infrastructure not fit for purpose and the affect of land banking on housing allocation indicators.

Councillor Hanlon agreed to include Councillor Enright's suggested comment in to the Notice of Motion.

Read: Report dated 13 March 2023 from Mr A McKay Chief Planning Officer regarding a Notice of Motion on the Local Development Plan.
(Circulated)

Mr McKay presented the above Report.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Howell seconded by Councillor Clarke it was agreed:

- 1. To adopt the Notice of Motion, including the Planning Department consider methods of speeding up the introduction of a replacement for PPS21 before 2027/28, or devise an interim process whereby land can be identified for Social and Affordable Housing.**
- 2. To note the proposed Housing Strategy of the LDP and associated planning policies requiring development proposals of a certain size/area to deliver a proportion of affordable housing will be a key change in addressing affordable housing need in the District.**
- 3. To note the proposed planning policies will significantly increase opportunities to address affordable housing needs across the whole District and across all settlement tiers supporting both urban and rural communities.**
- 4. To note delivery of affordable housing schemes will be monitored and the need for any changes to policy provision considered as part of the subsequent LDP review.**

**ERT/044/2023: NOTICE OF MOTION
RE: HOLIDAY HOMES**

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor J Tinnelly:-

“ This Council recognises that within our District, holiday home ownership is increasingly having a detrimental effect on the ability of first-time buyers to own a house in the area where they were born and raised. The long-term consequences of this may have a negative impact on local school populations, sports clubs, small family businesses and the general growth, wellbeing and sustainability of some of our towns and villages, particularly along the coast, as new and young families with generational ties to their own area are priced out of living in the place they call home. Further to a recent public statement from the Department for Infrastructure that whilst there are currently no plans to change any laws in relation to this problem, it is their view that local Councils have the power to make bespoke arrangements within their own District. To that end, this Council will now instruct our officials to bring

forward a paper at the earliest opportunity outlining exactly what powers will be contained within our proposed local development plan to directly address this problem, powers that if robustly applied would discourage the purchase of holiday homes within our District."

Councillor Tinnelly presented the Notice of Motion and welcomed the report from officers and the fact it is recognised that the timescale of the Local Development Plan will present a problem as the South Down area has already reached crisis point due to high mortgages and rent which could become the norm by the time the Local Development Plan is published.

Several Councillors indicated support for the Notice of Motion.

Read: Report dated 13 March 2023 from Mr A McKay Chief Planning Officer regarding a Notice of Motion regarding Holiday Homes.
(Circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to support the proposed Housing Strategy and associated planning policies of the LDP in addressing affordable housing needs of the District, and to note a change in the planning legislation is required to address the issue of second homes and short-term holiday lets.

ENTERPRISE EMPLOYMENT & REGENERATION

ERT/045/2023: AONB & GEOPARK – ENVIRONMENT FUND APPLICATION

Read: Report dated 13 March 2023 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration regarding AONB & Geopark application to DAERA Environment Fund.
(Copy circulated)

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

- 1. To note the proposed application priorities for AONB & Geopark activity against which an application for funding has been submitted to DAERA's Environmental Fund.**

2. To approve that if successful, a Letter of Offer is accepted, signed and returned to DAERAs Environment Fund to effectively deliver against outcomes for year 2023/24.

ERT/046/2023: SMALL SETTLEMENTS SCHEME

Read: Report dated 13 March 2023 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding an update on Small Settlement Schemes. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor it was agreed:

1. Following consideration of the outline design drawings by the Task & Finish Steering Groupings adopt the attached reports and proceed to submit planning applications for the proposed Bessbrook, Castlewellan, Rostrevor and Saintfield Environmental Improvement Schemes.
2. Council note the update on the Revitalisation and Make It Local Campaign elements of the Small Settlements Scheme.

BUILDING CONTROL/LICENSING

ERT/047/2023: NON STATUTORY FEE INCREASE FOR LICENSING

Read: Report dated 13 March 2023 from Mr C Jackson Assistant Director Building Control & Licensing, regarding non statutory fee increase for Licensing. **(Copy circulated)**

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

To approve the proposed fee increase of 9% for 2023/24 effective from 01 April 2023 as per attached appendix, for the following Licences:

- **Civil Marriage/Civil Partnerships**
- **Street Trading**
- **Road Closures**

- **Pavement Cafes (3 year Licence)**
- **Postal Numbering Certificates**

EXEMPT INFORMATION

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Andrews 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 Curran seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to come out of Closed Session.**

ERT/048/2023: ARTIST IN RESIDENCE – DOWN ARTS CENTRE

Read: Report dated 13 March 2023 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding Artist in Residence – Down Arts Centre. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed to extend a Service Level Agreement for the delivery of an Artist in Residence Programme in Down Arts Centre from April 2023 – March 2024.**

ERT/049/2023: BUSINESS CASE: CARLINGFORD LOUGH GREENWAY

Read: Report dated 13 March 2023 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding an updated Business Case in respect of Carlingford Lough Greenway. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed Members approve the updated Business Case for the Carlingford Lough Greenway.**

ERT/050/2023: KILBRONEY FALLOWS TRAIL PHASE 2
- SHARED PROSPERITY FUND LETTER OF OFFER

Read: Report dated 13 March 2023 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding a letter of offer from the Shared Prosperity Fund for Kilbroney Fallows Trail Phase 2. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane seconded by Councillor Howell it was agreed:

- 1. Council accept the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Letter of Offer for the Fallows Trail Phase 2 Project.**
- 2. Council accept the revised Business Case for the Fallows Trail Phase 2.**

ERT/051/2023: LABOUR MARKET PARTNERSHIP (LMP)
2023/2024 ACTION PLAN

Read: Report dated 13 February 2023 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding Labour Market Partnership (LMP) 2023/2024. **(Copy circulated)**

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

- 1. To note that Council have prepared and submitted to DFC a Strategic Assessment and Action Plan for implementation of a programme of Employability and Skills initiative across the District for 2023/24. It is anticipated that this action plan will be approved by the Regional LMP in April 2023.**
- 2. To approve the attached business case for the implementation of the LMP Action Plan for 2023/24.**
- 3. To approve the next steps to progress the delivery of the LMP as set out in section 2.2 of the above Report, subject to funding approval.**

ERT/052/2023: DIGITAL CONTENT SUPPORT SERVICES
- TOURISM, EVENTS, MUSEUMS, ARTS

Read: Report dated 13 March 2023 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding Digital Content Support Services – Tourism, Events, Museums, Arts.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Clarke it was agreed to procure and appoint a specialist provider for a 3 year period, to support Council in the development and delivery of high-quality digital content, online communications, website support and development for Tourism, Events, Museums and Arts Services.**

ERT/053/2023: TOURISM EVENTS PROGRAMME 2023/24

Read: Report dated 13 March 2023 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding Tourism Events Programme.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor it was agreed:**

- 1. To deliver the Annual Tourism Events Programme as detailed in the above Report.**
- 2. To undertake the necessary procurement exercises to appoint suppliers for the delivery of major festivals in the Annual Tourism Events Programme.**
- 3. To issue Letters of Offer to named groups as detailed in the above Report, to deliver tourism events in the 2023/24 financial year.**

ERT/054/2023: THEATRE IN RESIDENCE

Read: Report dated 13 March 2023 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding Theatre in Residence.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor it was agreed to establish a Service Level Agreement between Council and Dramability for the delivery of a Theatre-in-Residence programme at Down Arts Centre, initially for one year, with the option to renew the**

agreement for a second year, subject to meeting annual KPIs.

ERT/055/2023: CASTLEWELLAN FOREST PARK CAMPSITE

Read: Report dated 13 March 2023 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding ancillary service enhancements to Castlewellan Forest Park Campsite. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Howell seconded by Councillor Burgess it was agreed to commit additional budget from the Capital Programme to deliver a programme of improvement works across the caravan/campsite amenity buildings at Castlewellan Forest Park.

ERT/056/2023: TOURISM STRATEGY AND BRANDING

Read: Report dated 13 March 2023 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding Tourism Strategy and Branding. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: Following a vote of For 11, Against 3 and Abstentions 0, it was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane seconded by Councillor Howell, to approve the draft Tourism Strategy and Destination Brand for the District, to be issued for public consultation in May 2023.

**ERT/057/2023: FOR NOTING:
DUBLIN BELFAST CORRIDOR (DBEC)
FUNDING AGREEMENT**

Read: Report dated 13 March 2023 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding Dublin Belfast Corridor Funding Agreement. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Clarke it was agreed to note Funding Agreement for 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial years between Belfast City Council and Newry Mourne & Down District Council as detailed in Point 2.1 in above Report.

FOR NOTING

ERT/058/2023: ERT HISTORIC ACTION TRACKER

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

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

ERT/059/2023: UPDATE RE: INVEST NI BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE

Read: Report dated 13 March 2023 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding an update regarding Invest NI Business Intelligence. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to note the Invest NI, Newry Mourne & Down Economic Briefing January 2023, which will form part of the evidence base when developing future strategies and programmes of work in its efforts to grow the local Newry Mourne and Down economy.

ERT/060/2023: LOUTH/NMD STRATEGIC ALLIANCE

Read: Report of Louth/NMD Strategic Alliance Meeting held on Wednesday 23 November 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to note the Report of the Report of Louth/NMD Strategic Alliance Meeting held on Wednesday 23 November 2022..

ERT/061/2023: TOURISM NI LEARNING JOURNEY – FOOD & DRINK

Read: Report dated 13 March 2023 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding Tourism NI Learning Journey. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to note the contents of the Report.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 7.30pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 03 April 2023.

**Signed: Councillor R Burgess
Chairperson
Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee**

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