

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

---

**Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting  
held on Monday 16 January 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 (via Teams)  
Councillor C Enright (Teams)  
Councillor G Hanna (via Teams)  
Councillor V Harte (Chamber)  
Councillor R Howell (Teams)  
Councillor M Larkin (via Teams)  
Councillor D Lee-Surginor (Teams)  
Councillor H Reilly (via Teams)  
Councillor M Ruane (via Teams)  
Councillor G Stokes (via Teams)

**Non Members:** Councillor O Magennis (via Teams)  
Councillor H McKee (via 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  
Ms L Dillon Democratic Services Officer  
Ms P McKeever Democratic Services Officer  
Ms T McLoughlin PA Director ERT

**ERT/001/2023: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Councillor J Trainor

**ERT/002/2023: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Hanna declared an interest in Item 13 regarding Warrenpoint Harbour Authority SLA, as he is a board member.

**ERT/003/2023: ACTION SHEET  
MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION &  
TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING  
MONDAY 12 DECEMBER 2022**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 12 December 2022. **(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 12 December 2022.**

**NOTICE OF MOTION**

**ERT/004/2023: NOTICE OF MOTION  
RE: EU COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY  
SINGLE FARM PAYMENT**

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

**“This Council recognises the significant investment in rural communities and businesses, and the wider economy derived from the Single Farm Payment under the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP); agrees that CAP Single Farm Payments were critical to farm profitability, particularly for small family farms; is concerned with the significant uncertainty facing our farming community with the loss of CAP Single Farm Payments as a result of Brexit and the end of the replacement Basic Payment Scheme, worth £300m a year, beyond 2025; and calls on the British Government and the Permanent Secretary of Agriculture , Environment and Rural Affairs to set out urgently what replacement funds will be put in place to support our farmers and the wider agricultural sector.”**

Councillor Magennis formally proposed the Notice of Motion which was seconded by Councillor Howell.

Councillor Magennis said the loss of direct payments would be felt by over 25,000 farm businesses affecting 40,000 farmers and workers with financial support from these payments representing over 80% of farm income each year. She said many farms in the north or less favoured areas such as Armagh and the Mourne, west Tyrone, north Antrim, mid Ulster and Fermanagh South Tyrone would be directly impacted and that the total amount of payments per year for her constituency of Newry and Armagh totalled £26.5m, with South Down on £27.5m.

She said direct payments have assisted farmers to produce safe, healthy affordable food, look after the countryside and environment, animal health and welfare and while farmers incomes remained below the average, direct payments allowed these farms to survive. She referred to the negative impact on the health and wellbeing of our farming community and believed a fair standard of living should be provided for farmers.

She said Queens University produced a paper highlighting that without direct financial support approximately 30% of farms are likely to cease functioning leading to unemployment, land abandonment and knock on effects in the agri-food sector and rural communities.

Councillor Magennis stressed the need for clarity and certainty regarding these direct payments going forward as agriculture was key to the economy and that the British Government must commit to certainty of farm payments in the future and beyond 2024. She said approximately £300m of farm payments comes into the North to farms and the agriculture sector which was vital to the development of the economy and sustainability of rural communities.

She said the European Union places priority on farming and protected it through the common agricultural policy - this Common Agricultural Policy Pillars 1 and 2, has been an important policy to farmers and rural communities since Brexit. She said farm payments come from Treasury and the Tory manifesto committed to make payments until the end of their mandate. She also added that the Key Rural Issues Report from DEARA 2021 highlighted more than half of businesses dominant in rural areas more than an hour from Belfast are engaged in agriculture, forestry and fishing with a further 17% in construction.

She asked Members to support the Motion and call on the British Government and the Permanent Secretary for Agriculture to set out plans on how they will proceed after 2024 with regard to the Common Agriculture Policy Single Farm Payments.

Councillor Burgess requested if Councillor Magennis would amend the Motion to refer to

“all family farms”, as opposed to small family farms.

Councillor Magennis accepted the amendment to the Motion as requested by Councillor Burgess.

Councillor Burgess said agriculture was one of Northern Ireland’s most important industries turning over more than £4.5 billion per year and representing one in every 8 jobs in the UK, made it the cornerstone of Northern Ireland’s economy. He referred to the key role of farmers and the need for certainty regarding the direct payments which are crucial for many farm businesses and secure the production of affordable high quality food for the consumer. He said it was essential for Northern Ireland to receive a share of the UK funding so we have the ability to regionalise the agriculture policy to ensure the delivery of funding to best suit the needs of the structure and industry in Northern Ireland. He also called for support for a mechanism that allows Northern Ireland farmers to be able to produce food and continue to be the guardian of environment.

Councillor Reilly referred to the work done by Minister Edwin Poots MLA in obtaining the best deal for farmers and developing a DEARA policy which was supported across the spectrum. He referred to the consultation process which sought ideas on how the farming industry could go forward from now to 2027 and the plan developed by DEARA under Minister Poots, has been hailed as the best agriculture policy in the UK which focused on productivity, sustainability and a maximum farm payment of £60,000 with the focus on small farmers. He referred to the policy in the Republic of Ireland which although underwent consultation, it also has to receive approval from the European Union. He referred to countries who have had their plans approved by the EU but added these plans were not beneficial for farming as they seemed to favour industrialised scale production similar to that in the United States.

Councillor McKee said there would be no guarantee beyond the current term of the EU Parliament with regard to the continuation of the funding therefore it would not be accurate to say Brexit is responsible. He said lobbying needed to continue to ensure money is made available for everyone. He said he partially agreed with Motion but stated we needed to keep lobbying for the continuation of the money within the UK.

Councillor Andrews, on behalf of the SDLP, supported the Motion stating it was very important that the issues highlighted are addressed.

Read: Report dated 16 January 2023 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment & Regeneration, regarding a Notice of Motion on EU Common Agricultural Policy Single Farm Payments.  
**(Circulated)**

Councillor Howell proposal and Councillor Curran seconded that the Council support the

Notice of Motion on EU Common Agricultural Policy Single Farm Payments, subject to amending the Motion by removing the wording "small family farms" and including "all family farms", and to raise the concerns highlighted in the Motion with the relevant Government departments as required.

The proposal was put to a vote and voting was as follows:

For:	10
Against:	0
Abstentions :	2

The proposal was declared carried.

**AGREED:**           **On the proposal of Councillor Howell seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed the Council support the Notice of Motion on EU Common Agricultural Policy Single Farm Payments, subject to amending the Motion by removing the wording "small family farms" and including "all family farms", and to raise the concerns highlighted in the Motion with the relevant Government departments as required.**

**ERT/005/2023: NOTICE OF MOTION**  
**RE: FISHING AND FISH PROCESSING**

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor D Curran:-

**"That this Council noting the valuable contribution made to our local and national economy at the ports of Ardglass and Kilkeel; expressing its concern that the impact Brexit continues to have on our fishing and fish processing industry across Newry Mourne and Down; affirming its support for our fishing and fish processing industry, and expressing its concern for the absence of a functioning Assembly and Executive to promote and support our fishing and fish processing industry; that this Council will write to the United Kingdom Home Office to highlight the valuable contribution made by our local fishing and fish processing industry; calls for the recognition of the Fish Processing Industry in Northern Ireland as Seasonal, and further calls for the Home Office to recognise exemptions for EEA and non-EEA staff employed in fishing and fish processing in Northern Ireland, to enable the industry to employ foreign workers during the summer months; and continue its valuable contribution to our local economy."**

Councillor Curran formally proposed the Notice of Motion. He stressed that the fishing industry needed to employ foreign workers to sustain it. Presently workers from the EEA and the non EEA are not permitted to work outside the UK and must apply for a special licence from the Government in order to work in the industry outside the UK. He said the Government must be requested to grant these licences in order to maintain a successful fishing industry here in Northern Ireland.

Councillor Andrews formally seconded the Motion and supported the sentiments expressed by Councillor Curran and paid tribute to the work done by Councillor Curran in supporting the fishing industry and bring improvements and enhancements. He said he was supportive of any measures to address the challenges faced with regard to the supply of a workforce in particular for the fishing and processing sector and added these concerns had previously been raised at the Northern Ireland Strategic Migrationary Partnership Board as there appeared to be no issue in the supply of foreign workers in other agri-sectors.

Councillor Hanna supported the Motion. He spoke of the enormous part fishing has played within communities and made particular reference to the memorial in Newcastle in memory of the substantial loss of life at sea throughout the 1800s and early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. With regard to fish processing, he said that in Kilkeel and Portavogie there were up to 1000 people employed alone in this part of the fishing industry. He referred to the difficulties in finding people to crew boats as many foreign workers are only permitted to stay for 6 month periods. He also said Brexit had not delivered what the fishing men voted for, ie, to take back from the EU control of their waters, and until such times as the Protocol was dealt with these issues will remain.

Councillor McKee said he supported much of the content of the Motion. He said the fishing processing industry was not seasonal but permanent as fishing continues 24/7. He said in April next year, foreign fishermen working out of Ardglass and Kilkeel will not be permitted on a boat and only will be permitted if they are outside a 12 mile fishing zone of the harbour and therefore it was critical that foreign workers are granted permanency to continue to fish even within the 12 mile zone and be given a passage through this zone to the harbours.

He therefore requested if the Motion could be reworded to remove references that fishing was seasonal and reflect that fishermen work all year round.

Councillor Clarke on behalf of Sinn Fein, supported the Motion. He said labour was one of the biggest issues facing the fishing industry and Brexit has had a massive impact on obtaining foreign workers. He also referred to the lack of young people entering the industry and said this was alarming and needed to be addressed by DEARA.

Councillor Reilly referred to Brexit and the Protocol and said although the Protocol has

hindered the fishing industry, going forward in the long-term, Brexit will help fishermen immensely. He referred to future increases in quota and said it was vital that the necessary infrastructure would be in place to improve our harbours at Killeel and Ardglass, and added his support for the Motion.

Read: Report dated 16 January 2023 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment & Regeneration, regarding a Notice of Motion on Fishing and the Fish Processing. **(Circulated)**

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed Council support the Notice of Motion on Fishing and Fish Processing as raise the concerns highlighted in the Motion with the relevant Government departments as required.**

## **ENTERPRISE EMPLOYMENT & REGENERATION**

### **ERT/006/2023: FUTURE BUSINESS SUPPORT - REGIONAL WORKING GROUP**

Read: Report dated 16 January 2023 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration regarding Future Business Support Regional Working Group. **(Copy circulated)**

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

- 1. To increase the contract value of NMD Business Growth, delivered by Full Circle, by an amount up to £50,000, subject to agreement by CPD, Invest NI and the delivery agent.**
- 2. To note the update provided on the development of a regional approach for future business support activity post ERDF funding (ERDF – European Regional Development Fund)**

## **TOURISM CULTURE AND EVENTS**

### **ERT/007/2023: NEWRY ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE PROJECT**

Read: Report dated 16 January 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding Newry Architectural Heritage Project. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Harte it was agreed to deliver a project to showcase the rich architectural heritage of Newry in partnership with the Ulster Architectural Heritage Society (UAHS) via a Service Level Agreement.**

### **EXEMPT INFORMATION**

**Agreed:** **On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor Howell 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/008/2023: ANNALONG REVITALISATION ART PROJECT SLA**

Read: Report dated 16 January 2023 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding Annalong Revitalisation Art Project SLA. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor Harte it was agreed to approve a Service Level Agreement with the Annalong Community Empowerment to implement an art project in Annalong Village as agreed in the Annalong Small Settlement Scheme Action Plan.**



**ERT/009/2023: JANE'S SHORE PATHWAY PROJECT**  
**LETTER OF OFFER**

Read: Report dated 16 January 2023 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding the Jane's Shore project. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** **Following a vote of 11 for, and 2 against with no abstentions, it was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Andrews, that Council accept the DFI Letter of Offer for the Downpatrick Jane's Shore pathway upgrade and note the previously completed and approved Council and DFI Business Cases.**

**ERT/010/2023: KILBRONEY FOREST PARK YOUTH CAMPING SITE**

Read: Report dated 16 January 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture and Events, regarding Kilbroney Forest Park Youth Camping Site. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Ruane seconded by Councillor Harte it was agreed to approve the recommendation to operate a camp site for registered youth groups under the same model currently in place at Castlewellan Forest Park as detailed in this report.**

**ERT/011/2023: KILKEEL HARBOUR WORKS**

Read: Report dated 16 January 2023 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding Kilkeel Harbour Works. **(Copy circulated).**

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor Reilly it was agreed NMDDC include in budgets for the next 3 financial years subject to agreed funding package being secured and a suitable mid term review of progress against objectives and targets.**

**ERT/012/2023: SERC EXCELLENCE AWARDS**

Read: Report dated 16 January 2023 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding SERC Excellence Awards. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to approve sponsorship to the South Eastern Regional College's 2023 Excellence Awards as a headline sponsor and category sponsor for the Apprenticeship of the Year.**

**ERT/013/2023: WARRENPOINT HARBOUR AUTHORITY SLA**

Read: Report dated 16 January 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism Culture and Events regarding a Service Level Agreement with SERC. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane seconded by Councillor Howell it was agreed to enter into a Service Level Agreement with Warrenpoint Harbour Authority to showcase the District to inbound cruise passengers, and to secure the visit of the Grace O Malley tall ship in 2023.**

**ERT/014/2023: KILBRONEY PARK CAFÉ LICENCE EXTENSION**

Read: Report dated 16 January 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism Culture and Events regarding a Service Level Agreement with SERC. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to note the content of Report dated 16 January 2023 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding Kilbroney Park Café Licence Extension.**

## **FOR NOTING**

### **ERT/015/2023: UPDATE RE: CARLINGFORD LOUGH GREENWAY**

Read: Report dated 16 January 2023 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding an update on Carlingford Lough Greenway. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed to note progress to date and the update contained in the above Report.**

### **ERT/016/2023: ERT HISTORIC ACTION TRACKER**

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

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

### **ERT/017/2023: ERT SCHEME OF DELEGATION 6 MONTHLY REPORT – 01 APRIL 2022 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2022**

Read: ERT Scheme of Delegation 6 Monthly Report dated 01 April 2022 – 30 September 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed to note ERT Scheme of Delegation 6 Monthly Report dated 01 April 2022 – 30 September 2022.**

### **ERT/018/2023: UPDATE RE: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

Read: Report dated 16 January 2023 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration, regarding an update on International Relations. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed to note the update provided against recent international relations activity.

**ERT/019/2023: UPDATE RE: MAKE IT LOCAL CAMPAIGN**

Read: Report dated 16 January 2023 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director of Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration regarding an update on the Make it Local Campaign. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Curran it was unanimously agreed to note the update provided under the Make it Local campaign.

**ERT/020/2023: SEARCH ENGINE OPTIMISATION (SEO) RENEWAL**

Read: Report dated 16 January 2023 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding Search Engine Optimisation (SEO) Renewal. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed to note the renewal of the SEO contract for 2023 and 2024 with Simpleview via the Tourism NI Deed of Indemnity at an annual cost of £9,240.

**ERT/021/2023: TASTE TO TOURISM SUMMIT – FEBRUARY 2023**

Read: Report dated 16 January 2023 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed to note a one off sponsorship fee of £1,500, to the Northern Ireland Hotel Federation as a co-sponsor of the Taste of Tourism Summit & Artisan Market 2023.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 7.10pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 06 February 2023.

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

---

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

---