

January 9th, 2024

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting to be held on **Monday, 15th January 2024** at **6:00 pm** in **Boardroom Council Offices Monaghan Row Newry.**

Committee Membership 2023 - 2024

Councillor M Ruane **Chairperson**

Councillor G Kearns **Deputy Chairperson**

Councillor T Andrews

Councillor C Bowsie

Councillor P Campbell

Councillor W Clarke

Councillor K Feehan

Councillor C Galbraith

Councillor G Hanna

Councillor C King

Councillor D Lee-Surginor

Councillor S Murphy

Councillor A Quinn

Councillor J Tinnelly

Councillor J Truesdale


Agenda

1.0 Apologies & Chairperson's remarks

2.0 Declarations of Interest

For Noting

3.0 Action Sheet arising from Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 11 December 2023

 *ERT Action Sheet - December 2023.pdf*

Page 1

Notices of Motion

4.0 Notice of Motion - Town and City Gift Cards C/248/2023

For Decision

"To support traders in the wake of recent flooding and help stimulate spending in the local economy, Council will explore setting up a local gift card or voucher scheme and, subject to committee approval, support the initial set up costs of such a scheme. This would be similar to the gift card programmes that have been highly successful in Enniskillen, Ballymena, Mid Ulster and elsewhere, which are easily facilitated via a subscription service with a third-party provider. The intention would be to trial this scheme in Downpatrick initially, with potential for expansion to other parts of the District."

Proposed: Councillor Lee-Surginor

 *ERT Report - NoM Town and City Gift Cards.pdf*

Page 4

Directors Papers

5.0 Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Business Plans 2023-24

For Decision

 *ERT Report - Mid Year Assessment of Business Plans 2023-24.pdf*

Page 7

 *Appx - ERT Mid Year Assessment Business Plan 2023-24.pdf*

Page 10

Economy Growth & Tourism

6.0 Economy, Growth & Tourism - Bathing Water Operator - Sandy Bottom, Warrenpoint

For Decision

📄 *ERT Report - Bathing Water Operator at Sandy Bottom.pdf*

Page 26

7.0 Economy, Growth & Tourism - Financial Assistance Call 1

For Decision

📄 *ERT Report - Financial Assistance Call 1.pdf*

Page 29

Items deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014

8.0 Outscape SLA

For Decision

This item is deemed to be restricted 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) and the public may by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

📄 *ERT Report - Outscape SLA 23.24.pdf*

Not included

9.0 Tourism Facilities Cleaning Contract Services

This item is deemed to be restricted 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) and the public may by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

📄 *ERT Report - Tourism Facilities Cleanng Contract Services.pdf*

Not included

📄 *Appx - Tourism Facilities Cleaning Services 2024 - 2028 Business Case.pdf*

Not included

10.0 Tourism Facilities Event and Hire Schedule

This item is deemed to be restricted 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) and the public may by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

📄 *ERT Report - Tourism Facilities Event and Hire Schedule.pdf*


Not included


📄 *Appx - Tourism Facilities Event Charging Schedule Final (002).pdf*


Not included

For Noting

11.0 Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor (DBEC) Update

-  *ERT Report - Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor DBEC Update.pdf* **Page 31**

-  *Appx 1 DBEC Political Advisory Group Action Sheet - 28.09.2023.pdf* **Page 34**

-  *Appx 2 DBEC Political Advisory Group Action Sheet - 14.12.2023.pdf* **Page 38**

Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews
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Cllr Callum Bowsie
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Mrs Fionnuala Branagh
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Cllr Jim Brennan
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Cllr Pete Byrne
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Mr Gerard Byrne
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Cllr Philip Campbell
.....
Mr Andrew Cassells
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Cllr William Clarke
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Cllr Laura Devlin
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Ms Louise Dillon
.....
Cllr Cadogan Enright
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Cllr Killian Feehan
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Cllr Doire Finn
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Cllr Aoife Finnegan
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Cllr Conor Galbraith
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Cllr Mark Gibbons
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Cllr Oonagh Hanlon
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Cllr Glyn Hanna
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Cllr Valerie Harte
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Cllr Roisin Howell
.....
Cllr Jonathan Jackson
.....
Cllr Geraldine Kearns
.....
Mrs Josephine Kelly
.....
Cllr Tierna Kelly
.....
Cllr Cathal King
.....
Cllr Mickey Larkin
.....
Cllr David Lee-Surginor
.....
Cllr Alan Lewis
.....
Cllr Oonagh Magennis
.....
Mr Conor Mallon
.....
Cllr Aidan Mathers
.....
Cllr Declan McAteer
.....
Cllr Leanne McEvoy
.....
Jonathan McGilly
.....
Ms Tracie McLoughlin
.....
Cllr Andrew McMurray
.....
Cllr Declan Murphy
.....
Cllr Kate Murphy
.....
Cllr Selina Murphy
.....
Cllr Siobhan O'Hare
.....
Mr Andy Patterson
.....

Cllr Áine Quinn
.....
Cllr Henry Reilly
.....
Cllr Michael Rice
.....
Cllr Michael Ruane
.....
Cllr Gareth Sharvin
.....
Donna Starkey
.....
Sarah Taggart
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Cllr David Taylor
.....
Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly
.....
Cllr Jill Truesdale
.....
Mrs Marie Ward
.....

ACTION SHEETENTERPRISE REGENERATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETINGMONDAY 9TH OCTOBER 2023

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/133/2023	(EXEMPT) DUBLIN/BELFAST ECONOMIC CORRIDOR – PROCUREMENTS	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) To approve the attached business case for the procurement of a communications and engagement partner for the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor.2) To approve that Council, appoint delivery agents to progress a research project which will seek to build intelligence and make recommendations for actions to meet needs for labour supply and demand of the corridor.	A Smyth	Completed	Y

ACTION SHEETENTERPRISE REGENERATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETINGMONDAY 11th DECEMBER 2023

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/153/2023	Action Sheet Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting 13 November 2023.	It was agreed to note the action sheet	All		
ERT/154/2023	Notice of Motion – Open Water Swimming	It was agreed the Council engage with DAERA to follow up on the 22/23 review, which recommended extending the monitoring season to year round	A Patterson	In progress	Y
ERT/155/2023	Notice of Motion – Childcare Strategy	It was agreed the Council write to the Department of Education, urging them to progress a comprehensive childcare strategy, and to note the inclusion of a Childcare Employment Academy in the NMD Labour Market Partnership Action Plan 2023/2024	A Patterson	In progress	Y
ERT/156/2023	Letter from Carrickmacross – Castleblaney Municipal District	It was agreed to write to the Department of Infrastructure and the Permanent Secretary to encourage them to work with the Irish Government to secure a funding stream to continue these works on Ballynacarry Bridge.	C Mallon	Completed	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
EXEMPT ERT/157/2023	Financial Assistance Call 3 2024-2025	It was agreed to: - offer funding to applicant 4825 as per Council's approved Financial Assistance Procedures - open Financial Assistance Call 1 for the 2024/25 Financial year in Jan 2024 for the themes detailed in this report - to include the multi-sports hub theme in financial assistance call 2	A Patterson	In progress	Y
EXEMPT ERT/158/2023	File Management & Retention Contract	It was agreed that: - Council proceed to procure a provider to store and provide files on recall on a weekly basis for 5 year period utilising EPSO framework - Council approve the attached business case	J McGilly	In progress	Y
EXEMPT ERT/159/2023	Peace Plus	It was agreed to note the contents of the report	A Patterson	Report for noting.	Y

Report to:	Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 15 January 2024
Subject:	Notice of Motion on Town & City Gift Cards C/248/2023
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Andy Patterson Assistant Director - Economy, Growth & Tourism
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Andy Patterson Assistant Director - Economy, Growth & Tourism

For decision	x	For noting only	
1.0			Purpose and Background
1.1			<p><u>Purpose</u> To approve the recommendations as set out in section 3.1 of this report on the Notice of Motion on Town & City Gift Cards.</p> <p><u>Background</u> At the Council meeting in December 2023 the following motion was received from Councillor Lee-Surginor:</p> <p>"To support traders in the wake of recent flooding and help stimulate spending in the local economy, Council will explore setting up a local gift card or voucher scheme and, subject to committee approval, support the initial set up costs of such a scheme. This would be similar to the gift card programmes that have been highly successful in Enniskillen, Ballymena, Mid Ulster and elsewhere, which are easily facilitated via a subscription service with a third-party provider. The intention would be to trial this scheme in Downpatrick initially, with potential for expansion to other parts of the District."</p> <p>The motion was seconded by Councillor Enright. The Motion was referred to the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee in accordance with standing orders.</p>
2.0			Key issues
2.1			Council is currently supporting the Downpatrick Regeneration Working Group in the delivery of Downpatrick Living High Streets Framework. One of the priority areas as identified in the framework was to develop a 'Shop Local Loyalty Card'. This action is currently being progressed by Downpatrick Town Committee. Similar schemes in other districts also tend to be operated by business trade bodies, BIDs, etc.

	Council will continue to support Downpatrick Regeneration Working Group and Downpatrick Town Committee as proposals for the Shop Local Loyalty Card scheme are advanced.	
3.0	Recommendations	
3.1	Council to continue to support Downpatrick Regeneration Working Group and Downpatrick Town Committee as proposals for a Shop Local Loyalty Card scheme are advanced.	
4.0	Resource implications	
4.1	N/a	
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)	
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p>	N/a

	<i>Rationale:</i>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices
	N/a
8.0	Background Documents
	N/a

Report to:	Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 15 th January 2024
Subject:	ERT Directorate Business Plan 2023-24
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Conor Mallon, Director Economy, Regeneration & Tourism
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Conor Mallon, Director Economy, Regeneration & Tourism

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-			
For decision	X	For noting only	
1.0	Purpose and Background		
1.1	Directorate Business Plans form an essential part of the Council’s Business Planning and Performance Management Framework, which drives and provides assurance that corporate objectives are being delivered.		
1.2	Directorate Business Plans demonstrate how planned activity during 2023-24 will contribute to the achievement of strategic outcomes in relation to the Community Plan, Corporate Plan, Performance Improvement Plan and other key strategies.		
2.0	Key issues		
2.1	A Mid Year Assessment of each Directorate Business Plan has been undertaken in order to provide an overview of progress between April-September 2023. This exercise is an important part of the Council’s statutory obligations to strengthen the way performance is monitored, reviewed and reported at all levels across the organisation.		
2.2	The Mid Year Assessment of the ERT Directorate Business Plan is outlined at Appendix 1.		
3.0	Recommendations		
3.1	To consider and agree: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mid Year Assessment of the ERT Directorate Business Plan 2023-24 		
4.0	Resource implications		
4.1	There are no financial resource implications within this report.		

5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i> Consultation not required.</p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appendix 1 – Mid Year Assessment of the ERT Directorate Business Plan 2023-24
8.0	Background Documents
	Directorate Business Plan 2023-24

Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Directorate

Mid-Year Assessment Business Plan 2023-24



Comhairle Ceantair
**an Iúir, Mhúrn
agus an Dúin**
**Newry, Mourne
and Down**
District Council

Introduction

This report provides an overview of progress in delivering the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Business Plan 2023-24 between April-September 2023, across the following service areas:

- Economic Development
- Regeneration
- Tourism Development and Promotion
- Tourism Facilities Management and Development
- Arts and Culture
- Events
- Heritage
- EU Funding
- AONB Management
- Planning Development Management and Control
- Local Development Plan
- Building Control
- Licencing
- International Relations

The delivery of the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Directorate Business Plan 2023-24 supports the achievement of the following corporate objectives, and performance has been tracked using the legend below.

Invest in and support new and growing businesses, job creation and employment skills




Promote the revitalisation of our city, towns, villages and rural communities

Enhance, protect and promote our environment

Support sustainable forms of tourism which value our environment and cultural heritage


Provide accessible, high quality and integrated services through continuous improvement




Legend




Status	
	Target or objective achieved / on track to be achieved
	Target or objective partially achieved / likely to be achieved / subject to delay
	Target or objective not achieved / unlikely to be achieved



Directorate objectives, supporting actions and measures of success





Key Directorate Objectives	
Enterprise and Regeneration	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with partners to lead the implementation of the Economic, Regeneration and Investment Strategy to support the development of the local economy and infrastructure to ensure the district is competitive and attractive to investors and residents. 	
Tourism, Culture and Events	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with partners to lead the implementation of the Tourism Strategy Lead the development and implementation of Culture and Arts Strategy and delivery of improved new tourism assets 	
Building Control and Regulation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A statutory duty to apply the Building Regulations to support regeneration and economic development across the district and the licencing obligations of Council The management of Car Park facilities owned and operated by Council 	
Planning	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a robust, efficient and responsive development management service within the Council Planning Department to support regeneration and economic development across the district. Progress the preparation and delivery of the Local Development Plan in accordance with the agreed timeframe to determine future land use planning policy across the district. Provide a robust, efficient and effective planning enforcement function within the Council Planning Department to address breaches of planning control. 	




Enterprise and Regeneration			
OBJECTIVE	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
Work with partners to support the economic recovery of the District	Invest in and support new and growing businesses, job creation and employment skills		
Action	Timescale	Status	Progress
Progress the Belfast Region City Deal and develop programmes of activity around: 1. Skills and Employability 2. Digital and Innovation	Q 1-4		Catalyst appointed to undertake needs focussed industry engagement through 1-2-1 interviews and workshops with businesses objectively assessing

			needs, capabilities and opportunities within the growth and innovation landscape and providing clear strategic recommendations for the Council to consider a way forward for a Regional Innovation Hub.
Continue to progress the Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme as part of the Belfast Region City Deal investment programme.	Q 1-4		Planning applications for Civic Hub and Theatre Conference Projects submitted. Procurement being progressed for both projects.
Development and management of the Digital Transformation Flexible Fund under FFNI across all Councils providing financial assistance for Digital Transformation in micros/small businesses.	Q 1-4		Digital Transformation Flexible Fund established and launched. 1 st cross deal programme delivered right across all NI local authorities.
Development and Implementation of Enterprise Support Services programme across the pillars of Foundation, Engage, Growth and Scaling	Q 1-4		The implementation ESS will commence in Q3. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by Belfast City Council and The Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities in mid-September enabling mobilisation of contracts. Contracts for delivery of CRM, Marketing, Tele-handling, and delivery agents were appointed following the signing of the MoU in later September. Development of an annual service plan for implementation in late September.



			The Service will launch mid November 2023.
Collaboration and Development of applications under Peace Plus, shared Island Fund, Levelling up Fund etc aligned to Council corporate priorities	Q 1-4		Development of applications under several PEACEPLUS themes is ongoing. Several themes will open in autumn and close in winter. Officers are liaising with counterparts in neighbouring Councils and Colleges.
Support Business development and growth via a range of initiatives including markets development, social economy, innovation, Leadership events, international connections, digital engagement.	Q 1-4		<p>Council implemented an interim business growth programme to support businesses in their development. Council partnered with Invest NI to deliver workshops in Operation Excellence. Council sponsored Greater Newry Business Awards and NI SME Conference.</p> <p>Council hosted a delegation of MEPs on NI Protocol and Windsor Framework. Liaising with NIO continues regarding international relations.</p> <p>Digital Surge Programme closed in June 23 with 15 participants receiving digital transformation plans.</p>
Develop ongoing initiatives via LMP to improve employability and skills via engagement with business and education	Q 1-4		<p>The following has been achieved in Q1 and Q2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23/24 NMD LMP Action Plan approved • NMD LMP meeting conducted x 1 • 23/24 Schools to Industry Action Plan approved








			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools to Industry sub-group meetings conducted x 3 Hosted Employment Pathway Job Fair event on 25th May with 50 employers; 10 support organisations; and 418 attendees to showcase opportunities in key sectors and career vacancies, along with enhanced career guidance Commenced Drivers Academy with 22 participants registered.
Lead the secretariat and work in partnership with all member councils and universities of DBEC to deliver on the strategic aims and actions plans for the corridor.	Q 1-4		DBEC are a local Government network formed by eight Councils and two universities located along the Dublin – Belfast Economic Corridor. The purpose of the Partnership is to improve competitiveness and support economic growth across the region. NMDDC are the current administrative lead for the partnership. A resource for the Partnership was established in June 2023. Progress commenced toward development of actions against key enablers defined in the action plan.
OBJECTIVE Deliver a programme of urban and rural regeneration initiatives/projects	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
	Promote the revitalisation of our city, towns, villages and rural communities		
Action	Timescale	Status	Progress
Improvement in connectivity through FFNI via the Mobile	Q 1-4		FFNI nominated to coordinate all Digital





Action Plan, Northern Ireland Barrier Busting Taskforce, the DSIT Shared Q1-4 9 Rural network (4G) and DSIT UK Wireless Strategy/5G innovation Regions.			Champions across each Council. Councils currently reviewing best practise and structures to facilitate mobile rollout. Internal Barrier Busting team established. Future OFCOM / NILGA event planned for circa Dec 2023.
Development of SMART Towns/Villages and services through BRCD funding, PEACE plus and other initiatives.	Q 1-4		Concept note submitted to SEUPB regarding Smart Towns and Villages for PEACEPLUS.
Implementation of Small Settlement scheme across the district as per agreed plan with focus on, public realm, revitalisation, dereliction and marketing	Q 1-4		SSS implementation continues across 7 small settlements with a focus on shop front, streetscape, open space and active travel. Planning has been submitted for the 4 EI Schemes.
Completion of Warrenpoint Front shore scheme phase 1 and development of phase 2 proposals	Q1 - 4		Phase 1 (Front Shore) works were completed in June 2023. Phase 2 (Breakwater) continues to proceed through planning, while Phase 3 (Car Parks) has been fast tracked for onsite works planned to start in Jan 2024.
Development and implementation of plans for Greenway development with focus on priority routes – Newry – Carlingford & Downpatrick	Q1-4		In relation to Carlingford Lough Greenway, final planning permission being sought for approval in Oct 2023, prior to works commencing Oct 2023 to Jun 2024. / Downpatrick Janes Shore 1km Pathway completed in June 2023.
OBJECTIVE Protect and enhance the Areas of Outstanding	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
	Enhance, protect and promote our environment		



Natural Beauty across the District			
Action	Timescale	Status	Progress
Management for the Ring of Gullion and Strangford & Lecale AONBs through implementation of NI Environment Fund projects as detailed in AONB Action	Q1-4		Letter of Offer received in August. Workplans complete and staff progressing with deliverable actions for 23.24. Recruitment process ongoing
Development and implementation of the Geo park plan following accreditation	Q 1-4		Geopark plans implementation going as planned and outlined in the associated documents. Marine element of management dependant on NIEA EF recruitment process.
Continued stewardship of Landscape partnership legacy programme	Q 1-4		All actions progressing as planned.



Tourism, Culture and Events


OBJECTIVE	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
A. Tourism Development & Promotion B. Tourism Facilities Management & Development C. Tourism Events D. Museums, Arts & Heritage	Support sustainable forms of tourism which value our environment and cultural heritage		
Action	Timescale	Status	Progress
Launch & commence delivery of new Tourism Strategy 2023 - 2028	Q3 onwards		12 weeks consultation commenced in September 2023 due to conclude on 24 November 2023 with launch proposed for Q4.
Continue to progress the Mourne Gateway Project as part of the Belfast Region City Deal investment programme.	Q 1 - 4		Progress continuing on project Contract for Funding/Funding Agreement; OBC Addendum; and procurement of an Integrated Consultancy









			Team to support the next stage of project delivery, including the development of a Full Business Case.
Continue to support the delivery of the new Newry Arts, Theatre and Conference facility.	Q 1 - 4		Planning application for Theatre-Conference project submitted. Procurement being progressed for appointment of IDT.
Support local tourism & hospitality businesses to access Business Support Programmes, training & mentoring.	Q 1 – 4		40 business receiving ongoing support and mentoring across the Destination YTD.
Deliver a collection of new visitor experiences with a focus on Outdoor Adventure, Food & Drink and Heritage & Culture	Q 1 - 4		5 new experience launched over the summer months and 18 more in development and to be launched in Q4.
Continue to invest in and deliver major Tourism Capital Projects that will attract international visitors to NI and the district.	Q 1 - 4		Ongoing Development and Implementation of capital projects in the Forest and Country Parks to enhance the Visitor Experience, with completion for the Fallows Trails, appointment of Design and implementation team for Tyrella Amenity Building, appointment of design team for Narnia and Delamont and ongoing delivery of Camlough lake recreational hub building
Continue the delivery of Council's Arts, Culture, Heritage Strategy	Q1 - 4		Work progressing on delivery of strategy action plan.
Create an audience growth plan for arts venues, including the redevelopment of Newry Town Hall, the SHAC, and Down Arts Centre.	Q1 – 4		Audience development plan to be progressed in Q3&4.
Continue the delivery of the new Tourism Events Programme for the district.	Q1 – 4		Tourism Events Programme successfully delivered to date, including









			the Wake the Giant and Eats & Beats festivals. Financial Assistance grants allocated to summer events.
Launch new Museum Forward Plans	Q1 – 4		Museum Forward Plan approved by Council and progress continuing on Museum re-accreditation.
Deliver museums engagement programme with community and visitors through annual programme of events, activities and exhibitions	Q1 – 4		Delivery of engagement plan ongoing through the delivery of events, exhibitions and outreach, including the very successful schools transport scheme.
Increase accessibility to museum collections via new website and social media platforms.	Q1 - 4		Progress ongoing on increasing access to museum collections.
Progress delivery of heritage development initiatives, activities & events across district.	Q1 - 4		Delivery of Heritage engagement projects ongoing in Q1&2.


Building Control			
OBJECTIVE A statutory duty to apply the Building Regulations and licencing obligations of Council. Improve the processing times of BC applications.	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
	Provide accessible, high quality and integrated services through continuous improvement		
Action	Timescale	Status	Progress
To provide a robust and responsive service to Applicants, Agents, Builders and Solicitors for the enforcement of all aspects of the relevant legislation	Q1- Q4		KPI targets not met due to staff shortage. Full complement of staff now, therefore KPIs on target for Q4 (3 out of the 4 KPIs currently being met).
To engage with Tascomi/Idox through BCNI to develop an online portal for the submission	Q2 – Q4		BCNI are currently in discussions with IDOX to





of Building Control – Full Plans Applications			establish feasibility and agreed specification.
To engage with Tascomi/Idox to explore the possibility of facilitating the submission of online Licensing Applications	Q2 – Q4		Licensing met with IDOX; they can provide this platform. Licensing to commence discussions with IT to purchase system in Q3-Q4.
OBJECTIVE A statutory duty to apply the Building Regulations and licencing obligations of Council. Work with partners to support the economic recovery of the District	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
	Promote the revitalisation of our city, towns, villages and rural communities		
Action	Timescale	Status	Progress
To implement a new organizational structure for Building Control and Licensing section	Q1 – Q2		Organisational structure in place; however, actively recruiting to achieve full complement of staff for Licensing. Two LOs and one BSO have been recruited and should be in place by early Jan '24. Actively recruiting for the second BSO.








Planning			
OBJECTIVE Provide a robust, efficient and responsive development management service within the Council Planning Department	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
	Promote the revitalisation of our city, towns, villages and rural communities		
Action	Timescale	Status	Progress
Deliver against statutory targets for major planning applications and local planning applications through a performance improvement programme..	Q1-4		Achievement of statutory has been challenging due to staff turn over. Recruitment exercise ongoing and performance monitored on weekly bases by team and monthly review by SMT





Improve engagement and communications with applicants and agents to deliver an efficient service.	Q1-4		Workshop being planned for Q4 with developers and agents to explore issues and solutions
Work with Council Capital Projects Team to ensure planning contributes to the delivery of the Council's capital programme across the District.	Q1-4		Work ongoing via project teams and Boards to progress capital programme
Provide a robust and responsive service to applicants, agents, and elected members and respond to complaints in accordance with council complaints procedure.	Q 1-4		ongoing
Develop new and additional online planning guidance.	Q1 - Q4		Work in progress
Work to ensure the successful introduction of the new planning IT system.	Q1 – Q4		System is up and running and adjusts and training ongoing via working group
Work with the Department and other stakeholders to progress the recommendations from the Public Accounts Committee report into Planning in Northern Ireland.	Q1 – Q4		Ongoing via NI fora
Carry out 2 Nr "in person" engagement events between planning staff, applicants, Agents and developers	Q2 – Q4		Work in progress plans for 2 in February
OBJECTIVE Progress the preparation and delivery of the Local Development Plan (LDP) in accordance with the agreed timeframe to direct future land use across the district.	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
	Promote the revitalisation of our city, towns, villages and rural communities		
Action	Timescale	Status	Progress
Prepare draft Plan Strategy (dPS) documents for presentation to and agreement by Planning Committee.	Q1-4		Draft plan strategy agreed and work ongoing to develop plan

LDP preparation, quarterly updates to Planning Committee.	Q1-4		Monthly updates on progress to committee and LDP working group meeting Q3 to review a number of key papers
Monitor progress of LDP preparation against agreed timetable.	Q1-4		Timetable for implementation agreed in dPS and officers work plan agreed to align to key targets
Progress preparation of draft Plan Strategy for Council approval and publication.	Q4		Ongoing
Work with the Department and other stakeholders to progress the recommendations from the Public Accounts Committee report into Planning in Northern Ireland.	Q1-4		Ongoing
OBJECTIVE Provide a robust, efficient and effective planning enforcement function within the Council planning department to address breaches of planning control.	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
	Enhance, protect and promote our environment		
Action	Timescale	Status	Progress
Meet statutory targets for bringing enforcement cases to conclusion through a programme of performance improvement measures.	Q1-4		To date target not being met due largely to staff compliment – will be addressed via ongoing recruitment
Ongoing review and implementation of Council Planning Enforcement Strategy.	Q1-4		Enforcement staff continue to process cases in line with current Enforcement Strategy, this Strategy is reviewed continuously to ensure best practice.
Work to ensure the successful introduction of the new planning IT system	Q1-4		Ongoing work via Enforcement working group to improve the enforcement module of new system
Work with the Department and other stakeholders to	Q1-4		Enforcement staff are aware of the PAC

progress the recommendations from the Public Accounts Committee report into Planning in Northern Ireland.			recommendations and have taken steps to ensure accessibility and openness with all stakeholders
Provide a robust and responsive service to applicants, agents and elected members and respond to complaints in accordance with council complaints procedure.	Q1-4		Current staffing levels prove challenging to meet this KPI however process are in place to ensure prioritisation of most serious cases.

Measures of Success					
	Measure	Target	YTD Actual	Status	Explanation
Enterprise and Regeneration	Number of jobs promoted through business start-up activity (statutory)	155	77		128 business plans were created at a transferrable rate of 0.6 therefore 77 jobs were created.
	Number of jobs created and businesses supported through Council programmes	144	144		15 businesses were supported through the Digital Surge Programme and 129 supported through NMD Interim Business Support Programme
	Amount of investment secured by the Council				£24.2m of grant aid secured for Council to deliver current capital investment and Economic Development support programmes, excluding Council match funding.
	Number of urban and rural regeneration initiatives delivered	4	Ongoing 7		EI Schemes in 4 settlements (Bessbrook, Castlewellan, Rostrevor and Saintfield and a number of interventions across 7 settlements.

	Increase the percentage time for processing Domestic BC applications within 21 days to 82%	80%	81%		
	Increase the percentage time for processing Commercial BC applications within 35 days to 82%	80%	79%		KPI target not met due to staff shortage. Full complement of staff now, therefore KPIs on target for Q4 (3 out of the 4 KPIs currently being met).
	Increase the percentage time for processing all application returns within 14 days to 86%	85%	88%		
	Increase the percentage of online applications by a further 10%	70%	66%		Actively encouraging customers to use service through advice by phone and on website.
Tourism, Culture and Events	Visitor spend (£)	2019 visitor spend in NMDDC was £84m	N/a	TBC	Awaiting publication of latest NISRA Tourism Statistics for district.
	Volume of overnight stays in the district	2019 visitor volume in NMDDC was 1.56m	N/a	TBC	Awaiting publication of latest NISRA Tourism Statistics for district.
	Visitor satisfaction	New Target			Survey results will be available in Q3.
	Investment into tourism capital projects (£)	New Target			Total Capital Programme investment in Tourism Facilities £10.2m
Planning	Average processing time for local planning applications of 15 weeks.	15 weeks	28.6 weeks		Paper to be tabled at presented to SPR in January setting out current position and action plan and targets to address the challenges and improve performance
	Average processing time for major planning	30 weeks	513 weeks		Paper to be tabled at presented to SPR in January setting out current position

applications of 30 weeks.				and action plan and targets to address the challenges and improve performance
70% of all enforcement cases concluded within 39 weeks of complaint receipt	70%	-		New planning portal module for enforcement not fully operational to provide statistic. Paper to be tabled at presented to SPR in January setting out current position and action plan and targets to address the challenges and improve performance
Reduce the number of planning applications in the system for more than 12 months to 150	150	239		Paper to be tabled at presented to SPR in January setting out current position and action plan and targets to address the challenges and improve performance
Reduce the number of planning applications in the system for less than 12 months to 700	700	1,025		Paper to be tabled at presented to SPR in January setting out current position and action plan and targets to address the challenges and improve performance
Reduce the number of enforcement cases in the system for more than 12 months to 450	450	544		Paper to be tabled at presented to SPR in January setting out current position and action plan and targets to address the challenges and improve performance

Report to:	Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 15 January 2024
Subject:	Bathing Water Operator at Sandy bottom, Warrenpoint
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Andrew Patterson Assistant Director - Economy, Growth & Tourism
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Michelle Boyle Head of Product Development & Visitor Experience

For decision	X	For noting only	
1.0	Purpose and Background		
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u> To seek approval for recommendations set out in section 3.1 of this report on Council acting as Bathing Water Operator at Warrenpoint's Sandy Bottom beach.</p> <p><u>Background</u> The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs has undertaken a review of Bathing Waters during 2022/23 under the Quality of Bathing Water Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008 and considered designating new 'bathing water' sites whereby they are responsible for testing water quality. DAERA confirmed Warrenpoint – Sandy Bottom would be a 'candidate site' in 2023 whereby DAERA would undertake water quality monitoring.</p>		
2.0	Key issues		
2.1	<p>The Bathing Water Regulations aim to protect public health and the environment by monitoring water quality at coastal and inland waters where there is an appropriate body willing to take on the formal responsibility of bathing water operator for the site. The Council are required to confirm they will act as Bathing Water Operator. This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate litter control • Ensuring that signage at a bathing water includes the information set out in the guidance for Bathing Water Operators • When Bathing Water Operators become aware of pollution incidents/ abnormal situations/ exceptional weather events that could be considered a risk to human health they should following guidance – notifying DAERA and communicating to the public/beach users 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where DAERA (the Department) has issued a notice requiring Bathing Water Operators to comply with the Bathing Water Regulations, the operator is required to display signage
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	Approval that Council act as Bathing Water Operator for Sandy Bottom, Warrenpoint with Bathing Water Operator duties required from June – September annually.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Budget provision is available within Departmental budgets for ongoing litter picking to continue and to erect signage for updating information on water quality during the period June – September.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>

<p>5.3</p>	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation N/a</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
<p>6.0</p>	<p>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</p>
<p>6.1</p>	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>7.0</p>	<p>Appendices</p>
	<p>N/A</p>
<p>8.0</p>	<p>Background Documents</p>
	<p>N/A</p>

Report to:	Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 15 January 2024
Subject:	Financial Assistance Call 1
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Andrew Patterson - Assistant Director, Economy, Growth and Tourism
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Sonya Burns – Head of Programmes

For decision	X	For noting only	
1.0			Purpose and Background
1.1			<p><u>Purpose</u> To seek approval for recommendations set out in section 3.1 of this report on Financial Assistance Call 1.</p> <p><u>Background</u> At ERT committee in December 2023, provisional themes for Call 1 were agreed. Considering the timeframe for the call and the issuing of letters of offer, it is proposed that the following themes be added to Call 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arts and Culture - Sports Programmes (summer schemes) <p>All themes are subject to agreement through the rates process and via external funders if relevant.</p>
2.0			Key issues
2.1			Call one will open a week later than anticipated due to the build of the new online grant system. To ensure groups are in receipt of letters of offer in a timely manner it is proposed that the above themes be included in Call 1. This will give applicants the maximum time to prepare for project delivery.
3.0			Recommendations
3.1			<p>Approval to add two additional themes to Financial Assistance Call 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arts and Culture - Sports Programmes (summer schemes) <p>All themes are subject to agreement through the rates process and via external funders if relevant.</p>

4.0	Resource implications
4.1	All themes are subject to budget approval via the rates process.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation – N/a</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices
	N/a
8.0	Background Documents
	N/a

Report to:	Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 15 January 2024
Subject:	Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor Partnership Update DBEC
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Conor Mallon Director, Economy, Regeneration and Tourism.
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth Programme Manager - DBEC

For decision	For noting only	X
1.0	Purpose and Background	
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To note the update provided against the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor Partnership <p><u>Background</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor (DBEC) Partnership is a local Government network formed by eight Councils and two universities located along the Dublin – Belfast Economic Corridor. The DBEC Strategy and Action Plan outlines the vision of Partnership as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “DBEC to be a leading economic corridor in Europe, achieving sustainable growth through collaborative R&D, a highly skilled workforce and enabling infrastructure”. Newry, Mourne and Down District Council are the lead Council on behalf of the DBEC partnership and will progress actions as agreed through the DBEC Government structure. A Governance structure is in place and operational as defined in the Partnerships Collaboration Agreement. Below sets out a brief overview against key activities underway 	
2.0	Key issues	
2.1	<p><u>Research and Innovation</u></p> <p>Two feasibility studies have been completed. Detail is summarised below. Partners will now look at the next stages in progressing the recommendations.</p>	

- (1) A feasibility Study (lead by DBEC Partnership) looking at the potential of a network of feasibility hubs along the Dublin to Belfast Corridor. The study has recommended that DBEC should seek to establish four specialised innovation hubs to meet the need for specialised physical space and equipment to support transformational innovation and growth. This study also recommends that DBEC coordinates an innovation support programme to promote transformational innovation in businesses throughout the Corridor
- (2) A feasibility Study (lead by Dublin City Council and Belfast City Council) looking at the potential of circular economy hubs. The study recognised that there are unique opportunities arising from a Connected Circular Economy between Belfast and Dublin, particularly in terms of infrastructure, ports, and the potential to support economies of scale and smart specialisation

Skills Research

- The supply of skills and labour is a key challenge for businesses operating along the Dublin to Belfast Corridor. Ulster University and Dublin City University have been appointed to work with the DBEC Partnership to undertake a Phase 1 research assignment which will collate existing skills and labour market data and research intelligence, drawing recommendations on insights relevant to DBEC and where intelligence gaps exist.

Cross Border Skills Programme

- DBEC are working with academic partners in the development of a Cross-Border Skills Programme funding bid to SEUPB Peace Plus. The lead on the bid is Southern Regional College. The primary focus of this programme will be on providing upskilling, reskilling, and new skill opportunities to meet the labour requirement of the region. It anticipated that the funding programme will open for applications early 2024, with outcome of applications announced summer 2024.

Brand Development, Communications and Engagement

- Officers are progressing the development of a key messaging framework aligned to the ambition of the Partnership; this will include an investment proposition that will communicate the investment strengths and opportunities available across the corridor; this will be used to start to build international connections and engagements.
- Officers are progressing proposals for an event in 2024 that will pitch the ambition of the corridor to key and influential stakeholders

Funding Opportunities

- A number of funding opportunities are currently being explored included SEUPB Peace Plus, Shared Island and Enterprise Ireland – Smart Regions Enterprise Innovation Scheme. Over the coming months the Partnership will be looking at and progressing opportunities for applying for & securing funding to assist the delivery of the DBEC Action Plan

3.1	To note the update provided against the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor Partnership
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	n/a
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Action Sheet – Political Advisory group meeting – Sept 2023 2. Action Sheet – Political Advisory group meeting – Dec 2023
8.0	Background Documents
	N/a



Action Sheet & Record of Meeting

**DBEC Political Advisory Group (PAG), Thursday 28 September 2023, 10:30am,
Dublin City University, DCU Glasnevin Campus, Dublin 9, O'Reilly Library –
Mentoring Suite**

In Attendance

- Cllr Kevin Savage, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
- Cllr Pete Byrne, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
- Cllr Cathal King, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
- Cllr Adrian Henchy, Fingal County Council
- Cllr Howard Mahony, Fingal County Council
- Cllr Bernie Conlon, Louth County Council
- Cllr Tim Mitchell, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council
- Alderman Owen Gawith, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council
- Cllr Ryan Carlin, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council
- Alderman Alan Ewart MBE, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council

Officers:

- John Quinlivan, Director of Economic, Enterprise, Tourism & Cultural Development, Fingal County Council.
- Mary MacSweeney, Director of Enterprise and Development, Dublin City Council
- Donal Rogan, Director of Regeneration & Growth, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council
- Marie Ward, CEO, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
- Conor Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Tourism and Regeneration, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
- Joan Martin, CEO, Louth County Council
- Thomas McEvoy, Head of Enterprise, Louth County Council
- Larry Whelan, Senior Executive Officer, Meath County Council
- Professor Daire Keogh, President, Dublin City University
- Professor Deiric O'Broin, Dublin City University
- Laura Mahoney, Executive Director of Engagement, Dublin City University
- Conor Murray, Research Student, Dublin City University
- Amanda Smyth, DBEC Programme Manager
- Elaine McAlinden, DBEC Partnership Officer

Apologies

- Cllr Ronan McLaughlin, Belfast City Council
- Cllr Sarah Bunting, Belfast City Council
- John Walsh, CEO, Belfast City Council
- Roger Wilson, CEO, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
- Caroline Leonard, Interim Director, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
- Ann-Marie Farrelly, CEO, Fingal County Council
- Cllr Alan Tobin, Meath County Council
- Fiona Lawless, CEO, Meath County Council
- Des Foley, Director of Services | Planning & Development | Economic, Enterprise & Tourism Development, Meath County Council
- Cllr Sean Kelly, Louth County Council



- Cllr Daithi De Roiste, Dublin City Council
- Cllr Tom Brabazon, Dublin City Council
- Cllr Alison Gilliland, Dublin City Council
- Richard Shakespeare, CEO, Dublin City Council
- Professor Malachy O'Neill, University of Ulster
- Professor Eoin Magennis, University of Ulster
- Professor Duncan Morrow, University of Ulster

Agenda Items	Decisions
<p>Meeting Chair: Councillor Pete Byrne, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council</p>	
<p>1. Welcome and Apologies</p>	<p>The Chairperson welcomed all to the meeting and apologies were noted as listed above.</p> <p>President Daire Keogh extended a warm welcome to the DCU Glasnevin Campus. Laura Mahoney delivered a presentation which provided an introduction to DCU and highlighted the link between DCU and DBEC in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills and Talent • Research • Innovation • Facilities / Centres of Excellence
<p>2. Action Sheet: DBEC Political Advisory Group meeting: 27 January 2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matters Arising <p>The Chair highlighted an action point from the last meeting under Agenda Item 2, which suggested the formation of an executive group for DBEC.</p> <p>The Chair advised that the recent DBEC Directors and Chief Executive Officers meeting have recently reviewed the Governance Structures for DBEC, and it had been agreed that there is no current requirement for any additional governance arrangements.</p> <p>The Chair advised that currently the Directors Group meet monthly, CEO group meet bi-monthly and a PAG meet quarterly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed <p>On the proposal of Cllr Howard Mahony, seconded by Cllr Pete Byrne, it was agreed to approve the Action Sheet of the previous meeting held on the 27 January 2023.</p>
<p>3. Overview of the DBEC Partnership, Strategy and Action Plan</p>	<p>Amanda Smyth presented and outlined the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DBEC Evolution, Vision, Key Enablers and Objectives • Strengths of the Corridor • Eco System Gap: Corridor specific growth initiatives • Opportunities for DBEC and overview of Action Plan • DBEC Governance Structure



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed On the proposal of Cllr C King, seconded by Cllr H Mahony, members agreed to note the content of the report and presentation.
<p>4. Update on delivery against key actions.</p>	<p>Amanda Smyth presented an update against key actions that are currently being progressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Skills Research</u> Officers are progressing a 2 Phase research project to build intelligence and make recommendations for actions to meet needs for labour supply and demand. Discussions are underway with the Universities on options to progress this piece of work. Cllr Ryan Carlin advised that the skills research piece needs to be undertaken in collaboration with the private sector. • <u>Peace Plus Funding, Theme 2.3 - Skills Development</u> Southern Regional College are leading on the submission of concept note to SEUPB for the creation of a cross border skills training programme focused on upskilling and reskilling opportunities aligned to local labour market needs. DBEC are a partner on this bid. Further scope and development work is required pending feedback from SEUPB, ahead of application submission. Timescale for submission of application is Autumn 2023. • <u>Research and Innovation: Feasibility Studies Underway</u> 2 feasibility studies are underway, looking at the feasibility of a network of Innovation Hubs along the corridor, and the feasibility of Circular Economy hubs between Belfast and Dublin. Both studies are funded through Shared Island. Timescale for completion of both studies is 30th November 2023. • <u>Brand Development: Showcasing Event</u> Developing and raising the profile of the Dublin – Belfast corridor is of key importance. A Showcasing Event is being planned for early 2024 that will seek to inspire investors, showcase key business sectors, raise awareness of opportunities, and engage graduates, students and job seekers to consider the corridor as a place to live and work. <p>It was noted that it is important that in the short-term actions are progressed in order to achieve some early wins for the partners, and there is an opportunity to achieve same through the work on skills and brand development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed:



	<p>On the proposal of Cllr C King, seconded by Cllr H Mahony, members agreed to note the content of the report and presentation, and the below actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - KPMG to attend a future meeting of Political Advisory Group to update members on the recommendations arising from the Innovation Hub Feasibility Study. - An update on the theme, structure, and content of the 2024 Showcasing event to be provided at a future meeting of the PAG. - An update on the progression of Skills Research and Peace Plus funding opportunity to be provided at a future meeting of the PAG.
<p>5. Election of Co – Chair of DBEC Political Advisory Group</p>	<p>Cllr Byrne advised: Governance Structure for Political Advisory Group allows for 2 positions: a Chair and a Co-Chair – with representation from Councils North and South of the Border. The position of Co-Chair is currently vacant.</p> <p>The Chair asked for nominations for the role of Co-Chair from the 4 Southern Councils.</p> <p>The Chair highlighted that governance arrangements for DBEC are commencing from this meeting and the roles of Chair and Co-Chair will be elected bi-annually (every 2 years). It was further highlighted that for each PAG meeting, the role of Chair will rotate between the Chair and the Co-Chair.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed: On the proposal of Cllr Howard Mahony and seconded by Cllr Bernie Conlon, Cllr Adrian Henchy, Mayor of Fingal County Council, was elected as co-chair of the DBEC Political Advisory Group
<p>6. Date of Next Meeting</p>	<p>The Chair advised that it was important that the PAG continue to meet in person. The Chair further suggested that the next meeting scheduled for Thursday 14 December 2023 at 10:30am takes place in the Ulster University, Belfast Campus. This is a new campus opened at the end of 2022 – it is a significant investment in Belfast City Centre – supporting 15,000 students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed: The next meeting of the Political Advisory Group is held in Ulster University, Belfast Campus

The meeting ended at 12:15pm

For approval at next meeting of DBEC Political Advisory Group



Action Sheet & Record of Meeting

**DBEC Political Advisory Group (PAG), Thursday 14 December 2023, 10:30am,
University of Ulster, 2-24 York Street, Belfast, BT15 1AP | The Boardroom, BD
Building, Level 7**

In Attendance

- Cllr Ronan McLaughlin, Belfast City Council
- Cllr Eric Hanvey, Belfast City Council
- Cllr Kevin Savage, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon District Council
- Cllr Pete Byrne, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
- Cllr Ryan Carlin, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council
- Alderman Alan Ewart MBE, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council
- Alderman Michelle Guy, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council
- Cllr Tony Murphy, Fingal County Council
- Mayor Adrian Henchy, Fingal County Council
- Cllr Paul McCabe, Meath County Council
- Lord Mayor of Dublin, Daithi de Roiste, Dublin City Council
- Cllr Alison Gilliland, Dublin City Council

Officers:

- Professor Malachy O'Neill, University of Ulster
- Professor Eoin Magennis, University of Ulster
- Professor Duncan Morrow, University of Ulster
- Marie Ward, CEO, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
- Conor Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Tourism and Regeneration, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
- Joan Martin, CEO, Louth County Council
- Roger Wilson, CEO, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
- Caroline Leonard, Interim Director, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
- John Quinlivan, Director of Economic, Enterprise, Tourism & Cultural Development, Fingal County Council.
- David Burns, CEO, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council
- Donal Rogan, Director of Regeneration & Growth, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council
- Des Foley, Director of Services | Planning & Development | Economic, Enterprise & Tourism Development, Meath County Council
- Lisa Toland, Senior Manager, Economy, Belfast City Council
- Amanda Smyth, DBEC Programme Manager
- Elaine McAlinden, DBEC Partnership Officer

Apologies

- Cllr Sarah Bunting, Belfast City Council
- Alderman Margaret Tinsley, Lord Mayor Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
- Cllr Robbie Alexander, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
- Cllr Cathal King, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
- Cllr Stephen McKee, Meath County Council
- Cllr Bernie Conlon, Louth County Council



- John Walsh, CEO, Belfast City Council
- John Greer, Director of Economic Development, Belfast City Council
- Ann-Marie Farrelly, CEO, Fingal County Council
- Kieran Kehoe, CEO, Meath County Council
- Richard Shakespeare, CEO, Dublin City Council
- Mary MacSweeney, Director of Enterprise and Development, Dublin City Council
- Thomas McEvoy, Head of Enterprise, Louth County Council
- Professor Daire Keogh, President, Dublin City University
- Professor Deiric O’Broin, Dublin City University
- Laura Mahoney, Executive Director of Engagement, Dublin City University

Agenda Items	Decisions
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Meeting Chair: Mayor Adrian Henchy, Fingal County Council

1. Welcome and Apologies	<p>The Chairperson welcomed all to the meeting and apologies were noted as listed above.</p> <p>Professor D Morrow extended a warm welcome to all members to the Ulster University Belfast Campus. Prof Morrow highlighted that the city centre campus is a welcoming and impressive space catering for over 15,000 students, academics, business, and local community use. The development of the new campus building has made a huge and lasting impact to the North Belfast area and provides not only educational benefits but social, environmental, and economic benefits for the entire region, with a regeneration impact on the local area of over £1.4 billion.</p>
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2. Action Sheet: DBEC Political Advisory Group meeting: 28th September 2023	<p>No Matters Arising.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr Kevin Savage, seconded by Cllr Pete Byrne, it was agreed to approve the Action Sheet of the previous meeting held on the 28 September 2023.</p>
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3. Update on delivery against Action Plan.	<p>Amanda Smyth presented an update against key actions and recommendations that are currently being progressed:</p> <p><u>Research and Innovation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Innovation Hub Feasibility Study recommendations. <p>The Feasibility Study, completed by KPMG, was submitted to the Shared Island Unit ahead of the deadline on the 30 November 2023. Next steps include the development of Business Cases to progress on the 3 distinct work areas as outlined in the presentation.</p> <p>Members highlighted that an immediate opportunity for DBEC is the recommendation for an Innovation Programme, which could be progressed independent of the capital elements. Members recognised the need to phase the overall project, and explore various funding</p>
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streams in addition to Shared Island. The next phase of business case development to consider in more detail the strategic context and opportunities for connections with stakeholders, i.e., Intertrade Ireland.

D Burns highlighted that there was further exploratory work to undertake with the development of business cases for the delivery of four new innovation hubs and improvements to existing innovation hub space across the DBEC region.

C Mallon informed members that the Directors group would be discussing the recommendations at their future meetings and would report back on progress at the next PAG meeting.

- **Circular Economy Feasibility Study recommendations.**

The Feasibility Study, completed by M-Co, was submitted to the Shared Unit before the deadline of the 30 November 2023. A Smyth outlined the preferred options arising from the Feasibility Study against the requirement of developing connected circular economy hubs that can transition the DBEC region to a Circular Economy.

Cllr A Gilliland enquired if the 'Home Lab' option, which focused on the circular economy in the built environment and housing sector, had been developed. A Smyth confirmed that the options were only at concept stage and will need a full business case to develop the ideas further.

Action: Cllr Gilliland asked for copies of both Feasibility Studies to be circulated to Members and an update on the development of business cases to be provided at a future PAG meeting.

Research

- **Research Audit (Phase 1)**

A Smyth informed members that UU and DCU are leading on the completion of Audit on existing Skills Research. The aim is to have this work concluded by February 2024 and recommendations to be presented at the next meeting of the Political Advisory Group.

Cllr R Carlin asked if the Research that is to be undertaken by DBEC will consider the ERSI studies that have recently completed. E Magennis noted that both research studies on cross border workers and cross border student mobility would form part of the Research findings.

Cllr A Gilliland noted that the skills arena had gaps but there was also a lot of overlap in provision. It is important that the research 'joins the dots' and shows how the gaps in each sector can be addressed in the future.



○ **Peace Plus Funding, Theme 2.3 – Cross Border Skills Programme**

SRC are leading on an application for funding to Peace Plus programme, theme 2.3 Skills Development, within which DBEC are a partner. It is anticipated that the application window will open in January 2024 for a 12-week period with a programme of support on the ground in Autumn 2024.

Action: An update on progress on the Audit of Skills Research and Peace Plus 2.3 application will be presented at the next meeting of the Political Advisory Group.

Communication and Engagement

A Communication Partner has now been appointed for DBEC with actions on key messaging, investment proposition and the scope and development of a DBEC 2024 event currently underway.

In addition, A Smyth highlighted that DBEC Resource team had undertaken engagement with a range of external partners with the objective of:

- Raising awareness of the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor vision and ambitions
- To update on delivery against the DBEC Action Plan and inform of key actions underway.
- To explore areas for alignment and collaborative actions relevant to each partner

Engagement with more strategic partners is proposed for 2024 which will provide an opportunity for DBEC Director level involvement in discussions.

Action: Detail on the 2024 event proposal will be presented at the next meeting of the Political Advisory Group (PAG).

Funding Opportunities

Members were briefed on upcoming funding opportunities which the DBEC Partnership will explore as potential funding avenues to support initiatives under the 3 key enabler themes. Funding opportunities currently live / upcoming are:

- Peace Plus 6.1: Strategic Planning and Engagement
- Enterprise Ireland – Smart Regions Enterprise Innovation Scheme
- Shared Island

Cllr McLaughlin advised that DBEC needs to explore all opportunities for funding outside of the Shared Island funding, and engagement with



	<p>strategic and senior partners in both NI and RoI Government Departments should also inform this. Cllr Gilliland suggested that a scoping exercise needs to be undertaken to ascertain funding opportunities on a corridor wide basis.</p> <p>It was further suggested that DBEC should review the Partnership model and if relevant, consider a role for external stakeholders i.e., InterTradeIreland. Cllr Byrne advised a meeting with InterTradeIreland to further explore this.</p> <p>M Ward noted that as DBEC moves through the process of identifying funding, the opportunities for collaborative working and bringing partners into applying for and delivering on funding opportunities will be expanded.</p> <p>C Mallon noted that the DBEC Directors Engagement work is timely and will allow the opportunities for scoping of opportunities to begin as soon as possible.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To monitor and scope out relevant opportunities for funding. A report on opportunities to be presented at the next meeting of the PAG. ○ To consider opportunities for expanding the DBEC Partnership to include other external stakeholders, i.e., Intertrade Ireland
<p>4. Date of Next Meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed: The next quarterly meeting of the Political Advisory Group will be held on Thursday 28 March 2024 at 10:30am in The Palace Demesne, Armagh, BT60 4EL.

The meeting ended at 11:52am

For approval at next meeting of DBEC Political Advisory Group