

March 10th, 2025

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee meeting to be held on Monday, 10th March 2025 at 6:00 pm in Council Chamber, O' Hagan House, Monaghan Row, Newry.

Committee Membership 2024-2025

Councillor A Lewis **Chairperson**

Councillor W Clarke **Deputy Chairperson**

Councillor T Andrews

Councillor K Feehan

Councillor C Galbraith

Councillor M Gibbons

Councillor G Hanna

Councillor O Hanlon

Councillor V Harte

Councillor G Kearns

Councillor D Lee-Surginor

Councillor S Murphy

Councillor A Quinn

Councillor M Ruane

Councillor J Truesdale

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 Action Sheet : Economy, Regeneration & Tourism - Committee Meeting Monday 10 February 2025

📄 *ERT Action Sheet Feb 2025 & Historic Tracker.pdf*

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Economy Growth & Tourism

4.0 Ballykinler Hut Removal Update

For Decision

📄 *ERT Report - Ballykinler Hut Removal Update.pdf*

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5.0 Destination Management System

📄 *ERT Report - Destination Management Service for Tourism Culture and Events.pdf*

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

6.0 Financial Assistance Call 1 Revenue

This item is deemed to be exempt under 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 - Financial Assistance Call 1.pdf*

Not included

📄 *1. FA Appx - Community Summer Scheme (002).pdf*

Not included

📄 *2. FA Appx - Community Events and Festivals.pdf*

Not included

📄 *3. FA Appx - Local Biodiversity Final.pdf*

Not included

📄 *4. FA Appx - Community Growing Final.pdf*

Not included

📄 *5. FA Appx - Tourism Events Call 1 2526.pdf*

Not included

7.0 Food Curator SLA

For Decision

This item is deemed to be exempt under 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 - Food Curator SLA.pdf

Not included

For Noting

8.0 Local Economic Partnership

ERT Report - Local Economic Partnership.pdf

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Appx. Action Sheet LEP Meeting 27 Jan 2025 (final).pdf

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Invitees

- Cllr Terry Andrews
- Cllr Callum Bowsie
- Ms Michelle Boyle
- Fionnuala Branagh
- Cllr Jim Brennan
- Ms Sonya Burns
- Cllr Pete Byrne
- Mr Gerard Byrne
- Cllr Philip Campbell
- Cllr William Clarke
- Cllr Laura Devlin
- Ms Louise Dillon
- Cllr Cadogan Enright
- Cllr Killian Feehan
- Cllr Doire Finn
- Cllr Aoife Finnegan
- Ms Joanne Fleming
- Cllr Conor Galbraith
- Cllr Mark Gibbons
- Cllr Oonagh Hanlon
- Cllr Glyn Hanna
- Cllr Valerie Harte
- Cllr Roisin Howell
- Cllr Tierna Howie
- Ms Catherine Hughes
- Cllr Jonathan Jackson
- Cllr Geraldine Kearns
- Miss Veronica Keegan
- Mrs Josephine Kelly
- Mrs Sheila Kieran
- 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 Leeanne McEvoy
- Jonathan McGilly
- Cllr Andrew McMurray
- Ms Aveen McVeigh

Maureen/Joanne Morgan/Johnston
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Cllr Declan Murphy
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Sinead Murphy
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Cllr Kate Murphy
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Cllr Selina Murphy
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Cllr Siobhan O'Hare
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Mr Andy Patterson
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Cllr Áine Quinn
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Cllr Henry Reilly
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Cllr Michael Rice
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Cllr Michael Ruane
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Cllr Gareth Sharvin
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Mrs Amanda Smyth
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Donna Starkey
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Nicola Stranney
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Sarah Taggart
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Cllr David Taylor
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Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly
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Cllr Jill Truesdale
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Mrs Marie Ward
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Cllr Helena Young
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ACTION SHEETECONOMY, REGENERATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING – MONDAY 12 AUGUST 2024

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/069/2024	Castlewellan Forest Park – Café and mobile vendor provision	it was agreed that the Council undertake a tender process to appoint a suitably experienced operator to deliver catering services at Castlewellan Forest Park as set out in section 2.1 of the officer's report.	A Smyth	In progress – tender being issued	N
END					

ECONOMY, REGENERATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING – MONDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2024

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/080/2024	Down County Museum Café	it was agreed that Council undertake a tender process to appoint a suitably experienced operator to deliver catering services at Down County Museum.	A Smyth	In progress	N
ERT/087/2024	Small Settlement Schemes	<p>the following was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Officials engage with the Scheme Funding Departments to identify options to utilise the unallocated budget within scheme eligibility criteria. • To agree utilisation of unallocated budget reported back to Economy Regeneration and Tourism Committee. 	A Smyth	In progress	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/089/2024	Cross Border Teaching Registration	it was agreed for the Council to await the findings from the All-Island Labour Market Mobility and engage with cross border stakeholders to support the progression of recommended actions to harmonise the registration process for teachers.	A Smyth	In progress	N
END					

ECONOMY, REGENERATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING – MONDAY 9 DECEMBER 2024

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/122/2024	Lecale Way SLA	It was agreed to enter into a Service Level Agreement with the organisation outlined within the officer's report to deliver key recommendations from the Audit and Development Plan of the Lecale Way by March 2025, as funded by DAERA, and as outlined in Section 2.1 of the Officer's Report and Appendix.	A Smyth	In Progress	N
ERT/125/2024	Procurement for Tourism & Culture Events	it was agreed to approve a competitive tender process as outlined in Section 2.1 of the Officer's Report for a period of 3 years, renewed annually for the purpose of appointing suitably qualified and experienced contractors to deliver the 4 following contracts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide sand to the foreshore at Warrenpoint Beach • Deliver a Visitor Experience Activation Programme at Forest / Country Parks and Beaches • Videography and photography for tourism and tourism events • Traffic management company for annual tourism events 	A Smyth	In Progress – tender documents being drafted	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/126/2024	Slieve Gullion Upland Path Erosion Control	it was agreed to approve the Business Case for path repairs on section of Slieve Gullion mountain path, and to approve the procurement and delivery of the project outlined within the Officer's Report, subject to NIEA funding being secured.	A Smyth	In progress	N
ERT/127/2024	Tree Tops Walk Proposal	It was agreed to note the signing of the letter of intent, and to proceed to the procurement and appointment of an economist and technical team to develop an outline business case for the project	A Smyth	OBC Underway	Y
END					

ECONOMY, REGENERATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING – MONDAY 20 JANUARY 2025

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/004/2025	BRCD Regional Hub Report	The following was agreed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To approve the attached business case - To approve the procurement of consultancy support for the development of an outline business case for a regional innovation hub within Newry Civic & Regional Hub - To approve the appointment of consultancy support following the BRCD Digital Advisory Board Approval 	A Smyth	In progress	N
ERT/005/2025	Financial Assistance Call 2	It was agreed to proceed with Financial Assistance Call 2 – capital as detailed in the officer's report	A Smyth	Proceeding as agreed	y

ECONOMY, REGENERATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING – MONDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2025

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/014/2025	Action sheet of meeting held 20.01.2025	It was agreed to note the action sheet	C Mallon	Noted	Y
ERT/015/2025	Downpatrick Public Realm Schemes	The following was agreed: -to accept DfC LoO for Downpatrick Church Street and DeCourcy Place Public Realm Scheme -to reappoint design consultants via framework procurement to take forward RIBA Design Stages 4 – 7 -to approve commencement of the required procurement and appointment of contractor to deliver the capital scheme	A Smyth	In Progress	N
ERT/016/2025	Partnership Agreements for 2025/6	It was agreed to approve the list of SLAs, MoUs and LoO Partnership Agreements for 2025/26 as outlined within the Officer's Report	A Smyth	In Progress	N
ERT/017/2025	Tourism Events Programme	The following was agreed: -to approve the proposed schedule of Giant Events for 2025/26 as outlined within the Officer's Report -to approve financial assistance awards associated with the delivery of community events, community Christmas events and community Halloween events as outlined within the Officer's Report -to approve the necessary procurements and appointment of suppliers for the delivery of the annual tourism events programme	A Smyth	In Progress	N
ERT/018/2025	PeacePlus Theme 1.1	It was agreed to note the minutes of the PeacePlus Partnership Board meeting of 19 Dec 2024, ratified at the Peace Plus Board meeting of 23 January 2025.	A Smyth	Noted	Y

Report to:	Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 10 th March 2025
Subject:	Update on the removal of the Ballykinlar Hut
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth Assistant Director: Economy Growth and Tourism
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Alan Freeburn Museum and Heritage Services Manager

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	<p><u>Purpose</u> To note the update on the expression of interest process relating to the Ballykinlar Hut currently sited at Down County Museum, and consider the recommendations as set out in Section 3.</p> <p><u>Background</u> The Ballykinlar Hut was an EU Peace IV funded project that involved the recreation and interpretation of a 1910s era timber hut from Ballykinlar</p> <p>The site of the original hut was excavated after its removal and many finds were collected for future display. The recreation of the hut at the museum provided a safe, weatherproof and accessible building to display material from the different eras and inhabitants of the hut from 1910 to the present.</p> <p>Council have progressed the hut removal by a suitable interested party through an Expression of Interest process, with the hut to be removed before the end of the 24/25 financial year.</p> <p>The removal of the hut will enable the return of a defined accessible path across the courtyard.</p> <p>The Hut will have a legacy not only through its removal to another site within the NMDDC area but artefacts which are a part of the museum collection will be used in future related displays, articles and other outputs.</p>		
2.0	Key issues		
2.1	<p><u>Criteria</u> The criteria previously agreed by Council, and which submissions were measured against is:</p>		

	<p>Scope of the Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preference will be given to the removal of the structure and all contents of the hut. • Consideration will not be given to submissions that are only for the removal of the contents <p>Applicant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a not-for-profit organisation • Have good governance structures • Be a sustainable organisation with good financial planning and management. • Have the full support of its board and/or membership for acquiring and maintaining the Ballykinlar Hut • Have an appropriate site for the Ballykinlar Hut, within the NMDDC area, which is either fully owned by the organisation or the organisation hold a lease of the lands with an unexpired term of a least 20 years. • Have a track record of successfully managing infrastructure projects.
2.2	<p><u>Assessment</u></p> <p>At the deadline for submission, two Expressions of Interest in the Ballykinlar Hut were received.</p> <p>The assessment took place by Council officials supported by an independent Museum Consultant.</p> <p>Assessment outcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant 1: Expressed an interest in the digital assets associated with the hut only and not the structure or physical contents; • Applicant 2: Expressed an interest in the Ballykinlar Hut and the contents and applicant met all the criteria. <p>As both applicants have expressed an interest in different elements of the Ballykinlar Hut project including digital information that can be duplicated, there is the opportunity to meet the request from both applicants.</p> <p>Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant 2 has met all the criteria and has expressed an interest in the hut and all the physical contents, on acceptance of the application, officers will engage with the applicant to agree a workplan for the removal of the asset • Applicant 1 has not expressed an interest in any physical assets, only all digital information held by the Council. On acceptance of their request for digital information, officials will engage with the applicant to generate copies of all digital information held by the Council.

2.3	<p>Re-instatement Once the hut has been removed there may be repairs required to the courtyard at Down County Museum. Any costs associated with reinstatement will be assessed by officers and brought back to Council</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To note the update on the expression of interest process relating to the Ballykinlar Hut currently sited at Down County Museum;
3.2	To accept the Expression of Interest from Applicant 2 for the Ballykinlar hut and all physical contents, subject to an agreed work plan.
3.3	To approve the request from Applicant 1 for a copy of the digital information associated with the Ballykinlar Hut project held by the Council.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Removal of the hut and the contents at no cost to Council
4.2	Any costs associated with reinstatement will be assessed by officers and brought back to Council
4.3	All costs associate with the development of digital asset copies to be met by the applicant.
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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> equality of opportunity or good relations</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>Proposal initiating consultation</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:	Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 10 th March 2025
Subject:	Destination Management System for Tourism Culture and Events
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth Assistant Director - Economy Growth & Tourism
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Michelle Boyle Head of Product Development and Visitor Experience

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	<p><u>Purpose</u> To seek approval to continue as a partner with Tourism NI for the provision of Destination Management system for provision of the Councils Tourism Website and extend the Deed of Agreement with Tourism NI which sets out the Terms and Conditions.</p> <p><u>Background</u> In 2020 Tourism NI provided a new Destination Management System for Northern Ireland, which transformed how visitors are serviced. TNI engaged Councils as partners in the new Destination Management System framework and NMDDC was one of the Councils within this new framework, which provided Councils tourism website from 2021 - 2025.</p>			
2.0	Key issues			
2.1	<p>Tourism NI have completed a new procurement process and awarded the contract for the Destination Management System which will continue to engage Councils.</p> <p>In addition to the Council Tourism website the service now also includes the Councils Arts and Museum Services, and the Tourism website services all tourism events visitor servicing and all Councils tourism campaigns.</p> <p>The Website is the primary element of Council visitor servicing and marketing and is an important service for tourism businesses across. The website has year on</p>			

	<p>year grew in terms of users and the primary information source for visitors to the District as outlined below:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>IEWS</th> <th>ACTIVE USERS</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2022</td> <td>395,658</td> <td>161,598</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2023</td> <td>885,374</td> <td>342,629</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2024</td> <td>1,198,634</td> <td>459,980</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		IEWS	ACTIVE USERS	2022	395,658	161,598	2023	885,374	342,629	2024	1,198,634	459,980
	IEWS	ACTIVE USERS											
2022	395,658	161,598											
2023	885,374	342,629											
2024	1,198,634	459,980											
3.0	Recommendations												
3.1	To seek approval to continue as a partner with Tourism NI for the provision of Destination Management system for provision of the Councils Tourism Website which now includes Arts Services and Museum Service and extend the Deed of Agreement which sets out the Terms and Conditions as required.												
4.0	Resource implications												
4.1	The annual cost for all services associated with Website and Data Management provision for Tourism, Arts and Museum is £29,237.17 annually. The service will be for 3 years with two one year extensions (up to 5 year in total).												
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>												

	The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.3	<i>Proposal initiating consultation</i>	N/A
	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"/>
	Consultation period will be 12 weeks	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<i>Rationale:</i>	
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)	
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If yes, please complete the following: Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.0	Appendices	
	N/A	
8.0	Background Documents	
	N/A	

Report to:	Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 10 th March 2025
Subject:	Local Economic Partnership
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth Assistant Director: Economy Growth and Tourism
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth Assistant Director: Economy Growth and Tourism

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-

For decision	For noting only	X
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u> To note the update on the establishment of the NMD Local Economic Partnership and the action report from their inaugural meeting on 27th January 2025.</p> <p><u>Background</u> The Department for Economy, Sub-Regional Economic Plan was launched 1st October 2024. The Plan recommended the formation of Local Economic Partnerships across NI, with a remit of delivering regional balance, by bringing together relevant stakeholders to create improved economic prosperity at a local level.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>The first meeting if the NMD Local Economic Partnership took place on 27th January 2025.</p> <p>The LEP is focused on delivery against DfE Sub-regional Economic Plan priority areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased productivity • good jobs, • Achieving regional balance • Decarbonization <p>The budget announced by DfE Minister on 27th January 2025 for LEPs across NI, was £45 Million, with approx. £4.5 Million allocated to Newry, Mourne and Down over a 3 year period.</p> <p>A Letter of Offer and project guidance for the operation of LEPs is be received from DfE which will offer further guidance on eligible investment areas.</p>

	The action report from the meeting of the NMD Local Economic Partnership on 27 th January 2025 is attached.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To note the update on the establishment of the NMD Local Economic Partnership and the action report from their inaugural meeting on 27 th January 2025.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Nil
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></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
	Report of meeting of NMD Local Economic Partnership held on 27 th January 2025
8.0	Background Documents
	n/a

Action Sheet from NMD Local Economic Partnership Meeting

Date: Monday 27th January 2025
Time: 9.30am – 11am
Location: Think Lab, WIN Business Park, Newry, BT35 6PH

Attendance: Conor Patterson, NMEA
Emma Bohill, Downpatrick Business Centre
Heather McKee, SERC
Joanne McGuigan, SRC
Eamonn Connolly, Newry BID
Siobhan Rice, Newcastle Chamber
Michael Savage, Newry Chamber
Alan Knox, Kilkeel Chamber
John Nealon, South Armagh Business Improvement Group
Raymond Jackson, CCG
Nicholas McCrickard, CDRCN
Damian Mulholland, DfC
Alan McKeown Invest NI
John McKibben, Invest NI
Michelle Craig, DfE
Keith Brown, DfE
Conor Mallon, NMDDC (Chair of LEP)
Jonathan McGilly, NMDDC
Amanda Smyth, NMDDC
Alan Beggs, NMDDC
Aveen McVeigh NMDDC

Apologies: Mal McGrady, Downpatrick Regeneration Working Group
Colleen Tinnelly, WBR Chamber
Eoin Magennis, UUEPC

1. Introductions & Apologies

Apologies were noted as above.

2. Overview of Local Economic Partnerships

Presentation delivered by A. Smyth, attached as Appendix 1 of this report.

3. Discussion: Potential areas of investment

Presentation delivered by C Patterson regarding a pilot project assessing dereliction and vacancy across Newry City, with 102 properties identified to date. Presentation attached as Appendix 2 of this report.

- Members to consider if the pilot project led by NMEA could be delivered in other towns and urban areas across the District where dereliction is a presenting issue.
- Also to offer consideration to the % of dereliction against the % of overall properties.
- Clusters of dereliction - how can these spaces be better used.
- What would be the longer-term vision for places if addressing dereliction.

Actions arising from discussion, are noted below:

- A proposal for extending the pilot study to be considered at the next meeting
- Council's priorities for Economic Growth to be presented at the next meeting.
- An overview of the steps taken to get planning permission for LOTS at McGrath House in Newry will be shared at the next meeting.
- If members have priority projects for consideration, please forward to the Council.
- A matrix of projects will be created and assessed against DfE priorities.

4. Invest NI / DfE items

Invest NI and DfE clarified their role on the Partnership - advise on alignment with key priorities. Considerations for the LEP are:

- Enablers to investment, how can LEP stimulate investment from others
- Delivery against good jobs and productivity
- Net Zero considerations / overlap on interventions
- Place making – attracting investment, attracting talent etc

5. Terms of Reference (circulated in advance)

Terms of reference was circulated in advance and is attached as Appendix 3.

Partnership can be widened if there are gaps in representation.

Frequency of meetings – initially monthly, however following the development phase, meetings will be scheduled quarterly.

Actions arising from discussion, are noted below:

- Any comments from LEP members to be provided by email.
- Schedule of monthly meetings to be circulated, rotating location across the District.
- On receipt of a letter of offer from DfE Council will put in place a staff resource.

6. Conflict of Interest (circulated in advance)

Conflict of Interest form was circulated in advance and is attached as Appendix 4.

Actions arising from discussion, are noted below:

- Members to return their signed conflict of interest to Council. Members to ascertain their own conflicts (if necessary).

7. Meeting Close

Date of next meeting: 3rd March 2025 1.30-3.30pm, SERC Downpatrick Campus, 40-58 Market Street.