

NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting
held on Monday 10 June 2024 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, Monaghan Row.**

Chairperson: Councillor C Bowsie

Committee Members

in attendance:

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor K Feehan
Councillor M Gibbons	Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor G Hanna	Councillor G Kearns
Councillor D Lee-Surginor	Councillor S Murphy
Councillor M Ruane	Councillor J Truesdale

Officials in attendance:

Mr C Mallon, Director of Economy, Regeneration & Tourism
Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Regeneration
Ms A McVeigh, Head of Regeneration and Business
Development
Ms M Boyle, Head of Tourism, Development and Visitor
Experience
Ms S Burns, Head of Programmes, Economy, Growth and Tourism
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
Mrs N Stranney, Democratic Services Officer

ERT/055/2024: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Clarke, Galbraith, Harte and Quinn.

ERT/056/2024: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Andrews declared an interest in item **ERT/062/2024**

**ERT/057/2024: ACTION SHEET ECONOMY, REGENERATION & TOURISM
COMMITTEE MEETING MONDAY 13 MAY 2024**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 13 May 2024. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 13 May 2024.

ERT/058/2024: ERT – MEETINGS SCHEDULE JUNE 2024 – MAY 2025

Read: Paper recommending proposed dates and times for Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meetings from June 2024 to May 2025. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Hanna, the dates and times for Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meetings from June 2024 to May 2025 were agreed.

FOR DECISION

ERT/059/2024: ECONOMY, REGENERATION AND TOURISM - BUSINESS & SERVICE PLANS

Read: Report dated 10 June 2024 from Mr C Mallon, Director of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism regarding Directorate Business Plans. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Truesdale raised the withdrawal of partners from the PeacePlus Peatlands project and queried whether Council would apply for the DAERA Peatland Challenge Fund. Mr. Mallon advised that applications were continuously under review and members would be updated on progress with funding applications.

Councillor Truesdale inquired about the pricing structure for groups utilising Castlewellan Lake. Mr. Mallon explained that the pricing structure, approved at the beginning of the year, applied to all council tourism assets and was not specific to any single park. He added that officers process event applications for forest parks and tourism assets as they were received.

Councillor Truesdale stated the small settlement scheme, having not been involved before, was a great initiative and noted her appreciation for the dedication of staff along with the commitment shown by DFC and the elected representatives. She described the meeting as highly proactive and successful, with clear, measurable outcomes.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Ruane, the following was agreed:

- **To note the Assessment of the ERT Directorate Business Plan 2023-24.**
- **To agree the ERT Directorate Business Plan 2024-25.**

FOR INFORMATION

ERT/060/2024: CHURCH STREET and DeCOURCY PLACE PUBLIC REALM

Read: Report dated 10 June 2024 from Ms A McVeigh, Head of Regeneration and Business Development regarding Church Street and DeCourcy Place Public Realm. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Andrews endorsed the scheme noting that it was long overdue.

Councillor Hanlon welcomed the progression to the planning application stage and the business case and acknowledged the Downpatrick Regeneration Working Group for their diligent efforts in secure funding for Downpatrick.

Councillor Hanna asked about progress in determining the costs involved. Ms. McVeigh confirmed that meetings between officers, consultants, and members of the steering group were scheduled to take place to advance to the planning stage and initiate the business cases.

- AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor, the following was agreed:
- Council to progress the scheme and submit a planning application.
 - Council Officers progress a Business Case (internal) and (external) to Department for Communities for funding.
 - Council engage County Down Rural Community Network to assist with a public perception survey for Church Street and DeCourcy Place through the existing Service Level Agreement (SLA).

ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2014

- AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Kearns, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the following matters which related to exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

- AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor S Murphy, it was agreed to come out of Closed Session.

The Chairperson advised the following had been agreed while in closed session.

FOR DECISION

ERT/061/2024: MULTIPLY PROGRAMME

Read: Report dated 10 June 2024 from Mr C Mallon, Director of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism regarding the Multiply Programme. **(Copy circulated)**

- AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Ruane, the following was agreed:
- To approve the Multiply initiatives outlined for the 2024/25 financial period.
 - To approve that Council, through procurement and Service Level Agreement (SLA) processes, appoint external delivery agents to implement the range of initiatives as outlined in the report.

FOR INFORMATION

ERT/062/2024: APSE Performance Report 2022/23 for Building Control

Read: Report dated 10 June 2024 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director, Regeneration regarding APSE Performance Report 2022/23 for Building Control (**Copy circulated**)

Councillor Andrews expressed his appreciation for the efforts involved and congratulated the team on receiving this accolade from APSE.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor, it was agreed to note the content of the APSE report and recognise the hard work, commitment, and dedication of staff within the Building Control section on behalf of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.

ERT/063/2024: **Go Succeed NI**

Read: Report dated 10 June 2024 from Ms A McVeigh, Head of Regeneration and Business Development regarding an update on Northern Ireland Enterprise Support Service (NIESS) – Go Succeed NI.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor, it was agreed to note the update on the implementation of the NI Enterprise Support Service (NIESS) branded Go Succeed NI.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 6.20pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 1 July 2024.

Signed: Councillor C Bowsie
Chairperson
Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee

Signed: Mr C Mallon
Director Economy, Regeneration & Tourism
