

NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting
held on Monday 12 August 2024 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, Monaghan Row**

Chairperson: Councillor C Bowsie

**Committee Members
in attendance:**

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor W Clarke
Councillor K Feehan	Councillor C Galbraith
Councillor O Hanlon	Councillor G Hanna
Councillor V Harte	Councillor D Lee-Surginor
Councillor M Ruane	

Officials in attendance: Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Regeneration
Ms M Boyle, Head of Tourism, Development and Visitor Experience
Ms S Burns, Head of Programmes
Ms F Branagh, Democratic Services Officer
Mrs N Stranney, Democratic Services Officer

ERT/064/2024: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Kearns, Murphy, Quinn and Truesdale and Mr C Mallon, Director of Economy, Regeneration & Tourism.

ERT/065/2024: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Ruane declared an interest in item ERT/0071/2024.

ERT/066/2024: ACTION SHEET ECONOMY, REGENERATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING MONDAY 10 JUNE 2024

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 10 June 2024. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Hanlon asked for an update on ERT/027/2024 – Artist in Residence and Arts Bursary Scheme 2024-25, in particular the review of the hours of opening for Down Arts Centre. Ms Boyle confirmed there had been a new Head of Service appointed recently who would be reviewing the issue and an update report would be tabled at a future Committee Meeting.

In response to a query from Councillor Andrews regarding ERT/032/2024- Down GAA Support for PeacePlus Application, Ms Burns advised that officers were continuing to work on the issue alongside officers from the Active and Healthy Communities Department.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 10 June 2024.**

FOR DECISION

ERT/067/2024: GAMING AND AMUSEMENT POLICY

Read: Report dated 12 August 2024 from Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director of Regeneration regarding Gaming and Amusement Policy. **(Copy circulated)**

Mr McGilly presented the report advising the Policy had been reviewed and there had been no change to the Policy, therefore it was tabled for approval by Committee.

Councillor Lee-Surginor proposed the officer's recommendation, welcoming the Section 7 on safeguarding vulnerable adults, however raised concerns around amusement arcade machines being used by children as observed by members of the public and queried whether there was a policy prohibiting children from using said machines. Mr. McGilly advised that this would be covered under law, however this was a policy for the operation of the licence.

Councillor Hanlon seconded the officer's recommendation, welcoming the exclusions as there had recently been concerns regarding Planning applications and was happy to see plans for a more balanced approach.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, it was agreed to consider and approve the Gaming and Amusement Policy.

ERT/068/2024: TRADE/CONSUMER SHOWS 2024/25

Read: Report dated 12 August 2024 from Amanda Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism regarding Trade/Consumer Shows 2024/25. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Andrews welcomed the report and remarked on the success and high footfall at the Newry, Mourne and Down stands in previous years with attendance at the trade shows. He encouraged all Councillors to get involved in showcasing the District.

Councillor Hanlon enquired as to the level of involvement Councillor Andrews expected from Councillors, reminding Members that any attendance requests would need to be tabled at party leader meetings due to the associated financial costs.

Councillor Andrews advised he believed it would be beneficial for ERT Committee members to promote the District and support Council officers at these events.

Councillor Hanna queried whether attendance would be required at all the events and whether the budget allocated was sufficient to do so.

Ms Boyle stated that they applied to Tourism NI and Tourism Ireland for event participation, aiming to secure a place at relevant events, advising that consistent attendance would be crucial for building relationships with tour operators. She stated the budget was allocated with the understanding that some events were within Ireland and may only need an overnight stay, whilst some required flights and accommodation.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Hanna, it was agreed to attend the tourism trade/consumer shows in conjunction with Tourism NI and Tourism Ireland to support the tourism industry and promote the destination.

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

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, 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 Hanna, it was agreed to come out of Closed Session.

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

FOR DECISION

ERT/069/2024: CASTLEWELLAN FOREST PARK – CAFÉ AND MOBILE VENDOR PROVISION

Read: Report dated 12 August 2024 from Amanda Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism regarding café and mobile vendor provision for Castlewellan Forest Park. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Clarke, 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.

ERT/070/2024: FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CALL 2

Read: Report dated 12 August 2024 from Conor Mallon, Director of Economy, Regeneration & Tourism regarding Financial Assistance. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to:

- Note the Appeals panel outcome
- Allocate letters of offer to projects as per Council Policy to the groups recommended for the award of funding within the budget allocation for each theme.

ERT/071/2024: HALLOWEEN EVENTS

Read: Report dated 12 August 2024 from Michelle Boyle, Head of Tourism, Product Development & Visitor Experience regarding Halloween Events. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Hanna, it was agreed to accept the contents of the report and issue SLAs to group's named in Section 2.1 of the officer's report.

ERT/072/2024: NEWRY CHAMBER MUSIC SLA – ARTS & COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMME

Read: Report dated 12 August 2024 from Amanda Smyth, Assistant Director, Economy, Growth & Tourism regarding Newry Chamber Music SLA – Arts & Community Outreach Programme. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Feehan, seconded by Councillor Harte, it was agreed to provide support via a Service Level Agreement between Council and Newry Chamber Music for the delivery of an Arts & Community Outreach Programme in the 2024/25 season.

ERT/073/2024: RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SCHEME 2024/25

Read: Report dated 12 August 2024 from Conor Mallon, Director of Economy, Regeneration & Tourism regarding Rural Business Development Scheme 2024/25. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor, it was agreed to approve the delivery of a new Rural Business Development Scheme for 2024/25.

FOR INFORMATION

ERT/074/2024: IRISH OPEN – LEGACY PROJECT, APPLICATION TO DFC

Read: Report dated 12 August 2024 from Amanda Smyth, Assistant Director, Economy, Growth & Tourism regarding Irish Open – Legacy Project, Application to Department for Communities. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to note an application had been submitted to DfC for an Irish Open Legacy Project as per summary in section 2.1 of the officer's report.

ERT/075/2024: TOURISM, ARTS AND EVENTS PROCUREMENT

Read: Report dated 12 August 2024 from Amanda Smyth, Assistant Director, Economy, Growth & Tourism regarding Tourism, Arts and Events Procurement. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to note the contents of this report.

ERT/076/2024: ERT SCHEME OF DELEGATION APRIL 2023 – MARCH 2024

Read: Report dated 12 August 2024 from Conor Mallon, Director, Economy, Regeneration & Tourism regarding ERT Scheme of Delegation April 2023-March 2024. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor Hanna, it was agreed to note the scheme of delegation.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 6.47pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 2nd September 2024.

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

**Signed: Mr J McGilly
Assistant Director of Regeneration**
