

NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 11 November 2024 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, Monaghan Row

Chairperson: Councillor A Lewis

**Committee Members
in attendance:**

Councillor W Clarke	Councillor G Hanna
Councillor V Harte	Councillor G Kearns
Councillor D Lee-Surginor	Councillor M Ruane

Committee Members

in attendance via Teams:

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor C Galbraith
Councillor M Gibbons	Councillor J Truesdale

Officials in attendance:

Mr C Mallon, Director of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism
Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Regeneration
Ms A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth and Tourism
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
Mrs S Kieran, Democratic Services Officer

ERT/117/2024:

APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Feehan, Hanlon and S Murphy.

ERT/118/2024:

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

ERT/119/2024:

**ACTION SHEET ECONOMY, REGENERATION & TOURISM
COMMITTEE MEETING MONDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2024**

Read:

Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Economy,
Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 11
November 2024. **(Copy circulated)**

In response to a query from Councillor Hanna, Mr Mallon confirmed that expressions of interest for the removal of Ballykinler hut would be completed in January 2025.

AGREED:

**On the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor,
seconded by Councillor Harte, it was agreed to note
the Action Sheet arising from the Economy,
Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held
on Monday 11 November 2024.**

ERT/120/2024:

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CALL 1

Read: Report dated 9 December 2024 from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism regarding Financial Assistance Call 1 2025 - 2026. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Andrews queried whether any workshops would be held for applicants to access.

Mrs Smyth advised enhanced capacity building was agreed as part of the review therefore workshops would take place as part of the roll-out of the call and she would ensure the information would be circulated to Members once dates were agreed.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor, Lee-Surginor it was agreed to proceed with opening the first call for Financial Assistance for the period 2025 – 2026, commencing with the revenue themes, opening in January 2025, as detailed in section 2.1 of the Officer’s Report.

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

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor Ruane, 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 Ruane, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to come out of Closed Session.

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

FOR DECISION

ERT/121/2024: ACCESSIBLE BEACHES SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT

Read: Report dated 9 December 2024 from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding an Accessible Beaches Service Level Agreement. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Clarke, the following was agreed:

- To enter into an SLA with the organisation outlined within the Officer’s Report to provide Accessible Beach equipment for Tyrella and Cranfield Beaches project by 31st March 2025.

- **To extend and update the Partnership agreement with the organisation outlined within the Officer’s Report to operate Beach Loan Equipment service at Tyrella Beach in addition to Cranfield Beach**

ERT/122/2024:

LECALE WAY SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT

Read:

Report dated 9 December 2024 from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Lecale Way Service Level Agreement. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor Clarke, 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.

ERT/123/2024:

ST PATRICKS DAY 2025 SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT

Read:

Report dated 9 December 2024 from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth and Tourism, regarding St Patrick’s Day 2025 Service Level Agreement. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor, it was agreed to issue SLAs to the organisations outlined within the officer’s report to deliver schools engagement and enhancing float and parade content for Downpatrick and Newry St Patricks Day 2025 events.

ERT/124/2024:

PEACEPLUS THEME 1.1

Read:

Report dated 9 December 2024 from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth and Tourism, regarding PEACEPLUS Theme 1.1. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Kearns, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor, the following was agreed:

- **When received from SEUPT, accept the letter of offer and commence procurement of the projects under strands 2 and 3 of the Action Plan as outlined in section 2.2 of the Officer’s Report**
- **On receipt of the Letter of Offer from SEUPB, enter into a Partnership Agreement with the organisation outlined within the officer’s report, for delivery as per section 2.2 of the report**

- To update PEACEPLUS Partnership Membership in line with the Partnership Development process as agreed by SEUPB and to align organisational changes and other recruitment processes.

ERT/125/2024:

PROCUREMENT FOR TOURISM & CULTURE EVENTS

Read:

Report dated 9 December 2024 from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth and Tourism, regarding Procurement for Tourism & Culture Events. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Clarke, 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:

- **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**

ERT/126/2024:

SLIEVE GULLION UPLAND PATH EROSION CONTROL

Read:

Report dated 9 December 2024 from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth and Tourism, regarding Slieve Gullion Upland Path Erosion Control. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor Ruane, 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.

ERT/127/2024:

TREE TOPS WALK PROPOSAL

Read:

Report dated 9 December 2024 from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth and Tourism, regarding a Tree Tops Walk Proposal. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Hanna, 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.

FOR NOTING

ERT/128/2024: DATA SHARING AGREEMENT BETWEEN NMDDC AND LPS

Read: Report dated 9 December 2024 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Regeneration, regarding a Data Sharing Agreement between NMDDC and LPS. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Kearns, it was agreed to note Data Sharing Agreement between NMDDC and LPS.

ERT/129/2024: DOCUMENT STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL SERVICES - PLANNING

Read: Report dated 9 December 2024 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Regeneration, regarding Document Storage and Retrieval Services - Planning. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Kearns, it was agreed to note the extension of the current contract, under the EPSO framework for a further 12 months, with the possibility of a further 12 months.

ERT/130/2024: NISS GO SUCCEED UPDATE

Read: Report dated 9 December 2024 from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth and Tourism, regarding NISS Go Succeed Update. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Kearns, it was agreed to note the update on the implementation of Go Succeed NI.

ERT/131/2024: RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANT SCHEME

Read: Report dated 9 December 2024 from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth and Tourism, regarding Rural Business Development Grant Scheme. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Kearns, it was agreed to note the update regarding the 2024 Rural Business Development Grant Scheme.

ERT/132/2024:

TASTE OF TOURISM

Read:

Report dated 9 December 2024 from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth and Tourism, regarding Taste of Tourism. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Kearns, it was agreed to note that Council will be a co-sponsor at the Northern Ireland Hotel Federation, Taste of Tourism Summit & Artisan Market in March 2025.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 6.45pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 13 January 2025.

Signed:

**Councillor A Lewis
Chairperson
Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee**

Signed:

**Conor Mallon
Director of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism**
