

**NORTHERN MIDLANDS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD MONDAY MARCH 7<sup>th</sup> 2016 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS LONGFORD  
STARTING AT 1PM**

**MINUTES**

1. **Present:** Des Jennings, Cr Mary Knowles, Kevin Turner, Russell Fyfe, Duncan Payton, Michael Geeves, Cr Ian Goninon

**In attendance:** Cr Dick Adams, Lorraine Green

**Apologies:** Robert Keam

2. **Welcome and overview of the role of the economic development committee by General Manager**

3. **Appointment of Committee Chair:**

It was resolved to appoint K Turner to the Chair position.

4. **Vacant sector representative positions.**

D Payton to approach Petuna and Burlington Berries re the agricultural rep.

R Fyfe to approach Budget re the tourism rep.

5. **Review of the priority initiatives of the 2014-2015 committee**

The framework below was worked through and reviewed.

<b>PRIORITY INITIATIVES</b>	<b>STATUS as of March 7 2016</b>	<b>THE WAY FORWARD</b>
<b>1.The Translink Precinct</b>	L Green reported the State Growth officer managing the project has met with council staff to discuss the prospectus.  It was noted this committee would have input into the development of the prospectus.	It was noted State Growth reports the prospectus is due for completion by the end of April 2016.  It was agreed other opportunities to promote the precinct need to be pursued, including search engine optimisation.  I Goninon reported NMBA is developing a database of city-based businesses to target for possible relocation to the precinct.  D Jennings to discuss with GM LCC the Greater Launceston Plan recommendation re releasing commercially zoned areas for residential development.
<b>1.1.Translink stormwater infrastructure upgrade</b>		Noted that this project is being submitted by Council for the third round of the National Stronger Regions Funding Program. Outcome will be known July 2016.  Noted that a business case for bringing gas to Translink will be going to Council in forthcoming months.
<b>2.Powranna/ Burlington Road</b>		
<b>2.1.Council develop site development plans for the two precincts, seek to</b>	Noted that Council adopted the Northern Midlands Rural Processing Centre Report, prepared by SGS Economic and Planning at the February 2015 Meeting.	It was agreed to hold a workshop for the businesses in the rural processing centre (as per the recommendation of the SGS report) that will raise/discuss issues

<p><b>secure funding for the sealing of Burlington Road &amp; attract new businesses to the precincts</b></p>	<p>Noted that Council wrote to Minister for Primary Industries and Water, and local landowners, in mid-2015, seeking consideration of including parcels of their land in the Rural Processing Centre precinct – nil favourable response.</p>	<p>including energy liability and itinerant workers' accommodation (the issue of demountable units was noted).</p>
<p><b>3.Support existing NM businesses/ economic drivers</b></p>		
<p><b>3.1. Development Officer</b></p>	<p>R Harrison spoke of the crucial role the Meander Valley Development Officer is playing in attracting developers to the MVC area.</p>	<p>Noted that the recommendation made to Council at the October 2015 meeting has been noted and will be investigated:  <i>'That Council undertake a cost-benefit analysis of the Meander Valley Council Development Officer position and investigate the option of resource sharing the officer position (or having a Northern Midlands Council officer serve an apprenticeship with the Development Officer).'</i></p> <p>General discussion as to whether the position can be replicated in the Northern Midlands and/or should be considered as a resource sharing option.</p>
<p><b>4.Heritage Tourism</b></p>		
<p><b>4.1.Longford Visitor Appeal Study/Longford Activation Plan</b></p>	<p>.</p>	<p>Noted that a Project Champion has been employed to drive the implementation of the recommendations of the Longford Activation Plan.</p>
<p><b>4.2.Proposed Open Door program for privately owned heritage properties.</b></p>	<p>Noted that Council made a submission re the proposed Open Door Program for private heritage listed properties on behalf of the ED Committee to the Legislative Council Inquiry into Built Heritage Tourism</p>	<p>Noted the Legislative Inquiry into Built Heritage Tourism report has been released.</p> <p>Floated that Council collaborate with Tourism Northern Tasmania to develop a business case for the proposed Open Doors Program</p>
<p><b>4.3.Celebrating Longford's motor racing history</b></p>		<p>Noted the Longford Visitor Appeal Study report recommends <i>'given Longford's fame as a motor racing destination, one option for the future use of the Memorial Hall could be as a museum where that rich motor racing history could be on display'</i>.</p> <p>Floated Council and/or NMEDC to meet with Board member(s) of Tas Sport to discuss future plans/vision for Symmons Plains</p>
<p><b>4.4. Leveraging off the Woolmers- Brickendon World Heritage Listing</b></p>	<p>Noted that one of the recommendations in the Longford Visitor Appeal Study is:  <i>'that business, community and the Estates work collaboratively to explore their shared narrative and how it can be connected in an engaging and innovative way.'</i></p>	<p>Noted this issue is being addressed via a number of avenues including the Longford Placemaking Strategy, the TNT Infrastructure Audit and the NMC Economic Development Strategy.</p>

<b>5.Northern Midlands Economic Development and Tourism Strategy</b>		
<b>5.1. Strategy Development</b>	<p>Noted that at the February 16<sup>th</sup> 2015 Council Meeting, Council passed motion: "That Council obtain costings to conduct an Economic Development and Tourism Strategy in 2015/16 budget deliberations"</p>	<p>D Jennings advised preference is to develop the strategy internally. Process and resource issues need to be addressed.</p>
<b>5.2. Business databases</b>		<p>Recommendation made to Council at the October 2105 meeting: <i>'That NMEDC funds be allocated to the development of business databases by towns/precincts including street address, mailing address, email and business descriptor'</i> .</p> <p>Noted that the databases are being progressively developed.</p>
<b>5.3. Land use strategies</b>		<p>Noted that the first draft of a brief for the Council's Land Use and Development Strategy will go to Council within the next two months.</p>
<b>6.Other</b>		
<b>6.1.Waste Management</b>	<p>Duncan Payton reported at the November 24<sup>th</sup> 2014 meeting that three developers have shown interest in establishing tyre recycling facilities – no firm proposals yet from any of the developers. Discussion at the February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2015 meeting as to whether any tyre recycling facility can be commercially viable i.e. is a private solution viable?</p> <p>Recommendation to Council in February 2105 - : that the Committee advises Council this the tyre recycling facility is a waste and environmental issue and on that basis Council should approach the state government. D Jennings reported at the March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2015 meeting that he has discussed the issue with the State Growth Coordinator General, Senator Abetz and Eric Hutchinson, and is continuing to progress the matter</p> <p>Jim Hole, Manager Eldan Recycling (worldwide suppliers of recycling equipment) presented to the May 5<sup>th</sup> 2015 meeting on the company's tyre recycling equipment.</p>	<p>D Jennings emphasised that the tyres are stored on private property and any visitors must have the property owner's permission to enter his property.</p> <p>Noted that the Committee supports the application for a tyre recycling facility in the Northern Midlands.</p> <p>Noted that recommendation made to Council at the October 2015 meeting has been noted and will be investigated : <i>'That Council continue to seek solutions for the recycling of the 75% of the tyre stockpile that the proposed tyre recycling facility will not address.'</i></p> <p>This was noted as an ongoing issue and that the committee will take a 'watching brief.'</p>
<b>6.2.Council Priority Projects</b>	<p><b>1. Ben Lomond Feasibility Study</b> Noted TRC Tourism has been contracted to undertake this study: report due October 2015.</p> <p><b>2. Powranna Truck Wash Facility</b></p>	<p>Noted that study report has been accepted in-principle by Council and work is progressing towards implementing study recommendations.</p> <p>It was noted this project is being submitted for round 3 of the National Stronger Region Fund Grants Program.</p>

<p><b>6.3.Economic Development budget</b></p>	<p>Noted Council has allocated \$25,000 in the 2015/16 budget for projects/initiatives recommended by the committee and endorsed by Council</p>	
<p><b>6.4.Equestrian opportunities</b></p>	<p>M Salhani met with Sandra Butorac, new President Equestrian Tasmania, to explore opportunities for more state events in the Northern Midlands. M Salhani and L Green met with Michael Morris, Longford Equine Centre. Also met at showgrounds with Sandra Butorac, Susan Elliot (Northern Tas Quarter Horse Association) and Sallee Cauchi (Longford Show Society).</p> <p>Chair reported 35-40 people, representing 35-40 clubs, attended the July 29<sup>th</sup> meeting re the establishment of the Longford Equestrian Association. A number of people expressed interest in assisting with the establishment of the Association.</p>	<p>Noted that the work undertaken by the former Chair, Michael Salhani, has succeeded in the establishment of the Longford Equestrian Association.</p> <p>Noted that at the March 16<sup>th</sup> 2015 Council meeting, Council approved an allocation of up to \$2,000 for review of the proposed horse trails. Noted that this concept will be included in the proposed Longford Urban Design Plan.</p> <p>Noted as a completed project.</p>
<p><b>6.5. Beacon Foundation Northern Midlands Business Partnership Group</b></p>	<p>L Green reported at the August 2015 meeting on this proposed new support for the Inspiring Futures (formerly 'No Dole') programs at Campbell Town and Cressy District High Schools, and invited members to the group Establishment Event being held August 27<sup>th</sup> Noon-2pm at Council</p>	<p>L Green reported the inaugural meeting of the Business Partnership Group was held October 15 2015 and was well attended and elicited many offers by local businesses to serve on the NM Business Partnership Group. The next meeting was to be held in February 2016 but due to staff changes in key positions in the two District Schools, this meeting has been postponed until second term.</p>
<p><b>6.6. Committee's Industry Sector Reps</b></p>	<p>The four industry sector reps were appointed in November 2013 for a two year term. The Committee's terms of reference state:</p> <p><b>1. Committee Members</b></p> <p><b>1.1. Recruitment</b></p> <p>Council will advertise for expressions of interest (including a request for the submission of a summary of the candidate's skills and relevant networks eg. memberships of other organisations/boards) for the Industry Sector Representative position (Primary Industry, Commercial sector, Industrial sector, Tourism sector). Industry Sector Representatives are appointed for a two year period and can submit a new expression of interest at the end of each two year period.</p>	<p>Noted that Mr R Fyfe renominated for the Industry Sector position and Mr R Keam nominated for the Commercial Sector position.</p> <p>As recorded under item 4 at the commencement of the meeting, Mr D Payton and Mr R Fyfe will approach potential nominees for the other two sector positions.</p>

**6. Setting priority initiatives for the 2016-2017 committee**

For discussion at the next committee meeting.

**Next Meeting: Date to be advised**

**Information Items:**

NBN Rollout

**Completed Projects:**

Business healthy checks

**Pending projects**

Perth Bypass

Panshanger Road/ Woolmers Lane precinct (noted will be addressed in Land Use and Development Strategy).

Big Cow Plan for the Midlands