

North South Ministerial Council
Joint Secretariat



An Chomhairle Aireachta
Thuaidh Theas
An Chomhrúnaíocht

PAPER NSMC WI 2 (13) JC

NORTH SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

INLAND WATERWAYS MEETING

**NSMC JOINT SECRETARIAT OFFICES,
ARMAGH**

20 NOVEMBER 2013

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

1. The nineteenth North South Ministerial Council Inland Waterways meeting was held at the NSMC Joint Secretariat offices in Armagh on 20 November 2013. The meeting was attended by Jimmy Deenihan TD, Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Dinny McGinley TD, Minister of State with special responsibility for Gaeltacht Affairs, Carál Ní Chuilín MLA, Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure and OFMDFM Junior Minister Jonathan Bell MLA. Minister Deenihan chaired the meeting.

PROGRESS REPORT

2. The Council received a progress report from Dawn Livingstone, Chief Executive of Waterways Ireland on the work of Waterways Ireland including the following significant achievements:
 - (i) provision of 742 metres of additional moorings;
 - (ii) sponsorship support was offered to 112 events with a total expenditure of €200,000;

- (iii) maintenance of the waterways with 99.65% of waterways remaining open to 30 September; and
- (iv) the production of three new publications, “A Taste of the Waterways 2013”, “What’s On 2013” and “Guide to the Grand Canal”.

WATERWAYS BUSINESS PLAN AND BUDGET 2014 AND CORPORATE PLAN 2014 - 2016

- 3. The Chief Executive set out the key strategic direction and objectives for Waterways Ireland.
- 4. Ministers noted that Sponsor Departments are working together with Waterways Ireland to finalise the Business Plan and Budget 2014 and the Corporate Plan 2014-2016 and will bring forward for approval at a future NSMC meeting following approval from both Finance Departments.

UPDATE ON THE RESTORATION OF THE UPPER LOUGH ERNE TO CLONES SECTION OF THE ULSTER CANAL

- 5. Ministers noted that planning approval from all relevant authorities has now been received and that the Inter-Agency Group on the Ulster Canal set up to explore funding options for advancing the project held its third meeting on 9 October 2013 and continues to examine funding opportunities for the project.

PROPERTY DISPOSALS

- 6. The Council consented to a number of property disposals.

NEXT MEETING

- 7. The Council agreed to meet again in Inland Waterways sectoral format in Spring 2014.

**Joint Secretariat
20 November 2013**

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