

North South Ministerial Council
Joint Secretariat



An Chomhairle Aireachta
Thuaidh Theas
An Chomhrúnaíocht

PAPER NSMC WI 1 (14) JC

NORTH SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

INLAND WATERWAYS MEETING

ENNISKILLEN

3 APRIL 2014

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

1. The Twentieth North South Ministerial Council Inland Waterways meeting was held at the Waterways Ireland Headquarters in Enniskillen on 3 April 2014. The meeting was attended by Carál Ní Chuilín MLA, Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, OFMDFM Junior Minister Jonathan Bell MLA, Jimmy Deenihan TD, Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and Dinny McGinley TD, Minister of State with special responsibility for Gaeltacht Affairs. Minister Ní Chuilín chaired the meeting.

SECTORAL PRIORITIES

2. Ministers had a discussion on various priorities within their remit and noted that these will be contained in a report to be considered at a future NSMC Institutional meeting as part of the ongoing review into sectoral priorities.

PRESENTATION BY WATERWAYS IRELAND

3. Waterways Ireland delivered a presentation to Ministers entitled "Ireland's Inland Waterways – Building a Tourism Destination. The presentation provided an overview of the progress being made by Waterways Ireland in placing the

waterways and the waterway experience at the centre of the tourism offering both in Ireland and internationally.

PROGRESS REPORT

4. The Council received a progress report from Dawn Livingstone, Chief Executive of Waterways Ireland on the activities of Waterways Ireland including the following :
 - (i) ongoing progression of planned maintenance and repairs during the winter season;
 - (ii) public consultation undertaken on proposed canal bye-law amendments;
 - (iii) the completion of a Built Heritage Study of the Lower Bann Navigation;
 - (iv) the donation of two barges for recreational and community use;
 - (v) the completion of a GIS based navigation guide for the Lower Bann;
 - (vi) the development of a Strategic Development Plan for the Grand Canal Dock, Spencer Dock and Plot 8;
 - (vii) the winning by Waterways Ireland of the 2013 Environmental Award at the Docklands Business Forum Awards held on 28 November in 2013 for its continued work in restoring, protecting and promoting the heritage assets that are Spencer Dock and Grand Canal Dock.
 - (viii) continuation of towpath development and work on the cycleway from Ashtown to Castleknock; and
 - (ix) progression of partnerships to utilise three unused navigation property for community and recreational use.

BUSINESS PLAN AND BUDGETS 2013 AND 2014 AND CORPORATE PLAN 2014 -2016

5. Ministers noted the position with the 2013 Business Plan and budget. They also noted that Waterways Ireland has undertaken a public consultation on the draft Corporate Plan 2014-2016, the preparation of a draft 2014 Business Plan by Waterways Ireland and that the plans will be reviewed after the public consultation is analysed. They also noted that Sponsor Departments will continue to work together with Waterways Ireland to finalise the Business Plans and Budgets for 2014 and the Corporate Plans for 2014-2016 that will be brought forward for approval at a future NSMC meeting.

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

6. The Council received an update on plans to restore the Upper Lough Erne to Clones section of the Ulster Canal.

PROPERTY DISPOSALS

7. The Council consented to a number of property disposals.

SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY BUSINESS PLAN AND BUDGET 2014 AND CORPORATE PLAN 2014-16

8. Ministers approved the Special EU Programmes Body Business Plan and Budget 2014 and Corporate Plan 2014-16.

NEXT MEETING

9. The Council agreed to meet again in Inland Waterways sectoral format in October 2014.

**Joint Secretariat
3 April 2014**

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