

North South Ministerial Council
Joint Secretariat



An Chomhairle Aireachta
Thuaidh Theas
An Chomhrúnaíocht

PAPER NSMC WI 2 (15) JC

NORTH SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

INLAND WATERWAYS MEETING

TYRONE GUTHRIE CENTRE

ANNAGHMAKERRIG, CO MONAGHAN

6 NOVEMBER 2015

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

1. The twenty third North South Ministerial Council Inland Waterways meeting was held in the Tyrone Guthrie Centre, Annaghmakerrig, Co. Monaghan, on 6 November 2015. The meeting was attended by Heather Humphreys TD, Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Joe McHugh TD, Minister of State for Gaeltacht Affairs. Carál Ní Chuilín MLA, Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, and OFMDFM Junior Minister Emma Pengelly, MLA. Minister Humphreys chaired the meeting.

PROGRESS REPORT

2. The Council received a progress report from Dawn Livingstone, Chief Executive of Waterways Ireland on the activities of Waterways Ireland including the following :
 - (i) management and maintenance of the waterways continued with over 95% of the waterways remaining open for navigation in the period from April to October;
 - (ii) capital expenditure focused on infrastructure repairs with embankment strengthening, wall and bridge repairs;

- (iii) development work to refurbish waterside facilities and extend towpath development is being enabled through third party funding of €1,020,000;
- (iv) the dredging of the River Finn phase of the restoration of the Ulster Canal from Upper Lough Erne to Castle Saunderson has been completed;
- (v) Waterways Ireland is working with the local authorities to explore options for the development of a greenway along the route of the Ulster Canal; and
- (vi) 112 events were offered sponsorship support. The UK winner of a 2015 Living Waterways Award was Row the Erne, a community based organisation which is facilitated and supported at Waterways Ireland headquarters.

EU FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- 3. Ministers noted the update on Waterways Ireland's work to maximise the benefit of EU Funding Opportunities.

LEGACY SCALE LINKAGES FOR NORTHERN BASED WATERWAYS IRELAND STAFF

- 4. The Council approved the determination made by Waterways Ireland regarding legacy scale linkages for northern based staff.

PROPERTY DISPOSALS

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

OTHER BUSINESS

- 6. The Council approved the appointment Ms Georgina (Gina) McIntyre to the post of Chief Executive of the Special EU Programmes Body, on the basis of a seven year fixed term contract subject to final agreement of the contract of employment.

NEXT MEETING

- 7. The Council agreed to meet again in Inland Waterways sectoral format in spring 2016.

**Joint Secretariat
6 November 2015**

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