

North South Ministerial Council  
Joint Secretariat



An Chomhairle Aireachta  
Thuaidh Theas  
An Chomhrúnaíocht

**NORTH SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**  
**INLAND WATERWAYS SECTORAL FORMAT**  
**NSMC JOINT SECRETARIAT OFFICES,**  
**ARMAGH**

**7 JULY 2011**

**JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ**

1. The thirteenth North South Ministerial Council meeting in Inland Waterways sectoral format was held at the NSMC Joint Secretariat offices in Armagh on 7 July 2011. The meeting was attended by Jimmy Deenihan TD, Minister for Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht, 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 presentation and progress report from Mr John Martin, Chief Executive of Waterways Ireland on the work of Waterways Ireland including the following significant achievements:
  - the provision of 484 metres of additional moorings;
  - the Sponsorship Programme underway with over 70 events being sponsored across all navigations;
  - the provision of new publications to promote and support the use of the waterways;

- completion of a number of product development studies involving relevant tourism authorities and local authorities with the aims of defining the future needs and future investment in the waterways from a navigational, recreational and tourism perspective;
- progress on the EU Interreg IVC Waterways Forward project with 17 partners from 13 countries which will include Waterways Ireland hosting a meeting of all parties from 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> September 2011; and
- the Lakelands and Inland Waterways initiative in relation to a marketing campaign for the Erne Shannon system continued in this period.

### **CORPORATE PLAN 2011-2013 AND BUSINESS PLAN AND BUDGET 2011.**

3. The Council discussed progress on the development of the Waterways Ireland Corporate Plan 2011 - 2013 and Business Plan and Budget 2011.

### **UPDATE ON THE RESTORATION OF THE CLONES-UPPER LOUGH ERNE SECTION OF THE ULSTER CANAL**

4. The Council received a progress report on the restoration work for the Clones to Upper Lough Erne section of the Ulster Canal. Ministers noted that a preferred route had been identified and a preliminary design is now well developed. It was noted that planning will be applied for in both jurisdictions in summer 2011. Work on the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Plan has been completed and published and work on the Environmental Impact Assessment is ongoing. Meetings have been held by Waterways Ireland with all relevant public authorities to advise them on the project.

### **WATERWAYS IRELAND ANNUAL REPORT AND DRAFT ACCOUNTS 2010**

5. The Council noted the Waterways Ireland Annual Report and Draft Accounts 2010.

### **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 October/November 2011.

**Joint Secretariat  
7 July 2011**