

#### TOURISM NI – 2021/22 OPERATING PLAN

**MISSION**: Our role is to support the recovery of the Northern Ireland tourism industry from the impact of COVID-19 so that it once again becomes one of the most successful sectors of the Northern Ireland economy. We will do this through:

- Supporting our industry to come through COVID-19 and rebuild through recovery;
- Promoting Northern Ireland as a must-see destination to markets which offer the greatest potential for growth;
- Acting as the interface between industry and Government;
- Looking after our people;
- Transforming the way we work.

**VISION:** Our vision is that Northern Ireland is an internationally competitive destination renowned for world class 3-5 day breaks.

VALUES: Tourism NI aspires to be enterprising, with an entrepreneurial culture. Our Core Values are: We act with Integrity, Passion and Excellence and We deliver through Leadership, Innovation and Collaboration.



## Priority 1: Advising & Supporting Government

Objective	Initiative	Deliverable
	Put in place an Industry Consultation Forum to support the delivery of the Tourism Recovery Action Plan	Consultative Forum in Place and meeting regularly throughout 2021/22
	Work in collaboration with DfE, Government Departments, representative bodies and industry to develop a roadmap and timetable for the re-opening of the tourism industry post the COVID-19 Lockdown	Input provided to shape NI Executive Reopening Plan
		Guidelines agreed produced and rolled out to industry
	Support the Lobby for extension of the Job Retention Scheme until the requirement for restrictions requiring business closures are removed	Job Retention Scheme has been extended
	Support the lobby for extension of VAT reduction until 31 March 2023	VAT Rate retained at 12.5% until 31 March 2023
	To support any lobby for the suspension of APD on flights within the UK	APD on UK flights suspended
Act as the interface between the NI Tourism Industry and Government, advising on the policy interventions needed to support the industry to recover  Supporting key outcomes:  A Supportive Policy Environment created Connectivity safeguarded Business capability enhanced	Work in collaboration with DfE in the production of a medium to long term Regenerative Tourism Strategy for NI	Regenerative Tourism Strategy for NI delivered
	Secure funding for a Business Events Support Scheme	Funding has been secured
	Secure funding for a Post COVID-19 Kick Start Programme for Experience and Activity Providers	Funding has been secured
<ul> <li>Regional competitiveness enhanced</li> <li>Consumer confidence created</li> <li>Skills of the workforce enhanced</li> </ul>	Develop and launch a Visitor Charter	Launch a Visitor Charter upon re-opening
Skills of the workforce enhanced	Develop and submit Business Cases for any additional funding to the NI tourism sector, as required	Additional funds to support Tourism NI COVID-19 response activities
	Develop and implement an Experience Development Fund to support businesses in adapting to changing consumer demands, new market opportunities and a changing business operating environment	Experience Development Programme 20/21 completed
		Experience Development Programme 21/23 approved and launched
	Work in partnership to secure extension to the We're Good to Go Scheme in 2021	Extension to scheme secured with UK Partners
	Support the development of an industry wide training programme to provide businesses with the skills required to respond to new market opportunities	An Industry wide Training Programme exists
	Work in collaboration with DfE in the formalize the Tourism Events Strategy	Events Strategy published

# Priority 2: Customer Needs (Research & Insights)

Objective	Initiative	Deliverable
To ensure that Tourism NI and its stakeholders fully understand its customers in the domestic and ROI marketplace  Supporting key outcomes:  • Consumer confidence created	Deliver an agile Research and Insights Programme to provide a robust evidence base for TNI, industry and stakeholders	<ul> <li>Consumer sentiment and behaviour metrics for NI and ROI consumers and key target segments effectively monitored</li> <li>Industry Panel as part of the TRWG progression to a consultative group established and a regular cycle of industry feedback developed</li> <li>A suite of insights materials developed to share both internally and with stakeholders to promote the Tourism 360 brand and deliver tourism insights to become a recognised official source</li> <li>A research and insights procurement framework developed through CPD to allow agile commissioning of projects</li> </ul>
To ensure that Tourism NI and its stakeholders fully understand its customers in the domestic and ROI marketplace	Develop Phase 2 of the Tourism NI Data Hub to provide the essential data analytics required by the industry to respond to market conditions	Data model and first iteration of industry self-service dashboard in place

### Priority 3: Cross - Divisional Programmes

Objective	Initiative	Deliverable
		NI Domestic Market Review rolled out to industry through a programme of webinars and toolkits
	Implementation of NI Domestic Market Review	TNI applying segmentation to all marketing activities
To deliver a range of cross functional strategic programmes		Community Engagement Programme in place
Supporting key outcomes:	Review of ROI Recovery Taskforce	Roll out of ROI Recovery Taskforce recommendations in light of consumer sentiment research
Consumer confidence created  Desire as a search different to a search.	Neview of Northecovery Fusikioree	TNI applying segmentation to all marketing activities
Business capability enhanced	FACC Invalous setation Plans	Review Embrace a Giant Spirit in light of COVID-19
	EAGS Implementation Plan	Agree and implement 2021/22 priorities
	Development and Roll-out of CRM System	Identify and implement top 3 priority areas

### Priority 4: Experience Development

Objective	Initiative	Deliverable
To develop and grow the collection of NIEAGS experiences and collaborative networks  Supporting key outcomes:  Regional competitiveness enhanced	Continue to embed the Experience Development Framework to support industry developed market-led experiences across NI with Brand Ambassadors across all 11 local Authorities	<ul> <li>Local Authority Brand Ambassador Forum on a quarterly basis</li> <li>11 Partnership Programmes agreed</li> <li>40 Health checks undertaken</li> <li>Experience Development Support Programmes agreed:         <ul> <li>EAGS Business Support Programme</li> <li>Food and Drink Programme, including Distillery Programme</li> <li>Outdoor and Activities</li> <li>Culture and Heritage / Storytelling</li> </ul> </li> <li>Support programme delivered</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Support the delivery of the City and Growth Deal Programmes</li> <li>Inform, shape and support proposals to the Complementary Fund</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Research and Scoping Studies to inform major investment in tourism experiences completed</li> <li>Complete full appraisal including economic and commercial appraisals to support the casework process</li> <li>Support DfE as Sponsor on the tourism investments as they are appraised for investment decision through the casework process</li> <li>Tourism proposals submitted</li> </ul>
	Inform, shape and support proposals to the complementary rund  Inform, shape and support other major project developments	Filming locations project     Redevelopment at Ulster Folk Museum
	<ul> <li>Work with strategic partners to align work plans and investment projects with Tourism NI objectives e.g. DAERA, DfC, Arts Council, National Lottery Heritage Fund, Food NI</li> <li>Develop and agree Service Level Agreements with key delivery partners (Local Authorities and Heritage Trusts)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Two Funding Plans and Programmes informed and influenced by, and / or co-created with TNI</li> <li>Service Level Agreements in place as required</li> </ul>
	Undertake a review of the overall funding framework under which Tourism NI operates (legislation, guidelines and delegations) to deliver a fit for purpose funding framework for the recovery and future growth of the NI tourism sector, including support to the private sector	<ul> <li>Internal audit consultancy advice obtained</li> <li>Request submitted to DfE to review the overall funding framework</li> </ul>
	Commission a comprehensive review of the Northern Ireland tourism product offer to identify strengths, gaps, opportunities and impediments to inform future investment in the development of the visitor offering, including a number of major investment opportunities	Review commissioned     Review complete

### Priority 5: Enterprise Development

Objective	Initiative	Deliverable
	Deliver a comprehensive online business advisory platform - Tourismni.com	250 Businesses registered on TNI.Com
		<ul> <li>260,000 visits to tourismni.com</li> <li>90% User Satisfaction Rating</li> </ul>
Compare the development of sustainable to wise		500 Businesses supported through TED
Support the development of sustainable tourism businesses and sales growth in core markets	Deliver a COVID-19 Recovery Tourism Enterprise Development Programme to support tourism businesses adapt their products and business models to market opportunities and the new operating environment	90% of Businesses Reporting Business Improvements
Supporting key outcomes:	opportunities of the state of t	100 Business Health Checks completed to qualify recipients for targeted support
<ul> <li>Regional competitiveness enhanced</li> <li>Consumer confidence created</li> </ul>	Continue to encourage registration on We're Good to Go, from across the NI tourism and hospitality sectors and conduct monitoring regime	Increased participation in WGTG (+50%)
Business capability enhanced	Continue to deliver the Website Development Programme to improve capacity of	Programme launched
	the sector to secure business online	Letters of Offer issued to businesses
	Support event businesses with capacity to attract local and "out of state" visitors and enhance Northern Ireland's reputation as a tourism destination	9 International Events Supported
		Minimum 13 National Events Supported
		Business Support Programme delivered
Enhance the competitiveness of the businesses through quality assurance	Accommodation and Visitor Experience Quality Assurance schemes aligned with	Revised Grading Schemes rolled-out
Supporting key outcomes:	the NIEAGS brand	95% Rating positive satisfaction of service
Regional competitiveness enhanced	Support minimum standards in accommodation through certification service	90% properties certified within 4 weeks of the coming due date
	Support DfE to make legislative change recommended in the review	Legislative amendments adopted as required
Develop and roll out programmes to advise and support	Pegular communication across various digital platforms to keep the industry up	Monthly issues of Spotlight to the industry
the NI tourism industry	<ul> <li>Regular communication across various digital platforms to keep the industry up to date with developments as they happen, all directing back to www.tourismni.com</li> </ul>	3,000 businesses / individuals engaged
Supporting key outcomes:		Increase open rates
<ul><li>Business survival ensured</li><li>Business capability enhanced</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Maintain the Tourism NI COVID-19 Business Helpline, for as long as is appropriate</li> </ul>	Agreed framework and resource in place for ongoing delivery
Consumer confidence created		Access to specialist advice in place
	Deliver Post COVID-19 Kick Start Programme for Experience and Activity Providers	Launch Scheme

	Deliver a Sustainable Tourism Awareness Programme for key stakeholders across the tourism sector	Programme of engagement in place
		Plan agreed to incorporate sharing of information and research and any potential collaborative initiatives
		Key resources published online
		Cross divisional implementation plan developed
	Develop an Industry Charter to provide assurance of flexibility to visitors booking a holiday or short break in NI	Industry Charter in place
	Develop and launch a Service Excellence Programme	Service Excellence Programme in place
	Deliver Business Events Support Scheme	Launch Scheme
	Continue with the COVID Digital Innovation and Productivity Programme to support businesses across the tourism sector to enhance their digital capability	Launch Programme
	Work with strategic partners/organisations to support sectoral & skills development	4 initiatives supported
Drive increased positive international profile of Northern		Safe and successful event delivery aligned to restrictions in place at that time
Ireland and significant tourism benefit through major events.	Support the marketing and delivery of the ISPS Handa World Invitational	Positive Economic and Media Benefit in business case
Supporting key outcomes:		3 Strategic Outline Cases submitted to DfE
Regional competitiveness enhanced	Support development of major event plans for 2021-2030 in partnership with partner agencies	1 Business Case developed & approval secured
		Delivery plans for supporting major events approved

### Priority 6: Marketing & PR

Objective	Initiative	Deliverable
	Deliver a minimum of two campaigns in the NI & ROI markets	Two campaigns in NI & ROI markets reaching over 75% adults
	Deliver a consumer marketing programme in NL& ROLincluding campaigns, social	Generate £6.5 million positive PR Value and Impact score of >75
	Deliver a consumer marketing programme in NI & ROI including campaigns, social media, destination PR and influencer marketing	Deliver a digital marketing programme
	Deliver a co-operative marketing fund for industry	Co-operative marketing fund for industry, supporting 80 businesses
Generate visitor revenue in NI and ROI markets through promotion of NI as a short break destination	Cupport Corporate and Industry Communication	Stakeholder Engagement Strategy completed and approved by Board
Supporting key outcomes:	Support Corporate and Industry Communication	Roll-out of Stakeholder Engagement Programme as per plan
<ul> <li>Consumer confidence created</li> <li>Demand stimulated</li> </ul>	Deliver "NI Holiday at Home" Voucher Scheme	Deliver the NI Holiday at Home Voucher Scheme to generate 100,000 bed nights by Q4
Business capability enhanced	Continue to reassure consumers of the safety of NI through ongoing promotion of We're Good to Go	We're Good to Go campaign to be delivered upon reopening
	Explore ways for TNI and NI businesses to maximise the capability of Tourism Ireland's new Ireland.com website and digital technology platform	Alignment roadmap and timelines
		Identify and run initial PoC
	Explore the integration of the Visit Britain GB-TX platform into Tourism NI's systems to enhance international market accessibility	Commercial model confirmed
		Defined proposition agreed
Promote NI as a world class short break destination  Supporting key outcomes:  • Demand stimulated	Develop and deliver itineraries for international media visits as appropriate	Host 200 international media on fam trips if appropriate

#### Priority 7: Sales Support

Objective	Initiative	Deliverable
To support our industry to secure future business from	In partnership with Tourism Ireland, develop a virtual seasonal engagement programme	Implement a seasonal virtual educational programme, providing a minimum of 100 industry opportunities
the travel trade		Develop and deliver -a new approach to fam trips on a market by market basis
<ul><li>Supporting key outcomes:</li><li>Demand stimulated</li></ul>	Develop a series of TNI led workshops (online or face to face as appropriate)	Virtual Meet the Buyer 21, Meet the Industry, ITOA Workshop , and others as opportunities arise
	Continue to work in close partnership with travel trade organisations and operators	Build mutually beneficial partnerships with organisations such as ITOA, ETOA, UK     Inbound and operators
	Support the development and delivery of an action plan to implement the recommendations of the independent Business Tourism Strategy	Action Plan developed and Year 1 implemented
To support our industry to secure future business from MICE  Supporting key outcomes:  • Demand stimulated	Develop appropriate MICE financial supports	Provide a conference support fund in partnership with Belfast City Council
		SLAs in place for associated work programmes with V Belfast and V Derry
		Support the development and launch of a new NI Ambassador Programme
		Continued support from TNI to Destination Management Companies to promote NI
	Continue to work in close partnership with key MICE stakeholders, industry organisations and MICE buyers	Delivery of agreed programme of work with Failte Ireland and / or Tourism Ireland,     SITE, PCMA and buyers
	Agree programme of activity with Visit Britain	Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in place for agreed programme with Visit Britain
Maximise sales and marketing opportunities  Supporting key outcomes:  • Demand stimulated	Conduct a programme of online and/ or face to face sales appointments as appropriate in partnership with IAGTO and IGTOA	Agreed programme of sales appointments developed and delivered QTR 4
	Develop a Golf tourism strategy 2020 - 2030 aligned to recovery working group	Strategy completed
	recommendations	Year 1 of action plan implemented
	Agree promotional marketing support programme with Tourism Ireland as appropriate	Marketing support programme agreed with Tourism Ireland

### Priority 8: Governance, Finance, People & IT

Objective	Initiative	Deliverable
	Implement all guidance issued by DoF in response to COVID-19 which relaxes rules around payments to suppliers	Payments made frequently to ensure suppliers get paid without delay
Revise existing services to mitigate the impact of the COVID- 19 pandemic on the NI Tourism Industry	Accounts completed accurately and on time	Unqualified audit opinion
Supporting key outcomes:		Production of accurate management accounts
<ul><li>Demand stimulated</li><li>TNI working effectively and efficiently</li></ul>	Effective Governance arrangements in place across TNI	No Limited audit opinions
• THE WORKING Effectively and efficiently	Pause Tourism NI's Certification and Grading Service in line with Government COVID-19 regulations	Certification and Grading Service paused/modified, as required
	Abatement of Certification Fees until 31 March 2022	12-month payment holiday implemented
		Employee survey undertaken in March 2021
Looking after the wellbeing of TNIs workforce	Continue with the delivery of the Health & Wellbeing Programme	Revised Wellbeing Programme in place
Supporting key outcomes:		Increased participation by 10%.
<ul> <li>TNI working effectively and efficiently</li> </ul>		Review of employee recognition at Tourism NI
	Develop and Implement a Staff Recognition Scheme	Scope and agree Recognition Scheme based upon review
		Launch Recognition Scheme
Develop the skills and capability of the Management Team	Deliver Learning & Development programme	Skills audit aligned to the Tranformation Programme complete
Supporting key outcomes:		Learning & Development plan in place for 2022 onwards
TNI working effectively and efficiently	Deliver Leadership Development Programme	Coaching Programme in place for new senior leadership team
	Create a Tourism Development Academy within Tourism NI	Academy in place
Transforming the way we work	Implement Organisational Transformation Programme	Phase 1 completed
Supporting key outcomes:		Options Paper presented to the Board
TNI working effectively and efficiently	Explore potential future working practices at Tourism NI	Develop and introduce a ways of working Policy
IT Transformation  Supporting key outcomes:	Management and ongoing development of secure Cloud based infrastructure	Implementation of cloud-based IT strategy to support information governance and digital and business transformation requirements
TNI working effectively and efficiently		

Digital Transformation  Supporting key outcomes:  • TNI working effectively and efficiently	Rollout of more sensors / people counting technology and development of regional dashboards	<ul> <li>Onboarding of additional existing council datasets</li> <li>Rollout of sensor projects at identified sites to support city deal and growth projects</li> <li>Launch of regional dashboard</li> </ul>
	Rollout of DMS platform to 7 council regions	DNI replication tourism websites live     Collaborative data management across regions
	Rollout of digital visitor maps and touchscreen technology across NI VICs	Rollout across all 11 council areas
	Identify collaboration opportunities with TIL and FI	Alignment roadmap and timelines
		Identify and run initial PoC opportunities
	Rollout of CRM across organisation	Corporate rollout plan
		Implementation in line with rollout plan
		GDPR and Data Retention policies implemented
	Supporting development of TNI.com self-service business hub capability	Integrated development roadmap for TNI.com and corporate CRM rollout
		Implementation in line with development roadmap
	Implementation of Digital Programme and Prioritisation Board	Priority digital projects identified
		Priority projects delivered