#### TOURISM NI – 2023/24 OPERATING PLAN

MISSION: Our mission is to support the development of an innovative, sustainable and inclusive tourism industry for all people and places in Northern Ireland which enriches its people, its economy and its guests

#### We will do this through:

- Supporting our industry to be innovative and creative;
- Promoting Northern Ireland as a must-see destination to markets which offer the greatest potential for growth;
- Supporting our tourism businesses to grow sustainably;
- Developing a tourism ecosystem that presents opportunities for all, bringing economic and community benefit to every part of Northern Ireland;
- Supporting the tourism sector to become greener and contribute to the sustainable development of our built and natural environment.
- Supporting the development of authentic tourism experiences which bring our unique heritage to life in an invigorating, responsible and sustainable way;
- Looking after our people;
- Transforming the way we work.
- VISION: Our vision is a tourism sector which positions Northern Ireland amongst the most competitive small advanced economies in the world
- VALUES: Tourism NI aspires to be enterprising organisation with an entrepreneurial culture and a great place to work.

Our Core Values are: We act with Integrity, Passion and Excellence and We deliver through Leadership, Innovation and Collaboration.

#### **Delivery Areas - Linkages to DfE 10X Strategy:**

			10X Themes								
Category	Activity		Innov	ation			Inclu	Inclusion Susta		inable	
	1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Marketing and Promotion										
Marketing, Sales and	B2B Sales										
Communication	Business Events										
	Visitor Servicing	1       2       3       4       5       6       7       8       9       10         1       2       3       4       5       6       7       8       9       10         1       2       3       4       5       6       7       8       9       10         1       2       3       4       5       6       7       8       9       10         1       2       3       4       5       6       7       8       9       10         1									
	Tourism Enterprise Development Programme										
	Innovation Growth Scheme										
	Events (excluding Major)										
Product, Industry and Event Development	Quality and Standards (Grading)										
bevelopment	Experience Development - Revenue										
	Experience Development Capital										
	HATs collaboration - employability										
Certification	Certification										
City & Growth Deals	City and Growth Deals (excluding salaries)										
Research and Insights	Research and Insights										
Major Events	Major Events										

#### Key to colour coding:

Likely to lead to a direct, unambiguous and significant improvement
Likely to at least indirectly contributor/ contribute directly in a minor way
No discernible impact
Potential to negatively impact on the NI performance and make it more difficult to achieve
More than likely going to negatively impact on the NI performance and make it more difficult to a



achieve	

# **10X Delivery Areas**

### Marketing, Sales & Communication

10X Activity Area	Initiative	Deliverable	Target for Delivery
		Two campaigns in the NI & ROI markets achieving a return on investment of 25:1	Q3/Q4
	Deliver consumer marketing programmes in NI and ROI, including	Provide a co-operative marketing fund to support 100 industry applications	Q4
	1 campaign, social media, destination PR and influencer	Generate £4.5 million positive PR Value and Impact score of >75	Q4
	marketing	Deliver a digital marketing programme which achieves 2.2m engagements	Q4
Marketing and		Monthly issues of Spotlight to the industry	
Promotion	• Deliver an integrated programme of industry communications to drive traffic to tourismni.com and engagement with content	3,000 businesses/ individuals engaged	Q4
		A minimum of 40% 'open rate' achieved	
	Support deployment of TXGB platform enhancing international market accessibility	Onboard 200 businesses onto TXGB; transacting £2 million sales per annum	Q4
	Develop and deliver itineraries for international media visits	Host 300 international media on fam trips	Q4
	Continue to build partnerships with travel trade organisations and operators.	Build mutually beneficial partnerships with organisations such as ITOA, ETOA, UK Inbound, SITE and operators	Q4
	• Deliver a series of TNI B2B workshops including Meet the Buyer, ITOA Workshop, and the GB Inbound Conference	Deliver ITOA Workshop and UK Inbound and Meet the Buyer achieving 80% satisfaction from industry and 50% of operators attending Meet the Buyer committing to increased programming of Northern Ireland.	Q4
B2B Sales	Deliver an agreed work programme with Visit Britain	Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in place for agreed programme with Visit Britain	Q4
	Deliver a programme of familiarisation visits for international tour operators in partnership with Tourism Ireland	16 fam visits delivered for international tour operators	Q4
	Deliver a programme of B2B Golf sales	Deliver 10 sales and promotional initiatives, with Tourism Ireland, IAGTO IGTOA and Online Golf Tourism Agents	Q4
Visitor Servicing	• Work in partnership with all 11 Councils of Northern Ireland to align the visitor information centre network	Visitor Information Plan developed and agreed	Q4
	Deliver recommendations within the Business Tourism Strategy	Conference support fund in place	
Business Events	that support the industry in securing conferences and business meetings for Northern Ireland	• SLA in Place with Belfast City Council / Visit Belfast to secure conferences with a projected economic impact of £40M	Q4
	Continue to work with DMC's and others to secure high value     Incentive Business across NI	Continued support from TNI to Destination Management Companies securing business worth £3M	Q4

#### Product, Industry & Event Development

10X Activity Area	Initiative	Deliverable	Target for Delivery
	<ul> <li>Deliver a targeted Tourism Enterprise Development Programme (TED) with a specific focus on Innovation, Inclusion, Sustainability</li> </ul>	Hybrid TED programme delivered engaging 500 businesses	Q1: 100 Q2: 100 Q3:100 Q4: 200
	and Employability (Recruitment and Retention)	90% of participating businesses reporting planned Business Improvements Actions	Q4
		90% Delegate overall satisfaction with Programme	Q4
		Internal Testing Complete	Q1
	Deliver Phase 1 of Tourism NI's Pilot E Learning Platform	30 modules in place	Q3
		100 tourism businesses registered and completing a minimum 5 modules each.	Q4
Tourism Enterprise		300 additional Businesses registered on TNI.com	Q4
Development Programme	<ul> <li>Upgrade Tourismni.com to ensure that it is an easily accessible &amp; comprehensive online business advisory platform with pertinent and engaging content – focusing on Innovation, Inclusion, Sustainability, and Tourism Careers</li> </ul>	Integrated Industry Content plan developed and socialised with tracking metrics on key content	Q1 – Q4
		127,000 visits to tourismni.com	Q4
	Sustainability, and rounsin Careers	Increase average quality dwell time on tni.com by 10% to 2 minutes	Q4
	• Deliver a pilot brand Customer Service Excellence Programme resulting in Level 2 Accreditations. This will support Inclusion, develop skills, improve staff retention and enhance the overall visitor experience.	<ul> <li>Pilot brand Customer Service Excellence Programme in place achieving minimum 30 City &amp; Guild Level 2 Accreditations, funded through DfE Skill Up and Skills Focus.</li> </ul>	Q4
	<ul> <li>Work in partnership with Invest NI on the upcoming Energy Efficiency Scheme to drive applications from tourism businesses, resulting in reduced carbon emissions and contribution to sustainability objectives.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Industry communications plan in place</li> <li>Secure minimum 20 applications from tourism businesses</li> <li>2 x case studies developed to encourage further uptake.</li> </ul>	Q4
Tourism Innovation Growth Programme	<ul> <li>Scope a Tourism Innovative Growth Programme aligned to Innovate NI, which will continue to provide targeted mentoring around the key pillars of Innovation, Sustainability and Inclusion.</li> </ul>	Programme scoped and guidelines in place	Q3
Events (Excluding Major)	International Tourism Events Scheme	International Tourism Events Fund delivered & KPI's achieved, including 8:1 ROI	Q4
Quality and	• Manage and deliver Northern Ireland's Quality Grading Schemes in partnership with National Tourist Boards across the UK	• Grading fees reviewed and updated in line with MPMNI and prescribed in regulation, with support from Finance	Q4
Standards (Grading)	<ul> <li>Establish an island of Ireland framework for recognition of businesses with sustainability commitments and/or credentials in collaboration with Failte Ireland and Tourism Ireland</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Develop a consumer-facing programme that presents a credible and understandable means to choose sustainable tourism experiences.</li> </ul>	Q4

	Implement the revised Embrace a Giant Spirit Experience	NI EAGS Portfolio initial cohort in place with supporting development plan.	
	Development Framework and Stakeholder group delivery	Stakeholder Delivery groups in place with quarterly meetings	Q1 - Q4
Experience	structures.	<ul> <li>NI EAGS Regional industry engagement series delivered in partnership with local authorities to relaunch NI EAGS. Target 300 businesses.</li> </ul>	41 44
Development (Revenue)	<ul> <li>Deliver new thematic Visitor Experience Development Plans (EDP) firmly focused on 10x themes - Innovation, Inclusivity &amp; Sustainability - throughout Northern Ireland</li> </ul>	• 3 x Thematic Visitor Experience Development Plans socialised with key stakeholders and a set of prioritised actions implemented.	Q1 - 4
	Development and agreement of SLAs with key delivery partners	Develop and deliver sustainable development plans with Mournes and Causeway Heritage Trusts focused on 10x themes - Innovation, Inclusivity & Sustainability.	Q4
	Develop new and enhanced tourism experiences to support tourism recovery and growth	Deliver final capital projects of EDP programme	Q4
Experience Development	Implement recommendations of NI Tourism Product Review	• Communicate Review with strategic partners and develop proposals to support applications for capital and third-party funds e.g., Peace+	Q2
(Capital)	<ul> <li>Collaborate with strategic partners to develop proposals for external funding sources including Peace Plus, and Levelling Up/ Shared Prosperity &amp; Shared Island</li> </ul>	Deliver Shared Island, CCR / WAW collaboration programme in partnership with TI and FI	Q4
		• Explore opportunities for funding and shape and guide NI submissions to third party funding programmes (e.g., Peace Plus, Levelling Up)	Q4
Tourism Careers	<b>rs</b> • Develop a Tourism & Hospitality Industry Support programme	• Deliver Phase 2 of Make it Here Tourism & Hospitality Careers Perception campaign, delivering 30k visitors to microsite with 30% conversion onto partner recruitment sites and a min of 1% increase in positive perceptions of careers in the sector tracked through Omnibus survey.	Q4
		• Work in partnership with a minimum of 2 trade bodies to promote best practice recruitment and retention with tourism & hospitality employers through an agreed Employers Charter targeting 200 tourism & hospitality businesses.	Q1 - Q4

#### Certification

10X Activity Area	Initiative	Deliverable	Target for Delivery
		New accommodation categories agreed and completed with DfE	Q4
Certification	Develop an extended Certification Service which addresses the growing diversity in the accommodation offering across Northern Ireland and promotes high quality provision	• Certification fees reviewed and updated in line with MPMNI and communicated to industry, with support from Finance	Q4
		Conduct an external review of the Certification Scheme to better inform future ways of working	Q4

## City & Growth Deals

10x Activity Area	Initiative	Deliverable	Target for Delivery
	• Provide support, advice, challenge and monitoring for The Gobbins Phase 2, Belfast Stories, Gateway to the Mournes and Destination Royal Hillsborough projects.	Complete all regulatory requirements and Council approvals required to progress OBCs, TNI & DfE approvals and Contracts for Funding.	Q4
		Develop Letter of Offer for DNA	Q1
	<ul> <li>Act as funder for the DNA project during Q1-4 and monitoring the project against agreed milestones on an ongoing basis.</li> <li>Provide a review and economic appraisal function for the 3-5 SOC's planned for the Mid Southwest City &amp; Growth Deal. Thereafter, supporting the projects through Department of Finance (DoF) approvals process.</li> </ul>	Ensure all regulatory compliances and approvals are in place	Q2
		Achieve signing of Letter of Offer with Council	Q3
City & Growth Deals		Advise MSW project promoters on project and SOC development	Q1
2.0010		Appraise SOCs and make recommendations on approvals to proceed to OBC stage to TNI Board	Q3
	<ul> <li>Provide tourism expertise and part input on non-Departmental City &amp; Growth Deal projects such as Carrickfergus Regeneration and Bushmills Regeneration.</li> </ul>	Attendance and engagement at 80% of steering and working group meetings	Q4
	Active engagement and communication with DfE PMO to ensure	Attendance at 100% of DfE PMO Liaison meetings	04
	good governance and effective stakeholder relationships.	Ensuring that 100% of follow up actions are carried out or communicated to project partners	Q4

#### Research & Insights

10X Activity Area	Initiative	Deliverable	Target for Delivery
	and disseminate effectively within TNI and industry stakeholders	• Effectively monitor consumer sentiment and behaviour metrics for NI and ROI consumers across two waves of research and disseminate effectively within TNI and industry stakeholders	Q4
		Establish an Industry Panel to deliver a regular cycle of feedback on performance and key issues, supplemented by Industry Surveys	Q3
Research & Insights	stakeholders to help inform policy and strategy development and operational decisions	• Produce a minimum of 4 editions of Tourism 360 insights publication to share both internally and with stakeholders to deliver tourism insights and promote TNI as a recognised source	Q4
		• Undertake concept testing of 'Belfast Stories' concepts and stimuli with consumers on the island of Ireland and in key overseas markets to provide consumer-based insights and other evidence required to inform decision making around the development of new products and experiences	Q4

### Major Events

10X Activity Area	Initiative	Deliverable	Target for Delivery
	• Support delivery and cross government coordination as required	Delivery Plans developed & agreed with partner agencies.	Q2
	in relation to major events secured, namely One Young World 2023, World Invitational and The Open 2025	<ul> <li>One Young World hosted successfully hosted in 2023 and KPI's delivered.</li> <li>World Invitational Golf Tournament successful hosted and KPI's delivered.</li> </ul>	Q4
	• Support feasibility work relating to potential hosting of major sporting event in partnership with ROI	Feasibility Study completed. Business case developed, if required.	Q3
Major Events	• Support ongoing work of mega event bid, including event step up phase should bid be won.	<ul> <li>Bid support work programme completed; Year 1, set up phase activity completed if bid successful.</li> <li>Positive cross Government and Departmental engagement.</li> </ul>	Q4
	• Providing guidance & support to DfE on the work being led by DfE to develop an overarching Strategic Events Framework for NI	Guidance & support provided to DfE.	Q3
	<ul> <li>Represent NI at UK Event Coordination Group; scope opportunities to leverage investment; maintain collaborative approach to key policy and operational best practice including events impact and sustainability.</li> </ul>	• Knowledge Exchange; Policy Input; Investment Opportunities Identified; Impact & Evaluation Tools developed	Q4

# **Business Support Functions**

## Advising & Supporting Government

Support Area	Initiative	Deliverable	Target for Delivery
	• Support lobbying on APD and the Nationalities and Borders Bill	Liaise with DfE TLB, the Home Office and Tourism Ireland on the introduction of the ETA	Q4
	<ul> <li>Work in partnership with DfE to develop a Tourism Strategy, which aligns with 10X, and meets the requirements of the NI Tourism sector</li> </ul>	NI Tourism Strategy completed	Q4
Advising & Supporting	<ul> <li>Produce 3 Year Corporate Plan when Strategy and 3-year Budget is agreed</li> </ul>	• 3 Year Corporate Plan produced (dependent on delivery of Tourism Strategy/ 3-year Budget)	Q4
Government	<ul> <li>Review of legislation and guidelines to support delivery of the Tourism Strategy</li> </ul>	Legislative amendments adopted as required	Q4
	• Deliver an effective Corporate Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Programme to protect and enhance the public profile of Tourism NI and underpin key projects and events	<ul> <li>Support the roll out of an effective Industry Communications Programme</li> <li>Deliver a target of £3 million PR value</li> </ul>	Q4

#### Finance & Governance

Support Area	Initiative	Deliverable	Target for Delivery
	• Prepare the financial accounts on a timely basis with an unqualified audit opinion, with the exception of any issues outside the control of Tourism NI e.g., Tourism Ireland payments and Grading Scheme	<ul> <li>Accounts and audit progressed in line with deadlines outlined in NIAO strategy</li> <li>No other issues identified that would qualify accounts outside of the known issues of Tourism Ireland and Grading Scheme</li> </ul>	Q4
	Provide accurate reporting on budget position	Produce accurate and timely monthly management reports	Q4
	Continue to embed the new Finance team structure	Review and update processes and procedures for Financial Accounts	Q3
		Review and update processes and procedures for Management Accounts	Q3
Finance & Governance		<ul> <li>Develop all staff training plan on new financial structure policies, procedures and governance to be delivered in Q1 2024/25</li> </ul>	Q4
	Financial policy review to support Financial Instructions Manual	Review and update financial policies and procedures aligned to the new Financial Instructions Manual	Q4
	Ensure Audit recommendations are dealt with within agreed timescale	• Management responses issued within 15 working day target and audit recommendations completed within agreed timeframes.	Q4
	Review of current scheme delegations and associated	Review completed and requested submitted to DfE	Q2
	programme approvals guidelines	Proposals agreed by DfE and DoF	Q4
	• Put in place a more collaborative approach to working with DfE	Develop a Partnership Agreement with DfE Sponsor Branch	Q3

### People & Organisational Development

Support Area		Initiative	Deliverable	Target for Delivery
Looking after the wellbeing of TNIs workforce	•	Continue to deliver a Staff Health & Wellbeing Programme	Establish a H&W committee to engage with staff, develop activities and review and improve participation	Q3
	•	Develop and Implement a Staff Recognition Scheme	Engage with staff to review effectiveness of current approach	Q3
			Develop arrangements for staff recognition	Q3
Transforming the way we work	•	Continue to review and monitor the implementation of hybrid working arrangements, including Health and Safety arrangements	<ul> <li>Pulse check staff following 1 year implementation of hybrid model including feeling connected opportunities for team/organisation engagement</li> </ul>	Q3
			Develop processes to ensure effective H&S arrangements are in place	Q3
		Organisational development and accreditations	Ensure IiP accreditation is maintained and ensure actions taken in advance of 12-month review	Q1
	•		Secure Diversity Mark accreditation	Q4
			• Establish a D&I working group to <u>develop</u> a Diversity & Inclusion action plan with SMART D&I targets	Q3
	•	Legacy terms and conditions review	Develop options for consideration by DoF to address historic pay differentials	Q4
			Put plans in place to implement changes to carparking arrangements as instructed by DfE	Q4
			Resolve issues with historic temporary promotion policy misapplication	Q2
	•	Ensure risks associated with staff turnover are mitigated by developing capacity building and succession plans	Conduct a skills audit to identify hidden potential and risks	Q2
			Identify critical roles and develop succession plans	Q4
			Comprehensive onboarding of new board members	Q2
	•	Further develop the employer brand, ensuring integration of corporate values	<ul> <li>Source or develop a competency framework for Tourism NI ensuring desired behaviours are defined and review integration of values in recruitment and performance management practices</li> </ul>	Q4
Talent	•	<ul> <li>Deliver and evaluate a Learning and Development Programme to develop our people and build internal capacity, aligned with organisational need.</li> </ul>	Publish a Corporate Learning & Development plan for 2023-4	Q2
Management			Develop processes to monitor effectiveness of L&D activity and impact on organisational performance	Q4
			Coaching Programme in place for new senior leadership team	Q3
			Develop a soft skills development plan for managers in the hybrid world	Q4
	•	Ensure 2022-23 performance reviews are completed	Communicate expectations and provide support to facilitate completion by the deadline set by CEO	Q1
	•	Establish a Tourism Development Academy within Tourism NI	Academy in place	Q4

#### IT Transformation & Information Governance

Support Area	Initiative	Deliverable	Target for Delivery
IT Transformation	New technological controls and NCSC (National Cyber Security Centre) recommended measures to assist with protecting corporate data assets and ensure compliance with legislation	<ul> <li>Review design and develop robust measures to help protect corporate assets &amp; data using best practices and modern up to date appliances to protect the network</li> </ul>	Q3
	<ul> <li>Professional development of the team in technical, governance and latest legislation due to rapid technological change and legislative change post-Brexit</li> </ul>	Undertake Technical & Security Training in key areas relevant to identified corporate objectives.	Q4
		<ul> <li>Information Governance – Horizon scanning of best practice advocated by privacy professionals as relevant to TNI's operating environment and its remit.</li> </ul>	Q4
& Information	Support IT operations to ensure that staff have access to corporate data and services both on premises and remotely	Supporting staff, suppliers and key contacts with technical issues.	Q3
Governance		Undertake a staff satisfaction survey on IT Support, identify and implement potential opportunities for improvement	
		Configuration of cloud services environment and support for Dynamics maintenance, Licensing and Cost management	Q3
	<ul> <li>Review Information Governance to deliver continuous improvement and compliance with developments in legislation</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Information Management review of policies, retention and storage practices in line with Government legislation and best practice.</li> </ul>	Q2
		<ul> <li>Identify staff knowledge gaps in governance, security and use of systems to inform development of awareness and training programme</li> </ul>	Q4

## **Digital Transformation**

Support Area	Initiative	Deliverable	Target for Delivery
	<ul> <li>Develop prototype user interface for the Tourism NI Data Hub</li> </ul>	Procure Data Analytics Service to develop and support tested Data Hub infrastructure and user interface	Q3
		Phase 1 of Data Hub User Interface live to staff, SMT, Board and key stakeholders	Q4
		Work with NITA to engage members in Hub rollout and data collection for integration into the Data Hub	Q4
Digital	<ul> <li>Roll-out of the CRM system across the agreed priority areas to maximise user adoption and transform key business processes</li> </ul>	Workshop to agree operational priorities	Q4
Transformation		Commence project to make the CRM GDPR compliant	Q4
		Migrate Q&S processes from TIDI to CRM	Q4
	Stakeholder engagement to improve digitisation and data     usage	Undertake regular engagement with stakeholders, councils on digitisation and data	Q4