



February 13th, 2017

Notice Of Meeting

You are invited to attend the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee meeting to be held on **Monday, 13th February 2017** at **3:00 pm** in the **Boardroom District Council Offices Monaghan Row Newry.**

Chair: Cllr R Burgess

Vice: Cllr D Curran

Members: Cllr T Andrews

Cllr N Bailie

Cllr A McMurray

Cllr W Clarke

Cllr S Ennis

Cllr G Hanna

Cllr H Harvey

Cllr T Hearty

Cllr D McAteer

Cllr B Quinn

Cllr M Ruane

Cllr G Stokes

Cllr Tinnelly

Agenda

1. Apologies and Chairman's Remarks.
2. Declarations of Interest.
3. ERT Action Sheet January 2017. (Attached)

 *Action Sheet - ERT Jan 2017.pdf*

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Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration Items

4. Department of Finance: Reforming the Rating System, Consultation Document response. (Attached).

 *Department of Finance Reforming of the Rating System Consultation Document Response (draft).pdf*

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 *Rpt re Reforming the Rating System.pdf*

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5. Newry Job Fair, Canal Court Hotel, Newry on Thursday 23 March 2017. (Attached).

 *Report - Newry Job Fair.pdf*

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6. Village Renewal. (Attached).

 *Report - Village renewal.pdf*

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7. Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Knowledge Framework Consultation Response. (Attached).

 *Report - DAERA Knowledge Framework.pdf*

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8. Masterplans for the District. (Attached).

 *Report - Masterplans for the District.pdf*

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Tourism, Culture and Events Items

9. Horse riding in Castlewellan Park. (Attached).

 *Report - Horseriding in Castlewellan Forest Pk.pdf*

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- 10. Seatrade Cruise Global 2017. (Attached).**
📎 *Report - Seatrade Cruise Global.pdf* Page 39
- 11. 2017 Balmoral Show attendance. (Attached).**
📎 *Report - Balmoral Show Belfast.pdf* Page 41
- 12. Tourism Task and Finish Committee Meeting - 11 January 2017. (Attached).**
📎 *Report - Tourism Task & Finish Wednesday 11th January 2017.pdf* Page 43
- 13. Camlough Lake Task & Finish Committee Meeting - 26 January 2017. (Attached).**
📎 *Report - Camlough Lake Task & Finish.pdf* Page 46
- 14. Renewal of RNLI Agreement for the provision of a life guard service for Cranfield, Murlough and Tyrella Beaches 2017-2021. (Attached).**
📎 *Report - provision of life guard service.pdf* Page 47
- 15. Tender for Production Services for Footsteps in the Forest event, Slieve Gullion. (Attached).**
📎 *Report - Tender for production services for FITF event.pdf* Page 49
- 16. Athletics NI European Cross Country bid for Kilbroney Park, Rostrevor. (Attached).**
📎 *Athletics NI Report.pdf* Page 50

For Noting

- 17. Action Tracker Update. (Attached)**
📎 *ACTIONS TRACKING UPDATE.pdf* Page 52
- 18. Local Development Plan: Preparatory Studies - Paper 8: Coast. (Attached).**
📎 *Report re LDP Paper 8 - Coast.pdf* Page 65

19. Local Development Plan: Preparatory Studies - Paper 14: Education, Health and Community Services. (Attached).

📎 *Report re LDP Paper 14 - Education etc.pdf*

Page 109

20. Downpatrick Hotel Feasibility Study. (Attached).

Draft Report can be viewed on DOCUMENTS >> ENTERPRISE REGENERATION & TOURISM >> Draft Report re: Downpatrick Hotel.

NB: This document is Draft and Confidential

📎 *Rpt re Proposed Downpatrick Hotel Concept.pdf*

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Invitees

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Mrs Marie Ward	marie.ward@downdc.gov.uk

ACTION SHEET – ENTERPRISE REGENERATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING**MONDAY 16 JANUARY 2017**

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/004/2017	NI Business Start Programme (NIPSP)	To note that NMDDC have received and signed a Legal Agreement for the NI Business Start Up Programme and will also accept and sign the associated Letter of Offer to be received from Invest NI, in line with the details of the Programme as outlined under Option 1 of the Project Assessment, and detailed in the Legal Agreement.	J McGilly	Awaiting final Letter of Offer	
ERT/005/2017	Marine Taskforce	A) NMDDC should respond to DAERA consultation to support the designation of Kilclief and Ballyhornan as EU Bathing Waters as proposed by DAERA and seek to have Killough reconsidered for designation in 2017. B) The Council should allocate	C Nolan	Completed	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		resources to the designated sites to cover the one off capital costs of signage and the ongoing annual costs of £540. The Council should keep the health and safety requirements at these sites under review, including the potential requirement for lifeguards. C) The Council should pursue the potential for using community lifeguards and volunteers at these sites and other amenity beaches. D) Community engagement with communities in Kilclief, Ballyhornan and Killough with litter collection and shore activities included in the AONB Management Action Plan.			
ERT/006/2017	International Ice Swimming Association Bid	A) The Council to provide a letter of support to the Camlough Lake Water Festival (CLWF) to host the International Ice Swimming Association (IISA) World Championships 2019 in Newry Canal or Camlough Lake.	M Boyle	Awaiting update from CLWF on plans to progress	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		B) ERT and AHC Departments will work in partnership with CLWF Festival to facilitate this project.			
ERT/007/2017	Mooring Licence – Newcastle Harbour	A) The allocation of Mooring Licences at Newcastle Harbour to be a 3 yearly process to be carried out in 2017 and continued for 2018 and 2019. B) Mooring charges for 2017 to be approved and approved on a yearly basis thereafter, on a basis of a 5% increase per annum. C) No pontoon provision at Newcastle Harbour during the summer.	M McKeown	Mooring allocation process to commence for a 3 year basis	Y
ERT/008/2017	Lighting of Holm Oak Tree – Kilbroney Park Rostrevor	To take no action at present in respect of the provision of lighting at the Holm Oak Tree in Kilbroney Park Rostrevor, as the Council currently have no budget in place for this expenditure.	M McKeown	New costing obtained – Tree lighting provided	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/009/2017	SEA FLAG 2 Programme – Union Priority 4	Authority be granted to Council Officers to proceed with the submission of a bid to DAERA to deliver the new round of funding and to proceed with procurement of the necessary consultancy work.	J McGilly	Awaiting DAERA call for proposals.	
ERT/010/2017	Holiday World Dublin and Belfast 2017	Any Councillor who wished to attend Holiday World Dublin (20-22 January 2017) and Holiday World Belfast (27-29 January 2017) should contact Ms M Boyle Tourism Development Officer.	M Boyle	Completed	Y
ERT/011/2017	Kilbroney Park Café – Licence Agreement	A) To advertise the Licence for the renewal of the Kilbroney Park Café for a 3 year period. B) To provide a new Licence Agreement to the existing operator at the Kilbroney Park Café to operate the Café from 1 February 2017 – 30 September 2017 to facilitate the procurement exercise to complete. C) To undertake a valuation to establish a Licence Fee reflective of the current market for the licence period 1 February 2017 –	M Boyle	Ongoing	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/012/2017	Partnership re: Derrymore Estate	30 September 2017. To submit an application for a Trail Facility development to SEUPB before the Stage 1 deadline of 25 January 2017, and if successful at Stage 1, to progress to a Stage 2 application by the relevant deadlines.	A Smyth	Completed.	
END					

Department of Finance Reforming of the Rating System Consultation
Document Response (draft)

The small business rate relief scheme – The Council agrees that the replacement for this scheme should have a sectoral focus, targeting resources specifically at the retail and hospitality sectors. It is considered that this will assist many small independent businesses in a more meaningful way and help to alleviate some of the pressures facing the high street in towns and villages throughout the region. It is also intended that this scheme will provide an economic boost to many businesses operating within the tourism sector.

The small business empowerment zones – The Council agrees that undertaking a pilot study to assess whether the rating system can be used to help regenerate areas that are suffering from disadvantage and decline. It should however be piloted in a number of Council areas rather than the two identified zones in Belfast. This would provide a better understanding of the results.

Revitalising our high streets – The Council agrees that a 100% rates exemption should be applied to the first permanent resident of a converted property for a period of three years following its change of use from commercial to residential. This will provide a sufficient incentive and make living in such locations a more attractive proposition for potential first time occupiers. It would particularly complement the Business Improvement District and Purple Flag interventions our Council are currently implementing and promoting.

Charity shops – given the fact that virtually all business organisations following the public consultation earlier this year thought that everyone should pay something. However given the fact that many charity shops will have entered into long term rental agreements and will not have budgeted for any rates liability, the Council agree that existing charity shops continue to benefit from the 100% exemption until the next non-domestic revaluation, anticipated to be brought into effect from April 2019. From this point on, charity shops should incur a rating liability of up to 20% in order to satisfy a healthy mix in the high streets. Charities would still be expected to pay full rates pro rata on turnover related to goods that are bought in for re-sale.

Empty property rates – The Council agree that changes should be made to further incentivise the occupation of the many vacant properties. The proposal suggest that the initial 3 month 100% exemption should be ended and all vacant property irrespective of how long it has been vacant incur a rating liability of 75%, reducing relief from the current 50% to 25%. The current 100% vacant rating exemption for qualifying industrial hereditaments should be removed and factory buildings rated in a similar manner to all other vacant commercial property i.e. at 75%. This will address the vacant property issue we have currently in the Newry, Mourne and Down District.

Sport and Recreation Relief – Making a distinction between local grounds and larger stadia in terms of charging rates on stands and other spectator facilities. The Council are in agreement with this legislation so that non income generating stands are deemed for rating purposes to be part of the sporting facility and therefore entitled to relief. Income generation can be defined as gate receipts, advertising revenue or direct sponsorship (of the facility

concerned not the club). The second issue relates to the fairness of the rating treatment of golf clubs. These facilities should be given as much support as possible to assist in their survival rate and promotion of sport.

The rates cap - The Maximum Capital Value for rating purposes was initially set by Westminster at £500,000. In April 2009, after further review and consultation on the issue, that the newly elected NI Assembly reduced this to £400,000. Consequently the maximum rates bill (2016/17) for a property with a capital value of more than £400,000 is currently around £3,000 (this will vary depending on Council area).

The Council agrees with the Departments view that the domestic rating system must, as far as is reasonable, apply the principle that everyone pays in direct proportion to the value of their home. The application of the current £400,000 cap means that those in houses with a higher value pay proportionately less than those in middle or lower value homes.

Energy efficiency – This scheme provided a rates relief for new low and zero carbon homes was developed by the Department following an Executive Review of domestic rating in 2007. The policy aim was to encourage investment, and thereby improve the housing stock, which aligned with the Executive's wider commitment to promote sustainable development. The Council agrees that this should be re-introduced, aimed at improving the energy efficiency of new homes. As with the previous scheme, it is intended that it will be restricted to owner-occupier (including co-ownership) with Regulations excluding social rented properties.

Agenda Item:	
Report to:	Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Subject:	Department of Finance 'reforming the rating system' consultation response
Date:	Monday 13 th February 2017
Reporting Officer:	Marie Ward, Director Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism
Contact Officer:	Martin Patterson, Enterprise Development Officer

Decisions Required

For consideration

1.0 Purpose and Background

On 26 October 2015 the (then) Department of Finance and Personnel launched a public consultation seeking responses on a review of the non-domestic rating system i.e. commercial rates. The consultation lasted for a period of 12 weeks and formally ended in early February 2016, with 113 written responses being received (including Newry, Mourne and Down District Council).

The proposals outlined in this document however, are broader than the wide-ranging matters covered in that consultation. They include reforms to the system of domestic rates and small business rate relief.

2.0 Key Issues

Virtually all the changes proposed in this paper require changes to legislation, to be approved by the NI Assembly. For this reason the earliest the measures can start to be introduced is the start of the financial year after next: 1 April 2018. The proposals highlighted include

- A new £22m a year Rates Investment Scheme for smaller retail and hospitality business
- Piloting Business Empowerment Zones in two areas
- Increasing rates on empty commercial properties
- Charity shops to make a contribution
- Charging the highest value homes more
- Removing the early payment discount
- Reducing landlord allowances
- Student halls of residence to start paying rates
- A 3 year rates holiday for first residents of new energy efficient homes

Draft response document is attached to this report.

Responses can be submitted via ratingpolicy.cfg@finance-ni.gov.uk by Thursday 16th February 2017.

3.0	Recommendations Newry Mourne and Down District Council approve 'reforming the rating system' consultation response and submit to the Department of Finance in advance of the closure date on Thursday 16 th February 2017.
4.0	Resource Implications N/A
5.0	Equality and Good Relations implications N/A
6.0	Appendices 1. Reforming the rating system consultation document 2. Reforming the rating system consultation draft response

Report to:	Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Subject:	Newry Job Fair, Canal Court Hotel, 23 rd March 2017
Date:	Monday 13 th February 2017
Reporting Officer:	Marie Ward, Director Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism
Contact Officer:	Martin Patterson, Enterprise Development Officer

Decisions Required

For consideration

1.0 Purpose and Background

Newry Job Fair organised by the Department for Communities (formerly Department of Employment and Learning) takes place on an annual basis in the Canal Court Hotel and the Council have part funded the events and participated in them through our Economic Development and Human Resources sections.

The Job Fair offers jobseekers employment opportunities, job search services, advice on programmes and careers guidance. There are excellent opportunities for employers to interact directly with people who are interested in finding work. They also place a focus on the opportunities available locally and enable them to be presented to local people. Job Fairs provide support to people on the day to complete applications.

2.0 Key Issues

The two most recent events in 2015 and 2014 each attracted approximately 50 employers offering up to 500 jobs. Over 1000 people attended each of the events and over 300 people gained employment directly following the events, over 100 in 2014 and over 200 in 2015.

At the 2015 event, 641 applications were issued with 204 completed and submitted on the day. Two employers also completed interviews during the event.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council will be represented with a stand which will promote our inward investment opportunities, business programmes and job opportunities within the Council.

The event will be marketed by via all social media outlets, newspapers, distributing flyers to all Jobseekers in Newry and surrounding offices (will include Downpatrick), posters will be distributed to support organisations, local colleges, leisure/community facilities and various locations throughout the local area (we can discuss this further). We will use DfC social media and it will be promoted on Jobcentreonline, employers will be encouraged to promote on their own websites. Banners will be put on the local JBO and the back gate of the Canal Court.

Total cost of the event activity is £5,000 and the request from Department for Communities is for our Council to contribute 50% of the total cost; i.e. £2,500.

3.0	Recommendations Newry Mourne and Down District Council to contribute £2,500 towards the Department for Communities Job Fair taking place on Thursday 23 rd March 2017 in the Canal Court Hotel Newry.
4.0	Resource Implications £2,500 which is available in our Economic Development budget and one member of staff from HR and Economic Development on the day of the event.
5.0	Equality and Good Relations implications This programme has an open door policy to all applicants and meets all of the criteria.
6.0	Appendices Flyer publicising the event.

Job Fair



Would you like to attend and exhibit?

Newry Canal Court Hotel

23 March 2017

The Department for Communities in partnership with
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council are planning a Job Fair.

If you will be recruiting on or around this date, the Newry Job Fair will be a great opportunity to help with your recruitment.

- It is **FREE** to attend
- Gives you access to a large number of people looking for work
- Allows you to engage with applicants directly to recruit the right people for your business

Don't just take our word for it, others employers have said...



it was a very professional event

it was a great use of our time

we found a great calibre of client and a number
of potential employees

when can I sign up for next year's event?



If you would like to exhibit or want further information
please contact us on **028 9082 9374** or email
EmployerEngagementTeam@communities-ni.gov.uk



Comhairle Ceantair
**an Iúir, Mhúrn
agus an Dúin**
**Newry, Mourne
and Down**
District Council



DfC

Department
for Communities
www.communities-ni.gov.uk

Report to:	Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Subject:	Village Renewal: Update of existing and creation of new Village Plans
Date:	13 th February 2017
Reporting Officer:	Marie Ward, Director Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism
Contact Officer:	Jonathan McGilly

Decisions Required

To agree etc the contents of the report and approve recommendations at Section 3

1.0	Purpose and Background An application for funding has been made to Mourne Gullion Lecale (MGL) Rural Development Partnership. The focus of the application is the creation of 18 new village plans and the update of 24 existing village plans. (NB: Some of the Village Plans will be for a cluster of 2/3 small settlements). To inform this application, a scoping exercise was completed to identify villages and settlements to be included. This scoping exercise involved a call for Expression of Interest applications for Village Renewal by MGL Rural Development Partnership, consultation with community representatives, and community groups on villages which would benefit from an updated / new village plan and should be included in the scheme. This application is currently under assessment by the Local Action Group and the outcome of the assessment is expected by end of February 2017.
2.0	Key Issue If a Letter of Offer is received from MGL Rural Development Partnership the next steps will be to undertake one consultation event within each of the village plan cluster areas. This will bring together the local community and other relevant bodies / agencies, to feed into an Action Plan for that area / cluster of areas. The Village Plan Action Plan will co-ordinate specific actions within the village/cluster which will be related to addressing local issues or needs whilst building on the strengths of the area and the opportunities that are available to it. Emphasis will be made on ensuring that the Village Plans are reflective of the priorities of Council's corporate plan, community plan, and various Directorate strategies and action plans that have recommendations for the delivery of initiatives within the rural areas. Consultation with statutory bodies and agencies will follow the public consultation, and when draft action plans are in place. For those areas receiving a new Village Plan, a 2nd period of consultation will take place where the new Village Plans will be available for review and comment in dedicated public venues. Details of all public consultation will be advertised publically, and communicated through existing groups, DEAs, and other relevant bodies. When completed the Village Plan will present the settlement / village with the opportunity to provide evidence of need for initiatives when applying for external funding or engaging with external agencies / bodies.
3.0	Recommendations For decision – see content of report which outlines the next steps for implementation

	and delivery of the Village Plan project which will produce for attached list of villages either (a) an updated village plan or (b) a new village plan
4.0	Resource Implications Total cost of the project is £68,500 An application has been made for 75% of the project cost: £51,375 Match funding to be provide by Council in 2017/18 (25%): £17,125
5.0	Appendices A list of those areas to be included in the scheme, as selected through the scoping exercise is listed at appendix A

Appendix A
List of Villages / Settlements to be included in the MGL Rural Development Partnership funding application

	DEA	Location	Updated Plan	New Plan
1	Crotlieve	Ballyholland		1
2	Crotlieve	Burren		1
3	Crotlieve	Rostrevor	1	
4	Crotlieve	Barnmeen / Drumgath	1	
5	Crotlieve	Hilltown	1	
6	Crotlieve	Mayobridge	1	
7	Downpatrick	Ardglass / / Chapelstown / Dunsford Coney Island (Coney Island action plan to be appended to existing plan for Killough)		1
	Downpatrick		1	
8	Downpatrick	Ballyhornan	1	
9	Downpatrick	Ballyalton		1
10	Downpatrick	Strangford	1	
11	Mournes	Dunnaval Area (Inc Ballyardle / Kingdom, Cranfield)		1
12	Mournes	Greencastle		1
		Annalong / Ballymartin / Glassdrumman / Mullartown / Longstone		
13	Mournes		1	
14	Mournes	Kilcoo	1	
15	Newry	Killeen (Also include Meigh & Killeavy)		1
16	Rowallane	Killyleagh		1
17	Rowallane	Crossgar / Kilmore		1
18	Rowallane	Shrigley		1
19	Rowallane	Darragh Cross / Derryboye		1
20	Rowallane	Saintfield	1	
21	Slieve Croob	Ballyward + Lowtown + Gargory		1
22	Slieve Croob	Finnis	1	
23	Slieve Croob	Leitrim	1	
24	Slieve Croob	Loughinisland		1
25	Slieve Croob	Dundrum	1	
26	Slieve Croob	Drumaness		1
27	Slieve Croob	Clonvaraghan / Drumaroad	1	
28	Slieve Croob	Annsborough)	1	
29	Slieve Croob	Clough	1	
30	Slieve Croob	Castlewellan	1	
31	Slieve Croob / Downpatrick	Annacloy / Teconnaught		1
32	Slieve Gullion	Jonesborough		1

33	Slieve Gullion	Drumintee		1
34	Slieve Gullion	Cullyhanna / Dorsey	1	
35	Slieve Gullion	Newtownhamilton	1	
36	Slieve Gullion	Belleek		1
37	Slieve Gullion	Camlough / Bessbrook	1	
38	Slieve Gullion	Mullaghbane	1	
39	Slieve Gullion	Altanmacken / Cortamlet	1	
40	Slieve Gullion	Whitecross/ Ballymoyer	1	
41	Slieve Gullion	Crossmaglen / Creggan / Culloville	1	
42	Slieve Gullion / Crotlieve	Jerrettspass / Lurganare	1	
			24	18

Report to:	Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Subject:	Consultation Response to DAERA Knowledge Framework
Date:	13 th February 2017
Reporting Officer:	Marie Ward, Director Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism
Contact Officer:	Jonathan McGilly

Decisions Required

To note/agree etc the contents of the report and approve recommendations at Section 3

1.0	Purpose and Background Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) have issued a consultation on their "Knowledge Framework" which sets out the rationale for DAERA's involvement in education, training and technology exchange, the nature of its interventions and what the Departments seeks to achieve. Consultation responses are to be submitted by 27th February 2017
2.0	Key Issue The Framework aims to ensure that individuals, organisations, and businesses within the agri-food industry have access to high quality, relevant and accessible education, training and technology exchange provision to improve productivity, resilience, environmental performance and sustainability <u>Target group for the Knowledge Framework</u> - Land Managers and Workforce The framework recommends that <u>all</u> workers should possess at least the basic competences so that they will not present a risk to themselves (health and safety), to consumers (food safety), to the environment (pollution and habitat and species degradation) or to other business (e.g. through the spread of animal or plant diseases) <u>Intended Outcomes</u> - By 2025, DAERA will seek to ensure that anyone taking over as head of a commercial farm or horticulture business (i.e. one where the farm represents the primary source of income) should have at least a Level 3 relevant qualification (equivalent to 'A' Level or level 3 NVQ), i.e. the minimum qualification for anyone in a managerial position. - By 2025 DAERA, working with other providers, will seek to ensure that all new manager level appointees in the food processing sector should have at least a Level 5 qualification in a relevant discipline (equivalent to foundation degree or higher national diploma (HND), i.e. the minimum qualification for anyone in a managerial position. - Increased educational attainment across DAERA provision. - Provision of a quality service, independently recognised through relevant awarding bodies. - Improved customer satisfaction across all agreed programmes. - Researchers will be involved in the delivery of knowledge at CAFRE, especially

	in higher education programmes, thereby helping to ensure the direct flow of research into the education and knowledge exchange programmes. Comments In relation to Outcomes (I) and (II) comments would be as follows: • A significant proportion of farms are operated under “other motivations”. • Some individuals working on a farm businesses have been disengaged from mainstream education, either due to age of the person being out of the educational system for many years, or a youth where education has been undervalued • DAERA is proposing a “blanket” approach to “ensuring anyone taking over as head of a commercial farm has a level 3 NVQ qualification”, and “all new manager level appointees in the food processing sector should have at least a Level 5 qualification in a relevant discipline” • Consideration should be given to having a hierarchy, and applying the above recommendation to medium / large commercial farms which are more likely to be those to achieve high growth for the sector. • A sufficient period of time would need to be allowed to raise awareness of the benefit to the sector from a skilled and educated workforce, an acceptance within the sector to adopt to the change and for the accessible and affordable training opportunities to be taken up and qualifications obtained.
3.0	Recommendations To respond to the consultation on DAERA's Knowledge Framework by the deadline of 27th February 2017 according to the proposed comments appended.
4.0	Resource Implications N/A
5.0	Appendices Draft Consultation response

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Knowledge Framework Consultation Response

Q: Do you agree that DAERA's involvement in education, training and technology exchange provision should be driven by DAERA's policy objectives and strategic goals?

A: Yes

Q: The suggested focus of the draft Framework is on the education, training needs and technology exchange provision of the land based and food processing sectors. Do you agree with this specific focus and approach?

A: Yes

Newry Mourne and Down District Council recognises the importance of education and training, and in particular lifelong learning, which is key for maintaining a highly motivated, skilled and educated workforce, who in turn, will be equipped to react to economic challenges and opportunities to ensure the continued growth of the local economy.

The strategy for the delivery of education and training is vital, to ensure that the provision is capable of meeting the educational and training needs of our workforce.

Provision of the appropriate education and training opportunities, and the promotion of lifelong learning within the agric food sector is of significant importance, considering this sector is highlighted as being capable of high growth

Q: Do you agree with the objective of the draft Framework?

A: Yes

The objective of having high quality, relevant and accessible education, training and technology exchange provision is necessary for the reasons outlined in the above response

Q: Do you agree with the key principles of the draft Framework?

A: Yes

It is recognised that in addition to DAERA, there are other established training providers and educational institutions, and the most appropriate delivery agent who can comply with the above objective should be used to deliver education / training to the agric food sector,

Q: Do you agree the intended outcomes of the draft Framework

A: If high quality, relevant and accessible educational, training and technology exchange provision was delivered to the agric-food sector in line with the key principles and achieving the below outcomes, this would be welcomed:

- Increased educational attainment across DAERA and other educational institutional provisions
- Provision of a quality service
- Improved Customer Satisfaction

However, below outlines concerns regarding the proposed target groups

Q: A key outcome proposed in the draft Knowledge Framework is that anyone taking over as head of a commercial farm or horticulture business (i.e. one where the farm represents the primary source of income) should have at least a Level 3 relevant qualification (equivalent to 'A' Level or level 3 NVQ), i.e. the minimum qualification for anyone in a managerial position. Do you agree with that approach? Does the qualification level seem appropriate and by what date (year) should this be implemented?

A: The Consultation document recognises that some holdings are operated on the basis of other motivations, such as life style choices, and commercial success is not the primary objective. Many of the holdings are also listed as "very small farms" (83% in NMD Council area and 77% of NI farms) which suggests a significant proportion of farms may be operated under "other motivations". It also has to be recognised that some individuals working on a farm businesses have been disengaged from mainstream education, either due to age of the person being out of the educational system for many years, or a youth where education has been undervalued.

DAERA is proposing a "blanket" approach to "ensuring anyone taking over as head of a commercial farm has a level 3 NVQ qualification. Consideration should be given to having a hierarchy, and applying the above recommendation to medium / large commercial farms which are more likely to be those to achieve high growth for the sector

A sufficient period of time would need to be allowed to raise awareness of the benefit to the sector from a skilled and educated workforce, an acceptance within the sector to adopt to the change and for the accessible and affordable training opportunities to be taken up and qualifications obtained.

Q: A key outcome proposed in the draft Knowledge Framework is that DAERA, working with other providers, will seek to ensure that all new manager level appointees in the food processing sector should have at least a Level 5 qualification in a relevant discipline (equivalent to foundation degree or higher national diploma (HND)), i.e. the minimum qualification for anyone in a managerial position. Do you agree with that approach? Does the qualification level seem appropriate and by what date (year) should this be implemented

A: DAERA is proposing a "blanket" approach to "ensuring all new manager level appointees in the food processing sector should have at least a Level 5 qualification in a relevant discipline"

Consideration should be given to having a hierarchy, and applying the above recommendation to medium / large food processing businesses which are more likely to be those to achieve high growth for the sector.

A sufficient period of time would need to be allowed to raise awareness of the benefit to the sector from a skilled and educated workforce, an acceptance within the sector to adopt to the change and for the accessible and affordable training opportunities to be taken up and qualifications obtained

Report to:	Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Subject:	Masterplans for the District
Date:	Monday 13 February 2017
Reporting Officer:	Marie Ward, Director Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism
Contact Officer:	Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration
Decisions Required	
To note/agree etc the contents of the report and approve recommendations at Section 3	
1.0	Purpose and Background Council, following RPA inherited four masterplans from legacy councils, these are:- (i) Newry City (ii) Downpatrick (iii) Ballynahinch (iv) South East Coast (Kilkeel, Warrenpoint and Newcastle) Each plan was prepared as a long term vision for the respective study was included a list of priority actions for each area. In some cases totally 30-40 separate projects many of which relied on external agencies taking the lead. Council requested that Officers via ERT Committee and respective DEA For a carry out a review of the action plans and agree a list of priority actions for each plan that could be achieved within the life of the current council.
2.0	Key Issues Following internal workshops with ERT Committee and Elected Members from each DEA draft plans were developed and these were then discussed with each of the DEA Fora for the given study area. A final action plan has been agreed and is attached to this report. The plans detail the project, the rationale, the key deliverable by 2020 and finally the anticipated actions in current year and the Project Manager.
3.0	Recommendations Following extensive consultation it is recommended these are adopted and implemented with quarterly review and date provided to ERT and report to DEAs bi annually,
4.0	Resource Implications The plans have not been costed as in many instances the key action is to develop detailed plans and costings and lobby other agencies however these priority action plans should form the basis of council budget setting priorities for each financial year under regeneration.
5.0	Equality & Good Relations These are high level plans that meet all the requirement of equality and good relations that relate to Council Service Provision.
6.0	Appendices App1 Newry City Priority Action Plan App2 Downpatrick Priority Action Plan App3 Ballynahinch Priority Action Plan App4 South East Coast Priority Action Plan

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Rank Order	Ref	Project	Rationale for Prioritisation	Level of Delivery by 2020	2016/17 Action Plan
	1	Council Civic Centre Campus (Internal Capital Project)	Key Council provision to service the community. Strategic priority for the Council. Major infrastructure project. Availability of sites.	Council owned and led - stakeholder input - Feasibility study, site identified - planning permission sought/granted - funding secured	PM – M Ward - Civic Centre Requirements agreed - Site Identified
	2	Albert Basin (Internal/External Project)	Council provision to service the community. Strategic priority for the Council. Creates a major multi-faceted infrastructure project in City Centre. Public perception is for the Council to deliver a successful project on this site. Giving due consideration to provision of a public park.	- Council owned and led - Financial and staff resources required - stakeholder engagement - develop & implement an Albert Basin Masterplan - delivered on a phased approach	PM – M Ward - Complete site appraisal via Investment Strategy - Secure funding for site masterplan
	3	Southern Relief Road (External Project)	Major infrastructure development meeting with the Council's strategic priorities. Multiple impacts. Will add to the success of other initiatives; Newry City's general operation, job creation, tourism, business development, health&well being and inward investment. Cross border opportunities.	- Delivered by central Government /TNI - Lobbying role for the Council - Ensure all Government and - stakeholder commitment via Council Committee Process	PM: M Ward - Completion of options appraisals (TNI) - Continued Lobbying
	4	Greenway Development (Internal Capital Project)	Council provision to service the community. Strategic priority for the Council. Phased project already commenced and a success. Connectivity to other greenways and projects. External funding opportunities. Cross border opportunities.	- Partnership with Louth County Council - complete Greenway project connecting Victoria Lough to Newry City Towpath	PM: M Ward - Phase 1 completed - Phase 2 Funding application submitted
	5	Place Marketing	Council provision to service the	- Council owned and led	PM: Jonathan McGilly

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		(Internal Revenue Project)	community. Strategic priority for the Council. Immediate requirement to service the community and business sectors. Create a common Newry City identity/place.	- Financial and staff resources required - Various stakeholder input - Implement comprehensive marketing plan with stakeholder buy in on annual basis - Undertake review of signage across City	- Develop marketing plan - Secure funding for signage, audit & review in partnership with BID Team
6	Community Care Hub (External Project)	Major infrastructure development meeting with the Council's strategic priorities.	- Lobbying role for the Council - Delivered by other Government Departments & private sector - Business case - Planning for site secured - Tender & develop scheme -	PM: M Ward - Secure executive approval for project	
7	Waterfront Urban Design (Internal Revenue Project)	Council provision to service the community. Strategic priority for the Council. Unique twin waterways running through Newry City centre and under utilised. Connectivity of the urban nature of Newry to the water to open up a number of projects. External funding opportunities.	- Council owned and led in partnership with DSD - Financial and staff resources required - stakeholder input - developed via BiD Team & Chamber - Delivered on a phased approach - City Waterways Strategy/Masterplan which can be delivered on a phased approach	PM: Marie Ward - Source funding - Complete Merchants Quay Revitalisation Programme	
8	Public Realm (Internal Project)	Council provision to service the community. Strategic priority for the Council. Newry City Centre Public Realm Strategy in place to guide and prioritise decisions and projects, e.g. Basin Quay, Hill Street, Abbey Way, Newry Variety Market, Town Hall/Arts Centre setting, North Street. External funding opportunities.	- Council owned and led in partnership with DSD - Financial and staff resources required - stakeholder input via project steering groups - Revitalisation scheme - Prioritise 1 no. future PR scheme for Newry - commence process, i.e. design,	PM: Seamus Crossey - Complete Hill Street Public Realm Scheme	

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				planning and implementation.	
	9	Car Parks/Park and Choose (Internal Project)	Element within the Transfer of Functions. Council provision to service the community. Strategic priority for the Council. Can connect other projects and provide and income stream for the Council, External funding opportunities.	- Council/Transport NI owned and led(RATS) - Financial and staff resources required - Action up to 2020 – Car park strategy with economic benefits to the fore. Car Parks formally transferred to Council. Innovative mechanism for transportation throughout the city centre to alleviate parking issues & linked to Council’s Investment Strategy	PM: Colm Jackson - Complete appraisal/business case for car park to agree new charging structures etc.
	10	Abbey Grounds (Internal Capital Project)	- Council provision to service the community. Strategic priority for the Council. Land provided to the Council but must be retained as parkland - Potential for connectivity with the new CCTC Project	- Council owned and led - Action up to 2020 – Decision made on project and relevant permissions put in place. Funding secured - 2016/17 – Land placed in Council ownership and consultation on potential project	PM: Marie Ward - Explore funding options - Link to Investment Strategy for Newry
	11	River Clean Up& Weir Project (External Project)	River Agency responsibility however can be addressed moving forward in a short time frame. Add to the waterfront urban design priority if an action plan is agreed. Supports other projects, e.g. public realm.	- Lobbying role for the Council - ensure connectivity with waterfront urban design strategy - Lobby for River Weir - Explore funding Opps for Weir - Explore with DSD funding options for clean up	PM – J McGilly - Explore options with Rivers Agency & DSD for clean up - Lobby for Weir project & explore funding options
	12	Corn Market (existing health village) (External Project)	Proposed CCTC will render this site vacant linked with Monaghan Street Car Park & Councils Sport Culture Site has significant development opportunities with potential to regenerate Corn Market/Monaghan	- Explore options with DSD for comprehensive development scheme	PM: Marie Ward - Complete investment strategy for Newry City

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		Street area		
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Rank Order	Ref	Project	Rationale for Prioritisation	Level of Delivery by 2020	2016/17 Action Plan
1	E6	Transportation and Parking Study (External Project)	Study completed but implementation required giving consideration and key functions development at Collins Corner, St. Patrick's Avenue, Market Street, Ardglass/Killough junction. Development of link road through PSNI Station to create possible one-way system.	Implementation of transportation plan as agreed in 2016/17	PM – J McGilly - Work with TNI to develop timeframe for implementation of plan recommendation - Lobby for funding
2	A2	Hotel Development (External Project)	Identified in accommodation needs analysis. Essential to develop tourism product and to attract visitors.	Secure Hotel Development in Downpatrick	PM – J McGilly - Feasibility Study completed - EoI's sought from private sector developers - Business case completed
3	A5,C6	Public Realm Improvements, particularly in Irish Street. Rejuvenation of vacant/derelict buildings. (Internal Capital Project)	Following the relocation of the PSNI from Irish Street this area will require upgrading. No EI schemes have been carried out in this location for over 20 years, Adjacent streets have been upgraded. Projects to include signage, interpretation, lighting etc. (Link to priority 9 & 10). Public Realm also required for English Street and Saint Patrick's Square and Market Street to extend to SERC and environs.	- Implement public realm scheme 2017/18 - Develop and Submit THI proposals 2017/18 - Commence THI scheme 2019/20	PM – J McGilly - Public Realm Design concept completed & submitted for planning - Funding secured - Finalise implementation with TNI - Develop THI proposal

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4	D4	Linear park & linkages from town centre to Downshire site (Internal Project)	Need for increased connectivity. Bus linkages. Quoile River project and Dunluce Park Project to be explored.	Further research required. To date Translink not engaged to provide bus service. To be progressed by Downpatrick Roads sub-group (Contact Gerry McBride)	PM Thematic Working Group of Community Plan
5	C4	The Grove/St Patrick's Quarter (External Project)	development site for improved car parking and wider regeneration	Council owned - Establish project working group involve key stakeholders - Develop project proposals for the site - Source development partners via development brief	- Source funding to develop regeneration plans for the site
6	D3	Downe Hospital site (External Project)	Redevelopment of prime site in town centre required.	Site sold to developer. Plans for housing development in place.	PM – JmcGilly - Meet with developer to explore plans for site and assess how Council can assist in bringing these plans forward
7*		Public Sector Campus / Decentralisation	Continued lobby and development	-	PM Thematic Working

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		(External)	of Business Case for decentralisation of Public Section jobs to Downpatrick area. Immediate focus on redevelopment plans for Rathkeltair House and transport linkages from town centre to Downshire campus.		Group of Community Plan
8*		Tourism Strategy (Internal)	Development of key Tourism projects compliment district wide tourism strategy to explore viability of projects such as St. Patrick, Railway, Museum and Arts Centre. (Link to Priority 5)	- Secure resources and develop projects.	PM M Ward - Compile
9	A3,C1,E4.E5	Living over the Shop (LOTS) and Urban Development Grants (UDG) (Internal Revenue Project)	LOTS as a means of revitalising the night time economy and making better and safer usage of the town centre at night. UDG as a measure to tackle vacant/derelict buildings.	- Develop proposals for LOTS - Secure a LOTS for Downpatrick Town Centre	2016/17 - Establish a Group with Chamber of Commerce - Identify scope for potential scheme
10	E2	Frontage Improvement schemes (Internal Revenue Project)	To enhance shop frontages in the town centre.	- Lobby for DSD funding following public realm scheme in Irish Street. (EER staff) 2018/19. - Implement shop front scheme in Downpatrick	PM J McGilly - Develop proposals for shop front enhancement scheme - Explore fund opportunities & possible places approach given Irish Street Proposals

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11		Eastern Link/Peripheral Road	To improve transport congestion in town centre, provide access to Downshire campus and Newly developed hotel and open up access to land for future housing development to provide for growth of town population.	Lobby Transport NI for inclusion in forward work plan	PM Thematic Working Group – Community Plan
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*Actions requested for prioritisation by Downpatrick DEA but not included in original Masterplan Action Plan

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Rank Order	Ref	Project	Rationale for Prioritisation	Level of Delivery by 2020	2016/17 Action Plan
1	J	Development of River Pathways (Internal Capital Project)	Linking town with wider environs. Act as a catalyst for tourism development with reference to Montalto Estate. Wide community support for project. Contribute to health & wellbeing agenda.	Project being explored by AHC department - Produce a design and development proposal - Identify funding	PM: M Lipsett - Secure funds to develop proposals
2	e	Ballynahinch Bypass (External Project)	Reduce congestion in town centre allowing town to develop as a market town/food destination. Enhance the travel experience of visitors to the wider Mourne area.	- Council adopt a lobbying role to influence the progression of the bypass (Public Inquiry underway) - Regular liaison between Transport NI and DEA Forum	PM: J McGilly Establish linkages with TNI to promote & lobby for scheme
3	h	Market Square – steel structure (Internal Capital Project)	Economic/tourism potential would be enhanced by the removal of an eyesore in a prominent town centre historical setting.	- Project being progressed by AHC department. Continue negotiations with The Edge (Potential user of the site) 2016/17	PM: E Curtis - Explore option for development of site - Make RDP funding application
4	m	Events Programme (Internal Revenue Project)	To animate town centre and to act as a draw for potential visitors.	- Develop & implement an annual event programme in town	PM: M Ward Deliver Harvest Festival in town centre as part of wider Montalto Estate Event
5	l	Premier Food Destination (Internal Revenue Project)	Development of food destination as a major tourist attraction. Enhancement of market in line	- Continue to develop Make it Local and Food circle projects to raise profile of	- Run 2 no. make it local events - develop proposal

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			with Regeneration strategy.	town as a food/local produce destination - Dissemination of promotional materials.	around food circle project
6	d	Place Marketing Strategy (Internal Revenue Project)	To establish an identity for the town and to vision its place within the wider context of the district.	- Marketing strategy completed 2015 - Implement recommendations in strategy	PM: M Ward - Align marketing strategy to overall tourism strategy - Seek funding for implementation
7	w	Windmill Street Car Park (Internal Capital Project)	To improve connectivity within the town centre enhancing linkages to Main Street to open up shopping area.	- Develop design proposals for enhancement of the car park - Liaise with Transport NI re: progress of project and funding availability	PM: J McGilly - Source funds for design of scheme
8	r	Laneways and Arches (External Project)	To preserve the historical aspects of the town centre and to complement the proposed upgrade to the Windmill Street car park.	- Develop design proposals - Approach DSD to see if capital funding could be secured to deliver	PM: J McGilly - Secure funding for development of proposals
9	o	Temporary Interventions and Meanwhile uses (Internal Revenue Project)	Rehabilitate vacant/derelict buildings to stimulate economic activity and to enhance the aesthetics of the town centre.	- Identify key derelict properties in partnership with owners - Draw up plans & submit bids for regeneration funding	PM: J McGilly - Identify properties & landowners who could avail of UDG & open negotiations with

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					DSD - Develop a plan with local trades for RDPupshop concept
10	p	Town Centre Living (Internal Revenue Project)	To contribute to the development of a vibrant night time economy and to create a safer feeling in the town centre at night.	- Lobby NI Housing Executive to revive the Living Over the Shop (LOTS) initiative) (EER staff) - Liaison with NIHE and DEA forum.	2016/17 - Establish a Group with Chamber of Commerce - Identify scope for potential scheme

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Rank Order	Ref	Project	Rationale for Prioritisation	Level of Delivery by 2020	2016/2017 Action Plan
		Newcastle			
1	1	Mourne Gondola Development (External Project)	Strategic priority for Tourism NI as a 'Gateway Site to the Mournes.' Considered an economic driver for the area creating a unique attraction in Northern Ireland. Relevant studies and approvals in place	- Identify potential funding for project implementation - Develop Business Plan - Make planning application - Establish Gondola working group (with key personnel & external partners and agree timetable of meetings)	- PM M Ward - Funding secured for Feasibility Study to be completed by Dec 2016
2	39	(a) Castle Park/Islands Park (Internal Project)	This priority links to No 1. Above and is being addressed in visioning document for the Mourne Gondola Development. This is a key site for development to attract more families and tourist into the heart of the town	- Develop design proposals - Carry out research and make funding application - Submit planning application (2017/18)	- PM M Ward - Secure funding to develop design proposals
		(b) Development of leisure provision, harbour and hotel	Provision of infrastructure to support tourism factor in the area	Develop proposals in partnership with potential providers	- PM – M Ward - Develop design proposals for hotel and harbour

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		Kilkeel			
3	15	Promenade Walkway (Internal Project)	Link promenade development with Newcastle and Warrenpoint promenades. This is keeping within the theme of developing leisure and recreation in three town centres	- Appoint consultants to design scheme 2017/2018 - Submit planning - Secure funding for scheme development	- PM J McGilly - Secure funding for design and business case development
4	16	Beach Improvements (Internal Revenue Project)	Tidy up current beach as an asset for Kilkeel and overall area of South East Coast and explore access arrangements at Marine Road Explore opportunities to deal with coastal erosion	- Develop proposals for beach enhancements - Influence EMFF Strategy to develop funding applications	- PM J McGilly - Work with Regularity & Technical Services Dept to investigate clean-up management programme - Secure funding to explore further beach enhancements
5	32	Promenade Extension and upgrade (Internal Capital Project)	This will improve the aesthetics for the area, encouraging more people to walk the route. This would provide an enhancement of public space	- Appoint consultant to design scheme - Identify funding sources	- PM J McGilly - Source funding to design promenade upgrade and extension
6	31	Development of Baths Site (Internal/External Project)	Continue to promote site as a leisure destination taking into consideration the listed building and	Secure a development proposal from 3rd party for the site	- PM J McGilly - Secure planning for the site - Prepare

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			potential uses		development brief on site and advertise
		Warrenpoint			
7	30	Former Osborne Hotel Development (External Project)	Enhancement of site with alternative uses considered	Progress development plans for the site	- PM J McGilly - Engage with owner to explore development options - Explore potential for UDG with DSD
8	28 & 29	Marina Service Centre/New Marina (Internal Capital Project)	Encourage tourism and visitor spend Shore front development opportunities	Explore funding options for project implementation	Resolve/conclude outstanding issues of displacement as highlighted in EA
9	35	One Way System (External Project)	Immediate impact on town space and traffic management plan. Reduce congestion in the Square	- Agree a final position on whether or not to have a one way system & what it would look like - Agree timeframe for implementation - Council to lobby Transport NI and support the campaign (ongoing)	- PM JMcGilly - Work with Transport NI to complete necessary traffic studies/secure a consultant to do study
10	38	Overall Marketing Campaign for the South East Coast (Internal Revenue Project)	Develop greater awareness of the area as a destination which visitors can identify. This would benefit in terms of packaging and promoting overnight stays in	Develop and implement a coherent and co-ordinated marketing and promotion strategy 2017/18)	- PM M Ward - Complete Tourism Strategy with agreed Marketing Strategy

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			particular		
11	39	Southern Relief Road (External Project)	Impact on wider area. This priority is duplicated in Newry City Masterplan as this is a priority identified within the Action Plan	• Lobbying role from Council. • Regular liaison and meetings with relevant agencies (ongoing)	PM: Eddy Curtis • Completion of options appraisals (TNI) • Continued Lobbying
12		Warrenpoint Park (Internal Capital & Revenue Project)	Development and regeneration of Warrenpoint Park (Heritage Lottery Funded Project). Application submitted to HLF. Planning application submitted	• Project completed by 2019	• PM J McGilly • Planning approved • HLF application completed • Match funding secured • Commence capital works
13		Narrow Water Bridge (External Project)	There is currently a strong private sector lobby from Warrenpoint, Burren and Rostrevor Chamber. Taskforce group meeting Louth County Council regularly	• Regular liaison with the taskforce group • Lobbying role from Council required to support the project • Research/update potential funding opportunities (ongoing)	• PM E Curtis • Continue to work with Central Government and Louth Local Authorities to establish commitment for the project

Report to:	Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Subject:	Horse Riding in Castlewellan Forest Park
Date:	Monday 13 February 2017]
Reporting Officer:	Marie Ward, Director Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism
Contact Officer:	Heather Wilson, Countryside Access Officer

Decisions Required

To agree the contents of the report and approve recommendations at Section 3

1.0 Purpose and Background

The Council has for the past three and a half years been successfully managing the mountain bike and up-graded walking trails within Castlewellan Forest Park under licence with Forest Service. Other recreational activities such as horse riding are currently being managed by the Forest Service.

Horse riding has taken place within the Forest for a considerable period of time, both on a commercial and individual rider basis with permits issued annually by Forest Service. Disabled riders also make use of the bridleways within the park.

In October 2016 a commercial operator approached Forest Service regarding the issuing of a permit for commercial horse riding within the forest. This was declined due to the on-going timber felling within sections of the park traditionally used for horse riding trails and concerns relating to safety issues due to the increase in numbers of users of the mountain bike and walking trails.

Following this, the horse riding community now perceive that horse riding is of a lower priority than other recreational provision and a campaign has been set up to lobby for horse riding within the Forest.

In response to the issues raised by horse riders Forest Service and Council have been working together to develop interim horse riding trails for the short term.

In conjunction with this a study has also been initiated by Council, to be completed by ORNI under their Service Level Agreement. The study will assess the capacity within the forest to provide for horse riding activity in the multi-use environment that exists, to identify management and infrastructure implications and to examine feasibility and cost effectiveness of various approaches.

Short term interim routes have been identified and agreed between Forest Service, Council, Mourne Heritage Trust (MHT), the commercial operator and the wider horse riding community.

2.0 Key Issues

	1. The identified routes will require new signage, management and future maintenance. Council, with the assistance of Mourne Heritage Trust, may be best placed to manage these trails in the interim until a longer term solution has been identified by the ORNI study. 2. In order to carry out these works an Agreement for Licence with Forest Service will be required and amendments made to the Licence under which the Council is currently operating. 3. The interim routes have been risk assessed. Should Council take on the management of these trails the Council insurance company will need to be consulted and any requirements met. 4. A tree survey along the identified routes will need to be completed as a matter of urgency, followed by remedial works as necessary. MHT has staff trained to carry out such work. 5. In the interim period clarification is required with regard as to which organisation will be issuing permits to any potential users and the management of any potential horse riding events within the forest.
3.0	Recommendations That Council undertake the management of the identified interim horse riding trails in Castlewellan Forest Park in the short term pending the outcome of the ORNI study into wider horse riding in the Mourne Forests, taking into account the identified key issues.
4.0	Resource Implications 1. Way-marking materials: £300 (£200 for disks and £100 for posts). 2. Additional labour and on costs, fuel etc: £970 3. Tree survey of the proposed routes: £560 4. Tree work: depending on the outcome of the tree survey but costs of essential work immediately: £1,120 Sub total: £2,950* Contingency: £1,000 Total : £3,950 *This assumes any tree work needed is within the competence of the MHT. Should tree surgeons be required £1,000 contingency may be required.
5.0	Equality and Good Relations implications None identified
6.0	Appendices None

Report to:	Economic Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Subject:	Seatrade Cruise Global 2017
Date:	16 January 2017
Reporting Officer:	Marie Ward
Contact Officer:	Michelle Boyle

Decisions Required

1. A Council Official to attend the Seatrade Cruise Global Event in Fort Lauderdale from 13 – 16 March 2017

1.0	Purpose and Background Seatrade Cruise Global has been the cruise industry's premier global event, bringing together buyers, suppliers, and cruise line executives with the benefit of networking, sourcing and education. The event provide attendees with both an opportunity to attend the conference and exhibit. The Council as a member of Cruise Europe are actively working to encourage an increasing number of cruise ships to Warrenpoint. In partnership with Warrenpoint Harbour Authority the Council proposes to send a Council Official to the Seatrade Cruise Global event as part of the Cruise Europe stand from 13 – 16 March 2017
2.0	Key Issues • The Councils Tourism Strategy has identified the opportunity the pocket cruise market represents and it should be a priority for Council to grow this • The Council are actively working on package development with the tourism industry which will help encourage great cruise ship attendance and improve the offering for passengers and encourage them to stay in the District when they leave the ship • The Council has successfully attracted a number of cruise ships which has proved beneficial in raising the profile of the District • The Council are working in partnership with Warrenpoint Harbour Authority to actively increase the number of cruises ships visiting Warrenpoint

3.0	Recommendations As per decisions required
4.0	Resource Implications The Council will attend as part of the Cruise Europe stand. The Cost of flights and accommodation is included within the Councils marketing budget
5.0	Equality Assessment No issues
5.0	Appendices N/A

Report to:	Economic Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Subject:	Council attendance at Balmoral Show 2017
Date:	13 February 2017
Reporting Officer:	Marie Ward
Contact Officer:	Michelle Boyle

Decisions Required	
1. To attend the Balmoral Show and take a stand as per marketing activities	
1.0	Purpose and Background The Council as part of its Marketing Activities plan to attend the Balmoral Show, largest Agricultural Show in Northern Ireland with 700+ trade stand ranging from farming & agriculture to visitor information, craft, food etc Details are as follows 10 – 13 May 2017 – Balmoral Park, Belfast
2.0	Key Issues • The Council will have staff allocated to each day of the shows • The Council will be taking a wide range of print material covering the District
3.0	Recommendations As per decisions required
4.0	Resource Implications Cost of stand and staff attendance included in Councils marketing budget
5.0	Equality Assessment No issues
5.0	Appendices N/A

Agenda Item:	Tourism Task & Finish Project Board FOR NOTING
Report to:	Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Subject:	Report of Tourism Strategy Task and Finish Project Board held on 11 January 2017
Date:	13 February 2017
Reporting Officer:	Marie Ward
Contact Officer:	Michelle Boyle

Decisions Required	
To note the contents of the report and recommendations	
1.0	Purpose and Background To provide an update to the Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee on the Tourism Strategy Task and Finish Project Board.
2.0	Key Issue It is recognised that marketing and partnership with strategic bodies and the business community is essential to enable delivery of the Newry, Mourne and Down area as a tourism destination of choice.
3.0	Recommendations: Meeting to be changed to bi monthly Hotel report for Downpatrick to be circulated to members
4.0	Resource Implications No information available at this stage of Strategy development
5.0	Equality Assessment All necessary consideration will be taken account of
5.0	Appendices Report of Tourism Strategy Task and Finish Project Board

Enc

Report of Tourism Task & Finish Committee meeting held on Wednesday 11th January 2017 in the Conference Room, Monaghan Row, Newry

Present: Councillor W Clarke
Councillor D Curran
Councillor G Hanna
Councillor B Quinn
Mrs M Ward
Mrs M Boyle
Mrs C Keaney
Mr M Mohan

Apologies: Councillor R Burgees
Councillor T Hearty

	Issues raised	Agreed	Action Taken
1.	Minutes of the previous Task & Finish meeting	On the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Curran	Minutes were approved
2.	Tourism Strategy	- Tourism Strategy recommended for approval at Council on 9 January 17. - Launch schedule for 21 February 2017 at 5pm, Slieve Donard Resort & Spa with key industry involvement	Ongoing
3.	Launch of Council Tourism Events Programme	Launch will take place after the Council rate is struck – possibly 14th February	Ongoing
4.	Industry engagement with Tourism NI	Saturday 21 st January, Slieve Donard Resort – ITOA AGM Various sessions with Kate Taylor to brief internal staff, departments in Council Councillors and wider industry on Tourism Strategy Great Days Out for Groups Fair – Slieve Donard, Newcastle First TNI/Council Webinar Broadcast - February 17 Digital DNA workshop with Industry planned dates to be confirmed	Ongoing

5.	Mournes Access Project –	Update noted	Ongoing
6.	AOB	Report on Hotel proposals for Downpatrick to be issued to TTFG members	Report issued
7.	Future meetings	Future meeting to be bimonthly	Master diary updated

Agenda Item:	Camlough Lake Task and Finish FOR NOTING
Report to:	Economic Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Subject:	Camlough Lake Task and Finish
Date:	13 January 2017
Reporting Officer:	Marie Ward
Contact Officer:	Michelle Boyle

Decisions Required	
1. To investigate provision of temporary facilities for events for 2017 2. To accept 1 representative from the new Camlough angling group to be represented on the Committee 3. The site meeting for February to be changed to March 4. A small group to review art feature on site	
1.0	Purpose and Background The purpose of the Task and Finish group is to update members and local user groups on the contract progress and also discuss future development at the lake , post contract completion
2.0	Key Issues The rehabilitation programme works are due for completion in Spring 2017. The Council have agreed to vest the lake and some lands to facilitate access, maintenance and future development Future development opportunities need to be considered to avail of funding opportunities
3.0	Recommendations As per decisions required
4.0	Resource Implications Capital provision available in this financial year
5.0	Equality Assessment All necessary consideration will be taken account of as part of detailed design
6.0	Appendices None

Report to:	Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Subject:	Renewal of RNLI Agreement for the provision of a Life Guard Service for Cranfield, Murlough and Tyrella Beaches 2017 - 2021
Date:	Monday 03 February 2017
Reporting Officer:	Marie Ward, Director Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism
Contact Officer:	Simon Boyle

Decisions Required

Agree recommendations

1.0 Purpose and Background

In 2012 Down District Council and Newry and Mourne District Council entered into an agreement with the RNLI to provide lifeguard Cover on 3 beaches Cranfield, Murlough and Tyrella. The agreement was subject to the two legacy councils taking up the RNLI offer.

Both councils entered into a contracted agreement for the provision of lifeguard services for a minimum five year initial period which ended in December 2016.

In short we operate a joint funding arrangement to cover costs associated with the lifeguard service, to provide life guard units on Cranfield, Murlough and Tyrella Beaches (the possibility of providing lifeguard cover of additional beaches is included in the agreement).

We have reviewed the contract and asked for a few minor changes relating to improving communication between the RNLI and Council Officers, we requested that a clause be inserted for the RNLI to provide a minimum of two voluntary community lifeguard clubs to cover the Newry, Mourne and Down area.

Key Issue

- RNLI ask for a contribution from the council equivalent to the seasonal wage bill for the time the operational lifeguards spend patrolling our beaches, the RNLI fund the remainder of the service.
- The RNLI provide lifeguard patrols in accordance with the beaches risk assessment.
- The RNLI train and provide qualified beach lifeguards (the lifeguards and resources are declared to MCA to provide first aid on the beach and surrounding area).
- RNLI provide all the equipment necessary to safely operate the lifeguard patrols i.e. appropriate vehicles and water craft, rescue boat, rescue water craft, uniforms, first aid equipment, shore facilities life guard base on each beach.
- The RNLI provide beach safety and education programmes for beach users,

	a schools education programme and a summer surf school. • They also provide safety cover for council maritime events i.e. 2 Jet ski's and staff for Skiffie Worlds (at no additional charge to the council as part of our partnership) • There is a considerable saving to the council within this partnership (equipment) and opportunity for community involvement in joining voluntary lifeguard teams, plus the RNLI brings a professional image and quality standard to the council. We have reviewed the operation of this service over the past five years and found it to provide value for money and a professional service for the council. • This is a Single Tender Action provision.
3.0	Recommendations That the council approve the continuation of the Agreement for the period 2017 to 2021 (a) Subject to completion of legal formalities
4.0	Resource Implications £47,940 per season Agreement period 1 April 2017 to December 2021 Service provided at Cranfield from 17/06/17- 03/09/17 Service provided at Tyrella from 29/04/17- 03/09/17, weekends from 29/04/17 – 18/06/17, daily from 19/06/17 to 03/09/17 Service provided at Murlough from 24/06/17- 03/09/17 Note that the above figure will be reduced if opening is delayed at Tyrella due to weather.
5.0	Appendices

Report to:	Economic Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Subject:	Tender for Production Services for Footsteps in the Forest event, Slieve Gullion
Date:	16 January 2017
Reporting Officer:	Marie Ward
Contact Officer:	Michelle Boyle

Decisions Required	
1. To issue a tender to appoint a company to undertake Story Development and Production Services for the Footsteps in the Forest Event at Slieve Gullion Forest Park	
1.0	Purpose and Background The Council as part of its Major Event Programme will be organising the Footsteps in the Forest event at Slieve Gullion Forest Park 3 – 4 June 2017
2.0	Key Issues The main aspect of the Footsteps in the Forest Event is a magical story of mythical people coming together. From land, sea and sky a story of mythical characters from across the District come together to tell a mystical story in the forest setting A key aspect of the event over the 2 days is a performance through the forest which engages all who visit To deliver this event a production services solution is required, this will include writing the story, creation of a story board, school engagement, production services and performances
3.0	Recommendations As per decisions required
4.0	Resource Implications The Council as part of its Event Budget for 17/18 has an allocation to organise the Footsteps in the Forest Event
5.0	Equality Assessment All aspect of equality will be considered
5.0	Appendices N/A

Report to:	Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Subject:	NI Athletics European Cross Country Championships Proposal
Date:	Monday 13 th February 2017
Reporting Officer:	Marie Ward, Director Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism
Contact Officer:	Martin Patterson, Enterprise Development Officer Mark Mohan, Senior Tourism Initiatives Manager

Decisions Required

For consideration

1.0 Purpose and Background

The European Cross Country Championships is the most important cross country event on the European calendar and attracts the best cross country talents from across the continent in U20, under-23 and senior men and women categories. The first edition of the championships was held in Antrim, Northern Ireland in 1994.

The Championships are held on an annual basis in various European Countries following a detailed bid process from the potential hosts. This involves the national governing bodies for athletics (Athletics NI) and other relevant stakeholders including owners of potential venues. Athletics NI, following a successful N Ireland Cross Country Championship in Kilbroney Park in October 2016, have opened discussions with Council officials within the ERT Department to discuss the feasibility of making a bid to host the European Cross Country Championships in the future (year of event to be determined following discussions).

2.0 Key Issues

Kilbroney Park, Rostrevor has been identified as a potential venue for a future European Cross Country Championships. This venue has a rich pedigree in facilitating cross country events from primary and post primary school events (organised and funded by our Council) up to and including national and international competitions.

UK Athletics have agreed to support a bid from Northern Ireland and in turn this would be submitted to European Athletics.

The European Cross Country Championships have already been allocated (2017 Bratislava in Slovakia, 2018 Tilburg in Holland, 2019 Lisbon in Portugal) and the 2020 bid process closed in September 2016. The earliest possible bid would be for 2021 with submissions to be by September 2018.

The major event has major TV coverage and marketing potential in addition to the sporting benefits for District Council.

It is the view of Council officials that in the first instance the Council should participate in initial stakeholder meetings to investigate the feasibility and financial cost of partnering in a bid process from Athletics NI.

3.0	Recommendations Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism officials in partnership with Active and Healthy Communities officials will liaise with Athletics NI and relevant stakeholders to consider the potential for a bid to be made by Athletics NI and UK Athletics to European Athletics to host the European Cross Country Championships to be held in Kilbroney Park, Rostrevor.
4.0	Resource Implications No financial implications at this stage. Officer time only.
5.0	Equality and Good Relations implications This programme has an open door policy to all applicants and meets all of the criteria.
6.0	Appendices Potential TV coverage data document and link to 'European Athletics' bidding process http://www.european-athletics.org/mm/Document/Corporate/Whatwedo/01/27/16/66/EA-BiddingBrochure_Neutral.pdf

ACTIONS TRACKING UPDATE

ENTERPRISE REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN
		ERT – MONDAY 11 MAY 2015		
ERT/45/2015	Narrow Water Keep Greencastle Castle	(a) Convene an immediate meeting of relevant Council officials with WBR Chamber of Commerce and Warrenpoint Hertiage Development Committee to discuss, in the first instance, the potential opening of Narrow Water Keep for the 2015 Summer period. (b) In addition, a meeting to be arranged with all relevant stakeholders to discuss the NIEA budget cuts and future implications for the Council due to the number of current NIEA historical sites in the Council District that this issue may apply to. (c) To note that currently there was no Council budget for any of this activity.	Actioned. Now ongoing and led by NIEA. Noted	
		ERT – MONDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2015		
ERT/117/2015	Transfer of Forest Assets	To approve recommendations contained in Report dated 12 October 2015 from G McGivern regarding the transfer of forest assets to Council. Council Officials to investigate establishing Community Development Trusts.	Ongoing	
ERT/118/2015	Annalong Harbour Stormgate	Council Officers proceed to prepare a joint funding bid for funding projects at both Annalong Harbour and Newcastle Harbour.	Ongoing	

ERT/119/2015	Terms of Reference Re: Strategic Tourism Industry Advisory Group	To approve the Terms of Reference for the Newry Mourne & Down District Strategic Tourism Industry Advisory Group, as per Report dated 12 October 2015 from Ms M Ward Director ERT.	Ongoing	
		ERT – MONDAY 11 JANUARY 2016		
ERT/177/2016	Policy & Procedures Access to the Countryside in Newry Mourne & Down District Council	To note a policy document was currently being prepared on Access to the Countryside in the Newry Mourne & Down District Council area, as outlined in Report dated 21 December 2015 from Ms C Murphy and Ms Heather Wilson, Countryside/Rights of Way Officer. The policy document will be a framework for merging the differing policies within the legacy Councils and ensuring the Council's compliance with the implementation of the Access to the Countryside (NI) Order 1983. When the policy document is completed it will be brought to the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee for consideration in due course.	Work on going to complete the policy including seeking legal advice.	
		ERT – MONDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2016		
ERT/27/2016	Overflow Car Park Slieve Gullion Forest	CLOSED SESSION ITEM Further time be allocated to Council officials to seek alternative provision for an overflow car parking facility at Slieve Gullion Forest Park, which will meet the Council criteria for such a facility at this location.	Ongoing	
		ERT – MONDAY 14 MARCH 2016		
ERT/34/2016	Heritage Lottery Funding - Townscape	(a) To approve the development of a proposal for Irish Street Downpatrick as an initial project for a Townscape Heritage Scheme for submission to the Heritage Lottery Fund. (b) That a phased approach to future Townscape Heritage Schemes is adopted with projects being ranked in order of feasibility and the level of commitment from property owners with potential	Work in Progress	

		match funding, etc. (c) Consideration to be given to the development of project ideas in those areas where Heritage Lottery Fund Projects have not been delivered or where previous plans have been developed but not delivered but could be revisited from the following areas: Scotch Street Downpatrick Castlewellan Killough Killylea Ardglass Bessbrook Newry Strangford		
ERT/36/2016	Hotel Development	The Council commission site option appraisal and business case/appraisal for hotel provision in Downpatrick and Newcastle.	Work in Progress	
		ERT – MONDAY 13 JUNE 2016		
ERT/103/2016	Trees in the Park Project	To approve, in principle, for Light 2000 Rostrevor Community Group to undertake a project within Kilbroney Park under the direction/supervision of Council Officials, involving the protection of existing trees, planting of new trees and publicising the project outcomes, as per Report dated 13 June 2016 from Ms M Keown Assistant Tourism Dev Officer.	Meeting with group took place on 27th July 2016, ongoing progress, trees to be planted November 2016.	
ERT/105/2016	Beaches – Newcastle and Warrenpoint	The Council submit a Marine Licence Application for Warrenpoint, Newcastle and Rostrevor.	Ongoing	
ERT/107/2016	Proposals re: Killeavey Castle	Closed Session Item To approve the recommendation contained in Report dated 13 June 2016 from Ms M Ward Director ERT, regarding proposals for Killeavey Castle, subject to satisfactory legal agreements,	In progress	

		valuations and satisfactory grant approvals.		
		ERT – MONDAY 8 AUGUST 2016		
ERT/120/2016	Funding Derrymore House & Estate	(a) The Council prepares two funding applications for EU RDP Programme and Sport NI, for infrastructure investment in Derrymore House & Estate. (b) The Council re-allocates up to £10,000 from the existing budget of £50,000 reserved as match funding for the unsuccessful Space & Place to secure the technical assistance support required to prepare the two funding applications.	In progress	
ERT/122/2016	Masterplans	(a) Action Plans are tabled for discussion at relevant DEA Meeting to which all Councillors will be invited to attend. (b) Revised Action Plans following DEA consultation to be tabled at Council via ERT Meeting in September/October 2016. (c) Strategic Council Projects arising from the Plans be reported on via Strategic Projects Working Group. (d) All other projects be reported via ERT with a note of progress against each of the projects at (c) above. (e) Report to relevant DEAs every 6 months against progress on each of the Plans relevant to DEA.	Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing Actioned Actioned	
		ERT MONDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2016		
ERT/131/2016	Warrenpoint Baths	(a) A further detailed options report be tabled at the ERT Committee Meeting following the outcome of the Warrenpoint Baths planning application process. This will include prioritisation and financial implications for options 1 and 2, as option 3 and 4	(a) In progress with Planning Service	

		are seen at this stage as last resort options. (b) Tourism figures for 2015 and 2016 to be circulated to Members for information.	(b) Actioned	
ERT/136/2016	Newry Town Hall Schedule of Works	(a) To close Newry Town Hall for Main Hall bookings from 15 May – 15 September 2017. (b) Mood Boards be produced to inform all groups and others of progress of works. (c) Meeting be convened at later date with Director of ERT, user groups and Theatre consultant, to inform them of proposed works. (d) Consultation process to begin in Autumn with Arts Groups/relevant bodies for Audience Development Strategy.	Ongoing	
		ERT - MONDAY 10 OCTOBER 2016		
ERT/152/2016	Collaborative Agreement – Local Enterprise Agencies	(i) Newry Mourne & Down District Council enter into a Collaborative Agreement with Newry & Mourne Enterprise Agency (NMEA) and Down Business Centre (DBC) jointly when it is in Council's interest to engage both parties for the delivery of LED (Local Economic Development) function. (ii) This should be agreed for a one year period and reviewed at the end before any further commitment is entered into. (iii) Council agreed the Collaborative Agreement details subject to final legal advice. (iv) No specific value to be included in the Agreement but Council to establish value for money rates for key personnel to complete tasks and agree scope of work based on each individual	In progress	

		arrangement.		
ERT/155/2016	Tender re: Arts Culture Heritage Strategy & Action Plan	The Council tender for the Development of an Integrated Culture Arts & Heritage Strategy 2017 – 2021 and Action Plan 2017-2019 for Newry Mourne & Down District Council, as per Report dated 10 October 2016 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director ERT,	In progress	
ERT/158/2016	Youth Golf Competition	To hold a Youth Golf Competition in April 2017 on the championship course at Royal County Down with a qualifier competition to be held at Ardglass Golf Club, as per Report dated 10 October 2016 from Ms T Mooney Assistant Tourism Development Officer.	In progress	
ERT – MONDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2016				
ERT/167/2016	Public Realm Scheme Newry Cathedral Corridor	(a) Transport NI to ensure that all relevant media sources are used in regards to communicating their forthcoming Road Resurfacing Programme for Hill Street Newry. (b) The Task & Finish Committee set up for delivery of the Public Realm Scheme – Newry Cathedral Corridor, will not be renewed with new trader Representatives in order that it can oversee delivery of the Newry Cathedral Corridor Revitalisation Programme.	Complete	
ERT/168/2016	Warrenpoint Public Realm Scheme	(a) Contractor to ensure that all relevant media sources, including WBR Chamber of Commerce contacts are used in regards communicating their forthcoming Road Resurfacing Programme for Dock Street Warrenpoint. (b) The Task & Finish Committee set up for delivery of the Public Realm Scheme at Warrenpoint, will be renewed early	Complete	

		in the new year in order that it can oversee the delivery of the Warrenpoint Revitalisation Programme. (c) Council and WBR Chamber of Commerce asked that the thoughts of both organisations are relayed to the family and contractor/employee colleagues of the young man who tragically lost his life carrying out site works as part of the scheme. (d) An apology be recorded for Councillor D McAteer for the Task & Finish Public Realm Steering Group Meeting held on 24 October 2016.		
ERT/169/2016	Derrymore Estate Partnership	(a) Council Officials to continue to progress the delivery of projects that seek to develop the recreational potential of Derrymore Estate. (b) Council to submit an application for Trail facility development to Sport NI before the deadline of February 2017, and if successful, to make available the required match funding towards this project of approximately £140,000 in 2017/18. (c) Council Officials to commence work on preparation and submission of a planning application for above project to ensure project delivery is not delayed if a Letter of Offer for funding is awarded.	In progress	
ERT/170/2016	Business Engagement Programmes	Agreed to deliver future business engagement activity which has as its focus, the up-skilling of employees / entrepreneurs, and knowledge transfer activity that will encourage business sustainability and growth, as per Report dated 14 November 2016 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism.	In progress	
ERT/171/2016	Newry River Clean Up DFC	Agreed that £25,000 of the funding received by	In progress	

	Funding	Department for Communities towards the Clean-up of the Clanyre River, be transferred to Rivers Agency as the responsible government agency to carry out an element of the works. Agreed that the issue of the clean-up of rivers in the District be referred to the Thematic Working Groups. Agreed Ms M Ward Director of ERT to report back to Councillor G Hanna regarding a clean-up of the pond at Annalong Mill.		
ERT/172/2016	Castlewellan Forest Park	(a)To procure and pay facilitators for the purposes of consultation workshops, events and road-shows. (b)To plan and hold a number of consultation workshops, events and road shows.	In progress	
ERT/173/2016	Membership – Connect Programme	Agreed to engage with Catalyst Inc via the Connect Programme, on a 12 month silver membership programme at a cost of £2,000 pa, as per Report dated 14 November 2016 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director of ERT.	In progress	
ERT/174/2016	Social Enterprise Programme	Agreed to fund the extension of the Social Enterprise Programme (Phase II) for a period of 6 months from November 2016 until April 2017, to be delivered throughout the Council District by Newry & Mourne Co-Operative and Enterprise Agency and Down Business Centre.	Complete	
ERT/175/2016	Downpatrick PSNI Station	Agreed the Council support Downpatrick Community Collective Group in their efforts to secure the site via Community Asset Transfer and Council to offer advice and support to the Group to develop the initiative, as per Report dated 14 November 2016 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism.	In progress	
ERT/176/2016	Sean Hollywood Arts Centre	(a)The Council to not proceed on the basis as	In progress	

	Café Franchise	outlined in Point 2.0 for the reasons as outlined in Point 3.0 in Report dated 14 November 2016 from Ms J Turley Facilities Administrator. (b) Council Officials to enter back into negotiations regarding the Café franchise at Sean Hollywood Arts Centre.		
ERT/177/2016	NIRDP Rural Tourism Scheme Slieve Gullion Forest Park	(a) Submit an application for the funding deficit to potential funders, ie, Heritage Lottery Fund, when the Slieve Gullion Forest Park Economic Appraisal is complete. (b) Invite to tender to prepare a planning application for the project, assess tenders, appoint supplier using the MEAT process. (c) Submit planning application for project. (d) Proceed to tender the proposed Augmented Reality Project. (e) Submit the round two application to NIRDP 2014-2020 Priority 6 Rural Tourism Scheme.	In progress	
ERT/178/2016	Caravan and Campsite Management	(a) To agree a joint process between Council and Forest Service to appoint external expertise to prepare the Business Rationale and Specification to seek competent providers for the management of Tollymore Castlewellan and Kilbroney Park Caravan/Camping provision with the option to consider some additional tourism recreational services which would enhance the tourism offering. (b) To revert to Council with the completed Business Rationale and Specification prior to progressing to seek Expression of Interest.	In progress	
ERT/179/2016	Slieve Croob Walking Trails	Agreed that both of the Council's Countryside Access Officers will have input into the study being	In progress	

		carried out by Outdoor Recreation NI regarding a Community Trails Plan to examine potential trails within the Slieve Croob and Mourne District Electoral Area, as per Report dated 14 November 2016 from Ms H Wilson, Countryside Access Officer regarding Community Trails Plan to examine potential trails within Slieve Croob and Mourne DEA.		
ERT/180/2016	2017 Events	(a) To approve the schedule of Council tourism events and dates which will enable the official launch of the events to be held in January 2017 which will provide time for the effective organisation and development of the events and allow the businesses in the District the opportunity to build packages around these core events. (b) To approve the schedule of Signature and Major Events to be supported through the events budget 2017. Also agreed Council Officials to arrange a meeting with the organising Committee of the Maiden of the Mourne Festival to discuss plans for the festival and identify how the Council can provide assistance.	In progress	
ERT/181/2016	Delamont Railway Tearooms	Agreed the Council approve the proposal to construct Tea Rooms at Delamont Railways, but not extend the current Lease, as recommended in Report dated 14 November 2016 from Mr S Boyle Delamont Country Park Manager. The above decision be subject to: (1) Council's Valuer reviewing the Rent to take into account additional investment and extended facilities on offer at Delamont. (2) The completion of legal formalities.	In progress	
ERT/184/2016	Maintenance – Struell Wells	This issue would be reported back to the ERT Committee following completion of discussions	In progress	

		between Historic Environment Division and Council.		
ERT/185/2016	Update RDP Village Plans	Note the process undertaken to date in preparation for submitting an application for funding to the Mourne Gullion Lecale Rural Development Partnership for new and updated Village Plans, as outlined in Report dated 14 November 2016 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism.	In progress	
ERT/186/2016	Adventure Tourism Project	Note that Newry Mourne & Down District Council, in partnership with relevant stakeholders, will submit the Growth for Adventure Tourism Entrepreneurs application to the Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme by the closing date of Friday 30 November 2016, as outlined in Report dated 14 November 2016 from Mr M Patterson Enterprise Development Officer.	In progress	
		ERT – MONDAY 12 DECEMBER 2016		
ERT/191/2016	Coastal Communities Fund	(a) Advance the Coastal Communities Fund application to Stage 2 of the process (b) The Council to go to tender for the appointment of a delivery agent, if successful at Stage 2 of the process.	Ongoing	
ERT/192/2016	St Patrick's Festival Parade 2017	(a) Council Officials to examine the possibility of Providing assistance for the production, development and delivery of the St Patrick's Day Festival Parades within the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Departmental structure and establish if the necessary assistance can be provided 'inhouse'. (b) A report to be tabled at the ERT Committee Meeting in January 2017.	Officers considering ways to address the issue in line with how legacy DDC delivered the Parade in Downpatrick. Ongoing.	

ERT/193/2016	Policies Down County Museum Accreditation	To approve the following policies for the Down County Museum Accreditation application: Collection Development Policy Documentation Policy Collections Care and Conservations Policy Access Policy Environmental Sustainability Policy	Complete	
ERT/194/2016	Armstrong Hut Ballykinler Camp	(a) To approve the development of initial plans and to seek costs for the project to reconstruct an Armstrong Hut from Ballykinler Camp at Down County Museum in order that should funding become available from Peace IV, or an alternative source, the project can process. (b) Progress reports regarding the project to reconstruct an Armstrong Hut from Ballykinler Camp at Down County Museum, be tabled at the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting in due course.	Ongoing	
ERT/195/2016	Tourism Travel Trade Opportunities	Council to host part of a drinks reception for ITOA in January 2017 at a cost in the region of £4,000.	Ongoing	
ERT/196/2016	Tourism Strategy 2017 - 2021	(a) To adopt the Tourism Strategy 2017-2021. (b) To consider the Summary Action Plan for 2017/2018 and agree the review of the ERT Directorate Business Plan in early 2017. (c) To arrange an official launch of the Tourism Strategy in early 2017.	Actioned This will completed and submitted in February to ERT Launch date confirmed as 21 February.	

ERT/197/2016	Land at Slieve Croob – Walking Trails	(a) No further action be taken by Council regarding The development of walking trails and acquisition of land in Slieve Croob, until such times as the study being carried out by ORNI regarding a community trails plan for Slieve Croob and Mourne DEA, is completed. (b) An update report regarding the development of Walking trails in Slieve Croob to be tabled at a future meeting of the ERT Committee.	ORNI anticipate that a final draft of the report will be available by the end of January/early February for consideration by the Countryside Officers. Full report to be tabled at future Committee meeting	
ERT/198/2016	DOE Environment Fund – Ring of Gullion	To accept and return the Letter of Acceptance form from NIEA in respect of an offer of funding from the Environment Fund for 2017/18 for Strangford Lough, Lecale & Down Coast AONB, Ring of Gullion LPS and Ring of Gullion AONB.	Grant Acceptance form signed and posted to NIEA	
ERT/199/2016	NI Chamber Membership	The Council join NI Chamber of Commerce for an initial 12month period with review thereafter.	Work in progress	
ERT/200/2016	Overseas Results for Newry Mourne & Down District Council Area	The Council enter into an Agreement with Overseas Results Ltd to run a programme of export sourcing for 20 companies in the Newry Mourne & Down District Council area.	Work in progress	
		JANUARY 2017 – NOT AVAILABLE YET LD		

Report to:	Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	13 February 2017
Subject:	Newry, Mourne and Down Local Development Plan Preparatory Studies Paper 8: Coast
Reporting Officer:	Anthony McKay, Chief Planning Officer
Contact Officer:	Andrew Hay, Principal Planning Officer

Decisions required:

Note the content of this report.

1.0 Purpose and Background:

- 1.1 A programme of preparatory work is being undertaken as part of the Local Development Plan (LDP) process. Preparatory studies are essential in providing the evidence base for preparing the Local Development Plan (LDP). A reliable and comprehensive evidence base is vital to informing and justifying the 'soundness' of the LDP documents (Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan) and to show how planning policies and proposals help to achieve the social, economic and environmental objectives for the plan area.
- 1.2 The SPR Committee is responsible for the Local Development Plan. All LDP papers are reported to the SPR Committee for noting or decision. All LDP papers will also be presented to the Planning Committee for noting. Depending on the subject matter, a LDP paper will also be presented to any other relevant Council Committee for noting.
- 1.3 'Paper 8: Coast' provides members with an overview of matters relating to the coast in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area.
- 1.4 The paper builds on the existing evidence base and provides information on:
 - the regional policy context for formulating LDP policies for coastal development;
 - the inter-relationship between terrestrial and marine planning;
 - implications for land use from climate change, coastal flooding and erosion;
 - an examination of the coastal zone, together with a definition of the developed and undeveloped coast;
 - an overview of tourism and renewables in respect of the coastal area; and
 - consideration of potential coastal issues that will help inform coastal policy development within the new LDP.
- 1.5 Members are asked to note the content of this report. Any comments received will be considered. The paper will be subject to any changes considered necessary in response to any valid comments received at this or any other Committee to which it is presented.

2.0 Key issues:

- 2.1 'Paper 8: Coast' informs members about matters relating to the coast within the District, from a land use planning perspective, and some of the key issues that the LDP will need to address.
- 2.2 Northern Ireland's coastline is of great importance not only for its striking natural beauty, but also

	in terms of its scientific interest, its wildlife habitats and recreational opportunities. The coast is of great economic value and is the location of ports, harbours and many of our major urban areas and industries. Society continues to place considerable demands on coastal areas. In addition to man's influence the coastline is also subject to continual change resulting from dynamic natural processes.
2.3	The District has more than 100 miles, 25% of Northern Ireland's coastline. The District contains some of Northern Ireland's most attractive coastal landscapes which are subject to special protection and management.
2.4	The LDP will seek to implement the objectives of the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) for Northern Ireland in protecting the undeveloped coast and supporting sensitive enhancement and regeneration of the developed coast. It will develop policies which consider the associated social, economic and environmental implications of development in coastal areas as well as the possible need for coastal protection to address climate change.
2.5	The Council's draft Tourism Strategy recommends that strategies to improve access to water, where clear tourism benefits can be anticipated, should be brought forward. Coastal access is also highlighted by the SPPS which states that LDPs should promote and protect public access to and along the coast. Through the LDP process the Council will consider how planning policy, proposals and designations can support and enhance access to and within the coastal zone.
2.6	The Council's LDP will need to take account of risks from all sources of coastal flooding over the plan period and beyond as this will influence decisions on land use planning. The LDP will have a role to play in furthering a more sustainable approach to flood management.
2.7	In developing planning policy to address coastal erosion there will be a challenge for the Council to consider how to balance the need to reduce shoreline change and instability whilst meeting the expectations of coastal residents and landowners.
2.8	Ports and harbours are important economic generators and are essential to the operation of a range of different marine and coastal industries within the District. The LDP will consider what land use policies and designations are required to maintain viable, thriving and stable harbour areas including any additional land requirements to support the needs of fishing and other harbour based industries such as marine renewables and aquaculture.
2.9	The LDP will seek to ensure that the Council's planning policy supports the delivery of renewable energy projects in the District and contributes to NI's targets for renewable energy generation. There is however a need to take a sustainable approach by protecting and conserving our environment, including our landscape and protected species, our local communities and other sectors of our economy from unacceptable significant adverse effects as a result of proposed renewable energy developments. The LDP in line with the SPPS will seek to deliver the growth of this important industry in a sustainable manner.
2.10	The information gathered and the key findings will be used to inform the preparation of the LDP.
2.11	Data gathered as part of this and other preparatory studies will be used to establish the baseline of the social, economic, and environmental characteristics of the plan area and enable the Council to identify the issues which need to be addressed by the LDP. Furthermore, it will provide a sound basis on which to formulate the plan strategy, policies and proposals within the LDP that will be subject to independent public examination.

3.0	Recommendations:
3.1	Members are requested to note the content of this report.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	N/A
5.0	Equality and good relations implications:
5.1	N/A
6.0	Appendices
	Paper 8: Coast



Comhairle Ceantair
**an Iúir, Mhúrn
agus an Dúin**

**Newry, Mourne
and Down**
District Council

**Local Development Plan
Preparatory Studies**

Paper 8: The Coast

February 2017

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Purpose: To provide Newry, Mourne and Down District Council with an overview of current planning policy for coastal areas, highlight how terrestrial and marine planning overlap, the implications for coastal land use planning from climate change, flooding and coastal erosion; and how coastal development policy will be informed through the LDP process.

Content: This paper provides:

- i. the regional context for formulating Local Development Plan policies for coastal development along with other Government policy objectives for this sector;
- ii. the inter-relationship between terrestrial and marine planning;
- iii. a focus on coastal flooding and erosion and the implications for coastal land use planning from climate change;
- iv. An examination of the coastal zone, together with a definition of the developed and undeveloped coast;
- v. an overview of tourism and renewables in respect of the coastal area; and
- vi. consideration of potential coastal issues that will help inform coastal policy development within the new LDP.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Northern Ireland's coastline is of great importance not only for its striking natural beauty, but also in terms of its scientific interest, its wildlife habitats and recreational opportunities. The coast is of great economic value and is the location of ports and many of our major urban areas and industries. Society continues to place considerable demands on coastal areas. In addition to man's influence the coastline is also subject to continual change resulting from dynamic natural processes.

1.2 The District contains some of Northern Ireland's most attractive coastal landscapes which are subject to special protection and management. These landscapes provide a range of habitats recognised internationally and nationally by the various designations such as Strangford Lough Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA), Ramsar Sites, Areas of special Scientific Interest (ASSI) and National Nature Reserves (NNR). See Local Development Plan Paper 6 - Environmental Assets for further information on these protected sites.

1.3 The LDP will seek to implement the objectives of the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) for Northern Ireland in protecting the undeveloped coast and supporting sensitive enhancement and regeneration of the developed coast. It will develop policies which consider the associated social, economic and environmental implications of development in coastal areas as well as the possible need for coastal protection to address climate change.

1.4 The Council is responsible for terrestrial planning not marine planning. Accordingly the Council's responsibilities in respect of planning control do not extend below the low water mark. However the Council as the Local Planning Authority has an important role in the protection of marine and coastal designations, particularly where a development on land might have an impact on the reasons for designation. In these circumstances the Council will seek to prevent any significant effect on protected sites.

1.5 Newry, Mourne and Down District Council is located in the south east of Northern Ireland, covering parts of Counties Down and Armagh. As the third largest Council within Northern Ireland, it comprises approximately 11% of the total land area of Northern Ireland, 25% of Northern Ireland's coastline (more than 100 miles of coastline), and provides services to over 178,000 residents, (10% of the NI population)¹.

¹ Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Economic Regeneration and Investment Strategy, 2015 – 2020

2.0 Regional and Local Policy Context

The Regional Policy Context is provided by the Regional Development Strategy 2035 (RDS) and regional planning policy statements. A summary of these documents as they pertain to plan making for the coastal area is provided in the following sections.

(a) Regional Development Strategy 2035

2.1 The RDS provides an overarching strategic planning framework to facilitate and guide the public and private sectors. The RDS will influence the future distribution of development throughout the Region including the marine area. It is not limited to land use but recognises that policies for physical development have far reaching implications. The RDS therefore addresses economic, social and environmental issues aimed at achieving sustainable development and social cohesion.

The Regional Guidance (RG) within the RDS which relate to the coast includes:

- **RG9: Reduce our carbon footprint and facilitate mitigation and adaptation to climate change whilst improving air quality.**
Within RG9 minimising development in areas at risk from flooding from rivers, the sea and surface water run-off is outlined, the protection and extension of ecosystems and habitats that can reduce or buffer the effects of climate change is outlined and the identification of key assets and areas that are at risk through climate change is also outlined.
- **RG11: Conserve, protect and, where possible, enhance our built heritage and our natural environment**
Within RG11 the protection, enhancement and management of the coast is outlined. It states that the quality of coastal waters needs to be raised. Coastal areas need to be protected from coastal squeeze, to safeguard against loss of distinctive habitats and to help adaptation to climate change. The landscape setting of features should be conserved. The Marine Policy Statement (March 2011) and subsequent Marine Plan(s) will provide spatial guidance and detailed policy where appropriate for the terrestrial/marine interface and the marine environment. This will be complemented by work to advance integrated coastal zone management.

(b) Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS)

2.2 The aim of the SPPS in relation to the coast is to protect the undeveloped coast from inappropriate development, consistent with the RDS; and to support the sensitive enhancement and regeneration of the developed coast largely within coastal settlements.

The regional strategic objectives for coastal development are to:

- conserve the natural character and landscape of the undeveloped coast and to protect it from excessive, inappropriate or obtrusive development; and
- facilitate appropriate development in coastal settlements and other parts of the developed coastline (subject to all other relevant planning policies) that contributes to a sustainable economy and which is sensitive to its coastal location.

2.3 The SPPS states that the following strategic policy must be taken into account in the preparation of Local Development Plans (LDPs) and in the determination of planning applications.

- There are few types of development which require a coastal location and the undeveloped coast will rarely be an appropriate location for new development. Where new development requires a coastal location, it must normally be directed into coastal settlements and other parts of the developed coast.
- In dealing with proposals that require a coastal location, planning authorities, must carefully assess the need for such development, its benefits for the local or regional economy and potential impacts on the environment. Development should only be permitted on the undeveloped coast where the proposal is of such national or regional importance as to outweigh any potential detrimental impact on the coastal environment and where there is no feasible alternative site within an existing urban area in the locality.
- Within the developed coast, areas of amenity value (such as parks, outdoor sports / play areas and coastal walkways) and areas or features designated for their importance to the archaeological, built or natural heritage, should be protected from inappropriate development. The relevant policies set out elsewhere in the SPPS will apply to all such areas and designations.
- Within the developed coast there will be a presumption in favour of development that promotes the enhancement and regeneration of urban waterfronts.
- In considering development proposals within the developed or undeveloped coast attention must be paid to the retention of existing public accesses and coastal walkways. Development which would result in the closure of existing access points or the severing of routes will normally only be acceptable where a suitable alternative is provided. Proposals to extend access to the coastline or for the provision of associated facilities such as pathways or picnic areas, should not impact adversely on the nature conservation, archaeological / built heritage, geological or landscape value of the area.
- Development will not be permitted in areas of the coast known to be at risk from flooding (see Flood Risk), coastal erosion, or land instability.

(c) A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland

2.4 Strategic Policy 13: The Coast aims to protect the coast from inappropriate development. The policy provisions of Planning Policy Statement 21 – Sustainable Development in the Countryside however take precedence over Policy SP 13 in so far as it relates to Green Belts and Countryside Policy Areas.

The Regional Policies within A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland (PSRNI) in relation to the Coast are the following:

- CO 1: The undeveloped coast - To conserve the natural character and landscape of the undeveloped coast.
- CO 2: The developed coast - To encourage and support proposals for the enhancement and regeneration of urban waterfronts.
- CO 3: Areas of amenity or conservation value on the coast - To protect from development those parts of the coast, within urban areas, which are important in terms of their amenity or nature conservation value.
- CO 4: Access to the coastline - To encourage schemes which provide or extend public access to the coastline.
- PSU 10: Development at Risk - Development will not normally be permitted in areas known to be at serious risk from flooding, coastal erosion or land instability.

It should be noted that some elements of the above policies and others within this section have been superseded by Planning Policy Statements 2, 6, 15 and 16.

(d) Planning Policy Statement 15 – Planning and Flood Risk (PPS 15)

2.5 The policies of PPS 15 supersede Policy PSU 10 'Development at Risk' of PSRNI insofar as this policy relates to flood risk.

2.6 PPS 15 outlines that climate change is one of Northern Ireland's foremost environmental, social and economic challenges. It is vitally important to ensure that our new and existing infrastructure is as resilient as possible to all potential impacts. This includes being able to adapt to both gradual climate change as well as the increased risk of extreme weather events such as flooding.

The main objectives of this planning policy statement are to:

- seek to prevent inappropriate new development in areas known to be at risk of flooding, or that may increase the flood risk elsewhere;
- ensure that the most up to date information on flood risk is taken into account when determining planning applications and zoning / designating land for development in development plans;

- adopt a precautionary approach to the identification of land for development through the development plan process and the determination of development proposals, in those areas susceptible to flooding where there is a lack of precise information on present day flood risk or future uncertainties associated with flood estimation, climate change predictions and scientific evidence;
- manage development in ways that are proportionate and appropriate to the 4 main sources of flood risk present in Northern Ireland, i.e. fluvial, coastal, surface water and water impoundment (reservoir) breach or failure;
- seek to protect development that is permitted within flood risk areas by ensuring that adequate and appropriate measures are employed to mitigate and manage the flood risks to the development and elsewhere;
- support the retention and restoration of natural flood plains and natural watercourses as a form of flood alleviation and an important environmental and social resource, and ensure that this is recognised in the decision making process;
- promote sustainable development through encouraging the use of sustainable drainage for new developments and redevelopment / regeneration schemes;
- promote public awareness of flood risk and the flood risk information that is available and of relevance to undertaking development; and
- promote an integrated and sustainable approach, both locally and at catchment scale, to the management of development and flood risk which contributes to:
 - the safety and wellbeing of everyone;
 - the prudent and efficient use of economic resources; and
 - the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment and biodiversity;
 - the conservation of archaeology and the built heritage.

(e) Planning Policy Statement 16 – Tourism (PPS 16)

2.7 The policies of PPS 16 supersede Coastal Policies CO 5, CO 6 and CO 7 of PSRNI and also those elements of the remaining coastal policies insofar as they relate to tourism development or the protection of tourism assets from inappropriate development. Where the above policies are referred to elsewhere in PSRNI, the policies of this statement will take precedence.

(f) Towards an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy for Northern Ireland 2006-2026

2.8 In June 2006 the Department of the Environment (DOE) prepared a document titled 'Towards an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy for NI 2006-2026'. It sets out long-term objectives for achieving sustainable coastal management, through improvements to existing management systems, the development of new management systems and identifying and dealing with potential areas of conflict.

2.9 The Strategy highlights that policies aimed at achieving coastal management in Northern Ireland have, as of the time of publication, principally focused on individual sectoral interests such as aquaculture, environment, fisheries, renewable energy, waste management and tourism. This strategy seeks to bring together all those involved in the development, management and use of the coast within a framework that facilitates the integration of their interests and responsibilities. It seeks to identify the key factors affecting the Northern Ireland coast and put in place a series of widely supported aims, objectives and actions which will promote a coordinated and sustainable approach to the future management of our coastal zone.

2.10 Consistent with the principles of sustainable development the proposed strategy is organised around three priority themes of:

- Sustainable communities in the coastal zone
- Safeguarding and improving the environment within the coastal zone and
- Maintaining and enhancing the economy of the coastal zone;

(g) Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Corporate Plan 2015-2019

2.11 The Council's mission as detailed in the Corporate Plan 2015-19 is to lead and serve a District that is prosperous, healthy, as well as sustainable from an economic, environmental and social perspective. This document outlines that one of the Council's strategic objectives is to protect our natural and built environment and defines the key actions of this to include reducing the risk of flooding in high risk areas and the protection of the District's rich natural and built heritage.

(h) Newry, Mourne and Down District Council draft Tourism Strategy 2017-2021

2.12 The vision of the draft Strategy is: By 2021 'NMD is a premier, year-round mountain and maritime destination in Ireland recognised for its EPIC experiences in outdoor adventure, its rich tapestry of cultural heritage, myths and unique stories, and its authentic local life'. The coastal region is an integral part of the draft Tourism Strategy. The Mourne Coast, which stretches from Strangford Lough to Carlingford Lough, is identified as a destination experience.

Area Plans & South East Coast Masterplan

(i) Area Plans

2.13 The Ards and Down Area Plan 2015 (ADAP) and the Banbridge/Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015 (BNMAP) are the current statutory plans for the District and provide the framework against which to assess development proposals.

2.14 The BNMAP 2015 includes a section specific to the Countryside and Coast within the Plan Strategy. It states that sections of the coast are protected by a number of international and national nature conservation designations. These include Carlingford Lough Ramsar site, Carlingford Lough Special Protected Area (SPA), Murlough Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Carlingford Lough Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI), Kilkeel Steps (ASSI), Mourne Coast Area of Scientific Interest (ASI) and South Mourne Coast (ASI).

2.15 The ADAP 2015 does not include a section specific to the coast within the Plan Strategy. Nonetheless, there are sections of the coast which are protected by a number of international and national nature conservation designations; these are outlined in LDP Paper 6: Environmental Assets.

2.16 Almost all of the coastal region is within either the Mourne AONB or Strangford and Lecale AONB (see Appendix 3). The coastal region also contains a number of the District's settlements, these are identified in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Coastal Settlements in Newry, Mourne and Down District

Towns	Villages	Small Settlements
Kilkeel	Annalong	Ardglass
Newcastle	Ballykinler	Ballyhornan
Warrenpoint	Dundrum	Ballymartin
	Killyleagh	Greencastle
	Killough	Glassdrumman/Mullartown
	Rostrevor	Kilclief
	Strangford	Killowen

(j) South East Coast Masterplan

2.17 The South East Coast Masterplan was published in January 2013. It provides guidance on the future strategic development of the South East Coast as well as specific guidance on the location and form of development in the town centres of Newcastle, Kilkeel and Warrenpoint over the next 20 years.

2.18 By 2025 the South East Coast Masterplan vision is “to become an area with a strong national and international reputation for being a high quality coastal landscape of great scenic, natural, historic and leisure value; and an area that provides an enjoyable place to live, to work, to explore, and to play in”.

2.19 It states that this is to be achieved by enabling the key towns of Newcastle, Kilkeel and Warrenpoint to collectively and individually embrace and prosper from their association with both their coastal setting and the wider character of the Mourne Mountains as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. In particular, it will help to direct public and private investment to those areas that will most benefit local people, support local business and commerce and contribute to the long term viability and vitality of the Town Centre.

3.0 Terrestrial and Marine Planning and the Coast

3.1 As yet there is no official definition by the European Commission of the coastal zone, particularly in identifying how far inland ICZM should address. In many countries the inland limit, for ICZM purposes, has been defined between 1 and 3km. In Northern Ireland it has been decided to use a 3km inland limit and include flexibility in instances where this limit needs to be increased to take account of factors outside the zone but have an impact on the coastal zone i.e. Water Framework Directive. The seaward boundary is defined in legislation under the Northern Ireland Adjacent Waters Boundaries (Northern Ireland) Order (2002). In general, Northern Ireland’s territorial waters extend to 12 nautical miles from baseline (see definition in Appendix 1 – Glossary). In the case of planning, it should be noted that, development plans, Planning Policy Statements and the regulation of development proposals currently do not extend beyond low water mark of the ordinary tides.²

3.2 The Crown Estate owns virtually the entire seabed out to the territorial limit, including the rights to explore and utilize the natural resources of the UK Continental Shelf (excluding oil, gas and coal). It also owns approximately 55% of the foreshore and around half of the beds of estuaries and tidal rivers in the UK.³

3.3 The Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Environment, Marine and Fisheries Group have a wide range of responsibilities and work at all levels within the Government process from policy advice to practical hands-on work on the ground. With responsibility for the implementation of European, regional and national legislation relating to the coastal environment, habitats, species and landscapes. Essentially they are responsible for protecting the natural features of the coast and for promoting their appreciation among the public and within all sectors of Government.⁴

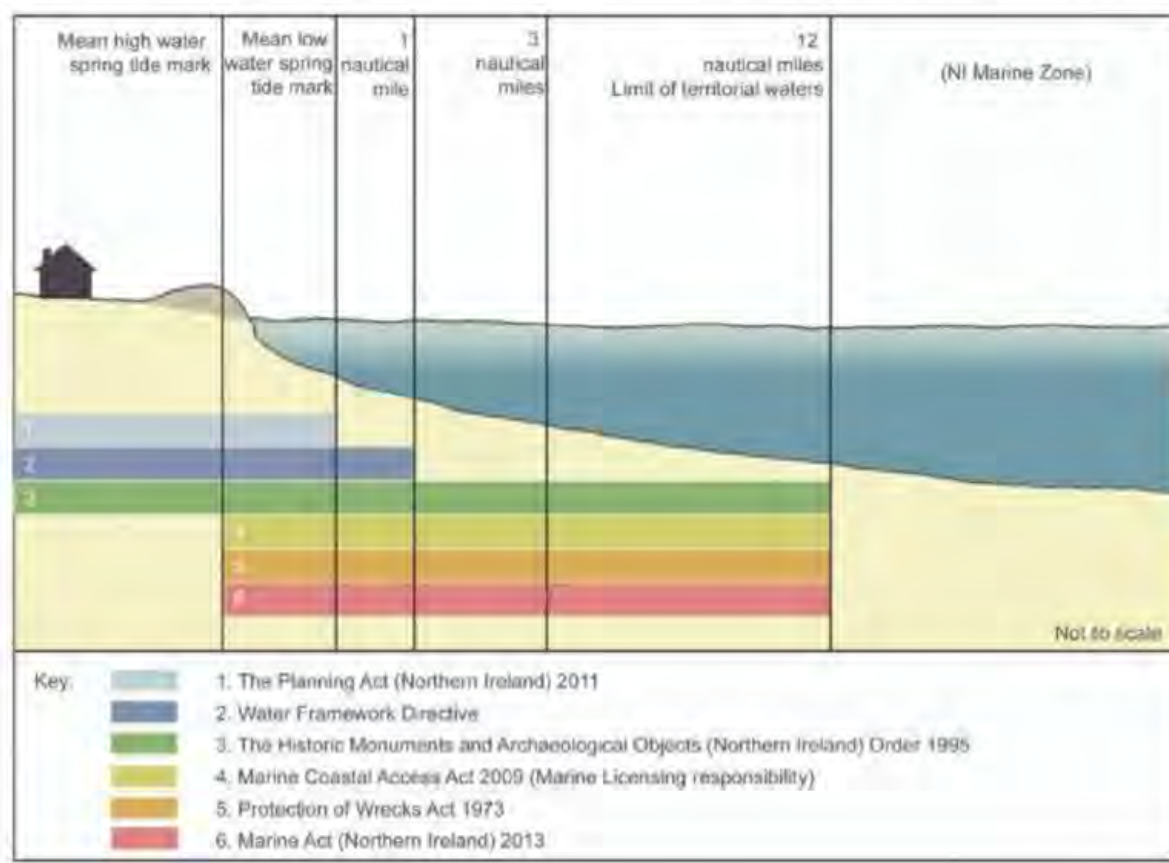
² Towards an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy for Northern Ireland 2006 – 2026.

³ <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/coastal-regions-northern-ireland>

⁴ <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/coastal-regions-northern-ireland>

3.4 As planning legislation extends to the mean low water mark; there is an area of overlapping responsibilities in the intertidal area, this is illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Geographical overlap between the marine and terrestrial environment⁵



Source: DOE

Marine Policy and Legislative Framework

3.5 The UK Marine Policy Statement, the UK Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and the Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013 provide the policy and legislative framework for the management of the marine area in Northern Ireland. EC Directives also govern how we implement management measures in protecting all aspects of the marine area. These include Maritime Spatial Planning, Bathing Water, Water Framework, Marine Strategy Framework, Marine Cultural Heritage, Habitats and Birds Directives.⁶

⁵ Planning in the Coastal Area – A developer’s guide to planning considerations and environmental responsibilities - DOE, April 2015

⁶ Planning in the Coastal Area – A developer’s guide to planning considerations and environmental responsibilities - DOE, April 2015

NI Government Marine Responsibilities

3.6 As outlined in 'Planning in the Coastal Area – A developer's guide to planning considerations and environmental responsibilities, April 2015' the Marine Division, within the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) is responsible for protecting the marine area while maximising the sustainable use of its resources, now and for future generations. Their main areas of work include:

- managing ecological and water quality including bathing and shellfish waters under EC Directives;
- managing and protecting marine species and habitats;
- managing and protecting marine cultural heritage assets;
- managing legislative and consenting requirements in the marine area; and
- developing a Marine Plan for Northern Ireland.

3.7 A Marine Plan for Northern Ireland, which is currently being drafted by Marine Division, will provide a regional reflection of the national policy objectives within the UK Marine Policy Statement. It will take account of the economic, social and environmental needs to provide policies and guidance for all decisions which affect or have the potential to affect Northern Ireland's marine area.⁷

Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs)

3.8 The Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013 provides the mechanism for DAERA to establish a new type of Marine Protected Area (MPA), called Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ), in the Northern Ireland Inshore Region. MCZs are designated to protect nationally important habitats, species and geological features.⁸

3.9 In Northern Ireland, MPAs consist of Ramsar sites, marine Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI), and Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs).⁹

3.10 Strangford Lough was Northern Ireland's only Marine Nature Reserve but it was redesignated as Northern Ireland's first MCZ on the introduction of the Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013¹⁰. On 12th December 2016 four further MCZs were designated in Northern Ireland including Carlingford Lough MCZ which is located within the Newry, Mourne and Down District.

⁷ Planning in the Coastal Area – A developer's guide to planning considerations and environmental responsibilities - DOE, April 2015

⁸ DOE leaflet - Marine Conservation Zones in the Northern Ireland Inshore Region

⁹ DOE leaflet - Marine Conservation Zones in the Northern Ireland Inshore Region

¹⁰ <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/marine-conservation-zones>

Marine Licensing

3.11 As stated in 'Planning in the Coastal Area – A developer's guide to planning considerations and environmental responsibilities, April 2015', the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 provides for a marine licensing system across England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland's offshore region. In Northern Ireland, it applies to all our marine waters from the mean high water spring tide mark out to 12 nautical miles (the inshore region). This includes the waters of any sea lough, estuary, or river, so far as the tide flows at mean high water spring tide. It should be noted that some of the tidal rivers in Northern Ireland can extend quite far inland, for example, the Newry River extends into the centre of Newry and The Foyle Estuary extends as far as Strabane.

3.12 Marine Division has responsibility for licensing various activities such as construction works, deposits in the sea, removal of objects or aggregates from the seabed, dredging from the seabed, or use of explosives and incineration. This licensing system allows for a consistent approach to decision making around activities, while ensuring sustainable development and conservation of our marine environment. It also ensures that any decision making is balanced with other uses of the marine environment. There is a shared responsibility between Marine Division and Planning Authorities for consenting or licensing projects in the intertidal area. This means that certain activities or development along the coast may require a marine licence as well as planning permission.

3.13 Some marine licensable activities may also form part of a plan or project that requires an Environmental Impact Assessment under The Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007 (as amended) or a Habitats Regulations Assessment under The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended). However, the same proposal may also require an Environmental Impact Assessment for the onshore development under The Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and/or a Habitat Regulations Assessment¹¹.

4.0 Climate change, coastal flooding and coastal erosion

Climate change

4.1 The SPPS states that the planning system should help to mitigate and adapt to climate change by avoiding development in areas with increased vulnerability to the effects of climate change, particularly areas of significant risk from flooding, landslip and coastal erosion and highly exposed sites at significant risk from impacts of storms.¹²

¹¹ Planning in the Coastal Area – A developer's guide to planning considerations and environmental responsibilities - DOE, April 2015

¹² Paragraph 3.13, P13-14 Strategic Planning Policy Statement for NI (SPPS)

4.2 In a NI Assembly research paper published in September 2016 the issue of climate change in the context of NI has been examined¹³. The most recent climate change risk assessment¹⁴ suggests the increasing frequency and severity of flooding from a range of sources represents the most significant climate change risk to UK infrastructure. Assets and networks across all infrastructure sectors are already exposed to multiple sources of flooding, and the number of assets exposed to significant levels of flood risk could double by the 2080s with projected changes in the UK climate. The paper highlights that:

- Coastal infrastructures, particularly ports, are at risk from rising sea levels and a consequential increase in the height of onshore waves and storm surges.
- High onshore waves will also accelerate rates of coastal erosion and put increasing lengths of the UK rail network at risk, as well as sea walls that protect coastal settlements.

4.3 The research paper identifies the need for more action to manage increasing risk to existing networks (including flood and coastal erosion risk management infrastructure), from sea-level rise and increased rate of erosion. Referencing the risk assessment it also highlights the urgent need for research in Northern Ireland suggesting current knowledge of the threat posed by coastal erosion and flooding remains limited.

4.4 The UK Marine Policy Statement (2011) states that understanding the impacts and effects of climate change is key to maintaining a healthy environment. This will influence how we use and value our coasts and seas both now and in the future. Adaptation, including in the marine environment, is necessary to deal with the potential impacts of these changes which are already in train. Sea level rises, increased flooding and coastal erosion will lead to increased vulnerability for development and significant change along parts of the UK coast.

4.5 In Northern Ireland estimates of sea level change by the 2050s range between 13cm and 74cm, dependent upon scenario. Heightened sea levels are expected to exacerbate coastal erosion and compound the effects of storm surges. Storm surges, are temporary increases in tidal height caused by particular weather conditions in future their frequency or severity of may increase as climate change affects weather patterns.¹⁵

4.6 The Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2014 seeks to explore how we can best adapt to climate change. The Adaptation Programme will provide the Northern Ireland response to the priority climate change risks and opportunities identified in the Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) for Northern

¹³ Legislative and policy response to the risk of coastal erosion and flooding in the UK and Ireland.

¹⁴ CCC) Committee on Climate Change (2016) Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017 [online] available from: <http://nia1.me/39p>

¹⁵ Towards an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy for Northern Ireland 2006 – 2026

Ireland. It will set out the strategic direction and objectives in preparing Northern Ireland for the effects of climate change. It also establishes a range of actions and key adaptation activities for the period 2014–2019.

4.7 Potential threats and opportunities from climate change in the natural environment include:

- Changes in soil moisture deficits and drying, with consequences for species habitats and soil organic carbon;
- Increased risks from pests, diseases and invasive non-native species;
- Changes in species migration patterns with consequences for the conservation network and cultural ecosystem services;
- Reduced water quality, due to pollution from point and diffuse sources;
- Risks to coastal habitats due to flooding;
- Tidal flooding and coastal erosion;
- Shifting of marine species, with consequences for ecosystem services; and
- Changes in fish catch latitude (plaice, sole).¹⁶

4.8 The National Trust paper 'Shifting Shores' states that the impacts of climate change at the coast are becoming more apparent and widespread through increased erosion and flooding. It states that hard coastal defences such as concrete walls have a limited lifespan, and will be increasingly prone to failure. As they fail decisions need to be made about whether or not to replace them. It states that we must also acknowledge that sea defences often cause unwelcome side effects such as beach lowering in front of sea walls and, as a consequence of groynes, the starving of sediment supply to neighbouring areas.

Government Responsibility for Coastal Erosion and Flood Risk Management in Northern Ireland.

4.9 The Department for Infrastructure (DfI) has overall responsibility for flood risk management and policy in Northern Ireland. The NI Assembly Research Paper on Coastal Erosion¹⁷ highlights however that no single Executive Department has the responsibility for coastal erosion risk management. The Executive's policy on coastal protection is determined by what is commonly known as the 'Bateman Formula'. Under this formula central government departments have a responsibility to construct, maintain and repair the coastal defences in their possession. For example,

- The Department for Infrastructure's (DfI) Rivers Agency has powers to maintain 26km of sea defences and two tidal barriers designed to reduce the risk of flooding (but not coastal erosion) to low lying coastal land;
- DfI's Transport NI has responsibility for coastal defences that protect the public road and railway network;

¹⁶ Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme – DOE, 2014

¹⁷ Legislative and Policy Response to the risk of coastal erosion and flooding in the UK and Ireland. NI Assembly Research and Information Research Paper 7th September 2016.

- The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) is the marine licensing authority for deposits in the marine area below the mean high water spring tide, and also has responsibility for marine and coastal conservation;
- DAERA is also the marine planning authority for Northern Ireland and is currently drafting the NI Marine Plan;
- The EU Floods Directive which came into force in 2007 requires the production of flood risk assessments for all river basin districts and coastal areas within Member States. DfI's Rivers Agency is the competent authority with regard to the production of these assessments.

Coastal Flooding

Rivers Agency Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) for Northern Ireland

4.10 Article 4 of the Floods Directive (2007/60/EC) requires that each Member State undertakes a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA). As the competent authority for Northern Ireland, Rivers Agency published this in 2011. The PFRA for Northern Ireland assesses the potential adverse consequences of future floods on human health, economic activity, cultural heritage and the environment taking into account long term developments such as climate change. It considers flooding from all of the main flood sources including rivers, the sea, surface water runoff (also known as pluvial flooding) and impounded water bodies (such as dams and reservoirs).

4.11 The Rivers Agency preliminary flood risk assessment for Northern Ireland estimates that:

- 46,000 or 5% of the 830,000 properties in Northern Ireland are at risk of flooding from rivers (fluvial) or the sea (coastal);
- Approximately 15,500 of these properties are protected to some extent by flood defence systems and the culvert network.

The report notes that while the threat is not widespread (the PFRA estimates approximately 1,800 people or 720 households are at risk of coastal flooding) coastal flooding has the potential to have a significant impact on public safety, economic activity and the environment.¹⁸

4.12 Planning Policy Statement 15 - Planning and Flood Risk (PPS 15) highlights that development plans in taking account of flood risk management considerations have assumed greater significance in recent years as a result of the implementation of the European Union (EU) Floods Directive in Northern Ireland. The Directive considers a catchment wide approach to flood risk management and promotes sustainability practices, which includes the retention and restoration of natural

¹⁸ Legislative and Policy Response to the risk of coastal erosion and flooding in the UK and Ireland, NI Assembly Research and Information Service Research Paper – 7th September 2016.

floodplains as valuable flood storage areas. The Directive addresses the main sources of flooding and promotes a joined up approach amongst organisations that can influence and contribute effectively to flood risk management. The LDP, as a key land use planning tool for influencing spatial patterns and types of development, therefore has a key role in the implementation of this joined up approach to flood risk management.

4.13 The Council's LDP will need to take account of the potential risks from all sources of flooding over the plan period and beyond as this will influence decisions on land use zoning. The LDP will avoid zoning land for development in flood risk areas. Outside of such areas it may still be appropriate for the LDP to mitigate against the risk of possible flooding, for example, by requiring susceptible areas within development sites to be retained as open space or indicating where the use of water resistant materials and forms of construction will be considered necessary. PPS15 also states that flood risk may also be an important consideration in the definition of settlement limits and in the designation of new settlements.

4.14 PPS 15 adds that, development plans may also need to consider the potential implications of flood risks beyond the Plan area. This may be necessary where:

- a) development in locations beyond the Plan area has the potential to impact upon flood risk within the Plan area; or
- b) Plan proposals could cause or increase the potential for flood risk in locations beyond the Plan area.

4.15 In considering the role of development plans and flood risk PPS 15 concludes that development plans have a role to play in furthering a more sustainable approach to flood management. This includes a number of measures such as:-

- Flood avoidance through the careful selection of housing and economics zonings;
- identifying flood plains and safeguarding them from development likely to impact upon their flood storage and conveyancing capacity;
- identifying and safeguarding from development areas of storm exceedence; and
- promoting sustainable drainage schemes. (SuDS)

4.16 Flood Maps (NI) contains a suite of detailed flood hazard maps that have been produced in accordance with the requirements of the EU Floods Directive. These maps have been prepared for areas that have been determined by government to be at significant risk of flooding and are an important step that will lead to the development of flood risk management plans for these areas¹⁹.

Coastal Erosion

4.17 Coastal erosion can be defined as the removal of material from the coast by wave action, tidal currents and/or the activities of humans, typically causing a

¹⁹ <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/articles/how-flood-maps-ni-was-produced>

landward retreat of the coastline. Whilst coastal erosion is a natural process it does have the potential to cause issues where land retreats to a point where it impacts on day to day activities by causing flooding, rock falls, loss of land and damage to infrastructure.

4.18 Extreme weather events have also highlighted the problem of coastal erosion. Whilst this is also a natural process, human interventions including coastal engineering, land reclaim, river basin regulation works (especially construction of dams), dredging, vegetation clearing, gas mining and water extraction all contribute to erosion. This in turn undermines flood defences, both natural and manmade, creating the potential for coastal flooding and damage to infrastructure and private property.

4.19 According to Rivers Agency, whilst significant coastal flooding is a relatively infrequent occurrence in Northern Ireland, there have been some major events in recent times, notably the tidal surge of January 2014, which caused almost £1.4m worth of damage to roads, including £382,000 to fix the sea wall at the Rostrevor Road, near Warrenpoint.²⁰

Photo 1 – Damage to the sea wall and road at Rostrevor Road, Warrenpoint



Source: <http://www.newry.ie/news/latest-news/2269-storm-damages-rostrevor-road>

²⁰ Legislative and Policy Response to the risk of coastal erosion and flooding in the UK and Ireland. NI Assembly Research and Information Service Research Paper – 7th September 2016.

4.20 As stated in 'Towards an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy for Northern Ireland 2006 – 2026', coastal erosion is a potential impact of rising sea levels with existing beaches and dunes being put under increased pressure. This will have implications for wildlife and habitat protection, as well as for coastal planning policy. Coastal erosion is an issue for parts of Northern Ireland such as the County Down and North coasts.

4.21 Sea defences have traditionally been employed to manage coastal erosion, where there is a perceived threat to infrastructure, with, some arguing, little thought having been given to the wider environmental consequences. In many cases hard engineering approaches exacerbate the problem, causing more erosion further along the coastline.

4.22 The National Trust document entitled 'Shifting Shores' states that for many years, the default response to flooding and erosion along the coast has been to 'hold the line' and build our way out of trouble. It states that in some places defence is of course necessary, but increasingly we must view adaptation as having an equal role in the long-term health of the coastline. It adds that where we can, recreating a naturally functioning shoreline will free us from the sea defence cycle of construct, fail and reconstruct. It states that recent research identifies the disconnect between technical coastal change management and land use planning. As we make the switch from building our way out of trouble at the coast to planning our way out, this break in the system must be addressed.

4.23 A planning application for the construction of 127m of rock armouring coastal defences at Windmill Road Cranfield was submitted to Newry, Mourne and Down District Council in 2015 (see photos 2, 3 & 4 below).

Photo 2 – Existing hard defences in the vicinity of Windmill Road



Photo 3 & 4 - Erosion of the cliff edge and dunes at Windmill Road



Source: NMDDC

4.24 As part of this project involved development below the Mean High Water Spring Tide a Marine Licence was also required from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural affairs (DAERA). The application site is adjacent to two European and a national designated site: Carlingford Lough SPA, Murlough SAC and Carlingford Lough ASSI.

4.25 DAERA considered that the proposed development could exacerbate coastal erosion and may harm a European protected habit and subsequently issued a refusal of the Marine Licence application on 13th June 2016. Planning permission for this development proposal was also refused on 16th August 2016.

4.26 This planning application provides a local example of the complex and often opposing issues to assess when dealing with planning applications along the coastline.

4.27 NIEA Marine Conservation Team (MCT) in responding to the proposed developed advised that a range of hard engineering solutions had already been put in place along this part of the County Down coast, these were not considered to have been successful and had simply transferred the problem along the shore. The NIEA MCT further stated that it was highly probable that the extensive use of shoreline protection in the area (some 3.28km was already protected out of 3.72km of coastline surveyed) had been a major contributing factor to shoreline erosion and instability to date.

This approach is supported by Professor Derek Jackson from the School of Environmental Sciences at the Ulster University:

"These defences are not solutions but are added problems and we should immediately shy away from these as our default position in 'protecting coastlines that naturally erode and build up again.'"²¹

4.28 In an academic paper published in 2016 Andrew Cooper, Professor of Coastal Studies at Ulster University, stated that

"Constructing coastal defences (whether hard or soft) to protect human infrastructure has deleterious effects on the coastal eco- system (including reducing or eliminating sediment supply), preventing energy attenuation, reflecting or redirecting excess energy, reducing or eliminating habitat (coastal squeeze), and altering habitat type." ²²

"In large part, concern about coastal erosion and flooding is only loosely focussed and terms such as 'coastal protection' and 'working with natural processes' mean different things to different people. Protecting a beach is not the same as protecting a house behind the beach – to protect the house means damaging or destroying the beach, while protecting the beach may mean letting the house collapse when erosion reaches it, yet both meanings are encompassed in the term "coastal protection". Importantly, the different interpretations of these terms are diametrically opposed – following one interpretation will compromise the other."²³

4.29 There is thus a clear challenge for the Council in developing planning policy to consider how to balance the need to reduce shoreline change and instability whilst meeting the expectations of coastal residents and landowners.

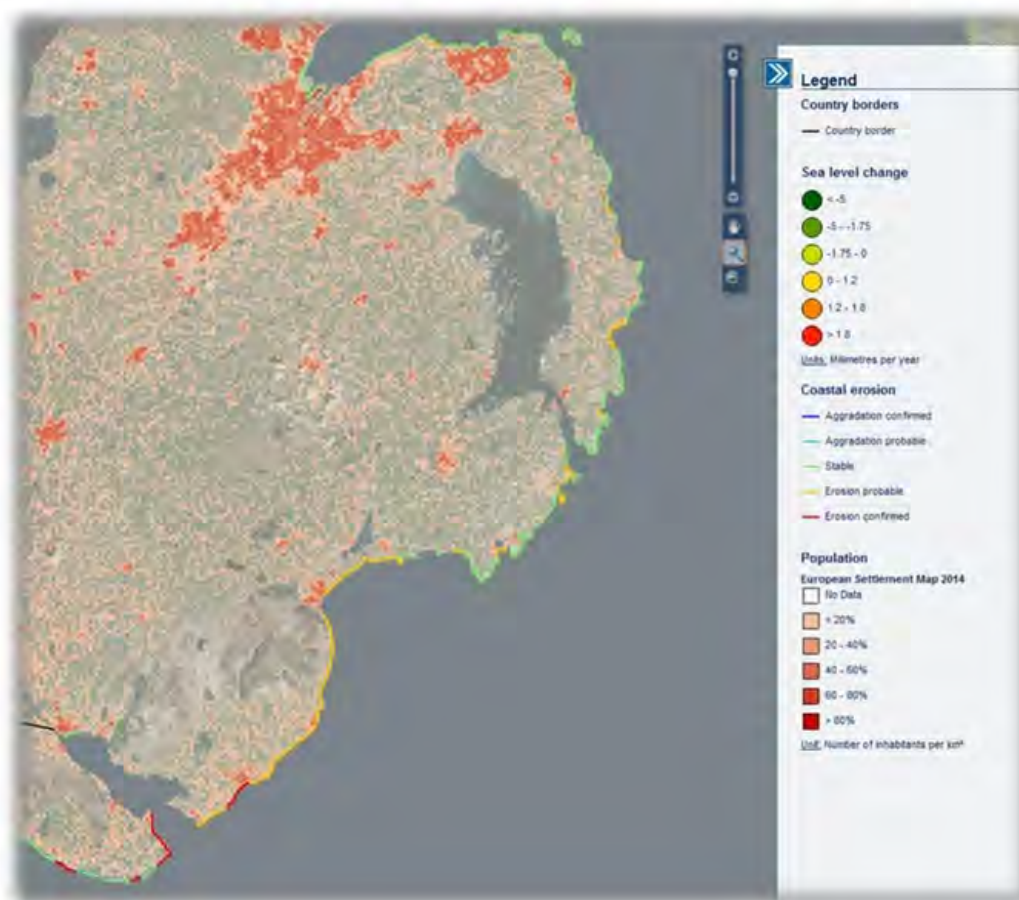
4.30 Figure 2 provides a visual illustration of coastal erosion along the Newry, Mourne and Down coastal stretch.

²¹ NIEA EIA Screening Opinion on application LA07/2015/0800/F Page 13.

²² J.A.G. Cooper, et al., Coastal defences versus coastal ecosystems: A regional appraisal, Mar. Policy (2016), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2016.02.021>

²³ J.A.G. Cooper, et al., Coastal defences versus coastal ecosystems: A regional appraisal, Mar. Policy (2016), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2016.02.021>

Figure 2 – Areas of Coastal Erosion along the South East Coast of NI



Source: European Atlas of the Seas

5.0 Coastal Development

5.1 The District's extensive and varied coastline is of national, and in some parts international significance, containing many areas of special landscape and ecological significance. It is therefore important that the character and environmental qualities of the District's Coast are protected from inappropriate development and that development which requires a coastal location is directed to the least environmentally sensitive areas. As outlined in Section 2.2 of this paper Regional Planning Policy in the form of the SPPS requires LDPs to distinguish between the developed and undeveloped coast and set out general policies for the conservation of the coastal environment.

The Coastal Zone

5.2 The coastal zone comprises three main elements: the land; the intertidal zone; and the sea. Statutory planning control does not extend to the entire coastal zone

(see Figure 1), although some development which occurs offshore may impact onshore, for example fish farming.

5.3 In bringing forward policy proposals relating to coastal development the Council's LDP will also consider the need for the identification of a coastal zone incorporating the developed and undeveloped coast.

5.4 It has been highlighted at paragraph 3.1 that there is no official definition by the European Commission of the coastal zone and it is widely acknowledged that the landward limit of the coastal zone is more difficult to define. A definition of the coastal zone as used by Argyll and Bute District Council within their Local Development Plan is as follows:

*"Strip of land between Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS) and 1 km landwards. In some circumstances the coastal zone may extend further in land where the land exerts an influence on the uses of the sea and its ecology, or the lands uses and ecology are affected by the sea."*²⁴

5.5 The draft BNMAP 2015 contained a coastal zone in the form of a Coastal Policy Area (Policy COU 2). This extended from an area in Newry City south of the Greenbank Industrial Estate to beyond Maggie's Leap, 1km south of Newcastle. It extended to Low Water Mark and included narrow strips of coast between the High Water Mark and the Low Water Mark along with other selected land²⁵. The landward element was however limited in scope. Following the introduction of PPS21 and the loss of the majority of Green Belt/Countryside Policy Area designations this limited coastal policy designation was removed from the plan prior to final adoption. The opportunity now exists as part of the new plan process to review this previous Coastal Policy Area and consider whether it should form part of an enlarged coastal zone with both a landward and seaward element.

The Developed Coast and Undeveloped Coast

5.6 The SPPS states that the undeveloped coast includes a wide variety of landscapes many of which are of high scenic quality as well as being of scientific interest, nature conservation value, and wildlife habitats. The aim of the SPPS is protect the undeveloped coast from inappropriate development and support the sensitive enhancement and regeneration of the developed coast.

²⁴ Argyll and Bute Council Local Development Plan Proposals for adoption Written Statement Feb 2015 Chapter 3, para 3.4.

²⁵ BNMAP Technical Supplement 8 – Countryside Assessment Vol 1

5.7 The coastal section of the SPPS provides a limited definition of the developed coast, this is considered further under paragraph 5.5 below. Some planning authorities have gone further in their classification, for instance The Highland Council have outlined a classification based on primary and secondary indicators (see Appendix 1)²⁵. The primary indicator for deciding whether a stretch of coast should be regarded as developed or undeveloped or isolated (third classification under Scottish Regional Policy) is settlement size while a number of secondary indicators allow the classification to be fine-tuned. These indicators relate to infrastructure, the degree of industrial/commercial/port, tourism/recreation presence, the level of offshore, and the character of the coastline.

The Developed Coast

5.8 The SPPS states that the developed coast includes existing settlements and major developments such as ports, isolated industrial units and power stations. This is not however exhaustive and does not reference all existing settlements. There is thus scope as part of the LDP process to more clearly define the extent of the developed coast. Some planning authorities have included sites of significance for national and international nature conservation, important cultural heritage resources as well as valuable areas of open space and recreation such as golf courses within this definition.²⁶

5.9 The developed coast should be the focus for developments requiring a coastal location or which contribute to the economic regeneration or well-being of settlements whose livelihood is dependent on coastal or marine activities and features or which meet the social needs of these communities. Where development on the coast is justified, opportunities for the development or re-use of vacant land and buildings should be considered in the first instance.

5.10 LDP Policy considerations within the developed coast include:

- Giving priority to promoting re-use of redundant land and buildings where there are opportunities to restore or enhance degraded coastal environments.
- Unless a coastal location is required, promoting locations on the landward side of existing settlements before considering development on the coastal strip or coastal frontage (as referred to in the SPPS).
- Avoiding coalescence of development along the coast.

¹⁶ Highland Council Coastal Development Strategy May 2010.

The Undeveloped Coast

5.11 The undeveloped coast as defined by the Highland Council includes agricultural and forestry land, low intensity recreational uses and smaller settlements which depend on the coast for their livelihood. Extensive sections of the undeveloped coast are protected by national and international natural heritage designations and contain important cultural heritage resources.²⁷

5.12 Development opportunities, for example related to tourism, leisure and recreation, can make an important contribution to the economy of rural areas. Many of these developments which can assist in sustaining the long-term viability of coastal communities are likely to be on a modest scale. Ill-considered development, however, can have a detrimental effect on ecology and scenery as well as on cultural heritage interests; a key objective for the planning system is to provide a framework for investment in development while protecting the undeveloped coast from unjustified and inappropriate development.

5.13 Proposals which, for technical and other reasons, require a coastal location include ports and harbours, some tourism, leisure and recreation projects, some sewage treatment plants, the onshore elements of oil and gas developments and of fish farms, some energy schemes and specific defence establishments. Large development proposals are likely to present the greatest threat to the natural, cultural or scenic environment but the cumulative effect of smaller developments can be just as damaging. As relatively few types of development require a coastal location, the undeveloped coast should generally be considered for development only where:-

- the proposal is of such national or regional importance as to outweigh any potentially detrimental impact on the coastal environment and
- there are no feasible alternative sites within existing settlements or on other previously developed land.

5.14 There will be an opportunity through the LDP process to consider how the undeveloped coast should be defined within the District.

Coastal and Marine Tourism & Recreation

5.15 The District is an area abundant in natural, built and cultural heritage; its coastal environment coupled with its proximity to the Mourne Mountains give the area a distinct character. The first strategic objective outlined in the Corporate Plan

²⁷ Highland Council – Highland Coastal Development Strategy May 2010.

2015-2019 for the Newry, Mourne and Down District is that the District becomes one of the premier tourism destinations on the island of Ireland.

5.16 The Council's draft Tourism Strategy recommends that strategies to improve access to water, where clear tourism benefits can be anticipated, should be brought forward. Coastal access is also highlighted by the SPPS which states that LDPs should promote and protect public access to and along the coast. Through the LDP process the Council will consider how planning policy, proposals and designations can support and enhance access to and within the coastal zone.

5.17 Further information on the District's tourism assets and opportunities is contained within the LDP Paper 7 on Tourism and the coastal elements of the District's tourism are outlined within this paper. The paper highlights that activity tourism is a strong and growing market across the District's coastal region:

- Strangford Lough is a popular tourist destination offering activities such as leisure sailing, kayaking, fishing, bird watching and diving.
- Beaches within the District are popular tourist attractions, these include Murlough, Cranfield, Tyrella, Warrenpoint and Newcastle.
- The Mourne Coastal Trail and South East Coast Canoe Trail are key drivers in attracting activity tourism.

Blue Flag Beaches, Green Coast Awards and EU Bathing Water Status

Blue Flag Beaches

5.18 The Blue Flag Award is the definitive international beach award recognised in 49 countries, owned and run by the independent non-profit organisation Foundation for Environmental Education. The programme is designed to raise environmental awareness and increase good environmental practice amongst tourists, local communities and beach and marina operators²⁸. Within the District there are three blue flag beaches, these are Cranfield, Murlough and Tyrella.

Green Coast Award

5.19 A separate "certification" process exists that covers coastal and bathing water management called the 'Green Coast Award'²⁹. The aim of this award scheme is to acknowledge those beaches which meet EC Guideline bathing water quality standards (the highest standard recognised under current EC legislation) but which

²⁸ <http://www.keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org/cgi-bin/generic?instanceID=29>

²⁹ EU Bathing Water Designation for Lecale Beaches A report summarising work undertaken for Strangford Lough and Lecale Partnership - September 2015

are also prized for their natural, unspoiled environment³⁰. It is aimed particularly (but not solely) at rural beaches which do not qualify for other awards due to the lack of intensive management and high level of infrastructure around the beach area³¹. This award has previously been awarded to Minerstown beach.

EU Bathing Water Status

5.20 EU Bathing Water is a designation that acknowledges that waters where people are bathing require more monitoring and clear reporting to the public³². A key benefit of having EU Bathing Water status is that it puts a requirement on central government to regularly test water quality and if required, to take measures such as upgrading sewage treatment systems or addressing septic tanks or problems with agricultural run-off. The other benefits are primarily socio-economic as part of a wider programme to promote the area for tourism and as a hub for sustainable outdoor recreation. There are three beaches within the District that are currently applying for EU Bathing Water Status designation; these are Killough, Ballyhornan and Kilclief.

The LDP must acknowledge the existence of and opportunities for each of these coastal designations within the District. It should make provision for the prerequisites of each designation and afford each area with the necessary environmental protection.

Mourne and Strangford Lough Coastal Walking Path

5.21 In August 2015 a technical and feasibility study was completed with regard to a Mourne and Strangford Lough coastal walking path. The aim of the study was to "assess the feasibility of developing a coastal walking path between Greencastle and Portavogie identifying tourism and business development opportunities that will enhance the visitor experience along the way by creating unique attractions and experiences"³³.

5.22 The proposed 131km/81 mile path stretches from Greencastle, near Kilkeel to Portavogie. It follows the coastline from Greencastle to Strangford, crosses Strangford Lough to Portaferry and continues along the coastline to Portavogie passing through the three fishing villages of Kilkeel, Ardglass and Portavogie.

³⁰ <https://keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.etinu.net/keepnorthernirelandbeautiful/documents/006877.pdf>

³¹ <http://www.keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org/cgi-bin/generic?instanceID=31>

³² EU Bathing Water Designation for Lecale Beaches A report summarising work undertaken for Strangford Lough and Lecale Partnership - September 2015

³³ Mourne and Strangford Lough Coastal Walking Path Technical and Feasibility Study – August 2015

5.23 The study states that a Mourne and Strangford Lough coastal walking path, within a tourism context, has very strong potential. It states that the path can act as a demand generator, bring economic benefit, has great opportunity to develop experiential tourism, is a natural fit for visitor segments, opens up the Irish Sea coast, aligns with existing strategies and aligns with the Mourne Coastal Driving Route (MCDR).

5.24 There is an opportunity as part of the LDP process to consider how planning policies for the coastal region can support tourism access projects.

Ports, Harbours and Marinas

5.25 Ports and harbours are important economic generators and are essential to the operation of a range of different marine and coastal industries. The LDP will consider what land use policies and designations are required to maintain viable, thriving and stable harbour areas. In line with the SPPS, the LDP will seek to support the enhancement and upgrading of piers, landing facilities and other facilities associated with the industries that require a pier and/or harbour location.

5.26 To ensure that working harbours are not constrained by neighbouring development, the LDP will consider additional land requirements adjacent to harbours to support the needs of fishing and other harbour based industries, including marine renewables and aquaculture.

5.27 To support the fishing industry, marine engineering and renewable energy industries there is a need to consider the need for onshore working and storage space for equipment, maintenance and staff operations within a reasonable distance of berthing facilities. Specific to the fishing industry, the available space for handling and processing fish is also a critical issue that will be considered as part of the LDP policy development and designations.

5.28 Whilst economies of scale have reduced commercial fishing at smaller harbours and piers these still have the potential for leisure, recreation and tourism uses.

5.29 Plans for a £36m expansion of Kilkeel Harbour have been drawn up by Sea Source, these entail a new breakwater and onshore development to allow larger boats into the harbour³⁴. Invest Northern Ireland has commenced a feasibility study in conjunction with the Strategic Investment Board in relation to the proposed expansion of the Harbour.

³⁴ Belfast Telegraph 6th December 2016 see <http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/business/news/1000-new-jobs-could-be-created-in-36m-kilkeel-harbour-expansion-plan-35269877.html>

5.30 The importance of Warrenpoint Harbour has previously been highlighted in the LDP Paper 3 on Employment and Economic Development. It is not only an important commercial freight gateway but has the potential to boost local tourism by attracting the cruise market.

6.0 Renewables and the coast

6.1 The LDP will seek to ensure that the Newry, Mourne and Down District continues to make a positive contribution to meeting NI's targets for renewable energy generation. These targets are important given the compelling need to reduce our carbon footprint and reduce our reliance on fossil fuels. NI has made good progress to date, as highlighted in LDP Paper 9 Public Utilities, in renewable energy generation, although the District does face challenges in terms of the adequacy of the electricity network infrastructure.

6.2 The District has a comprehensive and diverse mix of renewable energy consents including on shore, hydro, mini hydro, solar, biomass and tidal. The coastal region has an important role to play in supporting the renewable energy sector.

6.3 The benefits of a coastal location for a large scale biomass plant have been demonstrated by the creation of Northern Ireland's largest biomass plant at Lishally port in Derry. The port location enables the facility to import fuel by ship should issues arise in obtaining fuel in Northern Ireland. The 15.8 MW power station provides electricity to around 30-35,000 homes and it is estimated that over the course of its 20 year lifetime it is expected to divert around two million tonnes of wood earmarked for landfill to create electricity, increasing Northern Ireland's renewable energy generation by around 10%.

6.4 The forthcoming Landscape Character Assessment Paper (LDP Paper 12) will look at landscape sensitivity and in particular wind farm development. This section of the Coast Paper will focus on the potential for renewable energy generation in the marine environment.

6.5 Whilst the Council seeks to support the further development of renewables throughout the District, there is also a need to take a sustainable approach by protecting and conserving our environment, including our landscape and protected species, our local communities and other sectors of our economy from unacceptable significant adverse effects as a result of proposed renewable energy developments. The LDP in line with the SPPS will seek to deliver the growth of this important industry in a sustainable manner.

Offshore Renewable Energy Development

6.6 Offshore wind along with wave and tidal energy are developing technologies which may have significant potential to meet renewable energy targets. Stronger

wind speeds are generally available offshore, giving greater potential for electricity generation.

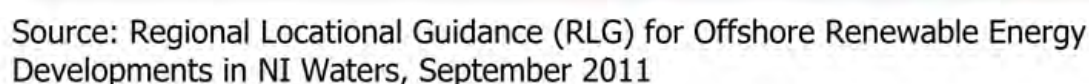
6.7 'The Regional Locational Guidance (RLG) for Offshore Renewable Energy Developments in NI Waters 2011', provides non-statutory guidance and information on the opportunities for, and key considerations influencing the siting and consenting of offshore renewable energy developments in Northern Ireland (NI) waters. Part of the approach to the SEA included a review of existing resource within Northern Ireland waters for each of the three offshore renewable energy technologies. Supporting documentation identifies the main areas or zones of potential interest for development for each of the three technologies. These are based on potential available natural resource and the technical/operational parameters of the different technologies for example optimal wind speeds/tidal velocities and maximum water depth for development.

6.8 In total eight resource zones were identified within the Northern Ireland study area. These are listed below and illustrated in Figure 3.

- Wind Resource Zone 1: North Coast
- Wave Resource Zone 1: North Coast
- Tidal Resource Zone 1: North Coast
- Tidal Resource Zone 2: Rathlin Island and Torr Head
- Tidal Resource Zone 3: Maiden Islands
- Tidal Resource Zone 4: Copeland Islands
- Tidal Resource Zone 5: Strangford Narrows
- Wind Resource Zone 2: East Coast³⁵

Tidal Resource Zone 5: Strangford Narrows and Wind Resource Zone 2: East Coast are located within the Newry, Mourne and Down District coastal region.

³⁵ Regional Locational Guidance (RLG) for Offshore Renewable Energy Developments in NI Waters, September 2011



Tidal Resource Zone 5: Strangford Narrows

6.9 The Strangford Narrows connect Strangford Lough to the Irish Sea and here the tidal wave is forced through an opening less than 2km in width and less than approximately 15m in depth. Due to the local bathymetry strong currents on both the flood and ebb tides are observed here from north of Strangford Harbour and past Killard Point³⁶.

6.10 Marine Current Turbines LTD (MCT) developed the SeaGen S technology – a twin axial-flow turbine supported on a structure with the ability to raise the moving components out of the water for maintenance³⁷. The SeaGen device was installed at Strangford Lough in 2008 and was the world's first grid connected tidal turbine to generate electricity onto the grid³⁸ (see figure 4). Decommissioning of the turbine

³⁶ Regional Locational Guidance (RLG) for Offshore Renewable Energy Developments in NI Waters, September 2011

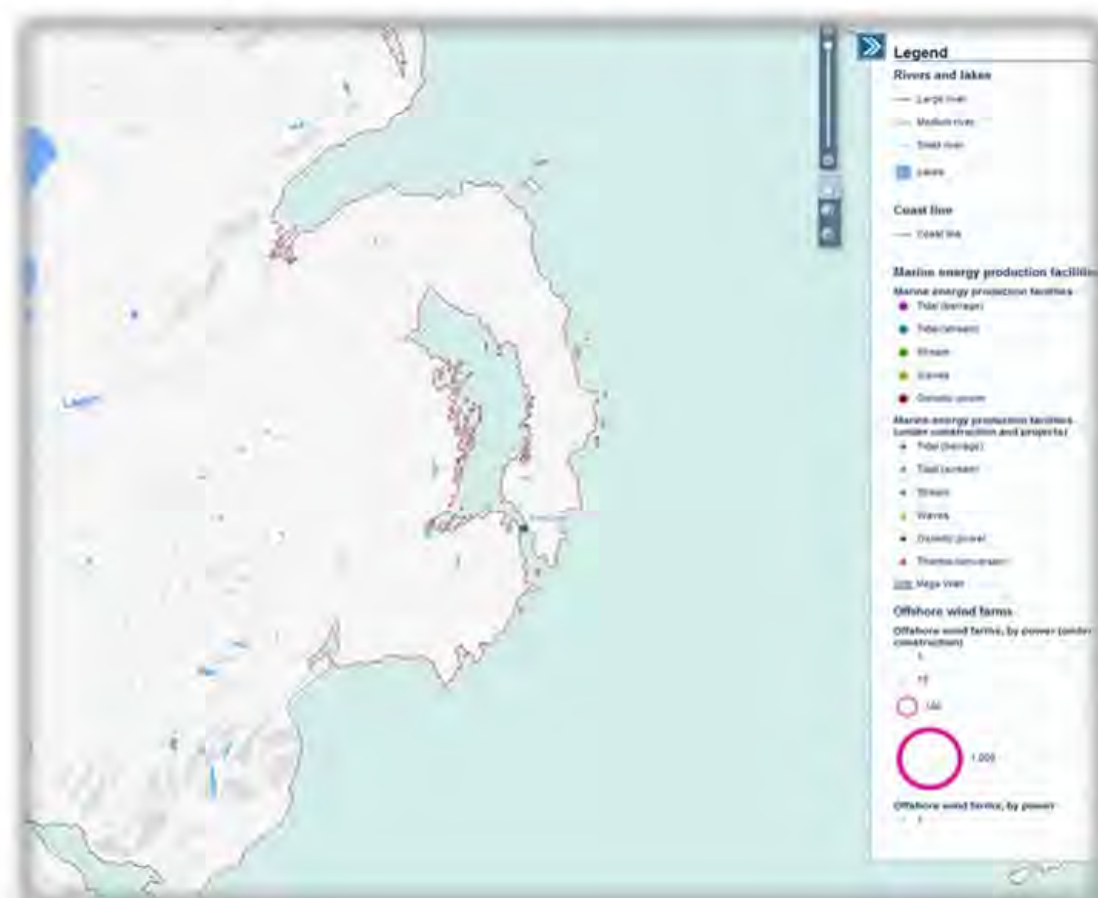
³⁷ <http://www.seageneration.co.uk/background.php>

³⁸ Regional Locational Guidance (RLG) for Offshore Renewable Energy Developments in NI Waters, September 2011

commenced in 2016 and the current owners Atlantis Resources hope to have the device fully removed from the site in 2017 to comply with The Crown Estate leasing requirements.

6.11 Atlantis Resources continue to hold an Agreement for Lease (Afl) from The Crown Estate as part of the divestment package from Siemens for the potential development of a 20MW tidal array within Strangford Narrows provided all permits and licences can be secured for the site. Atlantis Resources have not yet engaged with DAERA in relation to further pursuing this lease at this time.

Figure 4 – Strangford Lough Marine Energy Production Facility



Source: European Atlas of the Seas

Wind Resource Zone 2: East Coast

6.12 Wind Resource Zone 2: East Coast is located offshore of County Down where a sizeable wind resource extends from mid Ards Peninsula to Carlingford Lough and from 3km offshore out to the 12nm limit. This area has a large raw resource for offshore wind development. It is considered that nearshore shallower areas from 20m to 40m depth would initially be more economically attractive for development of offshore wind before 2020, although with newer deeper water jacket foundations

opportunities for development may currently exist out to the 60m contour which follows the eastern boundary of the zone. Opportunities for offshore wind development exist across the entire zone. However, there are a number of potential constraints/interaction that could occur in this area that could influence the overall extent of the area of the zone that could be available for development. These include:

- Protected sites
- Seabirds and Marine Mammals/Reptiles and Fish
- Benthic Habitats
- Seascape and Landscape
- Shipping and Navigation and Ports and Harbours
- Commercial Fisheries³⁹

6.13 The potential of this wind resource zone has been recognised through the submission of a planning application for 120 wind turbines off the east coast, whilst the application was withdrawn in December 2014, Northern Ireland continues to be seen as a location with “superb offshore wind potential”.⁴⁰

6.14 In addition to the potential effects on the marine environment, the LDP will need to highlight that careful consideration will also be required to be given to any associated terrestrial infrastructure and associated environmental and other constraints that may apply in sensitive coastal locations. LDP renewable energy planning policy will consider the need for marine proposals and their associated terrestrial infrastructure to be considered as a single project/proposal.

6.15 The Sustainable Kilkeel 2020 study in particular highlighted the potential of the renewable energy sector and tourism in contributing to local economic growth. The study suggested that a leisure marina and off-shore supply and service yard could support the fishing, off-shore energy and marine tourism sectors.

7.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

7.1 This paper has provided an overview of the policies relevant to the coast in the Newry, Mourne and Down Council area and has demonstrated the overlapping relationship between terrestrial and marine planning. When preparing the LDP it is important to appreciate the anticipated impact climate change will have on the coast and to ensure that provision is made for these changes i.e. ensuring that inappropriate types of development are not permitted in those areas most vulnerable to coastal change, or to flooding from coastal waters, while also improving resilience of existing developments to long term climate change.

³⁹ Regional Locational Guidance (RLG) for Offshore Renewable Energy Developments in NI Waters, September 2011

⁴⁰ Nick Medic Director of offshore renewables at RenewablesUK
(<http://www.businessgreen.com/bg/news/2384460/northern-irelands-only-offshore-wind-project-scrapped>)

7.2 In order to make provision for a changing coastline the Local Development Plan Strategy could therefore include measures to:

- define the developed and undeveloped coast;
- define and designate a coastal policy zone (CPZ) covering both the developed and undeveloped coast. Within this adopt a high level criteria based policy on coastal erosion which would seek to ensure that:
 - development proposals avoid areas vulnerable to coastal change;
 - development proposals demonstrate the need for a coastal location;
 - in areas identified as vulnerable to coastal change, development proposals are accompanied by a coastal change vulnerability assessment;
 - an assessment on the impact of development on existing coastal defence infrastructure is provided, including whether new infrastructure is required; and
 - proposals for new or replacement coastal defences are permitted where it can be demonstrated that they work with natural processes and there will be no significant adverse impact on coastal processes or habitats, and the development will not result in increased coastal erosion or flooding elsewhere on the coastline.
- define a coastal flooding zone and consider identifying coastal flooding zones and ascertain if the coastal flooding policy provision within PPS 15 is adequate; and
- direct new development within coastal settlements to the landward boundary of the settlement.

7.3 This paper recognises the potential that the coast holds within this District in relation to the tourist industry, it is important therefore that the potential of this industry is capitalised upon and that the LDP facilitates the delivery and enhancement of endorsed tourist related projects. With regard to renewable energy, it has been demonstrated in this paper that there is potential for both tidal and wind energy projects within this District. It is therefore important that in the preparation of the LDP the provision for credible developments of this type are provided for.

7.4 In preparation of the LDP for Newry, Mourne and Down it is important to take into consideration:

- how coastal policies within the LDP could assist in the delivery of the Council's Tourism Strategy and proposals within the South East Coast Masterplan;
- proposals which could further enhance the Mourne/Strangford Lough Coastal Walking Path project;
- marine plans and ensure that LDPs and marine plans are complementary, particularly with regard to the inter-tidal area. Proposals in the marine area

should be supported by the appropriate infrastructure on land and reflected in local development plans e.g. protecting existing terrestrial sites which support marine industries, such as fisheries and harbours;

- how the LDP could support possible offshore renewable energy projects; for instance where offshore energy is identified as a realistic opportunity, provision should be made in appropriate locations for supportive terrestrial infrastructure;
- how the LDP could support future Marine and Harbour development to support Tourism and Economic development in coastal areas; and
- the formulation of shoreline management plans and how they could best provide for the management of the coastal area in the future.

Appendix 1 - Glossary

Baseline: A baseline is the line from which the seaward limits of a state's territorial sea and certain other maritime zones of jurisdiction are measured. Normally, a sea baseline follows the low-water line of a coastal state.

Coastal squeeze: habitat loss which arises due to the high water mark being fixed by defence or development and the low water mark migrating landwards in response to sea level rise.

Conveyancing capacity: is a measure of the discharge carrying capacity of a channel.

DAERA: Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

ICZM: Integrated Coastal Zone Management

Inshore region: from the mean high water spring tide out to 12 nautical miles.

Intertidal area: is the area between the mean high water and the mean low water spring tides.

Mean high water spring tides and mean low water spring tides: The height of mean high water springs is the average throughout the year (when the average maximum declination of the moon is 23.5°) of two successive high waters during those periods of 24 hours when the range of the tide is at its greatest. The height of the mean low water springs is the average height obtained by the two successive low waters during the same period.

Shoreline Management Plan (SMP): A policy document for coastal flood and erosion risk management planning.

Appendix 2 - Marine Policy and Legislative Framework in Northern Ireland⁴¹

The UK Marine Policy Statement, the UK Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and the Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013 provide the policy and legislative framework for the management of the marine area in Northern Ireland. EC Directives also govern how we implement management measures in protecting all aspects of the marine area. These include Maritime Spatial Planning, Bathing Water, Water Framework, Marine Strategy Framework, Marine Cultural Heritage, Habitats and Birds Directives.

- The UK Marine Policy Statement

The UK vision for the marine environment is the attainment of 'clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas'. This shared vision is set out in the UK Marine Policy Statement (MPS), which was jointly adopted by all UK administrations in 2011.

- The UK Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009

The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 is a UK-wide Act which includes a number of provisions for the management of the UK's marine area. For Northern Ireland, key provisions within this Act include a licensing system for management of development within the marine area from the mean high water spring tide out to 12 nautical miles (the inshore region).

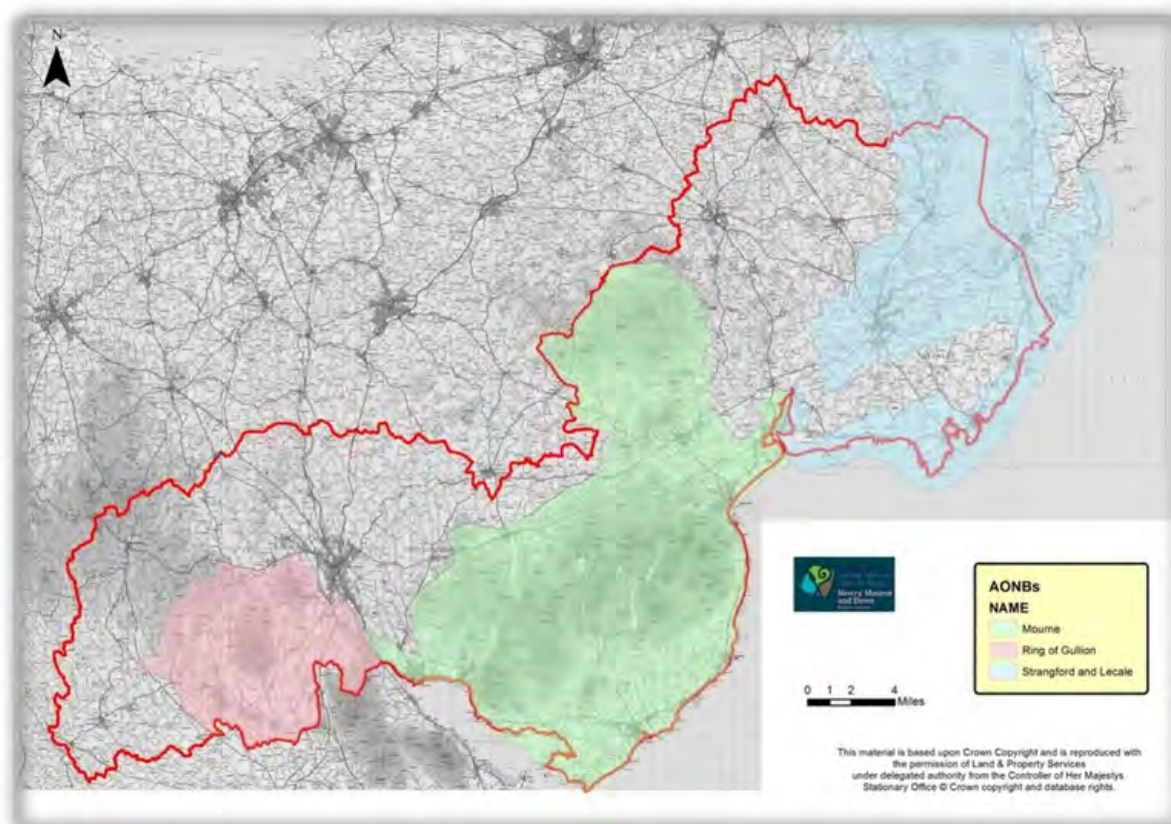
- The Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013

The Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013 includes duties to protect and enhance the marine area. The main provisions of this Act include:

- **Marine Planning** - provisions to prepare and adopt a Marine Plan for the Northern Ireland inshore region; and
- **Marine Conservation** – an improved method of managing our rich natural heritage within the marine environment, while also protecting and maintaining areas of specific importance for our marine wildlife and habitats.

⁴¹ Marine Policy and Legislative Framework in Northern Ireland taken from Planning in the Coastal Area – A developer's guide to planning considerations and environmental responsibilities - DOE, April 2015

Appendix 3 - Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in Newry, Mourne and Down District



Source: DOE

Appendix 4 - Indicators Used for classifying the Highland Coast

Primary Indicators	Developed	Undeveloped	Isolated
Settlement Size	<i>High density settlements greater than 500-1000</i>	<i>Low density settlements less than 500-1000</i>	<i>No settlements, in some cases discrete isolated individual property may be present⁽¹⁾</i>
Secondary Indicators	Developed	Undeveloped	Isolated
Infrastructure	Major roads, rail & power installations	Minor roads, rail & power installations	No roads, rail & power installations
Industrial Commercial Power Port Military	Major centre of activities e.g. Invergordon	Minor centre of activities e.g. jetty	No presence
Tourism, Leisure and Recreation	Major centre of activities e.g. marina	Minor low intensity development e.g. coastal path, jetty, swinging moorings	No presence
Offshore Activity	Significant presence e.g. oil rig	Noticeable presence e.g. fish farms	<i>No significant presence, although existing discrete minor aquaculture installations may be present⁽²⁾</i>
Character	Predominantly urban	Predominantly rural	<i>Extended view lacking obvious signs of human activity and generally wild and natural⁽³⁾</i>

Source: Highland Council – Highland Coastal Development Strategy 2010

Report to:	Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	13 February 2017
Subject:	Newry, Mourne and Down Local Development Plan Preparatory Studies Paper 14: Education, Health and Community Services
Reporting Officer:	Anthony McKay, Chief Planning Officer
Contact Officer:	Andrew Hay, Principal Planning Officer

Decisions required:

Note the content of this report.

1.0 Purpose and Background:

- 1.1 A programme of preparatory work is being undertaken as part of the Local Development Plan (LDP) process. Preparatory studies are essential in providing the evidence base for preparing the Local Development Plan (LDP). A reliable and comprehensive evidence base is vital to informing and justifying the 'soundness' of the LDP documents (Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan) and to show how planning policies and proposals help to achieve the social, economic and environmental objectives for the plan area.
- 1.2 The SPR Committee is responsible for the Local Development Plan. All LDP papers are reported to the SPR Committee for noting or decision. All LDP papers will also be presented to the Planning Committee for noting. Depending on the subject matter, a LDP paper will also be presented to any other relevant Council Committee for noting.
- 1.3 'Paper 14: Education, Health and Community Services' provides members with an overview of matters relating to the education, health and community services in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area,
- 1.4 The paper builds on the existing evidence base and provides information on:
 - an overview of the policy context and the organisations responsible for education, health and community facilities;
 - a summary of existing provision of education, health and community services; including current enrolment figures across the various education sectors in the District; and
 - an outline of existing and future proposals for education, health and community facilities and potential implications for the LDP.
- 1.5 Members are asked to note the content of this report. Any comments received will be considered. The paper will be subject to any changes considered necessary in response to any valid comments received at this or any other Committee to which it is presented.

2.0 Key issues:

- 2.1 'Paper 14: Education, Health and Community Services' informs members about the provision of education, health and community services within the District, and how this will assist the Council in the development of the LDP.
- 2.2 The paper provides an overview of the policy context and organisations responsible for delivering

	education, health and community services. It outlines the existing situation, highlights issues, and indicates future proposals for the District.
2.3	In terms of population and growth, demographic trends indicate an increasing older population and a declining number of children over the plan period. These factors will have implications for the provision of services. The projected rise in the number of people aged 65 or over in the District by 2030, will potentially have a significant impact in the delivery of health and community services. Meanwhile, a decline in pupil numbers will have implications for the education sector, particularly the sustainability of the existing network of schools in the District.
2.4	Whilst decisions on the provision of education, health and community services are matters for the relevant service providers, the LDP can aid a joined-up approach to ensure there is flexibility to meet need as and when required. Future proposals identified by service providers can be reflected in the LDP with necessary sites being protected for that use. Similarly, sites identified as being surplus to requirements can also be considered for alternative uses.
2.5	The information gathered and the key findings will be used to inform the preparation of the LDP.
2.6	Data gathered as part of this and other preparatory studies will be used to establish the baseline of the social, economic, and environmental characteristics of the plan area and enable the Council to identify the issues which need to be addressed by the LDP. Furthermore, it will provide a sound basis on which to formulate the plan strategy, policies and proposals within the LDP that will be subject to independent public examination.
3.0	Recommendations:
3.1	Members are requested to note the content of this report.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	N/A
5.0	Equality and good relations implications:
5.1	N/A
6.0	Appendices
	Paper 14: Education, Community, Health and Cultural Facilities



Comhairle Ceantair
an Iúir, Mhúrn
agus an Dúin

Newry, Mourne
and Down
District Council

**Local Development Plan
Preparatory Studies**

**Paper 14: Education, Health and Community
Services**

February 2017

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Purpose: To provide the Council with an overview of the current education, health and community services in the Newry, Mourne & Down District Council Area and to consider any future land use needs up to 2030.

Content: The paper provides information on:-

- (i) An overview of the policy context and the organisations responsible for education, health and community services/facilities.
- (ii) A summary of existing provision of education, health and community facilities. This will include current enrolment figures across the various education sectors in the District
- (iii) An outline of existing and future proposals for education, health and community facilities and potential implications for the Plan.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This paper is one in a series of position papers that will inform the Newry, Mourne & Down Council in the preparation of the new Local Development Plan (LDP). The purpose of this paper is to inform the Council of how, education, health and community service needs will be addressed over the plan period to 2030. It provides an overview of the policy context and organisations responsible for delivering education, health and community services. It will also outline the current situation regarding education, health and community services in the Newry, Mourne and Down Area, while also indicating future proposals in the District. These proposals will assist in identifying sites that have become or are likely to become surplus up until 2030.
- 1.2 As highlighted in the Population and Growth paper, demographic trends indicate an increasing older population and a declining number of children. According to the NISRA 2012-2037 population projections, the population of Newry, Mourne & Down is expected to grow from an estimated 175,403 in 2015 to 197,836 by 2030, which is an increase of approximately 11.3%.
- 1.3 During this period, the most notable changes in population will be those to the age structure of the District by 2030. In particular, there will be a significant increased proportion of residents aged 65+, with a projected increase from 14.69% of the population in 2015 to 20.32% in 2030. The proportion of those aged 0-15 will decline from 22.37% in 2015 to 20.94% in 2030 and likewise those aged 16-64 will decline from 62.94% to 58.70% in the same period.
- 1.4 Newly released information has also highlighted population growth between 2001-2011 at the village level of the district from 17.60% to 20.16% as a proportion of the District population and also a decline of the District's two main settlements (Newry & Downpatrick) as a proportion of the Districts population from 25.02% to 22.02%.

- 1.5 The projected rise in the number of people aged 65 or over in the Newry, Mourne & Down District Council area by the year 2030, will potentially have a significant impact on the region and in the delivery of health and community services. Meanwhile, a decline in the pupil population will have implications for the education sector, particularly the sustainability of the existing network of schools in the District.

2.0 Regional Policy Context

Programme for Government 2011-2015 (PfG)

- 2.1 The key priorities set out in the Programme for Government 2011-2015 all have some relation to Education, Health and Community.
- Growing a Sustainable Economy and investing in the Future
 - Creating Opportunities Tackling Disadvantage and Improving Health and Well Being
 - Protecting Our People, the Environment and Creating Safer Communities
 - Building a Strong and Shared Community
 - Delivering High Quality and Efficient Public Services

2.2 Draft Programme for Government 2016-2021 (PfG)

The Draft Programme for Government 2016-2021 seeks to improve well-being for all – by tackling disadvantage, and driving economic growth. As part of this, it sets out a number of objectives of direct relevance in the delivery of public services, including:

- A more equal society
- Long, healthy, active lives;
- Giving our children and young people the best start in life; and
- Provision of high quality public services.

Regional Development Strategy 2035 (RDS)

- 2.3 The RDS in line with the PfG aims to 'promote development which improves the health and wellbeing of communities'. It provides an overarching strategic planning framework to facilitate and guide the public and private sectors and ultimately shall influence Council decisions and investments for years to come.
- 2.4 The spatial framework of the RDS identifies Newry as a main hub with a significant employment centre, a strong retail offering and an acute hospital. The main road and rail links ensure Newry is well connected to Belfast and Dublin. The RDS also identifies Downpatrick as a hub to be developed as a major location providing employment service and a range of cultural and leisure amenities and notes that decisions on the future location of new public sector development will take account of the strategic role of the main towns.
- 2.5 The RDS recognises the importance of the rural area and notes 'we must also strive to keep our rural areas sustainable and ensure that people who live there, either through choice or birth, have access to services and are offered opportunities in terms of accessing education, jobs, healthcare and leisure'.

Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS)

- 2.6 The Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) was adopted in September 2015 to replace DOE PPS's as an aid to shorten and simplify the guidance. The SPPS sets objectives to:-
 - Promote sustainable development in an environmental sensitive manner;
 - Tackle disadvantage and facilitate job creation by ensuring the provision of a generous supply of land suitable for economic development and a choice and range in terms of quality, size and location to promote flexibility and meets specialised needs of specific economic activities;

- Support the re-use of previously developed economic development sites and buildings where they meet the needs of particular economic sectors;
- Promote mixed use development and improve integration between transport, economic development and other land uses, including housing whilst ensuring compatibility and availability by all members of the community; and
- Ensure a high standard of quality and design for new economic development.

2.7 The SPPS advises that planning authorities may engage with relevant bodies and agencies to understand and take account of health issues and the needs of local communities where appropriate. And where appropriate, councils may bring forward local policies that contribute to improving health and well-being as well as those which promote social cohesion and the development of social capital, the provision of health, security, community and cultural infrastructure and other local facilities.

Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland (PSRNI)

2.8 Regional planning policies for community needs are currently set out in the Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland (PSRNI). This covers all of the towns, villages and countryside of Northern Ireland outside Belfast (and adjoining built up areas) and Londonderry. The aim of Policy PSU1 is to allocate sufficient land to meet the anticipated needs of the community, in terms of health, education and other public facilities. It notes that changing circumstances determine the requirement of land to meet the needs of the community in terms of health, education and other public facilities and with the possibility of rationalisation and further privatisation of services, emphasis will be placed upon making the best possible use of existing sites. It clarifies that should circumstances require that new sites are needed, land will be identified by individual site assessment or through the process of preparing a development plan.

Planning Policy Statements

- 2.9 The current operational planning policy for education, health and community facility development in rural areas is set out in PPS 21 Sustainable Development in the Countryside. Supplementary guidance is contained in Development Control Advice Notes (DCANs)- DCAN 9: Residential and Nursing Homes and DCAN 13: Crèches, Day Nurseries and Pre-School Playgroups.

3.0 Local Policy Context

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Corporate Plan 2015 - 2019

- 3.1 The Council's mission is to "lead and serve a District that is prosperous, healthy and sustainable". Its vision is to create opportunities for local people and local communities to thrive by supporting sustainable economic growth over time and helping them to lead fulfilling lifestyles.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Community Plan

- 3.2 From April 2015, the Council has a statutory duty to prepare a community plan in consultation with other service providers (including the Education Authority, Health and Social Care Trust, PSNI, NI Fire and Rescue). A Community Plan identifies long-term objectives and actions for:
- Improving social, economic and environmental well-being and tackling poverty, exclusion and disadvantage;
 - Contributing to achieving sustainable development across the region;
 - Planning and improving public services
- 3.3 Community planning involves integrating all the various streams of public life (such as services and function that are delivered in an area) and producing a plan that will set out the future direction of a council area. Working with statutory bodies, agencies and the wider community, including the community

and voluntary sector, the council will develop and implement a shared vision of promoting well-being and improving the quality of life of its citizens.

- 3.4 The Draft Community Plan states that the Councils vision is for "Newry, Mourne and Down [is to be] a place with strong, safe and vibrant communities where everyone has a good quality of life and access to opportunities, choices and high quality services which are sustainable, accessible and meet people's needs.

4.0 Existing Area Plans

- 4.1 The Banbridge, Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015 (BNMAP) provides policy for Education, Health, Community and Cultural Uses. Policy ECU1 states that planning permission will be granted for education, health, community and cultural uses within settlement development limits provided a number of criteria are met:

- There is no significant detrimental effect on amenity or biodiversity;
- The proposal does not prejudice the comprehensive development of surrounding lands, particularly on zoned sites;
- The proposals are in keeping with the size and character of the settlement and its surroundings;
- Where necessary, additional infrastructure is provided by the developer;
- There are satisfactory access, parking and sewage disposal arrangements.

- 4.2 The BNMAP identified a number of sites within the District which were zoned for Education:

- Ashgrove Rd, Newry
- Abbey Way, Newry
- Ballydesland Road, Burren
- Seaview Heights, Ballymartin
- North of Shean Rd, Forkhill
- Church Street, Rostrevor
- Ballynamadda Road, Drumintee

- 4.3 Since their designation, it is noted that the zonings have been utilised and permissions have been implemented at Ashgrove Road, Newry, Ballydesland Road, Burren, Shean Rd Forkhill, Church Street, Rostrevor and Ballynamadda Road Drumintee. However, while land at Abbey Way, Newry has been approved for development of a community treatment and care centre this has not been implemented to date. Also the zoned site at Seaview Heights has not been utilised to date.
- 4.4 The Ards and Down Area Plan 2015 (ADAP) does not provide specific policies on Education but provides policy for Community Uses. Policy COY1 states that planning permission will be granted for community uses provided all the following criteria are met:
- There is no significant detrimental effect on amenity;
 - The proposal does not prejudice the comprehensive development of surrounding lands, particularly on zoned sites;
 - The proposals are in keeping with the size and character of the settlement and its surroundings;
 - Where necessary, additional infrastructure is provided by the developer; and,
 - There are satisfactory access, parking and sewage disposal arrangements.

5.0 Education

Organisations Responsible for Education

- 5.1 The Department of Education (DE) has overall responsibility for education policy except for the higher and further education sector for which the Department for the Economy (DfE) retains responsibility.
- 5.2 The Department of Education's main areas of responsibility cover pre-school, primary, post-primary and special education; the youth service; the promotion of community relations within and between schools; and teacher education and salaries. Its primary statutory duty is to promote the education of the

people of Northern Ireland and to ensure the effective implementation of education policy.

- 5.3 A single Education Authority (EA) was established on the 1st April 2015 to replace the five Education and Library Board and the Staff Commission for Education and Library Boards and will now oversee the delivery of education, youth and library services throughout Northern Ireland.
- 5.4 Within the context of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area, the key players are the EA (formerly Southern Education and Library Board and South Eastern Education and Library Board), the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS), and the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education (NICIE).

Education Policy Context

- 5.5 The Department of Education's vision is to see "every young person achieving his or her full potential at each stage of their development". Therefore, Education is one of the most significant investments in developing the individual, society and the economy.
- 5.6 In recent years a number of influential publications have set a challenge to the education sector to consider new approaches. This includes a sustainable approach, promoting the sharing of facilities in an effort to create a more cohesive and tolerant society, ensuring a better use of available resources.
- 5.7 An Independent Strategic Review of Education, known as the Bain Review (2006) is the most significant document to be published. The Bain Review observed that the multi-sector school system, combined with the rural nature of parts of Northern Ireland, single-sex schools and selective system of education had resulted in a large number of schools and a high proportion of small schools. While the report made 61 recommendations, the governing principle in judging the future of any school must be the quality of education provided – but said there must be a review of the future of small schools and

recommended minimum enrolment figures for primary schools in urban and rural areas and post-primary schools.

- 5.8 Building on the issues highlighted in the Bain Report, the Department introduced the Sustainable Schools Policy (SSP) in 2009, followed by the Area Planning process (2011) which is designed to address the long-term primary school needs from 2012-2025. The overall output of these is the assessment of schools against a set of criteria for sustainable enrolments levels, delivery of quality education and financial sustainability.

6.0 School Provision in Newry, Mourne and Down District

General Context

- 6.1 The Education Authority which is responsible for the delivery of services according to the policies and procedures of the former Southern (SELB) and South Eastern (SEELB) Education and Library Boards.
- 6.2 Each former Board developed an Area Plan for primary and post-primary schools in conjunction with the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS). The plans aim to provide the right number of places in the right variety of schools of the right size in any given area. As such they are a good indicator of current and future level of provision necessary within the District.

(i) Nursery School Provision

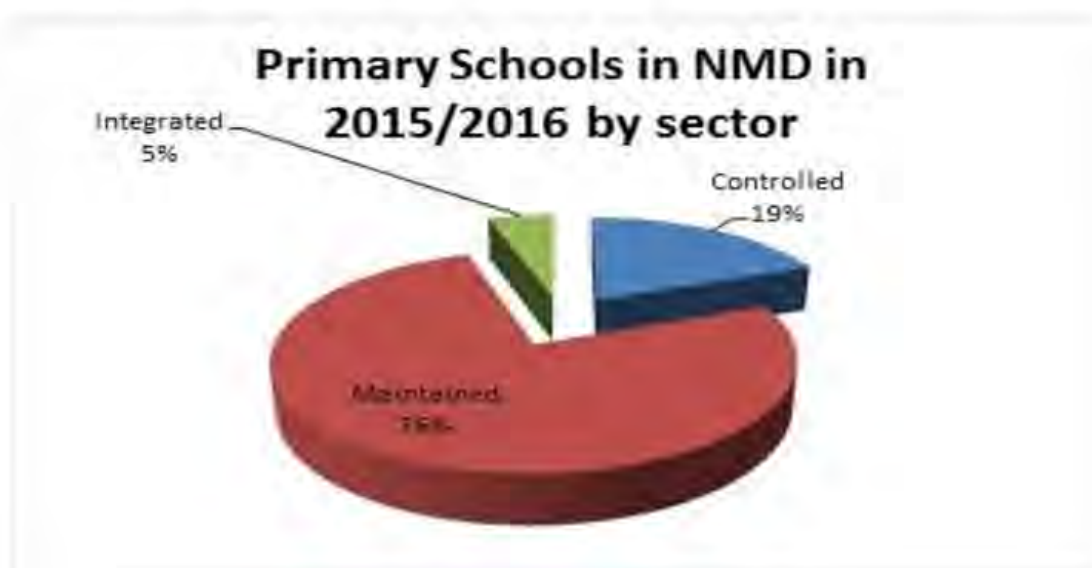
- 6.3 Pre-school education is not statutory. It is designed for children in the year immediately before they enter P1, although a limited number of places may be available for younger children in some centres. The Education Authority provides nursery places through nursery schools and nursery units in primary schools. Voluntary and private playgroups and day nurseries also provide placements.
- 6.4 There are a total of 10 nursery schools in the District. In 2015/2016 they offered a total of 390 places across the District with 6 of these places being unfilled. There are also 21 nursery units that are attached to primary schools.

In 2015/2016 they offered a total of 832 places across the District and were fully occupied with no unfilled places. In addition, there are 51 voluntary / private pre-school education centres, which in 2015/16 had a total of 1088 enrolled pupils. (Source: Department of Education).

(ii) Primary School Sector

- 6.5 There are a total of 102 primary schools in the District, consisting of 19 Controlled, 78 Maintained (including 3 Irish Medium Schools) and 5 Integrated Primary Schools. Figure 1 shows the breakdown of primary school provision by sector for the District. (Definitions of the school types are provided in the Appendix A).

Figure 1: Primary Schools by Sector for Newry, Mourne and Down 2015/2016



Source: Data from Department of Education 2015/2016

- 6.6 Figure 2 overleaf shows that in 2015/2016, the capacity (i.e. the approved number of spaces) across all sectors in the District was 20539, with 4144 of these places being unfilled. The controlled sector accounts for 27% of all unfilled places, the maintained sector for 71% and the integrated sector 2%.

Figure 2: Summary of Capacities and Unfilled Places by Sector in the District 2015/2016

Management Type	Capacity (approved Enrolment)	Unfilled Places	% of all unfilled places
Controlled	3882	1118	27
Maintained	15585	2891	70
Irish Medium	274	57	1
Integrated	798	78	2
Total	20539	4144	100

Source: Data from Department of Education

- 6.7 An analysis of capacities and unfilled places based on the settlement hierarchy (Figure 3) suggests that the issue of unfilled places is more prevalent in the towns and villages.

Figure 3: Estimated Capacities, Enrolments and Unfilled places in Newry, Mourne & Down by Settlement Type 2015/16

Settlement type	Capacity	Enrolment	Unfilled Places
Newry	4058	3477	581
Towns	5753	4342	1411
Villages	6086	4774	1312
Rural	4642	3802	840
Total	12402	16395	4144

Source: Dept of Education 2016

- 6.8 An analysis of capacities, enrolments and unfilled places based on the settlement hierarchy Figure 4 suggests that within the towns, the issue of unfilled places is more prevalent in Ballynahinch and Kilkeel with 39% each of their overall capacity unfilled.

Figure 4: Estimated Capacities, Enrolments and Unfilled Places in Newry, Mourne and Down Towns 2015/16

Settlement	No. of Primary Schools	Total Capacity	Unfilled Places	% of capacity unfilled
Ballynahinch	3	944	372	39
Newcastle	3	720	73	10
Saintfield	2	482	52	10
Downpatrick	4	1264	212	16
Warrenpoint	2	773	212	27
Kilkeel	3	1123	448	39
Newtownhamilton	1	101	39	38
Crossmaglen	1	346	3	0.8

Source: Dept of Education 2016

- 6.9 As previously mentioned each of the former education and library boards developed area plans reviewing the sustainability of education provision. Part of that review included consideration of pupil projections for the period 2013-2025. The movement of pupils across Council boundaries was factored in to ensure the data reflected developing need. Figure 5 overleaf shows the 2013 pupil population and the expected pupil population for 2025 in relation to the capacity and resulting surplus spaces for each of the legacy Council areas and an indicative total for the NMD District.

Figure 5: Pupil population projection change for 2013-2025

	2013			2025		
	Newry & Mourne	Down	NMD Total	Newry & Mourne	Down	NMD Total
Total No. of Pupils	9904	6345	16249	11889	6619	18508
Approved Enrolment	12402	8128	20530	12402	8128	20530
Surplus Places*	2730	1783	4513	513	1509	2022

**Surplus places is calculated by totalling the number of surplus places at individual schools i.e.; does not take account of the number of places by which some schools are oversubscribed*

Source: SELB and SEELB Area Plans (June 2014)

- 6.10 The table shows that the pupil population in the District is expected to increase from 16249 to 18508. Based on the assumption of no change in the total number of approved enrolments (ELBs assumed no change for their projections) the total number of surplus places in the District will be reduced from 4513 to 2022 by 2025. This indicates that there is sufficient capacity in the existing primary school provision in the District.
- 6.11 The vast majority of the reduction in places (i.e. increased uptake of places) will be in the maintained sector with the number expected to reduce from 3397 in 2013 to 1298 in 2025. The number of surplus places in the controlled sector is expected to reduce from 1046 in 2013 to 670 in 2025 while the integrated sector will reduce from 70 to 54 for the same period.
- 6.12 The SELB and SEELB Area Plans for Primary Provision set out a number of proposals for future provision in the District. As shown in Figure 6 these included school closures, amalgamations and increased approved enrolments and admissions. The Education Authority will continue to review provision and further recommendations may be made in the future.

Figure 6: Shows the SELB and SEELB proposals for existing primary schools in the District in June 2014.

School Name	Recommendation (subsequent updates)
Anamar PS, Newry	The managing authority will consult on the potential closure of the school. On 18 January 2017 the Department of Education published confirmation of the intention to close the school with effect from 31st August 2017 or as soon as possible thereafter.
Clontifleece PS, Warrenpoint	The Minister has approved the proposal that the school should close by 31st August 2014. The school is now closed and the property has been sold.
St Brigid's PS, Glassdrummond	Development proposal published to increase the approved enrolment number from 140 to 210 pupils with effect from 1 September 2015 or as soon as possible thereafter. In June 2015 the Education Minister approved an increase in approved enrolment to 198 to take effect from 1st September 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter.
St Clare's Convent PS, Newry and St Colman's Abbey, Newry	The managing authority is amalgamating St Clare's Convent PS and St Colman's Abbey PS for September 2014. This took effect on 1st September 2014. In 2016 the Education Minister officially opened a new purpose built building.
St Colman's PS, Saval	The managing authority has approved action in relation to this school and has consulted on a proposal to increase the admissions and enrolment number. Request to increase from 174-203 was rejected by Minister for Education in March 2015.
St Mary's PS, Barr	Development proposal published to increase the approved enrolment number from 105 to 161 pupils with effect from 1 September 2015 or as soon as possible thereafter. In September 2014 the Minister for Education approved the increase to 145 to take effect from 1st September 2015 or as soon as possible thereafter.
St Mary's PS, Glassdrumman , Monneygarragh PS and St Joseph's Ballymartin	Development Proposal published to amalgamate schools with effect from 1st September 2015 or as soon as possible thereafter. Approved by Minister for Education September 2014. In March 2016 the Minister announced funding would be available for a new school building.
St Mary's PS,	Development Proposal approved to increase the

Mullaghbawn	school enrolment from 230 to 315 with effect from 1st September 2013 or as soon as possible thereafter. Approved by the Minister in February 2013.
St Patrick's PS, Ballymaghera	Development proposal published to increase the approved enrolment number from 280 to 350 pupils with effect from 1 September 2015 or as soon as possible thereafter.
St Patrick's PS, Crossmaglen	Development proposal published to increase the approved enrolment number from 305 to 385 pupils with effect from 1 September 2015 or as soon as possible thereafter. Approved by Education Minister 15th May 2015.
St Patrick's PS, Mayobridge	Development Proposal approved to increase school enrolment from 284 to 350 with effect from 1st September 2013 or as soon as possible thereafter.
Down High Preparatory Dept	The SEELB published a development proposal in February 2014 which proposes that the preparatory department should close from 31 August 2015. This took effect on 31st August 2015.
St Mary's Saintfield and St Caolan's, Saintfield	Explore the potential for amalgamation. No change as of February 2017.

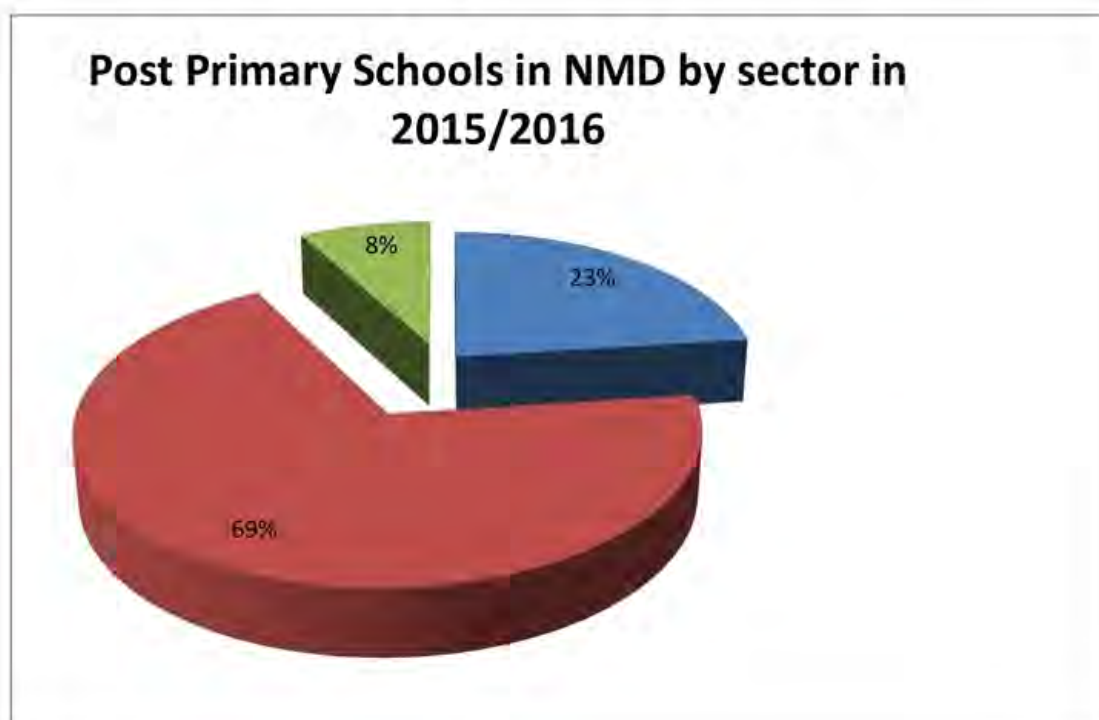
Source: SELB and SEELB Area Plans 2014

(iii) Post Primary Sector

- 6.13 There are 26 post primary schools in the District. This consists of 6 Controlled schools, 18 Maintained schools and 2 Grant Maintained Integrated schools (definitions of school types are in Appendix A).

Figure 7 overleaf shows the breakdown of post primary school provision for the District. It shows that the majority of schools in the District are maintained (69%), 23% are controlled and 8% are integrated.

Figure 7: Post Primary Schools by Sector for Newry, Mourne and Down 2015/2016



Source: Data from Department of Education

- 6.14 Figure 8 below shows that in 2015/2016, the capacity (i.e. the approved number of places) across all sectors was 17134, with 2402 of these places being unfilled. The controlled sector accounts for 26% of all unfilled places, the maintained sector for 63% and the integrated sector 11%.

Figure 8: Summary of Post Primary School Capacities and Unfilled Places by Sector in the District 2015/2016

Management Type	Capacity (Approved Enrolment)	Unfilled Places	% of all Unfilled Places (figures rounded)
Controlled	3239	635	26%
Maintained	12935	1512	63%
Integrated	960	255	11%
Total	17134	2402	100%

- 6.15 Figure 9 below provides a summary of the post primary schools in the district and their 2015/16 approved capacity and unfilled places. There are 3 schools which have more unfilled places than enrolment, they are The High School, Ballynahinch, St. Columban's Kilkeel and Blackwater Integrated College Downpatrick. There are 7 of the listed 26 schools below which have full capacity enrolment; they are Saintfield High School, Down High, Downpatrick, St. Patrick's Grammar, Downpatrick, St. Paul's High School, Bessbrook, St. Louis Grammar, Newry, Abbey Christian Brothers Grammar, Newry and St. Colman's College Newry.

Figure 9: Post Primary Capacity Analysis Newry, Mourne and Down 2015/16

Post Primary School	Sector	Capacity	Enrolment	Unfilled Places
The High School Ballynahinch	C	380	143	237
Saintfield High School	C	340	340	0
Down High Downpatrick	C	934	934	0
Kilkeel High School	C	830	641	189
Newtownhamilton High School	C	175	165	10
Newry High School	C	580	381	199
St Mary's High School Downpatrick	M	600	386	214
St Colmille High School Downpatrick	M	450	267	183
St Colman's High School Ballynahinch	M	550	389	161
St Malachys High School Castleteweehan	M	930	883	67
De La Salle Downpatrick	M	430	319	111
Assumption Grammar School Ballynahinch	M	840	833	7
St Patrick's Grammar School Downpatrick	M	665	665	0
St Joseph's Boys High School Newry	M	500	299	201
St Columban's College Kilkeel	M	550	90	460
St Mary's High School Newry	M	580	541	39
St Mark's High School Warrenpoint	M	850	791	59
St Paul's High School Bessbrook	M	1355	1355	0
St Joseph's High School Crossmaglen	M	600	575	25
St Louis Grammar School, Kilkeel	M	570	570	0
Abbey Christian Brothers Grammar School Newry	M	850	850	0
Our Lady's Grammar School Newry	M	860	850	10
St Colman's College Newry	M	860	860	0
Sacred Heart Grammar School Newry	M	875	850	25
Blackwater Integrated College Downpatrick	I	400	149	251
Shinnah Integrated College Newcastle	I	500	540	4
Total		17134	14732	2402
C - controlled Schools; M - Maintained Schools; I - Integrated Schools				

Source: Dept. of Education 2016

- 6.16 As with the primary school provision the former Education and Library boards completed Area Plans reviewing post primary provision. These reports included pupil population projections to 2025.
- 6.17 The SELB report noted that while the population in the Newry and Mourne Area has remained steady for the past number of years, this masks the fact that there has been a considerable decrease in the school age population in the Kilkeel area and a rise in the school-age population in the greater Newry area. It also noted the existence of single-sex grammar schools in Newry has

also distorted the correlation between the actual school age population and the number attending schools in the area. For planning for the future the SELB found that while there were 783 unfilled places in 2013 the projected population growth in the area by 2025 would result in an additional 1817 places being required.

- 6.18 In the legacy Down District the population is expected to increase by a more modest amount with the increase being largely accommodated by the existing unfilled places. The SEELB estimated that by 2025 there would be 191 unfilled places by 2025 however this masks the fact that it is estimated that an additional 49 places will be required in the controlled sector. Figure 10 below shows that combining these figures means that an additional 1626 places will be required in the District by 2025. This includes the movement of pupils across Council boundaries which was factored in to ensure the data reflected developing need. This is a particular issue in Downpatrick and Ballynahinch where a significant number of pupils travel from other Council areas to attend the Grammar schools.

Figure 10: Pupil population projection change for 2013-2025

	2013			2025		
	Newry & Mourne	Down	NMD Total	Newry & Mourne	Down	NMD Total
Total No. of Pupils	9599	6647	16246	11852	6828	18680
Approved Enrolment	10035	7019	17054	10035	7019	17054
Surplus Places*	783	372	1110	-1817	191	-1626

** figures adjusted to remove oversubscribed places in post primary schools*

Source: SELB (Jan 2015) and SEELB (Revised October 2013) Area Plans

- 6.19 The SELB and SEELB Area Plans for post primary provision set out a number of proposals for future provision in the Newry and Mourne and Down Council Areas. As shown overleaf in Figure 11 these include potential school closures, amalgamations, increased partnership and a new build. The Education

Authority will continue to review provision and may bring forward further amendments in the future. The Council will continue to monitor any changes.

Figure 11: Shows the SELB and SEELB proposals for Post Primary Future Provision in the District

School Name	Recommendation
Controlled	
The High School, Ballynahinch	Consult with the BOG in order to explore all potential options to secure retention of a controlled non-selective post-primary in the Ballynahinch area
Saintfield High School	Establish closer links with Down HS – specifically for Sixth Form & grow Saintfield High School.
Down High School	Create better links to other post-primary providers in the area/New school build
Kilkeel High School	SELB raised concerns about the management of finances and the financial viability of the school. It is proposed that the board work with the school to ensure that the necessary adjustments are made to the operating costs to ensure the school can meet its obligation to pupils despite the downturn in enrolment.
Newry High School	This school plays a pivotal role in providing education for the minority community and the SELB is committed to exploring ways in which the school can work with other sectors to ensure that high quality education is provided for all in Newry.
Maintained	
St Mary's High School, St Patrick's Grammar School and De La Salle High School, Downpatrick	Create a partnership between the three schools with an end view of establishing a co-educational provider for the area.
St Colmcille's High School, Crossgar	Monitor provision – Any future changes to provision in St Colmcille's High School will be managed in the context of any proposed changes in Downpatrick and Ballynahinch.
Assumption Grammar School and St Colman's High School, Ballynahinch	Establish enhanced links between the schools in order to develop 11-19 education provision in the area. St. Colman's will be closely monitored throughout this process. Explore potential for inclusion of High School Ballynahinch in extension to Commission for Catholic Education proposal
St Columban's	Potential closure of the school and possible

College, Kilkeel	amalgamation with St Louis Grammar School.
St Louis Grammar School, Kilkeel	Given the above the CCMS consider the creation of 11-19 co-educational school should be delivered through an expansion of St Louis Grammar School.
St Joseph's High School Crossmaglen	Trustees recommend retention of an 11-19 co-educational, all ability school in Crossmaglen. Approval for a new school build was announced by the Minister in June 2014.
St Paul's High School Bessbrook	CCMS remains of the view that the model for 11-19 co-educational school in Bessbrook is the most appropriate way forward.
St Mark's High School, Warrenpoint	The SELB supports the continuity and strengthening of 11-19 provision at St Marks. Arrangements for ensuring enhanced and appropriate links with Newry City should be explored.
Integrated	
Shimna Integrated College, Newcastle	A development Proposal has been published on behalf of the BOG which proposes an increase in the schools approved enrolment – the year 8 admission figure would increase as would the 6th form provision
Blackwater Integrated College, Downpatrick	Explore with the BOG of the school how best to secure integrated provision in the greater Downpatrick area.

Source: SELB Area Plan January 2015 and SEELB Area Plan revised 2013

(iv) Special School Provision

- 6.20 Within the district there are 3 Special Schools which in 2015/16 had a total of 275 enrolled pupils. (Source: Department of Education). Ardmore House Special School is a controlled school which provides education for Key Stage 3 (KS3) pupils who are presenting social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. Knockevin is a special educational school which has provision in two sites in Downpatrick and Dundrum. It caters for pupils with severe and profound learning difficulties from the age of 3 to 19.

(v) Further Education

- 6.21 The two core principles of the further education system are:
- to take a pivotal role in developing a strong and vibrant economy through the development of professional and technical skills, at increasingly higher levels, and by helping employers to innovate, and;

-support social inclusion by providing those who have low or no qualifications, or who have barriers to learning, with the skills and qualifications needed to find employment and to become economically active.

6.22 Further Education in the District is provided by the Southern Regional College (SRC) and the South Eastern Regional College (SERC).

6.23 SRC is the second largest College in NI and offers further and higher education to approximately 34,000 students each year in six campuses across two Council Areas- Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon and Newry, Mourne and Down. There are current plans to deliver new build projects at the campuses in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon. In Newry, Mourne and Down the College has two campuses located in Newry and Kilkeel. The College has submitted a strategic outline case to explore estate opportunities in the Newry City area for the future development and consolidation of the College estate in the City including the development of a 'Higher Education Centre'. (Source: College Development Plan 2015-2018 pg 34).

6.24 The South Eastern Regional College offers further and higher education across three Council areas- Ards and North Down, Lisburn and Castlereagh and Newry, Mourne and Down. There are three campuses in the District- Downpatrick and satellite campuses in Ballynahinch and Newcastle. The College's development plan 2015-2018 notes it has over 35,400 enrolments and is expanding its partnerships with schools to enhance their curriculum and ensure that all school children have access to vocational education. Each of the three campuses have been recently developed with new buildings being completed in 2011.

7.0 Health

Organisations Responsible for Health Care

7.1 The Department of Health (DoH) has overall responsibility for health policy and funding of major capital works. It is the responsibility of the Health and

Social Care Board (HSCB) to assess the health and social care needs of the population and to secure the care to meet those needs in keeping with available resources. Provision of community health and social care in the District is the responsibility of the Southern Southern Health and Social Care Trust (SHSCT) which covers the Newry and Mourne area and the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust (SEHSCT) which covers the Down area.

Health Policy Context

- 7.2 The context for health is set out in the mission statement identified by the DoH. It aims to improve the health and social well-being of the people of Northern Ireland. It endeavours to do so by:
- leading a major programme of cross-government action to improve the health and well-being of the population and reduce health inequalities.
 - this includes interventions involving health promotion and education to encourage people to adopt activities, behaviours and attitudes which lead to better health and well-being.
 - the aim is a population which is much more engaged in ensuring its own health and well-being
 - ensuring the provision of appropriate health and social care services, both in clinical settings such as hospitals and GPs' surgeries, and in the community through nursing, social work and other professional services
- 7.3 With population projections for Northern Ireland indicating a marked increase in the size of the population at older ages, the growth in the number of very elderly (over 85 population) will present a considerable challenge. It is DoH policy to maximise independent living and reduce reliance on hospital and residential care. In the future, advances in medicine, care and technology will continue to drive change in the range of services that can be provided safely in the community. This will enable more people to be diagnosed, treated and cared for at home or close to where they live.

- 7.4 The Health System in Northern Ireland is currently being transformed under an initiative known as Transforming Your Care (TYC). The aim of this initiative was to improve the health and care system in NI. In 2013, the post-consultation report on the TYC review set out key recommendations for change across a number of important service areas, including primary care, older people's services and acute services for those with long-term conditions. There was also a focus on prevention, early intervention, integrated care and promotion of personalised care to enable more services to be provided in the community. This will result in a significant shift from provision of services in hospitals to the provision of services in the community, where it is safe and effective to do this.
- 7.5 Sir Liam Donaldson was subsequently commissioned to carry out a review into Northern Ireland's health service (The Donaldson Review) noting that the TYC programme had established that elsewhere in the UK a population of 1.8 million people would likely to be served by 4 acute hospitals compared to the 10 that currently exist in Northern Ireland. The report made 10 recommendations; the crux of which was that TYC was not being properly implemented and a new costed, timetabled implementation plan was needed quickly to address a series of deficiencies across a wide range of health care services.
- 7.6 To date, progress has been made to implement the Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) initiatives which were funded towards the end of 2013/14 year which will make care more joined-up with £150 million being invested in the development of 5 'hub and spoke' models to provide care in the community. Other initiatives include early intervention work, increasing the amount of community-based mental health services and developing alternatives to A&E attendance or hospital admission. However, given the scope of change required on an economically challenged environment together with increased demands on A&E departments, there are significant challenges ahead in how best to deliver health and social services.

Making Life Better Document

- 7.7 "Making Life Better" is the strategic framework for public health. It is designed to provide direction for policies and actions to improve the health and wellbeing of people in Northern Ireland and to reduce inequalities in health.

It builds on the former public health strategy "Investing for Health" and takes account of consultation feedback on the draft framework "Fit and Well – Changing Lives" and a number of other key reports and evidence.

The following information has been noted on the health and wellbeing of residents in the Newry, Mourne And Down Local Government District.

Existing Healthcare Provision in Newry, Mourne and Down District

- 7.8 Healthcare provision within the District falls into the remit of the Department of Health (DoH), the Southern Health and Social Care Trust (SHSCT) and the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust (SEHSCT).

7.9 Primary Healthcare Services in the District include:

- 1 Acute Hospital – Daisy Hill, which provides a 24 hour Emergency Department, a Maternity Department, Special Care Baby Unit, Inpatient beds in Medicine, Stroke, Rehabilitation, Surgery, Gynaecology, ENT and Paediatrics. There is a Coronary Care Unit, Surgical High Dependency Unit and a Day Procedure Unit and Radiography Department. There is also an adult Sub-regional Haemodialysis Unit with an area wide service containing 28 Renal Stations. The Hospital also provides a wide range of diagnostic and therapy services with radiology, cardiology investigations and 24hr laboratory service, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Podiatry, Speech and Language Therapy, Dietetics and Orthoptics all being provided. A range of Mental Health Services and a GP out of hours service are also provided on site.



- 1 local hospital - Downe Hospital, which provides a type 2 Emergency Department operating from 8am – 8pm (Mon-Fri, Closed Weekends), with a Minor Injuries Unit operating from 9am-5pm Saturday and Sunday and the GP Out of Hours Service operates on site. There is also a midwifery led Maternity Unit. The hospital has 49 inpatient beds for a range of medical conditions. The Downe provides the Trust wide Bowel Screening Service and Sexual Health Service, as well as a range of out-patient, diagnostics and day care services, such as cataract surgery. There are also 2 GP surgeries along with community and dental services.



7.10 **Doctor Surgeries**

In 2014/15 there were 181,808 people registered with a GP Practice in Newry, Mourne and Down, 57,295 of those people were aged 50+ years. There are 49 GP Surgeries in the District. Details of these surgeries are included in Appendix B.

7.11 **Dental Surgeries**

There are 27 Dental Surgeries registered with the two Health Trusts in the District. Details of these surgeries are included in Appendix B. There are also a number of private dental practices located within the District that are registered with the Royal and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA). The RQIA is the independent body responsible for monitoring and inspecting the availability and quality of health and social care services in Northern Ireland, and encouraging improvements in the quality of those services.

7.12 **Care of the Elderly / Vulnerable**

There are a number of facilities available for care for the elderly and other vulnerable groups such as those with learning difficulties. The majority of these facilities are privately run. While they are independent of the health trusts they are registered with, and inspected by, the RQIA.

There are 21 Day Care Facilities, 26 Nursing Homes, 19 Residential Care Homes and 33 Domiciliary Care Providers in the District. Details of these are included in Appendix B.

On Census Day 2011, there were 22,048 people aged 65+ years living in Newry, Mourne and Down, 46.7% stated they had very good or good health, 39.8% had fair health and the remaining 13.5% had bad or very bad health.

7.13 Existing and Future Proposals

The SHSCT currently has plans for two developments. One of these is the Daisy Hill Hospital which has been subject to an on-going programme of modernisation and development. Under its 'Changing for Children' Strategy the SHSCT proposed a new area-wide Paediatric Centre of Excellence at the Daisy Hill Hospital. This was to include a children's only theatre for all planned paediatric surgery with associated ward and dedicated outpatients department. In October 2015 in its Outcome of the public consultation on its three year strategic plan 'Improving through Change 2015-2018' the Trust confirmed that this £7.3m capital development was progressing and was at design stage. Work began in early 2016 and is due to be completed in 2017.

- 7.14 As part of the 'Transforming your Care' initiative the SHSCT announced plans to develop a Community Treatment and Care Centre in Newry. In its response to the public consultation to its 'Improving through Change 2015-2018' plan the Trust confirmed that a business case for this development in Newry was being progressed. A bid was submitted for a new 12,000sqm Community Treatment and Care Centre (CCTC) in Newry City. The proposals create a new Health and Leisure hub by co-locating the new CTCC and Newry Leisure Centre on one site. The building would incorporate GP Practices, Podiatry, Physiotherapy, Hydrotherapy, Imaging, Speech and Language, Dentistry, Orthoptics, Audiology, Mental Health, Children's Services and will act as an administrative centre for Trust Healthcare. Given the proximity of the proposal to Daisy Hill Hospital facilitates the shared use and supports existing health services whilst establishing a core of health services in a recognised location in the city. Outline planning permission was granted 14th May 2015. A subsequent detailed reserved matters application, received 12th August 2016, is currently under consideration.

8.0 Community Services and Facilities

8.1 Police Stations

Within the Plan Area there are four operational police stations with Local Policing Teams (LPTs) providing 24 hour cover based in Newry, Newtownhamilton, Downpatrick and Crossmaglen. These LPTs are supported by three Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs) based in Ardmore, Kilkeel and Newcastle Police Stations which will be mobile and deployed to areas to deal with critical issues.



Source: PSNI Website

- 8.2 It is noted that the PSNI Estate Strategy 2016, has decided to dispose of the existing stations in Ballynahinch and Warrenpoint which are no longer in use. There is opportunity therefore to use these sites for an alternative use.

8.3 Fire Stations

The District falls into the Southern Area which encompasses all of Co. Armagh and Co. Down. The area is managed by an Area Command Team which is based in the Southern Area Headquarters at Portadown. The Area Command team is assisted by 4 district command teams which include Newry and Downpatrick. There are 23 Fire Stations in the Southern Area, eight of which are located within the NMD District i.e. Ballynahinch, Crossmaglen, Downpatrick, Kilkeel, Newcastle, Newtownhamilton, Newry and Warrenpoint.

8.4 Library Provision

Libraries NI have responsibility for the provision of library services. There currently are eleven libraries located in the District at Ballynahinch, Bessbrook, Crossmaglen, Castlewellan, Downpatrick, Kilkeel, Killyleagh, Newcastle, Newry City, Saintfield and Warrenpoint. A mobile library service is also operated across the District. The Libraries NI Corporate Plan 2011-2015 identified plans to open a new library building in Kilkeel and a major refurbishment of Crossmaglen library which have since taken place. It is unlikely there will be any major plans in the foreseeable future with an increased need for cost savings. The Libraries NI Corporate Plan 2016-2020 and the Annual Business Plan 2016/17 note that required cost savings will inevitably have an impact on the provision of services with a further reduction in opening hours in the largest libraries and a reduced stock budget. These measures will be introduced to prevent any further library closures.

8.5 Community Centres

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council is the main public body responsible for providing or facilitating community facilities within the District.

There are 12 leisure /community centres within the district.

- Newry Sports Centre
- Newry Leisure Centre
- Kilkeel Leisure Centre
- St. Colman's Sports Complex, Newry
- Ballynahinch Centre
- Ballymore Sports & Wellbeing Centre Downpatrick
- Bridge Centre, Killyleagh
- Castlewellan Centre
- Dan Rice Memorial Hall, Drumaness
- Down Leisure Centre, Downpatrick
- Market House, Ballynahinch

- Newcastle Centre

8.6 Other community centres are community owned and are located in the local towns, villages and throughout the rural area, many of which are also subsidised by the Council. Significant community activity also takes places in Orange Halls, GAA Clubs and church halls.

8.7 The Council has produced a Sports Facility Strategy 2016, which reflects the wider – NI 10 Year Plan for the provision of Strategic Sports Facility Strategy for Northern Ireland (2016), which focuses on the need for future provision that are of cultural significance, as well as those that provide for high performance training and competition. These facilities contribute to the vision and targets set out within strategic documents such as the Programme for Governments (2011 – 2021), Building a Better Future (2011 – 2015) and Sport Matters, the Northern Ireland Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation (2009 – 19).

8.8 The Strategy states that the majority of Newry, Mourne and Down communities are within the catchment area of a community accessible sports facility. It is proposed to provide a Sports Hub in each of the District Electoral Areas (DEAs) over time, however, in the meantime, the Strategy has identified a number of priorities which include the following;

- Development of new and improved playing pitches to a 'Good' Standard.
- Consideration of additional water space provision in Newcastle
- Consideration of the provision of a Tennis Bubble to provide all year round tennis facilities at Newry and Newcastle Tennis Clubs.
- Consider a shared partnership with a school to provide a 400m 6 lane athletics facility in the Downpatrick /Newcastle area.

8.9 The strategy also suggests that that there is a need to put in place formal community use agreements to allow the community use of school facilities. The implementation of such agreements would ensure the required supply of

sports hall facilities across Newry, Mourne and Down meets demand now and in the future.

8.10 Post Offices

There are 44 post offices presently in the Council area, in the following settlements

Annacloy, Annsborough, Ardglass, Ballynahinch, Belleeks, Bessbrook, Camlough, Castlewellan, Clough, Crossmaglen, Crossgar, Cullyhanna, Downpatrick (2), Drumaness, Drumaroad, Dundrum, Forkhill, Hilltown, Jonesborough, Kilcoo, Kilkeel, Killeavy, Killough, Kilmore, Killyleagh, Mayobridge, Mullaghbawn, Newcastle, Newtownhamilton, Newry (4), Rathfriland, Rostrevor, Saintfield, Seaforde, Silverbridge, Strangford, Warrenpoint, Whitecross.

There are two mobile post office services which run in Jerrettspass and Ballykinler areas.

9.0 Conclusion

- 9.1 This paper has demonstrated provision of health and education facilities within the District is the responsibility of a number of Government Departments and Statutory Bodies while the Council plays a role in the provision of community services. Whilst decisions on the provision of health, education or community services are a matter for the relevant service providers, the Local Development Plan can aid a joined-up approach in the matter of public interest to ensure there is the necessary flexibility to meet need as and when it arises.
- 9.2 The Plan can also inform the community and potential investors as to health, education and community proposals which are likely to occur.
- 9.3 Future proposal identified by the major service providers for education, health and community services can be reflected in the LDP with necessary land being protected for that use by designating land use zonings. If service

providers identify any land surplus to requirements the LDP can zone alternative uses.

- 9.4 The Plan will allow for the development of education, health, community services subject to specific criteria. These criteria will regard the impact on residential amenity, the scale and character of the settlement, infrastructure and access requirements and any prejudicing of development on surrounding lands.
- 9.5 The Plan cannot identify policies for all sites which may become surplus, as it cannot anticipate demand for alternative or new sites. Such development proposals will be determined through the Development Management process.
- 9.6 Over the Plan period, it is likely that these services will be kept under review and changes will occur. In light of this and the above proposals, the key elements of any strategy should be to:
 - Inform the community and potential investors as to the health and education proposals which are likely to occur;
 - Allow for provision of community uses on zoned housing land so long as it does not prejudice comprehensive development of the sites;
 - Provide the necessary flexibility to allow for new health, education and community services within settlements as and when need arises;
 - Where there are definite proposals for new buildings in the education and health sectors, these should be identified and protected in the Plan; and
 - Identify suitable alternative uses for vacated sites or surplus land.

Appendix A

School Definitions

- **Controlled**

Controlled schools are managed and funded by the EA through school Boards of Governors (BoGs). Primary and post-primary school BoGs consist of representatives of transferors - mainly the Protestant churches - along with representatives of parents, teachers and the EA.

- **Maintained**

Maintained schools are managed by BoGs nominated by trustees - mainly Roman Catholic - along with parents, teachers and EA representatives. The employing authority of teachers in these schools is the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS).

- **Integrated**

Integrated schools seek to add value to the education process by inviting Protestants and Catholics to come together with other traditions in order to improve their understanding of one another, their own cultures, religions and values. Each grant maintained integrated school is managed by a BoGs consisting of trustees or foundation governors along with parents, teacher and DE representatives. The BoGs of an integrated school is the employing authority and is responsible for the employment of staff.

- **Irish Medium**

Irish-medium education is education provided in an Irish speaking school. DE has a duty to encourage and assist in the development of Irish-medium education. Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta (CnaG) was established by DE and its remit is to promote, assist and encourage Irish-medium education.

- **Special School**

A special school is a controlled or voluntary school which is specially organised to provide education for pupils with special needs and is recognised by the Department of Education as a special school.

Source: NI Direct website

Appendix B

Medical Practice (GP) Surgeries in the District

Dr Allen & Partners – Kilkeel Rd, Annalong
 Donard Family Practice – Dublin Rd, Castlewellan
 Donard Family Practice – Main St, Newcastle
 Dr Greer & Partners – Church View, Dundrum
 Causeway Surgery – Causeway Place, Newcastle
 Ballyward Surgery – Station Rd, Ballyward
 Clough Surgery – Castlewellan Rd, Clough
 Montalto Medical Centre – Dromore Rd, Ballynahinch
 The Surgery – Irish St, Downpatrick
 Stream Street Surgery – Stream St, Downpatrick
 GP & Primary Care Centre – Downe Hospital Downpatrick
 Dr Murphy – Main St, Killough
 Crossgar Surgery – James St, Crossgar
 Health Centre – Downpatrick Rd, Crossgar
 Mourne Family Surgery – Newry St, Kilkeel
 Kilkeel Primary Care Centre – Greencastle St, Kilkeel
 Shanslieve Surgery – Greencastle St, Kilkeel
 Health Centre – Fairview, Saintfield
 Dr Gaw & Partners – Mary St, Rostrevor
 Killyleagh Surgery – Downparick Rd, Killyleagh
 Health Centre – Warrenpoint
 Summerhill – Great George Street, Warrenpoint
 Marina Surgery – Havelock Place, Warrenpoint
 Dr Reynolds & Partner Cornmarket Surgery – Newry Health Village
 Dr Henry & Partner Cornmarket Surgery – Newry Health Village
 Dr Mulvaney & Partner Cornmarket Surgery – Newry Health Village
 Dr McKnight Clanrye Surgery – Newry Health Village
 Dr Fearon & Partner Clanrye Surgery – Newry Health Village
 Dr McDowell Clanrye Surgery – Newry Health Village
 McVerry / McEvoy Medical Centre – Newry Health Village
 Meadowlands Surgery – Monaghan St, Newry
 Dr Small – Stella Maris St, Strangford
 Dr McKnight – Wakefield Terrace, Bessbrook
 Dr Fearon & Partners – The Clinic Convent Hill Bessbrook
 Dr. Reynolds - The Clinic Convent Hill Bessbrook
 Dr. Mulholland - The Clinic Convent Hill Bessbrook
 Medical Centre – Chapel Rd, Camlough
 Health Centre – Drumintee Rd, Meigh
 Health Centre – Regina Park, Jonesborough
 Dr Maguire & Partners – Main St, Forkhill
 Dr O’Leary & Partners – Community Centre, Mullaghbawn
 Maphoner Surgery – Forkhill Rd, Mullaghbawn
 Dr. O’Leary & Partners – Dundalk St, Newtownhamilton
 Health Centre – Killeen, Killeavy

Dr Fee & Partners Health Centre – McCormick Place Crossmaglen
 Dr Sweeney & Partners Health Centre – McCormick Place Crossmaglen
 Dr Gribben Health Centre – McCormick Place Crossmaglen
 Dr Maguire & Partners Health Centre – McCormick Place Crossmaglen
 Dr Fee & Partners – Rathkeeland House, Blaney Road, Crossmaglen

Source: HSCNI

Dental Surgeries

Appletree Dental Care, 1 The Old Gaswork, Newry
 Newry Denture Centre, 100 Hill Street, Newry
 Unit 3 Cloughogue Business Park, 14 Forkill Road, Newry
 Unit 6 Monaghan Business Park, Newry
 Yew Tree Dental Practice, 45-47 Patrick Street, Newry
 Zen Orthodontics, 2 Downshire Close, Newry
 42B Church Street, Warrenpoint
 3 Duke Street, Warrenpoint
 39 Church Street, Warrenpoint
 1 Castle Avenue, Castlewellan
 11 Main Street, Ballynahinch
 12 Downs Road, Newcastle
 15 Irish Street, Downpatrick
 16-18 Main Street, Saintfield
 17 Stream Street, Downpatrick
 2 The Square, Strangford, Downpatrick
 22 Main Street, Ballynahinch
 35 St Patricks Avenue, Downpatrick
 47 Main Street, Newcastle
 48 Killyleagh Street, Crossgar, Co. Down
 9-11 St Patricks Avenue, Downpatrick
 Downe Dental Care Ltd, 10 English Street, Downpatrick
 Flat 2 Iveagh Flats, Railway Street, Newcastle
 The Villages Dental Practice, 33 Downpatrick Street, Crossgar
 51C Forkhill Road, Newry
 4 Windsor Hill, Newry
 5 Windsor Hill, Newry

Source: RQIA

Day Care Facilities

Age NI, Dublin Road, Castlewellan
 Age NI Kilkeel Day Centre incorporating 'Age NI Orchard Day Centre', 18 Mill Road, Kilkeel
 Ardarragh Resource Centre, Downshire Estate, Ardglass Road, Downpatrick
 Bardan Cottage, 12 Bryansford Avenue, Newcastle
 Binnian Lodge Resource Centre, Manse Road, Kilkeel
 Bryansford Road incorporating Pumpkin Pastures, 61 Bryansford Road, Newcastle

Cairnmount Day Centre, Forthill Road, Newry
 Crossmaglen Social Education Centre, Rathkeeland House, Blaney Road, Crossmaglen
 Donard Day Centre, Slieve Roe House, Kilkeel
 Grove Day Centre Age NI, 8 Antrim Road, Ballynahinch
 Mainstay DRP, 1 Cumulus Heights, Ballyvange, Downpatrick
 Millview Resource Centre, College Square West, Bessbrook
 Mindwise, Ballydugan Industrial Estate, 2 Ballydugan Road, Downpatrick
 Mindwise, Ballybot House, 28 Cornmarket, Newry
 Mountview Assessment and Resource Centre incorporating Mountainview Workskills and Mountainview Social Group, Flying Horse, Downpatrick
 Mourne Stimulus Day Centre, 1 Council Road, Kilkeel
 Orchard Centre, Dromalane Road, Newry
 Orchard Grove Day Centre, 7 The Square, Clough
 Prospects, Ballybot House Cornmarket
 The Laurels' Day Centre, Dromalane Road, Newry
 Windsor Day Centre, 2A Rathfriland Road, Newry

Source: RQIA

Residential Care Homes

Harbour House, 16 Great George's Street South, Warrenpoint
 Ardview House, 18 The Ward, Ardglass
 Barnvale Cottage, 82b Mill Hill, Castlewellan
 Cloughreagh House, Millvale Road, Bessbrook, Newry
 Corriewood Private Clinic, 3 Station Road, Castlewellan
 Cumulus Heights Residential Services, 3-5 Cumulus Heights, Ballyvange, Downpatrick
 Glasswater Lodge, 1 Glasswater Road, Crossgar
 Iniscora, 29 St Patrick's Drive, Downpatrick
 Lawnfield House, 5 King Street, Newcastle
 Oakridge Residential Unit, 14 Magheraknock Road, Ballynahinch
 Orchard Grove, 7 The Square. Clough
 River House, 131 Central Promenade, Newcastle
 Seafort House, 6 Queen Street, Warrenpoint
 Seeconnell Private Village, 119 Clonvaraghan Road, Catlewellan
 Slieve Roe House, Manse Road, Kilkeel, Newry
 Struell Lodge, 2 Ardglass Road, Downpatrick
 The Beeches Professional and Therapeutic Services, 41 Lisburn Road, Ballynahinch
 Tullywest Manor, 12 Tullywest Road, Saintfield
 Willowview, 45 Killyleagh Road, Saintfield

Source: RQIA

Nursing Homes

Ardmaine Care Home, 8 Fullerton Road, Newry
 Ashgrove, 55 Belfast Road, Newry
 Avila, 32 Convent Hill, Bessbrook, Newry
 Brooklands, 10 Newry Road, Kilkeel
 Cairngrove, Balmoral Avenue, Rathfriland Road, Newry
 Cairnhill, 39 Rathfriland Road, Newry
 Carlingford Lodge Care Home, 76 Upper Dromore Road, Warrenpoint
 Corriewood Private Clinic, 3 Station Road, Castlewellan
 Fishbourne House, 71 Spa Road, Ballynahinch
 Glencarron, 6 Creamery Road, Crossmaglen
 Greenvale House, 82-84 Mill Hill Castlewellan
 Kilbroney House, 83 Kilbroney Road, Rostrevor
 Kings Castle, Kildare Street, Ardglass
 Lecale Lodge, 26 Strangford Road, Downpatrick
 Oakridge Care Home, 14 Magheraknock Road, Ballynahinch
 Our Mother of Mercy, 1 Home Avenue, Newry
 Redburn Clinic, 89 Belfast Road, Ballynahinch
 Ringdufferin Nursing Home, 36 Ringdufferin Road, Killyleagh
 Rockfield Care Centre, Windmill Road, Newry
 Silver Birch Lodge, 54 Crossgar Road, Saintfield
 Slieve Dhu, 43 Bryansford Road, Newcastle
 Spa Nursing Home, 77-79 Grove Road, Ballynahinch
 St Josephs, 16 Prince Street, Warrenpoint
 Strangford Court, Millar Suite, 26 Strangford Road, Downpatrick
 Strangford Court, Oakland Suite, 26 Strangford Road, Downpatrick
 Wood Lodge, Mill Hill, Castlewellan

Source: RQIA

Domiciliary Care Providers

53 Ardglass Road, Downpatrick
 Age NI The Lodge, 4 Dublin Road, Castlewellan
 Alan Close, 12 Alan Close, Newcastle
 Aldergrove House, 7 Ashgrove Road, Newry
 All Ireland Homecare Limited, 21 Windmill Business Park, Saintfield
 Ardaveen Manor, 35 Ardaveen Park, Bessbrook, Newry
 Bryansford Road, 61 Bryansford Road, Kilkeel
 Camphill Community- Mourne Grange, 169 Newry Road, Kilkeel
 Cedar Court Supported Housing Facility, 100a Bridge Street, Downpatrick
 Central Promenade, 15 Central Promenade Newcastle
 Domiciliary Care Service, First Floor, Main Building, Downshire Estate, Ardglass Road, Downpatrick
 Donard Murray, 4-8 Bryansford Road, Newcastle
 Down Community Care, 46/48 Kildare Street, Ardglass
 Elm Healthcare Limited, 9 Whitegates, Kileavey Road, Newry

Glanree House Supported Living Scheme, Glanree House, 37 Patrick Street, Newry
 Hollygate Homecare, 7 The Square, Clough
 Home Instead Senior Care (NI) Limited, 24 Main Street, Saintfield
 Jark (Downpatrick) Limited, Unit 25/26 Down Business Park 46 Belfast Road,
 Downpatrick
 Lydian Care Ltd, 33 Main Street, Newcastle
 Mainstay DRP, Ardcora Supported Housing Service, 5 Killough Road, Downpatrick
 Mainstay DRP, Rathdree Supported Housing Service, 31 St Patrick's Drive,
 Downpatrick
 Mears Care, 16 Win Business Park, Canal Quay, Newry
 Moneydarragh Flexicare, 11a Ballymartin Village, Ballymartin, Kilkeel
 PCG Connaught House, 1 Arthur Street, Newry
 PCG Kilmorey House, 3 Arthur Street, Newry
 Phoenix Nursing Agency (Homecare Division) Ltd, Ardmor Gatelodge, 1 Belfast Road,
 Newry
 Shanlieve Supported Living, 1-3 Randal Heights, Kilkeel
 Slievegrane, 2a Ardglass Road, Downpatrick
 Struell Lodge Supported Housing Scheme, 2 Ardglass Road, Downpatrick
 Teach Sona, 5 Mullanstown, Mullaghbawn
 The Beeches Small Group Home, 44 Lisburn Road, Ballynahinch
 Trackars Ltd, 31b St Patrick's Avenue, Downpatrick
 Trust Homecare, Drumalane House, Drumalane Road, Newry

Source: HSCNI

Report to:	ERT
Subject:	Proposed Downpatrick Hotel Concept
Date:	Monday 13th February 2017
Reporting Officer:	Marie Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism
Contact Officer :	Mr Jonathan McGilly - Assistant Director of Enterprise, Employment & Regeneration

Decisions Required

To note/agree etc the contents of the report and approve recommendations at Section 3

1.0	Purpose and Background Following the completion of a previously completed Accommodation Survey for Downpatrick, one of the key recommendations to emerge from it was the need for more available bed spaces in the town. Having worked closely with Tourism Northern Ireland and Invest Northern Ireland on this original Survey, it was agreed that Council would then commission a Feasibility Study/Business Case to look at options for a proposed Hotel in Downpatrick. In mid-2016, Council appointed consultants 'Peter Quinn Consulting' to undertake this commission. To date they have undertaken the required desk-top research and carried out extensive consultations with numerous agencies and individuals. The report has now reached a stage where the main conclusion is that a 50-70 bedroom Hotel located centrally within the town would be feasible. The next stage in the process as already agreed with ERT is to proceed to an Expression of Interest (EOI) Stage and assess what interest there is from potential investors to then take forward a Business Plan. Only after a potential Investor and appropriate site is determined, can the issue of funding be sought. If both the developer and site issues are resolved the challenge for Council is to find a funding mechanism to incentivising the private sector, which would reduce the risk associated with the project and close the potential funding gap.
2.0	Key Issue Only if a potential investor is found and appropriately sized site is available can the project move through to its final Business Case Stage followed by trying to put together the funding package.
3.0	Recommendations 1.) Given ERT approvals to move through to the final stages of the project, 'note' the update on progress to this stage.
4.0	Resource Implications If the project moves through to its final Business Case stage, the challenge for Council will be to find a funding mechanism to incentivise the private sector, by lessening the risk and closing the overall funding gap.

5.0	Equality and Good Relations implications: In delivery of the scheme, the Council and its Consultants are fully mindful of the Section 75 legislation.
6.0	Appendices N/a (Draft Report is available for viewing, but is not being circulated as confidential)