



April 5th, 2017

**Notice Of Meeting**

You are invited to attend the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee meeting to be held on **Monday, 10th April 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 C Casey

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 Chairpersons remarks.
- 2) Declarations of Interest.
- 3) **Action Sheet - Minutes of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting - Monday 13 March 2017. (Copy enclosed)**

📎 *Item 3 Action Sheet ERT March 2017.pdf*

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## *Presentations*

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- 4) **Presentation by Eoin McGuinness University of Ulster re Newry Mourne & Down Statistical Research.**
- 5) **Presentation by Invest NI.**

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## *Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration Items*

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- 6) **Forkhill Green Space Scheme - Licence Agreement between Council and Forkhill Parish Church and update on Scheme finances. (Copy enclosed)**

📎 *Item 6 Rpt re Forkhill Greenspace Scheme.pdf*

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- 7) **Business Development Programmes of Support. (Copy enclosed)**

📎 *Item 7 Rpt re Business Development Programmes of Support.pdf*

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- 8) **Interreg Europe Project - Inside Out of EU. (Copy enclosed)**

📎 *Item 8 Rpt re Interreg Europe Project Inside Out EU.pdf*

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- 9) **Industrial Strategy Consultation Response. (Copy enclosed)**

📎 *Item 9 Rpt re Industrial Strategy Response.pdf*

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- 10) **Newry Chamber - Trade Visit to Szczecin Poland - 15 - 18 May 2017. (Copy enclosed)**

📎 *Item 10 Chamber trip to Poland May 2017.pdf*

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- 11) Service Level Agreement: Kilkeel Development Association. (Copy enclosed)**  
📎 *Item 11 Rpt re SLA for Kilkeel Development Association.pdf* Page 88
- 12) Service Level Agreement - ORNI (Community Trails) (Copy to follow)**
- 13) Clanbrassil Barn and Tea Rooms - Tollymore Forest Park. (Copy enclosed)**  
📎 *Item 13 Rpt re Clanbrassil Barn and Tea Rooms at Tollymore.pdf* Page 97
- 14) Letting of Wardens House at Kilbroney Park Rostrevor. (Copy enclosed)**  
📎 *Item 14 Rpt re Letting of Wardens House Kilbroney.pdf* Page 99
- 15) Newry Agricultural Show Development. (Copy enclosed)**  
📎 *Item 15 Rpt re Newry Agricultural Show Development.pdf* Page 100
- 16) Policies - Newry and Mourne Museum - Accreditation Application. (Copy)**
- 📎 *Item 16 Rpt re Policies for Newry and Mourne Museum Accreditation Application -June 2017.pdf* Page 101
- 📎 *Item 16 - Appendix 1 - Collections Development Policy 2017.pdf* Page 103
- 📎 *Item 16 - Appendix 2 - N&MM Documentation Policy.pdf* Page 114
- 📎 *Item 16 - Appendix 3 - Access Policy Statement.pdf* Page 118
- 📎 *Item 16 - Appendix 4 - Environmental Sustainability Policy Statement.pdf* Page 124
- 📎 *Item 16 - Appendix 5 - CONSERVATION AND COLLECTIONS CARE POLICY.pdf* Page 128
- 17) FAM - Visit to Strangford. (Copy enclosed)**  
📎 *Item 17 Rpt re FAM Visit to Strangford.pdf* Page 135
- 18) Tourism Events Support 2017/18. (Copy enclosed)**

**19) Extension of appointment for Festival of Flight - Flying Display Director for 2017. (Copy enclosed)**

Item 19 Rpt re Extension of appointment for Festival of Flight Flying Display Director.pdf

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**20) Conference - Developing and Managing Recreation in protected landscapes. (Copy enclosed)**

Item 20 Rpt re Conference on Developing and Managing Protected landscapes.pdf

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**21) Events Unit Placement Students. (Copy enclosed)**

Item 21 Rpt re Events unit placement students 2017.18.pdf

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*For Noting*

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**22) Action Tracker Update Sheet. (Copy enclosed)**

Item 22 Action Tracking Update.pdf

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**23) Review of Joint Tourism NI - Council Initiatives in 2016/17. (Copy enclosed)**

Item 23 Rpt re Review of Joint Tourism NI Council Partnership.pdf

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**24) Marine Protected Area Management & Plan (Copy enclosed)**

Item 24 Rpt re Marine Protected Area Management & plan.pdf

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**25) Scheme of Delegation. (Copy enclosed)**

Item 25 Scheme of delegation april 16 to march 2017.pdf

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# Invitees

|                          |  |
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| Cllr Terry Andrews       | <a href="mailto:terry.andrews@nmandd.org">terry.andrews@nmandd.org</a>             |
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| Mrs Marie Ward        | <a href="mailto:marie.ward@nmandd.org">marie.ward@nmandd.org</a>                     |

**ACTION SHEET – ENTERPRISE REGENERATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING****MONDAY 13 MARCH 2017**

| <b>Minute Ref</b> | <b>Subject</b>                     | <b>Decision</b>   | <b>Lead Officer</b>   | <b>Actions taken/<br/>Progress to date</b>  | <b>Remove<br/>from Action<br/>Sheet Y/N</b> |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| ERT/043/2017      | Service Level Agreements 2017-2018 | To note the following Service Level Agreements for 2017-2018:<br>1) NMDDC and Mourne Heritage Trust<br>2) NMDDC and NIBSUP (Interim Programme Delivery)<br><br>3) NMDDC and NMEA (Social Enterprise Programme)<br><br>4) NMDDC and ENI (Exploring Enterprise 3)<br><br>5) NMDDC and Youth Action (Get Set for Work) | 1) M Ward<br><br>2) J McGilly<br><br>3) J McGilly<br><br>4) J McGilly<br><br>5) J McGilly | 1)??<br><br>2)SLA in place. Renewed monthly until new Business Start Prog commences<br><br>3)SLA to be renewed up to March 2018<br><br>4)Letter of Offer issued in Dec 2015 (for a 3 yr period)<br><br>5)Letter of Offer issued in Dec 2015 (for a 3 yr period) |   |

| Minute Ref | Subject | Decision  | Lead Officer | Actions taken/<br>Progress to date  | Remove<br>from Action<br>Sheet Y/N |
|------------|---------|---|--------------|---|------------------------------------|
|            |         | 6) NMDDC and East Border Region   | 6) J McGilly | 6) SLA to be issued to March 2018   |                                    |
|            |         | 7) NMDDC and University of Ulster (Sectorial Analysis)                          | 7) J McGilly | 7) Partnership agreement signed March 2017  |                                    |
|            |         | 8) NMDDC and Outdoor Recreation NI  | 8) M Ward    | 8)??  |                                    |
|            |         | 9) NMDDC and Royal National Lifeboat Institution (Tyrella; Murlough; Cranfield) | 9) S Boyle   | 9) Draft with RNLI to provide final copy for signing.                               |                                    |
|            |         | 10) NMDDC and National Trust  | 10) S Boyle  | 10) Query with directors on Can Environmental services litter pick Murlough beach ? |                                    |
|            |         | 11) NMDDC and St Patrick's Visitor Centre                                       | 11) M Mohan  |   |                                    |
|            |         | 12) NMDDC and Down Railway  | 12) M Mohan  |   |                                    |



| Minute Ref   | Subject                           | Decision   | Lead Officer          | Actions taken/<br>Progress to date  | Remove<br>from Action<br>Sheet Y/N |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| ERT/044/2017 | Purple Status Flag<br>(Newcastle) | <p>Council Officers work with the private sector in the Newcastle area to establish a Purple Flag Working Group and that if agreement is reached with the businesses, that an application is submitted in January 2018 for Purple Flag Status.</p> <p>Councillor B Quinn to be provided with a copy of the Purple Flag assessment for Newry.</p> | M Quinn               | Meeting to be held in Newcastle after Easter holiday to agree formation of Purple Flag group.         |                                    |
| ERT/045/2017 | Autism Initiatives NI             | Council Officers work with the private sector in the Newcastle area to promote and develop the concept to have Newcastle awarded the status as First Autism Friendly town in Northern Ireland.   | M Quinn               | Meeting arranged with Autism Initiatives NI and Newcastle Business representatives for 29 March 2017. |                                    |
| ERT/046/2017 | Village Renewal                   | To accept the letter of offer from Mourne Gullion Lecale (MGL) Rural Development Partnership for funding in the sum of £51,375 with match funding requirement from Council in the sum of £20,000, which has been confirmed in 2017/18 Rate Estimates.  | J McGilly/<br>A Smyth | Letter of Offer accepted and returned to MGL Lag. Project implementation underway                     |                                    |

| Minute Ref   | Subject  | Decision   | Lead Officer | Actions taken/<br>Progress to date  | Remove<br>from Action<br>Sheet Y/N |
|--------------|--|--|--------------|---|------------------------------------|
| ERT/048/2017 | Castlewellan Forest Park – Task & Finish Board | <p>a) The Report of the Café Conversion – The Heritage Potential of Castlewellan Forest Park, be shared with the public as a record of the information collated at the World Cafe Style Conversion Workshop which took place on 1 February 2017.</p> <p>b) To note that the Council cannot commit to implementing all of the suggestions/ideas that were recorded at the Workshop.</p> | S Keenan     | The Castlewellan Task and Finish Project Board will discuss at the next meeting in April how they wish to make this document public ie via which platforms /press etc |                                    |
| ERT/049/2017 | Castlewellan Forest Park – Recreation Forum    | To establish a Castlewellan Forest Park Recreation Forum to provide a proactive channel for two way communication on interfaces between and issues impacting upon the various outdoor recreation activities in Castlewellan Forest Park, informing management approaches and acting as a forum in which to build mutual understanding and consensus among key users.                   | S Keenan     | MHT will be facilitating this Forum, they hope to have an initial meeting of the forum in May /June 2017.   |                                    |

| Minute Ref   | Subject   | Decision  | Lead Officer            | Actions taken/<br>Progress to date   | Remove<br>from Action<br>Sheet Y/N |
|--------------|---|---|-------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| ERT/050/2017 | Lease Agreement<br>- Rath Turrett Site<br>Warrenpoint | To renew the Lease for Rath Turrett Site Warrenpoint for a 5 year period at a nominal fee, on the basis of the terms and conditions similar to the previous lease, and payment of owner's reasonable legal fees.  | M Ward/<br>B Magill SPR | Once ERT report has been approved at full Council, lease will be signed and sealed on 3 April 2017 |                                    |
| ERT/051/2017 | UNESCO Geopark  | To engage with GSNI and initiate preparatory work to submit a new application for UNESCO Global Geopark.  | M Boyle                 |  |                                    |
| ERT/052/2017 | Mountain Bike<br>Event                                | To support the Red Bull Foxhunt and Irish National Championships in Rostrevor and PSYCLE in Castlewellan.   | M Boyle                 |  |                                    |
| ERT/053/2017 | Camlough Lake<br>Lighting Ducts                       | To approve an addition to the NI Water Rehabilitation Contract at Camlough Lake to include ducting.   | M Boyle                 |  |                                    |
| ERT/054/2017 | Tender<br>Visitor Experience<br>Plans                 | To issue a tender to appoint a company to undertake 2 No. Visitor Experience Plans for Mourne & Gullion and Mourne Coastal (Strangford Lough to Carlingford Lough, incorporating St Patrick)<br>Ms M Boyle Tourism Development Officer to contact the relevant statutory agency | M Boyle                 |  |                                    |

| Minute Ref   | Subject                                       | Decision  | Lead Officer | Actions taken/<br>Progress to date | Remove<br>from Action<br>Sheet Y/N |
|--------------|---|---|--------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|              |   | following concerns raised by Councillor B Quinn regarding the urgent need for works to be carried out at all the tourist information signage in the District to cut back overgrowth and clean signs.  |              |                                    |                                    |
| ERT/056/2017 | Sole Providers                                | To proceed to engage the services of the Big Telly Theatre Company for artists, materials, project management and programming solutions as required, specifically their "Creative Shops" programme to support City of Merchants Festival in Newry up to £20,000.  | A McGill     |                                    |                                    |
| ERT/057/2017 | Tender<br>Wake the Giant<br>City of Merchants | To issue 2 No. Tenders to appoint a company to undertake Story Development, facilitation and production services for Wake the Giant and City of Merchants festivals in 2017, at a cost of £40,000 each.<br>To engage with Kilkeel Chamber of Commerce with regard to the involvement of Kilkeel in future events. | A McGill     |                                    |                                    |
| End          |   |   |              |                                    |                                    |

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Report to:</b>          | Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee                                     |
| <b>Subject:</b>            | Forkhill Greenspace Scheme  |
| <b>Date:</b>               | Monday 10 April 2017  |
| <b>Reporting Officer :</b> | Marie Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism                      |
| <b>Contact Officer :</b>   | 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

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| <b>1.0</b> | <p><b>Purpose and Background</b></p> <p>Previous ERT approvals confirmed that Council accepted a Letter Of Offer of £250,000 (To be spent in 16/17) from DEARA for the Forkhill Greenspace Project and works are now proceeding toward completion by mid May 2017. Approval was also given for 'License Agreements' to be put in place between DFC as the land owner and Council to have the necessary lands transferred for the works to be carried out and Council to have title for longer term maintenance.</p> <p>Approval is now being sought to put in place a 3<sup>rd</sup> 'Licence Agreement with Forkhill Parish Church so that a 3<sup>rd</sup> Access point is provided to this new pathway scheme via Church/School grounds.</p> <p>Also, with site works continuing a number of additional construction elements have had to be undertaken over and above the originally planned works information. The nature of these additional works have come from a combination of Utilities requested changes, Artwork amendments and various stakeholder/community requested elements. This has resulted in the original contract sum (237k) increasing to a projected 340k spend, which exceeds the available Contingency/Risk pot (63k) that was available from DEARA (250k) and Council (50k towards Capital) funders in 16/17. In order to make up this potential shortfall of 40k, DEARA the main funder has in principle agreed to provide Council with an additional contribution of 30k to match fund at least 10k from the 17/18 Council monies that are on offer and have been budgeted for.</p> |
| <b>2.0</b> | <p><b>Key Issue</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Now important that a 'Licence Agreement is put in place with Forkhill Parish Church so that a 3<sup>rd</sup> Access point is provided to this new pathway scheme.</li> <li>- Council need to accept this additional DEARA contribution and utilise part of its 2017/18 budget to match fund additional monies from DEARA.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>3.0</b> | <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.) <b>Council to enter into and sign a License Agreement with Forkhill Parish Church for an access area on Church/School property to provide a 3<sup>rd</sup> entry point to the newly installed Forkhill Greenspace Project.</b></li> <li>2.) <b>Council to utilise at least £10,000 Funding from its 2017/18 Capital Contribution set against this scheme to match fund additional DEARA monies to cover additional contract works that have had to be carried out on-site.</b></li> <li>3.) <b>Council accept an additional DEARA Letter Of Offer amount (£30,000) for the Forkhill Greenspace Project.</b></li> </ol>  |
| <b>4.0</b> | <p><b>Resource Implications</b></p> <p>Council have a 2016/17 contribution of £100,000 (50k for Capital and 50k for Fees) to match fund the monies on offer from DEARA and have budgeted £50,000 in 17/18 to cover costs incurred at the end of the project in the new financial year.</p>   |
| <b>5.0</b> | <p><b>Equality and Good Relations implications</b></p>   |

|            |   |
|------------|---|
|            | In delivery of the scheme, the Council, DEARA funder, consultants and contractor are fully mindful of the Section 75 legislation. |
| <b>6.0</b> | <b>Appendices – N/A</b>   |

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <b>Report to:</b>         | Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee             |
| <b>Subject:</b>           | Business Development Programmes of Support                |
| <b>Date:</b>              | Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2017                        |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Marie Ward, Director Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Amanda Smyth<br>Enterprise Development Officer            |

### Decisions Required

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

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| <b>1.0</b> | <p><b>Purpose and Background</b></p> <p>(1) To deliver in partnership with SRC a programme of accredited training to 106 unemployed and inactive people, including the long-term unemployed and people far from the labour market, those on low incomes, lone parents and people with low or no qualifications who live outside NRA areas</p> <p>(2) To procure and deliver a short-term mentoring programme that will provide specialist one to one advice and assistance to existing businesses to help enhance capacity, solve issues / problems, and overall encourage sustainability and growth through improved efficiencies and access to new markets</p> <p>(3) To deliver a series of short term business development workshops that focus on the enhancement of skills and knowledge among pre start entrepreneurs, and new and existing businesses. The focus of this activity is to help enhance capacity and to encourage sustainability and growth of the local business base through improved efficiencies and access to new markets (i.e. digital marketing, brand development, procurement, e commerce, sales development, idea generation for new starts)</p> <p>(4) To deliver in Partnership with People Plus an accredited retail Apprenticeship NI programme for 100 16 -24 year olds employed within the retail sector</p> |
| <b>2.0</b> | <p><b>Key Issues</b></p> <p>Delivery of these business development programmes will enable Council to deliver against its priorities and actions outlined in the Corporate Plan and Economic Regeneration and Investment Strategy. The outputs from the activity will assist Council deliver against targets set out in the ERT Business Plan and Programme for Government targets. It will also offer an extension of business support activity to those individuals completing the Go for IT (Business Start-up) programme.</p>  |
| <b>3.0</b> | <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>To agree the delivery of the below business engagement activities which will result in job creation, the up-skilling of employees / entrepreneurs, and knowledge transfer activity that will encourage business sustainability and growth</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) SRC Crest Programme that will provide training opportunities to the unemployed</li> <li>(2) Mentoring Programme for existing businesses</li> <li>(3) Short term business development workshops (i.e. digital marketing, brand development, procurement, e commerce, sales development, idea generation for new starts)</li> </ol>   |

|            | (4) Retail Apprenticeship NI Programme   |
|------------|--|
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Resource Implications</b><br>All business engagement activity will be delivered within the Transferring Functions & Economic Development Budget<br><br>No Cost exists for the Retail Apprenticeship NI Programme.<br>SRC Crest Programme £10,000<br>Mentoring Programme and Business Development workshops: £15,000 |
| <b>5.0</b> | <b>Equality and Good Relations implications</b><br>All programme delivery will be open to all businesses and individuals   |
| <b>6.0</b> | <b>Appendices</b><br>N/A   |



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|---|---|
| <b>Subject:</b>   | Interreg Europe Project: Inside Out EU  |
| <b>Date:</b>  | Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2017  |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b>   | Marie Ward, Director Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism   |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Amanda Smyth<br>Enterprise Development Officer  |
| <b>Decisions Required</b><br>To agree the contents of the report and approve recommendations at Section 3 |   |
| <b>1.0</b>  | <p><b>Purpose and Background</b></p> <p>The Department for the Economy have been successful in an export focused application to Interreg Europe (DFE is a regional partner). The overall aim of the project is to increase the competitiveness of SMEs through new and innovative regional policies, helping a larger number of SMEs to reach international markets and improve their internationalisation process by means of collaboration inside and outside the regions. This will be achieved through a programme of interregional learning</p> <p>DFE has established a Stakeholder Group for implementation of the project, to which representation from NI Councils have been invited to participate</p>  |
| <b>2.0</b>  | <p><b>Key Issues</b></p> <p>The role of the stakeholder group will be to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oversee and contribute to implementation of the project. This will include regional diagnosis, participation in a programme of interregional study visits, development of a project action plan, and oversight of the monitoring and implementation of the action plan;</li> <li>• Assume the role of a steering group to agree terms of reference and provide oversight for work programmes developed to deliver this project;</li> <li>• Contribute to and participate in an regional dissemination event to be held in Belfast;</li> <li>• Peer review all project outputs;</li> <li>• Support the development of networks and partnerships both within the region, the project (partners) and internationally;</li> <li>• Ensure effective communication and dissemination of information between stakeholders in the sector.</li> </ul> <p>The Steering Group has representation from the below Departments / organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Department for the Economy (DfE)</li> <li>Invest Northern Ireland (Invest NI)</li> <li>InterTradeIreland</li> <li>Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce &amp; Industry (NICCI)</li> <li>Northern Ireland Local Government</li> </ul> |
| <b>3.0</b>  | <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>To participate on the Stakeholder Group with the DFE for the implementation of the Interreg Europe Project: Inside Out EU</p>  |
| <b>4.0</b>  | <p><b>Resource Implications.</b></p> <p>Resource implication for participation, no financial cost for participation</p>   |
| <b>5.0</b>  | <p><b>Equality and Good Relations implications</b></p> <p>N/A</p>   |
| <b>6.0</b>  | <p><b>Appendices</b> N/A</p>  |

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Agenda Item:</b>       |  |
| <b>Report to:</b>         | Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee                        |
| <b>Subject:</b>           | Department for the Economy Industrial Strategy Consultation Response |
| <b>Date:</b>              | Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2017                                   |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Marie Ward, Director Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism            |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Martin Patterson, Enterprise Development Officer                     |

### Decisions Required

For consideration

#### 1.0 Purpose and Background

The Department for the Economy has recently published a draft Industrial Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2030 (copy attached to this report) which is open to public consultation until 25 April 2017. The draft strategy has been released to coincide with the publication of the UK wide Industrial Strategy.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council will be submitting a response in advance of the closure date and this will be submitted in tandem with a Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) response on behalf of the 11 Councils.

#### 2.0 Key Issues

Northern Ireland needs a long term vision that points towards a transformation of our economy. This vision must establish purpose and direction, and help to prioritise effort. Turning Northern Ireland into a leading, internationally competitive economy is essential if we are to deliver the economic outcomes that we want for our people such as increased employment and rising incomes.

This strategy for the economy consultation which looks up to 2030 aims to address this and includes broadly;

- a long-term vision for the transformation of the NI economy
- a vision to be globally competitive
- increased productivity
- proposed 'framework for growth'; accelerating innovation and research, enhancing education, skills and employability, driving inclusive sustainable growth, succeeding in global markets, building the best economic infrastructure

The Industrial Strategy aims to support the outcomes in the draft 'Programme for Government' and complement the Investment Strategy and Social Strategy.

|            |  |
|------------|--|
|            | <p>Together these plans will drive the prioritisation of the budget both now and over the longer term and ensure that our successful manufacturing and service companies continue to grow.</p> <p>A copy of the consultation document is available on the Department for the Economy's website: <a href="https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/consultations/industrial-strategy">https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/consultations/industrial-strategy</a></p> <p>You can respond to this consultation on-line at the Northern Ireland Hub – Citizen Space: <a href="https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/dfe/industrial-strategy-for-northern-ireland">https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/dfe/industrial-strategy-for-northern-ireland</a></p> |
| <b>3.0</b> | <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>Newry Mourne and Down District Council to approve the attached Industrial Strategy consultation response and submit it in advance of the closure date on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2017.</p>  |
| <b>4.0</b> | <p><b>Resource Implications</b></p> <p>N/A</p>   |
| <b>5.0</b> | <p><b>Equality and Good Relations implications</b></p> <p>N/A</p>  |
| <b>6.0</b> | <p><b>Appendices</b></p> <p>Department for the Economy Industrial Strategy consultation document and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council response.</p>   |



Department for the  
**Economy**  
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# ECONOMY 2030

A consultation on an  
Industrial Strategy  
for Northern Ireland

# ECONOMY 2030

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## ECONOMY 2030

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# MINISTERIAL FOREWORD

I am pleased to present Economy 2030, the Department for the Economy's proposals for a new Industrial Strategy. It is my ambitious, long term vision to transform Northern Ireland into a globally competitive economy that works for everyone.

Since our previous Strategy was launched in 2012, Northern Ireland has emerged from the deepest downturn in living memory and begun the process of rebalancing our economy. Unemployment has fallen, economic inactivity is down, exports are growing, tourism visitor numbers and spending are on the increase and innovation expenditure is rising. But we should not simply settle for better than it was. It is a truly transformed economy that we must set our sights upon.

An economy where more of our companies have an international outlook exporting their goods, products and services outside of our region.

An economy where an increasing number of businesses realise their high growth potential and scale up from small to medium sized companies employing more people in the process.

An economy where entrepreneurship and enterprise are endemic and reflected in our growing status as a start-up region.

An economy where innovation is embedded in the DNA of every company and across the public sector.

An economy where government is business's biggest backer, putting in place financial, infrastructural and policy support to ensure our economy thrives.



An economy where we build industries on the back of where we are genuinely world class in academic research.

An economy where our people possess knowledge and the skills they need to improve their lives and drive economic growth.

An economy where we better equip our children with a solid educational foundation of core skills from early years to post-primary education.

And – above all – an economy that grows inclusively.

We may be a small region, but I have global ambitions for our economy. This proposed new Industrial Strategy sets out our plan to turn Northern Ireland into one of the world's most innovative and competitive small advanced economies. We will build a globally competitive economy on the pillars of innovation, enhanced skills and employability, an international outlook and the best economic infrastructure we can build. We will prioritise and support the sectors of our economy that are already world class and those where we can become world class. And we will strive, at all times, to ensure that everyone, everywhere in Northern Ireland feels the benefits of an improving economy with more jobs and rising incomes.

The road to economic transformation is a long, difficult one. While we have taken the important first steps, the next stages will be tough. But I believe in the people of Northern Ireland, the ability of our businesses to innovate and reinvent themselves and our collective capacity to overcome challenge.

I am proud of Northern Ireland's industrial heritage. But I firmly believe that our best is not behind us. I am inspired by what our businesses, big and small, indigenous and inward investor and in all sectors, are doing every single day. The potential of Northern Ireland to become an economic powerhouse again is palpable. Economy 2030 sets out our proposals to build on that success and turn that promise into product. Please join us on our journey to transform Northern Ireland into the globally competitive economy we know that it can be.

**Simon Hamilton MLA**  
Minister for the Economy  
January 2017



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## OUR VISION

**A globally competitive economy  
that works for everyone**

- 1.1 Northern Ireland needs a long term vision that points towards a transformation of our economy. This vision must establish purpose and direction, and help to prioritise effort. It should provide a focus around which all our partners in delivering this Industrial Strategy can coalesce. Our aim is to seize the opportunity of a new draft Programme for Government to set a long term vision for Northern Ireland's economy that combines ambition and inclusivity. We will set our sights on competing on the world stage. And we will ensure that all parts of our society can benefit from economic growth, whilst retaining the characteristics that make Northern Ireland a great place to live. We propose the following vision:

**"To be a globally competitive economy that works for everyone"**

- 1.2 We believe this vision embraces the twin themes of competitiveness and wellbeing, whilst establishing the high level ambition to which we aspire. It aligns with the overall purpose established by the Northern Ireland Executive for its draft Programme for Government. Simply delivering better performance on economic indicators which do not bear any relevance to

the daily lives of our citizens does not represent success. Our call for evidence highlighted the need to ensure that growth is inclusive and that the Industrial Strategy is for everyone. We need to transform our economic competitiveness, grow the private sector and increase our wealth, but this must be achieved in a manner which benefits all our people.

**"A globally competitive economy..."**

- 1.3 Turning Northern Ireland into a leading, internationally competitive economy is essential if we are to deliver the economic outcomes that we want for our people such as increased employment and rising incomes. Competitiveness will drive export-led growth and for a small economy like Northern Ireland we need to sell beyond our shores to generate wealth. Many other economies are larger, have greater resources and possess more powers than we do. However, we can succeed if we can unleash the creativity and talents of our people and businesses. We cannot be insular. We need to look across the globe to those economies that lead the field in key areas that drive competitiveness. The Economic Advisory Group has published a comprehensive Competitiveness Scorecard (2016)<sup>1</sup>

1 <http://eagni.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/UUEPC-Northern-Ireland-Competitiveness-Report-2016.pdf>



setting out where Northern Ireland sits in an international context on key indicators. We perform well on quality of life indicators and business performance, with an excellent record on foreign direct investment job creation. While our skills and employment levels have been improving, other countries are moving ahead even faster.

- 1.4 A key long-term indicator of our competitive position is, and will continue to be, productivity. Productivity measures how efficient we are at producing economic outputs. Our relative position on this measure has been the subject of detailed recent research by, for instance, the Nevin Institute<sup>2</sup>, the CBI<sup>3</sup> and the Ulster University Economic Policy Centre<sup>4</sup>. These studies illustrate that key sectors such as manufacturing and retail perform well when compared with United Kingdom productivity levels. However, overall we are below the United Kingdom average which itself is not an international pace setter. It is not enough for us simply to do better than we have in the past. It is the pace of our improvements in an

international setting across productivity and broader competitive measures on which we must focus. In developing our proposals for this Industrial Strategy, we are benchmarking ourselves against the world's leading, small advanced economies to learn from their success. We explore this further in Chapter 2.

### ...that works for everyone"

- 1.5 There is growing evidence of the importance of ensuring that economic growth, if it is to be sustainable, must be allied with an approach that is fair and inclusive across all sections of society. The Legatum Prosperity Index<sup>5</sup> highlights that success is about more than narrow measures of wealth such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The Prosperity Index goes beyond GDP to measure countries' success against a broad set of metrics covering areas such as health, education, opportunity, social capital and personal freedom. The latest report demonstrates that countries such as Norway, Switzerland, New Zealand and Sweden have achieved real prosperity which provides opportunities for all their citizens, something to which we must aspire.

<sup>2</sup> [www.nerstitute.net/research/productivity-and-the-northern-ireland-economy/](http://www.nerstitute.net/research/productivity-and-the-northern-ireland-economy/)

<sup>3</sup> [www.cbi.org.uk/insight-and-analysis/unlocking-regional-growth/](http://www.cbi.org.uk/insight-and-analysis/unlocking-regional-growth/)

<sup>4</sup> [www.ulster.ac.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/118385/Understanding\\_productivity\\_in\\_Northern\\_Ireland\\_27\\_September\\_2016.pdf](http://www.ulster.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/118385/Understanding_productivity_in_Northern_Ireland_27_September_2016.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Legatum Institute (2016), *The Legatum Prosperity Index Rankings 2015*

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Many of these countries also rank as the happiest on earth according to the World Happiness Report<sup>6</sup>, demonstrating how inclusive growth can improve the everyday lives of those who struggle to get by.

- 1.6 Becoming the globally competitive economy to which we aspire should not mean sacrificing what makes Northern Ireland special. The Personal Wellbeing Survey<sup>7</sup> measures life satisfaction, happiness, anxiety and how worthwhile people feel their lives are across different parts of the United Kingdom. This work shows that our citizens have a satisfaction with life that surpasses that of their counterparts in England, Scotland and Wales. We may look enviously at the economic performance of London and the South East, but these regions look at us with the same envy on personal wellbeing. We must protect and preserve what positively sets us apart with the same effort and enthusiasm that we invest into bringing more and better jobs to Northern Ireland and increasing our competitiveness.
- 1.7 Too many of our people still face limited economic prospects and suffer from economic and social disadvantage, as evidenced, for example, by our

historically high levels of economic inactivity. We are determined to ensure that, in implementing our Industrial Strategy, all our people and all regions in Northern Ireland will have the opportunity to fulfil their potential. Manufacturing and service businesses alike have an ongoing demand for skills. Assisting people everywhere to access the labour market through the provision of effective employment and skills support, and securing balanced regional growth, will help address poverty and social exclusion wherever it exists and improve people's life chances. We also recognise the interdependencies between this Industrial Strategy and the Executive's commitments in the new draft Programme for Government to address health and education inequalities, environmental sustainability and diversity.

- 1.8 This Industrial Strategy is not just about building a better economy, but is about securing benefits for everyone, everywhere in Northern Ireland. We want economic growth, not for growth's sake, but for the common good. As we pursue our economic goals, we must never lose sight of the need to make the benefits of growth something that everyone experiences. Inclusive growth is central to our vision.

6 Helliwell, J., Layard, R. and Sachs, J. (2016) *World Happiness Report 2016*

7 Office for National Statistics (2016) *Personal Wellbeing in the UK 2015 to 2016*

1

## Ambition

1.9 A recurring theme that emerged from many quarters during the preparation of this draft Industrial Strategy is that we must be ambitious. As Chapter 3 highlights, Northern Ireland no longer needs to look back to rebuilding our economy in the aftermath of the global downturn. Our focus must now be on creating an inspiring vision of the future with inclusive growth, prosperity and rebalancing our economy at its core. This draft Strategy is centred on ambition. Ambition to seize the opportunity presented by our new approach to developing and delivering the draft Programme for Government, with its focus on partnership and long-term outcomes. Ambition to secure a step change in performance in areas which, while improving, are not progressing fast enough to mark us out as world class. And ambition on the part of business to invest and improve productivity in response to our decision to reduce Corporation Tax, thereby delivering growth and jobs.

## Framework for Growth

1.10 Our proposed Framework for Growth is presented in Figure 1 on page 9 and expanded upon in Chapter 5. To support the delivery of our vision, we propose the delivery of our vision, we propose five Pillars for Growth. These are:



1.11 Based on extensive research, including international benchmarking, we have concluded that this is the most appropriate framework to achieve our ambitions for growth and competitiveness. This has been substantiated through our consultation and engagement to date, including the feedback received as part of our call for evidence.

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**Strategic coherence**

1.12 Our Industrial Strategy will support the outcomes in the draft Programme for Government and complement the Investment Strategy and Social Strategy. Together these plans will drive the prioritisation of the budget both now and over the longer term and ensure that our successful manufacturing and service companies continue to grow.

1.13 We must ensure strategic coherence across the full range of our economic development policies. Northern Ireland has strategies in place for innovation, skills and exports, and a range of associated policies. Our new Industrial Strategy does not mean that we tear these up and start again. We will align all our supporting strategies and policies across each of the five Pillars for Growth with the vision outlined in this Industrial Strategy.

**Supporting strong and emerging sectors**

1.14 For Northern Ireland's Industrial Strategy to be successful it must establish a clear strategic positioning of how we are to compete in the global economy. Small economies cannot be experts or world class in every area. Our research shows that they recognise the need to prioritise on the basis of

well structured choices to deliver their desired outcomes.

1.15 Every sector is vital to our economy and will be assisted but support will be strongest for those sectors and sub-sectors where we are already world class and where we can become world class. Northern Ireland leads the way in a number of advanced manufacturing and service sectors and we want to build on this excellence.

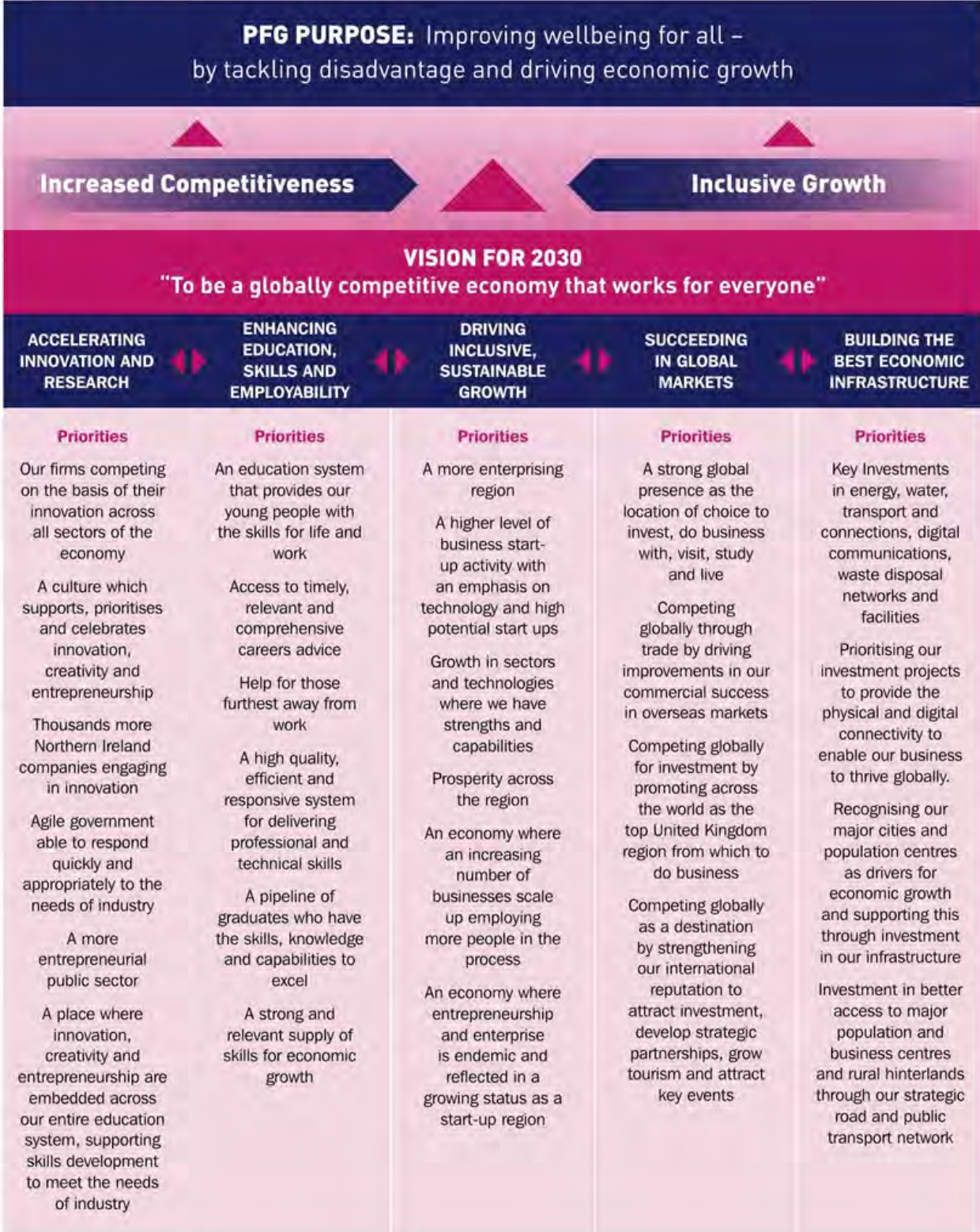
1.16 We will offer enhanced investment and support to those market opportunities that are most likely to lead to strong and sustained economic growth. We recognise that Northern Ireland companies cannot compete successfully at the pinnacle of every global market and across all sectors and technologies, but we know our companies can compete successfully at the highest level in a number of areas. Therefore we need to concentrate on sectors and niches with world class potential.

**Delivering our strategy**

1.17 Achieving our ambitious vision for the Northern Ireland economy will require partnership working across the whole of our economy as well as an alignment of effort and a shared commitment to drive forward change.



Figure 1 – Framework for Growth



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Only by Government working alongside the wider public sector, the voluntary and community sector, trade unions and business will we be able to realise our vision of strong and sustainable growth which works for everyone. To advise and assist with the implementation of the Strategy, we will consider the creation of an Industrial Strategy Partnership involving government, local government, industry, third sector and trade union representatives.

**Monitoring progress**

1.18 Chapter 6, Measuring Success, sets out in detail how we will monitor the progress of our Strategy to ensure that the actions we are taking will contribute to the outcomes we wish to see and, importantly, align with the indicators agreed as part of the draft Programme for Government. We also set out here a number of key economic milestones as we work towards achieving the longer term outcomes.

**QUESTIONS**

- 1 Do you agree with the proposed vision for the Northern Ireland economy? In particular, do you agree with the twin emphasis on competitiveness and inclusiveness?**
- 2 Do you agree with the proposed five Pillars for Growth?**
- 3 Do you agree with the proposed economic milestones?**



# THE NORTHERN IRELAND ECONOMY: 2017-2030 MILESTONES

## By 2021, we will have



## By 2025, we will have



## By 2030, we will have





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# GLOBAL BEST PRACTICE

Benchmarking Northern Ireland against the best



## Learning from Global Best Practice

2.1 In seeking to become a leading, internationally competitive economy it is important to examine economies which face similar challenges and opportunities to ourselves, not least those that have small domestic

markets and are peripheral geographically. Our research has considered in detail how Northern Ireland compares against eight of the most relevant, best-in-class small advanced economies.

**Figure 2: Small Advanced Economy Competitiveness Rankings**



Source: Department for the Economy (forthcoming), Benchmarking Northern Ireland's Competitiveness against Small Advanced Economies

Note: Ranked 1-9 where 1 = most competitive



2.2 Northern Ireland’s competitiveness is similar to that of Estonia, New Zealand and Israel (see Figure 2). But our ambition should not stop there. We want to be more competitive with countries such as Finland, Denmark and Singapore and, closer to home, Scotland and the Republic of Ireland. We also have to acknowledge that these economies are not standing still. As we improve, so too do they and the gap does not necessarily close. It is not enough to do better than before. We must set our sights on being the best. We will only do this by building

a unique competitive proposition that works for Northern Ireland.

2.3 While we must learn from the success of others it is not sufficient simply to copy an economic model that has worked elsewhere. Northern Ireland is unique and we must build on our own strengths with the aim of being a global leader on each dimension. We are already an internationally engaged small economy (see Figure 3) through an attractive foreign direct investment proposition and strong export

**Figure 3: Competitive Ranking by Theme**



SCO = Scotland      EST = Estonia      NZL = New Zealand      DNK = Denmark      FIN = Finland  
 NIR = Northern Ireland      ISR = Israel      SGP = Singapore      ROI = Republic of Ireland

Source: Department for the Economy (forthcoming), Benchmarking Northern Ireland’s Competitiveness Against Small Advanced Economies

Note: Ranked 1-9 where 1=most competitive

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base, delivering for both manufacturing and services. However, we want to do even better in this area while substantially improving our standing in other areas too. **We propose that Northern Ireland should set itself the target of becoming one of the three most competitive of these nine economies by 2030.**

- 2.4 In ranking ourselves against the best, we look to Finland's innovation and skills base. We look to how Denmark has delivered economic prosperity alongside equality and wellbeing. We look to how Singapore has established itself as a hub for international businesses, supported by one of the world's most business friendly environments. We look to how the Republic of Ireland has used its international positioning to deliver substantial improvements in productivity and living standards. We look to how New Zealand has overcome significant geographical challenges to develop a globally competitive agri-food sector. We look to how Scotland has become one of the leading United Kingdom regions and developed world class expertise in sectors such as renewable energy and video game development.
- In terms of shifting the pace of economic change we look to the strong policy fundamentals that Estonia has now put in place allowing it to catch and, in some cases, overtake much more established developed economies from a low base. We look to how Israel has built a high-tech start up nation with a leading finance system for growth businesses. This outward looking focus will permeate our approach as we move forward to ensure that what we are doing can be considered world class.
- 2.5 In reviewing how these economies have achieved their success, a number of common lessons emerge (see Box 1). Our proposals reflect these themes but we need to supplement this with a singular focus on prioritisation.
- 2.6 As part of its forward agenda, we will invite the Economic Advisory Group to examine in more depth specific dimensions of the Competitiveness Scorecard particularly in relation to understanding how to improve Northern Ireland's productivity position. Learning from global best practice, we will ask the Economic Advisory Group to make recommendations for the development and delivery of policy interventions in Northern Ireland that will improve our competitiveness ranking.



### Box 1

#### Key Lessons from Best Practice in Small Advanced Economies

**Strategic Coherence.** Small economies need to be crystal clear about their strategic direction, ensuring that policies are coherently aligned around a deliberate strategy which supports a globally competitive national value proposition.

**Prioritisation.** Small economies cannot be world class at everything, and need to build on distinctive strengths in a small number of areas where there is genuine potential to be internationally recognised as the best.

**International Engagement.** Without a large domestic market to rely on, it is essential that small economies look outwards to attract investment and sell into larger and more diverse external markets.

**Innovation and Human Capital.** Successful small economies make the most of the limited resources available to them, and focus on knowledge to build a distinct competitive advantage.

**Enterprise.** Mature firms make a vital contribution to small economies, but domestic policy is now increasingly focusing on a small number of high growth potential companies which can become global leaders in their field.

Source: Skilling, D. (forthcoming), *Economic Context and Policy Approaches in Small Advanced Economies*

### QUESTION

4 Do you agree with the importance of continuously benchmarking Northern Ireland against other small advanced economies?

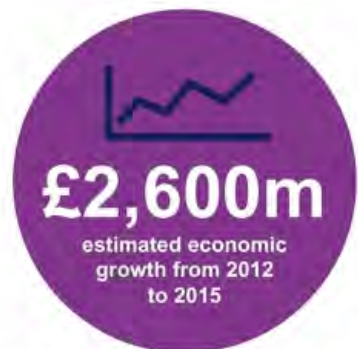
# OUR IMPROVING ECONOMY



## Introduction

3.1 Our current Strategy was developed at a time when Northern Ireland was still suffering from the effects of the global economic downturn. Economic output was falling with consequential impacts for unemployment, jobs and our employment and inactivity rates. Rightly, the immediate priority at that

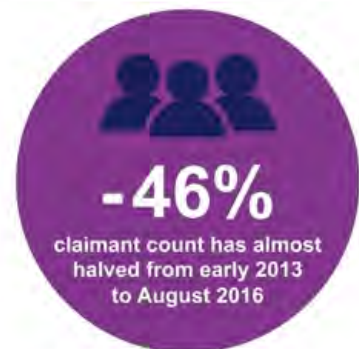
time was on rebuilding the economy by ensuring that people did not become permanently detached from the labour market. Alongside that, work was taken forward to rebalance the Northern Ireland economy so that the private sector was significantly stronger and there was less dependence on the public sector.



**Size of the Economy**



**Additional Jobs**



**Unemployment**



**Exports**



**Innovation**



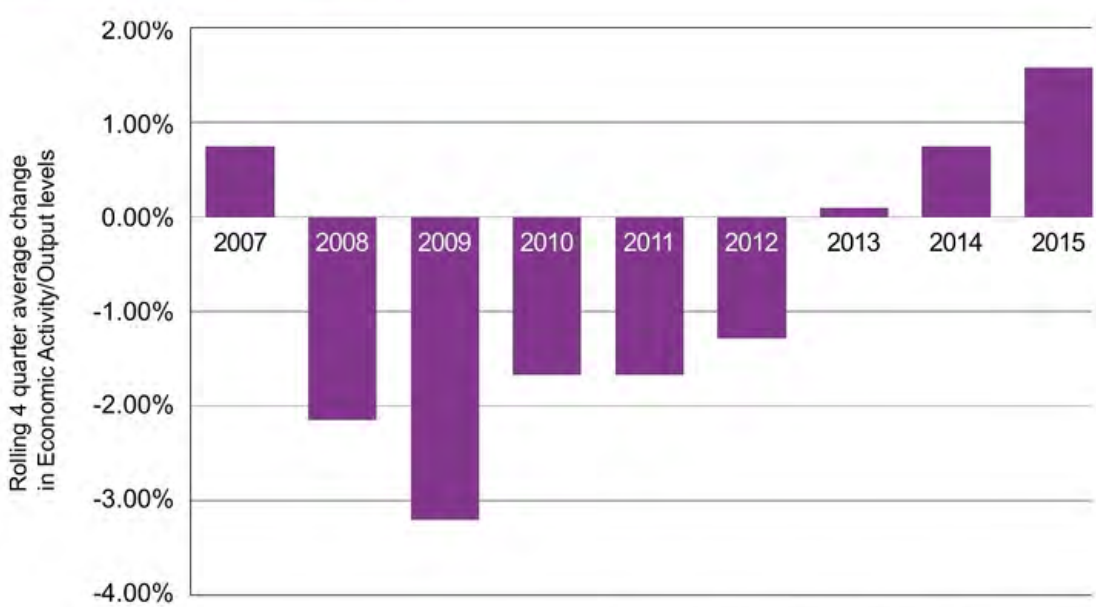
**Skills**



### Private sector is driving growth

3.2 In 2016, our economic landscape is markedly different and we have, overall, been on a path of growth (Figure 4). We are benefitting from our rebuilding approach while also rebalancing the economy towards a stronger private sector which has been leading recent growth.

Figure 4: Economic Growth



Source: Northern Ireland Composite Economic Index

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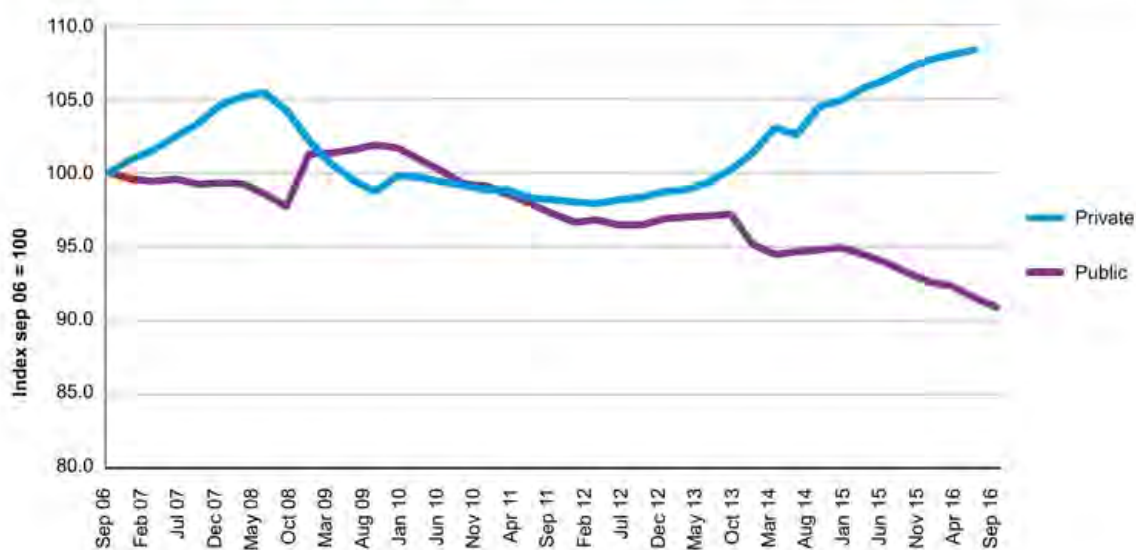
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**Labour market strengthening**

3.3 Since 2012, just over 40,000 employee jobs have been added to the economy with private sector employee jobs growth of over 50,000, more than offsetting a reduction of around 13,000 employee jobs in the public sector (Figure 5). Employee jobs have now returned to pre-downturn levels and are on par with the June 2008 peak (Figure 6). The Annual Business Register and Employment Survey shows that this private sector employment growth has

also been evident across each of the local council areas, growing between 3.5% and 13.3% from 2012 to 2015. The most recent Annual Business Register and Employment Survey, published September 2016, also shows growth of 4.1% in employee jobs in the Manufacturing sector and 4.8% in the Construction sector between September 2014 and September 2015. The latest quarterly employment survey (September 2016) also shows a significant increase in service sector employment, up 6% from June 2012.

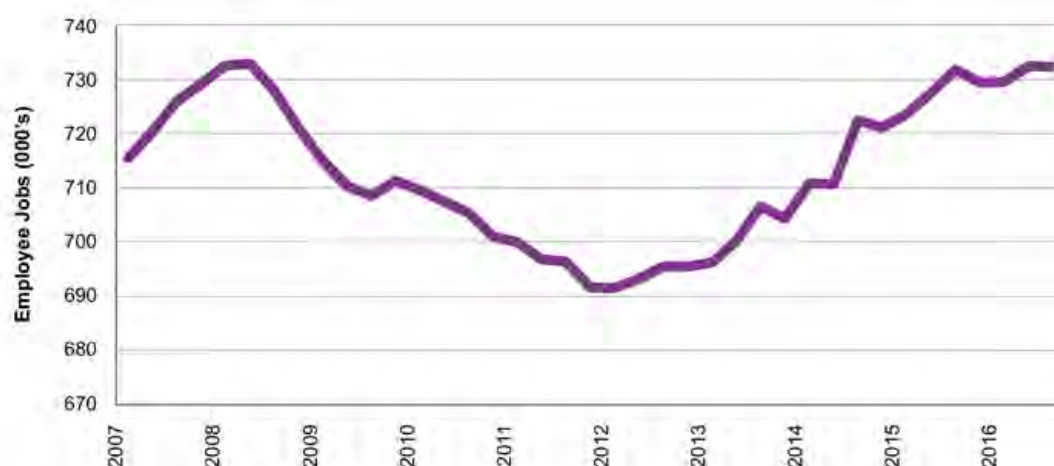
**Figure 5: Index of Public and Private Sector Jobs**



Source: Quarterly Employment Survey

# 3

**Figure 6: Employee Jobs**



Source: Quarterly Employment Survey

- 3.4 Unemployment has fallen steadily from a peak of around 65,000 claimants in early 2013 and is now down to 32,700. These declines have also been experienced across all local council areas, ranging from a fall of between over 35% to just under 65%. Similarly, the unemployment rate is moving firmly in the right direction reducing from over 8% in 2012 to 5.6% now, much lower than the Republic of Ireland (7.3%) and the European Union average (8.3%).
- 3.5 Our employment rate reached its highest level on record during 2016 sitting at around 70%. However, more remains to

be done to increase it further which will add economic capacity and best deploy all our talents.

- 3.6 Overall economic inactivity has been declining and reached an all time low of below 26% during 2016. While inactivity here remains higher than the United Kingdom average, our ambition is to reduce this further particularly within the context of an economic inactivity rate excluding students. It is vitally important that those who are inactive have the opportunity to shape and share fully in the economic transformation on which we have set our sights so that growth benefits everyone.



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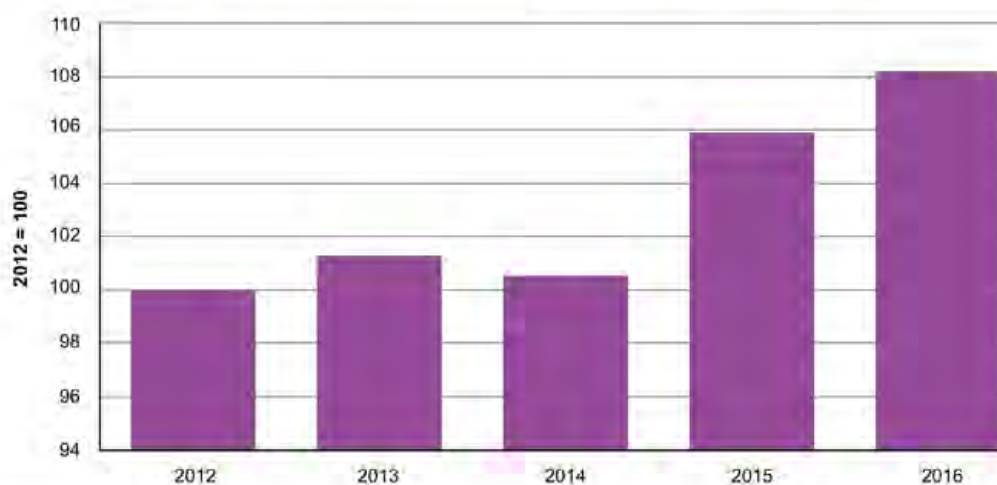
**Income and earnings**

3.7 Ensuring that work pays is essential for inclusive growth. Our aim is to do all that we can to get more people into work and earning more so that everyone has the opportunity to share in the gains of growing prosperity, consistent with the Executive’s ambition of having more people in better jobs. There has been an increase in earnings for Northern Ireland employees in recent years (see Figure 7). Median gross weekly earnings for full-time employees in 2016 were up by 2.2% from 2015 levels. This increase was the same as that of United Kingdom

employees overall and the second consecutive annual increase which exceeded the rate of inflation. Those employees with lower income levels witnessed even stronger growth in their earnings over the period.

3.8 Increasing the proportion of people in Northern Ireland working in good jobs is a priority for the Executive. A ‘Better Jobs’ Index, currently under development, will measure the key dimensions of job quality that are important for employee wellbeing. Earnings quality is a key determinant of a good job. Wages received by workers

**Figure 7: Index of Northern Ireland full time median earnings**



Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE)

# 3

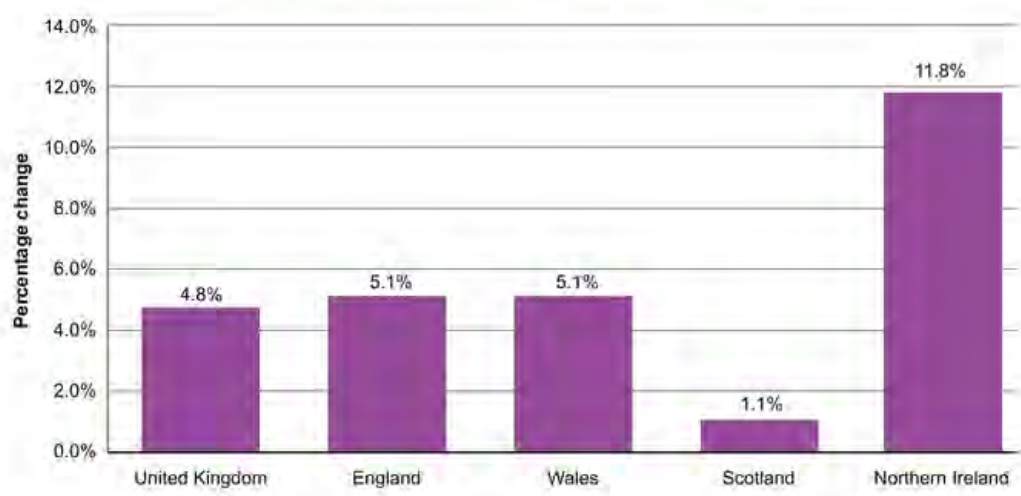
in their jobs contribute to their individual wellbeing, and the level of overall earnings provides a key benchmark for assessing living standards in the economy. Moreover, we propose that the 'Better Jobs' Index should also include other more qualitative aspects of employment that contribute to employee wellbeing and satisfaction.

## Exports, innovation and skills increasing

3.9 External sales of goods and services to markets outside Northern Ireland reached a record high in 2014, rising

to £22.5 billion. In addition, more recent data from the Regional Trade Statistics (goods only) show a 12% growth in goods exports for Northern Ireland between the third quarter of 2014 and the third quarter of 2016. These increases have been higher than all other the United Kingdom countries (see Figure 8). Building on this success, to be world class and be recognised as a globally active exporting economy, we need to increase further the number of manufacturing and services businesses engaged in exporting and the volume of sales to markets outside of Northern Ireland. Our Export Matters Strategy

**Figure 8: Goods Exports Growth, 2014 Q3 – 2016 Q3**



Source: HMRC RTS

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aims to ensure that the conditions and behaviours are in place to help us achieve these goals and that all our trade and export support mechanisms are aligned and coordinated to make them as effective as possible.

- 3.10 Innovation expenditure by companies is increasing. The most recent figures from 2015 show that total expenditure on research and development was £750 million, the highest figure on record. Encouragingly, the number of companies engaging in research and development has also increased to over 700. However, further significant improvement is needed if we are to close the gap with top performing economies and to realise our ambition of establishing Northern Ireland as an innovation powerhouse on a global stage.
- 3.11 At the same time, the local skills profile has been improving. Between 2012 and 2015 the proportion of the working age population with level 4 and above qualifications has increased from 27.4% to 29.6% while the proportion with no qualifications decreased from 18.4% to 16.3%. While moving in the right direction, the Northern Ireland skills profile remains behind many OECD and European Union countries, particularly in terms of the high proportions here

with low or no qualifications. Improving the skills and employability of those who face the greatest barriers to accessing the labour market will remain a priority so that all can share in the benefits of growth.

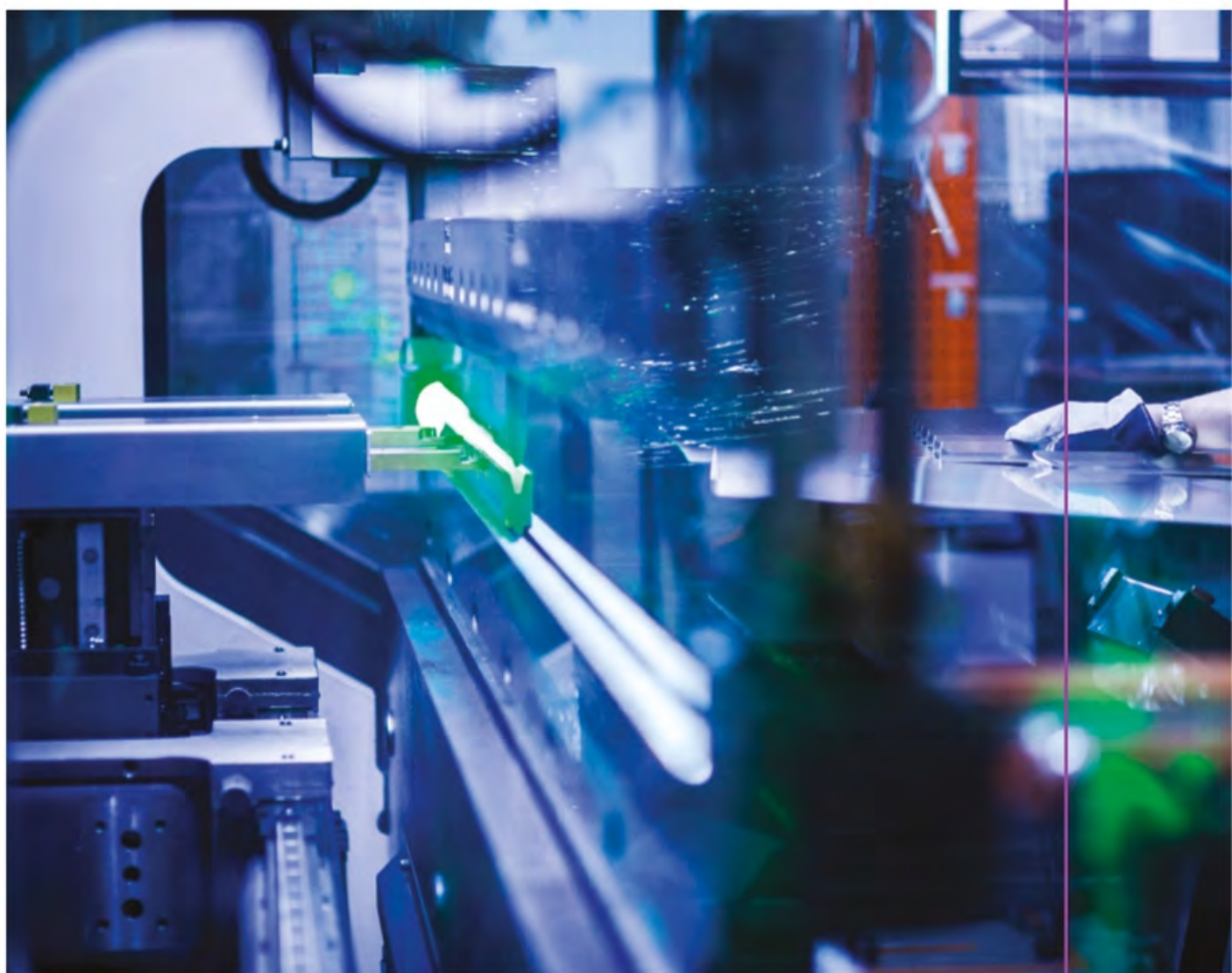
### Commitment towards rebalancing

- 3.12 Northern Ireland has emerged from the worst effects of the global economic downturn. There have been positive developments across the economy, in the labour market, and on exports, innovation and skills. While some focus on rebuilding must remain especially in respect of addressing issues surrounding economic inactivity and those furthest from the workplace, we believe that this suggests our Strategy can now move further towards a focus on rebalancing, one which drives further private sector growth and jobs, one which benefits all our people and one which is regarded as world class.

### QUESTION

- 5 **Do you agree that the Industrial Strategy should now move towards a rebalancing focus?**

# 3



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# OUR PRIORITIES FOR GROWTH

## Supporting Strong and Emerging Sectors



- 4.1 A core lesson from international research on successful, small advanced economies is a clear understanding and acceptance that such economies cannot be expert or world class in every area. These economies recognise the need to focus and prioritise on well structured choices in order to deliver the desired economic outcomes. Mapping high value capabilities onto existing and/or emerging global market opportunities has acted as an engine for economic growth in places like Singapore and Switzerland. To do so requires such economies to become specialised in niche areas and sectors, and for policy levers and investment to be targeted accordingly.
- 4.2 We have identified six broad sectors of the economy, across both manufacturing and services, where Northern Ireland has world class capabilities. These are:
- Financial, Business and Professional Services;
  - Digital and Creative Technologies;
  - Advanced Manufacturing, Materials and Engineering;
  - Life and Health Sciences;
  - Agri-Food; and
  - Construction and Materials Handling.
- 4.3 The work of the MATRIX Panel also provides a robust evidence base of current and future market opportunities (see Figure 9) where Northern Ireland already has competitive advantage and, importantly, has capacity and capability to compete successfully in global markets.
- 4.4 The reduction in the rate of Corporation Tax will also open up opportunities in other sectors such as pharmaceuticals.
- 4.5 A sectoral approach enables efforts to be focused on the needs of similar clusters of companies, while addressing the issues impacting on them, whether that be skills, productivity including manufacturing processes, infrastructure, energy, innovation or access to markets. Sectoral strategies and action plans are in place or are being developed for aerospace, life and health sciences, agri-food, digital and advanced manufacturing and advanced materials.
- 4.6 In 2014 the Northern Ireland Partnering for Growth Strategy set out a ten year plan for the development of the aerospace, defence, security and space industry with growth targets of doubling annual turnover from £1 billion to £2 billion and increasing direct employment from 8,000 to 12,000. Work is being taken forward under six strategic themes including supply chain excellence and sales, exports and marketing. In the first two and a half years of the strategy's



**Figure 9: MATRIX Panel Priorities**

| ICT   | Life & Health Sciences  | Advanced Manufacturing, Materials and Engineering  |
|---|---|--|
| Cyber Security<br>Data Analytics<br>Application Software<br>Advanced Networks & Sensors | Clinical Trials<br>Digital Health<br>Precision Medicine & Diagnostics | Materials Handling<br>Polymers<br>Aero, Defence, Security & Space<br>Automotive<br>Agri-Engineering<br>Construction Products |

implementation, significant progress has been made and it was announced on 5 September 2016 that annual turnover in the sector has been increased to £1.3 billion and overall employment is now almost 10,000.

- 4.7 Within the life and health sciences sector, Northern Ireland has competitive advantage in niche areas including precision medicine and diagnostics (see case study 1), medtech and digital health as well as clinical trials.

A strategic action plan is being developed to deliver greater connectedness across business, government, clinicians, health professionals and academia to provide a continuum of support from early stage research through to commercialisation and high value job creation. The plan is to create an environment and supporting infrastructure that will improve health outcomes through the adoption of new health innovations, meet current and future skills needs and facilitate growth within the sector.

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## Case Study 1

### Precision Medicine and Diagnostics

Precision Medicine is about diagnosing and treating patients in a way which is specific to them, thereby giving the greatest chances of success. This relatively new area of science is of great significance, both in terms of bringing improved patient outcomes and economic growth for the companies and regions which can develop these new medical breakthroughs quickly and bring them to market.

Northern Ireland's significant strengths and capabilities in the field of Precision Medicine were recently recognised when it was announced as one of six United Kingdom regional Centres of Excellence in Precision Medicine as part of the Precision Medicine Catapult Network. Northern Ireland also has one of the strongest diagnostics clusters, with two of the top three United Kingdom companies.

- 4.8 In 2013 the Agri-Food Strategy Board published Going for Growth, a Strategic Plan for the sector with targets of profitably growing turnover by 60% to £7 billion by 2020. Substantial progress has been made, with turnover increasing by nearly 23% to £4.6 billion in 2015, but clearly more needs to be done if we are to meet the 2020 target. There has also been significant progress in the food and drink processing industry with employment increasing by 8% from 2010 to 23,500 in 2015. The aim is to transform the industry into an ambitious, outward looking and globally competitive sector. At its core the sector aims to have a world class supply chain focused on exploiting global opportunities.
- 4.9 The MATRIX Panel report on Advanced Manufacturing, Materials and Engineering (AMME) highlights that manufacturing still lies at the heart of business and industry in Northern Ireland. It has a diverse range of sub sectors from aerospace, automotive, electronics, pharmaceuticals and chemicals to heavy plant, agri-tech equipment and construction. These make a significant contribution to the local economy with approximately 2,050 companies, 44,000 highly skilled employees and high levels of productivity. AMME businesses are export intensive with 80% of sales occurring outside of Northern Ireland. In 2014 sales and exports of AMME goods totalled £7.2 billion.

## 4

- 4.10 The AMME sector in Northern Ireland is leading the way with significant investment in innovation, research and development and exports to global markets. With continued targeted support we can build on the success of this rich and varied sector, not only for AMME companies, their supply chains and employees, but for the Northern Ireland economy as a whole. With this support the AMME sector in Northern Ireland can grow to 3,000 companies employing 67,000 people and sales of £21 billion by 2030.
- 4.11 The MATRIX Digital ICT foresight report, launched in February 2016, identified four areas – software engineering, advanced networks and sensors, data analytics and cyber security – in which Northern Ireland is already, or has the potential to be, world class. It matched those strengths to specific fast growing global markets with the proposition that, if we develop the skills base and have our strategic approach correctly aligned, we can take full advantage of emerging opportunities in major areas including: data analytics, machine learning, the internet of things and cyber security.
- 4.12 Currently the digital-ICT sector in Northern Ireland employs 13,000 people, with a further 15,000 digital-ICT specialists working in non-ICT companies. The sector accounted for £870 million of economic output in Northern Ireland in 2013, a figure which represents 32% growth over five years. It is anticipated that growth will accelerate in the years ahead. Similarly, exports from the sector in Northern Ireland totalled £283 million in 2014, marking a 25% increase over the preceding three years with growth anticipated to accelerate.

## Case Study 2

### Cyber Security

Building on our world recognised strengths and capabilities the cyber security sector in Northern Ireland has grown by 30% in the last twelve months and is now estimated at around 1,100 jobs. Belfast now has the highest concentration of cyber security jobs in Europe and includes companies such as Proofpoint, IBM, Rapid, WhiteHat and Alert Logic. This rapid expansion is supported by the Centre for Secure Information Technologies (CSIT) in Belfast, which is the United Kingdom's National Innovation and Knowledge Centre for Cyber Security. We will make Northern Ireland a global innovation hub for cyber security supporting over 5,000 jobs in this highly specialised area.



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- 4.13 It is in areas such as these where Northern Ireland is already or can be world class that we need to maximise our efforts and resources. Sectoral strategies and action plans provide a model for prioritising our support in the future to identify and help build globally competitive businesses. We will align each of these sectoral strategies with the 2030 horizon set out in this Strategy.
- 4.14 Northern Ireland has gained a global reputation in the creative industries with notable success in the TV and film industry as well as the burgeoning animation sector. High profile, large scale TV and film productions like HBO's Game of Thrones, shot on location here, provide significant investment in the local economy and promote Northern Ireland to global audiences. We will continue to work with NI Screen and other key stakeholders to build and expand on the success achieved to date.
- 4.15 We recognise that global markets are continually evolving and new and enhanced technological opportunities are emerging. Digital technologies will have a transformative and disruptive effect across all aspects of the economy. We need to ensure our companies understand the potential impact of emerging digital technologies and the opportunities that these bring. We must continue to support the development and exploitation of breakthrough technologies and new to market products. We will review how we support our companies to be more productive and to enhance their capabilities in crucial enabling technologies such as data analytics, robotics, automation, Industry 4.0<sup>8</sup>, machine learning, artificial intelligence, augmented reality, advanced materials and production techniques, and exploit the growth opportunities these hold for the local economy.
- 4.16 We will prioritise efforts and funding on high-value advanced manufacturing and services recognising the interdisciplinary nature of such businesses and the need for greater collaboration and clustering of companies within and across traditional boundaries.
- 4.17 We will enhance infrastructure capability and collaboration across sectors building on the Competence Centres already established in connected health, energy, agri-food and advanced composites and materials. We will run competitive calls with a focus on building collaboration and interdisciplinary development of new innovative products or processes.

8 Industry 4.0, *Challenges and solutions for the digital transformation and use of exponential technologies*, Deloitte 2015



# 4

## Clusters

4.18 Clusters play a key role in supporting firms to achieve critical mass and economies of scale and to compete in larger, more diverse and more competitive markets than they could if they were to act alone. By concentrating on core competencies and creating a network of specialist suppliers and partners, firms can develop their unique assets, remain flexible and adaptable and at the same time respond to the demands of the global market. Networks allow businesses to share costs and risks which have become too high for those working in isolation. They can contribute to a foundation of knowledge and help stimulate technological innovation, as is seen in the technology clusters in California's Silicon Valley and Bangalore in India.

4.19 Most small economies only have a limited number of world class clusters. In Northern Ireland we have significant clusters in agri-food, aerospace, polymer processing and materials handling companies in the mobile crushing and screening industry. Clusters are also emerging from fintech, legal services and cyber security. We must continue to support the growth of these clusters and others in our niche areas. In particular we will concentrate on supporting our firms to become integrated into international clusters.

## Case Study 3

### The Aero, Defence, Space and Security cluster

The success of the aero, defence, space and security (ADS) sectoral cluster clearly demonstrates the benefits to be gained from working together at a strategic level.

The ADS cluster is a sophisticated, mature, organised cluster in Northern Ireland, with a number of key characteristics:

- NI aerospace is a \$1.6 billion industry;
- Formally clustered;
- Europe's 8th largest aerospace region in revenue terms;
- Over 44 ADS companies in Northern Ireland, 16 of which (employing 9,253) are in the top 200 AMME in Northern Ireland; and
- A mature and diversified supply chain.

## QUESTION

- 6 **Do you agree that our Industrial Strategy should support sectors where Northern Ireland is world class or where we have the potential to be world class?**

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# OUR PILLARS FOR GROWTH

## Introduction



5.1 We aim to improve the competitiveness of the Northern Ireland economy. Competitiveness remains the international benchmark against which advanced economies continue to be measured. To that end we are determined to become a truly world class economy that works for all. We believe that competitiveness will in turn support the levels of export led growth which will be essential to deliver increasing employment and wealth for everyone in Northern Ireland.

5.2 In order to deliver the necessary improvements in competitiveness we will target resources under five Pillars for Growth described below. We will bring forward actions and interventions aimed at increasing the size and strength of our private sector. These will strengthen the ability of our local businesses to compete successfully in global markets. These Pillars are interdependent and mutually supportive, and action will be required across each to achieve our vision. As part of our framework for growth, our priority Pillars are:

- Accelerating Innovation and Research
- Enhancing Education, Skills and Employability
- Driving Inclusive, Sustainable Growth
- Succeeding in Global Markets
- Building the Best Economic Infrastructure



## PILLAR 1 - ACCELERATING INNOVATION AND RESEARCH

5.3 Our ambition is to transform the Northern Ireland economy into one that is underpinned by innovation and creativity and is recognised as the best place in the world to grow a business. The evidence shows that businesses that innovate and collaborate are more productive, more inclined to export and employ more highly qualified people. Innovation is about actions which convert ideas into value. That conversion of ideas can be facilitated by research and development, new machinery, new processes, new systems or new training, but fundamental to successful innovation is people – people with vision and a willingness to embrace change, to test new ideas, to collaborate with others and to give leadership. As we work to transform our economy we will support people to engage in innovation.

### Building on a legacy of innovation

5.4 Northern Ireland has a proud and rich history of innovation and entrepreneurship. That legacy persists to the modern era. Whether it is Wrightbuses on the streets of the world's leading cities or First Derivatives software supporting financial trading across the

globe, Northern Ireland innovation can be seen throughout the world. But to transform our economy into one that is knowledge based, with more people employed in better jobs and Northern Ireland taking the lead in new markets, the evidence shows that we need many more companies engaging in innovation than at present.

5.5 This was the core message of the Northern Ireland Executive's Innovation Strategy published in September 2014, and that message remains relevant. We are making positive progress in implementing that strategy. But to deliver the ambition set out in the Innovation Strategy we must accelerate its implementation, in particular in three key areas:

- Driving cultural change;
- Strengthening the innovation ecosystem; and
- Supporting research excellence.

### Driving cultural change

5.6 Innovations occur where the right conditions exist. The research on leading innovative regions shows that

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they all have a strong innovation culture, one where individuals across all sectors - private, public and voluntary - feel that they have the necessary support to be creative and engage in innovation. Our focus therefore will be on creating the environment, within our education system and within our private and public sectors, that will stimulate creativity and entrepreneurship.

### Strengthening the innovation ecosystem

- 5.7 Our approach to innovation must be broadened to strengthen innovation capacity throughout the region. Innovation requires much more than novel technology or research. Good ideas are the starting material, but progressing these needs people with the right skills and access to resources, including finance, expertise and facilities. This is the innovation ecosystem. It is important that our local businesses are facilitated to take advantage of innovation support structures beyond Northern Ireland including, for example, the services offered by Innovate UK and the Catapult network. Our focus will be on ensuring that all our companies are integrated into that ecosystem, so that they can quickly access the right support, at the right time and from the right source.

- 5.8 Driving innovation within and from the public sector will strengthen the innovation ecosystem. Through programmes such as the Small Business Research Initiative, we have successfully demonstrated how public sector procurement can de-risk innovation and research and development for local businesses, particularly micro business, helping them bring break through products to market and at the same time improve public services. We will therefore increase our usage of such programmes particularly in the health and social care sector,

### Supporting research excellence

- 5.9 Supporting our universities and research institutes to focus on research excellence has enabled Northern Ireland to be recognised as world class in a number of research fields. This has helped underpin economic growth, attracting high value foreign direct investment, enabling local businesses to develop and exploit new, cutting edge technologies leading to new products and services for global markets and providing a platform for the development of world-leading clusters. We must build on this and ensure that our universities and other institutes have the necessary support to deliver on their ambitions for research excellence.

## 5

To help ensure local research has global impact, we must maximise opportunities for international collaboration, such as the US-Ireland Research and Development Partnership Programme between Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and the United States. This partnership is strategically important in terms of delivering research that attracts developing and growing businesses, leverages further international funding, enhances our international reputation, and produces a highly educated and relevant workforce in demand by industry and academia.

- 5.10 We will strengthen the linkages between the research base and local businesses and encourage the greater commercialisation of publicly funded research. This will include encouraging increased licensing of intellectual property and increasing the number of high growth potential spin-outs from the research base, including from our universities, by applying innovative approaches such as 'lean launch-pad' to support research to move from the lab to the market.



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## ACCELERATING INNOVATION AND RESEARCH

### Ambition

An economy where:

- Entrepreneurship and enterprise is endemic and reflected in a growing status as a start-up region;
- Innovation is embedded in the DNA of every company;
- We build industries on the back of where we are genuinely world class in academic research.

### What do we want to achieve?

- Our firms competing on the basis of their innovation across all sectors of the economy;
- A culture which supports, prioritises and celebrates innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship;
- Thousands more Northern Ireland companies engaging in innovation and competing globally;
- Agile government able to respond quickly and appropriately to the needs of industry;
- A more entrepreneurial public sector playing a proactive role in economic development as an investor and partner for growth;
- A place where innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship are embedded across our entire education system, supporting skills development to meet the needs of industry;
- More businesses driving competitiveness through use of e-business.

### What are we going to do?

We will:

- Examine options such as a specific ringfenced fund or a science funding agency to help develop and promote global research excellence, foster greater industry/academic collaboration and better align research with economic opportunities and our sectoral strategy;
- Create a new post of Chief Scientific and Technical adviser to drive science, research and innovation in the economy;
- Work with industry to develop new tech and science parks and campuses to create networks and facilities that encourage clustering and accelerate innovation;
- Create a range of prizes and challenges to encourage collaboration on resolving challenges in the economy, society and the environment and using them as an opportunity for growth;
- Increase efforts in supporting non-innovative companies to engage in innovation;
- Undertake a new extensive innovation branding campaign including the introduction of a new Investors in Innovation accreditation;
- Establish a permanent Innovate UK presence in Northern Ireland;
- Prioritise investment in a smaller number of key sectors such as cyber security and personalised medicine in order to create sufficient scale to compete more successfully in global markets;
- Strengthen the linkages and between industry and the education sector;
- Increase the focus on public sector innovation through, for example, the creation of a new Northern Ireland Innovation Fund;
- Support the local research base, including universities, to increase the number of sustainable spin out companies in Northern Ireland;
- Develop a strategy focused on making Northern Ireland a pioneering region in capitalising on emerging artificial intelligence, robotics, automation technologies and internet of things;
- Establish new international research and development partnerships to build on the success of initiatives such as the US-Ireland Research and Development Partnership Programme.

### How will we know we are on target?

| Indicator                                  | What this looks like                              |
|--|---|
| United Kingdom Regional Innovation Ranking | Increased innovation in our economy               |
| NI Research and Development Survey         | Increased total spend on Research and Development |
| Knowledge Economy Jobs                     | Increased employment in the knowledge economy     |
| Business start up rates                    | Increased number of new businesses                |

## 5

## PILLAR 2 - EDUCATION, SKILLS AND EMPLOYABILITY

5.11 Our people are the driving force of our economy. It is their talent, creativity and hard work that attracts investors to Northern Ireland, helps local businesses to thrive and grow and generates ideas for new enterprises. Our task is to:

- equip all our people with the education and skills that will allow them to achieve their full potential;
- ensure that we have a skills pipeline that meets, and responds in an agile way to, the changing demands of business and the economy; and
- support those who need our help to access the skills that will help them compete for employment opportunities.

5.12 We have many partners in this endeavour. Within Government, the Department for the Economy will work closely with the Department of Education, the Department for Communities and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs to ensure that our education, skills and employability policies and programmes are coherently aligned,

with clearly signposted pathways for people to progress up the skills ladder and comprehensive information to facilitate appropriate choices at every level. We will work with the school, further education and university sectors to ensure that provision is both excellent and relevant, and give businesses a strong voice in helping to shape skills provision and outcomes that meet their needs. We will work closely with our many partners in the private, voluntary and community sectors who deliver skills and employability training to equip our people for work. And we will underpin this with a commitment to provide high quality, effective careers education and advice that supports appropriate careers choices.

5.13 Our proposals under this Pillar focus on three areas:

- improving educational outcomes from an early age;
- supporting those furthest from the workforce; and
- ensuring we have the necessary skills pipeline to meet business needs now and in the future.



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### Improving educational outcomes from an early age

5.14 Our education system must serve our young people effectively and efficiently, especially those most at risk of underachieving. We must ensure that all learners acquire the greatest benefit from that provision. Our young people will be supported to acquire and develop a wide range of skills and knowledge to allow them to compete nationally and internationally for opportunities in education and employment. We will encourage entrepreneurship and innovation from an early stage, build on a strong foundation of core skills and offer pathways and progression towards chosen careers. Focusing on the statutory curriculum, we will raise standards in literacy, numeracy and science capabilities, areas where the Competitiveness Scorecard shows that Northern Ireland remains behind the best international performers. The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) provides a global benchmark of 15 year old student performance in science, mathematics and reading. It provides a clear indication of the scale of ambition that is required if we are to close the gap with the world's leading economies.

5.15 The careers education and guidance system will support our people to gain the skills they need to improve their lives and drive economic growth. The Preparing for Success Strategy sets out a coherent, forward thinking and comprehensive vision for the careers system in Northern Ireland. In implementing this strategy, we will transform the careers system and deliver the twin goals of supporting individuals to realise their full potential and contributing to our economic prosperity, by raising awareness of employment growth sectors. We will increase the extent and pace of school to employer engagement to help young people prepare for the world of work and inform their career choices. Working through the Careers Advisory Forum, we will facilitate employers to become more actively engaged with schools as Business Ambassadors.

### Supporting those furthest from the workforce

5.16 Northern Ireland has an historic problem of a consistently high rate of economic inactivity. This drags down our competitiveness as a region, and excludes many people from sharing in the wealth created in the economy.



# 5

For many, it represents wasted opportunity and potential. Tackling economic inactivity has the potential to make a huge difference to many people, both economically and socially. It will help the lives of those individuals who wish to overcome their personal barriers and make the journey towards the labour market. To support people in the transition from economic inactivity to employment we will work with the Department for Communities and other partners in building on Enabling Success, the strategy to reduce economic inactivity.

- 5.17 While we have been successful recently in reducing the rate of youth unemployment, marginalised young people continue to find difficulties entering the labour market. Building on the Pathway to Success Strategy, we will work with partners across government to attune support to young people who face barriers to participation in the labour market.

### Ensuring we have the necessary skills to meet business need

- 5.18 Employers require a workforce with the right sets of skills to deliver their business objectives now and in the future.

Our new Skills Barometer provides us with a valuable tool to help understand the Northern Ireland skills landscape and to identify growth sectors, skills shortages and future skills needs. This and other research points to the importance of developing our skills base and the employability of our people and, in particular, the importance of skills in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). With a significant increase in demand from a number of sectors expected to avail of the opportunities offered by a lower Corporation Tax rate, we need to apply the appropriate policy instruments to deliver that talent pipeline for business.

- 5.19 Through our higher education policies, we will work with our universities to ensure that Northern Ireland's graduates have the skills, knowledge and capabilities that will support them to compete in the international graduate labour market. We will support flexible, part-time higher education provision, alongside the more traditional full-time provision. We will develop a more coherent education policy for those in the 14 to 19 age group to ensure that all follow appropriate education and training routes to maximise their learning potential.

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5.20 We are reforming our professional and technical skills offering, through new systems of youth training and apprenticeships, that will create genuinely attractive and alternative pathways for individuals to the higher level skills and qualifications needed to support business growth, and will give business a strong voice in shaping that provision. Through the Apprenticeships/ Youth Training Strategic Advisory Forum and Sectoral Partnerships we will bring employers, further education colleges, the universities and other

key stakeholders together to ensure provision meets the needs of employers and the wider economy. As part of our Apprenticeship Strategy we are developing a range of Higher Level Apprenticeships to enable participants to earn while they learn and gain nationally recognised, professional qualifications across a broad range of occupations. Opportunities are available from Foundation Degree to PhD, with progression routes, and offer an alternative pathway to university.

### Case Study 4

#### Higher Level Apprenticeships

The Higher Level Apprenticeship programme currently has over 600 participants working across over 400 employers in a range of occupational areas including Accounting Technician, Life Sciences, Business Technology, Engineering and ICT. Jill is pursuing a career with Norbrook Laboratories completing her Higher Level Apprenticeship in Life Sciences. Jill said: "The Higher Level Apprenticeship in Life Science has been a fantastic experience for me. I am working towards achieving a Foundation Degree qualification as well as gaining very valuable hands on experience in a laboratory within Norbrook. This programme allows me to earn while I learn, without the expense of going to university." Elizabeth Moran, Learning and Development Manager, Norbrook said: "We are delighted at how successful the Higher Level Apprenticeship programme has been for both Norbrook and the apprentices. The success of the programme can be attributed to collaboration between Norbrook and the Southern Regional College before the programme commenced, along with the high calibre of apprentices who have demonstrated excellent commitment to the programme."

# 5

5.21 We will meet the bespoke upskilling needs of employers by deploying the resources of our further education colleges and universities to deliver agile and customised programmes such as Assured Skills and specialised 'academies'. We will provide both potential inward investors and existing businesses with a pipeline of talent for in-demand skills sectors, particularly in high growth, high technology

areas such as data analytics, cyber security, cloud computing and software engineering, whilst enhancing the skills of lecturers in new cutting edge technologies important to business growth. In this way we will strengthen the digital capacity and capability of our people and ensure that the skills pipeline meets and anticipates the economy's growing need for transformative digital skills.

## Case Study 5

### Assured Skills – HighWire Press

Recently Assured Skills arranged the design and delivery of a five week pre-employment training programme for HighWire Press, a new foreign direct investor based in Silicon Valley. This was a bespoke training programme designed in a matter of weeks jointly with the company to their specification and involved training in software development and quality assurance. All 18 trainees recruited onto the programme were employed by HighWire at the end of the programme.

## Case Study 6

### Assured Skills – Fin Tru

FinTrU, a financial services company, approached Invest NI in March 2014 about the prospect of opening a centre of excellence in Belfast as an inward investment project. In partnership with Belfast Metropolitan College and Ulster University, a bespoke four week academy was quickly designed to meet the training needs of the company, with the first graduates commencing work in September 2014. A further three academies developed and run in association with FinTrU have resulted in 58 academy graduates securing employment with the company.

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Growing such a talent pool will include stimulating and supporting the acquisition of coding skills from an early age.

- 5.22 Our overall ambition in taking forward these activities is to ensure that local businesses have access to a workforce which is amongst the most appropriately skilled internationally. The latest OECD International Survey of Adult Skills<sup>9</sup> shows that our literacy and numeracy levels have been improving with an increasing proportion of our people performing at the higher standards. Nonetheless, more remains to be done if we are to become truly world class. By upskilling our workforce with even greater pace and by moving people up the skills ladder we will aim to move further up the international standings closing the gap with leading performers such as Japan, Finland, New Zealand and the Netherlands.

<sup>9</sup> Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, 2013, *Survey of Adult Skills First Results: England and Northern Ireland (UK)*



## ENHANCING EDUCATION, SKILLS & EMPLOYABILITY

### Ambition

An economy built on talent, which delivers excellence and relevance in education and skills and where everyone is supported to achieve their full potential.

### What do we want to achieve?

- An education system that provides our young people with the skills for life and work;
- Access to timely, relevant and comprehensive careers advice;
- Help for those furthest away from work so that they can take full advantage of employment opportunities and share in Northern Ireland's future prosperity;
- A high quality, efficient and responsive system for delivering professional and technical skills, with strong input from business in shaping provision;
- A pipeline of graduates who have the skills, knowledge and capabilities to excel;
- A strong and relevant supply of skills for economic growth.

### What are we going to do?

We will:

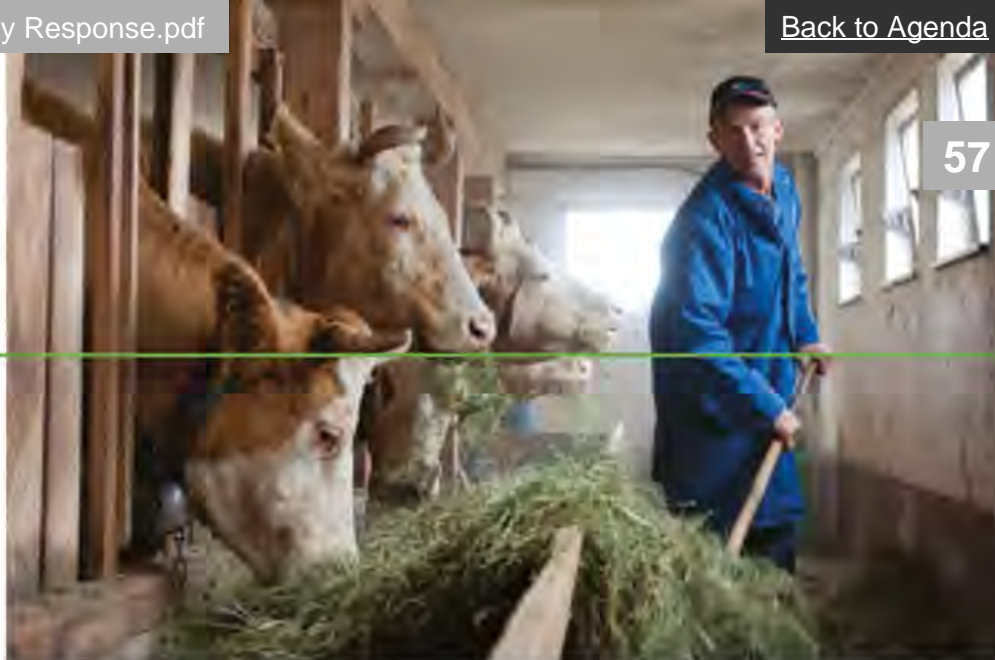
- Radically reform careers advice on the employment opportunities available both now and in the future and work with industry to develop a new 'Business Ambassadors' scheme for local schools;
- Align education, skills and employability policies and funding models to ensure a skills pipeline, pathways and progression to underpin our economic ambition;
- Improve educational outcomes from an early age and, focusing on the statutory curriculum, raise standards in literacy, numeracy and digital capabilities;
- Strengthen the current and future talent pool of digital skills by building capacity and capability through the 'academy model', focusing initially in the areas of analytics and cyber security, as well as supporting and encouraging more coding academies for young people;
- Proactively support those furthest from the workforce, removing barriers, providing access to skills and encouraging participation;
- Increase the number of economically inactive claimants taking up formal programmes of support to develop and improve their skill levels and help them into work;
- Design and implement an "employability pipeline" model and establish an Employability Forum in each council area to better match supply and demand for work, through the Community Planning process;
- Strengthen collaboration across government and with industry, education and academia;
- Better prepare our young people to compete for work and to match them with employers' needs;
- Work with our further and higher education institutions, Invest NI and training providers to align skills provision with our economic priorities;
- Deliver new models of youth training and apprenticeships which facilitate progression up the skills ladder across a wide range of occupational areas;
- Support businesses wishing to upskill their workforce.

### How will we know we are on target?

| Indicator   | What this looks like  |
|---|---|
| % of school leavers achieving at level 2 or above including English and maths   | Improved educational outcomes   |
| % of schools found to be good or better   | Improved quality of education   |
| % of the workforce in employment qualified to levels 1+, 2+, 3+ and 4+; the proportion of graduates qualifying from a NI Higher Education Institution with an economically relevant STEM qualification; number of companies new to productivity skills development; % of companies confirming a positive productivity impact post project | Improved skills profile of the population                                       |
| Economic inactivity rate excluding students   | Reduced economic inactivity   |
| Proportion of local graduates from local institutions in professional or management occupations or in further study six months after graduation   | Increased proportion of graduates moving into employment or on to further study |

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### PILLAR 3 - DRIVING INCLUSIVE, SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

- 5.23 We are committed to ensuring that all parts of Northern Ireland and all sections of our society share equally in the benefits of sustainable economic growth. We want to build a labour market that promotes opportunity across our cities, towns and rural areas.
- 5.24 Private sector businesses are the engine for growth. We want new business start-ups and enterprise to flourish right across Northern Ireland and will take steps to support people everywhere, including those who face particular barriers, so that they are equipped to access employment opportunities. Through the measures under our Education, Skills and Employability Pillar, we will work with our partners in the voluntary and community sectors and in local councils in all parts of Northern Ireland to assist people who need support to acquire the skills they need to access employment opportunities.
- 5.25 Our well-developed network of regional colleges, with campuses geographically spread across Northern Ireland, provides a valuable resource for people everywhere to secure the necessary skills and qualifications to enhance their employment prospects and progress up the career ladder. Our colleges will continue to provide comprehensive support for those who may have special needs in pursuing their further education studies because of illness or disability. Colleges will also tailor their programmes and interventions in such areas as product development to meet the specific needs of businesses in their local areas to support sub-regional growth.
- 5.26 We want to ensure that manufacturing and services businesses operating in all regions and communities across Northern Ireland can prosper. We recognise the importance of cities as drivers of economic growth, as well as the value of our rural economy, with a third of our population living in rural areas. Ensuring that the benefits of city growth have wider positive impacts for businesses based across the region, that infrastructure allows ease of worker mobility and that the opportunities of economic corridor development are realised will be essential to ensure growth is shared across Northern Ireland. We will work closely with local councils, in their capacity as leaders of community planning, in their respective areas to promote social and economic

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development at local level to support their efforts in ensuring that social and economic disadvantage is addressed wherever it exists and that those who need most help in accessing the labour market receive it.

- 5.27 The Fresh Start Agreement contains a specific commitment from the Executive to support the regional development work of the North West Gateway Initiative, which includes a focus on economic growth and investment to promote regional growth. We will continue to support the North West Gateway Initiative.
- 5.28 Northern Ireland has historically had a comparatively low business birth rate compared to the rest of the United Kingdom. In 2014, there were 4,805 new enterprises started in Northern Ireland. This equates to a business birth rate of 8.7% which is significantly below the overall United Kingdom birth rate of 13.7%. However, Northern Ireland's business birth rate compares favourably to places like Finland and Sweden. Our two year business survival rate stood at 68.9% for businesses started in 2012, and was higher than Estonia, Finland and Denmark. Our ambition is to become a more dynamic and enterprising economy, driving up the rate of new business

start-ups and creating an environment that actively fosters and supports entrepreneurship. We will work with local councils, universities, further education colleges and schools to provide support for entrepreneurs at all stages. In particular, we will work closely with local councils, as they implement their new responsibilities for enterprise activities, in encouraging new business start-ups, creating an enterprise support infrastructure and in tailoring actions to encourage young entrepreneurs and women in business. In recognition of its contribution to the provision of employment opportunities and economic activity in local communities, we will continue to provide support to the social enterprise sector.

- 5.29 Large firms matter in small advanced economies. They provide critical mass, scale and specialisation that might be difficult to generate otherwise. Growing our businesses is therefore a priority. The profile of businesses in Northern Ireland shows that the vast majority of businesses (89.2%) have less than nine employees, and only 2% of businesses have more than 50 employees.
- 5.30 Research from across Europe shows that the bulk of private sector employment growth is generated from a small group of high growth companies.



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This aligns with our own research in Northern Ireland which illustrates the importance of their contribution in supporting employment, particularly during the prolonged recession. That research also highlighted the diverse nature of our high growth firms which are neither concentrated in any one particular sector, nor unduly concentrated in any one particular part of Northern Ireland. Some of the strongest performance of high growth firms has been observed in mid-Ulster, and in the west and south of Northern Ireland.

- 5.31 Encouraging more companies in Northern Ireland to scale up and/or achieve high growth is therefore a key element in creating more employment opportunities. Invest NI will increase its scaling initiative to identify and provide targeted support to greater numbers of firms with the highest growth potential to scale up, diversifying to include smaller companies with high growth potential.
- 5.32 Research highlights the importance of dense collaborative networks of businesses to the economic success of a region. Collaboration in clusters between businesses and associated institutions with common interests, such as universities, trade associations

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and public authorities, can result in a more competitive, productive and innovative environment.

- 5.33 Agriculture and the agri-food sector is our largest employer and provides regional employment throughout Northern Ireland. We will work to improve the productivity and sustainably grow the sector by implementing key recommendations arising from the Going for Growth Strategy. We will ensure that the sector continues to innovate through closer collaboration between the Agri Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI), our universities and private sector employers. We will work to upskill the agricultural sector and transfer key skills through the work of the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE) both through the education of young people and the use of business development groups. The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)'s Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 is an important policy intervention aimed at supporting the sustainable growth of the agri-food sector, protecting and improving the natural environment and developing the rural economy. Its objectives are important in delivering economic growth and improving the competitiveness of Northern Ireland's rural areas, and its implementation will remain a priority.
- 5.34 If we are to make progress towards the goal of sustainable economic growth then we must embrace the concept of a circular economy, one that businesses have already started exploring today. A circular economy is an alternative to a traditional linear economy (make, use, dispose) in which we keep resources in use for as long as possible, extract the maximum value from them whilst in use, then recover and regenerate products and materials at the end of each service life.
- 5.35 The latest MATRIX report in Advanced Manufacturing Materials and Engineering emphasises how a circular economy can encourage innovation, deliver job creation and improve resource efficiency and material productivity. Reducing our reliance on imported goods can help businesses to remain competitive in the global market as well as assisting efforts to tackle climate change and protect valuable ecological assets.
- 5.36 To help develop the circular economy, the Department for the Economy will work with DAERA to develop a circular economy strategy for Northern Ireland.

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5.37 It is important to create the right conditions that will allow businesses to grow and flourish, such as access to appropriate and affordable finance. Having a local banking sector that meets the needs of both consumers and businesses, and provides bank lending on a competitive basis to local Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs), is vital to sustaining economic recovery.

In addition, venture capital and early stage equity investment play a vital role in helping many high growth, knowledge based firms secure the funding they need to start and grow, funding that is often not provided through traditional debt finance from banks.



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5.38 Much progress has been made in recent years to improve the availability and affordability of finance for businesses in Northern Ireland but there remains more to be done. Research carried out by the Department for Enterprise, Trade and Investment in 2015 noted that the market in Northern Ireland for early stage and growth finance remains relatively small and faces a number of challenges. Invest NI has put in place a £170 million Access to Finance Initiative to ensure that companies with high growth potential are not held back because they cannot access finance. This suite of support is helping to ensure that SMEs at all stages of the development cycle have access to financial support through a range of equity investment and debt financed models.

5.39 Fundamental to supporting business growth is an effective regulatory regime, which maintains appropriate and necessary protections, while minimising the regulatory burden on business. We will progress a comprehensive regulatory reform programme which will contribute to supporting business growth and reducing red tape. Planning has a key role to play in delivering sustainable development and business growth. Much progress has been delivered through a recent comprehensive planning reform initiative. Planning policy and performance are subject to ongoing review in order to inform improvements to the newly established system.

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## DRIVING INCLUSIVE, SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

### Ambition

An economy which delivers for people across all parts of Northern Ireland with more people in employment, more companies being established and more inward investment being attracted.

### What do we want to achieve?

- A more enterprising region, with a culture of new business development;
- A higher level of business start-up activity with an emphasis on technology and high potential start ups across all areas;
- Growth in sectors and technologies where we have strengths and capabilities matched to national and international opportunities;
- Economic prosperity and opportunity across the region;
- An economy where an increasing number of businesses realise their high growth potential and scale up from small to medium sized companies employing more people in the process;
- An economy where entrepreneurship and enterprise is endemic and reflected in a growing status as a start-up region.

### What are we going to do?

- Put in place a new Business Growth Initiative that helps high growth potential SMEs to scale up;
- Work with the small business sector in Northern Ireland to create a collaborative network for family owned businesses;
- Develop six "Enterprise Parks" across Northern Ireland with superfast broadband, quick and affordable electricity connections and a package of rates support;
- Create six SME digital hubs across Northern Ireland to support more companies engage in e-business and benefit from digitisation;
- Implement the key recommendations of the Going for Growth Strategy;
- Enhance the Northern Ireland entrepreneurship ecosystem in partnership with all key stakeholders to provide an infrastructure that supports entrepreneurs at each stage of their journey;
- Support a new region wide women's entrepreneurship programme;
- Increase investment in innovation activities, particularly supporting open innovation and enhancing Catalyst Inc provision outside Belfast;
- Explore opportunities to replicate in other locations initiatives such as the new Innovation Factory in Belfast;
- Increase business cluster and innovation support across Northern Ireland;
- In partnership with local government, deliver a new programme for business start-up support;
- In conjunction with local councils and the Department for Communities, provide support for communities and individuals facing disadvantage;
- Increase opportunities and support for business collaboration regionally, nationally and internationally;
- Monitor access to both bank and non-bank finance, including seeking to increase the supply and demand of early stage and growth finance;
- Progress a new 'Open for Business' strategy aimed at comprehensive regulatory reform programme which will contribute to supporting business growth and reducing red tape;
- The Department for the Economy will work with the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs to develop a Circular Economy Strategy for Northern Ireland.

### How will we know we are on target?

| Indicator  | What this looks like  |
|--|---|
| Seasonally adjusted employment rate (16-64)                    | Increased proportion of people in work  |
| A Better Jobs Index  | Increased proportion of people working in better jobs                         |
| Employment rate by geographic area                             | Improved regional balance of economic prosperity through increased employment |
| The employment rate of 16-64 year olds by deprivation quartile | Increased economic opportunity for our most deprived communities              |
| Jobs promoted via business start programme                     | Increased number of business start-ups  |
| Annual turnover of businesses                                  | Increased numbers of businesses of scale                                      |
| Total early-stage entrepreneurial activity rate                | Increased entrepreneurial activity  |

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## PILLAR 4 - SUCCEEDING IN GLOBAL MARKETS

5.40 Over the last two decades world trade has increased fourfold, world foreign direct investment has increased fivefold and world tourism has more than doubled. Economic success for Northern Ireland must embrace an outward facing approach. International engagement will be at the core of our economic policy, and this Pillar concentrates on three key aspects of that engagement.

### Competing globally through trade

- 5.41 Having externally focused businesses thriving in international markets is crucial for generating strong economic outcomes in small economies like Northern Ireland. We need to trade beyond a domestic market that is too small to get the required business scale, specialisation and growth.
- 5.42 Exporting remains central to our Industrial Strategy and, with a changing economic landscape on the horizon as a result of exiting the European Union, it is vital that we are responsive and adaptable in the ways we seek to achieve our objectives on trading globally. We are already taking forward new approaches to drive improvements in our commercial success in overseas markets and this will continue and

evolve as uncertainty around the future diminishes, and as new trading opportunities emerge in the future.

### Competing globally for investment

- 5.43 Foreign direct investment plays a vital role in small open economies in driving international expansion as well as contributing significantly to raising productivity and innovation activity. The international activity of these firms is a central part of strong external engagement by small advanced economies, and so competing effectively for inward investment is a key ambition for this Industrial Strategy.
- 5.44 Our inward investment proposition to the world will be coherent and integrated, built on talent, value and tax. We will integrate a lower rate of Corporation Tax into our enhanced proposition, building in a focus on current successful sectors and clusters and targeting new types of higher profit, higher value-added activities. Our proposition to inward investors will also be backed up by a targeted and responsive skills offering tailored through our Employer Support Programme.
- 5.45 Opportunities exist for attracting investment for major infrastructure

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projects especially from places like China and the Middle East. We will work with local government and the private sector to develop a comprehensive infrastructure 'pitch book'.

- 5.46 Northern Ireland benefits from a strong diaspora spread around the world. We will build on the success of Northern Irish Connections to utilise the power of people with an affinity to Northern Ireland to promote our region internationally.

### Competing globally as a destination

- 5.47 With successful small economies being characterised by active international engagement it is important to understand how Northern Ireland is viewed and regarded by other countries. Developing an international focus on our key areas of economic potential, and actively promoting Northern Ireland as a good place to interact with economically, commercially and academically, will be crucial to our success in a highly competitive world.
- 5.48 As part of this we will launch and implement a new strategy to unlock the full potential of tourism in Northern Ireland and secure our place on the world map as a must-see destination. The strategy will place a clearer focus on the key markets of USA, Canada, Australia and mainland Europe, as well as focusing on the significant potential, as yet

unrealised, within the Republic of Ireland market. Our aim is for an internationally competitive tourism sector, based upon an inspiring visitor destination of which we are all proud, with an ambitious goal to double external revenue to £1 billion by 2025. In doing so we will also contribute to other priorities by supporting local communities and creating regionally dispersed employment opportunities.

- 5.49 We will also exploit the increasing international orientation of our local educational institutions. Attracting international students and staff is an important aspect in developing the international reputation of our universities as another type of exporting activity. We will aim to build on the success we have achieved in this area in recent years. In addition, our further education colleges have become increasingly focused on the need to operate in an international arena and to equip students and staff with the skills required to work and compete in the global economy. We will work with our universities, further education colleges, boarding schools and English language training organisations to find new ways to increase enrolments of international students and the supply of educational services by our institutions overseas. This will include participation in trade missions, organising inward visits to Northern Ireland, exhibiting at international trade fairs and availing of support from in-market experts.



## SUCCEEDING IN GLOBAL MARKETS

### Ambition

Northern Ireland will be viewed across the world as the location of choice within the United Kingdom to do business from, and to do business with.

### What do we want to achieve?

We want to see:

- Much greater commercial success for our companies in overseas markets;
- Northern Ireland becoming the top United Kingdom region for attracting foreign direct investment;
- Our tourism industry flourishing and delivering on its potential.

### What are we going to do?

We will:

- Develop a new International Trade Plan for Northern Ireland to capitalise on recent export success and encourage more first time exporters;
- Enhance international awareness of Northern Ireland as a place to do business with;
- Lower corporation tax and promote Northern Ireland internationally as a top destination for inward investment within a strong United Kingdom proposition;
- Target new export-intensive and "profit centred" inward investment opportunities, building upon existing strengths within sectors and clusters;
- Prepare our skills pipeline for the needs of inward investors of the future;
- Increase support for export market diversification and additional support to target Great Britain and Republic of Ireland as first destination markets for our businesses;
- Work closely with the Department for International Trade to capitalise on emerging trading opportunities;
- Engage with emerging markets to secure market access for our agri-food products;
- Within a new Tourism Strategy, deliver events of scale that can enhance our international reputation;
- Develop our international position as a destination for learning, attracting the best academic staff and collaborating on research;
- Identify opportunities for exploiting education services as an export and a means to enhance our international reputation;
- Invest in experiences and products infrastructure that will give external visitors new reasons to holiday and stay longer in Northern Ireland;
- Under the rural tourism element of the Rural Development Programme, invest £10m in projects to increase the number of out-of-state visitors.

### How will we know we are on target?

| Indicator  | What this looks like   |
|--|--|
| Broad Economy Exports Measure                                    | Growth in the value of sales by local businesses made outside Northern Ireland |
| Broad Economy Exports Measure                                    | More local businesses selling outside Northern Ireland                         |
| Total spend by external visitors                                 | Improved attractiveness as a destination                                       |
| National Brand Index   | Improved international reputation  |
| Number of external businesses and employment in those businesses | Increased amount of Foreign Direct Investment in Northern Ireland              |



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## PILLAR 5 - BUILDING THE BEST ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE

- 5.50 A region's infrastructure is both a key enabler and driver of economic growth. Investment in our infrastructure is a significant and long term commitment that lays the foundations of our future economic and social wellbeing and competitiveness. It requires long term planning and a sustained focus on delivery to meet the anticipated needs of society a generation ahead, as well as to tackle any shorter term issues which arise.
- 5.51 Investment in our infrastructure is vital to provide the physical and digital connectivity to allow Northern Ireland to compete on the global stage. That connectivity needs to be regionally balanced to ensure a level playing field of opportunity in terms of access to market and the ability to establish and grow businesses across all parts of Northern Ireland. It also needs to take account of the specific current and future economic needs of the region.
- 5.52 Importantly our approach to infrastructure needs to encompass both those elements which are publicly owned and run and those which are in the hands of the private sector. The part Government can properly play in these sectors will differ, but the need for an all-encompassing overall strategic approach across them is clear. The Industrial Strategy will align with the Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland, which will set out in more detail the Executive's priority areas for investment in the years ahead and is intended to assist Government and our private sector partners to plan ahead for the challenge of delivering an infrastructure investment programme across the region.
- 5.53 Energy is central to the quality of our lives and for the functioning of modern economies. The energy sector provides essential services along with employment, investment, infrastructure, technological advances, knowledge and skills, that can be highly beneficial to the wider economy in general.
- 5.54 Energy policy is at the core of economic, environmental and social activity. Determining energy policy is about making a realistic assessment of the energy challenges we face. There will always be tensions between pursuing economic, social and environmental objectives and the associated cost implications of each. This is the so-called "energy trilemma". The challenge for Northern Ireland,

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as elsewhere, is balancing this trilemma to ensure security of supply, cost control and the achievement of affordable decarbonisation.

5.55 We will develop a new Energy Strategy that will seek to address both our short to medium term needs and also position us to meet the longer term challenges out to 2030 and beyond.

5.56 While telecoms remain a reserved responsibility, we will continue to work with the United Kingdom Government to deliver the Universal Service Obligation which is intended to give people the right

to request a broadband connection with speeds of 10Mbps, no matter where they live, within a reasonable cost threshold by 2020. We will also continue to intervene in the market where it can stimulate competition and choice from the industry. We will work to keep the regulatory environment aligned with other regions and international standards and norms. This recognises the importance that our telecoms infrastructure and services play in sustaining and growing our economy. Our goal is to ensure that there is no digital divide between rural and urban areas.

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## BUILDING THE BEST ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE

### Ambition

Northern Ireland will be recognised as having world class economic infrastructure supporting the growth of a modern, dynamic, connected and competitive economy.

### What do we want to achieve?

- Investments in energy, water, transport and connections, digital communications, waste disposal networks and facilities, as key components for a competitive modern economy.
- Investment in key infrastructure projects to provide the physical and digital connectivity to enable our business to thrive globally;
- Investment both in better access to major population and business centres through our strategic road network in the West and in tackling significant drainage and flood risk issues in Belfast and other regional centres.

### What are we going to do?

We will:

- Become Europe’s best connected region for broadband by 2030 by further extending broadband coverage through the Northern Ireland Broadband Improvement Project and Superfast Rollout Programme, and further new interventions that will enhance broadband speeds and mobile coverage across Northern Ireland as part of a new Digital Infrastructure Strategy;
- Invest in infrastructure to support the growth of Belfast as a regional driver and Londonderry as the driver of the North West;
- Enhance the security, sustainability and cost-efficiency of our energy supply;
- Develop a new Energy Strategy to meet Northern Ireland’s medium and longer term energy needs;
- Invest in the connections to our ports to enhance our access to global markets and the efficiency of our supply chains.

### How will we know we are on target?

| Indicator   | What this looks like   |
|---|--|
| • Proportion of NI premises with access to broadband services at speeds at or above 30Mbps  | + Improved internet connectivity   |
| • % change in security of supply margin as measured by SONI’s Generation Capacity Statement | • Enhanced security, sustainability and cost-efficiency of our energy supply |

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## QUESTIONS

- 7 For each of the 5 Pillars for Growth:
  - Do you agree with what we want to achieve;
  - What we plan to do to deliver; and
  - How we plan to measure progress?

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# MEASURING SUCCESS



## Indicator Framework

- 6.1 We will monitor the progress of our Industrial Strategy to ensure that the actions we are taking will contribute to the outcomes that we wish to see and, ultimately, to our economic vision.
- 6.2 To remain consistent with the new draft Programme for Government framework we propose to adopt an outcomes based approach to the indicator framework for this Strategy. Through delivery of the key activities associated with each of our Pillars for Growth we have identified the key economic indicators in which we want to see improvements and which we believe will ultimately lead to improvements in our overall economic competitiveness.
- 6.3 The table below proposes the two high level goals and indicators, and the associated measures, that we will use. Our final Strategy will establish targets for those indicators, subject to the views of respondents in this consultation, and these will be set over three time horizons – 2020, 2025 and 2030.
- 6.4 Improving the competitiveness of the Northern Ireland economy, in all its facets, is our overarching aim. Economic competitiveness can be defined as 'the set of institutions, policies and factors that determine the level of productivity of a country'. The level of productivity sets the prosperity that a particular economy can achieve, the return from investments and ultimately the rate of economic growth. In addition to our proposed framework of indicators and measures, in order to measure and assess the overall competitive position of our economy over time, we also propose to use the reports on competitiveness which will be published regularly by the Economic Advisory Group, built on the Competitiveness Scorecard which it first published in July 2016.



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**Figure 10 – Indicators**

| INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY INDICATORS                   |   |  |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|--|---|--|
| 2030 GOALS:                                      |   | INDICATOR: PRIVATE SECTOR NI COMPOSITE INDEX - INCREASE THE SIZE OF THE ECONOMY  |  |   |  |
| ACCELERATING INNOVATION AND RESEARCH             |   | ENHANCING EDUCATION, SKILLS AND EMPLOYABILITY  |  | DRIVING INCLUSIVE, SUSTAINABLE GROWTH                                 |  |
| INDICATOR  | WHAT THIS LOOKS LIKE                              | INDICATOR  | WHAT THIS LOOKS LIKE   | INDICATOR   |  |
| <b>Rate of Innovation activity</b>               | Increased innovation in our economy               | <b>% of school leavers achieving at level 2 or above including English and maths</b>   | Improved educational outcomes  | <b>Seasonally adjusted employment rate (16 – 64)</b>                  |  |
| Northern Ireland Research and Development Survey | Increased total spend on Research and Development | <b>Proportion of workforce in employment qualified to levels 1+, 2+, 3+ and 4+</b>   | Improved skills profile of the population  | Interdepartmental business Register                                   |  |
|  |   | Proportion of graduates qualifying from Northern Ireland Higher Education Institutions with an economically relevant STEM qualifications               |  | Number of business £1m - £2m annual turnover                          |  |
|  |   | Number of Invest NI companies new to productivity improvement skills development   | Improved skills profile of the population  | Number of business £2m - £10m annual turnover                         |  |
|  |   | % of Invest NI companies confirming a positive productivity impact, post project   |  | Number of business £10m - £100m annual turnover                       |  |
|  |   |  |  | Number of business £100m - £1bn annual turnover                       |  |
| Number of knowledge economy jobs                 | Increased employment in the knowledge economy     | <b>Proportion of local graduates from local institutions in professional or management occupations or in further study six months after graduation</b> | Increased proportion of graduates moving into employment or on to further study. | <b>Employment rate by geographic area</b>                             |  |
| Business start-up rates                          | Increased number of new businesses                | <b>Economic inactivity rate excluding students</b>   | Reduced economic inactivity  | <b>The employment rate of 16-64 year olds by deprivation quartile</b> |  |
|  |   | <b>% of schools found to be good or better</b>   | Improved the quality of education  | Jobs promoted via business start programme                            |  |
|  |   |  |  | Total early-stage entrepreneurial activity rate                       |  |
|  |   |  |  | <b>A Better Jobs Index [to be developed]</b>                          |  |

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| INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY INDICATORS  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| INDICATOR: COMPETITIVENESS SCORECARD - INCREASE COMPETITIVENESS AND WELLBEING |  |  |  |  |  |
| DRIVING INCLUSIVE, SUSTAINABLE GROWTH   |  | SUCCEEDING IN GLOBAL MARKETS   |  | BUILDING THE BEST ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE                                  |  |
| WHAT THIS LOOKS LIKE  | INDICATOR  | WHAT THIS LOOKS LIKE   | INDICATOR  | WHAT THIS LOOKS LIKE   |  |
| Increased proportion of people in work  | Broad Economy Exports Measure                              | Growth in the value of sales by local businesses made outside Northern Ireland | <b>Proportion of NI premises with access to broadband services at speeds at or above 30Mbps</b>  | Improved internet connectivity   |  |
| Increased number of businesses of scale                                       | Broad Economy Exports Measure                              | More local businesses selling outside Northern Ireland                         | <b>% change in security of supply margin as measured by SONI's Generation Capacity Statement</b> | Enhanced security, sustainability and cost-efficiency of our energy supply |  |
| Improved regional balance of economic prosperity through increased employment | Number of external companies and employment in those firms | Increased amount of Foreign Direct Investment in Northern Ireland              |  |  |  |
| Increased economic opportunity for our most deprived communities              | <b>National brand index</b>                                | Improved international reputation  |  |  |  |
| Increased the number of business start-ups                                    | <b>Total spend by external visitors</b>                    | Improved attractiveness as a destination                                       |  |  |  |
| Increased entrepreneurial activity  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Increase the proportion of people working in better jobs                      |  |  |  |  |  |



**ECONOMY 2030**

A DRAFT  
INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY  
FOR NORTHERN  
IRELAND

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# RESPONDING TO THE CONSULTATION

- 7.1 This consultation document sets out our proposals to refocus our economic priorities up to 2030 and invites views on those proposals. The responses to this consultation, alongside the responses to consultation on the wider draft Programme for Government, will inform the development of a final Industrial Strategy.

## Consultation

- 7.2 The public consultation on the Industrial Strategy is open for the next twelve weeks until 25th April 2017. Throughout this document a number of issues have been specifically highlighted for comment and feedback. A summary of these questions is included at the end of the document. However, contributions to the consultation should not be restricted to these issues, and all inputs will be welcomed.

A copy of the consultation document is available on the Department for the Economy's website:  
<https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/consultations/industrial-strategy>

You can respond to this consultation on-line at the Northern Ireland Hub – Citizen Space.

<https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/dfe/industrial-strategy-for-northern-ireland>

Responses to this consultation should be sent to:  
**NI-Economic-Strategy@economy-ni.gov.uk**

Alternatively you can write to us at:

Strategic Policy Division  
Department for the Economy  
Room 124  
Netherleigh  
Massey Avenue  
Belfast  
BT4 2JP

### Disclosure of information

- 7.3 The paragraphs below explain the policy on the Disclosure of Information and provide guidance on the legal position about any information given in response to this consultation.
- 7.4 The Freedom of Information Act provides the public with the right to request access to information held by public authorities including Government Departments. This includes information provided in response to consultations.
- 7.5 Following the end of the consultation, we will publish details of the responses received on the Department for the Economy website. Information you provided in your response, including personal information, could be published or disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

### Equality Screening

- 7.6 The draft Industrial Strategy has been subject to an equality screening exercise. The outcome of this screening exercise will shortly be published, as part of this consultation, and will be available on the dedicated Northern Ireland Economic Strategy Website.



**ECONOMY 2030**

A DRAFT  
INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY  
FOR NORTHERN  
IRELAND

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**SUMMARY OF QUESTIONS**

- 1** Do you agree with the proposed vision for the Northern Ireland economy?  
In particular, do you agree with the twin emphasis on competitiveness and inclusiveness?
- 2** Do you agree with the proposed five Pillars for Growth?
- 3** Do you agree with the proposed economic milestones?
- 4** Do you agree with the importance of continuously benchmarking Northern Ireland against other small advanced economies?
- 5** Do you agree that the Industrial Strategy should now move towards a rebalancing focus?
- 6** Do you agree that our Industrial Strategy should support sectors where Northern Ireland is world class or where we have the potential to be world class?
- 7** For each of the 5 Pillars for Growth:
  - Do you agree with what we want to achieve;
  - What we plan to do to deliver; and
  - How we plan to measure progress?





Department for the  
**Economy**  
[www.economy-ni.gov.uk](http://www.economy-ni.gov.uk)



January 2017

**Newry, Mourne and Down District Council response to the  
Industrial Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2030**

**Draft 1**

The Department for the Economy has recently published a draft Industrial Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2030 (copy attached to this report) which is open to public consultation until 25 April 2017. The draft strategy has been released to coincide with the publication of the UK wide Industrial Strategy that was announced by the Prime Minister on 23 January 2017. A new overarching draft Economic Strategy for NI was expected to be published in January 2017 - but has now been deferred until after the Assembly elections on 2 March 2017.

**Consultation Questions:**

1. Do you agree with the proposed vision for the Northern Ireland economy? In particular, do you agree with the twin emphasis on competitiveness and inclusiveness?

The proposed vision is to create a 'globally competitive economy that works for everyone'. The twin emphasis on competitiveness and inclusiveness are consistent with the aims of the current EU Jobs and Growth programme which the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council is involved in helping to deliver i.e. focusing on business start-up and business development. Councils in a variety of ways support and deliver upon the Inclusiveness aspect, in that the economically inactive are afforded realistic opportunities to benefit from economic growth, gaining access to effective training and sustainable employment. Inclusiveness also means creating economic opportunities that balances regional growth and ensures a positive impact on both urban and rural areas. It is vitally important with our Council's rural make-up to assist those who cannot readily access jobs, learning and services is mitigated, so the inclusiveness aspect is further welcomed in this regard.

2. Do you agree with the proposed 5 Pillars for Growth?

The 5 Pillars for Growth in the draft strategy are:

- Accelerating Innovation and Research
- Enhancing Education, Skills and Employability
- Driving Inclusive, Sustainable Growth
- Succeeding in Global Markets
- Building the Best Economic Infrastructure

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council support the pillars of growth and in particular the enhancing of education, skills and employability and building the best economic infrastructure. Regarding infrastructure, this presents a step change opportunity for the economy at regional and local levels through bottom up, multi-agency partnership. In the current Brexit environment – with

new fiscal arrangements for NI related to EU funding and repatriation, coupled with wider economic global considerations, it is imperative that NI at regional and local council levels builds high quality infrastructure to anticipate what the new, globally competitive economy will look like.

Our Council area has a major tourism product and in terms of economic infrastructure we would give priority to improving existing facilities, for example Warrenpoint Port and providing an affordable, improved rail network. In addition developing new projects such as the Southern Relief Road in Newry, road infrastructure in Downpatrick and Ballynahinch and Narrow Water Bridge in Warrenpoint, are major priorities.

It is also a key priority for our Council to promote and lobby for broadband access for each and every household and business in the District.

All pillars meet with our key Council Corporate Objectives (Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Corporate Plan attached to this report) however it is disappointing that although tourism is mentioned within the draft strategy it should be given priority as a pillar and as a major economic driver.

All aspects of the process should be coordinated and give more responsibility to the Councils to deliver on. There are so many strategies in existence and being developed with stakeholder engagement to the fore, this should be managed.

As the Northern Ireland economy is mainly made up of micro companies and SMEs it is important to create the right local infrastructure to allow them to grow. NILGA asserts that the development of business (and social economy) eco-systems should be a key element of any growth plan for the region led by the Council and associated Community Planning partners.

### 3. Do you agree with the proposed economic milestones?

The proposed economic milestones are:

- By 2021, we will have created 50,000 new jobs, helped 18,000 economically inactive into work and made NI the number one location for inward investment outside London
- By 2025, we will have 380,000 qualifications at level 3 and above, grown the value of sales outside NI by 80% and doubled the amount spent here by out of state visitors
- By 2030, we will have grown private sector output by 35% creating 80,000 jobs, put NI in the top 3 most competitive, small advanced economies, created 80,000 jobs in the 'knowledge economy', increased annual spend on research and development to £1.5bn and maintained the highest level of 'wellbeing' in the UK.

These are challenging but necessary performance milestones if the NI economy is to be rebalanced from being over dependent on the public sector and on locally based services to one that is driven by manufacturing and

exports. The reliance on small, family owned businesses in NI employing less than 20 people makes it even more important to target and nurture larger established firms such as Norbrook Laboratories in Newry and BE Aerospace in Kilkeel and develop their capability and ambition to grow through innovation, collaboration/clustering and developing external markets – whatever the sector.

It is vital that the milestones are periodically reviewed and that regular Results versus Targets reporting occurs, so that any modifications to key performance indicators take account of prevailing conditions and revise upwards or downwards the milestones – which are relevant today but not necessarily tomorrow. Again, councils would wish to be part of the co-design and co-evaluation of these milestones rather than being written to about them. We would also want to see further detail on how the job creation targets will be spread across Northern Ireland.

4. Do you agree with the importance of continuously benchmarking Northern Ireland against other small advanced economies?

Yes. Benchmarking with other similar economics is important both as a means of establishing a baseline and in terms of monitoring performance and results. Much can and is being learned from small but highly successful economies such as Denmark, Estonia, Finland, the Republic of Ireland, Scotland and Singapore where challenges of location and neighbouring competition have been overcome through innovation, specialism and diversification. For example, the ICT sector in the Republic of Ireland has been very successful in attracting both new start-ups and in foreign and direct investment largely due to government policy on supporting the industry.

5. Do you agree that the Industrial Strategy should now move towards a rebalancing focus?

Yes. Rebalancing is seen to be essential for the NI economy to move away from an over-reliance on the public sector and services to generate growth. However, careful consideration should be given to lessons that have been learned from previous strategies. Try not to over-regulate business, especially in a post 'Brexit' environment where "repatriation" of regulations from Brussels to devolved administrations and councils' risks repelling businesses and investment. There should not be an over-reliance on academic science to be the catalyst for innovation with the focus being on industry itself. We would highlight the innovation available at local, non-academic level, with vocational training and family apprenticeships receiving investment.

6. Do you agree that our Industrial Strategy should support sectors where Northern Ireland is world class or where we have the potential to be world class?

Having a critical mass of world class companies in each local authority area is vital for the NI economy as a means of developing local supply chains that can quickly diversify and move into export markets. There are around 68,000



businesses in NI (7,500 in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council) of which an estimated 90% are small family firms that traditionally service local markets. These businesses need to be encouraged to positively engage with our world class companies to identify supplier opportunities, particularly in the highest performing automotive, construction, agri-food, fish processing, energy technology, robotics and creative industries (such as gaming and film animation) sectors.

7. For each of the 5 Pillars for Growth:

- Do you agree with what we want to achieve?
- Do you agree with what we plan to do to deliver?
- Do you agree with how we plan to measure progress?

Yes, however there are a number of points which need to be raised particularly on a local Newry, Mourne and Down District Council level. Arguably, the 2030 Strategy fails to recognise that the "wider world of employment" outside of NI is far more appealing to our talented and disaffected younger people, partly due to better wages and perceptions of a more exciting view on life outside of NI.

The Industrial strategy should increase the productivity of NI companies and create both opportunity and good quality jobs in a broad range of sectors and locations in a way that benefits both urban and rural areas.

In terms of monitoring, this should be designed and implemented with input from businesses themselves in partnership with local councils.

It is vital that the milestones are periodically reviewed and that regular results versus targets reporting occurs, so that any modifications to key performance indicators take account of prevailing conditions and revise upwards or downwards the milestones, which are relevant today but not necessarily tomorrow. Again, councils would wish to be part of the co-design and co-evaluation of these milestones rather than being written to about them.

Recommendations from the final strategy need to be prioritised and budgets identified to implement them.

Our Council would need a commitment to ensure there is a measured geographical spread of outputs from the strategy.

Specific reference to the 'Brexit' issue needs to be taken into account particularly with it having a direct effect on our Council area being adjacent to the border.

Careers advice and implementation needs reviewed given the changes in job opportunities and activity.



Mary Meehan

to:

marie.ward

24/02/2017 13:49

Hide Details

From: "Mary Meehan" <mary@newry.com>

To: <marie.ward@downdc.gov.uk>,

History: This message has been forwarded.

1 Attachment



Visit program to the West Pomerania Region - 8th-11th May 2017.docx

Hi Marie,

As mentioned, attached is an outline of the visit programme to Poland on 8th-11th May.

Our partners in West Pomerania will cover all hotel and food expenses for up to 5 people and as such we are offering 2 of these places to Council. If you and /or Chair of the Economic Committee / Chair of Council would like to take these 2 places, please let me know as soon as possible.

Flights can be booked with Ryanair.

Any questions give me a shout on the mobile.

Best Rgds

Mary Meehan  
Chief Executive

**Newry Chamber of Commerce and Trade**

McGrath Centre | 11 Margaref Street | Newry Co.Down | BT34 1DF

T 028 30250303 | E [mary@newry.com](mailto:mary@newry.com) | W [www.newrychamber.com](http://www.newrychamber.com)

### Visit Programme to the West Pomerania Region

| <b>Monday, 8.05.2017</b>     |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| 17:45                        | Arrive to Berlin  |
| 20:30                        | Transfer to Szczecin  |
| 21:00                        | Dinner  |
| <b>Tuesday, 9.05.2017</b>    |   |
| 9:30 -11.00                  | Meeting with Marshal of Westpomeranian Region /Presentation of Investor Assistance Centre<br><a href="http://www.iac.wzp.pl/">http://www.iac.wzp.pl/</a>  |
| 11: 00                       | Departure to Goleniów   |
| 11:30–<br>13:00              | Visit to the Goleniów Industrial Park<br><a href="http://goleniow.business/">http://goleniow.business/</a><br><a href="http://www.paiz.gov.pl/investment_support/industrial_and_technology_parks/goleniow">http://www.paiz.gov.pl/investment support/industrial and technology parks/goleniow</a>   |
| 13:00 –<br>14:30             | Lunch   |
| 15:00 -<br>17:00             | B2B meeting   |
| 17:00 –<br>19.00             | Free time: Szczecin sightseeing   |
| 19. 00                       | Dinner  |
| <b>Wednesday, 10.05.2017</b> |   |
| 9:30 -11.00                  | Meeting with representatives of the Szczecin City   |
| 11: 00                       | Departure to Stargard   |
| 11:30–<br>13:00              | Visit to the High Technologies Industrial Park in Stargard<br><a href="https://www.stargard.pl/investments">https://www.stargard.pl/investments</a><br><a href="http://www.paiz.gov.pl/investment_support/industrial_and_technology_parks/stargard">http://www.paiz.gov.pl/investment support/industrial and technology parks/stargard</a> http |
| 13:00 –<br>14:30             | Lunch   |
| 15:00 -<br>17:00             | Visit to the Regional Park in Gryfino<br><a href="http://www.paiz.gov.pl/investment_support/industrial_and_technology_parks/gryfino">http://www.paiz.gov.pl/investment support/industrial and technology parks/gryfino</a>  |
| 17:30 -<br>19.00             | Free time   |

|                             |                      |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 19.00                       | Dinner               |
| <b>Thursday, 11.05.2017</b> |                      |
| 7:00                        | Departure to airport |
| 11:00                       | Departure to Dublin  |

### About West Pomerania

West Pomerania's economy depends on its location - direct access to the Baltic Sea (through the port of Szczecin), and proximity to Germany and the Scandinavian countries. Distance between Szczecin - European seaport and the capital of the province, and Berlin is only 130 km. The region, primarily associated with the shipbuilding industry and agriculture, today develops various sectors of the economy, especially those related to advanced technologies. Region as more and more uses renewable energy sources, which can be observed by increasing the number of wind turbines and thermal power plants.

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Total area of the voivodeship       | 22 892 km <sup>2</sup>  |
| Population:<br>- in urban areas     | 1715.4 thous.<br>68.9%  |
| Population density                  | 75 persons/km <sup>2</sup>  |
| Voivodeship capital                 | Szczecin  |
| Other big towns in the voivodeship  | Koszalin, Stargard, Kołobrzeg, Świnoujście, Szczecinek  |
| Special Economic Zones              | <u>Kostrzyn-Slubice</u><br><u>Słupsk</u><br><u>Pomorska</u><br><u>Euro-Park Mielec</u>  |
| Industrial & Technology Parks       | <u>Szczecin Science &amp; Technology Park</u><br><u>Szczecin Industrial Park</u><br><u>Goleniów Industrial Park</u><br><u>Stargard Industrial Park</u><br><u>High Technologies Industrial Park in Stargard</u><br><u>Koszalin Technical University Industrial Park</u><br><u>Koszalin Business Activity Zone</u><br><u>Regional Park in Gryfino</u><br><u>Białogard Investment Park "Invest-Park"</u> |
| Regional Investor Assistance Centre | <u>Szczecin</u>   |
| International airport               | <u>Goleniów</u>   |



### Investment opportunities

- direct access to the sea
- situated at the junction of important international transport routes (North-South and West-East)
- sited alongside the inside border of European Union with Germany
- proximity of EU and Scandinavian markets
- strong industrial base, including seaports
- large rural and forest areas
- well developed higher education and science
- dynamic expansion of business service institutions
- rapidly-expanding private sector including services
- well-developed agrotourist infrastructure
- good ferryboats links with Scandinavia
- access to inland navigation routes towards Lower Silesia and Berlin

### Sectors with huge potential

- Services of the Future (ICT, KPO, R+D)
- Maritime operations and Logistics
- Machinery and metal industry
- Bio-economy
- Tourism and Health

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <b>Agenda Item:</b>       |   |
| <b>Report to:</b>         | Economic Regeneration and Tourism Committee                           |
| <b>Subject:</b>           | Kilkeel Development Association SLA & Co-operative Marketing Campaign |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 10 April 2017   |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Marie Ward  |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Michelle Boyle  |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Decisions Required</b>   |  |
| <b>To consider the contents of the paper and approve the recommendations at 3.0</b> |  |
| <b>1.0</b>  | <p><b>Purpose and Background</b></p> <p>To provide a Service Level Agreement with Kilkeel Development Association for the period 2017/18 to provide a tourism information provision and a Co-operative Marketing Campaign for Coastal Flavours</p>   |
| <b>2.0</b>  | <p><b>Key Issues</b></p> <p>Newry Mourne and Down DC to continue with a Service level agreement with Kilkeel Development Association to provide a Tourism Information provision.</p> <p>The Council provided Kilkeel Development Association with £30,000 during 2016/17. During 2017/18 the Council proposes to provide £20,000 to KDA to provide a tourism information provision and Council will utilise £10,000 to operate a co-operative marketing campaign.</p> <p>The concept of co-operative marketing campaign have been delivered successfully by TNI during their Autumn and Spring campaign. Co-operative marketing activity is an important function of destination experience promotion and involves delivering a marketing campaign in partnership with local businesses. It is proposed to run a co-operative campaign on Coastal flavours with Kilkeel businesses a key element of this campaign. A focus on coastal flavours has been identified as a Catalyst project in the tourism strategy. Culinary tourism has seen unprecedented growth with local foods a key way of portraying the essence of place. The opportunity exist to differentiate the offer for NMD by focusing on seafood and authentic flavours, this is a strong offering in Kilkeel</p> |
| <b>3.0</b>  | <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>That the committee approve the SLA as attached at Appendix 1 with a budget of £20,000 and a Co-operative Marketing Campaign valued at £10,000 on Coastal Flavours</p>   |

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Resource Implications</b><br><br>The financial requirements of the SLA is £20,000 and the Co-operative Marketing Campaign is £10,000 and is contained within the 2017/18 budget |
| <b>5.0</b> | <b>Equality Assessment</b><br><br>All necessary consideration will be taken account of as part of the SLA  |
| <b>6.0</b> | <b>Appendices</b><br>SLA with Kilkeel Development Association  |

# Service Level Agreement

## Kilkeel Development Association



## **PART 1 – CONDITIONS**

### **1.1 DATE OF AGREEMENT**

This agreement is dated 10 May 2017

This is an agreement between Newry Mourne and Down District Council (hereinafter called "the Council") and the Board of Directors of Kilkeel Development Association.

### **1.2 OBJECT OF AGREEMENT**

In consideration of the Council paying to the Kilkeel Development Association the amount set out in Part 3, Kilkeel Development Association agrees to provide a Networked Standard Tourism Information Centre within the aims, policies and standards set out by Tourism NI.

### **1.3 MANAGEMENT**

Responsibility for the Management of the VIC will be vested in the Board of Directors of Kilkeel Development Association.

### **1.4 AUTHORISED REPRESENTATIVES AND CONTACTS**

The parties' authorised representatives for the purpose of this shall be Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism and the Chairman on behalf of the Board of Directors of Kilkeel Development Association.

The Kilkeel Development Association contact for day-to-day purpose shall be the Chief Executive.

### **1.5 THE PERIOD OF THE SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT**

The agreement will commence on 1 April 2017 and remain valid until 31 March 2018

### **1.6 STATUS OF SERVICE PROVIDERS**

In carrying out this Agreement, Kilkeel Development Association is acting in its own right as an independent organisation and not an agent of the Council.

### **1.7 STATUS OF AGREEMENT**

The Council reserve the right to withdraw funding should the Kilkeel Development Association fail to adequately provide the Tourism Information Service, which forms the basis of the Council's agreement to commit funds to it. Funding will be reviewed annually (a per 1.5 above) and will require Kilkeel Development Association to submit a Business Plan by 31<sup>st</sup> December for each year of the agreement showing progress against the targets to date and the plan for the year ahead.

**1.8 THE SERVICE PROVIDERS OBLIGATION**

Kilkeel Development Association agrees to provide the service specified in Part 2 of the Agreement.

**1.9 COMPLAINTS**

Kilkeel Development Association shall operate a procedure for dealing with repercussions and complaints about the service.

**1.10 HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Kilkeel Development Association shall have regard to the requirement of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and any other Act, Regulation, Directives or Orders etc about Health and Safety.

**1.11 INSURANCE**

Kilkeel Development Association will arrange adequate insurance to cover such liabilities as may arise in the course of its work operating the VIC.

**1.12 INDEMNITY**

Kilkeel Development Association shall be responsible for and shall indemnify and keep the Council indemnified against all claims, demands, actions or proceedings made or brought and all losses, damages, costs, expenses and liabilities incurred, suffered or arising directly or indirectly in respect of or otherwise connected with the actions of the services provided by Kilkeel Development Association in provision of the VIC.

**1.13 FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE**

In relation to the employment of staff, employment conditions and practices must comply with all the relevant employment legislations and should take account of current good practice in relation to employment rights and the promotion of equality of opportunity and good relations.

**1.14 AUDIT & CONTROL**

Any premises, records, financial or otherwise, or equipment used for the project shall be open to inspection by officers representing Newry Mourne and Down District Council for the purposes of monitoring and evaluating the financial assistance or any part payment thereof or the achievement or objectives or progress towards such objectives.

If the Project Promoter is in breach of any of it's obligations relating to this SLA then Newry Mourne and Down District Council may require the Project Promoter to pay the Council the aggregate of all financial assistance payments (other than those received from a source other than

the Council) or such lesser amount as Newry Mourne and Down District Council may determine.

Furthermore, the Council reserves the right of access by it's Internal Auditor the Local Government Auditor to accounts/records of the Project Promoter.

#### **1.15 PUBLICITY CONTROLS**

The Project Promoter shall publicise the financial assistance by the inclusion of a printed acknowledgment in all publicity material to include newspaper advertisements, stationery and promotional aids. Newry Mourne and Down District Council shall be entitled to publish details of the assistance referred to in this letter at such times and in such manner as they may decide.

The Council would expect that it's contributions would receive formal recognition, by way of an invitation to the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of Council and the elected representatives for the area at any event/official opening and mention in publicity pertaining to the event/facility.

#### **1.16 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION**

Newry Mourne and Down District Council is subject to the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Any information, which comes into the possession of Newry Mourne and Down District Council, will be subject to disclosure under the provisions of that Act, unless an exemption applies. Only Newry Mourne and Down District Council can make the decision regarding whether information is disclosable or not. In arriving at the decision, Newry Mourne and Down District Council will take account of the nature of the information, exemptions provided for in the Act, and the public interest. If the information is disclosable Newry Mourne and Down District Council has no discretion to prevent its disclosure.

## **PART 2 – SERVICE OBJECTIVES & SPECIFICATION**

### **2.1 AIMS OF THE SERVICE**

To encourage the travelling public to spend time and money in the area by providing an appropriate range of services and assistance.

### **2.2 SERVICE**

Kilkeel Development Association will provide a Tourism Information Centre which will include:

Accommodation bookings.

Providing a local accommodation booking service.

Sales of Maps, Guides, Souvenirs

Provision of a range of retail sale items.

### **2.3 LOCATION AND DETAIL OF SERVICE**

Kilkeel Development Association shall provide a tourism information service at the Nautilus Centre, Rooney Road, Kilkeel, during the following hours:

Halloween - Easter

Monday - Friday 9am - 1pm 1.30pm - 5pm

Easter to Halloween

9am - 1pm 1.30pm - 5pm

### **2.4 NETWORK TIC**

The Tourism Information Centre in Kilkeel must remain part of the Network operated by Tourism NI

### **2.5 BRANDING**

The VIC Branding in Kilkeel should include the Council's logo.

### **2.6 CO-OPERATIVE MARKETING CAMPAIGN**

Kilkeel Development Association will encourage businesses to engage in a co-operative marketing campaign for Coastal Flavours

### **PART 3 – FINANCIAL & RESOURCING ARRANGEMENT**

- 3.1** The Council has agreed the Grant will be paid to Kilkeel Development Association for VIC Running Costs for year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 shall be **£20,000**.

Payment will be released only upon the following condition:

- Submission of original invoices only. Copies are NOT acceptable.
  - Newry Mourne and Down District Council will stamp each invoice confirming % of contribution made by Council.
  - Newry, Mourne and District Council will pay the agreed % only against each original invoice whenever all conditions have been met.
  - "Own Labour" and hire of "Own Facilities" are NOT eligible.
  - Receipt of full income and expenditure breakdown required. Newry Mourne and Down District Council will pay against NET costs only.
- 3.2** Kilkeel Development Association must provide evidence of all additional match funding

#### **PART 4 – MONITORING ARRANGEMENT**

- 4.1** Any premises, records, financial or otherwise, or equipment used for the project shall be open to inspection by Officers representing Newry Mourne and Down District Council for the purposes of monitoring and evaluating the financial assistance or any part payment thereof or the achievement of objectives or progress towards such objectives.
- 4.2** Kilkeel Development Association will provide details on a monthly basis to Newry VIC re visitor figures that should provide a breakdown of visitor origin and type of enquiry (i.e. personal, written, email).
- 4.3** The Council reserves the right to examine and audit any/all of the records as and when required.

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
On behalf of Newry Mourne and Down District Council

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
On behalf of Kilkeel Development Association

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Report to:</b>         | Economic Regeneration and Tourism Committee  |
| <b>Subject:</b>           | Expression of Interest with Forest Service to seek an Economic Operator to utilise the Clanbrassil Barn and Tea Rooms at Tollymore |
| <b>Date:</b>              | Monday 10 April 2017   |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Marie Ward   |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Michelle Boyle   |

### Decisions Required

To consider the contents of the paper and approve the recommendations at 3.0

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| <b>1.0</b> | <p><b>Purpose and Background</b></p> <p>To liaise with Forest Service to seek Expressions of Interest for an Economic Operator to utilise the Clanbrassil Barn and Tea Rooms at Tollymore Forest Park</p>  |
| <b>2.0</b> | <p><b>Key Issues</b></p> <p>Tollymore Forest Park is currently owned and managed by DAERA (Forest Service).</p> <p>Tollymore Forest Park provides a wide range of activities including walking, running, mountain biking, camping and caravanning and water-based activities along the Shimna River. In addition to the wide range of trails, signage, service facilities the Park provides a number of significant buildings which includes the Clanbrassil Barn and The Tea House</p> <p>Clanbrassil Barn is a listed building and located at the Bryansford Gate entrance. In recent times the Barns first floor was used as an exhibition space but has been closed for over 10 years. The main building was renovated in 2014. The bottom floor was also upgraded in 2014 and provides toilets and a small education room. A lift was installed to first floor</p> <p>The tea rooms are also listed buildings. The buildings are located in the visitor hub area between the main and overflow carpark. It is a 2 storey building which had a café on the upper level and toilets, a shop and storage (none of which are open to the public) on the lower levels. It is connected to the overflow carpark via an elevated walkway. The tea rooms has not been opened since 2002. The external fabric of the building underwent major repair works in 2014 including refurbishment of foot bridge.</p> <p>A key priority of the Councils Corporate Plan 2015 – 19 is "To become one of the premier tourism destination on the Island of Ireland" and the Council newly developed Tourism Strategy 2017 – 2021 sets out how this priority can be achieved with our Forest Parks central to this goal. With opportunities to maximise the use of the forestry estates within the District for visitors and</p> |

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|            | <p>residents, Council are currently taking over recreational management of a number of Forestry Estates within the District through a partnership with Forestry Service (DAERA)</p> <p>To maximise use of the Estate, Council in Partnership with Forest Service would propose to seek Expression of Interest from interest parties to provide service from both Clanbrassil Barn and Tea Rooms, which would complement the overall offering at Tollymore Forest Park</p> |
| <b>3.0</b> | <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>That Council in partnership with DAERA (Forest Service) seek Expressions of Interest from interested parties for service provision in Clanbrassil Barn and Tea Rooms at Tollymore Forest Park</p>  |
| <b>4.0</b> | <p>Resource Implications</p> <p>The financial requirements at this stage will be an advertisement in the press</p>  |
| <b>5.0</b> | <p>Equality Assessment</p> <p>All necessary consideration will be taken account of as part of the SLA</p>   |
| <b>6.0</b> | <p>Appendices</p> <p>N/A</p>  |



|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Report to:</b>                                   | Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee               |
| <b>Subject:</b>                                     | Letting of Wardens House at Kilbroney Park, Rostrevor       |
| <b>Date:</b>  | Monday 10th April 2017                                      |
| <b>Reporting Officer<br/>(Including Job Title):</b> | Marie Ward<br>Director Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism |
| <b>Contact Officer<br/>(Including Job Title):</b>   | Briege Magill<br>Michelle Boyle                             |

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| <b>Decisions required:</b>  |  |
| Members are asked to note the contents of the report, and agree to a proposed 1 year lease of the Wardens House at Kilbroney Park, Rostrevor to proposed tenant at a rent of £200 per month. Rental valuation has been obtained from Land and Property Services. Electricity, heating, insurance, rates etc., not included in rental but will be paid separately by Lessee. The 1 year lease will be advertised |  |
| <b>1.0</b>  | <b>Purpose and Background:</b>   |
| 1.1   | Building has been vacant since March 2015.   |
| <b>2.0</b>  | <b>Key issues:</b>   |
| 2.1   | Require approval to lease building.  |
| <b>3.0</b>  | <b>Recommendations:</b>  |
| 3.1   | As per decisions required  |
| <b>4.0</b>  | <b>Resource implications</b>   |
| 4.1   | Rental income for Council  |
| <b>5.0</b>  | <b>Equality and good relations implications:</b>   |
| 5.1   | At this stage it is considered there are no equality or good relations issues to consider. |
| <b>6.0</b>  | <b>Appendices</b>  |
|   | N/A  |

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| <b>Report to:</b>         | Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee                                |
| <b>Subject:</b>           | Newry Agricultural Show Development  |
| <b>Date:</b>              | Monday 10 April 2017   |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Marie Ward, Director Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism                    |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration |

### Decisions Required:-

To consider recommendation at 3.0 below

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| <b>1.0</b> | <b>Purpose and Background:</b><br>Newry Agricultural Show is an event held each year that highlights the local agricultural industry and range of support services within the sector. It attracts significant numbers of visitors to the area and is an opportunity to highlight the breadth of the agriculture sector and its importance to the local economy.   |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Key Issues:</b><br>As we head into the Brexit negotiations phase we are aware from our primary research that Brexit will pose a significant challenge to the entire agriculture sector and the agri food sector particularly. As a result of this, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council sees this as an opportunity to engage with the sector at the show and begin to develop linkages with farm groups and agri food producers to develop a platform to assist businesses to adapt to the challenges and opportunities posed by Brexit and wider change within the sector. There is also the opportunity to engage and develop opportunities to promote and develop local produce and create linkages with local restaurants etc via Council's work on Year of Food, Shop Local and Culinary Food Trails. |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Recommendations:</b><br>Newry, Mourne and Down District Council work with Newry Show Committee to develop a range of interventions and programme to support the sector both agri food and agriculture.   |
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Resource Implications:</b><br>It is anticipated costs approximately in the region of £10,000 will be incurred via the event and development of future initiatives which is included in the Economic Development Budget for 2017/18.  |
| <b>5.0</b> | <b>Equality and Good Relations Implications:</b><br>Initiative complies with all relevant Equality and Good Relations requirements.   |
| <b>6.0</b> | <b>Appendices:</b><br>N/A   |

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|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Agenda Item:</b>       |  |
| <b>Report to:</b>         | Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee                              |
| <b>Subject:</b>           | Policies for Newry and Mourne Museum Accreditation Application (June 2017) |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2017  |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Marie Ward, Director Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism                  |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Noreen Cunningham, Museum Curator  |

### Decisions Required

Approval of the following to meet the requirements of Museum Accreditation

1. Collections Development Policy
2. Documentation Policy
3. Access Policy Statement
4. Environmental Sustainability Policy Statement
5. Collections Care and Conservation Policy Statement

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|------------|--|
| <b>1.0</b> | <b>Purpose and Background</b>  |
| <b>1.1</b> | Newry and Mourne Museum needs the above policies approved in order to reapply for Museum Accreditation in June 2017. Newry, Mourne and Down District Council requires its museums to be sustainable, focused and trusted institutions delivering satisfaction to their visitors and users. The Accreditation Scheme sets out nationally-agreed standards which encourage the development and inspire the confidence of the public, and funding and governing bodies. It enables museums to assess their current performance as well as supporting them to plan and develop their service.  |
| <b>1.2</b> | Museum Accreditation is a quality standard scheme that helps guide museums to be the best they can be for current and future users. The Scheme is regarded as one of the most innovative and effective developments in the museum sector and has led the way in raising museum standards. There are currently more than 1,700 museums participating in the Scheme throughout the UK. The Scheme is managed locally by the Northern Ireland Museums Council.  |
| <b>1.3</b> | The vision for Accreditation is to build trust in UK museums by maintaining a shared understanding of professional standards and encouraging their sustainable development through effective planning, responsible collection management and active engagement with communities and users. The achievement of a national standard gives confidence to all stakeholders.  |
| <b>1.4</b> | Only Accredited Museums are eligible to apply for grant aid from the Northern Ireland Museums Council. During the period 2010 – 2016 Newry and Mourne Museum received £35,000 in funding for various projects ranging from conservation of artefacts, purchase of artworks to educational initiatives with Primary Schools. The Museum has also benefited from major projects that the Northern Ireland Museums Councils secured funding for, including the Collections Skills Initiative which saw two interns have annual placements in Newry and Mourne Museum, and more recently the visitor profiling survey undertaken by Audiences NI. This illustrates that there are financial, as well as developmental benefits to this confidence-building Scheme. |

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| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Key Issues</b>   |
| <b>2.1</b> | <p>Newry and Mourne Museum requires the approval of Council for a number of policies in order to meet the Accreditation Standard when it reappplies in June 2017.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Collections Development Policy outlines the scope and ethical framework for the collection and disposal of artefacts.</li> <li>2. The Documentation Policy Statement outlines the professional standards of documentation in use by the Museum,</li> <li>3. The Collections Care and Conservation Policy Statement outlines the Museum's standards in relation to the care and conservation of collections</li> <li>4. The Access Policy Statement outlines the Museum's strategies in maximizing access to the Museum and its collections.</li> <li>5. The Museum's Environmental Sustainability Policy Statement outlines the Museum's standards in relation to the protection of the environment</li> </ol> <p>Every museum is invited to apply for Accreditation as a separate entity owing to the unique nature and size of each individual museum's collection, their access, conservation and documentation needs, the specific databases, buildings and facilities available, the local/non-local users and audiences, and the museum's capacity to meet local needs. Therefore the above policies reflect the specific conditions in which Newry and Mourne Museum operates.</p> |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>  |
|            | <p>It is recommended that the Committee and Council approve these policies so that they may be supplied, with a signed copy of the Council Minutes of 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017 to the Northern Ireland Museums Council as a central part of the Museum's Accreditation application in June 2017.</p>   |
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Resource Implications</b>  |
|            | <p>There are no resource implications apart from requirement to maintain the existing quota of museum staff to deliver on the work that is required of the Museum by Accreditation.</p>   |
| <b>5.0</b> | <b>Equality and Good Relations implications</b>   |
|            | <p>The Museum is a neutral venue for cross-community programmes and activities, and through its exhibitions and events actively maintains and promotes good relations. It is also used as by outside bodies as a venue for peace-building and good relations initiatives. The policies reflect the Museum's approach of providing the highest standards of professionalism and equal access to all members of the public.</p>   |
| <b>6.0</b> | <b>Appendices</b>   |
|            | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Collections Development Policy</li> <li>2. Documentation Policy</li> <li>3. Access Policy</li> <li>4. Environmental Sustainability Policy</li> <li>5. Collections Care and Conservation Policy</li> </ol>   |

Iarsmalann an Iúir agus Mhúrn

## NEWRY AND MOURNE MUSEUM

# ***COLLECTIONS DEVELOPMENT POLICY 2017 - 2020***

MARCH 2017

**Responsibility of Assistant Curator**



**Name of museum:** Newry and Mourne Museum

**Name of governing body:** Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

**Date on which this policy was approved by governing body:**

**Policy review procedure:** For review every three years

**The collections development policy will be published and reviewed from time to time, at least once every five years.**

**Date at which this policy is due for review:** March 2020

**Northern Ireland Museums Council will be notified of any changes to the collections development policy, and the implications of any such changes for the future of collections.**

**1. Relationship to other relevant policies/plans of the organisation:**

**1.1. The museum's statement of purpose is:**

As a Newry, Mourne and Down District Council service, Newry and Mourne Museum is committed to providing a high-quality, dynamic and inclusive learning and recreational resource. As the area's collective memory bank, the museum will collect, preserve and interpret the diverse material and cultural heritage of Newry and Mourne in order to cultivate and promote pride, understanding and enjoyment of local cultures and traditions to the present day.

**1.2. The governing body will ensure that both acquisition and disposal are carried out openly and with transparency.**

**1.3. By definition, the museum has a long-term purpose and holds collections in trust for the benefit of the public in relation to its stated objectives. The governing body therefore accepts the principle that sound curatorial reasons must be established before consideration is given to any acquisition to the collection, or the disposal of any items in the museum's collection.**

**1.4. Acquisitions outside the current stated policy will only be made in exceptional circumstances.**

**1.5. The museum recognises its responsibility, when acquiring additions to its collections, to ensure that care of collections, documentation arrangements and use of collections will meet the requirements of the Museum Accreditation Standard. This includes using SPECTRUM primary procedures for collections management. It will take into account limitations on collecting imposed by such factors as staffing, storage and care of collection arrangements.**

**1.6. The museum will undertake due diligence and make every effort not to acquire, whether by purchase, gift, bequest or exchange, any object or specimen unless the governing body or responsible officer is satisfied that the museum can acquire a valid title to the item in question.**

## 1.7. The museum will not undertake disposal motivated principally by financial reasons

### 2. History of the collections

- 2.1 The Newry and Mourne Collection has been evolving since the Museum opened in 1986. Comprising nearly 14,000 items and donated mainly by members of the public, the Collection consists of documents, photographs, fine art, ceramics, glass, textile and wooden objects.
- 2.2 The relocation of the Museum to a new building, Bagenal's Castle, in 2007 increased capacity for collecting, particularly material from the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the Troubles. Many of these items are on display in Gallery 3 which is dedicated to the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- 2.3 Significant acquisitions include three major archival collections: the Reside Collection (2003), the Hugh Irvine Collection (2009) and the Éamon Donnelly Collection (2013). Purchases include Newry glass (2008/11) and art works by the Newry-born artists Sean Hillen (2010) and Margaret Clarke (2016). A portrait of Sir Nicholas Bagenal (artist unknown) was donated to the Museum in 2016.

### 3. An overview of current collections

- 3.1 The current Museum Collection comprises over 14,000 artefacts, documents and photographs, representing many aspects of local social, cultural and political heritage. Artefacts range in date from the prehistoric period up to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Items of special interest include:
  - **Medieval sculpture** – a cross-carved grave stone dating from the 12<sup>th</sup> century and a carved stone head (15<sup>th</sup> century) from the Cistercian Abbey at Newry.
  - **Gelston Clock** – a rare longcase clock made in Newry c.1780 by John Gelston.
  - **Newry glassware** – decanters and drinking glasses made in Newry in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.
  - **Textiles** – most notably a set of Order of St. Patrick Robes owned by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Kilmorey, an Irish National Foresters uniform, a Deputy Lord Lieutenant's uniform, a gentleman's Burton suit (c.1946), Irish Dancing costumes (1970s), a complete set of robes worn by a High Court Judge who was also a Queen's Counsel, examples of local Carrickmacross lace and Victorian and 20<sup>th</sup> century needlework.
  - **Artworks** – portraits by Margaret Clarke (1884 – 1961) and photomontages by Sean Hillen (1961 - ), both Newry-born artists and a portrait of Sir Nicholas Bagenal (artist unknown).
  - **The Reside Collection** - over 8,000 items dating from 1715 to 1986 relating to the life and work of Major G.W. Reside, a local architect and his wife, Margaret, a solicitor in Newry. The archive includes records relating to the Kilmorey, Downshire and Hall estates, maps, Land Purchase Commission papers, legal papers, newspapers and architectural plans.
  - **The Hugh Irvine Collection** - a large collection of notes on index cards, miscellaneous documents and photographs relating to local history and

genealogy in the Kilkeel and Mourne area. These were compiled by Hugh Irvine a local historian and Principal of Kilkeel High School.

- **The Éamon Donnelly Collection** – c. 400 items relating to the life and career of Eamon Donnelly (1877–1944), a Nationalist and Republican politician who had a residence in Newry. The collection, dating from 1881–1972 (though primarily from the 1930s and early 1940s), includes correspondence, political material, newspaper cuttings and photographs. A particular highlight is the material relating to Michael Collins.

**3.2** Other items of significance include a 19<sup>th</sup>- century plaster bust of James McGeorge, one of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Town Commissioners of Newry, two modern plaster busts of John Mitchel and John Martin who were local Irish patriots, material relating to the Great Famine and a large number of artefacts and archival material relating to the 20<sup>th</sup>-century Newry. An important item pertaining to the recent history of Newry is the charter from Queen Elizabeth II granting City status to the town in 2002.

#### 4. Themes and priorities for future collecting

**4.1** The collecting remit of Newry and Mourne Museum aims to record, preserve, display and interpret the social, cultural and political heritage of the Newry and Mourne area. This objective is realised by the following collecting themes:

- Links with St. Patrick and Early Christian settlement in Newry and Mourne
- The Cistercian abbey at Newry and the medieval period
- The Bagenal family and their relationship with the Gaelic Order
- The impact of the Ulster Plantation in south Armagh and south Down and 17<sup>th</sup>-century Newry
- The emergence of Newry as a mercantile centre and the development of the Canal
- The business and commercial life of Newry and its environs
- Impact of World Wars I and II
- The working life and folk traditions of rural and mountain areas
- Local churches and religious groups
- Fishing, trade and migration by sea
- Social life, sport, leisure and pastimes
- Art, music and drama in the area
- Minority languages, including the Irish language and Ulster Scots, in the Newry and Mourne area
- Modern experiences of life in the Border area (Newry, south Armagh and south Down), including the Troubles

**4.2** Newry and Mourne Museum will endeavour to collect material representing the following aspects of contemporary culture, social life and political changes:

- The development of Newry – including changes in housing, industry and business, restoration projects, new monuments etc
- Festivals and celebrations - including Newry Musical Feis, Newry Drama Festival and commemorative events
- Sporting events and achievements



- Work by artists living in, or associated with the district, where the subject matter relates to the history of the local area or to specific items in the collection
- Work by craftspeople living in, or associated with the district, where the work is based on or inspired by traditional crafts and motifs
- Material relating to the impact of national political developments on the district, including local elections, political demonstrations, peace-building initiatives and cross-border relationships

**4.3** To make best use of the Museum's resources and facilities, the following collecting areas are closed:

- Bottles from local mineral water companies
- Programmes from Newry Musical Feis and Newry Drama Festival for which the Museum already possesses two copies
- Blacksmith's tools
- Models e.g. buildings, vehicles or ships with specific conservation, storage or display requirements

However, an item which falls into the above categories but is thought to have overriding historical significance may be accepted for acquisition.

**4.4** Duplicate items will also not be accepted except where historical significance is paramount.

**4.5.** A number of gaps in the Collection have also been identified and Newry and Mourne Museum will seek to acquire items of local provenance relating to the following periods and themes:

- The Early Christian and medieval periods
- 16<sup>th</sup> century and 17<sup>th</sup> century
- 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries (particularly ceramics and glassware)
- Late 19<sup>th</sup> century industry
- Railways in the area
- Local schools
- Role and achievements of women in local society
- Political developments, 1912 - 1922
- 20<sup>th</sup>-century art relating to the Newry and Mourne area

**4.6** Newry and Mourne Museum is committed to ensuring that its Collection is representative of the entire area covered by Newry, south Armagh and south Down and will, therefore, add to the Collection artefacts from the towns, villages of this area.

**4.7** The Collections Development Policy of Newry and Mourne Museum will also respect the historic hinterland of Newry. A number of towns, villages and local communities which were historically within the hinterland of Newry e.g. Rathfriland, Poyntzpass, Markethill and Omeath are outside the boundaries of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. Using curatorial discretion, Newry and Mourne Museum may collect artefacts from these areas.

**4.8** Artefacts which are deemed to have a detrimental impact on the resources and facility of the Museum will not be accepted for the Museum Collection. This will include

artefacts where ownership cannot be established, which are too large, in a very poor state of preservation, contain or are made from harmful materials or substances, which require specific conservation, storage or display conditions which are beyond the resources of the Museum or where historical significance is not sufficient enough to render it useful to the Museum's purpose.

**4.9** Donations will not be accepted where restrictions or conditions have been placed by the donor.

**4.10** As part of its Education Programme Newry and Mourne Museum maintains a handling collection and a series of Reminiscence Loan Boxes. Items of a generic nature, of local origin or an object that is already duplicated in the Museum Collection, will be added to the education and reminiscence handling collections. Objects accepted for these collections must first have the permission of the donor, understanding the inherent deterioration and eventual disposal associated with their use as an educational resource.

## **5. Themes and priorities for rationalisation and disposal**

**5.1** The museum recognises that the principles on which priorities for rationalisation and disposal are determined will be through a formal review process that identifies which collections are included and excluded from the review. The outcome of review and any subsequent rationalisation will not reduce the quality or significance of the collection and will result in a more useable, well managed collection.

**5.2** The procedures used will meet professional standards. The process will be documented, open and transparent. There will be clear communication with key stakeholders about the outcomes and the process.

**5.3** To maximise storage space and optimise use of the Collection, the Museum will de-accession generic and duplicate objects which were collected when the Museum first opened. These include bottles, ceramics and metal objects. Some of these objects are broken or in poor condition and will be de-accessioned for health and safety reasons.

## **6 Legal and ethical framework for acquisition and disposal of items**

**6.1** The museum recognises its responsibility to work within the parameters of the Museum Association Code of Ethics when considering acquisition and disposal.

## **7 Collecting policies of other museums**

**7.1** The museum will take account of the collecting policies of other museums and other organisations collecting in the same or related areas or subject fields. It will consult with these organisations where conflicts of interest may arise or to define areas of specialism, in order to avoid unnecessary duplication and waste of resources.

## 7.2 Specific reference is made to the following museum(s)/organisation(s):

National Museums Northern Ireland  
 Down County Museum  
 Armagh County Museum  
 F.E. McWilliam Gallery, Banbridge  
 Irish Linen Centre/Lisburn Museum  
 Craigavon Museums Service  
 Dundalk County Museum  
 Louth County Archive Office  
 Monaghan County Museum  
 Public Record Office of Northern Ireland

## 8 Archival holdings

- 8.1 The Museum collects archival material which is relevant to the Newry and Mourne area as outlined in the themes in section 4 of this Policy. Archival material will be acquired and made accessible to the public in accordance with statutory regulations and the Collecting Policy of the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland.

## 9 Acquisition

### 9.1 The policy for agreeing acquisitions is:

The curatorial staff of Newry and Mourne Museum, as Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's appointed museum professionals, have delegated authority and responsibility for the acceptance or rejection of potential donations or bequests to Newry and Mourne Museum and for making purchases and soliciting donations in accordance within the terms of this Policy.

- 9.2 **The museum will not acquire any object or specimen unless it is satisfied that the object or specimen has not been acquired in, or exported from, its country of origin (or any intermediate country in which it may have been legally owned) in violation of that country's laws. (For the purposes of this paragraph 'country of origin' includes the United Kingdom).**

- 9.3 **In accordance with the provisions of the UNESCO 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, which the UK ratified with effect from November 1 2002, and the Dealing in Cultural Objects (Offences) Act 2003, the museum will reject any items that have been illicitly traded. The governing body will be guided by the national guidance on the responsible acquisition of cultural property issued by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in 2005.**

## 10 Human remains

- 10.1 **The museum does not hold or intend to acquire any human remains.**

## **11 Biological and geological material**

**11.1 The museum will not acquire any biological or geological material.**

## **12 Archaeological material**

**12.1 The museum will not acquire archaeological material (including excavated ceramics) in any case where the governing body or responsible officer has any suspicion that the circumstances of their recovery involved a failure to follow the appropriate legal procedures.**

**12.2 In England, Wales and Northern Ireland the procedures include reporting finds to the landowner or occupier of the land and to the proper authorities in the case of possible treasure (i.e. the Coroner for Treasure) as set out in the Treasure Act 1996 (as amended by the Coroners & Justice Act 2009).**

## **13 Exceptions**

**13.1 Any exceptions to the above clauses will only be because the museum is:**

- o acting as an externally approved repository of last resort for material of local (UK) origin**
- o acting with the permission of authorities with the requisite jurisdiction in the country of origin**

**In these cases the museum will be open and transparent in the way it makes decisions and will act only with the express consent of an appropriate outside authority. The museum will document when these exceptions occur.**

## **14 Spoliation**

**14.1 The museum will use the statement of principles 'Spoliation of Works of Art during the Nazi, Holocaust and World War II period', issued for non-national museums in 1999 by the Museums and Galleries Commission.**

## **15 The Repatriation and Restitution of objects and human remains**

**15.1 The museum's governing body, acting on the advice of the museum's professional staff, if any, may take a decision to return human remains (unless covered by the 'Guidance for the care of human remains in museums' issued**

by DCMS in 2005) , objects or specimens to a country or people of origin. The museum will take such decisions on a case by case basis; within its legal position and taking into account all ethical implications and available guidance. This will mean that the procedures described in 16.1-5 will be followed but the remaining procedures are not appropriate.

- 15.2 The disposal of human remains from museums in England, Northern Ireland and Wales will follow the procedures in the 'Guidance for the care of human remains in museums'.

## 16 Disposal procedures

- 16.1 All disposals will be undertaken with reference to the SPECTRUM Primary Procedures on disposal.
- 16.2 The governing body will confirm that it is legally free to dispose of an item. Agreements on disposal made with donors will also be taken into account.
- 16.3 When disposal of a museum object is being considered, the museum will establish if it was acquired with the aid of an external funding organisation. In such cases, any conditions attached to the original grant will be followed. This may include repayment of the original grant and a proportion of the proceeds if the item is disposed of by sale.
- 16.4 When disposal is motivated by curatorial reasons the procedures outlined below will be followed and the method of disposal may be by gift, sale, exchange or as a last resort - destruction.
- 16.5 The decision to dispose of material from the collections will be taken by the governing body only after full consideration of the reasons for disposal. Other factors including public benefit, the implications for the museum's collections and collections held by museums and other organisations collecting the same material or in related fields will be considered. Expert advice will be obtained and the views of stakeholders such as donors, researchers, local and source communities and others served by the museum will also be sought.
- 16.6 A decision to dispose of a specimen or object, whether by gift, exchange, sale or destruction (in the case of an item too badly damaged or deteriorated to be of any use for the purposes of the collections or for reasons of health and safety), will be the responsibility of the governing body of the museum acting on the advice of professional curatorial staff, if any, and not of the curator or manager of the collection acting alone.
- 16.7 Once a decision to dispose of material in the collection has been taken, priority will be given to retaining it within the public domain. It will therefore be offered in the first instance, by gift or sale, directly to other Accredited Museums likely to be interested in its acquisition.
- 16.8 If the material is not acquired by any Accredited museum to which it was offered as a gift or for sale, then the museum community at large will be

advised of the intention to dispose of the material normally through a notice on the MA's Find an Object web listing service, an announcement in the Museums Association's Museums Journal or in other specialist publications and websites (if appropriate).

- 16.9 The announcement relating to gift or sale will indicate the number and nature of specimens or objects involved, and the basis on which the material will be transferred to another institution. Preference will be given to expressions of interest from other Accredited Museums. A period of at least two months will be allowed for an interest in acquiring the material to be expressed. At the end of this period, if no expressions of interest have been received, the museum may consider disposing of the material to other interested individuals and organisations giving priority to organisations in the public domain.
- 16.10 Any monies received by the museum governing body from the disposal of items will be applied solely and directly for the benefit of the collections. This normally means the purchase of further acquisitions. In exceptional cases, improvements relating to the care of collections in order to meet or exceed Accreditation requirements relating to the risk of damage to and deterioration of the collections may be justifiable. Any monies received in compensation for the damage, loss or destruction of items will be applied in the same way. Advice on those cases where the monies are intended to be used for the care of collections will be sought from the Northern Ireland Museums Council.
- 16.11 The proceeds of a sale will be allocated so it can be demonstrated that they are spent in a manner compatible with the requirements of the Accreditation standard. Money must be restricted to the long-term sustainability, use and development of the collection.
- 16.12 Full records will be kept of all decisions on disposals and the items involved and proper arrangements made for the preservation and/or transfer, as appropriate, of the documentation relating to the items concerned, including photographic records where practicable in accordance with SPECTRUM Procedure on deaccession and disposal.

16.13 The museum will not dispose of items by exchange.

#### *Disposal by destruction*

- 16.14 If it is not possible to dispose of an object through transfer or sale, the governing body may decide to destroy it.
- 16.15 It is acceptable to destroy material of low intrinsic significance (duplicate mass-produced articles or common specimens which lack significant provenance) where no alternative method of disposal can be found.
- 16.16 Destruction is also an acceptable method of disposal in cases where an object is in extremely poor condition, has high associated health and safety risks or is part of an approved destructive testing request identified in an organisation's research policy.

- 16.17** Where necessary, specialist advice will be sought to establish the appropriate method of destruction. Health and safety risk assessments will be carried out by trained staff where required.
- 16.18** The destruction of objects should be witnessed by an appropriate member of the museum workforce. In circumstances where this is not possible, eg the destruction of controlled substances, a police certificate should be obtained and kept in the relevant object history file.

Iarsmalann an Iúir agus Mhúrn

## NEWRY AND MOURNE MUSEUM

# ***DOCUMENTATION POLICY STATEMENT 2017 - 2020***

MARCH 2017

**Responsibility of the Assistant Curator**





## **Newry and Mourne Museum Documentation Policy Statement**

### **1. Introduction**

**1.1** Documentation is all the information a museum holds about an object in its collection including what the object is, where it came from, how it should be stored and where it is stored or displayed. Documentation underpins every aspect of museum activity. Recording collection information is central to being accountable for the collections, their accessibility, management, research, study and use.

**1.2** Our policy for documentation of the collections is to ensure that the information we hold relating to the collections is accurate, secure, reliable and accessible.

### **2. Aims and Objectives**

**2.1** The aim of this Policy is to ensure that we fulfill our guardianship, stewardship and access responsibilities. Through implementation of this policy, our objective is to:

- Improve accountability for the collections
- Maintain at least minimum professional standards in documentation procedures and collection information and attain the very highest standards wherever possible
- Extend access to collection information
- Strengthen the security of the collections

### **3. Accountability**

**3.1** Newry and Mourne Museum follows the accountability principles defined by the Museums and Galleries Commission:

*"to enable museums to fulfill their fundamental responsibilities for collections and the information associated with them. The principles are that a museum should know at any time exactly for what it is legally responsible (this includes loans as well as permanent collections), and where each item is located."* (MGC 1993)

### **4. Levels of Documentation**

**4.1** Newry and Mourne Museum is committed to record significant information about the objects in our care so that each object we are legally responsible for (including loans as well as permanent collections) can be identified and located.

**4.2** For the majority of our collections, curatorial staff document to individual item level. However, in the case of bundles of documents which are part of larger archival collections, it is neither feasible nor practical to document the material to this detail, and we document these items at group level. Bundles have an accession number and a description of contents on the MODES database. We therefore aim to have a detailed catalogue entry for all identified items and groups within the collection. We document our collections to catalogue level, as described below:

- Catalogue level: all collections/objects will have detailed documentation, thus raising the standard of information to catalogue level. Such documentation will include the known history of an artefact, and references to any relevant publications etc.

**4.3** We do not accept long term on 'permanent' loans. We only accept short term loans for up to fourteen months for temporary exhibitions. Loans documentation (entry forms, condition reports and insurance records) are kept on file and on our computer system. Loans are not catalogued on the main MODES database.

## **5. Computerisation of Records**

**5.1** The Collection at Newry and Mourne Museum is catalogued using a MODES for Windows database. About 70% of the Collection has been fully catalogued using this system and cataloguing the remaining percentage of the Collection and new donations is an essential aspect of collections care.

**5.2** Backups on CD of our databases are kept off-site in the Strong Room at the offices of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.

**5.3** In order to ensure that our current electronic system does not become obsolete, the Museum will remain informed of technological advances and ensure the long term accessibility of the information held. We are members of the MODES Association and receive regular updates on new software.

## **6. Controlled Access to Sensitive Information**

**6.1** All requests for information will be considered in terms of compliance with the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and Data Protection Act (1998) and the Environmental Information Regulation (2004). We will review requests for confidential data such as donor information, environmental information, valuations or site details on a case by case basis, and in accordance with the applicable legislation and any legal agreements or conditions of gift.

## **7. Security Against Loss of Irreplaceable Collection Information**

**7.1** We have in place measures to ensure the physical security and long-term preservation of all documentation records, whether paper or computerised. We will update all manual and computerised records as appropriate. Regular backups will be made to secure digital data. Where collection information is wholly computerised and managed centrally we will make backup copies of all key files, and where considered appropriate, house them securely off-site.

## **8. Review**

**8.1** This Documentation Policy Statement will be submitted to Newry, Mourne and Down District Council for approval and will be reviewed every three years.

**Date established:** March 2017

**Review date:** March 2020

Iarsmalann an Iúir agus Mhúrn

## NEWRY AND MOURNE MUSEUM

# ***ACCESS POLICY STATEMENT 2017 - 2020***

MARCH 2017

**Responsibility of Assistant Curator**



## **NEWRY AND MOURNE MUSEUM ACCESS POLICY STATEMENT**

### **1. Context**

**1.1** Newry and Mourne Museum is located in a restored 16<sup>th</sup> century fortified house, Bagenal's Castle, and adjoining 19<sup>th</sup> century warehouse. Opened in March 2007, with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, it provides an important tourism, cultural and heritage resource for the area.

The Museum galleries which interpret the history of the Castle and the development of the area from earliest times provide a leisure and learning service to the local community and visitor.

**1.2** The Museum plans to enhance access to collections by revamping the galleries and installing new graphics, redesign of layout in Gallery 3 and new museum cases. A new website, 'Apps' and multi-media devices are also planned in the coming years. This will allow more collection material to be displayed, particularly key artefacts that have been donated since 2007.

### **2. Strategic Planning**

**2.1** The Museum's core purpose is to safeguard its collections, to make them widely accessible for study and enjoyment and to preserve them for future generations. It is our policy to facilitate access to the Museum and its collections for all our visitors and staff, physically, intellectually and electronically and to take into account their physical, intellectual and sensory requirements.

The listing of the Reside Collection on the Museum's website and information on the building's history and restoration has facilitated access to the Museum by users, nationally and internationally. Future changes have been planned for a new website to promote access, including embedding of social media, uploading of videos, online booking service and more interactivity.

**2.2** The Museum's Forward Plan for 2016 – 2019 details aims and measures that will develop, promote and enhance access to the Museum and its collections:

- Maintain Accreditation Standard as required by the Arts Council England (ACE)
- To collect, care and interpret items relating to Newry and Mourne
- Audience Development
- To provide a learning resource for the community.
- Develop partnerships
- Develop and enhance interpretation of Bagenal's Castle

- Provision of service

### 3. Aims

**3.1** As outlined in its mission statement contained within its Forward Plan, Newry and Mourne Museum is committed to providing a high-quality and inclusive learning and recreational resource. As the area's collective memory bank, the Museum will collect, preserve and interpret the diverse material and cultural heritage of Newry and Mourne in order to cultivate and promote pride, understanding and enjoyment of local cultures and traditions to the present day.

**3.2** Engagement with the history and heritage of the area is central to the Museum's role as a community Museum for the local area. Providing intellectual and physical access to the Museum and its collections to all users and visitors is vital to this access policy. The delivery of these aims, as outlined in the Forward Plan and their accompanying strategic objectives, provides a framework for delivery of this access policy.

### 4. Physical Access

**4.1** The Museum is fully accessible by wheelchair-users with a passenger lift to all levels. All visitors receive a warm and friendly greeting from staff. The Museum has one entrance. The Museum does not have a café but staff can direct visitors to nearby restaurants and shops.

- Admission - Newry and Mourne Museum is committed to free admission for all its visitors.
- Evacuation - Staff are trained to ensure safe evacuation of all visitors in the event of an emergency. For those with hearing problems, a vibrating pager (Pagetek System) is available from the Tourist Information Clerk at Reception. This device vibrates when the fire alarm goes off. There are two Evacuation Chairs, one at the top of the main stairwell and one opposite the toilets on Level 1A. Staff are trained annually in the use of these chairs. There are a number of fire refuge points situated in the building which are signposted.
- Parking - Parking is free, and the Museum shares a carpark with Lidl supermarket.
- Toilets and mother and baby facilities - There are toilets on the first floor of the Museum. There is an Accessible Toilet and baby changing facilities on the ground floor.
- First Aid - Medical assistance is provided by Museum Assistants and Museum Officers, their names and contact details are signposted

throughout the building. An accident book, first aid kit and defibrillator is kept in the staff kitchen on the first floor

- Assistance Dogs - Assistance dogs (guide dogs and hearing dogs for the deaf) are welcome throughout the Museum.
- An Induction loop system is available in Reception and in the Banqueting Room.
- Audio-guides are available and are free of charge.
- With regard to sensory requirements, we aim to fulfill requests for handling sessions.

## **5. Intellectual and Community Access**

**5.1** The Museum holds its collections in trust for the community and is therefore committed to providing an accessible, welcoming learning and leisure environment for all ages, interests, abilities and social backgrounds.

**5.2** The Museum promotes and delivers intellectual and community access through the following actions:-

- Curriculum-linked lessons for schools.
- Seasonal events for families.
- Reminiscence sessions.
- Annual programme of history lectures and courses.
- Wide range of publications available in booklet form, and also as PDFs on the Museum website [www.bagenalscastle.com](http://www.bagenalscastle.com)
- The Museum delivers two temporary exhibitions each year on wide ranging topics of local interest, which allows artefacts never before exhibited to be conserved and displayed. These exhibitions are accompanied by booklets which often contain articles written by members of the local community.
- The Museum has a social media presence i.e. Facebook and Twitter.
- The Museum has an ongoing research programme usually resourced by external funding.
- The Museum offers placements for university students and provides volunteer opportunities and associated training.
- Free guided tours are available each Sunday at 3pm.
- Tours are available at other times, including evenings on request.
- Events are evaluated to gather feedback to assist with planning future activities.
- The Museum is committed to an ongoing process of consultation and evaluation in relation to the updating or introduction of services.

- The needs of visitors are taken into account in the preparation of publicity material and information for visitors.
- The needs of visitors are taken into account when preparing and presenting collections information and interpretation in the galleries and online.
- Information about facilities and services is available in a variety of formats at the reception desk and administrative office and can be requested in advance of a visit.

## **6. Other Access Issues**

- Advice on family history, local history and museum matters is provided by Museum staff.
- The Museum is open seven days a week.
- A Reminiscence Loan box service is available to care homes, community groups and schools. This is free of charge and there are a range of boxes to choose from.
- Outreach sessions to local schools and groups are available.
- A charity rate is available for room hire.
- A concession rate is available for guided tours.

## **7. Staff and Volunteer training**

**7.1** The Museum is part of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and adheres to its recruitment practices. Council also delivers appropriate training in access-related issues to staff. People with disabilities receive equal opportunities in recruitment, employment and training.

**7.2** As part of a staff induction process, new staff receive awareness training including addressing the needs of visitors with specific requirements, appropriate use of language and assisting those with disabilities throughout the evacuation procedure.

**7.3** Museum staff also attend Northern Ireland Museums Council training.



## **8. Implementation and Review**

**8.1** This Access Policy will be submitted to Newry, Mourne and Down District Council for approval and will be reviewed every five years, or when Council renews its ISO 14001 accreditation.

**Policy established: January 2017**

**Review date: January 2020**

Iarsmalann an Iúir agus Mhúrn

## **NEWRY AND MOURNE MUSEUM**

# ***ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY STATEMENT 2017 - 2020***

**MARCH 2017**

**Responsibility of Assistant Curator**

## **NEWRY AND MOURNE MUSEUM ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY STATEMENT**

### **1. Context**

**1.1** As a service within the former Newry and Mourne District Council, Newry and Mourne Museum operated within the scope of the Council's ISO 14001 system.

**1.2** Although accreditation within this system was not renewed by the new Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, the Museum continues to abide by the legacy of the scheme.

**1.3** Energy consumption continues to be monitored monthly for each of the 16 buildings operated by Council. This includes:

- Heating Consumption kWh
- Electricity consumption kWh
- Water (m3)

**1.4** In December 2016 Newry and Mourne Museum ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in the energy league table as the most improved site.

**1.5** The Museum holds a Silver Award in Green Tourism Business Scheme and aims to continually improve its performance in terms of environmental sustainability.

### **2. Strategic Planning**

**2.1** Newry and Mourne Museum is committed to continual improvement and prevention of pollution by reducing the environmental impacts that arise from its business activities and delivery of its services.

**2.2** The Museum will set realistic and measurable objectives and targets to ensure continual improvement in environmental performance.

### **3. Aims**

**3.1** The key aims and objectives of the Museum are to care for the heritage of Newry and Mourne through the care and collection of a diverse range of material and providing accessibility to this resource. It will also ensure the preservation of Newry's oldest known surviving building (Bagenal's Castle).

**3.2** The aim of this policy is to provide a rationale and framework to assist the Museum to continually improve its performance in terms of environmental sustainability.

**3.3** The Museum will also endeavour to maintain its Silver Award in Green Tourism Business Scheme.

## **4. Objectives**

**4.1** Newry and Mourne Museum will consider environmental sustainability in all its actions.

- Minimise the amount of waste generated internally and disposed of to landfill. Where reduction is not practical, seek to reuse or recycle waste and ensure the safe disposal of all waste. This is achieved by reusing or recycling waste materials in education and family workshops, reusing materials in temporary exhibitions and reducing paper usage.
- Extend the life of graphic panels used in temporary exhibitions by giving them to other heritage centres in the Newry area.
- Conserve items for temporary exhibitions that can be later used in the main exhibitions.
- Develop strategies to maximize storage space and improve storage practices in the Museum Store and reduce amount of conservation packing materials used without comprising conservation standards.
- Deliver a recycling element in appropriate education workshops to highlight the historical importance of recycling to children e.g. World War II workshops.
- Introduce measures to ensure best practice and the responsible use of natural resources such as water, fuel and energy where possible including monitoring of consumption of these, contributing to reduction of energy consumption by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.
- Investigate and introduce measures to minimise the release of pollutants which cause damage to land, air and water due to the Museum's activities where possible.
- Replacement of Museum lighting (on PIR sensors) by LEDs will continue.
- Reduce the environmental impact of goods purchased at the same time as encouraging suppliers and contracted services to improve their environmental performance e.g. conservators.

## **5. Legal Requirements**

**5.1** The Museum is committed to complying fully and, where possible, exceeding the requirements of applicable legislation and regulations and any other environmental requirements outlined in the Council's Legal Register of Environmental Legislation through the application of Best Practice techniques. The Museum building, Bagenal's Castle, is a Scheduled Monument under Article 3 of The Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 and compliance with this legislation will be maintained.

## **6 Communication**

**6.1** This statement shall be communicated in an effective and accessible manner so as to be understood and practised by all Museum employees. We shall raise awareness of the environmental and sustainability issues among all those working for or on behalf of the Museum through appropriate training and dissemination of information in different formats where appropriate.

**6.2** Newry and Mourne Museum will address environmental issues in an open manner and maintain close links with relevant authorities, regulatory agencies, research institutes, the local community and all relevant stakeholders to improve and protect our local and global environment.

## **7. Implementation and Review**

**7.1** This Environmental Sustainability Policy Statement will be submitted to Newry, Mourne and Down District Council for approval and will be reviewed every five years, or when Council renews its ISO 14001 accreditation.

**Policy Established: January 2017**

**Review Date: January 2020**

Iarsmalann an Iúir agus Mhúrn

**NEWRY AND MOURNE MUSEUM**

***COLLECTIONS CARE  
AND CONSERVATION  
POLICY STATEMENT  
2017 - 2020***

**MARCH 2017**

**Responsibility of the Assistant Curator**



## **NEWRY AND MOURNE MUSEUM CONSERVATION AND CARE POLICY STATEMENT**

### **1. Mission and commitment**

**1.1** The collections held by Newry and Mourne Museum are at the core of the museum service and the unique role it plays in the community. These collections are essential to the Mission Statement of the Museum as set out in its Forward Plan for 2016 – 2019:

*“As a Newry, Mourne and Down District Council service, Newry and Mourne Museum is committed to providing a high-quality, dynamic and inclusive learning and recreational resource. As the area’s collective memory bank, the museum will collect, preserve and interpret the diverse material and cultural heritage of Newry and Mourne in order to cultivate and promote pride, understanding and enjoyment of local cultures and traditions to the present day.”*

**1.2** The Forward Plan also states that Newry and Mourne Museum is committed to ensuring that its Collections *‘are preserved to the highest standard through effective collection management procedures, and are held in trust for the future on behalf of the local community.’*

**1.3** The Policy has been prepared in accordance with the **Northern Ireland Museums Policy Strategic Priority 3 – Collections Development, Care, Management and Use** as realised in Newry and Mourne Museum’s Forward Plan **AIM 1 Maintain Accreditation Standard as required by the Arts Council England (ACE) Strategic Objective: To ensure that existing operating systems meet the necessary requirements for Accreditation.**

This Policy also takes into account the Museum’s Environmental Policy Statement and Environmental Management Programme.

### **2. Collections conditions overview**

**2.1** A full collections condition overview of the Museum Collection, including artefacts on loan, was undertaken in 2013. This has been revised to include additions to the Collection up to march 2017. This overview sets out Newry and Mourne Museum’s approach to the care and conservation of the collections in its care and describes the improvements which will be made over time to improve collections care and conservation at the Museum and how these will be prioritised. Within this plan Care and Conservation Records are compiled to record conservation requirements for individual artefacts and collections.

The former Museums Libraries Association's *Benchmarks for Collections Care* is used as the basis for assessing care of the collection and undertaking surveys.

### **3. Preventive conservation**

The International Council of Museums defines preventive conservation as "all measures and actions aimed at avoiding and minimizing future deterioration or loss." These measures are indirect and do not impact on the materials, structure or appearance of an object.

The following measures implement preventive conservation at Newry and Mourne Museum:

#### **3.1 Provision and maintenance of suitable building conditions**

The Museum Curator is the Building Manager and is responsible for management of the museum building. Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, as owners of the building, are responsible for inspecting the buildings and undertaking repairs.

Collections are safeguarded through the following systems:

- Building management is undertaken through the Grace Building Management System. This includes building and facility security, internal and external environments and housekeeping, temperature of domestic heating system, fire prevention and evacuation, equipment, intruder alarms and legionella.
- Building maintenance – monthly inspections of the building (exterior and interior) are carried out by the Museum Assistants and faults and issues are recorded and reported by the Building Manager using the Oakleaf Building Management System.
- Mechanical and Electrical (M&E) Maintenance

All relevant M&E systems are covered by service contracts and inspected periodically.

When capital developments are planned the care of the collections will be taken into account and Museum Curatorial Staff will be involved in the planning process.

Care and security of collections is also taken into account with regard to room hire to the public in the Museum.

#### **3.2 Environmental monitoring**

Newry and Mourne Museum monitors storage and display areas using the Hanwell Radiolog System supplemented by hand held meters as required. This system monitors relative humidity (RH), temperature, visible light, ultra violet radiation (UV).



The Museum has a pest management programme in which insect traps are monitored on a monthly basis.

The Museum also collates, utilises and acts upon data to provide stable and appropriate collection environments.

### 3.3 Environmental control

Newry and Mourne Museum stores and displays collections in a managed environment that minimises their rate of deterioration, using the following control factors and methods:

#### 3.3.1. Control factors:

- **Relative humidity (RH):** for general mixed media collections, 50 - 55% RH with no more than a 5% deviation over a 24 hour period
- **Temperature:** 12 – 17 degrees centigrade in storage areas and 18 – 21 degrees centigrade in exhibition galleries. There should be no more than a 1 degree deviation over a 24 hour period.
- **Visible light:** sensitive artefacts will displayed at 50 – 70 lux and more robust objects at 200 – 250 lux. Exposure times will be calculated based on estimates how long an artefact is exp[osed to light per day/week/month. Recommended exposure times for sensitive material is 100 – 120 kilolux hours per year and 580,000 kilolux hours for less sensitive artefacts.
- **UV radiation:** less than 75 mw/lm (micro watts per lumen)
- **Display case construction:** where appropriate objects are displayed in exhibition cases constructed using inert and conservation grade materials including ZF MDF, fire retardant chipboard compliant with Class E1 requirements of BS EN 13986, conservation grade linings and paints. Prosorb cassettes are used to maintain a stable RH and cases to do not contain lighting. All exhibition cases are constructed to security standards set out by the former MLA.
- **Storage:** collections in storage are housed in inert boxes on shelves. Shelves are covered with acid-free tissue paper. Arefacts stored in boxes are wrapped in acid-free tissue paper if appropriate and photographs and documents are placed in millenex envelopes. Large items are protected from dust with acid-free tissue paper and large documents are stored in map chests. Methods of storage will be in line with the Museum's Environmental Policy Statement and Environmental Management Programme.

#### 3.3.2. Control methods to be used:

- **Relative Humidity (RH):** ProSORB cassettes, humidifiers or dehumidifiers are used if required
- **Temperature:** conservation heating system
- **Visible light:** blinds
- **UV Radiation:** filtering films, daylight exclusion

Environmental control is managed in accordance with the Museum's Environmental Policy to reduce use of natural resources in the Museum's activities without compromising conservations standards.

### **3.4 Housekeeping**

#### **3.4.1 Cleaning**

Housekeeping and cleaning programmes are followed in line with benchmarking standards. Staff and volunteers are trained to clean storage and display areas using methods and materials which are not detrimental to the collections. Vulnerable artefacts and areas have specific cleaning arrangements.

#### **3.4.2 Quarantine procedures**

New acquisitions and incoming materials are fully assessed and inspected prior to acquisition. If it is thought that an object may contain pests it is held in quarantine in a plastic box with an insect trap for one month. Items to be frozen are transferred to a conservator for this treatment. Items are acquired under the terms of the Museum's Collection Development Policy and artefacts which are deemed to have a detrimental impact on the resources and facility of the Museum will not be accepted. This includes objects which might be infested with pests.

#### **3.4.3 High risk organic material**

Collections that are particularly vulnerable to insect infestation, e.g. feathers and fur, will be segregated to prevent the rapid spread of an infestation in the event of an outbreak. They will be stored in clearly marked boxes that are easily identifiable for regular visual inspections.

#### **3.4.4 Pest monitoring**

Pest monitoring traps are strategically located throughout the Museum building with special attention given to storage areas and galleries. These are inspected on a monthly basis and the results recorded. Should pests be repeatedly detected in an area, steps will be taken to eradicate the source or problem.

#### **3.4.5. Exhibitions**

Objects for exhibitions are chosen by the Curator and Assistant Curator based on relevance to the exhibitions themes and state of preservation of the object. The Assistant Curator will liaise with conservators regarding conservation of the object, methods of display and special requirements.

In line with the Museum's Environmental Policy Statement and Environmental Management Programme, display materials will re-used as far as is feasible in temporary exhibitions.

All loans for exhibitions are checked for pests and condition reports are prepared. Loans procedures are followed as set out in SPECTRUM and the Museum's Documentation Procedural Manual.

### **3.5 Handling, moving and transport**

**3.5.1.** Handling, moving and transport of items artefacts is undertaken by the Assistant Curator with assistance of the Museum Assistants. All staff are trained in artefact handling techniques and handling and movement of objects are done with appropriate risk assessments.

**3.5.2.** Staff in charge of the Reading Room are trained in document handling and can advise researchers using the Reading Room. Fragile items are withheld from public use and copies for public use have been made where possible.

**3.5.3.** Movement of large items will be planned in advance with risk assessments and methods statements prepared. They will be packed and protected with conservation packing materials.

**3.5.4** Items which are being moved to the conservator's studio or another museum will be packed using conservation packing materials and taken by either the Curator or Assistant Curator. Items which are to be transported farther afield will be taken by a courier.

**3.5.5.** Items will be moved in accordance with Movement Control procedures set out in SPECTRUM.

### **3.6 Disaster planning**

Newry and Mourne Museum's Emergency Plan is will be regularly reviewed and updated where necessary.

## **4. Interventive conservation**

**4.1** Interventive conservation is the active treatment of an object to stabilise its condition, or to enhance its condition, or some aspect of its significance for study and interpretation. All interventive conservation carried out by Newry and Mourne Museum will be in accordance to the Museum Association's Code of Ethics and the following principles:

**4.2** Only appropriately qualified and experienced conservators will be employed to carry out conservation work. Museum Assistants and volunteers will only undertake basic cleaning of ceramic, glass, metal and wooden objects at the discretion of, and under the supervision of, the Assistant Curator.

**4.3** Conservation work should be underpinned by knowledge and understanding of the object. Critical to this is documentation of its condition and treatment, and a long term plan for the care of the object.

**4.4** Conservation work should be planned and carried out in consultation with curatorial staff and undertaken by an appropriately qualified person, or under the supervision of an appropriately qualified person.

**4.5** Work undertaken by conservators for Newry and Mourne Museum will conform to the standards set down in the code of ethics of the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (UKIC) and will be in line with the Health and Safety at Work Act.

**4.6** All treatments will be photographed and documented.

## **5. Expertise, advice and services**

**5.1** Newry and Mourne Museum is committed to continuing professional development of its staff and volunteers and to the building of relevant knowledge and expertise.

**5.2** Caring for the collections is the responsibility of all staff. The Assistant Curator will provide training and to raise awareness of collections care issues and how good collections care preserves museum collections for the future.

**5.3** The Assistant Curator will provide training in collection care to two volunteers per year over a six month period in addition to training in other museum activities.

**5.4** Newry and Mourne Museum will also provide advice to the public, including organisations with historic collections, on conservation issues and care of historic objects and documents to individuals or through occasional public lectures.

## **6. Review**

**6.1** This Collections Care and Conservation Policy Statement will be submitted to Newry, Mourne and Down District Council for approval and will be reviewed every three years.

**Policy established:** March 2017

**Review date:** March 2020

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Agenda Item:</b>       | [This is the number the item will be given]                |
| <b>Report to:</b>         | Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee              |
| <b>Subject:</b>           | Familiarisation visit to Strangford                        |
| <b>Date:</b>              | Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2017                         |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Marie Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | As above.  |

### Decisions Required

To note the contents of this paper and to approve the recommendation of a familiarisation visit to Strangford and the surrounding area in June 2017.

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| <b>1.0</b> | <p><b>Purpose and Background</b></p> <p>Following the launch of the Council Tourism Strategy in March 2017 tourism stakeholders in the Strangford area would welcome the opportunity to host a showcase of the extensive tourism experiences which that part of the district has to offer.</p>   |
| <b>2.0</b> | <p><b>Key Issues</b></p> <p>Strangford and the surrounding area plays a central role within the Council's new Tourism Strategy in terms of its extensive tourism offering, and the ongoing potential of the area to welcome more international visitors to Northern Ireland.</p> <p>The area provides significant opportunities in terms of its screen tourism offering, from providers such as Winterfell Tours; in its Cultural Heritage and outdoor activity offering, with the National Trust's estate at Castle Ward House and Demesne; and in its award winning food and drink offering from long established local tourism and hospitality businesses, such as the Cuan in Strangford.</p> <p>Several key tourism stakeholders in the Strangford have engaged closely with the council recently in ongoing industry development initiatives and activities. These stakeholders would welcome the opportunity to host a showcase of the extensive tourism experiences which this part of the district has to offer, and have extended an invite to the members of the committee to take part in a familiarisation visit of the area.</p> |
| <b>3.0</b> | <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>It is recommended that the ERT Committee members attend a familiarisation visit to Strangford and the surrounding area in June 2017 following the committee's AGM, at which key stakeholders will present a showcase of the extensive tourism offering in the area.</p>   |
| <b>4.0</b> | <p><b>Resource Implications</b></p> <p>N/a</p>   |

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| <b>5.0</b> | <b>Equality and Good Relations implications</b><br>N/a |
| <b>6.0</b> | <b>Appendices</b><br>N/a                               |



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| <b>Report to:</b>         | Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee             |
| <b>Subject:</b>           | Tourism Events Support 2017/18                            |
| <b>Date:</b>              | Monday 10 April 2017                                      |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Marie Ward, Director Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Mark Mohan Senior Tourism Initiatives Manager             |

### Decisions Required

To approve the recommendations at Section 3

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| <b>1.0</b> | <p><b>Purpose and Background</b></p> <p>Events play a key role in the Tourism Development and Destination promotion for Newry Mourne and Down District Council. They attract circa 300,000 visitors to the District, generating in excess of £10m for the local economy annually, and deliver significant social and cultural benefits to the district. Events will assist greatly in showcasing the destination and in developing the visitor experience across the District.</p>   |
| <b>2.0</b> | <p><b>Key Issues</b></p> <p>As part of the 2016/17 schedule of tourism events, council supported new and developmental aspects of the music festivals/events listed below, with a view to enhancing them as out of state visitor attractors. An investment of £10,000 was made in each of these festivals/events. They were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 18<sup>th</sup> International Blues on the Bay Festival, Warrenpoint 25-30 May 2016</li> <li>- SOMA Festival, Castlewellan 15-24 July 2016</li> <li>- 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fiddlers Green Festival, Rostrevor 22-31 July 2016</li> <li>- Iúr Cinn Fleadh, Newry 8th-11th September 2016</li> </ul> <p>The above events made a collectively impact of circa £2m on the local economy.</p> <p>It is proposed to support the further development of the above listed non-council led music festivals/events in 2017/18 along with 1 additional music festival:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Newry Chamber Music Mid-summer Festival / programme June 2017,</li> </ul> <p>In addition to the above musical festivals/programmes it is also proposed to contribute £5,000 each to the GI Jive Festival, Kilkeel and Newry City Pride festival, Newry as key additional non-council led tourism events within the District.</p> <p>It is clearly recognised that festivals/events are an important delivery mechanism in the Council's Corporate Plan and will be at the fore in delivering '<i>epic moments &amp; visitor experiences</i>' for the District in line with our recently launched Tourism Strategy 2017-21. They will also generate significant positive media coverage for the District.</p> |
| <b>3.0</b> | <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>Council approve a financial contribution of £10,000 each to the following non-council</p>   |



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|            | <p>led music festivals/events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 19<sup>th</sup> International Blues on the Bay Festival, Warrenpoint 24-29 May 2017</li> <li>- SOMA Festival, Castlewellan 14-23 July 2017</li> <li>- Fiddlers Green Festival, Rostrevor 21-30 July 2017</li> <li>- Iúr Cinn Fleadh, Newry 7-10 September 2017</li> <li>- Newry Chamber Music Mid-summer Festival / programme June 2017</li> </ul> <p>And a financial contribution of £5,000 each to the following non-council led key tourism events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- GI Jive Festival, Kilkeel 29 July-4 August 2017</li> <li>- Newry City Pride festival, Newry 2 September 2017</li> </ul> |
| <b>4.0</b> | <p><b>Resource Implications</b></p> <p>Financial resource has been allocated to support these events within the ERT department budget for 2017/18</p>   |
| <b>5.0</b> | <p><b>Equality and Good Relations implications</b></p> <p>Events portray a very positive message in terms of our equality and good relations. They are geographically spread across the District in terms of their locations, assist greatly in bringing people together from across the district and all our communities within, and showcase the District as a positive forward thinking destination and a good place to visit.</p>   |
| <b>6.0</b> | <p><b>Appendices N/A</b></p>  |

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| <b>Report to:</b>         | Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee                                    |
| <b>Subject:</b>           | Extension of appointment for Festival of Flight Flying Display Director for 2017 |
| <b>Date:</b>              | Monday 10 April 2017   |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Marie Ward, Director Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism                        |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Mark Mohan, Senior Tourism Initiatives Manager                                   |

### Decisions Required

- Approval is sought to extent the appointment Rick Peacock-Edwards as Festival of Flight Flying Display Director 2017 in line with the ERT committee decision taken on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

#### 1.0 Purpose and Background

On the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016 the ERT committee approved the appointment of Rick Peacock-Edwards as Festival of Flight Flying Display Director 2016 with a provision to extent that appointment for a further 2 years subject to a successful post event review each year, and confirmation of his annual cost being considered.

#### Key Issue

Following a recent air display debrief of the 2016 Festival of Flight event with Rick Peacock-Edwards, Flying Display Director, and consideration of all management related aspects of the event, it is recommended that council extend the appointment of Rick Peacock-Edwards, Flying Display Director for the 2017 event.

The debrief concluded that the air display of 2016 was very successful, in spite of very demanding flying conditions. A varied programme was provided involving both modern and historic aircraft, solo aerobatics, a Search and Rescue Demonstration and formation aerobatic teams. A specific command and control unit managed proceedings, equipped with all the necessary communications. The event attracted circa 100,000 people and had a circa £2.8m impact on the local economy.

Planning for the 2017 event has already commenced and a comprehensive list of air display items has already been drafted up awaiting confirmation. It is again hoped that the Irish Air Corps will open the display, the Red Arrows and Battle of Britain Memorial Flight are confirmed participants as are a number of other helicopter, solo and formation aerobatic displays, and the appearance of several historic aircraft. A Chinook helicopter display is planned as is a very popular autogyro display. It is also hoped to include a Boeing 737 flypast and a Search and Rescue Demonstration. Of local interest, a number of Newcastle born pilots are likely to appear in the programme. It is hoped that Command and Control of the air display will again be provided by the same team as in 2016.

#### 3.0 Recommendations

- Approval is sought to extent the appointment Rick Peacock-Edwards as Festival of Flight Flying Display Director 2017 in line with the ERT committee decision taken on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

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| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Resource Implications</b><br><br>Funds to extent the appointment of Rick Peacock-Edwards as Festival of Flight Flying Display Director 2017 have been allocated in the current 2017/2018 events budget for Festival of Flight.   |
| <b>5.0</b> | <b>Equality and Good Relations implications</b><br><br>Events portray a very positive message in terms of our equality and good relations. They assist greatly in bringing people together from across the district and all our communities within, and showcase the District as a positive forward thinking destination and a good place to visit. |
| <b>6.0</b> | <b>Appendices</b><br><br>N/A  |

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| <b>Report to:</b>         | Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee                             |
| <b>Subject:</b>           | Conference on developing and managing recreation in protected landscapes. |
| <b>Date:</b>              | Monday 10 April 2017  |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Marie Ward, Director Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism                 |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Mark Mohan, Senior Tourism Initiatives Manager                            |

### Decisions Required

- Approval is sought to co-host a conference on developing and managing recreation in protected landscapes in the Ti Chulainn Cultural Centre, Mullaghbawn in September 2017.

#### 1.0 Purpose and Background

This is a follow up to a conference that the Irish Uplands Forum had run last year on Upland Communities. The conference is seen as a mechanism to get key staff from all the protected areas in NI, reps from National Governing Bodies of outdoor sports and also delegates from ROI to explore some of the issues relevant to developing and managing recreation in protected landscapes.

#### Key Issue

There is value in hosting this conference in the Ring of Gullion, an area where there is a new Outdoor Recreation Forum that is trying to get things done. The agenda and site visits associated with the conference can be set to facilitate specifics in the Ring of Gullion area and in addition can address cross border aspects, given the geography of the land and the proximity to Cooley.

A number of other key agencies will be involved. These include SportNI, TourismNI, Loughs Agency and the NIEA. It is anticipated that a contribution of £2,500 from each of the aforementioned agencies is sufficient to deliver the conference.

#### 3.0 Recommendations

- To make available a contribution of £2,500 to co-host a conference on developing and managing recreation in protected landscapes in the Ti Chulainn Cultural Centre, Mullaghbawn in September 2017.

#### 4.0 Resource Implications

£2,500 to co-host the conference on developing and managing recreation in protected landscapes is available in the current 2017/2018 Tourism Development Budgets.

#### 5.0 Equality and Good Relations implications

Managing recreation in protected landscapes can make a very positive contribution to equality and good relations given the numerous environmental designations we have across the entire District.

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| <b>6.0</b> | <b>Appendices</b><br><br>N/A |
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| <b>Report to:</b>         | Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee             |
| <b>Subject:</b>           | Events Unit placement students 2017/18                    |
| <b>Date:</b>              | Monday 10 April 2017                                      |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Marie Ward, Director Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Mark Mohan Senior Tourism Initiatives Manager             |

### Decisions Required

- Approval is sought to appoint 2 placement students from the Tourism, Marketing and Events Management Degree courses at the University of Ulster, to assist in the delivery of Tourism Events.

#### 1.0 Purpose and Background

Events play a key role in the Tourism Development and Destination promotion for Newry Mourne and Down District Council. They attract circa 300,000 visitors to the District, generating in excess of £10m for the local economy annually, and deliver significant social and cultural benefits to the district. Events assist greatly in showcasing the destination and in developing the visitor experience across the district. At present the scheduled events programme for 2017/18 will deliver 16 key Flagship Tourism events/festivals, support 9 key non-council led Tourism events/festivals and assist in 10 community led events. A Total of 35 events, delivered currently by 3 Events Development Officers

#### 2.0 Key Issues

Newry Mourne and Down District Council acknowledge the importance of events to animate the destination, a community, and to attract visitors and project positive images of the destination and its capabilities, especially when events support and reinforce the product strengths of a location within the area. Events are thus an economic driver, but are also resource hungry – requiring skilled event management, effective marketing and sales, experience of income and sponsorship generation and partnership working. To that end there is a need to ensure that events are maximised as economic and tourism generators and that the necessary human resource is in place to adequately plan for the events and to deliver them on the ground.

There is an opportunity to draw some additional expertise from our academic institutions and particularly in instances where courses require yearly placements as part of attaining the qualification. This is true of the Tourism, Marketing and Events Management courses at the University of Ulster.

It is proposed that 2 student placements from the aforementioned courses are appointed for a year in line with the corporate student placement policy. These appointments will bring with them additional skills and current learning in event management and will assist greatly in the planning and delivery of the scheduled events programme for 2017/18.

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| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Recommendations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- To appoint 2 placement students from the Tourism, Marketing and Events Management Degree courses at the University of Ulster, to assist in the delivery of Tourism Events.</li></ul>  |
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Resource Implications</b> <p>Financial resource, circa £25,000, has been allocated to support the placement of 2 students within the ERT Events budget for 2017/18</p>  |
| <b>5.0</b> | <b>Equality and Good Relations implications</b> <p>Events portray a very positive message in terms of our equality and good relations. They are geographically spread across the District in terms of their locations, assist greatly in bringing people together from across the district and all our communities within, and showcase the District as a positive forward thinking destination and a good place to visit.</p> |
| <b>6.0</b> | <b>Appendices N/A</b>  |

## ACTIONS TRACKING UPDATE

### ENTERPRISE REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE

| ITEM         | SUBJECT   | DECISION   | REFERRED TO  | ACTION TAKEN |
|--------------|---|--|--|--------------|
|              |   | <b>ERT – MONDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2015</b>  |  |              |
| 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.<br><br>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  |              |
|              |   | <b>ERT – MONDAY 11 JANUARY 2016</b>  |  |              |
| 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.<br><br>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.<br><br>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. |              |
|              |   | <b>ERT – MONDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2016</b>  |  |              |



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| <b>ERT/27/2016</b>  | Overflow Car Park<br>Slieve Gullion Forest | <b>CLOSED SESSION ITEM</b><br>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            |  |
|                     |  | <b>ERT – MONDAY 14 MARCH 2016</b>   |                    |  |
| <b>ERT/36/2016</b>  | Hotel Development                          | The Council commission site option appraisal and business case/appraisal for hotel provision in Downpatrick and Newcastle.  | Work in Progress   |  |
|                     |  | <b>ERT – MONDAY 13 JUNE 2016</b>  |                    |  |
| <b>ERT/105/2016</b> | Beaches –<br>Newcastle and Warrenpoint     | The Council submit a Marine Licence Application for Warrenpoint, Newcastle and Rostrevor.   | <b>Ongoing</b>     |  |
| <b>ERT/107/2016</b> | Proposals re:<br>Killeavey Castle          | <b>Closed Session Item</b><br>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, valuations and satisfactory grant approvals.  | <b>In progress</b> |  |
|                     |  | <b>ERT – MONDAY 8 AUGUST 2016</b>   |                    |  |
| <b>ERT/120/2016</b> | Funding Derrymore House &<br>Estate        | <b>(a)</b> The Council prepares two funding applications for EU RDP Programme and Sport NI, for infrastructure investment in Derrymore House & Estate.<br><br><b>(b)</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        |  |
| <b>ERT/122/2016</b> | Masterplans                                | <b>(a)</b> Action Plans are tabled for discussion at relevant DEA Meeting to which all Councillors will be invited to attend.   | Ongoing            |  |

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|                     |                                   | <p><b>(b)</b> Revised Action Plans following DEA consultation to be tabled at Council via ERT Meeting in September/October 2016.</p> <p><b>(c)</b> Strategic Council Projects arising from the Plans be reported on via Strategic Projects Working Group.</p> <p><b>(d)</b> All other projects be reported via ERT with a note of progress against each of the projects at (c) above.</p> <p><b>(e)</b> Report to relevant DEAs every 6 months against progress on each of the Plans relevant to DEA.</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Actioned</p> <p>Actioned</p>                  |  |
|                     |                                   | <b>ERT MONDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2016</b>   |  |  |
| <b>ERT/131/2016</b> | Warrenpoint Baths                 | <p>(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 are seen at this stage as last resort options.</p> <p>(b) Tourism figures for 2015 and 2016 to be circulated to Members for information.</p>  | <p><b>(a) In progress with Planning Service</b></p> <p><b>(b) Actioned</b></p> |  |
| <b>ERT/136/2016</b> | Newry Town Hall Schedule of Works | <p>(a) To close Newry Town Hall for Main Hall bookings from 15 May – 15 September 2017.</p> <p>(b) Mood Boards be produced to inform all groups and others of progress of works.</p> <p>(c) Meeting be convened at later date with Director of ERT, user groups and Theatre consultant, to inform them of proposed works.</p>   | <b>Ongoing</b>   |  |

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|                     |   | (d) Consultation process to begin in Autumn with Arts Groups/relevant bodies for Audience Development Strategy.  |             |  |
|                     |   | <b>ERT - MONDAY 10 OCTOBER 2016</b>  |             |  |
| <b>ERT/152/2016</b> | Collaborative Agreement – Local Enterprise Agencies     | <p>(i) Newry Mourne &amp; Down District Council enter into a Collaborative Agreement with Newry &amp; 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.</p> <p>(ii) This should be agreed for a one year period and reviewed at the end before any further commitment is entered into.</p> <p>(iii) Council agreed the Collaborative Agreement details subject to final legal advice.</p> <p>(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 arrangement.</p> | In progress |  |
| <b>ERT/155/2016</b> | 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 |  |
| <b>ERT/158/2016</b> | 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  | In progress |  |

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|                     |   | from Ms T Mooney Assistant Tourism Development Officer.   |          |  |
|                     |   | <b>ERT – MONDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2016</b>  |          |  |
| <b>ERT/167/2016</b> | Public Realm Scheme<br>Newry Cathedral Corridor | <p>(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.</p> <p>(b) The Task &amp; 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.</p>  | Complete |  |
| <b>ERT/168/2016</b> | Warrenpoint Public Realm Scheme                 | <p>(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.</p> <p>(b) The Task &amp; Finish Committee set up for delivery of the Public Realm Scheme at Warrenpoint, will be renewed early in the new year in order that it can oversee the delivery of the Warrenpoint Revitalisation Programme.</p> <p>(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.</p> | Complete |  |

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|                     |                                  | (d)An apology be recorded for Councillor D McAteer for the Task & Finish Public Realm Steering Group Meeting held on 24 October 2016.  |             |  |
| <b>ERT/169/2016</b> | Derrymore Estate Partnership     | <p>(a)Council Officials to continue to progress the delivery of projects that seek to develop the recreational potential of Derrymore Estate.</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(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.</p> | In progress |  |
| <b>ERT/170/2016</b> | Business Engagement Programmes   | <p>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 &amp; Tourism.</p>   | In progress |  |
| <b>ERT/171/2016</b> | Newry River Clean Up DFC Funding | <p>Agreed that £25,000 of the funding received by 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.</p>   | In progress |  |

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|                     |   | <p>Agreed that the issue of the clean-up of rivers in the District be referred to the Thematic Working Groups.</p> <p>Agreed Ms M Ward Director of ERT to report back to Councillor G Hanna regarding a clean-up of the pond at Annalong Mill.</p>   |             |  |
| <b>ERT/172/2016</b> | Castlewellan Forest Park                  | <p>(a) To procure and pay facilitators for the purposes of consultation workshops, events and road-shows.</p> <p>(b) To plan and hold a number of consultation workshops, events and road shows.</p>   | In progress |  |
| <b>ERT/173/2016</b> | 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 |  |
| <b>ERT/174/2016</b> | 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    |  |
| <b>ERT/175/2016</b> | 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 |  |
| <b>ERT/176/2016</b> | Sean Hollywood Arts Centre Café Franchise | (a) The Council to not proceed on the basis as outlined in Point 2.0 for the reasons as outlined   | In progress |  |

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|                     |   | <p>in Point 3.0 in Report dated 14 November 2016 from Ms J Turley Facilities Administrator.</p> <p>(b) Council Officials to enter back into negotiations regarding the Café franchise at Sean Hollywood Arts Centre.</p>   |             |  |
| <b>ERT/177/2016</b> | NIRDP Rural Tourism Scheme Slieve Gullion Forest Park | <p>(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.</p> <p>(b) Invite to tender to prepare a planning application for the project, assess tenders, appoint supplier using the MEAT process.</p> <p>(c) Submit planning application for project.</p> <p>(d) Proceed to tender the proposed Augmented Reality Project.</p> <p>(e) Submit the round two application to NIRDP 2014-2020 Priority 6 Rural Tourism Scheme.</p> | In progress |  |
| <b>ERT/178/2016</b> | Caravan and Campsite Management                       | <p>(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.</p> <p>(b) To revert to Council with the completed Business Rational and Specification prior to progressing to seek Expression of Interest.</p> | In progress |  |

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| <b>ERT/179/2016</b> | Slieve Croob Walking Trails | <p>Agreed that both of the Council's Countryside Access Officers will have input into the study being 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.</p>   | In progress |  |
| <b>ERT/180/2016</b> | 2017 Events                 | <p>(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.</p> <p>(b) To approve the schedule of Signature and Major Events to be supported through the events budget 2017.</p> <p>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.</p> | In progress |  |
| <b>ERT/181/2016</b> | Delamont Railway Tearooms   | <p>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.</p>   | In progress |  |



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|                     |                             | The above decision be subject to:<br>(1) Council's Valuer reviewing the Rent to take into account additional investment and extended facilities on offer at Delamont.<br>(2) The completion of legal formalities.   |             |  |
| <b>ERT/184/2016</b> | Maintenance – Struell Wells | This issue would be reported back to the ERT Committee following completion of discussions between Historic Environment Division and Council.   | In progress |  |
| <b>ERT/185/2016</b> | 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 |  |
| <b>ERT/186/2016</b> | 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 |  |
|                     |                             | <b>ERT – MONDAY 12 DECEMBER 2016</b>  |             |  |
| <b>ERT/191/2016</b> | Coastal Communities Fund    | (a) Advance the Coastal Communities Fund application to Stage 2 of the process<br><br>(b) The Council to go to tender for the appointment of a delivery agent, if successful at Stage 2 of the process.   | Ongoing     |  |

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| <b>ERT/192/2016</b> | St Patrick's Festival Parade 2017         | <p>(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 &amp; Tourism Departmental structure and establish if the necessary assistance can be provided 'inhouse'.</p> <p>(b) A report to be tabled at the ERT Committee Meeting in January 2017.</p>   | <p>Officers considering ways to address the issue in line with how legacy DDC delivered the Parade in Downpatrick.</p> <p>Ongoing.</p> |  |
| <b>ERT/193/2016</b> | Policies Down County Museum Accreditation | <p>To approve the following policies for the Down County Museum Accreditation application:</p> <p>Collection Development Policy<br/>Documentation Policy<br/>Collections Care and Conservations Policy<br/>Access Policy<br/>Environmental Sustainability Policy</p>  | Complete   |  |
| <b>ERT/194/2016</b> | Armstrong Hut Ballykinler Camp            | <p>(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.</p> <p>(b) Progress reports regarding the project to reconstruct an Armstrong Hut from Ballykinler Camp at Down County Museum, be tabled at the Enterprise Regeneration &amp; Tourism Committee Meeting in</p> | Ongoing  |  |

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|                     |  | due<br>course.  |   |  |
| <b>ERT/195/2016</b> | 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   |  |
| <b>ERT/196/2016</b> | Tourism Strategy 2017 - 2021           | (a) To adopt the Tourism Strategy 2017-2021.<br><br>(b) To consider the Summary Action Plan for 2017/2018 and agree the review of the ERT Directorate Business Plan in early 2017.<br><br>(c) To arrange an official launch of the Tourism Strategy in early 2017.  | Actioned<br><br>This will completed and submitted in February to ERT<br><br>Launch date confirmed as 21 February.   |  |
| <b>ERT/197/2016</b> | Land at Slieve Croob – Walking Trails  | (a) No further action be taken by Council regarding The development of walking trails and acquisition of and 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.<br><br>(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 |  |
| <b>ERT/198/2016</b> | 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 nad Ring of Gullion AONB.  | Grant Acceptance form signed and posted to NIEA   |  |
| <b>ERT/199/2016</b> | NI Chamber Membership                  | The Council join NI Chamber of Commerce for an  | Work in progress  |  |

|                     |  |   |                  |                                |
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|                     |  | initial 12month period with review thereafter.  |                  |                                |
| <b>ERT/200/2016</b> | 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 |                                |
|                     |  | <b>JANUARY 2017</b>   |                  |                                |
| 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   | <p>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.</p> <p>B) The Council should allocate 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.</p> <p>C) The Council should pursue the potential for using community lifeguards and volunteers at these sites and other amenity beaches.</p> |                  |                                |

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|              |  | 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.<br>B) ERT and AHC Departments will work in partnership with CLWF Festival to facilitate this project.  | M Boyle   | Awaiting update from CLWF on plans to progress            |
| 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.<br><br>B) Mooring charges for 2017 to be approved and approved on a yearly basis thereafter, on a basis of a 5% increase per annum.<br><br>C) No pontoon provision at Newcastle Harbour during the summer. | M McKeown | Mooring allocation process to commence for a 3 year basis |
| 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             |
| 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/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.<br><br>B) To provide a new Licence Agreement to the   | M Boyle   | Ongoing   |

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|              |   | <p>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.</p> <p>C) To undertake a valuation to establish a Licence Fee reflective of the current market for the licence period 1 February 2017 – 30 September 2017.</p>  |             |  |
|              |   | <b>FEBRUARY 2017</b>   |             |  |
| ERT/023/2017 | Consultation- Reforming the Rating System | To approve the consultation response regarding Reforming the Rating System and submit same to the Department of Finance in advance of the closing date of Thursday 16 February 2017, subject to including suitable wording regarding the 3 <sup>rd</sup> paragraph in the response, Revitalising our High Streets, clarifying that the 100% rates exemption be applied within the first 3 years of conversion. | M Patterson | Actioned   |
| ERT/027/2017 | District Masterplans                      | Subject to extensive consultation, the Council adopt and implement the 4 No. Masterplans for the District with quarterly review and date provided to the ERT Committee and bi-annual reports provided to DEAs.   | J McGilly   | Ongoing. Report on progress will go to May ERT mtg   |
| ERT/028/2017 | Horse Riding – Castlewellan Park          | The Council to 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.   | H Wilson    | Preparatory work on-going in order that Council can undertake the management of the identified trails. |
| ERT/030/2017 | Balmoral Show 2017                        | Agreed Council be represented at Balmoral Show 2017 and take a stand at this event, as per market activities.  | M Boyle     | Arrangements ongoing   |
| ERT/032/2017 | Camlough Lake – Task & Finish             | <p>A) To investigate provision of temporary facilities for events for 2017.</p> <p>B) To accept 1 No. representative from the new Camlough Angling group to be represented on the</p>  | M Boyle     | Ongoing investigations   |

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|              |   | <p>Committee.</p> <p>C) The site meeting scheduled for February 2017 be changed to March 2017.</p> <p>D) A small group to review art feature on site.</p>  |                     | <p>Costing being obtained to determine if feasible</p>         |
| ERT/033/2017 | Life Guard Services                                 | To approve continuation of the Agreement with RNLI for provision of a Life Guard Service for Cranfield, Murlough and Tyrella beaches for period 2017-2021, subject to completion of legal formalities.   | S Boyle             | All changes to draft document agreed with RNLI                 |
| ERT/035/2017 | Athletics NI - European Cross Country Championships | Agreed Council Officials in the ERT Department in partnership with Council Officials in the AHC Department, liaise with Athletics NI and the relevant stakeholders, to consider the potential for a bid to be made by Athletics NI and UK Athletics to the European Athletics to host the European Cross Country Championships to be held in Kilbroney Park Rostrevor. | M Patterson/M Mohan | Initial conversations have taken place. Communications ongoing |
|              |   |  |                     |  |
|              |   | <p><b>MARCH 2017</b><br/>(To follow)</p>   |                     |  |
|              |   |  |                     |  |

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| <b>Agenda Item:</b>       | [This is the number the item will be given]                 |
| <b>Report to:</b>         | Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee               |
| <b>Subject:</b>           | Review of Joint Tourism NI - Council initiatives in 2016/17 |
| <b>Date:</b>              | Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2017                          |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Marie Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism  |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | As above.   |

### Decisions Required

To note the contents of this paper.

#### 1.0 Purpose and Background

Over the past 12 months Tourism NI and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council have worked in close partnership to promote the tourism offering in the district, and to host industry development programmes to support local tourism providers in their business growth.

This paper provides a summary of the initiatives and programmes delivered in partnership between the Council and TNI in the 16/17 Financial Year.

#### 2.0 Key Issues

##### Industry Development Initiatives

###### ***Partnership and Collaboration***

- A series of workshops was hosted in November 2016 to address priority areas for development of the local industry, including working together to create market-ready offers, joint-itineraries, & packages.
- The workshops were facilitated by Kate Taylor, who has substantial experience of working with clusters of tourism businesses on the Wild Atlantic Way.
- The workshops were attended by 82 industry stakeholders across four days. Further workshops on building tourism experiences will be held in April 2017.

###### ***Building Digital Capacity***

- A series of online video guides were developed in partnership between TNI, the Council and Southern Regional College. The video guides are designed to support local tourism businesses to develop their digital capabilities.
- The guides have been accessed over 500 times since their launch in March 2017.
- A 'Digital DNA' workshop was hosted in Newry to assess and support the development of tourism businesses' digital knowledge and capabilities.

###### ***Food and Drink Development***

- As part of the major programme of promotion and development within the 2016 Year of Food and Drink, the Council formed a Food Circle to support key stakeholders within the local hospitality, tourism, food and drink sectors.



- The work of the Food Circle, was established in September 2016 with over 50 participants, will help to maximise the legacy opportunities that the NI Year of Food and Drink offers.

#### ***WorldHost Food Ambassador Programme***

- The WorldHost Food Ambassador course is an accredited training programme tailored specifically for Northern Ireland's acclaimed food and drink industry.
- The course uses experiential learning; it equips businesses with the confidence and knowledge to promote our food and drink to our visitors, and to tell the stories behind our growing food and drink industry
- The training programme was developed by Tourism NI, People 1st and Food NI and delivered in Downpatrick in March 2017 in partnership with the Council, to a selection of local tourism and hospitality businesses. A further course will be held for businesses in Rostrevor in April 2017.

### **Group and Incentive Tourism**

#### ***ITOA***

- In January 2017 Tourism NI and the Council hosted the Incoming Tour Operators Association Ireland (ITOA) on a visit to the district for their AGM in the Slieve Donard Resort and Spa. ITOA consists of over 30 leading companies that operate incoming tours to the island of Ireland, and are responsible for handling over 467,000 holiday and business visitors to Ireland each year.
- In order to maximise the opportunity that this event represented, Tourism NI and the Council hosted a series of familiarisation visits for ITOA members to showcase some of our best local tourism experiences in the region.
- Following on from the AGM, an ongoing engagement plan is currently being developed to build stronger working partnerships between the council, the local tourism industry, and key ITOA members, with the aim of growing group travel trade opportunities in the immediate future.

#### ***Great Days Out for Groups Fair***

- Over 500 delegates attended Tourism NI's 'Great Days Out for Groups Fair' in Newcastle in February. The event was an opportunity for the NI tourism industry to showcase the best that Northern Ireland and Newry, Mourne and Down have to offer, with a range of ideas and itineraries for group day trips.
- The Fair included familiarisation trips for up to 150 delegates to some of the region's best local tourist attractions.
- 200 members of 'Active Retirement Ireland' attended the Fair to gather product information for group days out. Active Retirement Ireland (ARI) is a representative organisation for older people throughout Ireland, with a membership of over 24,500 people and over 550 local associations.

### **Media Coverage**

- Tourism NI's Marketing team has provided support in the past year by hosting Media Familiarisation trips to various tourism providers and attractions in Newry, Mourne and Down. Media coverage has been secured in editorial press coverage and TV programmes, including features on TV3s' 'Never Been North' (May 2016) and 'Northern Feast' (November 2016).
- The media coverage secured over the past year by TNI in the above activity equates to over £328,000 of weighted PR value for the region.

|            |   |
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|            | <p><b><u>Strategy Development</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In addition to the above initiatives Tourism NI has worked closely with the Council over the past 12 months on the development of the Council's new Tourism Strategy that was launched in March 2017.</li> <li>• Tourism NI and the Council has also worked closely on the ongoing development of a vision and options for a major infrastructure project in the Mourne, as part of the Mourne Gateway study.</li> </ul> |
| <b>3.0</b> | <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>To note the contents of this paper.</p>  |
| <b>4.0</b> | <p><b>Resource Implications</b></p> <p>N/a</p>  |
| <b>5.0</b> | <p><b>Equality and Good Relations implications</b></p> <p>N/a</p>   |
| <b>6.0</b> | <p><b>Appendices</b></p> <p>N/a</p>   |



|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Report to:</b>                                   | Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee |
| <b>Subject:</b>                                     | Marine Protected Area Management              |
| <b>Date of Meeting:</b>                             | Monday 10 April 2017                          |
| <b>Reporting Officer<br/>(Including Job Title):</b> | Marie Ward, Director                          |
| <b>Contact Officer<br/>(Including Job Title):</b>   | Caroline Nolan SLLP Manager                   |

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Decisions required:</b> |  |
| To note.                   |  |
| <b>1.0</b>                 | <b>Purpose and Background:</b>   |
| 1.1                        | <p>For ERT information.</p> <p>Strangford Lough is a Marine Protected Area with environmental designations under international and national conventions, directives and regulations.</p> <p>These place statutory obligations on relevant authorities to conduct their activities and use their powers to conserve the features (species and habitats) that have been identified for protection.</p> <p>In order to do this effectively it is good practice to produce a shared Management Scheme for the MPA</p> <p>DAERA appointed the SLLP Office to undertake consultation with relevant officers and stakeholders and produce the draft Scheme. This will be submitted to DAERA on 12 April. DAERA will then make their final revisions to the document and re-issue it to the local councils and others as a formal document for consultation and agreement. They expect to do this in May 2017.</p> |
| <b>2.0</b>                 | <b>Key issues:</b>   |
| 2.1                        | <p>Under the legislation, all proposals, plans and projects relevant to the Strangford lough MPA must undergo a Habitats Regulations Assessment and if required, mitigating measures must be applied. Activities which may damage the features cannot go ahead under the legislation except potentially in cases of overriding public interest.</p> <p>However activities that are not damaging will not be affected.</p> <p>There are implications not only for ERT but many functions across the Council and other authorities).</p>   |
| <b>3.0</b>                 | <b>Recommendations:</b>  |
| 3.1                        | To note only and to expect the DAERA consultation in May / June  |

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|------------|---|
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Resource implications</b>  |
| 4.1        | <p>Resources for the development of the Scheme are covered under the SLLP Environment Fund grant.</p> <p>Resources for the delivery of any required Actions by any of the statutory bodies now or in the future to protect the Conservation Features have yet to be identified.</p> <p>The council has some internal resources for assessing plans and projects through the Biodiversity officer and SLLP but also contracts Habitats Regulations Assessments work.</p> <p>Local authorities have access to the Shared Environmental Services resource with regard to Planning.</p> |
| <b>5.0</b> | <b>Equality and good relations implications:</b>  |
| 5.1        | Detail equality and good relations implications   |
| <b>6.0</b> | <b>Appendices</b>   |
|            | Draft Strangford Lough Marine Protected Area Scheme   |

**DRAFT WORKING DOCUMENT UNDER REVISION  
NOT FOR CIRCULATION OR COMMENT**

**STRANGFORD LOUGH MARINE PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT SCHEME**

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## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This **draft** Management Scheme helps statutory bodies to meet their obligations and responsibilities with regard to the marine and coastal environment of Strangford Lough, under a number of international Conventions and Directives and UK policy and legislation.

It sets the framework through which activities can be managed, either voluntarily or through regulation, so as to protect the environment while allowing it to be used sustainably. It is not a statutory instrument, but an agreed approach to collaborative management between the statutory agencies and stakeholders.

In summary this Management Scheme:

- Lists the important species and habitats – the Conservation Features
- Sets Conservation Objectives which are the standards to which the features should be maintained
- Describes a programme to monitor the features
- Explains existing regulation and management measures and highlights if there is a need to develop initiatives or regulate activities affecting the conservation features, in consultation with local interests
- Clarifies where statutory responsibilities lie
- Provides a structure for collaborative management and co-ordination between bodies and with stakeholders – the Management Group
- Facilitates better communication on management
- Complements other conservation strategies and plans for the area

This Scheme has been prepared by the Strangford Lough and Lecale Partnership Office on behalf of DAERA, with input from relevant statutory authorities and the SLLP Committee of stakeholders.

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Purpose and scope of the plan

#### 2.2 Legislative authority for the plan (national and international)

### 2.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE PLAN

Strangford Lough Marine Protected Area (MPA), set in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), is one of the most important marine sites in the UK and Europe. Over 2,000 marine species (75% of Northern Ireland's total) are found here and its coastal and marine birds, animals, plants and habitats are tremendously important for biodiversity and an important part of Northern Ireland's Natural Capital.

For example:

- saltmarsh is a rare habitat in Northern Ireland but Strangford Lough and Lecale have some of the best examples of it.
- Strangford Lough attracts up to 80% of the Canadian population of pale bellied Brent geese through October / November. The arrival of huge flocks of birds, often over 70,000 water birds every autumn is a wildlife spectacle.
- The Lough's islands provide nest sites for terns that travel from as far away as the Antarctic and feed on small fish during the summer months.
- Strangford Lough is one of the UK and Ireland's most important breeding sites for harbour (common) seals.

The Lough is also a resource for people who rely on the environmental quality of the Lough and the surrounding countryside

- to attract tourism and outdoor recreation related revenue,
- provide opportunities to experience the great outdoors for health and well-being,
- for fishing, aquaculture and agriculture food production
- as an attractive, high quality environment in which to live and work
- as a place for scientific and technological research, experimentation and education eg tidal energy devices, field trips

Conserving the Lough as a sustainable resource now and for future generations is part of the Northern Ireland Programme for Government, which depends on collaborative working for its delivery.

*"We live and work sustainably – protecting the environment"*



*"A place where people want to live and work, visit and invest";*

*"We enjoy long, healthy, active lives"*

This Scheme has been established to protect the marine environment of Strangford Lough while allowing continued sustainable use of the resource. It can potentially reduce conflict between competing interests and, through collaboration, attract funding for joint management initiatives.

The Lough is a complex system with habitats, species, natural change and human activities all interconnected. While people have used the Lough's resources for about 9,000 years, modern technology, new practices and urbanisation can have dramatic effects on the Lough's system.

This Scheme has been developed in consultation with, and as far as feasible agreement of, key stakeholders. Many local people and landowners are already managing the area's natural resources to the benefit of the MPA. Many activities are controlled through existing legislation such as ASSI, planning, farming and fisheries legislation. The aim is to work with local people and Lough users to develop voluntary management where possible rather than relying solely on legislation.

In developing and implementing this Scheme OSPAR guidance and other MPA plans have been, and will be, considered, to assist NI wide co-ordination, best practice and sharing of knowledge.

The Scheme is set in the context of the Programme for Government, rural development, tourism and outdoor recreation plans and projects, Village Plans, Local Development Plans, AONB Plans and Community Plans.

Comments and queries on this Management Scheme are welcome. Please contact: [xx](#)

## 2.2 LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY FOR THE PLAN (NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL)

Strangford Lough's nature conservation importance has been recognised by a host of both national and international designations which together cover the ***Marine Protected Area (MPA)***.

It is a ***Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and a Special Protection Area (SPA)*** These designations place statutory responsibilities on public bodies, such as local councils, to safeguard the nature conservation interests and ensure that any development or activity should not adversely affect them. It does not mean that activities cannot take place but it does mean that they must be planned and managed carefully.

Strangford Lough also qualifies as one of a network of ***Ramsar*** sites under the ***Convention on Wetlands of International Importance***. Such sites may be designated for their waterfowl populations, important plant and animal assemblages, wetland interest or a combination of these. Governments are encouraged to promote the conservation and 'wise use' of wetlands in general. The boundary of the Ramsar site is identical to that of the SPA.

Under the **Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995** as amended, local councils and other 'competent authorities' must ensure plans and projects likely to have a significant effect on Special areas of Conservation and Special Protection areas and internationally designated Ramsar sites are appropriately assessed.

The MPA includes the intertidal areas of five **Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI)**: Strangford Lough Parts 1, 2 and 3, Ballyquintin Point and Killard.

The landward boundary of the Marine Protected Area is the high water mark, and the seaward boundary extends out beyond low water mark to include the waters of the Lough.

Strangford Lough became Northern Ireland's first **Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) under the Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013**: It includes all the waters, seabed and shores up to mean tide high water mark and an area around the mouth of the Lough which extends beyond the SAC towards Sheepland.

Parts of the Lough are **National Nature Reserves (NNRs)** under the management of the Northern Ireland Environment Agency / Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs or the National Trust.

The surrounding area down to low water is part of the Strangford and Lecale **Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty** .

The United Kingdom is one of 15 Governments and the EU that are signed up to the 1992 OSPAR Convention and its 1998 annex on biodiversity and ecosystems adopted in 1998. The **OSPAR** Commission provides a mechanism for co-operation to protect the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic. Its objective is to take the necessary measures to protect and conserve the ecosystems and the biological diversity of the maritime area which are, or could be, affected as a result of human activities, and to restore, where practicable, marine areas which have been adversely affected. Strangford Lough is part of the OSPAR Network of ecologically coherent Marine Protected Areas. The OSPAR Network contributes to, and takes account of, Contracting Parties' obligations under other international Conventions and Directives, including EC Directives.

Only those operations that may cause deterioration or disturbance to the conservation features of the site may be subject to restrictions under the legislation . It is therefore unlikely that activities which are not causing significant damage to the marine interest of the site will be adversely affected by management measures.

## 3. DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE AND ITS FEATURES

### 3.1 REGIONAL SETTING: LOCATION, ACCESS

Strangford Lough is on the east coast of County Down, Northern Ireland. Its northern end lies some 15 km east of Central Belfast (6 km from the outskirts). Downpatrick lies 5 km west of the southwest corner.

The Marine Protected Area boundary is coincident with the Marine Conservation Zone which incorporates the SAC, SPA Ramsar site and ASSIs. It covers 192km<sup>2</sup>

The area of the MPA includes all the sub-tidal area of the Lough and its foreshore up to HWMMT, except at the estuary of the Comber River where it ends at the start of the bend next the A22 road at Irish Grid line 346240East (Longitude 5° 44' 22.86" West). It also takes a triangular area of foreshore and open sea around the mouth of the Lough. This is bounded to the East by a line of longitude 5° 27' 35.27" West which intersects HWMMT at Port Down, Kearney Village at Irish Grid reference 365000 East, 351509 North.

It is bounded to the South by line of Latitude 54° 16' 31.07" North which intersects HWMMT at Sheepland Harbour at Irish Grid reference 357964 East, 339000 North. The south-east extremity of the MNR is at 365441 East, 339263 North, some 5.545km ESE of the nearest landfall at Craiglewey, Killard Point. This outer triangle adds a further 38km<sup>2</sup> of sub-tidal and 4km<sup>2</sup> of intertidal habitat to the MPA giving a total area of 192km<sup>2</sup>.

The SAC and the SPA include all the sub-tidal, marine area of the Lough and its foreshore up to the landward boundary of the Strangford Lough (Parts 1-3), Killard and Ballyquintin Point ASSIs. This includes small areas of terrestrial habitat. The SAC and SPA are bounded across the Narrows by a straight line from Killard Point to Ballyquintin Point.

The SPA also includes the primarily freshwater area of the Quoile Pondage National Nature Reserve.

### 3.2 PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Strangford Lough is a large (150km<sup>2</sup>) shallow sea lough, of which about 50 km<sup>2</sup> lies between high and low water mark mean tide. Almost land-locked, Strangford Lough is separated from the Irish Sea by the Ards Peninsula to the east and is bounded to the south by the Lecale coast. The Strangford

Narrows, an 8 km long channel with a minimum width of 0.5km, connects it to the open sea. This narrow entrance channel has extremely strong currents of up to 8 knots (4m/s). The Lough is 30km long from head to mouth and up to 8km wide.

The tidal flats of Strangford Lough form extensive areas around the northern and north-eastern shorelines. They are bounded to the north east by sea defences for the town of Newtownards and the A20 coastal road that runs along much of the Lough's eastern shoreline from Newtownards to Portaferry.

The main characteristic of the SAC and SPA is the sea inlet of Strangford Lough itself. This sea inlet emerged from under the melting ice-sheets of the Ice Age and is for the most part less than 10 m in depth. There is a deeper Y-shaped channel (possibly an old river-valley or geological fault-line) up to 66 m deep which extends from the Narrows up the central portion of the Lough. The underlying rock is largely Silurian. The surface of the bed and shore of the Lough ranges from bedrock in areas with strong currents to fine mud in sheltered waters.

The Lough has an indented shoreline and a great variety of subtidal and intertidal habitats. The west shore has numerous islands typical of flooded drumlin topography. The Lough contains extensive areas of mudflat and also sandflats (mainly at the northern end), with gravel, cobble, boulder and rocky shores as one moves further south. It also has areas of saltmarsh, the most extensive being in the Comber river estuary.

The water in the Lough is virtually fully saline except at the mouths of the two moderate-sized rivers, the Comber and the Quoile, and where several streams drain into it from the catchment of about 900km<sup>2</sup>, where it may be somewhat brackish. The area has a mild climate with relatively low rainfall compared with other areas of Ireland, infrequent frosts and prevailing west to southwest winds.

Strangford Lough supports an impressive range of marine habitats and communities with over 2,000 recorded species. It is important for marine invertebrates, algae and saltmarsh plants, for wintering and breeding wetland birds, and for marine mammals.

The main rivers entering the lough are the Comber River in the northwest and the Quoile River in the southwest. Numerous smaller rivers and streams exist throughout the area, all entering Strangford Lough at various points.

Land usage in the catchment is approximately 90% agricultural land (pastures, complex cultivation patterns and agriculture/natural vegetation). The main settlements in the catchment include Newtownards, Dundonald, Comber and Downpatrick. There are also numerous smaller towns and villages scattered throughout the area.

[Insert info on MCZ Lecale coast to Sheepland and marine ....](#)

### 3.3 CONSERVATION VALUES AND FEATURES

Conservation Features for the Marine Conservation Zone are largely coincident with those of the SAC / SPA / ASSI but include some which are not covered by these designations and also includes those in the extended triangle at the mouth of the Lough that falls outside the SAC / SPA boundary. The MCZ features are currently under review by DAERA and related conservation objectives will be developed.

Conservation features have been identified for the SAC, SPA and ASSI and they are listed in the tables below. Each of these Features contributes to the overall integrity of the Lough and are described in more detail in Section x.

The physical regime of the Lough, with its high water quality, complex current systems and varying topography, substrata and water depths, is also important.

#### SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION FEATURES + IMAGES AND CAPTIONS

The global status A, B, C is an expert judgement of the overall value of the site for the conservation of the relevant Annex I habitat.

The principal features for which sites have been selected are those graded A or B

The secondary features are graded C. All three grades are qualifying SAC interest features.

A - Sites holding outstanding examples of the habitat in a European context.

B - Sites holding excellent stands of the habitat, significantly above the threshold for ASSI notification but of somewhat lower value than grade A sites.

C - Examples of the habitat which are of at least national interest (i.e. usually above the threshold or ASSI notification on terrestrial sites) but not significantly above this. These habitats are not the primary reason for SACs being selected.

The Special Area of Conservation Objective is to maintain the Conservation Features in Favourable Condition.

For each SAC feature, there are a number of component objectives which are outlined in the table below. These measures and targets form the basis of Condition Assessment. The results of this will determine whether the feature is in favourable condition or not.

| Feature   | Global Status | Extent     | Conservation Objective  |
|---|---------------|------------|---|
| Large shallow inlet an Bay                                  | A             | 15090.6 ha | Maintain the extent of the large shallow inlet and bay  |
|   |               |            | Allow the natural processes which determine the development, structure, function and extent of the large shallow inlet and bay, to operate appropriately                      |
|   |               |            | Maintain and enhance as appropriate, the species diversity within this habitat.   |
| Coastal Lagoons   | B             | 45.0ha     | Maintain the extent of the coastal lagoons  |
|   |               |            | Allow the natural processes which determine the development, structure, function, and extent of the coastal lagoons to operate appropriately                                  |
|   |               |            | Maintain and enhance as appropriate, the species diversity within this habitat  |
| Mudflats and sandflats not covered by sea water at low tide | B             | 2000.0 ha  | Maintain the extent of the mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide   |
|   |               |            | Allow the natural processes which determine the development, structure and extent of the mudflats and sandflats not covered by sea water at low tide to operate appropriately |
|   |               |            | Maintain and enhance, as appropriate, the species diversity within the habitat  |
| Reefs   | B             | 1600.0 ha  | Maintain the extent of the reefs  |
|   |               |            | Allow the natural processes which determine the development, structure, function and extent of the reefs to operate appropriately   |
|   |               |            | Maintain and enhance, as appropriate, the species diversity within the habitat.   |

|  |   |         |   |
|--|---|---------|---|
| Annual vegetation of drift lines                                 | C | 250 km  | Maintain and enhance the extent of the annual vegetation of drift lines subject to natural processes  |
|  |   |         | Allow the natural processes which determine the development and extent of annual vegetation of drift lines to operate appropriately                             |
|  |   |         | Maintain and enhance, as appropriate, the species diversity within this community including the presence of notable species                                     |
| Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritima</i> ) | C | 75.0 ha | To maintain or extend as appropriate, the area of salt marsh, subject to natural processes  |
|  |   |         | Maintain or enhance as appropriate, the composition of salt marsh communities   |
|  |   |         | Maintain transitions between saltmarsh communities and to other adjoining habitats  |
|  |   |         | Permit the continued operation of formative and controlling natural processes acting on the saltmarsh communities   |
| Perennial vegetation of stony banks                              | C | 30.0 ha | Maintain and enhance the extent of perennial vegetation of stony banks subject to natural processes   |
|  |   |         | Allow the natural processes which determine the development and extent of perennial vegetation of stony banks to operate appropriately                          |
|  |   |         | Maintain and enhance as appropriate, the species diversity within the community including the presence of notable spp.  |
| <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand      | C |         | Maintain and enhance the extent of <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand subject to natural processes                                     |
|  |   |         | Allow the natural processes which determine the development and extent of <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand, to operate appropriately |
|  |   |         | Maintain and enhance as appropriate, the species diversity within this habitat.   |
| Common Seal <i>Phoca vitulina</i>                                | C | 210     | Maintain and enhance as appropriate, the common seal population   |
|  |   |         | Maintain and enhance as appropriate, physical features used by Common Seals within the site   |

## SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA FEATURES +IMAGES / CAPTIONS

Strangford Lough is Northern Ireland's most important coastal site for wintering waterfowl. This interest is dependent upon the Lough continuing to have extensive areas of mud and sandflats which remain largely free from disturbance and have adequate supplies of food, notably eelgrass and shellfish and other invertebrates, to support the very large numbers of visiting birds. Thus water quality and sediment characteristics can influence the Lough's status as an SPA.

There are seven features for which Strangford Lough has been classified as an SPA:

### **Nationally and internationally important populations of regularly occurring species listed on Annex 1 of the Directive (Article 4.1)**

SPA feature 1: *Internationally important populations of breeding Sandwich Tern (Sterna sandvicensis)*

SPA feature 2: *Internationally important populations of breeding Common Tern (Sterna hirundo)*

SPA feature 3: *Nationally important populations of breeding Arctic Tern (Sterna paradisaea)*

### **Nationally and internationally important populations of regularly occurring wintering and migratory species. (Article 4.2)**

SPA feature 4: *Internationally important populations of wintering Light-bellied Brent Goose. (Branta bernicla hrota)*

SPA feature 5: *Internationally important populations of wintering Knot (Calidrus canutus)*

SPA feature 6: *Internationally important populations of wintering Redshank (Tringa totanus)*

SPA feature 7: *The wintering waterfowl population*

Note: Bar-tailed Godwit was not included on the original citation for the SPA because it did not reach a qualifying level at that time. It has now reached a qualifying level and will be considered for inclusion when the citation is formally revised.

*The landward boundary of the SPA is entirely coincident with the landward boundary of the following five Areas of Special Scientific Interest: Strangford Lough Part 1, Strangford Lough Part 2, Strangford Lough Part 3, Killard and Ballyquintin Point.*

*Roost sites occurring outside the extent of natural or semi-natural habitat, together with those agriculturally improved areas utilised by swans and geese, have not been included but their importance must not be underestimated.*



### Notes on SPA features

The table that follows lists all relevant qualifying species for this site. As the identification of SPA features has and continues to evolve, species may have different status but all should be considered in the context of any HRA process. Ultimately all SPAs will be re-notified to formalise species features.

a – species cited in current SPA citation and listed on current N2K dataform

b – species selected post SPA designation through UK SPA Review 2001

c – species highlighted as additional qualifying features through the UK SPA Review 2015 or the UK marine SPA programmes.

Habitat<sup>1</sup> is not a selection feature but it is a factor and is more easily treated as if it were a feature. Habitat extent is also used for breeding birds reported as an area

Table 1. List of SPA selection features.

<sup>1</sup> Habitat is not a selection feature but is a factor and is more easily treated as if it were a feature. Habitat extent is also used for breeding birds reported as an area.

**Note that the 2014 Condition Assessment is the last formal Report that has been produced and is based on data from 2005-2010. In the interim, monitoring is on-going and changes may have taken place which require management intervention. Annual monitoring reports will be provided to the Management Group for this reason, while still allowing for the need to look at longer term trends rather than annual fluctuations or anomalies.**

SPA Selection features table

| Feature Type | Feature                                | 2014 Condition Assessment<br>5 yr mean<br>2005-2010 | Population (5year average 1995-2000)<br>except where stated | Population at time of designation (ASSI) | Population at time of designation (SPA) | SPA Review Population | Common Standards Monitoring Baseline<br>(min. 1991/92 – peak 1997/98) |
|--------------|--|---|---|--|---|-----------------------|---|
| Species      | Sandwich Tern <sup>a</sup>             | 1430  | 1405 (current population 2003)                              |  | 593                                     | 593                   | 346   |
| Species      | Common Tern <sup>a</sup>               | 944   | 894 (current population 2003)                               |  | 603                                     | 603                   | 560   |
| Species      | Arctic Tern <sup>a</sup>               | 567   | 272 (current population 2003)                               |  | 210                                     | 210                   | 47  |
| Species      | Golden Plover <sup>b</sup>             |   | 8401  | 7570                                     | 8277                                    | 6526                  | 3123  |
| Species      | Bar - Tailed Godwit <sup>b</sup>       | 1,068   | 1452  | 1587                                     | 1058                                    | 882                   | 291   |
| Species      | Light-Bellied Brent Goose <sup>a</sup> | 25,735  | 12141   | 14400                                    | 10527                                   | 10527                 | 8367  |
| Species      | Shelduck <sup>b</sup>                  | 4,408   | 3081  | 1271                                     | 2358                                    | 3871                  | 1755  |
| Species      | Knot <sup>a</sup>                      | 6,520   | 9191  | 12294                                    | 8723                                    | 8723                  | 4200  |
| Species      | Redshank <sup>a</sup>                  | 4,243   | 3748  | 2591                                     | 3176                                    | 3176                  | 2336  |

|               |                        |   |      |       |            |      |      |
|---------------|------------------------|---|------|-------|------------|------|------|
| Assemblage sp | Great Crested Grebe    |   | 102  | 35    | 94         | 90   | 40   |
| Assemblage sp | Cormorant              | - | 219  |       | Not listed | 183  | 123  |
| Assemblage sp | Greylag Goose          | - | 352  | 265   | 420        | 419  | 173  |
| Assemblage sp | Wigeon                 | - | 2183 | 6655  | 1975       | 1921 | 1630 |
| Assemblage sp | Gadwall                | - | 82   | 107   | 110        | 108  | 63   |
| Assemblage sp | Teal                   | - | 2021 | 905   | 1662       | 1435 | 1133 |
| Assemblage sp | Mallard                | - | 1441 | 188   | 1562       | 1633 | 1238 |
| Assemblage sp | Pintail                | - | 264  | 196   | 214        | 209  | 159  |
| Assemblage sp | Shoveler               | - | 143  | 135   | 140        | 147  | 101  |
| Assemblage sp | Goldeneye              | - | 249  | 479   | 298        | 335  | 157  |
| Assemblage sp | Red-Breasted Merganser | - | 290  | 274   | 338        | 328  | 191  |
| Assemblage sp | Coot                   | - | 414  | 898   | 510        | 392  | 222  |
| Assemblage sp | Oystercatcher          | - | 6621 | 3542  | 8248       | 5243 | 4125 |
| Assemblage sp | Ringed Plover          | - | 244  | 197   | 305        | 291  | 134  |
| Assemblage sp | Grey Plover            | - | 282  | 114   | 284        | 194  | 48   |
| Assemblage sp | Lapwing                | - | 9971 | 12644 | 9108       | 8359 | 3779 |
| Assemblage sp | Dunlin                 | - | 7885 | 6220  | 6900       | 5317 | 2403 |
| Assemblage sp | Curlew                 | - | 1761 | 1838  | 1980       | 1911 | 1344 |
| Assemblage sp | Turnstone              | - | 261  | 446   | 350        | 401  | 207  |

|                       |  |        |       |       |       |       |       |
|-----------------------|--|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Water Fowl Assemblage | <p>Wintering population<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Component species:: Golden Plover, Bar-Tailed Godwit, Light-bellied Brent Goose, Shelduck, Redshank, Knot, Great Crested Grebe,</p> <p>Cormorant, Greylag goose, Wigeon, Gadwall, Teal, Mallard, Pintail, Shoveler, Goldeneye, Red Breasted Merganser, Coot, Oystercatcher, Ringer Plover, Grey Plover, Lapwing, Dunlin, Curlew, Turnstone.</p> | 79,679 | 55097 | 72880 | 70200 | 60220 | 35667 |
| Habitat 1             | Habitat extent   |        |       |       |       |       |       |
| Habitat 1             | Roost site locations   |        |       |       |       |       |       |

**ASSI Feature Objective Requirements use of images / captions**

| Feature                   | Size ,extent, popln | Component Objective                                     |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---|
| Intertidal Rock           | 1645ha              | See SAC Selection feature Objective Requirements table. |
| Mudflats                  | 2000ha              | See SAC Selection feature Objective Requirements table. |
| Coastal Vegetated Shingle | 250km               | See SAC Selection feature Objective Requirements table. |
| Coastal Saltmarsh         | 75ha                | See SAC Selection feature Objective Requirements table. |

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| Maritime Cliff & Slope   |  | To be finalised   |
| Higher Plant Assemblage  |  | To be finalised   |
| Invertebrate Assemblage  |  | To be finalised   |
| Waterbird Assemblage   |  | See SPA Conservation Objectives   |
| Common Seal <i>Phoca vitulina</i>  |  | See SAC Selection feature Objective Requirements table.   |
| Earth Science - Contemporary coastal processes – the intertidal zone between Greyabbey and Ardmillan Bay                 |  | Permit the continued operation of formative and controlling natural processes acting on the inter-tidal system. Maintain natural site morphology subject to natural processes                                       |
| Earth science - Holocene sea-level history – buried and semi buried components within the intertidal and adjoining areas |  | Maintain the potential for access to buried and semi-buried components necessary for the demonstration of sea-level history as related to this site. Key localities are at Rough Island , Greyabbey, Ringneill Quay |
| Earth science Pleistocene Late Glacial Sediments   |  | Maintain extent and quality of exposure, together with access to the features subject to natural processes.   |

### 3.4 EXISTING USES

#### TOURISM AND OUTDOOR RECREATION (OR)

Areas of high scenic and amenity value such as Strangford Lough are an important part of Northern Ireland's tourism product. Investment in tourism has brought employment, new prosperity and diverse business opportunities to rural areas. The Lough's designations reinforce that value and can complement the promotion of the marine life and coast as an attraction. Local communities and businesses often engage in conservation and landscape initiatives to attract and retain visitors.

The **Newry, Mourne and Down Tourism Strategy 2017-2021** proposes to develop the Mourne Coastal Route and Walking Trail, promote walking and rowing and develop access to the water in Strangford Lough. There are proposals to develop water based recreation activities through Delamont Country Park. The development of the St Patrick Theme may also have implications for the Lough as more people explore its shores and waters. The **Ards and North Down Borough Council) AANDBC Integrated Strategy**, which will include tourism and outdoor recreation is being developed in 2017. "**The Big Plan**" for Ards and North Down includes the development of walking, cycling and canoeing in the area. The **Local Outdoor Recreation Forum** has called for better access to the water for a number of activities. Walking trails feature in many coastal **Village Plans**. The **Strangford Lough Destination Plan** is currently delivering OR promotion.

About 2000 **yachts** are located around the Lough and there are approximately 5000 active boaters and eleven clubs. Club races and regattas take place throughout the summer with frequent all-Ireland and international events for particular classes. Yachting instruction takes place at several centres.

Most cruisers are moored on permanent swing moorings close to club premises. There are also a few public moorings and scattered private moorings elsewhere. Some craft are mud-berthed and a few are berthed at marina type jetties. Visitor berthing is needed and clubs make some provision.

There is limited public **access to the shore** for boats and some cannot be accessed at low tide. Cook Street Pier and the pontoons at Portaferry are the main public access points. Sailing clubs control and manage access for members.

Dive RIBs and **public tour boats** launch from both Portaferry and Strangford quays.

**Kite surfing (windsurfing, sailboarding)** has become increasingly popular over recent years, particularly at Cunningburn, Greyabbey, Kircubbin and Whiterock. Little depth of water is required and insulating suits enable enthusiasts to sail throughout the year when weather permits.

**Water skiing and jet skiing** have developed on a small scale, notably at Whiterock and occasionally in the Narrows area, usually in the summer.

Strangford Lough is one of the principal areas in Northern Ireland used by **recreational divers** for training, exploring wrecks and observing marine life. The Lough's sheltered waters are ideal as training areas for novice divers, while also affording some of the most challenging dives to be found in Northern Ireland for the more experienced.

Island Hill, Kilclief and Ballyhornan are popular **bathing** spots. Kilclief and Ballyhornan are candidate EU Bathing Waters.

There are **few public paths** along the shores of the Lough but there are a number of access points and walkable stretches of shore.

Winter **bird-watching** is popular mainly from car parks and the National Trust and the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust bird hides. Seal watching from the car park at Cloghy Rocks is also popular.

Newtownards, Mount Stewart and Ballyhornan are used for **exercising horses** on the foreshore where firm beaches provide uninterrupted gallops.

There is a very long tradition of **wildfowling** on Strangford Lough with five wildfowling clubs. Wildfowling on the foreshore and on adjacent lands owned or controlled by the National Trust is subject to controls under the Wildlife Scheme. Mallard is the main quarry species, followed by teal.

Newtownards Airfield lies adjacent to the designated area. **Light aircraft, gliders and small helicopters** use the airfield, mostly for recreation. An annual fund-raising air-show attracts large crowds. The evidence to date suggests that birds generally become accustomed to the normal movements of light aircraft.

**Microlites and helicopters** have been seen to cause greater disturbance.

### **Bait Digging**

Bait digging Lugworm and Ragworm by anglers for individual use has traditionally taken place on a small scale in many places around the Lough. Today, it is commonplace at Island Hill. If undertaken in sensitive habitats, at certain times of the year or on a commercial scale, it may damage eelgrass beds and large numbers of bait diggers are likely to cause disturbance to waterfowl. Raking or digging for burrowing invertebrates buries oxygen-rich surface sediments often killing the animals they contain.

### **Outdoor Recreation Issues**

A strategic approach to sustainable Outdoor Recreation has already been developed through lengthy public consultation leading to the SLLP Heritage Management Strategy and Action Plan 2013-18 and current plans and proposals are being reviewed under the AONB Action Plan which will be subject to HRA. Some of the relevant proposals include

- Improving wash down facilities for biosecurity.
- Reviving codes of practice to reduce noise and general disturbance to wildlife, particularly to breeding or over-wintering birds and seals from water craft.
- Developing specific guidelines to paddlers and rowers in view of their ability to access shallow waters and areas near the shore and around islands that are inaccessible to larger craft.
- Reducing coastal bird disturbance through dog walking.
- Raising awareness of relevant fisheries legislation amongst divers and avoid over collection of or damage to marine life for research, recreation or commercial purposes.
- Maintaining awareness and promoting good practice amongst horse riders to reduce damage to eel grass beds or disturbance to overwintering birds.
- Engaging the public in related initiatives
- Ensuring access to the water is sustainable

## HOUSING AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Local councils are in the process of drawing up Local Development Plans and also consider planning applications which all undergo assessment through SES. This assessment will consider direct and indirect impacts such as

- The effect of even small developments in isolated areas
- Potential loss or deterioration of saltmarsh and other habitats
- Disturbance to feeding and nesting birds.
- Increased load on sewage treatment plants or additional septic tanks
- Effects of storm water drainage.
- Damage through tipping and introduction of pollutants
- Climate change and long term demand for further sea defences, causeways and boat slips around developments.
- Development and flooding – need for Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS).

## COASTAL ENGINEERING

Much of the larger scale sea defences are located in the northern end of the Lough, protecting the town of Newtownards.



There are now extensive areas of sea wall and rock armouring along the coast. With increased storm activity and predicted sea level rises coastal squeeze is a major issue in terms of wildlife. Loss of coastal farmland and road damage are also of local and national concern. There have been calls for an NI Shoreline Management Plan and some proposals for areas of managed retreat to help dissipate energy.

Coastal engineering works have affected a number of shallow bays, saltmarshes and areas of tidal flat around the Lough.

Causeways, boat slips and other restrictions have modified current and tidal flow patterns and, in turn, affected sediment transport patterns. In some cases this has resulted in the incidental creation of new habitat including saltmarsh, brackish ponds and wetlands.

The effect of rising sea levels and changing weather patterns in the long-term may create a desire for new or additional flood defences at existing settlements.

### SAND AND GRAVEL EXTRACTION

Traditional rights to remove sand, gravel and shingle from the shores are attached to the folios of some land-holdings in the area. The removal of intertidal sediments increases the risk of erosion by removing some of the wave-absorbing materials and altering the beach profile. The exercise of extraction rights is not, however, currently a major issue within the MPA.

### OPERATIONS AFFECTING WATER QUALITY

Anthropogenic inputs entering Strangford Lough include those from sewage out-falls, watercourses, recreational and commercial craft and associated facilities, and the open sea.

They include nutrients from effluent discharges, organic wastes and fertiliser run-off; some particulate material including bacteria; small amounts of petroleum and oils; some metal ions and other more complex chemicals derived from industrial processes; fuel additives, pesticides, anti-fouling paints, slip-way treatments etc.; and plastic and other floating waste. Fly-tipping of refuse onto the shore could also result in chemicals leaching into the Lough.

Sewage effluent is discharged directly into Strangford Lough from eight main outfalls. Ballyrickard Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTW) has the highest discharge volume. Treated sewage effluent from a number of neighbouring settlements is discharged into the Quoile system.

Slurry, silage effluent, effluent from septic tanks and leachate from landfill sites may enter via rivers and streams, particularly the Quoile, or run off directly from adjacent fields.

Water quality in the Lough is generally good, although there be locally significant effects from discharges of storm water and sewage from peripheral housing areas. There are localised problems with water quality on the river Blackwater. The North Eastern North Eastern River Basin Management Plan 2015 status of surface water categorises an area on the Ards Peninsula near Kircubbin and adjacent to the Lough as "Bad". Superficial groundwater at Comber area is poor and bedrock ground water is also poor across the area.

High nutrient levels can adversely modify the local biota though such inputs may increase productivity and carrying capacity. Some forms of wildlife, such as ragworms and green algae, thrive in nutrient enriched areas and some of these can have a blanketing effect on the habitat, reducing biodiversity.

Increases in the suspension of organic or inorganic material in the water column increases turbidity and reduces light levels, which along with changes in sedimentation may be affecting the growth of eelgrass.

## FARMING

Farmers and landowners have helped to shape the Strangford Lough landscape and its habitats and contributed to the conservation interests around the Lough. For example, many of the islands which are important for wildfowl or nesting terns are grazed by sheep or cattle. By and large farmers have tolerated the habit of Brent Geese to graze agricultural land when eelgrass is in short supply. Some farming practices, however, can cause localised damage.

Livestock which are free to wander onto the shore may result in damage to strandline vegetation and saltmarsh. Their trampling can seriously poach the ground and exacerbate erosion. The practice of sand-ploughing on the shore to clean the plough can have damaging effects both on eel-grass beds and on invertebrates in the sand. Recovery from this seemingly harmless activity can take years in some situations.

Reduce the risk of surrounding agricultural intensification by encouraging owner/occupiers to enter into agri-environment schemes. Use appropriate assessments, through the planning process, to minimise any development risks adjacent to the SAC.

## COMMERCIAL FISHING

Potting takes place mainly in the Narrows and the periphery of the Lough, outside the *M. modiolus* exclusion zone. This activity brings some employment to the rural area, is culturally embedded in the community and could have wider benefits by being aligned more closely with the tourism industry and the move to promote locally produced and caught food. There is pot fishing of Dublin Bay Prawns and Brown Crabs more recently of Shore Crabs, Velvet Swimming Crabs, Common Whelks and Lobsters. Work is ongoing to develop a management plan for the Pot Fishery to ensure that it is environmentally and economically sustainable in to the future.

Trawling and dredging have been banned in Strangford Lough as part of the programme to protect and restore *M. modiolus* communities.

## SHORE-BASED HARVESTING OF WILD SHELLFISH

There is a tradition of collecting shellfish from the shore. Mechanical harvesting has been banned to protect mud and sandflats. Cockles are gathered by hand raking the sediment. Winkles are collected on a commercial scale as well as for home use.

Small-scale collection of shellfish for home consumption causes little overall disruption to the Lough's ecological balance. However there are concerns that commercial harvesting may cause disturbance to birds and seals and damages intertidal reef habitat.

### SEAWEED HARVESTING AND CULTIVATION

Historically in Strangford Lough seaweeds have been both harvested and cultured. Drift wrack and kelps were used on the land as fertiliser and knotted wrack was burned to produce a powder used in glass making. At certain sites, for example around Greyabbey, large boulders were placed on sandy areas of shore for seaweeds to attach and create a crop of material. Dulse has also been cut from the stipes of kelp, on which it grows, particularly in the Narrows.

Extensive commercial exploitation of seaweed would significantly alter populations and the ecosystem.

Seaweed cultivation mainly takes place today for research purposes and generally requires a Marine Licence.

### AQUACULTURE

Shellfish cultivation is managed through licences administered by DAERA Fisheries Division. A number of different techniques are used. Oysters, mussels and scallops can be grown in mesh sacks on trestles at low water and mussels are also rope grown.

With the rise in sea temperatures there are concerns that Pacific Oyster could spread outside the cultivated areas. This could apply to other species and the use of triploid, infertile stock may be required, at least in some case.

A high standard of water quality is required and no chemicals or antibiotics are used in shellfish production. It can, however, cause loss or modification of habitat, shadowing effects on the seabed, disruption of sediment movement, and disturbance to birds and seals. Care has to be taken to avoid the accidental introductions of other species with commercial shellfish. Predator control methods may need to be assessed in the future.

Caged fin-fish farming is considered inappropriate for Strangford Lough.

### TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH

The Lough provides a natural laboratory for carrying out marine biological and oceanographic research and this is evident from the number and diversity of research projects that it supports.

In recent years it has become a centre for experimental tidal energy devices because of its unusually strong tides and sheltered conditions and also for international work on macro algae growing for industry.

All of this work is subject to Marine Licencing.

## EDUCATION AND FIELD STUDIES

Strangford Lough is much used for field studies at all levels of education. Generally these activities have little lasting impact on the Lough's ecology. There is, however, a risk of disturbance from large parties repeatedly using sensitive areas. Repeated collecting at favoured sites may also lead to local depletion of species in that area.

## 3.5 EXISTING LEGAL AND MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK, INCLUDING TENURE AND OWNERSHIP

### CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Conservation Objectives for the SAC and SPA have been drawn up by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and the Dept to provide guidance to relevant and competent authorities on the management of any activities or issues that might adversely affect the Strangford Lough Marine Protected Area (MPA).

This assists those authorities in fulfilling their statutory responsibilities as set out by the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995, better known as the Habitats Regulations, and other relevant legislation.

All public bodies are required by law to ensure that they manage their activities in such a way as to conserve the Conservation Features when they are exercising their functions.

In Strangford Lough most of the related functions relate to DAERA, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Department for Infrastructure (Planning), Ards and North Down Borough Council Borough Council, and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.

The majority of both the foreshore and the seabed of Strangford Lough are owned by the Crown Estate or are owned or leased by The National Trust.

All relevant plans and strategies must undergo a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) to determine if could be damaging and to identify any mitigating measures that may be required.

### IMPLICATIONS FOR LOCAL COUNCILS AND OTHER AUTHORITIES

Under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 as amended, local councils are considered 'competent authorities' and they must ensure plans and projects likely to have a significant effect on Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protected Areas and internationally designated Ramsar sites are appropriately assessed.

On 1st April 2015, Councils became responsible for development planning including the majority of planning decisions.

The Shared Environmental Services (SES) were established by the then Department of the Environment to undertake Habitats Regulations Assessments (HRA) on behalf of all of the new councils, with regard to planning.

SES should be regarded as an internal consultee to councils, working on behalf of the Council to ensure that any planning decision is consistent with the requirements of the Regulations. SES does this by carrying out HRAs for planning applications and the preparation of Local Development Plans.

This work is funded by central government. SES is also providing a service to several councils under Service Level Agreements to undertake Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for Local Development Plans.

Local councils have many areas of responsibility relevant to the management of Strangford Lough:

#### ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

- Ownership and management of associated car parks and access at Kircubbin, Floodgates, Cunningburn, Island Hill and Whiterock.
- Ownership of Cook St Quay
- Emergency Pollution Incident Response
- Food hygiene relevant to shellfish collection....
- Active and healthy communities - grants and joint projects, Community Plan, Village plans
- Economic regeneration and rural development
- Litter and dumping control
- Local Biodiversity Action Plans
- Planning: decisions on the majority of planning applications; enforcing breaches of planning permission; Local Development Plan / land use. (*Also tree preservation orders; protecting and preserving built heritage relevant to the AONB*)

- Tourism Development
- Outdoor recreation development and access
- Lights Authority on the Lough in conjunction with Newry , Mourne and Down District Council and DFI (inspected by Commissioners of Irish Lights)

## NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

As per Ards and North Down plus

- Ownership, management, access control and potential Bathing Water beach operator at Kilclief beach and car park
- Ownership, management, access control and potential Bathing Water beach operator at Ballyhornan beach and car park
- Ownership and access control at Delamont Country Park
- Access Strangford Green

SES are only contracted relevant to Planning and their service does not cover local council projects and plans, for example the development of a walking trail. For such activities the local councils must either enter into an additional Service Level Agreement with SES at additional cost, or undertake the HRA themselves using in-house expertise, or commission the HRA externally.

## DAERA AND THE NIEA RESPONSIBILITIES RELEVANT TO STRANGFORD LOUGH MPA

- Preparing the Conservation Objectives and related advice
- Marine Licensing
- Fisheries Management
- Mariculture Management
- Maritime archaeology

- Environmental designations – all of the above and Bathing Waters
- Environmental monitoring, data analysis and reporting – species , habitats and water quality either directly or through contracts and grants
- Shellfish Waters Classification
- Emergency Pollution Incident Response
- Ownership and management of Killard Nature Reserve and Ballyquintin Nature Reserve, Quoile Pondage, Cloghy Rocks
- Marine Protected Area network
- River Basin Catchment Planning
- Support for AONB management which overlaps with the MPA

#### DEPARTMENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE / RIVERS AGENCY

- Strangford Lough Ferry Service (harbour authority) and control of quay access
- Roads management and development / traffic flow
- A20, A2, seawalls maintenance
- Quoile Barrier and other flood defences

#### ROLE OF STAKEHOLDERS

Statutory bodies have legal responsibilities relevant to the Marine Protected Area. However, local people, landowners, farmers, fishermen, clubs, conservation bodies and Lough users have an equally important role to play.

Many activities including most outdoor recreation pursuits are unregulated and require voluntary co-operation to ensure that they remain sustainable and even activities that are regulated can be difficult to monitor and require a degree of trust and support with regard to compliance. New initiatives can also require a groundswell of local support for their success and many rely on local volunteers for their delivery.

The Strangford Lough and Lecale Partnership (SLLP) is the main mechanism for stakeholder engagement and collaboration across the two local council areas for the AONB and the MPA. Its work is supported by DAERA in relation to strategic planning and a range of practical programmes from monitoring and researching human activities relevant to the designations to public communication and voluntary management initiatives. The SLLP is also involved in managing sustainable access to the countryside under the AONB which is also relevant to the MPA. See also Section 4.2.

The overlap between the two management bodies will ensure that AONB plans and Marine Protected Area Site Plans are complementary. Note that the Dept for Communities and the National Trust also have a key role in managing the AONB with respect to the historic environment and heritage sites.

## THE NATIONAL TRUST

The National Trust come under the SLLP stakeholder umbrella but have a unique position in terms of their extensive ownership and leasehold and their long term commitment to working with DAERA on monitoring and conservation initiatives directly and through their tenants.

Over 6000 hectares of foreshore and seabed, 50 islands in the Lough, adjacent wetlands and woodlands and a number of car parks and picnic sites are now owned or leased and cared for by the National Trust. This amounts to about half the shores being in Trust ownership with a further quarter on a full lease from the Crown Estate Commissioners.

The National Trust's role in wardening includes carrying out bird counts and a variety of conservation and educational activities. Many of these activities meet objectives within the Management Scheme. The National Trust holds the sporting rights to most of the intertidal area. They have a covenant with the British Association for Shooting and Conservation, BASC for its **Strangford Lough Wildlife Scheme** to maintain a balance between shooting and nature conservation. The Trust operates a refuge/shooting permit scheme to regulate wildfowling and benefit other wildlife. This is combined with practical habitat management for wintering and nesting birds, in which wildfowling club members participate. The five wildfowling clubs around the Lough co-ordinate their activities through the Joint Council of Strangford Lough Wildfowling Associations. Bag returns provide information on the numbers and species of birds shot and their location.

The Trust is currently preparing an **SAC / SPA Action Plan** which will inform their wildlife monitoring and conservation work into the future. In the meantime their team of rangers continue to work to eradicate invasive species and manage coastal habitat for wildlife. They are also engaged in monitoring overwintering birds, litter reduction and public communication.

## CROWN ESTATE

The majority of both the foreshore and the seabed of the Strangford Lough is owned by the Crown Estate Commissioners on behalf of the Crown. The Commissioners lease areas for commercial, leisure and other uses subject to Marine Licensing requirements. Extensive areas of foreshore and some of seabed are owned or leased by the National Trust and some by the NIEA. The Commissioners own most mineral rights in the SAC/SPA. Other mineral rights are, in some areas, associated with foreshore which was formerly part of large estates



The Crown, as “ Government”, holds inalienable rights in trust for the public in relation to foreshore, seabed and inshore water.

These include rights of free navigation (to sail, anchor and move goods and passengers) and rights to take commercial fish species including shellfish and bait but excepting farmed stock, oysters and mussels in beds, and to spread nets out to dry on the shore.

There is no actual right of the public to be on Crown foreshore except for the purposes of exercising rights of navigating and fishing. However, the Crown Estate Commissioners normally place no restriction on access for amenity and recreational purposes over their tidal lands and there is a perceived right of access over the foreshore owned by the Crown. This does not extend to right of access over private foreshore or over private land to reach Crown foreshore. Farmers and other landowners

**HM Coastguard** play a practical role in emergency pollution incident situations and also contribute their detailed knowledge of the coast, including relatively inaccessible areas.

#### OTHER TENURE AND RIGHTS

Many of the islands, and most of the land that surrounds the Lough is in private ownership. Some estates still have seabed holdings eg the De Ros Estate off Strangford. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) purchased the east side of Castleward Bay in 1989 as a Reserve for birds.

Farmers and other landowners are represented on the SLLP Committee through farming organisations and the County Down Rural Community Network. They are also individually and formally engaged in managing the coast through ASSI management agreements, and agricultural policy relevant to river basin catchment management and conservation. They can also control access across their land.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council also lease or own some shore and foreshore.

Both local councils control public access to the water through their adjacent car parks, Cook Street Pier and Delamont Country Park.

Sailing Clubs control most of the other key access points for water craft.

Many people with land holdings around or close to Strangford Lough claim rights to take seaweed, and / or gravel. These are generally written into title deeds.

Common law rights have been established for the collection of wild shellfish and for digging bait for fishing.

## DESIGNATIONS AND EXISTING MEASURES

### **Marine Act 2013 - Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ)**

*The former Strangford Lough Marine Nature Reserve automatically became an MCZ under the Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013 (the "Act"). This designation safeguards vulnerable or unique marine species and habitats and geological/geomorphological features of national importance in the Northern Ireland inshore region based on an ecosystem approach, while fully taking into account any economic, cultural or social consequences.*

*These MCZs fulfill the obligations in the Act to contribute to an ecologically coherent UK network of MPAs as well as wider biodiversity commitments at European and global level.*

*The Act also allows the Department to make **byelaws to protect MCZs** from damage caused by unregulated activities such as anchoring, kite surfing, jet skiing etc. It is an offence to intentionally or recklessly destroy or damage a protected feature of an MCZ or to contravene a byelaw.*

*The following conservation lists were amalgamated and reviewed to create three lists of Priority Marine Features (PMF):*

- *OSPAR List of Threatened and/or Declining Species and Habitats*
- *UK Biodiversity Action Plan List*
- *Northern Ireland List of Priority Habitats and Species*
- *Northern Ireland Species of Conservation Concern (SOCC)*
- *Nationally Important Marine Features (NIMF)*

### **Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009(a),**

*Under this act section 113(6)(b) DAERA (Marine and Fisheries Division) is the marine licence authority for any construction and removal, dredging and sea disposal on the seabed. The overall objective of marine licensing is to regulate sustainable development in a cohesive and fair manner.*

### **The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995, as amended**

*The Habitats Regulations make relevant and competent authorities responsible for the conservation and management of Marine Protected Areas.*

*Relevant and competent authorities have certain specific statutory functions to decide on applications for consents, licences and permissions. The Regulations establish the procedures that must be followed for the consideration of plans or projects. These procedures include a provision for an assessment if the effect of the plan or project is likely to be significant – a Habitats Regulations Assessment. The advice of DAERA must be taken into account during this process.*

*The Regulations make provision for certain plans or projects to be carried out despite a negative assessment for the implications of the site. In the absence of alternative solutions a plan or project may nonetheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest.*

*The Regulations also place a duty on competent authorities to review, subject to certain limitations, any extant consents, licences or permissions which are likely to have a significant effect on a Marine Protected Area.*

*Both the consideration of new development proposals and the review of existing consents is informed by the Conservation Objectives.*

#### **Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (NI) Order 1985 and its subsequent 1989 amendment (NCALO)**

This Order is the relevant statute for Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs) which represent the main form of domestic statutory protection for sites of high nature conservation value. The relevant statute is the. It regulates changes in management.

Management of ASSI lands is achieved through co-operation; landowners retain ownership and occupancy of their land, and are usually encouraged to manage it as they have done in the past. DAERA recognises that there is a need to promote a more positive approach to ASSI management through increased contact with owners and occupiers and greater targeting of incentives to encourage enhancement as well as protection of sites. **How many of the 400 owners and occupiers within the ASSIs covering Strangford Lough have entered into formal management agreements?.**

ASSI legislation allows DAERA to take action against owners, occupiers and third parties if damaging operations are carried out without seeking prior consent.

Under this order the Secretary of State introduced the **Regulation of Anchoring, Mooring, and Diving Byelaws 2012** which prohibited these activities in the *M modiolus* Restricted Zone.

Under this Order **National Nature Reserves (NNRs)** were established, at sites of high importance for nature conservation, and which may also be valuable for education or research. Management of NNRs is undertaken primarily to benefit the nature conservation interests and public access may be controlled. There are seven NNRs on or adjoining Strangford Lough: North Strangford Lough, the Dorn, Granagh Bay, Ballyquintin Point, Killard, Cloghy Rocks and Quoile Pondage. DAERA manages all but North Strangford Lough which the National Trust owns and manages.

**The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985****The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002.****The Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (WANE Act)****Fisheries Act (NI) 1966, as amended 2001,**

Under this Act DAERA, is responsible for the management and regulation of fisheries and for fostering the development of fisheries and can also regulate commercial fishing in NI inshore waters (which includes the intertidal zone) for environmental purposes.

**Inshore Fishing (Prohibiting of Fishing and Fishing Methods) Regulations (NI) 1993,**

These regulations are primarily aimed at protecting the fisheries of the Lough while maximising the scope of the existing fisheries legislative base to reconcile fishing and conservation. Trawling and dredging were banned in the Lough in 2013 to protect remaining horse mussel beds.

**Strangford Lough (Sea Fishing Exclusion Zones) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012**

These prohibit all fishing for sea-fish by any sea-fishing boat within the two zones in Strangford Lough specified in the Schedule at a depth of 10 metres or more below Chart Datum. This does not apply to fishing for sea-fish by rod and line. It mainly affects pot fishing. There are also minimum landing sizes for lobster, brown crab, spider crab and velvet crab.

**Marine aquaculture** is licensed by the Fisheries Division of DAERA. Regulation is achieved through fish culture licences and shellfish fishery licences.

**Biodiversity Convention in 1992**

This Convention commits the UK and other signatories to develop national strategies biodiversity conservation. The NI Biodiversity Strategy facilitated the production of Action Plans for forty NI priority habitats including coastal saltmarsh, mudflats, seagrass beds and Horse Mussel beds. UK priority species or species groups which occur in Northern Ireland include Native Oyster and the seaweed *Ascophyllum nodosum* ecad mackii.update?

***Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty***

The Strangford and Lecale AONB was designated in 2010 under the Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands Act (Northern Ireland) 1965. It includes the intertidal part of the MPA and adjacent land and islands. It is essentially concerned with conservation and enjoyment of landscapes, heritage and wildlife and the promotion of public access. Planners are required to take account of this designation and the related Landscape Character Assessments.

### Access to the Countryside (NI) Order 1983 Countryside Access

This Act places responsibility for the provision and maintenance of controlled access to the open countryside with district councils. This legislation enables councils to assert public rights of way and to create new access opportunities through public path and access agreements. DAERA supports and facilitates this role through grant aiding practical works, through advice and training, and with respect to aspects of the legislation such as the holding of public enquiries. While mainly used for paths and trails, NMDDC have cited this Order as part of the rationale for proposing a floating pontoon in the Quoile.

### Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy

NI's Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 aims to meet international obligations and local targets to protect biodiversity and ensure that the environment can continue to support our people and economy. Forty Northern Ireland priority habitats have been identified including coastal saltmarsh, mudflats, seagrass beds and Horse Mussel beds. The final recommendations also identify a series of UK priority species or species groups which occur in Northern Ireland. These include Native Oyster and the seaweed *Ascophyllum nodosum ecad mackii*. [update](#)

### The Regional Development Strategy 2035, and regional Planning Policy Statements

These provide a strategic policy framework for Local Development Plans being produced by local councils. The Strategy recognises the importance of conserving high quality environments such as Strangford Lough while promoting a strong and diversified rural economy and sustainable, environmentally sensitive tourism.

From May 2016 central government planning functions transferred to the new Department for Infrastructure (DfI).

Planning Policy for the Strangford Lough area is set out in the Ards and Down Area Plan 2015.

Planning policy relating to sites of conservation value is spelt out in Planning and Nature Conservation (PPS2) published by the Planning Service.

Ards and North Down Borough Council and Newry Mourne and Down District Council are responsible for **planning applications** relevant to Strangford Lough and for the development of **Local Development Plans**.

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <p>PPS 2: Planning and Nature Conservation<br/> PPS 3: Access, Movement and Parking<br/> PPS 4: Planning and Economic Development<br/> PPS 6: Planning, Archaeology and The Built Heritage</p> | <p>PPS 6 (Addendum): Areas of Townscape Character<br/> PPS 8: Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation<br/> PPS 12: Housing in Settlements<br/> PPS 9: The Enforcement of Planning Control</p> | <p>PPS 11: Planning and Waste Management<br/> PPS 13: Transportation and Land Use<br/> PPS 15: Planning and Flood Risk<br/> PPS 16: Tourism<br/> PPS 18: Renewable Energy<br/> PPS 21: Sustainable Development in the countryside</p> |
|--|--|---|

**The Ards and Down Area Plan 2015** recognises the Ards Peninsula as Green Belt and Bangor and Newtownards as significant growth areas.

### **Water Framework Directive**

Under this directive River Basin Management takes an integrated approach to the protection, improvement and sustainable use of the water environment. It applies to groundwater and to all surface water bodies, including rivers, lakes, transitional (estuarine) and coastal waters out to one nautical mile.

Strangford Lough comes under the North Eastern River Basin District for river basin catchment planning. Significant water management issues relevant to the Marine Site are addressed through the Strangford Lough and Quoile Local Management Area Plans.

Reagh Bay, Marlfield Bay and Skate Rock are designated **Shellfish Water Protected Areas** and may be protected or improved so as to support shellfish life and growth and meet at least Class B FSA in NI Classification status

**The Food Standards Agency in NI** is responsible for the implementation of Classification and monitoring programmes for shellfish for the protection of public health.

**Bivalve Mollusc Production Areas:** Food safety regulations introduced in 1993 lay down the health conditions for the production and the placing on the market of live bivalve molluscs. All farmed shellfish beds must now be classified according to water quality. Six areas in Strangford Lough have been so classified, three as Class A enabling direct sale of shellfish and three as Class B under which shellfish must be depurated or relaid in a Class A area for a period prior to offering for sale.

The **Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive** sets minimum standards for sewerage and sewage treatment and some industrial dischargers across Member States. A timetable has been set, targeting larger dischargers in the first instance, for improved discharge standards.

### **Duty for Sustainable Development**

#### **Section 75 Northern Ireland Act and Disability Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 2006**

### **Voluntary Management Initiatives**

Most outdoor recreation is unregulated and relies heavily on voluntary initiatives and innovative management to ensure environmental sustainability.

### 3.6 THREAT AND CONFLICT ANALYSIS - MARESA

The tables below list the threats and pressures that could potentially affect the features even if at this present time they are insignificant or highly unlikely.

We are working on a standardised sensitivity assessment called MarESA which will address this and will be circulated separately. It will replace these tables. In the interim it would be helpful if anyone has any comments on the risks of factors relevant to the features to send them to us.

#### FACTORS AFFECTING THE CONSERVATION FEATURES

##### SAC FEATURES

| Feature                     | Condition  | Year of Assessment | Potential Pressures and Threats   | Existing Legislation and Management Measures and Relevant Authority  | Draft Potential New Measures – to be discussed and agreed by Management Group |
|-----------------------------|------------|--------------------|---|--|---|
| <b>Mudflat and Sandbank</b> | Favourable | 2008               | Housing and Industrial Development – leading to erosion effects or changes in water levels              | Marine Licensing process - DAERA<br>Local Development Plan - Local Councils<br>Planning Applications - Local Councils  |   |
|                             |            |                    | Coastal Engineering (e.g. sea defence works) – leading to erosion effects or changes in water levels    | Marine Licensing – DAERA<br>Marine Planning -<br>Local Development Plan – Local Council  |   |
|                             |            |                    | Sand and Gravel Extraction  | Marine Licensing - DAERA   |   |
|                             |            |                    | Shellfish farming can cause shadowing and changes in habitat which subsequently impacts on wading birds | Aquaculture licensing - DAERA  |   |
|                             |            |                    | Agriculture – leading to eutrophication or turbidity  | The Nitrates Action Programme (Amendments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 - DAERA<br>The Phosphorous (Use in Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 - DAERA |   |
|                             |            |                    | Horse riding / trampling could damage   | Liaison with relevant horse owners and   | Continued liaison with owners   |

|   |              |      |   |  |  |
|---|--------------|------|---|--|--|
|   |              |      | to <i>Zostera</i> beds. Not causing concern at present. | Association  | Continued assessment of <i>Zostera</i><br>Audit and update of Out and About signage SLLP   |
|   |              |      | Invasive / Alien species<br><i>Spartina</i>             | <i>Spartina</i> eradication programme - the National Trust has had a degree of success in eradicating <i>Spartina</i> from Newtownards to Grey Abbey and they are now working down to Kircubbin. <i>Spartina</i> control group in place.   | Management Group to agree plan<br>Await recommendations from National Trust Conservation Action Plan   |
|   |              |      | Other invasive species                                  |  | Recreation management under the AONB Action Plan subject to HRA.<br>Includes potential need for washdown facilities for boats and "port" / access management   |
| <b>Reef – <i>M modiolus</i> communities</b> | Unfavourable | 2008 | Damage or loss of feature through mobile gear fishing   | Ban on mobile gear throughout the Lough - DAERA<br>The Strangford Lough (Sea Fishing Exclusion Zones) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 No.441 – fishing at a depth of 10m or more below chart datum within zones 1 and 2 is prohibited. DAERA<br>The Inshore Fishing (Prohibition of Fishing and Fishing Methods) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1993 [SR 1993 No.155] as amended. DAERA<br><br>A <i>Modiolus</i> Restoration Working Group has been established.<br><br>Spyball video surveys on identified clumps<br><br>Any means to restore the Feature under continual review. | Proposed Strangford Lough Fishery Management Plan DAERA, taking into account catch techniques, prey species and landings and their relationship to the environment. The aim is to develop and manage the pot fishery so that it is environmentally and economically viable into the future as a source of income for fishermen, for its potential with respect to the hospitality industry and as part of the cultural identity of the area. |
|   |              |      | Siltation caused by development                         | LDP – Local councils<br>Planning applications – Local councils<br>Marine Licensing – DAERA   |  |
|   |              |      | Boating and sailing – damage from anchors               | Strangford Lough Regulation of Anchoring, Mooring and Diving Byelaws 2012. DAERA ban on anchoring in exclusion zone  |  |



|  |              |      |   |   |  |
|--|--------------|------|---|---|--|
|  |              |      | Dive collection   | Strangford Lough Regulation of Anchoring, Mooring and Diving Byelaws 2012. DAERA ban on dive collection in exclusion zone   |  |
| <b>Large shallow inlets and bays</b>   | Favourable   | 2008 | WWTWs and Agriculture sources – leading to eutrophication or turbidity            | The Nitrates Action Programme (Amendments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015<br>The Phosphorous (Use in Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014.   | River Basin Catchment Management   |
| <b>Coastal lagoons</b>   | Favourable   |      | WWTWs and Agriculture sources – leading to eutrophication or turbidity            | The Nitrates Action Programme (Amendments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and The Phosphorous (Use in Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014.  |  |
| <b>Atlantic salt meadows</b>   | Unfavourable | 2013 | Invasive alien species <i>Spartina</i>  | Eradication programme. <i>Spartina</i> spraying co-ordinated by <i>Spartina</i> Management Group  | Review existing strategy<br>NT lease a third of the area around the Lough and concentrate on managing this area, but this needs to be coordinated to the other two thirds          |
|  |              |      | Grazing and land poaching   | Comes under ASSI Management.  | Ongoing liaison with landowners<br><br>Consider implications of any future changes in single farm payments   |
| <b>Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand</b>  | Unfavourable | 2013 | As for Atlantic salt Meadows  | As for Atlantic salt Meadows  | As for Atlantic salt Meadows   |
| <b>Annual vegetation of driftlines</b>   | Favourable   | 2003 | ?   | ?   | ?  |
| <b>Perennial vegetation of stony banks Note: feature lies above the HMW but should still be considered within overall scheme of management</b> | Unfavourable | 2013 | Lack of grazing and scrub encroachment  | ASSI Agreements – DAERA   | Consider NT Conservation Action Plan recommendations<br>Liaison with landowners  |
| <b>Common Seals</b>  | Favourable   | 2008 | Tourism and recreation – leading to disturbance, especially during pupping season | Programme of publications, signage, community initiatives, talks, tours – SLLP / NT<br>SLLP WiSe Scheme training and accreditation to operators of registered passenger and charter vessels, service and support boats<br>Event management HRA process – Local Councils | Recreation management under the AONB Action Plan subject to HRA. Includes WiSe and other initiatives<br>Continue existing initiatives<br>Audit and update of Out and About signage |

|  |  |  |   |   |  |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|
|  |  |  | Wildfowling – leading to disturbance  | National Trust / Clubs agreements   | Recommendations from forthcoming National Trust proposed SAC / SPA Conservation Action Plan  |
|  |  |  | Housing and Industrial Development – leading to disturbance   | Marine Licensing process - DAERA<br>Planning requirements – local councils  |  |
|  |  |  | Shore base shellfish/bait collection – leading to disturbance (cf research findings Carlingford Lough), especially during pupping   |   | DAERA to introduce measures wrt the management of shore based shellfish collection regionally, taking on board the SLLP Report on shellfish collection   |
|  |  |  | Spiral Injuries on washed up seals may have been caused by conflict between Common and Grey Seals, and not as a result of certain types of boat engine inflicting damage. 100 grey seal pups born in the lough over the past breeding season. | Is this acceptable natural change / or manageable threat? More information needed. And need to look wider than the Lough. | There are research proposals for all unregulated areas along NI coast - GPS tracking / mobility of populations. Exploris / Queens University are working in partnership on tracking seal movements and the quality of food available |
|  |  |  | Lack of food  | Fisheries Management - DAERA  |  |

## SPA FEATURES

General note : Food supplies, human disturbance, predators and sea level rise are all important factors affecting bird populations and should be monitored. If numbers go down then this should trigger investigation but decline in numbers of any one species might not necessarily demonstrate unfavourable condition of an over wintering site. The aim is to manage conditions to ensure favourable habitats, and that habitats could sustain the species if it wanted to be there.

On a global scale, the decline in overwintering species can be attributed to several reasons such as changes in local conditions, global warming meaning that there is no need to migrate at all for food or shelter or short stopping as conditions along the migratory route change. There may also be new problems along the flyways.

It is important to consider recent trends and not rely on the reported five year mean based assessments as the data is already out of date. Management intervention may be required between reporting cycles.

| Species              | Conservation Status                       | Year | Threats/Impacts   | Disturbance Management Measures  | Disturbance Management Recommendations  |
|----------------------|---|------|---|--|---|
| <b>Sandwich Tern</b> | Favourable but in decline in recent years | 2014 | Reduction in available prey through fisheries   | Fisheries management - DAERA   | Recommendations from forthcoming National Trust proposed SAC / SPA Conservation Action Plan (2017) for their property                             |
|                      |   |      | Reduction in water quality  | River Basin Catchment planning   |   |
|                      |   |      | Lack of quality grazed habitat  | The National Trust are managing grazing of islands to provide favourable nesting conditions - overlap with biodiversity and overwintering birds .  |   |
|                      |   |      | Rats, ferrets, mink and otters taking eggs / chicks   | Islands are monitored annually   | Monitoring , surveys<br><br>Recommendations from forthcoming National Trust proposed SAC / SPA Conservation Action Plan (2017) for their property |
|                      |   |      | Wildfowling   | NT working with Joint Council of Wildfowling and also assist with monitoring and conservation work.<br><br>Liaison with key organisations to determine appropriate management measures and licensing | Recommendations from forthcoming National Trust proposed SAC / SPA Conservation Action Plan (2017) for their property                             |
|                      |   |      | Climate change / change of conditions including habitat, phenology of migration and population declines<br>With rising sea levels some islands will become less suited to breeding colonies |  | Steps should be taken to prepare as many sites as possible so that suitable for the colonies to move in as required                               |
|                      |   |      | Housing and Industrial Development – leading to disturbance and loss of breeding habitat  | Planning permissions<br>Marine Licensing process   |   |
|                      |   |      | General recreational disturbance  | Education / signage.<br>Wildlife Order (NI) 1985, as amended(when Nesting)   | Recreational use should be managed to reduce any conflict in the tern breeding  |

|                      |  |      |   |   |  |
|----------------------|--|------|---|---|--|
|                      |  |      |   | SLLP programme of publications signage and community initiatives  | season. Some areas should remain available for picnickers and trippers.<br>Signage on islands<br>Recreation management under AONB Action Plan  |
|                      |  |      | Wind energy developments  | Planning permissions – Local councils<br>Marine Licensing process - DAERA   |  |
| <b>Common Tern</b>   | Favourable<br>But in decline in recent years | 2014 | As for Sandwich tern  | As for Sandwich tern  | As for Sandwich tern   |
| <b>Arctic Tern</b>   | Favourable                                   | 2014 | As for Sandwich tern  | As for Sandwich tern  | As for Sandwich tern   |
| <b>Golden Plover</b> | Favourable<br>But in decline in recent years | 2014 | Disturbance from recreation   | Wildlife Order (NI) 1985, as amended(when Nesting)<br>Programme of publications signage and community initiatives SLLP / NT | Audit and update of Out and About signage<br>Recreation management under AONB Action Plan<br>Recommendations from SportNI, NT, SLLP report<br>Further study needed to direct the Management Scheme |
|                      |  |      | Shellfish farming has an impact on mudflats and sandbanks which subsequently impacts on wading birds. |   |  |
|                      |  |      | Sea-level rise  |   |  |
|                      |  |      | Change of migration phenology and/or distribution (incl. short-stopping)                              |   |  |
|                      |  |      | Climate change / change of conditions including habitat and population declines                       |   |  |
|                      |  |      | Conflict with wind energy developments  | Planning permissions<br>Marine licensing  |  |
|                      |  |      | <i>See also threats and pressures relevant to mud flats and sandbanks</i>                             |   |  |

|                                |                            |      |   |   |  |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|------|---|---|--|
| <b>Bar-Tailed Godwit</b>       | Favourable                 | 2014 | General recreational disturbance  | SLLP programme of publications<br>signage and community initiatives | Recreation management<br>under AONB Action Plan<br>Audit and update of Out and<br>About signage<br>Recommendations from<br>SportNI, NT, SLLP report  |
|                                |                            |      | Shellfish farming has an impact on mudflats<br>and sandbanks which subsequently impacts<br>on wading birds  |   |  |
|                                |                            |      | Sea-level rise  |   |  |
|                                |                            |      | Change of migration phenology and/or<br>distribution (incl. short-stopping)                                 |   |  |
|                                |                            |      | Climate change / change of conditions<br>including habitat and population declines                          |   |  |
|                                |                            |      | <i>See also threats and pressures relevant to<br/>mud flats and sandbanks</i>                               |   |  |
| <b>Light-bellied<br/>Goose</b> | <b>Brent</b><br>Favourable | 2014 | General recreational disturbance including<br>horse riding / trampling – damage to <i>Zostera</i><br>beds   | SLLP programme of publications<br>signage and community initiatives | When <i>Zostera</i> beds are<br>depleted late in the season the<br>geese move onto agricultural<br>land.. However numbers are<br>relatively low at this time.<br>Recreation management<br>under AONB Action Plan<br>Audit and update of Out and<br>About signage<br>Recommendations from<br>SportNI, NT, SLLP report |
|                                |                            |      | Shellfish farming has an impact on mudflats<br>and sandbanks which subsequently impacts<br>on wading birds, |   |  |
|                                |                            |      | Sea-level rise  |   |  |
|                                |                            |      | Climate change / change of conditions<br>including habitat and population declines                          |   |  |
|                                |                            |      | Conflict with agriculture   | Maintenance of <i>Zostera</i> beds ?                                | Initiatives with landowners?   |
|                                |                            |      | Conflict with wind energy developments  | Covered by planning permissions and                                 |  |

|                 |  |      |   |   |   |
|-----------------|--|------|---|---|---|
|                 |  |      |   | marine licensing process  |   |
|                 |  |      | <i>See also threats and pressures relevant to mud flats and sandbanks</i>   |   |   |
| <b>Shelduck</b> | Favourable   | 2014 | General recreational disturbance  | SLLP programme of publications<br>signage and community initiatives | Recreation management<br>under AONB Action Plan<br>Audit and update of Out and<br>About signage<br>Recommendations from<br>SportNI, NT, SLLP report                         |
|                 |  |      | Shellfish farming has an impact on mudflats<br>and sandbanks which subsequently impacts<br>on wading birds.   |   |   |
|                 |  |      | Sea-level rise  |   |   |
|                 |  |      | Climate change / change of conditions<br>including habitat and population declines  |   |   |
|                 |  |      | <i>See also threats and pressures relevant to<br/>mud flats and sandbanks</i>   |   |   |
| <b>Knot</b>     | Favourable<br>But in sharp<br>decline in<br>recent years | 2014 | This species has shown a substantial recent<br>decline throughout the UK and Ireland,<br>particularly at western sites.<br><br>The decline is considered to be largely due to<br>migratory short-stopping related to climate<br>change and low productivity driven by<br>conditions on the breeding grounds (also<br>principally related to climate change).<br><br>Changes in numbers at Strangford are unlikely<br>to reflect a deterioration in site-specific<br>conditions. | SLLP programme of publications<br>signage and community initiatives | Recreation management<br>under AONB Action Plan<br>Audit and update of Out and<br>About signage<br>Recommendations from<br>SportNI, NT, SLLP report<br>Further study .... ? |
|                 |  |      | Shellfish farming has an impact on mudflats<br>and sandbanks which subsequently impacts<br>on wading birds  |   |   |
|                 |  |      | Sea-level rise  |   |   |
|                 |  |      | Change of migration phenology and/or<br>distribution (incl. short-stopping)   |   |   |
|                 |  |      | Climate change / change of conditions<br>including habitat and population declines  |   |   |
|                 |  |      | <i>See also threats and pressures relevant to<br/>mud flats and sandbanks</i>   |   |   |
| <b>Redshank</b> | Favourable   | 2014 | General recreational disturbance  | SLLP programme of publications                                      | Recreation management   |

|   |  |      |  |  |  |
|---|--|------|--|--|--|
|   |  |      |  | signage and community initiatives  | under AONB Action Plan<br>Audit and update of Out and About signage<br>Recommendations from SportNI, NT, SLLP report                       |
|   |  |      | Shellfish farming has an impact on mudflats and sandbanks which subsequently impacts on wading birds.  |  |  |
|   |  |      | Sea-level rise   |  |  |
|   |  |      | Change of migration phenology and/or distribution (incl. short-stopping)                               |  |  |
|   |  |      | Climate change / change of conditions including habitat and population declines                        |  |  |
|   |  |      | <i>See also threats and pressures relevant to mud flats and sandbanks</i>                              |  |  |
| <b>Assemblage species</b><br>(Little Grebe, Great Crested Grebe, Cormorant, Greylag Goose, Wigeon, Gadwall, Teal, Mallard, Pintail, Shoveler, Goldeneye, Red-breasted Merganser, Coot, Oystercatcher, Ringer Plover, Grey Plover, Lapwing, Dunlin, Curlew, Turnstone) | Favourable<br><br>But crash in Widgeon numbers | 2014 | General recreational disturbance<br><br>Decline in Widgeon numbers thought to be due to Short Stopping | SLLP programme of publications<br>signage and community initiatives  | Recreation management under AONB Action Plan<br>Audit and update of Out and About signage<br>Recommendations from SportNI, NT, SLLP report |
|   |  |      | Shellfish farming has an impact on mudflats and sandbanks which subsequently impacts on wading birds.  |  |  |
|   |  |      | Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities                        | The Nitrates Action Programme (Amendments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and The Phosphorous (Use in Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014. |  |
|   |  |      | Unspecific pollution including poisoning from lead shot  | Promotion of the use of non-lead alternatives  |  |
|   |  |      | Impacts of legal hunting including unsustainable hunting pressure                                      | Wildlife Order (NI) 1985, as amended.  |  |
|   |  |      | Control of undesirable predators   | Wildlife Order (NI) 1985, as amended, via licensing process for Cormorant control  |  |

|  |            |      |   |  |  |
|--|------------|------|---|--|--|
|  |            |      | Impacts from non-native species   | Liaison with key organisations to determine measures   |  |
|  |            |      | Change of migration phenology and/or distribution (incl. short-stopping)                              |  |  |
|  |            |      | Sea level rise  |  |  |
|  |            |      | Climate change /change of conditions including habitat and population declines                        |  |  |
|  |            |      | Conflict with wind and tidal energy?  | Covered by Planning permissions and Marine Licensing process   |  |
|  |            |      | <i>See also threats and pressures relevant to mud flats and sandbanks</i>                             |  |  |
| <b>Waterfowl Assemblage wintering population (Golden Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit, Light-bellied Brent Goose, Shelduck, Knot, Redshank, Little Grebe, Great Crested Grebe, Cormorant, Greylag Goose, Wigeon, Gadwall, Teal, Mallard, Pintail, Shoveler, Goldeneye, Red-breasted Merganser, Coot, Oystercatcher, Ringed Plover, Grey Plover, Lapwing, Dunlin, Curlew, Turnstone)</b> | Favourable | 2014 | General recreational disturbance  | SLLP programme of publications signage and community initiatives   | Recreation management under AONB Action Plan<br><br>Audit and update of Out and About signage<br><br>Recommendations from SportNI, NT, SLLP report |
|  |            |      | Shellfish farming has an impact on mudflats and sandbanks which subsequently impacts on wading birds. |  |  |
|  |            |      | Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities                       | Nitrates Action Programme (Amendments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 a<br>Phosphorous (Use in Agriculture) |  |



|  |  |  |   |   |  |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|
|  |  |  |   | Regulations (NI) 2014.  |  |
|  |  |  | Unspecific pollution including poisoning from lead shot                         | Promotion of the use of non-lead alternatives                                     |  |
|  |  |  | Impacts of legal hunting including unsustainable hunting pressure               | Wildlife Order (NI) 1985, as amended.   |  |
|  |  |  | Control as undesirable predator   | Wildlife Order (NI) 1985, as amended, via licensing process for Cormorant control |  |
|  |  |  | Impacts from non-native species   |   | Liaison with key organisations to determine measures |
|  |  |  | Sea level rise  |   |  |
|  |  |  | Change of migration phenology and/or distribution (incl. short-stopping)        |   |  |
|  |  |  | Climate change - change of conditions including habitat and population declines |   |  |
|  |  |  | Conflict with agriculture   | Maintenance of <i>Zostera</i> beds  |  |
|  |  |  | Conflict with wind and tidal energy?  | Covered by Planning permissions and Marine Licensing process                      |  |
|  |  |  | <i>See also mud flats and sandbanks</i>   |   |  |

### 3.7 GAPS OF KNOWLEDGE

Requirements to be identified.

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## 4. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

### 4.1 Goals and objectives

### 4.2. Management Group

### 4.3 Boundaries - maps

### 4.3 Surveillance and enforcement

### 4.4 Monitoring and evaluation of plan effectiveness

### 4.5 Timetable for implementation

## 4.1 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

**Goal 1:** Ensure outdoor recreation and tourism are managed and developed sustainably , reducing risk to the Conservation Features

Obj 1: Ensure risks posed by local council tourism and outdoor recreation proposals are managed and mitigated through the HRA process

Obj 2: Balance conservation interests with the demand for better access to the shore and water by review current relevant plans and proposals in the AONB Action Plan and related HRA.

Obj 3 Reduce risk of invasive species introduction and spread through improved communication and liaison with users and the introduction of related initiatives such as improved wash down facilities

Obj 4: Conserve *M modiolus* communities by retaining existing By laws but review and update controls as required

Obj 5 Reduce OR related disturbance and damage by engaging OR users through the Local Outdoor Recreation Forum, SLLP Committee and directly with communities and clubs and develop related initiatives including on-line guidance and best practice. This will include taking forward recommendations from relevant reports and studies.

Obj 6: Review and replace outdated / damaged *Out and About* signage

Obj 7: Undertake related research and monitoring as required

### **Goal 2: Address concerns for damage and disturbance caused by shore based shellfish collection**

Obj 1 Introduce an effective system of regulation and control, of commercial shellfish collection, taking on board recommendations from the SLLP commissioned report *Management of Shore-Based Periwinkle Collection on Strangford Lough & Lecale Coast*, Clear Direction, 2013.

Obj 2. Continue to report Gang activity so that they can be investigated under the Gangmasters Licensing Authority

Obj 3 Raise public awareness of the issue

Obj 4 Ensure required information on where the shellfish are harvested are filled in by processors.

### **Goal 3: Develop a sustainable pot fishery in Strangford Lough**

Obj 1: Produce a Strangford Lough Fisheries Management Plan

Obj 2: Retain current restrictions under the *M modiolus* restoration programme but review and update as appropriate

### **Goal 4. Develop sustainable aquaculture**

The future demand for aquaculture in the Lough is unclear, but the cumulative and long term impact of licencing is being considered as well as the individual applications. Overall capacity and cumulative effect of displacement of overwintering birds and loss of habitat are amongst the issues under consideration. Climate change may affect the demand for licences as temperature rises further south favour growing shellfish in this area. A rise in temperature also affects the growth of Pacific Oysters which are now spreading across the Lough.

Obj 1: Develop a strategy for aquaculture to avoid damage to the site.

### **Goal 5: Eradicate or control damaging invasive species**

19 invasive species have been identified within Strangford Lough of which 5 are key: Spartina, Didemnum vexillum, Pacific Oyster, Japanese Wire Weed, Japanese Shrimp

Obj 1 Establish a Management Working Group to review data, determine causes and develop and deliver related initiatives, using a joined up approach between DAERA, local councils, Dept. of Infrastructure, and involving SLLP Committee members eg the Royal Yachting Association, Yacht Clubs and others.

Obj 2 Eradicate Spartina by continuing current programme

Obj 3 Continue to monitor, map and communicate location and extent of invasive species and continue regular biannual inspections at "hot spots".

Obj 4 Provide stakeholders with information on where these species are their spread and advice on their control

Obj 5 Identify potential invasive species that may become a problem in future and / or the risk of invasion reduced by taking pre-emptive measures.

Obj 6 Engage the support of the wider public and volunteers in reducing the risk of introduction and spread invasives by involving them in identifying, monitoring and taking preventative measures.

### **Goal 6: Seek to address the challenges of Coastal Change**

There is a UK and Ireland wide call for shoreline management in view of increased storm events, expected rise of sea levels and coastal erosion. The National Trust's Shifting Shores initiative provides a focus regionally and locally. There are particular concerns with respect to coastal squeeze at the North end of the lough. A rise in sea level may reduce habitat and make the area less tenable for some species. Management measures will have to adapt to such changes.

Obj 1 Establish a Working to identify local issues and through an integrated approach seek to address them and also to compile them as evidence within Regional plans and to inform Local Development Plans and Community Plans.

Obj 2 Commission research into species and habitat changes in the Lough due to climate change and monitor change as appropriate.

Obj 3. Continue to record change along the coast using drones to deploy cameras.

Obj 4 Community Plans and Local Development Plans to take into account the threat of damage to houses and roads due to coastal erosion and to consider the effect of climate change when planning new development.

Planning decisions should mitigate for climate change, they know it will be an issue but more information should be fed back to them.

### **Goal 7: Improve water quality**

Obj 1; Deliver River Basin Management and targets within associated Local Plans.

Obj 2 Review pollution reduction programmes 2018.

### **Goal 8: Monitor species and habitats to assess their condition**

DAERA lead a monitoring programme for all of the Conservation Features which meets the 6 yearly reporting cycle reporting requirements under legislation. The monitoring itself is ongoing. However, the 2014 SPA condition assessment is based on data from 2005-10 and does not pick up declines in some species since 2010. Unless the annual monitoring information is acted upon (between the reporting periods) there is a danger of monitoring only to record the demise of species and habitats. Intertidal monitoring and ASSI could benefit from citizen science and public engagement initiatives to fill information gaps and help to flag up issues for further investigation. The engagement of local people has the added value of encouraging their support for conservation and sensitive use of the Lough in the long term.

Obj 1 Continue to meet legislative requirements for monitoring.

Obj 2. Provide the Management Group with annual up to date monitoring information and survey results so that trends may be identified and problems detected in time for management action to address them. Monitoring programmes are in place and sub-littoral features and bird features are reasonably well covered.

Obj 3 Engage volunteers and the wider public in citizen science and engagement work relevant to surveys and monitoring, first agreeing the best methodology and ensuring data use. This would enhance the existing programme but broaden its scope and frequency at least at a broad brush level. Scientific contracts and specialised personnel would continue to focus on the core monitoring programme, priority locations and provide a deeper level of data collection and analysis.

### **Goal 9 Develop research, surveys and monitoring to assess the effects of human interactions on the conservation features**

Obj 1 Establish research and survey needs and identify priorities

### **Goal 10 Reduce coastal and marine litter**

Obj 1: Develop collaboration across local councils, SLLP, NT, Keep NI Beautiful and other bodies on related education, lobbying, public engagement and clean-ups

### **Goal 11 Engage local people and stakeholders and raise the profile of the area**

**Obj1:** Continue the to develop a communication strategy through SLLLP to include the development of [www.strangfordlough.org](http://www.strangfordlough.org) , social media and community activities as a focus for the Scheme, guidance and related projects and involving the National Trust through its properties and programmes.

**Obj 2** Engage volunteers in monitoring, surveys and practical conservation . See also Obj: 8.3

### **Goal 12: Develop management capacity through funded projects**

There are opportunities to develop projects which may have wider application than the Marine Protected Area Features but which could help to develop related MPA Management. Collaborative approaches have the potential to access funds for major pieces of work that could not be funded through DAERA or the local councils. LIFE , the HLF and its related Landscape Partnership Scheme, Trusts and others .

It is important that projects should be complementary and priorities addressed.

## **4.2 MANAGEMENT GROUP**

### **Marine Site Management Group**

The Marine Site Management Group comprises Relevant and Competent Authorities and the SLLP Stakeholder Committee. The key statutory relevant authorities are DAERA, NIEA, AANDBC and NMDDC but other authorities have a strategic and practical role to play eg DFI and HM Coastguard. See also Section 3.5. Each body will need to liaise internally to ensure the most appropriate representation and communication.

The Regulations do not affect the statutory powers of relevant authorities, but require that they apply them to ensure the protection of the site. The appropriate relevant authority should undertake any agreed management measure required to ensure that the conservation objectives are met.

It is envisaged that the Marine Site Management Group should meet once per year to review and agree the overall work plan, involving all of its constituents. The Management Group will comprise a number of Working Groups involving those authorities / stakeholders most relevant to the management of that work package or issue, eg *Modiolus* Restoration that will meet as required by the task in hand. Working Groups are established on a task and finish basis or as standing groups as required. They are facilitated as appropriate.

The MPA overlaps with the Strangford and Lecale AONB and it may be affected by plans and proposals for the AONB . for this reason it is essential that the MPA Management Group is closely associated with the SLLP which is the Management body for the AONB and comprises AANDBC, NMDDC and the SLLP Committee.

The SLLP Office facilitates the SLLP and AONB Management and may facilitate the MPA Management Group. It provides mechanisms for consultation and review of the Scheme and Action Plans and the development and delivery of collaborative initiatives, especially those where public / stakeholder engagement is required. In developing such initiatives it also provides a key mechanism for inward investment through grants and other funding sources. It also facilitates the Wardening Network and the Local Outdoor Recreation Group.

#### SLLP role

- Cohesive stakeholder and community partnership input to strategy and plans
- Public engagement and citizen science programme and outreach wrt education, monitoring, surveys, litter removal, conservation initiatives
- Central communication mechanisms and resources, developing understanding through holistic and objective information on issues and on site and online communication eg workshops, signage, [www.strangfordlough.org](http://www.strangfordlough.org) ; newsheets etc
- facilitates the Wardening Network and reporting mechanisms
- Facilitates the MPA Management Group, AONB Management Group (SLLP) and the Local Outdoor Recreation Forum
- Promote voluntary management and good practice
- Develops and promotes sustainable access to the countryside under its AONB remit which includes the foreshore and intertidal aspects of the MPA
- Raises the profile of the MPA and AONB through media, web , social media etc
- Builds capacity through with inward investment through grants and other funding sources.

#### The SLLP Committee Membership – under review

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Ards and North Down Borough Council                | Newry Mourne and Down District Council               |
| Association of Strangford Lough Yacht Clubs        | Northern Ireland Agricultural Producers' Association |
| Centre for Maritime Archaeology                    | Northern Ireland Environment Link                    |
| County Down Rural Community Network - Community    | Northern Ireland Fish Producers Organisations        |
| County Down Rural Community Network - Regeneration | Queen's University                                   |
| Historic Monuments Council                         | Royal Yachting Association                           |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Joint Council of Wildfowlers<br>Marine Task Force (potential to be replaced by Ulster Wildlife?)<br>National Trust<br>NI Fed of Sub-Aqua Clubs? | Sports Council for Northern Ireland<br>Strangford Lough Fishermen's Association<br>Strangford Lough Tourism Destination Management Forum<br>Ulster Farmers' Union<br>Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust |
|---|--|

### **The Ranger Network**

Rangers and officers from the National Trust, local councils, DAERA and volunteers who are involved in direct conservation and face to face public liaison work, meet once per year to update, exchange experience and improve collaboration.

### **The Local Outdoor Recreation Forum**

Facilitated by the SLLP / Sport NI and meets as required for the purpose of AONB and Marine Site OR development and management

Further work is needed to guide local councils and to agree and take initiatives forward.

### **DAERA NIEA Water Management Unit River Basin District Groups**

Delivering in partnership with other government agencies and stakeholders. Actions will be targeted through a series of catchment projects.

## **4.3 BOUNDARIES – MAPS**

### **To follow**



#### 4.4 SURVEILLANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

*This section to follow*

*DAERA Fisheries Officer*

*Two part time DAERA Rangers covering the County Down Coast.*

*The National Trust rangers*

*Local council environmental health inspectors*

*Emergency incident pollution response*

*Reporting illegal activities relevant to the Conservation Features / ASSI*

*Seal carcasses*

*Abandoned seal pups*

ETC

#### 4.5 MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF PLAN EFFECTIVENESS

This Scheme and its related Action Plan will be reviewed annually by the Management Group . Further work is needed to make develop SMART Objectives and Targets.

#### 4.6 TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

**Information to follow**

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## 5. APPENDICES

**To follow**

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## 6. REFERENCES , CONTACTS AND LINKS

### To follow

River Basin District Plan

: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/north-eastern-river-basin-district>

SES: led by Susanna Allen [susanna.allen@midandeantrim.gov.uk](mailto:susanna.allen@midandeantrim.gov.uk).

Habitat Regulations Assessments (HRAs) are undertaken by the SES Environmental Assessment Unit (EAU): Malachy Kearney, Senior Environmental Planning Officer

[malachy.kearney@midandeantrim.gov.uk](mailto:malachy.kearney@midandeantrim.gov.uk)

SA and SEA are undertaken by the SES Sustainable Development Unit (SDU): Gwyneth Evans, Senior Environmental Planning Officer

[gwyneth.evans@midandeantrim.gov.uk](mailto:gwyneth.evans@midandeantrim.gov.uk)

<http://www.marlin.ac.uk/habitats/SNCB-benchmarks>

**on line** Conservation Objectives Marl

## **Newry, Mourne and Down District Council**

The Council's Scheme of Delegation for Officers is made in accordance with Section 7 (arrangements for discharge of functions of Council) of the Local Government (NI) Act 2014.

### Arrangements for Monitoring and Review

Each Department is required to appoint an officer with responsibility for maintaining a register of delegated decisions. Reports on the register shall be brought to relevant Committees on a bi-annual basis.

A corporate register of delegated decisions shall be maintained by the Head of Democratic Services which can be requested to be produced by any Committee of Council at any time. The Head of Democratic Services is the responsible officer for ensuring this register remains current and accurate at all times.

### Scheme of Delegated Decisions for Reporting

The following delegated decisions or authorisations are to be reported monthly (unless otherwise specified) to the relevant Committee by the officer responsible for making or granting.

1. Engaging consultancy assistance below the delegated level of £2,000;
2. Decision to commence formal restructuring within a Department or Departments;
3. Consultation responses other than technical responses where officers asked for Member views;
4. Decisions arising from external report on significant Health and Safety at Work;
5. In cases of emergency, the allocation or awarding of Financial assistance (small grants) to external groups or organisations below the delegated level of £300; and
6. Other decisions such as those with political, media or industrial relations implications that Directors consider Members should be aware of.

Attached is a reporting form for each of the categories of delegated decisions/authorisations which should be completed by Departmental Officers and reported to relevant committees.

Other decisions or authorisations delegated to each Department under the Scheme of Delegation, should be reported by way of a bi-annual report to the relevant Committee of Council, (refer to the Council's Scheme of Delegation for complete list of delegated matters).

A copy should also be forwarded to Eileen McParland, Democratic Services Manager – [eileen.mcparland@newryandmourne.gov.uk](mailto:eileen.mcparland@newryandmourne.gov.uk)

Category 1.

**Engaging consultancy assistance below the designated level of £2,000**

| Purpose of Engagement | Name of Consultancy | Cost ex VAT |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------|
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Category 2.

**Decision to commence formal restructuring with a Department or Departments**

Name of Department/s and reason for restructure

Category 3.

**Consultation responses other than technical responses where officers asked for Member views**

List Consultation title and attach response



Category 4

**Decisions arising from external report on significant Health and Safety at Work issues**

| Details of report issued by Health and Safety Executive | Decision taken as result of report received |
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## Category 5

**In cases of emergency, the allocation or awarding of financial assistance (small grants) to external groups or organisations below the designated level of £300**

| Name of group/organisations | Amount awarded | Reason for award |
|-----------------------------|----------------|------------------|
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## Category 6

**Any other decisions such as those with political, media or industrial relations implications that Directors consider Members should be aware of.**

| <b>Date of agreement</b> | <b>Contact name</b>                       | <b>Decision made by Director</b> | <b>Costs/requirements</b>                                 | <b>Other info (date of event etc)</b>   |
|--------------------------|---|----------------------------------|---|---|
| 11/4/16                  | Newcastle Athletics Club                  | Approve licence                  | Event fee £30<br>Event bond £30<br>£5m insurance required | Date of Event:<br>14/4/16<br>Location:<br>Castlewellan<br>Description: Hill and Dale Running Event  |
| 13/4/16                  | Sarah Megaw<br>Comm Rep                   | Approve event                    | No charge   | Event: 24/7/16<br>Location:<br>Newcastle beach<br>Description: Family fun day to raise funds for local Lifeboat Crew and Mourne Mountain Rescue   |
| 13/4/16                  | Rob Manley,<br>Newcastle Community Cinema | Approve event                    | No charge   | Event: 28/5/16<br>Location: Donard Car park<br>Description:<br>Premier of documentary movie 'The Bug Movie'   |
| 4/7/16                   | Chain Reactions<br>Cycle Club             | Approve event                    | No charge   | Event: 15-19 Sept<br>Location: Donard Park<br>Description:<br>Mountain bike Event   |
| 22/6/16                  | Maiden of Mournes<br>Festival Committee   | Approve Event                    | No charge<br>Licence Agreement to be entered into         | Festival to run from Sunday 7 August 2016 to Sunday 14 August 2016 between 12pm and 10pm daily. Land to be made available at Marina Car Park, Warrenpoint from Saturday 6 August 2016 to Monday 15 August 2016 inclusive<br><br>Additionally the Licensee may use |

| Date of agreement | Contact name   | Decision made by Director | Costs/requirements  | Other info (date of event etc)  |
|-------------------|--|---------------------------|---|---|
|                   |  |                           |   | and occupy a section of Warrenpoint Square on Tuesday 9 August 2016 from 8am to 4pm for the purpose of facilitating a BBC Broadcast |
|                   | Nigel McKinney                                       | Approve licence           | Event Fee £30<br>Event Bond £30   | Date of event: 13 July 2016<br>Location : Castlewellan Forest Park<br>Description: SOMA Jnr running event Castlewellan Forest Park  |
| 31/7/16           | Mr JD Fisher   | Approve lease             | Pay reasonable legal fees of Mr Fisher and nominal rent                                     | Seek to renew lease of Rath Turret Warrenpoint  |
| 15/8/16           | Maurice Mayne, Banbridge Cycling Club                | Approve                   | £5m insurance<br>Site fee £300<br>Refundable event bond fee £300<br>Security to be provided | Event – Castlewellan Mountain Bike Trails Race 20 & 21 Aug 2016   |
| 7/9/16            | David Cunningham Irish Long Distance Riding Assoc    | Approve                   | Insurance   | Event- 10-11 Sept 16 - Annual horse riding event from Downpatrick Racecourse  |
| 17/11/16          | Charles Cunningham, Boat Club Trinity College Dublin | Approve                   | Insurance   | Event – 17/12/16 on Newry Canal   |
| 21/11/16          | Joe Quinn, East Down Athletics Club                  | Approve                   | Insurance   | Event – Janes Shore 5k & 10k race on 27/11/16   |
| 12/16             | Born to Run Events Newcastle                         | Approve                   | £5m insurance<br>Event fee £50<br>Refundable event bond £100                                | Event – 25/2/17 Forest Run Castlewellan   |
| 1/12/16           | Newcastle Athletics Club                             | Approve                   | £5m insurance<br>Event fee £30<br>Refundable event bond £30                                 | Event – Christmas Cracker Event on 27/12/16   |

| <b>Date of agreement</b> | <b>Contact name</b>                 | <b>Decision made by Director</b> | <b>Costs/requirements</b>              | <b>Other info (date of event etc)</b>   |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|---|
| 31/1/17                  | George Conn<br>The Faith Mission    | Approve                          | Insurance                              | Event – Use land at promenade in Newcastle for open air faith services between 6/7/17 to 22/7/17              |
| 21/2/17                  | Martin McGreevy,<br>Ardglass        | Approve                          | Insurance<br>Vet clearance & passports | 5/3/17 to 30/9/17 operate donkey and Shetland pony on beach adj to Newcastle Centre                           |
| 9/3/17                   | David Cooke,<br>Rainbow Productions | Approve                          | Insurance                              | 10/3/17 filming on Tyrella beach  |
|                          | Elmer Bell<br>Amusements            | Approve                          | Insurance<br>Fee £1000 per week        | Licence agreement<br>Venue:Warrenpoint Promenade on St Patricks Day & Easter<br><br>Venue tbc for Summer 2017 |