

Report to:	Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Review of Development Management & Planning Task Force Update
Date:	11 February 2016
Reporting Officer:	Johnny McBride, Change Manager
Contact Officers:	Canice O'Rourke, Director of Regulatory & Technical Services Johnny McBride, Change Manager

Decisions Required

Members are asked to note the contents of the report and agree to:

- **The Report of the Meeting of the Planning Task Force held on the 13 January 2016; and**
- **The Project Initiation Document (PID) and Terms of Reference for the review of Development Management (Planning)**

1.0	<u>Purpose & Background</u>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to recommend a Project Initiation Document (PID) and Terms of Reference for the review of Development Management (Planning). This follows Planning Task Force consideration and agreement of same at its inaugural meeting, held on the 13 January 2016. A report of the meeting is provided at Appendix I .
1.2	The purpose of the PID is to define the review in more detail in order to form the basis of its management, as well an assessment of its overall success. The Terms of Reference form the scope of the work of the Independent Expert (Mr Jim MacKinnon) who has been appointed to undertake the review.
2.0	<u>Key Issues</u>
	Project Initiation Document (PID)
2.1	A copy of the recommended PID is provided at Appendix II .
	Terms of Reference
2.2	A copy of the recommended Terms of Reference is provided at Appendix III .
3.0	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>
3.1	There are no financial or other resource implications contained within this report.
4.0	<u>Equality & Good Relations Implications</u>
4.1	There are no equality or good relations implications contained within this report.
5.0	<u>Next Steps</u>
5.1	It is important to note that due to the urgency upon which the Council has placed on

	resolving performance issues within Planning, Mr MacKinnon and the review itself has been commissioned based on the recommendation of the Planning Task Force.
5.0	<u>Appendices</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Appendix I – Report of the inaugural Planning Task Force meeting, 13 January 2016; ▪ Appendix II – recommended Project Initiation Document (PID) for the review of Development Management (Planning); and ▪ Appendix III – recommended Terms of Reference for the Independent Expert (Mr J MacKinnon)

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
PLANNING REVIEW – TASK FORCE MEETING

BRIEFING NOTE – from Planning Taskforce Meeting held on Wednesday 13 January 2016

In Attendance: Councillor J Tinnelly (Chair) (2.20 pm – 4.15pm)
Councillor W Clarke
Councillor Ennis
Councillor M Murnin (for Councillor Andrews)
Councillor D McAteer
Councillor H McKee (2.00 pm – 3.00 pm)

Officials in Attendance: Mr C O'Rourke, Director of R &TS
Mr A McKay, Head of Planning
Mr J McBride, Change Manager
Mr P Green, Legal Advisor
Ms L Dillon, Democratic Services Officer
Ms C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer

Apologies: Councillor Reilly
Councillor Burgess
Mr E Curtis, Director of SPR

Mr O'Rourke gave a presentation on the background and aims and purpose of the Planning Review Task Force (presentation attached).

Members raised the following issues:-

- Council officials seemed to have identified a lot of the solutions needed to improve the development management process within the Council, with the fundamental problem being that the service needs more resources. What does the Council hope Mr MacKinnon will add to the process?
- When becoming a Member of the Planning Committee there was a hope that Councillors would become part of a holistic approach to Planning – not just determining planning applications but as part of an engagement process, for example planning applications which will be of economic benefit to the area should also have an input from the Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Directorate. A new start, a new way of thinking – not blinkered and focused.
- There are two Council Committees which have a say in planning i.e. Strategy Planning and Resources and Regulatory and Technical Services. The Planning Committee should be able to make recommendations to the full Council as opposed to other Committees making recommendations.
- A desire that in time the Planning Department would have its own in-house expertise to provide technical information etc. on consultation responses.
- Applicants saying they are not getting value for money for their fees – their fee payments are in the Council's bank account long before any action is taken on a planning application.

- Should the Planning Department consider operating a similar Planning system to that in the South of Ireland – i.e. if a planning application is not decided on within 6 weeks it will be deemed to have planning permission
- How does the staff in the Planning Department feel about the review? Planning staff are at the receiving end of a lot of criticism – they are making the best use of the resources available to them and Councillors should take more cognizance of this.
- It is essential that a mechanism is put in place which will lead to the determination and issuing of legacy applications which are clogging up the system.
- There was strong support voiced for the implementation of a pre application process which Members believed would streamline the planning process and speed up the processing of applications.
- There was an onus on members of the Planning Committee and Councillors to have a maturity when it comes to approving delegated decisions which have no further new information to offer. These applications should not be continually bounced back through the system, asking Planning Officers to continue negotiations on them.
- In discussions between the Independent Planning expert and Agents/Architects it should be made clear that planning applications cannot go against planning policy.

PROJECT INITIATION DOCUMENT (PID)

REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT (PLANNING)

Read: Report dated 11 January 2016 from Mr J McBride, Change Manager, (1.3 Draft for presentation to Task Force). (Copy circulated). The purpose of the project initiation document (PID) is to define the Review of Development Management, in order to form the basis for its management and an assessment of its overall success.

The report detailed the issues and challenges for the development management function of the Planning Service; the project aim and deliverables; project exclusions; key assumptions and measures of success.

Project Aim and Deliverables

- The Members of the Taskforce agreed with the project scope as outlined in the report and asked that the following issues be included in the project scope:-
 - Devise a procedure for planning applications that have a clear economic or tourism benefit to the District, to be given all assistance possible in their application and that the Economic Regeneration and Tourism Department be given a remit in considering such applications (all applications must adhere to planning policies).
 - A mechanism to process the legacy applications which are currently clogging up the planning system.

- A recommendation on the introduction of a pre-planning consultation process and where a charge rate could be imposed.

Project Exclusions

- The Members of the Taskforce agreed with the project exclusions as outlined in the report and asked that the following issue be included in the project scope:-
 - Mr MacKinnon to make a recommendation in terms of appropriate staffing levels in Development Management and the Local Development Plan Teams.

Key Assumptions

- The Members of the Taskforce agreed the following key assumption in respect of the project:-
 - Development management services will continue to be provided from the two-centre operating model of Monaghan Row, Newry and the Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick.

AGREED:

The Members of the Taskforce agreed the terms of reference for the Review of Development Management (Planning) as outlined in the report dated 11 January 2016 from Mr J McBride and circulated at the meeting, subject to the inclusion of the issues outlined above.

It was agreed Mr J McBride submit a revised report to the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting to be held on Thursday 11 February 2016.

JIM MACKINNON – PLANNING TASKFORCE PROJECT – PROPOSED ITINERARY

Read: Proposed Itinerary for Mr Jim MacKinnon, Independent Expert, from Monday 18 January 2016 to Friday 22 January 2016. (Copy circulated).

Mr O'Rourke confirmed that any member of the Planning Taskforce could attend the events to be held on Thursday 21 January 2016 if these so wished.

The meeting ended at 4.15 pm.

Signed: Canice O'Rourke
Director of Regulatory and Technical Services

Planning Review – Task Force Meeting

Canice O'Rourke
Senior Responsible Officer
Planning Review Task Force



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and Down**
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Planning Review Task Force

Membership

- Elected members:
 - Jarlath Tinnelly & Willie Clarke - Planning Committee
 - Robert Burgess & Henry Reilly - SP&R Committee
 - Terry Andrews & Sinead Ennis - R&TS Committee
 - Declan McAteer & Harold McKee – Briefing Panel
- Officers:
 - Canice O'Rourke – R&TS
 - Eddie Curtis – SP&P
 - Anthony McKay - Planning
 - Johnny McBride – Change Manager
 - Jim MacKinnon – Independent Expert



Planning Review Task Force

Aims & Purpose

- To examine the operational effectiveness of the procedures and protocols currently being used in Development Management
- To formulate and recommend, to full council, changes in these procedures and protocols that will bring about service improvement



Planning Review Task Force

Existing Perceptions

- Takes too long for applications to be determined
- Application are not dealt with in Chronological order
- Policies not always applied consistently
- Decision Notices not being issued in a timely fashion
- Planners are adversarial rather than cooperative
- Correspondence not being systematically dealt with
- Prioritisation of applications not most appropriate
- Agents believe 'their' applications are being delayed
- Planners, rather than councillors, are making decisions



Planning Review Task Force

Specific view of Agents

- Officers need to respond to calls from agents
- Chief Planner shouldn't be only one signing off decisions
- All unallocated applications should be allocated to a case officer
- Historically deferred applications should be dealt with in chronological order (as received)
- Reallocate 'simple' matters so they can be fast tracked
- Case allocations to be made in 'sensible' fashion
- Allow agents to submit plans in PDF format, via email
- Advise agents of 'issues' via email, not letter
- If application has 'minor issues' validate anyway
- Issue applications for consultation immediately on receipt
- Review ban on speaking rights
- Carry out capacity building for councillors on Planning Committee



Planning Review Task Force

Reasons for the difficulties

- Transferred a very significant backlog of deferred applications
- Transferred insufficient resources to manage the number of applications being received
- Significant IT difficulties at time of transfer:
 - Planners Email accounts inaccessible
 - EPIC inaccessible
 - Historic files transferred inaccessible
- Path Finder Pilot made transition management more difficult
- Actual staff transferring only determined at last minute
- Council accommodation and IT capability not adequate

Fundamental problem remains – not enough resource



Planning Review Task Force

Progress since 1st April 2015

- Implemented dedicated Councillor phone number
- Co-located Planning staff with Building Control staff in both Downpatrick & Newry
- Backlog of deferred applications stabilised
- Throughput per case officer now exceeds that of DoE Planning Department
- Brought in three additional admin staff
- Sought to backfill vacancies due to maternity leave
- Secured three additional planning staff (to start by end of January)
- Presently working with recruitment agencies to bring additional agency staff
- Carried out an admin process review of Planning and Building Control

Fundamental problem remains – not enough resource



Planning Review Task Force

Plan going forward

- Set up Task Force to examine present situation
- Seek to identify process, procedure and protocol enhancements
- Seek to implement any such enhancements
- Progress stream lined administration process
- On-board, train and begin utilising additional Planning staff
- Take on views/recommendations of Independent Expert – Jim MacKinnon



Planning Review Task Force

Jim MacKinnon

- Born in Forres in 1952 and educated at Forres Academy
- First Class Honours Degree in Geography in 1974
- Diploma in Town Planning with Distinction in 1977
- Joined Scottish Office from Motherwell District Council in 1979
- Responsible policy and advice, casework, research management and the establishment of the Planning Audit Unit
- Member of UK delegation to the Committee on Spatial Development
- Expert advisor on the National Spatial Strategy
- Head of Planning Division in the Scottish Executive
- Chief Planner and Head of Planning and Building Standards Group
- Led reform of the planning system including Planning (Scotland) Act 2006 & the National Planning Framework
- Director for the Built Environment with responsibility for architecture and place making, building standards and planning
- Member of the Royal Town Planning Institute
- Honorary Member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.





Planning Review Task Force

Jim MacKinnon – Time Table

Wednesday, 13 January	Full Task force – agree scope	2.00-5.00 pm
Monday, 18 January		
(Newry) (Training Room, Council Offices)	Johnny McBride	10.00-11.00 am
	Anthony McKay	11.00-12.00 noon
	Admin staff	12.00-1.00 pm
	SPTO's	2.00-3.00 pm
	HPTO's	3.00-4.00 pm
	PTO's	4.00-5.00 pm
Tuesday, 19 January	Tour of District	8.00-10.00 am
	PTO's	10.00-11.00 am
(Downpatrick) (The Mourne Room)	HPTO's	11.00-12.00 noon
	Andrew Hay/Eddie Curtis	12.00- 1.00 pm
	Liam Hannaway	2.30-3.30 pm (Mtg Room 4)
	Admin Staff	3.30-4.30 pm
	Meeting with MPs/MLAs	6.00-7.30 pm
Wednesday, 20 January		
(Newry) (Boardroom, Council Offices)	Planning Committee Meeting	10.00-1.00 pm (Lunch in training room)
		1.00-2.00 pm
	Planning Committee/ Chair/Vice Chair of R&TS and SP&R/ Briefing Panel/Task Force	2.00-3.00 pm
(Newry) (Training Room, Council Offices)	Meeting all Councillors/Task Force	3.00-4.00 pm
Thursday, 21 January	Meeting with Community/ Environmental groups	10.00-12.00 pm
(Downshire Arms, Hilltown)		
(Newry) (Boardroom, Council Offices)	Agents/Developers workshop	3.00-5.00 pm
Friday, 22 January	Update Canice on progress	8.00-9.00 am (Newry Canal Hotel)
(Newry) (Boardroom, Council Offices)	Any Follow-ups	9.00-9.30 am
	Pat Rooney	9.30-10.30 am
	Close off Meeting with Johnny McBride	10.30-11.30 am
	Depart for airport	12.00 noon



Planning Review Task Force

Jim MacKinnon – forward plan

- Task Force agree scope (Project Initiation Document)
- Jim and Task Force work on schedule as agreed

- Jim MacKinnon will come back
 - 1/2 day in early February – to update Task Force on progress/proposals
 - 1/2 day late February/early March – to present recommendations to council

- Will identify
 - quick wins, for immediate implementation
 - more substantial changes for implementation in April and beyond

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Planning Review Task Force

Scope – What's in, What's Out

- Project Initiation Document – Johnny McBride
- Any changes to scope

JIM MACKINNON – PLANNING TASK FORCE PROJECT - PROPOSED ITINERARY

Friday, 8 January	Task force Officers – scope proposals	2.00-4.00 pm
Wednesday, 13 January	Full Task force – agree scope	2.00-5.00 pm
Monday, 18 January	Canice to take Jim to Monaghan Row	9.00am
(Newry) (Training Room, Council Offices)	Johnny McBride	10.00-11.00 am
	Anthony McKay	11.00-12.00 noon
	Admin staff	12.00-1.00 pm
	SPTO's	2.00-3.00 pm
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Friday, 22 January (Newry) (Boardroom, Council Offices)	Update Canice on progress	8.00-9.00 am (Newry Canal Hotel)
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	Pat Rooney	9.30-10.30 am
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	Depart for airport	12.00 noon

PROJECT INITIATION DOCUMENT (PID)

To:	Canice O'Rourke, Director of Regulatory & Technical Services
From:	Johnny McBride, Change Manager
Date:	13.01.16
Project:	Review of Development Management (Planning)
Project Sponsor:	Liam Hannaway, Chief Executive
Senior Responsible Officer:	Canice O'Rourke, Director of Regulatory & Technical Services
Independent Expert:	James MacKinnon
Project Manager:	Johnny McBride, Change Manager
Version:	1.4 (Agreed at Task Force Meeting, 13 January 2016)
Approved:	

1.0	<u>Purpose</u>
	The purpose of the project initiation document (PID) is to define the Review of Development Management , in order to form the basis for its management and an assessment of its overall success. The PID provides the direction and scope for the project.
2.0	<u>Project Definition</u>
	<u>Background</u>
2.1	<p>Newry, Mourne & Down District Council (NMDDC) assumed full powers and statutory responsibilities in respect of Planning on the 1 April 2015. The key Planning-related functions which have transferred to the Council, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Development Management – regulatory processes focused on the scrutiny & determination of the majority of applications including pre-application discussions; ii. Planning Enforcement – enforcing against all breaches of (Planning) control; and iii. Local Development Plans – a statutory power to make a development plan for an area which defines the local policy framework and land use proposals that will be used to determine development decisions within a specified area.

2.2	In advance of the formal transfer of the service, the Council entered into a pathfinder project with the Department of the Environment (DoE) to secure the early alignment of the Southern Planning Division with the new Council. This resulted in Planning presence being secured in the Downshire Civic Centre (Downpatrick) and Haughey House, Greenbank (Newry) respectively as a means of testing the transfer of the service in advance of the 1 April transfer date. However, this project did not consider the operational alignment of the function with Council requirements as the Department (DoE) retained full management responsibility during the entire pathfinder exercise. Since then Planning in Newry has been relocated from Haughey House, Greenbank to the civic headquarters as Monaghan Row (also Newry).
2.3	As part of the transitional preparations for Planning, the Council established a statutory Planning Committee, a Members' Briefing Panel, as well as developed and implemented a series of protocols to support decision making in relation to the applications process. However, the majority of protocols and procedures have remained unchanged from that which operated in the Department.
<u>Issues & Challenges</u>	
2.4	<p>The project is being initiated in response to the following issues and challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Significant Member discontent with the current levels of performance, specifically in relation to the number of as well as the length of time taken to arrive at final decisions in respect of Planning applications; ▪ Wider external stakeholder discontent (e.g. Developers, Agents, others etc.) with the current levels of performance in relation to Development Management; ▪ Unfavourable Council performance concerning the average processing time for decisions as published by the DoE, in the first quarterly bulletin, on the 19 November 2015; ▪ The transfer of a significant backlog of applications (circa 1,500) which had been deferred by the Planning Committees of the predecessor structures (Newry & Mourne DC and Down DC); ▪ Concerns expressed by key stakeholder groups in relation to the governance arrangements established by the Council for the Planning Committee (i.e. speaking rights at Committee etc.); ▪ The high number of unresolved complaints received both before and after the transfer of the function to the Council; ▪ Concerns in relation to the appropriateness of the resources transferred to support the delivery of an effective Development Management function; ▪ The requirement to critically review existing processes and systems supporting Development Management; and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The requirement to introduce an effective performance management culture, supported by improved Member and Officer capacity to respond to key stakeholder demands.
	<u>Project Aim & Deliverables</u>
2.5	The overall aim of the project is to examine the operational effectiveness of the governance arrangements, protocols and processes currently being used in Development Management and to recommend changes to secure service improvement.
2.6	<p>This overall aim is supported by the realisation of the following project deliverables (project scope):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improved <i>governance arrangements</i>¹ to support the establishment of a “fit for purpose” Development Management function; ▪ Improved <i>Development Management processes</i>² resulting in improved application processing times, more effective case management and the number of decision notices issued; ▪ The implementation of an appropriate performance management framework for Development Management, with associated targets and metrics, to enable the Council to continually monitor and review performance; ▪ The identification of specific capacity building and support mechanisms for the function; and ▪ Improved Member and other key stakeholder satisfaction with the overall level of service provided.
	<u>Project Exclusions</u>
2.7	<p>The scope of the project does not include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local Development Plan – reviewing and making recommendations concerning the effectiveness of the Local Development Plan planning processes; ▪ Enforcement Management – reviewing and making recommendations concerning the governance arrangements and processes established in the Council to support enforcement against all breaches of final decisions in

¹ Defined as the: (1) Scheme of Delegation for Planning, (2) Planning Committee Operating Procedures & Protocol (including public speaking rights), (3) Briefing Panel Terms of Reference (4) arrangements for Member contact and (5) the FTE resourcing of the entire Planning function.

² Defined as: (1) Case Management, (2) Appropriateness of the criteria for the prioritisation of applications,(3) Pre-Application Checking & Pre-Application Discussion processes including the scope of charging for such services, (4) Amendments, (5) Consultations and (6) resolving the backlog of applications from the predecessor structures

	<p>respect of applications;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Administration – reviewing and making recommendations concerning improved administrative (business support) processes, in support of Development Management, except where administrative processes may be required to deliver changes in professional procedures; ▪ Policy Framework for Planning – reviewing the policy framework for the determination of Planning decisions; and ▪ Epic (Planning Portal) – reviewing the effectiveness of the Planning Portal.
	<p><u>Key Assumption</u></p>
2.8	<p>The following key assumption is made in respect of the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Development management services will continue to be provided from the two-centre operating model of Monaghan Row, Newry and the Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick.
	<p><u>Measures of Success</u></p>
2.9	<p>The success of the project, which will not be evident for some considerable time after implementation, will be measured by the following performance indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ % increase in the number of Local Development decisions issued (compared to Q1 baseline); ▪ Reduction (number of days) in the average processing time for Local Development decisions (compared to Q1 baseline); and ▪ Increase in stakeholder satisfaction (index)
	<p><u>Interfaces & Interdependencies</u></p>
2.10	<p>The project interfaces with and is interdependent upon (a parallel) business process review (BPR) of the administrative support processes for Planning (Development Management, Enforcement and general administration).</p>
3.0	<p><u>Project Governance & Organisation</u></p>
3.1	<p>The following project governance and organisation arrangements will be established, which will be responsible for providing direction and management to the project, and will be comprised of the following members, roles and responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Task Force – responsibility for providing political direction as well as recommending the authorisation and acceptance of the changes to the Council. Membership will be comprised, as agreed by Council, of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chair & Vice-Chair of the Planning Committee (Cllrs Tinnelly & W Clarke); ○ Chair & Vice-Chair of the Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee (Cllrs Burgess & Reilly); ○ Chair & Vice-Chair of the Regulatory & Technical Services Committee (Cllrs Andrews & Ennis); ○ Members of the Briefing Panel (Cllrs Tinnelly, W Clarke, D McAteer & McKee); ○ Director of Regulatory & Technical Services (Mr C O'Rourke);

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Director of Strategic Planning & Performance (Mr E Curtis); ○ Area Planning Manager (Mr A McKay); ○ Change Manager (Mr J McBride); and ○ Independent Expert (Mr J MacKinnon) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Sponsor – Liam Hannaway, Chief Executive; ▪ Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) – Canice O'Rourke (Director, Regulatory & Technical Services) responsible for the management authorisation and acceptance of the changes to be delivered by the project (in advance of their presentation to Council), as well as communication to key stakeholders; ▪ Independent Expert – James MacKinnon responsible for the day-to-day review and the delivery of the project deliverables; ▪ Change Manager – Johnny McBride responsible for providing change and project management support to the Task Force and Independent Expert; and ▪ Area Planning Manager – Anthony McKay responsible for the delivery of the project's business and operational changes, including embedding them into normal operations.
4.0	<u>Project Plan & Reporting</u>
4.1	<p>Upon the completion of the review and presentation of a final report by the Independent Expert, a project plan will be prepared to manage the implementation of the recommended /agreed changes. It will require continual refinement and updating throughout the lifecycle of project implementation. It is anticipated the review and subsequent project implementation will include the following key milestones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Establish Task Force & commission Independent Expert (by December 2015); ii. Finalise and agree Terms of Reference with Task Force (by January 2016); iii. Undertake review & make recommendations for change (by February 2016); iv. Report to Council and agree changes (by March 2016); v. Commence implementation of agreed changes (by April 2016); and vi. (Post implementation of the changes) The monitoring and review of performance.
4.2	<p>The Change Manager will provide fortnightly progress reports (against the project plan) for consideration by the Project Sponsor & Senior Responsible Officer. This will require the input of the Area Planning Manager. Monthly progress reports will be provided for the consideration of both the Task Force as well as the Regulatory &</p>

	Technical Services Committee.
5.0	<u>Appendices</u>
5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ None

Jim MacKinnon – Terms of Reference

Primary Scope

To review the operational effectiveness of the governance arrangements, protocols and processes currently being used in Development Management and to recommend changes to secure service improvement.

In-Scope Activities:

- i. To review and recommend improvements to the governance arrangements established by the Council to support the Development Management function, including recommending improvements to:
 - The Scheme of Delegation for Planning;
 - The Operating Procedures and Protocols for the Planning Committee (including public speaking rights);
 - The future scope and Terms of Reference of the Members' Briefing Panel; and
 - Arrangements for Elected Member contact (both Planning Committee & non Planning Committee representatives).
- ii. To review and recommend improvements to the Development Management processes which have been inherited from the Department of the Environment (DoE) and introduced by the Council, including recommending improvements to:
 - The case management of Applications by Case Officers;
 - The prioritisation of Applications, including the appropriateness of the existing criteria used for such purposes;
 - The Pre-Application Discussion and Pre-Application Checking processes, including giving consideration to the scope for introducing fees for such services;
 - Arrangements for Amendments to Applications;
 - Existing processes and arrangements for Consultation; and
 - Arrangements for resolving the backlog of Applications inherited from the predecessor structures (DoE & Legacy Councils).
- iii. To recommend the implementation of an appropriate performance management framework for Development Management, including the establishment of suitable targets and metrics, to enable the Council to continually monitor and review performance in respect of application processing times and decision notices issued.
- iv. To recommend specific (Development Management) capacity building and support mechanisms for Elected Members and Officials.

Outputs

- 5 day review (please refer to visit programme for 18 – 22 January 2016);
- 4 day compilation of final report, detailing findings and recommendations of in-scope activities;
- ½ day presentation of finding and recommendations to Task Force (date to be confirmed); and
- ½ day presentation of findings and recommendations to Full Council (date to be confirmed).

Report to:	Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Consultation response: Draft Guidance on Local Government Performance Improvement (2016/17)
Date:	11 February 2016
Reporting Officer:	Johnny McBride, Change Manager
Contact Officer:	Johnny McBride, Change Manager

Decisions Required

Members are asked to note the contents of the report and consider and agree to:

- **The issues raised within this report be submitted as the Council's formal response to DoE consultation: Draft Guidance on Local Government Performance Improvement (2016/17).**

1.0 Purpose & Background

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set-out for Member consideration a number of issues which may form the basis of a Council response to DoE consultation: Draft Guidance on Local Government Performance Improvement. A copy of the consultation document is provided at **Appendix I**.

- 1.2 Members will already be aware that The Local Government (NI) Act (2014) places a statutory duty of performance improvement on Councils, which is subject to annual audit and assessment arrangements by the Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO).

2.0 Key Issues

- 2.1 A summary of the issues that Members may wish to consider as the basis of a response are provided at **Appendix II**. These issues are structured according to the questions raised in the consultation document.

3.0 Strategic Implications

There are no strategic implications contained within this report, however the implementation of any of the proposals contained within the consultation document may have a number of the implications for the Council to consider in the future. These cannot be identified at this stage.

4.0 Appendices

- **Appendix I** – DoE consultation document: Draft Guidance on Local Government Performance Improvement (2016/17); and
- **Appendix II** – Draft response for Member consider and approval.

APPENDIX II

Response to DoE Consultation: Draft Guidance for Local Government Performance Improvement (2016/17)

Question	Basis of Response
	<u>General Comments</u>
	<p>The Council welcomes the opportunity to respond to the consultation document however the Council would wish to raise the following issues in respect of the draft guidance and the proposed framework for 2016/17.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Council notes there is no material change from the guidance issued for 2015/16 however no summary timetable is provided which did prove useful in evidencing Council compliance with the relevant elements of the Act. ▪ Urgent clarification is required concerning the links between the statutory performance indicators of The Local Government (Performance Indicators & Standards) Order (2015), subsequent Orders and the content of the (annual) Performance Improvement Plans. ▪ As per above. Urgent clarification is required as to whether statutory performance indicators will be included within the scope of the audit and assessment arrangements of the NIAO. In (separate) recent discussions with representatives of the NIAO as well as the DoE, conflicting advice has been given. ▪ The Council considers it a matter of urgency that the NIAO clarifies the audit methodology and subsequent documentary evidence requirements for 2016/17. The Council is also concerned that an appropriate audit fee for 2016/17 has yet to be confirmed in writing. ▪ Urgent clarification is required concerning the consultation requirements for the formation of the 2016/17 Performance Improvement Plan. The Council notes the statutory link between the Community Plan (in its absence the Corporate Plan) and the Performance Improvement Plan and would contend that the formation of these strategic plans would have already been subject to extensive stakeholder consultation. Any additional consultation concerning the formation of the Performance Improvement Plan is unnecessary and will place an administrative and financial burden upon Councils. Furthermore, the Council would contend that consultation should only be required concerning the implementation of the Performance Improvement Plan and not its formation.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Council considers that the performance management arrangements for Community Plans and Performance Improvement Plans are contradictory. The Council understands the Act provides for the requirement to review the Community Plan every two years whereas Performance Improvement Plans are subject to an annual audit and assessment. Clarification is required as to which assessment takes primacy. ▪ Further clarification is required as to how the audit and assessment arrangements for the Performance Improvement Plan interfaces with other existing Local Government audit arrangements (i.e. Annual Governance Statement, Value for Money, Sustainability etc). Further clarification is required as to whether the same evidence can be used to demonstrate legislative compliance. ▪ The Council continues to have concerns in respect of the data validation and reporting of statutory performance indicators. The Department needs to be mindful that under the Data Sharing Agreement, performance data belongs to the respective Councils. Therefore, MUST be presented for consideration of Elected Members prior to being published in the public domain.
1.0	<p><u>Do you think that the proposed guidance will enable Councils to comply with the duty to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of their functions?</u></p>
	<p>The Council considers it essential that the above issues are satisfactorily addressed to enable Councils to comply with the Duty. The Council would also wish to make the following specific comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Paragraph 17 (page 4) – further clarification is required as to whether this applies in 2016/17. In the absence of Community Plans this would appear overly-ambitious. ▪ Paragraph 24 (page 6) – the Council considers this unnecessary. It should be a matter for the Council to determine its performance improvement ambitions. Furthermore, the internal transformation and improvement of Council services will result in financial and non-financial benefits being delivered for communities and citizens. ▪ Paragraph 39 (page 10) – the Council notes that an explicit reference to 2016/17. Clarification is required as to whether this will apply in 2016/17 as the Council understood from previous discussions with representatives of the Department that a retrospective assessment would not apply until 2017/18.



M/151

Joint Committee of Elected Members between Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, and Louth County Council

**Report of Meeting held Wednesday 13th January 2016 at 10.00 a.m., in
Louth County Council Offices, Dundalk, Co Louth**

In the Chair:	Mr D McAteer	Newry, Mourne and Down DC
Present:	Councillor T Hearty	Newry, Mourne and Down DC
	Councillor R Mulgrew	Newry, Mourne and Down DC
	Councillor G Donnelly	Newry, Mourne and Down DC
	Councillor C Enright	Newry, Mourne and Down DC
	Councillor W Walker	Newry, Mourne and Down DC
	Councillor C Enright	Newry, Mourne and Down DC
	Councillor P McGeough	Louth County Council
	Councillor J Loughran	Louth County Council
	Councillor A Cassidy	Louth County Council
	Councillor D Minogue	Louth County Council
	Ms J Martin	Chief Executive Louth CC
	Ms E O’Gorman	Director Louth CC
	Mr L Hannaway	Chief Executive NMDDC
	Mr E Curtis	Director NMDDC
	Ms M Ward	Director NMDDC
	Mr C O’Rourke	Director NMDDC
	Mr J McGilly	Asst. Director NMDDC
	Mr C Moffett	Policy Officer, NMDDC
	Ms B McNally	NMDDC (Notes)
	Ms P Arthurs	East Border Region

1. Welcome and Apologies:

Councillor McAteer welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies:

Apologies receive from:

Cllr E Corrigan Louth County Council

Cllr D Curran Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Cllr M Ruane Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

2. Report of Louth/Newry, Mourne and Down Joint Committee Meeting held on 16 December 2016:

On the proposal of Councillor T Hearty, seconded by Councillor J Loughran, Report of Meeting held on the 16th December 2015 was approved as a true and accurate record, same having been circulated.

3. Matters Arising:

Mr Curtis advised that the report of the meeting with the newly formed Narrow Water Bridge Committee will be available at a future meeting.

Mr Curtis also advised that Mr Owen Daly from Transport NI will make a presentation at the February Meeting on options regarding the Southern Relief Road.

4. Memorandum of Understanding between Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and Louth County Council:

Ms Pamela Arthurs presented the final draft of the Memorandum of Understanding Action Plan which was fully endorsed by the Committee Members.

Ms Arthurs advised members that the next step in moving forward is to organise for the joint committee to travel to Leuven and on to Brussels to meet the Commission and re-launch the MOU.

Ms Arthurs agreed to make contact with relevant officials in Brussels. It was also agreed to circulate to all members dates to travel i.e. end of March early April 2016.

5. Update on Geo Park Application:

Ms O’Gorman advised members that as a result of a recent UNESCO decision the application submitted needs to be re-evaluated and re-examined and suggested to the Committee to put the application on hold until further consultations have been carried out and the new UNESCO Designation had been clarified.

Following a discussion it was agreed to re-examine the application taking into account the various implications and reassess the benefits of GeoPark Status.

6. Commemoration events in 2016.

Colin Moffett outlined to members the Programme of events proposed to commemorate the Easter Rising and the Battle of the Somme in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area, to include Dramas, Conference, Courses and exhibitions and Schools Initiatives which has been offered to Schools in Louth. There are also planned events throughout the community relating to the Easter Rising and Battle of the Somme.

Emer circulated the Louth programme and advised those present that the launch of the Programme will take place on 26 January 2015. She further advised that Colin and Bernie are working closely in developing joint programmes.

The chairperson commented that it would be important that the Committee attend these events.

7. Horizon 2020 Presentation:

The Chairperson welcomed Dr Bernadette McGahan, International Research Development and Innovation Manager, to the meeting. Dr McGahan provided those present with a detailed overview of Horizon 2020, the EU biggest ever programme for research and innovation. (Copy of Presentation attached).

The Chairperson thanked Dr McGahan for a very comprehensive presentation.

8. Update on Funding Applications:

Ms Arthurs updated the members on funding applications as follows:

3 No Interreg 5a projects submitted on 5 January:

- (1) Biodiversity (Cann) Project
- (2) UCD Bathing Water
- (3) N I Water Quality Carlingford and Foyle (SCAMP)

The Greenway application will be submitted by 29 January 2016.

E Curtis advised that the Peace IV Programme had been approved and that officers were working together to create synergies between the two strategies. An update will be available at the next meeting.

9. Any Other Business.

E Curtis confirmed that a presentation on the Datahub will take place at the next meeting, and an update on the formation of an Advisory Forum.

The next meeting will be held on 10th February 2016.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. It was agreed to invite Mr Owen Daly, Transport NI, to make a presentation at the February Meeting on options regarding the Southern Relief Road.**
- 2. It was agreed to provide a Presentation on the Datahub.**
- 3. It was agreed to provide an update on Peace IV Projects.**
- 4. It was agreed to circulate dates to all members regarding proposed visit to Brussels**

Signed: E Curtis
Director of Strategic Planning and Performance

Report to:	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period October – December 2015
Date:	11 February 2016
Reporting Officer:	Colin Moffett, Equality Officer
Contact Officer(s):	Colin Moffett, Equality Officer

<u>Decisions Required</u>	
Members are asked to note the contents of the report and to give consideration to agreement to the following:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To note the Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period October – December 2015. 	
1.0	<u>Purpose & Background</u>
1.1	In line with Council’s Section 75 statutory duties and commitments within our approved Equality Scheme, policy screening reports are published quarterly. The Quarterly Report for the period October – December 2015, including screening reports, is available on Council’s website www.newrymournedown.org . This information has also been forwarded to all equality consultees.
2.0	<u>Key Issues</u>
2.1	Recommendation: To note the Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period October – December 2015
3.0	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>
3.1	No financial or resource implications are anticipated.
4.0	<u>Equality & Good Relations Implications</u>
4.1	<p>No equality and good relations implications are anticipated.</p> <p>Publishing quarterly reports, including screening reports, making them available on Council’s website www.newrymournedown.org, and forwarding this information to all equality consultees is in accordance with the commitments contained within the Council’s approved Equality Scheme.</p>
5.0	<u>Appendices</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period October – December 2015. 	

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Section 75 Policy Screening Report
Quarterly Report October – December 2015

Policy Number	Policy	Details of policy	Screening Outcome
16	Financial Assistance Policy	<p>The aim of the policy is to provide financial assistance to organisations and projects for any purpose which in the Council's opinion are in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Council; • the district or any part of our district; • the inhabitants of our district or any part of our district. <p>The purpose of this policy is to outline and establish a consistent approach to the decision-making and provision of financial assistance. This will assist the Council in its civic leadership role and also enable it to fulfil its strategic objectives through the provision of financial assistance from its rates and through other funding sources streamed through the Council.</p> <p>The policy and procedure is underpinned by the following principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective decision-making; • Section 75 duties in terms of promoting equality of opportunity and good relations; • Openness and transparency; • Fairness; • Consistency in approach; • Civic leadership. 	No EQIA considered necessary

		The implementation process includes a defined procedure, an effective communications strategy to publicise the call for applications, funding workshops and capacity training for the community, guidance notes for applicants, a structured assessment and decision-making process and review mechanism.	
128	Policy on the Erection of Commercial / Advertising Signage on Council Land and Property by Third Parties	The policy is to ensure a consistent and equitable approach in processing applications by third parties who wish to erect commercial / advertising signage on Council land and Property.	No EQIA considered necessary
	Advertising of Planning Application Notices	<p>To meet the Planning (General Development Procedure) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 requirements with regard to communicate notice of applications for planning permission and appeals.</p> <p>The primary purpose of the review was to recommend a number of changes to the current practice for the advertising of Planning Application Notices across the District. This seeks to mitigate current and estimated financial overspend while ensuring the Council complies with its (relevant) legislative obligations including the Planning (General Development Procedure) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 requirements with regard to communicating notice of applications for planning permission and appeals.</p> <p>Having considered the options available the review</p>	No EQIA considered necessary

		<p>recommended the following actions for consideration:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Reducing the number of titles currently used by only advertising notices in the minimum number of titles which have the highest (externally audited) circulation figures in the designated city and town settlements of the two existing (adopted) Development Plans; and2. Maximising the use of the Council’s own corporate website and the Planning Portal to serve notice of applications. <p>From an equality of opportunity and good relations perspective the key issue is access to information wherein the information is communicated and the communication is appropriate and relevant.</p> <p>With regard to placing advertisements, while the first recommended course of action for consideration will reduce the number of newspapers to the minimum number of titles, this is consistent with the requirements of the Planning (General Development Procedure) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015, with regard to the notice etc. of applications for planning permission and appeals.</p> <p>In addition, any potential adverse impact of this decision will be mitigated as far as reasonably possible by the second recommendation, maximising the use of the Council’s own corporate website and the Planning Portal to serve notice of applications, which again is consistent with the requirements of the Planning (General Development Procedure) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015, with regard to the notice etc. of applications for planning permission and appeals.</p>	
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	<p>Review of statutory advertising</p> <p>This relates to the development of a corporate approach to statutory advertising which is efficient and effective, and takes account of business needs, target audience, value for money, equality and new opportunities provided by the internet and other new media outlets.</p> <p>The primary purpose of the review is to address an over reliance on printed media (newspapers) and to recommend a number of changes to the current practice for statutory advertising to create a more efficient and effective process, which takes account of business needs, the target audience, value for money, equality and new emerging opportunities provided by the internet and other new media outlets.</p> <p>The paper explored two options. Option one, maintaining the status quo, would lead to Council continuing the practice of advertising in seven newspapers. As it is projected this would result in a significant overspend in departmental budgets within the current financial year, this had potential to restrict the opportunity to take advantage of new emerging opportunities provided by the internet and other media outlets.</p> <p>The second option proposed to take a strategic approach through appropriately targeting and focusing advertisements in titles in recognised market leaders which have the highest circulation / readership across the district. In addition, option 2 has potential to address potential adverse impact and increase access to information through the specific actions including the development of a new protocol for classified, public notice and campaign advertising, wherein greater use will be made of alternative methods of communication, increased use of the internet and effective marketing plans for campaigns.</p>	<p>No EQIA considered necessary</p>
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		<p>From an equality of opportunity and good relations perspective the key issue is access to information wherein the information is communicated and the communication is appropriate and relevant. In this case option two provided an enhanced basis on which to do this.</p>	
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Agenda Item:	Update on Council's Decade of Centenaries Programme - 2016
Report to:	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Decade of Centenaries Programme – 2016
Date:	11 February 2016
Reporting Officer:	Liam Hannaway, Chief Executive
Contact Officer(s):	Liam Hannaway, Chief Executive Colin Moffett, Equality Officer Sonya Burns, Programmes Manager Suzanne Rice, DEA Co-ordinator Noreen Cunningham, Newry and Mourne Museum Mike King, Down County Museum

Decisions Required

Members are asked to note the contents of the report outlining a current overview of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council proposed activities during 2016 in relation to the Decade of Centenaries 2016 (Easter Rising and Somme), as further discussed at the Councillors' Equality and Good Relations Reference Group meeting on 26 January 2016.

1.0 Purpose & Background

1.1 This is a developing programme which has been discussed and considered by the Councillors' Equality and Good Relations Reference Group.

The current programme of activity scheduled during 2016 in relation to the Decade of Centenaries 2016 (Easter Rising and Somme) is as follows:

1. Drama

- **'Halfway House'**, a play by Philip Orr about 1916, based in 1966
 - 19 January 2016, Sean Hollywood Arts Centre
 - 123 people in attendance
- **'The Week Before'**, a play by Robin Glendinning
 - Saturday 2 April, 8.00pm, Down Arts Centre
 - £10 / £8 concession
 - Presented by the Hollywood Players

2. Schools initiative

- 2 interactive digital design and digital audio workshops looking at the Easter Rising and Somme.
- 23 February 2016 – Newry & Mourne Museum, Bagenal's Castle, Newry
- 25 February 2016 – Down County Museum
- involving 100 schoolchildren

- delivered by the Nerve Centre's Creative Centenaries initiative
- Cross border initiative

3. Conference

- *'Exploring the 1916 Rising'*
- Friday 29 April 2016, Down County Museum

4. Courses

- *'The 1916 Rising'*
 - short course looking at the main drivers and driving forces that lay behind the 1916 Easter Rising.
 - 18 – 22 April 2016, Newry and Mourne Museum, Bagenals Castle
- *'The Commemoration of Centenaries'*
 - short course looking specifically at Working Lives of people in Ireland 100 years ago; Battle of the Somme; Easter Rising; the lives of Women; Trade Unions.
 - 22-26 February 2016, Newry and Mourne Museum, Bagenals Castle
- *'History of Ireland: OCN Level 1/2 Home Rule to Partition in Ireland 1886-1922'*
 - 7-11 March 2016

5. Exhibitions

- *'1916 and After'*
 - 18 April - 1 May 2016, Down County Museum
 - 18 – 22 April 2016, Newry and Mourne Museum, Bagenals Castle
- *'Answer the Call'*
 - recruitment posters exhibition (on loan from NMNI)
 - 11 May - 30 October 2016, Down County Museum
- *Lives and achievements of local women*
 - June 2016 – May 2017, Newry and Mourne Museum, Bagenals Castle.
 - Themes explored will include local women who served as nurses in the First World War, women in business, women in politics and women at home

6. Event / lecture

- *'Remembering the Somme'*
- Morning lecture with two speakers and curatorial staff talking about the WWI collection.
- 24 June 2016, Down County Museum

7. Grant Scheme

- 'Decade of Centenaries 2016' – community events related to the Easter Rising and Battle of the Somme
- Funding of £40,000 set aside for initiatives taking place during period 1 March

	<p>2016 - 31 March 2017</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 18 initiatives successfully awarded funding towards aspects of their programmes ○ Councillors have been circulated with details of successful applicants, their initiatives and amount awarded. <p>8. Lighting of Newry Town Hall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ to recognize the anniversaries of the Easter Rising (green) and Battle of the Somme (red).
2.0	<u>Key Issues</u>
2.1	<p>This is an emerging and developing programme. At the Council's Equality and Good Relations Reference Group meeting on 2 December 2015, and most recently on 26 January 2016, Councillors were minded to give consideration to developing 2 civic / community events i.e. May 2016 (Easter Rising) / September 2016 (Somme).</p> <p>Parties have agreed to nominate one Elected Member each for a working group to further develop the two community civic events and appropriate civic receptions in the north and south of District.</p>
3.0	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>
3.1	<p>The current Programme outlined within the report will be resourced through the Council's Good Relations Action Plan, Museum programming budgets and, in relation to the grant scheme, monies allocated and agreed to be allocated during the 2015/16 (£20,000) and 2016/17 (£20,000) financial years.</p> <p>Costs associated with the development and implementation of 2 civic / community events i.e. May 2016 (Easter Rising) / September 2016 (Somme) will be required to be budgeted for within the 2016/17 financial year. It should be noted that additional monies towards said events, which would be required to match funded (25%), have been requested under the District Council Good Relations Programme, as part of the Council's Good Relations Strategy submission to OFMDFM.</p>
4.0	<u>Equality & Good Relations Implications</u>
4.1	<p>The Council programme will be delivered taking account of the Council's statutory duties to have due regard towards the promotion of equality of opportunity and regard towards the promotion of good relations.</p>
5.0	<u>Appendices</u>
N/A	

Agenda Item:	Housing Executive written consultation responses to their Community Cohesion Strategy 2015-2020
Report to:	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Publication of written consultation responses to the Housing Executive Community Cohesion Strategy 2015-2020
Date:	11 February 2016
Reporting Officer:	Colin Moffett, Equality Officer
Contact Officer(s):	Colin Moffett, Equality Officer

Decisions Required

Members are asked to note the correspondence and associated comments contained within the Housing Executive's publication of written consultation responses to their Community Cohesion Strategy 2015-2020.

1.0 **Purpose & Background**

1.1 The Housing Executive received 11 responses to their Community Cohesion Strategy 2015-2020.

2.0 **Key Issues**

2.1

3.0 **Financial & Resource Implications**

3.1 The report relates to comments submitted in relation to options presented within a discussion document, and there are therefore no immediate associated finance and resource implications for Council.

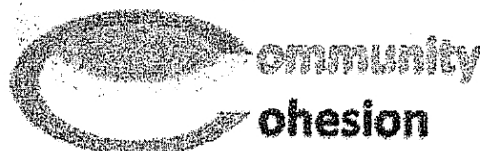
4.0 **Equality & Good Relations Implications**

4.1 There are no immediate associated equality and good relations for Council.

5.0 **Appendices**

- Newry, Mourne and Down District Council response to the DOE's Discussion Document on Options to develop the better management and control of Bonfires, November 2015, submitted 27 January 2016.

**Housing
Executive**



The Housing Centre
2 Adelaide Street
Belfast
BT2 8PB
T 03448 920 900
W nihe.gov.uk
@nihecommunity

16th December 2015

Dear Consultee, *(Colin Moffett)*

The Housing Executive would like to thank you for taking the time to consult on the Community Cohesion Strategy 2015 – 2020.

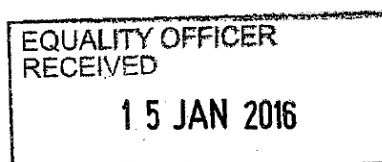
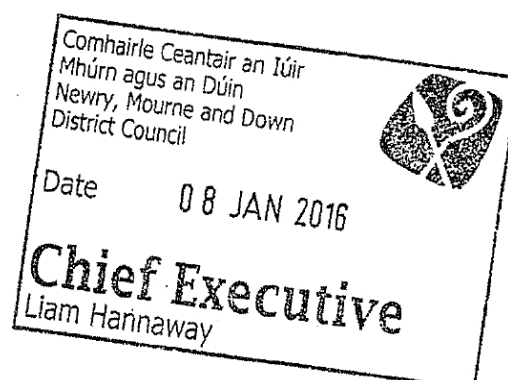
Your comments provided during our 12 week external consultation exercise have been carefully considered and, where appropriate, have been prudently responded to in our Consultation Report.

The Consultation Report is now available on our website www.nihe.org.uk. If you require any further information, please contact:

Christine Boyle
Community Cohesion Unit
2 Adelaide St
Belfast BT2 8PB
Email: Christine.boyle@nihe.gov.uk
Tel: (028) 90 218436

Best Regards,

Deirdré Crawford
Community Cohesion Manager



WRITTEN CONSULTATION RESPONSES TO THE COMMUNITY COHESION STRATEGY 2015 - 2020

Consultee	Consultee Response	NIHE Response
Supporting Communities NI	Generally supportive. SHRP key strategic driver for Community Cohesion Strategy – strong partnership working is crucial to implement priorities identified within the programme.	Accepted – The Housing Executive work in collaboration with SCNI & The Housing Community Network to roll out the DSD's Tenant Participation Strategy 2015-2020, through the facilitation of Tenant Scrutiny Panels.
Derry City and Strabane District Council	Generally supportive Pages 13-28: The impact of previous strategies on communities should be highlighted in the document. Pages 29-31: Mainstreaming of Good Relations should be fully progressed within the lifetime of the strategy. Urban Villages should be included in the draft document. Hate Crime Policy and Toolkit should complement any local or national initiatives in place. Local GR Teams should be consulted with regards to hate crime policy and 'Toolkit' to ensure that initiatives such as 'Hands off my Friend' are promoted. 'Hard issues' of Bonfires, Emblems and Sectional Symbols should be addressed in a meaningful and inclusive way. Further Information on BRIC 2 would have been useful in terms of scope and priorities for the program.	Noted – The information provided on pages 13-28 of the Community Cohesion Strategy adequately covers previous strategies. Accepted – The Housing Executive fully concurs. Accepted – The Strategy will include Urban Villages on page 10 Noted – The Hate Harassment Toolkit was developed by the Housing Executive in partnership with other organisations to provide tenants, staff and the general public with information about Hate Harassment. Accepted – The Housing Executive fully concurs. Not Accepted – An overview of the BRIC 2 program is sufficient for the Strategy

1

WRITTEN CONSULTATION RESPONSES TO THE COMMUNITY COHESION STRATEGY 2015 - 2020

	It is essential that this work is prioritised in a reducing budget environment to ensure that all communities continue to foster Good Relations.	Accepted – The Housing Executive is fully committed to ensuring that all communities continue to foster Good Relations.
Housing Rights	Important for NIHE to encourage local communities to be more involved in developing Cohesion. Facilitate community leaders/activists to encourage communities to be welcoming and inclusive. Specific attention should be given to involving those who are easy to ignore (poor communication skills, disabled, mental health problems). Practical steps should be taken to improve the response from NIHE in helping victims of intimidation/harassment and review the availability of temporary accommodation to help minority ethnic communities. The Traveller community should be included in the final strategy. The Housing Executive should consider establishing a specific point of contact within the organization for victims of hate crime. The Housing Executive should look at what measures can be utilized to speed up responding to the needs of people living in danger. Better protocols and communication between the PSNI and the Housing Executive to accelerate the process of rehousing those in a dangerous situation – Information Sharing Protocol Information Request Pro-Forma needs to include deadlines for the receipt of information for quicker processing of intimidation points.	Accepted – Communities are encouraged to be welcoming and inclusive through Community Cohesion-funded projects and events. The Housing Executive has a Service Level Agreement with and provides funding to Disability Action to facilitate the Disability Forum, which has representatives throughout Northern Ireland. The Housing Executive also engages with communities through the Housing Community Network. Noted – The Race Relations element of this strategy will be subject to further review (and consultation) once the OFMDM Race Equality Strategy is released. The Traveller Community is included in The Hate Harassment Toolkit, which was launched in October 2015 and sign-posts victims of Hate Harassment. Noted – The Transformation Department is responsible for examining how best to streamline the Housing Executive's services and protocols. Staff in all of our 34 District Offices deal with Hate Crime. The Housing Executive works in partnership with the PSNI on a number of schemes and initiatives, including the HIPA Scheme. We also have representatives involved in Policing and Community Safety Partnerships. The overall purpose of these bodies is to help make communities safer and to ensure that the views of local people are heard on policing and community safety issues.

2

WRITTEN CONSULTATION RESPONSES TO THE COMMUNITY COHESION STRATEGY 2015 - 2020

	<p>The Hate Incident Practical Action Scheme needs to be widely promoted and clear indication as to who a victim of a hate crime should contact in an emergency.</p> <p>Fundamental review of the Social Housing Allocation Policy should consider the impact of change on minority ethnic groups.</p> <p>NIHE should consider additional measures to help sustain tenancies through mediation.</p> <p>The Housing Executive should address the issue of permanent housing and availability/provision in relation to temporary accommodation with regards to black and minority people – ensure that the providers of temporary accommodation have adequate policies and procedures in place to create a safe environment.</p>	<p>Accepted – There are leaflets containing information about the HIPA Scheme, which were updated in March 2015 and are available at any of our 34 District Offices. The leaflets were included in packs distributed at the Hate Harassment Toolkit launch. The Housing Executive website (www.nihe.gov.uk) also contains easily accessible information on the HIPA Scheme.</p> <p>Noted – DSD is currently reviewing the Social Housing Allocation Policy.</p> <p>Noted – The Housing Executive's Community Safety Team offer mediation in cases where there are neighbour-neighbour disputes. For more information contact Sharon Stuart. The Community Cohesion Unit offers community-community mediation. The Housing Executive is also in the process of refining a Sustaining Tenancies Policy.</p> <p>Noted – The Housing Executive makes considerable efforts to ensure that all temporary accommodation meets the needs and guarantees the safety of black and minority ethnic tenants. This comment will be referred to our Homeless Support Unit for appropriate response.</p>
Linda Hutchinson, Northern Ireland	<p>More specific and explicit commitments to Race Relations up to 2020.</p> <p>In paragraph 5 on page 5, the word colonized is inappropriate and should</p>	<p>Noted – The Race Relations element of this strategy will be subject to further review (and consultation) once the OFMDFM Race Equality Strategy is released.</p> <p>Accepted – The word 'colonised' will be changed to 'constrained'.</p>

WRITTEN CONSULTATION RESPONSES TO THE COMMUNITY COHESION STRATEGY 2015 - 2020

Housing Executive	<p>be changed to either restricted or constrained.</p> <p>In paragraph 1 on page 6 "all the work undertaken under the strategy will be reflective of the overall aims of the Government's 2013 "Together: Building a United Community" strategy (TBUC)" and any further Race Equality Strategy.</p> <p>Race Equality Strategy should be mentioned on page 8. Alternatively a shorter line could be added here and fuller details under Key strategic drivers for the Community Cohesion Strategy (Page 25).</p> <p>The Racial Equality Strategy for Northern Ireland 2014 - 2024 currently being developed, will establish a framework for Government departments (and others):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to tackle racial inequalities and to open up opportunity for all; - to eradicate racism and hate crime; and - along with Together: Building a United Community, to promote good race relations and social cohesion. <p>The Strategy also sets out six strategic aims that the Executive will pursue in eradicating racism and tackling racial inequalities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elimination of Racial Inequality - Combating racism and hate crime - Equality of Service Provision - Participation - Social Cohesion 	<p>Accepted – The statement 'and any further Race Equality Strategy' will be added to the original sentence.</p> <p>Accepted – The paragraph will be included in the strategy</p>
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WRITTEN CONSULTATION RESPONSES TO THE COMMUNITY COHESION STRATEGY 2015 - 2020

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	<p>- Capacity Building</p> <p>The Housing Executive will reflect these aims in a refreshed Race Relations Policy.</p> <p>On Page 9. Our strategic objective to promote good relations (incorporating race relations) is linked to the following aims:</p> <p>The Housing Executive will: Respond quickly and effectively to the needs of the people in danger as a result of community conflict or hate harassment.</p> <p>Work in partnership with others to address the complex housing needs of a diverse and divided society.</p> <p>Table on page 9 should read Race Relations policy not strategy.</p> <p>Page 12: It says 2015-2018 while the cover says 2015-2020.</p> <p>Page 12: To contribute to the creation of a more stable....diverse and divided society."</p> <p>Page 16-Just a Race Relations Policy.</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The BME Housing Forum engages engaged directly... - The implementation of a Hate Crime-Harassment Policy... (I haven't seen a Hate Crime Policy?) - The implementation of a Hate Crime Harassment 'Tool Kit'. - Supporting supported the provision of advocacy workers for 	<p>Accepted – The Strategy will incorporate the suggested changes.</p> <p>Accepted – The word 'engages' will be changed to 'engaged'.</p> <p>Accepted – the word 'crime' will be changed to 'Harassment' in both instances.</p> <p>Noted – The sentence will be changed to acknowledge the fact that we still support the provision of advocacy workers for the BME sector in Ballymena and Newry, whilst also acknowledging the fact that we have supported the provision of LGBT and</p>
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WRITTEN CONSULTATION RESPONSES TO THE COMMUNITY COHESION STRATEGY 2015 - 2020

	<p>Chinese...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developed innovative specialist support for minority ethnic tenants, victims of hate harassment and refugees. <p>Page 29: Embedding Good Relations within the Housing Executive</p> <p>Opportunities for specialist services developed for minority ethnic tenants to be incorporated into mainstream services will be identified.</p> <p>Add under the conclusion:</p> <p>Training will be delivered to all the actors normally involved in policy making at all levels and at all stages to ensure equality of opportunity and good relations are central to policy making, policy implementation, policy review and service delivery.</p> <p>Page 31 to add to the Race Equality Strategy 2014-2024 and its aims</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To tackle racial inequalities and to open up opportunity for all, - To eradicate racism and hate crime, and - Along with Together: Building a United Community, to promote good race relations and social cohesion. <p>Page 33-Aims and objectives-minor changes as proposed above for page 9.</p> <p>Page 35. Theme 2: Race Relations</p>	<p>Disability advocates.</p> <p>Accepted – This point will be included in the Community Cohesion Strategy.</p> <p>Noted – This will be included in the summary section of the Community Cohesion Strategy.</p> <p>Noted – The paragraph will be included under the conclusion with some minor changes to the wording.</p> <p>Noted – This is a re-iteration of the paragraph that is being included on page 8.</p>
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	<p>Just policy (not strategy)</p> <p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demonstrate a clear and positive commitment to tackling race issues through the Housing Executive's new (2015-2020) Race Relations Policy. - Contribute towards improved race relations at a strategic and operational level through effective partnership working via our ICN (Inter Community Network) and our estate based strategy work. - Continue to deliver the HIPA (Hate Incident Practical Action) scheme on behalf of the Department of Justice and PSNI to support victims of hate crime. 	<p>Accepted – The word 'strategy' will be changed to 'policy'.</p> <p>Noted – the word 'updated' will be used instead of 'new'.</p> <p>Not Accepted – There is no change to the original point.</p> <p>Accepted – The PSNI will be included in this point.</p>
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council	<p>Meaningful liaison with the local government sector to avail of knowledge and expertise when developing and delivering programmes – especially those which have a direct community planning and Good Relations impact.</p> <p>Consideration should be given to more fully outlining and acknowledging the role of community planning and how the Housing Executive will play a role and make a positive contribution to developing each Local Government area's Community Plan and Local Area Plan.</p>	<p>Noted – The Housing Executive works with a number of governmental agencies to improve expertise, a list of which can be provided upon request.</p> <p>Noted – Community Planning is mentioned on page 10 and page 32 of the Community Cohesion Strategy. It would be beneficial to look at the Housing Executive's Housing Investment Plans, which are the "comprehensive conversation piece" for the housing element of community planning". Needs will be identified and monitored and we will engage in the delivery process as agreed in the Plan. Stephen Semple is the lead officer and will be rolling this out.</p>

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David McNarry, United Kingdom Independence Party	Generally supportive comments.	Noted with appreciation
Chartered Institute of Housing Northern Ireland	Generally supportive comments.	Noted with appreciation
Belfast City Council	<p>Generally supportive.</p> <p>In areas where information from both agencies can contribute to addressing good relations indicators, it would be beneficial to look at ways in which these could be undertaken on a joint basis.</p> <p>Would like to look at the NIHE Sectional Symbols database in relation to the Council's assets. Protocols, guidelines and good practice need to be shared and lessons learned to facilitate communities which wish to address these issues.</p>	<p>Accepted – The Housing Executive has worked in partnership with Belfast City Council on several projects, and welcomes any future opportunity to work in partnership with them to promote and enhance Good Relations.</p> <p>Noted – A recent meeting between Belfast City Council and the Housing Executive's GIS team took place to progress Data Sharing Protocols. These will be considered in order to align the Housing Executive's Good Relations Plan with that of the Council's.</p>

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WRITTEN CONSULTATION RESPONSES TO THE COMMUNITY COHESION STRATEGY 2015 - 2020

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<p>Northern Ireland housing Council</p>	<p>Would like to enforce the importance of tenant involvement and the need for open communication with community groups to build stronger sustainable neighbourhoods.</p> <p>Concerned that movement of tenants or sale of properties within a designated shared neighbourhood would cause an imbalance of the community make up – recommend that measures be put in place to address this issue and retain balance without engineering waiting lists.</p> <p>Concerns about the changing status and role of the Housing Community Network – regular engagement with local communities & tenant Associations etc. is being replaced by Tenant Scrutiny Panels – Change of current structure has not been explained & The Housing Council supports the HCN which is well-established and best placed to engage with local communities.</p> <p>Supports 5 key themes and request regular progress updates.</p>	<p>Noted – The Housing Executive are dedicated to rolling out the DSD Tenant Participation Strategy 2015-2020 by working in partnership with many local government and statutory agencies to facilitate this provision of Tenant Scrutiny Panels. This is highlighted through the Community Involvement Strategy 2014-2017.</p> <p>Noted – The Housing Executive's Community Cohesion Strategy addresses issues of Segregation and Integration and this is delivered through our BRIC 2 programme.</p> <p>Noted – This is an issue which is not directly related to the Community Cohesion Strategy. The Tenant Scrutiny Panels are a stipulation of DSD's Tenant Participation Strategy 2015-2020. The Housing Community Network and the development of Tenant Scrutiny Panels are facilitated through the Community Involvement Strategy 2014-2017, and this was consulted upon. However, if communities wish to develop Tenant Scrutiny Panels then the Housing Executive will support them.</p> <p>Noted – The Cohesion Manager has delivered an initial presentation on the Community Cohesion Strategy, and will liaise with the NI Housing Council's secretariat regarding future progress updates.</p>
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WRITTEN CONSULTATION RESPONSES TO THE COMMUNITY COHESION STRATEGY 2015 - 2020

<p>CRC</p>	<p>Concerned that those who face intimidation are moved from their homes, rather than identifying the intimidator and dealing with the threat through the judicial system.</p> <p>Problems exist around gatekeepers and victims are reluctant to report incidents – they must be considered seriously in any strategy regarding Community Cohesion.</p> <p>NILTS (2014) reported that 78% of respondents would prefer much more or a bit more mixing where they live – These attitudes should help inspire and steer the final strategy and encourage NIHE to be ambitious for the future of cohesive communities.</p> <p>Strategy is lacking in ambition – Important to include a vision statement for Community Cohesion, rather than a 'statement of intention'. Refer to the Institute for Cohesion.</p> <p>Urge NIHE to develop a vision statement which reflects on existing statements as well as the local attitudes that aspire to greater shared living.</p>	<p>Noted – Tenants are encouraged to report any intimidation to the Housing Executive and the PSNI. Intimidation is dealt with as quickly as possible when reported to us. Ensuring tenant safety is paramount to the Housing Executive.</p> <p>Accepted – The Community Cohesion Unit work to break down barriers through joined-up thinking and collaborative working between and within communities, agencies and individuals. Community cohesion depends ultimately on trust and safety and we do all we can to help to build that trust and safety for our tenants. The Community Cohesion Unit work in collaboration with statutory agencies and community partners to deliver the best outcomes for the community through our Community Safety Strategy, our Community Involvement Strategy and our Community Safety Strategy.</p> <p>Accepted – the Housing Executive fully concurs with this statement and is dedicated to delivering OFMDFM's TBUC objective of delivering 10 shared new build schemes.</p> <p>Not Accepted – Our vision for housing is "One in which housing plays its part in creating a peaceful, inclusive, prosperous and fair society." This reflects the overall vision of the Housing Executive in "Fostering vibrant communities". The Housing Executive's Community Cohesion Strategy is one of the most innovative and far-reaching of any governmental agency and we provide best practice guidance to governmental and statutory bodies and local councils, as well as the wider community for Good Relations.</p> <p>Noted – The Race Relations element of this strategy will be</p>
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Urge NIHE to develop and include detailed goals for reducing segregation and hate crime.

Cross-reference exact details of Policy developments (shared housing schemes, environmental improvements, surplus MoD assets) contained in 'Building a Prosperous and United Community: One Year On' publication to the proposed actions in the strategy – trace progression on strategic announcements.

Updates on how the Peace IV monies will help compliment the strategy objectives – shared spaces is a specific objective.

Important for Community Cohesion Strategy to align itself to Community Safety Strategy as the two are inextricably linked. Ensure Community Safety support packages are in place to help develop safe, open and accessible residential areas.

CRC is concerned at the high levels of hate crime – there is an increasing urgency for the Executive to publish and implement a robust Racial Equality Strategy to drive forward strategic actions. NIHE will need to adjust this strategy when RES emerges.

Review NIHE Race Relations policy – involve an examination of the Common Platform's response to the RES consultation and develop and incorporate appropriate actions.

NIHE should be seen to take action to deal with hate incidents and crime – ensure the safety and residency of individuals and families.

The strategy should pay attention to existing and emerging research. The 3rd Peace Monitoring Report advised that we know very little about how

subject to further review (and consultation) once the OFMDFM Race Equality Strategy is released.

Noted – The Housing Executive will consider how best to trace progression of these policy developments with cross-reference to the proposed actions in the Community Cohesion Strategy.

Noted – Regular updates on the work of the Community Cohesion Unit are contained in the Housing Executive's Quarterly Equality Reports.

Accepted – The Housing Executive fully concurs.

Noted – The Race Relations element of this strategy will be subject to further review (and consultation) once the OFMDFM Race Equality Strategy is released. The Hate Harassment Toolkit was developed by the Housing Executive in partnership with other organisations to provide tenants, staff and the general public with information about Hate Harassment.

Noted – The Race Relations element of this strategy will be subject to further review (and consultation) once the OFMDFM Race Equality Strategy is released.

Noted – This is demonstrated in the Hate Harassment Toolkit and through our Community Safety Framework.

Noted – The Housing Executive will continue to monitor

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much sharing goes on and that qualitative studies are needed. This is an important area for further exploration and the 'lived experience' of those living in shared/mixed areas must be heard and used to shape emerging policy and practice.

Examine how the final strategy will support the development of social capital in order to affirm bonding and continue a sense of community. CRC recommends a mapping exercise of social capital at local level. An analysis of how bridging and bonding capital are currently supporting the development of cohesive communities would support the development and implementation of the strategy.

Develop approaches that help community cohesion – enhanced community representation from members of BME communities.

Important to maximize partnership working arrangements for shared learning/practice or capacity issues/engagement.

Fear must be addressed in order to deliver equality and meet objective need. It is imperative that people can move to and live where they want regardless of community background or race.

The strategy must consider the broader context of the housing market and a shrinking estate. A collective approach is needed to deal with the complex housing market – NIHE cannot tackle segregated living by just focusing on social housing.

information as it evolves, for research and evaluation. The Research Department, headed by Joe Frey are currently developing a report on 'Mapping Segregation'.

Noted – The Housing Executive work closely with local communities to develop social capital at local level.

Accepted – The Housing Executive is constantly developing approaches to promote community cohesion and enhance community representation. The Housing Community Network's Tenant Scrutiny Panels are one such approach.

Noted – The Housing Executive has partnership working arrangements with many other organisations, including the Housing Community Network, Supporting Communities NI, the Central Housing Forum, NI Youth Forum, Disability Action, Belfast Conflict Resolution Consortium, Regenerate, Charter NI and the Rural Community Network.

Accepted – The Housing Executive fully concurs.

Noted – The Housing Executive has a Research Department which produces an Annual Review of the Housing Market. This is available on our website www.nihe.gov.uk. The DSD Housing Branch is also exploring innovative ways to tackle segregated living.

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<p>The final strategy should include an action plan with timetabled targets, accountable structures/staffing and outcomes. Indicate tools used to monitor progress and indicate relevant partners for successful implementation.</p> <p>Examine how implementation of this strategy has a positive influence on contact. Implementation and monitoring processes should aim to reveal how actions support the development of strong, confident communities – bonding and bridging. Engage with internal stakeholders to maintain and develop a sense of community.</p> <p>The final strategy should indicate the level of resources being allocated for each action.</p> <p>Commitments and targets relating to shared/mixed/good relations interventions span both Landlord and Regional divisions – joint engagement and planning for programme development delivery and implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Knowledge should be proactively harnessed.</p> <p>Inclusion of a question and answer section or separate response booklet, with relevant contact details for responding, and including 'draft' wording throughout the strategy would have strengthened the overall consultation process.</p> <p>The draft strategy should be equality screened and the documentation should be available alongside the consultation document.</p>	<p>Accepted – The Community Cohesion Strategy details our Five Core Themes and illuminates how these will be addressed in an outcome-based approach. The Summary outlines how the strategy will be taken forward.</p> <p>Accepted – The Housing Executive will monitor how the implementation of Community Cohesion policies supports the development of strong, confident communities, and liaise with internal and external stakeholders to support this.</p> <p>Not Accepted – the Housing Executive is not in a position to provide this detail.</p> <p>Accepted – The Housing Executive promotes joint engagement and planning between Landlord and Regional divisions of the organisation, and places great value on the proactive harnessing of information.</p> <p>Noted – The Housing Executive acknowledges this input and will proactively consider the suggestion for future consultation processes.</p> <p>Accepted – The Community Cohesion Strategy has been equality screened by our Equality Manager, and a copy of the Equality Screening Report can be made available on request.</p>
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Report to:	<i>Strategy Policy and Resources Meeting</i>
Subject:	Annual Review of Corporate Plan 2015-2019. Consultation/Engagement Process
Date:	11 February 2016
Reporting Officer:	Regina Mackin, Assistant Director of Corporate Planning and Policy
Contact Officer(s):	Regina Mackin, Assistant Director of Corporate Planning and Policy

Decisions Required

Insert the decision(s) required by Members.

Members are asked to note and agree the revised recommend timetable for the consultation on the reviews of Year 1 of the Corporate Plan

1.0	<u>Purpose & Background</u>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update in terms of the consultation arrangements around the annual review of the first year of the Corporate Plan.
2.0	<u>Key Issues</u>
2.1	It had previously been agreed to undertake consultation to inform the review of the Corporate Plan using the existing DEA Fora in February/March 2016. It was also proposed to undertake 2 employee engagement events (one held in Newry and one held in Downpatrick) for the same purpose as well as engaging directly with our young people and older citizens at the same time. Stakeholders will be asked for their feedback across the strategic priorities defined within the Corporate Plan as well as feedback on any new or emerging issues for the Council to consider over the next 12 months. A summary of the information collated from the consultation events will be tabled for consideration at the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee and in advance of the publication of the updated Corporate Plan. As this public consultation cannot now take place at the DEA public meetings in February/March 2016 and there are no further DEA public meetings until June 2016, it is recommended that this public engagement take place using the Community Safety Network Conference in March 2016 and the feedback from all the engagements be presented to Council in June 2016.
3.0	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>
3.1	There are no resource implications contained within this report.
4.0	<u>Equality & Good Relations Implications</u>
4.1	The process is in line with the Council's Section 75 statutory duties in terms of promoting equality of opportunity and good relations. It is underpinned by the principles of openness and transparency, and our arrangements for consulting, assessing, monitoring and reporting upon the impact of policies and procedures we have adopted.
5.0	<u>Appendices</u>
	None

- *Please list the supporting documents appended to the report.*

TEMPLATE

Report to:	<i>Strategy, Policy and Resources</i>
Subject:	<i>PEACE IV Programme</i>
Date:	<i>11 February 2016</i>
Reporting Officer:	<i>Sonya Burns, Programmes Manager</i>
Contact Officer(s):	<i>Sonya Burns, Programmes Manager Justyna McCabe, Diversity & Inclusion Projects Co-ordinator</i>

Decisions Required

Report is for noting to update members on the progress of the PEACE IV programme.

1.0 Purpose & Background

- 1.1 This report will provide an update on the PEACE IV Programme 2014 – 2020. The total allocation for the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area is €5,484,350 for a 3-5 year programme. As the programme is outcomes and results indicators based, there will be 3 focus areas under which we will develop projects in line with the themes set by SEUPB. The focus areas are as follows – Skills Development, Relationship Building and Cohesion, Sharing and Integration. Due to the outcome based nature of the programme we must ensure we achieve the targets to enable the re-claiming of expenditure.

There have been a number of internal consultations with Councillors and Officers. The consultations with the Statutory agencies are ongoing. The public consultations have been planned to take place alongside the DEA Inaugural Public meetings as follows:

DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Rowallane	Tuesday 23rd February	7.00 pm	Market House, Ballynahinch
Downpatrick	Wednesday 24 th February	7.00 pm	Ballymote Community and Business Centre
Slieve Croob	Thursday 25 th February	7.00 pm	Annsborough Community Centre
Slieve Gullion	Tuesday 1 st March	6.00 pm	Bessbrook Community Centre
Crotlieve	Wednesday 2 nd March	7.00 pm	Warrenpoint Town Hall
Newry	Thursday 3 rd March	6.00 pm	Newry Arts Centre
The Mournes	Tuesday 8 th March	6.00 pm	Annalong Community Centre

The first stage application is due with SEUPB in May and therefore a draft will be presented

	to Council for approval in April. We will simultaneously be establishing the new PEACE IV Partnership which will comprise of community/voluntary sector representatives, Elected members, Statutory sector representatives and the business sector. SEUPB have not been prescriptive about the composition of the Partnership and therefore we are exploring the best fit options for this.
2.0	<u>Key Issues</u>
2.1	Currently the following issues are identifiable: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of a Partnership in time for the application submission. - Managing community expectation given the targets and budget constraints within the new programme.
3.0	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>
3.1	Awaiting further details on the submission and resources to complete same.
4.0	<u>Equality & Good Relations Implications</u>
4.1	There will be an assessment undertaken at the stage of submission.
5.0	<u>Appendices</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ None.

Report to:	Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	<i>Sister Cities/Twinning</i>
Date:	11 February 2016
Reporting Officer:	Eddy Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance
Contact Officer:	Eddy, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance

Decisions Required

- **To set up a Sister Cities/Twinning structure to oversee the development and implementation of a long-term strategy which will be reflective of the organisations involved.**
- **Approval for participation at the Sister Cities Summit from 21-24 April.**

1.0 Purpose & Background

- 1.1
- Newry, Mourne and Down District Council have agreed to adopt the following 4 Sister Cities/Twinning projects for the 2015-19 period:
 - a) Bezons (France) formal structure agreed
 - b) Listowel (Ireland) have formal structure agreed
 - c) Kirovsk (Russia) have formal structure agreed
 - d) Southern Pines (USA) have formal structure agreed
 - Meetings have been arranged with Golfing Union Ireland and local golf clubs in relation to the development of Sister City projects.
 - Dublin City Council are organising an all Ireland Sister Cities event in Dublin from 21-24 April 2016. There are a series of activities organised over this period for which details will be issued upon receipt.

2.0 Key Issues

- To develop a revised series of activities within the Sister Cities/Twinning projects in the near future.
- To look at long-term strategy with the development of Sister City Projects.

3.0 Resource Implications

- Officials to prepare a report on possible future projects.
- Officials to facilitate the establishment of the Sister Cities/Twinning Committee.

4.0 Appendices

None.

Report to:	Strategic Planning and Resources
Subject:	Financial Assistance
Date:	11 February 2016
Reporting Officer:	Sonya Burns, Programmes Manager
Contact Officer(s):	Sonya Burns, Programmes Manager

Decisions Required

- The report is for update and noting.

1.0 Purpose & Background

- 1.1 The Council will complete two calls for Financial Assistance in the period 2015-2016.

The two calls for financial assistance are as follows:

Call 1 Open February and close March 2016:

- Major/Minor Events including tourism and Community Festivals, (subject to DCAL Funding)
- Summer Schemes
- Community Capital Schemes (match funding programme)
- Active and Healthy Communities
- Arts and Culture

Call 2 Open May and close June 2016:

- Good Relations (subject to OFMDFM Funding)
- Christmas Illuminations

The thresholds will be lowered this time in relation to the maximum and minimum amounts available. The minimum available will be £500 however the maximum will be directed by the nature of the projects and the total overall allocation available. As previously agreed this will be delegated to the officers to decide.

The forms and process will be as per the previous year with further details for groups on the types of projects which are eligible under each theme. There has been a notable improvement in the standard of application submitted from Call 1 to Call 3 of 2015. This is positive in relation to the capacity of groups however this will be a highly competitive process.

2.0 Key Issues

- 2.1 There are potentially a number of issues:

- The current demand out weighs the allocated budget and therefore signposting groups to other potential funding sources is vital.
- Raising awareness of the process and managing expectations of groups in terms of what is available.

3.0	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>
3.1	Resources: The Strategic Programmes Section will manage the Financial Assistance process. Grants allocations: As per the agreed budgets within the rates.
4.0	<u>Equality & Good Relations Implications</u>
4.1	There is an inclusion of equality and good relations questions within the applications. This is an open and transparent call for all eligible groups to apply for project funding.
5.0	<u>Appendices</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ None.

TEMPLATE