

**Feidhmiú na Comhairle**  
**Ag amharc siar**  
**Ag amharc chun tosaigh**  
**Our Performance**  
**Looking Back**  
**Looking Forward**



The Local Government Act (NI) 2014 sets out a General Duty of Improvement for local government, whereby all district councils must put in place arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of their functions.

## Looking Back Assessment of Performance 2016-17

The Council is required to publish an Assessment of Performance on an annual basis to demonstrate whether planned improvements have been achieved. The Assessment of Performance 2016-17 sets out the Council's progress in delivering the:

- Performance improvement objectives
- Statutory performance indicators and standards for economic development, planning and waste management
- Corporate Plan 2015-19

A summary of the Council's performance highlights during 2016-17 is outlined on pages 3 and 4.

Corporate Objective	Progress	Status/Trend
<b>Become one of the premier tourist destinations on the island of Ireland</b> 	40% increase in visitor numbers	
	27% increase in visitor spend	
	The four major festivals attracted 138,000 visitors and generated £4.2m for the local economy	
<b>Attract investment and support the creation of new jobs</b> 	192 jobs promoted	
	Reduction in Job Seekers Allowance Claimants	
	Improved processing time for local planning applications	
<b>Support improved health and wellbeing outcomes</b> 	£34.8m investment in Newry and Downpatrick Leisure Centres	
	Over 1.4m attendances at Council leisure facilities	
	Over 10,000 residents took part in Everybody Active 2020	
<b>Protect our natural and built environment</b> 	Aughnagun and Drumnakelly Landfill Sites closed	
	Camlough Lake flood defences complete	
	1.1% increase in the amount of household waste collected by the Council that is recycled, to 40%	
	66.9% reduction in the amount of biodegradable municipal waste collected by the Council that is landfilled, to 5,389 tonnes	

Corporate Objective	Progress	Status/ Trend
<b>Lead the regeneration of urban and rural areas</b> 	Public realm schemes in Newry and Warrenpoint are complete	
	£11m awarded to the Rural Development Programme	
	£850k awarded to restore Warrenpoint Municipal Park	
<b>Advocate on your behalf, specifically in relation to these issues that really matter to you</b> 	Community Plan for Newry, Mourne and Down published	
	86% of local premises are able to receive at least 2mb broadband	
	Improved roads infrastructure	
<b>Empower and improve the capacity of our communities</b> 	£652k awarded to community groups through the Financial Assistance Scheme	
	44 independent members appointed to the DEA Fora and 20 DEA public engagement events held	
<b>Transform and modernise the Council, providing accessible as well as value for money services</b> 	Certificate of compliance for performance improvement received	
	Organisational structure agreed and business transformation programme underway	
	Reduction in short term absenteeism	

### Legend

Status	Trend
 Target or objective achieved/on track to be achieved	 Performance has improved since the previous year

## Looking Forward Performance Improvement Plan 2017-18

The Council is required to set improvement objectives for the services it provides on an annual basis, and to have in place arrangements to achieve these objectives. Through the Performance Improvement Plan, the Council has identified five improvement objectives, which are linked to the Community Plan and Corporate Plan, and will address the issues which matter most to local communities.

### Objective 1

**Encourage healthy lifestyles through increased participation in leisure, sport and recreational activities.**

#### What we will do

- Complete the refurbishment of Newry and Downpatrick Leisure Centres
- Undertake a review of outdoor leisure facilities
- Co-ordinate and launch an Activity, Promotion and Development Plan to promote physical activity across the District
- Provide and improve fixed and non fixed play opportunities
- Engage more children and young people in community play initiatives

### Objective 2

**Improve economic growth by creating new business starts, supporting the growth of existing businesses and promoting Newry, Mourne and Down as a premier tourist destination.**

#### What we will do

- Support the promotion of new jobs across the District
- Support the establishment and growth of businesses and social enterprises
- Develop two Destination Experience Development Plans for Mourne and Ring of Gullion and the Mourne Coast
- Organise and promote five flagship festivals across the District

## Objective 3

**Deliver urban and rural regeneration initiatives that will create a District where people want to live, work and invest in.**

### What we will do

- Restore the physical and cultural heritage of Warrenpoint Municipal Park
- Implement the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty Action Plans for the Ring of Gullion and Strangford and Lecale
- Commence the delivery of the Environmental Improvement Scheme in Downpatrick and the Revitalisation Schemes in Newry and Warrenpoint
- Progress the implementation of the Rural Development Programme and update Village Plans
- Work with partners to enhance broadband provision across the District

## Objective 4

**Create a cleaner, greener, more attractive District.**

### What we will do

- Increase the rate of recycling
- Reduce the amount of waste going to landfill
- Improve the quality and cleanliness of the local environment
- Promote public participation in clean up campaigns
- Improve the performance of the Council's Planning Service

## Objective 5

**Encourage and empower local communities to participate in Council engagement structures.**

### What we will do

- Develop a Corporate Consultation and Engagement Framework
- Further develop the level of engagement in the Policing and Community Safety Partnership, Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships, DEA Fora and PEACE IV Partnership
- Promote the Neighbourhood Watch, 'Good Morning, Good Neighbour' and 'Home Secure' Schemes
- Support community groups through the Council's financial assistance scheme
- Engage local groups in progressing the 'Audit of Effectiveness' for community centres

## Have Your Say

We welcome your feedback on the performance improvement objectives 2017-18, as well as suggestions on how to improve our services in the future.

Full copies of the Assessment of Performance 2016-17 and Performance Improvement Plan 2017-2018 can be downloaded from our website: [newrymournedown.org](http://newrymournedown.org)

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This document is available in alternative formats on request.

Ag freastal ar an Dún  
agus Ard Mhacha Theas  
Serving Down  
and South Armagh



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