

# NEWS RELEASE

7 August 2025



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

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## Giant Eats and Beats Weekend in Newcastle

Food and music lovers are in for an unforgettable weekend as the Eats & Beats festival returns to Newcastle, County Down on Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 September 2025.

Set against the stunning backdrop of the Mourne Mountains, this two-day festival promises a vibrant celebration of culinary delights, live music, and family-friendly activities.

This year's festival features an exciting lineup of cookery demonstrations, celebrating the best of local produce and sustainable practices. At the Mourne Flavours Pavilion, festivalgoers will have the opportunity to discover the rich flavours of our region, guided by talented chefs and food experts. The theme for this year's cookery demonstrations is sustainability, with a focus on sourcing locally produced ingredients to reduce our carbon footprint and support local farmers. Visitors can look forward to learning sustainable cooking practices that can be incorporated into everyday life.

A new addition to the festival this year is the Meet the Producers event, where festivalgoers can connect with local food producers, sample their products, and hear the stories behind the delicious offerings. Visitors can enjoy the finest produce from Mourne Gullion Strangford and across Northern Ireland, including local favourites such as Crawford's Rock, Killowen Distillery, and NearyNógs.

For those looking for tasty meals on the go, food vendors throughout the festival will be offering a wide variety of snacks and meals, ensuring there's something to suit every taste while you explore the festival.

Music lovers will also be treated to an array of live performances across two stages: the Homegrown Stage and the World Stage. The Homegrown Stage will feature top local talent, while the World Stage will showcase international acts, offering a diverse mix of genres including folk, blues, rock, and more. Performances include Sasha Samsara, Matt Maginn, Belfast Groove Collective, and The Qua Family. With performances scheduled throughout the weekend, the music will add to the lively and energetic atmosphere.

There will also be plenty on offers for families, with the Kidz Zone, Sensory Hub, and Curious Minds experiences for kids, plus fun Castle Park activities like Pedalo Swans and a Go-Kart Track for all ages.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Chairperson, Councillor Philip Campbell, said, "I am delighted that the Eats & Beats Festival is returning to Newcastle in 2025. The festival is an excellent opportunity to showcase our award-winning food and vibrant music scene; all set in the stunning surroundings of the Mourne Mountains. This year's event will be even more

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special, with a range of family-friendly activities and the continued growth of our local food and music culture.”

Beyond the main festival, there are a number of other exciting events to enjoy. The Artisan Market at Newcastle Centre Plaza, also taking place on Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 September, will showcase talented local makers offering everything from handmade jewellery to bespoke home décor and unique souvenirs. While you're at the Festival, be sure to stop by and pick up a one-of-a-kind memento to remember your visit.

To build momentum ahead of the Eats & Beats weekend, the Council has launched a brand-new initiative, Newcastle Restaurant Week, running from 1 to 7 September. This week-long celebration offers locals and visitors an opportunity to sample the best of local cuisine, with special menus available daily from 11am to 2pm and 5pm to 7pm at participating venues. Why not extend your stay and keep the flavour going by rounding off Restaurant Week with the vibrant Eats & Beats Festival?

Chairperson Councillor Philip Campbell continued, “We are also proud that Newcastle Restaurant Week, taking place in the week leading up to the festival, is an integral part of this year’s event. This initiative supports local businesses by showcasing the town’s best eateries and highlighting the region’s culinary talent, providing a unique opportunity for both residents and visitors to experience the exceptional food Newcastle has to offer.

“Together, these events increase our tourism offering, providing unique opportunities to connect with our community, celebrate our heritage, and create lasting memories. Whether you're a food enthusiast, music lover, or looking for a fun family getaway, the Eats & Beats Festival in Newcastle is the perfect way to spend a weekend.

Please join us this summer for another season of unforgettable adventures across Newry, Mourne and Down and south Armagh.”

Text

**ENDS**

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