November 10th, 2026

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the meeting to be held on **Monday, 16th November 2026** at **6:00 pm** in **Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre.**

Committee Membership 2026-27

Councillor T Howie **Chairperson**

Councillor A Mathers **Deputy Chairperson**

Councillor Jim Brennan

Councillor Philip Campbell

Councillor Doire Finn

Councillor Conor Galbraith

Councillor Mark Gibbons

Councillor Roisin Howell

Councillor Jonathan Jackson

Councillor Aurla King

Councillor Niall Lawlor

Councillor David Lee-Surginor

Councillor Alan Lewis

Councillor Oonagh Magennis

Councillor Kate Murphy

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 Action Sheet arising from Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 19 October 2026

For Information

Attachment: Action Sheet from AHC 2026-10-19 vf.pdf ***Page 1***

For Discussion/Decision - Open Session

4.0 Active and Healthy Communities Business Plans - Mid Year Review 2026/27

Attachment: AHC Report - Mid Year Assessment of AHC Business Plans 2026-27 - vf.pdf ***Page 3***

Attachment: Appx - AHC Mid Year Assessment of Business Plan 2026-27 - vf.pdf ***Page 5***

5.0 District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums Update Report

For Decision

Attachment: AHC Report - DEA Forums Update 16 November 2026 - vf.pdf ***Page 13***

Attachment: Appx - DEA Forums Action Sheets Sept-Oct 2026.pdf ***Page 15***

6.0 Dolly Parton Imagination Library - Notice of Motion

For Decision

Attachment: AHC Report - Dolly Parton Imagination Library - vf.pdf ***Page 52***

For discussion/Decision - Closed Session

7.0 Funded Programme Delivery Update

For Decision

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

Copy report to follow.

For Noting

8.0 PCSP Update Report

For Information

Attachment: AHC Report - PCSP Update Report 16 November 2026 - vf.pdf ***Page 56***

Attachment: Appx - PCSP Policing Committee Minutes 11 August 2026 - vf.pdf ***Page 58***

ACTIONS ARISING FROM ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING – 19 OCTOBER 2026

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
AHC/076/2026	Action sheet from AHC Meeting held 21/09/2026	It was agreed to note the action sheet.	A Patterson	Noted	Y
AHC/077/2026	District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum Update	It was agreed to note the report and approve the actions in the action sheets attached for: • Mournes DEA Forum Meeting held on 22 September 2026 • Slieve Croob DEA Forum Meeting held on 22 September 2026	A Robb	Noted	Y
AHC/078/2026	Recognition of Achievement for High Performance Levels in Sport	It was agreed to approve the following: • The revised Recognition of Achievement for High Performance Levels in Sport Criteria and Processing Procedures attached at Appendix 1 of the officer's report; • The revised application and assessment arrangements as outlined within the officer's report; and • Implementation of the revised scheme from 1 October 2026.	C Haughey	Procedures now in place	y
AHC/079/2026	Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership	It was agreed to note the officer's report and the attached Minutes of the Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership (NRP) Meeting held on 24 June 2026, approved at the Newry NRP Meeting held on 16 September 2026.	A Robb	Noted	Y

AHC/080/2026	Special Educational Needs Funding and Investment	It was agreed to note the correspondence from the Department for Communities.	A Robb	Noted	Y

Report to:	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 16th November 2026
Subject:	Mid Year Assessment of AHC Directorate Business Plan 2026-27
Reporting Officer and Job Title:	Andy Patterson Director – Active and Healthy Communities
Contact Officer and Job Title:	Andy Patterson Director – Active and Healthy Communities

Purpose of Report:

For Decision

1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	Directorate Business Plans form an essential part of the Council's Business Planning and Performance Management Framework, which drives and provides assurance that corporate objectives are being delivered.
1.2	Directorate Business Plans demonstrate how planned activity during 2026-27 will contribute to the achievement of strategic outcomes in relation to the Community Plan, Corporate Plan, Performance Improvement Plan and other key strategies.
2.0	Key Issues
2.1	A Mid-Year Assessment of each Directorate Business Plan has been undertaken to provide an overview of progress between April-September 2026. This exercise is an important part of the Council's statutory obligations to strengthen the way performance is monitored, reviewed and reported at all levels across the organisation.
2.2	The Mid-Year Assessment of the AHC Directorate Business Plan is outlined at Appendix 1.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To consider and approve: • The Mid-Year Assessment of the AHC Directorate Business Plan 2026-27
4.0	Resource Implications
4.1	There are no financial resource implications within this report.
5.0	Due Regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations
5.1	General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations
5.2	Does the proposal relate to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision

	No If yes, please select one of the following: Choose an item.
5.3	Proposal initiating consultation The consultation seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves Please select the consultation period: Choose an item. Rationale: Consultation not required
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs
6.1	Does the proposal relate to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service. Yes – Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed
7.0	Appendices
7.1	Appendix 1 – Mid Year Assessment of the AHC Directorate Business Plan 2026-27
8.0	Background Documents
8.1	AHC Directorate Business Plan 2026-27

Active and Healthy Communities Directorate

Mid-Year Assessment
Business Plan 2026-27

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

Introduction

This report provides an overview of progress in delivering the Active and Healthy Communities Directorate Business Plan 2026-27 between April-September 2026, across the following service areas:

- **Leisure and Recreation**
- **Local Parks and Open Spaces**
- **Sports Development**
- **Community Planning**
- **Evidence & Research**
- **Engagement and Community Development**
- **Community Services, Facilities and Community Events**

The delivery of the Active and Healthy Communities Directorate Business Plan 2026-27 supports the achievement of the following corporate objectives, and performance has been tracked using the legend below.

Improve the health and wellbeing of everyone in the district
Empowering communities to play an active part in civic life
Represent the voice of the district with our partners
Deliver sustainable services

Legend

Status	
	Target or objective achieved / on track to be achieved
	Target or objective partially achieved / likely to be achieved / subject to delay
	Target or objective not achieved / unlikely to be achieved

Directorate objectives, supporting actions and measures of success

Key Directorate Objectives / Actions

Leisure and Sport

- Promote increased levels of activity and develop targeted programmes to support improved health and wellbeing outcomes.

Community Development

- Create a strong base to engage, empower and build the capacity of local communities, ensuring their views inform the work of the Council and its partners.
- Work with partners to lead the implementation of the Community Plan and deliver better outcomes for local people.
- Develop a robust and reliable evidence base to underpin and inform future decision-making and policy development processes.

Delivery of key projects on Council's Capital Programme - £36 million.

Healthy Living			
AHC1: Promote increased levels of activity and develop targeted programmes to support improved health and wellbeing outcomes			
Continue to Implement the existing sports and well-being strategic themes and their action plans, including the Sports Facility Strategy Review, Play Strategy, and Physical Activity, Health and Wellbeing Strategy (CPP)	Target **Progress**	Sep 26 Green * 1	Mar 27 –
Notes:	**1** Continue to implement the existing Sport and Wellbeing strategic themes, including the Sports Facility Review, Play Strategy and Physical Activity and Wellbeing Strategy. Progress includes: • Multisport hubs: Work is progressing, with the Mourne hub delivered at Donard Park. • Play Strategy: Year 4 has been completed, with two play parks built. • Physical Activity and Wellbeing Strategy: Implementation is ongoing, with several themes already addressed through initiatives including the Elite Athletes Scheme and Be Active programmes.		
Continuing to progress the delivery of key capital projects, Newry City Park • Newcastle Rock Pool • Newcastle Centre • Play Park strategy upgrades • Kilkeel Leisure Centre • Multi Sports Hub project delivery including opportunities for digital innovation and transformation within key projects:	Target **Progress**	Sep 26 Green * 1	Mar 27 –
Notes:	**1** Progress continues on the delivery of key capital projects: • Newry City Park: Planning Committee approval secured, subject to departmental consent. • Newcastle Rock Pool: ICT tender issued. • Newcastle Centre: ICT team appointed, with the next project stages progressing. • Play Park Strategy upgrades: Year 4 completed, with two play parks delivered. • Kilkeel Leisure Centre: Redevelopment ongoing, with handover anticipated in Q3. • Multi-Sports Hubs: Work continues towards delivery in each DEA. The Mourne hub at Donard Park is complete, and the works tender for Rowallane has been completed. Opportunities for digital innovation and transformation continue to be considered within the projects to improve customer experience and operational efficiency		
Continue to invest in community and sports facilities in line with Council's financial assistance programs	Target **Actual**	Mar 27 500000 500000 * 1	
Notes:	**1** Continued investment in community and sports facilities has been progressed through Council's Financial Assistance Programmes. Call 1 supported 25 No. clubs to deliver summer and seasonal camps, while Call 2 supported the development of four major applications for sports facility improvements. A Letter of Offer for £500,000 has also been issued to Down GAA for the Ballykinler Centre of Excellence, supporting delivery of the identified built sports hub need within the Slieve Croob DEA.		

		Sep 26	Mar 27
Sustain attendance figures in all indoor and outdoor leisure facilities.	Target	449000	898000
	Actual	451,112	—
Complete Customer Satisfaction Surveys for DLC Centre and Outdoor Leisure Health Programmes	Target		
	Progress	Amber *1	—
Notes:	1 ongoing		
Number of participants engaged in physical activity programmes and health and wellbeing initiatives within be active for life classes	Target	8250	16500
	Actual	15511 *1	—
Notes:	1 due to high volume of additional camps over the summer		
Increase the play value of all Council play parks across the district via the delivery of play strategy year 4	Target	1 play park	2 parks complete
	Progress	Green *1	—
Notes:	1 Lismore and Ardross park upgrades with 2 additional parks to be completed as part of year 4		

Community Development

AHC2: Create a strong base to engage, empower and build the capacity of local communities, ensuring their views inform the work of the Council and its partners.

		Sep 26	Mar 27
Number of events and programmes including attendance levels	Target	2,000	4,800
	Actual	4,000 *1	—
Notes:	1 Range of events & programmes held - including Newry Water Festival, Men's Fest, Mela, PCSP Community Safety & Wellbeing events, Bishopscourt Young Driver initiatives, Glow Girls programmes (EVAWG), EmpowerHER sessions, Motorcycle Safety events, Seniors Summer Programme		
Number of contacts recorded through the Ethnic Minority Support Centre	Target	400	1,000
	Actual	847	—

		Sep 26	Mar 27
Amount of additional external funding levered into Council	Target	£5,000	£20,000
	Actual	£7,789 * 1	—
Notes:	**1** Funding secured from NIHE, Arbour Housing & Radius Housing for support to several DEA events & programmes		
Number of referrals to PCSP Home Secure & Social Alarm Schemes	Target	115	230
	Actual	145 * 1	—
Notes:	**1** Home Secure & Social Alarm Schemes continue to attract high referral levels.		
Number of cross border community safety events delivered	Target	1	2
	Actual	1 * 1	—
Notes:	**1** Cross-border Community Safety event held in the Carrickdale Hotel on 24 June 2026 - meeting of NMD PCSP & Louth Community Safety Partnership.		
Progress implementation of the Community Development Strategy	Target	Yes	Yes
	Progress	Amber * 1	—
Notes:	**1** Being progressed - finalised draft anticipated November 2026 - for internal review and thereafter public consultation		
Deliver a Good Relations Success Stories Showcase Event as part of Good Relations Week	Target	0	1
	Actual	0 * 1	—
Notes:	**1** No event due in this period.		
Host 4 Community Connect Event across our DEA areas in partnership with public facing Council services/Departments e.g. Funding, Leisure, Age Friendly, Registration, LMPs (what we do and what we might do for you)	Target	1	4
	Actual	2 * 1	—

Notes:	**1** Community Support Hub event held in Newry Leisure Centre on 21 April 2026, PCSP Community Safety & Wellbeing event held in Downpatrick Leisure Centre on 16 September 2026 (Council Depts attended).		
Progress Capital Projects: Annalong Community Centre; Bessbrook Community Centre (Digihub Project); Cullyhanna Community Centre; Meigh Community Centre, Warrenpoint Health and Wellbeing Hub	Target **Progress**	Sep 26 Yes Amber * 1	Mar 27 Yes –
Notes:	**1** Annalong Community Centre - Electrical improvement works are substantially complete, with final snagging scheduled for October 2026. Bessbrook Community Centre - Project value increased to €1.1m (capital and revenue). Works include a building extension, training room, sensory room and Changing Places facility. Procurement Stage 1 is complete, with Stage 2 assessment due in October 2026. Cullyhanna Community Centre - Procurement is being progressed for a replacement roof. Following engagement with the Management Committee, works are proposed for March/April 2027 to minimise disruption and allow the bowling season to conclude. Meigh Community Centre - A contractor has been appointed to undertake reinstatement works following an insurance claim. The Centre remains operational during works, which includes glazing replacement, flooring and redecoration. Completion is anticipated by December 2026. Warrenpoint Health and Wellbeing Hub Planning approval has been secured and £7.4m allocated for the development. The Hub will provide health, wellbeing and community facilities, including family-friendly spaces, a sensory room, youth and community meeting areas, dance studio and health and wellbeing garden. Construction commencement is subject to programme approval and procurement.		
Work with internal and external partners to deliver Capacity Building Events and Funding Fairs for Community Groups	Target **Actual**	Sep 26 2 3 * 1	Mar 27 6 –
Notes:	**1** Three capacity building events held across the District. Funding Fayres planned for Q3 & Q4.		

Lead on the delivery and implementation of a Corporate Online Booking System	Target **Actual**	Mar 27 Yes Yes * 1	
Notes:	**1** Project on target - potential suppliers shortlisted and due to make a presentation to Corporate Working Group 9/11/2026		
Deliver a Community Engagement Youth Event in each DEA to support implementation of the EVAWG Action Plan	Target **Actual**	Sep 26 2 2 * 1	Mar 27 7 –

	Notes:	**1** 3 Glow Girls programmes delivered - in the Newry, Slieve Gullion & Crotlieve DEAs	
AHC3: Work with partners to lead the implementation of the Community Plan and deliver better outcomes for local people			
Compliance with the Statutory Duty of Community Planning.	Target **Actual**	Mar 27 Yes –	
Number of Community Planning Actions co-designed and delivered.	Target **Actual**	Sep 26 2 1 * 1	Mar 27 3 –
	Notes:	**1** Establishment of multi-agency physical activity working group with agreed terms of reference	
AHC4: Develop a robust and reliable evidence base to underpin and inform future decision-making and policy development processes			
Leveraging insights from the Social Value pilot completed in 2026, develop a robust social value framework to formalise, measure and scale the tangible impact of our core activities e.g. track and report on positive outcomes of community development initiatives over time/evaluate the impact of projects on quality of life, health and social cohesion amongst community members	Target **Progress**	Sep 26 Green * 1	Mar 27 –
	Notes:	**1** Received report through Social Investment Board and identified appropriate social value measures (Social Value Proxys and Cost Benefit Analysis) Work is ongoing to identify relevant projects to utilise in the pilot.	

Report to:	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting:	16 November 2026
Subject:	District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums Update Report
Reporting Officer and Job Title:	Alison Robb, Assistant Director: Community Development
Contact Officer and Job Title:	Martina Flynn, Head of Engagement

Purpose of Report:

For Decision

1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	• To note the report. • To consider and agree to approve the actions in the Action Sheets attached from the DEA Forum Private Meetings listed in 3.1 below.
2.0	Key Issues
2.1	None
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	That the Committee: - ➢ Note the report. ➢ Agree to approve the actions in the Action Sheets attached for: - Newry DEA Forum Meeting held on 15 September 2026 - Slieve Gullion DEA Forum Meeting held on 6 October 2026 - Downpatrick DEA Forum Meeting held on 13 October 2026 - Rowallane DEA Forum Meeting held on 13 October 2026 - Newry DEA Forum Meeting held on 20 October 2026 - Crotlieve DEA Forum Meeting held on 20 October 2026
4.0	Resource Implications
4.1	Support and assistance from partners to deliver actions in the DEA Action Plans.
5.0	Due Regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations
5.1	General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations
5.2	Does the proposal relate to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision No If yes, please select one of the following: Choose an item.
5.3	Proposal initiating consultation

	The consultation seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves Please select the consultation period: Choose an item. Rationale:
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs
6.1	Does the proposal relate to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service. No – The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs
7.0	Appendices
7.1	**Appendix 1** Action Sheets from - - Newry DEA Forum Meeting held on 15 September 2026 - Slieve Gullion DEA Forum Meeting held on 6 October 2026 - Downpatrick DEA Forum Meeting held on 13 October 2026 - Rowallane DEA Forum Meeting held on 13 October 2026 - Newry DEA Forum Meeting held on 20 October 2026 - Crotlieve DEA Forum Meeting held on 20 October 2026
8.0	Background Documents
8.1	None

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Action Sheet of Newry District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 15th September 2026 at 4:00pm in Newry Leisure Centre

Chairperson:	**Councillor Aidan Mathers**
In Attendance:	**Councillor Geraldine Kearns, Councillor Cathal King**
Independent Members:	**Raymond Jackson, Confederation of Community Groups** **Colin Hanna, Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency** **Allison Slater, Bolster Community**
Statutory Partners:	**Aisling Pryers, Housing Executive** **Inspector Paul Moore, PSNI**
Council Officials:	**Padraig Harte, Newry DEA Coordinator** **Edel McGeeney, Peace Officer** **Therese Siddall, Head of Refuse and Cleansing** **Declan Crilly, Head of Outdoor Leisure**
Apologies:	**Thelma Thompson, Altnaveigh House** **Councillor Valerie Harte**

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed
DEA/N/2026/2	Declarations of Interest	None.	
DEA/N/2026/3	Matters arising from Action Sheet	Action sheet confirmed as a true and accurate record.	Approved
DEA/N/2026/4	Community Services	Derrybeg – Repairs still outstanding including perimeter fencing members asked for this to be progressed as soon as possible. Meigh has a further 1-month extension to works.	Community Services to progress
DEA/N/2026/5	Leisure Services	Members were advised that St Brigid's Boxing Club surrendered its lease to the Council in January following completion of the legal process. The portacabin has been removed, the ground levelled and the site secured. NI Water has installed an underground water channel, restricting future development of the site. As the Council considers the land unsuitable for development, the Housing Executive has been asked to consider taking the site back through its internal processes. Councillor Mathers highlighted the need for community consultation to consider the use of this land.	Noted
DEA/N/2026/6	Sustainability and Environment Update	Members received an overview of the enhanced public-realm cleansing programme. Tergo has contracted to supply deep cleansing, including evening soft-washing and intensive cleaning. Works have focused on Carnbane and surrounding areas, with activity due to extend to other parts of Newry. Concerns were also raised about missed bin collections in some areas, particularly where access is restricted by narrow streets in Newry. Members were informed that a fleet review is expected to take place shortly.	Noted

DEA/N/2026/7	PeacePlus Update	**1.1 Reimaging Project Updates** Dublin Rd - Wednesday 23 September 2026 at 7.00pm in Killeavy GAA Armagh Road/Greater Linenhall - Wednesday 30 September 2026 at 6pm in St John Bosco Youth Club Carnagat/Derrybeg - Wednesday 23 September 2026 at 11am in Carnagat Community House **1.2 Capital Projects** All on schedule to be completed by the end of this year. **2.1 Capacity building** Events training now in its final few weeks Graphic design training is currently recruiting - email amy@slackpress.co.uk **2.2** Social Housing – date to be confirmed for exhibition. Awaiting agreement from Museum. **2.3** Market Ready project now recruiting. Email info@ffksolutions.com **2.4** Community Led health and wellbeing progressing as planned. **2.4** Civic Pride progressing as planned. **2.5** Castles and Towerhouses now complete and 22 participants received OCN tour guide training and digital map has been created. **2.6** Intergenerational projects progressing as planned. Music and dance tender has closed.	Noted.

		2.7 Social and Emotional project – Bolster – Progressing as planned. **2.8** Community Justice – Youth intervention programme. Interactive drama "choices and consequences" Tender currently live,closing 30/09/26**.** **3.2** Arabic Learning Hub – contract awarded to Craic NI **3.5** Inclusive Sports Festival – contract awarded to Healthy Kidz.	
DEA/N//2026/7	DEA Co-ordinator's Report.	**Party in the Park** Two Party in the Park events were delivered at Carrivemaclone and Shandon Park, alongside a community drumming workshop in Newry City Library. The events attracted a strong turnout from residents and families, providing accessible opportunities for recreational and creative activity within neighbourhood settings. A range of views were expressed in relation to community engagement and local need, helping to inform future planning and support. **Newry Water Festival** The Newry Water Festival has now concluded and was a very successful community event, attracting the highest turnout to date. The Albert Basin proved to be an ideal location, with a wide range of free activities available for all ages, including water-based activities, family entertainment, arts and crafts and multicultural performances. The event was well attended by a diverse range of residents and families and was strongly supported by partner agencies. Effective partnership working was evident across the Trust, Volunteer Now, Arbour Housing, Radius Housing, Newry DEA, Neighbourhood Renewal, PSNI, PCSP and other stakeholders, contributing to the successful delivery of a high-quality community festival. **Mela Festival** The Mela Festival launch and main event have now concluded. The main event attracted a large attendance, with McClelland Park proving to be an ideal venue for the festival. There was strong participation from residents and families, including a notably higher attendance from Indian families, contributing to a positive and diverse community atmosphere.	Noted and Coordinator to progress.

		NIAC had significant support in the organisation and delivery of the project by Newry DEA and had attendance throughout the day to support the group. **Pride of Place** The Pride of Place judging visit took place on Wednesday 12 August at the Road Ahead Hub. Judges heard personal accounts from service users and bereaved families, providing a powerful insight into the integral work of the local charity A limited number of additional tickets have been secured for the awards ceremony on 24 October. Forum members have been contacted by email and asked to express their interest as soon as possible. **Shared Schools Programme** Newry and Slieve Gullion DEAs are currently progressing another year of the Shared Schools Programme in partnership with Newry High School, St Paul's High School Bessbrook, Newtownhamilton High School and St Joseph's High School Crossmaglen. Year 8 pupils from the participating schools will come together across five planned sessions to take part in good relations projects supported by external facilitators. **Seniors Winter Programme** Newry DEA and the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme, supported by Arbour Housing and Radius Housing, have developed a Seniors Winter Programme to run from October 2026 to March 2027. The programme will be delivered as a good relations initiative, with one event scheduled each month. Activities will include educational and awareness sessions, light physical activity, wellbeing opportunities, and site visits. A further update will be provided at next month's DEA Forum. **Youth Digital Skills Programme** Funding has been sought to deliver a Youth Digital Creativity and Photography Programme for up to 40 young people from across Newry, including Housing Executive across the nine Neighbourhood Renewal areas. The programme will use photography, visual storytelling, content creation, social media awareness and responsible use of AI to build confidence, promote positive relationships and encourage safer online behaviours. **Community Support** The following additional engagement and support activities were undertaken during the reporting period:	

		- African Drumming Workshop in Newry Library on Friday 7th August – 30+ children and their parents/carers in attendance - Meeting with PIPS Hope and Support – RE: Partnership working - Attendance at Interagency Meeting RE: ASB at Newry Bus Station - Support to Drumalane/Quayside Close with their Summer programme/reallocation - Stakeholder Consultation with Labour Market Partnership - Attendance at Ballybot CA AGM – Association now dissolved - Working with Newry Gateway on Social Action Project	
DEA/N/2026/8	Independent Members and Statutory Partners Update (a) Health and Wellbeing (b) Environmental (c) Economic Development (d) Safety and Good Relations	***Health and Wellbeing Update*** *Bolster:* PEACEPLUS-funded adolescent programmes are being delivered in Bosco, Carnagat and Three Ways. An inclusive sports club is being delivered in partnership with local health clubs. The Reconnect Project, funded through RISE, is engaging with five schools and received 17 referrals in its first week. The Classroom Assistant Programme commenced on 30 September and, through Level Up funding, has supported 32 women returning to work to secure classroom assistant posts. Four Friends and Resilience programmes are currently running, while demand for the Autism Project remains high. Upcoming activities include an Inclusive Halloween Fancy Dress Disco at the Canal Court Hotel on 21 October and a Disability Family Day during the Halloween half-term break. The Social Kitchen continues to operate on Tuesdays and Thursdays *CCG:* Members were updated on the CCG and WheelWorks Layered Lands programme is progressing. Ballybot Community Association carried out a full postal distribution across the Ballybot area in advance of its Extraordinary General Meeting; following a poor turnout CCG is now progressing the dissolution matter through the Charity Commission process. ***Environmental Update:*** *Housing Executive Update:* Homelessness presentations continue to increase, with a particular shortage of single person lets in Newry. Recent concerns raised on social media were noted as not being factually accurate. There has also been an increase in presentations from the Republic of Ireland and in rough sleeping, with seven rough sleepers identified across Newry and	Noted

		Newcastle. Temporary accommodation capacity has reduced as some landlords have sold their properties. ***Economic Update:*** *NMEA:* Go Succeed Overview: Under Strand 1, 14 business plans were completed in August. Strand 2 continues to support foundation-stage clients, while Strand 3 is supporting five growth-stage clients. Demand for commercial property continues to exceed supply; one office is currently available, with a potential tenant identified. ***Safety and Good Relations Update:*** *PSNI:* Police resources are expected to peak in October, with two additional Neighbourhood Policing Team Officers bringing the total to six. Youth-related ASB has declined in Newry, although issues in housing estates remain a priority. Engagement continues with Translink and local schools. Two days of action brought 19 additional officers into Newry to address e-scooter and scrambler misuse, with vehicles liable to seizure and a 14-day hold under the new policy. Concerns were raised regarding the alleyway behind the Fold following damage to a car window, with Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays identified as peak times for incidents.	
DEA/N/2026/9	Date of Next Meeting	Tuesday 20th October @ 4:00pm	

The meeting ended at: 5:20pm

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Action Sheet of Slieve Gullion District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 6th October 2026 @ 5.30 pm in Mon Abri

Chairperson:	**Councillor Aine Quinn**
In Attendance:	**Councillor Declan Murphy** **Councillor Martin Hearty** **Councillor Mickey Larkin**
Independent Members:	**Teresa Nugent, Rural Health Partnership** **Maria Keenan, Clanrye Group**
Council Officials:	**Aoife McComiskey, Slieve Gullion DEA Coordinator** **Elaine Carr, Peace Officer** **Bebhinn Clarke, Peace Officer**
Other:	**Eve Elliott, Volunteer Now**
Apologies:	**Barry Traynor, SHSCT Promoting Wellbeing Team** **Ryan Crilly, Education Authority** **Maureen O'Gorman, Education Authority** **Ruth Neary, Education Authority** **Ciara Burns, NMDDC Community Services Manager** **Briege Boyle, NMDDC Community Services** **Aisling Pyres, NIHE** **Ann Grant, CDRCN**

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed.
DEA/SG/15	Declarations of Interest	No declarations of interest were made.	Noted.
DEA/SG/16	Matters arising from Action Sheet from last meeting	Action Sheet confirmed as true and accurate record. Peaceplus newsletter to be circulated.	Approved. DEA Coordinator to circulate.
DEA/SG/17	PeacePlus Update	Elaine Carr provided an update: <u>Strand 1 Update</u> 1.1 Transformation and Reimagining Programme – MayWe have been appointed as facilitator and the programme has commence. 1.2 & 1.3 Capital projects – Of the 25 projects, all projects will be completed by end December 20263 are completed. 1.4 Community Navigation Programme spec being developed. <u>Strand 2 Update</u> 2.1 Collaborative and Capacity Building projects Completed: • Sensory & Capacity-Building Initiative - 51 participants completed the programme. In delivery phase: • Men's Shed Podcasting Initiative, 16 participants currently engaged. – Final podcast to be delivered via social media. • Communities in Partnership Programme - Tender document prepared and ready to go to procurement for publishing. – Will advise when the tender goes live, so that local organisations can be made aware of the opportunity.	Noted. Noted.

		2.3 Market Ready project – Contractor appointed - Details will be circulated among DEA Forum members In development: • Cultural Programme. This will be based on in-depth exploration of local culture and heritage themes, the cultural programme aims to develop opportunities for groups to access and celebrate our diverse cultural landscape, including celebrating cultural achievements and exploration of local areas/sites. Slieve Gullion DEA. Seeking suggestions. Budget for programme is £19.5k 2.4 Community Action Programmes (District Wide) • Community Led Health & Wellbeing – Project Underway • Civic Pride: Contract awarded to The Conservation Volunteers. Project Underway 2.5 Community led shared history and culture programmes • Sacred Spaces of Slieve Gullion Project complete In development: - • Cross-Community Festival Programme designed to celebrate the unique and diverse arts and culture scene in the DEA area. Budget for programme is £21.5k 2.6 Social and Emotional Support Programmes: • Intergenerational Programmes: Contracts Awards - EVAWG Project - Men's Sheds initiative. - Arts and Crafts. - Music and Dance project - Social and Emotional Support Programmes 2.7 Social Prescribing Programme (District wide): programmes have commenced 2.8 Community Restorative Justice (Youth Interaction) – Tender closed update provided at next meeting.	

		Bebhinn Clarke provided a social inclusion update Strand 3: - Welcome Navigate Culture Swap Programme District Wide- Creating safe, welcoming spaces for minority communities to connect, learn, and grow together. Access local services join guided visits. - Sports for All - Shane O'Neill's Family Fun Day 17th October 1pm-6pm. 7-week Sports for All Programme; inclusive sports and physical activities, arts and crafts, gardening and nature activities, trip. - Women in Farming- Building confidence and improving health and wellbeing, developing practical farming and business skills. Strengthening family and community support networks. Majellagollogly@rhpsa.org - Arabic Learning Hub Altnaveigh House beginning this Saturday. 11am-1pm, 1pm-3pm. Fun Arabic language activities. Culture and heritage activities, games and interactive learning. Contact Khalid 07552499273 - Inclusive Sports Festival PRE FESTIVAL Workshops happening 19th October in Newry. Richie@healthy-kidz.com Participants will explore barriers, inclusive communication and practical activity adaptation, including Space, Time, Task, Equipment and People (STTEP). Learning can then be applied within clubs, schools and community organisations. - Responsive Peace Building Programmes District Wide - Engage - Connect - Explore - Reflect - Apply will use sport, play and creativity as progressive exploration of identity, culture, stereotypes, racism, sectarianism, discrimination, bullying, online behaviour and emotional regulation; structured reflection to build empathy; and supported application within schools, clubs, peer groups, online spaces and communities. - Woven through Time - Celebrating Bessbrook's linen heritage, a part of our common story. October 6th October 8th October 13th October 15th	

DEA/SG/18	DEA Coordinator's Report	DEA Coordinator delivered the Coordinator's Report including: **Activity Update** *EmpowerHER: Lislea* EmpowerHER Auto Night event delivered on 26th August at Lislea Community Centre with 22 ladies in attendance. The workshop was facilitated by The Road Ahead and organised in partnership with PCSP. *A successful EmpowerHER Auto... - Newry, Mourne & Down PCSP | Facebook* *Rooted in Confidence: Hair Loss Support Event* More than 60 participants attended a Hair Loss Awareness Event at Swanky Coffee Shop, Silverbridge. Organised by the Slieve Gullion DEA Forum and supported by the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Health Improvement Team and the Southern Health and Social Care Trust Multidisciplinary Teams based in Crossmaglen and Newtownhamilton GP surgeries, the event provided attendees with expert advice, guidance and practical demonstrations on the causes of hair loss and available treatment and management options. The programme included presentations from specialist speakers, an interactive panel discussion where participants could ask questions, information stands from supporting organisations, and the distribution of resource packs to help attendees access further support and information. Inspiring Rooted in Confidence Hair Loss Workshop Empowers Women https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=968888175557305 *Shared Education Programme* Year 8 students from Newtownhamilton High School, St Paul's High School (Bessbrook), St Joseph's High School (Crossmaglen) and Newry High School are participating in a Shared Schools Programme supported by Newry and Slieve Gullion DEAs. The last recent session took place on 2nd October in Newry Leisure and focused on the culture of sports. *Silverbridge Community Fitness Programme* A four-week Community Gym Programme was delivered at Silverbridge GAA, supporting local people who had little or no previous experience of using a gym. Over 20 participants attended the programme, where a qualified gym	

		instructor provided practical guidance on using equipment safely, building confidence, and developing personal fitness routines. *Winter Seniors Programme* Newry DEA and the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme, supported by Arbour Housing and Radius Housing, have developed a Seniors Winter Programme to run from October 2026 to March 2027. The programme will be delivered as a good relations initiative, with one event scheduled each month. Activities will include educational and awareness sessions, light physical activity, wellbeing opportunities, and site visits. **Additional Engagement and Support Activities** • Supported groups with programme planning for Autumn/ Winter • (Autumn Club Forkhill; Lissummon Community Dance Programme; Mullaghbawn Winter Wellbeing Programme; Amazing Abilities Silverbridge Inclusive Sports sessions; Crossmaglen Community Association Seniors Christmas Event) • Supported several community/voluntary and sporting groups with funding advice across a range of different funders and themes - Including Crossmaglen CA; Whitecross CA and Bessbrook Development Association access funding for a Community Family Fun Days and Cosy Corner Playgroup and Youth 4 All access programme grants. • Supported local wellbeing initiatives including: Cullyhanna Falls Prevention Event; Newtownhamilton Primary Mother and Toddler Event and Lislea World Suicide Prevention Day event. • Attendance at South Armagh LPG meeting; Newry Positive Aging Day Event and the All-Island Travellers Forum. **Upcoming Events/ Activity-** • Continuing with Have Your Say feedback • GR week starts on Monday – Newtownhamilton Shared Primary Schools music workshop in partnership NIHE; Crossroads to Support event; GR Funding Fayre; • Supporting groups project planning: Lissummon Healthy Club activities; Amazing Abilities Silverbridge; Youth 4 All; Rainbow Club; Lislea Men's Shed	Noted.

		• Supporting groups with Halloween planning in partnership with PCSP – Whitecross; Croabh Rua; Crossmaglen SOPYC (run up activities, fireworks awareness workshops/ rip); Bessbrook United Community Halloween event. • Identified community need for anxiety support in young ages. Worry Warriors programme currently being designed. • Ladies Night Forkhill – partnership MDT; Health Inequalities Officer – January **DEA Action Plan** DEA coordinator provided an update – targets on track. Exceeded. Coordinator advised that Council Financial Assistance will be opening on 19 October and 1:1 funding support clinics will be offered to groups. Funding fayre will be on Wednesday 14th October in Bosco Sports Complex.	Noted.
DEA/SG/19	Digital Communities Update	Eve Elliott, Volunteer Now provided an update on the Peaceplus Digital Communities programme. • Digital Communities is a new SEUPB-funded Peaceplus pilot aimed at building digital capacity in rural communities. One of the pilot areas is in the Gullion and Newry region, and is being delivered by Volunteer Now. It is planned to run until March 2029. • The programme is currently looking to recruit community and voluntary organisations in the area to participate in free capacity-building supports, with a view to recruit individuals, SMEs and (current or potential) remote workers in the New Year. Those interested can contact Eve Elliott at Volunteer Now.  **Digital Communities Info Sl**	Noted.

DEA/SG/20	Emerging Issues	**Community Update-** (a) Health & Wellbeing Teresa provided an update on the work of Rural Health Partnership including rural farming group work; heritage project and social prescribing programme. Lottery funding launch event 22nd October – invite to be circulated to members. Maria provided an update on the Clanrye Peaceplus Wellness Works programme. Group agreed that Drumintee would be the next location for the Action Cancer Big Bus. Rural Health Partnership will take lead on booking for 27/28 financial year. (b) Community Safety Members requested a meeting be scheduled with PSNI to discuss Halloween interventions in the Slieve Gullion area.	Noted. Approved. DEA Coordinator to action.
DEA/SG/21	Date of Next Meeting	Tuesday 8th December 2026 @ 5.30pm – Cullyhanna WALD Centre	Noted.

The meeting ended at: 7.00pm

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Action Sheet of Downpatrick District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum Private Meeting held on 13 October 2026 at 5.00pm via Teams

Chairperson:	**Councillor Oonagh Hanlon**
In Attendance:	**Councillor Aurla King** **Councillor Conor Galbraith**
Independent Members:	**Jenny Laverty, NI Housing Executive Housing Community Network** **Dan McEvoy, Downpatrick Housing Community Network** **Jim Masson, Down Business Connect, Down Community Health Committee**
Statutory Partners: **Council Officials:**	**Katrina Hynds, Downpatrick DEA Co-Ordinator** **Theresa McLavery, Peaceplus Offer**
Others in Attendance:	**Andrea Keenan, Clanrye Group**
Apologies:	**Councillor Philip Campbell** **Macartan Digney, Downpatrick Community Collective** **Daniella McCarry, County Down Rural Community Network**

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed.
DEA/DPK/26/01	Apologies	As recorded above.	Noted.
DEA/DPK/26/02	Declarations of Interest	None were declared.	Noted
DEA/DPK/26/03	Action Sheet of Meeting held 11 August 2026	The Action Sheet was noted.	Noted
DEA/DPK/26/04	Update from Clanrye re Zest Community Hub, Downpatrick	The Officer referred members to the new Zest Community Hub which operates from 9.00am-5.00pm Monday to Friday in Downpatrick SERC. The Hub includes the Social Supermarket and a Wednesday Information Drop-in Centre. Additional Programmes being offered by Clanrye include: Employ Me: Employability Programme for ages 16+ Stay Connected: Community Led Programme Wellness Works: Available to constituted groups to provide physical & mental health activities	Noted
DEA/DPK/05	Peaceplus Update	The Peaceplus Officer updated members on the current Peaceplus Projects for the Downpatrick DEA. These include: Reimaging Programme – these have commenced in Ballyhornan, Ardglass and Killough	DEA Co-Ordinator

		Capacity Building – two projects currently under consideration – A social enterprise and training scheme with Down Residential Project and a small EI Scheme for Lynn Doyle Mental Health Training – being delivered by PIPS Cultural Textiles – exhibition work has commenced with final display in December Food & Friendship Culinary Programme being delivered by Preaching House Pottery Food Hygiene/Allergen programme – open to groups & sports Clubs First Aid Training being rolled out in October/November	
DEA/DPK/26/06	DEA Co-Ordinator's Update	DEA Co-Ordinator's Report updated members, including detail on activities including – • Women's DIY Programme in SERC has commenced • Adult Carers Event was held in Delamont Country Park in partnership with SEHSCT and Rowallane & Slieve Croob DEAs including Arts/Crafts and experiencing the Digi Bus • Down Residential Project visit to the Digi Bus • Pupils from Down High School took part in the Young Drivers Initiative at Bishopscourt which was in partnership with NIFRS, PSNI, PCSP, CRASH Services and Drive Techniques • A Celebration of Culture Day took place on the grounds of the Downshire Estate showcasing dance, music and food from around the world along with family fun activities – in partnership with SEHSCT, NIHE and CDRCN • The Downpatrick Suicide Prevent Task Group's Annual Walk for Life to mark World Suicide Awareness Day took place at Dunleath Park • As part of the 4 DEA's Tourism Events – the final one event took place at Delamont Country Park	Noted

		Upcoming • As part of Positive Ageing Month a Seniors Event is taking place on 22 October 2026 in the Burrendale Hotel • Funding Fair taking place in Ballynahinch Community Centre on 12 November 2026 • To mark Good Relations Week, DEAs hosted a trip to Stormont on 16 October 2026 • Care in the Chair Training is taking place in the Millbrook Hotel on 16 November – aimed at providing training on domestic abuse to those working in the Beauty Industry • Pupils from Down High will be attending the 'Body Count' Play in the Down Arts Centre on 19 November • Empower Her Car Maintenance Event is taking place at Bishopscourt Racing Cicuit on 17 November • 4 Week Healthy Relationships & Domestic Violence Workshops taking place with the Education Authority • Supporting the South Down Domestic Violence's Head, Shoulders Knees & Toes Workshop on 1 December in Downpatrick Scout Hall • Domestic Violence Bystander Workshop and Christmas Event for Seniors taking place at Castlewellan Castle on 2 December • Silver Screening Event taking place on 3 December at Downpatrick Omniplex with the DEAs and CDRCN • Christmas Intergenerational Event taking place at the Downshire Estate on 10 December with DEAs and local schools • Adult Carers and their Loved Ones Christmas Celebration in Owenbeg Bowling Club on 17 December – partnered with SEHSCT and DEAs	
DEA/DPK/26/07	Independent Members Update	**CDRCN** Annual Christmas Event taking place on 13 December in Downpatrick Scout Hall.	

		Downpatrick Community Collective Halloween Event in Downpatrick on 31 October 2026. Santa on Tour during month of December considering areas a present.	
DEA/DPK/26/08	Date of Next Meeting	The DEA Co-Ordinator advised members that the next meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday 10 December 2026 at 10.00 am	DEA Co-Ordinator

The meeting ended at: 6.35 pm

Action Sheet of Rowallane District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum Private Meeting held on 13 October 2026 @ 6pm in Ballynahinch Community Centre

Chairperson:	**Councillor Jonny Jackson**
In Attendance:	**Councillor Callum Bowsie**
Independent Members:	**Kathy Black – Co Down Rural Community Network** **Raymond Cochrane, Rowallane & Slieve Croob Community Twinning Group** **Robert Burgess, Saintfield Horse Show, Saintfield Community Estates**
Statutory Partners:	**Bronagh Magorrian - NIHE**
Council Officials:	**Nicola Whyte, DEA Coordinator Rowallane** **Theresa McLaverty, Peace Plus Officer NMDDC**
Others in Attendance:	**None**
Apologies:	**Councillor David Lee-Surginor** **Councillor Terry Andrews** **Councillor Tierna Howie** **Kerri Morrow, Community Engagement Manager NMDDC** **Paul Innes – PSNI** **Bethany McClune - EA Youth Worker**

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed.
DEA/ROW/47/2026	Welcome and Apologies	Councillor Jackson welcomed Members and noted apologies.	COMPLETED
DEA/ROW/48/2026	Declarations of Interest	There were no Declarations of Interest given.	COMPLETED
DEA/ROW/49/2026	Action sheet from previous meeting on 18 August 2026	Action Sheet was proposed by Robert Burgess and seconded by Kathy Black	NOTED
DEA/ROW/50/2026	Meeting with Minister re Killyleagh Wastewater Upgrade	DfI requested a response to the meeting request, this was discussed with all members and points noted for reply.	Coordinator to send response.
DEA/ROW/51/2026	DEA Coordinator's Report	DEA Coordinator delivered the Coordinator's Report including: **Update on projects since last meeting:** • Seniors Tourism Event Downpatrick DEA Tuesday 25 August, St Patrick Centre with tour of grave and church – 40 attendees • Ballynahinch Mens & Hens Shed Open Day – Saturday 22 August • DIY for Women 6-week free course with SERC starting 27 August – ongoing fully booked with waiting list • Crossgar Friday Folk on Tour – 11 August 2026 • Seniors Tourism Event Rowallane DEA Monday 28 September, Delamont Country Park for foraging workshop & interactive Digi bus with 3D tourism experience. Full attendance • Carers Health & Wellbeing event with SE Trust – Delamont Park 29 September with Digi bus on site Full attendance • Young Drivers Safety event at Bishopscourt with St Colman's High & Upper 6th Ballynahinch on 30 September – PR Done • Festival of Hope – 3-10 October Ballynahinch Community Centre – Successful week	COMPLETED

		• Supporting Park Run Montalto Estate 3 October • Mens/Hens Shed Drop In taster Saintfield 6 October, Ballynahinch 7 October and Killyleagh 8 October • Music, Coffee & Craic – event 8 October • World Mental Health Day Walk of Hope & Fun Day 10 October **2. Upcoming Events:** • Youth Wellbeing Conference, Millbrook Hotel – 13 October • Visit to Stormont for Good Relations Week – 16 October (Bus to leave from Saintfield, Crossgar & Ballynahinch) • Age Friendly Bingo & Tea Dance, Burrendale Hotel 22 October • Rowallane Chamber of Commerce Event, Saintfield CC 4 November 5-7pm • Funding Fair, Ballynahinch Community Centre 12 November 5-8pm • Care in the Chair Workshop 16 November, Millbrook Hotel • Good Morning Down Intergenerational Tea Dance, Journey Church Downpatrick 18 November • Body Count Play with 6th Form students, Arts Centre Downpatrick 19 November • Ulster Scots Event, Hans Sloane Centre, Killyleagh 10.30-2.00 25 November • EVAWG interactive workshop, Castlewellan Castle 10.00-2.00, 2 December • Silver Screening, Downpatrick cinema 10.30-1.30 3 December • Intergenerational Christmas Choir with 3 Primary Schools & Hinch Harmony Choir, Great Hall Downshire Rowallane School is St Marys Killyleagh 10.00-1.00 10 December • Hinch Harmony Choir in Square Ballynahinch 11-1 12 December • Carers Christmas Lunch followed by Music, Owenbeg BC 12-4 17 December • Action Cancer Bus – Killyleagh Football Club with CDRCN – Killyleagh Football Club, 12 November **Other Updates:**	All members asked to share promotional information with their groups and social media

		• **Schools Update** St Patrick's Primary School, BALLYNAHINCH - Building Resilience Programme to start in November/December as new Principal in place. St Mary's Primary School, Killyleagh – Intergenerational Choir at Christmas 10 December in Great Hall Downshire with school from Downpatrick & Slieve Croob & Hinch Harmony Senior Choir. St Colman's High & Upper 6th, Ballynahinch – EVAWG Body Count Play in Arts Centre, Downpatrick on 19 November with St Malachys Castlewellan & Down High St Colmcille's, Crossgar – Intergenerational Cookery Event with community, in progress – December dates tbc.	NOTED
DEA/ROW/52/2026	Update from Kathy Black, CDRCN on PHA Funding	Kathy provided an update on the following events that were funding through this budget: • Festival of Hope with Ballynahinch Suicide Task Group • Saintfield Lunch Club • Killyleagh Flower Arranging Club • Wednesday Welcome Club Saintfield • Ballynahinch Ukes	NOTED
DEA/ROW/53/2026	Update from Housing Executive – Bronagh Magorrian, Patch Team Lead	Bronagh provided an update on all areas within Rowallane and stated that the CCTV at 2-16 Hillfoot Crescent Ballynahinch is now in place	NOTED
DEA/ROW/54/2026	Update from EA Youth Workers –Bethany McClune	Bethany gave apologies but a written update was provided and handed out at the meeting; • Over the summer period, EA delivered four weeks of Summer provision, engaging over 40 young people from across the Rowallane area. • Currently delivering four programmes across the Rowallane area, engaging with over 80 young people on a regular basis. • **Killyleagh Programme:** Young people from Year 8 to Year 12 are working together to develop and produce a Christmas play, interacting with local community groups.	

		• **Crossgar Programme:** Working with P6, P7, and Year 8+ young people, the programme focuses on relationship-building, personal development, group discussions, and creating a positive space for young people to connect and have their voices heard. • **Rowallane New Heights Programme:** Delivered in partnership with the Young Social Innovators Ignite Community Programme (PEACEPLUS). This programme is open to young people aged 16+ from across the Rowallane area. Due to current venue availability, sessions are being hosted in Killyleagh, bringing together young people from different communities to develop skills, build connections, and contribute to positive social change. • **Halloween Safety Event:** Taking place on Thursday 22 October in partnership with the PSNI and PCSP. The event aims to raise awareness of the risks associated with fires, fireworks, and e-scooters, while also promoting personal safety when out in the evenings. Sessions will include discussions on anti-social behaviour, drugs, vaping, alcohol, and making safe choices during the Halloween period.	
DEA/ROW/55/2026	Update on Peace Plus Funding - Theresa McLaverty, NMDDC	Theresa gave an update on projects within the Rowallane area and projects open to all areas as per the newsletter shared with members in advance. • New project for Food Hygiene and Allergy Awareness Level 2 due to start in January 2027. • Shared History project – Saintfield/Killyleagh/Battle of Ballynahinch – discussed with members number of ideas for project discussed.	Theresa asked all members to share ideas with her directly for this.
DEA/ROW/56/2026	Nomination of DEA Representative to PEACEPLUS Partnership Board	Robert Burgess, Independent Member was nominated as Rowallane DEA representative to the PeacePlus Partnership Board. This was proposed by Cllr Jonny Jackson and seconded by Raymond Cochrane.	Nicola to email Theresa this outcome.

DEA/ROW/58/2026	Date of Next Meeting	The next meeting date: 8 December, Ballynahinch Christmas Lunch	DEA Coordinator to forward agenda and papers in advance.

The meeting ended at: 8.00pm

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Action Sheet of Newry District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 20 October 2026 at 4:00pm in Newry Leisure Centre

Chairperson:	**Councillor Aidan Mathers**
In Attendance:	**Councillor Cathal King**
Independent Members:	**Raymond Jackson, Confederation of Community Groups** **Colin Hanna, Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency**
Statutory Partners:	**Aisling Pyers, Housing Executive** **Inspector Paul Moore, PSNI**
Council Officials:	**Padraig Harte, Newry DEA Coordinator** **Edel McGeeney, Peace Officer** **Kerri Morrow, Community Engagement and Development Manager**
Apologies:	**Councillor Valerie Harte** **Councillor Geraldine Kearns** **Allison Slater, Bolster Community** **Eamonn Connolly, Newry BID**

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed
DEA/N/2026/2	Declarations of Interest	None.	
DEA/N/2026/3	Matters arising from Action Sheet	Action sheet confirmed as a true and accurate record. It was noted by Cllr Mathers that the timing moved to suit other Councillors to attend the Forum meetings. **Community Services** **Derrybeg:** Fencing repairs are on the portal. The Community Association has been informed and has agreed to closure from 21 December 2026. Maintenance will undertake floor repairs and liaise with an external contractor on any additional works. Works are expected between January and March 2027. **Drumalane:** Support is being provided to the group to move to a new venue. Community Services will attend the site with a driver on 5 November 2026 to assist with clearing the building. The FMA has been updated, and Grants & Funding Unit awaits a budget from the Community Association. Leisure has agreed in principle to open and close the gates to support continued football pitch use. The Council continues to seek costs to inform procurement planning. **Meigh CC:** Works are ongoing, with contractor completion expected by January 2027. The building will remain open throughout.	Approved Community Services to progress

		Barcroft: Internal works are complete. Community Services is exploring car parking options.	
DEA/N/2026/4	PeacePlus Update	**Strand 1** **1.1 - Reimaging Project** Dublin Rd: 16 participants, 3 sessions complete and action plan being finalised and phase 2 being recruited. Greater Linenhall & Armagh Rd: 15 participants, 2 sessions completed with a third scheduled for early Nov. Action Plan progressing well. Carnagat/Derrybeg: 15 participants, 2 sessions completed. **Capital projects** All progressed with completion due before end December 2026 **Strand 2** 2.1 - Graphic design project fully booked with a waiting list. Starts this week. 2.3 - Social housing - Exhibition launch 19th November at 12noon in Bagenal's Castle. Invites will be sent. 2.5 - Castles and Towerhouses – digital interactive map now complete. Will be hosted on NMD Museum website. 2.6 - Intergenerational Music and Dance – awarded to Clanrye Group. **Strand 3**	Noted.

		3.2 - The Arabic Learning Hub – started Saturday 17th October. Celebration event 12th December 11am, Location TBC Creative language exchange is planned for 2027. 3.5 - Inclusive Sports Day celebration, 3rd December in Newry Leisure Centre.	
DEA/N//2026/7	DEA Co-ordinator's Report.	*The action plan remains in draft and is subject to change due to budgets.* **Pride of Place** The judging visit took place on 12 August at the Road Ahead Hub, where service users and bereaved families shared accounts of the charity's community impact. Additional tickets were secured for the awards ceremony on 24 October, and Forum members were invited to express interest. **Shared Schools Programme** Newry and Slieve Gullion DEAs are supporting five good relations sessions for Year 8 pupils from Newry High School, St Paul's High School Bessbrook, Newtownhamilton High School and St Joseph's High School Crossmaglen. The first session took place on 2 October at Newry Leisure Centre with 100+ students in attendance. **Seniors Winter Programme** Newry DEA and Neighbourhood Renewal, supported by Arbour Housing and Radius Housing, have developed a monthly good relations programme for October 2026–March 2027. Activities include education and awareness sessions, light physical activity, wellbeing opportunities and visits to Belfast murals/peace walls and Derry/Londonderry for a peace walls tour and shared learning. Over 50 Newry City residents had registered at the time of reporting, with further registrations expected. An update is due at the next DEA Forum. **Youth Digital Skills Programme** Funding has been successful from the Housing Executive to deliver a Youth Digital Creativity and Photography Programme for young people across Newry's nine	Noted and Coordinator to progress.

		Neighbourhood Renewal areas, including Housing Executive areas. Qualified media tutors will deliver interactive workshops on photography, visual storytelling, content creation, social media awareness and responsible AI use. Participants will create a digital photography portfolio or campaign promoting respect and inclusion. **Good Relations Funding Fayre** Newry, Slieve Gullion and Crotlieve DEA hosted a funding fair for community and sporting groups – good attendance throughout the afternoon with several clubs pitching their project ideas and receiving guidance. **Community Support** Additional activity included attendance at the Post Primary School Youth Conference, the Arbour/Radius Newry Advisory Meeting and the Community Development Team Day; chairing the NR Community Physical Meeting; attending and hosting a stand at Positive Ageing Day; and supporting Our Lady's GS with Lower 6th Form interviews. Members informed that Council's Financial Assistance is open to applications and will close on 30 November at 12Noon. This will be the only call for the financial year 2027-2028.	
DEA/N/2026/5	Independent Members and Statutory Partners Update (a) Health and Wellbeing (b) Environmental (c) Economic Development (d) Safety and Good Relations	***Health and Wellbeing Update*** *CCG:* CCG attended the Martin's Lane CA AGM, where concerns about anti-social behaviour were highlighted. A meeting has been organised with the community, and the interagency estate inspection is to be revisited. PCSP has been asked to bring the Housing Associations together. Raymond will follow up on partnership arrangements for We Care at Christmas, building on previous years. Good Morning, Good Neighbour has reached a milestone of over half a million minutes of calls. The CCG AGM is scheduled for Thursday 5 November 2026 at 7pm.	Noted

		Environmental Update: *Housing Executive:* Interest sought re: a presentation to the Forum involving Area Homeless Groups and Housing Rights. Homelessness presentations remain high. No budget has been set for HE, and options for better use of available funding are being explored, including a review of HMOs. Contractor has been appointed for maintenance scheme. The maintenance budget is under significant pressure, and KPRs will not be delivered in the next financial year within the available budget. Street outreach work continues in Newry with The Welcome Organisation to support people sleeping rough. ***Economic Update:*** *NMEA:* The Council-funded programme figures reported were Go Succeed: 12; Foundation: 7; and Growth: 2. The LMP Pathway has commenced, targeting people who have previously completed Go Succeed and are underemployed or considering moving off benefits. The pathway includes a £500 grant, with 20 places available and five registrations to date. Completion is scheduled for March 2027. The estate update concerned the removal of cars. ***Safety and Good Relations Update:*** *PSNI:* Figures reported in relation to e-scooters and road policing included 30 scooters, three bikes and three disqualified drivers. A campaign with retailers is planned in the lead-up to Christmas. Proactive teams were deployed over the Halloween weekend, including the	

		seizure of fireworks, in anticipation of a rise in antisocial behaviour. Engagement with schools on fireworks has been positive. Following a fault with speed enforcement equipment, enquiries are being made about deploying speed vans in the area. Speed guns will also be used to address speeding concerns. Teams recently redeployed to other areas have returned to the District. Neighbourhood Policing Team resources have increased, with six officers now covering the Newry DEA.	
DEA/N/2026/6	Date of Next Meeting	Thursday 19 November @ 4:00pm	

The meeting ended at: 5:20pm

Action Sheet of Crotlieve District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 20 October 2026 at 18.00pm, The Boardroom Warrenpoint Town Hall

Chairperson:	**Councillor Declan McAteer**
In Attendance:	**Councillor Selina Murphy**
Independent Members:	**Martina Byrne - Hilltown Community Association/Clonduff Development Enterprise/Women of Clonduff** **Cathy McMahon - Confederation of Community Groups** **Keith Parke - Ardarragh Accordian Band/ Lisnamullion Rural Association/ Drumlough & Ballygorian RDA** **Colleen Tinnelly Dowdall- WBR Chamber of Commerce**
Statutory Partners:	**Sargeant Scott Mc Bride PSNI** **Annie Clarke – Promoting Wellbeing Team SHSCT** **Carie Crawford – Education Authority** **Aisling Pyers - Northern Ireland Housing Executive**
Council Officials:	**Edel McGeeney – Peace Plus Officer** **Kerri Morrow - Community Engagement & Development Manager**
Apologies:	**Councillor Kate Murphy** **Councillor Michael Ruane** **Ciara Burns – Community Services Manager** **Claire Shiels- County Down Rural Community Network** **Claire Crainie – Northern Ireland Housing Executive** **Connaire McGreevy, Greater Newry Chamber of Commerce**

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed.
DEA/C/36/2026	Welcome and Apologies.	Councillor Ruane welcomed members and noted apologies.	COMPLETED.
DEA/C/37/2026	Declarations of Interest.	None declared	COMPLETED.
DEA/C/38/2026	PEACEPLUS Update.	Mrs E McGeeney provided an update in respect of the delivery of the PEACEPLUS plan; • Strand 1 – Capital Projects on schedule for completion end December 2026 • Strand 2 – 2 Projects Complete • Strand 2.5 – Narrow Water Bridge Project – Contract Appointed • Strand 3 – Colours of Asia and Shared History Projects progressing to tender and appointment	NOTED.
DEA/C/39 /2026	Co-ordinators Report.	Update from DEA Co-ordinator on projects, events and programmes organised and supported by Crotlieve DEA Forum that have taken place from the date of the last meeting; • Funding Fair, Newry Leisure Centre 14 October 2026 • Youth Wellbeing Conference 6 October 2026 – Canal Court Hotel • Glow Girls Programme (6 weeks) – 6 October Mayobridge • Senior Winters Programme – 16th October 2026 – NLC, Various	NOTED.

		Members were also updated on upcoming DEA planned or supported events and programmes including: • Halloween Senior Tea Dance – 27 October 2026 – Warrenpoint includes special Youth Choir performance Youth • Intergenerational Event Burren - TBC • St Mark's Choir – Warrenpoint Town Hall, 1 December 2026 • Shared Primary Schools – Rescheduled • Care in the Chair – Details to be shared • Call 1 Financial Assistance 2027/28 open until 30 November 2026	
DEA/C/30/2026	Youth Provision	Carrie Crawford provided an update report relating to ongoing provision Youth Service provision including voluntary provision for the Crotlieve area. • Kindness Café – Monday Nights Leaf and Bean, flyer with details to be circulated. • Friday Night Drop in at capacity hopeful for a relocation imminently. • Social Action Project focusing on environment in planning – Trash Bash Fashion Show • St Mark's High School Provision includes Gardening Project EA continue to work with DEA, PCSP, WBR Chamber, Local business and Community Stakeholders.	Noted.
DEA/C/31/2026	Community Safety	Sergeant Scott McBride provided an updated to members on current staffing provision for the Crotlieve are as well as: - Foot patrol increased in King's Lane area although advised that ASB had been declining. - Connected and Engaged in local schools concerning a variety of topics such as ASB, Roads Safety and Online Safety - PSNI Connect Service now active for reporting. Details to be circulated.	Noted

DEA/C/32/2026	Member Update	<u>Confederation Community Groups</u> Cathy McMahon provided an update on the Good Morning Good Neighbour Project and a Women's Volunteering Programme currently underway. <u>Southern Health and Social Care Trust</u> Annie Clarke provided an update on the recent Positive Ageing event in the Quays Newry which had 350 attendees and was a very successful partnership project. - Emotional Based School Non-Attendance Regional project - advised a further update would be provided at the next meeting. - Carers Rights Day event organised for 20 November, details to be circulated. - Autism and dementia bus locations being identified for February 2027, further details to follow. <u>Northern Ireland Housing Executive</u> Aisling Pyers provided an update on maintenance contracts appointed and advised about the potential impact of budget pressures on services. Members were advised NIHE would attend the next meeting and provide an update on Homelessness. <u>WBR Chamber</u> Colleen Dowdall provided an update on the continued growth of the Chamber, Colleen advised that WBR has been successful in a Changemakers Application and following Summer Activities had plans for Halloween Intervention in the Warrenpoint area in partnership with EA Youth Service. - Christmas Lights Switch on 28 November 2026 - Location required for Halloween Colour Run 30 October 2026 -	Noted. Coordinator to progress
DEA/C/35/2026	Date of Next Meeting.	The next meeting date: TBC	DEA Co-ordinator to forward agenda and papers in advance.

The meeting ended at: 19:15

Report to:	Active & Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting:	16 November 2026
Subject:	Notice of Motion - Dolly Parton Imagination Library
Reporting Officer and Job Title:	Alison Robb, Assistant Director Community Development
Contact Officer and Job Title:	Alison Robb, Assistant Director Community Development

Purpose of Report:

For Decision

1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	Purpose For members to consider the Notice of Motion regarding the Dolly Parton Imagination Library and to approve the recommendations at section 3 of this report.
1.2	Background At its meeting held on 5 October 2026 Council considered a Notice of Motion received from Councillor Feehan and seconded by Councillor Finn regarding the Dolly Parton Imagination Library: C/138/2026 "Newry Mourne & Down District Council acknowledges that the majority of physical brain development occurs in the first three years of life, when children form over 1 million new neural connections per second; recognises the benefits of reading, and reading aloud, to young children which can promote the development of basic literacy and vocabulary skills, establish strong inter-personal relationships between children and parents/guardians, as well as improving longer term educational, health, social and economic outcomes; is concerned about the rising cost of living which will limit the ability of families to pay for essential educational resources like books for young children; agrees to investigate and establish a pilot of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library in the District to provide a new book each month for children aged 0-5, working with any interested partners to secure the success and sustainable funding of the scheme."
2.0	Key Issues
2.1	Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a book-gifting initiative dedicated to inspiring a lifelong love of reading. Launched in the US in 1995 to honour Parton's father, who was unable to read or write, the scheme now registers one in five American children. Today it operates internationally across the US, UK, Ireland, Canada and Australia, mailing over 3.5 million books globally each month. Enrolled children receive one free, high-quality, age-appropriate book delivered directly to their home every month. The scheme is entirely free for families. Whilst children can be registered at any point up to their fifth birthday, those enrolled from birth will accumulate a foundational home library of 60 books by the time they age out. Beyond academic literacy, shared reading from birth nurtures bonding between infants and caregivers, a benefit frequently highlighted by participating parents.

According to the *UK Impact Report 2024*, families receiving these books are 30% more likely to practice daily reading and 88% of participant families report reading more frequently as a direct result of the scheme.

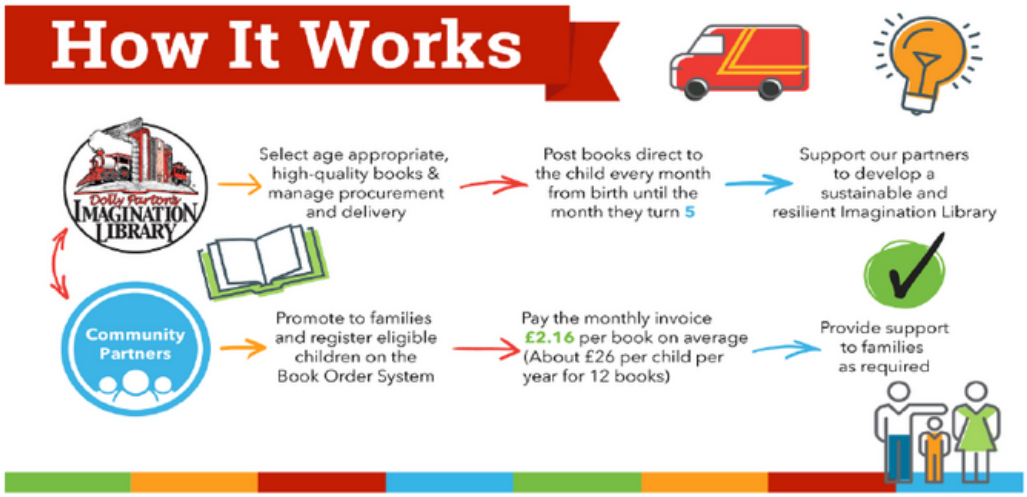
The programme distributes 528 unique titles across its global network. Books are curated by a selection panel of early years professionals, children's librarians and literature experts. Centred on the core themes of inspiration and imagination, 40-60% of the titles are rotated annually to keep the collection contemporary and engaging.

Operating on a Place-Based model, the initiative targets specific geographical areas to foster community cohesion. By ensuring all local children have access to the same literature, the programme builds shared capital within communities.

The Dollywood Foundation funds and manages the core infrastructure, co-ordinates book selections, negotiates wholesale pricing, and runs the secure book order database.

Local partners enrol children within their coverage area and pay a contribution to the wholesale cost of the books.

The following diagram illustrates how the programme works:



This model allows programme partners to use their local knowledge and connections to support families in the way that works best for their communities.

The Foundation will assist with ensuring the benefits of the scheme are maximised within a suitable pilot area through the development of book sharing and donation projects to maximise the collective impact of the pilot.

This proposal aligns with the outcome in the Community Plan for Newry Mourne and Down to 2030: Living Well Together that all people in Newry Mourne and Down get a good start in life and fulfil their lifelong potential.

3.0	Recommendations
3.1	Council acknowledges that the majority of physical brain development occurs in the first three years of life, when children form over 1 million new neural connections per second; recognises the benefits of reading, and reading aloud, to young children which can promote the development of basic literacy and vocabulary skills, establish strong inter-personal relationships between children and parents/guardians, as well as improving longer term educational, health, social and economic outcomes; and is concerned about the rising cost of living which will limit the ability of families to pay for essential educational resources like books for young children.
3.2	Council agrees to explore a pilot of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. To ensure the best possible delivery model and outcome, it will collaborate with Community Planning partners, specifically Libraries NI, and report the findings back to Committee in due course.
4.0	Resource Implications
4.1	None currently identified.
5.0	Due Regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations
5.1	General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations
5.2	Does the proposal relate to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision No If yes, please select one of the following: Choose an item.
5.3	Proposal initiating consultation The consultation seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves Please select the consultation period: Choose an item. Rationale:
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs
6.1	Does the proposal relate to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service.

	No – The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs
7.0	Appendices
7.1	None.
8.0	Background Documents
8.1	None.

Report to:	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting:	16 November 2026
Subject:	PCSP Update Report
Reporting Officer and Job Title:	Alison Robb, Assistant Director: Community Development
Contact Officer and Job Title:	Martina Flynn, Head of Engagement

Purpose of Report:

For Noting

1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	• To note the report. • To note the attached Minutes of the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting held on 11 August 2026 and approved at the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting on 29 September 2026
2.0	Key Issues
2.1	None
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	That the Committee note the following: - - Minutes of the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting held on 11 August 2026 and approved at the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting on 29 September 2026
4.0	Resource Implications
4.1	None
5.0	Due Regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations
5.1	General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations
5.2	Does the proposal relate to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision No If yes, please select one of the following: Choose an item.
5.3	Proposal initiating consultation The consultation seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves

	Please select the consultation period: Choose an item. Rationale:
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs
6.1	Does the proposal relate to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service. No – The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs
7.0	Appendices
7.1	Appendix 1: - Minutes of the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting held on 11 August 2026 and approved at the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting on 29 September 2026
8.0	Background Documents
8.1	None

POLICING COMMITTEE AND POLICING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of the Newry, Mourne & Down Policing Committee and Policing & Community Safety Partnership Meeting held on Tuesday 11 August 2026 at 6.00pm in Council Chamber, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick.

In attendance:

Cllr Jill Truesdale, *Chair*
Cllr Terry Andrews, *NMDDC*
Cllr Conor Galbraith, *NMDDC*
Cllr Declan Murphy, *NMDDC*
Cllr Aidan Mathers, *NMDDC*
Cllr Johnathan Jackson, *NMDDC*
Superintendent Lynne Corbett, *PSNI*
Chief Inspector Joe Tierney, *PSNI*
Inspector Graeme Reynolds, *PSNI*
Inspector Paul Moore, *PSNI*
Inspector Paddy Heatley, *PSNI*
Sergeant Suzanne Cochrane, *PSNI*
Sergeant Paul Innes, *PSNI*
Maureen O'Gorman, *EANI*
Noel Maguire, *EANI*
Andrea Barr, *Independent Member*
Roy Edwards, *Independent Member*
William Slater, *Independent Member*
Brendan Mullan, *NI Policing Board Chair*
Paula Gow, *NI Policing Board*

NMDDC Staff Officials in attendance:

Alison Robb, *Assistant Director - Community Development*
Martina Flynn, *Head of Community Engagement*
Shannon Creaney, *Safer Communities & Good Relations Manager*
Amy McKeown, *Monitoring & Evaluation Officer (PCSP & Good Relations)*
Michelle Bell, *PCSP Officer*

1 Welcome, Chairperson's Remarks and Apologies

The Chair, Councillor Jill Truesdale, opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees to the first PCSP meeting of her term as Chair for 2026-27.

Councillor Terry Andrews congratulated Councillor Truesdale on her appointment as Chair and extended congratulations to the newly appointed Vice Chair. He wished

both office bearers every success in their roles for the remainder of the council term. Councillor Andrews reflected on his own experience as a previous office holder, describing it as a rewarding position, and acknowledged the support of the wider PCSP team. He concluded by wishing the Chair and Vice Chair every success for the year ahead.

The Chair thanked Councillor Andrews for his remarks and welcomed members back to the PCSP following the change in leadership arrangements. She made particular reference to the attendance of Brendan Mullan, Chair of the Northern Ireland Policing Board, and Paula from the Northern Ireland Policing Board staff team, both of whom were attending the meeting. As there were new attendees present, the Chair invited everyone to introduce themselves and a round of introductions was completed.

PCSP Chair then recorded apologies from the following members - Michael Heaney (Youth Justice Agency), Gearard Kearney (Fire Service), Aileen O'Callaghan (Education Authority), Aidan McCabe (Southern Trust), Roisin Leckey (Probation Board), Claire Crainey & Bronagh Magorrian (Housing Executive), Sgt Stacey Arnott & Inspector Darren Hardy (PSNI), Cllr Oonagh Hanlon, Cllr David Taylor, Cllr Niall Lawlor, Andrew Kernaghan, Anne Sheridan, Louise Kennedy and Michelle Osborne.

The Chair noted that attendance was lower than usual and remarked that many of those absent were likely taking advantage of holiday periods.

The Chair acknowledged that this was her first meeting in her new role and thanked members for their attendance and continued commitment to the work of the PCSP.

She referred to road safety, a matter that had been highlighted by the previous Chair, Councillor Henry Riley, at the conclusion of his term. The Chair noted that the recently publicised results of Operation Lifesaver had revealed concerning statistics relating to road safety offences. These included incidents of drink driving, drug driving, careless driving, speeding offences, breaches involving learner and restricted drivers, uninsured driving and licensing offences. The Chair highlighted the scale of offending identified during the operation, noting that within a five-day period there had been 2,132 speeding detections and a further 308 traffic-related offences recorded. She expressed particular concern regarding the number of seatbelt violations detected, stating that wearing a seatbelt should be an automatic and ingrained behaviour for all motorists.

The Chair reflected on the challenge of communicating road safety messages effectively in an increasingly fast-paced media environment. She suggested that important public safety messages may not be reaching younger audiences as effectively as in previous generations. While acknowledging that road traffic offences were committed by individuals across a range of age groups, she observed that many older people still remembered the impact of past road safety television campaigns. She suggested that there may be merit in future collaborative work involving the Department of Justice, the Department for Communities and the PSNI to target younger audiences through social media platforms such as TikTok and Instagram.

The Chair also drew attention to the Road Safe Roadshow, describing it as an excellent initiative. She commended the significant contribution made by the emergency services and partner organisations involved in delivering the programme and noted its powerful and memorable impact on attendees. Members were encouraged to attend the event if the opportunity arose.

The Chair then moved on to advise members that funding for the Newry, Mourne and Down PCSP Action Plan for 2026-27 had now been confirmed. Members were informed that funding levels would remain unchanged from the previous year. The Chair welcomed this confirmation, noting that it would provide reassurance and stability for the delivery of planned PCSP activities and programmes during the forthcoming year.

Cllr Truesdale, PCSP Chair then informed members that the PSNI had requested a change to the frequency of Policing Committee meetings, proposing a move to a quarterly meeting cycle. She advised the proposed change was intended to bring Newry, Mourne and Down PCSP into line with arrangements operating procedures across other PCSPs in Northern Ireland. The Chair advised that the proposal was also linked to the introduction of a new PSNI reporting template and revised reporting arrangements. Members were advised that amendments to the PCSP Standing Orders would be required to facilitate the proposed changes. Detailed information on the proposal would be circulated to all members by email, and the matter would be brought forward for consideration at a future meeting.

The Chair then advised of some housekeeping rules before the meeting formally began, reminding members to ensure that mobile phones were switched off or placed on silent mode and advised that the use of mobile devices for recording purposes was not permitted. Members were instructed to use the microphone queue function when indicating a wish to speak. Members were further reminded that they were personally responsible for any comments made during the meeting.

The Chair thanked all those in attendance and formally commenced the business of the meeting.

2 Declarations of Interest

None recorded.

3 Draft Minutes of previous PCSP & Policing Committee Meeting held on 26 May 2026

Read: **Minutes of PCSP & Policing Committee Meeting held on 26 May 2026 (copy circulated).**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Cllr Andrews seconded by Cllr Declan Murphy it was agreed to approve the Minutes of the Policing**

Committee and PCSP Meeting held on 26 May 2026 as a true and accurate record.

4 Matters Arising

No matters arising were raised.

Councillor Andrews then referred to the agenda item concerning updates on Mobile Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs). He noted that many members, particularly councillors, were familiar with the positive impact of SIDs in locations where they had been installed. He acknowledged the significant work undertaken by the PCSP and its partners over a number of years to secure and deploy the devices and stated that they had proven to be successful in addressing speeding concerns.

Councillor Andrews asked whether there was any prospect of additional funding becoming available from central government or other sources to enable the purchase of further SIDs across the district. Referring to requests within his own Rowallane DEA, he advised that there remained a substantial list of locations seeking the installation of devices. He reiterated that SIDs performed a valuable role in improving road safety and requested an update on any future plans or funding opportunities.

In response, the Chair advised that a more detailed update on SIDs would be provided later in the meeting but agreed that it was an important issue.

Ms Shannon Creaney advised that, under the current position agreed by the Joint Committee, no further SIDs could be purchased using the funding presently allocated to the PCSP. She explained that discussions were ongoing regarding the future management and funding of SIDs, including considerations around the procurement of additional devices.

Ms Creaney noted that Newry, Mourne and Down currently has one of the highest numbers of SIDs deployed across Northern Ireland. She further advised that the issue had been discussed at a meeting of PCSP Managers earlier that day, during which consideration had been given to writing jointly to the Joint Committee to seek clarity on the funding arrangements and future of SIDs to explore options for addressing increasing demand. She advised members she would update them on the Joint Committees position on this once a response had been received and the outcome of those discussions was known.

Councillor Andrews thanked Ms Creaney for the update and welcomed the information provided.

5 PCSP Officer Report

Read: PCSP Officer Report (copy circulated via email)

The PCSP Officer Report was presented by Ms Shannon Creaney for members' information and noting.

At the outset, Ms Creaney formally welcomed Brendan Mullan, Chair of the Northern Ireland Policing Board, to the meeting. On behalf of the PCSP team, she also expressed the team's commitment to working with Councillor Jill Truesdale and Vice Chair Michelle Osborne during their term of office for the coming year.

Ms Creaney advised that, while the full report contained detailed information, she wished to highlight a number of key areas of activity undertaken by the PCSP team over the summer period.

Members were informed that the PCSP team had maintained a busy programme of engagement activities throughout the summer, working closely with PSNI Neighbourhood Policing Teams. This had included attendance at Castlewellan Agricultural Show and a range of summer schemes across the district. Ms Creaney noted that the PSNI Mobile Engagement Unit had proved particularly popular at these events and had provided valuable opportunities for engagement with local communities.

The meeting was advised that funding had again been secured for the Community Kicks programme, which provides diversionary activities for young people during the summer months. To date, more than 100 young people from Newry, Warrenpoint and Rostrevor had participated in the programme.

Ms Creaney also reported on a successful Summer Safety Event held in Castlewellan. The event attracted over 70 young people from across the Downpatrick, Rowallane, Slieve Croob and Mournes DEAs. Participants received community safety information from the PSNI and Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service, alongside drug and alcohol awareness sessions delivered by ASCERT.

In relation to road safety initiatives, Ms Creaney advised that the PCSP had been working in partnership with DEA colleagues and Road Safe NI to deliver the EmpowerHer road safety programme for women. Approximately eight sessions had been delivered to date, with every session being oversubscribed. This demonstrated a clear demand for the initiative across the district. Members were informed that the next Empower Her session was scheduled to take place in Lislea on 26 August, and all members were invited to attend.

Looking ahead, Ms Creaney outlined a number of forthcoming events and advised the annual PCSP Community Safety and Wellbeing Event was scheduled to take place on 16 September at Down Leisure Centre between 10.00am and 12.00 noon. She noted that the event had consistently attracted significant interest in previous years, with up to 30 organisations and service providers participating as exhibitors. Members were encouraged to attend.

Members were also advised that two Trailer Marking events were planned for August and September in the Slieve Croob and Crotlieve DEAs in partnership with local PSNI Neighbourhood Teams. Promotional materials, including event dates and times, would be shared through PCSP social media channels, and members were asked to assist in promoting the events where possible.

Finally, Ms Creaney provided an update on plans to deliver the Road Safe Roadshow at Saintfield High School in September in partnership with the PSNI. She reiterated that the event was recognised as one of the most impactful road safety initiatives supported by the PCSP, with previous attendees consistently highlighting its effectiveness in raising awareness of the consequences of dangerous driving. Members who wished to attend were asked to contact the PCSP team so that arrangements could be coordinated with the school.

In concluding her report, Ms Creaney advised that these were the principal highlights of recent and forthcoming activity and invited any questions or comments from members.

The Chair thanked Ms Creaney for the update and commented on her attendance at the recent Summer Safety Event in Castlewellan alongside Councillors Jackson and Hanlon. She noted that the event had been very well attended and had benefited from favourable weather conditions. The Chair highlighted the positive interaction between young people and representatives from the emergency services, commenting that the event had fostered a strong sense of engagement and partnership. She remarked that all agencies had integrated well with participants and one another, contributing to a successful and enjoyable event.

There being no questions from members, the report was noted.

6 ASB Sub Group Reports

Read: ASB Sub Group Reports (copy circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Cllr Aidan Mathers and seconded by William Slater it was agreed the Committee:

- **Approve the Action Sheet for the ASB Sub Group 1 meeting held on 3 June 2026**
- **Approve the Action Sheet for the ASB Sub Group 2 meeting held on 2 June 2026**

Policing Committee Business

7 District Commander's Report – August 2026

Read: District Commander's Report – Period 2 (copy circulated)

Superintendent Lynne Corbett presented the District Commander's Report and began by congratulating Councillor Jill Truesdale on her appointment as Chair of the PCSP. She expressed her best wishes for the year ahead and stated that she looked forward to working closely with the Chair in the coming months.

Superintendent Corbett noted that the report had been circulated in advance of the meeting and that members had been given the opportunity to review its contents. She highlighted a number of key areas for members' attention.

In relation to district priorities, Superintendent Corbett provided reassurance that road safety remained a key operational focus for the district and continued to feature as a priority on a monthly basis. She advised that, given the number of road traffic fatalities and serious injury collisions occurring across the district, road safety consistently required significant attention and resources.

Anti-social behaviour had also remained a priority over the previous number of months, reflecting the seasonal increase typically experienced during the summer period. In addition, acquisitive crime had been identified as an area of concern due to a series of incidents affecting both businesses and rural communities. Superintendent Corbett highlighted a rise in commercial crime, particularly shoplifting offences in border areas, as well as rural crime impacting agricultural and farming communities throughout the district.

Turning to community engagement, Superintendent Corbett referred members to the extensive list of engagement activities detailed within the report and advised that the PSNI continued to undertake significant engagement work across the district. While acknowledging the ongoing resourcing challenges facing both the district and the wider PSNI organisation, she explained that Neighbourhood Policing Teams were frequently required to support frontline Local Policing Teams to maintain 24-hour response policing services. Despite these pressures, substantial levels of engagement and preventative policing activity continued to be delivered.

Superintendent Corbett advised that members should begin to see an increased visible presence from Neighbourhood Policing Officers during the autumn and winter months as the benefits of the PSNI recruitment campaign start to take effect. As new officers progress through training and enter operational roles, neighbourhood officers will increasingly be able to return to their core community policing responsibilities. She further informed members that a recent recruitment and selection process for neighbourhood policing roles within the district had resulted in the appointment of 11 new officers. These officers were currently being allocated to neighbourhood teams and would represent a significant increase in neighbourhood policing capacity across the district.

Providing an overview of crime trends, Superintendent Corbett advised that overall reported crime had decreased by 1% during the reporting period. While modest, this represented a positive reduction in recorded crime levels across the district.

Addressing hate crime, Superintendent Corbett noted that districts across Northern Ireland had experienced an increase in reported incidents during June following a significant and widely publicised incident in Belfast. While there had been a small number of racially motivated incidents within the Newry area, the district was currently experiencing an overall downward trend in hate crime, which she welcomed. She noted that hate crime did not generally present at the same scale within Newry, Mourne and Down as in some other policing districts.

With regard to anti-social behaviour, Superintendent Corbett advised that the issue remained a policing priority. Additional foot and cycle patrols had been conducted in known hotspot locations, including Kings Lane in Warrenpoint, The Meadow and Shandon Park in Newry. She also highlighted growing concerns regarding the misuse of e-scooters, describing the issue as an increasing problem within local communities. Members were advised that further detail on this would be provided later in the meeting by Inspector Heatley, but Superintendent Corbett confirmed that the PSNI was actively developing measures to address the issue.

In relation to domestic abuse, Superintendent Corbett reported a slight increase in incidents during the reporting period. However, she explained that much of this increase related to familial abuse involving parents, siblings and other family members rather than incidents between intimate partners. While recognising the increase, she advised that positive outcomes and prosecution rates continued to remain proportionate to the level of reporting.

Superintendent Corbett took the opportunity to highlight the continued success of the One Stop Shop initiative, describing it as a highly effective partnership response for victims of domestic abuse. During June, 19 women attended sessions delivered across Newry, Crossmaglen and Downpatrick. Six women attended the Newry session in July and a further five attended in August. She noted that the service enabled victims to access a range of specialist support services in a single location and that awareness of the initiative continued to grow.

Members also received an update on Operation Encompass, through which schools are notified when children have been present during domestic abuse incidents to ensure that appropriate support and safeguarding measures can be provided. Superintendent Corbett advised that during the 2025/26 school year there had been 741 domestic abuse incidents recorded, resulting in 1,348 children being referred through Operation Encompass. She stated that the figures demonstrated both the scale of need and the value of the programme in ensuring vulnerable children receive appropriate support.

Turning to road safety, Superintendent Corbett reported that, regrettably, since the previous meeting one additional road fatality had occurred involving a six-year-old girl. She described the circumstances as particularly tragic. Members were advised that there had been three road fatalities in the district during the current calendar year, representing an increase compared with the same period in the previous year.

Superintendent Corbett outlined the significant levels of enforcement activity undertaken by officers in support of road safety. During May and June, officers

recorded 53 speeding detections and 44 detections relating to careless driving. A further 12 detections were made for the use of mobile phones and seatbelt offences. Thirty-one fixed penalty notices and referrals to court were issued for vehicle defects. Officers also detected and arrested 56 individuals for drink-driving offences, identified 50 disqualified drivers and detected 79 uninsured vehicles during the same period.

Members were informed that Road Safety Partnership camera vans had been deployed across the district on 43 occasions during May and June, resulting in 475 speeding detections. During Operation Lifesaver, local officers made a range of detections relating to disqualified driving, uninsured vehicles, drug possession and unaccompanied learner drivers. On the operation day alone, 45 tickets were issued, vehicles were seized and a number of arrests were made.

Superintendent Corbett advised that tackling drugs remained an ongoing policing priority. During the previous 12 months, officers in the district had conducted 626 drug seizures, the highest figure recorded across the PSNI. In the same period, 332 arrests had been made in connection with drug-related offences. She noted that these achievements reflected the proactive work of officers but emphasised that effective action against illegal drugs continued to rely heavily upon information provided by local communities.

The Superintendent also highlighted concerns regarding assaults on police officers. During June, four incidents resulted in eight officers being assaulted while on duty. In July, a further 12 incidents resulted in 24 officers being assaulted. She advised that officer safety and wellbeing remained a significant priority for the organisation and that all such incidents were taken extremely seriously.

Members were updated on a number of significant incidents which had occurred since the previous meeting. Superintendent Corbett referenced the attempted murder of a police officer in the district, during which a constable based in Downpatrick was struck by a vehicle. She advised while the officer remained absent from duty as a result of his injuries, he was recovering well. Three arrests had been made in connection with the incident and two individuals had subsequently been remanded into custody. Superintendent Corbett noted that the outcome could have been considerably more serious.

The Superintendent also highlighted several examples of positive policing outcomes. She referred to a significant cross-border operation conducted jointly with An Garda Síochána in the South Armagh area during early August. Following months of investigative work, officers successfully located a suspect believed to be involved in serious criminal activity. Through coordinated action involving both police services, the vehicle was stopped and the individual arrested. The suspect had since been remanded into custody in the Republic of Ireland and was expected to be extradited to Northern Ireland to face further charges. Superintendent Corbett stated that the individual had caused significant harm within the local community and that his arrest represented an important success.

A further successful outcome related to a domestic abuse investigation involving a female victim who had experienced serious and sustained abuse over a prolonged period. The offences reported included grievous bodily harm, assault occasioning actual bodily harm, possession of offensive weapons with intent, non-fatal strangulation, threats to kill and intimidation. Through proactive policing and high-visibility patrol activity, officers were able to locate the suspect while the victim was in his company shortly after a further assault had taken place. The offender was subsequently arrested and remanded into custody.

In concluding her report, Superintendent Corbett highlighted an incident which demonstrated the commitment of officers beyond their traditional policing duties. On 3 August, police responded to a report that a 30-year-old woman had taken an overdose and was unconscious. Upon arrival, officers found the woman unresponsive. Although a defibrillator indicated that no shock could be administered, officers immediately commenced CPR. Their actions successfully revived the woman, enabling her to be stabilised and transferred to Daisy Hill Hospital for treatment. Superintendent Corbett stated that there was little doubt that the actions of the responding officers had saved the woman's life and commended their professionalism and dedication.

This concluded the PSNI District Commander's Report.

The Chair thanked Superintendent Corbett for her comprehensive report and acknowledged the commitment of PSNI officers across the district. She commented that, through her own experience of engaging with the police on a range of issues, officers regularly went beyond their core duties in order to support local communities. While she would not wish this additional effort to become an expectation, she recognised that officers consistently demonstrated a willingness to go above and beyond in difficult circumstances.

The Chair also asked that the District Commander convey her best wishes to the officer who remained absent from duty following the incident in Downpatrick. She described the incident as horrific and noted that its proximity to local communities had made it particularly distressing.

The Chair welcomed the reported reduction in hate crime across the district. Referring to the increase in familial abuse highlighted within the report, she advised members of her involvement in a piece of work with Caleb's Cause, a group established by a parent advocating for support services for young adults with additional needs as they transition out of education. She explained that many families faced significant challenges when young people reached adulthood and no longer had access to educational placements or day-care opportunities. This could result in heightened tensions within households and, in some circumstances, lead to abusive situations developing. The Chair encouraged members to engage with the organisation and highlighted the importance of addressing these issues through appropriate support services and interventions.

The Chair then raised concerns regarding a recent increase in fire-related incidents within the Newcastle area. She noted that, while the installation of bollards at Donard Park was welcomed, she had observed a number of smaller-scale incidents

involving deliberate fire-setting and vandalism beyond the more familiar issues associated with campfires on the lower slopes of the Mournes.

Examples cited included attempts to damage trees by fire within Donard Park and a fire incident reported the previous weekend. The Chair also referred to a significant fire at Myrtle Lodge, one of Newcastle's historic residential properties, which had occurred the previous evening and had caused extensive damage. She noted that reports released at the time suggested that the incident was being treated as arson and asked whether police had observed an increase in low-level anti-social behaviour involving fire-setting within the Newcastle area.

In response, Superintendent Corbett advised that police were aware of social media activity relating to some of these incidents, including the circulation of videos on TikTok. She confirmed that such matters had been investigated and invited Inspector Paddy Heatley to provide further detail regarding fire-related incidents and arson investigations in this area.

Inspector Heatley advised that reports describing the Myrtle Lodge fire as arson had been premature. While an item found in the vicinity had initially led investigators to consider arson as a possible cause, subsequent enquiries had ruled that factor out. The incident therefore remained under joint investigation by the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service and the PSNI. He noted that, while it was unlikely that the fire had simply started without cause, investigations were ongoing and no definitive conclusion had yet been reached.

Regarding smaller fire-related incidents, Inspector Heatley acknowledged that some fires may go unreported to both the PSNI and Fire and Rescue Service. He suggested that the significant influx of visitors to the area during the summer months could contribute to such behaviour, as some individuals may not have the same appreciation of, or respect for, the local environment as permanent residents. He highlighted the importance of education and awareness initiatives, including upcoming wildfire prevention programmes and workshops.

While acknowledging concerns within the community, Inspector Heatley advised that available information did not indicate a dramatic increase in fire-related anti-social behaviour compared to the previous year. However, he recognised that the potentially devastating consequences of such incidents could create a perception that they were occurring more frequently than statistics might suggest.

The Chair also enquired about reports of burglaries in the Newcastle area and asked whether there had been any recent developments.

Inspector Heatley advised that there had been no significant new developments during the previous week. However, he confirmed that a number of proactive policing operations remained ongoing, including both uniformed and plain-clothes patrols, aimed at preventing and detecting burglary offences.

In concluding the discussion, the Chair drew attention to the pressures placed on emergency services in Newcastle during peak visitor periods. She noted that the area experiences a significant seasonal increase in population due to the large number of caravan parks and tourists visiting the area. Despite this, no additional emergency service resources are routinely allocated to reflect the increase in

demand. The Chair remarked that this created challenges for local services and suggested that other popular tourist destinations experienced similar pressures.

The PCSP Chair then opened the floor to members for questions or comment on the District Commanders report.

Councillor Jonathan Jackson thanked Superintendent Corbett for her comprehensive report and welcomed the positive progress outlined across a range of policing priorities. Councillor Jackson stated that the issue most frequently raised with him by constituents was the prevalence of drugs within local communities. Referring to communities including Saintfield, Ballynahinch, Crossgar and Killyleagh, he advised that public concern regarding drug misuse and drug dealing had reached significant levels. While acknowledging the positive enforcement figures detailed within the report, he commented that public confidence in efforts to tackle the issue remained low.

Councillor Jackson noted that there was a widespread perception that drug activity had become increasingly visible and commonplace within local communities. He remarked that residents regularly expressed concerns about the apparent openness of drug dealing and use and questioned whether there were plans to introduce a specialist unit or additional targeted measures to address the issue. He suggested that, alongside enforcement activity, there was a need to rebuild public confidence by demonstrating that action was being taken.

In response, Superintendent Corbett advised that the PSNI District Support Unit already undertook significant work in tackling drug-related crime. She explained that the team's skills and remit were particularly suited to addressing organised criminal activity and drug offences. However, she acknowledged that resourcing pressures over the previous 18 to 24 months had impacted on the team's capacity. Similar to Neighbourhood Policing Teams, officers from the District Support Unit had frequently been redeployed to frontline Local Policing Teams in order to maintain emergency response services and meet daily operational demands. Superintendent Corbett advised that she was hopeful the position would improve over the coming months as the impact of recent recruitment campaigns became evident. As additional probationary officers entered operational policing roles, resources would begin to stabilise, allowing specialist officers to return to their primary functions. She stated that her intention was not only to restore the District Support Unit to full strength but also to enhance the capacity of the team and ring-fence resources specifically for proactive work relating to drugs intelligence and enforcement.

While outlining these plans, Superintendent Corbett emphasised that tackling drugs remained heavily dependent on information provided by local communities. She observed that residents were often aware of those involved in drug-related activity, but that valuable information did not always reach police. She encouraged elected representatives and community leaders to promote the reporting of information, whether directly or through anonymous channels, in order to assist police investigations.

Superintendent Corbett concluded by stating that while significant work was already being undertaken and positive enforcement outcomes were being achieved, the longer-term objective was to strengthen resources, increase proactive activity and

further target drug-related criminality across the district with the support of local communities.

Councillor Declan Murphy congratulated the Chair on her appointment and thanked Superintendent Corbett for her report.

Councillor Murphy concurred with the comments made regarding the importance of community intelligence in assisting policing operations. He observed that many successful operations were intelligence-led and relied heavily on information provided by local communities. Referring to the cross-border operation highlighted by Superintendent Corbett earlier in the report, Councillor Murphy stated that community cooperation had been an important factor in supporting police efforts to pursue the offender involved.

Councillor Murphy acknowledged the significant work undertaken by the PSNI and An Garda Síochána over a prolonged period to bring the operation to a successful conclusion. He commended the officers involved, noting that those participating in the operation had remained on duty for a considerable period beyond their normal working hours in order to ensure its success. He further noted that the arrest had been warmly welcomed within communities across South Armagh and had provided reassurance to local residents.

Councillor Murphy reiterated that community safety remained a collective responsibility and stressed the importance of ensuring that information regarding criminal activity was shared with police rather than remaining within communities. He encouraged greater cooperation with the PSNI, emphasising that effective community safety depended upon preventing individuals from operating with impunity and ensuring that information flowed to law enforcement when concerns arose.

The District Commander thanked Councillor Murphy for his comments and acknowledged the contribution made by both officers and local communities in supporting successful outcomes.

Councillor Conor Galbraith then congratulated the Chair on her appointment and wished her well for the year ahead. Referring to the earlier discussion on drugs, he expressed concern regarding an increasing number of discarded syringes being found in and around Downpatrick in recent months. Councillor Galbraith stated that the issue extended beyond matters of street cleanliness and presented a genuine public safety concern for residents, businesses, children and young people using public spaces. He noted that parents were understandably concerned about children encountering syringes while playing, travelling to school or accessing community facilities. Drawing on his own experience, Councillor Galbraith advised that he had personally dealt with discarded syringes on two occasions and questioned whether their presence pointed to a wider and more entrenched drugs issue within the town.

He sought an update from the PSNI on actions taken in response to reports of discarded injecting equipment, including any increase in policing patrols, intelligence-gathering activity or engagement with individuals involved in drug-related activity. He further asked whether the PSNI had identified any links between the discarded equipment and known locations associated with drug activity within Downpatrick town centre. Finally, he requested that consideration be given to

practical measures to reduce the occurrence of discarded syringes in areas used by children and families and asked that the matter remain under review with updates from the PSNI on actions taken and any trends relating to incidents involving discarded syringes.

In response, Superintendent Corbett advised that discarded syringes were not an issue being reported consistently across all areas of the district. However, she acknowledged that the presence of injecting equipment would generally indicate drug use occurring within a locality and agreed that discarded syringes represented a significant public safety concern. The Superintendent stated that while the drug-related element of the issue was clearly a policing matter, addressing the broader public health implications required a coordinated response involving a range of partner organisations. She indicated her willingness to participate in discussions involving Council, health partners and other relevant agencies to consider a joined-up approach to tackling the problem.

Addressing operational measures, Superintendent Corbett advised that where information was available regarding specific locations, policing resources could be directed towards those areas through foot patrols, bicycle patrols and targeted engagement. She emphasised once again the importance of community reporting and intelligence in helping police identify emerging issues and deploy resources effectively. She then handed over to Sergeant Suzanne Cochrane who covers the Downpatrick area.

Sergeant Suzanne Cochrane advised that police were aware of concerns relating to a particular location in Downpatrick and confirmed that officers had carried out a number of checks in the area following reports received. While no further syringes had been located during these visits, police had engaged with a number of local business owners on Market Street whose premises overlooked the area concerned. Sergeant Cochrane reported that business representatives had also identified what they believed to be significant levels of drug-related activity in that part of the town, more so than in some other locations within the town centre. She acknowledged that the issue was known to police and referenced the broader resourcing challenges previously discussed. She advised that Neighbourhood Policing Teams had been required to focus on a range of competing operational demands during the summer months, limiting the amount of time available for visible patrol activity. However, Sergeant Cochrane stated that there was a strong desire within the Neighbourhood Policing Team to return to core community policing functions, including regular foot patrols and engagement with businesses and residents. She anticipated that increased staffing levels expected later in the year would enable greater focus on these activities and allow officers to address concerns of this nature more proactively.

Councillor Galbraith further queried the practical response available when syringes or other drug paraphernalia were discovered. He noted that community members were generally advised to contact police via 101, but by the time police attended the location those responsible were often no longer present. He questioned whether an alternative reporting mechanism was available and asked whether such incidents should ever be reported through 999.

Superintendent Corbett advised that the emergency 999 system was reserved for situations involving immediate threats to life or serious risk and was therefore not generally appropriate for reporting discarded syringes. Acknowledging the frustrations expressed, she suggested that a wider discussion involving police and partner organisations would be beneficial in identifying a more effective and coordinated response.

Ms Creaney advised that, from a PCSP perspective, arrangements could be made to facilitate such a discussion. She explained that the local PCSP Officer for the area was currently on leave; however, upon their return, the PCSP team would be in a position to explore opportunities to facilitate discussion between police representatives and relevant partner agencies. Ms Creaney further suggested that organisations such as ASCERT and the Public Health Agency be included in these discussions to provide expertise on emerging drug trends and harm reduction approaches.

Ms Flynn reminded members that Council guidance clearly states that members of the public should not handle or remove discarded syringes due to the associated health and safety risks. She advised that incidents should be reported directly to the Council's Enforcement Team, whose contact details are available on the Council website, and confirmed that appropriately trained staff could attend and remove items safely. Ms Flynn undertook to ensure that the relevant reporting details were circulated to members following the meeting. She also acknowledged that consideration may need to be given to arrangements for dealing with incidents arising outside normal working hours and suggested that this matter could be explored further with relevant Council and PSNI colleagues.

Councillor Galbraith accepted the guidance provided but highlighted concerns regarding response times, particularly at weekends. Referring to one incident, he explained that a five-year-old child had picked up a discarded syringe and brought it home, prompting him to take action himself. He suggested that waiting until the next working day for removal was not always a practical solution in circumstances where an immediate risk to public safety existed.

In response, Ms Flynn reiterated that Council advice remained that members of the public should not handle syringes and confirmed that alternative arrangements would require further consideration.

The Chair also reminded members that Council Enforcement staff do operate at weekends and encouraged members to contact the service or report concerns through Environmental Health channels where urgent attention was required.

Councillor Terry Andrews welcomed the discussion that had taken place regarding drugs and community safety, describing it as an important and constructive debate. He commented that, while significant work was clearly being undertaken, the issues discussed demonstrated that drug misuse and drug-related criminality represented a much deeper and more complex problem affecting communities throughout the district.

Councillor Andrews welcomed the commitment outlined by the District Commander to strengthen policing resources in the coming months and the intention to increase capacity for tackling drug-related issues. He agreed with a number of the concerns

raised by Councillor Jackson regarding the impact of drugs within local communities and the level of concern being expressed by residents. He also noted that PCSP could hold a future event or day focused on drugs and drug related issues.

Chief Inspector Joe Tierney agreed that drugs represented a highly complex issue requiring a wide-ranging and coordinated response. He noted that while visible policing activity could provide reassurance and help tackle localised incidents of drug use, enforcement activity alone would not solve the wider problem. He explained that when police targeted one location, drug-related activity could simply move elsewhere, meaning that a broader and more strategic approach was required.

Chief Inspector Tierney advised that resourcing challenges extended beyond frontline and neighbourhood policing and also affected specialist investigative teams across the organisation. By way of illustration, he noted that a specialist proactive team based at Grosvenor Road which had previously consisted of 18 detective constables had been reduced to just 3 officers due to wider organisational pressures. As a result, the ability to target higher-level organised criminality had been significantly impacted. However, he advised that plans were already in place to rebuild these capabilities as additional officers entered service through ongoing recruitment campaigns. While increases in neighbourhood and local policing resources would enhance visible policing and community engagement, efforts were also underway at a strategic level to strengthen specialist units responsible for investigating organised criminality, drug trafficking and other serious offences.

Chief Inspector Tierney emphasised that tackling those involved in the supply and distribution of drugs remained critical. While police would continue to take action against individuals found in possession of drugs or engaging in drug misuse, he acknowledged that enforcement against users alone had not eradicated the problem. He stated that long-term success depended upon disrupting and dismantling those higher up the supply chain who were responsible for importing and distributing drugs into local communities.

The discussion also highlighted significant changes in the methods by which illegal drugs enter Northern Ireland. Chief Inspector Tierney advised that traditional smuggling routes were no longer the sole method of importation. Increasingly, drugs were being imported through postal and courier services from overseas locations, often in large quantities. He explained that drugs are now frequently concealed within parcels and delivered through mainstream postal networks, courier services and collection lockers. Criminals often utilise false identities, dummy addresses and parcel collection points to disguise their involvement and avoid detection. While police work closely with delivery companies and postal operators to identify suspicious packages and improve detection processes, Chief Inspector Tierney noted that the volume of postal traffic presented significant challenges for enforcement agencies.

Referring to parcel collection lockers and collection pods, he outlined some of the practical difficulties involved in monitoring such facilities, explaining that packages may remain uncollected for several days and that continuous surveillance of collection points was not a viable use of police resources. Despite these challenges, police continued to work alongside delivery providers and national partners to improve intelligence gathering and disrupt emerging supply routes.

Chief Inspector Tierney reiterated the critical importance of community intelligence in supporting police operations and investigations. He stressed that information provided by local residents remained one of the most effective tools available in identifying criminal activity and enabling enforcement action.

The Chair thanked Councillor Andrews and Chief Inspector Tierney for their contributions. Reflecting on the discussion, she observed that policing drug supply routes had become increasingly difficult due to the evolution of postal and courier services. She noted that parcel delivery networks had expanded significantly beyond traditional Royal Mail services and now involved multiple courier companies and collection systems, creating additional challenges for law enforcement agencies seeking to intercept illegal substances.

The Chair acknowledged the complexity of the issue and the scale of the challenge facing policing and partner organisations. She thanked members and police representatives for their contributions.

8 E-Scooters and Scrambler Usage

The Chair introduced agenda item 8 concerning the use of electric scooters and scramblers and invited an update from the PSNI.

Superintendent Lynne Corbett advised that Inspector Paddy Heatley had been leading work within the district on the issue and would provide an overview of the current legislative position and planned enforcement activity.

Inspector Heatley outlined the legal framework currently available to police in relation to the seizure of e-scooters. He explained that there were two principal legislative mechanisms which could be utilised. The first related to powers concerning vehicles being used in a manner causing alarm, distress or annoyance. Under existing legislation, a warning generally had to be issued before a vehicle could subsequently be seized if the behaviour continued. While legislative changes were anticipated, these provisions had not yet come into effect.

The second and more significant power related to vehicle seizure for driving without insurance. Inspector Heatley explained that, until recently, individuals whose e-scooters had been seized could recover them from storage facilities by paying the appropriate fees and providing evidence of insurance for another vehicle. Members were advised that this position had changed from the previous week. Under the revised arrangements, individuals must now provide insurance specifically for the vehicle that has been seized. As e-scooters cannot be insured for lawful use on public roads or public places, this effectively means that once seized under these powers, e-scooters cannot be reclaimed by their owners except through a court process. Inspector Heatley advised that, while there remained a right to challenge a seizure through the courts within 14 days, applicants would be liable for the associated legal costs and it was anticipated that such applications would be uncommon.

In light of the legislative changes, updated operational guidance had been issued to all officers across the district. Inspector Heatley advised that future enforcement activity would primarily utilise no-insurance seizure powers where e-scooters were being operated on roads or in public places. He outlined plans for a series of

targeted operations across all four Neighbourhood Policing Team areas during the coming months, specifically focused on e-scooters and e-bikes.

Inspector Heatley also addressed practical issues associated with the storage of seized vehicles. Due to the fire risks associated with lithium batteries, e-scooters cannot be stored within police premises. Arrangements had therefore been made with vehicle recovery operators to ensure that seized scooters could be collected, stored and ultimately disposed of appropriately. He confirmed that discussions with recovery operators had resolved concerns regarding storage and associated costs, enabling enforcement activity to proceed more effectively.

Members were further advised that officers remained conscious of the risks associated with stopping riders, particularly young people using e-scooters without helmets or protective equipment. Inspector Heatley stressed that enforcement activity must always be proportionate and carefully risk assessed in order to avoid creating additional dangers for riders, members of the public or other road users. Planned operations would therefore make use of a combination of uniformed officers, plain-clothes officers, drone technology and, where appropriate, air support to monitor suspects safely and facilitate intervention at suitable opportunities.

Inspector Heatley concluded by expressing confidence that members would begin to see a noticeable reduction in illegal e-scooter use over the coming weeks and months as a result of the new seizure arrangements and forthcoming enforcement operations.

The Chair welcomed the update and particularly the fact that coordinated operations would take place simultaneously across all policing areas. She noted that areas such as Newcastle, Dundrum and surrounding villages presented particular challenges due to their network of laneways, forestry areas and other locations where riders could evade detection. The Chair expressed the view that a district-wide coordinated approach would be beneficial in preventing displacement of the problem between different areas.

Councillor Aidan Mathers advised that the issue appeared to have reduced somewhat within Newry, which he attributed in part to previous enforcement activity undertaken by police. Referring to a recent operation conducted within the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon area which had resulted in the seizure of 13 e-scooters, Councillor Mathers stated that he welcomed a proactive enforcement approach and considered vehicle seizure to be the most effective deterrent.

Councillor Mathers further queried whether police could seize e-scooters from locations where they were known to be stored or whether an individual had to be observed using the vehicle before enforcement action could be taken.

In response, Inspector Heatley noted that the operation referred to had taken place before the recent legislative changes and consequently some of those vehicles may ultimately be returned to their owners. He contrasted this with the current position, whereby vehicles seized under the revised arrangements would generally not be returned.

Sergeant Innes added that the use of air support would play an important role in future operations. He explained that previous enforcement activity had

demonstrated the benefits of utilising helicopters and surveillance assets to track offenders safely to their homes, enabling follow-up police action, searches and warrant executions where appropriate.

Councillor Conor Galbraith queried whether similar measures could be used to address nuisance vehicles fitted with modified exhaust systems, which created excessive noise disturbance during the early hours of the morning.

Superintendent Corbett acknowledged that modified vehicles represented a common concern for residents across many communities. She advised that the PSNI periodically conducted partnership operations with vehicle inspection experts and enforcement agencies, including the Driver and Vehicle Licence Agency, to target illegally modified vehicles. Such operations enabled specialist inspections to be conducted at the roadside and, where necessary, vehicles could be seized or prohibited from further use. However, she noted that, unlike e-scooters, there were more limited powers available to permanently remove such vehicles from circulation.

Inspector Paul Moore also addressed the meeting and acknowledged the widespread concerns regarding e-scooter use. While recognising that some users operated their scooters responsibly, he reiterated that their use in public places remained unlawful. Inspector Moore advised that, prior to the end of the school term, he had written to every school within the Newry City area setting out the legal position in relation to e-scooters. Schools had subsequently distributed the information to parents through their communication systems. In addition, police had continued to publicise the legislation and associated risks through other communication channels.

He advised that a number of enforcement days were planned and reiterated that previous operations elsewhere had been undertaken before the recent policy changes regarding vehicle release. As a result, the PSNI now anticipated a more meaningful enforcement impact because seized vehicles would not simply be returned to circulation. Inspector Moore stated that police intended to take a robust approach to enforcement in the coming months and expressed confidence that seizure figures within Newry, Mourne and Down would exceed those achieved elsewhere.

The Chair welcomed the preventative work undertaken with schools and asked whether similar communications would be extended across the wider district.

Inspector Moore confirmed that other Neighbourhood Policing Teams were considering similar engagement with schools in their respective areas.

In concluding the discussion, the Chair noted the importance of ensuring that young people, parents and communities clearly understood both the legal position regarding e-scooters and the recent changes to enforcement powers. She welcomed the enhanced enforcement provisions and observed that the revised arrangements now provided police with significantly stronger powers to tackle the issue than had previously been available.

Members noted the update.

9 Mobile Speed Indicator Device Update

Inspector Paddy Heatley provided an update on the deployment and use of Mobile Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) across the district.

Members were advised that five devices are currently available for use across the Newry, Mourne and Down district by PSNI. Inspector Heatley reported that the device allocated to the Down area had been deployed on two occasions. However, deployment had been affected by battery issues, which have since been resolved. In addition, installation of the devices had been delayed while approval was sought from PSNI community safety funding to purchase chains and padlocks. Funding has now been secured, allowing the devices to be installed securely for longer periods. Inspector Heatley explained that the intention going forward is to leave devices in place for extended periods, enabling more comprehensive data collection and increasing their effectiveness in influencing driver behaviour. He noted that during the summer months Neighbourhood Policing Teams had been heavily committed to other operational demands, making it difficult to deploy and retrieve the devices on a daily basis. With reduced abstraction of officers and the availability of improved security arrangements, it is anticipated that the devices will now be used more consistently across the district.

Members were informed that a list of locations for deployment is maintained. Inspector Heatley encouraged members to raise any additional requests through their local Neighbourhood Inspector so that locations could be added to the database of sites for consideration.

The Chair asked whether there was a set period of time for which devices would remain at a location before being reviewed and potentially moved elsewhere.

In response, Inspector Heatley advised that deployment decisions would be informed by the data collected. While community concerns were an important factor, evidence gathered by the devices would be used to determine the level of speeding at individual locations. He noted that public perception of speeding did not always align with the recorded evidence. As a general approach, devices would remain in place for a minimum of 48 hours to allow a sufficient volume of data to be gathered before any assessment was made.

Councillor Jonathan Jackson thanked Inspector Heatley for the update and welcomed plans for increased deployment. He reiterated the effectiveness of the devices and requested that consideration be given to prioritising the Downpatrick Road on the approach to Crossgar. Councillor Jackson noted that this stretch of road presented particular road safety concerns due to vehicle speeds entering the village.
Councillor Terry Andrews echoed the comments made regarding the effectiveness of SIDs and highlighted a number of locations within the Rowallane DEA which continued to generate concern among local residents. In particular, Councillor Andrews referred to Darragh Cross, noting that it remained subject to a 40mph speed limit despite significant residential development in recent years. He contrasted this with neighbouring settlements where lower speed limits were in place and suggested that the current arrangement continued to cause concern for residents. He also highlighted the Crossgar Road and Saintfield areas as locations

where speeding concerns were regularly reported. Councillor Andrews noted the strong level of public support for additional speed reduction measures and commented that demand for SIDs continued to exceed availability.

Sergeant Suzanne Cochrane advised members that Darragh Cross had recently been approved as an additional location for deployment of the Road Safety Partnership camera van. She confirmed that notification of this decision had been received earlier that day and welcomed the inclusion of the area in the enforcement programme.

Members noted the update.

10 Date of Next Meeting

The Chair advised that the next PCSP Partnership Meeting would take place on 29 September 2026 at 6.00pm.

Before the meeting concluded, the Chair invited Brendan Mullan, Chair of the Northern Ireland Policing Board, to address members.

Mr Mullan thanked the Chair and members for the opportunity to attend the meeting. He advised that, since taking up the position of Chair of the Northern Ireland Policing Board in April, he had made a commitment to visit each Policing and Community Safety Partnership across Northern Ireland in recognition of their important role within the wider policing architecture.

Mr Mullan highlighted the contribution of PCSPs towards delivering the Policing Plan objective of supporting safe and engaged communities with confidence in policing. He emphasised the value of partnership working between elected representatives, community members, statutory agencies and the PSNI in identifying and addressing local issues.

Having observed the meeting, Mr Mullan stated that the discussion concerning discarded syringes in Downpatrick provided a particularly strong example of the role of PCSPs in facilitating collaborative problem-solving and supporting the development of local solutions to local community safety problems.

Mr Mullan also reminded members that 2026 marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the Police Service of Northern Ireland, the Northern Ireland Policing Board and Policing and Community Safety Partnerships following the recommendations of the Patten Commission.

To mark the anniversary, the Northern Ireland Policing Board would be hosting a conference in November focused on the future of policing. Rather than concentrating solely on past achievements, the conference would explore emerging challenges facing policing, including new and evolving crime trends, resource pressures and the future direction of policing services.

In advance of the conference, a series of three regional engagement events entitled "Conversations with a Purpose" would be held in Dungannon, Belfast and Derry/Londonderry. These events would provide opportunities for stakeholders to contribute views and experiences which would help inform the discussion at the

main conference. Members were advised that invitations and save-the-date notifications would be circulated shortly and were encouraged to participate.

Mr Mullan concluded by thanking members for their commitment to policing and community safety and for the work undertaken through the PCSP.

The Chair thanked Mr Mullan for attending and for his contribution to the meeting. She expressed appreciation to all members, officers and partner representatives for their participation and wished everyone a safe journey home.

The meeting then concluded.