



August 17th, 2020

**Notice Of Meeting**

You are invited to attend the Active and Healthy Communities Committee meeting to be held on **Monday, 17th August 2020 at 6:00 pm in Skype Call.**

**Chair: Cllr L McEvoy**

**Vice: Cllr G O'Hare**

**Members:**

**Cllr T Andrews**

**Cllr C Casey**

**Cllr A Finnegan**

**Cllr H Gallagher**

**Cllr M Gibbons**

**Cllr G Malone**

**Cllr C Mason**

**Cllr K McKevitt**

**Cllr A McMurray**

**Cllr B Ó'Muirí**

**Cllr D Taylor**

**Cllr J Trainor**

**Cllr W Walker**

# 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 15 June 2020

 [AHC Action Sheet 150620.pdf](#)

Page 1

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### *Notices of Motion*

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## 4.0 Notice of Motion on Period Poverty - Referred from Council Meeting held on 6 July 2020

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor Hanlon:


“That this Council supports the “Period Poverty” campaign and charities such as the Homeless Period and Red Box Project, the aim of these are to highlight the issue that sanitary products are not affordable for all females.

As an initial step, that this Council looks at the feasibility of the introduction of free sanitary products in all council public conveniences.

We should strive to proactively help efforts to tackle period poverty and be part of bringing about such positive change.

It should be the norm in schools, universities colleges, workplaces, football grounds, concert venues for free access to sanitary product provision.

We as a Council will also write to the to the relevant ministers to ask for an update on the introduction of free sanitary products in schools and education facilities. Currently the North is the only area of the UK where free products are not provided to those in need”.

 [AHC August 2020 Period Poverty.pdf](#)

Page 12

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### *Community Engagement*

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## 5.0 Peace IV

 [Peace Report AHC August 2020.pdf](#)

Page 15

 [Appendix 1 - PEACE IV Partnership Meeting minutes 05 March 2020.pdf](#)

Page 18





## 6.0 Financial Assistance

 <i>Financial assistance AHC Aug 2020.pdf</i>	<i>Page 20</i>
 <i>Appendix 1 - Financial Assistance Report.pdf</i>	<i>Page 24</i>
 <i>Capital Spend Analysis Aug 2020.pdf</i>	<i>Page 29</i>
 <i>Multiple Capital applications Aug 2020.pdf</i>	<i>Page 33</i>

## **7.0 Lisnacree Community Centre - Lease Agreement**

 <i>Lisnacree Lease Renewal Report for August 2020 AHC Committee.pdf</i>	<i>Page 35</i>
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## **8.0 Community Asset Transfer**

 <i>Community Asset Transfer Report.pdf</i>	<i>Page 38</i>
 <i>Appendix 1 - CAT - NMD Letterhead Response Dvpt Trust NI.pdf</i>	<i>Page 41</i>
 <i>Appendix 2 - CAT Policy Framework.pdf</i>	<i>Page 43</i>
 <i>Appendix 3 - CAT guidance for asset owners.pdf</i>	<i>Page 84</i>

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### *Leisure and Sports*

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## **9.0 ORNI Service Level Agreement - 2020/2021**


 <i>ORNI SLA 2020 -21 Final .pdf</i>	<i>Page 92</i>
 <i>Appendix 1 - ORNI Community Trails SLA 2020 2021.pdf</i>	<i>Page 95</i>

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### *Health & Wellbeing*

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## **10.0 Safe Cycling Initiatives**

 <i>Promoting Safer Cycling.pdf</i>	<i>Page 100</i>
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## **11.0 Consultation Response to Northern Ireland Housing Executive's Draft Older People's Housing Strategy 2020/1-2025/26**

 <i>NIHE OLDER PEOPLE'S STRATEGY COMMITTEE REPORT.pdf</i>	<i>Page 103</i>
 <i>Appendix 1 NMDDC Consultation Response Older Persons.pdf</i>	<i>Page 106</i>
 <i>Appendix 2 - Draft Older People's Housing Strategy 202021 202526 Consultation Version.._ (002).pdf</i>	<i>Page 107</i>

## 12.0 Sustainability and Climate Change Forum

[Sustainability and Climate Change Forum Report.pdf](#) Page 176

[Appendix 1 - I SCCF Action Sheet 30 June 2020.pdf](#) Page 178

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### *For Noting - Leisure & Sports*

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## 13.0 Sports Development Recovery Plan

[Sports Development Recovery Plan Aug 2020.pdf](#) Page 181

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### *Leisure and Sports*

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## 14.0 Funding Opportunity for Community Trails

[AHC Report - Communtiy Trail Funding Opportunity .pdf](#) Page 199

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### *For Noting - Community Engagement*

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## 15.0 Social Investment Fund Update

[SIF report AHC Aug 2020.pdf](#) Page 202

[Appendix 1 - SIF minutes 10th February 2020.pdf](#) Page 205

[Appendix 2 - SIF minutes 9th March 2020.pdf](#) Page 208

## 16.0 Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) Report

[PCSP Report for August AHC Committee.pdf](#) Page 211

[Appendix 1 - PCSP Report - Minutes PCSP Committee 21 January 2020.pdf](#) Page 214

[Appendix 2 - PCSP Report - Final POLICING COMMITTEE MINUTES 21 January 2020.pdf](#) Page 218

[Appendix 3 - PCSP Report - FINAL PCSP Committee Minutes - 10 March 2020.pdf](#) Page 221

[Appendix 4 - PCSP Report - FINAL Minutes Policing Committee 10-03-2020.pdf](#) Page 225

## 17.0 Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership (NRP) Report

[Newry NRP Report for August 2020.pdf](#) Page 228

[Appendix 1 - Newry NRP - minutes of NR partnership 22 jan 2020.pdf](#) Page 231

## 18.0 Domestic Violence (Notice of Motion)

Domestic Abuse Report.pdf

Page 243

**FOR NOTING Items deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014**

## 19.0 Re-opening of Indoor Leisure Facilities Plan – Phase 2

Previously discussed at Strategic Policy and Resource Committee on 13 August 2020.

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

Reopening Indoor Leisure Facilities 2020 Final for SPRC.pdf

Not included

Appendix 1 Phase 2 Indoor Leisure Reopening Plan.pdf

Not included

## 20.0 Re-opening of Community Facilities

Previously discussed at Strategic Policy and Resource Committee on 13 August 2020.

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

Report on Re-opening of Community Facilities.pdf

Not included

Appendix 1 AHC procedure for community facilities reopening v2.pdf

Not included

Phased Reopening of Community Facilities for SPR.pdf








Not included

## 21.0 Scheme of Delegation Schedule

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

Scheme of Delegation Report.pdf

Not included

 <b>Appendix 1 - Scheme of Delegation - Schedule of Change of Facilities and Charges.pdf</b>	<b>Not included</b>
 <b>Appendix 1 - Scheme of Delegation - Schedule of Expenditure.Swim Vouchers and Tenders.pdf</b>	<b>Not included</b>
 <b>Appendix 1 - Scheme of Delegation - Schedule of Enforcement and Licensing.pdf</b>	<b>Not included</b>
 <b>Appendix 1 - Scheme of Delegation - Schedule of Funding.Claims.LOOs.ExtensionRequests.pdf</b>	<b>Not included</b>
 <b>Appendix 1 - Scheme of Delegation - Schedule of SLAs.MoUs.Licence AgreementsContracts.pdf</b>	<b>Not included</b>
 <b>Appendix 1 - Scheme of Delegation - Schedule of STA NCAs DCAsApproval to Commence Procurement and Business Cases.pdf</b>	<b>Not included</b>
 <b>Appendix 1 - Scheme of Delegation - Schedule of Use of Council Lands, Facilities &amp; Loan of Equipment.pdf</b>	<b>Not included</b>

# Invitees

- Cllr Terry Andrews
- Cllr Patrick Brown
- Cllr Robert Burgess
- Cllr Pete Byrne
- Mrs Dorinnia Carville
- Cllr charlie casey
- Cllr William Clarke
- Cllr Dermot Curran
- Ms Alice Curran
- Cllr Laura Devlin
- Mr Eoin Devlin
- Ms Louise Dillon
- Cllr Sean Doran
- Cllr Cadogan Enright
- Cllr Aoife Finnegan
- Cllr Hugh Gallagher
- Cllr Mark Gibbons
- Mr Kieran Gordon
- Cllr Oonagh Hanlon
- Cllr Glyn Hanna
- Cllr Valerie Harte
- Mrs Janine Hillen
- Cllr Roisin Howell
- Mrs Sheila Kieran
- Cllr Mickey Larkin
- Cllr Alan Lewis
- Mr Michael Lipsett
- Cllr Oonagh Magennis
- Mr Conor Mallon
- Cllr Gavin Malone
- Cllr Cathy Mason
- Colette McAteer
- Cllr Declan McAteer
- Cllr Leanne McEvoy
- Cllr Harold McKee
- Patricia McKeever
- Cllr Karen McKevitt
- Cllr Andrew McMurray
- Mr Roland Moore
- Cllr Roisin Mulgrew
- Cllr Declan Murphy
- Cllr Barra Ó Muirí

Mr Fearghal O'Connor  
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Linda O'Hare  
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Cllr Gerry O'Hare  
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Cllr Kathryn Owen  
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Cllr Henry Reilly  
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Cllr Michael Ruane  
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Cllr Michael Savage  
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Cllr Gareth Sharvin  
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Donna Starkey  
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Cllr Gary Stokes  
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Sarah Taggart  
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Paul Tamati  
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Cllr David Taylor  
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Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly  
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Cllr John Trainor  
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Cllr William Walker  
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Mrs Marie Ward  
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**ACTIONS OUTSTANDING FROM PREVIOUS ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES MEETINGS**

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
AHC/092/2019	Leasing of Council land known as Rosconnor Playing Fields, Strangford Playing Fields and the back Pitch, Greenbank, Newry	It was agreed subject to Departmental Consent that the following leases be agreed at a peppercorn rent. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lease of Rosconnor Playing Fields, Downpatrick to Tecnaught GAC for the term of 5 years.</li> <li>Lease of Strangford Playing Fields, Strangford to Strangford FC for the term of 5 years.</li> <li>Lease of the Back Pitch, Greenbank, Newry to Newry AFC for the term of 25 years.</li> </ul>	C Haughey	Ongoing  Tecnaught and Newry have been approved by DFC and legal is sending out the agreed lease docs to clubs.  Rosconnor is finalising the lease agreement and Departmental consent being given. All agreed. Land is transferred from 20/07/2020 for 5 years.  Strangford have declined the lease option but will enter into a SLA.	N
AHC/120/2019	Application to DFC: New Model Farm Community Centre proposal, Downpatrick	It was agreed to accept the following recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>that the Committee agree to proceed with an application to DFC for a replacement facility for the Trojan Horse, Downpatrick. Including the development of a business case, design proposals and submission of a planning application.</li> </ul>	K Hynds	Ongoing.  Funding application to be completed by NHR Officer & CDRCN for submission to DFC.	N
AHC/148/2019	Healthy Vending Machines in Leisure Centres	It was agreed to note that when clear guidance on minimum nutritional standards (MNS) for Council Catering Outlets and Vending is established, a future report will be brought back to Active and Healthy Communities Committee regarding the potential implementation of these stancards.	P Tamati	Report to future AHC Ongoing, MNS not established yet, anticipated April 2020. Liaising with Food Standards Agency. MNS protocols have been delayed due to COVID-19. Awaiting further update from FSA on MNS.	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
AHC/152/2019	Notice of Motion – Disability Access on to Newcastle Beach (Referred from Council Meeting 2 September 2019)	It was agreed that officers investigate the provision of disability access on to Newcastle beach to enable the facility to be inclusive, which will enhance the visitor experience for all.  An update report to be provided to the Active & Health Communities Committee following on from a meeting of Neighbourhood Services department, Enterprise, Regenerations & Tourism department and Corporate Services departments.	M Lipsett  M Lipsett	Meetings held with internal officers  Mae Murray visited the site and advised that the disabled toilet facilities are not suitable to accommodate a large changing table and therefore would not be suitable for disabled beach access facilities similar to Cranfield  Report to future AHC Meeting.	N
AHC/181/2019	ORNI Community Trails Legal Agreement and ongoing Maintenance Costs	It was agreed to approve Council to enter into legal agreements for a period of 20 years (subject to a fee of 5 pence per annum) with the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in respect of Forest/Community Trails and Car Parking (if relevant) at the following locations: - Drumkeeragh Forest - Tvenadarragh Forest - Corrywood Forest - Seaforde Forest	P Tamati	Ongoing Licence agreement is now in place between Council and Forestry Service - remove	Y
AHC/184/2019	Autism Friendly Sessions	It was agreed to introduce Autism Friendly Swim Sessions at Newry and Killeel Leisure Centre and Tropicana (subject to closures and holiday arrangements) as a pilot with a 6-monthly review period from 1 April 2020. - Newry Leisure Centres: Saturdays from 4.00pm – 5.00pm - Killeel Leisure Centre: Mondays from 3.45pm to 4.30pm	P Tamati	Consultation with Autism groups and key stakeholders has been commissioned in relation to identified programme times at each individual centre with update report due back to AHC Committee March 2020 and implementation from 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2020 Report went to AHC Committee on 17 <sup>th</sup> Feb outlining dates and times for Autism Friendly Swim Sessions which have been paused due to COVID-19. These sessions	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
AHC/181/2019	Action Sheet	- Newcastle Tropicana: Fridays from 12noon to 1pm (July and August only)  It was agreed to have the Service Level Agreement with Outdoor Recreational Northern Ireland extended beyond March 2020.	P Tamati	will be re-instated once restrictions are lifted.  Subject to future Committee Report and budget identification Report to go to Committee in August	N
AHC/199/2019	Summer Activity Programme for 2020	It was agreed to implement an alternative and enhanced Summer Activity Programme for July and August 2020.	P Tamati	Draft Summer Activity Programme to be submitted for notification at March Committee meeting As per AHC Emergency Business Plan all seasonal activities have been delayed due to COVID-19	N
AHC/200/2019	Castle Park Seasonal Operations	It was agreed to approve a public tender for a minimum of 5 years for the delivery of alternative and enhanced seasonal (Easter to September) operations and services at Castle Park in Newcastle.	P Tamati	Public tender to be advertised February 2020 Currently ongoing Tender process paused due to COVID-19 as per Committee Meeting June 2020	N
AHC/201/2019	Everybody Active (EBA) 2020 Delivery Contract – New Tender	It was agreed to approve Council to tender of the Everybody Active 2020 Delivery Contract for 12 months from 1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021 with possible extension subject to funding.	P Tamati	Public tender to be advertised February 2020 Currently ongoing Tender process is now complete and Clanrye Group have been appointed to deliver the new programme.	N
AHC/202/2019	Sport NI Your School Your Club Funding	It was agreed to examine the availability of funding for Newry City Football Club with a follow up meeting with Council official to be arranged.  It was agreed the update on Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Projects that applied for Your School Your Club was agreed and approval	P Tamati	Meeting with Newry City FC to be arranged. Meeting took place to agree to apply to upcoming Stadia funding – remove.  Ongoing	Y  N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
AHC/206/2019	Adoption of Suicide Down to Zero	<p>given for the commissioning of the Tennis Bubble Project at Our Lady's in Newry.</p> <p>it was agreed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council formally adopt the approach and aspiration of Suicide Down to Zero. A suitable launch and media statement to be prepared for Council Chairperson.</li> <li>• An amount of £10 000 is allocated to a Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Small Grants Scheme administered through a Financial call subject to the estimates process.</li> <li>• A working group involving the Council, the Southern and South Eastern Health Trusts and local relevant Voluntary Organisations is created to examine ways of attaining the goal of zero suicides across the District.</li> </ul>	E Devlin	<p>Project commenced but, delayed due to COVID-19. Due to be completed Sept 2020.</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	N
AHC/4/2020	Overflow Car Park at Donard Park	<p>It was agreed to proceed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• with 'winter arrangements' for the unofficial overflow car park at Donard Park to remain in place until Easter 2020 as per historical arrangements.</li> <li>• Winter arrangements – closed from the 1<sup>st</sup> November to Easter 2020 (10<sup>th</sup> April)</li> <li>• If a budget became available in the interim, the opening of the overflow car park could be brought forward on busy days prior to Easter 2020.</li> </ul> <p>The proposed establishment of an official and permanent overflow car parking arrangements at Donard Park</p>	P Tamati	<p>Commissioning meeting with the Capital Team to take place.</p> <p>Confirmation of budget to be agreed.</p> <p>Temporary overflow car park now in place.</p> <p>Capital Team to submit planning application for permanent arrangements – ongoing.</p>	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		as per appendix 1, and commit £250k to Council Capital Programme. Following such approval, a detailed capital proposal will be brought back to Committee for further consideration.			
AHC/6/2020	Annual Licence Agreement with Communities Facilities	It was agreed to replace existing tenancy arrangements within Council Community Facilities to updated Licence Agreements.	J Hillen	Ongoing	N
AHC/9/2020	Kilclief Play Park	Mr Tamati to confirm the completion of works regarding fencing along the road side area at the new Play Park at Carrievemaclone.  Assurance given that once the Carrievemaclone Play Park was completed and operational, if concerns were raised these could be examined.  It was agreed to proceed with: The leasing of land from the Trustees of Kilclief Gaelic Athletic Club for the creation of a play area at Kilclief Gaelic grounds as identified as part of play strategy consultation process. The revised estimated capital spend for Kilclief Play Park of £159,000.00 was as a result of feedback from the final stage consultation process.	P Tamati	Ongoing Lease agreement approved and signed. Works completed and park open – remove	Y
AHC/044/2020	Lisnacree Community Centre	It was agreed to contact the Parish to advise that they would not like to purchase the land and would like to extend the lease for another ten years	J Hillen	Ongoing	N

**ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2014**

AHC/162/2019	Sainfield Community Centre	<p>It was agreed to note and agree to approve the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proceed to Expression of Interest: Process in line with Councils Sporting and Community Facilities Leasing Policy for the rear of Unit C and the whole of Unit B.</li> <li>Providing an additional area to the rear of Unit C to increase the amount of storage space within the Community Centre, approximate cost £15,000.</li> </ul>	J Hillen	Ongoing	N
AHC/174/2019	Castlewelan 3G Pitch	<p>It was agreed to remove the agreement to lease the 3G pitch to Castlewelan Community Partnership as per minute (AHC/071/2019) and replace this with a Facility Management Agreement for the 3G pitch.</p>	J Hillen	Ongoing	N
AHC/13/2020	No 16 The Square, Rostrevor	<p>It was agreed to approve officers proceeding as outlined in the report: Withdraw the original application Complete the procurement process Submit an application to the RDP for up to 75% through the Village Renewal Scheme of the total project costs.</p>	J Hillen	Ongoing	N
AHC/036/2020	Threeways Community Centre – Refurbishment of Hopework Pitch	<p>It was agreed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approve the business case and the recommendation contained within same.</li> <li>Proceed with a procurement exercise to appoint a contractor to carry out the refurbishment works.</li> <li>Incorporate the legacy Service Level Agreement into the current Facility Management Agreement for Threeways</li> </ul>	J Hillen	Ongoing	N

<p><b>AHC/053/2020</b></p>	<p><b>Lease of Lands at Barcroft Community Centre</b></p>	<p>Community Association in line with other similar facilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review booking over the period detailed in the Facility Management Agreement and present options to Council in order to inform potential future investment in the facility.</li> </ul> <p>It was agreed that Newry, Mourne and Down District Council provide Newry Felons with a lease for the additional lands requested at a Peppercorn rent as agreed by the Department for Communities.</p>	<p>J Hillier</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>N</p>
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## ACTIONS ARISING FROM ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING – 15 JUNE 2020

Minute	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
AHC/56/2020	Agree Starting time for AHC Committee	it was agreed to start AHC Committee Meetings at 6pm.	Democratic Services	Meetings scheduled	Y
AHC/57/2020	AHC/043/2020 – Notice of Motion re: Domestic Violence	Mrs Hillen confirmed PCSP had a number of ongoing campaigns in relation to domestic violence and she would bring back an update to the Committee.  An update on Newry City Football Club to be provided to Councillor Taylor.	J Hillen	C Haughey has spoken to and updated Councillor Taylor	Y
AHC/58/2020	AHC/202/2019 – Sport NI, Your School Your Club Funding Emergency Business Plan April – September 2020	The emergency Active and Healthy Communities Business Plan, April – September 2020 was approved.  it was agreed to write a letter of goodwill to the Minister for Communities, Ms Deirdre Hargay.	M Lipsett	Actioned  Actioned	Y



AHC/059/2020	Peace IV Report	<p>The following recommendations were approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shared Spaces and Services: Capacity Building Programme for Developing Shared Space - Post-Graduate Certificate in Public Administration for approximately 30 participants from statutory, community/voluntary sector. Estimated cost: £2,509.80 per participant.</li> <li>• Approval has been granted by SEUJFB to award this contract for up to £75,294.00 (ex VAT) to Ulster University.</li> <li>• Youth Leadership Seasonal Projects (PCSP) - Procure and appoint a delivery company to deliver a youth leadership programme to include residential. Estimated cost: £92,775.</li> <li>• Building Positive Relations: Procure and appoint providers for the delivery of BME engagement mechanisms. Estimated cost: £56,500.00</li> </ul>	J Hillen		
AHC/060/2020	Financial Assistance – Community Engagement	<p>The following was agreed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approval for Call three which would be completed in line with the new Financial Assistance Policy and Electronic Grant Management System.</li> <li>• Approval for the processes being followed.</li> <li>• Approval for 2019-2020 claims to be submitted up to the end of September 2020.</li> </ul>	J Hillen		

AHC/061/2020	The Outdoor Partnership – Memorandum of Understanding	<p>It was agreed to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Council and The Outdoor Partnership and that Newry, Mourne and Down District Council is represented on the NI Stakeholder Group.</p>	P Tamati	Report agreed at Committee in June - remove	Y
AHC/062/2020	Reopening of Outdoor Leisure Services – Phase 2	<p>It was to approve to note the reopening of the following outdoor Leisure Facilities with restrictions from Monday 22 June 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designated Bowling Greens: Bessbrook, Newry, Warrenpoint, Kilkeel, Annalong &amp; Newcastle.</li> <li>• Designated Artificial Surfaces: St Colman's Athletics Track and 3G Pitch, Donard and Saintfield Synthetic Pitches, Duncath, Langley Road Shale Pitches, the Ropewalk in Newry, Castlewellaan 3G pitch and Threeways Pitch along with designated Council owned community centre surfaces.</li> <li>• Tennis Facilities: To move to phase 2 of the tennis Ireland guidance.</li> <li>• Club and Commercial Coaching: To be allowed to commence at designated facilities in line with block booking requirements and subject to submission of all appropriate documentations.</li> <li>• Councils scale of charges: Should be applied accordingly with a common-sense approach.</li> <li>• Kilkeel, Warrenpoint park and Annalong Tennis Courts to remain closed for casual hire.</li> </ul>	P Tamati	Complete - remove	Y

AHC/063/2020	Update on enforcement of Coronavirus Regulations and Social Distancing	It was agreed that the Chief Executive sign the Memorandum of Understanding with the PSNI with the regard of the enforcement of the Coronavirus regulations in relation to premises.	E Devlin	MOU signed by CEx	y
<b>ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2014</b>					
AHC/64/2020	Castle Park Seasonal Operations – Public Tender	It was agreed to put on hold the progressing of the Public Tender and entering into a contract with the preferred bidder for the delivery of alternative and enhanced seasonal operations and services at Castle Park in Newcastle.  It was further agreed a report come back to Committee for approval on the next steps of this tender where there is further clarity in terms of COVID-19 restrictions.	P Tamati	Tender process paused due to COVID-19 as per Committee Meeting June 2020	
AHC/57/2020	AHC/053/2020 Lease of Lands at Barcroft Community Centre	Mrs Hillen to forward an update on the Barcroft Community Centre via email to Councillor Casey.	J Hillen		

<b>Report to:</b>	Active and Healthy Communities
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	17 August 2020
<b>Subject:</b>	Notice of Motion Period Poverty
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Eoin Devlin Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Sinead Trainor Senior EHO Health improvement

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-

<b>For decision</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>For noting only</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>
1.1	That the Committee consider and agree to actions as proposed
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues</b>
2.1	<p>The following Notice of Motion was referred to this Committee from the full Council meeting of 3 August 2020</p> <p><b>'That this Council supports the 'Period Poverty' campaign and charities such as the Homeless Period and Red Box Project, the aim of these are to highlight the issue that sanitary products are not affordable for all females.</b></p> <p><b>As an initial step, that this Council looks at the feasibility of the introduction of free sanitary products in all council public conveniences.</b></p> <p><b>We should strive to proactively help efforts to tackle period poverty and be part of bringing about such positive change.</b></p> <p><b>It should be the norm in schools, universities colleges, workplaces, football grounds, concert venues for free access to sanitary product provision.</b></p> <p><b>We as a Council will also write to the to the relevant ministers to ask for an update on the introduction of free sanitary products in schools and education facilities. Currently the North is the only area of the UK where free products are not provided to those in need'</b></p> <p>The Health and Wellbeing department has carried out several initiatives regarding this issue in the last couple of years.</p> <p>In 2019 in partnership with the Southern Health and Social Care Trust and Southern Regional College we participated in a pilot 'Pink Present' initiative in which we asked for donations of sanitary products within three centres across the Southern Trust area which were then available to staff or members of the public who were in need.</p>

	<p>The project was relatively successful regarding the donations received however there was very little demand subsequently. We then gave all the donated products to local foodbanks.</p> <p>We are still working on the Pink Present project with the Southern Trust and a programme of work is in place up to 31 March 2021 including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local newspaper articles to highlight the issue of period poverty and to promote the Pink Present service</li> <li>• SHSCT social media will share information in relation to Pink Present and to promote donations of sanitary products. Video clips and pictures of people donating and the locations of the Pink Present services.</li> <li>• Leaflet and A5 poster produced with Pink Present information sent to all college students, schools and youth centres and social services, school nurses in Trust</li> <li>• Relaunch of Pink Present service – new donation bins/ collection boxes in partnership with local chemists. Photo and PR for local newspapers.</li> <li>• Pink Day at colleges and Youth centres</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
3.1	<p><b>That Committee agree to;</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Write to Department for Education and Department for Economy to ask for an update on the provision of free sanitary products within schools and other Educational facilities</b></li> <li><b>2. That the feasibility of providing free sanitary products within all Council public conveniences is examined and a report brought back to the relevant Council committee</b></li> <li><b>3. Develop a promotional initiative to highlight the area of Period Poverty and continue to work in partnership with the local Health Trusts to promote free provision across all sectors</b></li> <li><b>4. Council continue to participate in the Pink Present project and seek to extend its reach within South Eastern Trust area</b></li> </ol>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	Unknown at present.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b>
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i>

	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><b><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></b></p> <p>Consultation will 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 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	<p><b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b></p>
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	<p><b>Appendices</b></p>
8.0	<p><b>Background Documents</b></p>

<b>Report to:</b>	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	17 August 2020
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Peace IV Local Action Plan</b>
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Janine Hillen, Assistant Director: Community Engagement
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Justyna McCabe, Programme Coordinator

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-

<b>For decision</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>For noting only</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>
1.1	<p>The Peace IV Partnership met on 2 July via Skype and recommendations arising from this meeting require AHC Committee approval.</p> <p>The purpose of the report is to consider and agree to recommendations of the PEACE IV Partnership contained in 2.1 and note the update.</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues</b>
2.1	<p><u>Partnership Agreement/Recruitment of Social Partners</u> The Partnership Agreement has expired on 30 June 2020 and will be extended in line with the approved extension until 31 December 2021. We have asked Partnership members to confirm if they wish to remain on the Partnership for the remaining 18 months. Recruitment of new Social Partners has commenced.</p> <p><u>Election of New Chair and Vice Chair</u> The Chair and Vice Chair were appointed in September 2019. According to the Partnership Agreement, the roles of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson shall be alternated between the Elected members and Social Partners. The new Chair (Social Partner) and Vice Chair (Elected Member) will be elected at the meeting on 10 September 2020.</p> <p><u>Drive-in Cinemas</u> SEUPB have given approval to deliver 7 Drive-in Cinema projects (one in each DEA) under the Shared Spaces Engagement Programme. Delegated authority to procure and appoint providers for the Shared Spaces Engagement Programme was approved at the Partnership meeting in January 2019 and AHC Committee in February 2019. Procurement is in progress.</p> <p><u>Recommendations</u> The following recommendations were agreed by the Partnership on 2 July and require AHC Committee approval:</p> <p>Building Positive Relations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Procure and appoint relevant facilitator to deliver online TV community broadcasts showcasing PEACE IV cross-community activity through Animation Projects and the</li> </ul>

	<p>community response to Covid-19. Estimated cost £20K (programme approved by SEUPB).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procure and appoint relevant facilitator for Irish Language &amp; Ulster Scots Shared Language and Culture Programme. Estimated cost £25k (programme approved by SEUPB).</li> <li>• Shared History Project – Procure and appoint facilitator to deliver a cross-community project on the life and legacy of John Mitchell. Estimated cost £25k (subject to approval from SEUPB).</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
3.1	That the Committee note the update and agree to the recommendations of the PEACE IV Partnership as set out in 2.1.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	No cost to Council. Project 85% funded by the EU and 15% by the two Governments.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b>
5.1	<p><b><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></b></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><b><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></b></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><b><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></b></p> <p>Consultation will 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 <input type="checkbox"/></p>



	Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/> Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Rationale:</i>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b>
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service  Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  If yes, please complete the following:  Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	Minutes of PEACE IV Partnership meeting (March 2020).
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Background Documents</b>
	None

**PEACE IV Partnership Meeting**  
**Council Chamber, Downshire Civic Centre**  
**Thursday 05 March 2020**

**Present:**

Clr Michael Ruane  
 Clr Karen McKeivitt  
 Clr Terry Andrews  
 Clr David Taylor  
 Clr Henry Reilly  
 Paul Yam, Social Partner

**Officers Present:**

Justyna McCabe, NMDDC  
 Theresa McLaverty, NMDDC  
 Sonya Burns, NMDDC  
 Linda McKenna, NMDDC  
 Mike King, NMDDC

**In attendance:**

Julie-Anne Harte, NMDDC

**Apologies noted from:**

Clr Charlie Casey  
 Clr William Walker  
 Clr Patrick Brown  
 Owen McDonnell, NIHE  
 Ruth Allen, SHSCT  
 Ryan Duffy, PSNI  
 Helen Honeyman, Social Partner  
 Breige Jennings, Social Partner  
 Judith Poucher, Social Partner  
 Seamus Camplisson, Social Partner  
 Elaine Carr, NMDDC  
 Martina Flynn, NMDDC

**1. Welcome and apologies**

Clr Michael Ruane chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone.  
 Apologies noted.

**2. Conflict of interest**

None declared.

**3. Minutes from previous meeting 09 January 2020**

Proposed: Clr Karen McKeivitt  
 Seconded: Paul Yam

**4. Management Report**

Presented by Justyna McCabe; recruitment on new social partners needed, Declan Murphy now an elected Councillor and Martin McMullan resigned. Clr Andrews suggested a letter of thanks is sent to both.

**5. Partner Delivery Agent reports**

Theresa McLaverty presented Building Positive Relations report.  
 Theresa asked Councillors encourage participation in OCN Training available.

**Action: Clr McKeivitt asked if training could be held on Fridays if possible. Theresa to put forward to Mediation NI.**

Approval sought for T.7 Shared History & Culture Programme - to procure and appoint facilitators for two Shared History and Culture projects: Newcastle Community History Project and Textiles Project: Exploring 200 years of South Armagh Lace-making. Estimated costs: £6,000 each.

Proposed: Cllr Andrews  
Seconded: Cllr McKeivitt

Justyna McCabe presented Children and Young People report.  
Verbal approval requested for issue of Invitation to Tender re Hands on History Programme 2020.

Proposed: Cllr Andrews  
Seconded: Cllr McKeivitt

Justyna McCabe presented Shared Spaces and Services report.

I10: Warrenpoint Community Garden - provisional costs are 95k, available budget is 40k. New proposal submitted by the community to move location of garden. It is very unlikely that the project will be completed within the available timeframe and budget.

Agreed: To withdraw project I.10 due to time and budget constraints (subject to approval from SEUPB)

Proposed: Paul Yam  
Seconded: Cllr Terry Andrews

There was a discussion regarding the re-allocation of funds and it was agreed that money should remain in Crotlieve.

Agreed: To re-allocate budget from project I.10 to a capital project in the same DEA (subject to approval from SEUPB).

Proposed: Cllr Ruane  
Seconded Cllr McKeivitt

## **6. Presentation from Down County Museum on Shared History and Culture Projects**

Presentation given by Linda McKenna and Mike King.

## **7. Date of next meeting**

07 May 2020, Boardroom, Monaghan Row.

<b>Report to:</b>	Active and Healthy Communities
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	17 August 2020
<b>Subject:</b>	Financial Assistance
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Janine Hillen Assistant Director
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Sonya Burns – Head of Programmes Ciara Burns – Project Coordinator

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-

<b>For decision</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>For noting only</b>	
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<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>
<b>1.1</b>	<p><b>Financial Assistance - 2019-2020</b> Given the lockdown period was during year end many groups had not submitted their final claims. To assist them we have provided an extension for submission of claims up to the end of September. We will not be able to process claims beyond this point to ensure we have the process finalised in time for the end of year accounts. Continuous reminders are being issued to groups to ensure they are aware of the deadline.</p> <p><b>Call 1 2020/2021</b> In November 2019 there was a call for applications across 10 themes for the period 2020/2021. Letters of offer were issued in March 2020 just prior to lockdown. Given the ongoing COVID guidelines groups have been contacted to ascertain if they are proceeding, decommitting or amending their allocation. An update will be provided to committee in September as to the outcome of this exercise.</p> <p><b>Call 2 2020/2021</b> In June 2020 through the Electronic Grant Management System a call for applications was issued for the following themes:  <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. COVID response and recovery</li> <li>2. Good Relations</li> <li>3. PCSP</li> <li>4. Suicide Prevention</li> </ol> An update on this call is attached in Appendix 1, which is a summary of what has been issued to date. The call will continue on a rolling basis until the funding is expended or the end of September. The funding is expended for COVID Response and Recovery and PCSP with Good Relations and Suicide Prevention both remaining open at present.</p> <p><b>Call 3 2020/2021</b> The following themes will be the third financial assistance call this year:  <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tourism Events</li> <li>2. Community Capital / Minor Works</li> <li>3. Sports Capital / Minor Works</li> <li>4. Sports Minor Capital Items</li> </ol> </p>

5. Christmas Illuminations
6. COVID Response and Recovery (subject to Letter of Variance)

The following timeframe is recommended:

- Call open September 8th 2020 (4 days before Call in)
- Call Closed 30th September 2020 for Christmas, Tourism Events, COVID Response & Recovery and Sport Minor Capital Items
- Call Closed 15th October 2020 for Capital/Minor Grants

Several issues/recommendations have been noted in relation to the Capital and Minor Works Financial Assistance themes, including:

1. A recommendation of the Efficiencies working group (on 17th January 2020) was that the Maximum level of funding for each applicant should be £50,000. (A reduction in the upper threshold from £100,000 to £50,000 has been noted. In the most recent Call, only 2 applications were received in Community Capital in comparison to Minor Works Schemes with a threshold of £10,000-30,000, which received 10 applications).
2. A further recommendation of the Efficiencies working group (on 17th January 2020) that the new total budgets for Capital should be:  
**Community Capital Build FA £275,000**  
**Sports Capital FA £250,000**
3. Projects applying to Capital and Minor works are having difficulty, we noted in Call 1 2020 no applicants progressed to Letter of Offer.
4. Perception that applications are being received from the same organisation on an annual or bi-annual basis. In some cases, the same organisation has received multiple Capital and Minor Works awards (as outlined in the report provided). The Efficiencies Working group held on 17th January 2020 also noted this and recommended a '3 year' application bar.

In response, several considerations are outlined below:

1. As the amount available (total budget) is reduced and in response to the Efficiency groups recommendations, Capital funding threshold levels to be revised for both Sports and Community, to include:
  - a. **Minor Sports Capital items** – Threshold max of 5,000, 100% funded by Council.
  - b. **Minor Works** – Thresholds between £7,500 - £37,500, 75% match funded by Council (project total value between £10,000 - £50,000)
  - c. **Capital Works** – Thresholds between £25,000 - £50,000, 50% match funded by Council (project total (Minimum) value between £50,000 - £100,000)
2. Council to consider implementing a veto on all organisations that have already or are successful in receiving funding under the Capital and/or Minor Works themes (Sports and Community). This veto would prohibit any organisation applying under the above themes for a 3-year period.

	<p><b>Legacy Christmas</b></p> <p>Legacy Newry and Mourne Council delivered Christmas payments to support Community Voluntary sector organisations to deliver Christmas events. The organisations were allocated funds annually and did not need to apply. This process was carried forward by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to ensure continued support and delivery of service to these groups during the transition of RPA. In 2019 £6,550 was awarded to 15 organisations across Legacy Newry and Mourne District Council area through the Christmas Legacy Payments. Due to the equality implications of this approach it is recommended that this is a transition year where groups will receive their award with a notification that this is the final year and in future they will have to apply to the Christmas Illuminations theme under Financial Assistance.</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues</b>
2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Processing claims for the previous financial year was delayed due to COVID which has a resource implication on this year.</li> <li>Due to the late nature of the Capital schemes being advertised it would be unrealistic for groups to complete the projects by the end of March 2021.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To agree Financial Assistance Call three themes and timeframe.</li> <li>To agree the proposed revised thresholds for Capital, Minor Works and Minor Capital items funding</li> <li>Consider implementing a bar on all organisations that have already or are successful in receiving funding under the Capital and/or Minor Works themes (Sports and Community). This bar would prohibit any organisation applying under the above themes for a 3-year period.</li> <li>Extend Letters of Offer for the Capital programmes into 2021-2022 to ensure groups have a realistic timeframe to complete.</li> <li>To update Financial Assistance Policy to include recommendations.</li> <li>To contact groups currently in receipt of Legacy Christmas payments to advise of changes to the scheme as detailed in section 1.2</li> </ul>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	The Financial Assistance process will be managed from existing resources within the Programmes Unit and Letters of Offer from agreed budgets.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b>
5.1	<p><b><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></b></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<b><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></b>

	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><b><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></b></p> <p>Consultation will 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 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	<p><b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b></p>
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	<p><b>Appendices</b></p> <p>Call 2 update report</p>
8.0	<p><b>Background Documents</b></p> <p>Multiple Capital Applications Analysis Capital Spend Analysis</p>

**Covid Fund Total Budget £38,250**

Amount awarded £37,814.97

41 applications received, 29 recommended for funding and 12 Not recommended for funding

Application ID	Project	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
44	Food parcels and shelving	£1,500	£1,500
47	PPE for food and pharmacy deliveries and social contact.	£1,500	£1,500
60	Food parcels	£1,500	£1,500
70	Food parcels and oil and electric top ups	£1,500	£1,500
72	Food parcels and volunteer expenses	£1,500	£1,500
74	PPE, food parcels and oil/ electric top ups and volunteer expenses	£1,500	£1,500
79	PPE for vulnerable residents	£1,377	£1,377
83	PPE/Equipment/Training for volunteers to facilitate community radio	£1,500	£1,500
105	PPE, food parcels and oil and electric top ups	£1,500	£1,500
107	PPE, food parcels and oil and electric top ups	£1,560	£1,500
121	PPE to facilitate social contact	£1,210	£1,210
136	food vouchers, vouchers/top ups for utility bills and the purchase of hygiene & sanitary products	£750	£750
142	food vouchers, vouchers/top ups for utility bills and the purchase of hygiene & sanitary products	£1,500	£1,500
45	Food, toiletries, activity packs and expenses	£1,500	£1,300
109	Food vouchers	£1,500	£1,500
124	Food parcels, PPE, utility top, ups, volunteer expenses	£1,500	£1,500
149	Hot meal delivery and PPE	£1,500	£1,500
157	Food vouchers and utility top ups	£1,500	£1,500
180	Hot meal deliveries	£1,442	£1,442
68	Meals on wheels, community kitchen	£1,434.97	£1,434.97
135	Community bakery project – social isolation	£780	£780
167	PPE	£1,500	£721
212	Sports equipment to avoid cross contamination	£900	£900
178	Hot meal delivery and newsletter	£1,500	£1,500
224	Sanitisation equipment	£1,022	£1,022
230	Sanitisation equipment	£1,200	£1,200
240	Sanitisation equipment	£1,098	£1,098
250	IT equipment for connectivity	£1,080	£1,080



202	Food vouchers and top ups	£1,000	£1,000
			<b>£37,814.97</b>

### 12 not recommended for funding

Application ID	Project	Amount Requested
71	Staff costs	£1,500
94	Loss of rental income	£5,328
103	Water bill and equipment for when schools open	£1,500
134	Staff salaries and equipment	£1,500
139	Fruit and vegetables	£6,000
143	Workshops for over 50's	£1950
168	Mindfulness residential	£1,500
185	Gardening, reading, forest visits	£1,100
210	PPE	£750
242	Food vouchers and top ups (insufficient funds)	£1,000
254	PPE (insufficient funds)	£700
245	PPE (insufficient funds)	£1,500

- **PCSP Total Budget £83,990**

Amount awarded to date £55,359.87

36 applications received, 35 recommended for funding and 1 not recommended for funding

Application ID	Project	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
50	Equipment for diversionary activities/ social contact for young people.	£2,000	£1,500
93	Virtual 11th Bonfire created using spot-lights	£2,000	£2,000
116	gardens calls/outdoor safe place visits for Victims of Sexual Violence	£750	£750
148	photography competition designed to provide activity to promote good mental health and wellbeing	£2,000	£2,000
118	Social engagement for young people	£1,500	£1,500
158	Halloween residential and workshops	£2,000	£2,000
163	Community engagement activities and	£2,000	£2,000

	safety workshops		
172	preparation meetings / workshops for youth event over the Halloween	£2,000	£2,000
173	Domestic violence specialised support sessions and networking sessions	£2,000	£2,000
177	exercise and games	£1,120	£1,120
181	12 July celebration	£1,500	£1,200
113	Diverse and inclusive sporting sessions	£2,000	£1,310
227	Support groups trauma or bereavement due to road traffic collisions.	£1,965	£1,965
46	Telephone counselling	£1,500	£1,500
237	Workshops and events to prevent, reduce and address anti social behaviour over Halloween period	£2,000	£2,000
101	Events to reduce ASB	£1,250	£1,250
211	IT equipment	£500	£500
238	Workshops and events to prevent, reduce and address anti social behaviour over Halloween period	£2,000	£2,000
257	events to prevent, reduce and address anti social behaviour over Halloween period and home safety packs	£2,000	£2,000
156	Connectivity and keep safe packages	£1,452.92	£1,452.92
215	Sports programme to reduce anti-social behaviour drugs and alcohol in the area	£1,790.00	£1,790.00
261	Lads & Dads Day and Women's Self Awareness Day - mental health and well-being	£1,995.00	£1,995.00
265	open-air cinema for young people	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
272	Benches and sporting equipment to allow intergeneration engagement	£2,000.00	£2,000.00
286	Antisocial behaviour diversionary Virtual reality workshops	£1,741.95	£1,691.95
297	10-week youth engagement intervention programme	£1,870.00	£1,870.00
299	Halloween diversionary activity for young people	£700.00	£700.00
301	Go-carting diversionary activity for young people	£430.00	£430.00
51	diversionary activity workshops	£2,000	£2,000
150	PPE	£1,440	£1,440
305	detached youth work	£2,000	£2,000
312	Irish language and culture classes	£1,100	£1,100
313	early intervention programme for young people	£1,500	£1,400
330	Friday night football league for ages 14-15.	£1,900	£1,900

335	Guided walking to promotion of positive wellbeing and reduce isolation and loneliness	£1,995	£1,995
			<b>£55,359.87</b>

Not recommended for Funding

Application ID		Amount Requested
283	Vouchers	£1,500.00

- **Good Relations Total Budget £27,000**

Amount awarded £27,650

26 applications received, 21 recommended for funding and 5 not recommended for funding

Application ID		Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
58	provision of sporting activities in a safe environment	£800	£800
87	Cross community craft activities/ workshops	£1,460	£1,460
97	Ulster-Scots musical and dance performances at different venues	£1,500	£1,500
164	Facilitated Engagement project – arts and crafts, activity packs	£1,500	£1,500
179	Cultural (music and poetry) get-together live streamed	£1,200	£1,200
184	Educational Good Relations videos	£960	£960
187	Cultural event and panel discussion	£850	£850
231	Rehearsal and production of panto	£1,500	£1,500
126	Facilitated Engagement project – arts and crafts, activity packs	£1,500	£1,500
259	Multi-cultural Christmas event and workshops	£1,460	£1,460
260	Outdoor cinema events	£880	£800
244	12 week young people programme "Our town – multicultural Downpatrick",	£1,500	£1,500
266	Multi-Cultural Community Day	£1,500	£1,500
268	Dance workshops and leaflet production	£1,500	£1,500
277	Living history exhibition	£1,500	£1,500
279	History and heritage exhibition	£1,500	£1,500
285	Choral tuition and concert	£1,460	£1,460
303	Integration and support programme for Syrian and Bulgarian families.	£1,500	£1,500
308	"Music of Healing" event	£1,400	£1,400
311	Gaelic language classes and cultural activities	£1,100	£1,100

316	cross community Halloween event	£1,160	£1,160
			<b>£27,650.00</b>

#### Not recommended for funding

Application ID	Project	Amount Requested
153	Choir practice	£1,500
220	Primary school education events	£2,000.00
270	School PPE	£1,148.34
275	School PPE	£1,492.00
304	young people to engage positively in a social context to increase understanding of cultures and backgrounds – group already successful under this theme	£1,500

- **Suicide Prevention Total Budget £10,000**

Amount awarded to date £5,700

6 applications received, 6 recommended for funding.

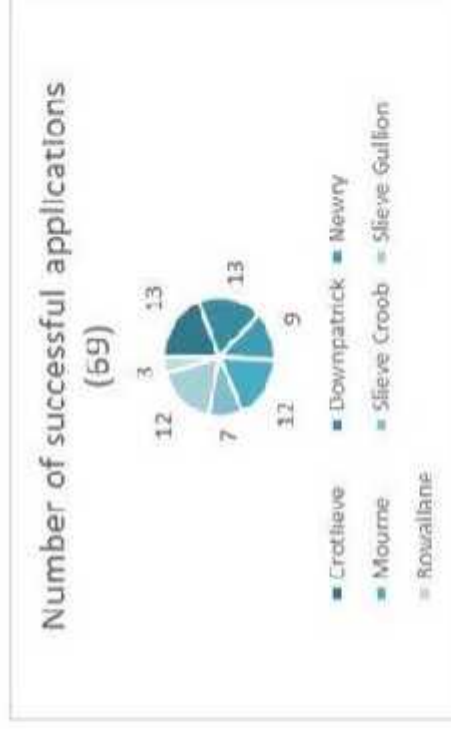
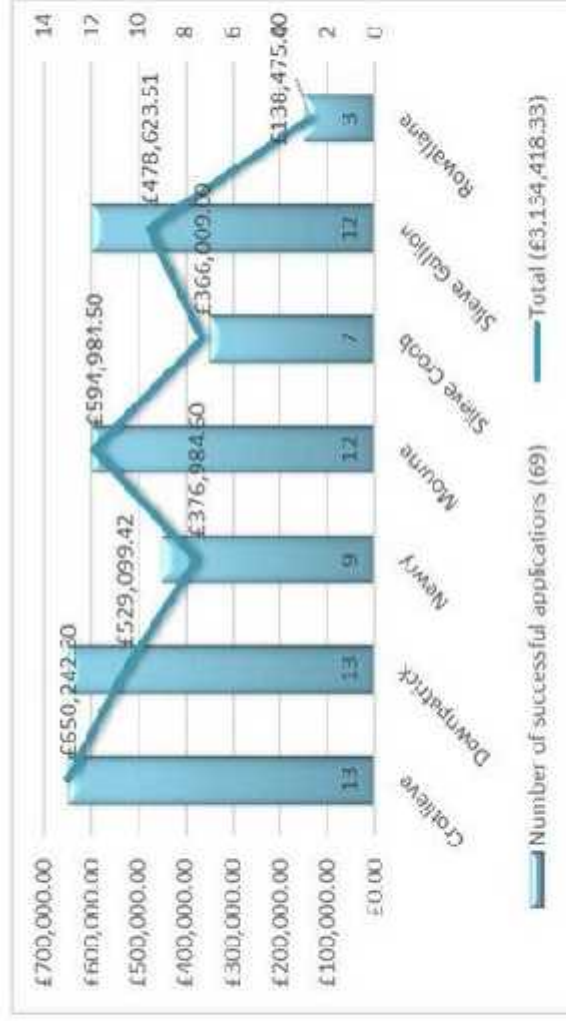
Application ID		Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
59	Counselling provision.	£1,000	£1,000
102	Emotional Wellbeing particularly in male young people, through theatre activities for 8 to 15 years old.	£1,000	£900
114	training for staff and volunteers in Mental Health First Aid and ASIST	£2,000	£1,000
115	therapeutic intervention and peer-based supports to young people feeling suicidal	£1,000	£1,000
174	Educational videos	£960	£800
258	Mental Health resource packs	£1,000	£1,000
			<b>£5,700.00</b>

### Community and Sports Capital data 2015 – 2020 (current)

Total amount awarded: £3,134,418.33

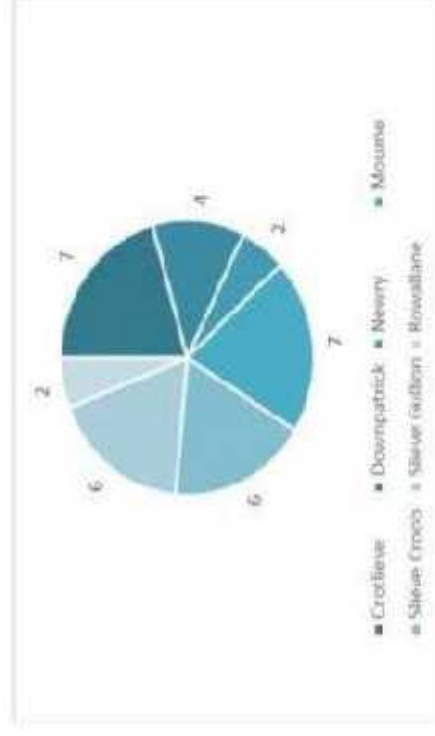
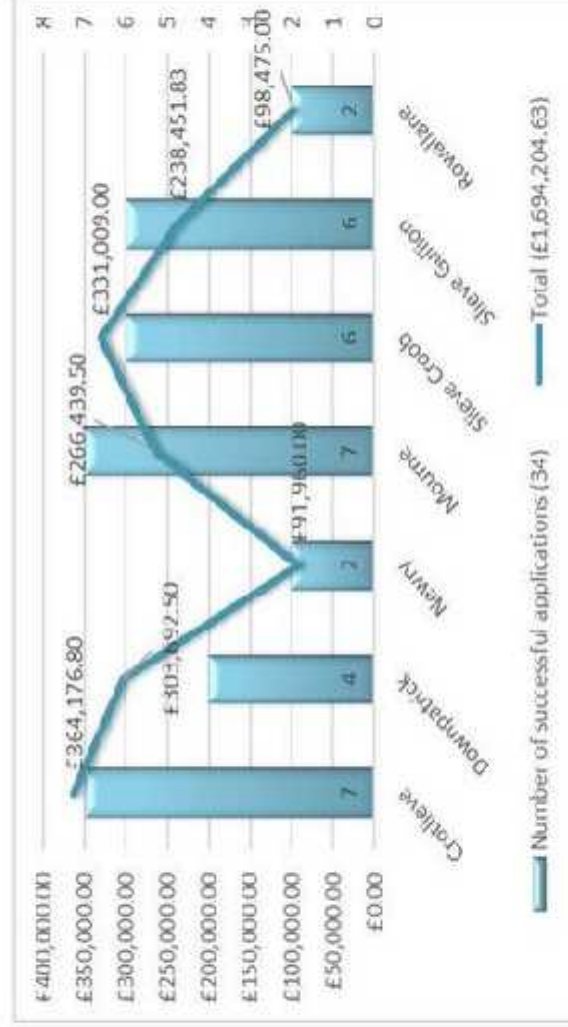
Total amount claimed to date: £2,017,183.01

DEA	Crotlieve	Downpatrick	Newry	Mourne	Slieve Croob	Slieve Gullion	Rowallane
Number of successful applications (59)	13	13	9	12	7	12	3
Amount awarded Total (£3,134,418.33)	£550,242.30	£529,099.42	£376,984.60	£594,984.50	£366,009.00	£478,623.51	£138,475.00



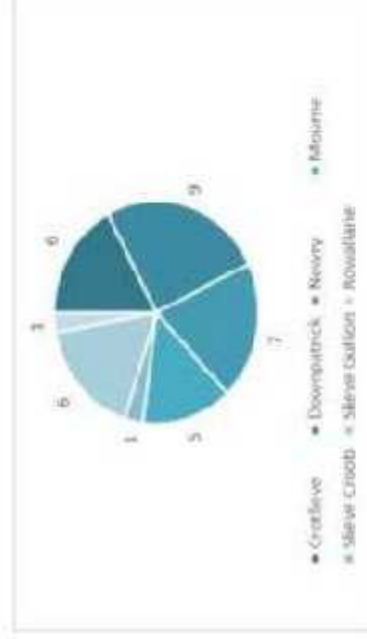
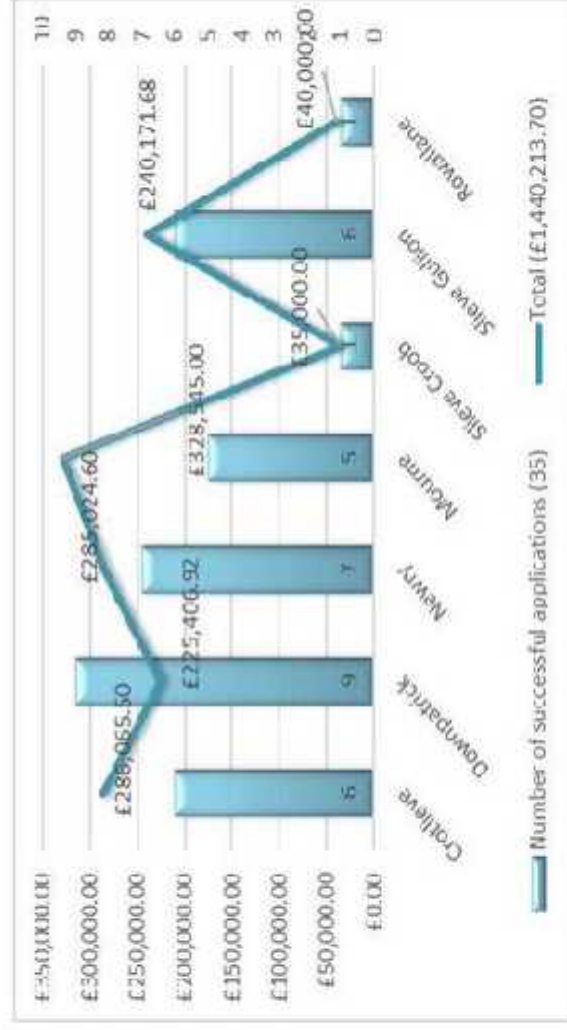
### Sports Capital data 2015 – current

DEA	Crotlieve	Downpatrick	Newry	Mourne	Slieve Croob	Slieve Gullion	Rowallane
Number of successful applications (34)	7	4	2	7	6	6	2
Amount awarded Total (£1,694,204.63)	£364,176.80	£303,692.50	£91,960.00	£266,439.50	£331,009.00	£238,451.83	£98,475.00



### Community Capital data 2015 – current

DFA	Crotlieve	Downpatrick	Newry	Mourne	Slieve Croob	Slieve Gullion	Rowallane
Number of successful applications (35)	6	9	7	5	1	5	1
Amount awarded Total (£1,440,213.70)	£286,065.50	£225,406.92	£285,024.60	£328,545.00	£35,000.00	£240,171.58	£40,000.00



Thresholds		Number of applicants received	Number of applicants passed & awarded	Amount awarded	Success rate
Capital 2015/16	£100,000	30	8	£345,983.00	26.6%
Capital 2016/17	£50,000	29	8	£316,137.83	27.5%
Community Capital 2017/18	£100,000	19	9	£534,045.60	47%
Sports Capital 2017/18	£100,000	23	9	£445,947.00	39%
Community Capital 2018/19	£100,000	13	5	£304,941.68	38.5%
Sports Capital 2018/19	£100,000	15	7	£569,057.50	46.6%
Minor Capital Works 2018/19	£30,000	23	8	£126,213.22	34.5%
Community Capital 2019/20	£100,000	16	4	£157,300.00	25%
Sports Capital 2019/20	£100,000	15	6	£249,375.00	40%
Minor Capital Works 2019/20	£30,000	20	5	£85,417.50	25%
<b>Total</b>		<b>203</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>£3,134,418.33</b>	<b>34%</b>



### Financial Assistance Capital applications by Applicant

A total of 69 applications have been awarded £3,134,418.33 under the following capital themes from 2015 to present – Community, sports and Minor Works.

Out of the 53 applications (groups) that were awarded, 11 applicants have been awarded funding on more than one occasion:

42 applicants have been successfully awarded on one occasion.

6 applicants have been successfully awarded on two occasions.

5 applicants have been successfully awarded on three occasions.

Applicant	Number of successful applicants	Amount awarded
A	2	£54,840.00
B	3	£126,599.00
C	2	£200,000.00
D	2	£122,859.00
E	3	£211,109.50
F	3	£219,200.00
G	2	£94,925.00
H	2	£40,921.50
I	2	£108,501.00
J	3	£61,990.00
K	3	£153,966.30

Broken down by applicants and themes:

#### Community Capital

24 successful applicants were awarded £1,262,534.28

There were no multiple successful applicants.

#### Minor Works

13 successful applicants were awarded £211,630.72

There were no multiple successful applicants.

#### Sports Capital

32 successful applicants were awarded £1,660,253.33

16 applicants have been successfully awarded on one occasion.

5 applicants have been successfully awarded on two occasions.

2 applicants have been successfully awarded on three occasions.

Applicant	Number of successful applicants	Total amount awarded
A	2	£54,840.00
B	3	£126,599.00

E	2	£113,565.50
F	3	£219,200.00
H	2	£40,921.50
J	3	£50,275.00
K	2	£131,730.00

<b>Report to:</b>	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	17 August 2020
<b>Subject:</b>	Lisnacree Lease Renewal
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Janine Hillen (Assistant Director Community Engagement)
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Julie McCann (Head of Community Services, Facilities & Events)

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-

<b>For decision</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>For noting only</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>
1.1	<p><b>To consider and agree to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Contribute the amount of £500 per annum to compensate the Parish for the use of the lands and to cover the legal fees associated with the renewal of the ten-year lease for Lisnacree Community Centre.</b></li> </ul>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues</b>
2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In Feb 2018, NMDDC agreed; <i>"Officers to initiate discussions to progress the development of new lease agreements for community centres located at Mullaghbawn, Barnmeen and Lisnacree – subject to completion of legal agreements, acceptable to all parties".</i></li> <li>The Council currently pays 5p (if demanded) for the site which Lisnacree Community centre is located. The Lease relating to the Community Centre was drafted by Council and sent to the Parish Solicitors. Following a query from the Parish, Council decided not to purchase the land but to extend the lease for further ten year period.</li> <li>The Parish have since contacted the Council asking if they would be willing to contribute the annual amount of £500 per annum to cover costs associated with the use of the lands and legal fees.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
3.1	<b>That the Committee agree to contribute the annual amount of £500 per annum to compensate the Parish for the use of the lands and to cover the legal fees associated with the renewal of the ten-year lease.</b>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>

4.1	<p><b>Revenue:</b> £500 per year for ten years and legal fees</p> <p><b>Capital:</b> £0</p>
5.0	<p><b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b></p>
5.1	<p><b><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></b></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><b><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></b></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><b><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></b></p> <p>Consultation will 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 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	<p><b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b></p>
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p>

	Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>	
	None	
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Background Documents</b>	
	None.	

<b>Report to:</b>	Active & Healthy Communities
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> August 2020
<b>Subject:</b>	Community Asset Transfer (CAT)
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Janine Hiller, Assistant Director: Community Engagement
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Janine Hiller, Assistant Director: Community Engagement

	<b>For decision</b>	<b>For noting only</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>		
1.1	<p>Council officers met recently (July 2020) with representatives from MyMy charity (Newcastle) and staff from Development Trust NI (DTNI).</p> <p>The meeting was primarily to discuss a potential Community Asset Transfer (CAT) for the development of a Personal and Family Wellbeing Centre at the Ardnabannon OEC site in Castlewellan.</p> <p>A letter of support was issued to form part of a compulsory Expression of Interest exercise (Appendix 1).</p>		
1.2	<p>The development of a policy framework by DSD (Appendix 2) to support Community Asset Transfer in Northern Ireland fulfils a number of Government commitments.</p> <p>Community Asset Transfer is a change in management and / or ownership of land or buildings, from public bodies to communities,</p> <p><i>Community Asset Transfer should be recognised as a flexible tool with a broad range of applications, depending on the imagination and ambition of those involved. It represents a means of investing in regeneration and positive social, economic and environmental outcomes which can be used to support Executive priorities.'</i></p> <p><b>Benefits to the Community</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It can improve neighbourhood-based service provision, increasing accessibility for local people, which is particularly important in rural areas;</li> <li>➤ It can bring a sense of community identity and pride and the potential for increased community cohesion;</li> <li>➤ It can lead to additional jobs, training and business opportunities;</li> <li>➤ It can contribute to physical regeneration; and</li> <li>➤ It can bring increased confidence, skills and aspirations locally.</li> </ul>		
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues</b>		

<p>2.1</p>	<p>Council have been asked to act as a Sponsoring Body throughout any subsequent process with MyMy, DTNI and SEELB. Full guidance on Councils role (subject to approval) has been provided in Appendix 3.</p> <p>In summary;</p> <p><i>The sponsor body role is to confirm existence of compulsory purchase powers for the intended purpose to allow the transfer to take place, as required under the Stormont Regulation and Government Property Act (NI) 1933.</i></p> <p><b>Acting as sponsor body, when not the asset owner, confers no future liability for the asset or the services run from it, nor responsibility for issues such as clawback.</b></p> <p><i>There may be instances where it is desirable for the sponsor to play an enhanced role, but this would be subject to agreement between the asset owner and sponsor.</i></p>
<p><b>3.0</b></p>	<p><b>Recommendations</b></p>
<p>3.1</p>	<p>➤ To consider and agree to act as a Sponsoring Body for the potential development of a Personal and Family Wellbeing Centre at the Ardnabannon OEC site, Castlewellan.</p>
<p><b>4.0</b></p>	<p><b>Resource implications</b></p> <p>Officer Time</p>
<p><b>5.0</b></p>	<p><b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b></p>
<p>5.1</p>	<p><b>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</b></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>5.2</p>	<p><b>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</b></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>

5.3	<p><b><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></b></p> <p>Consultation will 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 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	<p><b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b></p>
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If no, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	<p><b>Appendices</b></p>
	<p>Appendix 1: CAT Letter of Support  Appendix 2: CAT Policy Framework  Appendix 3: CAT Guidance for Asset Owners</p>
8.0	<p><b>Background Documents</b></p>
	<p>None</p>



**Marie Ward**  
Chief Executive



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

21<sup>st</sup> July 2020

Via Email  
Kathleen Smyth  
Development Trust NI  
[kathleen.smyth@dtni.org.uk](mailto:kathleen.smyth@dtni.org.uk)

Dear Kathleen,

Thank you for your email dated 11 July 2020 the contents of which have been noted.

I confirm that Council is supportive of MYMY's project to develop a Personal and Family Wellbeing Centre at the Ardnabannon OEC site and the existence of compulsory purchase powers for the intended purpose to allow a transfer to take place.

MYMY's request for Council to act as the sponsoring body will be considered by Council at its meeting in September 2020 and at after which I will be in a position to formally confirm Council's position.

In the interim I trust this letter will suffice in enabling you to accept MYMY's Expression of Interest Questionnaire at this stage of the Community Asset Transfer Process.

Yours sincerely

**Michael Lipsett**  
Director of Active & Healthy Communities  
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council





# Community Asset Transfer in Northern Ireland

*Enabling and Supporting Community Ownership and Management of Public Assets*



**Urban Regeneration and Community Development Group**  
**Department for Social Development**

May 2014

## MINISTERIAL FOREWORD

The development of a new policy framework to support Community Asset Transfer in Northern Ireland fulfils a number of Government commitments. It supports the Executive's commitment in the Programme for Government (2011-2015) to "invest in social enterprise growth to increase sustainability in the broad community sector". This work also supports the Concordat between the Voluntary and Community Sector and the Government which contains a commitment to investigate the potential for community asset management and ownership in Northern Ireland.

The framework will also contribute to delivery of other Executive priorities including the Economic Strategy and the Delivering Social Change programme. The need for economic development and new social policy initiatives are clearly linked and Community Asset Transfer will provide regeneration opportunities, new service delivery potential and local job creation.

Following extensive public consultation and discussions with key stakeholders across the public sector, I am now pleased to bring forward firm proposals for implementation of this policy framework. It presents an exciting agenda for change and real opportunities for people to make positive changes within their communities. Community Asset Transfer can be a real catalyst to stimulate regeneration and greater community cohesion across Northern Ireland. This policy framework sets out how Government can support community ownership and management of public sector assets and empower local communities.

The document includes some case studies, both local and from other parts of the UK, which demonstrate that successful asset transfer can bring real social, environmental and economic benefits to communities. It can also lead to wider regeneration and bring associated benefits in health, education and community well-being.

My Department will continue to work closely with Development Trusts NI and other stakeholders to test and implement this policy framework. A number of demonstration projects have been identified for this purpose and I look forward to hearing of their progress.



**Nelson McCausland MLA**

**Minister for Social Development**

**Community Asset Transfer in Northern Ireland - Enabling and supporting  
Community Ownership and Management of Public Assets**

**Contents**

- 1. Introduction ..... 3
- 2. The Benefits of Community Asset Transfer ..... 5
- 3. Strategic context – opportunities to support Community Asset Transfer..... 7
- 4. Creating an enabling environment for Community Asset Transfer ..... 11
- 5. Conditions (Ground Rules) ..... 12
- 6. Current Barriers to implementation of Community Asset Transfer ..... 14
- 7. Information/awareness ..... 16
- 8. Public Sector Asset Management ..... 17
- 9. Skills Development..... 19
- 10. Funding ..... 20
- 11. Community Right to Bid/Right to Buy ..... 22
- 12. Impact Assessments..... 24
- 13. Next Steps ..... 24
- Annex A: Development Trusts Northern Ireland (DTNI) ..... 25
- Annex B: References ..... 26
- Annex C: Case Studies ..... 32

## 1. Introduction

Community Asset Transfer is a change in management and / or ownership of land or buildings, from public bodies to communities. "Community" ownership and management of public assets encompasses a range of third sector organisations e.g. voluntary and community sector groups, faith-based organisations, community enterprises and social enterprises. Throughout this document the term 'third sector organisation' is used in this broad sense.

Community Asset Transfer should be understood as a spectrum which ranges from management agreements and leases of varying duration through to full ownership. Not all third sector organisations will aspire to full ownership of assets although for many this will be the preferred option. Shorter leases, including 'meanwhile' leases can be useful for managing risk and building capacity and may be a stepping stone to longer term arrangements.

Community Asset Transfer should be recognised as a flexible tool with a broad range of applications, depending on the imagination and ambition of those involved. It represents a means of investing in regeneration and positive social, economic and environmental outcomes which can be used to support Executive priorities. This policy framework will facilitate community ownership or management of surplus public sector assets as a mainstream option as part of the normal disposal process. It will not always be the preferred option and disposal at full market value will still apply in many cases.

A number of public sector organisations in Northern Ireland already have some experience of transferring assets to community partners. Up until now however there has been no coherent policy context to support the process and inform decision making. This policy framework will address this gap and will create a more enabling environment for Community Asset Transfer in Northern Ireland.

In introducing this policy framework it is recognised that transfers will work best where there are positive working relationships between the asset holder and the organisation to which it is transferred. The transfer has to be beneficial to both parties and carried out in a spirit of partnership. We have the advantage of being able to learn from how asset transfer has worked and is working in other regions of the UK. We also need to take account of the different arrangements in Northern Ireland, but the underlying principles remain valid. It is helpful to look at case studies and

so we have included a number of these at Annex C. The case studies highlight many of the issues that arise during the asset transfer process.

It is important to note that a decision by a public body to dispose of an asset at less than market value carries an opportunity cost, that is, while there will be benefits of a non-monetary nature delivered by the transfer, there will be a corresponding gap in public finances that will not be available for investment in other public services. That will be an important consideration in any transfer and for that reason the associated business case will be assessed with the same rigour as for a capital grant.

It should also be emphasised that, in many cases, disposal at full market value will continue to be the preferred option for asset owners. The policy framework will, however, ensure that Community Asset Transfer is a mainstream option as part of the disposal process.

## 2. The Benefits of Community Asset Transfer

There is evidence to show that, in the right circumstances, community ownership and control of assets produces a range of benefits. Community Asset Transfer can bring benefits to both parties involved in the transfer and should also bring benefit to the wider community which an asset can be used to serve. Research shows that the benefits include:

### *Benefits to the Community*

- It can improve neighbourhood-based service provision, increasing accessibility for local people, which is particularly important in rural areas;
- It can bring a sense of community identity and pride and the potential for increased community cohesion;
- It can lead to additional jobs, training and business opportunities;
- It can contribute to physical regeneration; and
- It can bring increased confidence, skills and aspirations locally.

### *Benefits to the public sector*

- It can lead to more efficient use of public sector assets – community organisations often make extensive use of volunteers and their local knowledge and hands-on management of the asset can result in lower overheads and better value-for-money, as well as a more intensive use of the asset;
- It can enable community organisations to support public service provision in ways that are more responsive and better related to local need; and
- It can enable effective partnerships between the public sector and the third sector to enhance local services.

### *Benefits to the Third Sector*

- It can lead to increased sustainability for organisations and improved leverage with external agencies - an asset can provide a community organisation with greater financial viability and reduce its dependency on grants;



- It can enable a community organisation to apply for external funding that is not available to a public authority, or even to secure loan finance on the value of the asset; and
- It can facilitate collaboration and resource sharing amongst organisations.

### 3. Strategic context – opportunities to support Community Asset Transfer

Community Asset Transfer is one of a number of tools that aim to support the Third Sector and assist organisations move towards sustainability. This section explains the wider context within which this policy framework is set.

#### *UK Policy Context*

Community Asset Transfer is well supported by policy, legislation and funding elsewhere in the UK. The idea is central to the Scottish Government's Community Empowerment agenda and to the Coalition Government's Localism Agenda and the concept of the 'Big Society'. It is also being actively promoted by the Welsh Assembly Government as a means of enhancing community capacity and supporting social enterprise.

In developing this policy framework for Northern Ireland we have taken account of policy and practice elsewhere and the increasing body of research and guidance available to support Community Asset Transfer (see [Annex B](#)). The opportunity has been taken to build on and learn from experience of others and to draw on case study examples and the skills and professional networks which have been built up.

#### *NI Policy Context*

The Community Asset Transfer policy framework is complementary to a range of other current Executive priorities to promote economic growth and tackle poverty. The Economic Strategy and the Delivering Social Change Programme are intended to stimulate economic growth and tackle underlying causes of poverty and social disadvantage across Northern Ireland.

Community Asset Transfer will provide regeneration opportunities and enable Third Sector organisations to increase service delivery potential and provide new employment within local communities. This links with the Department for Social Development's wider objective to 'support social economy growth' within the wider voluntary and community sector and with the recently established Social Economy Incubation Hubs.

The Urban Regeneration and Community Development Framework sets out the strategic direction for this work over the coming years and following transfer of powers to the new district Councils. It provides an enabling framework which will encourage:

- A more targeted anti-poverty approach by better addressing the underlying causes of spatial deprivation and exclusion;
- A stronger emphasis on the outcomes to be achieved from urban regeneration and community development initiatives and how these can change neighbourhoods; and
- Maximising the limited resources available to develop more sustainable forms of urban regeneration and community renewal.

#### *Public Sector Asset Management in Northern Ireland*

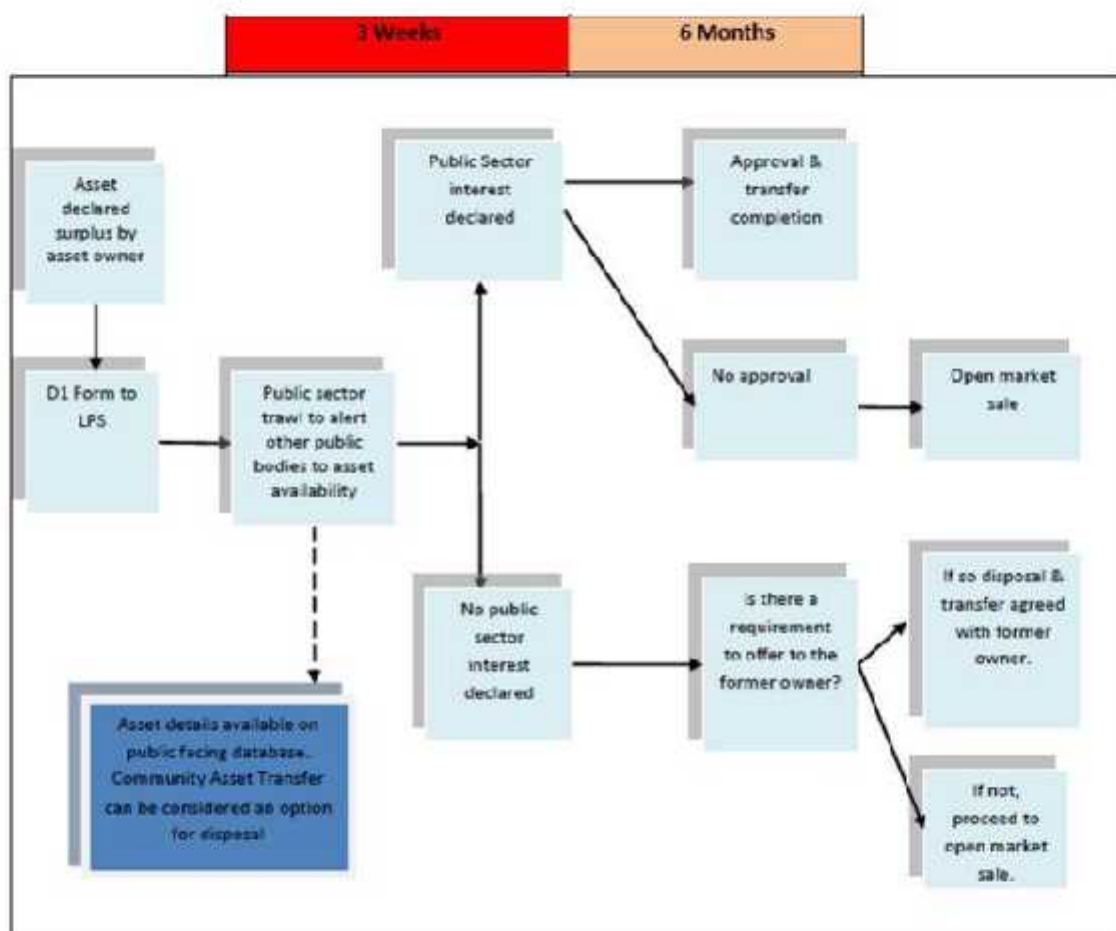
The Executive has established a small Asset Management Unit (AMU) who are working with every department and until June 2013 reported progress to the Budget Review Group. In January 2011, the Executive tasked the AMU with developing and delivering:

- a region-wide Asset Management Strategy;
- departmental Asset Management Plans updated annually; and
- ePIMS as a central asset database.

In addition the AMU was tasked with helping departments to deliver a programme of asset disposals. All of the tasks set by the Executive are being delivered and in June 2013, the Executive approved the region-wide Asset Management Strategy. The AMU is now working with departments to deliver the recommendations of the Strategy.

We have been working closely with the AMU both in the development of the Asset Management Strategy and in the implementation of recommendations to ensure that policy on Community Asset Transfer is reflected appropriately. One of the key objectives for the AMU is to identify savings opportunities from the running cost of assets and as a by product deliver additional capital income for the Executive by identifying and disposing of assets that are deemed to be surplus. An overview of the disposal process is illustrated below including indicative timescales for the process and the point at which Community Asset Transfer can be considered as an option for disposal. It should be noted that consideration of Community Asset Transfer as an option at the public sector trawl stage does not imply a preference for disposal and all cases will be assessed by the asset owner in accordance with disposal procedures. It is in the context of the disposal process outlined that

Community Asset Transfer will need to be considered. As part of its role, the AMU is creating a central asset database. The information held on this database will help to facilitate the implementation of Community Asset Transfer by enabling access to information on surplus public assets. In addition to the work of the AMU on behalf of the Executive, there is a keen focus on asset management within local government in advance of the implementation of local government reform and the creation of new councils in 2015.



### Social Enterprise Agenda

The Northern Ireland Economic Strategy acknowledges the contribution that social enterprise can make to achieving business growth, supporting economic development and tackling disadvantage. The Strategy contains a commitment to support 160 new social economy start-ups and invest in social enterprise growth.

Social Enterprise NI is a newly established consortium of social enterprises and social entrepreneurs which aims to provide a “central meeting place where the sector can collaborate, share knowledge, information and best practice to create real social change”. The consortium is funded by DETI and is engaged in a three year work programme which will complement the aims of Community Asset Transfer.

The emerging importance of the social enterprise agenda has been highlighted by recent research conducted on behalf of DETI and DSD. The research mapped the third sector in Northern Ireland and considered its capacity to become more enterprise driven. Both Departments will be taking forward recommendations from the report, some of which will directly support the out-working of this policy framework.

#### *Work of other Third Sector partners*

DSD has engaged Development Trusts Northern Ireland (DTNI) as a delivery partner to support the implementation of Community Asset Transfer. DTNI will build capacity and expertise within the third sector to enable community organisations to take advantage of future opportunities.

The Building Change Trust has a strategic objective to build, strengthen and utilise community capacity and assets. It has been working with DSD and other public sector bodies to support investment readiness and skills development within the third sector.

## 4. Creating an enabling environment for Community Asset Transfer

### *Introduction*

This policy framework aims to create an enabling environment for Community Asset Transfer in two main ways. Firstly, it will establish some conditions or 'ground rules' to govern individual transfers and help both parties to a transfer to understand the circumstances in which the transfer of an asset may be appropriate. The ground rules are laid out in Section 5. Secondly it will seek to address the barriers which exist in terms of regulation and guidance, finance, skills and awareness, through a series of pragmatic actions. These are laid out in sections 7-10.

Any proposed asset transfer must support the priorities of the Executive and aim to create the widest public value. The list below is indicative of the kind of outcomes that should be achieved by successful asset transfer:

- Delivering community benefits;
- Supporting development of social enterprise;
- Contributing to social, environmental or economic regeneration;
- Improving, safeguarding, creating local services/amenities;
- Supporting the sustainability of a community organisation; and
- Improving social cohesion.

This list of potential outputs highlights again the principles of partnership and mutual benefit which are at the core of this policy framework which aims to create an enabling environment in which willing partners can come to an agreement which delivers the best outcome for all involved. Asset transfer will not be the right option for all third sector organisations and experience from elsewhere warns that it should not be an end in itself, neither should it divert organisations from their core activities.

Asset holders in collaboration with the Asset Management Unit will be required to take a view as to which assets are suitable for Community Asset Transfer. Not all publicly held assets will be available for consideration.

The goal is to make the best use of the public estate and work in partnership to secure the widest public value from our publicly owned assets. In creating a more enabling environment for Community Asset Transfer this policy framework will provide a means of investing in regeneration and positive social, economic and environmental outcomes which can be used to support Executive priorities.

The conditions are set out in the following section, grouped under a number of headings to explain the underlying rationale.

## 5. Conditions (Ground Rules)

### **Sustainability**

Third sector organisations must develop a business plan which demonstrates the viability of the proposed use of an asset. The business plan must take account of all the costs associated with developing and managing the asset (including repairs, refurbishment, running costs etc).

Third sector organisations will need to demonstrate the capacity to develop and manage the asset appropriately. In considering this a public sector organisation can take account of the commitment demonstrated by a community organisation, the resources and support available and the potential to improve capacity.

The spectrum of transfer options can vary widely, including a freehold, long lease, shorter lease or a licence to occupy.

Legal arrangements (contracts, leases etc) will ensure that community organisations are enabled to manage and develop the property as an asset in the long term, while providing necessary safeguards, proportionate to the risk. Safeguards may include imposing certain restrictions on the use of an asset.

For transfers where grants or loans are required to develop the asset, the length of tenure will need to be long enough to secure external investment. In these cases community asset transfer would be expected to mean a long lease, of at least 50 years, or a freehold.

### ***Accountability***

Third sector organisations will need to be incorporated, constituted for social benefit and to demonstrate an 'asset lock' provision to ensure that the asset is retained for community benefit.

Third sector organisations will be expected to maximise opportunities for community cohesion.

Third sector organisations will need to demonstrate community support for their proposals and a commitment to accountability, open access and maximising the use of an asset by and for the community.

### ***Decision making***

Assets will include both land and property.

Asset transfer may be used as a strategic method of achieving wider regeneration objectives or community ownership of new services or hubs. Transferred assets will often, although not necessarily, have been declared surplus to requirements.

Assets may be transferred at less than market value or 'best consideration'. The level of discount against market value will be set on a case by case basis, and must be commensurate with the level of anticipated non-monetary benefits, which will be judged on the basis of the nature of the property, an assessment of the third sector organisation's business plan and the extent of the public value associated with a transfer.

The decision to transfer an asset will not be considered as setting a precedent. Each asset transfer will be judged on its own merits and the detail of the transfer arrangements will be arrived at through individual negotiation.

Where there is competition for assets third sector organisations will be encouraged to collaborate. Where this is not possible an open and transparent competitive process will be used.

The decision to transfer an asset will in all cases be supported by an economic appraisal.

The decision to transfer an asset will take account of any potential EU State Aid issues.



## 6. Current Barriers to implementation of Community Asset Transfer

A cross-departmental Steering Group on Community Asset Transfer identified a number of barriers which will need to be addressed to enable the practice to be used more extensively and more creatively. The Steering Group was supported in its analysis by research evidence and by early engagement with key stakeholders through a number of policy development workshops. Barriers exist both within and between the public sector and the third sector and are described below. A series of practical measures to address these barriers is set out in Sections 7-10 (pages 16-21).

### Information and awareness

- There is currently a lack of awareness (both within the public sector and the third sector) of the potential beneficial outcomes associated with Community Asset Transfer and of how it can be applied;
- There is a poor understanding within the public and third sectors of the risks associated with Community Asset Transfer and how to manage them;
- There is currently inadequate public facing information available about the availability of surplus public sector assets and whether or how they can be acquired;
- There is often uncertainty within public sector organisations about the discretion they have to transfer assets into community ownership or management;
- There is not enough access to information and case studies where asset transfer has been implemented; and
- There is no one centre of expertise that can provide advice and support to organisations interested in asset transfer.

### Regulation and guidance

- Individual government departments may be constrained by legislation when considering the purpose for which they can transfer an asset via a capital grant;
- There is uncertainty about how to construct leases which balance tenants' rights against the need to manage risk in the transfer process; and

- Local government currently has no delegated authority to allow for the disposal of assets at less than market value.

## Skills

- Public sector organisations often lack the skills to assess the benefits associated with the proposed use of an asset, or to judge the feasibility of a proposed use;
- Many third sector organisations are not “investment ready” and may lack the skills and capacity to successfully manage and develop assets.

## Funding

- There is a lack of financial support available to invest in early pre-feasibility work to explore potential use of assets, build business cases etc;
- Assets may need additional investment to make them “fit for purpose” and to repair, refurbish or convert them for an alternative use.

The following sections present a series of actions organised under the headings of information/awareness, public sector asset management: skills development and funding. The collective impact of these proposals should be to:

- Raise the profile and understanding of Community Asset Transfer as a tool for investment and regeneration;
- ‘Mainstream’ Community Asset Transfer as an option for public sector asset management and address current operational barriers;
- Create and maintain the necessary skills within public sector and third sector organisations to support implementation of Community Asset Transfer and the long term sustainable management and development of assets; and
- Provide investment to support the implementation of Community Asset Transfer.

## 7. Information/awareness

Actions	Impact
<p>Development Trusts Northern Ireland (DTNI) will run a programme of information and awareness raising to target audiences from the public sector, third sector and political representatives.</p>	<p><i>The aim of these actions is to raise the profile and understanding of Community Asset Transfer as a tool for investment and regeneration.</i></p> <p><b>Implementation</b>                      These proposals will be supported by the Strategic Investment Board's Asset Management Unit and endorsed by the Department of Finance and Personnel.</p> <p>DSD is currently resourcing the Development Trusts NI to effectively fulfil its role in supporting these proposals.</p>
<p>We will develop and disseminate guidance and toolkits for the third sector.</p>	
<p>We will promote existing guidance and signpost to relevant UK resources.</p>	
<p>We will ensure effective communication of any substantive changes to the guidance governing Community Asset Transfer within the public sector.</p>	
<p>DTNI will develop and make available information on case studies, both of local examples and from elsewhere in the UK.</p>	

## 8. Public Sector Asset Management

<p><b>Actions</b></p> <p>Consideration of Community Asset Transfer will be embedded into strategic asset management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Community Asset Transfer will become integrated into all Departments' practice, as one of the options for dealing with under-utilised or surplus property assets;</li> <li>- Departments will regularly review the transfer potential of its assets; and</li> <li>- We will ensure that there is agreement within government on appropriate accounting arrangements for assets that are disposed of at less than 'best value'.</li> </ul> <p>Current operational barriers to Community Asset Transfer will be addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We will create a single point of contact for information on surplus public sector assets;</li> <li>- We will ensure timely access for the public to relevant information on available surplus assets; and</li> <li>- We will explore ways in which access can be given in a user-friendly way to key information on a public sector asset database, to include local government assets.</li> </ul> <p>Where necessary we will amend guidance to better facilitate the transfer of assets and clarify the mechanisms available to support Community Asset Transfer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Changes will focus on the Land and Property</li> </ul>	<p><b>Impact</b></p> <p><i>The aim of these actions is to 'mainstream' Community Asset Transfer as an option for public sector asset management and address current operational barriers.</i></p> <p><b>Implementation</b></p> <p>These actions will be supported by the Department of Finance and Personnel, the Strategic Investment Board's Asset Management Unit and the Department of the Environment.</p>
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Service Central Advice Unit Disposal Guidelines and Managing Public Money NI guidance.

We will explore what legislative changes are necessary, if any, to facilitate Community Asset Transfer and make recommendations.

We will make appropriate arrangements to allow greater local government discretion in the disposal of assets at less than market value.

We will support research into evaluating non-monetary costs and benefits with strategic partners.

Through the Northern Ireland Guide to Expenditure Appraisal and Evaluation and civil service training courses, we will promote good practice guidelines on quantifying non-monetary costs and benefits and valuing non market impacts.

We will work with others to improve our understanding of impact measurement and develop more robust methodologies to support decision making, monitoring and evaluation.

## 9. Skills Development

Actions	Impact
<p>We will develop skills and expertise to support both public sector and third sector organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We will maximise learning from the wider UK and EU experience while ensuring that guidance is tailored to Northern Ireland circumstances; and</li> <li>- We will address public sector skills gaps.</li> </ul> <p>We will support a Community Asset Transfer demonstration programme to increase understanding of skills requirements and gaps within the public sector and third sector.</p> <p>We will ensure effective partnerships and 'synergies' with other complementary initiatives e.g. Social Enterprise NI, Building Change Trust - Investment Readiness and 'Inspiring Impact', the NICVA-led consortium on skills development. Belfast Buildings Trust etc, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- recognising overlap with existing initiatives; and</li> <li>- avoiding duplication and maximising collaboration.</li> </ul> <p>We will work with others to establish an independent centre of expertise on Community Asset Transfer to act as advisor, broker and repository of best practice, evaluation, monitoring etc, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ensuring a distinct offering; and</li> <li>- working in partnership with others (as above).</li> </ul>	<p><i>The aim of these actions is to create and maintain the necessary skills within public sector and third sector organisations to support implementation of Community Asset Transfer and the long term sustainable management and development of assets.</i></p> <p><b>Implementation</b></p> <p>These actions will be supported by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment.</p> <p>DSD is currently resourcing the Development Trusts NI to effectively fulfil its role and will work with other third sector partners.</p>

## 10. Funding

Actions	Impact
<p>The transfer of assets into community ownership and management is recognised as a means of investing in regeneration and positive social, economic and environmental change which can be used to support Executive priorities.</p> <p>Development Trusts Northern Ireland (DTNI) will lead a Community Asset Transfer demonstration programme involving assets from a range of public sector organisations.</p> <p>We will work with others to develop more social finance instruments and promote existing and emerging opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the transfer of an asset can be used to e.g. encourage innovation, lever additional finance and reduce grant dependence;</li> <li>- There is a particular need for grants to support pre-feasibility studies and business planning;</li> <li>- There is scope for initiatives such as Community Shares to complement the aims of Community Asset Transfer.</li> </ul> <p>We will work with others to establish a funding stream to support pre-feasibility work on potential asset transfer projects.</p> <p>We will seek opportunities from within existing grant programmes to support Community Asset Transfer e.g.</p>	<p><i>The aim of these actions is to provide investment to support the implementation of Community Asset Transfer.</i></p> <p><b>Implementation</b> These actions will be supported by Department for Social Development and Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment and a range of government funders.</p>

Social Investment Fund, Neighbourhood Renewal, Rural Development Fund.

We will explore opportunities from within European Union funds to support Community Asset Transfer (under the social investment umbrella).

We will evaluate the DTNI demonstration programme and consider the lessons learned in terms of the range of resources needed to support Community Asset Transfer.





## 11. Community Right to Bid/Right to Buy

Community Rights form part of the policy context for Asset Transfer in Scotland and England. The Right to Buy was first introduced in Scotland for rural areas in 2004 and the Scottish Government is proposing to expand the power through the Community Empowerment Bill to cover urban areas.

### Community Right to Buy in Scotland

The Community Right to Buy allows communities with a population of less than 10,000 in Scotland to apply to register an interest in land and the opportunity to buy that land when it comes up for sale.

To take advantage of the Community Right to Buy process, communities must submit an application form to register an interest. All applications to register an interest in land are recorded in the [Register of Community Interests in Land \(RCIL\)](#) held by the Registers of Scotland. PDF versions of the documentation held are available for public viewing through the RCIL.

After an application has been submitted and passed initial checks, it is forwarded to the landowner and if applicable any heritable creditor, for their comments. At this stage a temporary Prohibition is placed on the landowner/heritable creditor preventing them from transferring or marketing the land. Any comments submitted by the landowner/heritable creditor will be fully considered by Ministers when making their decision to approve or reject the application.

The "Right to Buy" can only be activated when the landowner has indicated that the registered land is to be sold or where the provisions of the Act have been breached.

Once a community body which holds a registered interest in the land for sale, confirms that it wishes to proceed with its "Right to Buy", it has six months to conclude the transfer of land or longer if agreed with the landowner.

In England the Localism Act introduced a range of community rights in 2012 including the right to bid (for assets), the right to build and the right to challenge (to deliver services).

### The Community Right to Bid in England

The Community Right to Bid allows communities and parish councils to nominate buildings or land for listing by the local authority as an asset of community value. An asset can be listed if its principal use furthers (or has recently furthered) their community's social well-being or social interests (which include cultural, sporting or recreational interests) and is likely to do so in the future. When a listed asset comes to be sold, a moratorium on the sale (of up to six months) may be invoked, providing local community groups with a better chance to raise finance, develop a business and to make a bid to buy the asset on the open market.

Further information can be found at <http://mycommunityrights.org.uk/>

The recent Joseph Rowntree Foundation report on Community Asset Transfer in Northern Ireland recommended the introduction of equivalent community right to bid or buy legislation in Northern Ireland.

There is a shortage of case study evidence from England and Scotland on the practical outworking of these rights; they have only recently been introduced in England and have not been extensively applied in Scotland either.

The Department is content that community rights has been identified as a further important enabling element for Community Asset Transfer. This forms part of a wider agenda that we will continue to explore more fully in the context of the Reform of Local Government in Northern Ireland and the implications of community planning.

## 12. Impact Assessments

### Human Rights

The Department believes that the proposals are compatible with the Human Rights Act 1998.

### Equality

Under the terms of section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the Department carried out screening for equality impact and is satisfied that the proposals will not lead to discriminatory or negative differential impact on any of the section 75 groups. A copy of the screening form can be viewed on the Department's website:

[www.dsdni.gov.uk/index/consultations](http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/index/consultations)

## 13. Next Steps

In taking forward the implementation of the Framework, the Department for Social Development will:

- Within 3 months develop an implementation plan that will describe how and when the actions outlined above will be taken forward; and
- Work with the Department's delivery partner, Development Trusts NI (DTNI) to manage a programme of demonstration projects. The purpose of the programme will be to test this policy framework to determine if it is doing what it was designed to do.

## Annex A: Development Trusts Northern Ireland (DTNI)



Development Trusts NI (DTNI) was established in 2010 and is a Northern Ireland registered Charity<sup>1</sup>.

DTNI is grant funded by the Department for Social Development (DSD) to provide expertise and experience to achieve the establishment of new development trusts in Northern Ireland, to promote awareness of asset transfer, and to identify and nominate from within its membership a selection of organisations whose work and interest in community development, urban regeneration and asset acquisition will form part of a demonstration asset transfer programme.

These demonstration initiatives will draw extensive support from DTNI. DTNI's aim in this work is to "encourage, support and empower local communities to develop new and inspiring projects, thus enabling them to become independent and sustainable".

DTNI will actively work with the Department for Social Development during this consultation period. As an advocate for the Voluntary and Community Sector, DTNI will ensure that those issues of importance to the sector are highlighted.

### DTNI Contact details

3rd Floor, Cathedral Quarter Managed Workspace  
109-113 Royal Avenue  
Belfast BT1 1FF

**Mobile:** 07595 979642

**Email:** [info@dtni.org.uk](mailto:info@dtni.org.uk)

DTNI is a member-led organisation with a board of directors drawn from its membership and from the private sector. They are specialists in community asset ownership, enterprise, collaboration, social action, local regeneration, commissioning, community voice and advocacy.

DTNI is part of a wider movement which includes Development Trusts Association Scotland, Development Trusts Association Wales and Locality in England. Together there is now a UK wide network with over 850 members. Members of Development Trusts NI automatically receive membership of the UK-wide Association.

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<sup>1</sup> Charity Number XT27682.

## Annex B: References

### **Making Assets Work – The Quirk Review**

Published in 2007 the five key recommendations from this report by Barry Quirk, CEO, Lewisham Council was the catalyst for the reform of government policy to reflect community ownership and enable the possibility of transfer of government owned land and property to the community sector

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20120919132719/www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/makingassetswork>

### **Opening the transfer window. The Governments Response to the Quirk Review**

The Government accepted the five key recommendations of the Quirk Review and in this paper set out the building blocks to set Community Asset Transfer in motion.

<http://libraries.communityknowledgehub.org.uk/resource/opening-transfer-window>

### **Managing risks in asset transfer – Communities and Local Government**

Drawing from experience this useful paper provides [English] local authorities and community-based organisations manage and minimise the possible risks to be encountered in the transfer of land and property assets from the public to the community sector.

<http://www.dtascommunityownership.org.uk/sites/default/files/managing-risks-in-asset-transfer.pdf>

### **Community Empowerment Action Plan (Scotland)**

Announced in March 2009 this action plan provides clarity on what community empowerment is, why it is important and how communities can get involved. The action plan provides a range of best practice examples from across Scotland.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/engage/empowerment>

### **DTA Scotland – Promoting Asset Transfer Final Report Nov 2011.**

Published by the Development Trusts (Scotland) in 2011 this report supported the need for sustained programmes of support and funding at national and local levels.

<http://www.dtascommunityownership.org.uk/sites/default/files/PAT%20Final%20Report%20Dec%202011.pdf>

### **Scottish Government's Community Empowerment Bill**

On 6<sup>th</sup> June 2012 the Scottish Government launched a 12 week exploratory consultation on a range of ideas for the proposed Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill. Proposals included the extension of a community right to buy to urban Scotland and giving local authorities greater powers to deal with empty homes and buildings. Consultation on a draft Bill is planned for Summer 2013.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/engage>

### **Final Evaluation of the Asset Transfer Unit May 2011**

An independent evaluation of the performance of the Asset Transfer Unit over its first two years in operation. The evaluation conducted by SQW and initiated by Locality found that the profile and reach of the Unit was impressive and that although it is too early to properly assess the impact of the Unit in asset owner capacity to promote asset transfer, where the Unit has been involved capacity has increased. Departments and Agencies considered that a core dedicated Unit such as the Asset Transfer Unit is required to continue the momentum of improvement in asset management and promotion of transfers

<http://www.sqw.co.uk/files/1013/8712/6248/16.pdf>

### **Joseph Rowntree Foundation: Community assets: emerging learning, challenges and questions – Julian Dobson, 2011**

This paper explores the opportunities, challenges and questions arising for community organisations, funders, policy-makers and government based on learning from recent events on community assets and research papers and briefing documents published in 2010 and 2011.

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/community-assets-learning-challenges-questions>

### **Joseph Rowntree Foundation: Community organisations controlling assets: a better understanding – Mike Aiken et al, 2011**

This study examines the benefits that come from community organisations owning or managing assets, what makes for success and what are the challenges. It also provides key messages for practitioners and policy-makers in taking forward the community assets agenda.

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/community-organisations-controlling-assets>

### **Joseph Rowntree Foundation: Community asset transfer in Northern Ireland**

This report demonstrates asset transfer has had positive effects on community relations, segregation and social inclusion. Innovation in the statutory sector has had a significant impact on area-based regeneration, public health, community development, education and training and childcare provision. The report also proposes the need to consider new legislation similar to the Right to Challenge and Right to Buy elsewhere in the UK and that new forms of finance, skills and support for practitioners are needed.

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/community-asset-transfer-northern-ireland>

### **Building Change Trust Observatory – Development Trusts.**

This paper provides an overview development trusts, it explores their contributions as community enterprises to combating poverty, and considers the transfer of public assets to communities as a way of establishing and growing development trusts. It describes the innovative 'meanwhile use' of

temporarily vacated commercial spaces as a complementary strategy to development trusts' long term approach. It also highlights the work of the recently formed Development Trusts NI, and the Building Change Trust.

<http://www.dtni.org.uk/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/CFNIObsPEDevelopmentTrusts92011.pdf>

### **Building relationships in communities BRIC - Queens University**

BRIC is a four year programme designed to encourage greater levels of social integration within Northern Ireland's housing sector. It is run with assistance from the EU's PEACE III Programme. The project is delivered by the Rural Development Council, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and the training consultancy TIDES. The idea is to help Housing Executive staff promote sharing within the currently highly segregated social housing market. The project focuses on peace and reconciliation and helps promote the idea of a shared society.

[www.nihe.gov.uk/index/community/community\\_cohesion/bric.htm](http://www.nihe.gov.uk/index/community/community_cohesion/bric.htm)

### **Social Finance in Northern Ireland: Innovative Thinking and Action**

This study aims to produce a blueprint report that will guide the development of new social finance products in Northern Ireland. To develop the blueprint the study will review social finance supply and demand in Northern Ireland; explore new developments in the UK, Ireland, elsewhere in Europe and the US; identify gaps in the market, explore potential funding and delivery mechanisms and provide an estimate of future demand.

<http://www.charitybank.org/sites/default/files/pdf/Social%20Finance%20in%20Northern%20Ireland.pdf>

### **Social Economy Evaluation assignment July 2011. (KPMG Report to DETI)**

KPMG was commissioned by a DETI-led Steering Group to undertake an evaluation of the Social Economy in Northern Ireland (NI). The study was charged to examine the role of the Social Economy sector and its unique value in terms of the economic, social and environmental impact in the NI context; evaluate the Social Economy Enterprise Strategy 2010/11 with an explicit focus on future direction and priorities and evaluate the Social Economy Network's performance.

[www.detini.gov.uk/social\\_economy\\_evaluation\\_report\\_final.pdf](http://www.detini.gov.uk/social_economy_evaluation_report_final.pdf)

### **Focus on Social Economy Enterprise**

This is a simple but very useful factsheet produced by the Rural Network NI in 2009. In simple terms it explains the Social Economy Enterprise business model. It was used as simple reference tool at a time when DETI were inviting views on the Social Economy Enterprise Strategy 2009-2011.

<http://www.ruralnetworkni.org.uk/download/files/Social%20Enterprise.pdf>

### **Programme for Government 2011-2015 (NI)**

On 12th March 2012, the First Minister and deputy First Minister published the Programme for Government 2011-2015. The Programme for Government identifies the actions the Executive will take to deliver its number one priority – “a vibrant economy which can transform our society while dealing with the deprivation and poverty which has affected some of our communities for generations.” The Executive is committed to formulate community asset transfer policy across government; publish a list of existing government assets and identify potential for asset transfers. It commits to disseminate policy and outline best practice for Departments and to baseline research of VCS/SE continuum and to identify opportunities for growth of social economy model within the Voluntary and Community Sector.

<http://www.northernireland.gov.uk/index/work-of-the-executive/pfg.htm>

### **Concordat between the Voluntary and Community Sector and the Government**

The Concordat is an agreement between Government and the Voluntary and Community Sector which outlines key values and principles and establishes a set of shared commitments on how Government and the Voluntary and Community Sector can work together to better serve the people of NI. The Concordat establishes new and refreshed structures of engagement between Government and the Voluntary and Community Sector to help shape the effective use of resources, including the development of good professional practice and the provision of appropriate accountability.

<http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/consultation-concordat-for-relationships-between-govt-vc-sector.pdf>

### **Managing Public Money NI**

Produced by DFP this manual provides guidance on the proper handling and reporting of public money. It sets out the main principles for dealing with resources used by public sector organisations in Northern Ireland (NI).

<http://www.dfpni.gov.uk/index/finance/afmd/afmd-key-guidance/afmd-mpmni.htm>

### **Disposal of Surplus Public Sector Property In Northern Ireland**

This guidance is published by the Land and Property Service Central Advisory Unit (DFP). It provides property disposal guidelines for public bodies and best practice for public sector bodies.

[www.deni.gov.uk/disposal\\_of\\_public\\_sector\\_property.pdf](http://www.deni.gov.uk/disposal_of_public_sector_property.pdf)

## **FUNDING**

### **Big Lottery - Asset transfer and capital programmes**

<http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/research/communities-and-places/community-assets>

### **Charity Bank**

<http://www.charitybank.org/>



**Community Development Finance Institution**

<http://www.cdfa.org.uk/>

**Community Shares**

<http://www.communityshares.org.uk/>

**Government Funding Database**

<http://govfundingpublic.nics.gov.uk/Home.aspx>

**New Philanthropy Capital**

<http://www.thinknpc.org/>

**LEGISLATION AND ASSOCIATED GUIDANCE****Stormont Regulation and Government Property Act (NI) 1933**

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/apni/1933/6/contents>

**The Local Government Act 1972 (NI)**

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/apni/1972/9/contents>

**Disposal of Surplus Public Sector Property in Northern Ireland**

[www.deni.gov.uk/disposal\\_of\\_public\\_sector\\_property.pdf](http://www.deni.gov.uk/disposal_of_public_sector_property.pdf)

**The Local Government Act 1972: General Disposal Consent (England) 2003 (Wales) 2003**

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1972/70>

**Circular 06/03: Local Government Act 1972 general disposal consent (England) 2003**

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/7690/462483.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/7690/462483.pdf)

**NAFWC 41/2003 : Local Government Act 1972 general disposal consent (Wales) 2003**

<http://wales.gov.uk/pubs/circulars/2003/english/NAFWC41-03-e.pdf;jsessionid=53AD9975E3FDFBCC707D5C8C4993D47C?lang=en>

**Disposal of land by local authorities (Scotland) regulations 2010**

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2010/160/contents/made>

**Disposal of Land by Local Authorities (Scotland) Regulations General Guidance**

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/319642/0102183.pdf>

**The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003**

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2003/2/contents>

**Scottish Public Finance Manual**

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Government/Finance/spfm/intro>

**The Localism Act 2011**

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/20/contents/enacted>

**Localism Agenda and the concept of the 'Big Society'**

<http://www.localism-agenda.com/background/>

**USEFUL LINKS****Asset Transfer Unit (England)**

<http://locality.org.uk/asset-transfer-unit/>

**Building Change Trust**

<http://www.buildingchangetrust.org/>

**Development Trust association Scotland**

<http://www.dtascot.org.uk/>

**Development Trust NI**

<http://www.dtni.org.uk/>

**Land and Property Service**

<http://www.dfpni.gov.uk/lps/index.htm>

**Locality**

<http://locality.org.uk/>

**Investment Readiness in the UK**

[www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/er\\_invest\\_ready.pdf](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/er_invest_ready.pdf)

**The Place Station**

<http://www.theplacestation.org.uk/>

**Social Enterprise Northern Ireland SENI**

<http://www.socialenterpriseni.org/>

**Social Enterprise UK**

<http://www.socialenterprise.org.uk/about/about-social-enterprise>

## Annex C: Case Studies

### Asset Transfer; A Continuum of Possibilities.

The debate around community asset transfer in Northern Ireland (NI) at the moment is very much premised around an understanding that equates transfer with ownership. While that is true in many instances in Northern Ireland and across Britain it is only part of the picture. All community and voluntary organisations utilise assets to deliver their services, these may be rented on an as needed basis, by way of an annual or longer term rental agreement with a third party that may be a private, public or another third sector asset owner. Equally those assets might be mortgaged or owned outright.

In Northern Ireland Asset Transfer (or Community Asset Transfer as it is commonly referred to) is the process by which a community or voluntary organisation might acquire a surplus public sector asset be that land or building(s). That asset will be sought with the express intention of furthering the organisations social and business aims and objectives, its continued development and the delivery of its services for its community.

Asset Transfer is better understood if seen as a continuum of possibilities as opposed to the wholesale transfer of a physical asset from one body to another. At one level it may be where an organisation moves from being a tenant in a local council run community centre to one where it adopts the management function of that asset. Such an arrangement may be on an annual or other short term lease or it may be longer, perhaps 5 or 10 or even up to 25 years. Lease arrangement might be accompanied by conditions and covenants on how and for what purpose the asset can be used.

As we move along that continuum of possibilities we progress through options considering whether the asset may be co-owned, utilised for a meanwhile use or transferred in full by way of sale under market conditions or at a nil or nominal cost. Where the surplus asset is disposed of under market conditions there are likely to be fewer or no restrictions on its future use, though listed buildings; those with a heritage or preservation value, are subject to strict planning and development controls. Other assets, such as those providing residential care or sports facilities for example may remain covenanted for the provision of health and social care for the elderly or leisure and recreation respectively.

Outside of the debate on the transfer of surplus public sector assets an organisation may also develop its asset base on terms of its own making, undertaking new capital build projects or entering the market and purchasing assets in open competition with others.

Across the community and voluntary sector in NI there are many examples of asset transfer and asset ownership. Some groups have been supported by way of one of grants and other philanthropic investments which have been wisely invested in capital projects (buildings and land). Having a capital asset base has in turn assisted those organisations sustain and grow their activities. DTNI believe that community and voluntary organisations should seek to acquire and develop an asset base. We consider that the NI Executive' enabling framework on 'Community Asset Transfer' will help define the means by which a new 'asset class' of community development and enterprise organisations will emerge and grow.

Here we present a number of short case studies which look at different forms of ownership; from facilities management to outright ownership, a continuum of possibilities.

## OUTRIGHT OWNERSHIP: Limavady Community Development Initiative

Limavady Community Development Initiative (LCDI) serves the community of the Borough of Limavady in NI. Founded in 1987 the focus for the organisation was on job creation. A quarter of a century old, the Charity is still going strong and now employs some 50 people and is one of the largest community groups in NI; it continues to grow and work towards sustainable service delivery and is increasingly less dependent on grant funding.

### The Asset: Roe Valley Hospital

One of the major factors in the growth of LCDI has been its acquisition of Roe Valley Hospital in 1997 (one of the best examples of a Union Workhouse on the island of Ireland). The availability of the asset came about in part because the building was in need of redevelopment to which the Department of Health was not committed to support.



Roe Valley Hospital: Limavady Community Development Initiative

The opportunity for LCDI to acquire the Roe Valley Hospital came about at a time when it had outgrown its original premises. It was also in possession of European funding that would support them make a new capital purchase. The process of engaging with the asset owner (The Department for Health) began in 1997 though wasn't completed (actual purchase and move) until 1999. The complex was then subsequently regenerated with a mix of capital development grants and loans and developed as a major multifunctional community based facility. The majority of the space in the complex is rented and the income is a major contributor to the organization's sustainability.

General Manager Damien Corr said:

*The move was for LCDI an audacious one, we were ambitious, passionate and rash enough to believe in ourselves that we could own and manage this asset and make a major contribution to the community and borough of Limavady. That belief in ourselves was paramount to our ultimate success. It took commitment and effort to convince public sector officials to take us seriously but as to the bona fides of our business proposal. The success of our proposal was in part being able to convince the statutory health authority that what we would bring to ownership would better serve the community in the longer term. And to be fair, once we had convinced them on the merits of our proposal which meant emphasising the social impact and longer term social return their support became invaluable.*

*The department in turn became central to what we wanted to achieve; they showed a degree of innovation not normally associated with the public sector. The extent of that willingness was revealed when they accepted our bid for purchase which was some £50,000 less than the highest bidder.*

LCDI clearly understood what the benefit of owning the asset would mean: A sustainable income, an opportunity to grow as an organisation. So successful was their business plan that the building has been paid for with only residual debt on outstanding loans remaining. The building currently generates approximately £250,000 per annum from the key anchor tenants. Some of those anchor tenants are the health and social care providers that previously occupied the building when owned by its parent body the Department of Health.

There were no conditions on sale other than those associated with those attached to the loan agreements entered into to purchase and refurbish the hospital. LCDI were not expected to continue to use the site to provide health and social care. In fact they made the case and campaigned for the retention of social care services within the facility post refurbishment to which the then local health care trust agreed to. That agreement and subsequent tenant lease agreement to remain on site for 15 years was core to LCDI acquiring matching loans from banks and other social investors.

To facilitate the new arrangement and to acquire the asset LCDI established Roe Valley Community Property Limited. It is the owner of the asset and LCDI is its sole shareholder and all profits gift aided back to LCDI.

#### **Key Learning Points:**

- Engage early and positively with the public body that is seeking to dispose of the asset.
- Recognise that the public body has its own mission and objectives and bear these in mind when pursuing your own goals and look for joint wins and co-solutions to problems that may emerge.
- Don't get giddy about what you might own; rather ask why we shouldn't take the asset and think through and generate solutions.
- Do your homework; understand what you need to do and who you need to engage with. For example lottery turned down an initial request for money from LCDI – so they engaged with lottery personnel to design a solution.
- Don't expect that it will happen overnight – passion is necessary but not enough, you need lots of people on your side.
- Make the case for community ownership - don't expect it to be handed to you on a plate. Negotiate, Negotiate, Negotiate.

## FACILITIES MANAGEMENT: Roden Street Community Development Group

### The Asset: Grosvenor Community Recreation Centre

The Roden Street Community Development Group began life as the Roden Street Action Team, initially based in a Save the Children facility in Roden Street adjacent to the interface. The original group began life as a result of a group of local, concerned residents. The area at that time was facing acute difficulties centered around housing, environmental problems, anti social issues and interface tensions.

Roden Street CDG are now based in the Grosvenor Community Recreation Centre on the Grosvenor Road, Belfast and they have a 10 year lease on the building which up for renewal in 2015. They provide a broad range of services for a diverse range of users including Belfast's Filipino community. They provide a broad range of services in respect of social development including parental support, childcare, physical activity programmes and other initiatives connected to health and social care, healthy living and well being.

Roden Street CDG have a Facility Management Agreement with Belfast City Council (BCC) for a full size 3G pitch at Grosvenor Recreation Centre (GRC). The site was previously an old hard porous surface in poor condition with limited local usage, which has been transformed into a dramatic and well used 3G facility for use by the local community and others. BCC contributed £100,000 to the project and the Big Lottery New Opportunities Fund for PE & Sport provided additional funding of £634,614. That application for investment was fronted by Roden Street CDG and St Josephs Primary School and was targeted at modernising existing sports facilities for school and community use with specific criteria that identified local schools who would be eligible for free use during term time.



### Conditions of Use

The contract comes with a number of conditions and covenants on use. Key amongst these is free use of the Facility during term time Monday to Friday between 9.30am and 4.00pm to 3 local schools that are specifically named in the contract:

- St Joseph's Primary School
- St Peter's Primary School
- St Clare's Primary School

In addition to the free use stipulation, Roden Street CDG are also committed to:

- Facilitating access by members of the public, sporting clubs, groups and schools to use the facility subject to the payment of user charges;

- Ensuring that a full and varied sports development programme is carried out at the facilities and prepare and implement a sports development programme that is subject to approval by the Council;
- Forwarding a proposed timetable of usage on a monthly basis and an end of month timetable of usage; and
- Forwarding any reports as required relating to usage, such as teams, bookings, variations, maintenance or any other matters the Council may require a report on.

Alongside the 3G pitch Grosvenor were provided with a plot of land that is now managed and used by them and is presently functioning as a community garden. There are no conditions on use of the plot other than it cannot be sold.

### **Finance & Development**

A management fee of £44,400 per annum is paid to Roden Street CDG in two 6 monthly payments which is sourced from the income generated by the new synthetic pitch. This fee was further subsidised by the Big Lottery Fund 2009/11 to the tune of £30,000. The average annual income generated on the site is in the region of £70,000. Though financially this appears to benefit the Council more so than Roden Street CDG, there are other non-monetary returns. For example the council are responsible for site maintenance and upkeep of the facility. There is an alternative model exercised by the council in respect of its facilities where all the income generated is retained by the group managing the facility. Shaftsbury Recreation is managed<sup>2</sup> under a similar model but with greater opportunity for income generation comes additional responsibility, such as maintenance and upkeep.

The contract term on the 3G facility runs for five years having started in 2009 and is due for renewal in 2014 with an option for extension to up to 20 years management agreement in increments of 5 year periods.

Roden Street CDG had also sought funding for additional development of the Facilities; in particular for transforming Grosvenor Recreation Centre building into a multi-use sports hall. Investments secured and approved for that purpose were undertaken at risk by the group. So though Roden Street RDC have been successful and generated additional income to enhance the facility the premises remain the property of the council. The contract between BCC and Roden Street CDG is not a tenancy arrangement or intended to be. Enhancements brought about by the Roden Street CDG do not change its relationship as facilities manager or create conditions for tenancy.

Centre Manager Tina Black considers that the arrangement they have negotiated with BCC works for their group. Though there are additional opportunities to undertake a social enterprise model of management and perhaps extend their management experience by undertaking to manage other facilities they feel that they don't have the requisite skills capacity (financial modelling, insurance, systems etc) to go beyond what they are currently managing. The newly developed Dunville Park with its 3G pitch was an option and proposed by BCC but not taken up by Grosvenor due to management and staff challenges particularly as the location was off site. For Tina Black (centre Manager) part of the problem is the challenge of scaling-up; *'who supports an organisation to embrace these opportunities. This is compounded by an indifference to asset ownership in the community and voluntary sector; In the north of Ireland we don't have a developed culture of ownership'*.

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<sup>2</sup> by Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group

*"We would need to know more of how other organisations work in leisure to consider a broader move into enterprise development, and though we are not ruling out further development any such move would need to be thoroughly investigated, staff skilled up and investment secured. For now the model we have, a public/social partnership works for both parties. We have developed our relationship with the council to best utilise the asset to meet the needs of our local community and in that respect we have sacrificed the opportunity to go out to a wider private market and maximise financial return. Though the demand is there - approximately 48 groups/teams are on the waiting list - we have struck a balance in favour of local demand and need. We have worked to facilitate the local community lead on a sports development programme which is what is important rather than seeing the asset as a potential cash cow. And though generally our relationship with the council is at 'arms length', they are accessible and responsive to our organisation's needs when we need them'.*

**Key Learning Points:**

- Do your research.
- Have a varied management committee - including business owners, a solicitor for example.
- Have appropriate governance for the organization.
- Be realistic about the cost (Roden Street CDG consider that their own financial projections could have been better), don't undersell the cost of managing a building especially if you are negotiating a running costs agreement.
- Make sure your management committee are open minded - there is a need for innovative thinking and creative minds, for example it's not 9 to 5 Monday to Friday.
- Make sure staff have a sense of ownership of the asset - not merely a manager.
- Make sure the job roles and skills sets are relevant - not simply community development worker, but facilities management.
- Negotiate with stakeholders, strategically plan as to what this means for the organisation, don't just focus on the operational details which are necessary to make it work for the council, it needs to work for the local community.



## Community Spaces Northampton



Locality member Community Spaces Northampton (CSN) is a new community charity managing seven community centres in Northampton.

It aims to offer a better community centre service to local people. This case study describes the bidding process and the challenges involved in a multiple asset transfer.

In 2011 Northampton Borough Council (NBC) offered eight community centres for community asset transfer and expressions of interest received from 16 organisations – including six organisations bidding for all eight centres.

Organisations expressing an interest were given ten weeks to prepare a business plan with financial projections.

The assessment of the seven business plans received resulted in the selection of two bidders, one bidder to take over one centre, and a partnership – Community Spaces Northampton – to take over the remaining seven. CSN was an informal partnership led by the Alliston Garden Youth & Community Centre (AGYCC).

The development work to establish CSN formally was supported by Locality and Northamptonshire Social Enterprise Development Agency and included:

- formation of CSN as a charitable company
- legal support in lease and management agreement negotiations
- visit to Fresh Horizons to see at first hand a community business managing community centres
- HR support including TUPE
- condition surveys of all buildings
- business planning and accountancy support in setting up finance systems

Work continued after transfer to recruit and train trustees and a co-ordinator, raise finance for capital improvements, establish CSN's profile and undertake an organisational restructure.

Regular meetings with NBC officers were critical to the transfer process – to track progress, identify sticking points and find solutions.

TUPE was a significant issue with two caretaking staff spending more than 50% of their time working at the seven centres and therefore transferring to CSN. To reduce the liability for CSN, the Council

offered an indemnity and drafted an agreement enabling the caretakers to remain in the Council's pension scheme.

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## Glendale Gateway Trust



Glendale Gateway Trust was set up in 1996 following a village appraisal. Based in the market town of Wooler, it covers the beautiful but sparsely populated area of Glendale in North Northumberland.

The first project undertaken by the Trust was development of a resource centre, the Cheviot Centre, to provide meeting, exhibition and office space and to house the tourist information centre. The land was provided by community asset transfer on a long lease from Berwick Borough Council. The Trust raised funding for a new building which was opened in 2001.

The Trust aims to meet the needs of local people and its priorities are:

- economic development
- affordable housing
- social and recreational opportunities.

The Trust aims to ensure that there is a strong community and voluntary sector in Glendale. A wide range of community organisations use and are based in the Cheviot Centre. The Youth Drop-in Centre on the High Street has been an essential element of provision for young people in the area for more than ten years.

The Trust used its initial asset base, the Cheviot Centre and the youth drop-in building, to take forward its objectives around economic development and affordable housing. Key industry areas for North Northumberland are tourism and farming – both struggle to recruit local workers if there is a lack of affordable housing. At the same time, run-down and empty shops are a disincentive to tourism.

Focusing on these objectives, the Trust's achievements include:

- buying properties on the High Street – two have been converted to modern shops for rent to local businesses with affordable rented flats above – one property has been converted to a three bedroom house

- purchase of land behind the High Street which had not been previously developed due to problems with road access. Because the Trust owned the properties in the High Street and could allow access, the land was sold to a housing association and 15 affordable homes built
- purchase of the youth hostel in Wooler from the Youth Hostel Association in order to secure its future. The youth hostel has a crucial economic impact in the town as visitors spend money with a range of local businesses.

Overall the Trust has sought to maximise its economic impact in the Glendale area by using local traders in its building development projects. A Local Multiplier 3 calculation showed that the £43k spent to renovate the three bedroom house on the High Street was worth £129k to the local economy in Glendale.

The latest venture for the Trust is an asset transfer linked to moving the library service. The library in Wooler is now housed in the Cheviot Centre freeing up the library building for community asset transfer to the Trust to be turned into two affordable housing units.

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## Community Asset Transfer Process in respect of Transfer of Central Government Surplus Assets

### 1.0 Background

The [NI Executive's Community Asset Transfer \(CAT\) policy](#) was developed to support the commitment in the Programme for Government (2011-2015) to "invest in social enterprise growth to increase sustainability in the broad community sector".

The policy provides a framework to facilitate community ownership of surplus public sector assets as an option as part of the normal disposal process. It recognises that CAT will not always be the preferred option, that disposal at full market value/open market process will often be the preferred option for asset owners but that within the disposal process CAT may be an option to be considered if such an interest from the Third Sector is expressed.

Voluntary and Community Division (VCD) in DFC have lead responsibility for the implementation of the policy and can offer advice to asset owners in receipt of a CAT interest. VCD have appointed Development Trusts NI (DTNI) as their Third Sector delivery partner to support those Third Sector Organisations (TSO) interested in CAT.

In order to avail of CAT opportunities the TSO must secure a public sector sponsor body who has the necessary compulsory purchase powers to enable the TSO to access the public trawl. The exact role of a sponsor body can vary. The possibilities are laid out in detail at **Annex A** alongside other stakeholder roles. It should be noted the asset owner can sponsor the proposal if they have the necessary compulsory purchase powers.

### 2.0 Process

There are three main stages to the CAT process comprising the following:

Stage 1a	Trawl
Stage 1b	Expression of Interest Questionnaire
Stage 1c	Questionnaire Review
Stage 2a	Business Plan
Stage 2b	Business Case Preparation
Stage 3	Approval, Transfer and Post Transfer Monitoring

#### Stage 1a – Trawl

Land and Property Service's (LPS) Central Advisory Unit (CAU) circulate copy LPS Internal Trawl (D1) Notices to appropriate parties including DTNI.

DTNI must respond to LPS CAU within 15 working days to confirm whether there is interest **in principle** for CAT.

### **Stage 1b – Expressions of Interest**

Following Stage 1a of the normal trawl process, any interest registered from DTNI will trigger LPS CAU to issue a bespoke CAT questionnaire. TSO with support from DTNI (if availed of) has a period of 40 working days to respond to LPS CAU. As highlighted within the CAT Policy, where there is competition for assets third sector organisations will be encouraged to collaborate.

### **Stage 1c – Questionnaire Review**

Following receipt of questionnaires, LPS CAU will circulate to the asset owner, sponsor body (in principle or confirmed) and DfC VCD. The asset owner should review the questionnaires, with input from DfC VCD and any potential sponsor body.

This determination on the potential CAT to proceed to the preparation of a business plan should be made and confirmed to LPS CAU within 20 working days. Whenever a decision is made not to continue with a CAT, the disposing body is required to provide the decision in writing setting out the rationale for the decided route. This will be clearly communicated to the proposed acquiring body, DTNI, DfC and CAU.

Should competing interests emerge at EoI stage reflecting both statutory and third sector interests, the Asset owner will review the EoI's in the context of all the Department's requirements and with input from relevant stakeholders to provide advice on which to base a decision. In such cases asset owners should also refer to the LPS CAU Disposal Guidance. Within the context of CAT, any negative decisions should be communicated to stakeholders, with communication again should it subsequently proceed to a market sale.

The operation of the Stage 1c assessment will require that all stakeholders i.e. asset owner, sponsor body (if different) and TSO, are signed up to proceed to the Stage 2 assessment, otherwise the asset owner is free to pursue alternative disposal routes.

In proceeding to Stage 2, two main scenarios will arise out of the Stage 1c Questionnaire Review:

**Scenario 1** – The asset owner is also the sponsor and is responsible for assessing and endorsing the suitability of the TSO proposal.

**Scenario 2** – The asset owner is not the sponsor and will agree the level of support it requires from the sponsor to facilitate the TSO proposal before moving to Stage 2.

### **Stage 2a – Business Plan**

Should agreement be reached to proceed to Business Planning stage access to independent expertise to assist with the Business Plan will be made available.

It is important that the asset owner, third sector organisation, sponsor, and DIC work constructively together with the independent resource support to communicate, share information and pursue a transfer in good faith. The relevant stakeholders should be encouraged to engage to discuss the preferred route to transferring the asset so that the Business Plan is drafted appropriately.

The following options are available at Stage 2 and the chosen route to CAT will determine the author and format of any subsequent Business Case and the title to transfer or lease. Please note that where full market value is being received the asset owner must only complete a business case if it is a requirement of their business as per usual disposal procedure:

**Option 1** - Asset owner is sponsor and is willing and able to sell at less than market value direct to the TSO, subject to business plan and business case.

Business Plan	TSO
Business Case	Asset Owner

**Option 2** - Asset owner is not sponsor but has obtained sponsor body commitment and is able to sell at less than market value direct to the TSO, subject to business plan and business case. This requires the identification of an alternative sponsor body which should have been confirmed in principle at Stage 1.

Business Plan	TSO
Business Case	Asset owner with input from Sponsor Body in terms of review, policy input, strategic context, alongside confirmation of sponsor role.

**Option 3** - Asset owner is sponsor and is not willing or able to sell at less than market value. Disposal to community organisation at market value.

Business Plan	TSO
Business Case	Asset Owner – requirement varies between asset owners depending on delegated authority's etc. basic format only <u>if required</u> , including record justifying decision to sponsor but excluding the less than market value requirement.

**Option 4** - Asset owner is not sponsor and is not willing or able to sell at less than market value. Disposal to community organisation at market value.

Business Plan	TSO
Business Case	Asset Owner - requirement varies between asset owners depending on delegated authority's etc. basic format only if required. Sponsor to provide policy input/strategic context if required alongside confirmation of sponsor role.

**Option 5** - Asset owner is not sponsor and is not willing or able to sell directly at less than market value - NBV (or reduced value) Transfer to Confirmed Sponsor with sponsor body commitment for subsequent CAT at less than market value.

Business Plan	TSO
Business Case	Asset Owner, with input from Sponsor – requirement varies between asset owners depending on delegated authority's etc. basic format

only if required. Revert to Option 1 i.e. sponsor becomes Asset Owner and takes on full responsibility for any transfer.

A timescale of 4 months for completion of Business Plan is suggested. The inclusion of key milestones and an agreed time bound process should bring a clearly defined structure to the process for Third sector organisations and asset owners.

### **Stage 2b – Business Case**

Subject to the completion of a Business Plan at Stage 2a, Business Case to be completed by asset owner with input from the sponsor body within a 2 month period. However asset owners should be able to commence their Business Case preparations in parallel with the Business Plan rather than sequentially.

For Options 1 & 2 above, the asset owner's business case will need to address the justification for a disposal at less than market value. This may require Department of Finance (DoF) and Ministerial approval.

For Options 3, 4 & 5 the asset owner's business case does not need to address the issue of disposal at less than market value and does not require Ministerial/DoF approval, however the sponsor body will require to address this in Option 5 to cover their subsequent transfers to community organisations.

The principle of proportionality should apply in terms of the magnitude of the Business Case against the level of value of the asset

### **Stage 3 – Approval, Transfer and Post-Transfer Monitoring**

This element of the process is highlighted to acknowledge that once a final Business Case is agreed and prepared to support progress of the CAT transfer at Stage 2b, each asset owner will have a different approval requirement ranging from senior management board, department board and Ministerial approval depending on the nature of the CAT proposal and their governing legislation. However, it is important to ensure that relevant parties to the approval process are consulted throughout Stage 2 and feedback is reflected in the development of the Business Plan and Business Case in order to avoid delays in addressing issues at the final submission stage.

Following approval, the asset owner and TSO should refer to their respective legal support for completion of the appropriate contracts and incorporate any agreed conditions, clawback and monitoring arrangements.

Annex A

Stakeholder Objectives and Roles & Responsibilities

Stakeholder	Objectives	Roles & Responsibilities
Disposing Bodies	<p>The main objective is to process surplus asset disposals to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) use the trawl process to identify reuse potential outside it's department which meets Programme for Government (PfG) objectives</li> <li>(ii) generate a capital receipt to reinvest in capital works</li> <li>(iii) generate a capital receipt to meet a budgetary target.</li> <li>(iv) dispose of surplus assets in a timely manner to reduce current liabilities.</li> </ul>	<p>Responsible for the release of assets for disposal which are surplus to requirements. (Is a requirement of MPMNI Annex 4.8.12 – 4.8.15)</p> <p>Also Section 2 of Land &amp; Property Services (LPS) Disposal Guidance (as issued in March 2013) prompts the identification of surplus assets for disposal.</p> <p>Mandatory Asset Management Plans (AMPs) are produced annually by each department and include a section on planned asset disposals.</p> <p>Accountable for the ultimate decision on the chosen disposal route.</p> <p>Complete and seek approval for appropriate level of business case to assess the budgetary impact of a CAT transfer.</p> <p>Potential liaison with Strategic Investment Board (SIB) business plan resource.</p>
<p>Department for Communities (DfC)</p> <p>Voluntary &amp; Community Division (VCD)</p>	<p>Support the public sector in its implementation of the CAT Policy 2014.</p> <p>Support the development of sustainability, enterprise and innovation in the Third Sector.</p>	<p>Provision of advice and guidance to public sector on CAT policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Throughout the process to provide advice and guidance to asset owners from both a CAT policy perspective and wider Third Sector contexts (community development, social enterprise and Regional Infrastructure support). Specific input at Expression of Interest (EoI) stage may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Knowledge of Third sector organisations</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Knowledge of DfC specific and wider funding environment</li> <li>o Good practice for other CAT considerations</li> <li>o Any specific policy inputs.</li> </ul> <p>- Oversight of DTNI contract and their focused role in the CAT process, including their management of timelines within the Eol stage, their communication with stakeholders including asset owners.</p> <p>Working with SIB on the provision and application of independent expertise to Third Sector organisations (TSOs) to assist in the preparation of viable, sustainable business plans to support asset transfer.</p>
<p>Development Trusts NI (DTNI)</p>	<p>Support third sector community organisations to identify and deliver CAT proposals where DTNI assistance is requested/identified as a requirement</p>	<p>DTNI is grant funded by DfC to provide expertise and experience to support the third sector to avail of CAT opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide information and support/signposting to organisations interested in CAT.</li> <li>- Carry out early stage assessment of capacity and capability of the organisation and to support completion of Expression of Interest stage.</li> <li>- Facilitate organisations participation in the LPS Internal Trawl Notice, known as a D1, process, adhering to set timescales.</li> <li>- Support organisations to secure an appropriate sponsor body.</li> </ul> <p>In some instances there may be a specific role for DTNI to support/advise the Third Sector organisation in the business planning stage but this to be agreed with DfC.</p>
<p>Third Sector Organisation (TSO)</p>	<p>Deliver public benefit through the utilisation of public sector assets creating civic value and</p>	<p>Community ownership and management of public assets encompasses a range of third sector organisations, for example, Voluntary and community groups, faith-based organisations and social</p>

	<p>supporting government objectives.</p>	<p>enterprises. The CAT Policy envisages third sector organisations delivering public benefit through management of public sector assets. The third sector organisations are responsible for developing a business plan within agreed timescales which identifies need for the services, demonstrates the viability of the proposed use of an asset, delivery against PfG outcomes and addresses the sustainability, accountability and decision making conditions as highlighted in the CAT policy.</p>
<p>Sponsor Body</p>	<p>Facilitate the transfer of the asset to the community organisation via the public sector trawl in accordance with LPS Disposal Guidance requirements.</p> <p>Consider the need and activity of the third sector organisation's proposed use of the asset as contained within the Business Plan and provide formal endorsement as agreed with the asset owner.</p>	<p>The sponsor body role is to confirm existence of compulsory purchase powers for the intended purpose to allow the transfer to take place, as required under the Stormont Regulation and Government Property Act (NI) 1933.</p> <p>In order to provide this the sponsor body should be content that the proposed use of the asset complements or contributes towards their policy intentions in the area and they are willing to endorse the project (and input to the Asset Owner's business case if necessary) and provide confirmation of this to asset owners when the proposals relate to assets owned by other government bodies.</p> <p>The transfer remains between the asset owner and third sector organisation. There may be particular circumstances where the asset owner may wish to seek to transfer the asset to the sponsor body (or another Department) for onward transfer to the TSO, however this would be subject to negotiation and agreement of both parties.</p> <p>Acting as sponsor body, when not the asset owner, confers no future liability for</p>

		<p>the asset or the services run from it, nor responsibility for issues such as clawback.</p> <p><b>There may be instances where it is desirable for the sponsor to play an enhanced role but this would be subject to agreement between the asset owner and sponsor.</b></p>
<p>Land &amp; Property Services (LPS)</p>	<p>Facilitate the sharing of information on surplus assets with community organisations through inclusion of DTNI in the public sector trawl, as suggested within the CAT Policy 2014.</p> <p>Provide valuation advice to the asset owner and details of any expressions of interest.</p>	<p>LPS Central Advisory Unit (CAU) is responsible for policy and guidance on the disposal of surplus public sector property in Northern Ireland as well as the management and operation of the clearing house service for surplus land. The clearing house provides the main source of information on surplus assets which can be considered for CAT. LPS District Valuers provide the asset owners with a market valuation and details of the expressions of interest through the trawl.</p> <p>LPS do not participate in assessing the investment readiness of third sector proposals or the production of business plans or asset owner's business cases.</p>

<b>Report to:</b>	Active Health and Communities Committee (AHC)
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> August 2020
<b>Subject:</b>	Community Trail Plans SLA with ORNI 2020-2021
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Michael Lipsett, Director: Active and Healthy Communities
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Paul Tamati, Assistant Director: Leisure and Sport

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-

<b>For decision</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>For noting only</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>
1.1	<p>To consider and agree a Service Level Agreement (SLA, Appendix 1) with Outdoor Recreation NI (ORNI) for 2020 – 2021 at a cost of £40,000.</p> <p>In March 2018 AHC agreed to develop a detailed SLA with ORNI for a Community Trail Plans for the district and in April 2018 an initial 1-year SLA with ORNI was approved by AHC Committee and in June 2019 a further 1-year SLA with ORNI was approved.</p> <p>This partnership arrangement and community trail plan assist Council as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Scoping work to identify the potential development of community trails within the district.</li> <li>2. Completion of feasibility studies for identified community trails projects.</li> <li>3. Develop of management plans, land holder agreements and formal access agreements for identified trails.</li> <li>4. Progress and submission of planning applications for identified trails to ensure projects are 'shovel ready'.</li> <li>5. Secure funding for identified trails.</li> <li>6. Assist Council with the appointment of contractors and management of project delivery through to completion.</li> </ol> <p>Although there have been delays due to COVID-19, to date the following Community Trail projects have been completed or will be completed this year which reflects over £900,000 of investment with almost £700,000 coming from external funding.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Saul GAC - 2018/19</li> <li>2. Ballynahinch Rugby Club - 2018/1</li> <li>3. Drumkeeragh Forest - 2019/20</li> <li>4. Tievenadarragh Forest - 2019/20</li> <li>5. Seaforde Plantation &amp; Corry Wood - 2019/20</li> </ol>

<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues</b>
2.1	<p>The proposed 2020/2021 SLA with ORNI aims to build on the foundation work completed through previous years SLAs and deliver the following outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secure funding and deliver Community Trail project in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Daisy Hill, Newry</li> <li>✓ Aughrim Hill, Attical</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Progress submission of planning applications and ensure 'shovel ready' projects for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Windmill Hill, Ballynahinch</li> <li>✓ Glendesha Forest</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Preparation and progression of management plans for Drumkeeragh Forest, Seaforde Plantation &amp; Corry Wood.</li> <li>• Community Trail data collections at 9 community trail sites.</li> <li>• Complete further scoping and feasibility work for new community trails within the district.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
3.1	<b>That AHC Committee consider and agree to a new Service Level Agreement with Outdoor Recreation NI (ORNI) for the 2020-2021 financial year at the total cost of £40,000 as per appendix 1.</b>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	<p><b>Revenue:</b> A budget of £40,000 has been identified and secured in Councils 2020/2021 rates estimates process and remains in place under the revised COVID-19 budgets.</p> <p><b>Capital:</b> Currently there is no capital budget in place to support any match funding opportunities for the further development of Community Trails resulting from 2020/2021 SLA with ORNI, however if required this will be reviewed as part of the estimates process for Councils Capital Programme or a further report brought to committee for consideration.</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b>
5.1	<p><b><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></b></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<b><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></b>

	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><b><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></b></p> <p>Consultation will 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 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	<p><b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b></p>
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If no, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	<p><b>Appendices</b></p>
	<p>Appendix 1: ORNI SLA 2020/21</p>
8.0	<p><b>Background Documents</b></p>
	<p><b>None</b></p>

## SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT BETWEEN

## NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL and OUTDOOR RECREATION NORTHERN IRELAND

2020-2021

This paper details the basis for the work to be undertaken under the Service Level Agreement for the year 2020– 2021.

Under the Council's 2019-2020 SLA with Outdoor Recreation NI, considerable work has been started on the delivery of Community Trails across the Council area. Unfortunately, COVID-19 stopped the construction of 4 trails namely; Tievenadarragh, Drumkeeragh, Corry Wood and Seaforde Plantations in April. Work commenced again in July 2020. All four trails are due for completion by the end of 2020.

The priority for 2020-2021 SLA is to ensure

- the completion, launch and promotion of the four Community Trails (Corry Wood, Seaforde, Drumkeeragh and Tievenadarragh (no cost as covered in 2019-2020 SLA)
- deliver a further 2 Community Trails on the ground (Aughrim Hill, Attical and Daisy Hill, Newry)
- get 2 Community Trails 100% 'shovel ready' for delivery on the ground in 2021-2022
- put in place Management Plans for 3 Community Trails
- put in place a mechanism to allow user numbers across NMDDC Community Trails to be collected and collated on a regular basis
- initiate work on the feasibility of further Community Trails

The following table lists the priority projects for 2020-2021.

Projects (see below for detail)	Cost
<b>1. Delivery on the ground of the following 2 Community Trails (Capital projects)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daisy Hill, Newry</li> <li>• Aughrim Hill, Attical</li> </ul>	£15,250
<b>2. 2 Community Trails 100% shovel ready for delivery on the ground in 2021-2022</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Windmill Hill, Ballynahinch</li> <li>• Glendesha Forest</li> </ul>	£9,923
<b>3. Preparation of individual site-based Management Plans for 3 Community Trails (Drumkeeragh, Seaforde Plantations and Corry Wood)</b>	£5,250
<b>4. Community Trail Data Collection for 9 sites (Castleward, Bunkers Hill, Tobar Mhuire, Saul, Ballynahinch, Drumkeeragh, Tievenadarragh, Seaforde, Corry Wood)</b>	£2,800
<b>5. Feasibility/scoping/assessing/developing new Community Trails.</b>	£6,777
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£40,000</b>

**DETAIL OF WORK TO BE UNDERTAKEN**

**1. Delivery of the following 2 Community Trails**

- a. Aughrim Hill, Attical
- b. Daisy Hill, Newry

Through its 2019-2020 SLA, ORNI completed for the above trails: concept trail design, consultation with local communities, environmental assessments, liaison with landowners etc. This year ORNI will:

1. Act as the first point of contact on all projects.
2. Submit planning applications and respond to all planning queries and appoint and manage further specialists to get projects through planning approval if require.
3. Secure funding by completing the necessary funding applications and business cases, etc. Respond to all queries from funders and provide additional specific information as requested.
4. Work with Council to put in place the necessary development agreements, licence/ lease agreements with the Woodland Trust.
5. Act as the Project Manager throughout the build period.
6. This includes appointing the CPM team using Council's procurement process and working with the CPM team to tender for and appoint contractors, daily liaison with CPM and contractors, attending on-site Project Steering Group meetings and responding to all issues raised at these, on-going liaison with funders throughout and ensuring that the project is delivered to the standard and expectations of all involved.
7. Delivery of all non-ancillary items. This includes the writing of all trailhead and information panels, getting sign off from partners, liaising with graphic designers, production companies and overseeing implementation of all items on the ground.
8. Act as the first point of contact between the contractors and Council on issues regarding finances e.g compensation events, contingency etc
9. Report to Council Committees and Officers as and when required.
10. Work with the Council and partners to launch the Community Trails and promote on WalkNI.com, OutmoreNI.com and other Council channels

**Total cost                    £15,250**

**1. 2 Community Trails 100% shovel ready for delivery on the ground in 2021-2022**

- Windmill Hill, Ballynahinch
- Glendesha Forest

Through its 2019-2020 SLA, ORNI completed for the above trails: concept trail design, consultation with local communities, environmental assessments, liaison with landowners etc. This year ORNI will:

1. Act as the first point of contact on all projects.
2. Undertake further consultation with the Community and individual landowners particularly around Glendesha resulting in agreed final trail corridor.
3. Facilitate Council staff in putting together the necessary Development Agreements, Permissive



Path Agreements, Licence Agreement etc as necessary.

4. Submit planning applications and respond to all planning queries and appoint and manage further specialists to get projects through planning approval if required.
5. Prepare the detailed concept trail prescription documents for the two trails.
6. Source funding for the trails.
7. Report to Council Committees and Officers as and when required.

<b>Total cost</b>	<b>£9,923</b>
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### 3. Site-Based Management Plans for 3 Community Trails (Drumkeeragh Forest, Seaforde Plantations and Corry Wood)

It is essential that with the launch of each Community Trail a specific site-based Management Plan is prepared to allow the Council to efficiently manage the facilities for which it is responsible.

Outdoor Recreation NI will – prepare for each of the 3 Community Trails to cover:

#### Management Plan

- Details of all products for which Council is responsible as delivered by ORNI, e.g. trails, signage
- Management roles including
  - o Generic risk assessment for identification of hazards including hazard risk assessment pro forma and priority ratings for addressing defects
  - o Details of operational inspections and random fault reporting
  - o Suggested Inspection programme
  - o Information for users (onsite panels)
  - o Liaison
  - o Accident reporting procedure
  - o Review
- Details of each product / item (e.g. waymarker post, bench etc.) including (where applicable / where information is held) -
  - o Description
  - o Safety statement
  - o Location map
  - o Specification of items and materials used
  - o List of Suppliers
  - o Inspection Regime
  - o Maintenance Requirements
  - o Signage design proofs including safety signage, directional signage etc.
  - o Information panels (including housing) specification etc.
  - o Other relevant information, e.g. warranties, design drawings for car parks etc.

#### Trail Construction Information

To include –

- Trail Design prescription document (as provided by Council to Contractor prior to construction)
- Shapefiles for all trails including (compatible with ARC GIS)
- To be provided by Contractor –

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ As built plans for trails and all associated infrastructure</li> <li>○ Risk assessments for all trails</li> <li>○ Other relevant information</li> </ul>	<b>Total cost</b>	<b>£5,250</b>
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<p><b>4. Community Trail – Data Collection.</b></p> <p>In order to assess whether the Community Trails within the Council area are successful in terms of being well used by the local community and to help justify further expenditure on Community Trails within the Council area, it is essential that Council has some indication of the numbers using each Trail. As part of each capital project, counters are installed.</p> <p>Outdoor Recreation NI will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Collect 4 times a year data on the following 9 Community Trails and compile into a Summary Report at the end of the year:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tobar Mhuire, Crossgar (multi-use)</li> <li>2. Bunker’s Hill, Castlewellan (multi-use)</li> <li>3. Castleward, Strangford (multi-use)</li> <li>4. Ballynahinch Rugby Club (walking)</li> <li>5. Saul GAC (walking)</li> <li>6. Tievenadarragh Forest, near Seaforde (walking)</li> <li>7. Drumkeeragh Forest (multi-use)</li> <li>8. Corry Wood, Castlewellan (walking)</li> <li>9. Seaforde Plantations (walking)</li> </ol> </li> </ul> <p>Address any issues with counters that are not working with the supplier.</p>		
<b>Total cost</b>		<b>£2,800</b>

<p><b>5. Feasibility of new Community Trails.</b></p> <p>With a focus to date being on the Slieve Croob DEA, work will progress to identify potential Community Trails in the other 6 DEAs</p> <p>Outdoor Recreation NI will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Carry out a review of those trails identified in stage 1 of the Community Trail Planning process and identify potential trails to be taken forward. It is likely that these will involve trails on public land or where there is 100% ‘buy-in’ from the local community.</li> </ol> <p>For each of the identified trails work will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritisation of trail to be taken forward.</li> <li>• Consultation with local community to establish demand and buy in.</li> <li>• Site visit to proposed trails and GIS mapping of proposed routes.</li> <li>• Consultation with identified land-owners and permission to proceed.</li> <li>• Consultation with all statutory consultees (NED, HED, FSNI, DfC DFI) and ensure any other statutory requirements are met e.g HRA.</li> <li>• Assessment of feasibility and costing of trail options (identify trail surface, infrastructure etc.).</li> <li>• Facilitate Council staff in putting together the necessary Development Agreements, Permissive Path Agreements, Licence Agreement etc as necessary.</li> <li>• Undertake all necessary environmental surveys.</li> <li>• Take up to planning stage (not submission).</li> </ul>		
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• Identify potential funding opportunities.
<b>Total cost</b> <b>£6,777</b>

<b>Report to:</b>	Active and Healthy Communities
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	17 August 2020
<b>Subject:</b>	Promotion of Safer Cycling
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Eoin Devlin Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Sheena McEldowney Head of Sustainability

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-

<b>For decision</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>For noting only</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>
1.1	To consider and agree to Council Officers working with key partners to identify and promote safer cycling initiatives across the District.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues</b>
2.1	<p>In March 2019 further to a Notice of Motion it was agreed that:</p> <p><i>This Council recognises the multiple health, environmental, social and economic benefits of cycling and commits to encouraging cycling. This will be brought about by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>practically encouraging cycling within and between our towns through the re-designation of some pathways</i></li> <li>• <i>safer cycling corridors within our towns,</i></li> <li>• <i>working with external organisations to encourage recreational participation and safety measures such as 'stayin' alive at 1.5'.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>It also acknowledges the recent study by the Department of Infrastructure that notes – regardless of being of primary or post-primary age, or whether they are urban or rural dwellers – the excessively low numbers of children who cycle to school. Council commits to working with external agencies to explore ways in which cycling, and other active means of transport, can be promoted and increased within our district.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By increasing activity and reducing reliance on the private car, walking and cycling will contribute to sustainability, cultivate better active travel habits, improve air quality and contribute to longer healthier lives.</li> <li>• The Travel Survey for Northern Ireland reveals that on average people make around 900 journeys every year. Of these, around one third are less than two miles in length and many of these are much shorter. These are journeys that could and should be made by walking, cycling and public transport, yet far too many of them are still made by private car.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DfI have appointed a new Walking and Cycling Champion whose role is to ensure that DfI deliver on their commitment to increase the percentage of journeys made by walking and cycling.</li> <li>• Sustrans work with schools, workplaces, and communities in Northern Ireland to encourage people to walk and cycle for their everyday journeys.</li> <li>• The Sustrans Active Schools Programme is a regional programme working in schools across Northern Ireland. From September 2020, Sustrans will be working with 17 schools in Newry Mourne &amp; Down intensively. A further 21 local schools are also involved in the Extended Support Scheme. This is for schools who have completed the Active Schools Programme and have ongoing at distance contact with the programme.</li> <li>• There are a number of safer cycling initiatives that council can get involved with including Schools Active Travel programme, Stayin Alive at 1.5, Cycle Proficiency Training, AXA Community Bike Rides.</li> </ul> <p>Update on progress to be provided at Sustainability and Climate Change Forum</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
3.1	That the Committee consider and agree that Council Officers work with key partners, including DfI Officials, PHA, Schools and Sustrans, to identify appropriate initiatives and funding opportunities to encourage an increase in cycling and promote Safer Cycling across the District.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	Within existing estimates and funding opportunities will be sought.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b>
5.1	<p><b><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></b></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><b><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></b></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p>

	<p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><b><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></b></p> <p>Consultation will 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 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	<b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b>
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	<b>Appendices</b>
	None
8.0	<b>Background Documents</b>

<b>Report to:</b>	Active and Healthy Communities
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	17 August 2020
<b>Subject:</b>	Housing Executive's Draft Older People's Housing Strategy 2020/1-2025/26
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Eoin Devlin Assistant Director of Health and Wellbeing
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	James Campbell Head of Environmental Health-Residential

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-

<b>For decision</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>For noting only</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>
1.1	<p>On 26 February 2020 the Housing Executive's Board approved the draft Older People's Housing Strategy 2020/21 to 2025/26. The Housing Executive are now undertaking a 12-week external consultation exercise to seek feedback on the strategic direction the organisation has set out in the document.</p> <p>The Strategy supports NIHE's commitment in continuing to work with existing partners and stakeholders to maximise and complement their contribution to improving housing related services for older people. This includes statutory and voluntary organisations, health and social care trusts and local councils.</p> <p>The Strategy can be found at; <a href="https://www.nihe.gov.uk/Working-With-Us/Partners/Consultations">https://www.nihe.gov.uk/Working-With-Us/Partners/Consultations</a></p>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues</b>
2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The number of citizens in NI aged 65 and over has increased by over 25% in the last 25 years and now makes up some 16% of the total population.</li> <li>• These trends led to the NIHE developing this Strategy to best plan and deliver appropriate housing for older people in NI.</li> <li>• The Strategy recognises that the NIHE alone cannot address the needs of older people. They must work with Council to maximise and complement NIHE's contribution to improving services for older people.</li> <li>• They propose to do this by delivering under four broad themes which are Planning for the future, Promoting and maintaining people's dignity, Providing housing advice for older people and Promoting Participation.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
3.1	That the Committee agree to return the attached Consultation response.

4.0	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	None to Newry Mourne and Down District Council. Within current resource.
5.0	<b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b>
5.1	<p><b><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></b></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><b><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></b></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><b>NIHE Strategy document. NIHE will be responsible for screening.</b> If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><b><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></b></p> <p>Consultation will 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 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i> <b>NIHE Strategy document. NIHE will be responsible for screening.</b></p>
6.0	<b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b>
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service <b>NIHE Strategy document. NIHE will be responsible for rural needs.</b></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>



	<p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If no, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	<p>Appendix 1: NMDDC Consultation Response</p> <p>Appendix 2: Housing Executive's Draft Older People's Housing Strategy 2020/1-2025/26</p>
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Background Documents</b>
	None

John Goudy

Corporate Business Planning and Performance

5<sup>th</sup> Floor Housing Centre

2 Adelaide Street

Belfast

BT1 8PB

**Re: Housing Executive's Draft Older People's Housing Strategy 2020/21 to 2025/26 consultation**

Newry Mourne and Down District Council welcomes the opportunity to make comment on the above Draft strategy.

The Strategy has four themes,

- Planning for the future
- Promoting and maintaining people's dignity
- Providing housing advice for older people
- Promoting participation

This Strategy is comprehensive and gives good detail on what the Housing Executive will be doing to ensure their services evolve in response to the projected growth of older people in Northern Ireland.

Newry Mourne and Down District Council welcome the contents of the Draft Strategy and offer the council's assistance in delivering it. The Housing Executive are involved in the Newry Mourne and Down Age Friendly Alliance. This Alliance is currently preparing its own Age Friendly Strategy, and this could be acknowledged in the Housing Executive's Strategy as demonstrating partnership working.

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107

# Older People's Housing Strategy 2020/21-2025/26



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## Table of Contents

1.0	Foreword.....	4
	Equality Statement .....	6
2.0	Our Vision for Older People.....	6
	Introduction .....	11
	Housing Executive Research.....	12
3.0	Strategic Context.....	14
4.0	Older People's Housing Strategy.....	31
	Theme 1: Planning for the Future .....	32
	1. Exploring Housing Options for Older People .....	33
	2. Supporting Independent Living .....	43
	Theme 2 - Promoting and Maintaining People's Dignity .....	52
	Theme 3 - Housing Advice for Older People.....	58
	Theme 4 - Promoting Participation .....	63
	Appendix 1 List of Useful Documents/Web Pages .....	68

**We can let you have a copy of the plans in a language that meets your needs and in different formats.**

## 1.0 Foreword

Over the next 25 years, Northern Ireland will see a significant increase in both the overall number and the percentage of older people within the population. This will have implications for the type of services that we deliver, along with increasing pressures on social and healthcare provision. Therefore, this draft Older People's Housing Strategy has been developed to ensure that our services evolve in response to the projected growth in the number of older people in Northern Ireland.

The Housing Executive is both a landlord with over 85,000 homes, and the Regional Housing Authority for Northern Ireland. In the latter role we need to understand the dynamics of change in the population and seek to promote active housing stock management. Such an approach would benefit older people and other members of the community through ensuring that people live in homes best suited to their needs.

It is also important that we explore flexible housing solutions, which allow people to transition from one type of housing to another in later life, as their circumstances dictate. These solutions can range from being able to 'age in place' with the assistance of adaptations to the home and/or care support, to helping to downsize to other accommodation, including sheltered housing and extra-care housing. The collaboration of a number of service providers will be essential to create places where older people feel safe and connected to their community, helping to prevent loneliness and isolation.

To draft this Strategy, we have used our recent research 'Housing and Older People: Issues, Needs and Aspirations' alongside other contemporary resources. We have also used our knowledge and experience of housing related issues that may impact older people. The draft Strategy is set out under the following four key themes:

1. **Planning for the future:** Under this theme there are two distinct strands: Exploring Housing Options for Older People, which looks at different housing models; and Supporting Independent Living, which looks at ways to assist those who can and wish to remain in their own home;
2. **Promoting and Maintaining Dignity:** This theme sets out the services we currently provide and looks at ways to develop new and existing services to promote and maintain the dignity of our tenants and customers;
3. **Providing Housing Advice for Older People:** In this theme we set out a direction to help us explore and develop new and existing housing information and advisory services, and how we can deliver these using a range of formats and methods; and
4. **Promoting Participation:** Under this theme we recognise how engaging, enabling and empowering older people actively to participate in community life can have positive impacts on their health, wellbeing and happiness. Loneliness can have a severe detrimental impact on all age groups, including older people, and we will work in partnership with others to support opportunities for older people to become involved in shaping, informing and enjoying the services that we deliver on their behalf.

## Draft Older People's Housing Strategy 2020/21-2025/26

We already work with a wide range of statutory, voluntary and community-based partners and stakeholders to deliver an impressive range of housing related services. These partnership arrangements have allowed us to serve the needs of our tenants, customers and communities more efficiently and effectively. Partnership working will be a key component in delivering places and services that provide age friendly environments where older people can continue to thrive.

We welcome and encourage comments on this draft Older People's Housing Strategy which may help us better to plan, deliver and respond to housing related issues that could impact on older people now and in the future.

Should you wish to participate in this consultation, a copy of the Strategy document is available on our website or can be made available upon request at the following address. <https://www.nihe.gov.uk/Working-With-Us/Partners/Consultations>

Consultation ends on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020 and consultation responses should be directed to [business.performance@nihe.gov.uk](mailto:business.performance@nihe.gov.uk) or via writing to:

John Goudy  
Corporate Business Planning & Performance  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor Housing Centre  
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BT1 8PB  
Tel: 028 959 82498



Professor Peter Roberts, Chair



Clark Bailie, Chief Executive

## Equality Statement

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 requires the Housing Executive to comply with Section 75 (1). This states that, in carrying out our function, we are required to have due regard to promote the equality of opportunity between various groups, including 'age'.

This strategy has been Equality Screened and a copy of this can be made available on request.

## 2.0 Our Vision for Older People

Our vision is 'to enable older people to live as independently as possible with dignity; with opportunities and options to meet their housing needs; and to be supported to engage and participate in community life to create vibrant sustainable communities.'

### Why developing an Older People's Housing Strategy is important

The population of Northern Ireland is becoming increasingly older. For example, the number of citizens aged 65 years or older has increased by over 25% in the last 25 years and now makes up some 16% of the total population. Between mid-2017 and June 2018, the proportion of people in the population aged over 85 years rose by 1.5% to 37,700 with this group alone having grown by over 30% in the last 10 years. It is now projected that, by 2041, the number of people aged 85 years or older will more than double to over 82,000. And, by 2028, the number of people aged over 65 years is projected to outnumber those aged under 16 years of age.

This increase in the number of older people is attributed to improving standards in healthcare, leading to higher survival rates. At the same time, there has also been a marked downward trend in births. However, these key demographic trends present some fundamental societal challenges with continuing pressure on public services to provide care and support for a growing, older population but with a declining working age population, even allowing for potential new entrants through migration. This raises significant issues, including labour availability and resourcing, especially government's ability to raise funding through taxes paid by those in work. The World Health Organisation's (WHO) 'World Report on Ageing and Health'<sup>1</sup> stated that "failure to adapt to demographic change will result in high costs to society". Greater investment in areas such as age-friendly environments have demonstrated a range of benefits to the individual in terms of health, skills and knowledge, mobility, social connectivity, financial security and personal dignity, safety and security. These in

<sup>1</sup>[http://www.euro.who.int/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0018/333702/AFEE-tool.pdf?ua=1](http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0018/333702/AFEE-tool.pdf?ua=1)



turn may generate positive returns to society in terms of the individuals wellbeing, workforce participation, social and cultural contribution and social cohesion.

In recent years, the challenges that will arise as a result of an ageing population are increasingly being recognised across various sectors of society in Northern Ireland. There is increased acknowledgement that society needs to be able to meet the needs and aspirations that older people have, now, and in the future, in order for them to carry on living to their fullest potential. At the time of developing this strategy, a number of key reports, conferences and seminars at both local and a national level have focused on the challenges of an ageing population, including those challenges from housing and planning perspectives

Our Older People's Strategy is also based on, and aims to complement, the themes detailed in the Executive Office's 'Active Ageing Strategy 2016-2021'<sup>2</sup> which is designed to "make a real difference to the quality of life of older people and to enable as many people as possible to enjoy the benefits and rewards of life for as long as possible".

Recognising this shift in demography, the Housing Executive commissioned research to support and inform our decision making in relation to how best to plan and deliver appropriate housing for older people in Northern Ireland. This research was published in late 2019. In addition to this, in tandem with developing this strategy, we have consulted both with the Housing Executive's Consultative Forum on Equality and with senior representatives from the office of the Commission for Older People in Northern Ireland.

In 2016, the World Health Organisation (WHO) produced a report aimed at policy-makers and planners to develop age-friendly policies and interventions across the physical environment, transport and housing.<sup>3</sup> The WHO report notes that whilst the development of age-friendly environments primarily focuses on the needs of older people, there are simultaneous benefits for other age groups.

"For example, barrier free physical environments will ultimately benefit parents with prams. well designed homes can be more easily adapted to meet people's needs as they age and being part of a vibrant, connected and safe community will ultimately benefit all tenants and residents regardless of their age".<sup>4</sup>

This is perhaps more pertinent now as a substantial number of families contain four living generations, and, for example, a 65 year old may now provide support and care not only for their parents, but also for their grandchildren.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/ofmdfm/active-ageing-strategy.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.euro.who.int/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0018/333702/AFEE-tool.pdf?ua=1](http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0018/333702/AFEE-tool.pdf?ua=1)

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.euro.who.int/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0018/333702/AFEE-tool.pdf?ua=1](http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0018/333702/AFEE-tool.pdf?ua=1)

## What our Strategy aims to achieve

Our Strategy takes into account the changing demography of Northern Ireland, including that of our own tenant profile, and aims to ensure that the services, policies, initiatives and activities that we deliver consider and meet the needs of our ageing population.

The Housing Executive is focused on improving and positively impacting a range of housing related services under our three corporate high level themes of People, Property and Places. We do, however, recognise that addressing these challenges cannot be carried out by the Housing Executive acting alone and we will continue to work with existing partners and stakeholders to maximise and complement our contribution to improving services for older people. This includes statutory and voluntary organisations, health and social care trusts, local councils and community planning partners. There is a huge opportunity to build on this and we believe that through a partnership approach, resources can be directed more effectively, organisations can work more collaboratively, and outcomes can be more meaningful.

We have developed our Strategy, and high level action plan, for a five year planning horizon covering the period from 2020/21 – 2025/26. Each year we will update and publish a more detailed annual action plan, based on a realistic assessment of our progress in the previous year and to take account of any new or emerging trends. We will baseline, track our services, and measure any improvements against a range of our services that are directly or indirectly targeted at older people. This includes the opportunity to conduct more research if deemed appropriate.

The Strategy also seeks to knit together the range of existing activities that we currently deliver for older people and outlines our plans to develop and deliver new services and initiatives under four broad themes. These themes are:

1. Planning for the future;
2. Promoting and maintaining people's dignity;
3. Providing housing advice for older people; and
4. Promoting participation.

## Defining an 'older person'

Older People are not a homogenous group and there is no stereotypical older person. Indeed, some people aged 60 years or older may be fitter, healthier and more active than many people younger than them.

The concept of 'old age' is therefore not simple or straightforward, with various organisations, charities or government departments all citing different definitions of 'old age'.

The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) uses both 65 and 85 years of age as key milestones when reporting on demographics and population projections. The Housing Executive's annual Continuous Tenant Omnibus Surveys reports on tenants within both the 60-64 age range and the 65 years or older age range. Recently published Housing Executive research captured housing needs, aspirations and preferences of those aged 55 years or older.

The social housing waiting list (Common Waiting List) data categorises applicants aged 60 years or older as 'elderly'. The Commissioner for Older People in Northern Ireland considers 60 years or more as the defining criterion for an 'older person' and in Northern Ireland social benefits such as free bus travel and concessions on public transport commence at 60 years of age.

Whilst there would not appear to be a commonly accepted or universal definition of an older person, for the purposes of this strategy we will use 60 years or older when we refer to an 'older person'. However, this will be applied flexibly to allow the strategy to use a wide range of sources across a number of definitions. Indeed, when planning for the future, it is pertinent to look at the range of research and demographics available, including those who have not yet reached the 'older' or 'elderly' milestones of 60 years plus, or 65 years or older. Those who are aged 55 or older are within the 'active ageing' category and may be considered as part of future demographic need.

## How will we know we were successful?

By the end of the Strategy, we will have:

- explored a range of housing options for older people, leading to better planning decisions in relation to new models for the future;
- supported people to remain in their homes where appropriate;
- provided support and assistance to help older people to live with dignity in an attractive and safe home and community environment;
- gained a better understanding of the needs of our older customers and continued to develop and deliver a range of housing advice and services to meet those needs;
- built on existing and provided new opportunities for older people to participate, shape and become actively involved in their communities;

## Draft Older People's Housing Strategy 2020/21-2025/26

116

- worked with partners and stakeholders to design and deliver more and better integrated services;
- mapped and analysed population trends on an ongoing basis to ensure that our services have kept pace with demographic changes;
- measured and tracked how well we have delivered our activities over the period of the strategy through regular progress updates; and
- identified further areas for research, as necessary.

DRAFT

## Introduction

Northern Ireland is an ageing society with almost one in six people aged 65 or older according to the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) 2016 mid-year estimates. This number has increased by 26.3% in the last 25 years. The number of those aged 85 years or older has shown an even more dramatic increase and is projected to more than double by 2041 to over 82,000.<sup>5</sup>

Many older people have spent large portions of their lives working and contributing to the development and improvement of Northern Ireland across all sectors. Some continue to work while others have made invaluable 'community contributions' by raising their own families, and, in many cases, supporting children and relatives through, often unpaid, care or childcare support.

Many also contribute significantly through volunteering, involvement in charities and by being active in the community across a range of initiatives and activities. In financial terms older people in Northern Ireland are expected to contribute the equivalent value of some £25 billion to the economy over the next 50 years through volunteering, caring, childcare, replacement parenting and working.<sup>6</sup>

There are, however, a number of significant challenges that face older people including deteriorating health with conditions such as dementia, or through disability. One of the greatest challenges that we face as a society is ensuring that there is an adequate supply and choice of safe and secure housing appropriate to the diverse needs of an ageing population with good transport links and infrastructure in place to create and sustain vibrant communities.

Of course ensuring an adequate supply of suitable housing is not only about building or securing more units of accommodation, as many people wish to remain in their own home. It is very much a societal issue and requires co-operation and partnership working across a range of government departments, statutory bodies, charities and volunteers along with input from older people. We work and will continue to work with a range of organisations in order to maximise the impact that we can have at a grass roots level on our estates and within our communities, as well as with statutory bodies and government departments at a strategic level.

This strategy not only outlines new high level objectives specifically for housing, it also aims to bring strands from our other strategies together, setting out our services for older people and our high level actions for the years ahead. See Appendix 1 for details.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/2016-based-population-projections-areas-within-northern-ireland>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.copni.org/news/2014/september/older-people-in-northern-ireland-set-to-contribute-247-billion-to-economy-over-the-next-50-years>

## Housing Executive Research

In 2018 the Housing Executive commissioned research entitled 'Older People: Housing Issues, Aspirations and Needs'. The purpose of this research was to support and inform decision making in relation to appropriate housing for older people in Northern Ireland, through qualitative insights on the views of internal Housing Executive Stakeholders (16 respondents), external stakeholders (21 respondents) and older people themselves (57 respondents). Older people were grouped into three broad cohorts. Those aged 55-69 years, those aged 70-84 years and those aged 85 years or older.

The primary aims of the research were to:

- explore the needs, aspirations and preferences of different cohorts of older people in relation to housing options;
- identify planning actions by housing providers and representative organisations in order to meet the future housing needs and aspirations of older people;
- collate data on what existing accommodation is available in relation to the distribution of the older people population across Northern Ireland; and
- ascertain levels of future housing need in relation to the same.

A number of findings and recommendations were presented. Some of these were specific to housing and others are much broader and would require exploration by the appropriate bodies. The fulfilment of these aspirational recommendations are dependent on a number of critical factors including funding and partnership working across a range of agencies, however broadly represent the views expressed from the sample size of respondents through the qualitative research outlined above.

Some key findings outlined were:

- defining old age is not a simple task as people's personal circumstances including housing, health, mobility and wealth can vary greatly, within, and between various age bands;
- older people are more likely to be living in an owner occupied dwelling, own their home outright, live in a home built before 1919 and be more likely to be in fuel poverty;
- There are non-housing specific factors that can act as barriers for older people to remaining in the same accommodation such as their health, isolation and loneliness, mobility, loss of partner and lack of family support;
- Feedback from focus group participants indicated that their preference was to remain living in their current accommodation rather than moving;
- There are numerous support measures to help support people to remain in their current home;

- The delivery of housing and housing related services and community based advice and support for older people is a key role for a wide range of statutory and voluntary agencies; and
- Housing needs and aspirations of older people are multiple and complex and their expectations are increasing.

The research findings have been used to help shape and inform this Strategy. Details of the research can be found on our website at [www.nihe.gov.uk](http://www.nihe.gov.uk). Other research that helped to inform this Strategy included The All Party Parliamentary Group Report on Decent and Accessible Homes for Older People<sup>7</sup> and the World Health Organisation's report on 'Creating age-friendly environments in Europe – A tool for local policy-makers and planners'.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/our-impact/politics-and-government/all-party-parliamentary-group/>

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.euro.who.int/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0018/333702/AFEE-tool.pdf?ua=1](http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0018/333702/AFEE-tool.pdf?ua=1)

## 3.0 Strategic Context

In writing this document there are a number of strategic factors to be taken into account including the Draft Programme for Government, The Executive Office's Active Ageing Strategy, our own Corporate Plan, other government legislation, demographics and other societal issues.

### Draft Programme for Government 2016-21

The Draft Programme for Government (PfG) 2016-21 provides the highest level strategic document of the Executive Office in Northern Ireland. The draft Framework contains 12 strategic outcomes which set a clear direction of travel and enable continuous improvement on essential components of societal wellbeing. There are 49 indicators across the 12 strategic outcomes. Good quality housing and housing services have a key role to play in the successful delivery of some of these outcomes.

The Housing Executive directly contributes to Outcome 8, "We care for others and help those in need", and Outcome 11, "We connect people and opportunities through our infrastructure". We also have the opportunity to influence Outcome 2, "We live and work sustainably – protecting the environment" and Outcome 7, "We have a safe community where we respect the law and each other".

At the time of writing, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and Tánaiste in the Republic of Ireland published the 'New Decade, New Approach'<sup>9</sup> document which outlines the priorities for the Northern Ireland Executive. We await further details of any new and relevant Programme for Government outcomes and indicators and we will factor these recommendations into our annual action plans where appropriate.

### Active Ageing Strategy 2016-21

The Executive Office's Active Ageing Strategy 2016-2021 aims to transform attitudes to, and services for older people. It aims to increase the understanding of the issues affecting older people and promotes an emphasis on rights, value and contributions as opposed to needs, costs and burdens. There are five strategic aims - Independence, Participation, Care, Self-fulfilment and Dignity. Again, housing and housing services have a key role to play in the realisation of these. The outcomes that we can help to influence are:

- Suitable warm housing;
- Promoting community safety and tackling fear of crime;
- User-friendly information;
- Address isolation and loneliness;
- Participation of older people in decision making and the provision of services;

<sup>9</sup>[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/856998/2020-01-08\\_a\\_new\\_decade\\_\\_a\\_new\\_approach.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/856998/2020-01-08_a_new_decade__a_new_approach.pdf)



- Support and promote the health and wellbeing of people as they get older;
- Training and leisure opportunities; and
- Respecting older people's dignity.

In late 2019 the Department for Communities conducted a Mid-Term Review of the Active Ageing Strategy to measure progress against the Strategy's aims and identify what has been delivered against the action plan. The Housing Executive has contributed positively to a number of these to date including:

- Delivering the Affordable Warmth Scheme, on behalf of DfC, which by the end of the 2018/19 year had provided 6,063 energy efficiency measures to 3,205 homes. Over 59% of these homes were occupied by a person aged over 65 years;
- We managed the SHDP with Housing Associations achieving 1,786 Social Housing Development Programme starts (this provides social housing in Northern Ireland). Of these 5% were wheelchair accessible and 266 were for older people;
- Providing approximately £72m support through the Supporting People Programme of which older people are one of the four thematic groups; and
- Working towards reducing the length of time it takes for major adaptations to be completed within 52 weeks or less by the end of 2020/21.

### **Our Corporate Plan 2017/18-2020/21**

The Housing Executive's Corporate Plan outlines our high level delivery objectives for the period covered by the plan. It uses four high level outcomes related to housing and other services. They are:

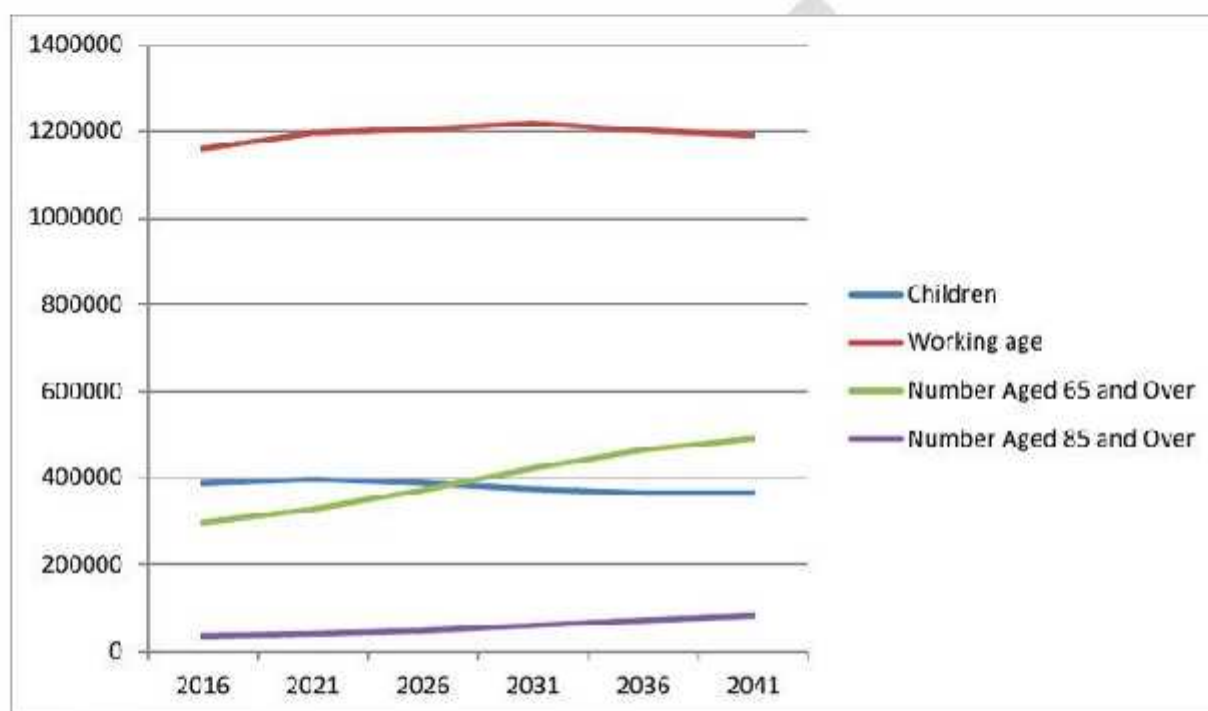
1. Helping people find housing support and solutions;
2. Delivering better homes;
3. Fostering vibrant sustainable communities; and
4. Delivering quality public services.

These outcomes are things that people can identify with such as finding suitable accommodation, improving the quality of people's homes or living in a sustainable community and are intended to guide our work over a longer period of time.

### Demographic Changes

As previously outlined the population of Northern Ireland is becoming increasingly older. Improving survival rates, coupled with a general downward trend in the number of births, has resulted in a higher percentage of older people compared to the total population percentage. By 2028<sup>10</sup> the older population (65 years or older) is projected to surpass the number of younger people in Northern Ireland for the first time (Chart 1).

**Chart 1: Northern Ireland population projection from Mid-2016 to Mid-2041**  
(Source: NISRA)



<sup>10</sup> <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/sites/nisra.gov.uk/files/publications/2016-based%20Population%20Projections%20-%20statistical%20bulletin.pdf>

## Draft Older People's Housing Strategy 2020/21-2025/26

The 'population pyramid' (Chart 1a, below) depicts the estimated population of Northern Ireland in mid-2020 by gender and by 5 year age brackets and also depicts the projected demographics of Northern Ireland in 2045.

### Chart 1a: Population Pyramid projections, 2020 – 2045

(Source: NISRA)



The grey line indicates the current estimated population and the blue and orange coloured bars highlight population projections in 2045. There is projected to be a reduction in younger people as a whole, a reduction in working age females and an overall increase of people over 65.

Whilst living a longer life is an indicator of improved living standards, improved lifestyle and greater access to quality healthcare services, there are key issues that impact on housing and caring for an ageing population. While it is projected that a greater number of older women than men will be living alone in 2041<sup>11</sup>, the 'gender gap' is projected to lessen in the next 25 years. This is due to life expectancy changes between males and females, and could influence individual's choices for future housing to accommodate their different needs.

It should be noted that projections are subject to change and there are other factors affecting population size such as inward and outward migration which may impact this projection.

<sup>11</sup> [https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=12&ved=2zhUKEwjm1q7Zn-flAhUKVwKH-UHyAmIQFjALegQIAxAC&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nisra.gov.uk%2Fsites%2Fnisra.gov.uk%2Ffile%2Fpublications%2FHHP16\\_Figures.xls&usq=AOvVaw3gE\\_juXhVIYHyZgVXYy:HM](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=12&ved=2zhUKEwjm1q7Zn-flAhUKVwKH-UHyAmIQFjALegQIAxAC&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nisra.gov.uk%2Fsites%2Fnisra.gov.uk%2Ffile%2Fpublications%2FHHP16_Figures.xls&usq=AOvVaw3gE_juXhVIYHyZgVXYy:HM)

**Chart 2: Northern Ireland Projected Percentage Change 2016 – 2041 for those aged 65 years or older. (Those aged 85 or older are a subset of those aged 65 or older and projected numbers are detailed on the graph)**

(Source: NISRA)

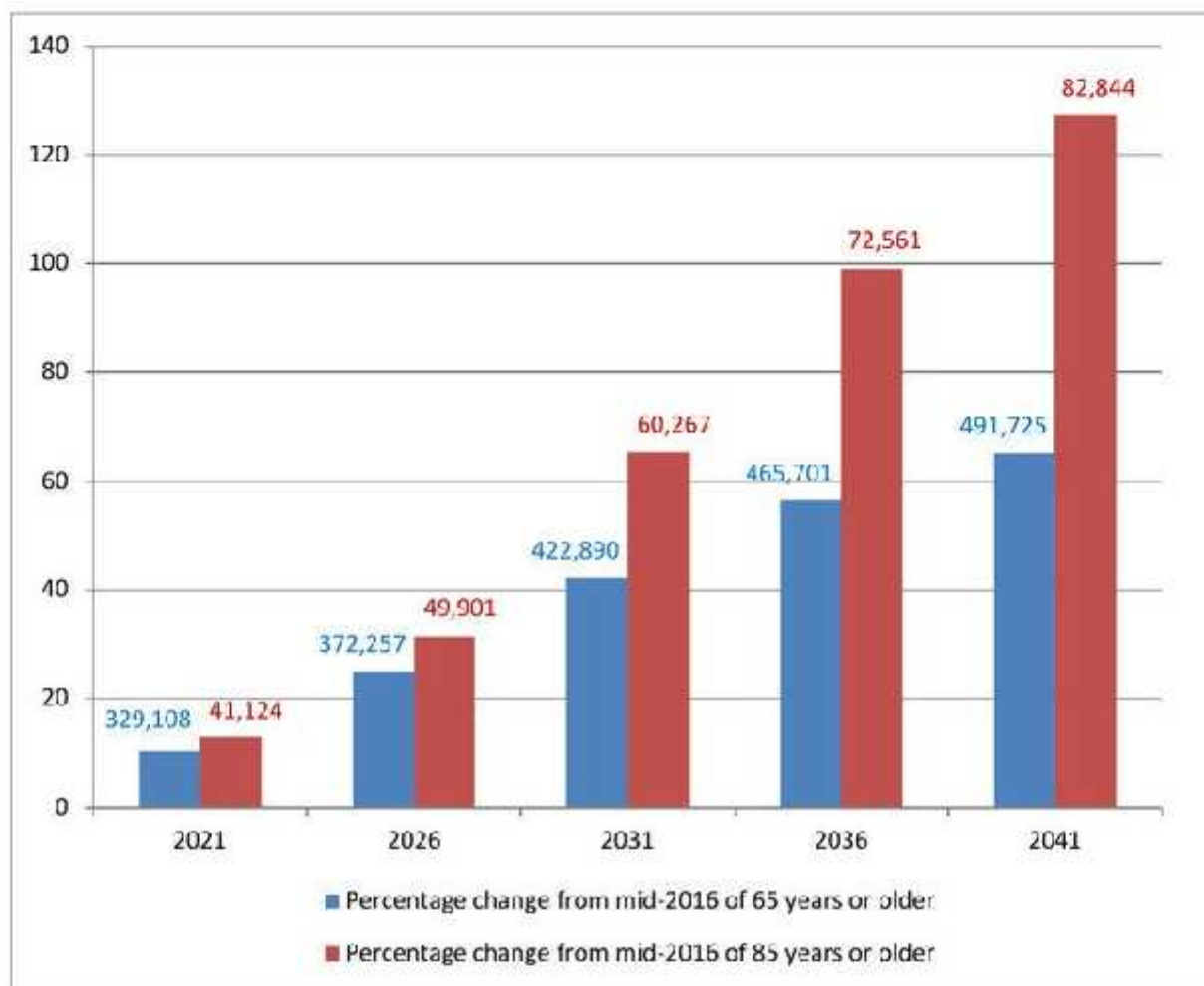
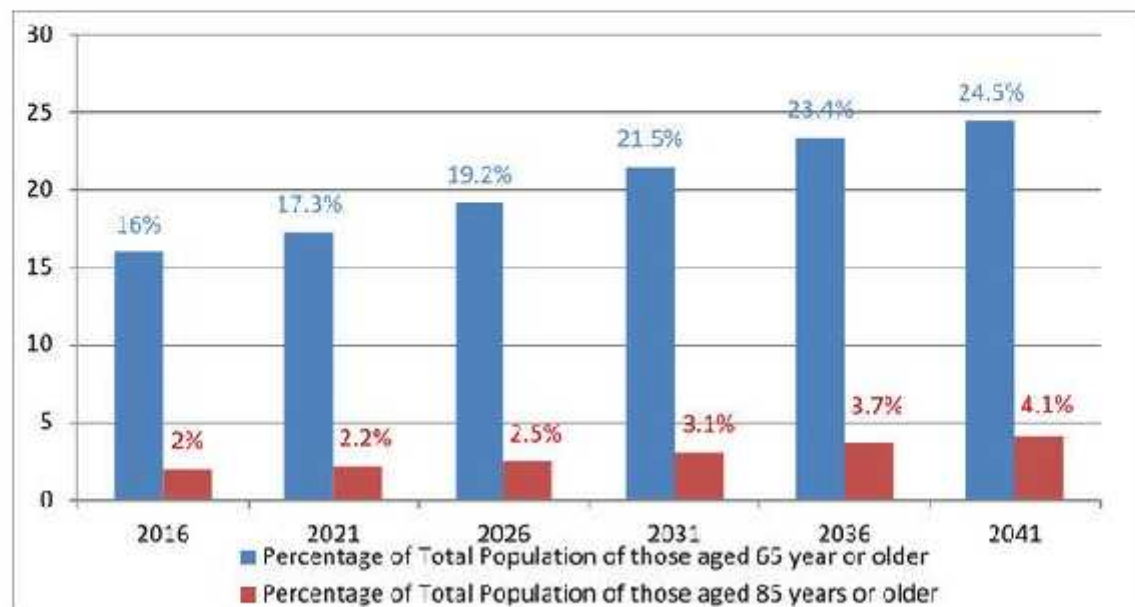


Chart 2 (above) shows the projected percentage change of those over 65 and the projected numbers of those against the 2016 baseline.

Whilst the percentage of those aged 65 years or older is steadily increasing, the percentage of those aged 85 or older, (a subset of those aged 65 or older) is rapidly increasing and by 2041 it is projected that there will be an increase of 127% of people aged 85 years or older.

### Chart 3: Northern Ireland projected percentage of population 2016 - 2041 for those aged 65 years and 85 year or older

(Source: NISRA)



Source: NISRA

Chart 3 shows that by 2041 it is projected that almost one quarter (24.5%) of the total population will be aged 65+ (See Chart 3)

Demographic projections are useful when planning for the future. Projections and numbers can vary widely at a local level. Analysing and understanding these can help inform the adequate supply and delivery of housing related services for the future. The following three maps below depict trends of people aged 65 year or older over time across Northern Ireland.

Map 1 shows the number of people aged 65 years or older, broken down by Local Government District (LGD). The yellow and green colours show lower numbers of those aged 65 years or older based on mid-year 2016 estimates.

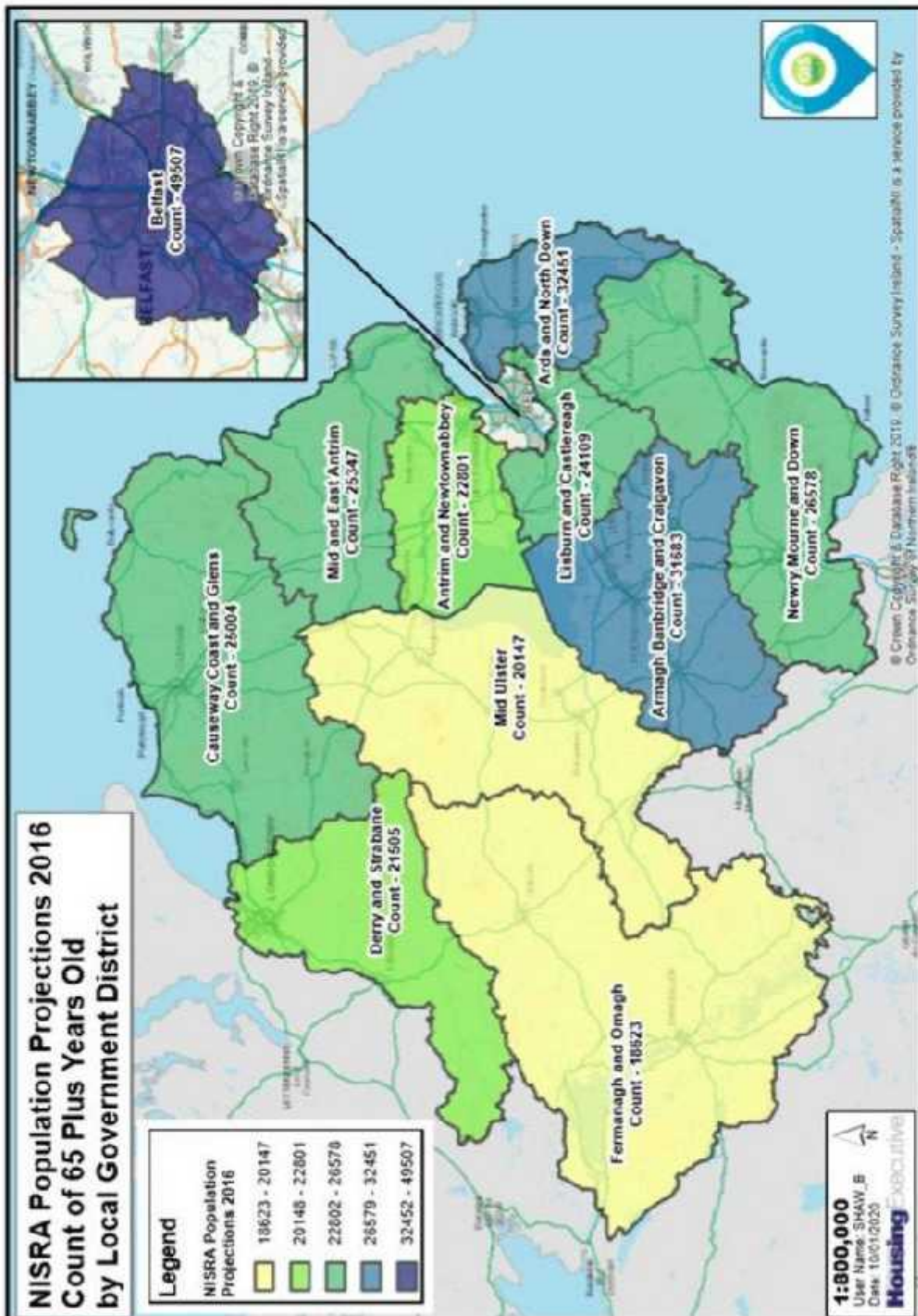
Map 2 shows the projected percentage change of over 65s from 2016 to 2028.

Map 3 shows the projected percentage change of over 65's from 2016 to 2041 based on 2016 mid-year estimates.

- Yellow and green colours show lower projected percentage changes;
- All areas have a projected change of over 65s by at least 20% rising to over 33% in approximately two thirds of LGD's;
- By 2028 it is projected that Mid Ulster and Newry Mourne and Down LGD's population of over 65's will both see the largest projected increases of over 65s with both council areas projected to experience a 40% increase.

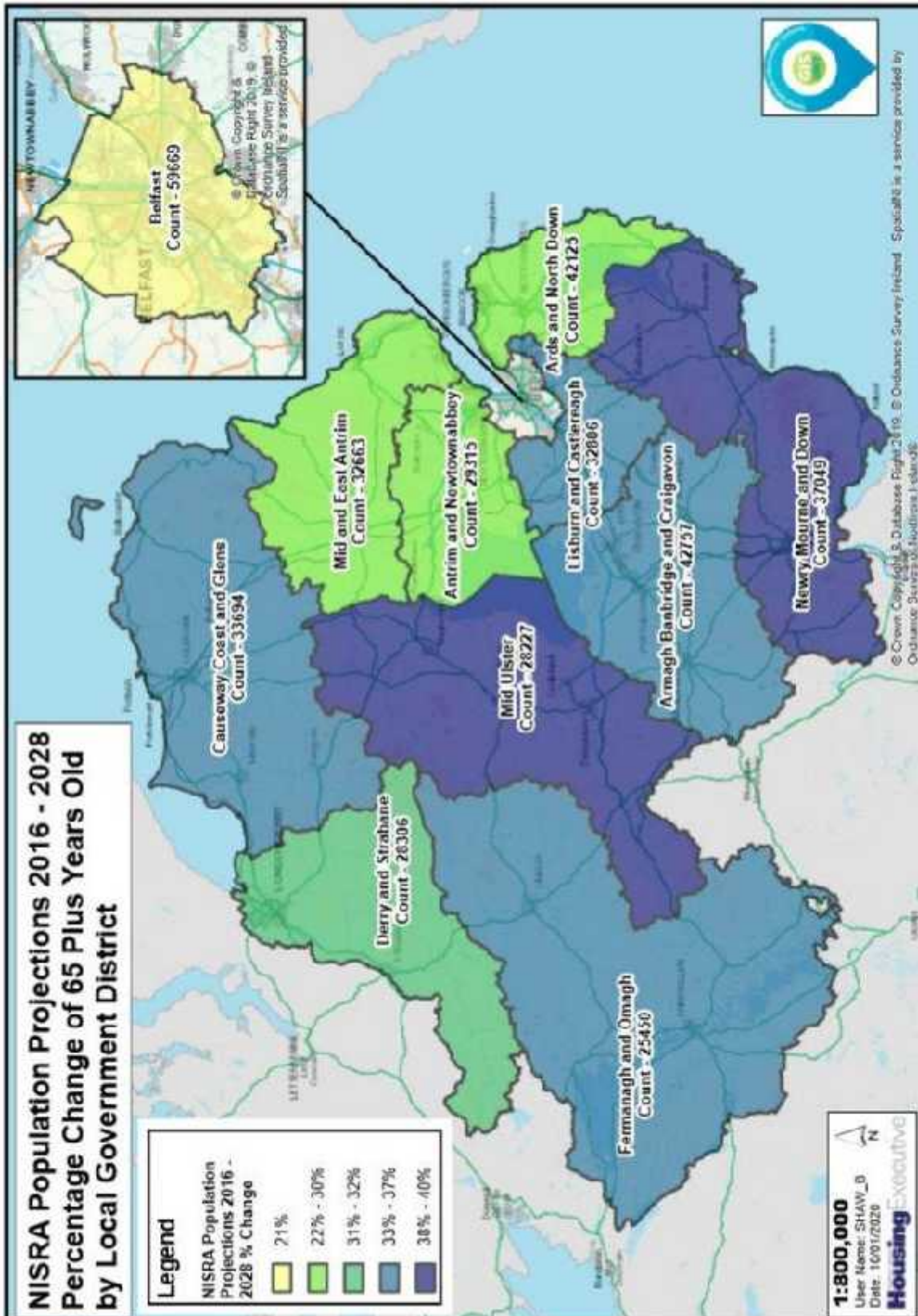
**Map 1 – Numbers of 65+ by Local Government District (LGD), based on 2016 mid-year estimates.**

(Source: NISRA)



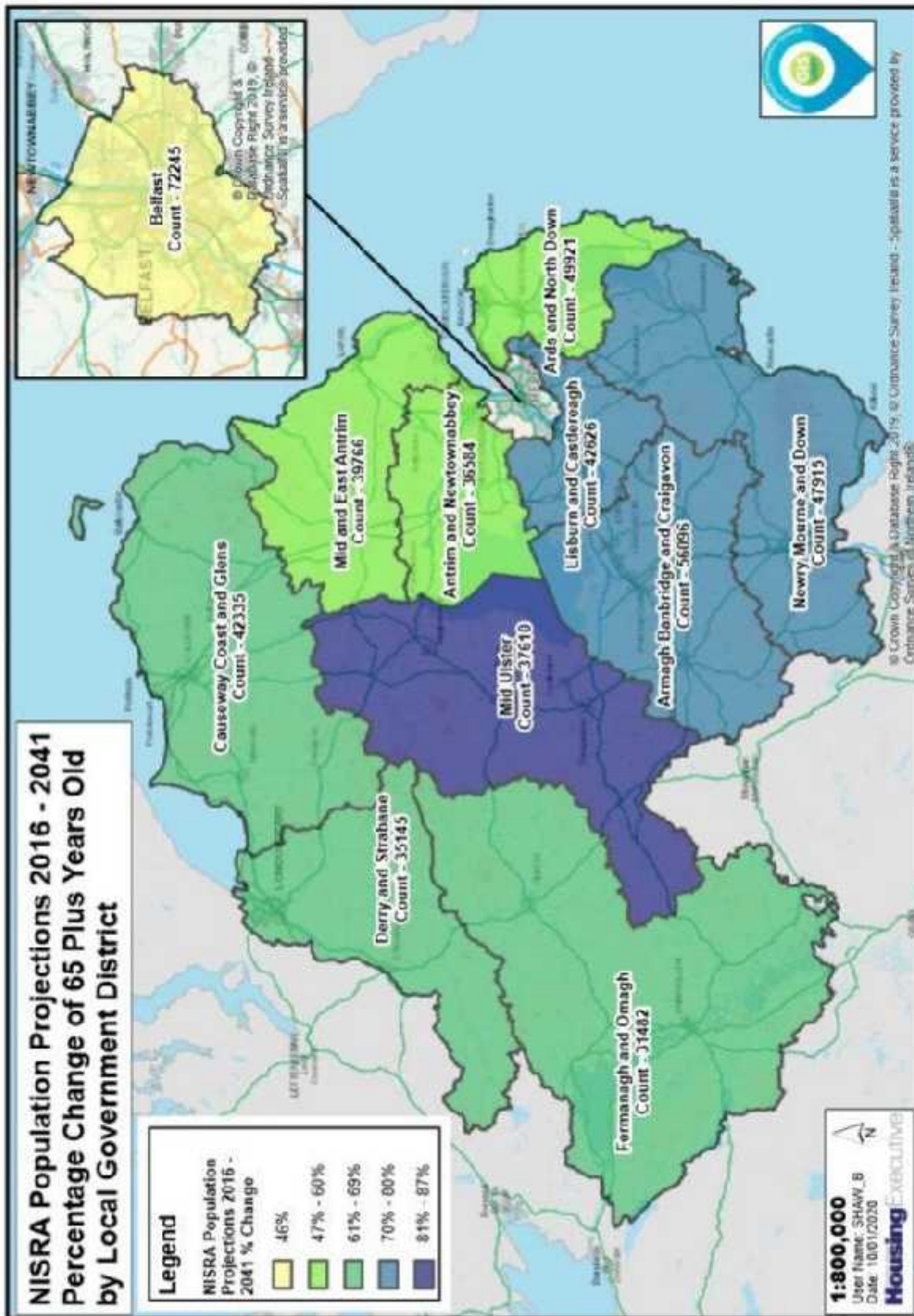
**Map 2 - Projected percentage change of over 65s across all LGDs from 2016 to 2028 (the year the number of older people are projected to surpass the number of younger people) based on 2016 mid-year estimates.**

(Source: NISRA)



Map 3 - Projected percentage change of over 65s across all LGDs from 2016 to 2041 based on 2016 mid-year estimates.

(Source: NISRA)





## Draft Older People's Housing Strategy 2020/21-2025/26

Key points to note are:

- All LGDs, with the exception of Belfast City Council, are projected to see an increase of 50% or higher over 65s by 2041;
- Four LGDs have projected increases of over 65s by 75% or more;
- The highest of these is Mid Ulster with 87%;
- In 2016 Mid Ulster had lowest number of over 65s across all council areas but is projected to have the highest percentage in both 2028 and 2041.

Whilst Map 2 and 3 show the projected percentage changes of over 65's across all LGD's, the table below outlines the projected change in over 65s as a percentage of each LGD.

- Mid Ulster is the LGD set to see the greatest projected percentage increase of over 65s between 2016 and 2041 however by 2041 22% of Mid Ulster is projected to be over 65 which is the second lowest across all LGDs, with the exception of Belfast;
- Ards & North Down and Causeway LGDs are projected to have the highest percentage of over 65s by 2041, both over 30% and some of the highest projected percentage increases across the 2016-2041 period.

Table 1 below shows projected population changes for younger (0-15 years), working age (16-64 years) and older (65+ years) groups by LGD.

- It is projected that by 2041, the number of those over 65 years will outnumber the number of people under 16 years in all LGDs and at a national level;
- All LGDs in Northern Ireland are projected to see increases of older people both by numbers and as a percentage of all residents within the LGD by 2041; and
- In all but four of the LGDs (the number of people at working age (16-64 years) at 2041 is projected to be lower than at 2016 mid-year estimates.

Taking account of demography at national and local levels is important to ensure that efforts and resources are appropriately directed to meet the needs of an ageing population.

## Draft Older People's Housing Strategy 2020/21-2025/26

**Table 1: Projected Population Changes by LGD, 2016-2041***(Source: NISRA)*

Local Government District (LGD)		2016	2028	2041
Antrim & Newtownabbey	0-15 Years	29,648	27,948	26,253
	16-64 Years	88,583	88,363	84,028
	65+ Years	22,801	29,315	36,584
Ards & North Down	0-15 Years	29,983	28,021	25,934
	16-64 Years	97,159	93,708	87,079
	65+ Years	32,451	42,125	49,921
Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon	0-15 Years	46,804	48,635	49,316
	16-64 Years	131,773	140,714	146,209
	65+ Years	31,683	42,757	56,096
Belfast	0-15 Years	66,953	67,304	64,381
	16-64 Years	223,119	220,398	216,654
	65+ Years	49,507	59,669	72,245
Causeway	0-15 Years	28,555	26,541	23,368
	16-64 Years	89,966	85,103	76,508
	65+ Years	25,004	33,694	42,335
Derry & Strabane	0-15 Years	32,806	31,050	28,039
	16-64 Years	95,831	90,650	82,668
	65+ Years	21,505	28,306	35,145
Fermanagh & Omagh	0-15 Years	24,992	23,706	21,971
	16-64 Years	72,184	70,426	66,684
	65+ Years	18,623	25,450	31,482
Lisburn & Castlereagh	0-15 Years	28,181	29,083	29,100
	16-64 Years	88,891	93,988	96,165
	65+ Years	24,109	32,806	42,626
Mid & East Antrim	0-15 Years	26,361	25,098	23,525
	16-64 Years	86,113	84,060	79,095
	65+ Years	25,347	32,663	39,766
Mid Ulster	0-15 Years	33,531	34,218	33,876
	16-64 Years	91,711	96,794	99,089
	65+ Years	20,147	28,227	37,610
Newry, Mourne & Down	0-15 Years	40,187	40,477	39,612
	16-64 Years	111,051	112,990	112,118
	65+ Years	26,578	37,049	47,915
Northern Ireland	0-15 Years	388,001	382,081	365,375
	16-64 Years	1,176,381	1,177,194	1,146,297
	65+ Years	297,755	392,061	491,725

### Housing and Homelessness Applications for social homes

At March 2019 there were around 37,850 applicants on the social housing waiting list grouped under six broad household size headings of: Single; Small Family; Large Family; Small Adult Family; Large Adult Family; and Elderly. An 'Elderly' applicant is classified as being 60 years or older.

- Of the total applicants, around 5,950 (16%) are elderly;
- 4,090 of these (68%) are deemed to be in Housing Stress (statistics are a point in time);

## Draft Older People's Housing Strategy 2020/21-2025/26

- During the twelve months up to the end of March 2019, 1,142 allocations were made to elderly applicants;
- There were 319 allocations (28%) made by the Housing Executive; and
- The remaining 823 (72%) were allocated by the Housing Associations.

During the 2018/19 year, there were around 18,200 homelessness presenters across all of Northern Ireland;

- Of these, 2,500, or approximately 14% of presenters were older people (Elderly category) (60+); and
- The majority of these presenters were granted Full Duty Applicant (FDA) status<sup>12</sup>.

Of those in the Elderly category who presented to us as homeless, the tenures that the highest percentages are likely to originate from are:

- Owner Occupied tenure (29%);
- Private Rented Sector (25%);
- NIHE Tenants (17%);
- Others (29%) (which includes Housing Association Tenants and Hospital).

The main reasons for older people presenting as homeless are:

- 'Accommodation Not Reasonable – Physical Health' (50%);
  - a) 38% were owner occupiers;
  - b) 26% were from the Private Rented Sector; and
  - c) 20% were Housing Executive tenants
- 'Accommodation Not Reasonable' (10%);
- Breakdown of Sharing/Family Dispute (5%);
- Relationship Breakdown (5%).

### Housing Executive Tenant Demographics

We are a Landlord with a stock of around 85,000 homes and our stock includes a range of house types from standard 3 bedroom accommodation, bungalows, apartments (including Tower Blocks) to Labourers Cottages.

Almost 58,000 Household Reference Persons (HRPs)<sup>13</sup> in our properties are aged 45 or older. This accounts for almost 70% of all our tenancies. Chart 4 below sets out the age ranges of these tenants. The greatest HRP statistic is in the 65 to 84 years of age group.

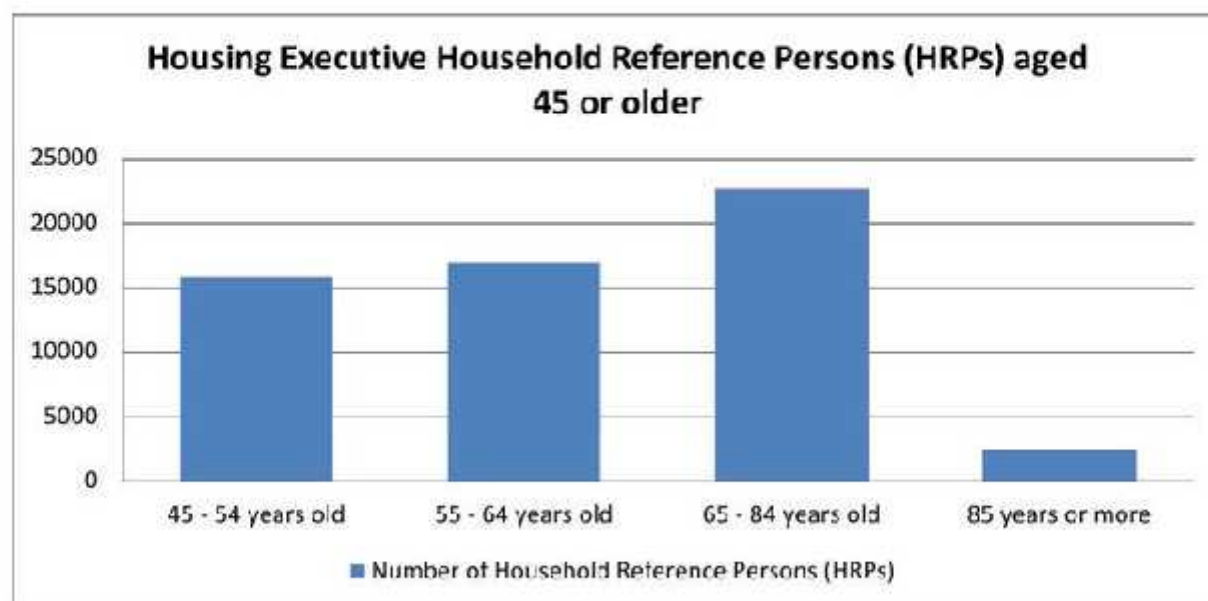
<sup>12</sup> A Full Duty Applicant is a person to whom the Housing Executive owes a duty under Article 10 (2) of the Housing (NI) Order, 1988 to "secure that accommodation becomes available for his / her occupation".

<sup>13</sup> Household Reference Person (HRP)

The HRP is generally the member of the household who owns or pays the rent or mortgage on the property.

#### Chart 4: Data showing age profiles of Housing Executive tenants who are 45 plus years old.

(Source: 2017 Continuous Tenant Omnibus Survey)



Map 4 below depicts percentage of stock, by bedroom size across our 13 Areas. The size of each pie chart reflects the overall stock of each Area and each segment reflects the percentage of overall stock, by bedroom size in that area. It should be noted that we have a number of properties with more than 4 bedrooms; however we concentrated on only those up to and including 4 bedrooms.

The map above does not include housing association properties. Housing Associations provide 35,600 social homes throughout Northern Ireland, many of which are for older people. Details can be found at [www.nidirect.gov.uk/contacts/housing-associations](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/contacts/housing-associations)

### Housing Supply

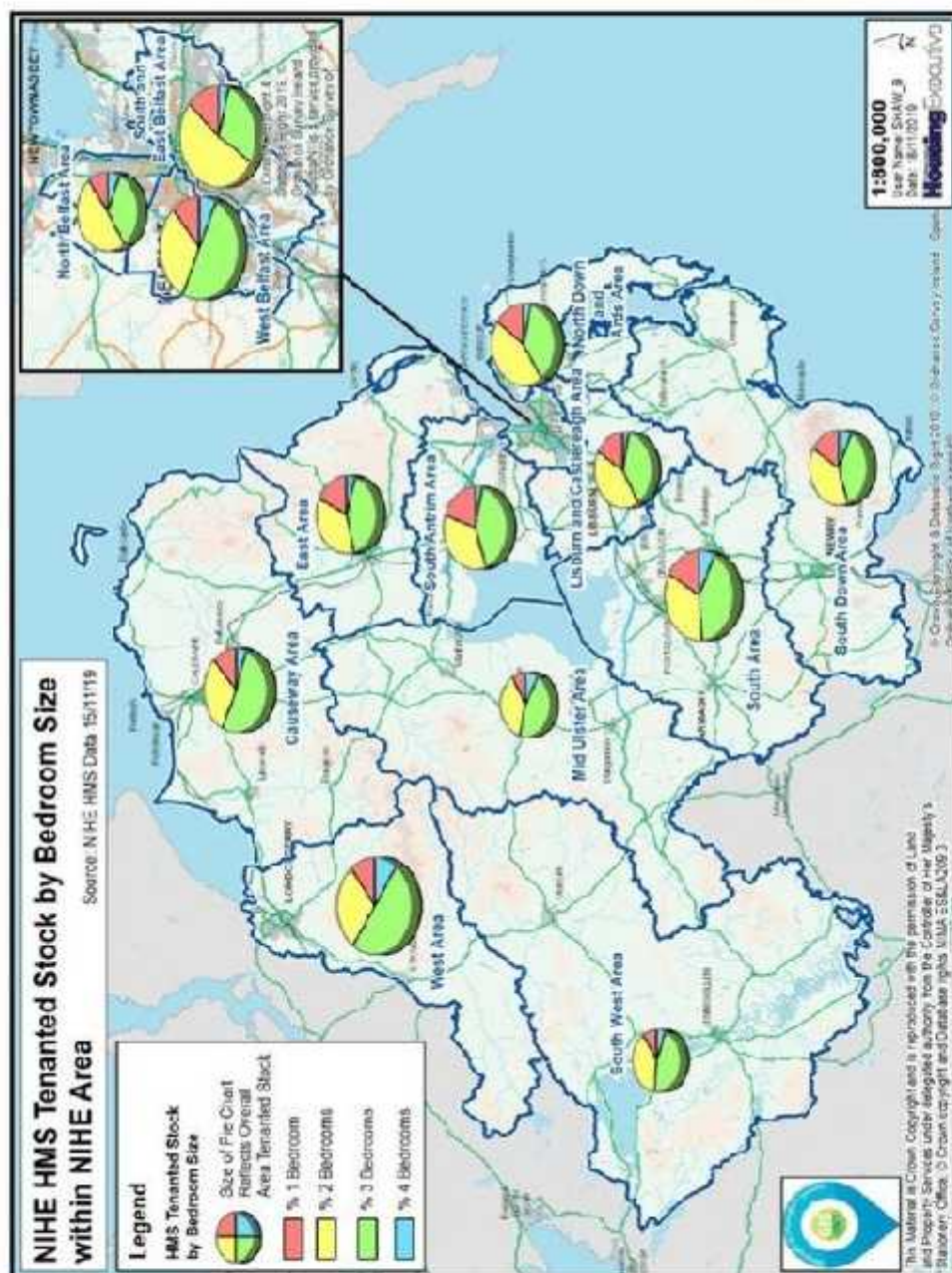
For many years, provision of housing was, to a large extent, focussed on family housing, although more latterly smaller units of accommodation have been built in both the private and social sectors. The Housing Executive is responsible for planning and managing the Social Housing Development Programme, however, new social homes have been built exclusively by Housing Associations since 2002. Housing Association stock includes a range of elderly type accommodation, for example Sheltered, Category 1 and 1 bed units. The Housing Executive responds to draft Local Development Plans and details can be found under Theme 1: Planning for the future.

With an ageing society and smaller household sizes (2.54 based on mid-year 2016 NISRA data and projected to reduce to 2.42 in 2041), it is important to note the long

term investment in housing (properties can last for 70 plus years) and to ensure that there are flexible sustainable housing choices that meet the needs of this changing demography.

Research conducted by Retire Easy found that one third of respondents listed downsizing as one of their planned future options in order to release an average of 33% of their capital. This however, is only a potential option in the owner occupied sector and currently these schemes are not widely available in Northern Ireland.

**Map 4 – Housing Executive stock breakdown by number of bedrooms**  
 (Source: Housing Management System)



## Community Involvement

Tackling loneliness is an important societal issue, as published statistics show that lonely people are more likely to suffer from dementia, heart disease and depression. Around 3.5 million older people in the UK live alone, of whom 2 million are aged 75 years or older. It is estimated that 1.9 million older people often feel ignored or invisible.<sup>14</sup> Research has also shown that up to 50% of disabled people will be lonely on any given day.<sup>15</sup>

Whilst there are many definitions of loneliness, it is widely accepted that loneliness is an individual's negative perception of the quality or quantity of their social relationships.<sup>16</sup> Loneliness can affect people of all ages. Being older does not increase the likelihood of experiencing loneliness, however being older may amplify the effect of the factors that can increase the risk of feeling lonely<sup>17</sup>.

The Housing Executive has a long history of effective and practical engagement with our communities, especially in communicating with what are sometimes described as 'hard to reach' groups of people. We already have community strategies operating in our estates and we feel that it is important to tackle loneliness and promote integration and participation of not just older people but people of all ages and backgrounds. We have included details of our strategies along with links in Appendix 1.

As housing providers, we recognise and have put in place a range of measures to help older people as their health and support needs change over time. We have responded to this both in fostering vibrant and sustainable communities as well as administering and delivering a range of initiatives to support people in their homes, both in the social and the private sectors. These include our grants service which provides funding for adaptations for those in the private sector, the modifications we make to our own properties, the housing support services funded through our administration of the Supporting People Programme, and providing funding for the development of social enterprises and community based initiatives which support, promote and enable community participation.

Adaptations to homes, either major or minor adaptations such as hand grab rails, showers or ramps have a key role in promoting independence, preventing falls and injuries, improving mental and physical wellbeing, and supporting our tenants to stay in their homes and in their community. This can sometimes be in response to a significant event in a person's life but research suggests that it may be beneficial to provide adaptations before such a health crisis occurs.

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/information-advice/health-wellbeing/loneliness/>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.campaigntoendloneliness.org/the-facts-on-loneliness/>

<sup>16</sup> Vasiliki Tzouvara et al., A narrative review of the theoretical foundations of loneliness, *British Journal of Community Nursing*, Vol 20, No 7, July 2015

<sup>17</sup> Age UK, All the Lonely People: Loneliness in Later Life, September 2018, p2; Malke Luhmann and Louise C. Hawkey, Age Differences in Loneliness from Late Adolescence to Oldest Old Age, *Developmental Psychology*, 23 February, 2016

We have a programme of work to help our tenants, however, demand is likely to increase as evidenced by demographic projections. Increasing demand may impact on the services and resources we direct to them and any funding associated with this going forward.

### Summary

The ageing population in Northern Ireland will pose significant challenges for the future design and delivery of many essential services, including housing. Good planning for the future is key to ensuring that the decisions we make in relation to older people are sustainable and flexible to support the wide ranging choices, aspirations and needs for an ageing population. We recognise that some people wish to remain in their family homes, either on their own, with their carer, or with family support, for as long as is practical. Where this is the case, we will support independent living as best we can through many strands of our work. This includes:

- Grants (such as Disabled Facilities Grants in the Private Sector);
- Grants for Warm Homes and Boiler Replacements (subject to funding);
- Adaptations to our own stock;
- Maintaining and improving the fabric of our buildings through our energy efficiency programme and planned maintenance schemes; and
- Maximising the use of floating support and using assistive technology where appropriate.

Staying, however, is only one option. For others, who are no longer able to remain in their homes or have a desire to move or downsize, it is essential that we, along with our partners, explore new models and ways of delivering housing for an increasingly ageing society.

These could include a range of options for those interested in this type of housing, such as smaller level access properties in all tenures, sheltered accommodation, retirement villages or Extra-Care Housing. Extra-care housing allows residents to maintain their independence if they wish, but also offers on-site health and social care assistance, if required.

As new models of housing delivery emerge for older people, better understanding these options, and providing advice and assistance will allow us to offer an enhanced service for our customers.

This should be supported by a range of community based initiatives that promote inclusion and participation for older people, allowing them to remain connected to their community, remain active, and feel safe and secure, as well as protecting and promoting their self-fulfilment and dignity.

The Housing Executive has an opportunity to help support an ageing population through the right planning, policies, services and programmes it delivers. Many of these, however, cannot be delivered solely by the Housing Executive and will require

## Draft Older People's Housing Strategy 2020/21-2025/26

partnership working with a wide range of stakeholders, ongoing research and engagement, as well as ensuring we are responsive and adaptive to any changing government policy, strategy direction or legislation that may arise during the course of this strategy.

In Section 4.0 of this document, we outline our approach and plan in respect of the ageing population. We will deliver new services and initiatives under four broad themes which are:

1. Planning for the future;
2. Respecting people's dignity;
3. Housing advice for older people; and
4. Promoting participation.

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## 4.0 Older People's Housing Strategy

This Housing Strategy for Older People aims to address some of the issues outlined in the context section that are within our remit, while for others we will work in partnership and promote our work through our Community Planning role as a statutory partner. We have forged close relationships with councils, recognising the value in collaborative working on areas of mutual interest in urban and rural areas across Northern Ireland as a more efficient use of resources. This is essential within the context of constrained public sector finances.

### Delivering the Strategy

A house alone is not enough to support the needs of people as they age, and with this in mind we have developed four high level delivery themes.

These are:

- Planning for the Future (Exploring Housing Options for Older People and Supporting Independent Living);
- Promoting and Maintaining People's Dignity;
- Providing Housing Advice for Older People;
- Promoting Participation.

We will report regularly on how well we are performing against our high level objectives to enable us to understand if our interventions and actions have helped to address the needs of Northern Ireland's older population over the period of the Strategy. We will publish the results on our website.

### Managing Uncertainties

We recognise that in setting out a plan for the five year term of the Strategy there are a number of uncertainties that may impact on the delivery of the Strategy.

Our Regional side of the business<sup>18</sup> is funded almost entirely through government grant. Budget restrictions may have implications for some of our services.

Our plans need to be flexible to allow for changes that may arise over the life of the strategy such as a change in the housing market, government policy or priorities. Despite this uncertainty we will remain focussed on providing effective housing solutions, services and options for our older customers.

It is through the Housing Executive's unique position as the Regional Housing Authority for Northern Ireland and as one of the largest social housing landlords in

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<sup>18</sup> Regional Services role is to work strategically in housing across Northern Ireland in supporting a range of stakeholders to create successful places and communities. Regional Services deliver a range of functions including research, assessment of housing need, delivery of the social housing development programme and the Supporting People programme. In addition, Regional Services deliver a range of grant initiatives to address fuel poverty and housing disability adaptation and we are the Home Energy Conservation Authority for Northern Ireland.

Draft Older People's Housing Strategy 2020/21-2025/26

the UK, that we have a real opportunity to effect change and support older people in a tangible and meaningful way.

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## Theme 1: Planning for the Future

Under 'Planning for the Future' theme, we have identified two objectives. These are:

1. Exploring Housing Options for Older People; and
2. Supporting Independent Living.

### 1. Exploring Housing Options for Older People

As previously documented, demographic changes are important for future planning for new homes.

- Older people 60+ (230,000) live in almost one third of all homes; (HCS)
- 78.2% live in Owner Occupied sector; 7.5% in Private Rented sector and 14.3% in social housing (HCS);
- Older people were slightly less likely to live in properties with some level of disrepair ( HCS);
- The 65+ age group is projected to reach 491,000 by 2041, an increase of 65% (NISRA);
- People aged 85+ is set to increase by 127% by 2041 (subset of 65+ group) (NISRA).

Our recent research highlighted the existing accommodation options for older people in Northern Ireland. There are three main types of accommodation for older people across all tenure types:

- Mainstream housing;
- Specialised housing (this can include sheltered housing, assisted living or retirement villages); and
- Residential care (this includes residential homes with meals and personal care, nursing homes with 24-hour nursing care and specialised care homes e.g. dementia care).

Our recent House Condition Survey in 2016 results show the property types that older people (60+) live in across all tenures is:

- 29% live in bungalows;
- 24% live in terraced housing;
- 19% live in semi-detached;
- 20% in detached housing; and
- 8% live in flats or apartments.

Our research showed that there are a sizable number of older people living in properties that are larger than their needs.

- 70% of respondents lived in single person households;
- The majority (58%) were in the owner occupied sector with 41% of participants in the social sector;
- Only 33% of respondents lived in a one bedroom property, 20% live in two bedroom properties, 32% live in three bedroom properties and 15% of respondents live in homes with four or more bedrooms;
- 16% of respondents have a stair lift/mobility aid or cannot access the rooms upstairs; and
- 26% of respondents have difficulty in accessing any outside space around their property.

Our research<sup>19</sup> found that:

- Location was a factor that can limit options and choice and people's appetite to move;
- Older people prefer to remain within a relatively narrow radius (5 miles or less) of their current accommodation. The importance of linkages to family, friends and local services and amenities was clear. This preference is prevalent across the wider social rented sector, but particularly with older people. Given the population projections (detailed on Map 2 and 3 earlier in this document) this preference may pose challenges to and have an impact on the planning and delivery of a range of housing models and any services in place to support these. For example, transport links, public services and infrastructure.
- To date, there has been minimal development of specialised older people's housing for either owner occupation or private rental in Northern Ireland, but housing of this type, such as gated schemes for over 55s, is increasingly being developed by private developers for purchase or private rental elsewhere. These have been shown to be very popular.

If more choice of smaller suitable properties were available both in urban and rural areas this would provide an opportunity to free up larger properties in all tenures for families. In planning for the future, it is also important to consider the needs of the rural older population who are more likely to live in dwellings with higher levels of disrepair, fuel poverty and higher repair costs<sup>20</sup> and are more likely to fail to meet the Decent Homes Standard<sup>21</sup> than those in urban areas.

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.nihe.gov.uk/Documents/Research/Health-and-welfare/housing-and-older-people-issues-aspirations-needs>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.nihe.gov.uk/Working-With-Us/Research/House-Condition-Survey>

<sup>21</sup> A decent home is one that is wind and weather tight, warm and has modern facilities. A decent home meets the following four criteria: Criterion a: It meets the current statutory minimum standards for housing. Criterion

## Housing for Older People – Planning Issues

It is likely, given the demographic trends and increased demand for care, the need for other solutions will grow. There are increasing numbers with complex disabilities living in domestic settings. Housing Associations already cater for identified wheelchair need in their social housing planning applications. However, demand from people with a disability who wish to own their own homes, or rent privately, cannot readily be met, as there is no requirement for market housing to provide wheelchair accessible homes.

The Housing Executive encourages council planners to incorporate, within the emerging Local Development Plans, a requirement that all new build housing should meet Lifetime Home standards, with a proportion built to wheelchair standards. Lifetime Home standards were developed to ensure that homes are accessible and inclusive, to support the changing needs of individuals and families at different stages of life.

In addition, we support requirements in development plans to include housing mix policies in new residential development which can provide appropriate housing for different household groups, such as families and older people.

We also support sustainable transportation policies within the emerging LDPs to encourage walking, cycling and accessible public transport to promote healthy life styles, minimise climate change and to improve connectivity for those who do not have access to a private car, including children, disabled people and older people. We support the integration of transport and patterns of development, which reduce the need to travel, as well as being more sustainable.

There have been some recent examples of alternative housing options for older people in Northern Ireland. An increase in desirable, accessible housing options will enable older people to move allowing 'active stock management', to release housing to meet need and demand from younger households and families. Wheelchair accessible housing and housing to Lifetime Homes standards will allow older and disabled people to feel safe and secure, and to be fully integrated within the residential community.

## Intermediate Housing for Older People

The Department for Communities recent consultation on Affordable Housing suggests a key target group for affordable housing is active older people:

"Active Older People – demographic change is expected to result in a growing demand for housing that is designed to meet the needs, expectations and aspirations of older people. For this group, housing that is easy to maintain and is fit for purpose as they age, and is within or close to their current neighbourhoods is likely to provide an attractive product. Housing which conforms to the HAPPI

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b: It is in a reasonable state of repair. Criterion c: It has reasonably modern facilities and services. Criterion d: It provides a reasonable degree of thermal comfort.

principles could fill this key gap in the market, but additional assistance may be required to help some individuals within this category to transition to these more suitable homes."

More detail on the HAPPI principles can be found on page 39 of this document.

### Extra-Care Housing

Given the links between age and deteriorating health, there may be an increasing demand for specialised suitable housing provision for some older people. A rapidly ageing population will place significant demands on pressured health and social care services. Research<sup>22</sup> carried out noted that while some forms of housing such as sheltered accommodation may initially meet the residents' requirements it may be increasingly difficult to sustain the tenancies of very frail elderly (those who increasingly require healthcare and support) as they age and who may require more intensive support. This includes their tenancy, health and support needs as well as their levels of community participation and general happiness.

'Extra Care' Housing is housing accommodation for older and vulnerable people that both allows residents to maintain their independence if they wish, but also offers on-site health and social care assistance, if required. Whilst there are some communal facilities, accommodation is self-contained and has its own front door. Some Extra Care facilities also offer wider benefits to the residents and the local community including the reduction in the need for health and social care services, better stock management of housing in local areas and the reduction in hospital bed occupancy rates (as evidenced through examples in Great Britain where it is much more established). This model however is relatively new to Northern Ireland.

Some Extra Care housing units have facilities such as hairdressers and restaurants on site and host social events, all of which are also open to non-residents. Others have developed enterprises within Extra Care facilities such as restaurants employing those with learning difficulties or people who are homeless. Local integration within a community setting is a key consideration when developing Extra Care facilities to ensure that residents are supported and enabled both by the physical environment and wider community and societal environment they are situated in.

In other jurisdictions 'Extra Care Housing' has been utilised to meet the health and social care needs of elderly and other vulnerable people and has demonstrated that the number of hospital bed days utilised by older patients could be cut both through admission/readmission and through earlier discharges. Potentially this may free up hospital beds for other patients which can result in savings to the public purse.

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<sup>22</sup> Tinker, A, Kellaher, L., Ginn, J. and Ribe, E. (2013) Assisted Living Platform – The Long Term Care Revolution, London: King's College London. Reproduced by the Housing Learning and Improvement Network

This can have wider positive impacts on the housing market for example, freeing up larger family homes and better matching properties to the needs and preferences of individuals. We will explore the practicality of this option in the Northern Ireland context further in the coming years.

### 'Hub and Spoke Models'

'Hub and Spoke' models can offer services and facilities to the wider community, as well as to residents of the scheme. This means that a range of services including housing support can be provided from a central point over a defined geographical area to people within the surrounding community.

These are often based at existing sheltered housing schemes (the hub) and could extend services (spokes) offered to meet the needs of the growing older population. If a scheme has adequate facilities, and providing there was sufficient demand, other services could be added to benefit older people. These could include community health services on a permanent or ad hoc basis, personal and domestic teams based at the scheme and working in the wider community, housing support, occupational therapy and opportunities for recreational activities.

We will explore new models of accommodation and housing related support services for a range of older people including the potential and feasibility of 'Extra Care' or 'hub and spoke' principles for housing, for older people in Northern Ireland.

The Housing Executive has robust housing needs assessments in place such as monitoring and analysing data for 'Elderly' (60+) people from the social housing waiting list, those in housing stress, homelessness presenters and those who have been allocated properties. This information is used to develop the Social Housing Development Programme for new social housing which considers the needs of Older People.

Our research noted potential areas of latent demand and the types of property supplied. Latent demand is hidden housing need in areas of low housing stock or low housing turnover. We also carry out 'latent demand testing' specifically in rural areas.

However, at a broader level, beyond the high-level data provided by the House Condition Survey, there is less evidence on the extent to which the existing housing stock, especially in the private sector, can successfully meet the needs and aspirations of an ageing population. We know that in the private sector there are more older households than the social or private rented sectors. Older, pre-1919, dwellings are more prevalent in the private sector and of the 7% of occupied dwellings that failed the decent homes standard in 2016 the types of households more likely to live in these properties were those with older household reference persons and those with lower income households.

## Accessible Housing

There are different models of accessible housing which includes a range of options and homes that have been adapted.

To aid planning for the future, we are developing an 'Accessible Housing Register' (AHR) which will provide us with better knowledge of social homes that have been adapted or bespoke properties and act as a planning tool to assist with the identification of unmet need.

'Lifetime Homes' standards were developed to ensure that homes are accessible and inclusive to support the changing needs of individuals and are designed to create better living environments for everyone from raising children to coping with illness or reduced mobility later in life. The development of these standards is especially important in the context of an ageing population and can prevent the need for costly and disruptive adaptations and also enable independence and provide greater choice for more people, for longer.

In addition to the 16 criteria required for 'Lifetime Homes', the Department for Communities also requires 9 additional criteria in grant aided social housing developments which include factors such as level access, potential for the enlargement of car parking spaces, outward opening of certain doors, capacity for turning a wheelchair, and access within kitchen areas and WC.

**Wheelchair standard homes** support independent living and may also reduce the need for costly adaptations. In the social sector we plan for Wheelchair Housing which is primarily designed to aid independent living for people with a physical disability and those who need a wheelchair for day to day mobility.

**Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs)** are managed by the Housing Executive. The design of accommodation and the availability of financial support to adapt the home to meet occupants' changing needs enables people, including older citizens, to remain comfortably in their own homes with as much independence as possible. (DFGs, like most grants, are subject to annual funding and means testing of applicants).

In 2018/19 we approved grants of almost £30m across all sectors, including £10.4m on 944 Disabled Facilities Grants in the Private Sector.

## Designing for the future

Better design of housing is linked to independence, happiness and the general wellbeing of people. The design of the built environment can have a significant impact on older people and the design should create an enabling environment that gives people independence, choice, allows them to maintain their lifestyle and contact with the wider community. Design should also facilitate the efficient delivery of care and enhance the quality of life for the residents.



Improved design in relation to space, lighting, balconies and manageable outdoor space, ventilation, room to move and good storage have particular relevance to older people's housing which needs to offer an attractive alternative to traditional family homes. In short, cleverly designed models of housing that work for older people, work for everyone else, and would allow people to remain in one place.

These homes also need to be able to adapt over time to changing needs. Many older people have adult children living at home and may require space for family support or care-givers as they age. Incorporating good design principles such as the **'Housing and Ageing Population Panel for Innovation' (HAPPI)** principles could make a meaningful difference to the lives of many older people and their families.

### What are the HAPPI Principles?

- Generous internal space standards;
- Plenty of natural light in the home and in circulation spaces;
- Balconies and outdoor space, avoiding internal corridors and single-aspect flats;
- Adaptability and 'care aware' design which is ready for emerging telecare and tele-healthcare technologies;
- Circulation spaces that encourage interaction and avoid an 'institutional feel';
- Shared facilities and community 'hubs' where these are lacking in the neighbourhood;
- Plants, trees and the natural environment;
- High levels of energy efficiency, with good ventilation to avoid overheating;
- Extra storage for belongings and bicycles; and
- Shared external areas such as 'home zones' that give priority to pedestrians.

We are currently working in partnership with the Department for Communities (DfC) to develop a pilot scheme that incorporates HAPPI style principles into reconfigured stock and we will evaluate the success of this pilot and identify any implications when complete. Some housing associations have incorporated these principles into pilot schemes which offer high quality housing for those later in life, however these principles have not been widely adopted in Northern Ireland.

Where appropriate, better design will also be complemented by assistive technology. Assistive technology spans walking aids to more complex and advanced digital solutions that can assist with a range of tasks such as opening doors, turning on lights and using household appliances. With many people wishing to maintain their independence and stay in their homes as long as possible, assistive technology can have a part to play in helping manage complex health conditions and enable older people to live with dignity and combat social isolation. We have supported assistive technology through our grants function and will continue to do so where appropriate. Examples of assistive technology grants include automatic doors, buzz entry systems, and rise and fall sinks/baths.

Planning, and building, new homes continues to be a key issue for the wider social sector, including older people. We will continue to influence the planning aspect to ensure that new homes and communities are sustainable and will support the changing demography of our society through our new build programme.

Many of our tower blocks house older people, some of whom have lived there for a long time. We will need to consider the impact that the removal of some tower blocks may have on these particular individuals, their housing requirements, and any impacts or disruption to their sense of community and belonging that they may encounter.

We, along with partner agencies, should raise awareness of the range of options available to older people, including newer models of provision, for example, retirement villages, and existing models of provision such as sheltered housing. This would allow older people to be more informed of their choices and options.

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## Draft Older People's Housing Strategy 2020/21-2025/26

147

<b>Planning for the Future – High level Action Plan</b>			
<b>Exploring Housing Options for Older People</b>		<b>Lead Department</b>	<b>Target Date</b>
1.	We will seek to influence Lifetime Homes being adopted into the general housing stock in the private sector.	Regional Services	By 2025/26
2.	We will explore new models of accommodation and housing related support services for a range of older people including the potential and feasibility of 'Extra Care' or 'hub and spoke' principles for housing, for older people in Northern Ireland.	Regional Services	2020/21
3.	We will work with partners to incorporate better design principles into the specification for the delivery of future housing schemes and evaluate the feasibility of reconfiguring existing schemes to meet the needs and demands of older people.	Regional Services	2020/21
4.	We will seek to increase the supply of wheelchair accessible accommodation in Northern Ireland from 7% within the Social Housing Development Programme in 2018/19 to 10% by the end of 2020/21.	Regional Services	2020/21
5.	Where possible, we will explore reconfiguring current provision of our stock.	Asset Management	2020/21
6.	We will launch our Accessible Housing Register (AHR) and work with partners to continuously enhance and improve our understanding of adapted or bespoke stock.	Regional Services/ Asset Management	2020/21
7.	We, along with partner agencies, should raise awareness of the range of options available to older people, including newer models of provision through our housing options service.	Housing Services	Annually
8.	Through the Social Housing Development Programme (SHDP), we will continue to influence the planning aspect of new social homes to ensure that new homes and communities are sustainable and will support the	Regional Services	Annually

Draft Older People's Housing Strategy 2020/21-2025/26

	changing demographics of our society (including older people).		
9.	We will explore and maximize the role assistive technology may have in enhancing housing options for older people.	Asset Management/Housing Services/Regional Services	Annually
10.	One of the recommendations of the Older People's research was that a strategic view to assess the location and dwelling type available across all tenures, linked to the regional distribution of older people in the population was required to inform future planning decisions for social and affordable homes. We will carry out further research, relating to older people's housing, where we deem appropriate.	Regional Services	Annually

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## 2. Supporting Independent Living

Many older people have spent significant portions of their lives in the same home, raising their families and making friendships and connections in their local community. They often have significant emotional ties with their home and are understandably reluctant to leave their current accommodation. We have many services that help people to remain in their own home for as long as is possible and if they are able to do so, for example our grants and adaptation services. We recognise that with an increasing ageing population, many people will have increased health and mobility problems and require at least some element of support to help stay independent in their home for as long as possible.

### **According to the Northern Ireland Health Survey (2017/18)<sup>23</sup>,**

- 14% of the population have reported a fall in or around the home in the last two years;
- older respondents were more likely to have experienced a fall; and
- The likelihood of a fall increased from 19% for those aged 65-74 years to 31% of those aged over 75 years.

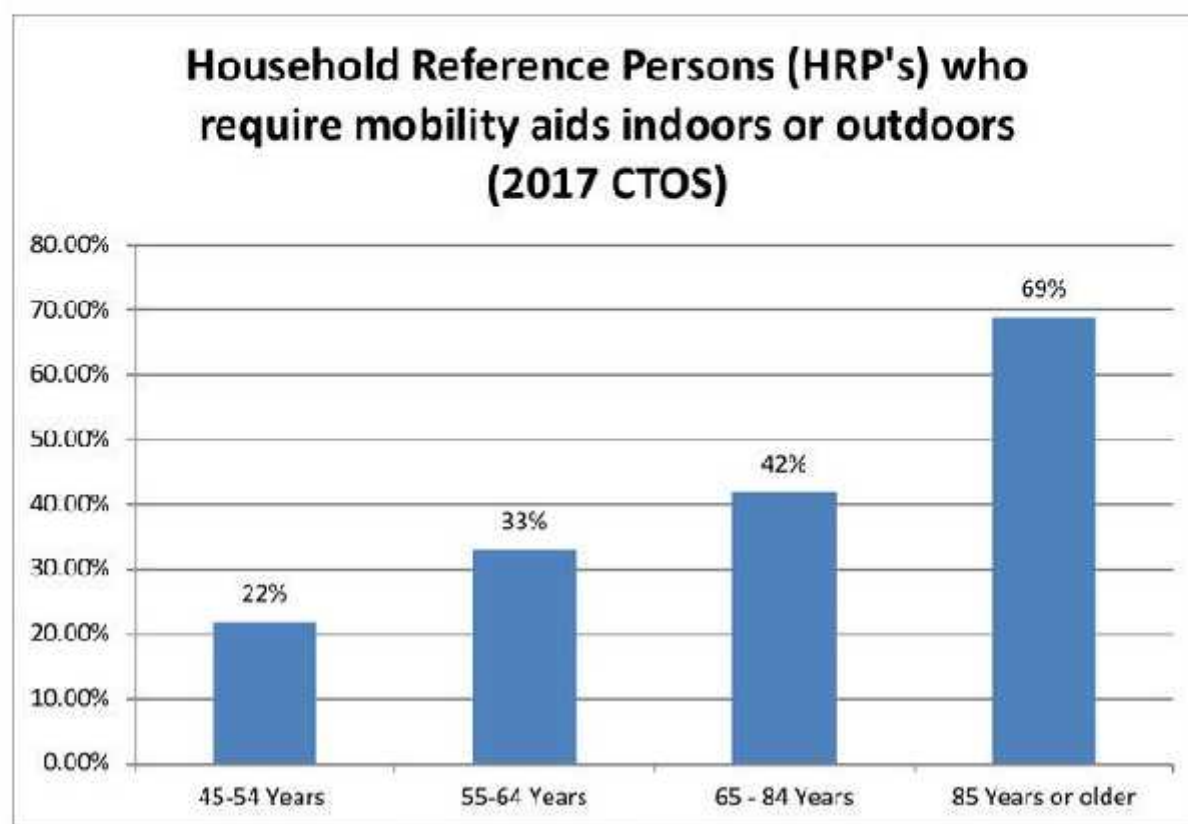
The percentage of Housing Executive tenant "head of households", who report a long term health problem, illness, or disability increases to over 70% for those aged 55 or older. In addition to this, the percentage who require mobility aids such as sticks, crutches and zimmer frames increases dramatically as they age as shown in the Chart 5 below.

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<sup>23</sup> <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/health-survey-northern-ireland-first-results-201718>

**Chart 5: Data showing percentage of Housing Executive tenants, by age, who require mobility aids indoors or outdoors.**

(Source: 2017 Continuous Tenant Omnibus Survey)



For our tenants, based on the data from our 2017 Continuous Tenant Omnibus Survey, the older the tenant, the more likely they are to have been in the property for more than 5 years and the happier they are with our service.

- Overall tenant satisfaction is 94% for those aged 65-84 years of age and this increases to 99% for those aged 85 or older;
- Overall satisfaction with their neighbourhood as a place to live for those aged 65-84 years of age is 95% and this increases to 97% for those aged 85 years or older.

Based on recent Housing Executive research which was cross tenure, although a relatively small sample size, it was noted that the majority of older people wished to remain in their current accommodation without having to move at all later in life. Those aged between 55-69 years old were particularly determined to do so. The research noted that older people aged 85 years or older who lived in supported sheltered accommodation schemes stated that they had made a move as a result of declining health and that it was their preference to remain in their own home.

The greater use of grants and Floating Support may provide a cost effective alternative to having to move into social housing or having to stay in hospital due to inadequate housing to move back to.

## Grants and Adaptations

For those vulnerable people (including older people) who prefer to remain in their homes, we administer a variety of grants and adaptations to support them both in the private sector and for our own tenants.

For our tenants, where an occupational therapist from the appropriate Health & Social Care Trust makes a recommendation, and depending on its feasibility, we undertake bespoke adaptations to our own stock. These are often complex adaptations and extensions (external and internal) and may include bedroom or bathroom extensions, provision of ground floor WC and/or ground floor showers, level access showers, access ramps and specialist baths and toilets. We have reviewed our major adaptations process and are aiming to reduce the time to deliver these to a target of 52 weeks (following statutory and occupational therapist approvals) by the end of 2020/21.

Minor adaptations, such as handrails and widening of footpaths and alterations to lighting, can be installed without the need for a referral to Health and Social Care. In the last three financial years we have carried out over 18,000 minor and major adaptations.

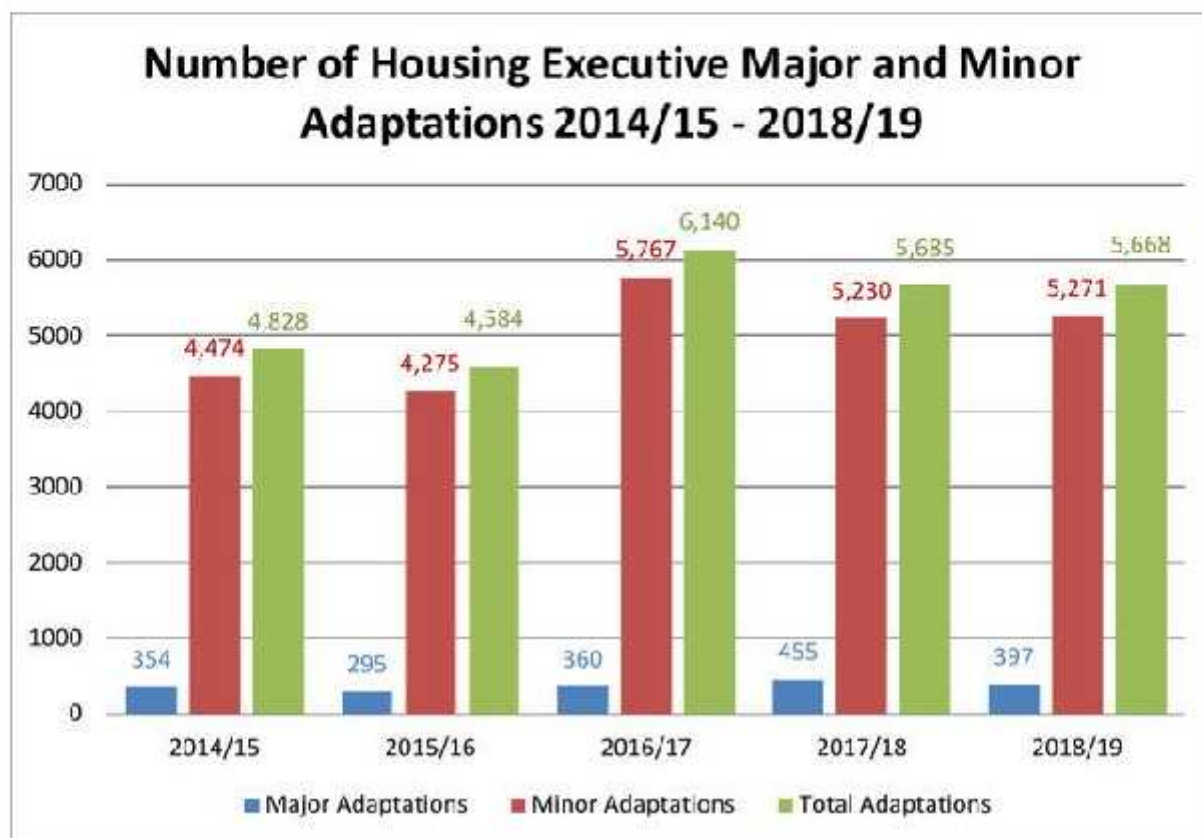
Housing Associations also provide this service to their own tenants, funded by a 'Disability Adaptation Grant' which is included within the wider Social Housing Development Programme budget. During 2018/19 the Housing Executive approved 982 DAG claims (966 minor and 16 major). See Chart 6.

We also administer a Disabled Facilities Grant which funds adaptations for homes in the private sector for a person with a disability and is based on the recommendation of an Occupational Therapist. This is available to owner occupiers, landlords or private tenants. Customers may qualify if there is a person with disabilities living in the house and the work is recommended by an Occupational Therapist. Work recommended may include improved access to bathroom, living room or bedroom, adding extra bathroom facilities or adapting/upgrading lighting or heating systems. Depending on individual financial circumstances, homeowners and private landlords may need to make a contribution to the cost of the work. In recent years we have redesigned this service to improve the customer experience. However, it can still be a lengthy process. There are some capacity issues that would need to be explored along with other improvement models which could assist in reducing the time taken for improvements to be completed.

We will explore the feasibility of innovative options for the off-site construction of modular adaption pods to further enhance our major adaptations process.

**Chart 6: Data the number of Housing Executive major and minor adaptations 2014/15 – 2018/19**

(Source: Adaptations Team, Housing Executive)



There are health impacts for people living in poor standard homes and their ability to live independently. An estimate on some of the costs of poor housing for the NHS in England has been suggested at £1.4 billion per year.<sup>24</sup> 'Poor housing' refers to dwellings that have at least 1 of the 26 Category 1 hazards (scoring over 1,000 on the Housing Health & Safety Rating System (HHSRS) scale). Homes in the private sector and homes that were built pre-1919 are more likely to have at least 1 Category 1 hazard.

- In addition to this, the savings to the NHS from addressing excess cold is projected at £848 million; and
- The savings to the NHS in addressing fall hazards are £425 million for first year treatment costs.

We commissioned a report to model the cost of poor housing in Northern Ireland as measured by the Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS). Although not implemented in Northern Ireland, the HHSRS is a risk based system that identifies

<sup>24</sup> British Research Establishment (2016) The full cost of poor housing. Available at: <https://www.bre.co.uk/news/New-BRE-Trust-report-shows-poor-quality-homes-in-England-cost-the-NHS-14bn-per-year-and-wider-society-185bn-1161.html>



defects in dwellings and evaluates the potential effect of any defects or deficiencies on the health and safety of occupants, visitors, neighbours or passers-by.

This report based on the 2016 House Condition Survey data identified that the cost of poor housing to society has been estimated at approximately £401m per year.<sup>25</sup> The most common hazards identified were falls on stairs, falls on level surfaces, and excess cold. These are also more likely to impact older people who may be more frail, susceptible to cold, and more likely to require assistance when walking in or around the home.

The analysis calculated that the average cost to reduce 'Category 1' hazards present in nearly 70,000 properties in Northern Ireland was approximately £4,366 per dwelling with a total cost of approximately £305 million for the whole stock. However, if 'up front' improvements were completed to mitigate the hazards in housing, this could save the NHS £39.5m per year.

Minor adaptations may be a relatively low cost and effective way to allow people to remain in their current homes and communities. However, the uptake of these often happens after people have suffered a health crisis or a fall. It has been suggested that improving the design of different forms of adaptations and assistive technology may help to reduce the perceived stigma associated with them<sup>26</sup> and may work towards reducing ageist attitudes towards various forms of assistance. This could make these interventions more attractive to users and could increase the uptake of this form of assistance before a health crisis or fall occurs.

Poor housing can negatively impact on other elements of health and wellbeing such as anxiety, depression and loneliness.

### Sheltered Housing

Research noted that sheltered housing (Category 2), mainly built in the 1970s/1980s, continues to be a popular housing option for many older people<sup>27</sup>. Some of the reasons that they had moved into sheltered accommodation was because of deteriorating health, reduced mobility, the death of a partner, as a result of adult children not living nearby to support them or through personal choice. This type of accommodation also provided safety, security and companionship, which was important to the residents. It was also noted that there was a lack of other affordable and suitable options which would suit their finances at that stage of their life.

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.nihe.gov.uk/Documents/Research/HCS-2016-Additional-Reports/The-cost-of-poor-housing-in-Northern-Ireland-2016>

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/globalassets/age-uk/documents/reports-and-publications/appg/appg-for-ageing-and-older-people--report-on-decent-and-accessible-homes-for-older-people.pdf>

<sup>27</sup> [https://www.nihe.gov.uk/getmedia/fe20bf25-1bae-43e9-8025-2d85ed841cf6/the\\_role\\_of\\_sheltered\\_housing\\_in\\_northern\\_ireland\\_and\\_future\\_issues\\_published\\_september\\_2012\\_.pdf.aspx](https://www.nihe.gov.uk/getmedia/fe20bf25-1bae-43e9-8025-2d85ed841cf6/the_role_of_sheltered_housing_in_northern_ireland_and_future_issues_published_september_2012_.pdf.aspx)

## Draft Older People's Housing Strategy 2020/21-2025/26

Supporting People currently provides funding to 335 Sheltered Accommodation schemes for the provision of housing related support for older people and for many this has proven to be a popular housing solution.

Previous research was carried out in 2012 and it may be useful to carry out further research on the sheltered accommodation model as a future housing option.

### Energy Efficient Homes

Older people are more likely to be impacted by fuel poverty. Based on information in the 2016 House Condition Survey (for all tenures), under the 10% definition of 'fuel poverty':

- 38% of households headed by an older person (75 years or older) were in fuel poverty and 34% of older households were 'fuel poor'<sup>28</sup>;
- 31% of households that were headed by a retired person were in fuel poverty;
- 27% of those who were permanently sick/disabled or looking after family/home were also in fuel poverty;
- Older people also tend to live in older, less energy efficient homes.

Fuel poverty is influenced by three factors: a person's income, the price of fuel and the thermal efficiency of their home. Whilst we signpost customers to increase benefit uptake, we cannot influence a person's income or the price of fuel. However, we recognise the need to improve thermal comfort and reduce energy costs for older people through a range of initiatives, including oil buying clubs and through administering energy advice and guidance. Fuel poverty levels have reduced from 42% in 2011 to 21% in 2018, reflecting the levels of investment in energy efficiency across all tenures in Northern Ireland. Although it should be noted that this analysis was calculated at a point in time when fuel costs were less expensive.

In 2018/19 across the private sector, our Grants Department managed approximately £14.5m of work to 3,205 homes through the Department for Communities Affordable Warmth Scheme. An additional £1.9m was invested in 2,690 privately owned homes to install new energy efficient boilers through the Department for Communities Boiler Replacement Scheme. Subject to funding, we will continue to deliver a range of energy efficiency measures to private sector households and help owner occupiers replace old central heating boilers through the Boiler Replacement Scheme.

We continuously strive to improve the fabric and the thermal efficiency of all of our tenant's homes through investments, such as, installing better and more efficient heating systems, double glazing, insulation and cladding schemes undertaken as part of our Landlord role.

<sup>28</sup> Fuel poverty has also been measured using the Low Income High Costs (LIHC) indicator, a household is considered to be fuel poor if: They have required fuel costs that are above average (the national median level); Were they to spend that amount, they would be left with a residual income below the official poverty line.

## Floating Support

Our Supporting People Programme provides housing related support to over 19,000 vulnerable customers across Northern Ireland each year. Customers can be supported in a number of ways including through Floating Support. Floating Support assists people that need housing related support to maintain independence in their own home, for example, through decluttering services, befriending schemes and through providing advice on benefit maximisation. A key customer group within the Supporting People programme is older people. Supporting People's budget for 2018/19 was £72.8m and last year 14% of this budget was directed at supporting older people (55+).

Floating Support provides short-term accommodation based support (up to two years, although this is currently under review by the Department for Communities) to assist those who need housing-related support.

A review of Supporting People by the then Department for Social Development (DSD) noted that the Floating Support Model plays a key role in early "intervention and prevention" and recommended that the Housing Executive progress opportunities to extend the Floating Support service as a cost effective way of meeting need. During 2019/20 we continued to prioritise floating support as a mechanism for promoting early intervention and support to enable independent living within a home setting.

At the time of writing this Strategy there are 10 Floating Support services for older people in Northern Ireland. Trend analysis of need and gaps in service provision identified gaps for Floating Support. As a result we have identified four geographical areas with 200 new floating support places to be delivered. These areas are:

- Newry;
- Lisburn, Downpatrick and Ards;
- Moyle; and
- Limavady, Derry / Londonderry and Strabane.

Some of these additional services are also based within areas with a high rural population and may help support rural customers remain within their homes and communities.

We have committed to ensuring a minimum spend of Supporting People programme funding through floating support at 15.5% for 2019/20 and will aim to increase this to 16% in 2020/21 subject to budget.

We will produce an evidence-based assessment of need for housing support services to inform future planning for the Supporting People Programme. We are currently developing a new Supporting People Strategy which aims to direct and coordinate our activities for some of our most vulnerable customers, including older people.

### Assistive technology

Assistive Technology has a key role to play in enabling older people to remain at home and also improve their living conditions. Given the availability and relatively low cost of some 'plug and play' assistive technologies, this can now be seen as a viable and realistic solution to support some people to remain in their homes or to tackle loneliness and social isolation.

In 2018 we launched an Assisted Living pilot scheme which aimed to improve the flexibility, mobility, social interaction and security for a pilot of 18 households with elderly, disabled or vulnerable tenants. We used technology for communication and control of smart devices including lighting, power sockets systems, thermostat and monitoring devices for the benefit of the elderly living alone.

Evaluations of the pilots are being carried out from a number of perspectives. Occupational Therapists will evaluate from a customer perspective, the social enterprise who supplied the equipment will evaluate from an installation, training and support perspective and the Housing Executive will evaluate the project from a research perspective.

We will consider the findings of these evaluations and consider if assistive technology can have a greater role to play through our work in sustaining and supporting tenancies, reducing fear of crime for older people and even supporting tenants manage health conditions such as dementia.

<b>Planning for the Future – High level Action Plan</b>			
<b>Supporting Independent Living</b>		<b>Lead Department</b>	<b>Target Date</b>
1.	We will explore other methods of construction (e.g. offsite construction of pods) for our major adaptations process and consider the benefits this may have for older people.	Asset Management	2020/21
2.	When delivering our planned maintenance programme and response maintenance service we will take the needs of our older tenants into account to ensure the home meets their needs, where possible.	Asset Management	Annually
3.	We will deliver an enhanced major and minor adaptations service to support independent living for our customers, including older people. We have a commitment through our Corporate Plan to reduce end to end times for the major adaptation process.	Asset Management	Annually
4.	We will use a variety of methods to promote our Disabled Facilities Grants process and again we have a commitment in our Corporate Plan to aim to further improve end to end times for our Disabled Facilities Grants for our customers, including older people (against 2018/19 baseline performance).	Regional Services	Annually
5.	Subject to funding, we will continue to administer a Boiler Replacement and Affordable Warmth grant schemes to benefit a range of our customers, including older people.	Regional Services	Annually (subject to budget)
6.	We will aim to reduce Fuel Poverty through partnership working for our oil buying clubs and through providing energy advice and assistance.	Regional Services	Annually
7.	We will increase the use of Floating Support to 16% of the overall budget during 2020/21 and will increase the number of floating support services for older people.	Regional Services	2020/21
8.	We will explore the use assistive technology has to play in supporting independent living and sustaining and supporting tenancies.	Landlord Services	Annually
9.	We will develop a Strategic Needs Assessment for the Supporting People Programme which will take into account demographic trends for service provision (including older people) to inform how we deliver services.	Regional Services	2020/21

## Theme 2 - Promoting and Maintaining People's Dignity

One of The Executive Office's Active Ageing Strategy's strategic aims is 'Dignity' with an outcome that states "Older people's dignity and human rights are effectively safeguarded." The concept of dignity for older people is often associated with the compassionate care by people with the right skills and knowledge to care for them and who do not patronise, objectify or ignore their rights.

Alongside this it is also about enabling the person to feel valued, independent, safe, secure and supported in their home, community and wider society and ensuring that any services we design, manage or deliver support this.

It is, however, important to note that older people are not a homogenous group and have the diversity of needs and characteristics of society as a whole and therefore the principles of dignity apply irrespective of age and are applicable to all society.

People of any age can experience a variety of housing issues that can have a detrimental impact on their physical and mental health. Issues such as homelessness, affordability, fear of crime/anti-social behaviour and domestic violence if not addressed can have long term impacts on the physical and mental health of individuals. These housing related issues can also disproportionately affect older people who may be more vulnerable and may be socially isolated, without a support network or with a disability. These may be further compounded by a number of age related issues such as dementia or frailty.

We will continue to provide services and assistance to uphold and maintain the dignity of our customers and tenants through the range of services we deliver for all customers, as well as those specifically aimed at our older customers. We will do this through a range of methods including:

- Contributing to the physical and built environment in managing our homes and delivering the Social Housing Development Programme;
- Providing support to vulnerable older people;
- Delivering our housing management policy and procedures; and
- Exploring and delivering new models and services for older people.

We interact with older people on many levels including visiting them in their homes. In addition to those housing services we provide, we are also very conscious of our safeguarding duties and we work in partnership with a wide range of public, statutory and voluntary organisations to ensure that we fulfil these duties to their fullest. We have a safeguarding policy in place.

### Supporting People

Supporting People (SP) plays a key role in promoting, enabling and protecting the

## Draft Older People's Housing Strategy 2020/21-2025/26

dignity of vulnerable people and as outlined in Theme 1, helps people to live independently in the community or in a range of sheltered or supported accommodation options. The SP programme has four key thematic groups which are Older People, Disability, Homelessness and Younger People.

The SP Programme is delivered through a wide range of delivery partners, including statutory bodies, housing associations, private sector companies and voluntary and community organisations.

We work with all our partners to maximise the outcome for each customer to;

- help them develop domestic/life skills;
- establish social contacts and activities;
- gain access to other services;
- set up and maintain a home/tenancy; and
- find other accommodation and maintain the safety and security of the dwelling among other things.

We will further explore options for pilots of other support such as 'Homeshare' which aims to realise a number of benefits simultaneously for older and younger people. This project pairs older people who need low level support with younger people who provide companionship and low level support in exchange for an affordable place to live.

We will continue to explore a range of accommodation based support models for older people such as 'Hub and Spoke' or 'Extra Care' models to ensure that older people have the appropriate care and support in place, when they need them, to allow them to live with dignity and remain as independent as possible.

To ensure that services are targeted to meet need we will produce an evidence-based assessment of need for housing support services to inform future planning for the Supporting People Programme.

### Dementia Friendly

As people live longer, more and more people are likely to develop and live sizeable portions of their lives with dementia. These changes are often small to start with but can have a severe impact on a person's daily life and ultimately will remove their ability to live independently.

Dementia is now the leading cause of death in the UK.<sup>29</sup> There are 850,000 people estimated to be living with dementia in the UK and 38% of the population know a family member or a friend living with dementia. It is estimated that one million people

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<sup>29</sup> <https://www.dementiastatistics.org/statistics-about-dementia/prevalence/>

in the UK will have dementia by 2021<sup>30</sup> and this is predicted to increase to two million by 2050.

New models of housing have been, or are being developed in response to this with some high-quality housing specifically for those with dementia having been developed. New 'Household Models' of retirement type developments are also currently being developed in Northern Ireland to provide care for those who are frail or who have dementia.

### What is the Household Model?

- The Household Model is a therapeutic approach to dementia care that focuses on the emotions of people living with dementia and believes that people living with dementia can thrive well in a nurturing environment which may reduce their anxiety and distress;
- Staff are recruited based on their emotional intelligence and there is the removal of institutional features and the 'us and them' approach such as staff wearing uniforms, medicine trolleys and rigid task-based routines;
- The Household Model aims to create "home" for those living with dementia by developing small household living, grouping people together at a similar point of their dementia experience, in a family-like environment;
- Homes are filled with life and colour – homes are filled with people's life history and lived experiences; and
- There is greater freedom for people living in the home to do more for themselves and feel less restricted and staff have flexible more relaxed routines to support this.

Through our work we are regularly engaging and interacting with tenants and customers in their home through some of our key frontline housing functions. Our Housing Advisors, Patch Managers and Maintenance Staff have regular and direct contact with customers who may be impacted by Dementia.

We recognise the opportunity and responsibility that we have to promote dignity for our tenants and customers impacted by Dementia. In partnership with Alzheimer's Society we launched an award winning Dementia Friendly Pilot in the South Down Area. This Pilot raised awareness, provided training for staff and offered practical support to those and the family of those impacted by Dementia.

We established links with local Health Trusts and Dementia Navigators<sup>31</sup> and developed a referral process which enabled frontline staff to visit the tenant's homes and offer practical advice and support as well as providing a 'Dementia Friendly

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/about-us/policy-and-influencing/dementia-uk-report>

<sup>31</sup> Dementia Navigators are based in all five Health and Social Care Trusts (HSCTs) in Northern Ireland. Their role is to provide vital information and support – This can be face to face or over the telephone. They can also provide vital signposting to other services to ensure people living with dementia can live as full a life as possible.



Pack' to encourage tenancy sustainment. The pack now includes a dementia friendly calendar clock, dementia friendly telephone internal signage, front and back door key fobs, a whiteboard and information at both a national and local level.

The success of this Pilot has now led to a full roll-out across our Landlord Services division with a large number of frontline staff volunteering to become 'Dementia Champions' and be trained by the Alzheimer's Society to deliver Dementia Friendly Workshops across Northern Ireland. By the end of 2020 our network of Area Offices will be fully Dementia Friendly.

As part of our Dementia Friendly service we will adopt a dementia friendly approach to our Response Maintenance service which will incorporate dementia friendly design minor adaptations as well as providing the opportunity to note any outstanding issues or repairs in the customer's home when our Dementia Champions and Maintenance Officers visit. Dementia friendly design for minor adaptations includes contrasting colours for toilet seats and grab handrails (for better visibility), options of glass fronted kitchen cupboards and dementia friendly lever taps are all examples of dementia friendly design options currently offered as part of the scheme.

We will continue to develop this approach and further increase awareness and our understanding of dementia across our network of local offices to support independence and dignity for tenants who are impacted by dementia and evaluate the impact of this.

### **JAM (Just A Minute) Card**

JAM Card's allow people with a learning difficulty, autism, dementia or communication barriers to tell others that they need 'just a minute' discretely and easily. We will commence this pilot in our North Regional Office across a broad range of our functions. We will provide training and roll this in across the organisation. Once completed, it will tag the organisation as a 'JAM friendly' organisation. This service is for all of our customers including older people.

### **Fear from Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour**

Whilst the majority of our estates are safe and popular places to live, we recognise that nuisance and anti-social behaviour are real issues that impact on communities and individuals.

Fear of crime and anti-social behaviour is a key concern, particularly for our older customers and tenants and can have serious detrimental impacts on older people. These include loneliness and social isolation, impact negatively on mental health and confidence and also impacts upon their right to enjoy their home and their tenancy.

We offer a high-quality community safety service for our tenants, customers and communities. We adopt a case management approach which is consistent for all our diverse client groups and does not focus on any one specific group or type of anti-

social behaviour. We will launch and deliver our new Community Safety Strategy 2020-2023 which includes considering the needs of an ageing population. The Strategy aims to tackle fear of crime issues for those older groups and will support projects that will tackle the fear of crime and social isolation and will promote intergenerational engagement and activities.

The Community Safety team fund a number of initiatives to a range of groups, agencies and partnerships across Northern Ireland. Currently a number of these funded initiatives are specifically aimed at reducing the fear of crime for older people or keeping them safe in their homes.

There is no specific allocated budget or targeting initiatives for various customer groups and services may change on an annual basis.

We will aim to reduce feelings of loneliness, reduce feelings of isolation and reduce feelings of vulnerability and connect our tenants and customers to their local communities and services by addressing ASB through initiatives such as a 'Good Morning' telephone service.

Over the last number of years and in conjunction with other organisations, we have contributed to the funding and delivery of Good Morning Services. The main aim is to befriend older and vulnerable people with a morning telephone call to help those who are isolated but can also provide reassurance and the ability to talk to anyone about feelings of vulnerability, loneliness and fear of crime and anti-social behaviour.

Analysis was carried out on the Social Return On Investment (SROI) for our 'Good Morning Down' project which indicated for every £1 spent, social return on investment amounts to £4.61. We will regularly analyse the range of anti-social behaviour complaints across all categories to help shape our services going forward.

<b>Promoting and Maintaining People's Dignity – High level Action Plan</b>			
		<b>Lead Department</b>	<b>Target Date</b>
1.	We will explore new models of accommodation and housing related support services for a range of older people, including the potential and feasibility of 'Extra Care' or 'hub and spoke' principles for housing, for older people in Northern Ireland.	Regional Services	2020/21
2.	We will carry out and explore pilots that may assist older people to be supported in their home.	Landlord Services/Regional Services	Annually
3.	We will continue to increase awareness and understanding of dementia across our network of local offices.	Landlord Services	2020/21
4.	We will adopt a dementia friendly approach to a number of our services including response maintenance and adaptations.	Landlord Services	2020/21
5.	We will provide communication support to all our customers, including older people, when they request it.	Corporate Services	Annually
6.	We will work with a range of partners and statutory organisations to deliver a high quality Community Safety Service (which includes the needs of an ageing population based on demographic trends) that addresses hate crime and anti-social behaviour in our estates.	Housing Services	2020/21 – 2023/24
7.	Subject to funding we will continue to deliver and fund a range of community safety initiatives specifically targeted at older people where we can as well as continuing to deliver intergenerational projects.	Housing Services	2020/21 – 2023/24
8.	We will regularly analyse the range of anti-social behaviour complaints across all categories to help shape our services going forward.	Housing Services	Annually
9.	We will increase the use of Floating Support to 16% of the overall budget during 2020/21 and will increase the number of floating support services for older people.	Regional Services	2020/21
10.	We will deliver a new Supporting People Strategy 2020/21 – 2022/23 which includes a focus on an older people thematic group.	Regional Services	2020/21

## Theme 3 - Housing Advice for Older People

One of the Housing Executive's key statutory responsibilities is to provide housing information and advisory services. This advice and information role is embedded within a wide range of our functions and services and is not just limited to our core housing advice service. We extend this advice to support and enable our older tenants and customers to maximise their income, sustain their tenancy and advise of the full range of services we offer. A wide number of stakeholders, charities and agencies provide services for older people and it would be useful to identify where these are, the type of services that they provide and the geographical areas these services operate in. In addition, this information should be communicated and made available to our staff, stakeholders and our customers.

Based on information in the 2016 House Condition Survey, 86% of those aged 55 years or older own their own home outright and some will have a reasonable level of income. Many older people, or those approaching the 'older' group, do not wish to move from their current home and community they live in. Many may own a valuable asset such as their family home, however due to their income bracket, they may be excluded from financial support for some grants or entitlement to benefits and therefore may have limited options to either move or be supported to remain in their homes by virtue of being 'asset rich, cash poor'.

Following the redesign of our frontline housing services and the development of the Housing Advisor and Patch Management roles, we have been aiming to effectively engage with housing customers to understand their individual needs and explore their housing options by taking a case management approach to provide them with quality housing and support services.

For older customers, these options may fall broadly under offering advice to stay in their current accommodation, or advice to support them to move. We offer, provide or administer a range of services both to help people to remain, or to enable them to move.

### Support to stay

We have already outlined some of the services that we offer to tenants and customers to remain in their current accommodation. These options include:

- Managing a grants and adaptation process that allows customers and tenants to increase the accessibility and functionality of their property;
- Our Accessible Housing Register will provide us with information to allow us to plan, allocate and inform our customers;
- Assistive technology which may play a key role in allowing people to remain independent, safe and secure as well as potentially reducing social isolation;
- Floating Support services;
- Energy conservation and advice; and

- Our ongoing funding and partnership working with a range of statutory and community organisations such as Floating Support or through our work in addressing fear of crime for people.

### Support to move

The preference of many customers is to remain in their current home, as previously outlined, and for our tenants their overwhelming preference is to remain in their current homes. Based on our 2017 Continuous Tenant Omnibus Survey, over 92% of those aged 65-84 years of age believe their home is the right size for them with between 3% and 4% of tenants feeling their house is either too small or too big. However, some tenants and customers may wish to move from their current accommodation. Barriers for older people wanting to move from their current accommodation are:

- A lack of affordable alternative options across all tenures and the financial barriers that exist in moving tenure were noted;
- Unfamiliarity or uncertainty with the Private Rented Sector as a tenure choice;
- Many people only make the decision to move when they face a health crisis. Planning ahead is key to enable people to make planned and considered choices before they are forced to move;
- Ensuring clear, impartial and accurate advice, particularly for specialist services with financial or legal implications is also a key consideration. We need to consider the specific needs of customers in rural areas where there is a lack of appropriate and size specific accommodation and reduced choice;
- Practicalities with the physical move and starting up a new home in any sector were also noted as challenges facing older people wishing to move;
- Of the 'oldest' respondents in the Housing Executive's recent research, those who lived in supported sheltered accommodation recognised that they had no longer been able to remain at home and needed assistance for cooking and cleaning to being able to get out and about;
- In the owner occupied sector, there is a perception that options are limited to releasing equity in their properties but there is a reluctance to give up a family home. Many wish to retain capital in their homes and do not want to change tenure. The nature of existing equity release schemes is that they can be difficult to understand and many people may still be in negative equity having bought or re-mortgaged their homes during the property boom in the early to mid-2000s.

### Barriers to moving in later life

As noted in the previous section, the practicalities of moving, downsizing or 'rightsizing' are barriers to people moving. Research conducted on older people moving home<sup>32</sup> noted that this is an exhausting process physically and emotionally at

<sup>32</sup> <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmcomloc/370/37008.htm#footnote-222>

any age, particularly for people who may have less energy, poorer health and may feel overwhelmed by decluttering family homes. This is compounded by the fact that people may not consider housing options for later life and often look towards this when they are 75 years or older or are forced to do so, but may be less capable.

For our tenants, the Housing Selection Scheme provides scope to apply for a transfer or mutual exchange (depending on circumstances), however, the challenges associated with moving and decluttering still remain. There are examples of organisations in Northern Ireland who do provide support to older people for moving home, such as decluttering and packing, however this is not offered on a large scale throughout Northern Ireland. Greater availability and development of these types of services may be useful for older people who do wish to move.

### Tenancy Sustainment

Customer support is everything we do to help our customers prepare for, look after, afford, maintain, enjoy and achieve a sense of well-being in their homes, and to prevent the tenure of that home from coming to a premature end. This support may be delivered directly through specific landlord activities, or part of wider organisational programmes which empower customers to manage their own housing situation. The successful outcome of this support is tenancy sustainment.

Many tenancy sustainment initiatives span across the range of services we deliver including assessing and allocating housing need, tackling fuel poverty, major and minor adaptations, community involvement and through our social enterprise programme.

Our Customer Support and Tenancy Sustainment Strategy 2019-22 is currently out for consultation until March 2020 and provides more detail on our planned activities to support customers remain in their homes.

In addition to the above, we will provide money support and budgeting advice by delivering our 'Making Your Money Work' service to improve the ability of our tenants and other customers to manage money well both day to day and through significant life events and to handle periods of financial difficulty. We will continue to promote access to Money Advice and Debt services and establish links with the Consumer Council and other advice sector organisations and work together on pilot projects and innovations.

We will provide housing support, information and advice in varying formats to engage different target audiences including older people. We will aim to target loneliness and social isolation for older people in the communities we serve.

### Social Enterprise

Our Social Enterprise Strategy helps to support the development and sustainability of local communities. A key objective is to create opportunities for social enterprises to deliver outcomes which impact positively on the local community which will in turn

transform and improve people's lives and wellbeing. Social enterprises can play a vital role in sustainable job creation, in facilitating social integration, providing local services that meet many social needs and mobilise community resources to develop innovative local solutions.

Our Social Enterprise Team currently fund a number of services which both directly and indirectly benefit older people in a number of ways. Through our first Social Enterprise Strategy 2015-18, investment of £1.4 million supported a wide range of initiatives including a women's centre where our funding assisted in the purchase of a kiln and moulds leading to cross community work taking place with senior citizens. We also provided funding to several groups for sewing machines to establish local social enterprises, keeping alive the local skills of needlework and dress-making. These low cost, high impact initiatives are beneficial both to the individual but also in their wider impact of creating vibrant and sustainable communities.

We will continue to explore options for social enterprises to practically support and assist older people in the local communities beyond the remit of our standard tenancy agreement.

Over the life of our last Social Enterprise Strategy, we aided the establishment of almost 90 social enterprises and the creation of more than 150 new jobs as well as providing training opportunities for over 1,800 participants as well 940 volunteering opportunities, many of these benefited older people. An independent external evaluation of the programme also found that for every £1 invested during our first strategy, there was a £5.02 value of the social return. Our new Social Enterprise Strategy 2020-24, once launched, will continue our work in partnership with local communities in a 'ground up' approach to identify and develop new or expand existing social enterprises and services.

## Draft Older People's Housing Strategy 2020/21-2025/26

<b>Providing Housing Advice for Older People – High level Action Plan</b>			<b>Lead Department</b>	<b>Target Date</b>
1.	We will further develop our Housing Advice service to provide better information and support services for older people.	Housing Services	Annually	
2.	In order to better understand the range, type and number of services available for older people we will continue to map and communicate these on our website as an information source.	Housing Services/ Regional Services	2020/21	
3.	We will deliver a range of money and debt advice services for our customers and tenants (including older people) to maximize their incomes and support them in their housing choice.	Housing Services	Annually	
4.	We will provide housing support, information and advice in varying formats to engage different target audiences, including older people about key housing related issues.	Housing/Regional & Corporate Services	Annually	
5.	We will work to overcome digital barriers for our tenants.	Housing Services	Annually	
6.	We will work with communities to identify, develop and maximise the impact of our Social Enterprise services that benefit older people.	Housing Services	Annually	



## Theme 4 - Promoting Participation

Engaging, enabling and empowering communities has been at the core of what we do as an organisation and we will continue to involve tenants, residents and leaseholders to make improvements in their estates that can benefit everyone socially, environmentally or economically.

Our Community Involvement framework is firmly embedded within our communities and we connect our tenants, residents and leaseholders through our various Housing Community Networks and also through our hard to reach groups. Our Community Involvement Strategy also promotes and encourages those within the communities we serve to get involved and help shape our services.

### Loneliness

Preventing loneliness and social isolation is key to supporting and enabling people to live active and fulfilling lives. The role of tackling loneliness is embedded within many aspects of what we do.

As previously noted, loneliness is an individual's negative perception of the quality or quantity of their social relationships. Loneliness is popularly associated with ageing and the various life events that older people experience such as retirement, ill health or bereavement, however recent research has found that loneliness can affect people of all ages. The Office of National Statistics has noted that almost 10% of people aged 16-24 were "always or often" lonely<sup>33</sup> and that this was three times higher than people aged 65 or older.

In 2019, a House of Commons briefing paper titled 'Tackling Loneliness'<sup>34</sup> was published and outlined characteristics that have been potentially linked to an increased risk of loneliness. Some of these groups include people who are retired, have been widowed, have a long term disability, are not part of a social organisation or now live alone, particularly if they have been used to a busier home.

Loneliness can have a severe detrimental impact on people's health:

- The impact of loneliness can be as harmful as smoking 15 cigarettes a day,<sup>35</sup>
- Loneliness is associated with depression, sleep problems, impaired cognitive health, heightened vascular resistance, hypertension, psychological stress and mental health problems;
- The Northern Ireland Health Survey 2017/18 noted that up to 13% of those over the aged of 65 felt lonely 'all or most of the time';

<sup>33</sup>

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/wellbeing/articles/lonelinesswhatcharacteristicsandcircumstancesareassociatedwithfeelinglonely/2018-04-10#main-points>

<sup>34</sup> <https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-8514/CBP-8514.pdf>

<sup>35</sup> <http://www.ageuk.org.uk/northern-ireland/information-advice/health-wellbeing/loneliness/>

## Draft Older People's Housing Strategy 2020/21-2025/26

- Researchers have put a financial price on the “epidemic of loneliness”, estimating it costs £6,000 per person in health costs and pressure on local services<sup>36</sup>;
- However the London School of Economics study of older people says that for every £1 spent in preventing loneliness there are £3 of savings in health costs.

Loneliness is increasingly being recognised as a societal problem by national and local government and we have a number of planned initiatives and activities to help address this for our tenants and customers.

## Staying in Touch

We recognise that using digital services is not the preferred method to contact the Housing Executive for many customers. Some presently lack the access, tools or desire to use technology such as the internet or computers. We will continue to communicate with these customers in more traditional ways, including through telephone, written and face to face contact. Across all Housing Executive tenancies, 62% of respondents have access to the internet at home or elsewhere. Our 2017 CTOS shows that the older a HRP was, the less likely they were to have access to the internet; particularly for households with HRPs who were aged between 60-64 (53%) or 65 years or older. (30%)

Research<sup>37</sup> has demonstrated clear benefits for increasing older customer's digital capability where we can. The use of technology for enabling social contact and participation can be very successful providing adequate support, reassurance and assistance is made available for those who require it. The internet can be used as a method for increasing and maintaining social contact, but can also provide more choice and options for recreational activities such as booking holidays and trips, accessing movies and books as well as reading or learning opportunities. We will provide opportunities and information to increase digital capability for those who want it, however we also recognise the potential challenges and risks for some vulnerable customers using online services.

We will work with partners in order to increase participation and address social isolation. One example of this is the ONSIDE project, a cross border community support service to support disabled people who are socially isolated. We will partner with Disability Action Northern Ireland, Supporting Communities and the Centre for Independent Living to deliver this cross border project. This project will use assistive technology, develop personalised ongoing social isolation and health programmes and create a regional digital disability community which will highlight disability health

<sup>36</sup> <http://www.lse.ac.uk/business-and-consultancy/consulting/assets/documents/making-the-economic-case-for-investing-in-actions-to-prevent-and-or-tackle-loneliness-a-systematic-review.pdf>

<sup>37</sup> [https://www.ageuk.org.uk/Documents/EN-GE/For-professionals/Research/Evidence\\_Review\\_Technology.pdf?dtrk=true](https://www.ageuk.org.uk/Documents/EN-GE/For-professionals/Research/Evidence_Review_Technology.pdf?dtrk=true)

and focused wellbeing services and community asset and engagement opportunities. We will monitor and evaluate the impact and benefits of this project on an ongoing basis. It is planned to benefit 1,125 people in Northern Ireland, some of which will be older persons.

We will continue to support and develop a range of intergenerational projects where we can which increase participation among older people in the community and benefit both older and younger people in a number of ways through our community networks, social enterprises and community safety initiatives.

### Community Participation

We have a number of community involvement and participation forums which allow customers to help inform and shape our services as well as holding us to account. We operate a number of tiers of our Housing Community Network across all areas and alongside Disability Action we operate our Disability Forum. Our Rural Residents Forum operates across our local offices and aims to identify and address specific rural housing issues. We recognise the importance of these mechanisms to better understand, engage with and deliver services.

We acknowledge the importance and value of a range of other community based initiatives such as community gardens, allotments and tea dances that we fund as ways for older people in our communities to increase ways that they can participate, engage and enjoy the later years of their life. We will continue to be informed and guided from the ground up for community based services and initiatives directed at older people.

Based within local communities our Men's Sheds and Hen's Sheds provide opportunities for people, including older people to meet new people and make new friendships. In addition to this they provide the opportunity to break isolation and reduce loneliness for older people within our communities. Many of these sheds provide opportunities to bring people together, promote social inclusion and intergenerational learning.

The Housing Executive supports a number of initiatives that can encourage older people to lead more active and healthier lives. Through our Social Enterprise programme, we recently funded Hanwood Gym in East Belfast £25,000 from the Social Enterprise programme to update its gym equipment so that it can attract more users and offer GP referral programmes and other fitness courses to benefit local residents, particularly older people both in terms of healthy ageing, but also in terms of community participation.

A recent independent evaluation of the Social Enterprise Strategy indicated that it positively affects (according to participants) partnership working, collaboration, social isolation and resilience and brings the potential for accessing more affordable local services. For example, 82% of participants identified reduced social isolation, 85% identified increased social resilience and 85% identified increased health and mental

well-being (mental, emotional, physical and social) as a result of engaging with or participating in a social enterprise which had been supported by the Housing Executive.

Through our planning and placeshaping role we also influence and help shape the neighbourhood characteristics to increase physical amenities and transport linkages for the benefit of older people and to plan for the future delivery of services for sustainable communities. The delivery of age-friendly initiatives and policies can simultaneously benefit other population groups. Good transport linkage and infrastructure and safer, barrier free environments can benefit those with children or mobility issues and help to support intergenerational opportunities and engagement which will ultimately benefit older people now, and in the future.

DRAFT

## Draft Older People's Housing Strategy 2020/21-2025/26

173

<b>Promoting Participation – High level Action Plan</b>			
		<b>Lead Department</b>	<b>Target Date</b>
1.	We will provide opportunities for older people to increase their digital capability.	Housing Services	Annually
2.	Through our Community Involvement functions, we will encourage older people to develop, shape and inform the services and opportunities that we provide for them to enable them to participate, engage and enjoy the later years of their life.	Housing Services	Annually
3.	We will work with partners in order to increase participation and help address social isolation/loneliness.	Housing Services	Annually
4.	We will continue to support and develop a range of intergenerational projects through community networks, social enterprises or community safety initiatives.	Housing Services	Annually
5.	We will continue to work with others to support existing and develop new healthy ageing initiatives.	Housing Services	Annually
6.	We will continue to be informed and guided from the 'ground up' for community based services and initiatives directed at older people.	Housing Services	Annually

## Appendix 1 List of Useful Documents/Web Pages

[Housing Executive Corporate Plan 2017/18 – 2020/21](#)

[Housing Investment Plans](#)

[2018 Continuous Tenant Omnibus Survey Main Report](#) and [2018 Continuous Tenant Omnibus Survey Summary Report](#)

[Housing and Older People: Housing Issues, Needs and Aspirations](#)

[2016 House Condition Survey](#)

[Homelessness Strategy 2017-22](#)

[Community Involvement Strategy 2018-23](#)

[Supporting People](#)

[Rural Strategy & Action Plan 2016-20](#)

[Home Energy Conservation Authority Report](#)

[2018/19 Annual Report](#)

Please note this is not an exhaustive list. Please refer to our website at [www.nihe.gov.uk](http://www.nihe.gov.uk) for more information.



<b>Report to:</b>	Active and Healthy Communities
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	17 August 2020
<b>Subject:</b>	Sustainability and Climate Change Forum
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Eoin Devlin Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Sheena McEldowney Head of Sustainability

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-

<b>For decision</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>For noting only</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>
1.1	To note the report from the Sustainability & Climate Change Forum which took place on Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2020.  To consider and agree to approve the actions in the attached Action Sheet.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues</b>
2.1	The actions arising from the meeting are attached 'SCCF Action Sheet 30 June 2020' in Appendix I.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
3.1	Consider and agree to approve the actions in the attached Action Sheet.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	None
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b>
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i>  It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i>



	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><b><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></b></p> <p>Consultation will 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 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	<p><b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b></p>
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	<p><b>Appendices</b></p> <p>Appendix I: SCCF Action Sheet 30 June 2020</p>
8.0	<p><b>Background Documents</b></p> <p>None</p>

**Sustainability and Climate Change Standing Forum**

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020 Skype, 4 00pm**

**Councillors present:**

**Cllr Curran, Cllr Owen, Cllr Brown, Cllr Andrews, Cllr Taylor, Cllr Mason, Cllr Tinnelly, Cllr Enright.**

**Chaired by Councillor Andrews**

**Officers present: E Devlin, S. McEldowney, R. Moore, M. Lipsett**

**Apologies for non-attendance: Cllr Clarke, Cllr Devlin.**

**No declarations of interest.**

<b>Agenda Item Number</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Agreed way forward (if matter requires Committee/ Council approval, a separate Report should be compiled and submitted to Committee)</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Actions taken/ Progress to date</b>	<b>Remove from Action Sheet Y/N</b>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Review Actions SCCF 20 Feb 2020</b>	<b>After discussion it was agreed that Officers report on how Council could deliver on each of the 10 Points of the NFLA Plan at the next Forum.</b>	<b>S. McEldowney</b>	<b>In-Progress</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Feedback on Climate Symposium</b>	<b>S. McEldowney provided an overview of the Climate Conference which took place on 12<sup>th</sup> March. Speaker presentations for the event are</b>	<b>S. McEldowney</b>	<b>Noted</b>	<b>Y</b>

			available should any Councillors request a copy. Suggested visit to The Rediscovery Centre in Dublin for Forum members to view 'Circular Economy ' Project next year.			
4.0	Feedback on Climate Symposium		After discussion it was agreed that the Climate Adaptation Team should prioritise areas of cost savings or new revenue generation, highlighted by the 'NFLA 10 Point Plan' and also highlighted at the Climate Symposium, when developing the Adaptation Plan.	S. McEldowney	Noted	Y
5.0	Sustainability Update		S. McEldowney provided an update on the Sustainability work carried out by Council since the last meeting. Update on NOM's referred to the Forum also provided.	S. McEldowney	Noted	Y
5.0	Sustainability Update		After discussion it was agreed that any key areas for savings and for revenue enhancement identified as part of adaptation planning process are referred to the Efficiency Committees.	M. Lipsett/R. Moore	Noted	Y

<b>5.0</b>	<b>Sustainability Update</b>	<b>Clr Tinnelly requested update on Rewilding NOM. Advised Biodiversity Officer will be attending all DEA Fora to request site nominations. 4 DEA Forum Meetings have been attended prior to lockdown restrictions.</b>	<b>S. McEldowney</b>	<b>In-progress</b>	<b>Y</b>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Response from Solar Parks Ltd.</b>	<b>S. McEldowney updated members on response from Solar Parks Ltd.</b>	<b>S. McEldowney</b>	<b>Noted.</b>	<b>Y</b>
<b>7.0</b>	<b>AOB</b>	<b>No matters raised.</b>			
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Date of next meeting</b>	<b>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020 3pm.</b>	<b>S. McEldowney</b>	<b>Noted.</b>	<b>Y</b>

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Lead Officer

<b>Report to:</b>	Active and Healthy Communities (AHC)
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> August 2020
<b>Subject:</b>	Sports Development Service Recovery Plan
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Paul Tamati – Assistant Director Leisure & Sport
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Cconr Haughey – Head of Outdoor Leisure

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either: -

<b>For decision</b>	<b>For noting only</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>	
1.1	<p>To update AHC committee on Councils Sports Development Service Recovery Programme as per appendix 1.</p> <p>On the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020 leisure facilities and services closed due to COVID-19 and all non-essential staff sent home.</p> <p>As a result of the above closure, where possible a number of programmes were adapted to try and ensure continuity of delivery and engagement during 'lockdown' including a move to virtual classes and further adaptations as restrictions were lifted.</p>	
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues</b>	
2.1	<p>The attached Sports Development Service Recovery Plan demonstrates the general guidance that has been established in relation to the resumption of sport and sporting activities and also highlights key dates in terms of Council leisure and sports services road to recover.</p> <p>Furthermore, the recovery plan highlights the agile working and adaption of virtual classes for a number of health and wellbeing programmes that continued during lockdown and also illustrates the proactive initiatives and programmes that have been employed to ensure continued meaningful engagement as restrictions become relaxed under COVID-19 including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Zoom' Yoga, Tik Tok Dance, Family Fitness classes</li> <li>• Street Activity Sessions were participants undertake exercise from the comfort of their doorstep or garden.</li> <li>• Open space exercise classes for Councils McMillan Move More participants and health related programmes.</li> </ul>	

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
3.1	<b><i>That Committee note the contents of the report and Councils Sports Development Service Recovery Plan as per appendix 1.</i></b>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	<p><b>Revenue</b> There are no revenue implications associated with this report, all programme initiatives and employee costs have been approved as per the rates estimates for 2020/21 and revised COVID-19 budgets.</p> <p><b>Capital</b> There are no capital implications associated with this report.</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b>
5.1	<p><b><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></b></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><b><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></b></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><b><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></b></p> <p>Consultation will 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 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b>

6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <span style="float: right;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></span></p>
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	Appendix 1: Sports Development Service Recovery Plan
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Background Documents</b>
	None

**APPENDIX 1**

Comhairle Ceantair  
an Iúir, Mhúrn  
agus an Dúin

**Newry, Mourne  
and Down**  
District Council

# **Active and Healthy Communities**

# **Sports Development Service Recovery Plan**

**From: 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020**



## **Newry, Mourne and Down District Council – Active and Healthy Communities; Sports Development Recovery Plan**

### **Background**

Decisions as to when the resumption of sport and physical recreation can happen are a matter for the Executive following consultation with the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) and Public Health Authority (PHA). Therefore, our service recovery can only take place when the Executive judges that conditions are suitable and will be rolled out in line with the Executive's document, Sport NI's Framework for Resumption of Sport and Physical Recreation in Northern Ireland and Guidance Documents from applicable National Governing Bodies (of sport) and full and final agreement from Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.

Following on from the 5-step plan produced by the Northern Ireland Executive and associated impact on normal service delivery, the Active and Healthy Communities Directorate has produced this Service Recovery Plan which will enable the public to avail of sport and physical recreation in many different formats whilst observing the rules and regulations of 'lockdown'.

This recovery plan details what and how Sports Development aims to deliver services from 17 July 2020. This service recovery plan is dependent on 'lockdown' measures and where we are at any given time on the Northern Ireland Executive's 5-step Plan. The Plan also takes due cognisance of the provision of activities for Children & Young People, Adults and Target User Groups (as they relate to Sport NI KPI Targets). Special emphasis has also been placed on activities maximising the Council's natural resources, parks, and open spaces primarily to positively impact upon the mental health of our residents (applicable activities detailed within the Small Group Sessions section). The plan concludes with a section on projected income and safety guidelines for associated delivery.

## Current Best Practice and Guidelines

### Northern Ireland Executive: 5-Step Recovery Plan

- **Step 1:** Public spaces and outdoor sports amenities can open; non-contact sports such as walking, running, cycling, tennis, golf and some water activities permitted; drive through cinema possible.
- **Step 2:** Re-opening of some libraries on a restricted basis; opening of open air museums.
- **Step 3:** Teams may train again for non-contact sports; libraries, galleries and museums may open.
- **Step 4:** Leisure centres can reopen; some sporting events may be allowed behind “closed doors,” or with a limited number of spectators.
- **Step 5:** Close physical contact sports and full use of sporting facilities allowed; some live events, nightclubs and concerts allowed on a restricted basis.

**Note(s):**

As of 18 May 2020, the regulations were changed to allow step 1. This was confirmed at the 4 June 2020 press conference, with the Executive indicating outdoor sports facilities will be permitted to re-open from 8 June 2020.

From Monday, 15 June, the resumption of training by elite athletes has been permitted.

On 25 June 2020, it was announced that the following relaxations would take place, and will remain under review until it can be ratified by the Executive ahead of the indicative date, based on the emerging situation:

- **Indoor training for elite and grassroots athletes (Monday, 29 June)**
- **Resumption of contact sport training (Monday, 29 June)**
- **Reopening of indoor gyms (Friday, 10 July)**
- **Competitive sports (Friday, 17 July)**
- **Limited numbers of outdoor spectators permitted (Friday, 17 July) with numbers increased at a later date (Friday, 31 July)**
- **Reopening of indoor sports courts and skating rinks (Friday, 7 August)**
- **Leisure centres and soft play areas (Friday, 7 August, brought forward to the 24<sup>th</sup> July 2020, soft plays delayed)**
- **Socially distanced indoor spectators permitted (Friday, 28 August).**

The resumption of sport takes a phased and incremental approach based on the Executive’s 5 step pathway document.

<b>RED</b>	<b>AMBER</b>	<b>YELLOW</b>	<b>GREEN</b>
	<b>Step 1 &amp; 2</b>	<b>Step 3</b>	<b>Step 4 &amp; 5</b>

**A categorisation of sports is proposed:**

- Outdoor recreation e.g. hillwalking, orienteering, mountain biking, angling.
- Water sports e.g. canoeing, rowing, sailing, surfing, swimming.
- Non-contact sports e.g. golf, tennis, bowls, archery, cycling, equestrian, motorsports.
- Contact (lower) e.g. football, Gaelic, hockey, netball, basketball.
- Contact (higher risk) e.g. rugby, boxing, wrestling.
- High performance/professional athletes.

The transition between phases based on the Executive review of the 5-step model, CMO and PHA advice should be based on risk assessments, protocol and education to participants. Additional considerations will be required for vulnerable groups and elite participation.

The 5 stages to the resumption to sport are set out below:

RED	AMBER	YELLOW	GREEN
	<b>Step 1 &amp; 2</b>	<b>Step 3</b>	<b>Step 4 &amp; 5</b>
Angling Golf Tennis Running Cycling Walking	*Water sports Archery Athletics Badminton Boccia Bowls Cricket Cycling Darts Equestrian Fencing Golf Gymnastics Motorsports Shooting Skateboarding Snooker Squash Table tennis Tennis Triathlon Handball Volleyball Weightlifting Goal ball	Camogie Football Gaelic football Hurling Hockey Ice hockey Netball Basketball Wheelchair basketball	American football Boxing Judo Karate Rugby Wrestling Taekwondo Wheelchair rugby
*Water sports – canoeing, sailing, rowing, sub aqua, surfing, swimming, water-skiing  *Limitations regarding numbers/ contact time / social distancing / indoor / outdoor exposure, PHA guidelines, any conditions on gatherings still apply			

**The Newry, Mourne and Down District Council reopening summary:**

- Designated artificial surfaces reopened for club training on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020.
- Play Parks and MUGAS reopened from the 10<sup>th</sup> July 2020.
- Grass pitches for competitive matches reopened from the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020, subject to grounds maintenance approval.
- Gym facilities only in Newry, Downpatrick and Killeel leisure centres reopened on restricted hours from the 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020.
- A reduced class programme for the above sites from the 10<sup>th</sup> August 2020.
- Restricted opening of swimming pools was previously considered for early Sept with club access considered from 10<sup>th</sup> August, however due to revised executive announcements allowing swimming pools to open from the 24<sup>th</sup> July, this has been revised to the 17<sup>th</sup> August 2020.
- Restricted reopening of further facilities will be considered for the 10<sup>th</sup> August, e.g. Tennis Competitions.

## On-Going Health and Wellbeing Programmes and Initiatives

### Every Body Active Delivery Framework

#### Zoom Classes (Adults/Targeted User Groups/Children and Young People)

Zoom live classes streaming throughout July and August targeting existing user groups and linked to Sport NI KPI Targets. These will be delivered by Clanrye Group via the EBA partnership. Proposed timetable of classes delivered by our EBA coaches in 3-week blocks. Each class will last 30/45min and will be available to zoom enabled private groups. All sign ups and registration via online EBA form (Clanrye) or through health referral processes.

This is a free initiative for all zoom classes. The EBA schedule will include classes in:

- Yoga/chair yoga
- Light weight workouts
- Tik Tok Dance
- Strength and balance
- Family fitness
- Chair exercises

#### Current Timetable:

- **Block 1:** Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June
- **Block 2:** Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July
- **Block 3:** Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July
- **Block 4:** Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August
- **Block 5:** Monday 10<sup>th</sup> August to Friday 21<sup>st</sup> August

#### Potential areas for concern:

- Potential security/safeguarding/privacy issues
- Network/Internet related issues
- Limitation to free zoom service
- Staff and user training
- User familiarity of delivery platform
- User uptake and retention

These sessions will remain under review with weekly meetings between Clanrye EBA coordinator and Sports Development officer. As restrictions lift or engagement numbers dwindle the sessions will be reviewed and amended as required.

### **EBA on your doorstep**

In June and July EBA coaches piloted sessions of Street Activity in Newry and Downpatrick. Coaches offered 15-30 Minute BLAST Street Sessions with participants in time to music and encouraged people to take part in physical activity from the comfort of their own doorsteps and garden. When restrictions are lifted this will move into structured sessions in Neighbourhood Renewal areas, parks and open spaces.

This programme aimed to develop relationships between the coaches and communities and will hopefully work towards encouraging people who may have never joined a programme or took part in a structured session in our leisure or community centres to do so post-lockdown.

### **NMD Summer REVIVE Programme (Children & Young People) EBA**

In the current climate and with the quantity of online resources already flooding the market, Sports Development felt there was plenty available to children and young people should they wish to take part in activities or follow sessions using visual platforms. Therefore, it was decided that we will continue the Tik Tok dance sessions due to the popularity but would focus delivery on outdoor sessions as restrictions are reduced.

Summer 2020 will see the introduction of outdoor sports activity sessions in green areas and streets in communities across the district. These sessions will enable children to access specifically adapted, structured sports sessions from green areas across the district. All sessions will be delivered by our experienced EBA coaches and offer a wide variety of skills and sessions that children will be able to access when restrictions are relaxed, with their neighbours and friends.

Sessions will be delivered by EBA coaches and will follow the traditional format of developing individual skills in a fun and interactive way. Registration via online EBA form, session links will be created and released via Cianrye registration processes. It is proposed that these sports sessions be provided at no cost to the public.

Sports Development will link in with DEA officers and community groups to identify areas in which to run the programmes with an aim to offer provision for both urban and some of our more rural areas.

#### **Proposed schedule for Community Sport Sessions:**

1. **20<sup>th</sup> July** (6 x 60 min sessions)
2. **27<sup>th</sup> July** (6 x 60 min sessions)
3. **3<sup>rd</sup> August** (6 x 60 min sessions)
4. **10<sup>th</sup> August** (6 x 60 min sessions)
5. **17<sup>th</sup> August** (6 x 60 min sessions)
6. **24<sup>th</sup> August** (6 x 60 min sessions)

**2 sessions over three nights for the coaches starting w/c 20<sup>th</sup> July, e.g. Wednesday Evenings (4 weeks) 4-5pm Strangford, The Links Playing Fields then 6-7pm The Meadow green area, Ardglass (2 coaches to deliver).**

**Potential areas for concern:**

- Privacy issues/safeguarding
- COVID restrictions/social distancing
- Weather conditions
- Interference from members of the public
- Large numbers congregating

**Small Group Sessions (activities aimed at positively impacting upon mental health and wellbeing/open spaces)****Stage 2/3 Proposed Activities: (Target, July/August 2020)**

- Walking Group - St. Colman's Track - Wed 8<sup>th</sup> July - Wed 30<sup>th</sup> Sept @12pm
- Female fitness classes - NLC Carpark - Wed 8<sup>th</sup> July - Wed 26<sup>th</sup> August @ 2pm
- Metafit (parents and children) - NLC Carpark - Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> July - Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> August @ 12pm
- Outdoor Fitness – DLC Carpark - Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> July - Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> August @ 2pm
- Outdoor activities - groups of ≤ 30 people e.g. Couch 2 5K (Newry, Killeel, Downpatrick) – to start w/c 3<sup>rd</sup> August – currently confirming details with Athletics NI

**Family Fitness Mornings** – Range of activities for all the family to get involved in delivered by EBA coaches – support from DEA Officers and Health staff to promote programmes and provide information for those attending

11am-12.30pm - Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August - Jennings Park

11am-12.30pm - Friday 21<sup>st</sup> August - Dunleath Playing fields

11am-12.30pm - Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August - Donard Park

**Health Referral Programmes****Background information**

The council are delivering three funded health referral programmes across the district.

**Physical Activity Referral programme**

The Public Health Agency funded physical activity referral programme is designed to use physical activity as a means support referred clients living with long term chronic conditions. The programme has been delivered in the Newry area from 2012 and more recently began delivering in Downpatrick area in 2019. Each locality aims to successfully deliver the 12week physical activity programme to 200 referred clients.

**Macmillan Move More Programme**

Macmillan part fund the Macmillan Move More programme is designed to support those living with and beyond cancer to get and remain active, during diagnosis, treatment and post treatment. The programme has been delivered across the district from December 2017 and

has engaged with over 500 clients. The programme has a target of supporting 200 new referred clients each year.

### **BeActive for Health**

The Southern and South Eastern Trusts part funded programme is designed to use physical activity as a means to address those who are at risk of developing diabetes and poor mental health. The programme has been delivering in the Newry and Downpatrick areas since 2019. The programme has a target of 300 referred (150 in Downpatrick area and 150 in Newry area) clients actively retained on the programme.

### **Delivery during lockdown**

Delivery of the programmes has continued during the lockdown period. Each programme has been delivering live zoom classes to their clients. The health co-ordinators have continued to support their clients during the lockdown period with regular phone calls, emails, group text messages, weekly challenges and videos.

### **Delivery as lockdown eases**

Delivery resumed from week starting Monday 29<sup>th</sup> of June. The delivery has been modified from the traditional delivery of the indoor environment and has been delivered outdoors in DLC car park and St Colman's. All active participants have approved delivery in these venues. The venues have been risk assessed, participants have been provided with the latest government guidance on social distancing and the staff have pre-session health screening risk management protocols to deliver. These sessions are only delivered when the weather permits.



## Timetable and Current Programmes

Please find below the current health programmes activity schedule –

Programme	Average Zoom participation during lockdown	NLC	DLC	KLC	Zoom class	Walking Groups	Yoga/Chi Me Delamont	Total number of weekly sessions
<b>Macmillan Move More District Wide</b>	50-60	Wednesday Circuits 11.00, and Friday Dance 11.00	Tuesday Circuits 11.00, & Thursday Dance 11.00	N/A	Monday	N/A	N/A	8 sessions
<b>Be Active for Health Michael</b>	1	Tuesday & Thursday 11.00-11.40 Circuits	N/A	Wednesday 11.00-11.40 Circuits	Monday	N/A	N/A	3 sessions
<b>Be Active for Health Leanne</b>	18	N/A	Thursday 10.30-11.10 circuits	N/A	Tuesday	Newcastle Monday 10.00 & 11.00 Castlewellan Fridays 11.00	Wednesday 10.30-11.00	5 sessions
<b>PARS District Wide</b>	20-25	Thursday Various classes	Tuesday Various classes	N/A	Monday	N/A	N/A	8 sessions

Week commencing Monday 29<sup>th</sup> of June

The above delivery will be supported with each programme delivering a weekly zoom class to those who are shielding and those who have anxieties joining the group. Move forward the programmes will adopt a hybrid model of deliver with both physical and online delivery. Risk assessments and pre- activity protocols have been produced for each venue and have been shared with the team.

#### **Concerns -**

- The Physical activity referral programme requires physical assessments these can be performed in the car park of the leisure centres or during home visits. The Macmillan Move More programme, at times requires home visits. Risk assessments have to be performed prior to these home visits.
- Attendance of the health programmes could be impacted due to client's anxieties joining or re-joining the group.
- Provision of first aid kits for staff delivering in the outdoor activities.
- Provision of PPE for the staff.

#### **NMD Cycle Pod (transfer of ownership to be confirmed)**

##### **Back ground information:**

Southern Cycle for Health scheme pods and bikes transfer to the local Councils to support the delivery of community plans to increase physical activity opportunities and a revised delivery model is agreed with all partners which enables 'open usage' across community planning partners and CV sector.

Newry Mourne and Down District Council will acquire ownership of the bikes TBC.

##### **Normal Operation Procedures of bike hire:**

The bikes will be stored in a secure bike dock (storage container) on the grounds of the Albert basin. To book the bikes the service users must book them though the NLC reception on the legend system.

The bikes will be numbered, and all participants must book the bikes through the Council's legend system. The participants can choose which bike they wish to book for the cycle outing. This will allow participants to get the bike that they wish to use, and it provides accountability for the reporting of faults on the bikes. The participant can report a fault when it happens, and a council officer can identify who last had that specific bike if a fault is not reported.

The bikes will be available to be used by clubs or groups from across the district and will be transported by the bike trailer. The bike trailer will be stored on council premises in Greenbank and the bikes will be delivered to locations from across the district by Council maintenance staff.

Bike hire will be in line with our new EBA programme scale of charges.

**Normal Operating procedures of reporting of faults:**

- A brief description of the fault/s will be reported to NLC reception.
- NLC reception will make the bike as at broke and cannot be booked.
- NLC reception will report the fault to the appropriate Council Officer who is trained in bike maintenance.
- If the Council officer cannot fix the fault then an outside contractor will fix the faults.
- The outside contractor will update NLC reception as to when the bike/s will be available for hire.
- Service users who repeatedly damage bikes will be addressed.

**Potential Service users:**

- **Existing usage:** Newry Mourne and Down District Council will continue to develop usage of the bikes with the legacy bike users such as U3A, Clanrye Group the Arc and further development with other community groups.
- **The Councils Health Programmes:** plan to use the bikes a minimum of three times per week for health programmes during late Spring and early Autumn. The BeActive for Health programme in Castlewellan, The BeActive for Health programme in Newry. The Physical Activity Referral programme in Delamont Country Park or the Physical Activity Referral programme in Newry. Macmillan Move More programme service users can use them as and when required.
- **Every Body Active 2020:** In partnership with Cycling Ireland (Gary Laverty), The Outdoor Partnership (Caoimhe Connor) and a local cycling club, the EBA programme will trial a Sofa to Saddle programme with the intention of developing non-cyclists to cycling in a local cycling non-competitive race. Possible potential for a NMD, ABC, MID Ulster sportive involving all service users.
- **The Outdoor Partnership (TOP):** The council will support The Outdoor Partnership development of cyclists by working in partnership to develop cycling across the Newry Mourne and Down District area.
- **Schools and Further Education College:** The recent capital works on the site of Newry leisure Centre and Our Lady's Grammar school provides an opportunity for the school to use the bikes and the cycle pods. Using the trailer, the bikes can be delivered to schools across the district. There is also an opportunity to work with the Youth Sport Trust to develop young female cycling within schools across the district which can then feed into cycling clubs.
- **Health and Social Care Trust:** Newry Mourne and Down District will work with the SHSCT and SEHSCT to develop existing cycling programmes across the district. Small group and one to one usage from SHSCT departments have been using the cycling pods in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council and we would like to replicate these in the Newry Mourne and Down District area.

## **Disability Programmes**

Disability pool fun session scheduled into the Pool Programmes in Newry and Downpatrick when the centres are open in late August 2020.

DSNI Co-ordinator (Andrea McAlinden) wheelie active Saturday sessions at St Colman's Track recommenced 7<sup>th</sup> august.

## **Promotion**

Promotion for the Camps will be carried out in-house. This will involve:

- Council Social Media and other social media outlets for advertising camps,
- Council Website with a Press Release and download link for the application form,
- Posters and leaflets etc.

## **On-Site Protocol (see separate Risk Assessment)**

### **For the safe delivery of the Multi Sports Camps; Summer Recreation Programme 2020 (COVID19 Guidelines)**

#### **Staff:**

- Staff will be asked if they are 'fit' to work and have no circumstances that would prevent them from working or in any way put at risk the participants or their families
- Staff will be provided with PPE. (Masks, gloves, hand sanitiser both for public and staff along disinfecting wipes for equipment and Signage as per facility and liaising with facility manager)
- Staff will wear a Council uniform to make them identifiable – this is to be changed each day.
- Staff must be at the venue 30 minutes prior to the start of the session to set up the activity considering social distance Government guidelines.
- Staff will have materials available to wipe down equipment at the end of each session.
- Prior to the session each coach is to brief the participants on social distancing.
- Staff to allocate participants small groups to work in during the session and the area of the pitch they are to play in.
- Cash for the registration fee is to be set into a cash box – no change given – correct course fee required.

#### **Venue:**

- Working with Council Facility Managers – the venue will be cleaned prior and after each day's activity – this is to include changing rooms, toilets, and any gates that participants and parents may meet.
- Facilities will have signage to remind all of social distancing.
- Hand sanitiser is to be available at the gate to the pitch – each participant to sanitise their hands on arriving and leaving the pitch.
- Parents if watching from the side of the pitches must adhere to social distancing – 2m gaps.
- No use of water fountains at the facility.
- Separate entry and exit points to pitch which public must adhere to.

#### **Activity:**

- Maximum of 30 participants per session.
- Groups split into 3 x 10 participants for activities.

- Coaches deliver activities considering social distance.
- Coaches to wipe down equipment with a sanitiser / disinfectant at the end of each session.
- 15-minute gap between back to back sessions to allow participants to leave the area before the next group arrive.

### **Sports Clubs**

Tennis is being played in Newry, Warrenpoint, Rostrevor and Newcastle with club usage only. Warrenpoint Park is open for public use from 7<sup>th</sup> July. Tennis Clubs are operating as stage 3 as set out by Tennis Ireland guidance.

GAA games have re-opened and clubs are allowed to play competitive matches from 17<sup>th</sup> July (no spectators allowed), Croke Park has allocated guidance to clubs in stage 3 of its re-opening guidance.

Soccer games have also re-opened for competitive games and IFA have allocated clubs guidance on restrictions.

Athletics has re-opened in Newry running track at St. Colman's and the Shale pitches in Down legacy area with effect of Athletics NI guidance.

Fishing and outdoor water sports are permitted with clubs each to submit their own insurance and risk assessment on COVID-19 restrictions for use of council owned facilities.

Council fixed Play Park and Multi Use Games Areas opened on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July with restricted use and signage erected on each site.

<b>Report to:</b>	Active Health and Communities Committee (AHC)
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> August 2020
<b>Subject:</b>	Funding Opportunity - Community Trails
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Michael Lipsett, Director: Active and Healthy Communities
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Paul Tamati, Assistant Director: Leisure and Sport

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-

<b>For decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>For noting only</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>																		
1.1	<p>To update AHC on a recent submission for a potential funding opportunity for Community Trails at Aughrim Hill in Attical and Daisy Hill in Newry.</p> <p>An opportunity has arisen to apply to for external funding for Community Trails within the district via the following funding streams:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Forest Park Enhancement and Community Trails Development Scheme via TRISI (Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation)</li> <li>2. NIEA Environment Fund Application</li> </ol>																		
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues</b>																		
2.1	<p>Application forms and expressions of interest (EOI) have been submitted to the above funding streams by Outdoor Recreation NI (ORNI) on behalf of Council for community trail projects at Aughrim Hill, Attical and Daisy Hill in Newry.</p> <p>The anticipated funding resources required if applications are successful is as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th><b>TRPSI</b></th> <th><b>Woodlands Trust</b></th> <th><b>NIEA</b></th> <th><b>Council</b></th> <th><b>Total Investment</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Aughrim Hill</td> <td>£195,500</td> <td>£34,500</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>£228,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Daisy Hill</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>£63,948</td> <td>£11,284</td> <td>£75,233</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The two projects have been identified as part of the Councils Community Trail Plan which ORNI have been completing on behalf of Council via an SLAs with Council.</p>		<b>TRPSI</b>	<b>Woodlands Trust</b>	<b>NIEA</b>	<b>Council</b>	<b>Total Investment</b>	Aughrim Hill	£195,500	£34,500	N/A	N/A	£228,000	Daisy Hill	N/A	N/A	£63,948	£11,284	£75,233
	<b>TRPSI</b>	<b>Woodlands Trust</b>	<b>NIEA</b>	<b>Council</b>	<b>Total Investment</b>														
Aughrim Hill	£195,500	£34,500	N/A	N/A	£228,000														
Daisy Hill	N/A	N/A	£63,948	£11,284	£75,233														

	<p>Aughrim Hill does not require any match funding from Council however resources in terms of officer time will be required and absorbed within current staffing resources should funding applications be successful.</p> <p>In terms of Daisy Hill, approximately £11,284 of match funding would be required should this funding application be successful. If this happens a further detailed report will be brought to the committee setting out the budgetary implications.</p>
<p><b>3.0</b></p>	<p><b>Recommendations</b></p>
<p>3.1</p>	<p><i>That Committee note the contents of this report.</i></p>
<p><b>4.0</b></p>	<p><b>Resource implications</b></p>
<p>4.1</p>	<p><b>Revenue:</b> If applications and EOI for the identified projects are successful a further detailed report will be brought to the committee setting out the budgetary implications.</p> <p><b>Capital:</b> Currently there is a capital budget in place for community trails for ongoing projects and there is potential that any required match funding could be absorbed within this budget if efficiencies in the current contracts are realised.</p> <p><b>Resources:</b> Any officer resource required will be absorbed with current staffing structures and rolls.</p>
<p><b>5.0</b></p>	<p><b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b></p>
<p>5.1</p>	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>5.2</p>	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>



<p>5.3</p>	<p><b>Proposal initiating consultation</b></p> <p>Consultation will 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 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
<p><b>6.0</b></p>	<p><b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b></p>
<p>6.1</p>	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If no, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p><b>7.0</b></p>	<p><b>Appendices</b></p>
	<p><b>None</b></p>
<p><b>8.0</b></p>	<p><b>Background Documents</b></p>
	<p><b>None</b></p>

<b>Report to:</b>	AHC
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> August 2020
<b>Subject:</b>	Social Investment Fund – Capital
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Janine Hillen - Assistant Director: Community Engagement
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Sonya Burns – Head of Programmes Unit Sarah McClory – Programmes Coordinator

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-

<b>For decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>For noting only</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>
1.1	The Council is covered by two Social Investment Zones – Southern (legacy Newry and Mourne) and South Eastern (legacy Down). The Council has completed the 'Work It' programme in the Southern Zone. The South Eastern Zone includes two programmes: Castlewellan Community Centre and Community Operated Sports Facilities (Ballyhornan and Kilkoooley).
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues</b>
2.1	<p>Castlewellan Community Centre The project is fully completed with the group undertaking the OBA data collection and reporting. The centre was launched on Friday 24 January 2020.</p> <p>Ballyhornan The contractor is currently on site and behind schedule due to Covid-19, however the project is due to be completed by October 2020.</p> <p>Kilcooley - planning permission was not granted so project cannot proceed.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
3.1	That the Committee note the report and minutes.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	Council contribution: Ballyhornan £125K
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b>

5.1	<p><b>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</b></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><b>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</b></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><b>Proposal initiating consultation</b></p> <p>Consultation will 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 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	<p><b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b></p>
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	The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>	
	Minutes of SIF Board Meetings:- Appendix 1 - 10 February 2020 Appendix 2 - 9 March 2020	
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Background Documents</b>	

**NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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**MINUTES OF SIF CAPITAL PROJECT BOARD MEETING**  
**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February @ 10am, Room 1, Downshire Civic Centre,**  
**Downpatrick**

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**CHAIRPERSON:** Janine Hillen

**Present:**

Justyna McCabe  
Paul Brannigan  
Stephen Courtney  
Francesca Dowler  
Sarah McClory  
Sonya Burns

**APOLOGIES:**

Colin Bell  
Raphael Crummy  
Kenny Knox  
Kirk Marshall  
Anita Waite  
Ciara Burns

**1. INTRODUCTIONS:**

Janine Hillen welcomed all the members of the project board and thanked all those in attendance.

**2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST:**

No conflicts of interest were raised.

**3. THOMAS DAVIS PROJECT:**

Sarah McClory provided an update from Colin Bell. Contractor has been on site since 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and the build will take approximately 12 months. The first progress meeting will take place mid-February and Ciara Burns will be invited by the design team to attend this meeting.

Stephen Courtney requested that Colin Bell cc. Brenda Stevenson in all correspondence to The Executive Office.

**Action:**

- **Colin Bell to cc. Brenda Stevenson in all correspondence to The Executive Office.**

**4. Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

**5. Action Sheet**

- Timeline for expending DfC monies has been cleared between TEO and DfC.
- Newry, Mourne and Down District Council are currently erecting signage and ball fencing at Castlewellan.
- The group are currently logging all issues and the Local Policing Team will designate an officer to provide advice to the group.
- Sarah McClory emailed Kenny Knox the risks and issues log.

**6. Castlewellan: Community Centre**

The official launch of Castlewellan took place on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January.

**Actions:****7. Community Operated Sports Facilities****Kilcooley:**

Paul Brannigan provided an update. All issues have been addressed except the Rivers Agency report which have deemed the application unsatisfactory due to the risk from the reservoir. The design team have been in contact with the Planning Department to clarify if there are any mitigating actions that can be taken to reduce risk. Clarification has also been sought re if they are using their own model to decide risk or if they are using the Design Teams addendum and what 'significant engineering work' includes. The report will be going to Ards and North Down Planning Committee on Monday 2nd March 2020.

**Actions:**

- **ITT to be issued and if additional requirements emerge the ITT can be extended.**

**Ballyhornan:**

Paul Brannigan provided an update. Construction is currently in week 22, completion date is on target for 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020. Spend to date is currently £337,113.17 and CE's £6,470. The contractor is confident that they can make the 2 ½ weeks back. The NI Waters agreement has been signed and this will be the last of the utilities. The contractor has agreed to issue a CE register with every valuation.

**Actions:**

- 

## **8. Update from Department for Communities**

No update.

## **9. Finance**

## **10. OBA NISRA report cards**

Sarah will provide ongoing support to the centre regarding the completion of OBA report cards to TEO Statistician.

Signed:       Janine Hillen  
                  Chairperson

Signed:       Janine Hillen

### **Next Project Board Meeting:**

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Location: Conference Room, Monaghan Row, Newry

Time: 10.00am

**NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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**MINUTES OF SIF CAPITAL PROJECT BOARD MEETING**  
**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March @ 10am, Conference Room, Monaghan Row, Newry**

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**CHAIRPERSON:** Janine Hillen - Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

**Present:**

Colin Quinn - Newry, Mourne and Down District Council  
Raphael Crummy – Department for Communities  
Kenny Knox – Strategic Investment Board Limited  
Paul Brannigan – Newry, Mourne and Down District Council  
Stephen Courtney – The Executive Office  
Sarah McClory – Newry, Mourne and Down District Council  
Anita Waite – Department for Communities  
Kirk Marshall - Ards and North Down Borough Council

**APOLOGIES:**

Michael Lipsett - Newry, Mourne and Down District Council  
Tom McClean - Newry, Mourne and Down District Council  
Colin Bell - Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council  
Ciara Burns - Newry, Mourne and Down District Council  
Justyna McCabe - Newry, Mourne and Down District Council  
Sonya Burns - Newry, Mourne and Down District Council  
Francesca Dowler – Ards and North Down Borough Council

**1. INTRODUCTIONS:**

Janine Hillen welcomed all the members of the project board and thanked all those in attendance. Janine welcomed Colin Quinn onto the Project Board and explained that Colin will undertake the role of Chairperson at all future meetings.

**2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST:**

No conflicts of interest were raised.

**3. THOMAS DAVIS PROJECT:**

Contractor has been on site since 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and the build will take approximately 52 weeks. The Project which is ben managed by ABC is on target to reach its accrual figure of £182,000 by the end of the financial year. DfC monies will be spent first.

**4. Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.



## **5. Action Sheet**

- Collin Bell has included Brenda Stevenson in all correspondence.
- The ITT for Kilcooley has not been issued.

## **6. Castlewellan: Community Centre**

TEO is waiting for the final ICT costs. Note: there were several Compensation Events (CE's). The final payment is to be made to the contractor this financial year. It was noted that the centre was completed to a very high standard.

### **Actions:**

## **7. Community Operated Sports Facilities**

### **Kilcooley:**

It was noted that planning permission had been refused last week, this decision will be ratified at the end of the Month by full council. It was noted that there were no alternative sites identified for this project and as such if the project were to be cancelled it was acknowledged the local community would need to be informed and associated expectations carefully managed.

### **Actions:**

### **Ballyhornan:**

Paul Brannigan provided an update. Construction is currently in week 26, spend to date is currently £463,277.97. At the last site meeting it was noted by the contractor that they were 2-3 weeks behind on the building and 2 weeks for the pitch. Anticipated completion - early June 2020. There are some additional CE's and early warnings such as path and barriers. An Early Warning (EW) has been received from the contractor on water supply, 150 meters of extra trenching is required, the contractor is looking at alternatives. The water pressure from the community centre is not sufficient for the 14 showers. Paul will get the costs later today and will pass to TEO for consideration.

It was noted that pitch equipment such as dug outs was not included in tender. Pitch equipment would greatly enhance the pitch usage. Project completion will be early June 2020. It was noted that there were no further issues with the neighbour.

### **Actions:**

- **Paul to pass additional costs for water supply trench to TEO.**
- **Paul to set up meeting with NIE to discuss water supply.**

## **8. Update from Department for Communities**

No update.

## **9. Finance**

No update.

**10. OBA NISRA report cards**

Sarah McClory will provide ongoing support to the centre regarding the completion of OBA report cards to TEO Statistician.

Signed: Janine Hillen  
Chairperson

Signed: Janine Hillen

**Next Project Board Meeting:**

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Location: Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick

Time: 10.00am

<b>Report to:</b>	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	17 August 2020
<b>Subject:</b>	Policing & Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) Report
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Janine Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Damien Brannigan, Head of Engagement

		For decision	For noting only	x
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>			
1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To note the report.</li> <li>• To note the attached Minutes of the Policing Committee Meetings and PCSP Meetings listed in 3.1 below</li> </ul>			
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues</b>			
2.1	The attached Minutes of the Policing Committee Meetings and PCSP Meetings listed in 3.1 below are provided to update the Committee on the ongoing work of the PCSP.			
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>			
3.1	<p>That the Committee:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note the report.</li> <li>• Note the following Policing Committee and PCSP Minutes as attached: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Minutes of the Policing Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 21 January 2020, approved at the Policing Committee Meeting on Tuesday 10 March 2020.</li> <li>➢ Minutes of the PCSP Meeting held on Tuesday 21 January 2020, approved at the Policing Committee Meeting on Tuesday 10 March 2020.</li> <li>➢ Minutes of the Policing Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 10 March 2020, approved at the Policing Committee Meeting on Tuesday 21 July 2020.</li> <li>➢ Minutes of the PCSP Meeting held on Tuesday 10 March 2020, approved at the Policing Committee Meeting on Tuesday 21 July 2020.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>			
4.1	<p><b>Revenue</b> All actions are budgeted for in the PCSP Action Plan</p> <p><b>Capital</b> N/A</p>			
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b>			
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i>			

	It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5.2	<p><b><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></b></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
5.3	<p><b><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></b></p> <p>Consultation will 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 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>	
6.0	<b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b>	
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
7.0	<b>Appendices</b>	
	<p>Appendix I: Minutes of Policing Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 21 January 2020</p> <p>Appendix II: Minutes of PCSP Meeting held on Tuesday 21 January 2020</p> <p>Appendix III: Minutes of Policing Committee held on Tuesday 10 March 2020</p> <p>Appendix IV: Minutes of PCSP Meeting held on Tuesday 10 March 2020</p>	

<b>8.0</b>	<b>Background Documents</b>
	None

## POLICING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

**Minutes of the Newry, Mourne & Down Policing & Community Safety Partnership Meeting held on Tuesday 21 January 2020 in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry at 7pm**

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- Present:**
- Audrey Byrne, Independent Member
  - Una Kelly, Independent Member
  - Jude McNeill, Independent Member
  - Grace McQuiston, Independent Member
  - Fiona Stephens, Independent Member
  - Councillor W Clarke, NMDDC
  - Councillor M Savage, NMDDC
  - Councillor M Ruane, NMDDC
  - Councillor O Hanlon, NMDDC
  - Councillor T Hearty, NMDDC (**Chair**)
  - Councillor A Lewis, NMDDC
  - Councillor W Walker, NMDDC
  - Chief Inspector Joe McMinn PSNI
  - Chief Inspector Nigel Henry, PSNI
  - Inspector Darren Hardy, PSNI
  - Inspector Amanda Ford, PSNI
  - Inspector Kelly Gibson PSNI
  - Sergeant Ryan Duffy, PSNI
  - Donna Weir, EANI
  - Michael Heaney, YJA
  - Roisin Leckey, PBNI
  - Loma Wilson, NIHE
  - Ruth Allen, SHSCT
  - Rod O'Hare, NIFRS
- In attendance:**
- Damien Brannigan, Head of Engagement
  - Martina Flynn, Safer Communities & Good Relations Manager
  - Judith Thompson, PCSP Officer
  - Clare Loughran, PCSP Officer
  - Svea Nagel, PCSP Student
  - Kerri Morrow, DEA Co-Ordinator
  - Sarah Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
  - Colette McAteer, Democratic Services Officer

### 1 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

Apologies were received from Declan Murphy, Independent Member and Councillor J Trainor.

## 2 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

## 3 Minutes of PCSP Committee Meeting held on 18 September 2019

Read: Minutes of PCSP Committee Meeting held on 18 September 2019 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **On the proposal of Una Kelly, seconded by Councillor Savage, it was agreed to approve the Minutes of the PCSP Committee Meeting held on 18 September 2019 as a true and accurate record.**

## 4 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

## 5 PCSP Officer's Report.

Read: PCSP Officer's Report – January 2020. (copy circulated).

Agreed: **It was agreed to note the report and to note the attached PCSP Officer's Report and also agreed to the following actions:-**

- **A Working Group consisting of 4 Councillors and 4 Independent Members be set up to agree the way forward in relation to the provision of speed indicator signs (Mrs. Flynn to send an e-mail seeking nominations for these positions).**
- **Mrs. Flynn to investigate if the OCN accredited training in Domestic Abuse could be offered to Members of the Partnership.**
- **Mrs. Flynn to liaise with NIHE, and other Statutory Agencies regarding a call for the establishment of a multi-agency think tank of key stakeholders to consider the provision of bespoke housing accommodation and support services for young offenders in the 18-21 age group who may also have learning difficulties, to help them break the cycle of re-offending.**
- **Mrs. Flynn to consider a piece of work around lonely and vulnerable people and a possible mentoring scheme.**

Members were then shown two videos which promoted the work carried out by the PCSP – one on the recent Kid's Court event held at St. Columban's Primary School in Kilkeel area and the other on the RAPID bins.

Members welcomed the video presentations and agreed they would be very useful in promoting the work of the Partnership.

## 6 Procurement of PCSP Contracted Services

Read: Procurement of PCSP Contracted Services Report. (copy circulated).

**Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Grace McQuiston, it was agreed to:-**

- Note the report.
- Approve two contract extensions, one contract cessation and associated procurement exercises as below –
  - Community Safety Wardens – extend current contract to Talon Security to 31 March 2021
  - Home Secure Scheme – extend current contract to Confederation of Community Groups to 31 March 2021 (this is subject to the provider agreeing to the implementation of a Performance Improvement Plan by 31 January 2020). A procurement exercise will be undertaken for the Home Secure Scheme if this could not be agreed.
  - Telephone Support Network – cease current contract on 31 March 2020 and procure a Social Alarm Service (or equivalent).

Members discussed the Community Safety Warden Scheme and were advised by Mrs. Flynn that she had evaluated the contract as per the service specification but advised that it was too soon to do an in-depth evaluation as the current provider was only in place from October 2019. However, this evaluation would be carried out in 6 months' time. She also advised that discussions would be held with the NIHE regarding Community Safety Funding towards the Warden Scheme and if funding was made available from NIHE the Partnership budget would be re-profiled and money re-allocated within the Action Plan.

Mrs. Flynn provided an update on figures relating to the Home Secure Scheme; concerns were expressed by Members at the extent of the current waiting list.

## 7 Bonfire Sub Group Meetings – 23 September and 25 November 2019

Read: Report re: Draft Minutes of PCSP Bonfire Sub Group Meetings held on 23 September 2019 and 25 November 2019. (copy circulated).

**Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Fiona Stephens, it was agreed to note the above report and agree the draft Minutes of the Bonfire Sub Group held on 23 September 2019 and 25 November 2019.**

## 8 ASB Sub Group Report

Read: ASB Sub Group report dated 21 January 2020. (copy circulated).



**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Audrey Byrne, it was agreed to note the report and agree the draft Minutes of the ASB Sub Group Meetings held on 21 August and 9 October 2019.

#### **9 Policing Plan 2020-25 Consultation**

**Read:** Policing Plan 2020-25 Consultation Report dated 21 January 2020. (copy circulated).

**Agreed:** It was agreed to note this report and to note the consultation response to the Policing Plan 2020-25.

#### **10 Peace IV PCSP Update**

**Read:** Peace IV PCSP Update report dated 21 January 2020. (copy circulated).

**Agreed:** It was agreed to note this report and to note the Peace IV PCSP Update.

#### **11 DEA Co-Ordinator's Report**

**Read:** DEA Co-Ordinator's report dated 21 January 2020. (copy circulated).

**Agreed:** It was agreed to note this report and to note the DEA Co-Ordinator's Report.

#### **12 Update from the PSNI on implications of, and preparations for, Brexit in relation to policing in Newry, Mourne & Down (Standing Item)**

**Noted:** Chief Inspector McMinn advised preparations remained in place for Brexit in relation to policing in Newry, Mourne & Down.

#### **13 Sentence Review Consultation**

**Noted:** Jude McNeill encouraged members to respond to the Sentence Review Consultation with responses due by 3 February 2020.

#### **14 Date of Next Meeting**

The next PCSP Committee Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 10 March 2020 at 7pm in the Council Offices, Downpatrick.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 8.10pm.

**POLICING COMMITTEE****Minutes of the Policing Committee Meeting of Newry, Mourne & Down Policing & Community Safety Partnership held in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry on Tuesday 21 January 2020 at 6pm**

- 
- In attendance:** Audrey Byrne, Independent Member  
 Una Kelly, Independent Member  
 Jude McNeill, Independent Member  
 Grace McQuiston, Independent Member  
 Fiona Stephens, Independent Member  
 Councillor W Clarke, NMDDC  
 Councillor M Savage, NMDDC  
 Councillor M Ruane, NMDDC  
 Councillor O Hanlon, NMDDC  
 Councillor T Hearty, NMDDC (**Chair**)  
 Councillor A Lewis, NMDDC  
 Councillor W Walker, NMDDC  
 Chief Inspector Joe McMinn PSNI  
 Chief Inspector Nigel Henry, PSNI  
 Inspector Darren Hardy, PSNI  
 Inspector Amanda Ford, PSNI  
 Inspector Kelly Gibson PSNI  
 Sergeant Ryan Duffy, PSNI
- Also in attendance:** Damien Brannigan, Head of Engagement  
 Martina Flynn, Safer Communities & Good Relations Manager  
 Judith Thompson, PCSP Officer  
 Clare Loughran, PCSP Officer  
 Svea Nagel, PCSP Student  
 Sarah Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)  
 Colette McAteer, Democratic Services Officer

**1. Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks**

Apologies were received from Declan Murphy, Independent Member and Councillor J Trainor.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

**3. Minutes of Policing Committee Meeting held on 18 September 2019**

Read: Minutes of Policing Committee Meeting held on 18 September 2019 (copy circulated)

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to approve the Minutes of the Policing Committee Meeting held on 18 September 2019 as a true and accurate record.

**4. Matters Arising**

There were no Matters Arising.

**5. Chief Constable Social Media posting – December 2019**

Councillor Hearty, Chair, referred to the PSNI social media post issued around Christmas, which included a photo of the Chief Constable in front of Crossmaglen Police Station with officers holding heavy guns. He said the local community felt this photo was a huge backwards step for policing in the area and sent out an extremely negative image at a time when the community and business people were working hard to create a positive image of the area to attract visitors and shoppers. He added it was very hard on local Police Officers who were working with community groups and would now have to rebuild trust.

Chief Inspector McMinn said he took on board the hurt felt by the community and the PSNI would learn from this and move forward. He advised there would be a fundamental review of policing in the area.

**6. District Commander's Report – Periods 3 & 4 – September-December 2019**

Read: District Commander's Report – September/December 2019 (copy circulated).

Chief Inspector McMinn then presented the District Commander's Report to the Committee.

Following the presentation, discussion took place and the following points were raised:

**Anti-Social Behaviour**

- Rise in anti-social behaviour linked to drink and drugs misuse. Areas mentioned were Killyleagh and Saintfield; Downpatrick and Kilkeel (where there was a perception that there was a big influx of cocaine coming from the Newcastle area) and Mary Street, Newry.
- Members welcomed an update that the number of Neighbourhood Policing Teams in the District would soon increase from 3 to 7 and would be located across the 7 DEAs. Members said this would increase the visibility of officers on the ground and help make people feel safe.

### **Hate Crime and RAPID Bins**

- Members welcomed the slight decrease in hate crime incidents reported and also the uptake in usage of the RAPID bins across the District.

### **General**

- The need for a multi-agency approach to provide accommodation for young people, particularly in the 18-21 age group, many of whom may have learning difficulties and low IQs and were being released back into the community after offending. They were being directed to supported living where they were not getting the specific support and service provision they needed and were therefore unable to break the cycle of offending.
- Members referred to the mobile police unit used by the PSNI to engage with local communities; it was noted that this could be a very valuable resource and would have the potential to encourage more people to engage with the Police if it was more aesthetically pleasing. Mrs. Flynn advised that the PCSP had previously approached the DoJ about getting funding for refurbishment of the vehicle but it was seen as capital investment and funding had not been approved.

**Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Grace McQuiston, it was agreed to write to the Department of Justice to again seek funding for an enhancement to the mobile unit to increase its value as an engagement tool with the local community.**

### **6. Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed the date of the next meeting would be Tuesday 10 March 2020 at 6pm in the Council Offices, Downpatrick.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 6.45 pm.

## POLICING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

**Minutes of the Newry, Mourne & Down Policing & Community Safety Partnership Meeting held on Tuesday 10 March 2020 in the Mourne Room, Council Offices, Downshire Civic Centre at 7.00pm**

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- Present:**
- Audrey Byrne, Independent Member
  - Una Kelly, Independent Member **(Vice Chair)**
  - Grace McQuiston, Independent Member
  - Councillor W Clarke, NMDDC
  - Councillor H Gallagher, NMDDC
  - Councillor M Savage, NMDDC
  - Councillor M Ruane, NMDDC
  - Councillor O Hanlon, NMDDC
  - Councillor D Murphy, NMDDC
  - Councillor A Lewis, NMDDC
  - Councillor W Walker, NMDDC
  - Superintendent Jane Humphries, PSNI
  - Chief Inspector Nigel Henry, PSNI
  - Inspector Darren Hardy, PSNI
  - Inspector Amanda Ford, PSNI
  - Inspector Kelly Gibson PSNI
  - Inspector Sheila Loughran, PSNI
  - Sergeant Ryan Duffy, PSNI
  - Donna Weir, EANI
  - Michael Heaney, YJA
  - Loma Wilson, NIHE
  - Jean O'Neill, PBNI
- In attendance:**
- Damien Brannigan, Head of Engagement
  - Martina Flynn, Safer Communities & Good Relations Manager
  - Judith Thompson, PCSP Officer
  - Claire Loughran, PCSP Officer
  - Svea Nagel, PCSP Student
  - Kerri Morrow, DEA Co-Ordinator
  - Linda O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer
  - Councillor T Andrews, NMDDC

### 1 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

Apologies were received from Councillor Hearty (Chair), Chief Inspector Joe McMinn PSNI, Fiona Stephens Independent Member, and Roisin Leckey PBNI.

Mrs Kelly, Vice Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and congratulated Declan Murphy on his new role as a Councillor. Mrs Kelly informed Members this was most likely her last meeting as an Independent Member & took the opportunity to thank the PSNI, Councillors, statutory agencies and Council staff for their work

over the years.

Councillor Walker took the opportunity to offer thanks to the Independent Members for their hard work and commitment to the Partnership, wishing them all the best in the future.

## 2 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

## 3 Minutes of PCSP Committee Meeting held on 21 January 2020

Read: Minutes of PCSP Committee Meeting held on 21 January 2020 (copy circulated).

**Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to approve the Minutes of the PCSP Committee Meeting held on 21 January 2020 as a true and accurate record.**

## 4 Matters arising

Mrs Flynn updated Members on the Action Sheet. Councillor Savage advised a Notice of Motion will be put forward at next Council meeting with regards 'Young Offenders'.

## 5 PCSP Officer Report.

Read: PCSP Officer's Report – March 2020. (copy circulated).

**Agreed: It was agreed to note the report and to note the attached PCSP Officer's Report and also agreed to note the following action:-**

- **Mrs Flynn provided an update to Members and is to investigate the possibility of deploying Community Safety Wardens in the Castlewellan area.**

Mrs Flynn provided a verbal update on the progress of the PSNI/PCSP Mobile Engagement Unit. Mrs. Flynn confirmed that £30,000 of funding had been approved for the project - £25,000 from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and £5,000 from the PSNI (PWC). It is hoped that the Unit will be ready by early Summer 2020 and will be used for a variety of engagement purposes across the District.

## 6 PCSP Action Plan.

Read: PCSP Action Plan 2020/2021 (copy circulated).

**Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, it was agreed to:-**

- **Note the report.**
- **Agree the Action Plan for the PCSP for 2020/2021.**

Councillor Clarke welcomed the Anti- Social Behaviour budget increase and the work of the PCSP in actively engaging with other agencies.

Mrs Flynn confirmed surveys are carried out at all PCSP events and the public profile of the PCSP is being raised through the increased use of social media. A joint PSNI/PCSP public meeting is due to take place in Newry on 2 April with the main focus on vulnerability.

## 7 Bonfire Sub Group Report

Read: Bonfire Sub Group Report – March 2020 (copy circulated).

**Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Savage it was agreed to note the above report and agree the draft Minutes of the Bonfire Sub Group held on 27 January 2020.**

## 8 ASB Sub Group Report

Read: ASB Sub Group report dated 10 March 2020. (copy circulated).

**Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Audrey Byrne, it was agreed to note the report and agree the draft Minutes of the ASB Sub Group Meetings held on 12 February 2020.**

In response to a query from A Byrne, Independent Member, M Flynn advised that the Minutes from the ASB Sub Group meeting held on 12 June 2019 would be re-issued with a footnote containing a proposed amendment submitted by Mrs. Byrne on 7 October 2019.

Members discussed at length the Youth Disco held in Newcastle on 14 February 2020 and associated anti-social behaviour. It was noted that –

- The PSNI and PCSP were aware of the event and had deployed additional personnel to the area on that evening (Community Safety Wardens were on patrol).
- Off licences could be contacted in advance to deter them from selling alcohol to young people attending these events.
- More interaction is required with parents to be more aware where their children are and what they are getting up to.

## 9 NIHE Community Safety Strategy 2020-23, Consultation & Response

Read: NIHE Community Safety Strategy 2020-23 Consultation (copy circulated).

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Savage it was agreed to note the above report and to approve the response to the consultation the NIHE Community Safety Strategy 2020-2023.

## 10 DEA Officers' Report

Read: DEA Officers' report dated 10 March 2020. (copy circulated).

**Agreed:** It was agreed to note this report and to note attached DEA Officers' Report.

## 11 Update from the PSNI on implications of, and preparations for, Brexit in relation to policing in Newry, Mourne & Down (Standing Item)

Noted: Superintendent Humphries advised preparations remained in place for Brexit in relation to policing in Newry, Mourne & Down.

## 12 Date of Next Meeting

The next PCSP Committee Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 19 May 2020 at 7pm in the Council Offices, Newry.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.57pm.



## POLICING COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the Policing Committee Meeting of Newry, Mourne & Down Policing  
& Community Safety Partnership held in the Mourne Room, District Council  
Offices, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick  
on Tuesday 10 March 2020 at 6pm**

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**In attendance:** Audrey Byrne, Independent Member  
Una Kelly, Independent Member (**Vice Chair**)  
Jude McNeill, Independent Member  
Councillor W Clarke, NMDDC  
Councillor H Gallagher, NMDDC  
Councillor O Hanlon, NMDDC  
Councillor D Murphy, NMDDC  
Councillor A Lewis, NMDDC  
Councillor M Ruane, NMDDC  
Councillor M Savage, NMDDC  
Councillor W Walker, NMDDC  
Superintendent Jane Humphries, PSNI  
Chief Inspector Nigel Henry, PSNI  
Inspector Darren Hardy, PSNI  
Inspector Amanda Ford, PSNI  
Inspector Kelly Gibson, PSNI  
Inspector Sheila Loughran, PSNI  
Sergeant Ryan Duffy, PSNI

**Also in attendance:** Damien Brannigan, Head of Engagement  
Martina Flynn, Safer Communities & Good Relations  
Manager  
Clare Loughran, PCSP Officer  
Judith Thompson, PCSP Officer  
Svea Nagel, PCSP Student  
Kerri Morrow, DEA Co-Ordinator  
Linda O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer  
Councillor T Andrews, NMDDC  
Councillor R Burgess, NMDDC

### **1. Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks**

Apologies were received from Councillor Hearty (Chair), Chief Inspector Joe McMinn PSNI, Independent Members Fiona Stephens and Grace McQuiston, and Roisin Leckey PBNI.

Mrs Kelly, Vice Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and congratulated Declan Murphy on his new role as a Councillor. Mrs Kelly informed Members this was most likely her last meeting as an Independent Member & took the opportunity to thank the PSNI, Councillors, statutory agencies and Council staff for their work over the years.

## 2. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

## 3. Minutes of Policing Committee Meeting held on 21 January 2020

Read: Minutes of Policing Committee Meeting held on 21 January 2020  
(copy circulated)

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to approve the Minutes of the Policing Committee Meeting held on 21 January 2020 as a true and accurate record.

## 4. Matters Arising

There were no Matters Arising.

## 5. District Commander's Report – Period 1 – January/February 2020

Read: District Commander's Report – January/February 2020 (copy circulated).

Superintendent Humphries then presented the District Commander's Report to the Committee.

Following the presentation, discussion took place and the following points were raised:

### Alcohol & Drug Abuse

- Members asked if any further sites had been identified in relation to the RAPID Bins particularly in the Rowallane area. Mrs. Flynn confirmed that work was ongoing to consider further installation sites across the District.
- Members raised concerns in the rise in drug use and dealing throughout the District (in particular the Newcastle area), and commended the Neighbourhood Policing Teams for the ongoing work they are doing.
- Concern was raised at the spate of anti-social behaviour in the Downpatrick area in recent weeks.

### Domestic Abuse

- Trend seems to be among older couples, attacks on males by females on the increase, and other types of domestic abuse on the increase.
- Members acknowledged the ongoing work of the PCSP to raise more awareness and engagement in this area.

- Men's Advisory Project conference planned for Europa Hotel on 28 March – Mrs. Flynn to circulate information to members.
- The NMD Local Policing Plan 2020-21 was presented to members – Mrs. Flynn to distribute electronically.

### **Crime**

- Concern raised at the recent spate of burglaries in the Slieve Croob area.

### **6. Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed the date of the next meeting would be Tuesday 19 May 2020 at 6pm in the Council Offices, Newry.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 6.44pm.

<b>Report to:</b>	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	17 August 2020
<b>Subject:</b>	Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership (NRP) Report
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Janine Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Damien Brannigan, Head of Engagement

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-

<table border="1"> <tr> <td><b>For decision</b></td> <td><b>For noting only</b></td> <td><b>x</b></td> </tr> </table>		<b>For decision</b>	<b>For noting only</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>For decision</b>	<b>For noting only</b>	<b>x</b>		
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>			
1.1	<p><b>Purpose</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To note the report.</li> <li>To note the attached Minutes of the Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership (NRP) Meetings listed in 3.1 below.</li> </ul> <p><b>Background</b></p> <p>The attached Minutes of the Newry NRP Meetings held on Wednesday 22 January 2020 and Wednesday 3 June 2020 are provided to update the Committee on the on-going work of Newry NRP.</p>			
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues</b>			
2.1	None.			
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>			
3.1	<p>That the Committee:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note the report.</li> <li>Note the following Newry NRP Minutes as attached: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Minutes of Newry NRP Meeting held on Wednesday 22 January 2020, approved at Newry NRP Meeting held on Wednesday 3 June 2020.</li> <li>&gt; Minutes of Newry NRP Meeting held on Wednesday 3 June 2020, approved at Newry NRP Meeting held on Wednesday 1 July 2020.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>			
4.1	None.			
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b>			
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i>			

	It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5.2	<p><b><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></b></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
5.3	<p><b><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></b></p> <p>Consultation will 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 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>	
6.0	<b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b>	
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
7.0	<b>Appendices</b>	
	<p>Appendix I: Minutes of Newry NRP Meeting held on Wednesday 22 January 2020.</p> <p>Appendix II: Minutes of Newry NRP Meeting held on Wednesday 3 June 2020.</p>	
8.0	<b>Background Documents</b>	

	None.



**Minutes of the Newry NR Partnership Meeting  
Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020**

**At 7.00pm**

**WIN Business Park, Newry**

***In Attendance:***

Ms Karen Gracey	Development manager DfC
Mr Sean Mc Kevitt	NM&DDC
Mr Raymond Jackson	CCG
Ms Ruth Allen	SHSCT Promoting Well being team
Ms Maureen Ruddy	Martins lane CA
Ms Linda Devlin	Martins lane CA
Ms Sarah Jane McAllister	Barcroft CA
Mrs Paula Mc Guigan	Carnagat CA
Ms Kathleen Lowry	Greater Linenhall Area CA
Ms Diana Marie O'Hanlon	Greater Linenhall Area CA
Mr Owen Mc Donnell	NIHE
Ms Aisling Rennick	NM&DDC
Mr David Vint	SRC
Ms Maeve Mc Parlant	E2E project
Mr Kaylem Mc Shane	Threeways CA
Ms Marian O'Reilly	Derrybeg CA
Mr Michael Mc Loughlin	Derrybeg CA
Ms Bernie Mooney	Education Authority N.I.
Mr Collie Hanna	Barcroft CA
Ms Noreen Rice	MARCA
Mrs Madaleine Mc Crink	SHSCT Promoting Well being team

**Apologies:**

Mr Brendan Cranney	MARCA
Dr Conor Patterson	NMEA
Mrs Patricia O’Gorman	Threeways CA
Ms Joanne McAteer	Threeways CA

**Matters Discussed**

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Apologies
3. Minutes and matters arising
4. Expression of Interest
5. Conflict of Interest
6. Programme updates
7. DfC update
8. AOB
9. Date and time of next meeting

ITEM	SUBJECT	MATTERS ARISING/UPDATE	ACTIONS	By Whom
1	Welcome	Ms Karen Gracey welcomed everyone to the meeting - Karen chaired the meeting in Geraldine's absence Karen then asked for a round of introductions for any new members attending		
2.	Apologies	Recorded as above.		



3.	<b>Minutes and matters arising</b>	Minutes of NRP meeting in November agreed as accurate and proposed by Ms Noreen Rice Seconded by Mrs Paula Mc Guigan No matters arising	
4.	<b>Conflict of Interest</b>	No Conflicts of Interest declared	
5.	<b>Expression of Interest</b>	<p>Counselling for Primary schools – requested by the primary schools within NR – it will also include Windsor hill due to numbers of NR children accessing the school  Cost : £28,080  Discussion took place:  Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early intervention is vital</li> <li>• Education or Health should fund this</li> <li>• NRP funds the gaps</li> <li>• No new money for this</li> <li>• Can we amend the existing programmes under Education?</li> </ul> <p>Approved in principle to go to full application – subject to agreement from EANI</p>	
6.	<b>Project updates</b>	<p><b>NMEA – E2E programme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application for 2020/21 submitted – some changes added</li> <li>• 2 additional studies skills delivered in Newry High school - target year 12,13 and 14</li> <li>• Study skills session in St Joseph's high school on the 10<sup>th</sup> march – target parents of pupils attending 3 secondary schools</li> <li>• Annual codor dojo (computer gaming) within primary</li> </ul>	

	<p>school to commence 3<sup>rd</sup> February for 5 weeks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently planning study visits to either WIN or local businesses – due to take place in March</li> </ul> <p><b>Health programme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget on track to spend and meet all targets</li> <li>• 23 programmes in this period</li> <li>• Action cancer bus – data received to date – 63 screening and 21 MOT's – no second referrals</li> <li>• Visit due in Carnagat in February</li> <li>• 16 physical activity programmes</li> <li>• Healthy eating programme in 10 schools – await the reports</li> <li>• Take 5 programme in Greater linenhall 20<sup>th</sup> February.</li> <li>• Health planning day on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March in WIN</li> </ul> <p><b>SRC employability programmes</b></p> <p><b>TOP's-</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 58 residents to date have enrolled</li> <li>• 9 – cutting men's hair</li> <li>• 6 Forklift truck m- 4 completed</li> <li>• 4 ladies on level 2 text processing</li> <li>• 16 Cat C – 2 received their licenses</li> <li>• 20 door security – 14 completed</li> <li>• 1 CSR card</li> <li>• 2 people on Nail technology</li> </ul> <p><b>OCEANS</b></p> <p><b>Public services and safety programme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 enrolled – 2 from Newry</li> <li>• 11 completed their STCW 95 license –</li> </ul>		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 young man from Newry offered a sponsorship through Norwegian company DOR Subsea(UK) to complete a 3 year Diploma in Deck Cadetship Nautical Science at the Maritime Academy in Southampton</li> </ul> <p><b>Education Programme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All programmes progressing</li> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> Call on Youth engagement - all projects funded- await details of outcomes</li> <li>• New homework club in Drumalane Quayside</li> </ul> <p>Members asked about extended schools money – payments not received.</p> <p><b>Outdoor activity Programme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All community groups have availed of the programme.</li> <li>• Support also given to 4 Youth projects, 3 nursery units and the Polish school based in St Joseph’s high school</li> <li>• To date children, young people and adults have availed of the programme.</li> <li>• 138 people volunteered to date of which 78 were community volunteers. 60 additional people (parents and young people) supported the programme generating approximately 900 hours of voluntary support</li> <li>• The overall programme is on course to spend the budget and meet all key objectives.</li> </ul> <p><b>Community Renewal</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All 9 groups receive support – range of support:</li> <li>• Governance, charity commission registration and reports, vetting procedures, training.</li> </ul> <p>CCG in partnership with Newry CU and Community advice will be</p>	<p>Contact Declan Murray</p>	<p>Sean/ Bernie</p>
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	<p>running a new financial support programme – ‘Small change to lasting change’ offering advice – to be launched on the 26<sup>th</sup> February  Details will be circulated to the communities</p> <p><b><u>Capital projects</u></b></p> <p><b>NIHE projects</b>  <b>Carnagat extension –</b>  Contract for revenue programme has been issued.  To be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March – this will get project to design and planning stage.  Consultant will speak to Community group when appointed – design of building – what are their thoughts?</p> <p>No further update on Drumalane EI scheme</p> <p><b>Council Capital projects</b>  The proposal for the two storage sheds has been approved – Contract issued – due to complete by 31 March 2020</p> <p>No further progress on Whitegates upgrade.</p>	
<p><b>7. DfC update</b></p>	<p>Looking to condense reporting – reduce workload</p> <p>Look at what we did, how well did we do it, and is anyone better off.</p> <p>Currently no guarantee of money for any projects</p> <p>Stakeholder meeting of NR. Sean will be attending – anyone else wishes to go – Ruth expressed an interest</p>	

<p><b>8.</b></p>	<p><b>A.O. B</b></p>	<p>Meeting to discuss 'Story of NR' Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> Jan – evening or Friday lunch time 31<sup>st</sup> Jan.</p> <p>David Vint informed members that this would be his last meeting with NRP. All members expressed their sadness that David was leaving. He would be greatly missed by everyone. David and his team in SRC had a special relationship with the community and was huge asset to the Newry NRP which would prove difficult to replace. All members wish him every success for the future</p> <p>No more business Thank everyone for attending Thank NMEA and Sean for the hospitality</p>	<p>Email Collie with confirmed date</p>	<p>Sean</p>
<p><b>9.</b></p>	<p><b>Date and time of next meeting</b></p>	<p>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020 in WIN Business Centre Commences at 7.00pm</p>	<p>Circulate details</p>	<p>Sean</p>

**Minutes of the NR Partnership held on Wednesday 3rd June 2020 at 7.00pm  
via zoom**

**In Attendance:**

Geraldine Merendino,	Chairperson
Ruth Allen,	SHSCT
Sean Mc Kevitt,	NMDDC
Aisling Rennick,	NMDDC
Raymond Jackson,	CCG
Padraig Harte,	Threeways CA
Patricia O’Gorman,	Threeways CA
Maureen Ruddy,	Martins lane CA
Noreen Rice,	MARCA
Karen Gracey	DfC
Conor Patterson,	NMEA
Maeve Mc Parland,	NMEA
Sarah Jane Mc Allister	Barcroft CA
Catriona Regan,	SRC
Lesley Hamilton	SRC
Owen Mc Donnell	NIHE

**Apologies:**

Bernie Mooney,	EANI
Collie Hanna,	Barcroft CA
Malachy Rafferty,	Derrybeg
Madaleine Mc Crink,	SHSCT
Paula Mc Guigan,	Carnagat CA

**Agenda**

1. Welcome/apologies
2. Minutes/matters arising
3. Conflict of interest
4. Programme updates
5. Community updates
6. DfC update
7. A.O.B.
8. Date of next meeting and format

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>DECISION</b>	<b>FOR ACTION – to include progress/date for completion/by whom</b>
2.	Minutes/matters arising	<p>Condolences to Collie Hanna and Malachy Rafferty on their recent family bereavements.</p> <p>NR tell the story video – Minister wishes to add a piece</p>	<p>Karen to Inform DfC – 2 options</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minister to get video piece and forward to Collie</li> <li>• Minister go to WIN for video recording.</li> </ul>

3.	Conflict of interest	None declared	
4.	Programme updates	<p><b>NIHE</b> - planning submitted for Carnagat extension.</p> <p><b>EZE</b> – online resources Exploring placement opportunities. Difficult circumstances – make use of online platforms – make them funky and virtual – possibly the new THINK lab.</p> <p><b>SHSCT</b> – All health and well-being programmes currently cancelled.</p> <p><b>SRC</b> – 19/20 programme completed Recruitment ongoing for new 20/21 programme. Issue to get more people online for training. SRC to make business case for laptops etc.- may not be NR Sharon Russell DfC leading covid emergency response group.</p>	<p>Normal process – possibly August for decision.</p> <p>Posting courses on the website.</p> <p>Meeting with groups to plan what next and what is possible to deliver.</p> <p>Deirdre Mc Cann to link with Catriona</p>



		<p><b>CCG</b> – managing covid 19 DfC fund issued by council.  Supporting community hub – CCG distributing surplus food parcels  CCG relaunching of the Small change to Lasting change programme.  <b>THINK lab</b> – almost complete – no furniture or security system – finished under budget.  <b>NMDDC -Outdoor activity</b> – no programmes delivered to date</p>	<p>Other funding – PCSP and good relations – apply through Council website.  CA's contact CCG staff  Contact Sean Maguire for support/information as  Complete by end of June  Official launch when possible.  Await easement in restrictions</p>
5.	Community updates	<p>The NR Community groups are delivering a range of programmes to include: Easter egg hunt in the garden, visit from Peter rabbit, community clean ups, supporting the community hub, sign posting, circulating information, online activities: quizzes, bingo, creative design and 3d imaging, games, educational information.  Distributing food parcels, vouchers and activity packs.  Bingo in the garden, weekly community prayer group, contacting your neighbour and checking in on</p>	

		the vulnerable to ensure they are OK. Attend meetings with external agencies via online platforms.	
6.	DfC update	The Department thanks everyone for their continued hard work during these difficult times.	Monitoring of programmes to be completed. – Easements or modifications – what is happening. DfC to contact each programme.
7.	A.O.B	NMDDC wish to thank everyone who has helped with the community hub – really appreciate volunteer support.	
8.	Date and time of next meeting	To be confirmed	Sean to circulate details

<b>Report to:</b>	Active & Healthy Communities Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	17 August 2020
<b>Subject:</b>	Domestic Abuse Incidents & Support Services
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Janine Hillen, Assistant Director: Community Engagement
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Martina Flynn, Safer Communities & Good Relations Manager

		For decision	For noting only	x
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>			
1.1	<p><b>Purpose</b> To provide an update on the support available from Newry, Mourne &amp; Down District Council for individuals and families experiencing domestic violence.</p> <p><b>Background</b> The following Notice of Motion was agreed at the AHC Committee held on 16 March 2020 -</p> <p><i>"That this Council recognises 2019 saw the North of Ireland experience the highest number of domestic abuse incidents since records began and agrees to work collaboratively with the statutory agencies and health trusts to ensure support and protection of individuals and families experiencing domestic violence be a priority in all Council facilities.</i></p> <p><i>That DEAs in this Council encourage the uptake of training for local groups to register their premises as a Safe Place".</i></p>			
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues</b>			
2.1	<p>The Council currently provides a range of support for individuals and families experiencing domestic abuse, including –</p> <p>- <b>Safe Place Initiative</b> - Council is currently listed as a Bronze Workplace Charter Organisation within the Safe Place Initiative. Safe Place is an initiative which provides support in a range of settings for people requiring information on domestic violence.</p> <p>In line with the target of Council achieving Safe Place Gold Charter Criteria, the development of a bespoke workplace training strategy has been developed in partnership with Onus (Safe Place training provider). The training has 3 tiers of mandatory training - the following sessions will be provided (all of which are CPD Certified and are 3 hours in duration) –</p> <p><u>Bronze Safe Employer – Frontline staff x 3 courses (50 staff)</u> Tier 1 – Domestic Violence Awareness Raising</p> <p><u>Silver Safe Employer – Managers x 2 courses (40 staff)</u> Tier 2 – Domestic Violence in the Workplace</p> <p><u>Gold Safe Employer – Trusted Colleagues x 1 course (20 staff)</u></p>			

	<p>Tier 3 – Trusted Colleague</p> <p>The Safe Place training will commence by September / October 2020 (subject to approval at the Council's SP&amp;R Committee on 18 August 2020). Staff from up to 15 Council facilities will participate in Tier 1 training; an implementation plan is currently being drafted.</p> <p>DEA Co-Ordinators have also forwarded details of online Safe Place training to local community groups and other agencies.</p> <p>- <b>Council Domestic Abuse &amp; Violence Policy</b> – this Policy will be tabled for approval at the Council's SP&amp;R Committee on 18 August 2020. The Policy will offer information on support services (both internal and external) for any staff who may be affected by domestic violence and / or abuse.</p> <p>- <b>PCSP Supported Activities</b> – Newry, Moume &amp; Down PCSP (Policing &amp; Community Safety Partnership) continue to support the delivery of a range of initiatives aimed at increasing awareness of domestic violence. The PCSP recently engaged Women's Aid ArmaghDown to deliver OCN Level 2 Training in Understanding Domestic &amp; Sexual Violence to 45 PSNI Officers from across the District – this was provided as a direct response to both an increase in reported incidents in some areas of our District and to support engagement in other areas where there are noted concerns in relation to under-reporting.</p> <p>4 PCSP staff also took part in this training, both to gain an understanding of the PSNI response to these issues and to ensure that Council staff can fully support the delivery of the Safe Place initiative across our facilities.</p> <p>In partnership with the South Eastern Domestic &amp; Sexual Violence Partnership the PCSP also recently organised a number of community-based awareness raising events in Ballynahinch, Saintfield and Dundrum.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
3.1	<p>That the Committee:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note the report.</li> </ul>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	<p><b>Revenue</b> All actions are budgeted for in the PCSP Action Plan</p> <p><b>Capital</b> N/A</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b>
5.1	<p><b><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></b></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

5.2	<p><b><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></b></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><b><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></b></p> <p>Consultation will 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 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	<p><b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b></p>
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	<p><b>Appendices</b></p>
	<p>None</p>
8.0	<p><b>Background Documents</b></p>
	<p>None</p>