

March 8th, 2023

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting to be held on **Monday, 13th March 2023 at 6:00 pm** in **Chamber Monaghan Row / via Teams.**

Committee Membership 2022 - 2023

Councillor R Burgess **Chairperson**

Councillor D Curran **Deputy Chairperson**

Councillor T Andrews

Councillor W Clarke

Councillor C Enright

Councillor G Hanna

Councillor V Harte

Councillor R Howell

Councillor G Kearns

Councillor M Larkin

Councillor D Lee-Surginor

Councillor H Reilly

Councillor M Ruane

Councillor G Stokes

Councillor J Trainor

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

2.0 Declarations of Interest.

3.0 Action Sheet: Enterprise Regeneration |& Tourism Committee Meeting - Monday 13 February 2023. (Attached)


 [ERT Committee Action Sheet - Feb 2023.pdf](#)

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Notices of Motion

4.0 To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor O Hanlon: (Attached)

"Newry Mourne and Down District Council is responsible for the preparation of a development plan for the District and has commenced work on the Newry Mourne and Down Local Development Plan (LDP). The LDP will provide a 15 year plan framework to support economic and social needs in the District, in line with regional strategies and policies, while providing the delivery of sustainable development . We commend the work of our Council planning staff and the diligent work to date by members of the Planning Committee in the preparation of the plan however, we are concerned the plan will not meet the huge housing need within the District reside in social housing in the District has remained at a very high level since 2010 with a 31% increase from 2012. This Council is committed to ensure housing need is met within this District and therefore will commit to developing a housing led regeneration plan through the strategic assessment and use of public sector land assets and adjoining private sector lands. Members will be consulted and included within the development of the strategy and good practice evidence will be gathered from similar Councils to inform its development."

 [ERT Report - Notice of Motion C-049-2023 Local Development Plan.pdf](#)

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5.0 To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor J Tinnelly re: Holiday Homes. (Attached)

"This Council recognises that within our District, holiday home ownership is increasingly having a detrimental effect on the ability of first-time buyers to own a house in the area where they were born and raised. The long-term consequences of this may have a negative impact on local school populations, sports clubs, small family businesses and the general growth, wellbeing and sustainability of some of our towns and villages, particularly along the coast, as new and young families with generational ties to their own area are priced out of living in the place they call home. Further to a recent public statement from the Department for Infrastructure that whilst there are currently no plans to change any laws in relation to this problem, it is their view that local Councils have the power to make bespoke arrangements within their own District. To that end, this Council will now instruct our officials to bring forward a paper at the earliest opportunity outlining exactly what powers will be contained within our proposed local development plan to directly address this problem, powers that if robustly applied would discourage the purchase of holiday homes within our District."

 [ERT Report - Notice of Motion C-052-2023 Holiday Homes.pdf](#)

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Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration Items

6.0 AONB and Geopark Environment Fund Application. (Attached)

 *ERT Report - AONB and Geopark Environment Fund Application.pdf* *Page 16*

 *Appx - AONB & Geopark Environment Fund Application.pdf* *Page 20*

7.0 Small Settlements Scheme - Rostrevor/Saintfield/Castlewellan/Bessbrook). (Attached)

 *ERT Report - Small Settlement Schemes.pdf* *Page 24*

 *Appx a) Small Settlements - Bessbrook EI Scheme Report 07.03.23.pdf* *Page 27*

 *Appx b) Small Settlements - Castlewellan EI Scheme Report 03.03.23.pdf* *Page 30*

 *Appx c) Small Settlements - Rostrevor EI Scheme Report 01.03.23.pdf* *Page 34*

 *Appx d) Small Settlements - Saintfield EI Scheme Report 02.03.23.pdf* *Page 37*

Building Control and Licensing

8.0 Non Statutory Fee increase for Licensing. (Attached)

 *ERT Report - Non-statutory fee increase - Licensing.pdf* *Page 40*

 *Appx - Fee Schedule 2023.pdf* *Page 43*

Exempt Information Items

9.0 Artist in Residence - Down Arts Centre. (Attached)

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of 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.

 *ERT Report - Artist in Residence - Down Arts Centre.pdf* *Not included*

10.0 Updated Business Case re: Carlingford Lough Greenway. (Attached)

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of 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.

 *ERT Report - Carlingford Lough Greenway Updated Business Case.pdf* *Not included*

11.0 Kilbroney Fallows Trail Phase 2 - Shared Prosperity Fund Letter of Offer. (Attached)

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of 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.

 *ERT Report - Kilbroney Fallows Trail Phase 2 - Shared Prosperity Fund Letter Of Offer.pdf*

Not included

 *Appx - Kilbroney Fallows Trail Phase 2 - Revised Business Case.pdf*

Not included

12.0 Labour Market Partnership (LMP) 2023/2024 - Action Plan. (Attached)

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of 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.

 *ERT Report - Labour Market Partnership 23-24 Action Plan.pdf*

Not included

 *Appx - Labour Market Partnership 2023 2024 Business Case.pdf*

Not included

13.0 Digital Content Support Services - Tourism, Events, Museums, Arts. (Attached)

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of 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.

 *ERT Report - Digital Content Support Services for Tourism, Arts, Events, Museum.pdf*

Not included

 *Appx - Digital Content Support Services Business Case.pdf*

Not included

14.0 Tourism Events Programme 23/24. (Attached)

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of 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.

 *ERT Report - Tourism Events Programme 2023-24.pdf*

Not included

 *Appx. Tourism Events Programme 2023-24.pdf*

Not included

15.0 Theatre in Residence. (Attached)

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of 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.

 *ERT Report - Theatre in Residence - Down Arts Centre.pdf*

Not included

16.0 Castlewellan Forest Park Campsite - upgrade works. (Attached)

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of 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.

 *ERT Report - Castlewellan Forest Park Caravan Campsite Upgrade Works.pdf*

Not included

 *Appx. Castlewellan Forest Park Upgrade Works - Revised Business Case.pdf*

Not included

17.0 Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor (DBEC) Funding Agreement. (Attached) - FOR NOTING

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of 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.

ITEM FOR NOTING

 *ERT Report - Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor (DBEC) SLA.pdf*

Not included

 *Appx - Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor (DBEC) Funding Agreement.pdf*

Not included

For Noting

18.0 ERT Historic Action Tracker Sheet. (Attached)

 *ERT Historic Action Tracker Sheet - for March 2023 Mtg.pdf*

Page 45

19.0 Invest NI Business Intelligence Update. (Attached)

 *ERT Report - Invest NI Business Intelligence Update.pdf*

Page 47

 *Appx - Invest NI Economic Context Update.pdf*

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20.0 Louth/NMD Strategic Alliance Report dated 23 November 2022.

(Attached)

 *Louth NMD Strategic Alliance Report - 23 Nov 22.pdf*

Page 77

21.0 Northern Ireland Business Start Programme / Go for It NI Programme. (Attached)

 *ERT Report - Northern Ireland Business Start Up - Go for It NI Programme.pdf*

Page 80

22.0 Tourism NI Learning Journey - Food & Drink. (Attached)

 *ERT Report - Tourism NI Learning Journey.pdf*

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Invitees

- Cllr Terry Andrews
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- Cllr Jim Brennan
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- Cllr Robert Burgess
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- Cllr Pete Byrne
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- Mr Gerard Byrne
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- Mr Andrew Cassells
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- Cllr William Clarke
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- Mrs Linda Cummins
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- Cllr Dermot Curran
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- Cllr Laura Devlin
-
- Ms Louise Dillon
-
- Cllr Cadogan Enright
-
- Cllr Aoife Finnegan
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- Cllr Hugh Gallagher
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- Cllr Mark Gibbons
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- Cllr Oonagh Hanlon
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- Cllr Glyn Hanna
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- Cllr Valerie Harte
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- Cllr Roisin Howell
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- Ms Catherine Hughes
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- Mr Colum Jackson
-
- Mrs Josephine Kelly
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- Mrs Sheila Kieran
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- Cllr Mickey Larkin
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- Cllr David Lee-Surginor
-
- Cllr Alan Lewis
-
- Mr Michael Lipsett
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- Cllr Oonagh Magennis
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- Mr Conor Mallon
-
- Cllr Gavin Malone
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- Colette McAteer
-
- Cllr Declan McAteer
-
- Cllr Leeanne McEvoy
-
- Jonathan McGilly
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- Cllr Harold McKee
-
- Patricia McKeever
-
- Cllr Karen McKevitt
-
- Cllr Andrew McMurray
-
- Maureen/Joanne Morgan/Johnston
-
- Cllr Declan Murphy
-
- Cllr Barra Ó Muirí
-
- Cllr Gerry O'Hare
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Mr Andy Patterson
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Cllr Henry Reilly
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Cllr Michael Rice
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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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Cllr David Taylor
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Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly
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Cllr John Trainor
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Central Support Unit
.....
Mrs Marie Ward
.....

ACTION SHEETENTERPRISE REGENERATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETINGMONDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2023

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/025/2023	NOTICE OF MOTION RE: FORMER DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL BUILDING	To approve the proposed heritage project on the history and development of Downpatrick Workhouse as detailed in this report.	A.Patterson	In progress	Y
ERT/026/2023	NOTICE OF MOTION RE: BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT	<p>1) To note the Council will consider the merits of, and whether to support a BID proposal, as and when one is submitted, and in doing so will assess the proposed business plan to ensure there is no duplication of service and that the plan aligns to Council strategy.</p> <p>2) Council write to the Department for Communities to ascertain if there is any intention to bring back funding to help support the setting up of BIDs in the future.</p>	J. McGilly	WIP	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/027/2023	UPDATE RE: ARTISAN MARKETS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To pilot a reduction in the stall fee at the Artisan Markets from £35.00 to £30.00 for 23/24. This will assist traders to offset increasing operating costs and attract other artisan producers. 2. To commence an Expression of Interest process to appoint a delivery agent for Newcastle Market whilst investigating alternative location and storage. 	J McGilly	WIP	y
ERT/028/2023	KILLYLEAGH REVITALISATION MURAL PROJECT	To approve a Service Level Agreement with the Killyleagh Development Association valued at £6,750 plus VAT to implement a mural in Plantation Street Killyleagh, as agreed in the Killyleagh Small Settlement Scheme Action Plan.	J McGilly	WIP	y
ERT/029/2023	REGIONAL FUTURE BUSINESS SUPPORT PROGRAMME	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To note the update provided on the Entrepreneurship Support Service, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Officers will ensure the provision 	J McGilly	WIP	y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<p>of the required support to move the Entrepreneurship Support Service through to procurement and contract awards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Officers will contribute to the completion and submission of an application for funding for the delivery of the Entrepreneurship Support Service until March 2025. • An update on progress will be brought back to a future committee. <p>2) Council to provide a funding declaration form confirming Council's match funding to the Entrepreneurship Support Service for 2023/24 and 2024/25. (2024/25 approved in principle, subject to confirmation of future rate estimates)</p>			
ERT/030/2023	(EXEMPT) SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS / LETTERS OF OFFER 2023/24	To approve the list of Service Level Agreements for 2023/2024, as detailed in Point 2.1 within the above report.	A Patterson	In progress	Y
ERT/031/2022	(EXEMPT)	Members approve the Business Case for the Carlingford Lough Greenway Site	J McGilly	Work ongoing	y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
	CARLINGFORD LOUGH GREENWAY	Investigation and the appointment of a supplier through a Pan Government Collaborative framework agreement to complete the works.			
ERT/032/2023	(EXEMPT) FOR NOTING: TOURISM NI LEARNING JOURNEY	To note the contents of this paper.	A Patterson	Complete	Y
ERT/033/2023	(EXEMPT) FOR NOTING: TOURISM NI MARKET LED PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2022/2023	To note the contents of this paper.	A Patterson	Complete	Y

Report to:	Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 13 th March 2023
Subject:	C/049/2023 Notice of Motion – Local Development Plan
Reporting Officer:	Anthony McKay, Chief Planning Officer
Contact Officer:	Andrew Hay, Principal Planning Officer

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

For decision	X	For noting only	
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u></p> <p>The purpose of this report is to consider and respond to the following Notice of Motion which was received from Councillor Hanlon at the Council meeting on 6 February 2023 and referred to the ERT Committee:</p>
1.2	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>Notice of Motion – Local Development Plan</p> <p><i>"Newry, Mourne and Down District Council is responsible for the preparation of a development plan for the district and has commenced work on the Newry, Mourne and Down Local Development Plan (LDP). The LDP will provide a 15-year plan framework to support economic and social needs in the district, in line with regional strategies and policies, while providing the delivery of sustainable development. We commend the work our council planning staff and the diligent work to date by members of the planning committee in the preparation of the plan however, we are concerned the plan will not meet the huge housing need within the district. The councils Preferred Options Paper cites 10% of all households in the district reside in social housing tenure compared to the NI average of 15%. However, The need for social housing in the district has remained at a very high level since 2010 with a 31% increase from 2012. This council is committed to ensure housing need is met within this district and therefore will commit to developing a housing led regeneration plan through the strategic assessment and use of public sector land assets and adjoining private sector lands. Members will be consulted and included within the development of the strategy and good practice evidence will be gathered from similar councils to inform its development".</i></p>
1.3	<p>In responding to the NoM, the report updates Members as to the development of the Housing Strategy and associated planning policy that will be brought forward as part of the draft Plan Strategy of LDP and how the affordable housing needs of the District will be addressed.</p>

2.0	Key issues
2.1	Regional Planning policy as set out in the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) and Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) requires planning authorities to ensure that their districts contain an adequate and available supply of quality housing to meet the needs of everyone. Both documents highlight the importance of facilitating the right mix of housing tenures including provision of affordable housing.
2.2	The Council's Local Development Plan (LDP) will bring forward new and revised planning policy at both the Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan stages, that will provide the Council with an enhanced suite of policy tools to support the delivery of affordable housing across the whole district.
2.3	The Development Plan Team are currently progressing work on the LDP Plan Strategy document which will bring forward an overarching Housing Strategy and associated planning policy to increase the provision of affordable housing dwellings within the Council area.
2.4	<u>LDP Housing Strategy</u> The LDP Housing Strategy will seek to meet the district's overall future housing need and will use the Department for Infrastructure's (DfI) Housing Growth Indicators (HGIs) as a guide to housing need over the Plan period (2020-2035). Household projections produced by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) form the main component of the HGIs alongside data on vacant housing stock, second homes and conversions/demolitions. The DfI HGIs are regarded as a sound assessment of likely housing need over the Plan period.
2.5	The LDP Housing Strategy will deliver a balanced allocation of housing across the district's settlement tiers in line with the preferred option 3 set out in the LDP Preferred Options Paper. This will make progress towards achieving the RDS target of 60% of all new housing located in brownfield sites within urban footprints of settlements greater than 5,000 population. It will focus large scale housing in the district's main hubs of Newry and Downpatrick as well as other towns, sustaining villages with a degree of housing development whilst providing for small scale development and infilling within small settlements.
2.6	Zoned housing sites are a key mechanism for delivering housing in the districts city and towns and meeting the housing need over the lifetime of the plan. It is therefore important to ensure that zoned housing sites are suitably protected and not lost to competing land uses. The LDP Housing Strategy will bring forward planning policy which only permits development of non-residential uses on land zoned for housing where the proposed use forms part of a housing development, is ancillary and integral to it or provides community facilities such as health, education or cultural use.
2.7	At Local Policies Plan stage the Council will review and bring forward revised zoned housing sites. In conjunction with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) the Council will set out key site requirements on these sites which will require the delivery of a minimum number of affordable housing units.

<u>LDP Planning Policy for Affordable Housing</u>	
2.8	In developing its planning policy for affordable housing the LDP team has undertaken extensive engagement with DfI and NIHE to support the delivery of affordable housing across the whole district.
2.9	<p>Affordable housing as defined within the LDP includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Social rented housing; (b) Intermediate housing for sale; or (c) Intermediate housing for rent. <p>The NIHE Annual Housing Investment Plan sets out the extent of social housing need across the district. The most recent publication (Sept 2022) outlines social housing need by settlement over a five year period 2021-2026 and has identified a need for 1,773 social housing units across the district.</p>
2.10	The LDP Plan Strategy will bring forward new planning policy for the provision of affordable housing in proposed housing developments within settlements. This will require developers to provide a percentage of affordable housing units where their development contains a certain number of units or exceeds a particular site area. Where a proposed development meets the policy threshold the NIHE will confirm the need, numbers and mix of affordable housing units to be provided.
2.11	The policy will highlight that in instances where sites are artificially subdivided to avoid the requirement to deliver affordable housing planning permission will not be granted.
2.12	The policy will also ensure that where a localised need, identified by the NIHE, is higher than can be met through the thresholds, the proportion of affordable housing can be uplifted or indeed the units or site area threshold lowered in order to ensure that the housing need is addressed. Affordable housing will be secured as appropriate, depending on the size of the development, by way of a condition or Section 76 Planning Agreement, which will be required to be in place in advance of planning permission being granted.
2.13	This policy will not preclude the Local Policies Plan varying the proportion of affordable housing through a Key Site Requirement on zoned housing land.
2.14	Policy provision for social housing in the countryside is currently set out in Policy CTY5 - Social and Affordable Housing of PPS 21: Sustainable Development in the Countryside. This states that planning permission may be granted for a small group of no more than 14 dwellings adjacent to or near a small settlement. This policy has been reviewed and, following consultation with the NIHE, the Development Plan Team have revised the policy to be more responsive to the affordable housing needs in our rural areas. It is proposed that the size of the small group now be linked to the number of households within the small settlement with a small uplift applied to the threshold. In addition, the revised policy will allow community led housing organisations or indeed other providers/partnerships supported by the NIHE to submit planning applications and not just registered Housing Associations as currently permitted under the policy.

3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<p>In response to the NoM, it is recommended that the ERT Committee note the content of this report and the recommendation below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed Housing Strategy of the LDP and associated planning policies requiring development proposals of a certain size/area to deliver a proportion of affordable housing will be a sea change in addressing affordable housing need in the district. • The proposed planning policies will significantly increase opportunities to address affordable housing needs across the whole district and across all settlement tiers supporting both urban and rural communities. • Delivery of affordable housing schemes will be monitored and the need for any changes to policy provision considered as part of the subsequent LDP review.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	N/A
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
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 type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<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 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><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i> 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>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</p>
6.1	<p>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 type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	<p>Appendices</p>
	<p>n/a</p>
8.0	<p>Background Documents</p>
	<p>n/a</p>

Report to:	Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 13 th March 2023
Subject:	C/052/2023 Notice of Motion – Holiday Homes
Reporting Officer:	Anthony McKay, Chief Planning Officer
Contact Officer:	Andrew Hay, Principal Planning Officer

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

For decision	X	For noting only	
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u> The purpose of this report is to consider and respond to the following Notice of Motion which was received from Councillor Tinnelly at the Council meeting on 6 February 2023 and referred to the ERT Committee:</p>
1.2	<p><u>Background</u> Notice of Motion – Holiday Homes <i>"This council recognises that within our district, holiday home ownership is increasingly having a detrimental effect on the ability of first-time buyers to own a house in the area where they were born and raised. The long-term consequences of this may have a negative impact on local school populations, sports clubs, small family businesses and the general growth, wellbeing and sustainability of some of our towns & villages, particularly along the coast, as new and young families with generational ties to their own area are priced out of living in the place they call home. Further to a recent public statement from the Department for Infrastructure that whilst there are currently no plans to change any laws in relation to this problem, it is their view that local councils have the power to make bespoke arrangements within their own district. To that end, this council will now instruct our officials to bring forward a paper at the earliest opportunity outlining exactly what powers will be contained within our proposed local development plan to directly address this problem, powers that if robustly applied would discourage the purchase of holiday homes within our district".</i></p>
1.3	<p>In responding to the NoM, the report considers the issue of holiday home ownership, which primarily concerns houses/apartments that are not used as primary residences but are used as second homes or short-term holiday lets. The report provides a recommendation on the way forward to assist in addressing this issue.</p>

2.0	Key issues
2.1	The NoM raises a concern around the issue of second homes and short-term holiday lets in the District, particularly in our coastal settlements, and the potential impacts this is having on the sustainability of local services and the ability of local people to access affordable housing.
2.2	The issue of second homes and short-term holiday lets is an emerging concern for many local authorities, across the island of Ireland and in other jurisdictions of the UK, particularly those areas with a coastal setting, attractive rural areas, or other 'pull' in terms tourism. While not a new issue, it is perhaps one that has more recently come to the fore during the Covid pandemic which generated a renewed interest and demand for staycations.
2.3	This issue has generated much debate with some considering there to be a direct correlation between the number of second homes and short-term holiday lets to a reduction in the number of homes available within the price range of those looking to get onto the housing market and how this is impacting negatively on these communities. The difficulty of purchasing homes at affordable prices is considered to impact on the ability to retain the younger generation in these areas resulting in older populations, declining populations, impact on labour resources and the sustainability of services.
2.4	Others do not consider there to be a direct correlation and consider that the provision of second homes and short-term holiday lets to have a positive impact on settlements, resulting in a greater range of services that would not normally be expected for settlements of their scale; provide extra income for those properties owned by locals; and, have a positive impact on the tourism industry.
2.5	Research has not established evidence to demonstrate that the presence of second homes in a location is the sole reason for high property prices. Research has also highlighted positive impacts of the presence of second homes, for example in terms of better services and facilities in the area than the permanent population might otherwise enjoy.
2.6	The issue of second homes in the District has been factored into the Regional Development Strategy Housing Growth Indicators (HGIs) as produced by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI). The HGIs are an estimation of future housing needs and estimate that there will be 800 second homes in the District by 2030. Where it has been demonstrated that the presence of second homes raises a local issue in particular settlements, for example a significant level of affordable housing need as identified through the Housing Needs Assessment, experience has been that the most effective way to assist in redressing the imbalance and provide a substantial number of new affordable housing units in that settlement through the planning system is to bring forward planning policy and land zonings to deliver affordable housing.

2.7	Members are advised that the need for affordable housing is being addressed through the Council's Local Development Plan. The draft Plan Strategy which is currently being prepared will include local planning policies for the delivery of affordable housing both in the District's settlements and in the countryside. The subsequent Local Policies Plan will zone lands for affordable housing. However, addressing the need for affordable housing does not address the issue of controlling the number of second homes or short-term holiday lets in a settlement and further interaction is necessary.
2.8	In considering the issue of second homes and short-term holiday lets, one can compare practices in other jurisdictions. While some of these are not directly comparable to Northern Ireland due to the differing governance and planning policy responsibilities, they are representative of the mechanisms being used to address the issue. Perhaps the best comparison with Northern Ireland is with Wales which has faced this issue over a number of years and has most recently brought forward changes to the planning system, along with other measures, to tackle the issue.
2.9	The Welsh Government has made changes to planning legislation in a bid to tackle the issue of second homes and holidays lets. The changes to planning legislation includes an amendment to the Use Classes Order to redefine the use class for 'dwellinghouses' to 'dwellinghouses used as sole or main residences' (i.e. principal home), and create a new use classes for 'dwellinghouses used otherwise than as sole or main residences' (i.e. second home) and 'short-term lets'. In addition, the General Permitted Development Order was amended to allow permitted changes between these new use classes. These permitted development rights can then be withdrawn through an Article 4 Direction for a specific area where the local planning authority has robust local evidence that highlights the impact of second homes and short-term lets on specific communities. These legislative changes came into effect on 20 October 2022.
2.10	Changes are also being made to the national planning guidance Planning Policy Wales which will make it explicit that the prevalence of second homes and short-term holiday lets in a local area must be taken into account in the local development plans when considering housing requirements and policy approach.
2.11	The measures are part of a wider commitment to address the issue of second homes and unaffordable housing facing many communities in Wales. In addition to changes to the planning system, the Welsh Government introduced a maximum level of council tax premiums for second homes, as well as new local tax rules for holiday lets. From April 2023, the maximum level at which local authorities in Wales can set council tax premiums on second homes and long-term empty properties will be increased to 300%. Using the planning, property and taxation systems, the changes represent the steps taken by the Welsh Government in addressing the issue and help to ensure people can find an affordable home in the place they have grown up.
2.12	Other approaches to align with planning interventions being implemented in the other jurisdictions include licensing of short-term holiday lets.

2.13	Northern Ireland has not proposed any changes to legislation to date to address the issue of second homes and short-term holiday lets. Currently, the change of use from a dwellinghouse to a second home does not require planning permission as there is no differentiation in the Use Classes Order between such. Therefore, the problem is unregulated and difficult to control.
2.14	To reflect the approach taken by the Welsh Government, a change to the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 is required to define a change of use of a dwellinghouse from a principal home to a second home or short-term let as development. Secondly, a change to the Use Classes Order is required to set out the sub-classes of second homes and short-term lets. Thirdly, a change to the General Permitted Development Order is required making a change of a dwellinghouse from a principal home to a second home or short-term let as permitted development. This would then enable councils to issue Article 4 Directions removing such permitted development only in those settlements where there is robust evidence to demonstrate the negative impact that such development is having.
2.15	<p>This issue of second homes and short-term holiday lets was recently considered by Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council (CCGBC) who have a greater experience of the issue. CCGBC agreed to write to the DfI Chief Planner requesting changes to the planning legislation. This was reported in the media in January. In responding to a BBC report, the Department for infrastructure (DfI) said existing legislation in Northern Ireland does not seek to regulate second homes, and stated:</p> <p><i>"To date, a local policy approach has been favoured as the demand for second homes and holiday lets and associated issues are not the concerns for all councils.</i></p> <p><i>There have been very few calls in recent times to seek further regulation of second homes and holiday lets through legislation.</i></p> <p><i>The department is aware of legislative approaches elsewhere.</i></p> <p><i>There are currently no plans for such an approach here and extensive policy development would be required to determine whether similar approaches would be appropriate for the north."</i></p>
2.16	Despite being aware of legislative approaches elsewhere, DfI are suggesting that as there is little demand for further regulation of second homes and holiday lets through legislation in Northern Ireland, it has no plans for such an approach. While appreciating the different governance arrangements, the measures taken by the Welsh Government demonstrate the efforts and lead that devolved central governments can take in addressing the issue; the NI Executive and its relevant departments should take note. For the moment in focussing on planning measures, for DfI to move from its current position more pressure and demand for further regulation and legislative change is required.

2.17	In support of the proposed Housing Strategy and associated planning policies of the LDP in addressing affordable housing needs of the District, to directly address the problem of second homes and short-term holiday lets, powers are required through planning legislation that can be robustly applied to discourage the purchase of 'holiday homes'.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<p>In response to the NoM, it is recommended that the ERT Committee note the content of this report and the recommendation below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support the proposed Housing Strategy and associated planning policies of the LDP in addressing affordable housing needs of the District, a change in the planning legislation is required to address the issue of second homes and short-term holiday lets.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	N/A
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
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 type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<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 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><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></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>

	<i>Rationale:</i>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<p>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 type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices
	n/a
8.0	Background Documents
	n/a

Report to:	Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 13 th March 2023
Subject:	AONB and Geopark Environment Fund
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly Assistant Director, Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Darren Rice AONB and Geopark Manager

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

For decision	x	For noting only	
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To note the proposed application priorities for AONB & Geo Park activity against which an application for funding has been submitted to DAERA's Environmental Fund To approve that if successful, a Letter of Offer is accepted, signed and returned to DAERAs Environment Fund to effectively deliver against outcomes for year 2023/24. <p>A further update will be brought to ERT Committee to advise on success of application and value of grant aid secured.</p> <p><u>Background</u></p> <p>An application for funding has been submitted to DAERA's Environment Fund for the next 4 years. Letters of Offer will be issued against this application on an annual basis. For the forth coming year 23/24, it is anticipated that a Letter of Offer would be received in April 23.</p> <p>The outcomes from the AONB Management Plans that are eligible for DAERA's Environment Fund are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> We value, enhance and protect our natural heritage, to include adaptation and mitigation measures against the impacts of climate change. There is improved access to sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities in the AONB. Managing the AONB to produce positive outcomes for heritage, people and communities.
2.0	Key issues

2.1	<p>The Ring of Gullion AONB and Strangford Lough & Lecale AONB Environment Fund will implement measurable key environmental, access and management outcomes identified and detailed in the draft AONB Management Plans developed with the AONB Partnerships during the summer of 2022.</p> <p>This Environment Fund is needed in order to ensure key recommendations and actions from the Management Plans will be implemented to deliver against environmental obligations and clear need identified during the development phase of the AONB Management Plans.</p> <p>This Environment Fund will help to improve wellbeing for all by providing healthy landscapes for communities to enjoy and creating places where people want to live, work and visit. It will also contribute to reversing habitat and species decline; improving river and marine water quality; and obtain favourable management and environmental monitoring in the AONBs.</p> <p>The fund will have positive environmental impacts at a sub-regional scale that will be measured and monitored. Both Newry Mourne and Down, and Ards and North Down local authorities will contribute match funding to deliver a shared vision for our AONB; and conservation volunteers will help in the project delivery of a living, working landscape valued by everyone.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further detail on the programme of activities for the AONB and Geopark is summarised at appendix A, broken into Marine Protected Areas and AONB respectively
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To note the proposed application priorities for AONB & Geo Park activity against which an application for funding has been submitted to DAERA's Environmental Fund 2. To approve that if successful, a Letter of Offer is accepted, signed and returned to DAERAs Environment Fund to effectively deliver against outcomes for year 2023/24.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The current annual resource implications for NMDDC is £143,500. It is not expected that this contribution will increase outside of salary increases for the periods 2023/24, 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27. This contribution was reflected in the rate estimate budgeting process.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i>

	<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><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>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></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> NA</p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
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	Appendices

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Further detail on the programme of activities for the AONB and Geopark is summarised at appendix A, broken into Marine Protected Areas and AONB respectively
8.0	Background Documents

Appendix 1

Further detail on the programme of activities for the AONB and Geopark, broken into Marine Protected Areas and AONB

Marine Protected Areas

Carry out actions from the three MPA Management Plans:

1. Community Engagement

- Citizen science training and recording schemes through and with MPA partners.
- Protect seal haul outs from powered craft – convene interagency meetings, continue with online communications, roll out of engagement ranger services.
- Implement an annual and targeted Engagement Ranger Service.
- Develop a Strangford Lough User Code – a voluntary charter.
- Mobilising the communities of interest (coastal communities, outdoor recreation and the fishing and aquaculture industries) to help with restoration projects.
- Integration of the actions for MPA management into existing formal/informal education programmes - opportunities for a range of organisations working around the lough. Signpost existing programmes.
- Ensure that all species recording data is being directed to the correct sites. New Strangford and Lecale website, will provide direct links to reporting sites.
- Support lough communities to tackle marine litter.

2. Blue Carbon

- Monitor seagrass at the two AMS in Ballyhenry Bay.
- Report on AMS and work with DAERA to prepare proposals for eco-mooring replacement scheme especially in areas of sensitive benthic habitats (seagrass etc).
- Further Blue Carbon restoration pilot projects – explore options for funding support and project development.

3. Invasive Species

- Work with partners to manage and control the spread of the highly invasive species - Common Cord grass - *Spartina anglica* in the three MPA.
- Support recreational boaters in reducing the risk of the spread of non-native invasive species – implementation of recommendations for Scoping and Design of Suitable Washdown Facilities for Sailing Clubs in Strangford Lough.

4. Research and Development

- Work with all stakeholders to implement recommendations from the Aids to Navigation report carried out in Winter 2023.

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Manage the two AONB Management Groups, through their terms of reference, and report on the implementation of AONB Management Plans, including all sub-groups and thematic working groups. This is a sub-regional scale on and related to designated sites.

Carry out actions from the two AONB Management Plans:

1. We will value, enhance and protect our natural heritage, to include adaptation and mitigation measures against the impacts of climate change.

- Enhance the geodiversity profile within the AONB. This will mainly be carried out through the implementation of the Geoparks 10-year Master Plan and 4-year Business Plan (See appendices).
- Enhance natural heritage habitats, species and designated features across the AONB Landscape with a holistic and strategic approach through an engagement and delivery mechanism: Connecting communities with nature to conserve; increasing the area of suitable habitat by encouraging land owners to create and connect important features; increase local awareness and understanding of local species and habitats through workshops, community events, survey training and habitat restoration.
- We will support the department to implement the NI Wildfire Strategy within Slieve Gullion SAC and other high priority sites.
- Monitor and address visitor impacts on the Slieve Gullion SAC path corridors.
- Monitor landscape changes through a programme of "fixed point photography".
- Work with stakeholders to increase woodland cover and woodland resilience through various planting schemes and community initiatives.
- Increase the appreciation of our special landscapes through the enhancement of natural heritage.
- Maintain the outputs of the Ring of Gullion 4-year Invasive Species Clearance Programme with annual surveys and spot sprays.
- Targeted educational opportunity for 15-24 young people per annum through the Youth Rangers Programme.
- Support the Ring of Gullion and Cooley Red Squirrel group to deliver its Management Plan.
- Develop and implement a targeted programme of habitat restoration and species improvement through an Urban Landscapes and Connectivity Programme working

with community's, businesses, households and other urban landowners (hedgehogs, frogs and newts, bats, pollinators, squirrels and pine martens, swifts, woodland and hedgerow birds)

- Provide a strategic and targeted Conservation Volunteer Service throughout the AONB and Geopark Experts; working with all NMDDC Dept and other external partners. There will be a weekday and weekend volunteering opportunity in the AONB and Geopark every week of the year budget.
- Monitor, improve and expand on the "Don't Mow, Let it Grow" and Wildflower sites within NMDDC and ANDBC sites.

2. There will be improved access to sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities in the AONBs.

- Increase the range of outdoor recreation opportunities and improve access to green and blue spaces and the countryside which will be mainly carried out through the implementation of the Outdoor Recreation Action Plan when need and opportunity arise.
- Targeted mitigation towards recreational users to manage access in a way that mitigates against wildlife disturbance and user conflict.
- Develop access opportunities from both Outdoor Recreation Action Plans and the Strangford Lough Audit of Access.
- Maintain in good condition the long-distance routes: Ring of Gullion Way and the Lecale Way.
- Maintain the path corridor on Slieve Gullion SAC from the carpark, to the summit, the lake and north to the Ballard Road.
- Put in place a monitoring system for all recreational assets within the AONB and Geopark; scope out possibility for volunteer input, asset management database, and asset management workflow.

3. Managing the AONBs and Geopark to produce positive outcomes for heritage, people and communities

- Remain engaged, open and transparent in the implementation of both AONB Management Plans.
- Develop 10-year strategy (2023-2032) and 5-year AONB Management Plan (2028- 2032) in line with all other relevant strategies and management plans.
- Secure appropriate funding to support the AONB Partnerships and develop actions for the implementation of the AONB Management Plan.
- Put in place plans for secure legacies for any outcomes for this EF and improve future plans where applicable.
- Facilitate the Partnership, the Strangford Lough Rangers Network and other stakeholders taking part in knowledge sharing, and networking; strategically network with relevant bodies; and engage and inform relevant individuals and

groups about the AONB; and build capacity among partners; network with relevant bodies.

- Communicate to the Partnership, strategic stakeholders and to the wider public in order to positively and effectively promote the AONBs, avoid duplication and displacement, and have a coordinated approach to the management of the AONBs and Geopark.
- Increase understanding and involvement in the protection of nature, landscape character and earth science through targeted communications and community involvement in communications: Manage social media channels with regular posts, monthly eZine, regular press releases, annual AONB Calendar (printed), annual newsletter (printed) up to date and well maintained AONB interpretation panels.
- Staff, stakeholder and community training: Annual Ambassadors 12 trainees, social media training, presentations and communications, WISE (train the trainer) and annual WISE thereafter, Leave no Trace (train the trainer) and annual LNT thereafter.
- Continually improve the Partnership and our ways of working in contributing to the coordination and facilitation of the management of the AONBs through regular reviews.

Report to:	Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 13 th March 2023
Subject:	Small Settlements Scheme Update
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Seamus Crossey – Project Manager

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

For decision	x	For noting only	
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u> To note the below update report and approve recommendations in section 3.</p> <p><u>Background</u> Following previous papers presented to ERT, Council was fully informed on the DfC, DAERA and DfI funded 'COVID-19 Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Programme' and award of a letter of offer. An overall budget was made available by DfC, DAERA and DfI of £4,002,000 (NMDDC contribution of £390,550)</p> <p>Following agreement on the core themes of the programme at Letter of Offer stage, much progress is now being made in relation to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 EI Schemes in Bessbrook, Castlewellan, Rostrevor and Saintfield - 7 Revitalisation Schemes in Dundrum, Newtownhamilton, Annalong, Meigh, Hilltown, Killyleagh and Killough/Strangford - Make it Local Marketing Campaign
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>a) 4 Environmental Improvement Schemes</p> <p>In relation to the 4 Environmental Improvement Schemes, meetings have been held with Task & Finish Steering Groups, to consider the initial draft Concept Design proposals, review comments received following the conclusion of a Public Engagement Process and more recently to sign off on the outline designs prior to submissions of the 4 schemes to planning in March 2023.</p> <p>Agreement was reached that subject to the final discussion with statutory bodies, planning applications now needed to be made for all 4 settlements given the timebound monies on offer to the schemes.</p>

	<p>b) 7 Revitalisation Schemes</p> <p>On the 7 Revitalisation Schemes, relevant local Task & Finish Steering Groups have been continuing to meet on a regular basis to agree action plans for each respective area, against an indicative budget of £189k per revitalisation scheme. Across the 7 action plans inclusion has been made for a Shop Front Enhancement Scheme, Dereliction Enhancement Scheme and other capital works including street furniture, landscaping and minor capital schemes that impact on community linkages and active travel.</p> <p>c) Make It Local campaign</p> <p>A new Make it Local communication campaign went live on October 2022 and will continue until April 2023. The campaign is focused on digital, print and outdoor media, with a presence both locally and regionally. Businesses across the District have been profiled in the campaign, utilising both photography and videography.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Following consideration of the outline design drawings by the Task and Finish Steering Groupings adopt the attached reports and proceed to submit planning applications for the proposed Bessbrook, Castlewellan, Rostrevor and Saintfield Environmental Improvement Schemes. Council note the update on the Revitalisation and Make It Local Campaign elements of the Small Settlements Scheme.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Grant Aid of £4,002,000 is being offered to Council, which is conditional on Council Capital Grant aid match funding of £390,548.00, being provided over the 2022/23 and 2023/24 Financial years.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
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	<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>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></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 checked="" 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	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
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	Appendices
	<p>Task & Finish Steering Group Meetings held to consider the Outline Design Drawings prior to Planning Submission. Reports attached for:</p> <p>a) Bessbrook Report 07.03.2023 b) Castlewellan Report 03.03.2023 c) Rostrevor Report 01.03.2023 d) Saintfield Report 02.03.2023</p>
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A

Title of Working Group/Forum: Bessbrook Environmental Improvement Scheme - Task and Finish Steering GroupDate/time/venue: Tuesday 7th March 2023 at 11.00am via Microsoft TeamsCllrs present: Cllr D MurphyOther Attending: R Preston (AECOM Consultants), R Black (Bessbrook Development Company), C Loughran (DEA Co-ordinator), B Murphy (DFC), S Crossey, A Smyth (NMDDC)Apologies for non-attendance: Cllr D Taylor, Cllr O Magennis, J McGilly, R Mulholland, B Cunningham

Agenda Item Number	Subject	Agreed way forward (if matter requires Committee/Council approval, a separate Report should be compiled and submitted to Committee)	Lead Officer	Actions taken/Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
2	Overview of background and timeframe for project delivery	<p>S Crossey once again outlined the aim of the EI Scheme is to enhance aesthetic appearance and key infrastructure within each of the 4 settlements (Bessbrook, Castlewellan, Saintfield and Rostrevor) mainly through the provision of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> _Enhanced Public Realm _Footpaths _Street Furniture and lighting _Public Seating <p>Active Travel Measures can also be considered as part of the EI Schemes.</p>	S Crossey	<p>Progress since the last meeting include:</p> <p>Following consideration of the Consultation comments and agreement to proceed to outline design and planning, this meeting was being held to update the Steering Group in advance of the final submission to planning.</p> <p>Acknowledgement was paid to the funders in regard to the extension of time granted to the scheme to allow planning permission to be granted and delivery on the ground to take place by 31st March 2024.</p>	N

		<p>In terms of Timeframe Mr Crossey outlined ;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Submit Planning by end of March 2023 - Planning consideration (Apr-Sept 2023) - Onsite Delivery (Oct 23 – Mar 2024) 		<p>Much work has been ongoing in regard to discussing the scheme with DFI sections and host of other statutory and Utility bodies and organisations.</p>	
4	<p>Presentation of Scheme Design and Follow-Up discussion.</p>	<p>Key scheme elements of the scheme will be;</p> <p>School Crossing/Traffic Control – Improve Church Road line marking and school Safety Crossing layout & Signage</p> <p>Greenspaces & Planting – Work with Grounds Maintenance on final layout of proposed upgraded Green Spaces at Chapel Road Corner, Charlemont Square, College Square & at the Fountain. (Missing / replacement trees also to be addressed)</p> <p>Lighting Improvements – Assisting DFI to roll out their LED upgrades to the Main Spine Of the village along with the 2 Squares, Thomas Street and Wakefield Terrace.</p> <p>Minor Works – Refurbishment of Finger Post signs, Replacement of missing Decorative Bollards, Installation of new Dropped Kerbs and Pathway Repair/Clean were being undertaken across the central</p>	S Crossey	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It was agreed to progress and submit a planning application for the scheme to include the presented items. 2. The Task and Finish Steering Group should be kept informed on scheme progress during the planning progress. 3. DFI to be asked for a timeframe for delivery of Church Road improvements 	N

		<p>village area.</p> <p>During discussion it was agreed that;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Relocation of the Christmas Tree to the fountain area is discussed and agreed with the Councils Grounds Maintenance Section - Discussion is had with Councils Playpark Section in regards the existing play equipment within both squares <p>It was noted that the proposed works are currently coming in within the available scheme budget.</p>			
5	AOB	N/A	S Crossey		N

Signed: S Crossey (Lead Officer)

Title of Working Group/Forum: Castlewellan Environmental Improvement Scheme - Task and Finish Steering GroupDate/time/venue: Friday 3 March 2023 at 10:00am via Microsoft TeamsCllrs present: Cllr Hugh GallagherOthers Attending: Nicholas McCrickard (EDRCN), Deborah Boden (MYMY), Robert Preston (AECOM), Elaine McAlinden, Seamus Crossey, Amanda Smyth (NMDDC); Bridgeen Murphy (DFC)Apologies: Cllr Andrew McMurray, Cllr Roisin Howell, Brian Cunningham (DFC), Jonathan McGilly, Priscilla McAlinden (NMDDC)

Agenda Item Number	Subject	Agreed way forward (if matter requires Committee/Council approval, a separate Report should be compiled and submitted to Committee)	Lead Officer	Actions taken/Progress to date.	Remove from Action Sheet N
			J McGilly	Report to ERT March 2023	N
2	Overview of background and timeframe for the funding	<p>E McAlinden gave a background to the EI Scheme and highlighted that agreement had been reached in 2022 by the Working Group to prioritise and enhance the aesthetic appearance and key infrastructure within Castlewellan, mainly through the provision of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Works to/around the Upper Square area - Works to/around the Lower Square area - Minor EI Scheme works along Main Street to Mill Hill, Castlewellan. <p>In terms of Timeframe, E McAlinden advised that DFC had allowed for a</p>	E McAlinden	<p>Progress since the last meeting include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept design options developed, • Estimate of costings, • Several meetings and engagements have taken place with DFI – Roads and Active Travel sections, Water Service, Translink, Tree, Building and Topography surveys commissioned, as well as discussions with all relevant stakeholders that will inform the submission of a final application into Planning Service. 	N

		<p>1-year extension to the funding for agreement of final EI Scheme works, submission and granting of planning approval and appointment of contractors. As such, the timeline is an application to Planning by end of March 2023, with works commencing on site September/October 2023 and anticipated completion by end of March 2024.</p> <p>Budget for works: £495,000</p>			
4	Follow-Up Discussion, Agreement and Way Forward/Next Steps	<p>R Preston (AECOM) shared the outline scope of works document for Castlewellan at the meeting.</p> <p>Key highlights:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. LED lighting replacement at Upper Square – lighting columns retained but lantern heads to be replaced. 2. 2 x Bus Shelter replaced to heritage style bus shelters at Upper/Lower Square locations. 3. Soft Works enhancements – raising flower beds at central reservations and 30mph zone verge at Mill Hill, Upgrade of green space adjacent to Upper Square as Pocket Park, new trough style planters on Main St, tree replacements at Lower Square. All Trees would be fairly advanced in growth to ensure that impact 	R Preston E McAlinden	<p>Issues raised –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signage erected by Library Service at Upper Square is unsightly. It is out of keeping with the conservation and aesthetics of the area. • Pocket Park – railing to be considered to stop parking on the grass verge and walk through pocket park to Bank/Shops. • Corner entrance at 'Mooney's Bar to Upper Square parking problem. Bollards or Pedestrian Guardrails to be considered as part of the Scheme to improve sightlines for traffic and pedestrians. • Additional Tree at footpath adjacent to Upper Square – location and underground works assessment to be 	N

		<p>is immediately visible and likelihood of survival is enhanced.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Replacement of Guardrails along Main Street 5. 3 Way Power Supply installed at Upper Square, adjacent to Toilet Block with associated soft works upgrade to surrounding land to enhance aesthetics. 6. Refurbishment of the Toilet Block at Upper Square. 7. Bin Installations – remove from the Concept Design. Advised Council Team had replaced 16 litter bins during February 2023. 8. Street furniture (seating) – all existing seating to be ‘grouped’ together by style at locations. 9. Cycle Hubs at Upper and Lower Square with repair hubs. 10. Roundabout Realignment at Main Street/Lower Square – kerbing, mini roundabout, lighting to be realigned to allow for more space for traffic, particularly HGV and larger vehicles to pass through the roundabout. 2 new uncontrolled crossing 		<p>undertaken.</p> <p>Discussion took place on the overall scheme and those in attendance commented that good progress had been achieved and that the scheme was welcomed and favourable for Castlewellan.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It was agreed to progress and submit a planning application in the red line area of the concept design, subject to final elements being examined as outlined in the issues highlighted above. 2. It was further agreed to continue to work closely with all relevant statutory bodies to ensure all aspects of the works are implemented and maintained in coordination. <p>E McAlinden concluded that the Task and Finish Steering Group will be kept informed on scheme design and planning progress over the coming months.</p>	
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		<p>points installed and refreshment of road markings.</p> <p>It is important to note that Planning conditions will always have the final say in what can be taken forward.</p>			
5	AOB	N/A	E McAlinden	The meeting of the Task and Finish Steering Group concluded at 11.10am.	N

Signed: Elaine McAlinden – Regeneration and Business Support Development Officer (Lead Officer)

Title of Working Group/Forum: Rostrevor Environmental Improvement Scheme - Task and Finish Steering GroupDate/time/venue: Wednesday 1st March 2023 at 11.00am via Microsoft TeamsCllrs present: Cllr J Tinnelly; Cllr D McAteerOthers Attending: R Preston (AECOM), C Shiels (County Down RCN), K Earley (community rep), S Keenan, S Crossey, J. McGilly, M Patterson and A Smyth (NMDDC); B Murphy, B Cunningham (DfC)

Agenda Item Number	Subject	Agreed way forward (if matter requires Committee/Council approval, a separate Report should be compiled and submitted to Committee)	Lead Officer	Actions taken/Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet N
2	Overview of background and timeframe for the funding	<p>M Patterson gave a background to the Scheme in that it is to enhance the aesthetic appearance and key infrastructure within each of the 4 settlements (Bessbrook, Castlewellan, Saintfield and Rostrevor) mainly through the provision of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Enhanced Public Realm -Footpaths -Street Furniture and lighting -Public Seating <p>He reminded the Group that following consultations which took place in 2022, agreement was previously reached by the working group to prioritise the streetscape in Rostrevor Village centre.</p>	J McGilly	<p>Report to ERT March 2023</p>	N
				<p>Progress since the last meeting include:</p> <p>Actions which have taken place include, development of costings, arrangement of several meetings with a range of key stakeholders (DFI/Utilities/HED) that will inform the proposed planning application.</p>	

4	<p>Follow-Up Discussion, Agreement and Way Forward/Next Steps</p>	<p>M Patterson, outlined that following several meetings with the relevant stakeholders including HED and Planning Service, it has been highlighted that to ensure planning permission is considered, due to Rostrevor’s conservation status, the only option for design is the high-grade granite enhancement scheme.</p> <p>Detailed discussion took place during the meeting in regards the significant costs identified for the high-grade granite enhancement scheme being over twice the cost of the scheme funding, compared to the hybrid Granite/Asphalt scheme that could have been achieved with the available budget.</p> <p>Discussions took place on the options to submit a planning application to meet with the expectations for Rostrevor village centre given that the budget required to deliver this has fallen greatly short.</p> <p>M Patterson, then outlined that the key programme for the scheme was as follows;</p> <p>March 2023 – Planning Submission</p> <p>Apr-Sep 2023– Planning Process/Decision</p>	M Patterson	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It was agreed to progress and submit the planning application for the high-grade granite design for the entire scope of proposed planning red line area boundary. 2. It was further agreed to phase the project in two parts, namely implementing the area that the budget will allow (Square) and investigating the potential for sourcing further funding in 2024/25 to enable the entire planning boundary to have the high-grade scheme to be implemented. 3. It was agreed to work closely with all relevant statutory bodies to ensure all aspects of the design are agreed prior to planning submission in late March 2023. 4. It was agreed to work closely with the Tom Dunn project team as their enhancement scheme is being implemented prior to 30th June 2023. 5. The Task and Finish Steering 	N

		Oct-Mar 2024– Onsite Works		Group should be kept informed on scheme timeframes following submission.	
5	AOB	N/A	M Patterson		N

Signed: M Patterson (Lead Officer)

Title of Working Group/Forum: Saintfield Environmental Improvement Scheme - Task and Finish Steering GroupDate/time/venue: Thursday 2 March 2023 at 3.30 p.m. via Microsoft TeamsCllrs present: Cllr C Bowsie, Cllr R Burgess and Cllr DL SurginorOther Attending: R Preston, (Aecom Consultant), M Todd, SDA, D McMinn, SDA, P McGeown, SDA, B Jennings, CDRCN, E Brennan, S Crossey, A McVeigh, A Smyth, NMDDC, B Murphy & B Cunningham (DfC)Apologies for non-attendance: Cllr T Andrews

Agenda Item Number	Subject	Agreed way forward (if matter requires Committee/Council approval, a separate Report should be compiled and submitted to Committee)	Lead Officer	Actions taken/Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
1	Welcome & Apologies - Recap	A McVeigh outlined the aim of the EI Scheme is to enhance aesthetic appearance and key infrastructure within each of Saintfield mainly through the provision of: Enhanced Public Realm Footpaths Street Furniture and lighting and active travel. Budget: £495,000	A McVeigh		N
2	Update on final scheme proposals	S Crossey and R Preston provided an overview of progress to date including engagement with DfI Roads and Lighting, HED and Utilities including BT Openreach, Fibrus,	A McVeigh	DfI has no budget in the incoming financial year to resurface the carriage way on Main Street.	y

		Phoenix and Firmus.		Council is engaging with BT Openreach to future proof Saintfield.	
3	Discussion & Agreement	<p>Discussion surrounded the finish of the footpaths i.e., granite, resin bond, decorative, asphalt with granite chips, cobbles and granite kerbs, precast concrete flags etc.</p> <p>Replacement of bins and a heritage panel was discussed – subject to funding.</p> <p>It was agreed to proceed with footpath upgrade to include asphalt with granite chip finish, reinstatement of the granite kerbs and cobbles, heritage lighting scheme and if funding allowed painting of the railings at Main Street (Fairview end) and bicycle stands installed at Comber Square.</p>	A McVeigh	<p>It was agreed submit a planning application with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Footpaths with asphalt & granite chip/Bands, granite kerbs and cobbles reinstated. • Heritage lighting scheme • Bike rack at Comber Square 	N
4	BT Openreach Wayleaves	<p>A McVeigh is working with 40 property owners in Saintfield to get Wayleaves signed to remove poles from Main Street to allow BT Openreach to underground telephone cables.</p> <p>11 properties have agreed.</p> <p>22 wayleaves have been issued.</p> <p>1 property owner currently refusing too sign. It was agreed a second effort would be made to discuss with</p>			

		<p>the property owner.</p> <p>6 wayleaves to be issued.</p> <p>The BT Openreach contractor will liaise with businesses on the street and reinstate the footpaths, cobbles will be lifted and stored at Council depot until Council appoints a contractor to undertake the EI scheme.</p>			
5	AOB	<p>Council to contact DfI regarding the potential to establish if a build out could be constructed to stop cars parking at the railings outside Agar Antiques.</p> <p>Reference was made to Gerry Lowe (RIP) who sat on Saintfield Town Regeneration Committee on his commitment to removing poles from Main Street.</p> <p>The Letter of Offer has been extended to 31 March 2024, which will allow planning to be considered from Apr to Sep 2023 and then works to take place from Oct 2023-Mar 2024.</p>	A McVeigh		N

Signed: A McVeigh (Lead Officer)

Report to:	Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 13 March 2023
Subject:	Non-statutory fee increase for Licensing.
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Colum Jackson Assistant Director, Building Control & Licensing
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Colum Jackson Assistant Director, Building Control & Licensing

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

For decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input type="checkbox"/>
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u> To note the content of this report and approve recommendation for a 9% fee increase in the Licensing Section as detailed in the attached appendix effective from 1st April 2023.</p> <p><u>Background</u> As part of the rates setting process for the 2023/24 financial year the Council have approved a 9% increase for all non-statutory fees across all services. The attached schedule indicates the new fee charges for the Licensing section to be implemented from the 1 April 2023.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	Council charge a non-statutory fee for processing the following licenses, Civil Marriage and Civil Partnerships, Street Trading, Road Closures, Pavement Café and Postal Numbering Certificates. The 9% increase has been applied to the fees indicated on the attached schedule to be implemented from the 1 April 2023.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<p>It is recommended that Council approve the proposed fee increase of 9% for 2023/24 effective from 1st April 2023 as per attached appendix for the following Licences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil Marriage / Civil Partnerships • Street Trading • Road Closures • Pavement Cafes (3 year licence)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postal Numbering Certificates
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	None
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
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	<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>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></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: N/A</i></p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service

	<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	Appendices
	Breakdown of licence increase.
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A

Licensing Section
Fee Increase 2023/2024

Civil Marriage and Civil Partnerships

Type of Licence	Current Fee 2022	Proposed Fee (9% increase) 2023/24
Place Approval Variation regarding addition of rooms:	£50.00	£55.00
Place Approval for either Civil Marriages <u>or</u> Civil Partnerships	£300.00	£330.00
Place Approval for both Civil Marriages <u>and</u> Civil Partnerships:	£350.00	£382.00
Application for Temporary Place Approval	£155.00	£170.00

Street Trading

Type of Licence	Current Fee	Proposed Fee (9% increase)
Stationary Licence (application fee)	£80	£88.00
Stationary Licence (Licence fee + Application fee)	£930	£1015.00
Mobile Licence (application fee)	£80	£88.00
Mobile Licence (licence fee + application fee)	£230	£250.00
Temporary Street Trading Licence (first application, single pitch)	£80	£88.00
Temporary Street Trading Licence - for each subsequent application per calendar year (maximum of four)	£50	£55.00
Temporary Street Trading Licence - double pitch (maximum allocation)	£130	£142.00
Variation	£55.00	£60.00

Road Closures

Type of Licence	Current Fee 2022	Proposed Fee (9% increase) 2023/24
Large Event	£600.00	£655.00
Small Event	£400.00	£435.00

Pavement Cafes

Type of Licence	Admin costs (non-refundable 2022)	Compliance Monitoring	Actual Cost for 3 Year Licence	Proposed Fee (9% increase) for a 3 year licence 2023/24
Grant of Pavement Café Licence	£280	£95.00	£375	£300 + £100 = £400
Renewal or Variation of Pavement Café Licence	£185.00	£95.00	£280	£200 + £100 = £300

Postal Numbering Certificates

Current Fee 2022	Fee effective from 1st April 2023
£30.00	£35.00

Dated: 14/02/2023

HISTORIC**ACTION TRACKER SHEET****ENTERPRISE REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE****(For Noting at ERT Meeting – 13 March 2023)**

45

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		DECEMBER 2022			
ERT/190/2022	TOURISM STRATEGY & BRANDING	To approve the proposed process and timelines to finalise the Council's draft Tourism Strategy and overarching Destination brand as set out in the Report.	A Patterson	In progress	Y
ERT/191/2022	(EXEMPT) NEWCASTLE HARBOUR PILOT FISHING TOURS	To approve a pilot programme of Fishing Tours from Newcastle Harbour effective from April – October 2023, with expressions of interest to be completed by 01 February 2023.	A Patterson	In progress	Y
ERT/192/2022	(EXEMPT) TOURISM NI MARKET LED PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2022/23	To approve the delivery of the Tourism NI Market Led Product Development Programme 2022/23, subject to a successful funding bid, as set out in the report.	A Patterson	In progress	Y
		JANUARY 2023			
		No pending actions			

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		(FEBRUARY 2023 to follow)			

Report to:	Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 13 th March 2023
Subject:	Invest NI Business Intelligence Update - Newry, Mourne and Down – Council Briefing 2023
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Elaine McAlinden, Regeneration and Business Support Officer

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

	For decision	For noting only	X
1.0	Purpose and Background		
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u> To note the Invest Northern Ireland, Newry, Mourne and Down Economic Briefing January 2023, which will form part of the evidence base when developing future strategies and programmes of work in its efforts to grow the local Newry, Mourne and Down economy.</p> <p><u>Background</u> Invest Northern Ireland (NI) provides an annual synopsis of economic data for each for the 11 District Councils in Northern Ireland. These annual briefings provide a range of statistical data that have been designed to inform and support Councils in the development of local economic development strategies and action plans.</p> <p>The Newry, Mourne and Down Economic Briefing attached at Appendix 1 contains information related to the following areas: –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demographic and labour market structure • Business base • Productivity • jobs, skills and earnings • Commuting patterns, • tourism impact and property availability. • Support and investment data. • Performance indicators and sectoral trends for Invest NI supported businesses. • An overview of regional assets, economic development partners and local supported businesses 		

2.0	<u>Key Issues</u>
2.1	<p>The following provides a brief snapshot of the type of information contained in the briefing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population - Newry, Mourne and Down stands at 182,074 (10% of NI population) • Labour Market Structure - 71% of the Newry, Mourne and Down population is economically active. The level of economic inactivity is higher in Newry, Mourne and Down than for NI as a whole (29% compared to 27%). • Unemployment - 3% of the population is claiming benefit (NI average is also 3%), with 16% of these in the youth category - aged 18-24 (NI average is 17%). • Employee Jobs - Newry, Mourne and Down has 61,203 employee jobs (8% of the NI total); 24% of which are in the public sector. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tourism - 5,729 are employed within the Tourism Sector with 3,488 in food and beverage serving and 1,074 in Accommodation provision. The balance of jobs are in Transport, sports and recreation and other. • Qualifications: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 37% (NI - 42%) of the working age population has NVQ Level 4 or above (Undergraduate), - 50% (NI - 46%) have NVQ Level 1 – 3 (A Level, BTEC Diploma), and - 13% (NI – 12%) have no qualifications. • Earnings - The average median earnings for people living in the area is £25,912 (NI average is £26,182). <p>The council profiles also include business data covering areas including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Registered Businesses - 9,175 businesses in Newry, Mourne and Down representing 12% of the total NI business population. • Businesses by size - The vast majority of these are micro-businesses (92% employing less than 9 people). 7% employ 10-49 employees and just 1.2 are medium to large. • Businesses by sector – Newry, Mourne and Down 49% of its businesses registered as service-based businesses, this is followed by agriculture (26%) Construction (19%) and Production (including Manufacturing) at 7%.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Demography – Newry, Mourne and Down has a 10% business start-up rate. 93% of these businesses will still be trading/survival after 1 year. Both statistics are on par with the NI average. • Entrepreneurship levels – Newry, Mourne and Down has one of the lowest early entrepreneurship activity levels - (3.9%) compared to NI 7%. The Total Early-Stage Entrepreneurial Activity (TEA) rate shows the proportion of the working age population involved in starting or running a business (under 42 months old) • Invest NI assisted business investment: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Over the last 5 years (2017-18 to 2021-22), Invest NI has provided assistance of £37m to 469 Businesses in the area. This is part of a £205m overall investment with the majority of investment helping to create jobs (£137m). Other assistance provided investment in R&D, Skills, Venture Capital, Covid and Developing overseas trade capability. - £36m of the Invest NI Assistance was given to locally owned companies representing an overall investment of £196m in total by locally owned companies. - During that same period, the highest levels of External investment by country of origin have been from ROI (£9m), US (£1m) and GB (£1m). - The Agri-Food sector received the most Invest NI investment (£80m) with Advanced Engineering & Manufacturing (£36m) and Construction (£35m). The Digital and Creative Technologies (£32m) and Financial, Professional and Business services (£14m) also received investment. • Exports – the number of Exporters has increased steadily of the past 5 years (2017-2021) with 2,025 businesses exporting in 2021. The majority of export sales are to GB (14%) and ROI (11%) destinations. • Productivity, based on Gross Value Added approximate (GVAa) per head is lower in Newry, Mourne and Down (£54,017) than for Northern Ireland as a whole (£56,923).
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To note the Invest Northern Ireland, Newry, Mourne and Down Economic Briefing January 2023, which will form part of the evidence base when developing future strategies and programmes of work in its efforts to grow the local Newry, Mourne and Down economy.

4.0	Resource implications
4.1	There are no resource implications attached to this report.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
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	<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>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></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 checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i> <input type="checkbox"/></p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
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"/>
7.0	Appendices	
	Appendix 1 – Newry, Mourne and Down – Economic Context Update – January 2023	
8.0	Background Documents	
	N/A	

**Economic
Context
Update**



**January
2023**

**Newry, Mourne
& Down
Council Briefing**



Invest NI Supported Business Performance (2021)

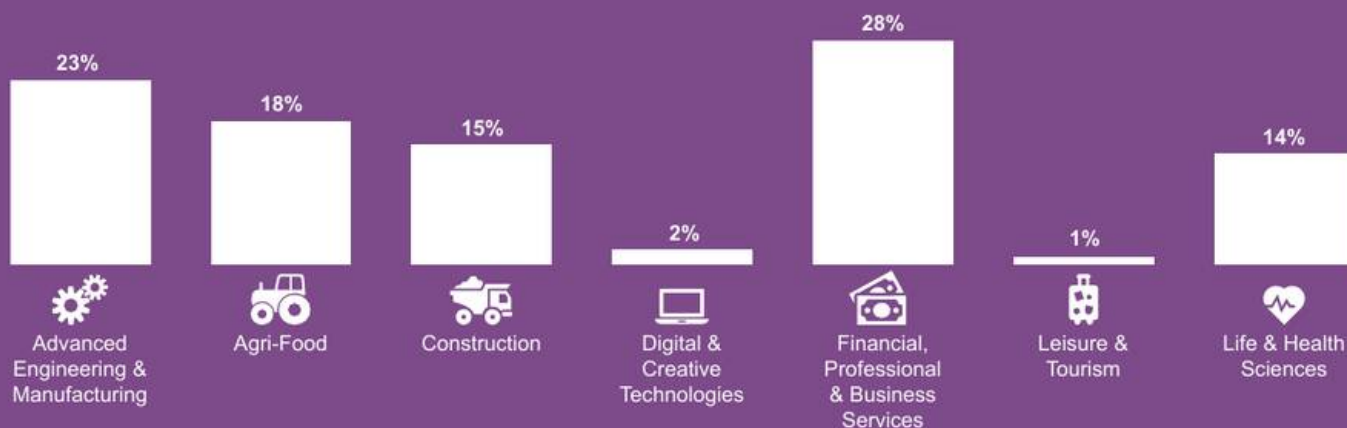
Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are collected from a sub-set of Invest NI businesses who are significant contributors to the NI economy. KPIs are geographically assigned based on the HQ location of the business.

Key metrics include all sales, external sales outside NI, export sales outside UK and employment (based on Full-Time Equivalent). All data is provisional and subject to further revision.

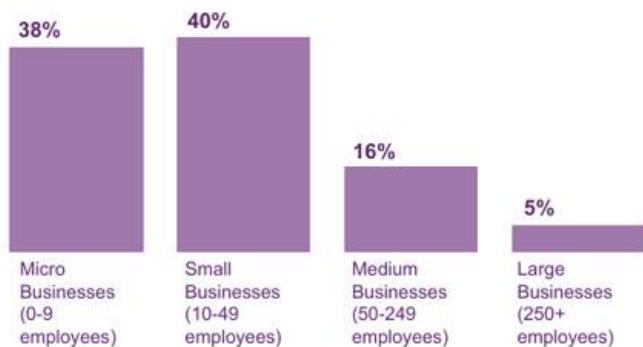
Businesses are classified according to Invest NI's sector reporting structure which is based on their main product and/or service within Northern Ireland.



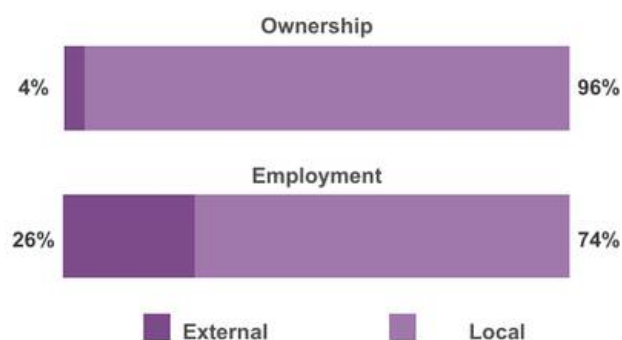
Employment by Sector



Businesses by Size



Business by Ownership

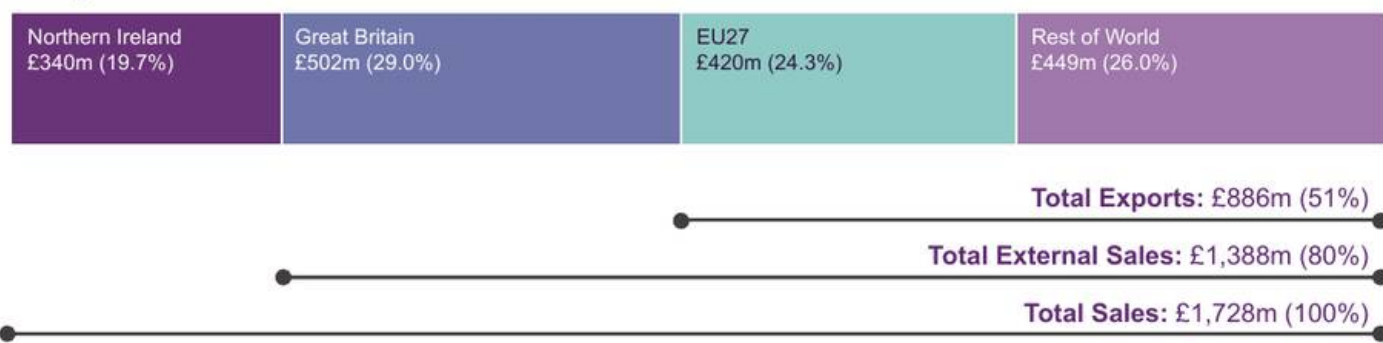


Whilst externally-owned businesses represent 4% of the total they account for 26% of employment.

Sales by Sector

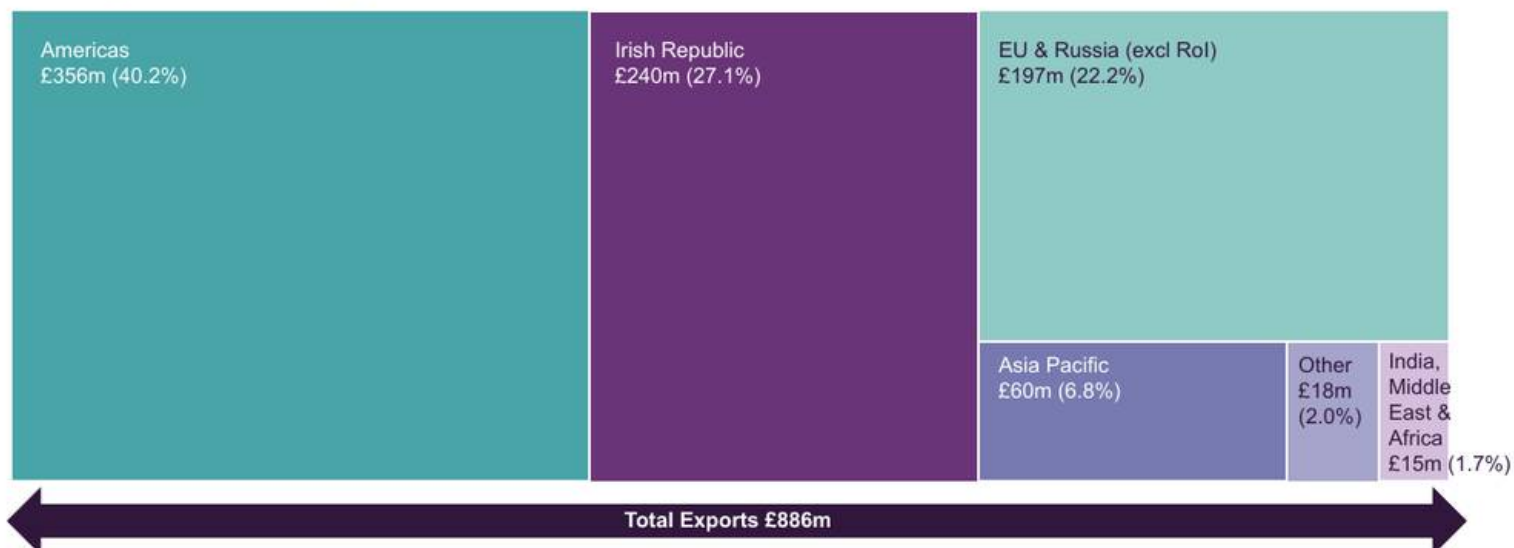


Sales by Destination



Note: Individual amounts may not add to the total figure due to an unassigned amount of £18m (1.0%)

Sales by Trade Territory



Invest NI Activity (2017-18 to 2021-22)

Activity is based on those projects brought forward by Invest NI customers over the past 5 years that have been approved for an offer of support.

“Assistance” is offered at the start of a project based on a company commitment to undertake a business development project, such as job creation, R&D, skills development.

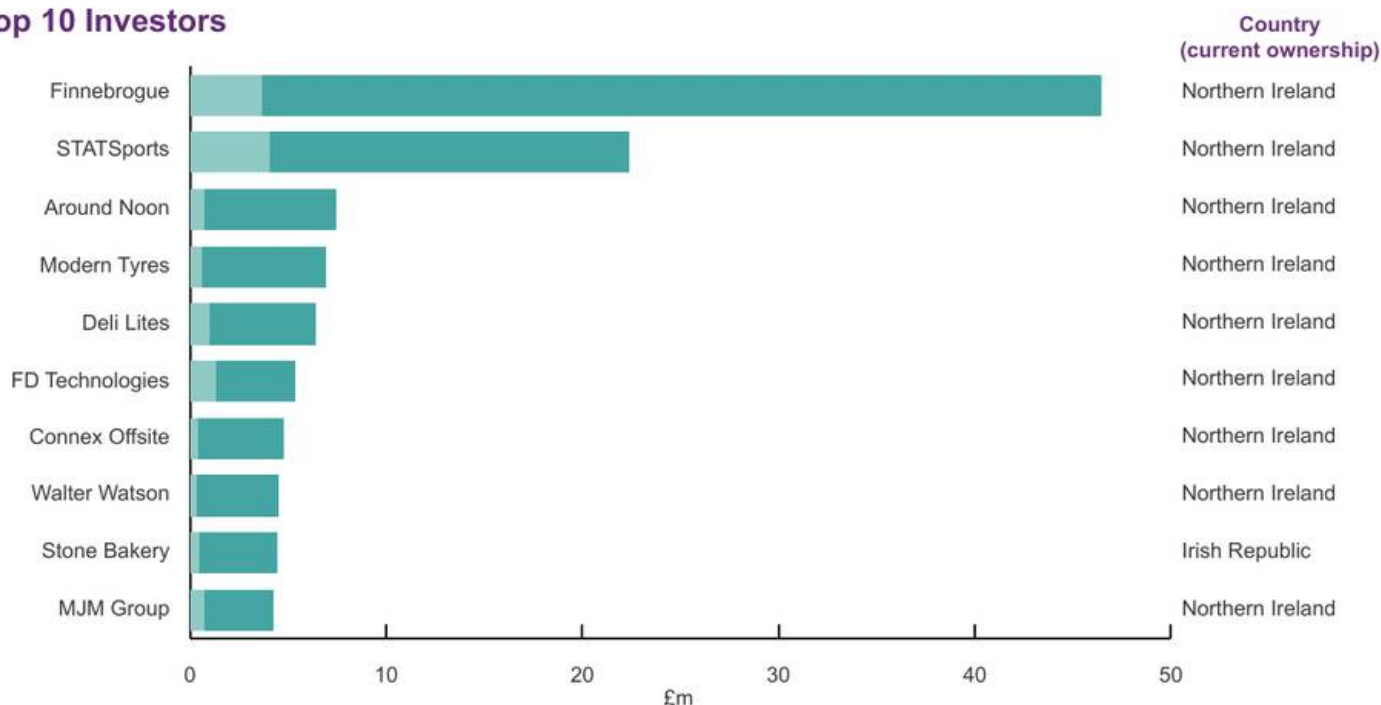
Invest NI’s Assistance is then combined with investment from the company to form the project “Investment”.

The project is then delivered over an agreed period of time meaning there is a lag between Assistance and Investment and the delivery by customers on the ground.



Assistance - Local (96%) External (4%) **Assisted Jobs - Local (95%) External (5%)**

Top 10 Investors



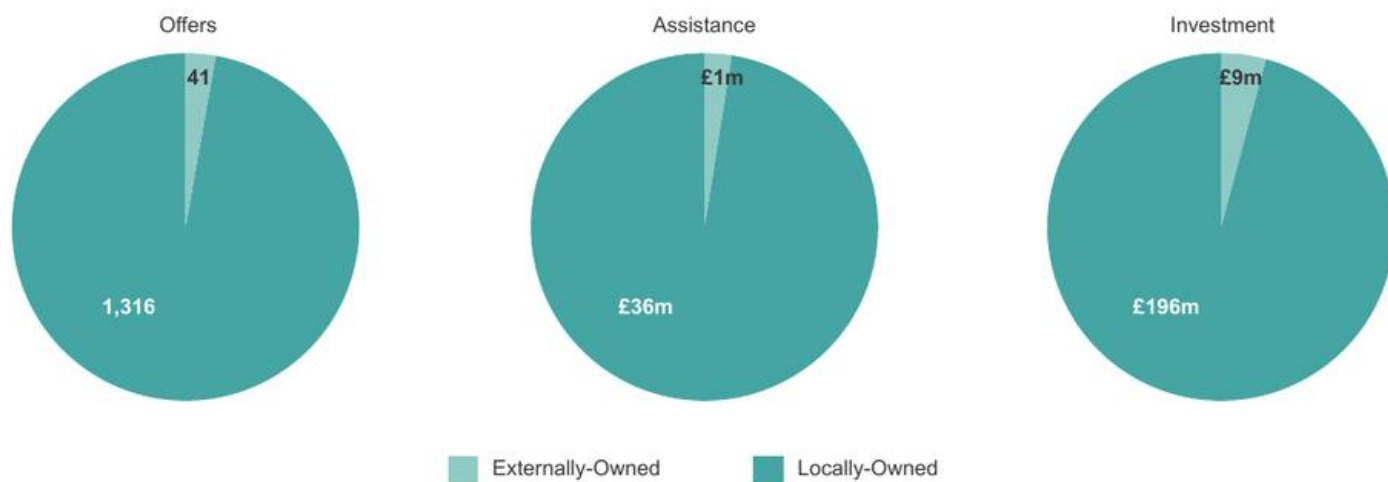
Note: Excludes Venture Capital funding

Invest NI Assistance Company Investment

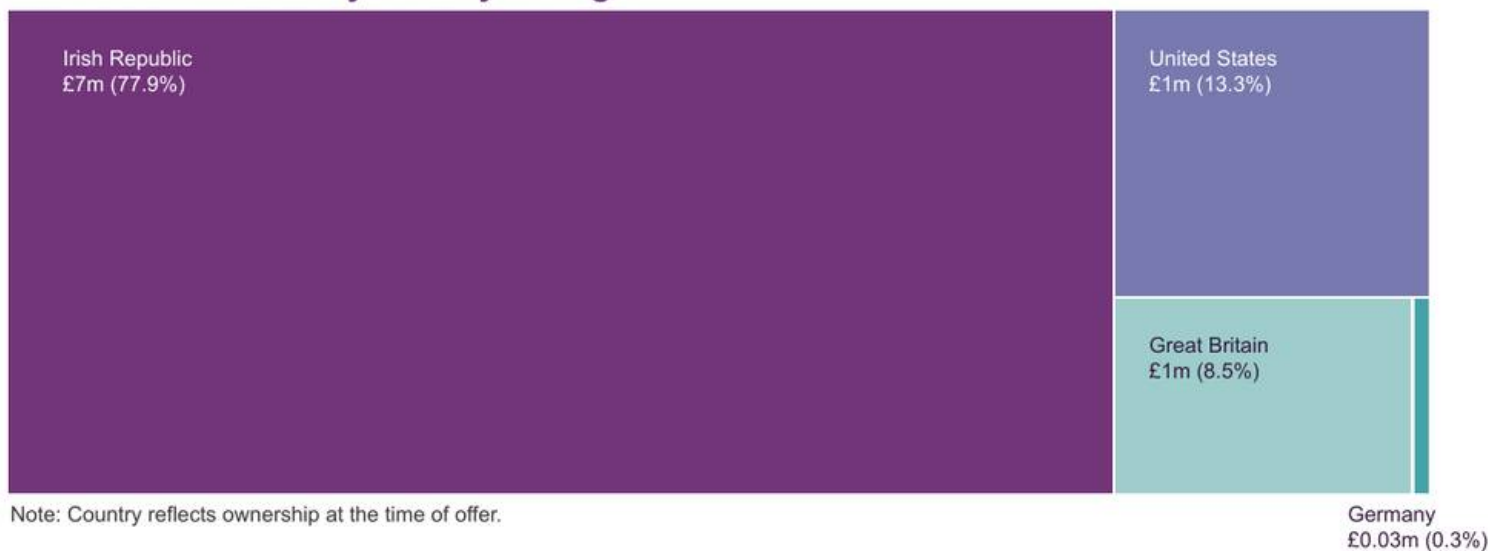
Investment by Type of Offer



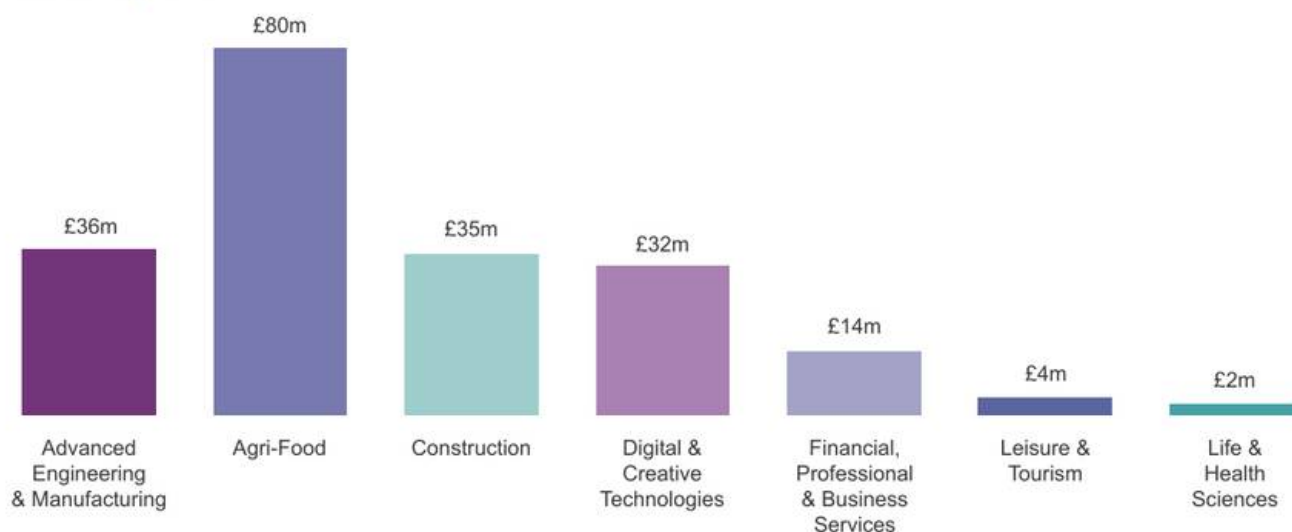
Support by Ownership



External Investment by Country of Origin



Investment by Sector



Note: Investment by sector does not include £1.51m of investment that cannot be allocated at council level and £0.03m cannot be allocated.

Economic Profile

Population (2021)

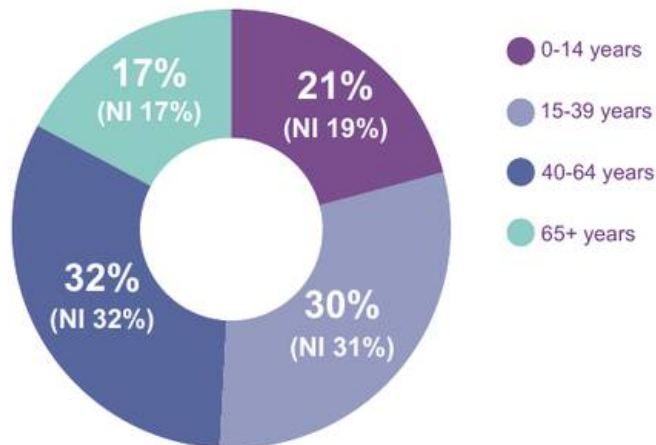
Total Population
182,074



10% of total NI population

Source: Census 2021, NISRA

Population by Age



Labour Market Structure (2021)

Newry, Mourne & Down

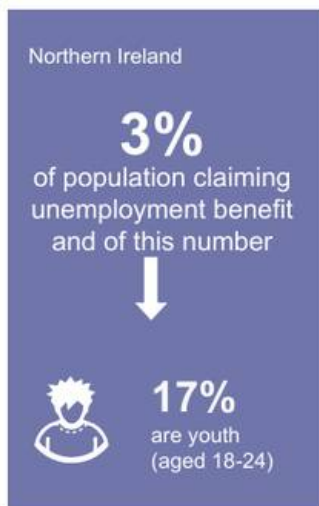
Northern Ireland



Source: Labour Force Survey, NISRA



Unemployment Claimants (2021)



Source: Claimant Count, NISRA

The labour market structure is composed of the economically active (people in employment and seeking work) and inactive (not seeking nor available for work). These data are provided through the Labour Force Survey (LFS), the largest regular household sample survey in Northern Ireland. **Total numbers in employment do not equate to total jobs as a person can have more than one job.**

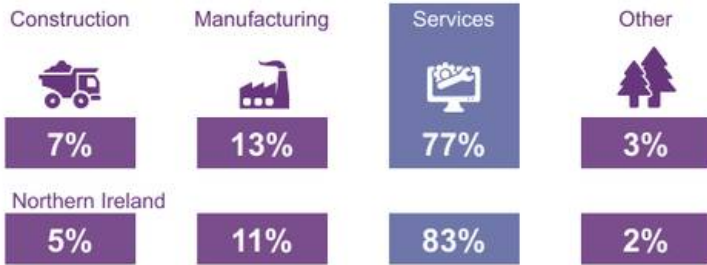
Unemployment annual averages data is derived from the Claimant Count as LFS figures fall below suppression thresholds. This is an administrative data source based on the numbers claiming unemployment-related benefits. It uses a different definition of unemployment to the LFS.

Both measures of the labour market are based on the working-age (16-64) population.

Employee Jobs (2021)

61,203 jobs within the region (8% of the Northern Ireland total)

Industry Sector



Public/Private Sector



The Business Register and Employment Survey is a business census which provides employee jobs estimates. **This is based on the location and number of jobs rather than the number of persons with a job; therefore someone with two jobs will be counted twice.** It excludes agriculture employee jobs and self-employed (not on a PAYE system).

Source: Business Register and Employment Survey, NISRA

Earnings (2022)

The median annual earnings for Northern Ireland are **£26,182**

Place of Residence

Median annual earnings based on people living in the area -

£25,912



Place of Work

Median annual earnings based on people working in the area -

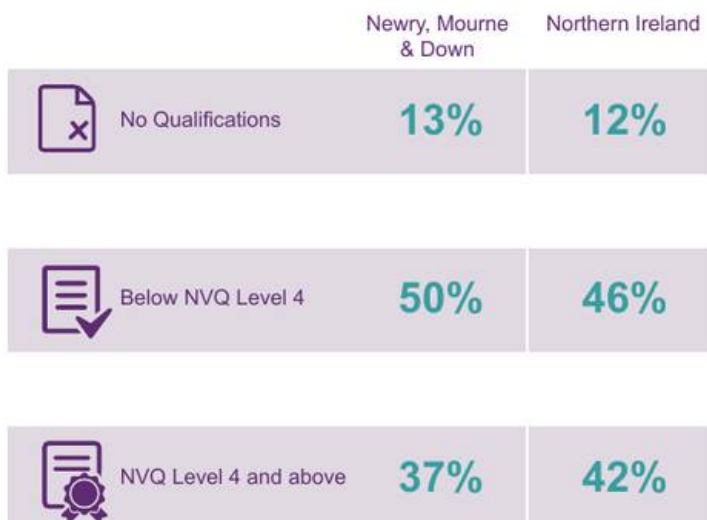
£26,473



Based on median, annual, basic and other earnings for full-time employees (more than 30 hours per week) in the private sector.

Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, NISRA

Qualifications (2021)



This data is provided through the Labour Force Survey (LFS) which is a household survey and includes a measure of qualifications, based on the working-age population (16-64), using the following classification:

- No Qualifications
- Below NVQ Level 4 (Level 1 to Level 3)
- NVQ Level 4 and above (degree level and above)

Source: Labour Force Survey, NISRA

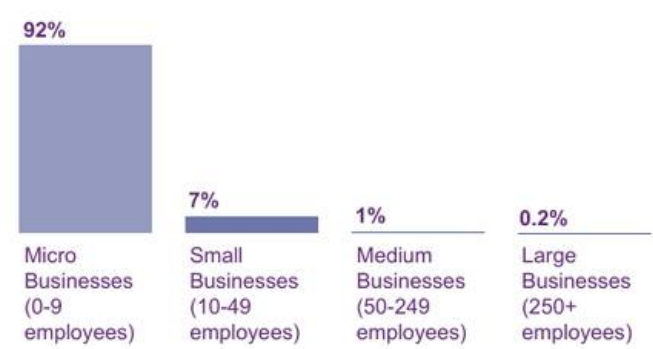
Business Base (2022)

The business population is defined here by the Inter Departmental Business Register which excludes smaller businesses and the self-employed who fall below the VAT registered/PAYE thresholds.

Number of Registered Businesses



Businesses by Size



Businesses by Sector



Source: Inter Departmental Business Register, NISRA

Business Demography (2021)

A business birth is identified as a business who was present in the active business population dataset for 2020, but not in the two previous years. A business is deemed to have survived for one year if having been a birth in 2018, it is active in terms of employment and/or turnover in any part of 2019. Rates are expressed as a percentage of total active businesses.



Source: Inter Departmental Business Register, ONS

Productivity Work-Place Based (2020)

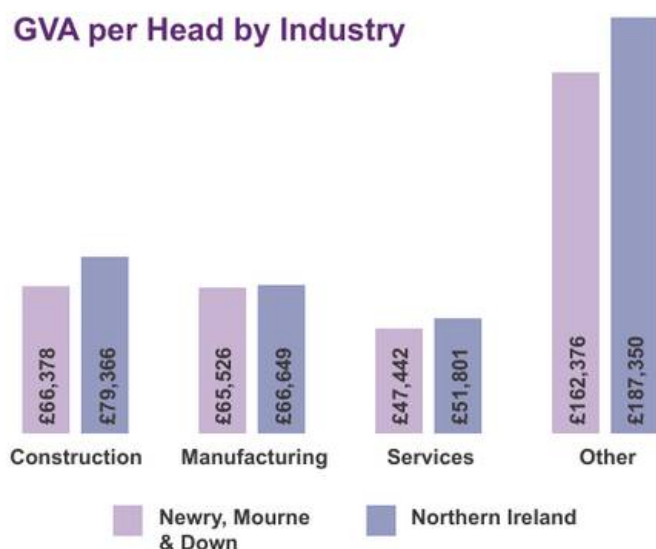
Productivity is based on the Regional Gross Value Added (Balanced) in Current Prices (£). Regional GVA is the value generated by any unit engaged in the production of goods and services.

Per head calculations are made using employee jobs, rather than the resident population as this can be subject to distortion (due to the effects of commuting and variations in age distribution).

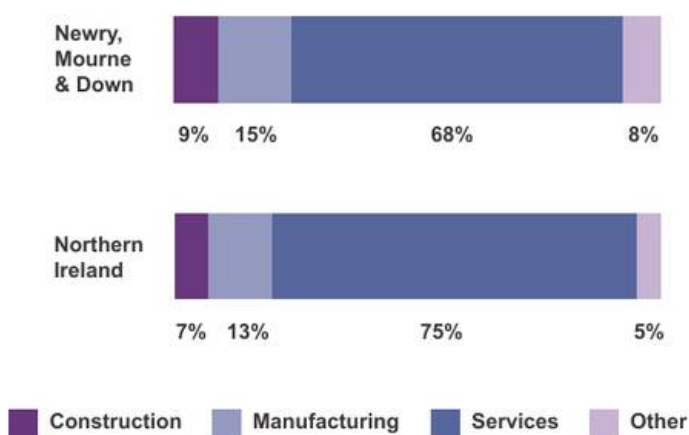
GVA per Head (2016-2020)

Newry, Mourne & Down		
£52,187	£54,017	% change 2016-20
2016	2020	▲ 4%
Northern Ireland		
£50,478	£56,923	% change 2016-20
2016	2020	▲ 13%

GVA per Head by Industry



Percentage of GVA by Industry



Source: Regional GVA (Balanced), ONS and Business Register Employment Survey, NISRA

Gross Domestic Product (2020)

Gross domestic product (GDP) measures the value of goods and services produced in the UK. It estimates the size of and growth in the economy. Per head calculations are made using the resident population.

GDP per Head (2016-2020)

Newry, Mourne & Down		
£19,400	£20,482	% change 2016-20
2016	2020	▲ 6%
Northern Ireland		
£24,247	£25,575	% change 2016-20
2016	2020	▲ 5%

GDP per Head by Council



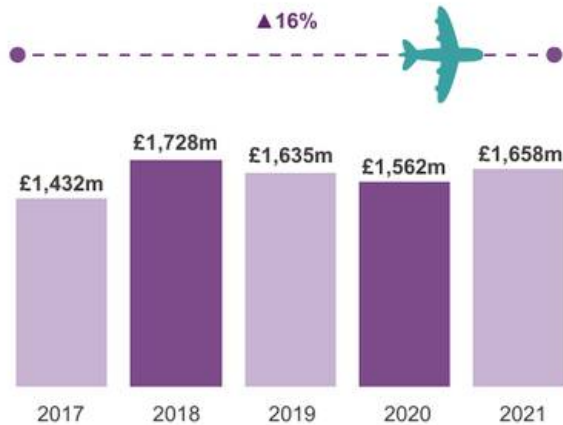
Source: Regional GDP, ONS

Exports (2021)

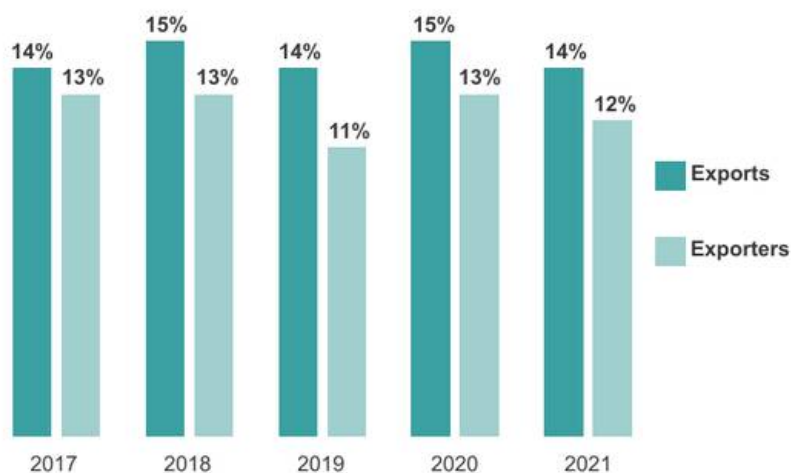
Number of Exporters 2017-2021



Exports 2017-2021



Exports and Exporters as a Percentage of NI Total



Sales by Destination



Note: Where a business has a head office outside NI the value has been categorised as "Unassigned". This accounts for approx. 6% of NI exports.
 Source: NI Economic Trade Statistics, NISRA

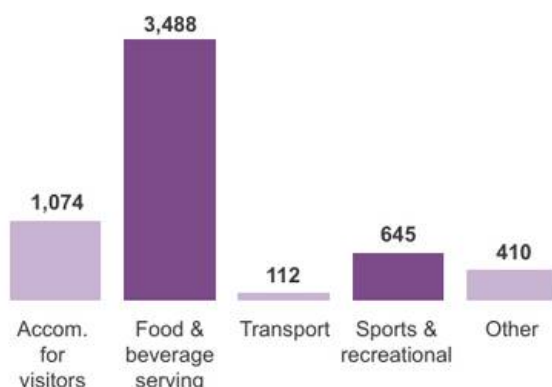
Tourism (2021)

Tourism job figures give an indication of the amount of people employed in that sector and can be broken down further to show more specific areas of employment.

Tourism Jobs



Tourism Jobs by Area of Employment

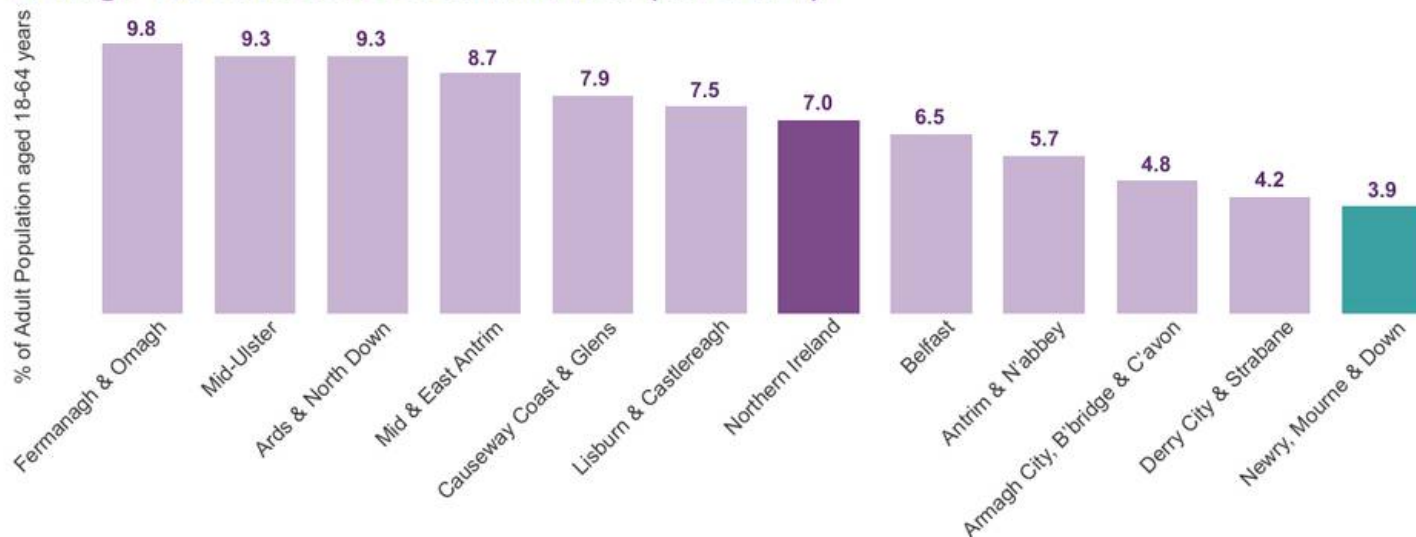


Entrepreneurship (2021)

Total Early-stage Entrepreneurial Activity (TEA) represents the percentage of the population aged 18-64 who are either nascent (in process of starting a business) or new entrepreneurs (running a business not older than 42 months).

Entrepreneurial activity is based on average TEA rates recorded over 2019-2021, which are grouped due to small sample sizes.

Average TEA Rates across Council Areas (2019-2021)



TEA Rates (2019-2021)



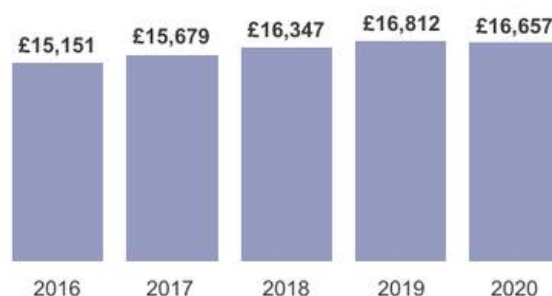
Source: Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (UK), Enterprise Research Centre

Gross Disposable Household Income (2020)

Gross Disposable Household Income per head (2020)



Gross Disposable Household Income per head (2016-2020)



Source: Regional Gross Disposable Household Income, ONS

Data Tables

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Invest NI Key Performance Indicators, 2021

Council or Region	No of businesses	Full Time Staff	Sales £m	External Sales £m	Export Sales £m	Externally Owned - % of Businesses	Locally Owned - % of Businesses	Externally Owned - Employment %	Locally Owned - Employment %	Northern Ireland Sales £m	Great Britain Sales £m	EU27 Sales £m	Rest of World (excl EU27) Sales £m	Other (unassigned) Sales £m
Antrim & Newtownabbey	86	7,630	1,727	1,323	598	10%	90%	24%	76%	404	726	288	252	57
Ards & North Down	81	2,842	511	418	291	11%	89%	20%	80%	93	127	111	167	13
Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon	180	18,574	3,254	2,794	1,089	9%	91%	51%	49%	460	1,705	739	340	10
Belfast	467	43,551	5,038	3,713	1,622	27%	73%	73%	27%	1,324	2,092	506	1,113	3
Causeway Coast & Glens	92	4,206	1,095	649	335	8%	92%	31%	69%	447	314	238	94	3
Derry & Strabane	124	7,899	819	607	483	10%	90%	46%	54%	211	125	246	235	1.94
Fermanagh & Omagh	128	5,511	1,269	1,014	418	8%	92%	27%	73%	254	596	319	100	0.02
Lisburn & Castlereagh	145	7,073	1,754	1,278	343	8%	92%	19%	81%	476	935	256	84	1.90
Mid & East Antrim	65	5,449	1,007	855	340	13.8%	86.2%	44%	56%	152	515	183	153	4
Mid Ulster	236	18,151	4,624	3,662	1,366	6%	94%	30%	70%	962	2,296	761	597	8
Newry, Mourne & Down	156	11,013	1,728	1,388	886	4%	96%	26%	74%	340	502	420	449	18
Eastern	467	43,551	5,038	3,713	1,622	27%	73%	73%	27%	1,324	2,092	506	1,113	3
North Eastern	151	13,078	2,734	2,179	938	12%	88%	32%	68%	556	1,241	472	405	61
North Western	216	12,106	1,914	1,256	818	9%	91%	41%	59%	658	438	484	329	5
Southern	382	20,928	3,993	3,084	1,520	7%	93%	23%	77%	909	1,564	787	700	33
Western	544	42,236	9,147	7,470	2,874	8%	92%	39%	61%	1,677	4,596	1,819	1,037	18
NI	1,760	131,899	22,825	17,702	7,771	13%	87%	47%	53%	5,123	9,931	4,069	3,584	119

Invest NI Activity by District Council Area, 2017-18 to 2021-22

Council or Region	Externally-Owned					Locally-Owned					Total				
	No of businesses	No of Offers	Assistance £m	Investment £m	Assisted Jobs	No of businesses	No of Offers	Assistance £m	Investment £m	Assisted Jobs	No of businesses	No of Offers	Assistance £m	Investment £m	Assisted Jobs
Antrim & Newtownabbey	14	51	18.63	212.06	319	206	574	15.58	76.44	679	220	625	34.21	288.50	998
Ards & North Down	11	34	3.21	18.14	33	247	713	14.03	69.25	595	258	747	17.24	87.39	628
Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon	17	78	8.63	33.35	18	497	1,511	44.04	200.54	1,292	514	1,589	52.67	233.89	1,310
Belfast	147	376	86.25	679.13	7,015	968	3,520	119.27	533.09	2,867	1,115	3,896	205.51	1,212.22	9,882
Causeway Coast & Glens	4	27	1.67	7.76	32	295	751	18.18	92.84	1,008	299	778	19.85	100.60	1,040
Derry & Strabane	16	52	18.80	121.67	971	306	854	21.68	110.67	816	322	906	40.48	232.34	1,787
Fermanagh & Omagh	12	55	2.20	15.78	92	286	750	15.48	77.17	792	298	805	17.68	92.95	884
Lisburn & Castlereagh	20	71	1.41	7.67	68	369	1,217	35.11	148.14	889	389	1,288	36.52	155.81	957
Mid & East Antrim	13	32	1.87	16.45	55	226	611	14.09	62.89	404	239	643	15.96	79.34	459
Mid Ulster	17	134	4.06	18.05	200	541	1,705	43.23	250.72	1,959	558	1,839	47.29	268.78	2,159
Newry, Mourne & Down	13	41	1.35	8.87	76	456	1,316	35.87	195.93	1,569	469	1,357	37.22	204.79	1,645
Eastern	147	376	86.25	679.13	7,015	968	3,520	119.27	533.09	2,867	1,115	3,896	205.51	1,212.22	9,882
North Eastern	27	83	20.50	228.51	374	432	1,185	29.67	139.33	1,083	459	1,268	50.17	367.84	1,457
North Western	20	79	20.48	129.43	1,003	601	1,605	39.85	203.52	1,823	621	1,684	60.33	332.95	2,826
Southern	44	146	5.96	34.68	177	1,072	3,246	85.01	413.32	3,053	1,116	3,392	90.97	448.00	3,230
Western	46	267	14.89	67.18	310	1,324	3,966	102.74	528.44	4,043	1,370	4,233	117.64	595.62	4,353
NI	314	993	158.79	1,203.51	10,000	4,397	13,703	400.46	1,854.78	12,894	4,711	14,696	559.25	3,058.29	22,894

NI total assistance includes an additional £25.44m which is not allocated at council level, as it benefits businesses across the whole of NI, and a further £9.18m offered to projects that have not yet settled on a location or are multi-locational.

Population, 2021

Council or Region	Age Band 0-14	Age Band 0-14 %	Age Band 15-39	Age Band 15-39 %	Age Band 40-64	Age Band 40-64 %	Age Band 65+	Age Band 65+ %	All Population	All (% NI Population)
Antrim & Newtownabbey	27,478	19%	44,720	31%	48,367	33%	25,099	17%	145,664	8%
Ards & North Down	27,763	17%	44,206	27%	55,465	34%	36,225	22%	163,659	9%
Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon	45,420	21%	67,699	31%	70,547	32%	34,990	16%	218,656	11%
Belfast	62,330	18%	128,270	37%	103,973	30%	50,846	15%	345,419	18%
Causeway Coast & Glens	25,964	18%	40,900	29%	47,568	34%	27,314	19%	141,746	7%
Derry & Strabane	29,978	20%	46,833	31%	49,788	33%	24,157	16%	150,756	8%
Fermanagh & Omagh	23,236	20%	33,921	29%	38,218	33%	21,440	18%	116,815	6%
Lisburn & Castlereagh	28,398	19%	44,851	30%	49,643	33%	26,214	18%	149,106	8%
Mid & East Antrim	24,194	17%	39,823	29%	47,637	34%	27,338	20%	138,992	7%
Mid Ulster	32,632	22%	48,351	32%	46,785	31%	22,525	15%	150,293	8%
Newry, Mourne & Down	37,824	21%	54,787	30%	59,134	32%	30,329	17%	182,074	10%
Eastern	62,330	18%	128,270	37%	103,973	30%	50,846	15%	345,419	18%
North Eastern	51,672	18%	84,543	30%	96,004	34%	52,437	18%	284,656	15%
North Western	55,942	19%	87,733	30%	97,356	33%	51,471	18%	292,502	15%
Southern	93,985	19%	143,844	29%	164,242	33%	92,768	19%	494,839	26%
Western	101,288	21%	149,971	31%	155,550	32%	78,955	16%	485,764	26%
NI	365,217	19%	594,361	31%	617,125	32%	326,477	17%	1,903,180	100%

Labour Market Structure, 2021 (16-64 Working-Age Population), Unemployment (16-64) 2021 and Claimant Count, Dec 2021

Council or Region	Economically Active Number	Economically Active Rate	Economically Inactive Number	Economically Inactive Rate	Employment Number	Employment Rate	Unemployed Number	Unemployed Rate	Self-employed Number	Self-employed Rate	Claimant Count Number	Claimant Count Rate	Claimant Count Number 18-24	"Claimant Count 18-24 (% of total)"
Antrim & Newtownabbey	66,000	76%	21,000	24%	65,000	74.3%	1,000	2.2%	6,000	9%	2,485	3%	465	19%
Ards & North Down	72,000	76%	22,000	24%	69,000	73.2%	3,000	4.1%	12,000	17%	3,005	3%	555	18%
Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon	97,000	74%	34,000	26%	93,000	70.9%	4,000	4.4%	10,000	11%	3,825	3%	580	15%
Belfast	150,000	70%	64,000	30%	143,000	66.9%	7,000	4.9%	11,000	7%	10,505	5%	1,800	17%
Causeway Coast & Glens	60,000	70%	26,000	30%	59,000	68.8%	1,000	1.7%	6,000	10%	3,015	3%	525	17%
Derry & Strabane	63,000	68%	30,000	32%	60,000	65.4%	2,000	3.8%	7,000	11%	4,945	5%	895	18%
Fermanagh & Omagh	52,000	75%	17,000	25%	50,000	72.1%	2,000	3.7%	6,000	11%	1,925	3%	290	15%
Lisburn & Castlereagh	77,000	78%	21,000	22%	74,000	75.2%	3,000	4.1%	6,000	8%	2,080	2%	310	15%
Mid & East Antrim	62,000	75%	21,000	25%	60,000	71.7%	3,000	4.2%	7,000	12%	2,950	3%	515	17%
Mid Ulster	69,000	73%	26,000	27%	66,000	70.3%	2,000	3.3%	11,000	17%	2,265	3%	370	16%
Newry, Mourne & Down	82,000	71%	33,000	29%	79,000	68.5%	3,000	3.6%	13,000	16%	3,665	3%	590	16%
Eastern	150,000	70%	64,000	30%	143,000	66.9%	7,000	4.9%	11,000	7%	10,505	5%	1,800	17%
North Eastern	128,000	75%	42,000	25%	125,000	73.0%	4,000	3.1%	13,000	10%	5,435	3%	980	18%
North Western	123,000	69%	56,000	31%	119,000	67.0%	3,000	2.4%	13,000	11%	7,960	4%	1,420	18%
Southern	231,000	75%	76,000	25%	222,000	72.1%	9,000	3.9%	31,000	14%	8,750	3%	1,455	17%
Western	218,000	74%	77,000	26%	209,000	71.0%	8,000	3.7%	27,000	13%	8,015	3%	1,240	15%
NI	850,000	73%	314,000	27%	817,000	70.2%	32,000	3.8%	95,000	12%	40,665	3%	6,895	17%

Employee Jobs, 2021

Council or Region	All Jobs	% of All Northern Ireland Jobs	Construction	Construction %	Manufacturing	Manufacturing %	Services	Services %	Other	Other %	Public Sector	Private Sector
Antrim & Newtownabbey	58,386	7%	2,928	5%	7,292	12%	46,764	80%	1,402	2%	13,797 (24%)	44,589 (76%)
Ards & North Down	40,212	5%	1,265	3%	2,973	7%	35,519	88%	455	1%	9,473 (24%)	30,739 (76%)
Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon	80,024	10%	4,431	6%	13,389	17%	61,025	76%	1,179	1%	21,051 (26%)	58,973 (74%)
Belfast	232,863	30%	4,471	2%	8,684	4%	217,194	93%	2,513	1%	69,895 (30%)	162,968 (70%)
Causeway Coast & Glens	42,424	5%	2,458	6%	4,453	10%	34,845	82%	668	2%	10,485 (25%)	31,939 (75%)
Derry & Strabane	59,344	8%	2,707	5%	5,869	10%	49,930	84%	838	1%	19,165 (32%)	40,179 (68%)
Fermanagh & Omagh	43,687	6%	3,197	7%	6,372	15%	33,061	76%	1,057	2%	13,195 (30%)	30,492 (70%)
Lisburn & Castlereagh	60,762	8%	3,489	6%	5,987	10%	50,519	83%	768	1%	20,622 (34%)	40,140 (66%)
Mid & East Antrim	42,842	5%	2,128	5%	6,415	15%	33,488	78%	811	2%	11,339 (26%)	31,503 (74%)
Mid Ulster	59,051	8%	5,921	10%	17,066	29%	34,820	59%	1,245	2%	10,363 (18%)	48,688 (82%)
Newry, Mourne & Down	61,203	8%	4,161	7%	8,204	13%	47,304	77%	1,534	3%	14,828 (24%)	46,375 (76%)
Eastern	232,863	30%	4,471	2%	8,684	4%	217,194	93%	2,513	1%	69,895 (30%)	162,968 (70%)
North Eastern	101,228	13%	5,056	5%	13,707	14%	80,252	79%	2,213	2%	25,136 (25%)	76,092 (75%)
North Western	101,768	13%	5,165	5%	10,322	10%	84,775	83%	1,506	1%	29,650 (29%)	72,118 (71%)
Southern	162,177	21%	8,915	5%	17,164	11%	133,342	82%	2,757	2%	44,923 (28%)	117,254 (72%)
Western	182,762	23%	13,549	7%	36,827	20%	128,906	71%	3,481	2%	44,609 (24%)	138,153 (76%)
NI	780,798	100%	37,156	5%	86,703	11%	644,469	83%	12,470	2%	214,213 (27%)	566,585 (73%)

Earnings (Basic and Other, Full-Time, Private Sector), 2022 and Qualifications, 2021

Council or Region	Median Annual Earnings Place of Residence	Median Annual Earnings Place of Work	No Qualifications	No Qualifications %	Qualifications Below NVQ Level 4	Qualifications Below NVQ Level 4 %	Qualifications NVQ Level 4 and above	Qualifications NVQ Level 4 and above %
Antrim & Newtownabbey	26,000	25,418	5,000	6%	40,000	46%	41,000	48%
Ards & North Down	27,342	25,865	8,000	8%	47,000	51%	38,000	41%
Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon	25,953	25,475	17,000	13%	62,000	47%	51,000	40%
Belfast	26,078	29,006	30,000	14%	84,000	40%	96,000	46%
Causeway Coast & Glens	24,825	22,896	12,000	14%	37,000	45%	34,000	41%
Derry & Strabane	23,847	23,847	14,000	15%	43,000	48%	34,000	37%
Fermanagh & Omagh	26,884	25,454	10,000	15%	31,000	45%	28,000	41%
Lisburn & Castlereagh	29,931	25,511	6,000	6%	34,000	35%	57,000	59%
Mid & East Antrim	25,012	24,534	11,000	13%	40,000	49%	31,000	38%
Mid Ulster	26,588	27,378	11,000	12%	51,000	57%	29,000	32%
Newry, Mourne & Down	25,912	26,473	14,000	13%	56,000	50%	41,000	37%
Eastern	26,117	29,020	30,000	14%	84,000	40%	96,000	46%
North Eastern	25,946	24,994	16,000	9%	80,000	48%	72,000	43%
North Western	23,918	23,849	26,000	15%	80,000	46%	68,000	39%
Southern	27,666	26,000	28,000	9%	137,000	45%	136,000	45%
Western	26,208	26,520	38,000	13%	144,000	50%	108,000	37%
NI	26,182	26,182	136,000	12%	524,000	46%	481,000	42%

Business Base, 2022

Council or Region	Number of Businesses	All (% NI Population)	Micro (0-9 employees)	Micro (0-9 employees) %	Small (10-49 employees)	Small (10-49 employees) %	Medium (50-249 employees)	Medium (50-249 employees) %	Large (250+ employees)	Large (250+ employees) %
Antrim & Newtownabbey	4,315	5%	3,725	86%	450	10%	115	3%	25	1%
Ards & North Down	4,870	6%	4,365	90%	435	9%	55	1%	15	0.3%
Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon	9,255	12%	8,395	91%	710	8%	125	1%	30	0.3%
Belfast	11,405	14%	9,185	81%	1,670	15%	430	4%	130	1%
Causeway Coast & Glens	6,280	8%	5,740	91%	445	7%	75	1%	15	0.2%
Derry & Strabane	5,455	7%	4,905	90%	455	8%	75	1%	20	0.4%
Fermanagh & Omagh	8,455	11%	7,970	94%	405	5%	70	1%	10	0.1%
Lisburn & Castlereagh	5,185	7%	4,535	87%	530	10%	90	2%	25	0.5%
Mid & East Antrim	5,055	6%	4,600	91%	390	8%	50	1%	15	0.3%
Mid Ulster	9,430	12%	8,670	92%	615	7%	130	1%	20	0.2%
Newry, Mourne & Down	9,175	12%	8,425	92%	625	7%	105	1%	15	0.2%
Eastern	11,405	14%	9,185	81%	1,670	15%	430	4%	130	1%
North Eastern	9,370	12%	8,325	89%	840	9%	165	2%	40	0.4%
North Western	11,735	15%	10,645	91%	900	8%	150	1%	35	0.3%
Southern	19,230	24%	17,325	90%	1,590	8%	250	1%	55	0.3%
Western	27,140	34%	25,035	92%	1,730	6%	325	1%	60	0.2%
NI	78,885	100%	70,510	89%	6,730	9%	1,320	2%	320	0.4%

Business Base, 2022 and Business Demography, 2021

Council or Region	Agriculture	Agriculture %	Construction	Construction %	Production (incl Manufacturing)	Production (incl Manufacturing) %	Services	Services %	Business Births	Business Birth Rate %	1-Year Survival	1-Year Survival Rate %
Antrim & Newtownabbey	715	17%	585	14%	330	8%	2,685	62%	385	10%	420	93%
Ards & North Down	585	12%	575	12%	330	7%	3,380	69%	485	10%	365	94%
Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon	2,405	26%	1,315	14%	705	8%	4,835	52%	790	11%	530	91%
Belfast	40	0.4%	900	8%	625	5%	9,850	86%	1,435	12%	1,040	91%
Causeway Coast & Glens	1,960	31%	1,060	17%	360	6%	2,900	46%	470	10%	345	92%
Derry & Strabane	1,260	23%	890	16%	350	6%	2,940	54%	455	10%	395	93%
Fermanagh & Omagh	3,750	44%	1,170	14%	495	6%	3,040	36%	445	9%	360	96%
Lisburn & Castlereagh	630	12%	695	13%	420	8%	3,440	66%	490	10%	410	92%
Mid & East Antrim	1,395	28%	650	13%	395	8%	2,610	52%	385	10%	305	95%
Mid Ulster	3,255	35%	1,635	17%	890	9%	3,650	39%	585	9%	470	95%
Newry, Mourne & Down	2,350	26%	1,720	19%	645	7%	4,460	49%	730	10%	615	93%
Eastern	40	0.4%	900	8%	625	5%	9,850	86%	1,435	12%	1,040	91%
North Eastern	2,110	23%	1,235	13%	725	8%	5,295	57%	770	10%	725	94%
North Western	3,220	27%	1,950	17%	710	6%	5,840	50%	925	10%	740	92%
Southern	3,565	19%	2,990	16%	1,395	7%	11,280	59%	1,705	10%	1,390	93%
Western	9,410	35%	4,120	15%	2,090	8%	11,525	42%	1,820	10%	1,360	93%
NI	18,345	23%	11,195	14%	5,550	7%	43,790	56%	6,655	10%	5,255	93%

GVA per Employee Job, 2020

Council or Region	Total	Construction	Manu.	Services	Other	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Construction	Manu.	Services	Other
	GVA per Head					GVA per Head - Time Series					GVA % of Total Council			
Antrim & Newtownabbey	55,313	85,724	72,990	49,207	115,566	49,711	52,521	54,339	55,387	55,313	8%	15%	72%	4%
Ards & North Down	54,106	57,395	66,271	52,207	111,111	50,451	52,367	54,359	56,887	54,106	4%	9%	85%	3%
Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon	53,090	73,177	58,704	47,921	189,189	49,269	50,184	51,445	52,923	53,090	7%	19%	69%	5%
Belfast	60,704	102,342	68,958	57,590	222,317	55,708	57,180	59,010	59,979	60,704	4%	5%	88%	4%
Causeway Coast & Glens	54,541	67,568	63,239	49,899	185,241	53,528	53,802	52,644	53,758	54,541	7%	12%	75%	5%
Derry & Strabane	52,958	61,205	81,175	46,948	174,074	47,048	48,566	48,302	49,702	52,958	6%	16%	74%	5%
Fermanagh & Omagh	55,893	52,503	70,684	49,551	171,904	50,883	51,192	53,822	55,302	55,893	7%	18%	67%	8%
Lisburn & Castlereagh	57,287	124,043	58,772	51,218	149,194	53,568	53,795	55,486	57,438	57,287	12%	10%	75%	3%
Mid & East Antrim	56,995	66,477	69,471	46,940	366,623	66,739	63,486	54,381	56,943	56,995	6%	19%	64%	11%
Mid Ulster	59,961	85,392	65,217	48,799	191,701	58,122	58,040	60,408	62,417	59,961	14%	31%	49%	7%
Newry, Mourne & Down	54,017	66,378	65,526	47,442	162,376	52,187	52,528	53,213	55,943	54,017	9%	15%	68%	8%
Eastern	60,704	102,342	68,958	57,590	222,317	52,768	55,556	57,832	59,979	60,704	4%	5%	88%	4%
North Eastern	56,022	77,836	71,253	48,273	209,543	55,478	55,933	53,126	56,037	56,022	7%	17%	69%	7%
North Western	53,610	63,942	73,635	48,156	179,104	45,677	47,675	48,795	51,367	53,610	7%	14%	74%	5%
Southern	55,255	86,427	63,264	50,155	149,227	49,185	51,051	53,767	56,745	55,255	9%	12%	75%	5%
Western	55,988	73,217	63,751	48,578	184,624	48,461	50,324	53,933	56,591	55,988	9%	23%	62%	6%
NI	56,923	79,366	66,649	51,801	187,350	50,478	52,443	54,270	56,863	56,923	7%	13%	75%	5%

Gross Domestic Product, 2020

Council or Region	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
	GDP £m					GDP per Head of Population £				
Antrim & Newtownabbey	3,498	3,654	3,735	3,925	3,728	24,803	25,786	26,209	27,353	25,931
Ards & North Down	2,397	2,523	2,638	2,732	2,583	15,017	15,762	16,397	16,896	15,939
Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon	4,282	4,418	4,669	4,847	4,699	20,363	20,850	21,811	22,420	21,632
Belfast	13,206	13,867	14,380	14,870	14,318	38,890	40,758	42,062	43,286	41,798
Causeway Coast & Glens	2,580	2,667	2,685	2,753	2,629	17,974	18,532	18,614	19,008	18,136
Derry & Strabane	3,058	3,190	3,296	3,495	3,537	20,370	21,193	21,874	23,099	23,406
Fermanagh & Omagh	2,428	2,546	2,667	2,763	2,745	20,967	21,894	22,830	23,532	23,396
Lisburn & Castlereagh	3,393	3,487	3,693	3,882	3,772	24,035	24,448	25,575	26,586	25,758
Mid & East Antrim	3,299	3,207	2,841	2,958	2,832	23,936	23,214	20,470	21,238	20,312
Mid Ulster	3,560	3,674	3,971	4,175	3,913	24,489	25,090	26,941	28,108	26,271
Newry, Mourne & Down	3,450	3,560	3,690	3,879	3,721	19,400	19,888	20,500	21,385	20,482
Eastern	13,206	13,867	14,380	14,870	14,318	38,890	40,758	42,062	43,286	41,798
North Eastern	6,797	6,861	6,576	6,883	6,560	24,375	24,517	23,380	24,341	23,164
North Western	5,638	5,857	5,981	6,248	6,166	19,199	19,894	20,280	21,099	20,827
Southern	9,240	9,570	10,021	10,493	10,076	19,307	19,866	20,651	21,454	20,556
Western	10,270	10,638	11,307	11,785	11,357	21,784	22,414	23,639	24,444	23,488
NI	45,151	46,793	48,264	50,279	48,478	24,247	25,012	25,650	26,551	25,575

Exports, 2021

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Council or Region	NI Sales (£m)	GB Sales (£m)	Irish Rep. Exports (£m)	Rest of EU Exports (£m)	Rest of World Exports (£m)	Exports 2017 (£m)	Exports 2018 (£m)	Exports 2019 (£m)	Exports 2020 (£m)	Exports 2021 (£m)	Exporters 2017	Exporters 2018	Exporters 2019	Exporters 2020	Exporters 2021
Antrim & Newtownabbey	4,687	815	338	193	268	778	851	956	713	799	442	571	821	655	989
Ards & North Down	1,456	335	112	65	107	193	247	305	331	283	500	540	799	591	592
Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon	4,341	1,927	673	514	532	1,469	1,586	1,845	1,607	1,719	1,120	942	1,200	1,243	1,745
Belfast	11,069	2,584	619	463	1,334	2,495	2,764	2,489	2,241	2,415	1,721	2,162	2,153	2,047	2,752
Causeway Coast & Glens	3,086	290	245	303	87	497	604	651	559	635	503	683	575	610	1,036
Derry & Strabane	2,201	322	254	32	206	496	463	503	523	492	647	710	864	882	1,065
Fermanagh & Omagh	2,618	792	671	102	98	426	428	520	597	871	770	631	1,025	646	1,603
Lisburn & Castlereagh	4,122	1,495	518	69	92	502	517	603	552	679	794	919	968	1,000	1,364
Mid & East Antrim	2,386	777	203	186	393	259	264	292	315	782	278	334	593	492	997
Mid Ulster	4,573	1,748	645	261	262	908	1,281	1,167	866	1,168	1,104	1,209	1,330	1,190	1,899
Newry, Mourne & Down	3,202	821	638	187	833	1,432	1,728	1,635	1,562	1,658	1,318	1,462	1,329	1,487	2,025
Eastern	11,069	2,584	619	463	1,334	2,495	2,764	2,489	2,241	2,415	1,721	2,162	2,153	2,047	2,752
North Eastern	7,072	1,592	541	379	661	1,037	1,114	1,249	1,028	1,582	720	905	1,414	1,147	1,987
North Western	5,287	612	499	335	293	993	1,066	1,155	1,082	1,128	1,150	1,393	1,439	1,492	2,101
Southern	8,779	2,651	1,267	321	1,032	2,128	2,493	2,542	2,445	2,620	2,612	2,921	3,096	3,077	3,981
Western	11,532	4,467	1,989	876	892	2,803	3,294	3,532	3,071	3,758	2,994	2,782	3,555	3,079	5,246
NI	52,126	12,759	5,173	2,608	4,399	10,323	11,662	11,756	10,501	12,180	10,037	10,850	11,970	11,193	16,432

Tourism Jobs, 2021 and Regional Gross Disposable Household Income, 2020

Council or Region	Tourism Jobs	Tourism Jobs (% All Jobs 2021)	Tourism Jobs - Accommodation for visitors	Tourism Jobs - Food and beverage serving activities	Tourism Jobs - Transport	Tourism Jobs - Sporting & recreational activities	Tourism Jobs - Other	Gross Disposable Household Income per head 2016	Gross Disposable Household Income per head 2017	Gross Disposable Household Income per head 2018	Gross Disposable Household Income per head 2019	Gross Disposable Household Income per head 2020
Antrim & Newtownabbey	4,115	7%	530	2,405	655	423	102	16,420	16,963	17,444	18,064	18,102
Ards & North Down	5,358	13%	494	3,619	146	565	534	17,300	18,057	18,638	19,300	19,120
Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon	4,821	6%	502	3,087	220	806	206	15,526	15,870	16,359	16,741	16,666
Belfast	19,500	8%	3,431	11,275	1,498	1,738	1,558	15,295	15,621	16,346	16,757	16,744
Causeway Coast & Glens	5,094	12%	1,239	3,149	194	367	145	15,866	16,463	16,897	17,264	17,127
Derry & Strabane	5,150	9%	784	3,060	228	755	323	14,194	14,560	14,915	15,538	15,470
Fermanagh & Omagh	3,680	8%	1,026	1,915	90	371	278	14,987	15,485	15,892	16,480	16,395
Lisburn & Castlereagh	4,190	7%	257	2,794	116	815	208	18,442	18,880	19,661	19,902	19,795
Mid & East Antrim	4,234	10%	1,234	2,328	217	292	163	17,045	17,381	18,026	18,220	18,022
Mid Ulster	3,554	6%	499	2,126	222	584	123	15,177	16,186	16,797	17,315	17,154
Newry, Mourne & Down	5,729	9%	1,074	3,488	112	645	410	15,151	15,679	16,347	16,812	16,657
Eastern	19,500	8%	3,431	11,275	1,498	1,738	1,558					
North Eastern	8,349	8%	1,764	4,733	872	715	265					
North Western	10,244	10%	2,023	6,209	422	1,122	468					
Southern	15,277	9%	1,825	9,901	374	2,025	1,152					
Western	12,055	7%	2,027	7,128	532	1,761	607					
NI	65,425	8%	11,070	39,246	3,698	7,361	4,050	15,860	16,359	16,940	17,395	17,301

Entrepreneurship, 2019-2021

Council or Region	Total Early-stage Entrepreneurial Activity	Total Early-stage Entrepreneurial Activity by Gender - Male	Total Early-stage Entrepreneurial Activity by Gender - Female	Total Early-stage Entrepreneurial Activity by Age - 18 to 29	Total Early-stage Entrepreneurial Activity by Age - Over 30	Total Early-stage Entrepreneurial Activity by Qualifications - Graduate	Total Early-stage Entrepreneurial Activity by Qualifications - Non-Graduate
Antrim & Newtownabbey	5.7%	6.6%	2.3%	9.1%	3.6%	4.3%	3.9%
Ards & North Down	9.3%	13.2%	7.5%	20.6%	7.8%	10.5%	9.8%
Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon	4.8%	5.5%	4.4%	10.4%	3.3%	6.4%	4.1%
Belfast	6.5%	7.1%	8.8%	7.3%	8.1%	8.5%	7.4%
Causeway Coast & Glens	7.9%	9.7%	5.1%	10.5%	6.8%	6.2%	7.4%
Derry & Strabane	4.2%	5.5%	3.7%	10.3%	3.1%	4.9%	4.5%
Fermanagh & Omagh	9.8%	15.8%	5.5%	14.9%	5.8%	11.8%	6.9%
Lisburn & Castlereagh	7.5%	9.4%	5.4%	4.1%	7.8%	6.6%	8.2%
Mid & East Antrim	8.7%	12.5%	4.9%	6.0%	10.4%	11.4%	8.3%
Mid Ulster	9.3%	11.2%	6.0%	9.6%	7.5%	10.1%	6.0%
Newry, Mourne & Down	3.9%	7.1%	1.7%	9.4%	2.7%	4.8%	2.8%
NI	7.0%	8.8%	5.2%	9.5%	6.3%	7.7%	6.3%

If you would like further information regarding this report please contact:

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Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council



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

DRAFT

M/151

**Louth/ Newry Mourne and Down Strategic Alliance
of Elected Members between
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, and Louth County Council**

**Report of Meeting held Wednesday 23 November 2022 at 10.00 a.m.
Boardroom, NMDDC Council Offices,
Monaghan Row, Newry**

**In the Chair: Councillor D McAteer, Newry, Mourne and Down DC
(Joint Chair)**

Present:

Councillor A Watters,	Louth County Council (Joint Chair)
Councillor T Cunningham,	Louth County
Councillor D Power,	Louth County Council
Councillor P McGeough,	Louth County Council
Councillor D Murphy,	Newry, Mourne and Down DC
Councillor M Larkin,	Newry, Mourne and Down DC
Ms J Martin,	Chief Executive LCC
Ms B Woods	Director LCC
Mr T McEvoy,	Director LCC
Mr W Walsh,	Senior Executive Officer LCC
Mr C Mallon,	Director NMDDC
Mr A Cassells,	Director NMDDC
Ms J Kelly,	Director NMDDC
Mr J McGilly,	Assistant Director NMDDC
Ms P Arthurs,	East Border Region
Ms A Powell,	NMDDC (Notes)

1. Welcome and Apologies:

Apologies received from:

Councillor J Sheridan,	Louth County Council
Councillor A McKeivitt,	Louth County Council
Councillor E Corrigan,	Louth County Council
Councillor E Coffey,	Louth County Council
Councillor J Byrne,	Louth County Council
Councillor J Tinnelly,	Newry, Mourne and Down DC

Councillor R Mulgrew,	Newry, Mourne and Down DC
Councillor W Clarke,	Newry, Mourne and Down DC
Councillor R Burgess,	Newry, Mourne and Down DC
Councillor G Hanna,	Newry, Mourne and Down DC
Councillor P Byrne,	Newry, Mourne and Down DC
Ms M Ward,	Chief Executive NMDDC
Ms C Duff,	Director LCC
Mr P Donnelly,	Director LCC
Mr J McGuinness,	Director LCC
Mr M Lipsett,	Director NMDDC

2. Report of Louth/Newry Mourne and Down Strategic Alliance Meeting held on 14 September 2022 (attached)

On the proposal of Councillor D Murphy, seconded by Councillor Larkin, report of meeting held on the 14 September 2022 was approved.

3. Matters Arising

No matters were arising out of previous meeting.

4. Launch of the PR document (photo opportunity)

Printed copies of PR document were circulated and photos taken of the new Joint Chairs plus wider group for inclusion in a press release.

5. Actions Paper - Strategic Alliance Action Plan (attached)

C Mallon presented updated version of Action plan. Cllr McAteer enquired regarding the potential for progressing item 4.3 of action plan in regard to Castles development and marketing for tourism. It was agreed to identify a list of castles, current condition ownership, potential for development for discussion at the next Joint Management Team Meeting.

AGREED: Joint Management Team to discuss development of an Action Plan for item 4.3 - Castles development and marketing for tourism, to identify a list of castles, current condition, ownership and potential for development.

Report to:	Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 13 th March 2023
Subject:	Extension to the Northern Ireland Business Start Programme (NIBSUP) also known as the Go for It NI Programme
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly Assistant Director for Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Elaine McAlinden, Regeneration and Business Support Officer

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

For decision	For noting only	X
1.0	Purpose and Background	
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u> To note an update on the arrangements for the extension to the NI Business Start Up (NIBSUP) Go for It Programme beyond 31 March 2023 providing business start-up support to be delivered under the Northern Ireland Business Start programme to deliver 152 business plans and 91 jobs.</p> <p><u>Background</u> At June 2022, ERT committee members approved an extension to the current contract for the Go for It NI Programme, to enable Business Start Up support service to continue to be delivered post 31st March 2023, through the existing contract, subject to engagement with the delivery agent and funder Invest NI.</p>	
2.0	<u>Key Issues</u>	
2.1	<p>Following engagement with Invest NI, the delivery agent for the Go for It NI Programme Enterprise NI and the 11 Council Joint Management Team, lead by Lisburn and Castlereagh Borough Council, a 6 month extension of the NIBSUP contract until 30 September 2023 has been approved and accepted; the proposed scope of the programme extension is based on timescales available to deliver the additional support, including advertisement, recruitment of participants and the ability of participants to engage in support to cover a 6 month period from the 1st April 2023 – 30 September 23. The proposed outputs are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of 152 Business Plans • Job Creation Target of 91 by 30 September 2023 	

	<p>The extension will be governed under an addendum to the existing Collaboration Agreement across the 11 Councils, with LCCC continue to act as lead Council for this extension to the Programme covering the period 01st April 2023 – 30 September 2023.</p> <p>From October 2023, the new SPF funded Entrepreneurship Support Service will replace the existing Go for It Programme and Officers from across the 11 Councils have been working collectively on the design of the new ESS in preparation for mobilisation.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To note an update on the arrangements for the extension to the NI Business Start Up (NIBSUP) Go for It Programme beyond 31 March 2023 providing business start-up support to be delivered under the Northern Ireland Business Start programme to deliver 152 business plans and 91 jobs.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Resource implications for the extension period falls under Councils funding for the Entrepreneurship Support Programme, which was outlined at Feb 2023 ERT Committee in report entitled "Entrepreneurship Support Service / Future Business Support working Group"
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
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	<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><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></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 checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i> <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>6.0</p>	<p>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</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>7.0</p>	<p>Appendices</p>
	<p>N/A</p>
<p>8.0</p>	<p>Background Documents</p>
	<p>N/A</p>

Report to:	Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 13 th March 2023
Subject:	Tourism NI Learning Journey
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Andy Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture and Events
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Michelle Boyle, Head of Product Development and Visitor Experience

For decision	For noting only	x
1.0	Purpose and Background	
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u> To note the contents of this report.</p> <p><u>Background</u> As a key stakeholder with Tourism NI, council received an invite for one officer to attend a food and drink learning journey to stimulate innovation, collaboration and new experience development, with a 2-night / 3-day Learning Journey to Devon. This took place on 6-8 March 2023.</p>	
2.0	Key issues	
2.1	<p>Food and drink tourism plays a central role in the visitor economy and in recent years, has become a motivation for travellers when choosing their destination. Visitors to Northern Ireland are spending more time and more money on opportunities to connect with its authentic food and drink.</p> <p>Food & drink experiences are a key focus for Tourism NI and the development of demand generating experiences continue to be fundamental to support the NI Experience Brand - Northern Ireland, Embrace a Giant Spirit.</p> <p>Devon is recognised as one of the UK's leading food and drink destinations and the itinerary has been designed to showcase the best of food and drink tourism experiences, encompassing collaboration, agriculture, production, retail, service and hospitality.</p> <p>The learning journey was especially designed to allow key stakeholders experience, first-hand, how this has been achieved.</p>	
3.0	Recommendations	
3.1	To note the contents of this report.	

4.0	Resource implications
4.1	This learning visit was fully funded by Tourism NI and therefore there was no cost to NMDDC.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
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	<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>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation N/A</i></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	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service

	<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	Appendices
	N/A
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A