

April 11th, 2022

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee meeting to be held on **Monday, 11th April 2022** at **6:00 pm** in **Council Offices Monaghan Row Newry** and **via Microsoft Teams**.

Committee Membership:

Councillor R Howell **Chairperson**

Councillor T Andrews **Deputy Chairperson**

Councillor R Burgess

Councillor W Clarke

Councillor D Curran

Councillor M Gibbons

Councillor G Hanna

Councillor V Harte

Councillor M Larkin

Councillor R Mulgrew

Councillor A McMurray

Councillor H Reilly

Councillor M Ruane

Councillor M Savage


Councillor G Stokes

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairpersons' remarks.

2.0 Declarations of Interest.

3.0 Action Sheet: Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting - Monday 14 March 2022. (Attached)

 *ERT Committee Action Sheet - March 2022.pdf*

Page 1

Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration Items

4.0 Labour Market Partnership Action Plan 2022/23. (Attached)

 *ERT Report - Labour Market Partnership Action Plan 2022-23.pdf*

Page 5

 *Appx 1. LMP Summary of Themes, Aims & Key Activities.pdf*

Page 10

 *Appx 2. LMP Business Case.pdf*

Page 14

 *Appx 3. LMP Strategic Assessment and Action Plan 2022 2023.pdf*

Page 26

Tourism, Culture and Events Items

5.0 Strategic Review of Museums Services - Terms of Reference. (Attached)

 *ERT Report - Strategic Review of Museums Services - Terms of Reference.pdf*

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 *Appx. 1 - Review of Museums - Terms of Reference.pdf*

Page 91

 *Appx. 2 - Review of Museums - ToR List of Stakeholders.pdf*

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Exempt Information Items

6.0 Ulster Rally Sponsorship. (Attached)

 *EXEMPT ERT Report - Ulster Rally Sponsorship.pdf*

Not included

 *EXEMPT Appx 1 - Ulster Rally.pdf*

Not included

7.0 Graphic Design Contract. (Attached)

 *EXEMPT ERT Report - Graphic Design Services.pdf*

Not included

For Noting

8.0 Ulster Architectural Heritage Society Summer School. (Attached)


 *ERT Report - Ulster Architectural Heritage Society Summer School.pdf*

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 *Appx 1 - Ulster Architectural Heritage Society Summer School.pdf*

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9.0 Building Control 6 Monthly Report. (Attached)

 *Building Control 6 x Monthly Report.pdf*

Page 101

10.0 Licensing 6 Monthly Report. (Attached)

 *Licensing 6 x Monthly Report.pdf*

Page 106

11.0 Department for Communities re: Entertainment Licensing Fees. (Attached)

 *ERT Report - Entertainment Licence fees.pdf*

Page 116

 *Appx. Entertainment Licence Fees - Letter from DfC.pdf*

Page 119

12.0 ERT Historic Action Tracker Sheet. (Attached)

 *ERT Historic Action Tracker Sheet - for April Mtg 2022.pdf*

Page 120

13.0 Planning Performance Figures - March 2022. (Attached)

 *Planning Performance Report - March 2022.pdf*

Page 129

14.0 Slieve Gullion Forest Park - Transforming the Visitor Experience. (Attached)

 *ERT Report - Slieve Gullion Transforming the Visitor Experience project (for noting).pdf*

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Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews

Ms Kate Bingham

Cllr Patrick Brown

Cllr Robert Burgess

Cllr Pete Byrne

Mr Gerard Byrne

Mrs Dorinnia Carville

Cllr Charlie Casey

Cllr William Clarke

Cllr Dermot Curran

Cllr Laura Devlin

Ms Louise Dillon

Cllr Cadogan Enright

Cllr Aoife Finnegan

Cllr Hugh Gallagher

Cllr Mark Gibbons

Cllr Oonagh Hanlon

Cllr Glyn Hanna

Cllr Valerie Harte

Cllr Roisin Howell

Mr Colum Jackson

Mrs Sheila Kieran

Cllr Mickey Larkin

Cllr Alan Lewis

Mr Michael Lipsett

Cllr Oonagh Magennis

Mr Conor Mallon

Cllr Gavin Malone

Cllr Cathy Mason

Mr Johnny Mc Bride

Colette McAteer

Cllr Declan McAteer

Jonathan McGilly

Cllr Harold McKee

Patricia McKeever

Cllr Karen McKevitt

Cllr Andrew McMurray

Cllr Roisin Mulgrew

Cllr Declan Murphy

Cllr Barra Ó Muirí

Linda O'Hare

Cllr Gerry O'Hare

Cllr Kathryn Owen
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Mr Andy Patterson
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Cllr Henry Reilly
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Cllr Michael Ruane
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Cllr Michael Savage
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Cllr Gareth Sharvin
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Donna Starkey
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Cllr Gary Stokes
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Sarah Taggart
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Cllr David Taylor
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Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly
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Cllr John Trainor
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Central Support Unit
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Cllr William Walker
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Mrs Marie Ward
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ACTION SHEETENTERPRISE REGENERATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETINGMONDAY 14 MARCH 2022

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/050/2022	NOTICE OF MOTION RE: ANIMAL WELFARE FORUM	<p>(a) 2 No. Councillors to be included on the Paws for Thoughts forum, and as part of elected member engagement on this forum, consider options for further consultation with charity groups through the forum.</p> <p>(b) Elected Member nominations to the Paws for Thought forum to be agreed at the next meeting of the Party Representatives Meeting.</p> <p>(c) The ERT Committee to review Licensing Department 6 monthly reports and consider if further action is required.</p>	C Jackson	<p>Decision to be ratified at the Full Committee in April.</p> <p>Councillor's to nominate 2 members to a participate.</p>	No
ERT/051/2022	UPDATE RE: ARTISAN MARKET	1. To approve the operation of a monthly Artisan Market in Newry, held on the second Sunday per month, and the appointment, through a Memorandum of Understanding, of Downpatrick	J McGilly	WIP	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<p>Community Collective to deliver the market on behalf of Council.</p> <p>2. To approve the operation of 2 pilot artisan markets in Crossmaglen in Spring/Summer 2022 in order to test the feasibility of an Artisan Market in this area.</p>			
ERT/052/2022	BUSINESS DATABASE – DOWN BUSINESS CENTRE	Council enter into a Service Level Agreement with Down Business Centre (working in partnership with NMEA) and make a financial contribution of £8,800 towards the development, promotion and maintenance of business database that is representative of over 8,000 businesses located within the District.	J McGilly	Wip	Y
ERT/053/2022	UPDATE RE: DAERA – TACKLING RURAL POVERTY & SOCIAL ISOLATION PROG (TRPSI)	<p>1. To note the update provided on the Rural Business Development Grant Scheme 2021, regarding application numbers and total grant value awarded.</p> <p>2. To participate in the Rural Business Development Grant Scheme 2022 to include the next steps: -Accept Letter of Offer when available to enable implementation of Rural Business Development Grant Scheme</p>	J McGilly	Details around new scheme being developed – work ongoing	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		2022. -To manage the implementation of the Rural Business Development Grant Scheme 2022 across the NMDDC area.			
ERT/054/2022	ARTS CULTURE & HERITAGE STRATEGY	To update the timelines for the delivery of the Council Arts, Culture & Heritage Strategy from 2022-2027, and to host a launch event at the end of May 2022.	A Patterson	In progress	Y
ERT/055/2022	(EXEMPT) RANGERS SERVICES (SLA)	Council enter into a Service Level Agreement with Mourne Heritage Trust for the provision of Ranger services for the 2022-23 financial year.	A Patterson	In progress	Y
ERT/056/2022	(EXEMPT) NEWCASTLE HARBOUR BERTHING PROVISION	To approve the business Case and undertake the necessary procurement exercises to install fixed floating pontoon with gated access ramp to improve accessibility at Newcastle Harbour and enhance the aesthetics of the facility.	A Patterson	In progress	N
ERT/057/2022	(EXEMPT) SMALL SETTLEMENTS REGENERATION PROGRAMME	1. Accept Letter of Offer and its terms and conditions and proceed with relevant procurement processes/framework appointments and supporting Business Cases.	J McGilly	WIP consultation ongoing via DEAs and design team commenced work in 4 settlements	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<p>2. Approve 10% Council match funding required by DfI, DAERA and DfC.</p> <p>3. Submit finalised detail early in 2022, following engagement with DEAs.</p>			

Report to:	Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 11 th April 2022
Subject:	Labour Market Partnership (LMP) 2022 / 2023 Action Plan
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth Head of Regeneration and Business Development

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>Purpose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To note that council have prepared and submitted to DfC a Strategic Assessment and Action Plan for implementation of a LMP across the District To approve the acceptance of DfC Letters of Offer for LMP / Skills and Employability activity, including administration and operational costs To approve the attached business case for the implementation of the LMP Action Plan for 2022/2023 To approve that Council, through procurement and SLA processes, appoint external delivery agents to implement the range of initiatives outlined in the attached business case, subject to DfC funding To approve that Council write to DfC regarding the delay in issue of Letters of Offer for LMP operational and resource activity, highlighting the subsequent impact on delivery at a local level <p>Background</p> <p>Employability NI, led by DfC, is the new approach to helping unemployed individuals to get back into work. The governance of Employability NI includes the establishment of Labour Market Partnerships (LMPs), one in each District Council area.</p> <p>Members have previously approved that Council participates as a key stakeholder in the planning and development of a local Labour Market Partnership for the District.</p> <p>The aim of the local Labour Market Partnership is to deliver initiatives that assist those identified as unemployed / economically inactive into employment or closer to employment.</p> <p>Council will provide the administrative support and governance for the local LMP.</p>
2.0	Key issues

2.1	<p>In order to bid for DFC funding for LMP activity, DFC required the following to be completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The completion of a strategic assessment: The Strategic Assessment was informed through a number of key steps, including a review and analysis of existing information / strategies held by Council, information provided by statutory partners, as well as the results of a facilitated engagement and consultation process with local businesses, statutory partners and community representatives from across the council area. <p>A statistical analysis on labour market and employability data was undertaken on the Council's behalf by the Economic Policy Centre, at Ulster University. A Turning the Curve Exercise was undertaken in relation to the current Interim Local LMP Action Plan Themes and projects and considered the programmes of work in relation to the outcomes they delivered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of an Action Plan As a result of the above consultation and engagement process, an Interim Action Plan for the NMD area has been agreed and submitted to DFC. The action plan has been approved by the Regional LMP on 25th March 2022. Delivery of employability initiatives The Interim Action Plan (2022/2023) identifies a number of Themes, Aims and Key Activities which are evidence based and focused on outcomes which improve employability and labour market conditions across the NMD area. <p>Delivery of the below initiatives will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Directly support 296 participants closer to the labour market or into employment Engage more than 15 employers directly on programmes Many more employers will benefit through improved jobs and training information and advice Deliver open access for the public to events and new website <table border="1" data-bbox="209 1458 1481 2011"> <tr> <th colspan="2">A Summary of actions</th></tr> <tr> <th colspan="2">Development</th></tr> <tr> <td>1.1 Research - Labour Market Supply Intelligence</td><td>Research will: 1) Scope the employability and skills requirements of NMD employers; 2) define and identify NMD disadvantaged groups within the unemployed and economically inactive population.</td></tr> <tr> <th colspan="2">Access to work</th></tr> <tr> <td>2.1 Work Start: pre-employment support</td><td>Work Start is a personalised work preparation, job search and career guidance service</td></tr> </table> 	A Summary of actions		Development		1.1 Research - Labour Market Supply Intelligence	Research will: 1) Scope the employability and skills requirements of NMD employers; 2) define and identify NMD disadvantaged groups within the unemployed and economically inactive population.	Access to work		2.1 Work Start: pre-employment support	Work Start is a personalised work preparation, job search and career guidance service
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Access to work											
2.1 Work Start: pre-employment support	Work Start is a personalised work preparation, job search and career guidance service										

	2.2 High Skill Pathway: Recruitment Pilot	A pilot to test with NMD employers how hard-to-recruit vacancies can be filled through new pathways for graduates and others. The initiative will be co-designed with NMD employers
	2.3 Self-Employment: Business Start Development Programme	Specialised, mentoring and business support between 'Go for It' participation (the creation of a business plan) and establishing a trading company which offers either PT or FT self-employment for the business owner
	Skills for Work	
	2.4 Upskilling for Growth	Employee Upskilling: Meeting employer needs & supporting career progression: Support employers to upskill staff to enable career progression for those in employment and open up opportunities for those entering the labour market
	2.5 Employability Academies	To implement Academies for skill interventions in sectors and occupations where opportunities for employment are identified with employers
	A Place to work	
	2.6 Engagement Campaign and Digital employability & skills platform	Promoting improved information on employers and their vacancies for people who are looking for work. Collate and communicate local employability and skills opportunities. Promote NMD as a good place to work with opportunities for progression
	2.7 Employment Pathway Events	Support delivery of Jobs and Career fairs and events, including sectoral focused events where scope and opportunity exists. Opportunity to showcase key sectors, and career opportunities
3.0	Recommendations	

3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To note that council have prepared and submitted to DFC a Strategic Assessment and Action Plan for implementation of a LMP across the District. This action plan has been approved by the Regional LMP on 25th March 2022. • To approve the acceptance of DFC Letters of Offer for LMP / Skills and Employability activity, including administration and operational costs • To approve the attached business case for the implementation of the LMP Action Plan for 2022/2023 • To approve that Council procure and appoint external delivery agents to implement the range of initiatives outlined in the attached business case, subject to DFC funding • To approve the establishment of an SLA with Newry and Mourne Enterprise / Down Business Centre for implementation of the Self-Employment: Business Start Development Programme - £65,000, subject to DFC funding • To approve the establishment of an SLAs with Southern Regional College and South Eastern Regional college for the delivery of initiatives under apprenticeship awareness - £20,000, subject to DFC funding • To approve the establishment of SLAs with Southern Regional College and South Eastern Regional college for delivery of upskilling programmes to local employers and their employees, - £62,000 , subject to DFC funding • To approve that Council write to DFC regarding the delay in issue of Letters of Offer for LMP operational and resource activity, highlighting the subsequent impact on delivery at a local level
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	<p>LMP Activity is 100% funded by DFC</p> <p>For the financial period, 2022 / 2023 the Regional LMP have approved Council's submission for an LMP Action Plan. Council is awaiting a Letter of Offer against the approved actions</p> <p>The Action Plan value is as follows: Administration costs: £133,619 Operational costs: £535,690 Total Cost: £669,309</p>
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:</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</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	<p>Appendices</p>
	<p>1. Summary of Themes, Aims & Key Activities</p> <p>2. LMP Business Case</p> <p>3. LMP Strategic Assessment and Action Plan 2022/23</p>
8.0	<p>Background Documents</p>
	<p>N/A</p>

A Summary of Themes, Aims and Key Activities agreed by the NMD LMP is below:

Strategic Priority 1: To form and successfully deliver the functions of the LMP	
Theme 1: LMP Delivery	
Aim	Key Activity
1.1 Effective delivery of the LMP through the appropriate Administration and Governance structures.	<p>Administration of LMP & Action Plan PR, Marketing and Engagement Establish an appropriate LMP resource managed by NMDDC</p> <p>Forward Planning: 2022 / 2023 - Develop a strategic assessment and interim action plan for 2022 / 2023</p>

Strategic Priority 2: To improve employability outcomes and/or labour market conditions	
Theme – 1: Access to Work	
Aim	Key Activity
1.1 Labour Market Analysis - (Supply)	Intelligence - Research to define the hardest to reach groups within the unemployed and economically inactive population, with an intervention proposal for 2022/ 2023
1.2. Business Needs Analysis	Intelligence. To scope out what the employability / skills requirements are of employers. Undertake a sectoral analysis to identify and inform current and future employability and skills supply v's employer demand to which future employability initiatives can be targeted
1.3. NMD Work Start Programme	Pre-Employment Support - Early Stage Intervention, one to one - mentoring and sign posting support for participants on: local employment opportunities, transferrable skills, employment opportunities and pathways, associated skill / qualification requirements, training opportunities. Target: Those at risk of losing their job and/or are the hardest to reach unemployed groups.

1.4. NMD Employment Placement Programme - Pre-Development Stage Only	Work Placement: Design and develop a bespoke employment placement programme for implementation during 2022/2023. Opportunity to be in a focused skill area where opportunities for employment progression is identified and supported. Target - those unemployed or who are working P/T but seeking to go to F/T hour
1.5. Stimulate self-employment as an "employment" opportunity	Business Start: Wrap Around Support – Mentoring Up to 5 days Specialised mentoring / business support between Go for It participation and establishing a trading company. Business Launch Challenge Fund - Financial incentive (retrospective payment) to the value of up to £1000 per business, to support the launch and establishment of the business
1.6. Graduate Placement & work ready skills Programme - pre-development stage only	Placement Programme - To scope out and identify where jobs opportunities exist across NMD at graduate level. Graduate Placement Programme targeting graduates who are underemployed or unemployed. Programme will recruit employers who are able to create / have available a graduate vacancy and offer a paid placement opportunity in a relevant role Additional Skills Programme - To scope out a programme which will support graduates to obtain additional skills aligned to identified opportunities and which enhance their skills level and potential of gaining relevant employment, i.e. digital skills training

Theme 2: Skills for work

Aim	Key Activity
2.1 Non-Accredited Reskilling Interventions	Re Skilling those unemployed / at risk of redundancy: Signposting and support to access Reskilling interventions. Create linkages between employment opportunities and those unemployed / at risk of redundancy. Targeting those unemployed, at risk of unemployment, who are work ready, but lacking a key skill or qualification necessary to gain meaningful employment
2.2 Non-Accredited Sectoral Academies	Sectoral Academy: To provide upskilling interventions in a focused skill area where opportunities for employment progression is identified and supported. Identify skill gaps in areas where local employment opportunities exist, and which could be addressed through non-accredited sectoral academy. Upskill those unemployed, or those working PT seeking FT employment

2.3 Upskilling for Growth - Pre-Development Stage Only	Re Skilling those in employment, supporting career progression: Support employers to upskill staff into either better employment or emerging areas of work, in order to enable career progression for those already in employment, and open up meaningful employment vacancies / opportunities for those entering the labour market. Opportunity to consider sectoral approach: i.e. tourism / hospitality industry, or support on a case by case basis
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Theme 3: NMD: A place to work

Aim	Key Activity
3.1 NMD – A Place to work - Promotion and showcasing of local employment opportunities - Phase 1: Development of Campaign – 2021/2022	Promote local employment opportunities - To create awareness among job seekers (NMD and beyond) of the range of career opportunities available locally and pathways for accessing same. Develop an Interactive tool / platform that collates NMD employability opportunities and creates awareness on pathways to local employment opportunities. Opportunity to develop on a sectoral basis, i.e. support in the tourism and hospitality sector as they reopen and re-establish following covid-19 restrictions on business operations
3.2 NMD – A place for Graduates - - Phase 1: Development of Campaign – 2021/2022	Graduate Recruitment programme - To establish an engagement campaign that will target graduates and employers with graduate positions and scope out and identify where jobs opportunities exist across NMD. To deliver a Graduate Awareness programme promoting the opportunities available to work / and or live in NMD
3.3 Job & skill Matching	Aligning Skill supply with Employers - Support delivery of Jobs and Career fairs and events, including sectoral focused events where scope and opportunity exists. Opportunity to showcase key sectors, range of industry across the sector, job opportunities within, growth plans of the sector etc. Enhanced Career Guidance aligned to local opportunities.

Strategic Priority 3: - To support delivery of Employability NI

Theme 1: Support Regional Employability Programmes

Aim	Key Activity
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<p>1.1 Apprenticeships - Grow apprenticeships as a recognised pathway to employment.</p>	<p>Apprenticeships awareness: LMP to work with Colleges, to increase the number of employers engaging in apprenticeship opportunities. Engagement Campaign to increase the number of students considering apprenticeships as a pathway to employment</p>
<p>1.2 Enhanced awareness for DFC Employability Programmes and DFE / Colleges Accredited Programmes</p>	<p>Regional Employability support awareness: Support awareness locally among job seekers of the wider range of support available to support pathway to employment</p>
<p>1.3 Support ESF Employability Programmes</p>	<p>ESF delivery: Across NMD, there are a number of ESF projects have requested funding to extend and add value to delivery of their programmes in the NMD area in 2021/22. Providing financial assistance will ensure the delivery of outputs in NMD DC, which is supporting those unemployed (or students) to access programmes that enhance employability & skills as stepping stone into employment /self-employment.</p>

NMDDC BUSINESS CASE PRO FORMA FOR EXPENDITURES £500k or Greater

This pro forma is designed to document expenditure appraisals expenditures \geq £500k with appropriate and proportionate effort. It identifies the main elements of a business case to be covered, followed by spaces or tables for inserting the relevant information. ***The spaces and tables should be enlarged or modified as required to accommodate all the necessary information.***

The form provides a general template covering basic requirements but it can be adapted and tailored to suit particular spending areas as desired. There are no precise rules about the length of business case documents for small expenditure decisions, but, as an indication, it might be anything from a few pages in the simplest cases to 20 pages or so in more complex cases.

For detailed guidance on business cases and expenditure appraisal, consult the [Northern Ireland Guide to Expenditure Appraisal and Evaluation](#) (NIGEAE) or seek advice from a Departmental economist.

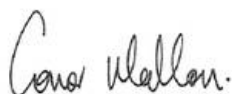
PROJECT TITLE: Newry Mourne and Down Labour Market Partnership

SPONSORING DEPARTMENT: Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism

SENIOR RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Amanda Smyth

SIGNED:

DATE: 31/3/2022



SIGNED:

DATE: 05/04/2022

APPROVING DIRECTOR:

Section 1: Project Background, Strategic Context and Need

- Explain the background to the proposal including its relevance to the Corporate or Community Plan or Departmental strategic aims and policy objectives.
- Identify the key stakeholders and explain their commitment and any outstanding issues.
- As specifically as possible, explain the nature of the needs or demands that are to be addressed, and detail any deficiencies in existing service provision.
- Include suitable quantification of needs/demands/deficiencies where possible.

Strategic Context

The Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Community Plan to 2030 - 'Living Well Together', supported through its approach to partnership working with the local community, has provided the framework for collaborative working to deliver positive change for the community. The Community Plan has as its vision:

Newry, Mourne and Down is a place with strong, safe and vibrant communities where everyone has a good quality of life and access to opportunities, choices and high-quality services which are sustainable, accessible and meet people's needs.

The economy is one of strategic themes included within the Community Plan and includes specific references to a skilled economy. The long-term outcome under a skilled economy is that *'We prosper through a strong, competitive, regionally balanced economy'* and that *'We have more people working in better jobs'*.

Under pinning the Community Plan is the Council's Economic Development Strategy. In October 2020, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council launched a new Regeneration and Economic Development Strategy 2020 – 2025. This strategy is built around 3 key pillars of investment:

- Supporting Entrepreneurship, Business growth and Innovation
- Improving Employability and Skills
- Investing in Regeneration and Modern Infrastructure

Based on desk top research, consideration of the regional policy context and strategies , consultation with internal and external stakeholders across both public and private sector, and a statistical audit on the local economy and labour market, this strategy sets out a comprehensive Action Plan for each of the above 3 Pillars.

One of the first achievements arising from the Strategy was the establishment of 3 working groups, one of which was a skills and employability working group. This group agreed at their February 2021 meeting to assume the role of the NMD Labour Market Partnership

LMP

The NMD Labour Market Partnership (LMP), was established in February 2021 and has been developed by using existing structures within the NMD Council area, namely the Employability and Skills working group and the Economic Forum. These established and successful groups combine a wealth of rich and diverse experience and knowledge and have enabled council to respond quickly to the introduction of a local Labour Market Partnership (NMD LMP). The NMD LMP is a dynamic partnership, committed to working together to make a positive difference

The NMD LMP is a dynamic partnership, committed to working together to make a positive difference. The Council will lead the NMD LMP and engage regularly with the following external organisations: -

The membership of the NMD LMP is:

- Newry Mourne and Down District Council – Lead
- Further Education colleges
- Local Enterprise Agencies
- Chamber of Commerce's
- Area Learning Co-Ordinators for NMD
- Invest NI
- Jobs and Benefits Office
- Social Economy and Private sector representatives

Engagement

In 2021, the NMD LMP undertook to complete further research and analysis, including a Strategic Assessment of employability and labour market conditions relevant to the Council Area. A statistical analysis on labour market and employability data was undertaken on the Council's behalf by the Economic Policy Centre, at Ulster University. This exercise was undertaken to identify underlying employability / labour market issues, and to establish priorities that will address the most persistent problems.

Engagement at a local level took place over June & July 2021, and again in March 2022. Engagement in 2021 was informing an Action Plan for 2021/2022. Engagement in March 2022 was to review the 2021/2022 actions and agree an Action Plan for 2022/2023.

The Council had individual meetings / engagement sessions with a number of the LMP partners, which concluded with facilitated engagement sessions with all partners of the LMP.

The aim of the engagement process was to

- identify the key themes / issues in relation to the local labour market within Newry Mourne and Down District Council
- identify what the NMD LMP wanted to change at a local level
- identify a range of initiatives from both supply side and demand side, which could help local people move closer to work and / or into work
- identify initiatives that are currently available, but that an LMP would be able to support and enhance the delivery of

The output of the process is the agreed themes, aims, activities and indicators as outlined within the NMD Action Plan

Action Plan – 2022/ 2023

As a result of the LMP Planning exercise, it has been agreed to drive progress in 3 core strategic and cross cutting themes which focus on outcomes which improve employability and labour market conditions across the NMD area:

- Theme 1: Access to work
- Theme 2: Skills for work
- Theme 3: A Place to work

A Summary of actions outlined in section 4	
Development	
1.1 Research - Labour Market Supply Intelligence	Research will: 1) Scope the employability and skills requirements of NMD employers; 2) define and identify NMD disadvantaged groups within the unemployed and economically inactive population.
Access to work	
2.1 Work Start: pre-employment support	Work Start is a personalised work preparation, job search and career guidance service
2.2 High Skill Pathway: Recruitment Pilot	A pilot to test with NMD employers how hard-to-recruit vacancies can be filled through new pathways for graduates and others. The initiative will be co-designed with NMD employers

2.3 Self-Employment: Business Start Development Programme	Specialised, mentoring and business support between 'Go for It' participation (the creation of a business plan) and establishing a trading company which offers either PT or FT self-employment for the business owner
Skills for Work	
2.4 Upskilling for Growth	Employee Upskilling: Meeting employer needs & supporting career progression: Support employers to upskill staff to enable career progression for those in employment and open up opportunities for those entering the labour market
2.5 Employability Academies	To implement Academies for skill interventions in sectors and occupations where opportunities for employment are identified with employers
A Place to work	
2.6 Engagement Campaign and Digital employability & skills platform	Promoting improved information on employers and their vacancies for people who are looking for work. Collate and communicate local employability and skills opportunities. Promote NMD as a good place to work with opportunities for progression
2.7 Employment Pathway Events	Support delivery of Jobs and Career fairs and events, including sectoral focused events where scope and opportunity exists. Opportunity to showcase key sectors, and career opportunities

Period of Contract

The action plan covers the period 01 April 2022 – 31st March 2023

Budget

The NMD LMP Action Plan has been approved by DFC; the total budget of the action plan for operational spend is £535,690. NMDDC is awaiting confirmation / receipt of a Letter of Offer to enable implementation.

Is or will there be any perceived cross EU Border interest for this requirement/project:

Yes ☒ No ☐

Section 2: State Objectives and Constraints

- Explain and list the project objectives in specific measurable terms.
- Include quantifiable targets where possible.
- Identify any likely constraints to the project e.g. timing issues, legal requirements, professional standards, planning constraints and so on.

Project Objectives	Measurable Targets
1. Secured a DFC Letter of Offer to enable implementation	1.1 Letter of Offer in Place 1.2
2. Delivery of the 7 LMP Initiatives outlined in the Action Plan	2.1 7 LMP initiatives delivered 2.2
3. To engage with 296 people in LMP skills / employability initiatives	3.1 296 people engaged 3.2
4.	4.1 4.2
Constraints	Measures to address constraints
1. Securing full Action Plan budget from DFC	Engagement with DFC
2. Securing and retaining staff resource to facilitate delivery	Working with HR
3.	

Section 3: Identify and Shortlist the Options

- Consider alternative ways to meet the objectives e.g. variations in scale, quality, technique, location, timing etc.
- Start with an initial 'long list' of options and sift them to provide a shortlist. Record all the options considered and the reasons for rejecting those not shortlisted.
- The shortlist of options should include a baseline Status Quo or 'Do Minimum' option and a suitable number of alternative 'Do Something' options (usually at least two).

Option Number/ Description	Shortlisted (S) or Rejected (R)	Reason for Rejection
1) Status Quo	R	Status Quo would mean no delivery, and issues identified through engagement and research would not be addressed
2) Deliver the Project in Part	R	Efforts should be made to deliver 100% of the funding secured; actions are 100% funded and any part delivery would mean the return of funding and lost impact for the District
3) Deliver the project in full	S	Will ensure that all funding received is delivered and

		maximum impact secured for the District
4)		
5)		
6)		

Section 4: Monetary Costs and Benefits of Options

- 1) Appraisals should include all the costs and benefits to the Council arising from the project, not just those to a particular organisation or sector e.g. all costs and benefits to the public, private and third sectors should be included.
- 2) Costs and benefits should be valued in economic cost terms, which are generally reflected by using current market prices.
- 3) All the assets and other resources employed by each option should be costed, even if they have already been purchased. This is because they have an opportunity cost value i.e. if not used in this project they could be put to an alternative use.
- 4) Calculate the Net Present Cost (NPC) for each option:
 - o Use the [NPC spreadsheet](#) at the NIGEAE website and append the NPC calculation for each option to the pro forma.
 - o In the simplest cases, the table below may be used instead. Create a table for each option, adjusting the no. of columns to reflect the years of the project's life.
- 5) Treat the current financial year as Year 0.
- 6) Set out the expected capital costs and annual revenue costs for each option.
- 7) Express the figures in real terms i.e. held constant at today's prices.
- 8) The [checklist of typical costs](#) at the NIGEAE website should help identify relevant costs.
- 9) Financial savings arising from an option will be reflected in its lower costs compared to the Status Quo. Do not double count by also including them separately as benefits.
- 10) Other monetised benefits may be taken into account but are likely to be rare in small expenditure cases. Most benefits will be covered in the non-monetary Section 5 below.
- 11) For particularly uncertain cost assumptions, consider using sensitivity analysis to illustrate how NPCs and option rankings are affected by varying these assumptions.
- 12) For more in-depth guidance, see [Step 5](#) and [Step 8](#) of NIGEAE.

Option 1: Status Quo	Yr 0 2022/2023	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Totals
Capital Costs							
(a) Total Capital Cost	0.00						
Revenue Costs							
LMP Operational costs	535,690						
(b) Total Revenue Cost	535,690						
(c) Total Cost = (a) + (b)	535,690						
(d) Disc Factor @ 3.5%pa	1.0000	.9662	.9335	.9019	.8714	.8420	

(e) NPC = (c) x (d)							
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Cost Assumptions:

Estimated costs on cost per head assumptions, based on delivery of previous and similar programmes
Final costs to be determined via competitive procurement

Section 5: Non-Monetary Costs and Benefits

- List and describe the relevant non-monetary costs and benefits e.g. impacts on health, education, environment, transport, equality, sustainability etc.
- Use a table such as the one below to show how each factor impacts on each option.
- Quantify the impacts if possible and highlight important differences between the options.
- For more detailed approaches see the NIGEAE section on [multi-criteria analysis](#).

Non-Monetary Factor	Impact on Option 1 – status Quo	Impact on Option 2 – part delivery	Impact on Option 3 – full delivery	Impact on Option 4
1. Improve the confidence of participants to apply for new employment opportunities	Nil impact	Partial impact	Impact outlined in LMP Action Plan achieved	
2. Improve the employability of participants to secure new employment	Nil impact	Partial impact	Impact outlined in LMP Action Plan achieved	
3. Improve the skill level of participants to progress employment	Nil impact	Partial impact	Impact outlined in LMP Action Plan achieved	
4. Overall improve local labour market supply to meet local employer demand	Nil impact	Partial impact	Impact outlined in LMP Action Plan achieved	

Section 6: Assess Risks and Uncertainties

- Identify and describe the risks that the project may face.
- Explain how these compare under the various options using the table below.
- Identify measures to ensure that each risk is appropriately managed and mitigated.
- Explain any contingency allowances included for risks in the option costings.

- More sophisticated optimism bias adjustments should not generally be required but may be relevant in some cases e.g. ICT projects or cases with significant capital costs.
- For further guidance see [Step 6](#) of NIGEAE.

Risk Description	Likely impact of Risk H/M/L				State how the options compare and identify relevant risk management / mitigation measures
	Opt 1 – status Quo	Opt 2 – partial delivery	Opt 3 – full delivery	Opt 4	
1. Risk of full funding not secured	L	M	H		DFC have wrote to Council confirming 80% of budget is available and after assemble elections 100% of funding should be available.
2. Risk of all participants not being engaged	H	H	L		If project is delivered in full and all resources are in place option 3 “Full Delivery” should be achievable. This risk is high for status quo which will achieve support for zero participants.
3. Risk of delivery agents underperforming against actions	H	H	L		If project is delivered in full and all resources are appropriately procured and in place option 3 “Full Delivery” should be achievable. This risk is high for status quo which will achieve support for zero participants.
4.					
Overall Risk (H/M/L):	H	H	L		

KEY: H = high M = medium L = low N/A = Not Applicable

Section 7: Summarise the Option Comparisons and Identify a Preferred Option

- Summarise the main differences between the options e.g. in terms of key assumptions, NPCs, non-monetary impacts, risks and other factors.
- Identify which option is preferred and explain why.

Preferred option is option 3. This will ensure that the full project which Council will receive 100% funding for will be delivered. Full consultation and engagement has been undertaken to confirm need.



Section 8: Assess Affordability and Funding Arrangements

- Set out the annual capital and resource Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) requirements for the preferred option, as per the table below.
- Subtract existing DEL provision from total DEL required, to get additional DEL required.
- Figures should allow for inflation, contingencies and (where relevant) optimism bias.
- Resource DEL figures should include appropriate allowance for depreciation/impairment.
- Identify expected sources of funding and the degree to which each funder is committed.
- NB DEL figures differ from cash figures e.g. their timing may differ due to distinctions between accruals and cash accounting; and cash should exclude depreciation/impairment. This pro forma only requests the DEL figures but if you also require cash figures for cash accounting purposes, then you will need to adjust the DEL figures to cash separately.
- Consult a finance specialist if necessary.

	Yr 0 – 2022/2023 £000's	Yr 1 £000's	Yr 2 £000's	Yr 3 £000's	Totals £000's
Total Expenditure Required:					
Capital Expenditure					
Resource Expenditure – LMP Operational Spend	535,690				
Allowance for depreciation/impairment (included in Resource Expenditure figures)					
Existing Expenditure Provision:					
Capital Expenditure					
Resource Expenditure	535,690				
Allowance for depreciation/impairment (included in Resource Expenditure figures)					
Additional Expenditure Required:					
Capital Expenditure					
Resource Expenditure					
Allowance for depreciation/impairment (included in Resource Expenditure figures)					

Funding Body	Sum funded & % of total	Funding secured? Yes/No	If not secured, indicate status of negotiations
DFC	£535,690 – 100% (%)	Plan approved – LoO to be received	Letter from DFC confirming 80% of budget in place, but Council awaits LoO
	£ (%)		
	£ (%)		

Section 9: Project Management

- Explain the proposed project management structure (e.g. use of PRINCE2), key management personnel and project timetable.
- Where relevant, indicate the proposed approach to procurement.
- Consider provision for benefits management and realisation, including e.g. Benefit Profiles using the [templates](#) at the [CPD programme and project management](#) website.
- Identify any significant management issues e.g. legal, contractual, accommodation, staff or TUS issues.
- Is any external consultancy support required? If so, it must be supported by a separate business case as per [FD\(DFP\)07/12](#) and section 5 of the accompanying [guidance note](#).



The project will be managed via ERT / EER Resource. An LMP dedicated resource will be employed to manage the project. The resource will report into the Head of Service and Assistant Director for EER.

Project management and reporting systems will be in place aligned both to EER project management requirements and that of the LMP / DFC project management and reporting requirements.

All externally delivered initiatives will be procured in line with NMDDC Procurement policy.

Section 10: Monitoring, and Evaluation Arrangements

- Indicate arrangements for regular monitoring of the project's progress.
- State proposed evaluation arrangements e.g. when it will happen, who will do it, what factors will be evaluated?
- For further guidance see para 2.9.15 at [Step 9](#) of NIGEAE.

DFC / LMP have set out a robust monitoring and evaluation process to be applied to the delivery of all initiatives. The monitoring is using an outcome based accountability approach and will be reported on quarterly.

Finally, remember that this is a general template and that the boxes and tables above may be enlarged or modified to suit the particulars of the case in hand. When necessary, refer to the [NIGEAE website](#) or seek help from a Departmental economist.

Appendix 1 – LMP Budget – Operational Spend only

Budget Category	Budget Sub Category	Action Plan Budget 2022-23
operational	Development	
	LMP Member Training	£1,000
	Technical Assistance, evaluation of LMP	£15,000
	Strategic Priority 1	
	Marketing/PR	£5,000
	Hospitality, Room Hire	£500
	1.1 Research: Labour Market Analysis	£25,000
	Sub-Total	£46,500
	Strategic Priority 2	
	Theme 1: Access to Work	
	2.1 Work Start	£192,500
	2.2 High Skill Pathway Recruitment Initiative	£35,000
	2.3 Business Start Mentoring	£65,000
	Sub-Total	£292,500
	Theme 2: Skills for Work	
	2.4 HGV Sectoral Academy (2021/2022)	-
	2.5 Upskilling for Growth (+ £50,000 DfE funding)	£11,250
	2.6 Employability Academies:	
	Academy 1 (based on cost of HGV Academy)	£49,440
	Academy 2 (based on cost of social Care Academy)	£24,000
	Other Academy	£52,000
	Sub-Total	£136,690
	Theme 3: Pathways to Work	
	2.7 A Place to Work Campaign & Digital platform:	
	Development of website	£15,000
	Place to Work branding	£15,000
	2.8 Pathway Events	£10,000
	Sub-Total	£40,000
	Strategic Priority 3	
	3.1 Increased awareness	-
	3.2 Opportunity and Apprenticeship awareness	£20,000
	Sub-Total	£20,000
	Total Operational	£535,690

Newry, Mourne and Down

Labour Market Partnership

Action Plan 2022 - 2023



NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN
Labour Market Partnership
Working Together



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1. Introduction

The Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Community Plan to 2030 - 'Living Well Together', supported through its approach to partnership working with the local community, has provided the framework for collaborative working to deliver positive change for the community. The Community Plan has as its vision:

Newry, Mourne and Down is a place with strong, safe and vibrant communities where everyone has a good quality of life and access to opportunities, choices and high-quality services which are sustainable, accessible and meet people's needs.

The economy is one of strategic themes included within the Community Plan and includes specific references to a skilled economy. The long-term outcome under a skilled economy is that '*We prosper through a strong, competitive, regionally balanced economy*' and that '*We have more people working in better jobs*'.

Underpinning the Community Plan is the Council's Economic Development Strategy. In October 2020, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council launched a new Regeneration and Economic Development Strategy 2020 – 2025. This strategy is built around 3 key pillars of investment:

- Supporting Entrepreneurship, Business growth and Innovation
- Improving Employability and Skills
- Investing in Regeneration and Modern Infrastructure

Based on desk top research, consideration of the regional policy context and strategies (reflected on later in this document), consultation with internal and external stakeholders across both public and private sector, and a statistical audit on the local economy and labour market, this strategy sets out a comprehensive Action Plan for each of the above 3 Pillars.

One of the first achievements arising from the Strategy was the establishment of 3 working groups, one of which was a skills and employability working group. This group agreed at their February 2021 meeting to assume the role of the NMD Labour Market Partnership.

NMD Labour Market Partnership Structure

The NMD Labour Market Partnership (LMP), was established in February 2021 and has been developed by using existing structures within the NMD Council area, namely the Employability and Skills working group and the Economic Forum. These established and successful groups combine a wealth of rich and diverse experience and knowledge and have enabled council to respond quickly to the introduction of a local Labour Market Partnership (NMD LMP). The NMD LMP is a dynamic partnership, committed to working together to make a positive difference.

The NMD LMP reflects best practice through extensive engagement with partners at local and regional level. Its aim is to be dynamic, responsive and innovative to achieve excellence.

NMD District Council has a number of other existing structures in place to enable successful delivery of the LMP. The Council engages regularly with external organisations such as its Local Enterprise Agencies, Chambers of Commerce, Invest NI, Intertrade Ireland, Belfast City Region Deal partners, Regional Colleges and schools, training organisations and Ulster University Economic Policy Centre (UUEPC). The ongoing partnership with these reputable organisations and others, will assist the LMP to make informed and evidence-based decisions and augment forward plans.

The membership of the NMD LMP is:

- Newry Mourne and Down District Council – Lead
- Further Education colleges
- Local Enterprise Agencies
- Chamber of Commerce's
- Area Learning Co-Ordinators for NMD
- Invest NI
- Jobs and Benefits Office
- Social Economy and Private sector representatives

Engagement

In 2021, the NMD LMP undertook to complete further research and analysis, including a Strategic Assessment of employability and labour market conditions relevant to the Council Area. A statistical analysis on labour market and employability data was undertaken on the Council's behalf by the Economic Policy Centre, at Ulster University. This exercise was undertaken to identify underlying employability / labour market issues, and to establish priorities that will address the most persistent problems. This is included at section 3 of this document.

Engagement at a local level took place over June & July 2021, and again in March 2022. Engagement in 2021 was informing an Action Plan for 2021/2022. Engagement in March 2022 was to review the 2021/2022 actions and agree an Action Plan for 2022/2023. As an LMP Letter of Offer for 2021/2022 was only in place for Q4 2021/2022, ability to deliver was limited and many of the previously agreed actions were carried forward for 2022/2023.

The Council had individual meetings / engagement sessions with a number of the LMP partners, which concluded with facilitated engagement sessions with all partners of the LMP.

The aim of the engagement process was to

- identify the key themes / issues in relation to the local labour market within Newry Mourne and Down District Council
- identify what the NMD LMP wanted to change at a local level
- identify a range of initiatives from both supply side and demand side, which could help local people move closer to work and / or into work

- identify initiatives that are currently available, but that an LMP would be able to support and enhance the delivery of

The engagement process also considered the findings of the statistical analysis, and considered in particular:

- Is the statistical analysis reflective of local issues?
- Are there any gaps or amendments required?

The output of the process is the agreed themes, aims, activities and indicators as outlined within the NMD Action Plan

Action Plan – 2022/ 2023

The Action Plan set out within this document is based on the assumption of an LMP dedicated resource in place, a budget in place as outlined in section 5, and operational budget available for the full 2022/23 period. Any variance to these components will impact the level of activity and performance measures achieved.

A Turning the Curve Exercise was undertaken in relation to the LMP Action Plan Themes and projects and considered the programmes of work in relation to the outcomes they delivered.

As a result of the LMP Planning exercise, it has been agreed to drive progress in 3 core strategic and cross cutting themes which focus on outcomes which improve employability and labour market conditions across the NMD area:

- Theme 1: Access to work
- Theme 2: Skills for work
- Theme 3: A Place to work

A Summary of actions outlined in section 4	
Development	
1.1 Research - Labour Market Supply Intelligence	Research will: 1) Scope the employability and skills requirements of NMD employers; 2) define and identify NMD disadvantaged groups within the unemployed and economically inactive population.
Access to work	
2.1 Work Start: pre-employment support	Work Start is a personalised work preparation, job search and career guidance service
2.2 High Skill Pathway: Recruitment Pilot	A pilot to test with NMD employers how hard-to-recruit vacancies can be filled through new pathways for graduates and others. The initiative will be co-designed with NMD employers

2.3 Self-Employment: Business Start Development Programme	Specialised, mentoring and business support between 'Go for It' participation (the creation of a business plan) and establishing a trading company which offers either PT or FT self-employment for the business owner
Skills for Work	
2.4 Upskilling for Growth	Employee Upskilling: Meeting employer needs & supporting career progression: Support employers to upskill staff to enable career progression for those in employment and open up opportunities for those entering the labour market
2.5 Employability Academies	To implement Academies for skill interventions in sectors and occupations where opportunities for employment are identified with employers
A Place to work	
2.6 Engagement Campaign and Digital employability & skills platform	Promoting improved information on employers and their vacancies for people who are looking for work. Collate and communicate local employability and skills opportunities. Promote NMD as a good place to work with opportunities for progression
2.7 Employment Pathway Events	Support delivery of Jobs and Career fairs and events, including sectoral focused events where scope and opportunity exists. Opportunity to showcase key sectors, and career opportunities

The LMP will report against the Action Plan as required on a quarterly basis, using the Quarterly Project and Thematic Report Card returns.

The document should be considered as a living document, one that is to be reviewed and updated in response to emerging opportunities and changes within the employment and skills landscape.

2. Policy Context

Policy Content at a Regional level

This section outlines the overarching policy context that the Labour Market Partnership Action Plan sits within. It summarises the regional priorities and commitments, how this is played out in strategy formulation and reviews the main policy and strategy development at the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council level.

Northern Ireland Programme for Government – Draft Outcomes Framework 2021

This Framework is an outworking of the 'New Decade, New Approach' deal brokered to restore the NI Assembly in January 2020. This included a number of commitments including:

1. A top priority of the Executive will be to develop a regionally balanced economy with opportunities for all
2. The Executive will make it a priority to realise the economic potential offered by the City Deals for the Belfast Region and Derry/Londonderry
3. In support of both economic and educational objectives, the Executive will develop an enhanced approach to careers advice, curriculum, training and apprenticeships to enhance employability and support economic growth.

The current relevant outcomes to the LMP identified within the Programme for Government are:

- Outcome 3: 'We have a more equal society'
- Outcome 6: 'We have more people working in better jobs'
- Outcome 8: 'We care for others and help those in need'

Northern Ireland Draft Industrial Strategy

This strategy has a specific focus on 'Education, Skills & Employability' pillar which focuses on three areas:

- Improving educational outcomes from an early age
- Supporting those furthest from the workforce;
- Ensuring we have the necessary skills pipeline to meet business needs now and in the future.

Northern Ireland Economic Recovery Plan - Rebuilding a Stronger Economy

Rebuilding a Stronger Economy 2021 seeks to deliver interventions which will contribute to:

- Building a higher skilled and agile workforce
- Pursuing and securing better jobs; and
- Producing a more regionally balanced economy

The Action Plan is supported by an additional £290m allocation for 2021-22 across: R&D and Innovation, £20m; Highly Skilled & Agile Workforce, £50m; Greener Economy, £20m; and Investment, Trade & Exports, £200m.

OECD Skills Strategy for Northern Ireland

This skills strategy identifies four priority areas for improving skills performance including:

- Reducing skills imbalances
- Creating a culture of lifelong learning
- Transforming workplaces to make better use of skills
- Strengthening the governance of skills policies

The Department for the Economy (DfE) is currently developing a new skills strategy which build on the themes identified above.

Employability Northern Ireland

The Department of Communities (DfC), Employability Northern Ireland proposals include a new gateway service for clients to access government services, new commissioning approach provided through a dynamic purchasing programme and a menu of choices available for voluntary clients including:

- Careers Advice & Job Search;
- Skills;
- Enterprise;
- Community; and
- Health.

Employability NI will be managed through new governance arrangements at a regional level and local authority level with the establishment of Labour Market Partnerships.

Other Strategies relating to Skills and Employability

There exists a plethora of other relevant policies which align to the work of the Labour Market Partnership, which creates its own challenges and opportunities with respect to strategic direction and coordination. Some relevant developments include:

'Preparing for Success, the NI careers strategy, a joint Department for Education (DE) and Department for the Economy policy delivered through 5 key policy commitments. The strategy is currently being revised.

New proposals for apprenticeships and youth training contained within [Securing our Success & Generating our Success](#) have been delivered including a focus on Higher Level Apprenticeships and greater alignment with target growth sectors.

The DfE is currently procuring new apprenticeship contracts Level 2 & Level 3 (Apps 21) and **Skills for Life and Work** which is set to replace Training for Success offering a mix of training, work placement and personal and essential skills training for young people aged 16-18 years old. In addition, a new Traineeship at Level 2 is to be introduced in September 2021 through the FE Colleges targeted at particular sectors across the regional economy.

Funding considerations for Skills and Employability

Finally, European funds have played a significant role in delivering employability and skills services across the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. **European Social Fund (ESF)** programmes are currently delivered across NMD and the future loss of this funding could have a severe impact on local service provision. The replacement UK programme, the **Shared Prosperity Fund** is still being worked on and the **Community Renewal Fund** which covers the period 2021-2022 has an allocation of £11m for NI, with Newry Mourne and Down District seeking to secure funding for the District through a partnership approach with the FE Colleges in the area. The new **Peace Plus** programme has an allocation of €110m under the theme of Empowering and Investing in Young People.

In summary there is no shortage of policies which support employability and skills provision, there is however, a distinct lack of coordination which is the opportunity accorded to the Labour Market Partnership (LMP).

Policy Context at a Local Level: Newry, Mourne and Down

Newry, Mourne and Down (NMD) area has put in place a range of innovative structures to ensure it has become a stronger, more dynamic and unified unit, providing its citizens with outstanding public services, while unlocking the full potential of the region.

The policies in place by Newry Mourne and Down District Council via its Community Plan, Corporate Plan and the Regeneration and Economic Development Strategy is to understand that supporting unemployed and workless people on their journey into work matters; not only does it help to increase the employment rate and economic activity levels in the economy, which will have a positive effect on growth, it also mitigates the deterioration of skills, confidence and health that can occur with prolonged periods of worklessness.

The Newry Mourne and Down District Community Plan to 2030 – 'Living Well Together'

The Community Plan to 2030 - 'Living Well Together', supported through its approach to partnership working with the local community, has provided the framework for collaborative working to deliver positive change for the community. The Community Plan has as its vision:

Newry, Mourne and Down is a place with strong, safe and vibrant communities where everyone has a good quality of life and access to opportunities, choices and high-quality services which are sustainable, accessible and meet people's needs.

The economy is one of the strategic themes included within the Community Plan and includes specific references to a skilled economy. The long-term outcome under skilled economy is that, *'We prosper through a strong, competitive, regionally balanced economy'* and that *'We have more people working in better jobs'*.

Based on an Outcomes Based Accountability model it establishes the following indicators:

- Level of economically inactive
- Level of Gross Value added (GVA) per head
- Shift in Sectoral spread of business
- Level of Skills development across population

It states, *'Both the availability of jobs and the earnings people receive are relevant for well-being. Not only do they increase people's command over resources, but they also provide people with a chance to fulfil their own ambitions, to develop skills and abilities, to feel useful in society and to build self-esteem'*.

Newry Mourne and Down District Council Corporate Plan 2021 -2023

With its broadened remit following Local Government Reform, NMD is a Council which is fully equipped to lead the development agenda. Through its vision, aims and values NMD'S Corporate Plan focuses its efforts and resources firmly on Accountable, Collaborative and Transparent working with others, with tailored priorities to support business development and growth, developing workforce and employment skills, progressing regeneration plans and enhancing the health and wellbeing of its residents thus improving their quality of life.

Regeneration and Economic Development Strategy 2020 – 2025

In November 2020, Newry Mourne and Down District Council launched its Regeneration and Economic Development Strategy 2020 – 2025. The strategy was completed through desk-based research, thematic workshops, survey of business needs and stakeholder consultations. The Council, committed to prioritising local business needs, interviewed or surveyed businesses from across key sectors as part of the strategy development process. This ensured a large body of opinion and ideas for identifying employability and skills needs and opportunities within the Council area.

This strategy specifically priorities actions which will support local people to get closer to work and into work as part of the Council's commitment to short-term recovery and long-term inclusive economic growth

3. Strategic Assessment: Key Findings

This section of the report will provide an overview of current structure of the labour market and will drill down into a number of potential areas of work (and target groups) against the immediate background of recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic and the longer-term employability and skills challenges for the LMP to address. The general picture, before 2020, was of a tight local labour market with a rising employment rates, falling numbers of both the unemployed and inactive, and difficulties in recruiting staff for some positions.

The areas of work for the LMP will naturally cover various residents of the Council area who will be more detached from the labour market (in the case of the long-term unemployed or inactive) as well as those who are either entering the labour market (as school-leavers and graduates) or who are looking to improve their position within it (including apprentices, self-employed and those keen to reskill). Although there is limited data at the Council level for many of these potential areas of work, they regularly arise in any assessment of local labour markets. They are also intended for discussion in wider consultation as to their current level of priority for the work of the LMP.

A Summary of Key Findings of this study is below

Source: Labour Market Partnership baseline assessment for Newry Mourne and Down District Council, July 2021

Key Finding 1:

Before COVID-19 struck the employment rate in NMD was higher than the NI average.

- The employment rate for residents in NMD has been rising steadily over the past decade to stand at an historic high by the end of 2019. This recovery has been driven by growth in sectors such as Retail, Manufacturing, Accommodation, Healthcare and, to a lesser extent in terms of numbers of jobs, ICT and Professional Services.
- Estimate that 77% of NMD residents in employment work *within* the Council area with the other 23% commuting to Belfast and neighbouring Council areas including Louth, Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon (ABC) and Lisburn & Castlereagh. Several thousand employees also commute into NMD to work every day, largely from surrounding Council areas.

Key Finding 2:

The unemployment rate in NMD was falling steadily until Spring 2020.

- The International Labour Organisation (ILO) unemployment rate for residents in NMD has fallen significantly over the past decade to now stand equal to the NI average and far below the 7.4% back in 2009.

- The youth unemployment figures for NMD were relatively low pre Covid 19 pandemic. However, the rate of youth employment in the NMDDC soared from 3.10% of the working population in 2018 to 8.10% of the working population by 2020. (Source: NISRA - Claimant Count Annual Averages: 18-24 years. <https://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/PivotGrid.aspx?ds=10278&lh=73&yn=2005-2020&sk=18&sn=Labour%20Market&yearfilter=>)

Key Finding 3:

Labour market inactivity remains a key issue for residents in NMD and needs further exploration as to its patterns

- The inactivity rate for residents in NMD has fallen over time but remains stubbornly high and the Council area has had the 5th highest rate for more than a decade.
- The patterns and causes of inactivity within the Council area are less clear but likely to be similar to those in NI more generally where the numbers inactive for illness reasons are high and have increased over time while those for reasons of early retirement and caring duties have fallen. The numbers of those inactive as students (ie: without part-time work) has remained steady, though this has soared in 2020 due to pandemic effects.

Key Finding 4:

Lower than average qualifications levels with a slight but growing mismatch at higher levels.

- The levels of qualifications have improved significantly over the past decade in NMD but also elsewhere as the proportion of the population without formal qualifications has fallen. The area has a high level of skilled trades which is crucial for the local economy.
- Forecasts for the future labour force in NMD point to an increasing demand for Degree level and above skills so ensuring this improvement continues and accelerates is important.

Key Finding 5:

COVID-19 has already had a significant effect on the NMD labour market but the lasting impacts remain to be seen.

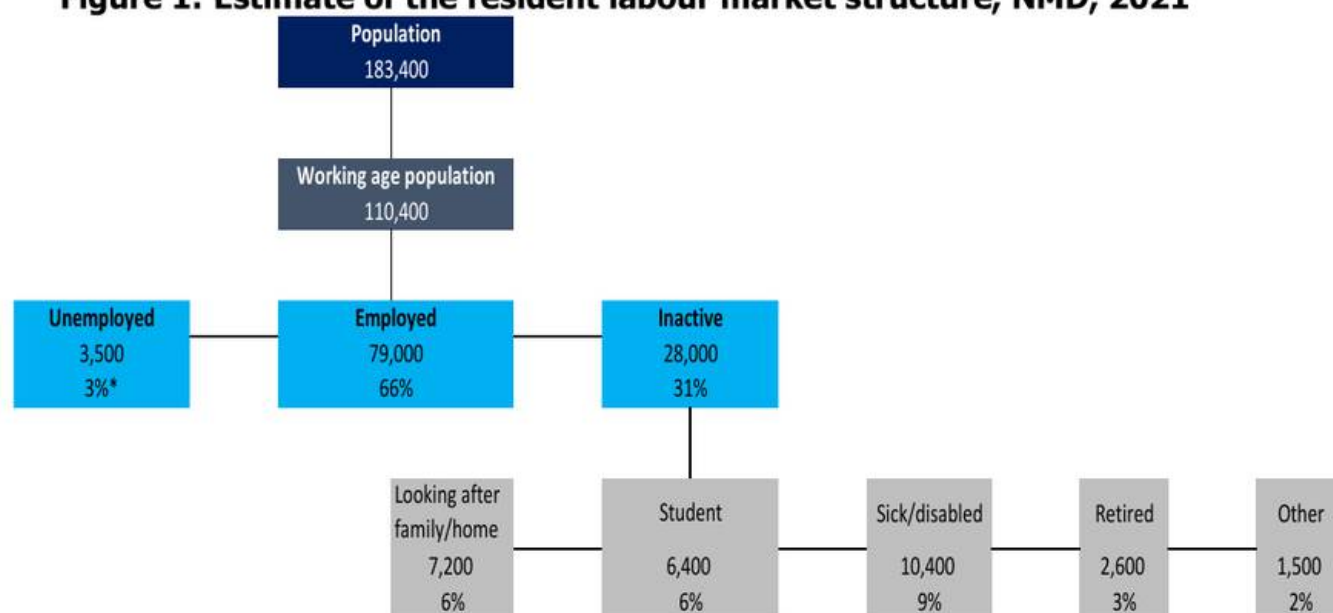
- The numbers on the Claimant Count has doubled to 5,500 since Feb 2020 with most of this rise before May 2020. A larger rise seen among women and in some wards (Murlough, Ballymote, Bessbrook and parts of Newry: St Patrick's and Daisy Hill).

- The rates of jobs in NMD on furlough and SEISS¹ has consistently been slightly higher than the NI average with similar concentrations as elsewhere in the Retail and Accommodation sectors. Slightly higher numbers were furloughed in Manufacturing and Construction in NMD. As we emerge from the pandemic concentrated efforts needs to be developed in these key sectors.

Strategic Assessment: Insights into the Newry Mourne and Down District Local Labour Market Structure, outlook to 2025 and possible areas of work for the Labour Market Partnership

The last available Labour Force Survey data at Council level is the annual averages for 2019, released in October 2020. For this paper we have used NI-level data from the Ulster University Economic Policy Centre (UUEPC) Labour Market Intelligence database, 2017 Multiple Deprivation data and the monthly Claimant Count and redundancies data. Figure 1 provides a rough estimate of the overall structure of the labour market in NMD in 2021 taken from the UUEPC local model, and shows the recent rise in unemployment and inactivity (approximately 25,000 residents, excluding students) and a fall in employment numbers to less than 80,000 people.

Figure 1: Estimate of the resident labour market structure, NMD, 2021



Source: NISRA LFS and UUEPC Local Model

¹ SEISS = Self-Employed Income Support Scheme.

The employment rate of residents has been improving in recent years

	NMDDC	NI	NMDDC ranking	Latest Data
Employment rate (% of WAP ² employed)	74.8%	70.9%	2 nd	2020

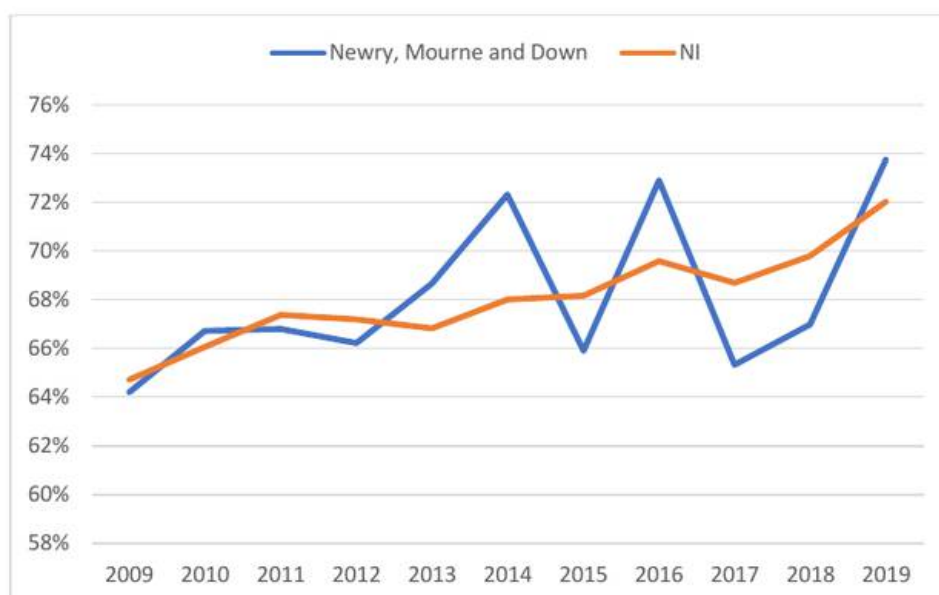
Source: NISRA LFS

Employment rates have been improving across NI for much of the past decade, from 69.1% in 2017 to 70.9% in 2020.

The same trend of rising employment rates occurred in NMD, rising from 66% in 2017 to 74.8% in 2020. The Council area has actually seen stronger employment growth over the period than in NI more generally. This has meant NMD ranked 2nd highest in 2020, up from 7th in 2017, similar to ABC (73.9%) and Ards & North Down (72.9%). Figure 1 shows how the employment rate in NMD was ahead of that in NI for much of the period since 2012.

The resident employment rate is a result not only of the growth in employee jobs (see next section) but also the numbers of residents (as high as 23% of those in employment) who commute either to Belfast, ABC or Lisburn & Castlereagh or, alternatively, across the border into Louth and Dublin City in particular. This share has not altered much since 2011.

Figure 2: Resident employment rate, NMD and NI, 2009-2019



² WAP = Working Age Population (16-64 year olds).

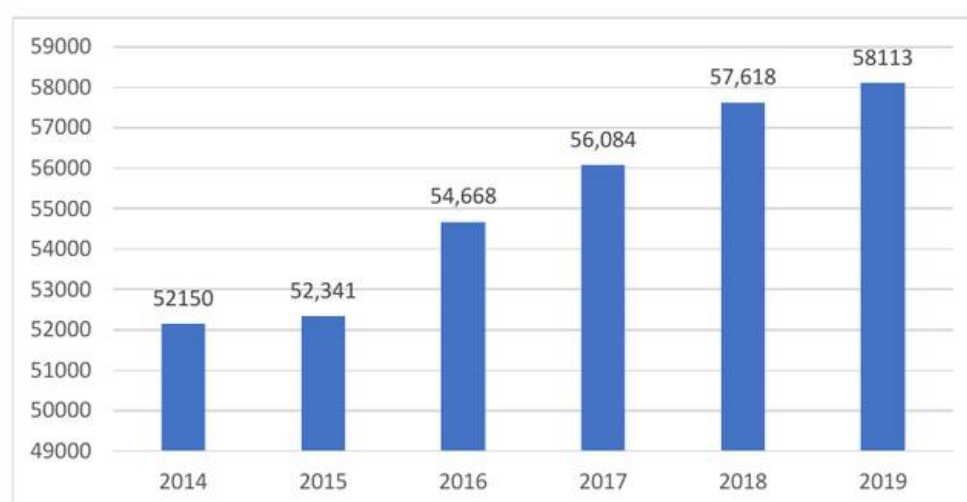
NMD	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Employment rate (% of Working Age Population (WAP) employed)	66%	73%	66%	67%	74%	74.8%
Resident employment numbers	72,400	80,300	72,100	73,900	81,400	85,000

Source: NISRA LFS and UUEPC Local Model

The number of employee jobs rose sharply to 2019, across many sectors

Higher resident employment rates are partly a result of local employers based in NMD hiring increasing numbers of people during the 2014-2019 recovery.³ **Almost 6,000 more jobs were created in NMD between 2014 and 2019, an increase of 11.4%**, which compares favourably to the 10.4% increase in NI employee jobs over the same time period. The significant scars from the last recession can be seen in the return to the previous peak (2008) coming only in 2017.

Figure 3: Employee jobs, NMD, 2014-2019



Source: NISRA BRES

The bulk of the additional employee jobs have been created in the Services sectors, in particular in Healthcare, Accommodation (Tourism) and Retail & Wholesale. There has been significant percentage increase but smaller numbers of jobs in newer sectors for NMD, such as ICT and Professional Services. Manufacturing firms have also added

³ Commuting to other areas for work – including Louth, ABC and Belfast – also contributes to the rising employment rate.

on new jobs – food manufacturing has been especially strong – and Construction has made up some, not all, of the ground lost after 2008.

Importantly, for the LMP, the jobs created over this period have ranged across the skills levels with entry to the labour market open to those with either school leaving or graduate qualifications. However, the growth in opportunities in ICT, Professional Services and some parts of Manufacturing and Construction are often geared to those entering either on the Modern Apprentice route or at degree level.

Unemployment rates had been falling up to 2019 - but long-term unemployed remain an issue

	NMDDC	NI	NMDDC ranking	Latest Data
ILO Unemployment rate (% of Labour Force)	2.8%	2.8%	5 th	2019

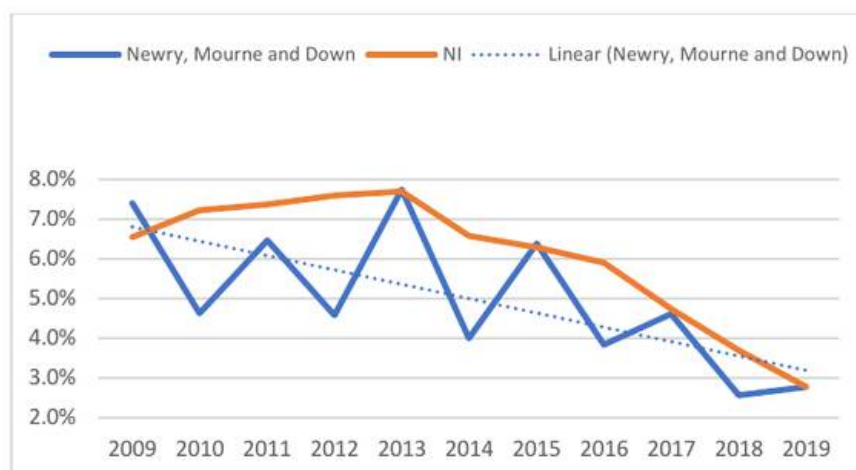
Source: NISRA LFS

ILO unemployment rates⁴ stood at 2.8% of the total labour force in NMD in 2019, a new low for unemployment in the district in advance of the pandemic. Unemployment rates have been falling in the district for a decade, from a peak of more than 7% in 2009. The last peak was in 2013 (>7% in that year) and marked a combination of high levels of unemployment in sectors such as Construction and lay-offs due to austerity measures impacting public sector jobs.

Figure 4 shows both the annual fluctuations in the unemployment rates - which arise from sample size - and the downward trend line. In the past decade the unemployment rate in NMD has been consistently lower than the NI average, a reversal of the position in previous decades. The unemployment rate is forecast to rise this year and next before reversing over the following three years (2023-2025) to get closer to the 3% level again.

Figure 4: ILO unemployment rate, NMD and NI, 2009-2019

⁴ ILO rates refer to individuals who are out of work, actively seeking work in the past month and available to work within 2 weeks.



NMD	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
ILO unemployment rate	6.3%	3.8%	4.6%	2.6%	2.8%
Numbers of unemployed	4,800	3,400	3,600	2,000	2,200

Source: NISRA LFS and UUEPC Local Model

Figures for youth (16-24 year olds) has increased to 1,170 in 2020. This is directly related to the difficulties many school-leavers face when trying to enter the labour market for the first time, something which becomes even more challenging when the economy enters a recession as in 2020. The NI rates of youth unemployment rose sharply from 6.5% in 2.15 to 7.10% in 2020. With 1,170 16-24-year olds in the Council area unemployed in 2020, this represents 10% of the NI Youth unemployment rate.

NMD	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Youth Unemployment (18-24 year olds)	6%	4.70%	3.6%	3.1%	3.7%	8.10%
Numbers of unemployed	920	705	535	450	530	1,170
NI Youth unemployment %	6.5%	5.4%	4.2%	3.75	3.7%	7.10%

The long-term unemployed (out of work for more than a year) are a group of particular interest for the LMP. They are also **quite a large group of people** in the NI labour market, currently accounting for 32% of the unemployed which is a similar rate to recent years. Past data from the Claimant Count (most recently available in 2017) about the long-term unemployed in NMD was that the rate was generally 2-3% lower than in NI as a whole. **If this continues to hold at the Council level, the estimated number for NMD in 2022 would be 1,020-1,120 people.**

One thing that previous experience for NI as a whole suggests (and probably also for NMD) is that both youth and long-term unemployed rates surge quickly in any recession and subsequently fall slowly in a recovery. Given the expected rise in unemployment in both 2021 and 2022 these figures will be ones for the LMP to closely monitor.

Economic inactivity rates remain high but have been falling

	NMDDC	NI	NMDDC ranking	Latest Data
Inactivity rate (% of 16-64 year olds)	22.9.%	27.0%	2 nd	2020

Source: NISRA LFS

Economic inactivity will be a long-term challenge for any employability strategy as NI and many Council areas have among the highest rates in the UK and Ireland. Although we do not have the data at Council level to explain local patterns and causes of inactivity a few key NI trends may bear further consideration:

- Inactivity rates among the sick and disabled have remained at a similar level since the 1990s. One reason for this is that less than 1 in 5 of this category say they are definitely/likely to work again – making this a harder to reach category.
- Inactivity rates among students fluctuate from year to year and depend on the level of part-time jobs that are available and therefore the economic health of sectors such as Retail and Accommodation & Hospitality.
- Inactivity among those with caring duties has tended to fall since the 2000s and this is mirrored by a fall in the female inactivity rates.
- However, lone parents are a group that have consistently higher than average inactivity rates suggesting a suite of childcare supports being necessary in activation efforts.

Approximately 40% of the economically inactive in NI are a combination of the long-term sick, disabled persons and those who have become 'discouraged' in seeking work.

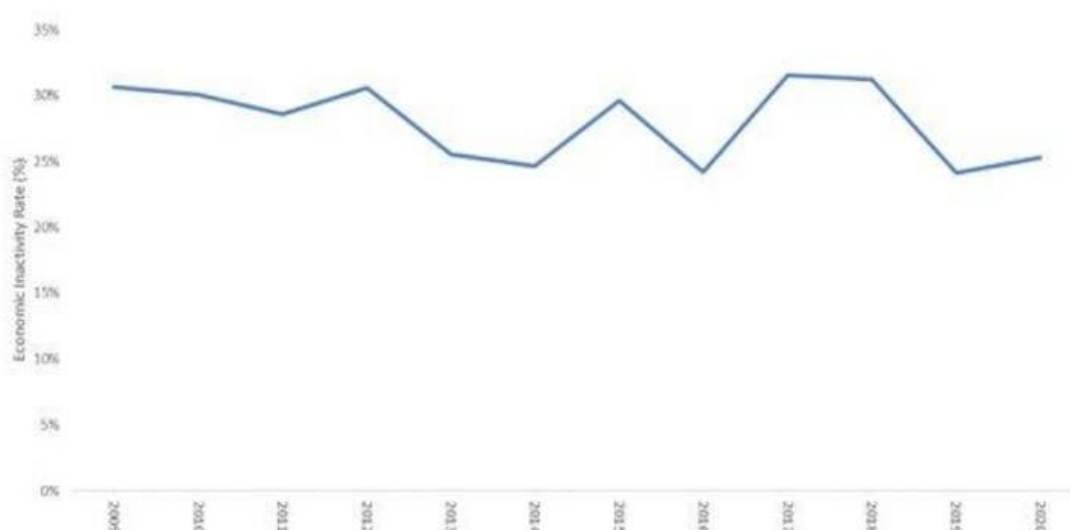
Another 35% are people who are inactive for reasons of family caring duties or retired and tend to cite as barriers work opportunities, childcare and other caring responsibilities.

The final 25% of the inactive are students unable to find part-time work and unwilling to due to studying responsibilities. If we exclude students we find that **generally in**

NI, close to a third of the inactive would like to work, including 23% of those registered as sick/disabled.

In NMD the inactivity rate for residents has fallen significantly since 2009 – from more than a third of those aged 16-64, to closer to a quarter. In numerical terms this suggests between **26,000 and 30,000** people in the Council area are inactive for one of the reasons provided above with perhaps a quarter of these for reasons of studying.

Figure 5: Economic inactivity rates, NMD 2009 - 2020



NMD	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Economic inactivity rate	29.6%	24.2%	31.5%	31.2%	24.1%	22.9%
Est. numbers of inactive	32,500	26,600	34,800	34,400	26,600	26,000

Source: NISRA LFS and UUEPC Local Model

The patterns of inactivity suggest two things to consider in any intervention:

- The need to carefully target the groups who are furthest from the labour market and most needing support, which would certainly mean excluding students and **focussing on those who show consistently high rates of inactivity (e.g.: lone parents, disabled, etc.)**.
- The distance from the labour market is often related to not only the time spent outside it but also the extent of other non-work barriers to overcome, suggesting a **need to have activation measures which seek to bring people closer to the labour market as a first step**.

Levels of qualifications are improving and generally in line with the current jobs available in NMD

Qualifications Levels	NMDDC	NI	NMDDC ranking	Latest Data
Above degree level (% of WAP)	41.3%	38.4%	4 th	2020
Below Degree level	47.6%	48.9%	8 th	2020
No qualifications	11.1%	12.7%	7 th	2020

Source: NISRA LFS

The economic impact of formal qualifications can be seen in the facts that qualification levels are crucial for both the point at which people enter employment, and also their potential earning power over their working lifetime.

Qualification attainment levels have been improving in NMD in recent decades, partly due to more people staying on longer in education and training, but also as some of those people with no formal qualifications retire from the labour force. Forecasts for future skills demand in NMD (and elsewhere across NI) point to an increasing demand for qualifications at Degree level and above, so that past improvement will need to continue and probably accelerate. Source: UUEPC, Economic Forecasts.

In 2019 more than half of those aged 16-64 in NMD had qualifications below degree level. This share has remained consistent over time and, if it follows the NI trends, this would mean that a shift has taken place in NMD whereby greater numbers are achieving up to A-Level or foundation degree/HND as opposed to solely having GCSEs. As will be noted below we are also seeing a growing range of qualifications, including the Modern Apprenticeship, pointing to more demand for skills in the workplace.

The improvement in the levels of qualifications held by residents in NMD means that the percentage of the 16-64 year olds with no qualifications has fallen from 24% in 2009 to 13% a decade later with much of the difference being taken up by those with degree level and above. The ranking for NMD has risen by one place over the same period, suggesting more of an absolute improvement than a relative one. However, this suggests that **approximately 14,000 of the working age population in NMD have no formal qualifications**.

A second challenge, in terms of employability, is to match qualifications levels to the needs of the local economy. The skills barometer research from 2019 suggests that the current qualifications required by workplace jobs in NMD and neighbouring ABC were below that of the population. However, this can hide situations where individual

employers struggle to fill positions with specific skills requirements, something which is often mentioned in any consultations.

Graduate unemployment and over-qualification

Data at the UK and NI level for 2019 suggests that graduate unemployment rates were at their lowest since the 1970s and were much improved on the difficult years of 2013-2017. The general trend has been for graduate unemployment to be 0.5% lower than the NI average, suggesting it was 2.5% in 2019. There is no graduate employment figures for NMD but the evidence would suggest that this picture will not be very different.

However, **students graduating in 2021 or 2022 will find a more difficult recruiting labour market than in 2019 and graduate unemployment is likely to rise in line with the general trends.** This is also likely to see an increase in numbers working in jobs – the Retail and Administration Services sectors tend to see large pools – for which they are over-qualified.

This issue of over-qualification has been an issue in NMD as it is in many local labour markets. **The skills barometer research from 2019 suggests that the current qualifications required by workplace jobs in NMD and neighbouring ABC can often be below that of the population.** This is changing and future skills demand forecasts for the district (as elsewhere across NI) point to an increasing demand for qualifications at Degree level and above, which may deal with the over-qualification issue over time.

The improvement in the levels of qualifications held by residents in NMD means there is an increasing number of graduates entering the labour market. Two points suggest themselves:

- **Short-term issues arising from COVID-related problems may need addressing through supports for firms willing to take on graduates; and**
- Tackling of over-qualification issue needs to take into account the positive and necessary experience gained from first employment for many and therefore the **need to improve on 'job skills' – may point to greater promotion of 'placement' opportunities in local firms during the Higher Education (HE) course.**

School-leavers at risk of unemployment

There is no data available at the district level for youth unemployment (18-24 year olds). However, as noted above, the NI-level evidence suggests that youth unemployment tends to be nearly 3 times greater than the average rate. In Q1 2021

NI unemployment rate is 3.2% and youth unemployment 9.1%, up from 6% in Q2 2020.

Typically for school-leavers the vast majority will enter further/higher education, training or employment and not become part of the Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEETs) group. The latest data for NMD (2019/20) is that an average of **4.1% of school-leavers become NEETs**, slightly below the NI average (4.7%).

This equates to **less than 100 school-leavers out of more than 2,200, with many leaving school with less than 5 GCSEs (A*-C) which points to the need for further qualifications but not within a formal education setting.**

The 2017 deprivation data for NMD would suggest that NEETs tend to be highly concentrated in some Super Output Areas (SOAs) with 23 SOAs out of 84 having a higher than average share.

Apprenticeships

The Higher Level or Modern Apprenticeships have proved an increasingly popular route for school-leavers. In NMD the numbers participating reached 766 in October 2020, the highest level of participation reached yet. Apprenticeships have become a more popular pathway over time as the numbers of opportunities and diversity of these has improved. Between 2013 and 2020 the average number of participants has been 690.

However, there remains room for improvement. NMD has a strong percentage of school-leavers entering apprenticeships but has tended to be lower than in other Council areas, in particular those with strong manufacturing bases (ABC and Mid Ulster).

Promotion of apprenticeships – perhaps with further support for businesses – and Training for Success (where NMD has a slightly above-average share of school-leavers) is worth consideration.

Labour market impacts of COVID-19: rises in redundancies, claimant count and numbers furloughed

	<i>NMDDC</i>	<i>NI</i>	<i>NMDDC ranking</i>	<i>Latest Data</i>
Claimant Count rate (% of WAP)	4.2%	4.3%	=8 th	June 2021
Rate furloughed (% of eligible jobs)	9.5%	7.9%	1 st	June 2021

NMD	June 2017	June 2018	June 2019	June 2020	June 2021
Claimant Count rate (% of WAP)	2.1	1.9	2.2	5.6	4.1
Claimant Count #	2345	2170	2495	6245	4585

The economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021 has been significant. The initial economic cost has seen the output of the NI economy contract by 10.5% in 2020, with a forecast that this output will return to pre-COVID levels in mid-2023.

The impacts on the labour market have been slower than usual to emerge, not least because of government furlough Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) and self-employed (SEISS) schemes. Since March 2020 the COVID labour market impacts can be seen at the NI level by reductions in the number of self-employed and in total numbers of hours worked (with the exception of some sectors such as Health & Social Care). The furlough scheme certainly acted as a buffer against widespread lay-offs in the labour market. Despite this, there have been significant redundancies in the district.

New applicants for Universal Credit record the first responses to drops in income. **In the Council area the numbers on the Claimant Count almost doubled since the beginning of 2020 (as shown in Figure 6), to stand at 4,700 in June 2021, with much of this increase occurring by May 2020.**

Figure 6: Claimant Count numbers and rate (%), NMD, Jan. 2020-June 2021



Source: NINIS Experimental Claimant Count and UUEPC analysis

The CC data provides a local picture of the pandemic's impacts, **with larger rises among women** and in both wards with traditionally high levels, but also some new areas. **The rise for women may reflect the types of jobs and sectors in which the labour market impacts were sharpest, notably Retail and Hospitality.** Some of the wards in the Council area with the highest rates of the working age population on the Claimant Count (for example Ballybot, Daisy Hill and St Patrick's in Newry and Crossmaglen) have long had higher-than average rates. However, they have been joined by other wards, including Murlough and Bessbrook, where large increases in rates and numbers of people have been seen in 2020.

The government furlough and self-employed schemes were another signal of COVID-19's impacts locally. The numbers of jobs furloughed in NMD and the numbers of self-employed persons claiming SEISS had been consistently been slightly higher than the NI average since the supports began in April 2020. At the peak in July 2020 NMD had more than 24,000 people furloughed (34% of the eligible number) and a further 11,000 self-employed claiming SEISS.

The furlough scheme has now ended. The difference between the NI and NMD furloughing rates cannot be explained by variance in sectors such as Retail and Hospitality, but in higher-than-average numbers furloughed in the Manufacturing and Construction sectors. This may reflect the presence of some larger firms associated with the travel and aviation sectors which have been severely affected.

The uneven economic impacts from the COVID-19 crisis could be seen in who had been furloughed. Those working in face-to-face professions have been less able to work remotely than professional workers. **Redundancies and furlough impacted younger workers and lower-earners most pointing to the need for attention to be paid to youth unemployment in any interventions.** This reflects the sectoral mix where Hospitality, the Arts & Entertainment and (parts of) Retail have been worst impacted. Retail has only been sheltered by the fact that essential (typically food) retail had been allowed to continue trading and performed well.

The sectoral impacts of COVID-19 will have to be monitored to see whether these impacts are passing or not. The Retail sector faces intensified questions about its future and this is critical because of the numbers employed there and the fact that the sector is an entry point for many with lower qualification levels. Retail will continue to be a large employer but not quite as large and this raises questions about reallocating people to other jobs.

The assumption that the Hospitality sector will continue to grow as tourist numbers increase has been shaken by COVID-19. However, we expect employment to recover and pass the 2019 peak and recruitment issues are already appearing in this industry

(for chefs and other skilled staff). Manufacturing is likely to emerge on a similar path of employment numbers recovering quickly and issues arising in particular skills areas.

This suggests that any intervention should meet two needs:

- **Prevention of short-term job losses in particular sectors becoming longer-term issues – by use of the full range of mentoring, coaching and job-matching services;** and
- **Facing up to any structural changes – in Retail in particular as well as parts of Manufacturing – by reskilling of some staff for new jobs and re-allocation of skilled staff into other parts of the same sector**

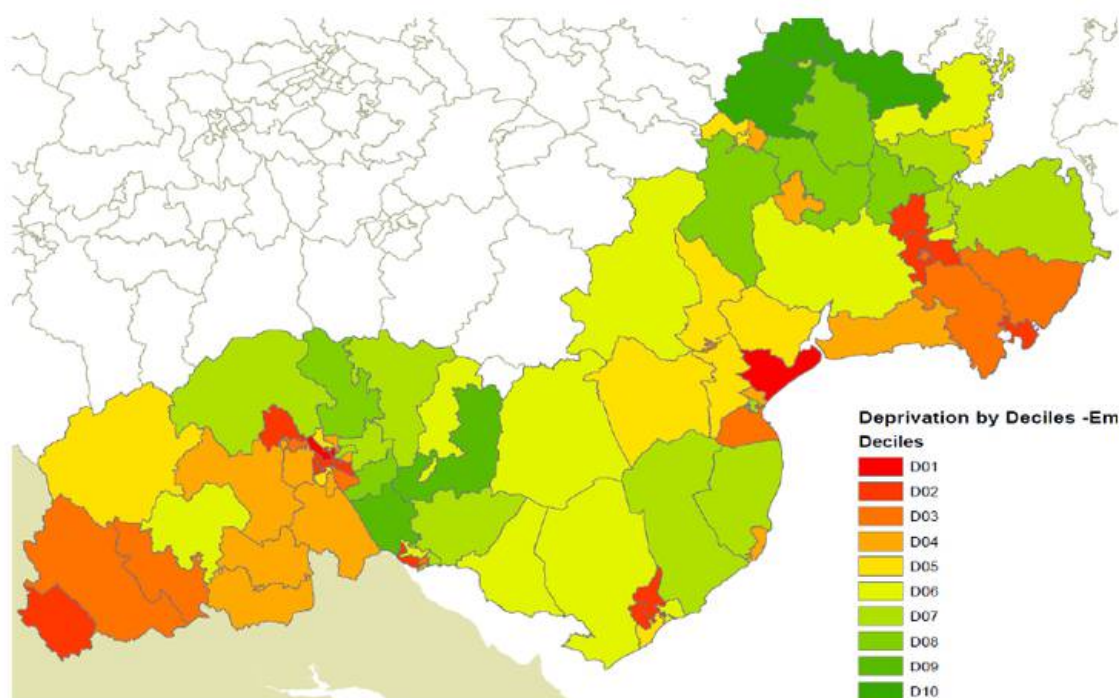
Geographical patterns in the Council area for levels of employment deprivation and no/low qualifications

In any assessment of the local structures of the labour market in NMD it is important to note that there are distinct variations across the Council area. The data from the 2017 NI Multiple Deprivation Measures (released in April 2018) offers some insight into these patterns at the Super Output Area (SOA) level.

Maps available from the NMDDC Data Hub of measures of labour market deprivation (those in receipt of benefits or without income from work) highlight the variations by SOAs in the district. The highest levels of employment deprivation (where 30% of the population are in receipt of benefits or without income from work) can be found in urban SOAs in Newry, Downpatrick and Crossmaglen, as well as rural areas including Murlough (near Newcastle) and Ardglass.

Unsurprisingly, any map of deprivation by qualifications (those who have no or low levels) follows a similar pattern of SOAs to that of economic deprivation. However, across the district fewer SOAs fall into the bottom deciles, reflecting a lower level of qualifications deprivation generally in NMD when compared to other parts of NI.

Figure 6: Employment deprivation, NMD, 2017



Source: NISRA and NMDDC Data Hub - Key: The deciles refer to which 10% band the Super Output Areas are found in ranging from the Bottom 10% (dark red) to the Top 10% (dark green).

These maps offer some insights into the spatial patterns of employability challenges across the Council area – the issue that employment deprivation is usually correlated with urban cores but also that some rural areas will have particular issues around qualifications and income deprivation – the latter being critical to people accessing labour market opportunities that lie beyond a certain distance.

Labour Market Upskilling

There is no data at district level on skills levels and there is room for improvement here. At NI level in Q1 2021 there is a 32% difference in employment rates between high and low skilled workers, the largest gap across Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries. If anything the COVID-19 pandemic is likely to widen this gap still further given the pressure on some sectors and the acceleration of trends such as digitisation, which require time and training for workers to adapt.

The recently published OECD Skills Strategy for NI offers a range of recommendations for locally-tailored courses and financial incentives which should be considered further by the LMP.

Quality Employment

Job or work quality has recently come to the fore, not least due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the debate over essential work. This is now an element of the Labour Force Survey (LFS) questionnaire and the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings

(ASHE) at NI level which will allow better analysis of this issue, which is critical not least for retention of employees and attraction of new staff.

To assist with this work by the LMPs there is new research from NISRA⁵ which has identified eight different indicators of work quality including:

- Flexibility (eg: flexitime contract);
- Involvement in decision making by employees;
- Belief that the job offers opportunities for career progression;
- Secure (permanent) employment,
- Working adequate hours (neither over nor underemployed);
- Earnings above the Real Living Wage;
- Job satisfaction; and
- Belief that he/she carries out meaningful work.

Much of the data is taken from the LFS so, again, there are difficulties in making this available at local government district (LGD) level and a compromise of annual percentages at a sub-regional level of 'batched' Council areas might be best. However, **there is scope for a work programme for research and analysis on an ongoing basis on work quality to see how this changes over time.**

In terms of earnings there is data available for NMD on an annual basis from ASHE, the latest data for 2020. This shows that NMD has the second highest level of median weekly wage for jobs located in the Council area (£428 per week), trailing Belfast by 14%. This has risen from £347 in 2015, a rise of 23% which is well ahead of the NI increase (+13%).

When it comes to wages of employees who live in the Council area the median weekly wage in 2020 was slightly higher at £431 but the fifth ranking district. This too had risen 13% from 2015. **This suggests that average weekly wages earned by residents of the Council area are very slightly higher (£3 per week gross) than the wages paid by jobs located there.**

However, with reference to quality work, there were approximately 20,000 employee jobs in NMD paid below the National Living Wage in 2019, 29% of the total number. The positive story is that this share has been falling over time (down from 31% in 2017), a sign of one element of work quality that is improving.

Self-Employment

The profile of the self-employed in NI in 2019 was typically male, >40 years old, works in Construction, Agriculture and Other Services (inc finance), and works for themselves

⁵ NISRA, *Work Quality in Northern Ireland* (February 2021).

rather than employing anyone.⁶ This is unlikely to have changed greatly, though we do know that 80% of the employee jobs lost in 2020 were self-employed people as COVID-19 made it difficult to continue this work.

There has not been any data since 2017 at Council level for self-employed but UUEPC analysis has found that the three Council areas with the highest rates of self-employment were Fermanagh & Omagh, Mid Ulster and NMD. At that stage men were three times more likely to be self-employed in NMD and fewer than a quarter (23%) employed anyone.

What is the outlook for the labour market in NMD?

The local forecast for NMD is similar to the NI picture, though with an expectation that the labour market may recover at a slightly faster pace.

Both unemployment and inactivity are expected to remain high and perhaps peak in 2022 before beginning to decline later in 2022 into 2023. Source: UUEPC, Economic Forecasts

Forecasts to 2025 in NMDDC	Numbers	Rate	Nos change from 2020	Rate change from 2020
Employment	75,600	74%	+1,120	+1%
Unemployment	2,900	3.3%	+150	+0.2%
Inactive	26,400	24.3%	-1,500	-1.7%

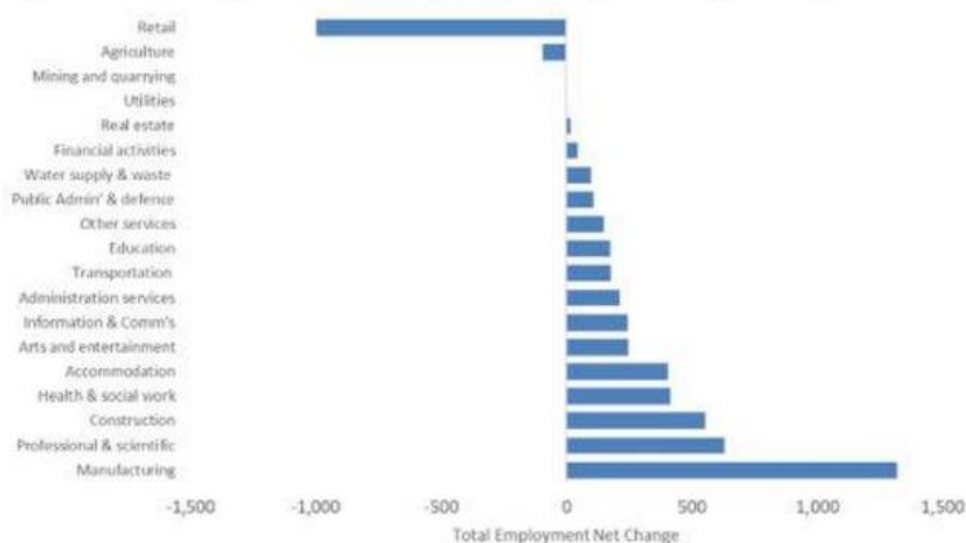
Over the decade 2020-2030 the UUEPC forecast total employment growth in NMD of 3,700 new jobs, with almost 2,000 of the additional jobs in two sectors: Manufacturing and Professional & Scientific Services. Retail could see almost 1,000 job losses locally over the decade with much of this concentrated in the first few years and little growth thereafter. Losses in Accommodation or Hospitality are forecast to be recouped by 2025, with 400 new jobs added in the second half of the decade.

The outlook for the labour market is a positive one in the medium term so that the work of the LMP should not only focus on providing employability supports to those far away from employment but also in-work and close-to-work upskilling as new jobs may need refreshed or new skills. It will be possible to say more on the skills later in the year as the NI and sub-regional skills barometers are completed. In the meantime, the general picture of higher demand

⁶ NISRA, *Self-Employment in Northern Ireland in 2019* (May 2020).

for intermediate and higher skills in new job opportunities – and the sectors which will see growth as noted in Figure 5 – holds true.

Figure 5: Changes in employee jobs by sector, NMD, 2020-2030



Source: UUEPC Local Model

Conclusions

The overview of the local labour market structure provided in an earlier section and the ideas for some areas of work both highlight the lack of annual data for later than 2019 in some cases and the lack of any data at all below the NI level for other indicators (long-term unemployed, graduate unemployment etc. **The need for better local data – more timely and at a sub-regional (if not LGD) level – is clear for the future success of the LMPs.** See the Appendix for more detail on data availability.

This assessment is designed to provide a basis for the LMP in NMD to develop its own local input which goes beyond the sometimes dated statistics, especially given the COVID impacts. The assessment is intended to be a starting point for a wider set of consultations and engagements with those involved in the labour market – both on the demand side as employers but also those shaping the supply of potential employees in schools, colleges and training/job-search organisations.

To assist in this consultation process we would suggest asking the following questions to identify some of the factors behind local conditions which might shape an Action Plan:

- Is the statistical analysis reflective of the local issues - in particular in terms of unemployment, economic inactivity and the impacts of COVID-19 on youth and long-term unemployment?
- What gaps in information exist that need to be addressed?
- Are there particular skills mismatches experienced by employers in NMD and how might these be dealt with in future?
- Are there particular impacts that COVID has highlighted with regard to in-work skills?

Appendix: Scope of the paper and data availability

Employability NI is the new approach to helping the unemployed and economically inactive to get back into work. The cross-governmental approach is led by the Department for Communities and has been designed to deliver a reduction in NI rates of economic inactivity and long-term unemployment closer to UK rates and to provide increased support for those further from the labour market such as those with health conditions (esp. mental health) and disabilities. Employability NI is also being designed to create a mechanism for government to collaborate with Councils and other Departments to offer local solutions.

The governance of Employability NI includes 11 Labour Market Partnerships (LMPs) – one in each Council area. These LMPs will be responsible for:

- Providing leadership and leading on the integration of services;
- Developing local area plans including setting targets for performance;
- Managing devolved funding and its delivery; and
- Managing arrangements for the evaluation of local interventions.

As part of planning for the new LMP strategies and action planning the Councils must provide a strategic assessment which combines:

- A statistical audit which addresses the question of how are we doing on certain population labour market measures – inactivity, qualifications, etc; and
- A consultation with key stakeholders which asks what are the quality-of-life conditions we want and what would these look like and be measured.

The Ulster University Economic Policy Centre (UUEPC) was asked by Newry, Mourne & Down District Council to provide a paper to address the audit's need for "*accurate and reliable data from as many different partners as possible*" and "*a detailed review of the evidence base in order to provide a clear understanding and explanation of key issues and causes of concern within an area*".

This paper provides this statistical overview by way of an input into the wider strategic assessment. The paper was prepared by Eoin Magennis and Anastasia Desmond, from the UUEPC with assistance from Catherine Hughes and Alan Beggs of NMDDC's Data Hub.

Data availability

	NMDDC Data	NI Data	Latest NMD Data
Employment rate (% of 16-64 year olds employed)	Y	Y	2020
ILO unemployment rate	Y	Y	2019
Economic inactivity rate	Y	Y	2020
Employee jobs	Y	Y	2019
Qualifications	Y	Y	2020
Claimant Count	Y	Y	Monthly
Furloughed job numbers	Y	Y	Monthly
Long-term unemployed (>12 months)	N	Y	N.A.
Long-term claimant count (>12 months on JSA)	Y	Y	2017
Youth unemployment	N	Y	N.A.
Graduate un/employment	N	Y	N.A.
Apprenticeships	Y	Y	2019
Training for Success	Y	Y	2019/20
Self-employment	N	Y	2017

Source: NISRA Labour Force Survey, Claimant Count; HMRC CJRS.

4. Baseline Information

Below sets out the Strategic priorities for the NMD LMP, the indicators the NMD LMP will impact on and the associated baseline indicator.

Strategic Priority 1: To form and successfully deliver the functions of the local Labour Market Partnership	
Indicators to which Local LMP contribute (Source)	2021/22 Baseline
% of LMP members with increased awareness of local employability and labour market issues	No Current Baseline. Relevant baselines will be established in 2022/23 for future measurement. Target 100% of LMP members with increased awareness of local employability and labour market issues
Labour Market Supply Intelligence	No Current Baseline. Relevant baselines will be established in 2022/23 for future measurement. 1 report will be produced providing analysis and on labour market supply/demand.

Strategic Priority 2: To improve employability outcomes and/or labour market conditions locally	
Indicators to which Local LMP contribute (Source)	2021/22 Baseline
Theme 1: Access to Work	
Claimant count in NMD (NINIS LGD2014).	Claimant Count rate of 3.2% as at Feb 2022 for NMDDC LGD. (baseline below)
Theme 2: Skills for Work	
Labour Force Survey: NMD population with no qualification	Qualification levels - % with no qualification is 11.1% in 2020 (NISRA LFS) (baseline below)
Theme 3: A Place to Work	
Resident Employment Rate / working age population (NISRA LFS).	Resident Employment rate of 74.8% of the Working Age Population as of 2020 in NMDDC LGD. Resident Employment Numbers 2020 = 85,000 (baseline below)

Strategic Priority 3: To support delivery of Employability NI	
Indicators to which Local LMP contribute (Source)	2021/22 Baseline
# of participants engaged on Regional Colleges apprenticeship programme.	LMP Baseline Data is not available. Relevant baselines will be established in 2022/23 for future measurement.
# of Employers offering apprenticeship opportunities in NMD region.	LMP Baseline Data is not available. Relevant baselines will be established in 2022/23 for future measurement.

5 Year Baseline data

NMD	Feb 2017	Feb 2018	Feb 2019	Feb 2020	Feb 2021	Feb 2022
Claimant Count rate (% of WAP)	2.3	2.1	2.2	2.2	5.0	3.2
Claimant Count #	2522	2350	2470	2490	5600	3,625
NI Claimant Count	2.8	2.5	2.5	2.5	4.9	3.4

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/claimant-count-tables>

<https://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/Theme.aspx?themeNumber=18&themeName=Labour%20Market>

NMD	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
NMD - Qualification levels - % with no qualification	Not available	Not available	22.1%	17.9%	13%	11.1
NMD - Qualification levels - # with no qualification	Not available	Not available	25,000	19,000	14,000	12,000

NI - Qualification levels - % with no qualification	Not available	Not available	16.5%	14.7%	13.8%	12.7%
https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/labour-force-survey-annual-report-historical https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/annual-report-tables-2019 https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/labour-force-survey-annual-tables-2020						

NMD	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Employment rate (% of WAP employed)	66%	73%	66%	67%	73.6%	74.8%
Resident employment numbers	72,400	80,300	72,100	73,900	81,000	85,000
NI Employment rate (% of WAP employed)	Not available	Not available	69.1	70.0	71.9	70.9
https://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/Theme.aspx?themeNumber=18&themeName=Labour%20Market https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/labour-force-survey-annual-tables-2020						

5. Turning the Curve Methodology

At the heart of the NMD Labour Market Partnership is the need to ensure that a quality skills provision is driven by demand for skills in the local economy, leading to reduced unemployment at a local level. This approach has been consistently adopted by the NMD LMP with a concerted effort to move the Partnership from thinking about timely and outcomes-based interventions, to taking action that can be used to design and monitor Employability and Skills programmes in the future. Given this and as a result of the Policy Context, the Strategic Assessment and the Baseline indicators mentioned above, the NMD LMP has undertaken a '**Turning the Curve**' exercise which focuses in on Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA) across 3 core themes.

1. Access to Work Interventions
2. Skills for Work Interventions
3. Pathways to Work Interventions

Turning the Curve – Access to Work Interventions

Today, as we move beyond a global pandemic, the labour market is particularly difficult. The LMP has taken into account that it needs to do as much that it can to prevent Long Term unemployment in the District and that there are joint efforts on several fronts to address the current labour market concerns. The relationships between work/unemployment, poverty and health are well scripted. People with a disability are more likely to be not working and not actively looking for work than people without disabilities, consequently, they are much less likely to be in employment than people without disabilities.

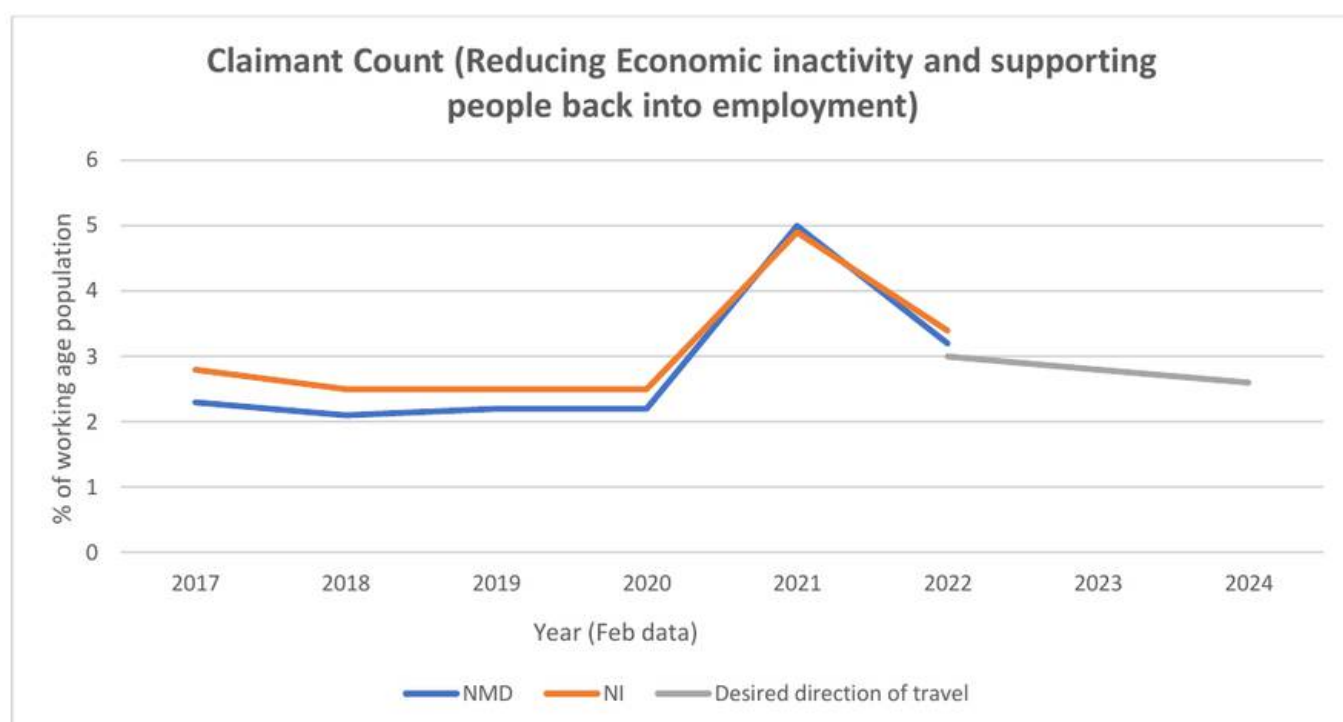
- In 2020 the employment rate for people with disabilities was 38.1%, the employment rate for people without disabilities was 80.3%. The disability employment rate gap was 42.2 percentage points (pps).
- The disability employment gap for males and females in 2020 were 49.2pps and 35.5pps respectively.
- The disability employment gap for NI in 2020 was 42.2pps, compared to 27.9pps for the whole of the UK. Since 2014, the disability employment gap has consistently been higher in Northern Ireland than the rest of the UK.
- The disability employment gap was lowest for those aged 16 to 24 (when compared with other age groups) in 2020, at 18.0pps. This is consistent with trends since 2014 and is due to lower employment rates for those aged 16 to 24 without disabilities.

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/news/disability-employment-gap-northern-ireland-2020>
<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/disability-employment-gap-NI-2020>

People with disabilities face barriers such as access to transport, the physical environment and limited support in employment, all of which can impact on their ability to participate in employment. The Turning the Curve exercise by the partnership aims to lower the Claimant Count of the District, reduce economic inactivity and support people into employment.

The Turning the Curve approach on Claimant Count, Reducing Economic Inactivity and supporting people back into Employment is shown below. The most common reasons for inactivity are being in full-time education, looking after family, retirement, or being long-term sick. The labour market barriers faced by these groups are varied and complex, ranging from a lack of skills and qualifications to low levels of self-confidence and motivation and negative perceptions of, and attitudes towards, work.

The NMD LMP will seek to address these Access to Work issues by recognising the diverse nature of these groups (including Women/Disabled/those impact by Covid 19 labour market redundancies) and ensuring that interventions proposed in our Action Plan are designed to help them towards the labour market and will be person-focused and based upon voluntary participation.



- <https://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/Theme.aspx?themeNumber=18&themeName=Labour%20Market>

Turning the Curve – Skills for Work

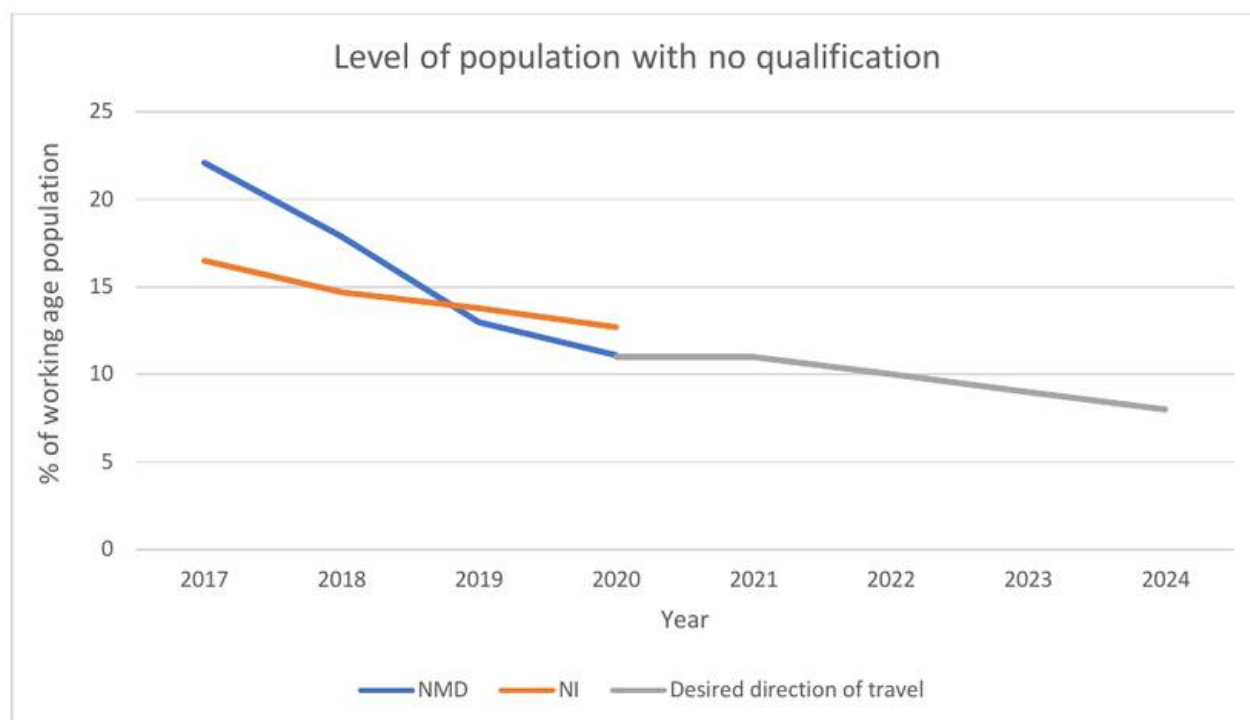
Having the right skills is a key driver of productivity and is important to individuals, businesses and the macro economy. Skills benefit individuals through increased probability of being in employment and higher wages; individuals with higher levels of qualifications tend to earn more. Businesses and employers benefit from having a more highly skilled workforce which in turn increases output and labour productivity.

For vocational and practical qualifications to support the drive towards a higher skilled workforce it is important for qualification design and delivery to focus on how to promote productivity in the longer term – people with qualifications and highly developed skill-sets are more likely to have stable work backgrounds.

With this information in mind the LMP understands the importance of offering the correct level of qualifications both vocational and practical and putting in place a system of care to ensure that each participant feels supported and encouraged to reach their full potential.

The LMP wishes to ensure that the correct methods of delivery and the implementation of differentiated learning techniques are provided. The partnership also desires to ensure that the right programmes of study and support are correctly matched to meet the needs of the outlined themes identified as high priority across the District.

The combination of a pandemic and a recession will pose great difficulties for the economy and residents of NMD. Most notably, Covid-19 has had disproportionate impact on young people + graduates getting into work, over 50's and women, as jobs in sectors where women are overrepresented (e.g. retail and accommodation) have been heavily impacted. As a result, the Turning the Curve exercise as depicted below for 'Skills for Work' will direct specific interventions to reskill in areas where demand exceeds supply. Particular focus will be on hospitality (chefs, kitchen staff and front of house), health and social care and HGV Licenses for lorry drivers which through local knowledge and employer engagement the LMP are aware of acute skills gaps. The Action Plan is also proposing additional research into local skill demand v's supply in order to identify and inform current and future employability and skills interventions.



- <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/labour-force-survey-annual-report-historical>
- <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/annual-report-tables-2019>
- <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/labour-force-survey-annual-tables-2020>

Turning the Curve - Access to Work Interventions

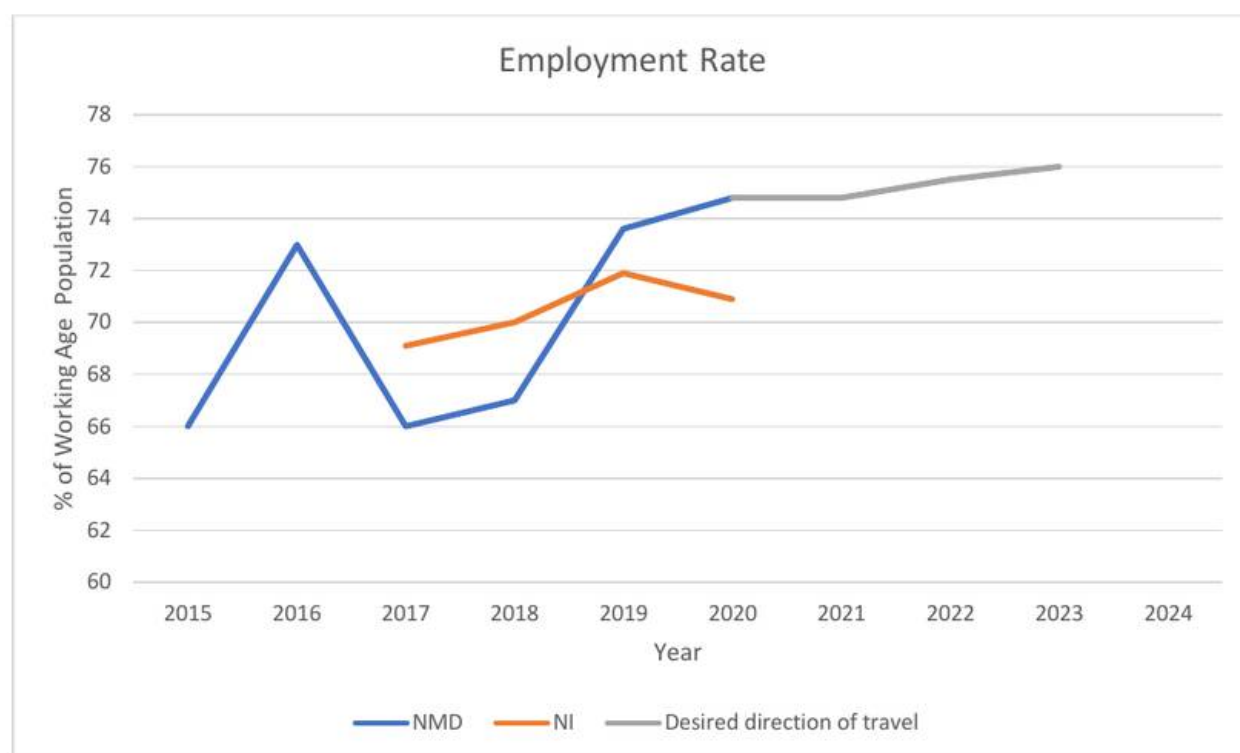
The NMD LMP has agreed to focus on understanding what the specific needs are from an employer and participant standpoint to ensure that any interventions are designed to improve employability and skills levels and which are focused on the areas which reduce unemployment and increase qualification levels in the District.

The activities identified by the LMP as a means of addressing this theme are: -

- A Promotional Campaign targeted at creating opportunities for employers to showcase their current and future skills needs to help secure future capacity and capability. This element will be promoted across all themes and target groups & include raising awareness of regional employability programmes and opportunities such as Apprenticeships and graduate employment with the District. A further aim is to create opportunities for young people, parents and schools to be better informed, speak to employers, explore options and be better equipped to secure employment locally.
- The NMD LMP takes account that it needs to do as much as it can to prevent long term unemployment within the District. It recognises there is no single

silver bullet or 'programme', instead we need a joint effort on several fronts to cope with potentially the highest level of long-term unemployment in decades. Working in partnership with strategic partners to deliver on Job and Career Events, provide career guidance and stimulate self-employment are all initiatives proposed in the NMD Action Plan.

Through tailored programmes of promotion of opportunity and a support system via the Partnership, the aim of the above is to break the cycle of Economic Inactivity and to help those most at risk of disengaging from the Labour Market, as well as to showcase the skills gaps available through our Local Employers by encouraging Apprenticeships and sectoral focused programmes, it is hoped that the NMD LMP can turn the curve on Long Term Unemployment and bringing those furthest from the labour Market back into work.



- <https://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/Theme.aspx?themeNumber=18&themeName=Labour%20Market>
- <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/labour-force-survey-annual-tables-2020>

In summary, the LMP for NMD is committed to working with its strategic partners in the local community and with our local businesses to deliver on the initiatives within the Action Plan below.

4. Action Plan 2022 / 2023

Below sets out an annual Action Plan for 2022 / 2023 for the NMD LMP. This Action Plan is based on the assumption of an LMP dedicated resource in place, a budget in place as outlined in section 5, and operational budget available for the full 2022/23 period. Any variance to these components will impact the level of activity and performance measures achieved.

Strategic Priority 1: To form and successfully deliver the functions of the local Labour Market Partnership for the area						
Indicators	% LMP members with increased awareness of local employability and labour market issues					
Theme 1: LMP Administration & Development						
Aims & Description	Key Activities	Start Date	End Date	Resource or Cost	Performance Measures	Reporting Quarter
1.1 Effective delivery of the LMP through the appropriate resource, governance and delivery structures.	<p>Administration of LMP & Action Plan</p> <p>Ensure the delivery of the 2022/2023 Action Plan; keep the NMD strategic assessment under review; respond to new challenges in the labour market.</p> <p>Facilitate meetings of the NMD LMP, and engagement with other key stakeholders as required.</p> <p>Establish external delivery contracts to ensure effective delivery against the LMP Action Plan.</p>	01 Apr 22	31 Mar 23	<p>Staff Resource + £5,500</p> <p><u>Breakdown</u></p> <p>£5000 – LMP Comms & Marketing</p> <p>£500 Hospitality & Room Hire</p>	<p>How much did we do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">6 x LMP meetings <p>How well did we do it?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">75% attendance rate at meetings <p>Is anyone better off?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">80% of LMP partners who attended feel they have increased their awareness of local	Q1-4: quarterly progress reports

	Management of programmes, including quality assurance. This will inform the forward planning for 2023/24 Action Plan, along with planned research (see 1.1).				employability and labour market issues	
LMP Development	<p>Support LMP members in their role through, for example, training and case study visits, guest speakers, attendance at events and awareness raising of LMP activity. The role of the LMP will be promoted to users, stakeholders and the general public.</p> <p>Technical assistance will be commissioned for the development, procurement and implementation of LMP programmes / initiatives.</p> <p>An evaluation of the effectiveness of the LMP and the views of stakeholders will be commissioned.</p>	01 Apr 22	31 Mar 23	<p>£16,000 + staff resource</p> <p><u>Breakdown</u></p> <p>£15,000 – external technical assistance & LMP evaluation</p> <p>£1,000 LMP Member Training / keynote speakers, etc.</p>	<p>How much did we do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 x LMP member training opportunity <p>How well did we do it?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80% of LMP members attended training <p>Is anyone better off?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80% of LMP partners feel they have benefited from training and are better equipped in their role 100% Successful commissioning that will maximize positive outcomes 	Q1-4: quarterly progress reports

<p>1.1</p> <p>Research: NMD Labour Market Analysis</p>	<p>Labour Market Supply Intelligence:</p> <p>Research will: 1) Scope the employability and skills requirements of NMD employers; 2) define and identify NMD disadvantaged groups within the unemployed and economically inactive population.</p> <p>The research will undertake a sectoral analysis to identify and inform current and future employability and skills supply. It will aid in the scoping of interventions to meet skill gaps, vacancy and recruitment challenges.</p> <p>It will identify ‘what works’ to address the needs and support of those who wish to access employment. The research will inform the design of future initiatives which can be included in future LMP Action Plans. It will identify opportunities for new sectoral Academies.</p> <p>The research will be agreed with Colleges to create a common approach to local labour market</p>	<p>01 Apr 22</p>	<p>31 Dec 22</p>	<p>£25,000 + staff resource</p> <p><u>Breakdown</u></p> <p>£25,000 external appointment for undertaking research, inc. all consultation, analysis, drawing recommendations and report writing</p>	<p>How much did we do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 x Research report completed • 2x Stakeholder engagement events <p>How well did we do it?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 x High quality report providing a strong evidence base of Actions • 80% of Stakeholders invited attended the engagement events <p>Is anyone better off?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% more informed LMP members on labour market supply and demand requirements 	<p>Q1-4: quarterly progress reports</p>
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	intelligence and improvement of employability outcomes in NMD.					
Strategic Priority 2: To improve employability outcomes and/or labour market conditions locally						
Indicators	<p>Theme 1: Access to work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• % reduction in the Claimant council in NMD (NINIS LGD2014) <p>Theme 2: Skills for work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• % reduction in the % of NMD population with no qualification <p>Theme 3: NMD: A Place to work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• % increase Resident Employment Rate / working age population (NISRA LFS).					
Theme 1: Access to Work						
Aims & Description	Key Activities	Start Date	End Date	Resource Cost	Performance Measures	Reporting Quarter
2.1 Work Start: pre-employment support	Work Start is a personalised work preparation, job search and career guidance service targeted at: economically inactive people; unemployed 18-24 year olds; 25+ long-term unemployed; those claiming UC and seeking to increase hours; and those at risk of losing their job.	01 Apr 22	31 Mar 23	£192,500 + staff resource <u>Breakdown</u>	<p>How much did we do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 110 participants engaged on programme <p>How well did we do it?</p>	Q1-4: quarterly progress reports

	<p>Target participants: 18-24 year olds who are unemployed for over 9 months; 25+ long-term (12 months) unemployed; those claiming ESA/UC with health problems and want to return to work; those on UC and seeking to increase hours; other economically inactive people.</p> <p>Participants will be offered active support for up to 9 months. Participants who have a job outcome will receive support for 3 months post-employment in order to support job retention. The programme will be a 12-month programme including design, procurement and launch.</p> <p>The focus will be to support participants into employment, education or training, or other opportunities which will improve their employability.</p> <p>Work Start will provide an individualised plan for support in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-going one to one mentoring from an advisor – level of support to be tailored to the individual needs. 			<p>1 delivery contract awarded:</p> <p>Service requirements and standards will be specified at procurement. Outcome targets will be set; maximum contract value of £1,750 per person to include full programme management, including promotion, recruitment, delivery, monitoring and evaluation. Budget breakdown will be determined following a procurement process.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 88/80% participants completed the programme <p>Is anyone better off?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 70/80% of participants engaged have positive outcomes (training and/or jobs); 70/80% of participants engaged feel they have improved employability and more confident about applying for employment or training opportunities 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job search and CV development • Placement and work experience opportunities with employers • Transferable skills for industry pathways • Access/signposting to training and reskilling opportunities • Interview support and interview skills • Employability support/soft skills. <p>Signposting and referrals will include DfE Career Service, DfC Work Coaches, health service initiatives and other community services.</p> <p>Employers will be engaged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify suitable job vacancies for participants • create placements opportunities (unpaid) • ongoing post-employment support to employer and employee. <p>Placements will be in skill areas where opportunities for employment progression have been identified and</p>			<p>Assumptions on cost per head take from similar programmes: GB Restart programme, NI ESF, GB Work and Health Programme, S2S</p>		
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	<p>supported by employers. Placements will be linked to the guarantee of either a job interview or apprenticeship interview.</p> <p>Support 110 people in 2022/23.</p> <p>The programme will be a 12-month programme including design, procurement and launch.</p> <p><i>Work Start will be a priority to develop. April to September: design, ITT specification, and procure. 3rd October target date for launch of programme.</i></p>					
2.2 High Skill Pathway: Recruitment Pilot	<p>A pilot to test with NMD employers how hard-to-recruit vacancies can be filled through new pathways for graduates and others. The initiative will be co-designed with NMD employers.</p> <p>Working with a small number of employers the pilot will explore: how recruitment support and advice can be offered to employers; how pathways can be created to fill hard-to-recruit vacancies.</p>	01 Apr 22	31 Mar 23	<p>£35,000 + staff resource</p> <p>Breakdown</p> <p>1 delivery contract awarded:</p> <p>Service requirements and</p>	<p>How much did we do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 hard-to-recruit vacancies are filled with eligible people 5 employers engaging on programme <p>How well did we do it?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80% (16) participants reported that the programme was good or excellent 	Q1-4: quarterly progress reports

	<p>This is a pilot programme, which will be co-designed with employers. Pathways appropriate to the identified vacancies will be developed for unemployed or underemployed people with at least a Level 4 qualification. Advice will be given to help people align their skills to the hard-to-recruit vacancies.</p> <p>NMD LMP will work with universities, colleges and recruitment agencies to deliver the initiative. This pilot will link with NMD 'A Place to Work' (see 2.6) promoting the opportunities for high skilled people to work and/or live in NMD.</p> <p>The pilot will aim to work with around 5 employers and aim to fill 20 hard-to-recruit vacancies with suitable candidates from target groups. The feasibility of an employer financial contribution will be tested.</p> <p>State aid / subsidy control will be managed if applicable.</p> <p>The programme will be a 12-month programme including design, procurement and launch.</p>			<p>standards will be specified at procurement. outcome targets will be set</p> <p>Delivery to include full programme management, including promotion, recruitment, implementation, monitoring and evaluation</p> <p>Delivery to be co-designed with employers of the pathways to pilot; delivery of recruitment pathways for potential recruits; training as may be required of potential recruits; recruitment advice and</p>	<p>Is anyone better off?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 employers have met a skill gap in their business due to hard to recruit vacancies being filled • At least (16) 80% of recruits remain in employment for three months 	
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				<p>support for employers;</p> <p>maximum contract value of £1,750 per person. Budget breakdown will be determined following a procurement process.</p>		
2.3 Self-Employment: Business Start Development Programme	<p>Specialised, mentoring and business support between 'Go for It' participation (the creation of a business plan) and establishing a trading company which offers either PT or FT self-employment for the business owner.</p> <p>A programme of mentoring support will be offered for up to 3 months with access to ad hoc support for a further 6 months for those higher growth potential clients.</p> <p>Eligible people will be unemployed, or economically inactive, claimants. Or those working PT, less than 16 hrs.</p>	01 Apr 22	31 Mar 23	<p>£65,000 + staff resource</p> <p><u>Breakdown</u></p> <p>1 delivery contract awarded:</p> <p>£20k challenge fund</p>	<p>How much did we do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30 entrepreneurs enrolled onto business start development programme <p>How well did we do it?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24/80% of participants complete programme and are supported to launch & grow a business 6/20% participants signposted to other provision 	Q1-4: quarterly progress reports

	<p>Mentoring support available for 30 businesses/entrepreneurs.</p> <p>Up to 5 days one to one / one to many mentoring days per participant – blended approach</p> <p><u>Business Challenge Fund.</u> To operate a challenge fund which provides support towards business startup costs. A set of eligibility and selection criteria to be agreed. A budget of up to £20,000 to be allocated – supporting at least 20 businesses to commence and scale trading.</p>			<p>£45k mentoring and programme management, including promotion, recruitment, delivery, monitoring and evaluation. Mentoring - approx. £300 p/d * 30 participants * 5 days)</p>	<p>Is anyone better off?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24/80% participants will commence business start-up and scale trading 19/80% participants remain trading for 6 months 	
Theme 2: Skills for Work						
Aims & Description	Key Activities	Start Date	End Date	Resource Cost	Performance Measures	Reporting Quarter
2.4 HGV Sectoral Academy (2021/2022)	<p>HGV Sectoral Academy – Intervention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 participants 1 Academy <p>To implement a HGV Sectoral Academy aligned to local employment opportunities</p>	01/12/22	31/03/22	<p>£0.00</p> <p>(Budget from 2021/2022 action plan)</p>	<p>How much did we do?</p> <p>1 Sectoral Academy</p> <p>15 participants</p> <p>How well did we do it?</p> <p>100% Activity delivered on time</p> <p>80% attendance at training</p>	Q1 2022/2023

	<p>Sectoral Academy to be quick, short intervention, a steppingstone into entry level employment position</p> <p>Haulage Employment Academy is £1,648pp (Category C Licence).</p> <p>Small budget allocated for marketing</p> <p>Eligibility criteria to be developed with Delivery Agent however will likely include recruitment interview and driving assessment</p> <p>Delivery agent also responsible for participant recruitment and employer engagement / recruitment</p>				<p>Is anyone better off?</p> <p>On completion of the intervention 80% (min 9) participants feel more confident about securing PT or FT employment, or accessing further training opportunities</p>	
<p>2.5</p> <p>Upskilling for Growth</p>	<p>Employee Upskilling: Meeting employer needs & supporting career progression</p> <p>Support employers to upskill staff with low qualification, to enable career progression for those in employment</p>	01 April 22	31 Mar 23	<p>£11,250 + staff resource</p> <p>(+ £50,000 DfE Funding)</p>	<p>How much did we do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 employers engaged 50 employees participating <p>How well did we do it?</p>	Q1-4: quarterly progress reports

	<p>and open up opportunities for those entering the labour market.</p> <p>Engagement</p> <p>Engage with local employers to identify progression opportunities for existing staff. Support the upskilling of employees which enables job and career progression.</p> <p>Scope with employers their upskilling requirements and address their skills shortages e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills for the integration of new digital technologies • Skilling for moving to zero carbon waste/green technology. <p>Employers, in partnership with Colleges, will be able to apply for financial assistance from the LMP via an Expression of Interest application process. The payments will be made to the College in respect of the agreed training. Employers will be asked for the</p>			<p>Service requirements and standards will be specified at procurement. Outcome targets will be set; maximum contract value of £1,225 per person to include full programme management, including promotion, recruitment, delivery, monitoring and evaluation. Budget breakdown will be determined following a procurement process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8/80% Employers positive about their engagement in the programme • 40/80% of employees participating gain a new qualification <p>Is anyone better off?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8/80% employers' benefit from employees with improved skills • 40/80% participants with improved employability & confident about gaining a promotion as a result of the training, creating a vacancy for those entering the labour market • 20% participants signposted to other provision • 25 entry level vacancies created by Q4 2022/2023 	
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	<p>number of vacancies that will be realised. Maximum grants will be fixed by size of company.</p> <p>The LMP will also consider a sectoral approach by employers consider e.g. an initiative covering tourism and hospitality employers.</p> <p>Support for around 10 employers to upskill 50 employees and to create 25 entry level vacancies</p> <p><i>This programme is an LMP priority to launch.</i></p>					
2.6 Employability Academies: Development Plan	<p>1: Development phase – To identify Academies for skill interventions in sectors and occupations where opportunities for employment is identified with employers. The employer labour market research (see 1.1) will inform the development of these Academies + staff resource. Opportunities to investigate: Health</p>	01 Apr 22	31 Mar 23	<p>£125,440 + staff resource</p> <p><u>Breakdown</u></p> <p><i>Academies range in value from £800 - £3500 (BCC Employability</i></p>	<p>How much did we do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 86 participants engaged in an employment academy 6 employers directly engaged in an academy <p>How well did we do it?</p>	Q1-4: quarterly progress reports

	<p>and Social Care academies, tourism and hospitality, financial services etc.</p> <p>2: Implementation phase: To implement Academies for skill interventions in sectors and occupations where opportunities for employment are identified with employers. For example, Transport/logistics, engineering, health and social care, tourism, retail, hospitality, health and social care, creative & digital, renewable energies, agri. food sector.</p> <p>The length of the academies will vary, however will generally last between 1-6 months.</p> <p>Target groups will be: unemployed; economically inactive; underemployed and working PT; at risk of redundancy.</p> <p>Mentoring support and guidance to be available to participants to support their engagement throughout their participation on the academy and follow on support to create a stepping stone into employment or further training.</p>			<p><i>Framework). A scope will be undertaken to identify the most appropriate academies to deliver to meet local employer needs.</i></p> <p><i>Suggestions on the left. For the purpose of budgeting an average of £1458 per participant has been allowed.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 69/80% of participants successful complete the academy • 69/80% participants will receive employer recognized employability and skills developed <p>Is anyone better off?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 41/60% of participants secure a job within 4 months • 80% of employers involved report to have had access to a candidate pool that matches skill requirement • 80% of participants have improved career prospects and feel more confident about applying for employment 	
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	Target to support 86 participants					
Theme 3: NMD a Place to Work						
2.7 A Place to Work: Job & Skill Matching Engagement Campaign and Digital employability & skills platform	<p>Promoting improved information on employers and their vacancies for people who are looking for work. Collate and communicate local employability and skills opportunities. Promote NMD as a good place to work with opportunities for progression.</p> <p>Develop a website to provide an interactive platform that will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link to NMD employers • Inform about key sectors • Signpost to employer vacancies • Showcase video content of businesses, including testimonials from employers and employees • Signpost to Job Centre Online <p>The platform will also link with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colleges: reskilling, upskilling & apprenticeship opportunities • Employability and training providers • Community and voluntary organisations. 	01 Apr 2022	31 Mar 23	£30,000 + staff resource <u>Breakdown</u> Service requirements and standards will be specified at procurement. Also, opportunity to engage colleges / students in the design and delivery of programme elements i.e. branding, videography, photography etc. It is assumed that £20k could be allowed for design of a digital	<p>How much did we do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x digital platform live promoting employment opportunities across the District • 1 x A 'Place to Work' communication campaign developed and launched targeting job seekers <p>How well did we do it?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 employers linking employment opportunities on the platform site • 10 employer case studies linked on the platform • 1 campaign live showing local employment opportunities • 1800 visits to the digital platform per month <p>Is anyone better off?</p>	Q1-4: quarterly progress reports

	<p>‘A Place to work’ Campaign</p> <p>Establish and build a ‘Place to Work’ brand. To create awareness of the range of career opportunities available locally and the pathways to access jobs.</p> <p>Particularly targeting job seekers, economically inactive, students, and graduates. Promote employers and showcase local employment opportunities across NMD. Following market research the campaign may focus on a sectoral basis e.g. tourism and hospitality sector to assist as they re-establish following the end of covid-19 restrictions on business.</p> <p>Together the campaign and website will promote:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NMD key sectors and industries • Range of employment opportunities within local industries • skill requirements within companies and sectors • Career pathways 			platform with £10k towards a Place to Work Campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 80% of Employers feel they have increased opportunity to reaching job seekers 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality of life. <p>Campaign may include engagement events, digital communications, print communications, outdoor communications etc.</p>					
2.8 Employment Pathway Events	<p>Support delivery of Jobs and Career fairs and events, including sectoral focused events where scope and opportunity exists.</p> <p>Opportunity to showcase key sectors, and career opportunities.</p> <p>Enhanced Career Guidance aligned to local opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4C UR Future – skills awareness One Jobs Fair – NMD-wide employment opportunities Two sectoral career opportunity events in: careers in health and social care; and tourism and hospitality. 	01 Apr 2022	31 Mar 23	<p>£10,000 + staff resource</p> <p><u>Breakdown</u></p> <p>Budget to include venue hire, hospitality, speakers, communications, etc. Budget across elements will vary depending on scope and scope of event. All elements will be procured.</p>	<p>How much did we do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 events delivered 40 employers engaged 1000 participants attending events <p>How well did we do it?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 800/80% of participants reporting that the events were good or excellent 32/80% of employers reported the events good platform to showcase their key sector <p>Is anyone better off?</p>	Q1-4: quarterly progress reports

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One event for career teachers and schools 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500/50% of participants in attendance signposted to employment opportunities 32/80% employers reported that the event would assist in filling vacancies 	
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Strategic Priority 3: To support delivery of Employability NI						
Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> # participants engaged in traineeship and Apprenticeship opportunities at Colleges # employers offering traineeships and/or Apprenticeships Increased awareness of DfC Regional Programmes 					
Aims & Description	Key Activities	Start Date	End Date	Resource Cost	Performance Measures	Reporting Quarter
3.1 Increased awareness of employability and skills programmes	Support awareness among job seekers of the range of support available through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new digital platform (see 2.6) Programme launches targeting participants and employers Develop a social media profile Work with JBOs. 	01 Apr 22	31 Mar 2023	£0.00 Costs are covered by staff and other programme budgets (e.g. marketing)	How much did we do? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 referrals into DfC regional programmes 10 referrals onto Colleges programmes How well did we do it? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16/80% referrals accessing support 	Q1-4: quarterly progress reports

	<p>We will increase awareness of current and future DFC Employability Programmes</p> <p>To help promote co-ordination and co-operation we will provide regular briefings to JBO Work Coaches, Colleges, providers, and voluntary organisations.</p> <p>We will use the Councils contacts with employers to promote how they can benefit from employability and skills programmes.</p>				<p>Is anyone better off?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13/80% people referred feel supported to access ongoing support 	
<p>3.2</p> <p>Promoting apprenticeships, traineeships and placements as pathways to employment</p>	<p>The LMP will work with DfC, DfE and Colleges, to increase the number of employers offering placement, traineeships and apprenticeship opportunities.</p> <p>We will promote to employers the benefits of recruiting through opportunity pathways, such as Apprenticeships, traineeships, and work experience placements.</p> <p>We will aim to increase the number of school leavers considering apprenticeships as a pathway to employment. The campaign will:</p>	01 Apr 2022	31 Mar 23	<p>£20,000 + staff resource</p> <p><u>Breakdown</u></p> <p>Budget could include venue hire, hospitality, speakers, communications, etc. Budget across elements will vary</p>	<p>How much did we do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 x new social media/digital campaign developed and implemented 500 employers and students attending 2 promotion events <p>How well did we do it?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80% of attendees at events report that the event was informative <p>Is anyone better off?</p>	Q1-4: quarterly progress reports

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bust myths • Target parents, schools • SRC Big Apprenticeship event • Promote value of employer engagement. <p>A Working Group will be established by the LMP to co-design and deliver the campaign. It will help ensure opportunities match the skills required by employers, and identify new pathways, including higher-level and public-sector apprenticeships.</p> <p>We will use a wide range of communication channels including events, social media, print, and digital platforms.</p>			<p>depending on scope and scope of initiatives agreed by the LMP to take forward under this action.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 80% of participants are more informed about the benefits of a range of career pathways • 30% Increase in the take-up of Apprenticeships and traineeships 	
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5. Action Plan Budget - 2022/2023

Budget Category	Budget Sub Category	Action Plan Budget 2022-23
Administration	LMP Running Costs	
	Recruitment costs	£1,000
	IT equipment and phones	£4,000
	Staff Costs	
	Staff 1 (PO3)	£49,862
	Staff 2 (SO2)	£42,257
	Staff 3 (Scale 6)	£33,000
	Staff mileage	£3,500
	Total Administration	£133,619
operational	Development	
	LMP Member Training	£1,000
	Technical Assistance, evaluation of LMP	£15,000
	Strategic Priority 1	
	Marketing/PR	£5,000
	Hospitality, Room Hire	£500
	1.1 Research: Labour Market Analysis	£25,000
	Sub-Total	£46,500
	Strategic Priority 2	
	Theme 1: Access to Work	
	2.1 Work Start	£192,500
	2.2 High Skill Pathway Recruitment Initiative	£35,000
	2.3 Business Start Mentoring	£65,000
	Sub-Total	£292,500
	Theme 2: Skills for Work	
	2.4 HGV Sectoral Academy (2021/2022)	-
	2.5 Upskilling for Growth (+ £50,000 DfE funding)	£11,250
	2.6 Employability Academies:	
	Academy 1 (based on cost of HGV Academy)	£49,440
	Academy 2 (based on cost of social Care Academy)	£24,000
	Other Academy	£52,000
	Sub-Total	£136,690
	Theme 3: Pathways to Work	
	2.7 A Place to Work Campaign & Digital platform:	
	Development of website	£15,000
	Place to Work branding	£15,000
	2.8 Pathway Events	£10,000
	Sub-Total	£40,000
	Strategic Priority 3	
	3.1 Increased awareness	-
	3.2 Opportunity and Apprenticeship awareness	£20,000
	Sub-Total	£20,000
	Total Operational	£535,690
	NMD LMP Action Plan Total Budget 2022 / 2023	£669,309

Report to:	Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 11 th April 2022
Subject:	Strategic Review of Museums Services - Terms of Reference
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Conor Mallon, Director Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Andy Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture and Events

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 seek members approval for the ToR for the strategic review of Museums Services across the district in response to the proposal agreed at the SPR committee meeting on the 17th February 2022.</p> <p><u>Background</u> On the proposal of Councillor Brown seconded by Councillor Hanlon, it was agreed to note the Presentation on Museum Structures. It was further agreed that Council would carry out a full and detailed Strategic Review of Museum services and the investment in them across the District, this review would include meaningful consultation with key community stakeholders including Friends of the Down Museum and other groups deemed relevant.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>Concerns have been raised in respect of the implementation of a new staff structure at Down County Museum. Officers have confirmed to members that the new structure will improve the level of service provided and will not result in any reduction in staff or detriment to the provision of Museum Services at DCM.</p> <p>In response to the proposal agreed at SPR on 17th February 2022 and outlined in section 1.1, Officers have developed a ToR for a strategic review of Museums Services across the district that will be led by an independent specialist. A list of proposed external stakeholders has also been developed.</p>

3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To approve the TOR included in Appendix 1 and the list of key stakeholders included in Appendix 2 of this report.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Revenue costs for the independent specialist to lead the review team within existing budgets.
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:</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>Appx. 1 - Terms of Reference for strategic review of Museums Service within NMDDC</p> <p>Appx. 2 - List of proposed Stakeholders</p>
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A

Annexe 1

Terms of Reference for strategic review of Museums Service within NMDDC

Objectives of the review

- Review of current Museums Provision across the District and identify any areas where improvement is required
- Bench marking of Museum Provision with other regional museums run by Local Authorities
- Consider current resource provisions for the Museum Services across the District
- Set out a detailed forward plan for the museum services across the district for the next 12 month period to include proposals for, but not limited to;
 - new and improved service provision
 - Collections care and access
 - Maintaining and increasing visitor numbers and access to museums and collections
 - improving online access
 - modernising the service to meet the needs of users in post-pandemic context
 - Exhibition programme - variety and rotation of exhibits
 - resource requirements
 - Opening hours
 - Educational outreach and to maximise engagement with community including schools, care homes and interested groups
 - Targeted events at Museum to increase and widen participation, access and social inclusion by user groups including families, 16 – 24 year olds, schools, community groups and general visitors

In order to ensure all relevant parties are consulted the review team will carry out stakeholder engagement with a wide range of users and groups associated with the Museums across the district.

A proposed list of stakeholders is included in annex 2

The review team will be led by an independent specialist with the skills, knowledge and experience required to deliver on the objectives of the strategic review.

The review team will also include the Assistant Director, Museum Curator, Assistant Curators and Education and Outreach Officers.

Annexe 2

Strategic Review of Newry, Mourne and Down Museums Services

Terms of Reference

List of proposed Stakeholders:

- Friends of Down County Museum
- Lecale Historical Society
- Old Newry Society
- Other relevant historical groups in District
- Schools
- Donors
- Community Groups
- Care Homes
- Tertiary level education providers
- Luncheon Clubs
- NMNI
- NI Museums Council

Report to:	Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 11 th April 2022
Subject:	Ulster Architectural Heritage Society Summer School
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Andrew Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture and Events
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Andrew Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture and Events

<table><tr><td>For decision</td><td>X</td><td>For noting only</td><td></td></tr></table>		For decision	X	For noting only	
For decision	X	For noting only			
1.0	Purpose and Background				
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u> To seek approval for recommendations set out in section 3.1 of this report to provide financial support to Ulster Architectural Heritage Society (UAHS) and the Irish Georgian Society (IGS) to support a Cross-Border Summer School Study Day being held in Bagenal's Castle (Newry and Mourne Museum) in June 2022.</p> <p><u>Background</u> The Summer School will provide information and access on the built heritage of Newry City, and its wealth of architectural talent (past and present) and promote it to a wider audience. The UAHS seeks the support of the Council to help deliver this event in the Newry area, and requests financial support of up to £1,200 as a contribution towards costs.</p>				
2.0	Key issues				
2.1	<p>As an acknowledgement of support, UAHS will recognise Newry, Mourne & Down District Council as a funding partner across all publicity, promotion and published material for the event.</p> <p>Site visits will include Riverside Reformed Presbyterian Church, Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church and a walking tour to include Saint Colman's Hall, Merchant's Quay, Bank of Ireland, St Mary's Church, Newry Town Hall and Newry Cathedral</p> <p>Proposed speakers will include; Dr Paul Harron, Chief Executive of Ulster Architectural Heritage and author of the recently published W.J Barre, 1839-1867: A Vigorous Mind. Professor Alistair Rowan, Marcus Patton OBE, Dawson Stelfox MBE and/or John Savage, architects at Consarc Design Group, Dr Edward McParland, Tom Gilson, architect etc.</p>				

3.0	Recommendations
3.1	Approval to provide financial support to Ulster Architectural Heritage Society (UAHS) and the Irish Georgian Society (IGS) to support a Cross-Border Summer School Study Day being held in Newry in June 2022.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	The required budget of £1,200 is available within ERT departmental budgets.
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:</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
	Appendix 1 – UAHS Summer School
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A

Appendix 1 – UAHS Summer School



UAH and IGS Summer School Study Day 2022

Proposal for Support to Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

Newry: A City Rediscovered

Proposal:

The Ulster Architectural Heritage Society (UAHS) and the Irish Georgian Society (IGS), two of the leading building conservation charities on the island, are seeking funding to support a Cross-Border Summer School Study Day being held in June 2022 in Newry City.

The event will bring together over c.50 students, enthusiasts and practitioners to explore, discuss and debate issues relating to our shared architectural and cultural heritage.

The two societies came together in 2015 to organise the first cross-border summer school, which with the collaboration and support of the local authorities, was run with notable success in Armagh and Monaghan, followed by Derry-Londonderry and Donegal in 2017 and again in Fermanagh and Cavan in 2019, with further one-day events held in 2016 and 2018.

Since the beginning, the Summer School and Study Days have continued to gain popularity and momentum, fulfilling and strengthening their aim to promote heritage, its values, its protection, conservation, and regeneration at local level to students, enthusiasts and practitioners from across the island of Ireland and the UK.

Working closely together as two of the leading building conservation charities, and with the proposed support of Newry, Mourne & Down District Council, the Summer School Study Day programme will be developed to best showcase the heritage of Newry, the work of the local authorities, local commitment and the importance of communities and community groups in making the delivery of heritage plans and projects a success.

Ulster Architectural Heritage: www.ulsterarchitecturalheritage.org.uk

Irish Georgian Society: www.igs.ie

Key supporters of previous Summer Schools include:

Cavan County Council

Fermanagh & Omagh District Council

Derry City & Strabane District Council

Donegal County Council

Summer School Study Day 2022 Proposal:

The core theme of the 2022 Summer School Study Day will focus on Newry: A City Rediscovered. Encouraged by the rediscovery of Baginbelle Castle, UAH and IGS want to shine a new light on Newry, rediscovering its built heritage. Through a programme of activities including lectures, discussions and walking tours, participants will be encouraged to actively discuss and answer a series of thought provoking and challenging questions.

Key areas of discussion may include:

- What makes a city;
- How to identify a city's key landmarks;
- The associated challenges of discovering a historic building;
- Reusing historic buildings.

Outcomes for participants:

The Summer School Study Day will host up to c.50 participants of which at least c.20 ticketed places will be allocated for students in a related discipline (architecture, art history, conservation, engineering and planning) at a reduced rate. The Summer School Study Day will provide other delegates with an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the historic built environment of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area. It is hoped that the Summer School Study Day will encourage like-minded individuals, both students and professionals alike, to form connections that serve them in the future and to enrich their studies and/or professional careers based on their participation.

Outcomes particular to Newry, Mourne & Down District Council:

As organisers of this event, UAH and IGS believe that the Summer School Study Day will place a spotlight on Newry as a border city with a wealth of built heritage, encouraging participants to revisit Newry and the wider remit of the Newry, Mourne & Down District Council in the not so distant future.

The event wishes to engage participants by examining local projects specific to Newry with the assistance of local residents who have particular knowledge and experience of living in the area.

Proposed 2022 speakers and contributors include:

- Dr Paul Harron, Chief Executive of Ulster Architectural Heritage and author of the recently published *W.J Barre, 1839-1867: A Vigorous Mind*.
- Professor Alistair Rowan, author of *The Buildings of Ireland: North West Ulster*.
- Marcus Patton OBE, former director of HEARTH, Ulster Architecture Committee member and author of *Central Belfast - An Historical Gazetteer*.
- Dawson Stelfox MBE and/or John Savage, architects at Consarc Design Group.
- Dr Edward McParland, Vice President of Ulster Architectural Heritage and architectural historian.
- Tom Gilsenan, architect.
- Others or alternatives as agreed subject to programme development.

Proposed 2022 site visits within Newry City Centre

- Bagenal's Castle (Hub for the Summer School Study Day)
- Riverside Reformed Presbyterian Church (Barre)
- Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church

Proposed walking tour areas of interest/discussion:

- Saint Colman's Hall
- Merchant's Quay
- Bank of Ireland
- St Mary's Church
- Newry Town Hall
- Newry Cathedral

Why UAH need the support of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council:

The key areas of expenditure for this event include participant transportation to and from Belfast City Centre, the hire of Bagenal's Castle function room(s) as a 'hub' for the day, alongside catering for all participants and guest lecturers.

As a small charitable organisation Ulster Architectural Heritage seek the support of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to help deliver this event in the Newry area. We would be grateful if the Council would consider offering financial support in the region of £1,200 which would cover the above costs. Other expenses including speakers' fees, promotional materials and staff support will be met by Ulster Architectural Heritage.

As a not for profit organisation, 100% of revenue from ticket sales will be reinvested within the organisation(s) to aid our mission of further promoting Northern Ireland's and Ireland's built heritage. From experience, events like this strengthen our resilience, enabling strong working relationships with district councils.

Benefits of the Council supporting the Summer School Study Day:

As an acknowledgement of support, UAH will recognise Newry, Mourne & Down District Council as a funding partner across all publicity, promotion and published material for the event. UAH would also welcome the support of Newry, Mourne & Down District Council by inviting a guest representative from the Council to speak at the event from any particular relevant department(s). UAH would also be delighted if up to five Council staff members could join us for the day as our guests.

6 Monthly Report for ERT Committee Meeting

1.0 Building Regulations Report – Matters for Noting

1.1 Number of Building Regulation Applications Received

1 Sept 2021 – 28 Feb 2022
1483

1 Sept 2020 – 28 Feb 2021
1538

1.2 Fees Received

1 Sept 2021 – 28 Feb 2022
Plan Fee £120,612.81
Inspection Fee £427,017.87
Other Fee £1,295.00
Total £548,925.68

1 Sept 2020 – 28 Feb 2021
Plan Fee £131,377.89
Inspection Fee £393,291.18
Other Fee £2,275.00
Total £526,944.07

1.3 Site Inspections carried out

1 Sept 2021 – 28 Feb 2022
5654

1 Sept 2020 – 29 Feb 2021
5808

1.4 Performance

Current performance indicators are being met:-

Domestic Plan Assessments assessed within 21 days	(Target 75%) 76%
Non Domestic Plan Assessments assessed within 35 days	(Target 75%) 80%
BR3 Returns assessed within 14 days	(Target 80%) 93%

2.0 Enforcement

Number of premises visited to assess extent of unauthorised works between September 2021 and February 2022 = 8

12a Seaview, Warrenpoint	Removal of fire doors to vertical and horizontal escape routes and blocking of final exits	Resolved
11 Desert Road, Mayobridge	Detached garage / store	Resolved
17 Windsor Hill, Newry	Alteration and extension to dwelling	Resolved
78 Canal Street, Newry	Alterations to 8 Apartments	Resolved
19 Drumnahunshin Road, Whitecross	Alteration / extension to kitchen manufacturing	Resolved
19 & 20 Ardmore Park, Whitecross	Conversion to form a single dwelling	Resolved
9 Newry Road, Camlough	New Building	Reminder letter issued
256 Armagh Road, Newry	Installation of wood burning stove	Resolved

3.0 Dangerous Structures

Number of premises identified as dangerous structures between September 2021 and February 2022 = 7

56 Merchants Quay, Newry	Loose signage to side of commercial premises	Resolved
Sugar House Quay, Newry	Dangerous and loose hoarding	Resolved
34 Liscalgot Road, Crossmaglen	Unstable stonework on building	Resolved

31-33 Lower Catherine Street, Newry	Dangerous wall	Resolved
Carlingford Bay Hotel, Warrenpoint	Loose / dangerous roofing material	Resolved
56 Seaview, Warrenpoint	Loose slates and gutter at vacant building	Resolved
32 Irish Street, Downpatrick	Damaged windows	Resolved

4.0 Property Certificates

Property certificates responded to date.

1 Sept 2021 – 28 Feb 2022
1299

1 Sept 2020 – 28 Feb 2021
1409

5.0 Fire Risk Assessments

Our Building Control Surveyors have carried out 28 Fire Risk Assessments during the past 6 months.

- Newcastle Centre & Tropicana
- Ballynahinch Community Centre
- Dan Rice Hall
- The Market House
- Castlewellan Community Centre
- Castlewellan Community Centre Playgroup
- Down Arts Centre
- Down Leisure Centre
- Killyleagh Bridge Centre
- Downshire Civic Centre
- Castle Depot
- DSO Works Depot
- Delamont Country Park (Heron's Nest)
- Delamont Country Park (Office Block)
- Delamont Country Park (Toilet Block x 2)
- Delamont Country Park (Office Block)
- Saintfield Sports Centre
- Ballykinlar Community Centre
- Newcastle Bowling Pavilion
- Donard Park Pavilion
- Annsborough Pavilion
- Killough Pavilion
- Dundrum Pavilion
- Langley Road Pavilion
- Strangford Pavilion
- Ardglass Playing Fields Pavilion
- Bann Road Playing Fields Changing Room

6.0 Energy Performance of Buildings (EPB) Checks and LPS Vacant Rating 1st September 2021 -28th February 2022

ESTATE AGENTS

- ❖ Total no of agents checked (on site/ website) - 45
- ❖ Total number of properties not compliant – 0
- ❖ Number of first warning letters issued – 0
- ❖ Number of successful first warning letters – 0

PENALTY CHARGE NOTICES

- ❖ Penalty Charge Notices issued this period– 0
- ❖ Penalty Charge Notices paid this period – 0
- ❖ Penalty Charge Notices paid this period that were issued in previous period - 1
- ❖ Penalty Charge Notices issued in previous period now with Small Claims Court for failure to pay – 0

DISPLAY ENERGY CERTIFICATES (DEC's)

- ❖ Number of buildings checked on Landmark - 216
- ❖ Number of buildings compliant on Landmark - 173
- ❖ Number of first warning letters issued - 46
- ❖ Number of successful first warning letters - 3

AIR CONDITIONING

- ❖ Number of air con buildings checked on landmark - 112
- ❖ Number of air con buildings compliant – 78
- ❖ Number of first warning letters issued – 34
- ❖ Number of successful first warning letters – 0

EPCs RECEIVED (ON CONSTRUCTION)

- ❖ Number of new dwelling EPC's checked on Landmark – 364
- ❖ Number of new dwellings complaint – 358
- ❖ Number of dwellings now compliant after Letter 1 – 360

LPS VACANT RATING

- ❖ No vacant rating carried out between September and March due to Covid 19 restrictions

Recommendation:

For Noting

Colum Jackson

Assistant Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism

Licensing Report: Matters for Noting

1 September 2021 - 28 February 2022

1.0	Application Information	
1.1	Number of Licensing Applications Received and Validated (Entertainment, Cinema, Petroleum, Amusement, Marriage, Street Trading, Lotteries, Road Closures, Pavement Café and Dogs)	5658
1.2	Number of Licences Granted (Entertainment, Cinema, Petroleum, Amusement, Marriage, Street Trading, Lotteries, Road Closures, Pavement Café and Dogs)	5658
1.3	Number of Annual Inspections Carried out (Amusement, Cinema, Entertainment, Marriage, Petroleum and also During Performance Inspections)	131

2.0 List of Entertainment Licences Issued (67)

Name of Premises (Entertainment)	Address		
Annesley Hall	South Promenade	Newcastle	BT33 0EX
Ardglass Golf Club	Castle Place	Ardglass	BT30 7TP
Ballynahinch Rugby Football Club	Mountview Road	Ballynahinch	BT24 8JR
Bellinis Bar & Restaurant	Merchants Quay	Newry	BT35 6AH
Canal Court Hotel	Merchants Quay	Newry	BT35 8HF
Castleward Estate - Front Lawn, Deerpark, Courtyard and Stableyard	Park Road	Strangford	BT30 7LS
Castleward Estate - Mansion House, Tea Room and Theatre	Park Road	Strangford	BT30 7LS
Catholic Working Mens Club	Hill Street	NEWRY	BT34 1AR
Cobbles Bar	The Mall	Newry	BT34 1XA
Crossgar War Memorial Community Hall	John Street	Crossgar	BT30 9EG
Crossmaglen Rangers Social Club	Dundalk Road	Crossmaglen	BT35 9HL
Dorsey Community Centre	Roxborough Road	Cullyhanna	BT35 0QQ
Doyle's Bar	Main Street	Camlough	BT35 7JG
Drumaness Mills Football Club	Drumaness Road	Drumaness	BT24 8RL
Dufferin Arms	High Street	Killyleagh	BT30 9AF
First & Last	The Square	Warrenpoint	BT34 3JT
Greenans Bar	Hilltown Road	Cabra	BT34 5EX
Hillyard House	Castle Avenue	Castlewellan	BT31 9DX
Hunter Moore Social Club	Belfast Road	Newry	BT34 1QH
INF Social Club Ballyholland	Lower Ballyholland Road	Newry	BT34 2LU
International Bar	Cross Street	Killyleagh	BT30 9QU
Irish National Foresters (INF)	Rostrevor Road	Hilltown	
Irish National Foresters (INF) Club	William Street	Newry	BT34 2EQ
Irwins Public House	Castleblayney Street	Newtownhamilton	BT35 0PD
Joyland Amusement Centre	Central Promenade	Newcastle	BT33 0AA

Name of Premises (Entertainment)	Address		
Kilbroney Bar	Church Street	Rostrevor	BT34 3BA
Killeavy Castle Estate	Ballintemple Road	Killeavy	BT35 8LQ
Killeavy GAC	Forkhill Road	Newry	BT35 8QX
Loughinisland GAC	Teconnaught Road	Loughinisland	BT30 8QE
Magees Bar	Merchants Quay	Newry	BT34 6AH
Minerstown Tavern	Minerstown Road	Downpatrick	BT30 8SU
Montalto House	Dromore Road	Ballynahinch	BT24 8AY
Newry Independent Social Club	Kilmorey Street	Newry	
Newry Orange Hall	Downshire Road	Newry	
Newry Shamrocks GAC Social Club	Ballinacraig Way	Newry	BT34 2QX
Newry Town Hall	Bank Parade	Newry	BT35 6HP
Newtownhamilton Rural Community Hall	Dundalk Road	Newry	BT35 0PE
Owenbeg Bowling Club	Stream Street	Downpatrick	BT30 6DE
Peadar O'Doirnin GAA Club	Bog Road	Forkhill	BT35 9SZ
Railway Bar	Monaghan Street	NEWRY	BT35 6AY
Royal British Legion	Derrymore Road	Bessbrook	BT35 7DY
Savages Bar	Main Street	Castlewellan	BT31 9DF
Second Saintfield Presbyterian Church Hall	Ballynahinch Road	Saintfield	BT24 7AD
Shane O'Neills GFC	Newry Road	Camlough	BT35 7JP
Silverbridge Harps GAC	New Road	Silverbridge	BT35 9NB
Silverbridge Resource Centre	New Road	SILVERBRIDGE	BT35 9NB
Slieve Donard Hotel	Downs Road	Newcastle	BT33 0AH
Square 4	The Square	Kilkeel	BT34 4AA
St Patricks GFC	Tullynavall Road	Cullyhanna	BT35 0PZ
St Peters GAA	Mary Street	Warrenpoint	
The Anchor Bar	Bryansford Road	Newcastle	BT33 0HJ
The Bank Bar	Trevor Hill	Newry	BT34 1DN
The Bridge Bar	North Street	Newry	BT34 1DD
The Cloughmor Inn	Bridge Street	Rostrevor	BT34 3BG
The Dundrum Inn	Main Street	Dundrum	BT33 0LX
The Lobster Pot	The Square	Strangford	BT30 7ND
The Lodge Building & Cultural & Business Centre	Dublin Road	Castlewellan	BT31 9AG
The Mariner	Central Promenade	Newcastle	BT33 0HH
The Oaks Bar	Darragh Cross	Saintfield	BT24 7EQ
The Rostrevor Inn	Bridge Street	Rostrevor	BT34 3BG
The Three Steps	Finnegans Road	Dromintee	BT35 8TA
The Whistledown Hotel	Seaview	Warrenpoint	BT34 3NH
The White Horse Inn	Main Street	Saintfield	BT24 7AB
Ti Chulainn Cultural Centre	Bog Road	Mullaghbawn	BT35 9TT
Warrenpoint Golf Club	Lower Dromore Road	Warrenpoint	BT343LN
Welcome Inn	Main Street	Forkhill	BT35 9SQ
Ye Old Ship Inn	The Square	Warrenpoint	BT34 3JT

3.0 List of Petroleum Licences Issued ⁽²⁹⁾

Name of Premises (Petroleum)	Address		
Annacloy Filling Station	Annacloy Road	Downpatrick	BT30 9AE
Barbican Annalong	Kilkeel Road	ANNALONG	BT34 4TJ
Bells Supervalu	Downpatrick Road	Crossgar	BT30 9EQ
Brennans	Main Street	Dundrum	BT33 0LU
Casey's Filling Station	Concession Road	Crossmaglen	BT35 9AB
Casey's Supermarket Ltd	Newry Road	Crossmaglen	BT35 9HH
Clarnew Limited	Newry Road	Crossmaglen	BT35 9BW
Clonalig Stores Ltd	Concession Road	Crossmaglen	BT35 9JD
D&W Carlisle Ltd	Belfast Road	Ballynahinch	BT24 8FF
Donnelly's Service Station	Dublin Road	Newry	BT35 8RL
Downpatrick Service Station	New Bridge Street	Downpatrick	BT30 6EY
Eurospar	Castlewellan Road	Newcastle	BT33 0DB
Fiveways Shop and Service Station	Armagh Road	Newry	BT35 6PW
Fresh Food Centre	Dublin Road	Castlewellan	BT31 9AQ
Gaboto Limited	Concession Road	Crossmaglen	BT35 9JE
GO Ballynahinch	Belfast Road	Ballynahinch	BT24 8DZ
Henderson Retail - Spar	Newcastle Road	Kilkeel	BT34 4NJ
Kellys Point Hire Limited	Milltown Industrial Estate	Warrenpoint	BT34 3PN
MCG Wholesale	Edenappa Road	Jonesborough	BT35 8HY
McKevitt Services Ltd (Barneys SS)	Dublin Road	NEWRY	BT35 8RL
Meadowside Filling Station	Church Street	Downpatrick	BT30 6EH
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council	Greenbank Industrial Estate	Newry	BT34 2QU
PSNI	Ballyhornan Road	Downpatrick	BT30 6RB
S McConnell & Sons Ltd	Carrigenagh Road	KILKEEL	BT34 4QA
Satellite Filling Station	Rathfriland Road	HILLTOWN	BT34 5YN
Save Oils Ltd	Glassdrumman Road	Annalong	BT34 4QL
Spar Castlewellan	Newcastle Road	Castlewellan	BT31 9DP
Spar Crossgar Service Station	Saintfield Road	Crossgar	BT30 8HY
Spar Killyleagh	Downpatrick Street	Killyleagh	BT30 9RG

4.0 List of Amusement Permits Issued ⁽³⁾

Boyle Gaming	Mill Street	Newry	BT34 1AG
Boyle Bingo & Amusements	Church Street	Warrenpoint	BT34 3HN
Kent Amusements	Central Promenade	Newcastle	BT33 0HH

5.0 Breakdown of Animal Welfare calls in Newry, Mourne and Down

5.1	Animal Welfare Calls	
	Total number of calls for Northern Ireland	2891
	Total number of calls received to date by Southern Region Area	717
	Number of calls for Newry, Mourne and Down District area	309
	Completed calls for Newry, Mourne and Down District area	276
5.2	Animal Welfare Cases	
	Number of animal welfare cases in Northern Ireland	2281
	Number of animal welfare cases in Southern Region group	534
	Number of animal welfare cases in Newry, Mourne and Down DC	218
	Number of calls that are not animal welfare cases	91
5.3	Breakdown of Animal Welfare Cases	
	Total number of animal welfare cases in Northern Ireland	2281
	Number of animal welfare cases closed in Northern Ireland	1965
	Number of animal welfare cases open in Southern Region group	55
5.4	Breakdown of Visits and Actions (Newry)	
	Number of visits carried out	290
	Improvement Notices	19
	Number of cases of animals seized	6

6.0 Street Nameplates

Nameplates Requests Received	60
Nameplates Ordered	72
Nameplates confirmed as being erected	88

7.0 List of Single Language Nameplates erected from 1 September 2021 - 28 February 2022

Street Name	
Lismore Road, Downpatrick	
Hillcrest Heights Leading To Hillcrest Way, Hillcrest Avenue & Hillcrest Green, Bessbrook	
Hillcrest Green, Bessbrook	
Hillcrest Heights, Bessbrook	
Hillcrest Way, Bessbrook	
Willow Crescent, Downpatrick	

Blinne Court, Newry	
Rocks Road, Ballyhornan	
Cross Lane, Kilcoo	
No's 1-6 Rowallane Gate Leading To 33, 37, 39 Old Grand Jury Road, Saintfield	
Queens Park, Saintfield	
Beechdale Cottages, Crossgar	
Ardmore Meadows, Newry	
Linen Hall, Castlewellan	
Erskine Place, Newry	
Clonduff Road, Hilltown	
Massford Close, Dromara Finnis	
Oaklands Leading To Kildarragh Close & 30 Warrenpoint Road, Newry	
34 - 92 & 37 - 95 Oaklands Leading To Kildarragh Close & 30 Warrenpoint Road, Newry	
58 - 92 & 49 -95 Oaklands Leading To 30 Warrenpoint Road, Newry	
53 - 67 Oaklands, Newry	
58 - 92 & 69 - 95 Oaklands Leading To 30 Warrenpoint Road, Newry	
Hamilton Mews, Killyleagh	
Trim Cottages, Killyleagh	
Nos 1 - 6 Fairways View, Newcastle	
Ardfern Avenue Leading To Ardferrn Way, Downpatrick	(Replacement)
Willow Crescent Leading To Willow Park And Kinelarty Walk, Ballynahinch	(Replacement)
Chestnut Road, Ballynahinch	(Replacement)
Grove Gardens, Killyleagh	(Replacement)
Lough Quarter Road, Downpatrick	(Replacement)
Bunkers Hill, Castlewellan	(Replacement)
3, 4, 5, 6 Mourne Cottages Leading To 115, 123, 125 Newry Road, Kilkeel	(Replacement)
1, 2 & 2a Mourne Cottages, Kilkeel	(Replacement)
Braemar Avenue, Newcastle	

8.0 Requests for Dual Language Nameplates

8.1 Castlehill, Castlewellan

It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 50 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).

8.2 Station Avenue, Castlewellan

It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 57 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).

8.3 Dundrinne Road, Castlewellan

It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 48 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).

8.4 Dundrinne Rise, Castlewellan

It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 41 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).

8.5 Church Avenue, Castlewellan

It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 13 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).

8.6 Church View, Castlewellan

It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 74 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).

8.7 Bay View, Jonesborough

It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 31 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).

8.8 Low Road, Meigh

It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 36 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).

8.9 Regina Park, Jonesborough

It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 41 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).

8.10 Mountain Close, Drumintee

It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 9 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).

8.11 Aghadavoyle Road, Drumintee/Jonesborough

It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 63 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).

8.12 New Line, Drumintee

It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 10 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).

8.13 Ballynamadda Road, Drumintee

It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 27 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).

8.14 Church Place, Castlewellan

It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 7 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).

8.15 Church Street, Castlewellan

It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 15 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).

16 Circular Road, Castlewellan

It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 49 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).

17 Drumee Drive, Castlewellan

It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 10 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).

18 Drumee Walk, Castlewellan

It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 6 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).

19 St Malachys Avenue, Castlewellan

It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 34 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).

20 St Malachys Crescent, Castlewellan

It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 25 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).

21 The Rocks, Castlewellan

It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 5 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).

22 Ballynamona Road, Drumintee

It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 26 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).

23 Carewamean Road, Jonesborough

It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 24 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).

24 Carrickbroad Road, Dromintee

It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 46 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).

25 Molly Road, Jonesborough

It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 15 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).

26 Mountain View, Drumintee

It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 12 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).

27 Station Road, Jonesborough

It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 22 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).

28 Wood Road, Killeavy

It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 6 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).

29 Malone Drive, Downpatrick

It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 25 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).

30 Seaview, Killough

It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 77 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).

31 School Road, Killough

It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 41 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).

32 Kennedy Park, Killough

It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 20 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).

33 Leaside Gardens, Downpatrick

It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 29 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).

34 Ballyhossett Road, Downpatrick

It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 31 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).

9.0 Postal Numbering

- | | | |
|------------|----------------------------------|------------|
| 9.1 | Allocation of New Postal Address | 183 |
| 9.2 | Postal queries received | 223 |

Postal queries are address queries from Pointer, Land and Property Services and queries from members of the public.

10.0 Requests for Development Naming (Approved)

10.1 "Carrive Close" Forkhill

By Developer: May Developments (NI) Ltd

The proposed development name meets with the Street Naming Criteria under criterion No.2 - 'Reflect the local townland name, or a local geographical/topographical feature, or social or historical feature'.

The name Carrive Close is part of the local history and surroundings e.g. Carrive Forest and Mountain.

10.2 "Cleomack Close" Hilltown

By Developer: P Fitzpatrick Quarries

The proposed development name meets with the Street Naming Criteria under criterion No.2 - 'Reflect the local townland name, or a local geographical/topographical feature, or social or historical feature'.

The development name is in reference to the local townland in which the development is situated.

10.3 "Bay Close" Killough

By Developer: Paul Ward

The proposed development name meets with the Street Naming Criteria under criterion No.2 - 'Reflect the local townland name, or a local geographical/topographical feature, or social or historical feature'.

This is based on the site being 50 metres back from Killough Bay which is also represented on the historical maps of the area.

Recommendation:

For Noting:

Signed: -



Colum Jackson

**Assistant Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism
(Building Control)**

Report to:	Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 11 th April 2022
Subject:	Entertainment Licence Fees.
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Colum Jackson, Assistant Director, Building Control and Licensing
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Fintan Quinn, Head of Service - Licensing

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 take note of the content of this report and the recommendation in section 3.1</p> <p><u>Background</u> The Department of Communities have consulted with the 11 Councils in relation to the hardship experienced by the hospitality industry as a result of the Covid 19 restrictions. As such the Minister has decided to permit Councils to charge a minimal fee of £1 for the processing of renewal Entertainment License applications for the next financial year. The reduction in revenue due to Councils will be offset by an additional £17m funding provided to Councils by the NI Executive.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	Hospitality venues have suffered financial hardship during the Covid 19 restrictions and although most of the restrictions have eased, the sector has some way to go to get back to normal operation. The Minister and Council are keen to assist this sector.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To note the content of this report and support the hospitality sector with a nominal £1 fee for the renewal of Entertainment Licence applications for the 2022/23 financial year.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	The projected loss of revenue due to Councils will be offset by the additional funding provided by the DfC.

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:</i></p> <p>N/A</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>

	<div>If yes, please complete the following:</div> <div>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></div>
7.0	Appendices
	Appendix A Letter from the Department of Communities to the chief Executive.
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A



Department for
Communities
www.communities-ni.gov.uk

An Roinn
Pobal

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Chief Executive of District Council

Local Government & Housing
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23 March 2022

Dear Chief Executive

REVIEW OF REDUCED FEES FOR ENTERTAINMENTS LICENCES

As you know with effect from 6 April 2021 the Minister for Communities introduced a nominal fee of £1 for renewal applications only, for all categories of entertainments licence to alleviate the hardship being experienced by the hospitality industry as a result of COVID-19 restrictions, the reduction to remain in place for the duration of the 2021/2022 financial year.

In January this year we sought councils' views on whether or not there was a need to extend this easement beyond the end of the 2021/2022 financial year. Views received were mixed but the majority of councils favoured extending the reduction on condition that the Department provided additional funding to cover the resulting loss of income.

Having considered the councils' views, and given that the Health Minister has only very recently lifted all remaining COVID-19 restrictions on hospitality venues, meaning businesses have still some way to go to get back to normal operation, the Minister has decided to continue with this easement for a further year.

The nominal fee of £1 for renewal applications only, for all categories of entertainments licence will therefore remain as set out in Local Government Circular 4/2021 for the 2022/2023 financial year, subject to a further review later this year.

The continuation of this measure will result in further loss of income for councils during the year to come. However, additional funding of some £17m provided by the Executive for council losses incurred as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic is to be allocated to local councils by this Department as announced by the Minister today. This funding includes provision to cover any loss of income resulting from the reduction in fees for the renewal of entertainment licences for 2022/23.

Yours sincerely

Liam Quinn
Assistant Director of Local Government and Housing Regulation

HISTORIC**ACTION TRACKER SHEET****ENTERPRISE REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE****(For Noting at ERT Meeting – 11 April 2022)**

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ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		October 2019			
ERT/138/2019	CARLINGFORD LOUGH GREENWAY	<p>(a) The Council proceed to commence the PQQ contractor procurement stage for the Northern section of the Carlingford Lough Greenway.</p> <p>(b) Council Officers to update Councillor McMurray regarding plans for Greenways at Comber/Downpatrick.</p>	J McGilly	<p>Negotiations ongoing with landowners and funder. Revised submission submitted to funders May 2020. Planning submitted and awaiting decision. SEUPB considering additional funding bid. Economic appraisal completed and</p>	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
				with SEUPB and DfI	
		(AUGUST 2020)			
ERT/095/2020	CAR PARK BANN ROAD CASTLEWELLAN	To progress the proposed redevelopment of the Bann Road parking area in collaboration with DfI and approve the submission of a planning application for a change of use for the area concerned.	C Jackson	In progress, work has commenced and due for completion by June 2022.	N
		SEPTEMBER 2020			
ERT/129/2020	(Historic Action) NEWCASTLE HARBOUR	A paper be brought to a meeting of the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting outlining proposals to move forward with the regeneration of Newcastle Harbour.	J McGilly	Work in progress, Following September ERT Working group to be established to progress in line with Master plan review for Newcastle	N
		(MARCH 2021)			
ERT/051/2021	WARRENPOINT BATHS	1. Council continue to ensure that ongoing measures are taken to monitor and address Health and Safety concerns as they arise at the existing Baths Structure.	J McGilly	SOC complete and presented to Feb SFWG.	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		<p>2. Council officials to continue discussions with potential funders given the development of new funding programmes - Peace Plus; Shared Prosperity Fund; NLHF, Tourism NI, etc, based on the development of the facility as per the planning approval that is currently in place on the site.</p> <p>3. Council officials proceed with appointment of a consultancy team to prepare a business case / economic appraisal on the existing Council approved scheme based on the Planning approval in place for the Warrenpoint Baths site.</p>			
ERT/093/2021	LEVELLING UP FUND	<p>1. The Council do not submit an application in the current call for 18 June 2021 Levelling Up Fund, but explore and develop initiatives that best fit the criteria utilising the Development fund that will become available early summer.</p> <p>2. In respect of CRF, the Council explore potential joint funding bids with FE sector aligned to economic development and regeneration strategy.</p>	J McGilly	Work in progress	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		(AUGUST 2021)			
ERT/137/2021	NOTICE OF MOTION RE: REVIVAL OF DOWNPATRICK TOWN CENTRE	<p>To note Report dated 09 August 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment & Regeneration, and proceed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officers carry out a detailed options appraisal in partnership with local elected Members and business representatives, looking at the most suitable option going forward, that best represents the need of the Town Centre. Report back to the ERT Committee with findings of the options appraisal exercise. 	J McGilly	<p>Work in progress. Report to Feb ERT on next steps following consultation with key stakeholders.</p> <p>Facilitated workshop currently being planned for March /April 2022</p>	N
		(SEPTEMBER 2021)			
ERT/178/2021	SUBMISSIONS TO DFI RE: GREENWAY AND ACTIVE TRAVEL PROJECTS	<p>Given their importance to the District's tourism industry, Task and Finish Working Groups be set up for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of Greenways - Newcastle Harbour 	J McGilly	Work in progress	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		An update be provided to Councillor Stokes regarding the application in respect of Newry Greenway.			
		(OCTOBER 2021)			
ERT/183/2021	LABOUR MARKET PARTNERSHIP	<p>a) To note that Council have prepared and submitted to the Department for Communities, a Strategic Assessment and Action Plan for implementation of a Labour Market Partnership (LMP) across the District.</p> <p>b) To approve the Business Case for the Labour Market Partnership Action Plan.</p> <p>c) To approve that Council now procure and appoint external delivery agents to implement the range of initiatives outlined in the business case, and approved for funding by Department for Communities.</p> <p>d) To approve the acceptance of Department for Communities Letters of Offer for Labour Market Partnership / Skills and Employability activity, including administration and operational costs.</p>	J McGilly	Work in progress – update at Jan 2022 ERT Plan currently being implemented via series of SLAs and work ongoing to develop 2022/2023 plan for submission in April 2022	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		e) To approve the development and submission of a Labour Market Partnership Strategic Assessment & Action Plan for the 2022/2023 financial period, with details on same to be tabled at a further meeting of Council.			
ERT/185/2021	REPORT OF WARRENPOINT FRONT SHORE PUBLIC REALM SCHEME TASK & FINISH – 05/10/2021	<p>To accept the following recommendations arising from the Warrenpoint Front Shore Public Realm Scheme Task and Finish Steering Group Meeting held on Tuesday 05 October 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To extend the Public Consultation process for the proposed Breakwater Scheme. To note the Task & Finish Steering Group are in agreement to proceed based on a phased approach, to the overall delivery of a Warrenpoint Front Shore / Breakwater Public Realm Scheme. A separate report on the project and it's cost options, to be take to the next Meeting of the Council's Strategic Finance Working Group. The project proceeds to RIBA Stage 4 with it's Consultants, to ensure that the contractor for Phase 1 is appointed and in 	J McGilly	<p>Work in progress Business case and Funding approved by DfC.</p> <p>Planning approved subject to final comment by NIEA.</p> <p>Procureemnt of contractor at assessment stage</p>	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		place to meet the required funding commitment.			
		(NOVEMBER 2021)			
ERT/212/2021	(EXEMPT) COVID 19 RECOVERY WORKING GROUP MTG 21 OCTOBER 2021	<p>a) To support the implementation of a Jobs and Careers fair, focusing on the Hospitality and Tourism Sector.</p> <p>b) That works are carried out to improve beach access and provide facilities at coastal areas across the District including Warrenpoint, Rostrevor and Lecale.</p> <p>c) Development of a Masterplan to develop walking linkages at Quoile Downpatrick.</p>	<p>J McGilly</p> <p>A Patterson</p>	<p>In progress</p> <p>In progress</p> <p>In progress</p>	N
		(DECEMBER 2021)			
ERT/237/2021	(EXEMPT) BANN ROAD CASTLEWELLAN – PARK AND RIDE	<p>Committee members approve the attached business case for a Capital spend to develop a 72 bay Park 'n' Share facility at Bann Road, Castlewellan.</p> <p>b) Members approve the revised Capital budget as set out in Section 4.1 of Report</p>	C Jackson	In progress, work has commenced and due for completion by June 2022	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		dated 13 December 2021 from Mr C Jackson Assistant Director Building Control & Regulations.			
ERT/239/2021	(EXEMPT) CAR PARK DOWNPATRICK STREET SAINTFIELD	To approve the business case for the Capital spend required to carry out the refurbishment project for Downpatrick Street car park, Saintfield.	C Jackson	In progress, work to commence Jun/July 2022	N
		FEBRUARY 2022			
ERT/025/2022	DOWNPATRICK TOWN CENTRE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To organise a facilitated workshop with key stakeholder groups to discuss and identify the main priorities in order to develop a strategy focused on the needs of the town. 2. To appoint a facilitator for the workshop and prepare a report detailing the findings and recommendations from the workshop. 	J McGilly	Ongoing work in progress	
ERT/038/2022	(EXEMPT) WARRENPOINT MARINA PROJECT	<p>Council proceed to Stage 2 of the Warrenpoint Marina Development by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Procurement and appointment of a multi-disciplinary team to develop the Environmental Impact 	J McGilly	Work in progress	

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		<p>Assessment/Statement.</p> <p>2. Complete the studies that are required to support the Environmental Impact Assessment and planning application.</p> <p>3. Submission of a Planning Application.</p> <p>4. Investigate all potential funding opportunities.</p>			
		(MARCH 2022 TO FOLLOW)			

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1. Live Applications

MONTH 2021/22	NEW APPLICATIONS	LIVE APPLICATIONS	LIVE APPLICATIONS OVER 12 MONTHS
April 2021	206	1,195	232
May 2021	204	1,238	228
June 2021	172	1,219	236
July 2021	176	1,190	224
August 2021	152	1,174	226
September 2021	182	1,175	226
October 2021	188	1,188	232
November 2021	184	1,158	234
December 2021	112	1,097	232
January 2022	160	1,128	232
February 2022	158	1,121	233
March 2022	209	1,147	229

2. Live Applications by length of time in system

Month 2021/22	Under 6 months	Between 6 and 12 months	Between 12 and 18 months	Between 18 and 24 months	Over 24 months	Total
April 2021	770	193	81	54	97	1,195
May 2021	818	192	76	53	99	1,238
June 2021	777	206	82	43	111	1,219
July 2021	787	179	79	44	101	1,190
August 2021	754	194	84	49	93	1,174
September 2021	737	212	87	44	95	1,175
October 2021	724	232	85	46	101	1,188
November 2021	687	237	81	50	103	1,158

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December 2021	623	242	78	48	106	1,097
January 2022	652	244	76	49	107	1,128
February 2022	638	250	79	44	110	1,121
March 2022	694	224	81	38	110	1,147

3. Live applications per Case Officer

Month 2021/22	Average number of Applications per Case Officer
April	83
May	85
June	89
July	83
August	75
September	67
October	64
November 2021	66
December 2021	66
January 2022	69
February 2022	65
March 2022	71

4. Decisions issued per month

Month 2021/22	Number of Decisions Issued	Number of Decisions Issued under delegated authority
April	161	155
May	157	146
June	190	184
July	159	150
August	148	145
September	177	166
October	160	155
November 2021	199	183
December 2021	165	147
January 2022	120	101
February 2022	157	145
March 2022	162	153

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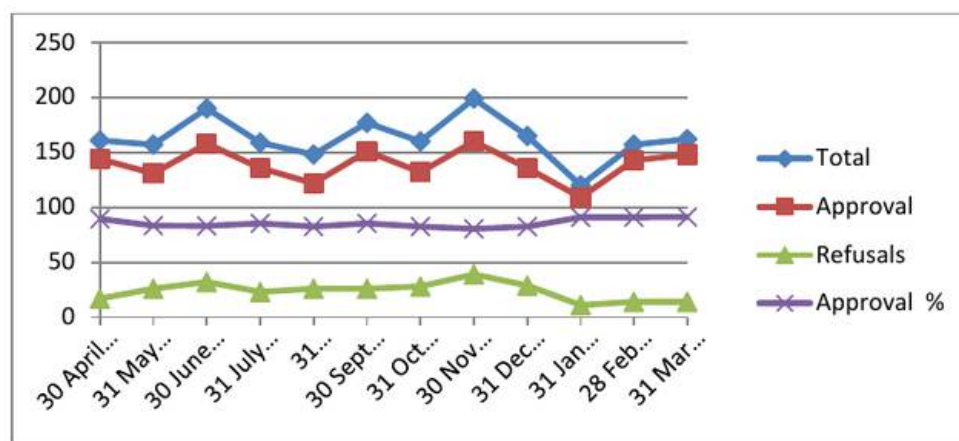
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5. Decisions Issued YTD

Month 2021/22	Number of Decisions Issued	Breakdown of Decisions	
April	161	Approvals (144)	89%
		Refusals (17)	11%
May	318	Approvals (275)	86%
		Refusals (43)	14%
June	508	Approvals (433)	85%
		Refusals (75)	15%
July	667	Approvals (569)	85%
		Refusals (98)	15%
August	815	Approvals (691)	85%
		Refusals (124)	15%
September	992	Approvals (842)	85%
		Refusals (150)	15%
October	1,152	Approvals (974)	85%
		Refusals (178)	15%
November	1,351	Approvals (1,134)	84%
		Refusals (217)	16%
December	1,516	Approvals (1,270)	84%
		Refusals (246)	16%
January 2022	1,636	Approvals (1,379)	84%
		Refusals (257)	16%
February 2022	1,793	Approvals (1,522)	85%
		Refusals (271)	15%
March 2022	1,955	Approvals (1,670)	85%
		Refusals (285)	15%

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6. Enforcement Live cases

Month 2021/2022	<=1yr	1-2 yrs	2-3 yrs	3-4 yrs	4-5 yrs	5+ysrs	Total
April	285	133	127	122	62	101	830
May	291	134	122	128	64	104	843
June	267	132	121	136	60	102	818
July	269	134	114	137	68	102	824
August	266	132	107	133	71	103	812
September	279	136	103	129	71	102	820
October	269	121	99	126	65	101	781
November	248	129	93	123	60	98	751
December	244	126	85	126	59	92	732
January 2022	223	127	82	117	62	95	706
February 2022	224	134	82	102	59	99	700
March 2022	230	147	79	87	69	96	708

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7. Planning Committee

Month	Number of Applications presented to Committee	Number of Applications Determined by Committee	Number of Applications Withdrawn/ Deferred for future meeting	Number of Officer recommendation overturned
8 April 2021	14	11	3	3
5 May 2021	16	8	8	3
2 & 30 June 2021 (Meetings cancelled)	-	-	-	-
28 July 2021	15	7	8	2
25 August 2021	15	9	6	6
22 September 2021	13	10	3	5
20 October 2021	25	22	3	6
17 November 2021	19	10	9	4
15 December 2021	20	13	7	9
12 January 2022	12	9	3	8
9 February 2022	14	11	3	8
9 March 2022	17	10	7	4
Totals	180	120	60	58

8. Appeals

Planning Appeal Commission Decisions issued during period 1 July 2021 to 31 March 2022

Area	Number of current appeals	Number of decisions issued	Number of decisions Allowed	Number of decisions Dismissed	Withdrawn
Newry & Mourne	26	3	3	0	0
Down	45	3	1	2	0
TOTAL	71	6	4	2	0

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Statutory targets monthly update - January 2022 (unvalidated management information)

Newry, Mourne and Down

Major applications (target of 30 weeks)					Local applications (target of 15 weeks)				Cases concluded (target of 39 weeks)					
	Number received	Number decided/ withdrawn ¹	Average processing time ²	% of cases processed within 30 weeks		Number received	Number decided/ withdrawn ¹	Average processing time ²	% of cases processed within 15 weeks		Number opened	Number brought to conclusion ³	"70%" conclusion time ³	% of cases concluded within 39 weeks
April	2	-	0.0	0.0%		171	143	16.6	43.4%		44	19	69.8	52.6%
May	2	1	35.4	0.0%		159	137	17.2	41.6%		31	30	57.0	66.7%
June	1	1	49.8	0.0%		179	173	16.8	42.8%		38	41	85.8	46.3%
July	0	-	0.0	0.0%		124	136	17.0	41.2%		38	27	85.2	51.9%
August	0	-	0.0	0.0%		137	140	17.1	38.6%		35	67	89.2	53.7%
September	2	-	0.0	0.0%		148	166	19.8	28.3%		48	37	158.4	37.8%
October	0	-	0.0	0.0%		159	147	17.8	34.0%		27	75	122.0	40.0%
November	0	2	75.3	0.0%		149	174	20.0	33.3%		25	69	129.2	44.9%
December	0	1	31.4	0.0%		97	141	22.2	30.5%		20	34	178.7	38.2%
January	0	-	0.0	0.0%		108	106	20.4	28.3%		33	48	101.7	44.7%
February	0	-	0.0	0.0%		0	-	0.0	0.0%		0	-	0.0	0.0%
March	0	-	0.0	0.0%		0	-	0.0	0.0%		0	-	0.0	0.0%
Year to date	7	5	49.8	0.0%		1,431	1,463	18.6	36.3%		339	447	108.8	46.6%

Source: NI Planning Portal

Notes:

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- 1. DCs, CLUDS, TPOS, NMCS and PADS/PANs have been excluded from all applications figures*
- 2. The time taken to process a decision/withdrawal is calculated from the date on which an application is deemed valid to the date on which the decision is issued or the application is withdrawn. The median is used for the average processing time as any extreme values have the potential to inflate the mean, leading to a result that may not be considered as "typical".*
- 3. The time taken to conclude an enforcement case is calculated from the date on which the complaint is received to the earliest date of the following: a notice is issued; proceedings commence; a planning application is received; or a case is closed. The value at 70% is determined by sorting data from its lowest to highest values and then taking the data point at the 70th percentile of the sequence.*

Report to:	Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 11 April 2022
Subject:	Slieve Gullion Forest Park – Transforming the Visitor Experience
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

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

For decision	For noting only	X
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u> To update members on the Slieve Gullion project and note extensions to the letter of offer date.</p> <p><u>Background</u> In March 2019 Council agreed to submit Expression of Interest to the DAERA Rural Development Programme to transform the visitor experience with an External Performance Space and Technological innovations & Visitor Servicing. The Council were subsequently requested to submit a Full Application and Economic Appraisal.</p> <p>An application was submitted and successful in March 2020 for an application which sought to transform the visitor experience at Slieve Gullion Forest Park. This would be achieved through a new outdoor amphitheatre; and new immersive storytelling that blends new technology (e.g. Alternate Reality, AR) with old (e.g. music, drama) in the unique natural setting of SGFP.</p> <p>The letter of offer was based on a project cost of £895,820 with funding from the DAERA Rural Tourism Fund (£500,000) and NMDDC (£395,820).</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>The letter of offer had a project completion date of 28 February 2021. At the outset of the project this was identified as challenging due to COVID 19 and an extension of the letter of offer was likely to be required. Due to delays as a result of the Pandemic and various site conditions the project has received 5 extensions to the project end date with the last extension provided to the 4.4.22.</p> <p>The project is now at Practical completion stage with project opening expected late May / early June.</p>

3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To note the update on the Slieve Gullion project and extensions to the letter of offer.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	The letter of offer was based on a project cost of £895,820 with a contribution of £395,820 from Council, which is included in the Capital Programme.
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	<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
	N/A
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A