

June 4th, 2024

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting to be held on **Monday, 10th June 2024** at **6:00 pm** in **Monaghan Row**.

Committee Membership 2024 - 2025

Cllr C Bowsie **Chairperson**

Cllr W Clarke **Deputy Chairperson**

Cllr T Andrews

Cllr K Feehan

Cllr C Galbraith

Cllr M Gibbons

Cllr O Hanlon

Cllr G Hanna

Cllr V Harte

Cllr G Kearns

Cllr D Lee-Surginor

Cllr S Murphy

Cllr A Quinn

Cllr M Ruane

Cllr J Truesdale

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 Action Sheet of the Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 13th May 2024.

For Information

📎 *ERT Action Sheet - 13 May 2024.pdf*

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For Discussion/Decision

4.0 Agree dates and times for ERT Committee Meetings 2024/25

For Information

📎 *ERT - MEETINGS SCHEDULE JUNE 2024-MAY 2025.pdf*

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Business Plans/Governance

5.0 Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Business & Service Plans

For Decision

📎 *ERT Report - Directorate Business Plans.pdf*

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📎 *Appx 1 ERT Directorate Annual Assessment of Business 2023-24.pdf*

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📎 *Appx 2 - Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Business Plan 2024-25.pdf*

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Economy Growth & Tourism

6.0 Church Street and DeCourcy Place Public Realm

For Decision

📎 *ERT Report - Church Street & De Courcy Place Public Realm.pdf*

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

7.0 Multiply Programme

For Decision

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person

(including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

📎 *ERT Report - Multiply Programme.pdf*

Not included

For Noting

8.0 APSE Performance Report

For Information

📎 *ERT Report - APSE Results.pdf*

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📎 *Appx 1 APSE.pdf*

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📎 *Appx 2 APSE.pdf*

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9.0 Go Succeed

For Information

📎 *ERT Report - Go Succeed Update.pdf*

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Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews

Cllr Callum Bowsie

Ms Michelle Boyle

Fionnuala Branagh

Cllr Jim Brennan

Ms Sonya Burns

Cllr Pete Byrne

Mr Gerard Byrne

Cllr Philip Campbell

Cllr William Clarke

Cllr Laura Devlin

Ms Louise Dillon

Cllr Cadogan Enright

Cllr Killian Feehan

Cllr Doire Finn

Cllr Aoife Finnegan

Ms Joanne Fleming

Cllr Conor Galbraith

Cllr Mark Gibbons

Cllr Oonagh Hanlon

Cllr Glyn Hanna

Cllr Valerie Harte

Cllr Roisin Howell

Cllr Tierna Howie

Ms Catherine Hughes

Cllr Jonathan Jackson

Cllr Geraldine Kearns

Miss Veronica Keegan

Mrs Josephine Kelly

Mrs Sheila Kieran

Cllr Cathal King

Cllr Mickey Larkin

Cllr David Lee-Surginor

Cllr Alan Lewis

Cllr Oonagh Magennis

Mr Conor Mallon

Cllr Aidan Mathers

Cllr Declan McAteer

Cllr Leeanne McEvoy

Jonathan McGilly

Ms Aveen McVeigh

Maureen/Joanne Morgan/Johnston

Cllr Declan Murphy
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Sinead Murphy
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Cllr Kate Murphy
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Cllr Selina Murphy
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Cllr Siobhan O'Hare
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Mr Andy Patterson
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Cllr Áine Quinn
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Cllr Henry Reilly
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Cllr Michael Rice
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Cllr Michael Ruane
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Cllr Gareth Sharvin
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Donna Starkey
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Nicola Stranney
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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 Jill Truesdale
.....
Mrs Marie Ward
.....

ACTION SHEETECONOMY, REGENERATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETINGMONDAY 11 MARCH 2024

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/027/2024	Artist in Residence and Arts Bursary Schemes 2024-2025	<p>It was agreed to approve the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To appoint an Artist in Residence and establish an SLA as detailed in the Officer's Report for the delivery of an Artist in Residence. - To continue to award the Artist Bursaries and Individual Artist Grants through a selection process for 2024/2025 	M Boyle	Work in progress	N
		<p>It was also agreed that Officers would review the hours of opening within Down Arts Centre to potentially include Saturday opening hours.</p>	M Boyle	Work in progress	N
ERT/030/2024	Tourism Events Programme	<p>The following was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To approve the Annual Tourism Events Program as detailed in Appendix 1 - To approve the undertaking of the necessary procurements and appointment of suppliers for the delivery of major festivals in the Annual Tourism Events Programme. 	M Boyle	Work in progress	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To approve to issue 4 Letters of Offer to names groups as detailed in the Officer's Report. - To undertake a review of Event Programme options for 2025/2026 Financial Year. 			
ERT/032/2024	Down GAA Support for Peace Plus Application	<p>The following was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Officers continue to consider options for the future of the hut structure in advance of March 2025 and report back to Members. - That the contents of the Ballykinlar hut will be retained by the Council for use in future exhibitions at suitable locations. - Council notes the application for the Down County Board Multi-Sports Hub at the Ballykinlar site through Financial Assistance. - Unfortunately, Council are not in a position to support Down County Board's Centre of Participation, Wellbeing and Shared Learning Hub as their application to Peace Plus is in direct competition with Council's Wellbeing Hub in Warrenpoint. 	C Mallon	Work in progress	N
END					

ACTION SHEETECONOMY, REGENERATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETINGMONDAY 15 APRIL 2024

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/036/2024	Notice Of Motion C/059/2024 – Democratic Improvements in Council Financial Assistance Programme	<p>the following was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to note the content of the report. • that members agree that Council have implemented a consistent Financial Assistance process since Council adopted the policy at AHC on 21 March 2019 and Full Council on 1 April 2019. • Members agree that further capacity building is undertaken to work with groups in areas where applications are low in number. • that the policy and procedure of the financial assistance is reviewed, and a paper brought back to committee 	C Mallon	Work in progress	N
ERT/038/2024	Tourism Accommodation Grant Fund	it was agreed to proceed with the Financial Assistance capital grant programme as outlined in section 2.1.	M Boyle	Work in progress	N
ERT/041/2024	Signage Tender 2024	it was agreed to consider the contents of the report and approve the business case proposal (Appendix 1) to tender for street nameplates.	J McGilly	Work in Progress	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
END					

ACTION SHEET

ECONOMY, REGENERATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY 13 MAY 2024

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/050/2024	Notice Of Motion C/082/2024 – Cross Border Teaching Registration	<p>it was agreed that Council will engage through the LMP to review and identify opportunities for synergies between key stakeholders, including the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor in respect of cross-border teaching registration and employment practices.</p> <p>It was also agreed that engagement be undertaken with Louth and Monaghan County Councils.</p>	A McVeigh	A McVeigh is liaising with Cross Border Partnership Employment Services.	N
ERT/051/2024	DUBLIN-BELFAST ECONOMIC CORRIDOR (DBEC)	<p>the following was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To note the update provided against the Dublin Belfast economic Corridor Partnership 	A Smyth	In progress	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To approve that council, as the administrative lead for the DBEC Partnership process two procurement processes as detailed below. Feasibility Study for Cluster Development: Offshore wind supply chain (subject to funding approval) External consultancy support for development of bid to Peace Plus theme 6.1: Strategic Planning and Engagement 			
ERT/052/2024	FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CALL 1 – GOOD RELATIONS	<p>the following was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To note the appendices attached to the officer's report for Good Relations and issue letters of offer. Pre-letter of offer conditions met prior to issue of full letter of offer issued and where this is not satisfied budget to be re-allocated. 	S Burns		N
ERT/053/2024	AONB and GEOPARK – SLA's	It was agreed to approve funding letters of offer through SLAs for the delivery of the series of projects as contained in the officer's report.	A McVeigh	In progress	
ERT/054/2024	Labour Market Partnership (LMP) Review of 2023/2024 Action Plan	It was agreed to note the outputs for NMD LMP for 2023/2024.	A McVeigh		Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
END					

ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE

Date	Time	Location
10 June 2024	6.00 pm	Boardroom, Monaghan Row, Newry
12 August 2024	6.00 pm	Boardroom, Monaghan Row, Newry
9 September 2024	6.00 pm	Boardroom, Monaghan Row, Newry
14 October 2024	6.00 pm	Boardroom, Monaghan Row, Newry
11 November 2024	6.00 pm	Boardroom, Monaghan Row, Newry
9 December 2024	6.00 pm	Boardroom, Monaghan Row, Newry
20 January 2025	6.00 pm	Boardroom, Monaghan Row, Newry
10 February 2025	6.00 pm	Boardroom, Monaghan Row, Newry
10 March 2025	6.00 pm	Boardroom, Monaghan Row, Newry
14 April 2025	6.00 pm	Boardroom, Monaghan Row, Newry
12 May 2025	6.00 pm	Boardroom, Monaghan Row, Newry

Report to:	Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 10 th June 2024
Subject:	Directorate Business Plans
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Conor Mallon Director – Economy, Regeneration and Tourism
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Conor Mallon Director – Economy, Regeneration and Tourism

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

For decision	X	For noting only	
1.0			Purpose and Background
1.1			<p>Directorate Business Plans provide an overview of planned activity for the year ahead, and contribute to the delivery of the Community Plan, Corporate Plan and other key plans and strategies. They form an essential part of the Council's Business Planning and Performance Management Framework, which demonstrates how corporate objectives are cascaded across the organisation and provides assurance that they are being delivered.</p> <p>As Directorate Business Plans are directly aligned to the achievement of the Corporate Plan, they remain fairly high level, and do not necessarily capture the core, business as usual activity that is undertaken by individual departments. Alternatively, they provide an insight into the key, overarching objectives, supporting actions and measures of success for each Directorate in the year ahead, whilst setting the context for the development of departmental Service Plans which are operational in nature.</p>
2.0			Key issues
2.1			<p>Assessment of Directorate Business Plans 2023-24</p> <p>In order to improve transparency and accountability, and facilitate a performance led approach to business planning, each Directorate has undertaken an assessment of their Business Plan 2023-24. These assessments provide an overview of the performance of each Directorate and have been used to influence the development of the 2023-24 Business Plans. This exercise is an important part of the Council's statutory responsibility to strengthen the way performance is monitored, reviewed and reported across the organisation.</p> <p>The assessment of the ERT Directorate Business Plan 2023-24 is attached at Appendix 1.</p>
2.2			<p>Directorate Business Plans 2024-25</p> <p>Directorate Business Plans 2024-25 outline the key objectives, supporting actions and measures of success each Directorate will work towards, which are aligned to the strategic objectives within the Corporate Plan 2021-23. Directorate Business Plans are also aligned to the current organisational structure and may be subject to amendment as Planning for the Future progresses.</p> <p>The ERT Directorate Business Plan 2024-25 is attached at Appendix 2.</p>

2.3	It should be noted that further improvements to the business planning process are underway across the Council, particularly in relation to cascading corporate objectives in a meaningful way to employees through the introduction and roll-out of Service Plans and People Perform Grow. This process seeks to improve the use of performance measures at all levels of the Business Planning and Performance Management Framework and create a clear 'line of sight' between the work of individuals, teams and departments, and how they contribute to the achievement of Directorate Business Plans and the Corporate Plan.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<p>To consider and agree the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of the ERT Directorate Business Plan 2023-24 • ERT Directorate Business Plan 2024-25
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	There are no financial resources implications within this report.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input 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> Consultation not required.</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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 1 – Assessment of the ERT Directorate Business Plan 2023-24 • Appendix 2 – ERT Directorate Business Plan 2024-25
8.0	Background Documents

Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Directorate

Annual Assessment Business Plan 2023-24

Introduction

This report provides an overview of progress in delivering the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Business Plan 2023-24 across the following service areas:

- Economic Development
- Regeneration
- Tourism Development and Promotion
- Tourism Facilities Management and Development
- Arts and Culture
- Events
- Heritage
- EU Funding
- AONB Management
- Planning Development Management and Control
- Local Development Plan
- Building Control
- Licencing
- International Relations

The delivery of the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Directorate Business Plan 2023-24 supports the achievement of the following corporate objectives, and performance has been tracked using the legend below.

Invest in and support new and growing businesses, job creation and employment skills




Promote the revitalisation of our city, towns, villages and rural communities

Enhance, protect and promote our environment

Support sustainable forms of tourism which value our environment and cultural heritage






Provide accessible, high quality and integrated services through continuous improvement

Legend





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




Directorate objectives, supporting actions and measures of success

Key Directorate Objectives
<p>Enterprise and Regeneration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with partners to lead the implementation of the Economic, Regeneration and Investment Strategy to support the development of the local economy and infrastructure to ensure the district is competitive and attractive to investors and residents. <p>Tourism, Culture and Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with partners to lead the implementation of the Tourism Strategy • Lead the development and implementation of Culture and Arts Strategy and delivery of improved new tourism assets <p>Building Control and Regulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A statutory duty to apply the Building Regulations to support regeneration and economic development across the district and the licencing obligations of Council • The management of Car Park facilities owned and operated by Council <p>Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a robust, efficient and responsive development management service within the Council Planning Department to support regeneration and economic development across the district. • Progress the preparation and delivery of the Local Development Plan in accordance with the agreed timeframe to determine future land use planning policy across the district. • Provide a robust, efficient and effective planning enforcement function within the Council Planning Department to address breaches of planning control.








Enterprise and Regeneration			
OBJECTIVE Work with partners to support the economic recovery of the District	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
	Invest in and support new and growing businesses, job creation and employment skills		
Action	Timescale	Status	Progress
Progress the Belfast Region City Deal and develop programmes of activity around: 1. Skills and Employability 2. Digital and Innovation	Q 1-4		Council is represented at the Skills and Employability Board by HoS, Full Fibre NI Operations Lead attends Digital and Innovation Board.
Continue to progress the Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme as part of the Belfast Region City Deal investment programme.	Q 1-4		Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) Contract for Funding was agreed for Newry City Centre Regeneration Projects in January 2023. Theatre and Conference Centre and Civic projects have applied for planning permission. Procurement underway for appointment of IDT.
Development and management of the Digital Transformation Flexible Fund under FFNI across all Councils providing financial assistance for Digital Transformation in micros/small businesses.	Q 1-4		DTFF Launched November 2023 Call 1 issued – NMDDC 8 businesses for Pre application assessment. 5 LoO issued valued at £65,437.00
Development and Implementation of Enterprise Support Services programme across the pillars of Foundation, Engage, Growth and Scaling	Q 1-4		NISS launched on 13 November 2023, the service encountered several mobilisation challenges including procurement, CRM delays, delays in mentor training, mobilisation etc. across Northern Ireland which has impacted on achieving targets.
Collaboration and Development of applications under Peace Plus, shared Island Fund,	Q 1-4		Development of PEACEPLUS Peatlands project, development of





Levelling up Fund etc aligned to Council corporate priorities			2.4 PEACEPLUS project however project partners withdrew. Continuous environmental scanning for funding opportunities.
Support Business development and growth via a range of initiatives including markets development, social economy, innovation, Leadership events, international connections, digital engagement.	Q 1-4		Artisan markets supported in Downpatrick, Newcastle, Newry and Downpatrick. Social economy engagement via NMEA. Innovation project supported via DTFF. Engagement with TEO on international connections, workshops and masterclasses hosted on a range of sectors including innovation, digital, leadership etc.
Develop ongoing initiatives via LMP to improve employability and skills via engagement with business and education	Q 1-4		LMP Action Plan delivered in 23/24. Industry and education engagement ongoing.
Lead the secretariat and work in partnership with all member councils and universities of DBEC to deliver on the strategic aims and actions plans for the corridor.	Q 1-4		Programme Manager appointed in June 2023; Partnership Officer appointed in August 2023. Ongoing collaboration with a range of stakeholders and partners.
OBJECTIVE Deliver a programme of urban and rural regeneration initiatives/projects	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
	Promote the revitalisation of our city, towns, villages and rural communities		
Action	Timescale	Status	Progress
Improvement in connectivity through FFNI via the Mobile Action Plan, Northern Ireland Barrier Busting Taskforce, the DSIT Shared Q1-4 9 Rural network (4G) and DSIT UK Wireless Strategy/5G innovation Regions.	Q 1-4		Mobile Action Plan brought together stakeholders from industry, central and local government. The Northern Ireland Barrier Busting Taskforce (NIBBT) is an action of MAP NI and made up of


			members from DfE, DfI, Ofcom, Mobile UK, DoF, DSIT, DAERA, DE and FFNI representing Council Digital Champions. NILGA is supporting the work of the NIBBT to engage & inform elected members. Survey undertaken in February 2024.
Development of SMART Towns/Villages and services through BRCD funding, PEACE plus and other initiatives.	Q 1-4		Development of Smart project with EBR and member councils is not progressing due to lack of partner engagement. AHC is progressing a SMART community hub project.
Implementation of Small Settlement scheme across the district as per agreed plan with focus on, public realm, revitalisation, dereliction and marketing	Q 1-4		Ongoing implementation of Small Settlement scheme across the district as per agreed plan with focus on, public realm, revitalisation, dereliction and marketing. Letter of Offer extended to Q2 2024.
Completion of Warrenpoint Front shore scheme phase 1 and development of phase 2 proposals	Q1 - 4		Phase 1 complete, phase 3 in development stage. Phase 2 proposal under review.
Development and implementation of plans for Greenway development with focus on priority routes – Newry – Carlingford & Downpatrick	Q1-4		Newry to Carlingford ongoing. Council in partnership with Louth County Council made an application to the 'Shared Island Funds' for funding. Jane Shore pathway stretching 1km along the Quoile River in Downpatrick re-opened following completion of a major upgrade.
OBJECTIVE Protect and enhance the Areas of Outstanding	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
	Enhance, protect and promote our environment		




Natural Beauty across the District			
Action	Timescale	Status	Progress
Management for the Ring of Gullion and Strangford & Lecale AONBs through implementation of NI Environment Fund projects as detailed in AONB Action	Q1-4		Letter of Offer received in August 2023 for 5 years. Implementation ongoing.
Development and implementation of the Geo park plan following accreditation	Q 1-4		UNESCO Status achieved May 2023. Attendance at UNESCO Conference, development of partnerships ongoing Scoping of additional funding support ongoing.
Continued stewardship of Landscape partnership legacy programme	Q 1-4		Ongoing – SLAs with service providers issued in August 2023.




Tourism, Culture and Events			
OBJECTIVE A. Tourism Development & Promotion B. Tourism Facilities Management & Development C. Tourism Events D. Museums, Arts & Heritage	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
	Support sustainable forms of tourism which value our environment and cultural heritage		
Action	Timescale	Status	Progress
Launch & commence delivery of new Tourism Strategy 2024 - 2029	Q3 onwards		Strategy consultation completed in November 2023, Council Workshop held in February on new Tourism Strategy. Strategy adoption planned for April 24.
Continue to progress the Mourne Gateway Project as part of the Belfast Region City Deal investment programme.	Q 1 - 4		Contract for Funding pending agreement between DfE and PMO Integrated Consultancy Team (ICT) tender closed









			March 2024 and will be key to supporting the next stage of project delivery, including the development of a Full Business Case.
Continue to support the delivery of the new Newry Arts, Theatre and Conference facility.	Q 1 - 4		Planning application for Theatre-Conference project submitted. Procurement underway for appointment of IDT.
Support local tourism & hospitality businesses to access Business Support Programmes, training & mentoring.	Q 1 - 4		40 business receiving ongoing support and mentoring across the Destination YTD.
Deliver a collection of new visitor experiences with a focus on Outdoor Adventure, Food & Drink and Heritage & Culture	Q 1 - 4		15 new outdoor activity experiences launched
Continue to invest in and deliver major Tourism Capital Projects that will attract international visitors to NI and the district.	Q 1 - 4		Ongoing Development and Implementation of capital projects in the Forest and Country Parks to enhance the Visitor Experience, with completion for the Fallows Trails including waymarking, PQQ for Tyrella Amenity Building procurement progressed and ongoing delivery of Camlough lake recreational hub building
Continue the delivery of Council's Arts, Culture, Heritage Strategy	Q1 - 4		Work progressing on delivery of strategy action plan.
Create an audience growth plan for arts venues, including the redevelopment of Newry Town Hall, the SHAC, and Down Arts Centre.	Q1 - 4		Ongoing Scoping work and development of operational models to inform audience development.
Continue the delivery of the new Tourism Events Programme for the district.	Q1 - 4		Tourism Events Programme successfully delivered to date, including the Wake the Giant, Eats & Beats, Footsteps in the Forest and St. Patricks Day








			festivals. Support for a range of summer, Halloween and Christmas Events provided
Launch new Museum Forward Plans	Q1 – 4		Museum Forward Plan approved by Council and progress continuing on Museum re-accreditation.
Deliver museums engagement programme with community and visitors through annual programme of events, activities and exhibitions	Q1 – 4		Delivery of engagement plan ongoing through the delivery of events, exhibitions and outreach, including the very successful schools transport scheme.
Increase accessibility to museum collections via new website and social media platforms.	Q1 - 4		New website for NMD Museums which includes a collections site in place.
Progress delivery of heritage development initiatives, activities & events across district.	Q1 - 4		A range of Heritage and engagement projects took place throughout the year

Building Control			
OBJECTIVE A statutory duty to apply the Building Regulations and licencing obligations of Council. Improve the processing times of BC applications.	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
	Provide accessible, high quality and integrated services through continuous improvement		
Action	Timescale	Status	Progress
To provide a robust and responsive service to Applicants, Agents, Builders and Solicitors for the enforcement of all aspects of the relevant legislation	Q1- Q4		completed

To engage with Tascomi/Idox through BCNI to develop an online portal for the submission of Building Control – Full Plans Applications	Q2 – Q4		Work in progress
To engage with Tascomi/Idox to explore the possibility of facilitating the submission of online Licensing Applications	Q2 – Q4		Work in progress
OBJECTIVE A statutory duty to apply the Building Regulations and licencing obligations of Council. Work with partners to support the economic recovery of the District	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
	Promote the revitalisation of our city, towns, villages and rural communities		
Action	Timescale	Status	Progress
To implement a new organizational structure for Building Control and Licensing section	Q1 – Q4		Complete

Planning			
OBJECTIVE Provide a robust, efficient and responsive development management service within the Council Planning Department	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
	Promote the revitalisation of our city, towns, villages and rural communities		
Action	Timescale	Status	Progress
Deliver against statutory targets for major planning applications and local planning applications through a performance improvement programme..	Q1-4		Targets not met however work ongoing to improve performance and deal with challenges of high volume of applications
Improve engagement and communications with applicants and agents to deliver an efficient service.	Q1-4		Complete, agreed to continue in 24/25
Work with Council Capital Projects Team to ensure planning contributes to the delivery of the Council's	Q1-4		This has developed though out the year and will continue to be work in progress base don each

capital programme across the District.			project and challenges they pose
Provide a robust and responsive service to applicants, agents, and elected members and respond to complaints in accordance with council complaints procedure.	Q 1-4		Complaints dealt with in line with agreed procedures and new system now embedded and managed via BSM
Develop new and additional online planning guidance.	Q1 - Q4		On going
Work to ensure the successful introduction of the new planning IT system.	Q1 – Q4		System operational but still learning lessons via engagement with ICF involving all partners
Work with the Department and other stakeholders to progress the recommendations from the Public Accounts Committee report into Planning in Northern Ireland.	Q1 – Q4		Ongoing
Carry out 2 Nr “in person” engagement events between planning staff, applicants, Agents and developers	Q2 – Q4		Completed
OBJECTIVE Progress the preparation and delivery of the Local Development Plan (LDP) in accordance with the agreed timeframe to direct future land use across the district.	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
	Promote the revitalisation of our city, towns, villages and rural communities		
Action	Timescale	Status	Progress
Prepare draft Plan Strategy (dPS) documents for presentation to and agreement by Planning Committee.	Q1-4		Work in progress- timetable to be reviewed. Engagement with members via committee and sub groups
LDP preparation, quarterly updates to Planning Committee.	Q1-4		Completed
Monitor progress of LDP preparation against agreed timetable.	Q1-4		On going review

Progress preparation of draft Plan Strategy for Council approval and publication.	Q4		Work in progress - to be completed by end of 2025
Work with the Department and other stakeholders to progress the recommendations from the Public Accounts Committee report into Planning in Northern Ireland.	Q1-4		Ongoing
OBJECTIVE Provide a robust, efficient and effective planning enforcement function within the Council planning department to address breaches of planning control.	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
	Enhance, protect and promote our environment		
Action	Timescale	Status	Progress
Meet statutory targets for bringing enforcement cases to conclusion through a programme of performance improvement measures.	Q1-4		Ongoing work in progress however challenges of resources and portal have delayed progress
Ongoing review and implementation of Council Planning Enforcement Strategy.	Q1-4		
Work to ensure the successful introduction of the new planning IT system	Q1-4		Work ongoing with ICF to progress this – focus has been on DM
Work with the Department and other stakeholders to progress the recommendations from the Public Accounts Committee report into Planning in Northern Ireland.	Q1-4		Remains Work in progress
Provide a robust and responsive service to applicants, agents and elected members and respond to complaints in accordance with council complaints procedure.	Q1-4		Work ongoing given proportionately high number of enforcement cases in district

Measures of Success					
	Measure	Target	Actual	Status	Explanation
Enterprise and Regeneration	Number of jobs promoted through business start-up activity (statutory)	155	90		Go For It ceased recruiting on 15 th August 2023 and closed on 30 th September. NIESS launched on 13 November 2023, the service encountered several mobilisation challenges including procurement, CRM delays, delays in mentor training, mobilisation etc. across Northern Ireland which has impacted on achieving targets including jobs promoted. Council is engaging with DfE and BCC regarding target attainment.
	Number of jobs created and businesses supported through Council programmes	144	351		ERDF funding programmes ceased between March and June 2023. Council implemented an interim programme to support businesses with the potential for growth prior to Go Succeed. 207 businesses have been supported via Go Succeed.
	Amount of investment secured by the Council				
	Number of urban and rural regeneration initiatives delivered	4			4 EI Schemes are ongoing (Bessbrook, Castlewellan, Rostrevor and Saintfield)
	Increase the percentage time for processing Domestic BC applications within 21 days to 82%	82%			

	Increase the percentage time for processing Commercial BC applications within 35 days to 82%	82%			
	Increase the percentage time for processing all application returns within 14 days to 86%	86%			
	Increase the percentage of online applications by a further 10%	70%			
Tourism, Culture and Events	Visitor spend (£)	2019 visitor spend in NMDDC was £84m			
	Volume of overnight stays in the district	2019 visitor volume in NMDDC was 1.56m			
	Visitor satisfaction	New Target			
	Investment into tourism capital projects (£)	New Target			
Planning	Average processing time for local planning applications of 15 weeks.	15 weeks	Q1-Q3 29.8 weeks		
	Average processing time for major planning applications of 30 weeks.	30 weeks	Q1-Q3 421 weeks		
	70% of all enforcement cases concluded within 39 weeks of complaint receipt	70%	-		

	Reduce the number of planning applications in the system for more than 12 months to 150	150	312		
	Reduce the number of planning applications in the system for less than 12 months to 700	700	1130		
	Reduce the number of enforcement cases in the system for more than 12 months to 450	450	592		

Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Directorate

Annual Business Plan 2024-25



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

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 The Economy, Regeneration and Tourism (ERT) Directorate is responsible for the following key functions of Council:

- **Economic Development**
- **Regeneration**
- **Tourism Development and Promotion**
- **Tourism Facilities Management and Development**
- **Arts and Culture**
- **Events**
- **Heritage**
- **Grants & Funding**
- **AONB Management**
- **Planning Development Management and Control**
- **Local Development Plan**
- **Building Control**
- **Licencing**
- **International Relations**

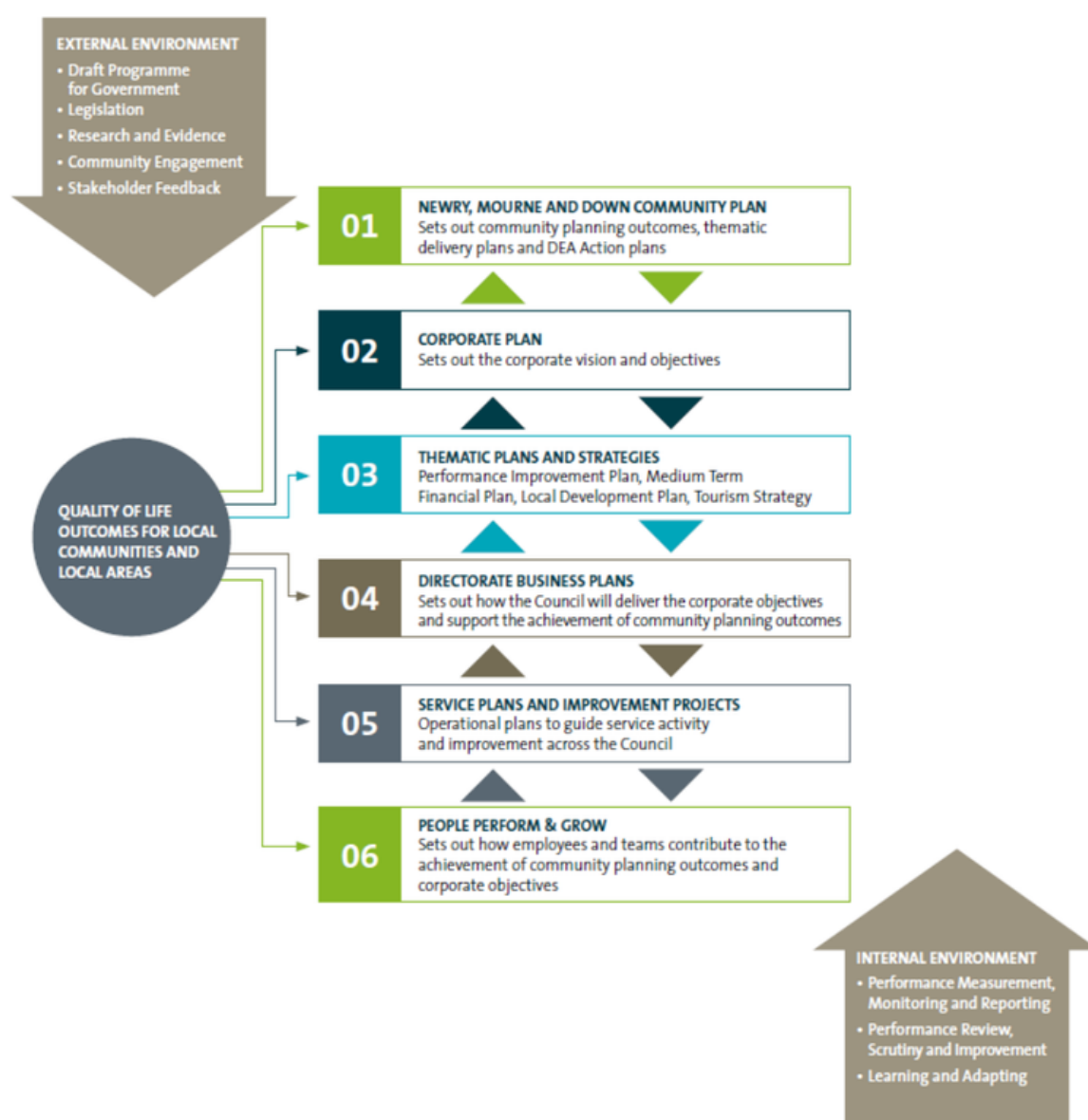
2.0 Background and Context

2.1 The ERT Business Plan is developed within the context of the Community Plan and draft Corporate Plan 2024-27. The Community Plan sets out the long term outcomes for the District, based on the needs and aspirations of local people. The draft Corporate Plan sets out the key strategic objectives for the Council between 2024-27, and how it will contribute to achieving the community planning outcomes.

2.2 The Community Plan and Corporate Plan are cross cutting and strategic in nature. They guide all activity within the organisation, as well as the subsequent allocation of resources, and sit within a hierarchy of plans, as outlined in the 'Business Planning and Performance Management Framework' (Figure 1).

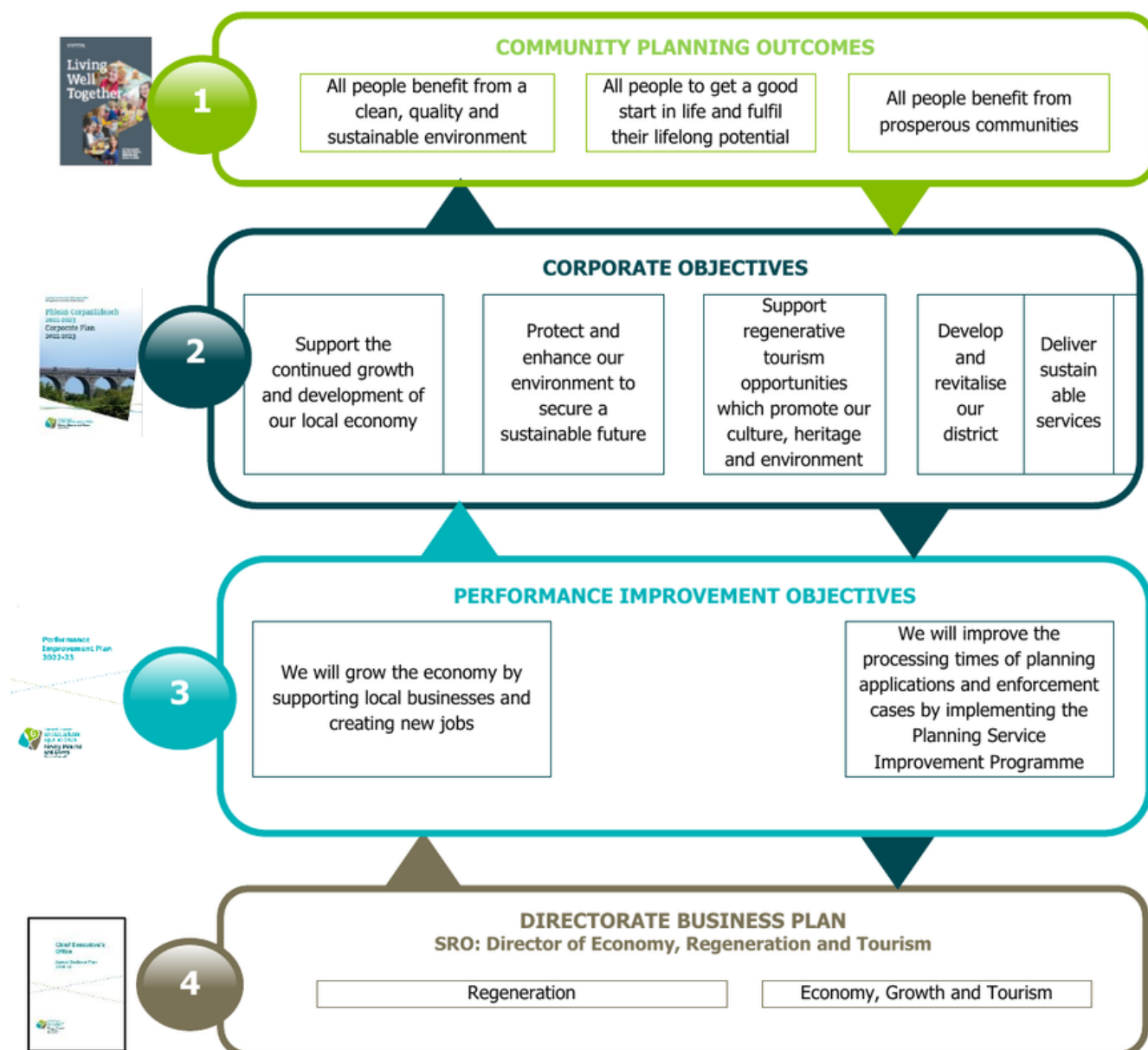
2.3 The Business Planning and Performance Management Framework drives and provides assurance that the Council is delivering its corporate vision and priorities, whilst securing continuous improvement in the exercise of functions. It provides a mechanism to join up and cascade the various plans and strategies across the organisation, demonstrating how employees contribute to achieving community planning outcomes and corporate priorities, for the ultimate benefit of the citizens we serve.

Figure 1: Business Planning and Performance Management Framework



- 2.4 Whilst the draft Corporate Plan focuses on issues which cut across the organization and are strategic in nature, the ERT Business Plan provides an overview of the key operational activities for the coming year. These activities are explicitly linked to corporate objectives, and coupled with 'business as usual' service delivery, provide clear direction for all employees within the Directorate (Figure 2). Directorate Business Plans are supported by Service Plans and 'People Perform and Grow'.
- 2.5 The ERT Business Plan is published annually and is the basis upon which performance is managed and reviewed by the full Council, Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee and Senior Management Team.

Figure 2: ERT Alignment across the Business Planning and Performance Management Framework



3.0 Purpose and Values

3.1 Purpose

3.1.1 The ERT Directorate's primary purpose is to develop, implement and monitor key strategies and plans to deliver economic, regeneration, tourism, arts and culture outcomes for the Council, deliver the statutory functions within the planning, Building Control and licensing that together contribute to the delivery of community planning outcomes and corporate priorities.

3.2 Values

3.2.1 The Department adheres to the Council's values which are outlined in the draft Corporate Plan 2024-27:

	What This Means
Respect	We will demonstrate respect for all people in our attitudes, behaviours and working relationships.
Transparency	We will be transparent in how we make decisions
Excellence	We will take pride in our work and be passionate about the standards we strive to achieve.
Integrity	We want the people of our district to trust us to do the right thing
Accountability	We will be accountable to the public for our decisions and actions. We will be accountable for how we plan for and use resources sustainably.

3.2.2 In accordance with the Section 75 requirements of the Northern Ireland Act (1998), the Chief Executive's Department is committed to carrying out its functions having due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity and regard for the desirability to promote good relations. All new and revised policies, procedures and programmes of work will be subject to an equality screening and rural needs impact assessment (where appropriate).

4.0 Challenges and Opportunities

- 4.1 The ERT was established in 2017 following the reorganisation of the former Strategic Planning and Performance Directorate and Regulatory and Technical Services Directorate. The directorate continues to evolve in line with organisational change, and remains committed to developing and embedding the necessary plans, policies and processes to deliver improvement across the organisation.
- 4.2 Influences within the external and internal environment continuously present challenges and opportunities, which have an impact on the overall management and operation of the ERT Directorate. These influences can be summarised as follows:

External Environment

- Macro Economic Environment – impact of inflation on capital projects
- Funding availability – transition to a range of new funding opportunities

- Stakeholder engagement and varying sectoral needs
- Wider societal and economic recovery from the Covid pandemic
- Resumption of international travel market
- Level of disposable income and consumer confidence
- Inflation and interest rate changes
- Potential supply chain & labour market impacts as a result of Brexit and Covid recovery, etc
- Available external match funding for project delivery
- Lack of appropriate space to accommodate requests for use of Council land.
- Reliance on external partners to effectively discharge planning function.

Internal Environment

- Available match-funding for project delivery
- Challenges of labour market on accessing people
- Requirement to deliver business plan objectives on time with available resources, whilst ensuring the need for efficiencies.
- Working in partnership with the private sector to grow opportunities for greater economic return to Council and the district.
- Opportunities created by new ways of working and new IT systems for Planning and Building Control

5.0 Cross-Cutting Themes and Actions

There are a number of cross cutting actions aligned to the Community Planning Partnership priorities, Community Wealth Building and Sustainability and Climate Change that span across all Directorates and contribute to the fulfillment of Directorate Objectives, Corporate Objectives and ultimately Community Planning Outcomes.

Officers should indicate where their actions are contributing to the fulfillment of CPP, CWB or SCC actions by putting the relevant acronym in the column.

These actions should be identified in liaison with the relevant officers (CPP – Alan Beggs; CWB – Colin Moffett; SCC – Conor Sage) and relevant annual assessments of service plans forwarded to the above officers.

Acronym	Themes
CWB	Community Wealth Building
CPP	Community Planning Partnership priorities
SCC	Sustainability and Climate Change

Community Planning Partnership Priorities

While all actions will contribute to the delivery of the Community Plan, some actions may be considered appropriate to be contained within the Community Planning Partnership Priorities.

Relevant priorities should:

- Align to the outcomes of the Community Plan
- Involve collaborative working across statutory and community voluntary sector partners for both design and delivery.
- Report through the Community Planning Structures
- Measure and report impacts and outcomes

Community Wealth Building

Community Wealth Building is an approach to the way that economies function, retaining more wealth and opportunity for the benefit of local people.

Key actions in relation to CWB should deliver on the 5 recommendations and sub-recommendations contained within the CLES/DTNI report – Newry, Mourne and Down pioneering the potential of community wealth building.

Sustainability and Climate Change

Sustainability and the climate change emergency continues to be a key driver of Council with the key objective of improving the lives and livelihoods of the people who live and work here. Approval to develop a Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy was agreed in June 2023.

6.0 Directorate Objectives and Supporting Actions

Key Office Actions

Economy, Growth and Tourism –

Work with partners to lead the implementation of the Economic, Regeneration and Investment Strategy to support the development of the local economy and infrastructure to ensure the district is competitive and attractive to investors and residents.

Work with partners to lead the implementation of the Tourism Strategy. Lead the development and implementation of Culture and Arts Strategy and delivery of improved and new tourism assets

Regeneration –

A statutory duty to apply the Building Regulations to support regeneration and economic development across the district and the licencing obligations of Council.

Provide a robust, efficient and responsive development management service within the Council Planning Department to support regeneration and economic development across the district.

Progress the preparation and delivery of the Local Development Plan in accordance with the agreed timeframe to determine future land use planning policy across the district

Provide a robust, efficient and effective planning enforcement function within the Council Planning Department to address breaches of planning control.

Economy, Growth and Tourism		
Engage & collaborate with key stakeholders to support economic growth and prosperity across the district.	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN	
	Support the continued growth and development of our local economy	
Action	Timescale	Cross-Cutting Theme
Implementation of Go Succeed – entrepreneurial support service (community outreach, diagnostic, mentoring, masterclasses, grants, peer to peer networks).	Q1-4	CWB
Develop an engagement stakeholder forum to strengthen,	Q2	CPP

support and build resilience communication with the private sector		
Implementation of LMP 24/25 action plan to improve employability and skills via engagement with business and education (subject to funding)	Q2-4	CWB/CPP
Engage with Council partners on the development of business support service/programme post March 2025.	Q2-4	
Lead the secretariat and work in partnership with all member councils and universities of DBEC to deliver on the strategic aims and actions plans for the corridor.	Q1-4	CWB CPP
Support local business development and growth via a range of initiatives including artisan markets, social economy, marketing initiatives, events, international relations and digital engagement.	Q1-4	CWB
Liaise and work with Invest NI on the implementation of Decarbonisation project.	Q1-4	CWB SCC
Progress Skills, Employability and innovation pillars under BRCD.	Q1-4	CWB CPP
Development and management of the Digital Transformation Flexible Fund under FFNI across all Councils providing financial assistance for Digital Transformation in micros/small businesses.	Q1-4	CWB SCC
Facilitation of Mobile Action plan NI implementation on behalf of 11 NI councils	Q1-4	CWB SCC
Deliver infrastructure improvements across our rural and urban settlements	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN	
	Develop and revitalise our district	
Action	Timescale	Cross-Cutting Theme
Implementation of the PEACEPLUS Local Community Regeneration and Transformation theme.	Q1-4	CWB CPP
Continue to progress the delivery of Belfast Region City Deal tourism and regeneration projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newry City centre regeneration Mourne Mountains Gateway Project Regional Innovation Hub 		
Review and update regeneration plans	Q2-4	
Progress the Downpatrick Regeneration in line with the Living High Streets Toolkit.	Q1-4	
Complete final phase of the Carlingford Lough Greenway	Q1-4	

Efficient and effective provision of financial assistance to support our communities, businesses and the delivery of council services	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
	<p>Support the continued growth and development of our local economy</p> <p>Develop and revitalise our district</p> <p>Empower communities to play an active part in civic life</p>		
Action	Timescale	Cross-Cutting Theme	
<p>The delivery of internal and external funding programmes:</p> <p>DTFF</p> <p>Financial Assistance (FA)</p> <p>Service Level Agreements</p> <p>Facility Management Agreements</p> <p>Tourism Accommodation</p> <p>Flood Funding Schemes (Enhanced & Hardship Schemes)</p> <p>Grade A Office Accommodation</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Q4</p> <p>Q4</p> <p>Q4</p> <p>Quarter 2 – Q4</p> <p>Quarter 1 to quarter 3</p> <p>Quarter 3 to quarter 4</p>	CWB CPP SCC	
Review of FA and SLA's including review of processes and procedures.	Q2 – Q4	CWB	
Capacity building within community and business sectors.	Q2 – Q4	CWB CPP	
Implementation of the Local Co-designed Peace Plus Action Plan.	Q1 – Q4	CWB CPP SCC	

Deliver a sustainable tourism approach which supports local communities livelihoods and the environment	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
	Support regenerative tourism opportunities which promote our culture, heritage and environment		

Action	Timescale	Cross-Cutting Theme
Launch & commence delivery of the new Tourism Strategy 2024 - 2029	Q2	CWB/SCC
Continue to invest in and deliver major Sustainable Tourism Capital projects that will attract visitors to NI and the district	Q1 – Q4	CWB/SCC
Promote collection of new visitor experiences which focus on outdoor adventure, food and drink and Heritage and Culture.	Q1 – Q4	
Continue the delivery of Councils Arts, Culture and Heritage strategy.	Q1 – Q4	
Continue to support the delivery of the new Newry Arts, Theatre and Conference facility and develop options for Operating Model	Q1 – Q4	
Develop a range of engagement opportunities with the Arts Sector	Q2 – Q4	
Deliver and review the Tourism events programme and maximise opportunities from the Irish Open.	Q1 – Q4	CWB
Review and implementation of NMD Museum forward plans.	Q2 – Q4	
Increase accessibility to museums through engagement programme with community and visitors.	Q1 – Q4	

Protect and enhance the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty across the District	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN	
	Protect and enhance our environment to secure a sustainable future	
Action	Timescale	Cross-Cutting Theme
<p>Management of the Ring of Gullion and Strangford & Lecale AONBs through implementation of NI Environment Fund projects focusing on</p> <p>1) Nature and Climate Recovery: Building Ecological and Climate Resilience, Landscape, water, habitats, species and earth science.</p> <p>2) Connecting People with the Environment: Connecting with the natural environment, understanding it and taking action to have a positive effect on it</p>	Q1-4	SCC
Development and implementation of the Geo Park plan	Q1-4	CPP/SCC

Continued stewardship of Landscape partnership legacy programme	Q1-4	SCC
Identifying opportunities, collaborating and developing funding applications aligned to Council corporate priorities	Q1-4	SCC

Regeneration			
A statutory duty to apply the Building Regulations and licencing obligations of Council. -	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
	Develop and revitalise our district		
	Delivery of sustainable professional services.		
	Protect and enhance our environment to secure a sustainable future		
Action		Timescale	Cross-Cutting Theme
Maintain the processing times of BC applications.		Q1-4	SCC
Engage with regional partners and Department for Infrastructure in relation to regulations to ensure continued alignment to emerging requirements of sustainability.		Q1-4	SCC
Engage with partners internal and external to ensure an efficient and effective licencing department.		Q1-4	
-	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
	Develop and revitalise our district		
Action		Timescale	Cross-Cutting Theme
Implement public realm schemes in Warrenpoint, Downpatrick, Saintfield, Castlewellan, Bessbrook and Rostrevor		Q1-4	CWB
Complete Cross Border Greenway		Q4	CWB
Provide a robust, efficient and responsive development management service within the Council Planning Department	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
	Develop and revitalise our district		
	Delivery of sustainable professional services.		
	Protect and enhance our environment to secure a sustainable future		
Action		Timescale	Cross-Cutting Theme
Continual review of service to ensure statutory targets are		Q1-4	

achieved.			
Engagement with stakeholders to ensure a collaborative approach to development management service		Q 1-4	CPP
Capacity building across the sector to better understand the challenges within the planning service and role of consultees.		Q1-4	CPP
Progress the preparation and delivery of the Local Development Plan (LDP) in accordance with the agreed timeframe to direct future land use across the district.	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
	Develop and revitalise our district		
	Delivery of sustainable professional services.		
	Protect and enhance our environment to secure a sustainable future		
Action		Timescale	Cross-Cutting Theme
Engage with key stakeholders to ensure the LDP is fully reflective of local development requirements and aligns to planning policy.		Q1-4	CPP SCC
Ensure the LDP is reflective of Councils key strategic priorities as reflected in key strategies.		Q1-4	CPP
Provide a robust, efficient and effective planning enforcement function within the Council planning department to address breaches of planning control.	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
	Delivery of sustainable professional services.		
	Protect and enhance our environment to secure a sustainable future		
Action		Timescale	Cross-Cutting Theme
Delivery against the statutory targets		Q1-4	SCC
Engage with key stakeholders around regulations and the impact of noncompliance on planning policy.		Q1-4	CPP

7.0 Performance

7.1 The following performance measures will be monitored during 2024-25:

Measures of Success

Economy, Growth and Tourism:

- Number of jobs promoted through business start-up activity (statutory)
- Number of jobs created and businesses supported through Council programmes
- Amount of investment secured by the Council
- Number and percentage of financial assistance projects funded
- Number of urban and rural regeneration initiatives delivered
- Visitor spend (£)
- Volume of overnight stays in the district
- Visitor satisfaction
- Investment into tourism capital projects (£)
- Number of capacity building programmes delivered to community and businesses

Regeneration:

- Maintain the percentage time for processing Domestic BC applications within 21 days to 82%
- Maintain the percentage time for processing Commercial BC applications within 35 days to 82%
- Maintain the percentage time for processing all application returns within 14 days to 86%
- Increase number of online applications by a further 5%
- Average processing time for local planning applications of 15 weeks.
- Average processing time for major planning applications of 30 weeks.
- 70% of planning enforcement cases are processed within 39 weeks.
- Reduce the number of planning applications in the system for more than 12 months to 150.
- Reduce the number of planning applications in the system for less than 12 months to 700.
- Reduce the number of enforcement cases in the system for more than 12 months to 450.

ERT Plans and Strategies

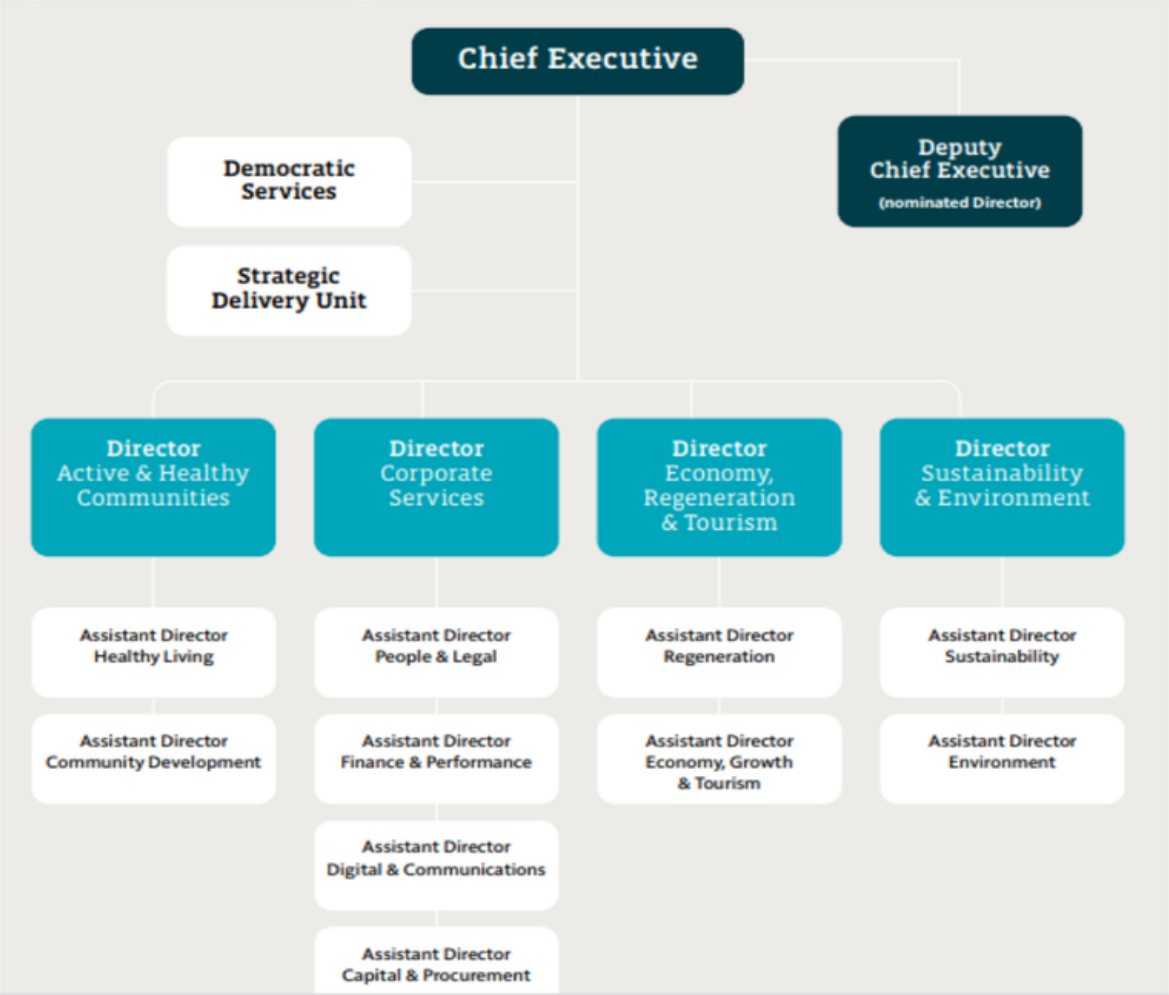
7.2 The ERT Directorate is responsible for leading the development, implementation and review of the following plans and strategies, which influence the work of the Office and Council:

- Economic, Regeneration and Investment Strategy
- Tourism Strategy
- Rural Development Strategy
- Arts and Culture Strategy
- Local Development Plan – Preferred Options Paper
- Financial Assistance Policy
- Peace Plus Co-designed Local Action Plan

8.0 Organisation and Directorate Structure

The ERT Directorate is one of four Departments, which together, comprise the Management structure of the Council. This is shown in Figure 3. The Directorate structure is set out in Figure 4.

Figure 3 Council Management Structure



9.0 Financial Information

Net estimated expenditure Revenue (2024-25)	
Economy, Growth and Tourism	£7,134,334
Regeneration	£1,968,105
TOTAL: ERT Directorate	£9,102,439

10.0 Governance Arrangements

- 10.1 Reviewing performance and reporting progress to Elected Members and other key stakeholders facilitates transparency, accountability and improvement in everything the Council does. The political and organisational governance arrangements to develop, monitor and report the Council's progress in implementing the ERT Business Plan are outlined below, and are supplemented by regular reviews by the ERT Director and his team. The governance arrangements the Council has put in place to deliver continuous improvement are also subject an annual audit and assessment by the Northern Ireland Audit Office.

Figure 4: Governance Arrangements

Full Council

- Ratification of ERT Business Plan
- Ratification of annual and biannual reviews of ERT Business Plan

Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee / Audit Committee

- Scrutiny and challenge around the Duty of Improvement
- Provide assurance that performance management arrangements are robust and effective

Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee

- Consideration, scrutiny and approval of ERT Business Plan
- Consideration, scrutiny and approval of the annual and biannual reviews of ERT Business Plan

Senior Management Team

- Development, consideration and approval of ERT Business Plan
- Development, consideration and approval of the annual and biannual reviews of ERT Business Plan



Ag freastal ar an Dún agus Ard Mhacha Theas Serving Down and South Armagh

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Downpatrick Office
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Downshire Estate, Ardglass Road

Downpatrick BT30 6GQ

Report to:	Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 10 June 2024
Subject:	Downpatrick Church Street and De Courcy Place Public Realm
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Aveen McVeigh Head of Regeneration and Business Development
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Ciara Toman Regeneration, Business Support and Development Officer

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either -			
For decision	x	For noting only	
1.0	Purpose and Background		
1.1	<div><div>Purpose</div><ul style="list-style-type: none">To seek approval for recommendations set out in 3.1 on Church Street and De Courcy Place Public Realm.<div>Background</div><p>An Integrated Design Team (IDT) was appointed to progress a regeneration scheme in Church Street (From the Down Recorder Office to Pillar Well Lane) and De Courcy Place (Lower English Street) in Downpatrick to RIBA Stage 3 (design, development, and planning application) as identified in the Living High Streets Framework. A Steering Committee was established with Elected Members, Businesses, Council Officers, and Department for Communities (DfC) representatives to assist in the development of the scheme.</p></div>		
2.0	Key issues		
2.1	<p>Church Street and DeCourcy Place public realm was identified in the Downpatrick Living High Streets Framework as a key project for delivery.</p> <p>The public realm plans were presented to the Church Street and De Courcy Steering Group and Downpatrick Regeneration Working Group for review, consideration, and approval.</p> <p>A public consultation process was carried out from the 15th – 29th April 2024 in Downpatrick Arts Centre, the findings were collated and informed the scheme.</p>		
3.0	Recommendations		
3.1	Council to progress the scheme and submit a planning application.		

3.2	Council Officers progress a Business Case (internal) and (external) to DfC for funding.
3.3	Council engage County Down RCN to assist with a public perception survey for Church Street and De Courcy Place through the existing Service Level Agreement (SLA).
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	<p>IDT resource up to RIBA Stage 3 is included in 2023/2024 budget.</p> <p>Future capital costs (internal and external) will be subject to business case approval. A report on this will be presented to Council on completion.</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 checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>

6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices
	N/A
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A

Report to:	Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 10 June 2024
Subject:	APSE Performance Report 2022/23 for Building Control
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director, Regeneration
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Eddie Newell Head of Building Control and Licensing

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 note the content of the APSE report and recognise the hard work, commitment, and dedication of staff within the Building Control section on behalf of Newry Mourne and Down District Council.</p> <p><u>Background</u> APSE (Association for Public Service Excellence) is a not for profit local government body working with over 300 councils throughout the UK. Promoting excellence in public services, APSE is the foremost specialist in local authority front line services, hosting a network for front line service providers in areas such as waste and refuse collection, parks, and environmental services, building control, leisure, etc.</p> <p>APSE conducts research, publishes reports, and campaigns to create a positive role for local government, helping them to deliver high quality, effective and efficient public services.</p>
1.2	Newry Mourne and Down District Council have signed up to APSE to help measure and improve service delivery across a number of key service areas.
1.3	<p>APSE measure Building Control's performance against other participating Councils in Northern Ireland using the following performance indicators:</p> <p>PI 01 - Percentage of valid domestic full plan applications assessed with a substantive response sent within 21 days of validation.</p> <p>PI 02 - Percentage of valid non-domestic full plan applications assessed with a substantive response sent within 35 days of validation.</p> <p>PI 03 - Percentage of resubmissions assessed with a substantive response within 14 days.</p>

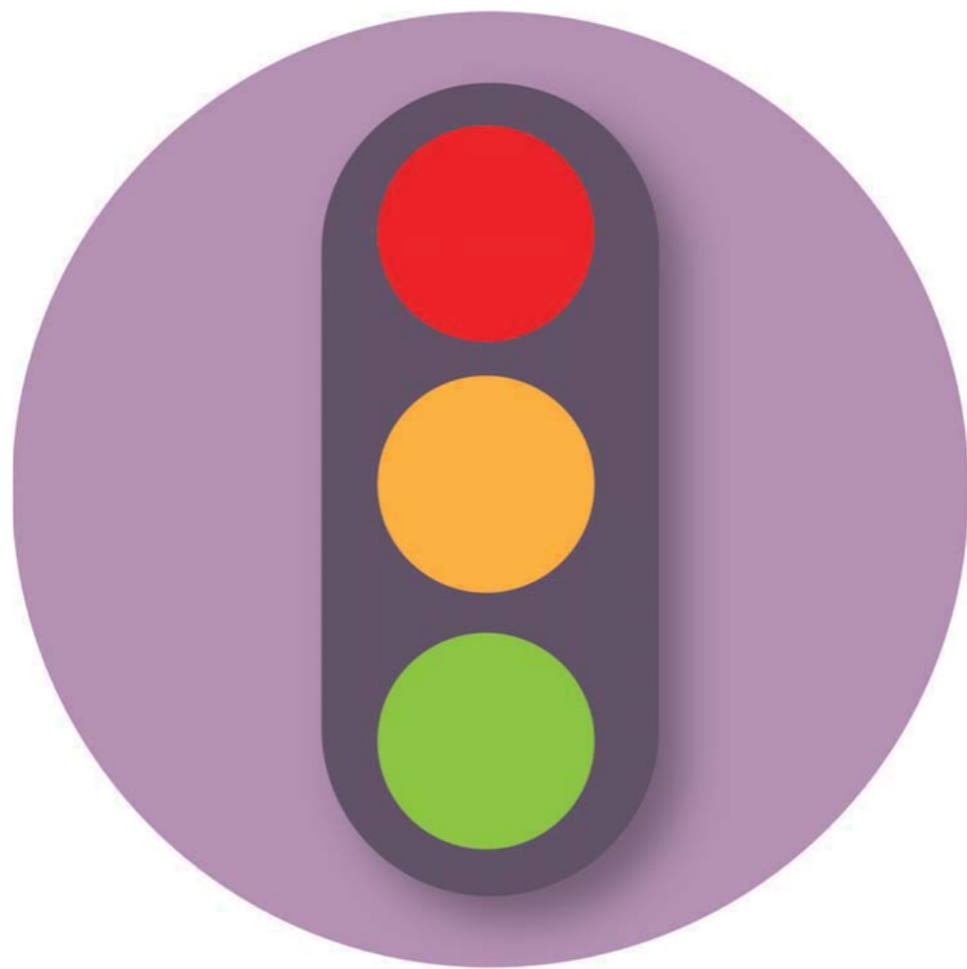
	PI 04 - Percentage of all full plan applications assessed with a substantive response sent within 56 days of validation.
1.4	Note: Building Control agreed with APSE not to provide information for performance indicators PI 07a, PI 07b and PI 07c because the information was available to them elsewhere.
2.0	Key issues
2.1	In all four performance indicators, Building Control's performance for 2022/23 was better than the service area average (Appendix 1).
2.2	In three of the four Performance indicators, NMDDC Building Control is ranking number 1 and ranked number 2 in the remaining one (Appendix 2).
2.3	These results reflect the hard work and dedication from our Building Control Technical and Business Support staff, together with their commitment to continual improvement and excellent customer service and experience.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	For the Committee to note the content of the APSE report and recognise the hard work, commitment, and dedication of staff within the Building Control section on behalf of Newry Mourne and Down District Council.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Building Control technical and business support staff.
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>1. APSE Performance at a Glance Report 2022/23</p> <p>2. APSE Performance Indicator Standings Report 2022/23.</p>
8.0	Background documents
	N/A

Building control (Northern Ireland)

2022-23

Performance at a glance





Building control (NI) performance at a glance

Newry Mourne and Down District Council

20003

These pages show your authority's performance for each performance indicator against the 2022/23 average performance for the service area. Whether your result has improved or not from 2021/22 is also shown. Icons are used to display this information and the idea of this report is that authorities can see 'at a glance' where improvements may need to be made. Where the box is blank, this indicates that there is no authority score available for this performance indicator or that there were less than three participants in this PI, meaning we are unable to produce a meaningful average score. The key to the icons are displayed below each table.

Performance indicators	Performance in 2022/23	Improved since 2021/22? [^]
PI 01 Percentage of valid domestic full plan applications assessed with a substantive response sent within 21 days of validation		
PI 02 Percentage of valid non domestic full plan applications assessed with a substantive response sent within 35 days of validation		
PI 03 Percentage of resubmissions assessed with a substantive response within 14 days		
PI 04 Percentage of all full plan applications assessed with a substantive response sent within 56 days of validation		
PI 07a Average number of days taken to assess each full plan domestic application		
PI 07b Average number of days taken to assess each full plan non-domestic applications		
PI 07c Average number of days taken to assess each full plan application		

- Performance for 2022/23 is better than the service area average
- Performance for 2022/23 is within 25% of the service area average
- Performance for 2022/23 is not as good as the service area average
- Performance for 2022/23 has improved from the 2021/22 result
- Performance for 2022/23 is within 5% of the 2021/22 result
- Performance for 2022/23 has not improved from the 2021/22 result

[^] Please note that the cost performance may be affected by inflation and this should be taken into account

The statistics marked with the symbols below are those where there is no preference to have a higher or lower result. However, for the purpose of this report, we have indicated for you whether your result is above or below the service area average.

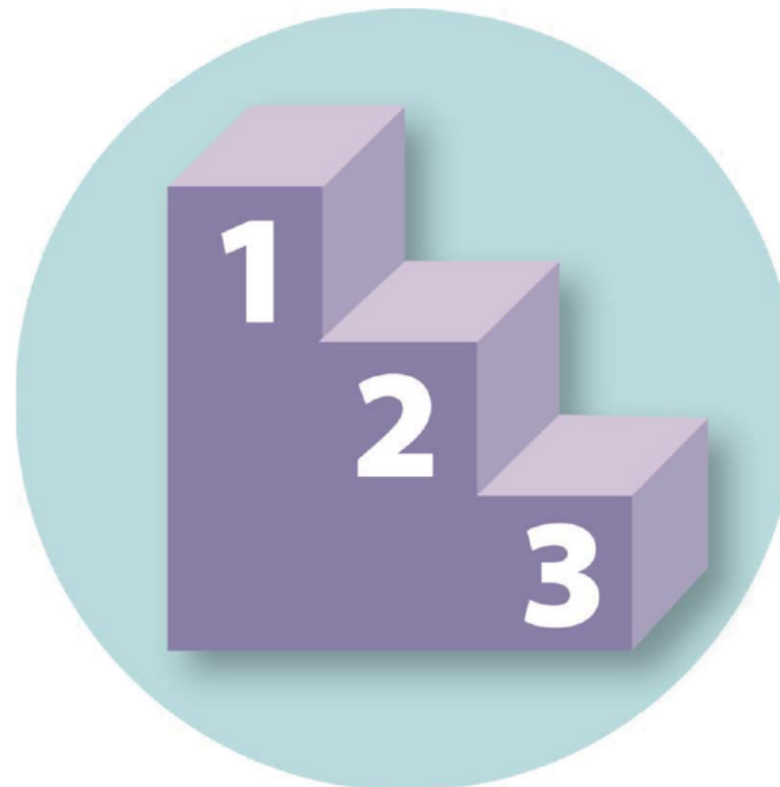
Statistics	Performance in 2022/23
Stat 01 Number of valid domestic Full plan applications received in the financial year	↑
Stat 02 Number of valid non domestic Full plan applications received in the financial year	↑
Stat 03 Number of resubmissions received during the financial year	↑

↓	Performance for 2022/23 is below the service area average
↑	Performance for 2022/23 is above the service area average

Building control (Northern Ireland)

First batch (Issue 1)

Performance indicator standings



PI standings explained...

This report details the standing of the authority in relation to other authorities who are part of the Northern Ireland Project. The report shows the following:

- **Number in service:** the number of councils who have been included in each of the performance indicators
- **Highest, average and lowest in service:** these are the data ranges from the data submitted by all the councils in the project
- **Your output/score**
- **Standing in the service:** whether you are 1st, 2nd, 3rd etc. within the project (ranking) from those councils who have submitted data for that particular indicator. The number 1 relates to best in the group
- **Ten percentile mark:** the point of the top 10% performance of the group
- **High/Low/Neutral:** whether it is desirable to have a high result (H), desirable to have a low result (L) or whether the indicator is considered neutral (N) (there isn't a desirable result). For instance, for customer satisfaction it will be desirable to be high and for staff absence it will be desirable to be low.

The report enables the assessment of actual performance relative to other councils involved in the Northern Ireland Project. Report parameters (acceptable data boundaries) will apply to this report and details of these can be located in the "performance report".



Whole service comparison

Building control (NI) PI standings 2022/23

Name of authority
PIN

Newry Mourne and Down District Council
20003

Performance indicator

Applications performance indicators

PI 01 - Percentage of valid domestic full plan applications assessed with a substantive response sent within 21 days of validation

	Number in service	Highest in service	Average for service	Lowest in service	Your output/score	Standing in service	Ten percentile mark	High / Low / Neutral
PI 01 - Percentage of valid domestic full plan applications assessed with a substantive response sent within 21 days of validation	5	94.30%	68.89%	32.73%	94.30%	1	87.54%	H
PI 02 - Percentage of valid non domestic full plan applications assessed with a substantive response sent within 35 days of validation	5	94.68%	76.96%	55.26%	87.31%	2	91.73%	H
PI 03 - Percentage of resubmissions assessed with a substantive response within 14 days	5	87.01%	73.32%	58.02%	87.01%	1	86.28%	H
PI 04 - Percentage of all full plan applications assessed with a substantive response sent within 56 days of validation	3	99.03%	97.56%	96.75%	99.03%	1	98.60%	H
PI 07a - Average number of days taken to assess each full plan domestic application	3	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.04	2	0.04	L
PI 07b - Average number of days taken to assess each full plan non-domestic applications	3	38.25	33.99	31.01	38.25	3	31.35	L
PI 07c - Average number of days taken to assess each full plan application	3	28.42	25.81	22.90	28.42	3	23.54	L
Statutory performance indicators								
STAT 01 - Number of valid domestic full plan applications received in the financial year	5	596	514	385	596	-	-	N
STAT 02 - Number of valid non-domestic full plan applications received in the financial year	5	331	153.60	94	331	-	-	N
STAT 03 - Number of resubmissions received during the financial year	5	1,224	927	587	1,224	-	-	N

Notes:

a. The authority will only be ranked in service if it has shown an output / score within the set parameters for the performance indicator.

Report to:	Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 10 th June 2024
Subject:	Update - Northern Ireland Enterprise Support Service (NIESS) – Go Succeed NI
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Aveen McVeigh, Head of Regeneration and Business Development
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Aveen McVeigh, Head of Regeneration and Business Development

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	<p><u>Purpose</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To note the update on the implementation of the NI Enterprise Support Service (NIESS) branded Go Succeed NI. <p><u>Background</u></p> <p>NIESS branded Go Succeed NI was launched in November 2023, it is a new regional approach to helping potential entrepreneurs, new starts and existing businesses to maximise their potential and contribute to Northern Ireland's economy.</p>
2	<p>Key Issues</p> <p>Belfast City Council (BCC) as lead Council has appointed Enterprise Northern Ireland (ENI) to deliver Engage and Foundation pillars of the Service (focus on pre and new business starts). Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency and Down Business Centre are delivering the Service to participants from the District on behalf of Council.</p> <p>BCC has appointed Full Circle to deliver Growth and Scaling pillars of the Service (focus on existing businesses with the potential to grow). Full Circle has access to a pool of experienced business advisors to provide diagnostic, mentoring, workshops, and masterclasses to participants.</p> <p>The service has encountered several mobilisation challenges including procurement, limited CRM capability/function, delays in mentor training and mobilisation particularly in the Engage and Foundation pillars which has impacted on achieving targets including business plan creation and jobs created. Council is liaising with BCC and ENI regarding attaining of targets</p>

	<p>for 24/25. Council and BCC continues to engage with DfE regarding business plan and job creation targets.</p> <p>A grant of up to £4,000 is available for eligible participants on the Foundation and Growth pillars. Intervention rate is 70% Council and 30% applicant, it is anticipated that Council will administer up to 150 grants in 24/25.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To note the update on the implementation of the NI Enterprise Support Service (NIESS) branded Go Succeed NI.
4.0	Resource implications
	There is match funding providing in 24/25 revenue budget.
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>
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	Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided)
	<i>Rationale:</i>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</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