

November 13th, 2019

**Notice Of Meeting**

You are requested to attend the meeting to be held on **Thursday, 14th November 2019 at 6:00 pm** in **Mourne Room, Civic Centre Downpatrick**

The Members of the Strategy Policy and Resources Committee are:-

Chair: Councillor M Savage

Vice Chair: Councillor A McMurray

Members:

Councillor R Burgess

Councillor P Byrne

Councillor S Doran

Councillor H Gallagher

Councillor O Hanlon

Councillor R Howell

Councillor A Lewis

Councillor C Mason

Councillor R Mulgrew

Councillor B Ó Muirí

Councillor G Sharvin

Councillor J Tinnelly

Councillor W Walker

# Agenda

## 1.0 Apologies & Chairpersons Remarks

## 2.0 Declarations of Interest

## 3.0 Action Sheet arising from SPR Committee Meeting held on 17 October 2019

 *SPR-Action Sheet October 19 Updated.pdf*

*Page 1*

### *Corporate Planning and Policy*

## 4.0 Draft Irish Language Strategy 2020-2023

 *Report on draft Irish Language Strategy 2020-2023 for consideration SP ... 9.pdf*

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 *Appendix I draft Irish Language Strategy 2020-2023 for consideration a ... 9.pdf*

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### *Democratic Services*

## 5.0 Special Responsibility Allowances

 *SRA allowances.pdf*

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### *Corporate Services*

## 6.0 Mid Year Assessment of Directorate Business Plans 2019-20

 *SPR Cover Report Mid Year Assessment Business Plan 2019-20.pdf*

*Page 23*

 *App 1 Chief Executives Department Mid Year Assessment Business Plan.pdf*

*Page 25*

 *4.10.19 Corporate Services Mid Year Assessment Business Plan 2019-20.pdf*

*Page 35*

### *Community Planning and Performance*

## 7.0 Community Planning Statement of Progress

 *SPR - Statement of Progress cover report.pdf*

*Page 43*

 *SOP Public Summary.pdf*

*Page 45*

### *For Noting*

## 8.0 Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2019/20

📄 *Corporate Report Template June 2018 - SPR Nov'19 Treasury Item.pdf*

Page 61

📄 *H1-2019-20-Treasury-Outturn-Report-Update 30.9.19 Final.pdf*

Page 63

## 9.0 DRAFT Minutes of the Community Planning Strategic Partnership Board Meeting - 22 October 2019

📄 *DRAFT CPP Board Meeting - 22 10 19.pdf*

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## 10.0 City Centre Regeneration Programme Transportation & Car Parking

📄 *CCR - Transportation Car Parking 081119.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***

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### 11.0 Car-park at Meigh village

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of para.3 of part 1 of schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person. The public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business

📄 *SPR - November 2019 - Partial waiver of covenant - Car-park Meigh village.pdf*

Not included

📄 *SPR - November 2019 - Map - Partial waiver of covenant - Car-park Meigh ... x.pdf*

Not included

### 12.0 Sale of land at Newry Market

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of para.3 of part 1 of schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person. The public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business

📄 *SPR Report Newry Market.pdf*

Not included

📄 *Appendix 1 - Map of Newry Market Stall.pdf*

Not included

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

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### 13.0 Action Sheet from Efficiency Working Group Meeting, 21 October 2019

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of para.3 of part 1 of schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any

particular person. The public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business

 ***EWG - Action Sheet 21 10 19 vDRAFT (003).pdf***

***Not included***

## **14.0 Management Accounts**

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of para.3 of part 1 of schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person. The public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business

 ***Management accounts Report to SPR November.pdf***

***Not included***

 ***Copy of Income Expend. (By Director) at 30.9.19- ALL (003).xlsx***

***Not included***



# Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews

Mr Alan Beggs

Cllr Patrick Brown

Cllr Robert Burgess

Cllr Pete Byrne

Mrs Dorinnia Carville

Cllr charlie casey

Cllr William Clarke

Cllr Dermot Curran

Cllr Laura Devlin

Mr Eoin Devlin

Ms Louise Dillon

Cllr Sean Doran

Cllr Cadogan Enright

Cllr Hugh Gallagher

Cllr Mark Gibbons

Mr Kieran Gordon

Cllr Oonagh Hanlon

Cllr Glyn Hanna

Cllr Valerie Harte

Mr Conor Haughey

Cllr Terry Hearty

Mrs Janine Hillen

Cllr Roisin Howell

Mr Colum Jackson

Miss Veronica Keegan

Cllr Liz Kimmins

Cllr Mickey Larkin

Cllr Alan Lewis

Mr Michael Lipsett

Mrs Regina Mackin

Cllr Oonagh Magennis

Mr Conor Mallon

Cllr Gavin Malone

Cllr Cathy Mason

Mr Johnny Mc Bride

Colette McAteer

Cllr Declan McAteer

Cllr Leeanne McEvoy

Jonathan McGilly

Cllr Harold McKee

Patricia McKeever

Cllr Karen McKevitt  
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Cllr Andrew McMurray  
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Catrina Miskelly  
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Mr Colin Moffett  
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Mr Ken Montgomery  
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Mr Roland Moore  
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Ms Carmel Morgan  
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Cllr Roisin Mulgrew  
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Cllr Barra Ó Muirí  
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Linda O'Hare  
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Cllr Gerry O'Hare  
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Cllr Kathryn Owen  
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Mr Andy Patterson  
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Cllr Henry Reilly  
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Ms Alison Robb  
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Cllr Michael Ruane  
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Cllr Michael Savage  
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Mr Kevin Scullion  
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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 SHEET – STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING (SPR) – THURSDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2016 – ITEMS STILL IN PROGRESS OR ON-GOING.**

SPR/282/2016	Correspondence from the Department for Communities Regeneration Bill	Council to write to the Minister for Communities asking him to reconsider the decision not to progress the Regeneration Bill.	L Hannaway	To be completed once a Minister for Communities is in place.	N
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**ACTION SHEET – STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING (SPR) – THURSDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2018 – ITEMS STILL IN PROGRESS OR ON-GOING.**

SPR/149/2018	Presentation from Department for Communities	It was agreed that officers would draw up a policy statement on submission of proposals to the Department and this to be brought back to a future Committee Meeting for Members' consideration.	F O'Connor	Following the meeting clarification was requested from DFI on any proposed changes to Departmental policy in this area. A response was received from DFI on 04/01/19 indicating that "The Department is currently considering the matter of the review of the disposal of council lands policy." This matter will be kept under review	N
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**ACTION SHEET – STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING (SPR) – THURSDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2019**

SPR/123/2019	Lease of Lands at Former Land Fill Site at Newry Road, Newtownhamilton	It was agreed to defer any decision on the report for a month, subject to further consultation, both with the community and Committee Members.	F O'Connor	Noted	N
SPR/125/2019	Disposal of Surplus Assets	<p>It was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To approve the open market sale on the following assets – NM167 - Derryleckagh Playing Fields, NM123-Kilkeel Town Hall and DDC068-Meadowlands Recreation Area.</li> <li>To approve the Estates and Property Assets team to consider the following sites for development opportunity and submit planning applications for – Ballyvange Downpatrick, NM090-lands at rear of Jonesborough Market and DDC124-Grove Gardens Recreations Area, Killyleagh.</li> <li>To accept the expression of interest from the NIHE for Social Housing at DDC025-17 The Square, Ballynahinch Steel Frame.</li> <li>To accept the expression of interest from SRC for NM219-Newry Sports Centre and write to the Department to move forward on the matter.</li> <li>To accept the expression of interest from the Development Trust NI on behalf of South Armagh Lace Collective for NM062-Malachy Conlon Park, Culloville.</li> <li>That officers report back on the legal advice received on NM069-Bog Road Amenity Area, Forkhill.</li> </ul>	C Mallon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider expressions of interest from Rugby Club for Derryleckagh Playing Fields</li> <li>Kilkeel Town Hall - Allow 4 weeks for expressions of interest from the community</li> </ul> <p>Approved</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>	<p>N</p> <p>N</p> <p>N</p> <p>N</p> <p>N</p> <p>N</p>

SPR/126/2019	Corry Square Carpark	<p>The following recommendation was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agree to the sale of the site to Matt D'Arcy Limited and include a covenant /condition within the title that would ensure the area marked in blue on the map in Appendix B is retained as a carpark.</li> </ul>	C Mallon	Agreed	N
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**ACTION SHEET – STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING (SPR) – THURSDAY 17 OCTOBER 2019**

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SPR/133/2019	Action Sheet of SPR Meeting held on 12 September 2019	It was agreed that the Action Sheet be noted and actions removed as Marked.	D Services	Noted	Y
SPR/135/2019	Irish Language Financial Assistance Scheme 2020/2021 and Minority Communities Financial Assistance Theme 2020/2021	It was agreed to approve the inclusion of both an Irish Language (indicative budget of £50,000) and a Minority Communities Financial Assistance Theme (indicative budget of £12,500) within the Financial Assistance Call 1 for period 2020/2021. The outlined indicative budgets reflect the amount agreed in 2019/2020 and it was acknowledged the budgets would be subject to agreement and approval through the rate setting process.	R Mackin	Noted	Y



SPR/136/2019	Report regarding Notice of Motion – World War II Veterans	It was agreed in principle to identify the number of veterans on the basis of the definition of a resident to be any person who resides in the Council district; whole last address before being admitted to hospital or a care home was within the Council district; persons who have been resident in a care home for 2 years or more; or former residents of the Council district who had left to receive treatment or care from a relative.	R Mackin	Noted	Y
SPR/137/2019	correspondence from Ards and North Down Borough Council Re: UK'S First National Memorial dedicated to all Emergency Service Personnel who have served or been killed in the course of their duties	It was agreed that Council support the creation of national monument to act as a symbol of eternal gratitude for all emergency service personnel who have served or been killed in the course of duties.	R Mackin	Noted	Y
SPR/138/2019	Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period July-September 2019	It was agreed to note the contents of the report.	R Mackin	Noted	Y
SPR/139/2019	Minutes from Community Planning Strategic Partnership Board Meetings held on 29 <sup>th</sup> January and 18 <sup>th</sup> June 2019	It was agreed to note the Community Planning Partnership Board Minutes from 29 <sup>th</sup> January and 18 <sup>th</sup> June 2019.	J McBride	Noted	Y

SPR/140/2019	Correspondence dated 2 October 2019 from Ms T Meharg, Permanent Secretary, regarding Rates Support Grant (RSG) Overpayment	It was agreed to note the contents of the letter received from Ms T Meharg, Permanent Secretary regarding Rates Support Grant (RSG) Overpayment.	D Carville	Noted	Y
SPR/141/2019	Brexit Planning	It was agreed to note the contents of the report.	D Carville	Noted	Y
SPR/142/2019	Sickness Absence	It was agreed to note the contents of the report.	L Fitzsimons	Noted	Y

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

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet
SPR/143/2019	New Local Government Resourcing Model for the Civil Contingencies Function	It was agreed that this Council underwrite 1/5 <sup>th</sup> of any liability attached to the matching process and TUPE transfer (where relevant) of the Emergency Planning Officer currently employed by Lisburn Castlereagh Council.	L Hannaway / A Murray	Noted	Y

SPR/144/2019	Proposed licence of Ocean Bed at Killough Harbour	It was agreed to renew the Licence in favour of Killough Oysters Limited of the area outlined in red on the map circulated in the officer's report for a further 15 years subject to Licence fee of £680.00 per annum for the first five years and thereafter such Licence fee as is determined by a rent review in years five and ten of the term.	L Moore	Noted	Y
SPR/145/2019	Rectification of map – Clonallen Park, Warrenpoint	The following recommendations were agreed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Approve in principle the rectification of the folio map;</li> <li>ii) Apply a condition that Council's legal costs be paid by the requester in relation to Clonallen Park, Warrenpoint.</li> </ul>	L Moore	Noted	Y
SPR/146/2019	Land at Altnaveigh, Doran's Hill, Newry	The following recommendations were agreed: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Remove the stipulation that the social enterprise activity must be directly connected to the purposes of Thomas Davis Ladies GFC.</li> <li>2. Council waiving its interest in reacquiring the lands at this time.</li> <li>3. To ensure so far as possible continued rights for Council in respect of the use and future disposal of the land by Thomas Davis GFC, this relates to land at Altnaveigh, Doran's Hill, Newry.</li> </ol>	F O'Connor	Noted	Y
SPR/147/2019	Albert Basin Park – Appointment of Consultants	It was agreed to approve the appointment of a team of consultants to develop options for the Albert Basin park site.	M Lipsett	Approved	Y



SPR/148/2019	Newry Rainbow Community Grant Funding	To reverse the decision taken by the ERT Committee on 11 February 2019 to award the Newry Rainbow Committee a further £50,000 save for the £6,500 discussed in the officer's report which will be paid upon receipt of satisfactory vouching documentation.	G Byrne	Noted	Y
SPR/149/2019	Action Sheet from Efficiency Working Group Meeting held on 25 June 2019.	It was agreed to note the action sheet from Efficiency Working Group Meeting held on 25 June 2019.	J McBride	Noted	Y
SPR/150/2019	Albert Basin Task & Finish Action Sheet dated 11 September 2019 & 8 October 2019	It was agreed to note the action sheets from the Albert Basin Task and finish Working Group held on 11 <sup>th</sup> September and 8 <sup>th</sup> October 2019 noting that the actions contained within will now be reviewed in accordance with the Council's revised Terms of Reference for the Task and Finish Working Group – officers will bring forward a draft Terms of Reference for the Stakeholder Forum to the next meeting and to agree that the date of the next meeting of the Task and Finish Working Group will be changed to Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> November for the month of November only.	J McBride	Noted	Y
SPR/151/2019	Chief Executive Appraisal 2018-2019	It was agreed to note that where the Chief Executive has reached the third point of their pay scale and has demonstrated exceptional performance (as assessed via an objective and robust process of appraisal) and agreed by all unanimously that an exceptional performance payment of one increment may be made.	C Miskelly	Noted	Y

SPR/152/2019	SPRC Pay Claims Report	It was agreed to submit the proposed response as contained in appendix b of the officer's report to NILGA in relation to the Trade Union Side NJC pay claim 2020/2021.	C Miskelly	Noted	Y
SPR/153/2019	Voluntary Severance	It was agreed to release 3 further officers under the RPA Voluntary Severance scheme on the basis of surplus resource and management has confirmed that the work can be completed and service delivery will not be negatively impacted.	C Miskelly	Noted	Y

END

<b>Report to:</b>	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	14 November 2019
<b>Subject:</b>	Draft Irish Language Strategy 2020-2023
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Regina Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning and Policy
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Colin Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy Ursula Mhic an tSaoir, Irish Language Unit Manager

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

<b>For decision</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>For noting only</b>	
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<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>
1.1	<p>Building upon our Irish Language Strategy 2017-2019, a draft Irish Language Strategy has been prepared for the period 2020-2023 which sets out how the Council will continue to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increase the use of Irish language within its functions;</li> <li>• facilitate the use of the Irish language when communicating with the public and relevant stakeholders; and</li> <li>• promote and encourage the development of the Irish language across the Council area.</li> </ul>
1.2	<p>With regards to the Irish Language Strategy the draft strategy sets out a twofold mission and vision as follows:</p> <p>Mission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>To mainstream the use of Irish Language in the internal administration of Council, and in its dealings with other public bodies and the community.</i></li> <li>• <i>To embed equality of opportunity standards, address barriers of access to information and services, promote the development of the Irish Language, and to give leadership in meeting the evidenced needs of existing and emerging Irish language communities within the District.</i></li> </ul> <p>Vision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>To establish a sustainable environment which supports and enables the use and development of the Irish language in public, personal, economic and community life.</i></li> </ul>
1.3	<p>The two strategic objectives within the draft Irish Language Strategy 2020-2023 are as follows:</p> <p>Strategic Objective 1: To facilitate, enable and encourage the development of the Irish Language within Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and the District.</p>

	Strategic Objective 2: To effectively engage with the Irish Language Community to strengthen community capacity, encourage collaboration, co-operation and identify appropriate funding opportunities.
1.4	<p>The associated action plan to deliver upon the two strategic objectives sets out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positive actions: the detail and anticipated scale of the action.</li> <li>• Performance Measures: demonstrating how effectively the strategy is achieving its anticipated outcomes.</li> <li>• Outcomes: what will change as a result of the proposed action.</li> <li>• Responsibility: identifies the relevant responsibility in relation to a given action.</li> <li>• Timeframes: when the action will be delivered.</li> </ul>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues</b>
2.1	<p>Prior to consideration at the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee on 14 November 2019, the draft Irish Language Strategy 2020-2023 has been considered at the Senior Management Team, Corporate Management Team and Councillors' Irish Language Strategy Cross Party Working Group meetings on 8, 15 and 24 October 2019 respectively.</p> <p>Further to consideration the following is proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consideration at Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee on November 2019 (and approval of November 2019 SPR Report at Council's Monthly Meeting in December 2019).</li> <li>• 12-week public consultation.</li> <li>• Finalised Irish Language Strategy tabled for consideration and adoption by Council.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
3.1	Council's Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee is asked to consider the draft Irish Language Strategy 2020-2023, and agreement for it to proceed to public consultation.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	<p>It is essential that appropriate and adequate resources are in place to ensure delivery upon the Council's Bilingualism Policy and actions outlined in the Irish Language Strategy.</p> <p>The Irish Language Unit structure of three Officers has been finalised and agreed, with an allocated budget, including an Irish Language Bursary Scheme and Financial Assistance programme, and no further additional financial or resources implications are anticipated at this stage.</p> <p>While it is envisaged the proposed strategy will be delivered within the current resources, physical and financial resources issues will be kept under review as the Irish Language Strategy 2020-2023 is implemented.</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Equality and good relations implications</b>
5.1	<p>The draft Irish Language Strategy 2020-2023 has been equality screened and the decision is that it not be subject to an equality impact assessment (with no mitigating measures required).</p> <p>The Strategy would be designated as a positive action which builds upon the Council's Bilingualism Policy, Procedures, and Irish Language Strategy 2017-2019.</p>

	No adverse equality and good relations implications are anticipated, and it is acknowledged any asymmetrical equality impacts caused by the Strategy are intentional because they are specifically designed to promote equality of opportunity for disadvantaged people.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Rural Proofing implications</b>
6.1	It is not anticipated that the implementation of the draft Irish Language Strategy will have a differential impact for people living in rural areas. Due regard to rural needs has been considered and a rural needs impact assessment has been completed.
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	Appendix I: Draft Irish Language Strategy 2020-2023.
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Background Documents</b>
	N/A

## **Comhairle Ceantair an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin**

### **Straitéis na Gaeilge 2020-2023**

## **Newry, Mourne and Down District Council**

### **Irish Language Strategy 2020-2023**



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## 1. Introduction

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council recognises the Irish language as an integral part of the heritage, identity and cultural life of the district. We have a strong, vibrant, ever increasing Irish Language community living, working, visiting and socialising in the Council area.

The Council remains committed to the objectives set out in our Bilingualism Policy and have put in place the necessary structures to ensure that the Irish language and Irish language community has a sustainable future.

Building upon our Irish Language Strategy 2017-2019, we have developed an Irish Language Strategy for the period 2020-2023 which sets out how the Council will continue to:

- increase the use of Irish language within its functions;
- facilitate the use of the Irish language when communicating with the public and relevant stakeholders; and
- promote and encourage the development of the Irish language across the Council area.

## 2. The strategic framework – mission, vision and values

Council's mission is twofold:

- *To mainstream the use of Irish Language in the internal administration of Council, and in its dealings with other public bodies and the community.*
- *To embed equality of opportunity standards, address barriers of access to information and services, promote the development of the Irish Language, and to give leadership in meeting the evidenced needs of existing and emerging Irish language communities within the District.*

Our Council's vision for the Irish Language Strategy 2020-2023 is:

- *To establish a sustainable environment which supports and enables the use and development of the Irish language in public, personal, economic and community life.*

In pursuing our mission, we will be guided by the five values outlined within the Council's Corporate Plan 2019-23:

- **Collaborative:** We will work in partnership with others;
- **Responsive:** We will listen and respond openly and positively to the views of everyone;
- **Engaging:** We will involve residents and staff in identifying needs and improving our services;
- **Sustainable:** We will modernise and transform our services in developing the district for current and future generations; and,
- **Transparent:** We will make our decisions and resource allocation openly and decisions will be informed by objective evidence.

## 3. Strategic objectives

The two strategic objectives of the Irish Language Strategy 2020-2023 are as follows:



Strategic Objective 1: To facilitate, enable and encourage the development of the Irish Language within Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and the District.

Strategic Objective 2: To effectively engage with the Irish Language Community to strengthen community capacity, encourage collaboration, co-operation and identify appropriate funding opportunities.

#### 4. The delivery framework

4.1 The associated action plan to deliver upon the two strategic objectives sets out:

- **Positive actions:** the detail and anticipated scale of the action.
- **Performance Measures:** demonstrating how effectively the strategy is achieving its anticipated outcomes.
- **Outcomes:** what will change as a result of the proposed action.
- **Responsibility:** identifies the relevant responsibility in relation to a given action.
- **Timeframes:** when the action will be delivered.

The actions complement the Council's Corporate Plan, and Bilingualism Policy to facilitate and encourage the promotion and use of both the Irish language and the English language in the Council area through:

- Progressively realising greater access to information and services;
- Increasing Irish language community capacity, civic engagement and participation, and encouraging partnership-working;
- Improving sustainability and viability of the Irish language community sector; and,
- Developing connectivity between Irish language communities and the Statutory and Voluntary sectors;
- Appropriate budget allocation, monitoring, evaluation and review.

#### 5. Structure and governance

Council's Irish Language Unit is responsible for implementation of the Irish Language Strategy. The Unit is part of the Corporate Policy Section of the Corporate Planning & Policy Department which is within the Council's Corporate Services Directorate

The Council's Irish Language Strategy Cross Party Working Group has a pivotal role in considering and discussing the implementation of the Irish Language Strategy. The Irish Language Strategy Cross Party Working Group does not have decision making powers, it makes recommendations only. Recommendations arising are tabled at the Council's Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.

#### 6. Monitoring and review

Six-monthly reports on progress will be prepared for consideration by the Irish Language Strategy Cross Party Working Group.

The Irish Language Strategy will be reviewed annually to ensure actions and the associated budget remain relevant and appropriate.

Strategic objective 1		To facilitate and encourage the development of the Irish Language within Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and the District		
Positive action	Performance measure	Outcome	Responsibility	Timeframe
<b>1.1</b> Provision of core Irish language Services of Irish Language Unit (ILU)	Provision of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Translation &amp; interpretation</li> <li>• Advice &amp; support</li> <li>• Research re: Signage / Street and development naming</li> <li>• Programme to raise awareness and understanding of Irish language</li> <li>• Irish Language Week programme (Seachtain na Gaeilge)</li> </ul>	<p>Delivery of core Irish Language services to Council, all Departments and Services and our community.</p> <p>Irish language and Irish Language Unit positively promoted and addressing perceptions</p> <p>Increased awareness of Bilingualism Policy, Procedures and Guidelines</p>	Irish Language Unit (ILU)	Ongoing core work of ILU
<b>1.2</b> Review Bilingualism Policy, Procedures and Guidelines for employees	<p>Reviewed Bilingualism Policy</p> <p>Revised Bilingualism Policy Procedures</p> <p>Revised Guidelines for the use of Irish Language in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council</p>	<p>Irish Language Unit promoting the Irish language across Council services / addressing barriers of access</p> <p>A consistent approach to the promotion of the Irish language across Council's services</p> <p>A consistent standard of service provision, in line with the Corporate Brand guidelines</p> <p>Guidelines for employees</p>	ILU	August 2020
<b>1.3</b> Mainstream Irish language within strategic and business plans and operational arrangements (service delivery opportunities)	<p>Number of meetings with Directorates / Service areas</p> <p>Details of amendments / Number of prioritised programmes</p>	<p>Progressive realisation of mainstreaming bilingualism within Council functions</p> <p>Increased visibility and promotion of the Irish language</p>	ILU	March 2021

<b>1.4</b> Development and maintenance of functioning bilingual website and social media platforms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Migration of information</li> <li>• Prioritising, moderating and updating Irish language content on Council's website and social media platform</li> </ul>	Functioning bilingual website and social media platforms operational	Progressive realisation of Council's bilingual website and social media platforms Functioning and meeting needs of Irish language communities in District and beyond	ILU / Comms and Marketing / IT	March 2021
<b>1.5</b> Prepare for Irish language legislation	Meetings with Irish language leading bodies	Council preparedness should an Irish Language Act be implemented during lifetime of this strategy	ILU / Corporate Policy	Ongoing
<b>1.6</b> Six-monthly monitoring reports for consideration by the Irish Language Strategy Working Group	Monitoring reports completed	Monitoring, review and evaluation of Irish Language Strategy	ILU / Corporate Policy	Six-monthly during period of strategy
<b>1.7</b> Irish language capacity building / training for employees and Elected Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• training on the Bilingualism Policy, Procedure and Guidelines;</li> <li>• HR to establish an Irish Language Professional Development pathway for employees and Elected Members;</li> <li>• On-going developmental</li> </ul>	Minimum of 2 workshops per annum re Bilingualism Policy & associated Procedures and Guidelines for Use of Irish in Council  Irish Language Skills training offered as a professional learning and development opportunity  Numbers of attendees  Development of an e-learning package	Enhanced employee skills and knowledge base	ILU HR Training & Development Officer	Delivered and reviewed annually during period of strategy          December 2020

support to Council departments on implementation of Council's Bilingualism Policy and associated Procedures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traditional and e-learning approach</li> </ul>				
<b>1.8</b> Objective justification principles with regard to Irish language skills applied as part of all Recruitment and Selection processes	Number of posts which identify Irish Language as an essential or desirable criterion	Enhanced employee skills and knowledge base	HR / ILU / Corporate Policy	April 2020
<b>1.9</b> Mapping the Irish Language Community Infrastructure	Integration of Irish language infrastructure map for Irish language community development	Enhanced knowledge of Irish language community infrastructure	ILU / Community Engagement	Ongoing
<b>2.0</b> Review of Irish Language Strategy 2020-2023	Four-year review of Irish Language Strategy	Monitoring, review and evaluation of Irish Language Strategy 2020-2023 and development of new Irish Language Strategy	ILU / Corporate Policy	November 2022 – April 2023



Strategic objective 2		To effectively engage with the Irish Language Community to strengthen community capacity, encourage collaboration, co-operation and identify appropriate funding opportunities		
Positive action	Performance measure	Outcome	Responsibility	Timeframe
<b>2.1</b> Facilitate continued development of Fóram an Dúin agus Oirialla (Down and Oriel Forum) within the Irish Language community sector in the Council area	Number of Forum meetings Number of people in attendance Number of groups in attendance	Increased community engagement on critical issues  Increased sustainability of Irish language community organisations	ILU	Ongoing
<b>2.2</b> Implementation of Irish Language Financial Assistance programme	Number of applicants Number of successful applicants	Irish Language community renewal and development, and positively engaging the Irish Language through financial assistance to support: a) Projects / initiatives that encourage Irish language community capacity building, mentoring and volunteering. It is envisaged that this scheme will inspire better developed Irish language communities to partner with newer or developing language communities to share resources and build better networks and encourage volunteering. b) Community engagement projects /initiatives to build positive relations, raise awareness and understanding, address perceptions and promote respect for the Irish language.	Programmes Unit / ILU	Annually
<b>2.3</b> Promote non-Council funding	Number of non-Council financial	Provision of support to potential	ILU	Ongoing

opportunities for Irish Language groups	assistance opportunities promoted	applicants of non-Council funding streams	External funding bodies	
<b>2.4</b> Internal promotion of opportunities for community engagement with the Irish Language community	Number of meetings with DEA Officers	Promotion of a culture of constructive community engagement with the Irish language community throughout all Council departments	ILU / DEAs network	Ongoing
<b>2.5</b> Implementation of Irish Language Bursary Scheme	Number of applications Number of successful applicants Amount awarded	Individuals assisted to improve Irish Language skills through bursaries for Irish Language courses, including Gaeltacht colleges, intensive courses and third level courses	ILU	Annually
<b>2.6</b> Education sector engagement	Number of schools engaged with Number of students participating in workshops	Positive relationships established and maintained with education sector	ILU Education sector	Ongoing
<b>2.7</b> Community Engagement	Explore opportunities for good relations through initiatives such as PEACE IV initiative	Community cohesion Increased Respect for Irish language	AHC Directorate/ ILU / Programmes Unit	Ongoing
<b>2.8</b> Support volunteering within the Irish Language community	Number of attendees at the sector specific volunteer development workshop / celebration event	Promotion of volunteers engaged in delivering Irish Language services in Council area  Reduced dependency on grant funding  Increased sustainability of Irish Language community organisations	ILU / Community Engagement	Ongoing

<b>Report to:</b>	Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	14 November 2019
<b>Subject:</b>	Allocation of two outstanding SRA allowance
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Dorinnia Carville: Director of Corporate Services
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Sarah Taggart: Democratic Services Manager (Acting)

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

<b>For decision</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>For noting only</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background:</b>
1.1	To consider way forward in relation to allocation of two outstanding SRA
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues:</b>
2.1	Two SRAs remain to be allocated due to Councillor Clarke being a Member of the Planning Committee and also a Party Representative – both of which positions are paid an SRA and the previously paid SRA to Alliance/Ind Party Representative.
2.2	A Council may not pay more than one SRA to any one Councillor.
2.3	When this situation previously arose during both the Council terms 2017/18 and 2018/19, the Council considered two options: a. The outstanding SRAs be allocated among the other positions which receive SRA payments. b. 50% of the unallocated SRAs be paid to the Chair of the Planning Committee, with the remaining 50% being divided among the remaining positions which receive SRA payments.  Council agreed to proceed with option b on both occasions.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations:</b>
3.1	Discussions took place at the Party Representatives Meeting in July 2019, and it was recommended that Council agree to proceed with option a on this occasion – that the outstanding SRAs be allocated among the other positions which receive SRA payments.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	None.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Equality and good relations implications</b>
5.1	This report has been equality screened to assess the likely impact on the promotion of equality of opportunity and good relations. No equality impact assessment is required at this time.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Rural Proofing implications</b>
6.1	A rural needs impact assessment is not required at this time.
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	Minute of Party Reps Meeting held on 4 July 2019
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Background Documents</b>
	None

**PR/80/2019: Special Responsibility Allowances**

**Read:** Report dated 4 July 2019, from Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting), regarding Special Responsibility Allowances (copy circulated)

**Agreed:** It was agreed that the outstanding SRAs be allocated among the other positions which receive SRA payments and a report to be presented to the SPR Committee Meeting in August 2019.



<b>Report to:</b>	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	14 November 2019
<b>Subject:</b>	Mid Year Assessment of Directorate Business Plans 2019-20
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Marie Ward: Chief Executive Dorinnia Carville: Director of Corporate Services
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Marie Ward: Chief Executive Dorinnia Carville: Director of Corporate Services

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

For decision	X	For noting only	
<b>1.0</b>			<b>Purpose and Background</b>
1.1			Directorate Business Plans are an essential part of the Council's Business Planning and Performance Management Framework, which drives and provides assurance that corporate priorities are being delivered.
1.2			The Business Plans demonstrate how planned activity during 2019-20 will contribute to the achievement of strategic outcomes in relation to the Community Plan, Corporate Plan, Performance Improvement Plan and other key strategies.
<b>2.0</b>			<b>Key issues</b>
2.1			A Mid Year Assessment of each Business Plan has been undertaken in order to provide an overview of progress between April-September 2019. This exercise is an important part of the Council's statutory obligations to strengthen the way performance is monitored, reviewed and reported across the organisation.
2.2			The Mid Year Assessments of the Chief Executive's Department Business Plan and Corporate Services Business Plan are outlined at Appendices 1 and 2 respectively.
<b>3.0</b>			<b>Recommendations</b>
3.1			To consider and agree: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Mid Year Assessment of the Chief Executive's Department Business Plan 2019-20</li> <li>The Mid Year Assessment of the Corporate Services Business Plan 2019-20</li> </ul>
<b>4.0</b>			<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1			There are no resource implications contained within this report.
<b>5.0</b>			<b>Equality and good relations implications</b>
5.1			There are no equality or good relations implications arising from this report. However, specific actions and projects within the Directorate Business Plan may be subject to their own statutory equality screening.
<b>6.0</b>			<b>Rural Proofing implications</b>

6.1	There are no rural proofing implications contained within this report. However, specific actions and projects within the Directorate Business Plan may be subject to their own statutory rural needs impact assessment.
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
7.1	Appendix I - Mid Year Assessment of the Chief Executive's Department Business Plan 2019-20 Appendix 2: The Mid Year Assessment of the Corporate Services Business Plan 2019-20
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Background Documents</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chief Executive's Department Business Plan 2019-20</li> <li>• Corporate Services Business Plan 2019-20</li> </ul>

# Chief Executive's Department

## Mid-Year Assessment Business Plan 2019-20

## Introduction




This report provides an overview of progress in delivering the Business Plan 2019-20 for the Chief Executive's Department, across the following service areas:

- Business Transformation
- Performance and Improvement
- Evidence and Research
- Community Planning
- Democratic Services












The delivery of the Chief Executive's Departmental Business Plan 2019-20 supports the achievement of all community planning outcomes and corporate priorities, specifically the corporate priority outlined below. Performance has also been tracked using the legend below.

**'Transform and modernise the Council, providing accessible as well as value for money services'**







## Legend





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

## Progress at a glance





Performance Improvement Plan and Assessment of Performance published	
Performance Profiles developed and corporate approach for Service Plans agreed	
Procurement of electronic performance management system delayed	
Community planning dashboards and DEA scorecards developed	
Implementation of GIS Enterprise System complete	
Community Plan Statement of Progress drafted	
Appointments to Community Planning Partnership Board and Thematic Groups complete	
Six partners allocated £24k towards further Participatory Budgeting initiatives	
Development of an Action Plan for the Strategic Stakeholder Forum limited	
Local government elections held and appointments to positions of responsibility complete	
The Chairperson hosted 21 events and attended a further 276 engagements	







Key CEO Actions				
Supporting Actions		When	Status	Progress
Transformation	Further develop a more detailed Target Operating Model	Ongoing		Assistant Directors from across the Council have worked together through Task and Finish Groups to produce outline strategies relating to 'Customer Engagement', 'Ways of Working' and 'Information'. It is envisaged that a proposed Corporate Transformation Programme will be the appropriate vehicle to progress a new Target Operating Model.
	Roll out the business transformation programme with the Senior Management Team and Elected Members	Ongoing		Proposals have been prepared for the Senior Management Team outlining the possible structure and resource requirements associated with a Corporate Transformation Programme.
	Develop and implement a targeted Efficiency Plan for 2019-20	Q3		Future options were presented to the Efficiency Working Group in June 2019, following Party Grouping feedback. It was agreed to revisit a future Plan in February 2020.
Performance and Improvement	Mainstream the Performance Improvement Policy and strengthen alignment across the Business Planning and Performance Management Framework	Ongoing		The Performance Improvement Policy was adopted in November 2018. The alignment across the Business Planning and Performance Management Framework continues to strengthen through the Corporate Plan, Performance Improvement Plan, Directorate Business Plans and emerging Service Plans, enabling employees to identify their contribution to the achievement of strategic priorities.
	Provide performance management training and capacity building for Elected Members and designated officers	Ongoing		A corporate proposal for performance management training will be developed and considered by the Elected Member Steering Group during Q3/Q4 2019-20.
	Identify opportunities to use performance information to drive continuous improvement across the organisation	Ongoing		Performance Profiles have been developed for each Directorate, outlining year on year trends, comparisons with other Councils and areas of good and under performance. This performance



				information will be used to inform the business and service planning process, whilst identifying improvements at all levels of the organisation.
	Develop and consult on the performance improvement objectives, and publish the Performance Improvement Plan 2019-20	Q1		The consultation and engagement on the performance improvement objectives 2019-20 was integrated with the consultation on the Corporate Plan 2019-23. The results of the consultation and engagement process informed the development of the performance improvement objectives, which were published in the Performance Improvement Plan before 30 June 2019, in line with the statutory timescale.
	Explore options to progress the procurement of an electronic Performance Management System	Q1 onwards		The project mandate for an electronic performance management system was considered by the IT Projects Group and forms part of the forward looking IT Strategy. The Council is exploring options to identify current and future business requirements in relation to the procurement of a system.
	Implement the recommendations arising from the internal audit of the Council's performance indicators	Q1 onwards		Progress in implementing the recommendations from the internal audit is underway. In November 2019, APSE (Association of Public Sector Excellence) will validate the data collation processes and accuracy of data submitted for all performance indicators.
	Complete and publish the Assessment of Performance 2018-19	Q2		The Assessment of Performance 2018-19 provides an overview of progress in delivering the Corporate Plan 2015-19 and Performance Improvement Plan 2018-19, and was published before 30 September, in line with the statutory timescale. The summary document entitled 'Our Performance Looking Back, Going Forward' was also published on the corporate website and circulated to key stakeholders.











	Commence the development of the 2020-21 performance improvement objectives, in line with the new Corporate Plan	Q2 onwards		The Corporate Plan 2019-23 has been drafted and the 12 week consultation process is currently underway. Work has commenced around the development of the performance improvement objectives 2020-21, within the context of the new draft corporate priorities.
	Facilitate the Performance Audit and Assessment 2019-20 and implement the 'proposals for improvement' put forward by the Local Government Auditor	Q3		The 2019-20 Performance Audit and Assessment is currently underway and the S95 report will be issued in November 2019. The implementation of the current 'proposals for improvement' is ongoing, with progress being reported through the Assessment of Performance 2018-19.
	Complete and publish the Mid Year Assessment of the Performance Improvement Plan 2019-20	Q3		The Mid Year Assessment of the Performance Improvement Plan 2019-20 will be considered by the Council during Q3 2019-20.
	Analyse and review the delivery of the Community Plan by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing dashboards to monitor population level indicators at both thematic and DEA levels</li> <li>Collaborating with partners to develop performance scorecards to monitor the impact of selected community planning activities</li> <li>Collaborating with the DEA Forums to develop scorecards to monitor the implementation of DEA Action Plans</li> </ul>	Q1 onwards		A series of dashboards to monitor population level indicators have been produced, providing an evidence base to review of the implementation of the Community Plan. Work is also underway to update the DEA dashboards, which provide an overview of population level trends, which will be used to inform the development of future DEA Action Plans. To date, scorecards have been produced for the following DEA projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Banjaxed - Safety and Good Relations.</li> <li>Community Culture programme - Safety and Good Relations.</li> <li>Spanner in the Works - Health Outcome.</li> <li>Participatory Budgeting Evaluations x 2 - The Mournes and Youth Leading Change events.</li> </ul>

				Work is also underway with the Southern and South Eastern Health Trusts to develop a joint scorecard for the Health Referrals Programme.
	<p>Use the results of the Household Survey as an evidence base to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the Community Plan</li> <li>Inform the medium term priority areas which underpin the Community Plan</li> <li>Inform the development of corporate priorities within the Corporate Plan</li> </ul>	Q1 onwards		The results of the Residents Survey were presented to the Community Planning Partnership and incorporated into the Community Plan two-year review. The results have also provided an evidence base to partially fulfil the data development agenda for the Community Plan, and inform the development of the Corporate Plan 2019-23 and future DEA Action Plans.
	Implement and upgrade the corporate GIS service, internally and externally	Q4		Between April-June 2019, the GIS Enterprise System was implemented and 15 GIS sites, specific to Council services, were introduced. The GIS team will continue to liaise with internal departments to develop future sites and provide ongoing training and capacity building.
	Work with Legal Services to improve existing governance arrangements for the use of data to support business intelligence	Ongoing		There has been ongoing liaison with the Head of Compliance in relation to data accuracy issues around GDPR. Work continues with regards to the validation of various datasets across the organisation, highlighting issues around data accuracy and completeness. The GIS Team is also working with internal departments and LPS (Land and Property Services) to validate the NI Pointer address database.
	Provide an evidence base to support internal and external stakeholders in the delivery of services	Ongoing		<p>Corporate roadshows to demonstrate how the Evidence and Research team can assist internal departments and support the development of services are currently being organised.</p> <p>Examples of projects which have been supported to date include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Facilities Review.</li> </ul>







				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Housing monitor and economic lands data for Local Development Plan.</li> <li>Review of Environmental Health inspection zones.</li> <li>Validation and development of integrated refuse database.</li> <li>Analysis of Building Control completion data.</li> <li>Rural proofing evidence base.</li> <li>Public surveys for Arts and Heritage Strategy, Corporate Plan, Castlewellan Park redevelopment.</li> <li>Numerous mapping, plotting and GIS requests across the organisation.</li> </ul>
Community Planning	<p>Continue to implement the Community Plan by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progressing an agreed set of focused priorities which underpin the delivery of the Community Plan</li> <li>Identifying, developing and co-ordinating joint partnership initiatives to improve integrated service provision around the implementation of the Community Planning</li> </ul>	Q1 onwards		<p>The revised focus and arrangements for the Thematic Groups was agreed by Community Planning Partnership Board in June 2019. The majority of lead partners for the focused priorities have been identified, and initial meetings to develop joint action plans were held between August – October 2019. Key collaborative, multi-agency initiatives include the 'Transforming Health, Preventing Disease' project and 'Participatory Budgeting'.</p>
	Implement the revised governance arrangements and operating protocols for the Community Planning structures	Q1 onwards		<p>All Elected Member nominees to the Community Planning Partnership Board and revised Thematic Groups were appointed in September 2019. The Strategic Stakeholder Forum nominees have also been appointed to the revised Thematic Groups.</p> <p>The Newry, Mourne and Down Economic / Skills / Tourism Forums and the Police and Community Safety Partnership are recognised as the Thematic Groups for 'Prosperous</p>

				Communities' and 'Safe and Vibrant Communities' respectively.
	Support the Strategic Stakeholder Forum to deliver an action plan which is fully integrated with the Community Plan	Q1 onwards		<p>The Community Planning team continues to provide administrative support to the Strategic Stakeholder Forum (SSF), to assist in its role as the overarching Community Planning partner representing the Community and Voluntary Sector (CVS).</p> <p>Progressing the development of a focused action plan for the Forum has been limited, due to the wide range of CVS interests and impact of new external programmes, particularly 'Social Prescribing'. The refocused Thematic Groups may assist members of the Strategic Stakeholder Forum in refining and determining their input into the Community Planning process through specific collaborative initiatives.</p>
	Engage with Community Planning Partners to further develop, manage and roll-out Participatory Budgeting programmes	Q1 onwards		<p>Six partner organisations have allocated a total of £24k towards successful 'participatory budgeting' projects under the overarching theme of 'building community connections – within your community, with other communities, across generations'. Two events are scheduled to take place in Newry and Downpatrick in November 2019.</p> <p>Participatory budgeting is also being promoted across Northern Ireland, with around three Community Planning Partnerships progressing this initiative. Through PB Works!, Newry, Mourne and Down is collaborating with European (Polish and Spanish) partners to develop good practice in relation to youth and participatory budgeting. In November 2019, the Departments for Communities and Finance will also hold a Participatory</p>

				Budgeting Innovation Lab for partners across NI.
	Submit the 'Statement of Progress' in relation to the implementation of the Community Plan to the Department for Communities	Q3		The Statement of Progress has been drafted and will be submitted to the Department for Communities in November 2019, following the consideration and approval of the Community Planning Partnership Board. A summary document has also been produced for circulation to key stakeholders, including the public.
Democratic Services	Organise and facilitate the 2019 Local Government Elections	Q1		The local government elections were held in May 2019 and 41 Councillors were elected to Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.
	Organise the annual meeting of Council and manage the appointment of positions of responsibility for the new term of Council and Committees for 2019-20	Q1		The annual meeting of Council took place in June 2019 and Elected Members have been appointed to designated positions of responsibility for 2019-20, as well as the second term of Council in relation to political party representation.
	Organise a programme of committee meetings for the first year of the new term of Council	Q1		The programme of Committee meetings for 2019-20 has been organised, agreed and published on the corporate website.
	Continue to provide an induction, training and capacity building programme to support Elected Members in fulfilling their roles and responsibilities	Q1 onwards		Between April-September 2019, Elected Members were invited to participate in a number of training programmes, including E Learning, Code of Conduct, Standing Orders, Minutepad, Safeguarding and Data Protection. Elected Members also attended a range of conferences which focused on themes such as housing, regeneration, recycling and environmental issues, as well as corporate events which were hosted by APSE, NILGA and NAC (National Association of Councillors).
	Support the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson in carrying out their role(s) as First Citizen(s)	Q1 onwards		The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson have a designated resource within the Council to support them in fulfilling their role(s) as First Citizen(s). The



				current Chairperson has hosted 21 civic receptions and attended 276 events.
	Continue to provide administrative and governance support to the Council's decision-making structures	Q1 onwards		The Council continues to organise and provide administrative and governance support to the monthly meetings of Council and its Standing Committee, as well as the quarterly meetings of the Audit Committee. Action sheets for each meeting are instrumental in monitoring and tracking progress in implementing Council decisions. The Council also continues to review the constitution and has updated the Terms of Reference for Committees and Scheme of Allowances for Elected Members.

Measures of Success			
Measure	YTD Actual	Status	Explanation
Compliance with the statutory Duty of Improvement	-	-	The S95 Report will be issued by the NI Audit Office in November 2019.
Compliance with the statutory Duty of Community Planning	-		Compliance with the statutory Duty of Community Planning is ongoing.
The number of events hosted on behalf of the Chairperson	21		Between April-September 2019, the Chairperson hosted 21 events, including the Civic Awards and receptions for the Maidens of the Mourne and Special Olympians.
The number of official events attended by the Chairperson/Vice Chairperson	276		Between April-September 2019, the Chairperson attended 297 events, launches, photocalls and interviews, including the Ulster Fleadh, Pride in Newry and the official openings of community centres, walking trails and play parks.

# Corporate Services

## Mid-Year Assessment Business Plan 2019-20



## Introduction

This report provides an overview of progress in delivering the Corporate Services Business Plan 2019-20 between April-September 2019, across the following service areas:




- Finance, including procurement
- Human Resources, including safeguarding
- Corporate Planning and Policy, including Communications and Marketing
- Administration, including legal services, compliance and registration services
- Information Technology
- Estates and Capital projects, including Health and Safety and Emergency Planning

The delivery of the Corporate Services Business Plan 2019-20 supports the achievement of all corporate priorities, particularly the following corporate priorities, and performance has been tracked using the legend below.









**'Transform and modernise the Council, providing accessible as well as value for money services'**









**'Protect our natural and built environment'**








## 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







## Progress at a glance







Administration	
Corporate Planning & Policy	
Estates & Capital Projects	
Finance	 
Human Resources	 
IT	

Key Corporate Service Actions				
	Supporting action	When	Status	Progress
Administration	Provide annual Data Protection, FOI and EIR training for all staff and elected members	Q3		<p>New Access to Information Policy and Procedure emailed to all staff on 9 July and Councillors on 10 July which included key guidelines to follow.</p> <p>Training slides produced for inclusion on e-learning which will be launched to all staff on 17 October.</p> <p>Additional service specific training anticipated for quarter 4. Specific training provided to Planning staff on 10 and 26 September.</p>
	Continue audit of records across Council to ensure Council meets its obligations under GDPR and PRONI guidance	Q4		<p>Audit of information continues.</p> <p>Results of analysis will be produced in Q4.</p>
	Develop and implement a Corporate Records Management Policy & Procedure to include a file plan and classification of information in line with current guidance.	Q2		Corporate Records Management Policy & Procedure produced and approved by SP&R Committee on 12 September and ratified by Council on 7 October.
	Provide training for all staff and elected members	Q4		Training materials currently being developed with anticipated delivery expected for Q4.
	Undertake review of Council Bye-laws in conjunction with relevant departments	Q4		<p>The Bye-law review is well underway.</p> <p>All legacy Bye-laws have been identified and are with their respective Directorates for consideration. The objective is on track to be achieved.</p>
	Finalise and implement Business Review Model	Q4		<p>Work ongoing in relation to the Model and development of a Project Implementation Plan.</p> <p>Further consultation to be undertaken with Trade Unions.</p>
	Review Complaints Policy and develop a Best Practice Manual.	Q4		<p>Work has been undertaken and an alternative model drafted for SMT consideration. Dependant on preferred model Best Practice Manual will be developed to reflect this. Training anticipated for Q4.</p>
	Provide training for all staff and elected members	Q4		




Corporate Planning and Policy	Progress the inclusiveness of languages within Council: ▪ develop an Irish Language Strategy for 2019-2023	Q4		Draft Irish Language Strategy 2020-2023 has been prepared. Further to consideration and comment by SMT, the draft Irish Language Strategy 2020-2023, the following is proposed: ▪ Consideration at the Council's Irish Language Strategy Cross Party Working Group meeting on 24 October 2019; ▪ Consideration at Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee in November 2019 (and approval of November 2019 SPR Report at Council's month meeting in December 2019); ▪ 12-week public consultation; ▪ Finalised Irish Language Strategy tabled for consideration and adoption by Council.
	▪ review and revise bilingualism policy	Q4		Bilingualism Policy to be reviewed during Q4 through SMT and Council's Irish Language Strategy Cross Party Working Group.
	Development of Corporate Plan 2019-2023	Q4		Following a detailed consultation programme the Draft Corporate Plan 2019-2023 has been prepared and is currently being consulted on publicly for a 12-week period ending in December 2019.  The finalised version of the Corporate Plan 2019-2023 will be brought back to Council early 2020 for consideration and adoption.
	Development of Equality Action Plan 2020-2023	Q4		This will be prepared in conjunction with the five-year review of Council's Equality Scheme.
	Five year review and development of Disability Action Plan 2020-25	Q3		Review and draft currently being prepared.
	Review Council's Policy Development Framework	Q3		Review and draft currently being prepared.
	Review and revise media policy, incorporating social media and the use of digital communications. Deliver training to elected members and staff. Develop and implement programme of generic communications/marketing training across all directorates.	Q4		The media policies are being reviewed. A generic communications/marketing training programme for elected members and staff is currently being developed and delivery will begin in Q4.








Estates and Capital Projects Estates and Capital Projects	Review Best Practice Guidelines and amend as required taking legislation and regulation changes into account. Provide guidance, support to departments as required.	Q4		Ongoing and on target for completion in Q4
	Implement the Estates Asset Management Policy, ensuring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion of Estates mapping exercise in partnership with GIS and Legal staff</li> <li>• Agree action plan for all assets</li> <li>• Continue to identify surplus assets, and maximise the value of all assets approved for disposal</li> </ul>	Q4       On going		Ongoing and on target for completion in Q4
	Review Council's Health and Safety Organisational Arrangements and develop a H&S Management System based on ISO 45001:2018 and other relevant standards	Q4		Ongoing and on target for completion in Q4
	Develop a framework for small and medium sized construction contracts	Q4		Completed in Q2
	Review Emergency Plans and apply lessons learnt from multi agency exercises.	Q4		Ongoing and on target for completion in Q4
Finance	Continue to implement and monitor compliance with Procurement Policy and ensure staff are appropriately trained. Reinforce Policy focusing	Q4		Procurement Policy training completed. Contracts Register is currently being compiled.

	on Contracts Management to ensure accurate monitoring of capital expenditure			
	Review of current financial infrastructure, processes and systems to ensure timely production of management and financial accounts and information	Q4		Management Accounts are currently produced in a timely manner.
	Complete Contracts Register and identify areas for efficiencies. Ensure key Contracts are in place across the Council based on cumulative spend	Q4		CMT led project underway – key areas of spend identified and contracts register currently being compiled.
	Introduce new system for audit tracking which also allows audit recommendations to be linked to audit risks	Q3		System add on to Grace is currently being procured.
Human Resources	Organisation Design – Conclude processes for filling posts in confirmed new structures to managerial/ supervisory level.	Q4		Managerial/supervisory posts filled in confirmed post-RPA structures; except for 1 post in Finance. Service reviews pending in Culture, Arts, Heritage and Events & Neighbourhood Services mean HR cannot progress the filling of the remaining posts at this time.
	Through consultation and negotiation with the recognised Trade Unions, work towards achieving a common set of Terms & Conditions and associated employment policies with a view to reaching agreement for all employees within NMDDC.	Q4		HR has been working extensively with Management Side (MS) representatives (SMT & CMT) to establish agreed employer negotiating positions on 51 elements of terms & conditions of employment. Negotiations have been ongoing with the recognised Trade Unions (TU) on proposed on common terms and conditions of employment. Agreement in principle has been reached on 22 elements.  Consultation with CMT & TU representatives has been ongoing in relation to 6 common employment policies/procedures.
	Continue to improve the effectiveness of Council's safeguarding organisational arrangements to ensure children and adults at risk are adequately protected and update	Q4		The review of existing mechanisms for communication of Safeguarding arrangements has been ongoing and actions taken to improve the dissemination of Safeguarding information. Support/signposting information for staff and members of the public has been developed & implemented and is progressing.



	procedures with a focus on key areas and risk.			<p>Focus groups have been facilitated to identify risk factors and support processes implemented to reduce potential Safeguarding risks for staff and customers in outlying/isolated Council Facilities who have limited electronic access to Council internet. Development of a policy and procedures to safeguard customers and staff in relation to Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence is underway.</p> <p>A systematic approach to Safeguarding Training for employees has been developed and is currently out for consultation.</p> <p>eLearning has been launched with the requirement for all employees to complete the Safeguarding module for Children and Adults at Risk.</p> <p>NMDDC is represented on and inputs to, relevant local and regional Safeguarding partnerships and Statutory Bodies for both Children &amp; Adults at Risk; carrying out actions arising, incorporating learning into NMDDC Safeguarding arrangements and updating internal stakeholders.</p>
	Develop and introduce a process which recognises employee contribution and develops our people, through regular engagement between employees and line managers	Q4	 	<p>Whilst the intention is still to get this work underway during the 2019-2020 financial year, this strategic objective was superseded by the launch of the Council's e-learning platform which went 'live' during October 2019; which will operate for the benefit of all Employees and Elected Members.</p>
Information Technology	Continued implementation of IT Strategy in accordance with timetable and budget, building on the stabilisation of the IT environment, with a key focus on supporting the transformation agenda.	Q4		<p>Currently behind schedule due to the delays in the roll out of the WAN project.</p>

Measures of Success																		
Measure	YTD Actual	Status	Explanation															
<b>Administration:</b> 80% of responses to requests for information provided within statutory timeframe	89%		<p>During the period 1 April – 30 September 351 requests were processed under either the Freedom of Information Act, Environmental Information Regulations and/or Data Protection Act. 89% were responded within the deadline, results as follows:</p> <table><tr><th>Deadline Met</th><th>Count</th><th>%</th></tr><tr><td>No</td><td>14</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>Pending*</td><td>24</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>Yes</td><td>313</td><td>89</td></tr><tr><td><b>Grand Total</b></td><td><b>351</b></td><td><b>100</b></td></tr></table> <p><i>*Analysis conducted 4 October.</i></p>	Deadline Met	Count	%	No	14	4	Pending*	24	7	Yes	313	89	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>100</b>
Deadline Met	Count	%																
No	14	4																
Pending*	24	7																
Yes	313	89																
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>100</b>																
<b>Finance:</b> Pay 90% of invoices to suppliers within 30 days	90% achieved		90% achieved last quarter.															
<b>IT:</b> Reduce the number of IT critical failures/down days due to increased stability of system	Not currently measured		The impact of critical failures has reduced. The number of critical failures will continue to reduce as users are fully migrated to the new IT arrangements															
<b>HR:</b> Overall reduction of year on year Sickness Absence	9.6% reduction year on year		In the rolling twelve-month period ending 30 September 2019, days lost due to sickness absence is recorded as having fallen from 13,893 in 2017/18 to 12,556 in 2018/19 which equates to a decrease of just under 10%.															
<b>Corporate Planning and Policy:</b> Increase Facebook and Twitter engagement rates through planned interest based scheduled posts	Action on this is progressing.		Council continues to grow its social media presence.															

<b>Report to:</b>	Strategy, Policy & Resources (SP&R) Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	14 November 2019
<b>Subject:</b>	Community Planning – Statement of Progress
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Johnny McBride, Assistant Director: Community Planning & Performance
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Johnny McBride, Assistant Director: Community Planning & Performance

<table><tr><td>For Decision</td><td></td><td>For Noting Only</td><td>X</td></tr></table>		For Decision		For Noting Only	X
For Decision		For Noting Only	X		
1.0	<b>Purpose &amp; Background</b>				
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with a copy of the public version of the "Living Well Together" Statement of Progress.				
1.2	A statutory requirement exists for the Community Planning Strategic Partnership Board to make arrangements to monitor progress against meeting the objectives of the Community Plan and the effectiveness of those actions taken in support of the Plan. This must be done by the way of a statement, which must be published every two years.				
2.0	<b>Key Issues</b>				
2.1	The key issue for Elected Members is consider is that, despite Community Planning in Northern Ireland being very much in its infancy, the Partnership Board in Newry, Mourne & Down has made considerable progress concerning the prioritisation of shared priorities, and the subsequent development and implementation of shared initiatives. Some of which, have been successful in securing Partner funding.				
2.2	Key highlights include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. A collaborative asset mapping project amongst key public-sector partners to identify and map (via GIS capability) all surplus land and buildings. This is particularly important in the context of identifying suitable land for social housing, as well as potentially supporting future joint capital investment in support of other priorities;</li><li>ii. The introduction of a series of Participatory Budgeting (PB) pilot projects across the District, as a method of extending democracy and enabling local communities to have a say on how public funds are allocated. This project has been successful in securing funding from a range of public sector Partners;</li><li>iii. The establishment of a Community Support Partnership which enables key public services to more effectively respond to the needs of vulnerable individuals by sharing information and coordinating interventions. This project has also been successful in securing Partner funding; and</li><li>iv. More recently, development work between several Partners, including the Council, to better coordinate the referral of "at risk" diabetes and mental health patients to Council</li></ul>				

	leisure facilities. This project has also been successful in securing Partner funding and will be initiated in the new year.
2.3	The Statement of Progress also provides an update (where data is available) on the key indicators which measure progress towards the achievement of the shared outcomes. This information provides the means to review the effectiveness of some of the initiatives referred to above, as well as identification of additional opportunities for further joint working between Partners.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	There are no resource implications arising from this specific report.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications</b>
4.1	There are no equality and good relations arising from this specific report.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Rural Proofing Implications</b>
5.1	There are no rural proofing implications arising from this specific report.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Statement of Progress</b></li> </ul>



# Living Well Together

Community Planning  
in Newry, Mourne and Down  
Our Journey





# Our 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.”**

Newry, Mourne and Down's 'Living Well Together' community planning process brings partner organisations, regional government agencies and local communities together to work in collaboration to deliver our vision. Community planning is built on the understanding that organisations and communities working alone cannot do what can be achieved in partnership. Our focus is on what we can do together to achieve our goals. Our vision defines the outcomes we want to achieve by 2030.

## Focusing on Outcomes

To do this we identified five overarching outcomes that partners across Newry, Mourne and Down will seek to achieve by working better together.

### All people in Newry, Mourne and Down:



Get a good start in life and fulfil their lifelong potential



Enjoy good health and wellbeing



Benefit from prosperous communities



Benefit from a clean, quality and sustainable environment



Live in respectful, safe and vibrant communities



# How will we know if we are getting there?

The Community Plan was drawn up through discussion between partners, consultation with communities and establishing a baseline of evidence so we could measure any improvements. We identified 21 social, economic and environmental measures (indicators) to help identify any positive (or negative) changes. You will find these on page 10.



Using an Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA) approach three key questions help us to track progress: How much did we do? How well did we do it? Is anyone better off? We have developed a series of scorecards to report on these questions.

## Who is doing this and how?

We set up the Community Planning Partnership Board, made up of senior people from statutory sector agencies, representatives of political parties and the community and voluntary sector, which is responsible for the overall Community Plan.

We established four Thematic Groups to draw up and oversee delivery of actions in priority areas under the themes of: Lifelong Health and Wellbeing; Prosperous Communities; Sustainable Environment; Safe and Vibrant Communities.

We also established seven District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums which bring Councillors and nominated community representatives together to develop and to deliver local action plans as part of the overall Community Plan.

Community and voluntary sector organisations are represented at every level of the Partnership.

## What have we done that's new and different?

Community planning is still in its early days in Northern Ireland. Getting organisations to think differently and to work closely together on local priorities is not easy, but we are moving in the right direction with the following recent innovations and collaborations.

## Our Focused Priorities

Thematic Group	Priority Areas
Lifelong Health and Wellbeing	<p><b>Mental Health:</b> Promotion of Take Five Steps to Wellbeing</p> <p><b>Physical Activity:</b> Social Prescribing for people with long term health conditions</p> <p><b>Preventable Death:</b> Building a Community of Lifesavers</p>
Prosperous Communities	<p><b>Employability and Skills:</b> Improving links between schools and the world of work</p> <p><b>Tourism:</b> Implement Newry, Mourne and Down Tourism Strategy</p>
Sustainable Environment	<p><b>Reduce Traffic Congestion:</b> Develop Park and Ride / Share in key locations</p> <p><b>Sustainable Travel:</b> Develop Action Plan for alternatives to car journeys including public / community transport, walking and cycling.</p> <p><b>Access to Quality Housing:</b> Implement Housing Need Action Plan developed from 2019 conference</p> <p><b>Access to Natural and Build Heritage:</b> Identify collaborative plan with environmental organisations</p>
Safe and Vibrant Communities	<p><b>Develop the Intercultural Forum:</b> Working to ensure inclusion in more diverse society</p> <p><b>Implement Participatory Budgeting:</b> Roll out Participatory Budgeting across all DEAs</p>



# Innovation: District Electoral Area Forums

District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums bring together each DEA's Elected Members (Councillors) and nominated community representatives and are the primary mechanism for community engagement at local level.

A full-time DEA Co-ordinator and part-time administrative support to each of seven DEA Forums facilitates engagement with communities and the development and delivery of a local Action Plan. DEA Forums can call in statutory community planning partners to discuss concerns and local priorities, and a number of partners have made use of these community planning structures to identify issues and to develop locally specific approaches to improvements, eg. NI Housing Executive's identification of Housing Need at DEA level; Sport NI Everybody Active partners engage closely with DEAs to ensure delivery of appropriate local programmes.

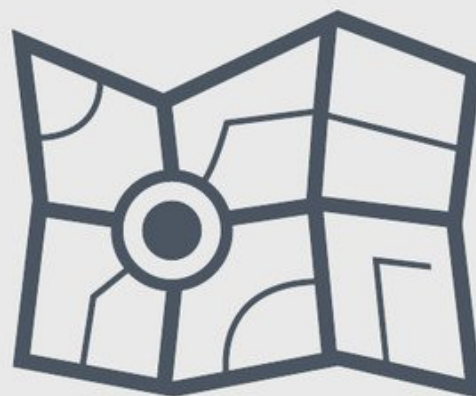




# Collaboration: Asset Mapping

Community Planning does not come with a budget. A focus on collaboration and coordination of resources needs to be developed.

Beyond their staff skills and experience, much of the wealth of all public sector community planning partners is their joint estate – land and buildings in ownership. If this resource can be better utilised through identification of surplus land and buildings, and partners engaged to identify transfer opportunities for alternative and innovative use, the intelligent re-use of these assets through community planning can be a significant driver for low-cost sustainable development. There is a need to identify and develop sites for new social housing and to improve service provision across a range of partners.



Newry, Mourne and Down has embarked on a collaborative Asset Mapping project designed to enable partners to identify and maintain shared information on land, sites and building ownership in the district. This has required an understanding of the different, and not always compatible, information technologies in use by different partners and the development of new data sharing protocols. Newry, Mourne and Down has been instrumental in bringing a range of agencies together with this common interest and has sought to co-ordinate data development both at local level and more broadly with regional partners.

# Innovation: Participatory Budgeting

In 2018, Newry, Mourne and Down Community Planning Partnership decided to implement Participatory Budgeting (PB) through the Communities Leading Change initiative, as a method of extending democracy and increasing civic engagement, by giving people in the district a say on allocating funding to address issues that matter most to them. Statutory partners collaborated to establish a pooled budget for the initiative. This was a first for community planning partners and a first for citizens of Newry, Mourne and Down District who took part in two Participatory Budgeting (PB) initiatives; Communities Leading Change in the Mournes and Youth Leading Change across the district.

Our aim for both PB initiatives was to help people to lead and make real changes in their communities. Every group submitted a funding application and were invited to attend a community voting event to pitch their ideas for funding. A total of over 5500 votes were cast on which projects the community wanted to see funded in their local area. Of the 30 groups which participated across the district, 21 groups were successful in receiving a share of £10,500 pooled awards budget.

Two short films were commissioned for the events in the Mournes DEA and the Youth Leading Change district wide youth event held in Newry. They can be found at: [www.newrymournedown.org/communities-leading-change](http://www.newrymournedown.org/communities-leading-change) Positive feedback has generated enthusiasm for further developing this form of decision-making and engagement in community planning. We will support future activities across the district.



**Communities  
Leading  
Change**



# Collaboration: Community Support Partnership

With initial funding support from the Department of Justice, the Newry Mourne and Down community planning process has enabled a new Community Support Partnership (also known as Concern Hub elsewhere) to be put in place. This important collaborative mechanism enables key public services including PSNI, NI Fire and Rescue Service, NI Ambulance Service, NI Housing Executive along with Health and Social Care Trusts to share information on vulnerable individuals who are known to and are putting significant but often inappropriate demands on one service. A combined service approach to understanding the wider picture of the person's needs and identifying a better overall way of assisting them, and also reducing the level of inappropriate demand on stretched public services are the key goals.

Meeting monthly, Newry, Mourne and Down Community Support Partnership started to receive referrals in July 2019 and has already been effective in assisting a number of vulnerable individuals through this collaborative initiative.



# Living Well Together

## Statement of Progress 2017–2019

### Indicators and Measures

We identified 21 key indicators that we will work on and measure to ensure our collective actions are promoting the positive outcomes we wish to see achieved for our community. In this way we can measure progress towards our outcomes and change what we are doing if it is not working.

This document highlights the progress that has been made so far from 2017 to 2019. However, not every indicator has data available. To summarise the findings, we have used the legend below and a brief outline of progress:



Positive Change



No Change



Negative Change



No baseline data to compare/ No data currently available



## All people in Newry, Mourne and Down get a good start in life and fulfil their lifelong potential

### Level of Early Years support

Children aged 0-4 registered with dentist



From 2014-18, the percentage of 0-5 year olds registered with the dentist has increased annually

Birth weight rate



An average of 90% of babies were born at a healthy weight (2014 -2018)

Level of pre-school nursery places



Funded places at pre-schools has remained steady for the population from 2016/17 until 2018/19

### Level of Educational Wellbeing

Level of educational attainment



In 2016, 69% of students achieved at least 5 GCSE'S grades A\*-C (or equiv), similar to 65% in 2012

Level of literacy and numeracy



58% (2016) of students achieved at least 5 GCSE'S grades A\*-C (or equiv) inc. English and Maths, similar to 57% in 2012

Attendance levels



Primary and Post Primary students absenteeism was 5.31% in 2017/18, similar to 5.57% in 2015/16

### Level of Quality School Life

Engagement in extra-curricular activities



No data currently available

Level of emotional support



The pupil teacher ratio and number of referrals to the Education Welfare Service has remained steady

Impact of area planning



In 2016/17, 24 schools had a >5% Deficit compared to 15 schools in 2014/15

### Level of Connectivity

Level of infrastructure



DFI Road Improvement Schemes have decreased to 292 (2018/19) from 409 (2016/17)

Travel times



No data currently available

Congestion levels



Increase traffic count on key routes throughout the district

Level of broadband connectivity



The percentage of properties receiving superfast broadband has increased to 83% (2018) from 73% (2016)

### Level of Lifelong-learning

Increase in skills base



Third lowest proportion (%) of those leaving school aged 16, 17 and 18 not entering Education, Employment or Training in NMD (2017) No comparable data

Overall numbers in education/further education



The number of enrolments into further/ higher education decreased to 21, 947 (2017/18) from 24, 835 (2012/13)

Skills in growth areas/ growth sectors



Higher Education Qualifications in 'maths, computing, engineering and technology' has increased to 245 (2017) from 210 (2015)

## All people in Newry, Mourne and Down enjoy good health and wellbeing

Level of Life Expectancy	Life Expectancy	△	Within the district generally, male and female life expectancy (2011-13 to 2015-17) has remained steady, however, within the districts most deprived areas, male life expectancy at birth has risen by 0.9 years and females by 1.3 years
	Employees working very long hours	▷	From 2013, the total mean hours worked in the district has risen by 0.4 hours (2018) and remained below the NI average
Level of Work Life Balance	Time devoted to leisure, arts, culture and heritage	▷	In 2013/14 - 2015/16, 89% of residents were engaged in culture arts and leisure No comparable data
	Workplace health	△	The total number of accidents reported to the council relating to work deaths, injuries or sickness has decreased to 44 incidents in 2018/19 from 64 in 2016/17
Level of Preventable Death	Illness	▷	The standardised death rate- Circulatory U75 has decreased to 68 in 2013/17 from 81 in 2009/13, whilst Cancer Rates U75 have remained similar
	Accidents	▷	19 Road Traffic Collision Fatalities were reported in 2016-17, similar to 18 reported in 2013-14
	Suicide	▽	The suicide rate has increased to 16.1 (2013-17) from 13.6 (2009-13)
Level of Health Status	People reporting good or very good health	▷	79% of residents report generally good health (2018). No comparable data
	Children who are overweight or obese	▷	The rate of Primary 1 and Year 8 rates of children overweight or obese has not seen any significant change from 2010/11-2012/13 to 2014/15-2016/17
	People dependent on carers	▽	Increase in the total claimants for carers allowance to 7640 (2018) from 6850 (2014)
	Level of mental illness	△	Standardised Admission rate for self harm has decreased to 150 (2014/15 - 2016/17) from 219 (2010/11-2012/13)
	Addictions	▷	The standardised death rate for smoking, drugs and alcohol related illness' have remained similar from 2009-13 to 2013-17



## All people in Newry, Mourne and Down benefit from prosperous communities

### Level of Jobs and Earnings

Level of economically inactive	△	The economic activity rate has increased to 69% (2018) from 61% (2015)
Level of GVA per head	△	The GVA per head has increased to £15, 508 (2016) from £14, 189 (2012)
Shift in sectoral spread of business	▷	Services is the main business sector accounting for 78% of employees in NMD in 2018, similar to 77% in 2016

### Level of Income and Wealth

Level of average earnings	△	The average annual wage has increased to £25,426 in 2018 from £22,155 in 2016
Level of skills development across population	△	Higher Education Qualifications in 'maths, computing, engineering and technology' has increased to 245 (2017) from 210 (2015)

### Level of Economic Investment

Level of economic investment	▷	In relation to the Invest NI Supported Businesses Programme there has been a decrease in the number of businesses supported and people employed, however an increase in both external and export sales by 10% from 2017 to 2018
Size and quality of business base	△	The number of VAT or PAYE registered businesses has increased to 8, 745 (2019) from 7, 875 (2016)

### Level of Tourism Revenue

Level of overnight visitors	△	The level of overnight visitors has increased to 449, 953 (2018) from 403, 302 (2015)
Average spend per trip by visitors	△	The average spend per visitor has increased to £154.12 (2018) from £106.72 (2016)
Occupancy level	△	Hotel, self-catering and B&B's rates have increased from 2015-17

## All people in Newry, Mourne and Down benefit from a clean, quality and sustainable environment

### Level of Sustainable Energy

Energy output from renewable sources	▽	Renewable energy planning applications have decreased by 92% from 2015/16- 2018/19
Sustainable energy installations	▽	The total number of domestic sustainable energy installations and regularisations has decreased to 171 (2018) from 287 (2015)
Energy efficiency measures	▽	The number of energy efficiency measures installed by the NIHE Affordable Warmth scheme has decreased to 516 (2018/19) from 865 (2017/18)

### Level of Quality Housing

Quality of social housing	▷	The district ranks above the NI average for the percentage of domestic dwellings that are unfit and in a state of disrepair (2017). No comparable data
Housing need	△	Social housing need in the district has decreased to 1,884 for 2018-2023 from 1,959 for 2017-2022
Level of mixed tenure developments	△	A mixed tenure development (Craigmore Way, Newry) is currently seeking planning permission for around 300 homes
Level of affordable housing	▽	The total number of those in housing stress has increased to 2,388 (2018) from 2,264 (2016)

### Level of Quality Living Environment

Properties at risk of flooding	▷	A total of 3.2% of the houses in the district are at risk of flooding, above the NI average (2017) No comparable data
Urban air quality	▷	The air quality levels in high motor vehicle traffic areas within Newry and Downpatrick have seen no significant change (2017-19)
Incidents of litter, dog fouling, excessive noise, fly tipping and pollution	▷	The Local Environmental Audit and Management System (or LEAMS) which monitors issues such as litter, dog fouling, fly tipping has remained at a score of 72 for 2017/18 and 2018/19
Recycling rate	△	Since 2015-16, the district increased the overall rate of recycling by 12.1% to 51.2%, exceeding the 50% target by 2020

### Level of Rich, Diverse, Natural Environment

Water quality	▷	From 2015 to 2018, four surface water status' within the districts have changed, two to "good" and two to "poor"
Access to green space	▷	No data currently available
Unauthorised developments	▽	From 2015/16 to 2018/19 the number of open enforcement cases has increased by 71.4%, whilst the number of cases concluded has remained steady.
Quality of habitats	▽	In the 2014-2020 reporting period 14 ASSI's were reported to be in an unfavourable condition, compared to nine in 2002-2008



## All people in Newry, Mourne and Down live in respectful, safe and vibrant communities

Level of Social Connections	Opportunities to connect with others	△	Good Morning/Good Neighbour number of users increased to 1183 (2018/19) from 303 (2017/18)
	Social network support	▷	72% of residents think their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together (2018) No comparable data
	Level of attitudinal change	△	49% of residents felt that relations between Protestants and Catholics are better than they were 5 years ago (2018)
Level of Social Capital	Level of volunteering	▽	The total number of volunteers with Volunteer Now has decreased to 180 (2018/19) from 277 (2017/18)
	Level of community networks/ infrastructure	▷	78% of residents do not regularly participate in local groups or activities. No comparable data
Level of Civic Participation	Voter turnout	▷	Comparing voter turnout for government elections from 2001 to 2014, it is evident that turnout has decreased. However, from 2014-2019 the voter turnout has increased by 4%
	Inclusive engagement in decision making	▷	31% of residents feel they have influence when it comes to any local decisions made No comparable data
Level of Personal Safety and Crime Rate	Crime rate	▷	The total number of crimes has remained steady from 12, 222 (2012) to 12, 433 (2018), with a decrease in burglary/ theft and an increase in ASB
	Fear of crime	▷	Most residents feel safe in their local area during the day (94%) and after dark (87%) No comparable data
	No. of Neighbourhood Watch schemes / Farm Watch schemes	△	Neighbourhood watch schemes within the district have increased to 175 (2018/19) from 150 in 2016/17

For further information contact:  
[communityplanning@nmandd.org](mailto:communityplanning@nmandd.org)

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<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> November 2019
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2019/20</b>
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Dorinnia Carville, Director of Corporate Services
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Ken Montgomery, Assistant Director of Finance

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

<b>For decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>For noting only</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>
1.1	The attached report is the Treasury Management update report for Newry, Mourne and Down District Council as at 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2019. This report provides a mid-year update on the borrowing and investment activities of the Council in the context of the current economic climate and the Council's Treasury Management Strategy for 2019/20.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues</b>
2.1	At 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2019 the Council had borrowings of £77.3 million and short-term investments of £1.6 million.  Overall, there was an increase in net debt of £7 million since 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2019.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
3.1	For consideration and noting.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	None
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Equality and good relations implications</b>
5.1	None
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Rural Proofing implications</b>
6.1	None
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	Appendix 1 – Treasury Management Strategy 2019/20 – Mid-Year Update
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Background Documents</b>

	<p><i>This relates to meeting requirements outlined in Part 8 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, Access to Meetings and Documents, wherein for four years after a meeting the following must be available at the Council Offices and on the website:</i></p> <p><i>Background papers which are defined as those documents relating to the subject matter of a report which:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>a) Disclose any facts or matters which in the opinion of the Chief Executive, the report or an important part of the report is based upon; and</i></li><li><i>b) Have, in the Chief Executive's opinion, been relied upon to a material extent in preparing the report.</i></li></ul> <p><i>These are documents on which the report, or an important part of the report, is based upon and have been relied upon to a material extent in preparing the report.</i></p>
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## Treasury Management Mid-Year Report H1 2019/20

### Introduction

In February 2015 the Authority adopted the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's *Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice* (the CIPFA Code) which requires the Authority to approve treasury management semi-annual and annual reports.

The Authority's treasury management strategy for 2019/20 was approved at a meeting on 4 February 2019. The Authority has borrowed and invested substantial sums of money and is therefore exposed to financial risks including the loss of invested funds and the revenue effect of changing interest rates. The successful identification, monitoring and control of risk remains central to the Authority's treasury management strategy.

The 2017 Prudential Code includes a requirement for local authorities to provide a Capital Strategy, a summary document approved by full Council covering capital expenditure and financing, treasury management and non-treasury investments. The Authority's Capital Strategy, complying with CIPFA's requirement, was approved by full Council on 4 February 2019.

### External Context

**Economic background:** UK Consumer Price Inflation (CPIH) fell to 1.7% year/year in August 2019 from 2.0% in July, weaker than the consensus forecast of 1.9% and below the Bank of England's target. The most recent labour market data for the three months to July 2019 showed the unemployment rate edged back down to 3.8% while the employment rate remained at 76.1%, the joint highest since records began in 1971. Nominal annual wage growth measured by the 3-month average excluding bonuses was 3.8% and 4.0% including bonuses. Adjusting for inflation, real wages were up 1.9% excluding bonuses and 2.1% including.

The Quarterly National Accounts for Q2 GDP confirmed the UK economy contracted by 0.2% following the 0.5% gain in Q1 which was distorted by stockpiling ahead of Brexit. Only the services sector registered an increase in growth, a very modest 0.1%, with both production and construction falling and the former registering its largest drop since Q4 2012. Business investment fell by 0.4% (revised from -0.5% in the first estimate) as Brexit uncertainties impacted on business planning and decision-making.

Politics, both home and abroad, continued to be a big driver of financial markets over the last quarter. Boris Johnson won the Conservative Party leadership contest and has committed to leaving the EU on 31<sup>st</sup> October regardless of whether a deal is reached with the EU. Mr Johnson prorogued Parliament which led some MPs to put forward a bill requiring him to seek a Brexit extension if no deal is in place by 19th October. The move was successful and, having been approved by the House of Lords, was passed into law. The Supreme Court subsequently ruled Mr Johnson's suspension of Parliament unlawful.

Tensions continued between the US and China with no trade agreement in sight and both countries imposing further tariffs on each other's goods. The US Federal Reserve cut its target Federal Funds rates by 0.25% in September to a range of 1.75% - 2%, a pre-emptive move to maintain economic growth amid escalating concerns over the trade war and a weaker economic environment leading to more pronounced global slowdown. The euro area Purchasing Manager Indices (PMIs) pointed to a deepening slowdown in the Eurozone. These elevated concerns have caused key government yield curves to invert, something seen by many commentators as a predictor of a global recession. Market expectations are for further interest rate cuts from the Fed and in September the European

Central Bank reduced its deposit rate to -0.5% and announced the recommencement of quantitative easing from 1<sup>st</sup> November.

The Bank of England maintained Bank Rate at 0.75% and in its August Inflation Report noted the deterioration in global activity and sentiment and confirmed that monetary policy decisions related to Brexit could be in either direction depending on whether or not a deal is ultimately reached by 31<sup>st</sup> January.

**Financial markets:** After rallying early in 2019, financial markets have been adopting a more risk-off approach in the following period as equities saw greater volatility and bonds rallied (prices up, yields down) in a flight to quality and anticipation of more monetary stimulus from central banks. The Dow Jones, FTSE 100 and FTSE 250 are broadly back at the same levels seen in March/April.

Gilt yields remained volatile over the period on the back of ongoing economic and political uncertainty. From a yield of 0.63% at the end of June, the 5-year benchmark gilt yield fell to 0.32% by the end of September. There were falls in the 10-year and 20-year gilts over the same period, with the former dropping from 0.83% to 0.55% and the latter falling from 1.35% to 0.88%. 1-month, 3-month and 12-month LIBID (London Interbank Bid) rates averaged 0.65%, 0.75% and 1.00% respectively over the period.

Recent activity in the bond markets and PWLB interest rates highlight that weaker economic growth remains a global risk. The US yield curve remains inverted with 10-year Treasury yields lower than US 3-month bills. History has shown that a recession hasn't been far behind a yield curve inversion. Following the sale of 10-year Bunds at -0.24% in June, yields on German government securities continue to remain negative in the secondary market with 2 and 5-year securities currently both trading around -0.77%.

**Credit background:** Credit Default Swap (CDS) spreads rose and then fell again during the quarter, continuing to remain low in historical terms. After rising to almost 120bps in May, the spread on non-ringfenced bank NatWest Markets plc fell back to around 80bps by the end of September, while for the ringfenced entity, National Westminster Bank plc, the spread remained around 40bps. The other main UK banks, as yet not separated into ringfenced and non-ringfenced from a CDS perspective, traded between 34 and 76bps at the end of the period.

There were minimal credit rating changes during the period. Moody's upgraded The Co-operative Bank's long-term rating to B3 and Fitch upgraded Clydesdale Bank and Virgin Money to A-.

### Local Context

On 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019, the Authority had net borrowing of £68.7m arising from its revenue and capital income and expenditure. The underlying need to borrow for capital purposes is measured by the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), while usable reserves and working capital are the underlying resources available for investment. These factors are summarised in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Balance Sheet Summary

	31.3.19 Actual £m
Capital Financing Reserve	89.7
Less: *Other debt liabilities	-
<b>Borrowing CFR</b>	<b>89.7</b>
Less: Usable reserves	-13.5
Less: Working capital	20.8
<b>Net borrowing</b>	<b>97.0</b>

\* finance leases, PFI liabilities and transferred debt that form part of the Authority's total debt

The Authority pursued its strategy of keeping borrowing and investments below their underlying levels, sometimes known as internal borrowing, in order to reduce risk and keep interest costs low.

The treasury management position at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019 and the change during the period is shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Treasury Management Summary

	31.3.19 Balance £m	Movement £m	30.9.19 Balance £m	30.9.19 Rate %
Long-term borrowing	54.0	7.5	61.5	
Short-term borrowing	15.8	-	15.8	
<b>Total borrowing</b>	<b>69.8</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>77.3</b>	<b>10.7%</b>
Long-term investments	-	-	-	
Short-term investments	-	-	-	
Cash and cash equivalents	1.1	0.5	1.6	
<b>Total investments</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>45.5%</b>
<b>Net borrowing</b>	<b>68.7</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>75.7</b>	<b>10.2%</b>

### Borrowing Strategy during the period

At 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019 the Authority held £77.3m of loans, (an increase of £7.5m on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019), as part of its strategy for funding previous and current years' capital programmes. Outstanding loans on 30<sup>th</sup> September are summarised in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Borrowing Position

	31.3.19 Balance £m	Net Movement £m	30.9.19 Balance £m	30.9.19 Rate %
Public Works Loan Board	58.8	7.5	66.3	12.8%
Banks (LOBO)	-	-	-	
Banks (fixed-term)	-	-	-	
Local authorities (long-term)	-	-	-	
Local authorities (short-term)	11.0	-	11.0	
<b>Total borrowing</b>	<b>69.8</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>77.3</b>	<b>10.7%</b>

The Authority's chief objective when borrowing has been to strike an appropriately low risk balance between securing low interest costs and achieving cost certainty over the period for which funds are required, with flexibility to renegotiate loans should the Authority's long-term plans change being a secondary objective.

In keeping with these objectives, new borrowing was kept to a minimum while existing loans were allowed to mature without replacement (other than short-term loans from other local authorities). This strategy enabled the Authority to reduce net borrowing costs (despite foregone investment income) and reduce overall treasury risk.

#### Treasury Investment Activity

The Authority holds significant invested funds, representing income received in advance of expenditure plus balances and reserves held. During the six month period, the Authority's investment balances ranged between £7m and £0.5 million due to timing differences between income and expenditure. The investment position is shown in table 4 below.

Table 4: Treasury Investment Position

	31.3.19 Balance £m	Net Movement £m	30.9.19 Balance £m	30.9.19 Income Return %	30.9.19 Weighted Average Maturity days
Banks & building societies (unsecured)	1.1	0.5	1.6	0.3	26
Covered bonds (secured)	-	-	-	-	-
Government (incl. local authorities)	-	-	-	-	-
Corporate bonds and loans	-	-	-	-	-
Money Market Funds	-	-	-	-	-
Other Pooled Funds	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total investments</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>26</b>

Both the CIPFA Code and government guidance require the Authority to invest its funds prudently, and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its treasury investments before seeking the optimum rate of return, or yield. The Authority's objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, minimising the risk of incurring losses from defaults and the risk of receiving unsuitably low investment income.



Given the increasing risk and low returns from short-term unsecured bank investments, the Authority has diversified into more secure asset classes. The amounts invested in Money Market Funds during the six month period varied between £4m and £0m.

The progression of risk and return metrics are shown in the extracts from Arlingclose's quarterly investment benchmarking in Table 5 below.

**Table 5: Investment Benchmarking - Treasury investments managed in-house**

	Credit Score	Credit Rating	Weighted Average Maturity (days)	Rate of Return %
<b><u>Blackrock MMF</u></b>				
31.03.2019	4.94	A+	37	0.75%
30.09.2019	4.51	A+	54	0.72%
<b><u>CCLA MMF:</u></b>				
31.03.2019	3.97	AA-	54	0.80%
30.09.2019	4.45	AA	49	0.77%

**Readiness for Brexit:** The scheduled leave date for the UK to leave the EU is now 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020 and there remains little political clarity as to whether a deal will be agreed by this date and there is the possibility that the exit date will be pushed back yet again following the General Election on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2019. As 31<sup>st</sup> January approaches the Authority will ensure there are enough accounts open at UK-domiciled banks and Money Market Funds to hold sufficient liquidity required in the near term.

### **Non-Treasury Investments**

The definition of investments in CIPFA's revised Treasury Management Code now covers all the financial assets of the Authority as well as other non-financial assets which the Authority holds primarily for financial return.

The Authority also held £2.2m of such investments in directly owned investment property.

A full list of the Authority's non-treasury investments is available from the Council's finance department on request.

These investments generated £54k of investment income for the Authority after taking account of direct costs in 2018-19, representing a rate of return of 2.4%.

### **Treasury Performance**

The Authority measures the financial performance of its treasury management activities both in terms of its impact on the revenue budget and its relationship to benchmark interest rates, as shown in table 6 below.

Table 6: Performance

	Actual £m	Budget £m	Over/ under	Actual %	Benchmark %	Over/ under
<b>Total borrowing</b>	<b>77.3</b>	<b>81.7</b>	<b>4.4</b>			
PFI and Finance leases	-	-	-			
<b>Total debt</b>	<b>77.3</b>	<b>81.7</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>102.1%</b>	<b>101.2%</b>	<b>0.9%</b>
Bank Deposits	1.6	1.0	0.6			
<b>Total treasury investments</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>2.1%</b>	<b>1.3%</b>	<b>0.8%</b>
<b>Net Borrowing</b>	<b>75.7</b>	<b>80.7</b>	<b>5.0</b>	n/a	n/a	n/a

Compliance

Compliance with specific investment limits is demonstrated in table 7 below. Compliance with the authorised limit and operational boundary for external debt is demonstrated in table 8 below.

Table 7: Debt Limits

	H1 Maximum	30.9.19 Actual	2019/20 Operational Boundary	2019/20 Authorised Limit	Complied? Yes/No
Borrowing	79.8	77.3	103.3	111.8	Yes
PFI and Finance Leases	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total debt</b>	<b>79.8</b>	<b>77.3</b>	<b>103.3</b>	<b>111.8</b>	<b>Yes</b>

Since the operational boundary is a management tool for in-year monitoring it is not significant if the operational boundary is breached on occasions due to variations in cash flow, and this is not counted as a compliance failure.

Table 8: Investment Limits

	H1 Maximum	30.9.19 Actual	2019/20 Limit	Complied? Yes/No
Any single organisation, except the UK Government	1.5m each	£1.5m	£3m each	Yes
Any group of organisations under the same ownership	£1.5m per group	£1.5m	£3m per group	Yes
Money Market Funds	£2m Per MMF	-	£2m Per MMF	Yes

### Treasury Management Indicators

The Authority measures and manages its exposures to treasury management risks using the following indicators.

**Security:** The Authority has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to credit risk by monitoring the value-weighted average credit rating of its investment portfolio. Unrated investments are assigned a score based on their perceived risk.

	30.9.19 Actual	2019/20 Target	Complied?
Portfolio average credit rating	A+	A	Yes

**Liquidity:** The Authority has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to liquidity risk by monitoring the amount of cash available to meet unexpected payments within a rolling six-month period, without additional borrowing.

	30.9.19 Actual	2019/20 Target	Complied?
Total cash available within 6 months	£5m	£5m	Yes
Total sum borrowed in past 6 months without prior notice	-	-	-

**Interest Rate Exposures:** This indicator is set to control the Authority's exposure to interest rate risk. The upper limits on the one-year revenue impact of a 1% rise or fall in interests was:

Interest rate risk indicator	30.9.19 Actual	2019/20 Limit	Complied?
Upper limit on one-year revenue impact of a 1% <u>rise</u> in interest rates	£270,000	£270,000	Yes
Upper limit on one-year revenue impact of a 1% <u>fall</u> in interest rates	£270,000	£270,000	Yes

The impact of a change in interest rates is calculated on the assumption that maturing loans and investment will be replaced at current rates.

**Maturity Structure of Borrowing:** This indicator is set to control the Authority's exposure to refinancing risk. The upper and lower limits on the maturity structure of all borrowing were:

	30.9.19 Actual	Upper Limit	Lower Limit	Complied?
Under 12 months	20%	20%	15%	Yes
12 months and within 24 months	6%	8%	5%	Yes
24 months and within 5 years	15%	17%	10%	Yes
5 years and within 10 years	23%	25%	20%	Yes
10 years and above	36%	45%	35%	Yes

Time periods start on the first day of each financial year. The maturity date of borrowing is the earliest date on which the lender can demand repayment.

**Principal Sums Invested for Periods Longer than a year:** The purpose of this indicator is to control the Authority's exposure to the risk of incurring losses by seeking early repayment of its investments. The limits on the long-term principal sum invested to final maturities beyond the period end were:

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Actual principal invested beyond year end	-	-	-
Limit on principal invested beyond year end	£1m	£1m	£1m
Complied?	Yes	Yes	Yes

### Outlook for the remainder of 2019/20

The global economy is entering a period of slower growth in response to political issues, primarily the trade policy stance of the US. The UK economy has displayed a marked slowdown in growth due to both Brexit uncertainty and the downturn in global activity. In response, global and UK interest rate expectations have eased dramatically.

There appears no near-term resolution to the trade dispute between China and the US, a dispute that the US appears comfortable exacerbating further. With the 2020 presidential election a year away, Donald Trump is unlikely to change his stance.

Parliament appears to have frustrated UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson's desire to exit the EU on 31st October. The probability of a no-deal EU exit in the immediate term has decreased, although a no-deal Brexit cannot be entirely ruled out for 2020. A general election is to be held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

Central bank actions and geopolitical risks will continue to produce significant volatility in financial markets, including bond markets.

Our treasury advisor Arlingclose expects Bank Rate to remain at 0.75% for the foreseeable future but there remain substantial risks to this forecast, dependant on Brexit outcomes and the evolution of the global economy. Arlingclose also expects gilt yields to remain at low levels for the foreseeable future and judge the risks to be weighted to the downside and that volatility will continue to offer longer-term borrowing opportunities

	Dec-19	Mar-20	Jun-20	Sep-20	Dec-20	Mar-21	Jun-21	Sep-21	Dec-21	Mar-22	Jun-22	Sep-22	Dec-22
Official Bank Rate													
Upside risk	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
Arlingclose Central Cas	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75
Downside risk	0.50	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75



**NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN COMMUNITY PLANNING  
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

**DRAFT Minutes of the Community Planning Strategic Partnership Board  
Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down held in Seminar Room, Southern  
Regional College, Newry, Tuesday 22 October 2019 at 2pm.**

**In attendance:**

- Councillor Charlie Casey Chairman Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (Board Chairman)
- Councillor Harold McKee Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
- Councillor Terry Andrews Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
- Councillor William Walker Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
- Eddie Carroll, Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS)
- Nichola Creagh, Department for Communities (DfC)
- Angharad Bunt, Sport NI
- Martin Graham, Tourism Northern Ireland
- Ryan Duffy, Police Service Northern Ireland (PSNI)
- Colette Rogers, Public Health Agency (PHA)
- Jerome Burns Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs (DAERA)
- David Vint, Southern Regional College (SRC)
- Celia Chambers Department for Infrastructure (DFI)
- Ailbhe Hickey, Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE)
- Leslie Hamilton, Southern Regional College (SRC)
- Mark Bleakney, Invest NI
- Paul Walsh, South Eastern Regional College (SERC)
- Nicholas McCrickard, Chair Strategic Stakeholder forum
- Councillor Willie Clarke, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
- Mark Bailey, Department for Education (DE)
- Roger Sayers, Education Authority (EA)
- Roisin Coulter South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust (SEHSCT)

**Council Officials  
in attendance:**

- Marie Ward, Chief Executive Newry, Mourne & Down District Council
- Johnny McBride, Assistant Director of Community Planning & Performance
- Lauren McMenamy, Partner Development Officer

## **1. Welcome, Apologies and Introductions**

The Chairman, Councillor C Casey, welcomed everyone to the Meeting and introduced the new Chief Executive Marie Ward. As this was their first meeting he asked for a round of introductions.

Apologies were received from Teresa McGarvey (PHA), Rosemarie McDonnell (SSF), Louise McMahon (HS&CB) and Sean Beattie (LibrariesNI)

The Chairperson thanked the Southern Regional College (SRC) for hosting the Meeting.

## **2. Agree Minutes from the previous Meeting held on Tuesday 18 June 2019**

**AGREED:** On the PROPOSAL of Cllr Terry Andrews and **SECONDED** by Mark Bleakney (InvestNI) the Minutes of the Community Planning Strategic Partnership Board Meeting held on 18 June 2019 were agreed.

### **2.1 Matters Arising**

Ref: Update from the Dr Johann Gallagher report - A working group has been set up by DfC to take forward the report recommendations. Ms Nicola Creagh (DfC) will update the Board on progress at its next Meeting.

## **5. Statement of Progress: Main Report and Public Summary**

Read: Statement of Progress and Public Summary, J McBride, Newry Mourne & Down District Council

Mr McBride sought the agreement of the Board to finalise and publish both documents by the end of November 2019. He advised the main Statement of Progress contained information relating to Board achievements to date, governance arrangements, examples of success, lessons learned, future challenges and up-to-date performance measures against the original outcomes and indicators. He further advised the Public Summary was a more concise version of the full Board report.

Ms N Creagh welcomed the report and stated the importance of enabling the public to read about successes and progress to date. She further advised a composite report of the progress made by all eleven Community Planning Partnership Boards would be published in early 2020.

**AGREED:** On the PROPOSAL of Cllr W Clarke and **SECONDED** by Cllr H McKee it was agreed to finalise and publish the Statement of Progress and the Public Summary

**6. New Governance Arrangements: (a) Options for the rotation of the Chair; and (b) Appointment of the Chair for 2020 to 2023**

**Read:** Report by J McBride Newry Mourne & Down District Council on New Governance Arrangements: (a) Options for the rotation of the Chair; and (b) Appointment of the Chair from 2020 to 2023

Mr McBride asked the Board to agree a preferred option for the rotation of the Chair on an annual basis and the subsequent appointment of a Chair for 2020; 2021; 2022 and 2023.

Following discussion, it was agreed to rotate the Chair on an annual basis (as presented by Option Three) and to accept the proposed groupings of Partner organisations (as set-out in Appendix II of the report) for the purposes of rotating the Chair. Each of the Partners to agree a nominee for Chair amongst their respective groupings.

It was noted the Council would continue to perform a secretariat and coordinating role on behalf of the Board.

**Agreed:** On the PROPOSAL of Ms Roisin Coulter (SEH&SCT), **SECONDED** by Cllr Terry Andrews to rotate the Chair on an annual basis (as presented by Option Three) and to accept the proposed groupings of Partner organisations (as set-out in Appendix II of the report) for the purposes of rotating the Chair, as follows:

- 2020 – Lifelong Health & Wellbeing
- 2021 – Sustainable Development
- 2022 – Prosperous Communities
- 2023 – Safe & Vibrant Communities

Each of the Partners to agree a nominee for Chair amongst their respective groupings.

**7. Proposed Arrangements for Thematic Groups**

**Read:** Proposed Arrangements for Thematic Groups, J McBride Newry Mourne & Down District Council

Mr McBride sought the agreement of the Board, in principle, to proposed new arrangements concerning the operation of thematic groups. He advised this had followed previous Board discussions concerning their effectiveness, and a desire to support a more strategic role around the core themes of the Community Plan, as well as avoiding the development of new silos.



In recommending new arrangements, the following was proposed:

- A half-day summit type style to be held at least once, maximum twice per year. The primary purposes of which would be to review progress against the Board's priority areas; consider updated evidence / data; and build better connections with existing partnership structures; and
- An invitation extended to Board members, as well as key personnel from Partner organisations (not currently members of Community Planning structures) with decision-making responsibility in the achievement of the key outcomes.

Mr McBride also advised a requirement existed to further consult on these proposals and sought the assistance of Board Members in facilitating this within their own organisations. Final recommendations to be presented to the Board at its Meeting in January 2020.

**AGREED:** On the PROPOSAL of Ms Ailbhe Hickey (NIHE), SECONDED by Mr Nicholas McCrickard (CDRCN) it was agreed, in principle, to accept the proposed arrangements for thematic groups, and (for individual Board Members) to arrange for feedback within their organisations concerning the suitability of the proposed arrangements.

## 8. Community Planning Highlight Report

Read: Community Planning Highlight Report, J McBride Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

Mr McBride provided the Board with an overview of the progress made in relation to its shared priorities and initiatives since the last Board meeting in June 2019. The following areas were highlighted:

- Significant development work between the SEH&SCT, SH&SCT and NMDDC to enable the initiation of a shared social prescribing pilot, including the public trawl of 2.0 FTE Health Referral Coordinators;
- The launch of an action plan to address local housing need;
- Monthly meetings of the Community Support Partnership, including the processing of referrals and interventions; and
- Preparatory work to roll-out a second series of "Communities Leading Change" Participatory Budgeting events.

**AGREED:** On the PROPOSAL of Mr David Vint (SRC), SECONDED by Cllr William Clarke to agree the Community Planning highlight report.

## **9. Future Meeting Dates & Venues**

**AGREED:** On the PROPOSAL of Mr Jerome Burns (DAERA), SECONDED by Mr Paul Walsh (SERC) the schedule of meeting dates and venues for 2020 were agreed. The October 2020 meeting to be held in the DAERA offices, Carnbane Industrial Estate, Newry.

## **10. NMDDC Culture, Arts & Heritage Strategy**

**Read:** NMDDC Culture, Arts & Heritage Strategy, A Patterson Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

Mr McBride provided the Board with a briefing on the NMDDC Culture, Arts & Heritage Strategy and the timelines for consultation. He advised the strategy set-out a blueprint to guide how the Council proposes to work with key stakeholders, and of the important links with health & wellbeing, community, education and economic growth. He encouraged Partners working in these areas to engage in the consultation process and for any queries to be directed to Mr Andrew Patterson, Assistant Director: Tourism, Culture and Events (NMDDC).

**NOTED:** NMDDC Culture, Arts & Heritage Strategy, A Patterson Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

## **8. Appointment of NMDDC Elected Members & Strategic Stakeholder Forum (SSF) Representatives to Thematic Groups**

**Read:** Appointment of NMDDC Elected Members & Strategic Stakeholder Forum (SSF) Representatives to Thematic Groups

**NOTED:** Appointment of NMDDC Elected Members & Strategic Stakeholder Forum (SSF) Representatives to Thematic Groups

## **9. Housing Investment Plan (2019 – 2023) for Newry, Mourne & Down, NI Housing Executive**

**Read:** Housing Investment Plan (2019 – 2023) for Newry, Mourne & Down, NI Housing Executive

**NOTED:** Housing Investment Plan (2019 – 2023) for Newry, Mourne & Down, NI Housing Executive

**10. Correspondence from the Department for Communities, Possible Community Planning / Housing Workshop, 14 October 2019**

**Read:** Correspondence from the Department for Communities, Possible Community Planning / Housing Workshop, 14 October 2019

**NOTED:** Correspondence from the Department for Communities, Possible Community Planning / Housing Workshop, 14 October 2019

**11. Community Planning Partnership Agreement & Terms of Reference, as agreed 18 June 2019 – Board Members to sign**

To be circulated with the draft Minutes for Partners to sign.

**12. A.O.B.**

Following a discussion on the potential for more in-depth Board consideration of new Partner initiatives and their potential links with Community Planning, it was unanimously agreed to:

- Consider a presentation on Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs) at the next Board Meeting in January 2020; and
- Initiate a rolling programme of presentations at future Board Meetings to consider either new Partner initiatives or a focus on shared Community Planning initiatives. Mr McBride to engage with Partners.

Mr Burns advised the Board that a seminar on a new policy framework, developed by DAERA, would be held on the 28 November 2019 in Loughry College, Cookstown. An invitation would be forwarded to all Partners to attend.

**Date / Venue of Next Meeting**

**Date:** Tuesday 28 January 2020 at 2pm

**Venue:** Downe Hospital, Downpatrick

There being no further business, the meeting finished at 2.50pm.

<b>Report to:</b>	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> November 2019
<b>Subject:</b>	City Centre Regeneration Programme Transportation & Car Parking
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Conor Mallon Acting Director - Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Adrian Grimshaw Project Director

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

<b>For decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>For noting only</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>
1.1	<p>The Council Corporate Plan 2015-2019 set out as one of the key actions the establishment of a new Civic Centre for Newry to help attain a number of strategic objectives.</p> <p>The City Centre Investment Strategy was concluded in August 2016, the CCR Strategic Outline Case approved in August 2019, and Integrated Consultant (Design) Teams were appointed in April 2019.</p> <p>The CCR programme of proposed works includes provision of an enhanced Theatre/ Conferencing centre, a Civic Hub, associated public realm, grade A office accommodation and potential further private sector investments.</p> <p>This report notes an emerging critical issue of Transportation &amp; Car Parking relative to both the Councils CCR scheme and its catalyst to further private sector investments within and around Newry City core.</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues</b>
2.1	<p>Councils CCR programme is being driven by the Councils intention to invest directly within the historic core of Newry city, to increase vibrancy and footfall, to stimulate further investment, and to facilitate the regeneration of Newry city for the benefit of it and the wider district.</p> <p>As Councils CCR delivery has grown more certain over the last 6 months it has become clear there will be a significant spike in property development activity forthcoming in and around the Newry City core. Officers and advisors have identified a total of twelve projects (7 public sector and 5 private sector) with a total estimated value of circa £128m emerging over the next five years.</p> <p>Development investment of this scale is considered extremely positive for the City. It will however require effective planning by the Council to enable delivery. Officers consider that as a minimum a robust 'Transportation and Car Parking</p>



strategy' that accounts for the emerging needs of these combined projects is required.

Recent existing car park studies completed by Aecom in February 2019 and Arup in April 2017 have provided valuable insight into the usage of existing car parking capacity within Newry City core. These studies identified a need to reduce demand for long-stay parking in the City core through pricing strategies and the provision of park and ride facilities on the city's periphery; to promote sustainable transport alternatives and to more effectively manage the provision of short stay City core parking to support local enterprises.

There is now a need to build on the outputs of the 2017 and 2019 reports to complete a Transportation & Car Parking strategy that accounts for the level of proposed development over the 0 to 5 year period. The strategy will need to assess the current capacity and configuration of car parking and road infrastructure in Newry against emerging needs for increased vehicle movements and parking.

In addition to facilitating the emerging investments, the strategy will look to the future and seek to identify how to enable a second wave of investment may occur over a 5 to 10 year period. This 'Development Plan' will evaluate how surplus public sector assets, currently operating as surface car parks, might be declared surplus, and/ or how these assets might best be developed to achieve the strategic objectives of Council and local devolved Departments.

It is likely that within the 5-10 year timescale the Southern Relief Road will be in use and the Development Plan could then extend to consider the potential to soften road infrastructure around the City core further increasing its appeal as a place to live and work over the 10 – 20 year period.

Alongside representatives of the Department for Communities, Council officers are currently engaging development advisory and technical expertise from the Strategic Investment Board to assist in the preparation of a consultancy briefs for both a 'Transportation & Car Parking Strategy' and the following 'Development Plan'.

The Department for Communities are seeking to engage DFI Roads with the intent of securing an updated traffic model for Newry which will provide the basis against which the 'Transportation & Car Parking Strategy' and the 'Development Plan' will be considered. It is hoped DFI Roads updated traffic model will be completed by April 2020.

Once a brief is confirmed for the 'Transportation & Car Parking Strategy' it will be priced and, subject to Member approval an appointment can be made via Councils Multi Disciplinary Consultancy framework. The Department for Communities will utilise their Consultancy framework to appoint and fund the 'Development Plan'.

Stakeholder engagement will be a critical requirement for both elements of work, from individuals to departments alike, and the detailed mechanics of how this will be performed will emerge as the briefs are developed.

It is proposed both elements are managed as a workstream under the Newry CCR programme of works, with joint governance arrangements established between

	Council and the Department for Communities as co-funders, with representation from other key stakeholders such as DFI Roads.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
3.1	To note the contents of this report.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	Resource implications will be reported once known.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Equality and good relations implications</b>
5.1	The Council will have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between the nine equality categories. Council will also seek to promote Good Relations between people of different Religious Belief, Political opinion and Ethnic Origin.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Rural Proofing implications</b>
6.1	I confirm due regard to rural needs has been considered, and the proposal has not been subject to a rural needs impact assessment.
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	N/A
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Background Documents</b>