

Report to:	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Newry, Mourne and Down Local Development Plan Preparatory Studies Paper 9: Public Utilities
Date:	19 January 2017
Reporting Officer:	Anthony McKay, Chief Planning Officer
Contact Officer:	Andrew Hay, Principal Planning Officer

Decisions Required

Note the content of this report.

1.0 Purpose & Background

- 1.1 A programme of preparatory work is being undertaken as part of the Local Development Plan (LDP) process. Preparatory studies are essential in providing the evidence base for preparing the Local Development Plan (LDP). A reliable and comprehensive evidence base is vital to informing and justifying the 'soundness' of the LDP documents (Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan) and to show how planning policies and proposals help to achieve the social, economic and environmental objectives for the plan area.
- 1.2 The SPR Committee is responsible for the Local Development Plan. All LDP papers are reported to the SPR Committee for noting or decision. All LDP papers will also be presented to the Planning Committee for noting. Depending on the subject matter, a LDP paper will also be presented to any other relevant Council Committee for noting.
- 1.3 Given the subject matter of 'Paper 9: Public Utilities', it will also be presented to the RTS Committee.
- 1.4 The purpose of this report is to present 'Paper 9: Public Utilities' for members consideration.
- 1.5 The paper provides members with an overview of matters relating to public utilities and implications for land use planning in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area. The paper builds on the existing evidence base and provides information on:
 - The regional and local policy context for public utilities and key service providers in the District;
 - An overview of the provision of public utilities in the District; and
 - An outline of the main proposals for public utilities within the District.
- 1.6 Members are asked to note the content of this report. Any comments received will be considered. The paper will be subject to any changes considered necessary in response to any valid comments received at this or any other Committee to which it is presented.

2.0 Key Issues

- 2.1 'Paper 9: Public Utilities' informs members on the provision and spare capacity of public utilities up to 2030 in order to assist judgements on the allocation of land for development in the Local Development Plan, and to ensure that sufficient land is allocated to meet the

	<p>anticipated needs of the community. It sets out the regional context for public utilities and an examination of existing physical infrastructure of the District. It examines the role of Government Department and statutory bodies, including the Council, who have a responsibility for various public utilities and associated service provision in relation to meeting existing needs and in terms of future supply.</p>
2.2	<p>The paper allows members to commence consideration of the land use implications of public utility provision and how public utilities can be addressed in the Plan within the context of the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) and the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS).</p>
2.3	<p>The provision of public utilities within the plan area is primarily the responsibility of a number of Government Departments and statutory bodies, and the Council. The paper addresses public utilities under the following themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telecommunications • Energy Supply • Waste Management • Flood Risk, Drainage, Water Supply and Sewerage.
2.4	<p>The paper provides an overview of utility provision within the District and looks at the existing provision and spare capacity of public utilities. Utility provision in the LDP must take account of regional planning framework set out by the RDS and the SPPS.</p>
2.5	<p>In accordance with regional and operational policy, the LDP will seek to locate new developments which maximise the efficient use of existing utility infrastructure whilst keeping the environmental impact to a minimum. Where proposals to develop new or replace existing public utilities are known these should be identified in the Plan. Where provision of an existing public utility is limited and there are no known plans to upgrade during the plan period, development may be constrained as a result. In allocating any land for new development, these factors will inform where new development can go.</p>
2.6	<p>The paper identifies the key elements within each of the above public utility themes to be considered in the preparation of the LDP.</p>
2.7	<p>Data gathered as part of this and other preparatory studies will be used to establish the baseline of the social, economic, and environmental characteristics of the plan area and enable the Council to identify the issues which need to be addressed by the LDP. Furthermore, it will provide a sound basis on which to formulate the plan strategy, policies and proposals within the LDP that will subject to independent public examination.</p>
3.0	<p><u>Recommendations</u></p>
3.1	<p>Members are requested to note the content of this report.</p>
4.0	<p><u>Resource Implications</u></p>
4.1	<p>N/A</p>
5.0	<p><u>Appendices</u></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper 9: Public Utilities



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

**Newry, Mourne
and Down**
District Council

**Local Development Plan
Preparatory Studies**

Paper 9: Public Utilities

January 2017

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Public Utilities

Purpose: To provide the Council with an overview of matters relating to public utilities and implications for land use in the Newry, Mourne & Down District Council area.

Content: The paper provides:

- (i) The regional & local policy context for public utilities and key service providers in the District;
- (ii) An overview of the provision of public utilities in the District;
- (iii) An outline of the main proposals for public utilities.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to inform members on the provision and spare capacity of public utilities up to 2030 in order to assist judgements on the allocation of housing growth and other development in the Local Development Plan. It sets out the regional context for public utilities and an examination of existing physical infrastructure of the new Council area. It examines initial responses from a number of Government Departments and statutory bodies, including the Council, who have a responsibility for the various public utilities in relation to future supply. This paper allows members to commence consideration of how public utilities can be addressed in the Plan within the context of the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) and the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS).

1.2 The provision of public utilities within the District is primarily the responsibility of a number of Government Departments and statutory bodies as well as the Council. The main utilities covered in this paper are:

- Telecommunications
- Energy Supply
- Waste Management
- Flood Risk, Drainage, Water Supply and Sewerage

1.3 The provision of public utilities involves a large number of stakeholders, including Government Departments, Statutory Bodies, Councils and the private sector, depending on the utility in question. The roles and responsibilities may be summarised as follows:

Public Utility		Flood Risk, Drainage and Water Supply	
Organisation		Areas of Responsibility	
Department for Infrastructure (DFI), Rivers Agency		Drainage and flood defence	
Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs (DAERA), NIEA Water Management Unit		Protection of the aquatic environment, through activities including monitoring water quality, controlling effluent discharges, taking action to combat or minimise the effects of pollution.	
NI Water		Mains water and sewage treatment	
Public Utility		Energy Supply including Renewable Energy	
Organisation		Areas of Responsibility	
Department for the Economy (DfE)		Regulatory role in relation to energy provision	
Northern Ireland Electricity (NIE)		Electricity asset owner of the transmission and distribution	

	infrastructure
Private sector	Energy supply
Public Utility	Telecommunications
Organisation	Areas of Responsibility
Ofcom	Regulatory role in relation to telecommunications provision
Department for the Economy (DfE)	Telecommunications Strategy
Private sector	Telecommunications supply
Public Utility	Recycling and waste management
Organisation	Areas of Responsibility
Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs (DAERA)	Waste Management Strategy
Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs (DAERA) NIEA	Permits, licences and exemptions
Councils	Waste management facilities and infrastructure
Private sector	Recycling and waste disposal

2.0 Regional Policy Context

2.1 The Regional Policy context is provided by the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) 2035 and regional planning policy statements. This section highlights the RDS policy objectives in relation to telecommunications, energy supply, waste management and water, sewerage and flood risk. The relevant policies of the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) and Planning Policy Statements (PPS) are set out under the relevant utility headings (sections 3.0, 4.0, 5.0 and 6.0).

The Regional Development Strategy 2035 (RDS)

2.2 The RDS sets out clear policy aims and objectives regarding public utilities when allocating housing growth and emphasises the importance of the relationship between the location of housing, jobs, facilities and services and infrastructure.

Telecommunications

2.3 Policy RG3 of the RDS recognises the need for an efficient telecommunications infrastructure to give Northern Ireland a competitive advantage. Northern Ireland's core communication network is of high quality which is necessary for sustainable economic growth and investment. Therefore it is important to continually improve international and internal connectivity. The RDS 2035 envisages that next generation broadband services will be available to provide support for 85% of businesses.

2.4 Spatial Framework Guidance (SFG) 14 of the RDS also recognises that rural areas can be disadvantaged by their remote location in terms of access to essential services. Further innovation and advancements upon the existing rural telecommunication infrastructure will work to lessen this disadvantage.

The key policy aims of the RDS 2035 regarding telecommunications are:

- Invest in infrastructure to facilitate higher broadband speeds, whilst also considering the impact such infrastructure may have on the environment;
- Improve telecommunications services in rural areas to minimise the urban/rural divide;
- Increase the use of broadband; and
- Capitalise on direct international connectivity to support foreign direct investment and to provide a competitive edge.

Energy Supply including Renewable Energy

2.5 Policy RG5 of the RDS seeks to deliver a sustainable, reliable and secure energy supply to all sectors across the region. The development of new generation or distribution infrastructure will seek to avoid adverse environmental effects, particularly on or near protected sites.

The key policy aims of the RDS regarding renewable energy are:

- Increase the contribution of renewable energy sources, both onshore and offshore, to the overall energy mix;
- Strengthen the grid in order to support the increasing number of renewable electricity installations;
- Encourage new gas infrastructure including provision of natural gas to further enhance the provision of energy supply;
- Work with neighbours to provide competitive regional electricity and gas markets in the EU's internal markets; and
- Develop smart grid initiatives to improve the responsiveness of the electricity grid to trends in customer demands.

Waste Management

2.6 Policy RG10 of the RDS is directed by the Waste Framework Directive (WFD) (2008/98/EC) which provides the overarching legislative framework. Article 4 of this Directive sets out a 'Waste Hierarchy' as a priority order for waste management. The primary purpose of the Waste Hierarchy is to minimise adverse environmental effects of waste and to increase resource efficiency in waste management and policy.

2.7 The Waste Hierarchy seeks to minimise the amount of waste brought to landfill through reducing, reusing and recycling waste. Waste disposal should only happen as a fifth and final option (Figure 1).

2.8 To manage waste sustainably RG10 promotes the use of the 'proximity principle' which emphasises the need to treat or dispose of waste as close as possible to the point of generation in an effort to minimise the negative effects of waste transportation.

Figure 1: Waste Hierarchy



Water, sewerage and flood risk

2.9 Policy RG12 of the RDS promotes a more sustainable approach to the provision of water and sewerage services and flood risk management. Increased population, changes in household formation and climate change continue to put pressure on our water resources and drainage systems which may lead to discrepancies in water demand and availability as well as potential impacting on water quality. Planning for the provision of water and sewage infrastructure and treatment facilities is both a practical and environmental necessity for regional development.

2.10 The Housing Evaluation Framework (HEF) (Appendix A), a tool used to assist judgements on the allocation of housing growth, includes a 'resource test' which states that studies should be carried out to assess and detail physical infrastructure such as water, waste and sewage, including spare capacity. This is to ensure that the infrastructure is adequate to support the provision of future housing.

The key policy aims of the RDS regarding water and sewerage are:

- The integration of water and land use planning. Land use planning should be informed by current water and sewerage infrastructure and the capacity of that infrastructure to absorb future development. This will involve the planning authority working in conjunction with NI Water;
- Manage future water demand by reducing waste. To help manage future water demand in new developments, initiatives such as grey water recycling and rainwater harvesting should be promoted;

- Encourage sustainable surface water management. This will involve the encouragement of initiatives such as Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) in significant development proposals. SuDS endeavour to use natural systems with low environmental impact (such as evapotranspiration) to dispose of dirty water and surface water in order to reduce the amount of water being released back into water courses.

2.11 In relation to development and flood risk, Policy RG8 of the RDS emphasises the need for mitigating the risk of flooding by avoiding those areas known to be at risk. This position is reflected in the HEF with the Environmental Capacity test including assessment of potential flood risk areas to guide the allocation of land for housing growth.

2.12 Furthermore, Policy RG1 of the RDS states that when allocating land for economic growth and employment, areas which are at risk of flooding should be avoided, where possible.

2.13 The RDS is complemented by the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS). The SPPS does not introduce any significant changes to any of the previous Planning Policy Statements (PPSs) which relate to the provision of public utilities, but helps to shorten and simplify the guidance for councils. The position in terms of the SPPS is summarised within the relevant subject area below.

Planning Policy

2.14 The following Planning Policy provides the planning policy context for the assessment and determination of utility developments and include:

- PPS 10 - Telecommunications
- PPS 11 - Planning and Waste Management
- PPS 15 - Planning and Flood Risk
- PPS 18 - Renewable Energy
- PPS 21 - Sustainable Development in the Countryside
- A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland

The key issues from these policy documents and guidance relevant for the LDP preparation include:

- Facilitating the continued development of telecommunications infrastructure but ensuring that visual and environmental impact is kept to a minimum;
- The Council may consult with telecommunications operators over the plan period to ascertain the extent of network coverage in plan area. The Council could consider the allocation of certain sites for the provision of tall masts to encourage site sharing;
- Promoting the development, in appropriate locations, of waste management facilities to meet need as identified by the Waste Management Plan;

- Consideration of the impact of existing or proposed waste management facilities when zoning land for development and ensuring incompatibility of adjacent land uses are avoided. The COMAH Directive (EU Directive 96/82/EC) requires development plans to ensure that appropriate distances are maintained between hazardous substances and residential areas of public use / open space;
- A presumption against development within designated floodplains;
- Promotion of development of renewable energy resources which will not negatively impact on the environment, landscape or amenity of nearby land uses;
- Careful consideration must be given to distinctive landscape areas when considering wind energy proposals;
- Integration of new electricity powerlines and cables into the existing landscape and townscape; and
- Development relying on non-mains sewage will only be acceptable where it does not create or add to a pollution problem.

3.0 Newry, Mourne & Down District Council Plans & Strategy

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Corporate Plan 2015-2019

3.1 The Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Corporate Plan 2015-2019 sets out 8 strategic priorities to be delivered over the plan period. The advocacy for increased broadband and mobile coverage has been identified as one of the key actions for the Council over the plan period.

Newry, Mourne & Down Community Plan 2030 'Living Well Together'

3.2 Community Planning came into operation on 1st April 2015 as part of the full implementation of local government reform. Community planning is a process led by a council in conjunction with partners and communities to develop and implement a shared vision for their area, a long term vision which relates to all aspects of community life and which also involves working together to plan and deliver better services which make a real difference to people's lives.

3.3 The Local Government Act introduces a statutory link between the community plan and a council's local development plan, in that the preparation of the LDP must take account of the Community Plan. It is intended that the LDP will be the spatial reflection of the Community Plan and that the two should work in tandem towards the same vision for a council area and its communities and set the long term social, economic and environmental objectives for an area.

3.4 The community Plan is to be the overarching strategic plan for integrated planning and delivering of services in Newry Mourne and Down. It provides a framework for the strategies and plans the Council will put in place to contribute towards the outcomes in the community plan and it is based on a detailed analysis of future risks and opportunities for Newry, Mourne & Down.

3.5 With regard to Public Utility provision, a key outcome for the draft Community Plan is that all people in the Newry, Mourne & Down District get a good start in life and fulfil their lifelong potential. The level of connectivity within the District has

been identified as an indicator for achieving this outcome with the level of broadband connectivity a key measure.

3.6 A clean and quality sustainable environment has also been identified as a key outcome and the use of renewable energy sources e.g. wind, sun will be central to delivery of this which will be discussed in detail in section 5.0

Newry, Mourne and Down Economic, Regeneration & Investment Strategy

3.7 The Newry, Mourne and Down Economic, Regeneration & Investment Strategy sets out the vision to make the area a vibrant, dynamic and connected region for investment, tourism and culture. Rural Development and Regeneration has been identified as one of the strategy's five key themes.

3.8 In order to meet the strategic priority of improving infrastructure across rural areas for the needs of rural communities, rural services and rural businesses, the Council will review existing broadband research and data to identify current provision and support broadband research & data with consultation with relevant bodies to identify all infrastructural needs and requirements within the rural areas.

3.9 The Council will work with Government Departments and statutory bodies to encourage and support the delivery of initiatives across the region which will seek to improve rural infrastructure in order to meet the requirements of rural communities, rural services, and rural businesses.

4.0 Telecommunications & Broadband

4.1 Modern telecommunications are an essential and beneficial element of everyday living for the people of and visitors to this District. It is important to continue to support investment in high quality communications infrastructure which plays a vital role in our social and economic well-being. Northern Ireland's core telecommunications network is recognised as world class with a high quality communications infrastructure considered essential for sustainable economic growth.

4.2 Whilst the development of high quality telecommunications infrastructure is essential for continued economic growth it is necessary to minimise the impact on the environment as set out in the SPPS and PPS 10. The SPPS states that the LDP should bring forward policies which set out the detailed criteria for consideration of new telecommunications development in the local area including siting, design and impact upon visual amenity. To inform plan preparation, the Council may consult with telecommunications operators, and other relevant stakeholders, in relation to the anticipated extent of the network coverage required over the plan period. In certain circumstances and, subject to technical limitations on location and siting, the LDP may allocate specific sites for major new telecommunications development.

4.3 The Council should take account of the potential effects of new telecommunications development, and any necessary enabling works, on visual amenity and environmentally sensitive features and locations. New masts should only be considered where site sharing is not feasible or offers an improved

environmental solution. Operators will be encouraged to site share wherever possible.

4.4 Until the new Plan Strategy for the whole District has been adopted, elements of PPS 10 remain in place however; if there is a conflict between the SPPS and PPS 10, the SPPS should be accorded greater weight in the assessment of individual planning applications.

Broadband

4.5 The broadband market in Northern Ireland is fully privatised with the principal domestic and business provider being British Telecom (BT) with other providers such as Plusnet, EE, SKY, Talk Talk, Virgin Media, FUEL Business and XLN. Northern Ireland currently enjoys the best fixed line broadband infrastructure in the UK although there are some rural areas which still have limited connectivity.

4.6 Broadband speed is the time it takes to send data to and from your computer and is measured in megabits per second (Mbps, Mbit/s or just Mb). Currently, the speeds available in the UK range from 17Mbps to 76Mbps (Megabits per second) from BT and most other providers (many use BT's network) or from Virgin Media, which has its own independent network with speeds of 50Mbps, 100Mb or 200Mb.

4.7 Fast internet connections allows the user to move freely around the web with minimal delays for downloading, uploading, moving between sites etc. A slow connection can lead to longer download times, buffering etc. The average urban and rural broadband download speed in the UK is currently 31.3Mbps and 11.6 Mbps respectively compared to 32.5 Mbps and 18Mbps in Northern Ireland.

4.8 The broadband speeds available are influenced by location, as fibre broadband is still in the rollout phase and the networks don't yet cover the whole country.

Table 1: Broadband availability in Newry, Mourne & Down

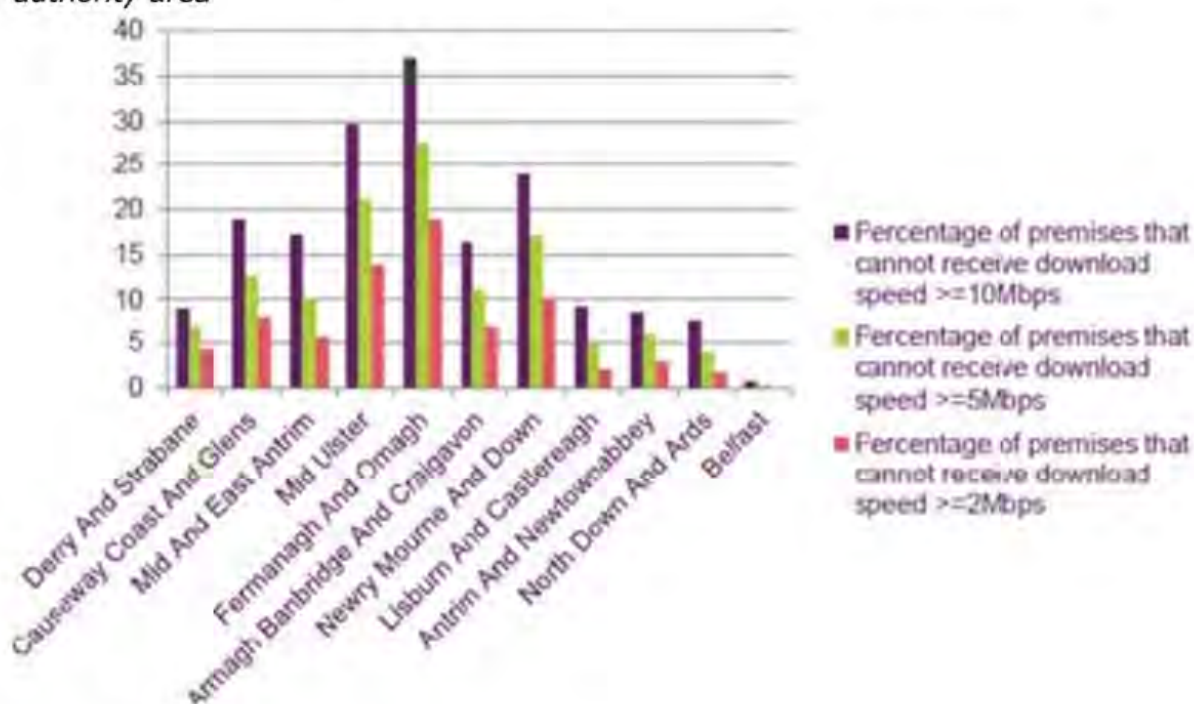
	Newry & Mourne	Down	NI
Average sync speed (Mbit/s)	17.1%	18.9	18.3%
Percentage getting less than 2Mbit/s	18.20%	15.30%	15.6%
Superfast Broadband availability	95.90%	94.50%	93.8%
Broadband take up:	65.8% (of which 23.80% is superfast)	67.60% (Of which 26.40% is superfast)	63.9%
Average data use	28.1 GB/Connection/Month	26.9 GB/Connection/Month	28.9%

Source: <http://maps.ofcom.org.uk/broadband/> (figures as of 2013)

4.9 In accordance with the aims of the RDS and the SPPS, it is vital to ensure that we continue to improve the broadband network in order to ensure that businesses remain competitive and that rural communities do not feel cut off or isolated.

4.10 The UK Government intends to introduce a new Universal Service Obligation (USO) that should give everybody the legal right to request a broadband connection capable of delivering a minimum speed of 10Mbps (Megabits per second) by 2020. As detailed below this District does not compare favourably with other Councils. It should be noted however that as the superfast broadband rollout programme nears completion, these figures should see improvements

Figure 2: The Percentage of premises unable to get 2, 5 and 10 Mbit/s by local authority area



Source Ofcom NI Report Dec 2015

4.11 There have been numerous improvements to the broadband network which have taken place in recent years and the District has benefited from these:

Broadband Improvement Project

4.12 This project is designed to provide for the first time, improve or increase broadband services in certain areas. Work began in February of 2015 and it is envisaged that work will finish at the end of 2017. Work has already taken place to improve or provide broadband in the following areas within the Newry, Mourne & Down District;

Ardglass	Ballykinler	Ballynahinch	Ballyward
Bessbrook	Crossgar	Crossmaglen	Downpatrick
Forkhill	Jerrettspass	Keady	Kilkeel
Killeavy	Maghera	Mayobridge	Newry
Newtownhamilton	Rostrevor	Saintfield	Seaforde
Strangford			

Source: www.nidirect.gov.uk/broadband-improvement-project

Northern Ireland Broadband Fund

4.13 This was a £1.9m fund which was set aside to help support projects which aimed to improve broadband across Northern Ireland. In Newry, Mourne & Down, the following projects benefitted from this fund:

- a) Installation of Fibre To The Cabinet (FTTC) technology to cabinets in the Crossmaglen, Downpatrick, Forkhill, and Newtownhamilton exchange areas; and
- b) Installation of a WiMAX Fixed Wireless Access Network in the District.

4.14 The installation of apparatus to improve the Broadband network will usually constitute Permitted Development¹ under Part 18 of the Schedule to the Planning (General Permitted Development) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015. As such, it is not envisaged that the planning process will have an impact on the provision of such development.

Next Generation Broadband Project

4.15 This project aimed at delivering improved broadband services to small and medium sized enterprises across Northern Ireland. This project is now in its operational phase in that fibre deployment has been completed to all 1,265 telecommunication cabinets across Northern Ireland including Newry, Mourne & Down. Following this project BT completed fibre upgrades to a further 783 cabinets across NI under its own Next Generation Access (NGA) programme. Almost 2,500 cabinets are now fibre enabled with more than 90% of premises in Northern Ireland connected to an enabled cabinet.

¹ Development that does not require Planning Permission through The Planning (General Permitted Development) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015

Table 2: Broadband Improvement Schemes in N.Ireland

	Target	Number of premises in intervention	Cost (BT contribution)
Northern Ireland 'Superfast NI'	Next Generation Broadband Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fibre to 1,288 roadside cabinets Completed in July 2011 	30 000 businesses and 250 000 households	£52m (BT £31m)
	NI Broadband Improvement Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeting areas with less than 2Mbit/s via 450 FTTC and 150 FTTP nodes Due to complete December 2015 	45 000	£23.7m (BT £4.4m)
	Superfast Extension Programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeting areas with less than 24Mbit/s via 300 FTTC and 300 FTTP nodes Due to complete December 2017 	39 000	£17m (BT £2.4m)

Source: Ofcom Connected Nations 2015 – Northern Ireland Report

Mobile Data Coverage

4.16 Table 3 below sets out the availability of 2G and 3G data coverage in the District as broken down by the historic LGD areas. 3G is the most common type of mobile broadband connection but 4G broadband connectivity is more recent and is the fastest mobile connection available.

Table 3: Mobile Data Coverage 2013

	Area	Geographical Coverage (no reliable signal)	Geographical coverage (all operators)	Premises coverage (no reliable signal)	Premises coverage (all operators)
3G Mobile Data Coverage	Newry and Mourne	21.60%	8.20%	12.40%	31.30%
	Down	5.60%	10.90%	6.10%	17.20%
2G Mobile Data Coverage	Newry and Mourne	24.40%	44.70%	13.80%	61.30%
	Down	1.20%	72.20%	0.60%	69.80%

Source: <http://maps.ofcom.org.uk/mobile-services/mobile-services-data-3G/>

4.17 The roll out of 4G coverage in Newry, Mourne & Down has commenced by the three main providers EE, O2 and Vodafone. Although there has been good progress to date, the development of 4G coverage across the district remains on-going.

4.18 Moving forward, it is for the Council to decide if they wish to adopt policies for telecommunications development which are in line with existing policy or if they want to develop a more restrictive policy, for example, having regard for the visual impact of telecommunications infrastructure. To a lesser extent than in the past, concerns amongst some concerning potential health implications also exist, however these concerns remain unfounded.

4.20 Having evaluated the information available in respect of telecommunications, the options for the council are to:

1. Adopt policies which are in line with existing planning policy contained within Planning Policy Statement 10 (PPS 10) Telecommunications;
2. Develop a more restrictive policy, having regard to concerns over potential health implications, visual and/or environmental impact on the landscape;
3. Develop an approach which promotes the development of telecommunications infrastructure whilst also paying close attention to the impact such development will have. This may mean for example, that certain areas are designated at local policies plan stage as areas where no telecommunications development will be permitted in order to protect sensitive landscapes, provided there is not a recognised 'Not Spot' at that location i.e. no telecommunication coverage at all. Any such policy changes would be brought through the introduction of Countryside Policy Areas.

5.0 Energy Supply

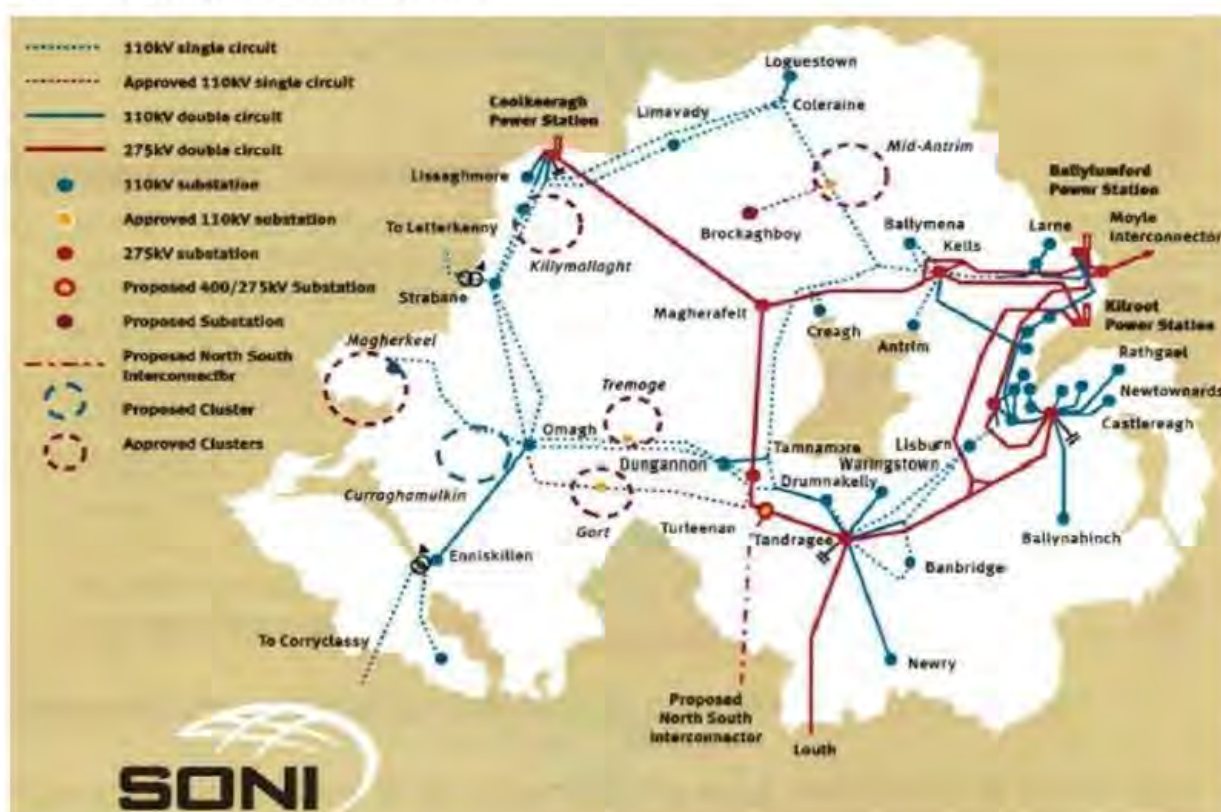
5.1 The SPSS reinforces the aims of the RDS 2035 in that it seeks to increase the contribution that renewable energy can make to overall energy supply. The policy objectives are to ensure that the environmental, landscape, visual and amenity impacts associated with or arising from renewable energy development are adequately addressed; ensure adequate protection of the region's built, natural, and cultural heritage features; and facilitate the integration of renewable energy technology into the design, siting and layout of new development and promote greater application of the principles of Passive Solar Design. In relation to electricity lines, current operational policy within the Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland indicates a preference for underground lines to minimise the visual intrusion of overhead lines.

5.2 In preparing the LDP, the Council should formulate policies and proposals which support a range of renewable energy infrastructure whilst still taking into account the above mentioned policy objectives.

5.3 Energy in the District is primarily produced by the use of fossil fuels from the three fossil fuel generating plants in Northern Ireland. These plants supply electricity to a wholesale electricity market for the whole island of Ireland known as the Single Electricity Market (SEM). The SEM is served by the North South Interconnector². In addition the Moyle interconnector links Northern Ireland to the electricity grid in Britain which brings additional competition to the electricity generation market.

² The Tandragee – Louth 275 Kv line is currently the primary means for power to flow between Northern Ireland and the Republic.

Figure 3: NI Transmission System



Source: Soni

5.4 SONI is responsible for the safe, secure, efficient and reliable operation of the high voltage electricity system in Northern Ireland³. SONI works in cooperation with asset owner NIE to develop the grid infrastructure. This is needed to support competition in energy, to promote economic growth and to facilitate renewable energy. No substantial SONI projects have been proposed within this District, SONI however has stated it will engage with SOLACE and Local Authorities to ensure future Developments are considered within the Council's Local Development Plan.

5.5 To underpin economic growth in the District, it is necessary to have a modern and sustainable economic infrastructure including robust electricity connections. Whilst electricity supply in the Council area and NI as a whole is not an issue, the upsurge in the number of renewable energy developments, particularly wind turbines seeking to connect to the electricity grid, has highlighted that grid reinforcement is required to facilitate the growth of renewable energy generation. Newry, Mourne & Down's geographical location presents opportunities to create physical links to the electricity network for the Republic of Ireland.

5.6 The SPPS is clear that overhead power lines should avoid areas of landscape sensitivity including Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB's).

³ Following a European Commission decision with respect to responsibility for planning investments for the Northern Ireland electricity transmission network, Northern Ireland Electricity Networks' (NIE Networks') transmission investment planning activities transferred to the System Operator Northern Ireland (SONI) on 1 May 2014.

Renewable Energy

5.7 The European Commission's Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC) establishes overall policy for the production and promotion of energy from renewable sources in the EU and specifies national renewable energy targets for each country. The Strategic Energy Framework (DETI 2010) states that Northern Ireland will seek to achieve 40% of electricity consumption from renewable sources by 2020. In line with this, the Northern Ireland Executive in their Programme for Government 2011-2015 (PFG) set a target that by 2015, 20% of all electricity would be generated from renewable sources.

5.8 For the 12 month period April 2015 to March 2016, 25.4% of total electricity consumption in Northern Ireland was generated from renewable sources located in Northern Ireland. This represents an increase of 5.5 % on the previous 12 month period (April 2014 to March 2015). In the 12 month period ending June 2009, some 8.1% of the total electricity consumption in Northern Ireland was generated from renewable sources (*Source Department for the Economy*). This figure outlines significant growth in the renewable sector over recent years, between the twelve month period ending June 2009 and the twelve month period ending April 2015, there has been a rise of around 142% in average renewable generation volumes. Therefore continued development of renewable energy resources is vital to facilitating the delivery of international and national commitments on both greenhouse gas emissions and renewable energy and progress towards the current PFG objective of living and working sustainably and protecting the environment⁴.

5.9 New private forms of renewable energy development are likely to increase in use in the Newry, Mourne and Down area over the plan period and will require connection to the electricity network.

5.10 The main sources of renewable energy are the wind, the sun (solar), moving water (hydropower), heat extracted from the air, ground, water (including geothermal energy), biomass (wood, biodegradable waste and energy crops) and gas (bio and landfill). The key issues regarding each of these energy sources are discussed below:

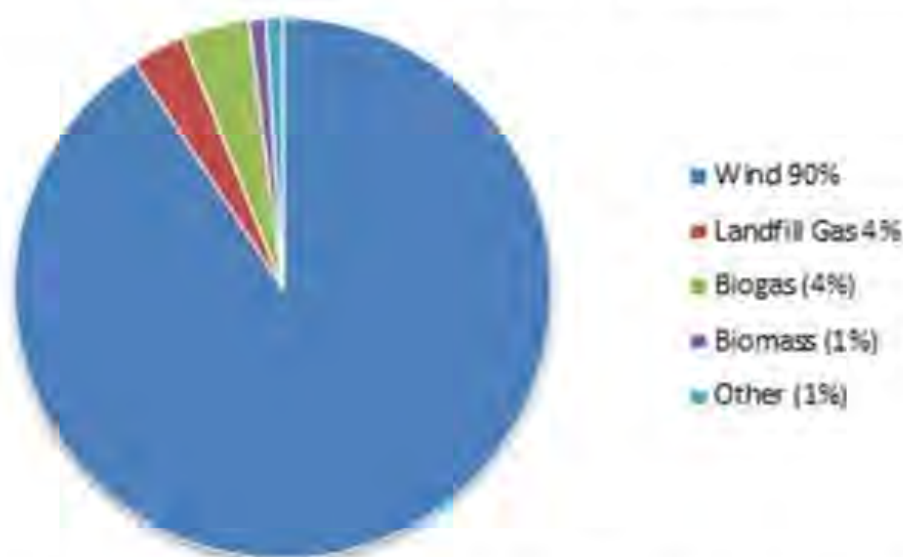
Wind

5.11 Electricity generated by onshore wind farms is the most established, large scale source of renewable energy in NI. Over the 12 month period April 2015 to March 2016, 90% of all renewable electricity generated within Northern Ireland was generated from wind (see figure 4).

5.12 At present there are no operational wind farms in the Newry, Mourne and Down area, this is in stark contrast to the rest of Northern Ireland where 126 windfarms have been approved. There has however been 321 individual wind turbines of varying sizes approved across the District, these figures are for between 2002 and 2015 (See map Appendix B).

⁴ Draft Programme for Government 2016 – 2021 Outcome 02

Figure 4: Renewable electricity generation by type of generation April 2015 to March 2016



Other includes Hydro, Tidal, Combined Heat & Power and Photovoltaic (PV)

Source: Department for Economy

5.13 Public attitude towards wind energy development is changing. Newry, Mourne and Down District contains some of the most scenic landscapes including the AONB areas surrounding Slieve Gullion, the Mourne, Slieve Croob, Strangford and Lecale which encompass 55% of the District. There are concerns regarding the proliferation of single turbines and resulting visual intrusion, safety and the increasing size and massing of turbines and interference through noise and flicker.

5.14 Having evaluated the information available in respect of wind energy, the options for the Council are to:

1. Adopt policies which are in line with existing planning policy contained within Planning Policy Statement 18 (PPS 18) Renewable Energy and the Best Practice Guidance to PPS18;
2. Develop a more restrictive policy, having regard to concerns relating to impacts on AONBs and sensitive landscapes, bio-diversity and tourism;
3. Adopt a policy position that recognises the value of wind energy development but provides policy which gives greater weight to environmentally sensitive areas and greater protection to neighbouring amenity. Any such policy changes would be brought through the introduction of Countryside Policy Areas.

5.15 As outlined earlier, Northern Ireland is on course to meet the targets of 40% of electricity consumed from renewable sources by 2020 set out by the Strategic Energy Framework and has met the 20% target set out in the 2011-15 PFG by the NI Executive. Consequently, a more restrictive policy may hinder the progress made thus far and reverse the positive trends experienced to date. By adopting option 3, the Council would be able to continue to support renewable wind energy

development whilst also safeguarding areas which are considered to be of particular scenic value and also reducing potential impacts on neighbouring properties. The impact of onshore Wind Turbine applications will be considered further in the Landscape Character and Rural Pressure Analysis Papers.

Solar (Photovoltaic)

5.16 Active solar photovoltaic (PV) technologies generate electricity from daylight. The most common form of device is a solar panel or module typically 0.5 to 1 m² in size, dark in colour and having low reflective properties. Although roof mounted is most common, modules can be mounted on sides of buildings, or on free standing support structures on the ground. A number of modules are usually connected together in an array to produce the required output, which can vary from a domestic scale panel on e.g. residential buildings / farms of just a few square metres to several hundred square metre industrial scale panels. In most cases involving dwelling houses, providing the building is not listed or in a conservation area and the installation complies with the relevant constraints, PV will be 'permitted development' and a planning application will not be required. Passive Solar Design (PSD) is an environmentally benign approach to ensure that domestic scale buildings capture maximum light and heat from the sun whilst being positioned in the landform to act as a buffer against the worst of the elements. As of 1st April 2015 55 solar applications have been processed within the District area of which 54 have been approved. One example of a larger solar application is the approved application for a 5.1MW Photovoltaic solar farm at Tullynaskeagh Road, Downpatrick. It should be noted that the number of operational panels is likely to be much higher as some panels may qualify as permitted development and therefore did not require a planning application. To date, operational planning policy regarding solar power has not raised any particular key issues.

Hydro Electricity

5.17 Water flowing from a higher to a lower level drives a turbine which produces mechanical energy. This mechanical energy is usually turned into electrical energy by a generator. There are no large scale hydroelectric schemes in the District although recently there has been an upsurge in planning applications for small scale schemes, particularly in the Newry and South Armagh area. Hydro developments anticipated will generally small in scale and subject to design, ecological and fisheries considerations being carefully assessed this type of renewable energy development is unlikely to cause significant concern.

Tidal

5.18 Tidal power or tidal energy is a form of hydropower that converts the energy obtained from tides into useful forms of power, mainly electricity. Although not yet widely used, tidal power has potential for future electricity generation. Tides are more predictable than wind energy and solar power. Among sources of renewable energy, tidal power has traditionally suffered from relatively high cost and limited availability of sites with sufficiently high tidal ranges or flow velocities, thus constricting its total availability. However technological developments and improvements, both in design (e.g. dynamic tidal power, tidal lagoons) and turbine

technology (e.g. new axial turbines, cross flow turbines), indicate that the total availability of tidal power may be much higher than previously assumed, and that economic and environmental costs may be brought down to competitive levels.

5.19 SeaGen is the world's first large scale commercial tidal stream generator. It was four times more powerful than any other tidal stream generator in the world at the time of installation. The first SeaGen generator was installed in Strangford Narrows between Strangford and Portaferry in April 2008 and was connected to the grid in July 2008. It generated 1.2 MW for between 18 and 20 hours a day while the tides are forced in and out of Strangford Lough through the Narrows. Strangford Lough was also the site of the very first known tide mill in the world, the Nendrum Monastery mill where remains dating from 787 have been excavated. At present there are no new approvals for tidal energy within the District.

Heat

5.20 Ground source heat pumps operate by circulating water (or another fluid) through pipes buried in the ground. The water temperature in the pipes is lower than the surrounding ground and so it warms up slightly. This low grade heat is transferred to a heat pump, which raises the temperature to around 50°C. Water source heat pumps operate in a similar way, with the pipes being submerged in water. Air source heat pumps extract heat in the air and use a fan to draw air over coils that extract energy. Air-source heat pumps can be located in the roof space or on the side of a building. They are similar in appearance to air conditioning boxes. To date, existing operational policy has not raised any significant issues with these types of renewable energy developments subject to careful planning consideration including archaeological implications.

Biomass

5.21 Biomass fuels, including wood and energy crops, can be utilised to provide energy either by combustion or fermentation / digestion technologies.

There are currently three main categories of biomass plant:

- Plant designed primarily for the production of electricity;
- Combined heat and power plant (CHP); and
- Plant designed for the production of heat.

Biogas

5.22 Biogas typically refers to a mixture of different gases produced by the breakdown of organic matter in the absence of oxygen. Biogas can be produced from raw materials such as agricultural waste, manure, municipal waste, plant material, sewage, green waste or food waste. Biogas is a renewable energy source and in many cases exerts a very small carbon footprint.

5.23 Emissions and waste products from biomass energy production include airborne emissions, emissions to watercourses and ash. Anaerobic digestion (AD) is a process which bacteria break down organic material in the absence of oxygen to

produce a methane rich biogas. This can be combusted to generate electricity. Thermal processes can also be used extract energy from waste. These processes use a high temperature to release the chemical energy in the fuel. Planning issues from these renewable energy developments that require consideration include:

- Visual intrusion-the plant is an industrial feature with a chimney;
- Noise from plant and traffic operations;
- Any effects on health, local ecology or conservation from the plant and air / waterborne emissions; and
- Traffic to and from the site in order to transport biomass fuel and subsequent by-products.

5.24 Landfill gas is produced by wet organic waste decomposing under anaerobic conditions which then releases a biogas. The waste is covered and mechanically compressed by the weight of the material that is deposited above. This material prevents oxygen exposure thus allowing anaerobic microbes to thrive. This gas builds up and is slowly released into the atmosphere if the site has not been engineered to capture the gas. If the site has been engineered appropriately however, this gas can be burned and used to generate energy.

5.25 Having evaluated the information available in respect of biomass development, the options for the council are to:

1. Adopt policies which are in line with existing planning policy within Planning Policy Statement 18 (PPS 18) and the related Best Practice Guidance to PPS18 and within Planning Policy Statement 11 (PPS 11) Planning and Waste Management in the case of biomass from waste.
2. Develop a more restrictive policy, having regard to concerns over environmental impact, visual impact and amenity impact.

Connections to Electricity Grid

5.26 The electricity network in NI is facing an unprecedented demand for the connection of renewable generation. The total amount of renewable generation already connected to the network is 729MW, with a further 455MW committed to connect. Renewable energy connection is very reliant on the existing infrastructure. However at present the transmission and distribution networks cannot provide, on an unrestricted basis, for all of this connected renewable generation.

5.27 Since the introduction of increased Renewable Obligation Certificate (ROC) incentives for small scale generation in April 2010, there has been a large increase in the amount of small scale generation either connected to, or committed to connect to the 11kV network. NIE have produced an 11kV network heat map (February 2015) to provide guidance on capability of the 11kV network to accept further small scale generation (see Appendix C). This heat map identifies where investment is currently required. This map is a simple visual representation however it displays that in the Newry, Mourne & Down District Plan Area locations such as Lecale, Slieve Croob and Newtownhamilton are already at saturation point.

5.28 The existing energy infrastructure needs to be overhauled to ensure it will be fit for purpose. This includes strengthening the grid and developing smart grid initiatives. The upgrading of the electricity grid will involve more overhead powerlines and power installations. The following table provides details of the various projects presently underway or planned in NI to aid renewables integration into the electricity network:

Short Term Plan (STP)
Increasing capacity of existing 110kV network by using Dynamic Line Rating techniques combined with selective up-rating- Work Completed.
Medium Term Plan (MTP)
Series of individual projects designed to reinforce 110kV network to increase capacity & remove bottlenecks-Work on-going.
Renewable Integration Development Plan (RIDP) & Network 25
The RIDP has identified the issues which will arise due to the connection of renewable generation (in the north and west of NI) & in 2013 the project had arrived at a preferred overall scheme option. The scheme involves new extra high voltage, 275 and 110 kV infrastructure and the uprating of some existing circuits. However, phase 4 of the RIDP is now focused on the preparation of a transmission plan for the whole of NI (Network 25) supported by an associated Strategic Environmental Assessment.
Generation Cluster Infrastructure
To facilitate the connection of renewable generation to the grid NIE will 'cluster' their arrangements for the connection of generators (generally onshore wind farms) so that generators will share transmission network infrastructure as far as possible. Clustered connections generally involve the construction of a 110/33kV substation, connection to the 110kV network & individual 33kV generation connections. There are to be at least 7 cluster substations developed before 2020.
New North South Interconnector (NSI)
The proposed new interconnector will require the construction of a new 275/400kV substation & a new 400kV overhead line between Turleenan (Dungannon) and Woodland (Meath). A planning application was submitted in December 2009, the Environment Minister referred the application to the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) and a Public Inquiry commenced in March 2012. An updated planning application, relating specifically to the works associated with the construction of overhead lines & towers was submitted to DOE in April 2013. Following a period of public consultation, this application has been returned to the PAC for recommencement of the Inquiry.

5.29 It must be noted that in terms of the current planned and ongoing projects within Northern Ireland detailed within the RIDP & Network 25 along with the general Cluster Infrastructure, none of these works fall within this Council area.

Natural Gas

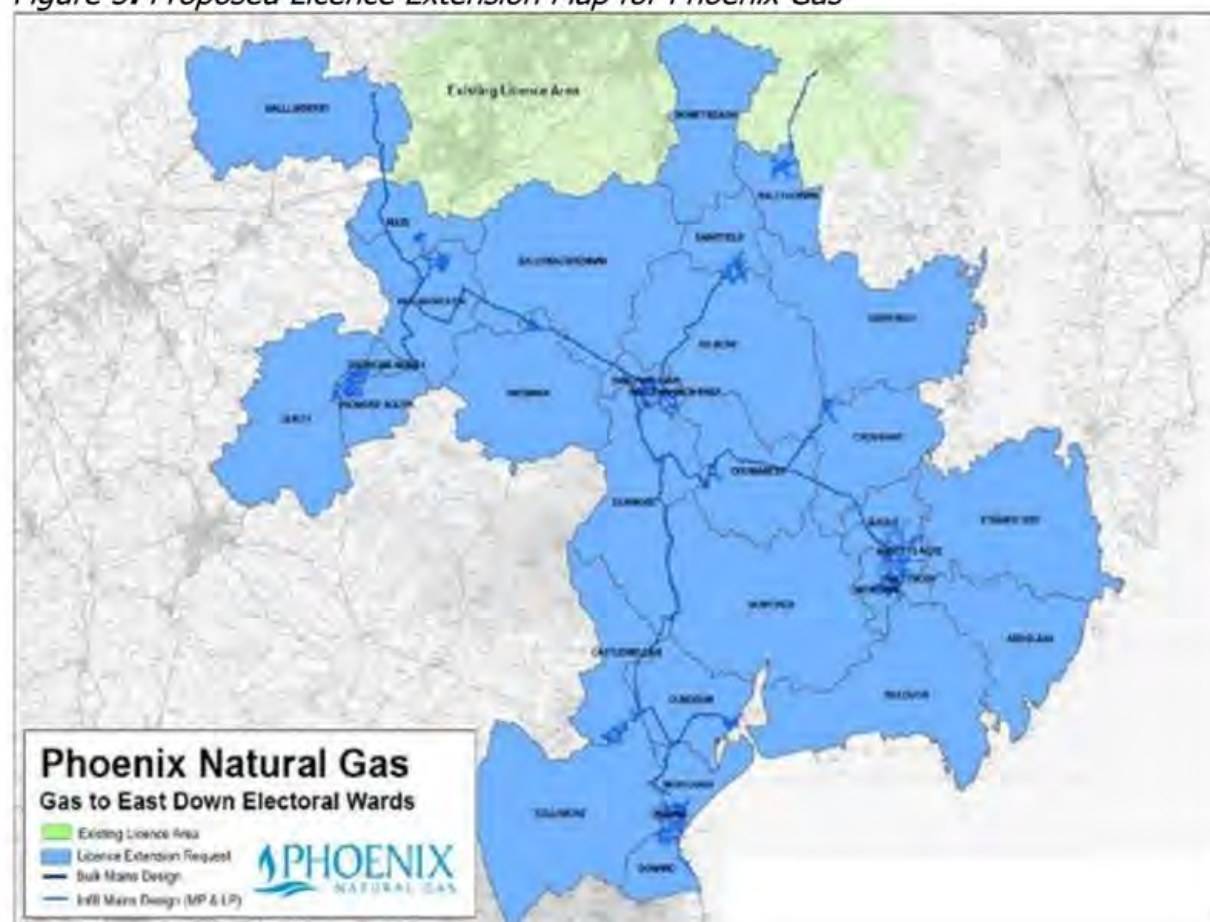
5.30 Natural gas was first introduced to Northern Ireland via the Scotland to Northern Ireland gas pipeline in 1996. Initially, natural gas was made available to customers in Greater Belfast, the immediate surrounding area and Larne where the gas distribution network has been developed by Phoenix Natural Gas (PNG). By the

end of 2014, natural gas was available to circa 307,000 properties in this area, with around 182,000 actually connected to natural gas.

5.31 Firmus Energy (Firmus) is engaged in work to develop the natural gas market outside Greater Belfast along the routes of the North-West gas transmission pipeline (completed November 2004) and the South-North gas transmission pipeline (completed October 2006). This work involves rolling out the gas distribution network in the 10 towns and cities across Northern Ireland including Newry, the others include Derry, Limavady, Ballymena, Ballymoney, Coleraine, Craigavon, Antrim, Banbridge and Armagh. To date, Firmus has connected around 25,000 customers in the 10 towns area, including taking natural gas to some additional urban areas, such as Warrenpoint.

5.32 In December 2015, the Utility Regulator approved an extension of Phoenix Gas' gas conveyance licence to East Down. This proposed extension encompasses 13 new towns for development and requires capital expenditure in excess of £58m and will make gas available to around 27,000 properties. Settlements within the District to be served by the extension include Ballynahinch, Drumaness, Saintfield, Downpatrick, Castlewellan, Newcastle and Dundrum.

Figure 5: Proposed Licence Extension Map for Phoenix Gas



Source: Utility Regulator

6.0 Waste Management

6.1 The policy framework for the delivery of Waste Framework Directive is set out in the 2013 Revised Waste Management Strategy, containing actions and targets to meet the EU Directive and related Programme for Government targets. It sets targets of achieving a recycling rate of 50% of household waste by 2020 (EU Directive target) and a recycling rate of 45% of household waste by 2025 (PfG Target). Local Authority collected municipal waste has a recycling rate target of 60% by 2020. The document also sets out a number of proposals in relation to reducing the amount of food waste sent to landfill in Northern Ireland. By encouraging more people 'to reduce, re-use and recycle' and 'let's recycle more', steady progress is being made in limiting the amount of waste sent to landfill.

Strategic Planning Policy Statement

6.2 The SPPS supports wider government policy and in line with the RDS, promotes the 5 step Waste Hierarchy and the proximity principle. It sets three policy objectives for waste management:

- Promote development of waste management and recycling facilities in appropriate locations;
- Ensure that detrimental effects on people, the environment, and local amenity associated with waste management facilities (e.g. pollution) are avoided or minimised; and
- Secure appropriate restoration of proposed waste management sites for agreed after-use.

6.3 Council should set out policies and proposals in the LDP that support the above-mentioned aims and policy objectives, tailored to the local circumstances of the plan area.

6.4 The Council must assess the likely extent of future waste management facilities for the plan area. Specific sites for the development of waste management facilities should be identified in the LDP together with key site requirements. The COMAH Directive (EU Directive 96/82/EC) requires development plans to ensure that appropriate distances are maintained between hazardous substances and residential areas of public use/open space.

6.5 Sites and proposals for waste collection and treatment facilities must meet one or more of the following locational criteria:

- It is located within an industrial or port area of a character appropriate to the development;
- It is suitably located within an active or worked out hard rock quarry or on the site of an existing or former waste management facilities including a land fill site;
- It brings previously developed, derelict or contaminated land back into productive use or where existing or redundant buildings can be utilised;

- In the case of civic amenity facilities, the site is conveniently located in terms of access to service a neighbourhood or settlement whilst avoiding unacceptable adverse impact on the character, environmental quality and amenities of the local area; or
- It is suitably located in the countryside, it involves the reuse of existing buildings or is on land within or adjacent to existing building groups. Alternatively where it is demonstrated that new buildings/plant are needed these must have an acceptable visual and environmental impact.

6.6 In the case of a regional scale waste collection or treatment facility, its location should relate closely to and benefit from easy access to key transport corridors and where practicable make use of the alternative transport modes of rail and water.

6.7 LDPs should also identify the need for appropriate waste management facilities within new development. A presumption in favour of waste collection and treatment facilities, and waste disposal (land filling and land raising) will apply where a need for such development is identified through the Waste Management Strategy and the relevant Waste Management Plan (WMP). In the case of Waste Water Treatment Works, need must be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Department or relevant authority.

6.8 In all circumstances particular attention should be given to the potential impacts of existing and approved waste management facilities on neighbouring areas and the need to separate incompatible land uses.

6.9 Following the Publication of the SPPS, until such times as a Plan Strategy for the whole of the Council area has been adopted; planning authorities will apply existing policy contained within Planning Policy Statement 11 (PPS 11): Planning and Waste Management together with the SPPS. Any relevant supplementary and best practice guidance will also continue to apply. Any conflict between the SPPS and any policy retained under the transitional arrangements must be resolved in the favour of the provisions of the SPPS.

6.10 Where a council adopts its Plan Strategy, existing policy retained under the transitional arrangements shall cease to have effect in the district of that council and shall not be material from that date, whether the planning application has been received before or after that date.

6.11 PPS 11 promotes the development, in appropriate locations, of waste management facilities to meet need as identified in the WMP. Consideration of the impact of existing or proposed waste management facilities should also be given when zoning land for development and ensuring incompatibility of adjacent land uses is avoided.

Arc 21

6.12 Newry, Mourne & Down Council falls within the Arc 21 region. Arc 21 is an umbrella waste management group for 6 councils in the east of Northern Ireland. Arc21's aim is to encourage households and businesses to 'Reduce, Re-use and Recycle' as much as possible, and deliver new waste infrastructure facilities to

manage waste efficiently and in an environmentally-friendly manner. At present Arc 21's region accounts for 54% of all Northern Ireland's municipal waste, 518,000 tonnes per annum

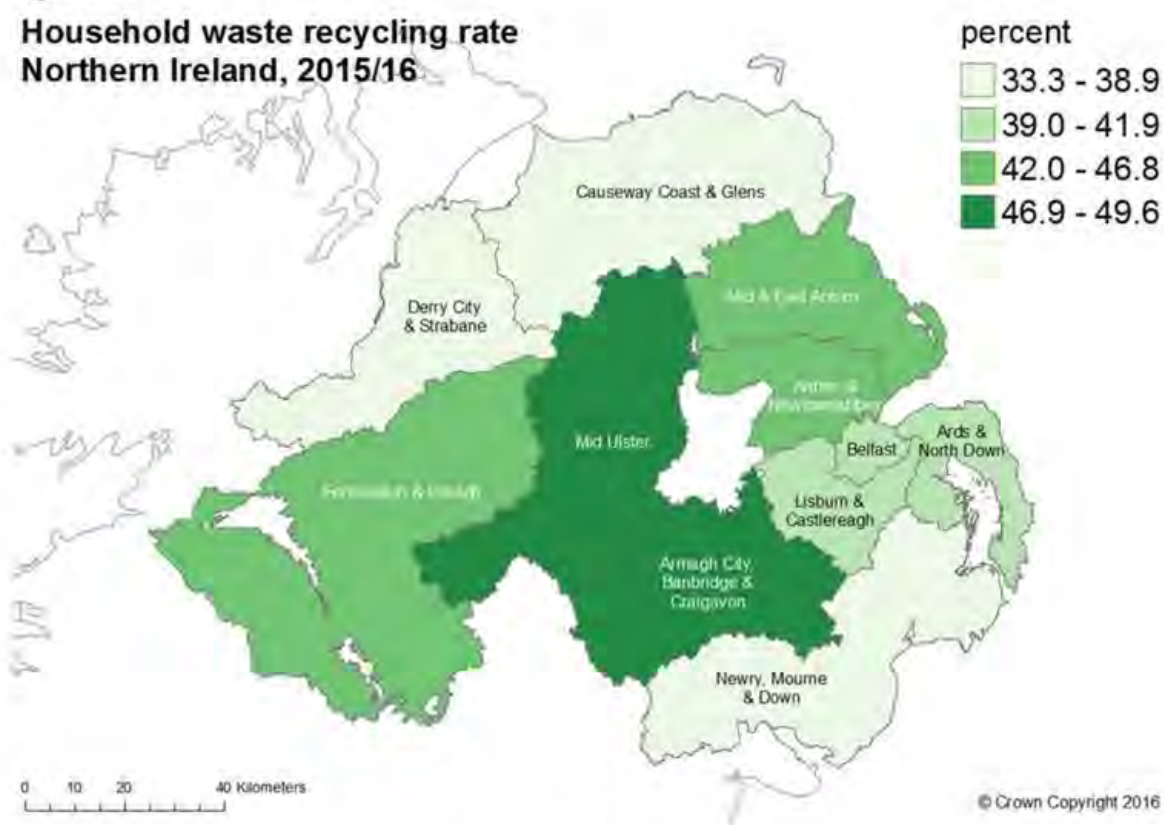
6.13 Under the provisions of the Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 it is the responsibility of the district councils to prepare a WMP for the forward planning of waste management requirements for collecting, recovering, treating and disposing of controlled waste within the region.

Waste Management Plan

6.14 A revision of the Waste Management Plan for the Arc 21 region was determined by the Department of the Environment in September 2015. The Plan provides a framework for waste management provision and a regional network of facilities for all controlled wastes within the Arc 21 region. It establishes the overall need for waste management capacity and details the proposed arrangements to deal with the wastes produced in a sustainable manner.

Figure 6:

Household waste recycling rate Northern Ireland, 2015/16



Source: NIEA NI Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management Statistics

6.15 The Arc 21 objectives have been set in the context of the following four principles of sustainable development:

- Social progress which meets the needs of everyone;
- Effective protection of the environment;

- Prudent use of natural resources; and
- Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.

6.16 The principle objective of the Plan is therefore to identify options for managing waste within the Arc 21 region which draws the correct balance between:

- The provision and maintenance of sufficient capacity to deal with the waste produced;
- Meeting strategic targets for recycling and recovery, and potentially for reduction;
- The protection of the environment for present and future generations; and
- Optimising resource utilisation in the Arc 21 region.

6.17 Application of the Waste Hierarchy to minimise waste production and policies to educate the public, industry and young people in particular, in effective resource use and reuse, recycling and composting is facilitated through the provision of 'bring facilities', bottle banks and civic amenity sites which are the responsibility of the Council.

Waste Processing within Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

6.18 In 2015/16 the Newry, Mourne & Down District Council area amassed 84,459 tonnes of municipal waste of which a total of 30,643 (36.3%) tonnes was sent for preparation for reuse, dry recycling and composting. A further 23,932 tonnes (28.3%) was sent for waste energy recovery and 29,762 (35.2%) was sent to landfill.

6.19 The two main landfill sites within the district at Aughnagon and Drumnakelly ceased to be used for the purpose of household waste on April 2015 and May 2016 respectively. Currently 'Black Bin' waste within the district is collected by the council and transferred to private operator for sorting of material appropriate for 'Refuse Derived Fuel' and recovery of recyclable and biodegradable material. Planning permission has been granted at the Councils landfill site at Drumnakelly for a proposed Waste Transfer Station. 'Blue Bin' waste within the District is also transferred to private operators in Newry and Mallusk for processing. Commercial waste disposal is the responsibility of the waste generator and commercial facilities exist in both Kilkeel and Bessbrook.

6.20 Newry, Mourne and Down District also has 10 recycling centres located across the District. These centres are located in the following settlements listed below:

Ballynahinch
 Castlewellan
 Downpatrick
 Newry
 Bessbrook
 Kilkeel
 Newtownhamilton

Crossmaglen
Warrenpoint
Hilltown

Outline planning permission has been granted for a more modern facility at Killough Road Downpatrick with a reserved matters application currently under consideration.

6.21 At present there is no envisaged need for additional or expansion of existing Council operated waste facilities within the District however this will be monitored and updated as the Development Plan progresses. It should also be noted that the recycling and use of waste for energy production is a growth area in the private sector and it is highly likely that during the Development Plan period there will be applications for facilities from the private sector.

7.0 Flood Risk, Drainage, Water Supply and Sewerage

Flood Risk

7.1 The EU "Floods Directive" (2007/060/EC) came into force on the 26th November 2007 and aims to establish a framework that will contribute to reducing the impact of flooding on communities and the environment. Compliance with this Directive is the responsibility of the Rivers Agency which is part of the Department for Infrastructure (DFI) and they have begun implementing the directive by establishing flood risk and hazard maps which were published in 2013.

7.2 The EU Floods Directive confirms that development can exacerbate flood risk and states that the planning authority has a crucial role to play in managing development so as to reduce the risks and impacts of flooding. The Directive highlights the fundamental importance of preventing or restricting new development in flood prone areas.

Under the Floods Directive, flood risk is managed by:

Prevention: avoiding construction of houses and industries in flood-prone areas; by adapting future developments to the risk of flooding; and by promoting appropriate land-use, agricultural and forestry practices.

Protection: taking measures, both structural and non-structural, to reduce the likelihood and impact of floods.

Preparedness: informing the public about flood risk and what to do in the event of a flood.

7.3 The SPPS states that the preparation of a LDP affords the opportunity to engage with relevant government departments with responsibility for various aspects of flood risk management thereby fostering a necessary joined up approach to addressing flooding issues. Typically, this will involve considerable engagement with Rivers Agency and the use of the most up to date information on flood risk which will usually be contained in the Strategic Flood Maps. This joined up approach

should also be extended to neighbouring councils in circumstances where flooding and flood risk crosses administrative boundaries.

7.4 The SPPS also states that LDPs should take account not only of current flood risk but also the likelihood of flood risk in the future and should not allocate land for development which may be prone to flooding.

7.5 Until the new Plan Strategy is adopted, PPS 15 (Planning and Flood Risk) is to be applied alongside the SPPS. PPS 15 operates a presumption against development within designated flood plains, unless the development is of regional importance or it falls into a pre-defined list of categories such as:

- A replacement building;
- An essential operational development such as utilities infrastructure;
- Sport and recreational uses;
- Minerals development; or
- Seasonal development which will not increase flood risk

7.6 With specific reference to flooding in each river basin, in December 2015 DARD (now DFI) published specific Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs) for the three River Basin areas in Northern Ireland. Two of these Plans cover this District, the Neagh Bann River Basin Flood Risk Management Plan and the North East River Basin Flood Risk Management Plan.

7.7 Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs) are a key requirement of the Floods Directive (Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks) and are aimed at reducing the potential adverse consequences of significant floods on human health, economic activity, cultural heritage and the environment. The FRMPs are coordinated at the River Basin District level to align with the Water Framework Directive's River Basin Management Plans and focus on managing the flood risk in the twenty Significant Flood Risk Areas (SFRAs) identified through the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) for Northern Ireland that was completed by the Department in December 2011. Within this District, the FRMP's encompass the settlements of Newry, Warrenpoint, Newcastle and Downpatrick. Areas identified for further study include Rostrevor, Ballynahinch and Drumaness. In practice, the FRMP's provide the information and evidence necessary to support risk management decision making. The Plans also help promote greater awareness and understanding of the risks of flooding amongst the public, Government Departments, Councils and other organizations. The Council should ensure that the new LDP is compatible with these FRMP's.

7.8 Rivers Agency Planning Advisory Unit also advises on the flooding potential for individual sites which are the subject of specific planning applications and where flooding is likely to occur. The Planning Advisory Unit will advise on any development where there is a potential to the proposed development or property elsewhere caused by the proposed development. The SPPS will not permit development within the flood plains of rivers or the sea unless it meets prescribed exceptional circumstances.

If not controlled in the correct way, development can increase flood risk by:

- a) Using up land which is required for flood relief pondage;
- b) Allowing new development to take place on land which is in danger of flooding and therefore posing a threat to the safety of that new development;
- c) Increasing the volume of water which is entering a particular watercourse in the form of sewage or industrial effluent runoff.

7.9 When preparing local policies as part of the LDP process, the Council will seek to ensure that land which has been identified as being at risk of flooding is not zoned for certain types of development such as housing or industry. Such zoning would eradicate the natural function of such land as a flood relief pondage area.

Rivers Agency will be able to advise on the suitability of land for development with respect to flood risk. This includes:

- The Extent of Flood Risk.
- The Mitigation of flood risk.
- Sustainable Drainage Systems.
- Resistance measures against flooding.
- Resilience measures to reduce the impact after flooding occurs.

7.10 The LDP should take account of the "Climate Change" Flood maps (Appendix D-F) as well as the information contained in the Strategic and Hazard Flood Maps to establish land zonings.

7.11 There are no current works or definitive proposals for Flood Defence Schemes or Improvements to existing Flood Defence Schemes planned within the District. There are however, a number of possible schemes currently being considered at Design Stage including:

- Newcastle, Shimna River;
- Mayobridge Flood Alleviation Scheme;
- Annsborough Flood Alleviation Scheme (Phase 2).

7.12 There is also a Feasibility Study currently on-going regarding the Newry, Greenbank Sea Defence Upgrade and a Flood Study of Newry currently being undertaken. It should be noted that subject to viability, flood alleviation schemes can take several years from identification of the requirement through to completion of work. All proposed works are subject to the availability of resources and competing priorities.

Drainage

7.13 In March 2016, the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) published a long term strategy entitled Sustainable Water: A Long-Term Water Strategy for Northern

Ireland (2015-2040) on the best way forward for managing the water sector in Northern Ireland.

The Strategy highlights that planning policies should promote sustainable water and sewerage services by making appropriate space in development plans for water and sewerage infrastructure. Future local development plans should make provision for both waste water treatment facilities and sustainable drainage systems.

The Strategy identifies four key sections:

- Drinking Water Supply and Demand
- Flood Risk Management and Drainage
- Environmental Protection and Improvement
- Water and Sewage Services

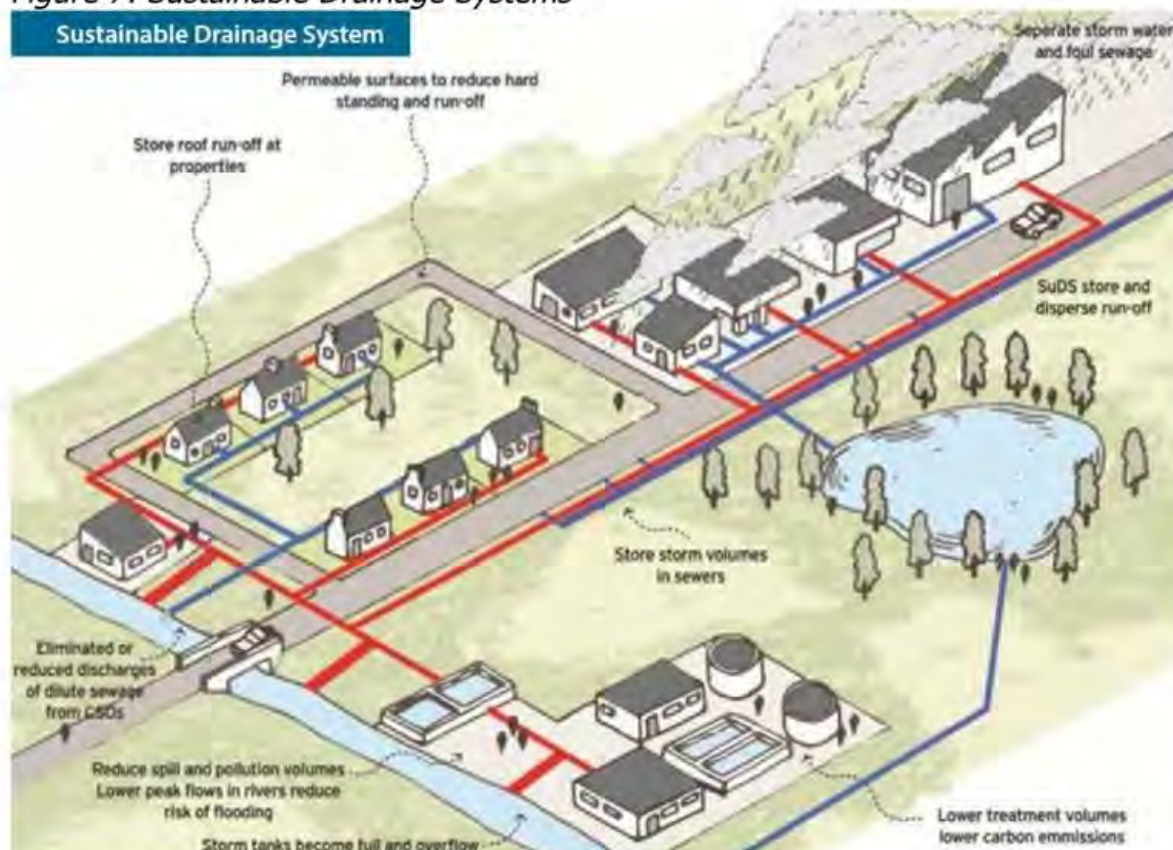
7.14 Each of these sections sets out aims, policies and actions to achieve Sustainable Water within the lifetime of the Strategy, some of which have been identified to be implemented through the Local Development Plans (LDP), including:

- Make space for surface water management in LDPs – e.g. when zoning suitable land, large surface water drainage schemes such as lakes, wetlands and wet woodland could be created to meet the future drainage needs of the proposed development in an area.
- LDP policy could require, either generally or for specific zonings, that schemes are put in place at design stage so as to minimise surface water runoff. It is preferable that a range of Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) solutions be employed as these are more sustainable and often less costly than using traditional piped infrastructure. They also offer multiple benefits such as recreation and amenity provision. Examples of such are green roofs, permeable paving, soakaways, ponds and wetlands. The Diagram below shows how Sustainable Drainage Systems work (see figure 7).

7.16 Taking account of this information, the Council may, when preparing the LDP and local planning policies, try to ensure that the following objectives are realised;

- Ensure the LDP is compatible with and complements the Flood Risk Management Plans published by DFI Rivers Agency.
- Avoid zoning land for habitable development which has been identified as being at risk of flooding, either on the Strategic / Hazard / Climate Change Flood Maps.
- Formulate planning policy which makes drainage a key element of design and which promotes the use of SuDS.

Figure 7: Sustainable Drainage Systems



Source DRD: Sustainable Water

Sewerage Facilities – Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW)

7.17 The provision of sewage treatment facilities across the District is also the responsibility of NI Water.

7.18 The RDS proposes that Newry, Mourne and Down District Council will need approximately 10,900 new houses from 2012 - 2025 so it is important to bear in mind the impact that this housing need will have on the existing sewage network capacity. Most houses are connected to the existing sewage network, under the SPPS, in all circumstances proposals for development must meet planning and environmental considerations including those for drainage and sewerage.

7.19 Single houses in the countryside rely on septic tanks, it should be noted that Policy CTY 16 of PPS 21 states that planning permission will only be granted for developments relying on non-mains sewerage where the applicant can demonstrate that this will not create or add to a pollution problem.

7.20 When preparing the LDP, the potential capacity of the existing sewage infrastructure in an area will have a bearing on the amount and location of new development and whether or not land is zoned for new development. An indication as to the available capacities (headroom) of existing waste water treatment works (WWTW) within the Council area was supplied by NI Water in December 2015 and will be updated through the plan process. The information provided (see appendix

G) at this stage is limited to those settlements served by public treatment facilities serving population equivalents of greater than 50.

7.21 The information provided to date highlights that the following settlements as having no remaining capacity (headroom) within the business period 2015-2021:

Drumaness
 Dundrum (Upgrade of this WWTW during 2015-2021)
 Ballymaderphy
 Glassdrumman (Armagh)
 Glen Villas
 Lurganare
 Oliver Plunkett Park

7.22 NI Water maintains all works through a capital maintenance programme and further seeks to address quality and development issues through an enhancement programme which is delivered on a prioritised basis across Northern Ireland within allocated funding. This information will need to be kept under review to ensure an accurate picture of the extent of any constraint placed on development.

7.23 Proximity to existing WWTW will also be a factor in considering the location of new development land as part of the LDP. When selecting land for development, it is generally desirable to avoid land near established treatment works as these can cause nuisance. Guidelines established between DOE Planning and NI Water set out what can be considered acceptable distances between development and WWTWs. For example, a WWTW with a design equivalent population of 5,000 should not be within 300m of inhabited development.

7.24 Taking account of this information, the Council may, when preparing the LDP and local planning policies, try to ensure that the following objectives are realised;

- Ensure that development land is zoned in areas where the 'headroom capacity' of existing WWTWs is such that development can be supported by sewerage infrastructure; and
- Avoid zoning land for habitable development in close proximity to existing WWTWs.

Water Supply

7.25 The responsibility for the provision of water supply across the District is the responsibility of NI Water.

7.26 NI Water has indicated that it does not envisage any substantive issues that will impinge upon new development. This will be confirmed in a brief statement along with some additional context on on-going programme of Network strengthening and resilience improvements. Where there are instances of planned investment on major capital works e.g. water treatment works upgrade this will be highlighted within the response.

Reservoirs

7.27 The Reservoirs Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 aims to ensure that the existing 130-150 reservoirs in Northern Ireland are managed and operated to minimise any risk of flooding due to an uncontrolled release of water resulting from dam failure and therefore protecting people, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity. It will impose management and maintenance requirements on owners and managers of reservoirs with a volume in excess of 10,000 cubic metres. To facilitate the management of such reservoirs, Rivers Agency has prepared reservoir inundation maps. Where development is proposed in close proximity to a reservoir, the developer will be required to submit a detailed flood risk assessment to show how the development will not be at risk of flooding from the nearby reservoir. Consequently, when preparing the LDP the Council may not wish to allocate land for development close to existing reservoirs. To do so would be to require the developer to carry out a flood risk assessment, thus complicating the planning application process.

8.0 Conclusions

8.1 This paper has provided an overview of utility provision within Newry, Mourne & Down and has looked the existing provision and spare capacity of public utilities over the plan period until 2030. Utility provision in the Local Development Plan must take account of the regional planning framework set out by the RDS and the SPSS to assist judgements on the allocation of housing growth and to ensure that sufficient land is allocated to meet the anticipated needs of the community. The provision of public utilities within the plan area is primarily the responsibility of a number of Government Departments and statutory bodies as well as the District Councils; however the private sector is playing an increasingly important role. In terms of the role of the LDP it is therefore important to recognise that external providers have their own long term strategies and investment plans subject to budget constraint.

8.2 The LDP will not designate or zone specific sites for public utilities. However in accordance with regional and operational planning policy it will seek to locate new developments which maximise the efficient use of existing utility infrastructure whilst keeping the environmental impact to a minimum.

8.3 Where proposals to develop new or replace existing public utilities are known, these should be identified in the Plan. Where provision of an existing public utilities is limited and there are no known plans to upgrade during the plan period, development may be constrained as a result of this.

Thus the key elements of any strategy relating to the following themes are identified as follows:

8.4 Telecommunications

- Develop an approach which promotes the development of telecommunications infrastructure whilst also paying close attention to the impact such development will have. This may mean for example, that certain areas are designated at local policies plan stage as areas where no telecommunications development will be

permitted in order to protect sensitive landscapes, provided there is not a recognised 'Not Spot' at that location i.e. no telecommunication coverage at all. Any such policy changes would be brought through the introduction of Countryside Policy Areas.

8.5 Recycling and Waste Management

- Facilitate the implementation of the Waste Management Plan when formulating Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan.

8.6 Flood Risk, Drainage and Water Supply

- Ensure that development land is zoned in areas where the "headroom capacity" of existing Waste Water Treatment Works is such that development can be supported by sewerage infrastructure.
- Avoid zoning land for habitable development in close proximity to existing WWTWs.
- Local development plans should be compatible with and compliment the Flood Risk Management Plans published by DFI Rivers Agency.
- Avoid zoning land for habitable development which has been identified as being at risk of flooding, either on the Strategic / Hazard / Climate Change Flood Maps.
- Formulate planning policy which makes drainage a key element of design and which promotes the use of SuDS.

8.7 Energy Supply and Renewables

- Adopt a policy position that recognises the value of wind energy development but provides policy which gives greater weight to environmentally sensitive areas and greater protection to neighbouring amenity. Any such policy changes would be brought through the introduction of Countryside Policy Areas.
- In relation to biomass development, adoption of current planning policy would ensure continued support for such development while ensuring potential impacts are minimised.

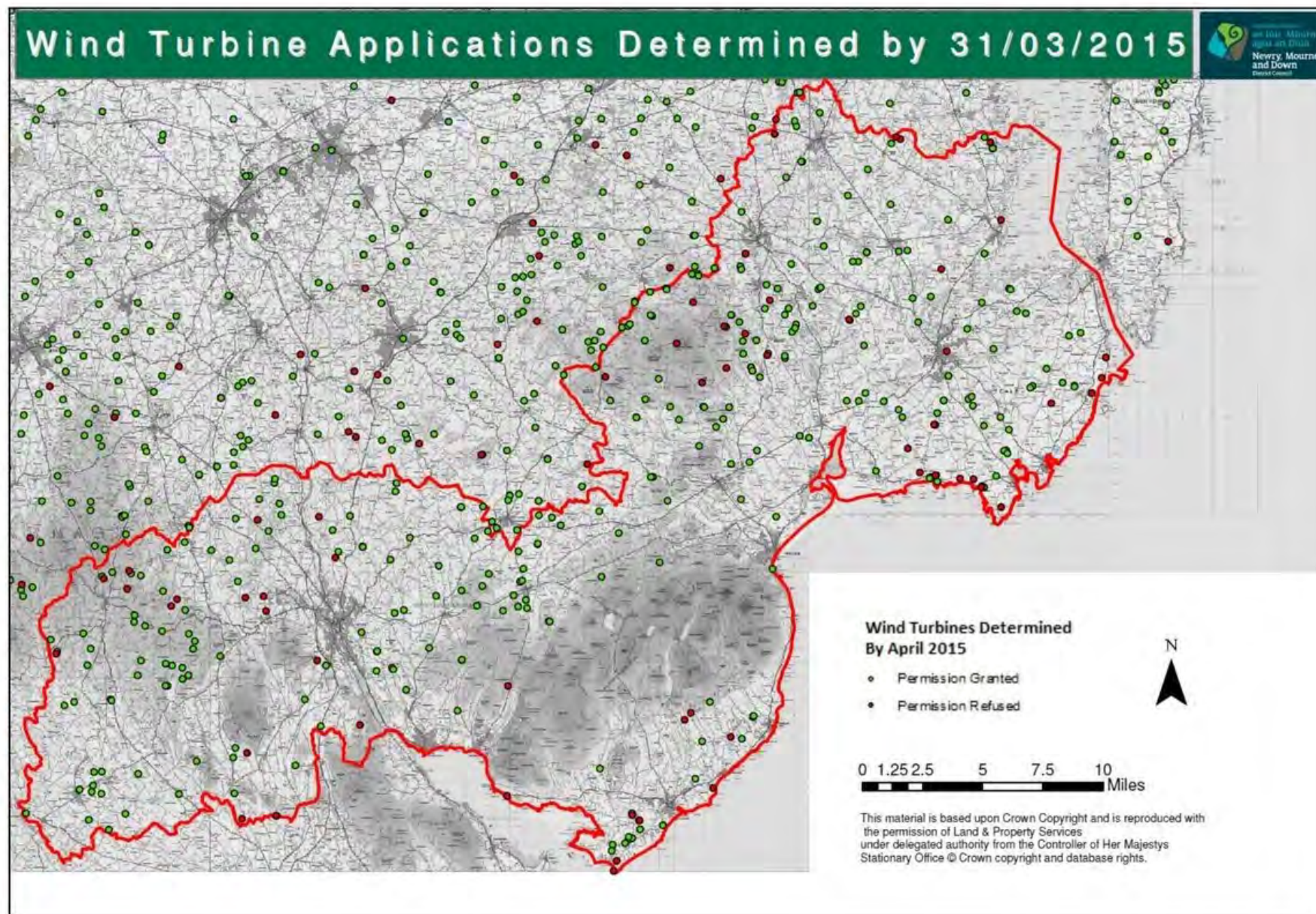
Appendices

Appendix A – Housing Evaluation Framework

Housing Evaluation Framework	
Resource Test	Studies should be carried out to assess and detail the existence of community assets and physical infrastructure such as water, waste and sewage, including spare capacity.
Environmental Capacity Test	An assessment of the environmental assets of the settlement, the potential of flooding from rivers, the sea or surface water run-off and its potential to accommodate future outward growth without significant environmental degradation should be made.
Transport Test	Studies should be carried out to assess the potential for integrating land use and public transport and walking and cycling routes to help reduce reliance on the car.
Economic Development Test	The potential to facilitate an appropriate housing and jobs balance and to unlock any major strategic development opportunities should be assessed and detailed.
Urban and Rural Character Test	Assessment should be made of the potential to maintain a sense of place, and to integrate new development in a way that does not detract from the character and identity of the settlement.
Community Services Test	The potential to underpin and, where necessary, reinforce the community service role and function of the settlement should be assessed and detailed.

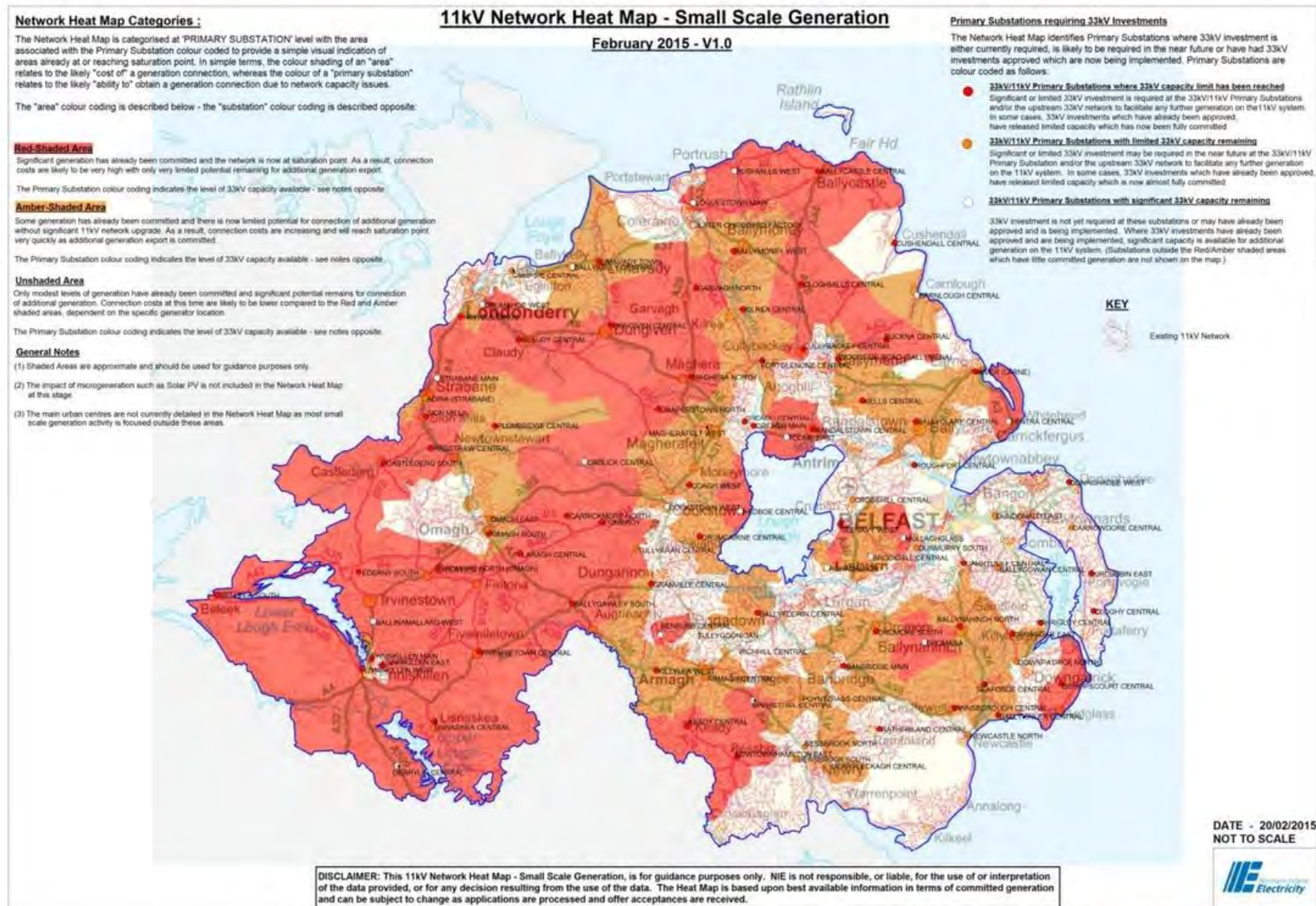
Appendix B – Wind Turbine Application Determinations within NM&D Between 2002 and 2015

173



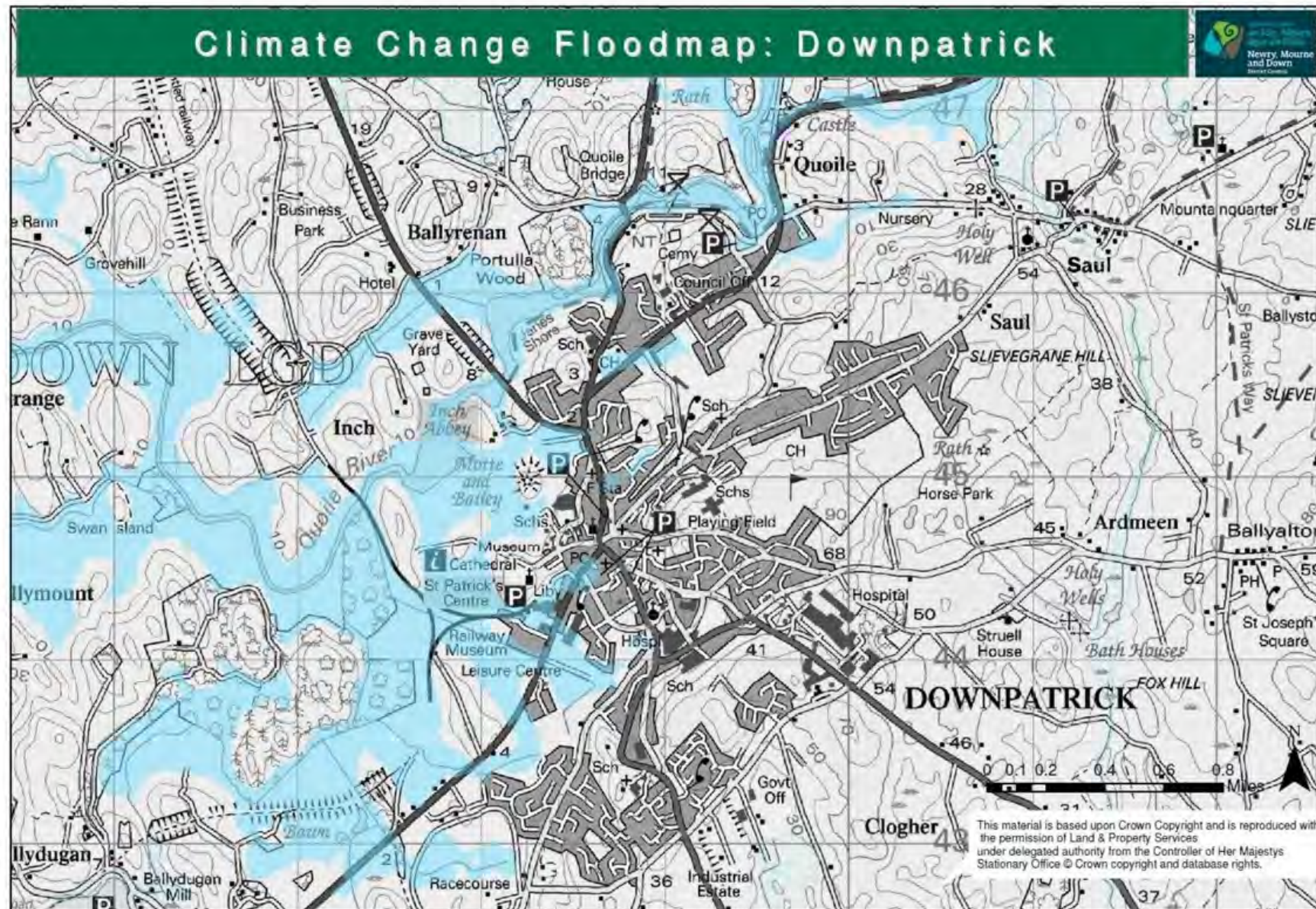
Appendix C – NIE Heatmap

174

Source: http://www.nienetworks.co.uk/documents/Generation/SSG_HeatMap_200215_V1.aspx

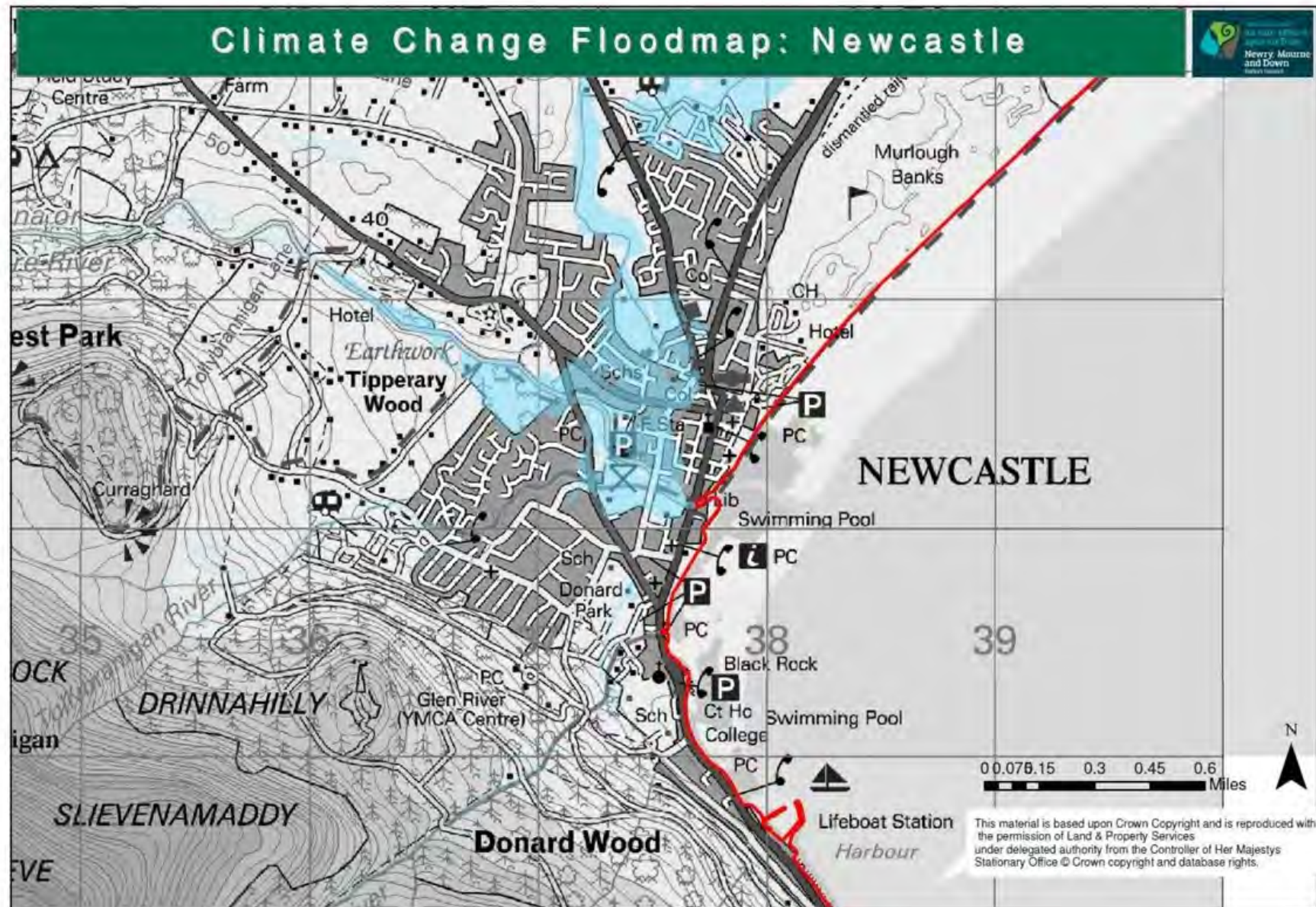
Appendix D - 1/100 year Climate Change Floodmap: Downpatrick

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Appendix E - 1/100 Year Climate Change Floodmap: Newcastle

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Appendix G – Waste Water Treatment Works

As displayed below, NI Water have devised a new informative to convey both the present capacity condition of each of its Wastewater Treatment Works and also how this condition may change depending on a range of potential growth scenarios. The Informative presents two sets of indicators; one relating to current capacity and the associated impact on the availability of new sewerage connections; the second is an estimated projection of treatment capacity were prescribed growth factors to be applied to the existing drainage catchment flows.

Settlement	Name of Works	Current Status	Estimation of Future Capacity based on Growth Factor			Comment
			10%	20%	30%	
Any Town	Any Town WwTW		✓	✓	✓	
Any City	Any City WwTW		⊗	✗	✗	
Any Village	Any Village WwTW		✗	✗	✗	No public sewerage system exists.
Any Hamlet	Any Hamlet WwTW		✓	✓	✓	Catchment flows pumped to Any Town WwTW
Another Village	Another Village WwTW		✓	✓	✓	A project exists within current Business Plan to upgrade this facility

Key



New Connections permitted – Capacity Available



Restricted Planning – Limited Capacity



New connections refused – No Capacity



Works has 'Reasonable Capacity'



Works is 'At or Reaching Capacity'



Works has 'Insufficient Capacity'

The indicators are a combination of Red, Amber and Green (RAG) traffic lights for current capacity and a variety of tick box symbols for future capacity. The distinct formats were adopted to help emphasise the certainty of the current status compared with the more speculative conclusion looking forward. The respective keys explain the relevant implications, information on planned investment for wastewater treatment or other relevant information will appear as a supplementary comment against each listed WWTW. The current capacity for settlements within this District has been provided overleaf.

Settlements Served by Large Wastewater Treatment Works

Wastewater Treatment works	Current Planning Status	Estimation of Capacity based on Growth Factor			Comment
		10%	20%	30%	
Annacloy (WWTW)		✓	✓	⊗	
Annalong (WWTW)					Query
Ardglass (WWTW)		✓	✓	✓	
Ballykinier (WWTW)		✓	✓	⊗	
Ballynahinch (Down)		✓	✓	✓	
Blackrock Retention Tank (Down)					Query
Clough (WWTW)		x	x	x	
Coneyisland (WWTW)		⊗	⊗	⊗	
Downpatrick (WWTW)		✓	✓	✓	
Drumaness (WWTW)		⊗	⊗	⊗	
Drumroad (WWTW)		⊗	⊗	x	
Dundrum (Down)		✓	✓	✓	Upgrade of this WwTW planned during 2015-2021
Glassdrumman (Down)		✓	✓	⊗	
Kilkeel (WWTW)		✓	✓	⊗	

Killough (Retention Tank)					Query
Killyleagh (WWTW)		✓	✓	✓	
Lisowan		⊗	x	x	
Loughinisland (WWTW)		x	x	x	
Maghera (Down)		⊗	⊗	x	
Newcastle (WWTW)		✓	✓	⊗	
Saintfield (WWTW)		⊗	x	x	
Strangford		✓	✓	✓	
Thorney Glen		⊗	⊗	⊗	
Annsborough		⊗	x	x	
Attical (WWTW)		✓	✓	✓	
Ballymaderphy		x	x	x	
Bankside Shinn		⊗	⊗	⊗	
Beech Hill South		⊗	⊗	⊗	
Belleek (Armagh)		✓	⊗	⊗	
Cranfield (Down)					Query

Crossmaglen		✓	⊘	⊘	
Cullaville		✓	⊘	⊘	
Cullyhanna (WWTW)		⊘	⊘	x	
Dorsy		⊘	⊘	⊘	
Drumilly		⊘	⊘	⊘	
Drumintee		✓	✓	✓	
Forkhill		✓	✓	✓	
Glassdrumman (Armagh)		x	x	x	
Glen Villas		x	x	x	
Hilltown (WWTW)		⊘	⊘	⊘	
Jonesborough (WWTW)		✓	✓	✓	
Kilcoo		✓	✓	✓	
Killeen (Armagh)		⊘	⊘	⊘	
Leitrim (New)		⊘	⊘	⊘	
Lislea (New)		⊘	⊘	⊘	
Lisnalea		⊘	⊘	⊘	

Lurganare		x	x	x	
McKinley Park		x	x	x	
Meigh (WWTW)		x	x	x	
Mountain View (Drumintee)		⊘	⊘	⊘	
Mullaghglass (Newry)		⊘	⊘	⊘	
Newry (WWTW)		✓	✓	✓	
Newtownhamilton		✓	✓	✓	
Oliver Plunkett Park		x	x	x	
Rathfriland (WWTW)		⊘	x	x	
Silverbridge		⊘	⊘	⊘	
Warrenpoint (WWTW)		⊘	x	x	
<div> <div> Key to Current Planning Status </div> <div>  New connections permitted - Capacity Available  Restriction on new connections - Capacity Limited  New connections refused - No Capacity </div> <div> Key to Local Development Planning </div> <div> ✓ Works has 'Reasonable Capacity' ⊘ Works is 'At or reaching Capacity' x Works has 'Insufficient Capacity' </div> </div>					

Report to:	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	Thursday 19 January 2017
Subject:	Proposals for the updated NI Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM 2017)
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Alan Beggs/ Eoin Devlin/ Janine Hillen Evidence and Research/ Assistant Directory Health and Wellbeing/ Assistant Directory Community Engagement
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Alan Beggs Head of Evidence and Research

Decisions required:	
	<p>Purpose and Background:</p> <p>Newry Mourne and Down District Council have been asked to respond to the consultation on Multiple Deprivation Measurements being undertaken by Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency's (NISRA).</p> <p>The consultation invites views on responses to each of the NIMDM 2010 recommendations and on the proposed indicators in each of the NIMDM 2017 domains. The NIMDM 2010 consisted of 30 indicators, 20 of which are proposed to be retained in the updated measures. A further 7 are proposed to be modified in line with newly available data, while 3 are proposed to be omitted due to data quality and /or availability issues. A total of 12 new indicators are also proposed, as a result of addressing the 2010 NIMDM recommendations or as a result of new information becoming available.</p> <p>The key proposals relate to each of the seven separate domains that are incorporated in the deprivation measures – income; employment; health and disability; education skills and training; access to services; living environment; and crime and disorder.</p> <p>The updated measures will be hugely important to a wide variety of interested parties and users. They will continue to play a pivotal role in both informing the targeting of resources to the most deprived areas in Northern Ireland and the monitoring of the spatial impact of policy interventions. The current aim is to publish the updated measures in mid-2017, which will be referred to as NIMDM 2017 throughout this report.</p>
2.0	<p>Key issues:</p> <p>The NIMDM 2010 consisted of 30 indicators, 20 of which are proposed to be retained in the updated measures. A further 7 are proposed to be modified in line with newly available data, while 3 are proposed to be omitted due to data quality and/or availability issues. A total of 12 new indicators are also proposed, as a result of addressing the 2010 NIMDM recommendations or as a result of new information having become available. These changes have led to a more robust</p>

	and comprehensive measurement of deprivation, however as part of the response the officers have made the observations highlighted in 2.1
2.1	<p><u>Observations</u></p> <p>A full copy of the Consultation Document can be found in appendix I, Council's observations are included below</p> <p>A. <u>Income Deprivation Domain</u></p> <p>Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC) welcome the change in the income measurement from a benefits based measure to one that is based on the equivalised household income. While NMDDC appreciate the need for the contingency of reverting to a benefits based measurement, as detailed in section 9.4, household income will give a more robust measurement and provide more accuracy in identifying those who are not in receipt of benefits yet have a household income well below the NI Medium. While no guidance is given on the equivalisation calculation, NMDDC wish to welcome and highlight the importance of the supporting information in relation to children and young people and the over 65s.</p> <p>B. <u>Employment Deprivation Domain</u></p> <p>NMDDC welcome the recognition that is given to the need to source suitable information that might be used to shed light on the spatial distribution/ prevalence of hidden unemployment and the commitment to incorporate this when available</p> <p>C. <u>Health Deprivation Domain</u></p> <p>NMDDC welcomes the inclusion of the Mental Health indicator, consideration should be given to producing this data as a separate sub-domain. However, it is of concern that the indicator relating to long term illness and disability relates to data collected as far back as the 2011 census. In relation to the indicator on Child dental extractions, it is thought that a more relevant indicator should be the level of registration with a dentist. The fact that children would be registered should mean that the free check-ups available will reduce the level of extractions required.</p> <p>D. <u>Education Skills and Training Deprivation Domain</u></p> <p>NMDDC note the lack of data relating to early years and primary school attainment, while the document outlines the current position in relation to the lack of appropriate data for inclusion in the 2017 measurement, it is our view that this should be addressed to allow for inclusion in subsequent releases of the Multiple Deprivation Measurements. In relation to recommendation 12f, NMDDC note that the sub domain for education among working age adults relates to data collected as far back as the 2011 census. In relation to recommendation 12d on special educational needs; it</p>

is unclear why this should be used as a measure of deprivation given that there are many reasons including medical and clinical conditions which may result in a child having special educational needs

E. Access to Service Domain

While NMDDC acknowledge that the measure of 10mb reflects the targets within the program for government, OFCOM data shows that many rural areas within Northern Ireland do not receive broadband speeds of 2mb or over. NMDDC note that areas where broadband coverage is not available at all or only available at speeds lower than 2mb should be considered the most deprived under this indicator. NMDDC welcome the inclusion of public transport travel times.

E ii On the renaming of this domain from "Proximity to Services"

NMDDC note that this indicator has been used to identify areas that experience low levels of service provision and high degrees of isolation; this is particularly relevant to many of our rural areas and small settlements. While NMDDC has no strong view on the name of the domain, we would wish to highlight that it is important that this domain continues to reflect the impact on opportunities and outcomes for those who do not have access to key services within a close geographic proximity.

F. Living Environment Domain

NMDDC welcome the inclusion of flood risk as an indicator. It is noted that there is no indication of what level of flood risk will be measured, rivers agency flood maps include modelled events up to a probability of 1 in 1000 year. NMDDC note that it is those properties at high risk of regular flooding that should be identified under this indicator.

G. Crime and Disorder Domain

NMDDC are content with the indicators chosen

H. Additional Comments

Consideration should be given to assigning a higher weighting to crime and disorder.

NMDDC have been developing a robust evidence base to inform their community plan, this evidence base is drawn from data collected internally, data supplied from our partners, and from regional statistics. The Multiple Deprivation Measurement will form a key component of this evidence base and will be used to assess the effectiveness of the community plan measures. The community planning structure at NMDDC includes local DEA forums to oversee the delivery at the community level and measure the impact of that delivery; to this end NMDDC requires The Multiple Deprivation Measurement to be made available at the lowest administrative

	boundary level, ie Wards 2014.
3.0	Recommendations: A draft Council Response has been included in appendix II .
3.1	
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	
5.0	Equality and good relations implications:
5.1	
6.0	Appendices
	Appendix I: Proposals for the updated NI Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM 2017) Appendix II: NMDDC Draft Response

Consultation Document

Proposals for the updated NI Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM 2017)



Date of Issue: 21 November 2016

Responses required by: 15 January 2017

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Executive Summary

- i. As part of its work to update the current Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM 2010), NISRA is consulting users about the proposed indicators to be included in the updated measures, referred to as NIMDM 2017.
- ii. The key consultation questions along with relevant considerations are contained in Sections 9 to 15 of the document, which present proposals for each of the seven separate domains that are incorporated in the deprivation measures – income; employment; health and disability; education, skills and training; access to services; living environment; and crime and disorder – and in Section 16 (response to non domain-specific recommendations).
- iii. The consultation invites your views on our responses to each of the NIMDM 2010 recommendations and on the proposed indicators in each of the NIMDM 2017 domains. In addition, it seeks your views on whether the current domain weights reflect current priorities and invites you to outline how you have used, or intend to use, the deprivation measures.
- iv. The consultation period will run from 21 November 2016 through to midnight on 15 January 2017. Section 8 of this document outlines how to take part, and details five supporting information sessions that will be held during this period to outline the various proposals. All key stakeholders are encouraged to register to attend one of these sessions.
- v. The NIMDM 2010 consisted of 30 indicators, 20 of which are proposed to be retained in the updated measures. A further 7 are proposed to be modified in line with newly available data, while 3 are proposed to be omitted due to data quality and/or availability issues. A total of 12 new indicators are also proposed, as a result of addressing the 2010 NIMDM recommendations or as a result of new information having become available.

- vi. In arriving at the proposals, consideration has been given to each of the 36 recommendations that arose as part of the NIMDM 2010. Positive action has been taken in respect of 17 recommendations, which it is considered will improve the updated measures. Six recommendations cannot be advanced at present due to data availability and/or quality issues and will be carried over. One recommendation was considered out of scope for this update, and a further 9 recommendations were rejected by the domain expert groups as not aligning with the agreed indicator principles. The remaining 3 recommendations will be addressed after the initial dissemination phase of the project.
- vii. All-in-all, it is expected that these proposals could lead to a number of improvements over the set of indicators used in the 2010 deprivation measures. In summary, the proposals include new indicators capturing: average household incomes; complex and pro-longed health needs through greater use of prescription data; travel times to a wider variety of services by public transport as well as by car; broadband coverage; road quality; household overcrowding and the suitability of houses for the disabled.
- viii. The deprivation team recognises that the updated measures, which are planned for release in mid-2017, will be hugely important to a variety of interested parties and users. Accordingly, we actively encourage you to take part in this important consultation and look forward to meeting you at one of the planned information sessions.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) has been commissioned by the Statistics Co-ordinating Group (SCG) of the Northern Ireland Civil Service, which comprises senior policy officials from Government Departments, to undertake an update of the current Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM 2010).
- 1.2 The updated measures will be hugely important to a wide variety of interested parties and users. They will continue to play a pivotal role in both informing the targeting of resources to the most deprived areas in Northern Ireland and the monitoring of the spatial impact of policy interventions.
- 1.3 The current aim is to publish the updated measures in mid-2017, which will be referred to as NIMDM 2017 throughout this document.

2 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

- 2.1 In recognition of the impact that the updated measures may have on both the delivery of services throughout Northern Ireland and the lives of those who utilise those services, the purpose of this document is to:
 - Provide some contextual background on the NI Deprivation Measures, in particular the current measure (NIMDM 2010);
 - Outline the scope of the update that NISRA has been commissioned to undertake;
 - Describe how the work to undertake the update is being overseen;
 - Present the criteria that individual domain indicators need to meet in order to be considered for inclusion in the updated measures;
 - Present proposals for the indicators to be included in the updated measures and consult users about these proposals; and

- Gain some insight into the use being made of the deprivation measures. This information will help NISRA to target the right people and organisations through our communication and engagement activities, and help ensure that we understand their requirements, produce results that are fit for purpose and develop appropriate guidance and advice in terms of the use of the updated deprivation measures.

3 HISTORICAL NORTHERN IRELAND MEASURES OF SPATIAL DEPRIVATION

- 3.1 Measures that describe the spatial distribution of deprivation or disadvantage have been developed and used in Northern Ireland since the 1970s.
- 3.2 The most recent and current measures (which were released in 2010 and were largely based on data relating to 2008) were developed in-house by NISRA using the methodology deployed in NIMDM 2005 work, which was led by Professor Mike Noble from the Social Disadvantage Research Centre at the University of Oxford.

4 CURRENT NI MEASURES OF SPATIAL DEPRIVATION (NIMDM 2010)

- 4.1 The current measures of spatial deprivation in Northern Ireland (NIMDM 2010) utilise a total of 30 indicators¹ to provide information on seven types or 'domains' of deprivation, along with an overall measure of multiple deprivation based on a weighted combination of these seven domains. The domains and their associated weights in the overall NIMDM are detailed below:
 - Income Deprivation Domain (25 per cent)
 - Employment Deprivation Domain (25 per cent)
 - Health Deprivation and Disability Domain (15 per cent)

¹ The NIMDM 2010 referred to 52 indicators, having counted individual benefits selected in the income and employment domains, and individual services in the Proximity to Services, as separate indicators. It is considered that each of these domains consists of one indicator each, bringing the total to 30 indicators.

- Education, Skills and Training Deprivation Domain (15 per cent)
- Proximity to Services Domain (10 per cent)
- Living Environment Domain (5 per cent)
- Crime and Disorder Domain (5 per cent)

4.2 These domains are largely unchanged from those used in the two previous measures of spatial deprivation in Northern Ireland (i.e. NIMDM 2001 and NIMDM 2005)². The associated weights, which were subject to consultation and subsequently endorsed by the NI Executive, have not changed since NIMDM 2001 and were driven by theoretical considerations as well as the robustness of available data at that time.

5 SCOPE OF THE 2017 UPDATE

5.1 As previously outlined, NISRA has been commissioned by SCG to undertake an update of the current Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM 2010), with the aim of releasing the NIMDM 2017 results in mid-2017. Any significant revisions to the methodology are outside of the scope of this update.

5.2 While the seven domains that were used in 2010 will remain, the update will consider the appropriateness (or otherwise) of the current indicators that were incorporated within these domains and the datasets upon which they are based. Indicators must conform to the criteria outlined in Section 7 and will only be revised where there is a strong rationale (and supporting data) to support the revision. This update will also include a consideration of any urban/rural bias and the inclusion of any amendments as a result of considering the 36 recommendations that arose from the 2010 work.

² Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010: Domain Weight Analysis, NISRA, May 2011, http://www.nisra.gov.uk/deprivation/NIMDM2010/NIMDM_2010_domain_weight_analysis.pdf

6 OVERSIGHT OF THE UPDATE

- 6.1 The work to produce the updated measures is being managed under the leadership of NISRA's Director of Analysis and is being overseen by a formal Steering Group. Its wide membership includes representatives from Non-Departmental Public Bodies, the voluntary and community sector, District Councils, and each Government Department. The Steering Group is responsible for all key decisions associated with the update and will meet at key stages throughout the project on no fewer than four occasions. Details of the meetings are made publically available via the [Deprivation website](#).
- 6.2 The Steering group is being supported by seven Domain Expert Groups (i.e. Income & Employment, Health, Education, Living Environment, Crime and Disorder, Proximity to Services and Urban/ Rural considerations). Their role is to support the NISRA team in the methodological development work in terms of securing access to essential data, advancing the 36 recommendations that arose from the NIMDM 2010 work and bringing forward recommendations to the Steering Group.
- 6.3 The above approach, which follows that successfully taken with the 2010 update, has been integral to the production of this consultation document. It is expected that the wide and inclusive membership of both the Steering Group and the Domain Expert Groups will help ensure that the views of key stakeholders are actively considered and assessed for inclusion in the proposed methodology.
- 6.4 Annexes C and D outline the membership of the Steering Group and Domain Expert Groups respectively.

7 CRITERIA FOR INDICATORS

7.1 Each of the seven domains consists of one or more indicators that are considered to encapsulate that particular type of deprivation. In order to be considered for inclusion, each indicator should conform to the following six criteria:

- It should be specific to one of the seven domains of deprivation thus avoiding double counting and attaching undue weight to any particular indicator.
- It should represent major features of that form of deprivation rather than deprivation affecting a small number of people or particular types of area in Northern Ireland. This allows the degree of deprivation to be identified as opposed to a simple 'present/ not present' approach.
- It should be available for all of Northern Ireland, collected in a consistent form and be free from spatially bias characteristics.
- It should represent either direct measures or good proxies of that form of deprivation.
- It should be statistically robust at the small area level, facilitating the identification of 'pockets' of deprivation.
- It should be as up to date as possible.

7.2 These criteria – unchanged from NIMDM 2005 and NIMDM 2010 – have been applied to the indicators proposed in this consultation document and will be used to assess any alternative indicators that may be suggested during the consultation.

8 OVERVIEW OF CONSULTATION PROCESS

- 8.1 This document sets out the proposals for the updated Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM 2017). The consultation period will run from 21 November 2016 through to midnight on 15 January 2017.
- 8.2 Given the strategic importance of the update, all key stakeholders are actively encouraged to engage in the consultation so that their views might be considered.
- 8.3 The best way to respond to this consultation is [online](#), providing any comments that you may have on each of the consultation questions. If you wish to respond by email or on paper, please download the Consultation Questionnaire ([PDF version](#) or [MS Word version](#)) and, when completed, return it using the following contact details:

by email to: deprivation.nisra@finance-ni.gov.uk

or by post to: Deprivation
NISRA
McAuley House
2-14 Castle Street
Belfast
BT1 1SA

- 8.4 In order to support transparency in the decisions taken by the Project Steering Group, all responses to this consultation will be made public (subject to our [Moderation Policy](#)) on the [Deprivation web site](#). This will include the name of the responding organisation (if applicable). However, names of individuals will only be published if the individuals concerned have given their consent – contact details will not be published. It should be noted however, that any information provided in response to this consultation could be made publicly available if required under a Freedom of Information request.

- 8.5 The potential reach of the work will be further widened through the initiation of dedicated public information sessions, which include the following locations. All those planning to attend are asked to register [online](#) or using the contact details provided above.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>
Newry	Monday 28th November 2016
Limavady	Thursday 8th December 2016
Cookstown	Monday 12th December 2016
Enniskillen	Thursday 15th December 2016
Belfast	Monday 19th December 2016

- 8.6 After consideration of responses, the updated deprivation measures will be developed, with a final report currently planned for mid-2017. The report will be published on the [Deprivation webpage](#) and will also be available in hard copy format. Details of the geographical areas for which the results will be released have already been informed by a separate consultation exercise³.

- 8.7 Sections 9 through to 15 that follow constitute the main body of this consultation document. For ease of readership, a separate section has been included for each of the seven domains as follows:

- Income Deprivation Domain – **Section 9**
- Employment Deprivation Domain – **Section 10**
- Health Deprivation and Disability Domain – **Section 11**
- Education, Skills and Training Deprivation Domain – **Section 12**
- Access to Services Domain – **Section 13**
- Living Environment Domain – **Section 14**
- Crime and Disorder Domain – **Section 15**

³ Findings of the Consultation on Output Geography for the Updated Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM 2017): <http://www.nisra.gov.uk/deprivation/NIMDM17-GCF.pdf>

8.8 In terms of structure, each section will present:

- the indicator(s) that were included in that domain in NIMDM 2010;
- a review of the relevant domain specific recommendations that emerged from the NIMDM 2010 followed by a general discussion;
- the proposed indicator(s) for inclusion in the NIMDM 2017; and
- the main consultation questions for response.

8.9 Within certain Domains (Education, Skills and Training; Living Environment; Crime and Disorder), where there is a natural grouping of indicators, the indicators have been combined to form a sub-domain. In such instances, results will typically be released for the domain as a whole and for each of the sub-domains within it.

8.10 It is expected that the methodology for combining the various indicator and sub-domain data within domains will broadly mirror the approach taken in the 2010 update. This was tailored on a domain by domain basis in accordance with the nature of the indicator data that had to be combined, and is discussed in the Technical Annex of the [Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation 2010 Report](#).

Important Information before you respond

Before responding to this consultation, please take the time to carefully consider both the scope of the update (**Section 5**), and the criteria that proposed deprivation indicators must meet in order to be considered for inclusion (**Section 7**).

In addition, respondents should be mindful of the following important points of clarification, which equally apply to the current measures of deprivation (i.e. NIMDM 2010):

- NIMDM 2017 will provide an updated **area based** measure (i.e. spatial) of **relative** deprivation for small areas within NI. It will provide a mechanism for identifying areas in the order of most deprived to least deprived. As such, it will highlight which areas are more (or less) deprived than others, but not by how much. This will also be the case for each of the seven separate domain measures associated with the NIMDM 2017.
- NIMDM 2017 will be based on indicators that consider the aggregate characteristics of the people living in an area as well as, in some cases, the characteristics of the area itself.
- As NIMDM 2017 is an area based measure, it will not identify individuals who are multiply deprived; rather, it identifies areas where there are relative concentrations of several different types of deprivation.
- The NIMDM 2017 methodology recognises that there will be people who may be regarded as deprived but are living in areas which have been ranked as the least deprived. Similarly, it recognises that there will be people who may not be regarded as deprived but are living in areas which have been ranked as the most deprived.
- In developing the NIMDM 2017 and the seven associated separate domain measures, every effort will be made to capture the relevant indicator data at the lowest geographical level possible so that pockets of deprivation can be more readily identified.

- The NIMDM 2017 ranks do not give a measure of the amount of deprivation in an area. As such it does not allow for statements such as, “area A is twice as deprived as area B”. The ranks can however be used to say that “area A is more deprived than area B”. This is particularly important when trying to draw inferences from successive measures of deprivation over time (e.g. NIMDM 2010 and NIMDM 2017). Even though an area’s rank may have stayed the same between successive measures, the level of deprivation may have increased or decreased but just not enough to affect the comparison and relative ranking to other areas. Having said that, the analysis of the individual indicators does allow for such comparisons between areas over time provided the indicators are comparable.

9 INCOME DEPRIVATION DOMAIN

Purpose of the Domain

- 9.1 The purpose of the Income Deprivation Domain is to identify the proportion of the population on low income at the small area level.

Current Indicators included in NIMDM 2010

- 9.2 The Income Domain of the NIMDM 2010 comprised of one indicator, namely the proportion of the population living in households where at least one household member was in receipt of at least one of the following income related benefits:

Income Support

(2008/09 Source: DSD, now DfC)

State Pension Credit

(2008/09 Source: DSD, now DfC)

Income based Jobseeker's Allowance

(2008/09 Source: DSD, now DfC)

Income based Employment and Support Allowance

(2008/09 Source: DSD, now DfC)

Housing Benefit

(2008/09 Source: DSD, now DfC /LPS)

Working Tax Credit

(August 2008. Source: HMRC)

Child Tax Credit

(August 2008. Source: HMRC)

Consideration of the NIMDM 2010 Recommendations

- 9.3 There were three recommendations from the NIMDM 2010 update that related to the Income Deprivation Domain.

Recommendations 9a-c

- (a) Research should be carried out to create small area income deprivation estimates for Northern Ireland
- (b) Investigate alternative approaches, such as need based approaches, to the measurement of income deprivation at the small area level.
- (c) Research should be carried out to develop a model of small area take-up rates of all means tested benefits across Northern Ireland.

Domain Expert Group Response

These recommendations arose as a result of concerns regarding the NIMDM 2010 indicator being solely based on those in receipt of one of a number of benefits.

The Deprivation Team is currently working with colleagues in Department for Communities to source suitable information regarding household incomes. In the event of suitable information being available, it is proposed that the Income Domain consists of one indicator, namely, the proportion of the population living in households whose equivalised income is below 60 per cent of the NI median. If successful, these recommendations will be addressed through the inclusion of the proposed new household based income indicator.

Proposed Indicators for NIMDM 2017

- 9.4 The Deprivation Team is currently working with colleagues in Department for Communities to source suitable information regarding household incomes. In the event of suitable information being available, it is proposed that the Income Domain consists of one indicator, namely, the proportion of the population living in households whose equivalised income is below 60 per cent of the NI median. In the event that suitable information regarding household incomes cannot be sourced, the indicator would be based on that deployed in NIMDM 2010 (i.e. the proportion of the population living in households where at least one household member was in receipt of at least one of the income related benefits listed at paragraph 9.2 above).
- 9.5 Supporting information will be produced in respect of income deprivation affecting children (i.e. those aged 15 and under) and older people (i.e. those aged 65 and over) showing:
- the percentage of an SOA's population aged 15 and under living in the households identified above; and
 - the percentage of an SOA's population aged 65 and over living in the households identified above.

Consultees are invited to share their views on

- The Domain Expert Group response to the NIMDM 2010 recommendations.
- The proposed Income Deprivation Domain indicator for NIMDM 2017.

10 EMPLOYMENT DEPRIVATION DOMAIN

Purpose of the Domain

- 10.1 The purpose of the Employment Deprivation Domain is to identify the proportion of the working population excluded from work at the small area level.

Current Indicators included in NIMDM 2010

- 10.2 The Employment Deprivation Domain of the NIMDM 2010 comprised of one indicator, i.e. the proportion of the working age population (women aged 18-59 and men aged 18-64), who are in receipt of at least one of the following benefits:

Job Seeker's Allowance

(2008/09. Source: DSD, now DfC)

Incapacity Benefit

(2008/09. Source: DSD, now DfC)

Severe Disablement Allowance

(2008/09. Source: DSD, now DfC)

Carer's Allowance

(2008/09. Source: DSD, now DfC)

Employment and Support Allowance

(2008/09. Source: DSD, now DfC)

Steps to Work or New Deal Participants

(October 2008-March 2009. Source: DEL, now DfE)

Consideration of the NIMDM 2010 Recommendations

- 10.3 There were two recommendations from the NIMDM 2010 update that related to the Employment Deprivation Domain.

Recommendation 10a

Investigate 2011 Census as alternative for employment deprivation

Domain Expert Group Response

The 2011 Census specifically asked about economic activity during the 4 week period prior to Census day (27th March 2011) and, as such, was considered to be affected by seasonality. It is therefore proposed that 2011 Census data will not be used as an indicator for employment deprivation, but will be used as a comparator in the quality assurance of the Employment Deprivation Domain.

Recommendation 10b

Investigate alternatives to benefit data for information on hidden unemployment

Domain Expert Group Response

The Labour Force Survey and the Family Resources Survey are quarterly surveys and have achieved annual sample sizes of 2,500 and 1,900 respectively. Due to the relatively small sample sizes of both surveys, and subsequently the relatively small number of respondents who would be identified as out of work while not receiving benefits, it is considered that these surveys would not produce robust results at the small geographical area level.

The Deprivation Team is currently working with colleagues in Department for Communities to source suitable information that might be used to shed light on the spatial distribution/prevalence of hidden unemployment. If successful, this may provide some scope to address this recommendation.

Discussion

- 10.4 Steps 2 Success (S2S) was introduced in October 2014, replacing the Steps to Work (StW) programme. StW was included in the previous measures to capture those not claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), but who were actively seeking employment. However, 99 per cent of those who are in the current S2S Programme are claiming JSA and therefore will already be included in the domain. Therefore, S2S participants will not be included in this domain.
- 10.5 The eligibility age for working age benefits has changed in line with the pension age at the time of claim. This is reflected by assuming working age to be all persons aged 18-64.

Proposed Indicators for NIMDM 2017

- 10.6 It is proposed that the Employment Deprivation Domain consists of one indicator, namely, the proportion of the working age population (aged 18-64 for both males and females) who are in receipt of at least one of the selected benefits outlined below. In addition, the Deprivation Team is currently working with colleagues in Department for Communities to source suitable information that might be used to shed light on the spatial distribution/ prevalence of hidden unemployment. If available, this will be incorporated into the indicator.
- 10.7 The selected benefits are:
- Job Seeker's Allowance.
(2014/15. Source: DfC)
 - Incapacity Benefit.
(2014/15. Source: DfC)
 - Severe Disablement Allowance.
(2014/15. Source: DfC)
 - Carer's Allowance.
(2014/15. Source: DfC)
 - Employment and Support Allowance.
(2014/15. Source: DfC)

Consultees are invited to share their views on

- The Domain Expert Group response to the NIMDM 2010 recommendations.
- The proposed Employment Deprivation Domain indicator for NIMDM 2017.

11 HEALTH DEPRIVATION AND DISABILITY DOMAIN

Purpose of the Domain

- 11.1 The purpose of the Health Deprivation and Disability Domain is to identify rates of premature deaths, and proportions of the population's quality of life impaired by poor health or disability at the small area level.

Current Indicators included in NIMDM 2010

- 11.2 The Health Deprivation and Disability Domain of the NIMDM 2010 comprised of seven indicators, including a combined mental health indicator (previously labelled a sub-domain):

Potential Years of Life Lost

(2004 to 2008 Source: GRO)

Comparative Illness and Disability Ratio: Age and sex standardised benefit ratio⁴

(2008/09. Source: DSD, now DfC)

People registered as having cancer (excluding non-melanoma skin cancers)

(2003 to 2007. Source: Northern Ireland Cancer Registry)

Hospital Emergency Admission Rate

(2007/08. Source: DHSSPS, now DoH)

Low Birth Weight

(2004 to 2008. Source: Child Health System)

Children's Dental Extractions

(2006/07 to 2008/09. Source: BSO and DHSSPS, now DoH)

⁴ This ratio is based on a non-overlapping count of recipients of the following benefits: Income Support (in receipt of disability premium), State Pension Credit (disability premium), Attendance Allowance, Severe Disablement Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Incapacity Benefit and Employment and Support Allowance.

Health Deprivation and Disability Domain 210

Combined Mental Health indicator

Individuals suffering from mood and anxiety disorders, based on prescribing data
(2008/09. Source: BSO)

Suicides
(1999 to 2008 Source: GRO)

Mental health inpatient stays
(2003/04 to 2008/09. Source: DHSSPS, now DoH)

Consideration of the NIMDM 2010 Recommendations

There were six recommendations from the NIMDM 2010 update that related to the Health Deprivation and Disability Domain.

Recommendation 11a

Greater use of prescription data in the identification of health deprivation

Domain Expert Group Response

Prescription data have been used in the combined mental health indicator in both the 2005 and 2010 Deprivation Measures, including groups of medications that are exclusively prescribed for specific mental health conditions. The prevalence of other conditions may be approximated using this data source as well. During discussions with experts, it became apparent that prescriptions can be non-specific to conditions or used as a preventative measure. A more general approach was suggested that looked at all prescriptions rather than linking it to specific conditions. To reflect health deprivation, the emphasis was put on complex health needs (multiple prescriptions) for a prolonged period of time.

It is proposed that an indicator of '*the proportion of people with multiple prescriptions for a prolonged period*' should be included in the domain as an indication of people with complex health needs. Those prescriptions that are already reflected in the combined mental health indicator and those of associated with people who reside in care homes are recommended for exclusion.

Health Deprivation and Disability Domain

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Recommendation 11b

Investigations into data recorded for the Quality Outcomes Framework

Domain Expert Group Response

The quality outcomes framework information is not readily available for analysis at a low level geographical area. As such, it is not possible to incorporate this indicator into the measure of spatial deprivation at this time.

Recommendation 11c

Review potential years of life lost (PYLL) indicator

Domain Expert Group Response

The standard method of measuring PYLL – used in the previous NIMDMs – is to consider deaths under the age of 75 and the years of life lost from the age of death to 75. The recommendation was to look at the possibility to use a different cut-off, or use the NI-level age/sex-specific life expectancy at time of death to work out how many years were lost. Research shows that the alternative measures of potential years of life lost return similar results and, as such, there is no strong evidence to replace PYLL.

The recently published draft Programme for Government⁵ includes a measure of preventable deaths. It states that 'a death is preventable if, in the light of understanding of the determinants of health at the time of death, all or most deaths from that cause (subject to age limits if appropriate) could be avoided by public health interventions in the broadest sense'. Preventable deaths are a subsection of all deaths, and therefore can be used to create standardized rates to allow for different demographic profiles of small geographical areas. The Health Domain Expert Group recommended using the Potential Years of Life Lost in conjunction with a standardized preventable death rate.

⁵ <https://www.northernireland.gov.uk/sites/default/files/consultations/newnigov/draft-pfg-framework-2016-21.pdf>

Health Deprivation and Disability Domain 212

Recommendation 11d

Review of Hospital Emergency Admissions indicator

Domain Expert Group Response

Research for NIMDM 2010 carried out by the Department for Health indicated that there was a small, negative correlation between rural-related variables and emergency admission rates. Modelling standardised emergency admission rates whilst controlling for health need showed that although there was no discriminatory rural effect⁶ there was a small but significant distance to Accident and Emergency hospital effect (i.e. people from rural areas who presented with the same condition were more likely to be admitted than those from urban areas). This effect disappeared completely when admissions with a length of stay of three nights or fewer were removed. Therefore an age and sex standardised emergency admission rate (for emergency admissions with length of stay of four nights or more) was included to remove the potential for urban/ rural bias in the indicator.

Analysis recently carried out by the Department of Health suggests that the direction of the potential bias has since changed, with people from urban areas now appearing to have higher admission rates than those from rural areas. It is therefore proposed that the indicator continues to be based on emergency admissions with length of stay of four nights or more to remove the potential for urban/ rural bias in the indicator. It was also felt that this criterion would help capture the severity of the condition that gave rise to the emergency admission.

Recommendation 11e

Inclusion of community dentist data in dental extraction indicators

Domain Expert Group Response

Information on community dental extractions is not currently available at a level below Health and Social Care Trust. As such, it is not possible to incorporate this indicator into the measure of spatial deprivation at this time.

⁶ As measured by population density or urban-rural definition as per Report of the Inter-Departmental Urban-Rural Definition Group (2005), Statistical Classification and Delineation of settlements, NISRA, Annex C, p.23

Health Deprivation and Disability Domain 213

Recommendation 11f

Research into the improved measurement of disability for small areas

Domain Expert Group Response

The 2010 measure of disability in the Health Deprivation and Disability Domain was based on the proportion of the population in an area who were in receipt of disability related benefits. The 2011 Census captured information on the prevalence of a range of disabilities including deafness, blindness, mobility and learning difficulties. It is recommended that an additional indicator that utilises this information is included.

Discussion

- 11.3 In addition to the above, the domain expert group suggested that benefits received specifically for mental health reasons should be taken out of the Comparative Illness and Disability Ratio and added to the combined mental health indicator.
- 11.4 The domain expert group also recommended using all psychotropic medication in the combined mental health indicator, by adding hypnotics, barbiturates and antipsychotics. It was also recommended to include only those medications prescribed for a prolonged period, in order to rule out transient episodes.
- 11.5 NIMDM 2010 measured Low Birth Weight as the proportion of all births that were regarded as low birth weight, where low birth weight was defined as a birth weight of less than 2.5 kilograms. It is proposed that this indicator is included again. It is also included in the Programme for Government as an indicator and in line with that definition, it is proposed that multiple births (which naturally tend to be of lower weight) are excluded.

Proposed Indicators for NIMDM 2017

- 11.6 It is proposed that the Health Deprivation and Disability Domain consists of 11 indicators, including one combined mental health indicator, as detailed below:

Health Deprivation and Disability Domain 214

Standardised Potential Years of Life Lost

(2012 to 2016 Source: GRO)

Standardized preventable death rate

(2012 to 2016 Source: GRO)

Standardised physical health-related benefit ratio⁷ (formerly Comparative Illness and Disability Ratio)

(2015/16. Source: DfC)

People registered as having cancer (excluding non-melanoma skin cancers)

(2011 to 2015. Source: Northern Ireland Cancer Registry)

Standardised emergency admission rate

(2015/16. Source: DoH)

Proportion of Singleton Births with Low Birth Weight

(2012 to 2016. Source: Child Health System)

Children's Dental Extractions

(2013/14 to 2015/16. Source: BSO and DoH)

Standardised Proportion of people on multiple prescriptions on a regular basis

(2015/16. Source: BSO)

Standardised proportion of people with a long-term health problem or disability

(2011. Source: Census)

Standardised drug or alcohol related deaths

(2009-13. Source: DoH)

Combined Mental Health Indicator

Proportion of population in receipt of prescriptions for mood and anxiety disorders

(2015/16. Source: BSO)

Standardized suicide rate

(2007 to 2016 Source: GRO)

Standardised rate of mental health inpatient stays

(2011/12 to 2015/16. Source: DoH)

Standardised mental health related benefit ratio

(2015/16. Source: DfC)

⁷ This ratio is based on a non-overlapping count of recipients of the following benefits: Income Support (in receipt of disability premium), State Pension Credit (disability premium), Attendance Allowance, Severe Disablement Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Incapacity Benefit and Employment and Support Allowance.

Health Deprivation and Disability Domain

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Consultees are invited to share their views on

- The Domain Expert Group response to the NIMDM 2010 recommendations.
- The proposed Health Deprivation and Disability Domain indicators for NIMDM 2017.

Education, Skills and Training Deprivation Domain **216**

12 EDUCATION, SKILLS AND TRAINING DEPRIVATION DOMAIN

Purpose of the Domain

- 12.1 The purpose of the Education, Skills and Training Deprivation Domain is to identify the prevalence of poor educational outcomes for children and low levels of qualifications for working age adults at the small area level.

Current Indicators included in NIMDM 2010

- 12.2 The Education, Skills and Training Deprivation Domain of the NIMDM 2010 comprised of ten indicators, grouped into three sub-domains:

Sub-Domain: Primary School

Key Stage 2 Teacher Assessments for English and Maths (and Irish in Irish medium schools/units)

(2006/07 to 2007/08 Source: DE)

Proportions of pupils attending Special Educational Needs Schools or attending primary school with Special Education Needs Stages 3-5

(2006/07 to 2007/08 Source: School Census, DE)

Absenteeism at Primary Schools (all absences)

(2006/07 to 2007/08 Source: DE)

Sub-Domain: Post Primary

Key Stage 3 Teacher Assessments for English and Maths (and Irish in Irish medium schools/units)

(2006/07 to 2007/08 Source: DE)

GCSE or equivalent qualifications points score

(2005/06 to 2007/08 Source: School Leavers Survey, DE)

Proportions of those leaving school aged 16, 17 and 18 and not entering Further Education, Higher Education, Employment or Training

(2003/04 to 2007/08 Source: School Leavers Survey, DE)

Education, Skills and Training Deprivation Domain 217

Proportions of 18-21 year olds who have not enrolled in Higher Education Courses at Higher Education or Further Education establishments
(2004/05 to 2007/08 Source: HESA and FESR, DEL)

Proportions of pupils attending Special Education Needs Schools or who are attending post-primary school with Special Education Needs Stages 3-5
(2006/07 to 2007/08 Source: School Census, DE)

Absenteeism at post primary Schools (all absences)
(2006/07 to 2007/08 Source: DE)

Sub-Domain: Working Age Adults

Proportions of working age adults (25-59) with no or low levels of qualification
(2001 Census Source: NISRA)

Consideration of the NIMDM 2010 Recommendations

- 12.3 There were six recommendations from the NIMDM 2010 update that related to the Education, Skills and Training Deprivation Domain.

Recommendation 12a

Investigation into the inclusion of attainment data for young children

Domain Expert Group Response

It was recommended that research would be undertaken into the viability of a small area Key Stage 1 indicator to measure attainment of pupils in the first years of Primary School. However, the provision of Key Stage 1 data has been impacted by industrial action resulting in a limited number of returns being made to CCEA since 2013/14. In 2014/15, the coverage was 17% of P4 pupils and early estimates from CCEA for 2015/16 Key Stage 1 data suggest coverage of around 25%. These levels of coverage are not considered sufficient to support the robust small area analyses required for NIMDM 2017.

Education, Skills and Training Deprivation Domain 218

Recommendation 12b

Modification of attainment at GCSE level, focus on English/Mathematics

Domain Expert Group Response

As in the Education, Skills and Training Deprivation Domain 2010, the School Leavers Survey will be used to provide information on GSCE attainment. The indicator has been updated from '*GCSE and equivalent point scores*' to the '*proportion of school leavers achieving 5 or more GCSEs at A*-C (and equivalent) including GCSE English and Maths*'. This is used in the Programme for Government.

Recommendation 12c

Future Key Stage 2 attainment indicators based on pupil results

Domain Expert Group Response

Previously information on Key Stage 2 attainment was collected at the school level and applied to areas based on the school each pupil attended. Changes were introduced to secure such assessments at individual pupil level thus improving their utility. However, as the provision of Key Stage 2 data has similarly been impacted by industrial action, it is not considered to be sufficiently robust for the small area analysis required for NIMDM 2017.

Recommendation 12d

Consideration of the measurement of special education needs (SEN)

Domain Expert Group Response

In terms of the SEN stages, 1 and 2 are school level while stage 3 is where the Education Authority (formerly ELBs) becomes involved in the process. There may be some anecdotal evidence to suggest that there can be variation in recording of SEN stages 1 and 2 at individual school level but these levels are not currently included in MDM and therefore cannot influence these figures.

Education, Skills and Training Deprivation Domain 219

Recommendation 12e

Development of Year Group Snapshots for school leavers

Domain Expert Group Response

The Department of Education has recently begun developing a database to allow a snapshot to be provided. However, as it will not be available in time for inclusion in this update, it is recommended that the deprivation team continues to use three years of School Leavers Survey data.

Recommendation 12f

Adult literacy and numeracy measures

Domain Expert Group Response

This recommendation concerned considering alternatives to using data from the Census for calculating Education, Skills and Training deprivation in working age adults. The Labour Force Survey was investigated as an alternative as it collects information on the working age adults with no qualifications. However, due to the sample size of the survey it would not be possible to model the results robustly to the small area level required for NIMDM 2017. The upper limit of working age has been changed from 59 to 64, to reflect changes in pensionable age.

Discussion

- 12.4 The provision (and hence coverage) of Key Stage data has been impacted by industrial action resulting in a limited number of returns being made to CCEA since 2013/14. The levels of coverage are unfortunately not considered sufficient to support the robust small area analyses required for NIMDM 2017. Accordingly, it is proposed that the indicators relating to Key Stage 2 and 3 attainment are removed.

Education, Skills and Training Deprivation Domain 220

Proposed Indicators for NIMDM 2017

- 12.5 It is proposed that the Education, Skills and Training Deprivation Domain consists of eight indicators grouped in three sub-domains:

Sub-Domain: Primary School

Proportions of pupils attending Special Schools or attending primary school with Special Education Needs Stages 3-5

(2014/15 to 2015/16 Source: School Census, DE)

Absenteeism at Primary Schools

(2014/15 to 2015/16 Source: DE)

Sub-Domain: Post-Primary

Proportions of school leavers achieving 5 or more GCSEs at A*-C (and equivalent) inc GCSE English and maths

(2013/14 to 2015/16. Source: School Leavers Survey, DE)

Proportions of those leaving school aged 16, 17 and 18 and not entering Further Education, Employment or Training

(2013/14 to 2014/15 Source: School Leavers Survey, DE)

Proportions of 18-21 year olds who have enrolled in Higher Education Courses at Higher Education or Further Education establishments

(2012/13 to 2015/16 Source: HESA and FESR, DfE)

Proportions of pupils attending Special Schools or who are attending post-primary schools with Special Education Needs Stages 3-5

(2014/15 to 2015/16 Source: School Census, DE)

Absenteeism at post-primary schools

(2014/15 to 2015/16 Source: DE)

Sub-Domain: Working Age Adults

Proportions of working age adults (25-64) with no or low levels of qualification

(2011 Census Source: NISRA)

Education, Skills and Training Deprivation Domain

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Consultees are invited to share their views on

- The Domain Expert Group response to the NIMDM 2010 recommendations.
- The proposed indicators for NIMDM 2017 Education, Skills and Training Deprivation Domain.

13 ACCESS TO SERVICES DOMAIN

Purpose of the Domain

- 13.1 The purpose of the Access to Services Domain – formally known as the Proximity to Services Domain – is to measure the extent to which people have poor physical and online access to key services at the small area level.

Current Indicators included in NIMDM 2010

- 13.2 The Proximity to Services Domain of the NIMDM 2010 comprised of one indicator, namely the service-weighted fastest car travel time to the following services:

Accident and Emergency hospital (2009 Source: DHSSPS, now DoH)	GP premises (2009 Source: BSO)
Job Centre or Jobs and Benefits Office (2008 Source: DEL, now DfE)	Dentists (2009. Source: BSO)
Post Office (2008 Source: Post Office Ltd)	Pharmacists (2009. Source: BSO)
Supermarket / Food Store (2007 Source: Experian)	Opticians (2009. Source BSO)
Council Leisure Centre (2009 Source: DCAL, now DfC)	Large Service Centre (2009 Source: DSD, now DfC)
Financial Services (2007 Source: Experian, Credit Union Register)	Other general services (2007 Source: Experian)

Consideration of the NIMDM 2010 Recommendations

- 13.3 There were four recommendations from the NIMDM 2010 update that related to the Proximity to Services Domain.

Recommendation 13a

Access to Services

Domain Expert Group Response

Several issues relating to access of services were raised during the consultation for the 2010 NIMDM. These included hospital waiting lists, problems faced by elderly or disabled, cost of services, cross-community movement, public transport provision and traffic congestion. The latter two issues have been addressed by including public transport travel times and updated private travel times.

It is recognised that there may be barriers to cross-community movement. Peace lines are visual examples of these, but there are also invisible geographical barriers, including in rural areas. It is difficult to measure the existence and impact of such barriers, which (while important) affect relatively small number of areas in Northern Ireland. The domain expert group was unable to identify a suitable indicator to measure barriers to cross-community movement, and, accordingly, have recommended that it is not included as a proposed indicator in this domain.

Hospital waiting lists are a very topical issue. Recent figures⁸ show that there is a variation in waiting times between Health Trusts and specialty. However, there is no evidence that within a Trust, the home address of a patient will have any effect on the waiting times. Therefore, whilst recognising that waiting times are of concern to people, the domain expert group did not consider that waiting list times accorded with the criteria for inclusion.

It was also recommended that the problems faced by the elderly or people with a disability are taken into consideration. Issues such as lack of mobility will be addressed to a degree through the inclusion of public transport times to services. Other issues relating to the elderly and people with poor health or disability will already be addressed in the Health Deprivation and Disability Domain.

The expert group also discussed the name of this domain. Deprivation measures in Wales and Scotland refer to 'Access to Services', even though they include similar indicators (and services) around travel times as the NIMDM 2010. It is proposed to change the name to 'Access to Services'.

⁸ <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/hs-ni-wts-inpatient-waiting-times-q1-16-17.pdf>

Recommendation 13b

Additional Services

Domain Expert Group Response

A recommendation in the 2010 report was to gather data on the locations of other services over and above those already included, such as: child care facilities, libraries, internet and schools. It is recommended that libraries, primary schools and post-primary schools are included among the services in this domain. An indicator relating to access to internet broadband was considered to fit better in the 'Living Environment Domain'.

There are around 3,500 registered child care providers in Northern Ireland (including child minders, crèches and day nurseries) serving the 890 Super Output Areas and 4,537 Small Areas in Northern Ireland. Geographical analysis suggests that just under half of Small Areas and over 90 per cent of Super Output Areas contain at least one registered child care provider. Additional provision will of course be available via those family members/ friends (not all of whom may be registered) who elect to assist in the provision of such care. In view of (a) the widespread availability of childcare provision and (b) the fact that information is not available for those providing child care who are not registered, it is recommended that child care facilities are not included in this domain.

Recommendation 13c and 13d

(c) The inclusion of public transport travel times and (d) the weighting assigned to car and public transport travel times.

Domain Expert Group Response

It is recommended that public transport travel times should be included in NIMDM 2017 as clearly not every journey is made by car. The original recommendation stated that weights of public and private travel times should be based on area-specific rates of car ownership. However, this differs from the approach used in both Scotland and Wales, where constant weights are used for all areas. In addition, car ownership rates may reflect the availability of public transport, but could also be associated with, for example, income/ employment and (physical) health. As such, the risk of urban/rural bias of using area-specific car ownership rates, as well as the potential interaction with the income, employment and health domains, means that we recommend using constant weights for public transport and car travel times.

Discussion

- 13.4 The domain expert group recognised that there will be other issues which affect a person's ability and/or personal choice to use a particular service other than location. For example, the nearest shop may be more expensive or there may simply be a preference to use one that is slightly further away. Such issues are particularly relevant when looking at post-primary schools, with acceptance criteria and different school types to be considered. While an important phenomenon, the domain expert group was unable to identify a suitable indicator to measure this element of personal preference. The group has however recommended the inclusion of public transport times and expanded the range of services included, both of which will strengthen this domain.
- 13.5 The NIMDM2010 recommended that the inclusion of an indicator relating to availability of quality Broadband would add another dimension to the measurement of living environment. However, expert groups and the Steering Group felt that it would be better placed in the Access to Services Domain.

Proposed Indicators for NIMDM 2017

- 13.6 It is proposed that the Access to Services Domain consists of three indicators:

Service-weighted fastest travel time by private transport
(2016; Source: DfI)

Service-weighted fastest travel time by public transport
(2016; Source: DfI)

Proportion of properties with broadband speed below 10Mbps
(2015, Source: OfCOM)

- 13.7 The proposed services to be included in the public and private transport travel time indicators are as follows:

Accident and Emergency hospital
(2016 Source: DoH)

Job Centre or Jobs and Benefits Office
(2016 Source: DfE)

Post Office
(2016 Source: Post Office Ltd)

Supermarket / Food Store
(2016 Source: IBDR)

Primary Schools
(2016 Source: DfE)

Post-Primary Schools
(2016 Source: DfE)

Council Leisure Centre
(2016 Source: DfC)

Financial Services
(2016 Source: IBDR)

GP premises
(2016 Source: BSO)

Dentists
(2016. Source: BSO)

Pharmacists
(2016. Source: BSO)

Opticians
(2016. Source BSO)

Libraries
(2016 Source: DfC)

Large Service Centre
(2016 Source: DfC)

Other general services
(2016 Source: IBDR)

Consultees are invited to share their views on

- The Domain Expert Group response to the NIMDM 2010 recommendations.
- The proposed Access to Services Domain indicators for NIMDM 2017.
- Whether this domain should be renamed from 'Proximity to Services' to 'Access to Services'.

14 LIVING ENVIRONMENT DOMAIN

Purpose of the Domain

- 14.1 The purpose of the Living Environment Domain is to identify, at the small area level, the prevalence of shortcomings in the quality of housing, access to suitable housing, and the outdoor physical environment.

Current Indicators included in NIMDM 2010

- 14.2 The Living Environment Domain of the NIMDM 2010 comprised of four indicators, grouped into three sub-domains:

Sub-Domain: Housing quality

Decent Homes Standard

(2006 Source: NIHE, modelled NI House Conditions Survey)

Housing Health and Safety Rating System

(2006 Source: NIHE, modelled NI House Conditions Survey)

Sub-Domain: Housing Access

Homelessness Acceptances under the homelessness provisions of the Housing (Northern Ireland) Order 1988 and the Housing (Northern Ireland) Order 2003

(2005/06 to 2007/08 Source: NIHE)

Sub-Domain: Outdoor physical environment

Local Area Problem Score

(2006 Source: NIHE, NI House Conditions Survey)

Consideration of the NIMDM 2010 Recommendations

- 14.3 There were seven recommendations from the NIMDM 2010 update that related to the Living Environment Domain.

Recommendation 14a

Homeless information

Domain Expert Group Response

In line with the NIMDM 2010 recommendations the quality of the geographical coding of homeless data has been investigated. The NI Housing Executive has advised that it is unable to provide comprehensive data on the actual last permanent address of homeless applicants. Data on homeless presentations are reported by location of presentation (local office) rather than previous address for a number of reasons:

- It allows for adequate service planning in locations where the services are required;
- Many homeless clients will be of no fixed abode; and
- Many have been transient for a long time, or may have come from outside Northern Ireland.

This means that any report on previous address would be patchy and would not give a good basis for service planning. It is therefore proposed that the Living Environment Domain no longer includes an indicator on homelessness acceptances.

Recommendation 14b

Accidents in the home

Domain Expert Group Response

Following the NIMDM 2010 recommendations the potential for a home accidents indicator was also investigated. A delay in the development of a Home Accident Prevention Strategy has meant that there are no data available on accidents in the home at this time. The domain expert group was unable to identify any available indicator data in respect of accidents in the home that could be used.

Recommendation 14c

Additional Indicators regarding litter, broadband, vacant properties, quality of open space, interface areas and perception of safety for a fuller measurement of the physical environment.

Domain Expert Group Response

A number of potential indicators were investigated. While noise pollution and fly tipping are collected by local Councils, there is currently a lack of consistency in terms of both the collection and reporting of the data. Also, information collected by the former 26 Councils prior to the creation of the new 11 Councils in May 2015 can not readily be disaggregated for the new council areas. As such, appropriate indicator data are not currently available.

The number of vacant buildings in an area was suggested for consideration following NIMDM 2010. Since the Rating of Empty Homes policy changed in Oct 2010 ratepayers do not have to inform LPS when a dwelling is vacant, with the result that data relating to vacant domestic properties do not meet the indicator criteria for inclusion.

In terms of interface areas, the domain expert group felt that while such areas exist in both urban and rural areas, there was a lack of uniformity in terms of the availability of comparable information. The group felt that information regarding urban areas, for example in terms of peace walls, was more readily available for urban areas and hence had the potential for bias. Accordingly, the domain expert group did not consider that a suitable indicator could be developed.

An indicator on broadband is proposed for the Access to Services Domain.

A further suggestion by the domain expert group was the inclusion of an indicator on flood risk. Maps of such risk from rivers, tidal, and surface water are published by the Rivers Agency⁹. These maps can be used to estimate the proportion of the population that live either in or near flood risk areas for inclusion as an indicator.

⁹ See <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/articles/what-flood-maps-ni>.

Recommendation 14d

Suitability of houses for the Disabled

Domain Expert Group Response

The 2011 Census collected information on both the health conditions of the usual residents, as well as adaptations of domestic properties for conditions such as wheelchair usage, other physical or mobility difficulties, visual difficulties, hearing difficulties and a variety of others. It is therefore possible to identify the unmet need of those whose accommodation has not been adapted for their conditions. The proportion of people whose accommodation has not been adapted for their condition is proposed as a new indicator for the Housing Access Sub-Domain.

Recommendation 14e

Measurement of Energy Efficiency

Domain Expert Group Response

The NIMDM 2005 included a measure of central heating as a measure of housing quality. A suitable up to date small area measure of central heating did not exist at the time of the calculation of the NIMDM 2010.

It is proposed that the NI Housing Conditions Survey is used to create a measure of energy efficiency. The proposed indicator is the modelled proportion of properties with either (1) no loft insulation and single glazing or (2) no central heating or a boiler that is more than 15 years old.

Energy Performance Certificates were suggested in NIMDM 2010 as a potential source of data. However, these are only required when a property is being sold or put on the rental market and, as such, will not be available for the sizeable proportion of the population that has lived at the same address for a long period of time. Due to the likely coverage and risk of bias in the data, the domain expert group did not consider that a suitable indicator could be derived from energy performance certificates.

Recommendation 14f

Road Quality

Domain Expert Group Response

Following on from the NIMDM2010, road quality was considered for inclusion in this domain and data relating to road surface defects have improved since the last update. To get a fuller picture of deprivation resulting from Road Quality it is proposed that information on both Road Surface defects and Road Traffic Collisions is utilised in the domain.

Recommendation 14g

Measurement of Overcrowding

Domain Expert Group Response

Household overcrowding remains an important issue and it is therefore proposed that an indicator is added using data taken from the 2011 Census.

Discussion

- 14.4 Due to timing issues, data relating to the Decent Home Standard and the Housing Health and Safety Rating Standard which were previously incorporated in NIMDM 2010 are not available in time for this update. It is proposed that raw responses from the Housing Conditions Survey are modelled and applied to the Land and Property database to develop indicators, representing the proportion of domestic dwellings that are 'unfit' or 'in a state of disrepair'. The domain expert group was content that, in the circumstances, this alternative approach would help to address the information gap.
- 14.5 The Outdoor Environment Sub-Domain will also be taken from the House Conditions Survey, based on the Local Area Problem Score and the visual quality of the area. Problems to be included are presence of litter and rubbish; graffiti; vandalism; dog fouling; scruffy or neglected gardens; scruffy or neglected buildings; and vacant or boarded-up buildings.

Proposed Indicators for NIMDM 2017

- 14.6 It is proposed that the Living Environment Domain consists of nine indicators, grouped into three sub-domains:

Sub-Domain: Housing quality

Proportion of domestic dwellings that are unfit

(2016 Source: NIHE, modelled NI House Conditions Survey)

Proportion of domestic dwellings in a state of disrepair

(2016 Source: NIHE, modelled NI House Conditions Survey)

Proportion of domestic dwellings without (1) modern boiler, or (2) loft insulation and double glazing.

(2016 Source: NIHE, modelled NI House Conditions Survey)

Sub-Domain: Housing Access

Household overcrowding

(2011. Source: 2011 Census)

Proportion of population with disability without adaptations to dwelling

(2011. Source: 2011 Census)

Sub-Domain: Outdoor physical environment

Proportion of domestic dwellings with Local Area Problem Scores

(2016 Source: NIHE, modelled NI House Conditions Survey)

Standardised rate of road defects

(2014/15 and 2015/16 Source: DfI)

Road Traffic Collisions

(2006-15; Source: PSNI)

Flood risk: proportion of properties in flood risk area

(2013; Source: Rivers Agency)

Consultees are invited to share their views on

- The Domain Expert Group response to the NIMDM 2010 recommendations.
- The proposed Living Environment Domain indicators for NIMDM 2017.

16 CRIME AND DISORDER DOMAIN

Purpose of the Domain

- 16.1 The purpose of the Crime and Disorder Domain is to identify the rate of crime and disorder at the small area level.

Current Indicators included in NIMDM 2010

- 16.2 The Crime and Disorder Domain of the NIMDM 2010 comprised of six indicators, grouped into two sub-domains:

Sub-Domain: Crime

Violence, robbery and public order
(2004/05 to 2008/09 Source PSNI)

Burglary
(2004/05 to 2008/09 Source PSNI)

Vehicle Theft
(2004/05 to 2008/09 Source PSNI)

Criminal Damage (inc. arson)
(2004/05 to 2008/09 Source PSNI)

Sub-Domain: Disorder

Deliberate Primary and Secondary Fires
(2004/05 to 2008/09 Source: NIFRS)

Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents
(2006/07 to 2008/09 Source: PSNI)

Consideration of the NIMDM 2010 Recommendations

- 16.3 There were four recommendations from the NIMDM 2010 update that related to the Crime and Disorder Domain.

Recommendation 15a

Variation in reporting rates

Domain Expert Group Response

Police recorded crimes are a sub-section of all crimes. The Northern Ireland Crime Survey¹⁰ shows that in 2014/15, 47 per cent of non-fatal crimes against private households and their adult occupants were reported to the police. This varied from 26 per cent for vehicle vandalism to 61 per cent of (attempted) vehicle theft. The main reason for not reporting was the crime was too trivial, there was no loss, or that police would not/could not do anything.

The domain expert group concluded that the evidence in respect of the relationship between deprivation and reporting rates was inconclusive.

Recommendation 15b

Measurement of Domestic Violence

Domain Expert Group Response

Similar to hate crimes, domestic violence will already be included in the other crime indicators and therefore will not be included as a separate indicator. The recommendation specifically refers to data other than police reported crime. The domain expert group were not aware of other data sources that could meet the indicator criteria for inclusion in particular the consistent collection across Northern Ireland and the provision of robust figures for small geographical areas.

¹⁰ <https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/articles/northern-ireland-crime-survey>

Recommendation 15c

Hate Crimes Indicator

Domain Expert Group Response

Hate Crimes can include threatening behaviour, assault, criminal damage and harassment. Some of these would already be captured by the current indicators of police recorded crimes. It is recognised that not all crimes will be reported, and that some information is collected by other voluntary organisations. Therefore, hate crimes are not proposed as an additional indicator in the Crime and Disorder Domain.

Recommendation 15d

Additional Community Safety indicators

Domain Expert Group Response

Other community safety indicators such as noise complaints are dealt with by Local Councils. It was felt that such indicators would fit better in the 'Living Environment Domain' – see discussion in recommendation 14g regarding noise pollution.

Discussion

- 16.4 Since the NIMDM 2010, the Police Service for Northern Ireland has changed the categorisation of crimes to align with those used in England and Wales¹¹. It is expected that the impact of this change was minimal for the purpose of the Crime and Disorder Domain.

¹¹ See <https://www.psni.police.uk/globalassets/inside-the-psni/our-statistics/police-recorded-crime-statistics/documents/crime-user-guide.pdf#page=12> and <https://www.psni.police.uk/inside-psni/Statistics/police-recorded-crime-statistics/official-statistics/>

Proposed Indicators for NIMDM 2017

- 16.5 It is proposed that the Crime and Disorder Domain will consist of six indicators, grouped into two sub-domains:

Sub-Domain: Crime

Violence, (sexual offences), robbery and public order
(2011/12 to 2015/16, Source PSNI)

Burglary
(2011/12 to 2015/16, Source PSNI)

Vehicle Crime
(2011/12 to 2015/16, Source PSNI)

Criminal Damage and Arson
(2011/12 to 2015/16, Source PSNI)

Sub-Domain: Disorder

Deliberate Primary and Secondary Fires
(2011/12 to 2015/16, Source: NIFRS)

Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents
(2011/12 to 2015/16, Source: PSNI)

Consultees are invited to share their views on

- The Domain Expert Group response to the NIMDM 2010 recommendations.
- The proposed Crime and Disorder Domain indicators for NIMDM 2017.

17 OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

- 17.1 There were a further six recommendations from the NIMDM 2010 that were not specific to a domain. This section will discuss the progress towards these recommendations.

Recommendation 16a

Alternative Methodological Approaches

Progress

The NIMDM 2001, 2005 and 2010 were based on the 'domain' methodology developed by a team led by Professor Mike Noble in the Social Disadvantage Research Centre, University of Oxford. This methodology, which will again be deployed in the NIMDM 2017 work, continues to align with that utilised in England, Wales and Scotland where similar updates have recently been conducted.

A full methodological review (which would have taken considerably longer and cost considerably more) was ruled out of scope by SCG which commissioned NISRA to undertake this update. A number of important proposals (reflected throughout this document) have however been recommended by the various domain expert groups facilitating the update, which it is believed will enhance the updated measures.

As identified in the user engagement strategy, NISRA will use the dissemination phase of the project to inform users of the advantages and limitations of the Multiple Deprivation Measure. To this end, the consultation will gather information on how the various key stakeholders are using the deprivation measures. This will facilitate the production of results that are fit for purpose, and will assist with the formulation of appropriate guidance and training sessions.

Recommendation 16b

Additional Domains

Progress

This recommendation specifically mentions incorporating population decline as a new domain. Over the period 2001-2008, the population declined in the most deprived decile, while population increases occurred in all other deciles according to the 2010 Measure. The recommendation was to investigate whether population decline is a measure of deprivation, or a result of deprivation.

Work will be undertaken, in conjunction with NISRA's population estimates team, to explore the potential association between population decline and deprivation. The work will feed into the development of the final NIMDM 2017 methodology that will be considered and ratified by the Steering Group.

Recommendation 16c

Child Specific Multiple Deprivation Measure

Progress

The current 2010 Measure provides an indicator of the proportion of children living in low income households, closely tied to the Income Deprivation Domain. By incorporating evidence from other domains, this indicator could be expanded into a separate child specific multiple deprivation measure. Some of the proposed indicators are already specific to children, for example, low birth weight and dental extractions from the Health Deprivation and Disability Domain, and most of the indicators in the Education, Skills and Training Deprivation Domain. Other indicators can be disaggregated by age, some may not (directly) affect children, such as the proximity to a Jobs and Benefit Office. Against this background, the Deprivation team will consider the feasibility of developing a child specific multiple deprivation measure once the data have been processed.

Recommendation 16d

Urban-Rural Deprivation

Progress

This recommendation stated that further research should be undertaken into the identification of rural deprivation, giving consideration to the geographical unit of analysis and suitability of indicators employed. User guidance¹² on current and previous Measures suggests using the official urban-rural definition to identify rural areas, and to focus on the Measures for the former Census Output Areas to identify pockets of deprivation. Urban-rural considerations have been integral to the work of each of expert groups who have been facilitating the update and a dedicated urban-rural group was established to have oversight of the proposals brought forward by each of the six domain expert groups. In addition, steps were taken to ensure that the Steering Group included members representing rural communities. It is expected that the update will include a number of improvements that will address known rural concerns.

Recommendation 16e

Time trend indicator data

Progress

The NIMDM is a relative measure of spatial deprivation. As already outlined in Section 8, it is not possible to ascertain whether deprivation in an area has increased, decreased or remained the same from the change in rank. Data for key indicators could however shed light on absolute changes in area based deprivation. Following the main publication in mid-2017, NISRA will (subject to available resourcing) set out plans to publish updated figures for key indicators on a more frequent basis.

¹² http://www.nisra.gov.uk/deprivation/NIMDM2010/using_area_based_measures.pdf#page=6

Recommendation 16f

Review of Domain Weights

Progress

The weights used when combining the individual domains of deprivation into the overall multiple deprivation measure were identical in the 2001, 2005 and 2010 Measures: Income and Employment (25 per cent each), Health and Education (15 per cent each), Proximity to Services (10 per cent), and Living Environment and Crime & Disorder (5 per cent each).

This consultation will however invite consultees to share their views on the appropriateness (or otherwise) of continuing to use these weights in NIMDM 2017.

Consultees are invited to share their views on

- The responses to the 'Other' NIMDM 2010 recommendations highlighted in this section.
- Whether the current Domain Weights (see Section 4 and Annex A for detail) still reflect current priorities.
- How they have used, or intend to use, the various indicators in each of the domains, individual domain rankings and the overall Multiple Deprivation Measure.

Annex A: Indicator Summary

Key
Retained
Omitted/Replaced
Added

Income Domain 25%

The proportion of the population living in households where at least one household member was in receipt of at least one of the following income related benefits:

Income Support, State Pension Credit, Income based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income based Employment and Support Allowance, Housing Benefit, Working Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit

The proportion of the population living in households whose equivalised income is below 60 per cent of the NI median before housing costs

Employment Domain 25%

The proportion of the working age population who are in receipt of at least one of the following benefits:

Job seekers Allowance, Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance, Carer's Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Steps to Work or New Deal Participants

not in receipt of any of these benefits and have not made tax contributions or self-assessment (hidden unemployment)

Health and Disability Domain 15%

Standardised Potential Years of Life Lost

Standardised Preventable Death Rate

Standardised physical health related benefit rate (formally Comparative Illness and Disability Ratio)

People registered as having cancer (excluding non-melanoma skin cancers)

Standardised Emergency Admission Rate

Proportion of singleton births with low birth weight

Children's Dental Extractions

Standardised proportion of people on multiple prescriptions on a regular basis

Standardised proportion of people with a Long-term Health Problem or Disability

Standardized Drug or Alcohol Related Deaths

A combined mental health indicator:

- Proportion of population in receipt of prescriptions for mood and anxiety disorders
- Standardised suicide rates
- Standardised rate of mental health inpatient stays
- Standardised mental health related benefit rates

Combined mental health indicator

Education Domain 15%

Key Stage 2 Teacher Assessments for English and Maths (and Irish in Irish medium schools/units)

Proportions of pupils attending Special Educational Needs Schools or attending primary school with Special Education Needs Stages 3-5

Absenteeism at primary schools (all absences)

Primary School sub-domain

Key Stage 3 Teacher Assessments for English and Maths (and Irish in Irish medium schools/units)

GCSE or equivalent qualifications points score

Proportions of school leavers achieving 5 or more GCSEs at A*-C (and equivalent) inc GCSE English and maths

Proportions of those leaving school aged 16, 17 and 18 and not entering Further Education, Employment or Training

Proportions of 18-21 year olds who have not enrolled in Higher Education Courses at Higher Education or Further Education establishments

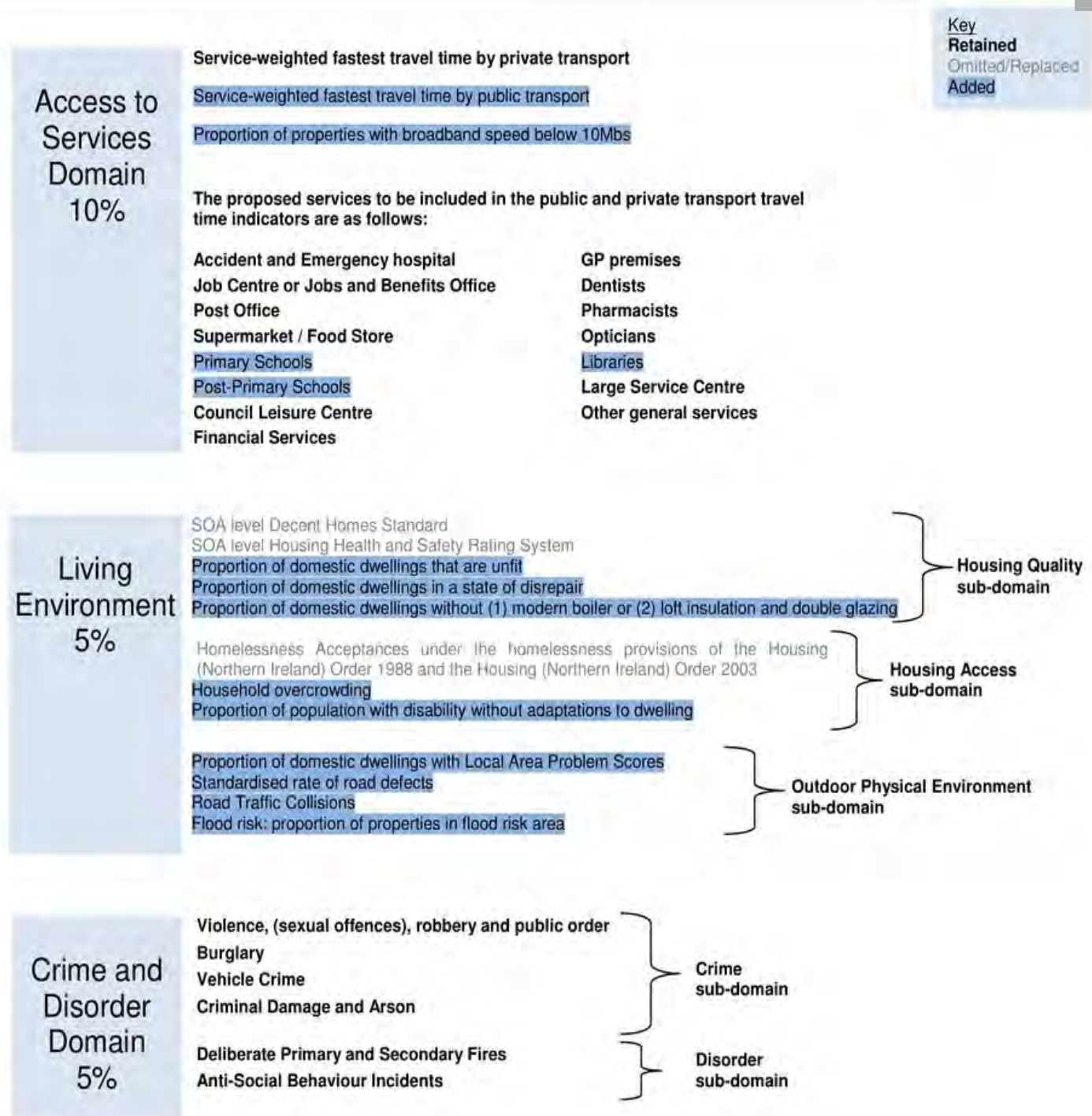
Proportions of pupils attending Special Education Needs Schools or who are attending post-primary school with Special Education Needs Stages 3-5

Absenteeism at post- primary schools (all absences)

Post-Primary School sub-domain

Proportions of working age adults (25-59) with no or low levels of qualification

Working age adults sub-domain



Annex B: Moderation Policy

Proposals for the Updated NI Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM 2017)

Moderation Policy

In the interests of transparency, the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) will publish all responses to the consultation on the proposals for the updated Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM 2017).

This gives you the opportunity to post a response to this consultation that will remain publicly available on this website and the NISRA website. The site, therefore, operates a moderation policy to ensure that responses are appropriate and not harmful to others. Moderation is performed by NISRA in accordance with the terms set out below.

Responses that include any of the following may be deleted:

- Threats or incitements to violence;
- Use of obscenity;
- Duplicative or substantially duplicative postings by the same person or entity;
- Postings seeking employment or containing advertisements for a commercial product or service; or
- Information posted in violation of law, including libel, condoning or encouraging illegal activity, revealing classified information, or infringing on a copyright or trademark.

We deeply value your time and input, and our desire is to remove as few responses as possible while ensuring that a focused, constructive consultation takes place. To address additional matters as may be warranted this moderation policy is subject to change. If you have a complaint about an item of user-generated content on this site, or feel that your own content has been removed in error, please contact us at:

Email: deprivation.nisra@finance-ni.gov.uk

Telephone: 028 9034 8271

Annex C: Membership of Steering Group

Name	Organisation
Tracy Power (Dr)	NISRA (chair)
Brian Green	NISRA
Jos Ijpelaar (Dr)	NISRA
Claire McCann	NISRA
Joe Reynolds	The Executive Office
Paul Caskie (Dr)	Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Michelle Crawford	Department for Communities
Stephen Donnelly (Dr)	Department for the Economy
David Hughes	Department of Education
Eugene Mooney (Dr)	Department of Health
Tom Reid	Department for Infrastructure
Liz Loughran	Department for Infrastructure
Glyn Capper	Department of Justice
Freda Magill	Ulster Farmers' Union
Aidan Campbell	Rural Community Network
Karen McCoy	Southern Health & Social care Trust
Teresa Canavan	Northern Ireland Rural Development Council
Andrea Thornbury	NICVA
Simon Hookham	Equality Commission
Joe Frey	NI Housing Executive
Sharon McNicholl	Belfast City Council
Michael Gallagher	Derry City & Strabane District Council
Heather McKee	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council
Louise Scullion	Causeway Coast & Glens District Council

Annex D: Membership of Domain Expert Groups

Domain Expert Group	Organisation
Income and Employment	Department for Communities Department for the Economy Antrim & Newtownabbey Council Lisburn & Castlereagh Council
Health & Disability	Department for Communities Department of Health HSC – Business Services Organisation HSC – Public Health Agency NISRA – Census Branch NISRA – Vital Statistics
Education, Skills & Training	Department for the Economy Department of Education
Access to Services	Department for Communities Department for Infrastructure Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs NISRA – Economic and Labour Market Statistics Northern Ireland Rural Development Council
Living Environment	Land & Property Service NI Newry, Mourne & Down Council Northern Ireland Housing Executive
Crime & Disorder	Department of Justice Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service Police Service for Northern Ireland
Urban-Rural	Belfast City Council Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Rural Development West Sustainable Rural Communities

Glossary

BSO	Business Services Organisation
CCEA	Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment
DCAL	Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure
DE	Department of Education
DEL	Department for Employment and Learning
DfC	Department for Communities
DfE	Department for the Economy
DfI	Department for Infrastructure
DHSSPS	Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
DoH	Department of Health
DSD	Department for Social Development
ELBs	Education and Library Boards
FESR	Further Education Statistical Record
GCSE	General Certificate of Secondary Education
GP	General Practitioner
GRO	General Register Office
HESA	Higher Education Statistics Agency
HMRC	Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs
HSC	Health and Social Care
IBDR	Inter- Departmental Business Register
JSA	Job Seekers Allowance
LPS	Land and Property Services
NICVA	Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action
NIFRS	Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service
NIHE	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
NIMDM	Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure
NINIS	Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service
NISRA	Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
OFCOM	Office of Communications
PSNI	Police Service of Northern Ireland
PYLL	Potential years of life lost
SCG	Statistics Co-ordinating Group
SEN	Special Educational Needs
SOA	Super Output Area
StW	Steps to Work
S2S	Steps to Success

Consultation Questionnaire

The main purpose of this consultation is to consult users on the detailed proposals for the updated Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM 2017). This consultation will close at midnight on 15 January 2017.

Our preferred way for you to respond to this consultation is [online](#).

Please note, for your response to be included in our analysis, you must answer questions marked with a star (*) in [Section 9: About you](#) and [Section 10: Consent](#).

If you wish to respond by email or on paper, please download the Consultation Questionnaire (PDF version or MS Word version). When you have completed the questionnaire, please return it:

Email: deprivation.nisra@finance-ni.gov.uk

Post: Deprivation
NISRA
McAuley House
2-14 Castle Street
Belfast
BT1 1SA

To help us understand your views, it is important that you provide as much detail as you can in support of your response.

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Section 1: Income Deprivation Domain

The proposals for the Income Deprivation Domain are outlined in Section 9 of the [consultation document](#).

1.1 Are you content with the response to the three recommendations associated with the Income Deprivation Domain?

- ☒ Content
- ☐ Discontent
- ☐ No strong view

Please include details in support of your views.

It is proposed that the Income Deprivation Domain consists of one indicator, namely, the proportion of the population living in households whose equivalised income is below 60 per cent of the NI median.

1.2 Are you content with the proposed income deprivation indicator?

- ☒ Content
- ☐ Discontent
- ☐ No strong view

Please include details in support of your views.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC) welcome the change in the income measurement from a benefits based measure to one that is based on the equivalised household income. While NMDDC appreciate the need for the contingency of reverting to a benefits based measurement, as detailed in section 9.4, household income will give a more robust measurement and provide more accuracy in identifying those who are not in receipt of benefits yet have a household income well below the NI Medium. While no guidance is given on the equivalisation calculation, NMDDC wish to welcome and highlight the importance of the supporting information in relation to children and young people and the over 65s.

Section 2: Employment Deprivation Domain

The proposals for the Employment Deprivation Domain are outlined in Section 10 of the [consultation document](#).

2.1 Are you content with the response to the two recommendations associated with the Employment Deprivation Domain?

- ☒ Content
- ☐ Discontent
- ☐ No strong view

Please include details in support of your views.

NMDDC welcome the recognition that is given to the need to source suitable information that might be used to shed light on the spatial distribution/ prevalence of hidden unemployment and the commitment to incorporate this when available

It is proposed that the Employment Deprivation Domain consists of one indicator, namely, the proportion of the working age population (aged 18-64) who are in receipt of at least one of the selected benefits¹, and, if available, extended with hidden unemployment.

2.2 Are you content with the proposed employment deprivation indicator?

- ☒ Content
- ☐ Discontent
- ☐ No strong view

Please include details in support of your views.

¹ Job Seeker's Allowance, Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance, Carer's Allowance, and Employment and Support Allowance

Section 3: Health Deprivation and Disability Domain

The proposals for the Health Deprivation and Disability Domain are outlined in Section 11 of the [consultation document](#).

3.1 Are you content with the response to the six recommendations associated with the Health Deprivation and Disability Domain?

- ☒ Content
- ☐ Discontent
- ☐ No strong view

Please include details in support of your views.

It is proposed that the Health Deprivation and Disability Domain consists of 11 indicators, including one combined mental health indicator.

3.2 Are you content with the proposed indicators for the Health Deprivation and Disability Domain?

- ☒ Content
- ☐ Discontent
- ☐ No strong view

Please include details in support of your views.

NMDDC welcomes the inclusion of the Mental Health indicator, consideration should be given to producing this data as a separate sub-domain. However, it is of concern that the indicator relating to long term illness and disability relates to data collected as far back as the 2011 census. In relation to the indicator on Child dental extractions, it is thought that a more relevant indicator should be the level of registration with a dentist. The fact that children would be registered should mean that the free check-ups available will reduce the level of extractions required.

Section 4: Education, Skills and Training Deprivation Domain

The proposals for the Education, Skills and Training Deprivation Domain are outlined in Section 12 of the [consultation document](#).

4.1 Are you content with the response to the six recommendations associated with the Education, Skills and Training Deprivation Domain?

- ☒ Content
- ☐ Discontent
- ☐ No strong view

Please include details in support of your views.

NMDDC note the lack of data relating to early years and primary school attainment, while the document outlines the current position in relation to the lack of appropriate data for inclusion in the 2017 measurement, it is our view that this should be addressed to allow for inclusion in subsequent releases of the Multiple Deprivation Measurements. In relation to recommendation 12f, NMDDC note that the sub domain for education among working age adults relates to data collected as far back as the 2011 census. In relation to recommendation 12d on special educational needs; it is unclear why this should be used as a measure of deprivation given that there are many reasons including medical and clinical conditions which may result in a child having special educational needs

It is proposed that the Education, Skills and Training Deprivation Domain consist of eight indicators grouped in three sub-domains: primary, post primary and working age adults.

4.2 Are you content with the proposed indicators for the Education, Skills and Training Deprivation Domain?

- ☒ Content
- ☐ Discontent
- ☐ No strong view

Please include details in support of your views.

Section 5: Access to Services Domain

The proposals for the Access to Services Domain are outlined in Section 13 of the [consultation document](#).

5.1 Are you content with the response to the four recommendations associated with the Access to Services Domain?

- ☒ Content
☐ Discontent
☐ No strong view

Please include details in support of your views.

NMDDC welcome the inclusion of public transport travel times.

It is proposed that the Access to Services Domain consists of three indicators:

- Service-weighted shortest travel time by private transport;
- Service-weighted shortest travel time by public transport; and
- Proportion of properties with broadband speed below 10Mbps.

5.2 Are you content with the proposed indicators for the Access to Services Domain?

- ☒ Content
☐ Discontent
☐ No strong view

Please include details in support of your views.

While NMDDC acknowledge that the measure of 10mb reflects the targets within the program for government, OFCOM data shows that many rural areas within Northern Ireland do not receive broadband speeds of 2mb or over. NMDDC note that areas where broadband coverage is not available at all or only available at speeds lower than 2mb should be considered the most deprived under this indicator.

This domain was previously known as 'Proximity to Services'. It is proposed to rename this domain to 'Access to Services' with the proposed inclusion of public transport and broadband speed.

5.3 Are you content with the renaming to Access to Services Domain?

- ☐ Content
- ☐ Discontent
- ☒ No strong view

Please include details in support of your views.

NMDDC note that this indicator has been used to identify areas that experience low levels of service provision and high degrees of isolation; this is particularly relevant to many of our rural areas and small settlements. While NMDDC has no strong view on the name of the domain, we would wish to highlight that it is important that this domain continues to reflect the impact on opportunities and outcomes for those who do not have access to key services within a close geographic proximity.

Section 6: Living Environment Domain

The proposals for the Living Environment Domain are outlined in Section 14 of the [consultation document](#).

6.1 Are you content with the response to the seven recommendations associated with the Living Environment Domain?

- ☒ Content
- ☐ Discontent
- ☐ No strong view

Please include details in support of your views.

It is proposed that the Living Environment Domain consists of nine indicators, grouped into three sub domains: housing quality, housing access and outdoor physical environment.

6.2 Are you content with the proposed indicators for the Living Environment Domain?

- ☒ Content
- ☐ Discontent
- ☐ No strong view

Please include details in support of your views.

NMDDC welcome the inclusion of flood risk as an indicator. It is noted that there is no indication of what level of flood risk will be measured, rivers agency flood maps include modelled events up to a probability of 1 in 1000 year. NMDDC note that it is those properties at high risk of regular flooding that should be identified under this indicator.

Section 7: Crime and Disorder Domain

The proposals for the Crime and Disorder Domain are outlined in Section 15 of the [consultation document](#).

7.1 Are you content with the response to the four recommendations associated with the Crime and Disorder Domain?

- ☒ Content
- ☐ Discontent
- ☐ No strong view

Please include details in support of your views.

It is proposed that the Crime and Disorder Domain will consist of six indicators, grouped into two sub domains, namely crime and disorder.

7.2 Are you content with the proposed indicators for the Crime and Disorder Domain?

- ☒ Content
- ☐ Discontent
- ☐ No strong view

Please include details in support of your views.

Section 8: General consultation questions

There were a further six recommendations from the NIMDM 2010 that were not specific to a particular domain. These recommendations are outlined in Section 16 of the [consultation document](#).

The weights used when combining the individual domains of deprivation into the overall Multiple Deprivation Measure were identical in the 2001, 2005 and 2010 Measures, which were Income and Employment (25 per cent each), Health and Education (15 per cent each), Proximity to Services (10 per cent), and Living Environment and Crime & Disorder (5 per cent each).

8.1 Are you content that the domain weights still reflect current priorities, in light of the proposed indicators?

- ☐ Content
☒ Discontent
☐ No strong view

Please include details in support of your views.

Consideration should be given to assigning a higher weighting to crime and disorder.

8.2 Are you content with the responses to the non domain-specific recommendations?

- ☐ Content
☐ Discontent
☒ No strong view

Please include details in support of your views.

A full scale review of the deprivation methodology was considered out of scope for this update. However, this project will seek to establish what the various key stakeholders are using these spatial deprivation measures for, or how they are affected by the uses by others. This will provide an understanding of stakeholders' requirements and assist with the formulation of appropriate guidance and advice in terms of how the measures can and should be used.

You may want to reflect on:

- Your use of the Multiple Deprivation Measure, individual domain measures or indicators;
- Your use of the measures for resource allocation, targeting deprived areas, policy monitoring, research, etc.;
- Your use of the measures at certain geographical levels or for sub-sections of the population;
- Uses where the current methodology is not fit for purpose; and
- Those purposes which you consider the measures do not currently support.

8.3 Please provide some information on how you or your organisation uses or is affected by the Multiple Deprivation Measure.

NMDDC have been developing a robust evidence base to inform their community plan, this evidence base is drawn from data collected internally, data supplied from our partners, and from regional statistics. The Multiple Deprivation Measurement will form a key component of this evidence base and will be used to assess the effectiveness of the community plan measures. The community planning structure at NMDDC includes local DEA forums to oversee the delivery at the community level and measure the impact of that delivery; to this end NMDDC requires The Multiple Deprivation Measurement to be made available at the lowest administrative boundary level, ie Wards 2014.

Please remember to complete [Section 9: About you](#) and [Section 10: Consent](#) at the end of this document.

Section 9: About you

9.1 Please provide your contact details.

Your name *	Alan Bennis
Organisation (if applicable) *	Newry Mourne and Down District Council
Email address *	alan.bennis@nmddc.org
Telephone number	028 3031 3179

* Response required

9.2 Are you answering this questionnaire on behalf of an organisation or as an individual?

- ☒ Organisation
☐ Individual

9.3 Which of the following best describes the sector you work in?

This will assist us in monitoring the range of users the consultation has reached.

- ☐ Central government
☒ Local government
☐ Statutory body (for example, health, education, transport, housing etc)
☐ Private sector
☐ Social / Academic research
☐ Market research / Data analytics
☐ Charity / Community / Voluntary
☐ Utility provider
☐ Press / media
☐ Other – please specify:

9.4 May we contact you to discuss your response to this consultation?

This may be to follow up any specific points we need to clarify.

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

9.5 May we contact you in future about the Multiple Deprivation Update?

For example, to inform you of the results of this consultation, final results of this project or dissemination events.

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

Section 10: Consent

To support transparency in our decision making process, all responses to this consultation will be made public (subject to our [Moderation Policy](#)). This will include the name of the responding organisation (if applicable). However, names of individuals will only be published if you give consent below. Please note that we will not publish your contact details.

- ☐ **Yes, I consent to my name being published with my response**
- ☒ **No, please remove my name before publishing my response**

(Please be aware that any information provided in response to this consultation could be made publicly available if requested under a Freedom of Information request).

Additional information

Do you have any further comments relevant to this consultation?

Report to:	SPR Committee
Date of Meeting:	19 January 2017
Subject:	NMD Citizens Magazine
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Regina Mackin Assistant Director of Corporate Planning and Policy
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Regina Mackin Assistant Director of Corporate Planning and Policy

Decisions required: Councillors asked to note the contents of the report, consider and approve content and name of the Council's NMD Citizens Magazine

1.0	Purpose and Background:
1.1	Councils have a duty to provide information to their citizens on their activities, services and facilities. Many Councils produce their own civic newsletter as a means of communication with their citizens within their council area. Newry, Mourne and Down District Council want to produce their own civic magazine for circulation to all households throughout the District in Spring 2017.
2.0	Key issues:
2.1	The name of the Publication is proposed as NMD Connect, A Citizens Magazine for Newry, Mourne and Down District. The content of the publication will include a range of articles such as Councillor Information, Council Contact Details, Community Planning, Key Capital Projects, Waste Management, Recycling, Economic Development, Tourism, Events and Festivals, Planning/Building Control, DEAs, Improving the Environment, Bi-lingualism, Rates, Human Interest Stories, Health and Wellbeing and Performance Information.
3.0	Recommendations:
3.1	To name the Publication – NMD Connect, A Citizens Magazine for Newry, Mourne and Down. To agree the content schedule as detailed above.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	The design, print and distribution costs have been included in the 2016/2017 budget.
5.0	Equality and good relations implications:
5.1	It will be delivered taking account of Councils Section 75 statutory duties including that relating to accessibility of information and services.

Report to:	Strategy Policy and Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	19 January 2017
Subject:	Visit by School Number 7 to Newry, Mourne & Down District Council
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Eddy Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Justyna McCabe, Diversity and Inclusion Projects Co-Ordinator

Decisions required:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To approve relevant officers to draw up a programme of events particularly around Educational Institutions, Arts, Leisure etc for a visit by School Number 7 from Kirovsk to Newry, Mourne and Down District Council in March 2017. 	
1.0	Purpose and Background:
1.1	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council are twinned with the City of Kirovsk in Russia as part of its Sister City/Twinning Project. This delegation is a follow on from a visit by St Paul's School, Bessbrook to School Number 7 Kirovsk in 2016.
2.0	Key issues:
2.1	There will be a need to involve St Paul's High School, Bessbrook and Threeways Community Association in this visit as they have participated in similar exchanges in the past.
3.0	Resource implications
3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Time • Civic Reception • Tour of District • Organise Programme of Events • Mayor's participation

Report to:	Strategy Policy and Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	19 January 2017
Subject:	Garden Area at junction of Kilmorey Street/River Street, Newry
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Alison Robb, Assistant Director, Corporate Services (Administration)
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Briege Magill, Administration Officer

Decisions required:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the Council wish to renew lease of garden area at junction of Kilmorey Street/River Street, Newry from Roads Service 	
1.0	<p>Purpose and Background:</p> <p>The Council has a five year lease, at a nominal rent, of a small garden area at junction of Kilmorey Street/River Street, Newry, from Roads Service. Lease is due to expire on 31 March 2017.</p> <p>This is a small triangular section of ground - concrete and flagstone - with a few planted shrubs. There is a summer seat and a historical Anchor monument at this location as well as blue plaque memorials, one in particular to the local Merchant Seaman Hero Raymond Kelly, which are erected on the cable wall of the adjoining house by the Maritime Association.</p> <p>It is the only public open space in this area for use by the local community.</p>
2.0	Key issues:
2.1	This garden area adds visually to this part of the City.
3.0	Recommendations:
3.1	Recommend that the Council write to Department for Infrastructure, Transport NI, to seek their agreement to renewal of lease of this land for a further five year period and at similar rent – 5 pence per year.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Minimum maintenance required.
5.0	Equality and good relations implications:
5.1	None
6.0	Appendices
	Appendix 1: Photo of area in question.



Report to:	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	19 January 2017
Subject:	Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period October – December 2016
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Regina Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning and Policy
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Colin Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy

Decisions required:

Members are asked to note the contents of the report and to give consideration to agreement to the following:

- To note the Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period October – December 2016.

1.0 Purpose and Background:

- 1.1 In line with Council's Section 75 statutory duties and commitments within our approved Equality Scheme, policy screening reports are published quarterly.
- The Quarterly Report for the period October – December 2016, including screening reports, is available on Council's website www.newrymournedown.org. This information has also been forwarded to all equality consultees.

2.0 Key issues:

- 2.1 As per the Council's approved Equality Scheme:
- All policies Council proposes to adopt must be equality screened, prior to implementation, to assess the likely impact of the policy on the promotion of equality of opportunity and/or good relations.
 - Council must publish quarterly reports on equality screening which are available on Council's website and forwarded to equality scheme consultees.

3.0 Recommendations:

- 3.1 To note the Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period October – December 2016.

4.0 Resource implications

- 4.1 No financial or resources implications are anticipated.

5.0 Equality and good relations implications:

- 5.1 No equality and good relations implications are anticipated.
- Publishing quarterly reports, including screening reports, making them available on Council's website www.newrymournedown.org, and forwarding this information to all equality consultees is in accordance with the commitments contained within the Council's approved Equality Scheme.

6.0 Appendices

- Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period October – December 2016.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Section 75 Policy Screening Report
Quarterly Report October - December 2016

Policy Number	Policy	Details of policy	Screening Outcome
134	Draft Strategic Community Plan for Newry, Mourne and Down	<p>Council's draft Community Plan sets out a clear, long term vision for Newry, Mourne and Down to 2030. It outlines the outcomes we will work towards to achieve that vision and, with it, a better quality of life for all.</p> <p>The draft Community Plan is the overarching plan for the Newry, Mourne and Down District. It brings together the knowledge, expertise and collective resources of a wide range of partners across the public, private and community/voluntary sectors - all working towards a single agreed vision for the area.</p> <p>Community planning presents a unique opportunity to make a real difference to peoples' lives and, in Newry, Mourne and Down, we are committed to making the most of that opportunity.</p> <p>The draft Community Plan has been developed through a co-design process and informed by public engagement. It focuses on addressing evidence based needs and priorities through a partnership approach. The draft Community Plan demonstrates the partners' collective commitment to improve public services and quality of life for all those who live, visit and work in our district. It will enable us to identify new and innovative approaches, which recognise our unique local</p>	No EQIA considered necessary

		circumstances and challenges, and will help to deliver our agreed outcomes.	
135	Employee Learning and Development Strategy	<p>Newry Mourne and Down District Council's (NMDDC) Learning and Development Policy puts in place systems and processes to support the delivery of the Councils vision, purpose and values.</p> <p>The development of all Council employees is integral to the pursuit of quality, effectiveness and success. The Council seeks to maximise individual contribution at all levels by providing appropriate opportunities for on the job, personal and professional development as well as part-time study.</p> <p>The Council's Learning and Development Policy aims to establish and maintain a culture which values life-long learning and development amongst employees.</p> <p>The main aims of the policy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure that employees are supported and enabled to meet the changing demands of the Council and its service users so that the Council achieves its strategic objectives, • facilitate employee development through assisting employees to broaden, deepen and thereby further enhance their existing skill and knowledge base, • provide a working environment where continuous learning and development take place to help employees gain more enjoyment from their roles, increase their motivation and enhance employee retention. 	No EQIA considered necessary
136	International Relations Policy	The policy seeks to ensure a more strategic and co-ordinated approach to the development of the district's European and international partnerships and engagement, and to provide a	No EQIA considered necessary

		<p>framework for the development of international relationships between the Council and its European and non-European partners.</p> <p>The Policy aims to support Council's Corporate Plan and will ensure the best global positioning and advantage for the Council and people of Newry, Mourne and Down.</p> <p>The main objectives of the Policy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening international partnerships and fostering linkages • Enhancing district's reputation & influence internationally • Maximising funding opportunities • Developing better joined-up working with our key partners 	
137	Pavement Cafes Enforcement Policy	<p>By virtue of the Licensing of Pavement Cafés Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 Newry, Mourne and Down District Council may regulate street trading through enforcement powers in a street or part thereof in its District.</p> <p>The purpose of this Policy is to provide guidance on matters, which should be considered when deciding whether to take enforcement action against a person of whom there is reasonable grounds to suspect commission of an offence under this Act while involved in Pavement Cafés. Its aim is to provide, in so far as is possible, consistent decision making so as to develop and thereafter maintain public confidence in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's performance of its duties.</p>	No EQIA considered necessary

Report to:	Strategy Policy and Resources
Date of Meeting:	19 January 2017
Subject:	Northern Ireland Charter for Elected Member Development
Reporting Officer	Catrina Miskelly Assistant Director Corporate Services (Human Resources)
Contact Officer	Helen McElroy, Learning & Development Manager

Decisions required:	
Members are asked to note the contents of the report in relation to Accredited Training undertaken by Employees and Elected Members during the period of January 2015-date.	
1.0	Purpose and Background:
1.1	Members will remember that an assessment took place on the 29th November 2016 to determine whether or not the Council met the Charter standard. The assessment was based on an analysis of a portfolio of evidence, a number of interviews with key personnel and an elected member workshop. The assessors' objectives were to verify the presented evidence and to identify the council's future plans for continuous improvement to member learning and development.
1.2	The purpose of this paper is to update Council on the outcome of the assessment.
2.0	Key issues:
2.1	The Assessment Panel noted that the evidence presented in the portfolio was drawn from a wide range of sources, was of a high standard and gave an impressive overall view of member Development activities across the council
2.2	A copy the assessment report is provided to support this Council's successful Charter for Elected Member Development Assessment on the 29th November 2016.
2.3	Page 3 of the report highlights the areas which were felt by the assessors to be particular strengths of the Council and Page 4 sets out the Assessors' suggested improvement areas.
3.0	Recommendations:
3.1	The report highlights the good practice and makes recommendations for future improvements building upon the presentation and assessment in November
3.2	It is also recommended that Council continues to encourage all Elected Members to avail of the opportunities provided through Council gives to assist their learning and development and to work with officers in facilitating this.
3.3	The Council may use the national elected member development charter logo

4.0	Resource implications
4.1	The Elected Member Development Working Group review the assessment report at its next meeting and together with Officers, consider the recommendations for improvement and reports back to Council through this Committee in due course.
5.0	Equality and good relations implications:
5.1	N/A
6.0	Appendices
	Assessment Report



Northern Ireland Charter for Elected Member Development

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Assessment Date: 29th November 2016



**Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
Northern Ireland Charter for Elected Member Development**

Assessment Date: 29th November 2016

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Recommendation of the Assessment Team

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council have met the standard of the Northern Ireland Charter for Elected Member Development and have therefore been awarded Charter status for three years from the 29th November 2016. The council has committed to a process of continuous improvement over the next three years to build on this achievement.

The Council will be required to undertake a full re-assessment of continuing progress in three years' time, November 2019.

All councils that have achieved the Charter status are eligible to apply for Charter Plus accreditation. Full details of the framework and how to apply are available on the South East Employers website (www.seemp.co.uk) but this report contains, at pages 5-6, a preliminary indication of additional evidence that the assessors feel would need to be put into place in order to achieve Charter Plus status.

If the Council does sign up for Charter Plus, then it will have 12 months from the date of sign up to assessment in order to achieve the status. The Charter Plus application should take place no longer than 18 months following the initial assessment. The timetable indicated above for re-assessment against the normal Charter re-assessment will no longer apply.

Assessment team

- Councillor Dermot Nicholl, Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council
- Fiona Gunning, Development Officer, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council
- Mark Palmer, South East Employers (Lead Assessor)
- Fiona Douglas, Development Officer, Northern Ireland LGA

Charter standards

- Commitment to councillor development
- Strategic approach to councillor development
- Learning and development is effective in building capacity
- Supporting Councillors

Assessment

The assessment took place on the 29th November 2016 to determine whether or not the Council met the Charter standard. The assessment was based on an analysis of a portfolio of evidence, a number of interviews with key personnel and an elected member workshop. The assessors' objectives were to verify the presented evidence and to identify the council's future plans for continuous improvement to member learning and development.

The evidence presented in the portfolio was drawn from a wide range of sources and was of a **high standard** and gave an impressive overall view of member Development activities across the council. The evidence within the portfolio was clearly linked to the relevant Charter standards.

The following people were seen during the assessment visit:

Interviews (in order conducted):

- **Frontline Officer:** Heather McKee, Assistant Director, Community Planning.
- **Chief Executive:** Liam Hannaway
- **Leader of the Council:** Councillor Gillian Fitzpatrick, Chairperson of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
- **Elected Member Development Working Group:** Councillors Charlie Casey, Roisin Mulgrew, Gillian Fitzpatrick, Terry Andrews, Harry Harvey and David Taylor
- **Workshop:** Councillors Harry Harvey, Garth Craig, Kate Loughran, Jill McAuley, Jarlath Tinnelly, Terry Hearty, Micky Ruane, Patrick Brown and Terry Andrews
- **Key Officers:** Catrina Miskelly- Assistant Director Corporate Services, Eileen McParland- Democratic Services Manager, Sheila Kieran- Democratic Services Officer and Helen McElroy- Learning and Development Manager/HR Business Partner

The Council had achieved Charter status previously on the 26th September 2013 as a cluster with two separate submissions from the legacy Councils. The commitment to the Charter within the successor Council was supported by all political groups and was led by the Elected Member Development Working Group (EMDWG).

All councillors interviewed as part of the assessment process spoke of how much they recognised and valued the officer support available to them. Assessors were appreciative of those same officers' help in organising a well structured and welcoming assessment day.

Continuous Improvement and Direction of Travel

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council have been successful in meeting the standard of the Charter for Elected Member Development. The following areas were felt by the assessors to be particular strengths of the Council:

- The Council had demonstrable political and managerial leadership commitment to member development. It was clear that the group leaders, the Chairperson and the member led Development Group have played a key role in driving the improvements to member development made in the last three years. The political leadership **“41 Team Members”** and management team have committed significant amounts of their own time and resources to champion and support development across the Council
- The Council has an enthusiastic and committed Elected Member Development Working Group that worked collaboratively and had a strategic focus. The Group meets on a bi-monthly basis.
- The Council had a good initial take up to identifying development priorities in 2014 and this ensured that between 2014-2016 member development was needs led.
- The Council had a strategic focus on community planning that had influenced and shaped the member development programme.
- The member development budget is sustainable, £41,000 per annum and the budget is evaluated to ensure value for money and that it is supporting improvement and achieving its objective. The .EMDWG has a protocol for allocating the budget including the prioritisation of learning needs.
- Member role profiles are clearly defined and are in place for all key roles including Elected Representative Role and Chairperson Role. The Role Profiles are within the Councils constitution
- The Corporate Member Development Programme is clearly linked to the corporate and strategic objectives of the Council
- The Council has in place a high quality and well resourced accredited training programme that supports Councillors to achieve academic/professional and vocational training qualifications. This has been particularly successful in the area of Community Planning that has enhanced Council corporate knowledge and capacity.

- The Council has a comprehensive approach to evaluation in place and evaluation of development is a key objective of the Elected Member Development Group. The EMDWG produces an Annual Report highlighting costs and benefits of learning and development and took a lead role in the monitoring and evaluation of the Capacity Building Programme.

- **Assessors' suggested improvement areas:**

The following are areas that the Council should work towards over the next three years. They will act as a focus to take member development forward across the Council along with further improvement areas that the Council itself will identify between now and November 2019 that reflect emerging priorities.

- The EMDWG should take a lead role in promoting the benefits of member development both internally and externally. This should include case studies of the benefits and community impact and how member development has supported the decision making process and the implementation of the new powers e.g. community planning
- The council should commit to Personal Development Planning (PDP) to ensure engagement of "all" councillors and to identify new development priorities. Group leaders should encourage and support participation of all councillors to have access to a personal Development Plan with target of 60-70% of Members having a Plan.
- The Council should further develop its approach to E-Learning and develop an E Portal to support and share learning.
- The EMDWG should evaluate the approach to Community Planning and re-energise the focus of Community Planning to make it specific to the local area
- The Elected Member Development Working Group should identify new skills required by the Council and Councillors to be the focus of future development support e.g. commercial skills
- The accredited development programmes and the opportunities available to councillors should be further promoted to enhance take up.
- The role profile for a Councillor should include .a specific commitment to Councillors personal development as an integral part of the Councillor role.

Charter Plus

A preliminary indication of the additional steps that the Council would need to demonstrate under each standard in order to achieve Charter plus status is set out below. South East Employers would be happy to discuss these in more detail at any time, and further information is available via www.seemp.co.uk.

1. Commitment to Councillor development and support

- Provide evidence of a Members' handbook that includes key internal and external contacts at corporate and ward level.
- Provide evidence that the budget is properly reviewed, set & prioritised by the Elected Member Development Group.
- Provide evidence that Member development/support staff have access to their own ongoing professional development.
- Provide evidence that Member development and support staff are involved in regional and national learning networks.
- Ensure that the Council promotes local democracy including events to encourage people and under represented groups to stand for Council

2. Strategic approach to Councillor development

- Provide evidence of a robust evaluation process and that evaluation feedback contributes to the review and further development of the member development strategy. Some form of impact assessment at the community level would be required.
- Provide evidence that the Senior Management team meets to review member development at least once per year (to ensure ongoing linkage to corporate plan, to identify its impact and to suggest improvements).
- Provide evidence that members are clear about the role of partner bodies, other stakeholder bodies, their own role on partner bodies and their own role in relation to other stakeholder bodies.
- Provide evidence that 70% of Member's have in place a Personal Development Plan and review the plan annually.
- Provide evidence that external partners are involved in relevant development sessions.

- Provide evidence of a programme to develop the next generation of leaders and to support succession planning.
- Provide evidence of a post induction meeting, held with new members 6 months after their election in order to identify and gaps in development and support.
- Provide evidence that all portfolio holders and spokespersons have undertaken development appropriate to their portfolio area.

3. Learning and development is effective in building capacity

- Provide evidence that end of event evaluation feeds into impact evaluation and to a review of the training programme.
- Provide evidence of post event follow-up evaluation to assess performance change (e.g. Through a PDP process).
- Provide evidence that Members report back to group on conferences and external development opportunities.

Congratulations on achieving the Charter standard!

The Council may use the national elected member development charter logo.

We look forward to the Council supporting NILGA in promoting the benefits of the Charter to councils across Northern Ireland.

The process of assessment undertaken in the Council may be subject to a quality assurance review by the Local Government Association.

Mark Palmer
Development Director, South East Employers
For and on behalf of the Assessment Team
January 2017

Mr Hannaway

The Committee for Finance has agreed to hold a Review of the Non-Domestic Rating System in Northern Ireland. As part of the Review the Committee has requested to hold a series of roundtable meetings with relevant stakeholders in Ballymoney (15 March) Warrenpoint (1 March) and Portadown (15 February).

As discussed with Aisling the Committee is asking the Council in each of these location, if possible, to provide a venue and to arrange for a cross section of those impacted and to include Warrenpoint Chamber of Commerce, local Business Associations, Charity Retail Sector and a representative from the Council (7 or so individuals) to come to a roundtable meeting to discuss matters relating to the rating system in Northern Ireland.

If you require further information on the Committee for Finance the webpage is here.

I know you intend to have this request agreed by the Council and I hope to hear from you in the near future.

Kate

Kate McCullough
Assistant Assembly Clerk
Committee for Finance
Room 375
Parliament Buildings
Belfast BT4 3XX

Report to:	Strategy Policy and Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	19 January 2017
Subject:	Allocation of one outstanding SRA allowance
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Liam Hannaway Chief Executive
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Eileen McParland Democratic Services Manager

Matters for consideration:	
To agree way forward in relation to payment of one Special Responsibility Allowance.	
1.0	Purpose and Background:
1.1	To consider way forward in relation to allocation of one outstanding SRA allowance for the period 1 January 2017 to date of 2017 Annual Meeting.
2.0	Key issues:
2.1	Councillor Ruane has taken the role of Party Leader of Sinn Fein with effect from 1 January 2017. The role of Party Leader is paid a Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA).
2.2	Councillor Ruane already receives a SRA as a member of the Planning Committee. A Council may not pay more than one SRA to any one Councillor.
2.3	When the same situation occurred in 2015/16 (Councillor Criag being a member of the Planning Committee and Party Leader), it was agreed that 50% of the unallocated SRA be paid to the Chair of the Planning Committee, with the remaining 50% being divided among the remaining positions which receive SRA payments.
3.0	Recommendations:
3.1	As in 2015/16, 50% of the unallocated SRA be paid to the Chair of the Planning Committee, and 50% divided among the remaining positions which receive SRA payments.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	None, as there is no increase in the overall amount of money being used for payment of SRA's.
5.0	Equality and good relations implications:
5.1	None
6.0	Appendices
	None



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

From the Minister

**9th Floor
Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
Belfast
BT2 7EG**

e-mail: Private.Office@communities-ni.gov.uk

Tel: (028) 9082 3327

Council Chief Executives

Our ref: SUB/0004/2017

9 January 2017

Dear Chief Executive

PARTNERSHIP PANEL FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

As you are aware, the next meeting of the Partnership Panel has been scheduled to take place on 31 January 2017 at 2:00pm in the Long Gallery, Parliament Buildings, Stormont.

At the most recent meeting held on 12 October 2016, the Panel approved the amended Terms of Reference and Standing Orders.

Paragraph 3(iii) of the Standing Orders, regarding the NILGA office bearers, was unnecessarily repeated at paragraph 7 and so the latter paragraph has now been deleted. In the Terms of Reference, the following wording has been added: "A meeting Chair shall be agreed by the Panel in circumstances where the Chair is unable to attend all or part of a Panel session".

I attach copies of these for your information. It will be assumed that all members of the Panel are content with these amendments and Panel approval given, unless any objections are received.

I also enclose draft minutes of the Panel meeting of 12 October 2016 for consideration and finalising at the next meeting. An agenda and associated papers will be forwarded to council Chief Executives and Panel members in due course.

I would be grateful if you could also confirm your attendance with my Diary Team by email (Private.Office@communities-ni.gov.uk) or telephone (028 90829027).

**PAUL GIVAN MLA
Minister for Communities**



PARTNERSHIP PANEL

NOTE OF MEETING HELD AT 2:00PM ON 12 OCTOBER 2016

SPORTS PAVILION, STORMONT

Central Government

Paul Givan MLA DfC (Chair)
Michelle McIlveen MLA DAERA
Claire Sugden MLA DOJ
Máirtín Ó'Muilleoir MLA DOF
Megan Fearon MLA TEO
Alaistair Ross MLA TEO

Local Government

Cllr. Mark Cosgrove (Antrim & Newtownabbey)
Cllr. Richard Smart (Ards & North Down)
Ald. John Finlay (Causeway Coast & Glens)
Cllr. Maoilísa McHugh (Derry & Strabane)
Cllr. Rosemarie Shields (Fermanagh & Omagh)
Cllr. Dermot Curran (Newry, Mourne and Down)
Cllr. William Leatham (Lisburn and Castlereagh)
Cllr. Hazel Gamble (Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon)
Cllr. Sean McPeake (President, NILGA)
Cllr. Alan McDowell (NILGA)
Ald. Freda Donnelly (NILGA)
Cllr. Seamus Doyle (NILGA)

In Attendance

Leo O'Reilly DfC
Nichola Creagh DfC (Joint Secretary)
Anthony Carleton DfC
Jackie Kerr DfC

Liam Hannaway SOLACE
Derek McCallan NILGA (Joint Secretary)

Chief Executive Observers

Brendan Hegarty (Fermanagh & Omagh)
Anthony Tohill (Mid Ulster)
Theresa Donaldson (Lisburn & Castlereagh)
Eamon Kelly (Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon)
Andrea McCooke (Antrim & Newtownabbey)

Departmental/other observers

Jacqui Durkin DE
Geoffrey Simpson TEO
Sean Johnston DfI
Peter Jakobsen DoF
Alan McVicker SIB
Antoinette McBride NILGA
Andrew Gowan DfC SPAD
Brian McClure DoF

		ACTION
1.	AGENDA ITEM 1: WELCOME & APOLOGIES	
1.1	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Partnership Panel. Apologies were noted and accepted from Chris Hazzard MLA, Michelle O'Neill MLA, Simon Hamilton MLA, Cllr. John Kyle, Cllr. Gerardine Mulvenna and Ald. Arnold Hatch.	
2.	AGENDA ITEM 2: OPENING ADDRESS:- MINISTER FOR COMMUNITIES/CHAIR.	
2.1	The Chair opened the meeting with an address setting out his aspirations for the Panel. Cllr. Sean McPeake responded with an opening address.	

3.	AGENDA ITEM 3: NOTE OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING 20 OCTOBER 2016 [PP1/16]	
3.1	There were no amendments and the draft minutes of the meeting on 20 October 2015 were accepted as an accurate record. Cllr. Dermot Curran asked that in forward planning for the meeting papers be made available further in advance.	
4.	AGENDA ITEM 4: MATTERS ARISING	
4.1	The Chair advised that there were a number of matters arising from the meeting of 20 October 2015.	
4.2	At <u>paragraph 3.4</u> , regarding local government contact with Junior Ministers about ESF and SIF, Cllr. Sean McPeake provided an update.	
4.3	At <u>paragraph 3.5</u> , in relation to training opportunities for panel members and the potential for this to be provided by Politics Plus, Alderman Freda Donnelly provided an update.	
4.4	At <u>paragraph 4.2</u> , regarding bonfires and the illegal burning of tyres. The Chair stated that the Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs would speak to the meeting under agenda item 8 and include some information on the matter at that stage.	
4.5	At <u>paragraph 4.3</u> , in relation to PfG. The Chair acknowledged the PfG in his opening address and stated that the Junior Minister would be providing an update under Any Other Business.	
4.6	At <u>paragraph 4.4</u> , regarding Housing Strategy, the Chair stated that as Housing now falls within the remit of his Department, he intended to consider a paper for the Panel once the way forward on a number of key housing issues becomes clearer.	
4.7	At <u>paragraph 5.3</u> , the Chair provided the meeting with information on the numbers of staff recruited by the Northern Ireland Civil Service and the delivery of efficiencies within departments, stating that in the last financial year (2015-16) over 2,360 full time equivalent staff left the civil service under the voluntary exit scheme. A further 2,000 staff left the wider public sector. These schemes are estimated to have generated in-year pay bill savings of £45 million last year and annual savings in future years are estimated to be £155 million. The upfront cost of the exits was £170 million. Up to the end of November 2015 there were 126 people recruited to the NICS – mainly to specialist posts where particular skills were required.	
4.8	At <u>paragraph 5.4</u> , the Chair informed the meeting that all the information relating to Rates Support Grant and other local government budgets for 2016/17 requested by local councils had been provided by the former Department of the Environment.	
4.9	At <u>paragraph 5.5</u> , the Chair informed the meeting that requested	

<p>4.10</p> <p>4.11</p> <p>4.12</p> <p>4.13</p>	<p>budget information on PCSPs had been provided to councils by DoJ on 4 February 2016.</p> <p>At <u>paragraph 6.1</u>, the Chair informed the meeting that the SIF information provided to the Panel meeting of 20 October 2015 had been copied to members on 3 February 2016.</p> <p>At <u>paragraph 7.5</u>, the Chair stated that local government had proposed they present a paper on “New Burdens” at this Panel meeting, however, NILGA has informed the Chair that local government will provide an Overview Paper at a future meeting of the Panel, as a priority.</p> <p>At <u>paragraph 9.1</u>, the Chair stated that the Panel had previously agreed that council Chief Executives be invited to attend meetings as observers and the presence today of a number of Chief Executives is evidence of it having been put in place. The Chair welcomed those Chief Executives in attendance.</p> <p>Finally, at <u>paragraph 9.2</u>, local government members had asked for a report from the DRD Minister on the impact on road safety of a lack of investment in grass verge cutting and street lighting. The Chair informed members that the Department for Infrastructure has indicated that there has been no impact on road safety as a result of the lack of investment on grass verge cutting and street lighting and that he understood that DfI intend to provide NILGA with further information about this issue.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM 5: TERMS OF REFERENCE AND STANDING ORDERS</p>	
<p>5.1</p>	<p>Partnership Panel Terms of Reference and Standing Orders</p> <p>The Chair informed members that the representatives from NILGA and the government departments had jointly amended the Panel ToRs and SOs. The amendments were to reflect the recent changes to the central government departments, to reflect a desire to reinvigorate the Panel and to ensure that issues discussed by the Panel lead to appropriate actions with identifiable outcomes being taken forward by departments and councils as appropriate. The proposed changes had been tracked on the ToRs and the SOs which had issued to members in advance of the meeting. The Chair asked members to approve the amendments. Local government members welcomed the changes, stating that actions stemming from Panel meetings were desirable and proposed the formation of Task and Finish Groups to take forward the potential work emerging from the Panel discussions.</p>	<p>Joint Secretariat</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM 6: WORK PLAN</p>	
<p>6.1</p>	<p>The Minister then stated that DfC is working with NILGA to review the Panel’s Work Plan. This work will continue and a revised Work Plan will be issued to all members in advance of the next meeting of the Panel with a view to it being put to the Panel for discussion and approval.</p>	<p>Joint Secretariat</p>

7.	AGENDA ITEM 7 – ADVANCE NOTICE OF DfC ISSUES	
7.1	<p>The Chair spoke to the meeting about DfC's development of a Social Strategy as part of a new approach to the Programme for Government and stated that, in effect, it will be the Executive's Strategy for Promoting Opportunity for Everyone and Tackling Poverty and Social Exclusion and will provide a vision of a society free from Poverty and Social Exclusion, in which everybody can reach their potential. That means helping and developing people to be everything they can be and to do everything they can do and means people seeing and taking opportunities to improve their circumstances.</p> <p>Through the development of Local Plans, councils are also looking at how they can deliver in a similar fashion for their people and the Chair encouraged local government to reflect on the draft Strategy and the supporting Delivery Plans when published and help refine and finalise them.</p> <p>A local government member asked that the consultation period be extended and was assured that it was sufficient and that engagement with councils at an individual level would ensure proper participation was possible from local government.</p>	
8.	AGENDA ITEM 8 – ADVANCE NOTICE OF DAERA ISSUES	
8.1	<p>The Chair invited the DAERA Minister to address the meeting.</p> <p>The DAERA Minister spoke on the matter of bonfires and the illegal burning of tyres, mentioning the DAERA Tyre Action Plan, assured the meeting that her department was dealing with the many concerns surrounding these matters and that NIEA would be making contact with NILGA. A local government member said that local government welcomed DAERA's Tyre Action Plan and sought better monitoring of tyre disposal.</p> <p>The DAERA Minister provided an update on the Local Action Groups and their progress in the Rural Development Programme and the £80m set aside to develop rural communities.</p> <p>Local government members welcomed the update from the DAERA Minister and acknowledged the investment in rural communities. They sought reassurances that there would be action taken to develop a wider, cross-cutting, piece of work on rural disadvantage linked more directly to PfG and mainstream investment.</p> <p>The DAERA Minister stated that she will speak up for and be a champion for rural communities.</p> <p>The Chair stated that the PfG can be used to ensure there is a focus on the matter of rural disadvantage.</p>	
9.	AGENDA ITEM 9 – ADVANCE NOTICE OF DEPT. OF EDUCATION ISSUES	
9.1	The Chair then invited Jacqui Durkin (DE, Director of Area Planning, Admissions and Shared Campuses) to address the meeting.	
9.2	Jacqui Durkin provided an update on the Education Authority Draft Area Plan with a planned 8-week consultation period. A local government member was concerned at the consultation period and sought assurances that the Area Plan was flexible to take account of	

9.3	councils' Community Plans and Local Development Plans and that time would be available for fully considered, quality, community planning based responses to be made by consultees. Jacqui Durkin provided an update on the Third Call for Shared Education Campus Projects. A local government member emphasised the importance of both of these to local communities and to councils' Community Plans.	
10.	AGENDA ITEM 10 - LOCAL GOVERNMENT STRATEGIC ISSUES/ACTION PAPER	
10.1	Community Planning A local government member expressed concern at the cost to councils of producing their community plans. The Chair acknowledged the resources required to facilitate the community planning process and compile the draft plans. Minister Givan stated that the Plan is, of course, a partnership plan and that community planning partners should consider how they can contribute to the process. The Minister said that this may be something that the Joint Secretariat can seek to progress with the aim of reporting back to the next meeting on the progress, commitment and investment needs of councils' Community Plans building on the work already undertaken by SOLACE and NILGA.	Joint Secretariat
10.2	A local government member said that there was a need to ensure that appropriate representatives were attending the community planning meetings and that there was proper tie-in to the PfG. Local government undertook to provide an update on community planning and attendance issues at the next Panel meeting.	
10.3	The Chair stated that as Communities Minister he recognises the significant effort made by all the councils in tackling community planning and noted that most council areas either have launched a draft Community Plan for consultation or will do so shortly. He acknowledged this as a considerable achievement.	
10.4	Tackling Disadvantage in Rural Areas/Improving Access to Services in Rural Areas A local government member stated that there is need for a cross-cutting interdepartmental strategy to deal with rural issues/rural disadvantage and for it to be a feature of the Partnership Panel's reviewed Work Plan for 2016/17.	Joint Secretariat
10.5	Legacy Planning A local government member expressed concern at the delay in the processing of many pre-April 2015 planning applications inherited from DoE, many of which required specialist knowledge and sought assurances that DfI would provide assistance in moving these legacy cases forward. The Chair stated that he would raise the issue with the DfI Minister.	Joint Secretariat (DfC to follow up)
10.6	Planning Portal A local government member sought reassurances that DfI will take	Joint

	<p>urgent action to ensure the development of a replacement for the Planning portal, which he said was not fit for purpose, in advance of 2019. He stated that it was vital that DfI take the lead with councils on the work to develop a new fit for purpose system. The Chair stated that he would raise the issue with the DfI Minister.</p>	Secretariat (DfC to follow up)
10.7	<p>Off-street Parking A local government member stated that off-street parking had become a financial burden on councils and welcomed a refund to the 11 councils that had been agreed with DfI in relation to it but suggested more negotiation were needed. It was also stated that prior to contract negotiations Transport NI had indicated that there would be an uplift of 3% in delivering the contract after October 2016 but recent discussions have indicated a significantly higher uplift. The Chair stated that this is an issue for the Minister for Infrastructure and suggested that the matter is taken forward with DfI.</p>	
10.8	<p>Developer Contributions – Section 76 Planning Agreements A local government member told the meeting that DfI and other departments should be encouraging stakeholder engagement in establishing a broad framework/guidance to deliver Section 76 Planning Agreements and exploring a possible central/local government approach. The Chair stated that he would raise the issue with the DfI Minister.</p>	Joint Secretariat (DfC to follow up)
10.9	<p>Proposed Augmentation Review Local government members spoke of the potential transfer to local government of urban regeneration and hoped that any augmentation review of the transfers already made would focus on what lessons could be learned for the future. Other local government members that the additional costs of any future transfers (the “new burdens”) should be considered and addressed. Local government stated that evidence of the additional costs to local government of transfers can be provided. The Chair told the meeting that he believed that the transfer package to local government was adequately resourced and implemented and that the functions were fit for purpose, sufficiently funded and cost neutral at the point of transfer. This was achieved through the transfer of revenue streams and income to councils along with the implementation of the Transferred Functions Grant arrangements which provides recurrent annual functions to councils based on a statutory formula. The further changes in costs and revenues since the functions were transferred need to be dealt with by individual councils by adjusting their spending and revenues into the future. The Chair then proposed that the Joint Secretariat carry out a scoping exercise in relation to an augmentation review and provide the next Panel meeting with an update.</p>	Joint Secretariat
10.10	<p>Major Capital Projects: Establishing good governance guidance The Chair informed the meeting that the Finance Minister would be speaking about Investment Opportunities as an agenda item during the meeting and will also touch on Capital Projects. The Chair added that he noted the local government proposal that guidance on the matter is considered and would support that as a sensible way</p>	Joint Secretariat

	forward, suggesting an update on this be brought to a future Panel meeting.	
11.	AGENDA ITEM 11 – DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE – PCSPs & INTERFACES AND COMMUNITY PLANNING	
11.1	<p>The Justice Minister told the meeting that Community Planning was important as the focus and the core of Policing and Community Safety partnerships and her department's work on Interfaces.</p> <p>The Justice Minister spoke to the meeting about the issues of domestic violence and mental health (particularly in rural areas), stating that they were both high on her department's priority list and that local councils were ideally placed to be involved in work on these issues. The Minister explained that breaking the cycle of domestic violence will open up avenues into being able to tackle many of the wider social problems and that council's Community Plans will play a vital role in this.</p> <p>The Minister told the meeting that she welcomed the local government proposal that a PCSP Political Reference Group be developed at regional level, working with the Northern Ireland Policing Board.</p> <p>Local government members welcomed the Minister's plans but thought the effectiveness of the PCSPs had been mixed</p>	
12.	AGENDA ITEM 12 – DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE – CO-OPERATION ON DERELICT PROPERTY RESEARCH & LOCAL GOVERNMENT CO-OPERATION ON INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES	
12.1	<p>The Finance Minister welcomed the opportunity that the Partnership Panel involvement in important financial matters and the active role that members take. He provided the meeting with some information on two central/local government initiatives:- Investment in Key Infrastructure Projects & Co-operation on Derelict Property Research.</p> <p>The Finance Minister told the meeting that new approaches to investment with innovative central/local partnership projects and private sector involvement were welcome and can happen with further co-operation and commitment. The Chair suggested that this could include sports provision and facilities. The Finance Minister also stated that new approaches to local taxation may also be considered.</p>	
12.2	The Minister told the meeting that local councils should identify opportunities to take forward with central government and bring them forward for consideration. He also stated that his department would be looking at the issue of rates and derelict properties.	
12.3	A local government member spoke of the links between the Programme for Government and Community Planning and welcomed the investment opportunities that may exist there.	
13.	AGENDA ITEM 13 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
13.1	A local government member stressed the importance of the timeliness of Panel papers being issued to members, which the Chair acknowledged.	

13.2	The Chair told the meeting that he intended to write to all his Ministerial colleagues regarding attendance at future Panel meetings and would be following up on a number of papers that were required to address issues raised at today's meeting.	Joint Secretariat (DfC)
13.3	The Chair thanked Panel members for their contributions to the meeting and expressed a hope that the meeting is a first step towards a proactive, productive Partnership Panel.	
14.	AGENDA ITEM 14 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
14.1	Date of Next Meeting The Chair stated that the next meeting would take place on 31 January 2017 in the Long Gallery, Parliament Buildings. Members agreed. The meeting concluded at 3.40 p.m.	

**Partnership Panel Joint Secretariat
October 2016**

Partnership Panel for Northern Ireland: Terms of Reference

INTRODUCTION

The Partnership Panel for Northern Ireland will provide a formal mechanism for constructive liaison between Executive Ministers and local government elected members at a political level on strategic policy matters of mutual interest and concern.

Executive Ministers and elected councillors (nominated by the 11 councils) are key decision-makers and that responsibility should be used to good effect when furthering the business of the Panel. It is incumbent on the members to strengthen relationships between the two tiers of government and ensure ownership of the Panel operates on a shared basis. Members must create a foundation for strategic thinking on a regional basis and an environment of collective and practical thinking for the Partnership Panel to fully function.

It is intended that the Panel will be reviewed to coincide with each Programme for Government period.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Panel may:

- give advice to any Northern Ireland Department about matters affecting the exercise of any of its functions;
- make representations to any Northern Ireland Department about any matters affecting, or of concern to, those involved in local government;
- give advice to those involved in local government, and
- initiate actions, stemming from the Panel's discussions, involving any Northern Ireland Department and local government.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE PARTNERSHIP PANEL

The Partnership Panel is to consist of:

- Councillors;
- Ministers; and
- a maximum of 5 elected representatives of such representative body or association of the district councils as appear to the Department to be appropriate.

All Executive Ministers are members of the Partnership Panel, and will be invited to attend meetings for substantive agenda items relating to their portfolio responsibility.

The Minister for Communities will be the Chair.

A meeting Chair shall be agreed by the Panel in circumstances where the Chair is unable to attend all or part of a Panel session.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

Departmental officials and local government officers will meet regularly to support the business of the Panel going forward.

To ensure a smooth, efficient and effective process, sufficient administrative support will be provided by DfC and NILGA to enable the Partnership Panel to perform and address the business described in this paper.

MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Secretariat

Joint Secretariat support will be provided by the DfC and NILGA.

Meetings

The Partnership Panel will meet at such times and such venues as the Chair will determine. The Panel may invite other persons to attend meetings in order to submit evidence and produce documents, or to speak.

Agenda

The Chair of the Partnership Panel will determine the agenda for the meetings, taking into account the views of Executive Ministers, local government councillors and members of a body representative of district councils.

Documents relating to the business of a meeting will normally be made available to members at least five working days before the meeting to which they relate.

Record of proceedings

Record of the proceedings of meetings will be in action format, listing key decisions and actions to be taken and will be prepared by the Secretariat. Copies will normally be forwarded to Panel Members within 4 weeks of the meeting. Following approval of the draft record, the Secretariat shall arrange for this record to be published on the DfC website.

Northern Ireland Partnership Panel: Standing Orders

- 1) The Department for Communities will establish and maintain a body known as the Partnership Panel for Northern Ireland ("the Partnership Panel").

PURPOSE

- 2) The Panel provides a forum where elected representatives may:
 - i. give advice to any Northern Ireland department about matters affecting the exercise of any of its functions;
 - ii. make representations to any Northern Ireland department about any matters affecting, or of concern to, those involved in local government;
 - iii. give advice to those involved in local government; and
 - iv. initiate actions, stemming from the Panel's discussions, involving any Northern Ireland Department and local government.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE PARTNERSHIP PANEL

- 3) The Partnership Panel is to consist of :
 - i) Councillors;
 - ii) Ministers; and
 - iii) a maximum of 5 elected representatives of such representative body or association of the district councils as appear to the Department to be appropriate.
- 4) All Executive Ministers are members of the Partnership Panel, and will be invited to attend meetings for substantive agenda items relating to their portfolio responsibility. The members of the Partnership Panel will therefore include:
 - i) Minister for Communities (Chair);
 - ii) Minister of Justice;
 - iii) Minister of Finance;
 - iv) Minister of Education;
 - v) Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural; Affairs
 - vi) Minister of Health;
 - vii) Minister for the Economy;
 - viii) Minister for Infrastructure; and
 - ix) The Executive Office.
- 5) The Minister for Communities is the Chair.
- 6) Each council may nominate a councillor to serve as a member to the Panel.

- 7) Appointments to the membership of the Partnership Panel shall be made as soon as is reasonably practical after each ordinary election and in any event so that a meeting can be convened within one to six months of the election.
- 8) Substitutes will be permitted with prior express permission from the Chair.

RESIGNATION FROM THE PARTNERSHIP PANEL

- 9) A person appointed as a member of the Partnership Panel shall normally remain a member until the end of the day before the ordinary election following his/her appointment i.e. in the case of a local government member until the end of the day before local government elections and in the case of a Northern Ireland Minister, the day before the Assembly elections, or until the end of the person's term of office with the authority of which they are a member.
- 10) However, a member may resign from the Partnership Panel by giving written notice to the Panel Secretariat, who shall notify the Communities Minister.
- 11) On ceasing to be a member of the Partnership Panel, a member shall also cease to be a member of any committee or working group of the Partnership Panel.

MEETINGS OF THE PARTNERSHIP PANEL

- 12) The Chief Executive of each of the 11 councils shall be invited to attend the meetings of the Partnership Panel in an observer role.
- 13) Partnership Panel members should agree the frequency of meetings as one of their first items of business at their first meeting.
- 14) The Partnership Panel may conduct its own business or that of its committees or working groups by video link or other electronic means.

SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS

- 15) Three officials from the Department for Communities should support the Minister for Communities alongside a small number of officials (as required) supporting other Executive Ministers in attendance.
- 16) The local government membership should be supported by three Chief Executives, one of which should be the Chief Executive of NILGA.
- 17) Supporting officials and officers should not have speaking rights during full Partnership Panel meetings, unless expressly invited by the Chair/ member to speak.
- 18) Central government officials and local government officers should meet regularly to support the management of the business of the Panel going forward.

ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

- 19) The Partnership Panel may set up committees and working groups to examine specific issues. A motion to establish a committee or working group shall specify its proposed terms of reference, an assessment of the costs, benefits and any other implications of establishing the committee or working group and a date which it shall cease to exist. Such a date shall not be more than 12 months later than the date of its first meeting, unless the Partnership Panel determines otherwise. It shall also specify how the proposed subject to be investigated by the working group differs from or complements other policy initiatives already taken forward (or to be taken forward) by the Northern Ireland Executive. In the event of there being an overlap with policy work already underway details should be provided of any liaison arrangements proposed.
- 20) In exceptional circumstances the Partnership Panel may extend committees and working groups beyond 12 months. This will be subject to a review of their performance against their terms of reference, their outstanding work programme and the date on which this work will be completed. No resolution to extend the life of a committee or working group should be valid for more than 12 months without a fresh resolution.
- 21) The members of any committee or sub-committee established by the Partnership Panel shall be elected by the Partnership Panel from among its members.

THE CHAIRING OF THE PARTNERSHIP PANEL AND ASSOCIATED COMMITTEES

- 22) The Partnership Panel shall be chaired by the Communities Minister or an Executive Minister nominated by him or her. The Partnership Panel shall select the chairs of its committees from among the members of the Partnership Panel.

INVITEES

- 23) The Partnership Panel, its committees or working groups may invite any other person to attend meetings and may invite such a person or body to submit evidence and produce documents or to speak.

WORK PROGRAMME

- 24) The Partnership Panel Secretariat shall draw up and maintain a forward work programme for a rolling period of 12 months. The forward programme should be a regular agenda item of the Partnership Panel meetings and should be compiled taking into account the views of all Departments within the Executive. It will also need to reflect the views of the local government representatives.

SECRETARIAT

- 25) Joint Secretariat functions to the Panel will be provided by the Department for Communities and NILGA.

AGENDA

- 26) The Chair, in consultation with the central government and local government membership, shall determine the agenda for meetings of the Partnership Panel.
- 27) The Chair of each committee or working group of the Partnership Panel shall determine the agenda of their meetings. The Chair may require specified items to be discussed at any meeting of the committees and working groups.
- 28) Documents relating to the business to be taken at the Partnership Panel or its committees and working groups should normally be made available to members at least 5 working days before the meeting to which they relate. With the agreement of the Partnership Panel, its committees or working groups documents may be made available by electronic means only.

DECISIONS

- 29) The decisions of the Partnership Panel, its committees and working groups will be taken on the basis of consensus. Decisions will not be made by voting. Disagreements over matters of policy or procedure will be recorded in the meeting notes. Individual dissension on matters of general agreement shall be recorded at the request of any member.

RECORDINGS OF PROCEEDINGS

- 30) A record of the proceedings of the Partnership Panel, its committees and working groups will be taken and made available on the DfC website.

Report to:	Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	19 January 2017
Subject:	Peace IV Local Action Plan
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Justyna McCabe, Diversity & Inclusion Projects Coordinator
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Justyna McCabe, Diversity & Inclusion Projects Coordinator

Decisions required:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approve the projects to be submitted to SEUPB by 14 February. 	
1.0	Purpose and Background:
	<p>The Council recently submitted an application for the Peace IV local action plan – Beyond Tolerance and has been offered a grant of £4,241,556 with an under-allocation of £537,016 consisting of programme and staff/administration costs.</p> <p>The proposals for the under-allocated money must be re-submitted to SEUPB by 14 February 2017, which is also the date that all pre-commencement conditions must be addressed by.</p> <p>The officers have looked at the consultations carried out last year and identified those projects that would be most suitable for funding. The projects were approved at the Peace IV Partnership meeting on 11 January and are listed in the Appendix.</p>
2.0	Key issues:
2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The under-allocation must be resubmitted to SEUPB by 14 February.
3.0	Recommendations:
3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approve the projects to be submitted to SEUPB.
4.0	Resource implications:
4.1	Project 85% funded by the EU and 15% by the two Governments.
5.0	Equality and good relations implications:
5.1	This was undertaken as part of the application process.
6.0	Appendices
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed Projects PEACE IV



Additional Projects PEACE IV

Projects emerging from PEACE IV Consultations – all subject to available funding and approval from SEUPB:

THEME	PROPOSED PROJECT
Children and Young People	Project with young men addressing mental health issues resulting from living in the divided society, legacy of the Troubles. Target group: Young Men (age 12 – 15).
Shared Spaces and Services	Peace Garden (re-submission) – creating a shared-space garden in partnership with the Interchurch Forum.
	Project commemorating Tom Dunn’s twin legacies. Proposal from community representatives from the Catholic, Presbyterian and Church of Ireland congregations as well as local historians.
	Saintfield Community Centre – creating a shared-space community facility (the PEACE IV funding will supplement Council’s own budget).
	Active Community Garden – creating a shared-space garden for a cross-community use.
Building Positive Relations	Capacity Building for DEA –expanding the existing action already approved by SEUPB.
	Older People Good Relations Programme - expanding the existing action already approved by SEUPB.

Report to:	Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	19 January 2017
Subject:	Shared Spaces and Services Application
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Eddy Curtis, Strategic Director of Planning & Performance
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Eddy Curtis, Strategic Director of Planning & Performance

Decisions required:	
<p>Council to consider if it wishes to issue a letter of support to Clanrye Abbey Developments for their proposed application to Peace IV Shared Spaces Call The application is to completely renovate the Chambres Demesne / Courtyard at Slieve Gullion Forest Park .</p>	
1.0	<p>Purpose and Background:</p> <p>Clanrye Abbey Developments have requested a letter of support from Newry Mourne and Down District Council for the submission of an application to SEUPB for funding under its Shared Spaces and Services financial assistance call .</p> <p>Clanrye are seeking to transform the Chambres Demesne area better known as the Courtyard . They intend totally revitalising the area by returning the location into how it looked and functioned in the past .</p> <p>They strongly believe their application will support the Council' s Corporate and Community Plans and provide a complete new visitor experience for those visiting the Slieve Gullion facility .</p> <p>A letter of support has already been received from the Southern Regional College Of Further Education and the Forestry Service .</p> <p>Newry Mourne and Down District Council have already agreed to take the lead role in the submission of an application to the Peace IV Share Spaces call for the development of a Community Hub in Camlough.</p>
2.0	Key issues:
2.1	<p>Council has to consider whether it wants to support one or two applications to the same funding body .</p> <p>Council in a similar situation agreed to support an application to Sport NI for a strategic sports facility in Warrenpoint and decided not to support an additional request from a different sporting organisation .</p>
3.0	Recommendations:
3.1	
4.0	Resource implications:

4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No financial impact on Council as no financial support required for this application
5.0	Equality and good relations implications:
5.1	
6.0	Appendices

Report to:	Strategy Policy and Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	19 January 2017
Subject:	Visit by Mayor of Sioux Falls Sister Cities Programme
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Edwin Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning & Performance
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Justyna McCabe, Diversity & Inclusion Projects Co-ordinator

Decisions required:	
Approve relevant officers to draw up a programme of events around business, arts, culture, sport/leisure in line with Council's International Relations Policy.	
1.0	<p>Purpose and Background:</p> <p>Newry, Mourne & Down District Council have a Sister Cities Agreement with Sioux Falls, South Dakota USA. This agreement is part of the Council's Twinning Programme and Council's International Relations Policy.</p> <p>The Council has been requested by the President of Sioux Falls Sister Cities to facilitate a visit from the Mayor of Sioux Falls to the District in July/August 2017. The purpose of the visit will be to meet NMDDC Chairperson, elected members and stakeholders and discuss opportunities for future co-operation.</p>
2.0	Key issues:
2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A number of stakeholders will be involved in the visit: Southern Regional College, Invest NI, Newry & Mourne Enterprise Agency and others.
3.0	Recommendations:
3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approve relevant officers to draw up a programme of events around business, arts, culture, sport/leisure in line with Council's International Relations Policy.
4.0	Resource implications:
4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff Time Civic Reception Chairperson's participation Tour of the District
5.0	Equality and good relations implications:
5.1	Will have positive impact on good relations.
6.0	Appendices
	N/A