

November 9th, 2021

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting to be held on **Thursday, 11th November 2021 at 6:00 pm** in **Downshire Civic Centre**.

Chairperson - Councillor O Hanlon

Deputy Chairperson - Councillor P Brown

Councillor P Byrne

Councillor S Doran

Councillor H Gallagher

Councillor R Howell

Councillor O Magennis

Councillor D Murphy

Councillor B O'Muirí

Councillor H Reilly

Councillor M Savage

Councillor G Sharvin

Councillor D Taylor

Councillor J Tinnelly

Councillor W Walker

Agenda

1.0 Introduction and Apologies

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 Action Sheet arising from SPR Committee Meeting held on Thursday 14 October 2021

[SPR-Action Sheet arising from 14 October 2021.pdf](#)

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Corporate Services

4.0 Local Democracy Week 2021

[Local Democracy Week 2021.pdf](#)

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[Microsoft PowerPoint - community eco fun day.pdf](#)

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5.0 Mid Year Assessment - Performance Improvement Plan 2021-22

[SPR Cover Report Mid Year Progress Report PIP 2021-22.pdf](#)

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[Appendix 1 Mid Year Assessment of Performance Improvement Plan 2021-22.pdf](#)

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6.0 Mid Year Assessments of Directorate Business Plans 2021-22

[SPR Cover Report Mid Year Assessment of Business Plans 2021-22.pdf](#)

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[Appendix 1 Mid Year Assessment of CX Business Plan 2021-22.pdf](#)

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[Appendix 2 Mid Year Assessment of CS Business Plan 2021-22.pdf](#)

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

7.0 Amendment of Standing Orders

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

[Amendment of Standing Orders.pdf](#)

Not included

8.0 Grant of Licence for works at Canal bank, Newry

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - information which is like to reveal the identity of an individual and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

 <i>Grant of Licence for works at Canal bank Newry.pdf</i>	<i>Not included</i>
 <i>Canal towpath - Map showing site and right of way.pdf</i>	<i>Not included</i>
 <i>Canal towpath - Bridge drawing - 1;100A3v1.2 (002).pdf</i>	<i>Not included</i>

9.0 Licence of strip of land at Council car-park, Irish Street, Downpatrick

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

 <i>Licence of strip of land at Council car-park Irish Street Downpatrick.pdf</i>	<i>Not included</i>
 <i>Map of strip at Irish St car-park Downpatrick.pdf</i>	<i>Not included</i>

10.0 Lease of Minor Hall, Warrenpoint Town Hall to Puzzles Playgroup

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business

 <i>Lease of Minor Hall Warrenpoint Town Hall to Puzzles Playgroup.pdf</i>	<i>Not included</i>
 <i>Appx 1 - Warrenpoint Town Hall - Minor Hall Rental - Map.pdf</i>	<i>Not included</i>
 <i>Appx 2 - Warrenpoint Town Hall Hire Charges.pdf</i>	<i>Not included</i>
 <i>Appx 3 - TDK Rental Valuation Minor Hall Warrenpoint Town Hall 19 October 2021.pdf</i>	<i>Not included</i>

11.0 Theatre/ Conference – RIBA Stage 2 Report

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

 <i>Theatre Conference RIBA Stage 2 Report.pdf</i>	<i>Not included</i>
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12.0 Planning for the Future

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

Planning for the Future.pdf

Not included

Appendix 1 Current structure at Tier 2 and 3.pdf

Not included

Appendix 2 PFTF structure approved in February 2020.pdf

Not included

Appendix 3 - Structure Appendix for SPR Paper - November 2021.pptx

Not included

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

13.0 Litigation settlement

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - information which is like to reveal the identity of an individual and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

Litigation settlement.pdf

Not included

14.0 Management Accounts – 2021/22, Period 6

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

SPR - Mgt Acs Cover Paper P6.pdf

Not included

Appendix 1 - Management Accounts by Directorate at 30.9.2021.pdf

Not included

Appendix 2 - Management Accounts by Assistant Director at 30.9.2021.pdf

Not included

15.0 NMDDC Funded Health Cash Plan for Employees

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

For Noting

16.0 Minutes of Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board Meeting held 4 November 2021

📄 *Minutes of Newry CCR Programme Board Meeting - 04.11.2021.pdf*

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Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews

Mr Alan Beggs

Ms Kate Bingham

Mr Caolain Boyd

Cllr Patrick Brown

Cllr Robert Burgess

Cllr Pete Byrne

Mr Gerard Byrne

Mrs Dorinnia Carville

Cllr Charlie Casey

Cllr William Clarke

Cllr Dermot Curran

Cllr Laura Devlin

Ms Louise Dillon

Cllr Sean Doran

Cllr Cadogan Enright

Cllr Aoife Finnegan

Cllr Hugh Gallagher

Cllr Mark Gibbons

Cllr Oonagh Hanlon

Cllr Glyn Hanna

Cllr Valerie Harte

Cllr Roisin Howell

Mrs Sheila Kieran

Cllr Mickey Larkin

Cllr Alan Lewis

Mr Michael Lipsett

Mrs Regina Mackin

Cllr Oonagh Magennis

Mr Conor Mallon

Cllr Gavin Malone

Cllr Cathy Mason

Mr Johnny Mc Bride

Colette McAteer

Cllr Declan McAteer

Cllr Leeanne McEvoy

Cllr Harold McKee

Patricia McKeever

Cllr Karen McKeivitt

Cllr Andrew McMurray

Catrina Miskelly

Cllr Roisin Mulgrew

Cllr Declan Murphy
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Cllr Barra Ó Muirí
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Mr Fearghal O'Connor
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Linda O'Hare
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Cllr Gerry O'Hare
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Cllr Kathryn Owen
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Cllr Henry Reilly
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Ms Alison Robb
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Cllr Michael Ruane
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Cllr Michael Savage
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Cllr Gareth Sharvin
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Donna Starkey
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Cllr Gary Stokes
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Sarah Taggart
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Cllr David Taylor
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Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly
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Cllr John Trainor
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Cllr William Walker
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Mrs Marie Ward
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ACTION SHEET – STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING (SPR) – THURSDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2021

SPR/019/2021	(SPR/003/2021- Letter to Health Minister Mr Swann and contact with PHA)	Further that previous request for a drive-in and walkthrough facility in Newry to remain on Action Sheet and update provided to members as situation evolves.	D Carville	Members are asked to remove action as established facility operational.	Y
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ACTION SHEET – STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING (SPR) – THURSDAY 14 OCTOBER 2021

SPR/158/2021	Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meetings held on 16 September 2021 & 27 September 2021.	It was agreed that the action sheet from the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meetings held on 16 September 2021 & 27 September 2021 be approved.	D Carville	Noted	Y
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SPR/159/2021	Department of Health Consultation on Proposed Amendments to the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland	<p>It was agreed to approve the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To approve the proposed Consultation Response to the Department of Health proposed amendments to the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (Membership, Procedures, Functions and Committee) Regulations (NI) 2012 (the Regulations). Members should note responses to this consultation are submitted on-line therefore this typed word document response provided at Appendix 1 is for the purposes of this report however, the actual response will be submitted through the Department of Health's website. 	G Scott	Approved	Y
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the interests of clarity, only questions 8 and 9 are specific to Council and reflect the restructuring of Local Councils relationship with the SBNI. 			
<u>ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2014</u>					
SPR/160/2021	Proposed licence of a strip of land to Buttercrane Shopping Centre	It was agreed that Elected Members approve to grant a Licence to Buttercrane Shopping Centre of the lands outlined in green on the map attached, for the term of 5 years subject to a yearly Licence fee of £1850 per annum and subject to Buttercrane Shopping Centre paying Council's valuation costs.	F O'Connor	Approved	Y

SPR/161/2021	Return of Remote Hearing Regulations	<p>It was agreed that Elected Members approve the following recommendation:</p> <p>That in view of the extension of the Local Government (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of District Council Meetings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020, the use of the Chief Executive's delegated powers ratified for Committee and Council meetings in May 2021 is terminated as and from the re-introduction of the regulations on 31st August 2021.</p>	F O'Connor	Approved	Y
SPR/162/2021	DTNI proposal - Pioneering the potential of Community Wealth Building in Newry, Mourne and Down	<p>It was agreed that Elected Members consider and approve the report and agree to proceed with DTNI's proposal – Pioneering the potential of Community Wealth Building in Newry, Mourne and Down with a match funded contribution of £11,000.</p>	D Carville	Approved	Y
SPR/163/2021	Belfast Region City Deal – Governance & Progression of Regional Programmes.	<p>It was agreed that Elected Members approve an NMDDC Contribution of £65,000 towards BRCD Governance & progression of Regional Programmes during 2021/2022 financial period.</p>	D Carville	Approved	Y
SPR/164/2021	Surplus Assets Update	<p>It was agreed that Elected Members consider the recommendations of the SFWG and approve the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play Area at Rear of Bleary Bungalows. Council officers to continue to liaise with NIHE and the property owners who have declared an interest in purchasing this asset in order to progress sale. • Play Area at Ashtree Cottages, Rathfriland Road, Newry. Accept the final bid as detailed in the officer's report and move to 'sale agreed. • 5 Ballynoe Road, Downpatrick (former site of Killough Road Community Centre). Move to Open Market sale, following liaison with a local community group over the next 2 weeks. 	D Carville	Approved	Y

SPR165/2021	Albert Basin	It was agreed that Elected Members consider and approve the appointment of our framework consultants (Tetra Tech) to complete an outline business case (OBC) For the Albert Basin City Park, to identify a preferred option, provide design and cost information to support the completion of the OBC.	M Lipsett	Approved	Y
SPR/166/2021	Belfast Region City Deal Outline Business Case	It was agreed that Elected Members approve the Belfast Region City Deal – Deal Document (appendix 1) and Governance Framework (Appendix 2). To note the progress in the development of the OBCs in line with the agreed phased deal approach. To note the next steps in the delivery of the deal including the finalisation of the Implementation Plan and Financial Plan; and the process for approving the final deal.	M Ward	Approved	Y
<u>ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 4 OF PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2014</u>					

SPR/167/2021	Director Recruitment	<p>it was agreed that Elected Members note the contents of the report and approve the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm their agreement to the proposals at 2.3 and 2.4 of the report. • Nominate 3 elected members of cross community & gender balance to the Shortlisting and Interview Panel for the recruitment of the new Director: Sustainability and Environmental Management, as set out in the Local Government Staff Commission Code of Procedures on Recruitment and Selection (Part D). 	M Ward	Approved	Y
SPR/168/2021	Covid 19 Employee Appreciation	<p>It was agreed that Elected Members approve the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That Members confirm their agreement to recognising and acknowledging employees through granting two Appreciation Days over the Christmas period; those being 30 and 31 December 2021. • Where services can remain closed and non-operational on those additional days, staff would not be required to attend work. • In the case of services which need to operate on those dates or where 'skeleton' service cover is required, post holders will be permitted to take the 2 additional days prior to the end of this financial year. 	M Ward	Approved	Y
SPR/169/2021	ERT/AHC Funded staff	<p>It was agreed that Elected Members approve moving the current temporary programmes as set out in section 4.1 to permanent programmes of Council, noting that Council will continue to seek external funding for all continuing programmes.</p>	C Mallon	Approved	Y

SPR/170/2021	City Deals Complementary Fund Bids	It was agreed that Elected Members note that Council have submitted in September 2021 a total of 4 bids to City / Growth Deal Complementary Fund and officers will seek to engage to try and secure more funding with the Shared Island and Peace Plus fund.	C Mallon	Noted	Y
<u>FOR NOTING</u>					
SPR/171/2021	Strategic Finance Working Group Action Sheet held on 01 October 2021.	It was agreed to note the Strategic Finance Working Group Action Sheet – 01 October 2021.	D Carville	Noted	Y
SPR/172/2021	Minutes of Newry City Regeneration Programme Board Meeting –23 September 2021 and 24 September 2021.	It was agreed to note the minutes of Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board Meeting held on 23 September 2021 and 24 September 2021.	D Carville	Noted	Y
SPR/173/2021	Section 75 Policy screening report – Quarterly report for period July - September 2021	It was agreed to note the contents of the report.	R Mackin	Noted	Y

END

Report to:	Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	11 November 2021
Subject:	Local Democracy Week 2021
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Dorinnia Carville, Director of Corporate Services
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Sarah Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)

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

For decision	x	For noting only	
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1.0	<p>Purpose and Background</p> <p>European Local Democracy Week is a pan-European initiative aimed at boosting local democracy and citizen participation. The theme for this year was "Protecting The Environment: Local Communities Take Action" and occurred during week commencing 11th October 2021.</p> <p>During this week, the Council's Women's Working Group held two very successful 'Dragon's Den' events, one in Newry Town Hall on 12th October 2021 and the other in the Downshire Civic Centre on 15th October 2021 with pupil representatives from 6 local schools.</p>
2	<p>Key Issues</p>
2.1	<p>The pupils were tasked with presenting a Notice of Motion to the 'Dragons' in order to try to be successful in having their Notice of Motion tabled at a future Council Meeting. The calibre of motions was fantastic and really showed that the pupils had spent time researching and preparing for their presentations.</p>
2.2	<p>Members of the Women's Working Group met on 22nd October 2021 to discuss the presented motions and decided that Down High School's motion, as follows, was the winning submission:</p>
2.3	<p><i>"We are here as members of Down High School Eco group because we understand it is our generations duty to tackle climate change. We are very concerned about the increasing levels of CO2 emissions, and the low density of woodland. We would love to see the extension of the Downpatrick Schools' Community Woodland Project to plant 2026 trees as part of Cop26. We want Newry, Mourne & Down District Council to help support us in the organisation a Community Eco Fun Day to get the community and local schools involved in supporting tree planting and raising awareness of Climate Change. This project will help to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>· Raise awareness about the climate crisis</i> <i>· Provide habitat for wildlife</i>

<p>2.4</p> <p>2.5</p>	<p><i>Provide a new recreational area for our community We need our Council to show leadership in promoting Climate Change within the community."</i></p> <p>As winners of the event, the Women's Working Group have recommended that the 4 young people and their teacher from Down High School are invited to attend the Council Meeting on 6th December 2021 in order to present their motion.</p> <p>It was also recommended by the Women's Working Group that a selection of the other motions presented by the young people should be amalgamated into an all-encompassing motion which will be presented to Council in January 2022 and a Teams link to the meeting would be provided to the schools.</p>
<p>3.0</p>	<p>Recommendations</p>
<p>3.1</p> <p>3.2</p>	<p>Down High School, as winners of the 'Dragon's Den' event for Local Democracy Week 2021 be invited to attend the Council Meeting on 6th December 2021 in order to present their motion to full Council.</p> <p>A selection of the other motions presented by the schools to be amalgamated into an all-encompassing motion at the next Women's Working Group Meeting in December, which would then be presented to Council in January 2022. A Teams link to view the meeting would then be provided to the schools that participated in the event.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Resource implications</p>
	<p>N/A</p>
<p>5.0</p>	<p>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</p>
<p>5.1</p>	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>5.2</p>	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p>

	The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.3	<i>Proposal initiating consultation</i>	
	Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Consultation period will be 12 weeks	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<i>Rationale:</i>	
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)	
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service	
	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	If yes, please complete the following:	
	Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.0	Appendices	
	Powerpoint Presentation Slides from Down High School	
8.0	Background Documents	
	N/A	



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Report to:	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	11 November 2021
Subject:	Mid Year Assessment - Performance Improvement Plan 2021-22
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Dorinnia Carville – Director: Corporate Services
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Kate Bingham – Head of Performance and Improvement

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

	For decision	X	For noting only	
1.0	Purpose and Background			
1.1	<p>Through the Performance Improvement Plan 2021-22 and Business Planning and Performance Management Framework, the Council makes a commitment to monitor, review and report performance on a regular basis.</p> <p>This report provides an overview of the Council's progress in implementing the performance improvement objectives between April-September 2021. Where possible, performance has been tracked against the targets set within the Performance Improvement Plan 2021-22.</p>			
2.0	Key issues			
2.1	<p>The majority of 'supporting actions' and 'measures of success' within the Performance Improvement Plan 2021-22 are on track to be achieved. However, progress against the following has been limited:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whilst the number of businesses supported through 'Digital Growth' and 'Tender for Growth' falls slightly below target, the annual targets are on track to be achieved. • There was a decrease in the rate of recycling and an increase in the amount of waste sent to landfill. However, the current statutory standards have been achieved. • There was a slight reduction in the percentage of successful applications to the Financial Assistance Scheme and the 2021-22 target was narrowly missed. • Whilst the statutory standards for processing major planning applications and enforcement cases were not achieved, performance has improved. 			
2.2	<p>It should be noted that the information contained within this report may be subject to change when the results are verified, validated and reported through the annual Assessment of Performance which will be published by 30 September 2022.</p>			
3.0	Recommendations			
3.1	<p>To consider and agree the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid Year Assessment of the Performance Improvement Plan 2021-22 			

4.0	Resource implications
4.1	There are no financial resource implications within this report.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i> Consultation not required.</p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

7.0	Appendices
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appendix 1 – Mid Year Assessment - Performance Improvement Plan 2021-22
8.0	Background Documents
	Performance Improvement Plan 2021-22

Performance Improvement Plan 2021-22

Mid Year Assessment



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

**Newry, Mourne
and Down**
District Council

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Introduction

This report provides an overview of the Council's progress in implementing the performance improvement objectives between April-September 2021. Where possible, performance has been tracked against the targets set within the Performance Improvement Plan 2021-22.

Performance Improvement Objectives 2021-22

1. **We will encourage local people to lead healthy and active lives by improving the quality of our parks and open spaces**
2. **We will grow the economy by supporting local businesses and creating new jobs**
3. **We will improve the cleanliness of our District by addressing littering, fly tipping and dog fouling incidents**
4. **We will build the capacity of local communities through the Financial Assistance Scheme**
5. **We will improve the processing times of planning applications and enforcement cases by implementing the Planning Service Improvement Programme**

Legend

Status		Legend	
	Target or objective achieved / on track to be achieved		Performance has improved since Q1/Q2 2020-21
	Target or objective partially achieved / likely to be achieved / subject to delay		Performance is similar to Q1/Q2 2020-21
	Target or objective not achieved / unlikely to be achieved		Performance has declined since Q1/Q2 2020-21

It should be noted that:

- For the statutory performance indicators for economic development, planning and waste management, performance has been compared to the same period in 2020-21.
- The information contained within this report may be subject to change when the results are verified, validated and reported through the annual Assessment of Performance which will be published by 30 September 2022.

Progress at a glance

Performance Improvement Objective	Progress	Status Trend
We will encourage local people to lead healthy and active lives by improving the quality of our parks and open spaces	1.6m visits recorded at Kilbroney Park, Slieve Gullion Forest Park and Warrenpoint Municipal Park	
	102,177 visits recorded at 8 community trails	
	Green flag accreditation for 5 parks, including Slieve Gullion Forest Park and Delamont Country Park	
	Blue flag accreditation for Cranfield, Murlough and Tyrella beaches	
	Two new play parks complete and open	
We will grow the economy by supporting local businesses and creating new jobs	114 new jobs promoted through business start activity	 
	6 new social enterprises supported and 8 new social enterprise jobs created	
	213 businesses supported and 1,718 mentoring hours delivered through 'NMD Growth', 'Digital Growth', 'Tender for Growth' and 'Sales and Trade'	
	9 new jobs and 2 new businesses created through SEAFLAG 2	
We will improve the cleanliness of our District by addressing littering, fly tipping and dog fouling incidents	74 fixed penalty notices issued and 56 paid	
	Assistance provided towards 66 community clean ups	
	£13k awarded towards 17 environmental projects through the NI 'Live Here Love Here' scheme	
	Decrease in the rate of recycling	 
	Increase in the amount of waste sent to landfill	 
We will build the capacity of local communities through the Financial Assistance Scheme	£1.4m awarded towards 365 successful applications through the Financial Assistance Scheme	
	£844k awarded towards Sport and Community Facilities Capital projects	
	£44k awarded towards 24 COVID-19 Transition projects	
	6 online capacity building sessions delivered to external and internal stakeholders	
	2,604 participants have taken part in completed projects funded through the Financial Assistance Scheme	
We will improve the processing times of planning applications and enforcement cases by implementing the Planning Service Improvement Programme	The average processing time for local planning applications improved to 16.8 weeks	 
	The average processing time for major planning applications improved to 43 weeks	 
	54.4% of enforcement cases processed within 39 weeks	 
	Reduction in the number of planning applications in the system for 12 months or more	
	Increase in the number of enforcement cases in the system for 12 months or more	

Performance Improvement Objective 1

We will encourage local people to lead healthy and active lives by improving the quality of our parks and open spaces

Senior Responsible Officer: Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism

Progress:

- The Council continued to work towards UNESCO Global Geopark designation for Mourne, Gullion, Strangford, and it is anticipated that the evaluation will take place during Q3 2021-22.
- The Fallows phase 1 trail at Kilbroney Park is almost complete and phase 2 is scheduled to commence in November 2021. The planning application for the new visitor facilities at Tyrella beach has been submitted and the outdoor performance and interpretive space at Slieve Gullion Forest Park is scheduled to complete during Q3 2021-22.
- The draft proposals for the viewpoint upgrade, walking trails and visitor information centre at Delamont Country Park are currently being finalised and the consultation process will commence during Q4 2021-22.
- Three new community trails opened at Daisy Hill (Newry), Aughrim Hill (Attical) and Corry Wood (Castlewellan).
- The Council delivered a Social Sustainability campaign which focused on good visitor management by encouraging people to be mindful of their surroundings and consider the impact of their actions on others. This included the #LeaveNoTrace campaign which promoted 7 handy tips to preserve the local area and respect the natural environment.
- A diverse range of activities have been delivered at Warrenpoint Park, including a heritage led programme for the Warrenpoint Youth Forum, regular 'art in the park' exhibitions, tai chi and puppy socialisation classes as well as a digital, traditional and performing arts programme for young people.

Measure of Success	2021-22		Status	Explanatory note
	Target	Q1/Q2 Actual		
Number of recorded visits at:				
Kilbroney Park*	No target	982,812		982,812 visits were recorded at the main car park at Kilbroney Park. Additional visits have been recorded at the Narnia Trail, Fairy Glen and Mountain Bike run.
Slieve Gullion Forest Park*	No target	469,940		469,940 visits were recorded at the main car park at Slieve Gullion Forest Park. Additional visits have been recorded at the Kissing Gate.
Carlingford Lough Greenway	No target	Data not available	-	The number of visits recorded at the Carlingford Lough Greenway will be reported through the Assessment of Performance 2021-22.

Warrenpoint Municipal Park	143,500	139,845		139,845 visits were recorded at Warrenpoint Municipal Park, achieving 97.5% of the annual target. The majority of visits (54.7%) were recorded during Q2 2021-22.
Community trails	No target	102,177 visits		102,177 visits were recorded at 8 community trails. Bunkers Hill recorded the most visits (21,715) and April/May 2021 were the busiest months.
Number of parks with green flag accreditation	5	5		The Council was recently awarded green flag accreditation for five parks, including Kilbroney Park and Slieve Gullion Forest Park and green flag heritage accreditation for Warrenpoint Municipal Park, Newry Canal and Delamont Country Park.
Number of parks with green flag heritage accreditation	2	3		
Number of beaches with blue flag accreditation	3	3		The Council was awarded blue flag accreditation for Cranfield, Murlough and Tyrella beaches in Q1 2021-22.
Level of satisfaction with the Council's forest parks	-	-	-	During September 2021, the Council carried out Visitor Satisfaction Surveys for the Council's main parks and beaches. The results of both surveys are currently being analysed and will be reported in due course.
Number of new/upgraded play parks	5	2		The Council opened two new play parks at Martins Lane (Newry) and Mourne Esplanade (Kilkeel). Building work at the new play parks in Downs Road (Newcastle) and Mullagh Close (Ballymartin) has been temporarily suspended due to the implications of Brexit on accessing materials. However, the Council is on track to complete the remaining three new/upgraded play parks by March 2022.

*New counter systems have been installed across selected Council parks and work is underway to verify the quality of the data for accuracy. It should be noted that the baseline data records the number of vehicles entering the parks which is multiplied by 4 to calculate the number of individual visits.

Performance Improvement Objective 2

We will grow the economy by supporting local businesses and creating new jobs

Senior Responsible Officer: Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism

Progress:

During Q1 and Q2 2021-22, the Council:

- Delivered the 'Make it Local' marketing campaign to stimulate footfall and the re-opening of businesses across the District, using local publications and social media platforms, billboard advertising and promotional videos.
- Continued to deliver the £1.9m COVID-19 Recovery Revitalisation Programme, through which 788 letters of offer, with a total value of £1,137,633, have been issued to local businesses.
- Supported 190 entrepreneurs with an approved Business Plan, creating 114 new businesses and promoting 114 new jobs.
- Supported 213 local businesses and delivered 1,718 mentoring hours, 6 workshops, 2 thematic programmes and 1 'Meet the Buyer' event through the 'NMD Growth', 'Digital Growth', 'Tender for Growth' and 'Sales and Trade' programmes.

Measure of success	2021-22		Status	Explanatory note
	Target	Q1/Q2 Actual		
Number of business plans approved through NI 'Go For It'*	312	190		190 Business Plans approved, achieving 60.9% of the annual target.
Number of new business starts created through NI 'Go For It'	187	114		114 new businesses created, achieving 70% of the annual target.
Number of new jobs promoted through NI 'Go For It' (statutory performance indicator)	>155	114	 	114 new jobs promoted, achieving 73.6% of the statutory annual target. When compared to Q1/Q2 2020-21, this is well above the 64 jobs which were promoted through the NI 'Go For It' programme.
Number of social enterprise start-ups supported	12	6		6 new social enterprise start-ups supported, achieving 50% of the annual target.
Number of social enterprise jobs created	12	8		8 new social enterprise jobs created, achieving 66.7% of the annual target.
Number of businesses supported through 'NMD Growth'	128	102		102 businesses supported, achieving 79.7% of the annual target.
Number of jobs created through 'NMD Growth'	64	-	-	The number of jobs created will be monitored in Q4 and reported through the Assessment of Performance 2021-22.
Number of businesses	90	39		39 businesses supported, achieving 43.3% of annual target. As there has been moderate uptake to the programme,

supported through 'Digital Growth'				plans are underway to review recruitment levels with the delivery agent.
Number of jobs created through 'Digital Growth'	50	-	-	The number of jobs created will be monitored in Q4 and reported through the Assessment of Performance 2021-22.
Number of businesses supported through 'Tender for Growth'	81	35		35 businesses supported, achieving 43.2% of annual target. Increased levels of recruitment were recorded during Q1/Q2, and the annual target is likely to be achieved.
Number of jobs created through 'Tender for Growth'	40	-	-	The number of jobs created will be monitored in Q4 and reported through the Assessment of Performance 2021-22.
Number of businesses supported through 'Sales and Trade'	80	37		37 businesses supported, achieving 46.3% of annual target. This programme was launched during Q1 2021-22, with good levels of uptake during the first round of recruitment. The Council is on track to achieve the annual target.
Number of jobs created through 'Sales and Trade'	40	-	-	The number of jobs created will be monitored in Q4 and reported through the Assessment of Performance 2021-22.
Number of new jobs created in coastal areas (SEAFLAG 2)	Mar 2023: 5.5	To date		To date, 9 new jobs have been created through the SEAFLAG programme, exceeding the 2023 target of 5.5 new jobs. Current projections indicate that a further 12 FTE jobs will be created through the programme.
		9		It should be noted that there is a 'lag' between the initiation of the programme and the subsequent creation of new jobs and businesses, and the achievement of qualifications. Progress against the targets set will continue to be monitored by SEA FLAG during the programme period.
Number of new businesses created in coastal areas (SEAFLAG 2)	Mar 2023: 2	2		A total of two new businesses have been created in Ardglass and Kilkeel and the 2023 target has been achieved.

Performance Improvement Objective 3

We will improve the cleanliness of our District by addressing littering, fly tipping and dog fouling incidents

Senior Responsible Officer: Director of Neighbourhood Services

Progress:

During Q1 and Q2 2021-22, the Council:

- Received 583 service requests for incidents of illicit dumping (301), littering (197) and dog fouling (85).
- Issued 51 littering and fly tipping fixed penalty notices (41 of which have been paid) and 23 dog fouling fixed penalty notices (15 of which have been paid). Overall, 75.7% of fixed penalty notices have been paid to date.
- Assisted 66 voluntary organisations, community groups, sports associations, schools and individuals with community clean ups across the District. This included nine beach cleans at a range of locations including Tyrella, Dundrum and Coney Island beaches.
- Supported the NI 'Live Here Love Here' scheme, through which £13,000 was awarded towards 17 environmental projects for a range of initiatives across the District, including community clean ups, creating community gardens, allotments and vegetable plots, planting wildflowers and fruit bushes and delivering horticultural workshops.
- Recorded a slight reduction in the rate of recycling and an increase in the amount of waste sent to landfill. However, current statutory standards have been achieved.

Measure of success	2021-22		Status	Explanatory note
	Target	Q1/Q2 Actual		
LEAMS score (Keep NI Beautiful Cleanliness Index)	68	-	-	The annual Cleaner Neighbourhoods Survey results for the 2021-22 financial year will be published by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful in July 2022 and the LEAMS score for Newry, Mourne and Down will be reported through the annual Assessment of Performance 2021-22.
Number of fixed penalty notices issued (littering, fly tipping and dog fouling)	90	74	😊	The Council issued 74 fixed penalty notices, achieving 80% of the annual target. To date, 56 of the fixed penalty notices have been paid which represents 77.8% of the annual target.
Number of fixed penalty notices paid (littering, fly tipping and dog fouling)	72	56	😊	
Number of community clean ups supported	60	66	😊	The Council assisted with 66 community clean ups, exceeding the annual target by 10%.
Number of 'Live Here Love Here' environmental projects	No target	17	😊	A total of 17 environmental projects across Newry, Mourne and Down received funding through the NI 'Live Here Love Here' scheme.
The percentage of household waste collected	50% by 2020	Q1 Actual		Whilst the Council has exceeded the current statutory standard of 50%

<p>by District Councils that is sent for recycling <i>(statutory performance indicator)</i></p>		<p>50.4%</p>	<p> </p>	<p>by 2020, the rate of recycling continues to reduce. The Q1 2021-22 rate of recycling was 50.4% which falls below the regional average of 52.1% and the Council is currently ranked 8/11 across Northern Ireland. When compared to Q1 2020-21, this represents a reduction of 6.6% in the rate of recycling, from 57% to 50.4%, which is above the regional rate of reduction of 2.3% when comparing the same quarters.</p>
<p>The amount of biodegradable Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste that is landfilled <i>(statutory performance indicator)</i></p>	<p><20,954 tonnes (2019-20)</p>	<p>658 tonnes</p>	<p> </p>	<p>During Q1 2021-22, the Council sent 658 tonnes biodegradable municipal waste to landfill which was the second lowest across the Northern Ireland, and has only used 3.1% of the NILAS* allowance. However, when compared to Q1 2020-21, the amount of waste that was sent to landfill increased by 52.3%, from 432 tonnes.</p>
<p>The amount of Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste arisings <i>(statutory performance indicator)</i></p>	<p>No target</p>	<p>24,059 tonnes</p>	<p></p>	<p>When compared to Q1 2020-21, the amount of local authority collected municipal waste arisings increased by 19.3%, from 20,174 tonnes to 24,059 tonnes. This increase is similar to the regional trend and may be attributed to less waste being collected at Household Recycling Centres during Q1 2020-21, when many Household Recycling Centres were closed.</p>

*NILAS: Northern Ireland Landfill Allowance Scheme.

Performance Improvement Objective 4

We will build the capacity of local communities through the Financial Assistance Scheme

Senior Responsible Officer: Director of Active and Healthy Communities

Progress:

During Q1 and Q2 2021-22:

- The Council awarded £1,465,203 towards 364 applications across 18 themes, including Community Engagement, Summer Schemes, Irish Language and Local Biodiversity.
- The most popular themes were Community Safety, Good Relations and Community Engagement, through which £199,139 was awarded towards 128 successful applications.
- The highest amount of funding was awarded to Sports Facility Capital projects (£705,695 awarded to 16 applications) followed by Community Facility Capital projects (£138,326 towards 4 projects) and Sport Development Minor Capital projects (£92,198 towards 22 applications).
- The Council awarded £44,290 towards 24 COVID-19 transition projects and £12,670 towards 13 Suicide Prevention projects.
- Through existing Service Level Agreements, the Council awarded a total of £471,858 to the Newry Gateway Club, Newry Mourne and Down Community Advice, County Down Rural Community Network and Confederation of Community Groups.

Measure of Success	2021-22		Status	Explanatory note
	Target	Q1/Q2 Actual		
% of successful financial assistance applications*	74%	68.8%		Overall, the Council received 529 applications to the 2021-22 Financial Assistance Scheme. 364 (68.8%) applications were successful with 67 failing stage 1 and 98 failing stage 2 of the process. All successful applications were awarded funding and the Council did not use the score and rank process.
% of financial assistance applications funded*	No target	68.8%	-	
Number of views of the online training module	100	28		Between April-September 2021, the Council recorded 28 views of the online training module for Financial Assistance. Work is currently underway to devise, deliver and promote a more explicit and targeted online campaign to advertise this resource to potential applicants across the District.
Number of online capacity building sessions delivered	2	6		The Council delivered six internal and external capacity building sessions on using the new electronic Grants Management System, exceeding the annual target of 2. A total of 68 people attended the sessions, including Council officers, Elected Members, independent members from DEA Forums and representatives from the community and voluntary sector.

Number of participants/beneficiaries of the Financial Assistance Scheme	No target	2,604		To date, the Council has recorded 2,604 participants on those projects which have already been delivered and completed. The total number of participants benefitting from the Financial Assistance Scheme is likely to increase substantially when the final claim and evaluations forms are submitted by successful applicants.
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Performance Improvement Objective 5

We will improve the processing times of planning applications and enforcement cases by implementing the Planning Service Improvement Programme

Senior Responsible Officer: Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism

Progress:

During Q1 2021-22, the Council:

- Received 522 planning applications in total which is the highest across Northern Ireland.
- Received 517 local planning applications and decided on 435 applications, which are the highest across Northern Ireland. 373 local planning applications were approved, which results in an approval rate of 85.7%, which is the lowest across Northern Ireland.
- Processed 42.6% of local planning applications within the statutory standard of <15 weeks, which is just below the regional average of 48%. This represents a significant improvement when compared to the 18.3% of applications processed within <15 weeks during Q1 2020-21.
- Received 5 major planning applications, decided on and approved 2 applications. Similar to Q1 2020-21, no major planning applications were processed within the statutory standard of <30 weeks which is below the current regional average of 22.6%.
- Opened 113 enforcement cases which is the third highest across NI and concluded 90 cases in total. As at 30 June 2021, the Council had 838 planning enforcement cases in the system, which is by far, the highest across Northern Ireland.

Measure of Success	2021-22		Status	Explanatory note
	Target	Q1 Actual		
Average processing time for local planning applications (weeks) <i>(statutory performance indicator)</i>	<15 weeks	16.8 weeks	 	During Q1 2021-22, the average processing time for local planning applications was 16.8 weeks which is slightly above the regional average of 15.8 weeks. When compared to Q1 2020-21, this represents an improvement of 8.8 weeks for Newry, Mourne and Down.
Average processing time of major planning applications	<30 weeks	43 weeks	 	During Q1 2021-22, the average processing time for major planning applications was 43 weeks which is well below the regional average of 54 weeks. When compared to

(weeks) <i>(statutory performance indicator)</i>				Q1 2020-21, this represents an improvement of 44 weeks for Newry, Mourne and Down.
Percentage of planning enforcement cases progressed within 39 weeks <i>(statutory performance indicator)</i>	70%	54.4%	 	During Q1 2021-22, 54.4% of planning enforcement cases were concluded within 39 weeks, which is well below the regional average of 71.7%. When compared to Q1 2020-21, this represents an improvement of 29.7% for Newry, Mourne and Down.
Number of planning applications in the system for 12 months or more	150	174		As at 30 June 2021, Newry, Mourne and Down had 174 planning applications in the system for 12 months or more. This represents a reduction of 21 applications when compared to 31 March 2021 and a further reduction of 24 applications is required to achieve the annual target.
Number of planning applications in the system for 12 months or less	700	939		As at 30 June 2021, Newry, Mourne and Down had 939 planning applications in the system for 12 months or less. This represents an increase of 82 applications when compared to 31 March 2021 and a further reduction of 239 applications is required to achieve the annual target.
Number of enforcement cases in the system 12 months or more	450	540		As at 30 June 2021, Newry, Mourne and Down had 540 enforcement cases in the system for 12 months or more. This represents an increase of 6 cases when compared to 31 March 2021 and a further reduction of 100 cases is required to achieve the annual target.

Report to:	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	11 November 2021
Subject:	Mid Year Assessments of Directorate Business Plans 2021-22
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Marie Ward - Chief Executive Dorinnia Carville – Director: Corporate Services
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Marie Ward - Chief Executive Dorinnia Carville – Director: Corporate Services

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

For decision	X	For noting only	
1.0			Purpose and Background
1.1			Directorate Business Plans provide an overview of planned activity for the year ahead, and contribute to the delivery of the Community Plan, Corporate Plan and other key plans and strategies. They form an essential part of the Council's Business Planning and Performance Management Framework, which demonstrates how corporate objectives are cascaded across the organisation and provides assurance that they are being delivered.
2.0			Key issues
2.1			In order to improve transparency and accountability, and facilitate a performance led approach to business planning, each Directorate has undertaken an assessment of their Business Plan 2021-22, to provide an overview of progress between April-September 2021. This exercise forms an important part of the Council's statutory responsibility to strengthen the way performance is monitored, reviewed and reported across the organisation.
2.2			The Mid Year Assessments of the Chief Executive's Department Business Plan and Corporate Services Directorate Business Plan are outlined at Appendices 1 and 2.
3.0			Recommendations
3.1			To consider and agree the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid Year Assessment of the Chief Executive's Department Business Plan 2021-22 • Mid Year Assessment of the Corporate Services Directorate Business Plan 2021-22
4.0			Resource implications
4.1			There are no financial resource implications within this report.
5.0			Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1			<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i>

	It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i> Consultation not required.</p>
6.0	<p>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</p>
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	<p>Appendices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 1 – Mid Year Assessment of the Chief Executive’s Department Business Plan 2021-22 • Appendix 2 – Mid Year Assessment of the Corporate Services Directorate Business Plan 2021-22
8.0	<p>Background Documents</p>
	<p>Directorate Business Plans 2021-22</p>

Chief Executive's Department

Mid-Year Assessment Business Plan 2021-22



Introduction

This report provides an overview of progress in delivering the Business Plan 2021-22 for the Chief Executive’s Department, across the following service areas:

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

The delivery of the Chief Executive’s Departmental Business Plan 2021-22 supports the achievement of all community planning outcomes and corporate objectives, specifically the corporate objectives outlined below. Performance has also been tracked using the legend below.

Provide accessible, high quality and integrated services through continuous improvement

Advocate with others for the benefit of all people of the district

Legend

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

Chief Executive’s Department

Key Office Objectives / Actions
<p>Community Planning – Work with partners to lead the implementation of the Community Plan and deliver better outcomes for local people.</p> <p>Evidence and Research – Develop a robust and reliable evidence base to underpin and inform future decision-making and policy development processes.</p> <p>Performance and Improvement – Support the development of a performance improvement culture by embedding effective performance management arrangements.</p> <p>Democratic Services – Support the decision making and political governance structures of the Council.</p>

Community Planning			
OBJECTIVE	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
Work with partners to lead the implementation of the Community Plan and deliver better outcomes for local people	Advocate with others for the benefit of all people of the district		
Action	Timescale	Status	Progress
Facilitate the development and publication of the 'Recovery and Renewal Plan' for the Strategic Stakeholder Forum	Q1		The Recovery and Renewal Plan was published in Q1 and the Strategic Stakeholder Forum hosted an information event in June to promote the concepts contained within plan.
Review the planned activity and structures of the Priority Subgroups to secure alignment with the post COVID-19 priorities identified by the Community Planning Partnership	Q2		Ongoing. Many Priority Subgroups have now re-convened and revised actions aligned to post COVID-19 priorities have been identified. The Council has also established a Digital Poverty Working Group to address the social inequalities which have been amplified as a result of the working and

			learning from home arrangements in place
Prepare and publish the Community Planning Statement of Progress	Q3		The Statement of Progress is currently being finalised and will be considered by the Community Planning Partnership in December 2021, prior to being submitted to the Department for Communities.
Work in partnership with the NI Housing Executive to organise a conference to outline progress against the Housing Needs Action Plan and identify future objectives for the District	Q3		The Housing Needs Conference is scheduled to take place on 10 November 2021. Speakers include representatives from key stakeholder organisations, such as the World Economic Forum.
Prepare and publish the Community Planning review	Q4		An initial appraisal of indicators has been undertaken and the Community Plan is on track to be reviewed in Q4.
Work with Community Planning partners to progress the development and implementation of further Participatory Budgeting projects across the District	Q4		The launch of Participatory Budgeting has taken place and £57k has been secured from a range of partners to deliver the programme. Applications are currently available to complete, assessments are scheduled to take place during Q3 and successful projects will be delivered during Q3/Q4.
In collaboration with the Strategic Stakeholder Forum, lead the Community Foundation NI supported Citizens' Panel for the District	Q4		Through the Strategic Stakeholder Forum, 'Bang the Table' has been procured as a suitable platform to engage stakeholders and

			invite views on a diverse range of projects.
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Evidence and Research

OBJECTIVE Develop a robust and reliable evidence base to underpin and inform future decision-making and policy development processes	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
	Provide accessible, high quality and integrated services through continuous improvement		
Action	Timescale	Status	Progress
Provide Geographic Information System (GIS) and data analytics support across the organisation	Q1 onwards		The team continues to provide GIS and data analytics support across the organisation. At present, officers can access 20 internal sites to support and inform their work.
Work with internal departments to develop service specific GIS applications to support service delivery	Q1 onwards		The pilot mobile app for litter applications has been developed and preparations are underway to migrate the site to an EU based system, prior to the full launch.
Facilitate effective stakeholder consultation and engagement through online surveys and the NMD Citizens Panel	Q1 onwards		During Q1/Q2, nine surveys were developed and carried out, with the results being analysed for a range of internal and external stakeholders. This includes the Parks and Beaches survey, Staff Health and Wellbeing survey and Museums survey.
Review the indicators within the Community Plan for Newry, Mourne and Down, ensuring alignment with the indicators outlined in the Programme for Government and current proposals to the	Q2		The initial review of current indicators within the Community Plan is complete and will be aligned to the indicators within the Programme for Government when it is published.

Community Planning Partnership			
Prepare the business case for the Residents Survey, to be conducted in August 2022	Q3		The Working Group has been established to consider and scope out the requirements of the Residents Survey 2022.
In partnership with IT, conduct a review of existing GIS provision, assessing the requirement for an organisational upgrade and completing the upgrade of enterprise GIS	Q4		The Business Case has been approved by the Senior Management Team and Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee and the upgrade of enterprise GIS is underway.

Performance and Improvement

OBJECTIVE Support the development of a performance improvement culture by embedding effective performance management arrangements	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
	Provide accessible, high quality and integrated services through continuous improvement		
Action	Timescale	Status	Progress
Prepare and publish the Performance Improvement Plan 2021-22	Q1		The draft performance improvement objectives were endorsed through the public consultation and engagement process and published in the Performance Improvement Plan, which was made available on the corporate website before 30 June 2021, in line with the statutory timescale.
Prepare and publish the Assessment of Performance 2020-21	Q2		The Assessment of Performance 2020-21 provides an overview of progress against the 'measures of success' in the Corporate Plan 2021-23 and Performance Improvement Plan 2021-22, and was published before 30

			September 2021, in line with the statutory timescale. The summary document entitled 'Our Performance Looking Back, Going Forward' was also published on the corporate website.
Facilitate the Performance Audit and Assessment and implement the 'proposals for improvement' put forward by the Local Government Auditor	Q2/Q3		The S95 Report from the NI Audit Office in relation to the Performance Audit and Assessment 2020-21 has not yet been issued and the 2021-22 Performance Audit and Assessment has been delayed until Q3/Q4. The Council continues to comply with the statutory Duty of Improvement and implement the current Proposals for Improvement. Progress to date was reported through the Assessment of Performance 2020-21.
Develop the 2022-23 performance improvement objectives, in line with the Corporate Plan	Q3/Q4		Progress in delivering the current suite of performance improvement objectives will be reported during Q3. This process will inform the development of the performance improvement objectives 2022-23.
Strengthen the alignment across the Business Planning and Performance Management Framework and co-ordinate the business and service planning process	Q1 onwards		The alignment across the Business Planning and Performance Management Framework continues to strengthen through the Corporate Plan, Performance Improvement Plan, Directorate Business Plans, Service Plans and People Perform Grow (phase 1), which enables teams and employees to identify their contribution to achieving strategic outcomes and objectives.

Explore options to procure an electronic Performance Management System	Q1 onwards		The project mandate for an electronic performance management system is scheduled to be considered by the IT Projects Group. The Council is exploring options in relation to the current and future business requirements around the procurement of a system.
Provide performance management training and capacity building for Elected Members and designated officers	Q1 onwards		Performance Management training will be delivered to the members of the Audit Committee in Q3 2021-22. Performance management will also be incorporated into the ILM Level 3 Leadership and Management programme for Council employees.

Democratic Services			
OBJECTIVE	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
Support the decision making and political governance structures of the Council	Advocate with others for the benefit of all people of the district		
Action	Timescale	Status	Progress
Provide administrative and governance support to the Council, Standing Committees, PCSP/Policing Committee and ad-hoc Working Groups	Q1 onwards		The Council continues to provide administrative and governance support to the monthly meetings of Council and its Standing Committees, as well as the quarterly meetings of the Audit Committee. Action sheets for each meeting are instrumental in monitoring and tracking progress in implementing Council decisions. Since June 2020, the Council has been operating virtual meetings using Skype initially, and more recently Microsoft Teams. Hybrid meetings have been introduced with

			Risk Assessments in place for the Chamber.
Organise the annual meeting of the Council and manage the appointment to positions of responsibility for the Council and Committees	Q1		The annual meeting of the Council took place in June 2021 and Elected Members have been appointed to designated positions of responsibility for 2021-22, as well as the second term of Council in relation to political party representation.
Organise and publish the programme of Council and Committee meetings	Q1		The programme of Committee meetings for 2021-22 has been organised, agreed and published on the corporate website.
Organise an induction, training and capacity building programme to support Elected Members in fulfilling their roles and responsibilities, including e-learning, Code of Conduct, Standing Orders, Decision Time, Safeguarding, Data Protection and Performance Management	Q1 onwards		Between April-September 2021, Elected Members were invited to participate in a number of training programmes, including Suicide Awareness / Prevention and Dementia Awareness. Elected Members also attended a range of conferences organised by NILGA, National Association of Councillors and APSE.
Commence preparations to re-attain the Elected Development Charter for NMDDC	Q1/Q2		Re-attaining the Elected Member Development Charter has been delayed due to resource constraints and competing priorities.
Support the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson in carrying out their role(s) as First Citizen(s)	Q1 onwards		The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson have a designated resource within the Council to support them in fulfilling their role(s) as First Citizen(s). To date, the Chairperson has hosted 6 civic receptions and attended 60 official events across the District.

Measures of Success			
Measure	Q1/Q2 Actual	Status	Explanation
Compliance with the statutory Duty of Improvement	Achieved		Whilst the S95 Report for 2020-21 has not yet been issued by the NI Audit Office, the Council continues to comply with the statutory Duty of Improvement.
Compliance with the statutory Duty of Community Planning	Achieved		The Council continues to comply with the statutory Duty of Community Planning.
The number of events hosted on behalf of the Chairperson	6		Between April-September 2021, the Chairperson hosted 6 civic receptions.
The number of official events attended by the Chairperson/Vice Chairperson	60		Between April-September 2021, the Chairperson attended 60 official events across the District. This included the 'Walk for Life' to mark World Suicide Prevention Day, Civic Awards, Local Democracy week celebrations and illuminating Council buildings to recognise 'Organ Donation Week', 'Recycle Week' and 'Childhood Cancer Awareness Month'.

Corporate Services

Mid-Year Assessment Business Plan 2021-22



Introduction

This report provides an overview of progress in delivering the Corporate Services Business Plan 2021-22 between April-September 2021, across the following service areas:

- Finance, including Procurement
- Human Resources, including Safeguarding
- Corporate Planning and Policy, including Communications and Marketing
- Administration, including Legal Services, Compliance and Registration Services
- Information Technology
- Estates and Capital projects, including Health and Safety and Emergency Planning

The delivery of the Corporate Services Business Plan 2021-22 supports the achievement of all corporate objectives, particularly the following corporate objectives, and performance has been tracked using the legend below.

Provide accessible, high quality and integrated services through continuous improvement

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

Enhance, protect and promote our environment

Legend

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

Directorate objectives, supporting actions and measures of success

Key Office Objectives / Actions
<p>Administration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a Corporate Compliance Service • Deliver a Corporate Business Support Service and Registration Service • Provide a Corporate Legal Support Service <p>Corporate Planning and Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a Corporate Planning and Corporate Policy function, including delivery of the Irish Language Strategy • Provide a corporate Communications and Marketing service <p>Estates and Capital</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide adequate Emergency Planning and response • Provide appropriate Health and Safety and Insurance provision • Provide strategic asset strategy for Council <p>Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide and efficient finance function • Ensure appropriate risk management arrangements in place • Provide an effective procurement service <p>HR and Safeguarding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to mitigate existing and emerging safeguarding risks, for both Council & Citizens • Provide a professional HR service all employment matters, including employee relations, resourcing and development • Contribute to the further development of future workforce skills <p>IT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide secure IT network. Provide appropriate IT provision to support transformational change

Administration			
OBJECTIVE	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
Provide a Corporate Compliance Service	Provide accessible, high quality and integrated services through continuous improvement		
Action	Timescale	Status	Progress
Develop a Functional Classification System and draft a new Corporate File Plan	Q4		It is anticipated a first draft will be developed in Q3.
Introduce a new Corporate Retention and Disposal Schedule,	Q3		SMT approved the new R&D on 6 Oct 2021. The next stage is PRONI consideration.

providing training to staff and elected members	Q4		Current e-learning Records Management module applies. Necessary updates to follow once Retention & Disposal Schedule, Functional Classification System & Corporate File Plan approved.
Update Publication Scheme	Q4		Ongoing.
Update Records Management Policy and Procedures	Q4		Ongoing.
OBJECTIVE Deliver a Corporate Business Support Service and Registration Services	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
	Provide accessible, high quality and integrated services through continuous improvement		
Action	Timescale	Status	Progress
Develop and lead on the implementation of a new corporate administration model	Q4		SMT is considering options for deployment of Business Support staff for all services.
Develop a policy framework and complaints handling procedures to implement the proposed new NIPSO Complaints Management Model for the Local Government sector	Q3		Consultation on new NIPSO Model complaints management system closed on 30 September. Council will incorporate the Model into its policy framework and own procedures when announced by NIPSO.
Provide training for staff and elected members on the proposed new NIPSO Complaints Management Model	Q3		Council will provide training on the Complaints Management Model based on guidance and training material from NIPSO.
OBJECTIVE Provide a Corporate Legal Support Service	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
	Provide accessible, high quality and integrated services through continuous improvement		
Action	Timescale	Status	Progress
Review and update Council's Standing Orders for consultation and agreement of elected members, providing training to staff and elected members	Q2		Changes to Standing Order in relation to the planning and regulatory decisions that are now subject to call-in will be reported to SP&R Committee November 2021. A review of Standing Orders is required to be undertaken

			and a report taken to SP&R Committee with potential amendments for decision thereafter. Target date for completion of this exercise is end November 2021.
Review and amend Council's Standard Terms and Conditions of Contracts to ensure consistency in approach and common standards across all Services	Q4		On target.
Review of legal title documents to ensure Council ownership of assets held and advise on updates to relevant database.	Q4		On target.

Corporate Planning and Policy			
OBJECTIVE	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
Provide a corporate planning and policy service	Provide accessible, high quality and integrated services through continuous improvement		
Action	Timescale	Status	Progress
Commence the development of the Corporate Plan 2023-27, by Developing a Terms of Reference and engagement workplan	Q3		On target.
Development of Social Values Strategy	Q4		DTNI working with CLES have submitted a proposal on a practical first step for Council to assess its activities and begin exploring the issue of social value by applying the principles of Community Wealth Building.
Monitor compliance with Council's statutory duties of compliance with Equality, Disability & Rural Needs	Q1 – Q4		Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Report for the period 1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021 submitted to DAERA on 14 June 2021. Annual report on progress Statutory Equality and Good

			Relations Duties submitted to ECNI on 17 August 2021. Quarterly policy screening reports for periods April – June and July – September have been tabled at SPR meetings.
Implement Irish Language Strategy, including effective distribution of the bursary schemes	Q1-Q4		Ongoing implementation
OBJECTIVE Provide a corporate Communications and Marketing service	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
	Provide accessible, high quality and integrated services through continuous improvement		
Action	Timescale	Status	Progress
Implement a new Social Media and Acceptable Use Policy and Procedure, providing training to staff and elected members	Q2		Policy and Procedure approved by Council 5 July 2021. Employee and Elected Member training ongoing implementation.
Review and update Corporate Communications Strategy, with a focus on further development of the digital offering	Q3		On target.
Review and update Media Policy and Procedure	Q4		On target.
Develop Communications and Marketing Toolkit for Employees	Q4		On target.
Begin development of new corporate website	Q4		On target.

Estates and Capital			
OBJECTIVE Provide adequate Emergency Planning and Response	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
	Enhance, protect and promote our environment		
Action	Timescale	Status	Progress
Update of the Council Emergency Plan following review of JESIP Doctrine,	Q4		On course for completion in Q4.

including training of staff and elected members.			
Lead on the development of a suitable corporate cyber security business response plan.	Q2		Commenced and in progress.
Lead on the development of procedures and working protocols to ensure safe response to ongoing changes resulting from the COVID 19 pandemic, providing advice and guidance to staff and elected members as necessary.	Q1- Q4		On-going.
OBJECTIVE Provide adequate Health & Safety and Insurance provision	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
	Enhance, protect and promote our environment		
Action	Timescale	Status	Progress
Implementation of the new Health & Safety Policy to include training for staff and elected members	Q3		New H & S Policy agreed. Training to be rolled out in Q3-4.
Review of corporate H&S training requirements and implementation of a new framework of H&S training providers.	Q4		On course for completion in Q4.
Lead on in depth review of all Council insurances to ensure adequate insurance of Council assets in place	Q1		Review on-going.
OBJECTIVE Provide strategic asset strategy for Council	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
	Enhance, protect and promote our environment		
Action	Timescale	Status	Progress
Advise and assist departments in the identification and delivery of projects in the capital programme, including advising on projected costs, programme, risks and procurement strategy.	Q1- Q4		Ongoing

Finalise identification and agree future use for all surplus assets.	Q1 – Q4		Ongoing
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Human Resources

OBJECTIVE Provide a professional HR service on all employment matters, including employee relations, resourcing and development and safeguarding.	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
	Provide accessible, high quality and integrated services through continuous improvement		
Action	Timescale	Status	Progress
Phased introduction of 'People Perform Grow' to engage with employees and set out how employees and teams contribute to the achievement of community planning outcomes and corporate objectives.	Q1		Launched as planned. Working with Head of Performance and Improvement and IT Manager to develop tracking system to enable monitoring of compliance.
In conjunction with Subject Matter Experts, further develop eLearning provision which supports Council goals and objectives.	Q2-Q4		Updated Module-Introduction to Health & Safety (in accordance with new Policy). Production of Top Tips videos on 'How to complete Job Application Form and 'How to prepare for a job Interview. New Video content on Social Media & Acceptable use Policy & Procedure. Currently under construction – COSHH module / Sustainability module / Trauma Informed Practice / Accident Reporting
Digitisation of annual leave records for those on manual recording systems	Q4		Progress slower than planned due to staff shortages in HR Business Support. Project plan revised to deliver to planned timeframe.

<p>Update, develop and implement HR & Safeguarding policies/procedures as identified in the HR & Safeguarding Service Business Plan</p>	<p>Q2-Q4</p>		<p>The following have been developed and submitted to and supported by the Safeguarding Steering Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding Training Procedure • Safeguarding Standards • Domestic Abuse (DA) policy and training implementation plan <p>Further work to secure specific staff for specialist DA policy roles & training. Updates to be provided to SMT/CMT in due course.</p>
<p>OBJECTIVE Contribute to the further development of future workforce skills</p>	<p>ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN Invest in and support new and growing businesses, job creation and employment skills</p>		
<p>Action</p>	<p>Timescale</p>	<p>Status</p>	<p>Progress</p>
<p>Develop an apprenticeship programme in preparation for 2022-23 academic year, working with partner organisations within the Belfast Region City Deal to develop skills & employability within the region</p>	<p>Q4</p>		<p>Meetings on-going with Belfast Region City Deal.</p>
<p>Develop and create publication pack which provides potential candidates, work experience students, teachers, schools etc. with information on working with NMDDC.</p>	<p>Q1</p>		<p>Developed and in use. Uploaded to GetGot as part of information provided to job applicants.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Information Technology</p>			
<p>OBJECTIVE Provide a secure IT network for Council services</p>	<p>ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN Provide accessible, high quality and integrated services through continuous improvement</p>		
<p>Action</p>	<p>Timescale</p>	<p>Status</p>	<p>Progress</p>

Improve cyber security posture by establishing a new cyber incident response plan and testing disaster recovery capabilities, in accordance with guidance from the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC).	Q3		Under development in conjunction with NCSC and other NI Councils.
Implement and roll out additional security tools to staff and elected members, providing advice and training as required	Q3 and ongoing		2FA to Office 365 now implemented on high-risk-data services and continuing to other services.
Continue to increase User awareness and resilience through provision of training, advice and testing	Q4 and ongoing		New campaign will be launched during November 2021.
OBJECTIVE Provide appropriate IT to support transformational change	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
	Provide accessible, high quality and integrated services through continuous improvement		
Action	Timescale	Status	Progress
Lead on the procurement and deployment of IT provision to support new Ways of Working project, ensuring the in-building IT provision is sufficient to support the estate	Q1 – Q4		On-track.

Finance			
OBJECTIVE Provide an efficient finance function	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
	Provide accessible, high quality and integrated services through continuous improvement		
Action	Timescale	Status	Progress
Introduce a new payroll Policy and develop efficient corporate payroll procedures	Q1 - 2		Payroll Policy approved by SP&R in May 2021 – Procedures currently being reviewed for Legacy Newry and Down offices, so Council will have a standardised approach going forward – exercise to be completed by 31 March 2022 in line with NIAO recommendation.

Develop a business case for new Finance System, identifying and progressing areas for procedural efficiency	Q4		New finance system not currently a priority – Procurement to Pay system currently being prioritised.
OBJECTIVE Ensure appropriate risk management arrangements are in place	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
	Provide accessible, high quality and integrated services through continuous improvement		
Action	Timescale	Status	Progress
Revise Risk Strategy to comply with Orange book and develop Risk Appetite for NMDDC, and providing training to staff and elected members	Q3		Revised Risk Strategy presented to the July 2021 Audit Committee. Training provided to SMT in June 2021. A session for Audit Committee Members is scheduled prior to the December 2021 meeting.
OBJECTIVE Provide an effective procurement service	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
	Provide accessible, high quality and integrated services through continuous improvement		
Action	Timescale	Status	Progress
Implement new procure to pay system, providing training to staff and external users	Q3		On target – go live date is scheduled for the 19 th November 2021. System and Super User training scheduled for w/c 1 November.
Lead on the completion of a Contracts Register	Q4		Live contracts register now in place. Contracts mapping exercise has been used to inform Directorate Procurement Action Plans which were presented to Audit Committee in September 2021. Internal Audit recommendations on Contract Management will be progressed prior to 31 March 2021.

Measures of Success				
Measure	Target	YTD Actual	Status	Explanation
Administration: 90% of responses to requests for information provided	90%	95%		From the 1 April – 30 September 2021 the following requests deadline have been achieved:

within statutory timeframe										
	Deadline Met	DP	EIR	EIR/IR	FOI	FOI/IR	ICO	SAR	SAR/IR	Total
	No	1	2	1		1		1		6
	Pending	3	2		2			2		9
	Yes	19	140	4	108	2	1	28	1	303
	Total	23	144	5	110	3	1	31	1	318
Finance: Pay 90% of invoices to suppliers within 30 days			90%	90%		Quarter 1 – 92% Quarter 2 – 88%				
IT: 90% System “UP” Time			90%	95%		“DOWN” Time of 5% during planned maintenance windows at weekends/evenings.				
HR: Increased completion rate of eLearning modules by a minimum of 10%						eLearning reporting capability is based on a point in time meaning the data as at end September 2020 is not readily available.				
Estates and Capital Projects: 90% of staff to receive training on the new Health & Safety Policy within the first 12 months			90%	0%		Due to delays in roll out of training, 90% completion by staff may not be achieved in first 12 months.				
Corporate Planning and Policy: 90% of media requests for information responded to within agreed timeframes			90%	90%		On target				

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board Meeting
held on Thursday 4th November 2021, 1.30pm
Hybrid: Council Chamber, Newry & MS Teams**

In Attendance:**Programme Board Members**

**Councillor Gary Stokes – Chair
Councillor Roisin Mulgrew
Councillor Pete Byrne
Councillor Charlie Casey
Councillor Gavin Malone
Councillor William Walker**

NMDDC Officials

**Marie Ward, Chief Executive
Conor Mallon, Director of Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism
Michael Lipsett, Director of Active, Healthy Communities
Adrian Grimshaw, Project Director
Anthony McKay, Chief Planner
Andy Patterson, Assistant Director, Tourism Culture and Events
Paul Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure & Sport
Caolain Boyd, Assistant Director, Estates & Capital Projects
Tracie McLoughlin, PA**

External Members

Damian Mulholland, Dept for Communities

Presenters

**Cormac Ó Súilleabháin, Cork County Council
Ben Aston, Hamilton Architects
Rachel Murphy, Hamilton Architects**

Apologies:

**Cllr D Taylor
Mrs D Carville**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised the first item is a presentation by Cormac Ó Súilleabháin , Cork County Council

NCCR/91 Presentation by Cormac Ó Súilleabháin , Cork County Council

Mr Ó Súilleabháin gave a presentation on the Haulbowline Park development project at Cork Harbour and outlined their 4 stage approach to project delivery as: Define, Plan, Implement, Control.

Mr Ó Súilleabháin said at the outset that Councils have a vested interest in successful delivery and operation of their schemes, and one of the most important aspects of successful delivery is to plan and use the skills and expertise of internal staff resources. He went on to urge attendees they should not underestimate time, complexities and cost, and highlighted the key to managing the many risks and uncertainty of schemes such as these is to plan to an advanced stage before starting site works.

Mr Ó Súilleabháin also noted importance of a clear project objective, at Haulbowline site, remediation was the project with the final park an output of achieving that overall objective.

The Chairman thanked Mr Ó Súilleabháin for his presentation and congratulated him on the huge achievement in delivering their project and said he was grateful to get his good advice. The Chairman opened the floor for questions/comment.

Cllr Casey also thanked Mr Ó Súilleabháin for the detail provided in the presentation and said there were a lot of similarities to the Albert Basin site. He noted the identification of negative public commentary on developing the site and hoped our area could overcome similar issues as Cork County Council have.

Cllr Byrne welcomed the presentation also noting the similarities and asked Mr Ó Súilleabháin how Cork County Council overcame the negative publicity.

Mr Ó Súilleabháin outlined that as the negativity related to toxicity and health concerns, Cork focused upon the remediation objective and associated messaging. To do so all existing information was laid out internally at the outset and a gap analysis performed prior to engaging consultants. They established a clear programme of works, including phasing of work. There were time delays due to processes which were out of Council control such as the consent processes and financial sanctioning processes, noting that a project cannot control all aspects of delivery. Mr Ó Súilleabháin noted their planning process did not require public consultation, but proposed solutions developed in response to risk assessments were presented to the public.

Cllr Mulgrew thanked Mr Ó Súilleabháin and said it was unfortunate that as a Council we hadn't been aware of the Haulbowline project and engaged with Cork sooner. Regarding the location of Albert Basin site, she noted the difference in relation to its particular harbor island location and enquired with regard to accessibility;

- a) Is there parking provision;
- b) How many users of the park per month;
- c) What is the walk distance around the park;

- d) Since completion, has Cork been asked to develop the site with further landscaping or community facilities;

In response to Cllr Mulgrew's questions, Mr Ó Súilleabháin replied:

- a) There are 50 parking spaces on the site
- b) They have not monitored numbers, however in peak summer periods the car park is full;
- c) Walk distance is a 1km loop marked at 200m intervals;
- d) Future developments are not permitted as it is a regulated capped site that cannot be penetrated. For example, the existing toilet block floats on a slab to avoid its foundations penetrating the cap.

Cllr Malone said it was an excellent presentation and asked how much capital funding was allocated and how much did the project cost in total.

Mr Ó Súilleabháin replied that all funding came from the Irish central government as the site was in breach of the Waste Framework Directive and fines were being imposed, so the sites remediation was a national priority. With respect to costs, Mr Ó Súilleabháin noted the defects period for planting had just ended after 3 years, total project cost is between €20-€25m.

Cllr Walker thanked Mr Ó Súilleabháin for a very interesting and impressive presentation and agreed with Cllr Mulgrew that it was unfortunate we hadn't engaged with Cork in the earliest stages of the Albert Basin Park project. Cllr Walker said there was a lot of negativity associated with the Albert Basin project and acknowledged that like Cork it wasn't a straight forward project but encouraged members and officers to move forward positively on taking the Albert Basin Park towards fruition.

NCCR/92 Minutes of Albert Basin Park Project Meeting 19th October 2021

On the proposal of Cllr C Casey, seconded by Cllr P Byrne it was agreed to note the contents of the Report.

NCCR/93 Minutes of Newry City Centre Regeneration Project Board/BRCD Meeting 19th October 2021

On the Proposal of Cllr C Casey, seconded by Cllr P Byrne it was agreed to note the contents of the Report.

NCCR/94 Theatre/Conference:

- a) RIBA Stage 2 Concept Design Presentation by Ben Aston, Hamilton Architects

Mr Aston presented the concept design for the new theatre/ conference facility and advised this was the end of RIBA Stage 2 Concept Design stage for the scheme, and this presentation forms part of the process to move forward to RIBA Stage 3. Mr Aston

noted the focus of the presentation on the new auditorium, elevation work, external works, public realm and next steps.

The Chairman thanked Mr Aston for his presentation and opened the floor for questions/ comments.

Cllr Casey thanked Mr Aston for his presentation noting it was an exciting project, that he liked the marrying of new and old and was looking forward to seeing the atrium space. Cllr Casey also noted the positive intent regarding delivery timescale.

Cllr Mulgrew echoed Cllr Casey's comments, welcoming the contrasting historic and modern approach, and also the energy efficient aspects of the development. Cllr Mulgrew asked if a 3D model of the entire Newry City Regeneration Project had been developed yet as this positive news should be presented at a public engagement event. Mr Mallon said the consultants are currently working on a 3D model fly-through and he would report back at the next Programme Board Meeting.

b) RIBA Stage 2 Concept Design Report

On the proposal of Cllr P Byrne, seconded by Cllr C Casey the recommendations contained within the report were approved:

- i. Accept the Stage 2 report as presented for the theatre/ conference project and that Council progresses to RIBA Stage 3 - Spatial Coordination;
- ii. Council proceeds with the procurement for an Integrated Supply Team (IST);
- iii. That the final Pre Application Notice (PAN) is concluded and Council proceeds with the submission of the full planning application.

NCCR/95 NCCR Programme Dashboard and Graphics

- a) Programme Dashboard Report
- b) Risk Register
- c) Budget
- d) Look Ahead Programme

Members agreed to note the contents of the above Reports.

NCCR/96 Date for Next Meeting

Members noted the date for the next meeting is Thursday 9th December 2021, 10am.

The Chairman Cllr Stokes said as per the Programme Board arrangement on the rotation of the Chair position, this was his last Meeting as Chairman and advised that Cllr Mulgrew would resume Chairperson position for the next 6 months.

Members in attendance thanked Cllr Stokes for his term as Chairperson.

This concluded the business of the Meeting. The Meeting ended at 3.10pm

**Approved by Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board.
Thereafter ratified at the Strategy Policy and Resources Committee
Meeting 11th November 2021**