



November 16th, 2023

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the meeting to be held on Thursday, 16th November 2023 at 6:00 pm in Microsoft Teams & Downshire Civic Centre.

Committee Membership 2023 - 2024

Councillor L McEvoy **Chairperson**

Councillor C Enright **Deputy Chairperson**

Councillor J Brennan

Councillor P Byrne

Councillor O Hanlon

Councillor R Howell

Councillor T Kelly

Councillor A Lewis

Councillor D McAteer

Councillor A Mathers

Councillor S O'Hare

Councillor A Quinn

Councillor H Reilly

Councillor G Sharvin

Councillor D Taylor

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

Councillors Mathers and McAteer

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 Action Sheet arising from Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on 12 October 2023

For Approval

 *SPR-Action Sheet arising from 2023 10 12.pdf* *Page 1*

4.0 Notice of Motion - Annual Financial Assistance Call for Provision of Life Saving Equipment

 *SPR - NOM - Financial Assistance Call - Life Saving Equipment Final.pdf* *Page 5*

 *Appendix 1 Feb 2022 NOM Report.pdf* *Page 9*

 *Appendix 2 Community Development Courses.pdf* *Page 14*

 *Appendix 3 - NMD Registered Defib Map.pdf* *Page 17*

Corporate Planning and Policy

5.0 Straitéis na Gaeilge 2024-2027 Irish Language Strategy 2024-2027

For Decision

 *Straiteis na Gaeilge 2024-2027.pdf* *Page 18*

 *I. Anailis ar an Chomhairliuchan - Straiteis na Gaeilge 2023-2027.pdf* *Page 21*

 *II. Straiteis na Gaeilge 2024 -2027.pdf* *Page 37*

 *Report on Irish Language Strategy 2024-2027.pdf* *Page 49*

 *I. Consultation analysis Irish Language Strategy 2023-2027.pdf* *Page 52*

 *II. Irish Language Strategy 2024-2027.pdf* *Page 71*

6.0 Téarmaí Tagartha Uasdátaithe - An Grúpa Oibre Traspháirtí um

Straitéis na Gaeilge

Updated Terms of Reference - Irish Language Strategy Cross Party Working Group

For Decision

- [Tearmaí Tagartha Uasdataithe An Grupa Oibre Trasphairti um.pdf](#) Page 83
- [Report on Updated Terms of Reference Irish Language Strategy Cross Party Working Group.pdf](#) Page 86
- [Appendix I - Updated Irish Language Cross Party Working Group Terms of Reference.pdf](#) Page 88

7.0 Statutory Reporting - Section 75 Policy Screening Report - Quarterly Report for period July-September 2023

For Information

- [Statutory reporting - Section 75 Policy Screening Report Quarterly Report for period July - September 2023.pdf](#) Page 90
- [Appendix I - Section 75 Policy Screening Report Quarterly Report for period July September 2023.pdf](#) Page 93

Corporate Services

8.0 Mid Year Assessment - Performance Improvement Plan 2023/24

For Decision

- [SPR Cover Report Mid Year Progress Report PIP 2023-24.pdf](#) Page 97
- [Appendix 1 - PIP Mid Year Progress Report April-September 2023.pdf](#) Page 99

9.0 Impact of Flooding on Council Estate

For Information





- [Report re impact to Council premises from flooding.pdf](#) Page 113

9.1 NMD Floods Communication Performance

- [16.11.2023 NMD Floods Communications Performance.pdf](#) Page 116

10.0 NMDDC Emergency Management Plan Report & Emergency Communications Plan Reports

- [SPR Report - EMP Comms Plan November 2023.pdf](#) Page 121

 <i>NMDDC Emergency Management Plan Nov 2023.pdf</i>	<i>Page 124</i>
 <i>SPRC 16.11.23 NMDDC Emergency Communications Plan.pdf</i>	<i>Page 164</i>
 <i>RNIA Emergency Management Plan.pdf</i>	<i>Page 176</i>
 <i>RNIA Emergency Communications Plan.pdf</i>	<i>Page 185</i>

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

10.1 NMDDC Emergency Communications Plan Sep 2023 Procedures

Appendix relating to Item 10

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 and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

 <i>SPRC 16.11.23 NMDDC Emergency Communications Plan Procedures and Appendices.pdf</i>	<i>Not included</i>
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11.0 Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor (DBEC): Collaboration and Funding Agreement

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 and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

 <i>Nov 2023 SPR_ DBEC.pdf</i>	<i>Not included</i>
 <i>Collaboration and Funding Agreement v4.pdf</i>	<i>Not included</i>

12.0 STA - Sun System

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 and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

 <i>Finance System STA 2024.pdf</i>	<i>Not included</i>
 <i>Appendix 1 - Finance System STA.pdf</i>	<i>Not included</i>

13.0 Newry City Park - Contract for Funding


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 and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

 ***SPR - Newry City Park Funding Agreement.pdf*** ***Not included***

 ***Appendix 1 - Newry City Park - Draft Contract for Funding.pdf*** ***Not included***

14.0 Consolatory payment

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 and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

 ***SPR Report - Consolatory payment_updated_.pdf*** ***Not included***

15.0 Castlewellan Park Update


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 and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

 ***SPR Report Nov 23 - CWFP Procurement -.pdf*** ***Not included***

 ***Appendix 1 - Castlewellan - Post Tender Report vf.pdf*** ***Not included***

16.0 Dundrum Playing Fields – Changing Pavilion


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 and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

 ***Dundrum Playing Fields Changing Pavilion.pdf*** ***Not included***

 ***Appendix 1 Dundrum Pavilion Business Case.pdf*** ***Not included***

17.0 Saintfield Hockey Floodlights

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 and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

 ***SPR - Saintfield Hockey Pitch Flood Lighting (002).pdf*** ***Not included***

 ***Appendix 1 - Saintfield Hockey Floodlights - Business Case.pdf*** ***Not included***

18.0 Specific Delegated Function

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 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). Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the Council or a government department and employees of, or office holders under, the Council. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.

 *Report to SPRC 2023-11-16.pdf*

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

19.0 Management Accounts

For Information

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 and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

 *Management Accounts Q2 202324.pdf*

Not included

 *Appendix 1 - Mgt Accs by Directorate - 30.9.2023.pdf*

Not included

 *Appendix 2 - Mgt Accs by AD - 30.9.2023.pdf*


Not included

 *Appendix 3 - Mgt Accs by Expense Type - 30.09.23.pdf*

Not included

 *Appendix 4 - Payroll Report - 30.09.23.pdf*

Not included

 *Appendix 5 - NMDDC_Q1-2023-24-Prudential-Indicators - capital.pdf*

Not included

 *Appendix 6 - NMDDC_Q1-2023-24-Treasury-Indicators.pdf*

Not included

ACTION SHEET – STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING (SPR) –**THURSDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2023****ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2014**

SPR/131/2023	Surplus Assets Update	<p>It was agreed Elected Members approve the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To withdraw the D1 Application made by Sir Hans Sloane Centre at this stage as the timescales within the process have not been met and there are still outstanding issues that need to be addressed prior to disposal. This will allow the issues that have arisen to be explored further before next steps are considered. A report will be brought back in due course to the Committee. To note the current lack of interest in the site at Patrick Street and that Officers will look at the options available and report back to the Committee in due course. 	C Boyd	Complete	Y
				Report will be brought back once legal agreements have been concluded.	N

ACTION SHEET – STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING (SPR) –**THURSDAY 12 OCTOBER 2023**

SPR/142/2023	Irish Language Strategy 2024/27	It was agreed to defer decision until a meeting of the Irish Language Working Group be held for further discussions.	C Moffett	Item on November SPR Agenda	
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SPR/143/2023	Council's Decision Making Process	It was agreed to note the process maps and narratives for dealing with Notices of Motion at both Council and Committee Meetings.	S Taggart	Noted	Y
SPR/144/2023	Mourne Gateway – ICT Procurement	It was agreed to approve the recommendations of the Project Board to progress procurement of an Integrated Consultancy Team (ICT) to develop the project to Final Business Case stage. Appointment of the ICT would be subject to Council approval of the contract for Funding/Funding Agreement.	A Patterson	In progress	Y
ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2014					
SPR/145/2023	Proposed Surrender of Lease at Lisnacree	It was agreed to surrender the lease of the lands known as Lisnacree Community Centre subject to the terms set out in the officer's report. It was also agreed that the Director would revert to Members regarding operational matters concerned at the site.	P Rooney J Kelly		
SPR/146/2023	Licence for Unit at Milltown Playing Fields	It was agreed to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> enter into a Licence with the Club noted within the report for a period of two years to enable the Club to retain the container placed upon Council lands which are outlined in red on the map attached to the officer's report; to grant the licence subject to a licence fee of one peppercorn subject to Departmental Consent 	P Rooney		

SPR/147/2023	Renewal of Licence at Bessbrook Community Centre	It was agreed to enter into a lease in respect of an office space at Bessbrook Community Centre to the party identified in the officer's report for a period of 12 months subject to the market value rent as noted in the report.	P Rooney	
SPR/148/2023	Report on Conacre Lettings	<p>It was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that an expression of interest is issued in respect of the cutting of grass from the Hay Meadow, Kilbroney Park and that Council enter into a Conacre Licence Agreement for a period of 4 years with the highest bidder. • That an Expression of Interest is issued in respect of the grazing of the lands at Courtney Hill, Newry and that Council enter into a Conacre Licence Agreement with the highest bidder for a period of four years. • That an Expression of Interest is issued in respect of the grazing of the lands at Carrigenagh Road, Kilkeel and that Council enter into a Conacre Licence Agreement with the highest bidder for a period of four years. • That an Expression of Interest is issued in respect of the grazing of the lands at Rostrevor Cemetery, Rostrevor and that Council enter into a Conacre Licence Agreement with the highest bidder for a period of up to 2 years. 	P Rooney	Amended at Council to enter into a Conacre Licence Agreement for a period of 1 year rather than 4 years and that officers explore other options and bring a report back after 12 months.
SPR/149/2023	Lease of Office Space at Market House, Ballynahinch	This item was withdrawn by the Chief Executive.		Noted
				Y

SPR/150/2023	Forest Park Charging	It was agreed to approve 1 free carpark pass per household within the District for 1 park of their choice; it was also agreed to proceed with the collection of drive-up charges and the issuing of resident carpark passes as detailed in the officer's report at the charging rates set out in the report. It was also agreed to undertake a 6-month review on the operation of the scheme.	A Patterson	In progress	Y
SPR/151/2023	Electronic Grant Management System	It was agreed officers would prepare a communications strategy to assist groups and service users with the move to a new system and approve the business case to procure a new grant management system, and to appoint a suitable supplier from the G-Cloud Framework following the conclusion of procurement processes.	A Patterson	In progress	Y
END					

Report to:	Strategy, Policy and Resource (SPR) Committee
Date of Meeting:	16 th November 2023
Subject:	Notice of Motion – Financial Assistance Call for Provision of Life Saving Equipment.
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Paul Tamati, Assistant Director: Leisure and Sport
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Conor Haughey, Head of Outdoor Leisure Julie McCann, Head of Community Services

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

	For decision	For noting only	x
1.0	Purpose and Background		
1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is for SPR Committee to note the contents of this report and recommendation outlined in section 3.1 of the report.</p> <p>In October 2023 the following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Sharvin.</p> <p>"Newry, Mourne and Down Council is fully committed to supporting our sports clubs and community groups in providing lifesaving equipment such as defibrillators and access to CPR training courses.</p> <p>This Council will establish an annual financial assistance call which can be used for purchasing a defibrillator, securing CPR training or replacing AED pads".</p>		
2.0	Key issues		
2.1	<p>In July 2021 Councillor Taylor tabled a Notice of Motion at full Council in relation to provision of defibrillators and lifesaving equipment with a subsequent report in response to this Notice of Motion tabled at AHC Committee in February 2022 as per appendix 1.</p> <p>The contents of this report outlined a number of historical programmes and initiatives Council has carried out since 2015 and highlighted the significant provision of lifesaving equipment in place (appendix 3) and lifesaving training that has be provided in sports clubs.</p> <p>Financial Assistance – Sports Capital As part of Councils Sports Capital Financial Assistance call, all sports clubs can apply annually for up to £5000, 100% funding for equipment and programme initiatives. Lifesaving equipment such as defibrillators and courses such as first aid and CPR are considered eligible under this theme.</p> <p>Lifesaving Courses – Sports Clubs Through the SANDSA (Council Sports Association) structures, annual coach education courses are developed and delivered district wide and included a wide range of lifesaving courses such as defibrillator training and refresher courses, first aid and CPR. These courses are available to all sports clubs to avail of throughout the year.</p>		

	<p>Financial Assistance – Community Minor Capital Items Similar to Councils Sports Capital Financial Assistance call, Community Development also administer a minor capital financial assistance process where constituted community associations can apply annually for up to £10,000, 100% funding for equipment including lifesaving equipment such as defibrillators which are considered eligible under this theme.</p> <p>Lifesaving Courses – Community In terms of lifesaving courses Councils Community Development section constantly deliver a wide range of 'Free' lifesaving courses districtwide to the community throughout the year. These include courses such as, Action in an emergency courses, CPR, Management and cause of Unconsciousness, Contents, Use & Location of First Aid Box and Accident Book. Courses are advertised via Council's Facebook page, Community Group Data base, and through the local Community Association social media pages and advertising forums. Please see attached examples as per appendix 2.</p> <p>Statutory and Voluntary Partners In addition to Council's support for lifesaving equipment and courses, other statutory and voluntary agencies also deliver specific funding programmes and support for lifesaving equipment and courses targeting sports and community organisation.</p> <p>The Heart Foundation currently has a process open until March 2024 for Community organisation to apply for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A defibrillator, complete with pads and kit accessories • a defibrillator cabinet • replacement pads and batteries when required. • Online CPR training <p>Furthermore in 2018, Sport NI distributed over 1200 AEDs (Automatic External Defibrillators) and subsequent training across Northern Ireland, with a number of local clubs successfully availing of this provision.</p>
<p>3.0</p>	<p>Recommendations</p>
<p>3.1</p>	<p>That SPR Committee note the contents of this report which reinforces that Newry, Mourne and Down Council is fully committed to supporting our sports clubs and community groups in providing lifesaving equipment such as defibrillators and access to CPR training courses.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Resource implications</p>
<p>4.1</p>	<p>Revenue: There are no revenue implications associated with this report.</p> <p>Capital: There are no capital implications associated with this report.</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>

5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	<p>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</p>
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If no, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	<p>Appendices</p>
	<p>Appendix 1 AHC Report February 2022 Appendix 2 Community Development Courses Appendix 3 NMD Registered Defib Map</p>
8.0	<p>Background Documents</p>

	None
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Report to:	Active and Healthy Communities Committee (AHC)
Date of Meeting:	21 February 2022
Subject:	Defibrillator Provision Update
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Eoin Devlin, Assistant Director Health & Wellbeing
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Eoin Devlin, Assistant Director Health & Wellbeing

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

For decision	For noting only	X
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	To note the report regarding progress on the Notice of Motion in relation to Defibrillators
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>The following Notice of Motion was tabled at the Active and Healthy Communities Committee meeting in August 2021.</p> <p>'To ask Newry, Mourne & Down District Council to undertake a programme of engagement with local sports clubs and community organisations across the District to establish the level of defibrillator provision within their various facilities. The Council should endeavour to offer practical support to respective sporting and community organisations to increase the level of defibrillator provision and endeavour to achieve maximum capacity of this life saving equipment in all sporting and community facilities at the earliest opportunity. The Council should also develop a programme which is designed to increase the numbers of officers and volunteers within all sporting and community organisations who can perform the vital lifesaving skill of CPR'</p> <p>It was proposed that the Council would target all organisations across business, statutory, Community and Voluntary sectors who have an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) to register it on the National Defibrillator Network – 'The Circuit', which is supported by the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service and British Heart Foundation. This registration with the Circuit will help organisations to look after and maintain their AED. They will receive regular reminders to check the AED is emergency ready and the pads are in date. Subsequent to the notice of Motion an email was sent to all Community groups within Community services contacts to register their Defibrillator on the NI Platform identified above</p> <p>In addition to aid achievement of this target the Health and Wellbeing Department of the Council would encourage organisations and businesses across the Council area to register</p>

	<p>their AED with the Circuit. It was proposed that this would be achieved by using a combination of media and officer intervention.</p> <p>The Circuit is provided by British Heart Foundation primarily to help defibrillator Guardians register their devices and make sure they're ready to be used in an emergency. Once registered on The Circuit, the defibrillator is visible to NHS ambulance services who can direct callers to its location, so it can be used to help save lives.</p> <p>Currently you are not able to look up the location of all the defibrillators in the country. However, development and implementation of The Circuit is ongoing with five of the 14 UK ambulance services now connected. By the time all ambulance services are live in 2021 we expect to have developed additional functionality that will allow anyone to find out the location of defibrillators on The Circuit. This will be through searchable maps on either a computer or smart phone.</p> <p>Environmental Health Officers and Tobacco Control Officers working within the Health and Wellbeing Department have been raising the issue during visits and inspections for the past 6 months and have been passing on the appropriate advice on registration if there is an AED on the premises. We will continue to give this advice as a matter of routine</p> <p>Since 2015 the council have carried out several programmes and initiatives encouraging groups and clubs to provide defibrillators and to date 45 sports clubs and 34 community buildings across the district have said they have access to a defibrillator. Since 2017, council has provided first aid/ defibrillator training which was undertaken by 30 clubs with 181 people across the district attending the training.</p> <p>The provision of training was curtailed due to the pandemic but the promotion of same will now be re-invigorated</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	That Committee note the report
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	There are no cost implications associated with the recommendations in 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>Proposal initiating consultation</p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	<p>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</p>
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If no, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	<p>Appendices</p> <p>1. Defibrillator provision in clubs 2. Sports clubs Training</p>
8.0	<p>Background Documents</p>

Name of Club	Access to defibrillator
Newry Rugby Club	Mobile defib held by coach
Newry City AC	Yes
St Patricks GFC Cullyhanna	Yes
Saval GAC	Yes
St Colmans Drumanness GAC	Yes
Gym Trix Gymnastics Club	
Culloville Blues GAC	Yes
Warrenpoint Bowling Club	No
Newry Olympic Hockey Club	Yes
Russell Gaelic Union Downpatrick	Yes
Camalough Rovers	Yes
Saval Down	Yes
Ballynahinch Olympic FC	Portable defib
Ardglass GAC	2 portable
Dundrum Cricket Club	Yes
Newcastle & District AC	Yes
Dromara GAC	Yes
Warrenpoint Golf Club	Yes
St John Bosco GAC	Yes
Castlewellan Town	No
Newcastle Tennis Club	Yes
Annalong FC Youth	2 portable
Slieve Gullion Runners	No
Castlwellan GAC	Yes
Kilclief Ben Dearg GAC	Yes
Ballynahinch Rugby FC	Yes
Midway Youth Club	Yes
Crossmaglen Rangers GFC	Yes
Warrenpoint Town FC	Yes
Killyleagh Coastal Rowing Club	Yes
Dunnaman FC	No
Camalough Lake Water Festival Committee	No
Carrickcruppen GAA	
Drumgath GAC	Yes
East Down AC	Yes
Clonduff Down	Yes
Strangford Sailing Club	Yes
Shimna Wheelers Cycling Club	No
Spa Golf Club	Yes
Magheradroll Bowling Club	Yes
Down Netball Club	Yes
The Feel Good Factor	No
Dundrum Coastal Rowing Club	Yes
Downpatrick FC	Mobile

Sports Clubs who availed of First Aid and Defib Training

2017/2018

Downpatrick Football Club: 20
 Sacred Heart Boxing Club: 3
 St Killians Whitecross: 10
 Dromara GAC: 12
 Newcastle F.C: 8
 Kilkeel Hockey: 3
 Tollymore Utd F.C: 7
 C'wellan Town F.C: 2
 East Down A.C: 4
 Annalong Youth F.C: 10
 Slieve Gullion Runners: 4
 Drumaness GAC/Drumaness Camogie Club: 4
 Ballynagross F.C: 2
 Teconnaught GFC: 2
 DPK School of Lifesaving: 3
 Loughisland GAC: 10
 Kilclief GAC: 20
Total: 124

2018/19

Celtic Boys Football Club: 1
 Down Netball Club: 3
 Ballydugan Clay Pigeon Club: 2
 Warrenpoint Town Football Club: 10
 Newcastle Shooters Netball Club: 4
 Ballyvea Football Club: 2
 Valley Rangers Football Club: 1
 Celtic Boys Football Club: 1
 Down Netball Club: 3
 Ballydugan Clay Pigeon Club: 2
 Saintfield United Football Club: 12
 Ballynahinch Olympic Football Club: 1
 St John's Gaelic Athletic Club: 15
Total: 57

Grand Total: 181

Note: There was no training delivered in 2020/2021 to date due to lockdowns and Covid-19 restrictions.

Community Services, Facilities and Events



Newry, Mourne and Down District Council in conjunction with Health Matters are offering

Defibrillator Awareness Training



This Training course is available to all Community / voluntary / sporting groups within the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area. This course is ideal for anyone who wants to know how to confidently identify symptoms and correctly operate a defibrillator during an emergency.

Date	Location	Time
Wednesday 2 nd November	Meigh Community Centre	6pm – 9pm
OR		
Tuesday 15 th November	Crossmaglen Community Centre	6pm – 9pm

Pre-Booking is essential – Limited (12) spaces available. To record your interest please complete the registration form via the Link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/5NmeyzXDt5>

Training Provider:



Community Services, Facilities and Events



KIDS TO THE RESCUE FIRST AID COURSE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Monday	30th October	Cloughreagh Community Centre	10am – 2pm
Suitable for ages 10 – 15			



Kids Can Save Lives.....

First aid training gives young people something amazing - the confidence to do the right thing when it really counts. Certificates will be provided for completing the course.

Pre-Booking is essential – Limited spaces (16) available. To record your interest please complete the registration form via the Link: <https://forms.office.com/e/YSSK1SsZnk>

Workshop provided by:

Redrock Training Consultancy



Community Services, Facilities and Events



First Aid Training

First Aid Training



This **FREE** First Aid Training course is available to all Community volunteers / Community Event Organisers / sporting groups.

This is a certified course.

Date	Location	Time
Wednesday 28th June	Market House 17 The Square, Ballynahinch BT24 8AE	6pm—9pm FULLY BOOKED
OR		
Friday 30th June	Bessbrook Community Centre Mill Road, Bessbrook BT35 7DS	6pm – 9pm
OR		
Tuesday 4th July	Crossmaglen Community Centre Cardinal O’Flaich Square, Crossmaglen BT35 9HQ	6pm – 9pm

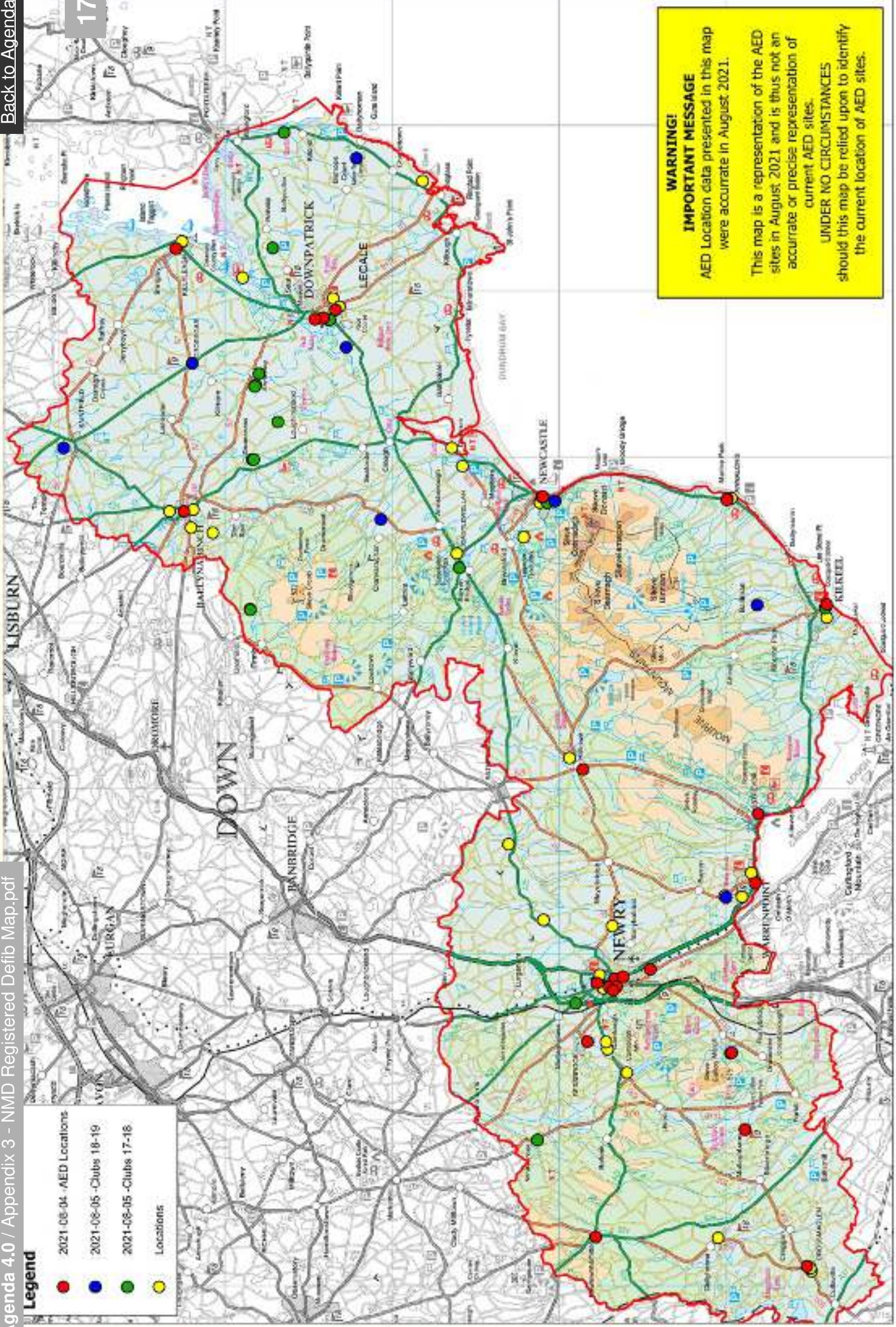
Pre-Booking is essential – Limited (12) spaces available. To record your interest please complete the registration form via the Link:

<https://forms.office.com/e/grF2aYwdLL>

Training Provider:



- Legend**
- 2021-08-04 -AED Locations
 - 2021-08-05 -Clubs 18-19
 - 2021-08-05 -Clubs 17-18
 - Locations



WARNING!
IMPORTANT MESSAGE
 AED Location data presented in this map were accurate in August 2021.
 This map is a representation of the AED sites in August 2021 and is thus not an accurate or precise representation of current AED sites.
UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES
 should this map be relied upon to identify the current location of AED sites.

Tuairisc do:	An Coiste Straitéise, Polasaí agus Acmhainní
Dáta an Chruinnithe:	16 Samhain 2023
Ábhar:	Straitéis na Gaeilge 2024-2027
Oifigeach Tuairiscithe (Teideal Poist san áireamh)	Colin Moffett, Ceannaire Beartais Chorporáidigh
Oifigeach Teagmhála (Teideal Poist san áireamh):	Louise Smith, Bainisteoir Aonad na Gaeilge

Deimhnigh cad é atá uait faoin Tuairisc seo le x a chur i mbosca amháin:-

Le haghaidh cinnidh	X	Le nótaí	
1.0		Aidhm agus Cúlra	
1.1		<p>Is é cuspóir na tuairisce seo an anailís a rinneadh ar na freagraí comhairliúcháin a mheas agus Straitéis na Gaeilge 2024-2027 a fhaomhadh.</p> <p>Cuireadh na hanaílísí comhairliúcháin agus Straitéis na Gaeilge 2024-2027 faoi bhráid An Choiste Straitéise, Polasaí agus Acmhainní cheana féin ar 12 Deireadh Fómhair 2023. Aontáíodh ag an chruinniú sin go gcuifí siar an cinneadh ar Straitéis na Gaeilge 2024-2027 go ndéanfaí plé eile ar an straitéis ag cruinniú den Ghrúpa Oibre Traspháirtí.</p>	
1.2		<p>D'ullmhaigh Aonad na Gaeilge dréacht-Straitéis na Gaeilge agus rinne an Fhoireann Bainistíochta Corparáidí (CMT), an Fhoireann Ard-Bhainistíochta (SMT) agus An Coiste Straitéise, Polasaí agus Acmhainní í a mheas (15 Nollaig 2022).</p> <p>Reáchtáladh comhairliúchán poiblí a mhair 12 sheachtain idir 20 Márta 2023 - 12 Meitheamh 2023. Baineadh úsáid as an ardán rannpháirtíochta <i>Living Well Together</i> don phróiseas agus fógraíodh an comhairliúchán poiblí sna nuachtáin áitiúla agus trí ardáin meán sóisialta na Comhairle. Ina theannta sin, roinneadh le grúpaí agus eagraíochtaí Gaeilge a bhfuil teagmháil ag an Chomhairle leo agus le daoine ar liosta comhairliúcháin na Comhairle é.</p> <p>Leagtar amach anailís ar na freagraí comhairliúcháin in Aguisín I. Faightear leagan críochnúil de Straitéis na Gaeilge 2024-2027 in Aguisín II.</p> <p>Tá Aguisín I briste síos ina 4 chuid bunaithe ar leagan amach an tsuirbhé. Díritear ar an mhisean, ar an fhís, ar an dá chuspóir straitéiseacha agus ar na gníomhartha dearfacha atá gabháil leo. Ag deireadh gach cuid den tuairisc, tá rannán ina gcuimsítear tuairimí agus moltaí na bhfreagróirí, chomh maith le freagraí agus moltaí na Comhairle, agus na nithe atá le déanamh.</p>	
2.0		Príomhábhair phlé	
2.1		<p>Fuair an Chomhairle 70 freagra.</p> <p>Bhí formhór na bhfreagraí dearfach agus na freagróirí ag tacú leis an straitéis agus lena gníomhartha dearfacha. Cé gur fhreagair roinnt daoine go raibh siad i gcoinne Straitéis na</p>	

	Gaeilge, i mórán cásanna thug na freagróirí moltaí dearfacha ar fiú iad a mheas. Ó am go chéile, mheas na hoifigigh go raibh na moltaí a rinne na freagróirí cuimsithe faoi Ghníomhartha Dearfacha a aithníodh cheana féin.
2.2	<p>Ar 27 Meán Fómhair 2023, bhí cruinniú den Ghrúpa Oibre Traspháirtí um Straitéis na Gaeilge ann. Rinne an Grúpa an cháipéis anailíse ar na freagraí comhairliúcháin agus an Straitéis Gaeilge uasdátaithe a mheas ag an cruinniú sin.</p> <p>Mar a luadh i mír 1.1 thuas, ag cruinniú den Choiste Straitéise, Polasaí agus Acmhainní ar 12 Deireadh Fómhair 2023, aontaíodh go gcuifí siar an cinneadh ar Straitéis na Gaeilge 2024-2027 go ndéanfaí plé eile ar an straitéis ag cruinniú den Ghrúpa Oibre Traspháirtí.</p> <p>Ag cruinniú den Ghrúpa Oibre Traspháirtí um Straitéis na Gaeilge ar 07 Samhain 2023, rinneadh tuilleadh plé ar an aiseolas a fuarthas ó na freagróirí comhairliúcháin. I ndiaidh an aischothaithe sin a mheas agus a ghlacadh ar bord, aontaíodh go gcuirfí Straitéis na Gaeilge faoi bhráid an Choiste Straitéise, Polasaí agus Acmhainní le haghaidh faofa.</p>
3.0	Moltaí
3.1	Iarrtar ar bhaill thofa Straitéis na Gaeilge 2024-2027 a mheas agus a fhaomhadh.
4.0	Impleachtaí acmhainní
4.1	Cé go bhfuil sé beartaithe go gcuirfear an straitéis seo i bhfeidhm laistigh de na hacmhainní atá leagtha amach faoi láthair, coinneofar na riachtanais acmhainní fisiciúla agus airgeadais atá de dhíobháil faoi athbhreithniú agus Straitéis na Gaeilge 2024-2027 á cur i bhfeidhm.
5.0	An aird chuí a thabhairt ar chomhionannas deise agus ar dhea-chaidrimh (na míreanna ábhartha a chomhlánú)
5.1	<p><i>Moladh ginearálta gan aon tionchar faoi leith ar thorthaí comhionannais agus dea-chaidrimh</i></p> <p>Níltear ag dúil leis go mbeidh drochthionchar ag an mholadh ar chomhionannas deiseanna ná ar dhea-chaidrimh. <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Baineann an moladh le straitéis, tionscnamh beartais nó cleachtas agus/nó cinneadh íogair nó conspóideach a thabhairt isteach</i></p> <p>Baineann <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ní bhaineann <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Má mbaineann, déan an méid a leanas a chomhlánú:</p> <p>Rinneadh scagadh comhionannais ar an pholasaí (straitéis, tionscnamh beartais nó cleachtas agus/nó cinneadh). <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Déanfar scagadh comhionannais ar an pholasaí (straitéis, tionscnamh beartais nó cleachtas agus/nó cinneadh) sula gcuirfear i bhfeidhm é. <input type="checkbox"/></p>

5.3	<p><i>Tús a chur leis an chomhairliúchán</i></p> <p>Lorgófar tuairimí na ndaoine sin a ndéanann an moladh tionchar díreach orthu sa chomhairliúchán. Tabharfar aghaidh ar na bacainní atá ar chatagóirí áirithe comhionannais (in Alt 75) maidir le páirt a ghlacadh sa chomhairliúchán agus tabharfar go leor ama do ghrúpaí dul i gcomhairle lena chéile. <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Mairfidh an tréimhse chomhairliúcháin 12 sheachtain <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Beidh tréimhse chomhairliúcháin níos lú ná 12 sheachtain ann (réasúnaíocht le cur thíos) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Réasúnaíocht:</i></p>
6.0	<p>An aird chuí a thabhairt ar riachtanais na tuaithe (tic a chur leis na cinn ábhartha)</p>
6.1	<p>Baineann an togra le forbairt, le glacadh, le cur i bhfeidhm nó le hathbhreithniú polasáí / straitéise / plean / dearadh agus/nó seachadadh seirbhíse poiblí</p> <p>Baineann <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ní bhaineann <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Má mbaineann, déan an méid a leanas a chomhlánú:</p> <p>Measúnú Tionchar ar Riachtanais Tuaithe déanta <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	<p>Aguisíní</p>
	<p>Aguisín I: Comhairliúchán ar Straitéis na Gaeilge 2023-2027 – Anailís ar na freagraí</p> <p>Aguisín II: Straitéis na Gaeilge 2024-2027</p>
8.0	<p>Cáipéisí cúlra</p>
	<p>N/B</p>

Aguisín I: Anailís ar an Chomhairliúchán – Dréacht-Straitéis na Gaeilge 2023-2027

Cúlra

Aithníonn Comhairle Ceantair an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin gur dlúthchuid lárnach de chreatlach cultúrtha, oidhreacht agus féiniúlachta an cheantair í an Ghaeilge. Tá pobal Gaeilge láidir méadaitheach ina chónaí, ag obair, ag cuartaíocht agus ag bualadh le chéile i gceantar na Comhairle.

Tá an Chomhairle fós tiomanta do na cuspóirí atá leagtha amach i bPolasáí Dátheangachais na Comhairle agus cuireadh na struchtúir riachtanacha i bhfeidhm le cinntiú go mbeidh rath agus bláth inbhuanaithe ar an Ghaeilge agus ar an Ghaelphobal.

Ag tógáil ar Straitéis na Gaeilge 2020-2023, tá Straitéis na Gaeilge forbartha againn don tréimhse 2023-2027.¹ Leagann an Straitéis amach go leanfaidh an Chomhairle leis:

- an Ghaeilge a mhéadú i gcomhlíonadh a cuid feidhmeanna
- an Ghaeilge a úsáid ina cuid cumarsáide leis an phobal agus le páirtithe leasmhara; agus
- an Ghaeilge a fhorbairt, a chur chun cinn agus a chothú fud fad an cheantair.

Cuirtear i láthair sa tuairisc seo na torthaí ó chomhairliúchán reachtúil poiblí ar dhréacht-straitéis Ghaeilge Chomhairle Ceantair an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin 2023-2027. Thosaigh an comhairliúchán ar an 20 Márta 2023 agus mhair sé ar feadh dhá sheachtain déag.

Fógraíodh an comhairliúchán poiblí sna nuachtáin áitiúla agus trí ardáin meán sóisialta na Comhairle. Ina theannta sin, roinneadh é le grúpaí agus eagraíochtaí Gaeilge a bhfuil teagmháil ag an Chomhairle leo. Bhain muid úsáid fosta as an ardán rannpháirtíochta *Living Well Together*.

Fuarthas 70 freagra.

¹ Moltar sa tuairisc seo go ndéanfar uasdátú ar an tréimhse a chuimsíonn Straitéis na Gaeilge – leasú go 2024-2027. Féach na moltaí thíos.

Torthaí

1. Misean

Cuireadh na freagróirí ar an eolas faoin mhisean dhá fhille seo a leanas i leith Straitéis na Gaeilge:

- Comhshaol tacúil a chruthú do ghnáth-úsáid na Gaeilge i riarachán inmheánach na Comhairle agus ina cuid gnóthaí le comhlachtaí poiblí eile agus an pobal iad féin.
- Caighdeáin cothromaíochta deiseanna a neadú, dul i ngleic le constaicí maidir le heolas agus seirbhísí, forbairt na Gaeilge a chur chun cinn, agus ceannasaíocht a léiriú le freastail ar riachtanais léirithe de chuid na bpobal Gaeilge atá ann cheana, chomh maith leo siúd atá ag teacht chun cinn.

Fiafraíodh de na freagróirí:

'Tríd is tríd, an dóigh leat go n-oireann an misean seo don chuspóir ba chóir a bheith ag Straitéis na Gaeilge?'



Leagtar amach sa tábla seo a leanas na figiúirí sonracha a bhaineann leis an chart thuas:

Freagraí	
Oireann	39
Ní oireann	24
Níl a fhios agam	0
Gan freagra	7

Tugadh deis ansin d'fhreagróirí tuairimí breise a thabhairt maidir leis an méid thuas. Bíodh na tráchtanna seo a leanas san áireamh:

- **Cúlra agus Comhthéacs**

"Is údar iontais dúinn é nach dtugtar aon chúlra nó comhthéacs sa straitéis seo agus nach leagtar síos spriocanna intomhaiste maidir le líon na gcainteoirí/úsáideoirí Gaeilge a ardú; ní dhéantar cur síos ar phróifíl nó stádas na teanga agus ní thagraítear do na figiúirí daonáirimh is déanaí, rud a thabharfadh bunús agus fianaise láidir d'aon bheartas forásach atá cuimsithe sa straitéis féin agus a bheadh mar thúsphointe maith don Chomhairle le spriocanna intomhaiste a leagadh síos chun tógáil ar na figiúirí seo."

- **Buartha nach bhfuil an Polasaí Dátheangachais reatha á chomhlíonadh**

"Aithnítear go bhfuil polasaí dátheangachais ag an Chomhairle a thógann ar an choimítmint comhionannais agus a leagann síos coimítmint shoiléir go n-éascófar agus go spreagfar cur chun cinn na Gaeilge agus an Bhéarla, ach tá samplaí ann nuair nach mbíonn an Chomhairle féin fiú i gcónaí ag feidhmiú de réir an pholasaí sin..."

- **Tairiscint Ghníomhach**

"Ba cheart tagairt do 'tairiscint ghníomhach' fríd 'seirbhísí iomlána na comhairle' a chur san áireamh anseo, gan aon amhras."

- **Tús áite a thabhairt don chuid sheachtrach (dírithe ar an phobal) den straitéis**

"Mothaím gur cheart an tacú sochaí a chur chun tosaigh agus an tacaíocht inmheánach a chur sa dara áit or rud é nach rachaidh sé sin i bhfeidhm ar cheantar an Chomhairle chomh mór sin."

- "ní hamháin gur ceart go mbeadh sé mar mhisean ag an straitéis comhshaol tacúil a chruthú do ghnáth-úsáid na Gaeilge go himmheánach, ach go háirithe agus iad ag plé leis an phobal iad féin, ba cheart go mbeadh tagairt éigin ann do chur chun cinn agus forbairt na Gaeilge..."

- **Comhionannas Teanga**

An Ghaeilge ar chomhchéim leis an Bhéarla.

- **Constaicí a aithint agus a bhaint**

"Molaim chomh maith go n-aithnítear sa mhisean na constaicí atá roimh phobal na Gaeilge agus go mbeadh sé cuimsithe sa mhisean go rachaidh an Chomhairle i ngleic leis an chlaontacht sin trí chaoifhulaingt agus tuiscint ar

an teanga a mhéadú.”

- **Dualgais reachta reachtúla a aithint**

“Tá tagairt ar bith do chomhlíonadh dhualgais na Comhairle faoin Bhille Féiniúlachta agus Teanga, nó faoin Chairt Eorpach um Theangacha Réigiúnacha nó Mionlaithe go hiomlán in easnamh i misean na straitéise seo.”

- **Tús áite a thabhairt d’fheiceálacht na Gaeilge**

“Molaim arís go dtugtar suntas don tábhacht atá le feiceálacht na Gaeilge i bhfís na straitéise seo agus go n-athraítear an fhoclaíocht beagán chun é seo a léiriú...”

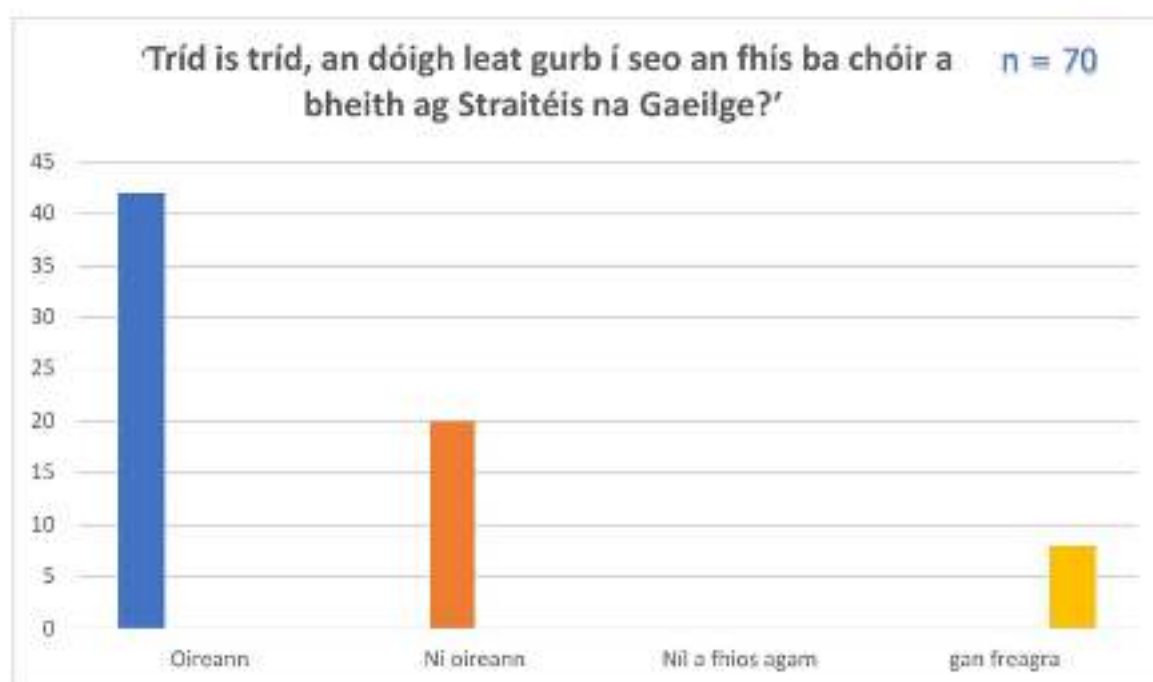
2. Fís

Cuireadh na freagróirí ar an eolas faoin ráiteas fise seo a leanas i leith Straitéis na Gaeilge:

- o Comhshaol tacúil inbhuanaithe a chruthú d'úsáid agus d'athghiniúint na Gaeilge sa saol poiblí, pearsanta, eacnamaíochta agus pobail.

Fiafraíodh de na freagróirí:

'Tríd is tríd, an dóigh leat gurb í seo an fhís ba chóir a bheith ag Straitéis na Gaeilge?'



Leagtar amach sa tábla seo a leanas na figiúirí sonracha a bhaineann leis an chart thuas:

Freagraí	
Oireann	42
Ní oireann	20
Níl a fhios agam	0
Gan freagra	8

Tugadh deis ansin d'fhreagróirí tuairimí breise a thabhairt maidir leis an méid thuas. Bíodh na tráchtanna seo a leanas san áireamh:

- **Tús áite a thabhairt d'fheiceálacht na Gaeilge**
"More Irish language signs in public places"

- **'Gníomhach' agus 'Forásach'**
"ba mhaith liom an focal 'gníomhach' agus an focal 'forásach' a chur san áireamh anseo."
- **Cách san áireamh**
"Is fiú a luaith go bhfuil sé d'aidhm ag an Chomhairle go mbeidh an tacaíocht seo ann do gach duine sa cheantar beag bán ar a gcuid creidimh, polaitíochta, náisiúntachta srl."

3. Cuspóirí Straitéiseacha

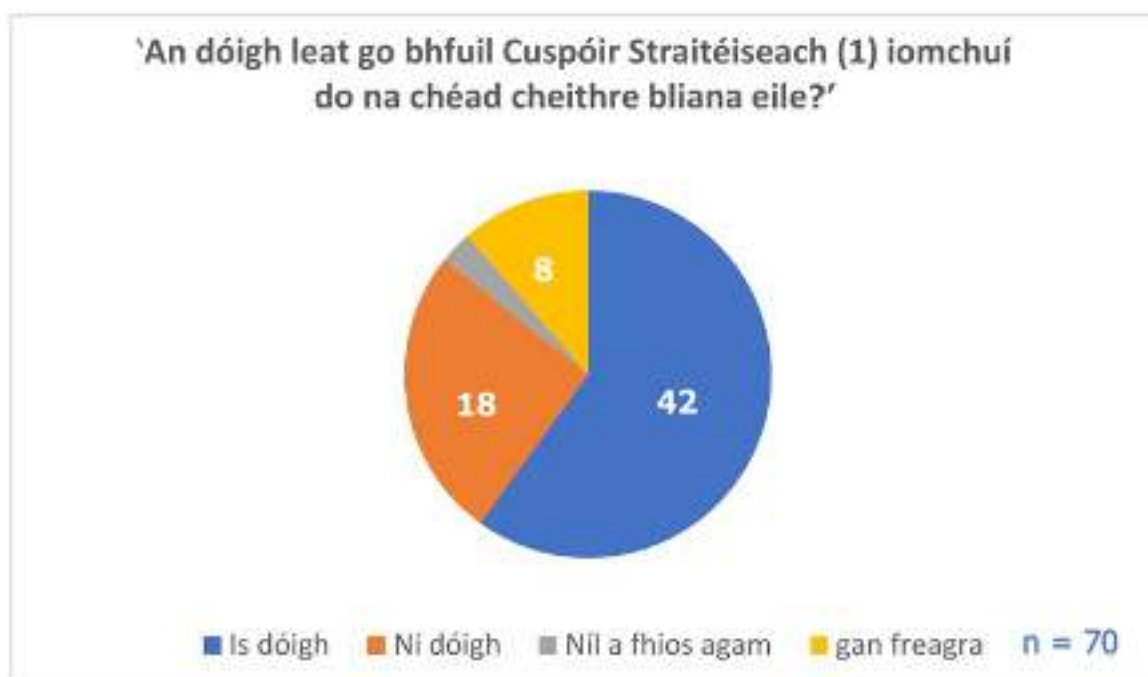
Cuireadh na freagróirí ar an eolas faoi na cuspóirí straitéiseacha seo a leanas i leith Straitéis na Gaeilge:

1. Forbairt na Gaeilge laistigh de Chomhairle Ceantair an Íúir, Mhúrm agus an Dúin agus an ceantair é féin a éascú, a chumasú agus a spreagadh.
2. Teagmháil éifeachtúil a dhéanamh le Pobal na Gaeilge chun ábaltacht an phobail a neartú, comhoibriú agus comhpháirtíocht a spreagadh agus deiseanna maoinithe a aithint.

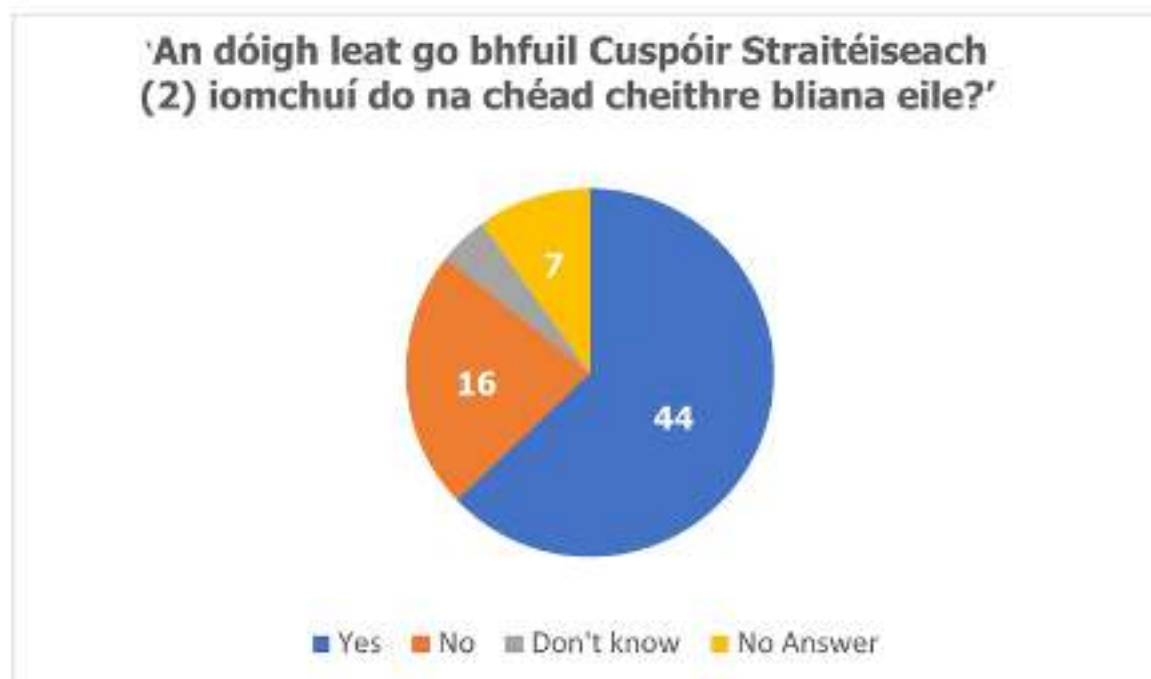
Fiafraíodh de na freagróirí:

'An dóigh leat gurb iad an dá chuspóir seo a leanas na cuspóirí straitéiseacha iomchuí do na chéad cheithre bliana eile?'

Maidir le Cuspóir Straitéiseach 1:



Maidir le Cuspóir Straitéiseach 2:



Tugadh deis ansin d'fhreagróirí tuairimí breise a thabhairt maidir leis an méid thuas. Bíodh na tráchtanna seo a leanas san áireamh:

- Tús áite a thabhairt don chuid sheachtrach (dírithe ar an phobal) den straitéis**
 "I think the second one should be the highest priority and stated first". (i.e. that engagement with Irish Language Community should be prioritised).
- "Aontaím gur ceart go mbeadh forbairt na Gaeilge mar thosaíocht sna cuspóirí straitéiseacha, ach fosta, measaim gur ceart go mbeadh tagairt ann d'fhorbairt agus do chumasú an phobail féin."
- Teagmháil rialta le pobal na Gaeilge**
 "Ní hamháin gur ceart go mbeadh teagmháil éifeachtúil ag an Chomhairle le pobal na Gaeilge, ach ba cheart go ndéantar an teagmháil seo ar bhonn rialta. Ba cheart fosta go leagann an chuspóir straitéiseach seo amach sprioc chun ábaltacht an phobail a neartú agus a fhorbairt."
- Teagmháil le foghlaimoirí nua**
 "Why just mention the Irish language community? surely this should engage with everyone especially those that want to learn!"

- **Seirbhís Aistriúcháin don phobal**
"Good reliable translation services required within the Council at no extra cost to the projects concerned"
- **Moladh nua cuspóra maidir le dualgais reachtúla**
"Molaimid chomh maith go gcuirtear cuspóir straitéiseach sa bhreis leis an mhéid atá sa dréacht-straitéis cheana féin, mar atá luaite thuas, a aithníonn agus a leagann amach cuspóir nó coimítmint shoiléir do dhualgais na Comhairle..." (Luann an freagróir an Chairt Eorpach agus an tAcht um Féiniúlacht agus Teanga, 2022).
- **Moladh nua cuspóra maidir le caoinfhulaingt agus comhthuisct**
"Mothaimid, mar sin, go bhfuil deis sa straitéis seo mír ardaithe feasachta agus eolais a chuimsiú, ag cur dearchtaí dearfacha chun cinn i leith na Gaeilge agus dá bharr, ag cur leis an chaoinfhulaingt."

4. Gníomhartha Dearfacha

Cuireadh na freagróirí ar an eolas faoi na Gníomhartha Dearfacha a bhaineann le Straitéis na Gaeilge sna cáipéisíocht a foilsíodh le linn an chomhairliúchán.

Fiafraíodh de na freagróirí:

'I dtaca leis na gníomhartha dearfacha atá molta, an dóigh leat go gcuideoidh siad leis an dá chuspóir straitéiseacha a bhaint amach?'



Leagtar amach sa tábla seo a leanas na figiúirí sonracha a bhaineann leis an chairt thuas:

Freagraí	
Is dóigh	37
Ní dóigh	17
Ní dóigh liom	7
Gan freagra	9

Tugadh deis ansin d'fhreagróirí tuairimí breise a thabhairt maidir leis an méid thuas. Bíodh na tráchtanna seo a leanas san áireamh:

- Feiceálacht na Gaeilge agus Tairiscint Ghníomh a chur chun cinn**
 "Increasing overall Irish language visibility within communities will be important to ensure the successful implementation of the Irish Language Strategy. This should be more than street and building signage. Currently, I am unaware anyone actively using Irish in their role within the Council. It is not visible to me when I visit any Council building, if I can conduct my enquiry in Irish. There is no visible representation for me to identify a Council

staff member as an Irish speaker so that I may communicate in Irish with them. This lack of visibility may cause it to appear there is 'no demand' for use of Irish on a day-to-day basis."

- **Ardú feasacht agus oiliúint ball foirne (maidir leis an Tairiscint Ghníomhach)**

"Molaim, mar aon leis an ghníomh dearfach atá luaite sa straitéis cheana, go ndéanfar poiblíocht chuí ar na seirbhísí lárnacha Gaeilge trí thairiscint ghníomhach, suíomh idirlín na Comhairle, mar aon le hardáin inmheánach agus seachtrach na Comhairle. Ba cheart go soláthraítear clár traenála do bhaill foirne na Comhairle ar choincheap na tairisceana gníomhaí ar a laghad uair sa bhliain".

- **Oiliúint maidir le dualgais reachtúla**

"Molaim fosta, mar atá molta agam thuas faoi mhisean na straitéise, go mbeadh dualgais na Comhairle faoin Chairt Eorpach agus faoin Bhille Féiniúlachta agus Teanga cuimsithe sa chlár oiliúna seo. Mar thoradh air seo, bheadh tuiscint níos doimhne ag oifigí na Comhairle ar a ndualgais i leith na Gaeilge faoin Chairt Eorpach agus faoin Bhille Féiniúlachta agus Teanga"

- **Oiliúint teanga do bhaill foirne**

"Ba cheart go mbeadh na míreanna traenála/ foghlama atá dírithe ar fhostaithe na Comhairle riachtanach do gach oibrí laistigh den Chomhairle agus go mbeadh an cúrsa féin creidiúnaithe ag dream seachtrach, Foras na Gaeilge mar shampla."

- **Iniúchadh inmheánach ar scileanna teanga an lucht foirne**

"Fáiltimid go bhfuil an Chomhairle ag díriú ar fhorbairt acmhainne agus traenáil d'fhostaithe na Comhairle cuimsithe sa straitéis seo ach dar linn nach mór na moltaí seo a leanas a chur san áireamh; i dtús báire, molaimid go mbeadh sé mar aidhm ag an Chomhairle, le linn saolré na straitéise seo agus sna straitéisí ar fad amach anseo, tabhairt faoi iniúchadh cuimsitheach ar chumas teanga na n-oifigeach."

- **Ba chóir don Chomhairle cur chuige iomlán dátheangach a ghlacadh**

"Ba cheart i bhfad níos mó a chur anseo maidir le "seirbhísí iomlána na comhairle"; go háirithe gach feachtas margaíochta a dhéanann an chomhairle, an suíomh idirlín, ábhar margaíochta agus feachtas. Molaim béim a chur ar gach seirbhís agus feachtas pobail a dhéanamh iomlán dátheangach ar gach ardán. Sin an sprioc atá le bheith dátheangach, bí dátheangach!"

- **Soiléiriú ar aistriúcháin sa Chomhairle**

"níl sé iomlán soiléir cad iad na cáipéisí atá agus a bheas á n-aistriú ag an

Chomhairle de réir na straitéise seo; molaimid go ndéantar cáipéisí foilsithe agus siúd atá ar fáil ar líne a rangú (catagóir A, B, C mar shampla; leis na cáipéisí is coitianta/is mó úsáide i gcatagóir A, agus na cáipéisí inmheánacha, corparáideacha i gcatagóir C).

- **Dátheangachas ar shuíomh gréasáin na Comhairle**

"Is fiú a lua nach bhfuil an Chomhairle, faoi láthair, ag feidhmiú de réir na coimhlinte a thug siad maidir le suíomh idirlín ina bpolasaí dátheangachais...Níl aon chuid den leathanach baile, seachas seoladh na Comhairle féin, i nGaeilge, d'ainneoin gurb é an leathanach baile an idirghníomh is luaithe a bhíonn ag daoine le suíomh na Comhairle. Chomh maith leis seo, ní hé 'Aonad na Gaeilge' an t-aon rannóg laistigh den Chomhairle a mbíonn pobal na Gaeilge ag plé leo..."

- **Níor chóir go mbeadh moill ar fhoilseacháin Ghaeilge ná ar fhoilseacháin dhátheangacha**

"Níor cheart go bhfoilsítear leaganacha Béarla de cháipéis ar bith de chuid na Comhairle roimh an leagan Gaeilge agus níor cheart go n-úsáidtear ganntanas ar aistriothoirí mar leithscéal chun é seo a dhéanamh."

- **Feasacht ar phobal na Gaeilge a ardú**

"Molaim chomh maith leis an ghníomh atá luaite cheana féin go n-agrófar ceardlanna, scéimeanna agus pacáistí eolais do Ghaelscoileanna sa cheantar maidir le himeachtaí agus seirbhísí Gaeilge na Comhairle go rialta (msh athchúrsáil, bithéagsúlacht, litreacha chuig Daidí na Nollag)."

- "Ba cheart go dtugann an Chomhairle faoi fheachtas ardaithe feasachta ar bhuntáistí an Ghaeloideachais agus an dátheangachais sa cheantar comhairle."

- "Molaimid go n-amharcann an Chomhairle ar an mhúnla atá i bhfeidhm i gComhairle Lár Uladh agus go n-úsáidtear fianaise an daonáirimh, mar aon le go rachfar i gcomhairle le Fóram an Dúin agus Oiriaila chun fáil amach cá bhfuil riachtanais an phobail."

- **Obair Óige, Gaeloideachas agus luathfhoghlaim a chur chun cinn**

"Could there be something incorporated into these actions with a specific focus on Irish education and youth work in the district? Irish medium schools and youth organisations are central to the development of the language."

- "need to look at early learning centres and kids activities- eg swimming lessons through medium of Irish language. and other Council provided programmes".

- **Spásanna nua teanga a chruthú**
 "Tá straitéis de dhíth ar an Chomhairle fá choinne áiteanna úra a chruthú i lár na cathrach."
- **Ag dul i ngleic leis an éadulaingt**
 "...Feictear dom gur ceart go mbeadh tagairt éigin sa chuid seo den straitéis go nglacfaidh an Chomhairle bearta réamhghníomhacha chun dul i ngleic le claontacht agus éadulaingt ar bith i leith na teanga; bíodh sin fríd cheardlanna ardaithe feasachta, nó cóiriú ar chomhartha ar bith a ndéanfar scríos air."
- **Ag ullmhú don reachtaíocht teanga**
 "Sílim gur ceart go mbeadh mír breise sa rannóg seo a leagann amach go soiléir na beartais a ghlacfaidh an Chomhairle ar theacht i bhfeidhm na reachtaíochta Gaeilge."
- "Molaimid go dtugtar coimítmint sa straitéis seo go ndéanfaidh an Chomhairle cinnte de go gcomhlíonfar gach caighdeán teanga a leagann an Coimisinéir Gaeilge amach..."
- **Scrúdú ar thionchar polasaithe agus monatóireacht**
 "Molaim chomh maith leis an Ghaeilge a phríomhshruthú i leith pleananna straitéiseacha agus ghnó, go ndéanfar scagadh ar aon pholasaí/cleachtas nua/uasdátaithe de chuid na Comhairle chun cinntiú gur cuireadh an tionchar a bheas aige seo ar dheiseanna úsáide/feiceálachta na Gaeilge san áireamh, mar aon leis an tionchar a bheas ag an pholasaí/plean/cleachtas ar phobal na Gaeilge."
- "Bheadh sé in a chuidiú dá mbeadh na dóigheanna go ndéanfar measúnú ar an dul chun cinn an straitéis seo pléite."
- **Plean Gaeilge do na meáin shóisialta a fhorbairt**
 "Ba cheart go mbeadh sé mar aidhm láithreach agus úsáid na Gaeilge ar na meáin shóisialta a mhéadú trí fheachtas cuimsitheach, rialta poiblíochta ar mheáin shóisialta na Comhairle..."
- **Teacht an phobail ar mhaoiniú a éascú**
 "Molaimid go gcuireann Aonad na Gaeilge, i gcomhpháirt le grúpaí pobail áitiúla, ceardlanna ar fáil ar dheiseanna maoinithe seachtracha."
- "Molaimid go gcuireann an Chomhairle pota £5,000 ar fáil chun tacú le grúpaí ar mian leo imeachtaí a réachtáil mar chuid den Fhéile (Seachtain na Gaeilge), agus go ndéantar méadú ar an phota seo ar bhonn incriminteach agus de réir éilimh le linn saolré na straitéise seo."

5. Cothromaíocht deiseanna, dea-chaidrimh agus riachtanais tuaithe

Ba mhaith linn a chinntiú go bhfuil tuiscint iomlán againn ar aon impleachtaí a bhaineann le cothromaíocht deiseanna, dea-chaidrimh agus riachtanais tuaithe. Ar an ábhar sin, fiafraíodh de na freagróirí:

'An bhfuil eolas agat ar aon impleachtaí ar chothromaíocht deiseanna, dea-chaidrimh nó riachtanais tuaithe a bhaineann le Dréacht-Straitéis na Gaeilge 2023-2027?'

Tugadh deis ansin d'fhreagróirí tuairimí breise a thabhairt maidir leis an méid thuas. Maidir le riachtanais tuaithe, bíodh na tráchtanna seo a leanas san áireamh:

- "Yes- start from the peripheries and move into the centre as opposed to the centre and hope that it reaches out to the rural and further to reach communities".

Ó thaobh na dtuairimí faoi chomhionannas agus dea-chaidrimh, léirigh roinnt freagróirí imní go bhfuil na hábhair a bhaineann leis an Ghaeilge "deighilteach" nó go mbraitheann pobail áirithe sa cheantar "míchompordach".

- "Forcing Irish signage in some areas is encouraging a backlash of hostility, reducing the use of public facilities. It is interpreted as weaponizing it by a section of the public, prompting suspicion, the spread of hostile symbols and flag flying."

Mhóthaigh roinnt freagróirí gur cheart don Chomhairle céimeanna breise a ghlacadh chun caoinfhulaingt agus cuimsiú pobail a chur chun cinn:

- "Is le gach duine an Ghaeilge agus níl aon impleachtaí diúltacha ar aon phobal a easraíonn as an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn. Lean an dea-chleachtas idirnáisiúnta, go háirithe na moltaí atá sa Chairt Eorpach."
- "Is féidir go mbeidh dea-thionchar ó thaobh comhionannais deiseanna de ag polasaithe Gaeilge ar Phrotastúnaigh, ar aontachtóirí, ar dhaoine scothaosta agus ar mhionlaigh eitneacha fosta óir is grúpaí iad sin nach dócha go raibh deiseanna eile acu a bheith i dteagmháil leis an Ghaeilge."
- "Chomh maith leis seo, mar phríomh-údarás poiblí, tá dualgas ar an Chomhairle dea-chaidrimh a chur chun cinn. Is fiú a aithint chomh maith go ndearna Coimisiún an Chomhionannais uasdátú ar an sainmhíniú a thugann siad ar 'dhea-chaidrimh', a luann anois:

"Is ionann cur chun cinn dea-chaidreamh idir grúpaí éagsúla sa tsochaí agus a bheith ag cothú comh-mheasa, comh-thuisceana agus imeascadh agus iad ag dul i ngleic le leithcheal agus éadulaingt."

Freagra na Comhairle / Freagra na nOifigeach - Moltaí**Council response:**

- Bhí formhór na bhfreagraí dearfacha agus na freagróirí ag tacú leis an straitéis agus lena gníomhartha dearfacha. Cé gur fhreagair roinnt daoine go raibh siad i gcoinne Straitéis na Gaeilge, i mórán cásanna thug na freagróirí moltaí dearfacha ar fiú iad a mheas. Ó am go chéile, mheas na hoifigigh go raibh na moltaí a rinne na freagróirí cuimsithe faoi Gníomhartha Dearfacha a aithníodh cheana féin.
- Tháinig moladh suntasach chun tosaigh maidir le 'Tairiscint Ghníomhach'. Is é an rud atá i gceist le 'Tairiscint Ghníomhach' seirbhís a sholáthar i nGaeilge gan an dualgas a bheith ar an duine éigin í sin a iarraidh. Luaigh go leor freagróirí fosta an gá atá le feiceálacht na Gaeilge a mhéadú agus feasacht a ardú ar na seirbhísí atá ar fáil trí Ghaeilge. Go bunúsach, iarrann sé seo ar an Chomhairle cur chuige réamhghníomhach a ghlacadh chun úsáid na Gaeilge a chur chun cinn agus saoránaigh ag teacht ar sheirbhísí na Comhairle.
- Aithníonn an Chomhairle nach bhfuil tagairt dhíreach sa straitéis don Acht Féiniúlachta agus Teanga (Tuaisceart Éireann) 2022 agus déanfar an straitéis a nuashonrú chun é seo a léiriú.
- Ba chóir a thabhairt faoi deara go bhfuil dhá chuspóir straitéiseacha atá beartaithe sa straitéis chomhionann maidir le stádas agus suntasacht.
- Is cáipéis bheo í Straitéis na Gaeilge agus cuirtear tuairiscí monatóireachta sé mhí na Straitéise faoi bhráid an Ghrúpa Oibre Traspháirtí um Straitéis na Gaeilge chun dul chun cinn a mheas.
- Maidir leis an chaoimhlaingt agus an chomhthuiscint a thógáil, is téamaí iad sin atá mar bhonn do mhisean na Comhairle le húsáid na Gaeilge a phríomhshruthú, caighdeán chomhionannais deiseanna a dhaingniú agus ceannaireacht a thabhairt.
- Glacann an Chomhairle leis go bhfuil sé tábhachtach feiceálacht na Gaeilge a mhéadú. Is gníomhartha dearfacha agus príomhbhearta feidhmíochta laistigh de Straitéis na Gaeilge iad go mbeadh suíomh gréasáin dátheangach ann agus go mbeadh an Ghaeilge feiceálach ar ardáin meán sóisialta na Comhairle.

- Maidir le cur chuige iomlán dátheangach a ghlacadh, tá an Chomhairle go fóill tiomanta don phrionsabal 'fíorú forásach' ina nglacfaidh muid céimeanna chun an Polasaí Dátheangachais a bhaint amach ar bhonn forásach ag baint úsáide as acmhainní inacmhainne.

Moltaí agus Gníomhartha:

- Straitéis na Gaeilge a leasú chun tagairt a dhéanamh do 'tairiscint ghníomhach' maidir le soláthar agus rochtain ar sheirbhísí.
- Mír 1.4 de Straitéis na Gaeilge a leasú chun clár corparáideach for-rochtana a fhorbairt chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar dhearcaí agus ar thuiscint dhearfach i leith na Gaeilge.
- Mír 1.7 de Straitéis na Gaeilge a leasú chun tagairt a dhéanamh don Acht Féiniúlachta agus Teanga (Tuaisceart Éireann) 2022 agus chun tiomantas na Comhairle a léiriú maidir le comhlíonadh na gcaighdeán a fhorbróidh Coimisinéir na Gaeilge amach anseo.
- Mír 1.5 de Straitéis na Gaeilge a leasú chun tagairt a dhéanamh do ghníomhartha a bhaineann le feasacht a ardú ar ardáin meán sóisialta na Comhairle agus ar na huirlisí Google Translate agus ReachDeck atá ar fáil faoi láthair ar shuíomh gréasáin an Chomhairle.
- Na focail 'gníomhach' agus 'forásach' a chur leis an fhís i ndrúacht-Straitéis na Gaeilge.
- Straitéis na Gaeilge a leasú leis an tréimhse 2024-2027 a chuimsiú.

Comhairle Ceantair an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin

Straitéis na Gaeilge 2024-2027

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Irish Language Strategy 2024-2027



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1. Intreoir

Aithníonn Comhairle Ceantair an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin gur dlúthchuid lárnach de chreatlach chultúir, oidhreacht agus féiniúlachta an cheantair í an Ghaeilge. Tá pobal Gaeilge láidir méadaitheach ina chónaí, ag obair, ag cuartaíocht agus ag bualadh le chéile i gceantar na Comhairle.

Tá an Chomhairle fós tiomanta do na cuspóirí atá leagtha amach i bPolasaí Dátheangachais na Comhairle agus déanfaidh muid iad a chur chun cinn go gníomhach; cuireadh na struchtúir riachtanacha i bhfeidhm le hé a chinntiú go mbeidh rath agus bláth inbhuanaithe ar an Ghaeilge agus ar an Ghaelphobal.

Aithníonn an Chomhairle, fosta, gur tugadh isteach an tAcht Féiniúlachta agus Teanga (Tuaisceart Éireann) 2022 agus go gcaithfidh an Chomhairle ullmhú do na caighdeáin teanga a d'fhéadadh Coimisinéir Gaeilge a chruthú amach anseo.

Ag tógáil ar Straitéis na Gaeilge 2020-2023, tá Straitéis na Gaeilge forbartha againn don tréimhse 2024-2027. Leagann an Straitéis (2024-2027) amach go leanfaidh an Chomhairle leis:

- an Ghaeilge a mhéadú i gcomhlíonadh a cuid feidhmeanna
- an Ghaeilge a úsáid ina cuid cumarsáide leis an phobal agus le páirtithe leasmhara; agus
- an Ghaeilge a fhorbairt, a chur chun cinn agus a chothú fud fad an cheantair.

2. An Creatchlár Straitéiseach – misean, fíis agus luachanna

Tá misean na Comhairle leagtha amach ina dhá chuid:

- Comhshaol tacúil a chruthú do ghnáthúsáid na Gaeilge i riarachán inmheánach na Comhairle agus ina cuid gnóthaí le comhlachtaí poiblí eile agus leis an phobal féin.
- Caighdeáin cothromaíochta deiseanna a neadú, dul i ngleic le constaicí maidir le heolas agus seirbhísí, forbairt na Gaeilge a chur chun cinn, agus ceannasaíocht a léiriú le freastail ar riachtanais léirithe de chuid na bpobal Gaeilge atá ann cheana, chomh maith leo siúd atá ag teacht chun cinn.

Is í fíis na Comhairle do Straitéis na Gaeilge 2024-2027:

- Comhshaol tacúil inbhuanaithe a chruthú d'úsáid agus d'athghiniúint na Gaeilge sa saol poiblí, pearsanta, eacnamaíochta agus pobail.

Ar mhaithe leis na cuspóirí seo a bhaint amach, glacann muid treoir ó na cúig bunluach atá aitheanta i bPlean Corparáide na Comhairle 2023-2027:

- **Comhoibriú:** Oibreoidh muid i gcomhpháirtíocht le daoine eile
- **Freagrúil:** Éistfidh muid le dearcthaí achan duine agus freagróidh muid go hoscailte agus go dearfach iad

- **Comhpháirtíocht:** Oibreoidh muid i gcomhpháirtíocht le cónaitheoirí agus baill foirne le riachtanais a mheas agus lenár gcuid seirbhísí a fheabhsú
- **Inmharthanacht:** Déanfaidh muid ár seirbhísí a nua-chóiriú agus a nuáil chun an ceantar a fhorbairt don ghluin seo agus do na glúnta atá amach romhainn; agus,
- **Trédhearcacht:** Déanfaidh muid ár gcinntí agus leithdháileadh acmhainní go hoscailte agus tiocfaidh an t-eolas dóibh ó fhianaise neamh-chlaonta.

Chomh maith leis na bunluachanna seo, tá rún againn bheith gníomhach agus forásach inár misean.

3. Cuspóirí Straitéiseacha

Is iad an dá chuspóir straitéiseacha atá ag Straitéis na Gaeilge 2024-2027:

Cuspóir Straitéiseach 1: Forbairt na Gaeilge a éascú, a chumasú agus a spreagadh laistigh de Chomhairle Ceantair an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin mar eagraíocht agus laistigh den cheantar féin.

Cuspóir Straitéiseach 2: Teagmháil éifeachtúil a dhéanamh le Pobal na Gaeilge chun ábaltacht an phobail a neartú, comhoibriú agus comhpháirtíocht a spreagadh agus deiseanna maoinithe a aithint.

4. Creat an tSoláthair

4.1 Ionas go mbainfear an dá chuspóir straitéiseacha amach, bainfidh muid úsáid as:

- **Gníomhartha dearfacha:** na mionsonraí agus scála na ngníomhartha
- **Measúnú feidhmíochta:** ag léiriú a éifeachtaí is atá an straitéis ag baint amach na spriocanna atá leagtha amach
- **Torthaí:** na hathruithe a tharlóidh mar thoradh ar an ghníomh
- **Freagracht:** cé atá freagrach as an ghníomh a chur i gcrích
- **Amscála:** cén uair a chuirfear an ghníomh i gcríoch

Tagann na gníomhartha le Plean Corparáide na Comhairle, agus leis an Pholasaí Dátheangachais chun úsáid na Gaeilge agus an Bhéarla i gceantar na Comhairle a éascú agus a spreagadh trí:

- rochtain ar sheirbhísí agus eolas a mhéadú de réir a chéile;
- chumas phobal na Gaeilge a mhéadú, rannpháirtíocht chathartha a mhéadú, chomhoibriú agus comhpháirtíocht a spreagadh;
- inbhuanaitheacht agus inmharthanacht earnáil phobal na Gaeilge a fheabhsú;
- theagmháil agus líonrú a fhorbairt idir na pobail Gaeilge agus na hEarnálacha Reachtúla agus Deonacha;
- leithdháileadh buiséid cuí, monatóireacht, measúnú agus athbhreithniú.

5. Struchtúr agus Rialachas

Tá Aonad na Gaeilge sa Chomhairle freagrach as Straitéis na Gaeilge a chur i bhfeidhm. Tá an tAonad ina chuid de Rannóg an Pholasaí Chorporáidigh atá faoi Stiúrtóireacht Seirbhísí Corparáide na Comhairle.

Tá ról lárnach ag an Ghrúpa Oibre Traspháirtí um Straitéis na Gaeilge maidir le cur i bhfeidhm Straitéis na Gaeilge a phlé agus a mheas. Níl an t-údarás ag an Ghrúpa Oibre Traspháirtí um Straitéis na Gaeilge cinntí a dhéanamh, ach amháin moltaí a thabhairt. Cuirtear na moltaí a thagann ón Ghrúpa seo faoi bhráid Choiste Straitéise, Polasaí agus Acmhainní na Comhairle.

6. Monatóireacht agus Athbhreithniú

Ullmhófar tuairiscí gach sé mhí agus cuirfear faoi bhráid an Ghrúpa Oibre Traspháirtí um Straitéis na Gaeilge iad.

Déanfar athbhreithniú bliantúil ar Straitéis na Gaeilge le deimhniú go bhfuil na gníomhartha agus an buiséad a bhaineann léi go fóill ábhartha agus cuí.

Cuspóir Straitéiseach 1		Forbairt na Gaeilge a éascú, a chumasú agus a spreagadh laistigh de Chomhairle Ceantair an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin mar eagraíocht agus laistigh den cheantar féin.	
Gníomh dearfach	Measúnú feidhmíochta	Torthaí	Freagracht
			Amscála
<p>1.1</p> <p>Seirbhísí lámacha Gaeilge a chur ar fáil trí Aonad na Gaeilge (AnaG)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aistriúchán & Ateangaireacht Comhairle & Tacaíocht Taighde faoi: Chomharthaíocht / Ainmniú sráide & easláit tithíochta Uasdátú ar an acmhainn logainmneacha Clár le feasacht agus tuiscint i leith na Gaeilge a ardú Clár Sheachtain na Gaeilge 	<p>Bunseirbhísí Gaeilge á gcur ar fáil don Chomhairle, gach Roinn agus Seirbhís, chomh maith leis an phobal</p> <p>An Ghaeilge agus Aonad na Gaeilge á gcur chun cinn go dearfach agus dearcthai i leith na Gaeilge a fheabhsú</p> <p>Cur le tuiscint agus eolas i leith an Pholasaí Dátheangachais, Nósanna Imeachta agus Treoirínte</p>	<p>Aonad na Gaeilge (AnaG)</p> <p>Croí-obair leanúnach an Aonaid (AnaG)</p>
<p>1.2</p> <p>Córas soiléir agus treoirínte a fhorbairt agus a reáchtáil i dtaca le cáipéisí corparáideacha, comharthaíochta srl a aistriú</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pacáiste ríomhfhoghlama a fhorbairt do bhaill foirme Cur i láthair ar an chóras a dhéanamh ar Teams le hachair ama á bplé mar chuid dó An seoladh rpholist ILUtranslations@nmandd.org a chruthú Bogearraí aistriúcháin a cheannach agus a úsáid 	<p>Tuiscint níos fearr a chothú ar an phróiseas aistriúcháin</p> <p>Dea-thionchar ar chaidrimh le ranna eile trí chumarsáid éifeachtach</p> <p>Ardú in éifeachtúlacht agus cruinneas sa phróiseas aistriúcháin</p> <p>Caidrimh a thógáil taobh istigh den Chomhairle agus le ranna rialtais</p>	<p>Aonad na Gaeilge (AnaG)</p> <p>TF</p> <p>Foireann Foghlama agus Forbartha</p> <p>Eanáir 2024</p>
<p>1.3</p> <p>Pacáiste ríomhfhoghlama a fhorbairt agus a chur chun cinn; maidir le feasacht teanga, Straitéis Gaeilge na Comhairle, an Polasaí Dátheangachais agus a Nósanna Imeachta, agus maidir le Treoirínte</p>	<p>Lion na ndaoine ag glacadh seisiún eolais / traenála ar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fheasacht teanga Shamplaí dea-chleachtais ar fud na heagraíochta <p>2 cheardlann ar a laghad gach bliain ar an Pholasaí Dátheangachais & Nósanna Imeachta agus Treoirínte</p>	<p>Aonad na Gaeilge ag cur na Gaeilge chun cinn i Seirbhísí na Comhairle / constaicí i leith na teanga a shárú</p> <p>Cur chuige leanúnach maidir le cur chun cinn na Gaeilge i seirbhísí na Comhairle</p> <p>Caighdeán seasmhach i leith</p>	<p>AnaG</p> <p>TF</p> <p>Foireann Foghlama agus Forbartha</p> <p>An Roinn Cumarsáide agus Margatíochta</p> <p>Leanúnach</p> <p>Athbheithní ú ar an Pholasaí Dátheangachais, Nósanna Imeachta</p>

<p>d'fhostaithe na Comhairle</p> <p>Athbheithniú ar an Pholasáí Dátheangachais, Nósanna Imeachta agus Treoirinte d'fhostaithe na Comhairle</p>	<p>Polasáí Dátheangachais Athbheithnithe</p> <p>Nósanna Imeachta an Pholasáí Dátheangachais athbheithnithe</p> <p>Treoirinte athbheithnithe d'úsáid na Gaeilge i gComhairle Ceantair an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin</p>	<p>soláthar seirbhísí, ag teacht le treoirinte Bhranda Corparáideach</p> <p>Treoirinte d'fhostaithe na Comhairle</p>	<p>agus Treoirinte d'fhostaithe na Comhairle le déanamh Eanáir 2025</p>
<p>1.4</p> <p>An Ghaeilge a phríomhshruthú i leith pleananna straitéiseacha agus ghnó, chomh maith le socrúithe oibríochta le béim faoi leith ar sheirbhísí a mbíonn ag plé go díreach leis an phobal</p> <p>Ciár comparáideach for-rochtana a fhorbairt le tuiscint agus dearccháí dearfacha i leith na Gaeilge a chothú agus a fhorbairt.</p>	<p>Cruinnithe le Stiúrthóireachtaí / réimse seirbhísí</p> <p>Sonraí na leasuithé / Líon na gclár atá curtha in ord tosaíochta</p> <p>Cruinnithe le hOifigigh Toghcheantar (DEA)</p> <p>Líon na n-imeachtaí for-rochtana</p>	<p>An dátheangachais a phríomhshruthú go hinmheánach i bhfeidhmeanna na Comhairle, agus é seo a bhaint amach go forásach ag úsáid acmhainní atá inacmhainne</p> <p>An Ghaeilge a dhéanamh níos so-fheicthe agus á cur chun cinn ag leibhéal sholáthar seirbhíse</p> <p>Feabhsú maidir le dearccháí dearfacha agus tuiscint i leith na Gaeilge</p>	<p>AnaG</p> <p>Freagracht chomhroinnte ag na Stiúrthóireachtaí / Ionaid Sheirbhísí cuí</p>
<p>1.5</p> <p>Suíomh idirlín agus meáin shóisialta a fhorbairt agus a chaomhnú</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascnamh sonraí • Ábhar Gaeilge ar shuíomh agus meáin shóisialta na Comhairle a chur i dtús áite, modhnóireacht a dhéanamh air agus é a 	<p>Suíomh idirlín agus meáin shóisialta dátheangach atá ag feidhmiú</p> <p>Líon na bpostálacha dátheangacha (Gaeilge / Béarla) ar chainéil na Comhairle</p> <p>Líon na bpostálacha a thugann eolas don phobal ar sheirbhísí reatha na Comhairle atá ar fáil trí Ghaeilge</p>	<p>Suíomh idirlín agus meáin shóisialta na Comhairle a fhorbairt, agus é seo a bhaint amach go forásach ag úsáid acmhainní atá inacmhainne</p> <p>Ag feidhmiú agus ag freastal ar riachtanais pobail na Gaeilge sa cheantar agus níos faide i gcéin</p> <p>Eolas níos fearr a bheith ag an</p>	<p>AnaG</p> <p>Freagracht chomhroinnte ag na Stiúrthóireachtaí / Ionaid Sheirbhísí cuí</p>

<p>uasdátú</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tá Aonad na Gaeilge ag cur leis an tsuíomh atá ann le heolas ar AnaG agus na seirbhísí cuí chomh maith le nasc chuig Straitéis na Gaeilge agus an eolas cuí 		<p>phobal ar uirlisí teanga atá in úsáid ag an Chomhairle faoi láthair (Google Translate agus barra uirlisí ReachDeck san áireamh)</p>	<p>AnaG</p> <p>Iarsmalanna</p> <p>Cumarsáid & Margaíocht</p> <p>Foireann Ealaíon agus Imeachtaí</p> <p>Foireann Rannpháirtíocht sa Phobal</p>	<p>Leanúnach</p>
<p>1.6</p> <p>Ciár Imeachtaí a fhorbairt i éineacht leis an Roinn Cumarsáide agus Margaíochta, na hIarsmalanna, na hIonaid Phobail agus na hIonaid Ealaíon</p>	<p>Bolscaireacht a dhéanamh ar ábhar agus imeachtaí i bhfad roimh na himeachtaí</p>	<p>An Ghaeilge a dhéanamh níos so-fheicthe agus ar shuíomh agus chainéil meán sóisialta na Comhairle</p> <p>Daoine a mhealladh isteach in ionaid de chuid na Comhairle chun sult a bhaint as imeachtaí Gaeilge / dátheangacha</p>	<p>AnaG</p> <p>Iarsmalanna</p> <p>Cumarsáid & Margaíocht</p> <p>Foireann Ealaíon agus Imeachtaí</p> <p>Foireann Rannpháirtíocht sa Phobal</p>	<p>Leanúnach</p>
<p>1.7</p> <p>Ullmhúchán a dhéanamh maidir leis an Acht Féiniúlachta agus Teanga (Tuaisceart Éireann) 2022 a chur i bhfeidhm, agus gealltanais reachtacha na Comhairle a chomhlíonadh</p>	<p>Cruinnithe le príomh-eagraíochtaí na Gaeilge – leagmháil rialta le Conradh na Gaeilge maidir leis an fhorbairt reachtataochta</p> <p>Cruinnithe le hOifigigh Gaeilge i gComhairlí Áitiúla eile le cúlraí a phlé agus eolas a dhéanamh dár gcuid ullmhúcháin féin maidir le plean gnímh a chur le chéile</p>	<p>A hullmhaithe is atá an Chomhairle do chaighdeáin teanga a fhorbróidh Coimisinéir na Gaeilge nuair a ceaptar é</p>	<p>AnaG</p> <p>Polasáí</p> <p>Corparáideach</p> <p>Conradh na Gaeilge</p> <p>Comhairlí Áitiúla eile</p>	<p>Leanúnach</p>
<p>1.8</p> <p>Tuairiscí monatóireachta gach sé mhí le dul faoi bhráid an Ghrúpa Oibre Tras-Pháirtí um</p>	<p>Tuairiscí monatóireachta déanta</p>	<p>Monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar Straitéis na Gaeilge, chomh maith le hathbhreithniú agus measúnú</p>	<p>AnaG / Polasáí</p> <p>Corparáideach</p>	<p>Gach sé mhí le linn na straitéise</p>

<p>Straitéis na Gaeilge</p>				
<p>1.9 Forbairt acmhainne agus traenáil i leith na Gaeilge d'fhostaithe agus Bhaill Tofa:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conair Forbartha Gairmiúla i leith na Gaeilge á bunú ag Acmhainní Daonna d'fhostaithe agus Bhaill Tofa; • Tacaíocht forbartha leanúnach a chur ar fáil do rannóga na Comhairle maidir le cur i bhfeidhm Polasai Dátheangachais na Comhairle agus na Nósanna Imeachta a bhaineann leis; • Cur chuige traidisiúnta, chomh maith le ríomhfhoghlaim • Scéim phiolótach le 10 bhfostaí ar dtús agus ag leathnú amach chuig grúpa is mó 	<p>Scileanna sa Ghaeilge á dtairiscint mar dheis don forbairt fhoghlama agus ghairmiúil – mar scéim phiolótach ar dtús agus ag forbairt go líon daoine níos airde</p> <p>Líon na ndaoine a fhreastalaíonn</p> <p>Pacáiste r-fhoghlama a fhorbairt</p>	<p>Feabhsú i dtaca le scileanna agus eolas na bhfostaithe</p> <p>Fostaithe a bheith níos ábalta Polasai Dátheangachais na Comhairle a chur i bhfeidhm agus a phríomhshruthú i bhfeidhmeanna na Comhairle chomh maith trína róil rannpháirtíochta pobail</p>	<p>AnaG</p> <p>Orfigeach Oiliúna & Forbartha in Acmhainní Daonna</p> <p>IT</p>	<p>Curtha ar fáil agus athbhreithniú the go bliantúil i rith thréimhse na Straitéise</p> <p>Aibreán 2024 nó roimhe sin</p>
<p>1.10 Prionsabail inchosanta neamh-chlaonta maidir le scileanna Gaeilge a chur i bhfeidhm mar chuid de phróisis earcaíochta agus roghnúcháin</p>	<p>Líon na bpost a chuireann an Ghaeilge mar chritéar riachtanach nó inmhinianaithe</p>	<p>Feabhsú i dtaca le scileanna agus eolas na bhfostaithe</p> <p>Seirbhís níos fearr do phobal na Gaeilge</p>	<p>Acmhainní Daonna</p> <p>AnaG</p> <p>Polasai Corparáideach</p>	<p>Leanúnach</p>

<p>1.11 Leanúint le léarscáilíú Infreastruchtúir Phobal na Gaeilge</p>	<p>Comhtháthú léarscáil infreastruchtúir na Gaeilge le freastal ar fhorbairt phobal na Gaeilge</p> <p>Comhoibriú leis an Fhoireann Fhianaise agus Taighde chun léarscáilíú Infreastruchtúir Phobal na Gaeilge a fhorbairt mar ghrafaic eolais a bhfuil logainmneacha leagtha amach air go dátheangach</p>	<p>Eolas is fearr ar infreastruchtúir Phobal na Gaeilge</p> <p>Feabhsú i dtaca le comhionannas deiseanna do chónaitheoirí ar mhaith leo rochtain a bheith acu ar sheirbhísí Gaeilge fud fad an phobail</p>	<p>AnaG</p> <p>Rannpháirtíocht Pobail</p>	<p>Leanúnach</p>
<p>1.12 Athbhreithniú ar Straitéis na Gaeilge 2024 - 2027</p>	<p>Athbhreithniú ceithre bliana ar Straitéis na Gaeilge</p>	<p>Monatóireacht, athbhreithniú agus measúnú ar Straitéis na Gaeilge 2024-2027 agus Straitéis na Gaeilge nua a fhorbairt</p>	<p>AnaG</p> <p>Polasáí Corparáideach</p>	<p>Samhain 2026 – Aibreán 2027</p>

Cuspóir Straitéiseach		Teagmháil éifeachtúil a dhéanamh le Pobal na Gaeilge chun ábaltacht an phobail a neartú, comhoibriú agus compháirtíocht a spreagadh agus deiseanna maoinithe a aithint.			
2	Gníomh dearfach	Measúnú feidhmíochta	Torthaí	Freagracht	Amscála
<p>2.1 Feasacht i leith sheirbhísí na Comhairle a fhorbairt i measc Phobal na Gaeilge agus a fheabhsú tríd an chur chuige 'Tairiscint Ghníomhach'</p>	<p>Líon na seirbhísí ábhartha a chuirtear chun cinn</p>	<p>Tuiscint níos fearr a bheith ag daoine ar sheirbhísí na Comhairle i leith na Gaeilge</p>	<p>Freagracht chomhroinnte ag na Stiúrthóireachtaí cuí</p>	<p>Leanúnach</p>	
<p>2.2 Tacú le forbairt leanúnach Fóram an Dúin & Oiriaila</p>	<p>Méid na gcrúinnithe a bhíonn ag an Fóram</p> <p>Líon na ndaoine a bhíonn i láthair</p> <p>Líon na ngrúpaí a bhíonn i láthair</p>	<p>Borrhadh ar rannpháirtíocht pobail i leith ceisteanna tábhachtacha</p> <p>Fás ar inbhuanaitheacht eagraíochtaí pobail Gaeilge</p>	<p>AnaG</p>	<p>Leanúnach</p>	

2.3	Líon na n-iarraitasóirí	Forbairt agus athnuachan Phobal na Gaeilge, agus cúnaimh airgeadais a úsáid le rannpháirtíocht sa Ghaeilge a spreagadh trí:	Aonad na gClár	Go bliantúil
<p>Clár Scéim Cúnaimh Airgeadais Gaeilge a chur i bhfeidhm</p>	<p>Líon na n-iarraitasóirí rathúla</p> <p>Líon na rannpháirtithe sna tograí rathúla – i gcomhairle le hAonad na gClár</p>	<p>a) Tionscnaimh a chothaíonn acmhainn an phobail, meantóireacht, agus obair dheonach a fhorbairt. Táthar ag súil go spreagfaidh sé seo comhoibriú idir na pobail Ghaeilge atá forbartha agus pobail Ghaeilge nua, nó atá go fóill ag fás agus ag forbairt, chun acmhainní a roinnt, líonraí a neartú agus obair dheonach a spreagadh.</p> <p>b) Tionscnaimh rannpháirteachais pobail a fhorbraíonn caidreamh dearfach, a mhéadaíonn tuiscint agus feasacht teanga, a théann i ngleic le tuairimí agus a spreagann meas don Ghaeilge.</p>	<p>AnaG</p>	<p>Go bliantúil</p>
<p>2.4</p> <p>Aird a tharraingt ar dheiseanna maoinithe eile do ghrúpaí Gaeilge seachas scéimeanna na Comhairle</p>	<p>Líon na ndeiseanna maoinithe eile, nach ón Chomhairle iad, a dtarraingítear aird orthu</p> <p>Líon na seisiún eolais / cur i láthair (ar líne nó duine le duine) le grúpaí Gaeilge</p>	<p>Tacaíocht a chur ar fáil d'iarraitasóirí atá in ann cur isteach ar dheiseanna maoinithe nach ón Chomhairle iad</p> <p>Eolas a roinnt maidir le sruthanna maoinithe</p> <p>Cumas na ngrúpaí Gaeilge a thógáil le teacht ar mhaoiniú</p>	<p>AnaG</p> <p>Eagraíochtaí seachtracha maoinithe</p>	<p>Leanúnach</p>
<p>2.5</p> <p>Scéim Sparánachta na Gaeilge a</p>	<p>Méid na n-iarraitas</p>	<p>Tacaíocht curtha ar fáil do dhaoine lena gcuid scileanna Gaeilge a</p>	<p>AnaG</p>	<p>Go Bliantúil</p>

chur i bhfeidhm	Líon na n-iarraitasóirí rathúla	fheabhsú trí sparánachtaí a chur ar fáil chun freastal ar chúrsaí Gaeilge, cuirtear san áireamh: coláistí Gaeltachta, dianchúrsaí agus cúrsaí agus modúil tríú leibhéal	IT	Eanáir 2024
Córas ríomhbhainistithe a fhorbairt	Méid bronnta Méid ama a ghlactar chun iarraitais agus éilimh a phróiseáil	Córas iarraitais SSNG a nuachóiriú		
2.6 Comhoibriú díreach leis an earnáil oideachais, chomh maith le comhoibriú le Cumann na bhFiann (eagraíocht a oibríonn go díreach le daoine óga)	Méid na scoileanna a n-oibrítear leo Líon na ndaltaí ag freastal ar cheardlanna Líon na gclubanna óige a bhunaítear	Caidrimh fhiúntacha curtha ar bun agus caomhnaithe leis an earnáil oideachais Tacaíocht á tabhairt don eamáil dheonach trí dheiseanna do dhaltai scoile a chur chun cinn	AnaG Eamáil oideachais	Leanúnach
2.7 Ineachtaí agus ábhar fise (ar na meáin shóisialta) a fhorbairt agus a chur chun cinn	Líon na n-imeachtaí Líon na sraitheanna fise á roinnt go bliantúil agus á gcur i gcartlann ar líne Líon na n-ionad Comhairle a úsáidtear d'imeachtaí Líon amharc agus rannta ar na meáin shóisialta	Ábhar Gaeilge a bheith níos sofheicthe ar líne Tionchar dearfach ag an Chomhairle ar an phobal trí fheasacht teanga agus teamaí san ábhar fise á roinnt Margaíocht éifeachtach a déanamh tríd an ábhar fise a chur ar scáileán: seisiúin "ceist agus freagra" Úsáid níos mó á baint as ionaid de chuid na Comhairle	ILU Foireann na n- iarsmalanna agus na n-áiseanna cuí IT Cumarsáid agus Margaíocht	Leanúnach

Report to:	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	16 November 2023
Subject:	Irish Language Strategy 2024-2027
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Colin Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Louise Smith, Irish Language Unit Manager

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>The purpose of this report is to consider the consultation analyses and approve the Irish Language Strategy 2024-2027.</p> <p>The consultation analyses and proposed Irish Language Strategy 2024-2027 were previously tabled for consideration at the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 12 October 2023. At this meeting it was agreed to defer decision on the Irish Language Strategy 2024-2027 until a meeting of the Irish Language Working Group be held for further discussions.</p>			
1.2	<p>The draft Irish Language Strategy was prepared by the Irish Language Unit and considered by Council's Corporate Management Team, Senior Management Team and Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee (15 December 2022).</p> <p>It was subject to a 12-week public consultation during the period 20 March 2023 to 12 June 2023. The public consultation utilised the Living Well Together engagement platform, was advertised in the local newspapers, promoted on the Council's social media channels, circulated to our equality consultee list and shared through Council's contacts with Irish language groups and organisations.</p> <p>Appendix I sets out an analysis of the consultation responses while Appendix II is the finalised Irish Language Strategy 2024-2027.</p> <p>The Appendix I report is broken down into 4 parts based on the layout of the survey and looks at the mission, vision and the two strategic objectives with accompanying positive actions. At the end of each part of the report a section containing consultees' comments and suggestions, the Council response, recommendations and matters to be actioned has been included.</p>			
2.0	Key issues			
2.1	<p>Council received seventy responses.</p> <p>The majority of responses were positive with consultees indicating support for the strategy and its positive actions. Whilst there was some opposition to the Irish Language Strategy, in many cases respondents provided positive suggestions for Council's consideration. On</p>			

	occasion suggestions made by respondents were deemed by officers to fall under already identified positive actions.
2.2	<p>The consultation analysis document and updated Irish Language Strategy 2024-2027 was considered at the Council's Irish Language Strategy Cross Party Working Group on 27 September 2023.</p> <p>As noted in section 1.1, at the 12 October 2023 Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee meeting it was agreed to defer decision on the Irish Language Strategy 2024-2027 until a meeting of the Irish Language Working Group be held for further discussions.</p> <p>At a meeting of the Irish Language Strategy Cross Party Working Group on 7 November 2023, Members gave further consideration to consultees' views. Having reviewed and taken onboard feedback it was agreed the Irish Language Strategy 2024-2027 proceed to the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee for approval by Council.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	Members are asked to consider and approve the Irish Language Strategy 2024-2027.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	While it is envisaged the proposed strategy will be delivered within the current allocated resources, the physical and financial resources issues required will be kept under review as the Irish Language Strategy 2024-2027 is implemented.
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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>

5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	<p>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</p>
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input 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>
	<p>Appendix I: Irish Language Strategy 2023-2027 Consultation – Analysis of responses Appendix II: Irish Language Strategy 2024-2027</p>
8.0	<p>Background Documents</p>
	<p>N/A</p>

Appendix I: Consultation analysis – draft Irish Language Strategy 2023-2027

Background

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

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

Building upon our Irish Language Strategy 2020-2023, we have developed an Irish Language Strategy for the period 2023-2027¹ which sets out how the Council will continue to:

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

This report presents the findings from a statutory 12-week public consultation on Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's draft Irish Language Strategy 2023-2027 that began on the 20 March 2023 for a twelve-week period.

The public consultation was advertised in local press and through Council's social media channels. Additionally, it was shared through Council's contacts with Irish Language groups and organisations. We also used the Living Well Together engagement platform.

70 responses were received.

¹ This report recommends updating the time period of the Irish Language Strategy to 2024-2027. See recommendations below.

Findings

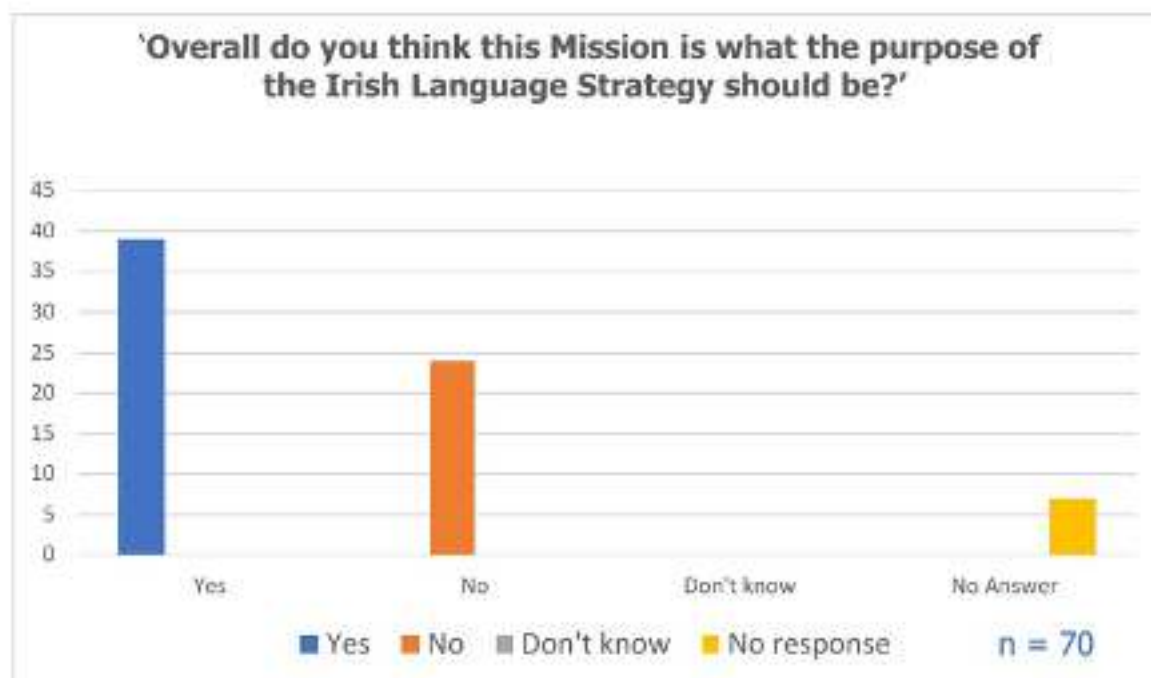
1. Mission

Respondents were informed of the following twofold mission for the Irish Language Strategy:

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

Respondents were asked:

'Overall do you think this Mission is what the purpose of the Irish Language Strategy should be?'



The following table sets out the specific figures associated with the chart above:

Responses	
Yes	39
No	24
Don't know	0
No answer given	7

Respondents were then given the opportunity to provide further comments in relation to the above. Comments included the following:

- **Background and Context**

"Is údar iontais dúinn é nach dtugtar aon chúlra nó comhthéacs sa straitéis seo agus nach leagtar síos spriocanna intomhaiste maidir le líon na gcainteoirí/úsáideoirí Gaeilge a ardú; ní dhéantar cur síos ar phróifil nó stádas na teanga agus ní thagraítear do na figiúirí daonáirimh is déanaí, rud a thabharfadh bunús agus fianaise láidir d'aon bheartas forásach atá cuimsithe sa straitéis féin agus a bheadh mar thúsphointe maith don Chomhairle le spriocanna intomhaiste a leagadh síos chun tógáil ar na figiúirí seo."

[We are surprised that no background or context is given in this strategy and that measurable targets are not set in relation to increasing the number of speakers/users of Irish; the profile or status of the language is not described or referred to the latest census figures, which would provide a basis and strong evidence for any policy progressive which is included in the strategy itself and which would be a good starting point for the Council with measurable targets set to build on these figures.]

- **Concerns regarding the current Bilingualism Policy not being fulfilled**

"Aithnítear go bhfuil polasaí dátheangachais ag an Chomhairle a thógann ar an choimhlint comhionannais agus a leagann síos coimhlint shoiléir go n-éascófar agus go spreagfar cur chun cinn na Gaeilge agus an Bhéarla, ach tá samplaí ann nuair nach mbíonn an Chomhairle féin fiú i gcónaí ag feidhmiú de réir an pholasaí sin..."

[It is recognised that the Council has a bilingualism policy that builds on the commitment to equality and sets out a clear commitment to facilitate and encourage the promotion of Irish and English, but there are examples where the Council itself does not even always operate in accordance with that policy...]

- **Active Offer**

"Ba cheart tagairt do 'tairiscint ghníomhach' fríd 'seirbhísí iomlána na comhairle' a chur san áireamh anseo, gan aon amhras."

[Reference should be included here to 'Active Offer' though 'all of Council's services', without doubt.]

- **Prioritising the external (community focus) section of the strategy**

"Mothaím gur cheart an tacú sochaí a chur chun tosaigh agus an tacaíocht inmheánach a chur sa dara áit or rud é nach rachaidh sé sin i bhfeidhm ar cheantar an Chomhairle chomh mór sin."

[I feel that societal support should be prioritised and that internal support

should be secondary, as that will not influence the Council District that much.]

- “ní hamháin gur ceart go mbeadh sé mar mhisean ag an straitéis comhshaol tacúil a chruthú do ghnáth-úsáid na Gaeilge go himmheánach, ach go háirithe agus iad ag plé leis an phobal iad féin, ba cheart go mbeadh tagairt éigin ann do chur chun cinn agus forbairt na Gaeilge...”

[not only should it be in the mission to create a supportive environment for the normal use of Irish internally, but especially when dealing with the public themselves, there should be some reference to the promotion and development of the Irish language (i.e. in an external and more general sense)].

- **Equal Linguistic Footing**
An Ghaeilge ar chomhchéim leis an Bhéarla.

[Irish on equal footing with English].

- **Identifying and Removing Barriers**
“Molaim chomh maith go n-aithnítear sa mhisean na constaicí atá roimh phobal na Gaeilge agus go mbeadh sé cuimsithe sa mhisean go rachaidh an Chomhairle i ngleic leis an chlaontacht sin trí chaoifhulaingt agus tuiscint ar an teanga a mhéadú.”

[I also recommend that the mission recognizes the obstacles facing the Irish-speaking community and that it be included in the mission that the Council will tackle that prejudice by increasing tolerance and understanding of the language.]

- **Recognising Current Legislative Requirements**
“Tá tagairt ar bith do chomhlíonadh dhualgais na Comhairle faoin Bhille Féiniúlachta agus Teanga, nó faoin Chairt Eorpach um Theangacha Réigiúnacha nó Mionlathaithe go hiomlán in easnamh i misean na straitéise seo.”

[Any reference to the fulfilment of the Council's duties under the Identity and Language Bill, or the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages is completely missing from the mission of this strategy.]

- **Prioritising Visibility of the Irish Language**
“Molaim arís go dtugtar suntas don tábhacht atá le feiceálacht na Gaeilge i bhfís na straitéise seo agus go n-athraítear an fhoclaíocht beagán chun é seo a léiriú...”

[I recommend once again that the importance of Irish language visibility is emphasised in this strategy and that the wording be changed...] *A wording recommendation has been provided by respondent.*

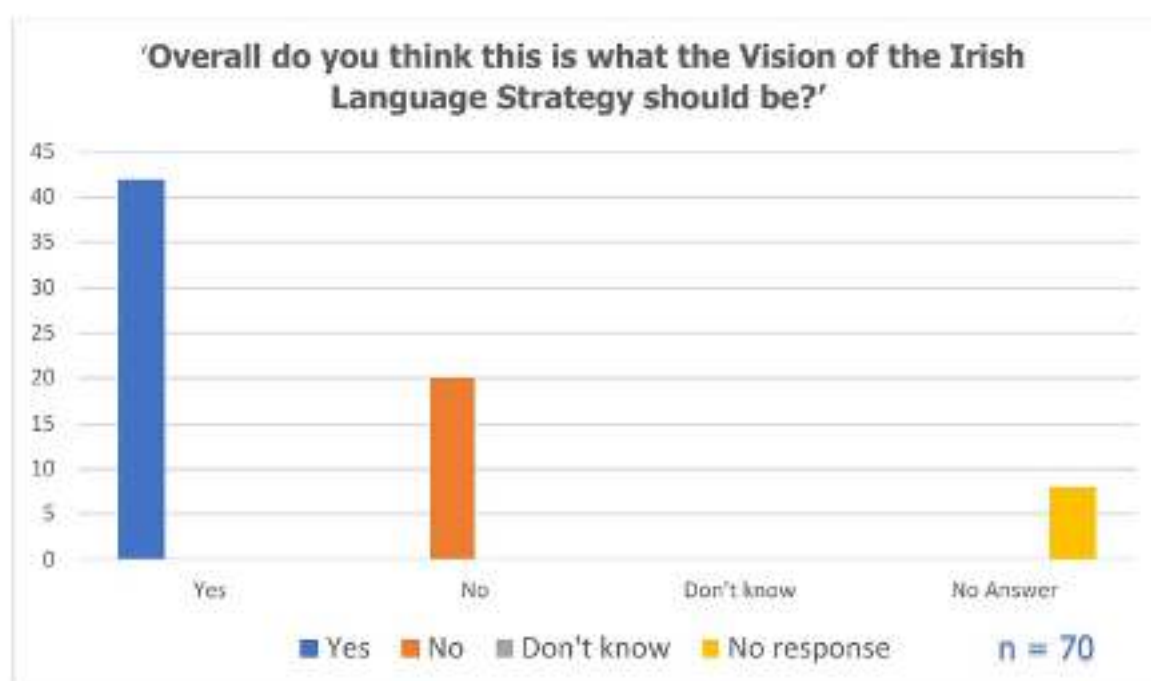
2. Vision

Respondents were informed of the following vision statement for the Irish Language Strategy:

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

Respondents were asked:

'Overall do you think this is what the Vision of the Irish Language Strategy should be?'



The following table sets out the specific figures associated with the chart above:

Responses	
Yes	42
No	20
Don't know	0
No answer given	8

Respondents were then given the opportunity to provide further comments in relation to the above. Comments included the following:

- **Prioritising Visibility of the Irish Language**
"More Irish language signs in public places"

- **'Active' and 'Progressing'**

"ba mhaith liom an focal 'gníomhach' agus an focal 'forásach' a chur san áireamh anseo."

[I would like the words 'active' and 'progressive' included here].

- **Including and supporting all**

"Is fiú a luaith go bhfuil sé d'aidhm ag an Chomhairle go mbeidh an tacaíocht seo ann do gach duine sa cheantar beag bán ar a gcuid creidimh, polaitíochta, náisiúntachta srl."

[It is worth mentioning that the Council aims to provide this support to everyone in District regardless of their religion, politics, nationality etc.]

3. Strategic Objectives

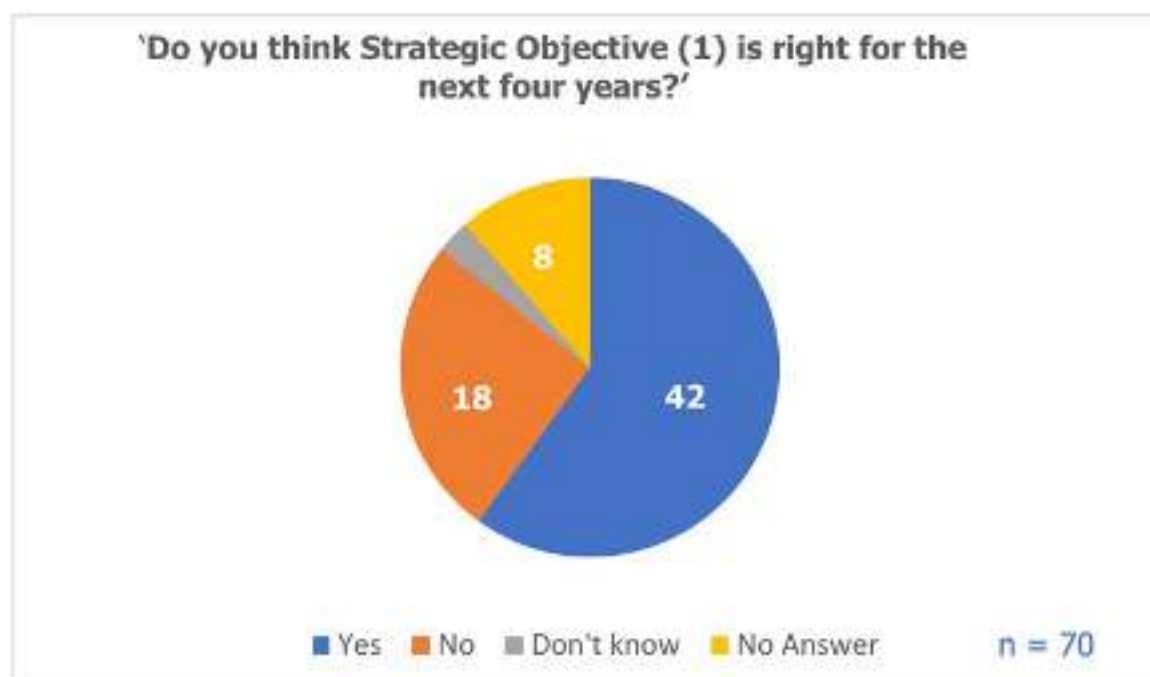
Respondents were informed of the following strategic objectives for the Irish Language Strategy:

1. To facilitate, enable and encourage the development of the Irish Language within Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and the District.
2. To effectively engage with the Irish Language Community to strengthen community capacity, encourage collaboration, co-operation and identify appropriate funding opportunities.

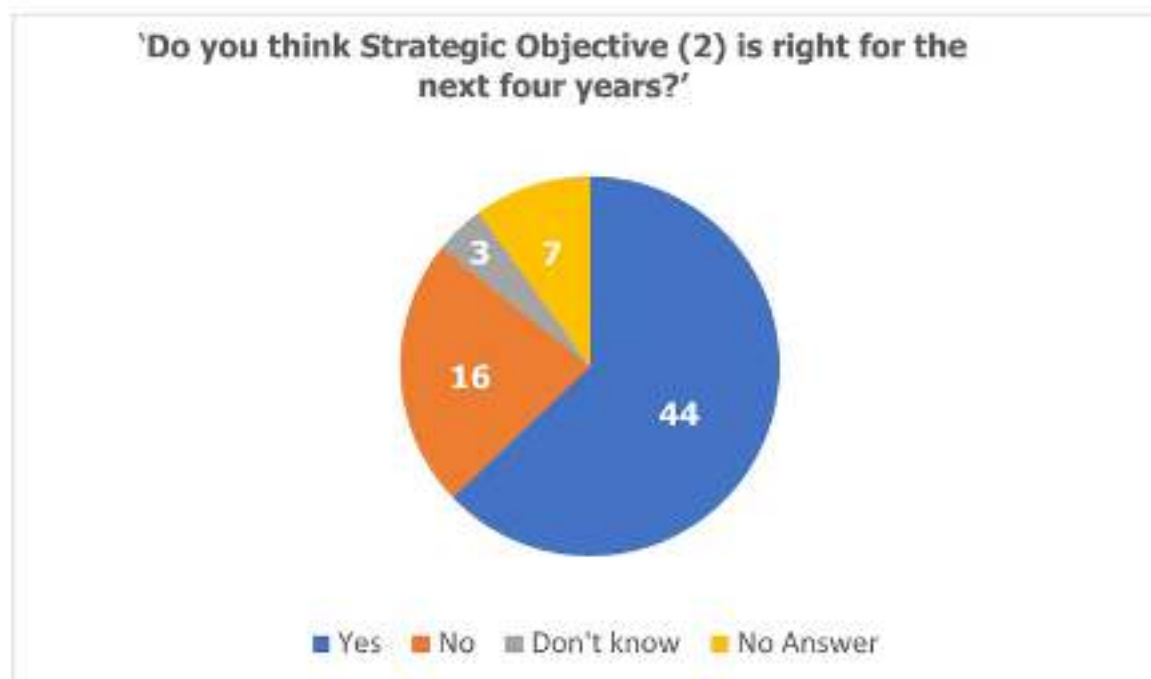
Respondents were asked:

'Do you think each of these two strategic objectives are the right ones for the next four years?'

Regarding Strategic Objective 1:



Regarding Strategic Objective 2:



Respondents were then given the opportunity to provide further comments in relation to the above. Comments included the following:

- **Prioritising the external (community focus) section of the strategy**
"I think the second one should be the highest priority and stated first". (i.e. that engagement with Irish Language Community should be prioritised).

- "Aontaím gur ceart go mbeadh forbairt na Gaeilge mar thosaíocht sna cuspóirí straitéiseacha, ach fosta, measaim gur ceart go mbeadh tagairt ann d'fhorbairt agus do chumasú an phobail féin."

[I agree that the development of the Irish language should be a priority in the strategic objectives, but also, I think there should be a reference to the development and empowerment of the community itself.]

- **Engaging the Irish Language Community Regularly**
"Ní hamháin gur ceart go mbeadh teagmháil éifeachtúil ag an Chomhairle le pobal na Gaeilge, ach ba cheart go ndéantar an teagmháil seo ar bhonn rialta. Ba cheart fosta go leagann an chuspóir straitéiseach seo amach sprioc chun ábaltacht an phobail a neartú agus a fhorbairt."

[Not only should the Council have effective contact with the Irish-speaking community, but this contact should be made on a regular basis. This strategic

objective should also set out a goal to strengthen and develop community capacity].

- **Engaging New Learners**

"Why just mention the Irish language community? surely this should engage with everyone especially those that want to learn!"

- **Providing Translation services for Community Groups**

"Good reliable translation services required within the Council at no extra cost to the projects concerned"

- **Proposal of a New Objective To Reflect Legislative Requirements**

"Molaimid chomh maith go gcuirtear cuspóir straitéiseach sa bhreis leis an mhéid atá sa dréacht-straitéis cheana féin, mar atá luaite thuas, a aithníonn agus a leagann amach cuspóir nó coimhínt shoiléir do dhualgais na Comhairle..." (Luann an freagróir an Chairt Eorpach agus an tAcht um Féin-iúlacht agus Teanga, 2022).

[We also recommend that a strategic objective is added to those already in the draft strategy, as mentioned above, which recognizes and sets out a clear objective or commitment to the duties of the Council..." (The respondent cites the European Charter and the Identity and Language Act, 2022).]

- **Proposal of a New Objective To Build Tolerance And Understanding**

"Mothaimid, mar sin, go bhfuil deis sa straitéis seo mír ardaithe feasachta agus eolais a chuimsiú, ag cur dearcthaí dearfacha chun cinn i leith na Gaeilge agus dá bharr, ag cur leis an chaoifhulaingt."

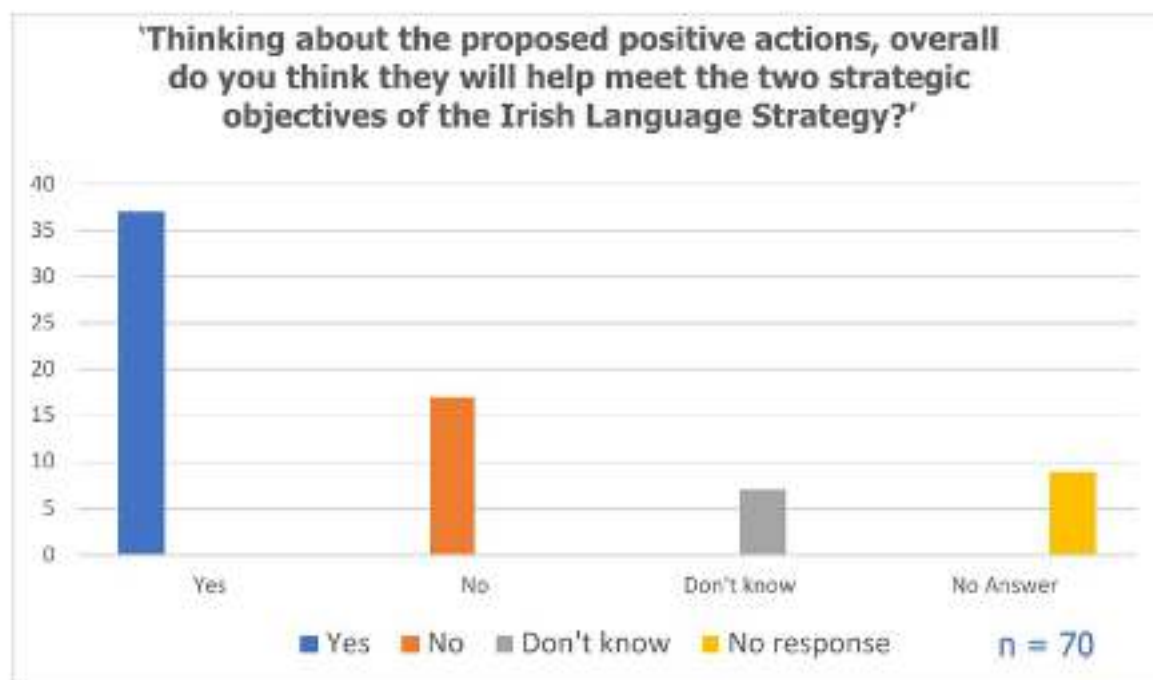
[We feel, therefore, that there is an opportunity in this strategy to raise awareness and knowledge about inclusion, promoting positive attitudes towards the Irish language and consequently, contributing to tolerance.]

4. Positive Actions

Respondents were informed of the Positive Actions associated with the Irish Language Strategy through the draft documentation published during the consultation.

Respondents were asked:

'Thinking about the proposed positive actions, overall do you think they will help meet the two strategic objectives of the Irish Language Strategy?'



The following table sets out the specific figures associated with the chart above:

Responses	
Yes	37
No	17
Don't know	7
No answer given	9

Respondents were then given the opportunity to provide further comments in relation to the above. Comments included the following:

- Promoting Irish Language Visibility and Active Offer**
 "Increasing overall Irish language visibility within communities will be important to ensure the successful implementation of the Irish Language Strategy. This should be more than street and building signage. Currently, I am unaware anyone actively using Irish in their role within the Council. It is not visible to me when I visit any Council building, if I can conduct my enquiry in Irish. There is no visible representation for me to identify a Council

staff member as an Irish speaker so that I may communicate in Irish with them. This lack of visibility may cause it to appear there is 'no demand' for use of Irish on a day-to-day basis."

- **Awareness Raising And Staff Training (Re Active Offer)**

"Molaim, mar aon leis an ghníomh dearfach atá luaite sa straitéis cheana, go ndéanfar poiblíocht chuí ar na seirbhísí lárnacha Gaeilge trí thairscint ghníomhach, suíomh idirlín na Comhairle, mar aon le hardáin inmheánach agus seachtrach na Comhairle. Ba cheart go solathraítear clár traenála do bhaill foirne na Comhairle ar choincheap na tairsceana gníomhaí ar a laghad uair sa bhliain".

[I recommend, along with the positive action already mentioned in the strategy, that the core Irish language services be properly publicized through active offer, the Council's website, together with the Council's internal and external platforms. A training program should be provided to Council staff on the concept of active offer at least once a year].

- **Training Regarding Legislative Responsibilities**

"Molaim fosta, mar atá molta agam thuas faoi mhisean na straitéise, go mbeadh dualgais na Comhairle faoin Chairt Eorpach agus faoin Bhille Féiniúlachta agus Teanga cuimsithe sa chlár oiliúna seo. Mar thoradh air seo, bheadh tuiscint níos doimhne ag oifigí na Comhairle ar a ndualgais i leith na Gaeilge faoin Chairt Eorpach agus faoin Bhille Féiniúlachta agus Teanga"

[I also recommend, as I have suggested above about the mission of the strategy, that the duties of the Council under the European Charter and the Identity and Language Bill be included in this training program. As a result of this, the Council's officers would have a deeper understanding of their duties towards the Irish language under the European Charter and the Identity and Language Bill].

- **Linguist Training for Staff**

"Ba cheart go mbeadh na míreanna traenála/ foghlama atá dírithe ar fhostaithe na Comhairle riachtanach do gach oibrí laistigh den Chomhairle agus go mbeadh an cúrsa féin creidiúnaithe ag dream seachtrach, Foras na Gaeilge mar shampla."

[The training/learning items aimed at Council employees should be essential for all workers within the Council and the course itself should be accredited by external parties, for example Foras na Gaeilge.]

- **Council Internal Language Skills Audit**

"Fáiltimid go bhfuil an Chomhairle ag díriú ar fhorbairt acmhainne agus traenáil d'fhostaithe na Comhairle cuimsithe sa straitéis seo ach dar linn nach mór na moltaí seo a leanas a chur san áireamh; i dtús báire, molaimid go

mbeadh sé mar aidhm ag an Chomhairle, le linn saolré na straitéise seo agus sna straitéisí ar fad amach anseo, tabhairt faoi iniúchadh cuimsitheach ar chumas teanga na n-oifigeach."

[We welcome that the Council is focusing on capacity development and training for Council's employees and that this is included in this strategy, but we think that the following recommendations must be taken into account; first of all, we recommend that an aim of the Council, during the life of this strategy and in all future strategies, be to undertake a comprehensive inspection of the language ability of Council officers.]

- **Council Should Adopt a Totally Bilingual Approach**

"Ba cheart i bhfad níos mó a chur anseo maidir le "seirbhísí iomlána na comhairle"; go háirithe gach feachtas margaíochta a dhéanann an chomhairle, an suíomh idirlín, ábhar margaíochta agus feachtas. Molaim béim a chur ar gach seirbhís agus feachtas pobail a dhéanamh iomlán dátheangach ar gach ardán. Sin an sprioc atá le bheith dátheangach, bí dátheangach!"

[More should be added here in relation to "full Council services"; in particular all marketing campaigns carried out by the council, the website, marketing materials and campaigns. I recommend emphasizing that all services and community campaigns be fully bilingual on all platforms. That's the goal of being bilingual, to be bilingual!]

- **Council Translations Clarity**

"níl sé iomlán soiléir cad iad na cáipéisí atá agus a bheas á n-aistriú ag an Chomhairle de réir na straitéise seo; molaimid go ndéantar cáipéisí foilsithe agus siúd atá ar fáil ar líne a rangú (catagóir A, B, C mar shampla; leis na cáipéisí is coitianta/is mó úsáide i gcatagóir A, agus na cáipéisí inmheánacha, corparáideacha i gcatagóir C).

[it is not entirely clear which documents are being translated by the Council according to this strategy; we recommend that published documents and those available online are categorised (category A, B, C for example; with the most common/most used documents in category A, and the internal, corporate documents in category C).]

- **Council Website Bilingualism**

"Is fiú a lua nach bhfuil an Chomhairle, faoi láthair, ag feidhmiú de réir na coimhlinte a thug siad maidir le suíomh idirlín ina bpolasaí dátheangachais...Níl aon chuid den leathanach baile, seachas seoladh na Comhairle féin, i nGaeilge, d'ainneoin gurb é an leathanach baile an idirghníomh is luaithe a bhíonn ag daoine le suíomh na Comhairle. Chomh maith leis seo, ní hé 'Aonad na Gaeilge' an t-aon rannóg laistigh den Chomhairle a mbíonn pobal na Gaeilge ag plé leo..."

[It is worth mentioning that the Council, at the moment, is not operating in

accordance with the commitment they gave regarding the website in their bilingual policy... There is no part of the home page, apart from the address of the Council itself, in Irish, despite the fact that the home page is the first interaction people have with the Council's site. In addition to this, 'Aonad na Gaeilge' is not the only section within the Council that the Irish-speaking community deals with...]

- **Irish Language and Bilingual Publications Should never be Delayed**
"Níor cheart go bhfoilsítear leaganacha Béarla de cháipéis ar bith de chuid na Comhairle roimh an leagan Gaeilge agus níor cheart go n-úsáidtear ganntanas ar aistriitheoirí mar leithscéal chun é seo a dhéanamh."

[English language versions of any Council document should not be published before the Irish version and a shortage of translators should not be used as an excuse to do this.]

- **Promoting Awareness of Irish Language Community and Services**
"Molaim chomh maith leis an ghníomh atá luaite cheana féin go n-agrófar ceardlanna, scéimeanna agus pacáistí eolais do Ghaelscoileanna sa cheantar maidir le himeachtaí agus seirbhísí Gaeilge na Comhairle go rialta (msh athchúrsáil, bithéagsúlacht, litreacha chuig Daidí na Nollag)."

[I recommend, as well as the action already mentioned, that workshops, schemes and information packages for Gaelscoileanna in the area regarding the Council's Irish Language events and services be convened on a regular basis (eg recycling, biodiversity, letters to Santa Claus).]

- "Ba cheart go dtugann an Chomhairle faoi fheachtas ardaithe feasachta ar bhuntáistí an Ghaeloideachais agus an dátheangachais sa cheantar comhairle."

[The Council should undertake a campaign to raise awareness of the benefits of Irish Medium Education and bilingualism in the area.]

- "Molaimid go n-amharcann an Chomhairle ar an mhúnla atá i bhfeidhm i gComhairle Lár Uladh agus go n-úsáidtear fianaise an daonáirimh, mar aon le go rachfar i gcomhairle le Fóram an Dúin agus Oiriaila chun fáil amach cá bhfuil riachtanais an phobail."

[We recommend that the Council look at the model in place in Mid Ulster Council and use the census evidence, as well as consult with the Down and Oriel Forum to find out where the needs of the public lie.]

- **Promoting IME, Early Learning Centres and Youth Work**
"Could there be something incorporated into these actions with a specific focus on Irish education and youth work in the district? Irish medium schools and youth organisations are central to the development of the language."

- "need to look at early learning centres and kids activities- eg swimming lessons through medium of Irish language. and other Council provided programmes".
- **Creating new linguistic spaces**
"Tá straitéis de dhíth ar an Chomhairle fá choinne áiteanna urá a chruthú i lár na cathrach."

[The Council needs a strategy for creating new spaces in the city centre].

- **Tackling Intolerance**
"...Feictear dom gur ceart go mbeadh tagairt éigin sa chuid seo den straitéis go nglacfaidh an Chomhairle bearta réamhghníomhacha chun dul i ngleic le claontacht agus éadulaingt ar bith i leith na teanga; bíodh sin fríd cheardlanna ardaithfeasachta, nó cóiriú ar chomhartha ar bith a ndéanfar scrios air."

[It seems to me that there should be some reference in this part of the strategy that the Council will take proactive measures to combat any prejudice and intolerance towards the language; whether that be through awareness raising workshops, or fixing any sign that would be destroyed.]

- **Preparing for Language Legislation**
"Sílim gur ceart go mbeadh mír breise sa rannóg seo a leagann amach go soiléir na beartais a ghlacfaidh an Chomhairle ar theacht i bhfeidhm na reachtaíochta Gaeilge."

[I think there should be an additional item in this section that clearly sets out the policies that the Council will adopt when the Irish legislation comes into force.]

- "Molaimid go dtugtar coimítmint sa straitéis seo go ndéanfaidh an Chomhairle cinnte de go gcomhlíonfar gach caighdeán teanga a leagann an Coimisinéir Gaeilge amach..."

[We recommend that a commitment is given in this strategy that the Council will ensure that all language standards set by the Irish Language Commissioner are met.]

- **Screening Impact and Monitoring progress**
"Molaim chomh maith leis an Ghaeilge a phríomhshruthú i leith pleananna straitéiseacha agus ghnó, go ndéanfar scagadh ar aon pholasaí/cleachtas nua/uasdátaithe de chuid na Comhairle chun cinntiú gur cuireadh an tionchar a bheas aige seo ar dheiseanna úsáide/feiceálachta na Gaeilge san áireamh, mar aon leis an tionchar a bheas ag an pholasaí/plean/cleachtas ar phobal na Gaeilge."

[I recommend that as well as mainstreaming the Irish language in relation to strategic and business plans, any new/updated policy/practice of the Council will be screened to ensure that the impact this has had on opportunities for the use/visibility of the Irish language has been taken into account, together with the impact that the policy/plan/practice will have on the Irish-speaking community.]

- “Bheadh sé in a chuidiú dá mbeadh na dóigheanna go ndéanfar measúnú ar an dul chun cinn an straitéis seo pléite.”

[It would be helpful if there was discussion on the ways in which the progress of this strategy will be measured.]

- **Developing an Irish Language Social Media Plan**

“Ba cheart go mbeadh sé mar aidhm láithreach agus úsáid na Gaeilge ar na meáin shóisialta a mhéadú trí fheachtas cuimsitheach, rialta poiblíochta ar mheáin shóisialta na Comhairle...”

[The aim should be to increase the presence and use of Irish on social media through a comprehensive, regular publicity campaign on the Council's social media...]

- **Facilitating Community Funding Access**

“Molaimid go gcuireann Aonad na Gaeilge, i gcomhpháirt le grúpaí pobail áitiúla, ceardlanna ar fáil ar dheiseanna maoinithe seachtracha.”

[We recommend that Aonad na Gaeilge, in partnership with local community groups, provide workshops on external funding opportunities.]

- “Molaimid go gcuireann an Chomhairle pota £5,000 ar fáil chun tacú le grúpaí ar mian leo imeachtaí a reáchtáil mar chuid den Fhéile (Seachtain na Gaeilge), agus go ndéantar méadú ar an phota seo ar bhonn incriminteach agus de réir éilimh le linn saolré na straitéise seo.”

[We recommend that the Council provides a pot of £5,000 to support groups wishing to run events as part of the festival (Seachtain na Gaeilge), and that this pot is increased on an incremental basis and according to demand during the life of this strategy.]

5. Equality of opportunity, good relations or rural needs implications

To help ensure that we have fully understood any equality of opportunity and good relations implications or rural needs, respondents were asked:

'Are you aware of any equality of opportunity, good relations or rural needs implications associated with the draft Irish Language Strategy 2023-2027?'

Respondents were then given the opportunity to provide further comments in relation to the above. Comments regarding rural communities included the following:

- "Yes- start from the peripheries and move into the centre as opposed to the centre and hope that it reaches out to the rural and further to reach communities".

Comments regarding equality and good relations included concerns from some respondents that issues relating to the Irish Language were "divisive" or that some communities within the district feel "uncomfortable".

- "Forcing Irish signage in some areas is encouraging a backlash of hostility, reducing the use of public facilities. It is interpreted as weaponizing it by a section of the public, prompting suspicion, the spread of hostile symbols and flag flying."

Some respondents felt that Council should take further steps to promote tolerance and inclusion:

- "Is le gach duine an Ghaeilge agus níl aon impleachtaí diúltacha ar aon phobal a easraíonn as an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn. Lean an dea-chleachtas idirmáisiúnta, go háirithe na moltaí atá sa Chairt Eorpach."

[The Irish language belongs to everyone and there are no negative implications for any community that are a result of the promotion of the Irish language. Follow international best practice, especially the recommendations contained in the European Charter.]

- "is féidir go mbeidh dea-thionchar ó thaobh comhionannais deiseanna de ag polasaithe Gaeilge ar Phrotastúnaigh, ar aontachtóirí, ar dhaoine scothaosta agus ar mhionlaigh eitneacha fosta óir is grúpaí iad sin nach dócha go raibh deiseanna eile acu a bheith i dteagmháil leis an Ghaeilge."

[it is possible that Irish Language policies will have positive impact in terms of equality of opportunity for Protestants, unionists, the elderly and minority ethnic groups too because those are groups that are unlikely to have had opportunities to be in contact with the Irish language.]

- "Chomh maith leis seo, mar phríomh-údarás poiblí, tá dualgas ar an Chomhairle dea-chaidrimh a chur chun cinn. Is fiú a aithint chomh maith go ndearna Coimisiún an Chomhionannais uasdátú ar an sainmhíniú a thugann siad ar 'dhea-chaidrimh', a luann anois:

"Is ionann cur chun cinn dea-chaidreamh idir grúpaí éagsúla sa tsochaí agus a bheith ag cothú comh-mheasa, comh-thuisceana agus imeascú agus iad ag dul i ngleic le leithcheal agus éadulaingt."

["In addition to this, as a major public authority, the Council has a duty to promote good relations. It is also worth recognizing that the Equality Commission has updated their definition of 'good relations', which now states:

"Promoting good relations between different groups in society means fostering mutual respect, understanding and inclusion while combating discrimination and intolerance."]

Council / Officer responses - Recommendations

Council response:

- The majority of responses were positive with consultees indicating 'yes' showing support for the strategy and its positive actions. Whilst there was some opposition to the Irish Language Strategy, in many cases respondents made positive suggestions for Council's consideration. On occasion suggestions made by respondents were deemed by officers to fall under already identified Positive Actions.
- A significant suggestion relates to providing an 'Active Offer'. An 'Active Offer' simply means providing a service in Irish without someone having to ask for it. Many respondents also mentioned the need to heighten Irish Language visibility and to raise awareness of the services available through Irish. In essence this encourages Council to take a proactive approach to promoting the use of Irish when accessing Council services.
- Council acknowledges that the Identity and Language (Northern Ireland) Act 2022 is not directly referenced within the strategy and the strategy will be updated to reflect this.
- It should be noted the two proposed strategic objectives are of equal priority.
- The Irish Language Strategy is a living document and six-monthly monitoring reports on progress are presented to the Council's Irish Language Strategy Cross-Party Working Group for consideration.
- Building tolerance and understanding are themes implicitly underpinning the Council's mission to mainstream the use of Irish language, and to embed equality of opportunity standards and give leadership.
- Council accepts that increasing Irish language visibility is important and a functioning bilingual website and social media platforms are positive actions and key performance measures within the Irish Language Strategy.
- In relation to adopting a totally bilingual approach Council remains committed to the principle of progressive realisation wherein we will take steps to progressively achieve the full realisation of the Bilingualism Policy using affordable resources.

Recommendations and actions:

- To amend the Irish Language Strategy to include reference to creation of an 'active offer' in relation to service delivery and accessibility.
- To amend section 1.4 of the Irish Language Strategy to include the development of a corporate outreach programme to address positive attitudes and understanding regarding the Irish Language.
- To amend section 1.7 of the Irish Language Strategy to reference the Identity and Language (Northern Ireland) Act 2022 and reflect Council's commitment to meet the standards developed by a future Irish Language Commissioner.
- To amend section 1.5 of the Irish Language Strategy to reference action to raise awareness of Council's social media platforms and the ability to access an Irish language version of Council's website through Google Translate and the ReachDeck Toolbar.
- To add the words 'active' and 'progressive' to the vision of the draft strategy.
- To amend the strategy to cover the period 2024-2027.

Comhairle Ceantair an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin

Straitéis na Gaeilge 2024-2027

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Irish Language Strategy 2024-2027



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1. Introduction

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

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

The Council also acknowledges the introduction of the Identity and Language (Northern Ireland) Act 2022 and Council's need to prepare for the language standards a future Irish Language Commissioner may create.

Building upon our Irish Language Strategy 2020-2023, we have developed an Irish Language Strategy for the period 2024-2027 which sets out how the Council will continue to:

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

2. The strategic framework – mission, vision and values

Council's mission is twofold:

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

Our Council's vision for the Irish Language Strategy 2024-2027 is:

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

In pursuing our mission, we will be guided by the five values outlined within the Council's Corporate Plan 2023-27:

- **Collaborative:** We will work in partnership with others;
- **Responsive:** We will listen and respond openly and positively to the views of everyone;

- **Engaging:** We will involve residents and staff in identifying needs and improving our services;
- **Sustainable:** We will modernise and transform our services in developing the district for current and future generations; and,
- **Transparent:** We will make our decisions and resource allocation openly and decisions will be informed by objective evidence.

In addition to these values, we will seek to be active and progressive in our mission.

3. Strategic objectives

The two strategic objectives of the Irish Language Strategy 2024-2027 are as follows:

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

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

4. The delivery framework

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

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

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

- Progressively realising greater access to information and services;
- Increasing Irish language community capacity, civic engagement and participation, and encouraging partnership-working;
- Improving sustainability and viability of the Irish language community sector; and,
- Developing connectivity between Irish language communities and the

- Statutory and Voluntary sectors;
- Appropriate budget allocation, monitoring, evaluation and review.

5. Structure and governance

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

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

6. Monitoring and review

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

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

Strategic objective 1 To facilitate, enable and encourage the development of the Irish Language within Newry, Mourne and Down District Council as an organisation and within the District.			
Positive action	Performance measure	Outcome	Responsibility Timeframe
1.1 Provision of core Irish language Services of Irish Language Unit (ILU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translation & interpretation • Advice & support • Research re: Signage / Street and development naming • Updating of placenames resource • Programme to raise awareness and understanding of Irish language • Irish Language Week programme (Seachtain na Gaeilge) 	<p>Delivery of core Irish Language services to Council, all Departments and Services and our community.</p> <p>Irish language and Irish Language Unit positively promoted and addressing perceptions around the language</p> <p>Increased awareness of Bilingualism Policy, Procedures and Guidelines</p>	Irish Language Unit (ILU) Ongoing core work of ILU
1.2 Develop and administer clear system and/or guidelines for translation of corporate documentation, signage etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of e-learning package for staff • Online presentation on Teams explaining process including suggested timeframe • Creation of ILUtranslations@nmandd.org • Acquisition and application of translating software • Engage with the Department for the Communities' Irish and Ulster-Scots central translation hub for the public sector 	<p>Increased awareness of translation process</p> <p>Positive impact on relations with other departments through good communication</p> <p>Increased efficacy and accuracy in translation process</p> <p>Building relationships within the Council and with government departments</p>	Irish Language Unit (ILU) IT Learning & Development Team (HR) Jan 2024
1.3 Develop and promote eLearning tool on language awareness and Council's Irish Language Strategy, Bilingualism Policy, Procedures and Guidelines for employees	<p>Uptake of Information / training sessions regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • language awareness • best practice examples across the organisation <p>Minimum of 2 workshops per annum re Bilingualism Policy & associated</p>	<p>Improved understanding of the practical application of Council's IL Bilingualism Policy, Procedure and Guidelines for Employees</p> <p>Improved communication and continuity across the organisation</p>	ILU Learning & Development Team (HR) Communication & Marketing Department Ongoing Review of Bilingualism Policy, Procedures and Guidelines

<p>Review Bilingualism Policy, Procedures and Guidelines for employees</p> <p>Raise awareness and promote practical application of NMDDC Brand Identity Guidelines (in conjunction with Communication & Marketing Department's Corporate Approach)</p>	<p>Procedures and Guidelines for Use of Irish in Council</p> <p>Reviewed Bilingualism Policy</p> <p>Revised Bilingualism Policy Procedures</p> <p>Revised Guidelines for employee in relation to the use of Irish Language in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council</p>	<p>Irish Language Unit promoting the Irish language across Council services / addressing barriers of access</p> <p>A consistent approach to the promotion of the Irish language across Council's services</p> <p>A consistent standard of service provision, in line with the Corporate Brand Identity Guidelines</p>		<p>due Jan 2025</p>
<p>1.4 Mainstream Irish language within strategic and business plans and operational arrangements with particular focus on front-facing services.</p> <p>Development of a corporate outreach programme to improve understanding of and encourage positive attitudes towards the Irish Language.</p>	<p>Number of meetings with Directorates / Service areas</p> <p>Details of amendments / Number of prioritised programmes</p> <p>Meetings with DEA Officers</p> <p>Number of outreach engagements</p>	<p>Progressive realisation of mainstreaming bilingualism within Council functions</p> <p>Increased visibility and promotion of the Irish language at service delivery level</p> <p>Improvement in positive attitudes and understanding regarding the Irish Language</p>	<p>ILU</p> <p>Shared responsibility within relevant Directorates / Service Areas</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>1.5 Development and maintenance of functioning bilingual website and social media platforms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migration of information • Prioritising, moderating and updating Irish language content on Council's website and 	<p>Functioning bilingual website and social media platforms operational</p> <p>Number of bilingual (Irish / English) social media posts on Council's channels</p> <p>Number of posts informing community</p>	<p>Progressive realisation of Council's bilingual website and social media platforms</p> <p>Functioning and meeting needs of Irish language communities in District and beyond</p> <p>Increased visibility of the Irish</p>	<p>ILU</p> <p>Shared responsibility within relevant Directorates / Service Areas</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

<p>social media platforms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addition of Irish Language Unit tab to existing website with info on ILU and services and link to strategy, relevant info • Regular publicity campaigns on Council's social media 	<p>of existing Council services available through Irish</p>	<p>language</p> <p>Increased awareness of Council website's current language tools (including Google Translate and the ReachDeck Toolbar)</p>	
<p>1.6 Development of Programme of Events in conjunction with Comms and Marketing, Museums, Community Centres, Arts Centres.</p>	<p>Promotion of content and events in advance of event dates</p>	<p>Increased visibility of IL on website and social media platforms</p> <p>Attracting people into Council venues to enjoy Irish language / bilingual events</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>ILU Museums Comms & Marketing Arts & Events Team Community Engagement</p>
<p>1.7 Prepare for the implementation of the Identity and Language (Northern Ireland) Act 2022 and the fulfilling of Council's legislative commitments.</p>	<p>Meetings with Irish language leading bodies – regular communication with Conradh na Gaeilge regarding progress of legislation</p> <p>Meetings with IL officers from other local Councils to discuss and inform our own preparation of a plan of action</p>	<p>Council preparedness for language standards developed by the Irish Language Commissioner when appointed</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>ILU / Corporate Policy Conradh na Gaeilge Other local Council</p>
<p>1.8 Six-monthly monitoring reports for consideration by the Irish Language Strategy Working Group</p>	<p>Monitoring reports completed</p>	<p>Monitoring, review and evaluation of Irish Language Strategy</p>	<p>Six-monthly during period of strategy</p> <p>ILU / Corporate Policy</p>

<p>1.9 Irish language capacity building / training for employees and Elected Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HR to establish an Irish Language Professional Development pathway for employees and Elected Members; • On-going developmental support to Council departments on implementation of Council's Bilingualism Policy and associated Procedures • Traditional and e-learning approach • Funding obtained from central training budget • With pilot scheme of 10 employees to begin and progressing to a larger group 	<p>Irish Language Skills training offered as a professional learning and development opportunity – as pilot programme initially, progressing to wider uptake</p> <p>Meetings with HR to progress and determine budgetary source</p> <p>Numbers of attendees</p> <p>Development of an e-learning package</p>	<p>Enhanced employee skills and knowledge base</p> <p>Employees better equipped to implement bilingualism policy and mainstreaming of IL within Council functions as well as through community engagement roles</p>	<p>ILU HR Training & Development Officer IT</p>	<p>Delivered and reviewed annually during period of strategy</p> <p>April 2024 or earlier</p>
<p>1.10 Objective justification principles with regard to Irish language skills applied as part of all Recruitment and Selection processes</p>	<p>Number of posts which identify Irish Language as an essential or desirable criterion</p>	<p>Enhanced employee skills and knowledge base</p> <p>Improved service for Irish speaking community</p>	<p>HR / ILU / Corporate Policy</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>1.11 Continue mapping the Irish Language Community Infrastructure</p>	<p>Integration of Irish language infrastructure map for Irish language community development</p>	<p>Enhanced knowledge of Irish language community infrastructure</p>	<p>ILU / Community Engagement</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

	Work with Evidence & Research Team to develop infographic mapping the IL Community Infrastructure along with placenames mapped out bilingually	Improved equality of opportunity for residents accessing Irish language services from across the community	
1.12 Review of Irish Language Strategy 2024-2027	Four-year review of Irish Language Strategy	Monitoring, review and evaluation of Irish Language Strategy 2024-2027 and development of new Irish Language Strategy	ILU / Corporate Policy November 2026 – April 2027

Strategic objective 2 To effectively engage with the Irish Language Community to strengthen community capacity, encourage collaboration, co-operation and identify appropriate funding opportunities.			
Positive action		Outcome	Responsibility
Performance measure			
2.1 Through the approach of "Active Offer", improve and enhance awareness of Council's services amongst the Irish Language Community	Number of relevant services promoted	Increased awareness of Council services available through the Irish Language	ILU Shared responsibility within relevant Directorates / Service Areas
2.2 Facilitate continued development of Fóram an Dúin agus Oirialla (Down and Oriel Forum)	Number of Forum meetings Number of people and/or groups in attendance Number of committee members with specific roles	Increased community engagement on critical issues such as provision of activities for young people Increased sustainability of Irish language community organisations Increased visibility and awareness of the role, projects and contribution of the Irish language community sector	ILU Ongoing

<p>2.3 Implementation of Irish Language Financial Assistance programme</p>	<p>Number of applicants Number of successful applicants Number of participants in successful projects – liaise with Programmes Unit</p>	<p>Irish Language community renewal and development, and positively engaging the Irish Language through financial assistance to support:</p> <p>a) Projects / initiatives that encourage Irish language community capacity building, mentoring and volunteering. It is envisaged that this scheme will inspire better developed Irish language communities to partner with newer or developing language communities to share resources and build better networks and encourage volunteering.</p> <p>b) Community engagement projects /initiatives to build positive relations, raise awareness and understanding, address perceptions and promote respect for the Irish language.</p>	<p>Programmes Unit ILU</p>	<p>Annually</p>
<p>2.4 Promote non-Council funding opportunities for Irish Language groups</p>	<p>Number of non-Council financial assistance opportunities promoted Number of online / in-person information sessions / presentations with IL groups</p>	<p>Provision of support to potential applicants of non-Council funding streams Sharing of information re. funding streams Increased capability of IL groups to access funding</p>	<p>ILU External funding bodies</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

<p>2.5 Implementation of Irish Language Bursary Scheme</p> <p>Development of Electronic Management System</p>	<p>Number of applications</p> <p>Number of successful applicants</p> <p>Amount awarded</p> <p>Duration of time taken to process applications and claims</p>	<p>Individuals assisted to improve IL skills through bursaries for IL courses, including Gaeltacht colleges, intensive courses and relevant third level course modules.</p> <p>Modernising ILBS application system</p>	<p>ILU IT</p>	<p>Annually January 2024</p>
<p>2.6 Education sector engagement, both directly and through liaising with Cumann na bhFiann (IL youth-focused group)</p>	<p>Number of schools engaged with</p> <p>Number of students participating in workshops</p> <p>No. of IL youth clubs forming</p>	<p>Positive relationships maintained with education sector</p> <p>Contribution to voluntary sector through promotion of opportunities to students</p>	<p>ILU Education sector</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>2.7 Development and promotion of Irish Language Events and Media Content</p>	<p>Number of events</p> <p>No. of series of video content shared annually and archived online</p> <p>No. of Council venues used for events</p> <p>No. of views & shares on social media</p>	<p>Increased visibility of IL content online</p> <p>Positive impact on community through IL awareness and sharing of themes depicted in content</p> <p>Effective promotion of content through screenings; Q&A sessions</p> <p>Increased use of Council facilities</p>	<p>ILU Museums and relevant facilities IT Comms & Marketing</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

Tuairisc do:	An Coiste Straitéise, Polasaí agus Acmhainní
Dáta an Chruinnithe:	16 Samhain 2023
Ábhar:	Téarmaí Tagartha Uasdátaithe – An Grúpa Oibre Traspháirtí um Straitéis na Gaeilge
Oifigeach Tuairiscithe (Teideal Poist san áireamh)	Colin Moffett, Ceannaire Beartais Chorporáidigh
Oifigeach Teagmhála (Teideal Poist san áireamh):	Louise Smith, Bainisteoir Aonad na Gaeilge

Deimhnigh cad é atá uait faoin Tuairisc seo le x a chur i mbosca amháin:-

Le haghaidh cinnidh	X	Le nótaí	
1.0		Aidhm agus Cúlra	
1.1		Téarma Tagartha uasdátaithe don Ghrúpa Oibre Traspháirtí um Straitéise na Gaeilge a aontú. Ag cruinniú den Ghrúpa Oibre Traspháirtí um Straitéis na Gaeilge, ar 07 Samhain 2023, pléadh agus aontaíodh na téarmaí tagartha uasdátaithe atá ceangailte leis an tuairisc seo (Aguisín I).	
2.0		Príomhábhair phlé	
2.1		Nuashonraíodh na Téarmaí Tagartha chun athruithe ar bhallraíocht a léiriú de thoradh an toghcháin rialtais áitiúil is déanaí agus chun planáil chun tosaigh don am at le teacht.	
3.0		Moltaí	
3.1		Iarrtar ar bhaill thofa na téarmaí tagartha uasdátaithe don Ghrúpa Oibre Traspháirtí um Straitéis an Gaeilge a mheas agus a fhaomhadh.	
4.0		Impleachtaí acmhainní	
4.1		N/B	
5.0		An aird chuí a thabhairt ar chomhionannas deise agus ar dhea-chaidrimh (na míreanna ábhartha a chomhlánú)	
5.1		<i>Moladh ginearálta gan aon tionchar faoi leith ar thorthaí comhionannais agus dea-chaidrimh</i> Níltear ag dúil leis go mbeidh drochthionchar ag an mholadh ar chomhionannas deiseanna ná ar dhea-chaidrimh. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

5.2	<p><i>Baineann an moladh le straitéis, tionscnamh beartais nó cleachtas agus/nó cinneadh íogair nó conspóideach a thabhairt isteach</i></p> <p>Baineann <input type="checkbox"/> Ní bhaineann <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Má mbaineann, déan an méid a leanas a chomhlánú:</p> <p>Rinneadh scagadh comhionannais ar an pholasáí (straitéis, tionscnamh beartais nó cleachtas agus/nó cinneadh). <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Déanfar scagadh comhionannais ar an pholasáí (straitéis, tionscnamh beartais nó cleachtas agus/nó cinneadh) sula gcuirfear i bhfeidhm é. <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Tús a chur leis an chomhairliúchán</i></p> <p>Lorgófar tuairimí na ndaoine sin a ndéanann an moladh tionchar díreach orthu sa chomhairliúchán. Tabharfar aghaidh ar na bacainní atá ar chatagóirí áirithe comhionannais (in Alt 75) maidir le páirt a ghlacadh sa chomhairliúchán agus tabharfar go leor ama do ghrúpaí dul i gcomhairle lena chéile. <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Mairfidh an tréimhse chomhairliúcháin 12 sheachtain <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Beidh tréimhse chomhairliúcháin níos lú ná 12 sheachtain ann (réasúnaíocht le cur thíos) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Réasúnaíocht:</i></p>
6.0	<p>An aird chuí a thabhairt ar riachtanais na tuaithe (tic a chur leis na cinn ábhartha)</p>
6.1	<p>Baineann an togra le forbairt, le glacadh, le cur i bhfeidhm nó le hathbhreithniú polasáí / straitéise / plean / dearadh agus/nó seachadadh seirbhíse poiblí</p> <p>Baineann <input type="checkbox"/> Ní bhaineann <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Má mbaineann, déan an méid a leanas a chomhlánú:</p> <p>Measúnú Tionchar ar Riachtanais Tuaithe déanta <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	<p>Aguisíní</p>
	<p>Aguisín I: Téarmaí Tagartha uasdáitithe don Ghrúpa Oibre Traspháirtí um Straitéis na Gaeilge</p>
8.0	<p>Cáipéisí cúlra</p>
	<p>N/B</p>

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Report to:	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	16 November 2023
Subject:	Updated Terms of Reference – Irish Language Strategy Cross Party Working Group
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Colin Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Louise Smith, Irish Language Unit Manager

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

<table border="1"> <tr> <td>For decision</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>For noting only</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>		For decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input type="checkbox"/>
For decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input type="checkbox"/>		
1.0	Purpose and Background				
1.1	To agree the updated Irish Language Strategy Cross Party Working Group Terms of Reference. The Irish Language Strategy Cross Party Working Group at its meeting on 7 November 2023 considered and recommended the updated terms of reference attached (Appendix I).				
2.0	Key issues				
2.1	The Terms of Reference has been updated to reflect the membership changes due to the outcome of the recent local government election and implementation of planning for the future.				
3.0	Recommendations				
3.1	Members are asked to consider and approve the updated Irish Language Strategy Cross Party Working Group Terms of Reference.				
4.0	Resource implications				
4.1	Not applicable.				
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	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

	<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>Proposal initiating consultation</p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	<p>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</p>
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	<p>Appendices</p> <p>Appendix I: Updated Irish Language Cross Party Working Group Terms of Reference</p>
8.0	<p>Background Documents</p> <p>N/A</p>

AN GRÚPA OIBRE TRASPÁIRTÍ UM STRAITÉIS NA GAEILGE – TÉARMAÍ TAGARHA
THE IRISH LANGUAGE STRATEGY CROSS PARTY WORKING GROUP – TERMS OF REFERENCE

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AN GRÚPA OIBRE TRASPÁIRTÍ UM STRAITÉIS NA GAEILGE

Téarmaí Tagartha

Scóip:

Is pléghrúpa éascaithe é an Grúpa Oibre Traspháirtí um Straitéis na Gaeilge. Beidh feidhm ag an ghrúpa seo i gcioradh agus i bplé chur i bhfeidhm Straitéis na Gaeilge, d'fhonn comhthuiscint, comhaontú agus bearta a bhaint amach chun chur chun cinn an Pholasaí Dhátheangachais a éascú.

Ballraíocht:

Is é seo a leanas comhdhéanamh an ghrúpa:

- Cathaoirleach na Comhairle
- Leaschathaoirleach na Comhairle
- Beirt Chomhairleoirí ainmnithe ag Sinn Féin
- Beirt Chomhairleoirí ainmnithe ag Páirtí Sóisialta agus Daonlathach an Lucht Oibre
- Comhairleoir amháin ainmnithe ag an Pháirtí Aontachtach Daonlathach
- Comhairleoir amháin ainmnithe ag Páirtí Aontachtach Uladh
- Comhairleoir amháin ainmnithe ag Páirtí Comhghuaillíochta Thuaisceart Éireann
- Beirt ionadaithe ainmnithe ag na páirtithe beaga eile/na comhaltaí neamhspleácha

An Cathaoirleach:

Déanfaidh Cathaoirleach na Comhairle cathaoirleacht ar na cruinnithe. Nuair nach bhfuil Cathaoirleach na Comhairle i láthair ag na cruinnithe rachaidh an Leaschathaoirleach sa chathaoir. Nuair nach bhfuil an bheirt sin i láthair, roghnófar an Cathaoirleach as a measc siúd atá i láthair.

Cruinnithe:

Ní bheidh aon chumhacht cinnteoireachta ag an ghrúpa oibre seo, ní féidir leis ach moltaí a dhéanamh. Cuirfear moltaí a éiríonn as na cruinnithe seo faoi bhráid an Choiste Pleanála Straitéisí agus Acmhainní lena bhreithniú.

Feidhmíonn na cruinnithe seo faoi bhuanorduithe na Comhairle.

Níl sé riachtanach córam a bhaint amach agus leanfaidh na cruinnithe ar aghaidh beag beann ar thinreamh ag na cruinnithe. Socrófar na cruinnithe gach sé mhí nó nuair is gá.

Úsáidfean an Ghaeilge agus an Béarla ag na cruinnithe seo agus cuirfear an córas aistriúcháin comhuaineach ar fáil.

Gairfidh Stiúrthóir Seirbhísí Chorpáraideacha na cruinnithe.

Oifigigh:

An Príomhfheidhmeannach, Stiúrthóir Seirbhísí Chorpáraideacha, Leas-Stiúrthóir ar Dhaoine agus Díl, Ceannasaí Polasaí Chorpáraidigh Bainisteoir Aonad na Gaeilge, an tOifigeach Forbartha Gaeilge, Oifigeach Teagmhála Phobal na Gaeilge.

An Preas:

Níl cead ag an phreas freastail ar na cruinnithe seo.

An Pobal:

Níl na cruinnithe oscailte don phobal

AN GRÚPA OIBRE TRASPÁIRTÍ UM STRAITÉIS NA GAELIGE – TÉARMAÍ TAGARtha
THE IRISH LANGUAGE STRATEGY CROSS PARTY WORKING GROUP – TERMS OF REFERENCE

THE IRISH LANGUAGE STRATEGY CROSS PARTY WORKING GROUP

Terms of Reference

Scope:

The Irish Language Strategy Cross Party Working Group will primarily be a facilitated discussion space. It will play a role in considering and discussing the implementation of the Irish Language Strategy with a view of reaching a common understanding, agreement and actions which will facilitate the promotion of the Bilingualism Policy.

Membership:

Membership shall be composed of:

- Council Chairperson
- Council Deputy Chairperson
- Two Councillors nominated from Sinn Fein
- Two Councillors nominated from SDLP
- One Councillor nominated from DUP
- One Councillor nominated from Alliance
- Two representatives nominated from the smaller parties/independents

Chairperson:

Council Chairperson will chair meetings.

In the absence of the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson will chair the meeting. If both are not present, the meeting will select a Chair from those present.

Meetings:

The Irish Language Strategy Cross Party Working Group does not have decision making powers, it makes recommendations only. Recommendations arising will be tabled at the Council's Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.

Meetings will operate to Council's Standing Orders.

It does not operate to any quorum and meetings proceed regardless of numbers in attendance. The meetings will be arranged on a six-monthly basis or as required.

Meetings will be conducted in a Bilingual format utilising the Simultaneous Translation system.

Meetings will be convened by the Director of Corporate Services.

Officers:

Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Services, Assistant Director of People and Legal, Head of Corporate Policy, Irish Language Unit Manager, Irish Language Development Officer, Irish Language Community Liaison Officer.

Press:

Not open to the press.

Public:

Not open to the public.

Report to:	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	16 November 2023
Subject:	Statutory reporting - Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period July – September 2023
Reporting Officer:	Colin Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy
Contact Officers:	Suzanne Rice, Corporate Policy and Equality Officer

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

For decision	For noting only	X
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	In line with Council's Section 75 statutory duties and commitments within our approved Equality Scheme, policy screening reports are published quarterly. The Quarterly Policy Screening Report for the period July – September 2023, including screening reports, is available on Council's website https://www.newrymournedown.org/corporate-policy-and-equality . This information has also been forwarded to our equality consultees.
2.0	Key issues
2.1	As per the Council's approved Equality Scheme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All policies Council proposes to adopt must be equality screened, prior to implementation, to assess the likely impact of the policy on the promotion of equality of opportunity and/or good relations. • Council must publish quarterly reports on equality screening which are available on Council's website and forwarded to equality scheme consultees.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To note the Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period July – September 2023.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	No financial or resources implications are anticipated.
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>

	<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 type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices
	Appendix I: Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period July – September 2023.
8.0	Background Documents

	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Equality Scheme.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Section 75 Policy Screening Report Quarterly Report July – September 2023

Policy	Details of policy	Screening Outcome
Policy for Dealing with Changed Circumstances Affecting Licensed Street Trading 2023	<p>The purpose of this Policy is to outline the approach to be taken by the District Council where the following circumstances arise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the location of a street trading pitch on which a licence holder trades as a stationary trader has become unsuitable, or, • the space in the street has become inadequate to permit trading by a stationary trader without causing undue interference or inconvenience to persons or vehicles. 	No EQIA considered necessary
Down County Museum Collections Care and Conservation Policy	<p>The aim of the policy is to detail the conservation and care undertaken in relation to the collections held at Down County Museum. The collections held at the museum are at the core of the museum service and the role it plays for the community.</p>	No EQIA considered necessary
Down County Museum Collections Development Policy	<p>The museum's statement and purpose is to collect care and research the rich cultural heritage to support continued understanding of our history, culture and environment. By definition the museum has a longstanding purpose and hold collections in trust for the benefit of the community. The policy considers the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of the collections; • Overview of the current collections; • Themes and priorities for future collecting • Theme and priorities for rationalisation and disposal. 	No EQIA considered necessary
Newry and Mourne Museum Collections Care and Conservation	<p>The collections held by Newry and Mourne Museum are at the core of the museum service and the unique role it plays in the community. The Collections</p>	No EQIA considered necessary

<p>Policy Statement 2023-2026</p>	<p>are essential to the mission statement of the museum as set out in the NMD Museums' Forward Plan 2023-2027.</p> <p>The aims and objectives for NMD Museum's Forward Plan are outlined under the 5 strands of NMDDC's Culture, Arts and Heritage Strategy 2022-2027: Placemaking, Education, Economic, Health and Well Being and Society and Community. The Conservation and Care Policy Statement is integral to the realisations of the aims and objectives under all of the strands.</p>	
<p>Newry and Mourne Museums Collections Development Policy 2023-2026</p>	<p>The museum's statement and purpose is to collect care and research the rich cultural heritage to support continued understanding of our history, culture and environment. By definition the museum has a longstanding purpose and hold collections in trust for the benefit of the community. The policy considers the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of the collections; • Overview of the current collections; • Themes and priorities for future collecting • Theme and priorities for rationalisation and disposal. 	<p>No EQIA considered necessary</p>
<p>NMD Museums Access Policy</p>	<p>NMD Museums Access Policy aims to provide all members of the community and visitors with the resources to explore Newry, Mourne and Down's rich cultural heritage. The museums have a responsibility to provide welcoming spaces where local people and visitors can interact with collections and historic buildings, and where they can enjoy a diverse range of events in a secure shared environment.</p>	<p>No EQIA considered necessary</p>
<p>NMD Museums Documentation Policy Statement 2023-2026</p>	<p>The aim of the NMD Museums Documentation Policy Statement is to ensure that Council fulfil guardianship, stewardship, and access responsibilities in line with NMD Mission Statement. Through implementation of this policy the museum aims to maintain Spectrum Standard in all areas of documentation.</p>	<p>No EQIA considered necessary</p>

<p>NMD Museums Loans Policy and Procedures 2023-2026</p>	<p>This document covers the loan policy and procedures for Down County Museum and Newry and Mourne Museum, known as NMD Museums. Both Museums hold Accreditation Standards through Arts Council England.</p> <p>NMD Museums borrows and lends objects for the purpose of public display and research, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make its collections available to a wide and diverse audience • promote understanding of the history and material and cultural heritage of the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area • enhance the reputation of NMD Museums and foster relationships with other cultural institutions 	<p>No EQIA considered necessary</p>
<p>NMD Museums Sustainability Policy Statement 2023-2026</p>	<p>As a service within Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, NMD Museums operates within the scope of the Council's Environmental Statement. NMD Museums is committed to continual improvement and prevention of pollution by reducing the environmental impacts that arise from its business activities and delivery of services. The aim of the policy is to provide a rational and framework to assist NMD Museums to continually improve its performance in terms of sustainability. Objectives include extend the life of graphic panels used in temporary exhibitions by giving them to other heritage groups in the NMD area, conserve items for temporary exhibitions that can be later used in the main exhibitions and investigate and introduce measures to minimize the release of pollutants which cause damage to land, air water due to the NMD Museums activities where possible.</p>	<p>No EQIA considered necessary</p>
<p>Street Trading Designation Policy 2023</p>	<p>The purpose of this Policy is to provide guidance on matters, which should be considered when deciding whether to designate a street or part thereof for Street Trading.</p>	<p>No EQIA considered necessary</p>

Street Trading Enforcement Policy 2023	The purpose of this Policy is to provide guidance on matters, which should be considered when deciding whether to take enforcement action against a person of whom there is reasonable grounds to suspect commission of an offence under this Act while involved in Street Trading.	No EQIA considered necessary
Street Trading Mobile Licence Policy 2023	The purpose of this policy document is to provide guidance on matters, which should be considered when deciding whether to grant or refuse an application for a mobile street trading licence.	No EQIA considered necessary
Street Trading Stall Design and Trading Policy 2023	The purpose of this Policy is to provide guidance on the minimum standard of stall design, which should be considered when deciding whether to grant to a person a street trading licence.	No EQIA considered necessary
Street Trading Stationary Licence Policy 2023	The purpose of this policy document is to provide guidance on matters, which should be considered when deciding whether to grant or refuse an application for a Stationary Licence.	No EQIA considered necessary
Street Trading Temporary Licence Policy 2023	The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance on matters, which should be considered when deciding whether to grant to a person a Temporary Street Trading Licence. Its aim is to provide, insofar as is possible, consistent decision making so as to develop and thereafter maintain public confidence in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's performance of its duties.	No EQIA considered necessary

Report to:	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	16 November 2023
Subject:	Mid Year Assessment - Performance Improvement Plan 2023-24
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Gerard Byrne – Assistant Director of Finance & Performance
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Catherine Hughes – Acting 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 2023-24 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 2023. Where possible, performance has been tracked against the targets set within the Performance Improvement Plan 2023-24.</p>		
2.0	Key issues		
2.1	<p>A significant number of 'supporting actions' and 'measures of success' within the Performance Improvement Plan 2023-24 are on track to be achieved. However, progress against the following has been limited:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a decrease in the number of business plans approved and businesses and jobs created under the NI 'Go For It' scheme however this can be attributed to the closure of this schemes and the delay in the commencement of the ESS fund. • There was a decrease in the number of fixed penalty notices issued and paid. • The statutory standards for processing local and major planning applications were not achieved, and performance has decreased. 		
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 2024.</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 2023-24 		
4.0	Resource implications		
4.1	<p>There are no financial resource implications within this report.</p>		
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)		

5.1	<p>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</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>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</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>Proposal initiating consultation</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 - Performance Improvement Plan 2023-24
8.0	<p>Background Documents</p> <p>Performance Improvement Plan 2023-24</p>

Performance Improvement Plan 2023-24

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 2023. Where possible, performance has been tracked against the targets set within the Performance Improvement Plan 2023-24.

Performance Improvement Objectives 2023-24

1. **We will support the health and wellbeing of local people by improving our local facilities and services**
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 improve our sustainability and reduce our impacts in relation to climate change**
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 2022-23
	Target or objective partially achieved / likely to be achieved / subject to delay		Performance is similar to Q1/Q2 2022-23
	Target or objective not achieved / unlikely to be achieved		Performance has declined since Q1/Q2 2022-23

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 2022-23.
- 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 2023.

Progress at a glance

Performance Improvement Objective	Progress	Status Trend
We will support the health and wellbeing of local people by improving our local facilities and services	385,878 paid attendances recorded across the six Council Leisure Centres	
	120,264 visits recorded at 10 community trails	
	9,904 leisure centre memberships recorded	
	10,452 people participating in targeted health programmes	
	14,099 recorded attendances of young people participating in targeted youth health and wellbeing initiatives	
We will grow the economy by supporting local businesses and creating new jobs	77 new jobs promoted through business start activity	
	8 new social enterprises supported, and 8 new social enterprise jobs created	
	129 businesses supported to progress growth and scaling ambitions	
	69 new businesses and employer enterprises supported to start-up.	
We will improve the cleanliness of our District by addressing littering, fly tipping and dog fouling incidents	27 fixed penalty notices issued and 22 paid	
	Assistance provided towards 14 community clean ups	
	£13k awarded towards 9 environmental projects through the NI 'Live Here Love Here' scheme	
	Increase in the rate of recycling	
	Decrease in the amount of waste sent to landfill	
We will improve our sustainability and reduce our impacts in relation to climate change	80 trees planted on the Council managed estate	-
	Carbon footprint of Council estate to be progressed in 2024-25	
	5 drinking water fountains installed across the District	
	0 EV charging points installed across the District	
	61% of Council fleet younger than 8 years	
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 increased to 28.6 weeks	
	The average processing time for major planning applications increased to 513 weeks	
	Data on the conclusion times of enforcement cases has not yet been made available by the Department	-
	Increase 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 support the health and wellbeing of local people by improving our local facilities and services





Senior Responsible Officer: Director of Active and Healthy Communities

Progress:

During Q1 and Q2 2023-24, the Council:

- The completion of the Kilkeel Leisure Centre Review should be finalised by March 2024.
- Procurement for the implementation of 'Mystery Visitor' Programme will commence in Q3 with appointment to take place in Q4.
- Kilkeel Bowling Pavilion Project has now been completed.
- Council's Play Strategy Programme is complete, and the Play Strategy Review has commenced.
- The development of the Sports Development and Health & Wellbeing Strategy commenced in Q1.
- Sports capital financial assistance call was opened and completed in Q1/Q2.
- Multi Sports Hub expressions of interest has been progressed from Q1.

Measure of Success	2023-24		Status	Explanatory note
	Target	Q1/Q2 Actual		
Number of paid attendances at:	750,000	385,878	😊	In the first six months of 2023/24 there were a total of 385,878 paid attendances recorded across the six leisure centres in the District. The highest number was recorded in Newry Leisure Centre accounting for 46% of the total paid attendances recorded.
Newry Leisure Centre		178,672		
Down Leisure Centre		129,007		
Kilkeel Leisure Centre		31,674		
St. Colmans Sports Complex		19,964		
Newcastle Centre & Tropicana Outdoor Swimming Complex		16,018		
Ballymote Sports & Wellbeing Centre		10,543		
Number of people participating in targeted health programmes	9,400	10,452	😊	During Q1 & Q2 of 2023-24 participation in targeted health programmes reached 10,452 which already exceeds the annual target of 9,400 by 11%.

Number young people participating in targeted youth health and wellbeing initiatives	20,000	14,099		Between April & September 2023, over 14,000 attendances were recorded of young people participating in youth health and wellbeing initiatives across the District, achieving 70.5% of the annual target. These initiatives included summer sports camps, teen fitness, volleyball and £1 summer activities.
Number of leisure centre memberships	9,750	9,904		A total of 9,904 leisure centre memberships were recorded by the end of Q2 2023-24 which already exceeds the annual target of 9,750 by 1.6%. The memberships are broken down by leisure centre as follows: Down Leisure Centre - 4397 Newry Leisure Centre – 3958 Kilkeel Leisure Centre – 805 Newcastle Centre - 466 Ballymote - 174 St Colmans Sports Complex - 104
Number of capital leisure projects progressed	No target	3		Kilkeel Bowling Pavilion complete. Multi-Sports Hub EOI progressed. Play Park signage complete.
Number of recorded visits at community trails	225,000	120,264	 	120,264 visits were recorded at 10 community trails across the District between April and September of this year, achieving over 50% of the annual target set.

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 2023-24, the Council:

- Approved the 2023-24 Labour Market Partnership (LMP) Action Plan with one LMP meeting conducted.
- Hosted an Employment Pathway Job Fair event on 25th May with 50 employers; 10 support organisations; and 418 attendees to showcase opportunities in key sectors and career vacancies, along with enhanced career guidance.
- Commenced Drivers Academy with 22 participants registered.
- Approved the 2023-24 Schools to Industry Action Plan with 3 sub-group meetings conducted.
- Supported 128 entrepreneurs with an approved Business Plan, creating 69 new businesses and promoting 77 new jobs.
- Supported 129 local businesses to progress growth and scaling ambition.

Measure of success	2023-24		Status	Explanatory note
	Target	Q1/Q2 Actual		
Number of social enterprise start-ups supported	12	8		8 new social enterprise start-ups engaged, achieving 67% of the annual target.
Number of social enterprise jobs created	12	8		8 new social enterprise jobs created, achieving 67% of the annual target.
Number of business plans created for start-up businesses and employer enterprises	300	128		128 Business Plans approved, achieving 43% of the annual target. Go For It ceased implementation on 30 September 2023. Potential clients for Go For It will be referred to ESS once commenced.
Number of new businesses and employer enterprises supported to start-up.	187	69		69 new businesses created, achieving 37% of the annual target. Go For It ceased implementation on 30 September 2023. Potential clients for Go For It will be referred to ESS once commenced.
Number of new jobs promoted through business start up activity NI 'Go For It' <i>(statutory performance indicator)</i>	>155	77		77 new jobs promoted, achieving 50% of the statutory annual target. When compared to Q1/Q2 2022-23, this is below the 92 jobs which were promoted through the NI 'Go For It' programme. Go For It ceased implementation on 30 September 2023. Potential clients for Go For It will be referred to ESS once commenced.
Number of existing businesses	200	144		144 existing businesses supported, achieving 72% of the annual target. ERDF

supported to progress growth and scaling ambitions				funding programmes ceased between March and June 2023. Council implemented an interim programme to support businesses with the potential for growth.
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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 Sustainability and Environment

Progress:

During Q1 and Q2 2023-24, the Council:

- Received 373 service requests for incidents of illicit dumping and fly tipping (261) and dog fouling (112).
- Issued 27 fixed penalty notices (22 of which have been paid). Overall, 81.5% of fixed penalty notices have been paid to date.
- Assisted 14 voluntary organisations, community groups, sports associations, schools and individuals with community clean ups across the District.
- Supported the NI 'Live Here Love Here' scheme, through which £13,000 was awarded towards 9 environmental projects covering themes such as community clean ups, community food growing initiatives and skill sharing in horticulture and community growing.
- Recorded an increase in the rate of recycling and a decrease in the amount of biodegradable waste sent to landfill. All current statutory standards have been achieved.

Measure of success	2023-24		Status	Explanatory note
	Target	Q1/Q2 Actual		
LEAMS score (Keep NI Beautiful Cleanliness Index)	65	-	-	The annual Cleaner Neighbourhoods Survey results for the 2023-24 financial year will be published by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful in July 2024 and the LEAMS score for Newry, Mourne and Down will be reported through the annual Assessment of Performance 2023-24.
Number of fixed penalty notices issued (littering, fly tipping and dog fouling)	120	27		The Council issued 27 fixed penalty notices, achieving 22.5% of the annual target. To date, 22 of the fixed penalty notices have been paid which represents 22.9% of the annual target. FPN's not paid will be referred for legal action with a higher penalty likely to apply. It should be noted that the post responsible for the management of the enforcement team continues to be vacant.
Number of fixed penalty notices paid (littering, fly tipping and dog fouling)	96	22		
Number of community clean ups supported	100	14		The Council assisted with 14 community clean ups between April and September 2023.

Number of 'Live Here Love Here' environmental projects	No target	9		A total of 9 environmental projects across Newry, Mourne and Down received funding through the NI 'Live Here Love Here' small grants scheme.
The percentage of household waste collected by District Councils that is sent for recycling (<i>statutory performance indicator</i>)	50% by 2020	Q1 Actual		In 2022-23 the Council did not achieve the 2020 recycling target of 50%, falling slightly below this at 49.6%. For Q1 2023-24 however, the 2020 target has been exceeded with the rate of recycling recorded as 52.4%. This falls below the regional average of 53.8% and the Council is currently ranked 9/11 across Northern Ireland. When compared to Q1 2022-23, this represents an increase of 0.6% in the rate of recycling, from 51.8% to 52.4%. There was no increase in the rate of recycling at the regional level when comparing these quarters.
		52.4%	 	
The amount of biodegradable Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste that is landfilled (<i>statutory performance indicator</i>)	<20,954 tonnes (2019-20)	504	 	During Q1 2023-24, the Council sent 504 tonnes of biodegradable municipal waste to landfill which was the second lowest across Northern Ireland and has only used 2.4% of the NILAS* allowance. When compared to Q1 2022-23, the amount of waste that was sent to landfill decreased by 10.6%, from 564 tonnes.
The amount of Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste arisings (<i>statutory performance indicator</i>)	No target	22,473		When compared to Q1 2022-23, the amount of local authority collected municipal waste arisings increased by 0.5%, from 22,351 tonnes to 22,473 tonnes. This increase is lower than the increase experienced at the regional level.

*NILAS: Northern Ireland Landfill Allowance Scheme.

Performance Improvement Objective 4




We will improve our sustainability and reduce our impacts in relation to climate change

Senior Responsible Officer: Director of Sustainability & Environment

Progress:

During Q1 and Q2 2023-24, the Council:

- Progressed the development of a Climate Change and Sustainable Development Strategy which will be brought to Committee for approval in Q4 2023-24.
- Continued the development of a Climate Change Adaptation Plan which will be brought to Committee for approval in Q4 2023-24.
- Progressed the development of the Newry, Mourne and Down Biodiversity Strategy (2023-28), with a public consultation planned for Q3 2023-24.
- Installed 5 Drinking Water Fountains at the following locations:
 - Annalong Harbour
 - Ardglass Harbour
 - Delamont Country Park
 - Kilkeel Harbour
 - Newcastle Promenade
- Planted 80 trees across the District.

Measure of Success	2023-24		Status	Explanatory note
	Target	Q1/Q2 Actual		
Carbon footprint of Council Estate	No Target			It was agreed by Council to procure a consultant in 2024 to assist in setting a carbon baseline and future targets. DAERA are currently consulting on future carbon budgets and so when the outcome of this is known in 2024, and more detail provided on the proposed methodology, then Council can align its approach with Central Government.
Percentage of Council fleet younger than 8 years	50%	61%		61% of the Council's fleet is younger than 8 years which already exceeds the annual target set by 11%
Number of vehicles within the Council fleet that have an alternative fuel source	10	1		Approval has been granted for the replacement of a proportion of existing small and medium sized diesel vans with electric vehicles. Work is ongoing in relation to the procurement of these vehicles and the required EV infrastructure.
Number of trees planted on Council managed estate	No target set	80		80 trees have been planted across 4 sites in the District and are a mix of native and non-native species including Oak, Beech, Hawthorn and Lime.

<p>Number of Council supported EV charging points</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>0</p>		<p>Council anticipate that EV chargers will be installed through the FASTER project in Q3 23/24 (approx. 8 charging bays). Others are to be installed through the collaborative ORCs (On-Street Residential Charge Point Scheme) project, which is currently being procured, with delivery expected by the end of Q4 2023-24.</p>
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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 2023-24, the Council:

- Received 357 planning applications in total which is the highest across Northern Ireland.
- The Council decided on 251 applications in Q1 2023-24, which is the fourth highest across Northern Ireland. 241 local planning applications were approved, resulting in an approval rate of 96.0%, which is just below the Northern Ireland average of 96.3%.
- Processed 16.5% of local planning applications within the statutory standard of <15 weeks, which is below the regional average of 39.8%. This represents a decrease of 21.4% when compared to the 37.8% of applications processed within <15 weeks during Q1 2022-23.
- Received 1 major planning application, decided on 1 application and approved 1 application. Similar to Q1 2022-23, no major planning applications were processed within the statutory standard of <30 weeks which is below the current regional average of 34.1%.
- Opened 73 enforcement cases which is the sixth highest across NI however data on the number of concluded cases is under development and therefore not yet available. As at 30 June 2023, the Council had 741 planning enforcement cases in the system, which is by far, the highest across Northern Ireland.

Measure of Success	2023-24		Status	Explanatory note
	Target	Q1 Actual		
Average processing time for local planning applications (weeks) <i>(statutory performance indicator)</i>	<15 weeks	28.6 weeks		During Q1 2023-24, the average processing time for local planning applications was 28.6 weeks which is above the regional average of 18.9 weeks. When compared to Q1 2022-23, this represents an increase of 11 weeks for Newry, Mourne and Down.
Average processing time of major planning applications (weeks) <i>(statutory performance indicator)</i>	<30 weeks	513.0 weeks		During Q1 2023-24, the average processing time for major planning applications was 513.0 weeks which is significantly above the regional average of 59.6 weeks. When compared to Q1 2022-23, this represents an increase of 209.2 weeks for Newry, Mourne and Down.
Percentage of planning enforcement cases progressed within 39 weeks <i>(statutory performance indicator)</i>	70%	-	-	Enforcement data for 'Enforcement cases concluded by planning authority' and 'Enforcement cases conclusion times by planning authority' is currently under development. The Department has advised that users will be notified when data is

				published.
Number of planning applications in the system for 12 months or more	150	239		As at 30 June 2023, Newry, Mourne and Down had 239 planning applications in the system for 12 months or more. This represents an increase of 11 applications when compared to March 2023 and 18 applications when compared to 30 June 2022. A reduction of 89 applications is required to achieve the annual target.
Number of planning applications in the system for 12 months or less	700	1,025		As at 30 June 2023, Newry, Mourne and Down had 1,025 planning applications in the system for 12 months or less. This represents an increase of 91 applications when compared to 31 March 2023 and an increase of 255 applications when compared to 30 June 2022. A reduction of 325 applications is required to achieve the annual target.
Number of enforcement cases in the system 12 months or more	450	544		As at 30 June 2023, Newry, Mourne and Down had 544 enforcement cases in the system for 12 months or more. This represents an increase of 41 cases when compared to 31 March 2023 and an increase of 94 cases when compared to 30 June 2022. A reduction of 94 cases is required to achieve the annual target.

Report to:	Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee Meeting
Date of Meeting:	16 th November 2023
Subject:	Update on impact of Council Estate due to recent flooding
Reporting Officer	Josephine Kelly, Director Corporate Services
Contact Officer	Gail Kane, Acting Assistant Director Facilities Management & Maintenance

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

For decision	For noting only	X
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide Elected Members with an update on the impact the recent flooding throughout the Council district had on all Council facilities and premises.
2.0	Key Issues
2.1	<p>Premises Inspected</p> <p>After the Council area experienced widespread flooding week commencing 30th October 2023, it became imperative to conduct inspections on Council facilities and premises located in the affected areas to assess the damage caused by the flooding.</p> <p>A total of 36 Council facilities underwent inspection to identify potential flood damage, with the majority of them fortunately escaping serious harm. Structural surveys are currently underway at Down Leisure Centre and Newry Town Hall, and reports on their conditions are pending.</p> <p>Among the facilities that incurred notable damage are Leitrim Play Park and Kilbroney Park trails. At Leitrim Play Park, damaged was caused to seating, fencing, safety surfaces, and the washing out of sand from the area. Additionally, the Kilbroney Park trails suffered significant washout, together with the access barrier to the campsite being irreparable.</p> <p>The Pavilion at Carnbane Playing Fields also experienced substantial flooding. Confirmation on the need for any potential repairs is pending, as Officers are awaiting the drying out of the premises.</p> <p>In summary, the inspections revealed varying degrees of damage across the facilities, with ongoing assessments and reports yet to be completed for certain locations.</p>
2.2	<p>Insurance Cover</p> <p>The Council's Insurance Broker has informed all pertinent insurers, and instructions have been issued to alert them. Council Officers will co-ordinate with the Insurance Broker once a clearer understanding is established regarding any potential future claims.</p> <p>Council Officers are presently in the process of gathering all relevant information and evidence related to the damaged incurred to Council premises. Subsequently, they will collaborate with the Council's Insurance Section and Insurance Broker to assess the extent of insurance coverage for the damage to the Council's estate.</p>

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

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

Report to:	Strategy Policy and Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	16 November 2023
Subject:	NMD Floods, 30 October – 2 November 2023
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Veronica Keegan – Head of Communications and Marketing
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Veronica Keegan – Head of Communications and Marketing

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

For decision		For noting only	x
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	This report provides Members with a summary of the communications activities developed and delivered during the NMD Flooding incident, 30 October – 2 November 2023.
1.2	Members will have received a copy of the Council's Emergency Management Plan and Emergency Communications Plan at the Strategy Policy and Resources Committee on 16 November 2023. The documents outline the agreed approach to co-ordinate consistent communications in the 'prepare, respond and recover' phases of any type of emergency.
1.3	Summary of multi-agency approach to Emergency Communications during the above incident: Emergency Response a. Emergency situation was classified as a Serious type of emergency, with Regional co-ordination. b. Led by the NI Executive Office, DfI and Rivers Agency – the department with responsibility for river and sea defence maintenance, the construction of flood alleviation schemes, the provision of flood maps and risk information. c. DfI was the lead Government Department for the recent flood emergency events throughout our district and indeed across other parts of NI. d. This included not only the technical and physical response on the ground, but also the Communications responsibilities. e. As a multi-agency partner, NMDDC met its obligations and duties to share and retweet the multi-agency messaging during the emergency response phase.* f. NMDDC also contributed to the media statements and press releases issued on behalf of the multi-agency response by DfI Press Office.
2.0	Key issues
2.1	*Embracing Technology/Social Media for Emergency Communications a. Social media is crucial to disseminating safety information throughout an emergency situation.

- b. Audiences are turning in increasing numbers to public sector media for news content in a rapidly developing and changing situation.
- c. This was accelerated and evidence-based during the Covid-19 crisis.
- d. Public messaging during an emergency situation needs to be managed carefully, disseminating very quickly, it must be factual, up to date, accurate, trustworthy information, that is not blurred with time delays, questions or opinion.
- e. Emergencies, such as water does not respect boundaries across our district and it was imperative that communications platforms that also respects no boundaries were used to reaches out to the widest possible audience/residents across our entire district area.
- f. Endorsed in our Residents Survey 2022, findings revealed that our residents preferred to receive their news digitally via the Council’s website and social media channels; an increase from 40% in 2018 to 62% in 2022 was recorded.

2.2 The Council’s Communications and Marketing team delivered emergency communications, across a number of information channels, in accordance with the agreed approach to co-ordinate consistent communications in the response and recovery phases of any type of emergency.

This work is ongoing as the Council implements a number of recovery schemes and projects.

With over 32,000 followers on Facebook and 9,500 followers on Twitter, social media provided a vital platform for all audiences to receive timely updates on the emergency.

2.3 **Statistics on Communications Delivered by NMDDC**

A full report of statistics on Communications delivered by NMDDC during week 1 and week 2 of the incident can be found in **Appendix 1**.

Critically, during the **first week** of the emergency incident, the following digital insights can be reported along with additional communications delivered.

- Total Reach across Facebook and Twitter: **1,232,066**
- Total Engagement across Facebook and Twitter: **9,275**

Social Media Performance

Total reach across Facebook and Twitter	1,232, 066
Total Engagement across Facebook and Twitter	9,275
Facebook Reach	785, 610
Facebook Engagement	6,905
Facebook posts	58
Facebook reshares from statutory agencies	15
Facebook Direct Messages Received and Response Issued	11
X / Twitter Reach	446,456
X / Twitter Engagement	2,370
X / Twitter Tweets	81
X / Twitter retweets from statutory agencies	29

The above figures relate only to NMDDC digital communications, awaiting digital statistics from the lead multi-agency partners on communications in relating to NMD Floods. An overall figure in terms of reach and engagement will be available at a later date.

<p>2.4</p>	<p>Additional Communication Performance:</p> <p>Media enquiries received and processed with updates on emergency situation 29</p> <p>Joint News Statements issued by DfI 11</p> <p>Joint News Statements issued by DfI included quote from our Chairperson Cllr Valerie Harte 1</p> <p>Flooding Recovery/Impact Video commissioned featuring our Chairperson Cllr Valerie Harte 6,146 views, 1,266 engagements</p> <p>NMDDC News Statements issued and posted on NMDDC website 1</p> <p>NMDDC Website Updates 15</p> <p>NMDDC Internal Communications to Staff 2</p>
<p>2.5</p>	<p>DFI – the lead agency has also stated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weather warnings were well publicised and community resilience groups contacted ahead of this flooding emergency to alert them of the significance of these weather warnings. • There was continual proactive messaging by the Department and our multi agency partners on social media, which began as soon as the Department became aware of the weather warnings. • Throughout the course of the weather event 14 press releases were issued and 13 media interviews undertaken by the Department. • The latest information on road closures was on https://trafficwatchni.com/twni/traffic-news, and the Traffic Information Control Centre (TICC) is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days week.
<p>3.0</p>	<p>Recommendations</p>
<p>3.1</p>	<p>Members are asked to note the contents of the report.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Resource implications</p>
<p>4.1</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>5.0</p>	<p>Equality and good relations implications</p>
<p></p>	<p>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</p>
<p>5.1</p>	<p>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</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>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p>

	The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened	<input type="checkbox"/>
	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7.0	Appendices	
	Appendix 1: Statistics on Communications Delivered by NMDDC	
8.0	Background Documents	
	None	

Appendix 1

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Statistics on Communications Delivered by NMDDC

	Week 1: w/c 30.10.23	Week 2: w/c 06.11.23
Social Media Performance		
Total reach across Facebook and Twitter	1,232, 066	143,097
Total Engagement across Facebook and Twitter	9,275	975
Facebook Reach	785, 610	110,748
Facebook Engagement	6,905	738
Facebook posts	58	16
Facebook reshares from statutory agencies	15	4
Facebook Direct Messages Received and Response Issued	11	3
X / Twitter Reach	446,456	32,349
X / Twitter Engagement	2,370	237
X / Twitter Tweets	81	24
X / Twitter retweets from statutory agencies	29	7
Additional Communications Performance		
Media enquiries received and processed with updates on emergency situation	29	7
Joint News Statements issued by DfI	11	
Joint News Statements issued by DfI included quote from our Chairperson Cllr Valerie Harte	1	
Flooding Recovery/Impact Video commissioned featuring our Chairperson Cllr Valerie Harte	1	6,146 views 1,266 engagement
NMDDC News Statements issued and posted on NMDDC website	1	3
NMDDC Website Updates	15	18
NMDDC Internal Communications to Staff	2	1

NMDDC social media statistics are verified by Facebook and X/Twitter via their analytical software.

Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resource Committee
Date of Meeting:	16 November 2023
Subject:	NMDDC Emergency Management Plan & Emergency Communications Plan
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Caolain Boyd – Assistant Director, Capital Projects & Procurement
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Kelly McNiff – SHEP Manager Veronica Keegan – Head of Communications and Marketing

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

	For decision	For noting only	x
1.0	Purpose and Background		
1.1	Committee is asked to note and be familiar with the NMDDC Emergency Management Plan and NMDDC Emergency Communications Plan and associated arrangements (as below).		
2.0	Key issues		
2.1	Council Emergency Management Plan and Emergency Communications Plan have been updated to reflect and include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Northern Ireland Civil Contingencies Framework (2021) - updated JESIP principles - update & streamline internal arrangements and - add hyperlinks to relevant documentation on Resilience Direct for ease of access. 		
2.2	Both plans have been reviewed and agreed by NMDDC EPIG on 11 September 2023 and subsequently SMT on 4 October 2023.		
2.3	Internal testing and validation of both plans will be scheduled for Q4 (Jan-March 2024) in the delivery of an internal emergency planning exercise.		
2.4	Elected Members are signposted and encouraged to participate in in upcoming NILGA training for Elected Members being held on 24 November 2023 – 10:30am -1:00pm at Oxford Island (in-person) with a focus on the role of the councillor and skills required in the local response to emergency events. To register please email – events@nilga.org		
3.0	Recommendations		
3.1	Elected members are asked to note and make themselves familiar with the content of the NMDDC Emergency Management Plan and NMDDC Emergency Communications Plan and their roles/ responsibilities in relation to emergencies and response of Council.		
4.0	Resource implications		
4.1	N/A		
5.0	Equality and good relations implications		
	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)		

5.1	<p>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</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>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</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>Proposal initiating consultation</p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	<p>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</p>
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	<p>Appendices</p>
	<p>1 – NMDDC Emergency Management Plan Nov 2023 2 – NMDDC Emergency Communications Plan Sep 2023 3 – Rural Needs Act Impact Assessment – NMDDC Emergency Management Plan 4 – Rural Needs Act Impact Assessment – NMDDC Emergency Communications Plan</p> <p>This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014)</p> <p>5 - NMDDC Emergency Communications Plan Sep 2023 Procedures</p>

8.0	Background Documents
	None

Emergency Management Plan

Official-Sensitive

Refer to [APPENDIX 1](#) for Emergency Contact Details



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

Version Control

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Document Title:	Emergency Management Plan
Version:	2.0
Directorate / Departmental ownership:	NMDDC Emergency Planning Implementation Group (EPIG)
Responsible Officer:	Kelly McNiff, Safety Health and Emergency Planning (SHEP) Manager
Contact Officer:	Kelly McNiff, Safety Health and Emergency Planning (SHEP) Manager
Date:	07.11.2023
Review date:	3 years
Location where document is held:	Newry Mourne and Down District Council/ Resilience Direct

Glossary

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BCP	Business Continuity Plan
CE	Chief Executive
DfC	Department for Communities
EMT	Emergency Management Team
EMP	Emergency Management Plan
LIAC	Local Impact Assessment Call
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NIFRS	Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service
NMDDC	Newry Mourne and Down District Council
PHA	Public Health Agency
PSNI	Police Service of Northern Ireland
RM	Resilience Manager
SEPG	Southern Emergency Preparedness Group
TCG	Tactical Coordinating Group
TEO	The Executive Office
SHEP	Safety, Health and Emergency Planning
SMT	Senior Management Team
CMT	Corporate Management Team
ESC	Emergency Support Centre
JESIP	Joint Emergency Service Interoperability Programme

Amendment Record

Revision Number	Page/ Section	Description of Amendment	Amendment Date
2.0	All	Complete review and streamline of plan to: incorporate NI Civil Contingencies Framework, JESIP principles, update and add glossary, document control list, checklists for all phases of emergency management and link to relevant internal and external information.	September 2023

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- [3. Principles of Joint Working and Interoperability](#)
 - [3.1 JESIP Principles](#)
 - [3.2 Joint Decision Model](#)
 - [3.3. M/ETHANE Template](#)
- [4. Role of Council in Emergencies](#)
 - [4.1. Role of Council](#)
 - [4.2 Critical Services](#)
 - [4.3 Concurrent Emergencies](#)
- [5. Assessment & Activation of the Plan](#)
 - [5.1 Initial Assessment & Actions](#)
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 - [5.3 Duties of Key Officers](#)
 - [5.4 Levels of Activation & Decision](#)
 - [5.5 Notification of Plan Status](#)

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Emergency Contact Details & Directories
Appendix 2 – M/ETHANE Form
Appendix 3 – Activation Flowchart
Appendix 4 – Establishing an Emergency Support Centre Flowchart
Appendix 5 – Communication Methods
Appendix 6 – Emergency Management Team Arrangements
Appendix 7 – Departmental Considerations/ Implications Prior to Emergency Management Team (EMT) Meeting (<i>Aid Memorie</i>)
Appendix 8 – Initial Emergency Management Team (EMT) Meeting Action Template
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Appendix 10 – Duties of Key Officers
Appendix 11 – Emergency Co-ordination Centre (ECC) Arrangements
Appendix 12 – Notification to Department for Communities
Appendix 13 – Role of Elected Members
Appendix 14 – Stand Down Phase and Agenda
Appendix 15 – Secondment Form
Appendix 16 – Other Emergency Arrangements

1. Introduction

1.1 Aim

The definition of an 'emergency' as outlined in the NI Civil Contingencies Framework April 2021 addresses the consequences of an emergency rather than its cause or source. Taking this into consideration the NMDDC EMP does not define responses for specific situations, but rather aims to ensure a suitable organisational plan and procedures are in place to allow decisions to be made and an appropriate response provided with a minimum of delay, regardless of the type of emergency.

1.2 Objectives

- To give guidance on the circumstances in which the Council will activate its plan.
- Provide a procedure which will ensure that the council make appropriate decisions, respond quickly and provide systems for mobilising staff, equipment and facilities (as appropriate).
- Detail the roles and responsibilities of the key officers.
- Provide a mechanism for liaising with other agencies and facilitating the co-ordination of the services provided by these other agencies.
- Provide a procedure to ensure that NMDDC's identified critical services are reinstated as soon as possible, ensuring that the Council's capability to respond effectively to any disruption is maximised.

1.3 Relevant Documents

- Northern Ireland Civil Contingencies Framework 2021
- Northern Ireland Risk Register 2023
- ESC Protocol
- MOU
- Severe Weather Plan
- NMDDC Emergency Communications Plan
- NMDDC Business Continuity Policy

This list is non-exhaustive and subject to change. Ensure correct reference documents are used in the event of emergency response.

2. Defining and Assessing an Emergency

2.1 Definition of an Emergency & Major Incident

The NICCF (April 2021) defines an **emergency** as, "an event or situation which threatens serious damage to human welfare, the environment or the security of Northern Ireland or the UK as a whole."

A **major incident** is defined as, "an event or situation, with a range of serious consequences, which required special arrangements to be implemented by one or more emergency responder."

2.2 Types of Emergency

The range of emergencies a county can experience is vast and as such emergencies are classified by scale, rather than by type. These scales are owned and defined by UK Government and therefore included for ease of reference (Figure 1).



Figure 1: UK Emergency Scale Levels, NICCF 2021

An emergency may be covered by the definition, whether or not it occurs in Northern Ireland, provided it has consequences in Northern Ireland.

2.3 Geographical Definitions

Emergencies can also be classified by geography with different tiers of co-ordination implemented during the response and recovery phases (Figure 2).

LOCAL allows for a response in and across the Council area and/or with a multi-agency approach if required. The response can be stood up and down as required for the management of the emergency. An example would be where Newry, Mourne and Down or an area of our district is experiencing a **LOCAL** event.

REGIONAL allows for a response where an emergency is experienced across Northern Ireland. The Northern Ireland Executive will take the lead on co-ordinating the emergency management response.

NATIONAL response is when the UK Government will issue direction for the management of the emergency.



Figure 2: Geographical Definitions, NICCF (2021)

2.4 When to Activate the Emergency Plan

Activation of the Council's emergency plan may be required when:

- the event/ situation meets the definition of an emergency or major incident (as defined above)
- OR**
- an emergency responder declares a major incident
- OR**
- the emergency/major incident appears likely to seriously obstruct the Council's ability to perform its functions
- OR**
- where the council considers it necessary or desirable to act to prevent, reduce, control or mitigate the emergency's/major incident's effects, or otherwise take action

Therefore, an emergency may be:

- i. Any abnormal incident or emergency within Newry Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC) area where other agencies will require Council assistance in the response phase.
- ii. Any abnormal incident or emergency within the Council area which requires co-ordination by the Council Chief Executive or nominated Director in the recovery phase.
- iii. Any incident/emergency which grossly reduces Council capacity to carry out normal business.
- iv. Any incident/emergency relating to Council statutory duties which, because of the scale of the effects, cannot be dealt with by the appropriate department or service as part of their day-to-day activities.
- v. A major incident/ emergency within another Council area with the potential for consequential impacts within this Council area.

2.5 Risk Assessment

The National Risk Register (NRR), updated in 2023 sets out the most serious risks facing the UK and aims to help build a more resilient nation. It sets out a reasonable worst-case scenario for **89** serious risks under nine risk themes.

The NRR assesses the likelihood and potential impact of the above and how they may directly affect the UK and its interests.

Refer to 'Chapter 2 – Risk Assessment Methodology and Matrix' for further detail on risks and associated ratings. Link to NRR - [2023 NATIONAL RISK REGISTER NRR.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/114222/2023_NATIONAL_RISK_REGISTER_NRR.pdf)

There are many different types of emergencies that may occur, below are some that Council have experienced to date.

Malicious attacks	Environmental hazards	Human and Animal Health	Societal
Security alerts	River flooding	Pandemics	Industrial action
Cyber attacks	Surface water flooding		
	Storms		
	Adverse weather – snow, ice, extreme heat		

Figure 3: Emergencies experienced by Council

3. Principles of Joint Working and Interoperability

3.1 JESIP Principles

The **Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Principles (JESIP)** programme is the foundation stone for civil contingencies doctrine and training UK wide. Its aim is to provide coherence to organisations and people who may not be used to routinely working together.

JESIP principles are used through all phases of operations; **PREPARE, RESPOND, RECOVER** and are not just for use by the emergency services.



Figure 4: JESIP Principles

3.2 Joint Decision Model

Decision making in an emergency seeks to determine 3 things:

1. **Working out what is going on** – SITUATION
2. **Establishing what you need to achieve** – DIRECTION
3. **Deciding what to do about it** – ACTION



Figure 5: Joint Decision Model

3.3 M/ETHANE Template

The **M/ETHANE** template is used by emergency responders to communicate details of an incident. It is recommended that this format is used for all incidents by agencies likely to be involved in the response phase to provide a common structure for information sharing.

For incidents falling below the 'major incident' threshold, it becomes an ETHANE message. Information contained within the M/ETHANE assist with decision making process using the Joint Decision Model (above).

Refer to [Appendix 2](#) for M/ETHANE template.

Alternatively the '**JESIP**' App can be used to record and share information.

4. Role of Council in Emergencies

4.1 Role of Council

The Council works with the emergency services and other agencies such as PSNI, DfI Rivers and Roads, NI Water, Southern Health and Social Care Trust, South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust and the Housing Executive to plan for and help response effectively to emergency situations.

In the event of a major emergency, the Council can assist in the following ways:

- Making buildings such as leisure and community centres temporarily available as shelters for people who have been displaced from their homes.
- Participation in Multi-Agency co-ordination and communications.
- Administration of the Scheme of Emergency Financial Assistance (SEFA).
- Provide advice, guidance and support to residents and businesses on cleaning up after major flooding or pollution.
- Assess structural damage to buildings.
- Provide staff or equipment to responding agencies as requested (eg. mutual aid).
- Set up of Community Assistance Centres (one-stop shops).
- Co-ordinate and lead multi-agency meetings to plan for recovery.

4.2 Critical Services

In the event of an emergency the Chief Executive (or deputy) will be required undertake an assessment of critical services of Council and prioritise same.

Following recent emergencies, it was agreed by SMT that priorities of Council critical services cannot be agreed prior to the emergency as the timing of the event can impact Council in various ways, eg. end of year (accounts), prior to large scale Council event, bank holiday, etc.

Each of the above are to be considered as part of Departmental Business Continuity Planning Arrangements.

Council recognises its responsibility to fulfil requirements until 4.1 alongside other services deemed critical at the time of assessment.

4.3 Concurrent Emergencies

In the event separate emergencies run concurrently, for example a severe weather event combined with industrial action the SMT will need to consider how best to use existing resources to respond to both events. This may also be the case if a series of small incidents take place, leading to pressures on service delivery, and hence the need to activate the Council's Emergency Planning Arrangements.

5. Assessment & Activation of the Plan

5.1 Initial Assessment & Actions

Upon notification by the Chief Executive/ nominated Director or SHEP (as applicable), an initial assessment will be taken on immediate actions required by NMDDC. The Activation Flowchart [Appendix 3](#) outlines the initial assessment and follow through arrangements.

Initial assessment may be one of the following:

1. Are Council requested to open an Emergency Support Centre?
If yes, refer to [Appendix 4](#) Establishing an Emergency Support Centre Flowchart and Emergency Support Centre Directory for contact details of key holders for nominated Emergency Support Centres: [ESC Documents \(resilience.gov.uk\)](https://resilience.gov.uk)
2. Are Council requested to support response to a major incident?
If yes, contact NMDD Emergency Management Team (EMT) members (as required) and request them to participate in a teleconference ([Appendix 5](#)) or the identified Emergency Co-ordination Centre (or nominated location) within 1 hour.
3. Does the incident seriously obstruct Council's ability to perform its function(s)?
If yes, prepare M/ETHANE report [Appendix 2](#) and convene EMT.
4. Is it necessary/desirable to act, prevent, reduce, control or mitigate the emergency's effects?
This may include assistance from Neighbouring Council areas.
If yes, complete **Step 3** above.

5.2 NMDDC Emergency Management Team Meetings

Refer to [Appendix 6](#) Emergency Management Team Arrangements to assist in the setting up, running and delivery of same to include suggested agenda.

[Appendix 7](#) provides an *aid memoire* for Assistant Directors (or deputies) of departmental considerations/ implications to be reviewed prior to the EMT.

[Appendix 8](#) and [Appendix 9](#) are to be completed and distributed to all relevant parties following the initial and any follow-up EMT meetings taken place to ensure all actions/decisions are logged and closed out as appropriate throughout the incident.

5.3 Duties of Key Officers

All key officers must ensure they fully aware of duties applicable to them when participating/ assisting in responding to an emergency, refer to [Appendix 10](#). This may also assist in identifying implications for departments/ sections and impacts to be escalated to EMT.

5.4 Levels of Activation & Decision

As part for the EMT and/or assessment of the emergency the Chief Executive/ nominated Director will determine the most appropriate plan activation as outlined below:

Phased Activation Stage	Purpose	Example scenario
ALERT	Raise organisational awareness that a certain risk is more likely than not	Yellow weather warning – heavy rain forecast
STANDBY	High degree of certainty that a response is required. i.e. set up leisure centre as a support centre.	Amber weather warning. Suspect device
PRE-ACTIVATION	Full activation of emergency plan in advance of emergency occurring	Amber weather warning – heavy snowfall certain
IMMEDIATE ACTIVATION	Emergency response is required	Security alert Flash flooding
STAND-DOWN	Self-explanatory	

The Chief Executive or Director will decide, in conjunction with the Emergency Management Team what staffing level is required under each Directorate.

Each member of the Emergency Management Team should contact their nominated departmental support staff and request they report to the emergency management centre, or place them on stand-by (as relevant).

Priority to be given to setting up an Emergency Co-ordination Centre (as required) however Council may deem it acceptable to manage the emergency in a hybrid manner depending on the type of incident/emergency. Refer to [Appendix 11](#) Emergency Co-ordination Centre (ECC) Arrangements for further details.

5.5 Notification of Plan Status

NMDDC must inform Department for Communities of Activation of the Council Emergency Plan by completing [Appendix 12](#) and forward via email. This is to be completed by SMT or SHEP, as required.

The Resilience Manager/ On-Call EPCO should also be contacted via telephone to advise them of the situation and provide an update on actions.

Appendix 1 - Emergency Contact Details & Directories

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Emergency Contact for NMDDC

The Chief Executive or member of **Newry Mourne and Down District Council** Senior Management Team (SMT) can be contacted at the following telephone number:

NMDDC Emergency Number 24/7 – 0800 242 5652

This is a '**non-public**' number which is diverted to SMT in line with the agreed on-call emergency planning rota.

If for any reason the above number is not accessible, please leave a voicemail or send a text message with your name, number, details of the emergency and how you think the Council can assist and someone will call back as soon as possible.

Should the NMDDC Emergency Number above **not be answered** in a timely manner please refer to NMD Emergency Contact details within the Regional Emergency Planning Contacts Directory (see below) OR contact the Resilience Manager (On-call EPCO, as appropriate).

Contact Directories – Internal & External

External Regional Contacts (to include Cross Border):

- The Regional Emergency Planning Contacts Directory can be accessed via Resilience Direct at [Emergency Contacts Directory \(resilience.gov.uk\)](https://resilience.gov.uk)

Internal Contacts (to include Cross Border):

- **NMDDC Emergency Cue Card** provides key internal contacts and a call-cascade system is in operation. Contacts are regularly updated and distributed to all EMT and EPIG members as a reference guide – [NMDDC Emergency Contacts \(resilience.gov.uk\)](https://resilience.gov.uk)
- **NMDDC Emergency Support Centre (ESC) Directory** available at – [ESC Documents \(resilience.gov.uk\)](https://resilience.gov.uk)

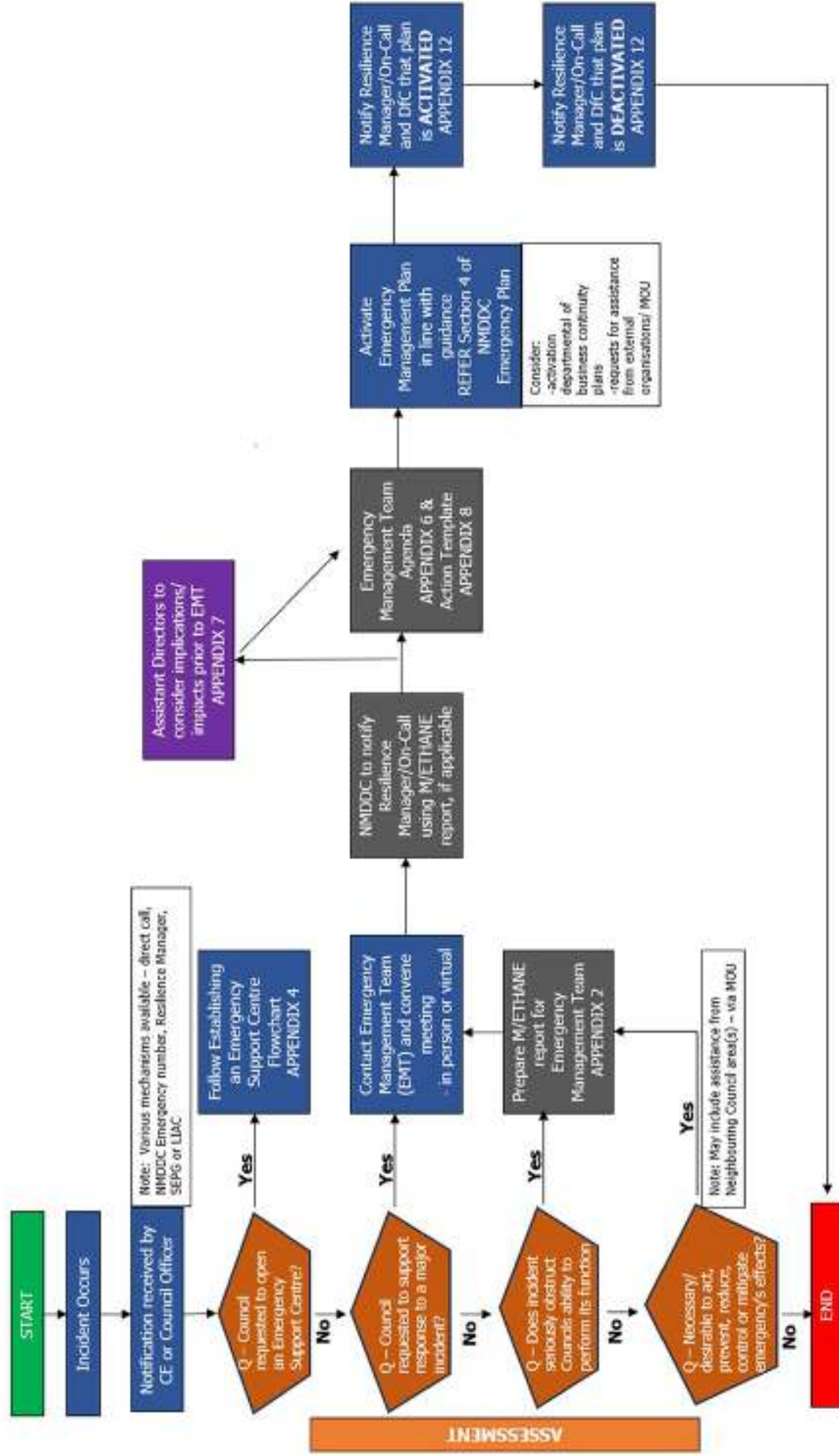
Appendix 2 – M/ETHANE Form

M/ETHANE Form			
Time		Date	
Organisation			
Name of Caller		Tel No	

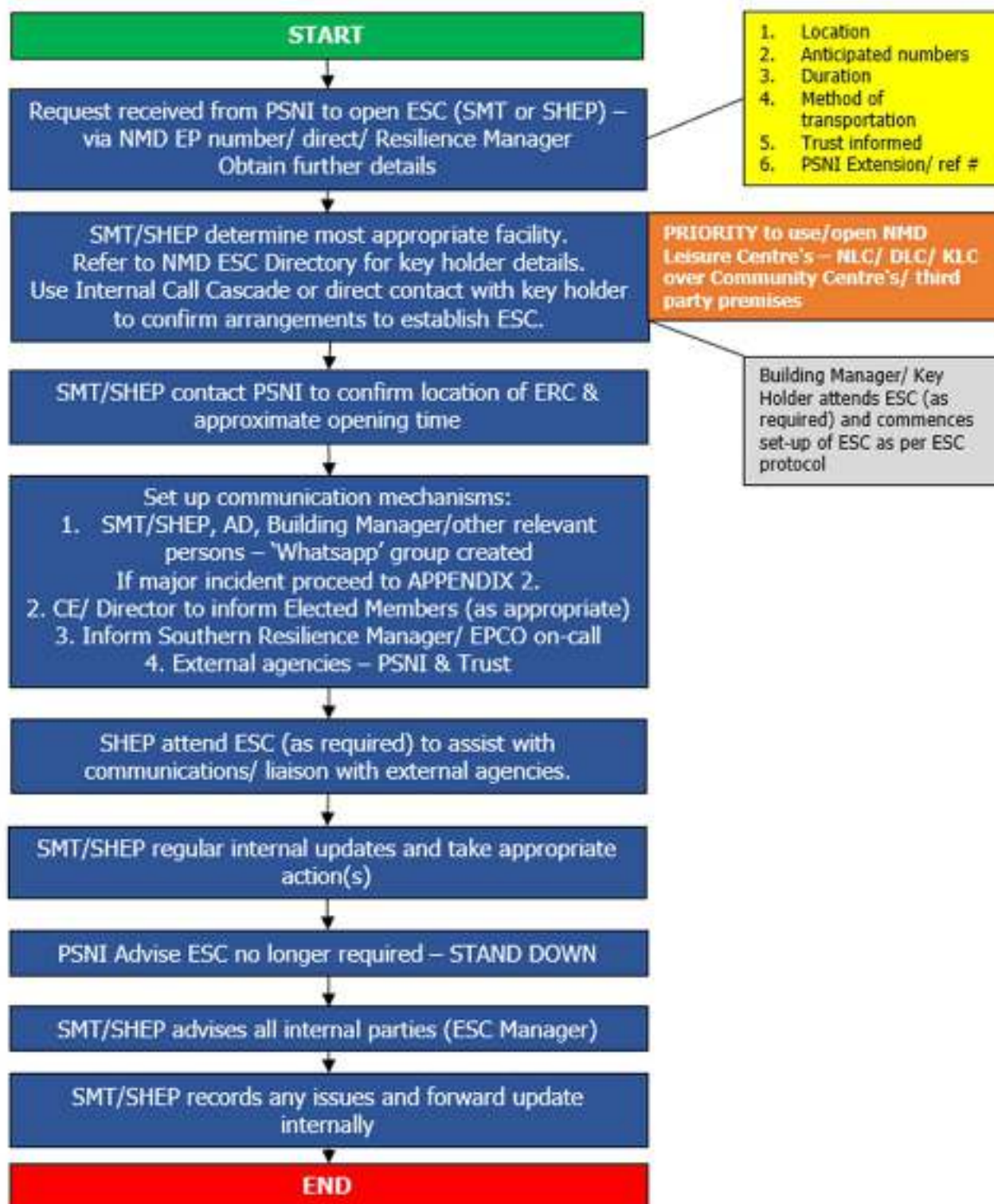
M	Major Incident	Has a major incident been declared? YES/ NO <i>(If no, then complete ETHANE message)</i>	
----------	----------------	---	--

E	Exact Location	What is the exact location or geographical area of incident	
T	Type of Incident	What kind of incident is it?	
H	Hazards	What hazards or potential hazards can be identified?	
A	Access	What are the best routes for access and egress?	
N	Number of casualties	How many casualties are there and what condition are they in?	
E	Emergency Services	Which and how many emergency responder assets/ personnel are required or are already on-scene?	
RESTRICTED ONCE COMPLETE			

Appendix 3 - Activation Flowchart



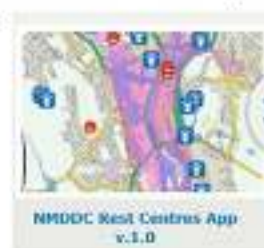
Appendix 4 – Establishing an Emergency Support Centre Flowchart



Further details on each Emergency Support Centre are available on the NMDDC GIS system – link below. Council email and log-in details required to gain access.

[Enterprise GIS at Newry, Mourne & Down District Council \(nmd.local\)](http://nmd.local)

Open – NMDDC Rest Centres App v.1.0



Appendix 5 – Communications Methods

Microsoft Teams

All staff with a council laptop and mobile phone have access to the Microsoft Teams platform/app and can set up a call as required. In the absence of this the dial in details can be distributed via email/ text message to any participants to allow them to join.

Zoom

All SMT Members have access to a Zoom account which can be used if Microsoft Teams is unavailable with dial in details available to be distributed via email/text message as required.

Mitel Conference Bridge

A Mitel Conference Bridge is another option available however access to the internet is required to set up the initial meeting invite. Once set up the meeting details can be distributed via email/ text message to any participants required to join.

Refer to IT Help File for – Mitel MiCollab Conference Bridge Set Up and list of active users with permissions to set up a meeting - – [NMDDC Emergency Communications \(resilience.gov.uk\)](https://resilience.gov.uk)

Whatsapp

Whatsapp app is available to download on council mobiles. This app may be used to provide timely updates to a select group when a formal conference mechanism is not deemed as necessary.

Mobile Telephone Privileged Access System (MTPAS)

MTPAS is intended to preserve access to mobile networks by those engaged in an emergency response when network capacity is under pressure.

Public cellular mobile telephony plans an important part in enabling communications during the response to emergencies, but mobile networks can become overwhelmed by a high concentration of calls that often occur immediately after a major incident.

Privileged access is available to entitled users within the responder community and not to members of the public. In NMDDC the privileged users are agreed by EPIG and managed by SHEP. A formal notification process is required, and information must be kept up to date and inform the relevant Resilience Officer and The Executive Office of any changes.

- Vodafone users receive a text message confirming their privileged access.
- O2 users are required to install and activate a new SIM card to gain privileged access.

The following staff in NMDDC are registered on MTPAS: [NMDDC Emergency Communications \(resilience.gov.uk\)](https://resilience.gov.uk)

The Big Word – 24hr Interpreting Service

1. Dial – **0333 344 9473**
2. Enter the access code - **73325988 (Emergency Planning)** followed by the # key
3. Enter the language code from the list below, followed by # key

Albanian	702	Hindi	994	Nepali	741	Tagalog	762
Amharic	91	Hungarian	724	Oromo	795	Tamil	729
Arabic	92	Italian	995	Pashto	98	Tetun	551
Bahasa Indonesia	727	Japanese	95	Polish	5	Thai	992
Bengali	706	Kisundi	70	Portuguese	996	Tigrinya	773
Bulgarian	707	Korean	3	Punjabi	749	Turkish	764
Cantonese	93	Kurdish (Kurming)	520	Romanian	750	Twi	709
Czech	710	Kurdish (Sorani)	730	Russian	997	Ukrainian	765
Farsi (Afghan)	712	Kurdish(Bahdini)	731	Serbo-Croat	752	Urdu	999
Farsi (Persian)	94	Language Identifier	700	Sinhala	754	Vietnamese	2
French	95	Latvian	733	Slovak	755	Yoruba	794
Georgian	784	Lingala	734	Somali	757	Zulu	770
German	4	Lithuanian	735	Spanish	1	More Languages	700
Greek	993	Mandarin	97	Sudanese	542	Unknown	0
Gujarati	738	Mandinka	739	Swahili	993		
Hebrew	722	Mirpuri	533	Synheti	526		

Additional information is available at: [ESC Documents \(resilience.gov.uk\)](https://resilience.gov.uk)

Or contact the Help Desk – 0333 344 9479

Appendix 6 – Emergency Management Team Arrangements

Physical Meeting: On the CE/ nominated Director's decision, NMDDC EMT member(s) are to be contacted and requested to report to the ECC (or other nominated location) within 1 hour or as soon as practicable.

Virtual Meeting: Alternatively, it may be deemed more appropriate for the EMT to convene via a virtual platform using Microsoft Teams, Zoom or Mitel Conference Bridge (refer to [Appendix 5](#)).

Prior to the EMT: Assistant Directors (or deputies) should discuss internally within their department/ section the considerations/ implications of the emergency/incident. [Appendix 7](#) can be used as an *aid memorie* to assist within what impacts should be escalated to the EMT.

Emergency Management Team Agenda

To be followed by the Chair (CE or Director, as appropriate)

1. Attendees/ Roll Call
2. Incident/ Event Description – refer to M/ETHANE if available, otherwise
 - a. Location
 - b. Type
 - c. Severity
 - d. Lead agency/agencies
 - e. Location of response co-ordination
 - f. Other relevant background information available
3. Purpose of meeting – *Why are we here, what are we trying to achieve?*
eg. support requested (buildings, personnel and/or equipment), raise situational awareness and assess impacts of weather across the district, etc
4. Departmental/ Section Impacts (by exception only) – ADs to refer to [Appendix 7](#) prior to the EMT:
 - a. Issues arising/ anticipated – Business Continuity
 - b. Resources available/ required – internally and to support external requests
 - c. Delivery of statutory duties
 - d. Redeployment of staff
 - e. Communications – internal/ Elected Members/ external
5. External liaison & communication arrangements – nominee(s), as required
6. Status of NMDDC EMP – discuss, agree, communicate
7. Date & time of next meeting

Initial Meeting – complete & distribute [Appendix 8](#) to all relevant parties.

Follow-up Meeting(s) – complete & distribute [Appendix 9](#) to all relevant parties.

Ensure all actions are tracked and closed out as necessary and decisions logged throughout the emergency/ incident.

Appendix 7 – Departmental Considerations/ Implications Prior to Emergency Management Team Meeting (*Aid Memoire*)

Issues	Impacts on Department/Section to be escalated
<p>Personal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implications for staff – any casualties/ sickness absence. Consider putting staff on stand-by or early release of same staff? • Current locations – re-located? • Loss of expertise • Potential requests for mutual aid 	
<p>Property</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale of damage? • Estimated time until resume to normality? • Alternative accommodation? • Access issues to property? 	
<p>Equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment loss (general) • Key equipment loss (essential)? 	
<p>Business functions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What critical functions are affected or at risk? Both internal (payroll) and external (waste, EH inspections, BC inspections, planning visits, registrar services) • Consider events which may need to be postponed/cancelled • Consider putting ESCs & staff on standby 	
<p>Current involvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What resources are required to assist with the incident – possible requests from other organisations • Any media messaging that needs to be relayed? 	
<p>Impact assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial/ regulatory/ reputational impacts to service delivery? • Effects on suppliers/ contractors? • SEFA scheme initiated? 	
<p>Areas of concern</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff level • Workplace • Inter dependencies 	
<p>Additional</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications to staff, elected members, public, suppliers, contractors • Specific weather-related advice • Weather related – any closures of forest/ country parks & mountain bike trails • Any tenders closing/ interviews taking place – postponed/ rescheduled? • Wind/cold weather – inspection of building/ heating left on constant? • Recovery phase – additional pressures as a result. 	

Appendix 8 – Initial Emergency Management Team (EMT) Meeting Action Template

NMDDC Emergency Management Team Meeting Actions - INITIAL

Date of Meeting		Time of Meeting	
------------------------	--	------------------------	--

1. Attendees/ Roll Call <i>*denotes Chair</i>					
Name	Y/N	Name	Y/N	Name	Y/N
<i>To be pre-populated with EMT members likely to be involved</i>					

2. Event Description

3. Purpose of the Meeting <i>Why are we here, what are we trying to achieve?</i>

4. Departmental/ Section Impacts – by exception only <i>As per Departmental Considerations/ Implications – Appendix 4</i>				
Department/ Section	Impact/ Consideration	Decision/ Action	Who to complete	Completed (Time/Date)
<i>Environment</i>				
<i>Sustainability</i>				
<i>Healthy Living</i>				
<i>Community Development</i>				
<i>Economy, Growth & Tourism</i>				
<i>Regeneration</i>				
<i>Capital & Procurement</i>				
<i>People & Legal</i>				
<i>Finance & Performance</i>				
<i>Digital/ IT</i>				
<i>Democratic Services</i>				
<i>Communications – Internal & External</i>				

5. External Liaison and Communication Arrangements

6. Status of NMD Emergency Management Plan

7. Next Meeting			
Date:		Time:	

Appendix 9 – Follow-up Emergency Management Team (EMT) Meeting Action Template

NMDDC Emergency Management Team Meeting Actions – FOLLOW-UP

Date of Meeting		Time of Meeting	
------------------------	--	------------------------	--

1. Attendees/ Roll Call <i>*denotes Chair</i>					
Name	Y/N	Name	Y/N	Name	Y/N
<i>To be pre-populated with EMT members likely to be involved</i>					

2. Event Description/ Changes

3. Purpose of the Meeting <i>Why are we here, what are we trying to achieve?</i>

4. Departmental/ Section Impacts <i>Carried forward from PREVIOUS EMT meeting –</i> 1. REVIEW OF ACTIONS 2. Updates (by exception only)

Department/ Section	Impact/ Consideration	Decision/ Action	Who to complete	Completed (Time/Date)
<i>Environment</i>				
<i>Sustainability</i>				
<i>Healthy Living</i>				
<i>Community Development</i>				
<i>Economy, Growth & Tourism</i>				
<i>Regeneration</i>				
<i>Capital & Procurement</i>				
<i>People & Legal</i>				
<i>Finance & Performance</i>				
<i>Digital/ IT</i>				
<i>Democratic Services</i>				
<i>Communications – Internal & External</i>				

5. External Liaison and Communication Arrangements

6. Status of NMD Emergency Management Plan

7. Next Meeting			
Date:		Time:	

Appendix 10 – Duties of Key Officers

Duties of the Chief Executive (CE)

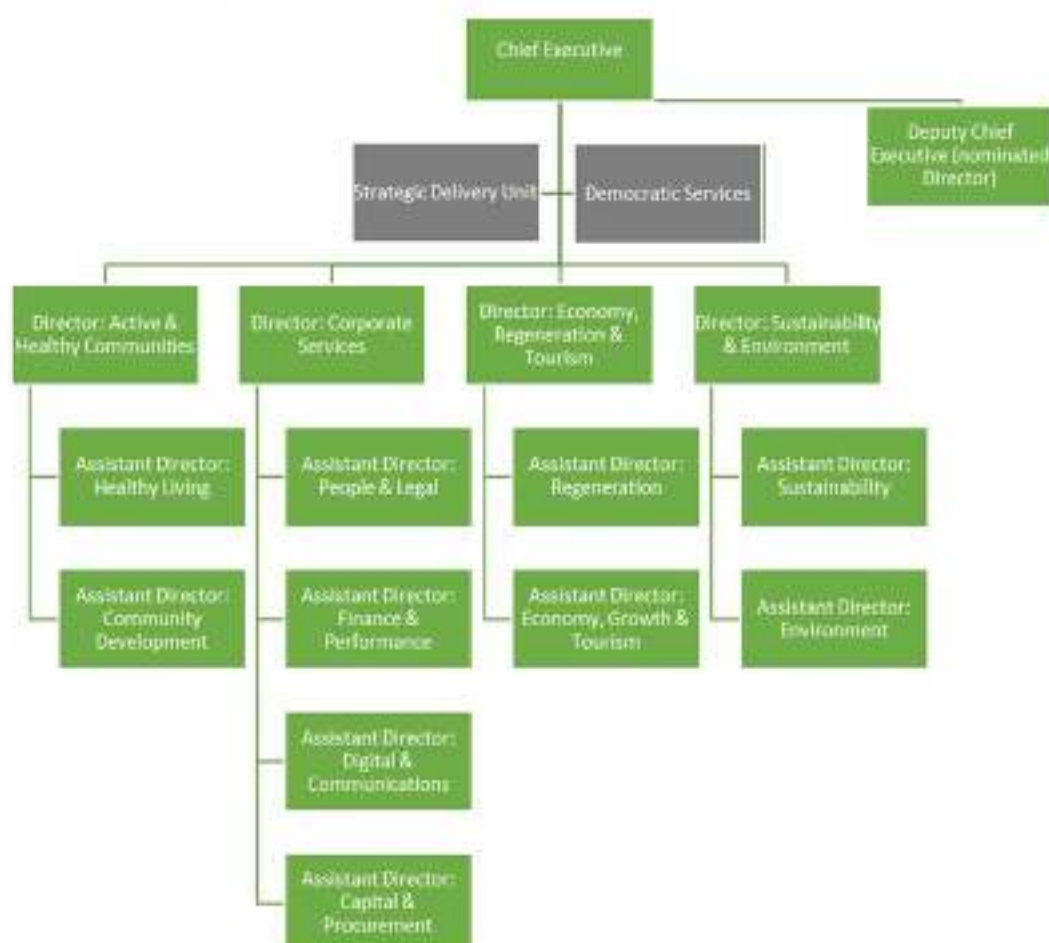
The Chief Executive will take responsibility for the response for Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to a developing incident. On receipt of notification of an incident, they will determine the appropriate level of response required, make arrangements for on-going review of the situation & liaise with lead agencies to decide on the most appropriate emergency co-ordination centre to be activated (as necessary).

In the event of activation of the emergency management plan, the Chief will contact as necessary:

- Director of Corporate Services
- Director of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism
- Director of Active & Healthy Communities
- Director of Sustainability & Environment
- Corporate Management Team (members as required)
- SHEP Manager/ Officer
- IT Manager
- Communication & Marketing
- Democratic Services

Note: The Chief Executive may nominate themselves or another Director to lead on the response to the emergency.

NMDDC Management Structure



Chief Executive (CE)/ nominated Director will:

- Lead the Emergency Management Team during the response phase and will communicate with the Elected Members to ensure they are adequately briefed.
- Consider impacts of emergency on Council service provisions and prioritise actions required.
- Inform DfC of status of the Council Emergency Planning Arrangements. Notification to be completed by SHEP Manager.
- Nominate member(s) of the Emergency Management Team to attend co-ordinating groups as required to act as an external point of contact between other agencies and the Chief Executive/ nominated Director and the Council EMT.
- Pass copies of all expenditure records to the Assistant Director of Finance & Performance who will process the accounts for the incident.
- Recovery Phase: Convene a multi-agency recovery team to collect information from all parties regarding the emergency and its effects, to determine priorities and establish effective communication between lead agencies and multi-agency task groups ensuring cohesive and effective action.

Director of Corporate Services:

The Director of Corporate Services will in liaison with their four Assistant Directors and relevant officers:

- Provide assistance to the Chief Executive as required.
- Consider impacts of emergency on Council service provisions and status of departmental Business Continuity Plans.
- Ensure provision of information to the public and press (under the direction of the Chief Executive) and in associate with guidance as provided under the EPG Public Information and Media Plan.
- Assist in the setting up of the Emergency Co-ordination Centre, as required to include necessary facilities, equipment, resources and support (to include IT support & equipment and business support).
- Advise on any personnel records and keep records of staff deployed in support of Council's emergency and also staff of other organisations.
- Track and record expenditure in relation to the major incident.
- Ensure that the costs incurred during an emergency will not impede action in responding to particular situation but should be recorded as resolved after the event.
- Send a copy of the completed accounts related to the incident to Local Government Policy Division as soon as possible.
- Be responsible for recording details of NMDDC staff deployed in support and those seconded from other organisations to the Council and ensure all such staff has identification and authorisation from the appropriate Council Department lead, as appropriate. To include hours worked within the emergency/ incident and rates of pay.

- Where records indicate excessive hours being worked by individuals, raise with EMT/ appropriate Assistant Director.
- Advise on any personnel issues relating to regarding the selection of Council staff to carry out work either for the Council or other organisations.
- Ensure correct details of appropriate support and counselling agencies are available that may be invoked at the request of the EMT.
- Provide legal advice and/or implications, as required.
- Log all communications made and received relating to the incident are retained.

Director of Sustainability & Environment:

The Director of Sustainability & Environment will, in liaison with their two Assistant Directors and relevant officers:

- Provide assistance to the Chief Executive as required.
- Consider impacts of emergency on Council service provisions and status of departmental Business Continuity Plans.
- Ensure key holders for designated buildings are available for setting up of Emergency Co-ordination Centres and Depots under their control.
- Make available a team of operational staff including drivers who can be raised quickly to response to emergencies.
- To hold a list of contractors and suppliers which may be called upon in the event of an emergency.
- Manage the department where there is a statutory duty or where expertise is relevant to public protection.
- Consider and manage mutual aid requests for assistance (staff/ equipment).
- Request activation of SEFA Scheme and administer same including submissions to DfC.
- Check the insurance position of Council staff employed in duties outside the norm for the post and any other persons carrying out work for the Council because of their specialist skills, knowledge and equipment.
- Log all communications made and received relating to the incident are retained.

Director of Active & Health Communities:

The Director of Active & Healthy Communities will, in liaison with their two Assistant Directors and relevant officers:

- Provide assistance to the Chief Executive as required.

- Consider impacts of emergency on Council service provisions and status of departmental Business Continuity Plans.
- Ensure key holders for designated buildings are available for setting up of emergency support centres under their control are opened and fully staffed as soon as possible.
- Set up as required Community Assistance Centres.
- Log all communications made and received relating to the incident are retained.

Director of Economy, Regeneration & Tourism:

The Director of Corporate Services will, in liaison with their two Assistant Directors and relevant officers:

- Provide assistance to the Chief Executive as required.
- Consider impacts of emergency on Council service provisions and status of departmental Business Continuity Plans.
- Ensure resources available in relation to Dangerous Buildings Legislation.
- Consider and manage mutual aid requests for building control duties.
- Ensure key holders for designated buildings are available for setting up of emergency support centres under their control are opened and fully staffed as soon as possible.
- Assess impacts on facilities (as applicable) and take appropriate actions eg. forest parks.
- Log all communications made and received relating to the incident are retained.

Officers with Specific Support Roles:

Safety Health and Emergency Planning (SHEP) Manager, or deputy, SHEP Officer

- Act as a conduit between NMDDC and the Southern Emergency Preparedness Group and other organisations involved in the emergency/incident.
- Notify DfC of status of NMDDC Emergency Planning Arrangements.
- Co-ordinate and submit SEFA claims for repayment to DfC.
- Provide advice in relation to regional emergency planning arrangements.
- Provide corporate health and safety advice as necessary.

IT Manager

- Ensure that appropriate ICT facilities and support are provide for the operation of the ECC.

Head of Communications & Marketing (or deputy)

- Initiate the NMDDC Emergency Communications Plan as applicable to the emergency/incident.

Personal Assistant(s) to Directors/ CE

- Provide secretariat/ administration role for EMT meetings (decision logging) and ECC, as required.

Democratic Services

- Assist in the provision of information/ messaging to Elected Members throughout the emergency/incident to include liaison with Head of Communications & Marketing.

Head of Evidence and Research

- Provide assistance in relation to GIS mapping relative to the emergency/ incident.

Appendix 11 – Emergency Co-ordination Centre (ECC) Arrangements

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Emergency Co-ordination Centre locations in NMDDC:

- **Downshire Civic Centre**, Ardglass Road, Downpatrick (Commedagh Room)
- **Greenbank Depot**, Greenbank Industrial Estate, Newry (Conference Room/ two hot desking offices and canteen(s) as required)

The above Emergency Co-ordination Centre locations have been chosen as each have 24/7 access available and provide a common location for access. Video conferencing facilities are also available at between both locations along with up-to-date IT provisions and necessary documentation/ resources.

The following is available at each location within the NMDDC ECC:

- Screens with PC Connectivity
- Screens with digital TV –
 - Commedagh Room – available and other locations within the building
 - Greenbank Depot – ariel required
- Land line telephone
 - Available in Commedagh Room Only
 - Broadband (wifi) or cellular available at both locations
- Video conferencing
- Whiteboards/ flip charts
- Clocks
- Appropriate hardcopy maps
- Printing & scanning facilities
- Battle box contents:
 - NMDDC Emergency Management Plan
 - Other relevant Council plans i.e. Business Continuity, Cyber Incident Response Plan, Insurance documentation
 - Emergency Support Centre Directory
 - Other specific plans e.g. COMAH, Severe Weather, Reservoirs
 - Other agency plans/ MOUs
 - Emergency contact lists – NMDDC Emergency Cue Card
 - Decision log books
 - Stationary to include – notepads, pens, markers, bluetack, flipchart paper
 - Spider phone
 - Universal mobile phone chargers & extension leads

Other meeting rooms are available at each of the ECC locations to allow for smaller discussions/ breakout areas as required.

Appendix 12 - Notification to Department for Communities

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Complete table below for **Activation:**

Activation of Emergency Planning Arrangements				
Details of Officer Activating Emergency Plan				
Name of Council				
Details of Officer notifying DfC	Name:		Email:	
	Job title:		Tel:	
Activation of Emergency Plan Details				
Date of Emergency Plan Activated				
Details of Activation	Reason:	Status		
		Stand by <input type="checkbox"/>	Partial Activation <input type="checkbox"/>	Full Activation <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Details of the plan's activation should be emailed to jeff.glass@communities-ni.gov.uk</i>				

Complete table below for **Deactivation:**

Deactivation of Emergency Planning Arrangements				
Details of Officer Deactivating Emergency Plan				
Name of Council				
Details of Officer notifying DfC	Name:		Email:	
	Job title:		Tel:	
Deactivation of Emergency Plan Details				
Date of Emergency Plan Deactivated				
Details of Deactivation	Reason:	Status		
		Full Deactivation <input type="checkbox"/>	Partial Deactivation <input type="checkbox"/>	Stand by <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Details of the plan's deactivation should be emailed to jeff.glass@communities-ni.gov.uk</i>				

Appendix 13 – Role of Elected Members

Elected Members have a vital role of civic leadership in their local communities. The Chairperson has a wider civic role for the whole of the Council area. These roles permit communication routes between the community and the Council during emergency incidents. They may also be aware of the vulnerabilities of the community they represent and provide valuable information while being a source of reassurance.

Prior to emergencies Elected Members are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the NMDDC Emergency Management Plan and attend available training sessions/exercises designed to familiarise and improve the response and recovery to emergencies.

Elected Members are requested to raise, where appropriate, the prospect of community resilience within their local communities. Community resilience assists communities develop self-help planning arrangements that assist in mitigation of emergencies.

The CE/ Nominated Director will endeavor to inform elected members of an emergency incident within their constituency and a process for regular briefing of the emergency incident will be established.

Elected Members will often be sought out to provide media statements during an incident and potential misinformation can exacerbate the emergency. Elected Members are encouraged to access up to date information through the CE/ Nominated Director (as appropriate) and/or the Corporate Communications & Marketing Section prior to undertaking interviews.

During emergencies Elected Members are reminded of the Council's strategic aim of ensuring the health & safety of its employees; this also includes Elected Members. Care must be taken if entering the emergency zone, taking direction from the emergency services at the scene and not placing yourselves at risk.

After a large emergency Elected Members have a key role in helping NMDDC decide how they want to get lives, communities, and businesses back to normal (Recovery Phase). Elected Members also have an important role in lobbying higher levels of Government for the necessary funding for restoration and redevelopment, other important aspects which require political leadership are memorials and anniversaries.

Responsibilities of Elected Members

All Elected Members are asked to:

- Be aware of the Council's Emergency Management Plan & associated structure.
- Inform the Emergency Services and the Chief Executive/Director on-call (or deputy) if they become aware of a situation which could lead to a civil emergency or disruption to council services.
- Provide Democratic Services with up-to-date contact details for the emergency contact arrangements.
- Contact the CE/ Nominated Director up-to-date and accurate information when preparing for a media interview in an emergency situation.
- Stay in contact with the CE/ Nominated Director and where possible liaise with emergency services, utility companies and lead government agencies through this route.

- Liaise as appropriate with their own party, MLAs, Executive Ministers and MPs to gain information, to inform or to lobby for support (as required).

Elected Members and the Media

In emergencies the need and opportunity will arise for Elected Members to speak to the media. Elected Members will be aware that confusion and misinformation can greatly exacerbate any emergency situation. When preparing for an interview in an emergency situation Elected Members are encouraged to contact the CE/ Nominated Director and/or Corporate Communications & Marketing Section for up-to-date information. Every effort will be made to keep Elected Members informed during an emergency.

When an emergency is serious or affects the District it is a good idea to have a single spokesperson. The civic leadership role of the Chairperson (or deputy) can most readily be used in this case to support the community. In other cases where technical expertise is required, a SMT member may act as emergency spokesperson.

Elected Members are asked to be aware of the role of Emergency Support Centres and that the occupants may be distressed and extremely vulnerable. When Elected Members wish to visit an Emergency Support Centre, especially when they want the news media to accompany them, then they are asked to liaise with the CE/ Nominated Director to make appropriate arrangements.

Role of the Chairperson in Emergencies

The Chairperson has an important civic role for the entire district. This role can bring comfort and leadership to distressed citizens and can by showing empathy and perhaps sympathy, raise the profile of the emergency in an appropriate way with the media. The Chairperson is encouraged where possible to act as the Council's emergency spokesperson.

The Chairperson is asked to not inadvertently give out information and advice which is contrary to that given by the emergency services or the lead government agency thus causing increasing confusion. He/she is asked to work closely with the CE/ Nominated Director and the Corporate Communications & Marketing Section, to ensure that public messages are accurate, up-to-date and in the public interest. The Corporate Communications & Marketing section is to be kept informed from a media perspective.

Communications with Elected Members during Emergencies

CE/ SMT Lead will endeavour as part of the activation process to alert Elected Members to an emergency happening within their electoral area with assistance from Democratic Services (as required).

Designated Role of Elected Member Liaison

During a large emergency the CE/ Nominated Director designate a manager to liaise solely with Councillors in relation to the emergency. Their responsibilities will include updating Councillors and supporting their visits to the ECC and Emergency Support Centres. Where possible the Councillor Liaison role will be covered by an officer from Democratic Services.

Appendix 14 – Stand Down Phase and Agenda

The Council Representative attending the Emergency Co-ordination Centre will advise the Chief Executive when the lead Organisation/ Emergency Services plan to stand down their response and will:

- Keep the CE informed of transitional liaison activities with other agencies.
- Inform the CE when the incident moves from response to recovery.
- Present an internal recovery report to the CE.
- The CE will convene a 'Stand Down Meeting' with EMT, **please see below.**

Stand Down Meeting Agenda

1. Situation report at Stand-down of Council EMT.
2. Consider need for continued activation of Departmental Business Continuity Plans. *Determine continuing need for any support staff to act outside normal duties. Agree mechanisms and arrangements.*
3. Inform all relevant staff of stand-down and any residual arrangements.
4. Inform Neighbouring Councils and Local Government Division. *If necessary, prepare costs of responding to incident.*
5. Arrange time for debriefing of Council EMT.
6. Ensure that all staff are debriefed by their Director/ Assistant Director.
7. CE (or nominee) to attend any PSNI or multi-agency debriefing meeting.
8. Consider Recovery Phase. *What residual issues are evident? What agencies should be contacted?*

Appendix 15 – Secondment Form

OFFICER AUTHORISATION FOR STAFF SECONDED FROM OTHER COUNCILS NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

This is to certify that

.....
(Officer's Name)

.....
(Present Position)

With.....
(Present Employer)

Has been appointed by Newry Mourne and Down District Council (which has activated its Emergency Management Plan) to support the Council's staff for the duration of the emergency.

The said officer is hereby authorised by resolution of Newry Mourne and Down District Council to carry out all the duties of an officer of the department to which he/she is attached.

For identification purposes this officer will also carry his/her employer's authorisation with a photograph affixed thereto.

Signed
Chief Executive

Signed
Authorised Officer

Date

Appendix 16 – Emergency Arrangements

Severe Weather

A Multi-Agency Severe Weather Plan has been developed and agreed applicable for Northern Ireland. Appendix 5 of the Severe Weather Plan provides a quick checklist of roles of each organisation, including Local Councils. [NMDDC Severe Weather \(resilience.gov.uk\)](https://resilience.gov.uk)

The checklist outlines the minimum measures NMDDC should undertake depending on the risk (rain, wind, ice, snow, etc) at different weather warning stages and recovery.

In addition to the detailed measure, each organisation is expected to carry out the following as a matter of course:

- Monitor weather report from Met Office.
- Monitor the situation and respond as required if deemed necessary.
- Notify and keep appropriate personnel up to date.

To ensure accurate and timely information from the Met Office an internal NMDDC distribution list/email has been set up - weather@nmandd.org to receive information directly from the Met Office. This list is reviewed regularly by NMDDC EPIG to ensure it is up to date.

All EPIG and EMT members are also asked to gain access to the Met Office Hazard Manager for additional details and download the 'Met Office App' for pushed notification relevant to specific geographical locations.

Department/ sections have additional measures in place in respect to severe weather conditions as this is based on the geographical location and activities undertaken and assessed and administered as applicable. This applies to employees, members of the public, contractors, etc. Eg. forest parks, coastal areas, bin collections. Local arrangements may be agreed within the department and not escalated to an Emergency Management Team.

Emergency Support Centre – Overnight Accommodation Arrangements

It was agreed at the Northern, Southern and Belfast Humanitarian Assistance Groups that strategic locations within each Council area, likely to be used as an Emergency Rest Centre, would benefit from having overnight accommodation supplies available such they be required.



Provisions include – 1 x double blow-up bed, 6 x single camp beds, pillows, sheets and blankets.

The above are available in 240L **RED** bins at both **Newry Leisure Centre** and **Down Leisure Centre** and readily available.

Fleece blankets (only) are available at **Kilkeel Leisure Centre**.

In the event of an emergency, **priority** is to be for one of the locations identified if overnight accommodation is required. Alternative arrangements are available for Newcastle to provide a geographical spread across the district.

Sandbags

It is important to recognise that **NMDDC DO NOT hold any sandbags for internal or external distribution or use**. Residents can purchase their own sandbags from a local building supplier, or they might be part of an existing RCRG group (see below).

Through the Regional Community Resilience Group (RCRG) community groups have been established to assist communities to prepare for emergencies. The focus is on areas that have experienced severe flooding have been provided with access to local sandbag store/ bunker and equipment for their own use (where deemed appropriate) prior to any severe weather.

Regional Community Resilience Groups in NMDDC include:

- Bryansford, Newcastle
- Cleary Crescent, Newry
- Annsborough, Castlewellan
- Riverside, Leitrim

Further information is available at:

- [Emergency Flooding Booklet \(infrastructure-ni.gov.uk\)](https://infrastructure-ni.gov.uk)
- [Be ready as a community | nidirect](https://nidirect.gov.uk)

In the event of an emergency Council may be asked to assist in the delivery of sandbags within the district/ community however this is done in co-ordination with the Department for Infrastructure. Sandbags only offer protection if they are in place prior to a flooding event and therefore require proactive measures to be taken.

During a flooding event, residents are directed to the **Flooding Incident Line – 0300 2000 100**. This number is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to report flooding. This allows for the relevant agency to assess the situation and respond accordingly.

Following a flooding event, the **Scheme of Emergency Financial Support (SEFA)** may be required to be activated subject to assessment of impacts throughout the district.

Scheme of Emergency Financial Assistance (SEFA)

In order for affected householders to apply under the Scheme of Emergency Financial Assistance for flooding, the Council must first activate the SEFA Scheme (if not already open). This can be requested via the LG resilience Manager/on-call (as appropriate).

Householders who are severely inconvenienced by flooding caused by rainfall must notify the Council as soon as possible (and no later than 7 calendar days from the last recorded date of their flooding incident) if they wish to apply for a payment under the Scheme.

Contact with Council is to be made via Environmental Health to enable an inspection of the property to assess if they are eligible for payment (subject to terms & conditions of the Scheme).

Environmental Health will also regularly review calls received from the Flooding Incident Line following periods of heavy rainfall and make contact with householders, as relevant.

The payment is to make a home fit to live in as quickly as possible. It is not compensation.

Note: Formal notification must be made within the above timescales and no 3rd party evidence will be accepted. Council Environmental Health must complete a physical inspection of the property.

Mass Casualty Kit

In Northern Ireland, the Northern, Southern and Belfast Emergency Preparedness Groups are the multi-agency forum to plan how everyone can work together to help the public in emergencies.

One way of doing this is to ensure that we have sufficient kit that we can use in emergencies such as blankets, first aid kit, forms and equipment for children. It was agreed that it is better to have this kit distributed around Northern Ireland in advance of emergencies so that it can be given to the public to enable them to help themselves in an emergency.

Selected locations within NMDDC have been identified as a suitable place to store a Mass Casualty Dressings Pack, see below:

Area	Premises	Address	What Three Words
Newry	The Quays Shopping Centre	26 Bridge Street, Newry, BT35 8QS	silver.thin.editor
Newcastle	Slieve Donard Hotel	Downs Road, Newcastle, BT33 0AH (Golf store)	clash.landowner.view
Warrenpoint	The Whistledown Hotel	6 Seaview, Warrenpoint, BT34 3NH	venturing.relations.actual
Downpatrick	Bus Station	82 Market Street, Downpatrick, BT30 6LZ	strides.fists.momentous
NMDDC	Events Team	c/o Warrenpoint Town Hall	Transient/ brought to large scale Council events.

Each kit consists of 2 black duffle bags.

The pack contains trauma and ambulance dressings, gloves, face masks, tourniquets, foil blankets and fleece blankets. It is for use in an emergency when several people are injured - such as a large road traffic accident. The contents are to help people to provide first aid to themselves and others – so if there is an incident near your building it can be taken and given out for the public to use. That doesn't stop staff members from using the kit to help the public if they are willing and able to do so – but there is no expectation of this. The bag may also be collected by the emergency services if there is an incident elsewhere in Northern Ireland.

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council@nmandd.org
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Newry BT35 8DJ

Oifig Dhún Pádraig
Downpatrick Office
Downshire Civic Centre
Downshire Estate, Ardglass Road
Downpatrick BT30 6GQ

Emergency Communications Plan

Refer to **APPENDIX 1** of the
**NMDDC Emergency Management Plan for
NMDDC Emergency Contact Details**
[NMDDC Emergency Plan \(resilience.gov.uk\)](https://resilience.gov.uk)



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

Version Control

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Contact Officer:	Head of Communications and Marketing, Veronica Keegan
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Amendment Record

Revision Number	Page/ Section	Description of Amendment	Amendment Date
2.0	All	Complete review and align plan to the NI Civil Contingencies Framework, JESIP principles, Northern Ireland Emergency Preparedness Group Emergency Communications Plan and update accordingly.	September 2023

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1. Introduction

1.1 Aim

The Northern Ireland Civil Contingencies Framework (April 2021) states that, "Building and protecting public trust in emergency planning is an essential part of enabling effective emergency communications.

The aim of an emergency communications strategy is to ensure that the necessary information is available to facilitate timely and informed decision making and that the public and responders are given relevant, timely and concise information regarding imminent and ongoing emergencies."

1.2 Communication Objectives

- To give guidance and summarise key steps in which the Council will provide communications during the prepare, response and recovery phases of an emergency/major incident.
- To provide a procedure which will ensure that the Council co-ordinates its communications and provides accurate, timely and consistent information via official, trusted channels including social media and responds appropriately to support the press to report on the emergency accurately and safely.
- To detail the roles and responsibilities of the key Communications officers.
- To outline the mechanism for liaising with other agencies, including central and local government, to facilitate the co-ordination of the knowledge for potential issues and dissemination of information in emergencies.

1.3 Relevant Documents

- NI Emergency Preparedness Group – Emergency Communications Plan (May 2023)
- Severe Weather Plan
- Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Business Continuity Policy
- Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Social Media Policy.

This list is non-exhaustive and subject to change.

2. Defining and Assessing an Emergency

2.1 Definition of an Emergency & Major Incident

The Northern Ireland Civic Contingencies Framework (NICCF) (April 2021) defines an **emergency** as, "an event or situation which threatens serious damage to human welfare, the environment or the security of Northern Ireland or the UK as a whole."

A **major incident** is defined as, "an event or situation, with a range of serious consequences, which required special arrangements to be implemented by one or more emergency responder."

2.2 Types of Emergencies

The NICCF states, "The range of emergencies a country can experience is vast and as such emergencies are classified by scale, rather than by type."

The UK scales are as follows; the colour coding relates to the escalation defined by the UK Government (Figure 1).



Figure 1: UK Emergency Scale Levels, NICCF 2021



There are, of course other emergencies which do not breach into the levels described, and for which Newry, Mourne and Down District Council routinely and effectively step up an emergency communications response, often with other Government Departments, agencies and partners.

2.3 Tiers of Co-Ordination

Emergencies can also be classified by geography with different tiers of co-ordination implemented during the response and recovery phases (Figure 2).

LOCAL allows for a response in and across the Council area and/or with a multi-agency approach if required. The response can be stood up and down as required for the management of the emergency. An example would be where Newry, Mourne and Down or an area of our district is experiencing a **LOCAL** event.

REGIONAL allows for a response where an emergency is experienced across Northern Ireland. The Northern Ireland Executive will take the lead on co-ordinating the emergency management response.

NATIONAL response is when the UK Government will issue direction for the management of the emergency.



Figure 2: Geographical Definitions, NICCF (2021)

	<p>The Communications department of the lead coordinating agency will take the lead in public information/media arrangements.</p> <p>When the lead coordinating agency changes it is critical that a seamless transition between public information/media arrangements is also achieved.</p>
--	--

3. Principles of Joint Working and Emergency Communications

3.1 JESIP Principles

The Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Principles (JESIP) aim to bring about changes at the operational level that lead to the emergency services, organisations and people working together more effectively in response to major incidents.

JESIP principles are used through all phases of operations; **PREPARE, RESPOND, RECOVER**.

Communications are an important part of all the phases of contingency operations through the **PREPARE, RESPOND** and **RECOVER** phases.

3.2 Northern Ireland Emergency Preparedness Public Information and Media Working Group

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council is a member of the Northern Ireland Emergency Preparedness Public Information and Media Working Group (EPG), along with over 50 other agencies participating from central and local government, the emergency services, health, education, utilities etc.

This group scans for potential issues and maintains regular contact to share information in emergencies.

The Communications and Marketing team will work the EPG to share information with partners and ask them to reshare it using all their available channels.

Link to the NI EPG Communications Plan [NMDDC Emergency Communications \(resilience.gov.uk\)](https://resilience.gov.uk/nmddc-emergency-communications)

Contact details of membership is available on Resilience Direct. [NMDDC Emergency Communications \(resilience.gov.uk\)](https://resilience.gov.uk/nmddc-emergency-communications)

3.3 Principles of Emergency Communications

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Emergency Communications Plan outlines the agreed approach to co-ordinate consistent communications in the **Prepare, Respond and Recover** phases of any type of emergency, whilst considering the following key principles:

1. **Plan** – have communications prepared focusing on each type of emergency, particularly in relation to Severe Weather Warnings. Pre-prepared messages enable timeliness and enable EMT members to know what is likely to be said at each point, thereby reducing opportunities for inconsistent messaging.
2. **Share Information** - consistency of messaging is vital to enabling public confidence and can only be achieved by a collaborative approach to sharing of information. All levels of response should include a communications item in their meetings.
3. **Use Multiple Channels to Communicate** - the full spectrum of public messaging channels should be used (appropriateness considered), acknowledging that the public have differing likes and abilities to access information. Options may include digital space, TV, radio, newspaper or alternative formats and consider target audiences both internally and externally. Communications should be two-way and engaging with the public is vital to quelling misinformation and addressing issues of public concern.

3.4 Embracing the Challenges of Emergency Communications

The challenges faced by communicators in responding effectively during an emergency have increased. The 24-hour news cycle, combined with widespread use of social media and almost universal ownership of smartphones means information, rumour and speculation can come from multiple sources and gain widespread coverage extremely quickly – increasing the need for official, accurate and consistent information to be provided rapidly.

The multi-agency nature of the response to incidents also creates its own challenges – co-ordinating the release of information from multiple agencies with potentially different views and priorities is crucial to avoid public confusion.

Experience from a number of incidents over recent years (particularly the global pandemic) has highlighted the following key 'lessons learnt':

- a. Speed of communication: Information is circulated very widely, very quickly via social networking platforms and traditional media. This trend will continue to accelerate; information in the future will spread more widely and quickly.
- b. Demand for regular and consistent information: There is an expectation for official information to be provided quickly and regularly. There is also an increasing demand from central government for more information, more quickly.
- c. No two situations are the same: Apply the core principles and pre-prepared arrangements but stay flexible.
- d. Importance of a framework: Keep activity structured and focused.
- e. Mutual aid for ongoing situations: Be prepared to call on extra resource when needed.
- f. Importance of challenging misinformation: It spreads fast, our response must do the same.
- g. Mobility of the media: Journalists and the public can move quickly, expect them to do so.

4. Role of Council in Emergencies

4.1 Role of Council

This plan focuses on Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's responsibility to communicate with the public in an emergency, including warning messages prior to a known potential incident (eg weather warnings), during an emergency and after an emergency.

However, in the event of an emergency/major incident it is essential that the responding organisations liaise with each other, whilst respecting the differing requirements and roles of their organisations.

It is critical that all organisations work together to prevent contradictory information being released or statements being provided that will impinge upon or undermine the actions of participating agencies.

4.2 Activation of the Emergency Management and Emergency Communications Plans

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council maintains responsibility for the activation of its Emergency Management Plan, including its Emergency Communications Plan.



The PSNI will take initial command for many of the major incidents. However, in certain circumstances it may be more appropriate for another service lead, eg NIFRS in the event of a major fire, HM Coastguard in a maritime rescue incident.

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NMDDC Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) Template

SECTION 1 - Defining the activity subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

1A. Name of Public Authority.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

1B. Please provide a short title which describes the activity being undertaken by the Public Authority that is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.

Emergency Management Plan

1C. Please indicate which category the activity specified in Section 1B above relates to.

Developing a	Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Adopting a	Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Implementing a	Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Revising a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Designing a Public Service	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Delivering a Public Service	<input type="checkbox"/>		

1D. Please provide the official title (if any) of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service document or initiative relating to the category indicated in Section 1C above.

NMDDC Emergency Management Plan

1E. Please provide details of the aims and/or objectives of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service.

The definition of an 'emergency' as outlined in the NI Civil Contingencies Framework April 2021 addresses the consequences of an emergency rather than its cause or source. Taking this into consideration the NMDDC EMP does not define responses for specific situations, but rather aims to ensure a suitable organisational plan and procedures are in place to allow decisions to be made and an appropriate response provided with a minimum of delay, regardless of the type of emergency. To include statutory functions of NMDDC and co-ordination of same.

1F. What definition of 'rural' is the Public Authority using in respect of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?

Population Settlements of less than 5,000 (Default definition).

Other Definition (Provide details and the rationale below).

A definition of 'rural' is not applicable.

*Details of alternative definition of 'rural' used.**Rationale for using alternative definition of 'rural'.**Reasons why a definition of 'rural' is not applicable.*

SECTION 2 - Understanding the impact of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

2A. Is the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service likely to impact on people in rural areas?

Yes No If the response is **NO** GO TO Section **2E**.

2B. Please explain how the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas.

2C. If the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas *differently* from people in urban areas, please explain how it is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently.

2D. Please indicate which of the following rural policy areas the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to primarily impact on.

Rural Businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Tourism	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Education or Training in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Broadband or Mobile Communications in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health or Social Care Services in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poverty in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deprivation in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Crime or Community Safety	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Development	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agri-Environment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (Please state)	<input type="text"/>

If the response to Section 2A was YES GO TO Section 3A.

2E. Please explain why the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is NOT likely to impact on people in rural areas.

The NMDDC EMP aims to ensure a suitable organisational plan and procedures are in place to allow decisions to be made and an appropriate response provided with a minimum of delay, regardless of the type of emergency.

The response is dependent on the nature of the emergency, impacts, locality, severity in relation to response/ co-ordination/ involvement of NMDDC while actively working with relevant statutory agencies, departments, councils (as deemed relevant) under the NI Civil Contingencies Framework.

SECTION 3 - Identifying the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

3A. Has the Public Authority taken steps to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas that are relevant to the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?

Yes No If the response is **NO** GO TO Section **3E**.

3B. Please indicate which of the following methods or information sources were used by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

Consultation with Rural Stakeholders	<input type="checkbox"/>	Published Statistics	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consultation with Other Organisations	<input type="checkbox"/>	Research Papers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surveys or Questionnaires	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Publications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Methods or Information Sources (include details in Question 3C below).			<input type="checkbox"/>

3C. Please provide details of the methods and information sources used to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas including relevant dates, names of organisations, titles of publications, website references, details of surveys or consultations undertaken etc.

3D. Please provide details of the social and economic needs of people in rural areas which have been identified by the Public Authority?

If the response to Section 3A was YES GO TO Section 4A.

3E. Please explain why no steps were taken by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas?

This is a document required under the NI Civil Contingencies Framework in relation to the planning, preparing and recovery phases for emergencies within NMDDC. The plan applies to actions required to be considered/ reviewed/ implemented by SMT, CMT, EPIG, SHEP, Marketing & Communications, Democratic Services, staff & Elected Members.

NMDDC have no control over the location/locality of an emergency and impact of same therefore no specific needs of rural areas to be considered at this stage.

The following objectives underpin the Council's approach within the Emergency Management Plan to assist in the co-ordination of same:

- To give guidance on the circumstances in which the Council will activate its plan.
- Provide a procedure which will ensure that the council make appropriate decisions, respond quickly and provide systems for mobilising staff, equipment and facilities (as appropriate).
- Detail the roles and responsibilities of the key officers.
- Provide a mechanism for liaising with other agencies and facilitating the co-ordination of the services provided by these other agencies.
- Provide a procedure to ensure that NMDDC's identified critical services are reinstated as soon as possible, ensuring that the Council's capability to response effectively to any disruption is maximised.

SECTION 4 - Considering the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

4A. Please provide details of the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

[Empty response area for section 4A]

SECTION 5 - Influencing the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

5A. Has the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, been influenced by the rural needs identified?

Yes No If the response is **NO GO TO Section 5C.**

5B. Please explain how the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, has been influenced by the rural needs identified.

If the response to Section 5A was YES GO TO Section 6A.

5C. Please explain why the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or the delivery of the Public Service, has NOT been influenced by the rural needs identified.

This is a document required under the NI Civil Contingencies Framework in relation to the planning, preparing and recovery phases for emergencies within NMDDC. The plan applies to actions required to be considered/ reviewed/ implemented by SMT, CMT, EPIG, SHEP, Marketing & Communications, Democratic Services, staff & Elected Members.

NMDDC have no control over the location/locality of an emergency and impact of same therefore no specific needs of rural areas to be considered at this stage.

SECTION 6 - Documenting and Recording

6A. Please tick below to confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained by the Public Authority and relevant information on the Section 1 activity compiled in accordance with paragraph 6.7 of the guidance.

I confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained and relevant information compiled.



Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:	Kelly McNiff
Position:	Safety Health & Emergency Planning Manager
Department / Section:	Corporate Services
Signature:	<i>Kelly McNiff</i>
Date:	22.09.2023
Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:	Colin Moffett
Position:	Head of Corporate Policy
Department / Directorate:	Corporate Policy / Corporate Services
Signature:	<i>Colin Moffett</i>
Date:	28 September 2023

NMDDC Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) Template

SECTION 1 - Defining the activity subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

1A. Name of Public Authority.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

1B. Please provide a short title which describes the activity being undertaken by the Public Authority that is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.

Developing Emergency Communications Plan (ECP)

1C. Please indicate which category the activity specified in Section 1B above relates to.

Developing a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Adopting a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Implementing a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Revising a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Designing a Public Service	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Delivering a Public Service	<input type="checkbox"/>		

1D. Please provide the official title (if any) of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service document or initiative relating to the category indicated in Section 1C above.

NMDDC Emergency Communications Plan

1E. Please provide details of the aims and/or objectives of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service.

The Northern Ireland Civil Contingencies Framework (April 2021) states that, "Building and protecting public trust in emergency planning is an essential part of enabling effective emergency communications. The aim of an emergency communications strategy is to ensure that the necessary information is available to facilitate timely and informed decision making and that the public and responders are given relevant, timely and concise information regarding imminent and ongoing emergencies.

1F. What definition of 'rural' is the Public Authority using in respect of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?

Population Settlements of less than 5,000 (Default definition).

Other Definition (Provide details and the rationale below).

A definition of 'rural' is not applicable.

*Details of alternative definition of 'rural' used.**Rationale for using alternative definition of 'rural'.**Reasons why a definition of 'rural' is not applicable.*

SECTION 2 - Understanding the impact of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

2A. Is the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service likely to impact on people in rural areas?

Yes No If the response is **NO** GO TO Section **2E**.

2B. Please explain how the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas.

The ECP is key in supporting delivery of the Council's Emergency Management Response. It provides a framework to ensure that the Council delivers clear, consistent and coordinated communications following an agreed approach in the Prepare, Respond and Recover phases of any type of emergency. It set out the principles of joint working and emergency communications, role of council and duties of communications officers. Together, officers, elected members, residents, businesses and other statutory partners can use this plan to make sure the Council is communicating clearly, consistently and through appropriate and accessible channels. Specifically, audiences can use this plan to help:

1. **Plan** – have communications prepared focusing on each type of emergency, particularly in relation to Severe Weather Warnings. Pre-prepared messages enable timeliness and enable EMT members to know what is likely to be said at each point, thereby reducing opportunities for inconsistent messaging.
2. **Share Information** - consistency of messaging is vital to enabling public confidence and can only be achieved by a collaborative approach to sharing of information. All levels of response should include a communications item in their meetings.
3. **Use Multiple Channels to Communicate** - the full spectrum of public messaging channels should be used (appropriateness considered), acknowledging that the public have differing likes and abilities to access information. Options may include digital space, TV, radio, newspaper or alternative formats and consider target audiences both internally and externally. Communications should be two-way and engaging with the public is vital to quelling misinformation and addressing issues of public concern.

2C. If the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas *differently* from people in urban areas, please explain how it is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently.

The policy is not likely to impact on people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas.

The Council communicates with a wide variety of people, from employees to elected members, residents, businesses, local partners and the media. Each of these audience groups will have different levels of awareness of the Council's work, and key messages will need to be tailored accordingly.

When issuing emergency communications messaging, attention will be given to the most effective way of reaching all audience groups in a timely manner; older age groups may be the traditional media, but social media is essential in reaching audiences swiftly.

2D. Please indicate which of the following rural policy areas the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to primarily impact on.

Rural Businesses

Rural Tourism

Rural Housing

Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas

Education or Training in Rural Areas

Broadband or Mobile Communications in Rural Areas

Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas

Health or Social Care Services in Rural Areas

Poverty in Rural Areas

Deprivation in Rural Areas

Rural Crime or Community Safety

Rural Development

Agri-Environment

Other (Please state)

If the response to Section 2A was YES GO TO Section 3A.

2E. Please explain why the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is NOT likely to impact on people in rural areas.

SECTION 3 - Identifying the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

3A. Has the Public Authority taken steps to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas that are relevant to the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?

Yes No If the response is **NO** GO TO Section **3E**.

3B. Please indicate which of the following methods or information sources were used by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

Consultation with Rural Stakeholders	<input type="checkbox"/>	Published Statistics	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consultation with Other Organisations	<input type="checkbox"/>	Research Papers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surveys or Questionnaires	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Publications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Methods or Information Sources (include details in Question 3C below).			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3C. Please provide details of the methods and information sources used to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas including relevant dates, names of organisations, titles of publications, website references, details of surveys or consultations undertaken etc.

The Council's Evidence and Research Team have provided information in relation to the social and economic needs of people within the Newry, Mourne and Down district. This sets out information including that related to population, multiple deprivation, access to services, economy, income and transport, housing, crime, and health and wellbeing.

3D. Please provide details of the social and economic needs of people in rural areas which have been identified by the Public Authority?

As stated, the Council's Evidence and Research Team have provided information in relation to the social and economic needs of people within the Newry, Mourne and Down district. This sets out information including that related to population, multiple deprivation, access to services, economy, income and transport, housing, crime, and health and wellbeing.

If the response to Section 3A was **YES** GO TO Section 4A.

3E. Please explain why no steps were taken by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas?

SECTION 4 - Considering the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

4A. Please provide details of the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

No specific social and economic needs of people in rural areas was identified in relation to this plan.

SECTION 5 - Influencing the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

5A. Has the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, been influenced by the rural needs identified?

Yes No If the response is **NO GO TO Section 5C.**

5B. Please explain how the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, has been influenced by the rural needs identified.

If the response to Section **5A** was **YES GO TO Section 6A.**

5C. Please explain why the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or the delivery of the Public Service, has NOT been influenced by the rural needs identified.

No specific social and economic needs have been identified in relation to this policy.

SECTION 6 - Documenting and Recording

6A. Please tick below to confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained by the Public Authority and relevant information on the Section 1 activity compiled in accordance with paragraph 6.7 of the guidance.

I confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained and relevant information compiled.

Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:	Veronica Keegan
Position:	Head of Communications and Marketing
Department / Section:	Corporate Services / Corporate Policy
Signature:	<i>Veronica Keegan</i>
Date:	26.09.2023
Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:	Colin Moffett
Position:	Head of Corporate Policy
Department / Directorate:	Corporate Services / Corporate Policy
Signature:	<i>Colin Moffett</i>
Date:	26 September 2023