

March 16th, 2023

**Notice of Meeting**

You are requested to attend the **Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee 2022-23** to be held on **Thursday, 16th March 2023 at 6:00 pm in Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre**

**Committee Membership 2022 - 2023**

**Chairperson** - Councillor O Hanlon

**Deputy Chairperson** - Councillor R Howell

Councillor P Byrne

Councillor H Gallagher

Councillor M Gibbons

Councillor G Hanna

Councillor A Lewis

Councillor O Magennis

Councillor A McMurray

Councillor D Murphy

Councillor B Ó Muirí

Councillor M Rice

Councillor G Sharvin

Councillor D Taylor

Councillor J Trainor

# Agenda

## 1.0 Introduction and Apologies

## 2.0 Declaration of Interest

## 3.0 Action Sheet arising from SPR Committee Meeting held on 16 February 2023

 *Draft SPR-Action Sheet arising from 16 February 2023 (002) Full (002).pdf*

*Page 1*

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### *Presentations*

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## 4.0 Presentation from Land & Property Services

Attendees:

Gary Humphrey - Valuation Services Directorate

 *NI Reval 2023 - Briefing presentation - Newry Mourne Down -16 March.pptx*

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### *Corporate Planning and Policy*


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## 5.0 Notice of Motion – Newry, Mourne and Down District Council appropriately mark the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday/Belfast Agreement

 *Notice of Motion Newry Mourne and Down District Council appropriately mark the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday-Belfast Agreement.pdf*

*Page 21*

## 6.0 Notice of Motion – Memorial garden to acknowledge 180th anniversary of Newcastle fishing disaster and all those who have lost their lives through fishing

 *Notice of Motion Memorial garden to acknowledge 180th anniversary of Newcastle fishing disaster and all those who have lost their lives through fishing.pdf*

*Page 24*

## 7.0 Notice of Motion – Rebellion Anniversaries

 *Notice of Motion Rebellion Anniversaries.pdf*

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## **8.0 Governance Arrangements**

 *Governance arrangements report.pdf* *Page 30*

## **9.0 Draft Performance Improvement Objectives 2023-24**

 *SPR Cover Report Performance Improvement Objectives 2023-24.pdf* *Page 33*

 *Appendix 1 - Draft Performance Improvement Objectives 2023-24.pdf* *Page 37*

 *Appendix 2 - Approach and timetable for publishing the Performance Improvement Plan 2023-24.pdf* *Page 57*

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

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## **10.0 Lease of lands at Station Road, Castlewellan under Council's Sports and Community Leasing Policy**

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 - 16 March 23 - Lands at Station Road Castlewellan.pdf* *Not included*

 *Appendix 1- Map of Land at Station Rd Castlewellan.pdf* *Not included*

## **11.0 Lease of lands at Lisdrumgullion, Armagh Road, Newry under Council's Sports and Community Leasing Policy**

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 - 16 March 23 - Lands at Lisdrumgullion Armagh road Newry.pdf* *Not included*

 *Appendix 1 - Lisdrumliska Greater Armagh Men Shed Map.pdf* *Not included*

## **12.0 Lease of lands at Annsborough, Castlewellan under Council's Sports and Community Leasing Policy**

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 - 16 March 23 - Lands at Annsborough Playing Fields.pdf* *Not included*

## **13.0 Proposed Licence of fishing rights at Donaghaguy Lake, Warrenpoint**

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 16 March 23 - Fishing Rights at Donaghaguy Lake Warrenpoint.pdf**

**Not included**

 **Appendix 1 - Donaghaguy Lake Map NM263-G-1-00.pdf**

**Not included**

## **14.0 Proposed Lease of lands at Dundrum to NI Water for new Wastewater Pumping Station**

This item is deemed to be exempt under Paragraph 1(3) 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 this information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

 **SPR Report 16 March 23 Car Park at Main Street Dundrum.pdf**

**Not included**

 **Appendix 1 - Map 1 Car Park Main St Dundrum.pdf**

**Not included**

 **Appendix 2 - Dundrum Map 2 Lease Map.pdf**

**Not included**

 **Appendix 3 - Dundrum Map 3 Easement Map.pdf**

**Not included**

 **Appendix 4 - Map 4 Licence Map.pdf**

**Not included**

 **Appendix 5 - Dundrum - Background Information.pdf**

**Not included**

## **15.0 Amendment to Easement at Glen Hill / Watsons Road, Newry**


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 - 16 March 23 - Easement at Glen Hill Newry.pdf**

**Not included**

 **Appendix 1 - Easement for foul drain at Watson's Rd-Glen Hill - Report SPR 11 Feb 21.pdf**

**Not included**

 **Appendix 2 - SPRC Minutes 110221 Glen Hill Watsons Road.pdf**

**Not included**

 **Appendix 3 - Easement map - NM190-G-1-10 (002) Glen Hill Watsons Road.pdf**

**Not included**



## 16.0 Lands at Charlotte Street, Warrenpoint

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 - Rectification of title - Lands at Charlotte Street Warrenpoint 16 March 23.pdf*** ***Not included***

## 17.0 Lands at Latt Villas, Mullaghglass, Newry

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 - Lands at Latt Villas Mullaghglass Newry 16 March 23.pdf*** ***Not included***

 ***Appendix 1 - NM188-G-1-00 Latt Villas Map.pdf*** ***Not included***

## 18.0 Request to release a strip of land over which Council holds a Charge – Thomas Davis Newry GAC

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 - Request to release lands from Charge - Thomas Davis GAC 16 March 23.pdf*** ***Not included***

 ***Appendix 1 - Map 1 and Map 2 Thomas Davis GFC.pdf*** ***Not included***

## 19.0 Newry Leisure Centre (NLC) – Swimming Pool

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 Newry Leisure Centre Swimming Pool Tiles.pdf*** ***Not included***

 ***SPR - Report Newry Leisure Centre Swimming Pool Tiles.pdf*** ***Not included***

## 20.0 Lease of Monaghan Row from Southern Health & Social Care Trust

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- 16 March 23 Proposed Lease of Portion of Monaghan Row Site.pdf*** ***Not included***

 *SSA - Proposed Site Plan for Lease Agreement\_ 3 March 23.pdf* **Not included**

 *SSA - Proposed O'Hagan House Lease Plan 3 March 23.pdf* **Not included**

## **21.0 Renewal of Advertising Solutions Framework Contract 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 (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

 *Renewal of ESPO Framework Statutory Advertising 2023.2027\_.pdf* **Not included**

## **22.0 Business Case for the Provision Media Monitoring Services for Council's Requirements**

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

 *Media Monitoring Service for the Councils Requirements.pdf* **Not included**


 *Appendix 1 - Business Case.Media Monitoring Service for the Councils Requirements 16.03.23.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***

## **23.0 Management Accounts – 2022/23, Quarter 3**

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

 *SPR - Mgt Acs Cover Paper Q3.pdf* **Not included**

 *Appendix 1 - Management Accounts by Directorate for period ending 31 Dec 2023.pdf* **Not included**

 *Appendix 2 - Management Accounts by Assistant Directorate for period ending 31 Dec 2023.pdf* **Not included**

 *Appendix 3 - Management Accounts by Expense Code for period ending 31 Dec 2023.pdf* **Not included**

## 24.0 Update - Local Government Pay 2023

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - 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.

 *Emp Circ pay update 08Mar23.pdf*

**Not included**

## 25.0 Chief Executive Appraisal

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraphs 1&2 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 – 1. Information relating to any individual and 2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual. The public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

 *Chief Executive Appraisal SPRC Report.pdf*

**Not included**

 *Appendix 1 - NILGA note on Performance Increment.pdf*

**Not included**

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***For Noting***

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## 26.0 Update on Covid Inquiry

 *Update Covid 19 Inquiry AC130323.pdf*

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# Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews  
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Cllr Callum Bowsie  
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Mr Caolain Boyd  
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Cllr Jim Brennan  
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Cllr Robert Burgess  
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Cllr Pete Byrne  
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Mr Gerard Byrne  
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Mr Andrew Cassells  
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Cllr William Clarke  
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Mrs Linda Cummins  
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Cllr Dermot Curran  
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Cllr Laura Devlin  
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Ms Louise Dillon  
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Cllr Cadogan Enright  
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Cllr Aoife Finnegan  
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Ms Joanne Fleming  
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Cllr Hugh Gallagher  
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Cllr Mark Gibbons  
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Cllr Oonagh Hanlon  
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Cllr Glyn Hanna  
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Cllr Valerie Harte  
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Cllr Roisin Howell  
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Ms Catherine Hughes  
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Cllr Jonathan Jackson  
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Cllr Geraldine Kearns  
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Miss Veronica Keegan  
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Mrs Josephine Kelly  
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Mrs Sheila Kieran  
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Cllr Cathal King  
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Cllr Mickey Larkin  
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Cllr David Lee-Surginor  
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Cllr Alan Lewis  
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Mr Michael Lipsett  
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Mrs Regina Mackin  
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Cllr Oonagh Magennis  
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Mr Conor Mallon  
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Cllr Gavin Malone  
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Colette McAteer  
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Cllr Declan McAteer  
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Cllr Leeanne McEvoy  
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Cllr Harold McKee  
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Patricia McKeever  
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Cllr Karen McKeivitt  
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Cllr Andrew McMurray  
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Catrina Miskelly  
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Maureen/Joanne Morgan/Johnston  
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Cllr Declan Murphy  
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Cllr Barra Ó Muiri  
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Cllr Gerry O'Hare  
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Cllr Henry Reilly  
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Cllr Michael Rice  
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Ms Alison Robb  
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Mr Peter Rooney  
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Cllr Michael Ruane  
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Cllr Michael Savage  
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Cllr Gareth Sharvin  
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Donna Starkey  
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Cllr Gary Stokes  
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Sarah Taggart  
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Paul Tamati  
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Cllr David Taylor  
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Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly  
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Cllr John Trainor  
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Mrs Marie Ward  
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**ACTION SHEET – STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING (SPR) – THURSDAY 12 DECEMBER 2022**

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

SPR/192/2023	Ardglass Rowing Club	It was agreed Elected Members it was agreed to defer this item to the January SP&R Committee Meeting.	P Rooney	Report to SPRC – January 2023	Y
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**ACTION SHEET – STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING (SPR) – THURSDAY 19 JANUARY 2023**

SPR/004/2023	Notice of Motion – Kings Coronation	It was agreed that Elected Members give consideration to establishing a King Charles III Coronation financial assistance programme within the existing budget and be brought back to the next Strategic Finance Working Group for consideration and ratification at full Council.	R Mackin	<b>Further to consideration a King Charles III Coronation funding theme has been agreed and will be included within the Financial Assistance Call 2 opening March 23</b>	N
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**ACTION SHEET – STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING (SPR) – THURSDAY 16 February 2023**

SPR/016/2023	Chairperson's Remarks	It was agreed that consideration be given to anything of a financial nature be placed in closed session as an appendix and the rest of the report be kept in open session for transparency.	J Kelly	Actioned	Y
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SPR/018/2023	Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 19 January 2023	It was agreed to approve the action sheet from the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 19 January 2023.	J Kelly	Approved	Y
SPR/019/2023	Notice of Motion – Daisy Hill Hospital	It was agreed that Elected Members agree to make public its plan to facilitate the transfer of the Monaghan Row site to the Southern Health and Social Care Trust, so that Daisy Hill can join the Elective Care Centre model and play an important role in tackling our lengthy waiting lists and improving outcomes for our patients.	J Kelly	<a href="#">Agreed</a> <a href="#">Actioned</a>	Y
SPR/020/2023	Request for name to be added to Castlewellan War Memorial	It was agreed that Elected Members approve the request as outlined in the officer's report subject to consent being obtained from Libraries NI to undertake the inscription work.	A Robb	<a href="#">Agreed Ongoing</a>	N
<b><u>ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2014</u></b>					
SPR/021/2023	Business case for procurement of a Valuation Service.	It was agreed Elected Members approve the Business Case as per Appendix 1 to enable to procurement of a Valuation Service from 24 August 2023.	A Robb	<a href="#">Agreed Ongoing</a>	N
SPR/022/2023	Service Level Agreement – Belfast City Council Legal Services Department	It was agreed Elected Members approve to enter into a one year SLA with Belfast City Council Legal Services Department from 1/4/23-31/3/24 on a non-profit/cost recovery basis by virtue of the provisions of section 105 of the Local Government (NI) Act 1972 in relation to the legal services indicated at 1.4.	A Robb	<a href="#">Ongoing Agreed</a>	N

SPR/023/2023	Sale of Lands at Clanrye Avenue, Newry	It was agreed that Elected Members approve the sale of the lands outlined in red on the map to the party detailed in the report for the market value subject to the consent of Northern Ireland Housing Executive.	P Rooney	Report to SPRC February 2023 – in the legal process for sale	Y
SPR/024/2023	Renewal of Microsoft Enterprise Agreement	It was agreed Elected Members approve to give permission to renew its Microsoft Enterprise Agreement with the Licencing Solutions Partner appointed through the Technology Products & Associated Services Aggregation (national further competition) operated by ESPO, for a 3 year period.	J Kelly	Actioned	Y
SPR/025/2023	Camlough Lake Recreational Hub	It was agreed Elected Members approve the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Members agree to progress detailed design work and the submission of a Planning Application for the Camlough Lake Recreational Hub.</li> <li>2. Members agree to progress procurement of an IST.</li> <li>3. Members accept an offer of funding from LUF and approve the associated Memorandum of Understanding/Contract for funding.</li> </ol>	A Patterson	<a href="#">Agreed and in progress</a>	Y
SPR/026/2023	2023/24 Insurance Premiums	It was agreed Elected Members review and approve the payment of the insurance premiums for 2023/24.	C Boyd	<a href="#">Agreed Actioned</a>	Y



SPR/027/2023	NCCR-Monaghan Row Office Site	<p>It was agreed Elected Members approve the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members agree to the sale of the Monaghan Row site to the Southern Health and Social Care Trust at the LPS valuation subject to agreement of terms between both Council and the Southern Trust.</li> <li>Members agree to the lease back of a portion of Monaghan Row site from the Southern Health and Social Care Trust at LPS valuation subject to agreement of terms.</li> </ul>	J Kelly	Ongoing	N
SPR/028/2023	Council Chambers Conference Solution	It was agreed Elected Members approve to proceed with option 3 as outlined in the officer's report.	J Kelly	<a href="#">Agreed Actioned</a>	Y
<b><u>FOR NOTING – This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014</u></b>					
SPR/029/2023	Strategic Finance Working Group Action Sheet – 26 January 2023.	It was agreed to note the Strategic Finance Working Group Action Sheet – 26 January 2023.	J Kelly	Noted	Y
<b><u>ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2014</u></b>					
SPR/030/2023	Redundancy Approval	It was agreed Elected Members approve a redundancy as per 4.1 and the contents of the officer's report.	J Kelly	Approved	Y
SPR/031/2023	NILGOSC Rule 85 Report	It was agreed Elected Members note the contents of the report and agree not to switch the 85-year rule on; based on the criteria in the table contained within the report, the assessment at 2.3 and resource implications within Section 4 of the report.	M Ward	Approved	Y

FOR NOTING					
SPR/032/2023	Establishment of a New Ireland Working Group	It was agreed Elected Members note the contents of the report in relation to considering Councillor Reilly's request that Council conduct an EQIA of the decision to establish a New Ireland Working Group.	R Mackin	Noted	Y
SPR/033/2023	Minutes of Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board Meeting held 2nd February 2023	It was agreed Elected Members note the Minutes of Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board Meeting held 2nd February 2023	C Mallon	Noted	Y

END

# NI Reval2023



## Rebalancing business rates

Briefing by:  
Gary Humphrey  
NI Reval 2023 Project Manager



# NI Reval2023

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## Fairness & Equality

- ▶ Advantages of a Rating System
  - ▶ Reliable
  - ▶ Predictive
  - ▶ Reasonably easy to collect
  - ▶ Hard to evade
  - ▶ Transparent
- ▶ Disadvantages
  - ▶ Unpopular - fixed costs
  - ▶ The rates liability
  - ▶ Require Experts
  - ▶ Need for regular revaluations



Global Appeal



Land & Property Services  
Seirbhísí Talún & Maoine



Department of  
Finance

An Roinn  
Airgeadais



# NI Reval2023

## What is Rateable

- ▶ The Hereditament
  - ▶ 4 ingredients (all required)
    - ▶ Actual
    - ▶ Exclusive
    - ▶ Beneficial
    - ▶ Transience
- ▶ What's not rateable (schedule 11)
  - ▶ Agricultural Lands & Buildings
  - ▶ Public parks
  - ▶ Lighthouses
  - ▶ Cemetery

what are other  
words for  
rateably?



proportionateness,  
proportionally, pro rata,  
proportionately, pro-rata



 Thesaurus.plus

*“the taxing authority decides how much money it wants and apportions the burden (rateably) between ratepayer”*

# NI Reval2023

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## Who does what

- ▶ LPS (Valuation) assess the Net Annual Values (NAV), produce and maintain the Valuation List.
- ▶ Department of Finance (DoF) responsible for policy, rate reliefs and Regional Rate poundage.
- ▶ 11 District Councils set their own Non Domestic District Rate poundage.
- ▶ LPS (Revenues & Benefits) calculate rate bills using the NAV and rate poundages, apply reliefs, collect rates and then redistribute monies.

### Calculation of Rates Bill

$$\text{NAV} \times (\text{Regional Rate} + \text{District Rate}) = \text{Rates Liability}$$

**Example** : Non Domestic Property in Belfast with a Net Annual Value of £50,000

$$\begin{aligned} \text{£}50,000 \times (0.279 \text{ (Regional Rate)} + 0.264147 \text{ (District Rate)}) \\ = \text{£}27,157^* \end{aligned}$$

\*Based on 2021/22 Rate Poundages

# NI Reval2023

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## Revaluations in Northern Ireland

- ▶ Rating - is "*ad valorem*"
- ▶ The basis of value for non domestic property is the rental value at the statutory valuation date.
- ▶ The occupier is liable
- ▶ Or persons entitled to occupation (if vacant)
- ▶ Businesses have called for regular revaluations
- ▶ Reval 2023 puts us on a 3 year revaluation cycle



Timeline of Non Domestic Revaluations NI v  
GB

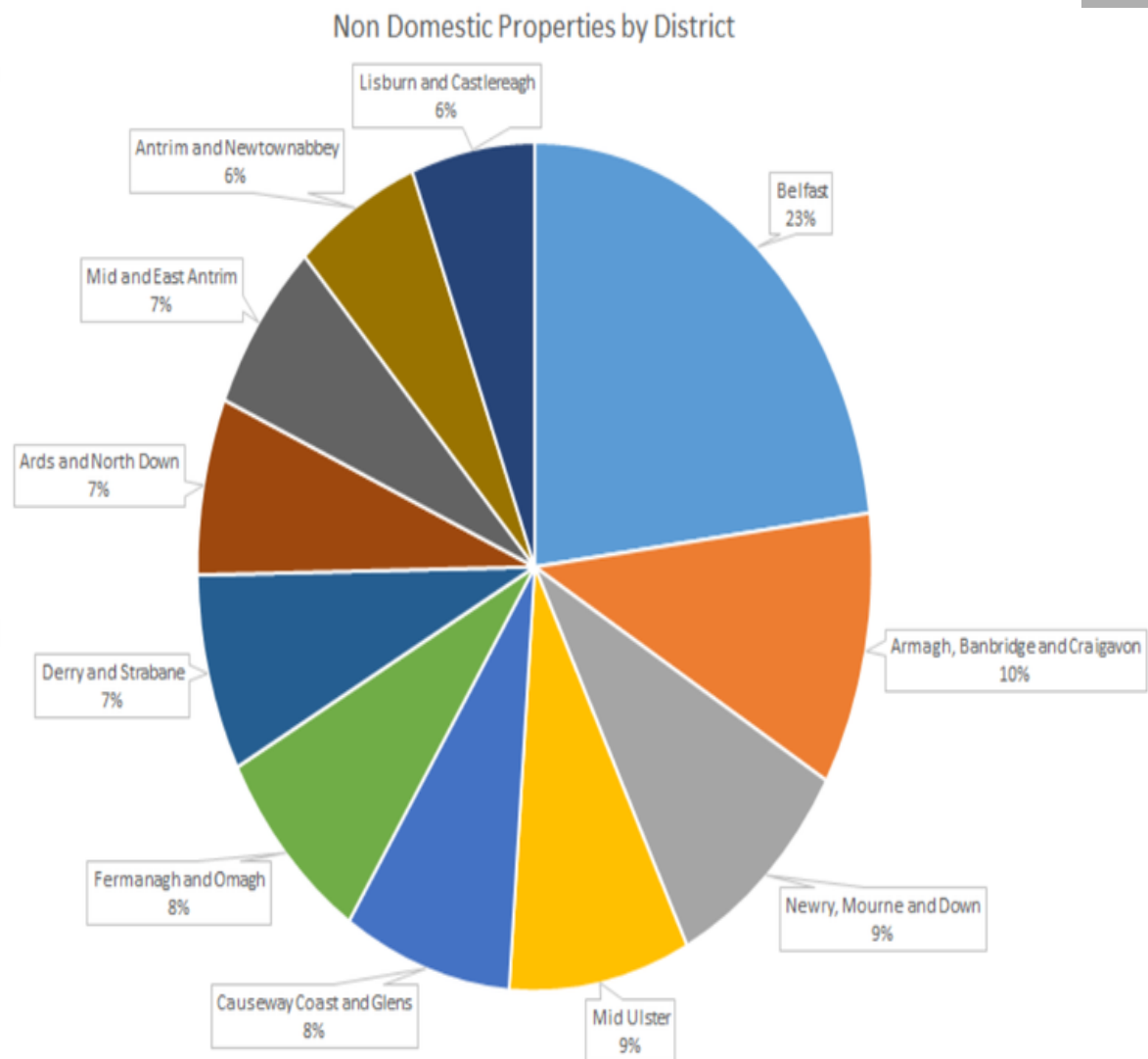


# NI Reval2023

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## Revaluation - The

- ▶ Non Domestic Revaluation
- ▶ Over 74,500 properties
- ▶ Shops, offices, factories, warehouses, pubs, playing fields, power stations, cinemas, hotels, schools, hospitals
- ▶ Business rates yield approx. £675 Million per year.
- ▶ Rates make a vital contribution to critical frontline public services and local council services
- ▶ Hospitals, Schools, Emergency Services
- ▶ Locally - Leisure, Tourism, Waste management





# NI Reval2023

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## Key Messages

- ▶ Regular revaluations are essential to maintain fairness & equality between ratepayers
- ▶ A revaluation does not increase or decrease the total NI Rates revenue.
- ▶ Revaluations are about redistributing the rate burden , by rebalancing business rates.
- ▶ Revaluations ensures business rates stay up-to date and reflect local economic change.
- ▶ Revaluations reflect relative changes between properties that occur over time

# NI Reval2023

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## Key Dates

- ▶ **1 October 2021:** Statutory valuation date. The valuations represent an estimated rental value of the property at this date.
- ▶ **1 January 2023:** LPS will publish a draft schedule of values online where businesses will be able to check their valuation and compare it with similar property types. There will also be an opportunity to request an informal review.
- ▶ **1 April 2023:** The new Non Domestic Valuation List comes into force.

# NI Reval2023

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## Early Reval Outcomes - NI Wide

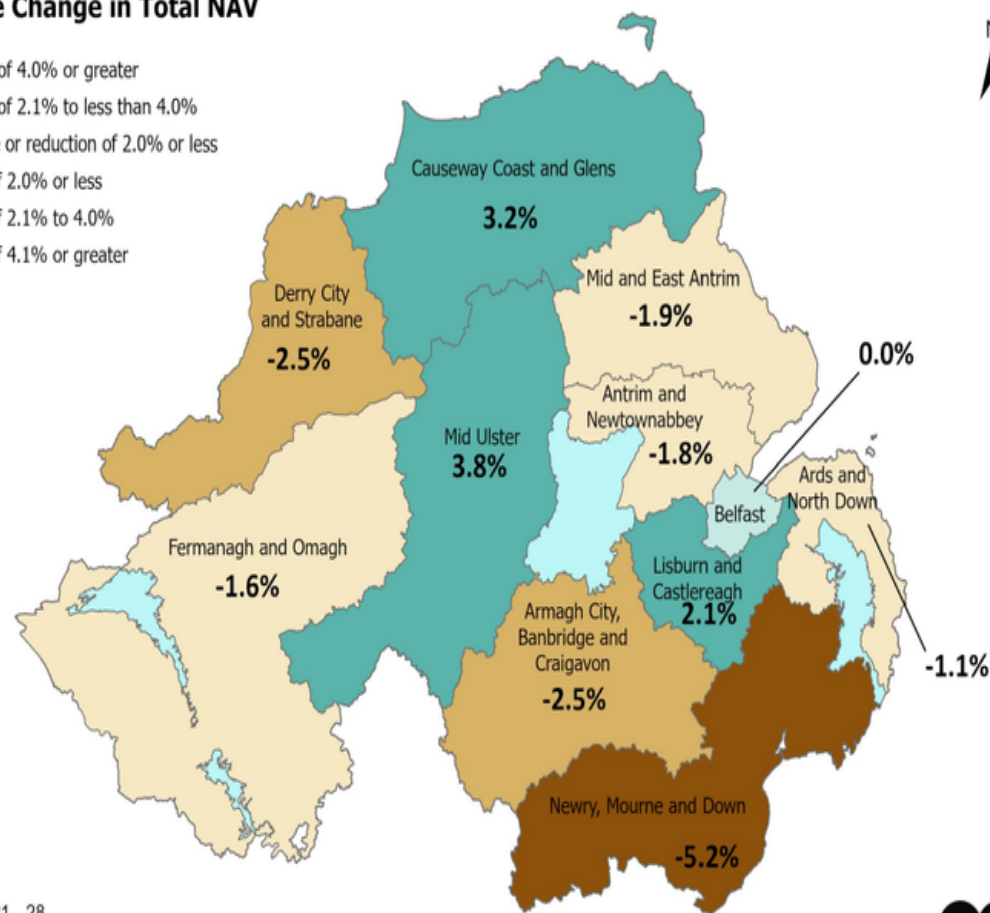
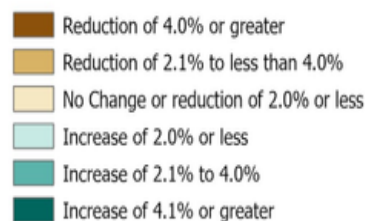
- Valuation list change down -0.6%
- Warehouses up 11%
- Offices up by 10%
- Shops down by 4%
- Hotels down by 24%

	2020	2023	Overall Change
Total NAV	£1,693m	£1,682m	£10,2m (-0.6%)

# NI Reval2023

- 7 district councils see a decline in NAV between lists
- 1 district council sees no change
- 3 see an increase
- The difference is due to the variety of properties in each district

Percentage Change in Total NAV



# NI Reval2023

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## Newry, Mourne & Down

- Based on 6,865 valuation list entries
- Total NAV change is down 5%
- Biggest increase renewables up 23%
- Largest decrease hotels down 24%
- NAV is not the same as the amount rates collected/needed

District	Change in NAV between Valuation Lists			
	NAV 2020 List	Total NAV 2023 List	Change in Total NAV	% Change NAV
Antrim and Newtownabbey	£131,982,787	£129,603,974	−£2,378,813	−1.8%
Ards and North Down	£101,357,194	£100,279,635	−£1,077,559	−1.1%
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	£147,180,015	£143,443,542	−£3,736,473	−2.5%
Belfast	£524,832,608	£524,927,591	£94,983	0.0%
Causeway Coast and Glens	£96,891,400	£99,970,075	£3,078,675	3.2%
Derry City and Strabane	£129,027,906	£125,772,352	−£3,255,554	−2.5%
Fermanagh and Omagh	£103,642,323	£102,018,816	−£1,623,507	−1.6%
Lisburn and Castlereagh	£131,190,972	£133,966,370	£2,775,398	2.1%
Mid and East Antrim	£100,242,542	£98,385,598	−£1,856,944	−1.9%
Mid Ulster	£105,732,676	£109,761,859	£4,029,183	3.8%
Newry, Mourne and Down	£120,936,189	£114,671,056	−£6,265,133	−5.2%
Northern Ireland	£1,693,016,612	£1,682,800,868	−£10,215,744	−0.6%

**64% of properties will see no change or a decrease in NAV as a result of this revaluation**

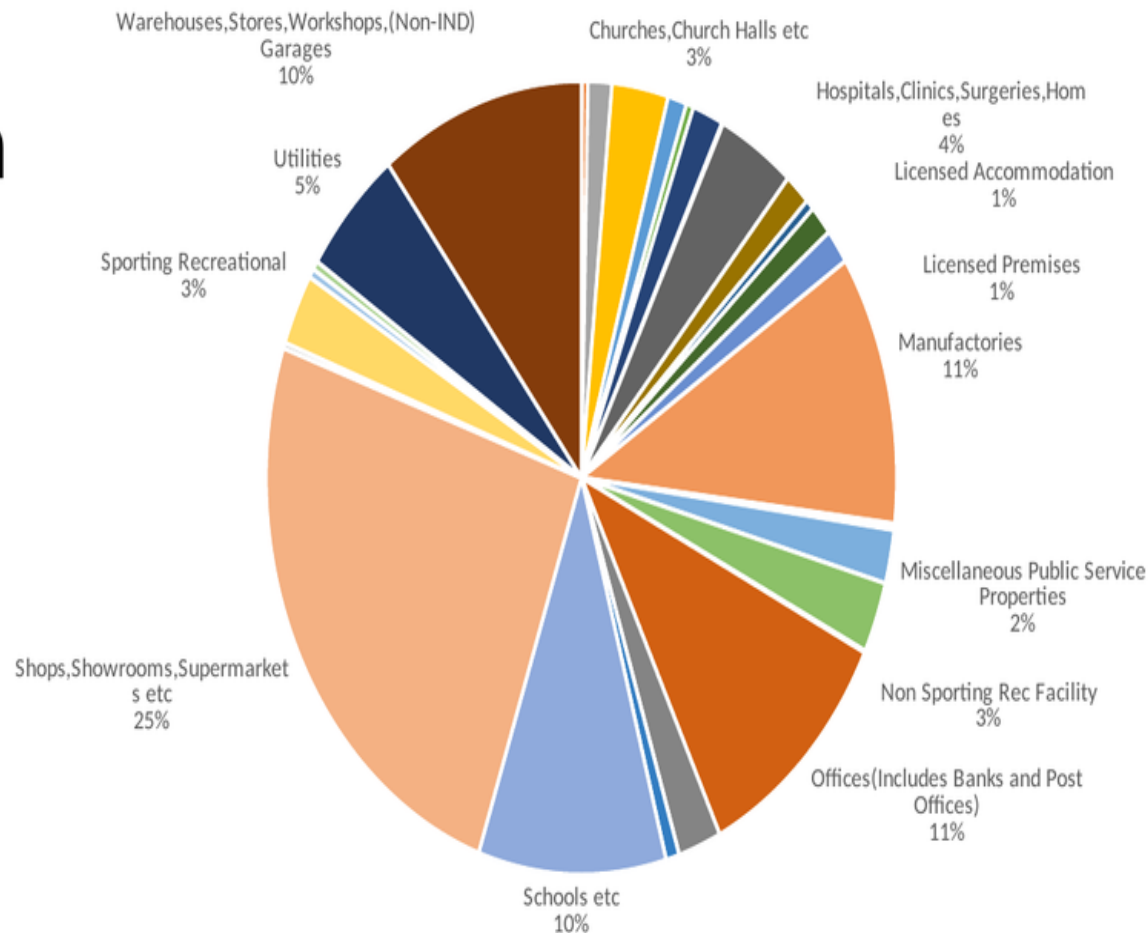


# NI Reval2023

## Newry, Mourne & Down

### Newry, Mourne & Down

- Shops Down 4%
- Pubs Down 23%
- Offices Neutral
- Warehouses Up 3%
- Schools Down 18%



District	Reval Outturn (20th December 2022)			
	Current List	Reval 2023	Difference	Multiplier
Newry, Mourne & Down	£120,936,189	£114,671,056	-£6,265,133	-5.2%

# NI Reval2023

## Reliefs

- ▶ 75% of non domestic properties are entitled to some form of rates relief.
- ▶ This amounts to £243 million of relief
- ▶ Reliefs include small business rates relief (29,511)
- ▶ Exemptions (10,006) (926 in Newry, Mourne & Down)
- ▶ Industrial distinguishment (4,562) (471 in Newry, Mourne & Down)
- ▶ Sport & Recreational Relief (831) (100 in Newry, Mourne & Down)

# NI Reval2023

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## Next Steps

- Jan 11 Draft schedule of values released online
- Early opportunity for ratepayers to check their NAV
- Informal review process
- Contact LPS and provide Rent/evidence & rationale
- Contact via Phone or online contact form
- Ralq website no longer available
- Rate Poundages yet to be set so cant est accurate bill





# NI Reval2023

## Further Information

► Website :

<https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/landing-pages/ni-reval2023-rebalancing-business-rates>

► Website for draft schedule of Reval2023 valuations -

► <https://valuationservices.finance-ni.gov.uk/DraftSchedule/Search>

► Thank you - Any Questions?



At revaluation, Land & Property Services (LPS) adjusts the rateable value of business properties to reflect changes in the property market. This autumn LPS will revalue over 74,000 business properties to ensure business rates stay up-to-date and reflect local economic changes.

Regular revaluations distribute rates fairly across all business sectors, taking into account changes in rental values.

The amount of money to be raised through rates will not change as a direct result of NI Reval2023 and many businesses will see little change in their rate bills.

The last revaluation of non-domestic properties in Northern Ireland was in 2020 and was based on April 2010 rental values. Once NI Reval2023 is complete, the rateable values will be in line with property rental values as at 1 October 2021.

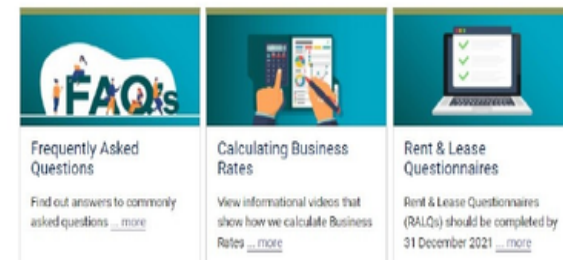
These values will be used to calculate rate bills from 1 April 2023.

To make sure your valuations are accurate, you may need to give LPS up-to-date rental evidence and other information for your property at revaluation. It's important to complete the information fully and return your questionnaire before 31 December 2021.

### Key Dates to remember

- 1 October 2021: This is the valuation date for NI Reval2023. LPS will begin to invite businesses to complete a Rent and Lease Questionnaire (RALQ)
- 31 December 2021: Deadline for businesses to complete RALQs
- 1 April 2023: New rate bills issued. These will be based on October 2021 rental property values.

If you any have queries about NI Reval2023 we are here to help. Get in touch using the [online contact form](#).



<b>Report to:</b>	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	16 March 2023
<b>Subject:</b>	Notice of Motion – Newry, Mourne and Down District Council appropriately mark the 25 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Good Friday/ Belfast Agreement
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Colin Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Colin Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy Suzanne Rice, Corporate Policy and Equality Officer

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

<b>For decision</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>For noting only</b>	
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<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>
1.1	<p>The following Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Stokes, tabled for consideration at the Council Meeting on 9 January 2023, was referred to the Councillors' Equality and Good Relations Reference Group in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6:</p> <p><b><u>Notice of Motion - Rebellion Anniversaries</u></b></p> <p><i>"Newry, Mourne and Down District Council appropriately mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Good Friday/ Belfast Agreement".</i></p>
1.2	<p>The notice of motion was considered at the Councillors' Equality &amp; Good Relations Reference Group meeting on 7 March 2023.</p> <p>Members were advised Council's museums have planned events to mark this anniversary.</p>
	<b>Key issues</b>
2.1	<p>The Council's museums have already planned the following:</p> <p><b>Newry and Mourne Museum</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>"Seamus Mallon: The Man and the Politician"</i> – a temporary exhibition based on artefacts donated to Newry and Mourne Museum.</li> <li>• Andy Pollack, author of <i>Seamus Mallon: A Shared Home Place</i> will give a talk on Seamus Mallon at 2.00pm on 6 April 2023.</li> </ul> <p><b>Down County Museum</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>"Reflections on the Good Friday Agreement, 25 Years On"</i> – lunchtime discussion and Q&amp;A session involving Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick and Mark Davenport taking place 1.00pm - 2.00pm on Good Friday, 7 April 2023. The event will be free to all, but will need to be booked in advance.</li> </ul>

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
3.1	Members are asked to give consideration to the Notice of Motion noting the events taking place in Newry and Mourne Museum and Down County Museum to mark the 25 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Good Friday / Belfast Agreement.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	Not applicable.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b>
5.1	<p><b><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></b></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><b><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></b></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><b><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></b></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>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b>

<p>6.1</p>	<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><b>7.0</b></p>	<p><b>Appendices</b></p>
<p><b>8.0</b></p>	<p><b>Background Documents</b></p>
<p></p>	<p>N/A</p>

<b>Report to:</b>	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	16 March 2023
<b>Subject:</b>	Notice of Motion – Memorial garden to acknowledge 180 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of Newcastle fishing disaster and all those who have lost their lives through fishing
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Colin Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Colin Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy Suzanne Rice, Corporate Policy and Equality Officer

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

<b>For decision</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>For noting only</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>
1.1	The following Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Clarke, tabled for consideration at the Council Meeting on 9 January 2023, was referred to the Councillors' Equality and Good Relations Reference Group in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6:  <b><u>Notice of Motion - Rebellion Anniversaries</u></b>  <i>"This Council acknowledges that this month (January) is the 180th Anniversary of the Newcastle fishing disaster in which 73 fishermen lost their lives; This Council in partnership with The Harbour Heritage Association, and the harbour community should install a memorial garden as a permanent and fitting tribute to those who lost their lives in the 1843 tragedy as well as all those who have lost their lives through the dangerous occupation of fishing".</i>
1.2	Following discussion at the Councillors' Equality & Good Relations Reference Group meeting on 7 March 2023 the consensus of those present was to support the motion that Council give consideration to establishing a memorial garden.
	<b>Key issues</b>
2.1	During discussion members acknowledged the many tragedies suffered by the families of our fishing communities operating from our district's coastal ports; that it was important all of the lives lost be remembered; and that identifying an appropriate site (potentially overlooking Newcastle harbour) for a memorial garden would be appropriate.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
3.1	Members are asked to give consideration to the Notice of Motion noting the content of this report.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	No specific budget allocation has been agreed to create a memorial garden.

<p><b>5.0</b></p>	<p><b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b></p>
<p>5.1</p>	<p><b><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></b></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><b><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></b></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>
<p>5.3</p>	<p><b><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></b></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>
<p><b>6.0</b></p>	<p><b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b></p>
<p>6.1</p>	<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>

<b>7.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Background Documents</b>
	N/A

<b>Report to:</b>	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	16 March 2023
<b>Subject:</b>	Notice of Motion – Rebellion Anniversaries
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Colin Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Colin Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy Suzanne Rice, Corporate Policy and Equality Officer

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

<b>For decision</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>For noting only</b>	
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<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>
1.1	<p>The following Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Brennan, tabled for consideration at the Council Meeting on 6 March 2023, was referred to the Councillors' Equality and Good Relations Reference Group in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6:</p> <p><b><u>Notice of Motion - Rebellion Anniversaries</u></b></p> <p><i>"Council notes that this year will see a number of historically significant local anniversaries, including the 225th anniversary of the 1798 United Irish rebellion; and the 220th anniversary of the execution of Thomas Russell in Downpatrick in 1803 Council recognises the significance of the 1798 rebellion to this district, in particular the battles at Ballynahinch and Saintfield as well as the execution of a founding leader of the United Irishmen, Thomas Russell, at Downpatrick Gaol; Council further recognises the unique and invaluable opportunities which exist to mark these events as key moments in our local shared history; Calls on Council to engage with all interested schools/community groups/historical societies with the objective of launching a series of events and initiatives that suitably mark these significant anniversaries".</i></p>
1.2	Following discussion at the Councillors' Equality & Good Relations Reference Group meeting on 7 March 2023 the consensus of those present was to support the motion that Council give consideration to an appropriate series of events and initiatives.
	<b>Key issues</b>
2.1	During discussion members present agreed that this has potential to provide an opportunity for people of all ages to explore local shared history and significant anniversaries, and that if agreed, this might be best implemented through Council's Museum Programme or Good Relations Action Plan.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
3.1	Members are asked to give consideration to the Notice of Motion – Rebellion Anniversaries noting the content of this report and confirmation that the Councillor's Equality & Good Relations Reference Group was supportive of the motion.



<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	While no specific budget allocation has been agreed for a series of events and initiatives that suitably mark these significant anniversaries this might be best implemented through Council's Good Relation Action Plan / Museum Programme of activity.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b>
5.1	<p><b><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></b></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><b><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></b></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><b><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></b></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>
	<i>Rationale:</i>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b>
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>
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Background Documents</b>
	N/A

<b>Report to:</b>	Strategy Policy and Resources Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	16 March 2023
<b>Subject:</b>	Governance Arrangements
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Marie Ward Chief Executive
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Sarah Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)

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

<b>For decision</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>For noting only</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>
1.1	<p>Following the Local Government Elections in May 2023, a number of Governance arrangements need to be formalised to allow Council to prepare for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The interim period between Election and Annual Meeting of Council;</li> <li>2. The Annual Meeting</li> </ol>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues</b>
2.1	<p><b><u>Delegated Authority</u></b>  During the period from last Council meeting on 3 April 2023 to the first full Council Meeting after Annual Meeting on 6 June 2023, in the absence of a fully-functioning Council decision making structure, critical issues may arise where delaying a decision may not be a prudent approach.</p> <p>In such instances, Council should give delegated authority to Mrs Marie Ward, CEO, to make these decisions in the absence of a formal mechanism. Should such decisions have to be made, the Council will be informed retrospectively at the AGM or a subsequent relevant Committee.</p>
2.2	<p><b><u>Annual Meeting</u></b>  Due to the re-scheduled date of the Local Government Elections, the recommendation is to hold a Mock Annual Meeting on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June at 2pm with the Annual Meeting being held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June at 6pm.</p>
2.3	<p><b><u>Standing Orders</u></b>  SO 21.3(4) (iii) reads "Neighbourhood Services Committee." As a result of the Organisational restructure carried out during 2022, it is recommended that this read "Sustainability &amp; Environment Committee."</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
3.1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Council approve that the <b>Annual Meeting of Council will take place at 6pm on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023, in Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick</b>, in accordance with the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 which states that in an election year, the Annual Meeting of Council must take place within 21 days of the election.</li> <li>2. Delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive to make essential, urgent decisions, as required during period from 3 April 2023 to the first Full Council Meeting (6 June 2023) after the Annual Meeting.</li> </ol>

	<p>3. Under Standing Order 29.2: “any motion to add to, vary or revoke these Standing Order will, when proposed and seconded, stand adjourned without discussion to the next ordinary Meeting of the Council. The mandatory standing orders may not be added to, varied or revoked by the Council.” It is recommended that Council adopt the amendment to the Standing Orders as detailed at 2.3 of this report at the next Council Meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	None identified
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b>
5.1	<p><b><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></b></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><b><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></b></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><b><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></b></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>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b>
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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	None
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Background Documents</b>

<b>Report to:</b>	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	16 March 2023
<b>Subject:</b>	Draft Performance Improvement Objectives 2023-24
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Gerard Byrne – Assistant Director: Finance and Performance
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Catherine Hughes– Acting Head of Performance and Improvement

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

<b>For decision</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>For noting only</b>	
<b>1.0</b>			<b>Purpose and Background</b>
1.1			Part 12 of the Local Government (NI) Act 2014 sets out a General Duty of Improvement for local government, whereby all District Councils are required to put in place arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of their functions. Each financial year, Councils are required to set performance improvement objectives for the services they provide. These objectives can span more than one year, with intermediary milestones, which must be reviewed annually. The performance improvement objectives form part of the annual Performance Audit and Assessment which is carried out by the Northern Ireland Audit Office.
<b>2.0</b>			<b>Key issues</b>
			<b>Draft performance improvement objectives 2023-24</b>
2.1			<p>It is proposed that the Council carries forward three of the five performance improvement objectives 2022-23, which were developed within the context of the Corporate Plan 2021-23 and in response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the objectives has been amended to reflect improvements achieved and where improvements are now required while another has seen significant progress and is deemed to have been delivered and has therefore been replaced. These objectives are outlined in <b>Appendix 1</b>, and the 'supporting actions', 'measures of success' and targets have been developed and updated where appropriate and relevant.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We will support the health and wellbeing of local people by improving our leisure facilities and services.</li> <li>2. We will grow the economy by supporting local businesses and creating new jobs</li> <li>3. We will improve the cleanliness of our District by addressing littering, fly tipping and dog fouling incidents</li> <li>4. We will improve our sustainability and reduce our impacts in relation to climate change.</li> <li>5. We will improve the processing times of planning applications and enforcement cases by implementing the Planning Service Improvement Programme</li> </ol> <p>As part of the Performance Improvement Audit and Assessment 2022-23, the Northern Ireland Audit Office has confirmed that the 'Council has demonstrated that the 2022-23 improvement objectives are legitimate, clear, robust, measurable and demonstrable. The improvement objectives cover a wide range of Council services and they relate to both improving Council functions and improving services for communities and citizens'.</p>

	<b>Legislative context</b>
2.2	<p>The guidance issued by the Department for Communities states that performance improvement is more than just quantifiable gains in service output or efficiency, or in the internal effectiveness of an organisation. Improvement should focus on activity that enhances the sustainable quality of life and environment for communities.</p> <p>Councils should therefore frame improvement objectives so as to bring about improvement in at least one of the following specified aspects of improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic effectiveness</li> <li>• Service quality</li> <li>• Service availability</li> <li>• Fairness</li> <li>• Sustainability</li> <li>• Efficiency</li> <li>• Innovation</li> </ul>
2.3	<p>Councils should also determine their objectives for improvement based on critical self analysis, taking account of a wide range of evidence. All improvement objectives should relate to improving the functions and services to citizens, and be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legitimate</li> <li>• Clear</li> <li>• Robust</li> <li>• Deliverable</li> <li>• Demonstrable</li> </ul>
2.4	<p>Councils are required to consult and engage a range of stakeholders, including citizens, businesses and partner organisations on the performance improvement objectives. The proposed eight week consultation programme will run from 20 March-15 May 2023 and will consist of the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speak NMD - This dedicated online space is facilitated through the Newry, Mourne and Down Community Planning Partnership and enables residents to participate in local consultation and engagement activities. To date, approximately 2,300 residents have registered to use this engagement platform and have their say on the issues and decisions which have an impact on their local area. Through Speak NMD, an electronic survey and idea's board in relation to the draft performance improvement objectives 2023-24 will be published electronically. The overall consultation and engagement process will be promoted further through the Council's website and social media channels, and circulated to key internal and external stakeholders.</li> <li>• Public advertisements in local newspapers</li> <li>• Engagement with DEA Forums and Section 75 groups, through Youth Councils and Older People's Forums</li> </ul> <p>Consultation feedback will inform the final objectives which will form part of the Performance Improvement Plan 2023-24. An overview of the overall approach to develop and publish the Performance Improvement Plan by 30 June 2023, in line with statutory requirements, is outlined in <b>Appendix 2</b>.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>

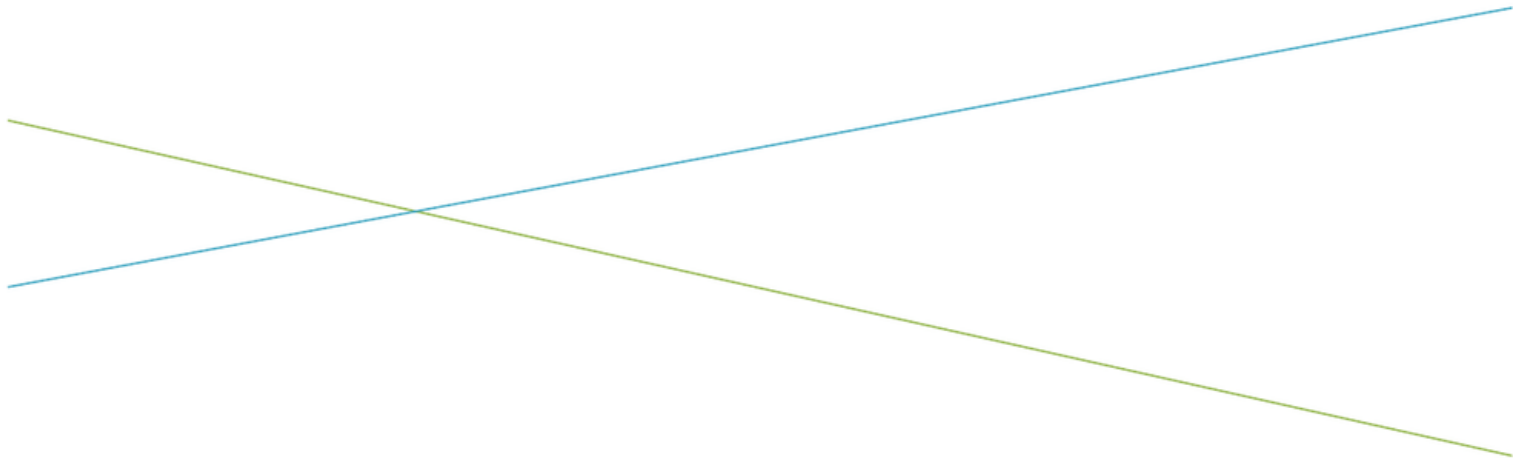
3.1	<p>To consider and agree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The five draft performance improvement objectives 2023-24, as outlined in Appendix 1</li> <li>The proposed approach and timetable for publishing the Performance Improvement Plan 2023-24, as outlined in Appendix 2, including approval to commence the consultation and engagement process on 20 March 2023</li> </ul>
4.0	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	There are no financial resource implications within this report.
5.0	<b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b>
5.1	<p><b><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></b></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><b><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></b></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><b><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></b></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 checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><b><i>Rationale:</i></b>                  The draft performance improvement objectives 2023-24 have been equality screened and it is recommended that they are not subject to an equality impact assessment (with no mitigating measures required). In relation to the proposed eight-week consultation process, whilst the Council’s Equality Scheme commits to holding consultation exercises</p>



	<p>relevant to the statutory duties for a minimum of twelve weeks, it also sets out exceptional circumstances where the twelve weeks may not apply. In this instance, it is proposed that the Council implements an eight-week consultation process in order to ensure the deadline for publishing the Performance Improvement Plan 2023-24 by 30 June 2023 is met.</p> <p>It should also be noted that the performance improvement objectives 2023-24 have been developed based on a robust and reliable quantitative and qualitative evidence base, including the COVID-19 consultation in 2020 and the Residents Survey 2022. They are directly aligned to the strategic objectives within the Corporate Plan 2021-23 and outcomes within the Community Plan.</p>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b>
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>
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Appendix 1</b> – Draft Performance Improvement Objectives 2023-24</li> <li>• <b>Appendix 2</b> – Approach and timetable for publishing the Performance Improvement Plan 2023-24</li> </ul>
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Background Documents</b>
	Performance Improvement Plan 2022-23

# Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Consultation on the  
draft Performance Improvement  
Objectives 2023-24



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

## Our Duty of Improvement

Part 12 of The Local Government Act (NI) 2014 sets out a General Duty of Improvement for local government, whereby all District Councils are required to put in place arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of their functions.

The Council is required to set performance improvement objectives for the services it provides on an annual basis, and to have in place arrangements to achieve these objectives. Each performance improvement objective must bring about improvement in at least one of the following aspects of improvement:

- Strategic effectiveness
- Service quality
- Service availability
- Fairness
- Sustainability
- Efficiency
- Innovation

Improvement for Councils should focus on enhancing the sustainable quality of life for ratepayers and local communities, and each objective should be clearly linked to the community planning outcomes for the District.

Three of the draft performance improvement objectives 2023-24 for Newry, Mourne and Down District Council have been carried forward from 2022-23. One has been amended to reflect improvements achieved and where improvements are now required and one has seen significant progress and is deemed to have been delivered and has therefore been replaced with a new objective. They have been developed based on extensive consultation and engagement with key stakeholders and are aligned to the following regional and local plans which influence the overall direction of travel of the organisation.

- Draft Programme for Government
- Newry, Mourne and Down Community Plan
- Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Corporate Plan 2021-23
- Thematic Plans and Strategies, including the Regeneration and Economic Development Strategy

Once agreed, the performance improvement objectives 2023-24 will be published in the annual Performance Improvement Plan. This plan will provide more detail about what we want to improve, how we will deliver improvements, how our performance will be measured and what outcomes stakeholders will experience as a result of our improvement activity.







## Our draft Performance Improvement Objectives 2023-24

1. **We will support the health and wellbeing of local people by improving our leisure 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**

These objectives have been selected based on the following criteria:

- Does the objective support the delivery of the Programme for Government, Community Plan and Corporate Plan 2021-23?
- Do the objectives demonstrate improvement in at least one of the seven aspects of improvement? (strategic effectiveness, service delivery, service availability, fairness, sustainability, efficiency, innovation)
- Are the objectives SMART? (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, timebound)
- Are the resources in place to deliver the objective? (financial, human, leadership, skills, knowledge, governance, risk)
- Are the objectives based on robust and reliable evidence and will they make a visible difference in the local area?
- How well are we performing?

### Legend:

Status		Trend	
	Target or objective achieved / on track to be achieved		Performance has improved
	Target or objective partially achieved / likely to be achieved / subject to delay		Performance is similar to the previous year
	Target or objective not achieved / unlikely to be achieved		Performance has declined

\*It should be noted that the performance information contained in the 'Looking Back' section of this report may be subject to change when the results are verified and reported through the Assessment of Performance 2022-23 in September 2023.

## Community Plan for Newry, Mourne and Down

The Community Plan has been developed and agreed by the Community Planning Partnership Board. Entitled 'Living Well Together', the Community Plan provides a framework for collaborative working to deliver positive change for our communities, and sets out the following long term overarching vision for the District:

**'Newry, Mourne and Down is a place with strong, safe and vibrant communities where everyone has a good quality of life and access to opportunities, choices and high quality services which are sustainable, accessible and meet people's needs'.**

Through the Community Plan, the following five positive outcomes have been identified:

### Our Outcomes

These are the positive outcomes we all wish to see in our community.











## Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Corporate Plan 2021-23

The Corporate Plan 2021-23 sets out the strategic direction of the organisation and ties together a number of plans and strategies that will enable the Council to achieve the following mission and eight strategic objectives. The Corporate Plan will also contribute the achievement of the overarching vision and outcomes within the Community Plan.

### Council Mission Statement

**'To support and advocate for a welcoming District which is progressive, healthy and sustainable, providing better economic, environmental and social outcomes for all'.**

### Council Strategic Objectives

 <p><b>Invest in and support new and growing businesses, job creation and employment skills</b></p> <p>We will facilitate investment by new and growing businesses while contributing to the further development of workforce skills to retain existing and attract new industries.</p>	 <p><b>Continue to improve the health and wellbeing of everyone in the district and reduce health inequalities</b></p> <p>We will help to reduce health inequalities and improve the quality of life for all by contributing fully to programmes, services, facilities and amenities.</p>
 <p><b>Enhance, protect and promote our environment</b></p> <p>We will contribute to tackling climate breakdown and reducing harmful impacts on the environment while enabling residents and visitors to enjoy our rich natural and built heritage.</p>	 <p><b>Support sustainable forms of tourism which value our environment and cultural heritage</b></p> <p>We will support and advocate for increased investment and development in tourism which promotes our unique assets and increases visitor satisfaction and spend.</p>
 <p><b>Enable and support people to engage in inclusive and diverse activities in their communities</b></p>	 <p><b>Promote the revitalisation of our city, towns, villages and rural communities</b></p>

<p>We will encourage people to play an active part in civic life in all its forms and develop the capacity of communities, particularly those in greatest need, to attract the right support to address needs and sustain valued projects and facilities</p>	<p>We will work with residents, businesses and our partners in regeneration to further develop desirable places to live, work, invest in and visit across the District.</p>
<div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>Provide accessible, high-quality and integrated services through continuous improvement</b></p> <p>We will build a high performing Council, fit for the future, that delivers efficient and effective services for the benefit of all</p> </div>	<div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>Advocate with others for the benefit of all people of the District</b></p> <p>We will lobby and campaign with government and others to attract investment, develop modern infrastructure across the District, address needs and improve the quality of life for all.</p> </div>

### Your voice, your choice!

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council is inviting you to put forward your views on the draft performance improvement objectives 2023-24. We are keen to ensure that our performance improvement objectives have a positive impact on the quality of life of all stakeholders across the District, including citizens, local businesses, partner organisations in the statutory, voluntary and community sectors, employees and Elected Members.

A questionnaire has been included on page 18 of this document for all stakeholders to complete and return to:

Email: [performance@nmandd.org](mailto:performance@nmandd.org)  
 Address: Performance and Improvement  
 Newry, Mourne and Down District Council  
 O'Hagan House, Monaghan Row  
 Newry, Co Down  
 N. Ireland, BT35 8DJ
















The questionnaire is also available on the Council's website and social media channels, as well as the Speak NMD website, through the following links:

[www.newrymournedown.org/consultations](http://www.newrymournedown.org/consultations)  
<https://speaknmd.commonplace.is/>

Alternatively, if you prefer to provide comments in person, please contact us on:  
 Tel: 0330 137 4000  
 Email: [performance@nmandd.org](mailto:performance@nmandd.org)

**The closing date for responses is: 15 May 2023.**






## Performance Improvement Objective 1

<b>We will support the health and wellbeing of local people by improving leisure facilities and services</b>											
<b>Why this matters</b>	<p>You told us that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One of the top priorities for improving your local area was 'Improving people's health and wellbeing (and reducing health inequalities)</li> <li>• 17% of our residents are not active for a single day each week.</li> <li>• The third most important health and wellbeing opportunity you would like to see more of was 'physical activity opportunities such as leisure centres, gyms and sports facilities'</li> <li>• Between 2018 and 2022 there has been an increase in the number of residents dissatisfied with the leisure centres across the District.</li> </ul> <p>We know that keeping fit and active can help improve a person's health and wellbeing both physically and mentally. Newry, Mourne and Down District Council plays a key role in helping local communities to live long and healthy lives. The Council remains committed to promoting physical, mental and emotional well-being and encouraging residents to make healthy and informed lifestyle choices and as part of this we need to always be striving to improve our leisure facilities and offerings.</p>										
<b>Looking Back:</b> What we did between April 2022-March 2023	<table border="1"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"></td> <td>800,000 paid attendances across the 6 leisure facilities</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"></td> <td>Recorded 211,718 recorded visits across a total of 10 community trails.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"></td> <td>9,534 memberships across the indoor leisure facilities</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"></td> <td>Progressed a number of new build and/or upgraded capital projects</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"></td> <td>322 people participating in targeted health programmes</td> </tr> </table>		800,000 paid attendances across the 6 leisure facilities		Recorded 211,718 recorded visits across a total of 10 community trails.		9,534 memberships across the indoor leisure facilities		Progressed a number of new build and/or upgraded capital projects		322 people participating in targeted health programmes
	800,000 paid attendances across the 6 leisure facilities										
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	9,534 memberships across the indoor leisure facilities										
	Progressed a number of new build and/or upgraded capital projects										
	322 people participating in targeted health programmes										
<b>Looking Forward:</b> What we will do in 2023-24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the number of paid attendances at indoor leisure facilities through the Covid-19 recovery plan.</li> <li>• Continue to progress and implement the review of Leisure Services.</li> <li>• Deliver a range of targeted health programmes to encourage participation in physical activity.</li> <li>• Progress the leisure projects agreed within the Capital Programme</li> <li>• Maintain the number of recorded visits to Community Trails.</li> <li>• Implement a 'Mystery Visitor' Programme for indoor leisure.</li> </ul>										



How we will measure success	2019-20 Actual	2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Actual	Status Trend	Q1/Q2 2022-23 Actual	2023-24 Target
Number of paid attendances recorded at:						850,000
Newry Leisure Centre	864,190	27,253	183,224	△	164,482	
Down Leisure Centre	377,842	30,199	177,496	△	109,186	
Kilkeel Leisure Centre	40,219	10,367	66,987	△	39,109	
St. Colmans Sports Complex	37,349	2,945	36,717	△	16,745	
Newcastle Centre & Tropicana Outdoor Swimming Complex	284,230	2,778	33,801	△	29,577	
Ballymote Sports and Wellbeing Centre	38,993	1,754	10,309	△	6,063	
Number of people participating in targeted health programmes	10,793	2,270	322	▽	136	350
Number of leisure centre memberships	New measure			-	-	10,000
Number of capital leisure projects progressed	New measure			-	-	Not set
Number of recorded visits at community trails	57,849	96,563	211,718	△	109,433	211,000
<b>What you will see by March 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in the number of paid attendances at our six leisure centres to 850,000 by end of 2023-24</li> <li>• Increase in the number of people participating in targeted health programmes to 350.</li> <li>• Increase in the number of memberships being taken out to 10,000.</li> <li>• 211,000 recorded visits to community trails.</li> <li>• A number of new build and/or upgraded capital leisure projects progressed</li> <li>• 'Mystery Visitor' Programme implemented and baseline established</li> </ul>					
<b>Alignment</b>						
Corporate Plan 2021-23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to improve the health and wellbeing of everyone in the District and reduce health inequalities</li> <li>• Enable and support people to engage in inclusive and diverse activities in their communities</li> </ul>					
Community Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All people in Newry, Mourne and Down enjoy good health and wellbeing</li> <li>• All people in Newry, Mourne and Down benefit from prosperous communities</li> </ul>					
Programme for Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We all enjoy long, healthy, active lives</li> <li>• People want to live, work and visit here</li> </ul>					
7 aspects of improvement	Strategic effectiveness	Service quality	Service availability	Fairness		
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Director: Active and Healthy Communities</b>					
















## Performance Improvement Objective 2

<b>We will grow the economy by supporting local businesses and creating new jobs</b>	
<b>Why this matters</b>	<p>You told us that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ‘Improving skills, employability and job prospects’ was your top priority for improving the local area in the 2022 residents survey</li> <li>• ‘Supporting local businesses, attracting investment and jobs’ is in your top three priorities for improvement</li> <li>• Investment to grow the economy, create jobs and attract tourists is the most important form of investment</li> <li>• 95% of respondents to our 2022-23 survey agreed with this objective</li> </ul> <p>As we continue to emerge and recover from the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, Newry, Mourne and Down has recorded increases in the number of VAT/PAYE registered businesses, employee jobs and the birth rate of new businesses in the past year. When compared to 2020, the claimant count for unemployment benefit has also reduced but remains above pre-pandemic levels.</p> <p>Continuing to support the economic recovery of Newry, Mourne and Down remains a key priority for the Council. During 2022-23, the Council awarded approximately £1m to assist local businesses in navigating the impact of the pandemic. Whilst much has been achieved, there is still more to do to rebuild and revitalise the local economy.</p> <p>For 2023-24 all NI Councils will be supporting businesses and job creation through an Entrepreneurship Support Service. This is to ensure better collaboration across Businesses, Councils and Government Departments. It will also ensure more consistency at a regional level. A funding application has been submitted to the Shared Prosperity Fund with a launch expected in September 2023. Through this Service, the Council will continue to deliver a range of business start-up and growth programmes to help new and established businesses to innovate, grow and expand.</p>
<b>Looking Back:</b> What we did between April-September 2022	 92 new business starts created and 92 new jobs promoted through business start activity
	 10 new social enterprise start-ups supported and 4 new social enterprise jobs created 
	 247 businesses supported and 467.5 mentoring days delivered through ‘NMD Growth’, ‘Digital Growth’, ‘Tender for Growth’ and ‘Sales Accelerator’ programmes.
	 ‘Make it Local’ campaign delivered to stimulate footfall and the re-opening of businesses across the District
<b>Looking Forward:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roll-out the NMD ‘Make it Local’ campaign to support the revitalisation of our local economy</li> </ul>

What we will do in 2023-24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invest in the social economy through the Social Enterprise programme</li> <li>Support the growth of existing businesses and creation of new jobs through the Entrepreneurship Support Programme</li> <li>Support the establishment of new businesses through the Entrepreneurship Support Programme</li> <li>Continue to create opportunities for employability and skills through implementation of the LMP Action Plan.</li> </ul>					
<b>How we will measure success</b>	2019-20 Actual	2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Actual	Status Trend	Q1/Q2 2022-23 Actual	2023-24 Target
Number of social enterprise start-ups supported	10	12	12	▶	10	12
Number of social enterprise jobs created	12	14	13	▶	-	12
Number of business plans created for start-up businesses and employer enterprises	298	266	358	△	154	300
Number of jobs promoted via business start-up activity	194	199.5	404	△	-	155
Number of new businesses & employer enterprises supported to start up	203	181	215	△	92	190
Number of existing businesses supported to progress growth and scaling ambitions	198	327	412	△	262	200
<b>What you will see by March 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>300 business plans created for Start-Up businesses and employer enterprises</li> <li>190 new Business / employer enterprises supported to start-up</li> <li>Support provided to 200 existing businesses to progress growth and scaling ambitions</li> <li>155 new jobs promoted via business start-up activity.</li> <li>12 social enterprise start-ups supported and 12 social enterprise jobs created</li> <li>More support for new and established local businesses and more employment opportunities across the District</li> <li>The economic recovery of Newry, Mourne and Down is underway, as the District becomes more economically active and prosperous</li> </ul>					
<b>Alignment</b>						
Corporate Plan 2021-23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invest in and support new and growing businesses, job creation and employment skills</li> </ul>					
Community Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All people from Newry, Mourne and Down benefit from prosperous communities</li> </ul>					
Programme for Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Everyone can reach their potential</li> <li>Our economy is globally competitive, regionally balanced and carbon neutral</li> <li>People want to live, work and visit here</li> </ul>					
7 aspects of improvement	Strategic effectiveness	Service quality	Service availability	Innovation		
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Director: Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism</b>					



### Performance Improvement Objective 3

<b>We will improve the cleanliness of our District by addressing littering, fly tipping and dog fouling incidents</b>											
<b>Why this matters</b>	<p>You told us that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dog mess and dog fouling and rubbish or litter lying around are your top two perceived problems in your local area</li> <li>• 6% of the residents surveyed were dissatisfied with the cleansing service provided by the Council.</li> <li>• 91% of residents said recycling is important to them, an increase of 5% on the 2018 residents survey figure.</li> <li>• 89% of respondents to our 2022-23 survey agreed with this objective</li> </ul> <p>Since 2019-20, the LEAMS* score for the District has remained at 64, which falls below the current regional average of 66. Issues around street cleanliness continue to escalate largely as a result of the increased number of illicit dumping, littering and dog fouling incidents reported to the Council and the prioritisation of the refuse collection service throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>In order to improve the overall cleanliness of the District, the Council is currently reviewing cleansing operations to design a more effective model of service provision. The Council also remains committed to collaborating with partner organisations and local communities to promote responsible dog ownership, address issues around littering and illicit dumping and generate local pride in having a cleaner, greener District for everyone to enjoy.</p>										
<b>Looking Back:</b> What we did between April-September 2022	<table border="1"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"></td> <td>Issued 62 fixed penalty notices, 48 of which were paid</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"></td> <td>Supported 31 community clean-ups</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"></td> <td>10 environmental projects funded through the NI 'Live Here Love Here' Scheme</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"></td> <td>Anti-littering and responsible dog ownership campaigns rolled out</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"></td> <td>Increase in the rate of recycling, to 52.4%</td> </tr> </table>		Issued 62 fixed penalty notices, 48 of which were paid		Supported 31 community clean-ups		10 environmental projects funded through the NI 'Live Here Love Here' Scheme		Anti-littering and responsible dog ownership campaigns rolled out		Increase in the rate of recycling, to 52.4%
	Issued 62 fixed penalty notices, 48 of which were paid										
	Supported 31 community clean-ups										
	10 environmental projects funded through the NI 'Live Here Love Here' Scheme										
	Anti-littering and responsible dog ownership campaigns rolled out										
	Increase in the rate of recycling, to 52.4%										
<b>Looking Forward:</b> What we will do in 2023-24	<p>Address issues around littering, illicit dumping and dog fouling by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuing to implement the Enforcement Improvement Plan</li> <li>• Promoting responsible dog ownership through publicity and social media campaigns</li> <li>• Working with Louth County Council to raise awareness of the impact of littering and illicit dumping along the border area</li> <li>• Encouraging residents to bring properly sorted surplus recyclable waste to our Household Recycling Centres</li> <li>• Supporting local community clean ups</li> <li>• Implementation of a Paint Re-Use Scheme at 7 Household Recycling Centres throughout the district.</li> </ul> <p>Work in partnership with Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commission surveys to monitor street cleanliness and identify emerging issues and hotspots</li> </ul>										




	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the 'Live Here Love Here' campaigns</li> <li>Encourage community groups to 'Adopt a Spot'</li> <li>Highlight the impact of littering on the marine environment</li> </ul>					
How we will measure success	2019-20 Actual	2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Actual	Status Trend	2022-23 Q1/Q2 Actual	2023-24 Target
LEAMS score (Keep NI Beautiful Cleanliness Index)	64	64	64		-	65
Number of fixed penalty notices issued	83	52	118		62	120
Number of fixed penalty notices paid	72	24	100		48	96
Number of community clean ups supported	94	33	94		31	100
Number of 'Live Here Love Here' environmental projects	34	24	18		10	No target
The percentage of household waste collected by District Councils that is sent for recycling	53.7%	52.6%	49.1%		52.4%	65% by 2030
The amount of biodegradable Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste that is landfilled	2,131t	2,494t	2,685t		1,108t	<20,954 tonnes (2019-20)
The amount of Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste arisings	84,610t	86,980t	87,336t		44,087t	No target
<b>What you will see by March 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase in the number of fixed penalty notices issued.</li> <li>Responsible dog ownership and reduced levels of dog fouling, littering and illicit dumping</li> <li>Improved opportunities to report littering, dog fouling and illicit dumping</li> <li>Reduction in the disposal of paint from our Household Recycling Centre sites.</li> <li>Opportunities to engage in community clean ups and participate in the 'Live Here Love Here' campaign and 'Adopt a Spot' scheme</li> <li>Landfill and recycling targets are achieved</li> <li>A cleaner, greener District, with improved civic and community pride</li> </ul>					
<b>Alignment</b>						
Corporate Plan 2021-23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance, protect and promote our environment</li> </ul>					
Community Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All people from Newry, Mourne and Down benefit from a clean, quality and sustainable environment</li> </ul>					
Programme for Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We live and work sustainably - protecting the environment</li> </ul>					
7 aspects of improvement	Strategic effectiveness	Service availability	Innovation	Sustainability		
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Director: Active &amp; Healthy Communities / Director: Sustainable Environment</b>					

\*Local Environmental Auditing Management System is carried out by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful.

\*\*The Q1/Q2 2022-23 data for the statutory waste management performance indicators remains provisional and will be finalised when the year-end data is validated and published by DAERA.

\*\*\*The 2019-20 NI Landfill Allowance Scheme (NILAS) target has been included as the Council awaits more up to date targets from DAERA.













## Performance Improvement Objective 4










<b>We will improve our sustainability and reduce our impacts in relation to climate change.</b>	
<b>Why this matters</b>	<p>You told us that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Managing waste, reducing climate change, investing in renewable energy etc was important to you.</li> <li>• Green technology skills was the second most important training support needed to improve the growth of resident employability.</li> <li>• 91% of residents said recycling is important to them, an increase of 5% on the 2018 residents survey figure.</li> </ul> <p>Our climate is changing and we need to prepare. Greenhouse gas emissions cause the Earth’s atmosphere to hold more radiation from the sun which increases the overall temperature of the planet. This change in temperature is altering our climate and causing one of the greatest threats of our time. In October 2019 Newry, Mourne and Down District Council declared a ‘Climate Emergency’ and directed management to effect dramatic short – term changes in every area under its control. The Council also forms part of the Local Government Climate Action Network which is helping to deliver the NI Climate Change Adaptation Programme. This network will enable us to collaborate with other Councils and relevant statutory partners to develop a strategic approach for climate action.</p> <p>Just before the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic the Council hosted a Climate Change Symposium ‘Our Climate – Our Challenge’ in March 2020. This event brought together a range of internationally renowned expert speakers as well as Councils and Community Organisations from across the UK and Ireland who have demonstrated best practice in dealing with climate change. The projects at this event are now being considered for the Council’s own Local Climate Adaption Plan.</p> <p>NMDDC is acutely aware of how intrinsic sustainability and care of our district is to its future. In order to protect our environment, environmental sustainability has become a key objective in the development of our capital projects, providing economic growth for the region in an inclusive and sustainable way. Newry, Mourne and Down District Council aims to embed the ethos of sustainability throughout its operations and to provide leadership for the community.</p>
<b>Looking Back:</b> What we did	 Declared a ‘Climate Emergency’ in October 2019
	 Hosted a Climate Change Symposium ‘Our Climate – Our Challenge’ in March 2020
	 Produced and Launched a 10 year active travel Masterplan for the District in 2021
<b>Looking Forward:</b> What we will do in 2023-24	<p>Address issues around climate change and sustainability by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing a climate change and sustainable development strategy</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completing the development of the Climate Change Adaptation Plan</li> <li>• Developing a new biodiversity strategy 2023-28</li> <li>• Implementing the Council’s Tree Strategy</li> <li>• Installing new public drinking water fountains</li> <li>• Supporting the implementation of new Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points</li> <li>• Undertaking a baseline assessment of the Council’s carbon footprint</li> <li>• Implementing the Council’s fleet replacement programme</li> </ul>					
How we will measure success	2019-20 Actual	2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Actual	Status Trend	2022-23 Q1/Q2 Actual	2023-24 Target
Carbon footprint of Council estate	<b>To Be Established</b>					
Percentage of Council fleet younger than 8 years	New measure			-	-	50%
Number of vehicles within the Council fleet that have an alternative fuel source	New measure			-	-	10
Number of trees planted on Council managed estate	New measure			-	-	Not set
Number of Council supported EV charging points	New measure			-	-	20
<b>What you will see by March 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of a climate change and sustainable development strategy</li> <li>• Development of a climate change adaptation plan</li> <li>• Development of the new Newry, Mourne and Down Biodiversity Strategy (2023-2028)</li> <li>• New trees planted</li> <li>• Carbon footprint of Council estate established</li> <li>• 20 new Council supported EV charging points installed</li> <li>• Increase in the percentage of younger, less polluting vehicles within the Council fleet</li> <li>• 10 new electric vehicles ordered for use within the Council fleet.</li> <li>• 5 new public drinking water fountains erected.</li> </ul>					
<b>Alignment</b>						
Corporate Plan 2021-23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance, protect and promote our environment</li> </ul>					
Community Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All people from Newry, Mourne and Down benefit from a clean, quality and sustainable environment</li> </ul>					
Programme for Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We live and work sustainably - protecting the environment</li> </ul>					
7 aspects of improvement	Strategic Effectiveness	Efficiency	Innovation	Sustainability		
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Director: Active and Healthy Communities /Director: Sustainability and Environment</b>					

## Performance Improvement Objective 5

<b>We will improve the processing times of planning applications and enforcement cases by implementing the Planning Service Improvement Programme</b>									
<b>Why this matters</b>	<p>Delivering a more efficient and effective Planning Service for customers is a key priority for improvement for the Council. Planning plays a significant role in promoting sustainable development, regeneration, economic prosperity, investment and job creation for present and future generations of our District. 95% of respondents to our 2022-23 survey also agreed with this objective.</p> <p>The implementation of the Planning Service Improvement Programme is well underway with a new planning portal launched in December 2022 allowing customers to submit applications online and track live planning applications. This new system has been accompanied by the expected teething problems however it is operating, and the normal work of the planning department is ongoing.</p> <p>In January 2022, the Council carried out a Customer Satisfaction survey with key stakeholders to understand current perceptions of the service. Feedback from the survey highlights areas where users of the planning service are dissatisfied including with time taken to process applications; availability of officers to discuss applications; and clarity of information and guidance received. Satisfaction was registered however with reception service; helpfulness of officers; information and guidance received; and expertise and knowledge of planning officers. It is hoped that the implementation of this new system which makes it easier for users to engage with the planning process will assist in improving some of these areas of dissatisfaction.</p> <p>The 2022-23 processing times for planning applications reduced when compared to previous years, however, the Council has not yet achieved the statutory standards, but we remain committed to delivering further improvements and providing a high-quality service to all customers.</p>								
<b>Looking Back:</b> What we did between April-September 2022	<table border="1"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"></td> <td>Processed 51.7% of planning enforcement cases within 39 weeks, which is below the regional average of 73.4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"></td> <td>Average processing time of 18.2 weeks for local planning applications, which is above the regional average of 15 weeks</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"></td> <td>Average processing time of 67.4 weeks for major planning applications, which is below the regional average of 50.0 weeks</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"></td> <td>Received 763 local planning applications, which is the highest across Northern Ireland</td> </tr> </table>		Processed 51.7% of planning enforcement cases within 39 weeks, which is below the regional average of 73.4%		Average processing time of 18.2 weeks for local planning applications, which is above the regional average of 15 weeks		Average processing time of 67.4 weeks for major planning applications, which is below the regional average of 50.0 weeks		Received 763 local planning applications, which is the highest across Northern Ireland
	Processed 51.7% of planning enforcement cases within 39 weeks, which is below the regional average of 73.4%								
	Average processing time of 18.2 weeks for local planning applications, which is above the regional average of 15 weeks								
	Average processing time of 67.4 weeks for major planning applications, which is below the regional average of 50.0 weeks								
	Received 763 local planning applications, which is the highest across Northern Ireland								
<b>Looking Forward:</b> What we will do in 2023-24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the number of live planning applications and enforcement cases which have been in the system for over 12 months</li> <li>• Work with agents and architects to improve the standard of planning applications submitted</li> <li>• Support employees to deliver service improvements through ongoing training, capacity building and 'planning surgeries'</li> </ul>								

How we will measure success	2019-20 Actual	2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Actual	Status Trend	Q1/Q2 2022-23 Actual	2023-24 Target
Average processing time for local planning applications (weeks)	20.6	19	18.8	 	18.2	<15 weeks
Average processing time of major planning applications (weeks)	94	64.6	44.3	 	67.4	<30 weeks
Percentage of planning enforcement cases progressed within 39 weeks	36.2%	40.9%	48.5%	 	51.7%	70%
Number of planning applications in the system for 12 months or more**	183	187	187		228	150
Number of planning applications in the system for 12 months or less**	685	788	871		793	700
Number of enforcement cases in the system 12 months or more**	620	551	472		483	450
<b>What you will see by March 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A more efficient and effective planning service</li> <li>• Improved processing times for local and major planning applications</li> <li>• Improved processing times for planning enforcement cases</li> <li>• Reduction in the number of live planning applications and enforcement cases in the system</li> <li>• An empowered and motivated workforce</li> <li>• Increased confidence in the Planning system</li> <li>• Sustainable development and regeneration of the District</li> </ul>					
<b>Alignment</b>						
Corporate Plan 2021-23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide accessible, high quality and integrated services through continuous improvement</li> </ul>					
Community Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All people in Newry, Mourne and Down benefit from prosperous communities</li> </ul>					
Programme for Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People want to live, work and visit here</li> </ul>					
7 aspects of improvement	Strategic effectiveness	Service availability	Sustainability	Efficiency		
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Director: Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism</b>					

\*Annual planning figures will be validated by the Department for Infrastructure and published through the Annual Report 2023-24.

\*\*The 2023-24 targets have been carried forward from 2022-23 and will be reviewed prior to the publication of the Performance Improvement Plan 2023-24, in June 2023.



## Strategic Alignment

<b>Performance Improvement Objective</b>	<b>Corporate Objective(s)</b>	<b>Community Planning Outcome(s)</b>	<b>Duty of Improvement</b>
We will support the health and wellbeing of local people by improving our leisure facilities and services	<p>Continue to improve the health and wellbeing of everyone in the District and reduce health inequalities</p> <p>Enable and support people to engage in inclusive and diverse activities in their communities</p>	<p>All people in Newry, Mourne and Down enjoy good health and wellbeing</p> <p>All people in Newry, Mourne and Down benefit from prosperous communities</p>	<p>Strategic effectiveness</p> <p>Service quality</p> <p>Service availability</p> <p>Fairness</p>
We will grow the economy by supporting local businesses and creating new jobs	Invest in and support new and growing businesses, job creation and employment skills	All people from Newry, Mourne and Down benefit from prosperous communities	<p>Strategic effectiveness</p> <p>Service quality</p> <p>Service availability</p> <p>Innovation</p>
We will improve the cleanliness of our District by addressing littering, fly tipping and dog fouling incidents	Enhance, protect and promote our environment	All people from Newry, Mourne and Down benefit from a clean, quality and sustainable environment	<p>Strategic effectiveness</p> <p>Service availability</p> <p>Innovation</p> <p>Sustainability</p>
We will improve our sustainability and reduce our impacts in relation to climate change	Enhance, protect and promote our environment	All people from Newry, Mourne and Down benefit from a clean, quality and sustainable environment	<p>Strategic Effectiveness</p> <p>Efficiency</p> <p>Innovation</p> <p>Sustainability</p>
We will improve the processing times of planning applications and enforcement cases by implementing the Planning Service Improvement Programme	Provide accessible, high quality and integrated services through continuous improvement	All people in Newry, Mourne and Down benefit from prosperous communities	<p>Strategic effectiveness</p> <p>Service availability</p> <p>Sustainability</p> <p>Efficiency</p>

## Consultation on the draft Performance Improvement Objectives 2023-24

<b>I am responding:</b>	as an individual	
	on behalf of an organisation (please state)	

### Question 1

**Which consultation group do you belong to?** *Please tick all that apply.*

Resident	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elected Member	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local Business	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local Community Organisation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local Voluntary Organisation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Statutory Organisation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

If other, please provide further information below.

### Question 2

**Do you agree that the draft Performance Improvement Objectives are appropriate for our District?**

<b>Performance Improvement Objective 1</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>
We will support the health and wellbeing of local people by improving our leisure facilities and services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Comments:</b>		
<b>Performance Improvement Objective 2</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>
We will grow the economy by supporting local businesses and creating new jobs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Comments:</b>		
<b>Performance Improvement Objective 3</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>
We will improve the cleanliness of our District by addressing littering, fly tipping and dog fouling incidents	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Comments:</b>		
<b>Performance Improvement Objective 4</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>
We will improve our sustainability and reduce our impacts in relation to climate change		
<b>Comments:</b>		
<b>Performance Improvement Objective 5</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>
We will improve the processing times of planning applications and enforcement cases by implementing the Planning Service Improvement Programme		
<b>Comments:</b>		

**Question 3**

**Would you suggest any alternative Performance Improvement Objective(s), 'supporting actions' and 'measures of success'?**

--

**Question 4**

**Which of the areas outlined below would you like to see Newry, Mourne and Down District Council make improvements to in the future? (please tick 3 areas)**

Area	
Arts Centres and Museums	
Building Control	
Car Parking	
Cemeteries	
Cleansing Service	
Community Services/Centres	
Council Parks and Open Spaces	
Council Website	
Economic Development (Programmes to support the economy)	
Environmental Health	
Grants, Procurement and Finance	



Harbours and Marinas	
Leisure Centres	
Licensing (dogs, gaming, entertainment etc)	
Planning	
Play Parks	
Recycling	
Bin Collection	
Registration Services (Births, Deaths, Marriages and Civil Partnerships)	
Tourism Events	
Visitor Attractions	
Visitor Information Centres	
Other Services (please specify)	

**What specific improvements would you like Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to make in future years?**

Completed questionnaires or comments should be submitted by **15 May 2023** to:

**Email:** [performance@nmandd.org](mailto:performance@nmandd.org)

**In Writing:** Performance and Improvement  
 Newry, Mourne and Down District Council  
 O'Hagan House  
 Monaghan Row  
 Newry  
 Co Down  
 BT35 8DJ

**Telephone:** 0330 137 4000

**Thank you for taking the time to respond to this questionnaire.**

**We look forward to hearing from you.**

## Overall approach and timetable to develop and publish the Performance Improvement Plan 2023-24

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1	Development of the Performance Improvement Plan 2023-24	Timetable
1.1	Review baseline evidence to support the development of the Performance Improvement Plan, including a review of existing performance management arrangements across the organisation	Jan 2023
1.2	Develop and update the performance improvement objectives, supporting actions and measures of success, ensuring alignment to the seven criteria outlined in the legislation, as well as the Community Plan, Corporate Plan and other key strategies. Prepare Delivery Plans for each objective.	Jan-Feb 2023
1.3	Consider and agree the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft performance improvement objectives 2023-24, supporting actions, measures of success</li> <li>Overall approach and timetable for developing and publishing the Performance Improvement Plan 2023-24, ensuring compliance with the statutory Duty to Improve</li> </ul>	CMT: Mar 2023 SMT: Mar 2023 SPR: Mar 2023 Council: Apr 2023 AC: Apr 2023
1.4	Carry out an equality screening and rural needs impact assessment of the draft performance improvement objectives 2023-24	Feb 2023
2	Consultation on the draft Performance Improvement Objectives 2023-24	Timetable
2.1	The proposed 8 week consultation timetable with key stakeholders will consist of the following elements:	
2.2	Speak NMD – Electronic survey and ideas board published through Speak NMD website, promoted through the Council website and social media channels, and circulated to internal and external stakeholders	20 Mar-15 May 2023
2.3	Public Advertisements in local newspapers	20 Mar-15 May 2022
2.4	Consultation and engagement on the draft performance improvement objectives 2023-24 with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section 75 groups, including Youth Councils, Older People’s Forum, Ethnic Minority Support Centre and Cedar Foundation</li> </ul>	20 Mar-15 May 2022
2.5	Analyse feedback from consultation and engagement activity, and propose amendments to the performance improvement objectives, supporting actions and measures of success where appropriate	May 2023
3	Design, approval and publication of the Performance Improvement Plan 2023-24	Timetable
3.1	Finalise the Performance Improvement Plan 2023-24	May 2023
3.2	Carry out an equality screening and rural needs impact assessment of the Performance Improvement Plan 2023-24	May 2023
3.3	Consider the Performance Improvement Plan 2023-24, with proposed amendments following the consultation process	SMT: Jun 2023 SPR: Jun 2023

## Overall approach and timetable to develop and publish the Performance Improvement Plan 2023-24

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		SPR: Jun 2023 (including request to publish the Performance Improvement Plan by 30 June 2023) Council: Jul 2023 AC: Jul 2023
33.4	Publish the Performance Improvement Plan on the Council's website and social media channels	Jun 2023 (before statutory deadline of 30 June)
3.5	Develop, translate into Irish (in line with Bilingualism Policy) and publish the summary performance document – 'Our Performance: Looking Back, Going Forward'	Sep 2023
<b>4</b>	<b>Implementation of the Performance Improvement Plan 2023-24</b>	<b>Timetable</b>
4.1	Publish the annual Assessment of Performance 2022-23, in line with statutory requirements	SMT: Sep 2023 SPR: Sep 2023 Council: Oct 2023 AC: Sep 2023
4.2	Monitor and report progress in implementing the Performance Improvement Plan 2023-24 through the Mid Year Assessment	SMT: Nov 2023 SPR: Nov 2023 Council: Dec 2023 AC: Jan 2024
<b>5</b>	<b>Improvement Audit and Assessment 2023-24</b>	<b>Timetable</b>
5.1	NI Audit Office carry out the annual Improvement Audit and Assessment to ascertain if the Council has fulfilled its statutory duty of performance improvement. This will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A forward looking assessment of the Councils likelihood to comply with its duty to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement</li> <li>• A retrospective assessment of whether the Council has achieved its planned improvements to inform a view regarding the Councils track record of improvement</li> </ul>	Jul-Oct 2023

## Overall approach and timetable to develop and publish the Performance Improvement Plan 2023-24

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5.2	The NI Audit Office issue the S95 report, outlining the findings from the Improvement Audit and Assessment, which includes proposals for improvement to assist the Council in fulfilling its performance responsibilities in future years	Final report: 30 Nov 2023 Publication of report: Feb 2024
5.3	Consider the s95 Improvement Audit and Assessment Report	SMT: Dec 2023 SPR: Dec 2023 Council: Jan 2024 AC: Jan 2024

<b>Report to:</b>	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	16 March 2023
<b>Subject:</b>	Update Covid 19 Inquiry
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Marie Ward Chief Executive
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Mare Ward Chief Executive

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

<b>For decision</b>	<b>For noting only</b>	<b>X</b>
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<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>
1.1	To brief Members on the UK Covid-19 Inquiry and to update Members as to the progress of the inquiry as it impacts on Local Government to date.
1.2	The UK Covid-19 Inquiry is an independent public inquiry which has been set up to examine the UK's response to and impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic and to learn lessons for the future.
1.3	The inquiry will examine, consider and report on preparations and the response to the pandemic in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, up to and including the formal setting up date of the inquiry which was 28 <sup>th</sup> June 2022.
1.4	The aims of the inquiry are to examine the Covid-19 response and the impact of the pandemic in the UK and produce a factual narrative account including the Public Health response across the whole of the UK which will include preparedness and resilience, how decisions were made, communicated, recorded and implemented, decision making between the Governments of the UK, the collaboration between Central Government, Devolved Administrations, Regional and Local Authorities and the voluntary and community sector, and legislative and regulatory control and enforcement.
1.5	A full copy of the Terms of Reference can be found at:-  <a href="http://www.covid19.public-inquiry.uk/terms-of-reference/">www.covid19.public-inquiry.uk/terms-of-reference/</a>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues</b>



2.1	<p>The Covid 19 Inquiry has divided its investigation into modules. Module 1 deals with Resilience and Preparedness. Module 2 deals with Core Decision-Making and Political Governance and Module 3 deals with the Impact on the Health Care Systems. Module 2 has itself been broken down into a number of sub-modules to look independently at each of the Devolved Administrations in the United Kingdom. Module 2C examines the Northern Ireland response to the pandemic.</p>
2.2	In order to avoid duplication of responses, the Covid-19 Inquiry has been addressing its initial requests for information through the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA).
2.3	An initial request for information in respect of Module 1 was received by NILGA on 10 <sup>th</sup> November 2022. The inquiry seeks information by way of a statement as the response to Module 1 had to be submitted by 23 <sup>rd</sup> December 2022. A response was prepared by NILGA working with SOLACE, political representatives, the Regional Resilience Group, and the Northern Ireland Legal Officers Group (NILOG).
2.4	On 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2022 a request for a draft written statement from NILGA in response to Module 2C was received.
2.5	<p>The original deadline for the response was 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023.</p> <p>Given the extensive nature of the information requested, representatives of NILGA and NILOG met with legal representatives of the Inquiry and have agreed an extension to the time for response to 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023.</p>
2.6	NILGA will coordinate gathering of information through the existing Local Government Professional Officer networks including EHNI, Northern Ireland Waste Forum, Regional Licensing Forum, NILOG, Chief Leisure Officers Association NI, Local Authority Safety Advisory Network NI, and the Community Planning Officers network.
2.7	As stated above, in order to avoid duplication the Inquiry is currently content to continue to liaise with Local Government through NILGA. It may be that specific enquiries may be made of individual Councils in the future.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
3.1	Members note the contents of this report
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	None
	<b>Financial, Legal, HR, Improvement and Other</b>
4.2	There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The turnaround time for responses to the Inquiry is short and there can be a significant temporary resource implication in terms of officer time.
4.3	Local Government is obliged to cooperate with the Inquiry.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b>



5.1	<p><b>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</b></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><b>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</b></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><b>Proposal initiating consultation</b></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><b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b></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>
7.0	<p><b>Appendices</b></p>

<b>8.0</b>	<b>Background Documents</b>