

October 13th, 2026

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the meeting to be held on **Monday, 19th October 2026** at **6:00 pm** in **Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre.**

Committee Membership 2026-27

Councillor T Howie **Chairperson**

Councillor A Mathers **Deputy Chairperson**

Councillor Jim Brennan

Councillor Philip Campbell

Councillor Doire Finn

Councillor Conor Galbraith

Councillor Mark Gibbons

Councillor Roisin Howell

Councillor Jonathan Jackson

Councillor Aurla King

Councillor Niall Lawlor

Councillor David Lee-Surginor

Councillor Alan Lewis

Councillor Oonagh Magennis

Councillor Kate Murphy

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 Action Sheet arising from Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 21 September 2026

For Information

Attachment: Action Sheet from AHC 2026-09-21 - vf.pdf

Page 1

For Discussion/Decision - Open Session

4.0 District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums Update Report

For Decision

Attachment: AHC Report - DEA Update October 2026 - vf.pdf

Page 3

Attachment: Appx 1 - DEA Action Sheets Sept 2026.pdf

Page 5

5.0 Recognition of Achievement for High Performance Levels in Sport

For Decision

Attachment: AHC Report - Recognition of Achievement award Oct 2026 - vf.pdf

Page 17

Attachment: Appx 1 - Updated Guidelines and Procedures for Recognition Award - vf.pdf

Page 20

For Noting

6.0 Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership

For Information

Attachment: AHC Report - Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Report - vf.pdf

Page 26

Attachment: Appx 1 Minutes of Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Mtg 24.06.2026 - vf.pdf

Page 28

7.0 Special Educational Needs Funding and Investment

For Information

Attachment: AHC Report - Special Educational Needs Funding & Investment in NMDDC - vf.pdf

Page 34

ACTIONS ARISING FROM ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING – 21 SEPTEMBER 2026

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
AHC/068/2026	Action sheet from AHC Meeting held 17/08/2026	It was agreed to note the action sheet.	A Patterson	Noted	Y
AHC/069/2026	District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum Update	It was agreed to note the report and approve the actions in the action sheets attached for: • Newry DEA Forum Meeting held on 4 August 2026 • Slieve Gullion DEA Forum Meeting held on 4 August 2026 • Downpatrick DEA Forum Meeting held on 11 August 2026 • Rowallane DEA Forum Meeting held on 18 August 2026	A Robb	Noted and actions being progressed	Y
AHC/070/2026	Leisure Closure Arrangements 2026-2027	It was agreed to approve the leisure closure arrangements for the 2026/27 period as detailed within appendix 1 of the officer's report.	C Haughey	Noted/action	Y
AHC/071/2026	Funded Programme Delivery Update	It was agreed to note the correspondence from the Office of the First and Deputy First Minister confirming budget allocation for the 2026/27 District Council Good Relations Programme (DCGRP) and Ending Violence against Women and Girls Fund (EVAWG).	A Robb	Noted	Y

AHC/072/2026	Indoor Leisure Booking Prioritisation	It was agreed to note the contents of the officer's report.	C Haughey	Noted	Y
AHC/073/2026	Indoor Leisure Customer Satisfaction 2026	It was agreed to note the contents of the officer's report.	C Haughey	Noted	Y

Report to:	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting:	19 October 2026
Subject:	District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums Update Report
Reporting Officer and Job Title:	Alison Robb, Assistant Director: Community Development
Contact Officer and Job Title:	Martina Flynn, Head of Engagement

Purpose of Report:

For Decision

1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	- To note the report. - To consider and agree to approve the actions in the Action Sheets attached from the DEA Forum Private Meetings listed in 3.1 below.
2.0	Key Issues
2.1	None
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	That the Committee: - ➤ Note the report. ➤ Agree to approve the actions in the Action Sheets attached for: - Mournes DEA Forum Meeting held on 22 September 2026 - Slieve Croob DEA Forum Meeting held on 22 September 2026
4.0	Resource Implications
4.1	Support and assistance from partners to deliver actions in the DEA Action Plans.
5.0	Due Regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations
5.1	General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations
5.2	Does the proposal relate to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision No If yes, please select one of the following: Choose an item.
5.3	Proposal initiating consultation The consultation 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

	Please select the consultation period: ◀ Choose an item. ▶ Rationale:
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs
6.1	Does the proposal relate to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service. ◀ No – The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs ▶
7.0	Appendices
7.1	Appendix 1 - Mournes DEA Forum Meeting held on 22 September 2026 - Slieve Croob DEA Forum Meeting held on 22 September 2026
8.0	Background Documents
8.1	None

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

5

Action Sheet of Mournes District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 22 September 2026 at 4.00pm in Newcastle Centre

Vice Chairperson:	Councillor Jill Truesdale
In Attendance:	Councillor Glyn Hanna Councillor William Clarke Councillor Niall Lawlor Councillor Henry Reilly
Independent Members:	Lloyd Douglas
Statutory Partners:	Paula Nixon, County Down Rural Community Network Annie Clarke, Southern Health and Social Care Trust
Others in Attendance:	None
Council Officials:	Taucher Murphy, DEA Coordinator, The Mournes Theresa McLaverty, PEACE PLUS Officer
Apologies:	Alan Knox, Independent Member Kenith Gracey, PSNI Clare Shields Councillor Laura Devlin

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed
DEA/MOU/1/2026	Welcome/Apologies	Welcome by Cllr Truesdale	Noted.
DEA/MOU/2/2026	Declarations of Interest	None	Noted.
DEA/MOU/3/2026	Action Sheet 21 July 2026	Brief update of the actions from the previous Forum meeting was given.	Noted.
DEA/MOU/4/2026	DEA Coordinator's Update	Update from DEA Coordinator on projects and programmes that have taken place and those planned for October 2026 - November 2026. October: <u>Men & Women's Health Day</u> Mournes DEA has organised free health checks for the Newcastle Harbour Heritage Association Health Event on 3 October. <u>Good Relations Stormont Visit</u> To celebrate Good Relations Week the Mournes, Downpatrick, Slieve Croob and Rowallane DEAs have organised a trip and tour to Stormont for Seniors on 16 October. <u>Positive Ageing Tea Dance</u> As part of a District wide programme to mark Positive Ageing Week and promote health and wellbeing for seniors the Mournes, Downpatrick, Slieve Croob and Rowallane DEAs in partnership with CDRCN have organised a Tea Dance with activities and information stalls on 22 October in the Burrendale Hotel.	Noted and Coordinator to progress.

		<u>Newcastle CRG Community Plan</u> Mournes DEA will be supporting the Newcastle CRG meeting to help develop their community plan on 19 October in Newcastle Centre. <u>YMCA Halloween Diversionary Support</u> Mournes DEA will be providing activities for YMCA Newcastle’s Halloween programme on 28 October. Halloween diversionary programme support will also be delivered through the PCSP in partnership with the EA in Kilkeel on 23 October. <u>Intergenerational Event</u> Mournes DEA has organised an inter-generational event with the Kingdom Club on 29 October. November: <u>Funding Fair</u> The Mournes, Rowallane, Downpatrick and Slieve Croob DEAs will host a funding fair for all local communities on 5 November in the Ballynahinch Community Centre from 5-8pm. <u>Young Drivers:</u> As part of a DEA wide initiative to promote road safety among young drivers, Mournes DEA has organised for the three secondary schools in the area - Shimna Integrated, Kilkeel High School and St. Louis Grammar School - to take part in a half day event featuring workshops, simulations, and information on safe driving in Bishops Court on 4 November. <u>EVAWG Play</u> As part of the Council’s EVAWG campaign, the DEAs across the District have organised a live play entitled Body Count followed by	
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		workshops looking at the impact of sexual violence against women and girls and focuses on the direct impact on families. Mournes DEA has organised for all three of the secondary schools in the area (Shimna Integrated, Kilkeel High School and St. Louis Grammar School) to attend the play on 19 November in the Downpatrick Arts Centre. <u>International Men's Get Together:</u> To mark International Men's Day and promote positive mental health and wellbeing among men, the Mournes DEA in partnership with the Kilkeel MDT Teams, and the Council's Environmental Health Dept will be delivering an event on 19 November in the Nautilus Centre Kilkeel from 10am -1pm. The event will feature workshops, activities, information and free health checks.	
DEA/MOU/10/2024	Donard Carpark	Anti-social behaviour and traffic issues at Donard Park.	Works on the Carpark to begin in mid-October and include bollards and lighting installation. Work to be ongoing for 8 weeks.
DEA/MOU/11/2024	Kilkeel Feasibility Study	Appointment of consultant and working group.	Planning application has been submitted with a decision expected in Spring 2027.
DEA/MOU/13/2024	Business Representation on Forum	A need for business representation on the DEA Forum was identified.	Nomination Forms have been forwarded to Newcastle Chamber of Commerce. DEA Coordinator to link in and see if there is any capacity building needed.

DEA/MOU/22/2025	PEACE PLUS	DEA Forum to suggest 3 areas for Peace Plus Reimaging Project.	PEACE Plus Officer attended the meeting and informed the Forum that the nominated areas have been contacted and they have had good engagement from the areas.
DEA/MOU/11/2026	Dog Fouling Campaign	Issue regarding dog fouling and placement of bins in Bryansford ave/road was raised.	DEA Coordinator contacted the relevant officer in Environmental Health regarding bins and possible dog fouling campaign. Contact details have been passed on. – Completed

The meeting ended at 16.43pm

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

**Action Sheet of Slieve Croob District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum Private Meeting
held on Tuesday 22nd September 2026 via Microsoft Teams**

10

Chairperson:	Councillor Alan Lewis
In Attendance:	Councillor Jim Brennan Councillor Siobhán O'Hare Councillor Helena Young
Independent Members:	Heather Holland, County Down Rural Community Network (CDRCN)
Council Officials:	Elaine Carr, PEACEPLUS Officer Priscilla McAlinden, Slieve Croob DEA Coordinator
Apologies:	Kenny Baxter, Frontier Support Network Councillor Roisin Howell Kerri Morrow, Engagement & Development Manager Richie Shilliday, Dundrum Village Association, Dundrum Cricket Club, RIOT Community Hub
Others in Attendance:	Linda Armitage, MayWe Events Helen Morrison, MayWe Events

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed.
DEA/SC/3/2026	Declarations of Interest	No Declarations of Interest were made.	Noted.
DEA/SC/4/2025	Action Sheet of meeting held on Tuesday 23 rd June 2026	Action Sheet of Slieve Croob meeting held on Tuesday 23 rd June was adopted as a true record.	Noted.
DEA/SC/5/2026	Re-Imaging Project Update	Drumaness – have completed all three workshops in Phase 1. Phase 2 will begin mid-October. Date to be confirmed. Annsborough –completed one workshop in Phase 1. Dates of next workshops in Phase 1 are: - Monday 28 September at 7pm in Community Hall, 42 Ballylough Rd. Monday 5 October at 7pm in Community Hall, 42 Ballylough Rd. Phase 2 date will then be confirmed for mid-October. Drumaroad - two workshops completed in Phase 1. Date of next workshop to be confirmed. Phase 2 will begin later in October.	Noted.
DEA/SC/6/2026	PEACEPLUS Update	<u>Strand 1 Update</u> 1.1 Transformation and Reimagining Programme MayWe have been appointed as facilitators and the programme has commenced.	Noted.

		Annsborough – 16 participants recruited Drummaroad – 20 participants recruited Drumaness – 26 participants recruited 1.2 & 1.3 Capital projects – (District wide) Of the 25 projects, 3 are completed, 11 are currently on site, 4 commencing last week of September, 4 projects due to commence in October, and the final 3 project start dates are to be confirmed, however, will be on site by October. The engagement element of the capital will commence upon completion with contact started with each group who have completed. 1.4 Community Navigation Programme NMANDD Digital / IT Project Mandate has been approved by ITPG. Procurement specifications are currently being developed with a view to beginning procurement in October. <u>Strand 2 Update</u> 2.1 Collaborative and Capacity Building projects Completed: • Voices & Traditions, Slieve Croob: - Facilitator (Ciara McCrickard). 30 participants completed. • Create & Connect, Ballykinlar, Slieve Croob: - Facilitator (Maria McKeating). 20 participants completed. • Nature and Heritage harmony programme, Slieve Croob DEA: - Facilitator (CDRCN) appointed. 21 completed the programme. In delivery phase: • Leitrim Men’s Shed Capacity Building Programme: Currently sourcing the required equipment for the group, before	
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		commencement of capacity building workshops. 2.3 Sustaining Cross-Community Relationships (District wide) – Tender closed 5th August. A supplier has been appointed, awaiting signed contract. 2.4 Community Action Programmes (District wide) • Community Led Health & Wellbeing – Facilitator (Clanrye Group) appointed to deliver this programme. Delivery of the programme is well underway with 480 participants engaged to date. • Civic Pride: Contract awarded to The Conservation Volunteers. The project is underway with 101 participants currently engaged and progressing as planned. This is a long-term initiative with work continuing throughout the project timeline. 2.5 Community led shared history and culture programmes • Martin Waddell Project: Contract awarded to Kieron Black – delivery in progress with 25 participants engaged. • Castlewellan Peace Maze Project Contract awarded to CDRCN. Delivery in progress with 27 participants engaged. 2.6 Social and Emotional Support Programmes • Intergenerational Programmes: - EVAWG procurement completed. Contract awarded to Women’s aid Armagh Down.	
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		Men's Sheds initiative. Contract awarded to CDRCN. - Arts and Crafts procurement completed. Contract awarded to CDRCN. - Music and Dance project – procurement commenced. Tender submission deadline passed on 21st July with no returns received. Currently reviewing requirements, to be reissued in August. - • Social and Emotional Support Programmes Contract awarded to Bolster Community. Several groups interested. 2.7 Social Prescribing Programme (District wide) Maywe Events Ltd & Clanrye Group have been appointed as the successful suppliers and programmes have commenced. 2.8 Community Justice Interventions Currently out to tender. Closing date for returns is 30th September 2026.	
DEA/SC/7/2026	EA Youth Services Update	Ballykinlar Youth club on Tuesday night - Up to age 14 Castlewellan Youth club on Thursday night Drumaness Youth Club on Friday night. 7:00 - 8:30pm – primary school age 8:30 – 9:30pm – Year8+ Loughinisland Youth club on Tuesday night - Up to age 14	Noted.

DEA/SC/8/2026	Action Plan Update 2026-2027	Forum members unanimously approved Action Plan programmes 2026/2027 and associated budget. Programmes completed since previous meeting include: - • Senior Summer Scheme hosted in Castlewellan Forest Park. Over 50 people attended. Partners included DEAs. • Summer Safety Event hosted in Castlewellan Forest Park. Over 80 young people attended. Partners included EA, DEAs, NIFRS, PCSP, PSNI. • ASD & ADHD Summer Programme held in Castlewellan. Over 40 young people attended. Partners included CDRCN, Housing for All and Mournes DEA. • Teenage Disco with mental health messages held in Leitrim. Over 500 young people attended. Partners included CDRCN, Leitrim Festival Committee and Mournes DEA. • Leitrim Tea Dance held in Leitrim. Over 300 people attended. Partners included Leitrim Festival Committee, Papyrus and Mournes DEA. • Festival of Light held in various locations in Dundrum, Castlewellan and Newcastle. Weeklong programme of events for all ages. Partners included Newcastle and Greater Newcastle Suicide Prevention Task Group. • Warm Place recommenced in Dan Rice Hall, Drumaness in September on Friday mornings. Upcoming programmes from Sept - Dec include: • Carers Programmes in partners with SEHSCT in Delamont County Park. • Good Relations Trip to Stormont in partnership with DEAs.	DEA Coordinator.
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		• Young Drivers Event with St Malachy's High School in Bishopscourt. • Senior Tea Dance in partnership with Down Senior Forum, CDRCN and DEAs. • Funding Fair in partnership with DEAs. • Senior Event in partnership with Good Morning Down and DEAs. • EVAWG Performance in partnership with Post Primary schools and DEAs. • EVAWG Christmas event with seniors and DEAs. • Silver Screening in partnership with CDRCN and DEAs. Other Events being organised: • Building Resilience • Cultural Dance Programme • Mini Medics • Tea Dance	
DEA/SC/10/2026	Date and time of next meeting	Next DEA Forum meeting scheduled to take place on Tuesday 8 th December 2026 at 4.30pm.	DEA Coordinator.

The meeting ended at 5.14pm

Report to:	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 19 October 2026
Subject:	Recognition of Achievement for High Performance Levels in Sport: Review of Criteria and Processing Procedures
Reporting Officer and Job Title:	Conor Haughey, Assistant Director, Active and Healthy Communities
Contact Officer and Job Title:	Robert Geary, Sports Development Manager

Purpose of Report:

◀ For Decision ▶

1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<u>Purpose</u> The purpose of this report is to seek approval for proposed revisions to the Council's Recognition of Achievement for High Performance Levels in Sport criteria and processing procedures.
1.2	<u>Background</u> The scheme provides retrospective financial support to eligible sports clubs, teams and individual athletes from the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area who have been selected or have qualified to compete at defined high-performance levels. Applications are considered across two assessment periods each year: • Competitions taking place from 1 October to 31 March, assessed following the end of March; and • Competitions taking place from 1 April to 30 September, assessed following the end of September. A review of the scheme has been undertaken to update eligibility and governance arrangements, remove outdated provisions, improve the application and assessment process and provide a clear approach to allocating funding where eligible demand exceeds the available budget. The proposed revised Criteria and Processing Procedures are attached at Appendix 1.
2.0	Key Issues
2.1	Review of Scheme A review of the existing Recognition of Achievement for High Performance Levels in Sport scheme has been undertaken to strengthen governance arrangements, improve administrative processes and provide greater clarity for applicants and officers.
2.2	Eligibility and Evidence Requirements The revised procedures update references to recognised governing bodies and require applicants to provide supporting evidence confirming selection or qualification, competition level and representative pathway. The revised scheme also

	clarifies residency requirements, eligible competition levels and evidence requirements. References to the Sports Association Newry, Down and South Armagh (SANDSA) have been removed, reflecting current governance arrangements. Applications will be assessed and administered directly by Council officers using a standardised assessment process. Award Structure 2.3 Existing award values will be retained. The provision which caps and divides awards where multiple applications are received from the same sport, club or competition will be removed. Eligible applications will be assessed against the approved award structure, subject to the availability of funding. Application Process and Implementation 2.4 Applications will move to an online process, with paper applications remaining available on request. Subject to approval, the revised Criteria and Processing Procedures will take effect from 1 October 2026 and will apply from the October 2026 assessment round onwards.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	It is recommended that Members: • Approve the revised Recognition of Achievement for High Performance Levels in Sport Criteria and Processing Procedures attached at Appendix 1; • Approve the revised application and assessment arrangements outlined within this report; and • Approve implementation of the revised scheme from 1 October 2026.
4.0	Resource Implications
4.1	There are no additional budgetary implications arising from the proposed revisions. Awards will continue to be funded from the existing Recognition of Achievement budget and remain subject to the availability of funding. The revised procedures and application process will be administered within existing officer resources.
5.0	Due Regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations
5.1	General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes ☐ It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations ☐
5.2	Does the proposal relate to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision ☐ Yes ☐ If yes, please select one of the following:

	« The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened »
5.3	Proposal initiating consultation The consultation 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 Please select the consultation period – N/a « Choose an item. » Rationale: No consultation is proposed as the revisions primarily update governance, administration and processing arrangements, retain existing award values and do not materially alter the purpose of the scheme or the categories of eligible applicants.
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs
6.1	Does the proposal relate to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service. « Yes – Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed »
7.0	Appendices
7.1	Appendix 1: Revised Recognition of Achievement for High Performance Levels in Sport Criteria and Processing Procedures.
8.0	Background Documents
8.1	Recognition of Achievement for High Performance Levels in Sport Criteria and Processing Procedures (as amended January 2025).



Comhairle Ceantair
an Iúir, Mhúrn
agus an Dúin

**Newry, Mourne
and Down**
District Council

**Active and Healthy Communities
Sports Development**

**Recognition of Achievement for
High Performance Levels in Sport**

Criteria & Processing Procedures

1. Title

Sports Development: Recognition of Achievement for High Performance Levels in Sport. Criteria & Processing Procedures.

2. Statement

Two of the key objectives identified by the Active & Healthy Communities Directorate are to promote increased levels of activity and create a strong community base to improve empowerment and capacity within our communities. Consequently, we assist our sporting community to develop and reach their sporting goals through a structured environment and are aware that a percentage of our citizens achieve the level of 'high sports performer.'

The Council recognises that sporting achievement at national, international and world level provides positive representation for the district, promotes sport and physical activity, encourages participation and contributes to community pride. Financial recognition under these Procedures acknowledges achievement and assists in promoting sport throughout the district. The Council is also satisfied that the categories and levels of financial support as set out below will bring a direct benefit and that the direct benefit is commensurate with the payments to be made.

Applications for Recognition of Achievement for High Performance Levels in sport will only be considered in accordance with these Procedures.

3. Aim

The aim of the procedures is to: -

- a) Set out the process, the levels of Recognition available and the allocation of financial support for participation in High Performance Levels in sport.
- b) Complement the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Community and Corporate Plans and the Active & Healthy Communities Directorate Business Plan.
- c) Promote high achievement in sport to encourage increased participation at a local level
- d) Empower and improve the capacity of our local communities.
- e) Improve sports and community development opportunities for all.
- f) Support improved Health and Wellbeing outcomes.
- g) To enable our sporting citizens to develop and reach their sporting goals at the highest level.

4. Criteria used in the Procedures:

1. A sports club may apply to Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC) for Recognition of Achievement financial assistance on behalf of the club, a team or an individual club

member. Applications will be assessed by a panel of officers from the Active and Healthy Communities Directorate.

2. An individual may apply directly where they participate in high-performance sport as an individual or as part of a county, national or international squad, including where the facilities or club environment for their sport do not exist within the district. The individual must reside within the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area and proof of address will be required.
3. The applicant must participate in a sport whose governing body is recognised by Sport NI, Sport Ireland or UK Sport. This provides assurance that public funding is being awarded in respect of sports operating within an established governance framework, including appropriate safeguarding, welfare and governance standards.
4. The sports club or individual must provide an official selection letter from the relevant governing body confirming the selection or qualification process, the level and details of the competition, and any support being provided by the governing body.
5. The sports club or individual must provide evidence of expenses incurred in connection with participation in the competition, together with evidence of participation in the competition.
6. The sports club or individual must be prepared to assist the Council in promoting their sport throughout the district. Successful applicants are expected to be nominated for the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Sports Awards.
7. Two categories of applicant will be considered: sports club/team and individual.
8. Three levels of Recognition of Achievement for High Performance Levels in Sport will apply, as set out in the Definitions section.
9. The categories and levels of Recognition of Achievement for High Performance Levels in Sport will be considered for the following financial support:
 - a. Club - National level = £300
 - b. Club - International level = £400
 - c. Club - World Championships Level = £500
 - d. Individual - Provincial or Interprovincial levels = £200
 - e. Individual - International level = £300
 - f. Individual - World Level = £400
10. A sports club or individual may receive a maximum of one Recognition of Achievement award in any financial year.
11. Where the total value of eligible applications exceeds the available budget, applications will be prioritised by level of competition in the following order: (1) World level; (2) International level; and (3) Provincial or Interprovincial level.
12. Funding will be awarded at the applicable grant rate in this order. Where the remaining budget cannot provide the full grant to all eligible applicants at the next priority level, it will be divided equally among the applicants at that level. Applicants at lower priority levels will receive no funding from that review.
13. An eligible application that receives no funding because the budget has been fully allocated may be reconsidered at the next scheduled review on one occasion only. Reconsideration does not guarantee funding, and the application will be assessed alongside all eligible applications in that review, subject to the budget available. A new application will not be required unless updated information is requested, and the three-month submission limit will not be applied again.
14. Applications should normally be submitted through the Council's online application form. Supporting documentation should be submitted by email to leisureandsport@nmandd.org. Paper

copies will be available on request so that applicants who are unable to access or complete the online form are not disadvantaged.

15. Applicants may request a review of an application outcome where they believe an administrative error has occurred or relevant information has not been considered. Requests must be submitted in writing within 20 working days of notification and will be reviewed by an officer not involved in the original assessment. The outcome of the review will be final.
16. The Council reserves the right to verify any information supplied in support of an application. Where false, misleading or incomplete information is identified, the application may be rejected and any financial assistance awarded may be withheld or recovered.

5. Scope

These procedures apply to sporting residents of the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area, and to eligible sports clubs and teams, seeking financial assistance towards eligible costs associated with participation at the recognised levels of high-performance competition. Applications are retrospective and must normally be submitted no later than three months after the competition date. The exception is an eligible application carried forward for reconsideration solely because the available budget was fully allocated. Where required evidence or receipts are not provided, the Council reserves the right to withhold or recover the financial assistance.

6. Conflict of Interests

Council staff involved in administering or assessing the scheme are required to conduct themselves with integrity, impartiality and honesty. Their private interests must not give rise to any actual or perceived conflict of interest or bring the Council into disrepute.

Full disclosure of any actual or perceived conflict of interest is required. An officer who declares such an interest must take no part in the assessment or decision relating to the relevant application.

7. Advertising

In order to ensure a fair process for the call periods; April to September & October to March, the Council will promote the scheme on their website, social media and in their annual newsletter.

8. Related Policies

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Community Plan
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Corporate Plan

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council’s Active & Healthy Communities Directorate Business Plan

9. Definitions

Recognition of Achievement for High Performance Levels in Sport applies where a sports club, team or individual has been officially selected by the relevant recognised governing body to compete at one of the three levels below, or has qualified through an official process recognised by that governing body.

- 1. Provincial or Interprovincial Level(s) (Ulster or All Ireland)
- 2. International level (European, Commonwealth or Inter-Countries)
- 3. World Level (Olympic, World Championships)

10. Legislative Powers

The Recreation & Youth Service (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 10(I) (10) (d) & (e)
Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 Chapter 9 .115

11. Procedure Owner

Assistant Director Active & Healthy Communities (Leisure & Sport).

12. Contact details in regard of these procedures are

Assistant Director Active & Healthy Communities (Leisure & Sport).

13. Procedures Authorisation

Active & Healthy Communities
Committee Authorised on: _____

Council Authorised on: _____

14. Procedures Effective Date: _____ 2026

15. Procedures Review Date

These procedures will be reviewed annually.

16. Procedures

This document should be read in conjunction with the Recognition of Achievement application form and any associated guidance published by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.

17. Equality Screen

The Procedures have been equality screened and it recommended it not be subject to an equality impact assessment (with no mitigating measures required).

18. Version Control 16

Revised October 2026

Report to:	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting:	19 October 2026
Subject:	Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Report
Reporting Officer and Job Title:	Alison Robb, Assistant Director: Community Development
Contact Officer and Job Title:	Martina Flynn, Head of Engagement

Purpose of Report:

For Noting

1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	- To note the report. - To note the attached Minutes of the Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership (NRP) Meeting held on 24 June 2026, approved at the Newry NRP Meeting held on 16 September 2026.
2.0	Key Issues
2.1	None
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	That the Committee: - - Note the following NRP minutes as attached; - Minutes of the Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership (NRP) Meeting held on 24 June 2026, approved at the Newry NRP Meeting held on 16 September 2026.
4.0	Resource Implications
4.1	Support and assistance from partners to deliver actions in the DEA Action Plans.
5.0	Due Regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations
5.1	General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes ◀ It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations ▶
5.2	Does the proposal relate to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision ◀ No ▶ If yes, please select one of the following: ◀ Choose an item. ▶
5.3	Proposal initiating consultation The consultation 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

	Please select the consultation period: ◀ Choose an item. ▶ Rationale:
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs
6.1	Does the proposal relate to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service. ◀ No – The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs ▶
7.0	Appendices
7.1	Appendix 1: - Minutes of the Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership (NRP) Meeting held on 24 June 2026, approved at the Newry NRP Meeting held on 16 September 2026.
8.0	Background Documents
8.1	None



**Minutes of the Newry NR Partnership Meeting
Wednesday 24th June 2026
At 7.00pm
Room 1, WIN Business Centre**

In Attendance:

Paula McGuigan,	Carnagat CA, Chairperson NRP
Catherine O'Hanlon	Department for Communities
Sean Mc Kevitt	Newry Mourne and Down District Council
Raymond Jackson,	Confederation of Community Groups
Aidan McCabe,	Southern Health and Social Care Trust
Aileen O'Callaghan,	Education Authority NI Youth Service
Kerri Morrow,	Newry Mourne and Down District Council
Dr Conor Patterson,	Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency
Paul Magennis,	Barcroft CA
Noreen Rice,	MARCA
Maureen Ruddy,	Martin's Lane CA
Patricia O'Gorman	Threeways CA
Aisling Pyers,	Northern Ireland Housing Executive

Apologies:

Joanne Markey,	Carnagat CA
Amy Fearon,	Threeways CA
Bernie Mooney,	Education Authority N.I
Ewan Morgan,	Community Restorative Justice Ireland
Francine Ruddy,	Martins Lane CA
Diana Marie O'Hanlon,	Greater Linenhall area CA
Denise Fearon.	Greater Linenhall Area CA
Maeve McParland,	NMEA
Maureen O'Gorman,	EA Youth service.

Matters Discussed

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Apologies
3. Election of chair and Deputy chair
4. Minutes/Matters arising.
5. Conflict of Interest.
6. Sub-group updates
7. DfC update
8. A.O.B
9. Date of next meeting.

ITEM	SUBJECT	MATTERS ARISING/UPDATE	ACTIONS	By Whom
1	Welcome / Introductions	All welcomed to the meeting The Chairperson on behalf of the NR Partnership offered her sincere condolences to Maureen Ruddy and her family on the recent bereavement of her mother.		
2.	Apologies	Recorded as above.		
3.	Election of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson	At this point the current Chairperson would normally step down, However, we received a high number of nominations for Paula to Remain as Chairperson, subject to agreement from the majority of the members. Noreen proposed Paula to remain as Chairperson and Conor Patterson seconded. All members agreed. Paula accepted this nomination.		

		Raymond Jackson then proposed Aidan McCabe as Deputy Chairperson and Patricia O’Gorman seconded. All members agreed. Aidan accepted the nomination. Members thanked both Paula and Aidan.		
4.	Minutes/matters arising.	Matters arising: Issue of Ballybot CA and their membership within the Partnership due to non-attendance over a 2-year period. Members agreed to remove Ballybot CA from the Partnership as per the Partnership guidelines. However, if another group wish to take on the role they can return to the Partnership board. CCG will hold a public consultation to either elect a new committee if there is any interest or wind up and dissolve the Ballybot CA. Minutes agreed as accurate. Proposed by Paul Magennis and seconded by Raymond Jackson		
5.	Conflict of interest	No Conflicts of interest declared		
6.	Subgroup updates	<u>Revenue:</u> <u>EANI:</u> No update available <u>SRC:</u> No update available <u>CRJ:</u> No update available		

		<u>EA Youth service:</u> • Under more pressure – No TBUC funding – plans in place but no funding. • Youth Work team preparing for the Summer. • Plan to continue work in Derrybeg – week-long Summer programme. Weekly meetings planned for September • Drumalane programme commenced on Friday • SEN provision in partnership with the SHSCT – 12 – 17 years. Planning for Summer programmes. • Meeting with Newry High School for Newcomers Programme and meeting with St Joseph's High School focused on disengaged young people • Young Women's and Young Men's programmes finished. Signposted to Derrybeg and Drumalane • Youth Café in Caring Coins – 3pm to 9pm • Newry City and South Armagh Good Relations programme • Summer programme to target young people from NR areas. Health: • Health Checks in June – 46 people attended. • Skin Scan event – 40 attended. • Heart Screening – 90 places available – looking for venues and agree dates • Waiting to get confirmation of Breast Screening/Action Cancer bus. • Cancer Focus 24 and 29 July – waiting on a confirmed venue.		
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		NMEA E2E programme • DJ Academy in one of the communities – successful in the Bosco last year. • The Chill Skills programme can also be delivered within the communities. • Planning for new school year. NMDDC: Community Renewal Programme. • Fiona and Francis to follow up with groups for reimagining project • Drumalane exploring P&T and Youth Programme • Drumalane waiting on the report of the building from Council • Martin's Lane CA planning their AGM • MARCA have applied to PCSP, Barcroft to Council & Carnagat into Council and PCSP • GLACA working with NIHE and have secured funding from the Lottery Outdoor activity • 2 activities planned to date in 2026/27: St Malachy's Nursery and Windmill Playgroup • Ask groups to plan as normal • Requests for activities starting to come in. • Remind groups to look at gaps in provision DEA • Newry Water Festival on the Bank Holiday Monday in August. Road closure in place as it will take place on the Quayside • Seniors Summer Scheme over 4 days - limited spaces		
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		in each area: Paint and Sip/social events – target 60+ Booking process. • Most groups successful with funding applications to Council • Peace plus reimaging project. Newry West/ Armagh Road area / Dublin Road area. • SERC recruiting for Peace Plus programme • Small pots of funding for venue hire and equipment • Working on EAWG and TEO money programmes • Respect Project delivering across all Newry City areas - funded by PCSP • Ukraine / Russian War Exhibition in Newry Library. Valuable works on display for a further week.	Circulate information	Kerri.
7.	DfC Update	• No agreed budget to date. • LMP Review - Deloitte have finished their consultation, CED and LMP to meet and discuss next steps. • Thank everyone for their continued hard work in these uncertain times. •		
8.	A.O.B	<u>No More Business</u> Everyone thanked for attending and NMEA thanked for the hospitality provided		
9.	Date of Next Meeting	Wednesday 16 September 2026 7.00pm in WIN Business Centre	Circulate details and all information	Sean

Report to:	Active & Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting:	19 October 2026
Subject:	Special Educational Needs Provision – Department for Communities Response
Reporting Officer and Job Title:	Alison Robb, Assistant Director Community Development
Contact Officer and Job Title:	Alison Robb, Assistant Director Community Development

Purpose of Report:

☐ For Noting ☐

1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	Purpose To note correspondence from the Department for Communities in relation to SEN funding and investment.
1.2	Background At the Active & Healthy Communities Committee on 17 August 2026 Members agreed to write to the Departments of Education, Health and Communities seeking a breakdown of SEN funding and investment allocated to the Newry, Mourne and Down and South Armagh areas, including support for rural families, specialist provision and summer schemes.
2.0	Key Issues
2.1	A response has now been received from the Department for Communities dated 17 September 2026 which is attached at Appendix 1.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To note the correspondence from the Department for Communities.
4.0	Resource Implications
4.1	None.
5.0	Due Regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations
5.1	General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes ☐ It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations ☐
5.2	Does the proposal relate to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision ☐ No ☐ If yes, please select one of the following: ☐ Choose an item. ☐

5.3	Proposal initiating consultation The consultation 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 Please select the consultation period: ◀ Choose an item. ▶ Rationale:
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs
6.1	Does the proposal relate to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service. ◀ No – The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs ▶
7.0	Appendices
7.1	Letter dated 17 September 2026 from Department for Communities.
8.0	Background Documents
8.1	None.



Department for
Communities
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36

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BT2 7EG

e-mail: dct@communities-ni.gov.uk

Our ref: TOF-0974-2026
17 September 2026

Alison Robb
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Via email: alison.rob主@nmandd.org

Dear Allison,

Thank you for your correspondence of 8 September 2026 to Gordon Lyons MLA, Minister for Communities, regarding Special Educational Needs (SEN) funding and investment in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area. The Minister has asked me to respond on his behalf.

I note the issues raised in your correspondence, including funding and investment for SEN provision, support for rural families, specialist services and summer schemes.

Responsibility for Special Educational Needs (SEN) policy, provision and associated funding in Northern Ireland rests with the Department of Education. While the Department for Communities does not provide educational support, it delivers a range of programmes that assist people with special educational needs particularly as they transition into adulthood and seek opportunities in training, employment and independent living:

- The Access to Work (NI) programme which provides practical support for disabled people entering or remaining in employment. Support may include

funding for specialist equipment, workplace adaptations and other reasonable adjustments;

- Workable (NI) which is a programme for people aged 16+ with a disability who are starting employment or experiencing difficulties in work. The programme offers tailored support including skills development, workplace coaching and disability awareness for employers; and
- Specialist employment support for people with disabilities and health conditions which is available through Jobs and Benefits offices.

Depending on the individual's circumstances, they may be entitled to claim certain benefits including:

- Personal Independence Payment (PIP)
- Disability Living Allowance (for children)
- Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Universal Credit disability elements
- Attendance Allowance (for older people)
- Disabled Facilities Grants for adaptations to a home
- Disabled Person's Allowance
- Discretionary Support – grants or loans for people facing financial crisis.

I trust you will find this information useful.

Yours Sincerely



Geraldine Devine
Head of Machinery of Government & Corporate Services Support Team