

October 15th, 2026

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the meeting to be held on **Monday, 15th June 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 18 May 2026

For Information

Attachment: Action Sheet from AHC 2026-05-18.pdf

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4.0 To Agree Start Times for Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meetings 2026-2027

For Decision

Attachment: Active & Healthy Communities Committee start times 2026-27.pdf

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Presentation

5.0 Park Golf

For Information

For Discussion/Decision

6.0 Park Golf Newcastle

For Decision

Attachment: AHC Report - Park Golf.pdf

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Attachment: Appx 1 - Park Golf Map.pdf

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Exempt Appendices

6.1 Exempt Appendix - Park Golf Newcastle

For Decision

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

Attachment: Appx 2 - Park Golf financials - Restricted.pdf

Not included

For Discussion/Decision

7.0 Active and Healthy Communities Directorate Business Plan

For Decision

Attachment: AHC Report - AHC Directorate Business Plans.pdf

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7.1 Review of 2025/26 Business Plan

For Decision

Attachment: Appendix 1 - AHC Directorate Annual Assessment of Business Plan 2025-26 vf.pdf

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7.2 Business Plan for 2026/27

For Decision

Attachment: Appendix 2 - AHC Directorate Business Plan 2026-27 vf.pdf

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8.0 District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums Update Report

For Decision

Attachment: AHC Report - DEA Updates May 2026.pdf

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

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9.0 Slieve Gullion Multi-Sports Hub Review

For Decision

Attachment: AHC Report - Multi-Sports Facilities Review - Slieve Gullion - vf 11.06.2028.pdf

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Attachment: Appx 1 - Slieve Gullion Sports Facility Review - vf - 11.06.2026.pdf

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

10.0 Funded Programme Delivery

For Decision

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

Attachment: AHC Report - Funded Programme Delivery.restricted .pdf

Not included

11.0 Community Support Programme - Social Supermarket

For Decision

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

Attachment: AHC Report - Community Support Programme - Social Supermarket restricted.pdf

Not included

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

12.0 Expression of Interest - Meigh Community Centre

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

Attachment: AHC Report - EOI for lands at Meigh Community Centre.pdf

Not included

Attachment: Appx 1 - EOI Lands at Meigh Community Centre Map.pdf

Not included

For Noting

13.0 PCSP & Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Update

Attachment: AHC Report - PCSP & NR Partnership.pdf

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Attachment: Appx 1 - Downpatrick NRP 2 Feb 2026 Action Sheet.pdf

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Attachment: Appx 3 - PCSP Policing Committee Minutes 31 Mar 2026.pdf

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Attachment: Appx 2 - Newry NR Partnership Minutes 18 February 2026.pdf

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14.0 Summer Activity Programme

Attachment: AHC Report - Summer Activity Programme 2026.pdf

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Attachment: Appx 1 - Summer Activity Programme 2026.pdf

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ACTIONS ARISING FROM ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING – 18 MAY 2026

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
AHC/034/2026	Action sheet from AHC Meeting held 27/04/26	It was agreed to note the action sheet.	A Patterson	Noted	Y
AHC/035/2026	District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum Update	It was agreed to note the report and approve the actions in the action sheets attached for: • Downpatrick DEA Forum Meeting held on 14 April 2026 • Rowallane DEA Forum Meeting held on 14 April 2026 • Slieve Croob DEA Forum Meeting held on 21 April 2026 • Newry DEA Forum Meeting held on 23 April 2026	A Robb	Noted and actions being progressed	Y
AHC/036/2026	Notice Of Motion - Cold Water Swimming Facilities	It was agreed to progress the actions as detailed in the Notice of Motion as follows: 1. Engage with local cold water swimming groups to assess current usage and demand 2. Engage with the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust to explore any existing or potential health-led initiatives involving cold water swimming	C Haughey	In progress	Y

		3. Assess the feasibility of opening existing shower and changing facilities at Tyrella Beach during the winter period 4. Consider the introduction of a pilot scheme to provide such facilities, with a view to gauging demand, usage, and overall benefit			
AHC/037/2026	Notice Of Motion - Dog Exercise Area at Dunleath Park	It was agreed that consideration of a dedicated dog exercise facility should form part of a wider future development review for Dunleath Park and include engagement with Downpatrick DEA Members.	C Haughey	In progress	Y
AHC/038/2026	Notice Of Motion - Unauthorised Use of Off Road Vehicles	It was agreed Members agree the steps set out in section 2.2 of the officer's report to address the issue of unauthorised off-road vehicles on Council land as follows: 1. Officers in Community Development to hold an inter-agency meeting to agree an approach to address the problem of dangerous and unauthorised use of off-road vehicles focusing initially on current hotspot areas and agreeing an approach which can be used across the District as required; 2. Relevant AHC Officers will identify hotspot sites used for illegal off-road vehicle activity and ensure clear signage is installed. This signage enables the PSNI to exercise their enforcement powers, including the seizure of vehicles;	A Robb	In progress	Y

		3. Community Development Officers to develop a District wide awareness campaign for off-road vehicles. Many users may not fully understand the legality or risk involved and a campaign will empower residents with the knowledge of how to report incidents correctly; 4. Community Development Officers to engage with colleagues in the Youth Service and other providers around the development of educational workshops/diversionary activities in hotspot areas; 5. Community Engagement to continue the provision of a small grants scheme through PCSP for local community groups to develop their own localised solutions for community safety/anti-social behaviour issues to address this problem; 6. PSNI to be requested to increase patrols in known hotspot areas and focus on enforcement; 7. The Respect Project to include the risks associated with off-road vehicles as part of their summer diversionary programme delivered on behalf of the PCSP/Council in summer 2026. 8. Issue to be kept under review via relevant DEA Forums and the PCSP Anti-Social Behaviour Subgroup and a progress report brought back to Committee in due course.			
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ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Date	Time	Location
15 June 2026	6.00pm	Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre
17 August 2026	6.00pm	Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre
21 September 2026	6.00pm	Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre
19 October 2026	6.00pm	Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre
16 November 2026	6.00pm	Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre
21 December 2026	6.00pm	Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre
25 January 2027	6.00pm	Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre
15 February 2027	6.00pm	Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre
15 March 2027	6.00pm	Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre

Report to:	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 15 June 2026
Subject:	Park Golf Project
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Conor Haughey, Assistant Director Healthy Living
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Conor Haughey, Assistant Director Healthy Living

For decision	X	For noting only	
1.0	Purpose and Background		
1.1	<u>Purpose</u> To seek agreement for the recommendations outlined in section 3.1 of this report on the development of a new Park Golf Experience at Island Park, Newcastle in partnership with Royal County Down Golf Club (RCD).		
1.2	<u>Background</u> Council officers have been working with representatives of RCD to develop a concept for a Park Golf experience at Island Park Newcastle.		
2.0	Key issues		
2.1	It is the intention that the Park Golf facility, once developed and operational in summer 2027, will provide an affordable, accessible golf experience for all ages and abilities, including schools, youth groups, older people, and disability groups, etc. It will support physical activity, social inclusion and community engagement, while enhancing local visitor amenities. The site was previously used for a short 9-hole pitch & putt course and most of the course infrastructure is still in-situ. The site is currently open park land with a path network running through it.		
2.2	It is proposed that Council will enter into a Licence Agreement with RCD to enable the club to install tee boxes, putting greens and equipment in Island Park and to maintain this infrastructure once the project is operational. Council officers will continue to maintain the wider site.		
3.0	Recommendations		
	1. Approval for the development of a Park Golf facility at Island Park, Newcastle, in partnership with Royal County Down Golf Club, as set out in this report.		

	2. Approval to procure and appoint contractors to undertake the necessary site works.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Please see appendix 2.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i> It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations ☒
5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i> Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened ☐ The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation ☐
5.3	<i>Proposal initiating consultation – N/a</i> Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves ☐ Consultation period will be 12 weeks ☐ Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) ☐ <i>Rationale:</i>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service Yes ☐ No ☒

	If yes, please complete the following: Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed ☐ If no, please complete the following: The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs ☐
7.0	Appendices
	- Appendix 1: Map Park Golf Newcastle – Project Support and Management <i>This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business:</i> - Appendix 2: Project Costs (restricted)
8.0	Background Documents
	None.

Appendix 1: Map Proposed site of Park Golf Newcastle – Project Support and Management

Key: BLUE = Map Park Golf Newcastle – Project Support and Management



Report to:	Active & Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 15 June 2026
Subject:	AHC Directorate Business Plan
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Andy Patterson, Director AHC
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Andy Patterson, Director AHC

For decision	X	For noting only	
1.0	Purpose and Background		
1.1	<u>Purpose</u> For members to consider and approve the recommendations in section 3.1 of this report on the Assessment of the AHC Directorate Business Plan for 2025-26, and the approval of the AHC Directorate Business Plan for 2026-27.		
1.2	<u>Background</u> Directorate Business Plans provide an overview of planned activity for the year ahead, and contribute to the delivery of the Community Plan, Corporate Plan and other key plans and strategies. They form an essential part of the Council's Business Planning and Performance Management Framework, which demonstrates how corporate objectives are cascaded across the organisation and provides assurance that they are being delivered. As Directorate Business Plans are directly aligned to the achievement of the Corporate Plan, they remain fairly high level, and do not necessarily capture the core, business as usual activity that is undertaken by individual departments. Alternatively, they provide an insight into the key, overarching objectives, supporting actions and measures of success for each Directorate in the year ahead, whilst setting the context for the development of departmental Service Plans which are operational in nature.		
2.0	Key issues		
2.1	Assessment of Directorate Business Plans 2025-26 In order to improve transparency and accountability, and facilitate a performance led approach to business planning, each Directorate has undertaken an assessment of their Business Plan 2025-26. These assessments provide an overview of the performance of each Directorate and have been used to influence the development of the 2026-27 Business Plans. This exercise is an important part of the Council's statutory responsibility to strengthen the way performance is monitored, reviewed and reported across the organisation.		

	The assessment of the AHC Directorate Business Plan 2025-26 is attached at Appendix 1.
2.2	Directorate Business Plans 2026-27 Directorate Business Plans 2026-27 outline the key objectives, supporting actions and measures of success each Directorate will work towards, which are aligned to the strategic objectives within the Corporate Plan 2024-27. Directorate Business Plans 2026-27 are also now aligned to the new organisational structure following completion of the planning for the future process. The AHC Directorate Business Plan 2026-27 is attached at Appendix 2.
2.3	It should be noted that further improvements to the business planning process are underway across the Council, particularly in relation to cascading corporate objectives in a meaningful way to employees through the introduction and roll-out of Service Plans and People Perform Grow. This process seeks to improve the use of performance measures at all levels of the Business Planning and Performance Management Framework and create a clear 'line of sight' between the work of individuals, teams and departments, and how they contribute to the achievement of Directorate Business Plans and the Corporate Plan.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To consider and agree the: • Assessment of the AHC Directorate Business Plan 2025-26 • AHC Directorate Business Plan 2026-27
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	There are no financial resources implications within this report.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i> It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations ☒
5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i> Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following:

	The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened ☐ The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation ☐
5.3	<i>Proposal initiating consultation – N/a</i> Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves ☐ Consultation period will be 12 weeks ☐ Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) ☐ <i>Rationale:</i> Consultation not required.
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service Yes ☒ No ☐ If yes, please complete the following: Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed ☒
7.0	Appendices
	- Appendix 1 – Assessment of the AHC Directorate Business Plan 2025-26 - Appendix 2 – AHC Directorate Business Plan 2026-27
8.0	Background Documents
	Directorate Business Plans 2025-26

Active and Healthy Communities Directorate

Annual Assessment Business Plan 2025-26

Introduction

This report provides an overview of progress in delivering the Active and Healthy Communities Directorate Business Plan 2025-26 across the following service areas:

- **Leisure and Recreation**
- **Safeguarding**
- **Local Parks and Open Spaces**
- **Sports Development**
- **Community Planning**
- **Evidence & Research**
- **Engagement and Community Development**
- **Community Services, Facilities and Community Events**

The delivery of the Active and Healthy Communities Directorate Business Plan 2025-26 supports the achievement of the following corporate objectives, and performance has been tracked using the legend below.

Improve the health and wellbeing of everyone in the District

Empowering communities to play an active part in civic life

Represent the voice of the District with our partners

Deliver sustainable services

Legend

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

Directorate objectives, supporting actions and measures of success

DIRECTORATE OBJECTIVES
Healthy Living • Promote increased levels of activity and develop targeted programmes to support improved health and wellbeing outcomes. Community Development • Create a strong community base to engage, empower and build the capacity of local communities, ensuring their views inform the work of the Council and its partners • Work with partners to lead the implementation of the Community Plan and deliver better outcomes for local people. • Develop a robust and reliable evidence base to underpin and inform future decision-making and policy development processes.

Alignment to the Corporate Plan

ALIGNMENT TO THE CORPORATE PLAN	
Directorate Objective	Corporate Plan Objective
Promote increased levels of activity and develop targeted programmes to support improved health and wellbeing outcomes.	• Improve the health and wellbeing of everyone in the district
Create a strong base to engage, empower and build the capacity of local communities, ensuring their views inform the work of the Council and its partners.	• Empowering communities to play an active part in civic life
Work with partners to lead the implementation of the Community Plan and deliver better outcomes for local people.	• Represent the voice of the District with our partners
Develop a robust and reliable evidence base to underpin and inform future decision-making and policy development processes.	• Deliver sustainable services

Assessment of Active and Healthy Communities Directorate Business Plan

Active and Healthy Communities			
AHC1: Promote increased levels of activity and develop targeted programmes to support improved health and wellbeing outcomes			
Implement the existing sports and well-being strategic themes and their action plans, including the Sports Facility Strategy Review, Play Strategy, and Physical Activity, Health and Wellbeing Strategy (CPP)	Target Progress	Sep 25 Amber 8 1	Mar 26 Amber 8 7
Notes:		1 sports facility development and physical activity strategy complete play strategy works ongoing play strategy year 1 completed 2 sports facility development and physical activity strategy complete play strategy works ongoing play strategy year 1 completed	
Deliver a range of targeted health programs, in collaboration with our Community Planning Partners, to encourage participation in physical activity and to improve health outcomes for all (CPP)	Target Progress	Sep 25 Green 8 1	Mar 26 Green 8 7
Notes:		1 We have delivered targeted health and wellbeing programs with Community Planning Partners, including the Exercise Referral and Be Active for Life schemes, along with cancer-specific and inclusive one-to-one sessions for individuals with autism, to increase physical activity and improve health outcomes for all. 2 We have delivered targeted health and wellbeing programs with Community Planning Partners, including the Exercise Referral and Be Active for Life schemes, along with cancer-specific and inclusive one-to-one sessions for individuals with autism, to increase physical activity and improve health outcomes for all.	
Continuing to progress the delivery of key capital projects, including opportunities for digital innovation and transformation within key projects: • Newry City Park • Newcastle Rock Pool • Newcastle Centre • Play Park strategy upgrades • Kilkeel Leisure Centre • Multi Sports Hub project delivery	Target Progress	Sep 25 Amber 8 1	Mar 26 Amber 8 7

	Notes:	1 We are progressing the delivery of key capital projects, including Newry City Park (planning permission submitted), Year 1 of the Play Strategy upgrades, and the refurbishment works at Kilkeel Leisure Centre, which are now underway. The Newcastle Rock Pool and Newcastle Centre projects have secured approval to appoint design and ICT teams, and the Multi-Sports Hub project continues to advance, incorporating opportunities for digital innovation and transformation across all developments. 2 We are progressing the delivery of key capital projects, including Newry City Park (planning permission submitted, tender launched for a contractor award), Year 1&2 complete and year 3 commenced of the Play Strategy upgrades, and the refurbishment works at Kilkeel Leisure Centre commenced, which are now underway. The Newcastle Rock Pool and Newcastle Centre projects have secured approval to appoint design and ICT teams, ICT team appointed for Newcastle centre and the Multi-Sports Hub project continues to advance, incorporating opportunities for digital innovation and transformation across all developments.		
Continue to invest in community and sports facilities in line with Council's facilities management and maintenance objectives.		Target Progress	Sep 25 Amber » 1	Mar 26 Amber » 2
	Notes:	1 We continue to invest in community and sports facilities in line with the Council's facilities management and maintenance objectives, ensuring assets are safe, sustainable, and accessible, and that investment supports long-term community use and improved service standards 2 we continue to invest in community and sports facilities in line with the Council's facilities management and maintenance objectives, ensuring assets are safe, sustainable, and accessible, and that investment supports long-term community use and improved service standards		
Review and implement a preventative maintenance program including pool plant and gym equipment to maximize customer usage of centres.		Target Progress	Sep 25 Amber » 1	Mar 26 Green » 2
	Notes:	1 we have implemented a preventative maintenance program to maximize customer usage of our centers, including appointing a five-year gym maintenance contractor and currently tendering for pool plant maintenance to ensure safe, reliable, and efficient facility operation. 2 We have implemented a preventative maintenance program to maximize customer usage of our centers, including appointing a five-year gym maintenance contractor and have also awarded a contract or pool plant maintenance to ensure safe, reliable, and efficient facility operation.		
Support and protect everyone in our District from harm by working in partnership with other bodies, to implement and promote broader prevention measures, thereby continuing to mitigate existing and emerging safeguarding risks, for both Council & Citizens.		Target Progress	Sep 25 Amber » 1	Mar 26 Amber » 2

	Notes:	1 We are reviewing and updating the NMDDC Safeguarding Policy to ensure robust protection for all in our District. By working in partnership with other organisations, we aim to implement and promote preventative measures that mitigate both existing and emerging safeguarding risks for Council staff and citizens. 2 We are reviewing and updating the NMDDC Safeguarding Policy to ensure robust protection for all in our District. By working in partnership with other organisations, we aim to implement and promote preventative measures that mitigate both existing and emerging safeguarding risks for Council staff and citizens.		
Sustain attendance figures in all indoor and outdoor leisure facilities.		Target Progress	Sep 25 757,000 is the yearly target Green » 1	Mar 26 757,000 is the yearly target Green » 2
	Notes:	1 Attendance figures in the first half of the year is 476,831 (above the half year target) 2 Attendance figures for the year was 930,495		
Customer satisfaction levels at indoor and outdoor leisure facilities.		Target Progress	Sep 25 Amber » 1	Mar 26 Green » 2
	Notes:	1 We are preparing to carry out customer satisfaction surveys and a secret shopper review of our indoor and outdoor leisure facilities to gather feedback and identify opportunities for service improvement, with the aim of enhancing the overall customer experience. 2 Customer Satisfaction Survey was completed		
Number of participants engaged in physical activity programmes and health and wellbeing initiatives		Target Actual	Sep 25 11000 16384 » 1	Mar 26 22,000 28,399 attendance » 2
	Notes:	1 target of participation Q1&Q2 is achieved with increased be Active classes with 22,000 target in 2025/26 2 target of participation Q1to q4 was achieved with an increased attendance in all be Active classes target in 2025/26		
Positive health outcomes reported from participants in targeted health programmes.		Target Progress	Sep 25 457 participants in exercise referral classes Green » 1	Mar 26 457 participants in exercise referral classes Amber » 2
	Notes:	1 actual number of enrolled participants 246 2 Year End results for the number of participants in programmes was 386 (15% below YE target.) This was predominantly due to the PARS Coordinator post being vacant in Q3 &Q4. The post is currently being recruited.		

Increase the play value of all Council play parks across the district	Target Progress	Sep 25 Amber * 1	Mar 26 Amber * 7
Notes: 1 We have completed the initial five-year Play Strategy and delivered Year 1 of the current review, with Year 2 works now underway, to increase the play value and accessibility of all Council play parks across the district. 2 We have completed the initial five-year Play Strategy and delivered Year 1 of the current review, with Year 2 works now completed and year 3 works well underway, to increase the play value and accessibility of all Council play parks across the district.			
AHC2: Create a strong base to engage, empower and build the capacity of local communities, ensuring their views inform the work of the Council and its partners.			
Number of events and programmes including attendance levels	Target Progress	Sep 25 Green * 1	Mar 26 Green
Notes: 1 7 Participatory Budgeting Events held across the District. Attendance of over 4,500 residents with 168 groups participating, 133 attending and 98 funded.			
Number of contacts recorded through the Ethnic Minority Support Centre	Target Actual	Sep 25 1000 1099	Mar 26 2000 2212
Value of external funding levered into Council	Target Progress	Sep 25 Green * 1	Mar 26 Green
Notes: 1 PB funded through pooled budget from 7 partners totalling approx.£75k			
PCSP/Good Relations events delivered and participation levels.	Target Progress	Sep 25 2,000 Green * 1	Mar 26 Green
Notes: 1 3,200 attendees at 100 events			
Number of referrals to PCSP Home Secure & Social Alarm Schemes.	Target Progress	Sep 25 115 Amber * 1	Mar 26 230 Green * 7

	Notes:	1 Decreased referral rate on 2024/25 (77 Home Secure referrals & 15 Social Alarm referrals by 30 September) Home Secure criteria has been amended which may have had an impact. Contract meetings have been held with the provider and action points to increase referrals agreed. 2 Actual 281		
Number of cross-community safety events (minimum 2 per annum).		Target Actual	Sep 25 1 1	Mar 26 2 2
	Notes:	1 Cross-border events		
Progress Community Development Strategy and DEA Fora review aligned to the Community Plan (CPP)		Target Progress	Sep 25 Green	Mar 26 Green
	Notes:	1 Consultant engaged to progress Community Development Strategy and Terms of Reference agreed. DEA Fora review ongoing 2 Consultant appointed and series of consultation events held with statutory, community & voluntary sector partners		
Good Relations Success Stories Showcase Event – utilising the Café Conversations approach with community/ voluntary groups hosting on various themes (Q3)		Target Progress	Mar 26 Green	
	Notes:	1 Good Relations Showcase event took place in the Canal Court Hotel on 16 October 2025 - 150 people attended.		
Host a Community Connect Event in each DEA area in partnership with public facing Council services/Departments e.g., Funding, Leisure, Age Friendly, Registration, LMPs (what we do and what we might do for you) (Q3)		Target Progress	Mar 26 Green	
	Notes:	1 Planning underway for Connect Events in Q3 & Q4 event held in Downpatrick (Q4). Newry event rescheduled to Q1 26/27 due to adverse weather.		
Progress Capital Projects, including opportunities for digital innovation and transformation within key projects. (CWB) • Year 1 of the Mini-Digi Hub Project (Bessbrook Community Centre) • Annalong Community Centre • Cloughreagh Community Centre • Warrenpoint Health and Wellbeing Hub • Completion of Ballynahinch Community Centre		Target Progress	Sep 25 Green	Mar 26 Green

	Notes:	1 Progress continuing on all capital projects.		
Work with internal and external partners to deliver Capacity Building Events and Funding Fairs for Community Groups	Target Progress	Sep 25 Green * 1	Mar 26 Green	
	Notes:	1 Funding fair for all DEAs being progressed.		
Increased awareness of Council services/the functions of Council	Target Actual	Sep 25 No No * 1	Mar 26 Yes Yes * 7	

	Notes:	1 Connect Events planned for Q3 & Q4. 2 Connect events held in Downpatrick and Newry		
Positive impacts reported via delivery of events and programmes	Target Progress	Sep 25 Green * 1	Mar 26 Green	
	Notes:	1 User comments and feedback was collected from the 7 Participatory Budgeting (PB) events. 92.01% felt the process made them feel like they had a say in local decisions. 96.61% agreed that it made them more aware of groups and activities in the area. 95.88% believed the projects they saw would make a real impact on health and wellbeing. 88.13% found the event enjoyable and easy to participate in. 92.25% felt the experience was worthwhile and would be happy to take part again.		

AHC3: Work with partners to lead the implementation of the Community Plan and deliver better outcomes for local people

Compliance with the statutory Duty of Community Planning.	Target Actual	Sep 25 Yes Yes	Mar 26 Yes Yes	
Number of Community Planning Actions co-designed and delivered.	Target Actual	Sep 25 3 3 * 1	Mar 26 3 3 * 7	

	Notes:	1 Projects include: - Participatory Budgeting across the seven DEAs - Targeting Isolation and Loneliness workshops and webpage - Rural housing workshop in Slieve Croob DEA 2 Projects include: - Participatory Budgeting across the seven DEAs - Targeting Isolation and Loneliness workshops, webpage and community events in DEA's - Rural housing workshops across all 7 DEA's.		
Work in partnership with statutory/community/voluntary sector colleagues to progress Participatory Budgeting Events across the DEA Fora (CPP)		Target Progress	Sep 25 Green 8 1	Mar 26 Green 8 7
	Notes:	1 7 DEA voting events delivered with pooled budget from 8 partners and support from a further 4. 168 groups were engaged with over 4,500 in attendance at the voting events. 98 groups have been awarded funding to deliver health and well-being projects across the District 2 7 DEA voting events delivered with pooled budget from 8 partners and support from a further 4. 168 groups were engaged with over 4,500 in attendance at the voting events. 98 groups have been awarded funding to deliver health and wellbeing projects across the District. All funding has been distributed and data collection from participating groups is ongoing with celebration events planned for May 2026.		
AHC4: Develop a robust and reliable evidence base to underpin and inform future decision-making and policy development processes				
Undertake a pilot to ascertain how we could utilise the concept of social value to measure our performance via the work we undertake (CWB)		Target Progress	Mar 26 Pilot identified and commenced Amber 8 1	
	Notes:	1 In order to facilitate an effective social value pilot, a robust methodology is required. Strategic Investment Board (SIB) have been engaged to undertake an internal research project and make recommendations regarding the most appropriate methodological approach.		

Active and Healthy Communities Directorate

Business Plan 2026-27



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

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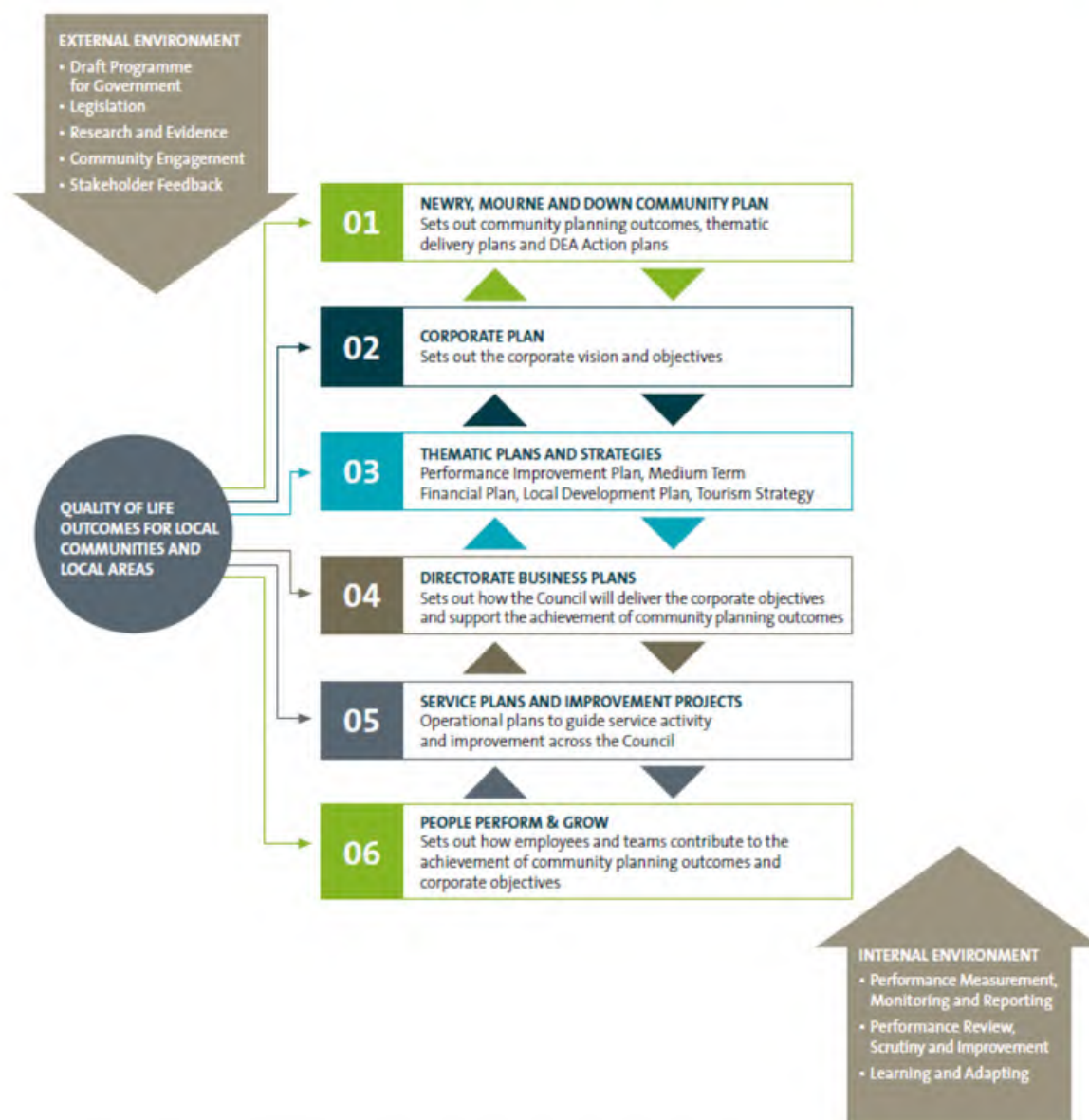
1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Active and Healthy Communities Directorate (AHC) is responsible for leisure and sporting facilities, health and wellbeing programmes and community engagement structures across the district. The Directorate has overall responsibility for the management of Safety and Good Relations and performs a lead role in promoting Community Planning within the Council and across the district.
- 1.2 The core responsibilities of the Directorate are:
 - **Leisure and Recreation**
 - **Parks and Open Spaces**
 - **Sports Development**
 - **Community Planning**
 - **Evidence & Research**
 - **Engagement and Community Development**
 - **Community Services, Facilities and Events**
 - **Safeguarding**

2.0 Background and Context

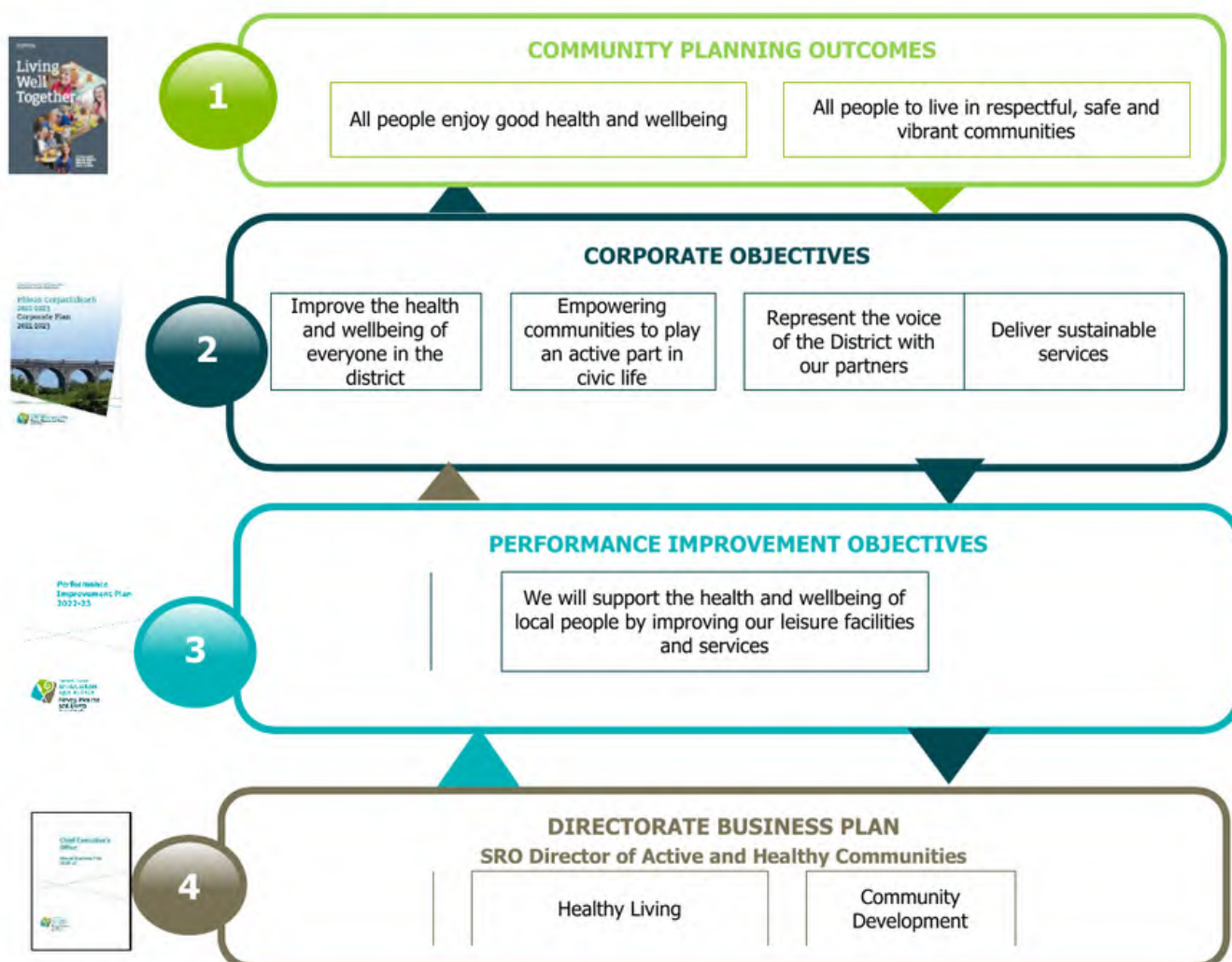
- 2.1 The AHC Business Plan is developed within the context of the Community Plan and Corporate Plan 2024-27. The Community Plan sets out the long-term outcomes for the District, based on the needs and aspirations of local people. The Corporate Plan sets out the key strategic objectives for the Council between 2024-27, and how it will contribute to achieving the community planning outcomes.
- 2.2 The Community Plan and Corporate Plan are cross cutting and strategic in nature. They guide all activity within the organisation, as well as the subsequent allocation of resources, and sit within a hierarchy of plans, as outlined in the 'Business Planning and Performance Management Framework' (Figure 1).
- 2.3 The Business Planning and Performance Management Framework drives and provides assurance that the Council is delivering its corporate vision and objectives, whilst securing continuous improvement in the exercise of functions. It provides a mechanism to join up and cascade the various plans and strategies across the organisation, demonstrating how employees contribute to achieving community planning outcomes and corporate objectives, for the ultimate benefit of the citizens we serve.

Figure 1: Business Planning and Performance Management Framework



- 2.4 Whilst the Corporate Plan focuses on issues which cut across the organisation and are strategic in nature, the AHC Business Plan provides an overview of the key operational activities for the coming year. These activities are explicitly linked to corporate objectives and coupled with 'business as usual' service delivery, provide clear direction for all employees within the Directorate (Figure 2). Directorate Business Plans are supported by Service Plans and the 'People Perform and Grow' initiative.
- 2.5 The AHC Business Plan is published annually and is the basis upon which performance is managed and reviewed by the full Council, Active and Healthy Communities Committee and Senior Management Team.

Figure 2: AHC alignment across the Business Planning and Performance Management Framework



3.0 Purpose and Values

3.1 Purpose

3.1.1 The primary purpose of the AHC Directorate is to develop, implement and monitor key strategic frameworks to support better leisure, sport, health and wellbeing outcomes and build community capacity and promote good relations at a local level.

3.1.2 The bulk of departmental activity is aligned to the following corporate objectives:

- Improve the health and wellbeing of everyone in the District
- Empowering communities to play an active part in civic life
- Represent the voice of the District with our partners
- Deliver sustainable services

3.2 Values

3.2.1 The Department adheres to the Council's values which are outlined in the Corporate Plan 2024-27:

	What This Means
Respect	We will demonstrate respect for all people in our attitudes, behaviours and working relationships.
Transparency	We will be transparent in how we make decisions.
Excellence	We will take pride in our work and be passionate about the standards we strive to achieve.
Integrity	We want the people of our district to trust us to do the right thing.
Accountability	We will be accountable to the public for our decisions and actions. We will be accountable for how we plan for and use resources sustainably.

3.2.2 In accordance with the Section 75 requirements of the Northern Ireland Act (1998), the Chief Executive's Department is committed to carrying out its functions having due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity and regard for the desirability to promote good relations. All new and revised policies, procedures and programmes of work will be subject to an equality screening and rural needs impact assessment (where appropriate).

4.0 Challenges and Opportunities

- 4.1 The Active and Healthy Communities Directorate was established in December 2014. The Department continues to evolve in line with organisational change and remains committed to developing and embedding the necessary plans, policies and processes to deliver improvement across the organisation. Influences within the external and internal environment continuously present challenges and opportunities, which have an impact on the overall management and operation of the Active and Healthy Communities Directorate.
- 4.2 The various (internal and external) challenges and opportunities for the department are summarised as follows:

External Environment

- **Legislation:** Ensuring legislative compliance with The Local Government (NI) Act 2014 and subsequent Orders, specifically in relation to the Duty of Community Planning, Duty of Improvement and Political Governance, legislative changes as a result of potential EU Exit.
- **Strategic Alliances:** Collaborating with stakeholders to address the impact of Brexit and continue to operate amidst wider political uncertainty.
- **Community Planning:** Strengthening existing partnerships and progressing the implementation of the four Thematic Delivery Plans to support the achievement of the long-term community planning outcomes.
- **Local Government Reform:** Addressing legacy issues and successfully integrating the new powers and functions created by Local Government Reform.
- **Evidence Based Decision-Making:** Ongoing collation of national, regional and local datasets to inform and influence local decision-making, policy development and service provision.
- **Global trends:** Considering the impact of COVID-19, Brexit, cost of living crisis, climate change, complex social issues, the needs of a growing and ageing population, growing health inequalities, increased demand for public services, fluctuations in crime and rates of anti-social behavior and rising customer expectations on public service provision.

Internal Environment

- **Management:** Successfully establishing Directorate in terms of its structure, governance and internal processes.
- **Resources:** Identifying and securing the financial and non-financial resources needed for the Directorate to promote healthy and sustainable communities.
- **Structure:** Implementation of new departmental structure to ensure delivery of the corporate objectives and to meet the challenge of corporate restructuring and transfer of new or emerging services.
- **Legislation:** Ensuring corporate legislative compliance in respect of key statutory obligations, including Equality (Section 75), Performance Improvement as well as Community Planning which augments existing service delivery.
- **Community Planning:** Developing partnerships that will deliver local area-based plans to deliver on the Council's Community Plan.
- **Performance Management:** Continually monitoring and reviewing the department's performance, highlighting areas of high performance as well as identifying areas for intervention.
- **Transformation and Improvement:** Successfully developing and implementing a transformational programme of change that drives out the efficiencies and improvements that both members and the public demand.
- **Property and Land Assets:** Successfully developing and implementing the necessary frameworks, policies and processes to support the effective and efficient management of the department's estate.

5.0 Cross-Cutting Themes and Actions

There are a number of cross cutting actions aligned to the Community Planning Partnership priorities, Community Wealth Building and Sustainability and Climate Change that span across all Directorates and contribute to the fulfillment of Directorate Objectives, Corporate Objectives and ultimately Community Planning Outcomes.

Officers should indicate where their actions are contributing to the fulfillment of CPP, CWB or SCC actions by putting the relevant acronym in the column.

These actions should be identified in liaison with the relevant officers (CPP – Alan Beggs; CWB – Colin Moffett; SCC – Conor Sage) and relevant annual assessments of service plans forwarded to the above officers.

Acronym	Theme
CWB	Community Wealth Building
CPP	Community Planning Partnership priorities
SCC	Sustainability and Climate Change

Community Planning Partnership Priorities

While all actions will contribute to the delivery of the Community Plan, some actions may be considered appropriate to be contained within the Community Planning Partnership Priorities.

Relevant priorities should:

- Align to the outcomes of the Community Plan
- Involve collaborative working across statutory and community voluntary sector partners for both design and delivery.
- Report through the Community Planning Structures
- Measure and report impacts and outcomes

Community Wealth Building

Community Wealth Building is an approach to the way that economies function, retaining more wealth and opportunity for the benefit of local people.

Key actions in relation to CWB should deliver on the 5 recommendations and sub-recommendations contained within the CLES/DTNI report – Newry, Mourne and Down pioneering the potential of community wealth building.

Sustainability and Climate Change

Sustainability and the climate change emergency continues to be a key driver of Council with the key objective of improving the lives and livelihoods of the people who live and work here. Approval to develop a Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy was agreed in June 2023.

6.0 Directorate Objectives and Alignment to the Corporate Plan

DIRECTORATE OBJECTIVES
Healthy Living – Promote increased levels of activity and develop targeted programmes to support improved health and wellbeing outcomes. Community Development – Create a strong base to engage, empower and build the capacity of local communities, ensuring their views inform the work of the Council and its partners. Work with partners to lead the implementation of the Community Plan and deliver better outcomes for local people. Develop a robust and reliable evidence base to underpin and inform future decision-making and policy development processes. Delivery of key projects on Council’s Capital Programme

ALIGNMENT TO THE CORPORATE PLAN	
Directorate Objective	Corporate Plan Objective
Promote increased levels of activity and develop targeted programmes to support improved health and wellbeing outcomes.	Improve the health and wellbeing of everyone in the district
Create a strong base to engage, empower and build the capacity of local communities, ensuring their views inform the work of the Council and its partners.	Empowering communities to play an active part in civic life
Work with partners to lead the implementation of the Community Plan and deliver better outcomes for local people.	Represent the voice of the District with our partners
Develop a robust and reliable evidence base to underpin and inform future decision-making and policy development processes.	Deliver sustainable services

Active & Healthy Communities Directorate Business Plan

Healthy Living			
AHC1: Promote increased levels of activity and develop targeted programmes to support improved health and wellbeing outcomes			
Continue to Implement the existing sports and well-being strategic themes and their action plans, including the Sports Facility Strategy Review, Play Strategy, and Physical Activity, Health and Wellbeing Strategy (CPP)	Target Progress	Sep 26 —	Mar 27 —
Continuing to progress the delivery of key capital projects, Newry City Park • Newcastle Rock Pool • Newcastle Centre • Play Park strategy upgrades • Kilkeel Leisure Centre • Multi Sports Hub project delivery including opportunities for digital innovation and transformation within key projects	Target Progress	Sep 26 —	Mar 27 —
Continue to invest in community and sports facilities in line with Council's financial assistance programs	Target Actual	Mar 27 500000 —	
Sustain attendance figures in all indoor and outdoor leisure facilities.	Target Actual	Sep 26 449000 —	Mar 27 898000 —
Complete Customer Satisfaction Surveys for DLC Centre and Outdoor Leisure Health Programmes	Target Progress	Sep 26 —	Mar 27 —
Number of participants engaged in physical activity programmes and health and wellbeing initiatives within be active for life classes	Target Actual	Sep 26 8250 —	Mar 27 16500 —
Increase the play value of all Council play parks across the district via the delivery of play strategy year 4 upgrade 2 No parks Lissmore and Mourneview	Target Progress	Sep 26 1 play park —	Mar 27 2 parks complete —
Community Development			
AHC2: Create a strong base to engage, empower and build the capacity of local communities, ensuring their views inform the work of the Council and its partners.			
Number of events and programmes including attendance levels	Target Actual	Sep 26 2,000 —	Mar 27 4,800 —

Number of contacts recorded through the Ethnic Minority Support Centre	Target Actual	Sep 26 400 —	Mar 27 1,000 —
Amount of additional external funding levered into Council	Target Actual	Sep 26 £5,000 —	Mar 27 £20,000 —
Number of referrals to PCSP Home Secure & Social Alarm Schemes	Target Actual	Sep 26 115 —	Mar 27 230 —

Number of cross border community safety events delivered	Target Actual	Sep 26 1 —	Mar 27 2 —
Progress implementation of the Community Development Strategy	Target Progress	Sep 26 Yes —	Mar 27 Yes —
Deliver a Good Relations Success Stories Showcase Event as part of Good Relations Week	Target Actual	Sep 26 0 —	Mar 27 1 —
Host 4 Community Connect Event across our DEA areas in partnership with public facing Council services/Departments e.g., Funding, Leisure, Age Friendly, Registration, LMPs (what we do and what we might do for you)	Target Actual	Sep 26 2 —	Mar 27 4 —
Progress Capital Projects: Annalong Community Centre; Bessbrook Community Centre (Digihub Project); Cullyhanna Community Centre; Meigh Community Centre, Warrenpoint Health and Wellbeing Hub	Target Progress	Sep 26 Yes —	Mar 27 Yes —
Work with internal and external partners to deliver Capacity Building Events and Funding Fairs for Community Groups	Target Actual	Sep 26 2 —	Mar 27 6 —
Lead on the delivery and implementation of a Corporate Online Booking System	Target Actual	Mar 27 Yes —	
Deliver a Community Engagement Youth Event in each DEA to support implementation of the EAWG Action Plan	Target Actual	Sep 26 2 —	Mar 27 7 —

AHC3: Work with partners to lead the implementation of the Community Plan and deliver better outcomes for local people

Compliance with the statutory Duty of Community Planning.	Target Actual	Mar 27 Yes —	
Number of Community Planning Actions co-designed and delivered.	Target Actual	Sep 26 —	Mar 27 —
AHC4: Develop a robust and reliable evidence base to underpin and inform future decision-making and policy development processes			
Leveraging insights from the Social Value pilot completed in 2026, develop a robust social value framework to formalise, measure and scale the tangible impact of our core activities e.g. track and report on positive outcomes of community development initiatives over time/evaluate the impact of projects on quality of life, health and social cohesion amongst community members	Target Progress	Sep 26 —	Mar 27 —

7.0 Performance

AHC Plans, Strategies and Policies

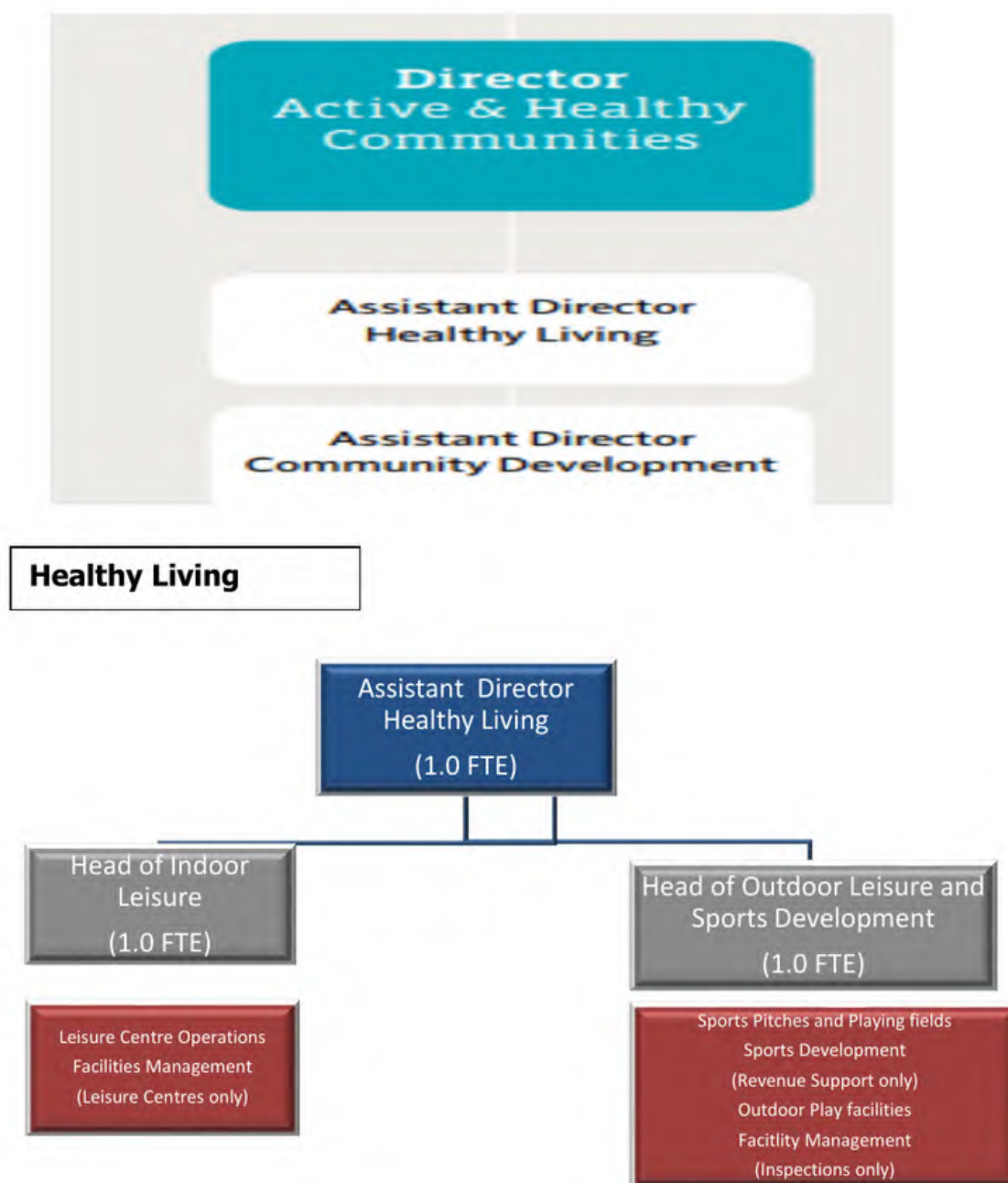
7.1 The AHC Directorate is responsible for leading the development, implementation and review of the following plans and strategies, which influence the work of both the Directorate and Council:

- Department Business
- Community Centre Effectiveness Review
- Play Strategy and Actions Plan
- Sports physical activity and wellbeing strategy
- Multi Sports Hub Review
- PCSP Action Plan
- NHR Action Plans
- 7 DEA Action Plans
- Indoor Leisure Business Plan – review and update
- Good Relations Action Plan
- Community Plan

8.0 Organisation and Directorate Structure

8.1 The Active and Healthy Communities Directorate is one of four Departments, which together comprise the management structure of the Council. The Directorate structure is set out in Figure 4.

Figure 4 – Active and Healthy Communities



Community Development

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9.0 Financial Information

Net estimated expenditure (2026-27)	
Community Development	£
Healthy Living	£
TOTAL: Active and Healthy Communities Directorate	£

10.0 Governance Arrangements

- 10.1 Reviewing performance and reporting progress to Elected Members and other key stakeholders facilitates transparency, accountability and improvement in everything the Council does. The political and organisational governance arrangements to develop, monitor and report the Council's progress in implementing the AHC Business Plan are outlined below, and are supplemented by regular reviews by the Director and his team. The governance arrangements the Council has put in place to deliver continuous improvement are also subject an annual audit and assessment by the Northern Ireland Audit Office.

Figure 4: Governance Arrangements

Full Council

- Ratification of AHC Business Plan
- Ratification of the annual and bi-annual reviews of AHC Business Plan

Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee / Audit Committee

- Scrutiny and challenge around the Duty of Improvement
- Provide assurance that performance management arrangements are robust and effective

Active and Healthy Communities Committee

- Consideration, scrutiny and approval of AHC Business Plan
- Consideration, scrutiny and approval of the annual and bi-annual reviews of AHC Business Plan

Senior Management Team

- Development, consideration and approval of AHC Business Plan
- Development, consideration and approval of the annual and bi-annual reviews of AHC Business Plan

Ag freastal ar an Dún agus Ard Mhacha Theas Serving Down and South Armagh

0330 137 4000 (Council)
0330 137 4036 (Planning)
council@nmandd.org
www.newrymournedown.org

Oifig an Iúir
Newry Office
O'Hagan House
Monaghan Row

Newry BT35 8DJ

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

Downpatrick BT30 6GQ

Report to:	Active and Healthy Communities Committee		
Date of Meeting:	Monday 15 June 2026		
Subject:	District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums Update Report		
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Alison Robb, Assistant Director: Community Development		
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Martina Flynn, Head of Engagement		
Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either: -			
For decision	X	For noting only	
1.0	Purpose and Background		
1.1	<u>Purpose</u> - 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: - Slieve Gullion Forum Meeting held on 12 May 2026 - Mournes DEA Forum Meeting on 19 May 2026 - Newry DEA Forum Meeting held on 21 May 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 (complete the relevant sections)		
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i> It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations ☒		

5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i> Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened ☐ The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation ☐
5.3	<i>Proposal initiating consultation</i> Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves. ☐ ☐ Consultation period will be 12 weeks ☐ Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <i>Rationale:</i>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed ☒
7.0	Appendices
7.1	Appendix 1: - Slieve Gullion Forum Meeting held on 12 May 2026 - Mournes DEA Forum Meeting on 19 May 2026 - Newry DEA Forum Meeting held on 21 May 2026
8.0	Background Documents
8.1	None.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

**Action Sheet of Slieve Gullion District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum Private Meeting
held on Tuesday 12th May 2026 @ 5.30 pm in Crossmaglen Community Centre**

Chairperson:	Councillor Aine Quinn
In Attendance:	Councillor Declan Murphy Councillor Martin Hearty
Independent Members:	Cathy McMahon, Confederation of Community Groups Maria Keenan, Clanrye Group
Council Officials:	Aoife McComiskey, Slieve Gullion DEA Coordinator Elaine Carr, Peace Officer Claire Loughran, Economy Regeneration & Tourism Seamus Crossey, Economy Regeneration & Tourism
Apologies:	Councillor David Taylor Councillor Mickey Larkin Councillor Oonagh Magennis Ciara Burns, Community Services Manager Briege Boyle, Community Facilities Manager Ann Grant, County Down Rural Community Network Barry Traynor, Southern Health & Social Care Trust

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed.
DEA/SG/1	Declarations of Interest	No declarations of interest were made.	Noted.
DEA/SG/2	Matters arising from Action Sheet from meeting held 6 January 2026	Action Sheet confirmed as true and accurate record.	Approved.
DEA/SG/3	PeacePlus Update	Elaine Carr provided an update: PeacePlus newsletter to be issued and shared by DEA Coordinator. Strand 1: Reimaging project has been awarded to MayWe. 3 Slieve Gullion DEA areas have been agreed (Jonnesborough, Cullyhanna and Newtownhamilton). Steering groups currently being set up in each area. Strand 2: Capacity Building Projects -Men's Shed podcast. Slackpress appointed and programme has now commenced. -SEN project (Silverbridge/Forkhill) – now complete with 51 attendees having took part. - Women's programme in Forkhill / Newtown planned for Autumn delivery. - Bloom and Branch - A facilitator has been appointed and will attend next DEA Forum meeting. Sacred Spaces Colleen Savage appointed to deliver - seeking participants Strand 3: Minority Programme specs currently being developed. Bebhinn to update at next meeting.	DEA Coordinator to circulate. Noted.

DEA/SG/4	Crossmaglen Square Improvement Plan	Claire and Seamus provided an update on the draft Crossmaglen Square Improvement Plan. Community consultation has taken place and was well attended. Plans to be considered at ERT Committee in June at which point it will be circulated to Forum members. The next stage is to seek funding.	Noted
DEA/SG/5	DEA Coordinator's Report	DEA Coordinator delivered the Coordinator's Report including: Recruitment of Independent Members – DEA Co-ordinator indicated that a representative from St. Oliver Plunket's Youth Club would be interested in entering a submission. Activity Update <i>International Women's Day</i> - Slieve Gullion, Newry and Crotlieve DEAs hosted an International Women's Day event. This event, delivered in partnership with key agencies, took place on 5 March at Dromantine Conference Centre, welcoming 100 women from across the District. The programme focused on key issues including EVAWG, empowerment, and wellbeing, alongside training, guest speakers, and interactive activities. Feedback was extremely positive, highlighting the event's success in raising awareness, promoting wellbeing, and creating opportunities for connection and support. <i>Autism Virtual Reality Bus</i> – Visits complete with 3 Bessbrook/ Cloughreagh Primary Schools on 14th April and St. Paul's HS Bessbrook on 16th April. Over 100 teaching staff and classroom assistants benefited from the experience. <i>EmpowerHER Auto Nights</i> – 3 events delivered in April at Lissummon GAA, Forkhill Welcome Inn and Camlough SAFE Mart, these workshops were facilitated by the Road Ahead Committee and organised by Slieve Gullion DEA in partnership with PCSP. <i>Fuel the Family: Forkhill</i> – Programme focusing on family cooking on a budget in response to a needs assessment in the area. Programme delivered in partnership with NMDDC Health Inequalities Officer and	DEA Coordinator to follow up. Noted.

		SHSCT. Two sessions (day-time session in school and evening session in community centre). Need identified for an 8 week COOK IT Programme which has now started Monday nights 7pm in Community Centre. <i>Shared Education Programme</i> - Year 8 students from Newtownhamilton High School, St Paul's High School (Bessbrook), St Joseph's High School (Crossmaglen) and Newry High School are participating in a Shared Schools Programme supported by Newry and Slieve Gullion DEAs. The last recent session took place on 26 March in Newtownhamilton High School and focused on diversity and inclusion through interactive workshops. <i>Newtownhamilton Shared Culture Schools Programme</i> – three-week programme took place during April/May with Primary 6 and 7 pupils from St. Michael's and Newtownhamilton Primary School. The workshops took place in Newtownhamilton Community Centre and focused on culture through music, sport and art. <i>Ending Violence Against Women & Girls</i> – A six-week Glow Girls programme has commenced to a young women's group at St. Oliver Plunketts Youth Centre. The programme focuses on exploring healthy relationships, self-image, and self-esteem, and includes a dedicated component on EVAWG which will be delivered by Women's Aid. Good Relations Primary School Programme - St Malachy's Primary School Camlough participated in a 4-week programme delivered by ArtsEkta. <i>Programme planning:</i> Supporting groups with programme planning for Spring/Summer (Dorsey 8-week cookery programme in conjunction with Health Improvement; SHSCT Bend Don't Break session delivered to Lissummon and Camlough; and an African drumming workshop delivered to the Rainbow Club Crossmaglen). Upcoming Events/ Activity- Belleek Party in the Park Saturday 16th May.	Noted. Noted. DEA Coordinator to circulate details for all events for members to promote.
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		• Botanical Bingo 19th May Lislea 10am. • Men's Bereavement Pilot (planned for June) more info. to be circulated • 30th May – Forest Feasts and Woodland Beats @ Slieve Gullion Forest. Community family fun day showcasing culture through music/dance/food and arts. • Dungormley and Lir Grove partnership successful bid for funding from NIHE – Family Fun Day in Jim Steen Park Sat 30th May • Men's Fest Wednesday 10th June – Newry Leisure Centre • Water Safety Event plans underway • Seniors Summer Scheme – end June. Info. to be circulated. • Farm Safety Week activities will be delivered in July in partnership Rural Health Partnership. • Supporting groups with programme planning for Spring/Summer and towards Autumn. DEA Action Plan – on course to achieve targets for all themes.	Noted.
DEA/SG/6	Emerging Issues	Community Update- (a) Health & Wellbeing Maria provided an update on the Peaceplus Wellness Works – 4 programme applications have been received for Slieve Gullion and assessment is currently taking place. (b) Community Update Community services provided an update in their absence. • Cullyhanna, permission to re-open. • Crossmaglen and Bessbrook, Areas at Risk Programme commencement activities advertised through Council Facebook • Maintenance meetings ongoing with follow up on relevant Centres.	

DEA/SG/7	AOB	The chairperson expressed her condolences to the family of Cllr Jarlath Tinnley on the loss of his daughter. Members agreed to send a letter of condolence. Claire provided an update on the Make It Local campaign currently open through expression of interest to ERT.	DEA Coordinator to follow up. DEA coordinator to progress
DEA/SG/8	Date of Next Meeting	Tuesday 4 th August 2026 @ 5.30pm – Dorsey Community Centre.	Noted.

The meeting ended at: 6.20pm

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Action Sheet of Mournes District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 19 May 2026 at 4.00pm via Teams

Vice Chairperson:	Councillor Jill Truesdale
In Attendance:	Councillor Glyn Hanna Councillor Niall Lawlor
Independent Members:	Lloyd Douglas, Alan Knox
Statutory Partners:	None
Others in Attendance:	None
Council Officials:	Taucher Murphy, DEA Coordinator, The Mournes
Apologies:	Councillor Michael Rice Councillor Laura Devlin Councillor Henry Reily Paula Nixon, County Down Rural Community Network Sergeant Kenny Gracey, PSNI Annie Clarke, Southern Trust

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 24 March	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 March 2026 -July 2026. March - Healthy Minds Healthy Bodies event took place in Kilkeel in partnership with the Education Authority and Health and Inequalities. The event provided a number of workshops, cookery demos and drama, focused on mental and physical healthy habits for over 50 children. April – The Sea Fit Event delivered health checks and supports to migrant fishermen in the Kilkeel area. Mournes DEA worked in partnership with the Fishermen's Mission, Farm Families and the Council's Ethnic Minority Support Centre to deliver the event. Communities Leading Change Event- An event celebrating and recognizing	Noted and Coordinator to progress.

		the programmes delivered by local community groups who were funded through the Council's Participatory Budgeting initiative. June : Men's Health Events – Three Men's Health events have been organised throughout the Mournes area to promote men's health. Senior Historical Tours – A tour of the Council's historical landmarks and points of interest has been organised across several DEAs. Senior Summer Schemes – Mournes will be linking in with luncheon and over 50's clubs to deliver interactive health and wellbeing focused workshops.	
DEA/MOU/10/2024	Donard Carpark	Anti-social behaviour and traffic issues at Donard Park.	Updates on progress to be discussed at next Forum meeting. Item to be kept on Agenda
DEA/MOU/11/2024	Kilkeel Feasibility Study	Appointment of consultant and working group.	Task and Finish Group has been set up. Public consultation for plans has been organized for 27 May in the Nautilus Centre Kilkeel.
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.	Newcastle, Annalong, and Bryansford were put forward. Update to be given at next Forum meeting.
DEA/MOU/11/2026	Dog Fouling Campaign	Issue regarding dog fouling and placement of bins in Bryansford was raised.	DEA Coordinator to contact relevant officer in Environmental Health regarding bins and possible dog fouling campaign.

The meeting ended at 16.40pm

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Action Sheet of Newry District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum Private Meeting held on Thursday 21st May 2026 at 4:00pm in Newry Leisure Centre

Chairperson:	Councillor Aidan Mathers
In Attendance:	Councillor Cathal King Councillor Geraldine Kearns
Independent Members:	Raymond Jackson, Confederation of Community Groups Colin Hanna, Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency Eamonn Connolly, Newry BID
Statutory Partners:	Aisling Pryers, Housing Executive Barry Traynor, Southern Health and Social Care Trust
Council Officials:	Padraig Harte, Newry DEA Coordinator
Apologies:	Councillor Valerie Harte Councillor Killian Feehan Sergeant Warren Roberts, PSNI Edel McGeeney, Peace Officer Allison Slater, Bolster Community

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed
DEA/N/2026/2	Declarations of Interest	None.	
DEA/N/2026/3	Matters arising from Action Sheet	Action sheet confirmed as a true and accurate record. An update was provided on ongoing litter management and cleansing activities across the area, with particular reference to the A1. Members were advised that a contractor has been appointed to undertake a one-off deep clean of the affected areas.	Approved
DEA/N/2026/4	Peace Plus	2.1 Events training closed and returns are currently being assessed. 2.3 Market ready project for Newry – contract awarded to FFK solutions.	Noted and Coordinator to progress
DEA/N//2026/5	Community Services	Members were provided with a verbal update on the relevant facilities. Threeways Community Centre Arrangements are currently being made for the installation of a replacement boiler, which will provide a long-term resolution to ongoing heating issues. Drumalane Community Centre During routine maintenance works, extensive issues were identified within the floor and core structure of the building. As a result, a Structural Engineer has been appointed.	Noted and Community Services to update.

		Derrybeg Community Centre Internal inspections have been carried out in relation to required repairs and are being progressed via NMDDC portal and relevant agency. Barcroft Community Centre Ongoing upgrades and enhancements include painting, toilet facilities, tiling, and other associated areas aimed at improving the overall standard and functionality of the building. Coordinator highlighted that in a recent multi-agency meeting was held to review progress and discuss operational matters. During the meeting members requested guidance the heating system and its operation to ensure the association can effectively access and manage the system.	
DEA/N//2026/6	DEA Co-ordinator's Report.	Glow Girls Programme A six-week Glow Girls programme commenced on 2 June 2026 and is currently being delivered to a young women's group at Bosco Youth Centre. The programme focuses on healthy relationships, self-image, self-esteem, and includes a dedicated Ending Violence Against Women and Girls component. Maternal Mental Health Day In partnership with Newry BID's Health in the City initiative, Newry DEA successfully delivered a Maternal Mental Health Day at Seasons Studio, Hill Street. The event included an informative talk, a breathwork workshop, and information stands, while providing a supportive environment for mothers. Communities Leading Change Celebration Event Support was provided to the Community Planning Team in the successful delivery of the Communities Leading Change Celebration Event in May. The event was well attended and provided an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the achievements of participating initiatives. Child Safety Week Workshop As part of Child Safety Week (1–7 June), Newry DEA, in partnership	Noted and Coordinator to progress.

	with the Home Safety Team, delivered the “Simple Steps to a Safer Home” workshop on 2 June at Tiddly Town Play Centre. The workshop provided practical guidance to families on common household risks, water safety, fall prevention, and measures to improve home safety. Workplace Health Checks On 15 May, Newry DEA, in conjunction with the Health Inequalities Team, delivered a workplace wellbeing initiative. Over 35 staff members at a local factory availed of onsite health checks, alongside strength and balance sessions aimed at promoting physical wellbeing and healthier lifestyles. Men’s Fest Planning is progressing for Men’s Fest, a collaborative initiative between Newry, Slieve Gullion and Crotlieve DEAs, scheduled to take place on 10 June at Newry Leisure Centre. The event will promote social connection, wellbeing and learning opportunities for men through a range of activities, including health and wellbeing sessions, physical activities, health awareness stalls, free haircuts and an alcohol-free social space. Promotion is ongoing across partner organisations and community networks, with councillor invitations issued. Wildlife in the City Preparations are underway for the Wildlife in the City event, scheduled for 20 June at McClelland Park, Newry. The family-focused event aims to promote biodiversity, environmental awareness and community engagement through interactive activities and educational displays. A wide range of environmental and wildlife organisations have confirmed participation. Publicity materials are currently being finalised and promotion is expected to commence by the end of next week. Seniors’ Summer Scheme 2026 Newry, Slieve Gullion and Crotlieve DEAs are working collaboratively to deliver the 2026 Seniors’ Summer Scheme from 29 June to 3 July across venues in Silverbridge, Warrenpoint and Newry. Planning is progressing well, with activities and funding arrangements being finalised. The programme will promote social inclusion, wellbeing and active ageing through a varied programme of activities. Thirty places	
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		have been allocated to each DEA, with promotion scheduled to launch by the end of next week. Newry Water Festival Planning continues for the Newry Water Festival, which will take place on 31 August at Albert Basin, Newry. Delivered in partnership with Neighbourhood Renewal, the event will provide a range of free family activities while encouraging increased footfall within the city and The Quays area. Initial planning meetings have been completed and operational arrangements, including road closure applications and event documentation, are progressing. Engagement with local businesses is ongoing, with support from Newry BID to maximise economic opportunities associated with the event. Additional Engagement and Support Activities - Newry DEA is hosting the "Icons on Ammo Boxes" exhibition in partnership with Ukrainians in NI at Newry City Library from 15 June to 3 July. A programme of Good Relations activities is also being developed in conjunction with Refugee Week. - Continued attendance at Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership meetings throughout the reporting period. - Ongoing support provided to local community organisations, including Breast Mates Newry and Newry Felons Association, in relation to community engagement and project development. - Continued attendance at Interagency Meetings within the Barcroft, Derrybeg, Greater Linenhall and Drumalane areas to support partnership working and local initiatives. - Initial planning meetings have been completed for the 2026 Mela Festival, which is scheduled to take place on 30 August 2026. Preparations are progressing in partnership with key stakeholders. - Progress continues on the IBP Pride of Place Award nomination for Road Ahead NI. The organisation has formally accepted the nomination and expressed appreciation for the recognition. A proposed judging date has been submitted and confirmation is awaited.	
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DEA/N/2026/7	Independent Members and Statutory Partners Update (a) Health and Wellbeing (b) Environmental (c) Economic Development (d) Safety and Good Relations	<i>Health and Wellbeing Update</i> <i>Promoting Wellbeing Team:</i> Dementia Awareness Day was recently delivered at The Buttercrane Shopping Centre and was very well attended, receiving positive feedback from participants and stakeholders. Following the success of the event, plans are progressing to further develop The Buttercrane as a Dementia-Friendly Centre. Dementia and Autism Information Bus will be visiting the area to provide a range of support services. Dates for the upcoming visits will be circulated. <i>Environmental Update:</i> <i>NIHE</i> NIHE agreed to host a information session for Councillors to discuss the Succession and Assignment Policy. Aisling will coordinate arrangements through the DEA Coordinator - External Cyclical Maintenance (ECM) surveys are currently being undertaken across all HE sites within the area. An update was provided on Clare House - the building is scheduled for demolition, subject to final clearance from NIHE Headquarters in Belfast. Following demolition, the site is expected to be placed on the market for sale. Concerns were raised regarding parking provision and the potential impact of any future development on the surrounding area. <i>Economic Update:</i> <i>NMEA</i> An update was provided on the Go Succeed programme. Members were advised that during April 2026, the programme received 44 enquiries, completed 21 business diagnostics, and supported the development of 4 business plans.	Noted
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		An update was also provided on the Labour Market Partnership (LMP) programme, which concluded at the end of March 2026. The programme continues to generate significant interest and demand across the district. <i>Newry BID</i> An update was provided by Newry BID RE: The Quays Shopping Centre and the Health in the City initiative. The programme continues to deliver a wide range of health and wellbeing activities and events, with strong levels of participation and positive feedback reported. <i>Confederation of Community Groups</i> An update was provided on matters affecting the wider community and voluntary sector. Members were advised that no Executive decision has yet been made regarding future budget allocations. Ballybot Community Association has indicated that it no longer wishes to continue operating. A community meeting will be convened in July 2026 to consider the formation of a new management committee. <i>Safety and Good Relations Update:</i> Members discussed ongoing concerns regarding the use of scramblers and e-scooters within the area. It was noted that the PSNI has undertaken proactive enforcement and engagement work to address the issue. Members were advised that a Notice of Motion on the matter, brought before Council by Councillor Mathers, received cross-party support, demonstrating a collective commitment to addressing community concerns.	
DEA/N/2026/8	Date of Next Meeting	Tuesday 16 th June @ 4:00pm	

The meeting ended at: 5:05pm

Report to:	Active Health and Communities Committee
Date of Meeting:	15 June 2026
Subject:	Slieve Gullion Multi-Sports Hub Review
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Conor Haughey, Assistant Director Healthy Living
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Conor Haughey, Assistant Director Healthy Living

For decision	x	For noting only	
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<u>Purpose</u> To update members on the Multi-Sports Facilities Review for the Slieve Gullion DEA, and to seek approval for the recommendation in section 3.1 of this report for Council to enter a partnership agreement with Camlough Community Association, to progress the development of the new Community Centre with multi-sports hall at Camlough Village, utilising the allocated Sports Facility Capital Budget for Slieve Gullion DEA. <u>Background</u> In 2021, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council commissioned a district-wide Multi-Sports Facilities Review for Outdoor Leisure. The purpose was to: • Audit the existing sports pitch provision across the district, • Assess condition and levels of use across core sports, • Provide an evidence-based Sports Hub Strategy with recommendations for each sport and for each District Electoral Area. The 2021 review concluded that there was an under-supply of training facilities for Gaelic Games and association football in the Slieve Gullion DEA.
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<u>Developments since 2021</u> Since 2021, Gaelic clubs have progressed development of their own facilities in the Slieve Gullion DEA. In addition, Council is progressing the development of a Major Multi-Sports Hub at Jennings Park in Newry, which will provide enhanced training provision for Gaelic and soccer clubs in the wider area, including Slieve Gullion. The Council has also progressed the development of a new £4.6 million recreation hub at Camlough Lake, with planning approval being recently secured for the project. <u>Current Assessment of Need</u> The recent review of sports facility provision in the Slieve Gullion DEA (appendix 1) has identified a shortfall in indoor sports facilities within the area, to accommodate youth sports groups, indoor sports provision, and year-round training facilities, with a particular emphasis on under-age teams/players. As an outcome of the recent review, it is recommended that Council proceed to invest in the delivery of the new Community Centre with a multi-sports hall at Camlough Village, as set out in report at appendix 1.
3.0	Recommendations

3.1	1. Members note the updated Multi-Sports Facilities Review for Slieve Gullion DEA, 2. Approval is granted for Council to enter a partnership agreement with Camlough Community Association, to progress the development of the new Community Centre with multi-sports hall at Camlough Village, utilising the allocated Sports Facility Capital Budget for the Slieve Gullion DEA.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	A Capital budget of £500,000 for the development of a Multi-Sports Facility in Slieve Gullion DEA has been agreed and is profiled in Council's Capital Programme.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i> It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations ☒
5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i> Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened ☐ The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation ☐
5.3	<i>Proposal initiating consultation – N/a</i> Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves ☐ Consultation period will be 12 weeks ☐ Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) ☐ <i>Rationale:</i>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)

6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed ☐ If no, please complete the following: The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs ☐
7.0	Appendices
	Appendix 1 - Multi-Sports Facilities Review June 2026 – Slieve Gullion DEA
8.0	Background Documents
	N/a

Multi-Sports Facilities Review June 2026 - Slieve Gullion DEA



June 2026



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

1. Introduction

- 1.1** In 2021, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council commissioned a district-wide Multi-Sports Facilities Review for Outdoor Leisure. The purpose of the review was to provide an evidence-based assessment of existing sports facility provision and to identify future investment priorities across the district. The review considered a range of sports including association football, Gaelic games, athletics, rugby, hockey, cricket, lawn bowls, and water sports, and included both a facilities audit and the development of a Sports Hub Strategy at District Electoral Area (DEA) level.
- 1.2** This document is an addendum to the 2021 Review, with a specific focus on the Slieve Gullion DEA. The purpose of this addendum is to identify appropriate areas for investment and potential delivery approaches to address the outstanding gaps in sports facility provision within the area.

The Council's Sports Facility Strategy, informed by Sport Northern Ireland's Active Places Research, including the "Bridging the Gap" report, identified strategic need across the district for a range of facility types, including playing pitch capacity, water sports infrastructure and indoor sports halls with associated storage and ancillary accommodation. These findings were carried forward through the 2021 Review, which refined the assessment of need at a DEA level.

2. Review and Recommendation 2026

2.1 Playing Pitch Provision

The 2021 Multi-Sports Facilities Review identified a shortfall in training provision for pitch-based sports, particularly Gaelic games, and association football, resulting in sustained pressure on existing grass pitches and limited year-round availability.

Jennings Park, Newry, has been identified as the most appropriate Council-owned site to address this need through upgrading existing grass pitches to synthetic (3G) surfaces. As an established facility, Jennings Park benefits from existing infrastructure, access arrangements, and the capacity to accommodate increased usage, providing a deliverable and cost-effective solution.

Jennings Park forms part of the Council's wider network of sports facilities and supports usage across a broad catchment area, in line with the hub-based approach set out in the Council's Sports Facility Strategy. The proposed upgrade will significantly increase training capacity, improve pitch resilience, and support sustained participation across both peak and off-peak periods.

The enhancement of provision at Jennings Park is therefore considered an appropriate and deliverable response to the identified shortfall in outdoor training facilities within the Newry and Slieve Gullion area.

2.2 Water Sports Provision

The Council's Sports Facility Strategy, informed by Sport Northern Ireland research, identified a district-wide need for the development of water sports infrastructure, including associated storage and changing accommodation.

The Council has committed to and is progressing investment in a recreational hub at Camlough Lake, which addresses this requirement and enhances provision for water-based and outdoor recreational activity within the Slieve Gullion DEA.

2.3 Indoor and Ancillary Sports Provision

Notwithstanding the delivery of water sports infrastructure at Camlough Lake and the proposed upgrade of playing pitch provision at Jennings Park, the review confirms that a gap remains in indoor sports and ancillary facilities within the Slieve Gullion DEA.

The Council's Sports Facility Strategy, supported by Sport Northern Ireland evidence, identifies indoor sports halls and associated ancillary provision as essential components of sports infrastructure required to support participation, training, and club development.

At present, provision within the Slieve Gullion DEA is limited in this regard. The development of an indoor facility would support minority sports, indoor training, youth engagement, and wider community use, while complementing the existing outdoor and water-based facilities within the area. The Camlough area is identified as an appropriate focus for future indoor and ancillary sports provision, reflecting both the identified need and the opportunity to improve accessibility and balance of provision across the Slieve Gullion DEA.

2.4 Strategic Need – Indoor Sports Provision

The provision of indoor sports facilities in Slieve Gullion DEA can help in addressing the identified need for training accommodation for pitch-based sports while having the added benefit of accommodating a range of indoor sports and events.

Camlough Community Association is presently engaged in a project to deliver a new community centre building in the village, which will include a large multi-sports hall that can accommodate the activities of outdoor recreation groups, youth groups, local clubs, etc. The proposed facility will accommodate sports clubs and will provide year-round accommodation for training, with a particular emphasis on under-age players.

2.5 Recommendation

It is recommended that Council enter a partnership agreement with Camlough Community Association, to progress the development of the new Community Centre with multi-sports hall at Camlough Village, utilising the allocated Sports Facility Capital Budget for the Slieve Gullion DEA.

The combination of existing and proposed investment within the Slieve Gullion DEA and wider catchment area, including facilities at Camlough Lake and Jennings Park, creates a network of complementary sports infrastructure.

Collectively, these locations provide a range of provision, including water-based recreation, outdoor playing pitches, and the potential for future indoor facilities, forming a multi-purpose cluster of sports provision serving the Slieve Gullion DEA.

This distributed approach reflects the Council's strategic objective of developing a sustainable and accessible network of facilities, ensuring that a wide range of activities and users are supported without reliance on a specific location.

Report to:	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 15 June 2026
Subject:	Policing & Community Safety Partnership (PCSP), Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership (NRP) Report & Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership (NRP) Report
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Alison Robb, Assistant Director: Community Development
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Martina Flynn, Head of Engagement

For decision	For noting only	X
1.0	Purpose and Background	
1.1	<u>Purpose</u> - To note the report. - To note the attached Minutes of the Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership (NRP) Meeting held on 2 February 2026 and approved on 12 May 2026; - To note the attached Minutes of the Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership (NRP) Meeting held on 18 February 2026 and approved on 20 May 2026; - To note the attached Minutes of the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting held on 31 March 2026 and approved at the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting on 26 May 2026. <u>Background</u> The attachments referenced above are provided to update the Committee on the ongoing work of the PCSP and the Downpatrick & Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships.	
2.0	Key issues	
2.1	None.	
3.0	Recommendations	
3.1	That the Committee note the following: - Minutes of the Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership (NRP) Meeting held on 2 February 2026 and approved on 12 May 2026; - Minutes of the Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership (NRP) Meeting held on 18 February 2026 and approved on 20 May 2026; - Minutes of the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting held on 31 March 2026, approved at the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting on 26 May 2026.	

4.0	Resource implications
4.1	None.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i> It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations ☒
5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i> Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened ☐ The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation ☐
5.3	<i>Proposal initiating consultation</i> Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves. ☐ ☐ Consultation period will be 12 weeks ☐ Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <i>Rationale:</i>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following:

	Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed ☒
7.0	Appendices
7.1	Appendix 1: Minutes of the Downpatrick NRP meeting held on 2 February 2026. Appendix 2: Minutes of the Newry NRP meeting held on 18 February 2026 Appendix 3: Minutes of the Policing Committee & PCSP meeting held on 31 March 2026.
8.0	Background Documents
8.1	None.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Action Sheet of Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Meeting held on 2 February 2026 in Denvir's Coaching Inn, Downpatrick

Chairperson:	Nicholas McCrickard	County Down Rural Community Network (CDRCN)
In Attendance:	Brian Morrow Macartan Digney Jenny Lavery Dan McEvoy Mary Cahalane-Woodward Alison McCarthy Jeanette McCarthy Maureen O’Gorman	Department for Communities Downpatrick Community Collective County Down Rural Community Network (CDRCN) Downpatrick Community Collective South Eastern Trust Tosu Ur Tosu Ur Education Authority
Council Officials:	Katrina Hynds	Technical Officer, Downpatrick NHR
Apologies:	Gerard Smith Maria Kelly Seamus Blaney Anthony Trainor Deborah Finlay	NIHE Surestart, Downpatrick Stream Street Residents Association Stream Street Residents Association Model Farm Community Association

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION – including actions taken/date completed or
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			progress to date if not yet completed.
DNRP/01/2026	Welcome and Apologies	The Chair welcomed members to the meeting	
DNRP/02/2026	Declarations of Conflict of Interest	None declared	
DNRP/03/2026	Action Sheet	Members unanimously agreed to adopt the Action Sheet of 15 October 2025	Technical Officer
DNRP/04/2026	Approve & Agree New Format Action Plan	The Department for Communities Development Officer advised that a new Action Plan will come into effect from 1 April 2026. Recent successful capital projects have been incorporated into the new Plan. Following discussion, Members agreed to review the projects listed on the current Action Plan and determine which should	Technical Officer

		be carried forward and which should be removed. Members to submit their agreed projects to the Technical Officer for inclusion in the new Action Plan.	
DNRP/05/2025	Promoters' Reports	The Promoters' Reports were presented to members and noted	Technical Officer
DNRP/06/2025	Update from Department for Communities	The Development Officer advised that the 2026/27 Funding Application Portal will open shortly and will operate within a limited application timeframe. Members to note the opening period and ensure any funding applications are prepared and submitted within the specified timeframe.	All Promoters

POLICING COMMITTEE AND POLICING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of the Newry, Mourne & Down Policing Committee and Policing & Community Safety Partnership Meeting held on Tuesday 31st March 2026 at 6.00pm in Downshire Civic Centre Council Chamber.

In attendance:

Cllr Henry Reilly, *Chair*
 Cllr Terry Andrews, *NMDDC*
 Cllr Oonagh Hanlon, *NMDDC*
 Cllr Aidan Mathers, *NMDDC*
 Cllr Kate Murphy, *NMDDC*
 Cllr Jill Truesdale, *NMDDC*
 Cllr David Taylor, *NMDDC*
 Chief Inspector Adam Ruston, *PSNI*
 Inspector Darren Hardy, *PSNI*
 Inspector Paul Moore, *PSNI*
 Sergeant Stacey Arnott, *PSNI*
 Aileen O'Callaghan, *EANI*
 Michael Heaney, *YJA*
 Joanne Davidson, *Department of Justice*
 Roisin Leckey, *PBNI*
 Andrea Barr, *Independent Member*
 Roy Edwards, *Independent Member*
 William Slater, *Independent Member*
 Andrew Kernaghan, *Independent Member*

NMDDC Staff Officials in attendance:

Alison Robb, *Assistant Director - Community Development*
 Martina Flynn, *Head of Engagement*
 Shannon Creaney, *Safer Communities & Good Relations Manager*
 Aoibheann Dagens, *Monitoring & Evaluation Officer (PCSP & Good Relations)*
 Jacqueline Urey, *PCSP Officer*
 Kaitlyn Martin, *PCSP Officer*

1 Welcome, Chairperson's Remarks and Apologies

PCSP Chair Councillor Henry Reilly welcomed all attendees to the meeting and noted apologies from Superintendent Lynne Corbett, Cllr Conor Galbraith, Cllr Declan Murphy, Michelle Osbourne, Aidan McCabe, Claire Crainey & Louise Kennedy.

Chair Cllr Reilly noted that this was the last meeting of the 2025/26 Financial Year and expressed that he looks forward to the incoming year working on the 2026/27 Action Plan.

The Chair noted that March in particular had been a very busy month for PCSP. He noted the exceptional Road Safe Roadshow event at Shimna High School, the Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Showcase Event in Newry and the Launch Event for the drug awareness video 'Impacts of Cocaine: The Human Cost.'

Cllr Reilly also advised that Colleen McCreesh would be stepping down in her role as a PCSP Independent Member, and extended thanks on behalf of the Partnership for her service and commitment during her time on the PCSP.

The Chair also welcomed Roy Edwards and Andrea Barr to their first meeting as newly appointed PCSP Independent Members.

Chair Cllr Reilly then outlined the housekeeping rules for the meeting.

Chair Cllr Reilly reminded members that they were personally responsible for their comments and further noted that the meeting was being recorded to assist with the minutes.

2 Declarations of Interest

None recorded.

3 Draft Minutes of previous PCSP & Policing Committee Meeting held on 3rd February 2026

Read: Minutes of PCSP & Policing Committee Meeting held on 3rd February 2026 (copy circulated).

Agreed: On the proposal of Cllr Andrews seconded by Cllr Taylor it was agreed to approve the Minutes of the Policing Committee and PCSP Meeting held on 3rd February 2026 as a true and accurate record.

4 Matters Arising

Ms Shannon Creaney provided an update on the proposal from the previous meeting on 3 February to send a letter from PCSP to the Lady Chief Justice. Ms Creaney advised this letter was sent on 17th February 2026 and a response was received from the Lady Chief Justice Office on 16th March 2026. Ms Creaney

confirmed that a copy of both the initial letter and response had been shared with the partnership via email.

Chair Cllr Reilly thanked Ms Creaney for sending this letter to the Lady Chief Justice and noted he was disappointed with the response. Cllr Andrews endorsed the Chair's comments and stated he hoped that prosecutions do follow.

Cllr Andrews then asked if there had been any further updates on the threats made to Councillors. Chair Cllr Reilly advised that an update will be given on this query during the District Commander's Report – agenda item 8.

5 PCSP Officer Report

Read: PCSP Officer Report (copy circulated via email)

Ms Shannon Creaney advised that the PCSP Officer Report was for noting and that a detailed report is included in the PCSP Meeting Papers.

Ms Creaney highlighted some of the events that have taken place since the previous meeting. Firstly, she noted the Community Safety and Wellbeing Event that took place in Newry Leisure centre on 6th March where there was over 100 people in attendance and over 30 stallholders. Ms Creaney noted this is a successful example of partnership working and expressed it was a great opportunity for the PCSP to provide safety and wellbeing information to the wider public.

Ms Creaney also noted that PCSP supported the EVAWG Showcase on 25 March in the Canal Court Hotel in Newry. She also noted the Launch of a Drug Awareness Video 'Impacts of Cocaine: The Human Cost'. Ms Creaney noted both of these events were very well attended and that they highlight key messages such as Drug and Alcohol Awareness and Domestic and Sexual Violence featured in the PCSP Action Plan.

Ms Creaney then noted the Drugs and Alcohol plays by the DSM Foundation which PCSP recently delivered to 6 schools across the Newry, Mourne and Down District. Ms Creaney advised that in addition to these plays, PCSP staff have organised a number of Theresa Burke drug awareness talks in local secondary schools.

Ms Creaney highlighted some upcoming events/work. She noted that PCSP was successful in an application for the Assets Recovery Community Scheme Funding from the Department of Justice. From this, Ms Creaney advised a scam awareness video has been created, which will be shared with members once completed.

Chair Cllr Reilly thanked Ms Creaney for her report and thanked the PCSP Team for their hard work over the recent months.

Cllr Andrews endorsed the Chair's comments and thanked Shannon Creaney for her detailed report. He thanked the whole PCSP team for their work and encouraged it to continue.

6 ASB Sub Group Reports

Read: ASB Sub Group Reports (copy circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Cllr David Taylor and seconded by Cllr Jill Truesdale it was agreed the Committee:

- **Approve the Action Sheet for the ASB Sub Group 1 meeting held on 4th March 2026**
- **Approve the Action Sheet for the ASB Sub Group 2 meeting held on 3rd March 2026**

7 Mobile Speed Indicator Devices Update

Report: Mobile SID's Update

Martina Flynn noted that the report was presented for information. She reminded members that, at the January 2025 PCSP meeting, approval was granted for the procurement of five Mobile Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) for use by the PSNI Neighbourhood Teams across the district. She advised that these were funded through an underspend in the PCSP staff costs budget, as outlined in the report submitted for approval at that time.

Mrs Flynn further noted that the January 2025 report specified that procurement was conditional upon the PSNI agreeing to Terms and Conditions for use. These included the requirement for PSNI to add the devices to their asset register and to take responsibility for their replacement in the event of loss, theft, or damage. She confirmed that the District Commander at that time agreed to these Terms and Conditions, and procurement proceeded at a cost of just over £14,000.

Mrs Flynn advised that the devices were procured and handed over to the PSNI in July 2025. However, since that time, PSNI have advised there have been challenges relating to insurance cover, resulting in the devices remaining in PSNI storage and not being deployed across the district. She added that, in the absence of any direction from the PSNI regarding insurance in recent weeks and months, Officers have explored alternative proposals for the use of the devices should the PSNI be unable to proceed with deployment as planned. Ms Flynn advised these options are detailed within the report.

Mrs Flynn stated that tonight's meeting provided an opportunity for the PSNI to give an update and outline a timeline for deployment. She highlighted that, should the PSNI choose to proceed without insurance cover, neither the PCSP nor the Council could accept liability for any issues or incidents arising. Again, Mrs Flynn advised this position is reflected in the report.

Mrs Flynn confirmed that the request to the PSNI is to provide:

- A timeline for deployment of the 5 Mobile Speed Indicator Devices; and
- Confirmation regarding insurance cover, or otherwise.

Chair Henry Reilly expressed disappointment that the Mobile SIDs have not yet been deployed. He noted that he had spoken with Superintendent Corbett the previous week, who indicated willingness to deploy the devices under PSNI general insurance, as is the practice in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council area.

Chair Reilly stated that, if the PSNI are prepared to proceed under their general insurance arrangements, he would support this approach and wish to see the devices deployed across the district. He proposed that deployment proceed on this basis.

Cllr Mathers welcomed the proposed deployment of the Mobile SIDs and asked for an update regarding the fixed SID in Camlough, which is currently not operational.

Ms Shannon Creaney advised that work is ongoing to address the issue with the Camlough SID. She noted that, as outlined in the report, the cost of repair is significant, estimated at over £1,000. Ms Creaney further advised that the supplier had recently attended site to inspect the unit and identified an issue with the pole, which will need to be replaced, in addition to repairs to the sign itself. She confirmed that she will follow up on this matter after the meeting.

Cllr Andrews thanked Mrs Flynn for her update on the Mobile SIDs. He expressed disappointment that the devices have not yet been deployed and welcomed any solution that would resolve the issues identified. Cllr Andrews confirmed that he was happy to second the Chair's proposal to adopt the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon model, whereby the SIDs would be deployed under PSNI general insurance.

Cllr Hanlon sought clarification in relation to section 3.1 of the report, specifically regarding the proposal to repurpose the Mobile SIDs to support existing SID infrastructure.

Mrs Martina Flynn responded that officers had sought direction from the PSNI on the current position; however, this was not provided in time to inform the report, and therefore the report was prepared based on the information available at the time the meeting papers were finalised. She advised that Ms Creaney had been tasked with exploring alternative options for the use of the Mobile SIDs should the PSNI be unable to deploy them as originally agreed under the Terms and Conditions. Mrs Flynn explained that, to avoid loss of the initial investment, the supplier had indicated that component parts could potentially be used to repair or replace existing fixed SIDs. She clarified that this option was explored as a contingency measure in the event that the Mobile SIDs could not be deployed as planned. Mrs Flynn

reiterated that a clear timeline and deployment plan from the PSNI is required to progress the matter.

Cllr Hanlon expressed disappointment that the Mobile SIDs have remained unused, noting that the issue may have been resolved more quickly through engagement with legal or insurance representatives. While acknowledging that repurposing component parts may provide value and avoid waste, she stated that this should be considered a last resort. She emphasised the importance of deploying the devices across the district, highlighting that speeding is a key concern for residents, particularly in light of increasing road fatalities. Cllr Hanlon stated that she wished to leave the meeting with assurance that the SIDs would be deployed as originally intended.

Mrs Martina Flynn advised that she had engaged with the Council's Legal Department and insurers, who confirmed that the Council cannot take responsibility for insuring the devices, as it does not store, maintain, or deploy them. She reminded members that it had been recorded in the January 2025 minutes that ownership of the devices transferred to the PSNI. Mrs Flynn added that all available options had been explored and that the PSNI had given the matter significant consideration. She concluded by noting that the PSNI present should be in a position to provide further clarity on their intended approach.

Chair Reilly reiterated that he had spoken with Superintendent Corbett and stated that, if the PSNI are prepared to proceed with deployment under their own insurance arrangements, this approach should be supported and progressed.

Cllr Hanlon clarified that her earlier reference to legal and insurance engagement related to the PSNI's arrangements, rather than those of the Council.

Chief Inspector Adam Ruston advised that the PSNI had encountered some unforeseen issues relating to insurance for the Mobile Speed Indicator Devices. However, he confirmed that the PSNI now propose to adopt an approach similar to that used by PSNI colleagues in the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon area, where Mobile SIDs are currently being deployed.

Chief Inspector Ruston stated that the PSNI is now in a position to proceed with deployment across the Newry, Mourne and Down district. He advised that, following completion of a risk assessment within the next 7–10 days following the meeting, Neighbourhood Policing Teams will commence deployment of the Mobile SIDs. He further advised that Neighbourhood Officers will not leave the devices in place for extended periods, in order to ensure appropriate monitoring and to minimise the risk of theft or damage.

Agreed: On the proposal of Cllr Henry Reilly, seconded by Cllr Terry Andrews, it was agreed that PSNI proceed with the deployment of the

Mobile SIDs in line with their proposed plan for deployment and cover for insurance.

Chair Reilly thanked Chief Inspector Ruston for the update and expressed that he looks forward to seeing the devices deployed within the coming weeks.

Cllr Truesdale welcomed the update, noting that SIDs are effective in reducing vehicle speeds and expressing satisfaction that the issues have now been resolved.

Cllr Taylor also welcomed the resolution of the matter and requested that Councillors be provided with the list of locations identified for planned Mobile SID deployment. He noted that he is aware of additional areas which may require consideration, if not already included.

Mrs Martina Flynn confirmed that the list of proposed deployment locations can be shared with Members. She added that, now that a timeline has been established, and the SID's will be deployed within the next two weeks, this presents a valuable opportunity for positive community engagement. She suggested that communications could be issued via social media to encourage members of the public to report areas of concern for potential inclusion.

8 Policing Committee Business **District Commander's Report – March 2026**

Read: District Commander's Report – Period 4 (copy circulated)

Chief Inspector Adam Ruston presented the report on behalf of Superintendent Lynne Corbett.

Chief Inspector Adam Ruston provided a brief overview of key updates before presenting the report. He began by referring to the attack on Lurgan Police Station earlier that morning, which he strongly condemned. He advised that, as of this evening, the situation in the area is returning to normal.

Chief Inspector Ruston also informed members that recruitment is currently underway for 49 officers for the Newry, Mourne and Down district. He noted that it is anticipated these officers will be in place by September and expressed hope that this will mark the beginning of an increase in officer numbers across the district, particularly within Neighbourhood Policing Teams.

He further highlighted that the district's outcome rate for reported crimes stands at 34.5%, which is above the overall Police Service average for victim outcomes.

Engagement

Chief Inspector Ruston advised that, in terms of engagement, the PSNI will continue to prioritise a focus on vulnerability and risk.

He highlighted the success of the recent Road Safe Roadshow and noted that there are plans to explore opportunities to roll this out further across the district.

Chief Inspector Ruston also reported that the PSNI Newry, Mourne and Down social media page has achieved a reach of approximately 1.6 million, the highest within the Police Service.

He further noted that the PSNI is beginning to pilot the PSNI Connect app and confirmed that a full briefing will be provided at the next meeting. He added that the app will support improved communication with the public.

Hate Crime

Chief Inspector Ruston reported an increase in hate crime, particularly in relation to racial incidents, with the majority occurring in the Newry area. He advised that the PSNI is progressing further engagement and educational initiatives, including work within schools, to address this issue.

ASB

Chief Inspector Ruston reported that levels of anti-social behaviour (ASB) have decreased over the past 12 months, with a reduction of 132 incidents. He advised that current ASB levels are below average; however, an increase is anticipated over the Easter period.

Chief Inspector Ruston highlighted several key areas of concern, including:

- Apache Pizza, Warrenpoint
- Daisy Hill Hospital - incidents involving abusive behaviour towards staff
- Dublin Road, Newry - anti-social driving
- Bryansford Road, Newcastle
- Market Street, Downpatrick - issues relating to e-scooters

Domestic Violence

Chief Inspector Ruston reported that incidents of domestic violence have increased over the past 12 months. He noted a particular rise in victims within the 30–39 and 50–59 age groups.

He advised that incidents involving intimate partners remain a significant issue and added that the PSNI is progressing engagement work with older people to address this area.

Chief Inspector Ruston highlighted that outcome rates have increased by 31%, reflecting effective policing responses. He also noted a positive aspect to the rise in reported incidents, indicating that more victims feel confident coming forward.

He further referenced the One Stop Shop initiative in Newry and Crossmaglen, noting that the Crossmaglen service, the first of its kind in the Slieve Gullion area, had two attendees to date, which was considered encouraging.

In addition, he advised that Operation Encompass has recorded 466 incidents so far in the current academic year.

Road Safety

Chief Inspector Ruston addressed road safety matters and began by noting the recent tragic death of an 11-year-old pedestrian in Kilkeel. He advised that, in the

year to date, there have been four road fatalities and 124 people seriously injured across the district, representing the highest figures in Northern Ireland.

Chief Inspector Ruston outlined ongoing enforcement activity, including 48 detections for speeding offences, 47 for careless driving, 18 fixed penalties and court referrals relating to vehicle defects, 36 referrals for drink or drug driving offences, and 18 detections for driving without insurance.

He also referenced the recent school bus crash in Belleek and commended the heroic actions of older pupils who assisted younger children during the incident.

Drugs

Chief Inspector Ruston provided an update on drug-related activity, advising that there were 689 drug seizures and 234 arrests recorded over the past 12-month period.

He highlighted that the use of postal services and "drop-off hubs" for the distribution of drugs is an increasing concern within the district.

Chief Inspector Ruston also noted that RAPID bins have recorded approximately 50,000 disposed items in the year to date.

Crime

Chief Inspector Ruston provided an overview of crime trends across the district. He reported an increase in sexual offences, rising by 35 incidents, noting that a spike in October was largely attributable to the reporting of historical offences.

He advised that domestic burglary has decreased over the reporting period, while commercial burglary has shown an increase.

Chief Inspector Ruston also highlighted an increase in rural crime, particularly involving the theft of trailers and break-ins to vans.

South Armagh Review

Chief Inspector Ruston provided an update on the South Armagh Review. He advised that works at Newtownhamilton Station are currently ongoing, while developments at Crossmaglen remain at the planning stage.

He also highlighted the need for enhanced cross-border pursuit arrangements, noting that this would require legislative changes at Stormont to progress.

Assault on Police

Chief Inspector Ruston reported on incidents involving assaults on police officers, noting that 19 officers had been assaulted over the reporting period, with seven of these incidents occurring since March. He highlighted a recent incident in Newcastle in which an officer was struck by a male individual. He advised that the individual was subsequently released by the courts back to the Newcastle area despite having no fixed abode.

Significant Incidents

In relation to significant incidents, Chief Inspector Ruston referenced a pipe bomb incident in the Ashgrove area of Newry. He advised that an individual is currently under investigation and noted that the victim had previously been the target of a similar pipe bomb attack.

This concluded the PSNI District Commander's Report

Chair Henry Reilly thanked Chief Inspector Ruston for delivering a comprehensive report. He noted his relief that the situation at Lurgan Police Station did not escalate further and welcomed the update regarding additional police recruitment.

Cllr David Taylor commented that the District Commander's report highlights the significant challenges currently faced by the PSNI and welcomed the news of additional resources being allocated to the district. He referred to the recent bus crash in Whitecross and extended his condolences to the family of the bus driver. Cllr Taylor also expressed his appreciation to the pupils who responded and assisted during the incident, as well as to the PSNI and other emergency services for their response.

Cllr Taylor raised concerns regarding rural crime, particularly thefts in the Newtownhamilton area, and expressed hope that sufficient resources would be made available to address this issue. He also queried the ongoing works at Newtownhamilton Police Station, noting concerns that works did not appear to have commenced despite an associated road closure being in place. He further highlighted that signage indicating a three-week programme of works for November had not been updated, which is causing confusion for road users.

Chief Inspector Ruston responded by advising that it will be a number of weeks before the full phase of works at Newtownhamilton Station commences. He confirmed that he will follow up on the matter of updating the signage to ensure clarity for road users. He also emphasised that rural crime remains a priority for PSNI teams and will continue to be a focus for targeted policing activity.

Cllr Oonagh Hanlon thanked Chief Inspector Ruston for his comprehensive report. She referred to issues involving e-scooters on Market Street, which she had witnessed firsthand, noting that she had spoken directly with some of the young people involved. She described the situation as intimidating and expressed concern about the use of e-scooters on public roads, warning that it could lead to serious consequences.

Chief Inspector Ruston responded by advising that the use of e-scooters in public places is an offence. He noted that when young people are returned home, the matter is not always taken seriously by parents. He emphasised the need for greater parental awareness and education and suggested exploring the development of a television campaign aimed at parents.

Cllr Aidan Mathers commented on the recent pipe bomb incident in Newry and queried how information is communicated to local residents. He also highlighted an increase in attacks on Translink vehicles along the Camlough Road in Newry.

In response, Chief Inspector Ruston advised that other PSNI departments set specific criteria regarding safety perimeters, which the PSNI must adhere to. He also confirmed that he would review the incidents involving Translink vehicles further.

Cllr Terry Andrews expressed his thanks for the District Commander's report and the ongoing work of the PSNI. He welcomed the anticipated recruitment of additional

officers to the district. He raised concerns regarding speeding on the Bryansford Road and asked that this be examined. He also highlighted incidents in Crossgar Square involving damage to residents' doors.

Roisin Leckey raised concerns regarding incidents in the Rostrevor area involving the killing of lambs. She noted the seriousness of this behaviour, referencing research indicating that violence towards animals can be linked to wider patterns of violent behaviour.

Cllr Jill Truesdale noted that she had attended an anti-racism protest in London and commended those taking part. She also acknowledged the increasing confidence of survivors of violence against women and girls to come forward and report incidents, recognising the work of the PSNI and PCSP in supporting this. She stressed the importance of continuing initiatives such as the One Stop Shop to support women. Cllr Truesdale also raised concerns regarding e-scooter fire incidents and associated health and safety risks, querying whether the PSNI is engaging with the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS) to communicate key safety messages. She further thanked officers in Newcastle for their work in addressing ongoing issues and acknowledged the positive impact of traffic enforcement measures in reducing anti-social driving in the area.

Chief Inspector Ruston confirmed that the PSNI will liaise with NIFRS to develop and promote safety messaging relating to e-scooters and fire risk.

9 Date of Next Meeting

Before meeting close, Chair Cllr Henry Reilly invited all members present to introduce themselves and outline the department they represent, for the benefit of newly appointed Independent Members.

PCSP Chair Cllr Henry Reilly then confirmed the next PCSP & Policing Committee Meeting will take place on Tuesday 26th May 2026 in the Council Chamber, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick.

With there being no further business, the meeting concluded at 19:23.



**Minutes of the Newry NR Partnership Meeting
Wednesday 18th February 2026
At 7.00pm
Room 1, WIN Business Centre**

In Attendance:

Paula McGuigan	Chairperson, NRP (Carnagat CA)
Sean Mc Kevitt	Newry Mourne and Down District Council
Raymond Jackson,	Confederation of Community Groups
Aiden McCabe,	Southern Health and Social Care Trust
Ewan Morgan,	Community Restorative Justice Ireland
Maureen O’Gorman,	Education Authority NI Youth Service
Kerri Morrow,	Newry Mourne and Down District Council
Maeve McParland,	Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency
Paul Magennis,	Barcroft CA
Noreen Rice,	MARCA

Apologies:

Heather Kavanagh,	Southern Regional College
Joanne Markey,	Carnagat CA
Amy Fearon,	Threeways CA
Kathleen Magee,	Derrybeg CA
Diana Marie O’Hanlon,	Greater Linenhall area CA
Denise Fearon.	Greater Linenhall Area CA
Patricia O’Gorman	Threeways CA
Dr Conor Patterson,	Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency
Catherine O’Hanlon,	Department for Communities
Jim Brennan,	Community Restorative Justice Ireland
Bernie Mooney,	Education Authority N.I

Matters Discussed

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

ITEM	SUBJECT	MATTERS ARISING/UPDATE	ACTIONS	By Whom
1	Welcome / Introductions	All welcomed to the meeting		
2.	Apologies	Recorded as above.		

3.	Minutes/matters arising.	Matters arising: Ewan asked that the minutes be amended to reflect as follows: Ewan wanted to inform community members that they work across all NR areas. They often work with key cases where there is no contact with organisations, this is due to the sensitive nature of the issues and they must respect confidentiality in all cases Minutes agreed as accurate. Proposed by Raymond Jackson and seconded by Ewan Morgan	Amend the previous minutes	Sean
4.	Conflict of interest	No Conflicts of interest declared		
5.	Subgroup updates	<u>Revenue:</u> <u>EANI:</u> - All programmes have completed. - Collating all the information for the OBA reports - The Greater Linenhall Homework Club has stopped once again - issue is with maintaining staff and requires further discussion to find a solution. <u>EA Youth service:</u> - Youth Engagement - 5 applications - all complete but continuing provision until the end June 26. - Derrybeg and the Newry High and St Joseph's High		

		School programmes continuing to the end of June. • Youth work team preparing for the Summer period. • Transition work in St Malachys P.S. planned. • Plan to continue work in Derrybeg • SEN provision in partnership with the SHSCT – 12 – 17 years. • Newry Mourne and Down Youth voice managed and facilitated the YAFTAs. Presentation held in Killeavy Castle. Health: • Presentation at the recent Health Group meeting on the Healthy Eating Programme within the schools – great outcomes. Members very happy with the programme. Recent Activities • Dementia and Autism bus – full attendance • Great feedback – schools now sourcing this for school staff. This in the plan for 2026/27. • How do we reach others within NR? • Community health checks – Cancer focus 29 checks – 17 Male and 12 Female – 9 BMI +30, 4 high blood pressure, 6 referred onto their GP • 16 more checks yesterday – await the results • Heart Screening in January – 12% referred onto their GPs • Physical activity • Men's programme – 18 people on a 6-week programme, 30 – 50yrs age group. • Older people's programme in Carnagat		
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		• New members in the last round. • Tai – chi adds fun into the programme. • Introduction to Boccia • Community hub – 24 people involved. • Teen programme in Greater Linenhall – Tai Kwondo NMEA E2E programme • Digital Wellbeing programme delivered to 250 pupils • P7's visited WIN Business Centre and Conor spoke to them about future careers – 202 pupils • Local Economy and Career pathways in St Mary's High School • Margaret McNamee from SRC spoke to the pupils, Savage & Whitten Wholesale provided treat bags NMDDC: Community Renewal Programme • Running costs programme ongoing. • Support for local communities with day to day running costs – heating/electricity etc. • Require Quarter 4 claims and the reports at your earliest convenience • Due to Ballybot not submitting a claim within 2025/26 Sean has been instructed by DfC to decommit the funding. • Sean has continuously tried to contact Ballybot, with no success • Require the members to discuss how we move forward - Noreen asked that we try again to make contact and offer support if required. All members agreed.		
			Email and call Ballybot for an update on their position	Sean/CCG

		Community Renewal Support • CCG delivering ongoing support to all the groups (governance, administration, funding applications, training etc.) • Majority of our groups are working very well. • Drumalane CA held their AGM – 10 members joined. • Martin's Lane AGM is now outstanding • NMDDC Community Development Strategy out for consultation. • Issues with Ballybot. Trying to reconnect with them to explore next steps for the group. • CCG staff are now on protective notice. Outdoor activity • Programme for 2025/26 has finished – All targets met • 55 activities and 1 training programme delivered. • 2000 + people took part to date in the programme • Small underspend of £22.20 Safer Stronger Communities • Presentation of the Fixing Things programme certificates in St Patrick's and St Malachy's Primary Schools - 88 pupils • 48 restorative cases supported across NR to date • All support agencies involved. • Delivering a programme exploring Migration from the Port in Newry - 15 people from NR communities travelled to the Ulster American Folk Park. Part 2 will see newcomer families taking part and then finish with both groups coming together.		
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		SRC The Newry TOPS project is now complete with; • 63 residents have completed the training. • 57 have achieved their qualifications. DEA • Wildlife in the City event on Saturday 20th June – 10.00am – 1.00pm • Men's Health Programme – 11th June in Newry Leisure Centre • Newry Water Festival on the Bank Holiday Monday in August – to be bigger and better than previous years. • Attended EA Sub Group – making contact with the schools • First round of Financial Assistance now closed – LoOs to be issued end of April. • Community support hub 21st April, 3pm – 6pm at NLC. Open invitation to all • Impact of Cocaine video launched - educational resource in partnership with Davina's Ark • Peace Plus Programme Reimaging project ongoing	All information to be circulated	Kerri/Sean
6.	DfC Update	No SRC application – ongoing assessment of the Programme in conjunction with the local LMP. This assessment will provide evidence of the need in the area, the existing provision and identify any gaps. Awaiting the outcome of the report. Internal review of the Education programme in line with the Raise programme GFA's sent out – 3 months advance payment to the		

		voluntary/community sector. At this stage there are still no confirmed budgets.		
7.	A.O.B	Paul asked that we invite MAP NI to a meeting to look at the impact of violence against males. <u>No More Business</u> Everyone thanked for attending and NMEA and Sean thanked for the hospitality provided	Send Sean details	Paul
9.	Date of Next Meeting	Wednesday 20 May 2026 7.00pm in WIN Business Centre	Circulate details and all information	Sean

Report to:	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 15 June 2026
Subject:	Summer Activity Programme 2026
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Conor Haughey, Assistant Director Healthy Living
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Conor Haughey, Assistant Director Healthy Living

For decision	For noting only	x
1.0	Purpose and Background	
1.1	<u>Purpose</u> The purpose of this report is for AHC Committee members to note the planned Summer Activity Programme in July and August 2026 as per appendix 1. <u>Background</u> The Summer Activity Programme is developed annually to provide a range of inclusive and engaging leisure opportunities for children and young people across the district. It is supported through departmental resources and delivered across various leisure and community facilities. The programme has been designed in line with the Council's strategic priorities for Active and Healthy Communities and reflects identified participation needs across the district. All elements of the programme are deliverable within existing approved resources and staffing allocations for the 2026/27 financial year.	
2.0	Key issues	
2.1	The Summer Activity Programme has several key themes with the details of each outlined in appendix 1. These themes include: • Multi Sports Camps • Teen Activity Week • Neurodiversity Camp • Physical Disability Camp • Summer Autism Swim Sessions • £1 Summer Promotion in Designated Leisure Facilities • 1 soft play session in NLC • £2 court hire and £8 sport hall hire in Designated Leisure Facilities	
3.0	Recommendations	
3.1	That AHC Committee members note the planned Summer Activity Programme for July and August 2026.	

4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Revenue: All revenue budget implications associated with the Summer Activity Programme have been included in 2026/27 Departmental budgets.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i> It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations ☒
5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i> Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened ☐ The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation ☐
5.3	<i>Proposal initiating consultation – N/a</i> Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves ☐ Consultation period will be 12 weeks ☐ Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) ☐ <i>Rationale:</i>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed ☐

	If no, please complete the following: The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs ☐
7.0	Appendices
	Appendix 1 – Summer 2026 Programme
8.0	Background Documents
	None

CLÁR AN TSAMHRAIDH SUMMER PROGRAMME



Ag freastal ar an Dún
agus Ard Mhacha Theas
Serving Down
and South Armagh



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



DÉAN RÉIDH DO SHAMHRADH LÁN SPRAOI! GET READY FOR A SUMMER OF FUN!

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council is excited to launch this year's summer programme – packed with exciting activities to keep everyone active and entertained throughout the holidays.

Whether you're looking for fun family days out, sports and fitness sessions or ways to keep the kids engaged, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Make a big splash this summer with our water programme which includes swimming crash courses, junior lifeguard

courses or join us at Tropicana in Newcastle for fun days out in our heated outdoor pools.

Join the energy and adventure with our multi-sports camps and Teen Activity Week happening across the district!

You can also hire our halls and courts throughout the summer for lots of indoor sports and games like table tennis, basketball, 5-a-side football, handball, squash and more.

Check out what's available...



CAMPAÍ SAMHRAIDH ILSPÓIRT DO PHÁISTÍ BUNSCOILE SUMMER MULTI-SPORTS CAMPS FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN

Our multi-sports camps are designed for primary school children enabling them to enjoy a wide range of active and rewarding sporting activities.

These sessions support each child's physical development, build confidence and most importantly, ensure they have fun.

They're also great days out with friends, and the perfect opportunity to make new ones!

Children will get to try a variety of sports, sparking new interests and encouraging a lifelong love of staying active.

Don't forget to bring a drink and lunch!

How to Book

• Click the link

<https://tinyurl.com/3pvn372j>

• select Holiday Activities

or call into your nearest leisure centre

Key information, locations & dates

Age Range:

P1 – P7 (Children attending must have completed Primary 1 in 2025/2026 academic school year).

Locations:

Newry Leisure Centre
Down Leisure Centre
Newcastle Centre
Ballynahinch Community Centre
Bridge Community Centre, Killyleagh

Length of camp:

Monday – Friday

Dates:

Week 1 | 20 – 24 July

Newry • Downpatrick • Newcastle • Killyleagh

Week 2 | 27 – 31 July

Newry • Downpatrick • Newcastle • Ballynahinch

Week 3 | 3 – 7 August

Newry • Downpatrick • Newcastle • Ballynahinch

Week 4 | 10 – 14 August

Newry • Downpatrick • Newcastle • Ballynahinch

Times:

10am – 2pm

Weekly camp cost:

£22.00

Bookings opening times:

Downpatrick – 10am, Monday 15 June

Newry – 1pm, Monday 15 June

Newcastle – 4pm, Monday 15 June

Ballynahinch – 10am, Tuesday 16 June

Killyleagh – 4pm, Monday 15 June

Spaces are limited

Please see booking information
& T&Cs on pages 14 – 17



CAMPA SAMHRAIDH ILSPÓIRT DO DHÉAGÓIRÍ

TEEN MULTI-SPORTS CAMP

Our teen multi-sports camps are designed for young people aged 12 to 15 to 'Be Active', and explore a variety of sports and activities - all in one place. From football and basketball to racquet sports, dodgeball and more, each session is packed with energy and variety.

Led by experienced coaches these camps help teens build new skills, broaden their interests and enjoy a healthy, active summer.

It's the perfect opportunity to keep moving and just have fun.

Key information, locations & dates

Age Range:

12 - 15 years

Locations:

Newry Leisure Centre
Down Leisure Centre

Length of camp:

Monday - Friday

Dates:

17 - 21 August

Times:

11am - 1pm

Weekly camp cost:

£11.00

How to Book

- Click the link

<https://tinyurl.com/3pvn372j>

- select Holiday Activities

or call into your nearest leisure centre

Bookings opening times:

1pm, Tuesday 16 June

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Spaces are limited

*Please see booking information
& T&Cs on pages 14 - 17*



AGLAÍOCHT DO DHÉAGÓIRÍ TEEN GYM SESSIONS

Teen Gym sessions take place weekly at Newry Leisure Centre, Down Leisure Centre, Newcastle Centre and Ballymote Sports & Wellbeing Centre.

Designed for young people aged 12–15, the programme supports physical fitness, confidence and overall wellbeing in a safe and welcoming environment. Whether participants are new to exercise or already active, sessions help develop healthy habits through guided workouts and access to

a variety of gym equipment. Teens can train independently or alongside friends while improving strength, fitness and confidence.

All sessions are supervised by qualified fitness staff, with participant numbers limited at each centre to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience. All new participants must complete a free induction before attending their first session.



How to Book

Log into NMD Be Active app

- Select Leisure Centre
- Select Be Active for Life Classes
- Scroll across days to book Teen Gym session or call into your local Leisure Centre in advance to book.

Bookings opening times:

Teen gym classes are open for booking 8 days in advance

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Spaces are limited

Please see booking information & T&Cs on pages 14 – 17



CAMPAÍ SAMHRAIDH IONCHUIMSITHEACHA ALL-INCLUSIVE SUMMER CAMPS

As part of our commitment to inclusive sport and physical activity, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council is delivering all-inclusive summer camps. These are specially designed for children with additional needs or neurodiversity such as Autism and ADHD.

While our multi-sports camps are open and welcoming to all children, we understand that some may thrive better in a smaller, more structured setting.

Our all-inclusive camps offer a supportive, sensory-friendly environment with enhanced accessibility, ideal for children who may find larger camps overwhelming.

Key information, locations & dates

Inclusive camps for children with neurodiversity such as autism and ADHD.

This camp for 4 to 13 year olds offers a calm, structured and sensory-aware environment to support each child's comfort and enjoyment.

Locations:

Newry Leisure Centre
Down Leisure Centre

Length of camp:

Monday – Friday

Dates:

27 July – 31 July
10 August – 14 August

Times:

2:30pm – 4:30pm

Cost:

£11.00 per camp

Important Information:

If a child requires additional support, a parent, guardian or carer is required to attend and remain on-site for the duration of the session.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss your child's needs, please contact:

leisureandsport@nmandd.org

How to Book

- Click the link
<https://tinyurl.com/3pvn372j>
- select Holiday Activities

or call into your nearest leisure centre in advance

Booking opening time:

1pm, Tuesday 16 June

Spaces are limited

Please see booking information & T&Cs on pages 14 – 17



HALLA SPÓIRT AR GÍOS SPORTS HALL HIRE

Enjoy access to our spacious indoor sports halls for just £8.00 per session. Perfect for group activities, casual games or keeping active, our facilities offer something for everyone.

Choose from a wide range of activities including badminton, table tennis, netball, basketball, volleyball, 5-a-side football and more. Whether you're organising a team game or just having fun, our sports halls provide a welcoming environment for all ages.



GÚIRT SGUAISE AGUS LIATHRÓID LÁIMHE AR GÍOS

SQUASH AND HANDBALL COURT HIRE

Book one of our dedicated courts for only £2.00 per session and enjoy a fast-paced game of squash or handball.

Challenge a friend or enjoy a solo practice session at your own pace.

Key information, locations & dates

Locations:

Newry Leisure Centre
Down Leisure Centre
Ballymote Leisure Centre – Sports Hall only

Available to children under 16 years old
Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm, pending availability

How to Book



- To book contact your leisure centre on 0330 137 4026, email the address listed on page 18 or drop in



£1 BOGSHÚGRADH (IONAD FÓILLÍOCHTA AN IÚIR AMHÁIN)

£1 SOFT PLAY

Newry Leisure Centre only

Our vibrant indoor soft play area is specially designed for children up to 12 years old, providing an exciting space for active play and adventure.

Packed with engaging features including a slide, tunnels and climbing frames, the play area encourages children to stay active while developing coordination, balance and motor skills. It's the perfect place to burn off energy, spark imagination and enjoy fun-filled play with friends.

No booking is required – simply drop in and pay on arrival!

Key information, locations & dates

**£1 Soft Play – Monday to Friday,
9am – 5pm, pending availability.**

For opening hours, see:

<https://tinyurl.com/4vpzkhz3>

Children must be supervised at all times by a responsible adult aged 16 years or over.

Soft play is for kids under 12 years or under 4'9" (1.45m) tall.

Please keep in mind we have a limit on numbers, so entry may be restricted once we reach capacity.

LÉIM ISTÉACH
SA TSAMHRADH
LE SPLAIS MHÓR!

DIVE INTO
SUMMER WITH A
BIG SPLASH!

Dive into our summer programme with our £1 swims, join a crash course in swimming lessons to quickly boost your skills or get involved in a junior lifeguard course to build water confidence and safety awareness.

Enjoy the calm of our autism swim sessions in a sensory-aware environment or don't miss the excitement of Tropicana, our heated outdoor pool complex and the ever-popular Tropicarama fun sessions – perfect for families.





LÉIM ISTEACH SA TSNÁMH AR £1 DIVE IN FOR A £1 SWIM

SEISIÚIN SNÁMHA DO PHÁISTÍ - £1 CHILDREN'S £1 SWIM SESSIONS

Enjoy our £1 Summer Swims this July and August at Newry Leisure Centre & Down Leisure Centre!

Available Monday to Friday, 9am - 5pm for children under 16 years old, our swim sessions are a great way to stay active, kick back and have fun. Enjoy our pools or splash around in the fun play areas.

Due to demand, pre-booking throughout the summer months is strongly recommended to avoid disappointment.



How to Book

- Click the link
<https://tinyurl.com/ms8udtpm>
- select Leisure Centre
- Select date of swim session required
- Select time and book



BLASCHÚRSAÍ SNÁMHA DO PHÁISTÍ CHILDREN'S SWIMMING CRASH COURSES

Make a splash this summer with our fun and focused swimming crash courses, running throughout July and August in Newry Leisure Centre and Down Leisure Centre.

These week-long programmes offer 30-minute daily lessons designed to help children build confidence and improve their swimming skills quickly in a supportive environment.

CÚRSAÍ GARDA TARRTHÁLA SÓISIR JUNIOR LIFEGUARD COURSES

Our junior lifeguard courses run throughout July and August, offering children aged 7 to 15 years the chance to develop important lifesaving skills in a fun setting.

To join, participants should be comfortable swimming 50m (25m front crawl and 25m backstroke).

These courses are a fantastic way for young swimmers to build confidence, learn water safety, and gain valuable experience as part of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's summer programme.

Key information & dates

Lessons available include:

Stanley swimming lessons –
for beginners aged 4–6 years

.....
Octopus swimming lessons –
for beginners aged 7+ years



How to Book

- Click the link
<https://tinyurl.com/y3ux2yvt>
- Select Main Category



SEISIÚIN SNÁMHA ATÁ OIRIÚNACH DON UATHACHAS AUTISM SWIM SESSIONS

Key information, locations & times

Down Leisure Centre

Thursday, 5pm – 6pm

Newry Leisure Centre

Sunday 9.45am – 10.45am

Tropicana, Newcastle

Friday 12pm – 1.30pm

Price:

Normal swim entry pricing applies

Dedicated autism-friendly swim sessions are available at Down Leisure Centre, Newry Leisure Centre and Tropicana in Newcastle. These sessions provide a calm setting for autistic individuals and their families.

These sessions are designed with sensory needs in mind – they provide a quieter swim environment, more relaxed setting with reduced noise levels and fewer swimmers in the pool. The aim is to make swimming a positive and enjoyable experience for those who may find regular sessions overwhelming. Whether it is building confidence in the water, learning essential swim skills, or simply having fun as a family, our autism-friendly sessions offer a space for everyone to enjoy at their own pace.



How to Book

- Click the link
<https://tinyurl.com/ms8udtpm>
- select Leisure Centre
- Scroll to date of swim session required
- Select time and book

Due to demand,
pre-booking is strongly
recommended to avoid
disappointment.



SPRAOI SAMHRAIDH I GCROÍLÁR AN CHAISLEÁIN NUA!

SUMMER FUN IN THE HEART OF NEWCASTLE!

Get ready to make a splash this summer at Tropicana Outdoor Swimming Complex, right in the centre of Newcastle! Opening July 3 to August 27, Tropicana offers heated outdoor pools perfect for sunny swim sessions and fun days out with family and friends.

The complex includes two heated pools, including a toddler pool with a small slide for children under 8 years old.

Seasonal opening times

3 July - 27 August

Monday	12pm - 5.30pm
Tuesday	12pm - 8pm
Wednesday	12pm - 5.30pm
Thursday	12pm - 8pm
Friday	12pm - 5.30pm
Saturday	10am - 5.30pm
Sunday	2pm - 5.30pm

Tropicarama (Fun sessions)

Every Tuesday & Thursday 6pm - 8pm

Swimming -

Casual Pay-As-You-Go prices:

Pay-As-You-Go 16+	£3.50
Pay-As-You-Go Concession	£2.70
Pay-As-You-Go Under 4	Free
Pay-As-You-Go Group Ticket (2 adults & 2 Children)	£10.50



Please note, in the event of severe weather conditions, some facilities may need to close for safety reasons. For the latest updates, please see our NMD Be Active Facebook page.



How to Book

- Click the link
<https://tinyurl.com/sbxk8asn>
- Select date of swim session required
- Select time and book

Swim sessions are added regularly throughout the summer and you can only book 8 days in advance.

All bookings are non-refundable and non-transferable unless cancelled by council.

Eolas Áirithinte

Booking Information

All activities are sold on a first come, first serve basis. You must have booked and paid for your activity to secure your place.

All bookings are non-refundable and non-transferable unless cancelled by Council. Regarding our pools, each has a maximum capacity to ensure everyone's safety and comfort, so entry may be limited during busy times.

To avoid disappointment, especially during weekends and holiday periods, we strongly recommend pre-booking your swim in advance using the NMD Be Active app.

To book swimming, log into the NMD Be Active app, choose your preferred centre – Newry, Down or Newcastle – tap the 'Book General Swimming' for swim sessions or tap the 'Swimming lessons' tile for lessons and courses.

Booking can also be made by telephoning 0330 137 4026 or by calling into your nearest leisure centre.

For more information on any activities on the summer programme, please email your preferred leisure centre. Contact information is page 18

Booking Information

Eolas Áirithinte

Díoltar gach gníomhaíocht ar an bhonn gur don té is túisce a thiocfadh a thabharfar áit.

Caithfidh tú do ghníomhaíocht a chur in áirithe agus íoc aisti le d'áit a chinntiú.

Ní thabharfar aisíocaíocht ar aon áirithint agus ní ceadmhach áirithint a aistriú go duine eile mura gcuireann an Chomhairle ar ceal í. Tá uasmhéid toillte i ngach ceann dár linnte snámha lena chinntiú go mbíonn gach duine slán agus ar a chompord. Dá bharr sin, d'fhéadfadh sé go gcuirfí teorainn le líon na ndaoine a ligfí isteach le linn uaireanta gnóthacha.

Le díomá a sheachaint, go háirithe ag an deireadh seachtaine agus le linn tréimhsí saoire, molaimid go láidir do sheisiún snámha a chur in áirithe roimh ré tríd an aip NMD Be Active.

Le snámh a chur in áirithe, logáil isteach ar an aip NMD Be Active, roghnaigh an t-ionad is fearr leat – An tIúr, An Dún nó An Caisleán Nua – tapáil ‘Cuir Snámh Ginearálta in Áirithe’ le haghaidh seisiún snámha, nó tapáil ‘Ceachtanna snámha’ le haghaidh ceachtanna agus cúrsaí.

Is féidir áirithint a dhéanamh fosta ach tú scairt a chur ar 0330 137 4026 nó buail isteach chuig an ionad fóillíochta is gaire duit.

Le tuilleadh eolais ar ghníomhaíochtaí faoi chlár an tsamhraidh, seol ríomhphost chuig an ionad fóillíochta is fearr leat.

Tá sonraí teagmhála ar leathanach 18

Téarmaí agus Coinníollacha

Terms and Conditions

Children attending the multi-sports camps must have completed Primary 1 in the 2025/2026 academic school year.

Please arrive no more than 10 minutes before the activity is due to start and be prompt for collection times.

It is recommended all participants wear suitable footwear, casual clothing and should be prepared for indoor and outdoor activities.

Participants are advised to bring a refillable water bottle and bring a healthy snack or a lunch.

Parents/Guardians are responsible for applying sunscreen to participants before they arrive.

Please note we are unable to provide one to one personal care such as toileting and feeding.

All bookings are non-refundable and non transferable unless cancelled by Council.

Pool admission policy

All children under 8 years must be accompanied by an adult aged 16 or over in the water at all times, who must stay in close proximity to supervise the child.

This person may accompany up to 1 child under the age of 4, or 2 children where at least one of which is aged over 4 years.

Any person under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be refused admission.

For swimming pool group bookings, the normal admission policy applies.

In the interests of health and safety, we kindly ask all users that have any form of medical conditions to make this known to a member of staff prior to using the facilities.

Additional Tropicana admission policy

When visiting Tropicana our normal admission policy applies, however children who are non-swimmers must wear a secure flotation device such as fitted armbands or a buoyancy aid.

Terms and Conditions

Téarmaí agus Coinníollacha

Maidir leis na páistí a fhreastalóidh ar champaí ilspóirt, is gá gur chríochnaigh siad Rang 1 sa scoilbhliain acadúil 2025/2026.

Ná bí ann níos luaithe ná 10 mbomaite roimh thús na gníomhaíochta agus bí in am do na hamanna bailithe.

Moltar do gach rannpháirtí bróga oiriúnacha agus éadaí neamhfhoirmiúla a chaitheamh agus bheith réidh le haghaidh gníomhaíochtaí laistigh agus amuigh.

Moltar do rannpháirtithe buidéal uisce in-athlíonta agus sneaic shláintiúil nó lón a thabhairt leo.

Tá Tuismitheoirí/Caomhnóirí freagrach as uachtar gréine a chur ar rannpháirtithe sula dtagann siad.

Tabhair faoi deara nach bhfuil muid in ann cúram pearsanta duine le duine a chur ar fáil; mar gheall ar úsáid leithris nó beathú linbh, cuir i gcás.

Ní thabharfar aisíocaíocht ar aon áirithint agus ní ceadmhach áirithint a aistriú go duine eile mura gcuireann an Chomhairle ar ceal í.

Polasaí iontrála don linn snámha

Caithfidh duine fásta os cionn 16 bliana d'aois bheith in éineacht le gach páiste faoi 8 mbliana d'aois; agus iad san uisce,

caithfidh an duine sin fanacht gar don pháiste le súil ghéar a choinneáil air an t-am ar fad.

Féadfaidh an duine seo aire a thabhairt do leanbh amháin faoi 4 bliana d'aois, nó do bheirt leanaí sa chás go bhfuil ar a laghad duine amháin acu os cionn 4 bliana d'aois.

Diúltófar d'aon duine atá faoi thionchar drugaí nó alcóil dul isteach sa linn snámha.

Maidir le háirithintí grúpa don linn snámha, tá feidhm ag an ghnáthpholasaí iontrála.

Ar mhaithe le sláinte agus sábháilteacht, iarraimid go cineálta ar gach úsáideoir a bhfuil fadhb shláinte acu é sin a chur in iúl do bhall foirne sula n-úsáidfeadh siad na háiseanna.

Polasaí iontrála breise do Tropicana

Nuair a thugtar cuairt ar Tropicana, tá ár ngnáthpholasaí iontrála i bhfeidhm. Mar sin féin, caithfidh páistí nach bhfuil snámh acu gaireas tarrthála a chaitheamh, mar shampla bandaí snámha luiteacha nó áis snámhachta.



CONTACTS

Ballymote Sports and Wellbeing Centre
 96 Glebetown Drive, Downpatrick, BT30 6PX
 T: 0330 137 4026
 E: ballymotesportsandwellbeingcentre@nmandd.org

Down Leisure Centre
 114 Market Street, Downpatrick, BT30 6LZ
 T: 0330 137 4026
 E: downleisurecentre@nmandd.org

Kilkeel Leisure Centre (Currently closed for refurbishment)
 Mourne Esplanade, Kilkeel, BT34 4DB
 T: 0330 137 4026
 E: kilkeel.reception@nmandd.org

Newcastle Centre
 10-14 Central Promenade, Newcastle, BT33 0AA
 T: 0330 137 4026
 E: newcastlecentre@nmandd.org

Newry Leisure Centre
 60 Cecil Street, Newry, BT35 6AU
 T: 0330 137 4026
 E: poolreception@nmandd.org



Please check the NMD Be Active app or
www.newrymournedown.org/leisure-and-sport
 for the latest information on timetables and opening times.

NMD Be Active App
 Download it NOW



@NMDBeActive



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