

March 16th, 2026

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the meeting to be held on **Monday, 16th March 2026** at **6:00 pm** in **Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre.**

Committee Membership 2025-26

Councillor C Bowsie **Chairperson**

Councillor M Gibbons **Deputy Chairperson**

Councillor J Brennan

Councillor D Finn

Councillor C Galbraith

Councillor R Howell

Councillor J Jackson

Councillor A King

Councillor N Lawlor

Councillor D Lee-Surginor

Councillor O Magennis

Councillor A Mathers

Councillor D Murphy

Councillor K Murphy

Councillor J Truesdale

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 Action Sheet arising from Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting of 16 February 2026

📎 *Action Sheet from AHC 16-02-2026.pdf*

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Presentation

4.0 Presentation on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls

For Information

For Discussion/Decision

5.0 District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum Action Sheets February 2026

For Decision

📎 *AHC Report - DEA .pdf*

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📎 *DEA Action Sheets Feb 2026.pdf*

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6.0 Grant Funding Application

For Decision

📎 *AHC report - Grant Funding Application .pdf*

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Exempt Appendices

6.1 Exempt Appendix - Grant Funding Application

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 1 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.

📎 *Appx 1 Grant Funding Application Project Budget (restricted).pdf*

Not included

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

7.0 Digi Hub Project Update

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 1 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.

📄 *Digihub Project Update.pdf*

Not included

For Noting

8.0 Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) Update

For Information

📄 *AHC Report - Ending Violence against Women and Girls EVAWG.pdf*

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9.0 Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Report

📄 *AHC Report - Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership.pdf*

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📄 *Appx.1 Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Mtg 26.11.25.pdf*

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📄 *Appx. 2 Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Mtg 15.10.25.pdf*

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Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews
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Cllr Callum Bowsie
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Fionnuala Branagh
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Cllr Jim Brennan
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Cllr Pete Byrne
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Cllr Philip Campbell
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Cllr William Clarke
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Cllr Laura Devlin
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Cllr Cadogan Enright
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Cllr Killian Feehan
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Cllr Doire Finn
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Martina Flynn
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Cllr Conor Galbraith
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Cllr Mark Gibbons
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Cllr Oonagh Hanlon
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Cllr Glyn Hanna
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Cllr Valerie Harte
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Mr Conor Haughey
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Cllr Martin Hearty
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Cllr Roisin Howell
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Cllr Tierna Howie
.....
Cllr Jonathan Jackson
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Joanne/Noelle Johnston
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Cllr Geraldine Kearns
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Miss Veronica Keegan
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Mrs Sheila Kieran
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Cllr Aurla King
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Cllr Cathal King
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Ms Elaine Kirk
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Cllr Mickey Larkin
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Cllr Niall Lawlor
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Cllr David Lee-Surginor
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Cllr Alan Lewis
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Cllr Oonagh Magennis
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Mr Conor Mallon
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Cllr Aidan Mathers
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Cllr Declan McAteer
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Ms Kerri McConnell
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Mr Martin McKibbin
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Cllr Kate Murphy
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Sinead Murphy
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Cllr Declan Murphy
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Cllr Selina Murphy
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Cllr Siobhan O'Hare
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Mr Andy Patterson
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Cllr Áine Quinn
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Cllr Michael Rice
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Ms Alison Robb
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Cllr Michael Ruane
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Conor Smyth
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Donna Starkey
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Sarah Taggart
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Cllr David Taylor
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Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly
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Cllr Jill Truesdale
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Mrs Marie Ward
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ACTIONS ARISING FROM ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING – 16 FEBRUARY 2026

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
AHC/011/2026	Action sheet from AHC Meeting held 26/02/26	It was agreed to note the action sheet	A Patterson	Noted	Y
AHC/012/2026	District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum Update	It was agreed to note the report and approve the actions in the action sheets attached for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mournes DEA Forum Meeting held 20 January 2026 • Downpatrick DEA Forum Meeting held 3 February 2026 • Slieve Gullion DEA Forum meeting held 6 January 2026 • Newry DEA Forum Meeting held 15 January 2026 	A Robb	Noted and actions being progressed	Y
AHC/013/2026	Leasing Of Council Land and Facilities	It was agreed to progress the Hilltown Community Trail project to RIBA Stage 3, utilising existing budgets, subject to Committee and Council approval.	C Haughey	Aecom appointed to carry out designs and consultations for a planning submission	Y
AHC/014/2026	Policing & Community Safety Partnership	It was agreed to note the minutes of the Policing Committee and PCSP Meeting held 25 November 2025 and approved at the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting on 3 February 2026	A Robb	Noted	Y
AHC/015/2026	Youth and Future Talent Awards	It was agreed to note the upcoming YAFTA awards ceremony on Tuesday 3rd March 2026 at Killeavy Castle Estate	A Robb	Noted	Y

Report to:	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 16 March 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	Purpose <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To note the report. To consider and agree to approve the actions in the Action Sheets attached from the DEA Forum Meetings listed in 3.1 below. 		
2.0	Key issues		
2.1	None.		
3.0	Recommendations		
3.1	That the Committee: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Note the report. ➤ Agree to approve the actions in the Action Sheets attached for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Crotlieve DEA Forum Meeting held on 10 February 2026 - Newry DEA Forum Meeting held on 17 February 2026 - Rowallane DEA Forum Meeting on 17 February 2026 - Slieve Croob DEA Forum Meeting held on 24 February 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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves. <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	<p>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</p>
.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	<p>Appendices</p>
7.1	<p>Appendix 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action Sheet - Crotlieve DEA Forum Meeting held on 10 February 2026 - Action Sheet - Newry DEA Forum Meeting held on 17 February 2026 - Action Sheet - Rowallane DEA Forum Meeting on 17 February 2026 - Action Sheet - Slieve Croob DEA Forum Meeting held on 24 February 2026
8.0	<p>Background Documents</p>

8.1	None.
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**Action Sheet of Crotlieve District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum Private Meeting
held on Tuesday 10th February 2026 at 18.00pm via Microsoft Teams**

Chairperson:	Councillor Kate Murphy
In Attendance:	Councillor Micky Ruane Councillor Declan McAteer Councillor Selina Murphy
Independent Members:	Martina Byrne - Hilltown Community Association/Clonduff Development Enterprise/Women of Clonduff Cathy McMahon - Confederation of Community Groups Claire Shiels- County Down Rural Community Network
Statutory Partners:	NONE
Council Officials:	Shirley Keenan-Hughes – DEA Co-ordinator Crotlieve
Others:	Lois Kennedy – MayWe Helen Morrison – MayWe
Apologies:	Ciara Burns – Community Services Manager Edel McGeeney – Peace Plus Officer Annie Clarke – Promoting Wellbeing Team SHSCT Sergeant Conor Valentine - Neighbourhood Policing Team Connaire McGreevy - Greater Newry Chamber of Commerce Keith Parke- Ardarragh Accordion Band/ Lisnamullion Rural Association/ Drumlough & Ballygorian RDA

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed.
DEA/C/01/2026	Welcome and Apologies.	Councillor Kate Murphy welcomed Members and noted apologies.	COMPLETED.
DEA/C/02/2026	Declarations of Interest.	There were no declarations of interest declared.	COMPLETED.
DEA/C/03/2026	Matters arising from Action Sheet from meeting held 09 th December 2025.	Action Sheet confirmed as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Cllr McAteer and Seconded by Cllr S Murphy.	COMPLETED.
DEA/C/04/2026	DEA Co-ordinators Report.	<p>Update from DEA Co-ordinator Ms S Keenan-Hughes on projects, events and programmes organised and supported by Crotlieve DEA Forum that have taken place from the date of the last meeting.</p> <p>Blue Monday Event in partnership with Newry and Slieve Gullion DEAs. 150 older people attended the event in Cloughreagh which supported people to tackle isolation and loneliness together.</p> <p>5 schools from the Crotlieve area including 4 primary and 1 post primary took part in the Crotlieve School Choir event in Warrenpoint on 1 December. Over 200 young people attended and performed for the community.</p>	NOTED.

		<p>Rostrevor Inclusion Childrens Choir performed a Christmas Carol Service in Rostrevor in St Marys Chapel. This inclusive group of young people represent all denominations and abilities and performed an uplifting service to the community. Over 60 performers engaged and 300 people attended.</p> <p>Members were also updated on planned events including:</p> <p>Schools GR Movie 2nd March 2026 Carrick Primary School Cultural Programme Ballyholland Primary School International Women’s Day 5th March 2026 Rural Women Programme March -April 2026 Spring Tea Dance 24th March 2026 Women’s Walking Tour Warrenpoint 28th March 2026 Autism Bus April 2026</p> <p>It was Proposed by Cllr McAteer and seconded by Cllr Murphy that the planned events should be supported from the DEA Budget.</p> <p>Members were also advised that Action Planning for 2026-2027 was underway and contributions were welcome.</p>	
DEA/C/05/2026	New Members.	An application from WBR Chamber of Commerce has been received. No objections were noted from the forum.	COMPLETED
DEA/C/06/2026	PEACEPLUS Update.	<p>In the absence of Ms E McGeeney, a written update was provided to the DEA Co-ordinator in respect of the delivery of the PEACEPLUS plan and this was read to the forum.</p> <p>The Bi-monthly Newsletter was circulated.</p> <p>Update provided in respect of, Capacity Building, Cultural Programmes, Community Action Programmes, Events and Festivals, Social and Emotional Support Programmes.</p>	CIRCULATED TO ALL MEMBERS.

DEA/C/07/2026	Transformation & Re-imaging Programme PEACEPLUS.	Lois Kennedy & Helen Morrison from MayWe were in attendance and updated members. 3 Areas to be identified within the DEA. It was discussed that whilst a few areas had been discussed no agreement had been reached to date. Members to revert with suggestions.	Suggestions to be forwarded to MayWe and PEACEPLUS officer.
DEA/C/08/2026	Action Cancer.	Ms C Shiels from CDRCN advised groups were requesting the Action Cancer Bus to return to the DEA. It was agreed Ms Shiels would review where the bus had been in recent times and revert to the forum as 4 communities within the DEA were requesting the bus. The forum agreed that 2 buses would be funded in the new financial year.	CDRCN to revert to Forum.
DEA/C/09/2026	Christmas Lights Hilltown.	Ms M Byrne advised the DEA Forum that there have been issues with the Christmas Lights 3 years in a row. Whilst it was agreed there had been ASB and vandalism, it was possible that there were also electrical faults. It was noted that Council Electricians had been on site numerous times in the month of December 2025 tending to the lights.	DEA Co-ordinator to contact relevant Council Department and request a report to be tabled at the next DEA Forum meeting.
DEA/C/10/2026	Date of Next Meeting.	The next meeting date: Tuesday 14 th April 2026 at 6pm in Warrenpoint Town Hall.	DEA Co-ordinator to forward agenda and papers in advance.

The meeting ended at: 18:30pm

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

**Action Sheet of Newry District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum Private Meeting
held on Tuesday 17th February 2026 at 1.30pm in Newry Leisure Centre**

Chairperson:	Councillor Aidan Mathers
In Attendance:	Councillor Cathal King Councillor Valerie Harte
Independent Members:	Raymond Jackson, Confederation of Community Groups Allison Slater, Bolster Community Colin Hanna, Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency Ann Grant, County Down Rural Community Network
Statutory Partners:	Sergeant Warren Roberts, PSNI Inspector Paul Moore, PSNI
Council Officials:	Padraig Harte, Newry DEA Coordinator Edel McGeeney, Peace Officer Ciara Burns, Community Services NMDDC
Others:	Lois Kennedy, MayWe Helen Morrison, MayWe
Apologies:	Councillor Geraldine Kearns Councillor Doire Finn Aisling Pryers, Housing Executive

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed
DEA/N/2026/1	Declarations of Interest	None.	
DEA/N/2026/2	Matters arising from Action Sheet	Action sheet confirmed as a true and accurate record. Members were advised that the Action Sheet remains in draft form for this meeting, as it precedes the NMDDC Active and Healthy Communities Committee meeting.	Approved.
DEA/N/2026/3	Patrick Street Park	Submissions made. Under review.	Coordinator to progress.
DEA/N/2026/4	MayWe – Reimaging Project	<p>Members were informed about the PEACEPLUS “Thriving Together” Transformation and Re-Imaging Programme, which is being delivered by MayWe Events Ltd. The programme aims to support communities to transform and re-imagine local spaces in ways that challenge perceptions, build stronger relationships, and increase shared pride in local areas. Members were advised that the initiative will involve identifying priority areas within each DEA, engaging residents and community groups in shared dialogue, and bringing together diverse and cross-community steering groups. Through workshops, learning visits and community engagement, participants will work collaboratively to develop Local Action Plans and identify non-capital projects that promote inclusion, shared spaces and long-term community benefit.</p> <p><i>Members to confirm 3 areas at next meeting.</i></p>	Coordinator to progress

DEA/N/2026/5	Peace Plus	<p>Outcome 2.1 – Capacity Building Two contracts have been awarded to Bolster Community and Slackpress. Bolster Community will work with Newry Gateway, while Slackpress is delivering a community journalism programme. Newry Gateway will commence after Easter 2026. Community journalism programmes are halfway through completion with 21 completing.</p> <p>2nd phase of procurement is now taking place with 8 current opportunities. Members advised that opportunities can be viewed online and if any businesses or organisations want to find out more, to signpost to peace officers.</p> <p>Members were updated on the current newsletter and will be sent electronically.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Coordinator to progress</p>
DEA/N//2026/6	Community Services	<p>At the request of Members, an update was provided on repairs, and maintenance works at several community centres. At Derrybeg Community Centre, issues relating to the toilets, gate locks and sewers have been raised. At Drumalane/Quayside Close Community Centre, works are scheduled to commence at the end of March, including the stripping of the floor. At Three Ways Community Centre, the boiler requires immediate attention and Members were informed that both the boiler and burner will be replaced. At Barcroft Community Centre, repairs to the toilets are currently underway and the centre is being painted. It was noted that recent storms have delayed some works. Elected representatives requested that Community Services provide a schedule of works for each of the centres and keep Members informed of progress.</p>	Community Services to progress.
DEA/N//2026/7	DEA Co-ordinator's Report.	<p>Reimaging Project – St Mary's Youth Club - The programme has now been completed, with a launch evening held on 16 February to celebrate with participating young people.</p> <p>Shared Education Programme - 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</p>	Noted and Coordinator to progress.

Schools Programme supported by Newry and Slieve Gullion DEAs. The most recent session took place on 3 February at Newry High School and focused on diversity and inclusion through interactive workshops. The next session will take place on 12 March at Newtownhamilton High School and will focus on addressing racism.

Blue Monday Event - Newry, Slieve Gullion and Crotlieve DEAs hosted a "Laugh Your Blues Away" social afternoon on 19 January at Cloughreagh Community Centre. The event, funded through the Tackling Isolation and Loneliness Together initiative, attracted 150 attendees and featured entertainment, wellbeing activities and afternoon tea, promoting social connection and wellbeing.

Community Support Hub - The Community Support Hub was postponed due to a weather warning and has been rescheduled for Tuesday 21 April, 3pm–6pm at Newry Leisure Centre.

Chinese New Year Celebration - Newry and Slieve Gullion DEAs hosted a Chinese New Year celebration at Tí Chulainn on 6 February. The event featured cultural performances, arts and crafts, food demonstrations and attracted over 90 attendees.

EVAWG Theatre Programme - A series of theatre performances are being delivered across schools in the district to raise awareness of Ending Violence Against Women and Girls. Schools across the Newry DEA are participating, with a joint performance scheduled at Newry Town Hall on 24 February.

Three Ways Youth Project – Stand Up: The Premiere for Change - Three Ways Youth Project produced three short films addressing EVAWG with support from Council funding. The premiere will take place on 26 February at Newry Omniplex.

		<p>International Women’s Day Event - An International Women’s Day event will take place on 5 March in partnership with the SHSCT MDT, Promoting Wellbeing Team and Council’s Health Inequalities Team. The event will focus on empowerment, wellbeing and EVAWG awareness, with guest speaker Orla McKeating and a range of workshops and activities.</p> <p>EmpowerHER Auto Nights - Newry DEA, in partnership with PCSP and Road Safe NI, has organised an EmpowerHER Auto Night at Three Ways Community Association to provide women with practical car safety and maintenance skills. All 30 places have been filled, with a wider public event planned for April at The Quays Shopping Centre.</p> <p>Community Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional engagement activities included participation in Schools Networking and Men’s Health subgroup meetings, chairing the Newry Neighbourhood Renewal meeting, supporting community AGMs, developing the DEA Action Plan 2026/27, planning International Women’s Day activities, and meeting with PIPS Hope and Support regarding the delivery of mental health workshops across the DEA. 	
<p>DEA/N/2026/8</p>	<p>Independent Members and Statutory Partners Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Health and Wellbeing (b) Environmental (c) Economic Development (d) Safety and Good Relations 	<p><i>Health and Wellbeing Update</i></p> <p><i>Bolster:</i> Members updated that the current Ending Violence Against Women and Girls programme is coming to an end, having been a very successful project for the organisation. It was noted that other funding has been reduced by 64%, which will have a significant impact on future delivery. Over the past nine months, Bolster has delivered two Classroom Assistants programmes, supporting 90 women through training and development opportunities. Their Autism project continues to expand, providing increased support for members through initiatives such as signed reading sessions and the creation of a cosy corner. Older people’s programmes remain well attended, particularly the</p>	<p>Noted</p>

Clover Club and Social Kitchen activities. A Connect event has been organised in Hilltown, with members having already received information to share within their networks. The organisation is also currently expanding its premises to support growing demand. Additionally, the Family Support Hub continues to see an increase in referrals each month, with key concerns relating to school attendance, bereavement, and mental health.

CCG Update:

Members were updated on the ongoing challenges facing the community and voluntary sector due to a lack of funding going forward. It was noted that some Community Associations are currently experiencing difficulties, and the CCG will continue to provide support and guidance where possible. Members were also informed that the Credit Union "Heat or Eat" scheme will continue for one further month before coming to an end.

Environmental Update:

Members raised concerns regarding the debris/litter on the Warrenpoint Dual Carriageway. It was stated the bushes have been cut back and that works will progress.

Members asked for the no drinking street signage to be reviewed, and an update requested at next meeting

Economic Update:

NMEA – The Go Succeed programme has seen 11 participants complete the programme, with a further 18 currently progressing through it. The Growth Programme currently has four businesses participating. The LMP Pathway programme is ongoing. Overall, property occupancy across the four NMEA sites remains steady.

Community Safety Update:

Coordinator to progress

		<p>Members noted concerns regarding the use of scrambler bikes and discussed the potential for district-wide awareness messaging through the Council's social media channels, as well as educational workshops highlighting the associated risks and dangers and diversionary activities. Members requested that the DEA Coordinator facilitate a multi-agency meeting to explore the issue further.</p> <p>PSNI have delivered internet safety sessions focusing on Artificial Intelligence (AI) across the district. They have also been involved in delivering Bee Safe events to primary schools, including a session with St Clare's Abbey Primary School, which specifically focused on AI awareness and online safety. Retail-related issues continue to cause concern, with the same group of young people involved. Youth diversion services and other relevant agencies are currently engaged in addressing the situation.</p>	Coordinator to progress
DEA/N/2026/9	AOB	Members were asked to consider Newry City-based organisations that could be nominated for the 2026 Pride of Place Awards. A nominated organisation will be selected at the next DEA meeting.	
DEA/N/2026/10	Date of Next Meeting	Thursday 19 th March @ 1:30pm, Newry Leisure Centre MP2	

The meeting ended at: 3:05pm

**Action Sheet of Rowallane District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum Private Meeting
held on 17 February at 6pm in Ballynahinch Community Centre**

Chairperson:	Councillor Callum Bowsie
In Attendance:	Councillor Terry Andrews Councillor Tierna Howie
Independent Members:	Raymond Cochrane, Frontier Support Network Robert Burgess, Rowallane & Slieve Croob Community Twinning Group, Saintfield Horse Show, Saintfield Community Estates Lise Curran – Co Down Rural Community Network
Statutory Partners:	Suzanne Cochrane - PSNI
Council Officials:	Nicola Whyte, DEA Coordinator Rowallane Theresa McLaverty, Peace Plus Officer
Others in Attendance:	Lois Kennedy, MayWe Heather, MayWe
Apologies:	Councillor Johnny Jackson Councillor David Lee-Surginor Kerri Morrow, Engagement & Development Manager Maureen O' Gorman, Education Authority Aisling Pryers - NI Housing Executive

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed.
DEA/ROW/01/2026	Welcome and Apologies	Councillor Bowsie welcomed Members and noted apologies.	COMPLETED
DEA/ROW/02/2026	Declarations of Interest	There were no declarations of interest given.	COMPLETED
DEA/ROW/03/2026	Action sheet from previous meeting on 16/12/25	Action Sheet was proposed by Robert Burgess and seconded by Councillor Andrews.	NOTED
DEA/ROW/04/2026	Update from MayWe	<p>All attendees were introduced to Heather & Lois from MayWe, they gave an update on the Thriving Together Peace Plus project and shared examples of projects which might be delivered.</p> <p>3 Areas from Rowallane DEA to be agreed and put forward to Theresa before 26.02.26. Forum members discussed the 3 areas, Nicola to circulate to all members for input.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Ballynahinch 2 Crossgar & Kilmore 3 Shrigley, Derryboye & Darragh Cross 	Coordinator/All Members
DEA/ROW/05/2026	Update for Theresa McLaverty, Peace Plus Officer	<p>Theresa gave an update on all Peace Plus projects and asked for ideas to be brought forward. Nicola to circulate email to all members. Discussions and meetings carried out with Ballynahinch Community Collective on 5K projects</p> <p>Theresa requested contact details for groups in Saintfield.</p> <p>Theresa encouraged all members to read the February newsletter which had been circulated via the DEA Coordinator weekly email.</p> <p>CLlr Bowsie asked Theresa for update on SERC programmes as per his suggestions from last meeting.</p>	<p>Coordinator</p> <p>Coordinator</p> <p>Peace Plus Officer</p>

<p>DEA/ROW/06/2026</p>	<p>Update from PSNI</p>	<p>Sergeant Cochrane provided an update to the Forum in relation to ASB data for the area, road safety figures, farm safety actions undertaken and explained further how the processes for reporting should be followed in relation to local concerns.</p>	<p>NOTED</p>
<p>DEA/ROW/07/2026</p>	<p>DEA Coordinators Report</p>	<p>DEA Coordinator delivered the Coordinator’s Report including:</p> <p>Update on projects since last meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Carers Christmas Lunch with South Eastern Trust & DEA’s on 16 December in Owenbeg Bowling Club, Downpatrick • Ecumenical Service & Celebration for 50 years of Killyleagh Chapel with Service in Church of Ireland on 31 January & Mass in Chapel on 01 February. Feedback has been excellent. • Health & Fitness Dance programme for Year 7 PS Students with all DEA’s – Showcase event in Down Leisure Centre on Friday 6 February – Ballynahinch PS attended from Rowallane. • Building Resilience Programme with YMCA - 2 Year 7 Students 6-week programme to start in March Drumlins Integrated Primary School, Ballynahinch Cedar Integrated Primary School, Crosnggar • Down Senior Forum – Afternoon Tea Dance with CDRCN on Thursday 12 February in Millbrook Lodge <p>Upcoming Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Support Hub – Down Leisure Centre – 18.02.26, 1-5pm All DEAs will be in attendance. • Spanner in the Works EVAWG Play – Assumption Grammar Ballynahinch 18.02.26 at 9.40am – photocall at 10.45am • Spanner in the Works EVAWG Play – St Colman’s Ballynahinch 18.02.26 at 11.30am with photocall at same time • Neuro Café SERC Downpatrick for parents and carers of children awaiting assessment – Autism and ADHD on 27.02.26 10am-12noon. • Irish Language & Music Workshop – celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge in Hans Sloane Centre, Killyleagh on 05.03.26 12.30-3pm – Photocall at 1.15pm 	<p>NOTED</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pottery Workshop for International Women’s Day with Precher House Pottery in Killough - attendees from Saintfield, Killyleagh & Ballynahinch - on 11.03.26 11am-3pm including lunch. Photocall at 1pm. • Saintfield MDT Team Men’s Health Event on 24.03.26 in Saintfield High School from 6.30-8.30pm • EVAWG information session in Ballymote, Downpatrick on 26.03.26 11am–2pm with information stalls, entertainment and lunch. • Crossgar Walking Group Trip to meet up with group in Crotlieve – on Saturday 28.03.26. Vouchers received from WBR Chamber to give group discount to shop in Warrenpoint, lunch and networking - photo call at 1pm • Chest, Heart & Stroke health checks – Killyleagh with CDRCN – details TBC • 4-week diversity course St Joseph’s Primary School – March 2026 <p>Other Updates Discussed:</p> <p>Action Plan 2026/27 brought to next meeting – Members asked to bring any areas of concern to Nicola so it can be included in the plan.</p>	<p>All Members</p>
<p>DEA/ROW/08/2026</p>	<p>Update from CDRCN</p>	<p>Lise Curran gave an update on the following: Down Senior Forum afternoon tea dance on 12.02.26 International Womens Day showing of Wuthering Heights in Downpatrick Cinema – 05.03.26, 6pm Lise informed the members that she will be retiring from CDRCN in April. This is her last Rowallane DEA Forum meeting – no replacement in post as yet. Clr Bowsie presented Lise with flowers on behalf of the Forum and noted her dedication and excellent work with the Forum and in the Rowallane community.</p>	<p>NOTED</p>

DEA/ROW/09/2026	Update from EA Youth Workers	<p>Maureen O' Gorman & Noel Maguire gave their apologies but provided a written update as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- Programme for young people aged 9-11, one evening a week in the Bridge Centre, Ballynahinch. Over 35 young people registered, very good attendance. 2- Group of 16-20 young women engaging in an evening provision on a separate evening - all aged 11-14. This group are currently involved in a community project with the Hans Sloan Centre to deliver and fundraise a community fashion show in aid of Doctors without Borders. 3- Crossgar – Friday night provision started in last few weeks- first session 24 young people aged 9-11, and second session is 9 young people aged 12-16. 4- Rowallane Horizons Programme - 8 young people aged 15-18 from across the Rowallane DEA. 5- Saintfield – Youth project targeting post primary, based in community centre – Start date TBC 	NOTED
DEA/ROW/10/2026	Date of Next Meeting.	The next meeting date: 14 April in Ballynahinch Community Centre at 12.30pm.	DEA Co-ordinator to forward agenda and papers in advance.

The meeting ended at: 8.20pm

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

**Action Sheet of Slieve Croob District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum Private Meeting
held on Tuesday 24th February 2026 in Hillyard House, Castlewellan**

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Chairperson:	Councillor Alan Lewis
In Attendance:	Councillor Helena Young
Independent Members:	Kenny Baxter, Frontier Support Network Heather Holland, County Down Rural Community Network (CDRCN)
Council Officials:	Catherine Hughes, Acting Head of Performance and Improvement Priscilla McAlinden, Slieve Croob DEA Coordinator
Others in Attendance:	Dean Arnold, Coastal Monitoring and Adaptation Planning Project Dr Jade Berman, National Trust Lois Kennedy, Maywe Events Helen Morrison, Maywe Events
Apologies:	Councillor Jim Brennan Councillor Roisin Howell Kerri Morrow, Engagement & Development Manager Richie Shilliday, Dundrum Village Association, Dundrum Cricket Club, RIOT Community Hub

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed.
DEA/SC/3/2025	Declarations of Interest	No Declarations of Interest were made.	Noted.
DEA/SC/4/2025	Action Sheet of meeting held on Tuesday 9 th December 2025	Action Sheet of Slieve Croob meeting held on Tuesday 9 th December 2025 was adopted as a true record.	Noted.
DEA/SC/5/2025	Preservation of Former Clough-Dundrum Railway Line	<p>A presentation was provided on the plans for the former railway line between Clough and Dundrum. The Coastal Monitoring and Adaptation Planning Project (CMAP) is a large climate-focused programme led by Ulster University, supported by PEACEPLUS funding, and involving multiple organisations including the National Trust in a coastal environment context. Its purpose is to measure how coasts are changing and to help communities plan adaptation to sea-level rise, storms and biodiversity changes.</p> <p>Members highlighted need for National Trust and CMAP to engage with local community.</p> <p>Presentation to be circulated to members.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>DEA Coordinator.</p>
DEA/SC/6/2025	Draft Performance Improvement Objectives 2026-2027	Acting Head of Performance Management presented the draft performance improvement objectives and report findings.	Noted.
DEA/SC/7/2025	PEACEPLUS Re-Imaging Programme	Maywe Events provided background to PEACEPLUS "Thriving Together" Transformation & Re-Imaging Programme. Three geographical areas need to be identified within Slieve Croob. A local action plan will be devised for each of the three areas identified and a steering group will be set up in each area comprising of groups and individuals.	Noted.

		Forum members to forward geographical areas for consideration.	DEA Coordinator.
DEA/SC/8/2025	Action Plan Update 2025-2026	<p>Forum members unanimously approved Action Plan programmes 2025/2026 and associated budget.</p> <p>Programmes completed since previous meeting include: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballykinler Intergenerational Events • Carers Christmas Luncheon • Cultural Dance Programme in primary schools • Down Senior Tea Dance • Boccia Tournament with seniors • EVAWG Performance in St Malachy's High School • Building Resilience 6-week programme in two primary schools • Mini Medics in three primary schools 	DEA Coordinator.
DEA/SC/9/2025	Action Plan Proposal 2026-2027	Forum members unanimously approved proposed Action Plan programmes 2026/2027 and associated budget.	DEA Coordinator.
DEA/SC/10/2025	Date and time of next meeting	Next DEA Forum meeting scheduled to take place on Tuesday 21 st April 2026 at 4.30pm via Microsoft Teams.	DEA Coordinator.

The meeting ended at 6.10pm

Report to:	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting:	16 March 2026
Subject:	Grant Funding for Multi-Sports Hub Provision
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	<p>Purpose To seek Members' approval to submit a funding application through the Northern Ireland Football Fund 2026 – Grassroots Facilities Programme Stream 2 for the development of a multi-sport 3G hub at Jennings Park, Newry.</p> <p>Background Jennings Park has been identified within the Council's Sports Facility Strategy and Multi-Sport Hub Strategic Review, as a key location for the development of a strategic Multi-Sports Hub within the Newry DEA.</p> <p>The development of a multi-sport all weather hub at Jennings Park will replace the existing grass pitches with two soccer pitches, one full-size GAA pitch, floodlighting, ball-stop fencing, drainage infrastructure, perimeter paths and associated works.</p> <p>The proposed development will support association football, Gaelic games and rugby, significantly increasing the number of playable hours available and reducing cancellations due to weather conditions.</p> <p>The site benefits from its proximity to Newry Leisure Centre, which provides supporting infrastructure including parking, changing facilities, toilets and accessibility features.</p>		
2.0	Key issues		
2.1	<p>The Council's Sports Facilities Strategy and the Multi-Sport Hub Strategic Review identified a significant shortfall in access to synthetic sports facilities within the Newry DEA.</p> <p>The review identified a shortfall of approximately 40 hours per week of football training capacity in the Newry area, with existing facilities unable to meet current demand from clubs and community users.</p> <p>Current consultation with local clubs indicates that demand across association football and GAA equates to over 80 hours of weekly training need, demonstrating a significant gap between available facilities and existing participation levels.</p> <p>Grass pitches currently available at Jennings Park are heavily weather-dependent and unsuitable for sustained training use during winter months. The development of a floodlit multi-sport 3G pitch will provide a reliable all-weather facility capable of supporting year-round training and match preparation.</p>		

<p>2.2</p>	<p>The facility will support a wide network of local clubs and participants within the district. Currently 24 association football teams, including ladies’ teams, and 8 GAA clubs operate within the wider catchment area and utilise facilities within the Newry area. Collectively these clubs represent over 800 active sports members, highlighting the scale of participation and the need for improved sports infrastructure to support training and match preparation.</p> <p>Key benefits identified within the Multi-Sport Hub Strategy which the Jennings’ park project will deliver, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased playable hours and improved reliability of sports facilities • Improved access to training facilities for local clubs and community groups • Support for multiple sporting codes including football, GAA and rugby • Increased participation in sport and physical activity • Improved health and wellbeing outcomes within the community • More efficient use of existing Council infrastructure at Newry Leisure Centre <p>The development of a multi-sport 3G pitch at Jennings Park will therefore address an identified infrastructure gap within the district and support the Council’s wider sports development objectives.</p> <p>The Northern Ireland Football Fund – Grassroots Facilities Programme supports investment in grassroots football infrastructure across Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Key details of the programme include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each council may submit one application • School or education authority facilities are not eligible • Applications deadline: 29 April 2026 <p>The planning application for the project is currently progressing through the planning process.</p> <p>The Jennings Park project meets the eligibility criteria for the programme and provides an opportunity for the Council to secure external funding to support the delivery of improved sports infrastructure within the district.</p> <p>It is recommended that members approve the submission of an application for funding through the Northern Ireland Football Fund 2026 – Grassroots Facilities Programme Stream 2 for the proposed Jennings Park multi-sport hub.</p>
<p>3.0</p>	<p>Recommendations</p>
<p>3.1</p>	<p>Approval to progress the submission of an application for grant funding for Multi-Sports Hub provision in Newry as set out in this report.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Resource implications</p>
<p>4.1</p>	<p>Details included at appendix 1.</p>
<p>5.0</p>	<p>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</p>

5.1	<p>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p>Proposal initiating consultation – N/a</p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	<p>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</p>
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	<p>Appendices</p>
	<p>Appendix 1 – Project Budget</p>
8.0	<p>Background Documents</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-Sport Hub Strategy • Northern Ireland Football Fund 2026 – Grassroots Facilities Programme Guidance

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

Appendix 1 – Project Budget

- The Northern Ireland Football Fund – Grassroots Facilities Programme strand 2 supports grant awards of up to £1.5m with 40% match funding of total project costs required.
- The estimated capital cost of the project is c£1.6 million. Council has already identified £500,000 within its capital programme linked to the multi-Sport Hub allocation for the DEA area.
- Estimated capital costs are commercially sensitive. It is anticipated that the procurement and appointment of a contractor to deliver the capital scheme may be progressed later this year, subject to planning approval and the outcome of the NI Football Fund grant application process.

Report to:	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 16 March 2026
Subject:	Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) – Update on Council programmes
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
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1.0	Purpose and Background
	<p><u>Purpose</u> The purpose of this report is to update members on the Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) initiative.</p>
1.1	<p><u>Background</u> The EVAWG Strategic Framework 2024-31 was launched by The Executive Office (TEO) on 16 September 2024. This included a Delivery Plan for 2024-26 which supports organisations working to prevent and challenge the attitudes, behaviours and culture that can lead to violence against women and girls. A key action within the Delivery Plan is to support delivery of community focused activity by local groups to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls.</p>
1.2	<p>Council’s EVAWG Action Plan for 2026-28 is currently with TEO for consideration and approval. The Action Plan includes provision for a range of EVAWG activities and programmes, and also a resource allocation to each of the DEAs to build on the EVAWG activities & programmes that are being delivered across the Council District.</p>
1.3	<p>The Executive Office has also requested the continued support of Council via a partnership approach to deliver a localised Change Fund scheme open to community and voluntary organisations in the District. The purpose of the Change Fund is to support grass-roots community led projects which will prevent and respond to violence against women and girls and demonstrate a commitment to change the attitudes, behaviours and culture of violence against women and girls.</p>
1.4	<p>16 projects were funded by the 2025/26 NMDDC EVAWG Change Fund (Financial Assistance) – the total of these projects was £142,920.63. Applications to the 2026/27 Change Fund are currently being assessed.</p>
1.5	<p>£65,000 Momentum Funding was also allocated to Council to deliver a range of EVAWG initiatives during the 2025/26 financial year. Momentum Funding was committed to support several initiatives, including:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bystander Intervention Training to Elected Members, Council staff, statutory partners, community & voluntary sector organisations and young people from local youth groups. - EVAWG marketing assets, including the production of a series of videos to highlight projects funded via our EVAWG Change Fund. - Performances of 'The Voice Within' play in Newry Town Hall and post-primary schools across the District. This is a play which has been developed by Spanner In The Works Theatre Company and focuses on the impact of coercive control within relationships. 2,000 students attended recent performances. - Support to upcoming events to mark International Women's Day (including in Dromantine College on 5 March). - EVAWG Showcase Event (planned for 25 March 2026 in the Canal Court Hotel, Newry) – this will be an opportunity to highlight the positive impact of our EVAWG programmes and Change Fund projects.
2.0	Key issues
	None
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	That the Committee note the contents of this report.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	TEO to confirm funding for 2026/27 – no match funding requirement from Council.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p>

	<p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation – N/a</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If no, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices
7.1	None
8.0	Background Documents
8.1	None

Report to:	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 16 March 2026
Subject:	Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership 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
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To note the report. To note the attached Minutes of the Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership (NRP) Meeting held on 26 November 2025. To note the attached Minutes of the Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership (NRP) Meeting held on 15 October 2025. <p>Background The attachments referenced above are provided to update the Committee on the ongoing work of the Newry & Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships (NRPs).</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	None.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<p>That the Committee note the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes of the Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership (NRP) Meeting held on 26 November 2025 and approved at the Newry NRP Meeting held on 18 February 2026 Minutes of the Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership (NRP) Meeting held on 15 October 2025 and approved at the Downpatrick NRP Meeting held on 2 February 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	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation - N/a</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves. <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices

7.1	<p>Appendix 1: Minutes of the Newry NRP Meeting held on 26 November 2025 approved at Newry NRP Meeting held on 18 February 2026.</p> <p>Appendix 2: Minutes of the Downpatrick NRP Meeting held on 15 October 2025 approved at the Downpatrick NRP Meeting held on 2 February 2026.</p>
8.0	Background Documents
8.1	None.



**Minutes of the Newry NR Partnership Meeting
Wednesday 26th November 2025
At 7.00pm
Room 1, WIN Business Centre**

In Attendance:

Paula McGuigan	Chairperson, NRP (Carnagat CA)
Bernie Mooney,	Education Authority N.I
Kerri Morrow,	Newry Mourne and Down District Council
Sean Mc Kevitt	Newry Mourne and Down District Council
Raymond Jackson,	Confederation of Community Groups
Aiden McCabe,	Southern Health and Social Care Trust
Noreen Rice,	Meadow Armagh Road CA
Clare Creaney,	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
Dr Conor Patterson,	Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency
Maureen Ruddy,	Martins Lane CA
Francine Ruddy,	Martins Lane CA
Nicola Creagh	Department for Communities
Anita Waite	Department for Communities
Catherine O'Hanlon,	Department for Communities
Diana Marie O'Hanlon,	Greater Linenhall area CA
Denise Fearon.	Greater Linenhall Area CA
Maeve McParland,	Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency
Paul Magennis,	Barcroft CA
Kathleen Magee,	Derrybeg CA
Roisin Boyle,	Derrybeg CA

Apologies:

Heather Kavanagh,	Southern Regional College
Ewan Morgan,	Community Restorative Justice Ireland
Joanne Markey,	Carnagat CA
Patricia O’Gorman	Threeways CA
Amy Fearon,	Threeways CA
Maureen O’Gorman,	Education Authority NI Youth Service
Aileen O’Callaghan,	Education Authority NI Youth Service

Matters Discussed

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Apologies
3. Minutes/Matters arising.
4. Conflict of Interest.
5. NR Action Plan review
6. Sub-Group updates
7. DfC update.
8. A.O.B
9. Date of next meeting.

ITEM	SUBJECT	MATTERS ARISING/UPDATE	ACTIONS	By Whom
1	Welcome / Introductions	All welcomed to the meeting The members recorded their condolences to Kathleen Magee and her family on the recent bereavement of her brother.		
2.	Apologies	Recorded as above.		
3.	Minutes/matters arising.	Minutes agreed as accurate. Proposed by Paul Magennis and seconded by Maureen Ruddy		

		<p>Matters arising: No Matters arising</p>		
4.	Conflict of interest	No Conflicts of interest declared		
5.	<p>NR Action Plan review</p> <p>Nicola Creagh</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The review of NR is with the Minister, no decisions yet. • We must now look at the NR Action Plan. • The NR Plan must now reflect where it sits with the NMDDC Community Plan and any other relevant Plans within the NR area. How does the funding link back to other plans, Programme for Government (PfG) the NMDDC Community Plan? • What do we want to achieve – what are the key issues? What is missing – look at the current stats – Raise and NISRA? How do communities engage? • What is the evidence - what we do, how we do it, can we do it better? Can we work more collaboratively? • The Action Plan must be reflective and achievable - we need to discuss what will work going forward. • A lot of good news stories through NR. • Applications on the new AIMS system - enhanced registration 19 to 26 January, applications added 2 – 22 February • DfC Team will meet with local groups. • Capital funding has dwindled - DfC can contribute to local schemes. • Health Sub-Group will meet to agree their Plan – flexibility to change. 		

6.	Sub Group updates	<p><u>Revenue:</u></p> <p><u>EANI:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 programmes funded through Youth Engagement. • Homework Clubs within Derrybeg delivered by St Patrick's PS and in Dromalane delivered by St Clare's PS - numbers fluctuate between 8 and 17 attending each group. • Greater Linenhall just commenced - children glad to be back. Delivered through St Joseph's PS. • Count Read Succeed move to Numeracy and Literacy. Look at this for 25/26 programme <p><u>Youth Service</u></p> <p><u>Schools Work</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - St Joseph's Boys HS - OCN Peer Mentoring progressing well, 15 young men involved. Young Men engaged in STEPS Programme - completing a PSD programme with Youth Service - Youth Engagement Funded - St Mary's HS - New Programme - Year 10, 14 young women. Emotional health and wellbeing theme. - Newry High School - Newcomer Programme continuing (Youth Engagement Funded). 15 young people engaged. Year 8 Programme, 9 young people - emotional health and wellbeing theme. <p><u>Youth Engagement Funded Programmes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Derrybeg programme continues to run one evening per week. Good support from the CA. Aged 11 +, 15 young people • Young Women's programme, 16 young people, ages 12-14, progressing well, completed workshops on self- 		
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		<p>defence, healthy relationships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boys programme for ages 11-13, based in Carnagat currently, completed DJ workshops, creative arts & Outdoor Education workshops • New young men's group for 14 plus group, based in NLC - developing leadership, 15 young men taking part. • Partnership with the SHSCT – engagement programme with SEND young people on Friday evenings, 13 young people, aged 12 plus • Newry and Mourne Youth Voice, partnership with NMDDC – representation from NR areas - working on YAFTA event to be held March 2026. • New programme - Drop in Youth Café, Wednesday evenings 7-9pm based in Caring Coins, open for all new young people • Recently had over 50 young men, aged 13 plus coming together from across NMD for International Men's Day. Event hosted in Bosco YC. • All updates on Facebook - NMD Area Youth Service <p>Health:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8-week over 50 physical activity programme in Carnagat – variety of activities over the period. • MARCA interested in similar programme • Heart screening in WIN, 30 attended – 1 person flagged for urgent referral • Health checks in Carnagat and Greater Linenhall Area • Autism Reality bus at SRC • Community Health Champions – condensed programme. Greater Linenhall Area and Carnagat maybe interested. • Bolster deliver the Parents Plus programme – support children with ADHD & transition through adolescence. 		
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Planning Day in January 2026 <p>NMEA E2E programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lego and computer coding camps for Year 8's • The annual Summer Numeracy Camp - 50 participants Computer and Lego camps - target Year 8. • DJ Academy session in St John Bosco - 20 participants • Key stage 3 students at St Joseph's Boys High school participated in a digital well-being programme on 21 October. It involved an E-Safety workshop on sharing images and the impact of online gaming and gambling. • All Primary 7 pupils (180 in total) attending the Primary Schools in the Newry NRA have benefitted from a Chill Skills session during the months of October and November in preparation for the SEAG Transfer Test. This took place on Saturday 15 November. Primary 7 is an important year for all pupils as they make the transition to secondary school. The Chill Skills sessions are designed to help these kids feel more confident, improve their learning potential, manage their emotions and be the best they can be. • We continue to research new Business Champions, new motivational speakers and new materials to be included in the E2E Career Pathways event in March 2025. <p>NIHE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding coming to an end – cohesion, Good Relations. • Meet with Community groups to look at their priorities. • Funding support for recent Probationary Budgeting programme. • Hosting a pilot programme on homelessness – working with schools. Our aim is to widen this out. 		
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work ongoing on race relations – targeting migrant workers myths • Deficit in the capital budget has curtailed our capital ability. <p>NMDDC: Community Renewal Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Running costs programme ongoing. • Support for local communities with day to day running costs – heating/electricity etc. • Most claims up to date. Some claims and reports outstanding. <p>Community Renewal support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCG delivering ongoing support to all the groups (governance, administration, funding applications, training etc.) • Difficulties engaging with some groups. • Conversations with the groups re: volunteer roles. Groups require long term support • Some funding left for utility support <p>Outdoor Activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very busy to date – 51 activities delivered across NR. • Including Newry Water Festival and a recent IFA fitness for football course which was oversubscribed. • 1700 + people took part to date in the programme. <p>DEA Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District-wide PB events completed – included Health and Wellbeing projects. • Funding support through fairs and clinics • Small Grants (Financial Assistance) programme currently open to applications – closes 12 January 2026. Contact DEA Co-Ordinators for support if required. 	<p>Contact Kerri/Padraig</p>	<p>All groups</p>
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7.	A.O.B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCG – Some money left in the Utility fund. Limited amount – based on need <p><u>No More Business</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone thanked for attending and NMEA and Sean thanked for the hospitality provided. 	Contact CCG	All groups
9.	Date of Next Meeting	Wednesday 18 th February 2026 7.00pm in WIN business centre	Circulate details and all information	Sean

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Action Sheet of Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Meeting held on 15 October 2025 at 4.00 pm in the St Patrick's Centre, Downpatrick

Chairperson:	Nicholas McCrickard	County Down Rural Community Network (CDRCN)
In Attendance:	Brian Morrow	Department for Communities
	Macartan Digney	Downpatrick Community Collective
	Jenny Laverty	County Down Rural Community Network (CDRCN)
	Dan McEvoy	Downpatrick Community Collective
	Donna Marks	Marian Park Residents Association
	Mary Cahalane-Woodward	South Eastern HSC Trust
	Alison McCarthy	Tosu Ur
	Jeanette McCarthy	Tosu Ur
	Denise Kelly	Flying Horse Ward Community Forum
	Cahir Clancy	South Eastern Regional College
	Catherine Shipman	South Eastern Regional College
	Bronagh Magorrian	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
	Maureen O’Gorman	Education Authority
Council Officials:	Katrina Hynds	Technical Officer, Downpatrick NHR
Apologies:	Gerard Smith	NIHE
	Maria Kelly	Surestart, Downpatrick
	Seamus Blaney	Stream Street Residents Association
	Anthony Trainor	Stream Street Residents Association
	Doreen Brown	Tosu Ur
	Deborah Finlay	Model Farm Community Association

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed.
DNRP/01/2025	Welcome and Apologies	The Chair welcomed members to the meeting	
DNRP/02/2024	Declarations of Conflict of Interest	None declared	
DNRP/03/2025	Action Sheet	Members unanimously agreed to adopt the Action Sheet of 24 June 2025	Technical Officer
DNRP/04/2025	Receive Representative from SERC re PeacePlus Initiatives	The PeacePlus Project Manager presented members with a detailed list of programmes available through the PeacePlus Project.	Technical Officer & PeacePlus Project Manager

		Members agreed to participate in the Ideas Lab Programme, scheduled to commence in January 2026. The Programme will consist of three sessions, each lasting two hours. Exact dates, times, and the venue will be confirmed and circulated to members in due course.	
DNRP/05/2025	End of Year Downpatrick OBA Report Card	The Development Officer advised members that a new OBA Reporting Card System is being implemented by DfC.	Noted
DNRP/06/2025	Consider Application from Down Community Allotments for Additional Heat Mats	Members agreed to include the following on the local Action Plan: Down Community Allotments – Heat Mats Down Radio FM – Radio Equipment which allows them to broadcast remotely	Technical Officer
DNRP/06/2025	Promoters' Reports	The Promoters' Reports were presented to members and noted	Technical Officer