

September 18th, 2026

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the meeting to be held on **Monday, 21st September 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 from Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 17 August 2026

For Information

Attachment: Action Sheet from AHC 2026-08-17 - vf.pdf

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For Discussion/Decision

4.0 District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums Update Report

For Decision

Attachment: AHC Report - DEA Update -vf.pdf

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Attachment: Appx. DEA Forums Action Sheets Aug 2026.pdf

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5.0 Leisure Closure Arrangements 2026-2027

For Decision

Attachment: AHC Report - Leisure Closure Arrangements 2026-27 - vf.pdf

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Attachment: Appx. Leisure Closure Arrangements 2026-2027 - vf.pdf

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For Noting

6.0 Funded Programme Delivery Update

For Information

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

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Attachment: Appx - Letter from The First Minister & Deputy First Minister Re Funding.pdf

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7.0 Indoor Leisure Booking Prioritisation

For Information

Attachment: AHC Report - Indoor Leisure Booking Prioritisation - vf.pdf

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8.0 Indoor Leisure Customer Satisfaction 2026

For Information

***Attachment: AHC Report - Indoor Leisure Customer Satisfaction Survey and
Mystery Shopper Programme 2026 - vf.pdf***

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Attachment: Appx - Customer Satisfaction Survey - vf.pdf

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ACTIONS ARISING FROM ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING – 17 AUGUST 2026

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
AHC/055/2026	Action sheet from AHC Meeting held 15/06/26	It was agreed to note the action sheet.	A Patterson	Noted	Y
AHC/056/2026	District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum Update	It was agreed to note the report and approve the actions in the action sheets attached for: • Crotlieve DEA Forum Meeting held on 9 June 2026 • Downpatrick DEA Forum Meeting held on 9 June 2026 • Newry DEA Forum Meeting held on 16 June 2026 • Rowallane DEA Forum Meeting held on 16 June 2026 • Slieve Croob DEA Forum Meeting held on 23 June 2026 • Mournes DEA Forum Meeting held on 21 July 2026	A Robb	Noted and actions being progressed	Y

AHC/057/2026	Cancer Exercise Referral and Move More Programme	It was agreed to approve the introduction of the revised 12-week Cancer Exercise Referral Programme from September 2026 and allow for the retention and integration of Move More within the Be Active for Life timetable as an ongoing physical activity and progression class.	C Haughey	Noted	Y
AHC/058/2026	Officer Report on Notice of Motion – Additional Training Provision for Gaelic Games	The following was agreed: • Note the Notice of Motion and the issues raised in relation to additional training provision for Gaelic Games. • Recognise the work already undertaken through the adopted Sports Facilities Strategy and Multi Sports Hub Reviews to assess existing sporting facilities and current and future Gaelic Games facility requirements. • Acknowledge the programme of strategic investment supporting Gaelic Games across the district, as summarised in Appendix 1 of this report. • Support continued engagement between officers, clubs, governing bodies and other stakeholders to identify practical opportunities to make effective use of existing Council sporting facilities, to support increased participation and to inform the future implementation and periodic review of the Council's Sports Facilities Strategy.	C Haughey	Noted	Y
AHC/059/2026	Officer Report on Notice of Motion – Special Education Needs (SEN)	The following was agreed: • Write to the Departments of Education, Health and Communities seeking a breakdown of SEN funding and investment allocated to the Newry, Mourne and Down and South Armagh areas, including	A Robb	Letters issued to the Departments of Education, Health and Communities and response awaited Other actions being progressed	Y

	Provision	support for rural families, specialist provision and summer schemes; • Corporate Policy Section to integrate the core objectives of this Notice of Motion into the upcoming review of Council’s Disability and Equality Action Plans. This will ensure Council actively addresses the rising need for SEN support, improves facility accessibility and creates targeted opportunities for families. This aligns with the current action to promote positive attitudes and increase participation in public life; • Formalise a request through the Community Planning Partnership asking statutory partners in Health and Education to provide a comprehensive update on current SEN provision across the District. This update should identify local service gaps and outline how statutory, community and voluntary partners can collaborate to better support families; • Community Development can continue to raise awareness of the potential for Financial Assistance grants to support local community and voluntary groups delivering SEN-focused initiatives; • Consider whether a Summer Scheme for children and young people with disabilities and/or additional needs could be piloted in the District as a means of opening up summer scheme opportunities alongside those which are open to children without disabilities/additional needs. Budget provision to be considered as part of Community Development’s budget			
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		estimates for 2027/28; Officers will continue to identify opportunities to support and promote the SEN sector through facilities and programme provision where possible.			
AHC/060/2026	Service Level Agreement with Education Authority	It was agreed to issue a Service Level Agreement (multi-annual depending on budgets) until 2029 through the Council Grants and Funding Unit, verified in line with Council procedures.	A Robb	In progress	Y
AHC/061/2026	Renewal of NI Mapping Agreement (NIMA)	It was agreed to proceed with the Payment of the Northern Ireland Mapping Agreement annual charge as set out in this report.	A Robb	In progress	Y
AHC/062/2026	Funded Programme Delivery Update Report	It was agreed to note the officer's report and attached responses.	A Robb	Noted	Y
AHC/063/2026	Get Active NI	It was agreed to note the officer's report.	C Haughey	Noted	Y
AHC/064/2026	IPB Pride of Place Awards 2027	It was agreed to note the update regarding the initiative as set out in the officer's report.	A Robb	Noted	Y
AHC/065/2026	Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Report	It was agreed to note the attached Minutes of the Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership (NRP) Meeting held on 20 May 2026, approved at the Newry NRP Meeting held on 24 June 2026.	A Robb	Noted	Y

Report to:	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 21 September 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 - 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: - Newry DEA Forum Meeting held on 4 August 2026 - Slieve Gullion DEA Forum Meeting held on 4 August 2026 - Downpatrick DEA Forum Meeting held on 11 August 2026 - Rowallane DEA Forum Meeting held on 18 August 2026			
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)
.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: - Newry DEA Forum Meeting held on 4 August 2026 - Slieve Gullion DEA Forum Meeting held on 4 August 2026 - Downpatrick DEA Forum Meeting held on 11 August 2026

	- Rowallane DEA Forum Meeting held on 18 August 2026
8.0	Background Documents
8.1	None.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

**Action Sheet of Newry District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum Private Meeting
held on Tuesday 4th August at 4:00pm in Newry Leisure Centre**

Chairperson:	Councillor Aidan Mathers
In Attendance:	Councillor Geraldine Kearns, Councillor Cathal King, Councillor Valerie Harte
Independent Members:	Raymond Jackson, Confederation of Community Groups Colin Hanna, Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency Allison Slater, Bolster Community
Statutory Partners:	Aisling Pryers, Housing Executive
Council Officials:	Padraig Harte, Newry DEA Coordinator Edel McGeeney, Peace Officer Ciara Burns, Community Services Manager
Apologies:	Thelma Thompson, Altnaveigh House Barry Traynor, Southern Health and Social Care Trust

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. No matters arising.	Approved
DEA/N/2026/4	Community Services Update	Meigh Community Centre - Capital works have commenced – The works will be phased to minimise disruption to scheduled activities. An Expression of Interest has been received for the Men's Shed, being considered subject to Legal Services agreeing the lease arrangements. Derrybeg Community Centre - Although the green fence was reported as repaired, members advised that the issue remains unresolved. Ciara will follow up. Barcroft Community Centre - Door repaired – Toilets refurbishment near completion. Three Ways Community Centre – Maintenance have been on site and urgent works completed. Drumalane Community Centre – Capital cost estimates are being prepared. The building structure and proposed roof alteration remain subject to planning approval and the business case. Approximately half of the centre is unusable due to water ingress, anticipated timeframe is at least one year.	Noted and Community Services to progress

DEA/N/2026/5	PeacePlus Update	Additional funding - SEUPB have an underspend in the wider PEACEPLUS programme and have asked local authorities to submit applications for additional funding. Turnaround time is very short and spend would have to be complete by September. Council have applied for €206,743.75 to support a range of community-based initiatives. Application has not been approved yet - this would be an addendum to our current Letter of Offer and would have no impact on Action Plan. 1.1 Reimaging Recruitment is progressing in all 3 areas and there are no concerns. 2.1 Capacity Building All 4 Newry capacity building projects are on track to be completed by the end of 2026. Gateway and Community Journalism are complete. Events training is in delivery, procurement for Graphic Design is complete and the contract has been awarded to Slackpress. Due to begin in September / October. 2.3 Cultural Social Housing. Engagement element is now complete and the items outstanding are museum exhibition and film to be delivered by end of October. Market Ready – in recruitment phase. 2.4 Community Led Health and Wellbeing progressing as planned (Clanrye Group are delivering). Civic Pride progressing as planned. Sanctuary garden group has disengaged and now not responding, possibly due to landowner permission requirement.	Noted.
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	Killean – Primary School are taking part. Still trying to contact Regeneration Group. Engaging with other groups including Meigh Men’s Shed, U3A Newry and Dromore Diocese. 2.5 Shared Language Summer scheme - Arts Ekta are in delivery. Planned Summer Scheme in Threeways had poor recruitment levels, possible cause - planned evening sessions. Contract extended to next year and daytime Summer Scheme will be offered instead. Castles and Towers – Engagement complete and digital trail will be delivered by the end of this month. 2.6 Intergenerational projects progressing well. Music and dance tender passed with no submissions. Will be put out again. Social and emotional programme – (Bolster) progressing as planned. 2.7 Social prescribing – (Clanrye and Maywe) progressing as planned. 3.2 District wide minority Community support and integration programmes awarded to FFK Solutions. 3.7 Newry Canal & our Engineering Heritage – (Inland Waterways and Intelligent Marketing Solutions) entering final weeks, digital outputs being completed currently.	
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		White Works Embroidery project now complete and very successful.			
		Current Live Tenders			
		PROJECT	CLOSING DATE	DETAILS	VALUE
		2.3 Market ready – rural men skills exchange	19/08/2026	Rowallane DEA – home industries best practice skills exchange	£13,112
		3.2 Sports for all	18/08/2026	Slieve Gullion sports programme for young disabled people	£10,155
		3.5 Farmers festival	25/08/2026	Crotlieve - celebrate cultural identity, local heritage, and farming traditions through interactive workshops, shared learning, and community engagement activities	£19,545.40
		3.2 Nature and wellness walks	05/08/2026	Design and delivery of a culturally focused integration programme centred on a series of guided, family-friendly nature and	£10,155

		3.2 food and friendship culinary exchange06/08/2026 3.2 Arabic learning hub26/08/2026 3.5 Sports Festival21/08/2026 3.2 Colours of Asia27/08/2026	wellbeing walks. Prepare traditional dishes while exploring the cultures, experiences, and stories behind them. Children’s Arabic learning project Inclusive, locally based sports workshops. A large-scale inclusive sports festival on International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Structured programme celebrating Diwali in Crotlieve	£10,155 £10,155 £19,545.40 £10,155	
DEA/N//2026/6	DEA Co-ordinator’s Report.	MEMBERS INFORMED ACTION PLAN HAS BEEN MOVED DRAFT AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO BUDGETS Glow Girls The programme has now concluded, with more than 20 young people from the Bosco Youth Centre participating. The initiative included collaboration with Women’s Aid and was supported through EVAWG funding. Positive feedback was received			Noted and Coordinator to progress.

	from both participants and youth workers, and the programme concluded with a prize-giving evening. Wildlife in the City Wildlife in the City took place in McClelland Park on 20 June and was very well attended, making it the busiest year to date. The event featured a wide range of activities focused on education, learning and biodiversity. Thanks are extended to Arbour and Radius Housing for part-funding the event and for their continued support across several local events. Thanks are also extended to the DEA Members who attended. Seniors’ Summer Scheme The 2026 Seniors’ Summer Scheme has now been successfully completed. Delivered in partnership by Newry, Slieve Gullion and Crotlieve DEAs, the week-long programme welcomed approximately 80 senior residents to venues across Silverbridge, Warrenpoint and Newry. Participants enjoyed a varied programme designed to promote social connection, wellbeing and active ageing, including circus skills, boccia, yoga, paint and sip sessions, botanical bingo, a visit to Stormont and a theatre performance. The scheme was a fantastic week, with extremely positive feedback received from participants. Lasting friendships were formed, and the programme provided valuable support for participants’ mental health and wellbeing while helping them feel connected, active and positive as they moved into the Summer months. Party in the Park /Community Drumming Event As part of our engagement, plans are confirmed for two for Party in the Park events at Carrivemaclone and Shandon Park on the 11th and 13th August from 2-4pm, together with a community drumming workshop on 7 August in Newry City Library from 12-1pm. The planned initiatives will provide accessible opportunities for residents and families to participate in recreational and creative activities within their neighbourhoods. Newry Water Festival Planning is progressing well for the Newry Water Festival, which is being delivered in partnership with Newry DEA and Neighbourhood Renewal. The event is scheduled to take place on Monday 31 August from 12:00pm to 4:00pm at Albert Basin, Newry	
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		and will provide a wide range of free, family-friendly activities for the local community. The programme will include paddleboarding, canoeing, a climbing wall, trampolines, a dunk tank, face painting, arts and crafts, and multicultural dance performances and activities, ensuring there is something for all ages to enjoy. The event is being supported financially by the Department for Communities, Arbour Housing, Radius Housing, and the Newry DEA budget, demonstrating a strong partnership approach to delivering a high-quality community event. Mela Festival The Mela Festival will take place on Sunday 6 September, from 12:00pm to 6:00pm. Promotional materials have been finalised and will be distributed to Forum members for wider circulation and promotion. The festival is being supported by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC), the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE), Arbour Housing, Radius Housing, the National Lottery Community Fund, and the SHSCT Public Health and Wellbeing Team (PWT). The programme will feature a variety of cultural performances, live music, family-friendly activities, cultural arts and crafts, and hospitality, providing an inclusive and engaging experience for attendees. A launch event is scheduled for Saturday 15 August at 2:00pm in Buttercrane Shopping Centre. Work is also ongoing with Newry BID to secure access to the Catherine Street Car Park as a venue location for the festival. Pride of Place Preparations for the upcoming judging day are underway. The event will take place on Wednesday 12 August at 10am in the Road Ahead NI Hub in Newry. Invitations have been issued to all Forum members, as well as the Chairperson of Council. Two judges will be in attendance on the day, providing an opportunity for forum members to demonstrate their commitment and showcase the positive work being delivered through the initiative.	
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	In advance of the judging day, meetings have been held with the Committee to provide advice, guidance and support, ensuring they are well prepared for the visit and able to effectively present their achievements and ongoing work. Additional Engagement and Support Activities - Supported several community/voluntary and sporting groups with funding advice across a range of different funders and themes. - Attendance at the PCSP Cross Border Event - Support Dromore Diocese Summer Scheme with Good Relations Activities - Supporting Community Services and community group with reallocation etc. - Supporting Newry Gateway with a new monthly initiative to commence in September 2026 - Collaboration with Newry BID on several activities and events. - Update meeting with Housing Executive re: community support and development - DEA Delivery remains on track as far as possible at present. However, confirmation of the Good Relations budget is still awaited, and planning continues based on an indicative budget of £8,000. A mid-year review will be undertaken at the next Forum meeting to assess progress, priorities and any adjustments required on the action plan. - Having been in post for a year now, the role has increasingly focused on the delivery of larger-scale events. While these have been successful and well received and important, there is a growing need to ensure a greater emphasis is placed on responding to individual and community needs, whether at a wider Newry level or within specific communities, with a collaborative approach. - Going forward, there is an opportunity to further develop and deliver initiatives, programmes and events tailored to the identified needs of individual DEA communities. Examples of this approach include Autism Training for Youth Clubs and community engagement activities. - Forum members, elected representatives and partner organisations are encouraged to continue sharing feedback, emerging issues and local concerns. While many issues raised can be strategic in nature, identifying matters that can be addressed at a DEA level will help inform targeted responses and community-based solutions.	
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		- Community engagement and check-in sessions will be undertaken across the Newry DEA over the coming months. These discussions will help identify emerging needs, priorities and opportunities, and will inform the development of the 2027/2028 Action Plan. A workshop session may also be considered to support this process and ensure stakeholders have an opportunity to contribute to future planning and priority setting.	
DEA/N/2026/7	Independent Members and Statutory Partners Update (a) Health and Wellbeing (b) Environmental (c) Economic Development (d) Safety and Good Relations	Health and Wellbeing Update <i>Bolster:</i> Seven new projects are underway, including a two-year pilot programme for Seniors informed by a recent survey. The organisation is delivering a PEACEPLUS programme with 70 young people currently registered, an EVAWG-funded project addressing violence against neurodiverse women, and a one-year school-refusal initiative involving Home-School Link Workers. Five resilience programmes have been completed with P7 pupils in Newry schools, and Home 2 Hospital has expanded into the Crotlieve DEA. Progress on the new Whitegates building remains slow, with Building Control approval nearing completion. Spaces remain available for the Disability Day trip to Armagh Observatory on 11 August, Bolster-registered families should book in advance. <i>Housing Executive:</i> Significant pressure on schemes in the Southern District in the next financial year, particularly within the response maintenance budget, and efforts are being made to minimise costs. G. Smith has returned and will contact local communities where required. Homelessness presentations are increasing, including families arriving from the Republic of Ireland, placing further pressure on services. Anti-social behaviour is also rising, while sub-letting has been identified as a concern. Rough sleeping has re-emerged in Newry, particularly at St Christopher's Park and near Newry Cathedral, and staff have carried out outreach visits. <i>CCG:</i> Members were updated on the Changemaker programme involving WheelWorks, CCG and Dundalk Youth Club, which is scheduled to launch on 7 July. Raymond will provide further information at the next meeting. CCG is awaiting a Letter of Offer from the Department for Communities, having already received its Letter of Offer	Noted

		from the Council. The current Ballybot Community Association committee has indicated that it is not prepared to continue. An AGM will be arranged to seek the election of a new committee or consider dissolving the association. <i>Environmental Update:</i> No updates. <i>Economic Update:</i> <i>NMEA</i> NMEA reported that 11 participants are on the Go Succeed programme, with four having progressed to Foundation. A new project is due to commence in September. Carol Magee has taken over Jennifer Malone’s role, and demand for workspace and office accommodation remains very high. Concerns were raised about the limited number of places available through the Labour Market Partnership and the need to improve the advertising and promotion of these opportunities. <i>Safety and Good Relations Update:</i> A site meeting with C. Sage is planned at Monks Hill to discuss the concerns raised. Cllr Harte will address the issues highlighted.	
DEA/N/2026/8	Date of Next Meeting	Tuesday 15 th September @ 4:00pm	

The meeting ended at: 5:20pm

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

**Action Sheet of Slieve Gullion District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum Private Meeting
held on Tuesday 4th August 2026 @ 5.30 pm in Dorsey Community Centre**

Chairperson:	Councillor Aine Quinn
In Attendance:	Councillor Declan Murphy Councillor Martin Hearty Councillor Mickey Larkin Councillor Oonagh Magennis
Independent Members:	Cathy McMahon, Confederation of Community Groups Maria Keenan, Clanrye Group
Council Officials:	Aoife McComiskey, Slieve Gullion DEA Coordinator Elaine Carr, Peace Officer
Apologies:	Barry Traynor, SHSCT Promoting Wellbeing Team Ryan Crilly, Education Authority Ciara Burns, NMDDC Community Services Manager Teresa Nugent, Rural Health Partnership Aisling Pyres, NIHE

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed.
DEA/SG/9	Declarations of Interest	No declarations of interest were made.	Noted.
DEA/SG/10	Matters arising from Action Sheet from last meeting	Action Sheet confirmed as true and accurate record. Peaceplus newsletter to be circulated.	Approved. DEA Coordinator to circulate.
DEA/SG/11	PeacePlus Update	Elaine Carr provided an update: <u>Strand 1 Update</u> 1.1 Transformation and Reimagining Programme – MayWe have been appointed as facilitator and the programme has commenced. 1.2 & 1.3 Capital projects – there are 25 projects - All procurement exercises have now been completed. 1.4 Community Navigation Programme - NMANDD Digital / IT Project Mandate has been approved by ITPG. <u>Strand 2 Update</u> 2.1 Collaborative and Capacity Building projects Slieve Gullion Completed: • Sensory & Capacity-Building Initiative In delivery phase: • Men's Shed Podcasting Initiative, 2.3 Market Ready projects • Slieve Gullion DEA – Makers of the Mountain – FFK solutions Ltd appointed. 2.3 Sustaining Cross-Community Relationships (District wide Project) – Tender live with closing date of 5th August.	

		2.4 Community Action Programmes (District Wide) • Community Led Health & Wellbeing – Facilitator (Clanrye Group) appointed to deliver this programme. Programme delivery is underway. • Civic Pride: Contract awarded to The Conservation Volunteers. The project is underway. 2.5 Community led Shared History and Culture programmes • Sacred Spaces of Slieve Gullion: Contract awarded to Oriel Events, programme commenced. 2.6 Social and Emotional Support Programmes: • Intergenerational Programmes: - EVAWG procurement completed. Contract awarded to Women's Aid Armagh Down. - Men's Sheds initiative. Contract awarded to CDRCN. - Arts and Crafts procurement completed. Contract awarded to CDRCN. - Music and Dance project – procurement commenced. Tender under review. - Social and Emotional Support Programmes: - Contract awarded to Bolster Community. 2.7 Social Prescribing Programme (District wide): Maywe Events Ltd & Clanrye Group have been appointed as the successful suppliers and programmes have commenced. Bebhinn Clarke to be invited to next meeting to provide a social inclusion update.	Noted. DEA Coordinator to send invite.
		DEA Coordinator delivered the Coordinator's Report including: Activity Update <i>Forest Feasts and Woodland Beats</i> Forest Feasts and Woodland Beats took place on 30 May at Slieve Gullion Forest Park and Courtyard, bringing together more than 250 people for an inclusive family fun day celebrating culture, diversity and community	

DEA/SG/12	DEA Coordinator’s Report	connections. The event featured a World Food Village, arts and crafts activities, and a range of cultural performances, creating opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to come together and learn about different cultures. The event was delivered in partnership with Clanrye Group and additional funding was sought from NIHE, Arbour Housing and the SHSCT MDT Team. <i>Men’s Fest</i> Slieve Gullion, Newry and Crotlieve DEAs successfully delivered Men's Fest on Wednesday 10 June at Newry Leisure Centre, with 200+ younger and older men from across the three DEA areas attending and benefiting from the event. The event promoted men's health, wellbeing and social connection through a range of activities, including health awareness sessions, physical activities, archery, axe throwing, free haircuts, wellbeing stalls, and an alcohol-free snug area. <i>Fuel Your Family: Forkhill</i> A partnership programme with NMDDC Health Improvement team and SHSCT saw a series of practical food and budgeting sessions delivered in Forkhill during April and May, targeting parents of primary school-aged children through both daytime and evening programmes. Participants received guidance on budgeting, meal planning, bulk cooking and preparing healthy, cost-effective meals, along with a resource pack to support learning at home. Building on the success of these sessions, an eight-week Cook It programme was subsequently delivered in the Community Centre. <i>Party in the Park: Belleek</i> A community family fun day was held on 16 May at the recently refurbished play park in Belleek, in partnership with the local regeneration group and the SHSCT MDT Team. The event attracted over 60 local children and their families, providing a range of engaging activities including giant bubble displays, arts and crafts, a treasure hunt and face painting. The event highlighted the importance of delivering accessible community activities within rural areas.	
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		<i>Seniors’ Summer Scheme</i> The 2026 Seniors’ Summer Scheme has now been successfully completed. Delivered in partnership by Newry, Slieve Gullion and Crotlieve DEAs, the week-long programme welcomed approximately 80 senior residents to venues across Silverbridge, Warrenpoint and Newry. Participants enjoyed a varied programme designed to promote social connection, wellbeing and active ageing, including circus skills, bocchia, yoga, paint and sip sessions, botanical bingo, a visit to Stormont and a theatre performance. The scheme was a fantastic week, with extremely positive feedback received from participants. Lasting friendships were formed, and the programme provided valuable support for participants’ mental health and wellbeing. <i>Ending Violence Against Women & Girls – Six-week Glow Girls programme</i> The programme with a young women’s group at St. Oliver Plunketts Youth Centre has concluded. The programme focused on exploring healthy relationships, self-image, and self-esteem, and included a dedicated component on EVAWG. We will consider rolling this out in other areas. <i>Botanical Bingo</i> A Botanical Bingo event held in Lislea on 19 May brought together more than 40 older people for a morning of social interaction, while also providing practical gardening and plant care advice. <i>Farm Safety Week</i> We partnered with PCSP to support Farm Safety Week awareness sessions delivered by the Rural Health Partnership. The programme reached over 200 children across the Slieve Gullion area, educating them on key farm safety issues, including machinery, vehicles, animals and personal responsibility. These sessions helped increase awareness of farm-related hazards and encouraged young people to play a role in keeping communities safe Additional Engagement and Support Activities • Supported groups with programme planning for Summer • (Dorsey 8-week cookery programme in conjunction with Health Improvement; SHSCT)	
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		• Bend Don't Break session delivered to Lissummon and Camlough • African drumming workshop delivered to the Rainbow Club Crossmaglen). • Supported several community/voluntary and sporting groups with funding advice across a range of different funders and themes - Including All Star groups (Dromintee and Craobh Rua) access new equipment and Newtownhamilton Dungormley and Lir Grove residents access funding for a Community Family Fun Day. • Update meeting with Housing Executive re: community support and development. • Supported local wellbeing initiatives including: Lislea Men's Health Day (40 participants) and the South Armagh Primary School Netball Blitz in NLC (90 girls). • Supported several community litter picks with equipment loan. Upcoming Events/ Activity- • EmpowerHER women's car maintenance event in partnership with PCSP and The Road Ahead NI- Lislea Community Centre 26th Aug/ Photocall 7pm. • Rooted in Confidence – Hair loss event (fully booked). Monday 14th September Swanky Coffee. Part funded by NMDDC Health Improvement Team and SHSCT MDT team. Photo call 7pm. • Supporting groups planning for Autumn. Crossmaglen CA and Whitecross both successful with NIHE funding for end of summer events. • Shared schools work continuing October 2026 DEA Action Plan • DEA Delivery remains on track - however, confirmation of the Good Relations budget is still awaited and planning continues based on an indicative budget of £8,000. A mid-year review report will be presented at the next Forum meeting to assess progress, priorities and any adjustments required on the action plan. • The Calendar of Slieve Gullion DEA events have been hugely successfully however there is a growing need to ensure a greater emphasis is placed on responding to individual and community needs,	Noted. Noted. DEA Coordinator to circulate details for all events for members to promote. DEA coordinator to action. Noted.
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		within specific communities, towns/villages ensuring a continued collaborative approach. - Looking ahead, there is scope to further develop and deliver initiatives, programmes and events that respond to this. Examples include mental wellbeing support for primary school children and their parents and supporting community groups to run their own events e.g. Lislea Men's Shed Suicide Prevention Day. - DEA coordinator has developed a "Have Your Say" form which aims to help identify emerging needs, priorities and opportunities, and will inform the development of the 2027/2028 Action Plan. - Over the coming months, the DEA Coordinator will seek to gather feedback and returns from a broad range of DEA representatives, ensuring input is reflected from different geographical areas and age groups. - Forum members, elected representatives, and partner organisations are encouraged to continue sharing feedback. - Based on the feedback received, consideration will also be given to facilitating a DEA forum planning session in Q4 which will help shape the 2027/2028 DEA Forum Action Plan.	
DEA/SG/13	Emerging Issues	Community Update- (a) Health & Wellbeing Maria provided an update on the Peaceplus Wellness Works programme. Four groups have been awarded funding with activities due to commence in coming weeks.	Noted.
DEA/SG/14	Date of Next Meeting	Tuesday 6 th October 2026 @ 5.30pm – Café Mon Abri Camlough (upstairs community room).	Noted.

The meeting ended at: 6.35pm

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

**Action Sheet of Downpatrick District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum Private Meeting
held 11 August 2026 at 10.00am via Teams**

- Chairperson:** Councillor Aurla King
- In Attendance:**
- Independent Members:** Jenny Laverty, NI Housing Executive Housing Community Network
Daniella McCarry, County Down Rural Community Network
- Statutory Partners:**
- Council Officials:** Katrina Hynds, Downpatrick DEA Co-Ordinator
- Others in Attendance:**
- Apologies:** Councillor Oonagh Hanlon
Councillor Conor Galbraith
Dan McEvoy, Downpatrick Housing Community Network

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed.
DEA/DPK/26/01	Apologies	As recorded above.	Noted.
DEA/DPK/26/02	Declarations of Interest	None were declared.	Noted
DEA/DPK/26/03	Action Sheet of Meeting held 9 June 2026	The Action Sheet was noted.	Noted
DEA/DPK/26/04	PeacePlus Update	The PeacePlus Officer advised members that the Reimaging Projects have commenced in Ardglass, Ballyhornan and Killough. Future Programmes include: • Murals at entrance to Lynn Doyle Estate • Mental Health First Aid • First Aid & Defibrillator Training for community groups (limited to 2 per group)	Noted
DEA/DPK/26/05	DEA Co-Ordinators Update	The DEA Co-Ordinator presented her report to members, including detail on activities including – • In partnership with SEHSCT and Rowallane & Slieve Croob an Adult Carers Event was held in Killough along with a Young Carers Event	Noted

		• In partnership with SEHSCT and Action for Children the Downpatrick, Rowallane & Slieve Croob DEAs supported an event for young carers in Streamvale Farm • In partnership with CDRCN and the Mourne, Rowallane & Slieve Croob DEAs a Men’s Health Event was held on 10 June at Castlewellan Forest Park to mark Men’s Health Week • As part of Men’s Health Week health checks were provided to tradesmen employed by Creative Construction • A four-week Identity Programme took place at St Nicholas’ Primary School, Ardglass which focused on identity, diversity and acceptance • A four-part workshop also took place with Year 8s in Lecale Trinity Grammar School which focused on diversity, culture and healthy relationships • The first two Tourism events have taken place in Newcastle and Castlewellan highlighting our local attractions • A Summer Safety Programme took place on 20 July with the EA, PCSP, Rowallane, Slieve Croob & Mourne DEA Upcoming Events: • A Six-Week Women’s DIY Workshop to commence at the beginning of September in partnership with SERC and PeacePlus • The Downpatrick Young Driver’s Initiative to be held on 9 September 2026 in partnership with Down High School, PCSP, NIFRS, PSNI, Drive Techniques and New Drive NI • In partnership with NIHE, SEHSCT, CDRCN the annual Celebrating our Diverse Culture Event to take place at the Downshire Estate on Saturday 12 September 2026	
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		• The Downpatrick Suicide Prevention Task Group’s Annual Walk for Life to take place on 13 September in Dunleath Playing Fields • Continue to support the monthly Domestic Abuse One Stop Shop in the Down Arts Centre	
DEA/DPK/26/06	Independent Members Update	CDRCN: • Over 300 residents in the Downpatrick area attended a free family event at Mount Panther on 29 July 2026 • First Aid training to commence this week • Officers continue to provide support to families in need	CDRCN
DEA/DPK/26/07	Date of Next Meeting	The DEA Co-Ordinator advised members that the next meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday 13 October at 5.30pm via Teams	DEA Co-Ordinator

The meeting ended at: 10.30 am

**Action Sheet of Rowallane District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum Private Meeting
held on 18 August 2026 @ 1pm in Ballynahinch Community Centre**

Chairperson:	Councillor Jonny Jackson
In Attendance:	Councillor Terry Andrews Councillor Callum Bowsie Councillor David Lee-Surginor
Independent Members:	Kathy Black – Co Down Rural Community Network Raymond Cochrane, Rowallane & Slieve Croob Community Twinning Group
Statutory Partners:	None
Council Officials:	Nicola Whyte, DEA Coordinator Rowallane
Others in Attendance:	Jeremy Adams, CRAICNI – Rowallane People & Places Project
Apologies:	Councillor Tierna Howie Kerri Morrow, Community Engagement Manager NMDDC Theresa McLaverty, Peace Plus Officer NMDDC Robert Burgess, Saintfield Horse Show, Saintfield Community Estates Paul Innes – PSNI Bronagh Magorrian - NIHE Bethany McClune - EA Youth Worker

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed.
DEA/ROW/39/2026	Welcome and Apologies	Councillor Jackson welcomed Members and noted apologies.	COMPLETED
DEA/ROW/40/2026	Declarations of Interest	There were no declarations of interest given.	COMPLETED
DEA/ROW/41/2026	Action sheet from previous meeting on 16.06.26	DEA/ROW/36/2026 – Letter requesting meeting with Minister for Infrastructure & Rowallane DEA Councillors regarding Killyleagh Wastewater Strategy review Action Sheet was proposed by Councillor Andrews and seconded by Councillor Bowsie	Approved through Committee, letter drafted and will be sent by Coordinator. NOTED
DEA/ROW/42/2026	DEA Coordinators Report	DEA Coordinator delivered the Coordinator's Report including: Update on projects since last meeting: - Men's Health Event with Rowallane DEA & MDT Teams – Delamont Park Thursday 18 June fully attended & PR complete - Seniors Tourism Event with all 4 DEA's Mournes Tuesday 30 June Newcastle Community Cinema fully attended with PR complete - Seniors Tourism Event Slieve Croob DEA Wednesday 29 July, Castlewellan Forest Park fully attended with PR complete - Summer Safety Event with PCSP & DEA's, Castlewellan Park Monday 20 July 10-2 young people through Education Authority from Crossgar & Killyleagh - Young Carers event supporting action for children with cancer with SE Trust and DEA's 30 July – thank you letter from Cathy on file	COMPLETED

		1. Upcoming Events: - Seniors Tourism Event Downpatrick DEA Tuesday 25 August, St Patrick Centre with tour of grave and church - Ballynahinch Mens & Hens Shed Open Day – Saturday 22 August - DIY for Women 6-week free course with SERC starting 27 August - Crossgar Friday Folk on Tour – Lunch in Warrenpoint 11 August - Seniors Tourism Event Rowallane DEA Monday 28 September, Delamont Country Park for foraging workshop & interactive Digi bus with 3D tourism experience. 10.30am -1.30pm – photocall at 10.45am - Carers Health & Wellbeing event with SE Trust – Delamont Park 29 September with Digi bus on site 10.30am – 2pm – photocall at 10.45am - Young Drivers Safety event at Bishops court with St Colman’s High & Upper 6th Ballynahinch on 30 September 10am – 3pm - Festival of Hope – 3-10 October Ballynahinch Community Centre 3/10 – Park Run Montalto Estate, 9.30-11.00 5/10 – First Aid Mental Health Training with PeacePlus (PIPS) 9.00-5.00 6/10 – SPOT Training with Papyrus 6/10 – Mens/Hens Shed Saintfield drop in taster 10.00-1.00 7/10 – Mens/Hens Shed Ballynahinch drop in taster 10.00-2.00 8/10 – Mens/Hens Shed Killyleagh drop in taster 11.00-1.00 8/10 – Music, Coffee & Craic 10.30-12.30 10/10 – World Mental Health Day Walk for hope & fun day with gaming bus 11-4 12/10 - First Aid Mental Health Training with PeacePlus (PIPS) 9.00-5.00	NOTED
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		- Drop in Clinic for funding and to meet DEA Coordinator in Ballynahinch CC, 13 October 11-4pm - Visit to Stormont for Good Relations Week – 16 August (Bus to leave from Saintfield CC with parking available there) 9.30-3.00 - Action Cancer Bus – Killyleagh with CDRCN, location confirmed at Killyleagh Football Club, date TBC Other Updates: - Schools Update St Patricks Primary School, Ballynahinch - Building Resilience Programme to start in September/October - Digi-Bus – Interactive Hub – overview with Facilities team 28 September & 29 September at Delamont Park	Members to follow up with Coordinator if they want to attend this a session
DEA/ROW/43/2026	Update from Kathy Black, CDRCN on PHA Funding	Kathy provided an update on the following events that were funding through this budget: Crossgar Friday Folk, 6 Week Art Therapy Workshop Teonnaught Ladies Group, First Aid Training Saintfield Luncheon Club with Saintfield Greens for In Bloom Homestart Ballynahinch, Personal development for young mums Update on Festival of Hope 3-10 October as per DEA report Reminder of Arbour Housing meeting in Saintfield	
DEA/ROW/44/2026	Update on Peace Plus Funding	Apologies noted from Theresa - an update on projects was given at the meeting by Nicola. Members requested a list of all Peace Plus projects in the Rowallane DEA on a spreadsheet, with facilitator details and a delivery update.	Coordinator to request this from Theresa then circulate to all members

DEA/ROW/45/2026	Update from Jeremy Adams CRAIC NI, PeacePlus Programme	Jeremy Adams from CRAIC NI - as the facilitator for Rowallane People & Places - gave a short presentation on the project, the recruitment and where the final short film will be screened. This is a community led project focused on celebrating the people, places, and traditions of the Rowallane area. The project brings together two key strands: Oral histories of residents, and exploration of significant local landmarks, particularly religious and historic sites of different denominations that relate to these oral histories. The project will capture personal stories, documenting place-based culture and heritage. This project aims to strengthen community identity, promote inter-generational engagement, preserve local culture and history for future generations and highlight how these are connected across the communities.	Members to circulate flyers to their communities
DEA/ROW/46/2026	Date of Next Meeting	The next meeting date: 13 October in Ballynahinch Community Centre at 6pm.	DEA Coordinator to forward agenda and papers in advance.

The meeting ended at: 2.20pm

Report to:	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 21 st September 2026
Subject:	Leisure Closure Arrangements 2026-27
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Conor Haughey, Assistant Director: Healthy Living
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Sinead Geary, Head of Indoor Leisure

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> The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval for the leisure closure arrangements for the 2026/27 period, as outlined in Appendix 1. <u>Background</u> Leisure facilities have historically either closed or operated reduced opening hours on public holidays to reflect customer demand, manage annual leave requests and maintain operational efficiency.
2.0	Key issues
2.1	The Leisure and Sports Service currently employs approximately 200 permanent and casual staff across a number of facilities. Many facilities operate seven days per week for up to 15 hours per day. Scheduled closures are required to complete planned facility maintenance and to ensure staff training can be completed to the required operating standards. The proposed opening arrangements for 2026/27 are set out in Appendix 1. The proposed staff training closure dates have been scheduled during periods of traditionally lower customer demand and where staff availability is expected to be higher.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	That the Active and Healthy Communities Committee approves the leisure closure arrangements for the 2026/27 period as detailed in Appendix 1.
4.0	Resource implications

4.1	All budget requirements have been accounted for within the AHC Departmental Budget.
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 - Leisure Closure Arrangements 2026-2027
8.0	Background Documents
	None

Appendix 1 Leisure Public Holiday Arrangements 2026/2027

Newry, Down and Kilkeel Leisure Centre

Day	Opening Arrangement	Opening Times
Thursday 24 th December 2026 (Christmas Eve)	Closed	Closed
Friday 25 th December 2026 (Christmas Day)	Closed	Closed
Saturday 26 th December 2026	Closed	Closed
Sunday 27 th December 2026	Open Normal Hours	Open Normal Hours
Monday 28 th December 2026 (Boxing Day)	Closed	Closed
Tuesday 29 th December 2026	Closed	Closed
Thursday 31 st December 2026	Reduced hours	9:30am – 4:00pm
Friday 1 st January 2027 (New Year's Day)	Closed	Closed
Saturday 2 nd January 2027	Open Normal Hours	Open Normal Hours
Wednesday 17 th March 2027 (St Patricks Day)	Closed	Closed
Sunday 28 th March 2027 (Easter Sunday)	Closed	Closed
Monday 29 th March 2027 (Easter Monday)	Reduced Hours	9:30am – 4:00pm
Tuesday 30 th March 2027 (Easter Tuesday)	Reduced Hours	9:30am – 4:00pm
Monday 3 rd May 2027 (Early May Bank Holiday)	Reduced Hours	9:30am – 4:00pm
Monday 31 st May 2027 (Spring Bank Holiday)	Reduced Hours	9:30am – 4:00pm
Monday 12 th July 2027 (12 th July Holiday)	Closed	Closed
Tuesday 13 th July 2027 (13 th July Holiday)	Reduced Hours	9:30am – 4:00pm
Monday 30 th August 2027 (Summer Bank Holiday)	Reduced Hours	9:30am – 4:00pm

Ballymote, Newcastle Centre and St Colman's and Outdoor Leisure Facilities

Day	Opening Arrangement	Opening Times
Thursday 24 th December 2026 – Friday 25 th December 2026	Closed	Closed
Saturday 26 th – Thursday 31 st December 2026	Closed	Closed
Friday 1 st January 2027	Closed	Closed
Wednesday 17 th March 2027 (St Patricks Day)	Closed	Closed
Sunday 28 th March 2027 (Easter Sunday)	Closed	Closed
Monday 29 th March 2027 (Easter Monday)	Closed	Closed
Tuesday 30 th March 2027 (Easter Tuesday)	Closed	Closed
Monday 3 rd May 2027 (Early May Bank Holiday)	Closed	Closed
Monday 31 st May 2027 (Spring Bank Holiday)	Closed	Closed

Monday 12 th July 2027 (12 th July Holiday)	Closed	Closed
Tuesday 13 th July 2027 (13 th July Holiday)	Closed	Closed
Monday 30 th August 2027 (Summer Bank Holiday)	Closed	Closed

Seasonal Facilities

Day	Opening Arrangement	Opening Times
Monday 12 th July 2027 (12 th July Holiday)	Open Normal Hours	Open Normal Hours
Tuesday 13 th July 2027 (13 th July Holiday)	Open Normal Hours	Open Normal Hours
Monday 30 th August 2027 (Summer Bank Holiday)	Open Normal Hours	Open Normal Hours

Leisure Staff Training Arrangements 2026/2027

Down Leisure Centre

Day	Opening Arrangement	Opening Times
Monday 14 th December 2026 (Staff Training Day)	Reduced Hours	6.00pm to 10.00pm – subject to staff cover
Tuesday 15 th December 2026 (Staff Training Day)	Reduced Hours	6.00pm to 10.00pm – subject to staff cover
Friday 18 th December 2026 (Staff Training Day)	Reduced Hours	6.00pm to 10.00pm – subject to staff cover
Thursday 24 th June 2027 (Staff Training Day)	Reduced Hours	6.00pm to 10.00pm – subject to staff cover
Friday 25 th June 2027 (Staff Training Day)	Reduced Hours	6.00pm to 10.00pm – subject to staff cover

Newcastle Centre and Ballymote Sports and Wellbeing Centre

Day	Opening Arrangement	Opening Times
Monday 14 th December 2026 (Staff Training Day)	Reduced Hours	6.00pm to 10.00pm – subject to staff cover
Friday 18 th December 2026 (Staff Training Day)	Reduced Hours	6.00pm to 10.00pm – subject to staff cover
Thursday 24 th June 2027 (Staff Training Day)	Reduced Hours	6.00pm to 10.00pm – subject to staff cover

Newry Leisure Centre

Day	Opening Arrangement	Opening Times
Wednesday 16 th December 2026 (Staff Training Day)	Reduced Hours	6.00pm to 10.00pm – subject to staff cover
Thursday 17 th December 2026 (Staff Training Day)	Reduced Hours	6.00pm to 10.00pm – subject to staff cover
Friday 18 th December 2026 (Staff Training Day)	Reduced Hours	6.00pm to 10.00pm – subject to staff cover
Tuesday 22 nd June 2027 (Staff Training Day)	Reduced Hours	6.00pm to 10.00pm – subject to staff cover
Wednesday 23 rd June 2027 (Staff Training Day)	Reduced Hours	6.00pm to 10.00pm – subject to staff cover

Kilkeel Leisure Centre

Day	Opening Arrangement	Opening Times
Friday 18 th December 2026 (Staff Training Day)	Reduced Hours	6.00pm to 10.00pm – subject to staff cover
Tuesday 22 nd June 2027 (Staff Training Day)	Reduced Hours	6.00pm to 10.00pm – subject to staff cover
Wednesday 23 rd June 2027 (Staff Training Day)	Reduced Hours	6.00pm to 10.00pm – subject to staff cover

St Colman's Sports Complex

Day	Opening Arrangement	Opening Times
Wednesday 16 th December 2026 (Staff Training Day)	Reduced Hours	6.00pm to 10.00pm – subject to staff cover
Friday 18 th December 2026 (Staff Training Day)	Reduced Hours	6.00pm to 10.00pm – subject to staff cover
Tuesday 22 nd June 2027 (Staff Training Day)	Reduced Hours	6.00pm to 10.00pm – subject to staff cover

Report to:	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 21 September 2026
Subject:	Funded Programme Delivery
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Alison Robb, Assistant Director Community Development
Contact Officers (Including Job Title):	Martina Flynn, Head of Engagement

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

	For decision	For noting only	x
1.0	Purpose and Background		
1.1	<u>Purpose</u> To note correspondence from The Office of the First and Deputy First Minister in relation to confirmation of funding for the 2026/27 Good Relations Programme and Ending Violence against Women and Girls Fund.		
1.2	<u>Background</u> At June 2026 AHC Committee Members agreed to urgently write to First Minister and Deputy First Minister, Communities Minister, Justice Minister, Finance Minister and Departmental Officials for urgent delivery of all the funding referenced within the officer's report (Agenda Item 10.0 June AHC)		
2.0	Key issues		
2.1	Approval was required to proceed with critical services including Summer diversionary programmes (including youth programmes) and bonfire management initiatives, PCSP contracted services (including Community Safety Wardens, Home Secure & Social Alarm) and District-wide EVAWG projects. Also summer activities under Areas at Risk funding.		
2.2	Members agreed to continue with delivery of the funded programmes as detailed in the June 2026 AHC Officer's report to the end of September 2026, pending receipt of Letters of Offer from the Programme Funders (Department for Communities, Department of Justice and The Executive Office).		
3.0	Recommendation		
3.1	To note correspondence from The Office of the First and Deputy First Minister confirming budget allocation for the 2026/27 District Council Good Relations Programme (DCGRP) and Ending Violence against Women and Girls Fund (EVAWG).		

4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Revenue budget requirements, including grant offers, have been profiled within AHC Departmental budgets for this financial year.
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 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 - Correspondence from The Executive Office
8.0	Background Documents
	None.



The
Executive Office

www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk

Stormont Castle

BELFAST

BT4 3TT

Tel: 028 9037 8228

Email: ps.ministers@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk

Ms Alison Robb
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

By email: Alison.Robb@nmandd.org

Date: 07 September 2026
Our Ref: COR 0444 2026

Dear Ms Robb,

Thank you for your letter dated 30 June 2026 relating to matters raised at a recent meeting of your council's Active and Healthy Community Committee, including around confirmation of a budget allocation for the 2026/27 District Council Good Relations Programme (DCGRP) and Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Change Fund (EVAWG).

We are pleased to advise that we have approved the budget allocation and issue of Letters of Offer for multiple Good Relations Programmes, including the DCGRP and EVAWG.

We understand that Letters of Offer for both programmes have been issued.

We remain committed to supporting councils in the delivery of Good Relations activity and recognise the valuable contribution these programmes make in building a truly shared and cohesive society.

Yours sincerely,

Michelle O'Neill MLA
First Minister

Emma Little-Pengelly MLA
deputy First Minister

Report to:	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 21 st September 2026
Subject:	Indoor Leisure Booking Prioritisation
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Conor Haughey, Assistant Director: Healthy Living
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Sinead Geary, Head of Indoor Leisure

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 to note how booking requests for facility hire are prioritised within Indoor Leisure facilities. <u>Background</u> In May 2022 AHC Committee approved the Indoor Leisure Booking Prioritisation framework for sports halls, swimming pools and activity spaces across Council leisure facilities. Demand for facility hire has increased significantly since the framework was introduced, with requests continuing to be received from existing and new clubs and organisations both within and outside the NMDDC district. This report provides an update on the prioritisation framework currently applied within Indoor Leisure facilities to support fair and consistent allocation of limited facility capacity.		
2.0	Key issues		
2.1	Demand for Indoor Leisure facilities has increased significantly in recent years and now exceeds available capacity at a number of locations and peak times. Requests for facility use are received from historical and new clubs and organisations, both within the NMDDC district and from outside the district. Given the finite capacity available across Indoor Leisure facilities, it is not possible to accommodate all requests. A clear and consistent prioritisation framework is therefore required to support decision-making and manage customer expectations. Where competing requests exist for the same facility space and time, priority will be given to clubs and organisations based within the NMDDC district.		

	In applying the framework, regard is also given to long-established booking arrangements which provide continuity for users and support established participation opportunities across the district. As such, historical bookings are prioritised ahead of new requests within the same booking category. To ensure a fair and transparent approach, Indoor Leisure will apply the following booking priorities: • Statutory and Essential Non-Commercial Bookings • Internal Leisure Activity Programmes and Bookings • Historical Sports Clubs and Non-Commercial Block Bookings from within the NMDDC district • New Sports Clubs and Non-Commercial Block Bookings from within the NMDDC district • Commercial Block Bookings and Third-Party Commercial Bookings (only where the Council does not currently provide the activity) from within the NMDDC district • Sports Clubs and Non-Commercial Block Bookings from outside the NMDDC district, subject to availability • Commercial Block Bookings and Third-Party Commercial Bookings (only where the Council does not currently provide the activity) from outside the NMDDC district For the purpose of applying this framework, National Governing Body training and development programmes operating on a regular basis within Council facilities and providing participation opportunities for residents of the NMDDC district will be regarded as a club or organisation based within the district when assessing booking requests.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To note the contents of this report.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Revenue: There are no anticipated revenue budget implications associated with this report. Capital: There are no anticipated Capital budget implications associated with 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>
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

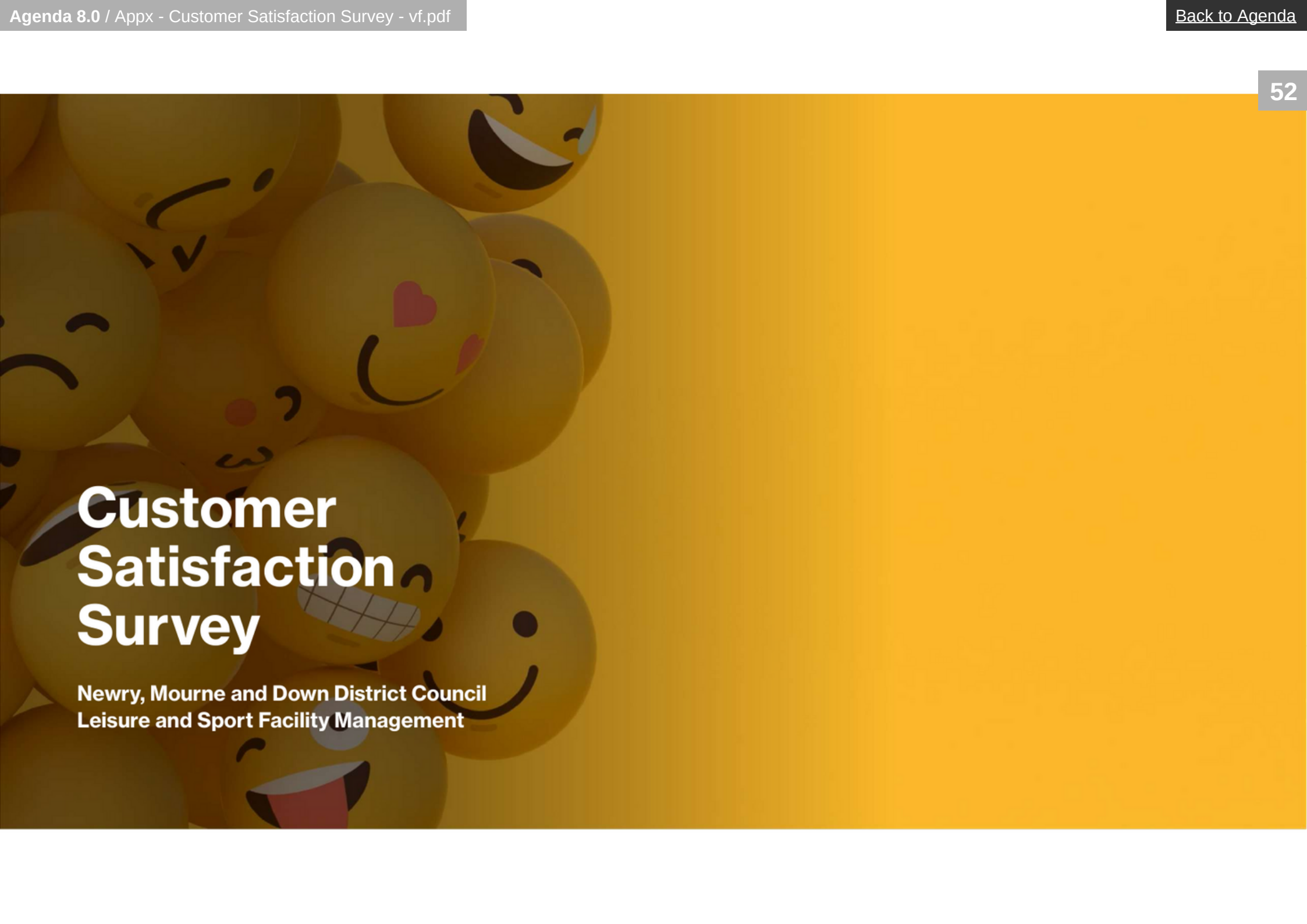
	None
8.0	Background Documents
	AHC Committee May 2022, Indoor Leisure Booking Prioritisation Report

Report to:	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 21 st September 2026
Subject:	Indoor Leisure Customer Satisfaction Survey and Mystery Shopper Programme 2026
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Conor Haughey, Assistant Director: Healthy Living
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Sinead Geary, Head of Indoor Leisure

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 to note the findings of the Indoor Leisure Customer Satisfaction Survey and Mystery Shopper Programme undertaken during 2026. <u>Background</u> The customer satisfaction survey and mystery shopper exercise were completed as actions contained within the Leisure and Sport Departmental Plan. The purpose was to obtain independent feedback on customer experience, identify areas of good performance and highlight opportunities for service improvement across Indoor Leisure facilities.		
2.0	Key issues		
2.1	As part of the Leisure and Sport Departmental Plan, Indoor Leisure completed a customer satisfaction survey and independent mystery shopper exercise during 2026 to obtain feedback on customer experience and identify opportunities for continuous improvement. The findings indicate generally high levels of customer satisfaction across Indoor Leisure facilities, with positive feedback received in relation to staff, facilities, programmes and overall customer experience. The majority of survey respondents stated they would recommend Council leisure facilities to family and friends. The mystery shopper exercise also identified a number of strengths within service delivery, particularly in relation to staff professionalism, customer interactions and the quality of facilities. Both exercises identified opportunities for improvement in areas such as customer communications, digital services, booking processes, customer information and		

	aspects of facility provision. These findings will help inform future service improvement priorities. The findings will be reviewed by the Indoor Leisure Service and, where appropriate and financially viable, improvements will be implemented through existing service planning and continuous improvement arrangements. Recommendations will be reviewed and proposals brought forward to enhance customer experience, service delivery, customer communications, operational processes, digital systems and facility provision across Indoor Leisure facilities.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To note the contents of this report.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Revenue: There are no anticipated revenue budget implications associated with this report. Capital: There are no anticipated Capital budget implications associated with 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 ☐

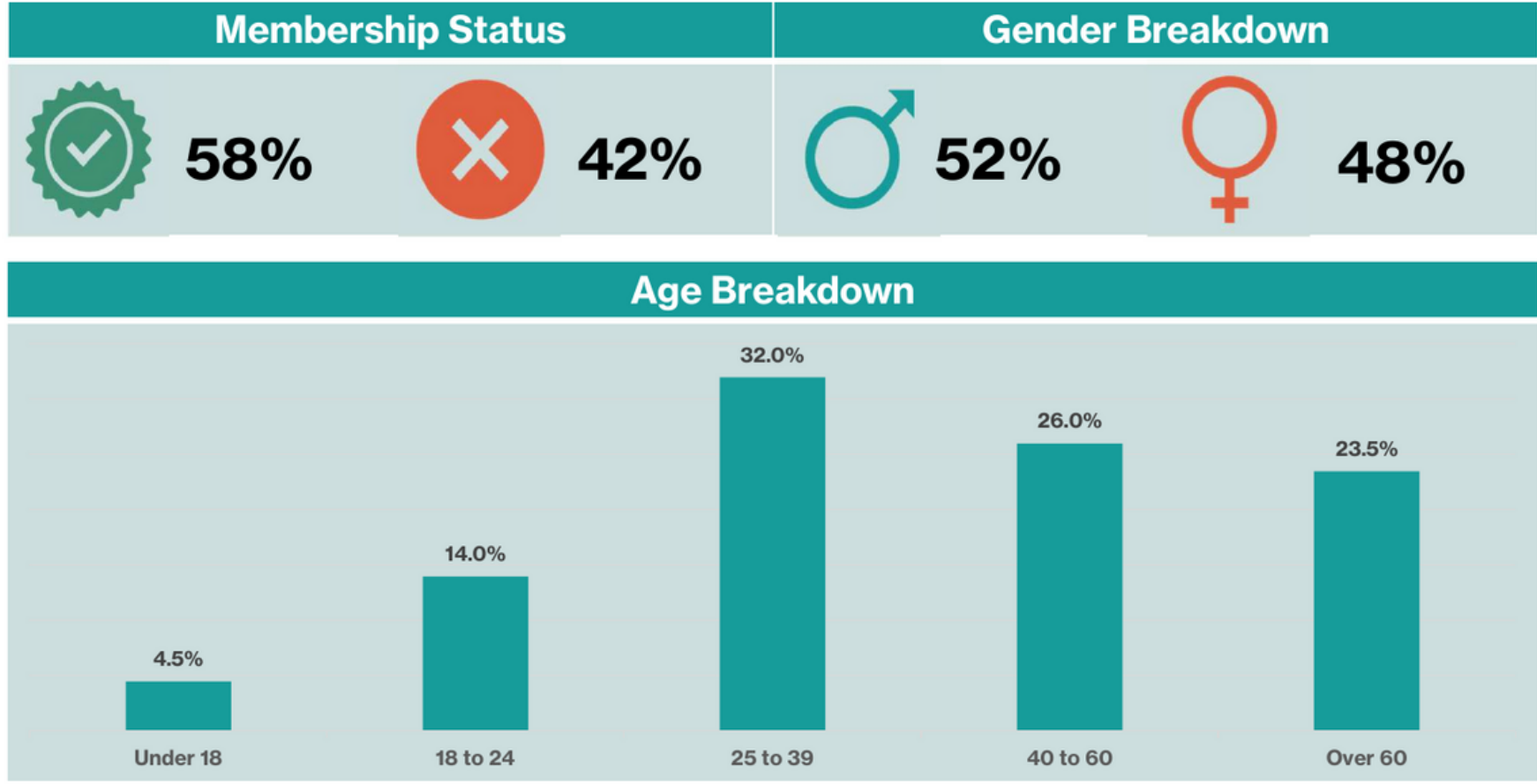
5.3	<i>Proposal initiating consultation – N/a</i> Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves ☐ Consultation period will be 12 weeks ☐ Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) ☐ <i>Rationale:</i>
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 – Customer Satisfaction Survey
8.0	Background Documents
	None



Customer Satisfaction Survey

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
Leisure and Sport Facility Management

Survey Insights – Demographics



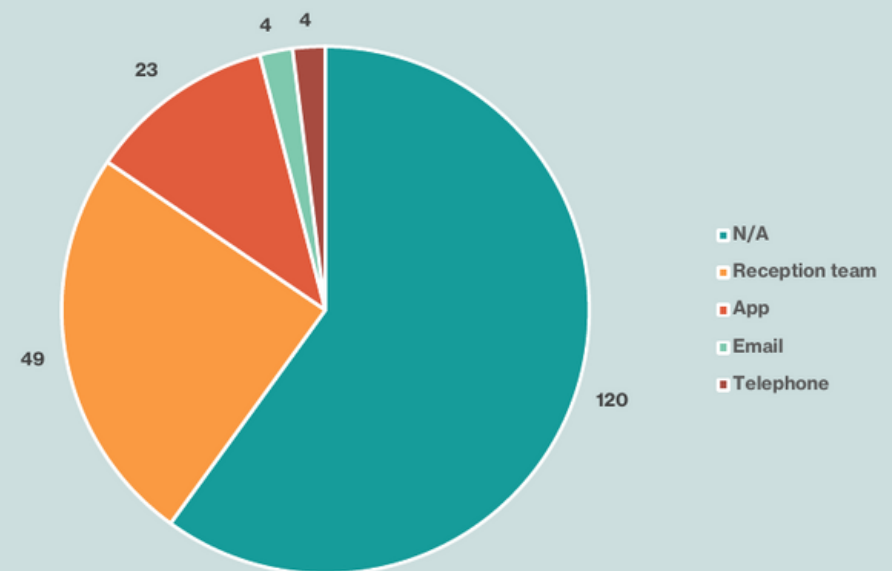
Survey Insights – Section 1 & 2 (Activity & Booking Information)

Q1 - What activity are you here today to use?
(Tick all that apply)



- The Gym was the most used activity by survey respondents
- Room hire was the least used activity by survey respondents

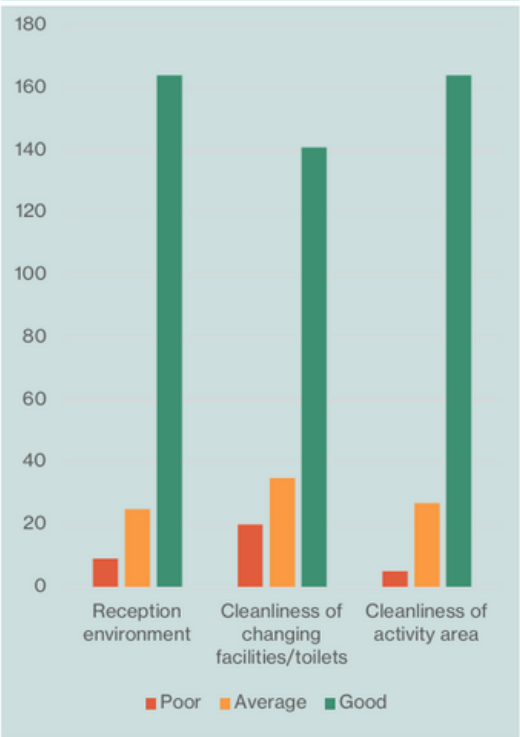
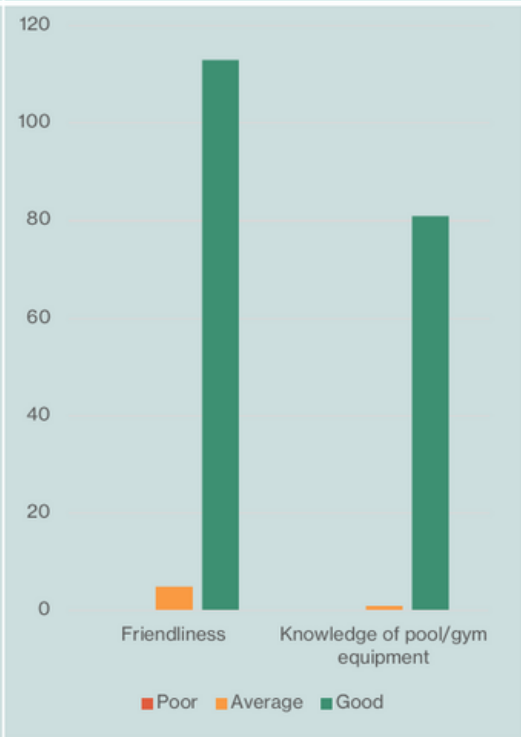
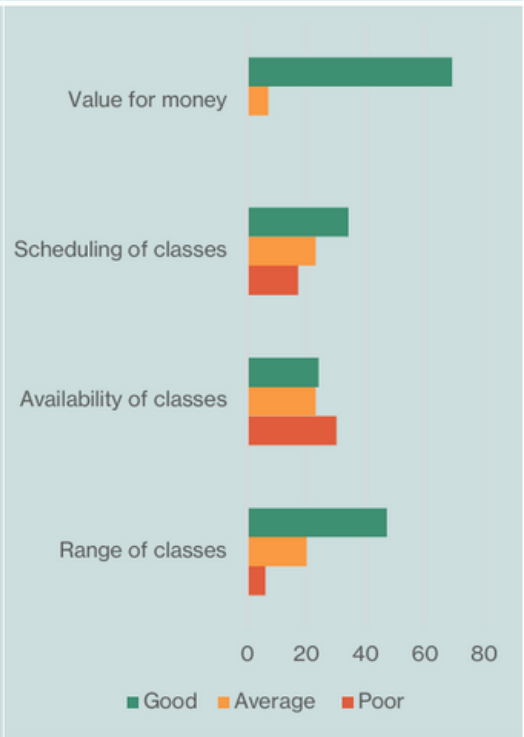
Q2 - How did you book today's activity?



Of those who did book their activity;

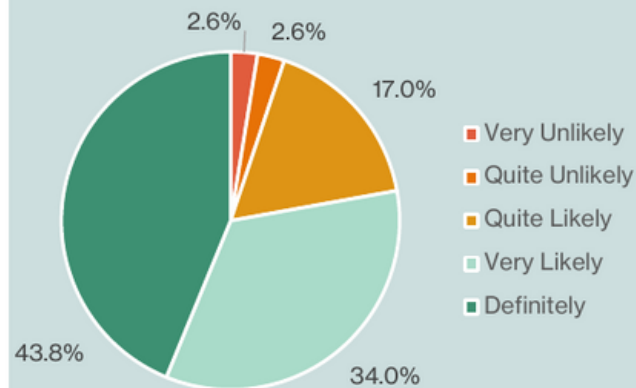
- The majority used the reception team
- Email & Telephone was the least used booking method

Survey Insights – Section 3 (Facility & service feedback)

Q3 - How would you rate the following aspects of this leisure centre	Q4a - How would you rate the reception team in terms of the following?	Q4b - How would you rate the pool and gym team in terms of the following?	Q5 - How would you rate this leisure centre in terms of the following?																																																												
 <table><thead><tr><th>Aspect</th><th>Poor</th><th>Average</th><th>Good</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Reception environment</td><td>10</td><td>25</td><td>165</td></tr><tr><td>Cleanliness of changing facilities/toilets</td><td>20</td><td>35</td><td>140</td></tr><tr><td>Cleanliness of activity area</td><td>5</td><td>28</td><td>165</td></tr></tbody></table>	Aspect	Poor	Average	Good	Reception environment	10	25	165	Cleanliness of changing facilities/toilets	20	35	140	Cleanliness of activity area	5	28	165	 <table><thead><tr><th>Aspect</th><th>Good</th><th>Average</th><th>Poor</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Knowledge of pricing and facilities</td><td>150</td><td>10</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Friendliness</td><td>160</td><td>30</td><td>5</td></tr></tbody></table>	Aspect	Good	Average	Poor	Knowledge of pricing and facilities	150	10	0	Friendliness	160	30	5	 <table><thead><tr><th>Aspect</th><th>Poor</th><th>Average</th><th>Good</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Friendliness</td><td>0</td><td>5</td><td>115</td></tr><tr><td>Knowledge of pool/gym equipment</td><td>0</td><td>2</td><td>80</td></tr></tbody></table>	Aspect	Poor	Average	Good	Friendliness	0	5	115	Knowledge of pool/gym equipment	0	2	80	 <table><thead><tr><th>Aspect</th><th>Good</th><th>Average</th><th>Poor</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Value for money</td><td>70</td><td>5</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Scheduling of classes</td><td>35</td><td>25</td><td>15</td></tr><tr><td>Availability of classes</td><td>25</td><td>25</td><td>30</td></tr><tr><td>Range of classes</td><td>50</td><td>20</td><td>5</td></tr></tbody></table>	Aspect	Good	Average	Poor	Value for money	70	5	0	Scheduling of classes	35	25	15	Availability of classes	25	25	30	Range of classes	50	20	5
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Most respondents expressed positive feedback on these aspects of the leisure centre	Most respondents expressed positive feedback for the reception team	Most respondents expressed positive feedback for the pool & gym team	Most respondents praised the range and value of classes but had mixed views on availability and scheduling.																																																												

Survey Insights – Section 4 (Recommendation and improvements)

Q6 - How likely or unlikely would you be to recommend this leisure centre to friends or family?



Most respondents indicated they would recommend the leisure centre to family and friends

Q7 - Do you have any suggestions on how this leisure centre could be improved?

Cleanliness & Maintenance

- Deep clean changing rooms/showers.
- Fix accessible shower.
- Add shelves for toiletries.
- Improve soft play cleanliness.
- Enforce litter rules.

Facilities & Equipment

- More gym machines.
- Repair/replace broken equipment.
- New badminton nets.
- Improve pool (warmer, slide open, cold plunge).
- Replace worn soft play gear.

Opening Hours

- Open earlier weekdays/weekends.
- Later closing (gym until 10:30 pm).
- More early mornings.

Booking & Communication

- Fix booking system/app.
- Clear baby pool booking.
- Avoid midnight booking rush.
- Notify closures via multiple channels.
- Answer phones promptly

Classes & Activities

- More variety (Pilates, yoga, dance).
- Family-friendly times.
- More swimming classes.
- Childcare options.

Customer Experience

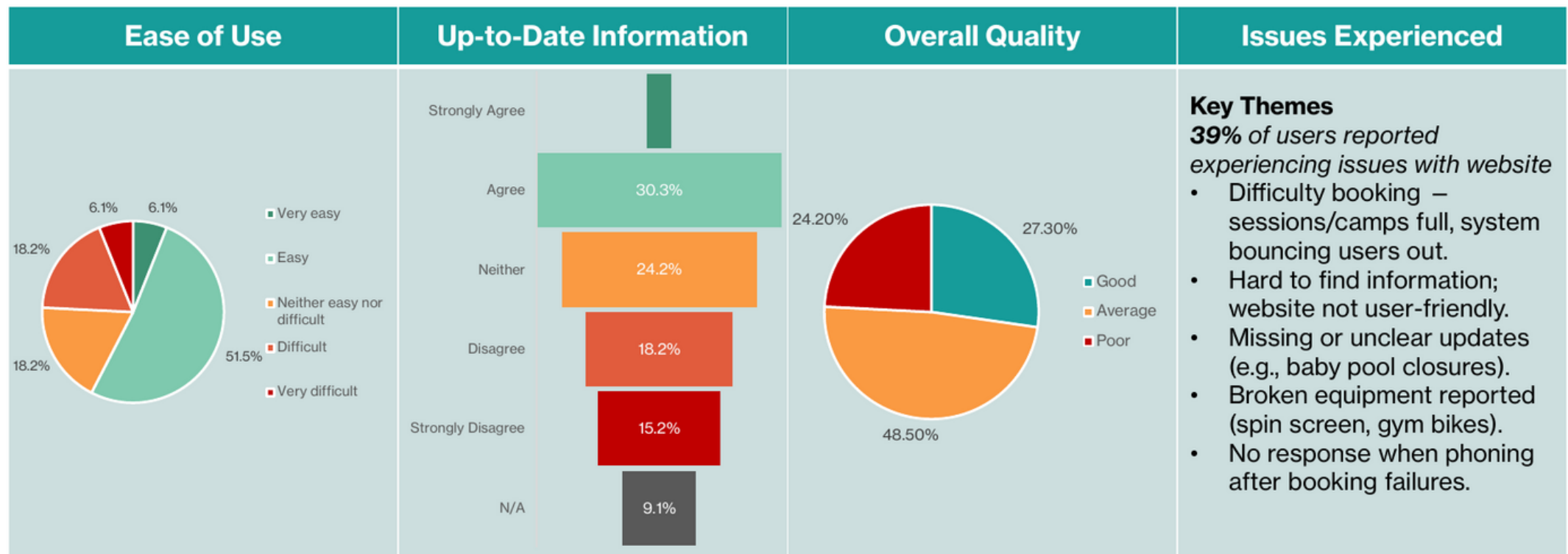
- More seating for parents.
- Gluten-free café options.
- Personal training & guest access.
- Bulk swim passes.
- Better air conditioning.

Survey Insights – Section 5 (Website Experience)



Only **33 of the 200 (17%)*** respondents stated they have used the leisure centre website

*findings below reflect these 33 users only



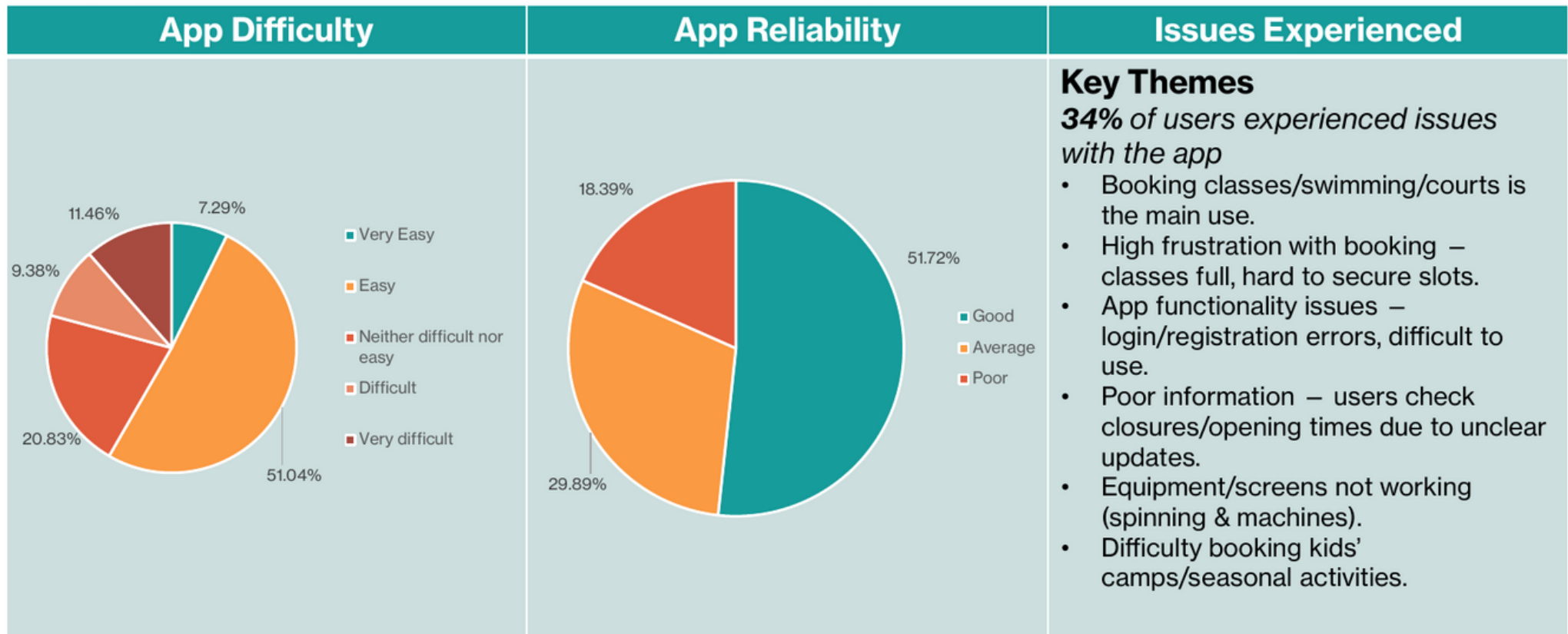
Survey Insights – Section 6 (App Experience)



119 out of 200 (60%) respondents had heard of the BeActiveApp



Of those 119 people 99 (83%) stated they have used the app

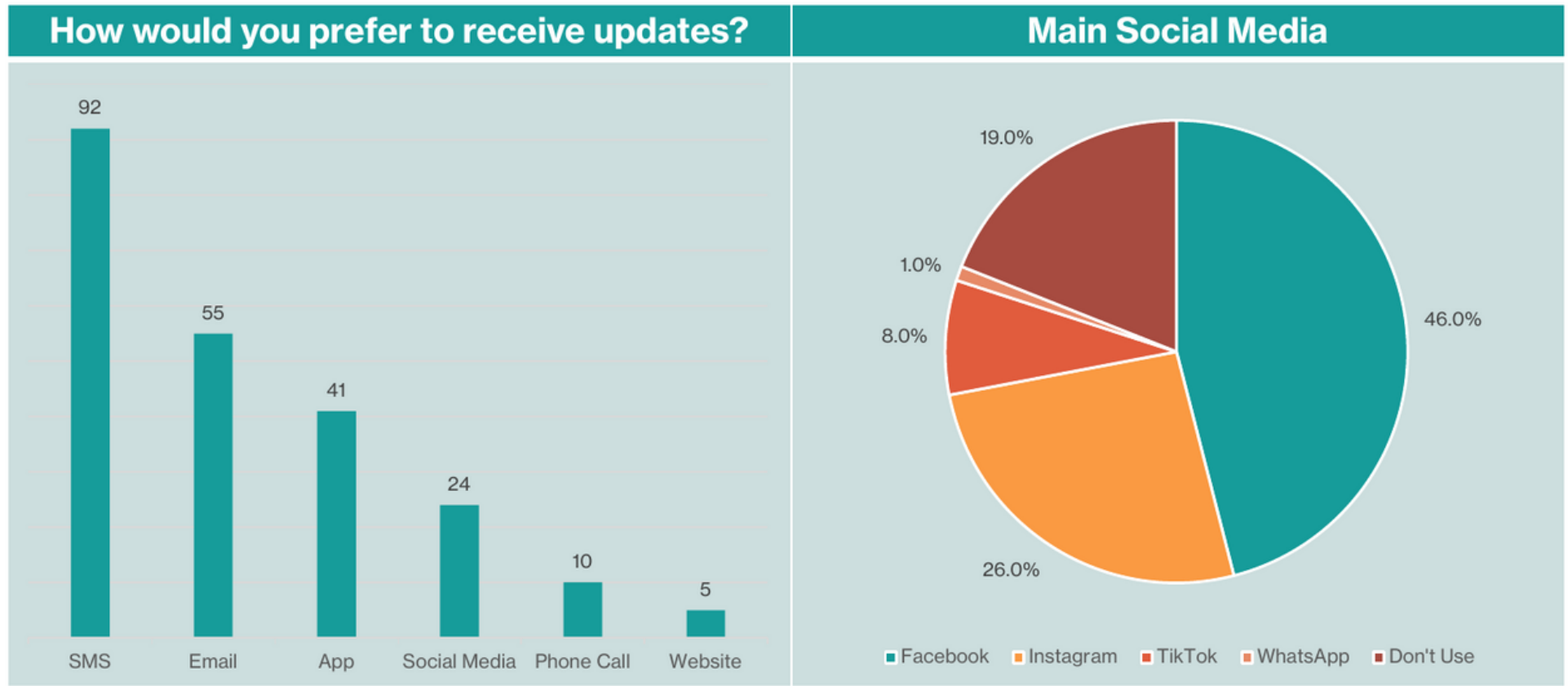


Survey Insights – Section 6 (App & Website Features)

Key Themes – Features Users Want Added

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easier booking and clearer availability (classes, swimming, courts, camps, baby pool). • Waiting lists and notifications when spaces open. • More classes and greater availability (Pilates, yoga, Sundays, larger class sizes). • Clearer information and more reliable updates (closures, busy times in gym, soft play availability). • More user-friendly design; simpler navigation; fewer glitches. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to book without downloading the app; Apple/Google Pay. • Performance tracking and more interactive features. • Later opening times to suit working parents. • Fairer policies (no fee when cancelling on the app; clearer membership/Be Active charges). • Better signal/connectivity and general reliability (“that it works”). |
|--|--|

Survey Insights – Section 6 (Notification Preferences)



Demographic Insights (Part 1)

By Age	By Gender	By Members
Older users are the strongest advocates: Over 60: ~87% promoters (lowest neutrality) Young adults are less likely: 18–24: ~70% promoters, with more in the “quite likely” middle band. Other age groups sit in the mid-70s% promoters.	Women slightly more positive, but both genders are very favourable: Female: ~80% promoters Male: ~76% promoters	Members and pay-as-you-go are identical: Members: 78% promoters Pay-as-you-go: 78% promoters Membership status is not a major driver of recommendation.

Demographic Insights (Part 2)

By Age	By Gender	By Members
• App use is high in all age groups – including older adults; around 80–90% of users in each age band who answered Q13b say they <i>do</i> use the app. • Website is rarely used at any age – roughly 8 in 10 across all ages say they <i>never</i> use it (Q8). • Views on classes differ by age – 40–60s and over-60s are more likely to rate the <i>range of classes</i> as good, while 25–39s are more likely to say average/poor (Q5c).	• Women are slightly more app-engaged – a higher share of females than males use the app (Q13b). • Ease of app – over half of both men and women say the app is easy/very easy, but men are more likely to describe it as difficult/very difficult (Q14)	• Members are the core digital users – members are notably more likely than pay-as-you-go users to use the app (around 87% vs 74% of those answering Q13b). • Website still weak for both groups – over 8 in 10 members and pay-as-you-go users <i>never</i> use the website (Q8). • Ease of app – around half of both groups say the app is easy, but a noticeable minority of pay-as-you-go users rate it very difficult, showing they need more support/onboarding (Q14).