



August 5th, 2020

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the meeting to be held on **Monday, 10th August 2020** at **6:00 pm** in **Via Skype**.

Committee Membership:-

Councillor A McMurray

Councillor M Ruane

Councillor R Burgess

Councillor W Clarke

Councillor D Curran

Councillor G Hanna

Councillor V Harte

Councillor R Howell

Councillor M Larkin

Councillor D McAteer

Councillor R Mulgrew

Councillor H Reilly

Councillor M Savage

Councillor G Stokes

Agenda

- 1.0 **Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks.**
- 2.0 **Declarations of Interest.**
- 3.0 **Action Sheet: Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting - 08 June 2020. (Attached)**

 *ERT Action Sheet from ERT Committee Mtg June 2020.pdf*

Page 1

Notices of Motion

4.0 To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor C Enright re: Coarse Fishing:

'Recognising the importance of Coarse fishing to tourism and the local economy, particularly in the Quoile River, and noting the proactive approach taken by other Councils in Northern Ireland to restock fish on behalf of anglers, this Council will commit to fund restocking of fish in line with other Council areas, carry out a review of Coarse fisheries across the District, and work with DEARA and other councils to develop a best practice approach.'

5.0 To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor W Clarke re: Environmental Wardens:

Whilst this Council recognises the strategic importance of sustainable tourism as a local economic driver; it notes with growing concern that increasing numbers of visitors to the district is creating stress on our local environment, including many areas of ecologically sensitive importance. In recognition of this, this Council will bring forward options towards the establishment of Environmental Wardens - including delivery model, resource implications and partnership opportunities with existing organisations.

6.0 To consider the following Notice of Motion in the names of Councillor P Brown and Councillor J Trainor re: Universal Basic Income for Northern Ireland:

'In the wake of the economic crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic, this Council recognises the need for a reformed, fairer welfare system that protects everyone in society. It recognises the need to provide economic security for all and invest in people to protect livelihoods and kickstart the economy.

Therefore, it calls on the Departments of Communities and Finance and the UK Treasury to design and deliver a recovery Universal Basic Income (UBI) for Northern Ireland.

Additionally, this Council supports in principle the investigation of a full, permanent UBI for Northern Ireland, recognising the need for a radical overhaul of the welfare state and the positive impact this would have on poverty alleviation, inequality and mental health in particular. Council will commit to producing a plan for how a pilot of a full UBI would be implemented within the District, and formally expresses its support for said pilot.'

Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration Items

- 7.0 Economic Development Strategy 2020-2025. (Attached)**
 *ERT Report - Economic Development Strategy 2020-2025.pdf* *Page 5*
- 8.0 Red Squirrel SLA. (Attached)**
 *ERT Report - Red Squirrel SLA.pdf* *Page 70*
- 9.0 Covid 19 - Revitalisation Programme. (Attached)**
 *ERT Report - Covid 19 Recovery Revitalisation Plan.pdf* *Page 73*
- 10.0 Carlingford Lough Greenway . (Attached)**
 *ERT Report - Carlingford Lough Greenway.pdf* *Page 76*
- 11.0 Public Realm Enhancement Scheme. (Attached)**
 *ERT Report - Public Realm Enhancement Scheme.pdf* *Page 79*
- 12.0 Castlewellan Forest Park. (Attached)**
 *ERT Report - Castlewellan Forest Park.pdf* *Page 82*
- 13.0 Warrenpoint Municipal Park. (Attached)**
 *ERT Report - Warrenpoint Municipal Park.pdf* *Page 97*
- 14.0 Warrenpoint Baths. (Attached)**
 *ERT Report - Warrenpoint Baths.pdf* *Page 101*

Building Control & Regulations

- 15.0 Car Park at Market Street Downpatrick: Business Case - Resurfacing Works. (Attached)**
 *ERT Report - Market Street Downpatrick - Business Case.pdf* *Page 104*
- 16.0 Car Park at Bann Road Castlewellan: Redevelopment. (Attached)**
 *ERT Report - Bann Road Castlewellan Redevelopment.pdf* *Page 118*

Exempt Information Items

17.0 Tourism Events and Arts Sector - Support Programme. (Attached)

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of 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.

 *ERT Restricted Report - Tourism, Events & Arts Sector Support Programme.pdf*

Not included

18.0 Geographical Survey NI - Service Level Agreement. (Attached)

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of 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.

 *ERT Restricted Report - GSNI Service Level Agreement.pdf*

Not included

19.0 Tender for Ice Cream provision - Trading Pitch at Slieve Gullion Forest Park. (Attached)

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of 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.

 *ERT Restricted Report - Ice Cream Tender for Slieve Gullion.pdf*

Not included

For Noting

20.0 Update re: Brexit Forum. (Attached)

 *ERT Report - Brexit Forum.pdf*

Page 124

21.0 Dublin - Belfast Economic Corridor. (Attached)

 *ERT Report - Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor.pdf*

Page 131

22.0 Update re: Enterprise Employment & Regeneration Projects. (Attached)

 *ERT Report - EER Regeneration Projects Update.pdf*

Page 170

23.0 DAERA Small Business Grant. (Attached)

 *ERT Report - DAERA Small Rural Business Grant.pdf*

Page 174

24.0 Free Ports. (Attached)

 *ERT Report - Free Ports Consultation.pdf*

Page 178

25.0 Update re: SLLP Live Here, Love Here. (Attached)

 *ERT Report - SLLP Live Here, Love Here.pdf*

Page 205

26.0 Update re: MIPIM. (Attached)

 *ERT Report - MIPIM Update.pdf*

Page 208

27.0 Planning Performance Figures - June 2020. (Attached)

 *Planning Performance Figures - June 2020.pdf*

Page 211

28.0 Planning Performance Figures- July 2020. (Attached)

 *JULY 2020 Planning Committee Performance Report.pdf*

Page 215

29.0 ERT Historic Action Tracker Sheet. (Attached)

 *ERT Historic Action Tracker Sheet.pdf*

Page 220

Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews

Mr Alan Beggs

Cllr Patrick Brown

Cllr Robert Burgess

Cllr Pete Byrne

Mr Gerard Byrne

Mrs Dorinnia Carville

Cllr charlie casey

Cllr William Clarke

Cllr Dermot Curran

Cllr Laura Devlin

Ms Louise Dillon

Cllr Sean Doran

Cllr Cadogan Enright

Cllr Aoife Finnegan

Cllr Hugh Gallagher

Cllr Mark Gibbons

Cllr Oonagh Hanlon

Cllr Glyn Hanna

Cllr Valerie Harte

Cllr Roisin Howell

Mr Colum Jackson

Mrs Sheila Kieran

Cllr Mickey Larkin

Miss Mary Lennon

Cllr Alan Lewis

Mr Michael Lipsett

Sandra Magee

Cllr Oonagh Magennis

Mr Conor Mallon

Cllr Gavin Malone

Cllr Cathy Mason

Colette McAteer

Cllr Declan McAteer

Cllr Leeanne McEvoy

Jonathan McGilly

Cllr Harold McKee

Patricia McKeever

Cllr Karen McKeivitt

Cllr Andrew McMurray

Mr Roland Moore

Margaret Morrow

Cllr Roisin Mulgrew
.....
Cllr Declan Murphy
.....
Cllr Barra Ó Muirí
.....
Linda O'Hare
.....
Cllr Gerry O'Hare
.....
Cllr Kathryn Owen
.....
Mr Andy Patterson
.....
Cllr Henry Reilly
.....
Cllr Michael Ruane
.....
Cllr Michael Savage
.....
Cllr Gareth Sharvin
.....
Donna Starkey
.....
Cllr Gary Stokes
.....
Sarah Taggart
.....
Cllr David Taylor
.....
Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly
.....
Cllr John Trainor
.....
Central Support Unit
.....
Cllr William Walker
.....
Mrs Marie Ward
.....

ACTION SHEET

1

ENTERPRISE REGENERATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETINGMONDAY 8TH JUNE 2020

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/057/2020	START TIMES ERT COMMITTEE MEETINGS APRIL 2020 – JUNE 2021	The start time for ERT Committee Meetings from June 2020 - May 2021 will be 6pm.	C MALLON	ACTIONED	Y
ERT/058/2020	ERT EMERGENCY BUSINESS PLAN	To approve the ERT Emergency Business Plan April – September 2020.	C MALLON	ACTIONED	Y
ERT/060/2020	CASTLEWELLAN FOREST PARK	(a) To review costs of the DAERA project and continue to liaise with IDT and DAERA. (b) Council to continue to review costs for the NLHF project with no detriment to the integrity of the project. (c) To approve the submission deadlines to NLHF. Council to submit on 1 September 2020, however if there are external forces that Council cannot mitigate for, Council will apply on 23 November 2020.	J MC GILLY	ACTIONED	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		(d) To approve the actions of the Task and Finish Board meeting on 21 February 2020.			
ERT/061/2020	WARRENPOINT MUNICIPAL PARK	<p>(a) To approve the appointment for a pool of facilitators for activities in the Park. Once permitted officers to organise activities in the Park to encourage the use of green space and reconnection with nature.</p> <p>(b) To approve the appointment of digital management content facilitator to develop an online resource for the School's Programme in conjunction with Project Officers.</p> <p>(c) To approve the process for procurement of an art commission and installation for Warrenpoint Park.</p> <p>(d) To approve the appointment of a consultant to undertake a mid and final evaluation of the NLHF project.</p>	J MC GILLY	WORK IN PROGRESS	N
ERT/062/2020	AONB MANAGEMENT REVIEW/GEOPARK	<p>(a) To note the update regarding the following AONB initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ring of Gullion AONB and Strangford and Lecale AONB Environment Fund project implementation 	J MC GILLY	ACTIONED	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership Scheme Legacy Phase ▪ Atlantic CultureScape ▪ Geopark <p>(b) To approve the AONB Management Review final report and the recommendations contained as per Appendix 1.</p> <p>(c) Officers to prepare a formal paper to be tabled at an ERT Committee Meeting regarding addressing the issues raised regarding the management of hotspot tourism areas within the Moumes.</p>			
ERT/063/2020	CONSULTATION RE: FREE PORTS	Council work with Warrenpoint Harbour Authority, Chambers of Commerce, and other key Stakeholders to develop a response to the consultation and put forward a proposal as to how the region – (Warrenpoint port and hinterland) could operate as a free port within the context of the proposed model.	J MC GILLY	COMPLETE	Y
ERT/064/2020	(Exempt) WARRENPOINT BATHS	(a) Council formally concludes the current EOI process. (b) Officer review the above options and	J MC GILLY	WORK IN PROGRESS	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		forward recommendations on the options outlined in the Report.			
ERT/065/2020	(Exempt) NEWCASTLE HARBOUR – LEASE OF SLIPWAY	Council Lease the upper portion of the slipway from Newcastle Yacht Club at a peppercorn rent for a term of 8 years expiring in April 2028 to join both portions, with Council responsible for the entire slipway, to continue to permit access for locals and visitors alike. The above decision is subject to a structural review of the slipway being carried out.	A PATTERSON	A structural review of the slipway is being progressed. Council officials are currently liaising with the Yacht Club on option for storage provision for swimmers at Newcastle Harbour	N
ERT/066/2020	(Exempt) MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS	The 2no. Downhill Mountain Bike Trails in Rostrevor remain closed until further notice pending a review of the Mountain Bike Centres, to be tabled at ERT Committee in due course.	A PATTERSON	Uplift facility remains closed due to restrictions. Review of MTB trails progressing subject to budget evaluations.	N

Report to:	Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	10 August 2020
Subject:	Economic Development and Regeneration Strategy 2020 -2025
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly – Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly – Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration

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	<p><u>Purpose</u> To seek approval for the recommendations contained in section 3 of this report</p> <p><u>Background</u> After the election of the new term of Council it was agreed that a new Economic Development and Regeneration strategy be developed to reflect the priorities and key actions to further develop the region's economy in partnership with key stakeholders in the public and private sector</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>In Autumn 2019 Council began the consultation process to develop the new strategy as agreed. This involved a series of one to one consultations with a wide and varied range of businesses and key stakeholders from across the District and beyond and 2 formal consultations with the Economic Forum. This was completed in early March just before Covid, and as a result, additional work was undertaken to review the general principles of the Strategy to ensure it reflected the short, medium and longer term implications Covid had thrust upon Business and the wider economy of the region.</p> <p>This work was informed again by local business feedback and a wider analysis of the impact of Covid on the region by UUEPC. This culminated in a further Economic Forum webinar facilitated by Newry Chamber of Commerce and Trade in early July 2020</p> <p>As a result of this analysis and consultation the strategic aims of the strategy recommended to Council focus on;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. achieving sustainable and inclusive growth, 2. addressing economic inequality, 3. creating more and better jobs,

	<p>4. stimulating productivity through innovation and new technologies, 5. developing infrastructure required to support economic growth 6. becoming more internationally competitive through export growth and developing a more outward looking economy open for investment.</p> <p>Delivery of the strategy is underpinned by 3 strategic priorities;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to support Entrepreneurship, Business Growth and Innovation 2. to improve Employability and Skills 3. To invest in Regeneration and modern Infrastructure and Connectivity <p>Under each of these priorities the strategy details a series of sub themes and actions along with lead partners and supporting partners.</p> <p>For each strategic priority a working group of the partners will meet to progress actions and report back to the Economic Forum twice annually to review progress and discuss emerging issues.</p>
<p>3.0</p>	<p>Recommendations</p>
<p>3.1</p>	<p>Council approve the draft Economic Development and Regeneration strategy as attached.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Resource implications</p>
<p>4.1</p>	<p>Associated costs will be dealt with through annual budget setting</p>
<p>5.0</p>	<p>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</p>
<p>5.1</p>	<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>
<p>5.2</p>	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

5.3	<p>Proposal initiating consultation</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 checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i> Following advice sought by Equality unit</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>Economic Development and Regeneration Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2025</p>
8.0	<p>Background Documents</p>
	<p>n/a</p>



Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Regeneration and Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan

2020 - 2025

Contents	Page
1.0 Introduction	3
2.0 Economic Profile of the District	4
3.0 Economic Outlook for the District	21
4.0 Strategic & Economic Context	33
5.0 Vision and Strategic Priorities	37
6.0 Strategic Actions	39
7.0 Delivery our Strategy	59
8.0 Summary of Strategic Priorities and Sub Themes	60

DRAFT

1.0 Introduction

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council Corporate Plan 2019-23, presents Council's ambitious agenda and strategic priorities to further develop our region as a great place to live, study, work, invest in and visit. This Regeneration and Economic Development Strategy will support the delivery of our Corporate Plan objectives by outlining our economic priorities and supporting actions to regenerate and revitalise our district, support business growth and boost our economic performance, thereby improving the standard of living for all our residents.

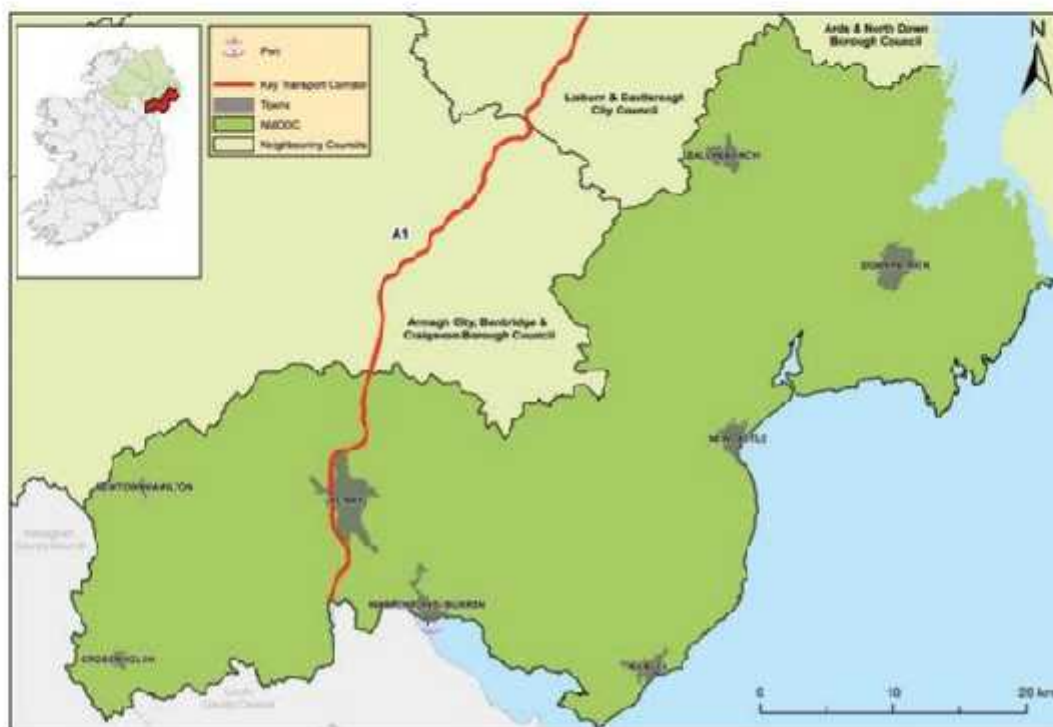
The strategy has been informed by:

- reviewing our existing activities and drawing upon the knowledge, experience, learnings and feedback of our staff and stakeholders,
- a review of existing policies and strategy research,
- a series of one to one and group consultations with our businesses, stakeholders and partners

This Regeneration and Economic Development Strategy is designed to be flexible and agile enough in order to respond to political and economic uncertainty locally and internationally. It can be adopted to enable Council to work with our businesses, partners and stakeholders to address challenges and exploit new opportunities as they emerge. A flexible and responsive approach to business engagement and support is of particular relevance in response to Covid-19 and Brexit. The District has a strong history of resilience, entrepreneurial spirit, and an ability to effectively adopt and respond to challenges. This strategy will seek to build on this by establishing an environment and economy for businesses to innovate, invest, grow and expand into a thriving, successful region.

2.0 Economic Profile of the District

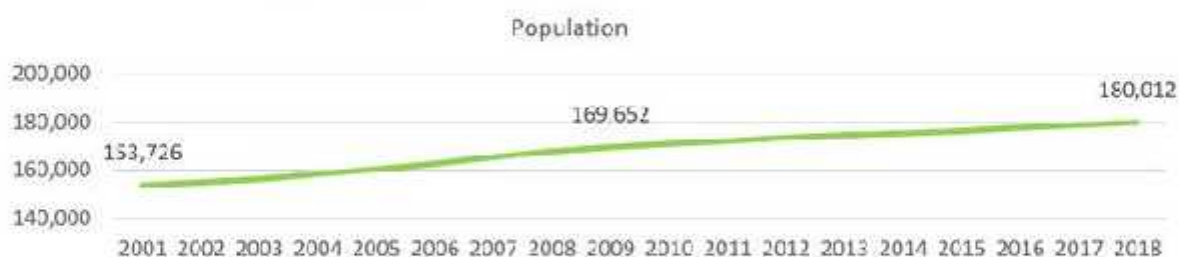
With an estimated population of 180,012, a coastline of approximately 150 Kilometres, and encompassing an area of 1,634 square Kilometres, our strategic location provides an opportunity for business development, local and international investment, promotion of cross-border initiatives, as well as establishing the District as a premier tourism destination.



Crown Copyright and Database Right 2018 CS&LA156

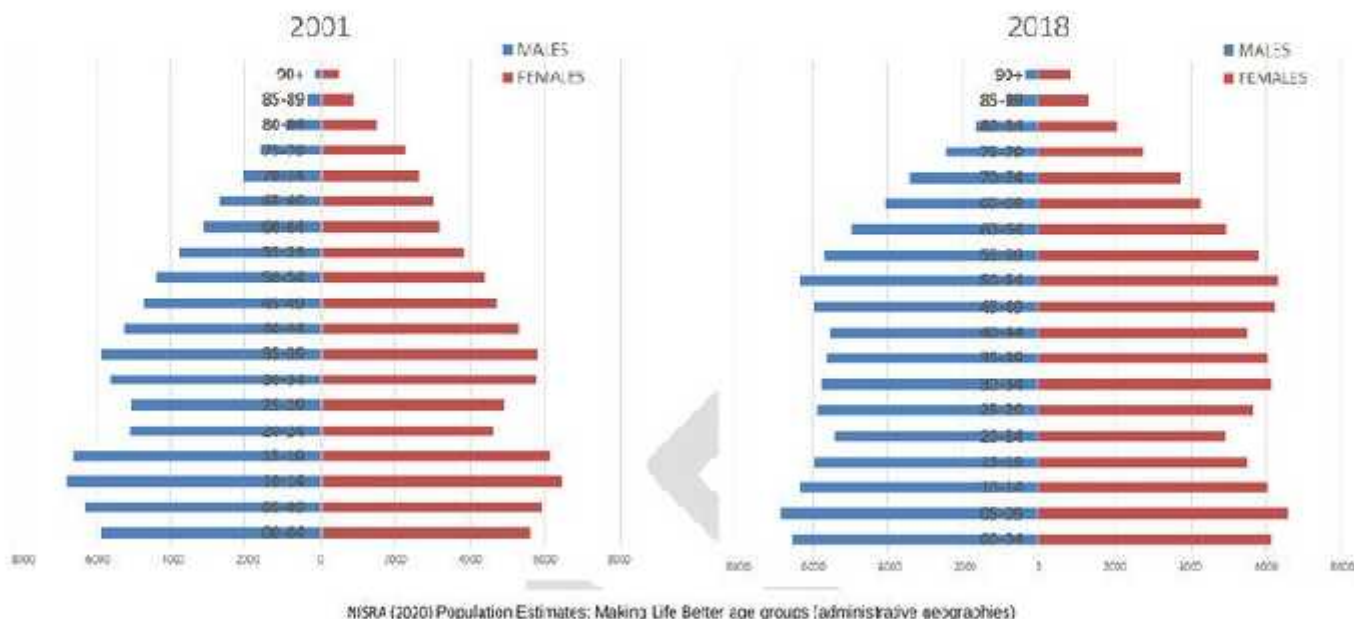
Population

The population of the Newry, Mourne and Down District has increased by 17% from 2001 (153,726) to 2018 (180,012) as detailed in the graph below.

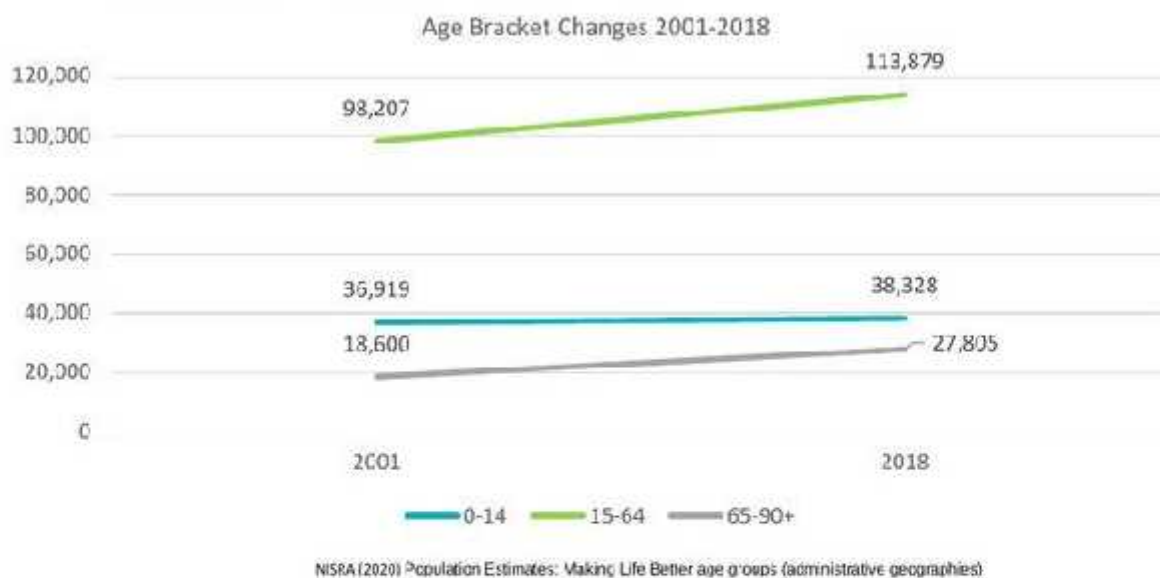


N.S.R.A. (2020) Population Totals (administrative geographies)

From 2001-2018, as well as an increase in population, the age profile of the population has also changed. As visually evident below there has been an increase of the population aged 35 and over¹.

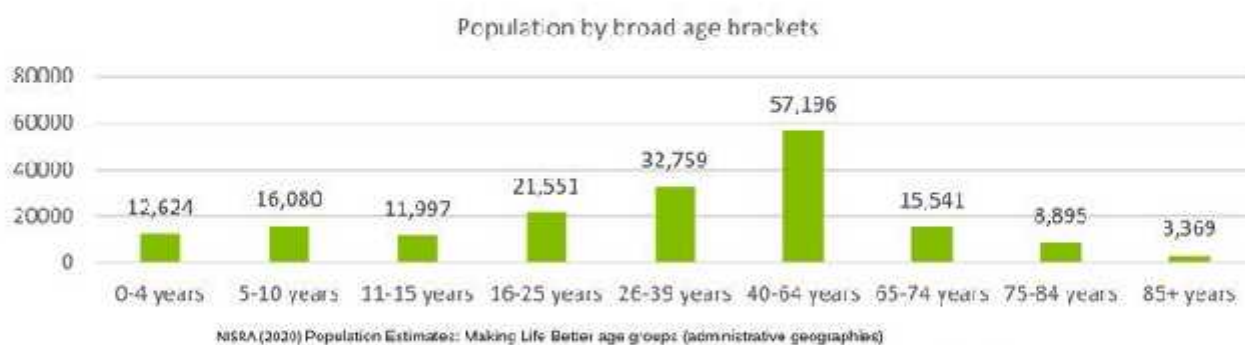


The most notable changes can be seen within the older age brackets. From 2001-2018 there has been a 4% increase in 0-14 year olds, a 16% increase in 15-64 year olds, and a nearly 50% (49%) increase in those aged 64 and over².



¹ NISRA (2020) Population Estimates: Making Life Better age groups (administrative geographies)
² NISRA (2020) Population Estimates: Making Life Better age groups (administrative geographies)

In 2018, the District of Newry, Mourne and Down, had an estimated population of 180,012. The female population represented 50.4%³ of the total population. The majority of the population (62%)⁴ was aged between 16 and 64 with 40-64-year olds recorded as the most common age bracket. The remaining 38% of the population is represented by those under 16-year olds (23%) and those over the age of 64 (15%)⁵.



Multiple Deprivation

When analysing the population in terms of deprivation, the Multiple Deprivation Measures (NIMDM2017) is the official measure of deprivation in Northern Ireland. The NIMDM 2017 provides information on seven types or 'domains' of deprivation and an overall multiple deprivation measure comprising a weighted combination of the seven domains.



In 2017 Newry, Mourne and Down saw a rise in Super Output Areas (small geographical areas for reporting purposes) in the top 25% of NI most deprived areas with four more Super Output Areas within this category compared to 2010 levels⁶.

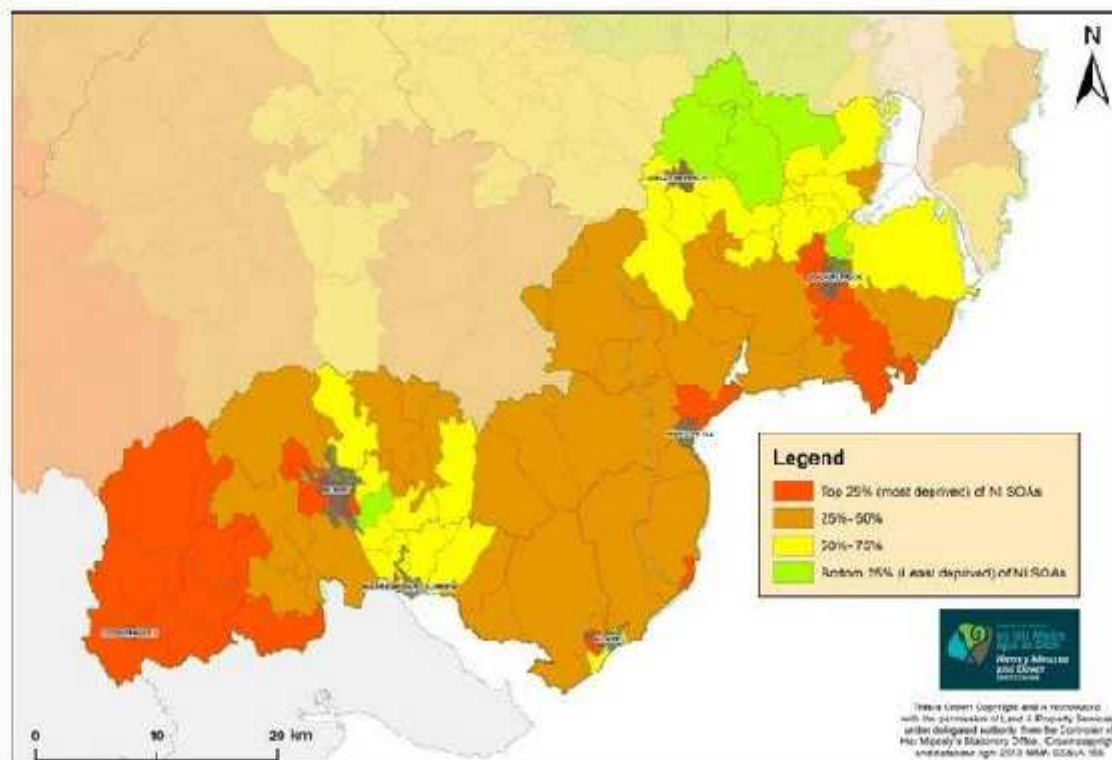
³ N SRA (2020) Population Estimates: Making Life Better age groups (administrative geographies)

⁴ N SRA (2020) Population Estimates: Making Life Better age groups (administrative geographies)

⁵ N SRA (2020) Population Estimates: Making Life Better age groups (administrative geographies)

⁶ NISRA (2020) Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017

In total, 23 of the Districts 84 Super Output Areas are within the top 25% (NI) for Multiple Deprivation rank.⁷



Newry Mourne and Down, has the 3rd highest percentage level of Super Output Areas within the top 100 most deprived areas within NI⁸.

Number of SOAs by LGD



NISRA (2020) Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017

⁷ NISRA (2020) Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017

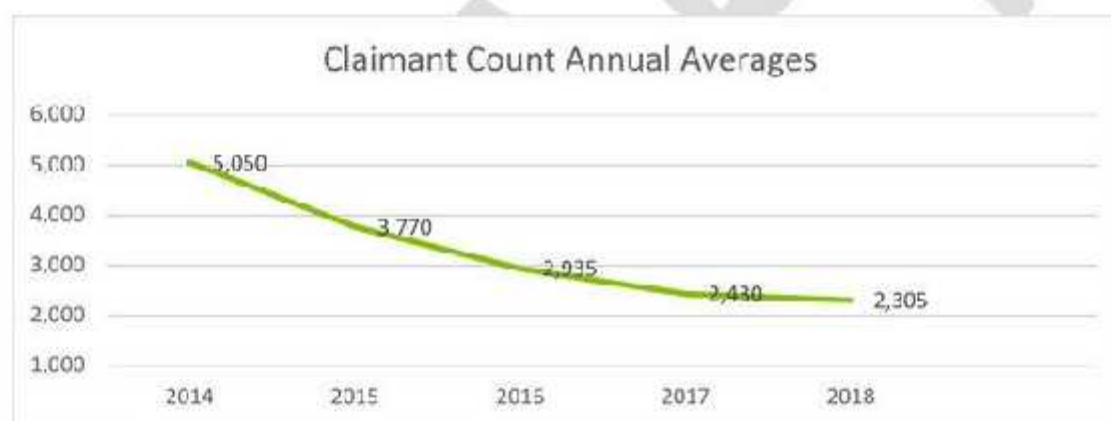
⁸ NISRA (2020) Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017

Income deprivation is worth 25%, which is calculated using DfE/ HMRC income data. A total of 32 Super Output Areas are within the top 25% of the income deprivation domain and 4 of the 5 highest ranked SOAs in NI for income deprivation come from within our District.

Employment

In 2018, there were a total of 57,618 employee jobs within the District. A total of 14,159 (25%) of the jobs within the District were public sector (below the NI Average of 27%), which highlights the District’s strong private sector⁹.

Analysing the claimant count within the District, which measures the number of people claiming benefits principally for the reason of being unemployed (based on administrative data from the benefits system) the average number of claimants has decreased annually, overall by 2,745 from 2014 to 2018¹⁰.



NISRA (2018) Claimant Count Annual Averages - Experimental (administrative geographies)

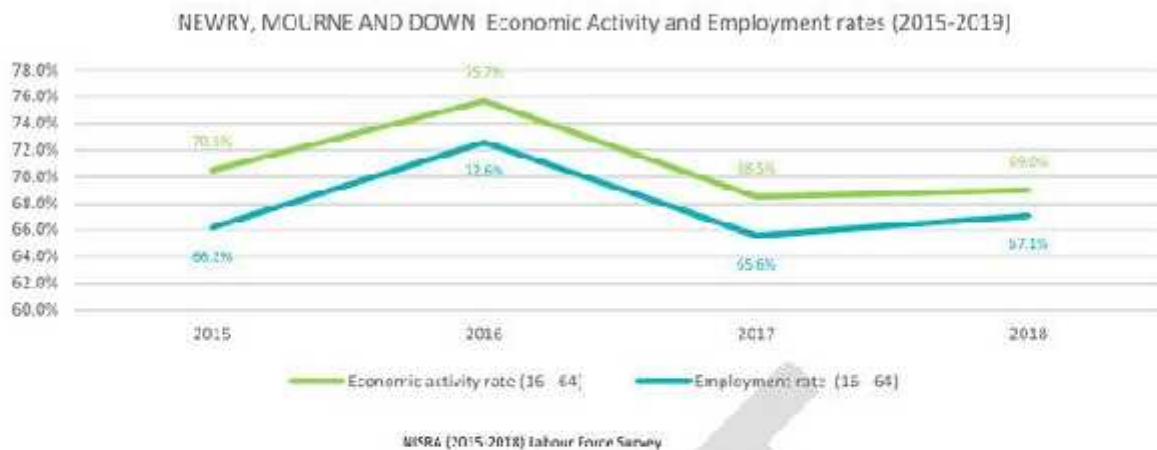
Meanwhile, from 2015 to 2018 the rate of economic activity and employment rate has fluctuated but seen no significant change¹¹. This is an area that this Strategy will seek to improve by developing new interventions aimed at supporting the economically inactive back into employment.



⁹ Inter departmental Business Register (2018) Business Demography

¹⁰ NISRA (2018) Claimant Count Annual Averages - Experimental (administrative geographies)

¹¹ NISRA (2015-2019) Labour Force Survey



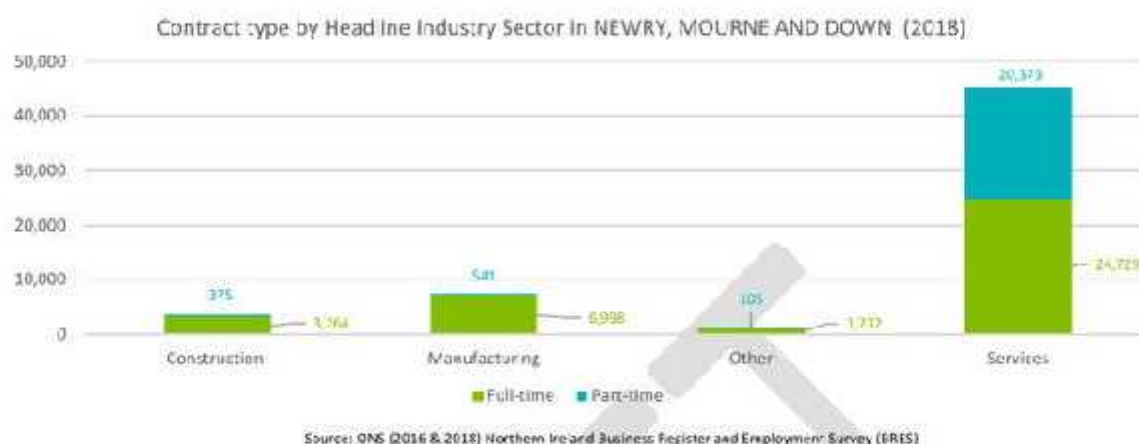
Focusing on the four headline industry sectors, 78% of those employed in Newry, Mourne and Down in 2018 were within the services industry sector¹². Each industry sector is predominately male based except for services which has a female workforce equating to 51%¹³.



¹² ONS (2016 & 2018) Northern Ireland Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES)

¹³ ONS (2016 & 2018) Northern Ireland Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES)

Within the headline industries, most contracts are fulltime, however, the services sector appears to be the exception with 45% of its employees on part-time contracts¹⁴.



A total of 20 Super Output Areas are within the top 25% in the Employment Deprivation rank within Northern Ireland¹⁵.

SOA2001_name	Employment Domain Rank (where 1 is most deprived) 1-890	Proportion of the working age population who are employment deprived (%)
Ballybot	73	37.2%
Murlough	77	36.5%
Drumgullion_1	89	34.8%
Ballymote	93	34.6%
Daisy Hill_2	100	34.0%
Quoile_1	105	33.7%
Crossmaglen	109	33.1%
Ardglass_1	115	32.7%
Kilkeel South_2	122	32.2%
Daisy Hill_1	124	32.1%
Bessbrook	130	31.9%
Cathedral_2	133	31.4%
Clonallan_1	157	29.8%
St Patrick's_2	163	29.6%
Kilkeel Central_2	177	28.7%
Castlewellan_1	184	28.3%
St Mary's	203	27.1%
Derrymore_2	207	27.0%
Donard_1	208	26.8%
Creggan	221	26.4%

NISRA (2020) Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017

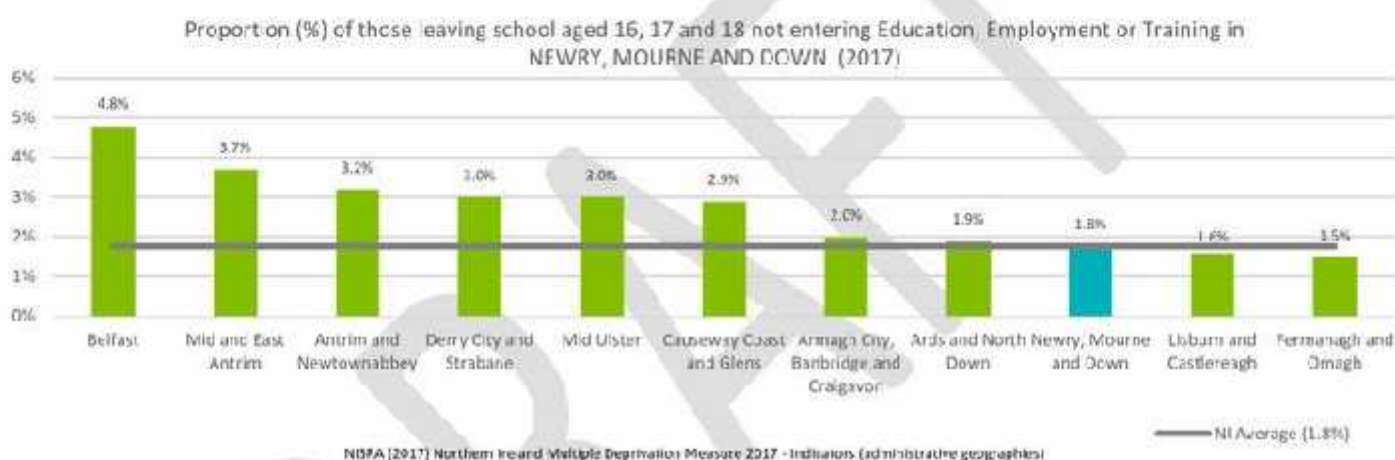
¹⁴ ONS (2016 & 2018) Northern Ireland Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES)

¹⁵ NISRA (2020) Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017

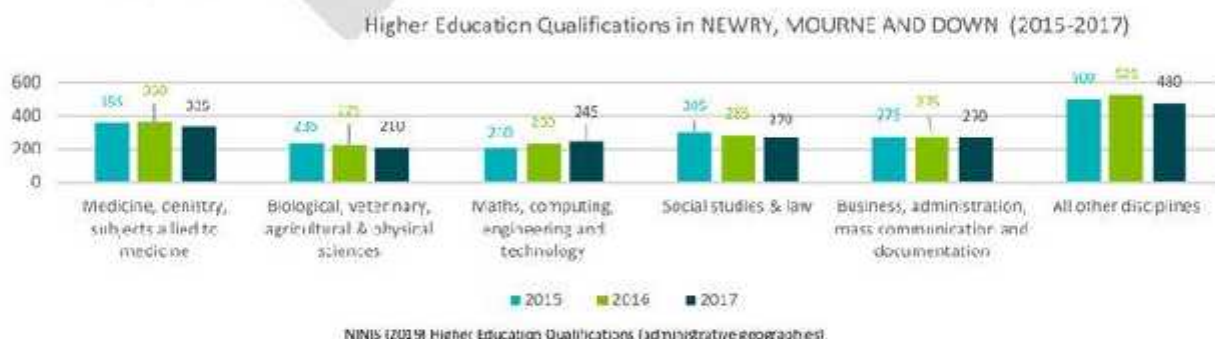
Labour Market

The purpose of the Education, Skills and Training Deprivation Domain within the Multiple Deprivation Measure is to identify the prevalence of poor educational outcomes for children and low levels of qualifications for working age adults at the small area level.

A total of fourteen Super Output Areas are within the top 25% in the Education, Skills and Training Deprivation Domain rank within Northern Ireland¹⁶. The proportion of those leaving school aged 16, 17 and 18 not entering into education, employment or training within Newry, Mourne and Down is equal to the Northern Ireland average of 1.8% (2017)¹⁷.



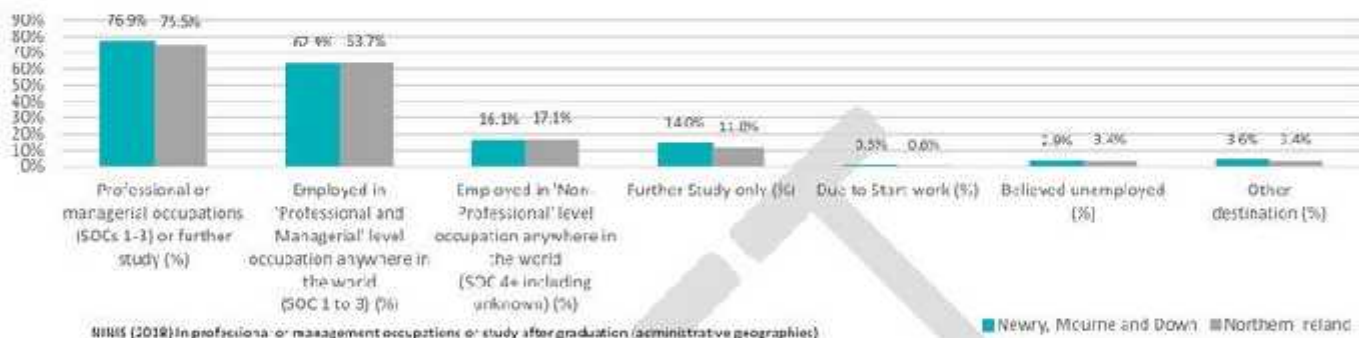
In 2018, 30.2% of the working age population had achieved NVQ Level 4 and above and over half (52%) had achieved below NVQ Level 4. Meanwhile 17.9% had no qualifications, compared with 14.7% across Northern Ireland¹⁸. Those who continued to study onto higher education have mostly been recorded as studying “all other disciplines” whilst, qualifications gained in maths, computing, engineering and technology subjects have increased each year from 2015 to 2017¹⁹.



¹⁶ NISRA (2020) Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017
¹⁷ NISRA (2020) Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017
¹⁸ NISRA (2018) Economic Activity and Qualifications (administrative geographies)
¹⁹ NINIS (2019) Higher Education Qualifications (administrative geographies)

Of the higher education graduates (2016/17), 76.9% are in 'professional or managerial occupations or further education', 16.1% employed in 'non-professional level occupations' and 2.9% believed to be 'unemployed'²⁰.

HE graduates in professional or management occupations or in further study six months after graduation with a NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN pre-study address (2016-17)



Business birth and growth

Since 2015-16, the Council has approved 1,140 business plans, supported 776 new business starts and promoted 805 new jobs through business start-up activity. Targets have been achieved each year for business plan approvals and business starts, apart from 2016-17, when the programme moved into interim delivery arrangements which resulted in lower levels of participation. The Council has consistently exceeded the targets set for the number of jobs promoted, and is currently ranked 4/11 across Northern Ireland, following a 9.5% increase in the number of jobs promoted between 2017-18 and 2018-19. The Council performed well against the statutory performance indicators and standards for economic development. During 2018-19, the Council promoted 184 new jobs through business start-up activity, exceeding our target by 19%.

Number of Business Starts in NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN (2015/16-2018/19)



Number of jobs promoted in NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN (2015/16-2018/19)



NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DC (2019) Performance and Improvement Assessment of Performance 2018-19

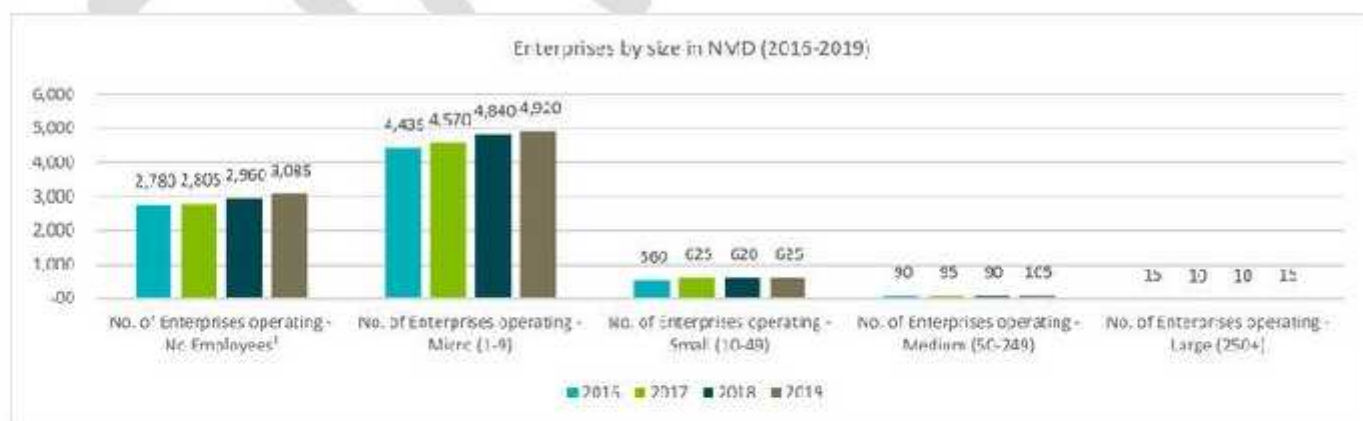
²⁰ NINIS (2018) In professional or management occupations or study after graduation (administrative geographies)

Newry, Mourne and Down has a healthy rate of business births, with the number increasing from 560 (2015) to 725 (2018). Newry, Mourne and Down has the 2nd highest of all councils in this field and is well above the Northern Ireland average (536) in 2018²¹.

From 2016-19, the total number of VAT or PAYE registered businesses within the District has increased annually and micro businesses with 1-9 employees accounts for the majority of the total enterprises in the Newry, Mourne and Down District which have increased in number annually²²,



NISRA (2019) VAT and/or PAYE Registered Businesses Operating in Northern Ireland (administrative geographies)



NISRA (2019) VAT and/or PAYE Registered Businesses Operating in Northern Ireland (administrative geographies)

²¹ Inter-Departmental Business Register (2018) Business Demography NI

²² NISRA (2019) VAT and/or PAYE Registered Businesses Operating in Northern Ireland (administrative geographies)

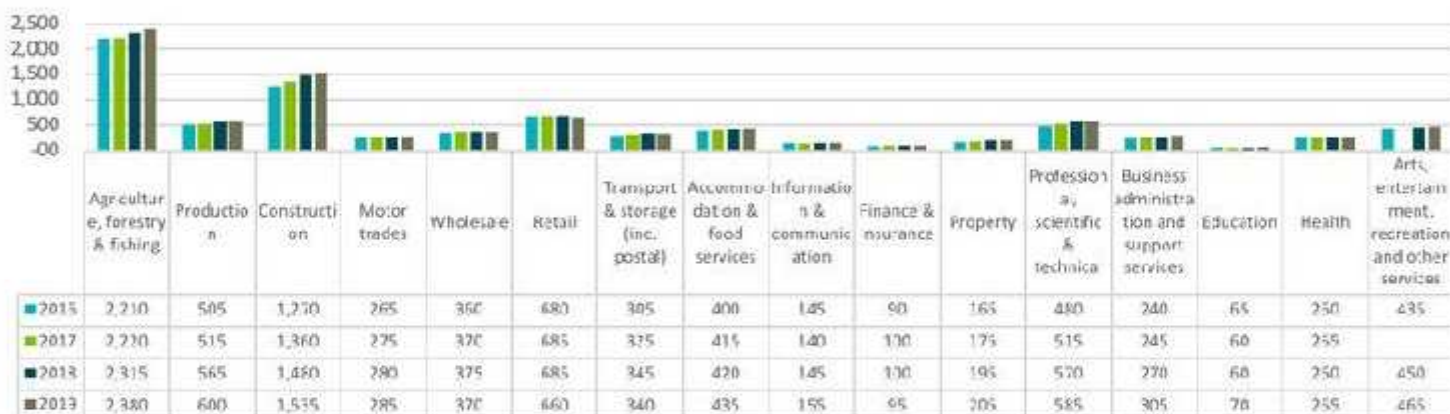
Business Base

The Services sector is where the majority of businesses are located within Newry, Mourne and Down. The District is notable for the proportion of its businesses that are in the Agriculture sector and the construction sector continues to be a strong and increasing presence in the local business base²³.



Breaking down the enterprises into further sectors, 'Agriculture, forestry and fishing' appears to be the largest enterprise sector within the Newry, Mourne and Down District (2016-2019)²⁴.

Enterprises by Sector (2016-2019)



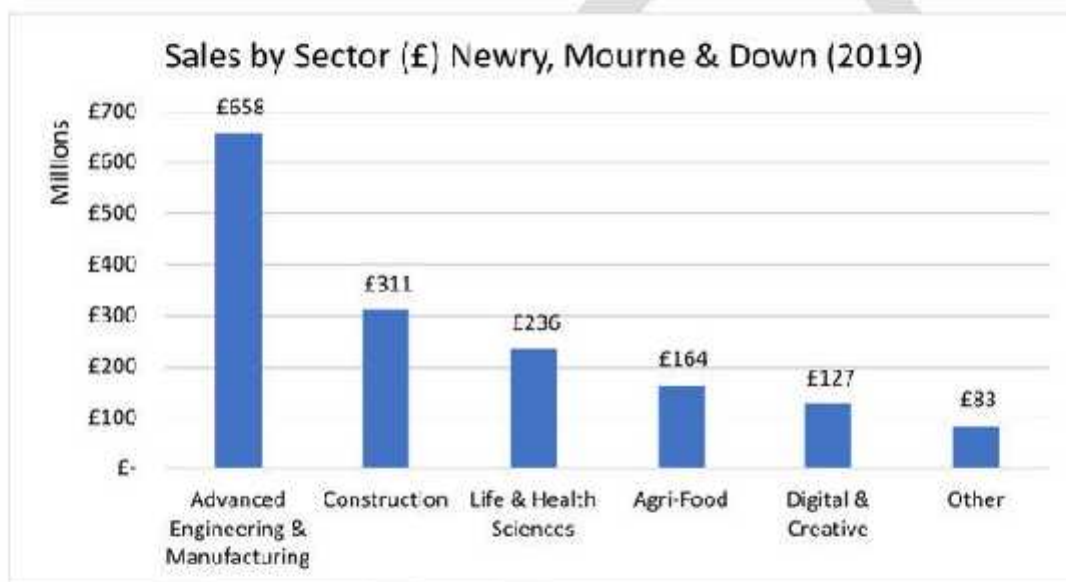
²³ NISRA (2015-2019) Labour Force Survey

²⁴ NISRA (2019) VAT and/or PAYE Registered Businesses Operating in Northern Ireland (administrative geographies)

NISRA (2019) VAT and/or PAYE Registered Businesses Operating in Northern Ireland (administrative geographies)

While the number of enterprises operating across Newry, Mourne and Down is important it is also necessary to look at sales and revenue of various sectors across the District in order to see a more rounded picture of the economic landscape within Newry, Mourne and Down.

The graph below highlights the sales (£) by broad sectors within the Newry, Mourne and Down District in 2019. Comparing both graphs, we see that while the number of enterprises operating within Agriculture, forestry and fishing is the highest within the district, sales contributed to the economy from this sector is 4th highest with Advanced Engineering & Manufacturing accounting for over 40% of total sales.



The BRES (Business Register and Employment Survey) data which is analysed above at LGD level was also analysed at a DEA level by the Ulster University Economic Policy Centre as part of ongoing work to support the Council's Local Development Plan process. They have profiled the broader sectors of Construction, Manufacturing, Services & Other. The table shows the sectoral concentration – using employment shares – for each of the DEAs in 2017.

Total Employment by Broad Sector (% of DEA Total), Newry, Mourne and Down DEA's 2017

% of DEA Total					
	Construction	Manufacturing	Other	Services	Total
CROTLIEVE	20.6%	18.2%	3.6%	57.6%	100.0%
DOWNPATRICK	3.6%	2.4%	8.7%	85.3%	100.0%
NEWRY	4.6%	5.7%	8.5%	81.2%	100.0%
ROWLLANE	11.4%	11.5%	5.2%	71.9%	100.0%
SLIEVE CROOB	13.6%	15.8%	8.9%	61.7%	100.0%
SLIEVE GULLION	10.1%	24.4%	16.4%	49.1%	100.0%
THE MOURNES	11.6%	17.6%	6.6%	64.2%	100.0%
NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN Total	9.2%	12.1%	8.6%	70.2%	100.0%

Source: NISRA (BRES) & UUEPC Analysis

In terms of specialisation at a DEA level there are some features that might be expected, such as larger towns (Downpatrick and Newry) having a higher dependence on service-based sectors, with shares between 81% and 85%. In comparison, more rural DEAs (such as Slieve Gullion) have a lower share of less than 60% of total DEA employment.

The rural DEAs have a higher concentration of employment in 'Other' (which is largely based on the use of natural resources), with this broad sector accounting for between 7% and 9% of employment in the Mournes and Slieve Croob DEAs. This compares to 6% or less in more urban-based DEAs.

The table also highlights that the Manufacturing sector is key employer in at least three DEA areas (The Mournes, Slieve Gullion and Crotlieve) with shares of total local employment ranging from 18% to 24%. The importance of one large employer in a

DEA can be summed up by the example of the airplane seat manufacturer, Rockwell Collins, which is based in Kilkeel in the Mournes DEA and employs around 800 people.

Total Employment by Broad Sector (% of Newry, Mourne and Down District total), Newry, Mourne & Down DEAs, 2017

	% of DEA Total				
	Construction	Manufacturing	Other	Services	Total
CROTLIEVE	23.8%	16.0%	4.5%	8.7%	10.6%
DOWNPATRICK	5.3%	2.7%	13.9%	16.5%	13.8%
NEWRY	16.1%	15.0%	31.6%	36.9%	32.4%
ROWLLANE	10.3%	7.9%	5.0%	8.5%	8.5%
SLIEVE CROOB	11.5%	10.2%	8.0%	6.8%	7.6%
SLIEVE GULLION	14.8%	27.2%	25.8%	9.4%	12.6%
THE MOURNES	18.2%	21.0%	11.1%	13.2%	14.5%
NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: NISRA (BRES) & UUEPC Analysis

What becomes clear in the above table is that the Newry DEA has the highest proportion of service-based sectors within the Council area, with more than a third (37%) of all service jobs located in Newry. Since 2013 the service sector in Newry DEA has continued to expand, creating an additional 1,100 jobs (94% of all jobs created in the Newry DEA). Part of this is the growth in ICT, given the continued expansion of First Derivatives, and the success and growth of STATsports in recent years.

As for Manufacturing, both tables show how The Mournes and Slieve Gullion DEAs have the highest proportions of the Council area's employment in this sector. The two DEAs contribute almost half (48%) of all employment in Manufacturing for the NM&DDC area.

Newry & Crotlieve DEAs have the highest concentration of employment in the remaining two sectors (Other and Construction). Almost a third (32%) of all 'Other' employment in the NM&DDC area is in the Newry DEA, most likely due to higher concentration of Utilities workplaces in the area. Crotlieve DEA has the highest concentration of Construction workers of all DEA's in the NM&DDC area, accounting for almost a quarter (24%) of that sector's total employment.

Connectivity and infrastructure

Newry, Mourne and Down District is uniquely placed on the Eastern Economic Corridor, with Newry City midway between Dublin and Belfast. In terms of infrastructure, the A1, which goes through the District and links seamlessly to the Republic of Ireland's M1 at the border, provides high-quality road access, meaning that both Dublin and Belfast are only an hour away. The District is also served by the Belfast to Dublin Enterprise railway service, which stops at Newry.

The District is home to Warrenpoint Port, which is one of Northern Ireland's commercial ports. In terms of cargo, the port is the second largest in Northern Ireland and the fifth largest on the island of Ireland.

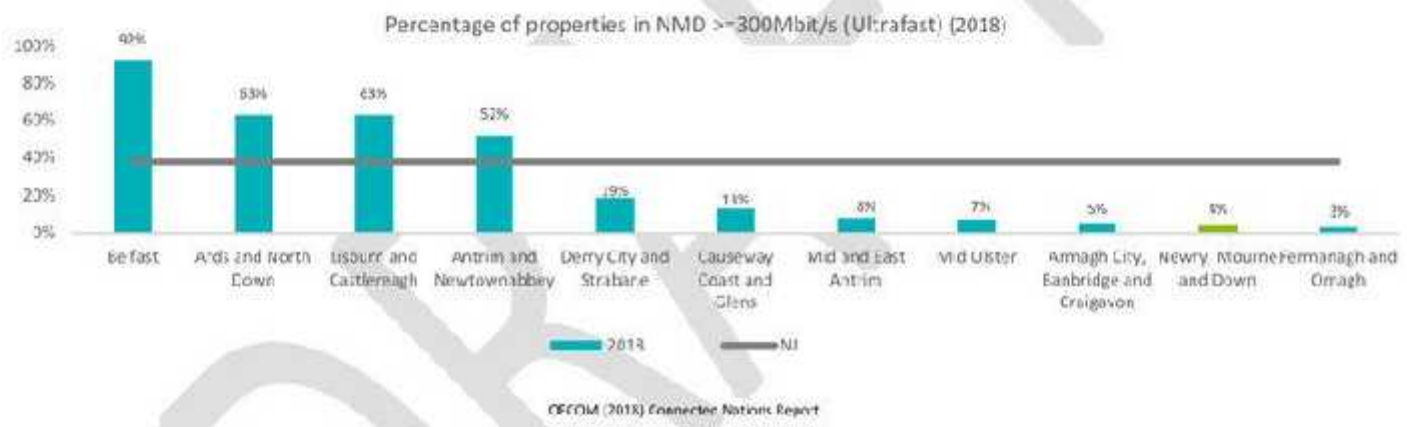
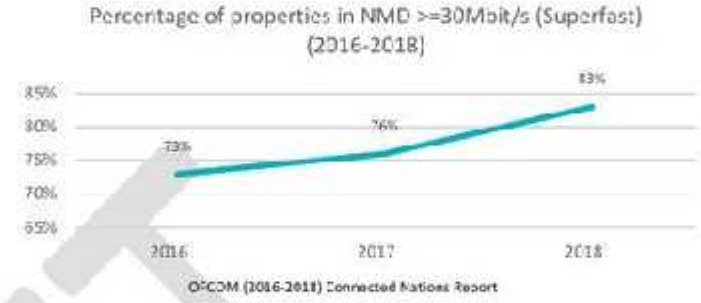
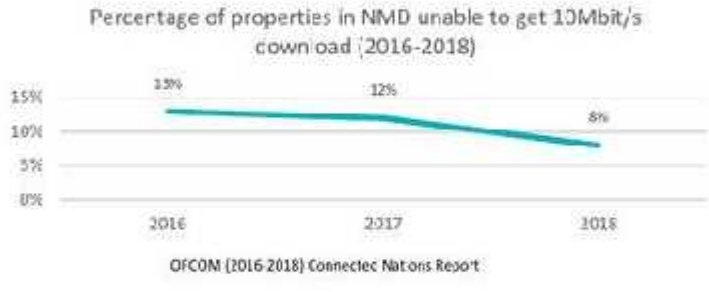
One of the projects that will be delivered as part of the Belfast Region City Deal (mentioned below), which was approved in 2018, is the much anticipated Newry Southern Relief Road. That project will link the A1 bypass of Newry City with the A2 Warrenpoint dual carriageway, thus linking Warrenpoint Port with Ireland's Eastern Economic Corridor.

The District is also easily accessible from the ports of Dublin, Dun Laoghaire, Belfast and Larne as well as Dublin Airport, Belfast International Airport and Belfast City Airport.

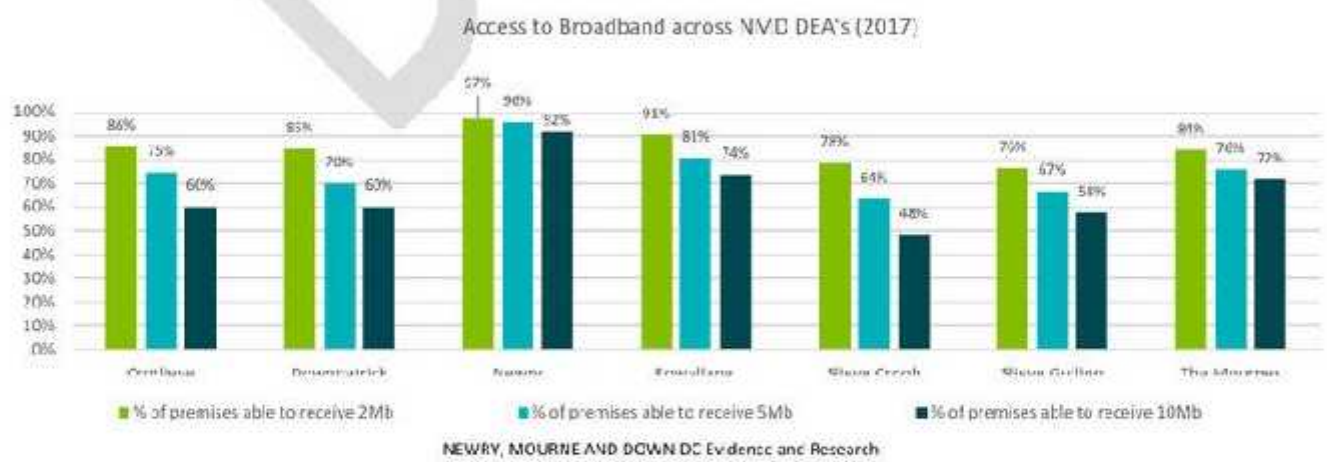


Crown Copyright and Database Right 2018 CS&LA156

Broadband connectivity has increased within the District, with a 10% increase from 2016 to 2018 in the percentage of properties receiving superfast broadband²⁵. However, the District falls below the regional average for the percentage of properties that receive Ultrafast broadband by 34%, ranking second lowest in the region²⁶.



Looking at broadband connectivity by DEA, Newry appears to have the most access with Slieve Croob the least²⁷.



²⁵ OFCOM (2016-2018) Connected Nations Report
²⁶ OFCOM (2018) Connected Nations Report
²⁷ NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DC Evidence and Research Team (2017)

In response, the Council hosts the Full Fibre Northern Ireland Consortium, which comprises the ten councils in Northern Ireland outside Belfast. In May 2019, the Consortium secured £15 million of funding from the UK Government Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) to provide gigabit capable fibre broadband coverage throughout Northern Ireland. A proportion of that money will be used to boost fibre broadband in Newry, Mourne and Down, which is crucial for investment, jobs, business infrastructure and a key enabler of future economic growth.

A total of 36 Super Output Areas are within the top 25% in Access to Services Deprivation Domain rank within Northern Ireland²⁸.

The Access to Services domain score with the Multiple Deprivation is calculated by combining 3 equally weighted indicators:

1. Travel time by private transport to the services
2. Public transport time to the same services with the exception of schools, A&Es and petrol stations: the public transport model does not include bespoke school bus routes and time tables, and it was postulated that for emergency treatment, people would not rely on public transport.
3. Proportion of properties with broadband speed below 10Mb/s

The inclusion of the public transport and broadband indicators helps to highlight rural deprivation and isolation. Newry, Mourne and Down District Council ranks second at LGD level in this domain behind Fermanagh and Omagh.

²⁸ NISRA (2020) Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017

3.0 Economic Outlook for the District

3.1 Economic Outlook Post Covid-19 – Potential Economic Consequences

COVID-19 pandemic and the economic fallout is truly unparalleled in economic experience. The future scenario for the economy remains highly uncertain, with forecasters not expecting economic output to recover to 2019 levels until 2022 at the earliest.

Recent estimates of the potential impact caused by the Covid-19 pandemic are set out below. The forecasts for an annual decline in GDP in 2020 currently range between 7% and 14%, with Ulster University Economic Policy Centre estimate showing a contraction in economic output in 2020 of 12.7%.

COVID-19 Economic impact estimates	Equivalent annual % decline in GDP	Peak unemployment	Source
UK	14% 12.8% 6.5%	9.5% 10% 9.6%	Bank of England OBR IMF
RoI	12.0% 10.5% 8.3%	24% 24.7% 18.%	ESRI Department of Finance Central Bank of Ireland
NI	12.7% 7.5%	12.0% 5.0%	UUEPC Danske Bank / OE

Source: UUEPC: Economic Consequences of Covid-19

The changing estimates emphasise that the length of the period of strict containment measures is critical. There is the immediate, if temporary, impact in terms of contraction in 2020 followed by an increased probability of permanent economic damage if a longer 'lockdown' is required.

Four scenarios the economy could follow; the scenario which economies will follow remains highly uncertain

- V-shaped recovery – the best-case scenario, the recession is relatively deep but is short-term in nature
- U-shaped recovery – the recession is deep and prolonged,
- 'W-shaped' recovery – the economy recovers quite quickly, but a second wave outbreak forces a re/imposition of containment measures and pushes the economy back into recession

- L-shaped recovery – the most pernicious scenario, where the recession is deep, growth does not return to pre-recession levels and permanent damage is done.

All sectors have been impacted by the Coronavirus lock-down. A NI Chamber of Commerce members survey completed in March 2020 highlighted the significance of the immediate & early impact on local (mainly smaller) firms:

- 36% of businesses closed their operations temporarily;
- Over 50% of businesses were accessing the furlough scheme for some or all of their employees
- 38% of businesses have seen a significant decrease in their workforce

Source: NI Chamber & BDO, 8 April 2020, "Quarterly Economic Survey and COVID-19 Business Impact Tracker"

The impact on the labour market is also significant, firstly for those working in sectors which have been placed in lock-down, but also for those who may lose their jobs as businesses re-open and place efforts in recovery and responding to new economic demands. The first official data on unemployment are the claimant count figures released by NISRA on 19 May 2020 showed an increase of 26,500 to 56,200 for the period up to 9 April 2020. By that early stage the unemployment rate had risen to 6.1%, an almost doubling of the rate in just over a month.

The HMRC have reported that 8.4 million jobs (more than 25% of total workplace jobs) across the UK were being covered by the furlough scheme with more joining during May. Research undertaken by the UUEPC have indicated that in NI a combined figure of 249,500 workplace jobs are impacted by BOTH furloughing and lay-offs. This equates to almost 48% of all private sectors jobs in NI. (*Source: UUEPC: Economic Consequences of Covid-19*).

It is also relevant to consider that businesses will face further staffing decisions as restrictions begin to be eased and firms reopen.

	Total Employees Q4 2019 (Estimates)	Total Furloughed & Laid Off Employees (Estimates)	% Change
Newry, Mourne and Down	63,800	22,000	-34.5%
Northern Ireland	788,600	249,500	-31.6%

The percentage change in the District of 34.5% makes the Council area above the NI average, and the 2nd worst affected by job furloughs and layoffs. One area not addressed in these estimates is the impact on the self-employed and new/potential

entrepreneurs in local labour markets. These groups are vital to local enterprise and job creation and will not feature in the workplace jobs data. The anecdotal evidence suggests that large percentages of the self-employed – especially those engaged in trades – are restricted in their work practices at present. This implies that Council areas with the highest percentages of self-employed and entrepreneurial intentions, i.e. Newry, Mourne and Down – will find themselves most impacted. *(Source: UUEPC: Economic Consequences of Covid-19)*

In considering the impact in GVA, the degree of impact is closely related to the extent of reliance on three sectors: Construction, Manufacturing (non-food) and Accommodation. 20% of this District’s GVA in 2018 came from the Manufacturing and Construction sectors, both of which have experienced a sharp fall. In terms of GVA decline across all Council’s, this Council area is expected to be the 4th most severely impacted. *Source: UUEPC: Economic Consequences of Covid-19 & Centre for Progressive Policy (CPP)*

	Q2 % decline In GVA	Full year % decline In GVA	CPP estimates/ranks for Q2 decline
Newry, Mourne and Down	-30.2%	-12.0%	-38.1% (4)

Across NI, four Council areas will see the greatest impacts proportionally in their local economies in terms of both employment and GVA. Newry, Mourne and Down District Council is one of these four Councils. This reflects the sectoral concentrations of Construction, many parts of Manufacturing, Accommodation and Retail.

Moving Forward

In a post Covid-19 economy, it is vital recovery support is provided in a flexible and responsive manner to changing and challenging economic times. It is clear, that a co-ordinated programme of action focused support is launched in response to recovery and rebuild of the economy. A comprehensive programme of practical support will be required to support businesses recover and reboot. In acknowledging the impact on unemployment, with furlough staff not being re-employed, and businesses not re-opening, there should be a clear focus also on supporting the unemployed through upskilling/reskilling, and a programme which stimulates new start-ups, and pathways to self-employment.

To date, much of the efforts have been in response to covid-19. Moving forward, focus will be on recovery, and reboot / rebuild for growth. Key to this as outlined in our action plan (section 6.0) is:

- A focus on delivery of economic development initiatives that offer direct and relevant support to our business community. Business engagement, and progression of strategic economic development initiatives are key, i.e. City Deal
- Support on a sectoral basis, with a focus on those sectors most severely affected
- Building on a partnership approach for delivery to ensure collaborative efforts are maximised for recovery and a full range of support is delivered
- Progressing regeneration initiatives which deliver investment that can help re-boot the economy
- Delivering re-skilling and upskilling initiatives that meet the needs of businesses, and while addressing unemployment and inactivity challenges.

Phase 1 - Covid-19 Response:

Q1 2020/2021

- Go of It programme launched online and re branded with new messaging: new opportunities, opportunities to work from home. Digital advertising which was off-line was relaunched
- Information on NI and UK Government support packages disseminated to the business community, directly and through social media channels
- Covid-19 business enquires managed directly, providing guidance, advice, and escalation when required (120+ direct engagements)
- Social media engagement and reach significantly increased
- Existing programmes flexed, to launch a tailored programme of support to support businesses to overcome barriers arising from Covid-19. 600 (circa) businesses directly supported (March 2020 - May 2020) / 521 mentoring hours delivered
 1. An Introduction to Social Media for Small Businesses
 2. Covid19 is here - What Now for Small Business
 3. Managing Self in a Rapidly Changing World
 4. Preparing a 100 Day Cashflow Projection
 5. Social Media Fundamentals
 6. Perfecting Your Pitch
 7. Managing Stress
 8. Gearing Up to Sell A Service on You Tube
 9. Getting Your Business Online for Beginners
 10. Search Engine Optimisation and Google Analytics
 11. How to make an impact on Social Media in 2020
 12. Getting Started with Google Analytics and Google Data Studio
 13. Get Found Online - SEO Tips to make your business more visible
 14. How to Master Voice Search and Get Heard

15. Instagram for Business
16. Email Marketing for Autumn
17. Marketing Development Programme
18. Get your Business Online Programme
19. Business Resilience Programme
20. 100 Day Consolidation programme
21. Business Reboot Programme
22. Financial Management for Non-Accountants Programme
23. Injection Control in the workplace
24. Emerging from Lockdown: Gearing up to Kick Start your Businesses
25. Cyber Security: What your Business Needs
26. Make your website work harder for you: webinar
27. Creating AR & VR Experiencing in your business

- A new programme launched, Tender for Growth, directly focusing on supporting businesses reassess supply chains, and improve their tendering approaches to secure new contracts, and more business
- Application under assessment for a new Export and Sales programme, to support business to extend their reach, and enhance sales on a North / South and East /West basis

Covid-19 Reboot & Rebuild

- Refer to Section 6.0 Strategic Actions

3.2 Economic Outlook: Pre Covid-19

It is important to reflect on previous economic forecasts, which were based on modest growth of 1% per annum. The issues associated with the NI and local economy still remain, and are very much relevant as part of a strategy for recovery and growth.

This section of the report draws on the Economic forecasts completed 2019 (pre covid-19).

While the UK Elections have seen all political parties promising to increase UK Government expenditure and investment, it is acknowledged that Northern Ireland's productivity challenges are long-standing and complex and will require a long-term, whole of government focus.

While the consensus is that there is no "Silver Bullet" solution to fix the challenges facing the NI economy, economists agree that improvement can be achieved through a series of small steps and actions by central and local government, economic development stakeholders and the private sector. This Economic Development Strategy outlines a number of these steps and practical actions that will help improve our District's future economic performance.

The potential future performance of the labour market across the Council area was analysed using forecasts from the JUEPC Summer 2019 Economic Outlook applied to the local government model.

The forecasts include three scenarios, each of which incorporate a different potential outcome based on NI, UK and global economic trends and events. The scenarios are:

- Baseline – this scenario assumes an orderly UK exit from the EU towards a future trading relationship and is deemed the 'most likely outcome';
- Upper – this aspirational scenario is one where the NI employment rate in 2028 has converged with the current (higher) UK rate, thus pointing to a much stronger economic activity and labour market performance in NI; and
- Lower – this scenario assumes a severe global slowdown in GDP growth as well as complications arising from Brexit impacting on consumer and business confidence and demand.

In the Baseline scenario the total employment for the area is expected to reach around 76,000, marking an increase of 3,800 jobs over the next 12 years. In the aspirational Upper scenario, the forecast is that total employment will increase by around 8,400, reaching a total employment of around 80,600 by 2030. Conversely, the Lower scenario forecasts that total employment will only increase by as few as 500 jobs, with total employment forecast to slightly increase to around 72,700 by 2030.

Total Employment Change by sector, Newry, Mourne & Down, 2018-30

2018-30			
	Lower	Baseline	Upper
Agriculture	-900	-100	0
Mining & quarrying	0	0	0
Manufacturing	300	700	1,400
Utilities	0	0	0
Water supply & waste	0	0	100
Construction	300	500	800
Retail	-300	0	200
Transportation	0	100	200
Accommodation	0	300	600
Information & Comms	100	300	900
Financial activities	-200	100	400
Real estate	0	0	0
Professional & scientific	200	500	1,200
Administration services	100	200	400
Public Admin & defence	0	0	0
Education	200	200	400
Health & social work	600	600	1,100
Arts & entertainment	100	200	400
Other services	100	200	300
Total	500	3,800	8,400

Source: NISRA (BRES) & UUEPC Local Model Summer 2019 Outlook

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

The table above shows the change in employment by sector over the next 12 years under each of the three scenarios. In the Baseline scenario, Manufacturing, Professional Services and Health are expected to be the largest growth sectors over the next 12 years with around 1,800 jobs to be created across the three sectors. In contrast, Agriculture and Retail may experience a small number of job losses from a combination of structural changes within each of the sectors (including automation of some tasks and jobs).

Similarly, Manufacturing and Professional Services are forecast to be the main drivers of employment growth in the Upper scenario with 3,700 jobs forecast to be created between the two sectors. In both, it may be a case where a shift in the NI sectoral structure means it begins to converge with that of the UK's economy, driven in part by growth spillovers from both Belfast and Dublin along the economic corridor between the two cities.

In comparison, the Lower scenario forecasts a loss of around 1,400 across three sectors – Agriculture, Retail and Financial Services. The reasons for these losses are likely to differ from sector to sector but all will be impacted by any negative impacts of a disorderly Brexit and any knock-on effects on consumer confidence or trade, with uncertainty around CAP being a particular issue for Agriculture.

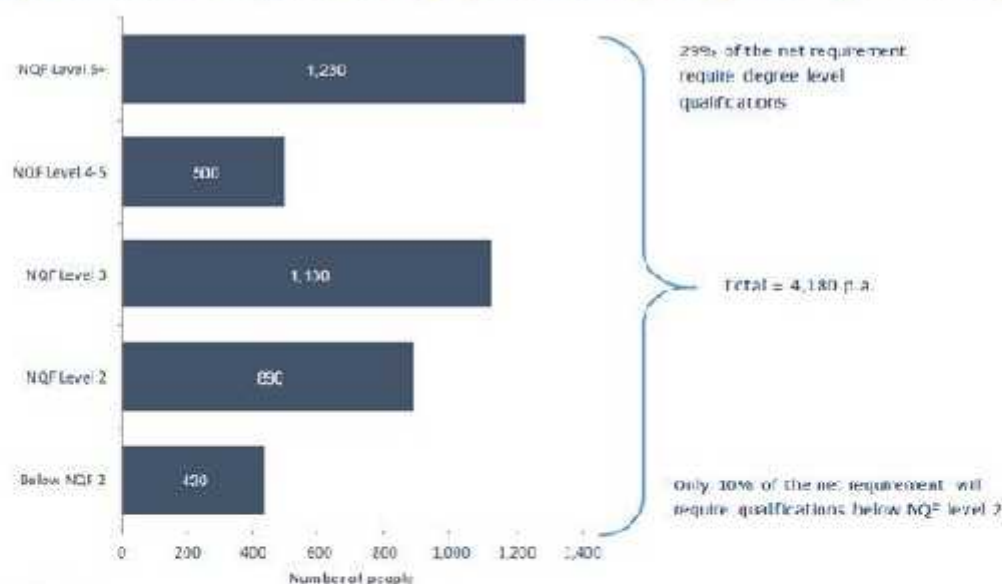
The NI Skills Barometer was commissioned by the Department for the Economy (DfE) and involved the development of an economic model to forecast future skills needs and skills gaps by qualification level, subject area and sector.

A sub-regional report was also compiled and underpins skills forecasts, outputs from the assessment of future skills demand, and a review of supply side indicators covering all of Northern Ireland’s Local Government Districts (LGD).

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area has been analysed together with Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon District Council area deemed as ‘The South’ in geographical terms, to forecast future skills needs and skills gaps by qualification level, subject area and sector

It is forecast that 29% of total demand will require at least a degree level qualification, which is below the NI average. However, it is expected only 10% of job opportunities will be available to individuals with a qualification level below NQF level 2 as detailed in the graph below:

Average annual net requirement by qualification (NQF), South (2017-2027)



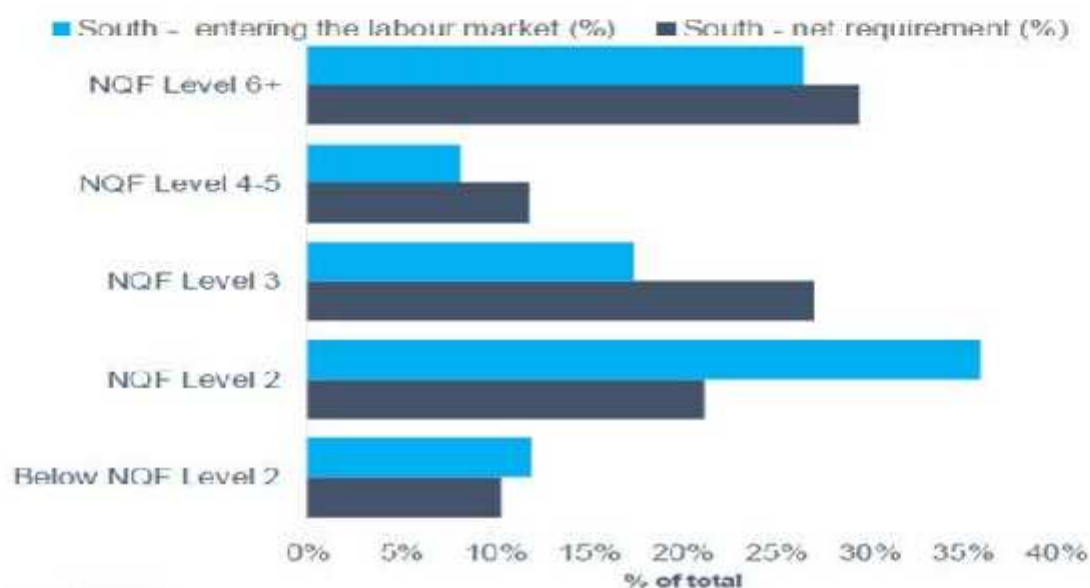
Benchmarking the skills profile of net requirement against those entering the labour market outlines that there is a marginal undersupply of high-level qualifications (NQF

level 6+) as 27% are entering the labour market compared to a forecast demand of 29%.

A shortage of mid-level qualifications (NQF level 3-5) qualifiers as 26% enter the labour market but demand is forecast to require 39%.

An oversupply of low-level skills (NQF level 2 and below) as 32% are demanded over the next decade but 48% are entering the labour market.

Net requirement vs qualification profile (NQF) of labour market entrants, South (2017-2027)



Source: UUEPC

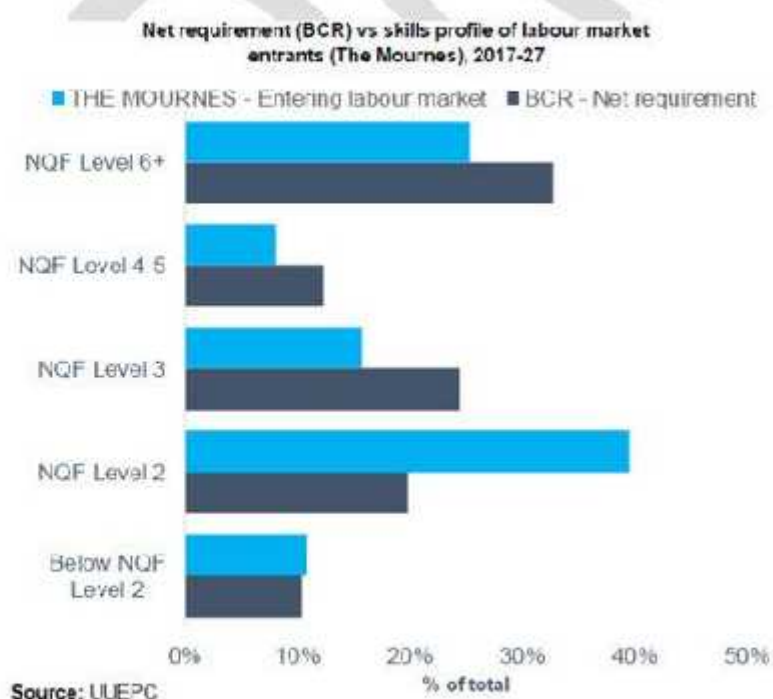
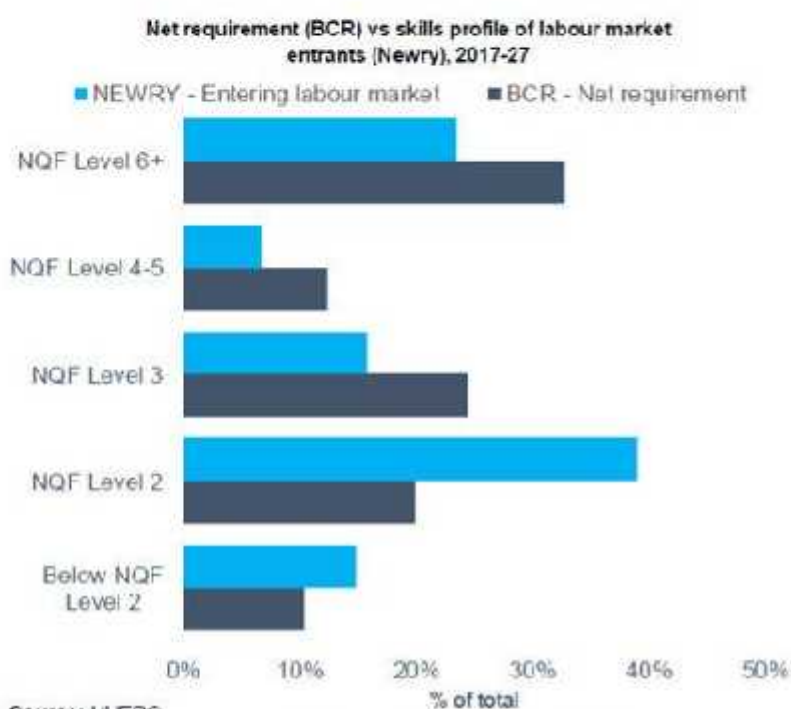
In 2019 the Ulster University Economic Policy Centre (UUEPC) were commissioned by Belfast City Region (BCR) council areas to report on the future skill needs of the BCR area. The BCR is defined by six Local Government Districts (LGDs) of which Newry, Mourne and Down is one. The research analyses where the skills gaps are currently, where they are emerging and where they are likely to emerge over the longer term.

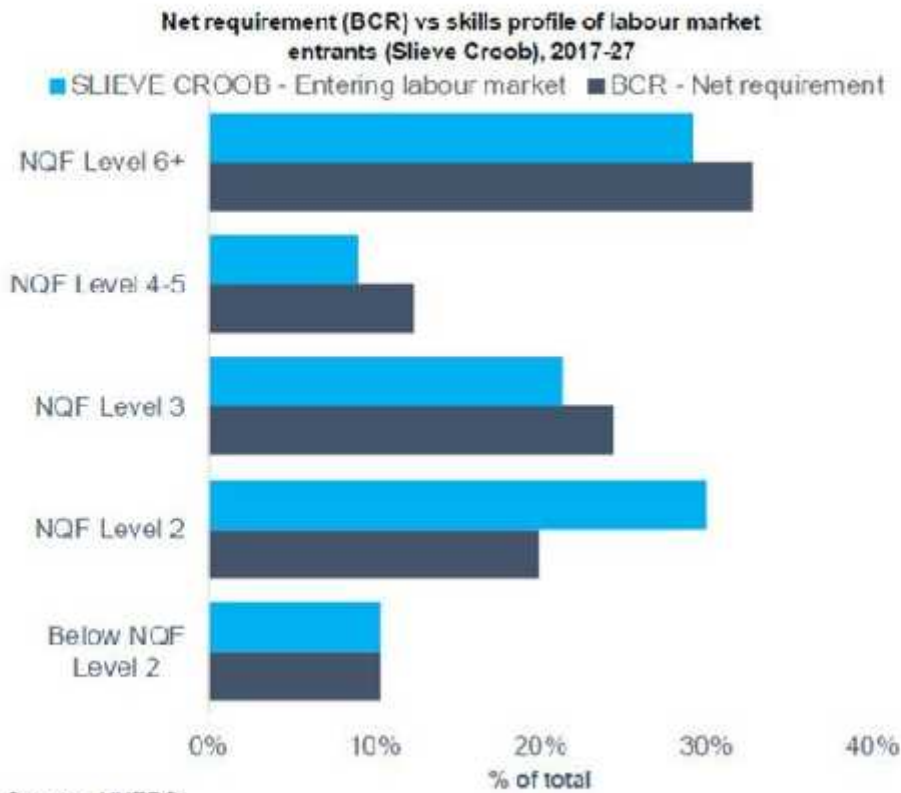
Analysis of net requirements of the BCR vs skills profile of labour market entrants (2017-2027) was carried out at DEA level for Newry, Mourne and Down and is graphed below.

Some key points include:

- All Newry, Mourne and Down District Council’s DEAs are forecast to have an over- supply of labour market entrants in NFQ Level 2 when compared to the net requirement for BCR.

- All Newry, Mourne and Down District Council’s DEAs will have an under-supply of entrants with NFQ Level 4-5 relative to the BCR net requirement.
- Both Crotlieve and Slieve Gullion will have an undersupply of entrants with qualifications below NFQ Level 2 for the net requirements of the BCR.
- Rowallane and Crotlieve will have the highest number of entrants with NFQ Level 6 and above to match the net requirements of the BCR.

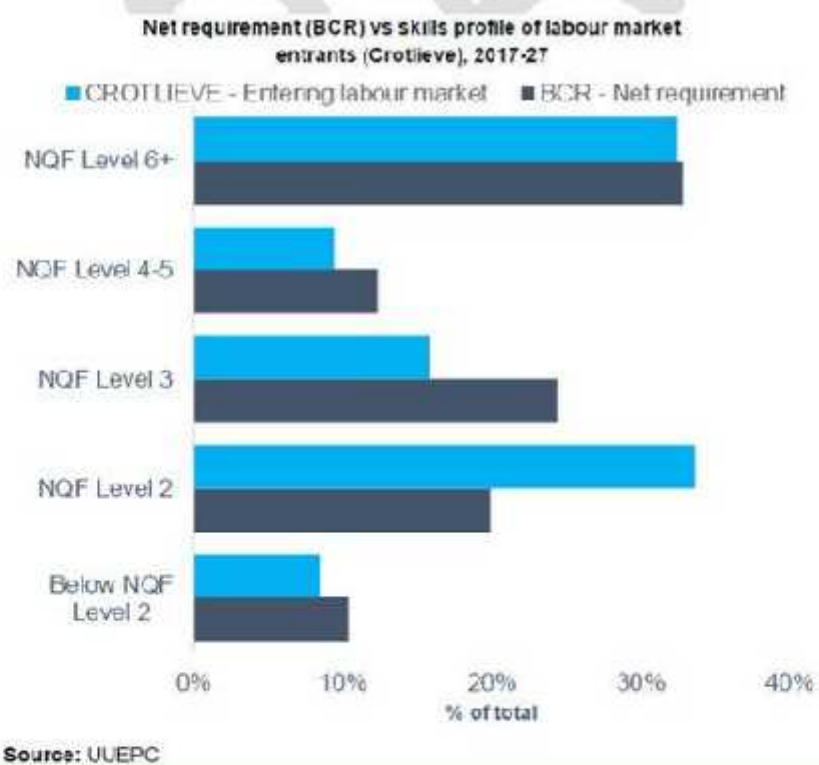
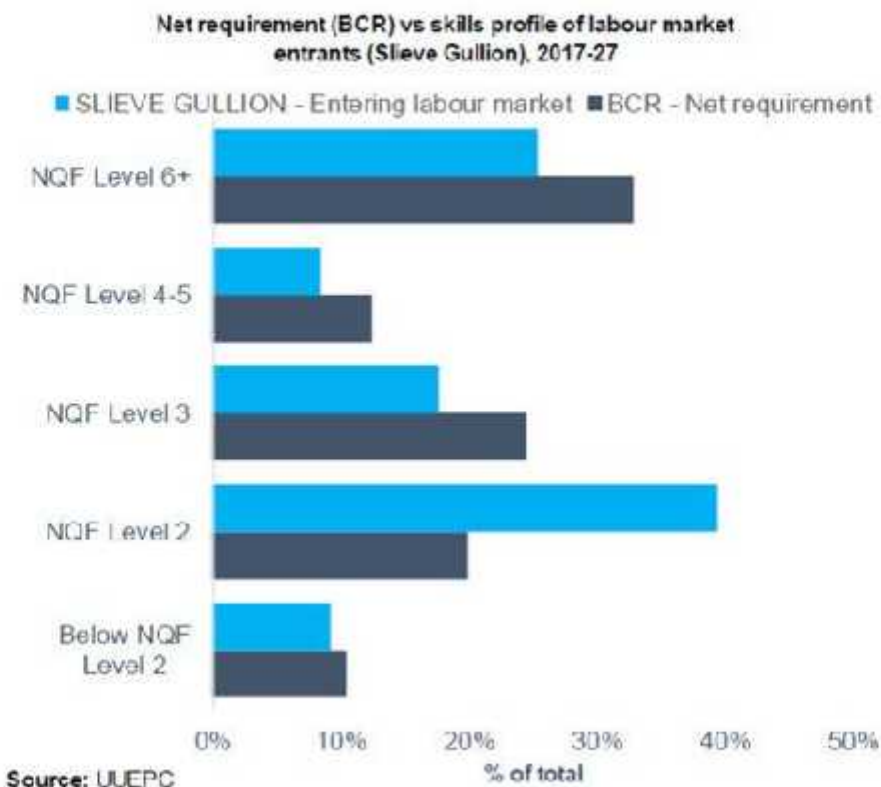




Source: UUEPC



Source: UUEPC

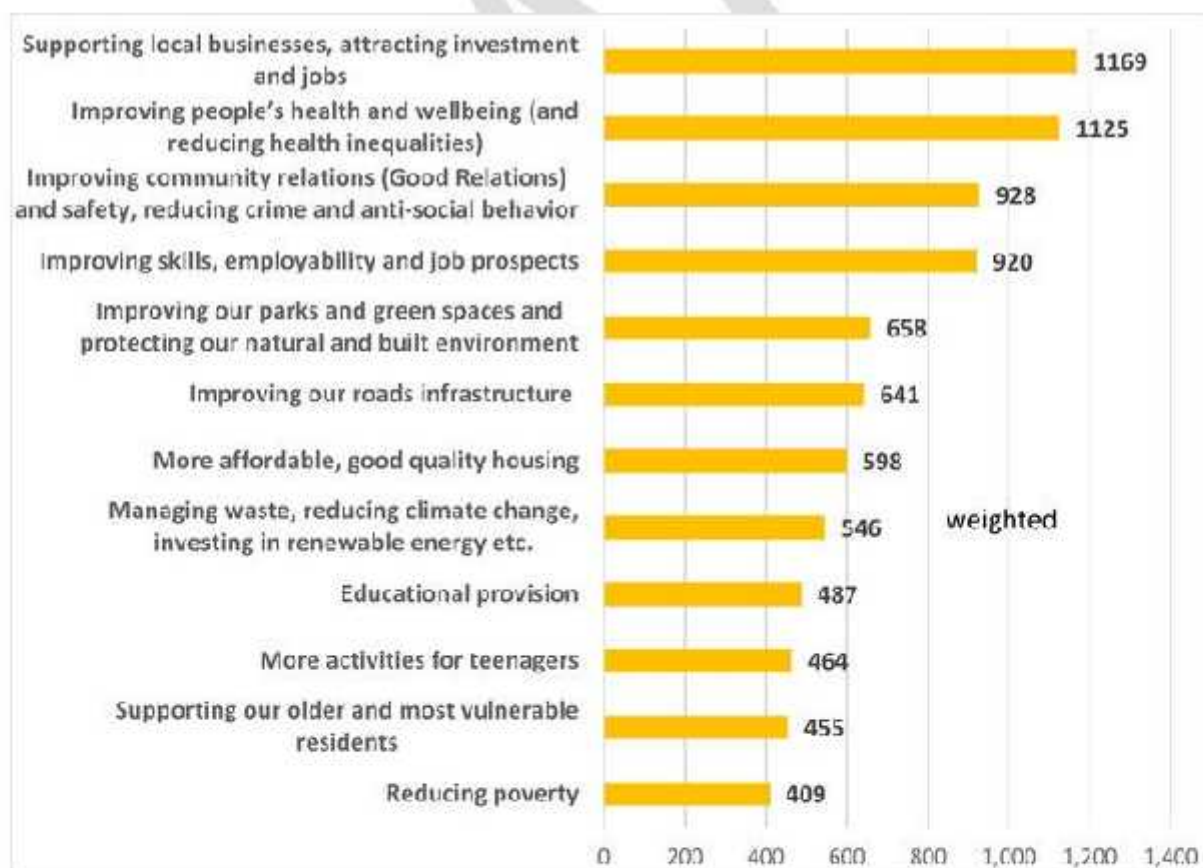


4.0 Strategic & Economic Context

This Economic Development Strategy is set within a wider subregional and regional context and other policies and strategies and aligns with the draft Programme for Government 2016-21 and the NI Executive’s Economy 2030, the draft Industrial Strategy for Northern Ireland and Northern Ireland’s overall Regional development Strategy.

In June 2018, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council commissioned Social Market Research (SMR) to undertake a residents’ survey. The purpose of the survey was to provide the Council with baseline data on resident opinion across a number of key areas, including the priorities and emerging issues that will need to be addressed by the Council in the future.

Residents were asked to think about their local area and say what needs improving to make it a better place to live. Using a weighted score approach (i.e. top ranked suggestion was scored a ‘5’, second ranked scored a ‘4’ etc. through to fifth ranked scored a ‘1’) the graph below shows that ‘supporting local businesses, attracting investment and jobs’ was top ranked.



A total of 23 priorities were ranked with ‘supporting local businesses, attracting investment and jobs’ as well as ‘improving skills, employment and job prospects’ ranked in the top 5 priorities for residents of Newry, Mourne and Down.

To address this, within the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council context, this strategy will complement, underpin and support the delivery of the strategic and corporate objectives of Council's Community Plan to 2030, new Corporate Plan 2019-23, Tourism Strategy 2017-21 and recently published Culture, Arts and Heritage Strategy 2020-25 in relation to the shared goal of boosting economic development across the district.

The mission statement of the recently published Corporate Plan 2019-23 states its aim is:

"To support and advocate for a welcoming District which is progressive, healthy and sustainable, providing better economic, environmental and social outcomes for all."²⁹

The plan states that by 2022 the Council aims to see, "An increase in infrastructure investment that enables the future economic growth of the district"³⁰, and wants to "create opportunities for local people and our communities to thrive by supporting economic development which is sustainable and helps them lead fulfilling lives".³¹ One of the key strategic objectives in the Corporate Plan is to, "Invest in and support new and growing businesses, job creation and employment skills"³². The actions that flow from this Strategy will be key to the successful delivery of the Corporate Plan goals and objectives.

Regeneration is another key Corporate Plan commitment and a strategic priority for this Strategy. The Corporate Plan has a specific aim to... "Promote the revitalisation of our city, towns, villages and rural communities", recognising the importance of regeneration as a key strategic enabler of economic growth.

The District's Tourism Strategy 2017-2021 recognises tourism's place as a key economic driver in the local economy and highlights the importance of this key sector to the economic development and regeneration of the region. The recently published Culture, Arts and Heritage Strategy 2020-25 also positions economic development as a key outcome, stating in its vision that by 2025 the District will be in a position where:

"Our culture, arts and heritage create economic impact in our urban centres and bring benefits to all our rural communities".³³

It also seeks to generate, "civic pride and economic impact into local communities by attracting international visitors from outside of the district to stay longer and spend

²⁹ Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's draft Corporate Plan.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Ibid.

³² Ibid.

³³ Culture and Heritage Strategy, p41.

more³⁴, which is an ambition that this strategy will also support through its key themes and actions.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Community Plan, entitled "Living Well Together: A Community Plan for Newry, Mourne and Down to 2030", was published in 2017. Many of its key indicators are closely linked with the remit of this strategy, such as creating prosperous communities, increasing levels of lifelong learning, connectivity, jobs and earnings, income and wealth and economic investment.³⁵

At a wider Northern Ireland level, economic development is at the core of the draft Programme for Government 2016-21:

"Improving wellbeing for all – by tackling disadvantage and driving economic growth".³⁶

Some the key indicators in the draft PFG that are relevant to this strategy include reducing economic inactivity, increasing the size and competitiveness of, and innovation in, our economy, improving the skills profile of the population and improving the regional balance of economic prosperity through an increase in employment.

Brexit

Brexit will change our economic development landscape and present new challenges as well as creating new opportunities. The uncertainty created by the decision to leave the European Union adds additional impetus to Council's need to bring forward this new economic development strategy at this time and to focus our activities on those areas which will deliver maximum economic outcomes and real growth.

Council will continue to provide advice and support to business and we will develop and deliver initiatives aimed at improving the capability of our micro businesses and SMEs in key areas including skills, leadership and management, innovation and sales. Council will carefully monitor Brexit developments and react accordingly to ensure continuity of business and delivery of Council services, as well as providing guidance, signposting and support to businesses, in collaboration with our economic development partners. Council will ensure that this strategy will be sufficiently flexible to be able to respond quickly and appropriately to our post-Brexit situation, adopting an agile approach in direct response to the implications arising from Brexit, once these become clearer.

³⁴ Ibid, p.42.

³⁵ Community Plan, p21 to 25.

³⁶ Draft Programme for Government 2016-21, p12.

Belfast Region City Deal

The UK Government's approval of the Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) will see £350 million of investment from Westminster, matched by £350 million from the NI Executive and £150 million from BRCD partners and private sector investment, bringing the total investment into the region of £850 Million.

BRCD investment will be in strategic projects across tourism and regeneration, infrastructure, digital and innovation and employability and skills. For this District, that funding will deliver a suite of projects in areas including the construction of the Newry Southern Relief Road, the regeneration of Newry City, the Mourne Gateway project, improvements in rural broadband infrastructure, digital capability and skills initiatives.

The City Deal investment will deliver against inclusive economic growth, stimulating 20,000 new and better jobs and increasing GVA by £400 million p/a.

DRAFT

5.0 Vision and Strategic Priorities

Our Vision

This strategy will define the actions for delivery against the Council's corporate ambitions:

- An increase in infrastructure investment that enables the future economic growth of the district
- Creating opportunities for local people and helping our communities to thrive by supporting economic development which is sustainable and helps them lead fulfilling lives
- Supporting businesses adopt in their response to Brexit, and Covid-19 recovery
- Invest in and support new and growing businesses, job creation and employment skills
- Promote the revitalisation of our city, towns, villages and rural communities

Collaboration with business, education and economic development stakeholders is core to achievement of this strategy, and to ensure the creation of a welcoming, successful region where enterprise flourishes, firms maximise their potential and achieve high levels of business growth.

We will develop strong industrial sectors where businesses demonstrate high levels of productivity, innovation, employ well-paid, highly skilled staff and compete successfully in external markets.

This will be supported by a modern infrastructure with strong road, transport and digital connectivity networks and a revitalised prosperous city, towns and villages, making our region a sought-after location to live, study, visit, work and invest.

Based on our ongoing work, research and consultations with businesses and stakeholders, Council has identified the below strategic aims and priorities upon which this strategy will focus.

Our Strategic Aims

1. Achieve sustainable and inclusive economic growth
2. Address economic inequalities
3. Create more and better jobs
4. Stimulate productivity through new technologies and innovation
5. Develop the infrastructure and regeneration required to support economic growth
6. Become more internationally competitive through export growth and developing a more outward-looking economy open for investment

Our Strategic Priorities

Underpinning the delivery of this strategy are three strategic priorities

1. To support Entrepreneurship, Business Growth and Innovation
2. To improve Employability and Skills
3. To invest in Regeneration and modern Infrastructure and Connectivity

Measures of success (2020 – 2025)

1. To support the growth of 1,500 businesses
2. To support, through business planning support, 400 new business starts
3. To support the retention or creation of 1,000 employment positions
4. To support 100 people back into employment
5. To support the delivery of 10 business, skills or employability focused initiatives
6. To progress the delivery of strategic investment initiatives that delivers a more sustainable, connected and regenerated District

6.0 Strategic Actions

1) Supporting Entrepreneurship, Business Growth and Innovation

Support Growth and Creation of new business starts

While Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area has a number of large, successful and world leading firms in growth sectors including advanced engineering and manufacturing, ICT and pharmaceuticals, the local economy (like the rest of Northern Ireland) comprises mainly small and micro businesses.

Council has an important role to play to build the capability of our SMEs and support their business growth, regardless of the size and stage of development of these firms.

Council's role has been recognised in directly providing a service that ensures a supportive environment is in place for business start-up, growth, innovation and attracting investment and FDI. Encouraging new businesses to be formed, and existing businesses to grow, will ensure the Council area has a rich and diverse economy, supporting employability skills, local wealth, inclusive growth and contributing towards the achievement of a prosperous economy

It is recognised that economic growth of the District is influenced by the development and growth of strong clusters and sectors. There is a need for the Council to adopt a flexible approach that will:

- 1) Stabilise and develop existing sectoral strengths:
 - Construction
 - Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering
 - Agri-food & Fishing
 - Technology
 - Retail & Services
- 2) Support new and emerging sectors:
 - ICT & Digital Technologies
 - Professional Business Services
 - Tourism
- 3) Support growth in innovation and emerging technologies

Existing sectoral strengths

The Council area currently benefits from the presence of several large, successful, globally competitive businesses, strong cohorts of established, profitable SMEs, as well as a mix of younger firms at an earlier stage of development but with significant growth potential.

In collaboration with Invest NI, InterTradeIreland, Colleges and other stakeholders, the Council will seek to build on existing sectoral strengths by developing a deeper understanding of sectoral needs, responding to sector-specific skills issues and by developing the capability of smaller businesses through the delivery of tailored business development programmes. Through these programmes the Council will help improve the stability, growth and competitiveness of SMEs to be better able to engage in supply chain activity locally and in external markets.

New and emerging sectors

The Council area has increasing numbers of SMEs with high growth potential in emerging and growth sectors. New and emerging sectors are less developed but are where significant global market opportunities exist for future development.

As these sectors continue to grow, the Council will explore opportunities to develop and deliver new initiatives and programmes to address sector specific challenges, improve business capability and help exploit emerging market opportunities. We will work closely with Invest NI and sector bodies to feed into wider sector development activity and to promote the Council area on the international stage as capable and ready for the development of trade and foreign direct investment opportunities.

Supporting Growth in Innovation and Digital Technologies

The Council will work with relevant partners to progress the availability of technologies required to position the area as an innovative and connected region where innovators, start-ups and existing firms can experiment, test, and collaborate to develop new products and services.

We recognise the importance of "Digital Hubs" – locations which provide incubation and growth space for new start-ups and early stage companies in the technology and digital sectors. This concept could link to existing business incubation and grow-on spaces and would include the ability to provide additional specialist "wrap-around" support, expertise and know-how in emerging digital technologies, ongoing mentoring support and advice from experienced business mentors and/or tech entrepreneurs. This initiative is still at an early concept stage and will require further appraisal and feasibility testing before a business case can be brought forward. It is also important to note that successful implementation of Digital or Innovation Hub concepts will likely also require consultation, collaboration and co-funding from our local colleges, universities, Invest NI, the private sector and other Belfast Regional City Deal stakeholders.

Building International Relations

To achieve economic growth, it is essential that the Council has a reach that is global and outward looking. It is important the Council develops strong international linkages that will generate real opportunities for growth and development in trade, foreign investment, tourism and skills and employability.

It is acknowledged the Council has already established international linkages. Together with a number of companies with international connections, the Council has strong international connections to draw upon and showcase the diversity and quality of businesses and the attractiveness of the region as an investment location.

Success in achieving economic benefit from the Council's International Relations work will be dependent, not just on the international linkages established and created, but primarily on the Council's ability to develop and maintain strong collaboration with a range of other local partners who are involved in Northern Ireland's international relations. These partners will include the Executive Office, Invest NI, Tourism NI, InterTradeIreland, NI Connections, our Universities, colleges, Newry Chamber of Commerce and Trade and a range of stakeholders with shared ambitions to boost external sales, attract tourism and investment to Northern Ireland and the Newry, Mourne and Down District.

Establishing a global diaspora is a key step for enabling international business connections. It also offers a platform to raise awareness on an international level of the business opportunities available in the Council area, promoting talent, innovation and investment opportunities.

Building successful international relations takes time, resources and concerted effort. Maximising our current relationships however will take priority. The recent signing of a Friendship Agreement with Changchun represents a significant opportunity to build new links with the world's second largest economy. Maximising the outcomes from the Council's China connections will be an important focus, building on established links to deliver tangible economic benefits including increased trade, investment, skills linkages and tourism revenue.

Strengthening business engagement

Council also recognises the need to be more proactive in developing closer working relationships with our business base, partners and stakeholders, to collectively identify growth potential and need, and to work together to support local business growth and development.

During our consultations, it was made clear that there are a large number of business support organisations in Northern Ireland with a range of support initiatives available to SME's. However, a difficulty faced by many SMEs is where to access the most appropriate support for their needs. To help address this, Council acknowledges its role in providing a central point of contact for local business queries and referral for support either through a direct Council service or referral to partner organisation.

Feedback from businesses and stakeholders has also highlighted the importance of Council to facilitate an Economic Forum which is wider than one of high level discussion or a Council communication platform. The potential of the Forum was highlighted as one that should operate as a vehicle to facilitate debate, focused decision-making and action planning with tangible and specific outcomes, on the key strategic economic development issues affecting our Council area.

Positioning the District as a place to invest, visit, shop and work is important, and engaging with our business base to sell the strengths of region will be important. Initiatives such as Make it Local and Purple Flag campaigns have established business and stakeholder engagement, and will provide a good foundations to build upon through the period of this strategy.

Supporting Entrepreneurship, Business Growth and Innovation			
Sub Theme	Action	Measure	Partners
Supporting Growth and Creation of new Businesses Starts	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Support pre start-up and start up activity through Co for It and other start-up initiatives, targeting aspiring entrepreneurs from school age upwards 2) Ensure support structures are in place to support businesses be effective in response to challenges arising from Covid-19, and Brexit 3) Support businesses to innovate, and overcome barriers to growth through the delivery of initiatives developed in response to business requirements, <i>i.e. platforms to reinvigorate business/leadership,</i> 4) Improve the competitiveness of SMEs to be better able to engage in supply chain activity locally and in external markets: <i>i.e. East/West and North/South sales, early exporters support</i> 5) Develop a deeper understanding of sectoral strengths and requirements, and deliver initiatives which support new and emerging sectors 6) Support business innovation programmes that improve efficiencies, open up access to new markets and key growth sectors 	<p>Increase in the number of business births</p> <p>Business survival rates</p> <p>Growth in business turnover, business size and exports</p> <p>Growth in the social enterprises (turnover and employment)</p>	<p><u>Lead Partner:</u> Newry, Mourne and Down District Council</p> <p><u>Support Partners:</u> Invest NI InterTrade Ireland Colleges Chambers of Commerce and Trade, LEA's Sectoral Organisations</p>

	<p>7) Engage with strategic partners to ensure access to land, premises and infrastructure required to meet industry growth needs, i.e. roads, rail, ports, Tel Communications</p> <p>8) Support the social economy sector to improve their capability and overcome barriers to growth through a tailored package of support i.e. practical business advice, mentoring and group workshops</p>		
Supporting growth in Innovation and Digital Technologies	<p>1) Enable access to digital infrastructure and expertise that position the District as an innovative and connected region where innovators, start-ups and existing firms collaborate to develop new products and services</p> <p>2) Explore the creation of a new "Digital Hub", providing innovation space for start-ups and existing businesses to expand in the technology and digital sector</p>		<p><u>Lead Partner:</u> Newry, Mourne and Down District Council / SRC, SERC</p> <p><u>Support Partners:</u> Invest NI Universities</p>
Building International Relations	<p>1) Develop international partnerships that offer the potential to maximise opportunities for exchanges in trade, investment, tourism and skills and employability</p> <p>2) Engage with global diaspora to build a network of ambassadors who can strengthen and leverage international linkages, enabling trade, tourism and investment opportunities</p> <p>3) Implement effective marketing communications which position the District internationally as an attractive region for investment and co-operation across a number of key sectors</p>		<p><u>Lead Partner:</u> Invest NI</p> <p><u>Support Partners:</u> Newry, Mourne and Down District Council</p> <p>Newry Chamber of Commerce & Trade Colleges LEA's</p>

<p>Strengthening Business Engagement</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Strengthen linkages and communication channels with key stakeholders and employers across the district, positioning the Council as the vehicle for providing support, signposting and collaborating, ensuring a joined-up approach to the facilitation of business growth and informing recovery to Covid-19 2) Delivery of high profile business events and initiatives which seek to support, inspire and develop the local business base, 3) Facilitation of an Economic Forum as a vehicle to facilitate debate, focused decision-making and action planning with tangible and specific outcomes, on key strategic economic development issues 	<p>Increase in level of business engagement</p> <p>Increase in number of businesses accessing support via Council or referral to partner organisations</p>	<p><u>Lead Partner:</u> Newry, Mourne and Down District Council</p> <p><u>Support Partners:</u> Invest NI InterTrade Ireland Colleges LEA's Chamber of Commerce</p>
---	---	--	---

2) Improving Employability and Skills

The Department for the Economy is currently (2019) undertaking a strategic review of the economy's skills needs which will inform a new all-encompassing skills strategy for Northern Ireland. The draft Programme for Government and the draft Industrial Strategy - Economy 2030, recognise that appropriately skilled people are integral to productivity growth, competitiveness and our future economic prosperity. The Skills Barometer for Northern Ireland, developed by Ulster University's Economic Policy Centre, has carried out detailed analysis and modelling to forecast the level and nature of our future skills needs, identify supply gaps and outline the implications and challenges for economic growth. From studies into skills supply and skills gap in NI, it is understood that over the next 10 years, the demand for skills will outweigh supply.

The consensus is Northern Ireland is facing key challenges regarding the supply of suitably skilled labour to meet the future demands and needs of industry. There is a widely acknowledged need for a "whole of government" approach to our entire skills system that needs to incorporate primary, secondary and third level education, employability training, upskilling, re-training and lifelong learning across the business base. This is particularly relevant, as the Council itself has little direct influence on local employability and skills challenges, and any positive impact will require partnership work with other organisations and departments.

In response, Newry, Mourne & Down District Council has identified the following priorities within the Employability and Skills theme. It is recognised that the implications of these challenges are far-ranging and will require a strong focus on achieving better strategic coherence and concerted long-term effort across government and the private sector. Many of the findings of this strategy have been echoed through the feedback and comments received from the businesses and stakeholders consulted.

Integration between education providers and industry

There is an immediate requirement to establish better integration between education providers, training providers, employers and other relevant stakeholders required to identify the challenges, share best practice and plan for future skills and employability needs. A Forum which engages players will ensure that our District is adopting a strategic approach, underpinned by practical initiatives and collaborative action to deliver solutions that ensure the skills system is fit for purpose and future focused, satisfying the needs of students, employees and employers.

Identify specific skills gaps and address future skills needs

We will engage with local employers, the Department for the Economy, Invest NI, our local colleges and Ulster University Economic Policy Centre to carry out further sectoral analysis and research to determine in more granular detail where local demand and shortages exist and what our specific skills needs are. This is of particular relevance, as many businesses will have adopted practices in response to both Covid-19 and Brexit, and as such may have identified new skill requirements.

This work also needs to be cognisant of the global dynamics driving change including emerging disruptive technologies such as robotics, automation, artificial intelligence, 3D Printing, the emergence of the "Gig Economy", new ways of working and the impact on the "Future of Work".

It is important that our strategy also considers our aspirations for our district's future sectoral growth and how the world of work, employment and skills needs will change in the future, driven by digitalisation and what is now commonly referred to as the "4th Industrial Revolution" - as rapidly emerging technologies converge, integrate and are seamlessly embedded in every aspect of modern life.

The nature and pace of technology change also increases the need for new, dynamic models of upskilling, retraining and lifelong learning since, to remain competitive and survive, businesses and employees must keep up with and embrace a world of constant flux and accelerating change.

Promote employment opportunities at a local level and further afield to attract appropriately skilled labour to the area

Discussions and consultations with local businesses and education providers have indicated a need to raise awareness of the career opportunities available across our District. An extensive survey of businesses and schools commissioned by Council in 2018 also confirmed the mutual desire and recognised need for better communication, interaction and engagement between businesses, school students and teachers. As a result, Career teachers and young people studying at school and making key decisions about choice of subject and career path options are not aware of the breadth of training and employment opportunities available locally.

The Council believes that it also has an important role to play, alongside other stakeholders such as our Chambers, Colleges and Invest NI, to increase awareness, identify and promote employment and career path opportunities and provide outreach support to help "bridge the gap" between local schools and employers.

Though Council's more proactive business engagement and our ongoing programme of business support and events, we will create opportunities for local businesses to

raise their profile across the wider community and engage more closely with schools and colleges.

Address Economic Inactivity and barriers to employment

Economically inactive people are those without a job who are not seeking work and/or are not available to start work within a two-week period. The main economically inactive groups are students, people looking after family and home, long term sick and disabled, temporarily sick and disabled, retired people and discouraged workers.

Since our district has a persistent, higher than average (32%) Economic Inactivity Rate, we need to do more to work in collaboration with partners to reduce this rate over time and to encourage and support more economically inactive people into employment. The economically inactive can be a potentially useful source of labour to help address skills shortages within our district. Previous work by Ulster University Economic Policy Centre estimated that around a quarter of all the economically inactive in NI are in the "want to work" category.

Upskill / reskill those in employment, unemployed, underemployed or economically inactive

We will share our skills analysis and collaborate with our local employers and colleges to identify opportunities for developing Skills Academies in direct response to identified skills needs and where employers have confirmed the existence of new job opportunities. Based on ongoing work and recent consultations, potential areas of interest and need are diverse and may include engineering, tourism/hospitality, financial services and software development, as well as emerging digital technology areas.

As part of our strategy to reduce Economic Inactivity, Council proposes to develop Employment Academies aimed at providing training in sectors where Council has identified existing employment opportunities. The academy will provide the relevant training, licenses, and qualifications needed for employment and try to match participants with employers who are seeking to recruit new staff. The Council will consult businesses, sector organisations, training providers and local stakeholders to explore opportunities for Employment Academies initially in the construction, hospitality & tourism and/or social care sectors as these have been cited as existing areas of need.

Promote alternative pathways for employment

In line with the new skills strategy, Council will help promote and encourage the development and uptake of alternative pathways to employment, including greater

use of Apprenticeships and Higher-Level Apprenticeships as an alternative learning, skills development and valuable career path opportunity. We will actively participate in UK-wide National Apprenticeship Week, and the delivery of the locally focused apprenticeship events.

DRAFT

Improving Employability and Skills			
Sub Theme	Action	Measure	Partners (* Lead Partner)
Address skills gaps and future skills needs, through education to industry engagement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Undertake a sectoral analysis which informs where employability and skills shortages exist, and what the requirements are for future growth 2. Facilitate a forum, comprising local businesses, education providers, Government Departments and other skills stakeholders, to lobby and deliver against key actions for overcoming skills and employability challenges 	<p>An effective Forum, representative of education and industry</p> <p>Greater knowledge of skills need</p>	<p><u>Lead Partner:</u> Newry, Mourne and Down District Council / Chambers</p> <p><u>Support Partners:</u> DFC / DFE Colleges / Schools / Area Learning Co-ordinators Businesses / Chambers Invest NI</p>
Promote employment opportunities and attract appropriately skilled labour to the area	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Facilitate opportunities for local businesses to raise their profile and increase awareness of job opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Careers Fairs • Representation at Skills and Employment Forums, events and initiatives • Collaboration with the private sector in events: Innovation Nation Conference, Enterprise Week and Apprenticeship Week • Development of career story boards, testimonials and role models of successful, young, business people employed in high growth businesses • Enhanced career guidance aligned to local sector opportunities 	<p>District positioned as an attractive location for employment opportunities</p>	<p><u>Lead Partner:</u> Newry, Mourne and Down District Council / Chambers</p> <p><u>Support Partners:</u> DFC / DFE Colleges / Schools / Area Learning Co-ordinators Businesses / Chambers Invest NI</p>

<p>Upskill / reskill those in employment, unemployed, underemployed or economically inactive</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deliver initiatives, in collaboration with partners, which focuses on the re-engagement of the economically inactive back into employment 2. Facilitate the delivery of employment programmes that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote reskilling and upskilling in response to identified skills need and where employers have confirmed the existence of new job opportunities • Promote Employment Academies aimed at providing training to the unemployed in sectors where Council has identified existing employment opportunities 3. Promote initiatives, in collaboration with partners, that break down barriers to accessing employment (i.e. childcare, transport) 	<p>Reduction in number of unemployed</p> <p>Reduction in the number of economically inactive (over the long term)</p> <p>Reduction in vacant posts</p> <p>Alignment between skill need and supply</p>	<p><u>Lead Partner:</u></p> <p>SRC / SERC</p> <p><u>Support Partners:</u></p> <p>Newry, Mourne and Down District Council</p> <p>DFC / DFE</p> <p>Businesses / Chambers</p> <p>Invest NI</p>
<p>Promote alternative pathways for employment</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote apprenticeships and higher-level apprenticeship as an alternative learning, skills development and valuable career path opportunity 2. Lobby and engage with relevant Departments, Colleges and Industry to further develop apprenticeship and HLA offering on a sectoral basis 	<p>Increase in the uptake of apprenticeships and higher-level apprenticeship</p>	<p><u>Lead Partner:</u></p> <p>SRC / SERC</p> <p><u>Support Partners:</u></p> <p>Newry, Mourne and Down District Council</p> <p>DFC / DFE</p> <p>Schools / Area Learning Co-ordinators</p> <p>Businesses / Chambers</p> <p>Invest NI</p>

3) Investing in Regeneration and Modern Infrastructure

Regeneration of our city, towns and villages is critical to ensuring the District realises its full potential as a place to live, work, visit and invest. Investment in regeneration is also an investment in our local economy, supporting construction, local jobs, and stimulating other investments.

The expanse of the District means that each area has unique opportunities and challenges. The Council has in place a suite of Master Plans and Village Plans that seek to set out actions which are appropriate and unique to the growth and development of each area, supporting them to achieve their full potential.

In addition, modern, well-designed and robust roads, transport and telecoms infrastructure is a key enabler of economic development and growth. The Council recognises the important role we must play in working closely with our partners to regenerate our villages and towns across the District, and to revitalise our City to help stimulate economic growth and realise our ambition to make our District a great place to live, study, visit, work and invest.

This Strategy will sit within the context of Northern Ireland's overall Regional Development Strategy and Council's new Local Development Plan (LDP). The new LDP will set out the overall planning framework to support economic and social needs in the District to 2030, in line with regional strategies and policies, including recommendations and preferred options for the use of land for economic development and business use. Ongoing work on preferred options for the use of land for business use confirms Council's desire to:

- Increase by 20% the land available for use by small businesses and non-Invest NI clients
- Achieve a broad balance of land for business use and tourism development across the whole district including rural areas

Council will also ensure our Planning function is well aligned, resourced and enabled to provide an efficient and responsive service that effectively addresses business needs, and supports and contributes to the economic development priorities and actions outlined within this strategy.

Digital Transformation: Creating a Connected Region

A key objective of this Strategy is to ensure that our Council leads the way in supporting our businesses and residents to exploit the opportunities that digitalisation will bring in areas such as Big Data, Artificial Intelligence and the Internet of Things. The "4th Industrial Revolution" (as it is now being referred to), will see the seamless

and pervasive integration of digital technologies throughout all sectors, businesses and daily life and will completely transform society and how we communicate, work, study, spend our leisure time, transact business and live.

To achieve our goal we firstly need to create ultra-modern, future-proofed digital infrastructure. We then need to ensure that we exploit this by deploying and providing products and services to our businesses and residents across the district to transform how we communicate, work, carry out business, spend our leisure-time and go about our everyday lives.

Full Fibre Northern Ireland (FFNI) is a consortium of ten rural councils across NI, whose main objective is to establish across NI a Gigabit speed “full fibre” communications network and state of the art digital infrastructure. This consortium will be a critical enabler to the achievement of this priority.

The demand for new approaches is the result of the ongoing rapid technological disruption of existing businesses and sectors. Our Council’s priorities focus on the economic benefits and opportunities for growth using digital technology and infrastructure such as:

- Accessing affordable digital and knowledge infrastructure, enabling Council, our businesses and residents to become more efficient and productive
- Attracting and growing high technology businesses and investment

Regeneration of our City, Towns and Villages

An important element of delivering economic growth for our District will involve the economic regeneration of our city, towns and villages. To achieve this Council will be dependent on strong partnership working and funding from key partners in other government departments, agencies and the private sector.

Council proposes to undertake a comprehensive programme of regeneration activity through a range of programmes and delivery of several key strategic projects.

- Public Realm & Environmental Improvement Schemes

Council will continue to work in partnership with the Department for Communities (DfC), with local Chambers of Commerce, businesses and community representatives to invest in, design and deliver environmental public realm improvements within our towns, villages and city.

- Investment in our rural towns and villages

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and Department for Communities play a significant role in growing our rural areas. Council will continue to collaborate with DAERA and DfC to help shape policy and inform any future interventions for investment. Continued investment in our urban and rural towns and villages is critical to ensure that they remain attractive and encouraging places to live, visit and invest, and to support the continued growth of our rural businesses.

- Heritage Regeneration

Council recently completed a highly successful project for the restoration and regeneration of Warrenpoint Municipal Park benefiting from £850k of funding secured through the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF). Council is currently taking forward an ambitious project with funding from DAERA and NLHF to restore and regenerate the heritage and natural beauty of the historic Castlewella Forest Park including re-development of the Grange, Walled Garden and National Arboretum. We will continue to seek other opportunities for the restoration and regeneration of further key heritage sites across the district.

- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs)

Within Newry, Mourne and Down District Council there are three AONBs - Mourne, Ring of Gullion and Strangford Lough and Lecale. Through the AONB Action Plans 2017-22 which receive funding from the Environment Agency, Council will continue to deliver outcomes for natural, built and cultural heritage as well as outdoor recreation and sustainable tourism.

- Master Plans and Village plans

In partnership with the Department for Communities, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council has developed a series of masterplans and village plans outlining project proposals for the future development of towns across the district. Masterplans have been completed for Ballynahinch, Downpatrick and Newry City and the South East Coast which includes the towns of Kilkeel, Newry and Warrenpoint. We will continue to take forward key projects identified within masterplans and village plans, working in close collaboration with our regeneration partners.

Strategic Investment Proposals

- Eastern Economic Corridor

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council will continue our current collaboration with county councils in Dublin, Belfast, Louth, Lisburn & Castlereagh, Meath, Armagh

Banbridge & Craigavon and Fingal to develop a strategy and specific actions to promote and exploit new opportunities to further develop the Eastern Economic Corridor. This collaborative initiative will seek to identify opportunities for future economic growth, maximising the corridors position as a key gateway to GB, EU and international markets.

- Downpatrick Former PSNI Station Regeneration

Downpatrick PSNI Station, in the ownership of DfC, presents a significant regeneration opportunity in the centre of Downpatrick. Council, working with DfC and the local business community, will position and promote this site as an investment opportunity, stimulating Downpatrick and the surrounding areas.

- Regeneration of Warrenpoint Baths

A strategic site in Warrenpoint town centre, the Warrenpoint baths presents an opportunity for redevelopment for commercial or tourism purposes. Council, working with strategic partners and the local business community, will position and promote this site as an investment opportunity.

- Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD)

The UK Government's approval of the BRCD will see around £850 million investment in an integrated set of projects aimed at developing physical and digital infrastructure, creating world-class tourism experiences, boosting productivity, innovation and skills and accelerating inclusive economic growth for all six BRCD collaboration partners. Newry, Mourne and Down will benefit directly by the progression of the following major infrastructure and regeneration projects which will create jobs, bring significant economic investment and increase tourism for our district. (Other BRCD initiatives include digital/innovation initiatives and skills/employability initiatives)

- Regeneration of Newry City

Investment in the regeneration of Newry city centre including a new Civic Centre, theatre and conference facility, Grade A office accommodation and public realm development. As our District's only city, the regeneration of Newry will be an important catalyst for our whole region.

During our consultations key employers and stakeholders have stressed the importance of making Newry a modern city capable of attracting workers, new businesses and investment – a revitalized city where people are proud to live, work, study and visit.

- Gateway to the Mournes

This project will see the enhancement of the tourism infrastructure in Newcastle including a unique and spectacular signature visitor experience that will provide direct access to the beautiful Mourne Mountains and surrounding Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This will be a key project for our Tourism Strategy to create world-class visitor experiences and will add strength to our aspiration to apply for UNESCO Global Geopark designation for the wider Mournes Gullion region.

- Development of the Southern Relief Road

Led by the Department for Infrastructure, this project will develop a new strategic road, linking the A1 Newry bypass with the A2 Warrenpoint dual-carriageway. The new Southern Relief Road will directly link the busy port of Warrenpoint with the key Dublin to Belfast eastern corridor, easing traffic congestion in Newry and opening a major North South transport gateway.

DRAFT

Investing in Regeneration and Modern Infrastructure			
Sub Theme	Action	Measure	Partners (* Lead Partner)
Digital Transformation: Creating a Connected Region	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lead the way in supporting our businesses and residents to exploit opportunities arising from digitalisation 2. Lobby for ultra-modern, future-proofed digital infrastructure that delivers against future business & communication needs 3. Deliver initiatives that develop digital skills and equip businesses with the required technical expertise and resources 4. Promote the District as a digital destination with skills and infrastructure to necessary to stimulate growth 	<p>Increase in availability of high speed connectivity</p> <p>Growth in business turnover, business size and exports</p> <p>Number of businesses involved in innovation</p> <p>Increase in FDI / Investment</p>	<p><u>Lead Partner:</u> Newry, Mourne and Down District Council / FFNI</p> <p><u>Support Partners:</u> FFNI Invest NI DFE Colleges</p>
Regeneration of our City, Towns and Villages	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continued investment in the design and delivery of public realm improvements within our towns, villages and city 2. Implement priority projects identified within masterplans and village plans, working in collaboration with partners to maximize regeneration potential 3. Inform future investment in our rural towns and villages, ensuring that they remain attractive and encouraging places to live, visit and invest 	<p>Investment in regeneration</p> <p>Delivery of Masterplan priorities</p>	<p><u>Lead Partner:</u> Newry, Mourne and Down District Council</p> <p><u>Support Partners:</u> DAERA / DFC / DFE</p>

<p>Strategic Investment Proposals</p>	<p>4. Continued prioritisation and investment in the protection, regeneration and development of our AONB natural, built and cultural heritage, and restoration and regeneration of key heritage sites across the district</p>		
	<p>To further develop and implement key strategic projects and partnerships which promote and enable opportunities for future economic growth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belfast Region City Deal • Regeneration of Newry City • Green Sustainable Transport Initiatives • Gateway to the Mournes • Southern Relief Road • Grade A Office Space • Hotel provision • Downpatrick Former PSNI Station Regeneration • Regeneration of Warrenpoint Baths • Port Development • Eastern Economic Corridor • Future use of town centres • Promotion and positioning of District for business and investment • Development of further BIDs 	<p>Increase in business base Growth in business turnover, business size and exports Increase in FDI / Investment</p>	<p><u>Lead Partner:</u> Newry, Mourne and Down District Council</p> <p><u>Support Partners:</u> Newry BID DAERA / DFC / DFE</p>

7.0 Delivering Our Strategy

Partnership and Collaboration

Council acknowledges that this Strategy cannot be delivered in isolation or by working alone. Strong Partnership working across government departments, agencies, colleges, business support organisations and private businesses will be critical for our shared success.

The themes identified are complex and cross-cutting and will require joined up, co-ordinated and concerted efforts by all partners, if Council is to deliver the economic growth that is aspired to for the region.

The need to invest time and resources in strengthening partnerships is recognised. There is a need to establish strong business networks and forums that secure active participation from all partners, and commitment to action which overcome obstacles, address issues and exploit new opportunities. These will include creating a participative and active Economic Forum and Skills Forum that deliver real value and lead to actions and economic outcomes.

It is proposed that Council facilitates a meeting of an Economic Forum on a 6-monthly basis, with Economic Forum sub groups meeting on a quarterly basis to progress actions on a thematic basis.

Flexibility and Agility

The Council District is facing significant local and global economic challenges and unprecedented change. As a result, this Strategy will need to remain flexible and agile, delivering in response to new priorities and challenges as they arise. Council will need to carefully monitor performance, ensure resources are adequate to change direction, respond decisively and act quickly in response.

Championing Newry Mourne and Down

It is clear Newry, Mourne and Down District Council has a lead role to play in positioning, promoting and championing the District at both a local and international level, as a great place to live, study, visit, work and invest.

Achievement of this is not just through developing strong communication campaigns but also through ongoing partnership working and actions that will deliver real outcomes and tangible results that can be demonstrated and reported on.

8.0 Summary of Strategic Priorities and Sub Themes

Supporting Entrepreneurship, Business Growth and Innovation	
Sub Theme	<p>Support Growth and Creation of new Businesses starts</p> <p><u>Lead Partner:</u> Newry, Mourne and Down District Council</p> <p><u>Support Partners:</u> Invest NI InterTrade Ireland Colleges Chambers of Commerce and Trade, LEA's Sectoral Organisations</p>
	<p>Supporting growth in Innovation and Digital Technologies</p> <p><u>Lead Partner:</u> Newry, Mourne and Down District Council / SRC, SERC</p> <p><u>Support Partners:</u> Invest NI Universities</p>
	<p>Building International Relations</p> <p><u>Lead Partner:</u> Invest NI</p> <p><u>Support Partners:</u> Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Newry Chamber of Commerce and Trade Colleges LEA's</p>
	<p>Strengthening Business Engagement</p> <p><u>Lead Partner:</u> Newry, Mourne and Down District Council</p> <p><u>Support Partners:</u> Invest NI InterTrade Ireland Colleges LEA's Chamber of Commerce</p>

Improving Employability and Skills		
Sub Theme	<p>Address skills gaps and future skills needs, through education to industry engagement</p>	<p><u>Lead Partner:</u> Newry, Mourne and Down District Council / Chambers</p> <p><u>Support Partners:</u> DFC / DFE Colleges / Schools / Area Learning Co-ordinators Businesses / Chambers Invest NI</p>
	<p>Promote employment opportunities and attract appropriately skilled labour to the area</p>	<p><u>Lead Partner:</u> Newry, Mourne and Down District Council / Chambers</p> <p><u>Support Partners:</u> DFC / DFE Colleges / Schools / Area Learning Co-ordinators Businesses / Chambers Invest NI</p>
	<p>Upskill / reskill those in employment, unemployed, underemployed or economically inactive</p>	<p><u>Lead Partner:</u> SRC / SERC</p> <p><u>Support Partners:</u> Newry, Mourne and Down District Council DFC / DFE Businesses / Chambers Invest NI</p>
	<p>Promote alternative pathways for employment</p>	<p><u>Lead Partner:</u> SRC / SERC</p> <p><u>Support Partners:</u> Newry, Mourne and Down District Council DFC / DFE Schools / Area Learning Co-ordinators Businesses / Chambers Invest NI</p>

Investing in Regeneration and Modern Infrastructure	
Sub Theme	<p>Digital Transformation: Creating a Connected Region</p> <p><u>Lead Partner:</u> Newry, Mourne and Down District Council / FFNI</p> <p><u>Support Partners:</u> FFNI Invest NI DFE Colleges</p>
	<p>Regeneration of our City, Towns and Villages</p> <p><u>Lead Partner:</u> Newry, Mourne and Down District Council</p> <p><u>Support Partners:</u> DAERA / DFC / DFE</p>
	<p>Strategic Investment Proposals</p> <p><u>Lead Partner:</u> Newry, Mourne and Down District Council</p> <p><u>Support Partners:</u> Newry BID DAERA / DFC / DFE</p>

Report to:	Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	10 th August 2020
Subject:	Entering into a Service Level Agreement with Waterford Institute of Technology
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Therese Hamill Ring of Gullion AONB and Geopark Officer

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

For decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input type="checkbox"/>
---------------------	-------------------------------------	------------------------	--------------------------

1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u> The purpose of the Report is to recommend Council sign a service level agreement with the Waterford Institute of Technology Waterford Institute of Technology for implementation of a research project which will provide monitoring data on red squirrel (<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>) abundance in the Ring of Gullion area for the period of 2020/21. Project is an action within the NIEA Letter of Offer for Ring of Gullion and funding / budget is available meet the cost of £3,100.</p> <p><u>Background</u> The Ring of Gullion is becoming a centre for research in regards Pine Marten and Squirrels. This includes the Pine Marten Nesting Project, PHD research in regards Pine Martens and research in regards Squirrel and Pine Marten interactions.</p> <p>It is proposed to enter into a Service Level Agreement with the Waterford Institute of Technology for 2020/21 for a project which will provide monitoring red squirrel (<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>) abundance in the Ring of Gullion for the period of 2020/21. Funding for contributing for this project is provided through the Environment Fund.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>Waterford Institute of Technology was selected for this work as they were working on a Red Squirrel Research project. Denise O'Meara from Waterford Institute of Technology has worked on a variety of non-invasive genetic projects including squirrels, otters, pine marten, bats and small mammals.</p> <p>WIT also has all the necessary instrumentation required to carry out the DNA extractions and to carry out the DNA analysis using the Applied Biosystems Genetic Analyser 3500. The institute also has a new Quant Studio qPCR machine which will</p>

	<p>be used to assess the quality of the DNA, and confirmation of species. O'Meara et al. (2012) developed species-specific assays to identify and differentiate red and grey squirrels using hair samples (Mullins et al. 2010; O'Meara et al. 2018).</p> <p>Monitoring is a critical tool to assess the positive or negative impacts of conservation management actions as it can be used to determine population trends or change in species distributions. The data provided will feed into wider research being carried out and provide the Ring of Gullion AONB Project with the minimum number of individuals present at the site and insights into genetic diversity and overall genetic health of the population.</p> <p>Combined, this information can be used to understand the genetic heritage present within the region and overall levels of genetic diversity. This information will be useful in the future when considering conservation and management decisions.</p> <p>Waterford Institute of Technology are the lead on the project and through the Environment Fund Ring of Gullion and Strangford and Lecale AONBs project, the Council will contribute £3,100 in 2020/21 and work with Waterford Institute of Technology to identify key sites for monitoring.</p> <p>The service level agreement will cover monitoring of a number of sites in the Ring of Gullion through the use of a combine camera traps, live trapping methods and hair-tubes to study the local squirrel populations. DNA analysis will also be used.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	It is recommended Council sign a service level agreement with the Waterford Institute of Technology for implementation of a research project which will provide monitoring data on red squirrel (<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>) abundance in the Ring of Gullion area for the period of 2020/21. Project is an action within the NIEA Letter of Offer for Ring of Gullion and funding / budget is available meet the cost of £3,100.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Time of AONB and Geopark Officer to support project.
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	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i>

	<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</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 type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	<p>Appendices</p> <p>n/a</p>
8.0	<p>Background Documents – Available on request Ring of Gullion Landscape Conservation Action Plan: https://www.ringofgullion.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Ring-of-Gullion-LCAP-FINAL-DOC.pdf</p>

Report to:	Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 10 th August 2020
Subject:	Covid-19 Recovery Revitalisation Plan
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly – Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration.
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Seamus Crossey – Project Manager

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

For decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------	-------------------------------------	-----------------	--------------------------

1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u> To seek approval for the recommendations Section 3.1</p> <p><u>Background</u> Council officials are currently working closely with the Department For Communities (DFC) in regards a programme of support that will target a range of Business Revitalisation and Regeneration measures across the 6 main urban centres within the district. DAERA monies will also be available under this programme to support Shop Front measures in a number of settlements across the district.</p> <p>The initiative is called the 'Covid-19 Recovery Revitalisation Plan' and will be delivered over 2 phases. With the majority of the monies to be rolled out before 31st March 2021, Council have a very limited window in which to achieve this.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>Given the timebound nature of the funding to be received from DFC and DAERA for the 'Covid-19 Recovery Revitalisation Plan', it is important that Council officials now proceed with the required plans and follow-up procurement exercises required to roll out the regeneration measures across the district.</p> <p>The Covid-19 Recovery Revitalisation Plan is to be rolled out in 2 phases: Tranche 1 – Will seek to deliver Shop Front Enhancements, Create Space to facilitate social distancing, develop outdoor Artisan Markets and undertake Town Centre Promotional Campaigns. Tranche 2 – During September 2020, a delivery action plan is to be signed off with DEA's and Trader Rep's, and subject to discussion and approval, will seek to target themes such as addressing dereliction, signage improvement as well as enhancing/cleaning of the existing town centres were required.</p>

3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<p>1. Subject to final approval and confirmation from the funder, Council accept relevant Letter Of Offer from DFC/DAERA for £1,024,000 for the respective 'Covid-19 Recovery Revitalisation Plan'.</p> <p>2. Council approve relevant Business Cases in association with the carrying out the required procurement of consultants/contractors/suppliers for the 'Covid-19 Recovery Revitalisation Plan'.</p> <p>3. Council proceed to carry out the required procurement exercises for the 'Covid-19 Recovery Revitalisation Plan' and following assessment and award, appoint relevant suppliers, if within available sectional programme budgets.</p>
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	100% grant aid is available to support the 'Covid-19 Recovery Revitalisation Plan'.
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</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>

	<i>Rationale:</i>
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>
7.0	Appendices
	N/A
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A

Report to:	Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 10 th August 2020
Subject:	Carlingford Lough Greenway Update
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly – Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration.
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Seamus Crossey – Project Manager

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

For decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------	-------------------------------------	-----------------	--------------------------

1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u> To seek approval for the recommendations as put forward in section 3.1</p> <p><u>Background</u> Following previous detailed updates on the Carlingford Lough Greenway, the formal planning application on the Northern side is now being submitted at the start of August 2020. This is mirroring the southern sections, where Lough County Council is going through an Article 8 approvals process for its relevant sections.</p> <p>Also, as the planning process gets underway, Council now needs to enter into the relevant Land Owner tenure agreements, to ensure pathway access is secured and all future responsibility is transferred to Council.</p> <p><u>Phase 1</u> On the previously completed Phase I of the project, a number of sections have suffered from storm tidal erosion and a Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) application has been lodged with HED. Subject to its approval, the existing contractor will be asked to cost and carry out the additional repair works</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>With time bound monies available from the Interreg programme, Council officials to now work closely with planning colleagues, to ensure that this important major planning application proceeds through the streamlined process.</p> <p>Council work closely with Louth County Council in regards achieving approval from Interreg for a newly submitted Business Case.</p> <p>Council officials to meet all effected land owners on the northern section to agree suitable land tenure transfer to enable the Council to take on responsibility for the new Greenway once developed.</p>

	<p>Phase 1 Subject to approval of the SMC, Council its consultants and contractor will have to reach agreement on the phase I repair works, which will generate an additional STA purchase Order to the existing contractor to be raised.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council to note submission of the Formal Planning Application for the Carlingford Lough Greenway (Northern Section) and Council Officials to follow-up with Planners to ensure progress and a decision by early 2021. 2. Council to note the submission of an amended Business Case to the Interreg funder seeking the required additional funding to deliver the project. 3. Council to enter into the required legal tenure agreements with Land Owners along the Northern Section of the route. 4. Subject to SMC approval, phase 1 repairs to be agreed with Council and its consultant, with the existing Contractor to proceed with completion of the works.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Carlingford Lough GW – With Council having made its contribution to the Phase I stage of the Project (Newry to Victoria Lock), there is no further provision for the remaining phases given the 100% Interreg Grant Aid on Offer to the scheme. As the project evolves through Planning and Procurement, Council to assist Louth County Council as lead partner with ongoing discussions with SEUPB on the overall project funding requirements of the scheme.
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>

	The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.3	Proposal initiating consultation	
	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"/>
	Consultation period will be 12 weeks	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<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 <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	If yes, please complete the following:	
	Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.0	Appendices	
	N/A	
8.0	Background Documents	
	N/A	

Report to:	Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 10 th August 2020
Subject:	Public Realm Enhancement Project
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly – Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration.
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Seamus Crossey – Project Manager

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

For decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------	-------------------------------------	-----------------	--------------------------

1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u> To seek approval for the recommendations as set out in Section 3.1</p> <p><u>Background</u> The Department For Communities (DFC) have been working closely with Council on the development of a project called the 'Public Realm Enhancement Scheme' and is targeted at trying to address older previously completed Public Realm Schemes, within the districts main urban centres, where some elements of these schemes need repaired/replaced/refurbished.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	Given that the completion of the project is to be achieved by the 31 st March 2021, it is currently being discussed with the Councils maintenance and estates sections as well as the Department Of Infrastructure (DFI) to ensure that it can be progressed to on the ground delivery as soon as possible.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<p>1. Subject to final approval of the funding application and confirmation from the funder, Council proceed to accept the relevant Letter Of Offer once received from DFC for £500,000 for the 'Public Realm Enhancement Scheme'.</p> <p>2. Council approve relevant Business Cases in association with the carrying out the required procurement/appointment of consultants/contractors/suppliers for the 'Public Realm Enhancement Scheme'.</p> <p>3. Council proceed to carry out the required procurement exercises for the 'Public Realm Enhancement Scheme' and following assessment and award, appoint relevant suppliers, if within available sectional programme budgets.</p>
4.0	Resource implications

4.1	Council have a total of £160,000 capital funds available over 2020/21 and 2021/22 to match fund the DFC contribution towards the 'Public Realm Enhancement Scheme'.
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</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>
7.0	Appendices
	N/A
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A

Report to:	Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 10 th August 2020
Subject:	Castlewellan Forest Park
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly – Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment & Regeneration
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Aveen McVeigh - Project Development Officer

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

For decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input type="checkbox"/>
---------------------	-------------------------------------	------------------------	--------------------------

1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To note the actions of the Task and Finish Board meeting on 19 June 2020 • To note the repurposing of the Stove Conservatory to an interpretation centre • To approve the award of the Most Economically Advantageous Integrated Supply Team to undertake the construction/refurbishment of the Bothy Yard/Walled Garden subject to being within budget • To note the application date of 23 November 2020 for NLHF • To note the receipt of a draft lease and license agreement from Forest Service • To approve developing a Terms of Reference for an Advisory Group for Castlewellan Historic Demesne and approve inviting key professionals from Northern Ireland, Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales to attend bi-annual meetings (either in person or online) for the to sit on an Advisory Group for Castlewellan Historic Demesne - Expert knowledge of the management of botanical collections and historic designed landscapes required • To approve Council submitting a planning application in November 2020 for the scheme • To approve the McU with RBGE for the purposes outlined <p><u>Background</u></p> <p>Council has been progressing the development of a holistic vision for Castlewellan Historic Demesne with several stakeholders.</p> <p><u>DAERA</u></p> <p>Council is in receipt of a LoO from DAERA for £500,000 for the construction and restoration of several historic structures. A new water connection and sewage line will be installed. A survey report of the Rhododendron Wood is complete.</p>

	<p>NLHF Council currently is in receipt of funding (round one development phase) from National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) for £247,000 to develop an application for funding (round two delivery phase) for Castlewella Historic Demesne.</p> <p>The approved purpose of the development funding relates to improvements to Courtyards 1 and 2, developing the Arboretum and Walled garden, access improvements and biodiversity. The Letter of Offer (LoO) expires in December 2020.</p>
2.0	<p>Key issues</p>
2.1	<p><u>Board meetings</u> Task and Finish and Steering Group meetings are continuing monthly to progress the DAERA and NLHF projects.</p> <p><u>DAERA</u> Due to financial constraints it was not possible to undertake the construction of an interpretation centre. Council revisited the project's outputs and proposed to DAERA an alternative space for the interpretation centre.</p> <p>DAERA approved re-purposing the Stove Conservatory as the interpretation centre. A tender package was issued at the end of July 2020. It is anticipated that Council will appoint the most economically advantageous tenderer in August and a contractor will be on site in early September 2020 for 7 months.</p> <p>The following will be constructed/refurbished: Stove Conservatory with extension, Propagation House, Gardener's Shed, Glasshouse and Cold Frames, to enable less abled access to the Terrace and Bothy Yard a platform lift will be installed, site works and landscaping will also be undertaken.</p> <p><u>NLHF</u> Council will apply to NLHF on 23 November 2020 for a capital and revenue project valued circa £5.0 million. Costs are being revised and Council is liaising with NLHF on project amendments. Council will be informed of a decision in March 2021.</p> <p><u>NLHF Development Outputs</u></p> <p><i>Draft lease and license agreements</i> Council is in receipt of a draft lease and license agreement for areas of the Demesne from Forest Service. The draft lease proposes leasing parts of the Demesne in phases, the phases must align with the DAERA and NLHF projects. Council is currently in negotiations with Forest Service. Once an agreement has been reached, the lease will be presented to Council for approval. Council will enter a 20-year lease for areas of the Demesne including the caravan and camping park.</p> <p><i>Advisory Committee</i></p>

	<p>As part of the development project, Council committed to several outputs. One output is to set up an Advisory Committee for Castlewellan Historic Demesne. It is envisaged that the members will have expert knowledge of the management of botanical collections and historic designed landscapes.</p> <p><i>Survey work – Woody plants</i> Survey work of woody plants was interrupted due to COVID-19. The contractor returned to site in late June 2020.</p> <p><i>Survey work - Health and Safety</i> Health and Safety survey work was conducted in July 2020 to identify dead or dangerous trees growing adjacent to areas of clear public access in the proposed leased area. Findings will be discussed with Forest Service.</p> <p><i>Planning</i> Documents were lodged with Planning at the end of June 2020 for Pre-Application Advice for "The Grange". Council will lodge a planning application in November 2020 in the absence of a funding award (at risk), this is to ensure if Council is awarded funding in March 2021 and Permission to Start mid 2021 that the project will be ready to commence.</p> <p><i>Develop links with Gardens and Arboreta</i> Several links are currently being progressed with Gardens in Northern Ireland and Ireland. A Memorandum of Understanding has been developed with Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh (RBGE) see appendix 2.</p> <p><i>Research Annesley photos and papers at PRONI</i> Volunteers researched the Annesley Albums papers and at PRONI. The albums have been catalogued and images selected for digitisation in the delivery phase subject to award.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To note the actions of the Task and Finish Board meeting on 19 June 2020 • To note the repurposing of the Stove Conservatory to an interpretation centre • To approve the award of the Most Economically Advantageous Integrated Supply Team to undertake the construction/refurbishment of the Bothy Yard/Walled Garden subject to being within budget • To note the application date of 23 November 2020 for NLHF • To note the receipt of a draft lease and license agreement from Forest Service • To approve developing a Terms of Reference for an Advisory Group for Castlewellan Historic Demesne and approve inviting key professionals from Northern Ireland, Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales to attend bi-annual meetings (either in person or online) for the to sit on an Advisory Group for Castlewellan Historic Demesne - Expert knowledge of the management of botanical collections and historic designed landscapes required • To approve Council submitting a planning application in November 2020 for the scheme

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To approve the MoU with RBGE for the purposes outlined
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	NLHF round one grant aid of £247,000 has been approved, along with £500,000 having been obtained from DEARA through the Rural Development tourism measure.
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 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</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	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service

	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If no, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices
	<p>Appendix 1 - Report of Castlewellan Forest Park Task and Finish Project Board meeting held on Friday 19th June 2020</p> <p>Appendix 2 - MoU NMDDC and RBGE</p>
8.0	Background Documents
	n/a

Appendix 1

Report of Castlewellan Forest Park Task and Finish Project Board meeting held on Friday 19th June 2020 and hosted via Remote Video Conference on Skype for Business.**Attendees:****Councillors:**

Cllr L Devlin
Cllr R Howell
Cllr A McMurray

Others:

Dr S Montgomery (Chair)
Mr M Carey (MHT)

Council Officials:

C Quinn
J McGilly
A Patterson
J Ellis
A McVeigh
G Shaw
A Magee

Apologies:

Cllr W Clarke
Cllr H Gallagher
Ian Irwin (FS)
JJ Cassidy (FS)

Item 1. Welcome:

S Montgomery explained that as some Members (Cllrs McMurray & Devlin) present had provided notice that they would depart the meeting at 3pm, therefore agenda items 6., 8. 9. & 10 would be discussed first in the order of meeting.

Item 2. Apologies

Apologies were noted as above. Noted that DAERA Forest Service representatives were unable to access meeting via Skype for Business. It was agreed that contact would be made with Cllr A Lewis to brief him on progress with the project.

Item 3. Report from Previous Meeting on 15 May 2020

The report was agreed as true and accurate record on the proposal of Cllr Howell, seconded by Cllr McMurray.

Action**Item 4. Matters arising and Actions**

S Montgomery confirmed that she has spoken with representatives of MyMy to update them on the change in Block 7. MYMY were content as they were looking elsewhere.

<p>Noted that Officers will progress consultation actions in-line with proposed communication strategy referenced at Item 10. over.</p> <p>A McVeigh advised that 'in kind' works being undertaken by Forest Service are ongoing. FS have advised Council that they are not a position to repaint the Glasshouses on the Walled Garden Terrace.</p> <p>A Patterson advised that discussions are ongoing with Tourism NI, the National Trust & Historic Royal Palaces regarding letters of support for the project. There is the potential to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that would cover collaborative working on a joined up promotional / marketing offer.</p> <p>Noted that a communication has been sent to FS requesting a letter of support.</p> <p>M Carey confirmed that he had received details from Officers regarding skills and training proposals set the within draft Activity Plan.</p>	<p>Officers to liaise with Building Maintenance to assess condition of Glasshouses in advance of agreeing lease.</p> <p>A McVeigh to forward existing draft MoU's to A Patterson for review.</p> <p>A Patterson to report back on progress at next meeting.</p> <p>M Carey to provide feedback to Officers on draft details.</p>
<p>Item 5. Progress Report</p>	<p>Action</p>
<p>a. WYG Project Manager's Report (dated 22 May 2020) Report noted as read.</p> <p>b. Cost Plan Update Noted that cost plan revisions are ongoing. Matters relating to DAERA works costs are referenced at Item 6. a. over.</p> <p>c. Ecology Noted that the report had been collated and that work is ongoing to ensure that recommendations are integrated within the Management & Maintenance Plan. Representative form WYG are progressing appropriate ecology licences for DAERA works package.</p> <p>d. Update on NMDDC Car Parking Review / Traffic Management A Patterson updated Members on the wider car parking review that is currently being undertaken by Council. It is now anticipated that the outworking of the review will be reported</p>	

<p>to Council in September 2020. In response to queries from Cllrs McMurray & Devlin, A Patterson explained that there are significant challenges associated with applying a consistent approach across the District.</p> <p>It was noted that a pay on exit barrier system was the favoured option with a charge reflecting existing Forest Service rates. Capital costs for the system are expected to be between £40,000 to £50,000. Council would be required to consider the implications of any additional costs of the favoured option.</p> <p>S Montgomery referenced comments by Cllrs made at the previous meeting regarding the impact of any arrangements on parking pressures within Castlewellan town centre and the need to stimulate local business activity, post COVID-19.</p>	
<p>Item 6. Progress against Programme</p>	<p>Action</p>
<p>a. DAERA works & NLHF Programmes</p> <p>Members were advised that Officers are currently working towards a submission of the NLHF Round Two application on 1 September 2020 although there were concerns over aspects of outstanding work yet to be undertaken by the IDT.</p> <p>Mindful of the separation of the works packages (DAERA & NLHF), an updated pre-tender estimate on the DAERA elements had been received by Council. It was noted that projected costs exceeded budget by circa. £350,000.</p> <p>S Montgomery reminded members of the background of the previous tender process, actioned in January 2019. A recent review carried out by Officers had identified a monetary error in tender returns. C Quinn stated that a review of the original scope of works was underway to help identify savings, including the omission of the proposed new build Interpretation Centre. Investigations were underway to see if interpretation displays could be relocated into one of the existing building structures on-site (terrace glasshouses)</p> <p>A McVeigh explained that any changes to the scope would have to be agreed with DAERA and further consultation with NLHF will also be required. J McGilly stated that engagement with both parties could prove challenging.</p> <p>Following queries from Cllrs McMurray, Howell & Devlin Officers advised that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes / omissions would not affect interpretation measures at the Grange. • The objective is to achieve a zero deficit when works are put out to tender. 	<p>Subject to outcome of consultations with DAERA, Officers instruct IDT to progress plans for interpretation at an alternative location within the Walled Garden / Bothy Yard.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any revised proposal would include an interpretation element. <p>On this basis, Members felt the solutions were workable, and that Council would have to progress the project within financial constraints.</p> <p>It was unanimously agreed that an alternative location for interpretation in the Walled Garden / Bothy Yard be identified as part of the DAERA works package (subject to agreement by DAERA & NLHF).</p> <p>b. Update on sub-consultant site attendance (surveys) Members noted that Lear Associates were expected to travel from England shortly and will be back on site to progress their survey work, week commencing Mon 22 June 2020.</p> <p>C Quinn explained that conversations are ongoing regarding agreements on a programme timetable for outstanding work to be completed by Lear Associates. WYG had issued advice to Council explaining that a later submission date for the NLHF Round Two application on 23 November 2020 would be preferred.</p> <p>In response to a query from Cllr McMurray, C Quinn advised that Council is not able to apply a sanction against any Consultant as delays were attributed to COVID-19 related matters. Members noted the specialist nature of the outstanding survey work.</p> <p>After a short discussion, Members agreed to defer submission of the NLHF Round Two application until 23 November allowing for completion of all outstanding surveys and reports subject to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - receipt of a mutually agreed programme timetable that identifies key milestones, roles and completion dates for outstanding work. - Agreement on an on-site meeting with Lear Associates to review scope and outputs. - Clarification on roles, responsibilities and completion date for Management & Maintenance Plan. 	<p>A McVeigh to advise NLHF that Round Two application submission had been deferred until 23 November 2020.</p> <p>C Quinn to follow-up on deferral of application submission and related conditions with WYG</p>
<p>Item 7. Risk Management</p>	<p>Action</p>
<p>Members were advised that Risk Register is continually being reviewed and updated.</p>	<p>Officers to circulate latest updated version with papers for</p>

	next Project Board meeting.
Item 8. Finance Update	
A McVeigh advised that the latest payment request and progress report (No. 5) had been submitted to NLHF. The amount of eligible costs totalled £60,726.	
Item 9. Recent Fire Incident	
M Carey provided feedback on the recent incident that impacted a peripheral area of Castlewellan Forest Park. It was noted that inter-agency discussions are ongoing on strategic and preventative land management strategies.	
Members noted that Council would have new legal and duty of care responsibilities once the lease had been agreed and signed. C Quinn agreed to discuss matters further internally with A Patterson.	Officers to advise WYG that MMP content references maintenance tasks associated with fire hazard mitigations.
M Carey stated he would be happy to advise Council on matters as discussions progress.	
Item 10. Approvals or Recommendations	Action
a. Planning Application	
Members unanimously agreed that the IDT progress planning application for all NLHF scheme elements. Noted that such work would be progressing at risk to Council as funding had yet to be secured from NLHF.	Officers to prepare outline communications strategy to support Planning application notices.
Members discussed the benefit of developing a communications plan regarding NLHF project, Council will share information with the local newspapers and Council website when submitting a planning application to ensure the public is aware of the key benefits of the project.	C Quinn to follow-up with communication to WYG and report back on proposed planning submission date.
Item 11. Any Other Business	Action
A McVeigh confirmed that a meeting was taking place today between NMDDC Chief Executive, Marie Ward and NI Forest Service Chief Executive, John Joe O'Boyle to discuss lease arrangements.	A McVeigh to provide an update on progress with lease at next Project Board meeting.
A McVeigh advised that final draft Memorandum of Understandings had been forwarded for review to Royal Botanical Gardens, Edinburgh. On return, MoU will be presented to ERT Committee for consideration.	

<p>Communication had been issued to Annes Grove, Co.Cork.</p> <p>Noted that the employment contract for the Assistant Project Officer (G Shaw) had been extended by 3 months, until end of September 2020.</p> <p>S Montgomery thanked the Officers for their persistence with progressing the project under challenging circumstances.</p>	
<p>Item 12. Date of Next Meeting</p>	
<p>Mindful of July holiday commitments, S Montgomery suggested that several date options be circulated to Members so that they can express their preferences.</p>	<p>A McVeigh to liaise with NMDDC Business Services to identify suitable date/times.</p> <p>Confirmed for Friday 14th August 2020 at 2pm.</p>

Appendix 2



Royal
Botanic Garden
Edinburgh



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
AND
ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN EDINBURGH**

1. Introduction

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC) and The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE) established a relationship in January 2020 through the shared interest in Castlewellan Historic Demesne.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this MOU is to recognise and build on the existing good relations between NMDDC and RBGE through their work at Castlewellan Historic Demesne.

3. Scope

Recognising that there may be opportunities to work together in the future and on the proposed National Lottery Heritage Fund project, all areas of mutual interest such as collaboration in landscape, horticulture, training, conservation, marketing, staff exchanges and exchange of plant material can be included within the scope of this MOU.

4. Specific purpose

The specific purpose of this MOU is to facilitate the transfer of known wild origin and cultivated plant materials from RBGE and Castlewellan Historic Demesne. The rationale behind this is to increase species diversity within Castlewellan Historic Demesne in line with and complimentary to its historic plantings, thereby creating opportunities for conserving threatened species by broadening their genetic base. This will be achieved by growing them on in restored propagation houses (as well as at RBGE) before establishing them in their permanent sites. These collections will have the potential to increase the opportunities for integrated education and research programmes. All plants transferred will comply with the guidelines established by the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD). Through this MOU it is understood that RBGE and third parties approved by RBGE can by agreement gain access to the plant material for scientific research.

This will include, where applicable, assistance with micropogation, or sourcing other organisations which can assist with this specialist service.

5. General terms and Conditions

Nothing in this MOU shall be construed as placing financial commitment upon either Party.

Notwithstanding the provisions and obligations expressed herein, this MOU is a non-binding expression of the current intentions of the Parties, and neither Party will incur nor be bound by any legal obligations or expense hereunder to the other Party until and unless definitive agreements have been negotiated, approved, executed and delivered by the authorised representatives of both Parties.

6. Duration and termination

This MOU has been developed for an initial period of five years and can be reviewed with a view to renewal for further periods after that time. Each party may terminate the agreement at any time with six months' notice in writing.



Royal
Botanic Garden
Edinburgh



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
AND
ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN EDINBURGH**

This MOU is formally agreed between NMDDC and Regius Keeper, Royal Botanic Garden.

Present when the Common seal of Newry Mourne and Down District Council was affixed:

Chairman

Chief Executive

DATE: _____

Signed for and on behalf of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE):

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Report to:	Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	10 th August 2020
Subject:	Warrenpoint Municipal Park
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly – Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment & Regeneration
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Aveen McVeigh - Project Development Officer

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

For decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------	-------------------------------------	-----------------	--------------------------

1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u> To seek approval for Recommendations in 3.1 of this report.</p> <p><u>Background</u> Council received funding from National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) in 2016 to restore built heritage of Warrenpoint Municipal Park. To date the Park has hosted a wide range of activities and events.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>i. COVID-19 All NLHF activities in the Park ceased in early March 2020. Activities were planned from Spring to Winter 2020. In the absence of a family Summer season, Council will organise events e.g. Punch and Judy, Storytime from the Bandstand etc. that will be filmed (with limited or no audience) and will be promoted via Council social media platforms.</p> <p>ii. School's Programme Council is working in partnership with the AmmA Centre (Creative Learning Centre) to produce a series of videos that will be published on C2K platform for primary schools throughout the District. Filming is taking place throughout August 2020. The videos will focus on history of the Park, Tourism, Biodiversity, Reminiscence and World War II. The aim of the videos is to provide an online learning resource for KS1 and KS2 pupils.</p> <p>iii. Replacement of fire damaged play equipment Due to COVID-19 there has been a delay in the installation of the play equipment in the Park. The equipment is bespoke, under normal circumstances there is a</p>

	<p>three-month order to delivery time, however the COVID 19 pandemic impacted on the delivery and installation.</p> <p>iv. Student placements and volunteer training In the activity plan that was approved by NLHF there is provision for student placements and volunteer training. Discussions have commenced with CAFRE (College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise) regarding Horticulture Foundation Degree students and a potential project (only College in NI offering a Foundation Degree). This opportunity differentiates from the placements that Council advertises on an annual basis. Horticulture student must undertake 400 hours of work placement in an academic year, normally from February to May. There are a wide range of horticultural training programmes that could be offered to volunteers, however due to COVID-19 this may have to be moved online.</p> <p>v. Landscape design The entrance to the Park from the sea front requires a landscape design and planting scheme in line with the historic nature of the Park. The area was planted when the park re-opened, however due to the variety of planting and the high level of footfall the planting scheme did not survive. NLHF is supportive of a landscape architect reviewing the Park and producing functional landscape designs, including space for an art piece. Volunteers may be used to implement the scheme if health guidelines permit.</p> <p>vi. Event bookings The protocol for external bookings for Warrenpoint Municipal Park is that the event organiser completes a "Request to use Council lands" application and submits to Assistant Director for Facilities Management and Maintenance., a decision is then made. The Management and Maintenance Plan for Warrenpoint Municipal Park sets out rental charges for use of the Park.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. To liaise with CAFRE regarding hosting a student placement to undertake a horticulture project – catalogue of woody plants in Warrenpoint Municipal Park. ii. To procure horticulture training for volunteers iii. To procure a landscape architect to design a planting scheme in line with the historic nature of Warrenpoint Municipal Park.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Funding is secured from NLHF 57% and NMDDC 43%.
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>

	<p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>5.2</p>	<p><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>
<p>5.3</p>	<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>
<p>6.0</p>	<p>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</p>
<p>6.1</p>	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If no, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

7.0	Appendices
	N/A
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A

Report to:	Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 10 th August 2020
Subject:	Warrenpoint Baths – Update
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly – Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration.
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Seamus Crossey – Project Manager

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

For decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------	-------------------------------------	-----------------	--------------------------

1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p>Purpose To seek approval for the recommendations contained in section 3.1</p> <p>Background</p> <p>At the June 2020 ERT meeting an update report on the Warrenpoint Baths Expression Of Interest (EOI) process was approved and further discussed at the full monthly meeting. It was agreed that the latest EOI process would now be brought to a close and that Council Officials would now consider what future site options/funding sources may be available for the site.</p> <p>Officers have opened discussions with Heritage Fund officers and HED in respect of the proposals for the site.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>Council Officials are in the process of holding discussions with Heritage Fund staff and HED and will bring forward options for discussion at future Council meetings.</p> <p>However Council are aware of the historic importance of the Baths site and the continuing interest of the wider community to see something happen at the site.</p> <p>Council officers are carrying out an exercise to identify where similar projects have been delivered to understand the constraints and opportunities that the site presents.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	1. Council to note the ongoing progress on looking at options for the Warrenpoint Baths site and identification of learning from other similar projects.

	2. Council consider including £10,000 funding for the 21/22 financial year to progress options and carry out consultations within the local community.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Other than its ongoing maintenance budget, Council have no other funding set aside for development of the site in its current Capital Budgets. Council to consider funding in 21/22.
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</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	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service

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

Report to:	Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	10 th August 2020
Subject:	Business Case – Relating to the resurfacing of the access roadway Market Street. Downpatrick.
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title): Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Mr Colum Jackson. Assistant Director, Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Department. Mr Gary McCurry. Duty Manager, Off Street Parking Function.

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

For decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------	-------------------------------------	-----------------	--------------------------

1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u> Committee members are asked to consider this report and approve the business case for the proposed resurfacing of the access roadway at Market Street. Downpatrick, extending from Rathkeltair House to the St. Patrick's Centre.</p> <p><u>Background</u> As detailed in report presented to Party Leaders on 21st April 2020 at Appx 2. The transfer of functions under local Government Reform in April 2015, saw a total of 39 Off Street car parks transferred into Council ownership from the Department For Infrastructure (DFI). The sites were in varying states of repair and over the past 5 years Council have maintained the sites for public use. One of these sites is the car park at Market Street North / South, in Downpatrick, with the site boundary also encompassing a substantial access roadway which commences at the junction with Market Street at Rathkeltair House and continues to the roundabout outside the St. Patrick's Centre.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>As detailed in Appx 2</p> <p><u>Tourism</u> The roadway concerned would experience a considerable daily volume of traffic as it facilitates access to car parks at Market Street North / South and the Grove car park, which is a legacy Down District Council site leased to a private sector parking provider. The available parking capacity on these sites equates to some 380 parking bays. Furthermore, the roadway also provides access to a lay-bye which provides dedicated coach parking for three tourist coaches visiting the St Patrick's Centre. Information provided by the St. Patrick's Centre, would estimate circa 300</p>

	<p>coach trips visiting the Centre annually, using the roadway concerned and parking in the dedicated lay-bye. This access roadway is an intrinsic aspect of the visitor experience for tourists in Downpatrick.</p> <p><u>Proposed work</u> NIE Networks have requested a wayleave agreement to install an underground High-Tension (HT) cable which would run along a considerable portion of the roadway. This work is deemed essential by NIE as it replaces the existing overhead HT cable which passes by nearby schools. This installation was due to take place during April 2020 and having recently confirmed the position with NIE, the project delivery team are keen to progress the project. Once the current uncertainty passes, NIE Networks will be in a better position to provide a timeframe of works. No resurfacing work of the roadway will take place until post the installation of the HT cable.</p> <p><u>Anticipated Cost</u> The cost to plane the current surface and lay approximately 3300 sq. metres of asphalt, incorporating road markings and gully – manhole cover alignment/re-setting, is estimated at approximately £45,000. This project would be financed via the Off-Street Car Parking annual maintenance budget and procured through an existing project framework.</p> <p>Annually, Council spend approximately £2000-4000 patching and maintaining this roadway. With the complete resurface, this would negate the requirement for any such maintenance for a considerable number of years, hence providing value for money in the long term.</p>
<p>3.0</p>	<p>Recommendations</p>
<p>3.1</p>	<p>It is recommended Members decide if they wish to approve the business case for the projected spend of approximately £45,000 to carry out the re-surfacing project for the Market Street access roadway.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Resource implications</p>
<p>4.1</p>	<p>As per Appx 2, The project would be overseen by the Off-Street Parking Manager in conjunction with a Project Manager from Corporate Services. All work carried out by an external contractor.</p>
<p>5.0</p>	<p>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</p>
<p>5.1</p>	<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>
<p>5.2</p>	<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>
<p>5.3</p>	<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>
<p>6.0</p>	<p>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</p>
<p>6.1</p>	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If no, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>7.0</p>	<p>Appendices</p>

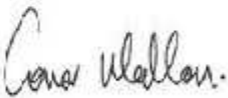
	<p>Appx 1. Business case for the proposed resurfacing of the Market Street access roadway, Downpatrick.</p> <p>Appx 2. Report for resurfacing roadway at Market Street Downpatrick, presented to the Party Leaders Forum on 21st April 2020.</p>
8.0	Background Documents
	None

Business Case (Short Form)

€30,000 < €100,000 Expenditure

Project Title:	Resurfacing access roadway – Market Street North – South car park, Downpatrick.
Directorate:	Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism
SECTION A	
Tell us about your project:	Resurfacing and re-lining the access roadway to Market Street North/South car parks in Downpatrick, which commences at the junction with Market Street at Rathkeltair House and continues to the St Patrick's Centre.
1. What is the current provision?	The roadway provides access to approximately 380 parking bays in three separate car parks and incorporates a lay-bye for dedicated tourist coach parking.
2. What is the proposed provision (what options have you considered)?	<p>Option 1: Do nothing – The existing roadway has been patched up for numerous years, is uneven and unsightly, particularly for tourists visiting the St Patrick's Centre. There is also an annual cost to Council to maintain the roadway to a serviceable condition.</p> <p>Option 2: Resurface approximately 3300 sq. metres of roadway, re-align manhole/gullies and re-line all road markings.</p>
3. What is the need and how is it evidenced?	This roadway provides access for a considerable volume of daily traffic and circa 300 tourist coaches per annum. Council currently spend between 2-4k annually to repair the roadway, which would be saved if the project is approved. Some local Councilors have voiced concerns regarding visiting tourist perceptions.
4. Are all statutory approvals in place – please outline?	None required.
5. Are there any risks associated with this project – please outline?	Other than minor disruption to existing users for a minimal period, none identified.

<p>6. Any other relevant information? I.e. drawings, plans, photographs...</p> <p>You are not limited to one page, please expand where necessary.</p> <p>All of the above questions must be addressed.</p>	<p>See Council report for Party Leaders Forum dated 21st April 2020, which has overview map and photographs in appendix.</p>		
<p>7. Is your expenditure linked to the Corporate Plan/Community Plan/Directorate Business Plan – please reference the relevant section.</p>	<p>Several elements are aligned to the corporate plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Invest in infrastructure to enable future economic growth. b) Provide revitalisation of towns. 		
<p>8. Has this project been identified as a priority in your Directorate?</p> <p>Please provide details:</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Conditions Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<p>This project has been identified as a priority within the Directorates improvement programme, for the upkeep of the Council owned suite of car parks.</p>			

<p>9. Preferred Option – Please detail your preferred option and a rational why this option was selected</p>	<p><u>Option 2</u></p> <p>This moderately busy access roadway was transferred into Council ownership in 2015 from the Department For Infrastructure. It plays an integral part in tourist coach parties visiting the St Patrick's Centre in Downpatrick, along with providing access to three significant car parks. Despite regular patching maintenance the surface is now past its best, uneven and unsightly and requires upgrading to a modern-day standard.</p>		
<p>10. Please provide a breakdown of all costs, including running costs (whole life costs).</p> <p>Please provide information on how these costs have been arrived at.</p>	<p><u>Option 2</u></p> <p>Scarify road surface and remove upper layer. Replace 3300 sq. metres of tarmac, re-align manhole covers and gullies and repaint all road markings.</p> <p>Total cost approximately £45k.</p> <p>Assessed via the framework for such work.</p>	<p><u>Account Code / Cost Centre / Project Code (if applicable):</u></p> <p>1031/3214</p>	
<p>11. Please indicate how this project will be financed.</p> <p>Please provide details</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Internal Funding <input type="checkbox"/> External Funding</p> <p>The required amount will be provided from the Off-Street car parking annual maintenance budget.</p>		
<p>Is or will there be any perceived cross EU Border interest for this requirement/project:</p>		<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	
<p>Prepared by:</p>	<p>Gary McCurry</p>	<p>Date Submitted:</p>	<p>01 Jul 2020</p>
<p>Validated by Assistant Director</p>	<p>Sign: Colum Jackson Date: 21/07/2020</p>		
<p>Director Approval:</p>	<p>Sign:  Date: 21.07.2020</p>		

Committee Approval:	Date:
Council Approval	Date:

Report to:	Party Leaders Forum
Date of Meeting:	21 st April 2020.
Subject:	Resurfacing of access roadway at Market Street, Downpatrick.
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Colum Jackson, Assistant Director, Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Department.
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Gary McCurry, Duty Manager, Off Street Parking Function.

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

For decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input type="checkbox"/>
---------------------	-------------------------------------	------------------------	--------------------------

1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u> Party Leaders to authorise the expenditure to re-surface the access roadway from Rathkeltair House to the Saint Patrick's Centre (Market Street North/South car parks), Downpatrick.</p> <p><u>Background</u> The transfer of functions under local Government Reform in April 2015, saw a total of 39 Off Street car parks transferred into Council ownership from the Department For Infrastructure (DFI). The sites were in varying states of repair and over the past 5 years Council have maintained the sites for public use. One of these sites is the car park at Market Street North / South, in Downpatrick, with the site boundary also encompassing a substantial access roadway which commences at the junction with Market Street at Rathkeltair House and continues to the roundabout outside the St. Patrick's Centre.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p><u>Tourism</u></p> <p>The roadway concerned would experience a considerable daily volume of traffic as it facilitates access to car parks at Market Street North / South and the Grove car park, which is a legacy Down District Council site leased to a private sector parking provider. The available parking capacity on these sites equates to some 380 parking bays. Furthermore, the roadway also provides access to a lay-bye which provides dedicated coach parking for three tourist coaches visiting the St Patrick's Centre. Information provided by the St. Patrick's Centre, would estimate circa 300 coach trips visiting the Centre annually, using the roadway concerned and parking in the dedicated lay-bye. This access roadway is an intrinsic aspect of the visitor experience for tourists in Downpatrick.</p>

	<p><u>Proposed work</u></p> <p>NIE Networks have requested a wayleave agreement to install an underground High-Tension (HT) cable which would run along a considerable portion of the roadway. This work is deemed essential by NIE as it replaces the existing overhead HT cable which passes by nearby schools. This installation was due to take place during April 2020 and having recently confirmed the position with NIE, the project delivery team are keen to progress the project. Once the current uncertainty passes, NIE Networks will be in a better position to provide a timeframe of works. No resurfacing work of the roadway will take place until post the installation of the HT cable.</p> <p><u>Anticipated Cost</u></p> <p>The cost to plane the current surface and lay approximately 3300 sq. metres of asphalt, incorporating road markings and gully – manhole cover alignment/re-setting, is estimated at approximately £45,000. This project would be financed via the Off-Street Car Parking annual maintenance budget and procured through an existing project framework.</p> <p>Annually, Council spend approximately £2000-4000 patching and maintaining this roadway. With the complete resurface, this would negate the requirement for any such maintenance for a considerable number of years, hence providing value for money in the long term.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<p>It is recommended that:</p> <p>Party Leaders to decide if they wish to authorise the projected spend of approximately £45,000 to carry out the re-surfacing project for the Market Street access roadway.</p>
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	<p>The project would be overseen by the Off-Street Parking Manager in conjunction with a Project Manager from Corporate Services. All work carried out by an external contractor.</p>
5.0	Equality and good relations implications
5.1	<p>The project would be to the benefit of the entire local community and further enhance the tourist experience in the area.</p>
6.0	Rural Proofing implications
6.1	N/A

7.0	Appendices
	1. Overview of the area concerned. 2. Photographs of existing surface condition.
8.0	Background Document None

Appendix 1. Overview of the area with roadway length in red.



Appendix 2. Coach parking lay-bye and general existing surface condition.







Report to:	Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	10 th August 2020
Subject:	Proposed redevelopment of Bann Road car parking area.
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Mr Colum Jackson, Assistant Director, Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Department.
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Mr Gary McCurry, Duty Manager, Off Street Parking Function.

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

For decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input type="checkbox"/>
---------------------	-------------------------------------	------------------------	--------------------------

1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u> Committee members are asked to consider this report and provide authorisation for the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To proceed with a joint project in collaboration with the Department For Infrastructure (DFI) to redevelop an area of the existing Bann Road site in Castlewellan, to provide alternative car parking capacity. To grant approval for the submission of a planning application for a change of use for that portion of the Bann Road site. <p><u>Background</u> Historically, Castlewellan town has not been subject to any method of traffic management, by means of either charged parking or time restrictions. With the significant uplift in vehicle ownership over the past decades, this is now causing considerable problems, as the parking availability within the town has not kept pace with requirement.</p> <p>A Local Traders Forum, in conjunction with local elected representatives, approached Council officers and DFI in relation to the chronic parking issues within the town. The vast majority of both On and Off-Street parking bays along the Main Street and Lower and Upper Squares were occupied by "all day parkers", thus denying access to central parking for shoppers, hence having a negative impact on footfall.</p> <p>The long stay motorists were identified as a combination of staff employed within the town, commuters working elsewhere and meeting within the town to facilitate car sharing and/or using public transport and to a lesser extent, individuals visiting Castlewellan Forest Park.</p>
2.0	Key issues

2.1

a) Evidencing the issue:

There are circa 230 parking bays located along Castlewellan Main Street, inclusive of the Lower and Upper Squares. DFI have responsibility for 174 of these bays, which are deemed as On-Street parking with the remaining 56 bays in the Upper Square car park coming under Council control and considered Off-Street parking. To fully establish the extent of the parking issue affecting Castlewellan and to exhibit data of a traffic management/parking problem, Council commissioned a short parking survey within the town in 2019. The survey highlighted the presence of the issue and provided the required evidence that remedial action was needed. The data can be viewed at Appendix 1.

b) Vehicle displacement:

In order to achieve parking bay turnover and promote short stay parking in central locations and therefore create a positive impact on trade, Council in conjunction with DFI, have considered the implementation of time restrictions in various zones along the Main Street, being mindful of residential parking requirements, in combination with the possible introduction of Pay and Display in the Upper Square car park. These proposed aspects are at a preliminary stage, requiring further consultation and negotiation with key stakeholders over the coming months and although if introduced, will form part of the overall solution, are a separate issue outside of this report. The key objective is to displace long stay parking from centralised zones. To enable this to become viable, an alternative parking area is therefore required to facilitate the displacement of vehicles from the central zones. The potential site would ideally be located on the periphery of the town, factoring in land purchase and site development costs. After consideration, an area of the Bann Road site was found to be the most suitable option. This negated the purchase of land as the site is presently in Council ownership. DFI also agreed to contribute £50,000 towards the development costs, in effect converting the under used parking area at Bann Road into a Park 'n' Share type facility.

c) Cost of redevelopment:

The proposed project would see the redevelopment of the parking area on the eastern side of the existing Bann Road site, as outlined in green at Appendix 2. Recent construction work within the Bann Road site has seen the addition of a new sports pavilion and removal of the old building. This addition has been constructed outside the confines of the area identified for this project and as sporting activities, in the main, occur at weekends and evenings, the upgraded parking facility can become a shared provision for all users. The area for development into the Park 'n' Share facility would see the creation of approximately 78 parking bays and have a standalone entrance / exit onto the Bann Road. The project would see the creation of the new access entrance with related drainage, lighting, kerbing, fencing and resurfacing works. Initial estimates of the total cost of redevelopment would be in the region of £127,000. If approval is granted to proceed with the project, site investigations would be undertaken to ascertain if potential cost reductions could be found based upon the existing ground conditions relating to kerbing and

	<p>resurfacing aspects. The cost of any such site investigation would be just under £3000. This would therefore establish a total cost of around £130,000, however an exact figure cannot be accurately ascertained at this juncture, until finalisation of confirmed requirements is agreed with the appointed contractor. It would be Council's intention to approach DFI to request an increase in their share of the redevelopment contribution, to cover 50% of the total cost. Annual operating costs for facility maintenance and associated electricity costs for the proposed new site would be undertaken by Council.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	Committee members agree to progress the proposed redevelopment of the Bann Road parking area in collaboration with DFI and approve the submission of a planning application for a change of use for the area concerned.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	<p>The redevelopment project would be overseen by a Council Project Manager from Corporate Services, assisted by the Off-Street Parking Manager. Once the facility became operational, the site would be absorbed into the existing Off-Street Parking portfolio and managed by the Off-Street Parking Manager. Furthermore, a cleansing resource would be required to service the site 2/3 times per week. In its entirety, the resource implications would be considered minimal.</p> <p>Estimated capital contribution from Council of £60k - £80k</p>
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, and in fact, the project should significantly benefit local traders, and shoppers and contribute to the maintenance of 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>Proposal initiating consultation</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 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	<p>Appendices</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parking Occupancy and Duration Survey conducted for Castlewellan, On and Off-Street Car Parking availability. – March 2019 2. Aerial photograph of the Bann Road site, with the proposed project area outlined in green.
8.0	<p>Background Documents</p>
	<p>None</p>

Weekday parking occupancies were surveyed in the car parks and on-street in Castlewellaan, and the results are set out in Tables 1 and 2 in terms of number and percentage occupancy.

It is noted that occupancy less than 55% indicates there are available spaces and users are able to locate an available parking space. Occupancy between 55% and 100% full indicates there is a lack of space and use is struggling to find an empty space. Occupancy greater than 100% full indicates the site is full.

It is also noted that 'midday average' refers to the average weekday occupancy between 10:00 and 14:00.

Table 1: Weekday Parking Occupancies (No. - Castlewellaan)

On-Street car parks	Total Spaces	Weekday Occupancy			
		07:00	09:00	10:00	Midday Average
Upper Square	56	12	63	57	56
On-street					
Zone 1	21	3	-	15	15
Zone 2	22	4	-	22	21
Zone 3	32	9	-	33	32
Zone 4	52	16	-	53	56
Zone 5	12	1	-	7	5
Zone 6	47	40	-	58	54
Zone 7	26	6	-	32	20
Zone 8	18	6	-	13	15
On-Street Overall	230	87	-	235	228

Table 2: Weekday Parking Occupancies (%) - Castlewellaan

On-Street car parks	Total Spaces	Weekday Occupancy			
		07:00	09:00	10:00	Midday Average
Upper Square	56	25%	113%	118%	115%
On-street					
Zone 1	21	14%	-	71%	71%
Zone 2	22	18%	-	105%	95%
Zone 3	32	28%	-	103%	100%
Zone 4	52	35%	-	102%	106%
Zone 5	12	8%	-	58%	42%
Zone 6	47	85%	-	123%	115%
Zone 7	26	23%	-	123%	115%
Zone 8	18	33%	-	72%	83%
On-Street Overall	230	38%	-	101%	95%

On average, 65 vehicles were recorded parking in Upper Square car park from 10:00 to 14:00, and therefore the car park was 119% full on average. The car park was clearly over-subscribed.

On-street parking provision was on average 99% full overall. This shows there were a lack of available spaces and users were struggling to find an empty space to park in. Average on-street weekday occupancies vary by zone, however Zones 3, 4, 6 and 7 were full. Furthermore, on-site observations showed there were issues with towaway parking in Zones 4, 5 and 7.

It was noted during the survey that Zone 4 was used for pick-ups and drop-offs during the early morning and mid-afternoon as St Malachy's Primary & Nursery School and a privately owned nursery are located nearby.

Technical Note

Project: NIJDDC Parking Strategy

Author: Laura McCoy

Checked & Approved: Peter Morrow

Client: NIJDDC

Date: 08.04.19

Job No: 80550113

Parking Occupancy and Duration Surveys

1. Introduction

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (NIJDDC) instructed AECOM to undertake a series of parking occupancy and duration surveys in Castlewellaan and Warrenpoint to gain an understanding of space turnover and typical weekday parking occupancies in both town centres.

On-street and off-street registration plate surveys were completed at various intervals between 07:00 and 14:00. These surveys were undertaken by AECOM on Wednesday March 20th 2019 in Castlewellaan and on Wednesday March 27th 2019 in Warrenpoint.

One off-street car park in Castlewellaan was surveyed i.e. Upper Square car park. The Square and Newry Street car parks in Warrenpoint were also surveyed. On-street provision was demarcated into zones to provide an understanding of occupancy and turnover in each particular zone.

At present there are no on-street or off-street parking restrictions in Castlewellaan. In Warrenpoint, two-hour parking restrictions apply along Church Street, Duke Street and the eastern portion of The Square.

2. Data Results
2.1 Castlewellaan

The location of the on-street car parks, on-street parking and corresponding zones surveyed in Castlewellaan are shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: On-street and off-street parking zones - Castlewellaan





Client: **MINDOC**

Document Name: **MINDOC Map 1 Template - A3 - Landscape**

Drawn: **Checked: Approved: Eirinn**

Classification: **Map**

Document Path: **Q:\Community Planning\GIS\Standby Data\Mindoc\MSO\1\template\MINDOC_Map_Template_A3_Landscape.rvt**

Date Saved: **03/12/2019** Time Saved: **15:36:51** Coordinate System: **TM65 Irish Grid** Scale: **1:1000** Template By: **Darragh Smith**

0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900 1000 Feet

0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900 1000 Meters

Report to:	Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	10 August 2020
Subject:	Brexit Forum
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly – Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly – Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-	
<input type="checkbox"/>	For decision
<input type="checkbox"/>	For noting only
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	x
1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u> To note the content of the report attached</p> <p><u>Background</u> The Brexit Forum was established to keep abreast of emerging Brexit discussions and steer the Councils strategy to help and support the business sector in response to emerging implications and opportunities as the deal continues to be developed.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>The report attached gives an overview of the discussions at the Forum meeting held on 30 June 2020.</p> <p>WHA updated members on the ongoing discussions around development of Land based facilities for customs checks and Council Officers updated members on the emerging implication of the discussions on a Brexit deal for local businesses importing and exporting goods.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the content of the report. 2. Reconvene the Forum in 4-6 or earlier if need be 3. Council develop a plan to push information to business as it emerges that will assist with Business planning.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	N/a

5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
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</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>

7.0	Appendices
	Appx 1 - Report of Brexit Forum Meeting held on 30 June 2020
8.0	Background Documents

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
Brexit Forum

Meeting took place via Skype for Business due to Covid 19 restrictions
On Tuesday 30 June 2020 at 12noon.

In Attendance: -

Cllr Micky Larkin
Cllr Cathy Mason
Cllr Michael Savage
Cllr David Taylor
Conor Mallon (NMDDC)
Jonathan McGilly (NMDDC)
Michael Lipsett (NMDDC)
Eoin Devlin (NMDDC)
Sinead Murphy (NMDDC)
Carla Strain (NMDDC)
Kieran Grant (Warrenpoint Harbour)

		Action
1.	Apologies No apologies were received.	Noted
2.	Update on NI protocol and implications locally Conor introduced the meeting and explained that the reason for the meeting was to update members on the protocol and trade agreement, implications for businesses and Environmental Health and additional functions for the protocol being in place for January 2021.	
a.	Kieran Grant (WHA) Kieran Grant from Warrenpoint Harbour gave a presentation to the members on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warrenpoint Port Overview • Brexit a) What we know... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) SIX ACRES c) Government Agencies d) RISKS • Freeport 	Noted

He showed the members a government agencies timeline an advised the meeting that application due to go to the EU from DAERA has been stalled by the DAERA Minister.

The following questions were asked and answers:

- Cllr Cathy Mason asked if the local community get to view the proposals. She also asked that due to the Warrenpoint being an Area of Outstanding Beauty was the assessment of the land and wildlife going to be considered in the agenda. Kieran informed her that engagement with the local community is ongoing and will update when there is new information. The Harbour Board has Councillors and Officers which sit on it and could filter through the information received. The Harbour would work with statutory bodies (Planning/Environmental Health) to ensure that works are up to code.
- Cllr David Taylor asked if there were measures put in place to help with the impact on the business community. He also asked what the reason for the DAERA Minister was to put a hold on the application. Kieran advised that it is the size of the facility which DAERA is not happy about due to it being an EU requirement. The Department has been proactive to resolve this issue. Eoin Devlin pointed out that it was not just Warrenpoint Harbour's application that has been put on hold.
- Cllr Michael Savage asked if this project would be funded by the government. He also asked what level of job creation would come out of the expansion. Kieran informed him that it is his understanding that enhancement to the facility is paid by the British Government subject to a business case. In regard to job creation there will be construction jobs and the possibility of DAERA and Council jobs to maintain other requirements.
- Cllr Michael Savage enquired what the timeline would be to be completed in time for the January 2021 deadline. Kieran advised that would need to be up and running by 1st August 2020.

Noted

b.	<p>Sinead Murphy/ Eoin Devlin</p> <p>Sinead gave an overview of the role Environmental Health play working alongside DAERA at Warrenpoint Harbour. They need to do checks on NI and EU trade as well as the rest of the world. Certain checks on agri-foods from GB and 3rd Country(rest of the world) are controlled by EU law and this can lead to additional checks on goods entering NI. There may be some changes to the operations model which needs to be checked. There are discussions on checks being completed before leaving port which would minimise that check in Warrenpoint.</p> <p>The implications are that all the checks need to be completed by experienced staff and could mean needed 2 full time staff on site. Locally is involved engaging with business to capture their concerns with the GB updates and implications.</p> <p>Eoin pointed out that with border control the protocol all remains which does not make it an easy process.</p> <p>Jonathan McGilly informed the meeting that Economic Development has been helping business through Covid 19 and not the focus needs to shift to reflect the challenges of Brexit. Need to know what to tell the businesses, working with Invest NI for support and once we have the message and links they will be shared on social media. Business need to start thinking about Brexit and the internal/external understanding of customs.</p> <p>Moving forward the Council has mentoring programmes and will get the messages out by liaising with other agencies.</p> <p>Cllr Micky Larkin asked what contact there has been with local business about these issues. Is there any current assistance with the constraint of not knowing the process and the course the impact may take. Eoin advised that it is developing every day, which means it is impossible to advise business at present. Jonathan pointed out that Invest NI has a Brexit preparation grant and would signpost it for businesses. If the mechanisms are all in place, able to react quickly to get the structure in place and create a message.</p>	
-----------	--	--

	<p>Sinead informed the meeting that the draft is ongoing with the message to be released when ready and engagement on a local level.</p> <p>It was agreed that the next meeting would take place in 4 to 6 weeks unless there an update available.</p> <p>Kieran advised that there is customs grant funding available and will forward the information to the members.</p> <p>Jonathan thanks Kieran Grant, Eoin Devlin and Sinead Murphy for the presentations.</p>	<p>KG</p>
--	---	------------------

Report to:	Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 10 th August 2020
Subject:	Dublin – Belfast Economic Corridor
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Conor Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Conor Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism

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

For decision For noting only

1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p>Purpose It is recommended that Members note the research paper on the development of the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor undertaken by Ulster University Economic Policy Centre and Dublin City University.</p> <p>Background</p> <p>Members will be aware from previous reports of cooperative work that is ongoing in relation to the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor. The eight Council partners are Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, Belfast City Council, Dublin City Council, Fingal County Council, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council, Louth County Council, Meath County Council and Newry Mourne and Down District Council.</p> <p>In order to shape the future direction and to identify economic opportunities along the Corridor a research paper was commissioned by Dublin City University and Ulster University Economic Policy Centre. A copy of the paper is attached in Appendix 1.</p> <p>The report details the current economic performance of the corridor and identifies potential areas of co-operation which could create a stronger trajectory for growth.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>The report highlights a number of population and employment forecasts which are based upon baseline or current trend assumptions, although developed prior to Covid 19. Indications are that population forecasts along the corridor could result in demographic trends of a total of 2.5 million by 2040.</p> <p>Sectoral concentrations and strengths include tradeable services, advanced manufacturing, tourism and construction. There are a number of broad areas for</p>

	<p>government led collaboration which includes promotion of the Corridor to attract investment from both inward private and domestic and public services. Additional infrastructure development is required in transport connectivity and research and innovation centres.</p> <p>Promotional identify for the Economic Corridor has also been developed which builds on the eight council concept.</p> <p>The research paper has been provided to the North South Ministerial Council for consideration and further discussion. See Appendix 2</p> <p>The Terms of Reference for the Dublin Belfast Corridor group has also been considered by the Chief Executives group and is attached in Appendix 3</p> <p>Further work will be undertaken in relation to the economic modelling outcomes for the Corridor and updates provided to Committee.</p>
<p>3.0</p>	<p>Recommendations</p>
<p>3.1</p> <p>3.2</p>	<p>It is recommended that Members note the research paper on the development of the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor undertaken by Ulster University Economic Policy Centre and Dublin City University</p> <p>It is recommended that members note the correspondence to the NSMC</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Resource implications</p>
<p>4.1</p>	<p>Budget allocation has been identified for preparatory work on the Dublin-Belfast corridor and is included in the current council budget</p>
<p>5.0</p>	<p>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</p>
<p>5.1</p> <p>5.2</p>	<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> <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>

	The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened	<input type="checkbox"/>
	The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.3	Proposal initiating consultation	
	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"/>
	Consultation period will be 12 weeks	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<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 <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	If yes, please complete the following:	
	Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed	<input type="checkbox"/>
	If no, please complete the following:	
	The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7.0	Appendices	
	Appx 1 – UUI Report Oct 2019 – Brexit and the Border Corridor Appx 2 - Letter to NMSC	
8.0	Background Documents	
	n/a	

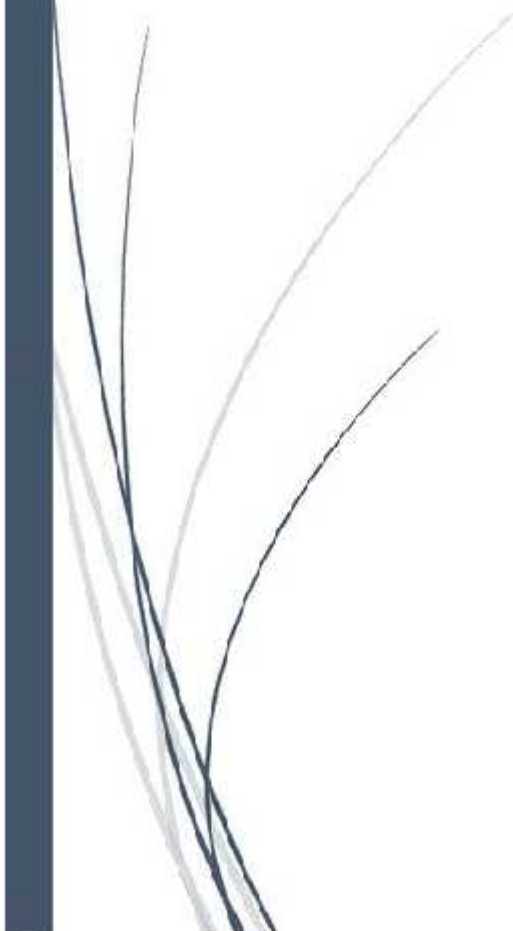


Brexit and the Border Corridor on the Island of Ireland: Update

October 2019



Eoin Magennis & Holly Smyth



Contents

1.	Brexit, the Irish border and the story so far	2
1.1	Brexit and the Irish border	2
1.2	Economic performance and outlooks	5
1.3	An uncertain economy and 'No Deal'	7
2	An Economic Profile of the Border Corridor in 2019	10
2.1	Growing population but falling share	10
2.2	A recovering labour market	11
2.3	A small business economy	12
2.4	A mixed story: In recovery but resilient?	12
3	Possible outcomes after Brexit: Economic outlooks to 2028	14
3.1	What are the Baseline & Lower scenarios?	14
3.2	NI Border Councils	15
3.3	Southern Border Counties	16
3.4	Comparisons across Council areas in the Border Corridor	17
3.5	Conclusions	18
4	Brexit and potential issues for the Border Corridor	19
4.1	Trade: Agri-Food, Tourism and sectoral exposure	19
4.2	People: Ensuring movement and access in a connected Corridor	23
5	Conclusions	26
5.1	Mitigation issues to be addressed by Councils and others	26
5.2	Border Management	28
	Notes	29

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank Marie Ward and Liam Hannaway (Newry, Mourne and Down DC) for asking the UUEPC to update the 2017 report and the businesses who took part in the consultations (August-September 2019) for their insights into what Brexit might mean for them, their employees and communities.

1. Brexit, the Irish border and the story so far

1.1 Brexit and the Irish border

- 6 Support for the *status quo* – or remaining within the EU – was supported by a clear majority (56%) in Northern Ireland (NI) in the July 2016 referendum. This was particularly the case in the northern part of the Border Corridor, where 7 of the 8 parliamentary constituencies voted to remain in large numbers.
- 7 The symbolic importance of the border to peace and reconciliation on the island of Ireland as well as the practical importance to the unhindered movement of goods and people meant that, from very early in the negotiations, the future of the border became a key issue.
- 8 A letter from the then NI First and Deputy First Ministers in August 2016 to the then UK Prime Minister pointed to the special position of NI, while EU negotiating guidelines referred to the need to avoid a hard border while protecting the Single Market rules.¹ The border question remained a discussion item throughout talks in 2017 and the December 2017 Joint EU/UK Statement included a paragraph which stated that in the absence of other solutions to prevent a 'hard border', the UK agreed to 'maintain full alignment with the rules of the internal market and Customs Union'.
- 9 The 'other' solutions would either be a new trade agreement between the UK and EU which guaranteed the border remaining as it is, or 'specific solutions', focusing on technology. The backstop was born as a form of insurance against those solutions not being enough to avoid a hard border on the island of Ireland.
- 10 'Specific solutions', 'alternative arrangements' or 'max fac' have been circulating since August 2017. They are intended to resolve the issue of the Irish border: protection of the Single Market rules, while avoiding border infrastructure. The border management proposals range from schemes to make exporters 'trusted traders' and exempt many of the smaller businesses trading cross-border, to online facilitation processes or use of Vehicle Number Recognition. For example, to facilitate customs the ideas generally combine self-assessment and occasional declarations to the relevant authorities. To prevent smuggling the proposers of 'alternative arrangements' normally refer to this being done by a combination of computerised risk assessments and random checks.²
- 11 Katy Hayward, widely regarded as the authority in this field, has argued on a number of occasions that these proposals will still mean checks at or near the border for customs,

standards or both. The proposals also, importantly, say nothing about enforcement and how (by who) this might be done.³ Crucially, there is little support for any new form of borders in the communities along the Corridor, nor have they been consulted on what shape it should take.⁴

- 12 In the draft Withdrawal Agreement, agreed in February 2018, the backstop was further detailed in an eight-page protocol.⁵ As of now, this Withdrawal Agreement has not passed the House of Commons, after three attempts so far. Theresa May has been replaced by Boris Johnson as Prime Minister and he has taken the stance that he will replace the backstop and exit the EU by 31 October. To prevent that happening without a deal legislation has been passed by MPs (the Benn Act) which forces the PM to ask the EU for a further extension to Article 50 to January 2020 unless a deal is done before 19 October.
- 13 Political volatility in the UK stands in contrast to political unanimity in the other EU member states, especially Ireland, in support of the Withdrawal Agreement. There is a continuing insistence that any deal agreed with the UK will have to include the protection of the current position of the Irish border, peace in Ireland and North/South cooperation. The Irish government's position of support for the backstop, an agreed position with EU partners, Brexit contingency plans and 'No Deal' planning has been consistent and has had overwhelming public support.⁶
- 14 In NI the Assembly has not sat since January 2017 and therefore 'lacks proper political representation in the Brexit process', as a recent report puts it. The report also notes the sole influence of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) over events at Westminster, with few other NI voices heard there. In the political vacuum, the NI Civil Service and Northern Ireland Office have become the providers of inputs into the Brexit negotiations and 'no deal' planning.⁷ Local government and civil society (business groups and others) have become the regular hosts for the visiting ministers and politicians from the UK and EU member states.
- 15 At time of writing (start of the third week in October), the future of the Irish border remains uncertain. In early October PM Johnson tabled a proposal – dubbed 'two borders, four years' – to replace the backstop. Essentially, this would see NI remain in the Single Market for goods (subject to agreement by the NI Assembly at time of agreement and again in four years) and would exit the EU Customs Union. This would mean customs checks on the island of Ireland for any trade between North and South although there is talk of technology solutions and exemptions (all to be agreed during a transition period) to mitigate the impact of such checks.

- 16 Since the initial proposal there has been talk of a 'landing zone' for any deal or agreement and subsequent negotiations appear to be focused on two issues of customs and consent. With regard to the first, a possible solution might be something like the former (2018) Customs Partnership idea being applied to NI only (where business pay a tariff on all sales and have it rebated if the sale is inside NI) which is therefore inside both the EU and UK customs areas.
- 17 On the 'consent' question, this might become an 'Opt Out' question – ie: to leave the Single Market and whatever customs arrangement is agreed – that would be posed to the NI Assembly and any decision would be by cross-community agreement (by whatever mechanism via Stormont or a further referendum).
- 18 Table 1 below summarise what some of the current options would mean for the Irish border.

Table 1: Summary of Brexit options and the impact on borders

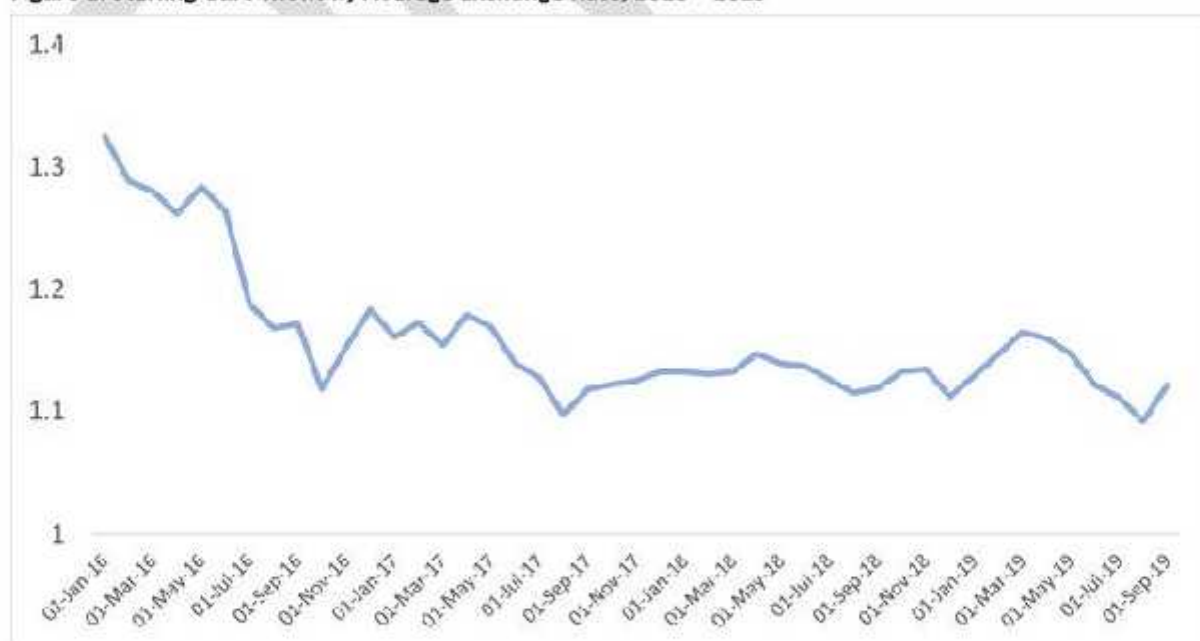
Options	NI/RoI border	NI/GB border	Ireland/GB border
Status Quo (UK in SM & CU)	No customs, rules of origin checks. Immigration controls for non-EU population	No customs, rules of origin checks. Food safety checks on live animals at ports.	No changes
UK in CU with EU	Barriers to services, workers, etc and to some areas of cooperation (inc. energy)	No change	Rules of origin and regulatory checks and likely barriers to services trade
PM's October 2019 proposal	Customs border with regulatory alignment on goods (for a specified period?)	No customs with potential for regulatory divergence in future	GB as a 'third party' country so depends on future FTA for regulatory alignment and tariffs
Withdrawal Agreement with Backstop	No customs border and N/S cooperation continues. No FOM for services, workers	No new barriers with exception of rules of origin checks	Barriers in services trade and dependent on future FTA

Source: Katy Hayward with additional UUEPC material

1.2 Economic performance and outlooks

- 19 Since the referendum UK growth rates have slowed both absolutely and relative to other G7 economies. The economy has seen strong employment growth and rising wages, which has led to consumer spending being a key component of growth (driven by credit and falling household savings). However, business investment has sharply declined.
- 20 In recent quarters business built up stocks ahead of the expected exit date of 31 March 2019 but this may now unwind, further reducing growth rates. Indeed one key forecaster suggests that the UK economy contracted in Q2 2019 and a recession may be underway.⁸
- 21 The other trend (one of key importance to the NI and Irish economies) has been the effective 14% devaluation of Sterling against the Euro and US Dollar since July 2016. As Figure 1 shows this depreciation in the value of Sterling happened in the weeks after the Referendum vote and has remained effectively the same since (albeit with rallies and subsequent falls during negotiations). This has had an impact in the Border Corridor, which is effectively a dual currency zone with regard to wages and consumption, with tourism and retail businesses on the southern side of the border under pressure.
- 22 The depreciation in Sterling should be good news for NI or GB exporters but ironically exports have become less important in GDP growth since 2016. Indeed, the evidence points to UK exporters turning away from EU markets, a move which may be mirrored in time in Ireland.⁹

Figure 1: Sterling-Euro Monthly Average Exchange Rate, 2016 – 2019



Source: Bank of England

- 23 Most economists still believe that the long-term impact on trade, investment and skills of Brexit will be negative for the UK economy (GDP being 3-8% less than it might otherwise have been). More importantly, in the short term, forecasters are looking at very weak growth in 2019-2020 (see Table 1), averaging 1.8% for this year and 1% for 2020. The forecasts are based on the assumption of a Brexit deal, making the next few years difficult under all circumstances.

Table 2: GDP Forecasts for the UK, 2019 and 2020

Organisation	Date	2019	2020
OBR	Mar. 2019	1.2%	1.4%
IMF	July 2019	1.3%	1.4%
EY	Sep. 2019	1.3%	1.5%
NIESR	Sep. 2019	1.2%	1.1%

Source: HMT, *Forecasts for the UK Economy* (Sep. 2019)

- 24 From early 2016 EU figures were pointing to the impact that Brexit would have on their economies, particularly Ireland's. Although the UK share of Irish exports has declined significantly in recent decades it still takes 16% of goods and services exports. As we shall see below, some region (the Border region being one) and some sectors (agri-food a key one) are particularly exposed to risk.
- 25 While Ireland's economy has been growing strongly the recent outlooks from the Central Bank and ESRI both warn of slowing global demand and the uncertainty around Brexit.¹⁰ Based upon the UK remaining within the EU in a transition period, the forecasts for 2019-2020 in Table 2 show underlying, but slowing, growth in the Irish economy.

Table 3: GDP Forecasts for Ireland for 2019 and 2020

Organisation	Date	2019	2020
OECD	May 2019	3.9%	3.3%
Central Bank of Ireland	Oct. 2019	5.0%	4.3%
EY	Sep. 2019	3.7%	3.0%
ESRI	Sep. 2019	4.9%	3.1%

Source: Department of Finance, *Monthly Economic Bulletin*, Sep. 2019

- 26 NI has set new records for numbers in employment and for economic output, but it remains relatively the slowest-growing of the three economies dealt with here. The outlook (see Table 3) is for this pattern of low growth to continue. Those indicators we have for 'real time' performance (such as the Ulster Bank PMI) suggest a slowdown may already be in place and therefore little resilience against any external shock to the

economy. The potential upsides associated with the recent City and Growth Deals are more for the long term than anything more immediate.

Table 4: GVA Forecasts for NI for 2019 and 2020

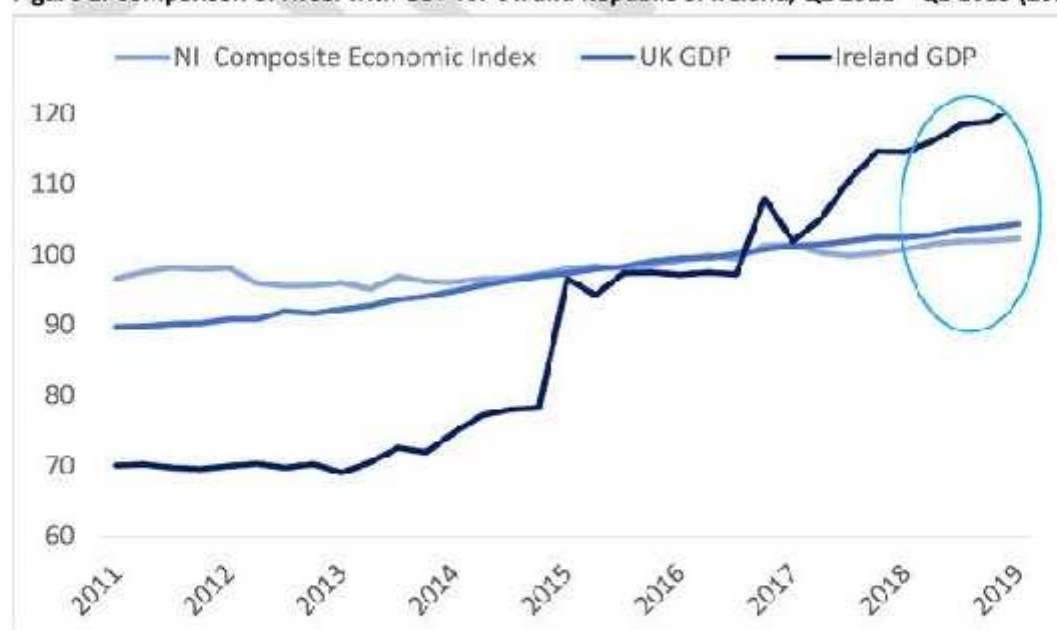
Organisation	Date	2019	2020
UUEPC	June 2019	1.3%	1.2%
Danske Bank	Sep 2019	0.9%	1.0%
EY	Sep. 2019	1.0%	1.1%

1.3 An uncertain economy and 'No Deal'

27 However, these forecasts must be regarded as provisional, not least because of the uncertainty around the outcome of Brexit. With regard to NI, the Department for the Economy has now published a substantial body of research on the potential economic impact of Brexit, all of which points to the economy being in a worse position under all scenarios.¹¹ Much of this points to the NI economy being the most exposed within the UK to trade and investment impacts from either an orderly or 'No Deal' Brexit.

28 The general uncertainty or disruption within the global economy, as well as the stage we are at in the business cycle, has produced slowing growth and an end to the synchronised growth associated with 2016. Figure 2 shows how the rate of economic growth has slowed down in the UK, NI and Ireland since the previous report was published in October 2017.

Figure 2: Comparison of NICEI with GDP for UK and Republic of Ireland, Q1 2011 – Q2 2019 (2017=100)



Source: NICEI, Q2 2019 release (Oct. 2019)

- 29 Research from InterTradeIreland's quarterly Business Monitor has consistently shown how few of the island's businesses say they have made plans for Brexit (11% is the most recent figure).¹² Although there have been many seminars and a substantial range of support are available for planning, a normal response is that it is a process that is either too costly or time-consuming to undertake when the outcome is so uncertain.
- 30 Some of the planning for Brexit actions are ones of avoidance (delaying a decision around investment or business strategy), others those of delving into issues previously taken for granted (visa arrangements for staff or risks associated with suppliers), but some involve major change (opening a cross-border entity or moving functions outside the UK). None of those are cost-free and all depend on having some scenario planning as to likely Brexit outcomes.
- 31 Uncertainty is now the key factor in economic decision-making from small firms through to decisions on how much fiscal space to leave in national budgets against a 'No Deal' exit.¹³ The volatility associated with this uncertainty was most clearly seen in the stockbuilding which occurred in the UK and Irish economies ahead of the March 2019 Brexit deadline.
- 32 Uncertainty does appear to be having an impact in investment decisions deferred. In theory, this is because lenders will demand a higher risk premium. Research from the ESRI points to how international uncertainty has a higher dampening effect on investment decisions in Ireland than do domestic concerns (especially that in new plant and machinery).¹⁴
- 33 At the current point in time uncertainty about a 'No Deal' Brexit is the most pressing concern for businesses and communities alike. According to the ESRI forecasts, a 'No Deal' Brexit could remove any growth in 2020 and push the Irish economy into a contraction.¹⁵ This points to the immediacy of the impact, something akin to the sudden jarring impact of recession in 2008. Table 5 provides some illustrative points about what a 'No Deal' cliff edge starts to look like in the short term.

Table 5: Illustrative impacts of a 'No Deal' on the island economy

Organisation	Date	Potential impacts
Central Bank of Ireland	October 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 54,000 fewer jobs in the Irish economy by 2021 ○ Unemployment rate rises to 6.9% in 2021 ○ Irish GDP growth of 0.8% in 2020, 2.8% less than expected

Department for the Economy (NI)	Aug. 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reduction of NI exports by 19% due to tariffs and non-tariff barriers ○ Reduction of FDI investments by 5% p.a. in long run ○ 40,000 jobs at risk due to reliance on EU exports
EY Economic Eye	Sep. 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 60,000 fewer jobs in all-island economy than baseline by 2022 ○ All-island GDP to be 2.7% less than baseline by 2022 ○ NI enters recession but Ireland narrowly avoids this as global economy avoids a slowdown

34 Due to the assumptions underpinning these outlooks – around impacts on sectors more oriented to EU/UK exports or areas more reliant upon these sectors – it is fair to say that rural and border areas are expected to be worst impacted by any ‘No Deal’ Brexit and that this impact is unlikely to be short-lived.

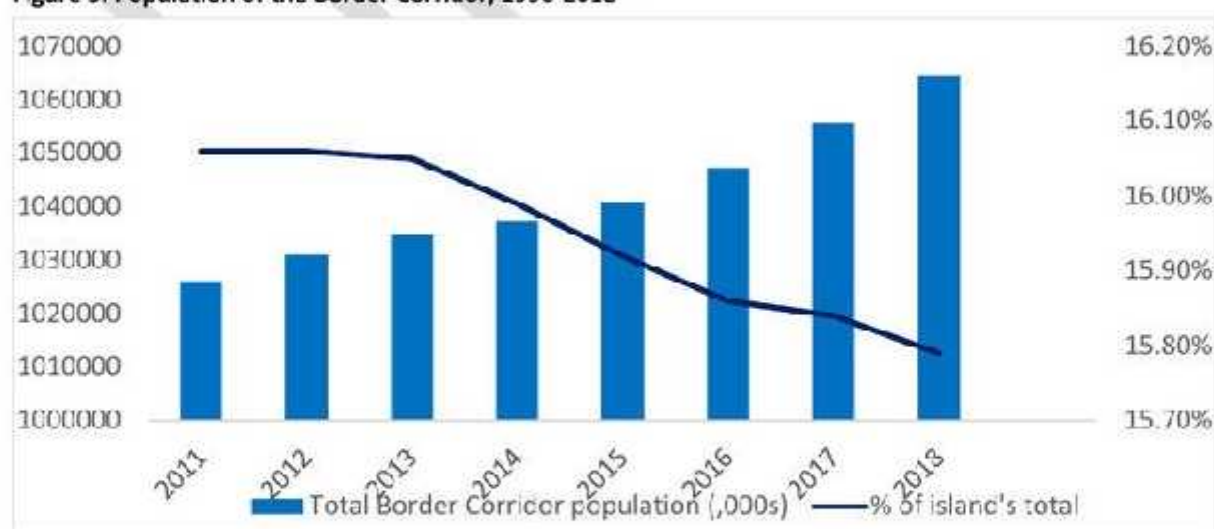
2 An Economic Profile of the Border Corridor in 2019

- 30 The 2017 report offered a short demographic and economic profile of the Border Corridor region and concluded that it was best described by an earlier report as a series of 'bypassed places'.¹⁶ The 2017 profile was a mix of the good (higher than average levels of entrepreneurship and strong individual firms selling to various markets) and the bad (higher than average levels of economic inactivity and lower than average productivity levels).
- 31 There was also a series of differences along the Border Corridor with the eastern portion showing more strength than the north west and, in the central belt the economy in NI much stronger than in Ireland. Consultations for that report found that these regional weaknesses and vulnerabilities could be the ones that Brexit would turn a spotlight on. Two years on, little about this economic profile has changed greatly.

2.1 Growing population but falling share

- 32 The combined total population for the Border Corridor in 2018 was 1.06 million people (60% of them living in NI), which marks an increase of 3.7% on the 2011 Census.
- 33 The findings of the earlier report, that much of the increase occurred in the NI Council areas, has continued since 2017. The Southern Border Counties have grown at a lower rate than in the Council areas on the NI side. As Figure 3 shows the share of the island's population has also slightly declined since 2011 to 15.8% in 2018.

Figure 3: Population of the Border Corridor, 1996-2018



Source: NISRA, CSO and UUEPC estimates

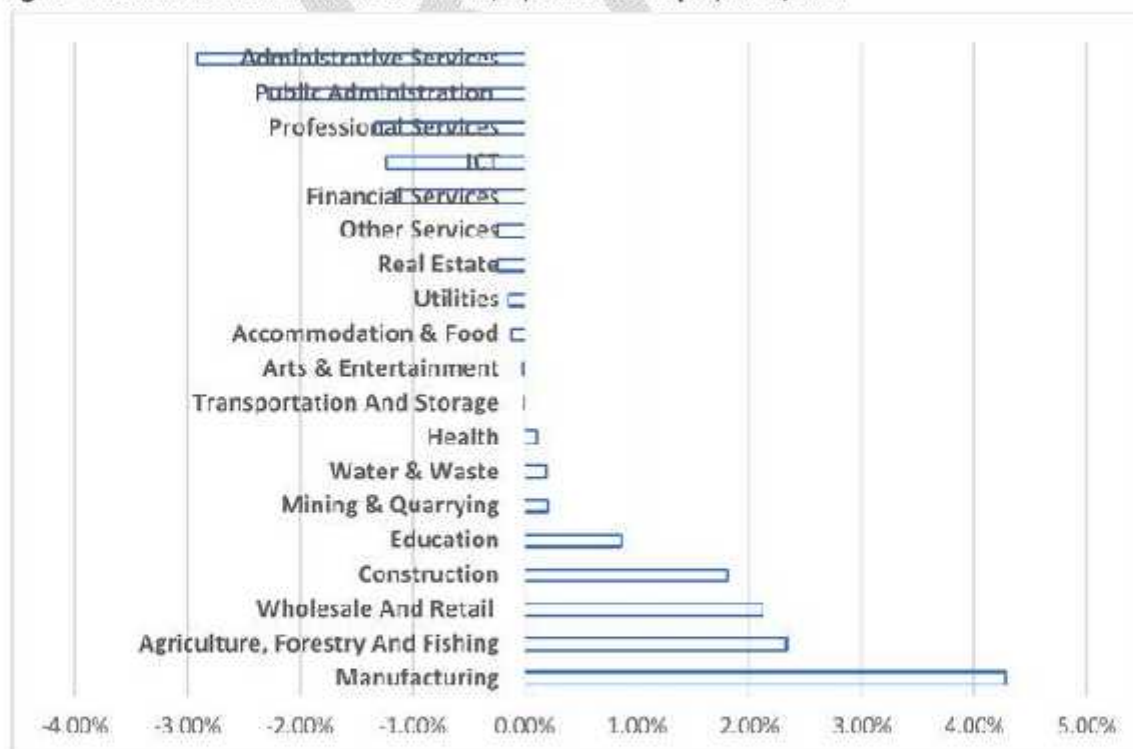
2.2 A recovering labour market

- 34 The 2017 report noted that employment rates and labour participation rates in the Border Corridor were below the averages in NI and Ireland.¹⁷ However, the data for 2017 and 2018 tell two slightly different stories with the Southern Border Counties rates falling slightly (52% to 58%) and rates in NI Border Councils remaining steady (c.55%). Unemployment rates are now at or below the state-wide averages and have reached 3.8% in the Southern Border Counties and 3.7% in NI’s Border Councils.

- 35 In both parts of the Corridor the employment levels seen in 2007 have been passed (though not until late 2017 in the Southern Border Counties). The labour market on the island has changed in the recovery – the rise of services continues at a greater pace and the move from trades occupations to others kinds¹⁸ - but not to the same extent in the Border Corridor.

- 36 As Figure 4 shows Manufacturing, Agriculture, Construction and Retail account for larger shares of employment in the Border Corridor than elsewhere on the island. The lower shares of Professional Services, ICT and Financial Services (in spite of jobs growth in these sectors in centres such as Letterkenny, Dundalk and Derry) is, in part, due to their preferred locations where the labour markets are largest and most diverse in terms of skills.

Figure 4: Border Corridor vs Island of Ireland, by sector of employment, 2017



Source: CSO LFS and UUEFC analysis

- 37 It is also worth noting that the Border Corridor is an area where the commuter flows are more outward than inward with the draw of Belfast and Dublin in the eastern half of the corridor being particularly striking. From research elsewhere on the NI labour market these flows tend to be of people with high levels of qualifications.¹⁹

2.3 A small business economy

- 38 The previous report estimated that there may be 87,000 businesses in the Border Corridor, 40% of which are in the agriculture sector. Data for 2017 supports this total estimate and the importance of agriculture but also how retail, hospitality, manufacturing and construction firms account for another 35% of the total.
- 39 The 2017 report also found that smaller businesses (employing less than 50 persons) accounted for a higher share of total employment than on the island more generally. This is particularly the case in some council areas and counties, notably Donegal, Louth, Newry, Mourne & Down and Fermanagh & Omagh. All four areas have large businesses operating in them – notably some FDI firms in the first two counties – but they have a strong basis of businesses with 20-50 people selling in local markets, including the cross-border one.
- 40 The business data does not include figures for the self-employed, but other data suggests their numbers are particularly high in the agriculture and construction sectors. Other data on intentions or plans to start a business point to parts of the Border Corridor, especially Mid Ulster and Fermanagh & Omagh, being places with a strong pipeline of new ventures.

2.4 A mixed story: In recovery but resilient?

- 41 The Border Corridor has seen a labour market recovery and is a region where new businesses start on a regular basis, adding to the diversity of the enterprise base. There are, however, concerns around productivity and around the ability to absorb shocks or resilience in the local economy.
- 42 The long-standing issue of productivity was raised in the October 2017 report and updated data shows that productivity across both the NI Border Councils (without exception) and in the Southern Border Counties both lag behind state-wide averages. In the case of NI the average is already problematic so a gap to that is worrying as it throws into question the ability to raise incomes in the local economy or indeed to compete with new entrants or in times of economic trouble. Recent research has shown a three-speed productivity

island economy where multinationals in Ireland out-pace domestic firms there and with the NI economy further behind.²⁰

- 43 This research supports the finding that productivity varies greatly across firms – depending on which sector they are in and, just as importantly, how well they are run or what priority they place on skills or innovation. And the data also suggests that NI Border Councils can be divided into two groups (where Mid Ulster, ABC and Derry & Strabane are the better performers). We cannot break down the Southern Border Counties below the regional level but there is undoubtedly a similar sub-regional variety there also.
- 44 Another explanation for the lagging Corridor is the concentration of economic output in Dublin and Belfast (and in the counties and areas between these and surrounding them). This can mean that other parts of both economies – even allowing for highly productive and innovative firms and places – lag behind on this metric.
- 45 This also raises issues about the extent to which local economies can withstand shocks. InterTradeIreland have shown that when firms are grouped by the size of their profit margins and their sales growth there is a revealing picture.²¹ More than half (51%) of NI goods firms and 47% of Irish goods firms are in an ‘at risk’ group, where they have low or medium margins and/or sales growth. The percentages of service firms are less than half (45% and 47% respectively).
- 46 Although we have no sub-regional breakdowns for these figures, business consultations for this report and other research suggests that many firms in the Border Corridor, particularly those in more traditional forms of manufacturing, felt they would fit the ‘low margins, low growth’ picture and thus the position of not being very resilient to any external shock.

3 Possible outcomes after Brexit: Economic outlooks to 2028

- 47 Before and since the 2016 referendum most economists have concluded that, due to trade and investment impacts, the long term effect of almost any kind of Brexit on the UK economy would be a negative one. The logic of this is that by leaving an integrated trade area (the Single Market and Customs Union), and negotiating new trade agreements both with the EU and others, there will be new frictions which reduce trade and investment with a knock-on effect on growth. Thus, most forecasts tend to refer to GDP being a certain percentage less than it would otherwise have been if the UK stayed in the EU.
- 48 Three points can be made about this:
- Overall, the UK economy will continue to grow in the medium and long term, and the amount of 'lost GDP' depends on the nature of both the exit – orderly or not – and the future trading and other relationships with the EU. One recent estimate presents the range of outcomes as between -0.4% and -5.4% after 10 years.²²
 - In addition, the Irish economy, too, will grow in the medium to long term but, under all scenarios, the level of economic output will be less than it would have been if the UK remains a member of the EU. One recent estimate, which allows for FDI gains to Ireland, presents the range as -2.6% to -5.0% after 10 years.²³
 - The impacts of Brexit vary depending on the extent to which a sector (or a region) of the economy is currently intertwined with the EU and thus stands to lose from change.²⁴
- 49 A number of economists question this logic and argue either that Brexit will present new trade opportunities that membership of the EU prevents the UK from taking and that the UK will turn to investing in its own skills and capital-intensive equipment, or that too much is being made of any loss.²⁵

3.1 What are the Baseline & Lower scenarios?

- 50 The 2017 report included employment forecasts from UUEPC for the Border Corridor out to 2026 under Baseline and Lower scenarios. The forecasts were taken from the UUEPC NI Local Government economic model and a preliminary Irish model²⁶ that the Centre are developing. In this report these models are used again, with the Irish model still very provisional. The forecasts are revised and the employment forecasts are out to 2028, taking into account developments in the two years since.

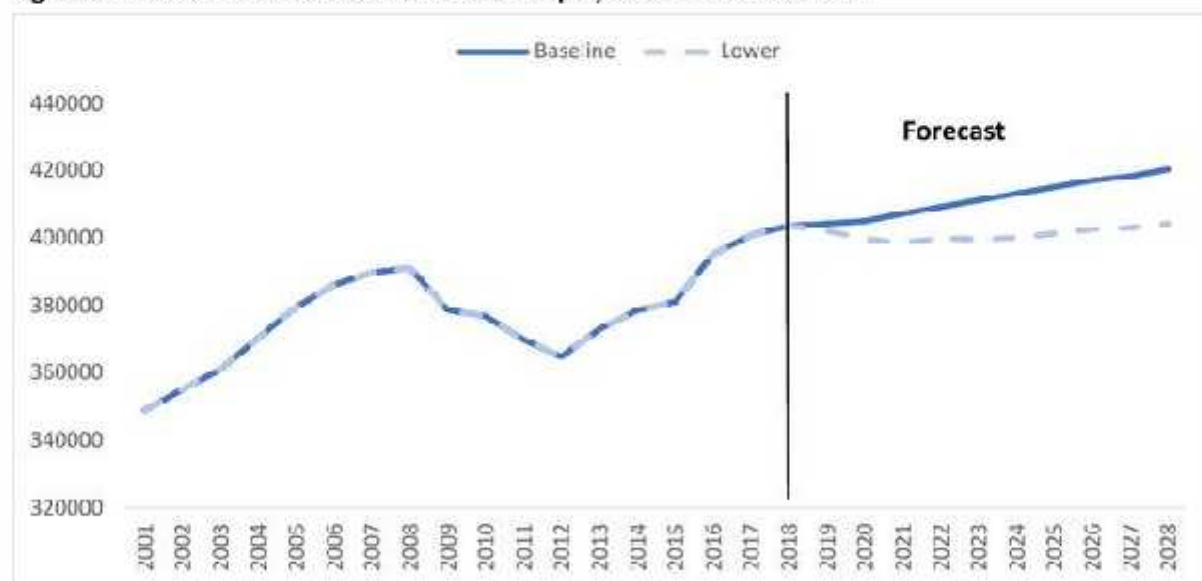
- 51 The forecasts are based on the Baseline and Lower (or worst case) scenarios and these have been altered in the past two years. For NI the scenarios are taken from the UUEPC's Summer 2019 outlook (released in June 2019).²⁷ Both scenarios assume that the UK will exit the EU in either an 'orderly' fashion (Baseline), or a 'disorderly' one (Lower). The Baseline scenario assumes a deal between the UK and the EU, followed by a transition period (probably two years) and at its end a new trade agreement. In this scenario the UK and NI economies will experience lower levels of business investment, FDI and, in the medium term, inward migration. The baseline scenario sees NI adding an additional 39,100 jobs by 2028 with the largest increase in the second half of the decade. The Irish economy will experience negative trade impacts but potentially higher levels of FDI (moving from the UK).
- 52 The Lower scenario assumes a poorly coordinated Brexit, where a minimal trade agreement with less access to the Single Market is agreed on after a transition period. **This is not a true 'No Deal' scenario (as the UUEPC has assumed a deal will be struck followed by a transition period)**, but, in this Lower scenario, consumer and business confidence will both fall and the initial impacts will be severe before a slow recovery in the medium term. In this scenario, NI will initially lose jobs before recovering to add 4,600 jobs by 2026. The Irish economy will also lose significant numbers of jobs in the 'cliff edge' and the longer term but will finish the decade with more jobs than in 2018.
- 53 These scenarios are very provisional, given the high levels of uncertainty at time of writing about whether the UK will negotiate a deal with the EU or will first crash out with no transition and then negotiate a deal. Given the Irish economy is still highly integrated into the UK economy, these levels of uncertainty impact across the island.

3.2 NI Border Councils

- 54 Figure 5 shows the employment forecasts under both Baseline and Lower scenarios out to 2028 for the six Council areas located along the border. Under the Baseline scenario a combined total of 16,700 additional jobs will be created in the Council areas, 42% of the total net employment change in Northern Ireland. As the chart shows the rate of growth out to 2028 is much lower than in the recovery and the vast majority of these jobs (88%) will be created in the years after 2022.
- 55 In the Lower scenario the NI border councils might only see the creation of 660 jobs by 2028, 14% of the NI employment change. Figure 5 three phases in the forecast: jobs lost out to 2022, stagnation to 2025 and then slow growth for the final three years. The much

lower share of employment growth in the Lower scenario when compared to the Baseline shows the concentration of the potential impact of a 'disorderly' Brexit in this area of NI.

Figure 5: NI Border Councils Baseline & Lower Employment Forecasts to 2028



Source: UUEPC Economic Outlook: Summer 2019

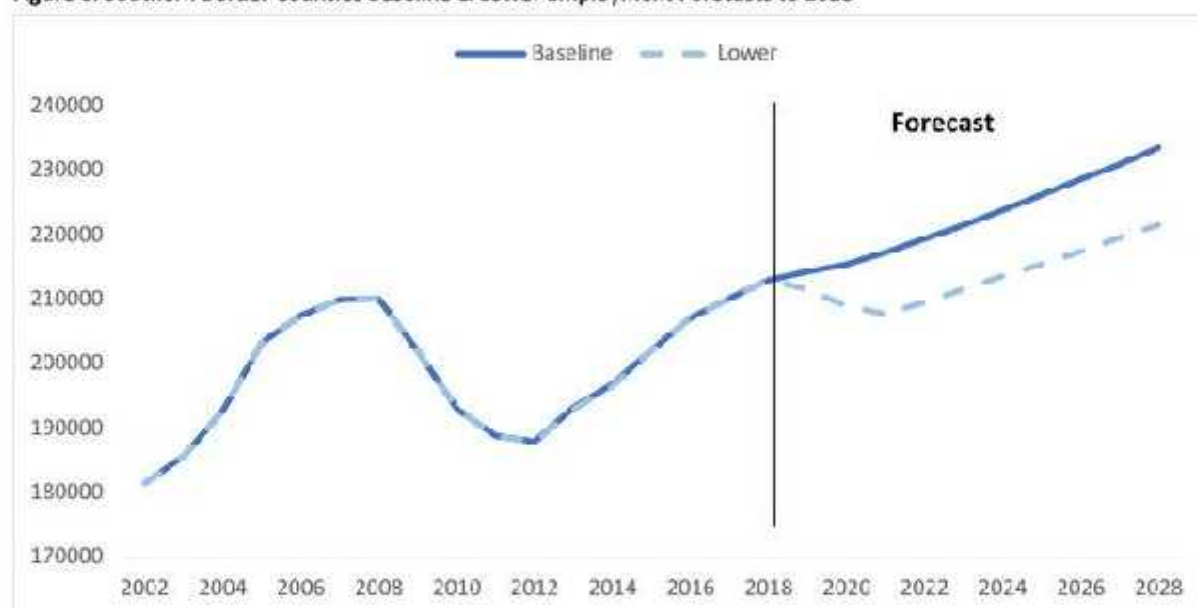
3.3 Southern Border Counties

56 Figure 6 shows the employment forecasts out to 2028 for the council areas of the Southern Border Counties when the Baseline and Lower scenarios are applied. Again, the picture is one of a region particularly exposed to Brexit, especially a 'disorderly' one.

57 In the Baseline scenario an additional 20,800 jobs are created in the Southern Border Counties by 2028, around 8% of the total net employment change expected for Ireland. This represents a percentage change of 9.6%, behind the 12.1% for the state as whole. The chart shows how the higher employment growth trajectory since 2012 will slow appreciably in the coming decade (c.2,000 jobs added p.a.).

58 In the Lower scenario the Southern Border Counties see the creation of an additional 8,600 jobs by 2028, a percentage change of 4%, less than half the level for the Republic of Ireland generally (8.6%). In this scenario a significant number of jobs (c.5,000) could be lost, especially in the 2020-2021 period, before a recovery begins from 2022.

Figure 6: Southern Border Counties Baseline & Lower Employment Forecasts to 2028

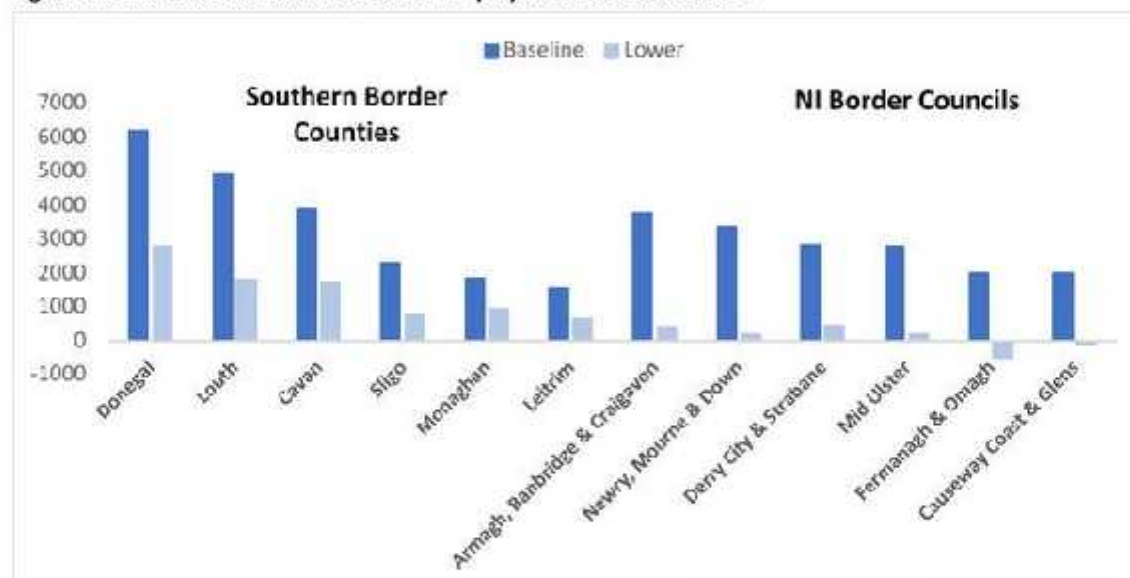


Source: Provisional UUEPC analysis

3.4 Comparisons across Council areas in the Border Corridor

- 59 Figure 7 shows the where largest numbers of additional jobs are created in the Baseline scenario – Donegal, Louth, Cavan, ABC and NM&D – accounting for almost 60% of the total. In the Lower scenario the vast majority of the additional employment is to be found in the Southern Border Counties with none of the NI Border Councils passing even the smallest county, Leitrim.
- 60 The forecast employment growth of 37,500 in the Baseline scenario is equivalent to a percentage change of 6% for the Corridor as a whole. The highest percentage changes among the NI Border Councils – Mid Ulster (4.1%), ABC (4.1%) and NM&D (4.5%) – are well behind faster growing counties such as Donegal (10.5%), Louth (9.5%) and Monaghan (8.9%).
- 61 In the Lower scenario only two Council areas (Fermanagh & Omagh and Causeway Coast & Glens) are expected to lose jobs. However, The Corridor as a whole will only add 9,300 jobs, a percentage change of 1.7%. While every council area will see a considerable reduction in the numbers of jobs created the difference to the Baseline scenario is starkest north of the border, suggesting that in the Corridor the ‘disorderly’ Brexit will be bad for everyone but worse for the NI Border Councils. The consulted businesses would tend to share this view.

Figure 7: Border Corridor Baseline & Lower Employment Forecasts to 2028



Source: Provisional UUEPC analysis

3.5 Conclusions

- 62 The employment forecasts for the Border Corridor suggest that the stronger economic performance is likely to be found – in both scenarios – in the Southern Border Counties. This bears out the different trajectories of the NI and Irish economies, where the latter is expected to grow three times as fast as the former.
- 63 The forecasts are of course potential outcomes offered for an entire decade. Even with this uncertainty they point to several trends:
- Under both scenarios the rate of employment growth in both parts of the Corridor will be below the averages for NI and Ireland.
 - Under both scenarios the Southern Border Counties will grow faster than the NI Border Councils.
 - The Lower scenario, while particularly bad for the NI Border Councils, also sees the Southern Border Counties fall quite far behind the national average.
- 62 This suggests that particular attention needs to be paid to the Border Corridor as the UK leaves the EU. The employment forecasts reflect the sectoral mix found in the local economies that make up the Border Corridor, the reliance on access to nearby markets and on sectors which are likely to come under particular trade pressures in light of Brexit. They also point to the need for a deal where access to markets and services is as much a priority as control of borders.

4 Brexit and potential issues for the Border Corridor

64 This update follows the 2017 report in identifying a number of potential areas of impact with Brexit. Research since 2017 and a series of consultations with businesses and other organisations based in the Border Corridor have been used to update the information in the following key areas:

- Trade in goods and services and the exposure of the whole Corridor and certain sectors within it (with a focus on agri-food and tourism); and
- Movement of people for work, education and access to services.

4.1 Trade: Agri-Food, Tourism and sectoral exposure

63 At the current point in time both cross-border and east/west (GB/Ireland) trade operate on the basis of certainty around product standards (due to common membership of the Single Market) and no tariffs (due to common membership of the Customs Union). In the event of Brexit and unless the UK remains within both the Customs Union and the Single Market, then this situation changes, the border on the island of Ireland becomes an international one, and checks will begin to be made in some agreed place.

64 The debate around Brexit has shone a greater light on what crosses the border in terms of goods and services. In 2017 the value of cross-border goods trade increased by 12% to €3.7 billion with much of the increase driven by an increase in agri-food produce selling in both directions across the border.²⁸ The Regional Trade Statistics, provided by HMRC, suggest that this growth trend in cross-border trade has continued into 2018, with Ireland/NI trade growing faster than NI/Ireland. Agri-Food goods remain the key sector in both directions, accounting for more than 40% of total goods trade. Cross-border services trade is also significant. We only have data for NI/Ireland trade which amounted to £2 billion in 2016, a figure which has remained steady in recent years.

65 Cross-border trade is of much more importance to the overall NI economy than to that of Ireland. Goods trade to NI accounts for around 1% of Irish GNP, while the combined cross-border sales of goods and services from NI accounts for approximately 13% of its GVA. However, cross-border trade has its real importance at the firm level, located in local communities and employing a large percentage of the working population.

66 The latest NI trade statistics (2017) show that more firms are engaged in cross-border trade than are involved in NI sales into GB (though the value of this is four times larger).

Research from InterTradeIreland in 2018 has shown that of all NI firms 13% only export to Ireland, and that almost 80% of NI exporters sell only to Ireland. Furthermore, of those engaged in cross-border trade, 18% of firms account for 60-70% of trade volume. This supports the picture in other research, which has found that much cross-border trade is due to small but very frequent movements.²⁹ It also explains why cross-border trade, though smaller in value than trade with GB, has such an important place in the economy.

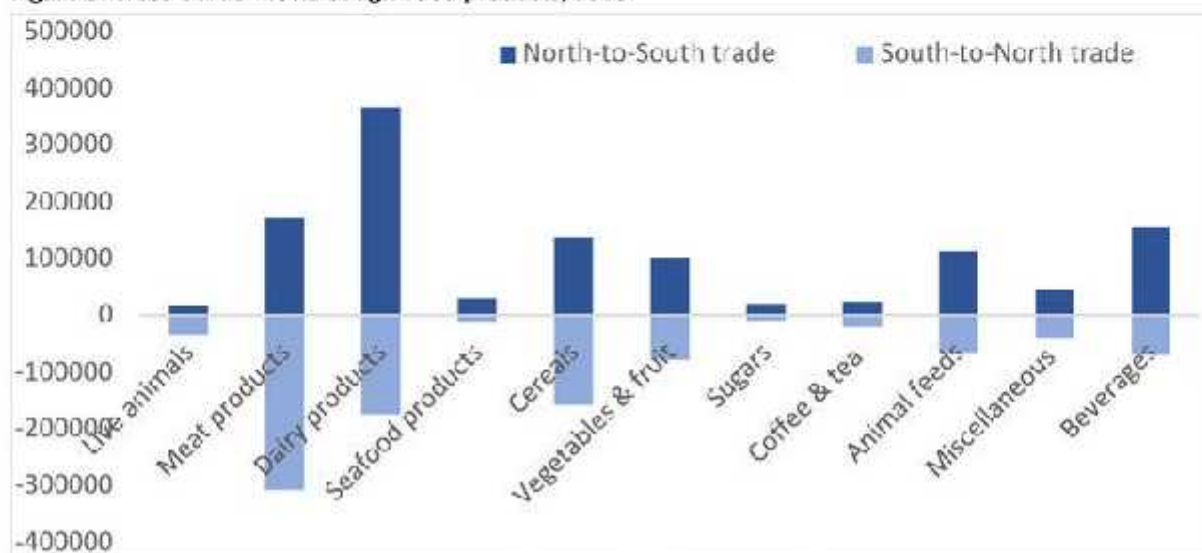
- 67 The UK market is also important to the Irish economy, accounting for around 16% of total exports and being the largest single country destination. than cross-border trade. For example, GB trade is four times the size of cross-border trade for NI and seven times for goods from Ireland (2016 figures). 2014 18% of services exports and 14% of goods went to the UK (including NI). When the comparison is made to the EU market the multiple falls to 2½ times for NI, while Ireland's exports to the EU are three times the size of its sales to the UK.

Agri-Food

- 68 The agri-food sector is unique within the wider Brexit debate due to the importance not only of Ireland/UK trade in agri-food goods (where 50% of Ireland's meat products, 33% of dairy products and 75% of live animals go to the UK), but also because of the integrated nature of the supply chain on the island of Ireland that deliver these exportable goods, the risks of high tariffs in the case of WTO rules applying, and the contribution of CAP to farm incomes in NI.
- 69 The agri-food industry remains a key source of employment in all parts of NI and Ireland. Primary agriculture and food processing employ more than 180,000 people with a strong regional concentration. In Ireland 16% of all Food & Drink processing firms are based in the Border region, making up 18% of all manufacturing businesses. In NI the Border Councils, in particular ABC, Fermanagh & Omagh and Mid Ulster, account for 62% of all food processing employment in NI.
- 70 Although the supply chains flow in both directions across the border, Figure 8 shows how a majority of dairy products (much of this raw and later processed milk), beverages and animal feeds are traded from North to South, while a surplus of meat products (red meat and poultry), live animals and cereals occurs in the opposite direction. These flows are important not only for the large firms, many of those in NI being located in the Border Corridor close to suppliers, but also for smaller producers, which are becoming increasingly important as suppliers to supermarkets and restaurants.

71 The inter-connected nature of these agri-food flows are important if tariffs were introduced in a No Deal scenario. The NI Dairy Council has referred to some of that trade being unviable and research from InterTradeIreland suggests that the trade value in dairy products could fall by 52%. In fact, half of the 19% decline in North to South trade would come from the declining sale of milk and cream products.

Figure 8: Cross-border flows of agri-food products, 2018



Source: HMRC Regional Trade Statistics

Tourism

72 The tourism industry is increasingly important as an employer and source of local economic development throughout the entire Border Corridor. The core areas and visitor attractions of the western part of the Corridor have been supplemented in recent years elsewhere in the region. It is, however, a sector under a great deal of pressure already, not least due to the currency issues in the Southern Border Counties. As one commentator put it, ‘In essence, ‘the sun was shining, there just wasn’t any hay to be made’.³⁰

73 In NI, the Border Councils make up 45% of total tourism employment in 2018. In the same year 9% of total employment in the Border council areas was in tourism, larger than the share enjoyed by Construction. Tourism is now similar in size to the Construction Industry (8.5% of total) in terms of share of employment in the NI border area. The sector is even more important, in employment terms, in the Southern Border Counties with 11% of employment share there.

74 Tourism expenditure in 2018 for the NI border councils was £395m, 41% of the NI total, marking a 12% fall on the previous year. Causeway Coast & Glens and Fermanagh &

Omagh account for 62% of expenditure in the region between them. The previous report pointed to the fall in the value of Sterling not being something to rely on in the long term, while operators point to 2017 being a particularly good year, given summer weather and event promotion.

- 75 In the Southern Border Counties both visitor numbers and expenditure were down in 2017, an early response to the devaluation in Sterling. Visitor expenditure was €501 million in 2017, 9% lower than the previous year, although still 25% higher than the NI Border Council figure.
- 76 Almost 2½ million visitors came to the Border Corridor in 2017, a number that has been on an upward trend since the 1990s, even with upsets such as Foot & Mouth disease or currency devaluations. However, the numbers remain more dependent on 'home' or domestic visitors (often coming to see friends or family), than do other parts of the island. More importantly with Brexit the UK and cross-border visitor is still the key visitor for this area, something that has altered very little over the past decade and more.

Sectoral exposure to Brexit

- 77 Sectoral exposure is the position where a sector of the economy exports a high share to one market *and* this sector takes a high share of all exports to that one market. Using this measure, analysis from the Irish government has found that Food & Drink, Pharmachem, Traditional Manufacturing, Printing and Materials Manufacturing are the sectors most exposed by any change to trade relations between Ireland and the UK.³¹ The same sectors are also highly exposed to change in cross-border trade, as they account for 54% of South-to-North cross-border goods sales.³²
- 78 Manufacturing is key to the economy of the Southern Border Counties, with 2,100 firms and 28,000 employees (2017 figures and roughly 12% of the state totals). The exposed sectors account for above average sectoral shares of regional manufacturing employment in Food & Drink (17% of the sectoral total), Traditional Manufacturing (17%) and Materials Manufacturing (15%). Within the region, the exposed sectors account for 38% of manufacturing enterprises and 67% of manufacturing employees.
- 79 In NI analysis on a 'No Deal' exit highlighted 40,000 jobs at risk in those sectors of the economy which were most exposed to EU trade.³³ Manufacturing sectors, again, are key to this exposure, especially Food & Drink, Chemicals, Transport Equipment and Electronics & Machinery. Around 60% of the NI total employment in these parts of

manufacturing can be found in the Border Council areas, making up 17% of total employment in the region.

- 80 Given these concentrations of employment (and indeed turnover) in the local economies it is unsurprising that consultations with businesses for this report shows a high degree of worry about Brexit, in particular anything close to a 'No Deal' exit. It is accepted that the local economies closer to the border have a higher propensity to export, in particular to the nearest market. And, that this is a regular trade for small firms, often with a small number of customers but accounting for a high proportion of output. All of which makes frictionless trade as essential part of the region's success. The alternative will be an expensive adjustment programme for governments on both sides of the border as evidenced in the €650 million put aside in the recent Irish budget.

4.2 People: Ensuring movement and access in a connected Corridor

- 81 Immigration was a central part of the Brexit debate and that has made the movement of people a key part of the subsequent negotiations. The Common Travel Area – where Irish and UK citizens can travel in a border-free zone and enjoy the same rights throughout the area – has been secured in the talks as part of any withdrawal agreement.
- 82 However, the application of a new UK migration policy to NI, which is based on minimum salary level of £30,000 for new migrants, is likely to prove problematic given that the median NI full-time wage was £27,000 in 2018. This is likely to be even more difficult in the NI Border Councils where median wages in every LGD are below the NI average.
- 83 The dispersion of migrants across the entire island has been quite marked in the period since EU enlargement. The figures for the Border Corridor reflect this. Almost half (48%) of all NI National Insurance applications from overseas nationals have been made by residents of the NI border councils, 68% of these by non-Irish EU nationals. Migration has been even more important, in terms of absolute numbers, to the communities and workforces of the Southern Border Counties where 16% of all PPSN applications by foreign nationals are made.
- 84 Every consultee spoken to made the point that foreign nationals have become crucial to the operation of many workplaces across the Border Corridor. Any interruption or chilling effect to this is a concern to businesses with some commenting on falling numbers of EU26 workers in the last two years. Data released by NISRA in February 2019 showed a 17% year-on-year decrease (or decline of 9,000 people) to 44,000 workers in 2017 in NI

as a whole. Consultees referred to this with some blaming it either on uncertainty around status in light of Brexit and others on the falling value of Sterling meaning any remittances would go less far.

- 85 The data from both Ireland and NI continues to show that some sectors are more reliant on migrants than others. In Ireland, EU migrants represent 13% of the total workforce (2017 figures), with sectors such as Restaurants and Hotels, Transport, Manufacturing and Retail all above average. With regard to UK nationals, ICT and Financial Services show the largest shares (both 3% of the workforce).
- 86 In NI EU26 nationals made up 5% of the employment total, a much lower share than that in Ireland. However, in sectors such as Manufacturing (15%) and Restaurants and Hotels (9%), the shares are well above average. The importance of EU workers in Manufacturing is borne out in consultations with Food & Drink and Engineering employers particularly keen on a continued access to skilled labour. The importance of this workforce to Manufacturing might explain why nearly half of all National Insurance number applications in the last decade has come from two Councils with high concentrations of workplaces in this sector (Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon and Mid Ulster).
- 87 Given that Brexit was primarily about 'taking back control' of the movement of people, there will be changes for EU citizens now living in NI (the 'settled status' issue) and for any future migrants (what skills and salaries will be allowed in future UK policy). Although the continuity of the current workforce is important to businesses, those consulted (like the wider InterTradeIreland Business Monitor survey shows) have done very little planning in this area.

Movement across the border

- 88 Although the UK/EU agreement on maintaining the Common Travel Area has been uncontentious and should facilitate the cross-border flow of Irish and UK citizens to work, study or use services (as well as between the two islands), there are concerns about any delays that border checks could cause and uncertainty about where this leaves EU26 citizens crossing the border for the same purposes.
- 89 The estimates for daily commuters range from 15,000 (2011 Census figures) to perhaps double that based on cross-border mobility studies from the same period. In each case the data suggests two important points:
- More journeys are made from North to South than in the other direction;
 - The vast majority of cross-border journeys originate in the regions proximate to the border.

- 90 Other analysis, using traffic counters, mobile phone use and the NI Life & Times survey data provide some consensus around an estimate of 100 million cross-border journeys being made each year and all of which certainly support the second point above. For example, the Life & Times survey found that 80% of cross-border journeys originated in five Council areas (Derry City & Strabane, Fermanagh & Omagh, Mid Ulster, ABC and Newry, Mourne & Down).
- 91 Just as importantly the survey data highlights the frequency of cross-border trips for some 15% of the NI population – either every day or ‘several times a week’ – with 90% of these made from the border region. The same point can be made – with regard to cross-border shopping from South to North – where households made just over 8 cross-border shopping trips each in 2018 but this rose to more than 15 (more than one per month) for households in the Border region.³⁴ Again, the inter-connectivity of the Corridor for much more than just trade is striking.

5 Conclusions

- 91 The 2017 report, supported by the economic outlooks in this update, suggest that a period of slower economic growth lies ahead for both economies on the island. The trade impacts of even an orderly UK exit from the EU will have a negative impact over time on employment and GDP.³⁵ In such a scenario, there will certainly be a need for measures to ensure that regional economies can remain competitive.
- 92 At the same time, uncertainty remains about the final shape of the UK exit and where this will leave NI and the border on the island of Ireland. It has been pointed out with good reason given international evidence that ‘a “frictionless” border is almost an oxymoron’ if one state is in a different economic bloc from another with different rules around movement of people, goods, services and capital.³⁶ In this scenario, a great deal of political will and imagination will be necessary to create a solution for NI and Ireland that avoids a much harder form of border management than we currently enjoy on the Island.

5.1 Mitigation issues to be addressed by Councils and others

- 93 The structural economic weaknesses in the Border Corridor, summed up in the productivity figures, have been recognised for some time and are the subject of a range of actions in Community Plans and Local Economic and Community Plans across the Council areas. More recent City Deal proposals – both for Derry City & Strabane and for the Belfast City Region – also are looking at strengthening regional economic development, notably in the area of research and innovation. The emerging proposals for a Growth Deal in the Mid, South & West region of NI is very likely to complement these ideas.
- 94 The proposals in the recent Irish budget (8 October 2019) outlined thinking about supports for exposed sectors, businesses and employees in the potential scenario of a No Deal. The high-level figure of €1.2 billion includes a range of infrastructure investments in ports, airports and customs. It also includes a potential investment in social protection (welfare) and activation measures, with a realisation that the Southern Border Counties might be most exposed. There will be supports for businesses, particularly those in agriculture and tourism and, again, the border region will be given special attention in any stabilisation, adjustment or even short term loans.

- 95 This type of planning has been echoed in funding for NI under UK government No Deal planning with ports (including Warrenpoint) being upgraded to try and deal with any disorderly exit.
- 96 Even in light of a deal being struck between the EU and UK there will be necessary mitigation actions for the Border Corridor, which could include:
- Accelerated investment in transport connectivity projects across the Border Corridor, some of which is already planned in *Ireland 2040* and elsewhere, including the A5, N4, N16 (Sligo/Enniskillen), Southern Relief Road (around Newry) and the Enniskillen Bypass.
 - Rolling out of full fibre broadband to a set of public buildings and sites throughout the Corridor along the lines envisaged by DCMS funding for Council areas in NI.
 - Medium-term continuation of EU funding (matched by Ireland and NI authorities) to peace and reconciliation projects (Peace programme), cross-border cooperation (Interreg), research collaboration (Horizon 2020 and successor programmes) and student mobility activities (Erasmus).
 - Planning for Brexit supports: Larger firms, with experienced management teams, have certainly engaged more actively in this process but supports such as those offered by InterTradeIreland should be strongly promoted by LEOs and Councils to other cohorts of firms, with more of their turnover exposed to risk.
- 97 For the economy in the Border Corridor in a world after Brexit there remains a larger challenge of both market and skills diversification. Market diversification at the economy level is a long-term project for both NI and Ireland, given geography and historical linkages. However, it is ongoing with Ireland's share of exports going to the UK falling from almost 50% in 1973 to around 15% today. NI's scale of change is much more reduced, its dependence on the GB and EU markets (most particularly Ireland) still very strong.
- 98 Mitigation actions in this light for the Border Corridor might include:
- Encouraging and promoting greater export diversification is, by necessity, a long term process but is one that, with supports³⁷, can be successful for all types of firms.
 - Diversification will not be possible for all firms – the tastes and distance constraints for some food producers or materials manufacturing need to be recognised and more support here at the intensive margin (or the market share rather than diversity of markets).
 - The idea of an export pathway – that firms move from one market into others even if not in a linear fashion – is one that invites the fullest cooperation between various

private and public bodies, including local government with their economic development competencies, at different steps along the way.³⁸

- Diversification can demand greater scale and this raises the potential for greater cooperation and clustering in some of the most risk-exposed sectors. Agri-food, for example, though highly integrated in its supply chains has a poor track record of cooperation between firms in areas such as promotion, innovation and skills development. The Border Corridor may provide a testing ground for such activity not only in this sectors but others, such as tourism.

- 99 The increased diversity in employment in recent decades is noted above and is something that will be under threat in any new UK migration policy. If this is based on a minimum salary level of £30,000 for new migrants, access to migrant workers and the necessary skills brought by them will become much more problematic in the NI Border Councils. The continued importance of skilled employees for the businesses, healthcare and educational institutions in the border region means that policies which support movement of people will not only be essential for the continued growth of some sectors but also for the population vitality of the council areas.

5.2 Border Management

- 100 One point that has been made, if not always listened to, throughout the past three years is that the Irish border is not just to do with trade but encompasses bigger issues of identity and community.
- 101 Thus the need not only for measures to mitigate against any negative impacts of Brexit, but also for the creation of solutions that ensure that future border management is actually as seamless as possible. The point is made that there are currently checks, notably on food safety at Larne port, but in reality the seamlessness of movement across the border has something taken for granted since the mid-1990s.
- 102 Consultations for the 2017 report and for this update have all identified the need to maintain the current management of the Irish border as far as possible. Various reasons are given for this but most centre on a pragmatic view of the costs of change – from the bottom line for businesses through to the political sensitivities surrounding the question.
- 103 One idea that has been floated is that a new economic zone would be created within which the free movement of goods and services would continue as now. The application of exemptions for trade by certain sizes of businesses and the introduction of quotas

for certain sectors that are highly integrated (eg. agri-food) are ideas that might form the basis of such a zone although these are all exceptions which prove a different rule. The details of geography (all of NI, part of NI or something cross-border), the sectors covered and other issues have not been worked out, nor has the question of how to prevent displacement from other parts of the island to this area.

- 104 The ideas around exemptions or solutions based on emerging technologies are ones that would necessitate a flexible and imaginative approach by the EU in terms of border management. Some commentators point to examples of precisely this (including the former divided Germany, Cyprus or Croatia/Bosnia & Herzegovina), but all involve states aiming to enter the Single Market and Customs Union rather than exit institutions.
- 105 Therefore the simplest solutions suggested in the Border Corridor in 2017 and again in 2019 are focussed on the continuing membership of NI in the EU Single Market and Customs Union, as something which ensure alignment with both customs codes and standards. This is the common understanding of the backstop (albeit applied to the UK as a whole) as insurance unless something akin to this comes up via a new Free Trade Agreement with the EU or technology solutions mitigate the need for checks. The current 'customs and consent' talks between the UK and the EU appear to centre on these same questions with the added input by the NI Assembly or perhaps population (via a referendum).

Notes

¹ For the EU guidelines see <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2017/04/29/euco-b-rexit-guidelines/>

² See the 'alternative arrangement' proposals in <http://2mbg5fgb1k380gtk22pbxgw-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/BetterDeal.pdf> (December 2018).

³ For examples of Katy Hayward's analysis on the backstop, see <https://ukandeu.ac.uk/can-a-better-deal-replace-the-backstop/> (29 January 2019) and <https://ukandeu.ac.uk/the-biggest-obstacle-to-a-workable-backstop-alternative-lies-not-in-the-eu-but-the-uk/> (26 September 2019). Also 'Weighing up Alternative Arrangements' (4 September 2019); see <https://ukandeu.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Weighing-up-alternative-arrangements.pdf>.

⁴ For an important effort to gather opinion in the border region see ICBAN, *Bordering on Brexit* (July 2018, authored by Katy Hayward).

⁵ For the 'protocol' in the Withdrawal Agreement see https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/draft_withdrawal_agreement.pdf (pp.98-106).

⁶ For recent commentary on this see <https://ukandeu.ac.uk/the-irish-position-on-the-backstop/> (30 September 2019).

⁷ Institute for Government, *Governing without Ministers: Northern Ireland since the fall of the power-sharing Executive* (September 2019); see <https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/sites/default/files/publications/governing-without-ministers-northern-ireland.pdf>

⁸ See analysis from NIESR at <https://www.niesr.ac.uk/sites/default/files/publications/NIESR%20Briefing%20-%20Industry%20and%20Regional%20Effects%20of%20a%20No-Deal%20Brexit.pdf> (12 Sep. 2019).

⁹ For this see Meredith Crowley et al (31 Jan. 2019): <https://voxeu.org/article/impact-brexit-uncertainty-uk-exports>.

¹⁰ ESRI, *Quarterly Economic Commentary: Autumn 2019* (Sep. 2019); Central Bank of Ireland, *Quarterly Economic Bulletin Q4 2019* (Oct. 2019).

¹¹ For details of this work on the labour market, migration, trade and investment see <https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/articles/eu-exit-analysis>.

¹² For more see <https://intertradeireland.com/insights/business-monitor/>.

¹³ On the Brexit uncertainty effect see N. Bloom et al, 'Brexit and uncertainty: Insights from the Decision Maker Panel', *Bank of England Staff Working Paper*, No. 780 (Feb. 2019).

¹⁴ Analysis by Conor O'Toole in ESRI, *Quarterly Economic Commentary: Summer 2019* (June 2019), pp. 40-3.

¹⁵ ESRI, *Quarterly Economic Commentary: Autumn 2019* (Sep. 2019).

¹⁶ For this phrase see John Bradley & Michael Best, 'Bypassed Places? The post-Belfast Agreement Border region economy', *Journal of Cross-Border Studies*, 6 (2012), 45-58.

¹⁷ These figures are for 16+ in NI and 15+ in Ireland.

¹⁸ Recent research from Finola Kane (IGEE5) at the Dublin Economic Workshop, Sep. 2019.

¹⁹ UUEPC, *NI Skills Barometer 2019* (June 2019).

²⁰ Paul MacFlynn & Paul McGoldrick, 'Productivity on the Island of Ireland: A tale of three economies', *NERI Working Paper* (Oct. 2018).

²¹ InterTradeIreland, *Shock absorption capacity of firms in Ireland and Northern Ireland* (March 2019).

²² NIESR, *Update: Modelling the short- and long-run impact of Brexit* (NIGEM Observations No. 14, May 2019).

²³ A. Bergin, P. Economides, A. Garcia-Rodriguez & G. Murphy, 'Ireland and Brexit: Modelling the impact of deal and no-deal scenarios', *ESRI Quarterly Economic Commentary: Spring 2019* (March 2019).

²⁴ R. Ortega-Argilés & P. McCann, 'How will Brexit hit different UK regions and industries' (February 2018); see <https://theconversation.com/how-brexit-will-hit-different-uk-regions-and-industries-91287>

²⁵ For an example of this see Christopher Bickerton, *Brexit and the British Growth Model* (July 2018).

²⁶ The UUEPC's estimates are based on a range of independent forecasts for the Irish economy, including modelling the potential impacts of Brexit. This uses the sectoral composition of employment in the 2011 Census and current trends in order to create profiles for the State, Regions and Counties. These estimates remain very experimental.

²⁷ UUEPC, *Summer Outlook: June 2019*.

²⁸ For these figures see InterTradeIreland's cross-border trade website, <https://intertradeireland.com/insights/trade-statistics/>

²⁹ For this research see InterTradeIreland, *Export participation and performance of firms on the island of Ireland* (September 2018); InterTradeIreland, *Cross-border trade and supply linkages* (June 2018); and NISRA, *Cross-border supply chain report* (June 2018).

³⁰ Lisa Wilson, 'Brexit, Tourism and the Border', NERI blog (26 Aug. 2019), see https://www.nerinstitute.net/blog/2019/08/25/brexit-tourism-and-the-border/?mc_cid-75511b81f2&mc_eid-6ddfd25395

³¹ Department of Finance, *UK EU Exit: An exposure analysis of sectors of the Irish economy* (Mar. 2017).

³² Calculations from InterTradeIreland, *Potential impact of WTO tariffs on cross-border trade* (June 2017), Table 1.

³³ Department for the Economy, *Northern Ireland Trade and Investment Data under No Deal* (Sep. 2019).

³⁴ CSO, *Cross Border Shopping Survey* (19 Dec. 2018).

³⁵ Fraser of Allender Institute/ DfE, *The direct trade impacts of EU Exit scenarios on Northern Ireland's long-term economic performance* (Sep. 2019); Bergin et al, 'Ireland and Brexit', *ESRI Quarterly Economic Commentary: Spring 2019* (March 2019).

³⁶ Quotation from Katy Hayward (July 2017), at <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/brexit/2017/07/10/a-hard-irish-border-is-possible-a-frictionless-one-is-an-oxymoron/>

³⁷ There is significant research on the various types of support, some of which suggests that direct supports (match-making to markets, finding distributors etc) are more likely to be useful than the more indirect, informational or even trade mission approaches.

³⁸ The Regional Action Plan for Jobs taskforces (in Ireland) might provide a useful model for this work.



North South Ministerial Council

Joint Secretariat

58 Upper English Street

Armagh

BT61 7LG

23rd June 2020

Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor

C/O Fingal County Council

Economic, Enterprise &

Tourism Development

County Hall

Swords

K67 X8Y2

Dear Joint Secretaries

We wish to draw your attention to the important ongoing work of the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor Network and its significant efforts at promoting cross-border economic development. This collaborative work is now even more important as we maximise the potential of the network to kickstart the economic recovery in each of our respective areas.

As you may know, the network comprises the eight local authorities between Belfast and Dublin i.e. Belfast City Council, Lisburn Castlereagh City Council, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, Louth County Council, Meath County Council, Fingal County Council and Dublin City Council, along with two of the region's major Higher Education Institutions, Dublin City University (DCU) and Ulster University (UU).

The Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor Network came together in recognition of the benefits of the Economic Corridor model, which has demonstrated its effectiveness in improving competitiveness and supporting growth in many regions worldwide. Prior to the emergence

of the Coronavirus pandemic, economic indicators were showing a steady improvement in our region. As the island of Ireland emerges from the COVID-19 crisis, the network partners strongly believe that increased cross-border cooperation is vital if we wish to return the region to sustained and inclusive economic prosperity.

Following extensive engagement, the network members plan to leverage their resources to exert a significant positive impact on the economic development of the corridor. To this end, DCU and UU have recently completed a significant piece of research for the network that sets out the future prospects for the region and begins the work of identifying potential areas for cooperation which could create a stronger trajectory for growth.

To ensure that the network's future activities and investment are rooted in a robust evidence base, and to understand in detail how the Dublin-Belfast Corridor's changing economy will impact its core economic sectors and needs, the partners also plan to commission the development of an economic model. The model will provide baseline data that will be key to planning for the region's development and forecasting future needs with regard to infrastructure, skills, social provision and other relevant areas.

A formal launch of the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor Network and the publication of its initial research will take place in the coming months. In the meantime, we would greatly appreciate the opportunity to meet with the Joint Secretariat of the NSMC to outline our vision for the region, and to explain in more detail how we plan to make a valuable contribution to sustainable and balanced development in a post-COVID-19 world.

We attach for your information a copy of our research which we would be delighted to discuss with you at an early opportunity.

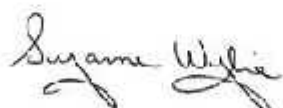
Yours sincerely



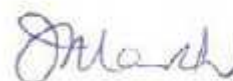
Roger Wilson
 Chief Executive
 Armagh City, Banbridge
 & Craigavon Borough Council



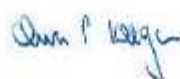
David Burns
 Chief Executive
 Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council



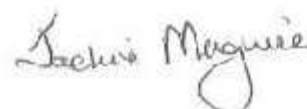
Suzanne Wylie
 Chief Executive
 Belfast City Council



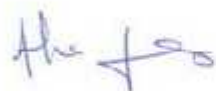
Joan Martin
 Chief Executive
 Louth County Council



Owen Keegan
 Chief Executive
 Dublin City Council



Jackie Maguire
 Chief Executive
 Meath County Council



AnnMarie Farrelly
 Chief Executive
 Fingal County Council



Marie Ward
 Chief Executive
 Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

Report to:	Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 10 th August 2020
Subject:	Update on EER Regeneration Projects
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly – Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration.
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Seamus Crossey – Project Manager

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

For decision For noting only

1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u> Purpose of this report is to provide a brief update for noting on the existing 20/21 Capital/Regeneration projects being taken forward by the Economic, Employment and Regeneration section within the ERT Department.</p> <p><u>Background</u> Council has budgeted and secured other 3rd party external funding to bring forward a range of projects and initiatives. Council officers are continuing to work closely with funding bodies, government departments. Consultants, Contractors and range of other stakeholders to deliver on the below schemes.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>1. Newry Lower Hill Street Public Realm Scheme Contract works commenced in May 2020 and will continue until end of March 2021. Funder claims being submitted on a regular basis to the Department For Communities.</p> <p>2. Warrenpoint Front Shore Public Realm Project AECOM consultants have been appointed at start of July 2020. Consultants will now undertake Design & Consultation work followed by a submission of a Planning Application/Economic Appraisal later in 2020.</p> <p>3. Public Realm Enhancement Project Council Estates team are looking at key historic PR Schemes across our urban centres. Council now beginning to work with DFC in order to develop an Economic Appraisal for approval to allow Letter Of Offer to be issued and works to take place in the remainder of 20/21 subject to funding being secured.</p> <p>4. 7 Rural Environmental Improvement Schemes</p>

Whitemountain Contractors working with WYG (Framework Consultants) on a new agreed programme of activity that allowed the works to the 7 schemes across the district to recommence in June 2020 with Covid-19 Compliant measures in place. Works will continue up-to the end of March 2021.

5. DFC Town Centre Targeted Works

Prior to Lock Down a number of urban centre regeneration/maintenance activities had been completed. The few outstanding actions were then completed in July 2020.

6. Derrymore Estate Regeneration Project

Contractor mobilised and on-site from 18th May 2020, with works not expected to complete until the end of 2020. Working with National Trust and funders to ensure compliance across the project, while at the same time still enabling the public to use the facility in a restricted way during the works.

7. Moorehall Regeneration Project, Co. Mayo

Derrymore Co-operation project with Mayo which NMDDC leading on. Contractor recommenced week of 18th May 2020 for a 5-month contract. Works now well underway in regards the main activities of new Pathways, Play Equipment, Fencing and Signage.

8. Carlingford Lough Greenway

Ph 1

Scheduled Monument Consent form has received draft approval from HED for the erosion effected phase I section, so now working with consultants and contractor to have this costed for consideration.

Ph 2

Working with Consultants to turn around planning application and get it submitted early August 2020. Also dealing with some outstanding land owner queries. Following up with LCC to make sure that we continue to work with SEUPB to secure the required additional grant aid needed for the project.

9. Warrenpoint Baths Expression Of Interest (EOI) Process

Following consideration of June 2020 ERT report on this matter, Council officers now laising with relevant Departmental sections and Heritage funders to investigate options for the site, that will be brought back to Council in due course.

10. Forkhill Barracks Site

Currently unable to undertake the previously agreed Partnership Committee decision to carry out a community survey of the village on their preference for the remainder of the site. This will be revisited with funders later in the summer of 2020.

11. Castlewellan Forest Park Project

DAERA

Council is in receipt of funding from DAERA for the construction of an interpretation centre in the Walled Garden and the restoration of several historic buildings at the Bothy Yard. Due to financial constraints, the project's outputs were

	<p>revisited. Council proposed to DAERA an alternative space for the interpretation centre, DAERA approved re-purposing the Stove Conservatory as the interpretation centre. A tender package was issued at the end of July 2020. It is anticipated that a contractor will be on site in early September 2020 for 6 months.</p> <p>NLHF Council continues to work with key stakeholders to progress the project from development to delivery. An application for capital and revenue funding will be submitted in November 2020 to NLHF. Notification is expected in March 2021, if successful, the natural and built heritage at the Demesne will be restored.</p> <p>DAERA funding secured for the construction of an interpretation centre and the restoration of several historic buildings. Due to the historic setting and specialist planting in the Arboretum, site works and construction the project is undergoing cost revisions and it is anticipated to appoint a contractor during the summer of 2020.</p> <p>NLHF Council is in receipt of funding from NLHF to develop a landscape, natural and built heritage project for Castlewellan Historic Demesne. The project comprises of new build and restoration of buildings at The Grange. Council is progressing an application to NLHF for capital and revenue. Notification if Council is successful in attaining funding will be in early 2021.</p> <p>12. Slieve Gullion Trials</p> <p>All works are complete. A revenue maintenance contract will then begin late summer 2020 for the 2.2km of trail from the top car park to the lake.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	Council note the progress being made on EER section projects and report back to committee on individual projects as and when required.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Council have secured significant funding from both its own internal Capital budgets and a range of 3 rd party Grant Aiding Bodies to deliver on the 20/21 projects as outlined above.
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>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</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>
7.0	Appendices
	N/A
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A

Report to:	Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	10 th August 2020
Subject:	DAERA Rural Small Business Grants scheme 2020 / 2021
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly Assistant Director of Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth Head of Regeneration and Business Development

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	<p><u>Purpose</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To note that Council have signed and accepted a contract for funding for implementation and administration of a rural micro business capital grant programme in 2020/21 to the value of £71,300 (£62,000 business grants and £9,300 administration grant). ▪ To note that Council will implement the rural micro business capital grant programme in 2020/21 according to DAERA contact and agreed business case. <p><u>Background</u></p> <p>Council has recently completed the delivery of a pilot Rural Business Capital grant programme (2019/20) which was funded by The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA). Under this pilot scheme 19 rural micro businesses received maximum grants of £4,999 to a total combined value of £70,667.99. Business owners provided match funding at a rate of 50%. This represented an investment of £141,335.98.</p> <p>DAERA has now invited the 11 NI Councils to put forward a business case with the potential for a further (2nd) roll out of the Rural Business Capital Grant Programme to be delivered in the financial year 2020/21. Initial discussions have identified Business Recovery post COVID 19 as the key theme for this proposed scheme.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	It is proposed that grant offered through this Scheme will assist participating businesses in their recovery efforts by providing capital assistance for

	<p>equipment/machinery for new business practices or planned growth plans and building adaptations internal and external to facilitate social distancing measures.</p> <p>The Scheme objectives are to achieve the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To provide at least 10 micro businesses in rural areas, with a capital grant capped at £4,999, at a match funding rate of 50% from DAERA and 50% from participating businesses; 2) To support businesses in recovery or sustainability of their business following the COVID-19 pandemic; 3) To support businesses to grow and develop their business; 4) To support businesses maintaining or increasing staffing levels <p>Eligibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The scheme will be open to rural micro businesses (Rural is defined as all areas outside of settlement limits with over 5,000 inhabitants). ▪ A micro business is a business with less than 10 full-time employees ▪ It is anticipated that existing micro businesses and social enterprises operating commercially will be eligible to apply to the Scheme, with the exclusion of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New build accommodation, provision of additional bed space for existing accommodation providers ○ Farmers carrying out an agricultural activity on farm ○ Any project which is the statutory responsibility of another government department or agency <p>Anticipated delivery timescales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Opening for applications – 3rd August 2020 ▪ Closing / deadline for applications - 11th September 2020 ▪ Assessments complete - 31st October 2020 ▪ LOO issue to successful applicants - 30th November 2020 ▪ Project completion – 26th February 2021 ▪ Claims submitted to Councils – 26th March 2021 ▪ Claims submitted to DAERA – 30th April 2021 <p>Complementary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This Scheme will also complement the Councils’ current business support programme offerings which provides bespoke mentoring assistance (one-to-one support and workshops) to micro and small businesses to drive growth and stimulate new job creation <p>Grant Available for implementation / administration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Grant available for Council to administrator on behalf of DAERA is £62,000 ▪ Council will receive a grant of £9,300 (15%) for administration of the process
<p>3.0</p>	<p>Recommendations</p>
<p>3.1</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To note that Council have signed and accepted a contact for funding for implementation and administration of a rural micro business capital grant programme in 2020/21 to the value of £71,300 (£62,000 business grants and £9,300 administration grant). ▪ To note that Council will implement the rural micro business capital grant programme in 2020/21 according to DAERA contact and agreed business case.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Staff time for project implementation. Council will receive an administration grant of £9,300
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</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>
7.0	Appendices
	N/A
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A

Report to:	Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	10 August 2020
Subject:	Free Ports - Consultation
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly – Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly – Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration

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

For decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
---------------------	--------------------------	------------------------	-------------------------------------

1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u> To note the content of this report</p> <p><u>Background</u> Freeports are secure customs zones located at ports where business can be carried out inside a country's land border, but where different customs rules apply. They can reduce administrative burdens and tariff controls, provide relief from duties and import taxes, and ease tax and planning regulations.</p> <p>Typically, goods brought into a Freeport do not attract a requirement to pay duties until they leave the Freeport and enter the domestic market. If raw materials are brought into a Freeport from overseas and processed into a final good before entering the domestic market, then duties will be paid on the final good. Freeports may also offer simplifications to the normal customs administrative processes on imported goods.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>The aim of Freeports is to boost economic activity across the UK, ensuring that towns, cities and regions across the country can continue to develop and grow after leaving the EU. As part of this work, the government aims to create up to 10 freeports in locations across the UK.</p> <p>The government wants to establish freeports, which have different customs rules than the rest of the country, that are innovative hubs, boost global trade, attract inward investment and increase productivity. In doing so, the government wants freeports to generate employment opportunities to the benefit of some of our most deprived communities around the UK.</p> <p>The objectives for UK freeports are:</p>

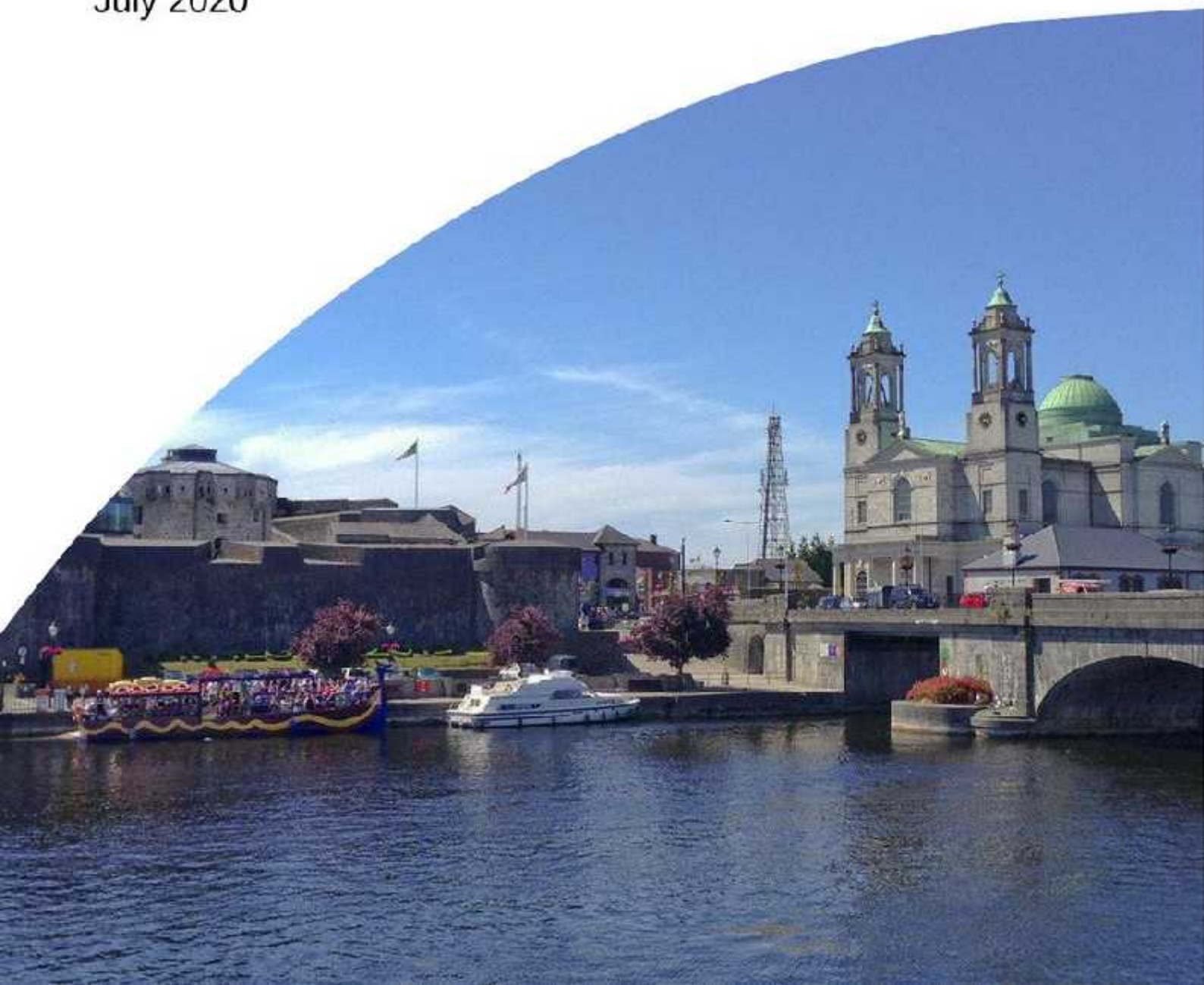
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establish freeports as national hubs for global trade and investment across the UK • promote regeneration and job creation • create hotbeds for innovation <p>Evidence has been drawn from successful freeports around the world to develop a freeport model. The proposed model includes tariff flexibility, customs facilitations and tax measures. As part of the initiative Government is also considering planning reforms, additional targeted funding for infrastructure improvements and measures to incentivise innovation.</p> <p>A formal consultation was carried out to understand the thoughts on the Government's plans for freeports. These views will be used to feed into the policy development process.</p> <p>The concept of Free port status was discussed in the early days post EU Referendum as a potential ask for this region in light of the key strategic role Warrenpoint Harbour plays as an economic driver for the economy on the island.</p> <p>As part of this process Council commissioned a high level piece of research to explore the potential Economic impacts of Free Ports for this area. The detail of the report is attached as an appendix to this report and advises on potential benefits to the area if freeport status was awarded.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	Note the content of the Free Port Economic Analysis report, with further reports to be tabled at Council for discussion as this develops to ensure the Council can formulate a formal position on the matter as required.
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>Proposal initiating consultation</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 type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	<p>Appendices</p> <p>Freeport and Prospects for NMD.</p>
8.0	<p>Background Documents</p> <p>Na</p>



Freeports, Warrenpoint Harbour and the Prospects for Newry, Mourne & Down

July 2020



Contents

1. Introduction & Background	3
2. Economic Context	11
3. Consultation Responses	16
4. Conclusions	22



1. Introduction & Background

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Project Background

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council approached the Ulster University Economic Policy Centre (UUEPC) and Grant Thornton (NI) to assist in the process of responding to the UK Government's consultation on Freeports.

The UK Government consultation focusses on three key rationales for Freeports:

- Establishing Freeports as national hubs for global trade & investment;
- To promote job creation/regeneration; and
- Hotbeds for innovation.

In total, the UK aim to create 10 Freeports across various UK locations. Warrenpoint Harbour is keen to explore how/if the port and surrounding area could benefit from Freeport status. Grant Thornton and Ulster University do not offer a corporate position on the merits or otherwise of Freeports, rather, this report reflects Grant Thornton's and UUEPC's summary of data analysis and a series of conversations with businesses and other stakeholders across the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area.

Who we engaged?

As a key component of the overall Freeport consultation, Grant Thornton and UUEPC teams conducted consultations with businesses that may potentially avail of the potential implementation of a Freeport at Warrenpoint Harbour. Consultees were selected on through liaison with Newry Chamber of Commerce and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.

What we discussed?

Each consultation provided an opportunity for stakeholders to set out their views regarding Freeports and the potential implementation in Warrenpoint Harbour. The potential for other, potentially more suitable sites, for a Freeport in the Borough was also discussed. Specifically, the following points were discussed:

1. What do you see as the advantages/disadvantages of a Freeport for your business?
2. Would a Freeport support economic performance in the Newry, Mourne and Down area?
3. Where do you consider the best location for a Freeport to be?
4. Are there alternatives to the proposed Freeport idea that would have a more significant impact on economic growth and your business?
5. What infrastructure could encourage increased business activity in a Freeport?
6. What infrastructure could support wider regeneration opportunities and promote job creation in the areas around a Freeport?
7. What trade and investment support, advice and guidance would best enable your business to take advantage of the opportunities Freeports would create?

1. Introduction & background

The overall scope of this report is to aid and help inform the council response to the consultation for Freeports across the UK on behalf of the Warrenpoint Harbour. This short report will provide both economic analysis and reflect local business insight on Freeports.

As part of the report both Grant Thornton and the UUEPC engaged in seven consultations, in agreement with the Newry Chamber of Commerce, to understand the overall business sentiment towards the potential proposals for a Freeport to be located in the Warrenpoint Harbour or another location throughout the Newry, Mourne & Down area. Consultation responses, and the key themes that emerged will be outlined later in this report, following consideration of the context for Freeports and economic analysis of Warrenpoint Harbour.

1.2 Freeports – what are they?

Freeports are secure special economic zones (SEZ) and can be located at seaports, airports or a designated areas away from either an airport/seaport. Within these SEZ areas different business and custom rules apply than to the rest of the country. Goods landing, stored, handled, manufactured, configured and re-exported can be done so without being subject to customs duties. Businesses that operate within these SEZ areas can avail of the following benefits:

1. Simplified customs procedure;
2. Relief on customs duties relating to transshipment, handling and processing of goods destined for re-export;
3. Cash-flow benefits of duty deferral until goods are released for free circulation in the domestic economy (or used or consumed within the free zone);
4. Added security from the perimeter fence enclosing the free zone; and
5. Tariff inversion: some finished goods incur lower tariffs than intermediate goods; this means that intermediate goods can be imported to free zone tariff free, processed and sold as a final product, incurring lower tariff rates.

1.2.1 What are the potential benefits? – Worked examples

Savings on tariff inversion

US Foreign-Trade Zones are driven very much by the desire to avoid higher tariffs on inputs – than final outputs – and the US motor vehicle sector is one of the sectors where tariffs on inputs are higher. For example, because of inverted tariffs, a Volkswagen plant in Tennessee was estimated to save \$1.9 million – or \$13 per car – on producing 150,000 cars annually in Foreign-Trade Zones.

This issue is less significant for EU tariffs or likely UK tariffs. For example, in the motor vehicle sector EU tariffs are not inverted: importers of automotive parts face lower tariffs (4.5%) than importers of final cars (10%). The EU is, in fact, more often accused of tariff escalation rather than inversion.

1. Introduction & background

Savings on duty deferral

The size of potential savings that businesses could accrue from duty deferral will depend on:

- the value of goods imported;
- the size of the tariff;
- the interest rates on loans (i.e. cost of money); and
- the average time that intermediate inputs are stored in a free zone before they are released for circulation.

For example, assume the following:

- value of imports = £10,000;
- tariff = 3%;
- interest rate = 5%; and
- time in inventory in free zones = 3 months.

The savings on duty deferral will then be equal to £3.75, a marginal amount.

The formula used to arrive at the £3.75 is as follows:

tariff liability = value of imports * tariff

savings on duty deferral = tariff liability * interest rate * (days in inventory / 365)

Assuming that the average tariff rate on manufactured products stands at 3%, the prevailing interest rates on loans stand at 5% (p.a.) and that it takes 3 months for the inputs to be processed in a free zone and then released for circulation, the savings in duty deferral account for 0.0375% of the value of goods imported.

Of course, the higher the value of goods imported, the higher the value of savings that businesses can make from duty deferral. But even if the goods imported were worth much higher, say, £1,000,000, this still leaves only £375 made in savings.

Example: Gearboxes

In 2017, the UK imported £2.34bn worth of gearboxes (i.e. total UK imports). These faced an MFN tariff of 3.81%. Assume that only 10% of these gearboxes can be imported and processed in free zones (this is because of space constraints). And as above, let's assume an interest rate of 5%, and an average processing time in a free zone of 3 months. The total value of savings that will be made on deferring duty payments on gearboxes imported to free zones will be equal to £108,000.

1. Introduction & background

Other issues to consider

There is also a question of whether it will cost businesses more to store goods in a free zone, consequently reducing any savings made on duty deferral. On the one hand, storage costs will be incurred by businesses regardless of whether goods are stored in a free zone or elsewhere. On the other hand, it is possible to argue that storage costs will be higher in a free zone: because of the added security, and potential for businesses to make these additional savings in duty deferral and tariff inversion. We leave this issue aside but this is something to bear in mind.

In addition to these potential savings that businesses can accrue from a free zone location, there is also the question of the costs that will be incurred by the taxpayers as a result of running free zones.

It should also be borne in mind that facilities for suspending the imposition of duties already exist, under the rules applicable to customs warehouses. There is therefore a question whether storing goods in a free zone is likely to be less expensive than making use of these existing facilities.

1.3 Warrenpoint Harbour – A Background

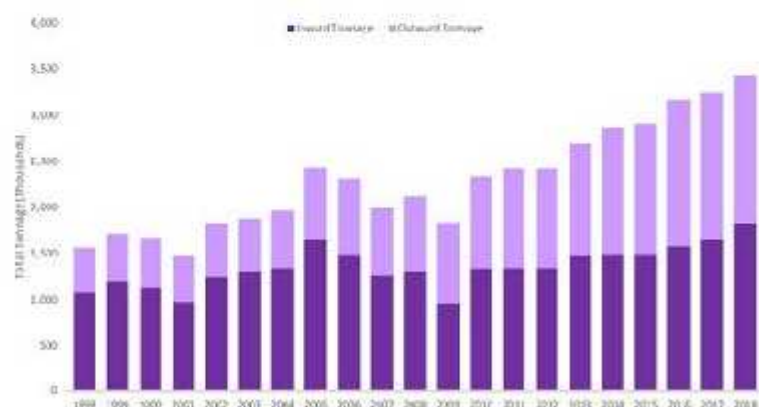
Warrenpoint harbour is located along the east coast of Northern Ireland and is closely located to the nearby city of Newry. Warrenpoint Harbour handled around 3.4 million tonnes of goods through the Harbour in 2018, a record level of tonnage for the port.

Warrenpoint Harbour's activities account for around 12% of the total tonnage passing through Northern Ireland Ports in 2018 making it the second largest tonnage handler in Northern Ireland, second only to Belfast Harbour.

A significant proportion of the total tonnage handled by the Harbour came from Inward haulage, with around 53% of all tonnage passing through the Harbour being made up of Inward bound tonnage. The balance was obviously outward tonnage, showing that the harbour is active for both the importing of goods as well as the exporting of goods from businesses throughout Newry, Mourne & Down and Northern Ireland. The Harbour is integral to the supply chain of businesses within the local area and wider.

Figure 1 below shows the levels of inward and outward bound tonnage from Warrenpoint Harbour over the last 20 years. The level of outward tonnage has increased since consistently 1998, suggesting a shift in business use to a more export based business model.

Figure 1: Total Tonnage (Inward & Outward), Warrenpoint Harbour, 1998-2018

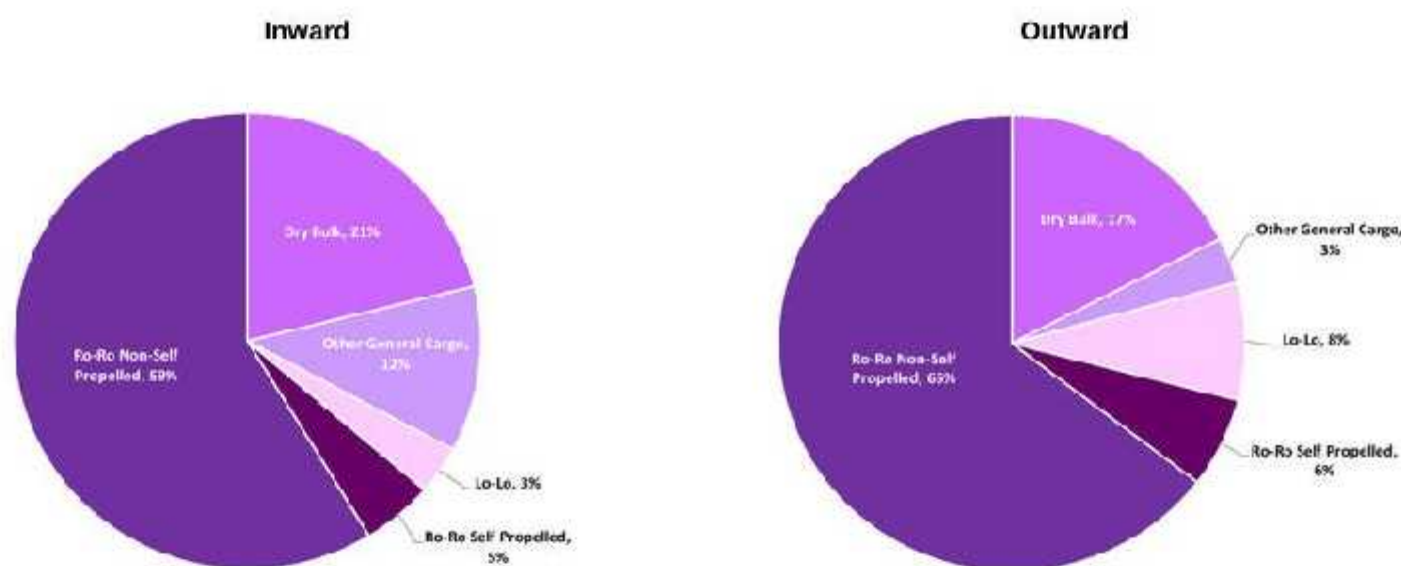


Source: Department for the Economy

1. Introduction & background

Warrenpoint Harbour handles a wide range of cargo. A significant proportion of the cargo handled being Ro-Ro (roll-on roll-off). Figure 2 below shows the types of goods that pass through the harbour broken out by inward and outward tonnage and highlighting the amount of haulage and freight that flows through the harbour in any given year.

Figure 2: % of Total Tonnage by Type (Inward & Outward), Warrenpoint Harbour, 2018

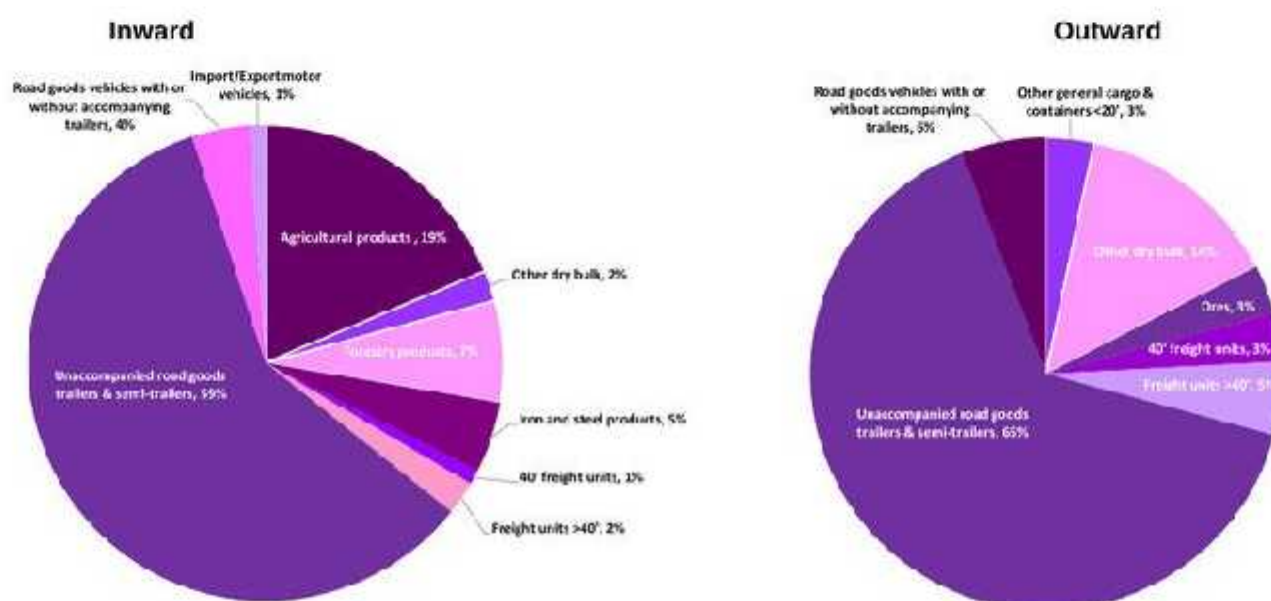


Source: Department for the Economy

Typically, as the harbour handles mostly Ro-Ro cargo, much of the goods that pass through the harbour are made up of unaccompanied road goods (i.e. trailers & semi trailers). Around 59% of all inward bound traffic and around 65% of outward bound traffic consists of unaccompanied road goods trailers & semi trailers. The remaining inward traffic brought through the harbour consist of a mixture of goods likely to be used in the input process of manufacturing. With around 5% of goods from inward traffic being Iron and Steel products to be used in components and 19% being Agricultural products, which is likely to be used as part of the Agri-Food process. The remaining outward traffic is made up of mostly dry bulk (14%) and road goods with/without accompanying trailer (6%).

1. Introduction & background

Figure 3: % of Total Tonnage by Cargo Type (Inward & Outward), Warrenpoint Harbour, 2018



Source: Department for the Economy

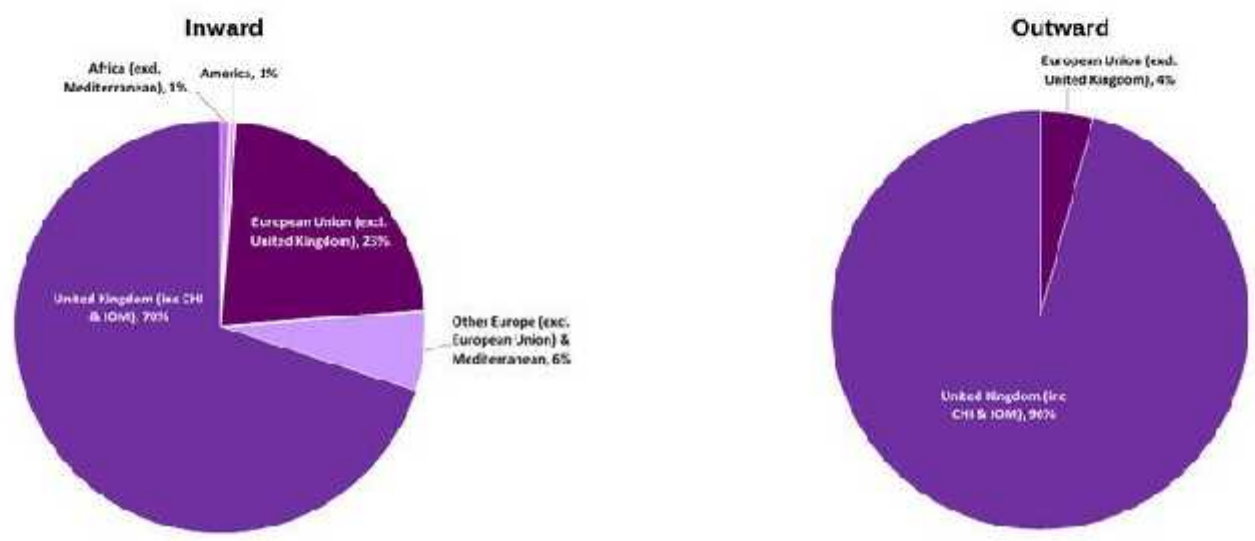
Note: Cargo that was less than 1% of total have been excluded from the above charts

Warrenpoint Harbour services quite a few markets due to its position on the eastern corridor of the island of Ireland and its proximity to GB and Europe. Figure 4 overleaf shows both the inward and outward bound markets to which Warrenpoint Harbour ships. In both inward and outward traffic GB proves to be Warrenpoint Harbour's most important market with around 70% of inward traffic coming from GB and almost 96% of outward traffic heading to the same location. Given the nature of the outward traffic and the type of cargo Warrenpoint Harbour handles it is possible that some of the cargo that lands in GB from Warrenpoint Harbour then uses GB as a land bridge to reach other markets across the globe.

Europe also proves to be a significant market that Warrenpoint Harbour serves. Approximately 23% of all inward traffic comes directly from mainland Europe. France and Russia are the largest individual markets on continental Europe, accounting for 3% of all inward traffic.

1. Introduction & background

Figure 4: % of Total Tonnage by Trading Partner (Inward & Outward), Warrenpoint Harbour, 2018



Source: Department for the Economy

Note: Trading Partners that was less than 1% of total have been excluded from the above charts



2. Economic Context

2. Economic Context

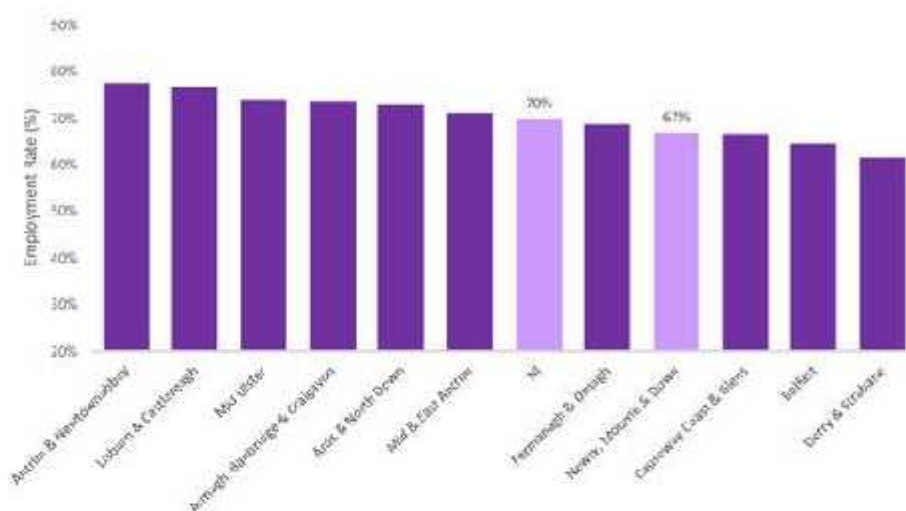
2.1 Introduction

The potential implementation of a Freeport is viewed as one potential avenue through which Newry, Mourne and Down district could gain a competitive advantage and boost economic performance in the Council area. The rationale for wanting to achieve this is important to understand and best articulated through a series of socioeconomic indicators demonstrating the economic challenges the district faces.

Employment Rate (%)

In 2018, the employment rate (%) for those aged 16 to 64 in the Newry, Mourne & Down council area was recorded at 67% – almost 3% points lower than the Northern Ireland average of 70%. Figure 5 shows that Newry, Mourne & Down council ranks 9th out of the 11 council areas, significantly trailing Antrim & Newtownabbey who in 2018 recorded an employment rate of 73%. The implementation of a Freeport at the Warrenpoint Harbour would aim to encourage business expansion through increased opportunities from exports. If successful, this could make a significant contribution to increasing employment opportunities and boosting the overall area employment rate, thus helping to close any potential disparities.

Figure 5: Employment Rate (%) 16-64, Northern Ireland LGDs, 2018



Source: NISRA (LFS: Local Area Database)

2. Economic Context

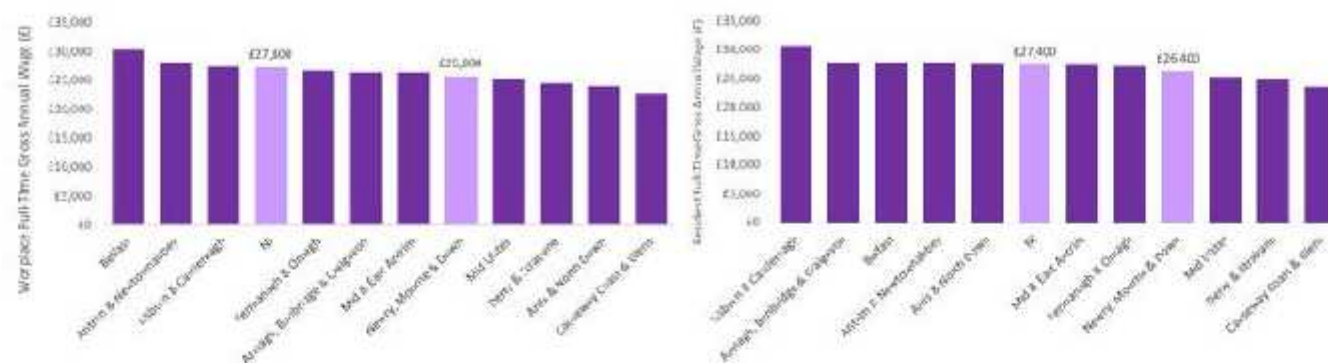
Full-Time Wages (£)

Newry, Mourne & Down’s relative disparity in labour market performance is not only limited to their employment rate (%). Similarly, gross full-time wages lag behind Northern Ireland and the majority of other councils.

In 2019 the full-time workplace (£25,800) and resident (£26,400) based annual wages within the Newry, Mourne & Down council area lagged the Northern Ireland average (£27,400) by as much as £1,000 to £1,600 per annum.

Figure 6 below shows the relative position of the Newry, Mourne & Down council area relative to the other 10 council areas and the Northern Ireland average. Newry, Mourne & Down ranks 7th and 8th for workplace and resident based wages respectively. The potential implementation of a Freeport could encourage a closing in this disparity by attracting more FDI and encouraging more exports (as a result of reduced/simplified customs regime). Both of these would, in turn, cause not only more employment opportunities, but also more skilled opportunities through the attraction of further Advanced Manufacturing firms.

Figure 6: Gross Annual Full-Time Wages (Workplace & Resident), Northern Ireland LGDs, 2019



Source: NISRA (ASHE)

2. Economic Context

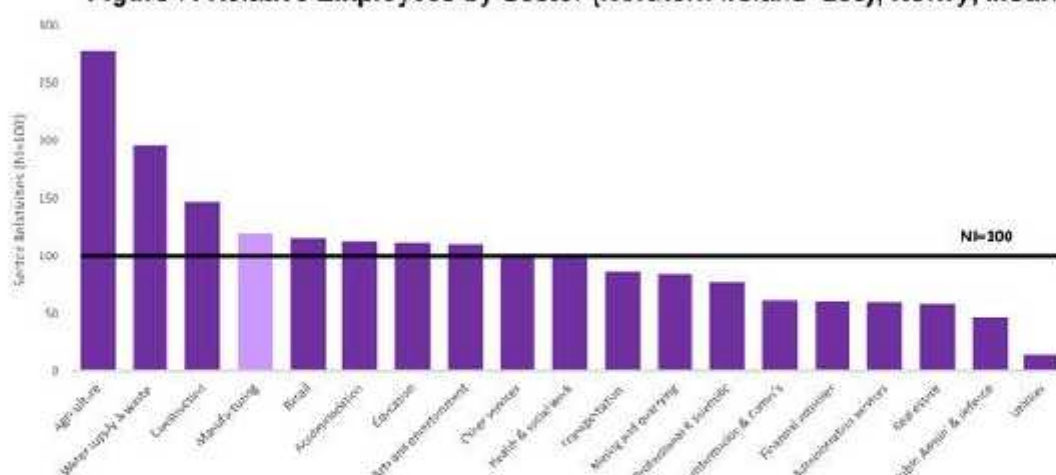
2.2 Opportunities from Freeport status

The implementation of a Freeport in the Warrenpoint Harbour – with its emphasis on exporting and the Manufacturing sector – could help reduce the economic disparity between Newry, Mourne & Down and other Northern Ireland councils. Additionally, a Freeport could also help to amplify the current strengths that already exist in the Newry, Mourne & Down council area. A key one of these is the strength of local entrepreneurship and resulting firms that makes the area a cornerstone of this activity, rivalled only in recent decades by Mid Ulster. The strength of the Manufacturing sector also points to the advantages that clustering or specialization of economic activity in the district can bring. As such this section will outline the potential opportunities that a Freeport may provide to the local area based upon the current strengths.

A boost to the Manufacturing sector?

Newry, Mourne & Down has a rich and diverse level of Manufacturing located throughout the council. Analysis using the FAME company database suggests that 336 Manufacturing firms are located within the council area, many of which are the result of local entrepreneurship. The Manufacturing sector in has long been considered the cornerstone of the local economy, with companies such as Rockwell Collins, Norbrook, Glen Electric and Walter Watson headquartered and operating within the council area. Figure 7 below shows the relative employment concentration of all Newry, Mourne & Down sectors relative to the Northern Ireland average. The Manufacturing sector is ones of those more concentrated in the Council area relative to the overall Northern Ireland economy. In total, around 14% of all employees in the Newry, Mourne & Down council area are employed in the Manufacturing sector compared to just 11% in Northern Ireland.

Figure 7: Relative Employees by Sector (Northern Ireland=100), Newry, Mourne & Down, 2019



Source: NISRA (BRES)

The implementation of a Freeport could boost future growth in the Manufacturing sector by potentially providing a platform for firms to increase their exports. The availability and promotion of wider tax reliefs - some of which are already available – could be used to encourage greater levels of innovation and R&D by indigenous firms, as well as any FDI businesses attracted to locate in a Freeport zone. The wider export market potential that Freeport opportunities provide is key to this potential growth.

2. Economic Context

An already export intensive council – but still room to grow

Given its proximity to Dublin and Belfast, the location of the Warrenpoint Harbour offers the Newry, Mourne & Down council area a significant economic advantage. This positional advantage has seen Warrenpoint Harbour become a major shipping port within Northern Ireland; accounting for 12% of all tonnage coming through Northern Ireland ports. This level of traffic makes Warrenpoint Port the second largest NI port, in terms of tonnage handling, next only to Belfast. Similarly, the Newry, Mourne & Down council area benefits from its proximity to Northern Ireland's two largest export markets – GB and the Republic of Ireland market. A significant amount (15%) of Northern Ireland's overall exports originate from firms located in the council area. Table 1 shows both the export and employment intensity for each of the local councils in 2018 with Newry, Mourne & Down exporting most per employee, much higher than the other two council areas with Manufacturing concentrations: Mid Ulster and Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon.

Table 1: Exports & Employment Intensity, Northern Ireland LGDs, 2018

	Export Share (% of NI)	Employment Share (% of NI)	Export Share as % of Employment Share
Belfast	24%	27%	89%
Newry, Mourne & Down	15%	8%	188%
Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon	13%	10%	123%
Mid Ulster	10%	8%	130%
Antrim & Newtownabbey	8%	8%	105%
Causeway Coast & Glens	5%	6%	91%
Lisburn & Castlereagh	5%	8%	61%
Fermanagh & Omagh	4%	6%	67%
Derry & Strabane	4%	8%	51%
Ards & North Down	2%	6%	35%
Mid & East Antrim	2%	6%	34%

Source: NISRA (BESES) & UUEPC Analysis

The implementation of a Freeport based upon the location of Warrenpoint Harbour along the Dublin-Belfast corridor could be designed to further build upon this export intensity. The Freeport – with its easing of customs costs - could encourage existing firms in the area who may not have previously exported to consider markets outside of Northern Ireland, as well as new firms to locate there for whom exporting is central to their business model.



3. Consultation Responses

3. Consultation Responses

3.1 Introduction

This section of the report will outline the key themes that emerged from the consultations completed by Grant Thornton and the UUEPC. The team undertook a range of consultations engaging with a wide cross-section of the business community in order to get a 'high-level' understanding of their views on both the merits or otherwise of a Freeport and its potential implementation at Warrenpoint Harbour. All consultations have been anonymised within this section highlighting the key themes and overall commentary that emerged.

3.1.1 An Economic Advantage

An overriding theme that emerged throughout all of the consultations was the widespread agreement that the implementation of a Freeport is likely to provide a boost to the overall Newry, Mourne & Down economy by attracting or helping retain a more experienced workforce which would in turn improve the overall skills profile and economic potential of the area. It was also considered that a Freeport would also help in encouraging the spread of opportunity from other ports such as Belfast or Larne to Warrenpoint.

The Freeport would also mean the continuing advantages of Warrenpoint Harbour being maintained and indeed enhanced. Consultees made the point that the implementation of this elsewhere around other ports would mean a loss of competitive advantage locally and thus the potential loss of FDI to other places (especially outside Northern Ireland) and the loss of business (including haulage/freight and logistics) to other ports. This would mean a loss not only to Warrenpoint Harbour but also the Northern Ireland economy more generally, given the competition to service businesses located in along the Eastern corridor who might otherwise use Dublin Port.

Allied to the second point was another key theme that emerged through the consultations: the advantage that a Freeport would bring in increasing the overall connectivity of the area to the rest of Northern Ireland or to Republic of Ireland. It was also noted that the implementation of a Freeport will also increase the already existing advantage of Newry/Warrenpoint being a mid-way point between the two major cities on the Island of Ireland (Belfast and Dublin). However, see below for the infrastructure needs associated with the Freeport implementation.

Many businesses also outlined the potential economic opportunities through the importing/exporting of goods under a reduced tariff scheme. With some of the consultees highlighting that the reduced administrative burden will save them costs in both the importing and exporting of goods.

3.1.2 A solution to 'Brexit' uncertainty?

'Brexit' and the uncertainty and potential disruption this may bring still proved to be in the thoughts of the consultees. All consultees reiterated their desire for more certainty around the 'Brexit' process and for clarity around the Northern Ireland protocol and how is this going to be implemented on the the 1st of January 2021. It was also a widely agreed that all businesses would like to have some resolution to these 'Brexit' questions, as otherwise it would be difficult to assess the potential benefits that any Freeport might bring. However, all consultees expressed the hope that a Freeport could go some way to alleviating some of the potential frictions and complications that 'Brexit' may bring.

3. Consultation Responses

3.1.3 Location, Location, Location

An emerging theme throughout the consultations was the potential location of the Freeport. Throughout the consultations it was suggested that a location off-site be used in conjunction with the Warrenpoint Harbour site. It was widely agreed that the off-site Freeport should be within a couple of miles of the Harbour – with an overall preference for the off-site Freeport to be located in or around Newry given its level of connectivity. All consultees spoken to expressed the need for somewhere with a fairly large footprint and thus a zone contiguous to the port was ruled out.

While all consultees agreed on the general location of around Newry, some argued that the off-site location should be located just outside Newry in order to limit the level of potential congestion that a off-site Freeport located in Newry would cause. The potential sites which were widely suggested as being the most appropriate for an off-site locations were Greenbank and Carnbane given their location relative to the Harbour and their accessibility.

Two of the consultees unlike the others suggested that a Freeport off-site should not be located in one specific area such as Carnbane. It was felt that this will, in all likelihood, drive up land/property costs through increased business demand to relocate within the designated Freeport area. Instead, the Freeport location should be in fact widened to a designated area which would encapsulate the majority of businesses in the local area instead of a limited few – the area BT34 or a set miles radius from the port were two ideas put forward as the designated Freeport area.

Several consultees spoke to a preference for Northern Ireland as whole seeking Freeport status in order to combat any potential disruption from 'Brexit' and to alleviate some of the uncertainty around the 1st January 2021 and the operation of the NI protocol.

3.1.4 Infrastructure Improvements

While all of the consultees agreed that the overall Freeports would be a beneficial enterprise for the Newry, Mourne & Down economy, it was noted that an improvement in some areas of infrastructure would be necessary to boost the impacts. Almost every consultee pointed to the completion of the Southern Relief Road as the priority for infrastructure development. The Southern Relief Road is seen as key to easing potential congestion pressure in the Newry area while also allowing for an increased level of haulage being circulated around the area. It was also noted that in tandem with the Southern Relief Road the coastal road network – Newcastle to Warrenpoint – should also be upgraded in order to deal with the higher level of haulage and ensuring overall safety.

Similarly, a number of the consultees discussed the potential for the construction of the Narrow Water Bridge project to complement the overall flow of trade, particularly tourists, across the border. One of the consultees suggested the upgrading of the Kilkeel Harbour; with a particular focus being on widening the harbour wall allowing for the accommodation of larger fishing vessels. This infrastructure development at the Kilkeel Harbour would then in turn allow for a greater level of fish processing – with much of the processed product being exported out of Northern Ireland. Consequently, a Freeport in Warrenpoint would then benefit due to the higher demand for exports through Warrenpoint Harbour. Due to a significant proportion of Kilkeel fish processing being exported and as such the Warrenpoint Harbour given its locality and the potential benefits from lower duties, etc. will likely reap these benefits.

It was also a common theme amount the consultees that the Warrenpoint Harbour in general could benefit from increased infrastructure with security checks being mentioned as the main area and the importance of security within an special economic zone. The inclusion of infrastructure at the harbour to deal with cruise ships or increased cruise ship demand was also recommended as an area of potential for the harbor which would bring in more tourists boosting the overall local economy and shining more light on the area.

3. Consultation Responses

3.1.5 Freeports, the main economic lever for the area?

Consultees were asked if there were any other alternatives to the implementation of a Freeport that would significantly aid their business growth. All consultees agreed that the implementation of Freeport at the Warrenpoint Harbour would be beneficial to helping business growth now and into the future. However, most expressed the view that on its own a Freeport (with the inward processing incentives and deferrals) would be only one among a number of levers needed. One consultee – with experience of a Special Economic Zone in another country – made the point that the incentives are often quite marginal to overall costs and that infrastructure, investment and export supports, and skills development are generally much more important in the long run.

The infrastructure is outlined in the previous section as a key element necessary to make the implementation of a Freeport work to benefit local businesses and the broader Northern Ireland economy. In terms of wider economic growth, some of the consultees suggested that the implementation of a reduced rate of Corporation Tax would be beneficial not just for their own business but to the wider business community. Consultees proffered the view that the comparative disadvantage of 17% in Northern Ireland and 12.5% in the Republic of Ireland had had a likely impact in terms of job opportunities lost and business relocations.

As raised above a number of consultees – looking at the export focus of the Freeport idea – felt that it should be accompanied by a range of reliefs and incentives to support innovation and exports. The argument was made by one consultee that this would ensure that the Freeport was not simply a zone with low value processing taking advantage of tariff arbitrage.

Finally, other consultees saw the concept of a Freeport as pointing towards the need for more of a sectoral focus to help boost economic development throughout Newry, Mourne and Down with a particular focus being on the Aerospace and Engineering sectors. Specific supports for this sector and the firms within it would not only assist the individual businesses boost their sales and, in turn, create more employment opportunities but it could also attract other firms in the same industries and, in this way, boost economic output and exports. Such a focus would also create the scale for improving the particular skills profile associated with the industries and further increasing economic output.

3.1.6 Information aplenty, but how do we use it?

All consultees agreed that they would really benefit from increased information and education on the role and the benefits of a Freeport. Most respondents agreed that they understand the broad concept of how a Freeport operates, but very few felt that they would be confident about their understanding of how it would (or not) specifically advantage their own business. As a solution the consultees suggested that the Council, Invest NI, etc. provide a deep dive on the businesses in the area pinpointing which of these businesses are likely to benefit from a Freeport and coordinate with these businesses to outline the advantages and disadvantages as well as helping them engage with the Freeport. Similarly, the consultees also suggested that an advisory committee could be set up including representatives from the Council, Invest NI and InterTradeIreland which could provide bespoke business information on understanding Freeports and the advantage/disadvantages of Freeports as well as which businesses are likely to benefit.

3. Consultation Responses

The consultees also noted that the need for all of this information is more heightened because of the future planning currently going on to answer the questions raised by 'Brexit' and the NI Protocol. Several consultees made the point that the current uncertain environment around market access makes it very hard to think of planning for a potential Freeport. So, the consultees felt it would be preferable for the UK Government to provide clarity or at least less uncertainty about how 'Brexit' will impact on the operation of a Freeport.

The point was made by a number of the consultees that some of the advantages of a Freeport may already exist or could be promoted without the need for such a new policy direction. For example, there are Inward Processing Reliefs and some deferrals already in existence but these are felt to be too onerous – in terms of resources needed and cost – to make them worthwhile for any but the largest firms. One consultee made the point that, as with AEO status, a lighter version of these existing reliefs could and should be promoted.

3.1.7 Conclusion

The consultation responses were generally positive about the idea of a Freeport – with the caveats that in a narrow (tariff-focused) manner it would be of limited use and that it needed to be accompanied by a range of infrastructure improvements many of which are not attached or contiguous to the port.

The Freeport idea was also felt to be a positive concept on its own terms as a promotional tool for an area – as opposed to simply being a collection of tax incentives or reliefs providing short-term advantage. The point was made by a number of the consultees that a pipeline of capital investments, by FDI and indigenous firms, was more important than any one-off boost to an area.



4. Conclusions

4. Conclusions

4.1 Conclusions

The current economic advantages and concentrations enjoyed by Newry, Mourne & Down make a potentially strong case for the location of a Freeport. The area has been a centre of successful entrepreneurship for several decades and includes many world leading businesses in its location. More specifically for the Freeport there is a strong Manufacturing base already in existence which raises the opportunity to attract or spin-off further Advanced Manufacturing firms (clustering effects) and, given the export intensity of this sector, offers further export potential to an already export-driven local economy.

Allied to these advantages are the location enjoyed by Warrenpoint Harbour in the centre of the Dublin-Belfast corridor. This offers any Freeport located there the opportunity to draw on some of the manufacturing and other sectoral complementarities along that corridor as well as access to a significant level of research centres and Higher Education facilities. All of this makes a strong case for this as an advantageous location.

There is also a clear economic need as seen through the lower resident employment rates and lower (resident and workplace) wages that are found in Newry, Mourne & Down compared to the Northern Ireland average. The latter average is itself well behind the UK averages and points to one of the rationales lying behind the Freeport idea – that incentives such as this can driver growth outside some of the more over-heating regions. Any incentive that provides a 'levelling up' opportunity for these indicators means not only better regional balance for Northern Ireland but also a better spread of opportunities and growth across the wider UK.

There are clear benefits associated with Freeports and other Special Economic Zones (see appendix) within the UK and internationally. While the benefits have been disputed – sometimes as being negligible at a macroeconomic level and sometime for the displacement potential – most experts point to the advantages they can bring for local economic development. When allied to the points above about the existing opportunity and need in the Newry, Mourne & Down area, this seems to be an important distinction.

The businesses consulted were in broad agreement that a Freeport would be beneficial and that they and other firms in the area would be interested in using the zone. The location of the zone is critical to its success – contiguous to the Harbour is ruled out given the need for a larger footprint – with ideas proposed including specific other places to include in a zone or geographical areas to be included. The benefits of a Freeport were also believed to work best when accompanied by a series of other incentives and reliefs, specifically those which support innovation and exporting which should remain the focus of the zone.

There were a number of caveats expressed about other issues that need resolution alongside any Freeport policy or implementation of this in Northern Ireland or more specifically in the council area. First, 'Brexit' remains an important issue that needs to be clarified before it becomes clear how beneficial any Freeport would be. Second, infrastructure improvement (and specifically the Southern Relief Road) is needed to aid connectivity and to fully exploit any potential a Freeport will bring. Finally, the policy questions surrounding a Freeport will require political agreement to work optimally.

4.2 Recommendation

On the basis of the preceding assessment, Council (subject to political agreement) and Harbour should support the move towards a Freeport policy with a view to applying for Freeport status after the consultation closes (assuming there remains UK Government commitment to the idea). However, the Freeport needs to be part of a wider economic policy 'toy box' as a way of closing economic disparities across the UK and Northern Ireland. In addition to any Freeport status the provision of infrastructure, including the Southern Relief Road, and 'up-skilling' programmes in innovation and exporting for manufacturing firms will be crucial. Allied to this the full promotion and better uptakes of supports for firms to encourage innovation and employ high-skilled graduates and apprentices are essential to drive economic growth.



Annex: Freeports and Special Economic Zones

Freeports and Special Economic Zones

What is a Special Economic Zone (SEZ)?

The World Bank has described a Freeport as an area that can accommodate all types of activities including tourism and retail sales while also providing a much broader set of benefits. With the aim of Freeports to encourage and aid integrated development throughout a region. The UK Freeport model being proposed by the UK government will be based on the wider Enterprise zones models which are already in operation. In terms of a Freeport; Goods landing, stored, handled, manufactured, re-exported, etc. within the confines of a Freeport can be done without being subject to customs duties with businesses availing of an overall more simplified customs procedure. As such while Freeports will allow businesses to move goods under a more simplified customs regime it will also allow businesses to avail of tax reliefs – including R&D tax breaks as well as enhanced capital allowances – among other benefits (including planning reforms, innovation support, infrastructure improvements, etc.).

As discussed in the Introduction section of this paper; Freeports act as special economic zone (SEZ) and can be located at various locations including seaports, airports or a designated area away from either the sea/airport. Typically a special economic zone (SEZ), as defined by the World Bank, is an area in which business and trade laws differ from the rest of the country and are used to help increase trade balances, employment, investment, job creation and effective administration. A special economic zone (SEZ) has other potential advantages that businesses could avail of, such as the use of tax incentives which can take the form of tax holidays or R&D tax breaks. Research based on analysing the current impact of the special economic zones (SEZ) from across the world showed that there is some evidence that special economic zones (SEZ) do have positive economic impacts through FDI attraction and increase sales/exports among other impacts. However, evaluations into the impact of Enterprise Zones across the UK found that there is a limited amount of additionality with around 80% of the jobs created in an Enterprise Zone being created without the Enterprise Zones existence. More recent research by UKTPO (2018) found that while a 'free zone' or a special economic zone (SEZ) will have potential benefits and savings for businesses as well potential for the development of an export-orientated place-based regional development programme. It's essential policymakers try to counteract the potential for the diversion of economic activities away from other areas as well as offer other incentives within 'level playing field obligations' and WTO rules.

More recently the Enterprise Zones set up by the UK in 2012 have been used to deliver and encourage specialisation encouraging clustering effects for business/industry. Evidence of these effects have been limited, thus far, however it remains early in the process and as of yet too early to definitely draw conclusions on the success or failure of these Enterprise Zones. As such, it has been widely suggested that while an Enterprise Zone – or Freeport – may have some benefits its thus far unclear as to the extent of these benefits and whether they encourage economic activity or cause displacement, in terms of business movement or FDI, from other areas. Consequently, using a Enterprise Zone in conjunction with wider initiatives, such as infrastructure development, would provide a wide range of far-reaching benefits. It is accepted that a level of displacement is likely to occur regardless; however it would be encouraged that policy makers limit this. One potential avenue would be infrastructure development which would allow those businesses who would have displaced from their current location to have full and unlimited access to the Enterprise Zone reducing the displacement potential.

In conclusion, while the special economic zones (SEZ) can be beneficial in the encouraging of sales there remain some ambiguity around the overall macro and additionality impacts. In addition, to the level of displacement that they may encourage. As such while it may prove important to regional development these issues need to be considered at a wider macro economic level – with the macro impact likely to be negligible due to displacement impacts. However, the implementation of a special economic zone (SEZ) as part of a wider economic strategy including infrastructure development could go some way in addressing the current economic disparities that exist between the Newry, Mourne & Down council area relative to the rest of Northern Ireland.

Report to:	Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	10 th August 2020
Subject:	Strangford Lough and Lecale Partnership Update – Live Here Love Here small grant award
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly Assistant Director for Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Darren Rice, AONB & Geopark Manager

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

For decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
---------------------	--------------------------	------------------------	-------------------------------------

1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u> To note that SLLP have successfully secured £1,600 from Live Here Love Here Small Grant Scheme. This will deliver the 'Coast Care - Extreme Clean' project which will fund up to 2 clean-up events, working with volunteers to remove marine litter from hard to reach coastal areas and the islands of Strangford Lough during 2020/21.</p> <p><u>Background</u> The Strangford Lough and Lecale Partnership (SLLP) is delivering the Strangford and Lecale AONB Draft Action Plan and facilitating the delivery of the Strangford Lough Marine Site Scheme.</p> <p>Reducing coastal marine litter is an outcome of the Ring of Gullion AONB and Strangford Lough & Lecale AONB Action Plans, NIEA Environment Fund project.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>Coastal Litter is a key issue within the Strangford and Lecale AONB, with an average of 625 items of litter per 100m recorded on beaches surveyed by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful in 2018.</p> <p>Strangford Lough and Lecale Partnership (SLLP) Coast Care project continues to use innovation and teamwork across communities, clubs, local councils and others to tackle this unsightly and dangerous marine litter along the coast of the Strangford and Lecale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, focusing on areas of coast which previously could not be tackled due to their inaccessibility, and the islands of Strangford Lough.</p>

	<p>This project encourages a legacy of care and on-going litter reduction in coastal communities throughout the AONB, by delivering clean-up activities and supporting communities to continue the work.</p> <p>SLLP recruits, supports and co-ordinates "Coastal Guardian" volunteers, brainstorming and encouraging new approaches to the problems.</p> <p>COVID 19 – At the time of project delivery, all up to date government recommendations re: social distancing and personal protection will be adhered to and alternative options for project delivery, should they be required, will be discussed with funders and included in application submission.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To note that SLLP have successfully secured £1,600 from Live Here Love Here Small Grant Scheme. This will deliver the 'Coast Care - Extreme Clean' project which will fund up to 2 clean-up events, working with volunteers to remove marine litter from hard to reach coastal areas and the islands of Strangford Lough during 2020/21
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	<p>The funding will be used for boat hire, beach cleaning equipment and volunteer ppe. AONB & Geopark staff will co-ordinate, manage and promote this project</p> <p>This project does not require match funding. SLLP will fund refreshments/hospitality for volunteers from existing budgets.</p> <p>The SLLP brings in additional funding such as this grant, and also a substantial contribution through the use of volunteers, as required to deliver all projects.</p>
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>

	The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.3	Proposal initiating consultation	
	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"/>
	Consultation period will be 12 weeks	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<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 <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	If yes, please complete the following:	
	Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.0	Appendices	
	none	
8.0	Background Documents	
	none	

Report to:	Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	10 August 2020
Subject:	MIPIM
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Conor Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly – Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration

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

For decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
---------------------	--------------------------	------------------------	-------------------------------------

1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u> To note the content of the report on the next steps for the MIPIM Property event and promotion.</p> <p><u>Background</u> MIPIM is the premier event in the European real estate calendar and has become Europe's showcase for major cities, property developments, investment opportunities and networking.</p> <p>The Belfast Region City Deal group of Council's have been working in collaboration to promote the deal and development opportunities at MIPIM as agreed at November 2019 ERT meeting.</p> <p>Initiatives including the Northern Ireland Investment Fund and the Belfast Region City Deal create attractive conditions for real estate and infrastructure investment in the BRCD area.</p> <p>With this Councils advanced development plans for Newry City Regeneration programme MIPIM and its networks offers the excellent opportunity to showcase the development opportunities that now exist in the City and indeed across the region with development opportunity sites in Downpatrick, Warrenpoint etc. Covid and its impact on the local economy underlines the need for Council to continue to promote the region, its development opportunities and that the area is still open for business and investment.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>In light of Covid and the restriction on travel and social distancing etc, the March 2020 event was cancelled and will now take place in March 2021.</p> <p>Each of the Councils had agreed to contribute £15k towards the associated costs of the event and preparation etc.</p>

	<p>The partner Councils believe an opportunity exists to use this funding to continue to promote the region and the development opportunity sites available. In light of Covid it is essential to maintain momentum and offer opportunities for development to the market place for those still wanting to explore development proposals. Extensive work had been carried out lead by this Council to develop a portfolio of development options across the district and preparing this for market.</p> <p>The fund will be used to deliver a programme of activity to position the region for recovery and investment and prepare for the 2021 event.</p> <p>This will be done by</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reviewing the current position, engaging with stakeholders and developing a revised message and advocacy plan 2. Organising a series of webinars with stakeholders and global real estate leader 3. A series of investor showcases 4. PR and digital engagement campaign <p>This proposal will ensure the investment to date will be utilised and will ensure the region is still marketed in global real estate networks.</p>
<p>3.0</p>	<p>Recommendations</p>
<p>3.1</p>	<p>To note the content of this report</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Resource implications</p>
<p>4.1</p>	<p>No additional resource required.</p>
<p>5.0</p>	<p>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</p>
<p>5.1</p>	<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>
<p>5.2</p>	<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>

	The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.3	Proposal initiating consultation	
	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"/>
	Consultation period will be 12 weeks	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<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 <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	If yes, please complete the following:	
	Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.0	Appendices	
	N/A	
8.0	Background Documents	
	N/A	

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council – June 2020

211

1. Live Applications

MONTH 2020/21	NEW APPLICATIONS	LIVE APPLICATIONS	LIVE APPLICATIONS OVER 12 MONTHS
March, April & May	338	989	242
June	164	965	232

2. Live Applications by length of time in system

Month 2020/21	Under 6 months	Between 6 and 12 months	Between 12 and 18 months	Between 18 and 24 months	Over 24 months	Total
May	540	207	103	43	96	989
June	562	171	101	40	91	965

3. Live applications per Case Officer

Month 2020/21	Average number of Applications per Case Officer
May	53
June	66

4. Decisions issued per month

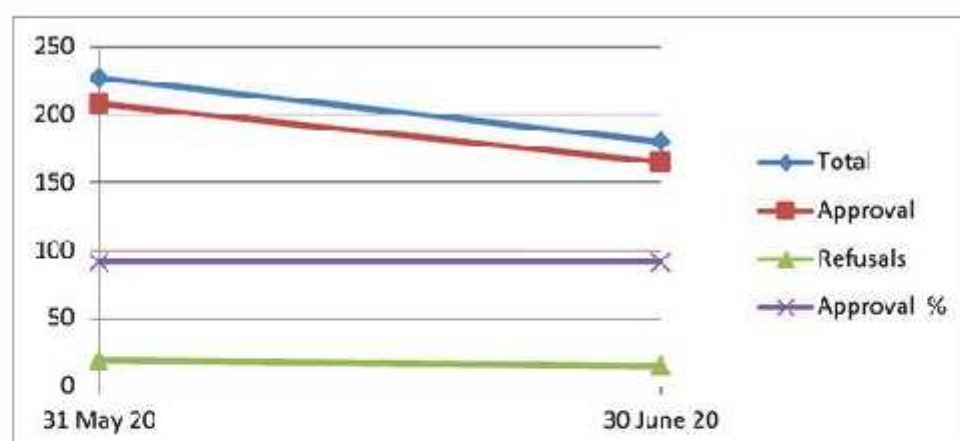
Month 2020/21	Number of Decisions Issued	Number of Decisions Issued under delegated authority
March, April & May	227	216
June	180	166

5. Decisions Issued YTD

Month 2020/21	Number of Decisions Issued	Breakdown of Decisions	
March, April & May	227	Approvals (208)	92%
		Refusals (19)	8%
June	407	Approvals (373)	92%
		Refusals (34)	8%

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council – June 2020

212



6. Enforcement Live cases

Month 2020/21	<=1yr	1-2 yrs	2-3 yrs	3-4 yrs	4-5 yrs	5+yrs	Total
March, April & May	180	177	174	89	35	91	746
June	229	168	175	95	35	69	791

7. Planning Committee

Month	Number of Applications presented to Committee	Number of Applications Determined by Committee	Number of Applications Withdrawn/Deferred for future meeting	Number of Officer recommendation overturned
3 June 2020	15	15	0	6
1 July 2020	5	4	1	1
Totals	20	19	1	7

8. Appeals

Planning Appeal Commission Decisions issued during period 1 June 2020 to 30 June 2020

Area	Number of current appeals	Number of decisions issued	Number of decisions Allowed	Number of decisions Dismissed	Withdrawn
Newry & Mourne	15	1	0	1	0
Down	16	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	31	1	0	1	0

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council – June 2020

Statutory targets monthly update - May 2020 (unvalidated management information)

Newry, Mourne and Down

	Major applications (target of 30 weeks)				Local applications (target of 15 weeks)				Cases concluded (target of 39 weeks)			
	Number received	Number decided/withdrawn ¹	Average processing time ²	% of cases processed within 30 weeks	Number received	Number decided/withdrawn ¹	Average processing time ²	% of cases processed within 15 weeks	Number opened	Number brought to conclusion ³	"70%" conclusion time ²	% of cases concluded within 39 weeks
April	1	-	0.0	0.0%	61	3	18.2	33.3%	9	18	146.8	33.3%
May	1	-	0.0	0.0%	76	91	24.2	16.5%	1	69	228.2	14.5%
June	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%
July	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%
August	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%
September	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%
October	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%
November	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%
December	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%
January	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%
February	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%
March	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%
Year to date	2	-	0.0	0.0%	137	94	23.6	17.0%	10	87	204.9	18.4%

Source: NI Planning Portal

Notes:

1. CLUDS, TPOS, NMCS and PADS/PANS have been excluded from all applications figures

2. The time taken to process a decision/withdrawal is calculated from the date on which an application is deemed valid to the date on which the decision is issued or the application is withdrawn. The median is used for the average processing time as any extreme values have the potential to inflate the mean, leading to a result that may not be considered as "typical".

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council – June 2020

214

3. The time taken to conclude an enforcement case is calculated from the date on which the complaint is received to the earliest date of the following: a notice is issued; proceedings commence; a planning application is received; or a case is closed. The value at 70% is determined by sorting data from its lowest to highest values and then taking the data point at the 70th percentile of the sequence.

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council – July 2020

215

1. Live Applications

MONTH 2020/21	NEW APPLICATIONS	LIVE APPLICATIONS	LIVE APPLICATIONS OVER 12 MONTHS
March, April & May	338	989	242
June	164	965	232
July	175	1,002	241

2. Live Applications by length of time in system

Month 2020/21	Under 6 months	Between 6 and 12 months	Between 12 and 18 months	Between 18 and 24 months	Over 24 months	Total
May	540	207	103	43	96	989
June	562	171	101	40	91	965
July	587	174	105	44	92	1,002

3. Live applications per Case Officer

Month 2020/21	Average number of Applications per Case Officer
May	53
June	66
July	68

4. Decisions issued per month

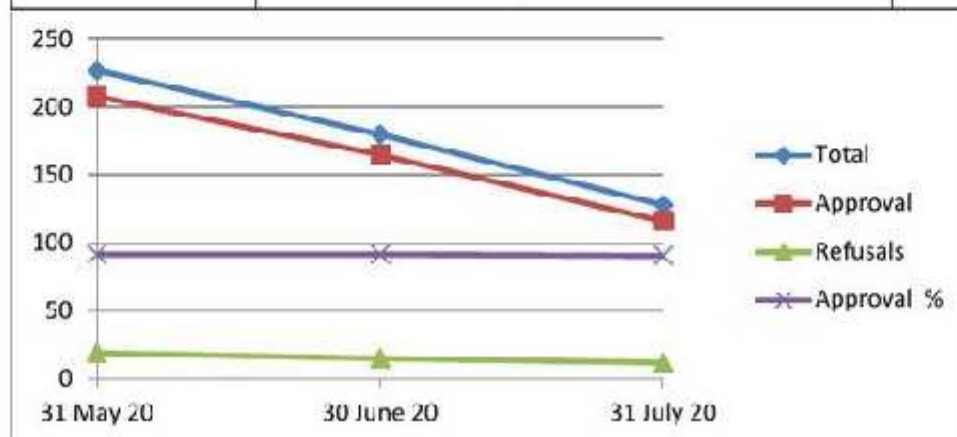
Month 2020/21	Number of Decisions Issued	Number of Decisions Issued under delegated authority
March, April & May	227	216
June	180	166
July	128	122

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council – July 2020

216

5. Decisions Issued YTD

Month 2020/21	Number of Decisions Issued	Breakdown of Decisions	
March, April & May	227	Approvals (208)	92%
		Refusals (19)	8%
June	407	Approvals (373)	92%
		Refusals (34)	8%
July	535	Approvals (489)	91%
		Refusals (46)	9%



6. Enforcement Live cases

Month 2020/21	<=1yr	1-2 yrs	2-3 yrs	3-4 yrs	4-5 yrs	5+ yrs	Total
March, April & May	180	177	174	89	35	91	746
June	229	168	175	95	35	89	791
July	236	158	167	97	35	92	805

7. Planning Committee

Month	Number of Applications presented to Committee	Number of Applications Determined by Committee	Number of Applications Withdrawn/Deferred for future meeting	Number of Officer recommendation overturned
3 June 2020	15	15	0	6
1 July 2020	5	4	1	1
29 July 2020	6	2	4	0
Totals	26	21	5	7

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council – July 2020

217

8. Appeals

Planning Appeal Commission Decisions issued during period 1 July 2020 to 31 July 2020

Area	Number of current appeals	Number of decisions issued	Number of decisions Allowed	Number of decisions Dismissed	Withdrawn
Newry & Mourne	13	2	1	1	0
Down	15	4	2	2	0
TOTAL	28	6	3	3	0

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council – July 2020

Statutory targets monthly update - June 2020 (unvalidated management information)

Newry, Mourne and Down

	Major applications (target of 30 weeks)				Local applications (target of 15 weeks)				Cases concluded (target of 39 weeks)			
	Number received	Number decided/withdrawn ¹	Average processing time ²	% of cases processed within 30 weeks	Number received	Number decided/withdrawn ¹	Average processing time ²	% of cases processed within 15 weeks	Number opened	Number brought to conclusion ³	"70%" conclusion time ²	% of cases concluded within 39 weeks
April	1	-	0.0	0.0%	63	3	18.2	33.3%	18	18	146.8	33.3%
May	1	-	0.0	0.0%	99	91	24.2	16.5%	12	69	228.2	14.5%
June	1	3	87.0	0.0%	120	161	26.4	18.6%	49	28	110.8	42.9%
July	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%
August	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%
September	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%
October	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%
November	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%
December	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%
January	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%
February	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%
March	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%
Year to date	3	3	87.0	0.0%	282	255	25.6	18.0%	79	115	185.1	24.3%

Source: NI Planning Portal

Notes:

1. CLUDS, TPOS, NMCS and PADS/PANs have been excluded from all applications figures

2. The time taken to process a decision/withdrawal is calculated from the date on which an application is deemed valid to the date on which the decision is issued or the application is withdrawn. The median is used for the average processing time as any extreme values have the potential to inflate the mean, leading to a result that may not be considered as "typical".

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council – July 2020

3. The time taken to conclude an enforcement case is calculated from the date on which the complaint is received to the earliest date of the following: a notice is issued; proceedings commence; a planning application is received; or a case is closed. The value at 70% is determined by sorting data from its lowest to highest values and then taking the data point at the 70th percentile of the sequence.

HISTORIC**ACTION TRACKER SHEET****ENTERPRISE REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE****(For Noting at ERT JUNE 2020)**

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
ERT/191/2017	CAMLOUGH LAKE – LAND RELATED MATTERS	<p>OCTOBER 2017</p> <p>Closed Session Item</p> <p>(a) To enter into negotiations with Richardson Estate to settle any outstanding mortgage they hold pertaining to Camlough Lake</p> <p>To complete detail design and submit planning associated with multi purpose building at Camlough Lake to assist in informing land acquisition requirements</p>	A Patterson	Lands matters are progressing through legal department. Detail design prepared in preparation for consultation, followed by submission to Planning	Y

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
ERT/218/2017	ARDGLASS HARBOUR DEVELOPMENT	<p style="text-align: center;">DECEMBER 2017</p> <p>(a) To contribute £25k (25%) to Local Harbour Development Group to complete a business case for Harbour Development and wider regeneration projects.</p> <p>(b) That the Group contribute 10% overall costs.</p> <p>(c) That the Group secure remaining (65%) budget from external source i.e. FLAG.</p> <p>(d) That a Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Officer support the Group in their work.</p>	J McGilly	<p>Work in progress. NI Economic Impact Study being carried out by the Dept awaiting finalisation. Meeting held with DAERA Officers in May and work progressing to complete study and present options to Minister. Liaising with Local Group to develop scope of works for the anticipated next stage of works for presentation to DAERA</p>	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
ERT/044/2018	FORK-HILL FORMER BARRACKS SITE	<p>MARCH 2018</p> <p>1. Council Officials continue to work closely with DfC to ensure that Councils interest in the site is maintained and any follow up Business Cases are completed and submitted to the Department for Communities.</p> <p>2. Council Officials and DEA reps on the Forkhill Site Development Steering Group to liaise closely with DfC and any other registered government departments to ensure that a balanced mixed use development of the site takes place.</p>	J McGilly	<p>Playarea complete – work ongoing regarding use for the remainder of the site.</p> <p>DFC to complete questionnaire of local residents on future use and report back to next steering committee May 2020. Consultation delayed due to Covid DfC exploring alternative options</p>	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
ERT/122/2018	DOWNPATRICK REGENERATION PROJECT	<p>AUGUST 2018</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council offices continue to progress land purchase to include the additional property at No.39 Irish Street which is adjacent to Former Police Station. • Officers explore with relevant government departments any issues that may arise due to Heritage Merit of the site • As the site was purchased on the basis that the link road not being included in the brief. DEA Cllrs request via DEA officers a meeting with Transport NI • Officers bring back to council via ERT suitable governance structures for the project 	J McGilly	Soft market testing and virtual brochure launched July 2020 calling for submissions of views from developers and public. Open for 12 weeks to end of September. Feedback to be reported to working group and used to inform the drafting of the Development brief.	N
ERT/044/2019	SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS ARTISAN MARKETS NEWCASTLE & DOWNPATRICK	<p>MARCH 2019</p> <p>(c) Council Officials to investigate the option of supporting an Artisan market in Saintfield.</p>	J McGilly	In progress – events planned for 2020 delayed due to covid – revised	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
				plans have been submitted for a number of events to be held. Downpatrick and Warrenpoint have recommenced in July, others to follow. Update report for Sept ERT	
ERT/073/2019	LOCAL FULL FIBRE NETWORK: FUNDING BID	<p style="text-align: center;">JUNE 2019</p> <p>(a) Council Officers be authorised to sign the Letter of Offer, on behalf of the consortium, for £15 million of funding from the Department for Digital Culture Media & Sport (DCMS), under the Department's LFFN Challenge Programme.</p> <p>(b) Council Officers be authorised to operate the procurements on behalf of the consortium to deploy the funding.</p>	J McGilly	Programme implementation ongoing – currently at tender stage	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
ERT/083/20.19	NOTICE OF MOTION	To note a paper regarding Donard Demense Newcastle.	A Patterson	Being progressed as part of Mournes Gateway OBC	Y
ERT/097/2019	BALLYNAHINCH BYPASS ART FEATURE	<p>AUGUST 2019</p> <p>As a contribution to the Ballynahinch By pass the Council proceed as follows:</p> <p>(a) Provide agreement in principle that the Council will provide an Art Feature for installation on a site to be agreed on the Ballynahinch By-Pass</p> <p>(b) Procure an artist to undertake the necessary consultation on potential design proposals</p> <p>(c) Development of the art feature to concept design stage</p> <p>(d) Subject to the confirmation that the funding has been secured for the By pass and the road will be constructed, to undertake the fabrication of the Art Feature (subject to the necessary funding being secured in 2020/21 rate estimates)</p>	J McGilly	On hold – clarification update from DFI	N
		SEPTEMBER 2019			

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
ERT/118/2019	APPLICATIONS: HERITAGE LOTTERY FUNDING LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP SCHEME (LPS) RE: STRANGFORD & LECALÉ AONB	(a) Officers to explore the possibility of applying to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for a Landscape Partnership Scheme (LPS) type project for the Strangford and Lecale AONB before March 2020. (b) If feasible, submit an EO1 to the National Lottery Heritage Fund in 2020.	J McGilly	On-going	N
ERT/119/2019	PUBLIC REALM SCHEME PHASE II HILL STREET NEWRY	The Council accept the Letter of Offer from the Department for Communities (DFC) totalling £1.6 million and proceed to deliver the next stages of the Lower Hill Street Public Realm Scheme	J McGilly	Work commenced on site 25 May – review ongoing via Task and finish working group	N
ERT/137/2019	URBAN REGENERATION FORWARD WORK PLAN	October 2019 (a) Council approve the updated 'Outline Urban Regeneration Public Realm Work Plan Oct 2019' to allow continued lobbying of DFC in regards their Newry Mourne and Down budget allocations.	J McGilly	Council officials continue to liaise closely with DFC across all regeneration elements within	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		<p>(b) Council work with the Department for Communities to agree Regeneration intervention measures are required in each of the 5 settlements (Saintfield, Killyleagh, Castlewellan, Bessbrook and Rostrevor) with a population of between 2,500 and 5,000 in the district over the next 5 years.</p> <p>(c) Council Officials to liaise with the relevant Departments regarding funding to regenerate Newcastle Harbour and surfacing of Harbour Road Kilkeel.</p>		the Outline Regeneration Plan.	
ERT/138/2019	CARLINGFORD LOUGH GREENWAY	<p>(a) The Council proceed to commence the PQQ contractor procurement stage for the Northern section of the Carlingford Lough Greenway.</p> <p>(b) Council Officers to update Councillor McMurray regarding plans for Greenways at Comber/Downpatrick.</p>	J McGilly	Negotiations ongoing with landowners and funder. Revised submission submitted to funders May 2020	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
ERT/140/2019	SMALL BUSINESS SALES AND EXPORTING BUSINESS	To procure and implement a Small Business Sales and Exporting Programme that will support at least 20 SME businesses to increase sales to markets outside of NI (particularly GB and South of Ireland), and raise awareness of the Newry, Mourne and Down area as an attractive location for business development and investment.	J McGilly	Funding application submitted. Currently working through assessment queries	N
ERT/142/2019	NI BUSINESS START PROGRAMME	<p>(a) Participate in a new Business Start Up Collaborative programme with other NI Councils and collaboratively submit a funding application for ERDF Jobs and Growth.</p> <p>(b) LCCC will continue as Lead Council of the New Programme if the funding application is successful for the period 01 April 2021 to 31 March 2023.</p> <p>(c) To enter into a new Collaborative agreement which sets out the governance arrangement for the new programme.</p>	J McGilly	On-going – Application submitted Dec 19 Currently being evaluated and awaiting feedback	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		<p>subject to review by Council's legal representatives.</p> <p>(d) Agree the proposed outcomes and associated financials for the New Programme, accepting that these are subject to change as a result of funding application, assessment and Letter of Offer (any amendments will be reported through Council)</p>			
ERT/144/2019	MIPIM PROPERTY CONFERENCE	<p>The Council as a partner in the Belfast Region City Deal, make a contribution in the sum of £15,000 towards the delivery of investment opportunity at the MIPIM</p> <p>Conference to be held from 10-12 March 2020 in Cannes France, plus make available a sum of £5,000 in respect of travel and accommodation for the Council delegation who will attend the event which will include Chairman of Council, Chief Executive and 1 No. Director.</p> <p>It was also agreed Council Officials contact the owners of Mourne</p>	C Mallon	<p>Event Postponed due to Covid-19</p> <p>Paper on August ERT regarding next steps</p>	Y

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
ERT/145/2019	5G COMMUNICATIONS	<p>Park Estate Kilkeel regarding the possible inclusion of this site in the portfolio for presentation at MIPIM.</p> <p>To review the health impacts of 5G and seek further guidance from the Public Health England, DCMS, OFCOM and other relevant authorities to carry out a comprehensive and detailed report analysing the risks and benefits of 5G roll out within the District.</p> <p>(b) To authorise FFNI c/o NMDDC, to submit a bid(s) for appropriate funding for 5G on behalf of participating Councils subject to appropriate environmental and health impact assessments.</p> <p>(c) To commit up to £10k NMDDC funding to the co-ordination of a 5G community and funding applications.</p> <p>(d) To allow NMD, as host of FFNI, to spend the total of such aggregated funding</p>	J McGilly	Awaiting further funding call and reports from PHE	y

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		in the pursuit of increasing 5g rollout throughout our communities.			
		NOVEMBER 2019			
ERT/172/2019	WARRENPOINT MARINA PROJECT	<p>(a) To update the business case and Economic Appraisal (EA) for the Warrenpoint Marina project, to ensure issues of displacement are addressed and economic viability of the project is updated.</p> <p>(b) To explore funding options that would enable implementation of the project</p> <p>(c) Report back to this committee the outcome of the updated EA and funding options.</p>	J McGilly	Consultants appointed to review draft business case – due to complete May 2020 – draft received and being reviewed currently	N
ERT/174/2019	APPLICATION: CREATIVE EUROPE CULTURAL SUP- PROGRAMME RING OF GULLION AONB	To explore the possibility of applying to the Creative Europe – Culture Sup-Programme category 1- Smaller scale cooperation projects for an artist in residents project with Mayo and Norway and, if feasible, submit an application to the Creative Europe – Culture Sup-Programme category	J McGilly	Awaiting outcome.	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		1- Smaller scale cooperation projects, by the deadline of 27th November 2019.			
ERT/193/2019	RPT WARRENPOINT FRONT SHORE PUBLIC REALM SCHEME TASK & FINISH STEERTING COMMITTEE – 29 OCTOBER 2019	DECEMBER 2019 (a) Council Officers meet with Council Framework Consultants to commission RIBA Stages 1-3 of the project. (b) A site meeting of the Task & Finish Committee to be arranged once consultants in place. (c) Council Officers to work closely with the Framework consultants once appointed, to produce a more accurate project programme. (d) Council Officers and consultants to proceed with the Topographical GPR and other associated studies as part of the design process.	J McGilly	Consultants appointed and work has commenced on review of the study area. Consultation underway and steering group meetings set up to review progress	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		<p>(e) All relevant Council departments, DFI sections and other statutory and Utility Groups to be liaised with.</p> <p>(f) Phasing priorities of Existing Town Centre Frontage, Baths to Balmoral and then to Cole's Corner, to be further considered once concept stage costings are known.</p> <p>(g) Council officers to ensure the DFI maintain good communications with the local community regarding the out workings of future studies into the concept of a one-way system.</p>			
ERT/194/2019	MASTERPLANS: PRIORITY ACTION PLANS	To approve the updated content and actions outlined in Priority Action Plans for each of the following 4 No. Master Plans: - Newry City Master Plan - Ballynahinch Master Plan	J McGilly	Ongoing implementation – updates provided through DEA	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
ERT/005/2020	DRAGONS IN THE HILLS PROJECT	<p>- Downpatrick Master Plan - South East Coast Master Plan</p> <p>(JANUARY 2020)</p> <p>a) To sign and accept the Joint Letter of Offer from National Heritage Lottery to Amphibian and Reptile Groups of UK (ARG UK), Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and Herpetological Society of Ireland (HIS) (subject to satisfaction of all Letter of Offer terms and conditions).</p> <p>(b) To establish a MOU with the lead partner, establishing roles and responsibilities for project management and delivery.</p> <p>(c) To host the part time staff member, fully funded by the programme, employed by Amphibian and Reptile Groups of UK, but located in the AONB office to facilitate</p>	J McGilly	Application approved – Implementation ongoing	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
ERT/007/2020	TENDER FOR MANUFACTURE AND SUPPLY OF STREET NAMEPLATES	<p>programme delivery.</p> <p>The Council authorise the Commencement of the tendering process with a view to putting in place a new contract for the provisions of new street nameplates effective from 1st March 2020 until 28th February 2023.</p>	C Jackson	In Progress	N
ERT/024/2020	BELFAST CITY REGIONAL DEAL DIGITAL INNOVATION PROJECT	<p>(FEBRUARY 2020)</p> <p>To approve the appointment of an external consultant to assist officers with the design, development and implementation of key Belfast City Regional Deal digital projects.</p>	J McGilly	<p>Xpand appointed to complete this work.</p> <p>Project initiation meeting completed and desk research underway.</p> <p>Stakeholder consultation planned for mid August onwards</p>	N
		(MARCH 2020)			

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
ERT/040/2020	WARRENPOINT MUNICIPAL PARK	<p>(a) Council Officers to review and develop a proposed booking system for Warrenpoint Municipal Park and report back to a future meeting.</p> <p>(b) Council to review the Event Management Plan charges for commercial, voluntary and charity bookings for Warrenpoint Park.</p> <p>(c) To identify the best model for a "Friends of Group".</p> <p>(d) To commission and install artwork in the Park celebrating the heritage of Warrenpoint adhering to Council Policy. Local primary and secondary Schools will be engaged.</p> <p>(e) Officers to hold a Workshop with Councillors to look at ways to sustain activity at Warrenpoint Municipal Park, including</p>	J MC GILLY	Work ongoing	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
ERT/041/2020	CASTLEWELLAN FOREST PARK	<p>reducing fees, and incorporate arts and culture in the "Friends of" group.</p> <p>(a) To procure an Integrated Supply Team to deliver the DAERA capital works scheme.</p> <p>(b) To seek an extension of the DAERA LoC from 31 January 2021 to March 2021</p> <p>(c) Council has committed £1,049,890 of capital investment to Castlewellan Forest Park and it is recommended that income will be factored as part of the funding package (capital and revenue) to NLHF.</p> <p>(d) Additional funding may be sought from Council depending on the project costs and the funding package offered by NLHF.</p>	J MC GILLY	Work ongoing	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		<p>(e) To develop in principle a Memorandum of Understanding with RBGE, CAFRE and National Botanic Gardens, Kilmacurragh for the purposes of propagation of trees/shrubs, student exchanges, sharing bio-security information etc.</p> <p>(f) To investigate the potential of developing a Partnership Agreement with Annes Grove (managed by Office of Public Works) in Co. Cork for the purposes of co-marketing of gardens, propagation of trees/shrubs, student exchanges etc.</p> <p>(g) Request a license agreement from Forest Service/DAERA for the Walled Garden, Bothy Yard etc. to undertake the capital works funded via DAERA.</p> <p>(h) To develop an Expression of Interest for vacant space using criteria based on the NLHF project outcomes.</p>			

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		<p>(i) To organise a Public Consultation for April 2020 in Castlewellsan regarding NLHF application.</p> <p>(j) To submit an application to NLHF on 1 June 2020.</p>			
ERT/043/2020	MEETING: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS FORUM – 25 FEBRUARY 2020	<p>To approve the following recommendations arising from the Report of the International Relations Forum Meeting held on Tuesday 25 February 2020:</p> <p><u>China</u></p> <p>(a) To note update provided to the International Relations Forum on recent activity with China.</p> <p>(b) To continue to progress opportunities to strengthen the relationship between Newry, Mourne & Down and China and facilitation of international exchanges for purposes of economic and trade growth, investment, education/skills development and growth of tourism industry.</p>	J MC GILLY	Work ongoing	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		<p>(c) To approve the participation in an NI Innovation Mission China, in partnership with Invest NI, NI Bureau, other NI Councils, Colleges and Universities</p> <p>(d) To approve the delivery at a local level a series of Spot Light in China Business workshops, promoting trade opportunities with China and building capacity among local businesses to engage in these opportunities.</p> <p>(e) To discuss further with NI Bureau in China, and write to Changchun FAO regarding the potential of upgrading the Council to Changchun City partnership from a Friendship Agreement to a full Sister Cities agreement</p> <p>(f) To renew for a further 12 months the MOU between Council and the Confucius Institute at Ulster University for support in China – NMDDC relations (translation services, interpretation</p>			

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		<p>services, support in cultural activities etc.</p> <p>Russia, Southern Pines, Pinehurst and <u>Aberdeen</u></p> <p>(g) Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor McKeivitt and seconded by Councillor Tinnelly that Officials would share Council's International Relations Strategy with representatives of Kirovsk and Southern Pines, Pinehurst and Aberdeen. Any proposal to then to be assessed against the International Relations Strategy.</p> <p>(h) As the International Relationship with both Russia and Southern Pines, Pinehurst and Aberdeen have expired, the relationship will not be renewed until a further proposal is submitted and assessed.</p> <p><u>Lamorlaye, France</u></p>			

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		<p>(i) To establish a new International Relations Agreement with Municipalité de Lamorlaye, North of France, on the basis that this proposal meets the essential criteria and at least 2 primary criteria as detailed in the strategy.</p> <p>(j) Council to explore the opportunity to establish an international relationship with an appropriate region in North East America that would complement our international strategy. The Council engages in the opportunity to attend as</p> <p>a platinum sponsor the New York-New Belfast Conference in New York on 11-12 June 2020 at a cost of £5,000 (+ flights / accommodation) as the first step in exploring this potential.</p> <p>To appoint 1 No. Officer only, to attend the New York – Belfast Conference to be held in New York on 11-12 June 2020 at a cost of £5,000, plus flights and accommodation.</p>			

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		(JUNE 2020 TO FOLLOW)			