

March 9th, 2020

**Notice Of Meeting**

You are invited to attend the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting to be held on **Monday, 9th March 2020 at 5:00 pm** in **Boardroom District Council Offices Monaghan Row Newry.**

**Councillor R Mulgrew**

**Councillor D Curran**

**Councillor T Andrews**

**Councillor R Burgess**

**Councillor W Clarke**

**Councillor C Enright**

**Councillor O Hanlon**

**Councillor G Hanna**

**Councillor V Harte**

**Councillor M Larkin**

**Councillor D McAteer**

**Councillor A McMurray**

**Councillor H Reilly**

**Councillor M Ruane**

**Councillor G Stokes**

# Agenda

**1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's remarks.**

**2.0 Declarations of Interest.**

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## ***Presentations***

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**3.0 Presentation by Mr David Arthurs and Ms Amanda Johnston  
re: Social Enterprise NI and delivery at local level.**

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**4.0 Action Sheet : Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee  
Meeting held on Monday 10 February 2020. (Attached)**

 *ERT Action Sheet FEBRUARY 2020.pdf*

*Page 1*

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## ***Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration Items***

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**5.0 Warrenpoint Municipal Park. (Attached)**

 *Rpt re Warrenpoint Municipal Park.pdf*

*Page 3*

**6.0 Castlewellan Forest Park. (Attached)**

 *Rpt re Castlewellan Forest Park.pdf*

*Page 12*

**7.0 East Border Region Charter. (Attached)**

 *Rpt re EBR Charter.pdf*

*Page 15*

**8.0 Report of International Relations Forum meeting held on  
Tuesday 25 February 2020. (Attached)**

 *ERT Report - International Relations Forum.pdf*

*Page 25*

 *Appx. International Relations Forum Meeting - 25.2.2020.pdf*

*Page 28*

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## ***Tourism, Culture and Events Items***

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**9.0 Northern Ireland Tourism Awards Sponsorship. (Attached)**

 *Rpt re NI Tourism Awards.pdf*

*Page 31*

**10.0 Arts Culture and Heritage Strategy. (Attached)**

 *ERT Report - Arts Culture and Heritage Strategy.pdf*

*Page 38*

## Exempt Information Items

### 11.0 Ulster Orchestra Proposal for Newry Town Hall. (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.

 *Rpt re Ulster Orchestra.pdf*

**Not included**

### 12.0 ERT Service Level Agreements. (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.

 *Rpt re Service Level Agreements 2020-21.pdf*

**Not included**

### 13.0 Tea Rooms - Tollymore Forest Park. (Attached) (FOR NOTING)

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 Report - Repairs to Tollymore Tea Rooms.pdf*

**Not included**

## For Noting

### 14.0 DAERA Rural Micro Grant Pilot Scheme. (Attached)

 *ERT Report - DAERA Rural Micro Grant Pilot Scheme.pdf*

**Page 86**

### 15.0 Artisan Markets - Downpatrick; Newcastle; Warrenpoint 2019-2020. (Attached)

 *ERT Report - Downpatrick Newcastle & Warrenpoint Artisan Markets.pdf*

**Page 89**

### 16.0 Progress Report re Branding and signage at Newry and Mourne Museum. (Attached)

 *ERT Report - Progress report branding signage ERT.pdf*

**Page 93**

## **17.0 Report re: Meeting of Louth/NMD Joint Committee Meeting - 04 December 2019. (Attached)**

 *Report of Louth NMD Joint Committee 4.12.19.pdf*

*Page 95*

## **18.0 Planning Performance Figures - February 2020. (Attached)**

 *FEBRUARY 2020 Planning Committee Performance Report.pdf*

*Page 99*

## **19.0 Historic Action Tracker Sheet. (Attached)**

 *ERT Historic Action Tracker Sheet for MARCH Mtg 2020.pdf*

*Page 107*



# Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews

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 Hugh Gallagher

Cllr Mark Gibbons

Cllr Oonagh Hanlon

Cllr Glyn Hanna

Cllr Valerie Harte

Cllr Terry Hearty

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

Aoife McCreesh

Cllr Leeanne McEvoy

Jonathan McGilly

Cllr Harold McKee

Patricia McKeever

Cllr Karen McKevitt

Cllr Andrew McMurray

Mr Roland Moore

Margaret Morrow

Cllr Roisin Mulgrew  
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Cllr Barra Ó Muirí  
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Linda O'Hare  
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Cllr Gerry O'Hare  
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Cllr Kathryn Owen  
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Mr Andy Patterson  
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Cllr Henry Reilly  
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Cllr Michael Ruane  
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Cllr Michael Savage  
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Cllr Gareth Sharvin  
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Donna Starkey  
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Cllr Gary Stokes  
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Sarah Taggart  
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Cllr David Taylor  
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Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly  
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Cllr John Trainor  
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Central Support Unit  
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Cllr William Walker  
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Mrs Marie Ward  
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ACTION SHEETENTERPRISE REGENERATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETINGMONDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2020

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
<b>ERT/022/2020</b>	2020 AGENDA NI CONFERENCE	To support the 2020 NI Economic Conference delivered by Agenda NI, through a lead sponsorship at a cost of £10,000.	J McGilly	In progress	Y
<b>ERT/023/2020</b>	NEWRY CHAMBER CROSS BORDER CONFERENCE	Council contribute £5,000 towards the costs associated with running this event.	J McGilly	Event 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2020 In progress	Y
<b>ERT/024/2020</b>	BELFAST CITY REGIONAL DEAL DIGITAL INNOVATION PROJECT	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.	J McGilly	In progress	N
<b>ERT/025/2020</b>	TOURISM PROMOTION EVENTS	To approve the Council's Tourism Trade Show Plan for 2020/2021.	A Patterson	Actioned	Y
<b>ERT/026/2020</b>	FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANT FUND – TOURISM EVENTS & TOURISM PARTNERSHIP MARKETING	To approve grant awards within Call 1 of the Financial Assistance Grant Programme for Tourism Events and Tourism Partnership Marketing Fund.	A Patterson	Actioned	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
<b>ERT/027/2020</b>	NEWRY AND MOURNE MUSEUM – FORWARD PLAN	To approve the Forward Plan for Newry and Mourne Museum 2020-2023.	A Patterson	Actioned	Y
<b>ERT/028/2020</b>	TOURISM ACCOMMODATION FUND	<p>Council open a Capital Grant Fund, closed call for expressions of interest, to support the construction of new hotel developments of scale in the District, in line with agreed funding criteria.</p> <p>To note the criteria included "Projects that are seeking maximum grant support of £400,000", not £300,000 as was incorrectly stated in the Officers Report dated 10 February 2020.</p>	A Patterson	In progress	N
<b>ERT/029/2020</b>	(Notice of Motion) RURAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING	To adopt the Notice of Motion. All members of the committee voted in favour of the Notice of Motion.	J McGilly	In progress	Y
<b>ERT/030/2020</b>	(Exempt) LEASE – OFFICE SPACE AT DOWN ARTS CENTRE	To extend the Lease in respect of office space at Down Arts Centre Downpatrick to current tenants for a further 5 year period, effective from the date of expiry of the current Lease, as per recommendation contained in correspondence dated 14 January 2020 from Land and Property Services.	A Patterson	In progress	N
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<b>Report to:</b>	Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	Monday 9 March 2020
<b>Subject:</b>	Warrenpoint Municipal Park
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Jonathan McGilly – Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment & Regeneration
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Aveen McVeigh - Project Development Officer

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

For decision	<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u> To seek approval for the recommendations at 3.1 in this report.</p> <p><u>Background</u> Council received funding from Heritage Lottery (NLHF) in 2016 to restore built heritage of Warrenpoint Municipal Park.</p> <p>The Letter of Offer included several approved purposes including: Reinstate authentic planting and landscaping. Recruitment of a Development Officer, Heritage Officer and Volunteer &amp; Training Outreach Officer. Delivering an Activities Plan including a Collective Memory Project, training placements, volunteering opportunities and a programme of talks and events. Establish a 'Friends' group. Establish an interpretation space within restored pavilion. Install new paths, seats, bins, lighting, electrical access, drainage and signage. The capital element of the project is complete, activities will continue to June 2021.</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues</b>
2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Events in the Park/Booking arrangements</b></li> </ul> <p>Since the Park re-opened in 2018 the Park has hosted a wide range of events including activities funded by NLHF. Staff employed on the NLHF project organise activities in the Park only related to the NLHF project.</p> <p>Currently there is no set structure for receipt of external bookings for the Park. Project Development Officer for NLHF has signposted potential external bookings to Facilities Management and Maintenance.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Event Management Plan</b>                      As part of the application to NLFH an event management plan was submitted outlining future Park usage by a commercial, charity or voluntary groups. There currently is an associated fee to use the Park and the receipt of a bond as insurance in the case of damage.                 </li> <li> <b>Management and Maintenance</b>                      The management and maintenance of the Park is not the responsibility of the staff employed on the NLHF project, this falls under Facilities Management and Maintenance.                       A Management and Maintenance Plan was submitted to Heritage Lottery in 2015 outlining the upkeep of the Park. £100,000 was dedicated by Council to the increase management and maintenance of the Park for 5 years.                 </li> <li> <b>Activity Plan</b>                      An activity plan was submitted to NLHF with proposed activities to encourage use of the Park. There was a successful activity calendar in 2019. Council wishes to build on the success for 2020 (see appendix 1 for 2020 draft calendar of events).                 </li> <li> <b>Green flag</b>                      Green Flag status was awarded to the Park in 2019 and an application was submitted to Keep NI Beautiful in February 2020 to retain the flag. Judges will visit the Park during April/May 2020.                 </li> <li> <b>Steering Committee</b>                      A Steering Committee was created to oversee the development and implementation of the NLHF project. An outcome from the NLHF project is to establish a "Friends of the Park" group.                      Steering Committee members have expressed an interest in establishing a group, however there are issues surrounding a constituted voluntary group such as ownership, insurance etc.                 </li> <li> <b>Project proposal</b>                      The ground between the play park and the hard surface (border) was planted with shrubs, however due to their location they did not survive pedestrian traffic. There is no benefit to replant the area. A potential schools project could be to commission and install a piece of art work focusing on the heritage of Warrenpoint. This could be either ceramic or stone work that is permanent. Local schools will be engaged to assist the design of the artwork.                 </li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
3.1	a) Council Officers to review and develop a proposed booking system for Warrenpoint Municipal Park and report back to future meeting.  b) Council to review the event management plan charges for commercial, voluntary and charity bookings for Warrenpoint Park

	<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>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	Funding is secured from NLHF.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Equality and good relations implications</b>
5.1	It is not anticipated the recommendation will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity and good relations.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Rural Proofing implications</b>
6.1	The recommendation has been considered within the scope of the Rural Needs Act and the proposal has not been subject to a rural needs impact assessment.
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Draft schedule of events</li> <li>2. Event management – Event bonds and fees</li> <li>3. Action sheet Steering Committee meeting 25 June 2019</li> </ol>
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Background Documents</b>



# Appendix 1 - Draft scheduled NLHF events in Warrenpoint Municipal Park 2020

<u>March</u>  Water colour – Adults  Children’s activities (artisan market)  Schools Programme from September 2019 – June 2020	<u>April</u>  Easter activities  Children’s activities (artisan market)  Soap making (seaweed) – Adults  Schools Programme from September 2019 – June 2020
<u>May</u>  Ceramic workshop  Garden Show with artisan market  Schools Programme from September 2019 – June 2020	<u>June</u>  Tai Chai evening classes  Children’s activities (artisan market)  Schools Programme from September 2019 – June 2020
<u>July</u>  Wednesday afternoon family entertainment  Bandstand Sundays  Outdoor sketching  Willow workshop	<u>August</u>  Wednesday afternoon family entertainment  Children’s activities (artisan market)  Bandstand Sundays
<u>September</u>  European Heritage Weekend  Jewellery making activity (artisan market)	<u>October</u>  Halloween/autumn crafts (artisan market)
<u>November</u>  Essential oils	<u>December</u>  Willow wreath making (Christmas Yuletide Fayre)



## Appendix 2

**Event Fees & Bonds Event Management Plan 2015**

<b>Event Type</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Application Process</b>	<b>Charge Per Event</b>	<b>Minimum Event Bond Required ^</b>
<b>Commercial 100 + participants</b>	This is an event where participants are charged a fee	Applications made for ' <b>Annual Calendar</b> '	£1000	£1000
<b>Commercial Less than 100 participants</b>	This is an event where participants are charged a fee	Applications made at least ' <b>6 weeks in advance</b> '	£1000	£1000
<b>Charity / Voluntary / Community Event 100 + participants</b>	This is an event organised to raise money for a registered charity, or voluntary / community organisation provided that all monies raised (after costs) are donated to that charity	Applications made for ' <b>Annual Calendar</b> '	£300	£500
<b>Charity / Voluntary / Community Event Less than 100 participants</b>	This is an event organised to raise money for a registered charity, or voluntary / community organisation provided that all monies raised (after costs) are donated to that charity	Applications made at least ' <b>6 weeks in advance</b> '	£150	£500
<b>Exceptional</b>	Given the diversity of events , it is recognised that there may be events which do not fall into the above event	Applications made at least ' <b>6 weeks in advance</b> '	Min £100 - Max £1000 - Negotiable depending on nature of the event.	£100-£1000 Negotiable depending on nature of the event.

	definitions and will therefore be considered on an event by event basis.			
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All charges and fees are subject to an annual review

## Appendix 3

### **Report of Meeting of Steering Group regarding Warrenpoint Municipal Park Heritage Lottery Fund Regeneration Project held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at 10.00am in the Pavilion building, Warrenpoint Park**

#### **In attendance:**

Councillors in Attendance: Cllr Declan McAteer  
Cllr Mark Gibbons

Council Employees: Dr Ken Abraham  
Ms Joanne Cummins  
Mr Shane McGivern  
Mr Rodney McBride

Others: Mr B Reilly Warrenpoint Heritage & Dev Group  
Mr B McCalmont Old Warrenpoint Forum

**Apologies:** Cllr Michael Ruane NMDDC  
Mr Martin Robinson NMDDC  
Mr J Boylan Warrenpoint Heritage & Dev Group

Items: 1-3	Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Welcome and Apologies:</b></li> </ul> <p>Apologies were noted as above. Shane McGivern welcomed everyone to the meeting and congratulated Mark Gibbons on his election to Council and acknowledged the work of outgoing councillors over that last term.</p> <p><b>Report of Previous meeting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The report of the previous meeting was approved as a true and accurate record.</li> </ul> <p><b>Matters Arising:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shane reported that he recognised there were issues arising from the Blues in the Bay festival around payment being taken for their event in the park but confirmed that the event management plan which was submitted to HLF and circulated to the steering group, had stated that charges would apply to protect the investment as the HLF business plan had to demonstrate sustainability.</li> <li>Brian and Bill stated their understanding was that the steering group was to discuss and agree any charges, which had not happened but accepted that procedure had been followed as per the new event management plan. Brian stated that there had never been a charge for park events.</li> <li>Shane confirmed that ERT had deferred charges re: Blues in the Bay and there would be a refund issued to Ian Sands.</li> <li>Bill suggested that groups who were not local should perhaps be asked to pay a fee and those charging for an event but that non-</li> </ul>	<p>No actions arising</p>

<p>profit making organisations should not be asked to pay. He suggested a wider range of groups need to give their input to decisions on charges.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Everyone accepted that a bond should still be taken from all groups and Brian raised the issue of what happens if damage is caused in excess of the bond charge.</li> <li>• To move the issue forward Shane suggested an options paper for future events should be prepared for response from ERT.</li> <li>• Rodney McBride gave a brief report on volunteers: there are now 24 on the database and there had been a very positive response from the public when we were visible in the park eg. stand at the artisan market. An SRC community volunteering event on 19<sup>th</sup> June had also been successful. Students planted summer plants and assisted with a park survey and biodiversity recordings.</li> </ul>	SMcG
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Item 4: Project Update:	Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joanne Cummins gave a brief report on progress with our school's partnership which will begin in September and run for two years. St Dallan's and Dromore Road primary schools have been offered a programme of activities and St Bronagh's PS in Rostrevor will also participate through their shared education partnership with Dromore Road PS.</li> <li>• Shane reported that the painting contract for the park railings was progressing but there was no start date yet. There are also outstanding items on the defect list: rust on bandstand brackets, rainwater to be channelled from downpipe, new wet pour in play park and ponding forming in path areas where there is no tarmac beneath. A meeting will be organised soon between the architect and contractor.</li> <li>• Shane reported that Mark Robinson from HLF was retiring soon and Angela Lavin would be taking over his role. Shane recorded his appreciation to Mark for his support and contribution during is managing of the HLF project.</li> </ul>	

Item 5: Next Steps:	Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brian reported that Warrenpoint chamber of commerce will be supplying additional Christmas lights for the park this year.</li> <li>• The summer events leaflet was circulated and proposed events were welcomed by everyone.</li> <li>• In response to a question re: Artisan market not being included, Shane explained it was not an HLF funded event, but in any case,</li> </ul>	

<p>the event date had not been finalised before the park leaflet went to print</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brian asked if a central information portal could be established to communicate all park events eg. a forum (which would be closed to comments). Shane said that event information will also be circulated via park notice boards and a press release.</li> <li>• A brief discussion took place about the 'Friends of...' group and its legal structure. Shane said there was also a discussion to be had around where such a group sits within council structures and suggested that he still saw a role for the steering group in addition to a 'friends of' group.</li> </ul>	
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Item 6: Date of next meeting:	Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next meeting – date to be confirmed.</li> </ul>	

**Report by: Mr Rodney McBride (Volunteer Outreach Officer)**

<b>Report to:</b>	Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> March 2020
<b>Subject:</b>	Castlewellan Forest Park
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Jonathan McGilly – Assistant Director Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism.
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	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"/>
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<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u> To seek approval for Recommendations in 3.0 of this report.</p> <p><u>Background</u> Council currently is in receipt of funding (round one development phase) from National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) for £247,000 to develop a vision for Castlewellan Historic Demesne. The approved purpose of the funding relates to developing improvements to Courtyards 1 and 2, developing the Arboretum and Walled garden, access improvements and biodiversity.</p> <p>Council is working with an Integrated Design Team to finalise the round two submission (delivery phase) to NLHF. It is anticipated that Council will apply for funding to NLHF for a project valued circa £5.6 million, the application will be submitted on 1 June 2020. Council will be informed in September 2020 of the outcome.</p> <p>£500,000 has been secured from DAERA for the restoration and interpretation of Castlewellan Arboretum.</p> <p>Forest Service currently manages the Park, Council is working with Forest Service to enter a lease for the Park. Council currently holds a 20-year operating license for Bike, Walking, and Horse Riding Trails and the Play structure at Castlewellan Forest Park.</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues</b>
2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NLHF and DAERA projects were previously interdependent as the funding from DAERA was part of the NLHF project, however Council must proceed with the DAERA capital works to ensure they</li> </ul>

	<p>are complete before the DAERA LoO expires. Permission from NLHF has been granted to proceed with two separate projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At Round one (development phase) it was projected that the delivery phase of the project would be £4.0 million, the request for funding was £2.2 million. During the development phase project costs have increased to £5.1 million (to be finalised) with the request for funding to NLHF increasing to £2.7 million. The project includes capital and revenue programme costs. Council has committed £1,049,890 of capital investment to the project, income for the Park will be factored as part of the funding package (capital and revenue). NLHF has requested that Council review its contribution to the project. 2016/2017 income to Forest Service was approx. £370,000 for the Park.</li> <li>• Arboriculture and Horticulture forms the basis of the funding application to NLHF. A workshop was held in January 2020 with a wide range of specialists from academia, public and private sector. The findings from the workshop will inform the future management of the Bothy Yard, Glass houses, propagation and management of the vista etc. From the workshop it was identified that there would need to be formal links with organisations that can assist in the management and maintenance of the Park with a specific focus on the arboriculture and horticulture of the Park.</li> <li>• Correspondence has been issued to Forest Service indicating Council's intention to enter a lease for Castlewellan Forest Park. A licensed agreement will be required to expediate the DAERA capital works. Once granted, Council will be responsible for the land at the Walled Garden.</li> <li>• Subject to Council securing funding and entering a lease, capital works can commence, on completion there will be vacant space available for Council to sub-lease. To support the application to NLHF it would be beneficial to have organisations that contribute to NLHF project outcomes e.g. Heritage will be in better condition, People will have developed skills, People will have greater wellbeing and the local area will be a better place to live, work or visit.</li> <li>• Public consultation is vital in the development of this project. Public consultation was previously held in 2017 and 2019. To ensure the public is kept informed of Council's plans a public consultation will be organised for April 2020.</li> <li>• Task and Finish Board, Steering Group and Interdepartmental meetings continue to ensure an application is made on 1 June 2020.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) To procure an Integrated Supply Team to deliver the DAERA capital works scheme.</li> <li>b) To seek an extension of the DAERA LoO from 31 January 2021 to March 2021</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>d) Additional funding may be sought from Council depending on the project costs and the funding package offered by NLHF.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>g) Request a license agreement from Forest Service/DAERA for the Walled Garden, Bothy Yard etc. to undertake the capital works funded via DAERA.</li> <li>h) To develop an Expression of Interest for vacant space using criteria based on the NLHF project outcomes.</li> <li>i) To organise a Public Consultation for April 2020 in Castlewellan regarding NLHF application.</li> <li>j) To submit an application to NLHF on 1 June 2020.</li> </ul>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	<p>NLHF round one grant aid of £247,000 has been approved, along with £500,000 having been obtained from DAERA through the Rural Development tourism measure.</p> <p>Once a license agreement is secured from Forest Service/DAERA for the Walled Garden, Bothy Yard etc. Council will be responsible for the management and maintenance of the area. Council has agreed £175,000 for the management and maintenance for 20/21 for Castlewellan Forest Park.</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Equality and good relations implications</b>
5.1	It is not anticipated the recommendation will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity and good relations.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Rural Proofing implications</b>
6.1	The recommendation has been considered within the scope of the Rural Needs Act and the proposal has not been subject to a rural needs impact assessment.
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	N/A
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Background Documents</b>
	n/a



<b>Report to:</b>	Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	9 March 2020
<b>Subject:</b>	EBR Charter – Local Authority declaration of Commitment.
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Jonathan McGilly – Assistant Director of Enterprise, Employment & Regeneration
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Jonathan McGilly – Assistant Director of Enterprise, Employment & Regeneration

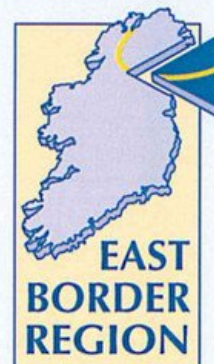
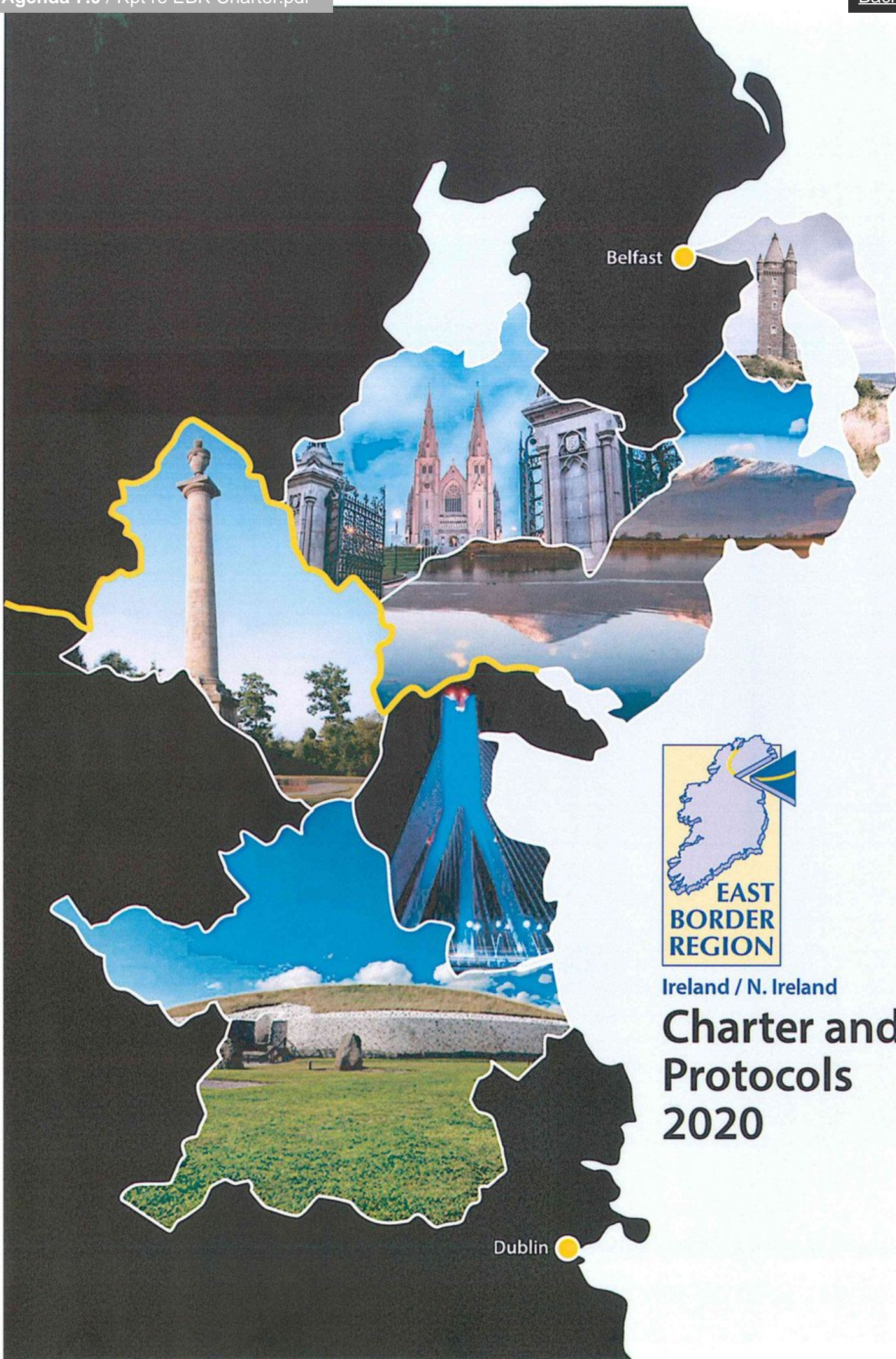
Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-

For decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u> To approve the recommendation at 3.1 of this report</p> <p><u>Background</u> EBR is a Local Authority lead body established to progress projects on a cross border bases between local Authority members. It has played an integral role in developing, delivering and lobbying for a range of cross border initiative and projects. EBR has also been a delivery mechanism for Interreg cross border funds</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues</b>
2.1	<p>EBR have developed a charter to outline the working arrangements for strategic cross border co-operation between the 6 member local authorities of the East Border Region namely: Ards and North Down Borough Council, Armagh City, Banbridge &amp; Craigavon Borough Council and Newry, Mourne &amp; Down District Council in Northern Ireland and Louth, Meath and Monaghan County Councils in the Republic of Ireland will work with national and regional authorities, local communities and with public, private and community partners to achieve this end.</p> <p>EBR is asking the member authorities to re-commit to the established aim of '<b><i>a smart competitive, sustainable and inclusive cross-border Region</i></b>'. This will be implemented by a programme of work covering 3 Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A Smart, Competitive Region</b></li> <li>• <b>A Sustainable Region, and</b></li> <li>• <b>An Inclusive Region.</b></li> </ul>

	<p>The purpose of the charter is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To demonstrate a firm commitment to the principles of EBR Ltd and to provide an endorsement of EBR as the principal mechanism to facilitate cross border cooperation between the six member Local Authorities.</li> <li>• To outline key themes and areas of mutual benefit under which cross border cooperation and joint actions could be pursued</li> <li>• To define the arrangements for EBR to act as the mechanism for cross border cooperation and to outline supporting structures and decision-making procedures</li> <li>• To enable continuous strategic development which positions the East Border Region as a Smart, Competitive, Sustainable and Inclusive Region</li> </ul> <p>SEUPB have launched a consultation on the new Peace+ programme which includes what was previously known as Interreg. It is vital that Local authorities engage in this consultation both individually and collectively and in turn develop a robust programme of projects and initiatives across a range of Council function to deliver priorities on a cross border bases.</p> <p>EBR has in place the governance structures and track record to perform this role.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
3.1	NMDDC agree and sign the EBR Charter and work with partner councils to develop a cross border programme bid for submission under peace+ programme.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	None
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Equality and good relations implications</b>
5.1	All implications fully considered
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Rural Proofing implications</b>
6.1	All fully considered
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	EBR Charter
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Background Documents</b>
	N/A



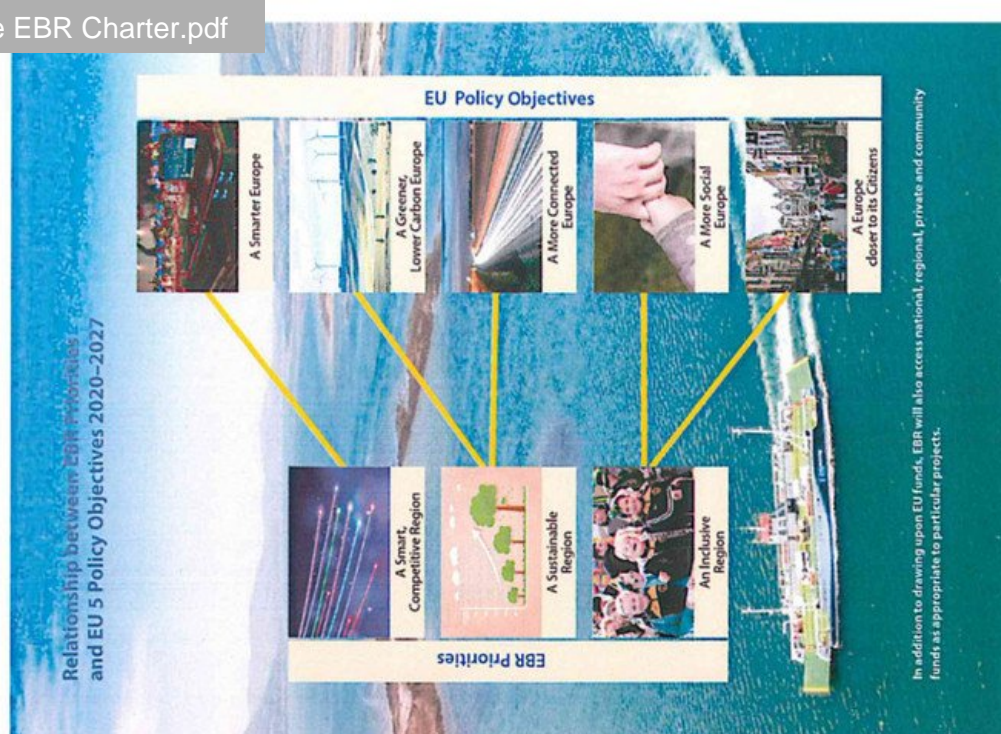


Ireland / N. Ireland

# Charter and Protocols 2020

Dublin





## Illustrative Actions under the 3 Priority Themes

### Theme 1

#### A Smart, Competitive Region

- Research and Innovation
- Digital public and private services
- SME growth and competitiveness
- Development of the EBR tourism product
- Smart towns, villages and rural areas
- Best practice in smart development approaches



### Theme 2

#### A Sustainable Region

- Addressing climate change
- Sustainable transport, including greenways and blueways
- Sustainable communities
- Sustainable energy and energy efficiency measures
- Waste management, the circular economy
- Biodiversity
- Coastal management



### Theme 3

#### An Inclusive Region

- Tackling social exclusion
- Tackling labour market exclusion, by providing new opportunities and upgrading skills
- Improving social, community and educational outcomes
- Tackling health issues (including mental health)
- Recognising and celebrating cultural diversity
- Developing new structures for involving local people in decision-making for their communities
- Cross-border sharing of approaches to issues such as social inclusion and community cohesion



## EBR Organisational Profile

Established in 1976 EBR Ltd is one of the longest established local authority led cross border groups in Europe. It serves a population of just under one million people spanning six local authorities on the east coast of Ireland/Northern Ireland.



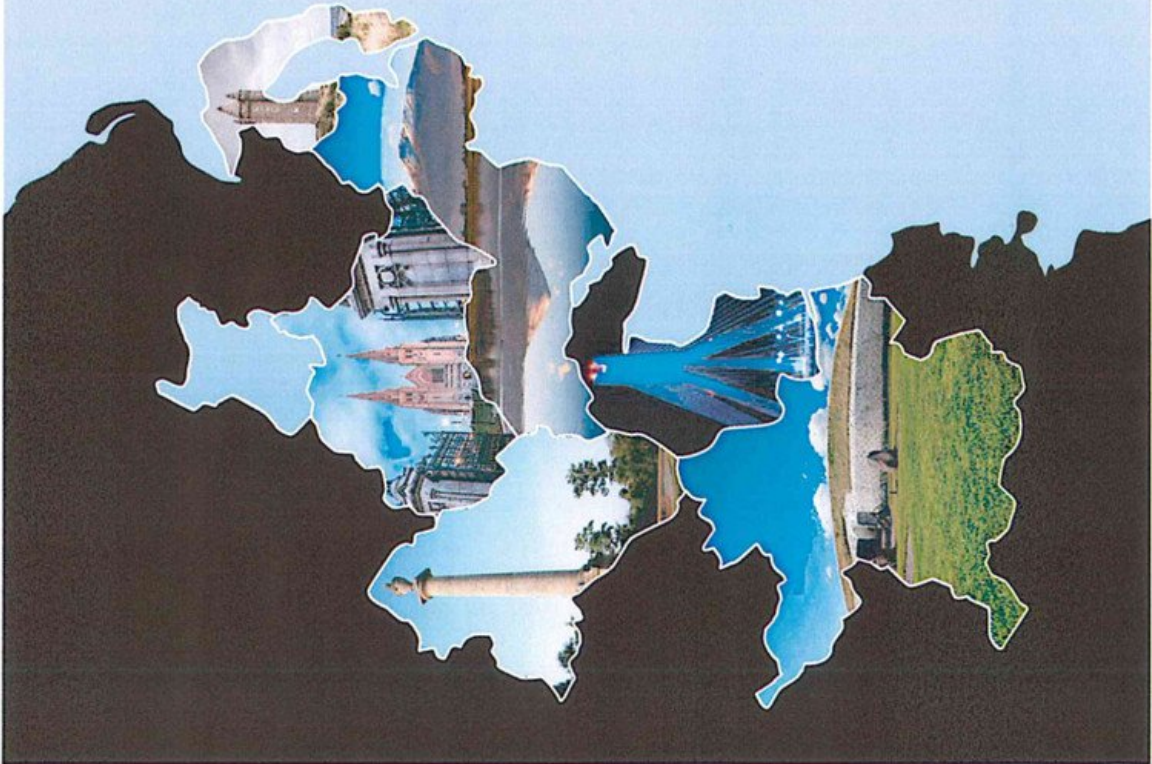
EBR Ltd has played a central role in the administration of EU cross border funding on the island of Ireland for over 25 years, administering over €150 million of funding to successfully delivered projects. In the current INTERREG VA Programme EBR is administering projects to the value of over €100 million.

This Innovative Charter for Cross Border Co-operation in the Region will take account of the fact that the UK is no longer a member of the EU and sets out future priorities for co-operation in the changed institutional context.

EBR is also active at the European level leading co-operation projects across the UK and Ireland and actively participating in European Networks as a long standing member of the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR).







# East Border Region Charter Local Authority Declaration of Commitment

We, the member authorities of the East Border Region hereby declare our joint commitment to continue to work together to address the issues arising from the Ireland/Northern Ireland border in order to protect and improve the prosperity of the citizens of the Region and the public and private services that they can access.

The 6 member local authorities of the East Border Region will continue to work with national and regional authorities, local communities and with public, private and community partners to achieve this end.

The authorities re-commit to the established aim of  
**a smart, competitive, sustainable and inclusive region**

This will be implemented by a programme of work covering 3 priorities:

- A Smart, Competitive Region
- A Sustainable Region, and
- An Inclusive Region.

The Illustrative actions under the 3 Priorities are set out in the accompanying Protocols.

The principal mechanism by which these priorities will be delivered is East Border Region Ltd, a not for profit Company Limited by Guarantee, jointly owned by the 6 local authorities.

The priorities will be resourced by European, national, local authority and community funding.

EBR local authorities in Ireland and in Northern Ireland acknowledge and recognise that the United Kingdom's departure from the European Union presents both new challenges and new opportunities. We commit to working together to overcome the challenges and to realise the opportunities arising from Brexit.

The accompanying Protocols outline the detailed working arrangements for the implementation of this Charter in the East Border Region.

March 2020



Chairman of East Border Region Ltd



on behalf of Ards and North Down Borough Council



on behalf of Ards and North Down Borough Council



on behalf of Louth County Council



on behalf of Meath County Council



on behalf of Monaghan County Council



on behalf of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council



# East Border Region Charter

## Local Authority Declaration of Commitment

We, the member authorities of the East Border Region hereby declare our joint commitment to continue to work together to address the issues arising from the Ireland/Northern Ireland border in order to protect and improve the prosperity of the citizens of the Region and the public and private services that they can access.

Experience across Europe shows that border regions tend to be less prosperous and to have poorer public and private services than more metropolitan regions. Experience also shows that these disadvantages can be reduced or overcome by active engagement of national, regional and local authorities and their public, private and community partners on both sides of a border.

The 6 member local authorities of the East Border Region namely: Ards and North Down Borough Council, Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council and Newry, Mourne & Down District Council in Northern Ireland and Louth, Meath and Monaghan County Councils in the Republic of Ireland will continue to work with national and regional authorities, local communities and with public, private and community partners to achieve this end.

The authorities re-commit to the established aim of 'a smart competitive, sustainable and inclusive cross-border Region'. This will be implemented by a programme of work covering 3 Priorities

- **A Smart, Competitive Region**
- **A Sustainable Region, and**
- **An Inclusive Region.**

Illustrative actions under the 3 Priorities are set out overleaf.

The principal mechanism by which these priorities will be delivered is East Border Region Ltd, a not for profit Company Limited by Guarantee, jointly owned by the 6 local authorities.

The priorities will be resourced by European, national, local authority and community funding.

EBR local authorities in Ireland and in Northern Ireland acknowledge and recognise that the United Kingdom's departure from the European Union presents both new challenges and new opportunities. We commit to working together to overcome the challenges and to realise the opportunities arising from Brexit.

The accompanying Protocols outline the detailed working arrangements for the implementation of this Charter in the East Border Region.




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*Chairman of East Border Region Ltd*




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*on behalf of  
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council*




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*on behalf of Ards and North Down Borough Council*




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*on behalf of Louth County Council*




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*on behalf of Meath County Council*




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*on behalf of Monaghan County Council*




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*on behalf of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council*



# **Protocols governing Cross Border Co-operation in East Border Region**

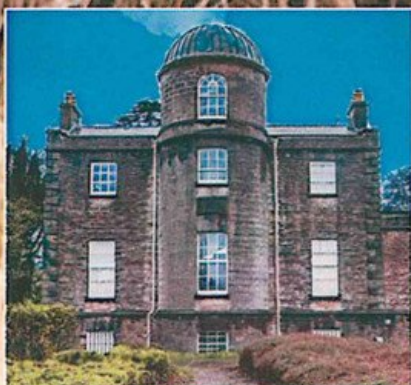
## **Context**

This Charter outlines the detailed working arrangements for strategic, cross border co-operation between the six EBR member local authorities namely; Ards and North Down Borough Council, Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council and Newry, Mourne & Down District Council in Northern Ireland and Louth, Meath and Monaghan County Councils in the Republic of Ireland.

The Charter is elected member led and represents a renewed mandate for East Border Region Ltd. to be a principal mechanism for continued cross border co-operation on behalf of the six member local authorities. Each member local authority has endorsed the Charter and these accompanying Protocols at full Council.

## **Purpose of the Charter**

- To demonstrate a firm commitment to the principles of EBR Ltd and to provide an endorsement of EBR as the principal mechanism to facilitate cross border cooperation between the six member Local Authorities.
- To outline key themes and areas of mutual benefit under which cross border cooperation and joint actions could be pursued
- To define the arrangements for EBR to act as the mechanism for cross border cooperation and to outline supporting structures and decision-making procedures
- To enable continuous strategic development which positions the East Border Region as a Smart, Competitive, Sustainable and Inclusive Region.





### **EBR Board**

Comprises 18 Directors made up of three elected members with cross party representation from each member Local Authority and 6 advisors at Chief Executive or nominated Director level, one from each Local Authority.

### **EBR Members Forum**

Comprises 36 elected members, 6 from each member local authority (including the 3 Directors) and relevant officials.

### **EBR Audit and Governance Committee**

Comprises 2 Directors of the Board, 2 representatives from the members forum, 2 senior officials from the member Local Authorities and 1 independent member with a financial background.

### **EBR Chief Executive Forum**

The six Chief Executives from the member Local Authorities.

### **Thematic Working Groups**

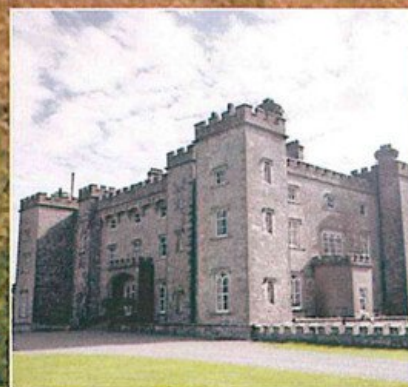
Comprising relevant Council members and officials from a range of sectors who will work on the implementation of the Priorities. Relevant stakeholders will also be engaged in the thematic working groups, as appropriate.

### **Communication**

The Secretariat will be provided by East Border Region Ltd. It will be the responsibility of the Secretariat to convene relevant meetings, take minutes of proceedings, prepare reports and action points, coordinate public relations as required and provide administrative support.

### **Term of the Charter**

The Charter will take effect on 31 March 2020.



Flagstaff image © Jarlath Gray



# Profile of the East Border Region

The East Border Region consists of the areas of its 6 constituent local authority members

- Ards and North Down Borough Council,
- Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
- Louth County Council
- Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
- Meath County Council, and
- Monaghan County Council.

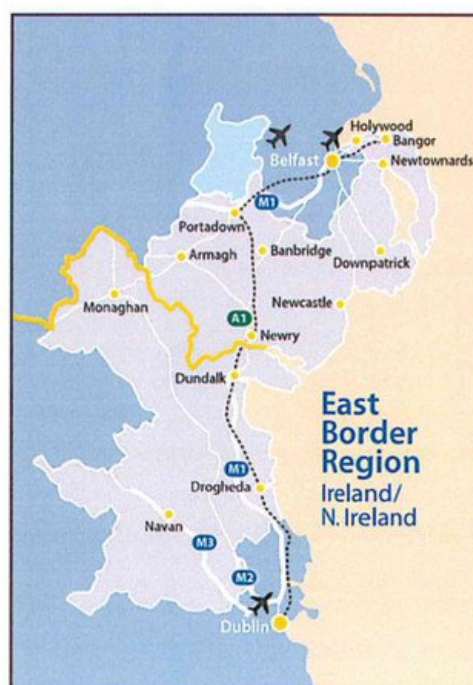
As a region the East Border Region is distinctive as it represents, effectively, the coastal area between Dublin and Belfast, running from Gormanston, south of Drogheda in County Meath, to Knocknagoney, west of Holywood in County Down.

East Border Region also has a substantial East - West dimension with parts of County Monaghan being more than 75 kilometers from the Irish Sea.

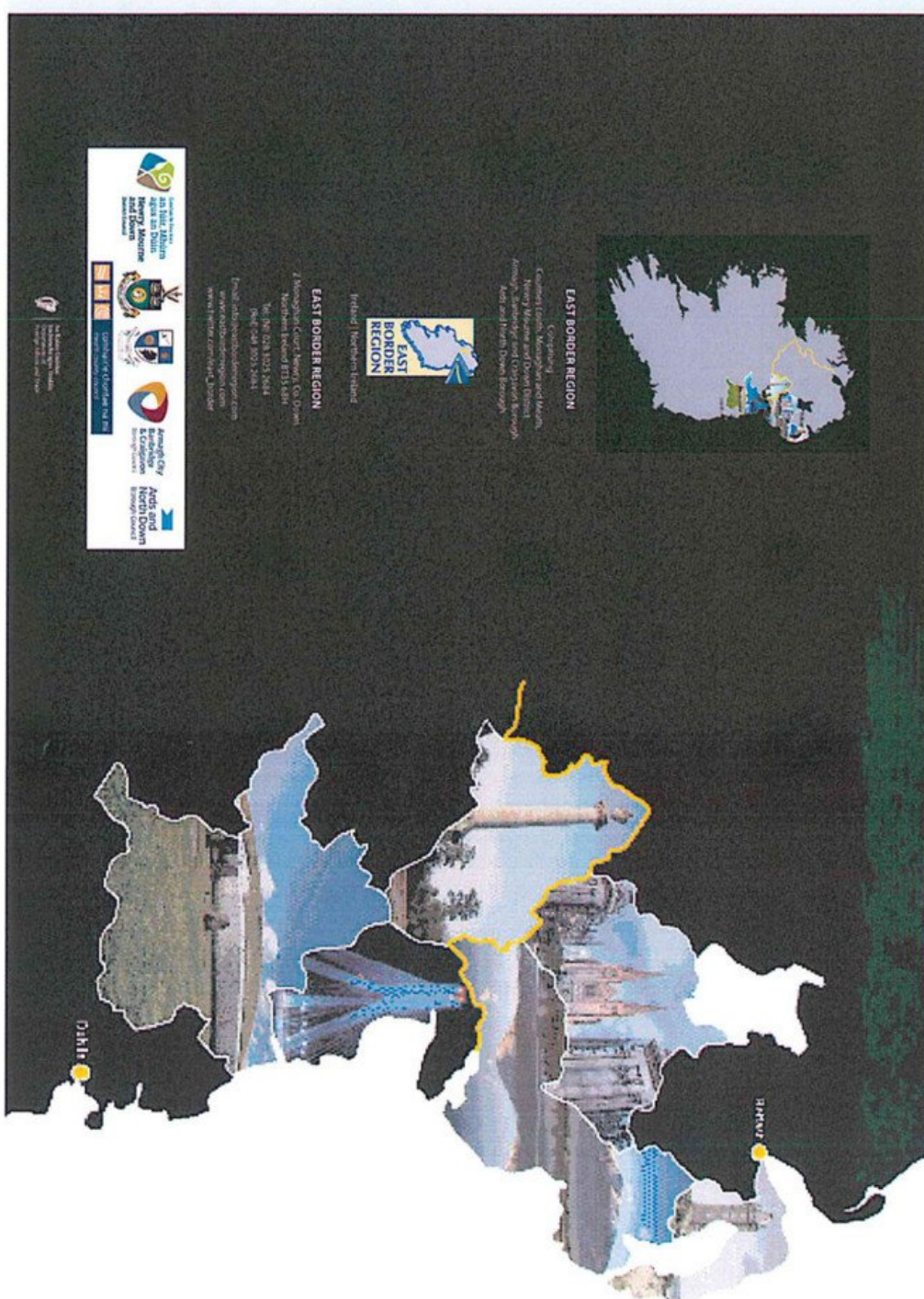
The latest estimates place the total population of East Border Region at 992,500, accounting for just under 1 in 7 of the population of the Island of Ireland and its area, at 8,875 sq. kilometers is just over 10% of the land area of the Island of Ireland.

While Belfast and Dublin lie respectively to the north and south of the East Border Region, the area has significant urban population centres in towns such as Bangor, Drogheda, Dundalk, Navan, Newtownards, Newry City, Portadown, Lurgan and central Craigavon, Banbridge, Armagh City and Monaghan. However, the dominant landscape type in East Border Region is rural in nature and this mix of urban and rural areas is reflected in the average population density of the East Border Region, which is 104 persons per square kilometer compared to an Island of Ireland average of 79 persons per square kilometer.

The East Border Region is very well linked to national and international markets with the ports and airports of Belfast and Dublin lying just outside the Region and with strategic rail and motorway links between the two capitals running through and serving the Region.







<b>Report to:</b>	Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> March 2020
<b>Subject:</b>	Report of International Relations Forum held on Tuesday 25 February 2020
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Jonathan McGilly Assistant Director for Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Amanda Smyth Head of Regeneration and Business Development

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

<b>For decision</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>For noting only</b>
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>	
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To approve the recommendations made through the International Relations Forum held on Tuesday 25 February 2020</li> </ul> <p><u>Background</u></p> <p>In November 2019 Council approved an International Relations Strategy.</p> <p>The International Relations Forum was presented with reports which set out assessment of the following Connections against the Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Changchun, China</li> <li>Kirovsk, Russia</li> <li>Southern Pines, Pinehurst and Aberdeen</li> </ul>	
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues</b>	
2.1	<p>The purpose of the International Relations Strategy is to enable NMDDC to maximise economic development opportunities in markets outside Northern Ireland and to ensure that our resources and priorities are appropriately focused and aligned with the overarching strategic vision to drive economic growth across the district. The International Relations Strategy describes NMDDC's approach to our international market development and provides a framework for evaluating and assessing future activity</p> <p>To enable Council to best focus its resources on those opportunities that will provide the greatest return on investment, the Strategy set out a framework to assess and select priority markets.</p> <p>For each International Relationship, members of the International Relations Forum were presented with reports detailing activities that have taken place during the period of the new Council. Reports also outlined an assessment of the relationship against the Council's International Relations Strategy, and recommendation from this assessment regarding future activity</p> <p><u>Assessment Criteria</u></p>	

	<p><b><u>Essential Criterion:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Evidence of firm commitment and active involvement by local government officials</li> </ol> <p><b><u>At least 2 Primary criteria to be satisfied:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Trade potential</li> <li>o Foreign Direct Investment potential</li> <li>o Tourism potential</li> <li>o Potential for Student/Education &amp; skills transfer links</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Secondary criteria:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Potential for Cultural Linkages</li> <li>o Civic outcomes</li> <li>o Ease of doing business</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
3.1	<p>China</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) To note update provided to the International Relations Forum on recent activity with China.</li> <li>b) To continue to progress opportunities to strengthen the relationship between Newry, Mourne &amp; Down and China and facilitation of international exchanges for purposes of economic and trade growth, investment, education/skills development and growth of tourism industry.</li> <li>c) To approve the participation in an NI Innovation Mission China, in partnership with Invest NI, NI Bureau, other NI Councils, Colleges and Universities</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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</li> <li>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 services, support in cultural activities etc.</li> </ol> <p><u>Russia, Southern Pines, Pinehurst and Aberdeen</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>g) Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor McKevitt 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.</li> </ol>



	<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> <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 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>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	<p>Any financial requirements from future international relations activity will be managed within existing budgets and will be reported through future committees when activity has been agreed and developed.</p> <p>International Relations Agreement with Municipalité de Lamorlaye, North of France is approximately £7,500 per year, over a 4-year period, subject to future budget availability and further reporting to council on proposed activity.</p> <p>Immediate cost for Council to attend as 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 pp).</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Equality and good relations implications</b>
5.1	All necessary considerations has been taken care of
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Rural Proofing implications</b>
6.1	All necessary considerations has been taken care of
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	Report of International Relations Forum held on Tuesday 25 February 2020
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Background Documents</b>

## Action Sheet

### International Relations Forum Meeting

**Tuesday 25 February 2020 at 11am in the Boardroom, Monaghan Row Offices, Newry**

**In Attendance:-**

**Councillor R Burgess (Chair)**  
**Councillor J Tinnelly**  
**Councillor K McKeivitt**

**Apologies:-**

**None**

**Conor Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism**  
**Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director of Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration**  
**Amanda Smyth, Head of Regeneration and Business Development**  
**Margaret Morrow, Administrative Assistant EER Section**

SUBJECT	ACTIONS
Update on existing International Relations Agreements in the context of NMD International Relations Strategy	<p>Discussion took place on the below existing International Connections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changchun, China</li> <li>• Southern Pines, Pinehurst and Aberdeen.</li> <li>• Russia,</li> </ul> <p>For each International Relationship, members were presented with reports detailing activities that have taken place during the period of the new Council. Reports also outlined an assessment of the relationship against the Council's International Relations Strategy, and recommendation from this assessment regarding future activity.</p> <p><b>China</b></p>

SUBJECT	ACTIONS
	<p>Councillors approved the following recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To note update provided on International Relationship activity with China.</li> <li>2. To continue to progress opportunities to strengthen the relationship between Newry, Mourne &amp; Down and China and facilitation of international exchanges for purposes of economic and trade growth, investment, education/skills development and growth of tourism industry.</li> <li>3. To approve the participation in an NI Innovation Mission China, in partnership with Invest NI, NI Bureau, other NI Councils, Colleges and Universities</li> <li>4. 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.</li> <li>5. 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</li> <li>6. 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 services, support in cultural activities etc.</li> </ol> <p><b>Russia and Southern Pines, Pinehurst and Aberdeen.</b></p> <p>Councillors expressed disappointment at the recommendations to not renew the International Relationship agreements with Kirovsk, Russia, and Southern Pines, Pinehurst and Aberdeen.</p> <p>Council Officials stated these recommendations were based on assessments carried out against Council's International Relations Strategy which sets out criteria for International Relationship agreements. Based on the information provided, the International Relationship proposal did not meet all the essential criteria under the Strategy.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor McKeivitt and seconded by Councillor Tinnelly that Officials would share Council's International Relations Strategy with</li> </ol>

SUBJECT	ACTIONS
	<p>representatives of Kirovsk and Southern Pines, Pinehurst and Aberdeen. Updated proposal to be then assessed against the International Relations Strategy</p> <p>2. As the International Relationship with both Russia and Southern Pines, Pinehurst and Aberdeen have expired, until a further assessment is completed against updated information.</p>
Consideration of new International Relationship connections: Lamorlaye and the US	<p>Councillor Burgess declared an interest in this item.</p> <p>The following recommendations were proposed by Councillor Tinnelly and seconded by Councillor McKeivitt:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To establish a new International Relations Agreement with Municipalité de Lamorlaye, North of France, on the basis that this proposal meet the essential criteria and at least 2 primary criteria within the strategy.</li> <li>2. Council to explore the opportunity to establish an international connection with an appropriate region in the North East America that would complement our international strategy. The Council engages in the opportunity to attend as 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.</li> </ol>
To consider request from Warrenpoint Comhaltas to offer financial assistance to a group of 12 musicians travelling to Kirovsk and St Petersburg for St Patrick's Day 2020	<p>Following discussion on the request from Warrenpoint Comhaltas for financial assistance to a group of 12 musicians travelling to Kirovsk and St Petersburg for St Patrick's Day 2020 it was noted that this request would not meet the criteria outlined in the Strategy.</p>



<b>Report to:</b>	Economic Regeneration and Tourism Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> March 2020
<b>Subject:</b>	NI Tourism Awards
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Andrew Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture and Events
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Michelle Boyle Head of Product Development and Visitor Experience

For decision	x	For noting only	
<b>1.0</b>		<b>Purpose and Background</b>	
1.1		<p><u>Purpose</u> This paper provides recommendations to approve the Council's support of the Northern Ireland Tourism Awards in June 2020.</p> <p><u>Background</u> The NI Tourism Awards (NITAs) are hosted annually and are an opportunity to highlight and celebrate the achievements of the Northern Irish tourism industry. The awards will be held on Thursday 4th June 2020 at the Slieve Donard Resort &amp; Spa, Newcastle.</p>	
<b>2.0</b>		<b>Key issues</b>	
2.1		<p>This will be the first time that the NITAs have been hosted in the Newry, Mourne and Down district and will provide an opportunity for Tourism NI and NMDDC to showcase our region, highlight our outstanding tourism offering, and to celebrate the achievements of our local tourism industry.</p> <p>Key stakeholders from central Government, Tourism Ireland, Tourism NI and from the tourism industry across Northern Ireland will be in attendance at the event, and will have the opportunity to experience our region's tourism offering and the best that our local tourism businesses have to offer incoming visitors to the district.</p> <p>Council sponsorship of this event will include opportunities to promote the district across Tourism NI's social media campaigns, digital channels and via media coverage of the event.</p> <p>Award Categories for this year's event are included in appendix 1. Further detail of the awards is available on <a href="http://www.nitourismawards.com">www.nitourismawards.com</a></p>	

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
3.1	To approve Council's sponsorship of £10,000 of the NI Tourism Awards to take place in Newcastle on 4th June 2020.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	The costs of sponsorship is available and has been profiled within ERT Departmental budgets for 2020/21
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Equality and good relations implications</b>
5.1	It is not anticipated the recommendation will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity and good relations.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Rural Proofing implications</b>
6.1	The recommendation has been considered within the scope of the Rural Needs Act and the proposal has not been subject to rural needs impact assessment.
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	Appendix 1 – Background information on NITAs.
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Background Documents</b>
	N/A

# Northern Ireland Tourism Awards 2020



tourism  
northernireland

in association with  
**DIAGEO**  
NORTHERN IRELAND



# Northern Ireland Tourism Awards 2016 – Derry / Londonderry (St Columb's Hall)

34





# Northern Ireland Tourism Awards 2017 – Enniskillen Castle (Courtyard Marquee)

35





# Northern Ireland Tourism Awards 2018 – Belfast (Europa Hotel)

36





# Northern Ireland Tourism Awards 2019 – Armagh (Palace Demesne - Marquee)

37



<b>Report to:</b>	Economic Regeneration and Tourism Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> March 2020
<b>Subject:</b>	Arts, Cultural and Heritage Strategy Launch
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Andrew Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture and Events
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Andrew Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture and Events

For decision	x	For noting only	
<b>1.0</b>		<b>Purpose and Background</b>	
1.1		<p><u>Purpose</u> This paper provides details of the Council's new Arts, Cultural and Heritage Strategy which will be launched later this month.</p> <p><u>Background</u> Council has developed an Arts, Cultural and Heritage Strategy that sets-out a vision of where we want our arts, culture and heritage offering to be in five-year's time, and how we propose to work in partnership with our stakeholders to attain this vision. This strategy will inform the Council's investment and support of the sector over the next five-years. Following the conclusion of a 12-week consultation period the Strategy is now ready to be launched.</p>	
<b>2.0</b>		<b>Key issues</b>	
2.1		<p>In line with the Council's forthcoming Corporate Plan, and current Tourism Strategy, the development of our arts, culture and heritage sector is critical to supporting our economic growth and social outcomes.</p> <p>The strategy sets out a blueprint to guide and inform how we will work with key stakeholders to enhance our arts, culture and heritage sectors, with the aim of supporting our economic growth and social outcomes.</p> <p>This strategy is intended to connect with and support the strategic objectives that will be included in the Council's forthcoming Corporate Plan (2020 to 2025) and within the current Community Plan.</p> <p>Following the conclusion of the a 12-week consultation period, the strategy and revised action plan has been finalised and is now ready to be launched.</p>	
<b>3.0</b>		<b>Recommendations</b>	
3.1		To approve the new Arts, Cultural and Heritage Strategy and Action Plan.	



<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	The budget for Year 1 delivery has been profiled within ERT Departmental Budgets for the 2020/21 Financial Year. Further budget requirements will be presented to Committee in subsequent Financial Years.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Equality and good relations implications</b>
5.1	The proposal has been equality screened and the outcome is that it not be subject to an equality impact assessment (with no mitigating measures required).
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Rural Proofing implications</b>
6.1	The recommendation has been considered within the scope of the Rural Needs Act and the proposal has not been subject to rural needs impact assessment.
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	Appendix - Arts, Cultural and Heritage Strategy
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Background Documents</b>
	N/A

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

# Straitéis Chultúir, Ealaíon agus Oidhreachta Culture, Arts and Heritage Strategy 2020—2025



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



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## Réamhrá

Tá lúcháir orm Straitéis Chultúir, Ealaíon agus Oidhreachta de chuid Chomhairle Ceantair an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin a chur i láthair don chéad chúig bliana eile.

Tá traidisiún saibhir agus iomráiteach ag an cheantar seo i dtaca le cultúr, na healaíona agus oidhreacht. Dá bhrí sin, tá sé rí-thábhachtach straitéis a bheith againn a leagann amach treoiphlean chun muidinne a threorú agus a chur ar an eolas maidir le comhoibriú chun na hearnálacha áirithe sin a fheabhsú agus tacú le fás geilleagrach agus torthaí sóisialta.

Tá an straitéis seo ann chun an Straitéis Athghiniúna Gheilleagrach agus Infheistíochta agus an Straitéis Turasóireachta a chomhlánú. Baineann sí le agus tugann sí tacaíocht do na cuspóirí straitéiseacha laistigh den Phlean Pobail agus do na cuspóirí straitéiseacha a bheas sa Phlean Corparáideach.

Tá Comhairle Ceantair an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin ag forbairt mholtaí uailmhianacha faoi láthair maidir le hinfheistíocht £10 milliún i dtionscadal athfhorbartha chun halla Bhaile an Iúir agus Teach Éigse Sheáin Uí Chuireannáin a chur chun cinn mar shaoráid ealaíona, drámaíochta agus chomhdhála a bheas aitheanta go hidirnáisiúnta.

Is í an aidhm a bheas leis an infheistíocht seo ná réimse níos leithne imeachtaí ealaíona agus cultúir a chur ar fáil do chónaitheoirí áitiúla; cur leis an soláthar iontach ealaíona agus cultúir atá ann faoi láthair i dTeach Éigse an Dúin; agus tionchar ollmhór geilleagrach a chumadh do ghnóthaí áitiúla agus don cheantar máguaird.

Chomh maith le fás agus forbairt ár dtithe éigse a spreagadh, tá aidhm ag an straitéis seo cláir tacaíochta a thabhairt isteach don iliomad grúpaí deonacha agus amaitéaracha a raibh ról lárnach acu maidir le himeachtaí cultúir, ealaíona agus oidhreachta a chur ar fáil ar fud an réigiúin seo leis na cianta.

Cuirim fáilte roimh fhorbairt na straitéise seo agus tá mé ag tnúth le leathnú soláthair ealaíona, cultúir agus oidhreachta fud fad an cheantair sa chéad chúig bliana eile.

## Foreword

I am delighted to present our Culture, Arts and Heritage Strategy for Newry, Mourne and Down for the next five years.

This region has a rich and celebrated tradition when it comes to our culture, arts and heritage. Therefore, it is vital to have a strategy that sets out a blueprint to guide and inform how we will work together in order to enhance these sectors whilst supporting our economic growth and social outcomes.

This strategy does not exist in isolation and complements our Economic Regeneration and Investment Strategy and our Tourism Strategy. It also connects with and supports the strategic objectives within the current Community Plan and the strategic priorities that will be included in our forthcoming Corporate Plan.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council is currently progressing ambitious proposals to invest £10 million into redeveloping Newry Town Hall and the Sean Hollywood Arts Centre into an internationally-recognised arts, theatre and conference facility.

This investment aims to provide a greater range of arts and cultural activity and events for local residents, complement the fantastic arts and cultural offering already in place in Down Arts Centre and generate a huge economic impact for local business and the wider district.

In addition to driving the growth and development of our arts centres, this strategy aims to introduce programmes of support for the numerous voluntary and amateur groups that have played an essential role in delivering culture, arts and heritage activities across this region for many years.

I welcome the development of this strategy and I look forward to seeing the growth and enhancement of the arts, culture and heritage offering across the district over the next five years.



**Cllr Charlie Casey**  
Chairperson  
Newry, Mourne  
and Down District  
Council



# The Vision

In 2025, Newry, Mourne and Down has a rich cultural life that is celebrated and protected for future generations. Our culture, arts and heritage creates economic impact in our urban centres and brings benefits to all our rural communities across the district.

The sector contributes to our district's community cohesion and to supporting a happy and healthy society and provides a catalyst for economic growth by attracting new audiences and visitors to our district.

We leverage new inward investment through our arts, culture and heritage whilst preserving our personal sense of being and our connection to the place we call home.

We are shaped by our historic landscape and are proud of our museums and built heritage.

By 2025, all our citizens and visitors enjoy a diverse and inspiring arts and theatre programme in our vibrant and innovative theatre and conference centre at Newry Town Hall and in Down Arts Centre. Our voluntary and amateur groups have access to state-of-the-art theatre facilities and are supported in their growth and development to inspire new participants and continue to promote the rich cultural heritage of this district to new audiences. All our citizens across the district can access a diverse and engaging arts and culture outreach programme delivered within our local communities.

# Delivery

The key themes of this strategy are the foundations upon which subsequent delivery plans, programmes, initiatives and grant schemes will be created and delivered over the next five years.

## Growing Our Sector

Strengthen and support our culture, arts and heritage sector.

## Developing Our Arts Venues and Museums

Reimagine and grow our arts venues and museums.

## Growing Our Audiences

Bringing our arts, culture and heritage to life for our residents and visitors.



## Our District is Unique

In our mountains, forests and coastline; throughout our rural landscapes, dotted with monuments and castles; in the chords of our music and awe-inspiring art; and in the vibrancy and enthusiasm of our people – this region is celebrated for our rich culture, arts and heritage.

From our myths and legends and the tales of our past through to the modern expression of our culture, we are known and celebrated through the stories, music and art that has been handed down from one generation to the next.

We are inspired by the beauty of our places. Our diverse culture and heritage defines our sense of being and our connection to this region.

This strategy sets out a blueprint to guide and inform how we will work together to enhance our arts, culture and heritage sectors, with the aim of supporting our economic growth and social outcomes. This is a living document that will serve as a planning tool to provide a clear set of priorities for the development of arts, culture and heritage programmes and initiatives across the district over the next five years.





A woman with brown hair tied back, wearing a purple knit sweater and glasses, is looking down at a dog. The dog is a brown and tan mix, sitting on a yellow stool. The background is a workshop with wooden shelves and various tools. A large, dark blue, textured banner is overlaid on the image, containing the title text.

# The Purpose of this Strategy



## Definitions and Scope

Culture, arts and heritage form an intrinsic part of our everyday lives. There are many definitions covering each of these terms:

### Our Culture

...is about who we are, our way of life, our cumulative knowledge, our behaviours, beliefs and values, and how these are passed on from one generation to the next.

### The Arts

...are how we express our culture through various means, including performing arts and drama, visual arts, music, dance, craft and creative industries, media and film, festivals and events, and our language and literature.

### Our Heritage

...connects our lives today to the past through our stories, buildings and places, monuments and ruins, artefacts, our natural heritage, and through the traditions and memories handed down from one generation to the next.



## Why do we need a Strategy?

This strategy **sets out a vision** of where we want our arts, culture and heritage offering to be in five years' time and how we propose **to work in partnership** with our stakeholders to get there.

This document is not an end point: it is **a new beginning and a foundation** upon which the Council's investment and support of annual programmes and activities can be based.

Over the next five years, this strategy will evolve and be subject to measurement and review against key indicators of specific and time-bound progress. A fundamental element of this strategy will be the **formation of a new Arts and Culture Forum**, composed of organisations that represent the different parts of the sector. This Forum will act as the **voice of the sector** and will be engaged to **sense-check** and inform the Council's progress against the delivery of this strategy.

## Our Community and Audiences

Our district has a rich and broad culture, heritage and arts offering that is **intrinsic to this region** and the people who live and work here. In Slieve Gullion, Newry, Crotlieve, the Mournes, Slieve Croob, Rowallane and Downpatrick, there is a rich and unique cultural life that is protected, celebrated and enhanced **through groups and individuals** who are passionate about the communities that they are part of and do so much to enrich.

In our community choirs, drama groups, craft collectives, pipe bands, local branches of the Comhaltas, community arts groups, heritage groups, tour guides and local ambassadors, Ulster Scots groups, Feis committees, school groups and the numerous voluntary organisations, there is **passion, vibrancy, commitment and diversity** that should be championed and celebrated. The work of those individuals and groups goes so far to develop awareness, reach new audiences, cultivate talent and make a powerful contribution to wider society.

It is often from within these groups that our **world-class music, dance and art is cultivated**. It is from our dance schools, orchestra, theatre groups and art classes that some of our most talented young people have come. Those people have gone on to grace the world stage and, as a consequence,

have shone a light back onto the district they call home. The positive work of these groups enables us to preserve our community history and identity and to promote **social cohesion and understanding**.

Such groups deliver activity with limited resources, but they reach and engage a huge number of participants and audiences in **every townland, village, and urban centre** throughout the district.

The cumulative impact of the various activities and programmes delivered either within Council venues or throughout the district **by passionate and committed individuals** and groups generates a tangible economic return.

There are, however, wider **intangible returns** associated with the **health and well-being** of our citizens, the **sense of place** and educational attainment of our young people and the **inclusion and cohesion** of our communities. Those are the areas where the potential for returns from the development of our arts, culture and heritage offering through this strategy is greatest. Those intangible returns are presented in more detail on the next page.





# Value of Culture, Arts and Heritage



A wide range of studies have shown that participation in culture, arts and heritage enhances people's lives, helps to build diverse communities and combats isolation and exclusion. It improves children's prospects, it can boost the economy and it improves the international standing of a local area.

The following summarises just some of the evidence that investment in culture, arts and heritage adds value to health and well-being, community cohesion, education and the economy.



# Health and Well-being



## positive impact

There are numerous pieces of research that evidence the

that the arts, culture and heritage can have on the **physical, mental and social well-being of older people.**

Engagement in arts activities offer

## holistic benefits

including physical, mental and social well-being.



Studies have found that visiting historical sites

had a **statistically significant impact on well-being** similar to attending arts or cultural events.



Those who had attended a cultural place or event in the previous 12 months were

## almost 60%

more likely to report good health compared to those who had not.



## Can Digging Make You Happy?

Studies of the impact of taking part in organised archaeological excavations on the well-being of students and community groups have identified that participant well-being improved in relation to the **'physicality', 'connectivity', 'satisfaction'** and **'social dynamics'** gained through excavation.

People who take part in the arts are

## 38%

more likely to report good health according to the Cultural Learning Alliance.



**Social isolation** is associated with health risks in a similar way to smoking and obesity. Older individuals who are more socially isolated are more likely to report poor health. Arts projects have been seen to **reduce isolation among participants by up to**

## 80%



Artists enjoy higher job satisfaction than other employees.



Participation in drama

involves consideration of a character's motivation and behaviour. This improves the ability of pupils to understand other perspectives.



There is strong evidence that participation in the arts can contribute to community cohesion, reduce social exclusion and isolation, and/or make communities feel safer and stronger.



Participating in or attending **cultural places or events** has a positive impact on well-being.





The arts can help  
**break down  
barriers**  
between different  
social groups.



Participation in  
arts activities is  
associated with  
improvements in  
young people's  
cognitive abilities  
and transferable  
skills.

Learning through arts and culture  
can **improve attainment in Maths  
and English** and

**develop skills  
and behaviour**

that lead children to do better in school.



## Society and Community

## Education



There is strong evidence that  
participation in the arts can  
contribute to community cohesion,  
reduce social exclusion and  
isolation, and make communities  
feel safer and stronger.



Participation in the arts  
creates more engaged  
citizens. Young people who  
engage with the arts in  
school are twice as likely to  
volunteer and

**20%**

**more likely to vote than  
other young adults.**



A cohort study demonstrated that students  
participating in an arts programme had

**significantly higher  
grades in academic  
subjects such as English,  
Maths and Science.**



£130 billion

The cultural and creative industries are the fastest growing industry in the UK. In 2017 the sector generated

Gross Value Added (GVA) world-wide, representing 7% of the UK economy.

42%

of all spending by overseas visitors to the UK involved engagement with arts and culture.



Investment by public sector in the arts and the historic environment contributes up to £4 to the local economy for every £1 spent.

£1 = £4



Working with a creative company leads to increased innovation in SMEs beyond the creative industries.

## Economic

In 2011, the arts sector in the Republic of Ireland contributed

€307 million

in taxes. And state-funded arts practitioners and organisations generated a turnover equivalent to more than twice what they received in grant aid.



Participants in amateur arts activities increase their employment potential through skills development and networking.



Arts and culture contribute to local economies by **attracting visitors, creating jobs and developing skills, attracting and retaining businesses and revitalising places.**





**Well designed arts and cultural venues**

add considerable value to the built environment

by attracting visitors, generating increased activity, and helping to create places where people want to live.



# Place Making



Well managed outdoor arts events attract a **demographically diverse audience** that is representative of the local population, contribute to pride of place and encourage community cohesion.



## Rural Touring

involves communities directly in all aspects of delivery and has been shown to have a profound effect on **community development, social capacity and volunteer activity**.



Although

# 29%

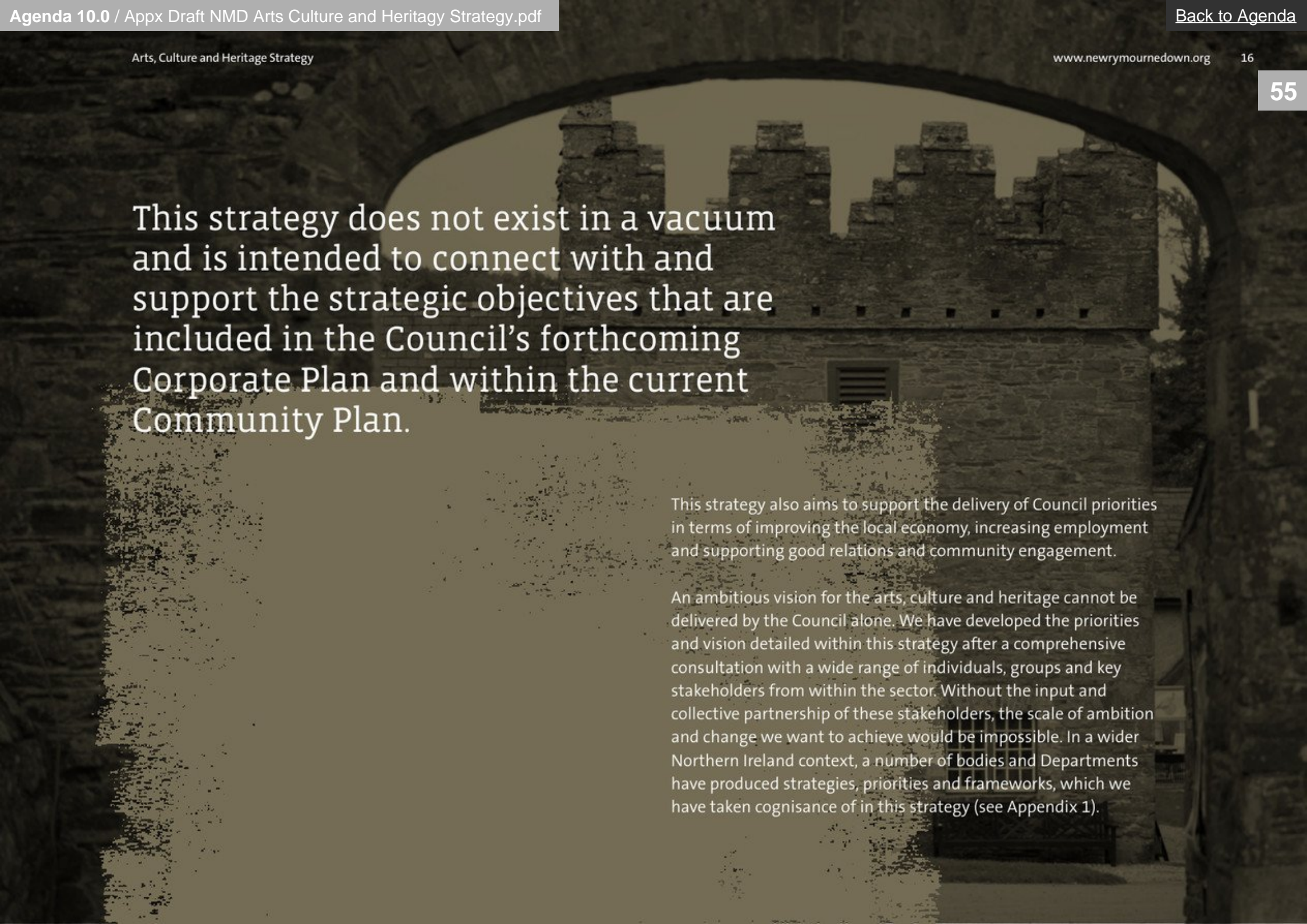
**of the audience at rural touring events are first time attenders**, they attract loyal, regular attenders, playing an important role in rebalancing rural inequality for those interested in culture.



# The Strategic Context







This strategy does not exist in a vacuum and is intended to connect with and support the strategic objectives that are included in the Council's forthcoming Corporate Plan and within the current Community Plan.

This strategy also aims to support the delivery of Council priorities in terms of improving the local economy, increasing employment and supporting good relations and community engagement.

An ambitious vision for the arts, culture and heritage cannot be delivered by the Council alone. We have developed the priorities and vision detailed within this strategy after a comprehensive consultation with a wide range of individuals, groups and key stakeholders from within the sector. Without the input and collective partnership of these stakeholders, the scale of ambition and change we want to achieve would be impossible. In a wider Northern Ireland context, a number of bodies and Departments have produced strategies, priorities and frameworks, which we have taken cognisance of in this strategy (see Appendix 1).



## Consultation – Getting Your Views

To gain a clear understanding of the priority areas and critical feedback of key stakeholders and the local community, a wide-ranging and comprehensive consultation and research exercise was undertaken as part of the process of developing this strategy, which included:

- A comprehensive audit of our existing arts, culture and heritage offering.
- A review of relevant local, national and international plans and policies and engagement with the key Government agencies with overall responsibility for the development and promotion of arts, culture and heritage in Northern Ireland.
- An online public survey to identify key themes and a wider vision for arts, culture and heritage in the district.
- Focus groups and workshops with artists, performers, community stakeholders and representatives from private sector businesses and Government agencies.

We consulted with a wide range of organisations and stakeholders. Their feedback helped us to gain a 360-degree view of the challenges and opportunities for the development of arts, culture and heritage in Newry, Mourne and Down.

A review of all available audience, finance and evaluation data from all venues and museums was undertaken and a summary socio-economic profile was developed. A strategic review of the internal and external environment was then undertaken through a SWOT analysis with staff and key stakeholders at all focus group sessions.

Individual consultation sessions were held with: Council staff aligned to each of the Council arts venues and museums and those engaged in festivals; elected members; statutory organisations; the Council's CEO and Director of Service; cross departmental staff; other neighbouring councils, including Ards and North Down Borough Council and Louth County Council; and the Arts Council of Northern Ireland.

Some 14 Sector and community-based consultation focus groups were held across two full days and evenings in Newry and Downpatrick, to provide opportunities for different culture, arts and heritage genres and arts and crafts practitioners to engage in the development of the plan. This included separate focus-group sessions on the following: emerging artists and professional performing arts encompassing music; theatre and dance; creative industries (including cinematic and crafts enterprises); dance and music including stage schools; visual arts and literature; arts and cultural venues (Council, community and private venues used for arts and heritage); arts for older people and arts for young people; festivals/community festivals; amateur arts including drama societies; historical societies, neighbourhood renewal and rural communities; and local businesses.

For those who were unable to attend these sessions, a series of one-to-one meetings and telephone consultations were also conducted. A questionnaire was shared with key stakeholders who were unable to attend the focus groups.

On the basis of this in-depth consultation and engagement process and the desk top review on audiences and activity, a paper was produced on the emerging priority themes and potential actions under each. A public engagement e-survey was then sent to all those consulted as well as to the general public through the Council's community database to seek feedback on the emerging themes and actions for the culture, arts and heritage strategy and the views that people had about a vision for the strategy. This public engagement survey was completed by 93 key stakeholders and informed the development of the final strategy.





# Our Current Culture, Arts and Heritage Offering

**B Cross-carved stone**  
Early Christian, c.400 - 1177AD  
Aughnacree, near Droughmore, Co. Down  
Gifted by the Ulster Museum to the National Museum  
© The Board of Trustees of the National Museum

**Glazed cooking vessel**  
18th century  
Manufactured at the roadside pottery  
works at Donaghpatrick, Co. Down  
© The Board of Trustees of the National Museum



To create a vision and plot a course to achieving that vision we need to know where we are starting from and what our arts, culture and heritage offering looks like today. The following is an overview of our existing service provision.





## Arts and Entertainment



### **Down Arts Centre in Downpatrick:**

a 164-seat auditorium, a visual arts gallery, an artist's workshop and two workshop/meeting spaces that present live theatre, music and comedy and attract local professional and voluntary performance groups as well as curated exhibitions and a wide range of arts classes and workshops. It presents 50 one-day workshops and 106 classes from June to September and 22 live performances on Fridays and Saturdays.



**Newry Town Hall:** a 470-seat auditorium, which hosted 15 live performances between June and September 2018, with a large number of productions by local groups and commercial promoters. 23 different groups and promoters hired the venue in 2017/18. The building's fabric has recently undergone significant renovation, and the Council is currently progressing visionary proposals for the creation of a multi-million pound investment in Newry Town Hall and the Sean Hollywood Arts Centre to integrate and develop the centres as an internationally-recognised theatre and conference offering.



**Sean Hollywood Arts Centre:** a 130-seat auditorium with fixed seating, a visual arts gallery, a rehearsal room and two workshop/meeting spaces, which host live theatre and music shows, mainly by local groups. It presented 16 performances between June and September 2018. 23 different groups and promoters hired the venue in 2017/18.



**Warrenpoint Town Hall:** a 365-seat auditorium with removable seating and two meeting rooms that present live theatre and music, almost exclusively by local voluntary groups. It presented four performances between June and September 2018. Seven different groups and promoters hired the venue in 2017/18. It is also used on an ongoing basis for non-arts focused community services.

## Arts and Entertainment at other Venues



In the summer months, an entertainment programme is provided as part of the **Newcastle Summer Season** in various buildings in and around Newcastle. Over 5,000 visitors attend each year and the responses to customer surveys are very positive from both repeat and new visitors to the district.



The **Great Hall at the Downshire Estate** in Downpatrick is used mainly by voluntary groups for events such as concerts, musicals, and pantomimes, etc. Other spaces used for events include the Annesley Hall in Newcastle, the Old Court Chapel in Strangford and the Lodge Business and Cultural Centre in Castlewellan.





## Museums



**Down County Museum** was founded in 1981 and is housed in the County Goal of Down, which opened in 1796. It has a collection of over 12,000 objects and 50,000 photographs and has 10 exhibition galleries. The central Governor's Residence building houses a permanent exhibition entitled 'Down Through Time', which features over 1,100 items that range from prehistoric times to the present day. Visitors can experience the original gaol cells, and the museum's collections focus on County Down's distinctive history, including early Christian heritage, farming and fishing and the history of the gaol alongside regular temporary exhibitions. The museum's education programme offers tailored visits and activities for community groups and primary schools and its online learning resource supports Key Stage 3 students to understand changes in County Down from 1900 to the 1920s in a national and international context.



**Newry and Mourne Museum at Bagenal's Castle:** Bagenal's Castle comprises a sixteenth century fortified house and adjoining nineteenth century warehouse. It houses Newry and Mourne Museum and Newry Visitor Information Centre. The Museum's diverse collections include material relating to prehistory, Newry's Cistercian foundations, Ulster's Gaelic order and the building of a merchant town and the first summit level canal in the British Isles. Visitors can also discover the history of the 'Gap of the North', the historic mountain pass between Ulster and Leinster located to the south of Newry. One of the main exhibitions, 'A Border Town's Experience of the 20th Century', examines local attitudes to major political and economic events of the 20th century. There are also permanent exhibitions on farming, fishing and folklore in the Mourne and South Armagh. The museum's education programme includes lessons for schools around six main topics and a loan box service that also supports reminiscence activity in the community, including in healthcare settings. The Reside Collection is an online database provided by the museum that supports the study of local history and genealogy.

Entry to both museums is free, and they both receive very positive reviews and feedback from new and repeat visitors. Down County Museum has achieved four-star grading through Tourism NI's Quality Grading Scheme for Visitor Attractions. Both museums are also accredited on the Museums, Libraries and Archives Accreditation Scheme.

## Built and Natural Heritage



Newry, Mourne and Down contains 17 Grade A, 83 Grade B+ and 1,327 Grade B listed buildings. The Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA) index places the district third in a league table of NI local authority areas in terms of historic built environment assets and activities around those assets. The district scored highest in historic built environment assets and in activity in parks and open spaces.

The Department for Communities' Historic Environment Division has identified 41 historic sites and monuments within the district that are state care.

Newry, Mourne and Down is ranked third out of the eleven local authority areas for its landscape and natural heritage assets and activities with 84,000km<sup>2</sup> of Areas of Outstanding Beauty, 13,000km<sup>2</sup> of Special Conservation Areas, 16,000km<sup>2</sup> of Sites of Special Scientific interest and 443 ancient trees.

## Festivals and events

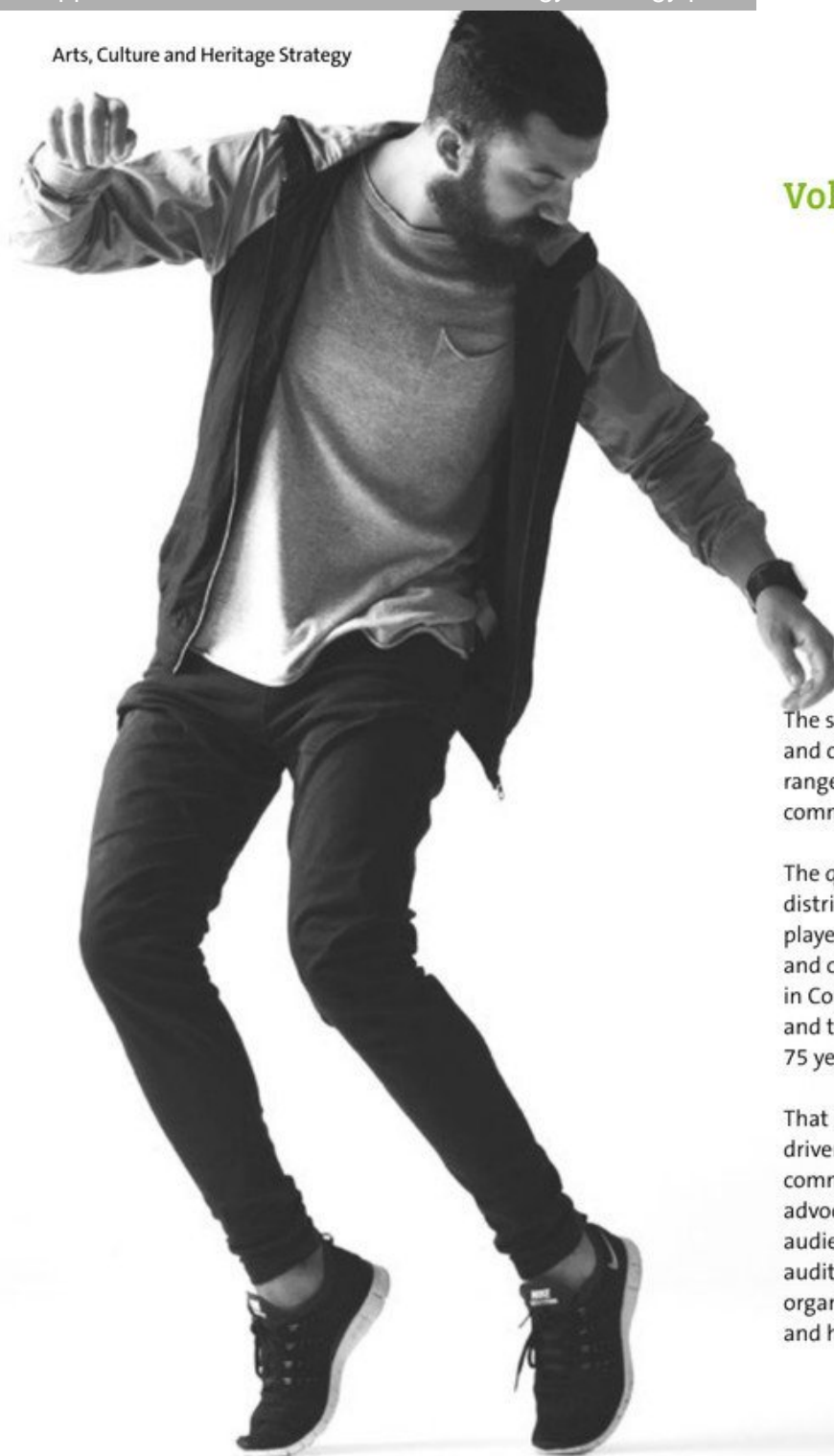


Culture, arts and heritage have a key role to play in delivering the Council's Tourism Strategy. A key strength identified in that strategy is the district's extensive range of tourism events and festivals, particularly those with a strong artistic and cultural focus that serve to highlight the region's unique heritage.

Tourism is a key pillar of the Council's Corporate Plan and Economic Strategy, and a crucial component in realising the potential of the district's tourism offering is the success of the events and festivals that are run, hosted or funded by the Council. In the 2019/20 financial year, 39 events and festivals will take place in the district, including the showpiece Giant Adventures Programme of major events that take place annually.

The economic impact of the district's main tourism events in 2018/19 was close to £10 million, emphasising the importance of their continued success to the local economy.





## Voluntary and Amateur Groups

The strong provision in, and passion for, arts and cultural activity has been driven by a wide range of groups and individuals based in the local communities across the district.

The quality of, and community support for, our district's amateur groups has meant they have played an essential role in providing arts, heritage and cultural activities out in local communities and in Council venues, particularly in Newry Town Hall and the Sean Hollywood Arts Centre, for more than 75 years.

That strong and diverse arts and cultural offering, driven by groups and individuals within local communities, means there is a critical mass of advocates and champions that are actively engaging audiences and participants across the district. An audit undertaken in 2016 identified 235 unique organisations providing 434 different arts, culture and heritage programmes and activities across the

district. It was found that the Council's knowledge of, and its interaction and engagement with, this wide variety of groups is limited, and an opportunity therefore exists to build closer partnerships with key providers.

From the research undertaken, it is evident that 40% of the arts and culture offering that was delivered by the 235 organisations was mostly centred in Newry, Newcastle and Downpatrick.

From the research undertaken as part of the development of this strategy, it appears that, although numerous parts of the district potentially have a strong arts, culture or heritage offering, the visibility of the activities that are taking place is limited, and this is particularly the case in more rural areas.



# Key Insights

A significant volume of research, surveys, workshops and consultation has been undertaken in the past eight years, which has helped to build a clear picture of the challenges and opportunities now facing us. The key findings and emerging themes of this work to date are summarised in this section.





## 1 Our Residents – Accessing the Arts, Culture and Heritage

- In research undertaken by the Council in 2018, based on face-to-face interviews with 764 residents across the district, just 15% of respondents said they had attended or participated in an arts, heritage or culture activity or event in the past 12 months.
- Respondents with a higher average household income and those with a higher level of educational attainment were more likely to engage in an arts, heritage or culture activity or event.
- Respondents were asked what would motivate them to engage, with 64% saying that they needed more information about events and activities; 40% saying that they needed events and activities that were more relevant to them and their families; and 16% saying that online booking for events at Council-managed facilities would motivate them.
- Although numerous parts of district appear to have a limited arts, culture or heritage offering, particularly in more rural areas, there is actually a wide range of arts and cultural based activity taking place, with the visibility of this activity often limited.
- Whilst Newry, Mourne and Down's 178,000 residents are dispersed across the third largest council area in Northern Ireland, an opportunity exists to provide greater outreach and accessibility to arts, cultural and heritage based initiatives and programmes in partnerships with local communities and the voluntary sector.
- The proportion of young people under 16 years of age account for 23% of the population in the district, which is a higher proportion than that in other council areas of NI. Conversely, over-65s account for 14% of the population of the district.
- Priority groups for audience development include families, those in more rural areas and our older population.

### 15%

of respondents had attended or participated in an arts, heritage or culture activity or event in the past 12 months.

### 64%

of respondents said they needed more information about events and activities.

### 16%

of respondents said that online booking for events would motivate them.

## 2

### Our Arts Centres

- Although over 133,000 residents and visitors attended events and activities in our arts centres in an average year, an imbalance exists across the district in terms of the provision and programming in our main arts centres in Newry and Downpatrick.
- A review of audience information from Down Arts Centre shows that it continues to outperform other similar sized venues across Northern Ireland, attracting people with a 45-minute drive time to the venue, including significant numbers from Belfast.
- Down Arts Centre invests similar amounts in its programme to comparable venues in the North and South of Ireland, but the Sean Hollywood Arts Centre, Newry Town Hall and Warrenpoint Town Hall are under programmed because of their comparably small programming budget.
- A lack of a modern box-office system has had a considerable negative impact on residents' ability to purchase tickets online and the venues' ability to promote events and access timely audience data. Through a critical analysis of the research undertaken, it is clear that Newry Town Hall and the Sean Hollywood Arts Centre are one of the only regional arts centres across Northern Ireland without a box-office ticketing system, which is a significant disadvantage when it comes to growing new audiences and attracting touring productions.
- Although Down Arts Centre does have access to limited audience data, its box office system is dated and not fit-for-purpose. There is an opportunity to appraise and modernise the marketing and promotion of our venues and vastly improve online accessibility to tickets and, as a result, the data on audience insight.
- The lack of timely and accurate information on financial performance and audiences is a major challenge in the future management and growth of our arts venues within the district.
- Research into opportunities to increase our local residents' motivation to engage with the arts highlighted that 64% said that they needed more information about events and activities; 40% said they needed events and activities that were more relevant to them and their families; and 16% said that online booking for events at Council-managed facilities would motivate them. It is clear that opportunities exist to review and enhance the marketing infrastructure, resource capacity and marketing budgets available to promote our arts centres and to encourage greater audience participation.

# 133,000

residents and visitors attended events and activities in an average year.

# 40%

of respondents said they needed events and activities more relevant to them and their families.



### 3 Investment in Theatre Provision in Newry

- The Council is currently progressing ambitious proposals to invest £10 million in the redevelopment of Newry Town Hall and the Sean Hollywood Arts Centre to transform them into an internationally recognised arts, theatre and conference facility that will attract new audiences to Newry, provide a greater depth of arts and cultural activity and events for local residents and generate huge economic impacts for local business and the wider district.
- This significant investment is part of the wider Newry City Centre Regeneration Plan that is being progressed alongside the Belfast Region City Deal.
- Through the reimagining and redevelopment of Newry Town Hall and the Sean Hollywood Arts Centre, we have a collective opportunity to appraise how we deliver our services to meet our customers' needs.
- There are key questions that need to be addressed. How can we support the dedicated voluntary and amateur groups that have driven the development of the arts in Newry over numerous decades in terms of building their capacity? We are seeking to provide access to state-of-the-art theatre facilities and support the growth and development of productions and

outputs. How can we achieve those objectives whilst creating a modern theatre and arts facility that protects the rich built and cultural heritage that is intrinsic to Newry Town Hall and realises the full economic benefits that this new facility will provide? How can we provide a modern, innovative and vibrant arts centre with leading technical provision and audience growth targets that is attractive to touring productions of relevant scale?

- In our research and consultation, those are the main areas of opportunity that have been identified in the development of the theatre and conference facilities at Newry Town Hall and the Sean Hollywood Arts Centre.

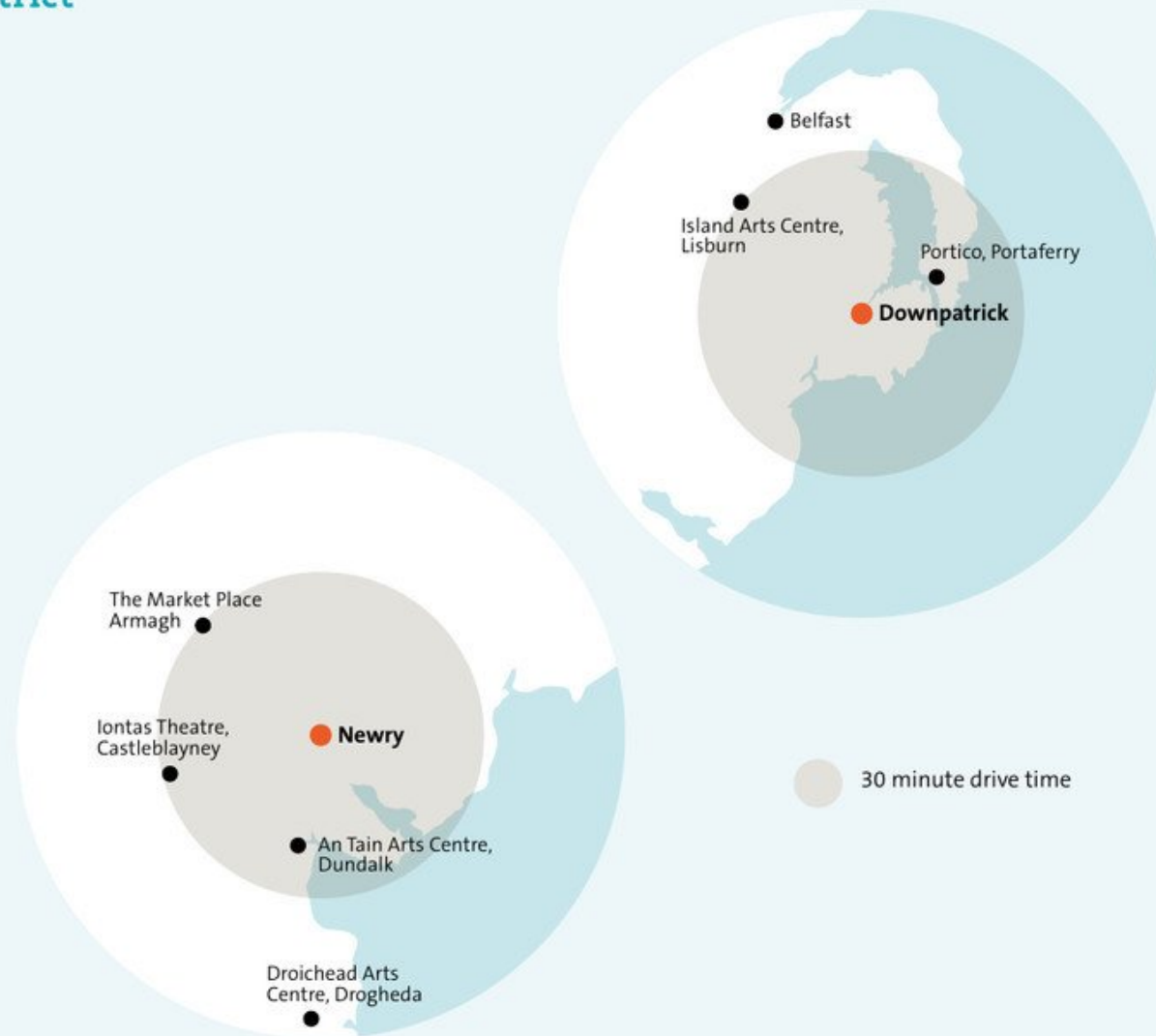
## £10 million

proposed investment in the redevelopment of Newry Town Hall.



## 4 Arts Provision Outside the District

- There are four other venues that have 30 minute drive time catchment areas that overlap with that of Newry, namely the Market Place Theatre, Armagh, Iontas Theatre, Castleblayney, An Tain Arts Centre, Dundalk, and, to a lesser extent, Droichead Arts Centre, Drogheda.
- Down Arts Centre shares a substantial portion of its 30 minute drive time catchment with the Island Arts Centre, Lisburn, Portico in Portaferry and other venues in Belfast.





## 5 Our Museums and Built Heritage

- Our museums continue to reach new audiences. One of the most popular initiatives to engage new audiences was led by the Northern Ireland Museums Council in 2018 and delivered in partnership locally by the Newry and Mourne Museum at Bagenal's Castle. The Late Shift was a series of after-dark events for adults in museums across NI. The event at Bagenal's Castle had one of the highest satisfaction ratings and a higher than average number of first-time visitors at 40%. 85% said the event changed their perception of the museum, higher than in any of the other participating museums. Similarly, the percentage who said that they had been encouraged to find out more about local history was higher for Bagenal's Castle than any other participating museum. The programme shows the potential for changing perceptions of arts, culture and heritage in the district.
- Our museums provide a high-quality visitor experience, receive very positive reviews from visitors, offer excellent education programmes for local school groups and have a strong connection to our local communities and historical societies. However, according to research, the proportion of our local residents who have visited one of our two museums is lower than the corresponding figure for the other districts of NI.
- Through the development of programmes such as the Museum Lates, opportunities exist to reach out and grow new audiences, improve the level of visitor engagement, and, as a consequence, significantly increase the number of repeat visits.
- Our museums can contribute to community cohesion, and a reduction in social exclusion and isolation; and can help understanding and connections between different social groups. Our museums already deliver a huge volume of intangible benefits to our local communities through their education programmes and initiatives such as the Loan Box service, and the Reside Collection of local history and genealogy.
- It is clear that an opportunity exists to increase our outreach to local communities, to engage and grow our audiences and to deliver an enhanced health and well-being programme through our museum and heritage services.
- Outside our museums, research indicates that whilst we have a very strong built heritage offering, more opportunity exists to activate and animate these assets so that more visitors and local communities can become involved and experience the rich cultural heritage of this district.
- In a similar way to our museums, the built and industrial heritage of our district can provide practical benefits to local communities and rich experiences for our visitors through an increased connection to our place and people and insights gained through past narratives. Enhanced access to our heritage assets can support community well-being, civic pride and community cohesion and development.

### 40%

first-time visitors to Bagenal's Castle during Late Shift event.

### 85%

of respondents said the Late Shift event changed their perception of Newry and Mourne museum.





## 6 Arts and Cultural Tourism Events

- Visitor satisfaction, civic pride and huge economic impact is generated for our district through the delivery of the Council's £1.2 million annual events programme. The economic impact of the district's main tourism events in 2018/19 was close to £10 million, emphasising the importance of their continued success to the local economy. Of the visitors who attended our major events in 2018/19, 39% came from outside the district, including 11% from outside Northern Ireland. Of the visitors who came from outside Northern Ireland, the vast majority had travelled from the Republic of Ireland, highlighting the importance of the district's proximity to the border. Furthermore, 42% of visitors said that their perception of the area had improved as a result of the event that they attended.
- Major festivals and events play a very significant role in helping to animate our region, in generating growth in visitor numbers and in engaging tourists and local residents in our unique cultural heritage and inspirational places.
- In addition to the several major festivals hosted by the Council, such as the Festival of Flight, Footsteps in the Forest, Wake the Giant and the annual Saint Patrick's Day parade celebrations, the district is home to a wide range of well-established arts and cultural festivals that have been grown and developed by dedicated committees of volunteers and artists, such as the SOMA festival in Castlewellan and the Fiddler's Green Festival in Rostrevor. The Ulster Pipe Band Championships and Ulster Fleadh were also hosted in the district in 2018 and 2019, providing economic returns and a growth in visitor numbers to the district.
- More recently established festivals, such as the DownTime festival in Downpatrick, Iúr Cinn Fleadh in Newry, GI Jive and Reivers Festival in Killkeel also serve to attract new visitors, engage new audiences and generate civic pride in, and economic impacts for, local communities. These cultural and arts-based festivals and events are of a scale where there is growth potential and the potential to attract visitors from outside of the district to stay longer and spend more whilst they're here.
- In addition to the Council's major headline festivals and those well-established tourism festivals and events run by volunteer committees and artists, there are a huge number of community-led festivals and events hosted in towns and villages across the district at key times of the year, such as Easter, Midsummer, Halloween and Christmas.
- Whilst it is clear that there is a huge depth and breadth of cultural and arts focused tourism and community events held right across the district each year, several ongoing challenges exist to the future growth and development of our events programme:
  1. Headline events and major festivals need to evolve and grow over time to maintain audience interest, engage local businesses and meet an increasing need to attract new visitors from outside of Northern Ireland to visit and stay in the district.
  2. A clear understanding and delineation is required between the different levels of tourism, cultural based tourism and community events that are hosted across the district each year, including:
    - A. The several large-scale Council-hosted signature festivals and events.
    - B. The festivals and events that are hosted by dedicated voluntary committees, which have the growth potential to attract visitors from outside of the district and encourage them to stay longer whilst they are here.
    - C. The numerous smaller-scale community-based events that help to encourage community engagement and generate civic pride.
  3. Clear recommendations on Council support mechanisms for these three tiers of festivals and events need to be developed, including considerations for capacity building/mentoring support for the dedicated voluntary committees and artists that run some of our best cultural and arts-based tourism events across the district.



## 7 Support and Coordination Across Government

- Culture, arts and heritage activity needs to be further co-ordinated with cross-sector agencies and focused and developed to make a greater contribution to social development.
- In 2016/17, over 1,600 arts-based programmes and initiatives were delivered in the Newry, Mourne and Down District by organisations that were in receipt of funding from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland (ACNI). Of those activities, 17% were delivered by regularly funded organisations based in Newry, Mourne and Down whilst 75% were delivered by regularly funded organisations based in Belfast.
- In response to ACNI's Challenge Fund, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC) developed a series of events designed to increase community engagement. Those events were linked to the tourism strategy theme of telling the stories, myths and legends of the district. ACNI funding represented 14% of the total £1.07million budget for that programme of events in 2015/16.
- Opportunities exist for closer engagement and collaboration between the Council and ACNI to establish mechanisms for greater support and funding of regional arts-based programmes and initiatives outside the major urban centre of Belfast. This is particularly the case for considering future support of key local artists and groups that are responsible for the unique and rich arts and cultural offering of this district.
- Through the development of this strategy, and in close consultation with key partners across Government and the heritage sector, it is clear that opportunities should be progressed for greater engagement between the Council, the Historic Environment Division of DfC, and Tourism NI to unlock the potential that our built heritage presents. The recently published Prospectus for Change: A Strategic Framework to Unlock the Potential of Heritage-led Tourism in Northern Ireland sets out key priorities and a roadmap and vision for the growth of heritage tourism in Northern Ireland over the next five years.

**1,600+**  
arts-based programmes delivered.



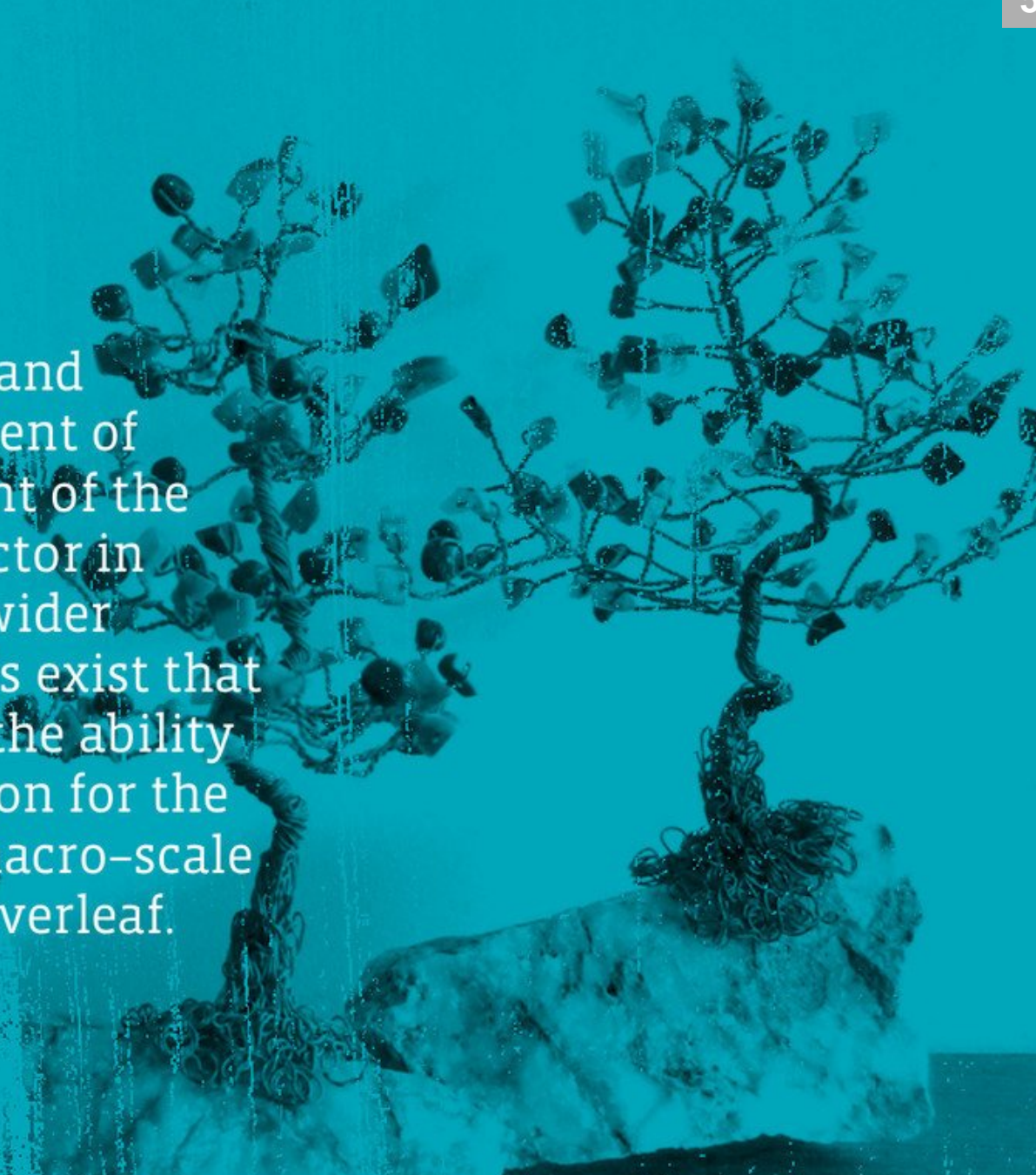
A Prospectus for Change publication.





# The Big Challenges and Bigger Opportunities





In addition to the strengths and opportunities for enhancement of services and the development of the arts, culture and heritage sector in Newry, Mourne and Down, wider challenges and opportunities exist that will have an influence over the ability to develop and deliver a vision for the sector here. Some of these macro-scale challenges are highlighted overleaf.

## Resource and Budget

The **greatest challenge** within central and local government and across the private and voluntary sectors is that of available resource in people and budget. **Budgetary pressure** on our health and education sectors grows year-on-year, and there is a continuing need to support the growth of new jobs within industry, micro-businesses and SMEs.

- At this uncertain time, the arts, culture and heritage sector has a critical role to play in supporting and strengthening health, education and our economy.
- The Council **currently invests £2.5 million per annum** in delivering arts, culture and heritage programmes and activities within our museums, arts centres and through our tourism events. But outside of Council-delivered activities, a huge number of groups and individuals are responsible for engaging audiences and participants in a wide range of arts, culture and heritage activities on a daily basis.
- Groups and individuals need support in order to **champion and avail** of increased financial support from Government. There is a need to **support those groups and individuals** that bring arts, culture and heritage activities and programmes to our residents. There is a need to make arts, culture and heritage **more accessible to all**.
- There is a need to **champion, advocate for and support groups** to address funding shortfalls and to gain greater recognition for these groups in terms of their work to deliver programmes to a wide range of audiences and participants across regional and rural areas.
- Arts, culture and heritage are central to the delivery of our **tourism strategy** and forthcoming **economic strategy** for the district. More opportunities are needed to enable the **private sector** to link effectively with arts, cultural and heritage initiatives and programmes and with stakeholders in the sector in order to **create new ways of sustainably developing our local economy** and communities.
- The Newry City Centre Regeneration Project, which includes the major investment in theatre and conference facilities in Newry demonstrates how capital **investment in the arts, culture and heritage** through a major capital scheme has an important and **direct link to regeneration outcomes** of our urban areas.



## Accessibility and Equality of Opportunity

Engagement with, and accessibility to, the arts, culture and heritage is **limited for large sections of our location population**.

- There are groups of people living across the district whose access to arts, culture and heritage is affected by socio-economic issues such as **deprivation, negative perceptions of the sector, and physical proximity** to Council venues. Those groups affected include older people, people with disabilities, rural communities, and younger people.
- Rural venues for the promotion of culture and arts can be costly to run and the necessary infrastructure that is available for **rural outreach programmes can be limited**. Other factors that limit accessibility need to be considered also, including ticket prices and the cost of participating in culture, arts and heritage activities.
- There is a need to **create outreach opportunities** and to bring the arts, culture and heritage to life within our local communities and, in doing so, **create economic, educational and health benefits** for our people.

At the most fundamental level is the premise that the **opportunity to engage** in and experience the arts, culture and heritage **should be open to all**, regardless of a person's socio-economic background, educational attainment, physical location or any other factors that may otherwise restrict accessibility and equality of opportunity.

# The Vision

In 2025, Newry, Mourne and Down has a rich cultural life that is celebrated and protected for future generations. Our culture, arts and heritage creates economic impact in our urban centres and brings benefits to all our rural communities across the district.

The sector contributes to our district's **community cohesion** and to supporting a happy and **healthy society** and provides a **catalyst for economic growth** by attracting new audiences and visitors to our district.

We **leverage new inward investment** through our arts, culture and heritage whilst preserving our personal sense of being and **our connection** to the place we call home.

We are shaped by our **historic landscape** and are proud of our **museums and built heritage**.

By 2025, all our citizens and visitors enjoy a diverse and inspiring arts and theatre programme in our **vibrant and innovative theatre and conference centre** in Newry and in Down Arts Centre. Our voluntary and amateur groups have access to state-of-the-art theatre facilities and are **supported in their growth** and development to inspire new participants and continue to promote the rich cultural heritage of this district to new audiences. All our citizens across the district can access a diverse and engaging arts and culture **outreach programme** delivered within our local communities.





# 2023

## Our Year of Ambition

**2023: Our Year of Ambition** is a celebratory year of arts, culture and heritage in our district. A year-long programme of cultural and arts initiatives, events and activities will be delivered across the entire district. This programme will be codesigned by the Council and strategic partners across Government, NGOs, education, heritage, and the multiple organisations and groups in the voluntary sectors.

A new Flagship International Festival has been commissioned as part of Our Year of Ambition to celebrate our world-class music, dance and art. The festival shines a light on our orchestra in residence and on our talented young people who grace the world stage.

Our arts, culture and heritage sector delivers measurable health and well-being benefits to our citizens. It supports the sense of place and educational attainment of our young people and the inclusion and cohesion of our communities.

Our museums deliver a diverse and inspiring annual programme of exhibitions and events that have reached new audiences and attracted more visitors to come to the district.

An exciting heritage activation programme is delivered annually, inspiring the creation of new, commercially sustainable visitor experiences that animate our heritage sites and bring to life the stories, myths and legends of our district.

In addition to our flagship tourism events, a series of indigenous cultural and arts-based festivals and events have engaged new audiences, generated civic pride and economic impact into local communities by attracting international visitors from outside of the district to stay longer and spend more.

Our Arts and Culture Forum is at the heart of it all and is the voice of the sector that sense-checks and informs the Council's progress against the delivery of this strategy.

## Delivery

The key themes of this strategy are the foundations upon which subsequent delivery plans, programmes, initiatives and grant schemes will be created and delivered over the next five years.

### Growing Our Sector

Strengthen and support our culture, arts and heritage sector.

### Developing our Arts Venues and Museums

Reimagine and grow our arts venues and museums.

### Growing Our Audiences

Bringing our arts, culture and heritage to life for our residents and visitors.



# Key Priorities: Year 1 to 3

1

## Objective 1 Growing our Sector

Strengthen and support our culture, arts and heritage sector

Actions	Partners	Timeline - from
Establish a new arts, culture & heritage forum that represents key stakeholders in order to improve collaboration and co-ordination of the sector development across the District.	<i>Representative bodies and strategic partners across the Arts, Culture and Heritage Sectors</i>	2020/21
Create networking opportunities between local culture, arts and heritage providers with health and education representatives to enhance opportunities for greater collaboration.	<i>Council, Community Planning Partners, Forum Partners</i>	2020/21
Establish opportunities for greater support of local arts and heritage groups to develop their capabilities in marketing, sponsorship, and audience development, etc.	<i>Council, Forum Partners</i>	2021/22
Work with key strategic partners to establish opportunities to support individuals and groups who are internationally recognised and can showcase the District's culture, arts and heritage offering to wider audiences.	<i>Council, Arts Council NI, Forum Partners</i>	2021/22
Develop a detailed Festival and Events Activation Programme in coordination with key partners for the Year of Ambition in 2023.	<i>Council, Forum Partners, other Strategic Partners</i>	2020/21

# Key Priorities: Year 1 to 3

## 2

## Objective 2 Developing our Arts Venues & Museums

### Reimagine and grow our arts venues and museums

Actions	Partners	Timeline
Align forward plans for arts venues and museums to achieve the vision and objectives of the Culture, Arts and Heritage Strategy.	<i>Council, Forum Partners, key stakeholders</i>	<i>2020/21</i>
Design and implement a box office system in Council arts venues.	<i>Council</i>	<i>2020/21</i>
Utilise data and insights from the box office system to create an evidence-based audience development plan for the District.	<i>Council</i>	<i>2021/22</i>
Create an audience growth plan for arts venues, including the redevelopment of Newry Town Hall, the SHAC, and Down Arts Centre.	<i>Council, Forum Partners</i>	<i>2021/22</i>
Develop a conference and business events programme for the redeveloped Newry Town Hall/Sean Hollywood Arts Centre.	<i>Council and other key stakeholders</i>	<i>2021/22</i>
Develop and ambassador programme to attract new conferences to the redeveloped Newry Town Hall/Sean Hollywood Arts Centre.	<i>Council and other key stakeholders</i>	<i>2021/22</i>
Adopt a digitally-focused marketing communications plan for arts venues and museums to provide tailored and timely information about the seasonal arts and museum programme and on activities across the District.	<i>Council, Forum Partners</i>	<i>2021/22</i>
Deliver the £10 million capital programme to redevelop Newry Town Hall and the Sean Hollywood Arts Centre into an internationally recognised arts, theatre and conference venue.	<i>Council, user groups, stakeholders from the local arts, culture and heritage sector.</i>	<i>Ongoing from 2019/20 to 2022/23</i>



## Key Priorities: Year 1 to 3

Bringing our arts, culture and heritage to life for our residents and visitors.

# 3

### Objective 3 Growing our Audiences

Actions	Partners	Timeline
Develop a heritage exhibition programme in our museums to grow visitor numbers and audience participation from across the district.	<i>Council, NI Museums Council</i>	<i>2020/21</i>
Develop an outreach programme to provide arts, culture and heritage activities to local communities throughout the district.	<i>Council, Arts Council NI, Community Planning partners including Education and Health bodies, Forum Partners.</i>	<i>2020/21</i>
Develop a programme of activities to bring together groups and individuals to collect, archive and share inspirational stories from all our District's communities.	<i>Council, NI Museums Council</i>	<i>2020/21</i>
Develop a heritage activation programme to open up and promote our heritage assets to visitors and local residents.	<i>Council, HED, TNi, National Trust, MHT, and other strategic partners.</i>	<i>2020/21</i>
Widen the demographic of our audiences by attracting people who would not normally visit arts venues, museums or heritage sites through an innovative programme of events and targeted marketing campaigns.	<i>Council, HED, NI Museums Council, National Trust, Forum Partners, and other strategic partners.</i>	<i>2021/22</i>
Adopt a digitally-focused marketing communications plan for arts venues and museums to provide tailored and timely information about the seasonal arts and museum programme and on activities across the District.	<i>Council, Forum Partners</i>	<i>2022/23</i>
Implement a new tourism events programme that celebrates the District's unique culture, arts and heritage offering in order to increase visitor satisfaction and dwell time.	<i>Council, Forum Partners, Tourism NI</i>	<i>Ongoing from 2020/21</i>



## Areas included in the scope of this strategy

*As the definition of each term is wide, for the purposes of this plan the following specific areas have been included within the scope of this strategy:*

Development of our arts facilities, including:

- Newry Town Hall
- Sean Hollywood Arts Centre
- Warrenpoint Town Hall
- Down Arts Centre

Working in partnership with key stakeholders to protect, enhance and promote our built heritage throughout the district.

Development and growth of tourism festivals and events that promote and enhance the arts, culture and heritage of this district.

Support of key individuals and groups who promote the arts and culture of this district to international audiences.

Development of our museums, including:

- Newry and Mourne Museum at Bagenal's Castle
- Down County Museum

Growth of audiences and the participation of our citizens in arts, culture and heritage programmes and activities:

- Within our heritage and arts centres; and through
- outreach programmes within our communities

Advocacy and support of the individuals and groups who deliver arts, culture and heritage programmes and activities to our citizens throughout the district.





## Areas not included in the scope of this strategy

*The following areas do not fall within the scope of this strategy, either because there are existing programmes or activities in place that address their development or because the areas listed on the previous page have been deemed to be the key priority areas that the Council should focus on in developing our Arts, Culture and Heritage offering within the district.\**

Infrastructure or programme development of Arts Facilities or Heritage Centres that are not operated or managed by the Council.

Development or funding of public art in civic spaces.

Direct funding or management of state-care heritage assets, monuments and buildings.

Programmes and activities to develop, promote and protect our natural and built heritage that are currently delivered through Landscape Partnerships and/or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management bodies.

Development or support of groups, activities and programmes focused exclusively on either community engagement, sports and leisure or economic development and business start-ups or growth.

*\* Note – these specific areas of focus have been identified through a comprehensive stakeholder engagement exercise that was undertaken as part of the development of this strategy.*

**Ag freastal ar an Dún agus Ard Mhacha Theas**  
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<b>Report to:</b>	Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> March 2020
<b>Subject:</b>	Update on DAERA Rural Micro Grant Scheme
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Jonathan McGilly Assistant Director for Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Amanda Smyth Head of Regeneration and Business Development

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

<b>For decision</b>	<b>For noting only</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>	
<b>1.1</b>	<p><u>Purpose</u></p> <p>To provide an update on the DAERA Rural Micro Grant Scheme, which has been administered by Council, and which has awarded grant of £67,215.28 to a total of 18 rural micro businesses operating across the District.</p> <p><u>Background</u></p> <p>Council, along with the other 10 Northern Ireland rural Council, were awarded a contract from DAERA to administer the Rural Business Development Grant Pilot Scheme (RBDS).</p> <p>It was previously reported to Council that the aim of the scheme is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide at least 10 micro and small businesses with a capital grant capped at £4,999, at a match funding rate of 50% from DAERA and 50% from participating businesses.</li> <li>• Provide rural micro and small businesses with capital support with the wider aim of sustaining rural communities and economies.</li> <li>• Seek to minimise poverty, social exclusion and inequality amongst those living in rural areas.</li> </ul> <p>It was previously reported to Council that delivery of the programme would be against the below timeframe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call for applications opens November 2019</li> <li>• Call for applications closes December 2019</li> <li>• Applications checked for Eligibility and Scored - January 2020</li> <li>• Letters of Offer issued and Letter of Offer Workshop held - February 2020</li> <li>• Project completed and payment shown to have been extracted from promoters account by 31 March 2020</li> </ul> <p>All NI rural Councils are currently implementing the programme according to the same timescale, which was agreed with DAERA as a lead Department.</p>	
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues</b>	

2.1	<p>The call for funding applications opened on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019 and closed on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019. During this period, the funding opportunity was widely promoted in all regional newspapers, across social media, promoted by stakeholders, and promoted at 3 Rural Grant workshops held on 26<sup>th</sup> November, 28<sup>th</sup> November and 3<sup>rd</sup> December.</p> <p>At the deadline for receipt of applications, Council received 60 applications, representing the highest number of applications received across NI Councils, (18% of NI applications received).</p> <p>Council officials have been working with the Department to assess applications over the 2-staged process (1) assessment of applicants against eligibility criteria (2) assessment of eligible applications against economic impact criteria</p> <p>The results of the assessment process are as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="368 683 1482 1093"> <tr> <td>Number of applications received</td><td>60</td></tr> <tr> <td>Stage 1 Eligibility Assessment – Number of applications meeting eligibility criteria (pass / fail)</td><td>36</td></tr> <tr> <td>Stage 2 Scoring Assessment - Number of applications achieving the 65% pass mark as assessment</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr> <td>Value of grant aid awarded to 17 businesses</td><td>£67,215.28</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>Note that the total grant available to Council was £52,490, and officers were able to secure an additional £14,725.28 to award grant to all eligible businesses who met the 65% pass mark following assessment.</p> <p><u>Next Steps</u> Successful applicants have been issued with a Letter of Offer during w/c 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020. Applicants will implement their projects up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020. Following completion of their projects, Council officials will then receive claim paperwork for review, assessment and processing of grant payment via DAERA.</p>	Number of applications received	60	Stage 1 Eligibility Assessment – Number of applications meeting eligibility criteria (pass / fail)	36	Stage 2 Scoring Assessment - Number of applications achieving the 65% pass mark as assessment	18	Value of grant aid awarded to 17 businesses	£67,215.28		
Number of applications received	60										
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Stage 2 Scoring Assessment - Number of applications achieving the 65% pass mark as assessment	18										
Value of grant aid awarded to 17 businesses	£67,215.28										
3.0	<b>Recommendations</b>										
3.1	To note update provided on the DAERA Rural Micro Grant Scheme, which has been administered by Council, and which has awarded grant of £67,215.28 to a total of 18 rural micro businesses operating across the District.										
4.0	<b>Resource implications</b>										
4.1	N/A. Council's role is administrator of the grant. DAERA process grant aid payment.										
5.0	<b>Equality and good relations implications</b>										
5.1	All necessary considerations has been taken care of										
6.0	<b>Rural Proofing implications</b>										
6.1	All necessary considerations has been taken care of										



7.0	<b>Appendices</b>
	n/a
8.0	<b>Background Documents</b>
	n/a

<b>Report to:</b>	Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> March 2020
<b>Subject:</b>	Artisan Markets – Downpatrick, Newcastle and Warrenpoint
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director EER
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Margaret Quinn, Regeneration & Business Development Officer

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-			
<b>For decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>For noting only</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>		
1.1	<p><u>Purpose:</u> To note the update provided against delivery of Artisan Markets in Downpatrick, Newcastle, and Warrenpoint during 2019/2020</p> <p><u>Background:</u> Approval was given by Council 2019 to enter into Service Level Agreements with Down Community Collective and Unit T (Mourne Markets) to deliver Artisan Markets in Downpatrick, Newcastle and Warrenpoint. This report provides an update on the performance of the markets during the period 2019/2020.</p>		
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues</b>		
2.1	<p>High quality food producers and crafters attend the markets and there is now a waiting list for available pitches in all locations</p> <p>An analysis of attendance at each of the markets has been collected by the market organisers and detailed below. Average attendance at each of the markets in Downpatrick and Newcastle is 550 and 600 respectively and the markets have become a draw for both visitors and residents in each location. In Warrenpoint the average attendance is 2,706, which is reflective of the timing of the markets being held to complement other major events taking place. A monthly breakdown of attendance figures for each market is provided below.</p> <p><u>Downpatrick</u> An SLA is in place with Down Community Collective, for delivery of up to 10 artisan markets between April 2019 and March 2020. To date 8 markets have been implemented, located in the museum courtyard, attracting a total of 4465 people. The next market is planned to take place on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2020.</p>		



**Newcastle**

An SLA is in place with Unit T, for delivery of up to 10 artisan markets between April 2019 and March 2020. To date 9 markets have been implemented, located to the front of the Newcastle Centre, attracting a total of 5570 people. The next market is scheduled to take place on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

**Warrenpoint**

An SLA is in place with Down Community Collective, for delivery of up to 5 artisan markets between June 2019 and March 2020. To date 4 markets have been implemented, located municipal park, attracting a total of 10,822 people. The average attendance numbers for the Warrenpoint artisan markets are 2500. This reflects the fact that 2 of the markets were held as part of larger events i.e. Wake the Giant and Yuletide Fayre. The next market is planned to take place on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

Number of Markets delivered	Downpatrick Attendance	Newcastle Attendance	Warrenpoint Attendance
1	661	550	1,501
2	548	650	4,949
3	704	700	1,309
4	703	650	3,063
5	429	580	22/2/2020 – cancelled due to storm
6	371	640	Scheduled for 28/3/2020
7	421	600	
8	628	650	
9	Cancelled – Due to storm	550	
10	Scheduled for 21/3/2020	Scheduled for 7/3/2020	

**3.0****Recommendations****3.1**

To note the update provided against delivery of Artisan Markets in Downpatrick, Newcastle, and Warrenpoint during 2019/2020, which provides detail on attendance figures and the continued success of the project.

**4.0****Resource implications****4.1**

£15,000 (£5,000 per location) is included in 2020/2021 budgets.

**5.0****Equality and good relations implications****5.1**

The Artisan Markets will be accessible to all and Section 75 legislation is recognised.

**6.0****Rural Proofing implications**

6.1	The Artisan Markets will be promoted across the district including rural locations.
7.0	<b>Appendices</b>
	N/A
8.0	<b>Background Documents</b>
	N/A

### Market Attendance Sheet April 2019 – December 2019

#### Downpatrick

Date of the Market	Attendance Figures
April 2019	661
May	548
June	704
August	703
September	429
October	371
November	421
December	628
February	Cancelled due to storm
Scheduled for 21/3/2020	

#### Newcastle

Date of the Market	Attendance Figures
6th April 2019	550
4th May 2019	650
1st June 2019	700
6th July 2019	650
3rd August 2019	580
4th August 2019	640
7th September 2019	600
31 October 2019	650
2nd November 2019	550
Scheduled for 7/3/2020	

#### Warrenpoint

Date of the Market	Attendance Figures
8 June 2019 (pilot)	1,501
24 August (Wake the Giant) 2019	4,949
26 October 2019	1,309



1 December (Yuletide) 2019	3,063
22/2/2020 – cancelled due to storm	
Scheduled for 28/3/2020	

<b>Report to:</b>	Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	9 March 2020
<b>Subject:</b>	Progress Report on Branding and Signage at Newry and Mourne Museum
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Andrew Patterson, Assistant Director, Tourism, Culture and Events
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Aisleain McGill, Head of Culture, Arts, Heritage and Events

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-			
<b>For decision</b>		<b>For noting only</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>		
<b>1.1</b>	<p><u>Purpose</u></p> <p>This paper provides a progress update on the new branding and signage for Newry and Mourne Museum.</p> <p>Lack of Museum signage has been a major hindrance to marketing the venue and its services. Signage identifying 'Newry and Mourne Museum' will attract more visitors.</p> <p>Tourism Northern Ireland, which operates the Visitor Quality Grading Scheme, has highlighted lack of signage as a major impediment to letting visitors know about the Museum in its report of 13/3/2019. It highlighted that the museum is 'invisible' and that signage needs to be sorted out.</p> <p><u>Background</u></p> <p>In response, Museum staff and the Council's Marketing Team met with McCaddens to formulate a Museum brand and signage in summer 2019. Due to the historic nature of the site and building, the font style and colour of the lettering is inspired by, and in keeping with, the original streetscape bakery signage on the front of the warehouse, 'Victoria Bakery'</p> <p>In summary, the signage will identify 'Newry and Mourne Museum' on the wall adjacent to the courtyard and on the gable wall adjacent to car park, on approach from Abbey Way. The existing totem sign at entrance to car park will be revamped and an aluminium tray sign beside entrance door to Museum erected.</p>		
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues</b>		



2.1	<p>As the Castle is a protected Scheduled Monument, Museum staff have liaised with Planning and Historic Environment Division (HED).</p> <p>HED visited the site on the 14<sup>th</sup> February and requested that the proposed wall signage on the Courtyard be reduced in size from 2m in height to 1.5m and that the wall signage be stencilled to ensure it is reversible. An application for Scheduled Monument Consent was subsequently submitted to HED and an acknowledgement dated 20/2/2020 was received. A final decision will be given within 12 weeks.</p> <p>As the Warehouse building at the Museum is on a maintenance schedule to be painted spring/summer 2020, it is not possible to undertake the stencilling of the wall signage in advance of this work being completed.</p>
3.0	<b>Recommendations</b>
3.1	It is recommended that this progress update be noted.
4.0	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	A capital budget has been accrued to cover the cost of the signage, which is £8,775.
5.0	<b>Equality and good relations implications</b>
5.1	It is not anticipated the recommendation will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity and good relations.
6.0	<b>Rural Proofing implications</b>
6.1	The recommendation has been considered within the scope of the Rural Needs Act and the proposal has not been subject to rural needs impact assessment.
7.0	<b>Appendices</b>
	n/a
8.0	<b>Background Documents</b>
	n/a

Approved – 19.2.2020



Comhairle Contae **Lú**  
**Louth** County Council



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

M/151

**Joint Committee of Elected Members between  
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, and Louth County Council**

**Report of Meeting held Wednesday 4 December 2019 at 10.00 a.m.  
in the Council Chamber, Louth County Council Offices, Dundalk**

<b>In the Chair:</b>	<b>Councillor E Coffey,</b>	<b>Louth County Council (Joint Chair)</b>
<b>Present:</b>	<b>Councillor D McAteer,</b> <b>Councillor J Tinnelly,</b> <b>Councillor M Ruane,</b> <b>Councillor W Clarke,</b> <b>Councillor A Watters,</b> <b>Councillor P McGeough,</b> <b>Councillor T Cunningham,</b> <b>Councillor, D Power</b>	<b>Newry, Mourne and Down DC</b> <b>Newry, Mourne and Down DC</b> <b>Newry, Mourne and Down DC</b> <b>Newry, Mourne and Down DC</b> <b>Louth County Council</b> <b>Louth County Council</b> <b>Louth County Council</b> <b>Louth County Council</b>
	<b>Ms C Duff,</b> <b>Mr J McGuinness,</b> <b>Mr F Pentony,</b> <b>Mr C Mallon,</b> <b>Mr R Moore,</b> <b>Ms D Carville,</b> <b>Mr J McGilly</b> <b>Ms P Arthurs,</b> <b>Ms A Powell,</b>	<b>Director LCC</b> <b>Director LCC</b> <b>Director LCC</b> <b>Director NMDDC</b> <b>Director NMDDC</b> <b>Director NMDDC</b> <b>Assistant Director NMDDC</b> <b>East Border Region</b> <b>NMDDC (Notes)</b>



Approved – 19.2.2020

## 1. Welcome and Apologies:

### Apologies received from:

Councillor M Larkin,	Newry, Mourne and Down DC (Joint Chair)
Councillor E Corrigan,	Louth County Council
Councillor J Byrne,	Louth County Council
Councillor J Sheridan,	Louth County Council
Councillor E McGreehan,	Louth County Council
Councillor D Curran,	Newry, Mourne and Down DC
Councillor R Mulgrew,	Newry, Mourne and Down DC
Councillor K Owen,	Newry, Mourne and Down DC
Councillor H McKee,	Newry, Mourne and Down DC
Ms J Martin,	Chief Executive LCC
Ms M Ward,	Chief Executive NMDDC
Mr P Donnelly	Director LCC
Ms B Woods	Director LCC
Mr M Lipsett,	Director NMDDC

Councillor K Owens was invited to attend in place of Councillor H Harvey who has moved to NI Assembly.

## 2. Report of Louth/Newry Mourne and Down Joint Committee Meeting held on 25 September 2019 (attached)

On the proposal of Councillor Tinnelly, seconded by Councillor Watters, report of meeting held on the 25 September 2019 was approved.

## 3. Matters Arising

No matters arising from the report were raised.

## 4. Report of Workshop – 30 October 2019 (attached)

Report from workshop held on 30 October 2019 provided by Facilitator L O'Meara having been previously circulated, was discussed. Councillor Coffey commented that the workshop had gone well.

Approved – 19.2.2020

P Arthurs took members through the report. Discussion summary on page 5 presented four key themes as being identified in the workshop:

- Climate change and the environment
- Tourism
- Lobbying
- Economic Development

Pamela informed members that the Management Team met following the workshop and have developed a revised Action Plan based on these 4 themes.

## 5. Adoption of new Strategic Alliance Action & Communication Plan

C Mallon presented draft action plan with copies circulated during the meeting. As suggested at the workshop, the actions have been listed as long term (2+ years) and short term (less than 2 years).

Comments on the revised action plan included:

Tourism –

- Networking with bus companies e.g. Bus Eireann and Translink
- Promotion of Food Industry e.g. sea food
- Joint Sporting / Cycling / Greenway / Carlingford Lough event
- Joint PR on websites /event marketing

Lobbying –

- South Down should be included in Irelands Ancient East. Members informed TNI are supportive but there is a need to lobby Ministers regarding this issue.

**AGREED: Lobbying for South Down to be included in Irelands Ancient East to be added to revised action plan.**

**AGREED: A paper on possible Joint Events be presented to the next Committee meeting for members to consider.**

Economic Development -

- Peace Plus Stakeholder Engagement events are due to take place locally in January and February 2020

P Arthurs asked that the dates be circulated to all members and encouraged their attendance as an opportunity to emphasise and lobby on a cross border basis for the needs of the region.

**AGREED: Upcoming dates for Peace Plus Stakeholder Engagement to be circulated to members to encourage attendance.**



Approved – 19.2.2020

## 6. Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held at 10am on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020 in the NMDDC Offices, Newry.

Signed: C Mallon  
 Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism  
 Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

## ACTIONS

	ACTION	Referred to
1.	<b>AGREED:</b> Lobbying for South Down to be included in Irelands Ancient East to be added to revised action plan.	C Mallon
2.	<b>AGREED:</b> A paper on possible Joint Events be presented to the next Committee meeting for members to consider.	C Mallon / P Donnelly
3.	<b>AGREED:</b> Upcoming dates for Peace Plus Stakeholder Engagement to be circulated to members to encourage attendance.	C Mallon

## Newry, Mourne & Down District Council – February 2020

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### 1. Live Applications

MONTH 2019/20	NEW APPLICATIONS	LIVE APPLICATIONS	LIVE APPLICATIONS OVER 12 MONTHS
April	177	1,173	269
May	192	1,196	266
June	155	1,184	264
July	139	1,157	250
August	127	1,108	249
September	110	1,026	241
October	155	981	234
November	149	963	229
December	106	933	221
January	169	945	219
February	144	909	213



## Newry, Mourne & Down District Council – February 2020

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### 2. Live Applications by length of time in system

Month 2019/20	Under 6 months	Between 6 and 12 months	Between 12 and 18 months	Between 18 and 24 months	Over 24 months	Total
April	701	203	89	60	120	<b>1,173</b>
May	718	212	81	61	124	<b>1,196</b>
June	718	202	86	57	121	<b>1,184</b>
July	664	243	76	51	123	<b>1,157</b>
August	632	227	77	44	128	<b>1,108</b>
September	574	211	70	45	126	<b>1,026</b>
October	534	213	80	39	115	<b>981</b>
November	522	212	71	40	118	<b>963</b>
December	496	216	70	43	108	<b>933</b>
January	520	206	79	39	101	<b>945</b>
February	515	181	86	33	94	<b>909</b>

### 3. Live applications per Case Officer

Month 2019/20	Average number of Applications per Case Officer
April	78
May	79
June	73
July	76
August	76
September	76
October	67
November	58
December	57
January	62
February	53

## Newry, Mourne & Down District Council – February 2020

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### 4. Decisions issued per month

Month 2019/20	Number of Decisions Issued	Number of Decisions Issued under delegated authority
April	104	95
May	156	152
June	165	148
July	163	157
August	170	142
September	181	158
October	193	185
November	148	138
December	127	121
January	147	138
February	163	157



## Newry, Mourne & Down District Council – February 2020

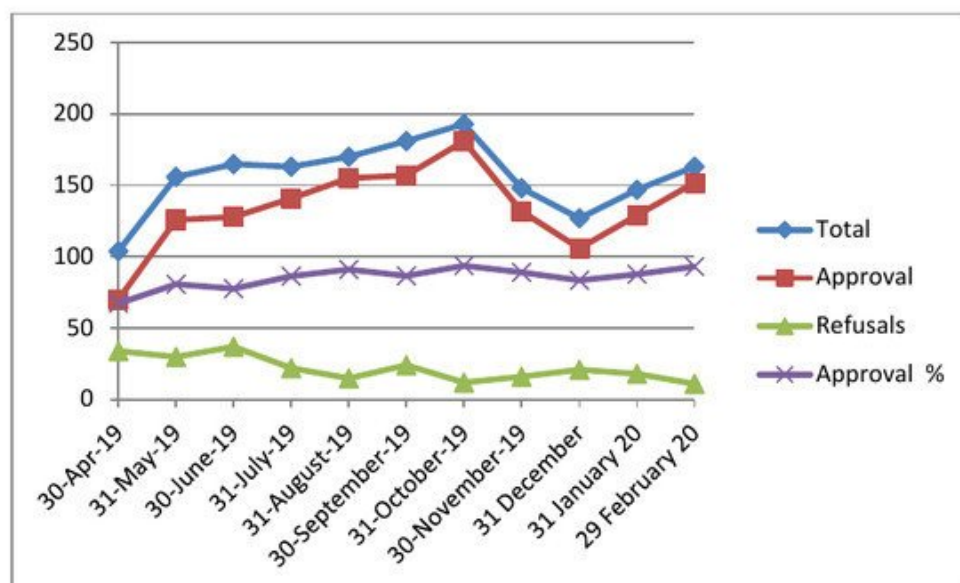
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### 5. Decisions Issued YTD

Month 2019/20	Number of Decisions Issued	Breakdown of Decisions	
April	104	Approvals (70)	67%
		Refusals (34)	33%
May	260	Approvals (196)	75%
		Refusals (64)	25%
June	425	Approvals (324)	76%
		Refusals (101)	24%
July	588	Approvals (465)	79%
		Refusals (123)	21%
August	758	Approvals (620)	82%
		Refusals (138)	18%
September	939	Approvals (777)	83%
		Refusals (162)	17%
October	1,132	Approvals (958)	85%
		Refusals (174)	15%
November	1,280	Approvals (1090)	85%
		Refusals (190)	15%
December	1,407	Approvals (1196)	85%
		Refusals (211)	15%
January	1,554	Approvals (1325)	85%
		Refusals (229)	15%
February	1,717	Approvals (1477)	86%
		Refusals (240)	14%

## Newry, Mourne & Down District Council – February 2020

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### 6. Enforcement Live cases

Month 2019/20	<=1yr	1-2 yrs	2-3 yrs	3-4 yrs	4-5 yrs	5+yrs	Total
April	329	230	183	79	63	179	1,063
May	308	247	174	85	62	178	1,054
June	286	249	171	83	61	174	1,024
July	283	261	166	83	60	170	1,023
August	264	256	179	81	55	175	1,010
September	248	264	179	89	45	174	999
October	240	260	169	84	38	164	955
November	244	256	165	89	35	151	940
December	230	251	152	90	35	146	904
January	233	255	144	96	39	146	913
February	229	228	148	96	37	123	861



## Newry, Mourne & Down District Council – February 2020

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### 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
10 April 2019	17	11	6	5
29 May 2019	15	12	3	5
26 June 2019	16	13	3	3
24 July 2019	27	18	9	8
21 August 2019	34	29	5	5
18 September 2019	17	12	5	6
16 October 2019	15	12	3	3
13 November 2019	11	8	3	2
11 December 2019	14	7	7	2
8 January 2020	14	9	5	1
12 February 2020	10	7	3	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>42</b>

### 8. Appeals

#### Planning Appeal Commission Decisions issued during February 2020

Area	Number of current appeals	Number of decisions issued	Number of decisions Allowed	Number of decisions Dismissed	Withdrawn
Newry & Mourne	19	5	5	0	0
Down	14	2	0	2	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>

## Newry, Mourne &amp; Down District Council – February 2020

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## Statutory targets monthly update - April 2019 – January 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 <sup>1</sup>	Average processing time <sup>2</sup>	% of cases processed within 30 weeks		Number received	Number decided/ withdrawn <sup>1</sup>	Average processing time <sup>2</sup>	% of cases processed within 15 weeks		Number opened	Number brought to conclusion <sup>3</sup>	"70%" conclusion time <sup>3</sup>	% of cases concluded within 39 weeks
April	1	1	51.8	0.0%		163	81	22.0	22.2%		28	66	192.0	30.3%
May	0	1	600.0	0.0%		152	138	21.1	28.3%		29	36	85.4	44.4%
June	2	3	230.8	33.3%		123	145	24.6	22.1%		25	48	114.7	37.5%
July	0	-	0.0	0.0%		110	152	20.2	36.2%		41	44	165.2	29.5%
August	0	2	55.4	50.0%		100	160	22.1	30.0%		24	42	83.5	47.6%
September	1	1	321.0	0.0%		113	166	22.4	24.1%		34	35	185.7	40.0%
October	1	-	0.0	0.0%		117	158	19.2	38.6%		44	73	161.2	31.5%
November	0	2	169.4	0.0%		155	136	24.3	33.8%		24	54	189.2	29.6%
December	1	-	0.0	0.0%		83	112	20.7	40.2%		19	43	121.2	37.2%
January	0	-	0.0	0.0%		86	134	18.7	38.8%		25	24	132.2	25.0%
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	6	11	135.8	18.2%		1,227	1,383	21.2	31.6%		294	465	143.1	34.8%

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 – February 2020

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*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 MARCH 2020)**

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		<b>OCTOBER 2017</b>			
ERT/191/2017	CAMLOUGH LAKE – LAND RELATED MATTERS	<p><b><u>Closed Session Item</u></b></p> <p><b>(a)</b> 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	Ongoing	N



ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		<b>DECEMBER 2017</b>			
ERT/218/2017	ARDGLASS HARBOUR DEVELOPMENT	<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	Work in progress. NI Economic Impact Study being carried out by the Dept awaiting finalisation Spring 2020.	N
		<b>MARCH 2018</b>			
ERT/044/2018	FORKHILL FORMER BARRACKS SITE	<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>	J McGilly	Playarea complete – work ongoing regarding use for the remainder of the site.	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		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.		DFC to complete questionnaire of local residents on future use and report back to next steering committee May 2020.	N
		<b>AUGUST 2018</b>			
ERT/122/2018	DOWNPATRICK REGENERATION PROJECT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council offices continue to progress land purchase to include the additional property at No.39 Irish Street which is adjacent to Former Police Station.</li> <li>Officers explore with relevant government departments any issues that may arise due to Heritage Merit of the site</li> <li>As the site was purchased on the basis that the link road not being included in the brief. DEA Cllrs request</li> </ul>	J McGilly	Soft market testing to be completed Spring 2020.	N



ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		via DEA officers a meeting with Transport NI • Officers bring back to council via ERT suitable governance structures for the project			
		<b>September 2018</b>			
ERT/139/2018	AONBs UPDATE – RING OF GULLION, STRANGFORD LOUGH & LECALÉ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carry out an independent review of the management of the Ring of Gullion and Strangford Lough &amp; Lecale AONBs, and the relationship between NMDDC and ANDBC in managing Strangford Lough &amp; Lecale AONB.</li> <li>• Review the management of the relationship between NMDDC and Mourne Heritage Trust in managing the Mourne AONB.</li> <li>• Assess the relationship of the aspiring Geopark and the AONBs. Through the AONBs much of the Geopark requirements are being delivered.</li> <li>• Remove any references to changes to staffing and major projects contained in the AONBs Update Report dated 10 September 2018.</li> </ul>	J McGilly	Complete	Y

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		<b>MARCH 2019</b>			
ERT/043/2019	NEWRY CANAL PROJECT LOCK 5 AND 6	<p>a) Council transfer any underspend from the Lock No.5 Restoration to Lock No.6 Restoration Project.</p> <p>(b) Subject to budget transfer, Council carry out the required survey/design studies and actual contractual works for restoration now required to Lock No.6.</p>	J McGilly	<p>Works complete on Lock No.5</p> <p>Work in progress Lock No.6</p>	N
ERT/044/2019	SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS ARTISAN MARKETS NEWCASTLE & DOWNPATRICK	(c) Council Officials to investigate the option of supporting an Artisan market in Saintfield.	J McGilly	In progress	N
		<b>JUNE 2019</b>			
ERT/073/2019	LOCAL FULL FIBRE NETWORK: FUNDING BID	(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	J McGilly	Programme implementation ongoing	N



ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		Programme.  (b) Council Officers be authorised to operate the procurements on behalf of the consortium to deploy the funding.			
ERT/083/2019	NOTICE OF MOTION	To note a paper regarding Donard Demense Newcastle, will be tabled at the ERT Committee Meeting in due course.	A Patterson	In progress	N
		<b>AUGUST 2019</b>			
<b>ERT/097/2019</b>	BALLYNAHINCH BYPASS ART FEATURE	As a contribution to the Ballynahinch By pass the Council proceed as follows: (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 (b) Procure an artist to undertake the necessary consultation on potential design proposals (c) Development of the art feature to concept design stage (d) Subject to the confirmation that the funding has been secured for the By	J McGilly	On hold – clarification update from DFI	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		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)			
<b>ERT/099/2019</b>	PUBLIC REALM SCHEME/ REVITALISATION PROJECT: IRISH STREET DOWNPATRICK	<p>(a) To note that the Irish Street public realm scheme is now Complete.</p> <p>(b) Council to work with a Steering Committee, representative of members and traders, to develop an action plan, outlining proposed revitalisation projects. Action Plan to be submitted to DFC in August, as an application for Revitalisation funding of approx. £100,000. Council to provide from existing budgets, £10,000 (10%) match funding contribution to the Irish Street Revitalisation project.</p> <p><b>NOTE: Arising from Council Mtg September 2019 it was agreed: To note Public Realm works are complete, in principle, at Irish Street</b></p>	J McGilly	<p>a) Revitalisation steering group established for development of action plan, project on track to complete March 2020</p> <p>b) Steering group appraised of remaining issue on PR Scheme</p>	N



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		<b>Downpatrick, and traders to be updated accordingly in conjunction with Transport NI.</b>			
		<b>SEPTEMBER 2019</b>			
<b>ERT/116/2019</b>	DRAGONS IN THE HILLS PROJECT	<p>(a) To provide a letter of support for the project for the funders.</p> <p>(b) To sign a Memorandum of Understanding to confirm and further develop the long-term partnership between Amphibian and Reptile Groups of UK (ARG UK) and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC). This MoU has been checked by the legal team and they are happy that it is not binding and is for the purpose of developing projects.</p> <p>(c) If funding is successful, to work with HR Department regarding the hosting of a staff member who will have responsibility for project delivery.</p>	J McGilly	<p>Application approved. Implementation ongoing.</p> <p><b>See future updates in ERT/005/2020</b></p>	Y

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<b>ERT/118/2019</b>	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 EOI to the National Lottery Heritage Fund in 2020.	J McGilly	On-going	N
<b>ERT/119/2019</b>	PUBLIC REALM SCHEME PHASE III 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	Scheme proceeding to contractor procurement with award in Nov 2019 and onsite works to commence in early 2020.	N
		<b>October 2019</b>			
<b>ERT/137/2019</b>	URBAN REGENERATION FORWARD WORK PLAN	(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 the	N



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		<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>		Outline Regeneration Plan.	
<b>ERT/138/2019</b>	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 plan to be tabled at Council Apr 2020	N

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<b>ERT/140/2019</b>	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.	N
<b>ERT/141/2019</b>	DAERA RURAL SMALL BUSINESS GRANTS SCHEME	(a) To sign and accept a contract for funding for implementation of the programme  (b) To agree implementation in the DAERA rural grants scheme for businesses, as per the timescales above	J McGilly	Report to March 2020 ERT Committee to note progress.	N
<b>ERT/142/2019</b>	NI BUSINESS START PROGRAMME	(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.  (b) LCCC will continue as Lead Council of the New Programme if the funding	J McGilly	On-going – Application submitted Dec 19	N



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		<p>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, 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>			
<b>ERT/143/2019</b>	SLA: QUEENS UNIVERSITY	To establish a Service Level Agreement with the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork (CAF) to provide an integrated landscape study for what is believed to be part of the ancient roadway (Slighe Miodhluachr) which runs from the Northern road, Tara Co Meath, to Armagh with sections through the NMD District	J McGilly	Completed	Y

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<b>ERT/144/2019</b>	MIPIIM 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 MIPIIM</p> <p>Conference to be held from 10-12 March 2020 in Cannes France, plus make available a sum of £6,000 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 Park Estate Kilkeel regarding the possible inclusion of this site in the portfolio for presentation at MIPIIM.</p>	C Mallon	Event Postponed to June 2020	N
<b>ERT/145/2019</b>	5G COMMUNICATIONS	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.	J McGilly	Awaiting further funding call.	N

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		<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 in the pursuit of increasing 5g rollout throughout our communities.</p>			
<b>ERT/146/2019</b>	FFNI GIGABIT PROMOTION VOUCHER	(a) The Council to contribute up to £25,000 towards the cost of designing and operating a pilot voucher promotion scheme to secure up to £4m of DCMS vouchers for Northern Ireland subject to Consortium members agreeing.	J McGilly	Awaiting further funding from DCMS	N



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		<p>(b) To work with officers to identify two appropriate communities in our region to be a part of the pilot.</p> <p>(c) To approve NMDDC to appoint a suitable consultant to assist with implementation and delivery of the pilot.</p>			
<b>ERT/149/2019</b>	REVIEW OF DESIGNATED SITES STREET TRADING	<p>To retain the trading pitch at The Square Warrenpoint, but enforce trading conditions , ie, removal of vehicle after trading, prevention of trading beyond the designated pitch and enforcement of trading hours currently 11pm. Officers to monitor this trading pitch for a 6 week period and be granted authority to refer to a hearing if deemed necessary to do so.</p> <p>Officers discuss issues raised regarding the number of trading pitches in Kilkeel and report back to the Enterprise Regeneration &amp; Tourism Committee, where appropriate</p>	C Jackson	Monitoring process complete, Notice issued and a Hearing has is scheduled for the 9 <sup>th</sup> March.	N

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		<b>NOVEMBER 2019</b>			
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	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 1- Smaller scale cooperation projects, by the deadline of 27th November 2019.	J McGilly	Awaiting outcome.	N

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ERT/176/2019	CLOSING ORDER	<p>(a) Council shall serve a Notice of its intention to make a Closing Order to have the premises closed from 12 midnight each day.</p> <p>(b) The Notice shall be served upon the premises known as Bay of Bengal, Newcastle Street, Kilkeel.</p>	C Jackson	The ERT committee decided to issue a closing order at the Hearing on the 10 Feb. The closing order has been served on the owner, which shall come into effect in March	Y
		<b>DECEMBER 2019</b>			
ERT/193/2019	RPT WARRENPOINT FRONT SHORE PUBLIC REALM SCHEME TASK & FINISH STEERTING COMMITTEE – 29 OCTOBER 2019	<p>(a) Council Officers meet with Council Framework Consultants to commission RIBA Stages 1-3 of the project.</p> <p>(b) A site meeting of the Task &amp; Finish Committee to be arranged once consultants in place.</p> <p>(c) Council Officers to work closely with the Framework consultants once appointed, to produce a more accurate project programme.</p>	J McGilly	Ongoing	N



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		<p>(d) Council Officers and consultants to proceed with the Topographical GPR and other associated studies as part of the design process.</p> <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>			

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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 - Downpatrick Master Plan - South East Coast Master Plan	J McGilly	Ongoing implementation – updates provided through DEA	N
		(JANUARY 2020)			
ERT/004/2020	ALL IRELAND SMART CITIES FORUM MEMBERSHIP	(a) Newry, Mourne and Down District Council continues to avail of the expertise from the All-Ireland Smart Cities Forum and renew membership for 2020 at a cost of €3,333 per annum.  (b) An officer from ERT and a representative from East Border Region attend the meetings and feed back into digital projects including BRCD, FFNI and ERT digital projects.	J McGilly	Completed	Y

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ERT/005/2020	DRAGONS IN THE HILLS PROJECT	<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 programme delivery.</p>	J McGilly	Application approved – Implementation ongoing	N
ERT/007/2020	TENDER FOR MANUFACTURE AND SUPPLY OF STREET NAMEPLATES	The Council authorise the Commencement of the tendering	C Jackson	In Progress	N



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		process with a view to putting in place a new contract for the provisions of new street nameplates effective from 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2020 until 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2023.			
ERT/008/2020	REPAIRS TO LOCKS - LOCK 9 NEWRY CANAL	<p>(a) To contribute £41,189 to Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council to undertake repairs to Lock No. 9 on Newry Canal which was jointly owned by both Councils.</p> <p>(b) To appoint relevant expertise to undertake assessment and seek necessary approvals of work essential to maintain the structure of Lock No. 6 which is in Council ownership, at an estimated cost of £8,500.</p>	A Patterson	Actioned	Y
ERT/009/2020	(Closed Session) INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN BIKE EVENT / PIPE BAND CHAMPIONSHIPS (NEWCASTLE)	Officers write to the promoters of the proposed Mourne International MTB Event and Newcastle Pipe Band Championship to confirm Council would support each event in principle;	A Patterson	In progress	N

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		and funding would be allocated subject to budget being available following the assessment of applications in the 2020/2021 financial assistance call for Tourism Events; and that each event promoter submit updated business cases for the respective events.			
		(FEBRUARY 2020 TO FOLLOW)			