

May 4th, 2020

Notice Of Meeting

You are invited to attend the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting to be held on **Monday, 12th August 2019 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 Chairman's remarks.

Councillor P Brown

2.0 Declarations of Interest.

3.0 Action Sheet - arising from Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting - June 2019. (Copy attached)

📎 *ERT Action Sheet arising from June 2019.pdf*

Page 1

Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration Items

4.0 Ballynahinch By-pass Art Feature. (Copy attached)

📎 *ERT Report - Aug 2019 - Ballynahinch ByPass Public Art Feature.pdf*

Page 10

5.0 NI Economy House of Commons Event in September 2019. (Copy attached)

📎 *ERT Report - Aug 2019 - NI Economy House of Commons event.pdf*

Page 12

6.0 Irish Street Downpatrick: EI Scheme and Revitalisation Scheme. (Copy attached)

📎 *ERT Report - Aug 2019 - Irish Street Public Realm Update.pdf*

Page 14

7.0 NI Apprenticeship Week - February 2020. (Copy attached)

📎 *ERT Report - Aug 2019 - NI Apprenticeship Week.pdf*

Page 16

Tourism, Culture and Events Items

8.0 Autumn/Winter events. (Copy attached)

📎 *ERT Report - Aug 2019 - Autumn and Winter Events.pdf*

Page 18

9.0 Arts, Culture & Heritage Strategy. (Copy attached)

📎 *ERT Report - Aug 2019 - Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy.pdf*

Page 20

📎 *Appendix 1 - NMD Arts Culture Heritage Strategy.pdf*

Page 22

Exempt Information Items

10.0 Tender: Dog Kennelling Service. (Copy attached)

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

 *ERT Report - Aug 2019 - Dog Kennelling Service Tender.pdf*

Not included

11.0 Tyrella ASSI. (Copy attached)

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

 *ERT Report - Aug 2019 - Tyrella and Minerstown ASSI Conservation works.pdf*

Not included

 *Appx - August 2019 - Tyrella_minerstown_ASSI_Works_Schedule_Map.pdf*

Not included

For Noting

12.0 Performance figures - Planning. (Copy attached)

 *ERT Report - Aug 2019 - June 2019 Planning Committee Performance Report.pdf*


Page 70

13.0 Live Here, Love Here - Grant Award for SLLP. (Copy attached)

 *ERT Report - Aug 2019 - SLLP Live Here Love Here.pdf*

Page 75

14.0 Co-operation Project - Promoting Lace. (Copy attached)

 *ERT Report - Aug 2019 - Co-operation Lace Grant.pdf*


Page 77

15.0 Made in Mourne International Visit. (Copy attached)

 *ERT Report - Aug 2019 - Made in Mourne.pdf*

Page 79

16.0 Business Base Growth. (Copy attached)

 *ERT Report - Aug 2019 - Business Base Growth.pdf*

Page 81

17.0 Scheme of Delegation. (Copy attached)

 *Scheme of Delegation for Aug 2019 ERT.pdf*

Page 83

18.0 Action Tracker: Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism

Committee. (Copy attached)

 *ERT Historic Action Tracker Sheet for AUGUST Mtg 2019.pdf*

Page 85

Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews

Cllr Gregory Bain

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

Mr Liam Hannaway

Cllr Valerie Harte

Cllr Harry Harvey

Cllr Terry Hearty

Cllr Roisin Howell

Mr Colum Jackson

Mrs Sheila Kieran

Cllr Liz Kimmins

Cllr Mickey Larkin

Miss Mary Lennon

Cllr Alan Lewis

Mr Michael Lipsett

Sandra Magee

Cllr Oonagh Magennis

Cllr Gavin Malone

Cllr Cathy Mason

Colette McAteer

Cllr Declan McAteer

Cllr Leeanne McEvoy

Jonathan McGilly

Cllr Harold McKee

Patricia McKeever

Cllr Karen McKevitt

Mr Roland Moore

Margaret Morrow
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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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Mr Andy Patterson
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Cllr Henry Reilly
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Martin Robinson
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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
.....
Mrs Marie Ward
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ACTION SHEET – ENTERPRISE REGENERATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETINGMONDAY 10 JUNE 2019

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/064/2019	START TIME ERT COMMITTEE MEETINGS	The start time for ERT Committee Meetings from June 2019 - May 2020 will be 5pm.	M.Ward	Complete	Y
Matters Arising from March 2019 ERT Action Sheet					
ERT/050/2019	CRANFIELD BEACH	Mr A Patterson Assistant Director ERT to report back to Councillor Hanna regarding the appointment of a contractor in respect of works at Cranfield Beach.	A. Patterson	Complete	Y
ERT/044/2019	ARTISAN MARKETS	Council Officials consider possibility of an Artisan Market in Kilkeel.	M. Robinson	Officers are considering this with key stakeholders, report will be presented at Sept 19 ERT	N
ERT/045/2019	MADE IN MOURNE (TRADE VISIT NEW YORK & WASHINGTON)	Officers arrange to have a report tabled at a future ERT Committee Meeting regarding the Made in Mourne Trade Visit to New York and Washington.	M. Robinson	Included in August ERT papers	Y
June 2019					

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/066/2019:	ERT BUSINESS PLAN 2019-2020	Request the SPR Department to examine concerns regarding the Council's Procurement Policy and the effect this is having on businesses. To approve the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Business Plan 2019-2020.	M. Ward		
ERT/067/2019	WORKING GROUPS	To approve the party make up from within the ERT Committee membership for Working Groups, as outlined in Report dated 10 June 2019 from Ms M Ward Director ERT, as per the make up in the previous Council term. It was agreed appointments be made to the Working Groups, on the basis as (a) above. To extend the remit of the Tourism Task and Finish Group to incorporate Arts and Culture. Members to ensure names are forwarded as soon as possible.	M. Ward		
ERT/068/2019	SPONSORSHIP RE: NI SMALL BUSINESS CONFERENCE	Newry Mourne and Down District Council support the NI Small Business Conference to be delivered by Newry Chamber of Commerce &	M. Robinson	Completed	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		Trade, in September 2019, through a lead sponsorship contribution of £10,000.			
ERT/069/2019	SPONSORSHIP RE: NI ECONOMIC CONFERENCE	Newry Mourne and Down District Council support the NI Economic Conference to be delivered by Agenda NI, through a lead sponsorship in the sum of £10,000.	M. Robinson	Completed	Y
ERT/070/2019	REVIEW – COUNCIL STATUTORY JOB CREATION TARGET “GO FOR IT PROGRAMME”	<p>(a) A revised jobs target of 173 jobs to be used as a baseline in the new Business Start Programme and be suggested to Department for the Economy when considering new statutory targets relating to job creation arising from the Business Start Up Programme.</p> <p>(b) Council Officials to consider a possible meeting with Invest NI to discuss future plans for the development of a site in Craigavon for the aviation industry and report back to the ERT Committee in due course.</p> <p>(c) A report to be submitted back to the ERT Committee in August 2019 regarding the growth and retention of existing businesses within the District.</p>	M. Robinson	<p>(a) Completed</p> <p>(b) to be arranged for after summer</p> <p>(c) Completed - Included in August ERT</p>	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/071/2019	UPDATE RE: APPLICATIONS TO ERDF – INVESTMENT FOR GROWTH AND JOBS	<p>(a) With regard to the 2 No. new programmes yet to be established, ie, Procurement & Supply Chain, and Digital, that Council proceed as per the Letter of Offer requirements to work with NMDDC and Central Procurement Directorate to procure and appoint suitable delivery agents for implementation of programmes.</p> <p>(b) To continue to engage with Invest NI and other relevant stakeholders and Councils to explore other potential applications that may be eligible for ERDF IGJ funding.</p> <p>(c) Officers to consider extending mentoring hours.</p>	M. Robinson	NMD Procurement and Digital programmes out for procurement, appointment expected Sept 19	N
ERT/072/2019	PUBLIC REALM ENHANCEMENT WORKS SCHEME	To approve the appointment of an Integrated Consultancy Team to deliver the design for the proposed Public Realm Enhancement Works Scheme.	M. Robinson	ERT and Estates Officers in process of appointing a Design Team. Should be in place by September 2019.	Y
ERT/073/2019	LOCAL FULL FIBRE NEWWORK FUNDING BID (LFFN)	(a) Council Officers be authorised to sign the Letter of Offer, on behalf of the consortium, for £15 million of funding from the Department for Digital Culture Media & Sport (DCMS), under the Department's LFFN Challenge Programme.	M. Robinson	Awaiting grant terms and conditions before signing.	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		(b) Council Officers be authorised to operate the procurements on behalf of the consortium to deploy the funding.			
ERT/074/2019	STREET TRADING POLICIES	<p>To approve the following Street Trading Policies subject to the policy ensuring that with regard to newly designated pitches, the existing business owners are directly consulted with not only by way of newspaper advertisement, but also in writing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designation Policy • Stationary Licence Policy • Mobile Licence Policy • Temporary Licence Policy • Stall Design and Trading Policy • Changed Circumstances Policy • Enforcement and Seizure Policy <p>If Councillors have issues regarding any existing Licence, they can raise this with the relevant Officers</p>	C. Jackson	Policy updated to include notification to business owners in writing. Policy to be effective from 1 st August 2019.	Y
ERT/075/2019	MOUNTAIN BIKE EVENTS & TRAILS	(a) Establish a Working Group with key MTB stakeholders and representatives of Cycling Ireland to consider the challenges outlined above, and to develop proposals that would enable	A Patterson	Working Group established and review underway.	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<p>the responsible and safe management and maintenance of part of the natural trail network, with adequate health and safety considerations in place.</p> <p>(b) Undertake a review of the authorised MTB trail network at Castlewellan and Kilbroney Forest Parks in terms of the Council's ongoing management and maintenance of the MTB trails, with consideration given to engagement of local MTB user groups, health and safety considerations and future budgetary/investment requirements in the trails.</p>			
ERT/076/2019	SLIEVE GULLION DAERA APPLICATION	<p>(a) To submit a full application to the DAERA Rural Development Programme by 31 August 2019 based on the recommendations of the economic appraisal for the development of an innovative Tourism Event Space within the Walled Garden; enhancement of the Giants Liar via innovative technology and interpretation; and improvements to visitor servicing, signage and way finding across Slieve Gullion Forest Park.</p> <p>(b) To undertake the required procurements exercises to prepare the</p>	A Patterson	Ongoing	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		full project submission for the deadline of 31 August 2019, based on a project cost of £750,000 for Slieve Gullion Forest Park – with £500,000 capital investment from DAERA, and £250,000 match-funding from Council.			
ERT/077/2019	FOOD & DRINK TOURISM INITIATIVES	To approve the Council's involvement in the all-ireland Taste the Island initiative led by Tourism NI and Failte Ireland, to commence in September 2019.	A Patterson	In progress	Y
ERT/078/2019	TRANSFER OF TOURISM & HERITAGE ASSETS	<p>The Council proceed to donate the 3 No. Romany-style caravans, to the respective group who made the request, subject to the following conditions:</p> <p>(a) A risk assessment is provided by the groups for the removal and transport of the items.</p> <p>(b) All necessary insurances are put in place by the groups for removal and transport of items.</p> <p>(c) Agreements to be signed outlining the Council accepts no liability for loss or injury as a result of removal, transportation or reuse of the items by the respective groups.</p> <p>(d) The Council take no action at the moment regarding the request for Cinema</p>	A Patterson	In progress	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		seats at Kilkeel Town Hall, until the future of Kilkeel Cinema is discussed at a DEA Meeting.			
ERT/079/2019	LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN	Landscape: To approve the appointment of Specialist Landscape Consultants to undertake a review and update of the District's Landscape Character Areas and associated work to support the work of the Development Plan Team in the preparation of the Local Development Plan, as outlined in Report dated 10 June 2019 from Mr A McKay Chief Planning Officer.	A McKay	Landscape: In progress. Tender specification documents being finalised by Development Plan Team in consultation with Procurement Team. Documentation programmed to be sent to Consultancy Framework Agency w/c 29/7/19 to commence procurement exercise. Appointment of consultants expected September 2019.	N
		Retail: To approve the appointment of Specialist Retail Consultants to undertake a Retail and Commercial Leisure Capacity Study to support the work of the Development Plan Team in the preparation of the Local Development Plan, as outlined in Report dated 10 June 2019 from Mr A McKay Chief Planning Officer.		Retail: as above	N
		To include a clause to specifically require the consultants to look at the issue of electrification of transport and its impact on the retail trade.		Officers have amended the Tender specification documentation to address this issue.	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/080/2019	REDBULL MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL EVENT	To accept the recommendation contained in Report dated 10 June 2019 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding the Redbull Fox Hunt Mountain Bike Trail event.	A Patterson	Complete	Y
ERT/081/2019	SLIEVE GULLION FOREST PARK LEASE OF WORKSHOP AND GIANTS LAIR	To accept the recommendation contained in the Report dated 10 June 2019 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events M Ward Director Tourism, Culture and Events regarding a request from Clanyre Group for an extension of the Lease of workshop and use of the Giants Lair at Slileve Gullion Forest Park.	A Patterson	In progress	Y
ERT/083/2019	NOTICE OF MOTION RE: DONARD DEMENSE	To note a paper regarding Donard Demense Newcastle, will be tabled at the ERT Committee Meeting in due course.	M Ward	In progress	N
END					

Report to:	Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism
Date of Meeting:	12 th August 2019
Subject:	Ballynahinch Bypass Public Art Structure
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Martin Robinson Assistant Director for Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth Head of Regeneration and Business Development

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

For decision	X	For noting only	
1.0		Purpose and Background	
1.1		Department for Infrastructure (DFI) are progressing with the technical design of the Ballynahinch by-pass in order to reach a stage that, when funding is secured, the Department can immediately proceed to contractor procurement. As part of the technical design element, the Department have invited Council to consider placing a Public Art structure on the proposed A24 Ballynahinch Bypass	
2.0		Key issues	
2.1		<p>Ballynahinch By-pass is a key strategic project within the District. Although the project has been met with delay, the Department for Infrastructure is still committed to the project, and as such, have continued to progress the project, acquiring statutory approvals and progressing technical design proposals, to ensure that once the project has received final confirmation of funding, that work can commence in a timely and seamless manner.</p> <p>With all major road infrastructure projects, DFI can offer local authorities the opportunity to place an art feature on the new road. DFI have asked that NMDDC provide agreement in principle that we procure, design and fabricate an Art Feature for which they will then cover the installation costs under the contract works. The Department are currently preparing contract documentation and would be required to provide detail of the concept design proposals of any art feature to be installed.</p> <p>If Council were to agree to this proposal, Council would be required to take the actions below over the next 10 months:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement of an appropriate artist to undertake the necessary consultation on potential design proposals • Development of the art feature to concept design stage • It is anticipated that detailed design will not be required until a later stage when confirmation of the funding for road has been secured and confirmation that the scheme will be completed. <p>In the event of the By-bass proceeding to contractor procurement once funding is secured:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council will be required to fund the fabrication of the art piece 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DFI have confirmed that the installation costs of the Art feature can be covered by the Department within the core contract costs <p>There are a number of benefits to the installation of an Art Structure on this strategic route within the District;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition of this key strategic gateway to the District and to the Mournes. • Contribute to local distinctiveness and a sense of place. • Enhance this strategically important public space. • Involvement of the community in the design helps to create a sense of local pride and ownership. • Help to develop strong cultural identities of the District and instil civic pride • Contribute to the quality and enjoyment of a place. • Providing a focus and stimulus for tourism. • Creation of a landmark that provides a reference point and enables people to orientate themselves.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<p>It is recommended that as a contribution to the Ballynahinch By-pass the Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Procure an artist to undertake the necessary consultation on potential design proposals • Development of the art feature to concept design stage • Subject to the confirmation that the funding has been secured for the By-pass and the road will be constructed, to undertake the fabrication of the Art Feature (subject to the necessary funding being secured in 2020/21 rate estimates)
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	<p>£10,000 is required in the current financial year for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procuring an artist to undertake the necessary consultation on potential design proposals • Development of the art feature to concept design stage <p>A request for a budget for the fabrication of the art feature will be proposed through the capital rate estimates proposal.</p>
5.0	Equality and good relations implications
5.1	All necessary considerations have been addressed.
6.0	Rural Proofing implications
6.1	All necessary considerations have been addressed.
7.0	Appendices
	N/A
8.0	Background Documents N/A

Report to:	Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism
Date of Meeting:	12 August 2019
Subject:	NI Economy House of Commons Event – Sept 19
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Martin Robinson Assistant Director for Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth Head of Regeneration and Business Development Officer

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

For decision	X	For noting only	
1.0			Purpose and Background
1.1			<p>Retail NI, Manufacturing NI and Hospitality Ulster are organising a NI Economy themed reception in London in Sept 2019, with the aim of promoting Northern Ireland as a good place to shop, socialise, do business and invest.</p> <p>The event will take place at the House of Commons Terrace from 4pm – 6pm on Wednesday 11th September 2019, and will be open to the top 100 Northern Ireland companies, all MPs, Members of the House of Lords, and Ambassadors from the London Embassies.</p>
2.0			Key issues
2.1			<p>NMD Council (with the other NI Councils) are asked to support this event by taking a stand at the event, and showcasing our individual Council areas, our economic strengths, and our vision for growth. Participating Councils will also be included in the publicity for the event. Cost for inclusion in the publicity and taking a stand at the event is £1,000, which is a contribution towards the overall cost of organising the event which is not for profit. (Cost of travel for any attendees is additional at approx. £150 pp).</p> <p>The agenda for the event is still being formalised, however this will involve the Chancellor as the keynote speaker, presentations on the strengths of the NI economy as an investment location, and networking opportunities during which the NMD region / stand can be promoted to attendees.</p>
3.0			Recommendations
3.1			To participate in the NI Economy, House of Commons Event on Wednesday 11 th September 2019, which is being organised by Retail NI, Manufacturing NI and Hospitality Ulster. Cost of participation is £1,000, plus attendees' travel.
4.0			Resource implications
4.1			Cost for inclusion in the publicity and taking a stand at the event is £1,000 Travel for attendees is additional, at an approx. cost of £150 pp.

5.0	Equality and good relations implications
5.1	All necessary considerations have been addressed.
6.0	Rural Proofing implications
6.1	All necessary considerations have been addressed.
7.0	Appendices
	N/A
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A

Report to:	Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	12 August 2019
Subject:	Irish Street, Downpatrick Public Realm Scheme/Irish Street Revitalisation Project
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Martin Robinson Assistant Director, for Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Margaret Quinn, Regeneration, Business Support and Development Officer

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

For decision	x	For noting only	
1.0	Purpose and Background		
1.1	<u>Irish Street Public Realm Scheme</u> As previously reported, Council has been working in partnership with the Department for Communities to implement a £640,000 public realm improvement scheme in Irish Street, Downpatrick. The Department for Infrastructure was responsible for the delivery of the scheme and the Department's contractor has undertaken the works. The works on Irish Street are now completed and the one-way traffic system, that was put in place during implementation of the scheme, has been removed. It is proposed to launch the completion of the scheme in September when DFI Roads has completed resurfacing of the carriageway, and all final snag works are completed. As part of 'Make it Local', a promotional campaign, highlighting that Irish Street is "open for business" will be delivered in August / September. This will include a feature in the local press and a social media campaign focusing on businesses in the Irish Street area.		
2.0	Key issues		
2.1	<u>Irish Street Revitalisation Project</u> The Department for Communities (DFC) has indicated that Council will be able to apply for Revitalisation funding, to implement a programme of initiatives to support businesses in Irish Street. It is anticipated that funding of £100,000 may be available. In order to apply for and implement this funding, Council will establish a Revitalisation Steering Committee. Members will include Downpatrick DEA Councillors and representatives from the traders in Irish Street. A public meeting with traders and members took place in July to raise awareness of this scheme. Trader representation has now been agreed, and over the next 3-6 weeks the Steering group will develop an action plan outlining proposed revitalisation projects. This action plan will form part of the application to be submitted to DFC for approval. If approved, the revitalisation projects will be completed by 31 March 2020, and this will be considered when developing the action plan. It is expected that the identified actions will include a Shop Front Improvement Scheme and a marketing campaign.		

	If DFC approve a revitalisation project for Irish Street Downpatrick, Council will be required to contribute match funding of 10% of the overall revitalisation project budget i.e. £10,000
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<p>To note that the Irish Street public realm scheme is now complete</p> <p>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>
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	£10,000 contribution to project. This amount is included in current revenue budgets.
5.0	Equality and good relations implications
5.1	All issues of equality and sustainability will be addressed in the delivery of the project. Project delivery will comply with Section 75 legislation.
6.0	Rural Proofing implications
6.1	All considerations have been addressed
7.0	Appendices
	N/A
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A

Report to:	Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism
Date of Meeting:	12 August 2019
Subject:	NI Apprenticeship Week – 3 rd to 7 th February 2020
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Martin Robinson Assistant Director for Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth Head of Regeneration and Business Development Officer

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

For decision	X	For noting only	
1.0			Purpose and Background
1.1			<p>Apprenticeship week aims to bring all the key partners within the development and delivery of apprenticeships together to raise the profile of apprenticeships across Northern Ireland and celebrate the many successes of those who have taken part in the programmes.</p> <p>The first NI Apprenticeship week will take place between 3rd and 7th February 2020, with the aims of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting and raising awareness of the apprenticeship concept, and the government programmes on offer • Educating employers about the benefits of recruiting apprentices for their business, particularly those employers who have never engaged with an apprenticeship programme • Inspiring the next generation of apprentices, and promote apprenticeships as a viable alternative to more traditional pathways • Celebrating the success of apprenticeships in Northern Ireland by showcasing the very best examples of how apprenticeships can work for employers and participants alike • Engaging with a wide range of key stakeholders and partners to create an “apprenticeship movement” and “apprenticeship community” within Northern Ireland <p>For 2020, the 5 priority themes below have been identified:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Educating stakeholders on Higher Level Apprenticeships 2. Apprenticeships: How they can help meet the skills needs in priority sectors 3. Promoting Diversity & Inclusion within Apprenticeships 4. Informing Key Influencers 5. Changing Perceptions/ busting myths
2.0			Key issues
2.1			<p>To ensure Northern Ireland Apprenticeship Week has geographical reach across Northern Ireland, 5 Regional Groups have been established as follows:</p> <p>(a) Belfast (b) Derry/ Strabane</p>

	<p>(c) Northern Area (d) Southern Area (e) NI Wide</p> <p>NMD have been represented at the first meeting of the Southern Area Group, and the terms of reference for this group is available upon request. Roles and responsibilities defined within the Terms of Reference are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify a series of key objectives for NI apprenticeship week • Use these key objectives to propose a series of events and activities which will ensure coverage of themes, audiences and geographical spread • Act as 'Apprenticeship Week' ambassadors by overseeing local advertising and promotion and encouraging key players to consider hosting activities and events this year and in future years. • Consider how events and activities can be evaluated along with metrics for evaluation and take responsibility for ensuring relevant evaluation activity is completed and submitted to the Department. <p>In relation to funding and delivery of events - Organisations engaged in NI Apprenticeship Week Activity will be expected to meet the full cost of activities and events. The cost of Departmental Events and Activities including the Departmental Media and Social Media Campaign, to which all NI Apprenticeship Week activity will align will be met by the Department.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To accept the Terms of Reference for the NI Apprenticeship Week and to actively participate in the development and roll out of the first NI Apprenticeship week to take place between 3rd and 7th February 2020. • NMD District Council will work with stakeholders to plan a series of activities in the NMD and wider southern region. Any activity led by Council, will be funded via existing budgets.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Any events led by Council may incur a cost, which will be financed through existing budgets.
5.0	Equality and good relations implications
5.1	All necessary considerations have been addressed.
6.0	Rural Proofing implications
6.1	All necessary considerations have been addressed.
7.0	Appendices
	N/A
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A

Report to:	Economic Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	12 August 2019
Subject:	Autumn and Winter Events – Service Level Agreements
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Andy Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture and Events
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Aisleain McGill, Head of Culture, Arts, Heritage and Events

For decision	X	For noting only	
1.0	Purpose and Background		
1.1	This paper details recommendations for the delivery of tourism events due to take place in Autumn and Winter that have been agreed by Council in March 2019 as part of the annual Tourism Events Programme.		
2.0	Key issues		
2.1	<p>As per the Council approval of the Tourism Events Programme in March 2019, the following events will be supported in October to December this year via Service Level Agreements:</p> <p>Halloween:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ballynahinch: Ballynahinch Community collective: £5,000 2. Crossmaglen: Crossmaglen Community Association £5,000 3. Downpatrick: Downpatrick Community Collective: £5,000 4. Kilkeel: Kilkeel Chamber and Kilkeel Development Association: £5,000 5. Warrenpoint: Safer Warrenpoint Community: £5,000 <p>As per previous years the Council will host the main flagship Hallowtides Halloween Festival in Newcastle, in partnership with Newcastle Chamber of Commerce on Thursday 31st October. The City of Merchants Festival in Newry, which will include the Twilight Market and a major fireworks display, will take place on Friday 1st November.</p> <p>Christmas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballynahinch: Ballynahinch Community Collective £5,000 • Crossmaglen: Crossmaglen Community Association £5,000 • Kilkeel: Kilkeel Development Association £5,000 • Newcastle: Chamber of Commerce £5,000 • Warrenpoint: WBR Chamber £5,000 <p>The Council Christmas illumination events in Downpatrick and Newry will take place on Thursday 21st November (Newry) and Friday 22nd November (Downpatrick).</p> <p>Service Level Agreements will be issued to the groups listed above in September and officers will work closely with the groups this year to ensure funding for the delivery of these events is allocated in a timely way.</p>		

	<p>The Ballynahinch Harvest Festival will be delivered by Council working in partnership with local community representatives and stakeholders from the tourism industry.</p> <p>In line with Culture Night activities in previous years, it is proposed that a programme of events will be delivered by Down Community Collective. This programme of events will be delivered via a Service Level Agreement for £6,000.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SLAs for £5,000 each to be issued to Ballynahinch Community collective; Crossmaglen Community Association; Downpatrick Community Collective; Kilkeel Chamber with Kilkeel Development Association; Safer Warrenpoint Community for delivery of Halloween events. 2. SLAs for £5,000 each to be issued to Ballynahinch Community collective; Crossmaglen Community Association; Newcastle: Chamber of Commerce; Kilkeel Chamber with Kilkeel Development Association; WBR Chamber of Commerce for delivery of Christmas events. 3. Hallowtides Halloween parade in Newcastle to be delivered with a Service Level Agreement issued to Newcastle Chamber of Commerce. 4. Downpatrick Culture Night events to be delivered in partnership with Down Community Collective via a Service Level Agreement for £6,000.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Funding has been profiled within the ERT Department Budget as agreed by Council in February 2019.
5.0	Equality and good relations implications
5.1	It is not anticipated the recommendation will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity and good relations.
6.0	Rural Proofing implications
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	Appendices
	N/a
8.0	Background Documents
	N/a

Report to:	Economic Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	12 August 2019
Subject:	Arts, Cultural and Heritage Strategy
Reporting Officer	Andrew Patterson - Assistant Director Tourism, Culture and Events
Contact Officer	Andrew Patterson - Assistant Director Tourism, Culture and Events

For decision	X	For noting only	
1.0		Purpose and Background	
1.1		This paper provides details of the Council's new Arts, Cultural and Heritage Strategy and the timelines for consultation and proposals for the adoption of the strategy.	
2.0		Key issues	
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>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.</p> <p>The draft 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>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	

	<p>Government agencies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In total 188 organisations and stakeholders were consulted and provided feedback to help 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. <p>It is the intention to open a 12-week consultation on this draft strategy in September 2019 to allow our citizens and stakeholders an opportunity to feedback their views. This consultation will help to refine and affirm the strategic direction of this blueprint and will inform the action plans, resources, and investment that will be required to help us collectively reach our vision for the development of the sector over the next five years.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To approve the Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy and to open a 12-week consultation in September 2019 to allow our citizens and stakeholders an opportunity to feedback their views.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Following members and public consultation on the vision, priorities and themes included in the draft strategy, officers will develop a detailed action plan with timelines and resource requirements for delivery. The resource implications of delivering this strategy will be tabled with members at the Efficiency Working Group as part of the rates setting process for 2020/2021.
5.0	Equality and good relations implications
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).
6.0	Rural Proofing implications
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	Appendices
	Appendix 1 – Arts, Cultural and Heritage Strategy.
8.0	Background Documents
	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

Contents

Foreword	03
Introduction	04
The Purpose of this Strategy	05
Value of Culture, Arts and Heritage	08
The Strategic Context	14
Our Current Culture, Arts and Heritage Offering	18
The Research – What Did You Say?	25
Key Insights	29
The Big Challenges and Bigger Opportunities	37
The Vision	41
2020: Our Year of Ambition	42
Delivery	43
Next Steps	44

Réamhrá

Tá lúcháir orm Straitéis Chultúir, Ealaíon agus Oidhreacht a 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 don tréimhse 2020–2025.

Tá Comhairle Ceantair an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin ag forbairt mholtai uailmhianacha faoi láthair maidir le hinfheistíocht £10 milliún i dtionscadal athfhorbartha chun halla Bhaile an Iúir agus Teach Éigse Sheáin Uí Chuileannáin 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 amaitéaraigh a raibh ról lárnach acu maidir le himeachtaí cultúir, ealaíona agus oidhreacht 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 oidhreacht a 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 for 2020 to 2025.

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

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 glasses and a purple knit sweater, is focused on working with clay on a pottery wheel. She is in a pottery studio, with shelves of finished ceramic pieces visible in the background. A brown dog with a red collar is sitting on the floor, looking up at her. The scene is lit with warm, natural light.

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 key individuals and 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, Croilieve, 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 archaeological excavation 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



The background of the slide is a photograph of a stone archway. Through the arch, a stone building with battlements is visible. The scene is dimly lit, with the archway and the building's details highlighted by light. The overall tone is historical and architectural.

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 (2020 to 2024) 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 draft strategy.



Culture, Arts and Heritage Draft Strategy

www.newrymournedown.org

18

39

Our Current Culture, Arts and Heritage Offering



B Cross-carved stone
Early Christian, c.400 - 1177AD
Aughnacree, near Droughmore, Co. Down
Gift 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 of
Northern Ireland



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.



Heritage Centres



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 Mournes 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 84,000km² of Areas of Outstanding Beauty, 13,000km² of Special Conservation Areas, 16,000km² 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, the District's amateur groups means they have played an essential role in delivering culture, arts and heritage activities across the region for more than 75 years. The quality of, and community support for, these groups has meant they have played an essential role in providing arts, heritage and cultural activities out in local communities and in the Council venues, particularly in Newry Town Hall and the Sean Hollywood Arts Centre.

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.

The Research — What Did You Say?

The following are the key themes and comments that were raised by a wide range of stakeholders and consultation participants in the development of this strategy:

Advocacy and Collaboration

- The sector's voice isn't loud enough.
- Nobody is championing the arts in this area.
- The Arts Committee was good but was abandoned following RPA – it should be reformed.
- Arts organisations don't have the opportunities to meet and collaborate.
- Partnerships should be a priority.
- Get on board with local businesses and venues to work together and make it happen.
- The arts are a lifeline monitor.

Strength of Our Offering

- Our strength is our heritage in the arts and culture right across the District.
- We have so many assets: natural and built heritage, venues and culture.
- Our tourism sector has a role for arts and heritage, focusing on authenticity and epic moments.
- Fantastic events run and supported by the Council like Footsteps in the Forest and Wake the Giant.

Audience Engagement and Accessibility

- We have to stop arts, culture and heritage being seen as elitist.
- We need to do more to connect people to our arts, heritage and cultural assets.
- Bottom up thinking is needed – how do we support the local groups reach out to the wider community?
- We need to widen the reach of the local arts centres.

Financial Pressures

- Internal and external funding constraints are really biting.
- The method of obtaining funding is not a level playing field.
- Small businesses and crafts people have to make their own way. I do not rely on the government for any assistance as it doesn't exist.
- There are so many opportunities for funding partnerships out there – we need to actively hunt these opportunities.
- The main threat is lack of funding and inequality of access, particularly for those whose life would be most enhanced by opportunities to engage.
- We need to work with the Arts Council and the main Belfast-based partnership organisations to seek support and outreach.

Council Support of the Sector

- It's great the Council is enthusiastic about arts, culture and heritage.
- The Council is not prioritising the arts due to a lack of understanding of the benefits – seen and unseen – of the arts on economic and social well-being, and the health and well-being of communities.
- The arts are valuable to the District's social and economic goals.
- Project organisers are the experts, not the Council. NMDDC therefore need to support the District's arts groups.
- The arts are a statutory duty but here they are actually run by the amateur community.
- The Council has no strategy or enthusiasm for what the arts groups offer to people of Newry, Mourne and Down.

Council Arts and Heritage Venues

- Can the facilities be better run through another kind of structure?
- Hire charges are unrealistic.
- We present one event per month (with a peak audience of 70) followed by discussions but the room hire fee was doubled so it's becoming unsustainable.
- There's very strong participation in heritage sector (especially the museums) but the sector is under-resourced and under-appreciated.
- Down Arts Centre puts on a fantastic theatre programme and workshops – it should be replicated in our other centres – to reach new audiences and get more people to experience the arts.
- We need to free up our arts centres to be run as modern, vibrant, creative hubs that are attractive to new audiences.
- A strength is the relationship between the museums and local historical societies.
- We need to attract more big productions to Newry whilst building the capacity and support of our amateur groups that have been the beating heart of the arts in Newry for the past 30 years.
- The work the museum delivers is so important to promoting good mental health, and the community connection to our past and place.
- Why don't we host more big conferences in the city? The Town Hall is an amazing venue.

Marketing

- We have missed a lot of interesting opportunities because we didn't know about them.
- You have to really go looking for what's on.
- We can achieve our vision through coordinated planning of what is on and how and to whom it is communicated.
- We don't have enough data on audiences.
- This area needs a funded online ticketing system and a proper database.
- The websites are out-of-date.

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 drivetime 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.

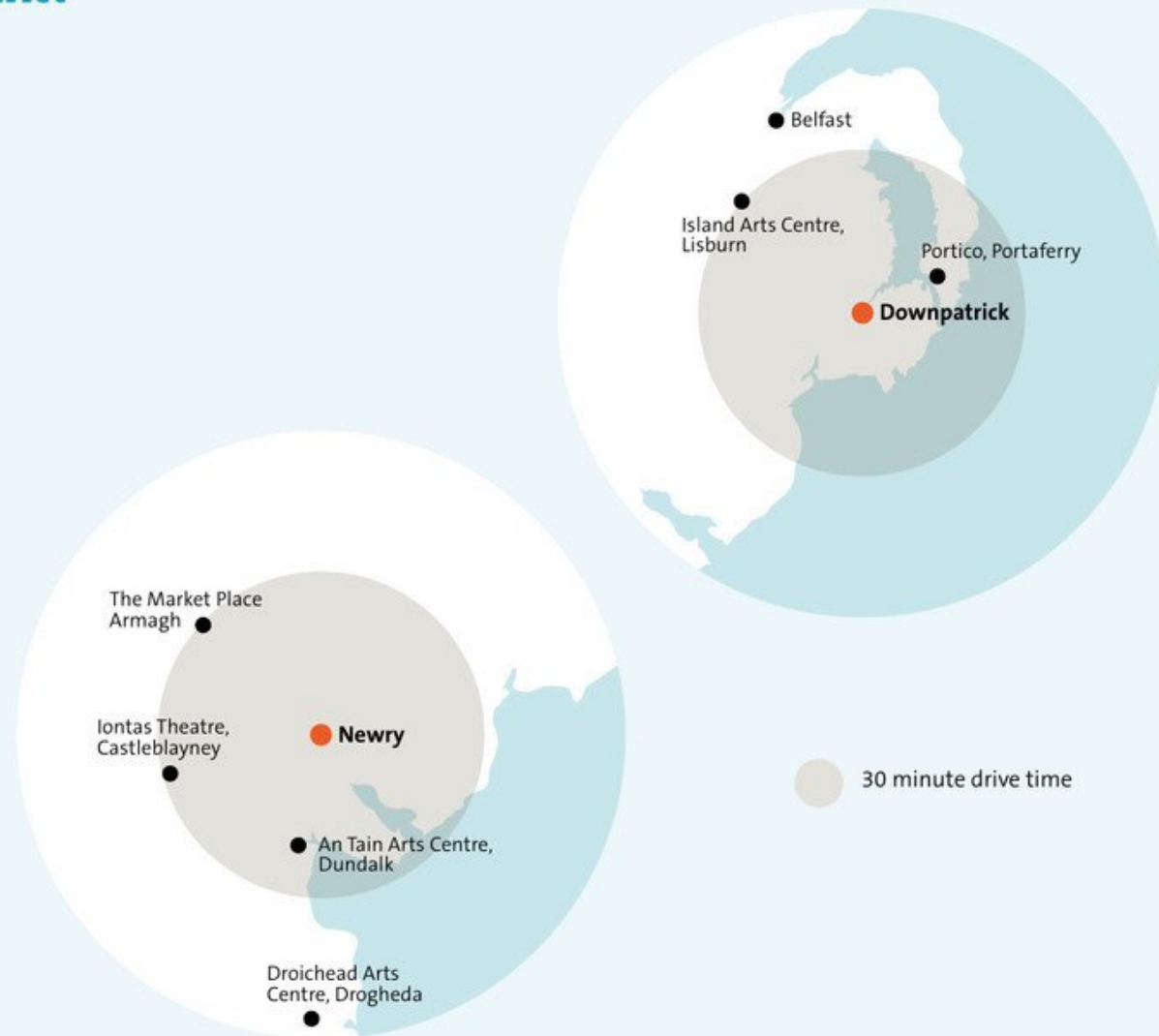
£10 million

proposed investment in the redevelopment of Newry Town Hall.



4 Arts provision outside the District

- There are four other venues that have a 30-minute drive-time catchment area overlaps in places 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 and the highest percentage saying they had been encouraged to find out more about local history. 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 multi-annual funding and 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.

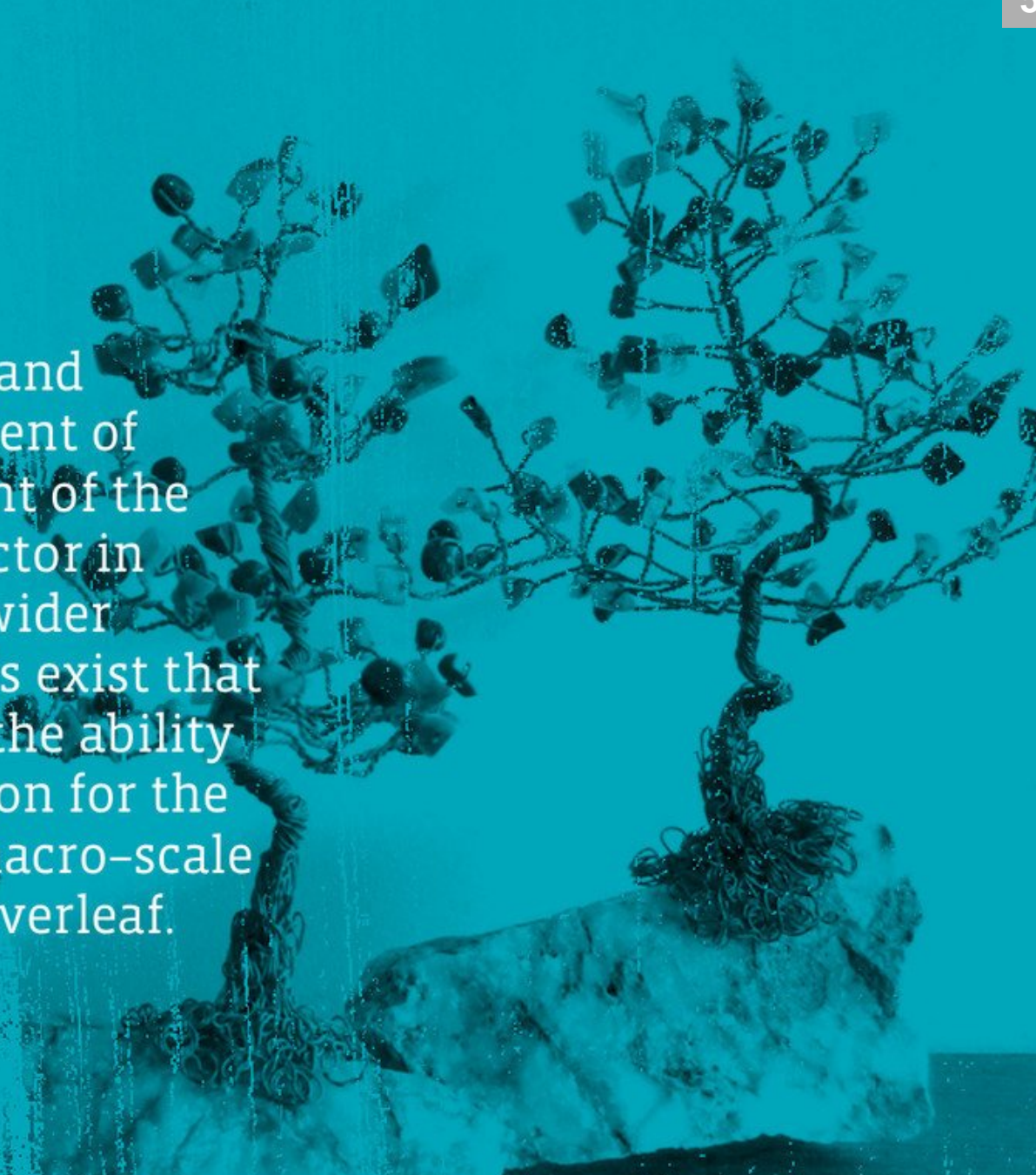
1,600+
arts-based programmes delivered.



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.

- The strategy has been produced at a time when Brexit negotiations are ongoing and **uncertainty exists** as to the nature and precise details of the UK's planned exit from the EU. In addition, uncertainty exists in Northern Ireland with the absence of the NI Assembly and the **lack of an agreed Programme for Government** with set priorities.
- 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 and accessible to the arts, culture and heritage is **limited for large parts of our local 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.

By 2022, 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.

20
22

Our year of ambition

2022: 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 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 all the numerous voluntary organisations that demonstrate their **passion, vibrancy, commitment and diversity** on a daily basis.

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.

Our Sector

Strengthen and support our culture, arts and heritage sector.

Our Arts and Heritage Centres

Reimagine and grow our arts venues and museums.

Our Audiences

Develop bigger and broader audiences across the District.

Our Capacity and Growth

Develop skills, excellence and opportunities in the arts, culture and heritage sector.

Our Residents and Visitors

Bringing our arts and cultural heritage to life for residents and visitors.

Next Steps

A significant volume of research, surveys, workshops and consultations have been undertaken in the development of this draft strategy over a number of years. In this document, we have outlined the baseline of where we are today, detailed the immediate and long-term challenges we face and set out an ambitious vision of transformation for reimagining our arts, culture and heritage offering in 2025.

A young man with curly hair is looking out of a window with vertical bars. He is wearing a dark shirt and has a thoughtful expression. The background is a blurred view of a building exterior.

In September 2019, we will open a 12-week consultation on this draft strategy to give you, our citizens and stakeholders, an opportunity to tell us what you think.

This consultation will help us refine and affirm the strategic direction of this blueprint and will inform the action plans, resources, and investment that will be required to help us collectively reach our vision for the development and growth of the sector over the next five years.



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 Heritage centres, 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 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
Serving Down and South Armagh

T: 0300 013 2233 (Council)
T: 0300 200 7830 (Planning)
E: council@nmandd.org
www.newrymournedown.org

Oifig an Iúir
Newry Office
O'Hagan House
Monaghan Row
Newry BT35 8DJ

Oifig Dhún Pádraig
Downpatrick Office
Downshire Civic Centre
Downshire Estate, Ardglass Road
Downpatrick BT30 6GQ



Newry, Mourne & Down District Council – June 2019

70

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

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	1,173
May	718	212	81	61	124	1,196
June	718	202	86	57	121	1,184

3. Live applications per Case Officer

Month 2019/20	Average number of Applications per Case Officer
April	78
May	79
June	73

4. Decisions issued per month

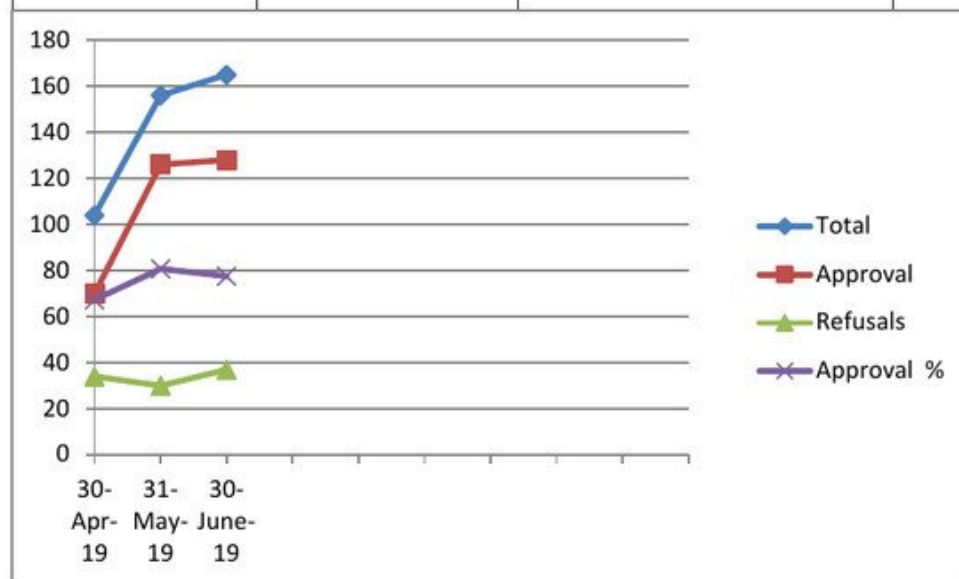
Month 2019/20	Number of Decisions Issued	Number of Decisions Issued under delegated authority
April	104	95
May	156	152
June	165	148

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council – June 2019

71

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%



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

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council – June 2019

72

7. Planning Committee

Month	Number of Applications presented to Committee	Number of Applications Determined by Committee	Number of Applications Withdrawn/ Deferred for future meeting
10 April 2019	17	11	6
29 May 2019	15	12	3
26 June 2019	16	13	3
Totals	48	36	12

8. Appeals

Planning Appeal Commission Decisions issued during May 2019

Area	Number of current appeals	Number of decisions issued	Number of decisions Allowed	Number of decisions Dismissed	Withdrawn
Newry & Mourne	22	3	2	1	0
Down	28	0	0	0	1
TOTAL	50	3	2	1	1

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council – June 2019

73

Statutory targets monthly update – April 2019 (unvalidated management information)
Newry, Mourne and Down

Major applications (target of 30 weeks)					Local applications (target of 15 weeks)				Cases concluded (target of 39 weeks)			
	Number received	Number decided/ withdrawn ¹	Average processing time ²	% of cases processed within 30 weeks	Number received	Number decided/ withdrawn ¹	Average processing time ²	% of cases processed within 15 weeks	Number opened	Number brought to conclusion ³	"70%" conclusion time ³	% of cases concluded within 39 weeks
April	3	1	51.8	0.0%	162	81	22.0	22.2%	29	66	192.0	30.3%
May	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%
June	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%
July	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%
August	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%
September	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%
October	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%
November	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%
December	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%
January	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%
February	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%
March	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%	0	-	0.0	0.0%
Year to date	3	1	51.8	0.0%	162	81	22.0	22.2%	29	66	192.0	30.3%

Source: NI Planning Portal

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council – June 2019

74

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".*

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.*

Report to:	Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	12 August 2019
Subject:	Strangford Lough and Lecale Partnership Update – Live Here Love Here small grant award
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Martin Robinson Assistant Director for Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Darren Rice, Ring of Gullion and Strangford Lough & Lecale AONB Manager

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

For decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p>The Strangford Lough and Lecale Partnership (SLLP) is delivering the Strangford and Lecale AONB Draft Action Plan and facilitating the delivery of the Strangford Lough Marine Site Scheme.</p> <p>SLLP have secured an award of £5,000 from Live Here Love Here small grant scheme, to raise awareness of, and conserve key coastal vascular plant species with particular focus on the NI Priority species list.</p> <p>Project description summary: SLLP Coastal Guardian Volunteers- Coast Care, Protect Our Seashore project.</p> <p>In brief, this project will engage volunteers in practical seed harvest and ecological restoration of threatened coastal plant species in special habitats.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>The Coast Care - Protect Our Seashore project will seek to protect the important habitats and species of the coastline of the Strangford and Lecale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).</p> <p>Working in partnership with True Harvest Seeds (THS) and local AONB communities and landowners, the Strangford Lough and Lecale Partnership (SLLP) Coastal Guardian Volunteers will take direct action to conserve important coastal plant species and habitats. True Harvest Seeds is a charity which aims to conserve all of Ireland's native seed-bearing wild plants by the secure storage of their seeds. Part of the collections are kept in perpetuity and part are available for suitable local restoration projects, such as this SLLP project.</p> <p>The project will involve surveying target habitats for key species, assisting with seed collection, growing on and replanting and habitat management, to include the removal of marine litter from heavily littered protected coastal habitats throughout the area.</p>

	<p>SLLP/THS staff and a range of enthusiasts /experts will engage communities and volunteers to develop an appreciation of coastal landscape and biodiversity, through presentations, guided walks, wildlife identification. This broader approach encourages a legacy of care, environmental understanding and appreciation, and on-going litter reduction.</p> <p>This project also helps NMDDC to achieve the strategic objectives as laid out in the Local Biodiversity Action plan 2018 -2022.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<p>To note that SLLP have been awarded a grant of £5,000 from Live Here Love Here small grant scheme, to raise awareness of, and conserve key coastal vascular plant species with particular focus on the NI Priority species list. SLLP will now implement the project under the terms and conditions as laid out in the letter of offer.</p>
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	<p>The funding will be allocated as follows: £500 litter lifting equipment £4500 equipment and materials required for seed collection, seed processing and growing on and replanting.</p> <p>SLLP staff will co-ordinate, manage and promote this project</p> <p>This project does not require match funding.</p> <p>Combined with £2500 from the Environment fund (over the next two years), this award will cover all project costs.</p> <p>SLLP will fund refreshments/hospitality for volunteers.</p> <p>The SLLP brings in additional funding such as this grant, and also a substantial contribution through the use of volunteers, as required to deliver all projects.</p>
5.0	Equality and good relations implications
5.1	<p>There is no negative impact to equality and good relations. Recruitment of volunteers for this project will be via various different media, will be open and transparent and open to all.</p>
6.0	Rural Proofing implications
6.1	<p>SLLP considered the rural needs of the area when submitting the application The implementation of this project will have a positive impact on this rural area of our district.</p>
7.0	Appendices
	None
8.0	Background Documents
	<p>Submission to Live Here Love Here small grant scheme – copy available upon request</p>

Report to:	ERT Committee
Date of Meeting:	12 August 2019
Subject:	Co-operation Project promoting Lace as cultural heritage and skill
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Martin Robinson, Assistant Director for Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Therese Hamill Ring of Gullion AONB Officer

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

For decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p>Newry Mourne and Down District Council (NMD), through the Ring of Gullion Partnership and the South Armagh Lace Collective are collaborating with Friends of Limerick Group, the Hunt Museum, Clones Lace and Headford Lace Project to come together to collaborate on how to enhance, celebrate and commemorate this amazing craft and heritage.</p> <p>At the moment, the different groups are working individually to raise awareness of the rich heritage and skills in their own area. The groups are at different stages of growth with a range of projects.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>The Council have successfully received €5,000 from Co-operation with Northern Ireland Funding Scheme 2019 Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The funding will be used to organize collaboration between the lace groups. By coming together, the groups hope to develop a partnership approach to develop an action plan and to promote Lace as both a cultural heritage and active skill across the island of Ireland. This will include the development of a dedicated website.</p> <p>This project will meet the cultural need to highlight the rich heritage and protect this creative talent which has developed over the last 200 years. Lace making was once a core source of income to families in rural areas across the island.</p> <p>The funding must be claimed by the 30th September 2019. This grant is 100% funded, therefore there is no additional cost to Council.</p>

3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To note the above update, outlining the award of €5,000 from Co-operation with Northern Ireland Funding Scheme 2019 Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to take forward a Co-operation Project promoting Lace as cultural heritage and skill.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Time spent by Ring of Gullion Officer to co-ordinate the project spend. Grant will cover 100% of costs associated with this project.
5.0	Equality and good relations implications
5.1	Having considered the proposal, it is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations.
6.0	Rural Proofing implications
6.1	The project promotes the rural area of the Ring of Gullion and the development and collaboration with partners across Ireland will raise awareness of the area and its rich heritage around lace.
7.0	Appendices
	N/A
8.0	Background Documents Ring of Gullion Landscape Conservation Action Plan: https://www.ringofgullion.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Ring-of-Gullion-LCAP-FINAL-DOC.pdf

Report to:	Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism
Date of Meeting:	12 August 2019
Subject:	Update on Made in Mourne International visit
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Martin Robinson, Assistant Director for Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth, Head of Regeneration and Business Development

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

For decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p>At June ERT, members asked for an update on the Made in Mourne International Visit to America.</p> <p>Made in Mourne is a not for profit social enterprise based in Kilkeel. They provide a stimulating and inspiring space giving local entrepreneurs & creatives the opportunity to showcase their work locally but also globally.</p> <p>As a collective, the Made in Mourne network profiled 70+ companies on an international scale at a trade visit to Washington and New York in March 2019. This opportunity followed a period of engagement with international contacts, which has resulted in one of the Made in Mourne Businesses, BITE TO SAVOUR, supplying the Washington breakfast with Local artisan food hampers as a corporate gift, organised & funded through NI bureau /Invest NI and Tourism Ireland.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>The key outcome of this visit was for the Made in Mourne network of 70 + businesses to benefit from export opportunities through the establishment of new business & customers in an international market.</p> <p>Other objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Connect with the Irish & Mourne Diaspora - Launch the Made in Mourne e-commerce website - Give our creatives the platform to develop business internationally <p>Meetings were held with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irish Arts Centre – NYC, a potential sales outlet. Made In Mourne were aware of the development of a \$65m investment into the Irish Arts Centre and saw the opportunity to build a relationship for our Mourne Musicians/poets. • Food Ireland - an online e-commerce site based in NYC • The Communications and Marketing Manager for the Irish American Historic Society who is going to organise and market a Made in Mourne Fund raiser on 5th Avenue. Discussions are ongoing to start planning this event.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting delegates at the Washington DC - St Patrick Breakfast event organised by NI Bureau, opportunity to secure future business, investment or funding. • Bank of Ireland Start Lab in NYC - provide 7 Irish companies a year the opportunity to scale their business by providing them a space in NYC • InvestNI office in NYC <p>Contacts made are being progressed to develop new business opportunities identified during the visit.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To note the above update
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	N/A
5.0	Equality and good relations implications
5.1	All necessary considerations have been addressed
6.0	Rural Proofing implications
6.1	All necessary considerations have been addressed
7.0	Appendices
	N/A
8.0	Background Documents N/A

Report to:	Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism
Date of Meeting:	12 August 2019
Subject:	Business Base Growth in District
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Martin Robinson Assistant Director for Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth Head of Regeneration and Business Development

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

For decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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1.0	Purpose and Background																																	
1.1	Recommendation from June 2019 ERT: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Members requested an update on growth and retention of existing businesses within the district.																																	
2.0	Key issues																																	
2.1	<p>The table below lists the number of VAT registered businesses within the District over the last 3 years. The table illustrates that the number of VAT registered businesses continues to rise each year, with a slight increase in the percentage of businesses locating in the District as a comparison of the number of businesses across NI.</p> <p>In 2019 all District Council areas in Northern Ireland saw an increase in the number of businesses, however Newry, Mourne and Down saw the largest actual increase with 225 more businesses, which amounts to an increase of 2.6%.</p> <table><tr><th>Newry, Mourne and Down</th><th>VAT and or PAYE Registered Businesses</th><th>% of NI businesses</th></tr><tr><td>2019</td><td>8,745</td><td>12%</td></tr><tr><td>2018</td><td>8,520</td><td>12%</td></tr><tr><td>2017</td><td>8110</td><td>11%</td></tr><tr><td>2016</td><td>7875</td><td>11%</td></tr></table> <p>The table below illustrates that the majority of businesses operating within the District have less than 10 employees (92%) and this grouping of businesses is the focus of Council’s business support initiatives.</p> <table><tr><th>2018</th><th>Number</th><th>%</th></tr><tr><td>No employees</td><td>2,960</td><td>34.74</td></tr><tr><td>Micro (<10 employees)</td><td>4,840</td><td>56.81</td></tr><tr><td>Small (10-49 employees)</td><td>620</td><td>7.28</td></tr><tr><td>Medium (50-249 employees)</td><td>90</td><td>1.06</td></tr><tr><td>Large (>250 employees)</td><td>10</td><td>0.12</td></tr></table>	Newry, Mourne and Down	VAT and or PAYE Registered Businesses	% of NI businesses	2019	8,745	12%	2018	8,520	12%	2017	8110	11%	2016	7875	11%	2018	Number	%	No employees	2,960	34.74	Micro (<10 employees)	4,840	56.81	Small (10-49 employees)	620	7.28	Medium (50-249 employees)	90	1.06	Large (>250 employees)	10	0.12
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3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To note above update
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	N/A
5.0	Equality and good relations implications
5.1	All necessary considerations have been addressed.
6.0	Rural Proofing implications
6.1	All necessary considerations have been addressed.
7.0	Appendices
	N/A
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A

Category 6

Any other decisions such as those with political, media or industrial relations implications that Directors consider Members should be aware of.

Info on event	Date of agreement/approval	Decision made by Director	Costs/requirements
Request to use Kilbroney Park Rostrevor for Kilbroney Vintage Show on Saturday 15 th June 2019	14.08.18	Approved	Insurance, Risk Assessments, Health & Safety, Plan of Area to be used etc.
Request to use Newry Canal Towpath for Newry Hospice Sponsored Walk on Sunday 14 th April 2019	01.04.19	Approved	Insurance, Risk Assessments, Health & Safety Plan etc.
Request to commence legal proceedings.	17.04.19	Approved	Failure to pay Penalty Charge Notice for breach of Energy Performance of Building Regulations
Request to commence legal proceedings.	19.04.19	Approved	Failure to pay Penalty Charge Notice for breach of Energy Performance of Building Regulations
Request to commence legal proceedings.	19.04.19	Approved	Failure to pay Penalty Charge Notice for breach of Energy Performance of Building Regulations
Request to use Albert Basin 30 th May - 2 nd June or Fri 7 th June - Sun 9 th June (date tbc)	29.04.19	Approved	Insurance, Risk Assessments, Health & Safety Plan etc
Request to use Albert Basin / Middle Bank 15 th Aug – 17 th August 2019 for 2019 Ulster Rally	09.05.19	Approved	Insurance, Risk Assessments, Health & Safety Plan etc
Issue letter to OU Shun, Changchun Foreign Affairs, confirming NMD participation in an NI Innovation Mission to the North East of China in Nov 2019	24.05.19	Approved	Requirements: confirmation required to progress arrangements
Request to commence legal proceedings	14.06.19	Approved	Failure to pay 5 Penalty Notices for breach of Energy Performance of

			Building Regulations on 5 properties.
Request to commence legal proceedings	07.05.19	Approved	Failure to pay Penalty Notice for breach of Energy Performance of Building Regulations - 5 Glen Villas
Request to commence legal proceedings	03.06.19	Approved	Failure to pay 2 Penalty Notices for breach of Energy Performance of Building Regulations – 112 Strangford Rd & 21 Castle Street
Request for use of Newry Canal for Duck Race on Sunday 29 th September 2019	29.07.19	Approved	Insurance, Risk Assessments, Health & Safety Plan and environmental considerations with regards to ensuring collection of 700 rubber ducks

HISTORIC**ACTION TRACKER SHEET****ENTERPRISE REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE****(For Noting at ERT August 2019)**

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		NOVEMBER 2016			
ERT/178/2016	Caravan and Campsite Management	<p>(a) To agree a join process between Council and Forest Service to appoint external expertise to prepare the Business Rationale and Specification to seek competent providers for the management of Tollymore, Castlewellan and Kilbroney Park Caravan/ Camping provision with the option to consider some additional tourism recreational services which would enhance the tourism offering.</p> <p>(b) To revert to Council with the completed Business Rational and Specification prior to progressing to seek Expression of Interest.</p>	Andy Patterson	Under consideration.	N
		JUNE 2017			

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
ERT/118/2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lease – Tennis Pavilion – Rostrevor Tennis Club 	<p>It was agreed to agree to a proposed 20 year lease from 1 March 2017 of the pavilion building to Rostrevor Tennis Club at peppercorn rent, as per report dated 12 June 2017 from Ms B Magill, Administration Officer.</p> <p><u>Update from March 2019 ERT Committee:</u> To refer a request from Cllr J Tinnelly for the Lease at Rostrevor Tennis Club Pavilion not to be finalised until such times as discussions regarding the Football Club changing rooms are completed, to the Regulatory & Technical Services Department for consideration.</p>	<p>Andy Patterson</p> <p>Andy Patterson</p>	Improvement works completed to Tennis Courts. Discussions on lease ongoing.	Y
		OCTOBER 2017			
ERT/191/2017	CAMLOUGH LAKE – LAND RELATED MATTERS	<p><u>Closed Session Item</u></p> <p>(a) To enter into negotiations with Richardson Estate to settle any outstanding mortgage they hold pertaining to Camlough Lake</p> <p>To complete detail design and submit planning associated with multi purpose</p>	Andy Patterson	Ongoing	<p>N</p> <p>N</p>

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		building at Camlough Lake to assist in informing land acquisition requirements.		Ground survey works completed, draft design to be consulted on in Sept/Oct 2019	
		DECEMBER 2017			
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>	Jonathan McGilly	Work in progress. Meeting has been held with Permanent Secretary. DAERA's proposed way forward has been communicated to Council via November 2018 ERT Committee. Chief Executive has communicated concerns to DAERA seeking an urgent meeting.	N
		MARCH 2018			
ERT/044/2018	FORKHILL FORMER BARRACKS SITE	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	J McGilly	Ongoing/Work in Progress Planning application in for playarea approved	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		submitted to the Department for Communities. 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.		in Jan 2019. Onsite works to commence in Feb 19. Working with NIHE re next steps.	
		AUGUST 2018			
ERT/122/2018	DOWNPATRICK REGENERATION PROJECT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council offices continue to progress land purchase to include the additional property at No.39 Irish Street which is adjacent to Former Police Station. Officers explore with relevant government departments any issues that may arise due to Heritage Merit of the site As the site was purchased on the basis that the link road not being included in the brief. DEA Cllrs request via DEA officers a meeting with Transport NI 	J McGilly	Ongoing	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officers bring back to council via ERT suitable governance structures for the project 			
ERT/126/2018	C8 Eastern Economic Corridor Conference	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Agreed that a Study on the Eastern Corridor to be completed by Ulster University and Dublin City University that will analysis the real economic opportunities along the corridor and potential projects of economic merit that can be delivered in collaboration Completion of the study is 5 months (draft: Early October, Final Dec 18) The overall aim for the research is to profile the Eastern Economic Corridor on the island of Ireland and establish an evidence base for potential local government-led collaboration along the corridor. The specific objectives for the research project include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide an evidence base for an economic corridor on the Eastern seaboard of the island of Ireland; 	M Ward	<p>Draft research report received Jan 2019.</p> <p>Conference scheduled for Feb 2019 has been postponed.</p> <p>Meetings between Council officials ongoing</p>	Y

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To identify the basis for collaboration and potential interventions and actions that might assist in the development of an Eastern Economic Corridor. <p>(2) Early in 2019, a Conference will be held to look at the combined strengths of the 8 Council regions, and how the Dublin-Belfast economic corridor is the primary region on the island of Ireland with the potential to compete with the</p>			
		September 2018			
ERT/139/2018	AONBs UPDATE – RING OF GULLION, STRANGFORD LOUGH & LECALÉ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out an independent review of the management of the Ring of Gullion and Strangford Lough & Lecale AONBs, and the relationship between NMDDC and ANDBC in managing Strangford Lough & Lecale AONB. • Review the management of the relationship between NMDDC and Mourne Heritage Trust in managing the Mourne AONB. • Assess the relationship of the aspiring Geopark and the AONBs. Through the AONBs much of the Geopark requirements are being delivered. • Remove any references to changes to staffing and major projects contained in the 	J McGilly	Ongoing. consultants appointed January 2019. Work to be completed April 2019.	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		AONBs Update Report dated 10 September 2018.			
		October 2018			
ERT/160/2018	<u>NOTICE OF MOTION</u> COMMUNITY LED FESTIVALS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Officers continue to undertake the review of the Financial Assistance programme in relation to the funding support provided via the Tourism Events Fund – including the timing on the provision of potential funding, with the view that all festival and event organisers require as much lead-in time and assurity of funding support as possible. • A workshop to be scheduled to look at events generally in the district. • The definition of Council events and community led events to be circulated to all Councillors. 	M Ward	Ongoing	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		November 2018			
ERT/176/2018	BREXIT FORUM	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council compile a list of Brexit technical notice and issue Council website. 2. These notices to be tabled at future meetings of Brexit Forum. 3. Council signpost Businesses accordingly to relevant agencies that can support Businesses work through technical notice detail and implications for their business. 4. UU present at the next forum meeting on the various scenarios and implications. 5. Council continue to liaise with INI regulatory potential of lands at Carnbane. 	J McGilly	Ongoing.	N
		January 2019			
ERT/011/2019:	ROSTREVOR DOWNHILL TRAILS	Through the CPD Framework undertake a design and build contract to facilitate the trail enhancements which will improve the trail flow and encourage a greater number of visitors to the trails.	A Patterson	Ongoing	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
ERT/015/2019	IMMERSIVE TECHNOLOGY FUND NARNIA PROJECT KILBRONEY PARK	To proceed to undertake necessary procurement exercises to deliver the Narnia AV/VR project subject to funding of £150,000 from TNI and £150,000 from Council. Council contribution agreed at November ERT Committee.	A Patterson	Ongoing	N
		February 2019			
ERT/022/2019	RING OF GULLION - TRAMLINE	The Council enter into a partnership agreement with Translink for a refurbished tram carriage to be hosted on their site at Newry Train Station as a Ring of Gullion welcome feature, for a minimum of 10 years, to be maintained by Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership (RoGLPS) or AONB volunteers.	M Ward	In progress	N
ERT/025/2019	NEWCASTLE AND WARRENPOINT BEACHES	(a) The development of the beach front area in Warrenpoint to be included in the development brief for the Environmental Improvement scheme and that the Council enters into a period of Water Quality Testing to establish water quality	A Patterson	In progress	Y

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		<p>and the potential for a bathing water designation in three years time.</p> <p>(b) To host a workshop with officials of the Marine Strategy and Licensing Branch of DAERA to discuss proposals for the beach front at Warrenpoint and to discuss obtaining a Marine Licence for the necessary works required at Newcastle Beach.</p> <p>(c) To refer to the Neighbourhood Services Directorate to improve the provision of litter bins and cleansing on Newcastle Beach and surrounding area.</p>			
ERT/038/2019	TOLLYMORE FOREST PARK	<p>Decision taken at Council Mtg March 2019</p> <p>To amend ERT/038/2019 to reflect Cllr Clarke's proposal that Council seek expressions of interest alongside negotiating with Forestry Service with regard the Tea Rooms in Tollymore Forest Park.</p>	A Patterson	Forest Service have appointed a mobile vendor and Council have reverted to FS on proposed lease arrangements	???

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		MARCH 2019			
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>	M Robinson	<p>Works ongoing in regards to Lock No.5 – expected completion in late summer 2019 (additional Schedule Monument Consent being obtained)</p> <p>Condition survey work now underway (May 2019)</p>	N
ERT/044/2019	SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS ARTISAN MARKETS NEWCASTLE & DOWNPATRICK	<p>(a) To approve the renewal of the Service Level Agreements with Down Community Collective and Unit T to deliver 10 Artisan markets in each location in the 2019/20 financial year.</p> <p>(b) Council Officials to update Councillor McAteer regarding a date for Warrenpoint Market as part of the ongoing Revitalisation Project for Warrenpoint.</p> <p>(c) Council Officials to investigate the option of supporting an Artisan market in Saintfield.</p>	M Robinson	<p>(a) Completed</p> <p>(b) Warrenpoint Market scheduled for 8th June Review underway and an options paper will be brought to future meeting of</p>	<p>(a) Y</p> <p>(b) N</p> <p>(c) N</p>

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
ERT/045/2019	FINANCIAL SUPPORT MADE IN MOURNE TRADE VISIT WASHINGTON / NEW YORK MARCH 2019	To note Council have provided support in the sum of £1,250 for 2 No. representatives from Made in Mourne to undertake an international Trade Visit to America in March 2019 in order to develop international trading opportunities for the 70+ creative business within the Made in Mourne network	M Robinson	Completed and evaluation report on file	N
ERT/046/2019	NMDDC STRANGFORD LOUGH & LECALE PARTNERSHIP COASTAL COMMUNITIES FUNDING	<p>(a) To note a funding application has been submitted to the Coastal Communities Fund for the delivery of actions 3.4 and 3.5 of the Strangford & Lecale AONB Action Plan 2017-22, and if successful Council proceed to implement the project as per a Letter of Offer.</p> <p>(b) A further report to be tabled notifying the Council of the outcome of the application and if successful, the outputs of the final programme of activity.</p>	M Robinson	Application submitted and under assessment. Outcome expected July.	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
ERT/047/2019	BELFAST REGION CITY DEAL	<p>(a) To approve and sign the Belfast Region City Deal Heads of Terms Agreement with the BRCD partners, UK Government and the NI Government which confirms the collective commitment to work in partnership and ensure delivery of the Belfast Region City Deal programme.</p> <p>(b) To convey back to the Partners, sentiments expressed by Councillor P Byrne regarding the need to clarify wording contained in Page 9 of the Agreement on the UK Government's commitment to match the figure of £350 million as it currently stated "up to £350 million" whereas the other partners state "investing £350 million".</p>	M Ward	<p>Complete</p> <p>Heads of Terms signed. Query on wording clarified with Cllr Byrne.</p>	Y
ERT/048/2019	SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS	(a) To approve the list of Service Level Agreements as contained in Report dated 11 March 2019 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events (Point 2.1) regarding Service Level Agreements 2019/20.	A Patterson	Complete	Y

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		(a) Arrangements be made in order that Councillors can view the contents of Service Level Agreements.			Y
ERT/049/2019	TYRELLA MASTERPLAN	<p>(a) To appoint a design and build contract from the Council Framework to upgrade the car park at Tyrella beach, improve visitor servicing thus improving the visitor experience on the basis of budget provision of £275,000 which will complement £40,000 commitment previously agreed by Council to undertake minor aesthetic improvements around the site as per the business case.</p> <p>(b) Council Officials arrange for potholes to be addressed at the Car Park at Tyrella Beach before the summer season.</p>	A Patterson	Ongoing	Y
ERT/050/2019	CRANFIELD BEACH	(a) To appoint a contractor to undertake remedial works to improve Breakwater, disabled and pedestrian access, minor	A Patterson	Complete	Y

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		<p>improvements to Ameracam Lane and drainage and repair damage to manholes on beach as per the Business Case.</p> <p>(b) To undertake a structural assessment of the breakwater to identify work required to ensure it is structurally sound.</p> <p>(c) Council Officials to examine a suggestion from Councillor R Burgess for Greencastle Castle to be opened to the public.</p>		Council Officials have assessed and will continue to monitor.	
ERT/058/2019	TOURISM EVENTS FUNDS	Council Officials to provide information on the criteria for applications for financial assistance under the Tourism Events Fund.	A Patterson	Complete	Y
ERT/059/2019	LICENCE AT HERON'S NEST DELAMONT COUNTRY PARK	(a) To approve a Licence Agreement with the Education Authority for a period of approximately 26 weeks, for the use of the Heron's Nest building at Delamont Country Park, subject to obtaining a valuation from Land and Property Services (LPS)	A Patterson	Complete	Y

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		(c) To ensure the Council are indemnified during lease period.			
ERT/060/2019	FULL FIBRE NORTHERN IRELAND (FFNI)	<p>(a) To enter into the Consortium Agreement with NMDDC as the lead Council.</p> <p>(b) To proceed to work with Consortium members to meet the specified conditions set out in the checkpoints by DCMS to meet the assurance process</p> <p>(c) To approve the appointment of an external consultant to assist the FFNI team with the design of technical procurements and calls off</p> <p>(d) To proceed to develop procurement calls for fibre and launch procurements for all sites in phase 1 and authorise the award of contracts.</p> <p>(e) To accept the Letter of Offer in line with all Governance requirements and compliance being met.</p> <p>(f) To note this cost is funded by DCMS through the LFFN funding.</p> <p>(g) To take on board the points raised by</p>	M Ward	<p>Complete</p> <p>Consortium Agreement in draft with FFNI partners.</p> <p>Letter of Offer received for £15 million up to 31 March 2021</p>	Y

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		Councillors regarding the lack of broadband in rural areas for households and business premises.			
ERT/061/2019	APPLICATION HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND CASTLEWELLAN FOREST PARK	<p>(a) To approve the Business Case for Integrated Consultancy Team for Grange and Traffic as part of NLHF Round One Development works in Castlewellan Forest Park.</p> <p>(b) To approve the Business Case for Horticultural Consultant for Grange and Traffic as part of NLHF Round One Development works in Castlewellan Forest Park.</p> <p>(c) Proceed with issuing ITT for Integrated Consultancy Team for Grange and Traffic as part of NLHF Round One Development works in Castlewellan Forest Park.</p> <p>(d) Proceed with issuing ITT for Horticultural Consultant as part of NLH Round One development works Castlewellan Forest Park.</p>	M Robinson	Complete	Y

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		<p>(e) Proceed with issuing RFQ for Biodiversity/ Ecological Surveys as part of NLHF Round One Development Works Castlewellan Forest Park.</p> <p>(f) Proceed with recruitment of NLHF Project Officer for Castlewellan Forest Park.</p> <p>(g) Set up Inter-Departmental Team for Castlewellan Forest Park across Council Directorates: Team to contribute to development of application as required by NLHF.</p> <p>(h) NMDDC to provide letter to NLHF that they will cover the shortfall of £16,000 in case of an unsuccessful DAERA application.</p>			
ERT/062/2019	SLIEVE GULLION FOREST PARK REPAIRS TO PLATEAU PATH	To approve the Business Case for capital works at Slieve Gullion Forest Park for repairs to the Plateau Path.	M Robinson	Complete	
		(JUNE 2019 to follow)			
END					