

March 11th, 2022

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee meeting to be held on **Monday, 14th March 2022** at **6:00 pm** in **Council Offices Monaghan Row Newry** and via **Microsoft Teams**.

Committee Membership:

Councillor R Howell **Chairperson**

Councillor T Andrews **Deputy Chairperson**

Councillor R Burgess

Councillor W Clarke

Councillor D Curran

Councillor M Gibbons

Councillor G Hanna

Councillor V Harte

Councillor M Larkin

Councillor R Mulgrew

Councillor A McMurray

Councillor H Reilly

Councillor M Ruane

Councillor M Savage

Councillor G Stokes

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairpersons remarks.

2.0 Declarations of Interest.

3.0 Action Sheet: Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting - Monday 14 February 2022. (Attached)

 *ERT Committee Action Sheet - Feb 2022.pdf*

Page 1

Building Control and Licensing

4.0 C/014/2022 Notion of Motion re: Animal Welfare. (Attached)

 *ERT Report - Notice of Motion Animal Welfare .pdf*

Page 7

Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration Items

5.0 Update re: Artisan Market. (Attached)

 *ERT Report - Artisan Markets in Newry and Slieve Gullion DEA.pdf*

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6.0 Down Business Centre Business Database. (Attached)

 *ERT Report - Down Business Centre Business Database.pdf*

Page 15

7.0 Update re: TRPSI. (Attached)

 *ERT Report - TRPSI Rural Business Grant Scheme.pdf*

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Tourism, Culture and Events Items

8.0 Arts Culture & Heritage Strategy. (Attached)

 *ERT Report- Arts Strategy .pdf*

Page 23

 *Appendix 1 - NMD Strategy vf.pdf*

Page 26

Exempt Information Items

10.0 Service Level Agreement: Ranger Services. (Attached)

 *EXEMPT ERT Report - Engagement Ranger Service.pdf*

Not included

11.0 Newcastle Harbour Berthing Provision. (Attached)

 *EXEMPT ERT Report - Newcastle Harbour Berthing Provision.pdf* *Not included*

 *EXEMPT Appx. Newcastle Harbour Berthing Provision Business Case.pdf* *Not included*

12.0 Update re: Small Settlement Programme. (Attached)

 *EXEMPT ERT Report - Small Settlements Programme.pdf* *Not included*

 *EXEMPT Appx - Small Settlements Programme Business Case.pdf* *Not included*

For Noting

13.0 Historic Action Tracker Sheet. (Attached)

 *ERT Historic Action Tracker Sheet - for March Mtg 2022.pdf* *Page 67*

14.0 Louth/NMD Strategic Alliance Meeting: 02 December 2022. (Attached)

 *Report of Louth.NMD Strategic Alliance - 2.12.21.pdf* *Page 78*

15.0 Planning Performance Figures - February 2022. (Attached)

 *Planning Committee Performance Report Feb 2022.pdf* *Page 81*

16.0 Purple Flag Accreditation. (Attached)

 *ERT Report - Purple Flag Accrediation.pdf* *Page 88*

17.0 Response to DFI re: Planning Application Conditions. (Attached)

 *ERT Report - Dfl Planning Conditions response.pdf* *Page 91*

 *Appx. Dfl Planning Conditions Paper - Council response.pdf* *Page 94*

ACTION SHEETENTERPRISE REGENERATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETINGMONDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2022

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/025/2022	DOWNPATRICK TOWN CENTRE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To organise a facilitated workshop with key stakeholder groups to discuss and identify the main priorities in order to develop a strategy focused on the needs of the town. 2. To appoint a facilitator for the workshop and prepare a report detailing the findings and recommendations from the workshop. 	J McGilly	Ongoing work in progress	N
ERT/026/2022	ORNI SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT 2021-2022 CHALLENGE FUND TRAIL PLANS	To increase the value of the existing Service Level Agreement with Outdoor Recreation NI (ORNI) for the 2021-2022 financial year by £15,000, bringing the total cost to £64,500.	J McGilly	Work in progress	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/027/2022	REVIEW OF POLICIES	To approve the following policies for regulation of Pavement Café Licences and Road Closure Orders for Special Events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pavement Café Designation Policy - Pavement Café Enforcement Policy - Temporary Road Closure Policy 	C Jackson	Approved and implemented	Y
ERT/028/2022	REVIEW OF STREET TRADING SITES	To rescind the Designation Resolution for 3 No. Trading Pitches at the following locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cranfield Amenity Area • Bloody Bridge Car Park • Spelga Dam Amenity Area 	C Jackson	Complete	Y
ERT/029/2022	TOURISM NI COOPERATIVE PARTNERSHIP MARKETING FUND	To accept the offer of funding, subject to a successful bid to deliver a digital tourism marketing campaign and use of Tourism NI's creative and marketing agencies to assist with delivery at a cost of £38,000.	A Patterson	In progress	Y
ERT/030/2022	(EXEMPT) UPGRADE WORKS CASTLEWELLAN CARAVAN/CAMP SITE	To undertake the necessary procurement exercises through existing Government procurement frameworks to deliver a programme of capital works across the caravan /campsite amenity and ancillary buildings at Castlewellan Forest Park, and	A Patterson	In progress	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		to allocate funding within the capital programme as set out section 4.1 of Report dated 14 February 2022 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events.			
ERT/031/2022	(EXEMPT) CHARGES: CASTLEWELLAN FOREST PARK	To approve the proposed schedule of rates for services at Castlewellan Forest Park, as set out in Report dated 14 February 2022 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Daily vehicle entry - Season Passes - Horse Permits - Caravan Park charges - Event charges - Room Hire - Commercial filming 	A Patterson	In progress	Y
ERT/032/2022	(EXEMPT) DERRYMORE DEMENSE PATHWAY PROJECT	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To note Council have secured Peace, National Trust and Covid Revitalisation monies to undertake additional works at Derrymore Demense. 2. Council to approve Business Case for additional capital works onsite at 100% funding rate and no cost to Council. 3. Council to proceed to carry out the required procurement exercises in line 	J McGilly	In progress	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		with policy, for the implementation of the project, and following assessment and award, appoint the relevant suppliers, if within available budgets.			
ERT/033/2022	(EXEMPT) DOWNPATRICK INTANGIBLE CULTURAL PROGRAMME	Council enter into a Service Level Agreement to deliver a 12 month programme engaging with a range of businesses, to market and deliver visitor experiences and showcase Downpatrick and wider destination as an arts and cultural hub.	A Patterson	In progress	Y
ERT/034/2021	(EXEMPT) MAKE IT LOCAL ENGAGEMENT CAMPAIGN	To approve the business case to procure and appoint a digital and communications agency to assist Council to deliver a series of targeted marketing campaigns throughout 2022 to build the brand of NMDDC Make It Local and assist local businesses to showcase their products and services through the campaign.	J McGilly	Work in progress	y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/035/2022	(EXEMPT) ROAD AND CAR PARK SURFACING	To approve the business case to appoint a contractor through existing Council frameworks to undertake a programme of remedial Road and Carpark surfacing works at Slieve Gullion Forest Park and Killough, ahead of the spring/summer season.	A Patterson	In progress	Y
ERT/036/2022	(EXEMPT) SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS 2022-2023	To approve the list of Service Level Agreements for 2022-2023 as per Report dated 14 February 2022 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events.	A Patterson	In progress	Y
ERT/037/2022	(EXEMPT) TOURISM EVENTS PROGRAMME 2022-2023	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To issue grant awards in Financial Assistance Call 1 as detailed in this report, to support the local tourism events, arts & culture sectors, as part of the re-launch of the Council's Annual Tourism Events Programme. 2. To issue SLAs with named groups as detailed in this report to deliver tourism events in the 2022-23FY. 3. To undertake the necessary procurement exercises to appoint suppliers through the Council's Tourism Events Framework for the delivery of major festivals in the Council's Annual 	A Patterson	In progress	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		Tourism Events Programme as detailed in this report.			
ERT/038/2022	(EXEMPT) WARRENPOINT MARINA PROJECT	<p>Council proceed to Stage 2 of the Warrenpoint Marina Development by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Procurement and appointment of a multi-disciplinary team to develop the Environmental Impact Assessment/Statement. 2. Complete the studies that are required to support the Environmental Impact Assessment and planning application. 3. Submission of a Planning Application. 4. Investigate all potential funding opportunities. 	J McGilly	Work in progress	n

Report to:	Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 14 th March 2022
Subject:	Notice of Motion – C/041/2022 Animal Welfare Forum
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Colum Jackson, Assistant Director Building Control & Licensing
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Fintan Quinn, Head of Service Licensing

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

For decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input type="checkbox"/>
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u> To consider the Notice of Motion put forward by Councillor Brown at the Council meeting held on 7th Feb.2022.</p> <p><u>Background</u> The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Brown and presented by Councillor McMurray. "This Council notes the increasing and worrying prevalence of puppy farming and pet abandonment in recent years, and the high levels of public interest in addressing this and all instances of animal cruelty. Recognising council's responsibility for animal welfare and the importance of inter-agency and partnership working to address this issue, Council will establish an Animal Welfare Forum. This Forum will meet regularly (at least quarterly) and provide strategic direction and oversight to officers involved in animal welfare, reporting back to the AHC committee. It will also seek representation from elected members, dog wardens, kennelling providers, DAERA, animal shelters, charities and the PSNI."</p> <p>The Motion was seconded by Councillor Owen. Agreed: The Motion was referred to Active and Healthy Communities Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.</p> <p>The Notice of Motion should have been referred to the ERT Committee not the AHC committee.</p>
2.0	Key issues

2.1	<p>The council have responsibility for the Control of Dogs under the Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1983. In conjunction with Animal Welfare, the council will respond to reports of illegal breeding of pups. The illegal breeding and sale of pups is an issue involving multiple agencies, including councils, in reporting, investigation and prosecution of offenders.</p> <p>The council currently are represented on two forums to discuss these issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Council officials meet locally bi-monthly with the PSNI and Animal Welfare through its's 'Paws for Thought' forum to discuss reported possible illegal breeding within the Newry Mourne and Down District. b. Council officials also meet through the NIDAG group. This is a forum made up of officers from all 11 councils where officers responsible for Dog Control meet to discuss related issues. The NIDAG group are in direct contact with the PSNI, DAERA and Port Authorities on the movement of pups, and the council have a data sharing agreement with these agencies to receive reports directly from DAERA on movement of dogs through the ports. <p>Last year the council assisted Animal Welfare in investigating and uncovering two locations of illegal breeding of pups. We recovered and rehomed over 30 pups. This year to date, we have investigated 4No. premises following on from reports received from DAERA over the period, but no Animal Welfare concerns were uncovered. Appropriate licensing applications have been commenced.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To consider Notice of Motion put forward by Councillor Brown at meeting held on 7 th Feb.2022.
3.2	Officers would not recommend the establishment of another working group. Council officials are members of two forums already in existence that address animal welfare issues, it its therefore considered there is adequate provision.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Additional officer time participating in additional forums over and above the two forums that are already set up. 2. Additional administration and record keeping of forum minute and decision making, and council reporting.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

<p>5.2</p>	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>5.3</p>	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p> <p>N/A the Department of Communities have already carried out the public consultation process.</p>
<p>6.0</p>	<p>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</p>
<p>6.1</p>	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>7.0</p>	<p>Appendices</p>

8.0	Background Documents
	N/A

Report to:	Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 14 th March 2022
Subject:	Artisan Markets in Newry and Slieve Gullion DEA
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Margaret Quinn 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><u>Purpose</u> Following the successful delivery of two pilot artisan markets in Newry, held in December 2021 and February 2022, it is proposed that consideration is now given to delivering this market monthly.</p> <p>It is also proposed that consideration be given to the delivery of two pilots markets in the Slieve Gullion DEA.</p> <p><u>Background</u> Council have successfully been operating Artisan Markets for a number of years; the established artisan markets are taking place on a monthly basis in Downpatrick, Warrenpoint and Newcastle.</p> <p>Officers have been investigating the feasibility of extending the delivery of Artisan Markets to 2 further locations: Newry City, and the Slieve Gullion DEA</p>			
2.0	Key issues			
2.1	<p><u>Newry Market</u></p> <p>Council has recently operated 2 pilot markets in Newry City, utilising the existing market space. The markets took place in December 2021 and 13 February 2022. Both markets were successful, attracting 30 + stall holders and average visitor numbers in the region of 900 per market. The average spend per visitor was £20, resulting in an estimated customer spend of £18,000 per market.</p> <p>Following the 2 successful pilots, Council Officers are proposing the establishment of the Newry Artisan market on an on-going monthly basis. In order to support this, officers undertook an Expression of Interest process to identify a potential suitable 3rd party organisation to deliver and manage the Newry Market on a monthly basis. Following a comprehensive selection process, it is recommended</p>			

that Downpatrick Community Collective be appointed to manage the delivery of the Newry Artisan Market on a monthly basis. As there is no set up requirement in the Newry venue, the Community Collective will deliver the market on a no fee basis, it's income will be from stall holder fees. The only cost to Council will be manpower to open and close the market each month and tidy up the location. This will cost approximately £1000 per annum.

Artisan Market in Slieve Gullion DEA

To determine a suitable location in Slieve Gullion for an Artisan Market, officers considered various locations in the area to identify the most suitable location to run a pilot artisan market.

The locations considered were as follows –

- Bessbrook: The only appropriate site available is in a residential area with limited services and parking.
- Camlough: No suitable site was identified.
- Newtownhamilton: No suitable site was identified.
- Crossmaglen: The Square in Crossmaglen was identified as an appropriate site as it is Council owned and provides adequate services and parking. It is close to local retail outlets and the proposed market will assist in increasing footfall in the area.

On this basis, officers are proposing to test the feasibility of an Artisan Market in Crossmaglen by holding 2 pilot artisan markets over the spring / summer period

Other artisan markets

A report will be tabled at April ERT providing an update on the operation of the artisan markets in Newcastle, Downpatrick, and Warrenpoint, from the period April 2021 – March 2022.

3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<p>(1) To approve the operation of a monthly Artisan Market in Newry, held on the second Sunday per month, and the appointment, through a Memorandum of Understanding, of Downpatrick Community Collective to deliver the market on behalf of Council.</p> <p>(2) To approve the operation of 2 Pilot artisan markets in Crossmaglen in Spring/Summer 2022 in order to test the feasibility of an Artisan Market in this area</p>
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	An annual budget of £1000 is required to deliver the Newry Market. This amount is already budgeted within existing budgets.

	A budget of £1400 will be required to deliver the Crossmaglen pilots. This amount is available within existing budgets.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

	<p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices
	N/A
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A

Report to:	Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 14 th March 2022
Subject:	Business Database- Down Business Centre
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Ciara Toman, Project Support Officer, Enterprise Employment and Regeneration

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

For decision	x	For noting only	

1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u> To approve that Council, enter into an SLA with Down Business Centre (DBC) (as lead LEA with NMEA) and make a financial contribution of £8,800 towards the development, promotion and maintenance of business database that is representative of over 8,000 businesses located within the District. The following requirements are to be applied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council can issue information to the data base twice a month . • If an urgent mail drop is required DBC will provide Council with a responsive service • DBC to engage with officers to agree the information collected / data sets within the database • DBC to manage all promotion of the database, both current and future • DBC to manage and maintain the database ensuring that it remains up to date and current • NMDDC to have access to the data via Data Sharing Agreement • DBC to work in partnership with NMEA in the development, promotion and maintenance of the database to ensure District wide representation <p><u>Background</u></p> <p>DBC have identified the need for better communication within the Business Community. They aim to develop a business directory database with up to date details of active local business. DBC have already defined its audience and diverted some of their own resources to carry out research and commence the development of the business directory.</p> <p>The directory will be used as an effective channel to reach all business registered on the database within the local Newry, Mourne and Down Area.</p>

	<p>DBC acknowledge that various organisations/agencies etc have their own database but feel that Newry, Mourne and Down would benefit from one comprehensive database which could be used by a wide range of public and not for profit organisation to disseminate information, encourage engagement and garner feedback and/or action from the area's business owners.</p> <p>As a pilot, DBC currently have 900 business registered on the business directory and having established a need, aim to increase this number. To grow the directory, they require funding to increase the resources working on this proposal.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>The directory will be the property of DBC and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council can access this resource twice a month to carryout mail drops. If an urgent mail drop is required DBC will provide council with a responsive service.</p> <p>As the directory grows and develops DBC may consider looking for additional funders. DBC would envisage using digital marketing to assist in the growth of the directory.</p> <p>In Summary the business directory will have two main aims: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To create an up to date resource detailing all the businesses in the Newry Mourne and Down area with the aim of promoting it to all local householders and local businesses to encourage 'Buy Local' 2. To provide the basis of local business directory within Newry, Mourne and Down area. <p>It is acknowledged that this directory is in the early stages of development and that funding/resources and time is needed to develop it into its full potential.</p> <p>Council Officers have meet with DBC and can see the advantages of having one central directory with up to date information. It is vital that DBC keeps the directory up to date and as accurate as possible.</p> <p>As the Directory grows within the business community digital marketing/social media could be used as another beneficial resource to promote the directory</p> <p>There are approx. 8,800 businesses across the Council area. The aim is grow the database to reach over 8,000 businesses. At this level the Directory would be an invaluable tool to all departments within Council. It can be used as a channel to reach the business community within the Newry, Mourne and Down Area</p> <p>It is recommended that Council enter into an SLA with Down Business Centre (working in partnership with NMEA) and make a financial contribution of £8,800 towards the development, promotion and maintenance of business database that in representative of over 8,000 businesses located within the District. The following requirements are to be applied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Council can issue information to the data base twice a month .

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If an urgent mail drop is required DBC will provide council with a responsive service • DBC to engage with officers to agree the information collected / data sets within the database • DBC to ensure that the database is District wide • DBC to manage all promotion of the database, both current and future • DBC to manage and maintain the database ensuring that it remains up to date and current • NMDDC to have access to the data via Data Sharing Agreement • DBC to work in partnership with NMEA in the development, promotion and maintenance of the database to ensure District wide representation
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	It is recommended that Council enter into an SLA with Down Business Centre (working in partnership with NMEA) and make a financial contribution of £8,800 towards the development, promotion and maintenance of business database that is representative of over 8,000 businesses located within the District.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Costs associated with facilitation - £8,800.00
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p>
	The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/>

	The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.3	Proposal initiating consultation	
	Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Consultation period will be 12 weeks	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<i>Rationale:</i>	
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)	
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service	
	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	If yes, please complete the following:	
	Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.0	Appendices	
	N/A	
8.0	Background Documents	
	N/A	

Report to:	Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 14 th March 2022
Subject:	DAERA Rural Business Development Grant Scheme 2021 Overview and Potential 2022 Scheme
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Patricia McPolin Business Intelligence Officer

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

For decision	X	For noting only	
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1.0	Purpose and Background															
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To note the update provided on the Rural Business Development Grant Scheme 2021 regarding application numbers and total grant value awarded To agree participation in the Rural Business Development Grant Scheme 2022 to include the next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accept Letter of Offer when available to enable implementation of Rural Business Development Grant Scheme 2022; - To manage the implementation of the Rural Business Development Grant Scheme 2022 across the NMDDC area. <p><u>Background</u></p> <p>NMDDC have now administrated the delivery of 3 Rural Business Development Grant Schemes in 2019/20, 2020/21, and 2021/22 funded by The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA). The grant aid awarded over the last 3 financial years is as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Grant aid awarded</th> <th>Businesses receiving Grant</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2019/2020 (Pilot)</td> <td>£70,668</td> <td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020/2021</td> <td>£165,749</td> <td>59</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021/2022</td> <td>£175,955</td> <td>59</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>£412,412</td> <td>137</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>DAERA anticipate the delivery of a 4th scheme in 2022/2023 which will be similar in nature and eligibility criteria.</p>		Grant aid awarded	Businesses receiving Grant	2019/2020 (Pilot)	£70,668	19	2020/2021	£165,749	59	2021/2022	£175,955	59	Total	£412,412	137
	Grant aid awarded	Businesses receiving Grant														
2019/2020 (Pilot)	£70,668	19														
2020/2021	£165,749	59														
2021/2022	£175,955	59														
Total	£412,412	137														
2.0	Key issues															
2.1	Funded under the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs' Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Programme (TRPSI), the Rural Business Development Grant Scheme aims to assist in tackling poverty and social isolation within deprived rural areas.															

The Rural Business Development Grant Scheme 2021 was designed to support rural micro businesses to develop, sustain and recover from the Covid19 Pandemic whilst contributing towards the TRPSI's objectives of alleviating financial poverty by enhancing entrepreneurship and growth; and by supporting micro businesses in rural areas.

Capital grants up to £4,999 providing a maximum of 50% grant rate were available for applications from existing micro enterprises (less than 10 employees) based in rural areas of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. Through this scheme, the capital grants assist businesses in their recovery efforts by providing capital assistance funding for new equipment/machinery; computer equipment and software; e-commerce websites; and Covid19 business recovery equipment. Eligibility criteria for the 2021 scheme included applicants who had not previously received funding under the previous TRPSI schemes issued in 2019 and 2020.

The indicative budget for NMDDC in 2021 was £137,500 to include administration costs, however given the positive response to applications within the NMDDC area a higher budget was secured of £212,000 (excluding costs) which enabled Council to award grants to all successful applications.

APPLICATIONS	TOTAL VALUE
140 applications received	£426k
89 applications assessed as eligible (Received before the deadline and containing all necessary documentation)	£303k
79 Letters of Offer issued (To applicants who scored above the 65% threshold at assessment stage)	£252K
68 Letters of Offer accepted (Applicants who wish to proceed with their project as outlined in their respective schedule of expenditure)	£212k
59 Claims submitted	£176K

New Scheme 2022

DAERA have agreed a regional budget of £1m, with the intention of seeking further funding if necessary, similar to the 2021 Scheme. The indicative allocation to NMDDC is £125k plus 10% administration costs.

It is anticipated that the following changes will be made to the 2022 Scheme:

1. 2021/2022 applicants will be excluded from the Scheme
2. Additional scoring will be giving to applicants who have not applied to the previous 2019 and 2020 Schemes, with a lower score given to applicants who did previously apply
3. Mandatory pre-funding workshops will ensure good quality applications are submitted
4. Applicants will be encouraged to reduce the number of suppliers, with potentially a set limit of suppliers on the application form

	<p>5. There will be additional scoring for information provided on the Covid19 question.</p> <p>Proposed dates for implementation of the 2022 Scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application period opens 04/05/22 • Application period closes 31/05/22 • Letters of Offer issued 9/9/2022 • Works complete 31/10/22 • Claims into Council 11/11/22 • Claims into DAERA 09/12/22 <p>Next Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DAERA to issue Letter of Offer for 2022 Scheme; • DAERA to commence evaluation of previous 3 Schemes.
<p>3.0</p>	<p>Recommendations</p>
<p>3.1</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To note the update provided on the Rural Business Development Grant Scheme 2021 regarding application numbers and total grant value awarded 2. To agree participation in the Rural Business Development Grant Scheme 2022 to include the next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accept Letter of Offer when available to enable implementation of Rural Business Development Grant Scheme 2022; - To manage the implementation of the Rural Business Development Grant Scheme 2022 across the NMDDC area.
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Resource implications</p>
<p>4.1</p>	<p>Financial cost to Council will be in the form of current Officer resources, which is to be met by a 10% budget allocation based on the grant funding available of £125,000, therefore £12,500 administration costs.</p>
<p>5.0</p>	<p>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</p>
<p>5.1</p>	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>5.2</p>	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p>

	The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.3	<i>Proposal initiating consultation</i>	
	Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Consultation period will be 12 weeks	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<i>Rationale:</i>	
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)	
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing, or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If yes, please complete the following: Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.0	Appendices	
	N/A	
8.0	Background Documents	
	N/A	

Report to:	Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 14 th March 2022
Subject:	Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Andy Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture and Events
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Andy Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture and Events

For decision	X	For noting only	
1.0	Purpose and Background		
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u> To approve the recommendations set out in section 3.1 of this report to update the timelines for the delivery of the Council's Arts, Culture & Heritage Strategy.</p> <p><u>Background</u> The Council Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy was approved and launched in March 2020. The strategy set out ambitious plans and clear commitments from Council for investment in NMD's arts, culture and heritage sectors over a 5-year period.</p> <p>Approval is now sought to update the timelines for the delivery of the Council's Arts, Culture & Heritage Strategy from 2022 – 2027, and to host a launch event at the end of May 2022.</p>		
2.0	Key issues		
2.1	<p>In the intervening two years since the Arts, Culture and Heritage strategy was launched, the Covid pandemic has severely impacted these sectors. Council's arts centres and museums were closed for prolonged periods through lockdowns and many artists, musicians, event organisers and support staff left the industry to seek employment in other sectors.</p> <p>Over the past two-years the Council has delivered several support programmes to ensure residents and visitors could access arts, culture and heritage activities and support was provided to groups and individuals operating in the sector. These initiatives included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covid Recovery Support programme for Tourism Arts & events total grant award: £77.9k • Tourism Events Challenge Fund supported the delivery of online events total grant award: £29k 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online arts festival, concerts and events delivered, including St Patrick’s concert, reimagine arts festival, and Christmas Concerts, with an average reach of 100k viewers. • A new museums website has been developed to create opportunities for further outreach and engagement with local communities and schools • The Council funded Schools Engagement Programme has enabled over 1,500 pupils to visit Down County Museum, and Newry & Mourne museum over the past six months. • Work has continued to progress on ambitious plans for the new Theatre-Conference centre in Newry. <p>Although the impacts of the Covid pandemic are still being felt, arts programming and cultural activities have resumed across the district. The Council’s arts centres and museums have reopened and are re-engaging with visitors and audiences, and a full schedule of tourism events is planned for this summer.</p> <p>The past two years have served to reinforce the need for investment in our arts, culture and heritage, and the importance that the sectors can play in connecting communities, supporting economic recovery, and achieving social outcomes. The ambitious objectives as set out in the strategy are still valid and the wiliness to deliver these objectives has been reinforced, to ensure the ongoing development of our arts, culture and heritage offering for the benefit of all our residents and visitors for the next five-years.</p> <p>Minor updates to the strategy have been made, including the inclusion of visuals for the new Theatre-Conference development proposals in Newry, and investment in the Council’s Museum Service.</p>
<p>3.0</p>	<p>Recommendations</p>
<p>3.1</p>	<p>Approval to update the timelines for the delivery of the Council’s Arts, Culture & Heritage Strategy from 2022 – 2027, and to host a launch event at the end of May 2022.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Resource implications</p>
<p>4.1</p>	<p>The budget for Year 1 delivery has been profiled within ERT Departmental Budgets for the 2022-23 Financial Year.</p>
<p>5.0</p>	<p>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</p>
<p>5.1</p>	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation N/A</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	<p>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</p>
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	<p>Appendices</p>
	<p>Appendix 1 – NMD Arts, Culture & Heritage Strategy</p>
8.0	<p>Background Documents</p>
	<p>N/A</p>

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

Straitéis Chultúir, Ealaíon agus Oidhreachta

Culture, Arts and Heritage Strategy

2022—2027



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

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The Vision

In 2027, Newry, Mourne and Down has a rich cultural life that is celebrated and protected for future generations. Our culture, arts and heritage creates economic impact in our urban centres and brings benefits to all our rural communities across the district.

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

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

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

By 2027, all our citizens and visitors enjoy a diverse and inspiring arts and theatre programme in our vibrant and innovative theatre and conference centre at Newry Town Hall and in Down Arts Centre. Our voluntary and amateur groups have access to state-of-the-art theatre facilities and are supported in their growth and development to inspire new participants and continue to promote the rich cultural heritage of this district to new audiences. All our citizens across the district can access a diverse and engaging arts and culture outreach programme delivered within our local communities.

Delivery

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

Growing Our Sector

Strengthen and support our culture, arts and heritage sector following the impact of the Covid pandemic.

Developing Our Arts Venues and Museums

Reimagine and grow our arts venues and museums.

Growing Our Audiences

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

Our District is Unique

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

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

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

This strategy sets out a blueprint to guide and inform how we will work together to enhance our arts, culture and heritage sectors following the impacts of the Covid pandemic, 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 glasses and a purple sweater is looking down at a brown dog sitting on a yellow stool in a workshop. The background shows wooden shelves and a blue metal frame.

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 - with investment in the arts, culture and heritage critical to rebuilding the sector.

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

Our Community and Audiences

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

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

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

call home. The positive work of these groups enables us to preserve our community history and identity and to promote **social cohesion and understanding**.

Such groups have been devastated by the impacts of the Covid pandemic and are now attempting to deliver activity with limited resources, but they have the ability to reach and engage a huge number of participants and audiences in **every townland, village, and urban centre** throughout the district.

Prior to the pandemic, 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 generated 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 and their importance as we emerge from the Covid pandemic, more critical than ever before. 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.



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.



Prior to the pandemic 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.



People who take part in the arts are

38%

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



Health and Well-being

Can Digging Make You Happy?

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



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.



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.



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.

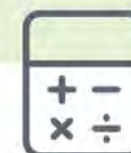


Participation in
arts activities is
associated with
improvements in
young people's
cognitive abilities
and transferable
skills.

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

Prior to the Covid pandemic 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.

Prior to the Covid pandemic

42%

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



Prior to the Covid pandemic investment by public sector in the arts and the historic environment contributed up to £4 to the local economy for every £1 spent.

£1 = £4

The impact of COVID-19 on the arts in NI resulted in estimated losses of

£25 million

in 2020/21



Economic



The Arts Council of Northern Ireland's box office survey highlighted losses of

£8.3 million

for ticket sales and an additional £5.3m from other revenue streams (June 20)



The impact of COVID-19 on the arts in NI resulted in estimated losses of £25m in 2020/21. Arts and culture contribute to local economies by **attracting visitors, creating jobs and developing skills, attracting and retaining businesses and revitalising places.**

Ulster University's Economic Policy Centre has estimated that of the

39,100 jobs

in arts, culture and heritage, it was estimated that

12,000-16,000

were vulnerable as a result of COVID-19 impacts and restrictions.

Ulster University's Economic Policy Centre, Dec 2020





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.**

Prior to the pandemic although

29%

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



The Strategic Context



A photograph of a stone archway framing a view of a stone building with battlements. The building has several small windows and a larger window with a dark frame. The scene is set in a courtyard or street.

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 Corporate Plan and 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.

Our Culture, Arts and Heritage Offering



8 Cross-carved stone
Early Christian, c.400 - 1177AD
Aughnacavan, near Donaghmore, Co. Down

7 Glazed cooking
vessel
18th century
Manufactured at the medieval priory
kitchen at Downpatrick, Co. Down



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.

Museums



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



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

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

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.



Newry Town Hall: a 470-seat auditorium, with a large number of productions by local groups and commercial promoters. 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.



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 is also used on an ongoing basis for non-arts focused community services.

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 was the district's Tourism Events Programme prior to 2020, particularly those festivals and events that highlighted the region's unique cultural heritage.

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

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

Voluntary and Amateur Groups

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

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

That strong and diverse arts and cultural offering, driven by groups and individuals within local communities, means there is a critical mass of advocates and champions that prior to the Covid pandemic, had been 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 in 2019, it was evident that 40% of the arts and culture offering that was delivered by the 235 organisations was mostly centred in Newry, Newcastle and Downpatrick.

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





Key Insights

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

1 Our Museums and Built Heritage

- 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. However, according to research, undertaken prior to the Covid pandemic, showed the proportion of local residents who had visited one of our two museums was lower than the corresponding figure for the other districts of NI.
- Through the development of programmes, 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. Prior to March 2020 our museums delivered 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.



2 Our Residents – Accessing the Arts, Culture and Heritage

- In research undertaken by the Council in 2018, 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.
- Providing better access to arts, cultural & heritage activities is a key priority as we emerge from the impacts of the Covid pandemic.
- 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 prior to the Covid pandemic.

64%

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

16%

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

3 Our Arts Centres

- Prior to 2020, over 133,000 residents and visitors attended events and activities in our arts centres in an average year. However an imbalance existed 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 in 2019 showed that it continued to outperform other similar sized venues across Northern Ireland, attracting people with a 45-minute drive time to the venue, including significant numbers from Belfast.
- 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.
- Prior to the pandemic, 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, prior to the Covid pandemic.

40%

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

4 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.



5 Arts and Cultural Tourism Events

- 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, lúr Cinn Fleadh in Newry, GI Jive and Reivers Festival in Killkeel also serve to attract new visitors, engage new audiences and generate civic pride in, and economic impacts for, local communities. These cultural and arts-based festivals and events are of a scale where there is growth potential and the potential to attract visitors from outside of the district to stay longer and spend more whilst they're here.
- In addition to the Council's major headline festivals and those well-established tourism festivals and events run by volunteer committees and artists, there are a huge number of community-led festivals and events hosted in towns and villages across the district at key times of the year, such as Easter, Midsummer, Halloween and Christmas.
- Whilst it is clear that there is a huge depth and breadth of cultural and arts focused tourism and community events held right across the district each year, several ongoing challenges exist to the future growth and development of our events programme:
 1. Headline events and major festivals need to evolve and grow over time to maintain audience interest, engage local businesses and meet an increasing need to attract new visitors from outside of Northern Ireland to visit and stay in the district.
 2. A clear understanding and delineation is required between the different levels of tourism, cultural based tourism and community events that are hosted across the district each year, including:
 - A. The several large-scale Council-hosted signature festivals and events.
 - B. The festivals and events that are hosted by dedicated voluntary committees, which have the growth potential to attract visitors from outside of the district and encourage them to stay longer whilst they are here.
 - C. The numerous smaller-scale community-based events that help to encourage community engagement and generate civic pride.
 3. Clear recommendations on Council support mechanisms for these three tiers of festivals and events need to be developed, including considerations for capacity building/mentoring support for the dedicated voluntary committees and artists that run some of our best cultural and arts-based tourism events across the district.

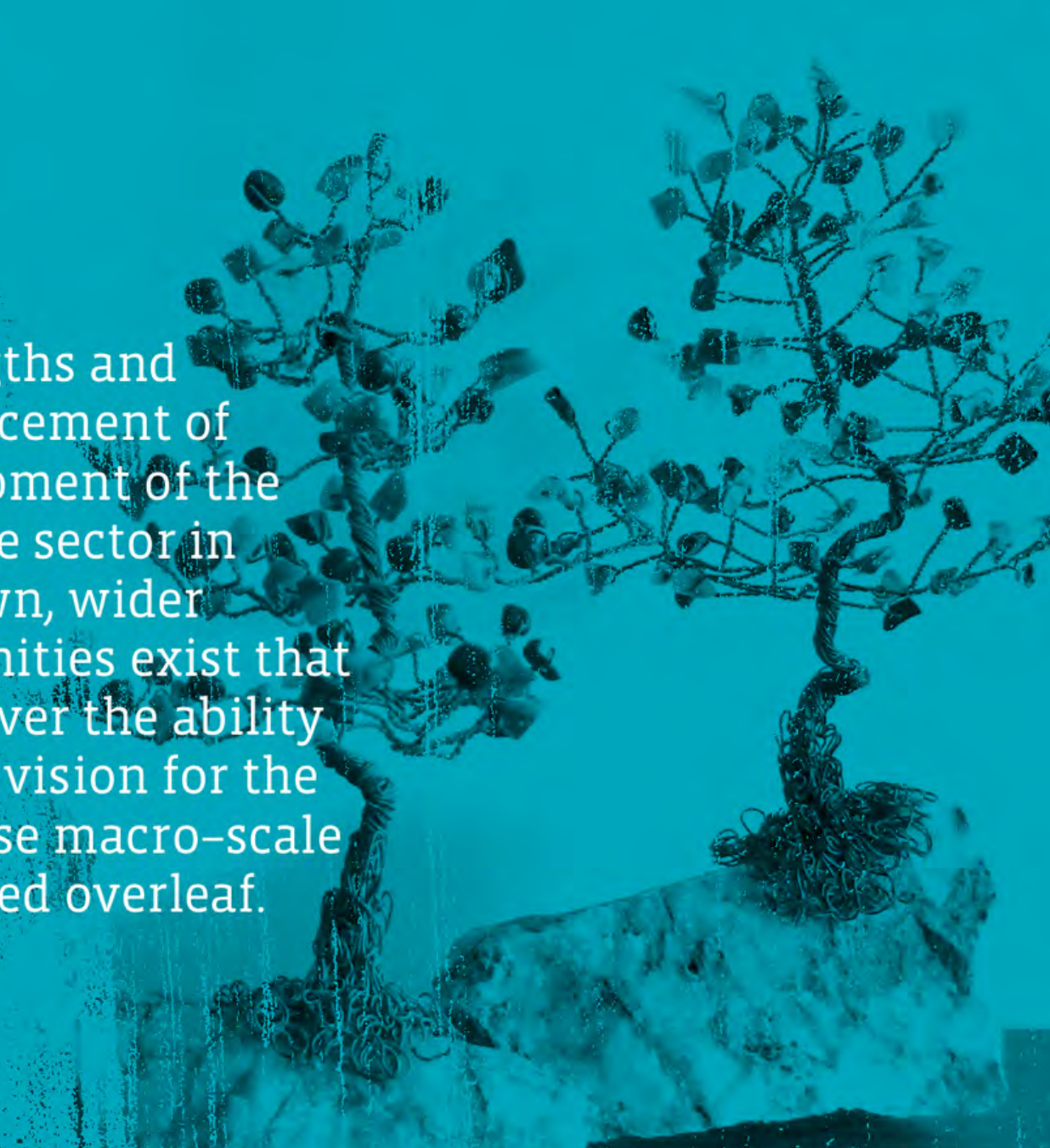
6 Support and Coordination Across Government

- 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.
- 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 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

As we emerge from the impacts of the Covid pandemic, 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** grows year-on-year, and there is a continuing need to support the recovery of the arts, culture & heritage sector in the recovery phase from Covid-19.

- 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.
- In 2022-23 the Council will **invest £2.5 million** in the delivery of 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

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

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

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

The Vision

In 2027, Newry, Mourne and Down has a rich cultural life that is celebrated and protected for future generations. Our culture, arts and heritage creates economic impact in our urban centres and brings benefits to all our rural communities across the district.

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

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

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

By 2027, all our citizens and visitors enjoy a diverse and inspiring arts and theatre programme in our **vibrant and innovative theatre and conference centre** in Newry and in Down Arts Centre. Our voluntary and amateur groups have access to state-of-the-art theatre facilities and are **supported in their growth** and development to inspire new participants and continue to promote the rich cultural heritage of this district to new audiences. All our citizens across the district can access a diverse and engaging arts and culture **outreach programme** delivered within our local communities.

2027

Our Ambition

2027: is a celebratory year of arts, culture and heritage in our district. A year-long programme of cultural and arts initiatives, events and activities will be delivered across the entire district. This programme will be codesigned by the Council and strategic partners across Government, NGOs, education, heritage, and the multiple organisations and groups in the voluntary sectors.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Delivery

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

Growing Our Sector

Strengthen and support our culture, arts and heritage sector.

Developing our Arts Venues and Museums

Reimagine and grow our arts venues and museums.

Growing Our Audiences

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

Key Priorities: Year 1 to 3

Strengthen and support our culture, arts and heritage sector



Objective 1 Growing our Sector

Actions	Partners	Timeline - from
Establish a new arts forum that represents key stakeholders in order to improve collaboration and co-ordination of the sector development across the District.	<i>Representative bodies and strategic partners across the Arts Sectors</i>	2022-23
Create networking opportunities between local culture, arts and heritage providers with health and education representatives to enhance opportunities for greater collaboration.	<i>Council, Community Planning Partners, Forum Partners</i>	2022-23 onwards
Establish opportunities for greater support of local arts and heritage groups to develop their capabilities in marketing, sponsorship, and audience development, etc.	<i>Council, Forum Partners</i>	2022-23 onwards
Work with key strategic partners to establish opportunities to support individuals and groups who are internationally recognised and can showcase the District's culture, arts and heritage offering to wider audiences.	<i>Council, Arts Council NI, Forum Partners</i>	2022-23 onwards
Develop a detailed Festival and Events Activation Programme in coordination with key partners.	<i>Council, Forum Partners, other Strategic Partners</i>	2022-23 onwards

Key Priorities: Year 1 to 3



Objective 2 Developing our Arts Venues & Museums

Reimagine and grow our arts venues and museums

Actions	Partners	Timeline
Align forward plans for arts venues and museums to achieve the vision and objectives of the Culture, Arts and Heritage Strategy.	<i>Council, Forum Partners, key stakeholders</i>	2022-23
Design and implement a box office system in Council arts venues.	<i>Council</i>	2022-23
Utilise data and insights from the box office system to create an evidence-based audience development plan for the District.	<i>Council</i>	2023-24 onwards
Create an audience growth plan for arts venues, including the redevelopment of Newry Town Hall, the SHAC, and Down Arts Centre.	<i>Council, Forum Partners</i>	2023-24
Develop a conference and business events programme for the redeveloped Newry Town Hall/Sean Hollywood Arts Centre.	<i>Council and other key stakeholders</i>	2022-23 onwards
Develop and ambassador programme to attract new conferences to the redeveloped Newry Town Hall/Sean Hollywood Arts Centre.	<i>Council and other key stakeholders</i>	2023-24
Adopt a digitally-focused marketing communications plan for arts venues and museums to provide tailored and timely information about the seasonal arts and museum programme and on activities across the District.	<i>Council, Forum Partners</i>	2022-23
Deliver the £10 million capital programme to redevelop Newry Town Hall and the Sean Hollywood Arts Centre into an internationally recognised arts, theatre and conference venue.	<i>Council, user groups, stakeholders from the local arts, culture and heritage sector.</i>	Ongoing from 2019-20 to 2024-25

Key Priorities: Year 1 to 3

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

3

Objective 3 Growing our Audiences

Actions	Partners	Timeline
Develop a heritage exhibition programme in our museums to grow visitor numbers and audience participation from across the district.	<i>Council, NI Museums Council</i>	<i>2022-23 onwards</i>
Develop an outreach programme to provide arts, culture and heritage activities to local communities throughout the district.	<i>Council, Arts Council NI, Community Planning partners including Education and Health bodies, Forum Partners.</i>	<i>2022-23 onwards</i>
Develop a programme of activities to bring together groups and individuals to collect, archive and share inspirational stories from all our District's communities.	<i>Council, NI Museums Council</i>	<i>2023-24</i>
Develop a heritage activation programme to open up and promote our heritage assets to visitors and local residents.	<i>Council, HED, TNI, National Trust, MHT, and other strategic partners.</i>	<i>2022-23 onwards</i>
Widen the demographic of our audiences by attracting people who would not normally visit arts venues, museums or heritage sites through an innovative programme of events and targeted marketing campaigns.	<i>Council, HED, NI Museums Council, National Trust, Forum Partners, and other strategic partners.</i>	<i>2022-23</i>
Adopt a digitally-focused marketing communications plan for arts venues and museums to provide tailored and timely information about the seasonal arts and museum programme and on activities across the District.	<i>Council, Forum Partners</i>	<i>2022-23</i>
Implement a new tourism events programme that celebrates the District's unique culture, arts and heritage offering in order to increase visitor satisfaction and dwell time.	<i>Council, Forum Partners, Tourism NI</i>	<i>Ongoing from 2022-23</i>



Areas included in the scope of this strategy

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

Development of our arts facilities, including:

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

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

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

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

Development of our museums, including:

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

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

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

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



Areas not included in the scope of this strategy

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

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

Development or funding of public art in civic spaces.

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

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

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

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

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HISTORIC**ACTION TRACKER SHEET****ENTERPRISE REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE****(For Noting at ERT Meeting - 14 March 2022)**

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ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		October 2019			
ERT/138/2019	CARLINGFORD LOUGH GREENWAY	<p>(a) The Council proceed to commence the PQQ contractor procurement stage for the Northern section of the Carlingford Lough Greenway.</p> <p>(b) Council Officers to update Councillor McMurray regarding plans for Greenways at Comber/Downpatrick.</p>	J McGilly	<p>Negotiations ongoing with landowners and funder. Revised submission submitted to funders May 2020. Planning submitted and awaiting decision. SEUPB considering additional funding bid. Economic appraisal completed and</p>	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
				with SEUPB and DfI	
		(AUGUST 2020)			
ERT/095/2020	CAR PARK BANN ROAD CASTLEWELLAN	To progress the proposed redevelopment of the Bann Road parking area in collaboration with DfI and approve the submission of a planning application for a change of use for the area concerned.	C Jackson	In progress, work to commence in Feb/March 2022.	N
		SEPTEMBER 2020			
ERT/129/2020	(Historic Action) NEWCASTLE HARBOUR	A paper be brought to a meeting of the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting outlining proposals to move forward with the regeneration of Newcastle Harbour.	J McGilly	Work in progress, Following September ERT Working group to be established to progress in line with Master plan review for Newcastle	N
		(JANUARY 2021)			
ERT/010/2021	WARRENPOINT FRONTSHORE PR SCHEME	1. Members area asked to accept the broad Concept Design proposals as presented by AECOM, with suggested adjustments and proceed to a Consultation Process in early 2021.	J McGilly	Scheme consultation launched April 2021	Y

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Officers report on feedback from the consultation process to the Task and Finish Group, before proceeding to finalise the design for submission to planning. 3. Officers complete and submit the Economic Appraisal to Council and the Department For Communities for consideration of the funding package for the scheme. 4. Members approve the Business Case to carry out a Site Investigation Survey and other smaller surveys costs as required to prepare for the planning submission. 5. Once completed officers will present the DFI One Way system proposal for Warrenpoint at a future meeting of Crotlieve Cllrs in early 2021. 		Scheme approved following consultation Planning submitted and procurement underway to ensure March 2022 spend	
		(MARCH 2021)			
ERT/051/2021	WARRENPOINT BATHS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council continue to ensure that ongoing measures are taken to monitor and address Health and Safety concerns as they arise at the existing Baths Structure. 2. Council officials to continue discussions with potential funders given the development of new funding programmes - Peace Plus; Shared Prosperity Fund; 	J McGilly	SOC complete and presented to Feb SFWG.	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		<p>NLHF, Tourism NI, etc, based on the development of the facility as per the planning approval that is currently in place on the site.</p> <p>3. Council officials proceed with appointment of a consultancy team to prepare a business case / economic appraisal on the existing Council approved scheme based on the Planning approval in place for the Warrenpoint Baths site.</p>			
ERT/093/2021	LEVELLING UP FUND	<p>1. The Council do not submit an application in the current call for 18 June 2021 Levelling Up Fund, but explore and develop initiatives that best fit the criteria utilising the Development fund that will become available early summer.</p> <p>2. In respect of CRF, the Council explore potential joint funding bids with FE sector aligned to economic development and regeneration strategy.</p>	J McGilly	Work in progress	N
		(AUGUST 2021)			
ERT/137/2021	NOTICE OF MOTION RE: REVIVAL OF DOWNPATRICK TOWN CENTRE	To note Report dated 09 August 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment & Regeneration,	J McGilly	Work in progress. Report to Feb ERT on next	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		<p>and proceed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officers carry out a detailed options appraisal in partnership with local elected Members and business representatives, looking at the most suitable option going forward, that best represents the need of the Town Centre. • Report back to the ERT Committee with findings of the options appraisal exercise. 		<p>steps following consultation with key stakeholders.</p> <p>Facilitated workshop currently being planned for March /April 2022</p>	
		(SEPTEMBER 2021)			
ERT/178/2021	SUBMISSIONS TO DFI RE: GREENWAY AND ACTIVE TRAVEL PROJECTS	<p>Given their importance to the District's tourism industry, Task and Finish Working Groups be set up for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of Greenways - Newcastle Harbour <p>An update be provided to Councillor Stokes regarding the application in respect of Newry Greenway.</p>	J McGilly	Work in progress	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		(OCTOBER 2021)			
ERT/183/2021	LABOUR MARKET PARTNERSHIP	<p>a) To note that Council have prepared and submitted to the Department for Communities, a Strategic Assessment and Action Plan for implementation of a Labour Market Partnership (LMP) across the District.</p> <p>b) To approve the Business Case for the Labour Market Partnership Action Plan.</p> <p>c) To approve that Council now procure and appoint external delivery agents to implement the range of initiatives outlined in the business case, and approved for funding by Department for Communities.</p> <p>d) To approve the acceptance of Department for Communities Letters of Offer for Labour Market Partnership / Skills and Employability activity, including administration and operational costs.</p> <p>e) To approve the development and submission of a Labour Market Partnership Strategic Assessment & Action Plan for the 2022/2023 financial period, with details on same to be tabled at a further meeting of Council.</p>	J McGilly	Work in progress – update at Jan 2022 ERT Plan currently being implemented via series of SLAs and work ongoing to develop 2022/2023 plan for submission in April 2022	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
ERT/185/2021	REPORT OF WARRENPOINT FRONT SHORE PUBLIC REALM SCHEME TASK & FINISH – 05/10/2021	<p>To accept the following recommendations arising from the Warrenpoint Front Shore Public Realm Scheme Task and Finish Steering Group Meeting held on Tuesday 05 October 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To extend the Public Consultation process for the proposed Breakwater Scheme. • To note the Task & Finish Steering Group are in agreement to proceed based on a phased approach, to the overall delivery of a Warrenpoint Front Shore / Breakwater Public Realm Scheme. • A separate report on the project and it's cost options, to be take to the next Meeting of the Council's Strategic Finance Working Group. • The project proceeds to RIBA Stage 4 with It's Consultants, to ensure that the contractor for Phase 1 is appointed and in place to meet the required funding commitment. 	J McGilly	Work in progress Business case and Funding approved by DfC. Planning approved subject to final comment by NIEA. Procureemnt of contractor at assessment stage	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
(NOVEMBER 2021)					
ERT/212/2021	(EXEMPT) COVID 19 RECOVERY WORKING GROUP MTG 21 OCTOBER 2021	<p>a) To support the implementation of a Jobs and Careers fair, focusing on the Hospitality and Tourism Sector.</p> <p>b) That works are carried out to improve beach access and provide facilities at coastal areas across the District including Warrenpoint, Rostrevor and Lecale.</p> <p>c) Development of a Masterplan to develop walking linkages at Quoile Downpatrick.</p>	J McGilly A Patterson	In progress In progress In progress	N
(DECEMBER 2021)					
ERT/237/2021	(EXEMPT) BANN ROAD CASTLEWELLAN – PARK AND RIDE	<p>Committee members approve the attached business case for a Capital spend to develop a 72 bay Park 'n' Share facility at Bann Road, Castlewellan.</p> <p>b) Members approve the revised Capital budget as set out in Section 4.1 of Report dated 13 December 2021 from Mr C Jackson Assistant Director Building Control & Regulations.</p>	C Jackson	In progress, work to commence Feb/March 2022	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
ERT/239/2021	(EXEMPT) CAR PARK DOWNPATRICK STREET SAINTFIELD	To approve the business case for the Capital spend required to carry out the refurbishment project for Downpatrick Street car park, Saintfield.	C Jackson	In progress, work to commence Jun/July 2022	N
		(JANUARY 2022)			
ERT/003/2022	PRESENTATION NI HOTELS FEDERATION	The Council write to the Chancellor calling for the VAT reduction to remain in place.	A.Patterson	Complete	Y
ERT/008/2022	SMALL SETTLEMENT REGENERATION PLAN	To approve the relevant business cases and commence the required procurement processes/framework appointments for scheme design consultants and contractors and proceed totender / quotation / assessment and award if within budget. In advance of this all proposals will be presented to the relevant DEA for a by way of consultation.	J McGilly	In Progress Update report to be tabled at March ERT	Y
ERT/010/2022	(EXEMPT) LABOUR MARKET PARTNERSHIP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council issue a Service Level Agreement to Southern Regional College (SRC) and also to South Eastern Regional College (SERC) to create an Apprenticeships Awareness 	J McGilly	In Progress	Y

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		<p>Campaign across the District, delivering against the Labour Market Partnership Action Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council issue a Service Level Agreement to Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency and Down Business Centre to implement the LMP Action "Stimulate self-employment as an "employment" opportunity", offering follow-on support to their Go for It Clients. • Council issue a Service Level Agreement to DFC (or an appropriate partner if DFC cannot fulfil within the timescales) to implement the delivery of a virtual jobs fair during 2021/2022. • To note Council have received and accepted a Letter of Offer from DFC for implementation of LMP Actions between January 2022 and March 2022. The report above outlines the anticipated actions that can be implemented within this timescale. • To note Council will commence engagement regarding the submission of a further action plan outlining LMP Actions for 2022/2023 and which is due to be submitted to DFC in February 2022. 			

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		(FEBRUARY 2022 – TO FOLLOW) *****			

Approved 23/02/2022



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council



Comhairle Ceantair
an Iúir, Mhúrn
agus an Dúin
Newry, Mourne
and Down
District Council
M/151

**Louth/ Newry Mourne and Down Strategic Alliance
of Elected Members between
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, and Louth County Council**

**Report of Meeting held Thursday 2nd December 2021 at 10.00 a.m.
Via ZOOM Platform**

**In the Chair: Councillor J Tinnelly, Newry, Mourne and Down DC
(Joint Chair)**

Present:

Councillor A Watters,	Louth County Council
Councillor P McGeough,	Louth County Council
Councillor T Cunningham,	Louth County Council
Councillor E Corrigan,	Louth County Council
Councillor D McAteer,	Newry, Mourne and Down DC
Councillor D Curran,	Newry, Mourne and Down DC
Councillor R Mulgrew,	Newry, Mourne and Down DC
Councillor D Murphy,	Newry, Mourne and Down DC
Councillor A Lewis,	Newry, Mourne and Down DC

Ms M Ward,	Chief Executive NMDDC
Mr J McGuinness	Director LCC
Ms C Duff	Director LCC
Mr C Mallon,	Director NMDDC
Mr M Lipsett,	Director NMDDC
Mr J McBride,	Director NMDDC
Mr J McGilly,	Assistant Director NMDDC
Ms P Arthurs,	East Border Region
Ms A Powell,	NMDDC (Notes)

1. Welcome and Apologies:

Apologies received from:

Councillor J Sheridan,	Louth County Council (Joint Chair)
Councillor D Power,	Louth County Council
Councillor E Coffey,	Louth County Council
Councillor A McKeivitt,	Louth County Council

Approved 23/02/2022

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**Councillor J Byrne,
Councillor M Larkin,
Councillor W Clarke,
Councillor W Walker,**

**Louth County Council
Newry, Mourne and Down DC
Newry, Mourne and Down DC
Newry, Mourne and Down DC**

**Ms J Martin,
Ms B Woods
Mr P Donnelly
Mr F Pentony,
Ms D Carville,**

**Chief Executive LCC
Director LCC
Director LCC
Director LCC
Director NMDDC**

2. Report of Louth/Newry Mourne and Down Joint Committee Meeting held on 15 September 2021 (attached)

On the proposal of Councillor D Curran, seconded by Councillor D Murphy, report of meeting held on the 15 September 2021 was approved.

3. Matters Arising

No matters were arising out of previous meeting.

4. Draft Strategic Alliance Action Plan (attached)

C Mallon presented the revised Priority Action Plan developed from the Members Workshop held on 11 November 2021. Members sought clarification on delivery of actions. Conor informed all present that the development of goals will be the next stage.

Councillor McAteer indicated that he would like to see a working group for Carlingford Lough to develop a masterplan. Councillors Mulgrew and Corrigan voiced support for a joint member of staff. Councillor Corrigan also indicated that the use of the term MOU should be reclaimed.

M Ward informed members that an outcome document on climate change following a separate recent joint workshop can be presented to a future meeting of the Strategic Alliance.

AGREED: Outcome document on climate change to be presented to a future meeting of the Strategic Alliance.

Approved 23/02/2022

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It was agreed that an Actions Paper will be collated by Officers with proposed methods to deliver on the Priority Action Plan and presented at the next meeting.

ACTION: Actions Paper with proposed methods to deliver on the Priority Action Plan and presented at the next meeting.

M Ward suggested that there is a need to raise the level of awareness of the Strategic Alliance. This will aid promotion for funding opportunities. A stand alone meeting could be organised to promote the new Priority Action Plan with Government Department Ministers.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor D Murphy and seconded by Councillor D McAteer that Promotional meetings be held with Government Department Ministers.

AGREED: Promotional meetings to be held with Government Department Ministers.

Councillor Mulgrew asked that there be focused workshops to discuss proposals in a concentrated manner. M Ward agreed that these could be themed workshops on the categories listed in the Priority Action Plan that smaller groups could discuss.

5. Schedule of meetings 2022:

The next meeting will be held at 10am on 23rd February 2022 – location to be confirmed

Future meetings for 2022 are scheduled as follows:

- ❖ Wednesday 27th April 2022, 10am
- ❖ Wednesday 14th September 2022, 10am
- ❖ Wednesday 16th November 2022, 10am

Signed: C Mallon

Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

ACTIONS

	ACTION	Referred to
1.	AGREED: Outcome document on climate change to be presented to a future meeting of the Strategic Alliance.	J McBride/ C Duff
2.	AGREED: Actions Paper with proposed methods to deliver on the Priority Action Plan and presented at the next meeting.	C Mallon/ J McGuinness
3.	AGREED: Promotional meetings to be held with Government Department Ministers.	M Ward / J Martin

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1. Live Applications

MONTH 2021/22	NEW APPLICATIONS	LIVE APPLICATIONS	LIVE APPLICATIONS OVER 12 MONTHS
April 2021	206	1,195	232
May 2021	204	1,238	228
June 2021	172	1,219	236
July 2021	176	1,190	224
August 2021	152	1,174	226
September 2021	182	1,175	226
October 2021	188	1,188	232
November 2021	184	1,158	234
December 2021	112	1,097	232
January 2022	160	1,128	232
February 2022	158	1,121	233

2. Live Applications by length of time in system

Month 2021/22	Under 6 months	Between 6 and 12 months	Between 12 and 18 months	Between 18 and 24 months	Over 24 months	Total
April 2021	770	193	81	54	97	1,195
May 2021	818	192	76	53	99	1,238
June 2021	777	206	82	43	111	1,219
July 2021	787	179	79	44	101	1,190
August 2021	754	194	84	49	93	1,174
September 2021	737	212	87	44	95	1,175
October 2021	724	232	85	46	101	1,188
November 2021	687	237	81	50	103	1,158
December 2021	623	242	78	48	106	1,097

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council – February 2022

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January 2022	652	244	76	49	107	1,128
February 2022	638	250	79	44	110	1,121

3. Live applications per Case Officer

Month 2021/22	Average number of Applications per Case Officer
April	83
May	85
June	89
July	83
August	75
September	67
October	64
November 2021	66
December 2021	66
January 2022	69
February 2022	65

4. Decisions issued per month

Month 2021/22	Number of Decisions Issued	Number of Decisions Issued under delegated authority
April	161	155
May	157	146
June	190	184
July	159	150
August	148	145
September	177	166
October	160	155
November 2021	199	183
December 2021	165	147
January 2022	120	101
February 2022	157	145

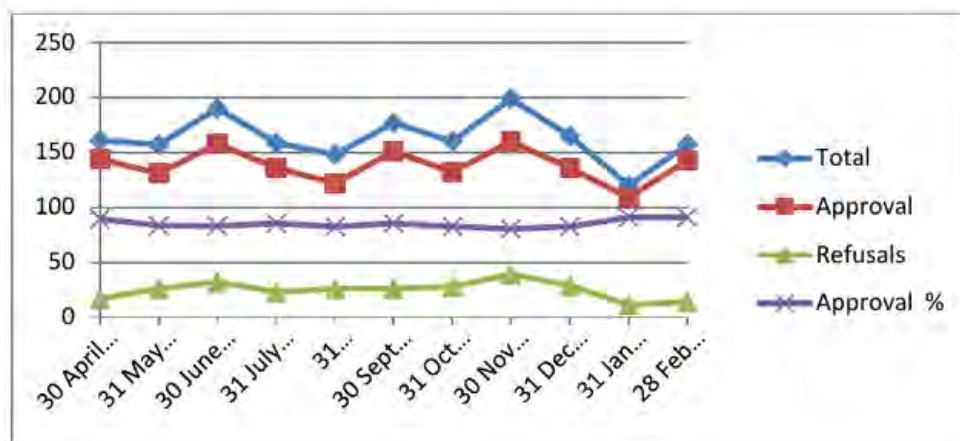
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5. Decisions Issued YTD

Month 2021/22	Number of Decisions Issued	Breakdown of Decisions	
April	161	Approvals (144)	89%
		Refusals (17)	11%
May	318	Approvals (275)	86%
		Refusals (43)	14%
June	508	Approvals (433)	85%
		Refusals (75)	15%
July	667	Approvals (569)	85%
		Refusals (98)	15%
August	815	Approvals (691)	85%
		Refusals (124)	15%
September	992	Approvals (842)	85%
		Refusals (150)	15%
October	1,152	Approvals (974)	85%
		Refusals (178)	15%
November	1,351	Approvals (1,134)	84%
		Refusals (217)	16%
December	1,516	Approvals (1,270)	84%
		Refusals (246)	16%
January 2022	1,636	Approvals (1,379)	84%
		Refusals (257)	16%
February 2022	1,793	Approvals (1,522)	85%
		Refusals (271)	15%

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council – February 2022



6. Enforcement Live cases

Month 2021/2022	<=1yr	1-2 yrs	2-3 yrs	3-4 yrs	4-5 yrs	5+yrs	Total
April	285	133	127	122	62	101	830
May	291	134	122	128	64	104	843
June	267	132	121	136	60	102	818
July	269	134	114	137	68	102	824
August	266	132	107	133	71	103	812
September	279	136	103	129	71	102	820
October	269	121	99	126	65	101	781
November	248	129	93	123	60	98	751
December	244	126	85	126	59	92	732
January 2022	223	127	82	117	62	95	706
February 2022	224	134	82	102	59	99	700

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7. Planning Committee

Month	Number of Applications presented to Committee	Number of Applications Determined by Committee	Number of Applications Withdrawn/ Deferred for future meeting	Number of Officer recommendation overturned
8 April 2021	14	11	3	3
5 May 2021	16	8	8	3
2 & 30 June 2021 (Meetings cancelled)	-	-	-	-
28 July 2021	15	7	8	2
25 August 2021	15	9	6	6
22 September 2021	13	10	3	5
20 October 2021	25	22	3	6
17 November 2021	19	10	9	4
15 December 2021	20	13	7	9
12 January 2022	12	9	3	8
9 February 2022	14	11	3	8
Totals	163	110	53	54

8. Appeals

Planning Appeal Commission Decisions issued during period 1 July 2021 to 28 February 2022

Area	Number of current appeals	Number of decisions issued	Number of decisions Allowed	Number of decisions Dismissed	Withdrawn
Newry & Mourne	26	3	-	3	-
Down	44	1	-	1	2
TOTAL	70	4	-	4	2

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Statutory targets monthly update - January 2022 (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	2	-	0.0	0.0%	171	143	16.6	43.4%	44	19	69.8	52.6%
May	2	1	35.4	0.0%	159	137	17.2	41.6%	31	30	57.0	66.7%
June	1	1	49.8	0.0%	179	173	16.8	42.8%	38	41	85.8	46.3%
July	0	-	0.0	0.0%	124	136	17.0	41.2%	38	27	85.2	51.9%
August	0	-	0.0	0.0%	137	140	17.1	38.6%	35	67	89.2	53.7%
September	2	-	0.0	0.0%	148	166	19.8	28.3%	48	37	158.4	37.8%
October	0	-	0.0	0.0%	159	147	17.8	34.0%	27	75	122.0	40.0%
November	0	2	75.3	0.0%	149	174	20.0	33.3%	25	69	129.2	44.9%
December	0	1	31.4	0.0%	97	141	22.2	30.5%	20	34	178.7	38.2%
January	0	-	0.0	0.0%	108	106	20.4	28.3%	33	48	101.7	44.7%
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	7	5	49.8	0.0%	1,431	1,463	18.6	36.3%	339	447	108.8	46.6%

Source: NI Planning Portal

Notes:

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- 1. DCs, 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:	Monday 14 th March 2022
Subject:	Purple Flag night-time economy initiative
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly Assistant Director, Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Martin Patterson Regeneration and Business Development Officer

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

For decision	For noting only	x
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u></p> <p>To note that following a Purple Flag re-assessment, Newry City has retained the Purple Flag accreditation for Newry City</p> <p><u>Background</u></p> <p>Newry, Mourne and Down District Council attained the 'Purple Flag' accreditation for Newry City Centre in October 2016 and have retained it on an annual basis since then. Following a reassessment in October – Dec 2021, Newry City was awarded the first Purple Flag accreditation in the UK and Ireland in 2022.</p> <p>'Purple Flag' is an accreditation standard, launched in 2012, similar to the Green Flag award for parks and the Blue Flag for beaches. It is a standard of excellence for the evening and night-time economy. It allows members of the public to quickly identify town & city centres that offer an entertaining, diverse, safe and enjoyable night out.</p> <p>Reinvigorated over the past 5 years by the Association of Town Centre Management (ATCM), there are now 70 Purple Flag towns and cities in the UK and Ireland and the positive response both by Councils, managers, local businesses and venues and the public is testament to the difference that this great initiative can make.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>Newry Purple Flag has been established for several years and aims to promote the evening economy by several key initiatives. This is mainly achieved in partnership via the Newry City Purple Flag working group which includes the main stakeholders with responsibility and/or a key interest in marketing the city centre evening economy. The stakeholders include Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (various department representatives), Newry BID, Newry Chamber of Commerce and</p>

	<p>Trade, Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency, Southern Regional College, Confederation of Community Groups, Translink, various Government Departments, PSNI</p> <p>The most recent meeting of the purple flag working group took place in October 2021 and subsequently submitted a comprehensive application to ATCM for renewal, with purple flag accrediting team requiring the designated area (Newry City Centre) to provide positive activities and measurable improvements on safety, pedestrian routes, public transport, car parking, venues (pubs and dining), events, marketing, strategy implementation, facilities, crowd management and major/minor events. The full assessment took place in December 2021 and was successful and Newry City attained the first Purple Flag accreditation in the UK and Ireland in 2022.</p> <p>The 2022 Purple Flag awards are due to take place 24th March 2022 in Canterbury, England. Council will receive the Purple Flag award thereafter. A press release and photo call were arranged and took place Thursday 3rd March for media coverage week commencing 7th March.</p> <p>Moving forward, the Newry City purple flag action plan has been reviewed to ensure that an approach is developed which will assist the City Centre to rebuild their offering, to once again attract visitors, and to ensure an environment that is successfully managing the night time economy in line with post covid-19 guidance. With the gradual ease of the lockdown and with many changes on the horizon for city centres, it is vital that Newry grows its presence in the marketplace as well as integrate key messages of what Newry City has to offer. The next meeting of the working group will take place in March 2022.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To note that following a Purple Flag re-assessment, Newry City has retained the Purple Flag accreditation for Newry City
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	N/A
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i>

	It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	<p>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</p>
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	<p>Appendices</p>
	<p>N/A</p>
8.0	<p>Background Documents</p>
	<p>N/A</p>

Report to:	Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 14 March 2022
Subject:	The role of Councils in discharging conditions attached to planning permissions issued by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI).
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Anthony McKay (Chief Planning Officer)
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Anthony McKay (Chief Planning Officer)

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

For decision	For noting only	X
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u> The attached correspondence issued by the Department is a discussion paper seeking the views of Council planning officers around the potential for Councils to take on the role of discharging conditions attached to planning permissions issued by the Department. The purpose of this report is to make Members aware of this developing issue. No decision is required.</p> <p><u>Background</u> The attached correspondence was issued to Council Chief Planning Officers in February 2022.</p> <p>The Department is suggesting an approach whereby, once the Department has granted permission for a development, it would generally not continue to be responsible for discharging or monitoring conditions.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>The Department's proposal is short on detail. Nevertheless the Chief Planning Officers have indicated that there is no support within planning circles for such a proposal.</p> <p>The proposal would entail a significant workload shifting from DfI to the Councils. There is no indication that there would be a commensurate shift of resources in the same direction to fund and to carry out the work.</p> <p>This matter is likely to be the subject of further discussion in the coming months between planning officials in the Councils and DfI, as part of the wider ongoing review of the planning system in Northern Ireland.</p>

3.0	Recommendations
3.1	That the Committee note the content of the report and the attached correspondence.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	None.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)

<p>6.1</p>	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>7.0</p>	<p>Appendices</p>
	<p>Letter from Dept for Infrastructure Re Planning Applications Conditions as referenced in the report.</p>
<p>8.0</p>	<p>Background Documents</p>
	<p>N/A</p>

Strategic Planning Directorate



Department for

Infrastructure

An Roinn

Bonneagair

www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Heads of Planning

Clarence Court
10-18 Adelaide Street
Belfast
BT2 8GB

0300 200 7830

07 February 2022

Dear Heads of Planning

PLANNING APPLICATIONS – CONDITIONS

Since the devolution of planning powers to local authorities in April 2015 there has been a varying approach to imposing conditions on planning approvals issued by the Department in relation to, for example, ongoing operations and monitoring (*'operational conditions'*), submissions of reports and plans (*'submission conditions'*) and matters to be agreed before works commence (*'pre-commencement conditions'*). There are also conditions attached to Outline approvals (*'reserved matters conditions'*).

In order to bring consistency and certainty to the situation the Department has been considering the best approach to take in each circumstance. In that regard we have considered the approach taken in other multi-tier jurisdictions and the premise of our own two tier planning system where councils are responsible for local planning and the Department is responsible for regional planning including applications for development which is of regional significance. It is also recognised that there is no legal requirement that an application for a subsequent consent or approval under a condition must be made to the body that granted the permission. Indeed, the longstanding example of this is where the PAC grant permission subject to conditions. Those conditions are subsequently a matter for the authority from which the application was appealed.

As such, the Department is suggesting implementing the following broad approach – that once the Department has granted permission for a development it would generally not continue to be responsible for discharging or monitoring conditions.

In that approach the Department would generally impose conditions that require the developer to obtain the consent or approval of the council rather than the Department. However, the Department would retain a discretion to discharge conditions pertaining to regionally significant applications in so far as the conditions specify this.

The suggested approach is summarised below –

Section 26 Applications

- For s26 applications, and associated applications for the same development (eg LBC and HSC), conditions will normally refer to the 'council' but the Department **may** impose conditions that the developer must obtain the consent or approval of the **Department**.
- These conditions would relate to '*Pre-commencement conditions*' and '*Submission conditions*' requiring approval from the Department.
- '*Operational conditions*' won't include any wording referring to either the Department or Council but those conditions will be the responsibility of the council, as was intended under the two tier system.

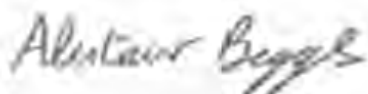
Outline and Reserved Matters

- The reserved matters conditions on a **Departmental** decision notice (Outline permission) will state that an application for subsequent approval of the particulars of the proposed development (reserved matters) are to be submitted to the appropriate **council**.
- ALL applications for reserved matters are submitted to the **council**.
- The Department has a section 29 power to call-in applications and can make a direction that all section 26 subsequent reserved matters applications are to be made to the Department.
- Called-in reserved matters applications are determined by the **Department** and any conditions for subsequent approval shall be made to the **council**. Although section 29 affords no right of appeal, representations can be made during a Public Inquiry.

In advance of considering the matter further I would be grateful for your comments by **7 March 2022** if possible, particularly on any practical or logistical issues and I hope we could have a discussion on this at the next Strategic Planning Group meeting on 23 March 2022.

Should you wish to discuss this directly, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



ALISTAIR BEGGS
DIRECTOR