

January 5th, 2021

Notice Of Meeting

You are invited to attend the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee meeting to be held on **Monday, 11th January 2021 at 6:00 pm** in **Boardroom Council Offices Monaghan Row Newry.**

Committee Membership:-

Councillor A McMurray (Chairperson)

Councillor M Ruane (Deputy Chairperson)

Councillor R Burgess

Councillor W Clarke

Councillor D Curran

Councillor G Hanna

Councillor V Harte

Councillor R Howell

Councillor M Larkin

Councillor D McAteer

Councillor R Mulgrew

Councillor H Reilly

Councillor M Savage

Councillor G Stokes

Agenda

- 1.0 Apologies and Chairman's remarks.
- 2.0 Declarations of Interest.
- 3.0 Action Sheet: Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting - Monday 14 December 2020. (Attached)

📎 Action Sheet - ERT Dec 2020 Mtg.pdf

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Notices of Motion

4.0 Notice of Motion re: Housing System.. (Attached)

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the names of Councillor Murphy and Councillor Harte:

"This Council welcomes the recent announcement by Communities Minister, Caral Ni Chuilin regarding her plans to fundamentally address the significant challenges facing our housing system. We call on the Planning Service to urgently place more emphasis on planning as an activity that is both integrated with other local government agencies and is focused on delivery. "

📎 Notice of Motion - Housing System.pdf

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5.0 Notice of Motion re: NZEB Code (Nearly Zero Energy Building). (Attached)

To consider the following Notice of Motion in the names of Councillor Enright and Councillor Brown:

"This Council calls upon Finance Minister Conor Murphy to immediately implement the NZEB Code (Nearly Zero Energy Building Code) that the EU Directive requires the NI Department of Finance to implement by the end of this year. This Directive has is adopted into UK law ¹³

Council alerts the Minister to the following facts;

- 1. NI building code is 20 years behind GB. Every private sector house built between now and 2030 will have to be retrofitted to meet the UK's energy efficiency targets at 2030.**
- 2. Every new house built in RoI is now more than £1000pa cheaper to run than an equivalent house in NI because of out of date building standards. All new homes in RoI thus have a typical Building Energy Rating (BER) of A2 or better.**
- 3. RoI in November 2019 signed into law the nearly zero energy buildings (NZEB)**

regulation under part L of the Building Code for all domestic homes – not just public buildings as in GB. New Public Buildings in RoI have already been NZEB since 31st December 2018".

 *Notice of Motion - NZEB.pdf*

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 *Appx NZEB Information Note.pdf*

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Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration Items

6.0 Carlingford Group Greenway. (Attached)

 *ERT Report - Carlingford Lough Greenway.pdf*

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7.0 EDRF Covid Response - 11 Council collaborative project. (Attached)

 *ERT Report - ERDF Collaborative Digital Bid.pdf*

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8.0 Update re: Forkhill Former Barrack site. (Attached)

 *ERT Report - Forkhill Former Barrack Site Update.pdf*

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9.0 SRC Big Apprenticeship Events. (Attached)

 *ERT Report - SRC Big Apprenticeship Event.pdf*

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10.0 Warrenpoint Frontshore PR Scheme. (Attached)

 *ERT Report - Warrenpoint Front Shore Public Realm Scheme.pdf*

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Tourism, Culture and Events Items

11.0 Framework for Accommodation/Catering /Venue Hire. (Attached)

 *ERT Report - Accommodation catering and venue hire framework.pdf*

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12.0 DAERA Collaborative Programme. (Attached)

 *ERT Report - DAERA Collaborative Programme Appointment.pdf*

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Exempt Information Items

13.0 Annalong Harbour North Pier Wall Restoration. (Attached)

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any

particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

 **ERT Report - Annalong Harbour North Pier Repair.pdf**

Not included

14.0 Closing Order Appeal - Bay of Bengal. (Attached)

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

 **ERT Report - Closing Order Appeal - Bay of Bengal.pdf**

Not included

15.0 Car Parks - future service provision. (Attached)

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

 **ERT Report - Car Parks Future Service Provision.pdf**

Not included

For Noting

16.0 Dog Euthanasia. (Attached)

 **ERT Report - Dogs Euthanasia Report.pdf**

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17.0 Update re: Project Stratum. (Attached)


 **ERT Report - Project Stratum Jan 2021.pdf**

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18.0 Rural Villages Consultation. (Attached)

 **ERT Report - Rural Villages Consultation Reports.pdf**

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 **Appx 1. Rural Villages - Saintfield Public Realm.PDF**

Page 78

 **Appx 2. Rural Villages - Killyleagh Public Realm.PDF**

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 **Appx 3. Rural Villages - Castlewellan Public Realm.PDF**

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 **Appx 4. Rural Villages - Bessbrook Public Realm.PDF**

Page 118

 **Appx 5. Rural Villages - Rostrevor Public Realm.pdf**

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19.0 Brexit Forum Action Sheet. (Attached)

20.0 Update re: Artisan Markets. (Attached)

 *ERT Report - Artisan Markets Update 2020.pdf*

Page 162

21.0 Historic Action Tracker. (Attached)

 *Historic Action Tracker Sheet - for January Mtg 2020.pdf*

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22.0 Planning Performance Figures. (Attached)

 *Planning Committee Performance Report Dec 2020.pdf*

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Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews

Mr Alan Beggs

Ms Kate Bingham

Cllr Patrick Brown

Cllr Robert Burgess

Cllr Pete Byrne

Mrs Dorinnia Carville

Cllr charlie casey

Cllr William Clarke

Cllr Dermot Curran

Cllr Laura Devlin

Ms Louise Dillon

Cllr Sean Doran

Cllr Cadogan Enright

Cllr Aoife Finnegan

Cllr Hugh Gallagher

Cllr Mark Gibbons

Cllr Oonagh Hanlon

Cllr Glyn Hanna

Cllr Valerie Harte

Cllr Roisin Howell

Mr Colum Jackson

Mrs Sheila Kieran

Cllr Mickey Larkin

Miss Mary Lennon

Cllr Alan Lewis

Mr Michael Lipsett

Sandra Magee

Cllr Oonagh Magennis

Mr Conor Mallon

Cllr Gavin Malone

Cllr Cathy Mason

Mr Johnny Mc Bride

Colette McAteer

Cllr Declan McAteer

Cllr Leeanne McEvoy

Jonathan McGilly

Cllr Harold McKee

Patricia McKeever

Cllr Karen McKevitt

Cllr Andrew McMurray

Margaret Morrow

Cllr Roisin Mulgrew
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Cllr Declan Murphy
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Cllr Barra Ó Muirí
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Linda O'Hare
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Cllr Gerry O'Hare
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Cllr Kathryn Owen
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Mr Andy Patterson
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Cllr Henry Reilly
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Cllr Michael Ruane
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Cllr Michael Savage
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Cllr Gareth Sharvin
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Donna Starkey
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Cllr Gary Stokes
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Sarah Taggart
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Cllr David Taylor
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Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly
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Cllr John Trainor
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Central Support Unit
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Cllr William Walker
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Mrs Marie Ward
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ACTION SHEETENTERPRISE REGENERATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETINGMONDAY 14 DECEMBER 2020

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/147/2020	MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATION S	To send a letter of congratulations from the Council to Dr Gerard O Hare on his appointment as Chair of Warrenpoint Harbour Authority.	C Mallon	Ongoing – letter to go from Chair of Council.	N
ERT/176/2020	AONB TERMS OF REFERENCE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To approve the signing of the reviewed Terms of Reference for AONB Partnerships, subject to final signed off by legal officers and agreement with AONB Partners 2. To approve that officers liaise with partners on the development on a project that may be applicable to the Shared History Fund and submit an application if applicable. 	J McGilly	Work in progress	y
ERT/177/2020	COVID 19 REVITALISATION SCHEME	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When received, Council to accept additional funding from DFC and DEARA totalling £147,000 for the Business Covid 19 Grants Scheme. 2. To note Council will continue to engage 	J McGilly	Work in progress	y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<p>with lead Departments to deliver on an acceptable programme of activity that can be implemented within the appropriate timescales.</p> <p>3. Council will open a new application for Business Grants offering eligible businesses a grant of up to £2,000 towards defined eligible items relating to Covid 19 compliance, with budget to be allocated on a first come first awarded basis up to the budget available (£1,033 M) across stage 1 and stage 2 grant application processes.</p> <p>4. Officers to bring a report to the ERT Committee in January 2021 detailing a breakdown on the areas within the District where Covid 19 Revitalisation Scheme grants have been awarded.</p>			
ERT/178/2020	DEVELOPMENT OF DUBLIN/BELFAST CORRIDOR	Nominations to the Dublin / Belfast Economic Corridor Political Advisory Group be deferred for consideration by the Party Leaders Group.	J McGilly	Referred to Party leaders group	y
ERT/179/2020	PUBLIC REALM SCHEME – LOWER HILL STREET NEWRY	(a) Utilising the existing Risk Allowances and Contingency figures from the previously agreed Economic Appraisal, Council approve a variation to the existing contracts and issue of a new Purchase Order if required to cover the consultant	J McGilly	Work in progress	y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<p>and contractor additional contractual costs as funded by Department for Communities under the Newry Lower Hill Street Public Realm Scheme.</p> <p>(b) To approve an updated Letter of Offer from the Department for Communities to provide the previously agreed Risk Allowance and Contingency Figures now required for the Newry Lower Hill Street Public Realm Scheme.</p>			
ERT/180/2020	COVID 19 RECOVERY WORKING GROUP	<p>To approve the establishment of a NMDDC Covid 19 Recovery Working Group as per the Terms of Reference contained in Report dated 14 December 2020 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism.</p> <p>Note: Terms of Reference would be amended to reflect the recommended membership of the Working Group</p>	J McGilly	First meeting to be convened early 2021	n
ERT/181/2020	ALL IRELAND SMART CITIES FORUM	<p>Newry Mourne & Down District Council continue to avail of the expertise from the All Ireland Smart Cities Forum, and that 1 No. Officer from the ERT Department and 1 No. representative from East Border Region attend the meetings and feed back into the relevant Departments.</p>	J McGilly	Completed	y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/182/2020	UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME STEERING GROUP NI	The nomination of Members to the Universal Basic Income Steering Group NI, be deferred for consideration by Party Leaders Group.	J McGilly	Refer party leaders for nomination	y
ERT/183/2020	WARRENPOINT MARINA PROJECT	The findings of the updated Business Case for the Warrenpoint Marina Project and next steps for the project, be presented to the Strategic Finance Working Group for consideration.	J McGilly	Referred to SFWG	y
ERT/184/2020	WOMEN IN BUSINESS PROGRAMME – YES YOU CAN	Council approve the continued participation in 'The NI Woman in Enterprise Challenge' at a cost of £6,060 for the final Year/ Year 3.	J McGilly	In progress	y
ERT/185/2020	SEA TOURS NEWCASTLE HARBOUR	On completion of the procurement exercise, to award the contract to the most economically advantageous tender for an operator to offer Sea / Charter Boat Tours from Newcastle Harbour.	A Patterson	In progress	Y
ERT/186/2020	BUILDING CONTROL CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY 2020	To approve the Building Control Satisfaction Survey Report 2020	C Jackson	Complete	Y
ERT/187/2020	DANGEROUS STRUCTURE WARRENPOINT	The Council's Maintenance Department proceed to remove approximately 6m of a	C Jackson	Programmed for completion in Feb 2021	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		dangerous wall between Ashley Heights and Oak Grange Warrenpoint, and erect timber fencing.			
ERT/188/2020	(EXEMPT) TOURISM SIGNAGE PROGRAMME NMD WAYFINDING PROJECT	To accept the Business Case for Tourism Signage Programme which will be 100% funded by the Department for Communities and procurements as required to progress project.	A. Patterson	In progress	Y
ERT/189/2020	(EXEMPT) EXTENSION OF LICENCE – KILBRONEY PARK CAFÉ	To extend the Licence for the Kilbroney Park Café for a further 2 year period until 31 December 2022, and undertake a new procurement exercise in 2022 for provision from 1 January 2023.	A. Patterson	In progress	Y
ERT/190/2020	(EXEMPT) SECURITY PROVISION - KILBRONEY PARK CARAVAN	To approve the Business Case to undertake the relevant procurement exercises to appoint a suitable supplier to meet the requirement set out in Report dated 14 December 2020 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Arts, regarding certified security provision at Kilbroney Caravan Park.	A. Patterson	In progress	Y
ERT/191/2020	(EXEMPT) SOUTHERN RELIEF ROAD SCHEME PROVISION OF LIFTING BRIDGE	Council Officers re-engage with the appointed Economist through a variation of contract to produce a detailed report for submission to the Department for Infrastructure on the future economic benefits of a Lifting Bridge to Newry City	A. Patterson	In progress	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		and the District.			
ERT/192/2020	(EXEMPT) RENEWAL OF TASCOMI SUBSCRIPTION	To approve the extension of the IDOX (Tascomi) software package for Building Control for the next 3 years.	C Jackson	In progress, invoice submitted to procurement, to be authorised by IT - AD	N
ERT/193/2020	(EXEMPT) VISITOR INFORMATION SERVICES PROVISION	To approve the recommendations set out in Report dated 14 December 2020 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Arts, regarding Visitor Information Centre provision.	A. Patterson	In progress	Y
ERT/194/2020	(EXEMPT) NEWRY BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT (BID)	Based on the detail presented to date in the Draft Business Plan, to approve the Strategy subject to submission of the final draft ahead of Council Meeting on 04 January 2021.	J McGilly	Work in progress	n

Report to:	Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 11 th January 2021
Subject:	Notice of Motion - Housing System Council Meeting Ref: C/188/2020
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> To respond to the motion brought by Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Harte.</p> <p><u>Background</u> The motion is as follows: This Council welcomes the recent announcement by Communities Minister, Caral Ni Chuilin regarding her plans to fundamentally address the significant challenges facing our housing system. We call on the Planning Service to urgently place more emphasis on planning as an activity that is both integrated with other local government agencies and is focused on delivery.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>The Ministerial statement outlines plans to address some of the most significant challenges facing the housing system. It is wide ranging in its scope.</p> <p>The motion calls on the planning system to urgently place more emphasis on integration with other local government agencies and focus on delivery.</p> <p>The planning process; whether it be the processing of planning applications, the production of development plans or the development of policy and strategy; is built around engagement with stakeholders, consultation and the invitation to make representations.</p> <p>Planning is now embedded in the local government structure as a result of the transfer of the planning function to District Councils.</p>

	<p>The Minister has indicated that she will work with Executive colleagues and Councils through the Local Development Plans. The Council's existing Area Plans already make significant provision in the fields of social and affordable housing.</p> <p>These Area Plans are in the process of being replaced by a new Local Development Plan (LDP) for the District. The LDP Preferred Options Paper specifically considered a range of options that the Council's new LDP could bring forward to support the delivery of social housing. Enhanced support for the delivery of social housing will form a key element within the Council's LDP Draft Plan Strategy. The Development Plan team works with all the relevant government agencies and other stakeholders.</p> <p>The Council's Community Plan: Living Well Together, under the Environmental and Spatial Development Thematic Group organised a Housing Needs Conference in February 2019. Arising from that conference a Housing Sub Group was established, led by the Housing Executive and involving all key stakeholders.</p> <p>The development management element of the planning function engages in regular meetings with the Housing Executive to advance the development of social and affordable housing sites and to address any issues in the consideration of planning applications.</p> <p>The planning function within this Council has assisted in delivering significant social housing provision across the district. That work continues, particularly in the larger urban centres.</p> <p>The Council's Planning Department supports the sentiments expressed in the motion and will play its part.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	That Members support the motion.
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	<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 11 th January 2021
Subject:	Notice of Motion – NZEB (Nearly Zero Energy Buildings) Council Meeting Ref: C/189/2020
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Colum Jackson Assistant Director – Building Control and Regulation.
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Colum Jackson. Assistant Director – Building Control and Regulation

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

For decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u> The Committee is asked to consider the Notice of Motion put forward by Cllr Enright at the Council meeting dated the 7 Dec 2020.</p> <p><u>Background</u> The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor Enright and Councillor Brown proposed the motion in his absence:</p> <p>C/189/2020 NOTICE OF MOTION – NZEB (NEARLY ZERO ENERGY BUILDING) CODE.</p> <p>“This Council calls upon Finance Minister Conor Murphy to immediately implement the NZEB Code (Nearly Zero Energy Building Code) that the EU Directive requires the NI Department of Finance to implement by the end of this year. This Directive has is adopted into UK law 13</p> <p>Council alerts the Minister to the following facts;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NI building code is 20 years behind GB. Every private sector house built between now and 2030 will have to be retrofitted to meet the UK’s energy efficiency targets at 2030. 2. Every new house built in RoI is now more than £1000pa cheaper to run than an equivalent house in NI because of out of date building standards. All new homes in RoI thus have a typical Building Energy Rating (BER) of A2 or better. 3. RoI in November 2019 signed into law the nearly zero energy buildings (NZEB) regulation under part L of the Building Code for all domestic homes – not just public buildings as in GB. New Public Buildings in RoI have already been NZEB since 31st December 2018”.

2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>The Building Standards Branch of the Department of Finance are already aware of the requirements of the NZEB Regulation and are working to increase standards required under Part F (Conservation of fuel and power) as soon as possible.</p> <p>They have advised that any new requirements would be expected to apply on the basis of the date of the submission of a Building Regulation application. In other words – there will be no retrospective retrofitting necessary as long as the designer has demonstrated compliance of the Target Emission Rate required under Regulation 40 and has undertaken an analysis of the technical, environmental and economic feasibility of using high efficiency alternative systems, which include decentralised energy supply systems based on energy from renewable sources.</p> <p>The Department (and Minister) are aware that they must carry out a public consultation process prior to the implication of any amendments to the existing Regulations which they plan to do. The outcome of the consultation will have a bearing on the timescale and extent of the proposed changes.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	The Committee are to consider the contents of the report during the debate on the Notice of Motion put forward by Cllr Enright .
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	<p>Every change to the Building Regulations will have an impact upon enforcement in terms of time taken during the plan checking process and the time taken during the site inspection process.</p> <p>In addition, any upgrade to the fabric of a building or provision of services within a building will have financial implications for the owner or property developer. These issues would be addressed during the Public Consultation process.</p>
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input 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> <hr/> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p> <p><i>The Public Consultation will be undertaken by the Building Standards Branch of the Dept of Finance.</i></p>
6.0	<p>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</p>
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If no, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	<p>Appendices</p>

	Appendix A, - Guidance document issued to Building Control from the Department of Finance, December 2020.
8.0	Background Documents



Department of
Finance

An Roinn
Airgeadais

December 2020

BUILDING REGULATIONS

PART F - Conservation of fuel and power

NEARLY ZERO-ENERGY BUILDINGS (NZEB) REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW BUILDINGS

BACKGROUND

Regulation 43B of the Building Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 (as amended) ('the Building Regulations') requires that where a building is newly erected, it must be a nearly zero-energy building (NZEB). This regulation implements Article 9(1) of Directive 2010/31/EU on the Energy Performance of Buildings (EPBD).

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Information Note is to clarify the implementation of the NZEB requirements of regulation 43B as it applies to 'all new buildings' from 31st December 2020.

Information Note of October 2019 remains valid for new buildings occupied and owned by public authorities until further notice.

REGULATION 43B

Regulation 43B states:

- (1) Where a building is erected, it must be a nearly zero-energy building.*
- (2) For the purposes of paragraph (1)—*
 - (a) in respect of new buildings occupied and owned by public authorities, this regulation shall apply from 1st January 2019; and*
 - (b) in respect of all new buildings, this regulation shall apply from 31st December 2020.*

COMPLIANCE WITH REGULATION 43B

The minimum level of compliance with this requirement may be achieved by meeting the Target Emission Rate required under regulation 40. Those carrying out the work should also undertake an analysis of the technical, environmental and economic feasibility of using high efficiency alternative systems, which include decentralised energy supply systems based on energy from renewable sources, and take this into account as required by regulation 43A.

This applies to both new buildings which are erected, or for which a new building regulations application is made, after 31st December 2020, until further notice.

FUTURE PROPOSALS AND TECHNICAL UPLIFT

The Department is working to increase standards required under Part F (Conservation of fuel and power) as soon as possible.

Any new requirements would be expected to apply on the basis of the date of a building regulations application.

**Properties Division, Building Standards Branch
6th Floor Goodwood House
44 May Street, Belfast, BT1 4NN**

Report to:	Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 11 th January 2021
Subject:	Carlingford Lough Greenway_Site Investigation and 2021/2022 Budget
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly – Assistant Director of ERT
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Seamus Crossey – Project 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> To seek approval for the recommendations as set out in Section 3.1</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council now approve the Business Case for the Carlingford Lough Greenway 'Site Investigation Study' and issue the relevant Purchase Order, following tender assessment and award. 2. Council consider a contribution towards the Carlingford Lough Greenway project from its Capital Programme for 2021/22. <p><u>Background</u> As discussed previously at the ERT committee, the Carlingford Lough Greenway from Victoria Lock to the Border, had its formal planning application submitted at the start of August 2020. Officers are working closely with planners regarding the Major Application process, with no decision expected until mid-2021.</p> <p>In relation to the southern sections (Border to Omeath and Carlingford Town), Louth County Council is going through an Article 8 planning approvals process and will shortly be following this with a land acquisition/transfer process. On-site works are not expected to commence until late 2021/early 2022.</p> <p>As the planning process is underway, Newry Mourne and Down District Council are also seeking to enter into the relevant Land Owner tenure agreements, to ensure pathway access is secured and all future responsibility is transferred to Council. While Permissive Path Agreements are being put in place with the relevant land owners, one owner will not be signing the agreement and an alternative land transfer option is not required.</p>
2.0	Key issues

2.1	<p>With time bound monies available from the Interreg programme, Council officials are now working closely with planning colleagues, to ensure that this important major planning application proceeds through the streamlined process.</p> <p>Council officials are continuing to meet all effected land owners on the northern section to agree suitable land tenure transfer to enable the Council to take on responsibility for the new Greenway once developed.</p> <p>As outlined, a permissive path agreement for one of the affected land owners on the northern side of the border, is not an option, so Council are now required to engage with its legal services to proceed with acquiring sufficient title to allow the land to be obtained and for the project to proceed.</p> <p>Separately, Council in partnership with Louth County Council have to complete an advance 'Site Investigation Survey', which will benefit from 100% Grant Aid and is needed to feed relevant information towards the future contractor tender process.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	Council now approve the Business Case for the Carlingford Lough Greenway 'Site Investigation Study' and issue the relevant Purchase Order, following tender assessment and award.
3.2	Council asked to include funding towards the Carlingford Lough Greenway project within the Capital Programme for 2021/22.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Regarding the Site Investigation Study, its costs will be circa £50k and 100% grant aided through the Interreg programme. Separately to assist future legal and land acquisition costs, Council now required to consider a £40k contribution from its 2021/2022 rate estimates.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p>

	<p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices
	Business Case for 2021/2022 contribution and Site Investigation Study
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A

Business Case (Short Form)

£30,000 < £100,000 Expenditure

Project Title:	Carlingford Lough Greenway _Site Investigation Study and Legal/Land Acquisition Costs
Directorate:	Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism (ERT)
SECTION A	
Tell us about your project:	For expenditure between £30,000 and £100,000 which is over and above the operational costs of a department, for example:
1. What is the current provision?	Under the proposed 'Carlingford Lough Greenway' project, this is a new scheme, with no current pathway provision at this location, between Victoria Lock and The Border.
2. What is the proposed provision (what options have you considered)?	<p>The 2 options facing the scheme to come are:</p> <p>Option 1 – Do nothing and not allow the Site Investigation Survey to take place with the grant money available and no also not allow the Council to set aside monies for future land acquisition. Either of these not happening would mean that the project could not proceed.</p> <p>Option 2_ Council to issue a PO to have the Site Investigation Study undertaken and purchase were required the necessary lands to allow the project to proceed.</p>
3. What is the need and how is it evidenced?	The need has been identified in that to go to tender for the overall project, the results of an advance Site Investigation Survey are needed, while so is the tenure to all the required land.
4. Are all statutory approvals in place – please outline?	A full planning application has been submitted for the Carlingford Lough Greenway (Phase II) project in August 2020, with a decision expected in mid-2021.
5. Are there any risks associated with this project – please outline?	Until Full Planning permission has been obtained, everything especially the 2 items listed within this Business Case are being conducted at risk, to ensure that the project is able to proceed.

<p>6. Any other relevant information? i.e. drawings, plans, photographs...</p> <p>You are not limited to one page, please expand where necessary.</p> <p>All of the above questions must be addressed.</p>			
SECTION B			
<p>7. Is your expenditure linked to the Corporate Plan/Community Plan/Directorate Business Plan – please reference the relevant section.</p>	<p>This expenditure is linked to the ongoing promotion through the Councils Active and Healthy Communities Department in helping to encourage more active travel across the district.</p>		
<p>8. Has this project been identified as a priority in your Directorate?</p> <p>Please provide details:</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conditions Survey</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Strategy</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other</p>
	<p>The Project is clearly listed in the Departments list of projects, given the Interreg funding it is benefitting from and the fact that this is phase 2 of trying to deliver on a bigger overall scheme, from Newry to Carlingford.</p>		

9. Preferred Option – Please detail your preferred option and a rational why this option was selected	Option 2_ Council to issue a PO to have the Site Investigation Study undertaken and purchase were required the necessary lands to allow the project to proceed.		
10. Please provide a breakdown of all costs, including running costs (whole life costs). Please provide information on how these costs have been arrived at.	Item 1 - £50,000 (Site Investigation Study) Item 2 - £40,000 (For legal and Land Acquisition Costs) Total £90,000.00	<u>Account Code / Cost Centre / Project Code (if applicable):</u> <u>9025/9159</u>	
11. Please indicate how this project will be financed. Please provide details	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Internal Funding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> External Funding	
	Grant Aid will be available from the Interreg programme for the Site Investigation Study (50k), while Council are being asked to consider a Capital contribution towards the land acquisition required (40k).		
Is or will there be any perceived cross EU Border interest for this requirement/project:			Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Prepared by:	Seamus Crossey	Date Submitted:	18/12/2020
Validated by Assistant Director	Sign: <i>Jonathan McGilly</i> Date: 18/12/2020		
Director Approval:	Sign: <i>Caoimhe Wallen</i> Date: 11/01/2021		
Committee Approval:	Date: ERT 11 th January 2021		
Council Approval	Date: Full Council 1 st February 2021		

Report to:	Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 11 January 2021
Subject:	ERDF recovery collaborative bid – Digital transformation programme
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan Mc Gilly – Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan Mc Gilly – Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration

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

For decision	x	For noting only	
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p><u>Purpose:</u> To agree the recommendations contained in section 3 of this report, that NMDDC work with 11 Councils to submit a joint Digital programme proposal under ERDF programme.</p> <p><u>Background:</u> As part of SOLACE discussions with central Government around additional support packages for business in light of the impact of Covid pandemic, Invest NI agreed to consider a collaborative Council bid for a regional programme to address the impacts of Covid on local businesses by considering transformational change to support businesses moving forward. This proposal would be considered within the ERDF funding available to Councils for current LED activity. As result the application will have to demonstrate transformational change in the targeted businesses and must add value to existing interventions.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>Based on the research carried out on the impacts of the pandemic on local business it has been identified that gaps in the digital capability of many SMEs has been a significant barrier.</p> <p>While many Councils do provide digital support programmes, support on offer is focusing on supporting businesses to digitise their existing practises to achieve growth and efficiencies and improve routes to markets. The proposed regional programme will take this support to the next level and support businesses to introduce digital transformation into their business focusing on smart technologies, IOT, immersive technology and data analytics.</p> <p>The regional programme has three broad aims as follows:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To drive 'digital inclination' aligned to an innovation roadmap 2. To 'demystify' various advanced digital technologies /tools.

	<p>3. To put in place a digital acceleration plan for each participating business onto more intensive supports in the 'digital innovation ecosystem'</p> <p>These interventions will be open to all sectors. However, the proposal developed would particularly target tourism, hospitality and retail businesses which have been severally impacted by the pandemic.</p> <p>The support on offer through the programme is a mix of workshops on the fundamentals of Digital Transformation, Specialist Mentoring Support of up to 8 days, masterclasses and cluster networking events. Each participating business will complete the programme with a Digital Acceleration Plan, which will signpost them onto more intensive supports in the 'digital innovation ecosystem' and the next steps to further implement their plan.</p> <p>The programme will be submitted to ERDF for grant aid support of 60%. Invest NI will match fund the programme with 20% grant aid, and the balance of 20% will be funded by the 11 District Councils. The budget is approx. £1.2 Million, with a direct cost to Council of £25,000</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	Council work in partnership with 11 Councils to develop and submit bid to Invest NI by 31 January for a regional business support programme looking at digital transformation/ innovation for SMEs. As the application progresses further detail to be provided on likely number of participant companies for each Council area. Cost to Council is £25,000 over 2 financial years.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	£25k match funding for 2 years subject to application approval.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p>

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

Report to:	Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 11 th January 2021
Subject:	Forkhill Former Barrack Site
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly – Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Seamus Crossey – Project Manager

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

For decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input type="checkbox"/>
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u> To seek approval for the recommendations as set out in Section 3.1</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council to note the Report of the meeting on the 17/11/2020 and acknowledge the work of the sub-group set-up to agree the community consultation questionnaire on the future of the Former Forkhill Barracks site. Subject to full partnership group sign off in January 2021, support the Public Consultation process in early 2021. 2. Council agree to the setting up/extension of the License Agreement between it and the Department for Communities for those pathway and play elements of the Forkhill Greenspace Site that it is currently responsible for. 3. Council agree to the finalisation/extension of the License Agreement between it and Forkhill Parish to enable the Church car park access point to the site to be maintained. <p><u>Background</u> As previously discussed at ERT, Council are working in partnership with DFC, DAERA and the local community in regards assessing options for the future of the remaining elements of land on the former Barracks site in the village of Forkhill.</p> <p>While the site belongs to DFC, Council have responsibility for an 800m pathway and play-area, both developed within the last number of years on the site.</p> <p>Prior to Lock Down, in early 2020, it was agreed that no decisions on the site would be taken until a consultation process with the local community had been held. However, with Covid-19 this process had been stalled and nothing further had happened.</p>

	In November 2020 the Development Partnership meet up again to discuss were the project had left off earlier in the year and to agree the next steps of now beginning the consultation process.
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>In taking forward the consultation process with the local community, a sub-group of the main steering development partnership was established to look at the design of a questionnaire so that it is fair and balanced and can capture the right information when hosted in an online survey monkey platform.</p> <p>The finalised survey to be signed off by the main committee in January 2021 and thereafter a community consultation process will be held in early 2021.</p> <p>In tandem with this on-going consultation process, important that relevant License Agreement/Leases for Council responsibility on the Forkhill Greenspace Pathway and Play-Area are put in place/extended, until final site tenure/ownership has been agreed.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	Council to note the Report of the meeting on the 17/11/2020 and acknowledge the work of the sub-group set-up to agree the community consultation questionnaire on the future of the Former Forkhill Barracks site. Subject to full partnership group sign off in January 2021, support the Public Consultation process in early 2021.
3.2	Council agree to the putting in place/extension of the License Agreement between it and the Department for Communities for those pathway and play elements of the Forkhill Greenspace Site that it is currently responsible for.
3.3	Council agree to the finalisation/extension of the License Agreement between it and Forkhill Parish to enable the Church Car Park Access point to the site to be maintained.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	N/A
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

	<p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices
	Report of the Forkhill Site Management Committee Meeting held on 17/11/2020
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A

Forkhill Development Strategic Management Board Meeting 17th Nov 20 Teleconference

Attendees: Damian Mulholland (Chair) - DfC
 Catherine McInerney - DfC
 Seamus McGivern – Forkhill Community Association
 Mona Conway – NIHE
 Cllr Pete Byrne – NMDDC
 Cllr Michael Larkin – NMDDC
 Jonathan McGilly – NMDDC
 Seamus Crossey – NMDDC
 Elaine Carr – NMDDC
 Patrick Rogers - DAERA
 Brian Cunningham (Minutes) – DfC

Apologies: Raymond McCumiskey – FADDA
 Lucy Murphy – DAERA

1	<p>Welcome and Apologies.</p> <p>D Mulholland welcomed all to the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies were received from those listed above.</p>
2.	<p>Conflicts of Interest.</p> <p>No conflicts of interest declared.</p>
3	<p>Minutes of last meeting.</p> <p>D Mulholland enquired if everyone was content that the minutes of the last management board meeting dated 27th February 2020 reflected the discussions that took place.</p> <p>The minutes were approved as a true record of proceedings.</p>
4	<p>Action Points/Matters Arising.</p> <p>The Action Point from the previous meeting to convene a sub-group meeting to try to agree new wording for the consultation questionnaire was outstanding due to a communication issue and the introduction of the Cov-19 restrictions. It was agreed that a further sub-group would be reconvened to agree the questionnaire and methodology for its communication within the current social isolating environment with a view to reporting back to the full Board in early January when the Board will meet to consider the proposals.</p> <p>AP1. The members of the sub-group are Catherine McInerney (Chair), Elaine Carr, Seamus McGivern, Seamus Crossey, Lucy Murphy, Cllr Pete Byrne and Cllr Michael Larkin.</p>
5	<p>Peace Funding Update.</p> <p>The Peace Funding's end date was extended to September 2021 following Covid-19 restrictions and may be further extended to March 2022. It was agreed that, whilst there has been no decision yet on how to utilise the Peace Funding, to remain mindful of not missing the end date.</p>

	<p>The discussion then centred on NIHE's proposals for the site. There is, following a recent review, still a good firm waiting list for social housing in Forkhill and the Radius scheme remains on NIHE's programme awaiting community support. S McGivern suggested that they may be other privately owned sites that may be suitable for housing associations to develop. M Conway agreed to forward a list of the Northern Ireland Federation of Housing Associations to Seamus McGivern. AP2</p> <p>It was agreed to maintain an open mind when communicating with the local community on possible uses for the site.</p>
6	<p>Next Steps</p> <p>It was agreed that the Next Steps had already been discussed and agreed.</p>
7	<p>AOB</p> <p>The discussion then turned to representation on the Board and if there were any other individuals representing bodies that may be useful to the Group and it was agreed to put this item on the agenda for the next meeting</p>
8	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>The date of next meeting is to be early January with a date to be confirmed.</p>

Action Points.

AP1.	Sub-group to meet to agree questionnaire and methodology for its communication.
AP2.	M Conway to forward a list of the Northern Ireland Federation of Housing Associations to Seamus McGivern

Brian Cunningham

17th November 2020

Report to:	Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 11 th January 2021
Subject:	SRC Big Apprenticeship Event
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director, Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth, Head of Regeneration and Business Development

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

For decision	<input 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 seek approval for issue of an SLA to Southern Regional College for sponsorship towards the delivery of their Big Apprenticeship Event in April 2021, at a cost of £5,000</p> <p><u>Background</u> Council has been working with Colleges, Schools and employers to promote the opportunities of Apprenticeships and Higher Level Apprenticeships as an alternative route to employment.</p> <p>The SRC Big Apprenticeship Event offers a platform to school leavers and parents to gather information on the various local opportunities for obtaining qualifications, developing skills and securing employment as an alternative to the "university route". It also offers employers a platform to promote their Apprenticeship and Higher Level Apprenticeship (HLA) vacancies as well as promoting their business and any other job vacancies – thereby bringing the two markets together</p> <p>In line with NI Apprenticeship Week, the Big Apprenticeship Event will take place in April 2021 (moved from Feb 2021 due to CV-19 related delays).</p>
2.0	<p>The event will be a hybrid event, with panellists in a studio and employers, students' parents joining virtually.</p> <p>The main objective and target for the annual event is to ensure more young people are aware of the local Apprenticeship and HLA opportunities and career pathways, and that they are afforded the opportunity to speak with local employers and College staff to ensure they make an informed choice regarding their next steps post GCSE and post A-Level (or equivalent). Another key target of the initiative is to support employers to recruit and retain suitably skilled and motivated employees.</p>

	<p>In previous years Council have been a key sponsor of the event (with ABC Council). In February 2020, the event was the largest to date, attracting 34 employers, 504 attending the event of which 262 were potential applicants. For the virtual event Council will support SRC with the production of short videos and case studies that will be used in the run up and during the event to communicate the value and opportunity of apprenticeships. During the event there will be an opportunity for student / employer engagement, and request for booking an appointment with an employer. Employer / student discussions will then be facilitated by SRC in the days and weeks following the virtual event.</p> <p>Request is for Council to sponsor the 2021 Big Apprenticeship event at a sponsorship cost of £5,000</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	Council approve the issue of an SLA to Southern Regional College for sponsorship towards the delivery of their Big Apprenticeship Event in April 2021.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Cost of programme to Council is £5,000 which 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>Proposal initiating consultation</p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	<p>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</p>
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	<p>Appendices</p>
	<p>N/A</p>
8.0	<p>Background Documents</p>
	<p>N/A</p>

Report to:	Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 11 th January 2021
Subject:	Warrenpoint Front Shore Public Realm Scheme – Task and Finish Group meeting held on 10/12/2020
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly – Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration.
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Seamus Crossey – Project Manager

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

For decision	<input checked="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 seek approval for the recommendations as set out in Section 3.1</p> <p><u>Background</u> As discussed previously at the ERT committee, a Task and Finish Group made up of Crotlieve Councillors and Trader Reps has been assembled to take forward the proposed Warrenpoint Front Shore Public Realm Scheme.</p> <p>With Consultants AECOM appointed in mid-2020, they were commissioned to look at the overall extend of a potential scheme to see what could be proposed and was possible within the various sections running from Dock Street to Coles Corner, along the Front Shore.</p> <p>The Meeting on the 10th December 2020, was an opportunity for the Task and Finish Group to see first sight of the proposals and to give their feedback, prior to moving forward with the next stage of the scheme.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>The presentation to the Task and Finish Committee highlighted the length of time it has been since there has been investment within the considered area. Key existing elements such as lighting, railings, pathways, street furniture and planting/hedging were all raised as needing attention.</p> <p>Outside of the current physical realm infrastructure needing upgraded, the issue of addressing coastal erosion, ensuring greater pedestrian safety and future proofing the scheme were all discussed.</p>

	<p>Following feedback, it was agreed that with a few minor suggested amendments, the Concept Design could now be put out to consultation in 2021, prior to the submission of a planning application and economic appraisal thereafter.</p> <p>In the interim, it was agreed that Council proceed to undertake advance studies were required, to allow the scheme to proceed to planning and tender thereafter.</p> <p>Regarding the proposed One-Way System Study being undertaken by DFI, it was agreed that this would be presented to Crotlieve Cllrs at a future meeting in early 2021.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	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.
3.2	Officers report on feedback from the consultation process to the Task and Finish Group, before proceeding to finalise the design for submission to planning.
3.3	Officers complete and submit the Economic Appraisal to Council and the Department For Communities for consideration of the funding package for the scheme.
3.4	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.
3.5	Once completed officers will present the DFI One Way system proposal for Warrenpoint at a future meeting of Crotlieve Cllrs in early 2021.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Council have an available Capital Budget in 2020/21 (50k) and 2021/22 (130k) to cover ongoing costs of RIBA stages 1-3 of the project. Longer term, an Economic Appraisal will be completed and submitted for main scheme funding from DFC and Council. A separate report on this will be taken back to Council when ready.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

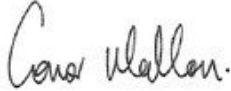
	<p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Business Case to carry out Site Investigation Study 2. Report of Task and Finish group meeting 10 December 2020
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A

Business Case (Short Form)

£30,000 < £100,000 Expenditure

Project Title:	Warrenpoint Front Shore Public Realm Scheme _Site Investigation Study and other Survey/Consultancy costs
Directorate:	Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism (ERT)
SECTION A	
Tell us about your project:	For expenditure between £30,000 and £100,000 which is over and above the operational costs of a department, for example:
1. What is the current provision?	Under the proposed 'Warrenpoint Front Shore Public Realm Project', this is a new scheme, looking to tackle the older environmental elements of previously completed schemes that have come to the end of their life.
2. What is the proposed provision (what options have you considered)?	<p>The 2 options facing the scheme to come are: Option 1 – Do nothing and not allow the Site Investigation Survey or any other Studies/Surveys to take place and as a result the overall project could not more forward.</p> <p>Option 2_ Council to issue a PO to have the Site Investigation Study undertaken and any other studies were required to allow the project to proceed to a planning application and tender post funding award.</p>
3. What is the need and how is it evidenced?	The need has been identified in that to go to planning/tender for the overall project, the results of an advance Site Investigation Survey and other studies are needed
4. Are all statutory approvals in place – please outline?	A full planning application will be submitted for the project in early/mid-2021. The results of these studies/surveys will feed into the planning application.
5. Are there any risks associated with this project – please outline?	The procurement associated with the studies, could take longer than expected and effect the overall project programme, delaying key milestones such as submission of a planning application and Economic Appraisal.

<p>6. Any other relevant information? i.e. drawings, plans, photographs...</p> <p>You are not limited to one page, please expand where necessary.</p> <p>All of the above questions must be addressed.</p>			
SECTION B			
<p>7. Is your expenditure linked to the Corporate Plan/Community Plan/Directorate Business Plan – please reference the relevant section.</p>	<p>In the recent Corporate Plan for NMDDCC Council (2018 – 2023), the vision for Council is to have a 'Happy, healthy and connected community, a vibrant and sustainable economy and appealing places for living, working and learning'. These studies will assist in the development of the overall scheme working towards meeting this vision by improving one of the most scenic parts of the district.</p>		
<p>8. Has this project been identified as a priority in your Directorate?</p> <p>Please provide details:</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conditions Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Strategy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other
<p>The Project is listed in the Departments list of Capital Projects and is a priority given the DFC funding potentially available, once planning has been submitted and an Economic Appraisal has been approved.</p>			

9. Preferred Option – Please detail your preferred option and a rational why this option was selected	Option 2_Council to issue a PO to have the Site Investigation Study undertaken and any other studies were required to allow the project to proceed to a planning application and tender post Funding award.		
10. Please provide a breakdown of all costs, including running costs (whole life costs). Please provide information on how these costs have been arrived at	Item 1 - £50,000 (Site Investigation Study) Item 2 - £50,000 (For any other Study/consultant survey Costs) Total £100,000.00	Account Code / Cost Centre / Project Code (if applicable): 9025/9845	
11. Please indicate how this project will be financed. Please provide details	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Internal Funding <input type="checkbox"/> External Funding Council have available Capital monies (180k over 2 financial years of 20/21 and 21/22) an element of which, can cover the costs of this Studies and Surveys. Remainder of the budget already committed to the existing Consultancy fees.		
Is or will there be any perceived cross EU Border interest for this requirement/project:			Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Prepared by:	Seamus Crossey	Date Submitted:	18/12/2020
Validated by Assistant Director	Sign: <i>Jonathan McGilly</i> Date: 18/12/2020		
Director Approval:	 Sign: Date: 11/01/2021		
Committee Approval:	Date: ERT 11 th January 2021		
Council Approval	Date: Full Council 1 st February 2021		

Title of Working Group/Forum: Warrenpoint Front Shore Public Realm Scheme - Task and Finish Steering GroupDate/time/venue: Thursday 10th December 2020 via Microsoft TeamsCllrs present: Cllr M Gibbons, Cllr D McAteer, Cllr K McKeivittOther Attending: Ms C McInerney (DFC), Mr D Mullholland (DFC), Mr B Cunningham (DFC), Mr R Preston (Consultants), Ms E Rose (Consultants), Mr M Kelly/MS C Thorton (WBR Chamber), Mr V Russell (DFI), Mr D McCullagh (DFI)Chaired by: Cllr D McAteer Officers present: Mr J McGilly, S CrosseyApologies for non-attendance: Cllr M Ruane, Mr M Patterson, Ms S Keenan

Agenda Item Number	Subject	Agreed way forward (if matter requires Committee/Council approval, a separate Report should be compiled and submitted to Committee)	Lead Officer	Actions taken/Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
1	Scheme Background	- S Crossey outlined that AECOM had been appointed in mid-2020 and had spent this last number of months looking at the scope of a scheme. - He added that this meeting was very much about presenting AECOMs initial Concept Design for consideration by the Task and Finish Committee.	S Crossey	1.)_Ensure that Councillors not in attendance had an opportunity to view the presentation.	N
2	Presentation by AECOM of the Warrenpoint Front Shore Concept Design Proposals	AECOM appointed in mid-2020 and commissioned to look at the overall extend of a potential scheme to see what could be proposed and was possible within the various sections running from Dock Street to Coles	S Crossey	2.)_Accept the broad Concept Design proposals as presented by AECOM, with suggested adjustments and proceed to a Consultation Process in early 2021.	N

		<p>Corner, along the Front Shore.</p> <p>The presentation to the Task and Finish Committee highlighted the length of time it has been since there has been investment within the considered area. Key existing elements such as lighting, railings, pathways, street furniture and planting/hedging were all raised as needing attention.</p> <p>Outside of the current physical realm infrastructure needing upgraded, the issue of addressing coastal erosion, ensuring greater pedestrian safety and future proofing the scheme were all raised.</p>		<p>3.) Acknowledge that due to Budget and the infrastructure needed, any works would be limited beyond the former Balmoral to Coles Corner.</p>	
3	Key Discussion Items;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WBR Chamber very welcoming of the proposed scheme. - Future proofing of the site for both utility services and uses is essential - Safe pedestrian access along and across the Front Shore is important - More thought needs to be given to the Arts location and what it should be - Need to speak with Warren point Harbour Authority to obtain their views particularly on the breakwater - Acknowledgement that due to budget and larger infrastructure 	S Crossey	<p>4.)_Bring back views from the consultation process to the Task and Finish Group, before proceeding to finalise the design for submission to planning.</p> <p>5.)_Once Complete, submit the Economic Appraisal to Council and the Department For Communities for consideration of the funding package for the scheme.</p> <p>6.)_Approve the Business Case to carry out a Site Investigation Survey and other smaller surveys costs as required to prepare for the planning submission.</p>	N

		<p>requirements, from the former Balmoral to Coles Corner the scheme would be more limited in what it could do.</p> <p>Following feedback, it was agreed that with a number of minor suggested amendments, the Concept Design could now be put out to consultation in 2021, prior to the submission of a planning application and economic appraisal thereafter.</p>			
4	AOB	- One-way system presentation to be presented as a one item agenda early in 2021 to Crotlieve Councillors.	S Crossey	7.)_The completed DFI One Way study for Warrenpoint is to be considered as a 1 item agenda for a future meeting of Crotlieve Cllrs in early 2021.	N

Signed: ____Seamus Crossey (Project Manager - Lead Officer)

Report to:	Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 11 th January 2021
Subject:	Accommodation/venue hire/catering Framework
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Andy Patterson Assistant Director of Tourism Culture and Events
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Michelle Boyle Head of Product Development and Visitor Experience

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> To approve a business case for a three-year accommodation/venue hire/ catering framework due to the cumulative spend being undertaken with venues/hotels for accommodation, catering and room hire.</p> <p><u>Background</u> Newry, Mourne and Down is recognised for its accommodation, conference and meeting venues along with the excellent local food and drink produce offering which allows the local economy to thrive due to the numerous meeting, conferences and events that are being held in the district that showcases the high standard that is set in the region.</p> <p>Newry, Mourne and Down District Council have identified the need to produce a three-year accommodation/venue hire/ catering framework due to the cumulative spend being undertaken with venues/hotels for accommodation, catering and room hire. Also ensure that local venues, catering providers and accommodation providers are given an opportunity to showcase their premises, food and drink offering along with the destination.</p> <p>The purpose of the Framework is to provide council with a pre-qualified list of suppliers (a Restricted List) who may be asked, to participate in a further mini-competition following which a call-off Contract under the Framework will be awarded.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>The use of venues across the District by the Council is important in creating economic generation for local businesses and provides an important function in showcasing the quality services on offer</p> <p>The venues also serviced an important operational requirement to facilitate the implementation of key Council functions.</p>

	<p>It is a requirement across most Council departments to utilise the services of external venues. This has resulted in significant annual cost utilising value for money as the procurement mechanism.</p> <p>To improve the procurement process it is proposed to undertake a 3 year procurement exercise to identify a pre-qualified list of suppliers (a Restricted List) who may be asked, to participate in a further mini-competition following which a call-off Contract under the Framework will be awarded.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To accept a business case for a Framework appointment for a three-year accommodation/venue hire/ catering procurement for the entire Council valued at circa £165,000 per annum.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	The annual budget is £165,000
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> N/A</p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>

6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices
	Business Case
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A

Full Business Case Template

Expenditure: £100,000 < £500,000

This pro forma is designed to document expenditure appraisals for expenditures between £100k and £500k with appropriate and proportionate effort. It identifies the main elements of a business case to be covered, followed by spaces or tables for inserting the relevant information. ***The spaces and tables should be enlarged or modified as required to accommodate all the necessary information.***

There are no precise rules about the length of business case documents for small expenditure decisions, but, as an indication, it might be anything from a few pages in the simplest cases to 20 pages or so in more complex cases.

For detailed guidance on business cases and expenditure appraisal, consult the [Northern Ireland Guide to Expenditure Appraisal and Evaluation](#) (NIGEAE) or seek advice from the Procurement Department.

Project Title:	Accommodation/venue hire/catering Framework	
Directorate:	Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism	
Prepared by:	Tracey Mooney	
Date:	December 2020	
Checked by Assistant Director:		Date: 05.01.2021
Director Approval:		Date: 05.01.2021
Committee Approval: (AHC, SP&R, RTS or ERT)	ERT	Date: 11/01/2021
Council Approval: (minutes ratified)	Full Council	Date: 01/02/2021

Note: The level of detail should be proportionate and appropriate to the level of expenditure to be incurred.

Section 1: Project Background, Strategic Context and Need

- **Explain the background to the proposal - detail what the expenditure is for and why it is needed?**
- **Please provide the strategic context.**

Ensure that you have clearly identified the need for the new project or service

1. Explain the background to the proposal including its strategic context – i.e. departmental business plan, corporate plan, community plan, regional strategies and government strategies, relevance to NI Government or Departmental strategic aims and policy objectives.
2. Identify the key stakeholders and explain their commitment and any outstanding issues.
3. As specifically as possible, explain the nature of the needs or demands that are to be addressed, and detail any deficiencies in existing service provision.
4. Include suitable quantification of needs/demands/deficiencies where possible.
5. Outline the proposed timescale for implementation of the project.
6. Is this project subject to a conditions survey/other survey?
7. Please provide any other relevant information to support the need for this project. i.e. drawings, plans, photographs...

Background:

Newry, Mourne and Down is a premier year-round destination in Ireland and is recognised for its accommodation, conference and meeting venues along with the excellent local food and drink produce offering which allows the local economy to thrive due to the numerous meeting, conferences and events that are being held in the district that showcases the high standard that is set in the region.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council have identified the need to produce a three-year accommodation/venue hire/ catering framework due to the cumulative spend being undertaken with venues/hotels for accommodation, catering and room hire. Also ensure that local venues, catering providers and accommodation providers are given an opportunity to showcase their premises, food and drink offering along with the destination.

The purpose of the Framework is to provide council with a pre-qualified list of suppliers (a Restricted List) who may be asked, on an ad hoc basis, to participate in a further mini-competition following which a call-off Contract under the Framework will be awarded.

This framework will be used for NMDDC for the following:

- Any overnight stays that are required within the destination for speaker,



- Hire of venue for any conference, meetings, incentives and industry /businesses days that may be organised by NMDDC
- Any events organised by NMDDC e.g. Sports Awards etc
- Hosting of Meals that may be required for NMDDC
- Hosting of pre -drinks receptions to showcase the local drink produce within the region
- Hosting of food events that showcase the finest local food produce in the district but must be able to cater to all dietary requirements
- Provide the necessary technology
- Score of 5 in food hygiene
- Have parking facilities on site or close to the venue
- Have disabled / coach parking

The above list identifies some of the elements that the framework will be used for and will offer a list of venues, catering and accommodation providers that council can appoint through the framework.

Stakeholders:

The key stakeholders engaged are all departments within Council and private sector.

Need:

This framework has been identified as a need with procurement due to the cumulative spend being undertaken with venues/hotels for accommodation, catering and room hire. The purpose of the Framework is to provide council with a pre-qualified list of suppliers (a Restricted List) who may be asked, on an ad hoc basis, to participate in a further mini-competition following which a call-off Contract under the Framework will be awarded. A Framework



Process will be undertaken to establish a pre-qualified Restricted List of suppliers capable of delivering the requirement identified in each Lot. Suppliers may bid for one, all or any combination of Lots they are capable of delivering.

There is no limit to the number of suppliers who can pre-qualify to a Lot's Restricted List. Those who provide responses which meet at least the minimum will be included on the Restricted List.

Mini-competition Process

Mini-competitions will then take place between all Framework suppliers, in a given Lot, which will be awarded on a price only basis to ensure NMDDC receives best value for money for each requirement.

In the event whereby only one supplier successfully is included on a Restricted List, NMDDC reserve the right to Direct Award any call-off Contract relating to that List so long as NMDDC deem that Value for Money (VFM) will be achieved.

Proposed Time Scale:

Jan 2021 – complete accommodation/catering/ venue hire framework

8 Feb 2021 - Upload Frame work to E-hub

9 March 2021 - submissions close

31 March 2021 – Award framework for 3 years

Is or will there be any perceived cross EU Border interest for this requirement/project:

Yes ☐ No ☒



Section 2: State Objectives & Constraints

1. *Explain and list the project objectives in specific measurable terms.*
2. *Include quantifiable targets where possible.*
3. *Identify any likely constraints to the project e.g. timing issues, legal requirements, professional standards, planning constraints and so on.*

Objectives

The purpose of the Framework is to provide council with a pre-qualified list of suppliers (a Restricted List) who may be asked, on an ad hoc basis, to participate in a further mini-competition following which a call-off Contract under the Framework will be awarded. A Framework Process will be undertaken to establish a pre-qualified Restricted List of suppliers capable of delivering the requirement identified in each Lot. Suppliers may bid for one, all or any combination of Lots they are capable of delivering.

There is no limit to the number of suppliers who can pre-qualify to a Lot's Restricted List. Those who provide responses which meet at least the minimum will be included on the Restricted List.

Mini-competition Process

Mini-competitions will then take place between all Framework suppliers, in a given Lot, which will be awarded on a price only basis to ensure NMDDC receives best value for money for each requirement.

In the event whereby only one supplier successfully is included on a Restricted List, NMDDC reserve the right to Direct Award any call-off Contract relating to that List so long as NMDDC deem that Value for Money (VFM) will be achieved.

Constraints:

This framework must be appointed and ready for use in Newry, Mourne and Down Council for the new financial year.

A massive constraint is that the key accommodation/catering/venue hire providers throughout the region apply to the framework and complete the documentation correctly to ensure that there is a wide representation within the entire district.

Section 3: Identify the Options and indicate the risks, costs and benefits of each option – this includes monetary and non-monetary.

- **Options - Please identify all available options and provide a description of each option.**
 - Identify all available options and provide a full description of each.
 - This should include a do nothing option (status quo).
 - Other may include, 'do minimum' and then a number of 'do something' options.
 - Explain each option and how it would meet the aim and objectives.
 - Provide advantages and disadvantages of each option

- **Risks - Please indicate if there are any notable risks associated with the project/acquisition.**

A risk could be any factor which would have a negative impact on the project running smoothly. Consider a range of risks such as:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| - Financing | - Timeframe |
| - Contractor capabilities | - Reputation |
| - The requirements for statutory approvals | - Poor take-up of new service / acquisition (if applicable) |
| - Land ownership | - Health and safety, etc. |
| - External Funding Uncertainities | - Insurance |

Indicate how these risks could be mitigated against.

- **Monetary Costs and Benefits**

Outline the full range of monetary costs for each option.

Please explain how these costs have been estimated e.g. previous experience. If there are any monetary benefits, these should be included here e.g. savings.

Include:

- Capital costs
- Ongoing revenue costs, (e.g. warranty costs, maintenance costs, service charges etc. whole life costs, insurance)
- Income generated
- Savings made
- Any other monetary benefits
- Net cost to Council.

- **Non-Monetary Costs and Benefits**

Please identify the non-monetary costs and benefits associated with each option.

Non-monetary costs and benefits to include (costs which cannot be measured in financial terms): Not all of these may be applicable to each option.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| - Sustainability | - Collaboration |
| - Environmental | - Improved Service Delivery |
| - Social | - Local Economic Multiplier |
| - Health and Well being | - Corporate & Community Plan objectives |
| - External Funding Uncertainities | |
| - Reputation | |

The number of Options will vary according to each project.



Option 1)	Status Quo							
<p>Description to include how this option meets the Aims & Objectives identified in Section 2:</p> <p>Advantages:</p> <p>Disadvantages:</p> <p>Risks:</p> <p>Monetary</p> <p>Benefits:</p> <p>Non-Monetary Costs & Benefits:</p>	<p>Do Nothing</p> <p>This would not meet any of the Councils Objectives</p> <p>This would create further cumulative spend within certain venues/hotels for accommodation, catering and room hire.</p> <p>This is an ongoing risk as VFM's would have to be under taken with no overall framework in place.</p> <p>Not able to showcase the region by not offering the best catering/accommodation/venue hire</p> <p>Limited opportunity for suppliers to apply for opportunities</p>							
<p>Monetary</p> <p>Costs:</p> <p>This is a sample and should be adapted as required or replaced with a spreadsheet</p>	Option 1 Status Quo	Year 0	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Totals
	Capital Costs							
	Total Capital Costs							
	Revenue Costs	160,600	160,600	165,420	170,340			£496,360
	Total Revenue Costs	160,600	160,600	165,420	170,340			£496,360
	Income							
	Savings							

Description to include how this option meets the Aims & Objectives identified in Section 2: Advantages: Disadvantages: Risks: Monetary Benefits: Non-Monetary Costs & Benefits:	Devise an accommodation/catering/accommodation framework for Newry Mourne and Down District council							
	Ensure that there is an even spread in the use of venues throughout the district. Ensure compliance with audit requirements for an overall framework for accommodation/ venue hire / Catering.							
	Not an even spread of business applying throughout the entire region. Business not completing the framework document.							
	Businesses not being able to complete the framework document and not having an even spread on offer throughout the NMD region							
	Generate a spread of income in the local economy within the district. Highlight the district using the local food and drink produce, excellent accommodation along with showcasing the conferencing facilities that are available in the region.							
Monetary Costs: This is a sample and should be adapted as required or replaced with a spreadsheet	Option 1 Status Quo	Year 0	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Totals
	Capital Costs							
	Total Capital Costs							
	Revenue Costs	160,600	160,600	165,420	170,340			£496,360
	Total Revenue Costs	160,600	160,600	165,420	170,340			£496,360
	Income							
	Savings							
	Whole Life Costs							

Section 4: Social Value and Rural Proofing

a. Social Value - The additional benefit that a contract can deliver to the local community over and above the benefit of the goods and services themselves.

This benefit could be social, economic or environmental. For example, what are the opportunities to the community through the overall project if they do not directly benefit i.e. Creating skills and training opportunities.

Example the development of a new football pitch, the direct benefit is the provision of a football pitch, the social value could be the an opportunity of apprenticeship with the construction firm awarded the contract, an opportunity for local coaches to provide skills and fitness training on the new pitch.

Has social value been considered and indicate how?

By NMD council using a conferencing/accommodation / venue hire framework boosts the economy by supporting local businesses.

b. Rural Proofing - The process by which policies, strategies and plans are assessed to determine whether they have a differential impact on **rural** areas and, where appropriate, adjustments are made to take account of particular **rural** circumstances.

Have you considered if this project could have a different impact in rural areas and, if so how you might change, implement the project differently to ensure equitable treatment for rural dwellers?

N/A

c. Equality Screening – Should the project / service being discussed be subject to an Equality Screening?

It is not anticipated the recommendation will not have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity and good relations.

Section 5: Analysis and Selection of Preferred Option

Clearly document the preferred option – why has this option been selected?

The preferred option is creating a framework for accommodation/venue hire/catering as this will save time on the tendering process, meet audit requirements and encourage further suppliers across the district to offer their services.

The value over 3 years is £496,360

Section 6: Monitoring and Evaluation

1. identify who will manage the project,
2. detail how progress and budget will be monitored,
3. how are you going to report on the aims and objectives outlined for this proposal?
4. how will variances be managed and reported,
5. how the benefits will be measured?
6. State proposed evaluation arrangements e.g. when it will happen, who will do it, what factors will be evaluated?

1. Michelle Boyle - Head of Product Development and Visitor Experience
2. Progress meeting with the team member creating the framework and this should be done within each department using the framework
3. A progress report on the Business Plan will be made through ERT
4. ERT will work with finance to establish a specific account code for departments using the framework to monitor spend against budget. ERT will monitor the spend on a monthly basis.
5. Do an internal council survey within user departments
6. As above – annual survey with user departments.

Section 7: Financing

Please indicate how the project / service will be financed. Has this been included in the estimates?

Yes ☒

No ☐

If yes, where in the estimates

Account Code:

Cost Code:

Project Code:

This is a cross departmental cost the overall budget over 3 years is £496,360.00

If the proposal is for Capital expenditure, has this expenditure been included within the four year rolling capital plan? If so, how much has been put in the plan? – N/A

Section 8: Appendices

Please name the document and reference the relevant section of the document to be attached.

N/A

Section 9: Glossary

Key to Abbreviations:



Report to:	Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 11 th January 2021
Subject:	Rural Tourism Collaborative Experiences Programme – Appointment of Facilitator
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Andy Patterson Assistant Director of Tourism Culture and Events
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Michelle Boyle Head of Product Development and Visitor Experience

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> To seek approval to tender for appointment of a facilitator to meet requirements of the Rural Tourism Collaborative Experience Programme.</p> <p><u>Background</u> The Council was successful in a submission to the DAERA Rural Tourism Collaborative Experiences Programme programme with a bid which will make available resource investment support to Councils for the identification of a number of businesses and other partners to unite and use local knowledge to co-create innovative, interactive new tourism offerings in rural localities that will convey a real 'sense of place' to our visitors.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>The programme application from Council sought to build on the initial work which has been undertaken engaging food and drink producers across the District and in 2019 this was supported by Taste the Island initiative which facilitated tasting menus, restaurant week and a range of other event.</p> <p>The District has a growing reputation for renowned chefs and excellent food and drink producers with a strong seafood base across the coast and our profile with quality breweries and distilleries is increasing. Given the opportunity which the food and drink sector can bring to adding to the overall visitor experience, the project is based on working with the food and drink sector to package a range of authentic products that can be combined as an overall experience.</p> <p>The project requires the appointment of a facilitator</p>
3.0	Recommendations

3.1	To issue a tender for a facilitator at costs of £37,500 which includes market research	
4.0	Resource implications	
4.1	<p>The Council made an application for up £50,000 which has been successful. The match fund contribution is £12,500 from Council which is a combination of cash and in kind time.</p> <p>The first element of the project is appointment of a facilitator at a cost of £37,500 which will receive grant aid of £31,875 and a match fund of £5,625 from Council. The facilitator will be required to oversee market research</p>	
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)	
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <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>	N/A
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)	
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service	

	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices
	Business Case
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A

Business Case (Short Form)

£30,000 < £100,000 Expenditure

Project Title:	Tender for appointment of facilitator for
Directorate:	ERT
SECTION A	
1. What is the current provision?	Coastal Flavours was a key recommendation in the Councils Tourism Strategy. Some initial work was undertaken with a small number of food and drink producers however this was quite adhoc and no formal cluster was created
2. What is the proposed provision (what options have you considered)?	Through the support of DEARA Rural Tourism Collaborative programme, the Coastal Flavours will integrate local authentic food and drink with tourism providers in a collaborative cluster in order to create fully five saleable visitor experiences rooted in the produce from our rural land and seascapes from the high peaks, low valleys and clear waters of Mourne, Strangford and Gullion
3. What is the need and how is it evidenced?	With COVID 19 tens of thousands of jobs are at risk in NI there is a need to protect the most vulnerable segments such as SMEs and the self employed. Therefore, the timing of this project is critical to develop strong relationships and collaboration between tourism businesses in the food and drink section located with the Mourne, Ring of Gullion and Strangford Lough
4. Are all statutory approvals in place – please outline?	No statutory approvals are relevant for this project
5. Are there any risks associated with this project – please outline?	Risks are limited as it is appointment of facilitator

<p>6. Any other relevant information? i.e. drawings, plans, photographs...</p>			
SECTION B			
<p>7. Is your expenditure linked to the Corporate Plan/Community Plan/Directorate Business Plan – please reference the relevant section.</p>	<p>Draft Corporate Plan – Newry, Mourne Down (Enhance , protect and Promote our environment, Support sustainable tourism which values our environment and cultural heritage)</p> <p>Community Planning – Living Well Together (Economic Development, Regeneration and Tourism, Environmental and Spatial Development)</p> <p>ERT Directorate Business Plan (Sustainable Tourism Development)</p> <p>Councils Tourism Strategy 2017- 2021</p>		
<p>8. Has this project been identified as a priority in your Directorate?</p> <p>Please provide details:</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Conditions Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
	<p>Councils Tourism Strategy 2017 – 2021 identified the development of a Coastal Flavours Food and Drink Cluster with the development of visitor experiences</p>		
<p>9. Preferred Option – Please detail your preferred option and a rational why this option was selected</p>	<p>Option 1</p> <p>The only option is delivery of the project as planned ie appointment of a facilitator as the Council has received funding to deliver the project. If it is not delivered as proposed the funding will be lost</p>		

<p>10. Please provide a breakdown of all costs, including running costs (whole life costs).</p> <p>Please provide information on how these costs have been arrived at.</p>	<p>Appointment of facilitator £35,000</p> <p>Market Research £2500</p> <p>Content Development £7500</p> <p>Campaign delivery £5000</p> <p>This commission will include market research</p>	<p><u>Account Code / Cost Centre / Project Code (if applicable):</u></p> <p>2044/1386</p>	
<p>11. Please indicate how this project will be financed.</p> <p>Please provide details</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Internal Funding</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> External Funding</p>	
	<p>Council has made an application for funding to DEARA Rural Tourism Collaborative and has been successful £37500 will be available from DAERA with the match funding of £12500 from Council</p>		
<p>Is or will there be any perceived cross EU Border interest for this requirement/project:</p>			<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Prepared by:</p>	<p>Michelle Boyle</p>	<p>Date Submitted:</p>	<p>4.1.2021</p>
<p>Validated by Assistant Director</p>	<p>Sign: </p> <p>Date: 04.01.2021</p>		
<p>Director Approval:</p>	<p>Sign: </p> <p>Date: 04.01.2021</p>		
<p>Committee Approval:</p>	<p>ERT</p> <p>Date: 11 January 2021</p>		

Council Approval

Date: 1 February 2021

Report to:	Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 11th January 2021
Subject:	Euthanasia of Dogs
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Colum Jackson, Assistant Director, Building Control
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Fintan Quinn, Head of Licensing and Enforcement

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

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

To note the content of this report

1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u> To consider the Notice of Motion on Dog Euthanasia agreed at Council Meeting held on 7th September 2020. Item C/ 114/ 2020.</p> <p>“Council welcomes reports from DAERA that incidences of dog euthanasia are down across Northern Ireland in 19/20, but is extremely concerned that in the same period our District has had substantially more dogs put down than any other council area. To address this Council will take the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Undertake an investigation into why these figures are so high in the District and bring a report back for consideration on this to the AHC committee. · Write to the 10 other council areas asking what measures they took to successfully reduce the number of animals killed, particularly Derry & Strabane which has seen an 80% reduction and Ards & North Down which killed zero dogs this year · Consider ways in which the Council can bring together strategic partners such as the Dog Warden, local kennels, Animal Welfare Officer, PSNI and animal rescue charities, to address the issue, including through tackling illegal and unethical breeding and sale of dogs, particularly online” <p><u>Background</u></p> <p>A previous report was made to the ERT Committee meeting of 12th October 2020.</p> <p>The Licensing and Control of Dogs is regulated by Councils under the Dogs(Northern Ireland) Order 1983.</p>

	<p>Newry Mourne and Down District currently have contracted one centre as a Dog Holding facility and one Dog Kennelling facility for dogs impounded or unwanted by owners.</p> <p>All dogs impounded are kept within the Kennelling facility for 6 days to allow owners to reclaim their dog. After the expiry of 6 days, it is for the Kennelling facility owner to determine suitable disposal of unclaimed dogs. Dogs may be resold or passed to Shelters or Animal Charities by the Kennelling facility owner if the dog is deemed suitable to do so.</p>
2.0	<p>Key issues</p> <p>To consider the current disposal arrangements for dogs and in particular, the incidences of dog euthanasia within the Newry and Mourne District Council area. In consideration, the Licensing section;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Have reviewed the figures given on the DAERA reports and have compared these against our council returns. The conclusion is that the Newry Mourne and Down District have the third highest number of stray dogs impounded across all councils for the period 2019/2020, along with ABC & Mid Ulster Councils. For the period 2017-2020, the NM&DD had 2156 dogs impounded, the second highest across all councils. Ards & North Down had 767 dogs impounded across the same period. It is noted that the number of stray dogs impounded within the NM&DD has fallen year on year over the period and that figure continues to reduce. See Appendix A. b. Have consulted with other Councils on arrangements for collection and disposal of dogs. Of the 10 councils consulted, only 5 councils responded. We have noted arrangements with charitable and dog rehoming organisations and have established contact details with those organisations. No response was received from Ards & North Down c. In conjunction with Animal Welfare and the PSNI have launched a campaign highlighting the issue of puppy farming and illegal breeding establishments within the Newry Mourne and Down District Council area. See Appendix B. <p>We have engaged with the Dogs Trust and the USPCA to implement arrangements for contact with our main kennelling provider on the disposal of unwanted dogs. The Licensing section will continue to engage with partners and kennelling providers to monitor arrangements with the intention of reducing the number of dog euthanised within our district.</p>
2.1	
3.0	<p>Recommendations</p> <p>Note content of this report.</p>

3.1	
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Administration and time taken to consult with other councils and partners within the Dog Control sector.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input 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 type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)

6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	<p>Appendices, Appendix A – Dog Euthanasia statistics Appendix B – Poster</p>
8.0	<p>Background Documents</p>
	<p>n/a</p>

Disposal of Dogs - 2017/2020 - Appendix 'A'

	Total Strays	Total unwanted	Total impounded	Total passed to shelter	Total Euthanised	% - Percentage of Dogs Euthanised
ANTRIM & NEWTOWNABBEY						
2017	221	77	298	88	25	8.30%
2018	303	65	368	100	21	5.70%
2019	223	68	291	91	13	4.40%
Jun-20	9	10	19	6	7	36%
	756		976		66	
ARDS & NORTH DOWN						
2017	299	72	371	64	10	2.70%
2018	205	51	256	67	5	1.90%
2019	105	35	140	54	0	0%
Jun-20	0	0	0	0	0	0%
	609		767		15	
ARMAGH, BANBRIDGE & CRAIGAVON						
2017	630	118	748	422	40	5.30%
2018	572	96	668	345	24	3.50%
2019	558	103	661	347	28	4.20%
Jun-20	57	2	59	34	3	5.10%
	1817		2136		95	
BELFAST CITY COUNCIL						
2017	511	34	545	189	28	5.10%
2018	694	16	718	204	23	3.20%
2019	329	2	331	137	4	1.20%
Jun-20	43	0	43	17	0	0%
	1577		1637		55	
CAUSEWAY COAST & GLENS						
2017	224	119	343	252	5	1.40%
2018	320	119	439	223	7	1.60%
2019	159	80	239	165	6	2.00%
Jun-20	20	4	24	11	0	0%
	723		1099		18	
DERRY & STRABANE						
2017	175	129	304	184	15	5.00%
2018	171	132	303	179	28	9.20%
2019	138	104	242	153	3	1.20%
Jun-20	19	3	22	10	0	0%
	503		871		46	
FERMANAGH & OMAGH						
2017	225	141	366	236	69	19%
2018	225	57	282	145	15	5.30%
2019	193	40	233	120	7	3.00%
Jun-20	25	4	29	11	0	0%
	668		910		91	
USBURN & CASTLEREAGH						
2017	146	74	220	55	20	9.00%
2018	258	62	320	34	26	8.10%
2019	112	56	168	60	12	7.10%
Jun-20	19	1	20	4	1	5.00%
	535		728		59	
MID & EAST ANTRIM						
2017	180	49	229	63	16	7.00%
2018	288	38	326	85	10	3.00%
2019	195	49	244	91	9	3.70%
Jun-20	12	0	12	5	0	0%
	675		811		35	
MID ULSTER						
2017	505	207	712	321	45	6.30%
2018	524	203	727	372	33	4.50%
2019	559	146	705	392	17	2.40%
Jun-20	37	17	54	35	1	1.80%
	1625		2198		96	
NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN						
2017	605	104	709	122	99	13.90%
2018	632	70	702	22	49	6.90%
2019	544	134	678	25	53	7.80%
Jun-20	47	20	67	2	3	1.40%
	1828		2156		204	

	2017/2020	Total impounded	Total Euthanised	% - Percentage of Dogs Euthanised
ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY BC		976	66	6%
ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BC		767	15	2.00%
ARMAGH, BANBRIDGE AND CRAIGAVON BC		2136	95	4.40%
BELFAST CITY COUNCIL		1637	55	3.30%
CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLENS BC		1099	18	1.60%
DERRY AND STRABANE DC		871	46	5.20%
FERMANAGH AND OMAGH DC		910	91	10%
USBURN AND CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL		728	59	8.10%
MID AND EAST ANTRIM BC		811	35	4.30%
MID ULSTER DC		2198	96	4.40%
NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DC		2156	204	9.40%

Actual number of stray dogs dealt with April 2019-March 2020

	Seized/Returned	Impounded	Total
ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY BC	55	223	278
ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BC	43	105	148
ARMAGH, BANBRIDGE AND CRAIGAVON BC	31	558	589
BELFAST CITY COUNCIL	240	329	569
CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLENS BC	102	159	261
DERRY AND STRABANE DC	22	138	160
FERMANAGH AND OMAGH DC	71	193	264
USBURN AND CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL	98	112	210
MID AND EAST ANTRIM BC	102	195	297
MID ULSTER DC	1	559	560
NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DC	21	544	565

Put a stop to illegal puppy farming

Working in partnership to put a stop to illegal puppy farming, welfare concerns and serious organised crime in **Newry Mourne and Down**.

If you suspect an illegal breeding establishment ring **0330 137 4013**

If you have an animal welfare concern please refer to **028 37 515800**

OPERATION PAWS FOR THOUGHT

For more information visit:
www.psni.police.uk



Report to:	Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 11 th January 2021
Subject:	Update on Project Stratum
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly Assistant Director EER
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	<input type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide an update on Project Stratum to date <p><u>Background</u></p> <p>Project Stratum aims to improve broadband access infrastructure throughout Northern Ireland to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Increase the number of premises able to access Next Generation Access (NGA) broadband services capable of delivering in excess of 30 Mbps •Maximise Next Generation Access (NGA) broadband coverage by increasing provision in areas poorly served and not capable of attracting commercial investment •To target an intervention area of 97% of Northern Ireland, targeting just below 79,000 premises •Equating to approximately 11% of premises in Northern Ireland, as circa 89% can currently access broadband capable of 30Mbps+ <p>Although 89% of premises in Northern Ireland have access to broadband services in excess of 30Mbps, the figure is 66% in Rural Northern Ireland.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p><u>Preferred bidder</u></p> <p>Preferred bidder Fibrus will transform the digital infrastructure of rural and regional parts of Northern Ireland by bringing fibre broadband to every home and business in Northern Ireland via a total investment of £350m.</p> <p>Project Stratum will deliver gigabit-capable broadband infrastructure to over 76,000 premises, primarily rural based, by March 2024. This is a transformational project which impacts the lives of citizens and the productivity of businesses.</p>

Providing Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) via fibre optic cables directly to the home and business,, is the fastest type of fibre currently available to consumers, offering speeds of up to 100Mbps, 300 Mbps and 1,000 Mbps (1GB).

Fibrus, along with other service providers will offer a range of broadband options and will likely launch discounted introductory offers, with prices aligned to benchmarked pricing in other markets therefore rural dwellers will pay the same as urban dwellers.

Stratum is a huge infrastructure build and technical challenge which will:

- Utilise existing infrastructure wherever possible to keep costs down and reach further into rural communities and deploy faster
- Deploy a sequential rollout to enable early build in areas where the existing infrastructure is ready and backhaul available
- Phase the rollout to complete build in the most efficient sequence and best utilisation of resources
- Build at around 1600km per quarter, and complete before March 2024

Maximising Coverage across the Intervention Area

LOCAL COUNCIL	NGA Coverage before Stratum	Premises to be passed by Stratum	NGA coverage after Stratum (76,000+)	Premises in council to benefit from Stratum (76,000+)
ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY	92.0%	4,932	99.8%	7.8%
ARDS AND NORTH DOWN	95.0%	3,684	99.9%	4.9%
ARMAGH CITY BANBRIDGE AND CRAIGAVON	88.6%	10,080	99.7%	11.1%
BELFAST	99.9%	154	99.9%	0.1%
CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLENS	90.3%	6,268	99.6%	9.3%
DERRY CITY AND STRABANE	94.2%	3,545	99.6%	5.4%
FERMANAGH AND OMAGH	71.2%	14,821	98.9%	27.7%
LISBURN AND CASTLEREAGH	93.6%	3,914	99.9%	6.3%
MID AND EAST ANTRIM	92.2%	4,694	99.7%	7.5%
MID ULSTER	78.4%	12,289	99.4%	21.0%
NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN	83.6%	11,852	99.6%	16.0%

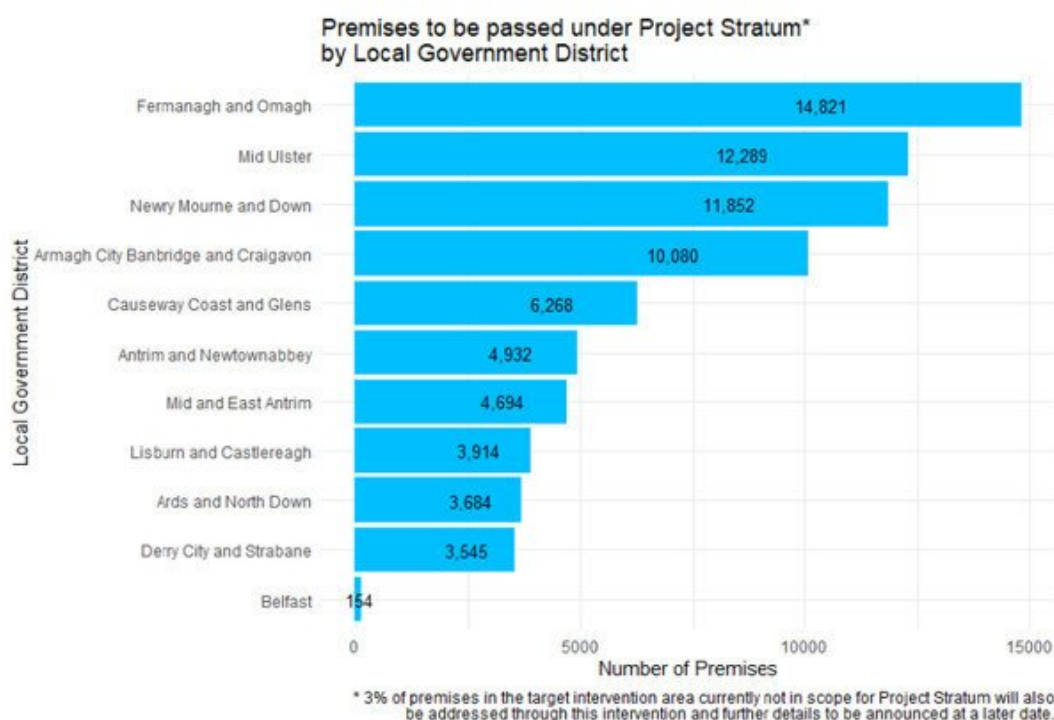
A total of 2,517 premises are currently out of scope of the Intervention Area, of these 274 (10.8%) are based in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area.

Key benefits of Full Fibre Broadband

- More efficient businesses, improved services and products
- Investment potential particularly FDI

- Prospect of new enterprises commencing using new and emerging technology
- Remote working opportunities and less commuter traffic to Belfast
- Improved streaming and downloads for educational purposes
- Reduction in social isolation through VOIP video calling.

Improved Broadband Connectivity



Implementation timescale:

	SPRING	SUMMER	AUTUMN	WINTER
2021	Coalisland Killyleagh Ballycastle	Kilkeel Castlewellan Ballynahinch	Warrenpoint Maghera Portstewart Enniskillen Ballymoney	Castlerock Keady Carnlough Cullybackey
2022	Crossmaglen Castlederg Fintona Newtownstewart	Garrison Omagh Downpatrick Larne	Aughnacloy Fivemiletown Kesh Irvinestown Newtownbultur	Rathfriland Cookstown Garvagh Moy
2023	Kircubbin Seahill Dromore Laurelvale	Ballystrudder Bleary Randalstown Lower Ballinderry Broughshane	Templepatrick Cushendall Clough Mills Claudy Pomeroy	Newry Derrylin Limavady Gortin Strabane Moneyrea

Communications plan

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly Newsletters and site visits for Councillors and MLAs throughout the rollout • Address level postcode checker for 'Where and When' (available early 2021) • Opportunities as communities go live for local events photo ops, as local areas switch on • A Fibre Ambassador in each council area • Social contract to employ apprenticeships, graduates and new entrant trainees • Fibrus Community – 'giving back' campaign £200k+ <p>Please note that this is a separate programme to the Full Fibre Northern Ireland Consortium which is lead by NMDDC.</p> <p>Project Stratum is a state aid funded project and focuses mainly on those key rural areas where improvements to connectivity would not be possible without an intervention.</p> <p>FFNI which is also funded by DCMS is the collaboration of the rural local authorities to deliver an ultrafast (1000mbps) programme which also focuses on next generation access. It's objective is to stimulate competition and improve connectivity using public sector sites.</p> <p>Both projects are vital to improving the connectivity in Newry, Mourne and Down and across Northern Ireland.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<p>To note the update provided regarding Project Stratum particularly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details of the deployment plan are available on Hyperfast NI portal https://hyperfastni.com/ • Postcode checker will be added to the portal over the coming weeks and actively promoted when available • DfE and Fibrus will engage with Local Councils regularly throughout the deployment • Local Council Engagement is essential to keep stakeholders informed and to encourage citizens to take up enhanced services.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Project Stratum will be externally resourced.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

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

Report to:	Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 11 th January 2021
Subject:	Rural Villages – Consultation regarding further public realm/environmental improvement works
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly Assistant Director of Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth Head of Business Development and Regeneration

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

For decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u> Purpose of report is to note the consultation reports complete in 5 rural areas regarding future public realm/environmental improvement works that may be eligible for inclusion on DFC capital forward work plan</p> <p><u>Background</u> Historically, the Department for Communities (DFC) eligible areas for investing in public realm (PR)/environmental improvement (EI) was restricted to those <u>urban areas</u> with a population greater than 5000. DFC in the future may have an opportunity for widening the scope of their eligible areas, to include smaller towns with a population less than 5000, but greater than 2,500. This includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Saintfield 2. Killyleagh 3. Castlewellan 4. Bessbrook 5. Rostrevor <p>Council would propose to DFC that the smaller areas could be included in the capital works forward plan, which profiles which areas should be profiled for capital public realm investment. This enables Council and DFC to better plan budgets, submit funding applications, commission early pre-development design works and apply for statutory approvals, all of which, are required ahead of scheme implementation.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	In order to inform the capital works forward plan for these 5 areas, Council commissioned research in each of these areas, which undertook some scoping work to identify need for investment in public realm/environmental improvement.

	<p>This was informed by engagement / consultation with key stakeholders representing the local community.</p> <p>The final research reports are appended to this this report. These reports focus on what public realm works were identified as required in both the short and medium term, how these works would improve the individual area, and what the negative impact of not undertaking the works would be.</p> <p>As a next step, Council officials will engage with DFC to incorporate works in the 5 rural areas on the capital works forward plan.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To note the consultation reports, complete in 5 rural areas regarding future public realm/environmental improvement works that may be eligible for inclusion on DFC capital forward work plan
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	N/a
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><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>

	<div> <div>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></div> <div>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></div> <div>Rationale:</div> </div>
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 type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices
	<p>Consultation reports for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bessbrook • Castlewellan • Killyleagh • Saintfied • Bessbrook
8.0	Background Documents

Saintfield Public Realm Community Consultation

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SAINTFIELD PUBLIC REALM COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Virtual consultation by ZOOM

26 May 2020

Co-ordinated by:

Newry & Mourne Enterprise Agency and Down Business Centre

On behalf of:

Newry Mourne and Down District Council

Saintfield Public Realm Community Consultation

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1. BACKGROUND

Historically, the Department for Communities (DFC) eligible areas for investing in public realm (PR)/environmental improvement (EI) was restricted to those urban areas with a population greater than 5,000. DFC are now widening the scope of their eligible areas, to include smaller towns with a population less than 5,000, but greater than 2,500.

In Newry Mourne and Down Council area, this now brings forward:

1. **Saintfield**
2. Killyleagh
3. Castlewellan
4. Bessbrook
5. Rostrevor

What can be funded

Eligible public realm/environmental improvement works can include upgrade works to pathways, street lightening, landscaping, and street furniture. Other works may be considered, subject to further discussion and approval with DFC, such as revitalisation works including upgrades to building facades and visual improvements to vacant or derelict properties. The eligible boundary will be within the town centre, i.e. within the 30 MPH zone.

Requirement

Working with DFC, Newry Mourne and Down Council have in place a forward Capital plan that identifies over the next 5 years, which areas should be profiled for capital public realm investment. This enables the Council and the Department to better plan budgets, submit funding applications, commission early pre-development design works, and apply for statutory approvals – all of which, are required ahead of scheme implementation.

Council now needs to put in place a forward capital plan for the above 5 rural areas, which fall within the public realm remit of DFC. Implementation of the forward plan is subject to funding from DFC. Putting in place a forward plan will enable Council to take some early steps to work schemes up to a certain stage and have them “funding ready.” To inform this plan, some scoping work has been required to identify need for investment in public realm/environmental improvement.

Community Engagement

To include the 5 rural areas on a forward work plan with DFC, and potentially in the future to develop proposals for some schemes, Newry Mourne and Down Council engaged **Newry & Mourne Enterprise Agency** and **Down Business Centre** to prepare a report for final consideration. These organisations are a local enterprise partnership whose sole aim is the furtherance of economic and business development within the Newry Mourne Down region. The partnership is assisted by Eamon Larkin, Managing Partner of **Milligan Reside & Larkin**, and uses the services of other professional advisors across a range of disciplines.

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The Brief

The brief was to consult with stakeholders in Saintfield to learn their views on what public realm works should be prioritised in Saintfield and to prepare a final consultation report for the District Council to consider.

Consultation – during Covid 19

All consultations were undertaken within the terms of the Government's 2020 Covid 19 public health guidance, remotely using email and video / telephone conferencing.

Saintfield Overview

The population of Saintfield Ward in 2010 was estimated at 3,586, of which 19.7% were children, 26.7% were young working age adults; 33.8% were older working age adults; and 19.7% were older people. Young working age adults are defined as 16-39 years old, and older working age adults as adults 40-64. 22% of residents defined themselves as being from a Catholic community background and 73% from a 'Protestant or other Christian community background, 25% of persons aged 16 and over were single (never married), 35.8 years was the average age of the population and the population density was 2.2 persons per hectare.

Saintfield is an historic village, with 33 listed buildings. That and its conservation area status is regarded by its elected representatives as one of its greatest assets.

Previous studies of the area include an in-depth **Saintfield Integrated Development Plan (2012)** prepared by URS Infrastructure & Environment UK Limited on behalf of Saintfield Town Regeneration Committee and an updated review carried out in 2017/2018.

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2. THE CONSULTATION: When did it take place? Who participated?

The Saintfield stakeholder consultation was carried out using the Zoom video-conferencing platform on Tuesday 26th May 2020. The attendees were as follows:

Facilitator

Dr Conor Patterson (Newry & Mourne Co-operative & Enterprise Agency)

Newry Mourne & Down Council representatives

Margaret Quinn (Project Development Manager)

Amanda Smyth (Head of Regeneration and Business Development)

Ellen Brennan (DEA Co-ordinator for Rowallane)

Down Business Centre

Janice McDonald

Joe McCoubrey

Rowallane Councillors

Robert Burgess

Terry Andrews

Patrick Brown

Saintfield Development Association

Martyn Todd (Chairman)

Paul McGeown

Brian Gamble

Kevin Young

David Greer

Other attendees

Linda Beers (Business Owner)

Lisa Curran (Health Development worker East Down Rural Community Network)

Bill Perceval Price

Ellen Brennan

Moir George (retail shop owner)

Apologies (with written email contributions)

Grainne McHugh (SureStart)

Bill McKelvey

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3. WHAT PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENTS DO CONSULTEES THINK ARE NEEDED?

Participants expressed wide-ranging views on many aspects of Saintfield's infrastructure, often referencing detailed ideas which were incorporated in various reports, most noticeably those published in 2012 and 2018. The consensus was that Saintfield had been experiencing issues of inadequate or deteriorating public realm and the vacancy of former shop, office and licensed premises for some time, although acknowledgement was made of prior works carried out by Down District Council, Newry Mourne and Down Council and the Roads Service.

The focus of the Saintfield stakeholders on May 26th, 2020 was on Main Street (particularly Upper Main Street and the Fair Green Roundabout area), and on parts of the Lower Main Street (leading onto the Belfast to Downpatrick main carriageway).

Recurring themes within the discussion were issues involving:

- Upgrading shop fronts
- New pavings/footpaths
- Main Street road surface
- The treatment of derelict buildings
- Shared indoor community drop-in/meeting space
- Pelican crossing between High Street and Community Centre
- Additional open public spaces
- Upgrade main car park and provide additional parking spaces
- Upgrade and relocation of public toilets
- Surface water flooding from Fair Green to Main Street.
- The need for a "spend local" campaign, which could include the development of a mobile phone app which would allow shoppers to upload a personal spending balance which could then attract discounts when purchases were made in Saintfield shops.

3.1 SHORT/MEDIUM TERM

1. **Shop frontage scheme** (including repainting new signage and replacement of gutters). A previous study (2017/2018) generated 40 firm expressions of interest from shop owners in a shop front improvement scheme. The Saintfield stakeholders in 2020 said that there was anecdotal evidence that interest in such a scheme has strong and indeed that uptake could reach 50 participating premises.



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2. **New pavings/footpaths:** Particularly needed in Main Street (and more specifically in Upper Main Street). Residents were concerned about the dangerous state of large sections of footpaths and the problems this caused those with mobility difficulties.



3. **Road Surfacing:** Main Street suffers from uneven surfaces, which are not only visually distracting but are also dangerous for motorists.
4. **Additional car parking:** There is a lack of town centre car parking in Saintfield. The main car park requires upgrading to improve traffic circulation and create additional spaces.



The Village's Main Car Park is in urgent need of maintenance

5. **Upgrade and relocation of public toilets:** It was suggested that public toilets should be relocated within the main car park (these works could be carried out simultaneously with the reconfiguration of parking).



Public toilet block which should be demolished. A new block could be located at the village's main car park site.

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6. **Derelict Buildings (remedial):** work should be carried out to clean up, make safe, and repaint vacant buildings in the centre of Saintfield to visually enhance the village's streetscape.



7. **Pelican Crossing:** Urgent need for crossing between High School and the Community Centre on the Belfast Road.

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3.2 LONGER TERM

1. **Re-use of Derelict Buildings:** Several buildings were highlighted in Main Street and Downpatrick Road as having been vacant for a substantial time. Some will require urgent structural safety work (notably on roofs) while others need to be brought back into commercial usage. These include:

- Two-storey building at No xxx Main Street (now under the ownership of the Catholic Church)
- The former Mace shop in Main Street
- The former Rowallane Inn (Downpatrick Street and Todd's Hill)
- Derelict buildings Downpatrick Street.
- Derelict Buildings at Fair Green

- 1.1 One potential project was highlighted in particular - a small block of buildings close to the Fair Green Roundabout. It was said that a planning application to demolish these buildings and use the space for 9 x townhouses appeared to have stalled. A number of consultees said that the site could be brought under public ownership to allow the buildings to be demolished and the space converted into a small public park and/or a drop-in centre/meeting space for local groups, such as those engaged with mental health awareness.



A small block of buildings at close to the roundabout at Fair Green could be the site for new community amenities.

4. **Additional open public spaces:** In addition to the small public park proposed at Fair Green, residents proposed a scheme to provide a more substantial public park adjacent to the new community centre (Belfast Road).
5. **Surface Water Flooding:** The problem of flooding from the Fair Green area running down into Main Street was highlighted. The issue had been raised with the Department of Infrastructure and predecessor agencies. While they had carried out surveys they had not thus far prioritised any remedial works. The concern of consultees was that without a flood prevention project in this area some of the surface level public realm improvements which might be completed in Fair Green and Main Street (e.g. pavements, road upgrades) could be damaged or undermined.

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6. **Spend Local App:** Traders and elected representatives said that an opportunity existed to improve the commercial prospects of retailers in Saintfield especially in the post-Covid recovery period by introducing a loyalty campaign (delivered through a phone app) to encourage people in the Saintfield area to use local traders. Councillors said that this was an idea that could also be taken up by other villages and towns in the District.

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4. WHY ARE THEY NEEDED?

Excerpt from Saintfield Integrated Development Plan (2012:

“Saintfield has a strong base from which to develop. The Village Plan seeks to improve and regenerate the assets which are already in place. This is illustrated by the selected proposals for a shop front improvement scheme and Environmental Improvement scheme on Main Street. The assets of the buildings and the street structure are already there, they simply require more care and preservation to help realise Saintfield’s potential.”

The projects highlighted in this May 2020 Saintfield Public Realm Community Consultation mirror, to a large extent, the views and aspirations expressed consistently by the community over the course of the past 10 years. Stakeholders see these proposals as representing the minimum level of intervention required to enhance the village’s appearance and appeal. They contend that this package of support is needed because continued deterioration during the last decade has had (and is continuing to have) a significant adverse effect on the area’s physical infrastructure and on community morale.

4.1 What would be the benefits of making these improvements?

The improvements identified through this consultation would have wide-ranging impacts. These include:

- Immediate and significant visual uplift to the village’s streetscape
- Improvement in access to all shops and services, particularly for the elderly and those with mobility issues
- Increase in public safety
- Uplift to economic activity resulting from increased shopping footfall
- Boost to community morale
- Encouragement of additional ‘village pride’ initiatives by individuals and groups.

4.2 What would be the negative effects of doing nothing?

Footpaths

It is difficult not to foresee a continuing and rapid deterioration of surfaces, most likely leading to vital sections of pedestrian paths becoming highly unstable and unusable. As a result, these areas would require to be closed, thereby denying public access to the natural flow of a safe and reliable thoroughfare. Circumventing closed sections of public pathways will force pedestrians onto a busy street, a situation likely to be exacerbated by cars parked close to kerbsides.

Consideration must also be given to pedestrians with mobility problems. The current state of footpaths is already causing considerable stress and safety concerns. Sections of the Main Street path infrastructure are already barely navigable for those using walking sticks and rollators or those with general balance issues. Continued surface deterioration will impact greater on this section of the community, including residents and visitors, and will cause them to be further excluded.

The potential economic and social costs of environmental damage are likely to be substantial. Threats include an increased loss of work suffered by the village's retail and commercial sectors.

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5. WHAT WOULD BE THE COSTS OF A SHORT/MEDIUM TERM SCHEME?

The projects identified through this consultation have been ranked in order of priority. Total costs involved in the implementation of each project will require to be worked up to take account of all expenditure items, including:

- Appointment of design team (Architect, Quantity Surveyor, Structural Engineer etc)
- Preparation and costing of final designs
- Pre-tender and post-tender collaboration
- Planning submissions
- Final scheme costs.

This report does not include a full summary of these costs. It is sufficient at this stage to insert an overall estimated per-project cost (which takes account of the above).

SHORT/MEDIUM TERM PROJECTS

Priority Identified
Shop frontage scheme (involving, where necessary, repainting and replacement of gutters). Allow for uptake of 50 x properties.
Estimated Cost: £60,000 to £100,000

Priority Identified
New pavings/footpaths. It is envisaged this will involve both sides of Main Street and other areas adjoining Main Street.
Estimated Cost: £120,000 to £180,000

Priority Identified
Upgrade to existing central car park, plus the creation of additional parking spaces. Note: This work also involves the establishment of new public toilets in the central car park area.
Estimated Cost: £80,000 to £120,000

Priority Identified
Derelict Buildings (remedial): Initial work required to clean up, make safe, and repaint derelict buildings. Estimated for up to 20 x buildings.
Estimated Cost: £40,000 to £60,000

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LONGER TERM PROJECTS

Priority Identified
Derelict Buildings (detailed): Some will require urgent structural safety work (notably on roofs).
Estimated Cost: £75,000 to £90,000

Priority Identified
Bring derelict buildings at Fair Green under public ownership to. Demolished and convert space into a small public park and/or a drop-in centre/meeting space.
Estimated Cost: £1m - £1.5m

5.1 Sources of Funding

The Department for Communities (DFC) will be the primary funding source, however efforts will be made to also investigate alternative sources of funding that may become available. Working in conjunction with identified funders, Newry Mourne and Down District Council will identify eligible projects that could be selected for securing funding to meet project costs.

5.2 Other issues

Several other issues arose from this consultation. Although not covered by the terms of public realm interventions they were viewed as urgent actions requiring immediate follow up. They are highlighted here to draw the attention of Newry Mourne and Down District Council to significant local concerns which need to be addressed. These are:

1	<p>Spend Local App: Improve current town shopping trends by introducing a loyalty campaign (delivered through a phone app) to encourage shoppers to use local traders and benefit from discounts available to participants.</p> <p>Action Required: Consideration by the Council for separate funding, either as a standalone project, or a project shared with other villages.</p>
2	<p>Surface Water Flooding from the Fair Green area down Main Street. Scheme needed to remedy current deficiencies.</p> <p>Action Required: Refer to NI Water.</p>
3	<p>Road Surfacing: Main Street suffers from uneven surfaces, which are not only visually distracting but are also dangerous for motorists.</p> <p>Action Required: Refer to Roads Service.</p>
4	<p>Pelican Crossing: between High School and the Community Centre on the Belfast Road.</p> <p>Action Required: Refer to Roads Service.</p>

Note: Members of the Saintfield Development Association expressed a strong preference for the development of a comprehensive report detailing all aspects of the needs of the village. This would entail putting together a master plan based on the two previous village development plans of 2013 and 2017, adding in new issues and aspirations that have arisen since then.

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6. Next Steps

This report has been submitted to Newry Mourne and Down Council for consideration and discussion at various levels. Opportunities for funding will be reviewed with DFC / DAERA and other potential funders. Where funding opportunities are identified, further consultation will be completed with communities to progress scheme design, with necessary agreement through Council obtained.

It will be for the Council, working closely with the Department for Communities / appropriate funder, to move forward as follows:

Action	Outcome
Step 1	Secure Funding
Step 2	Appoint a Design Team
Step 3	Secure Planning Permission
Step 4	Tender for a Contractor
Step 5	Complete Construction

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KILLYLEAGH PUBLIC REALM COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Virtual consultation by ZOOM

23rd June 2020

Co-ordinated by:

Newry & Mourne Enterprise Agency and Down Business Centre

On behalf of:

Newry Mourne and Down District Council

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1. BACKGROUND

Historically, eligibility for investment by the Department for Communities (DFC) in public realm (PR)/environmental improvement (EI) was restricted to urban areas with a population greater than 5,000. The DFC is now changing its eligibility criteria to include smaller towns with a population less than 5,000, but greater than 2,500.

In Newry Mourne and Down Council area, this now brings forward:

1. Bessbrook
2. Castlewellan
3. **Killyleagh**
4. Rostrevor
5. Saintfield

What can be funded

Eligible public realm/environmental improvement works can include upgrade works to pathways, street lightening, landscaping, and street furniture. Other works may be considered, subject to further discussion and approval from DFC, such as revitalisation works including upgrades to building facades and visual improvements to vacant or derelict properties. The eligible boundary will be within the town centre, i.e. within the 30-mph zone.

Requirement

Working with DFC, Newry Mourne and Down District Council will be putting in place a forward capital plan that will identify over the next 5 years schemes to be profiled for public realm investment. This will enable the Council and the Department to better plan budgets, submit funding applications, commission early pre-development design works, and apply for statutory approvals – all of which, are required ahead of scheme implementation.

The Council now needs to put in place a forward capital plan for these 5 rural settlements, which now fall within the public realm remit of DFC. Implementation of the forward plan will be subject to funding from DFC. Putting in place a forward plan will enable Council to take some early steps to work schemes up to a point where they are “funding ready.” To inform this plan, some scoping work has been required to identify where the need for investment in public realm/environmental improvement is greatest.

Community Engagement

To formalise the inclusion of these 5 rural settlements in a forward work plan for submission to DFC, and to develop potential future scheme proposals, Newry Mourne and Down Council engaged **Newry & Mourne Enterprise Agency (NMEA)** and **Down Business Centre (DBC)** to prepare a report for consideration. These organisations are a local enterprise partnership whose sole aim is the furtherance of economic and business development within the Newry Mourne and Down region. The partnership is assisted by Eamon Larkin, Managing Partner of **Milligan Reside & Larkin**, and uses the services of other professional advisors across a range of disciplines.

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The Brief

The brief given to NMEA and DBC was to consult with stakeholders in Killyleagh to learn their views on what public realm works should be prioritised in Killyleagh and to prepare a final consultation report for the District Council to consider.

Consultation – during Covid 19

All consultations were undertaken within the terms of the Government's 2020 Covid 19 public health guidance, remotely using email and video / telephone conferencing.

Killyleagh Overview

The population of Killyleagh is estimated to have grown to 3,900 (from 2,590 in 2001). Around one fifth of the population in Killyleagh are under 16 years, which is equivalent to the NI average. Additionally, the village comprises a slightly higher older population than the NI average, with 17.23% of the population aged 65+ years of age. The population is growing faster than the NI average.

In relation to housing, the environment and transport, there is a high proportion of people renting (39.02%) and a relatively low percentage of housing is owner occupied (58.37%). More than a quarter of households in the village have no access to a car or van. Furthermore, the area falls within top 50% most deprived areas in Northern Ireland and scores particularly low (within the top third most deprived SOAs) in terms of education, skills, and training, as well as proximity to services.

Previous studies of the area include an in-depth **Killyleagh Village Renewal Plan (2018)** prepared at the request of Newry Mourne and Down Council by the community (in conjunction with **Ove Arup and Partners**).

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2. THE CONSULTATION: When did it take place? Who participated?

The Killyleagh stakeholder consultation was carried out using the Zoom video-conferencing platform on Tuesday 23rd June 2020. The attendees were as follows:

Newry & Mourne Enterprise Agency

Dr Conor Patterson (Facilitator)

Colin Hanna (Newry & Mourne Enterprise Agency)

Eamon Larkin (Milligan Reside & Larkin Architects)

Down Business Centre

Janice McDonald

Joe McCoubrey

Newry Mourne & Down Council representative

Margaret Quinn (Project Development Manager)

Killyleagh participants

Ken Tait

Ann Fee

Clive Scholar

Morris Crawford

Elizabeth Crilly (Sir Hans Sloane Centre)

Noreen Cairns

Chris Hagan

Gawn Rowan-Hamilton

Jim Lindsay

Eddie Rea

Kitty Crawford

Breige Jennings (County Down Rural Community Network)

Lise Curran (County Down Rural Community Network)

Councillors

Patrick Brown

Robert Burgess

Terry Andrews

William Walker

Kathryn Owen

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3. WHAT PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENTS DO CONSULTEES THINK ARE NEEDED?

Consultees participated in a virtual tour of the town using the Google Street View app. Some of the photography used by Google was recent but some dated from 2016. Consultees said that these older images served to highlight the extent of the deterioration of some buildings in a relatively short period. Several pictures showed the extent of the change particularly in Main Street. Stakeholders stressed the importance of preventing a vicious cycle of dereliction developing. As well as the need for general improvements to shop frontages and streetscapes and issues with the maintenance of open spaces and inadequate management and use of various facilities and amenities, there was a deepening problem of vandalism and antisocial behaviour. It was vital that pride was restored in the village.

The key issues highlighted by the consultees were:

- Enhancements and improvements to the seafront area from Seaview towards Cuan Beach
- New lighting at an arterial walkway on Shore Street/Seaview area
- Provision of a slipway at Seaside Road
- Clean-up and management of flower beds and street tree areas
- Improve Sir Hans Sloane memorial space and adjacent car park at Frederick Street
- Replace public toilets close to Killyleagh Castle
- Repaint town Library and explore ways of using vacant second-floor space
- Action required to the Moses Arch/Moses Lane area
- Derelict buildings
- The introduction of a 'Shop Fronts' scheme
- Main welcome and internal directional signage
- New pavings/footpaths
- Support for the Sir Hans Sloane Centre
- Street Lighting

SPECIAL NOTE

Several projects are currently under review and action has already been planned for some others (though much more needs to be done). These include:

Moses Arch: A £15,000 scheme was submitted under Peace IV to improve the Moses Arch and the area around it. This is currently being processed through Newry Mourne and Down Council working with the County Down Rural Community Network.

Housing Properties adjacent to Killyleagh Castle: A scheme to provide new housing units has been lodged for planning approval by a private developer. Consultees indicated that they were prepared to offer strong support for the project.

Library: It was reported that Library NI had agreed to repaint the town library.

The condition of the town library is a major concern. Whilst the group welcomed the news that Library NI intend to repaint the building, there was a consensus that the upper floor of the building should be put to community use (for hosting meetings for example) and that the car parking area to the front of the building could be better used as an open-space resource.



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3.1 SHORT TERM

1. Derelict Buildings: The increase in the number of vacant buildings and the poor condition of others in the town centre has been a source of increasing concern in recent years. At a minimum work is required to clean up, make safe, and repaint these vacant buildings to visually enhance the village's streetscape. A 'False Front' scheme was suggested by consultees as a way of addressing the dilapidated atmosphere which is beginning to prevail in parts of the village core, although it was recognised that private sector owners would need to be bought in as co-sponsors if a project was to be delivered.



◆
A number of derelict buildings are blighting the streetscape of Killyleagh. Some are considered unsafe (repairs to roofing being particularly essential). This dereliction is particularly noticeable in two buildings at the main crossroads entrance to High Street (pictured opposite).
◆

2. Shop frontage scheme (including repainting, new signage, and replacement of gutters). There is strong evidence that shop owners would support and participate in a renewal scheme on a 50/50 shared-cost basis. The introduction of such a scheme is considered overdue in Killyleagh. Similar schemes have had an extremely positive effect in other towns in Northern Ireland. Consultees said that not only would it greatly enhance the visual appeal of the village's core it would also provide an impetus for owners of derelict properties to take action to find new productive uses for their depleting assets.

3. New pavings/footpaths: It was agreed that replacement surfaces were required at Catherine Street and High Street to replace an uneven patchwork of paving and tarmac.

4. Upgrade existing public toilets:

The public toilet block located in front of Killyleagh Castle was highlighted as being in a poor state of repair and the building itself as visually unappealing. The building requires an urgent upgrade. Consultees said that it should be replaced with a



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building which was more in keeping with the historically significant buildings around it, especially the Castle.

5. New Public Toilets

A second public toilet facility in the village was also strongly recommended. It was said that there had been a significant increase in recent years in visitor numbers in the harbour/shore area. It was argued that those numbers will continue to grow, particularly so if the village renewal schemes highlighted elsewhere in this report come to fruition. At present, the only toilet facilities available to people visiting the shore area are those located at the Castle, access to which would be impractical from a distance point of view and also because of the absence of adequate signage.

6. Signage: Consultees said that the village was poorly served by signage. Welcome signs were required on the three main approach roads – from Downpatrick, from Killinchy/Comber, and from Crossgar/Shrigley. There was also a need to improve internal signage, particularly signs to direct visitors to the Castle, the Harbour, and the new Sir Hans Sloane Centre.

7. Street Lighting: LED conservation lights should be fitted to Catherine Street, Plantation Street, Shore Street, Castle Lane, and Irish Street. Existing conservation lights at High Street should have LED 'lamps' fitted.



8. Flower beds and trees: The group highlighted an urgent need to tidy up and maintain the two grassy areas at the entrance to Strangford View, just off Irish Street. It was also felt that a row of small trees on one side of High Street could be replicated on the opposite side.

9. Sir Hans Sloane Centre: This was highlighted as a valuable new resource in the village. There was a feeling however, that more could be done to support the Centre, through its increased promotion and usage by Newry Mourne and Down District Council for example. The Centre had the potential to be used for community meetings and to host other public events. It was also felt that support should be given to enable more external signage to be added to the building.



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10. Commemorative area at Frederick Street:

Consultees said that the commemorative Sir Hans Sloane plaque and seating areas at Frederick Street required an upgrade, to make it a more appealing open public space by adding flower beds, improving seating, and adding further items of interest, such as wall murals. The adjacent car park was described as poorly laid out and underused as a result. It was argued that an improvement in the surfacing and marking of the park would lead to greater usage and thereby help to offset the lack of parking in the village.



11. Artificial Metal Tree

There was consensus that a vandalised tree at the junction of Catherine Street/High Street needed to be replaced. The preferred option was the installation of an artificial Metal Tree which would be vandal-proof and would blend in with other street furniture, such as the lighting installations.

12. General Clean-up

Consultees highlighted several areas in the village which needed urgent clean-up attention. These included:

- The removal of vegetation from the Gocean brick wall. Also, patch-point the wall, replace missing copings and power-wash the area.
- Repair and repoint the Dibney Bridge walls and railings.
- Rebuild the step access from the road on the south side of the river leading to Frederick Street and St Mary's Stile.
- Tidy up the set of steps leading north to the Bridge Centre and paint the railings at the steps.

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3.2 MEDIUM TERM

1. Seafront: The general seafront area at the Netwalk leading to Cuan Beach and the Quay was highlighted by the consultees as needing significant attention. It was argued that a range of improvements in this area would not only enhance the overall visual appeal of Killyleagh but would also offer practical ways in which the local community could benefit from increased access to amenities.



The suggested schemes to achieve this were:

- An extension of the path from the Quay around Seaview to Cuan Beach.
- The provision of a public slipway for the launch of small boats at the Netwalk. It was noted that Killyleagh is the only Strangford Lough village without such a facility.
- Replace lighting at Shore Walkway. Current lighting is fixed into a wall and is subject to vandalism. It was recommended that this lighting be replaced with tall-pole lighting.
- Repair the sea wall.
- General tidy-up of the full route (grass verges etc.).



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4. WHY ARE THEY NEEDED?

The **Killyleagh Village Renewal Plan (2018)** clearly sets out the rationale for government funding of public realm improvements in the village:

- *“Safety and connectivity are crucially important for community mobility, therefore a project which strengthens the key linkages within the village will improve levels of community safety.”*
- *“The quality of the physical environment has the ability to express the character of the village. A project which aims to enhance the physical landscape to revitalise the unique and picturesque setting of the village.”*
- *High quality environmental improvements to historical assets play an important role in creating a focal point in a village. Both pedestrians and road users are provided with a sense of arrival by the effective use of public realm.”*

Killyleagh’s public representatives and other local stakeholders see the proposals outlined in this report as representing the minimum level of intervention required to enhance the village’s appearance and appeal. They contend that this package of support is needed because continued deterioration during the last decade has had (and is continuing to have) a significant adverse effect on the area’s physical infrastructure and on community morale.

4.1 What would be the benefits of making these improvements?

The improvements identified through this consultation would have wide-ranging impacts. These include:

- Adding a new dimension of renewal to the general seafront area of the village
- Creating an immediate and significant visual uplift to the village’s streetscape and general appearance
- Increasing public safety (particularly in relation to footpaths and pedestrian accesses)
- Uplifting economic activity resulting from increased shopping footfall as a result of more visually appealing retail frontages
- Boosting community morale
- Encouraging additional ‘village pride’ initiatives by individuals and groups.

4.2 What would be the negative effects of doing nothing?

The potential economic and social costs of continued environmental decay are likely to be substantial. The main negative effects would be:

- An opportunity would be missed to revitalise an important and neglected section of the Strangford Lough coastline
- A decline in the visitor experience of Killyleagh would continue
- The reputation of statutory bodies for responsiveness and delivery would be weakened.
- There would be an ongoing loss of community morale
- The longer decline was allowed to continue the higher the ultimate costs of remedial action would be.

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5. WHAT WOULD BE THE COSTS OF SHORT-TERM SCHEMES?

The projects identified through this consultation are listed below. Total costs involved in the implementation of each project will require to be worked up to take account of all expenditure items, including the:

- Appointment of design team (Architect, Quantity Surveyor, Structural Engineer etc)
- Preparation and costing of final designs
- Pre-tender and post-tender collaboration
- Planning submissions
- Final scheme costs.

This report does not include a full summary of these costs. It is sufficient at this stage to insert an overall estimated per-project cost (which takes account of the above).

SHORT TERM PROJECTS

	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	COST
1	Derelict Buildings: Implement a 'False Front' scheme incorporating up to 8 x buildings.	£6,000
2	Shop frontage scheme: Allow for a 50/50 take-up of up to 20 x business owners	£40,000
3	Replacement/upgrade of pavings/footpaths at Catherine Street and High Street	£10,000
4	Upgrade/Replace public toilets	£15,000
5	New Public Toilets (to be located in the general harbour/seafront area)	£75,000
6	Signage: Approach 'welcome' signage and internal directional signage	£15,000
7	Street Lighting: LED conservation lights fitted to Catherine Street, Plantation Street, Shore Street, Castle Lane, and Irish Street.	£40,000
8	Flower beds/trees at Strangford View and High Street	£5,000
9	Sir Hans Sloane Centre signage	£3,000
10	Commemorative area at Frederick Street (to include car park renovation)	£25,000
11	Artificial metal tree at the junction of Catherine Street/High Street	£10,000
12	General clean-up of key areas around the village	£30,000

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MEDIUM TERM PROJECT

PROJECT DESCRIPTION		COST
1	A major scheme to redevelop large sections of the village shorefront could be implemented as a single project or broken down into the various components parts as outlined in Section 3.2.1 of this report. The recommendation is that because of the uniqueness of the area and the potential to demonstrate a positive and significant regeneration of an important physical resource, that an overall scheme be taken on board. However, the scale involved should not prohibit the implementation of vital individual issues which require attention along the shore front.	£175,000

5.1 Sources of Funding

The Department for Communities (DFC) will be the primary funding source, however efforts will be made to also investigate alternative sources of funding that may become available. Working in conjunction with identified funders, Newry Mourne and Down District Council will identify eligible projects that could be selected for securing funding to meet project costs.

6. Next Steps

This report has been submitted to Newry Mourne and Down Council for consideration and discussion at various levels. Opportunities for funding will be reviewed with DFC / DAERA and other potential funders. Where funding opportunities are identified, further consultation will be completed with communities to progress scheme design, with necessary agreement through Council obtained.

It will be for the Council, working closely with the Department for Communities / appropriate funder, to move forward as follows:

Action	Outcome
Step 1	Secure Funding
Step 2	Appoint a Design Team
Step 3	Secure Planning Permission
Step 4	Tender for a Contractor
Step 5	Complete Construction

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CASTLEWELLAN PUBLIC REALM COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Virtual consultation by ZOOM

16th June 2020

Co-ordinated by:

Newry & Mourne Enterprise Agency and Down Business Centre

On behalf of:

Newry Mourne and Down District Council

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1. BACKGROUND

Historically, the Department for Communities (DFC) eligible areas for investing in public realm (PR)/environmental improvement (EI) was restricted to those urban areas with a population greater than 5,000. DFC are now widening the scope of their eligible areas, to include smaller towns with a population less than 5,000, but greater than 2,500.

In Newry Mourne and Down Council area, this now brings forward:

1. Bessbrook
2. **Castlewellan**
3. Killyleagh
4. Rostrevor
5. Saintfield

What can be funded

Eligible public realm/environmental improvement works can include upgrade works to pathways, street lightening, landscaping, and street furniture. Other works may be considered, subject to further discussion and approval with DFC, such as revitalisation works including upgrades to building facades and visual improvements to vacant or derelict properties. The eligible boundary will be within the town centre, i.e. within the 30-mph zone.

Requirement

Working with DFC, Newry Mourne and Down Council have in place a forward Capital plan that identifies over the next 5 years, which areas should be profiled for capital public realm investment. This enables the Council and the Department to better plan budgets, submit funding applications, commission early pre-development design works, and apply for statutory approvals – all of which, are required ahead of scheme implementation.

Council now needs to put in place a forward capital plan for the above 5 rural areas, which fall within the public realm remit of DFC. Implementation of the forward plan is subject to funding from DFC. Putting in place a forward plan will enable Council to take some early steps to work schemes up to a certain stage and have them “funding ready.” To inform this plan, some scoping work has been required to identify need for investment in public realm/environmental improvement.

Community Engagement

To include the 5 settlements on a forward work plan with DFC, and potentially in the future to develop proposals for some schemes, Newry Mourne and Down Council engaged **Newry & Mourne Enterprise Agency** and **Down Business Centre** to prepare a report on the priorities of stakeholders in each area. The two organisations have formed a local enterprise partnership whose non-profit mission is the furtherance of economic and business development within the Newry Mourne Down region. The partnership is assisted by Eamon Larkin, Managing Partner of **Milligan Reside & Larkin**, and uses the services of other professional advisors across a range of disciplines.

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The Brief

The brief was to consult with stakeholders in Castlewellan to learn their views on what public realm works should be prioritised in Castlewellan and to prepare a final consultation report for the District Council to consider.

Consultation – during Covid 19

All consultations were undertaken within the terms of the Government's 2020 Covid 19 public health guidance, remotely using email and video / telephone conferencing.

Castlewellan Overview

The estimated population of the village of Castlewellan is 2,400. The demographic characteristics of people living in Castlewellan based on census data is as follows: 30% are aged under 16 years; 14% are aged 60 and over; the average age is 32 years (NI average age 35.8 years); 49.4% of the population are male and 50.6% are female; 92% are from a Catholic Community Background; 6.6% are from a 'Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)' Community Background; 7% were born outside Northern Ireland; and 0.5% are from an ethnic group other than white.

There are an estimated 850 households in Castlewellan. Statistics relating to Castlewellan households show the following: average household size is 2.94 persons per household (NI level 2.65 persons per household); 68.3% of households are one family households and 10.1% are lone-parent households with dependent children.

Previous studies of the area include an in-depth **Castlewellan Village Plan (2012)** prepared on behalf of two groups - Castlewellan Regeneration Limited and Castlewellan Community Partnership, and an updated **Addendum and Action Plan** completed in 2017.

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2. THE CONSULTATION: When did it take place? Who participated?

The Castlewellan stakeholder consultation was carried out using the Zoom video-conferencing platform on Tuesday 16th June 2020. The attendees were as follows:

Facilitator

Dr Conor Patterson (Newry & Mourne Co-operative & Enterprise Agency)

Newry Mourne & Down Council representative

Martin Patterson (Regeneration, Business Support and Development Officer)

Margaret Quinn (Project Development Manager)

Down Business Centre

Janice McDonald

Joe McCoubrey

Castlewellan participants

Priscilla McAlinden (Slieve Croob DEA Co-ordinator)

Margaret Cunningham (Castlewellan Regeneration)

Moirá Hawkins (St Malachy's GAC)

Ronan King (St Malachy's GAC)

Dr Sally Montgomery (Volunteer co-ordinator with Forest Park/Arboretum Lottery development)

Nicolas McCrickard (County Down Rural Community Network)

Josie McEvoy (Castlewellan Traders Association)

Leo King (Kilmegan and Maghera Heritage Group)

Michael Donnelly (Second Nature)

Monica Maginn (Castlewellan Traders Association)

Felix Blaney

John King (King's Inn)

Janine Connolly (County Down Rural Community Network)

Councillors

Hugh Gallagher

Roisin Howell

Andrew McMurray

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3. WHAT PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENTS DO CONSULTEES THINK ARE NEEDED?

Participants focused on 6 key issues which were deemed to be important and urgent. These were:

- Informational signage
- Use of space around the Market House
- General landscaping (flower beds and tree replacement)
- Litter bins
- Use of vacant/derelict spaces
- Car parking and general traffic management

These items are highlighted in the report and grouped within this report as potential works which could be carried out under Public Realm in the short to medium terms.

3.1 SHORT/MEDIUM TERM

1. Informational Signage

1.1 Existing signage is considered to be inadequate. There is no consistent theme positively promoting the village to visitors and no clear or systematic directional guidance to the area's main attractions (most notably the Forest Park and the Maze) and other buildings/facilities of interest.



“Existing signage does not demonstrate a clear welcome message and does not provide early signposting for the villages’ main attractions”.

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1.2 New welcome/introductory signage is required at the three main approaches to the village (i.e. from Clough, Newry, and Newcastle). Additional signage is required at the top of Mill Hill (in both directions) and at the small roundabout at the entrance to the Newcastle Road; as well as at the junction of Upper Square and Main Street. These signs should point to facilities such as Castlewellan Forest Park, the Maze, the local library, the Bunkers Hill Trail, the Bunscoil, and St Malachy's GAC premises.



The Bunkers Hill Walk (Cycle and Play Trail) is a popular amenity for residents and visitors but is not signposted within the village or at the main approaches to the village.

2. Use of space around the Market House

The location of the Market House in the centre of the village provides unique opportunities for increased public usage and amenities. Open space is available on both sides and to the rear of this historic building, which has been used frequently for events such as music festivals and markets. The consensus among consultees was that the "openness" of these areas should be maintained, but that there may be opportunities for some imaginative small-scale schemes to enhance the surroundings and make them more functional (e.g. the installation of outdoor power points).



Open spaces shown around the sides and rear of the Market House.



The popularity of the rear of the Market House for outdoor events presents an opportunity to add to the physical infrastructure of the area by erecting, for example, support columns which would allow for the use of awnings/coverings for performance stages and public

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seating areas. These could be temporary structures, easily stored and erected, for individual events.

It is also thought the area containing the Celtic Cross could be utilised to greater effect by relocating the Cross and creating bicycle parking booths or car-charging ports. These ideas would equally apply to the vacant areas to both sides of the Market House.

All areas around the market house could also be enhanced by flower containers, modern waste disposal receptacles, and public seating areas.

3. General landscaping (flower beds and tree replacement)



Road islands at Mill Hill on one of the main approaches to Castlewellan

3.1 A major concern among consultees was the drabness of the traffic islands at the Mill Hill approach to the village centre. It was recognised that previous flower planting on these islands had been affected by salt-gritters, a situation which it was suggested could be easily resolved by the use of raised wooden flower containers to provide a colourful and vibrant welcome. It was further proposed that the use of flower containers should also be extended to other approach roads and areas within the town.

3.2 Consultees stressed the importance of replacing two fallen trees at Lower Square. These had been a prominent part of the streetscape for almost 150 years. It was suggested that the Mourne Heritage Trust had access to mature 8-year-old indigenous trees which could be used for this purpose.



Two areas at Lower Square where trees were uprooted in winter storms and have not been replaced.

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3.3 Litter bins



Litter bins in the village were said to be in a poor state of repair, with many reported as being no longer functional. There was consensus that these should be replaced as a matter of urgency. Consultees said that modern, more practical receptacles would enhance the character of the village.

3.4 Car parking and general traffic management

Whilst consultees acknowledged that general car parking and traffic management would be the subject of a separate, ongoing consultation with Newry Mourne and Down Council and the Department for Infrastructure NI, they wanted to highlight the need for road and pavement level public realm improvements to accommodate the provision of loading/unloading bays along main street to improve traffic flow through the town. There is no current provision in Main Street which is often brought to a standstill because of large vehicle deliveries/collections.

3.5 Other issues

Several smaller issues were also raised and are worth noting here to complete the reporting of the Public Realm consultation. These included:

- The use of the village's remaining phone box
- Signage to identify that the Market House is the Library
- The use of a visitor app to tell the story of Castlewellan
- Landscaping of the area around the traffic lights in Main Street (opposite the Northern Bank building).

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3.2 LONGER TERM

Use of vacant/derelict spaces

One derelict unused space was singled out as an example of how the streetscape in the town could be transformed for the direct benefit of the community. Property beside the Oak Grill on Main Street is up for sale and it was suggested could be brought into public ownership and redeveloped for use as a small public garden or as an amenity building to service local groups and organisations. Left unattended, however, the site is a prominent eye sore.



Derelict space at Main Street could be utilised for new community facilities

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4. WHY ARE THEY NEEDED?

Excerpt from Castlewellan Village Plan (2012)

"Castlewellan's townscape is run down and tired. The last major "facelift" for the town was over 15 years ago. The town is a "conservation" area and yet has dereliction, poor street furniture, poor signage — both on shops and for orientation. The major square in the town is dilapidated and adds to an air of neglect with broken furniture, degrading surfaces, vacant units, and some dereliction."

"It is apparent that the population in Castlewellan has grown considerably over the last decade and this has brought additional pressures to the town as the core resources have not been upgraded to cope with the rising population."

Local stakeholders, as represented by those who participated in the Public Realm Consultation, view the proposals contained within this report as representing the minimum level of intervention required to enhance the village's appearance and appeal.

4.1 What would be the benefits of making these improvements?

The improvements identified through this consultation would have wide-ranging impacts. These include:

- An immediate and significant visual uplift to the village's streetscape
- Providing a boost to community morale
- Increasing public awareness of what Castlewellan has to offer
- An uplift to economic activity resulting from increased visitor footfall
- Providing impetus to the private sector to invest in the infrastructure of the village.

4.2 What would be the negative effects of doing nothing?

Castlewellan enjoys high levels of tourist traffic. The local Forest Park and the Maze facility are two leading drivers of visitor numbers, as is the position of the village as a gateway to the Mourne and other attractions such as Spelga Dam. Castlewellan's strategic location makes it an intrinsic part of the Mourne visitor experience. It is for that reason imperative that the District Council and other statutory bodies ensure its appearance and the services which are on offer there are in keeping with the ambition of the Northern Ireland Tourist Board and the Department of the Economy to substantially grow the tourism sector in mid and south Down. A 'Do Nothing' approach would result in:

- A continued deterioration in services and amenities
- Reduced visitor experiences
- Reduced perception of the reputation of statutory bodies
- A continued loss of community morale
- Costs of remedial actions continuing to rise.
- The tourism sector in mid and south Down failing to fulfil its potential.

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5. WHAT WOULD BE THE COSTS OF A SHORT/MEDIUM TERM SCHEME?

The projects identified through this consultation have been ranked in order of priority. Total costs involved in the implementation of each project will have to be worked up to take account of all expenditure items, including the:

- Appointment of a design team (Architect, Quantity Surveyor, Structural Engineer etc)
- Preparation and costing of final designs
- Pre-tender and post-tender procedure
- Planning submissions
- Final scheme costs.

This report does not include a full summary of these costs. It is sufficient at this stage to insert an overall estimated per-project cost (which takes account of the above).

SHORT/MEDIUM TERM PROJECTS

Priority Identified – Informational Signage

Informational signage to include welcome and general information signage at 3 key approaches to the village, plus a number of inner-village directional signs.

Estimated Cost: £20,000 to £30,000

Priority Identified – Use of spaces around Market House

There is a choice of options which will sit alongside a scheme to provide flexible cover space for open-air events.

Estimated Overall Cost: £100,000

Priority Identified - General landscaping (flower beds and tree replacement)

All required actions are calculated to be undertaken as part of an overall strategy to enact the specific proposals outlined in section 3.

Estimated Cost: £75,000

Priority Identified – Litter Bins

Costing for this includes provision for the replacement of at least 10 x litter bins (which includes the construction of new bases and boundaries).

Estimated Cost: £30,000

LONGER TERM PROJECTS

Priority Identified – Vacant/Derelict Space

One major project highlighted at Main Street. This will require property to be brought into public ownership and redeveloped as a community facility (garden and/or indoor facility)

Estimated Cost: £400,000 to £1m

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5.1 Sources of Funding

The Department for Communities (DFC) will be the primary funding source, however efforts will be made to also investigate alternative sources of funding that may become available. Working in conjunction with identified funders, Newry Mourne and Down District Council will identify eligible projects that could be selected for securing funding to meet project costs.

6. Next Steps

This report has been submitted to Newry Mourne and Down Council for consideration and discussion at various levels. Opportunities for funding will be reviewed with DFC / DAERA and other potential funders. Where funding opportunities are identified, further consultation will be completed with communities to progress scheme design, with necessary agreement through Council obtained.

It will be for the Council, working closely with the Department for Communities / appropriate funder, to move forward as follows:

Action	Outcome
Step 1	Secure Funding
Step 2	Appoint a Design Team
Step 3	Secure Planning Permission
Step 4	Tender for a Contractor
Step 5	Complete Construction

Bessbrook Public Realm Community Consultation

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BESSBROOK PUBLIC REALM COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Virtual consultation by ZOOM

21st July 2020

Co-ordinated by:

Newry & Mourne Enterprise Agency and Down Business Centre

On behalf of:

Newry Mourne and Down District Council

Bessbrook Public Realm Community Consultation

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6 NEXT STEPS

Bessbrook Public Realm Community Consultation

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1. BACKGROUND

Historically, eligibility for investment by the Department for Communities (DFC) in public realm (PR)/environmental improvement (EI) was restricted to urban areas with a population greater than 5,000. The DFC is now changing its eligibility criteria to include smaller towns with a population less than 5,000, but greater than 2,500.

In Newry Mourne and Down Council area, this now brings forward:

1. **Bessbrook**
2. Castlewellan
3. Killyleagh
4. Rostrevor
5. Saintfield

What can be funded

Eligible public realm/environmental improvement works can include upgrade works to pathways, street lightening, landscaping, and street furniture. Other works may be considered, subject to further discussion and approval from DFC, such as revitalisation works including upgrades to building facades and visual improvements to vacant or derelict properties. The eligible boundary will be within the town centre, i.e. within the 30-mph zone.

Requirement

Working with DFC, Newry Mourne and Down District Council will be putting in place a forward capital plan that will identify over the next 5 years schemes to be profiled for public realm investment. This will enable the Council and the Department to better plan budgets, submit funding applications, commission early pre-development design works, and apply for statutory approvals – all of which, are required ahead of scheme implementation.

The Council now needs to put in place a forward capital plan for these 5 rural settlements, which now fall within the public realm remit of DFC. Implementation of the forward plan will be subject to funding from DFC. Putting in place a forward plan will enable Council to take some early steps to work schemes up to a point where they are “funding ready.” To inform this plan, some scoping work has been required to identify where the need for investment in public realm/environmental improvement is greatest.

Community Engagement

To formalise the inclusion of these 5 rural settlements in a forward work plan for submission to DFC, and to develop potential future scheme proposals, Newry Mourne and Down Council engaged **Newry & Mourne Enterprise Agency (NMEA)** and **Down Business Centre (DBC)** to prepare a report for consideration. These organisations are a local enterprise partnership whose sole aim is the furtherance of economic and business development within the Newry Mourne and Down region. The partnership is assisted by Eamon Larkin, Managing Partner of **Milligan Reside & Larkin**, and uses the services of other professional advisors across a range of disciplines.

Bessbrook Public Realm Community Consultation

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The Brief

The brief given to NMEA and DBC was to consult with stakeholders in Bessbrook to learn their views on what public realm works should be prioritised in Bessbrook and to prepare a final consultation report for the District Council to consider.

Consultation – during Covid 19

All consultations were undertaken within the terms of the Government's 2020 Covid 19 public health guidance, remotely using email and video / telephone conferencing.

Bessbrook Overview

For the purposes of this report the area referred to as Bessbrook is that which is delineated by the 30 mph signs on the various approach roads into the village; Bessbrook electoral ward covers this area. Unless otherwise stated the statistics below have been taken from the NI 2011 census.

The population of Bessbrook Ward was 2842 in 2019 (NISRA), a 17% increase on the 2011 census figure; the population has grown significantly faster than the NI average. In terms of demographics, 23% of residents are aged under 16 years with 16% aged 65 and over which is close to NI average. In relation to housing 60% of households are owner occupied and 37% are rented. Nearly 30% of households do not have access to either a car or a van which is well above the NI average. The most recent Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation measure in 2017 indicated that Bessbrook Ward was among the 20% most deprived wards in NI; it scored particularly poorly with regard to employment, health/disability, education skills and training.

Previous studies of the area include an in-depth Village Renewal Plan in 2012 for the Bessbrook and Camlough areas prepared at the request of Newry and Mourne District Council by URS, with an addendum commissioned by the Newry Mourne and Down District Council completed in 2018 by Ove Arup & Partners.

Bessbrook Public Realm Community Consultation

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2. THE CONSULTATION: When did it take place? Who participated?

The Bessbrook stakeholder consultation was carried out using the Zoom video-conferencing platform on Tuesday 21st July 2020. The attendees were as follows:

Newry & Mourne Enterprise Agency

Dr Conor Patterson (Facilitator)

Colin Hanna (Scribe)

Eamon Larkin (Milligan Reside & Larkin Architects)

Newry, Mourne & Down Council representatives

Martin Patterson, Enterprise and Regeneration

Seamus Crossey, Enterprise and Regeneration

Taucher McDonald, Slieve Gullion DEA Co-ordinator

Bessbrook participants

Cllr Declan Murphy

Cllr David Taylor

Danny Kennedy (Bessbrook Development Company)

Rosemary Mulholland (Bessbrook Development Company, National Trust Ranger for Derrymore House)

Richard Black (Bessbrook Development Company)

Kathleen Moore (Bessbrook Development Company)

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3. WHAT PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENTS DO CONSULTEES THINK ARE NEEDED?

Consultees participated in a virtual tour of the village using the Google Street View app. While some of the photography used by Google was recent some dated from 2010.

The key issues highlighted by the consultees were:

- The lack of signage to welcome visitors and to direct them to facilities and sites in the village
- The condition of the 'Back Ways' behind several of the 19th century terraces in the village
- The poor state of repair of the former hand-ball alley adjacent to the town hall
- The lack of litter/dog dirt bins in the village
- The resurfacing of Orior Park and Thomas Street
- The need for regular spraying in and around the cobble stones in the centre of the village
- The lack of drop kerbs in the vicinity of Griffiths shop on Fountain Street
- The requirement for upkeep of flower beds
- The lack of paths in Fountain Street moving through Church Street heading in the direction of Bessbrook Primary School
- The inadequacy of pedestrian walkways at various points
- The need for cycle paths
- The poor state of the flagged area adjacent to Saint Peter's and Saint Paul's
- The unsightly BT junction boxes and bus shelters in the village.

It was the unanimous view of consultees that all of these issues should be addressed in an overarching **Master Plan** for the village.

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4.1 SHORT TERM

1. Welcome and internal directional signage

It was noted that there are no signs which highlight Bessbrook's unique history and significance as a model village or its status as a conservation area. While Derrymore House and Derrymore Wood are marketed as being in Bessbrook, there is no signage within the village to indicate how to get there. There is no directional signage for Bessbrook Mill, the Mill Pond, the village's 19th century squares, its townhall or its other social/cultural sporting buildings and outdoor spaces. There is also no signage to promote the village and its attractions on any of the main road approaches. These gaps could be remedied at a low-cost relative to their positive impact on the village in terms of increased visitor numbers.



Lack of signage on the main approach into the village

2. The 'Back Ways'

The Back Ways are a legacy feature from the era when housing in Bessbrook was provided by the mill owners for some of its workers. They are found to the rear of residences in Charlemont Square, O'Donoghue Park and Thomas Street. Portions of them have long been neglected and are in some cases attracting fly tippers. Ownership which is either disputed or unknown is hampering efforts to identify the agencies or persons who are responsible for their upkeep. A scheme is needed to improve these areas, the first step of which should be to identify ownership/responsibility.



An example of The Backways to the rear of O'Donoghue Park

3. Lack of litter/dog waste bins in the village

The lack of litter bins in general was noted along with the observation that there is only one dedicated bin for dog waste in the village and its environs. While it is becoming increasingly socially unacceptable for owners not to clean up after their dogs, consultees were of the view that there should be efforts made by the Council to supply the necessary facilities to allow for the easy disposal of dog dirt and street litter.

4. Resurfacing of Orior Park and Thomas Street



The area requiring resurfacing

The road surfaces in the environs of both Orior Park and Thomas Street are badly in need of resurfacing, they were described by consultees as being an unsightly patchwork.

Bessbrook Public Realm Community Consultation

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5. Regular spraying in and around the cobble stones in the centre of the village

The cobblestoned areas in the centre of the village are undoubtedly an attractive feature. However, consultees pointed out that at certain times of year they were overgrown with weeds. It was suggested that a regular schedule of weed control should be instituted.

6. Drop kerbs in vicinity of Griffiths on Fountain Street

There is currently no easy access to allow either wheelchairs or prams to negotiate between pavements in the vicinity of Griffiths shop on Fountain Street. There was consensus among the consultees that the Council should work to ensure that this oversight is remedied by the responsible agency and that this should be addressed urgently as it presents a health and safety risk to vulnerable users.

7. Upkeep of flowerbeds

The flowerbeds in the village need to be tended more regularly as they can at times look unkempt with the result that far from enhancing the visual appeal of the village they can contribute to a sense that it is a place that has been passed by.



An example of a flowerbed in a prime central location which could be described as 'scruffy'

8. Pedestrian paths/walkways

The creation of new paths and the renovation of old ones was a recurring theme during the consultation. The potential projects discussed were:

- Extending the path around the Mill Pond.
- Developing the existing public right of way from Craigmore into a pedestrian/cycle path leading to the centre of the village.
- Clearing the undergrowth around Bessbrook Mill and creating a path linking the mill buildings and the Mill Pond.
- Creating a path/walk from the old tram station to Millvale.



Bessbrook Pond



The old tram station



Bessbrook Mill

9. Cycle paths/routes

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Given the recent upsurge in the number of people cycling coupled with the village's attractions and its proximity to larger population centres, notably Newry, the provision of cycle routes should be a consideration in all future projects which plan to attract more visitors to Bessbrook.

10. Flagged area adjacent to Saint Peter's and Saint Paul's

The area in the vicinity of St Peter's & St Paul's catholic church was described as 'scruffy' and not in keeping with either the character of the church or the overall vernacular of the village. Consultees urged that lights, planting, seating etc. should be looked at with a view to enhancing the environment there and creating attractive public realm. The boundary wall between the church and this area was also described as dilapidated, with its finishes in need of revamping.



11. Mask or 'dress' the BT junction boxes and bus shelters

The BT junction boxes located throughout the village are covered in bill posts. Some of the consultees wondered if there were better designed junction boxes which could be sourced which would be more in keeping with the rest of the street furniture in the village (e.g. period street lighting) or whether the existing junction boxes could be masked in some way. The same question was asked about the bus shelters in the village which, while functional, were also visually unappealing if not an eyesore.

4.2 MEDIUM TERM

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1. Square-shaped building adjacent to the town hall.

This building which is currently a void had been a handball alley. The sport was very popular in the area in the past but as its popularity declined the facility became derelict. Given its prime village centre location consultees were of the view that finding an alternative use for this space should be prioritised.



The old handball alley

2. Lack of paths in Fountain Street/Church Street

The lack of paths in Fountain Street and Church Street was highlighted as a concern for villagers. It was, however, acknowledged that the geography of this area in relation to the rest of the village and the geometry of the established building layout there meant that this would not be an easy issue to resolve. The proximity of the primary school and the poor sightlines on the approach to Church Street present a risk to vulnerable pedestrians and as a minimum some form of traffic management which favours pedestrians needs to be considered.

3. A Bessbrook Master Plan

A Master Development Plan should be commissioned to address the challenges highlighted in this report which are seen by consultees as the legacy of a piecemeal and dis-jointed approach to the development of Bessbrook from the closure of the mill and its conversion into a major army base and heliport (for two decades the busiest in western Europe). That very large site has now been abandoned for 20 years. But the departure of the military was not followed, as had been anticipated at the time by the long-suffering villagers, by a redevelopment dividend. The community of Bessbrook are of the view that the prioritisation of a development plan for Bessbrook which includes its historic mill is long overdue.

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4. WHY ARE THEY NEEDED?

Among the key points raised in the 2012 Bessbrook & Camlough Cluster Village Renewal and Development Plan report were:

- “The entrance to the village is very poorly signposted. The ‘story’ of Bessbrook is not clear to visitors. Important sites are poorly marked.
- Pedestrian routes are in a poor condition.
- There is good provision of public open green space (i.e. the two squares and Bessbrook Park). However, the quality of these spaces needs to be improved.
- Derrymore House and Gardens are a valuable resource and are in close proximity to the village centre.”

These issues remain high on the list of concerns raised during this consultation. One consultee said that the fact that this is so eight years after the comprehensive 2012 report was completed would seem to confirm the validity of the feeling within the community that Bessbrook’s needs and more importantly its potential have been neglected. Consultees were agreed that it was now time for central and local government to come together with the residents of the village to make Bessbrook the great place to live and work in and to visit that it could be.

4.1 What would be the benefits of making these improvements?

The proposed improvement schemes identified through this consultation have the potential to produce a significant positive impact. These include:

- Greater numbers of visitors generating higher levels of spend in the village, where almost all of the businesses are locally owned and operated. This would create new employment opportunities as well as safeguarding existing jobs.
- Schemes targeting footpaths in particular would make the village streets safer and generally more pleasant for pedestrians and facilitate easier movement of visitors between the village’s visitor attractions which in terms of industrial/commercial history are of international significance.
- New pathways and cycle routes will potentially bring health benefits to both visitors and residents.
- A properly resourced and well executed Master Development Plan would have the effect of boosting the appearance of the village. This would make it a more attractive place to live, not only for the existing residents but also for potential new residents and help to secure the long-term sustainability of the village.

4.2 What would be the negative effects of doing nothing?

The negative effects of doing nothing are likely to include:

- Unaddressed grubbiness and decay reinforcing a sense of neglect, initiating a vicious cycle of decline and dereliction which would ripple out to areas not currently suffering from these problems.
- Bessbrook is competing with other destinations for visitors. But investment is needed to attract them in the numbers needed to make a real difference to the prosperity of the area.

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In the world of business companies which do not invest in new products/facilities are doomed to failure. This is also true of towns and villages. Though their failure may be a longer drawn out process the consequences for residents and the wider economy can be no less devastating.

5. WHAT WOULD BE THE COSTS OF SHORT-TERM SCHEMES?

The projects identified through this consultation are listed below. Total costs involved in the implementation of each project will require to be worked up to take account of all expenditure items, including the:

- Appointment of design team (Architect, Quantity Surveyor, Structural Engineer etc)
- Preparation and costing of final designs
- Pre-tender and post-tender collaboration
- Planning submissions
- Final scheme costs.

This report does not include a full summary of these costs. It is sufficient at this stage to insert an overall estimated per-project cost (which takes account of the above).

SHORT TERM PROJECTS

	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	COST £
1	Welcome and internal directional signage	20,000
2	Clean-up of the 'Back Ways'	30,000
3	Provision of litter/dog dirt bins in the village	5,000
4	Resurfacing of Orior Park and Thomas Street	30,000
5	Regular spraying in and around the cobble stones	Revenue Cost TBC
6	Provision of drop kerbs in vicinity of Griffiths	3,000
7	Upkeep of flower beds	Revenue Cost TBC
8	New pedestrian paths/walkways	Up to 100,000
9	Cycle paths/routes	Up to 100,000
10	Revamp of flagged area adjacent to Saint Peter's and Saint Paul's	15,000
11	Alternative designs for BT junction boxes and bus shelters	10,000

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MEDIUM TERM PROJECT

	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	COST
1	Handball alley adjacent to town hall	200,000
2	Paths in Fountain Street/Church Street for traffic management	Up to 100,000

5.1 Sources of Funding

The Department for Communities (DFC) will be the primary funding source. Working in conjunction with Newry Mourne and Down District Council, the Department will decide and agree which projects, if any, will be selected for drawdown of funds to meet project costs.

6. Next Steps

This report has been submitted to Newry Mourne and Down Council for consideration and discussion at various levels, including the Council's Economic Development Committee, before being tabled for scrutiny and decision by a meeting of the full Council. Those councillors with responsibility for the Bessbrook area will consult with village representatives to ensure the report's content reflects the outcomes of the consultation.

It will be for the Council, working closely with the Department for Communities, to move forward as follows:

Action	Outcome
Step 1	Secure Funding
Step 2	Appoint a Design Team (through Central Procurement Directorate)
Step 3	Secure Planning Permission
Step 4	Tender for a Contractor (through Central Procurement Directorate)
Step 5	Complete Construction

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ROSTREVOR PUBLIC REALM COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Virtual consultation by ZOOM

28th July 2020

Co-ordinated by:

Newry & Mourne Enterprise Agency and Down Business Centre

On behalf of:

Newry Mourne and Down District Council

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1. BACKGROUND

Historically, eligibility for investment by the Department for Communities (DFC) in public realm (PR)/environmental improvement (EI) was restricted to urban areas with a population greater than 5,000. The DFC is now changing its eligibility criteria to include smaller towns with a population less than 5,000, but greater than 2,500.

In Newry Mourne and Down Council area, this now brings forward:

1. Bessbrook
2. Castlewellan
3. Killyleagh
4. **Rostrevor**
5. Saintfield

What can be funded

Eligible public realm/environmental improvement works can include upgrade works to pathways, street lightening, landscaping, and street furniture. Other works may be considered, subject to further discussion and approval from DFC, such as revitalisation works including upgrades to building facades and visual improvements to vacant or derelict properties. The eligible boundary will be within the town centre, i.e. within the 30-mph zone.

Requirement

Working with DFC, Newry Mourne and Down District Council will be putting in place a forward capital plan that will identify over the next 5 years schemes to be profiled for public realm investment. This will enable the Council and the Department to better plan budgets, submit funding applications, commission early pre-development design works, and apply for statutory approvals – all of which, are required ahead of scheme implementation.

The Council now needs to put in place a forward capital plan for these 5 rural settlements, which now fall within the public realm remit of DFC. Implementation of the forward plan will be subject to funding from DFC. Putting in place a forward plan will enable Council to take some early steps to work schemes up to a point where they are “funding ready.” To inform this plan, some scoping work has been required to identify where the need for investment in public realm/environmental improvement is greatest.

Community Engagement

To formalise the inclusion of these 5 rural settlements in a forward work plan for submission to DFC, and to develop potential future scheme proposals, Newry Mourne and Down Council engaged **Newry & Mourne Enterprise Agency (NMEA)** and **Down Business Centre (DBC)** to prepare a report for consideration. These organisations are a local enterprise partnership whose sole aim is the furtherance of economic and business development within the Newry Mourne and Down region. The partnership is assisted by Eamon Larkin, Managing Partner of **Milligan Reside & Larkin**, and uses the services of other professional advisors across a range of disciplines.

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The Brief

The brief given to NMEA and DBC was to consult with stakeholders in Rostrevor to learn their views on what public realm works should be prioritised in Rostrevor and to prepare a final consultation report for the District Council to consider.

Consultation – during Covid 19

All consultations were undertaken within the terms of the Government’s 2020 Covid19 public health guidance, remotely using email and video / telephone conferencing.

Rostrevor Overview

For the purposes of this report the area referred to as Rostrevor is that which is delineated by the 30 mph signs on the various approach roads into the village; Rostrevor electoral ward covers this area. Unless otherwise stated the statistics below have been taken from the NI 2011 census.

The population of Rostrevor Ward was 2847 in 2019 (NISRA), which represented a very small decrease on the 2011 census figure; the population has remained stable for over 20 years, the phenomenon of high levels of population growth seen in other localities in recent years has not occurred in Rostrevor. The village is located in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and development is subject to very strict planning controls. As a result there has been little new housing development in the village or its environs in the last 20 years. In terms of demographics, 20% of residents are aged under 16 years with 16% aged 65 and over which is close to NI average. In relation to housing 66% of households are owner occupied and 31% are rented. Despite its beautiful setting, popularity with visitors and desirability as a place to live, Rostrevor has issues associated with significant income inequality (issues which can be at their sharpest when the highly advantaged live in very close proximity to the less advantaged and those challenged by adversity). The most recent Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation measure indicated that Rostrevor Ward is designated as being among the 25% most income deprived wards in Northern Ireland and the 30% most disadvantaged with respect to access to services.

Previous studies of the area include an in-depth “Rostrevor Cluster Village Renewal and Development Plans” in 2012 for the Rostrevor and Killowen areas prepared at the request of Newry and Mourne District Council by URS, with an addendum commissioned by the Newry Mourne and Down District Council completed in late 2017 by Ove Arup and Partners.

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2. THE CONSULTATION: When did it take place? Who participated?

The Rostrevor stakeholder consultation was carried out using the Zoom video-conferencing platform on Tuesday 28th July 2020. The attendees were as follows:

Newry & Mourne Enterprise Agency

Dr Conor Patterson (Facilitator)

Colin Hanna (Scribe)

Eamon Larkin (Milligan Reside & Larkin Architects)

Newry, Mourne & Down Council representatives

Martin Patterson, Enterprise and Regeneration

Shirley Keenan, Crotlieve DEA Co-ordinator

Rostrevor participants

Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly

Cllr Gerry O'Hare

Cllr Declan McAteer

Cllr Mark Gibbons

Barbara Wendel-Sands (Rostrevor Community Cinema)

Bronagh Vos (Tom Dunn Project)

Catherine Bescond-Sands (Poetic Action Rostrevor)

Ciaran Fearon (Kilbroney Community Association)

Seth Linder (Visit Rostrevor Group)

Tony Williamson (local businessman)

Alistair Livingstone (Spot-lit Project)

Paul Clerkin (local businessman/environmental activist)

Colum Sands (Rostrevor Action Respecting Our Environment)

Rós Ní Dhubháin (various performance-based projects)

Paul Hagerty (local businessman)

Briege MacMahon (Community activist)

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3. WHAT PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENTS DO CONSULTEES THINK ARE NEEDED?

3.1 Consultees participated in a virtual tour of the village using the Google Street View app. While some of the photography used by Google was relatively recent,(September 2016), some dated back to 2011.

This was followed up with a walking tour by Conor Patterson which was facilitated by Paul Clerkin accompanied by Colum Sands. Up to date photographs were taken during that exercise.

3.2 The key issues highlighted by the consultees were:

Short-term

- 3.2.1 The possibility of using the rear of Ranfurly House for parking
- 3.2.2 The lack of signage to welcome visitors and direct them to the area's attractions
- 3.2.3 The need to improve the area to the rear of the phone boxes/bus shelters in the village centre
- 3.2.4 The need for a clean-up to the access to Rostrevor Beach and to signpost it
- 3.2.5 The need for remedial work in the Crag Graveyard
- 3.2.6 The provision of flowerbeds/hanging baskets
- 3.2.7 The need for safe access for swimmers to water opposite JC Campbell
- 3.2.8 The Fairy Glen – lighting and features
- 3.2.9 Sensory garden located in Kilbroney Park
- 3.2.10 The need to improve footpaths throughout the village

Medium-term

- 3.2.11 The old tram station's dilapidated condition and the possibility of restoring its historic frontage
- 3.2.12 The Ross Monument - lack of car parking, safe access and possible development
- 3.2.13 The need to address parking in the village
- 3.2.14 Congestion as well as ongoing damage to the cobbles on Bridge street
- 3.2.15 The need for more cycle lanes and walking routes
- 3.2.16 Tourist Information Centre

Long-term

- 3.2.17 Develop Ranfurly House while preserving its 18th Century architectural features
- Tourist Information Centre.

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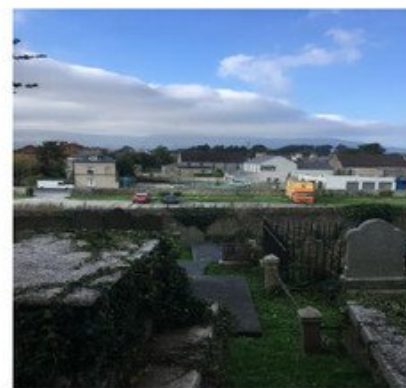
4. SHORT-TERM

4.1 The possibility of using the rear of Ranfurly House for parking

Ranfurly House is a property owned by the GAA situated on a prominent site at the junction of Mary Street and the Shore Road in the centre of the village. While the local GAA club has a redevelopment plan for the building, this would be a longer-term project; in the interim there is a significant area to the rear of the building which could be utilised for carparking – perhaps for visiting coaches and motorhomes.



Ranfurly House



Area to rear of Ranfurly House with potential to be used for parking

4.2 The lack of signage to welcome visitors and direct them to the area's attractions

It was felt that the signage in the village needed to be upgraded to indicate more of the attractions which the area has to offer. In particular reference should be made to Rostrevor being “the gateway to the Mourne”. The possibility was also discussed of attaching signage to BT street furniture as part of a programme of upgrading those units to make them aesthetically more in keeping with the village’s historic 18th and 19th century built environment.

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4.3 The area to rear of the phone boxes/bus shelters in the village centre

This is a prominent site in the centre of the village which needs attention; it was suggested that it could do with a 'tidy up', with a view to perhaps creating more parking spaces. It was noted, however, that the ownership of this site wasn't clear. The first task of any scheme to upgrade this site would be to ascertain its ownership. It was also noted that the fencing around this site was in a very poor state of repair.



Site to rear of phone boxes on Mary Street

4.4 The need for a clean-up of the access to Rostrevor Shore/Beach

There is an existing right of way which leads to the Rostrevor shorefront/ beach. Unfortunately, both the pathway and the beach at the end of it are regularly used by fly tippers. It was suggested that an upgrade of the footpath and a general clean-up would open this picturesque site with its stunning views across Carlingford Lough for public use at relatively small cost. Seating could be introduced and a walk/cycle-path could be opened around the shore from this point. (see 4.5 below)



The path leading to the beachfront



Rostrevor Beachfront

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4.5 The need for remedial work for The Crag Graveyard and St Paul's Church.

Both the graveyard as well as the church next to it need remedial repair and stabilisation work done as a matter of urgency. St Paul's Church which is of historic significance is in an extremely poor state of repair with the belltower in danger of imminent collapse. The Ross Cross also requires some preservation work which would ensure it was protected for future generations. While this calls for a significant project to be pulled together which would involve several government agencies, something which falls outside the remit of this sort public realm programme, given the historical importance of this site and its precarious state of repair urgent short term remedial repairs should be carried out and a commitment should be made to a bigger enhancement to and protection of the site. There are many features of cultural and historic significance in this hidden corner of the village which even many people who know the village quite well do not know exists, not least the church and the graves, one of which belongs to a forebear of the Disney family.



The church belltower which is in danger of collapse



Closeup of a wooden beam which is supporting the belltower

4.6 The provision of flowerbeds/hanging baskets

Several of those present felt that there was a need for more flowerbeds and hanging baskets to be installed in the village. Flowerbeds and hanging baskets when well maintained can give a welcome 'lift' to an area for what is a very modest cost

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4.7 The need for safe access for swimmers using the pier opposite JC Campbell

The large numbers of people participating in open water swimming has been one of the more surprising outcomes associated with the current pandemic in Rostrevor. For many years sea swimmers have used the jetty opposite the JC Campbell garage on the Shore Road to access the sea throughout the year. However, the closure of public swimming pools has led many former pool users to switch to swimming in the sea as an alternative. The surface of the jetty was described as unsafe, especially for swimmers who by and large would be bare footed. it is very uneven with sharp edges. For a modest cost the surface of the jetty could be upgraded, e.g. repointed where necessary, to offer safe access to swimmers.



The pier opposite JC Campbell on the Shore Road

4.8 The Fairy Glen – lighting and features

Several consultees felt that the Fairy Glen needed some attention, including at the very least appropriate signposting. One suggestion was to have some character lighting running down the hill from the camping site. Another novel proposal was to have a statue of the once world famous “Giant Murphy” lighting his pipe from one of the antique lamp posts in the vicinity of the entrance to the Fairy Glen, a project likely to have a high impact as a tourist attraction for a relatively modest cost. At 8ft 1inch the Giant Murphy who was born and raised in Killowen was the world’s tallest man. He used to amuse the children of Rostrevor by lighting his pipe from the gaslight of the lamp posts in the village. He died in 1862 and is buried in Kilbroney graveyard.

4.9 A sensory garden located in Kilbroney Park

Sensory gardens are becoming more common as their therapeutic value has become more widely recognised across the world. One consultee suggested that such a garden could be established for what would be a relatively low cost within the grounds of Kilbroney Park.

4.10 The need to improve footpaths throughout the village

Poor pedestrian access throughout the village was a recurring theme of this consultation. Among the specifics mentioned were pavements which were not wide enough to accommodate prams/buggies and not ramped to facilitate pram and wheelchair movement onto and off the paths. Bridge Street was of particular concern, along with the Greenpark Road. A full survey of the pavements within the village needs to be completed with remedial action taken as soon as possible to address health and safety risks.

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5. MEDIUM-TERM

5.1 The old tram station

The old train/tram station is a prominent site at the junction of Mary Street and Shore Road has been in a poor state of repair for many years. The building which is a distinctive blue colour is a listed building, the site is privately owned. The current legal status of the building/site was described as holding up potential re-development work. Given it's high profile location and its interesting history and architectural features this building merits inclusion in a large, properly resourced village redevelopment scheme which places value on the historic significance and distinctiveness of buildings which are currently derelict or dilapidated. Consultees spoke of how Rostrevor should be given the same attention to its history as Carlingford was, where buildings which had in the past been in a state of collapse had been restored and integrated into that village's narrative with great success.



A gas lamp, a feature on the old tram station

5.2 The Ross Monument – lack of car parking, safe access and possible development

After many years of neglect, the Ross Monument having been taken into the ownership of the then Newry and Mourne District Council was reopened in 2008 after a major refurbishment. The monument has become a popular tourist destination for visitors to the area. However, this popularity has brought with it a challenge in that it is difficult for visitors arriving by car to safely access the site. Currently they must park in the layby opposite the monument and then negotiate their way across a very busy road to gain access to the site. Several of the consultees felt that there was scope for parking and a tourist centre to be developed to the rear of the monument. It wouldn't be an exaggeration to suggest that few historical figures in the Newry Mourne and Down District have had as much influence on American history as Major General Robert Ross. In fact many tourist attractions have been developed out of more tenuous links. Consultees were of the view that priority should be given to further developing the Ross Monument site and in particular to make provision for off-road parking.



The Ross Monument which is located on the Warrenpoint Road

5.3 The lack of, and need for rationalisation of existing parking in the village

5.3.1 This issue was mentioned multiple times during the consultation; Rostrevor is a 'go to' tourist destination. During peak times (such as on Saturdays and Sundays during the summer) parking is difficult. However, even during the 'off peak', parking especially in the centre of the village is a major problem. By 07.30am on weekday mornings the small number of centrally located parking spaces are all occupied by commuters many from the surrounding area who continue their journeys to work from

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Rostrevor by bus. These parking spaces are completely blocked until these commuters return at the end of the working day. This practice means that invariably there is little or no parking available in the centre of the village for local people, especially those with restricted mobility to access shops and the village's other amenities.

5.3.2 One of the suggestions made was that a park-and-walk scheme should be introduced with designated parking areas set aside all of which could be within under 5 minutes walk from the main bus pick up.

This could be facilitated by:

- Opening up the large carpark at St Jude's Gardens for general use. This car park is hidden away and isn't signposted
- Utilising the rear of Ranfurly House for parking (mentioned at paragraph 4.1)
- Removing the boundary wall of Kilbroney Park along Bridge Street to allow new parking spaces to be developed along part of the shore front of the Park
- Using the site of the former Roxboro Hotel as a car park
- Widening the parking layby at Kilbroney Parish Church, Church Street

5.4 Congestion as well as ongoing damage to the cobbles on Bridge street

Bridge Street which is one of the main shopping areas of the village as well as a main route to the Fairy Glen and Kilbroney Park despite it being very narrow was described as being frequently congested with traffic. Consultees felt that as a result it was hazardous for pedestrians, especially those with prams and/or limited mobility. One idea suggested was to pedestrianise Bridge Street, re-routing through-traffic via the Shore road. Another was to instigate a one-way system for traffic using Bridge Street which would also alleviate much of the congestion. It was also felt that this would help to minimise the damage regularly being done to the historic street's cobblestones by HGVs manoeuvring around an extremely restricted space. It was the consensus among consultees that solutions for Bridge Street should be a priority in a future Rostrevor Master Plan (see below). The need for traffic calming on other routes such as the Shore Road and Greenpark Road were also mentioned.

5.5 The need for cycle ways and walking routes

The hills and mountains above Rostrevor attract cyclists from all over the world to what are well designed and maintained tracks/paths. Unfortunately, the same can't be said for the village and its immediate environs with provision for cyclists described as non-existent. The consultees felt that a plan was needed which would identify and cost improvements which could be made to both improve the experience of pedestrians in the village and make cycling a realistic option. A significant first step would be to develop a walkway and cycle path running along the sea front from the old pier/ dock to the Ross Monument.

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5.6 Tourist Information Centre

The lack of a fit-for-purpose tourist information centre was highlighted in 2012. This gap in the facilities offered in the village remains to be filled, a significant concern given the number of visitors which the Rostrevor area now attracts and its position as the gateway to the Mourne from population centres in east Leinster and south Ulster.

5.7 Master Plan

If Rostrevor is to further develop its potential as a tourist destination a complete rationalisation of the parking in and around the village must be prioritised as part of a Master Plan for the village. This plan should also address the concerns and proposed solutions which this consultation exercise has identified. There is a need for an inter-agency strategy to guide Rostrevor towards a future in which its many assets can be accessible to the wider population of the district and visitors from further afield, who can be hosted well and have an opportunity to spend their money in the village, while at the same time ensuring that the sensitive natural environment in which the village sits and its own unique built environment are not damaged.

6. LONG-TERM

6.1 Develop Ranfurly House while preserving its 18th century architectural features

Eighteenth Century Ranfurly House occupies a prime site in the village. It is owed by the GAA. While works were carried out some 15years ago to stabilise the building and make it weather and flood proof it is vacant today. Much more work is needed to bring this beautiful building and its unique architectural features into productive use. The expense of that would be beyond the local GAA club. It is willing to work with other groups in the community to develop a scheme to transform Ranfurly House into a vibrant community hub. Council support for the concept would give impetus to the establishment of a working group which could draw up a business plan for a financially sustainable use of the building which could then be used to attract public sector and other funding (e.g. Heritage Lottery).

7. WHY ARE THEY NEEDED?

7.1 Among the key points raised in the Rostrevor and Killowen Village Renewal and Development Plan (2012, updated November 2018) was the need for several high-profile buildings which had fallen into disrepair to be refurbished and brought back into use for the benefit of the community. Consultees said that it was disappointing that 8 years after that plan had been drafted most of those buildings were still awaiting attention.

7.2 It was noted that it had been approximately 20 years since the last EI scheme in Rostrevor. The consensus among all the consultees was that it was now time that another EI and public realm scheme was implemented in the village.

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7.3 What would be the benefits of making these improvements?

The proposed improvement schemes identified through this consultation have the potential to produce a significant positive impact. These include:

- Facilitating the expected rise in the numbers of visitors to Rostrevor which will generate higher levels of spend in the village, where almost all of the businesses are locally owned and operated. This would create new employment opportunities as well as safeguarding existing jobs.
- A properly resourced and well executed Master Plan would have the effect of boosting the appearance of many of the prominent buildings in the village as well as improving both the flow of vehicular traffic and improving the availability of car parking. This would contribute to the benefits described above.

7.4 What would be the negative effects of doing nothing?

The negative effects of doing nothing are likely to include:

- If parking issues aren't properly addressed, Rostrevor is likely to become a destination to be avoided with a reputation as a traffic bottleneck.
- Some of the village's most historic buildings are in such a poor state of poor repair that if remedial work isn't carried out soon they are likely to deteriorate to such an extent that they will for all intents and purposes be irrecoverable and lost to future generations.

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8. WHAT WOULD BE THE COSTS OF SHORT-TERM SCHEMES?

8.1 The projects identified through this consultation are listed below. Total costs involved in the implementation of each project will require to be worked up to take account of all expenditure items, including the:

- Appointment of design team (Architect, Quantity Surveyor, Structural Engineer etc)
- Preparation and costing of final designs
- Pre-tender and post-tender collaboration
- Planning submissions
- Final scheme costs.

8.2 This report does not include a full summary of these costs. At this stage we have compiled estimated per-project costings based on experience. However, these costs are not definitive and have not been subjected to a bill of quantities assessment.

SHORT TERM PROJECTS

	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	COST £
1	The possibility of using the rear of Ranfurly House for parking	£60,000
2	The lack of signage to welcome visitors and direct them to the area's attractions	£20,000
3	The area to rear of the phone boxes/bus shelters in the village centre	£100,000
4	The need for a clean-up of the access to Rostrevor Beach (including seating and a path)	£100,000
5	The need for remedial work for The Crag Graveyard and St Paul's Church	£100,000
6	The provision of flowerbeds/hanging baskets	£50,000
7	The need for safe access for swimmers using the pier opposite JC Campbell	£30,000
8	The Fairy Glen – lighting and features	£100,000
9	A sensory garden located in Kilbroney Park	£40,000
10	The need to improve footpaths throughout the village	£100,000

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MEDIUM TERM PROJECTS

	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	COST
1	The old tram station	£500,000
2	The Ross Monument – lack of car parking, safe access and possible development	£300,000
3	The lack of and need for rationalisation of existing parking in the village	£300,000
4	Congestion as well as ongoing damage to the cobbles on Bridge street	£100,000
5	The need for cycle ways and walking routes	£300,000-£500,000
6	Tourist Information Centre	£200,000
7	Master Plan	£50,000

LONG TERM PROJECT

	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
1	Develop Ranfurly House	Capital Cost £1.5m
	Plus....	Business Plan £10,000
	Plus....	Design/Planning / Professional costs £120,000

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8.3 Sources of Funding

The Department for Communities (DFC) will be the primary funding source. Working in conjunction with Newry Mourne and Down District Council, the Department will decide and agree which projects, if any, will be selected for drawdown of funds to meet project costs.

9. Next Steps

This report has been submitted to Newry Mourne and Down Council for consideration and discussion at various levels, including the Council's Economic Development Committee, before being tabled for scrutiny and decision by a meeting of the full Council. Those councillors with responsibility for the Rostrevor area will consult with village representatives to ensure the report's content reflects the outcomes of the consultation.

It will be for the Council, working closely with the Department for Communities, to move forward as follows:

Action	Outcome
Step 1	Secure Funding
Step 2	Appoint a Design Team (through Central Procurement Directorate)
Step 3	Secure Planning Permission
Step 4	Tender for a Contractor (through Central Procurement Directorate)
Step 5	Complete Construction

APPENDIX

Rostrevor improvement project proposals compiled by Mr Paul Clerkin following consultation with residents and stakeholders in Rostrevor.

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Some suggestions to improve Rostrevor and Kilbroney park for all and perhaps encourage tourists to come and stay

1. Erect brown tourism signage

Are we keeping these areas a secret for us locals only?

In Newry-

Erect brown tourism signage at the motorway to Newry turn off and at the top of Killmorey st, at the turn for Warrenpoint Rostrevor and Carlingford Lough

At Rostrevor village-

1. Kilbroney Meadow, Cloughmore, Slieve Martin first Mourne summit, the View points.
2. Kilbroney park upper car park.
3. The Mourne way and all the local lowland, Hill walking and right of way trails
4. The Ancient Oak Forest and Fiddler's Green.
5. The Fairy Glen with Rostrevor River.
6. The Meadow and Ancient trees.
7. The Rostrevor beach right of way.
8. The St Bronaghs bell in the Chapel 1000yrs since first struck
9. Kilbroney cemetery, with the church, the Ancient Cross, the Well, Giant Murphy's and wheel barrow head stone and the other historic interesting plots.
10. Rostrevor House and Sir John's Ancient and Rare trees, some of world importance.
11. The interesting plots of Knotty Ash and Crag Cemeteries.
12. The Mass rocks at valley of the tears, Batts wall with the Ross, Killmory and Batts marker stone.
13. The Lime kilms at Reedhall hill.

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Section 1, Kilbroney Meadow.

2. Name all local established forest and mountain trails

Name all 18 known established walking trails and provide way markers en route.

Provide a large, detailed, rustic, protected map stand prominent in the main car park with leaflets indicating all these walks including distance, times, terrain, points of interest and equipment recommended. This would allow and encourage all arriving tourists / visitors to choose and do suitable walks and allow all our local citizens to also use the walks with confidence knowing they could phone for help and indicate where they were on the hill should any problem arise.

3. **Clear and re-establish the trail along the Glen Stream Central Section**, going in along the stream at the caravan site entrance road, along behind the tennis court, cross the road at Glen Stream bridge, then back in and follow the stream on up behind the house over new small bridge to join up with the upper Glen Stream trail, there by recreating the great continuous trail from the Fairy Glen, along the Glen Stream to Cloughmore

4. **Lighting** The Fairy Glen and Meadow main central trail and from the shore main entrance road to the Caravan site and car park should be illuminated at night with traditional character lights.

This would be wonderful and a great asset for local residents and facilitate and encourage the caravan site guests to the village at night

5. Clear along the neglected frontage to kilbroney park at the front boundary stone wall approaching the shore road entrance and plant new colourful scrubs and trees

6. Build proper **grand stone entrance pillars and new gates** at the Shore road entrance. This would benefit our wonderful meadow / park. Continue the stone copings on the top of the wall to the right-hand side of the entrance gates.

7. **Plant a row of colourful trees** or fruit trees right up along the main entrance road to the caravan site and main car-park.

8. **Plant a new beech hedge** to screen off the skips full of rubbish and the council yard machinery from the mountain bike car park.

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9. **The Meadow wild flower area** is currently being used as a dump.

Clean out all the briars, dumped branches, grass and park cuttings from the top of the wild flower area which is blocking access to the largest / oldest sycamore in the park and the glen stream

10. Create a proper **enclosed concreted yard compound** area with built bunkers and bays to process, chip and keep separately wood chippings, bark, mulch, compost, soil, gravel, sand, then all branches and park cuttings could be put to good use and with a small loader, be returned to the trails, beds and trees (perhaps beside the council yard)

11. **Create a propagation area** with a covered potting up workspace and poly tunnels to grow collected seed and cuttings from the ancient and rare trees in the fall and allow and encourage people and school groups in to see and get involved

12. **At the site of the Lodge** in the Kilbroney Park arboretum, erect an information plaque indicating the history of the Lodge, its 5000 acre Estate and the families that lived there through the ages; Ross, Roxborough, Canning and Bowes-Lyons

13. **Restore the metal estate railings** that run along the front of the arboretum to the lodge site and small car park. Cut back and clear away the evasive species, the overgrowth of gorse, holly and laurel etc. Expose, lift out, refurbish, replace the missing sections, then refit and paint black

14. At the new Events Centre, **display a large sawn tree ring from a fallen ancient tree**, sand and varnish to highlight the growth rings, metal band to keep it together and indicate from the heart out to the present day all the important historical events of the past 300 yrs during the life of this tree

15. **Clean out the open drain along the centre ditch from the northern boundary** running south to the small beech woodland and glen stream in the north meadow, to stop it flooding the meadow field

16. **Form a new lake** in the rushes hollow of the already level northern meadow field fed from the glen stream, for wildlife and leisure and in drought to fill bowers to water trees and plants in the park, with a new trail, trees, planting and seats around it

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17. **Remove the centre birch tree from in front of the restaurant** windows so the great meadow can be seen from the restaurant

18. Cut out and provide **an additional 10 caravan parking bays** in the non landscaped unused rough grass areas of the main caravan site

19. At the Fiddlers green and the Cloughmore trail view points, **raise or lower the tree crowns** and leave only the good tree species to **allow all to see the panoramic views**

20. The very dedicated youth of the village train in the park in all weathers both male and female football teams + other sports and activities without any facilities of any kind.

We should **provide specific shelters, changing areas and toilets** for them

21. Adjustments, Maintenance and Protection of Ancient Trees.

The Evergreen Holm Oak 3.9m girth (Old Homer tree of the year 2016) at the park entrance from the fairy glen gate, although leaning now our lifetime, the great bows have with age and the lean have become enormously heavy and as it is Evergreen and keeps its foliage during the winter, I am concerned the tree may soon not be able to support the weight of these leaning limbs, never mind with a fall of snow or storm. I fear without sympathetically cutting back to reduce its weight and providing prop support, these great bows will rip from the main trunk or pull the tree over with devastating results to this wonderful tree. With some help this tree could survive another 200yrs.

The great multi-stem Sessile Oak on the Fairy Glen (8.3m Girth), 80m past the glen stream trail, possibly sprang from a squirrels hoard of acorns buried and forgotten centuries ago. We should reroute the trail out from this tree, remove the old compacted hardcore trail in to close and replace with soil and humus, erect a little low rustic fence around to protect and indicate its importance. The five bows of this tree are about equivalent to the five mature oaks in the square. Place a bench/seat close by so this unique, wonderful, ancient tree can be seen and enjoyed by generations to come.

There is only one other 8m girth oak I know of in Northern Ireland (the dying 500yr old oak Belvoir Park Belfast).

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The Sequoia Giganteum (4.9 m girth), undisturbed for 150yrs in the arboretum, is now showing damage to bark, trunk and roots due to the increased number of people using the Narnia trail. Before more irreversible damage is done to this wonderful tree, clear the scrub and evasive species and create a new trail between the Two Sequoias to leave both visible.

Remove the old hardcore compacted trail that is harming the known tree and encouraging people to the trunk and replace this hardcore with rich soil, compost and humus to feed and nourish and create a bed for falling seed.

Carefully cut and stop the ivy smothering the second Sequoia. With a bit of care these trees could go on for 1000 years.

22. Name the Great Trees of the arboretum. Provide the posts and plaques to name the 8 additional wonderful, ancient trees now visible and accessible along the last Narnia trail extension. If we made the most important of the other 60 individual tree species present accessible, perhaps we could also provide name plaques on those.

23. In the Arboretum, sympathetically thin out and remove the gorse, overgrowth and evasive species clearing around all the important ancient trees now smothered, allowing light back to them and people to see. Remove the Narnia mounds of compacted hardpan -till on the surface damaging the Holm Oak roots, leave old fallen timber for wildlife habitat and humus. In open internal areas plant crocus, bluebell, primrose and snowdrop. Clear and lay bark on all the internal trails to display and leave accessible this wonderful Cathedral of trees we are so lucky to have.

24. Rebuild the Kilbroney meadow gate lodge to provide an events ticket office, craft shop and information

25. The old Rostrevor Killmory - Canning Reservoir at the upper car park

- a. Clear the reservoir area enclosed by the fine stone walls, cut out all the overgrowth,
- b. Create new trails and area above the reservoir and stream
- c. Keep and prune any mature good tree species allowing movement along the new trail,
- d. Clear the fine stone walls and all trees roots and growth undermining walls and copings and repair the entrance pillars and gate
- e. Remove trees growing into the reservoir walls and fallen in the reservoir.

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f. Provide benches, bins, lifebelt, information board and signage,

(Have a look at the area enclosed with the wall on Google Earth)

26. Build a Hydro Turbine on the glen stream. The head of water from the reservoir would provide all electrical power for the Caravan site, office, the Cloughmore centre and park lighting. (Clerk Engineering)

27. The Syenite Granite Quarry - Climbing wall

Move the Oak forest conservation area boundary line to the forest side of the old Syenite Granite quarry. Clean off all the ivy and overgrowth from the rock face. Lay a drain for the quarry base surface water. Sympathetically clear a path in among the trees and make a proper rustic gravel access trail along the bottom of the climbing walls.

Create a safe access/descent trail along the top of the crag and down through the trees. Provide secure belay points for top rope and abseil points for the top of all climbs.

All the climbing routes could be listed, graded and given local names. Some I climbed and named 30 years ago. This proper climbing wall could be outstanding, giving a completely sheltered all year round climbing experience at sea level with existing parking facilities available for all outdoor activity groups, schools and individuals alike. Now with rock climbing included in the Olympics, even to watch the climbers on the wall would be an attraction and the area could also be perfect for an amphitheatre

28. Slieve Martin, Chair and Bike Cable Lift

Build a chair and bike cable lift centre from the rear meadow field to Slieve Martin for bikers, walkers, tourist, people with disabilities, senior citizens and first responders.

The benefits of a lift system for the village would be game changing. It would increase the numbers of people now using the hills and pay for itself in no time. People would come from all over Ireland for the experience. The outstanding views over Carlingford Lough, from the high Mourne to the Dublin hills, the 1600ft height and the wind in their faces perhaps for the first time in there lives.

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Section 2. Other Rostrevor Projects

29. Rostrevor Beach Front

The right of way to the shore - sea front, opposite St Colman's gardens.

Clear the overgrowth and litter from the access / right of way and lay new surface of sand washed pebbles. Repair and improve the road with rock armour at the river corner and remove all rubbish. Clear weeds and rack, clean up the beach and the mouth of the Ghan River. Haul in and lay new raised sand beach area, Provide benches, bins, dog poo bins, game areas and Life belt. Provide and erect brown tourist sign indicating the beach and amenity area and create a small parking area in the unused space along the Ghan River in St Colman's gardens (access road was cleared 2017 by Jarlath and Rostrevor volunteers).

30. Right of way trails

- A. The Scholars Path, Upper Kilbroney to Drumreagh.
 - B. The park lane to Kilbroney upper, around Lacken beg at Paddy Murphy's
 - C. Drumreagh by the Marl hole to Moygannon, and back by shore road
 - D. The black lonan from Newtown road to Donnans now Sweeney's and the Graveyard
1. Approach the local land owners to secure and open the original right of ways
 2. Inspect, clear paths, provide stiles, gates, way markers and seats at view points,
 3. Erect weatherproof information boards on points of interest
 4. Erect protected detailed route map maybe in the Square or at the Monument
 5. Produce leaflets and maps of routes for tourist centres and accommodation providers.

31. New Rostrevor Shore front public walkway and cycle path

Create a new walkway and cycle path along the entire shorefront from the Docks to the Monument. Provide access points at the Monument, the Ghan and Kilbroney Rivers, the slope and the docks and access to the beach. Provide, bins, seats, lifebelts, and signage.

32. The Ranfurley house

This unused property could, with help, be converted and advertised as providing **affordable type accommodation**.

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With its village center location, existing car park for cars, mini buses, Motorhomes etc.

Tourist, walkers, climbers, students, mountain bikers, school groups, international groups might stay and then use our restaurants, pubs, shops and all local businesses instead of just driving in, enjoying our great location and facilities for free, eating there packed lunches in the car park and then, just going away.

33. From the Docks to the Woodhouse, **cut out all the overgrowth** at the sea side of the road, raise the crowns and leave the good mature trees only, allowing all to see the wonderful views of our Carlingford Lough.

34. **Advertise the story of General Ross, Bladensburg, The Whitehouse, War of 1812 and Rostrevor** on all Irish and NI tourism websites. Produce leaflets for the Tourist offices and accommodation providers with the facts connecting Ross and Rostrevor to The Battle of Bladensburg, the taking and sacking of Washington and The Whitehouse.

The Generals death at the advance on Baltimore.

The connection with the American National Anthem.

The Great 40 x 30ft Star Spangled Banner displayed in Rostrevor.

A leaflet and map Indicating All the Ross family locations and influences in Rostrevor.

35. 1730 Carrickbawn – 1836 Bladensburg - 1900 Rostrevor House

The Historic Gothic Revival Castle-Residence, Elizabeth Ross and families home after the Generals death at north point. Endless possibilities. The Ross story and memorabilia.

The most wonderful important site for the much needed Rostrevor hotel.

(note: now privately owned, 2018)

36. **List, name and describe the collection of ancient and rare trees planted by Sir John Ross of Bladensburg from 1870 – 1925.**

He was a Lieutenant-Colonel of the Cold Stream Guards and was an equally important historical figure as his Grandfather the General. Sir John Ross was head of the Dublin metropolitan police, took the Duke of Norfolk and Lord Carnarvon to the holly sea and was highly thought of by the Pope and presented him with a relic of the cross. He was multi-lingual with 7 languages and an amazing Arborist. In 1900, his plantings and grounds were recognised as the finest in Ireland with 2500 rare trees and plants growing in the open more than anywhere else in the UK. Hundreds of his rare,

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ancient and notable trees are still there in their prime now, I have identified 13 species of Oak alone so far.

Provide a map and leaflets; create trails through the Ancient woodlands and magnificent grounds to view the wonderful trees.

Bring back the garden fete.

Every local knows of the Ancient Oak wood running down to the Lough, but coming from Warrenpoint to Rostrevor look to the left, 30 acres of rare, ancient and world important trees, all of different species from all over the world. He helped Lady Londonderry with plants for Mount Stewart and liaised with and sent plants to Kew gardens.

37. The Crag Cemetery- clear, improve and indicate the Ross plot and Cross. Stabilize the collapsing Church gable and the bell stones before it's too late and clear and tidy around all the interesting graves

List and make known:

38. The history of the Mass rocks, the Martyred Priest Memorial and slaughtered people at Altataggart and Batts - The Famine wall at the valley of the tears.

39. The Tom Dunn story, flogged to death at Barack Green.

40. TK Whitaker, born Rostrevor, Economist, awarded greatest living Irish person 2002.

41. A Statue or Plaque of Giant Murphy or Tom Dunn in the Square.

42. List the historical story of St Bronagh, The Bell, The Cross, The Well and Monastery.

43. The Lime Kilms at Reed Hall hill Kilbroney upper.

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44. New Welcome to the Mourne Tourist Information Centre.

The Elevated site and house platform prepared and planted out by General Ross with Oak and Beech for his new home in 1813 behind the now Monument site and field to the Warrenpoint road.

1. Purchase The Field.
2. Build a new Welcome to the Mourne Tourist Information Center and craft shop
3. Build an entrance to this center of Huge Mourne Granite Megaliths
4. Provide a car, motorhome and bus parking area at this new center
5. Build new footpaths from the new center up to and through the mature Beech and Oak trees planted by General Ross to approach the fantastic views of the Lough, the Mourne and the Monument from behind
6. Bridge over the fine moat ha-ha drain channel walls to the Monument and form a new opening and trail through the fence, the overgrowth and some recent young tree planting to the monument grounds
7. At the mature beech and oak tree area and monument grounds provide park benches, seats and bins
8. Clear the view to Carrickbawn-Rostrevor house and provide information board
9. Access to the Monument would now be totally safe and a new interesting approach the Lough, Rostrevor and the Mourne, No Longer would people, senior citizens and families have to run the gauntlet of cars trying to cross the road to get to the Monument.

Mark proper parking spaces facing out to sea at the old monument corner lay-by site.

Implementing these items would improve our village and bring attention to the wonderful assets we have, provide some new work for local people, new jobs and help all local businesses, attract and entertain more tourists bringing in much needed revenue and show the Rostrevor we all know and love to the world.

**ACTION SHEET
BREXIT FORUM MEETING
15 December 2020 at 2:00pm**

Attending:-

Councillor H Reilly
Councillor M Larkin
Councillor G Stokes
Conor Mallon
Jonathan McGilly
Eoin Devlin
Sandra Magee

Apologies:-

Councillor G Hanna
Councillor M Savage
Councillor C Mason
Councillor D Taylor
Sinead Murphy

SUBJECT	ACTIONS
Action Sheet from Meeting 24 November 2020	Noted
Matters Arising	None Raised
Officers Update	<p>Eoin Devlin stated that there was very little to update Forum on from last meeting on 24 November 2020. He advised that the final Point of Entry will not be constructed until June 2021. Currently work is ongoing on contingency arrangements, prioritising the Inspection Facility part of the temporary accommodation. For first few weeks staff will be based in Warrenpoint Town Hall. The necessary additional staff have been appointed and will have completed the necessary training by the required date. Rotas and shift patterns have been set up, commencing at 2:30am on 2nd or 3rd January.</p> <p>There is still major discussion between EU & UK side regarding retail grace period. Manufacturers sector would be important for us, even regarding planning, being able to test in a real situation. As it stands, there will be a point for retail checks, Environmental Health Officers will be testing different systems, such as sealed checks from this week</p>

onward. As it stands, the grace period is 3-months, but discussions are on-going and paperwork will still be required and that will need to be agreed.

Work is ongoing regarding compliance protocol, to make it very clear what must be done if something comes through that isn't right. Although 15 days away, there are still a lot of unknowns, for ourselves and for businesses, which we have empathy for. From a Council point of view, we have staff, rotas, training in place and we are doubling up on Rota initially to get a handle on the best way to proceed. He advised that they have contacts in Belfast Port, that they can interact with for guidance/clarity.

Jonathan McGilly asked members if there were any questions/observations?

Councillor Reilly referred to the Trusted Trader Scheme, and asked if they have to go through UK ports or can they come through Dublin port?

Eoin Devlin advised that it will be a UK to NI thing, there is not the same agreement for trade between UK and Ireland directly unless they come to an EU Trade Deal. Eoin stated that would deal with the tariffs but not the checks, the checks would still have to be done, a lot of this still has to have the precise details finalised.

Councillor Reilly advised that they should be International Standards now. Canada and New Zealand adhere to the same International Standards, so why is EU, UK and Ireland different? Eoin Devlin stated that there needed to be equivalents of standards before they accept your UK Food ie it needs to meet the minimum standard.

Jonathan McGilly advised that Council have systems in place to push out information and promote awareness and within the wider Council, Dorinnia Carville thru SP&R - engagement & preparation as an organisation.

Councillor Stokes advised that the whole Brexit negotiations have been tough with both businesses and us feeling fatigued by the whole thing. We will have to pick it up in the new year.

	<p>Councillor Larkin – incredible at this stage that there is nothing more we can do to help businesses to prepare for this. He surmised that Brexit changes would probably be partially implemented, or implemented on a rolling basis. He added that it was reassuring that Council were at the ready - to implement, pending final agreement of terms.</p> <p>Conor Mallon stated not only do Council need to have a focus on businesses, but also need to focus on our own business. What happens will impact on Council, we could have supply chain issues regarding fuel, staff coming from across the border to work, etc.</p> <p>Jonathan McGilly stated apologies we cannot provide any more clarity at this point, we can reconvene early in the New Year and regroup as to what it all means at that stage in the proceedings.</p> <p>Councillor Larkin wished everyone a peaceful Christmas.</p>
Date of Next Brexit Forum Meeting	It was agreed to reconvene early in the New Year - date to be confirmed.

Date of next meeting of the Brexit Forum: To Be Confirmed

Report to:	Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 11 th January 2021
Subject:	Artisan Market
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	<input type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u> To note the attendance figures and projected income for the Artisan Markets held across the district since July 2020.</p> <p><u>Background</u> As Covid 19 restrictions began to relax it was agreed, following extensive consultation with Environmental Health and the Health and Safety Manager, to relaunch the artisan markers in Downpatrick, Newcastle and Warrenpoint. Markets have successfully operated since July 2020. Following the introduction of further restrictions in November the artisan market model was adapted to comply with regulations. As only food retail was approved, the craft element of the markets was removed and food only producers participated.</p> <p>The following provides information on attendance figures at each market since July 2020 –</p> <p>Downpatrick July – 886 August – 610 September – 590 November – 900</p> <p>Newcastle September – 700 October – 980 November 1701</p>

	<p>Warrenpoint July 870 August – 450 September – 1050 November – 863 (Food only)</p> <p>Based on surveys undertaken with both stall holders and customers it is estimated that each visitor to the markets spends an average of £15. Therefore, spend at each location since July 2020 up to the end of November 2020 is as follows –</p> <p>Downpatrick - £44,790 Newcastle – £50,715 Warrenpoint – £48,495</p> <p>The above represents a total spend across the district of £144,000</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	All logistical and safety measures were managed effectively for all markets.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To note the contents of this report.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Council Officers attend the markets to ensure safety measures are in place and social distancing regulations are followed. There are no additional resource implications as the budgets to run the markets are in place.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p>

	The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.3	Proposal initiating consultation Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Consultation period will be 12 weeks	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<i>Rationale:</i> N/A	
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	

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

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ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		SEPTEMBER 2019			
ERT/119/2019	PUBLIC REALM SCHEME PHASE III HILL STREET NEWRY	The Council accept the Letter of Offer from the Department for Communities (DFC) totalling £1.6 million and proceed to deliver the next stages of the Lower Hill Street Public Realm Scheme	J McGilly	Implementation ongoing – due to complete spring 2021	N
		October 2019			
ERT/138/2019	CARLINGFORD LOUGH GREENWAY	(a) The Council proceed to commence the PQQ contractor procurement stage for the Northern section of the Carlingford Lough Greenway. (b) Council Officers to update Councillor McMurray regarding plans for Greenways at Comber/Downpatrick.	J McGilly	Negotiations ongoing with landowners and funder. Revised submission submitted to funders May 2020. Planning submitted and awaiting	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
				decision. SEUPB considering additional funding bid	
		NOVEMBER 2019			
ERT/172/2019	WARRENPOINT MARINA PROJECT	<p>(a) To update the business case and Economic Appraisal (EA) for the Warrenpoint Marina project, to ensure issues of displacement are addressed and economic viability of the project is updated.</p> <p>(b) To explore funding options that would enable implementation of the project</p> <p>(c) Report back to this committee the outcome of the updated EA and funding options.</p>	J McGilly	Business plan review completed and to be presented to SFWG early 2021	Y
		DECEMBER 2019			
ERT/194/2019	MASTERPLANS: PRIORITY ACTION PLANS	<p>To approve the updated content and actions outlined in Priority Action Plans for each of the following 4 No. Master Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Newry City Master Plan - Ballynahinch Master Plan - Downpatrick Master Plan 	J McGilly	Ongoing implementation – updates provided through DEA	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		- South East Coast Master Plan		Priority actions to be reviewed by respective DEA commencing December 2020	
		(MARCH 2020)			
ERT/043/2020	MEETING: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS FORUM – 25 FEBRUARY 2020	<p>To approve the following recommendations arising from the Report of the International Relations Forum Meeting held on Tuesday 25 February 2020:</p> <p><u>China</u></p> <p>(a) To note update provided to the International Relations Forum on recent activity with China.</p> <p>(b) To continue to progress opportunities to strengthen the relationship between Newry, Mourne & Down and China and facilitation of international exchanges for purposes of economic and trade growth, investment, education/skills development and growth of tourism industry.</p>	J MC GILLY	<p>Southern Pines and Russia: Engagement has been ongoing; new proposals for further international relations activity to be received by both partners and assess against adopted policy for International Relations Activity</p> <p>China: Proposals for Spotlight in China workshops and an Innovation Mission to China were postponed as a</p>	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		<p>(c) To approve the participation in an NI Innovation Mission China, in partnership with Invest NI, NI Bureau, other NI Councils, Colleges and Universities</p> <p>(d) To approve the delivery at a local level a series of Spot Light in China Business workshops, promoting trade opportunities with China and building capacity among local businesses to engage in these opportunities.</p> <p>(e) To discuss further with NI Bureau in China, and write to Changchun FAO regarding the potential of upgrading the Council to Changchun City partnership from a Friendship Agreement to a full Sister Cities agreement</p> <p>(f) To renew for a further 12 months the MOU between Council and the Confucius Institute at Ulster University for support in China – NMDDC relations (translation services, interpretation services, support in cultural activities etc.</p> <p>Russia, Southern Pines, Pinehurst and <u>Aberdeen</u></p>		<p>result of Covid-19. Engagement on-going with NI Bureau in China, with a view to delivery of workshops in 2021, seeking alternative methods of delivery of an Innovation Mission, and revisiting the upgrading of the Council to Changchun City partnership from a Friendship Agreement to a full Sister Cities Agreement.</p> <p>North East America: Proposal for attendance as a platinum sponsor the New York-New Belfast Conference</p>	

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		<p>(g) Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor McKeivitt and seconded by Councillor Tinnelly that Officials would share Council's International Relations Strategy with representatives of Kirovsk and Southern Pines, Pinehurst and Aberdeen. Any proposal to then to be assessed against the International Relations Strategy.</p> <p>(h) As the International Relationship with both Russia and Southern Pines, Pinehurst and Aberdeen have expired, the relationship will not be renewed until a further proposal is submitted and assessed.</p> <p><u>Lamorlaye, France</u></p> <p>(i) To establish a new International Relations Agreement with Municipalité de Lamorlaye, North of France, on the basis that this proposal meets the essential criteria and at least 2 primary criteria as detailed in the strategy.</p> <p>(j) Council to explore the opportunity to establish an international relationship with an appropriate region in North East America that would complement our international strategy.</p>		<p>in New York in June 2020 was postponed as a result of Covid-19. Officers will continue to explore through alternative channels the opportunity to establish an international relationship with an appropriate region in North East America</p>	

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		<p>The Council engages in the opportunity to attend as a platinum sponsor the New York-New Belfast Conference in New York on 11-12 June 2020 at a cost of £5,000 (+ flights / accommodation) as the first step in exploring this potential.</p> <p>To appoint 1 No. Officer only, to attend the New York – Belfast Conference to be held in New York on 11-12 June 2020 at a cost of £5,000, plus flights and accommodation.</p>			
		(JUNE 2020)			
ERT/064/2020	(Exempt) WARRENPOINT BATHS	<p>(a) Council formally concludes the current EOI process.</p> <p>(b) Officer review the above options and forward recommendations on the options outlined in the Report.</p>	J MC GILLY	EOI process concluded. Following September Council meeting considering options to progress project in line with planning approval.	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		(AUGUST 2020)			
ERT/083/2020	NOTICE OF MOTION RE: ENVIRONMENTAL WARDENS	To adopt the Notice of Motion regarding Environmental Wardens, and that Officials prepare a report outlining options towards the establishment of Environmental Wardens, including delivery model, resource implications and partnership opportunities with existing organisations, to be tabled at a future meeting of the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee.	A Patterson	In Progress	N
ERT/084/2020	NOTICE OF MOTION RE: UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME	<p>To adopt the Notice of Motion regarding a Universal Basic Income, and proceed as follows:</p> <p>(a) Council calls on the Departments of Communities and Finance and the UK Treasury to design and deliver a recovery Universal Basic Income (UBI) for Northern Ireland.</p> <p>(b) Council commit to producing a plan for how a pilot of a full Universal Basic Income would be implemented within the District, and formally express its support for said pilot.</p>	J McGilly	Councillor to be appointed to NI working group on UBI in Jan 2021	y

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
ERT/089/2020	CARLINGFORD LOUGH GREENWAY	<p>It was agreed as follows regarding the Carlingford Lough Greenway:</p> <p>(a) Council to note submission of the Formal Planning Application for the Carlingford Lough Greenway (Northern Section) and Council Officials to follow-up with Planners to ensure progress and a decision by early 2021.</p> <p>(b) Council to note the submission of an amended Business Case to the Interreg funder seeking the required additional funding to deliver the project.</p> <p>(c) Council to enter into the required legal tenure agreements with Land Owners along the Northern Section of the route.</p> <p>(d) Subject to SMC approval, phase 1 repairs to be agreed with Council and its consultant, with the existing</p>	J McGilly	Work in progress	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		Contractor to proceed with completion of the works.			
ERT/090/2020	PUBLIC REALM ENHANCEMENT SCHEME	<p>It was agreed as follows regarding the Public Realm Enhancement Scheme:</p> <p>(a) Subject to final approval of the funding application and confirmation from the funder, Council proceed to accept the relevant Letter Of Offer once received from DFC for £500,000 for the 'Public Realm Enhancement Scheme'.</p> <p>(b) Council approve relevant Business Cases in association with the carrying out the required procurement/appointment of consultants/contractors/suppliers for the 'Public Realm Enhancement Scheme'.</p> <p>(c) Council proceed to carry out the required procurement exercises for the 'Public Realm Enhancement Scheme' and following assessment and award, appoint relevant suppliers, if within available</p>	J McGilly	Work in progress	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		sectional programme budgets.			
ERT/093/2020	WARRENPOINT BATHS	<p>(a) Council to note the ongoing progress on looking at options for the Warrenpoint Baths site and identification of learning from other similar projects.</p> <p>(b) Council consider including £10,000 funding for the 21/22 financial year to progress options and carry out consultations within the local community.</p>	J McGilly	Work in progress	N
ERT/094/2020	CAR PARK MARKET STREET DOWNPATRICK	To approve the business case for the projected spend of approximately £45,000 to carry out the resurfacing project for the Market Street access roadway.	C Jackson	Tender process ongoing & Contractor appointed.	N
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	Planning Application submitted, Sept 2020.	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		SEPTEMBER 2020			
ERT/111/2020	Notice of Motion: SHOP LOCAL CAMPAIGN	To adopt the Notice of Motion regarding the Shop Local Campaign, and the Motion also to include that the Council proceed with the development of a Shop Local App.	J McGilly	On going	N
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	N
		(OCTOBER 2020)			
ERT/134/2020	Notice of Motion: EUTHANASIA OF DOGS	To note the content of Report dated 12 October 2020 from Mr C Jackson Assistant Director Building Control, regarding dog euthanasia and the work underway as follows, in respect of consultations with relevant authorities/parties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dog Summary Statistics have been referred to DAERA (as per Appendix A in report) Consultation is underway with other Councils regarding arrangements for collection/disposal of dogs. 	C Jackson	Ongoing - to report back to committee Jan 2021.	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		<p>(as per Appendix B in report)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion underway with USPCA and other dog charitable organisations regarding the rehoming of dogs. • Discussion underway with Animal Welfare and PSNI regarding the development of a strategy on dealing with puppy farming and illegal breeding establishments. 			
ERT/138/2020	DFC/DEARA/DFI RE: COVID19 REVITALISATION FUNDING	<p>To note the update for the DFC/DAERA/DFI Covid 19 Recovery Revitalisation Programme and proceed as follows:</p> <p>(a) Council will now accept and approve the additional funding once relevant Letters of Offer have been received: DAERA £157,000; DFI £527,000; and DFC Revenue £52,000.</p> <p>(b) Council will continue to engage with lead Departments to agree an acceptable programme of activity in Tranche 2 that can be implemented within the appropriate timescales.</p>	J McGilly	Work in progress	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		(c) Council approve proceeding to Tranche 1 Stage 2 assessment of the Business: Covid 19 Compliance Grant, offering eligible businesses a grant of up to £1,000 on a first come first served basis towards defined eligible items relating to Covid 19 compliance.			
ERT/141/2020	RESTOCKING QUOILE RIVER	Given the points raised by DAERA, specifically that the restocking of fish in the Quoile and other rivers in the District is the responsibility of the Department, the Council write to DAERA to formally request they develop and plan the necessary surveys, assessments and approvals from the relevant organisations to facilitate the re-stocking of fish in the Quoile River.	A.Patterson	In progress	N
ERT/143/2020	(Exempt) CASTLEWELLAN FOREST PARK	It was agreed as follows with regard to the development of Castlewellan Historic Demense: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To note the action reports from the Task and Finish Board meetings held on 15 May 2020 ,19 June 2020 and 14 August 2020. 	J McGilly	In progress	N

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To progress a licence agreement with Forest Service to facilitate the DAERA funded works. • Agree a draft lease for Castlewellan Forest Park with Forest Service to facilitate the NHLF works and activities. • To appoint an archaeologist and ecologist to fulfil conditions in planning permission for the DAERA project. • To appoint the most economically advantageous tenderer to undertake the construction and refurbishment of the Bothy Yard. • For the Integrated Design Team, Council officers and Task and Finish board members to continue with the value engineering exercise on the NLHF project while ensuring delivery against the key objectives of the project i.e. Heritage, people and community. • For the NLHF project to progress design development from 24 November 2020 to 9 March 2021 to ensure that if Council receives funding from NLHF that the project is "shovel ready". • Officers arrange to have details of the model used circulated to Members for information. 			

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN	REMOVE FROM ACTION SHEET Y/N
		(NOVEMBER 2020)			
ERT/166/2020	LICENCE AGREEMENTS: ADVERTISEMENT BOARDS CANAL BANK 1 CAR PARK NEWRY (JC DECAUX)	To renew both Licence Agreements with JCDecaux for a single and a double advertising hoarding at Canal Bank 1 car park, Dublin Bridge, Newry for a term of 5 years.	C Jackson	In Progress, Licence issued for signing.	N
		(DECEMBER 2020 TO FOLLOW)			

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1. Live Applications

MONTH 2020/21	NEW APPLICATIONS	LIVE APPLICATIONS	LIVE APPLICATIONS OVER 12 MONTHS
March, April & May	338	989	242
June	164	965	232
July	175	1,002	241
August	165	1,038	231
September	192	1,046	233
October	179	1,082	234
November	192	1,068	218
December	177	1,044	209

2. Live Applications by length of time in system

Month 2020/21	Under 6 months	Between 6 and 12 months	Between 12 and 18 months	Between 18 and 24 months	Over 24 months	Total
May	540	207	103	43	96	989
June	562	171	101	40	91	965
July	587	174	105	44	92	1,002
August	598	209	93	51	87	1,038
September	613	200	89	49	95	1,046
October	655	193	89	44	101	1,082
November	662	188	81	49	88	1,068
December	654	181	70	50	89	1,044

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3. Live applications per Case Officer

Month 2020/21	Average number of Applications per Case Officer
May	53
June	66
July	68
August	71
September	71
October	74
November	82
December	81

4. Decisions issued per month

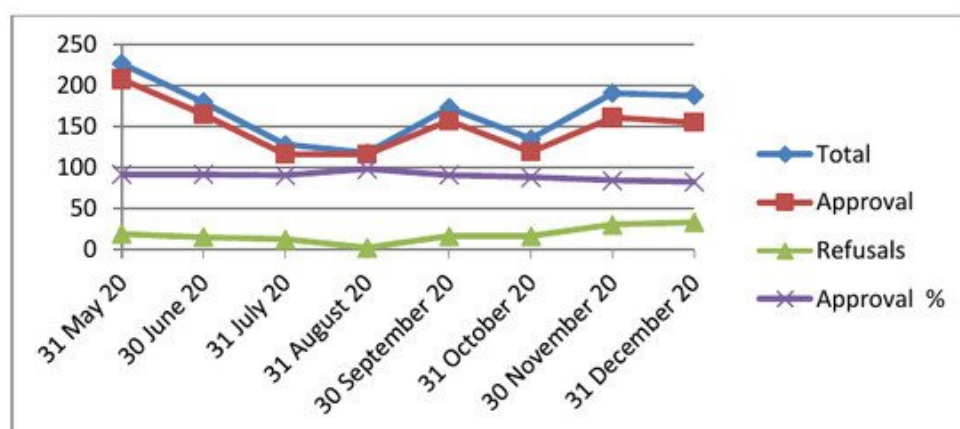
Month 2020/21	Number of Decisions Issued	Number of Decisions Issued under delegated authority
March, April & May	227	216
June	180	166
July	128	122
August	118	110
September	173	163
October	135	129
November	191	179
December	188	182

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5. Decisions Issued YTD

Month 2020/21	Number of Decisions Issued	Breakdown of Decisions	
March, April & May	227	Approvals (208)	92%
		Refusals (19)	8%
June	407	Approvals (373)	92%
		Refusals (34)	8%
July	535	Approvals (489)	91%
		Refusals (46)	9%
August	653	Approvals (605)	93%
		Refusals (48)	7%
September	826	Approvals (762)	92%
		Refusals (64)	8%
October	961	Approvals (881)	92%
		Refusals (80)	8%
November	1,152	Approvals (1,042)	90%
		Refusals (110)	10%
December	1,340	Approvals (1,197)	89%
		Refusals (143)	11%



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6. Enforcement Live cases

Month 2020/21	<=1yr	1-2 yrs	2-3 yrs	3-4 yrs	4-5 yrs	5+yrs	Total
March, April & May	180	177	174	89	35	91	746
June	229	168	175	95	35	89	791
July	236	158	187	97	35	92	805
August	238	158	179	107	40	93	815
September	246	147	190	110	44	93	830
October	226	148	175	106	53	93	801
November	229	139	171	99	59	94	791
December	230	130	177	96	57	95	785

7. Planning Committee

Month	Number of Applications presented to Committee	Number of Applications Determined by Committee	Number of Applications Withdrawn/ Deferred for future meeting	Number of Officer recommendation overturned
3 June 2020	15	15	0	6
1 July 2020	5	4	1	1
29 July 2020	6	2	4	0
26 August 2020	16	8	8	4
23 September 2020	9	7	2	2
21 October 2020	9	5	4	2
18 November 2020	13	13	0	6
16 December 2020	14	10	4	2
Totals	87	64	23	23

8. Appeals

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

Area	Number of current appeals	Number of decisions issued	Number of decisions Allowed	Number of decisions Dismissed	Withdrawn
Newry & Mourne	12	1	1	0	0
Down	11	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	23	1	1	0	0

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

Newry, Mourne and Down

Major applications (target of 30 weeks)					Local applications (target of 15 weeks)				Cases concluded (target of 39 weeks)					
	Number received	Number decided/ withdrawn ¹	Average processing time ²	% of cases processed within 30 weeks		Number received	Number decided/ withdrawn ¹	Average processing time ²	% of cases processed within 15 weeks		Number opened	Number brought to conclusion ³	"70%" conclusion time ³	% of cases concluded within 39 weeks
April	1	-	0.0	0.0%		63	3	18.2	33.3%		17	18	146.8	33.3%
May	1	-	0.0	0.0%		97	93	24.2	17.2%		9	69	228.2	14.5%
June	1	3	87.0	0.0%		122	161	26.4	18.6%		49	31	111.8	41.9%
July	2	1	31.8	0.0%		137	113	20.0	25.7%		41	19	91.8	31.6%
August	1	-	0.0	0.0%		138	115	21.2	32.2%		29	23	35.4	73.9%
September	0	1	64.6	0.0%		147	148	19.4	33.8%		26	22	36.5	72.7%
October	1	-	0.0	0.0%		148	115	17.0	34.8%		28	58	100.3	53.4%
November	1	-	0.0	0.0%		147	160	16.9	43.1%		36	37	109.8	35.1%
December	0	-	0.0	0.0%		0	-	0.0	0.0%		0	-	0.0	0.0%
January	0	-	0.0	0.0%		0	-	0.0	0.0%		0	-	0.0	0.0%
February	0	-	0.0	0.0%		0	-	0.0	0.0%		0	-	0.0	0.0%
March	0	-	0.0	0.0%		0	-	0.0	0.0%		0	-	0.0	0.0%
Year to date	8	5	64.6	0.0%		999	908	20.2	30.0%		235	277	122.8	40.4%

Source: NI Planning Portal

Notes:

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

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

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