

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Consultation and Engagement Report on the Performance Improvement Objectives 2017-18



Introduction

The Local Government Act (NI) 2014 sets out a General Duty of Improvement, whereby all District Councils must put in place arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of their functions and set performance improvement objectives for each financial year.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's draft performance improvement objectives 2017-18 were considered by the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee on 16 March 2017. This was followed by extensive consultation and engagement activity which encouraged key stakeholders, including residents, businesses, statutory and community planning partners and Elected Members, to have their say on the draft performance improvement objectives 2017-18.

This report provides an overview of the consultation and engagement methodology and an analysis of the responses which were received.

Consultation and Engagement Activity

Between 24 March – 19 May 2017, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council carried out an eight week consultation and engagement exercise with key stakeholders on the draft performance improvement objectives 2017-18, through the following mechanisms:

- Electronic documentation and survey on the Council's website and social media channels
- Hard copies of the documentation and survey at the Council's public receptions in Monaghan Row (Newry), Downshire Civic Centre (Downpatrick) and the Ethnic Minority Support Centre (Town Hall, Newry)
- Email distribution to Community Planning Partners, Stakeholder Forum, Well-Being Action Partnership, Newry, Mourne and Down Intercultural Forum, Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships and Equality Scheme consultees
- Public advertisements in local newspapers
- Engagement with the seven DEA Fora through public and private meetings
- Engagement with Section 75 groups, including the Newry and Mourne Youth Council and Older Persons Forum

Analysis Methodology

A total of 53 completed surveys were received in response to the consultation and engagement on the Council's draft performance improvement objectives 2017-18. Respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with the draft performance improvement objectives 2017-18 and whether they had any comments to make regarding each objective. The survey also asked respondents to put forward their suggested priorities for future improvement.

In addition to the survey responses, engagement was also carried out with Elected Members, statutory partners, community, voluntary and business sectors and hard

to reach groups through meetings of the DEA Fora, Youth Council and Older Persons Forum.

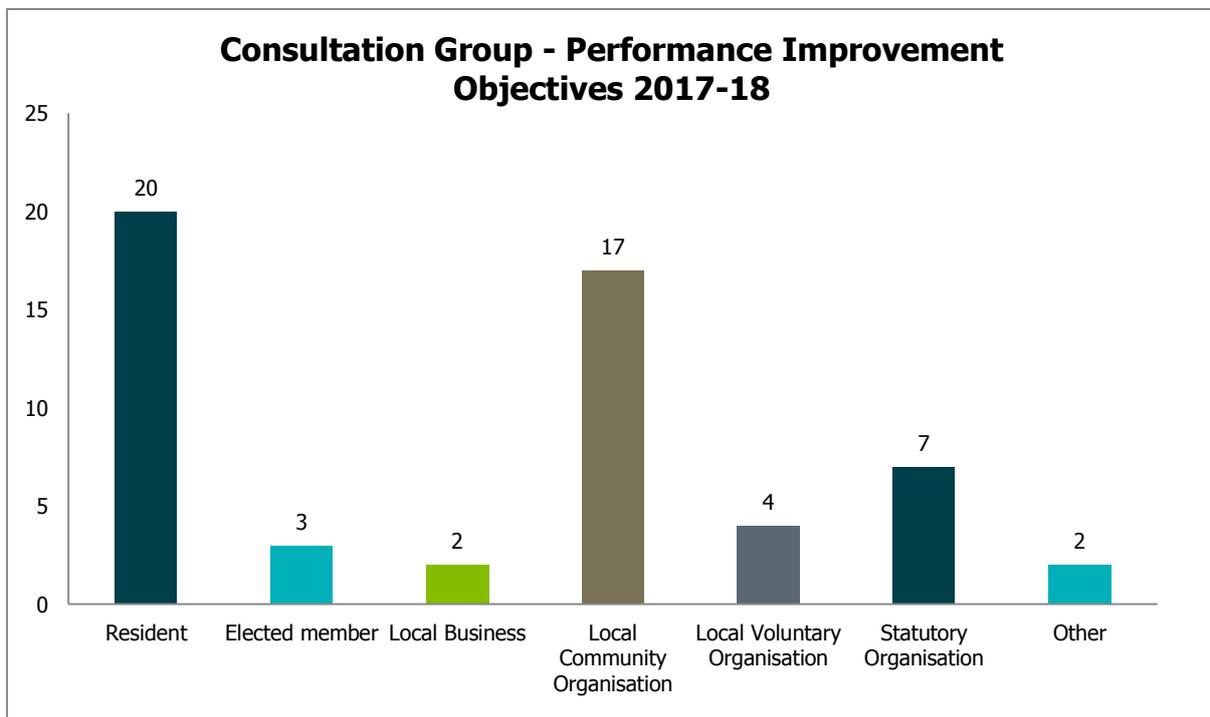
In carrying out the quantitative and qualitative consultation and engagement, a structured process was used to capture responses around each of the five draft performance improvement objectives 2017-18. All consultation and engagement responses have been considered and a number of amendments have been recommended regarding the content of the Performance Improvement Plan 2017-18.

Feedback from the consultation and engagement exercise has been circulated to the Council's Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee, Strategic Management Team, Corporate Management Team and Community Planning Thematic Delivery Groups for their consideration and action, where appropriate.

Consultation and Engagement Findings

Profile of Respondents

Responses to the draft performance improvement objectives were received from a variety of key stakeholders, with the highest number of responses from residents, local community organisations and statutory partners, as outlined in the chart below.



Thirteen survey responses were submitted on behalf of the following organisations:

- Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency
- Ballynahinch Community Collective

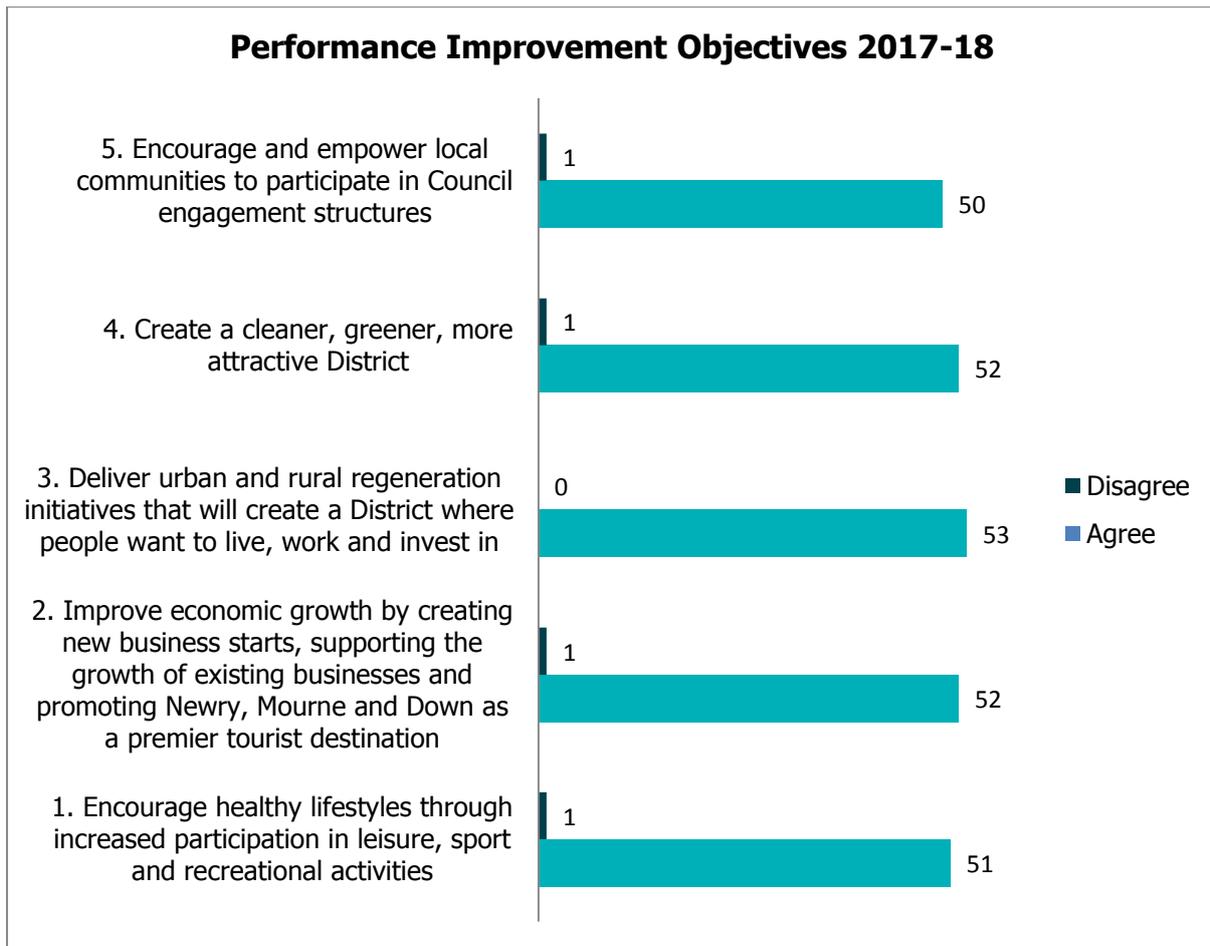
- Rowallanne Community Hub
- Saintfield Development Association
- Ring of Gullion Partnership
- Confederation of Community Groups
- Newry and Mourne Youth Council
- Hilltown Community Association
- South Eastern Regional College (SERC)
- Kilkeel Chamber of Commerce
- Park Action Group
- Older Person's Forum
- Health and Social Care Trust

In addition, the Council engaged approximately 115 stakeholders, including Elected Members, partner organisations across the business, voluntary, community and statutory sectors, as well as hard to reach groups through the meetings highlighted below.

Meeting	Date and Venue
Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee	16 March 2017, Downshire Civic Centre
Audit Committee	27 April 2017, Downshire Civic Centre
Mournes DEA Private Meeting	5 April 2017, YMCA, Newcastle
Rowallanne DEA Public Meeting	25 April, Market House, Ballynahinch
Crotlieve DEA Public Meeting	4 May, Hilltown Community Centre
Downpatrick DEA Private Meeting	4 May 2017, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick
Slieve Croob DEA Private Meeting	7 May 2017, The Lodge, Castlewellan
Newry DEA Private Meeting	11 May 2017, Sean Hollywood Arts Centre, Newry
Slieve Gullion DEA Private Meeting	16 May 2017, Culloville Community Centre
Youth Council	9 May 2017, Youth Resource Centre, Newry
Older Person's Forum	15 May 2017, Sean Hollywood Arts Centre, Newry

Analysis of Findings

Overall, there was a very positive response to the five proposed performance improvement objectives 2017-18, with almost all respondents agreeing with each objective. It is therefore recommended that the proposed performance improvement objectives 2017-18 are not subject to amendment.



You Said, We Did

As part of the consultation and engagement, respondents were asked to put forward their comments on each of the proposed performance improvement objectives 2017-18. Feedback has been analysed and many of the 'supporting actions' which have been put forward by consultees clearly relate to, and will be addressed through the supporting actions which underpin each performance improvement objective.

However, based on the consultation and engagement feedback and the ongoing work in developing and refining the performance improvement objectives, a number of amendments have been recommended to the 'supporting actions' and 'measures of success', which underpin each performance improvement objective. A summary of the key recommended amendments is outlined below.

Objective 1 – Encourage healthy lifestyles through increased participation in leisure, sport and recreational activities

A number of comments were put forward which relate to the provision and use of outdoor facilities and activities, as a way to encourage more people to get involved in leisure, sport and recreational activity. As a result, the inclusion of the following 'supporting action' is recommended:

- Carry out a review of outdoor leisure provision across the District

The following 'supporting action' was amended to state:

- Provide and improve fixed and non fixed play opportunities for children and young people through the implementation of year one of the Play Strategy

Objective 2 – Improve economic growth by creating new business starts, supporting the growth of existing businesses and promoting Newry, Mourne and Down as a premier tourist destination

The 'supporting actions' and 'measures of success' have been developed further to include:

- The level of investment through the Rural Business Investment Scheme for 2017-18
- The 2020 targets for the performance measures within the Rural Development Programme
- 8 new social enterprise start ups, 12 new jobs created and 30 new volunteers recruited
- 40 community groups and organisations provided with business planning, start-up and business development support

Objective 3 – Deliver urban and rural regeneration initiatives that will create a District where people want to live, work and invest in

There was a strong suggestion from the Ring of Gullion Partnership to have the work around the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty recognised within the Performance Improvement Plan, which has resulted in the following additional 'supporting action' being recommended:

- Implement the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Action Plans for the Ring of Gullion and Strangford and Lecale

The 'supporting actions' to deliver the three public realm schemes have also been expanded and a 'measure of success' to review the impact of the schemes is also being recommended:

- Complete the Warrenpoint Public Realm Scheme, including the provision of new footways, upgraded street lighting, improved landscape, shop front scheme and shop local campaign
- Complete the Irish Street, Downpatrick Public Realm Scheme, including the provision of increased parking, upgraded street lighting, widened footways and improved landscape
- Increased footfall, improved business/visitor perception and reduced/sustained vacant properties by 2019-20, following the completion of the Newry, Warrenpoint and Downpatrick Public Realm Schemes

The following amendment to the 'supporting action' around broadband is also being recommended:

- Work in partnership with the relevant Departments to enhance broadband provision across the District

Objective 4 – Create a cleaner, greener more attractive District

Comments were put forward highlighting the importance of the refuse collection and recycling services. This has resulted in the following proposed amendments to the 'supporting actions' and 'measures of success':

- Introducing blue bin collections for commercial properties in the legacy Down area
- Standardising how glass is collected across the Newry, Mourne and Down District
- Opening the Downpatrick Household Waste Recycling Centre by Spring 2018
- Delivering a domestic food waste service across the District by extending brown bin collections and rolling out a District wide educational campaign
- Undertaking targeted awareness raising to promote the importance of recycling in all areas, particularly those with low recycling rates
- Reviewing and identifying the optimum routes for domestic and commercial refuse collection to provide a more equitable service across the District, deliver efficiencies and improve customer satisfaction
- 44% of household waste collected by the Council is sent for recycling (including waste prepared for reuse)
- Reduction in the amount of biodegradable municipal waste that is landfilled to <12,000 tonnes

In addition, the following additional 'measures of success' are being recommended:

- Reduction in black bin waste and increase in mixed dry recyclables and brown bin waste
- Reduction in general waste arisings at Civic Amenity Sites
- Percentage of bins collected on their scheduled day

Suggestions were also made by a number of consultees for more emphasis to be placed on street cleanliness. As a result, the following 'supporting actions' and 'measures of success' are being recommended:

- Implementing a Litter Strategy for the District
- Undertaking targeted awareness raising to communicate the detrimental impact of littering, dog fouling, fly tipping, graffiti and fly posting in areas with high environmental crime
- Promoting public participation in Clean Up Campaigns and initiatives such as 'Down Your Street'

- Developing a web based scheme for the public to report environmental issues, including littering, graffiti and fly tipping
- Developing an in-house street cleanliness monitoring system for the District
- Reviewing and identifying the optimum routes for street cleansing to provide a more equitable service across the District, deliver efficiencies and improve customer satisfaction
- Level of street cleanliness across the District

Comments also highlighted the importance of the Planning Service and the need to deliver improvements, which is reinforced by the fact that Planning has been identified as the most important area for future improvement. As a result, additional 'supporting actions' and 'measures of success' are being recommended:

- Improve the performance of the Council's Planning Service by reducing the backlog of historic planning applications and improving processing times
- 70% of all planning enforcement cases are progressed within 39 weeks of receipt of complaint
- The percentage of major planning applications that are processed within an average of 30 weeks
- The percentage of local planning applications that are processed within an average of 15 weeks

Objective 5 – Encourage and empower local communities to participate in Council engagement structures

Comments were made by consultees regarding the link between the performance improvement objectives 2017-18 and PSNI statistics in terms of actual crime and the fear of crime. As a result, the following amended 'measure of success' is being recommended.

- Number of beneficiaries of the 'Good Morning, Good Neighbour' and 'Home Secure' schemes and the percentage who feel safer in their homes

Further comments were put forward regarding access to, and the use of community centres. This is reinforced by the fact that many consultees identified 'community services' as a future area of improvement for the Council. The following additional 'supporting action' is therefore being recommended:

- Engage 50 local community groups in progressing the 'Audit of Effectiveness' for community centres and developing proposals for improvement

Stakeholder feedback also endorsed the concept of understanding how effective the Council run engagement structures are, and it is recommended that the 'measure of success' is amended as follows:

- The effectiveness of Council run community engagement structures in facilitating stakeholder participation

Additional information has been included around the 'supporting action' for financial assistance and the 'measure of success' has been amended as follows:

- Number and percentage of financial assistance projects funded and successfully delivered

Suggested Areas for Improvement

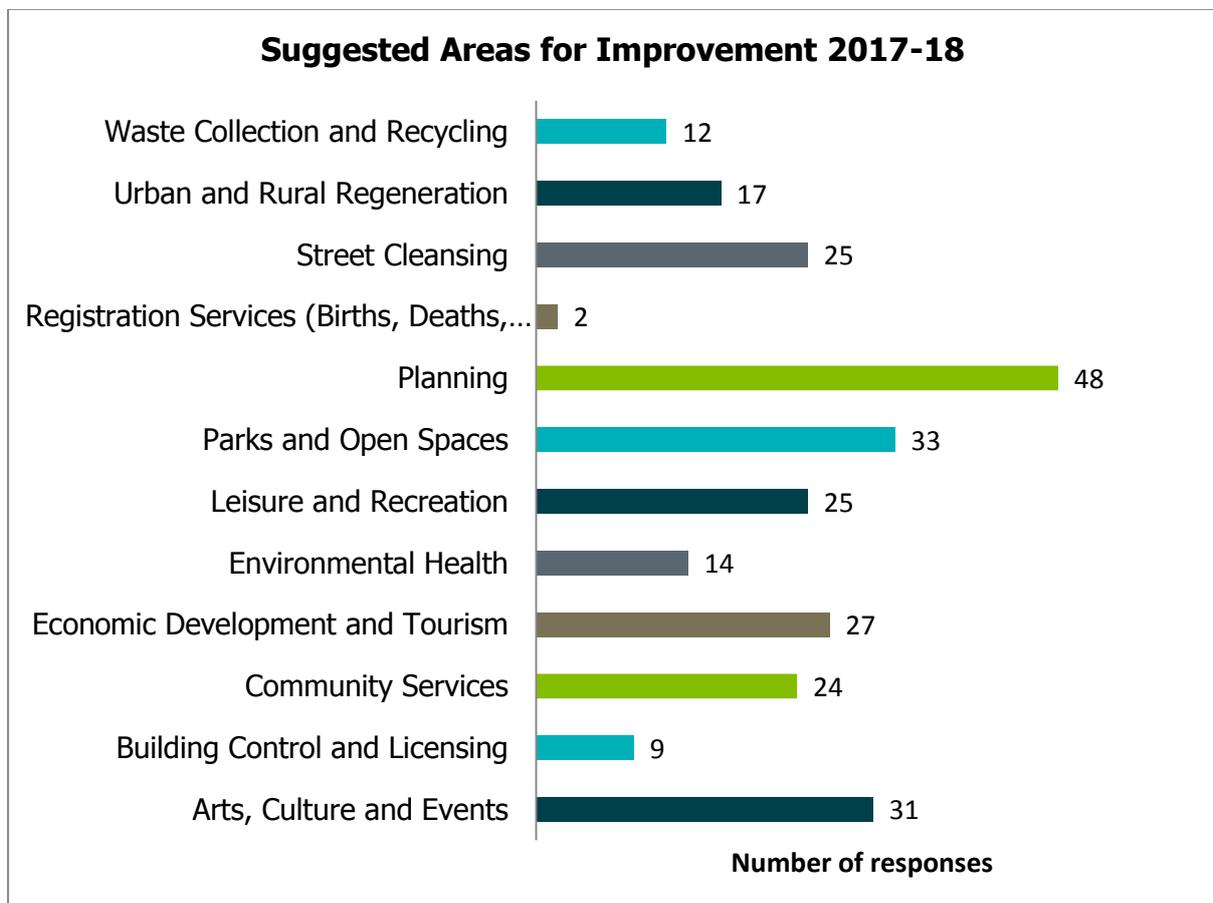
As part of the survey, respondents were also asked to put forward their suggested areas for improvement for 2017-18. An overview of the results is outlined below:

The areas which most need improving are as follows:

- Planning
- Parks and Open Spaces
- Arts and Culture

The areas which least need improving are as follows:

- Registration
- Building Control and Licensing
- Waste Collection and Recycling



Next Steps

Whilst no amendments to the five draft performance improvement objectives 2017-18 are being suggested, there are a number of recommendations to amend, expand and rationalise the 'supporting actions' and 'measures of success'. These recommendations are based on the feedback obtained through the consultation and engagement process, as well as the ongoing developmental work around each performance improvement objective 2017-18.

Stakeholder feedback has been considered by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee, Strategic Management Team and Corporate Management Team. Where appropriate, comments have also been forwarded to the Community Planning Thematic Delivery Groups which support the development, implementation and evaluation of the Newry, Mourne and Down Community Plan. These multi-agency, multi-stakeholder groups are well placed to consider the comments received through the consultation and engagement process and ascertain whether they can be addressed through a partnership approach.

OVERVIEW OF CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK

Performance Improvement Objective 1 Encourage healthy lifestyles through increased participation in leisure, sport and recreational activities		Comments / Response
Mournes DEA Private Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public transport from rural areas to leisure facilities and events remains an issue for many local communities, especially in the evening. Subsidised transport should be considered. Corporate membership of Council leisure centres, with reduced rates, for the voluntary and community sector should be considered. A customer profile of participants and members of leisure centres should be carried out, with a view to considering the provision of affordable, accessible membership for some sections of the local community, particularly those from disadvantaged areas. There is a need to recognise the role that the community and voluntary sector can play in addressing mental health and encouraging a healthy mindset. It would also be useful to provide and circulate a list of the community groups across the District. There is a need to recognise the role that outdoor space and forest parks play in offering leisure and recreational facilities. 	<p>The following amendments have been recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion of a supporting action to 'carry out a review of outdoor leisure provision across the District' Amendment to the existing action, as follows: 'provide and improve fixed and non fixed play opportunities for children and young people through the implementation of year one of the Play Strategy' Rationalisation of the supporting actions and measures of success Amendment of some targets linked to the 'measures of success' <p>Comments have been referred to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Management Team, NMDCC
Slieve Croob DEA Private Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public transport to access Newry and Downpatrick Leisure Centres is an issue for many local communities. Using services such as Down Community Transport may make both leisure centres more accessible to residents across the District and help ensure both centres are used to capacity. There should be more emphasis on outdoor leisure facilities, including community trails. 	
Newry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newry Leisure Centre will generate too much traffic for the residents of 	

DEA Private Meeting	<p>the surrounding area. The Council should consider access to the centre through footpaths and walkways.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The swimming pool is over used and it is difficult to book for groups. There was a discussion on whether some of the pool lanes are being used for private lessons. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Management Team, NMDDC • Health and Well-Being Thematic Delivery Group
Youth Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple Youth Councillors raised the prospect of an Albert Basin Park to help facilitate this objective, highlighting the fact that Newry is one of the only cities in the UK without a city park. • Programmes in leisure centres are not well advertised, as many people are unaware of what is available to them. • The possibility of a skate park was raised, possibly within the proposed Albert Basin Park, as there is not one currently in Newry. • Pop-up workshops addressing drug and alcohol abuse should be considered by the PCSP. • Improved bus services to rural areas after 6pm would enable residents to use leisure facilities in more urban areas. • Constructing the proposed velodrome at Sheepbridge would help achieve this objective, highlighting that it would be the first in Ireland. 	
Slieve Gullion DEA Private Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues were raised around the impact of rural proofing with regards to the Play Strategy and Sports Facility Strategy. The same criteria should not be applied to urban and rural areas, as this can have a negative impact on the amenities provided in rural areas. • The Play Strategy and Sports Facility Strategy should be considered within the context of the overall facilities and activities the Council provides in urban areas, eg. Newry Leisure Centre. This will help inform and improve the access rural communities have to leisure and recreational facilities. • Transport from rural areas to access Newry Leisure Centre and Downpatrick Leisure Centre is an issue. 	

Summary of Survey Responses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More sporting and recreational activities for those aged 65+ years, children and young people, as well as those who are disabled and from disadvantaged areas. Measures should also be broken down by age profile and ability. • More information should be provided on the leisure and recreational activities which are available across the District. • Provision of better parks, particularly a City Park in Newry. • Improved leisure and recreational facilities in areas such as Saintfield, Ballynahinch and Greater Mourne. • Newry Leisure Centre should be used by as many groups as possible. • More reference should be made to outdoor recreational activities and facilities. • Financial assistance should be given to groups to help promote healthy lifestyles and support the delivery of this objective. • There should be improved facilities on the Towpath. 	
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Performance Improvement Objective 2 Improve economic growth by creating new business starts, supporting the growth of existing businesses and promoting Newry, Mourne and Down as a premier tourist destination		Comments / Response
Mournes DEA Private Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluating events is very important. It would also be useful for Council officials to visit some of the events it allocates funding for through the Financial Assistance Scheme. • Simplifying the application form for financial assistance should also be considered. 	<p>The following amendments have been recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The level of investment through the Rural Business Investment Scheme for 2018-17 has been included • Reference has been made to social enterprises, including
Newry DEA Private	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Oktoberfest in Newry is a very successful event. 	

Meeting		
Youth Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bath boat races in Newry Canal might increase tourism. • Multiple Youth Councillors raised the possibility of the Council ensuring that all schools have, and work with, mini enterprises. This was highlighted as a good way for students to gain skills which are useful in the workplace. • Multiple Youth Councillors raised the fact that young people often find it difficult to get part-time jobs, as employers look for candidates with previous experience. • Multiple Youth Councillors raised the fact that apprenticeships are not often promoted as an alternative to university or A-Levels in schools. • More careers fairs focused on specific subject areas should be considered. • Work experience through school should be more meaningful in terms of the length of placement, when the placement actually takes place, and the work which is undertaken during the placement. 	<p>measures and targets to support 8 new social enterprise start ups, 12 new jobs created and 30 new volunteers recruited, and provide 40 community groups and organisations with business planning, start-up and business development support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2020 targets have been included in the 'measures of success' aligned to the Rural Development Programme • Rationalisation of 'supporting actions' and 'measures of success'
Older Persons Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The heritage and culture of Bessbrook, as a model village, is being neglected due to the large number of housing developments. Consideration should be given to promoting the Quakers meeting house and retaining the tram station. • There is little reference to Newry City in the Tourism Strategy and the Council should consider transforming the Albert Basin into a City Park, which would help make the City more vibrant and inviting for all sections of the community. • The towpath is a popular tourist attraction and the Council should do more to promote it, as well as provide seating and toilets. 	<p>Comments have been referred to the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Management Team, NMDDC • Corporate Management Team, NMDDC • Economic Development and Regeneration Thematic Delivery Group
Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the potential of smaller towns to attract investors and tourists. 	

of Survey Responses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There should be more reference to the smaller events which the Council supports, such as Fiddlers Green and Blues on the Bay. • The tourism potential of Newry City should be strengthened in relation to arts and culture, with a view to creating a city culture with weekend and evening activities. If Newry is to become a premier tourist destination, it also needs a City Park and the river should be cleaned. • More investment is needed in Kilkeel, supporting new and local businesses and offering apprenticeships to close the skills gap with the construction and fishing industries and boost local employment. • There should be more investment in Bessbrook, building on the rich cultural heritage and history. There should be increased support for cultural activities and events. • Geopark status has less tourism value than that of a National Park, which should be addressed as a longer term ambition for the area. • There is a need for more creative projects for people who can't get jobs. • Reference should be made to the Ring of Gullion Partnership and the AONB action plans. 	
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Performance Improvement Objective 3 Deliver urban and rural regeneration initiatives that will create a District where people want to live, work and invest in		Comments / Response
Mournes DEA Private Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no reference to the Mournes within the supporting actions for this objective. 	<p>The following amendments have been recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of a 'supporting action' to implement the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Action Plans
Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no reference to the work of the Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership and its associated action plans. 	

Partnership		<p>for the Ring of Gullion and Strangford and Lecale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of 'more information around the 'supporting actions' for the Warrenpoint and Downpatrick Public Realm Schemes • Amendment to the 'supporting action' around broadband as follows: work in partnership with the relevant Departments to enhance broadband provision across the District • Reduction in the number of 'measures of success' relating to Warrenpoint Municipal Park • Inclusion of a 'measure of success' for the three public realm schemes in Newry, Warrenpoint and Downpatrick • Rationalisation of 'supporting actions' and 'measures of success' <p>Comments have been referred to the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Management Team, NMDCC • Corporate Management Team, NMDCC
Newry DEA Private Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaner footpaths and more rubbish bins are needed in Newry City Centre. • There is no reference to the work of the Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships. • There are too many performance measures relating to Warrenpoint Municipal Park. 	
Youth Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need to address anti-social behavior to ensure that public spaces are preserved and a safe atmosphere is created. Multiple Youth Councillors highlighted Warrenpoint as an example of where anti-social behaviour persists. Increasing the number of youth clubs in Warrenpoint might help to address this. • There is a need for increased and improved broadband provision in rural areas. • Issues were raised regarding the lack of funding for areas that are adjacent to, but not part of, Neighbourhood Renewal Programmes, with Boat Street being put forward as an example. 	
Summary of Survey Responses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Village regeneration is important, especially in areas like Bessbrook. Town centres require continuous investment and upgrading and there is a need to ensure the health and safety of Public Realm Schemes. • The Play Strategy refers to upgrading existing parks in Newry but the only park in the town centre is Raymond McCreesh Park which is unattractive, and Heather Park is too far away. • Wifi and mobile connectivity in Kilkeel is an issue. • The road and transport infrastructure in Kilkeel needs to be improved. The Translink NI Kilkeel Rambler has been cut and visitors are unable to travel to the Mourne Mountains and Silent Valley. • There is a need to improve the road infrastructure in and between 	

	<p>towns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is an over emphasis on Warrenpoint Town Park, with too many performance measures, and more emphasis is needed on urban and village projects, including Neighbourhood Renewal. • There are derelict properties in Saintfield which the Development Association has painted to improve the street scene. • Reference should be made to the Ring of Gullion Partnership and the AONB action plans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Development and Regeneration Thematic Delivery Group
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Performance Improvement Objective 4 Create a cleaner, greener, more attractive District		Comments / Response
Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential inclusion of a performance measure for refuse collection. 	<p>The following amendments have been recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendment to and inclusion of a number of 'supporting actions' and 'measures of success' around recycling and waste management • Amendment to and inclusion of a number of 'supporting actions' and 'measures of success' around the quality and cleanliness of the local environment • Inclusion of additional 'supporting actions' and 'measures of success' for the Planning Service
Mournes DEA Private Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog fouling is a key issue for many residents and appropriate resources should be directed accordingly, beyond the existing enforcement team. • Toilet provision, particularly in Newcastle remains a key issue. It has already been agreed that an audit of toilet provision would be carried out by the Regulatory and Technical Services Directorate. 	
Slieve Croob DEA Private Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There should be more publicity and educational campaigns to inform residents what should be put into their blue, brown and black bins. This could be reinforced by communicating the overall cost of waste disposal to residents, in order to gain more citizen and stakeholder buy-in to help meet the Council's recycling and landfill targets. 	
Youth Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need for more bins in public areas. • Litter and rubbish around Lindsey Hill needs to be addressed. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste in Newry Canal should be addressed. 	Comments have been referred to the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Management Team, NMDDC Corporate Management Team, NMDDC Environment and Spatial Development Thematic Delivery Group
Older Persons Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The fines for dog fouling have increased which has led to streets and roads being cleaner, particularly the Derramore Road in Bessbrook. However, there are not enough dog fouling bins and further clarity is required on how to dispose of dog fouling waste in plastic bags. 	
Summary of Survey Responses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More should be done around street cleansing, especially in areas such as Bessbrook where there is a significant amount of dog fouling and littering. Local groups should be engaged in helping to clean the streets. The litter picks in Saintfield are very successful and should be rolled out. There should be more recycling points and more educational and outreach work around recycling. The Council should supply food waste bags for brown bins. Planning is an important new function of Council and should be referred to. There should be actions around carbon footprint, energy efficiency and clean energy production. There are too many housing developments which have a negative impact on the natural beauty of the area. More emphasis should be placed on maintaining the local environment and green space. 	

Performance Improvement Objective 5 Encourage and empower local communities to participate in Council engagement structures		Comments / Response
Mournes DEA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a need to link in with PSNI statistics, specifically in terms of the fear of crime and actual crime in key areas such as domestic violence, 	The following amendments have been recommended:

Private Meeting	<p>which requires significant resources from the PSNI.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet safety for young people is a key issue. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional 'measure of success' regarding the number of beneficiaries of the 'Good Morning, Good Neighbour' Scheme who feel secure in their own homes • Amendment to the 'measure of success' as follows: 'the effectiveness of Council run community engagement structures in facilitating stakeholder participation' • Additional 'supporting action' as follows: 'engage 40 local community groups in progressing the 'Audit of Effectiveness' for community centres and developing proposals for improvement' • Inclusion of more information around the financial assistance supporting action, and an amendment to the 'measure of success' as follows: 'number and percentage of financial assistance projects funded and successfully delivered • Rationalisation of supporting actions and measures of success.
Youth Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need for more publicity around what the Council is doing, particularly in relation to the DEA Fora. • Information meetings and capacity building workshops which the Council delivered on how to access community funding have been particularly helpful for groups. • Multiple Youth Councillors raised the possibility of the Youth Council renewing its formal written partnership with the District Council. • Multiple Youth Councillors raised the possibly of increasing the communication and consultation between the District Council and the Youth Council. • Youth Councillors discussed how the Youth Council could increase engagement, raising the need for more links with schools and more engagement with Down Youth Council. 	
Slieve Gullion DEA Private Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues were raised regarding the £5m public liability insurance which community groups need to purchase in order to access and use community centres. This will act as a barrier for many groups. • Community centres are closed at the weekend when the facilities, such as toilets and car parks, could potentially be used to support outdoor activities, including hill walking and hiking. 	
Summary of Survey Responses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need to ensure that all sections of the community have an opportunity to participate and have their say. We should support the most vulnerable in our community. • The DEA is a good mechanism to work in partnership with the Council and the voluntary and community sector. There is a need to assess how effective the engagement structures are in enabling the community 	

	<p>and voluntary sector to participate in shaping policies and services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a long process to raise issues through the DEA structures, eg. the petition for the City Park has 10,000 signatures. • There should be more pop up social projects. • Financial assistance for community groups is important and support is needed to complete applications. 	<p>Comments have been referred to the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Management Team, NMDDC • Corporate Management Team, NMDDC • Community Safety and Good Relations Thematic Delivery Group
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