

August 4th, 2026

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the meeting to be held on **Monday, 10th August 2026** at **6:00 pm** in **Boardroom, Warrenpoint Town Hall, Warrenpoint.**

Committee Membership 2026-27

Councillor K Feehan **Chairperson**

Councillor S Murphy **Deputy Chairperson**

Councillor T Andrews

Councillor W Clarke

Councillor C Galbraith

Councillor O Hanlon

Councillor G Hanna

Councillor G Kearns

Councillor D Lee-Surginor

Councillor N Lawlor

Councillor A Lewis

Councillor A Quinn

Councillor M Ruane

Councillor J Tinnelly

Councillor H Young

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 Action Sheet arising from Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Meeting held 8 June 2026

Attachment: ERT Action Sheet - 2026-06-08 inc. historic actions updated.pdf

Page 1

For Discussion/Decision

4.0 PEACEPLUS

Attachment: ERT Report - PEACEPLUS.pdf

Page 4

Exempt Appendices

4.1 Appendix - PEACEPLUS

This item is deemed to be exempt under 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.

Attachment: Appendix 1 PEACEPLUS minutes 30 07 2026.pdf

Not included

Attachment: Appx 2 - PEACEPLUS Buisness case 3.2 Children's Language Scheme.pdf

Not included

Attachment: Appx 3 - PEACEPLUS Business Case - Learn the language of your neighbour.pdf

Not included

Attachment: Appx 4 - PEACEPLUS Additional Funding.pdf

Not included

For Discussion/Decision

5.0 Ring of Gullion LPS Legacy Projects

Attachment: ERT Report - Ring of Gullion LPS Legacy Projects.pdf

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Exempt Appendices

5.1 Appendix - Ring of Gullion LPS Legacy Projects

This item is deemed to be exempt under 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.

Attachment: Appx 1 - Ring of Gullion LPS Legacy Projects.pdf

Not included

Items deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014

6.0 BRCD Annual Report

This item is deemed to be exempt under 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.

Attachment: ERT Report - BRCD Annual Report.pdf

Not included

Attachment: Appx 1 - BRCD Annual Report 2026.pdf

Not included

7.0 Financial Assistance Call 1.1 & 2

This item is deemed to be exempt under 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.

Attachment: ERT Report - Financial Assistance Call 1.1 and Call 2.pdf

Not included

Attachment: Appx 1 - FA Call 1.1 _ PCSP.pdf

Not included

Attachment: Appx 2 - FA Call 1.1 _ Good Relations.pdf

Not included

Attachment: Appx 3 - FA Call 1.1 _ Community Events & Festivals.pdf

Not included

Attachment: Appx 4 - FA Call 2 _ Community Capital.pdf

Not included

Attachment: Appx 5 - FA Call 2 _ Community Minor Capital.pdf

Not included

Attachment: Appx 6 - FA Call 2 _ Sports Facility Capital.pdf

Not included

Attachment: Appx 7 - FA Call 2 _ Defibs.pdf

Not included

8.0 Newry Chamber Music

This item is deemed to be exempt under 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.

Attachment: ERT Report - Newry Chamber Music.pdf

Not included

9.0 St Patricks Day 2026/27

This item is deemed to be exempt under 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.

Attachment: ERT Report - St Patricks Day 2026 2027.pdf

Not included

10.0 Strangford & Lecale Landscaper Connections

This item is deemed to be exempt under 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.

Report to follow.

For Noting

11.0 Go Succeed Update

Attachment: ERT Report - Go Succeed update.pdf

Page 10

12.0 Newry BID

Attachment: ERT Report - Newry BID.pdf

Page 13

Attachment: Appx 1 - Newry BID.pdf

Page 15

Attachment: Appx 2 - Newry BID - Newry Goes to Nashville 2026 Report.pdf

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13.0 Local Growth Fund Consultation Response

Attachment: ERT Report - Local Growth Fund consultation response.pdf

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Exempt Appendices

13.1 Appendix - Local Growth Fund Consultation Response

This item is deemed to be exempt under 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.

Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews

Cllr Callum Bowsie

Mr Caolain Boyd

Fionnuala Branagh

Cllr Jim Brennan

Lorraine/Emma Burns/McParland

Cllr Pete Byrne

Cllr Philip Campbell

Cllr William Clarke

Cllr Laura Devlin

Cllr Cadogan Enright

Cllr Killian Feehan

Cllr Doire Finn

Ms Joanne Fleming

Cllr Conor Galbraith

Cllr Mark Gibbons

Cllr Oonagh Hanlon

Cllr Glyn Hanna

Cllr Valerie Harte

Mr Conor Haughey

Cllr Martin Hearty

Cllr Roisin Howell

Cllr Tierna Howie

Cllr Jonathan Jackson

Cllr Geraldine Kearns

Miss Veronica Keegan

Mrs Sheila Kieran

Cllr Cathal King

Cllr Aurla King

Ms Elaine Kirk

Cllr Mickey Larkin

Cllr Niall Lawlor

Cllr David Lee-Surginor

Cllr Alan Lewis

Cllr Oonagh Magennis

Mr Conor Mallon

Cllr Aidan Mathers

Cllr Declan McAteer

Jonathan McGilly

Mr Martin McKibbin

Ms Tracie McLoughlin

Sinead Murphy

Cllr Declan Murphy
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Cllr Kate Murphy
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Cllr Selina Murphy
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Ms Patricia Murtagh
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Cllr Siobhan O'Hare
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Mr Andy Patterson
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Cllr Áine Quinn
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Cllr Henry Reilly
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Cllr Michael Rice
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Ms Alison Robb
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Ms Maria Rogan
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Cllr Michael Ruane
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Mr Conor Sage
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Mrs Amanda Smyth
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Conor Smyth
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Donna Starkey
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Sarah Taggart
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Cllr David Taylor
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Mr David Telford
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Ms Joanna Tierney
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Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly
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Ms Sinead Trainor
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Cllr Jill Truesdale
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Mrs Marie Ward
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Cllr Helena Young
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ACTION SHEET - ECONOMY, REGENERATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING –

MONDAY 20 APRIL 2026

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/034/2026	Action Sheet ERT Committee Meeting Monday 9 March 2026	It was also agreed to establish a dedicated Events Working Group, comprising representatives from the community, voluntary and business sectors to enhance and develop existing events, including St Patrick’s Day celebrations across the Newry, Mourne and Down district, with a view to increasing economic opportunities and strengthening the district’s tourism offering.	C Mallon	Established	Y
		It was further agreed that Council write to Communities Minister Gordon Lyons MLA, seeking support for St Patrick’s Day events across the district in 2027.	C Mallon	Actioned	Y

MONDAY 8 JUNE 2026

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/064/2026	Action Sheet of ERT Meeting held 11/05/2026	It was agreed to note the action sheet	C Mallon	Actioned	Y
ERT/065/2026	To Agree Start Times For Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meetings 2026-27	The start times for Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meetings 2026-27 were agreed.	C Mallon	Actioned	Y
ERT/066/2026	ERT Business Plans	it was agreed to approve the following: •Assessment of the ERT Directorate Business Plan 2025-26. •ERT Directorate Business Plan 2026-27.	C Mallon	Actioned	Y
ERT/067/2026	Consumer Trade Shows 2026-27	it was agreed to approve participation in the tourism trade and consumer shows outlined in Section 2.1 of the officers' report, in collaboration with Tourism NI and Tourism Ireland, to support the tourism sector and promote the destination.	A Smyth	Actioned	Y
ERT/068/2026	PEACEPLUS	the following was agreed; • Approve the business case for procurement, appointment and delivery of activities under Strand 2 and 3 of the Co-designed Local Action Plan as set out in the officers' report. • To note the minutes of PEACEPLUS Partnership on 21 May 2026. • To note the submission of a bid for additional funding for summer programmes.	A Smyth	Actioned	Y

ERT/069/2026	Rural NI Policy Consultation	It was agreed to approve the Council's submission of a response to the consultation: DAERA's Rural NI – Our New Approach 2026 2041 draft policy.	A Smyth	Actioned	Y
ERT/070/2026	Sustainable Tourism Network	it was agreed to approve the business case, procurement and appointment of a Facilitator to deliver the Mourne Gullion Strangford Sustainable Tourism Network programme of work over a 2-year term.	A Smyth	Actioned	Y
ERT/071/2026	Crossmaglen Improvement Plan	it was agreed to note Crossmaglen Square Improvement Plan and its recommendations and that further information will be presented to members on opportunities arising from shaping sustainable places.	A Smyth	Actioned	Y
ERT/072/2026	LEP Grants Revive and Reimagine	it was agreed to note the launch of the Revive and Reimagine: Commercial Property Grant and Property Façade Renewal Schemes.	A Smyth	Actioned	Y

Report to:	Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 10th August 2026
Subject:	PEACEPLUS Theme 1.1
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth Assistant Director Economy, Growth and Tourism
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Sonya Stephenson – Head of Programmes Sarah McClory – Project Coordinator

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	<u>Purpose</u> To approve the recommendations as set out in section 3. <u>Background</u> The PEACEPLUS Partnership met on the 30th July 2026. The recommendations arising from these meetings require ERT Committee approval.
2.0	Key issues
2.1	- Projects to be progressed: Strand 3 of the Co-designed Local Action Plan The Partnership have agreed the procurement and delivery of the below activity under Strand 3 of the Co-designed Local Action Plan for which business cases are attached 3.2 Children’s Language Scheme (one district wide project). 3.2 Learn the Language of your neighbour (one district wide project). - Opportunity for additional funding from SEUPB The Partnership have agreed the application for additional funding from SEUPB. SEUPB offered an opportunity for additional funding due to the potential underspend across the wider PEACEPLUS Programme for this calendar year only. SEUPB asked all Local Authorities to submit proposals for additional projects that could be delivered with all expenditure claimed by end of September 2026.

	Following engagement with SEUPB on procurement requirements and likely timeframe for approval and subsequent delivery, a proposal was submitted for 14 projects, with a total engagement of 615 participants. Decision from SEUPB remains pending, however if approved, timescale for delivery remains 30th Sept 2026.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To approve the following business cases and commencement of procurement based on same: • 3.2 Children’s Language Scheme (one district wide project). • 3.2 Learn the Language of your neighbour (one district wide project).
3.2	Pending decision on application for additional funding, to approve acceptance of a Letter of Offer if successful, and subsequence delivery of summer programmes
3.3	Note the minutes of PEACEPLUS Partnership on 30 th July 2026.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Revenue/Payroll: Project 85% funded by the EU and 15% by the two Governments Refer to appendix documents for budgets
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i> It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations ☒
5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i> Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened ☐ The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation ☐

5.3	<i>Proposal initiating consultation</i> Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves ☐ Consultation period will be 12 weeks ☐ Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) ☐ <i>Rationale:</i>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed ☐
7.0	Appendices The below items are deemed to be exempt under 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. Appx. 1 PEACEPLUS Project Board Minutes 30th July 2026 Appx.2 PEACEPLUS approval to commence procurement 3.2 Children’s Language Scheme Appx. 3 PEACEPLUS approval to commence procurement 3.2 Learn the Language of your Neighbour Appx 4. Additional funding
8.0	Background Documents
	n/a

Report to:	Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 10 th August 2026
Subject:	Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership Scheme - Legacy phase projects
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth, Assistant Director – Economy, Growth & Tourism
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Aveen McVeigh, Head of Regeneration and Business Development and Darren Rice, AONB and Geopark Manager

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	<u>Purpose</u> To approve the recommendation set out in section 3.1 of this report. <u>Background</u> NMDDC through the Ring of Gullion AONB Landscape Partnership Legacy Phase has worked with the Ring of Gullion Partnership to develop a programme of projects aligned with the approved Legacy Phase Plan. An Expression of interest was issued to Landscape Partnership representatives seeking projects to be brought forward that could be delivered within the 26/27 financial year. Following a selection process, approval is required to enter into Service Level Agreements (SLAs) with successful proposals selected through this process.
2.0	Key issues
2.1	The Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership met on 28 May 2026 and agreed the proposed delivery approach for 26/27 projects. Decisions relating to the successful proposals were taken in accordance with the Partnership's Terms of Reference and established governance procedures. Partnership members involved in the submission of EOIs were removed entirely from the assessment and decision-making process. Any actual or potential conflicts of interest were declared and managed appropriately.

	<u>The following projects were agreed:</u> 1. Conservation of WW2 Nissen hut in Meigh. The project involves cleaning and painting the WW2 Nissen hut to support its conservation. 2. Establish a new programme of music and cultural events in Forkhill Old Parish Church. 3. To upgrade a classroom located at Mountain Road, Slieve Gullion for the purpose to create an improved indoor and outdoor teaching / experience provision area focusing on all the ROG landscape and cultural heritage themes. SLAs will be tailored for each activity/event and will detail key outputs. The proposal leads will report against delivery, timescales, and cost. All the proposal leads have previous experience in delivering activities. The individual proposal leads will be supported by the Ring of Gullion Partnership Board, as well as Council Officers. <u>The outcomes</u> • Increased Community Engagement in NMDDC • NMDDC delivering for sustainable and regenerative community and tourism engagement • Supporting the local heritage sector • Increased connectedness in the area • Promoting the status of the District as a Geopark • Supporting the local traditional music sector
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To approve issuing Service Level Agreements (SLA) for the delivery of 3 Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership Legacy phase projects as set out in section 2 of this report.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	The required budgets are available within existing Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership Scheme Legacy budgets at 100% funding.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i> It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations ☒

5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i> Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened ☐ The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation ☐
5.3	<i>Proposal initiating consultation</i> Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves ☐ Consultation period will be 12 weeks ☐ Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) ☐ <i>Rationale:</i>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed ☐
7.0	Appendices
	This item is deemed to be exempt under 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 Appendix 1 – Service Level Agreement
8.0	Background Documents
	n/a

Report to:	Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 10 th August 2026
Subject:	Go Succeed funding and future planning
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth, Assistant Director – Economy, Growth & Tourism
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Aveen McVeigh, Head of Regeneration and Business Development

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

For decision	☐	For noting only	☒
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<u>Purpose</u> To note the recommendation in section 3.1 of this report. <u>Background</u> Go Succeed is Northern Ireland's regional business support service, helping entrepreneurs, start-ups and existing businesses to start, grow and scale, contributing to the local economy.
2.0	Key issues
	Belfast City Council is the lead Council responsible for contract management and service delivery for the Go Succeed programme. Go Succeed is delivered across all councils through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Collaboration Agreement. From November 2023 to 31 March 2026, Go Succeed was funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), administered by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), together with contributions from Northern Ireland's 11 local councils. From April 2026 to March 2027 Go Succeed is funded via Local Growth Fund managed by MHCLG, with contributions from Northern Ireland's 11 local councils and Department for Economy (funding confirmation pending). Enterprise Northern Ireland's delivery partners, Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency and Down Business Centre deliver the Start-Up pillar of the Service to pre-startups and start-up businesses across the district. Full Circle delivers the Growth and Scaling pillars of the service to businesses across the district. Contracts with ENI and Full Circle are due to conclude in March 2027.

	Belfast City Council is leading the development of the future delivery model for Go Succeed beyond March 2027. The programme is being designed to align with the objectives and outputs of the Local Growth Fund, taking account of the programme evaluation, recommendations from the Ulster University Economic Policy Centre (UUEPC), and the experiences and observations of councils since service delivery commenced in November 2023. A cross-council Working Group has been established to oversee the development of the future delivery model and to progress the procurement process for service delivery beyond March 2027.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	It is recommended to: Note the update on Go Succeed funding and future planning.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Resource funding from MHCLG and Council is secured for 2026/27. Funding for 26/27 from DfE is subject to monitoring rounds. Funding post March 27 is not secured.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i> It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations ☒
5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i> Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened ☐ The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation ☐

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

Report to:	Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 10 th August 2026
Subject:	Newry BID
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth Assistant Director: Economy Growth and Tourism
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth Assistant Director: Economy Growth and Tourism

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

For decision	☐	For noting only	☒
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<u>Purpose</u> To note the recommendations as set out in section 3. <u>Background</u> Following a successful Newry BID Revote, a new and updated Operating Agreement is in place between Newry BID and Council. One of the agreed actions within this agreement is that Newry BID will submit to Council a quarterly update on their delivery against BID Strategic Priorities as set out in their proposals for 2026 – 2031.
2.0	Key issues
2.1	BID Strategic Priorities 2026 – 2031 - UPDATE - Appendix one sets out the update from Newry BID on performance in Q1 against their new Strategic Priorities as set out ahead of the BID revote - This update covers the following activities:
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To note the quarter one update from Newry BID on delivery performance against BID Strategic Priorities 2026 – 2031
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Nil
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)

5.1	General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations ☒
5.2	Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened ☐ The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation ☐
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 ☐ Consultation period will be 12 weeks ☐ Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) ☐ <i>Rationale:</i>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed ☐
7.0	Appendices
	Appendix 1 – Newry BID Q1 update on BID Strategic Priorities 2026 – 2031 Appendix 2 – Newry goes to Nashville post event report
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A



BUSINESS
IMPROVEMENT
DISTRICT

Update to ERT
July 2026

Marketing – Key Dates Q1

- Mothers Day, International Women's Day & Fathers Day
- Pancake Tuesday – 'Random Stacks of Kindness'
- Trading Dates / Themes eg:
- National Butchers Week Competitions
- Book Week promoting members
- Newry Arts Festival – Competitions / Promo
- St Patricks Day:
- Promoted member activities
- events – pop up dance
- provided music
- Supported parade



Marketing



Roses are red, violets are blue,
find a gift in **Newry**
for you-know-who...



Who are
your
inspirational
women?



Marketing – Billboards

Dublin Rd, Belfast Rd, Wpoint Rd, Sugar Island



Marketing – Press, online, VMS



Health in the City – April & May 2026

BUSINESS
IMPROVEMENT
DISTRICT

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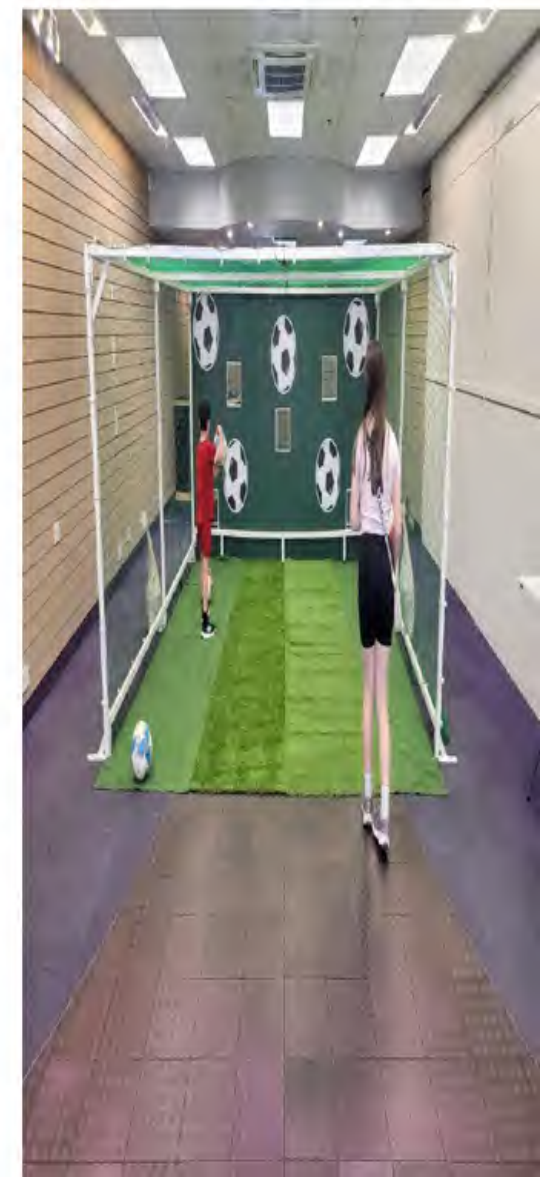
- Health in the City ran for 5 weeks from the end of April until end of May
- Over 40 FREE events throughout the BID promoting health and wellbeing
- Gym classes, yoga classes, pilates classes, healthy breakfasts, wellbeing workshops, Art workshops for adults & children, financial workshops, social gatherings, park runs/walks, parent & baby classes, self-defence classes, health checks & skin scans
- BID heavily promoted this programme via social media, radio ads billboards / signs, flyer distribution, website, press, mailing lists, newsletters and across multiple partner & member platforms.



For full programme of events
please visit Newry.com

Health in the City

Over 40 FREE events across BID members



Health in the City - Tryka

Inaugural Family and Business Tryka – won by Sainsburys



Health in City - Half Marathon, 10K & Kids Fun Run

- Biggest event in Newry excluding Down matches
- Over 1,750 entrants
- Thousands of spectators
- Numerous BID members supported / benefitted
- 7 charity partners benefitted



A Festival for Newry



BUSINESS
IMPROVEMENT
DISTRICT

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Ongoing lobbying for a festival for Newry

In interim BID continues to successfully deliver:

- Newry Goes Nashville (see separate attached report)
- Be the main delivery partner for Iur Cinn Fleadh
- Run extensive rolling campaigns such as Health in the City & Summer in the City

Supporting Business

- Day to Day operational support including:
- HR consultancy
- Training / Skills / Recruitment
- General problem solving e.g. Caravans



Lobbying – Parking (CPZ unfairness)

- BID lobbied and secured:
- One hour Grace period trial for Christmas Festive parking for shoppers
- Successful trial
- Lobbied again based on member feedback and secured extension from January 1st for 6 months
- BID submission made as part of Review
- One hour Grace period made permanent
- Major step forward – PR to follow
- Ongoing push for the permanent removal of Controlled Parking Zone & its replacement with a fair parking enforcement system



Free & available Parking



Continue to provide over 250 FREE parking spaces daily at North Street – largely to employees and to a lesser extend visitors



Lobbying – Dereliction / Regeneration



- Vacancy Grants (£2 Million) direct result of BID lobbying on this crucial issue to LEP partners
- Evidenced based approach was successful – vacancy report BID & Enterprise Agency
- Local Economic Partnership Funding as part of Regional Rebalancing
- Extensive engagement with and support for members on applications



BID Flood Resilience Group

- BID Flood Resilience Group (FRG) successfully proved itself when there was more rain in January / February than last flood but mitigants prevented an incident
- Rolling meetings and first scale Flood Warning System in NI
- Group acknowledged as best practice at Stormont, Westminster and the Dail



Flood Support via BID Flood Resilience Group

- £350K Grant secured by the BID from Department of Economy
- BID delivering this in partnership with Rivers Agency
- 35 members to benefit from this pilot
- First of its kind in these islands
- Flood proof doors, windows and bespoke flood defences
- Official launch, Ministers of Economy & Infrastructure July 22
- Advanced stage negotiations to secure a unique area Flood insurance scheme based on mitigation measures delivered through BID Flood Resilience Group
- First in NI again
- Engaging with British Association of Insurers to amend BT34 & BT35 removal of flood cover and application via flood risk instead



Lobbying -Rates



BUSINESS
IMPROVEMENT
DISTRICT

31

- Reval 26 stalled – Hospitality benefits
- Lobbied as part of One Voice Group
- To be revisited in 2027 – impact on other members
- Will need to fully understand potential outworkings
- Back in Business 50% Rates Relief for 2 years for occupying vacant property extended as a result of BID lobbying
- Part of DFI Rates Reform working group
- Ongoing lobbying for wider rates reform with Hospitality Ulster and other stakeholders



Representation

- DEA & Regeneration stakeholder groups
- General – regular rolling events
Job Fairs / Apprenticeships etc
- major events
- eg Tourism - Camogie Congress
- Communication via fortnightly newsletters and regular ad hoc updates: socials / newry.com /direct



Representation

- Anniversaries of members trading in Newry
- Sponsor at Newry Business Awards
- British BIDs Advisory Board
- Association of Town Centre Management
- Media presence re Newry



Representation – Road Works / Parades

- Business interface with Roads Service to minimise disruption for road works – several schemes successfully delivered
 - Sands Mill / New Street
 - Sugar Island
 - Canal Street
 - Merchants Quays
 - Belfast Road
 - Kilmorey Street
 - Warrenpoint Road
 - Greenbank
- Liaison to minimise impact of parades on business as usual and deliveries in particular



Evening /Night-Time Economy / Tourism

- Support Arts Festival
- Deliver Food Tours
- Support Comedy Nights
- Partnership with New Point Players – Trial of Patrick Pearse – Edward Carson next
- Artisan Market support
- Lobbying for Taxi reform
- Pitched Taxi Academy to LEP (SRC & SERC)



Parklets

- 5 year journey to get planning / funding / consents coming to fruition
- Work started on O'Hagan Street (Dolce Vita restaurant) & Hill Street (Café Krem)



Cleaner Greener Safer - PSNI

- BID PSNI days have delivered multiple successes & ongoing positive feedback
- Especially important to big multi-nationals
- Visibility important for reassurance ref Retail Crime and ASB



Cleaner Greener Safer – Rapid & Knife Bins

- Partnership with PCSP to provide Rapid Bin for safe disposal of (typically prescription) drugs and a Knife disposal bin



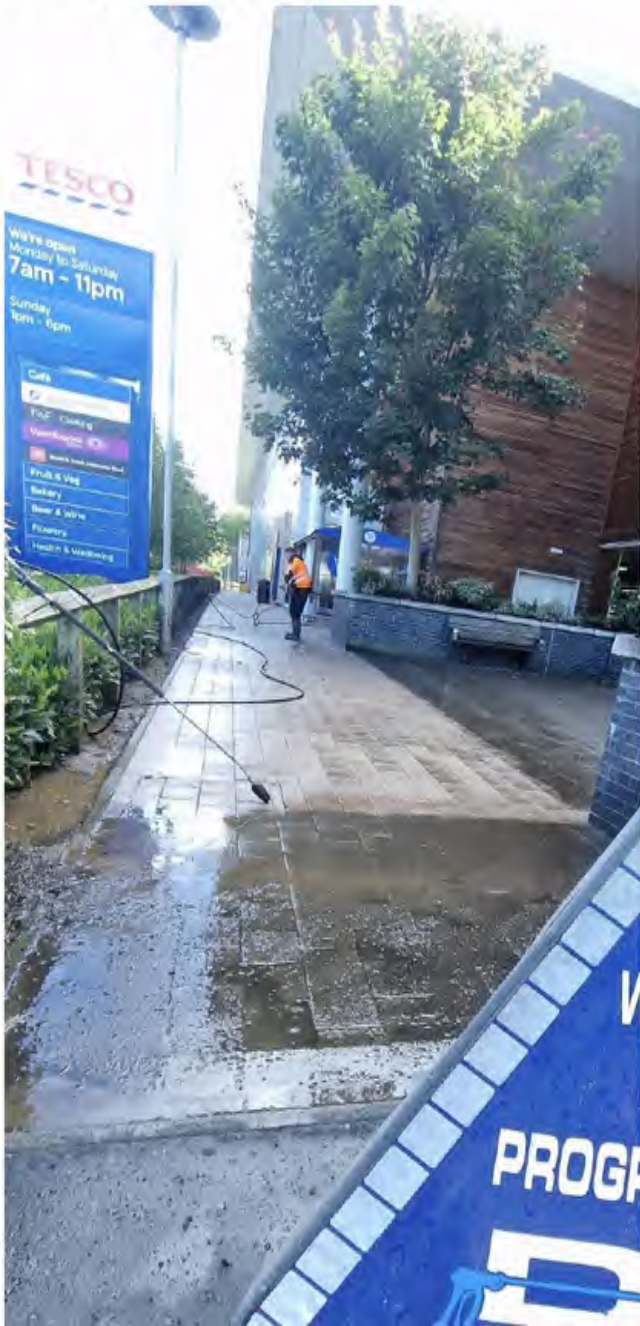
Cleaner Greener Safer - Planting

- Several planting projects – in partnership with Clanrye Group & McElherron brothers
- Thanks to all who are watering flower- pots



Clean team

Fly tipping clearance & power washing



Clean Team – Graffiti removal



Community



- Our Ladys 140 Years Colour Run
- Member charity support – Head Injury, Clanrye, Bolster, Gateway, Altnaveigh House, Bosco, Community Associations etc



Community

- Final Christmas Charity Lunch in 2025 – assessing if there is an alternative





Newry Goes Nashville 2026

Post Event Report

Executive Summary

Newry Goes Nashville returned for its second year from Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th July 2026. Building on the success of its inaugural event, it delivered one of the city's largest collaborative festivals in recent years.

The three-day programme brought together businesses, hospitality venues, retailers and community partners to create a city-wide celebration of country music and Nashville culture.

The festival featured:

- 32 participating venues
- Over 90 individual events
- More than 60 live performers
- Extensive family entertainment
- A dedicated children's programme
- Pop-up performances throughout the city centre
- A coordinated marketing campaign across print, digital, outdoor advertising and social media

The operational budget, excluding time, was approximately £10,000, demonstrating significant value through partnership working and business participation.

Festival Highlights

The programme combined daytime family activities with an extensive evening entertainment programme across Newry.

Highlights included:

- Friends in Low Places - The Ultimate Garth Brooks Experience at Canal Court Hotel
- Boots & Beats Hoedown at Buttercrane Shopping Centre
- Join in Jivin' dance competition at The Quays
- Trucks & Tractors display supporting Air Ambulance NI
- Studio 23 family craft workshops
- Sign & Rhyme at Newry Library
- Pop-Up Music Trail across cafés, restaurants, retail outlets and Newry Bus Station
- Live music across 32 venues throughout the weekend



Marketing & Promotion

A comprehensive marketing campaign was delivered over several weeks leading into the festival.

Activity included:

- Festival branding and programme
- 6 e-newsletters
- 3,000 printed festival leaflets distributed
- Promotional teams in the city over the three weekends leading up to the event

- Festival launch event for participating businesses
- Press launch
- Billboard campaign
- Flagpole banners throughout the city centre
- Advertising in:
 - Newry Reporter
 - Newry Democrat
 - Newry.ie
 - Newry.LN
- Extensive Facebook campaign – 420k views over the festival period
- Website promotion through Newry.com
- Eventbrite booking system for family activities



Digital Performance

Facebook Performance

Reporting period: 25th June - 8th July 2026

The Facebook campaign generated strong engagement throughout the reporting period, helping drive awareness of the festival programme, family activities and participating venues.

The campaign reached a significant audience through a combination of event announcements, venue profiles, family activity promotion and video content.

Please note: The statistics shown relate only to Facebook and cover the reporting period 25th June - 8th July 2026. They do not include activity across Instagram, website traffic, Eventbrite bookings or other promotional channels.



Media Coverage

The festival attracted extensive positive local media coverage before, during and after the event.

Coverage included:

- Festival launch announcement
- Full programme launch
- Event previews
- Post-event coverage

Coverage appeared across local newspapers, digital news platforms and broadcast media, helping maintain momentum throughout the campaign.



Community & Business Engagement

One of the strengths of Newry Goes Nashville continues to be the level of collaboration across the city.

The festival successfully brought together:



- Hospitality sector, Retail businesses, Shopping centres
- Community organisations, Local performers, Dance groups
- Libraries, Family activity providers, media partners

The result was a genuine city-wide festival rather than a single-site event, encouraging visitors to explore multiple areas of the city centre across the weekend.



Overall Evaluation

Newry Goes Nashville has firmly established itself as a major event within Newry's annual events programme.

Key achievements included:

- 32 participating venues, More than 90 programmed events , Over 60 live acts
- Strong business participation, Significant family programme, Extensive positive media coverage



- Strong social media engagement (25th June - 8th July 420k views on Facebook alone)
- Delivery of a large-scale festival for an operational budget of approximately £10,000 (excluding staff time). The festival successfully achieved its objectives of increasing footfall, supporting city centre businesses, encouraging longer visitor dwell time and reinforcing Newry's reputation as a vibrant destination for events and entertainment.

Report to:	Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 10 th August 2026
Subject:	Local Growth Fund Consultation
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth, Assistant Director – Economy, Growth & Tourism
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Aveen McVeigh, Head of Regeneration and Business Development

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

For decision	☐	For noting only	☒
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<u>Purpose</u> To note the recommendation in section 3.1 of this report. <u>Background</u> The Northern Ireland Office hosted a public consultation on the Local Growth Fund (LGF) in Northern Ireland. The consultation sought views on Resource funding (RDEL) from 2027/28 to 2028/29 and Capital funding (CDEL) from 2026/27 to 2028/29.
2.0	Key issues
	As part of the Government's 2025 Spending Review, £43m per annum has been provided by Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) for the LGF for Northern Ireland 2026-29 and has set allocations for two different types of spending, Capital and Resource. The consultation was not an opportunity to challenge the Capital and Resource allocation to Northern Ireland, it was to determine how the Capital funding for 26/27 should be allocated, as well as how the Capital and Resource funding for the remainder of the spending review period should be allocated. The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) and Northern Ireland Executive Departments have identified two overarching priorities for the LGF: • Enhancing productivity - through business support and promoting innovation, infrastructure investment and skills enhancement. • Promoting active participation in the workforce - through investment in economic inactivity provision, social enterprise support and social inclusion, including working with employers.

	To inform the development of the Fund, the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA), in partnership with the NIO, hosted a workshop with local authorities to gather views on the proposed priorities and facilitate engagement with Council officers. The workshop and accompanying consultation provided Councils with an opportunity to help shape the future investment framework, ensuring that LGF resources are targeted effectively to maximise economic and social impact across Northern Ireland.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To note Council's consultation response to Local Growth Fund.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	N/A
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i> It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations ☒
5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i> Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened ☐ The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation ☐
5.3	<i>Proposal initiating consultation</i> Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves ☐

	Consultation period will be 12 weeks Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) Rationale:	☐ ☐
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 ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed	☐
7.0	Appendices	
	This item is deemed to be exempt under 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: Appendix 1 – Local Growth Fund consultation response	
8.0	Background Documents	
	n/a	