

October 7th, 2025

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the meeting to be held on **Monday, 13th October 2025** at **6:00 pm** in **Boardroom, Warrenpoint Town Hall.**

Committee Membership 2025-26

Councillor D Lee-Surginor **Chairperson**

Councillor K Feehan **Deputy Chairperson**

Councillor T Andrews

Councillor W Clarke

Councillor C Galbraith

Councillor O Hanlon

Councillor G Hanna

Councillor V Harte

Councillor G Kearns

Councillor A Lewis

Councillor S Murphy

Councillor A Quinn

Councillor M Ruane

Councillor J Tinnelly

Councillor H Young

Agenda

1.0 Introduction and Apologies

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 Action Sheet: Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism - Committee Meeting Monday 08 September 2025

 *ERT Action Sheet - 08.09.2025.pdf*

Page 1

For Discussion/Decision

4.0 ITOA Workshop

For Decision

 *ERT Report - ITOA Workshop 2025.pdf*

Page 3

Exempt Appendices

4.1 ITOA Workshop 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 the information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

 *ERT Appx - ITOA Workshop 2025 (restricted).pdf*

Not included

For Discussion/Decision

5.0 Summit Of The Cities 2026

For Decision

 *ERT Report - Summit of the Cities 2026.pdf*

Page 6

Exempt Appendices

5.1 Summit Of The Cities 2026 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 the information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

 *ERT Appx - Summit of the Cities 2026 (restricted).pdf*

Not included

6.0 Warrenpoint Baths

For Decision

 **ERT Report - Warrenpoint Baths.pdf**

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Exempt Appendices

6.1 Warrenpoint Baths 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 the information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

 **ERT Appx - Warrenpoint Baths (restricted).pdf**

Not included

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

7.0 Belfast Innovation Region Funding

For Decision

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 the information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

Report to follow.

For Noting

8.0 Building Control 6 x Monthly Update

For Information

 **ERT Report - Building Control 6 Monthly Update.pdf**

Page 13

 **Appx. Building Control 6 x monthly Stats.pdf**

Page 15

9.0 EBR BRIDGE Project

For Information

 **ERT Report - EBR BRIDGE Project.pdf**

Page 20

10.0 Licensing 6 x Monthly Update

For Information

11.0 NMDDC Economic Outlook

For Information

12.0 PEACEPLUS

For Information

Exempt Appendices

12.1 PEACEPLUS Appendices

For Information

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 the information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews

Cllr Callum Bowsie

Ms Michelle Boyle

Cllr Jim Brennan

Ms Sonya Burns

Mr Gerard Byrne

Cllr Pete Byrne

Cllr Philip Campbell

Cllr William Clarke

Cllr Laura Devlin

Ms Louise Dillon

Cllr Cadogan Enright

Cllr Killian Feehan

Cllr Doire Finn

Cllr Conor Galbraith

Cllr Mark Gibbons

Cllr Oonagh Hanlon

Cllr Glyn Hanna

Cllr Valerie Harte

Cllr Martin Hearty

Cllr Roisin Howell

Cllr Tierna Howie

Ms Catherine Hughes

Cllr Jonathan Jackson

Joanne/Noelle Johnston

Cllr Geraldine Kearns

Miss Veronica Keegan

Mrs Josephine Kelly

Mrs Sheila Kieran

Cllr Cathal King

Cllr Aurla King

Cllr Mickey Larkin

Cllr David Lee-Surginor

Cllr Alan Lewis

Cllr Oonagh Magennis

Mr Conor Mallon

Cllr Aidan Mathers

Cllr Declan McAteer

Cllr Leeanne McEvoy

Jonathan McGilly

Ms Tracie McLoughlin

Ms Aveen McVeigh

Cllr Selina Murphy
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Cllr Kate Murphy
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Cllr Declan Murphy
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Sinead Murphy
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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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Cllr Michael Ruane
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Mrs Amanda Smyth
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Cllr David Taylor
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Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly
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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 SHEETECONOMY, REGENERATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING – MONDAY 8th September 2025

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/085/2025	Action Sheet Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting Monday 11 August 2025	it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 11 August 2025.		Noted	Y
ERT/086/2025	Establishment Of Arts Working Group – Notice of Motion	It was agreed to approve the recommendation for the establishment of an Arts Working Group.	A Smyth	Completed – 1 st meeting scheduled	Y
ERT/087/2025	PEACEPLUS	It was agreed to approve the business case and procure the related elements of the Action Plan for: Strand 2.5 Cross-community Festival Programme – “Celebrating Languages Together”.	A Smyth	Completed & procurement underway	Y
ERT/088/2025	Statement Of Community Involvement (SCI) Planning Functions	the following was agreed: • The amendments to the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) as set out within the Report and within the attached SCI (Appendix 1). • The submission of the revised Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) to the Department for Infrastructure for their agreement and carrying out any legislative requirements in terms of publication of the revised SCI.	J McGilly	Completed	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/089/2025	Tourism Events, Facilities and Visitor Servicing Procurements	it was agreed to proceed to procurement to deliver on Council Tourism Events Programme, Tourism Facilities Operations and Visitor Servicing to include: • PA & Lighting • Marquees • Event Staging • Professional Stewarding, Event Safety & Safeguarding • Digital Services for Tourism, Culture & Events • Security Services for Tourism Facilities	A Smyth	Completed & procurement underway	Y
ERT/090/2025	Local Economic Partnership Action Plan	It was agreed to note the NMD Local Economic Partnership approval of an action plan and approve submission of the action plan to Department of Economy for consideration.	A Smyth	Noted	Y
ERT/091/2025	Newry Chamber Music Arts & Outreach Programme	it was agreed to provide support via a letter of offer to Newry Chamber Music for the delivery of an arts & community outreach programme in the 2025/26 season.	A Smyth	Completed	Y
ERT/092/2025	Heritage Projects Update	It was agreed to note the report.	A Smyth	Noted	Y
ERT/093/2025	NMD Museums Update	It was agreed to note the report.	A Smyth	Noted	Y

Report to:	Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 13 October 2025
Subject:	Incoming Tour Operators Association Ireland Workshop 2025
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth and Tourism
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	<u>Purpose</u> To provide sponsorship to Tourism NI for the Incoming Tour Operators Association (ITOA) Ireland Workshop which in 2025 is being hosted in the Slieve Donard Hotel, Newcastle. <u>Background</u> The ITOA Workshop is an ideal platform for ITOA members to come together with a range of Northern Ireland Industry. Around 50 individual ITOA members from 34 organisations will join the workshop. As Northern Ireland’s tourism product continues to develop, and our reputation as a must-see destination reaches new heights, it has become increasingly important for the local industry to position their respective business to this lucrative group. The event will involve an evening reception showcasing local food and drink, workshops and showcasing a sample of experiences in Newry, Mourne and Down.
2.0	Key issues
2.1	A contribution is being pursued from Tourism NI towards the cost of showcasing local food and drink at an evening reception which forms part of the programme for the Tour Operators. No cost for businesses to attend the workshop and it is an excellent opportunity for businesses to share their experiences and grow their business.

3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To provide sponsorship to Tourism NI for the Incoming Tour Operators Association Ireland Workshop which in November 2025 is being hosted in the Slieve Donard Hotel, Newcastle.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Refer to appendix 1
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
	<i>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 and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.</i> Appendix 1: Incoming Tour Operators Association Ireland Workshop 2025 – Resource Implications
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A

Report to:	Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 13 October 2025
Subject:	Summit of the Cities 2026
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth and Tourism
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth and Tourism

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 Council as a key partner on the Summit of the Cities 2026 event <u>Background</u> The Summit of the Cities is a landmark gathering of every city on the island of Ireland, who, for the first time ever, will come together in June 2026 in Belfast. Civic leaders, planners, entrepreneurs and cultural voices from Ireland and Northern Ireland's 12 cities will join global leaders and experts to share ideas, confront common challenges, foster collaboration and innovation, and create a bold vision for a new era of city leadership.
2.0	Key issues
2.1	Council has an opportunity to be a partner in the 2026 Summit of the Cities event. This national and international event is the first of its kind to put cities of Northern Ireland and Ireland as the central focus. The event will explore tangible ways to deepen north–south collaboration and will profile the districts' role as border Council, connecting the island's two largest cities The Summit of the Cities 2026 will: • Provide a platform for Council representatives from all 12 cities to share experiences and to discuss opportunities from city identity. • Introduce global perspectives through keynote speakers and curated breakout sessions • Create a impactful and meaningful event where City & local government can engage with governments and international counterparts.

	• Showcase innovation in urban planning, housing, sustainability, transport, hospitality, nightlife, and economic development.
2.2	As partner of the summit the following opportunities are available • 10 x tickets for the event - value £1500. • Custom discount code for key stakeholders of Council • Pre-event dinner reception offering interaction with keynote speakers • Media opportunities will be offered pre and post event • A dedicated keynote speaking slot will be offered to share expertise and leadership and direct engagement throughout day with all key attendees • Logo placement on all marketing materials including website, email campaigns, brochures, and signage. • Dedicated Exhibition Stall within the event's networking zone. • Feature in national and regional PR activity promoting the event. • Inclusion in paid social media and digital ad campaigns, spotlighting council as a key partner. • Mentions in social media posts, including organic and user-generated content with event hashtag. • Professional video and photo content, captured on the day and provided for marketing and stakeholder communications
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To approve Council as a key partner on the Summit of the Cities 2026 event
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Refer to appendix 1
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
	<i>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 and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.</i> Appendix 1: Summit of the Cities 2026 – Resource Implications
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A

Report to:	Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 13 October 2025
Subject:	Warrenpoint Baths - Update
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth and Tourism
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth and Tourism

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> Members to consider and approve the recommendations in section 3.1 <u>Background</u> A meeting of Crotlieve Councillors was held on 10th September 2025 to recap on the history of the redevelopment of Warrenpoint Baths, and to discuss next steps.
2.0	Key issues
2.1	A timeline of studies, planning and funding/tender opportunities was presented as below:
2.2	Studies Completed to date: 1998: Economic Appraisal – BDO Stoy & Hayward 2010 – Feasibility Study completed: Scot Wilson 2021 – Outline Business Case completed – Cavanagh Kelly All studies undertaken, highlighted the significant cost in development of the baths, which were considered against sustainability and economic return.
2.3	Development Briefs issued / Funding applications made 2006 – Development Brief Issued 2020 – Development Brief Issued 2022 – Funding application submitted – UK Gov Levelling Up (unsuccessful)

2.4	Following the development briefs, no compliant submissions were received Planning Approval Obtained 2017 – Planning Approval obtained for the works below, which was validated in 2022 following the commencement of works: • Refurbishment and extension of the existing adventure centre/storage area • Development of a multipurpose room • Development of new and modern seaweed baths/spa area • Development of a coffee shop • Development of external venue space
2.5	The Business Case completed in 2021 by Cavanagh Kelly was completed on the basis of Planning Approval for the site. i.e. • Development: Café, Seaweed baths & water sports, storage / changing facilities leased out to a 3rd party to operate with changing facilities open to the public
2.6	Sea Wall Inspections WYG conducted sea wall inspections in 2020. This study concluded that the conditions of the bath walls were poor, which particular concerns around the extend of horizontal and vertical cracks on walls. Reference was also made to steel beams being heavily corroded and wing walls which are tied into the building appear to have been heavily affected by marine hydraulic action. To inform the development of the baths further intrusive structural and investigative studies on the condition of the structure would be required.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To approve: Commission a comprehensive intrusive structural condition survey of the Baths structure and buildings.
3.2	Continue to explore and progress any relevant / appropriate funding opportunities for delivery of the approved project.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Refer to appendix 1
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 ☐
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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
	<i>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 and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business</i> Appendix 1: Resource implications
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A

Report to:	Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 13 October 2025
Subject:	6 Monthly Building Control Update Report
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director Regeneration
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Edwin Newell Head of Building Control and Licensing

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> Members to note 6 monthly update on the Building Control Service. <u>Background</u> Building Control provide the following services: 1. Enforce Building Regulations, Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations and Dangerous Structures Legislation within the Council District. 2. Carry out Annual Fire Risk Assessments on all Council buildings.
2.0	Key issues
2.1	N/A
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To note the content of the report.
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) ☐ <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
	1. Building Control 6 Monthly Report – 1 st March 2025 to 31 st August 2025
8.0	Background documents
	N/A

6 Monthly Report for ERT Committee Meeting

1.0 Building Regulations Report – Matters for Noting

1.1 Number of Building Regulation Applications Received

01 Mar 2025 – 31 Aug 2025
1122

1 Mar 2024 – 31 Aug 2024
1556

1.2 Fees Received

1 Mar 2025 – 31 Aug 2025
Plan Fee £108,370.84
Inspection Fee £182,992.22
Other Fee £1118.10
Total £292,481.16

1 Mar 2024 – 31 Aug 2024
Plan Fee £97,378.42
Inspection Fee £344,743.80
Other Fee £1,251.50
Total £443,373.72

1.3 Site Inspections carried out

01 Mar 2025 – 31 Aug 2025
4317

1 Mar 2024 – 31 Aug 2024
4941

1.4 Performance

Current performance indicators:-

Domestic Plan Assessments assessed within 21 days (Target 80%) 89%
Non Domestic Plan Assessments assessed within 35 days (Target 80%) 73%
BR3 Returns assessed within 14 days (Target 85%) 91%

2.0 Enforcement

Number of premises visited to assess extent of unauthorised works between March 2025 and August 2025 = 5

7 Knockchree Road, Downpatrick	New dwelling	Resolved
142a Loughinisland Road, Downpatrick	Change of use from stone building to place of assembly	Currently awaiting update from Planning enforcement case
42 Millvale Road, Bessbrook	Alterations	Resolved
98 Dominic Street, Newry	Alterations and change of use	Resolved
35 Saintfield Mill, Saintfield	Change of use from office to shop	Timeframe not expired yet

3.0 Dangerous Structures

Number of premises identified as dangerous structures between March 2025 and August 2025 = 7

1 Cross Street, Killyleagh	Loose slate and loose metal coping	Resolved
6 Cushowen Place, Drumaness	Fire damaged dwelling (loose roof slates and debris)	Resolved
4 Cushowen Place, Drumaness	Fire damaged dwelling (loose roof slates and debris)	Resolved
9 Windy Road, Newry	Dangerous roof structure and loose stone wall supporting the roof	Resolved
7 Newry Street, Kilkeel	Dangerous building	Resolved
47 Merchants Quay, Newry	Fire damage to building	Resolved
130 Drumaness Road, Drumaness	Unsafe building	Resolved

4.0 Property Certificates

Property certificates responded to date.

1 Mar 2025 – 31 Aug 2025
1368

1 Mar 2024 – 31 Aug 2024
1283

5.0 Fire Risk Assessments

Number of Fire Risk Assessments carried out during the past 6 months = 30.

- Bunscoil
- Newry Market
- Newtownhamilton Community Centre
- Aughnagun Landfill Site
- Warrenpoint Recycling Centre
- Hilltown Public Convenience
- Bessbrook Bowling Pavilion
- Bann Road Civic Amenity Site
- Islands Park Tennis Building
- Donard Park Pavilion
- Castle Depot
- Down Arts Centre
- Down County Museum
- Ballymote Sports and Wellbeing Centre
- Ballykinlar Community Centre
- Killyleagh Bridge Centre
- Downshire Civic Centre
- DSO Works Depot
- Ballynahinch Community Centre
- Down Leisure Centre
- Tyrella Gate Lodge
- Saintfield Sports Centre
- Annsborough Pavilion
- Crossgar Changing Pavilion
- Dundrum Pavilion
- Killough Pavilion
- Ardglass Pavilion
- Donard Park Toilets
- Castlewellan Toilets
- Central Promenade Toilets

6.0 Energy Performance of Buildings (EPB) Checks and LPS Vacant Rating 1st March 2025 -31st August 2025

ESTATE AGENTS

- ❖ Total no of agents checked (on site/ website) - 48
- ❖ Total number of properties not compliant – 4
- ❖ Number of first warning letters issued – 1
- ❖ Number of successful first warning letters – 1

DISPLAY ENERGY CERTIFICATES (DEC's)

- ❖ Number of buildings checked on Landmark - 216
- ❖ Number of buildings compliant on Landmark - 169
- ❖ Number of first warning letters issued - 18
- ❖ Number of successful first warning letters - 1

AIR CONDITIONING

- ❖ Number of air con buildings checked on landmark - 111
- ❖ Number of air con buildings compliant – 99
- ❖ Number of first warning letters issued - 12
- ❖ Number of successful first warning letters – 5

EPCs RECEIVED (ON CONSTRUCTION)

- ❖ Number of new dwelling EPCs checked on Landmark – 29
- ❖ Number of new dwellings complaint – 29
- ❖ Number of dwellings now compliant after Letter 1 -

LPS VACANT RATING

- ❖ Currently suspended by Land and Property Services

Recommendation:
For Noting

Report to:	Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 13 October 2025
Subject:	PEACE PLUS - BRIDGE Project
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth and Tourism
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth, Assistant Director of 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 award of funding to East Border Region (EBR) from the SEUPB PEACEPLUS Programme for the BRIDGE Project. <u>Background</u> Project - Building Resilient Institutions for Development, Governance and Engagement (BRIDGE) EBR is the Lead Partner on the BRIDGE project.
2.0	Key issues
2.1	The BRIDGE project is a cross-border initiative that aims to strengthen governance, leadership, and institutional capacity in the border counties of Northern Ireland and Ireland. Led by East Border Region and supported by the Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN), the partners will engage with 12 local authorities and involve 775 participants, including locally elected members and local government officials over 3 years. By addressing long-standing governance challenges and leveraging skills development and collaboration, BRIDGE seeks to build institutional capacity, trust in leadership and a sustainable border region. The BRIDGE project's strategy for enhancing institutional capacity involves 2 key work packages, each with a set of targeted activities and deliverables that contribute to the project's main outputs and deliver the results. • Work Package 1: Leadership & Skills Development • Work Package 2: Collaboration & Institutional Networks

	The project has just been awarded funding, and EBR will be commencing the implementation of it over the coming weeks and months. As a partner Council of EBR, NMDDC elected members and officers will benefit from participation.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To note the award of funding to East Border Region, from the SEUPB PEACEPLUS Programme for the BRIDGE Project.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	BRIDGE Project has been awarded €1.3 million from the PEACEPLUS Programme
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 13 October 2025
Subject:	Licensing 6 Monthly Report
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director Regeneration
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Paula Hughes, Senior Licensing Officer

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

For decision		For noting only		x	
1.0	Purpose and Background				
1.1	<u>Purpose</u> To note the contents contained within the Licensing 6 monthly report. <u>Background</u> The Licensing Section is responsible for administering the Entertainment, Cinema, Petroleum, Amusement, Marriage, Street Trading, Lotteries, Road Closures, Pavement Café and Shops Sunday Trading, Postal Numbering, Street/Road naming and Street Nameplate functions.				
	Key issues				
2.1	n/a				
3.0	Recommendations				
3.1	To note the contents contained within the Licensing 6 monthly report.				
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) ☐ <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
	1. Licensing 6 Monthly Report – 1st March 2025 to 31st August 2025
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A

Licensing Report: Matters for Noting

1 March 2025 – 31 August 2025

1.0	Application Information	
1.1	Number of Licensing Applications Received and Validated (Entertainment, Cinema, Petroleum, Amusement, Marriage, Street Trading, Lotteries, Road Closures, Pavement Café and Shops Sunday Trading)	240
1.2	Number of Licences Granted (Entertainment, Cinema, Petroleum, Amusement, Marriage, Street Trading, Lotteries, Road Closures, Pavement Café and Shops Sunday Trading)	217
1.3	Number of Annual Inspections Carried out (Amusement, Cinema, Entertainment, Marriage, Petroleum and During Performance Inspections)	241

2.0 List of Entertainment Licences Issued

Name of Premises (Entertainment)	Address	Town	Postcode
McCoys Bar	73 Kilmorey Street	Newry	BT34 2DH
The Cloughmor Inn	2 Bridge Street	Rostrevor	BT34 3BG
Denvir's	14-16 English Street	Downpatrick	BT30 6AB
Newry Street Community Centre	57 Hillside Drive	Kilkeel	BT34 4JF
Orchard Bar	114 Rathfriland Road	Newry	BT34 1PH
Maginns Bar	9-11 Main Street	Castlewellan	BT31 9DF
Saint Patricks Primary School Mayobridge	9 Chapel Hill	Newry	BT34 2EX
Kilmorey Arms Hotel	41-43 Greencastle Street	Kilkeel	BT34 4BH
Newry City A.F.C Social Club	Greenbank Industrial Estate	Newry	BT34 2QU
Nan Rice's	7-9 Francis Street	Newry	BT35 8BQ
St. Patricks Gaelic Social Club	4B Old Road	Mayobridge	BT34 2HE
AOH Hall Glassdrumman	298 Glassdrumman Road	Annalong	BT34 4QN
Ye Old Ship Inn	12-14 The Square	Warrenpoint	BT34 3JT
The Barn Bar and Country Kitchen	37 Mearne Road	Downpatrick	BT30 6SY
Owenbeg Bowling and Sports Club	77 Stream Street	Downpatrick	BT30 6DE
St Colmans GAC	91 Old Park Road	Ballynahinch	BT24 8SE
Catholic Working Mens Club	36a Hill Street	Newry	BT34 1AR
Annsborough GAC Social Club	42 Ballylough Road	Castlewellan	BT31 9NN
Villa Vinci	31 Main Street	Newcastle	BT33 0AD
Second Saintfield Presbyterian Church Hall	Fairview Ballynahinch Road	Saintfield	BT24 7AD

Newry Leisure Centre	60 Cecil Street	Newry	BT35 6AU
The Bridge Bar	55 North Street	Newry	BT34 1DD
Peadar O'Doirnin GAA Club	4 Bog Road	Forkhill	BT35 9SZ
Annalong Presbyterian Church Hall	Major's Hill	Annalong	BT34 4QR
Magees Bar	13 Trevor Hill	Newry	BT34 1DN
Atticall Community Centre	140 Tullyframe Road	Kilkeel	BT34 4RZ
The Mariner	59 Central Promenade	Newcastle	BT33 0HH
The White Horse Inn	49/53 Main Street	Saintfield	BT24 7AB
Montalto House	Montalto Estate Dromore Road	Ballynahinch	BT24 8AY
Green Heights	2-4 Strangford Road	Ardglass	BT30 7SF
Minerstown Tavern	68 Minerstown Road	Downpatrick	BT30 8SU
Irish National Foresters (INF) Club	9 Havelock Place	Warrenpoint	BT34 3NE
Mac's Bar	48 Main Street	Hilltown	BT34 5UJ
Irish National Foresters (INF)	22 Rostrevor Road	Hilltown	BT34 5XR
The Saint Patrick Centre	53A Lower Market Street	Downpatrick	BT30 6LZ
Old Killowen Inn	10 Bridge Street	Rostrevor	BT34 3BG
Curran's Bar and Seafood Steakhouse	83 Strangford Road	Ardglass	BT30 7SP
The Three Steps	76 Finnegan's Road	Dromintee	BT35 8TA
St Mochais GAC Darragh Cross	119 Manse Road	Crossgar	BT30 9LZ
The Oaks Bar	5 Darragh Cross	Saintfield	BT24 7EQ
Anchor Bar	49 Castle Street	Killough	BT30 7QQ
Newry Shamrocks GAC Social Club	7 Ballinacraig Way	Newry	BT34 2QX
Longstone Community Hall	65 Longstone Road	Annalong	BT34 4UY
International Bar	7-9 Cross Street	Killyleagh	BT30 9QU
Saval GFC Sports & Leisure Complex – Saval GAC	20 Coalpit Road	Newry	BT34 2RQ
The Bank Bar	1-2 Trevor Hill	Newry	BT34 1DN
Glenn GAC	32 Barr Hill	Newry	BT34 1SY
Newry Olympic Hockey Club	2 Belfast Road	Newry	BT34 1QA
Windmill Bar	46 Church Street	Newry	BT34 2AU
Burrendale Hotel and Country Club	51 Castlewella Road	Newcastle	BT33 0JY
Ballynahinch Rugby Football Club	Ballymacarn Park, 6 Mountview Road	Ballynahinch	BT24 8JR
The Lodge Building & Cultural & Business Centre	1 Dublin Road	Castlewella	BT31 9AG
Number 7	7 Duke Street	Warrenpoint	BT34 3JY
The Old Commercial Bar & Lounge	2 Kildare Street	Ardglass	BT30 7TR
Carlingford Lough Yacht Club	Killowen Point	Rostrevor	BT34 3AN
Newry Omniplex Cinema	Albert Basin	Newry	BT35 8QS
Rocky Mountain Cottage/Santa's Cottage	59 Sandbank Road	Hilltown	BT34 5XX
St. Patrick's Gaelic Social Club	4B Old Road	Mayobridge	

The Corner Inn	29 Killyleagh Street	Crossgar	BT30 9DQ
Duffys Circus	Greencastle/Scrogg Road	Kilkeel	BT34 4DE
Circus Vegas	Craigmore Road	Newry	BT35 6JR
Ballyholland Harps GAC	Bettyshill Road	Newry	BT34 2NU
Hanratty's Bar	7 Newry Street	Crossmaglen	BT35 9JH
Mourne Golf Club	36 Golf Links Road	Newcastle	BT33 0AN
Swiftys	16 The Square	Newtownhamilton	BT35 0AA
The Dundrum Inn	143-145 Main Street	Dundrum	BT33 0LX
The Q Club	2 Basin Quay	Newry	BT35 6HU
Liatroim Fontenoys GAC	11 Backaderry Road	Castlewellan	BT31 9SL
Dan Rice Memorial Hall	Drumaness Road	Drumaness	BT24 8RL
Patrician Youth Centre	John Street	Downpatrick	BT30 6HS
Mulhollands Bar	18-20 Main Street	Castlewellan	BT31 9DG
The Avenue Bar	18 St Patrick's Avenue	Downpatrick	BT30 6DW
The Primrose	30 Main Street	Ballynahinch	BT24 8DN
Rowallane Community Hub	35 Main Street	Saintfield	BT24 7AB
St Joseph's Independent Club	32 Kilmorey Street	Newry	BT34 2DE
Newry Variety Market	Mary Street	Newry	BT34 2AA
Down County Museum	The Mall English Street	Downpatrick	BT30 6AH
Flagstaff Lodge	11 Forkhill Road	Newry	BT35 8LZ
Slieve Gullion Forest Park	89 Drumintee Road	Meigh	BT35 8SW
McSwiggans Bar	59 North Street	Newry	BT34 1DD
St Patricks GFC Dromintee	18 Aghadavoyle Road	Jonesborough	BT35 8JJ
Joyland Amusement Centre	1-7 Central Promenade	Newcastle	BT33 0AA
Clonduff GAA Club	18 Castlewellan Road	Hilltown	BT34 5UJ
Kilkeel Royal British Legion Club	20 The Harbour	Kilkeel	BT34 4AX
INF Glen Club	37 Bridge Street	Rostrevor	BT34 3BG
Kilhorne Parish Church Hall	110 Kilkeel Road	Annalong	BT34 4TJ
Finnis Orange Hall	165 Rathfriland Road	Dromore	BT25 2EG
Kings Bar	136 Rathfriland Road	Dromara	BT25 2EE
Whitecross Lounge	176B Tullyah Road	Whitecross	BT60 2SN
McGuigan's Bar	48 Monaghan Street	Newry	BT35 6AA
Newry Masonic Social Club	Downshire Road	Newry	BT34 1EE
Cobbles Bar	15 The Mall	Newry	BT34 1XA
The Bank Bar	1-2 Trevor Hill	Newry	BT34 1DN
Coney Island Caravan Club (Finbars)	75 Killough Road	Ardglass	BT30 7UH
Harbour House Inn	4 South Promenade	Newcastle	BT33 0EX
Marquee at Strangford Festival	Quay Road	Strangford	BT30 7NH
Old Court Barn	60a Old Court	Strangford	BT30 7NG
Gallaghers	59-61 Main Street	Newcastle	BT33 0AE
Liatroim Fontenoys GAC	11 Backaderry Road	Castlewellan	BT31 9SL

3.0 List of Petroleum Licences Issued

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Name of Premises (Petroleum)	Address	Town	Postcode
Donard View Service Station	76 Crossgar Road	Ballynahinch	BT24 8XS
Brennans	149 Newcastle Road	Seaforde	BT30 8PL
Supervalu Newcastle (Barbican)	80-82 Dundrum Road	Newcastle	BT33 0LN
Gregory's Service Station	109 Camlough Road	Bessbrook	BT35 7EE
Annacloy Filling Station	41 Annacloy Road	Downpatrick	BT30 9AE
Meadowside Filling Station	27 Church Street	Downpatrick	BT30 6EH
Grant Stores	2 Bog Road	Kilkeel	BT34 4HT
Hearty Fuels	2 Drumill Road	Newry	BT35 9LA
Central Garages	21 Killyleagh Street	Crossgar	BT30 9DQ
Greenbank Service Station	7 Warrenpoint Road	Newry	BT34 2PF
Cloughoge Service Station Ltd	10 Forkhill Road	Newry	BT35 8WL
Nicholl Auto 365 Downpatrick	Killough Road	Downpatrick	BT30 6PY
Finch's Millvale	17 Millvale Road	Bessbrook	BT35 7NH
Safe Ltd	8 Newry Road	Camlough	BT35 7JP
PSNI	3 Ballyhornan Road	Downpatrick	BT30 6RB
Henderson Retail - Spar	74 -78 Newcastle Road	Kilkeel	BT34 4NJ
Spar Castlewellan	1 Newcastle Road	Castlewellan	BT31 9DP
A29 Fuel Centre Ltd	3 Armagh Road	Newtownhamilton	BT35 0DG
Fiveways Shop and Service Station	99-101 Armagh Road	Newry	BT35 6PW
O'Hare's Drumaness Ltd T/A Eurospar	121 Drumaness Road	Ballynahinch	BT24 8RL
Rafferty's Garage	42 Newry Road	Kilkeel	BT34 4DT
Mulkerns Eurospar	51A Forkhill Road	Newry	BT35 8QY
Eurospar Downpatrick	6 Ardglass Road	Downpatrick	BT30 6JQ
Eurospar Clough	2-4 Main Street	Clough	BT30 8RA
Morgan Xpress Archview	26 Camlough Road	Newry	BT35 6JP
Ghan Filling Station	43 Warrenpoint Road	Newry	BT34 2PN
Shanroe Retail Ltd	4 Forkhill Road	Mullaghbawn	BT35 9RA
Eurospar	55 Greencastle Street	Kilkeel	BT34 4BH
Fresh Food Centre	7-9 Dublin Road	Castlewellan	BT31 9AQ
Saintfield Service Station	11 Crossgar Road	Saintfield	BT4 7AS
Murphy Bros	103 Carrickasticken Road	Forkhill	BT35 9RL
Central Filling Station	6 Main Street	Camlough	BT35 7JG
Mac Fuels	56 Forkhill Road	Newry	BT35 8QX
Henry J. McVeigh	33 Clanvaraghan Road	Castlewellan	BT31 9JX
Meadowside Filling Station	27 Church Street	Downpatrick	BT30 6EH
D&W Carlisle Ltd	105 Belfast Road	Ballynahinch	BT24 8FF
Ardmore PSNI Station	3 Belfast Road	Newry	BT34 1EF
T Duffy & Sons Ltd	25-27 Castle Street	Killough	BT30 7QQ

Kearns & Murtagh Ltd	3A Carnbane Industrial Estate	Newry	BT35 6QH
Spar Annalong	35 Kilkeel Road	Annalong	BT34 4TJ
Brennans	12 Main Street	Dundrum	BT33 0LU
Rockmount Service Station	32 Rathfriland Road	Newry	BT34 1JZ
Satellite Filling Station	46 Rathfriland Road	Hilltown	BT34 5YN

4.0 List of Amusement Permits Issued

Name of Premises (Entertainment)	Address	Town	Postcode
Rosco's Amusement Arcade	15 St Patrick's Drive	Downpatrick	BT30 9NE
Max Sports Gaming Centre	4 Margaret Square	Newry	BT34 1DE
The Casino	51 Monaghan Street	Newry	BT35 6AY
Arcadia Amusements	37-39 Central Promenade	Newcastle	BT33 0AA
Funland	90-94 Main Street	Newcastle	BT33 0AE
The Q Club	2 Basin Quay	Newry	BT35 6HU
Casino Palace	8 Water Street	Newry	BT34 1DJ
Joyland Amusements	1 - 11 Central Promenade	Newcastle	BT33 0AA
Boyle Bingo	36a Merchants Quay	Newry	BT35 8HF
Vegas Casino	4 Corn Market	Newry	BT35 8BG

5.0 Street Nameplates

Nameplates Requests Received	58
Nameplates Ordered	65
Nameplates confirmed as being erected	40

6.0 List of Single Language Nameplates erected from 1 March 2025 – 31 August 2025

Street Name	
Comber Road Leading To No's 19 21 And 23	
Colmcille Road, Downpatrick	
Millbrook Drive, Ballynahinch	
Castlerainey Road, Crossgar	
Finnis Road, Dromara	
Leading To 2 4 6 And 8 Shanvally Way, Drumaness	
Linnhurst Park, Drumaness	
Moyra Park, Saintfield	
Moyra Crescent, Saintfield	
Drumnaquouile Road, Ballynahinch	
Carrigagh Road, Dromara	
Orchard Road, Downpatrick	
Drumlin Park, Downpatrick	

Strangford View, Killyleagh	
Mount Crescent, Downpatrick	
Church View, Downpatrick	
Old Mill Lane, Downpatrick	
121,123,123a,127 Silverbridge Road, Mullaghbawn	
Comber Road Leading To No's 19 21 And 23, Killyleagh	
Colmcille Road, Downpatrick	
Dromore Terrace, Warrenpoint	
The Oaks, Ballynahinch	
Millbrook Drive, Ballynahinch	
Greenhill Road, Rathfriland	
Cuan Beach, Killyleagh	
No's 4 - 7 St Annes Close, Killough	

7.0 Requests for Dual Language Nameplates

7.1 Ardglass Road, Downpatrick

It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 115 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).

7.2 Cherry Grove, Cullyhanna

It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 22 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).

7.3 Cregganduff Road, Cullyhanna

It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 37 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).

7.4 Lurgan Road, Silverbridge

It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 44 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).

7.5 Bog Road, Forkhill

It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 20 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).

7.6 Killough Road, Downpatrick

It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 47 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).

7.7 Creeghduff Road, Downpatrick

It was not approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 10 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).

7.8 Phennick Way, Ardglass

It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 20 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).

7.9 Glen Road, Newry

It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 47 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).

7.10 Carrigenagh Road, Kilkeel

It was not approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 110 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).

7.11 Carrivekeeney Road, Newry

It was approved to erect a dual-language street nameplate following a request from an occupant. A postal survey was initiated by the Licensing Section to each occupier with 33 questionnaires posted (figure stated to be amount of houses in given area according to Pointer and Royal Mail).

8.0 Postal Numbering

8.1	Allocation of New Postal Address	302
8.2	Postal queries received	163

Postal queries are address queries from Pointer, Land and Property Services and queries from members of the public.

9.0 Property Certificates

9.1	Number of Property Certificates responded to	1455
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10.0 Requests for Development Naming (Approved)

10.1 "Slieve Cairn View" Drumintee

By Developer: O'Hagan Group Ltd

The proposal of "**Slieve Cairn View**" meets with the Street Naming Criteria under criterion No 2 - "Reflect the local townland name, or a local geographical/topographical feature or social, or historical feature"

The development is assessed off Low Road, Drumintee with a view of a cairn at the top of Slieve Gullion Mountain.

10.2 "**Watsons Fort**" Newry

By Developer: Lotus Homes

The proposal of "**Watsons Fort**" meets with the Street Naming Criteria under criterion No 2 - "Reflect the local townland name, or a local geographical/topographical feature or social, or historical feature" and criteria No. 4 "The prefix of the name can only be the same as an existing street or road name prefix in the locality if it is accessed from that street or road".

The development is being built around the historical NIEA protected Watson's fort rath, hence the name Watsons Fort.

10.3 "**Watsons View**" Newry

By Developer: Lotus Homes

The proposal of "**Watsons View**" meets with the Street Naming Criteria under criterion No 2 - "Reflect the local townland name, or a local geographical/topographical feature or social, or historical feature"

The development is assessed via Doran's Hill, and it is adjacent to the newly approved development of Watson's Fort. The development is situated with a view across the historical NIEA protected Watson's fort rath.

10.4 "**Watsons Glen**" Newry

By Developer: Lotus Homes

The proposal of "**Watsons Glen**" meets with the Street Naming Criteria under criterion No 2 - "Reflect the local townland name, or a local geographical/topographical feature or social, or historical feature" and criteria No. 4 "The prefix of the name can only be the same as an existing street or road name prefix in the locality if it is accessed from that street or road".

The development is accessed off Watsons Road and it is adjacent to Glen Hill, hence the name Watsons Glen.

10.5 "**Watsons Drive**" Newry

By Developer: Lotus Homes

The proposal of "**Watsons Drive**" meets with the Street Naming Criteria under criterion No 2 - "Reflect the local townland name, or a local geographical/topographical feature or social, or historical feature" and criteria No. 4 "The prefix of the name can only be the

same as an existing street or road name prefix in the locality if it is accessed from that street or road".

The development is assessed via Doran's Hill, and it is adjacent to the newly approved development of Watson's Fort. The development is situated with a view across the historical NIEA protected Watson's fort rath.

10.6 "Ballinacraig Close"

By Developer: ED Contracts

The proposal of "Ballinacraig Close" **meets** with the Street Naming Criteria under criterion No. 2 - "Reflect the local townland name, or a local geographical/ topographical feature or social, or historical feature".

The development is in a 'close' layout and is the development is situated in the townland of Ballinacraig, hence the name 'Ballinacraig Close'.

10.7 "Gantry Glen"

By Developer: Calmor Properties

The proposal of "Gantry Glen" **meets** with the Street Naming Criteria under criterion No. 2 - "Reflect the local townland name, or a local geographical/ topographical feature or social, or historical feature"

Use of the word 'Gantry' will allow us build upon the adjacent development (Gantry Lane) which is under development and approved. The 2 developments will be similar and are both close to the train station.

Glen refers to a valley. This reflects the landscape locally and evokes images of serene, natural landscapes and is often associated with tranquillity and harmony with nature.

10.8 "Church Lane"

By Developer: Carnview Construction

The proposal of "Church Lane" **meets** with the Street Naming Criteria under criterion No. 2 - "Reflect the local townland name, or a local geographical/ topographical feature or social, or historical feature" and criterion No. 4 "The prefix of the name can only be the same as an existing street or road name prefix in the locality if it is accessed from that street or road"

The new development is accessed off Church View. The development is situated within the vicinity of the local church.

Recommendation:

For Noting:

Signed: -

Jonathan McGilly

Assistant Director Regeneration

Report to:	Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 13 th October 2025
Subject:	UUEPC - Economic Outlook NMDDC
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth, Assistant Director, Economy, Growth and 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	X
1.0	Purpose and Background	
1.1	<u>Purpose</u> To note the update on Council’s Economic Outlook compiled by Ulster University Economic Policy Centre (UUEPC). <u>Background</u> UUEPC produces economic forecasts for the Council twice a year. The forecasting model generates two scenarios — Baseline and Upper — for both Northern Ireland and the Council area. These scenarios cover a range of indicators, including employment growth, cost of doing business, and Gross Value Added (GVA), which measures the value of goods and services produced within the economy.	
2.0	Key issues	
2.1	<u>Some highlights from the Summer 2025 Forecast</u> Employment in Newry, Mourne and Down is projected to increase by 4,170 jobs under the Baseline scenario and 6,300 jobs under the Upper scenario by 2034. This marks a slight downward revision from the February 2025 forecast, reflecting weaker business confidence due to rising costs of doing business, including higher National Insurance Contributions, increases in the National Living Wage, persistent inflation, and wider global economic pressures. The sectors expected to deliver the strongest growth by 2034 are Construction, Accommodation, and Manufacturing. However, Retail remains the district’s largest employer at present. As of June 2025, the number of payrolled employees in Newry, Mourne and Down stood at 72,040, broadly unchanged from 2024 levels. The unemployment rate is expected to stabilise at around 1.7% in the medium term.	

	Between 2015/16 and 2024/25, the number of vacancies per 1,000 residents in Newry, Mourne and Down declined to 11.9. This remains the lowest vacancy rate of any Local Government District. Although Newry, Mourne and Down has experienced labour productivity growth, there remains significant scope for further improvement. With future employment growth expected to be constrained, raising productivity will be critical to sustaining economic expansion. Investment through the City and Growth Deal will play a central role in driving this shift. Implementation of the Local Economic Partnership Action plan will assist with raising productivity.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To note the update on Council's Economic Outlook compiled by Ulster University Economic Policy Centre (UUEPC).
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
	Appendix 1 – UUEPC Economic Outlook
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Economic Outlook
August 2025

Contents



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Northern Ireland - Economic Outlook

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Newry Mourne and Down District Council - Recent Performance and Economic Outlook

4

Newry Mourne and Down District Council - What has driven local GVA growth since 2012?

5

Concluding Points



Appendix and Glossary

Introduction to the Local Government Forecasts

- The local government economic forecasts are based on the most recent UUEPC Northern Ireland Outlook (published 29th July 2025), which indicates that whilst growth is expected in the medium-term, the NI economy has faced a challenging 2025 thus far.
- UUEPC's in house economic forecasting model is used to produce two economic scenarios (Baseline and Upper) for the NI economy across a range of indicators.
 - Under the Baseline, the NI employment rate rises over the forecast period but remains below the current UK rate.
 - The Upper scenario forecasts a higher, more aspirational employment rate for Northern Ireland, which factors in policy success in achieving a substantially lower inactivity rate.



Northern Ireland Economic Context

Section

Northern Ireland Outlook Overview



To date, 2025 has been a challenging year for the NI economy, reflected by weakening business confidence in recent months and a reduced GVA growth forecast of 1.3%. However, as of June 2025, payrolled employee numbers have risen from the end of 2024 and UUEPC estimate 2026 growth in GVA will rebound to 1.6%, before slowing to 1.5% in 2025.



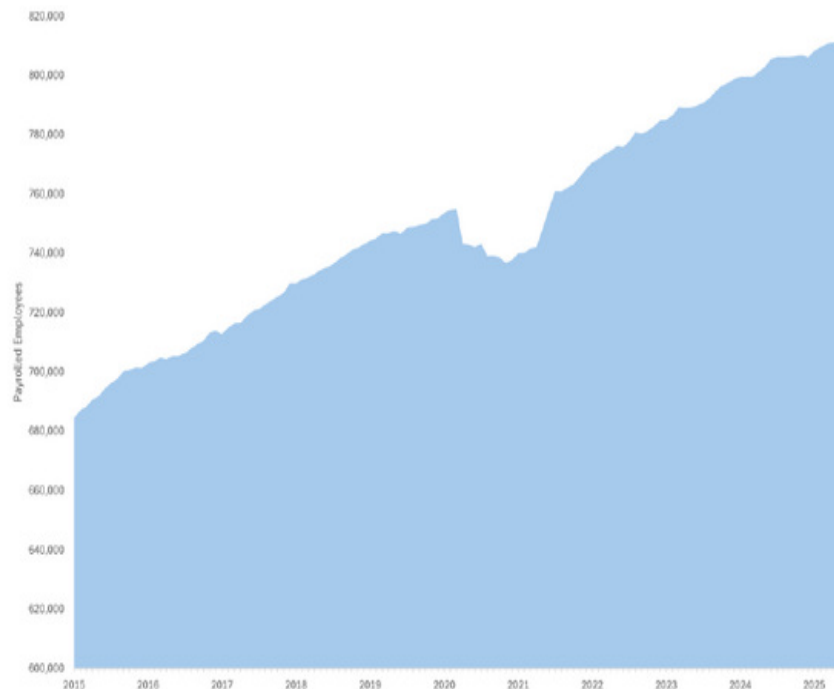
Following a strong annual job growth rate of 2.0% in 2024, growth is projected to slow to 0.7% in 2025 and further to 0.5% in 2026. Meanwhile, the unemployment rate is anticipated to stabilise at around 1.7% in the medium term.



In terms of wider factors impacting the NI economy, increased National Insurance Contributions and Living wages, compounded by global uncertainty surrounding tariffs and geopolitical tensions. These factors are explored further below. In the longer-term, inflation is expected to stabilise at the Bank of England's 2.0% target, whilst interest rates are expected to be reduced in a gradual manner, eventually levelling off at 3.5%.

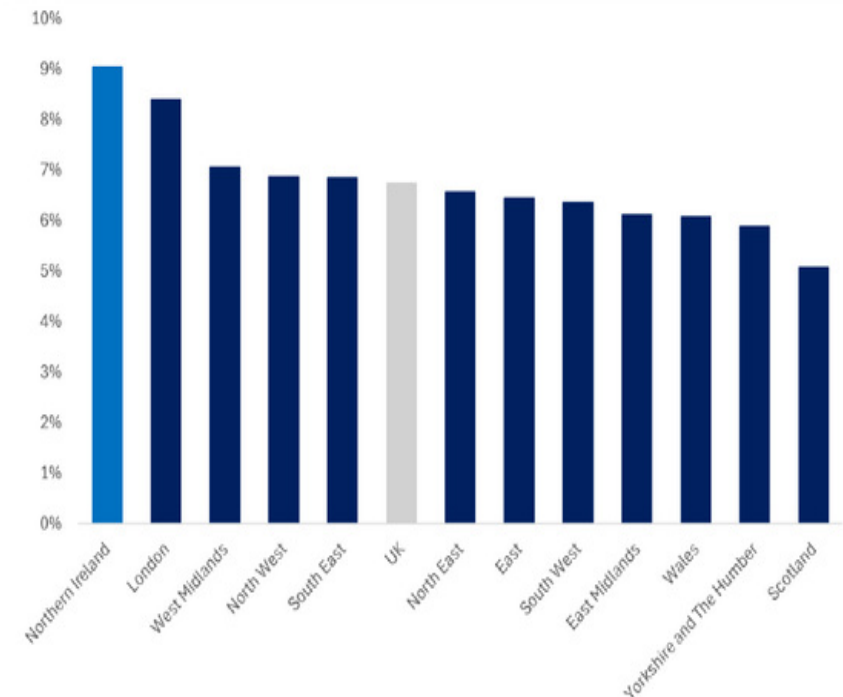
Employee Growth

Payrolled employees, NI, January 2015- June 2025, Seasonally adjusted



Source: HMRC PAYE, NISRA

% change in payrolled employees, UK regions, June 2020 – June 2025

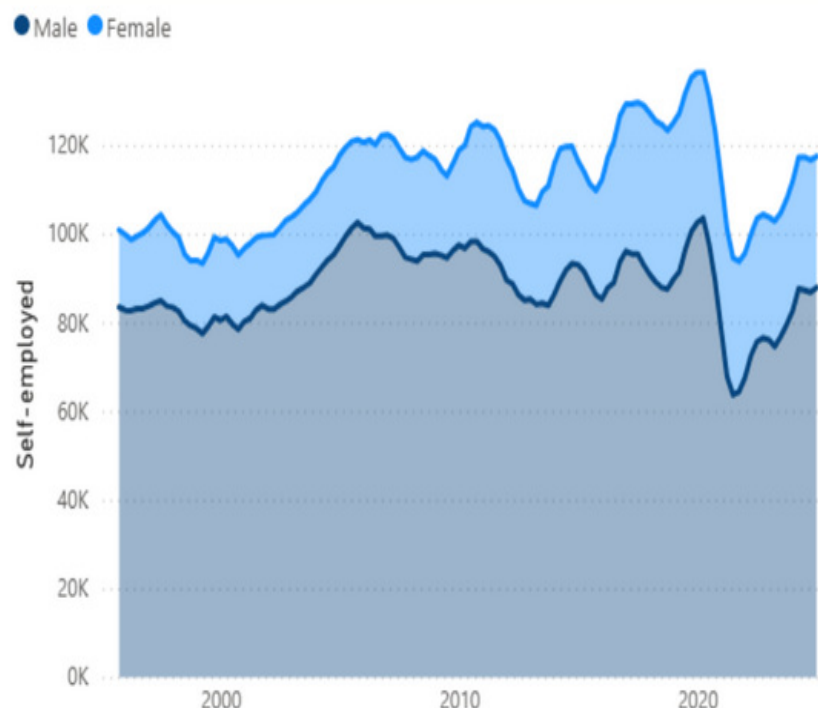


Source: HMRC PAYE, NISRA, UUEPC

- There were 809,168 payrolled employees in NI in June 2025, a decrease of approximately 2,120 from May.
- The average number of payrolled employees in Q2 2025 was 0.1% greater than the previous quarter and 0.9% greater than Q2 2024. Between Q2 2024 and Q2 2025, payrolled employee numbers grew by approximately 7,330, or 0.9%.
- NI recorded the largest increase in payrolled employees over the last 5 years.

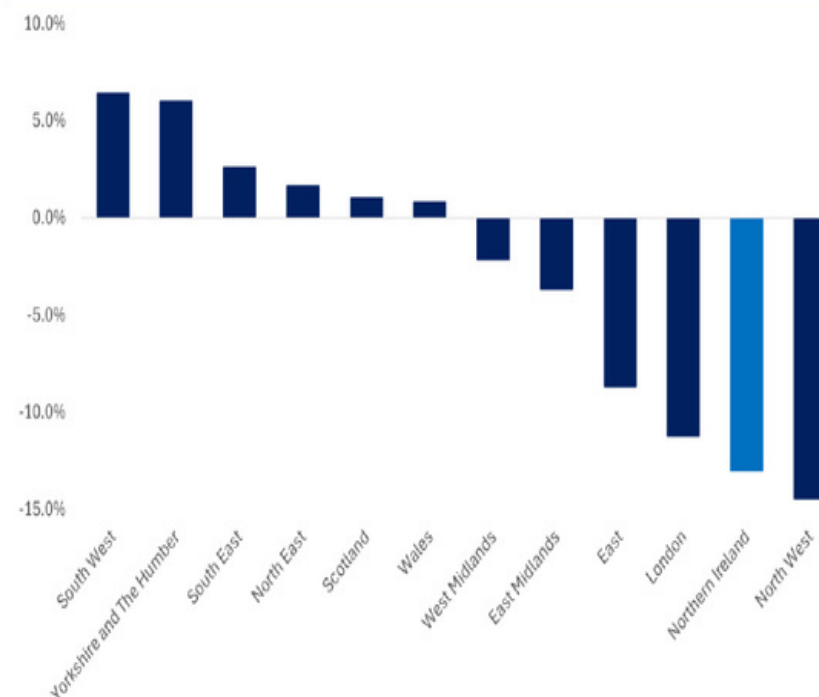
Self-employment facing challenges

Self-employment, NI, 1995 Q4 – 2025 Q1



Source: ONS, Labour Force Survey, UUEPC

Self-employed, % change, UK regions, Q1 2020 – Q2 2025

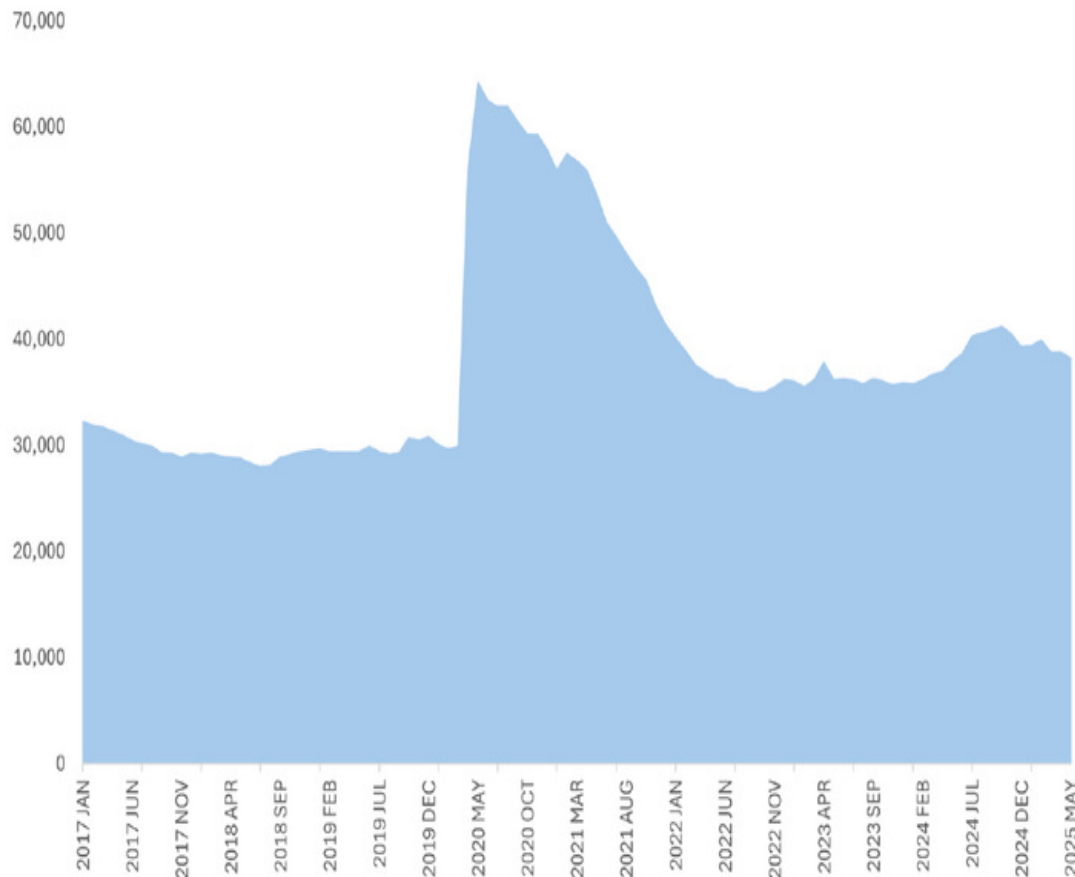


Source: NOMIS

- Historically, male self-employment levels have been greater than female levels, with few signs of convergence over time. Between 2022 Q1 and 2025 Q1, there has been divergence between male and female self-employment in NI, with male self-employment exhibiting a compound annual growth rate of 2.0% compared to 0.4% for females.
- Apart from the North West, no UK region experienced a greater decline in self-employment between Q1 2020 and Q2 2025 than NI. This may reflect a desire for self-employed workers to shift to being employees, as the Covid-19 pandemic highlighted the vulnerabilities associated with self-employment. It may also reflect NI's continued transition towards a service-based economy, which are typically comprised by a higher share of employees.

Fluctuating Claimant Count

Claimant count unemployment (16-64), NI, January 2017- May 2025, Seasonally adjusted



Source: ONS

- There were nearly 38,200 individuals on NI's claimant count in May 2025, or a rate of 3.9%. This is an increase of 300 individuals since May 2024
- However, May 2025's figure is 1,200 lower than the beginning of the year, and 3,000 lower than October 2024's figure of 41,200, the highest level since 2021.
- The claimant count had been continually falling since February, decreasing by 1,700 over the four months to May 2025 and bringing the claimant count rate below 4.0% for the first time since June 2024.

Cost of Doing Business



In recent years, local employers have faced rising costs driven by the effects of the pandemic, followed by high inflation and interest rates linked to the war in Ukraine. More recently, changes to *National Insurance Contributions (NICs)* and increases in the *National Living Wage (NLW)* have further added to the financial pressures on businesses.

NICs changes

- From April 2025 the employer NICs rate increased from 13.8% to 15%.
- The salary threshold fell from £9,100 a year to £5,000 a year.
- The Employment Allowance increased from £5,000 to £10,500 and the previous cap on this allowance (of £100k) has been removed.

National Living Wage (NLW) changes

The NLW has accumulated over time. Over the last 5 years it has displayed an average annual growth rate of 8.3% for workers over 21 and 9.2% for those aged 18 to 20.

In 2025:

- For those aged 21 and over increased by 6.7% to £12.21 an hour
- 18-to-20-year-old rate by 16.3% from £8.60 an hour to £10.00 an hour.
- For comparison purposes the median and 75th percentile hourly wage rates are forecast to increase by 4% and 3% respectively in 2025.

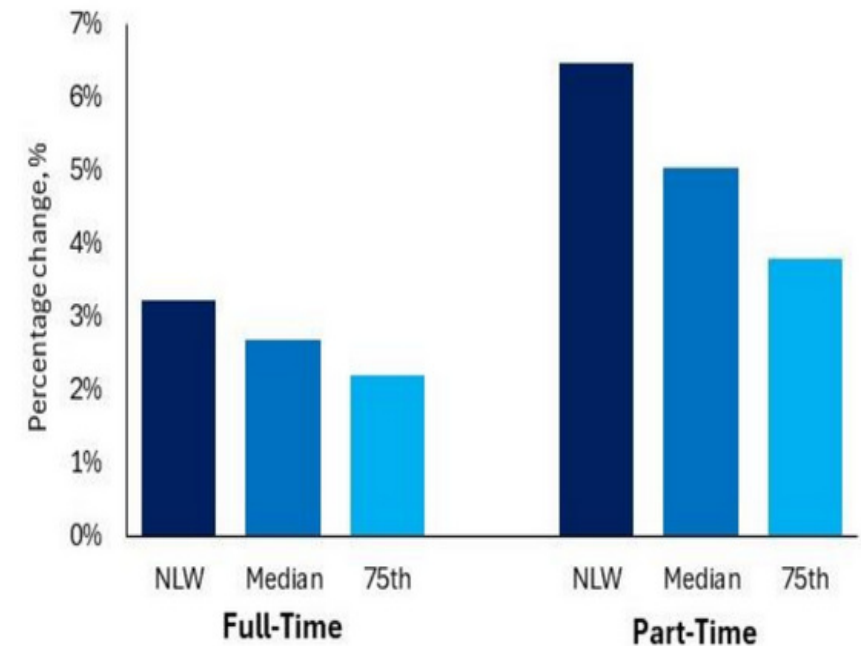
Cost of Doing Business

Employer NICs increase only

The reduction in the earnings threshold from £9,100 to £5,000 will have significant distributional impacts:

- The proportionate cost increase to the employer is greater for those on lower salaries. This is significantly pronounced for p/t workers.
- Those working f/t on the NLW will cost an additional 3.2% compared to 2.2% for those earning the 75th percentile.
- Those working p/t will cost an additional 6.5% (earning NLW) compared to 3.8% (earning 75th percentile).
- This will disincentivise employment in general and for those on lower earnings and part-time in particular.

% increase in labour cost from NICs change only



Source: UUBS analysis

Cost of Doing Business

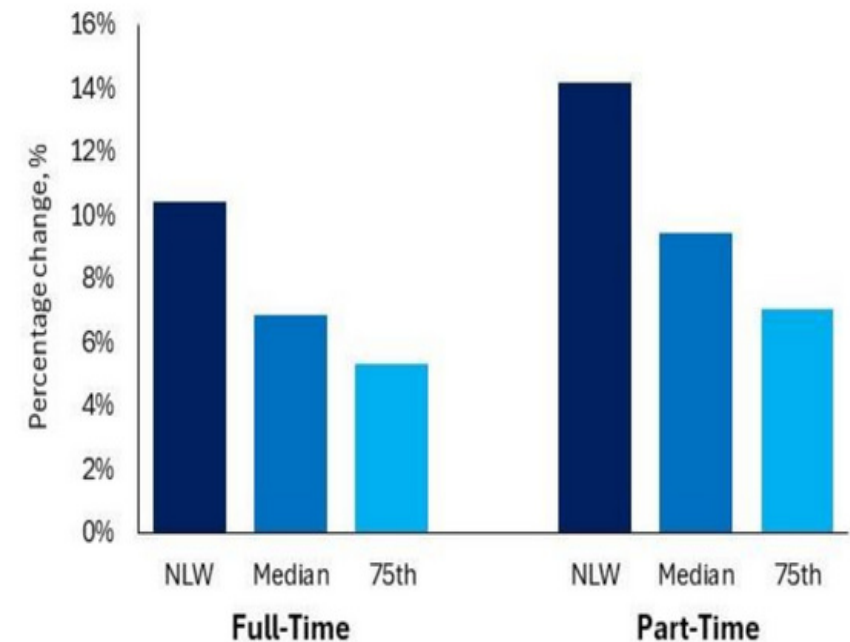
Impact of NICs and NLW increases

The increase in the NLW in 2025 by more than average earners also increases the cost of employing lower earners. In addition, the reduction in the earnings threshold increases further the proportionate cost to the employer for those on lower salaries. This is significantly pronounced for p/t workers:

- Those working f/t on the NLW will cost an add. 10.4% compared to 5.3% for those earning the 75th percentile.
- Those working p/t will cost an add. 14.2% (NLW) and 7.0% (75th percentile).

These changes have the greatest proportionate impact on those employing low earners.

% increase in labour cost from NICs and NLW increases



Source: UUBS analysis

Cost of Doing Business

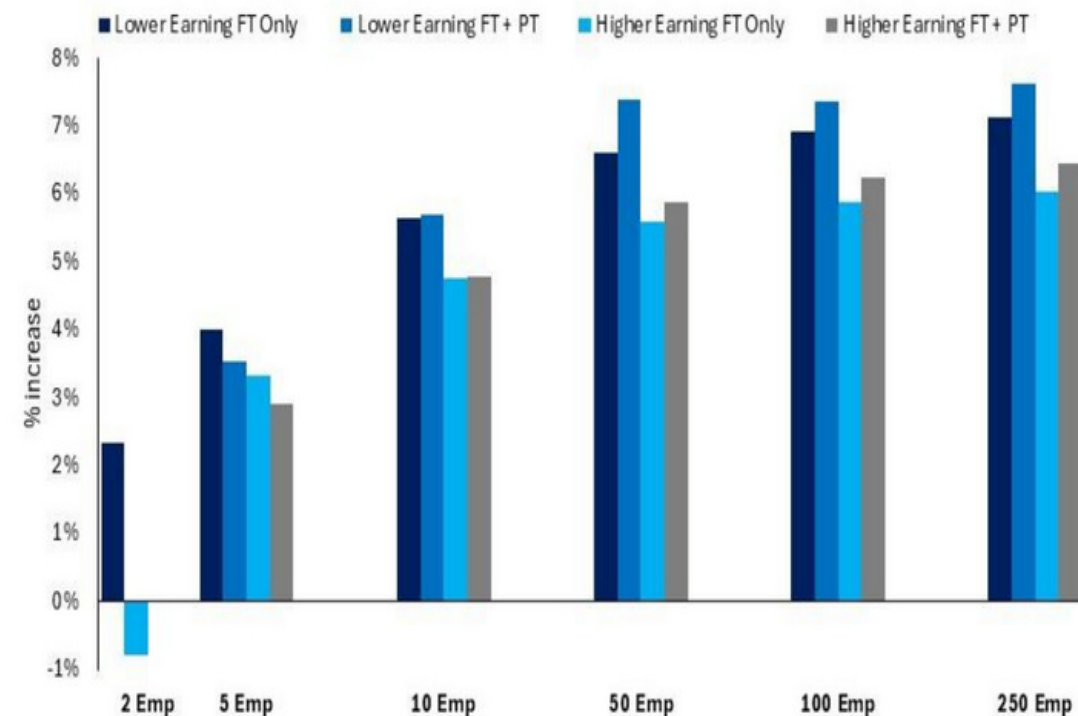
Impact on Firm Sizes

The employment allowance increase from £5k to £10.5k creates differential impacts across firm sizes.

- Those with a higher proportion of lower earners will experience a larger percentage increase in labour costs.
- Those with a higher proportion of lower paid P/T staff, will experience the greatest proportionate increase.
- Very small employers to see only marginal changes.

Larger employers, employing a high proportion of low earners (and part-time workers) will experience the largest proportionate increase in labour costs.

% increase in labour cost from NICs and NLW increases across firm sizes, earnings mix and P/T and F/T status



Source: UUBS analysis

Implications of Rising Tariffs

NI exposure to higher US tariffs

The imposition of higher tariffs directly increases the costs of NI goods exported to the US, part or all of which may be passed on to US customers, reducing the competitiveness of NI exports compared to goods domestically produced in the US.

The US is a key export destination, accounting for 16% of total NI goods exports in 2024.

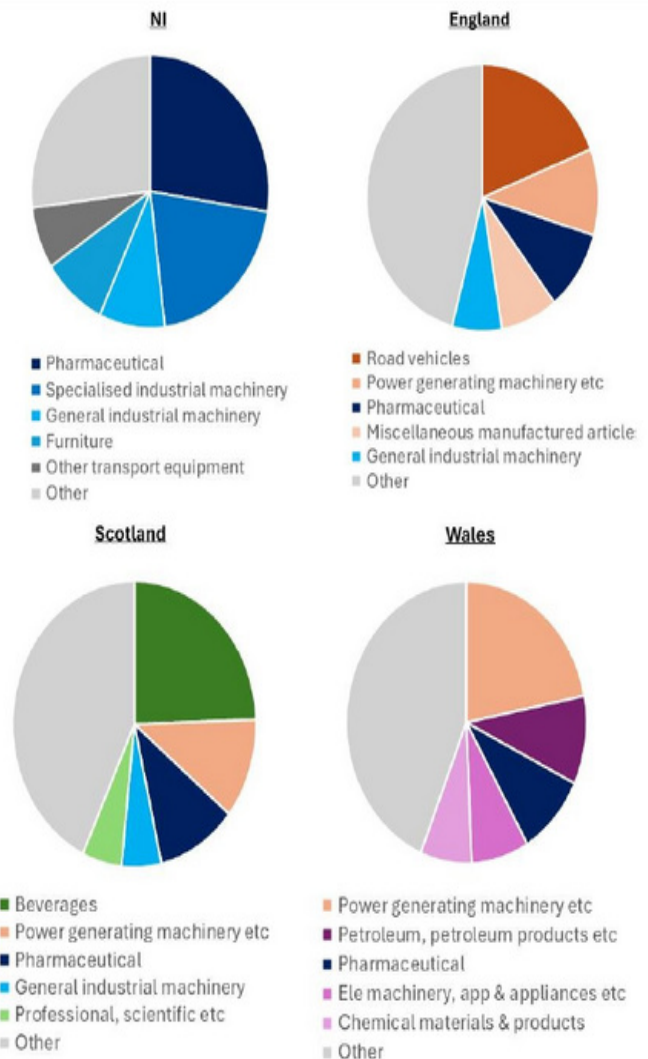
The importance of the US market varies across sectors.

Pharmaceutical Products, Specialised Machinery and General Industrial Machinery account for a large proportion of NI exports, contributing 57% of total exports to the US in 2024.

The UK-US trade agreement includes an outline of a commitment to negotiate preferential terms should the US introduce new tariffs on pharmaceutical imports. Minimising trade barriers in this sector is key to safeguard continued market access.

Exports to the US are more evenly spread across the economy in England, Wales and Scotland, with the top three sectors respectively accounting for 39%, 42% and 46% of the region's total exports to the US.

Regional exports of goods to the US, by sub-sector



Source: HMRC

Implications of Rising Tariffs

Wider spillover effects

The NI economy may also be negatively influenced by spillover effects due to slower national and global economic growth arising from the negative impact of US tariffs on trading partners.

OBR analysis highlights the possible impact of increasing levels of tariff protection on UK GDP.

OBR Tariff Scenarios

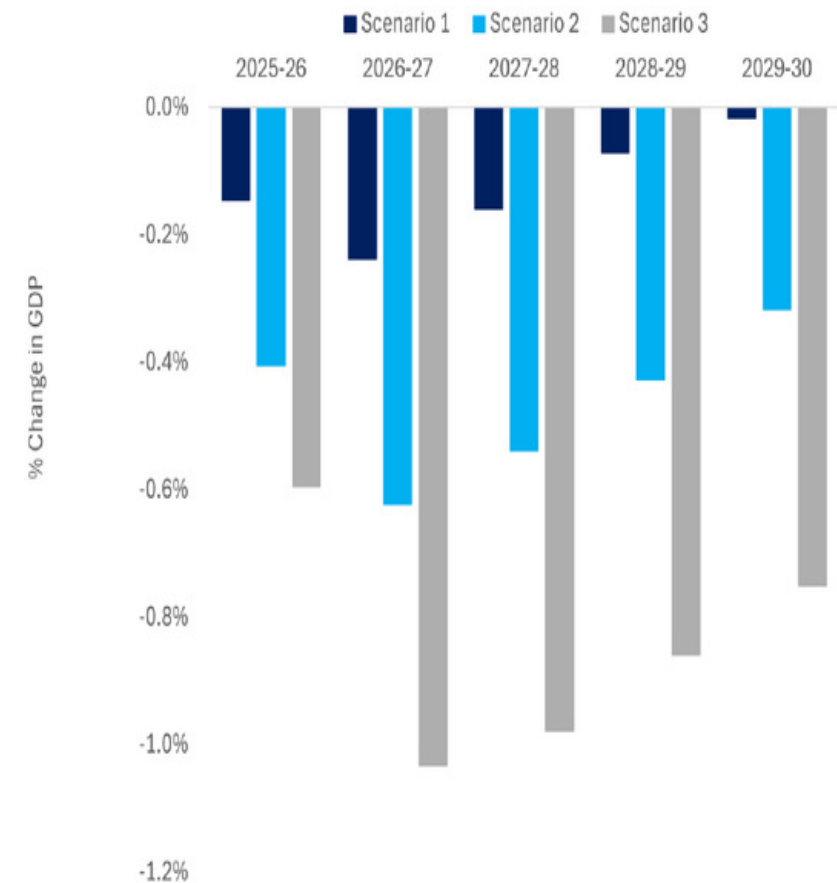
- Scenario 1: US increases tariffs on imports from China, Canada and Mexico by 20%, with these countries retaliating with equivalent tariffs.
- Scenario 2: US increases tariffs on all trading partners by 20%. Only China, Canada and Mexico retaliate with equivalent tariffs.
- Scenario 3: US increases tariffs on all trading partners, including the UK, by 20%. All countries retaliate by imposing equivalent tariffs on US imports.

Under Scenario 1, the imposition of tariffs on a select number of countries has a modest knock-on impact on the UK economy.

Under Scenario 2, the application of sweeping tariffs on all trading partners, including the UK, has larger and longer-term effects due to reduced US demand for UK exports and a slowdown in the global economy.

Under Scenario 3, the rise in protectionism leads to a substantial global slowdown, with knock-on impacts on the UK economy and, by extension, Northern Ireland.

Impact of different levels of tariff protection on UK GDP



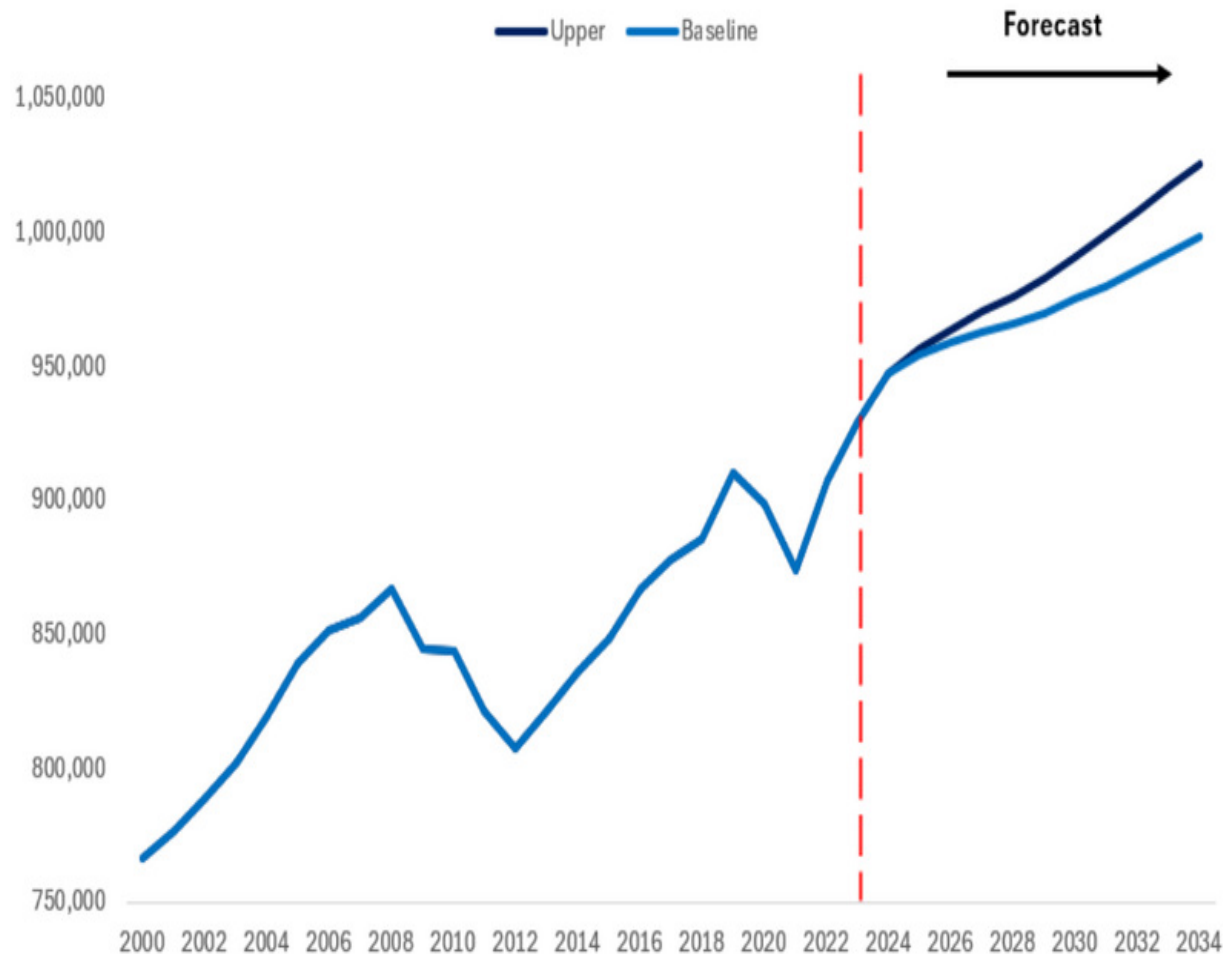
Source: OBR analysis

Northern Ireland Economic Outlook

Section 2

Total Employment Outlook

Employment, NI, 2000 - 2034



UUEPC forecast that total employment in the baseline scenario may reach 998,360 total jobs by 2034, an increase of 50,620 jobs from 2024.



UUEPC suggest there will be growth of 0.7% in 2025, followed by 0.5% growth in 2026.

In an upper scenario, UUEPC anticipate total employment reaching 1,025,870, 78,120 more jobs than 2024.

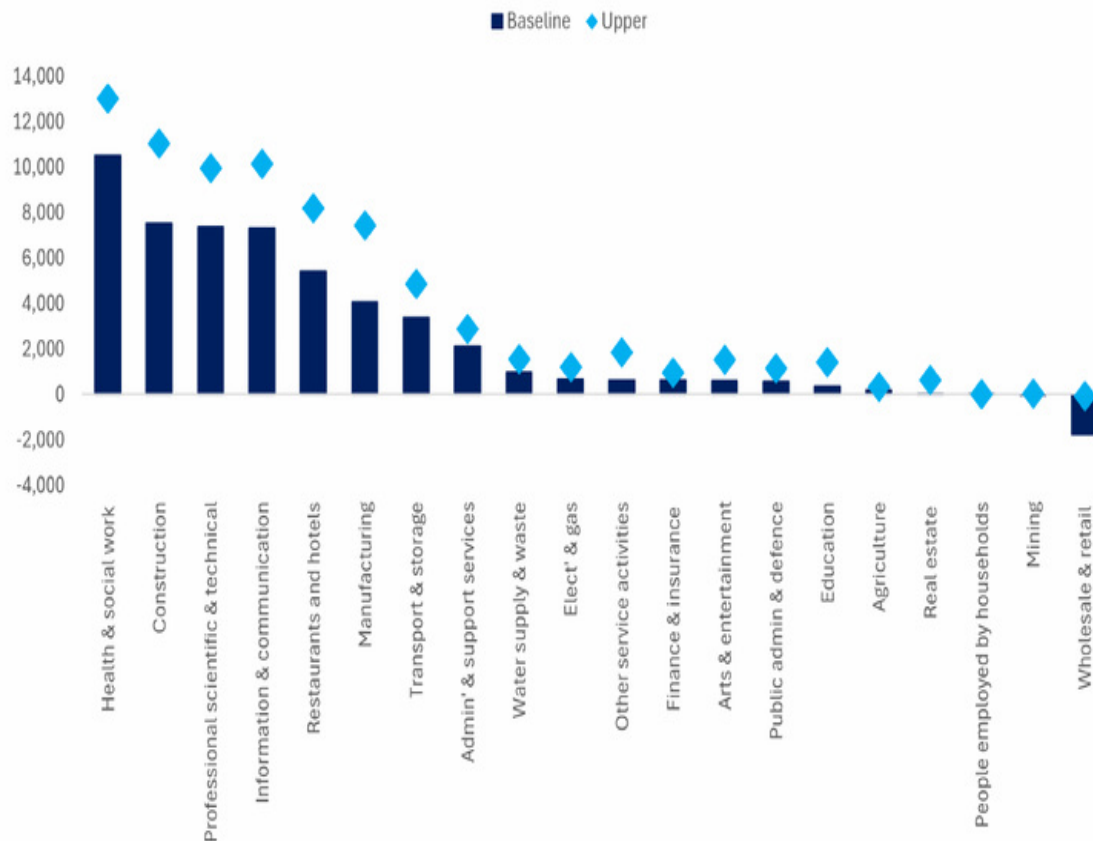


Source: UUEPC Outlook

Note: Total employment refers to workforce jobs including employees, self-employed, Government supported trainees and HM Forces.

Sectoral Job Growth

Net employment change by sector and scenario, NI, 2024-2034



Source: UUEPC Outlook

In both the baseline and upper scenarios, UUEPC forecast that Health and Social Work will be the main driver of additional employment, with 10,520 additional jobs anticipated in the baseline.



This is followed by Construction where 7,530 jobs are anticipated in the baseline, and could reach 11,050 in the upper scenario.

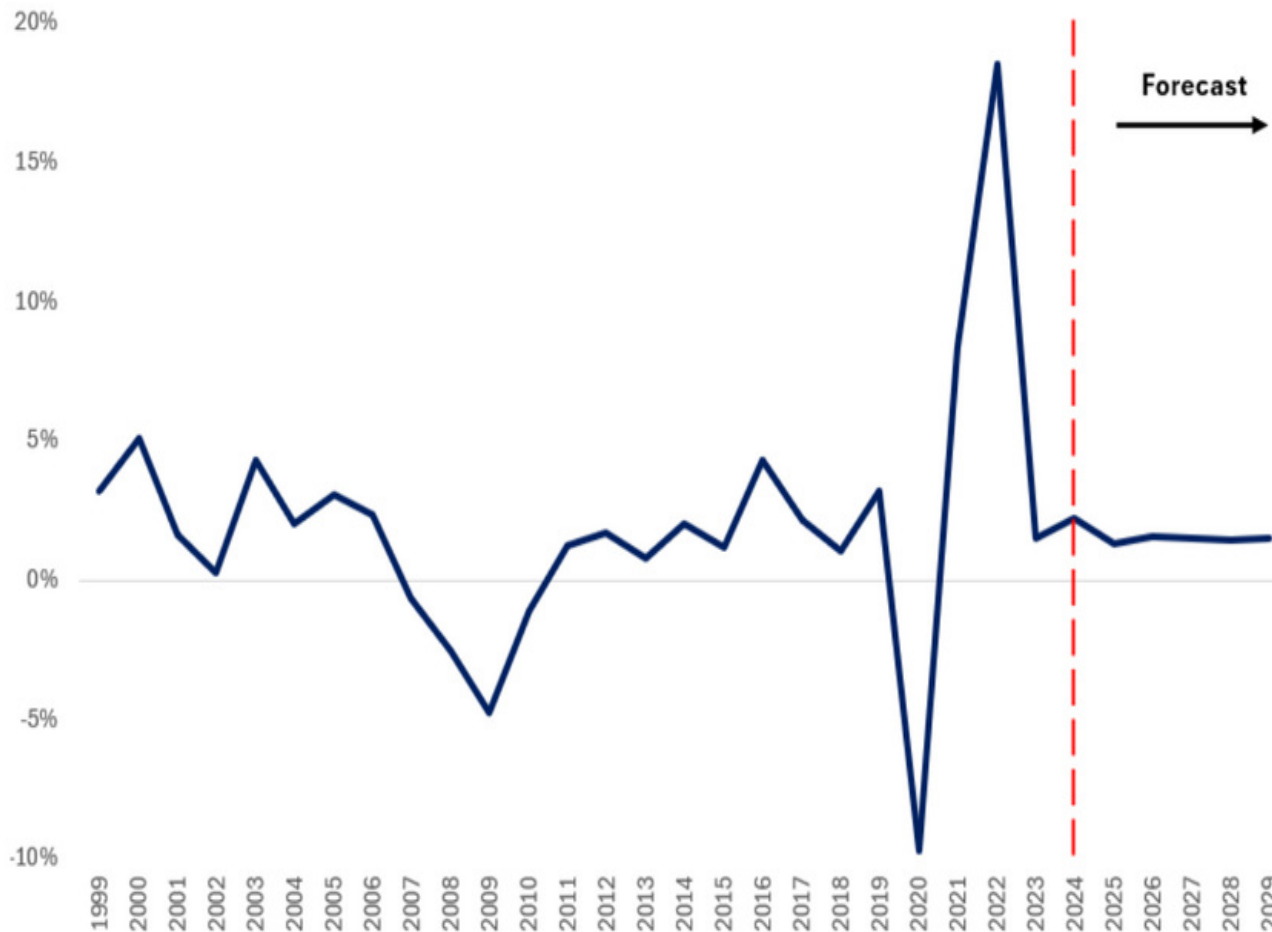


Wholesale and Retail continue to face a long-term decline with a reduction of 1,760 jobs anticipated in the baseline.



Real GVA Growth Rates (%)

Real GVA growth, baseline scenario, NI, 1999-2029



Source: UUEPC Outlook

Note: 2023 is the latest year of GVA data

UUEPC forecast that NI will experience growth of 1.3% in 2025, a downward revision from our December 2024 Outlook.

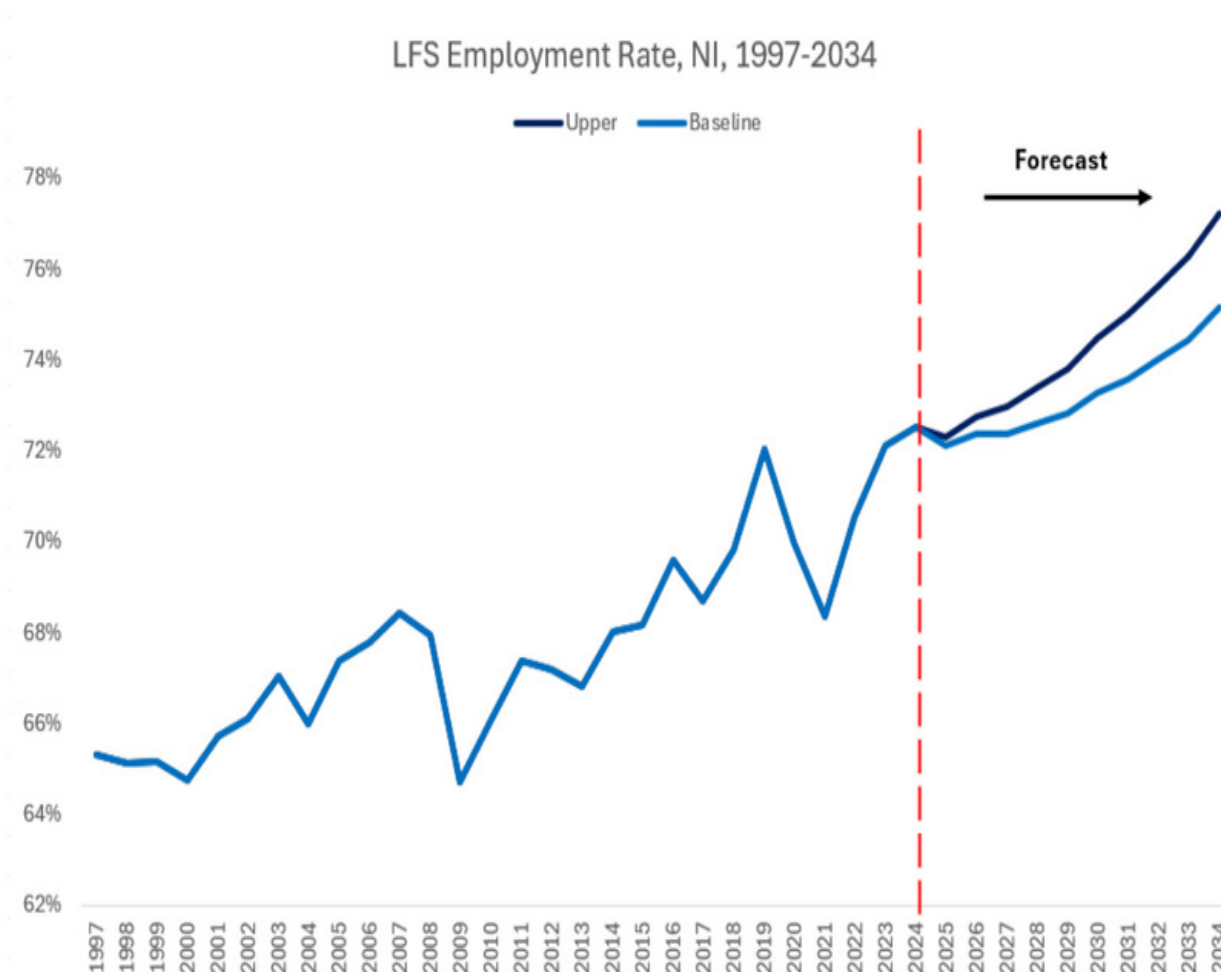


Growth of 1.6% is expected in 2026, followed by growth of 1.5% and 1.4% in 2027 and 2028 respectively.

NI's growth in 2025 is anticipated to be 0.3% greater than UK growth. It is anticipated that growth in NI will outpace that of the UK until 2027.



Employment



Source: UUEPC Outlook

The employment rate is the percentage of all residents of working age (16 to 64) who are employed.

The July 2025 Outlook estimates that the employment rate will decline to 72.1% in 2025, before rising to 72.4% in 2026.

Under a baseline scenario, the employment rate is projected to grow year-on-year, reaching 75.2% by 2034.



Under an upper scenario which factors in policy success with respect to lowering NI's economic inactivity rate, the employment rate is projected to reach 77.2% by 2034.

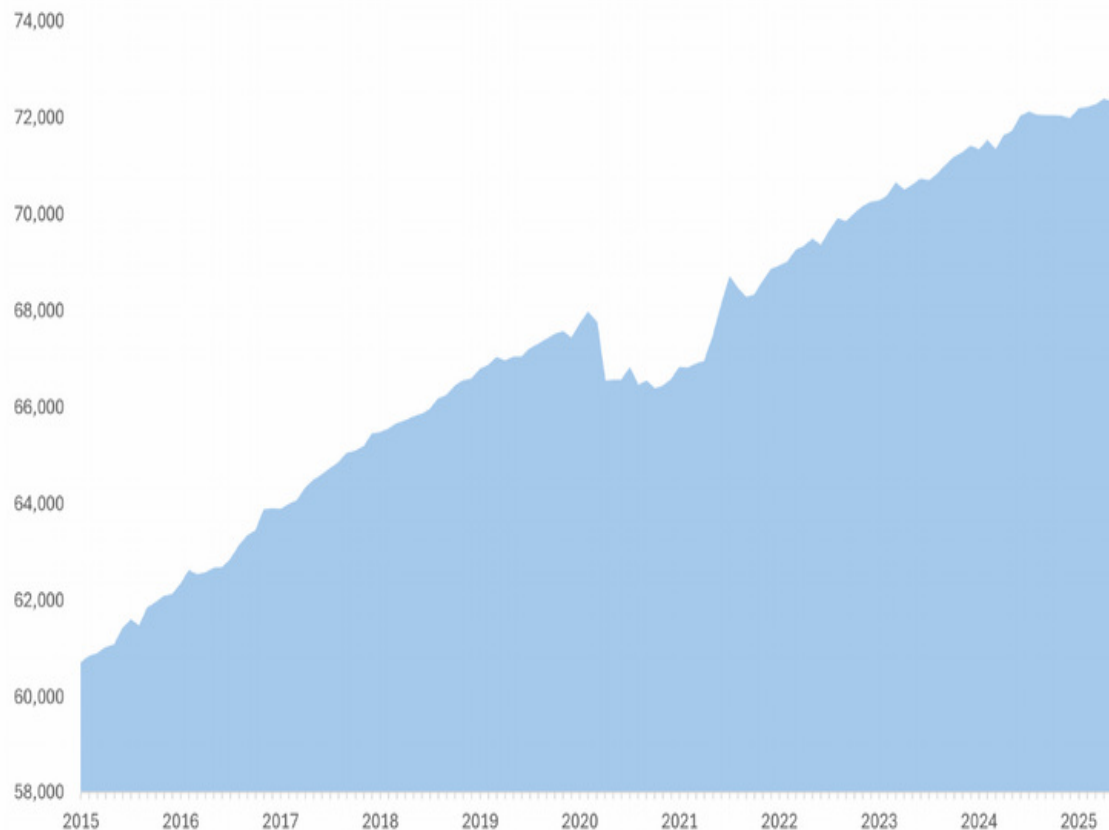


Newry, Mourne and Down: Recent Performance and Economic Outlook



Payrolled Employee Growth

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, January 2015 - June 2025, seasonally adjusted



Source: NISRA- HMRC

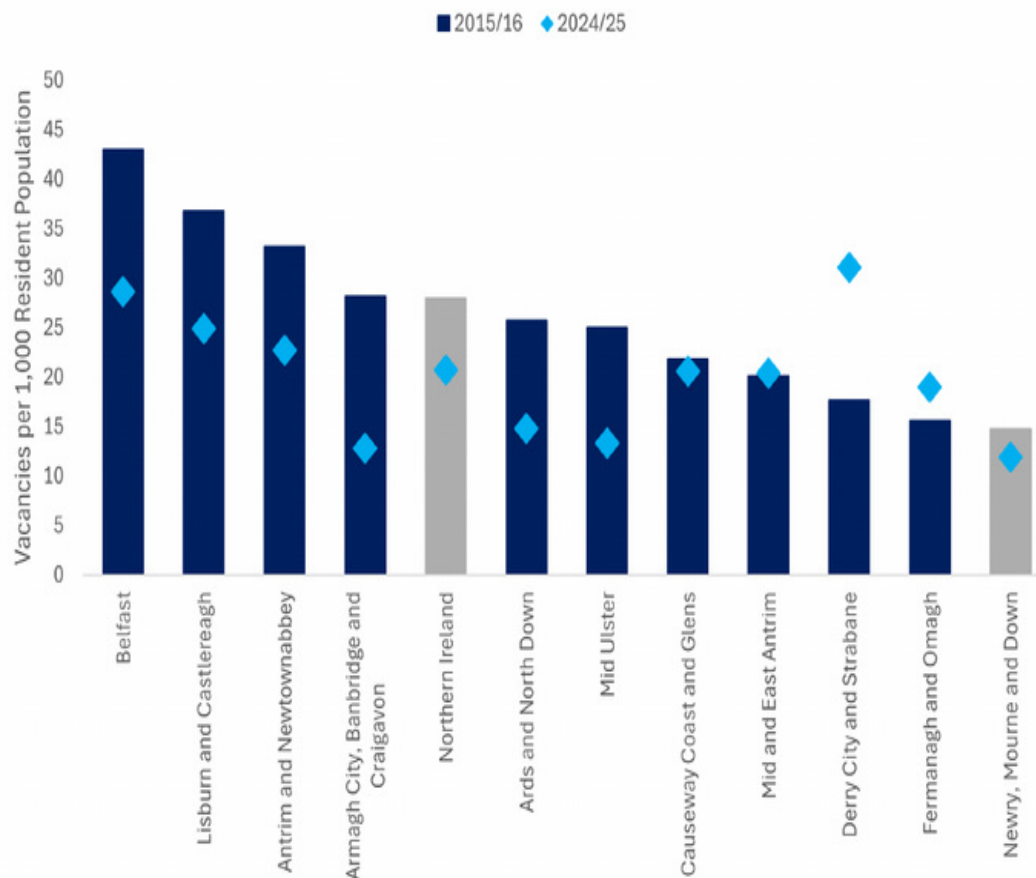
The number of payrolled employees in Newry, Mourne and Down equaled 72,040 in June 2025, virtually unchanged compared to the same month in 2024.



Despite a mild reduction in Q4 2024, growth has been strong in H1 2025, primarily attributable to Q1's particularly strong growth, with employee numbers increasing by 210.

Vacancies

Employment Vacancies notified to DfC, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, NI LGDs, 2015/16 – 2024/25



Source: DfC & UUEPC

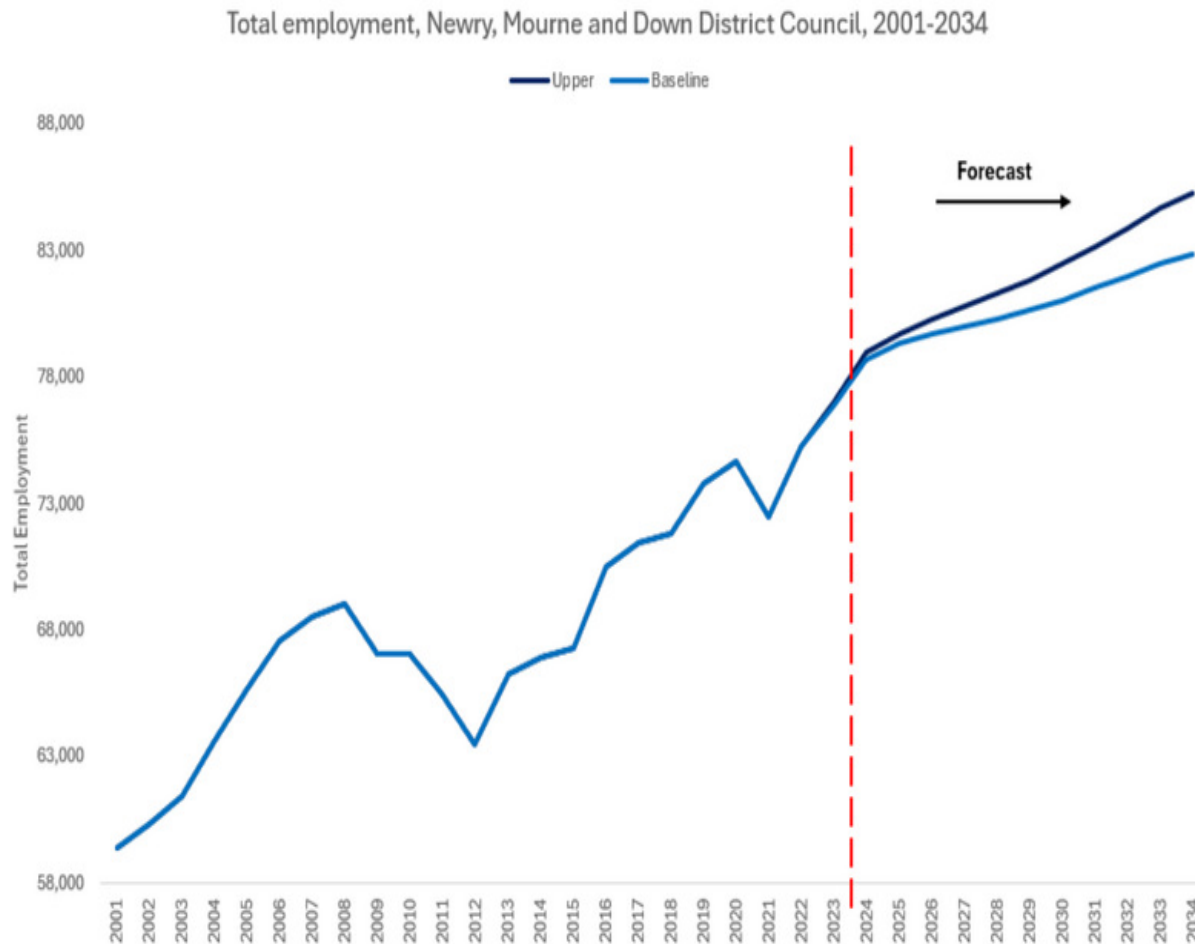


In 2015/16, Newry, Mourne and Down had 14.7 vacancies per 1,000 resident population, below the NI average of 28.0 and lower than any other LGD in NI.

Between 2015/16 and 2024/25, the number of vacancies per 1,000 resident population in Newry, Mourne and Down declined to 11.9, meaning it continues to be the LGD with the lowest number of vacancies (in absolute terms the number of vacancies in the local area equalled 2,170 in 2024/25). Over the same time period, the number of vacancies in NI also decreased, to a value of 20.7.



Employment Forecasts



Source: NISRA & UUEPC

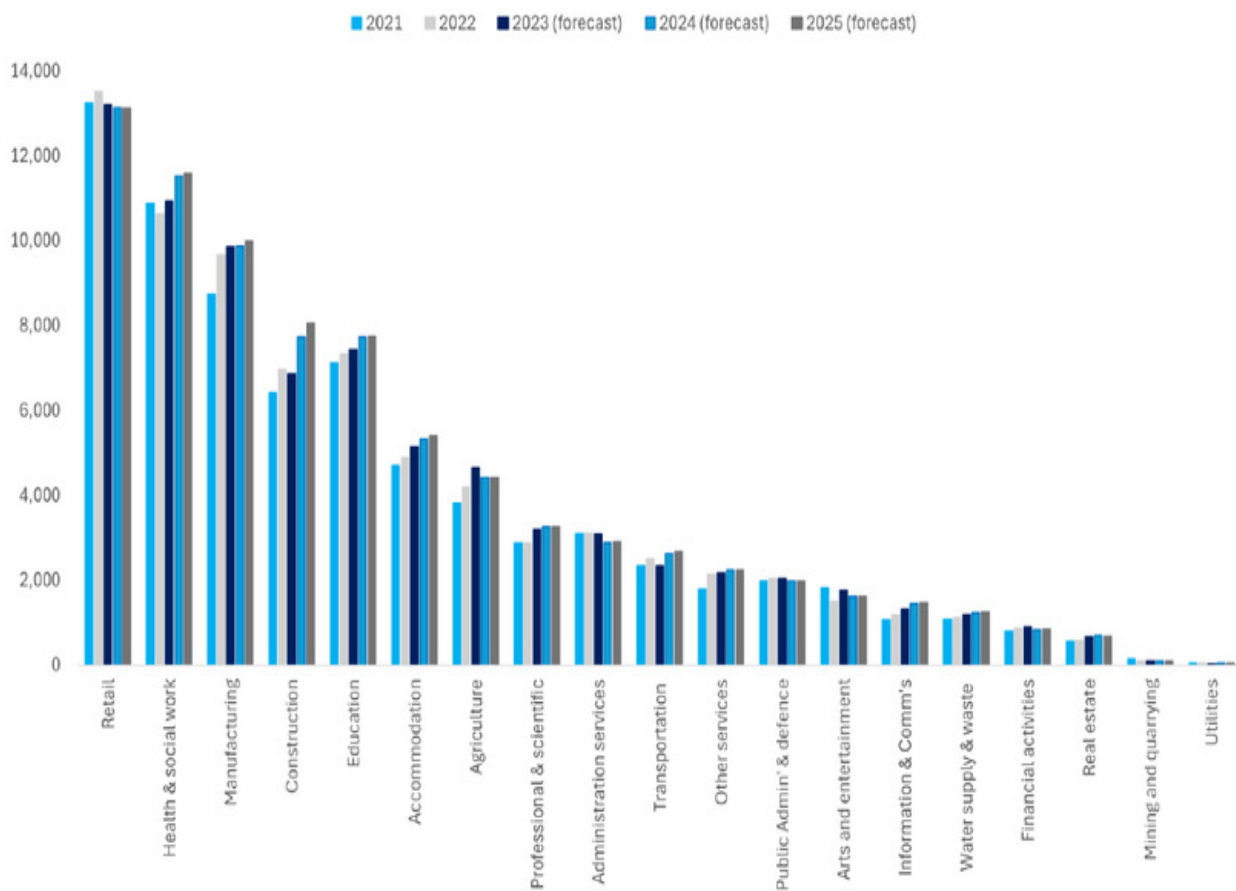
Note: 2023 remains a forecast year to due a lag in data

In the baseline scenario total employment is forecasted to grow by approximately 0.5% annually between 2024 and 2034, increasing from 78,710 to 82,880 jobs (growth of 4,170) across the 10-year period.

In an upper scenario total employment is anticipated to reach 85,300 by 2034, an increase of approximately 6,300 jobs from 2024.

Sectoral Growth and 2024 Forecasts

Employment by sector, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, 2021-2025



Source: NISRA & UUEPC

Retail remains Newry, Mourne and Down's largest source of employment, despite the expectation that job numbers will decline to 13,120 in 2025. This represents a decrease of 130 jobs between 2021 and 2025.



Over the same four-year period, Construction and Manufacturing are expected to post the strongest employment growth, with increases of 1,630 and 1,260 respectively.



Upper and Baseline Scenario Sectoral Breakdown



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Sectoral employment net change by scenario, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, 2024-2034

	Baseline	Upper
Agriculture	30	60
Mining and quarrying	0	0
Manufacturing	570	1,050
Utilities	10	20
Water supply & waste	130	200
Construction	970	1,410
Retail	20	20
Transportation	240	350
Accommodation	570	860
Information & Comm's	380	530
Financial activities	30	40
Real estate	0	40
Professional & scientific	480	650
Administration services	120	160
Public Admin' & defence	10	30
Education	30	130
Health & social work	460	570
Arts and entertainment	50	130
Other services	70	210
Total	4,170	6,460

Source: NISRA & UUEPC

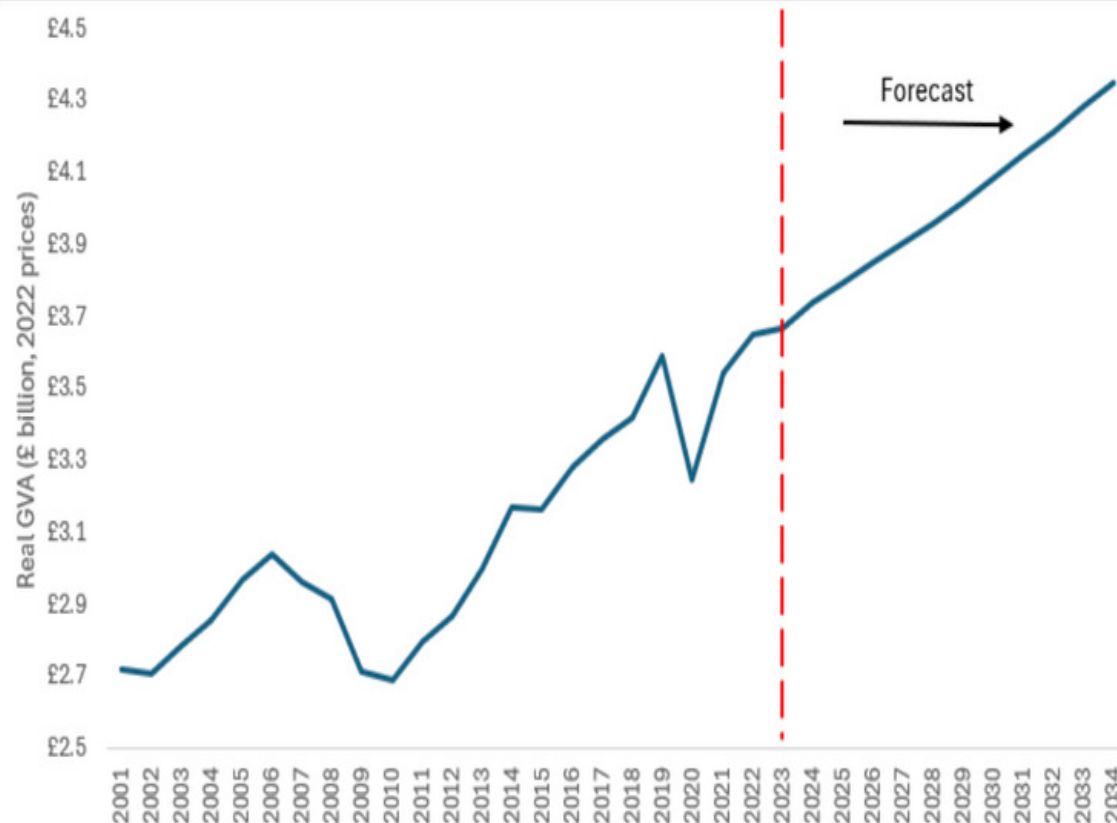
Over the next ten years, Newry, Mourne and Down is anticipated to increase by 4,170 jobs in the baseline scenario. The three sectors with the largest growth, Construction, Accommodation and Manufacturing sectors contribute 50.7% towards total growth.



Faster annual growth of 0.8% is anticipated in the upper scenario, compared to 0.5% for the baseline. Non-negative employment growth is projected across all sectors in the upper scenario.

Real GVA

Real GVA Baseline, £ billion (2022 prices), Newry, Mourne & Down District Council, 2001 - 2034



Source: ONS, NISRA & UUEPC

Note: 2022 is the latest year of data

- Real GVA is projected to reach £3.8 bn in 2025 in Newry, Mourne & Down under the baseline.
- Over the forecast period 2024-2034, real GVA is expected to grow at an annual rate of 1.5%, yielding a total of £4.4 bn in 2034.



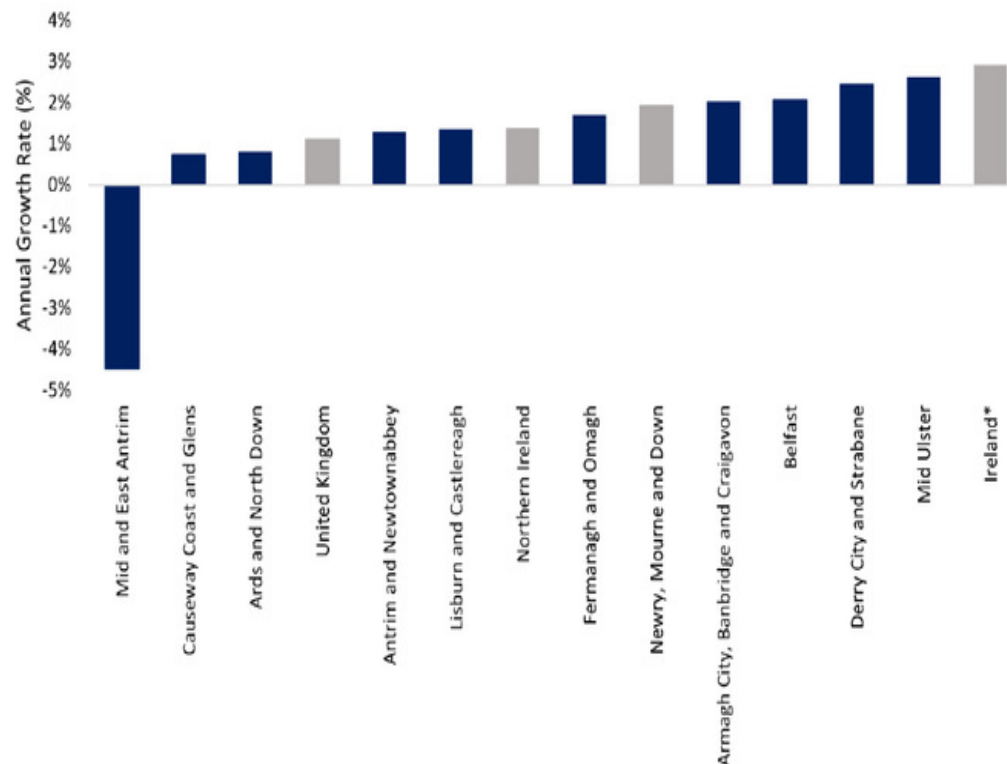
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

What has driven local GVA growth since 2012?

Section 4

Variations in GVA per capita growth since 2012

GVA per capita growth: average annual growth rate 2012 to 2022, NI, UK and LGDs



- Gross Value Added (GVA) quantifies the value of goods and services produced in the local economy, accounting for brought-in materials and services.
- Computing GVA per capita provides a key indicator of regional economic performance that makes it easier to compare areas of different sizes.
- GVA per capita growth rates have varied considerably between LGDs over the last decade, which ultimately has knock-on implications for local living standards and has been identified as a key indicator within the Sub-Regional Economic Plan.
- RoI experienced strong economic growth between 2012 and 2022, with real modified GNI per capita displaying a growth rate of 2.9% per annum. It is important to acknowledge that this metric differs from that used for NI, but provides some context and is specifically designed to remove for distortions caused by multinational corporations.

Source: ONS, CSO

* Data for Ireland refers to real modified GNI per capita.

Definition of what makes up GVA per capita

Increasing GVA per capita can be achieved by either expanding the labour that produces the goods and services or raising the productivity of labour. The analysis decomposes sub-regional GVA per capita growth into five parts to shed light on the relative strengths of these drivers across councils.

(i) Labour Productivity

- GVA divided by number of jobs.
- Measures the amount of output produced per worker, demonstrating the effectiveness of labour within the local economy.

(ii) Commuting Effect

- Number of jobs divided by persons in employment.
- Partly captures the role of commuting, with an increase in the ratio indicating inward-commuters making a larger contribution to the local economy.

(iii) Employment Rate (out of labour force)

- Employment divided by the labour force (employment plus unemployment).
- Measures the strength of the labour market, with an increase in the ratio signifying a decline in unemployment.

(iv) Activity Rate

- Labour force divided by the working age population (16-64 population).
- Indicates how many people out of the active population are willing to supply labor services.

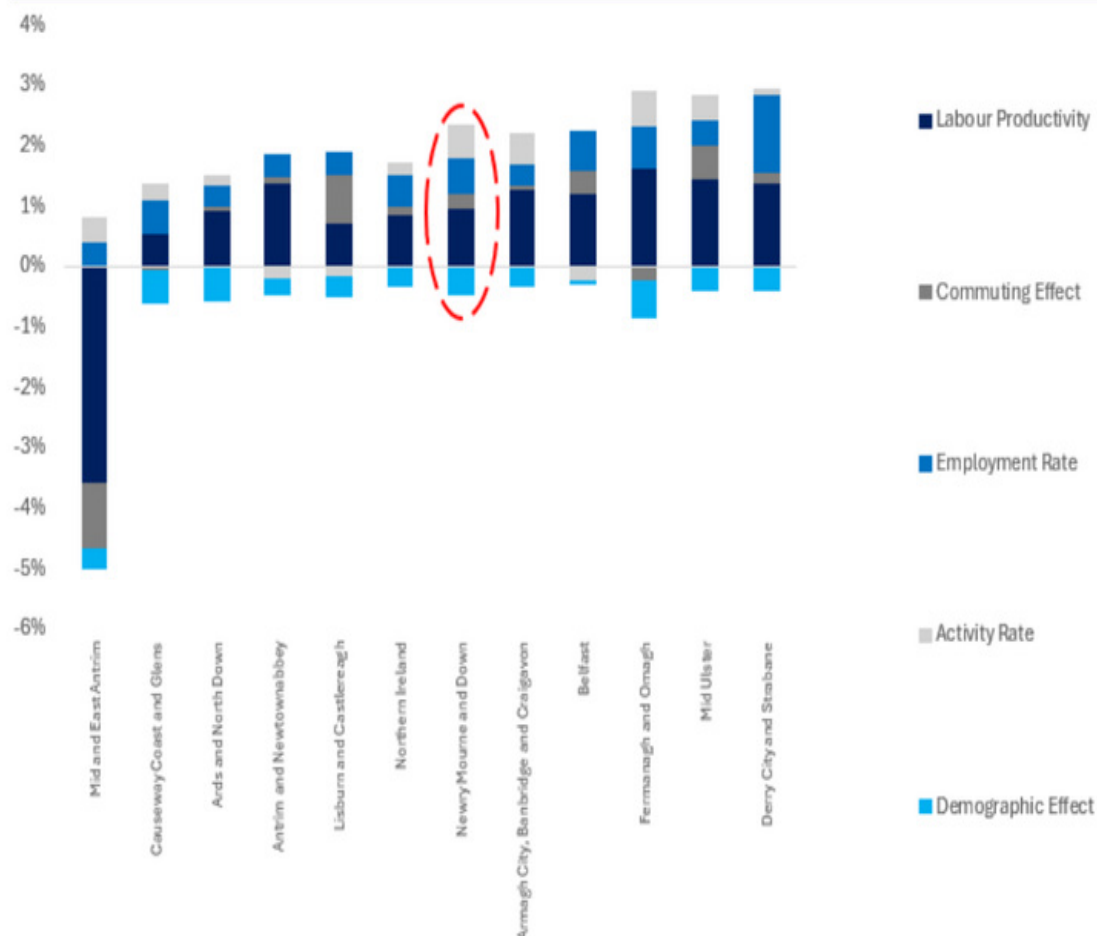
(v) Demographic Effect

- Working age population divided by the total population.
- Captures the impact of an aging population on the labour market, with a declining ratio indicating that fewer people fall within the typical working-age group relative to the total population.

- The number of jobs used to compute labour productivity is derived from BRES data, which is workplace based.
- Conversely, employment is based on the LFS which is residence based.
- The jobs to employment ratio takes into account the proportion of individuals employed in other regions, reflecting underlying commuting patterns. It also captures possible changes in the number of jobs per person.

Comparison of sources of GVA per capita growth across councils

Decomposition of GVA per capita growth: average annual growth rate 2012 to 2022*



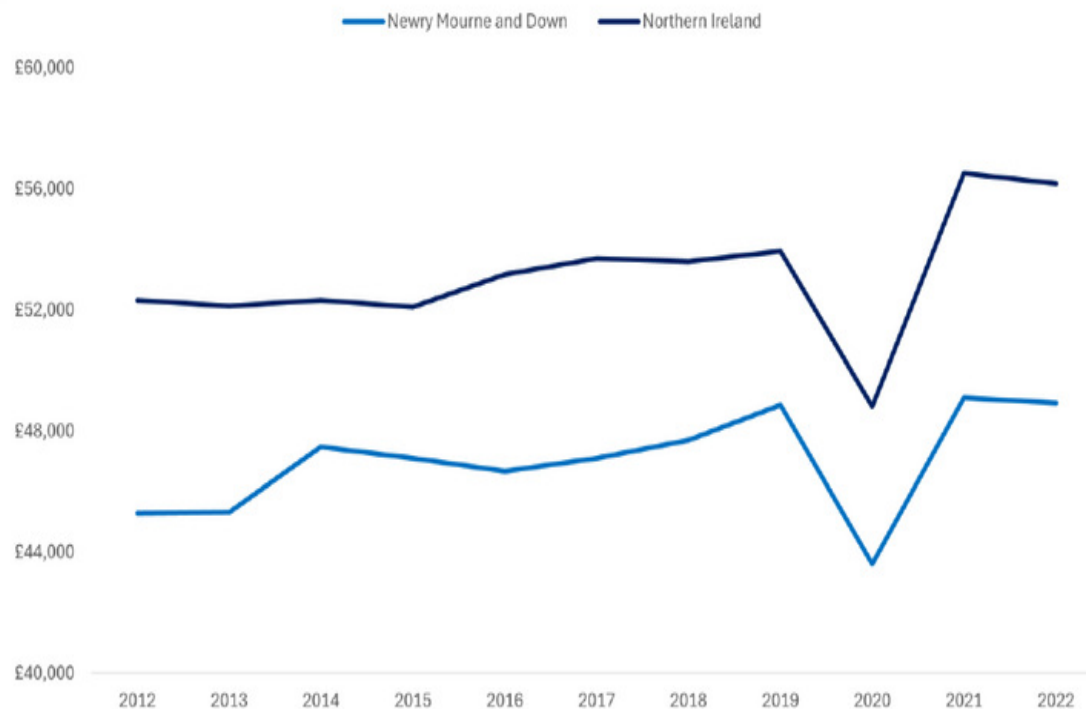
- Labour productivity growth exerted a modest but positive influence on GVA per capita within Newry, Mourne & Down over the last decade.
- The council also benefited from having the second highest growth in the activity rate, reflecting policy success in engaging those who were previously inactive with the labour market.
- Similar to other councils, except Belfast, total GVA per capita growth was offset by a negative demographic effect, which captures the impacts of an aging population.

Source: ONS, NISRA, UUEPC

* 2012 computed as average of 2011/2012/2013 to take into consideration volatility

Labour Productivity Dynamics

Productivity, Real GVA per job (2022 prices): Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and NI

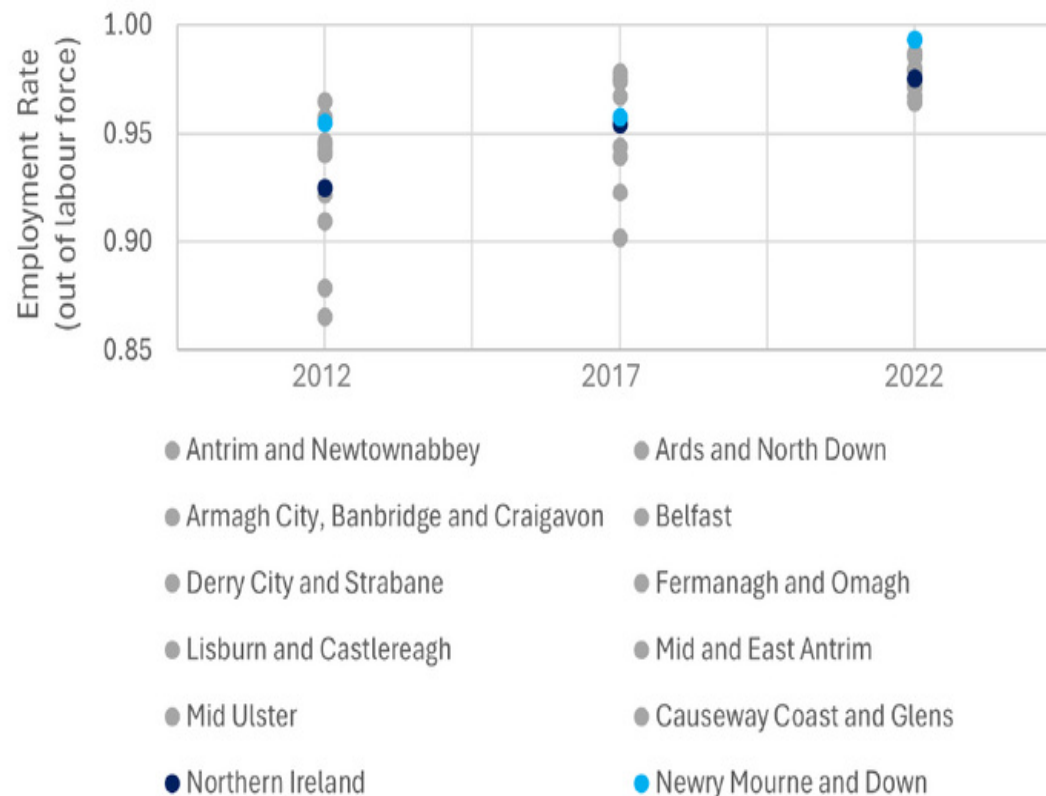


Source: ONS, UUEPC

- Although Newry, Mourne & Down experienced fluctuations in productivity between 2012 and 2019, it slightly narrowed the gap with the Northern Ireland average during this period.
- However, the Covid-19 pandemic caused widespread disruptions to labour productivity across Northern Ireland. While productivity rebounded after the initial decline, the recovery in Newry, Mourne and Down was weaker than the NI-wide trend.
- As a result, by 2022, the district's productivity remained 13% below the NI average, matching the gap recorded in 2012.

Evolution of Employment Rate

Employment Rate by Local Council: 2012, 2017 and 2022

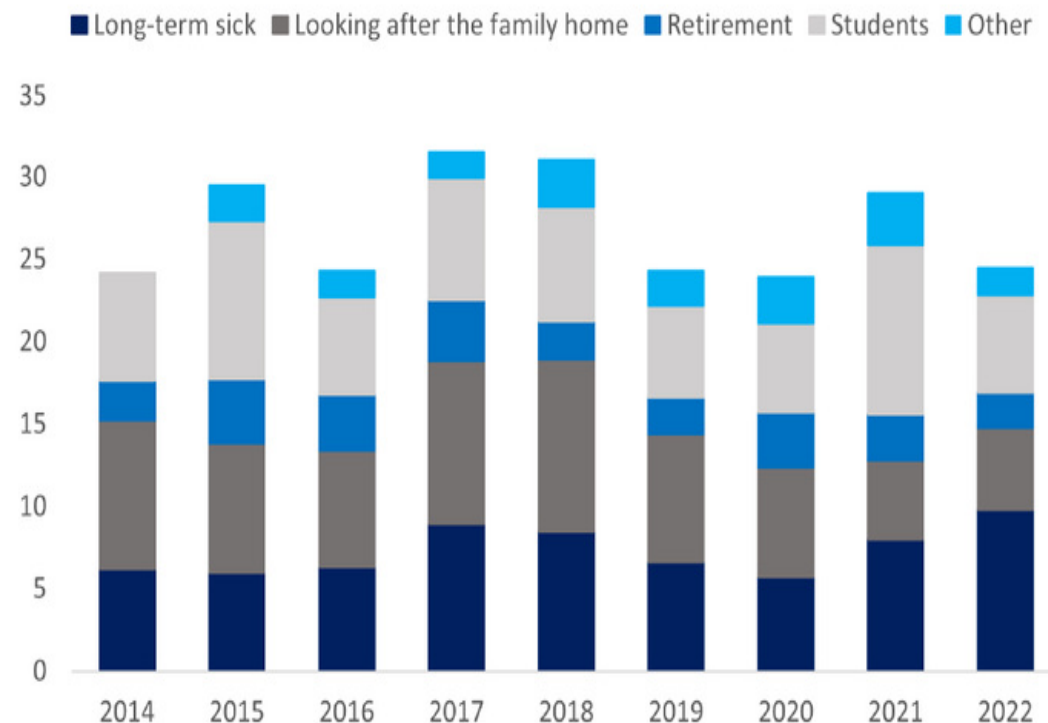


Source: ONS, NISRA, UUEPC

- Newry, Mourne & Down's employment rate rose over the 10-year period to 2022.
- The increase in the employment rate reflects a decline in unemployment, although it is important to note that this component is particularly volatile at the regional level.
- The employment rate at the NI level also exhibited an upward trend. Whilst convergence over the 10-year period has occurred, Newry, Mourne & Down's employment rate continues to exceed the NI average.
- This success comes with the challenge of having less potential for reducing the unemployment going forward.

Reasons for Inactivity

Inactivity Rates in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, aged 16 to 64, 2014 to 2022

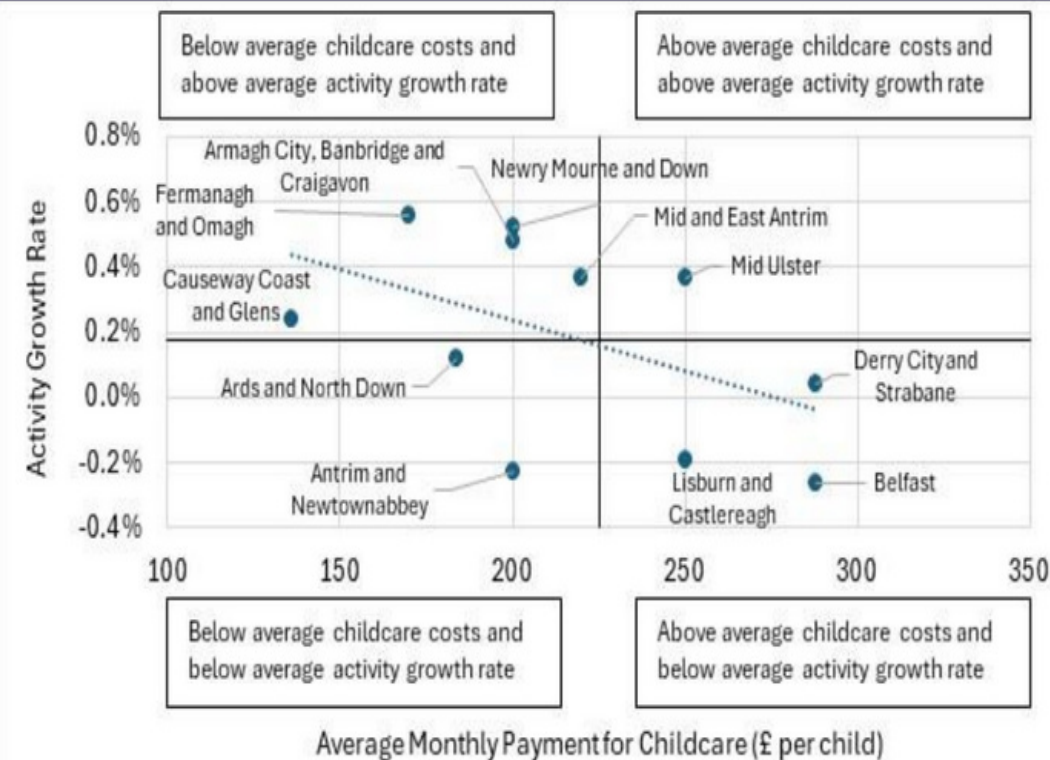


Source: NISRA

- The inactivity due to long-term sickness rate reached an 8-year high of 9.8 in 2022, greater than the NI average of 9.3. For the first time between 2014 and 2022, long-term sickness was the largest contributor to Newry, Mourne and Down's overall inactivity rate.
- The rate of economic inactivity due to looking after the family home has declined in Newry, Mourne & Down over the 8-year period, despite 2022's figure rate rising slightly from 2021. As evidenced in the following slide, the council area has below average childcare costs, which may have made it more feasible for parents to join or re-join the workforce.

Childcare Costs

Relationship between LGD childcare costs and activity growth rates



Source: LFS and NISRA (2025) Childcare in Northern Ireland: Results From the NI Childcare Survey 2024.

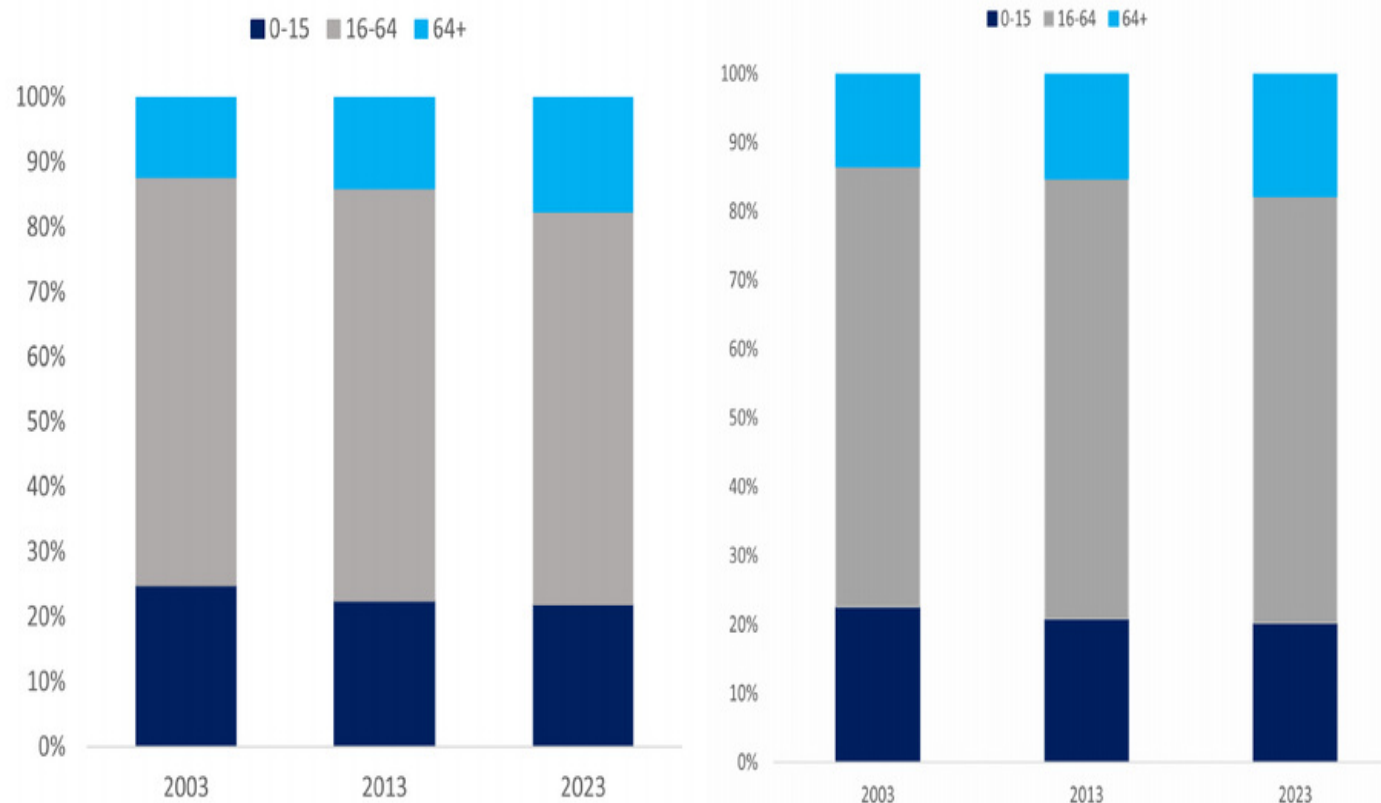
- Average childcare costs display considerable geographical variability, ranging from a monthly payment per child of £136 to £288.
- The inverse relationship between childcare costs and LGD activity rate growth implies that affordability challenges may be impeding workforce engagement.

Demographic Effects

Proportion of population by age band: Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and NI, 2003, 2013 and 2023

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Northern Ireland



Source: NISRA

- Between 2003 and 2023, Newry, Mourne & Down's dependency ratio declined by 2%, the same reduction as was exhibited at the NI level.
- Meanwhile, the population aged 65 and over as a ratio of the total population increased by 5%, slightly greater than the NI average of 4%.
- Newry, Mourne & Down has faced a similar demographic shift to NI as a whole, with the council's aging population bringing a range of fiscal and social pressures.

Summary



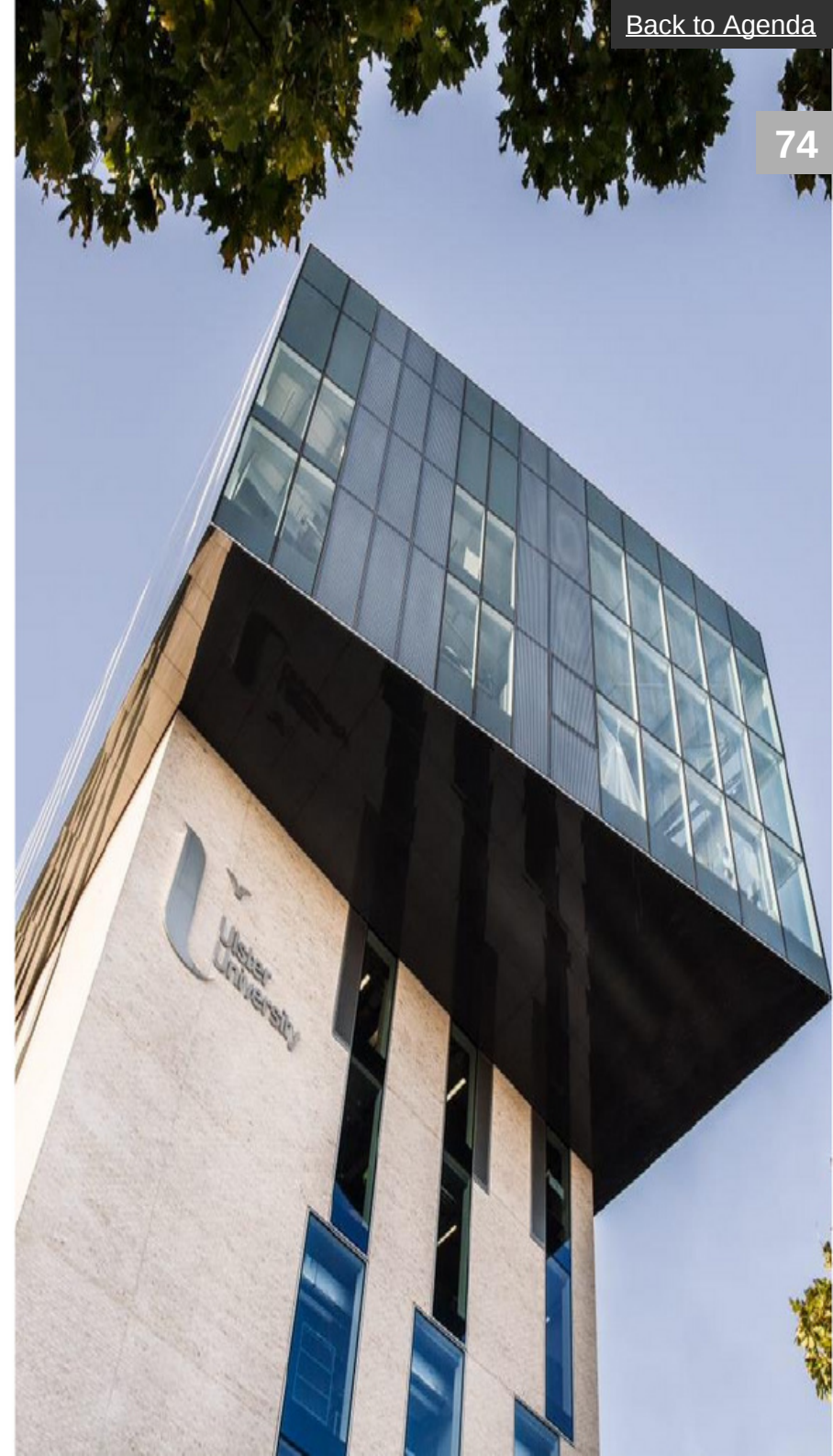
- Favourable labour market dynamics have supported local economic growth. Given the already low level of unemployment, demographic trends and greater constraints on immigration, continued employment growth will require further progress in reallocating individuals out of economic inactivity and into the workforce.
- Although Newry, Mourne & Down District Council has benefitted from labour productivity growth, there is still scope for further improvement. With future employment growth likely to be constrained, enhancing productivity will be crucial to sustaining economic growth, with investment delivered through the City & Growth Deal playing a key role.

Concluding Points

Section 5

Key Points and Issues

- Following strong growth in 2024, the economy has slowed in recent months due to both domestic and global pressures.
- Domestically, recent increases in National Insurance Contributions and the National Living Wage have added to already high business costs. These changes have a disproportionate impact on employers of low-paid and part-time workers, potentially discouraging recruitment. Increasing the cost of labour should incentivise higher levels of capital investment, raising productivity. This is relevant in capital intensive sectors but less so in the service sector (e.g. social care and hospitality), where fewer automation opportunities exist.
- Economic growth is expected to improve in the medium term, supported by further interest rate reductions and increased public spending, particularly direct capital investment outlined in the June Spending Review and the City & Growth Deal.
- An analysis of local economic performance over the past decade highlights the positive but small contribution of productivity gains in Newry, Mourne & Down. Further improvement is required to sustain long-term growth. The labour market has also played a key role, but future progress will depend on reducing economic inactivity and encouraging greater workforce participation.





Appendix and Glossary

Section 6

Use of Forecasts

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- ❑ Forecasts are useful to help councils guide any future potential policy direction / decisions, in areas such as;
 - ❑ Planning;
 - ❑ Economic development; and
 - ❑ Public facilities management.
- ❑ But, forecasts are conditional on a range of underlying factors, in particular;
 - ❑ Historical / Past trends;
 - ❑ The policy environment; and
 - ❑ The current economic environment (Locally, Nationally & Globally).
- ❑ These underlying factors are major determinants of future performance as they reflect the relative competitiveness of an area / sector in the present and into the future
- ❑ The UUEPC's local forecasts presented in this slide deck are calculated using a top-down approach – i.e. UK forecasts allocated to the UK Regions (i.e. NI) & these NI forecasts are then allocated to each of the 11 council areas
- ❑ The forecasts presented do not consider local initiatives or strategies that have yet to be approved (i.e. current policy framework remains unchanged)

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Glossary of Key Terms

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- ❑ Workplace based Employment -The number of people employed by location of work
- ❑ Resident based Employment -The number of people employed by location of residency
- ❑ Real GVA -The measure of the value of goods and services produced in an area, industry or sector of an economy. Real value is the nominal value adjusted for inflation and is obtained by removing the effect if price level changes from the nominal value of time-series data
- ❑ Productivity -Measures how efficiently production inputs are being used in an economy to produce a given level of output. Productivity within the UUEPC Model is derived from total GVA divided by the number of people employed
- ❑ Economic Inactivity Rate (%) -The rate of those within the working age population who are not in employment, nor actively seeking employment from one year to the next.
- ❑ CAGR (%) -The compound annual growth rate (CAGR) is the mean annual growth rate of an over a specified period of time longer than one year.
- ❑ Labour Force -Those people who are at the working age (16-64), and are able and willing to work.
- ❑ Working Age Population -Those aged between 16 and 64
- ❑ ILO Unemployment Rate (%) - The rate of those who are: out of work, want a job, have actively sought work in the previous four weeks and are available to start work within the next fortnight changes from one year to the next

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We Are UU

Report to:	Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 13 th October 2025
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

For decision		For noting only	X
1.0	Purpose and Background		
1.1	<u>Purpose</u> To note recommendations as outlined in section 3.1 <u>Background</u> The PEACEPLUS Partnership met on 18th September 2025 to recommend the delivery of the above activities under Strand 3 of the Co-designed Local Action Plan. The recommendations arising from these meetings require ERT Committee approval.		
2.0	Key issues		
2.1	<u>Local Action Plan – Implementation</u> - The implementation of the Action Plan has commenced. - SEUPB's electronic management system, JEMS, has transferred from application stage to claims and reporting function. - Next phase of action implementation against the action plan was agreed: progression of projects within the below themes for which officers will complete the necessary procurement documents. i. Strand 3.7 Piece Work Embroidery- Flowering in the Mournes ii. Strand 3.2 Learn the language of my neighbour iii. Strand 3.6 Crossing Paths: Stories in Motion iv. Strand 3.6 Home is a Journey: Migration in Film and theatre		
3.0	Recommendations		
3.1	- To note the minutes of the PEACEPLUS Partnership on 18th September 2025 and the Partnership's agreement on next phase of implementation against action plan: - Strand 3.7 Piece Work Embroidery- Flowering in the Mournes - Strand 3.2 Learn the language of my neighbour - Strand 3.6 Crossing Paths: Stories in Motion - Strand 3.6 Home is a Journey: Migration in Film and theatre		

4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Revenue/Payroll: Project 85% funded by the EU and 15% by the two Governments.
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
	<i>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.</i> Appx. 1 PEACEPLUS Partnership Board Minutes 18th September 2025
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A