

December 4th, 2025

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the meeting to be held on **Monday, 8th December 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 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 Action Sheet of Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting of 10 November 2025

📎 *ERT Action Sheet - 2025-11-10 inc. historic actions updated.pdf*

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For Discussion/Decision

4.0 Officer Report on Notice of Motion - Revitalisation Project (C/172/2025)

For Approval

📎 *ERT Report - Notice of Motion Revitalisation Project.pdf*

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5.0 Belfast City and Region Place Partnership

For Decision

📎 *ERT Report - Belfast City and Region Place Partnership.pdf*

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Exempt Appendices

5.1 Exempt Appendix for Belfast City and Region Place Partnership

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business

📎 *Appx 1 - Belfast City and Region Place Partnership (Restricted).pdf*

Not included

For Discussion/Decision

6.0 PeacePlus

📎 *ERT Report - PEACEPLUS.pdf*

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📎 *Appx 1 - Minutes of PEACEPLUS Meeting 20.11. 2025.pdf*

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Exempt Appendices

6.1 Exempt Appendix for PeacePlus

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business

📎 ***Appx 2 - PEACE Plus Business Case 2.6 Social and Emotional Support Prog. (Restricted).pdf***

Not included

For Discussion/Decision

7.0 St. Patrick's Day 2026 SLAs

For Decision

📎 ***ERT Report - St Patrick's Day SLAs.pdf***

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Exempt Appendices

7.1 Exempt Appendix for St. Patrick's Day 2026 SLAs

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business

📎 ***Appx 1 - St Patrick's Day SLAs (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

8.0 Delamont Caravan Park & Touring the Trees Kilbroney Park

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business

📎 ***ERT Report - Delamont Caravan Park and Kilbroney Park Touring the Trees site.pdf***

Not included

9.0 Ulster Fleadh 2026

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business

📎 ***ERT Report - Ulster Fleadh 2026.pdf***

Not included

📎 ***Appx 1 - Ulster Fleadh 2026 Summary Proposal.pdf***

Not included

For Noting

10.0 Digital Transformation Flexible Fund

For Information

 *ERT Report - Digital Transformation Flexible Fund Update.pdf*

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11.0 Go Succeed NI Update

For Information

 *ERT Report - Go Succeed Update.pdf*

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Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews

Cllr Callum Bowsie

Ms Michelle Boyle

Cllr Jim Brennan

Ms Sonya Burns

Lorraine/Emma Burns/McParland

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
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Sinead Murphy
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Cllr Kate Murphy
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Cllr Declan Murphy
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Cllr Selina 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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Donna Starkey
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Sarah Taggart
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Cllr David Taylor
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Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly
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Cllr 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 13 October 2025

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/098/2025	Summit of the Cities 2026	it was agreed to approve Council as a key partner on the Summit of the Cities 2026 event.	A. Smyth	In progress	Y
ERT/099/2025	Warrenpoint Baths	the following was agreed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission a comprehensive intrusive structural condition survey of the Baths structure and buildings. Continue to explore and progress any relevant / appropriate funding opportunities for delivery of the approved project. 	A. Smyth	In progress	Y

ACTION SHEETECONOMY, REGENERATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING – MONDAY 10 November 2025

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/108/2025	Action Sheet Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting Monday 13 October 2025	it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 13 October 2025	C. Mallon	Noted	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/109/2025	Friends of Castlewellan Arboretum and Annesley Walled Garden	it was agreed to approve the establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Friends of Castlewellan Arboretum and Annesley Walled Garden for the purpose of working in partnership for the benefit of the Arboretum and Garden	A. Smyth	In progress	Y
ERT/110/2025	Local Economic Partnership (LEP)	<p>the following was agreed;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accept the Letter of Offer for Local Economic Partnership Approve the business cases outlined in Appendix 1 for the following programmes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Productivity Growth Programme - AI: Empowering Business Through Awareness - Derelict/Vacancy commercial property mapping research Approve the establishment of a Service Level Agreement with Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency and Down Business Centre for delivery of the project "Derelict/Vacancy commercial property mapping research". 	A. Smyth	In progress	Y
ERT/111/2025	Mid-Year Review of ERT Business Plans 2025-26	the Mid-Year Assessment of the ERT Directorate Business Plan 2025-26 was agreed.	C. Mallon	In progress	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/112/2025	PEACEPLUS Theme 1.1	<p>it was agreed to approve the procurement and delivery of the below activities under Strand 1 and 2 of the Co-designed Local Action Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strand 1.2 Enhancement of Community facilities. • Strand 1.2 Enhancement of Sporting Facilities. • Strand 2.6 Social and Emotional Support programmes – intergenerational Arts and Crafts • Strand 2.6 Social and Emotional Support Programmes – Intergenerational End Violence Against Women and Girls. 	A. Smyth	In progress	Y
ERT/113/2025	East Border Region - Showcasing 50 Years of Genuine Cross Border Collaboration	it was agreed to award East Border Region a financial contribution towards their proposal for celebrating 50 years of cross border collaboration.	A. Smyth	In progress	Y
ERT/114/2025	Downpatrick Special Stage Car Rally 2026	it was agreed that Council support the Ballynahinch & District Motor Club through a Service Level Agreement arrangement for the hosting of the Downpatrick Special Stage Car Rally in July 2026, subject to funding being agreed in the rates setting process with the value of the SLA detailed at section 4.1 of the officer's report.	A. Smyth	In progress	Y
ERT/115/2025	Financial Assistance 2025/26 Call 4	it was agreed to approve the issuing of Letters of Offer to projects as per Council Policy to the groups Recommended for the award of funding within the budget allocation for each theme. It was also agreed that pre-letter of offer conditions must be met prior to issue of full letter of offer.	A. Smyth	In progress	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/116/2025	Labour Market Partnership - Action Plan	<p>the following was agreed;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To accept a revised Letter of Offer from Department for Communities for NMD Labour Market Partnership (LMP) for 2025/2026 and undertake associated management and implementation in line with the approved action plan, business case and associated procurement To approve the revised business case attached to the officer's report for the implementation of NMD Labour Market Partnership Action Plan for 2025/2026 based on the upper budget. To approve required procurement exercises in accordance with Council's procurement policy. Routes to market may include utilising Belfast City Council framework, issuing Service Level Agreements, Value for Money exercises, quotes and tenders. To accept a Letter of Offer from Department for Economy to deliver a Pre Apprenticeship Academy, a procurement route of the Belfast City Council framework. 	A. Smyth	In progress	Y
ERT/117/2025	Play Park Resurfacing at Kilbroney Forest Park	it was agreed to procure via the ESPO Framework a contractor to resurface the older children's play park at Kilbroney Park, Rostrevor.	A. Smyth	In progress	Y
ERT/118/2025	Museums Quarterly Report (Jul-Sept)	it was agreed to note the update provided on the activities, programming and achievements of NMD Museums.	A. Smyth	Noted	Y
ERT/119/2025	Newry Business Improvement District (Bid)	it was noted that Council have received formal notification from Newry BID, of their intention to hold a renewal ballot for a Business Improvement District for Newry and a report will be tabled at a future committee meeting to consider the detail of the business plan.	A. Smyth	Noted	Y

Report to:	Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 8 th December 2025
Subject:	Notice of Motion: Revitalisation
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Conor Mallon Director: Economy, Regeneration and Tourism
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth Assistant Director: Economy, Growth and Tourism

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

For decision	x	For noting only	
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u> Approve recommendation as set out in section 3.1 of this report</p> <p><u>Background</u> Notion of Motion brought forward by Cllr Feehan states:</p> <p><i>"This Council acknowledges the ongoing issue of dereliction and dilapidation in town and city centres across the District.</i></p> <p><i>Council recognises that the revitalisation of these derelict and dilapidated buildings is crucial, not only for the aesthetic renewal of our towns but also for unlocking the potential of underutilised spaces, creating new opportunities for business, and enhancing both civic pride and quality of life for residents.</i></p> <p><i>Accordingly, this Council calls for the establishment of a pilot programme aimed at incentivising the restoration and redevelopment of vacant and derelict properties in Newry and Downpatrick. This pilot programme should focus on providing financial incentives, such as grants, low-interest loans, or other forms of support, to property owners who are committed to refurbishing these buildings to bring them back into productive use.</i></p> <p><i>This Council also requests that a report be brought to the relevant committee within 3 months outlining the steps to develop the pilot programme, including potential eligibility criteria, financial incentives, available funding sources from existing government initiatives, and timelines for implementation. Additionally, Council is requested to explore collaboration with government agencies, including the Department for Communities, the Department for Infrastructure, and other relevant bodies, to co-opt existing funding mechanisms such as the Urban Regeneration and Community Development (URCD) schemes or Neighbourhood Renewal funding to support this initiative."</i></p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<u>Local Economic Partnership: Remit</u>

	<p>The Department for Economy (DfE) launched a Sub-Regional Economic Plan on 1st October 2024. The Plan recommended the formation of Local Economic Partnerships across NI, with a remit of delivering regional balance. Council's Local Economic Partnership (LEP) was formed on 27th January 2025.</p> <p>The LEP is focused on delivery against DfE Sub-regional Economic Plan priority areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased productivity • Good jobs • Achieving regional balance • Decarbonization <p>NMD Local Economic Partnership have developed an action plan that sets out key themes and priority interventions that will assist in DfE's realisation of Regional Balance. Following engagement with key stakeholders, the action plan was agreed by LEP members on 4th September 2025 and Council's ERT Committee on 8th September 2025. The action plan was subsequently submitted to DfE in October 2025, with a Letter of Offer received in November securing funding to support full implementation of the actions.</p>
2.2	<p><u>Local Economic Partnership: Action Plan</u></p> <p>Relative to the Notice of Motion presented, the NMD Local Economic Partnership have brought forward and gained funding for 2 schemes that seeks to address dereliction across our City and main town centre areas. This action was brought forward in the acknowledge of the dereliction that exists, and how addressing same can stimulate new investment and support the growth of new and existing businesses.</p> <p>Derelict/Vacancy commercial property mapping research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research in several town centres which will identify, document and assess the scale, nature, and location of derelict and long-term vacant buildings • Establishing a baseline on dereliction • Informing decisions on target interventions for regeneration funding <p>Revive and Reimagine - Commercial Property Grant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A capital grant scheme, targeted at investment in underused / derelict properties, supporting the restoration and/or expansion of high-quality, functional commercial spaces • To assist commercial growth across urban and rural settlements (within the settlement limits) • Stimulate local economic activity, attract new business, provide grow-on space for existing enterprises. • Decarbonisation and sustainability will be integral to the fund • Up to £200,000 grant aid. (50% of total eligible costs)
2.3	<p><u>Local Economic Partnership: Action Plan Implementation</u></p> <p>A Letter of Offer has been secured from DfE to support the progression of the action plan. Officers will commence the development of specifications that will further develop the scope for the individual actions, moving them to procurement early 2026, and implementation in the new financial year.</p>

3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<p>It is recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To approve that the revitalisation of derelict and dilapidated buildings can be addressed through delivery of the Local Economic Partnership Action Plan
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	The action plan brought forward by the Local Economic Partnership is fully funded through DfE.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)

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

Report to:	Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 8 th December 2025
Subject:	Belfast City and Region Place Partnership
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Conor Mallon Director: Economy, Regeneration and Tourism
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth Assistant Director: Economy, Growth and Tourism

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

For decision	X	For noting only	
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u> To approve the recommendations set out in Section 3.1</p> <p><u>Background</u> The Belfast City & Region Place Partnership brings together key public, private and third sector representatives who are all passionate about creating places and presenting a compelling vision for our future where people want to live, study, work, visit and invest.</p> <p>By collaborating across multiple sectors and bringing together local authorities, developers and professionals from various industries, the Partnership is able to showcase the region's expanding portfolio of transformative opportunities.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>The Belfast City & Region Place Partnership is delivering an annual place-based promotional programme to help ensure that the Belfast region is positioned to continue attracting investment and delivering sustainable, inclusive growth.</p> <p>Membership of the Partnership includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment Focused Events: Presence at international real estate investment conferences, UKREiiF 2026 and MIPIM 2026, to showcase the Belfast region to a global audience. Engagement & Advocacy: An engagement and advocacy programme will facilitate two way conversations with policy makers and showcase real estate opportunities to the investor community. It will positively position the Belfast region as a place that's open for business and investment. It provides councils with a stronger collective voice in shaping regional policy and investment strategy.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research: Provides data and intelligence on the impact of investment and regeneration across the Belfast City Region, supporting evidence based decision-making and helping councils shape local development plans and policy frameworks. • Communications: Media engagement reinforcing positive messaging around the Belfast region's investment proposition through international marketing and communication campaigns. Each council benefits from enhanced exposure through shared campaigns, media partnerships and digital promotion that highlight progress across the region. <p>Programme Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • continue to build collaboration and partnership in the city and wider region; • continue to promote and market the Belfast region outside Northern Ireland; • increase engagement and advocacy with key stakeholders, in particular investors and government; • support delivery of the Belfast Region City Deal programme of investment by attracting collaborative partners; • deliver our shared ambition to drive inclusive, sustainable growth. <p>In addition, BRCD Partner package includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 x delegate passes to UKREiif 2026 and access to reduced rate delegated passes • Access to reduced rate delegate passes to MIPIM 2026 • Invitation to join dedicated investment showcase in Dublin / London • Participation in dedicated BRCD showcase • Opportunity to promote investment and regeneration activities through BCRPP marketing activities
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To approve membership with Belfast City & Region Place Partnership
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	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input type="checkbox"/></p>

5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	<p>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</p>
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	<p>Appendices</p>
	<p><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></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appendix 1 - Belfast City and Region Place Partnership – Resource Implications
8.0	<p>Background Documents</p>
	<p>n/a</p>

Report to:	Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 8 th December 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	X	For noting only	
1.0		Purpose and Background	
1.1		<p><u>Purpose</u> To approve recommendations as outlined in section 3.1</p> <p><u>Background</u> The PEACEPLUS Partnership met on the 20th November 2025. The recommendations arising from these meetings require ERT Committee approval.</p>	
2.0		Key issues	
2.1		<p><u>Local Action Plan – Implementation</u></p> <p><u>Community Engagement events</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There will be engagement opportunities throughout December in each of the Councils DEAs to highlight the projects that will be delivered under the action plan and encourage participation onto the projects. The events will take place as follows and will be advertised in local papers, PEACEPLUS webpage, via social media and through contact databases. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crossmaglen Community Centre - Monday 08th December 12-2pm Newry Leisure Centre - Tuesday 09th December 11:30-1pm Newcastle Centre Wednesday - 10th December 12-2pm Saintfield Community Centre Thursday - 11th December 12-2pm Castlewellan Centre - Monday 15th December 12-2pm Hilltown Community Centre - Tuesday 16th December 12-2pm Down Leisure Centre - Wednesday 17th December 12-2pm Online (Teams) - Thursday 18th December 12-2pm To register attendance please use the following link: www.ticketsource.co.uk/newry-mourne-down-district-council 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further opportunities to engage in these sessions will also be run during the evenings throughout the District in late spring.
2.2	<p><u>Project Implementation</u></p> <p>The PEACEPLUS Partnership has recommend the delivery of the below activities under Strand 1 and 2 of the Co-designed Local Action Plan as set out below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.6 - Social and Emotional Support Programmes: delivery of 21 social and emotional support programmes (resilience training) for young people. 3.2 Minority Support Programme: Discovering the sites of Northern Ireland and Council District - an inclusive programme that brings people from minority communities together to explore Northern Ireland and Council District's cultural landmarks, fostering connection and a sense of belonging through shared history. 3.7 Shared History and Culture Programme Steps through time - A cross-community walking tour connecting Rowallane members with the Cooley and Mourne area exploring shared heritage and fostering dialogue.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<p>It is recommended to:</p> <p>Approve the procurement and delivery of the below activities under Strand 3 and 3 of the Co-designed Local Action Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Strand 2.6 - Social and Emotional Support Programmes; ii. 3.2 Minority Support Programme: Discovering the sites of Northern Ireland and Council District; iii. 3.7 Shared History and Culture Programme Steps through time
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	<p>Revenue/Payroll: Project 85% funded by the EU and 15% by the two Governments</p>
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices
7.1	<p>Appx. 1 PEACEPLUS Partnership Board Minutes 20th November 2025.</p> <p>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.</p>
7.2	Appx. 2 Full Business Case PEACEPLUS 2.6 Social and Emotional Support Programmes
8.0	Background Documents
	n/a

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

15

**MINUTES OF PEACEPLUS PARTNERSHIP MEETING
Thursday 20th December 2025 @ 6pm
MS Teams**

CHAIRPERSON: Cllr Terry Andrews

Others Present:

Cllr Declan McAteer, NMDDC
Cllr Cathal King, NMDDC
Cllr David Lee-Surginor
Claire Crainey, NIHE
Nicholas McCrickard, CDRCN
Raymond Jackson, CCG
Gerard Rocks, SHSCT
Teresa Nugent, Social Partner
Paul Yam, Social Partner
Lloyd Douglas, Social Partner
Catherine Shipman, SERC
Adam Ruston, PSNI
Sonya Stephenson, NMDDC
Sarah McClory, NMDDC
Theresa McLaverty, NMDDC
Elaine Carr, NMDDC
Edel McGeeney, NMDDC
Julie-Anne Harte, NMDDC

Apologies:

Cllr David Taylor, NMDDC
Breige Jennings, Social Partner
Ernie Richie, Social Partner
Bebhínn Clarke, NMDDC

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES:

Cllr Terry Andrews chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone in attendance. Apologies noted.

2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

None declared.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 18th SEPTEMBER 2025

Minutes of the previous meeting were distributed via email and accepted as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Proposed: Cllr Terry Andrews
Seconded: Nicholas McCrickard

4. MANAGEMENT REPORT

Sarah McClory presented the management report.

Community Engagement events will take place throughout December in each of the Councils DEAs to highlight the projects to be delivered under the action plan and encourage participation onto the projects. The events will take place as follows and will be advertised in local papers, PEACEPLUS webpage, via social media and through contact databases.

Provisional dates and venues:

Monday 8 th December	Crossmaglen Community Centre	12-2pm
Tuesday 9 th December	Newry Leisure Centre	11:00-1pm
Wednesday 10 th December	Newcastle Centre	12-2pm
Thursday 11 th December	Saintfield Community Centre	12-2pm
Monday 15 th December	Castlewellan Centre	12-2pm
Tuesday 16 th December	Hilltown Community Centre	12-2pm
Wednesday 17 th December	Downpatrick Leisure Centre	12-2pm
Thursday 18 th December	Online Event	12-2pm

The PEACE Team have produced their first PEACEPLUS newsletter (PDF), highlighting the projects being delivered and contact details to assist with recruitment of participants. This was shared with Partnership members via email and will also be shared with DEA forum members, on the PEACEPLUS webpage and PEACE contact database.

Members were encouraged to share the newsletter with their own contact databases.

In the interim months the PEACEPLUS team will maintain active engagement by attending Project Steering Committees, DEA Forum meetings, and Community Planning meetings to ensure ongoing collaboration and progress.

5. DELIVERY REPORTS

Edel McGeeney gave an overview of the delivery reports for Strand 1, 2 and 3.

Strand 1 –

No approvals sought at this time.

Sonya Stephenson gave an update on the status of the Capital projects; procurement to appoint a contractor has now closed. There are meetings scheduled with Council Legal and Estates teams over the next few weeks and it is aimed to begin the projects in early 2026.

Strand 2 –

2.6 - Social and Emotional Support Programmes: Approval sought to procure for the delivery of 21 social and emotional support programmes (resilience training) for young people. value: - £147,000.00

Proposed: Nicholas McCrickard

Seconded: Paul Yam

Strand 3 –

Approval sought to procure the following elements of the Action Plan: -

3.2 Minority Support Programme Discovering the sites of Northern Ireland and Council District - an inclusive programme that brings people from minority communities together to explore Northern Ireland and Council District's cultural landmarks, fostering connection and a sense of belonging through shared history. In Newry and Downpatrick

Proposed: Cllr David Lee-Surginor

Seconded: Gerard Rocks

3.7 Shared History and Culture Programme Steps through time - A cross-community walking tour connecting Rowallane members with the Cooley and Mourne area exploring shared heritage and fostering dialogue

Proposed: Cllr Declan McAteer

Seconded: Lloyd Douglas

Catherine Shipman presented the report for SERC.

Marketing assets have been created for SERC delivery across all PEACEPLUS programmes. A comprehensive brochure has been produced and circulated to the partnership and Steering Group for wider promotion.

Programme delivery formally commenced in May 2025 with the first Civic Leadership Programme (CMI Level 5 Award in Management & Leadership) in Downpatrick, followed by a Skills Development Programme (Introduction to Digital Skills) in Ballynahinch in June.

Between September and November 2025, programme activity expanded significantly across the district, with delivery in Downpatrick, Ballynahinch, Hilltown, Warrenpoint, Castlewellan, Newry, Newcastle, and Ballymote.

In total, 17 programmes have been delivered between May and November 2025, engaging approximately 250 participants across all strands. Delivery has demonstrated strong cross-community participation and active collaboration with local partners including Clanrye Group, Hilltown Community Association, CDRCN Ballymote, and Newry Parish Centre.

Community interest remains high, with new partnerships formed through outreach to women's groups, disability groups, and local community associations. The partnership has also supported improved cross-community collaboration and skills development opportunities.

Feedback to date from programmes has been very positive; feedback and case studies can be shared with members if they wish.

There have been some challenges in terms of recruitment - Ongoing recruitment for certain participant groups in rural areas requires sustained engagement. The assistance of the Partnership by sharing information has helped and members were asked for continued support with this.

SERC can visit interested groups to discuss needs and tailor local delivery. Enquiries should be directed to Cahir Clancy, Project Manager (cclancy@serc.ac.uk).

Members thanked the PEACEPLUS team for all their work so far.

6. DATES AND VENUES OF NEXT MEETING

Next meeting: Thursday, 22nd January 2026, 6pm – Warrenpoint Town Hall

Report to:	Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 8 December 2025
Subject:	St Patrick's Day 2026 SLA for Community Engagement
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth Assistant Director: Economy, Growth and Tourism
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Catriona Regan Head of Culture, Arts, Heritage and Events

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

For decision	x	For noting only	
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u> To approve the recommendations set out in Section 3.1</p> <p><u>Background</u> The Council delivers two St Patrick's Day events on 17 March in Downpatrick and Newry.</p> <p>External support from Arts based organisations have supported the development of quality floats and engagement with schools and the wider community in the development of floats and participation in the parade.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>The Council delivers two St Patrick's Day events on 17 March in Downpatrick and Newry.</p> <p>External support from Arts based organisations is required to enhance the level of community engagement (primarily through school workshops) and the quality of floats for the St Patrick's Day parades in Downpatrick and Newry.</p> <p>Council proposes to issue two SLAs to engage specialist community arts organisations to undertake participatory community engagement (by delivering school workshops), enhancing float and parade content.</p> <p>Over the last number of years, the Council have been able to deliver an enhanced level of quality for the St Patrick's Day parades due to receiving additional funding from a number of sources. Due to absence of the external funding in 25/26 engagement with external groups is vital to the development of the parade.</p>

3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<p>It is recommended to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve the issue of Service Level Agreements to Beat Carnival and Down Community Arts to undertake schools and community engagement and create float and parade content for Downpatrick and Newry St Patrick's Day 2026 events.
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	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>

6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices
	<p>This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appendix 1: St Patrick's Day Service Level Agreements – Resource Implications
8.0	Background Documents
	n/a

Report to:	Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 8 th December 2025
Subject:	Digital Transformation Flexible Fund Update
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Michael Forster FFNI Operations Lead
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth Assistant Director: Economy, Growth and Tourism

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

For decision	For noting only	x
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1.1

Purpose

To provide an update to elected members on the Digital Transformation Flexible Fund grant (DTFF)

Background

Digital Transformation Flexible Fund grant (DTFF) is a £7.5m project within the City and Growth deals digital ecosystem and is managed and administrated by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council on behalf of all Councils in Northern Ireland under the FFNI Consortium.

DTFF has been designed to stimulate Digital Transformation and innovation in our small and micro businesses. These types of business generally do not have the capital reserves or resources to start to experiment, prototype and deliver new products or services using new and emerging technologies.

The focus of the fund is purely on innovative technologies, such as:

- Smart environments and the Internet of Things (sensors)
- Simulation, process automation and additive manufacturing (robotics)
- Big data and analytics
- Immersive technologies (Virtual and Augmented reality)
- Artificial Intelligence and machine learning
- Blockchain technologies and more

DTFF compliments and aligns with a number of other important projects in the Digital and Innovation pillars and is an important step forward in Councils

	positioning their intent to drive their local economies – with an increasing focus on innovation support for our local businesses.
2	Key Issues
2.1	<p>Progress to date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DTFF officially launched in November 2023 and to date has delivered four successful calls. The project is due to run to Q3 2026 with a further three calls planned. • To date the project has issued 366 Letters of Offer with an average grant of £16.1k. The value of all Letters of Offer from Calls 1-5 is £5.9m. • The program has demonstrated significant growth across all key metrics from Call 1 to Call 5. Expressions of Interest (EOIs), Applications, Letters of Offer (LoO), and Claims have all increased substantially, with claim values showing a sharp rise above predicted business case estimate in later calls. Rural areas dominate in volume, while Urban areas contribute strongly to financial impact. <p>Patterns & Insights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall Growth: All metrics show strong upward trends, especially EOIs and Claim Value. • Urban vs Rural: Rural dominates in volume (EOIs, Applications), but Urban catches up in claim value. • Efficiency: Conversion rates (EOI → Application → LoO → Claim) are relatively stable. • Financial Impact: Claim values surged in Calls 3 & 4, suggesting larger projects or higher funding per claim. <p>NMDDC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within the NMDDC area the project has issued 38 letters of offer (£643,784.58) to local businesses allowing them to introduce emerging technologies as part of their digital transformational plans. • In terms of successful applications, the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area has placed 3rd out of the 11 Council regions after Belfast City Council and Mid Ulster District Council areas. There is also a much stronger response than originally estimated in the outline business case from a rural businesses perspective across all Councils.

NMDDC Data	LoO Issued	Value (£)	Avg Value per LoO (£)
Call 1	5	65,437.00	13,087.40
Call 2	4	70,303.96	17,575.99
Call 3	10	160,869.64	16,086.96
Call 4	10	173,595.98	17,359.60
Call 5	9	173,578.00	19,286.44
Total	38	64,3784.58	16,679.28

Examples of projects funded so far have included applications for:

- The use of Virtual Reality for architectural concept design, training, Health and Safety use cases and motion traction suits.
- Robotics for packing, laser cutting and welding.
- Artificial Intelligence Induced Manufacturing and AI Data platforms.
- Digital Twins – using 3D scanning software, LIDAR and photonics to create digital copies of a physical assets e.g. buildings or machinery etc.
- Big Data – to predict and forecast customer trends and analyse sales to provide data driven decision making.
- IoT and Advanced wireless sensors on food production lines along with predictive maintenance of machinery. SMART building management i.e. sensors for heating, humidity control, monitoring factory lines.

Programme Status:

- Call 5 is currently in the implementation phase.
- Call 6 is at the application stage.
- Call 7 is scheduled to open for Expressions of Interest in March 2026.

3.0	Recommendations
3.1	It is recommended to: Note update provided on the performance and delivery of the Digital Transformation Flexible Fund programme.
4.0	Resource implications
	Not applicable – The revenue component of DTFF is financed collectively by all FFNI Consortium partners (each Council). Revenue contributions from all Councils have already been approved for the current 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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices
	DTFF Analysis Overview Calls 1-5.docx
8.0	Background Documents
	n/a

Report to:	Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 8 th December 2025
Subject:	Go Succeed NI - Update -
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
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1.0	<p><u>Purpose</u> To note the recommendations in 3.1 of this report.</p> <p><u>Background</u> Go Succeed is the regional approach to helping potential entrepreneurs, new starts and existing businesses to maximise their potential and contribute to Northern Ireland’s economy.</p> <p>Belfast City Council (BCC) is the lead Council on Go Succeed. The service is funded by UKSPF up to March 2026 and delivered via a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Collaboration agreement with BCC.</p>
2	<p>Key Issues</p> <p>Delivery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enterprise Northern Ireland (ENI) oversees the Engage and Foundation pillars of the Go Succeed Start programme, with Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency (NMEA) and Down Business Centre (DBC) delivering the service on the Council’s behalf. Between April 2025 and October 2025, a total of 207 clients received support via NMEA and DBC including diagnostic, mentoring, and the development of business or enterprise plans. Full Circle deliver the Growth and Scaling element of Go Succeed on behalf of Council. From April 2025 to October 2025, 59 businesses with growth ambitions received diagnostic and mentoring. Engagement continues with 97 businesses at Growth and 2 businesses at Scaling.

Grants – Financial Support

- Eligible clients were entitled to apply for a grant of up to £3,000. Council has issued 2 calls to date. Council supported 17 businesses in Call 1. Call 2 implementation is underway, 63 awards have been issued.

Community Engagement

- Between April and October, a total of 20 Go Succeed outreach events were delivered engaging 1,567 participants. Engagement focused on four key priority areas: employment and skills, community inclusion and wellbeing, business and funding support, and major regional stakeholder engagement.

Employment & Skills Engagement

- Accounting for 741 participants across 8 events. Activities included job fairs, skills conferences and sector outreach. Some examples include
- LMP Job Fair (Newry) had 388 participants, demonstrating clear community demand for employment pathways.
- Smaller capacity-building sessions—such as marketing workshops, retail masterclasses, and enterprise-focused events—provided tailored support to 97 participants across several localities.

Community, Inclusion & Wellbeing Initiatives

- A total of 304 participants engaged in 6 community-focused events designed to support inclusion, health, and newcomer integration.

Key highlights:

- The Community Wellbeing Event (Downpatrick) brought together 151 attendees, to raise the profile of Go Succeed.
- The Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Masterclass and the Muslim Engagement Eid Event collectively engaged 107 participants, reinforcing the Go Succeed’s commitment to inclusive practice and cultural engagement.
- Two targeted Newcomer Workshops supported integration for individuals new to the area.

Business, Funding & Tourism Business Support

- Four events in this category engaged 128 participants, with a focus on local enterprise, funding access, rural resilience, and tourism business development.
- Funding-focused sessions in Kilkeel and Bessbrook engaged 90 participants, helping local groups and organisations access support.
- Smaller sessions on tourism businesses and agricultural resilience provided targeted sector guidance.

	<p>Major Regional Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two large-scale events significantly boosted overall reach: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women in Business Conference (Carrickdale): 350 attendees Balmoral Show (Lisburn): 150 attendees <p>These events provided high-visibility platforms to engage with regional stakeholders, businesses, and the wider public to boost the profile of Go Succeed.</p> <p>UKSPF funding for Go Succeed concludes in March 2026. Council along with key stakeholders are lobbying for a funding package to continue delivery of Go Succeed beyond March 2026.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
	To note the update provided on the implementation of Go Succeed 25/26.
4.0	Resource implications
	There is match funding provision in 25/26 revenue budget (approval February 2025 ERT).
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
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6.0	<p>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</p>
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	<p>Appendices</p>
	<p>N/A</p>
8.0	<p>Background Documents</p>
	<p>N/A</p>