Comhairle Ceantair
an Iúir, Mhúrn
agus an Dúin
Newry, Mourne
and Down
District Council

Temporary Road Closures on a Public Road for the Purpose of Holding a Special Event Policy

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ECONOMY, REGENERATION AND TOURISM DEPARTMENT

Dated: 30 March 2026

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1. Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to outline the approach to be taken by the District Council when considering applications for temporary road closures on a public road for the purpose of holding a special event.

Its aim is to provide, insofar as is possible, transparent, well informed and legally sustainable decision making so as to develop and thereafter maintain public confidence in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's (here after called 'the District Council') performance of its duties under the Roads (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 2010 and the Roads Traffic Regulation (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 (as amended)

This Policy is intended to ensure that the District Council's Members and Officers are aware of those matters to be taken into consideration when determining if a street of part thereof should be prohibited or restricted for the purpose of holding a special event on a public road.

2. Background

2.1 The Roads (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 2010 amends the Road Traffic Regulation (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 to provide relevant authorities (district councils and DRD Road Service) the power to prohibit or restrict the use of a public road for the purpose of holding a special event on a public road.

2.2 A 'special event' is defined as any sporting event, social event or entertainment which is held on a public road or the making of a film on a public road. Consent of the Department for Infrastructure is required (here after called 'the DFI Roads Service'). If the DFI Roads Service objects on the grounds of road safety issues or traffic management issues, then approval shall not be given.

3. References

- Roads (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 2010
- Roads Traffic Regulation (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 (as amended)
- Department of Infrastructure Special Events on Roads, Guidance for District Councils
- Department of Infrastructure Special Events on Roads, Guidance for Promoters of Events

4. Scope

The District Council may by order restrict or prohibit temporarily the use of the road or part of the road by vehicles, class of vehicle or pedestrians, to such extent and subject to such conditions or exceptions it considers necessary or expedient.

4.1 A closure may only be permitted for the purpose of:

a) Facilitating the holding of **a special** event
b) Enabling members of the public to watch **a special** event or
c) Reducing the disruption to traffic likely to be caused by a **special** event, and
d) Restricting traffic on adjacent streets in order to facilitate the event.

The principles of the process are as outlined in the Temporary Road Closures Procedure.

4.2 No Order will be made with respect to any public road that will prevent at any time access for pedestrians-
(a) to any premises situated on or adjacent to the road, or
(b) to any other premises accessible for pedestrians from, and only from, the road.

4.3 The Council will ensure prior to making the order that it is not reasonably practicable for the event to be held otherwise than on a road. The council will have regard to any guidance issued by the DFI Roads Service.

4.4 Council may issue an order to:

a) Suspend or modify any statutory provision such as parking provision or waiting restriction.
b) Restrict the amount of time an event can last.
    (a) Approval shall be authorised by the Director of the Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Department under delegated authority.
    (b) Refusal shall be referred to the Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee for consultation.

Activities which are not special events

a) A public procession (within the meaning of the Public Processions (NI) Act 1998) - includes vintage car rallies and other motorised cavalcades
b) A Motor Race falling within the Road Races (NI) Order 1986
c) A Race or Trial falling within Article 45 of the Road Traffic (NI) Order 1995 (Cycle racing on roads)
d) Roads works or street works
e) Special roads

4.6 The council may monitor any special events as it deems necessary and report any significant non-compliance issues to the Police Service of Northern Ireland (here after called 'PSNI') for enforcement.

4.7 Any breaches of the conditions of the order shall be referred to the PSNI as the enforcement authority.

5. Costs

5.1 A Closure Special Event Order including advertisement costs of public notices for large and small events to be as outlined in the Temporary Road Closures Procedure.

5.2 A Closure for filming to be outlined in the Temporary Road Closures Procedure and that the following can be provided:

- If DFI Roads Service objects, then administration/advertising fees will not be refunded.

5.3 Fees are non-refundable if there are objections from consultees

- All clean-up costs after the event are to be covered by the applicant.
- DFI Road Service and PSNI may also incur costs and may seek to recover these directly from the applicant.

6. Definitions

6.1 Public Roads (NI) Order 1993, Definition of a public road:

a) A road which is maintained by the DFI Roads Service
b) Includes carriageway, footway and verge
c) Includes any bridge or tunnel

6.2 Special Road;

- All motorways
- The Westlink(A12); and
- A8M Sandyknowes to Corrs corner

6.3 The Department:

- The Department for Infrastructure

6.4 A Notice:

- A legally required document that presents the details of the special event, its organisers, and the impact on the local public road, which is placed in a local newspaper and invites written representation in respect of the proposals.

6.5 An Order

- A legal document that permits the relevant authority to prohibit or restrict traffic from using the road.

7 Policy Owner

Mr Conor Mallon, Director of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism

8. Contact details in regard of this policy are:

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9. Policy Authorisation

Development Committee Meeting Authorised on:	20th April 2026
Council Authorised on:	05th May 2026

10. Policy Effective Date

05th May 2026

11. Policy Review Date

05th May 2030

The policy will be reviewed in line with the Council's agreed policy review cycle i.e. every 4 years (as per Council's Equality Scheme commitment 4.31).

12. Procedures

Refer to the Temporary Road Closures Procedure

12. Equality Screening

The policy has been equality screened, and the outcome is that it not be subject to an EQIA (with no mitigating measures required).

14. Rural Impact Assessment

Due regard to rural needs has been considered and a rural needs impact assessment has been completed.

Version 3.0

Appendix 1

Criteria for Small Events (i.e. Street Parties)

Small events such as street parties are a traditional part of community life; they are a simple way for us to get to know our neighbours and meet members of our community.

To be considered a 'small event', the event must: (please note this list is not exhaustive)

1. Be held on minor residential roads e.g. cul-de-sacs or side streets.

2. The proposed road to be closed must not have a bus route along it.

3. Not have a car park located on it or a car park which is accessed via the road to be closed (other than a car park for residents of the road)

4. Not be publicised for the general public and therefore will not draw in people from the wider area.

5. Be an event which would apply to the residents of one or two streets only and not to larger areas of the district/city. It is up to the district council to consider factors such as the proposed attendance figures etc when making its decision on whether to grant an Order.

6. Finish by 11pm.

7. Not have a stage built from which entertainment would be provided.

8. Not have amplified entertainment which may cause nuisance to the wider area.

9. Not have fireworks, pyrotechnics or bonfires on the street.

10. Not have alcohol or food **sold** at the event.