

A CITY WITH BIG VISION

As Newry moves ever closer to its most significant investment and development in many years, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council is shining a light on some of the major benefits of the Newry City Centre Regeneration Project.

➤ **Theatre/Conference Centre**
15-Acre Albert Basin Park
Civic and Regional Hub
Grade A Office Accommodation

This week, we are focussing on the proposed new Theatre/Conference Centre – a major part of making Newry a destination city with a vibrant and sustainable night time economy.

The new Theatre/Conference Centre will help advance the performing arts and culture sector of Newry, attract professional and aspiring artists to our City, as well as provide a conference and events space to attract organisations and business events to the area.

In future weeks, as part of this series, we will focus on other aspects of the Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme such as the 15-Acre Albert Basin Park.

Thank you to all those who have taken part in the current public consultation process, which remains open until the end of May: www.newrymournedown.org/newry-city-centre-regeneration-online-public-consultation

As part of this process we answered a range of frequently asked questions which can be found here: www.newrymournedown.org/newry-regeneration

Some Q&As on the planned Theatre/Conference Centre can be found opposite. Members of the public can submit questions on the Newry City Centre Regeneration Project to: info@nmandd.org



Proposed Theatre/Conference Centre

newrymournedown.org/newry-regeneration
[#NMDJourney](https://www.instagram.com/nmdjourney)

Your Questions Answered

Q Why is the Council building a new Theatre/Conference Centre?

A The arts are well supported by the people of Newry, and the Council wants to widen the arts offering to attract more visitors to the City. More visitors mean we can nurture our arts and build a better evening economy. Also, having a new and unique conferencing offer will help attract more business visits to Newry to support our daytime economy.

Q Why is the Council removing the Sean Hollywood Arts Centre?

A The Sean Hollywood Arts Centre is 35 years old; research shows that by modern standards it is very inefficient and approaching end of life. We want to replace the existing arts centre with a vibrant multi-purpose auditorium, intimate studio space and innovation hub. This new creative centre will provide educational programmes and include a café and exhibition space.

Q How many seats will the new auditorium have?

A We're aiming for at least 250 seats, however the auditorium will be a flexible space that can accommodate a range of performance, conferencing and seating styles. We want to attract year-round professional performers. By combining the new auditorium and Town Hall we can potentially host events for around 700 people!

Q What is happening to the Town Hall?

A The historic Town Hall is getting renovated. We're proposing a new goods lift, so theatre companies have better access to the stage; we also want to renovate all the toilets and changing rooms, fix the heating and make better use of the historic rooms as workshop space. When complete, a new glazed structure will link the Town Hall with the new auditorium building, with new stairs and a lift for better access, creating a facility that will play a pivotal role for Newry into the future.

Q What about the Ross Thompson site?

A We plan to re-open the Ross Thompson site as a new and memorable public performance space. The pedestrian link to Needham bridge will also be re-opened, and the whole area will be refinished with new paving, seats, lights and planting for public use.