

Where landscape comes alive

Mourne Gullion Strangford

This is the Mourne Gullion Strangford UNESCO Global Geopark. A place where mountains meet the sea, ancient woodland gives way to open coast, and landscapes shaped by fire and ice are rich in history, folklore and culture.

Today, there is an opportunity to build on that legacy through a major programme of tourism investment across **Kilbroney Park**, **Slieve Gullion Forest Park** and **Delamont Country Park**. Together, these proposals have the potential to create exceptional new visitor experiences, encourage longer stays, support local businesses and strengthen the visitor economy across Mourne Gullion Strangford.

Subject to approvals, up to £29.2 million from the Belfast Region City Deal would be used to help realise this vision.

Funding has not yet been formally approved and the proposals are still being refined. That is why we want to hear from you now - while there is still time to shape them.

**Three ways to take
part today.**

1 Read the
boards

2 Talk to
the team

3 Fill in a
feedback form



Find out more and respond online
[www.newrymournedown.org/
brcd-tourism-project](http://www.newrymournedown.org/brcd-tourism-project)

The vision

One destination,
three distinctive
experiences,
so much to
discover.

Kilbroney, Slieve Gullion and Delamont
each have their own character, stories
and sense of adventure. Together they
can offer visitors a reason to come, and a
reason to stay.

The opportunity is to create a more regenerative kind of
tourism experience: one that encourages visitors to stay a
little longer, explore a little further and connect more deeply
with the landscapes, communities, stories, flavours and
culture that make Mourne Gullion Strangford unique.

New experiences at these three parks are designed to work
together – each one different, each one inviting people on to
discover more of the wider destination.



Kilbroney Park

Mountain. Forest. Wonder.
A place to let your imagination
run wild.

See boards 4–6



Slieve Gullion Forest Park

Ancient geology. Myth. Legend.
A landscape of stories.

See boards 7-8



Delamont Country Park

Lough. Shoreline. Wildlife..
A window into a changing landscape.

See board 9

you spoke, we listened

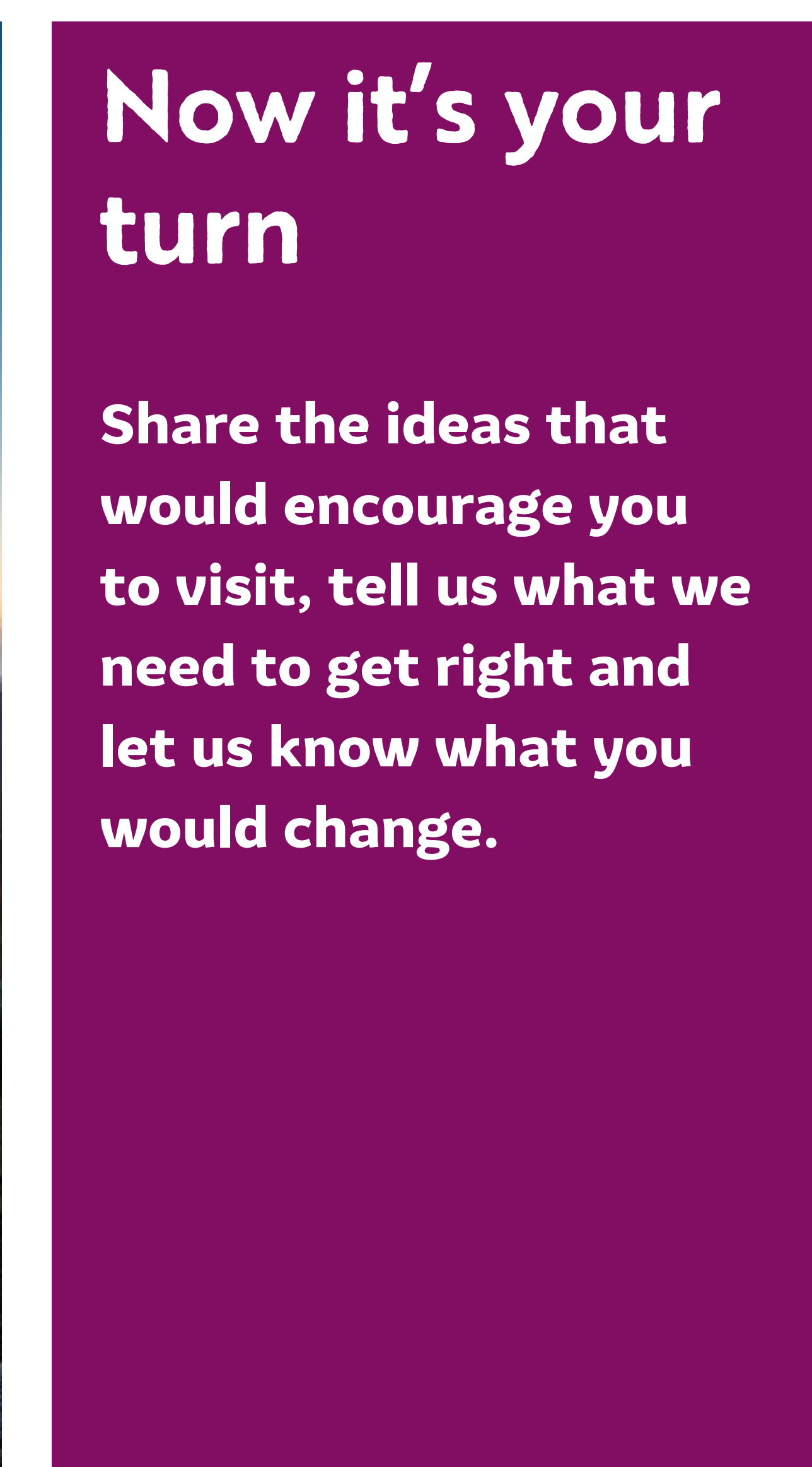
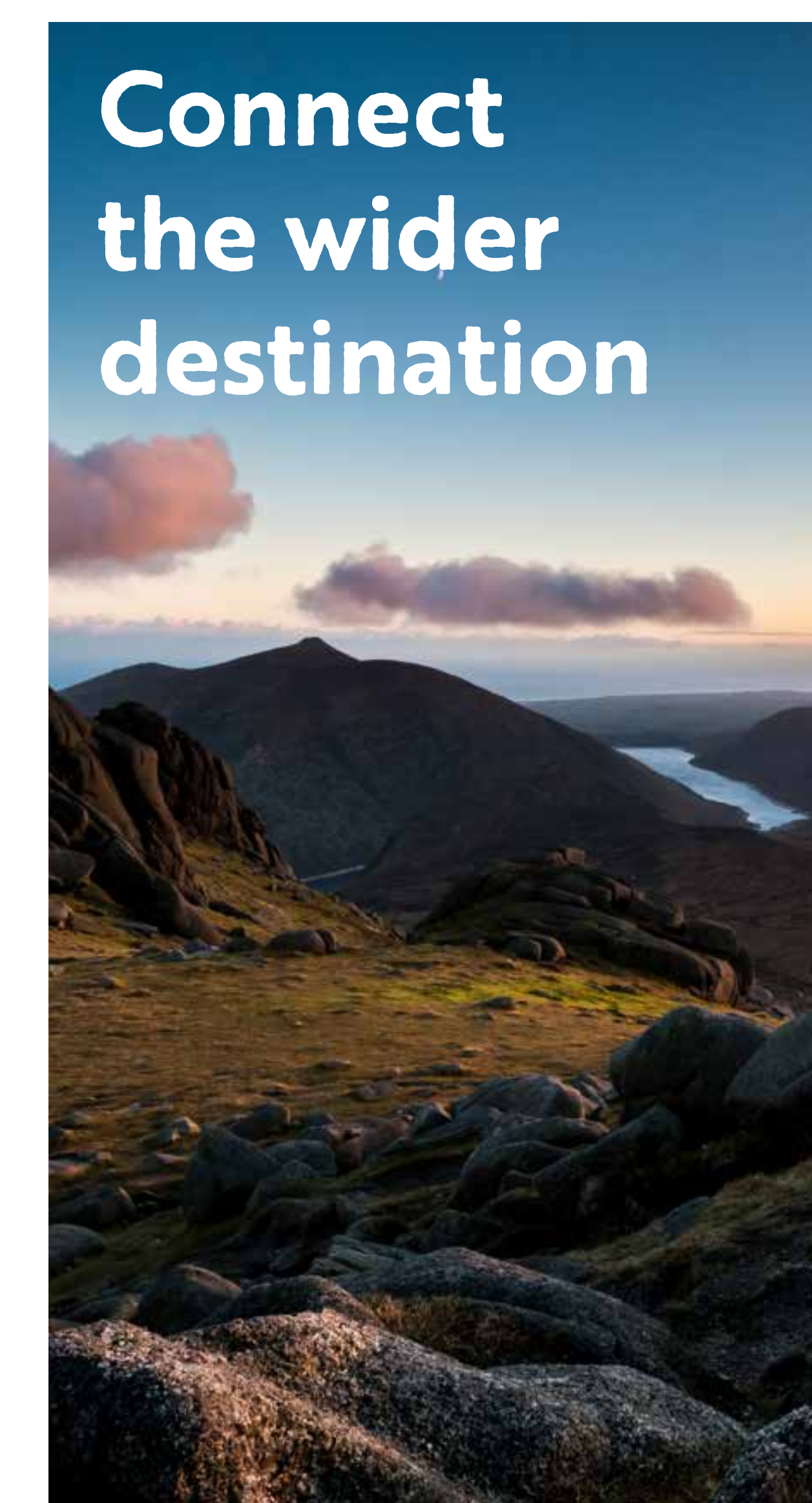
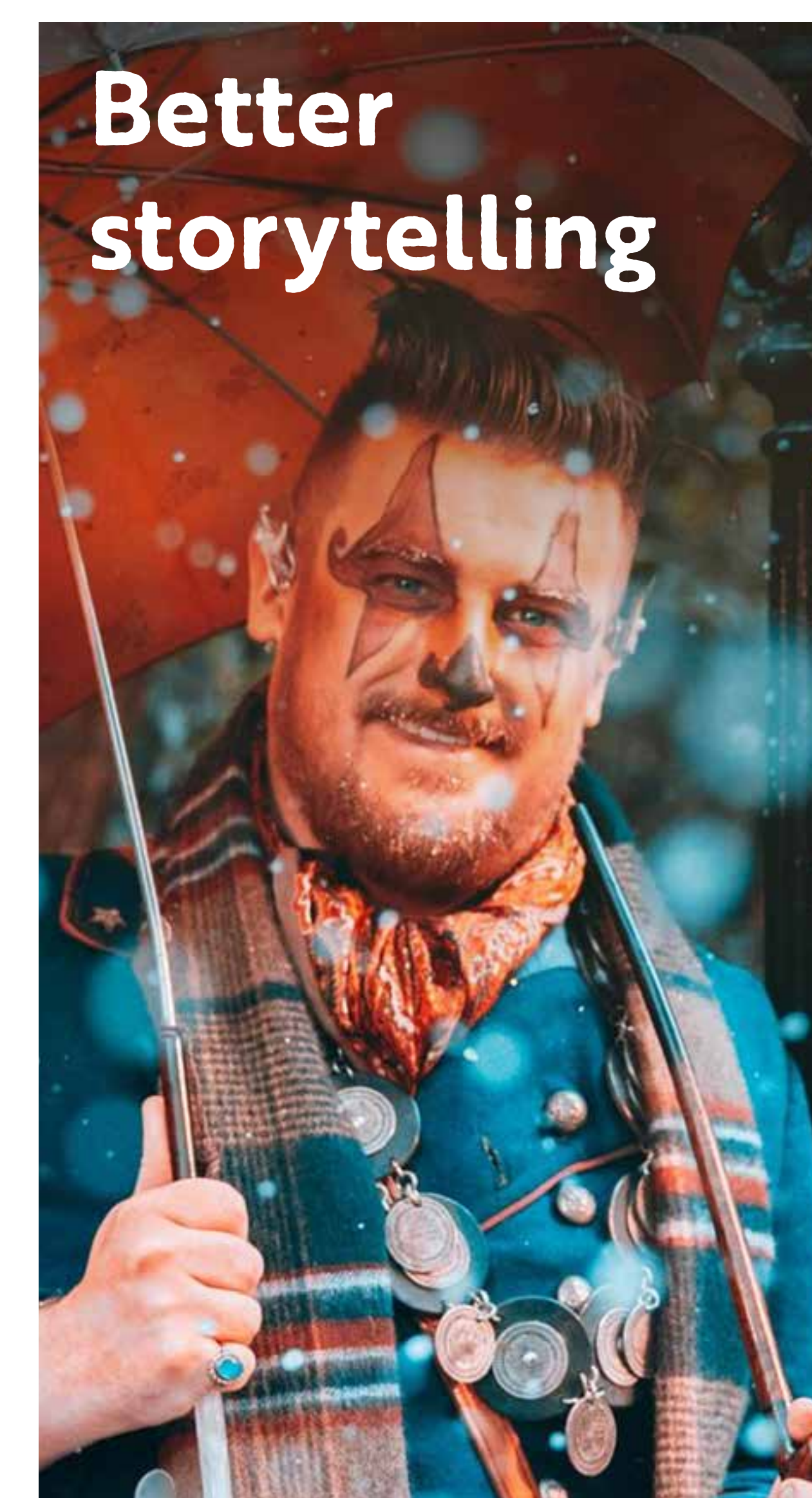
We've already been listening to businesses, tourism organisations, community groups and young people. **The message was clear:**

“Keep what makes these places special.”

People want ambition – but it has to feel like it belongs here.

The proposals for **Kilbroney Park**, **Slieve Gullion Forest Park** and **Delamont Country Park** aim to build on what you have said, what makes each place special, creating new visitor experiences while respecting the landscapes, stories and communities that define them.

What you've told us so far



The images presented are for illustrative purposes only and depict potential experiences that could be explored. Some images have been generated using AI tools and may not accurately reflect actual conditions or specifications. Please consult with a representative for verified information.

A place of wonder

Kilbroney Park

Mountain. Forest. Wonder

Kilbroney is the first of the three parks, and its plans are the furthest developed. Set between the Mourne Mountains, ancient woodland and the shores of Carlingford Lough, this is a place where the scale and drama of the landscape have inspired people for generations – including C.S. Lewis, whose experiences of the Mournes helped shape the magical world of Narnia.

Here, visitors can step into the landscape and discover the magic in the mountains, forests and rocks that inspired this famous world. The proposed investment would build on that sense of wonder across three connected areas. Shown below and on the emerging masterplan to the right are some of the suggested investment proposals.

Arrive. Discover. Imagine.

- ① Reimagined visitor centre & café
- ② Revitalised Narnia Trail, including a potential new evening experience
- ③ Transformed playground and outdoor games
- ④ Shuttle service & accessible stopping point

Stay. Reconnect.

- ⑤ Outdoor retreats to stay longer
- ⑥ Wildflower meadow & sheltered resting area

Play. Explore. Experience.

- ⑦ Adventure play trail
- ⑧ Forest activities & activity hub
- ⑨ Myths and geocaching trail
- ⑩ Bike hub



Arrive. Discover. Imagine.



Reimagined visitor centre & café

An enhanced all-weather visitor hub and café with immersive displays celebrating the Mourne Mountains and local heritage, inspiring visitors to explore Kilbroney and the wider Mourne Gullion Strangford area.



Revitalised Narnia Trail

An enhanced Narnia-inspired woodland journey, where artistic installations bring stories to life and inspire curiosity, wonder and imagination.



A new evening experience

Seasonal low-impact illuminated experiences to bring the trail to life after dark, creating a distinctive evening and year-round offer.



Transformed playground, outdoor games and picnic area

A larger nature-inspired playground with timber play equipment, adventure features, inclusive play opportunities, and outdoor games and activities.



Linkages and accessibility

Improved linkages and accessibility across car parks and amenities, which could include options such as a shuttle service between the main and upper car parks.

Stay. Reconnect.



Outdoor retreats to stay longer

More caravan pitches, themed glamping pods and camping experiences, alongside mobile saunas offering a unique outdoor wellness experience.



Wildflower meadow & sheltered resting area

A new space to connect with nature, experience seasonal wildflower displays, relax under sheltered seating, and enjoy play and picnic opportunities.

Play. Explore. Experience.



Adventure play trail

A nature-based play trail with stepping stones, log scrambles, willow tunnels, giant marble runs and outdoor games, encouraging play, creativity and outdoor exploration.



Forest activities & activity hub

New woodland adventure activities offering exciting outdoor experiences for families, groups and adventure seekers.



Myths and geocaching trail

A themed trail celebrating local mythology and geology, guiding visitors through woodland to landmarks including the Cloughmore Stone.



Bike hub

Enhanced bike hire facilities, upgraded mountain biking trails and improved park connections, supporting outdoor adventure and year-round recreation.

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Shaped by the landscape

Kilbroney Park visitor hub

At the heart of the proposals is a new visitor hub. Sitting between the slopes of the Mourne Mountains and the waters of Carlingford Lough, any new building at Kilbroney has to earn its place. These early architectural ideas explore how a new visitor hub could respond to the landscape, materials and views that make Kilbroney special.

The design will continue to develop and nothing shown is final.



Early sketch of the exhibition space, with a model of the Mournes at its centre



An early section showing how arrival, welcome and public spaces could sit within the woodland, with a taller public element rising towards the treeline to open up views of Carlingford Lough and Slieve Martin.

Made of this place. Still taking shape.



A welcome in all weathers

A light, open space to arrive, shelter and gather – with a café, room for local makers and views out into the park.



Built from the landscape

A strong granite base echoing the geology of the Mournes, with a lighter timber structure above.



Weathering into the woods

Natural timber could silver with age and settle into the woodland, while carefully placed glazing brings views of the landscape inside.



A view worth climbing for

Raising a small part above the treeline could reveal views to Carlingford Lough – a new vantage point and marker in the park.

Inside the hub: where geology meets imagination

The hub could tell the story of how fire and ice shaped the Mournes – and how this landscape went on to inspire C.S. Lewis.



Hands-on discovery

Varied ways to explore, play and discover, for different ages, interests and learning styles.



Forming the Mournes

An immersive AV experience: magma flowing across walls and floor, and ice settling in to the sound of real glaciers.



Geology meets mythology

An indoor 'wow' moment that brings rock, legend and story together.



The world of Narnia

Discover how the Mournes shaped the landscapes of C.S. Lewis's stories.

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A landscape of stories

Slieve Gullion Forest Park

Ancient geology. Myth. Legend.

Where Kilbroney sparks the imagination, Slieve Gullion tells the legends. Shaped by immense volcanic forces, this landscape of mountains, valleys and dramatic rock formations is where extraordinary geology and stories sit side by side. It has set the scene for some of Ireland's most timeless myths – Fionn Mac Cumhaill, Cú Chulainn and the Cailleach. Some of the suggested investment proposals are listed below which aim to bring these stories out of the past and into the landscape.

Proposed investment

- Landmark all-weather amphitheatre (see board 8)
- Immersive storytelling, projections and live events
- Augmented reality and digital visitor experiences
- Interactive interpretation of the Ring of Gullion's volcanic heritage
- Experiences inspired by local myths and legends
- Enhanced trails and outdoor exploration opportunities
- Improved year-round visitor facilities
- New reasons to visit throughout the seasons

Bringing the stories to life



Volcanic heritage

New interpretation revealing how the Ring of Gullion was formed by an ancient volcano that collapsed in on itself.



Augmented reality

Building on the Giant's Lair, AR could let visitors see beneath the landscape and back to when volcanoes shaped the region.



Myths & legends in the landscape

Trails, sculpture and storytelling that return these legends to the places where they were first told.



Storytelling & live performance

Music, theatre, storytelling and seasonal events – rain or shine.



After-dark projections

Light, projection and storytelling bringing the forest to life after dark.

Alongside the geological story, events and interpretation could celebrate Celtic heritage, Irish storytelling, music and contemporary culture.

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A landmark all-weather amphitheatre

Slieve Gullion Forest Park

Slieve Gullion's amphitheatre is a natural gathering place, but today it is open to the elements. A canopy could let it host events all year round. Two very different ideas are being explored.



1 Storyteller's Lantern
A canopy held up by timber 'trees' growing from the edges of the amphitheatre – a physical story tree, with carved or perforated panels for different legends, glowing like a lantern in the forest at night.

2 The Cailleach's Wings
Dramatic timber wings sweep out over the amphitheatre like a creature opening its wings, with carvings underneath telling stories of the seasons, transformation and the local landscape.



A window into a changing landscape

Delamont Country Park

Lough. Shoreline. Wildlife

The third park invites a quieter kind of adventure. Glaciers carved the drumlin hills that rise from the water. The tides still ebb and flow through the lough. Wildlife has adapted to changing habitats, while people have travelled, farmed and settled around these shores for thousands of years, each adding their own chapter to its story.

The opportunity at Delamont is to help people slow down and read that story in the landscape.

Here, the view is part of the experience. Delamont offers a different pace – a place to switch off, reconnect with nature and spend time by the water. An oasis of calm, it complements the adventure and activity of Kilbroney and the myths and legends of Slieve Gullion.

Proposed investment

- New landscape and heritage interpretation experiences
- Enhanced viewpoints across Strangford Lough
- Interactive exhibits exploring geology, wildlife and climate change
- Improved walking and discovery trails
- Experiences inspired by the stories of Strangford Lough and its people
- Enhanced overnight accommodation
- Improved visitor facilities

At Delamont, visitors will be invited to experience a landscape that is always changing – shaped by ice, water, wildlife and generations of people. From stories of St Patrick and the Vikings to the changing seasons of Strangford Lough, this is a place to pause, look closer and discover the stories written into the land and water.



Slow down



Breathe in the views



Reconnect with nature

One experience leads to another

Beyond the parks

Three parks, three distinct experiences – and each one can lead to more. The investment is focused within the parks, but the opportunity extends far beyond their gates.

The parks can be the starting point for a wider journey, connecting visitors with our towns and villages, food and drink experiences, accommodation providers, attractions, activities and events.

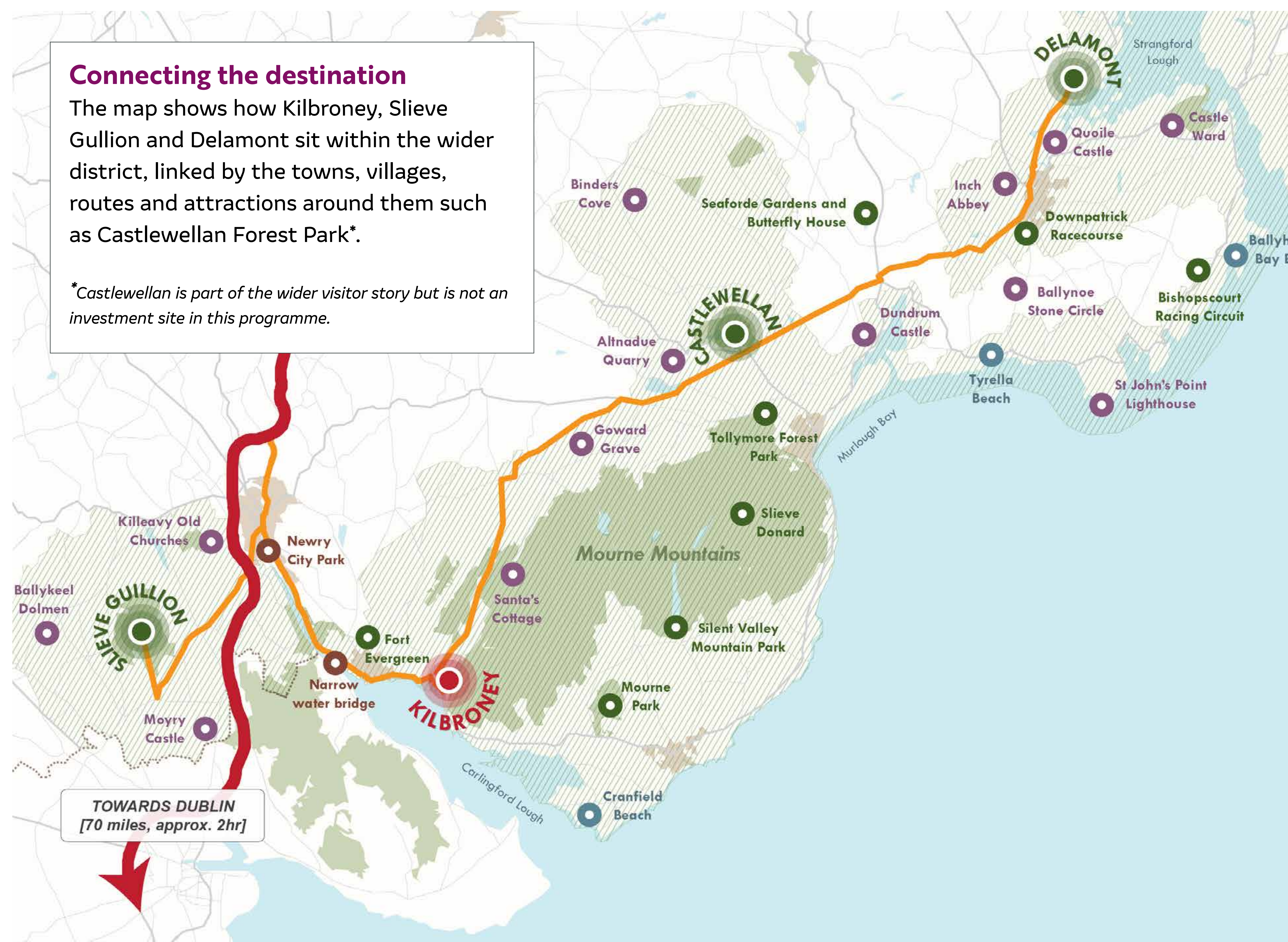
The opportunity

- Encourage longer stays and repeat visits
- Help visitors discover more of the district
- Strengthen links between parks, places and experiences
- Create new opportunities for local businesses
- Support sustainable growth across the visitor economy
- Spread the benefits of tourism across communities

Connecting the destination

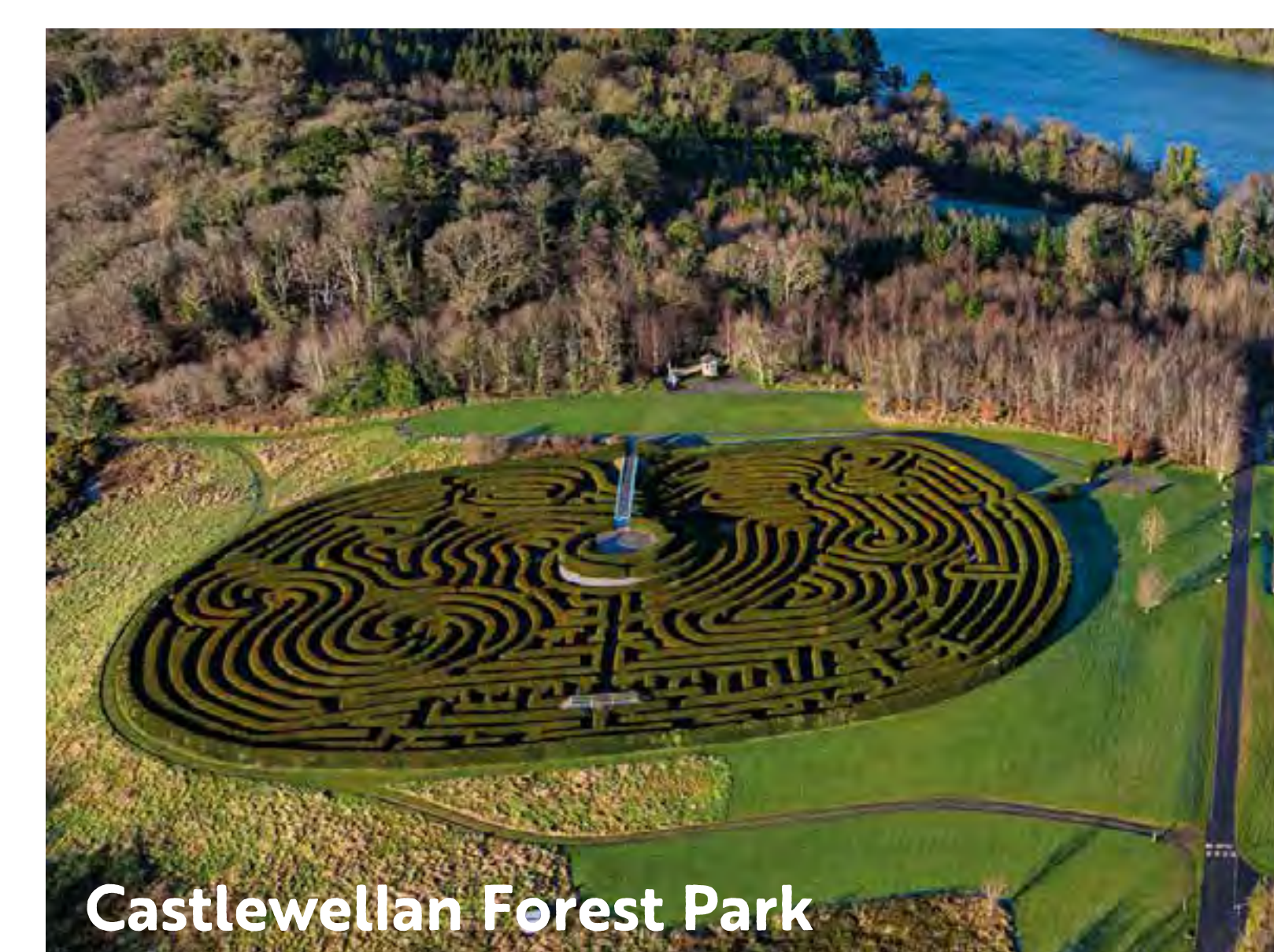
The map shows how Kilbroney, Slieve Gullion and Delamont sit within the wider district, linked by the towns, villages, routes and attractions around them such as Castlewellan Forest Park*.

**Castlewellan is part of the wider visitor story but is not an investment site in this programme.*



Supporting new visitor experiences

We are also exploring a Visitor Experience Development Fund to support businesses in developing new products, experiences and visitor offers that complement investment in the parks and encourage people to explore more of the wider destination.



Stay longer, explore further and discover more of Mourne Gullion Strangford.

What happens next?

From ideas to investment



Your feedback today feeds directly into the next step.
Board 12 shows how to respond.

Timings are subject to the relevant Belfast Region
City Deal and departmental approval processes.

Keep what matters

Help us shape what's next

**You've seen the story so far.
Now we want to hear yours.**

The ideas on these boards are proposals, and your feedback will help inform the next stage of their development. Tell us what matters most to you, and how these special places can evolve while protecting the landscapes, heritage and experiences that make them unique

What this engagement can influence

Open for your views

- What would make each park better for visitors and local people.
- Which improvements matter most, and why.
- How the parks, towns and businesses can work together.
- The stories and heritage that should be told.

Four ways to respond

1 At a drop-in event

Talk to the project team at Kilbroney Park or Warrenpoint Town Hall, then complete a feedback form and hand it in or place it in the box provided.

2 Online - find out more

Visit the project website to find out more about the proposals, see these boards again, and complete the survey. Or scan the QR code.



Scan or visit
newrymournedown.org/brcd-tourism-project

3 By email

Send a scan or photo of your completed feedback form to
BRCDTourism@nmandd.org

4 By post

Tracie Clarke, Newry Mourne and Down District Council,
Warrenpoint Town Hall, Church Street,
BT34 3HN

Already set

- The three parks: Kilbroney, Slieve Gullion and Delamont.
- Funding is for improvements within the parks, not a new route between them.
- The £29.2m funding envelope, conditional on business case approval.

Everything we hear will be reviewed and summarised and used to help refine the proposals and inform the Outline Business Case before it is submitted.

Thank you for taking part.

All feedback must be received by **Friday 6 November 2026**