

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

February 2019

NMD Connect

incorporating Annual Report 2018/2019



Ag freastal ar an Dúin
agus Ard Mhacha Theas
Serving Down
and South Armagh



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

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Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

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Welcome

Since becoming the Chairman of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council in June 2018, I have been honoured to meet with people, groups and businesses that are all working together to make this area a better place to live and work in.

During this year it has been my pleasure to support and champion a wide variety of initiatives, ranging from health and wellbeing to economic schemes carried out with local, national and international partners.

I am particularly pleased to note the large number of community events that have taken place this year throughout the district. These include health checks in Strangford and Killyleagh, participation in cancer screening in Castlewellsan and positive ageing events in Slieve Gullion, Warrenpoint and Kilkeel.

Revitalising and restoring Warrenpoint's Edwardian municipal park, bringing it back to its former glory, benefits the local community and visitors alike. With significant funding from the

Council, as well as £850,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund's Parks for People Programme, we have ensured that an historic park is there for all to enjoy.

The opening of our new £15.5m Down Leisure Centre was a triumph and will have a positive impact in the year to come. Not only is it a state-of-the-art facility, it provides opportunities for all our citizens, whatever their level of ability, to enjoy a more active lifestyle. The new leisure centre will also be a welcome boost for our 'Be Active' campaign which aims to promote better physical and mental wellbeing for all residents.

This year has been an important one as we make plans to improve the economic life of the Council area and forge partnerships both



Front cover: Down Leisure Centre
Photograph by: Raphael Mason Photography

on the island of Ireland, within Europe and further afield. The Belfast Region City Deal, which brings together six councils in Northern Ireland, will provide us with the funding to progress much needed infrastructure, regeneration and tourism projects. Projects that we will be progressing include the Southern Relief Road, the proposed new civic centre, and a new conferencing and enhanced theatre facility in Newry City. We also aim to improve our visitor attractions to enrich the Mourne Mountains tourist experience.

In addition to our local and regional relationships, this year we have embarked on a new partnership with the city of Changchun, in the Chinese province of Jilin. This friendly exchange agreement ensures a long-term commitment for cooperation between the two regions and will, I believe, bring tangible benefits to our area.

I would like to thank all those who have helped me during my time as Chairman and who have shared their programmes and projects with me. I look forward to celebrating their achievements in the coming months.

Councillor Mark Murnin
Chairman

Chief Executive's message

Looking back on 2018, I believe that we can be proud of what we have achieved this year and the plans that we are putting in place for the coming year.

Over the past year, we have made great strides in improving both our local economy and the services that we provide to all our residents. We have worked closely with our partners in government, the EU and across the island of Ireland to develop better transport, economic and cultural links as well as securing our future economic prospects against the uncertainty of the Brexit process. The monies that we have secured, as part of the Belfast Region City Deal, will enable us to further progress the Southern Relief Road and enrich our visitor destination experience in the Mourne Mountains and coastline.

This year we have also delivered on a number of key priorities and have made substantial progress on others. We have improved the way the community funding budget is delivered by involving local community groups in deciding on their priorities. We have delivered on one of our signature projects, the new £15.5m Down Leisure Centre, which now provides a state-of-the-art centre for all our citizens to help improve health and wellbeing.

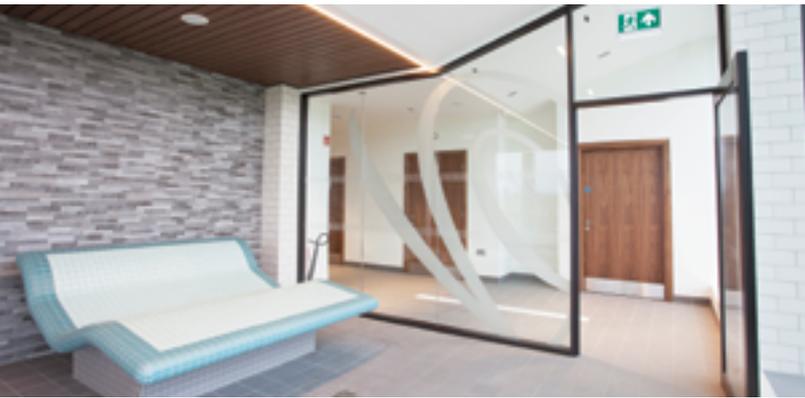
We have also continued to make great strides in delivering the essential services to all district residents. One of our top priorities has been around recycling and

waste reduction, not only to improve the environmental impact but also to reduce the amount of monies devoted to this important function. I am pleased that in the first six months of this year we have increased the amount of food waste placed in brown bins by 34% and reduced the amount of waste going to landfill by 60%. These are real achievements but we will continue to drive down the volume of waste during 2019.

We are coming to the end of our first term as a new council and are moving forward as a unified district. This year will see the election of new councillors. I know that we will work alongside them to deliver the projects critical to the continued prosperity of our region.

Liam Hannaway
Chief Executive



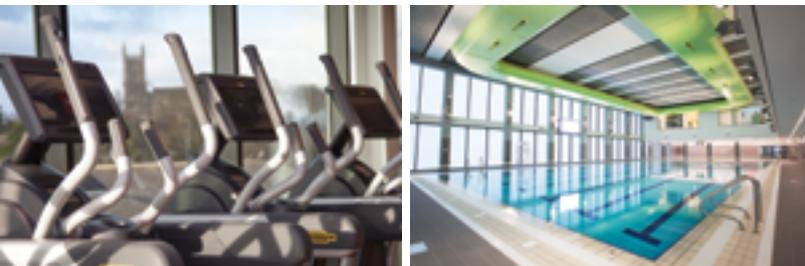


Your new premier Down Leisure Centre is open for business

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's much anticipated £15.5m Down Leisure Centre officially opened its doors in November 2018.

Facilities include an 85 station Wellness Technogym with cutting edge technology, luxury Vitality Health Suite, spin studio, four-court sports hall and six-lane swimming pool and learner pool. The learner pool also incorporates a moveable floor, which can be adjusted for different ages and abilities.

The new Down Leisure Centre in Downpatrick fills 6,105m² over three floors — a dramatic transformation from the town's previous two-floor 3,403m² building which opened back in 1980.



The new facilities are also a boost to the Council's 'Be Active' campaign, launched last year, which aims to motivate people to undertake more activity in their day-to-day lives. The ethos of the Be Active campaign is to promote better physical health and mental wellbeing in our increasingly busy lives.

We would encourage you to try the centre or take out a membership and 'Be Active — Your Way Every Day'.



Download our NMD Be Active app

Our new NMD Be Active app is available now for download on iPhone and Android mobile devices. Keep up-to-date with news, offers, swimming and fitness class timetables, booking information, membership and much more.

The app covers the following sites:

- ✓ Ballymote Sports and Wellbeing Centre
- ✓ Down Leisure Centre
- ✓ Kilkeel Leisure Centre
- ✓ Newcastle Centre
- ✓ Newry Leisure Centre
- ✓ St Colman's Sports Complex

You can also find out about our Outdoor Leisure facilities on the app.

All you need to do is search for 'NMD Be Active' in the App Store, download, and choose the centres that interest you to have all the information at your fingertips.





Our new NMD Be Active Leisure Facebook page



The Leisure and Sport department recently launched its new Facebook page: NMD Be Active Leisure. Like the page to get the latest information on our facilities and services across all leisure and sport sites in the district.

Membership options - join online



Choose from a wide range of membership options and join at the click of a button.

- Membership prices range from £15 - £29.95 per month
- Daily, 3 month, 6 month, 12 month and direct debit option payments available
- Join and book online at www.newrymournedown.org/leisure-and-sport, download the NMD Be Active app to join, or contact your local centre for activity and admission charges.

We offer an extensive variety of membership options to suit everyone's individual needs whether you want to swim, participate in classes, workout in the gym or combine all three.

Platinum (All Inclusive)

Multi-site access to all of our indoor leisure facilities that have gym, swim, sauna, steam or class provision.

This applies to Ballymote Sports and Wellbeing Centre, Down Leisure Centre, Kilkeel Leisure Centre, Newcastle Centre and Newry Leisure Centre.

There is also a Platinum Swim option, which allows multi-site access

to our Indoor Leisure facilities that have swimming pool provision. This applies to Down Leisure Centre, Newry Leisure Centre and Kilkeel Leisure Centre.

Gold

Unlimited dual-site access to Ballymote Sports and Wellbeing Centre and the Newcastle Centre. Enjoy gym facilities at both sites, with the addition of sauna and steam facilities at the Newcastle Centre.

Silver

Access to a single facility of your choice that has gym, swim, sauna, steam or class provision at their designated off-peak times.

This is available at Ballymote Sports and Wellbeing Centre, Down Leisure Centre, Kilkeel Leisure Centre, Newcastle Centre and Newry Leisure Centre.

For more information email: indoorleisure@nmandd.org

*Prices valid until 31 March 2019



Breastfeeding is welcome here

We want to make it easier for mums to recognise places where they can breastfeed their baby.

The Council has therefore joined the Public Health Agency's Breastfeeding Welcome Here Scheme. The scheme allows organisations and businesses signed up to the scheme to promote that breastfeeding is welcome in any area of their premises.

The Public Health Agency has also produced an online interactive map, which details all of the organisations and businesses that have signed up throughout Northern Ireland. This map and more information on the scheme can be found at www.breastfedbabies.org

Currently, 16 Newry, Mourne and Down District Council facilities have joined the Breastfeeding Welcome Here scheme. In 2019 the Council will roll this out to include our community centres. We will also encourage local businesses and organisations to support the scheme.

For further information please contact the Health Improvement Section at ehealth@nmandd.org



Look out for the Fairtrade Mark in our Fairtrade district

Have you heard about our commitment to Fairtrade?

In November 2018, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council was awarded dual accreditation from the Fairtrade Foundation UK and Fairtrade Ireland. This means the Council has achieved its status as a Fairtrade district.

The local Fairtrade steering committee, made up of representatives from Council, local community groups, schools and churches, has worked to ensure as many people as possible know about Fairtrade and that local retailers and catering premises stock Fairtrade products.

Look out for the distinctive Fairtrade Mark on a wide range of products in local shops and watch out for catering premises that provide Fairtrade tea and coffee. By choosing Fairtrade, you will be helping farmers and workers in the developing world receive a fair price for their product.

The steering committee will continue its work throughout 2019 with some special events planned to celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight, taking place from 25 February to 10 March 2019.

To find out more visit www.fairtrade.org.uk

Also, if you are interested in joining the Fairtrade steering committee please contact fairtrade@nmandd.org

Sport Northern Ireland - Club Accreditation



Clubmark NI is the quality standard for sports clubs which is awarded by licensed governing bodies and local authorities who are endorsed by Sport Northern Ireland. While a number of governing bodies have their own scheme, any sport which hasn't can complete the generic Clubmark NI programme.

Accreditation is awarded to clubs that achieve the

core Sport Northern Ireland minimum operating standards in three areas as well as any additional criteria outlined by the governing body or local authority. The three core criteria areas are: Effective Management, Quality Coaching and Competition and Safety in Sport.

For more information please contact:
leisureandsport@nmandd.org

Working to improve the quality of life for our older residents

Did you know we are an age-friendly community in Newry, Mourne and Down?

A designated age-friendly area is one in which organisations work together to make sure they improve quality of life for residents as they age.

In September 2018, the Council joined the World Health Organisation Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities. This allows us to exchange experiences and learn from other cities and communities worldwide.

We have also joined the UK Network of Age-friendly Communities, which means we are part of a growing movement of local communities making places more age-friendly. As a network member, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council is able to access a range of support and learning offers

available to members. We are only the third council in Northern Ireland to attain this membership.

We also facilitate two Older People's Forums in Newry and Downpatrick, which allows our older people to voice their issues. By working with our partners we can deliver responses and enhance the rights of older people.

If you would like more information on the forums, or representing older people in the district, please get in touch with Lorraine O'Reilly, Age-friendly Coordinator on 0300 013 2233 or email agefriendly@nmandd.org.



NMD SPORTS AWARDS 2019



Celebrating our sporting community

We are delighted to announce the launch of the inaugural NMD Sports Awards in Association with SANDSA (Sports Association Newry, Down and South Armagh).

These upcoming awards will celebrate the remarkable achievements of our local sporting community. With so many exceptional achievements from sporting stars across the district, competition will be notable for the 13 awards on offer in March. For more information please contact: leisureandsport@nmandd.org

SANDSA represents the sporting community from the seven District Electoral Areas (DEAs) within Newry, Mourne and Down district. Their aim is to promote community ownership and work collaboratively to achieve common objectives by managing programmes, events, and funding opportunities.



Community success in Pride of Place Awards 2018

The contribution made by the community and voluntary sector in empowering communities was recognised in the annual IPB Pride of Place All Ireland Awards in Cork.

At the November ceremony, SPACE (Supporting People and Communities Everyday) successfully won the 'Community Health and Wellbeing' category. The judges said, "SPACE captures, at its core, the difference an effective organisation can make in delivering help to those in need. The group constitutes a highly innovative model of assistance and encouragement for people who find

difficulty in coping. Volunteers play an essential role and their testimonies gave a full picture of the breadth of operation and its considerable value to the people of the locality. This is an admirable organisation, an amazing team, and a very worthy winner."

Rostrevor Men's Shed was also nominated for its excellent work addressing men's health and wellbeing using a holistic approach. They were also nominated for their contribution to the wider Crotlieve community.

The nominations were made this year by Newry and Crotlieve District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums.

Disability Sports Hub will help ensure equal opportunities for all

We have formed a partnership with Disability Sports NI (DSNI) to establish a Disability Sports Hub in the district.

This will provide a range of sports wheelchairs, inclusive bikes and inclusive sports equipment to enable children and adults with disabilities to participate in activities. DSNI will provide training for our coaches whilst promoting positive attitudes towards people with disabilities. We are also supporting clubs and encouraging them to be more inclusive of people with disabilities.

Within Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, and along with DSNI,

we want to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to live a full, active and healthy lifestyle through sport and active recreation. DSNI encourages everyone to 'Be Active' and 'Be the Best'.

Our programmes include: Boccia, Swimming, Trampolining, Tai Chi, Step into Health, Wheelchair Basketball, and Strength and Balance classes.

For more information on our facilities and services provided please get in touch by emailing: ciara.lowe@nmandd.org, alternatively telephone 028 3031 3137.



Top RICS Award for Newry Leisure Centre

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's new Newry Leisure Centre, which officially opened for business in November 2017, received a prestigious Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) award in May 2018. In the RICS regional heats Newry Leisure Centre won the regeneration category. The RICS awards recognise inspirational initiatives and developments in land, real estate, construction and infrastructure. The £19m project brought together the city's health and wellbeing venues into a modern and exciting facility.

The new leisure centre includes an eight-lane swimming pool with moveable floor – accessible for all levels of ability, two large sports halls, fitness suites and fitness studios. The completion of the leisure centre helps to fulfil one of the Council's corporate objectives – to improve quality of life and reduce health inequalities.



£350 million for Council in Belfast Region City Deal

The long-awaited announcement on funding for the Belfast Region City Deal will make a real difference to the prosperity of our Council area. City Deals are bespoke packages of funding negotiated between central government and local authorities.

Our council has been working in partnership with five other councils, universities and colleges to bid for funding and welcomed the news of £350m from the Treasury in October 2018. As part of the deal the Department of Finance will add at least an additional £350m, with councils contributing over £100m. With investment from the private sector, the total package could be worth well over £1b.

This initiative is a once in a generation opportunity to press the 'fast forward' button on our enterprise, regeneration

and investment plans, improve our competitiveness and enhance our quality of life.

We believe that this deal will create up to 20,000 new and better jobs for the City Deal Region, and will deliver a 10-year programme of inclusive economic growth. Part of our area's plans include the delivery of the Southern Relief Road, a new civic centre and a new conferencing and enhanced theatre facility in Newry City. We also aim to improve our visitor attractions to enrich the Mourne Mountains tourist experience.





Friendly exchange agreement signed with city of Changchun, China

A new friendly exchange agreement between the Council and the city of Changchun, in the Chinese province of Jilin was signed in October 2018. The agreement came after an international visit to the 4th UK-China Regional Leaders Summit in Dalian, China and followed 12 months of negotiation and meetings with Chinese municipal government officials, supported by the Northern Ireland Bureau in China and the Confucius Institute based at the University of Ulster.

The Council's relationship with the city ensures a long-term commitment for cooperation between the two regions. It builds on our aim of establishing mutually beneficial and cooperative exchanges with regions throughout the world that can contribute to economic prosperity, tourism, skills and education.

Since the agreement was signed, we have continued to build on this relationship and have already hosted a senior delegation from the Jilin Provincial Government, the China Ministry of Commerce and a postgraduate delegation from one of Jilin University's hospitals. These visits give us opportunities to look at policies aimed at improving both skills and innovation as well as exploring future business and education links.

The Council wasn't the only one agreeing new partnerships, Southern Regional College and Newry Chamber of Commerce and Trade signed exchange agreements with Changchun Vocational College and Changchun Chamber for International Trade.



O Christmas tree!

This year we launched the first ever Sustainable Christmas Tree Pilot Programme across the district in seven sites. The scheme was supported by local community organisations that have worked with the Council in order to plant Christmas trees. We believe that the sustainable trees will become the central point for future Christmas celebrations for the communities taking part.

Why sustainable trees? Planting trees that can be used year after year is cost effective and also good for the environment. The trees, which we planted, are 4 to 4.5 metres tall and are *Abies Nordmanniana* (Nordman fir) conifers, one of the most popular Christmas firs. The scheme also makes use of existing trees and we hope to plant more sustainable trees across our district in the coming years.



Making a difference to our towns and cities

We have been very busy this year, trying to make our villages, towns and cities a better place to live in, work in and visit. As part of this, we are continuing to work on our Masterplans for Ballynahinch, Downpatrick, Newry City and the South East Coast—all of which will increase their economy and environment.



The **Ballynahinch** Masterplan is focused on revitalising the town centre. As part of this, the plan will identify vacant and derelict properties, create a better way to facilitate both pedestrians and traffic, and add additional evening and tourist events. Residents will also be pleased that the Council has now secured approval for the Ballynahinch Bypass—this will greatly improve access through the area and reduce traffic congestion in the town centre.



A new public realm improvement scheme for the historic town of **Downpatrick** is part of the Masterplan. This scheme will be delivered in partnership with the Department for Communities (DfC) and the Department for Infrastructure (DfI). Work on the site began in January 2019. We are also working with DfC and DfI to produce a comprehensive development plan for the former PSNI station on Irish Street.



Newry continues to be a focus for development, and one priority for the Masterplan is the Southern Relief Road. A preferred route was announced in October 2018. The next stage of the project for DfI will be to develop the design of the road and prepare the draft statutory orders, along with an environmental impact assessment, for public consultation.



Developing the strategic link road between the A1 Dublin Road and the A2 Warrenpoint Road will contribute to increasing the economy of the whole region and is a very welcome development. The Council will be working with DfI on this important project.



We are also working to develop the Kilkeel Harbour as part of the **South East Coast** Masterplan. Kilkeel Harbour is not only an important fishing harbour in our Council district, it accounts for one third of the value of all fish landed in Northern Ireland. We have been working closely with the Kilkeel Strategic Partnership, Invest NI and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs to develop the harbour to its full potential as a strategic landing and processing port. Ardglass Harbour is also part of this development and we are working with others to see how it can benefit from the scheme.

Regeneration



Revitalising Warrenpoint

The recently refurbished Edwardian bandstand demonstrates the work that is being undertaken to revitalise the historic town of Warrenpoint—the Christmas lights in December 2018 showcased it for the architectural gem that it is. Along with the local Chamber of Commerce, we are delivering £150,000 to improve the town, including shop fronts, new signage and a promotional and marketing campaign. The newly refurbished Warrenpoint Municipal Park also has a part to play as it becomes the home of the Artisan Market.



Newry Cathedral Corridor Revitalisation Project

With funding from DfC, an action plan has been developed to deliver a £100,000 revitalisation project in Newry. The Newry Cathedral Corridor Revitalisation Project includes a shop front improvement scheme, the provision of new festive lighting and a promotional/events campaign. A major project, which was delivered in partnership with First Derivatives and Newry BID (Newry Business Improvement District), was the successful Red Bull Formula 1 event that was held in November 2018.



Successful Driving and Essential Skills Training

The Driving to Success Initiative is run by the South Eastern Regional College (SERC) in Downpatrick as part of the Neighbourhood Renewal Scheme.

Designed to engage individuals who would not normally avail of college services, the aim is to encourage them to take up personal development and vocational training with a view to obtaining jobs, consider self-employment or continue in study.

Some of this training includes ICT Certificate in Essential Skills, the City and Guilds Award in Employability Skills, Functional Mathematical Skills, Hospitality and First Aid. In addition, participants have the opportunity to obtain their driving theory certificate, driving lessons and ultimately their driving test, which will help aid their recruitment opportunities.

Council celebrates Irish language class success

We recognise that the Irish language is an expression of cultural wealth and our Council affirms our commitment to facilitate and encourage the promotion and use of the Irish language through our Bilingualism Policy.

In April 2018, 21 members of Council staff embarked on our first course of Irish language classes which were successfully facilitated by Gaelchultúr.

After the successful completion of the 10-week course, Chairman of Council, Councillor Mark Murnin presented certificates to celebrate staff's achievements. Traditional Irish music by students from St Patrick's Grammar School, Downpatrick added to the celebration of Irish language and culture.

Special guests on the day included the Deputy Chief Executive of Foras na Gaeilge, Edel Ní Chorráin and Éamonn Ó Dónaill, Gaelchultúr's Director of Education.



'Go for It' hits 200

Two hundred local businesses have now benefited from the region's 'Go for It' programme. The initiative is part funded by Invest NI and the European Regional Development Fund under its Investment for Growth & Jobs Northern Ireland (2014-2020) Programme.

The scheme provides expert advice and support to anyone who wishes to start their own business, taking them step by step through creating a plan that will lead to a

sustainable business. A wide variety of businesses can benefit from this help. For example one photographer established his photographic/video drone company following help provided through the programme.

If you have a business idea you would like to develop or if you are thinking about starting a business contact the Go For It Programme on 0800 027 0639 or visit: www.goforitni.com





Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership extended

News that the Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership has been extended for a further year is welcomed by all who have taken part in its many activities. This year was packed with training courses, events and volunteering opportunities—now these will be extended through 2019, with a further 10-year legacy phase on offer.

The Partnership started the year with three traditional skills courses, covering everything from woodland management to organic gardening. The woodland management trainees had a spell in the spotlight, featuring on an episode of BBC's Home Ground. Throughout the year, staff were joined by 134 volunteers who gifted 1,456 hours of work, and were vital in the Partnership's success.

The ranks of Ring of Gullion Ambassadors, trained to 'OCNNI Level 2 in Tour Guiding', grew by 14 and we also hosted two action-packed weeks with 10 enthusiastic and hardworking Youth Rangers in July.

A highlight of the season was August's Lúnasa Festival which saw 3,550 visitors and performances by singer/songwriter John Spillane, Celts and even dinosaurs. The year culminated in our Winter Solstice Festival, focused around the alignment of the Slieve Gullion passage tomb to the setting sun.

There are many plans afoot for 2019—visit ringofgullion.org and sign up for our monthly updates.



Older residents enjoy 'Positive Ageing' Afternoon Tea Dance

As part of Positive Ageing Month 2018, and in partnership with Age Friendly Alliance, both Crotlieve and Slieve Gullion District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums got into the spirit with events aimed at people aged over 50.

In October 2018, Crotlieve DEA Forum hosted a popular afternoon tea dance in October 2018 in Warrenpoint Town Hall. Attended by over 150 people, this fun and informative afternoon was an opportunity for residents to socialise and connect with others. A number of statutory bodies, community and voluntary agencies and local businesses were also showcased, offering advice and information.

Slieve Gullion DEA Forum brought over 100 of its older residents together in Newtownhamilton Community Centre to enjoy a range of taster sessions, including mindfulness and wellness workshops, cooking demonstrations, arts and crafts, and fitness sessions.

Also provided on the day were free blood pressure and blood sugar checks, home safety advice, carer information, cancer support sign posting, and links to active over 50 support groups such as Men's Shed, luncheon and cross-community groups. A range of information stalls from support services were also available on the day.

Positive Ageing Month is a month-long festival of events and activities for older people, which celebrates the contribution older people make to their communities. The aim of such events is to combat social isolation while also enhancing health and wellbeing.

Be Active Cup – builds new relationships through sport



The Be Active Cup 2018 tournament was a first for Newry, Mourne and Down district. A total of 16 teams from various leagues across the district came together over the summer to compete for the champion title and be named Chairperson's Be Active Cup winners.

Jennings Park, Newry, Kilmore Playing Fields, Crossgar and the Newry Showgrounds were the tournament venues, with the final hosted by Newry City Football Club. The tournament was a huge success for the district and every team carried themselves with pride.

It was a first for this Council to recognise the variety of leagues within our area and see this as a good opportunity to promote sport. This particular initiative was designed for residents across the district to interact with each other and build new relationships through the forum of football.

The Be Active Cup also links in with the Council's Be Active campaign, which aims to improve health and wellbeing by motivating everyone to undertake more activity.

We are fortunate in Newry, Mourne and Down to have an abundance of talent in all sports and will continue to engage with the community to support, develop and promote the importance of health and wellbeing in all aspects of life.



Everybody Active 2020

We have been teaming up with Sport Northern Ireland to help increase opportunities for all residents to 'Be Active'.

Everybody Active 2020 (#EBA2020) physical activity sessions are available across the district, in our leisure centres, community centres and parks.

The aim is to increase the number of opportunities for people to take part in sport and physical activities at key life-changing times, such as children moving from primary school to post-primary school, young people leaving education, having a family, or retiring from work.

In particular, #EBA2020 is targeting increases in participation among traditionally underrepresented groups which includes: girls and women (specifically aged 14-25), people with a disability, and those living in areas of greatest social need (specifically people living within the top 25% of wards designated by NI Multiple Deprivation Measure Index 2010).

For further information on #EBA2020 please contact leisureandsport@nmandd.org

Macmillan Move More supports local people living with cancer



Move More is for anyone with a cancer diagnosis. This innovative programme offers support and encouragement so the person diagnosed can build up or improve their fitness and wellbeing.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council has been working in partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support on Move More, which has to date helped over 140 residents to 'Be Active'.

The innovative programme offers a range of cancer specific exercise classes across the district along with other incentives such as three months free membership to Newry, Mourne and

Down District Council leisure centres. Due to its ongoing success, Macmillan's Move More programme recently won the prestigious 'Coaching for an Active Life' Award at the UK Coaching Awards in London.

Three programme participants living in this district tell us their experience of how Move More helped them during a life-changing period in their lives.

Gerry's Story (Lung Cancer)

"I had lung cancer - never smoked - just over three years ago and had my right lung removed. This was followed by chemotherapy for a number of months after my operation. Then for the next year or so I was feeling very tired and listless. I was also feeling quite lonely during this period as I was on my own for most of the day. I was beginning to feel that life would not be much better in the future and I even got to the stage that I did not want to mix with others. Then about six months ago I was encouraged by Laura to go to the Move More programme in Down Leisure Centre. It took a huge effort to make the move to attend at first. I was very apprehensive about what I was letting myself into. It was a massive effort to make this move and I struggled with my emotions on my way to the first class.

"On my arrival I found this bubbly, friendly and energetic facilitator. My feeling of helplessness soon began to evaporate as I joined in with the other

attendees in the light exercises that Laura put us through. The tea and coffee at the end of the exercises gave us all the opportunity to get to know each other and relate our own individual health problems, which I found really helpful in coming to terms with my own health issues.

"Now after attending Move More for a number of months everything in my life is rearranged so that I can attend on a weekly basis. For me it is a huge uplifting exercise. Those of us attending have become like one big family. Another great benefit I have found is that I feel much more alert with a great positive outlook in life since starting the exercises. I would not miss this Move More class now as it has changed my life so much for the better. Therefore, I would strongly beg any recovering cancer patient to avail of these free classes that I have no doubt will have a positive impact on their life. My only disappointment is that I did not find Move More much earlier in my recovery."

Colette's Story (Secondary Bone Cancer)

"The Move More programme has been one of the most positive and fun things that I have got involved with since my secondary bone cancer diagnosis four years ago. Laura, our leader, mixes light circuits with music, laughter and chat, which leaves me feeling very re-energised at the end of each session. It is a great forum for meeting other people in a similar situation to myself, many of whom inspire me with their positivity. I look forward to going every week and cannot recommend it highly enough."

Margaret's Story (Breast Cancer)

"Following my breast cancer diagnosis and a combination of surgery with chemotherapy and radiotherapy, I was left feeling very tired. I was encouraged by my physiotherapist to join Move More which I did in September 2018. Through Laura our Move More Coordinator, I have gained not only strength and greater flexibility in my right arm but also the confidence to do the exercises. As a person who was not used to exercising I find the exertion a lot of fun and very beneficial for me. Always remember, you can do the exercises to suit your health and fitness ability."

For more information or to join the Move More Programme please contact Newry, Mourne and Down's Move More Coordinator, Laura McGrath by telephoning: 077 6928 5574 or emailing movemore@nmandd.org

MOVE MORE
NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN

Substantial investment in our play facilities

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's five-year £3m Play Strategy was launched in 2017 and includes plans for 6 new play parks, 22 upgrades and 10 play park transformations.

The first result of this substantial investment was the new play park in Mayobridge, which opened in September 2018. Local residents, children from St Patrick's Primary School and Jolly Tots Creche, councillors and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Chairman, Councillor Mark Murnin, gathered to launch the new park.

Meigh Play Park was also opened to the public in October 2018, with children from St Joseph's Primary School and Meigh Community Pre-school attending the launch, where they enjoyed the new equipment. This park is the first to enjoy the fruits of a joint venture between the Rural Development Fund and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.

At Meigh Play Park you will find toddler and junior swings, an inclusive basket swing, see-saw, play panels walls and multi-play units. A range of seating has also been added so parents and guardians can come along and share in the children's play experiences. While local residents played an important part in the design of the new park, we would like to thank everyone who was involved in delivering a fantastic play park for the good of the children in the local community.

Five other play park projects were completed before Christmas this year in Lislane, Saintfield; Bridge Centre, Killyleagh; Lurganare, Camlough and Drumintee, with a further eight planned between January and March 2019, to include upgrades to Drumaness, Jonesborough, Burren Village and Cullyhanna.

Hundreds take part in ALPS Life Run

Over 200 people pulled on their running shoes at Delamont County Park to raise awareness of World Suicide Prevention Day.

Those participating on 9 September 2018 had a choice of routes including a family fun run, 5k run and the more challenging 10k run, with medals for everyone taking part. Additional family entertainment including bouncy castle, face painting and a disco were enjoyed by all.

The event was a partnership between Rowallane District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum, Downpatrick based ALPS (All Lives Are Precious), Atlas Running and Downpatrick Boxing Academy.

Since 2003, World Suicide Prevention Day serves as a call to action to individuals and organisations to prevent suicide. This year the theme was 'Take a minute, change a life'.

Find out how to get involved with your local DEA by visiting: www.newrymournedown.org/residents-district-electoral-area-dea-forums

Sports Strategy priorities – community need for new facilities



Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Sport Facility Strategy provides a framework for the development of sports facilities at local level to meet the identified community need. This year the following works have already taken place:

- **Ardglass Playing Fields**
new natural turf sports pitch and pavilion improvements.
- **Derryleckagh Playing Fields**
fence improvements, dug outs and new goalposts.
- **Donaghaguy Reservoir**
new paths, fencing and fishing stands.
- **Drumaness playing Fields**
drainage works, new goalposts and ball stop fence.
- **Killough Playing Field**
drainage works, new goalposts and ball stop fence.
- **Killyleagh Playing Fields**
drainage works, new goalposts and ball stop fence.
- **Langley Road, Ballynahinch**
drainage works, new goalposts and ball stop fence.
- **Newcastle Tennis Courts**
replaced synthetic tennis surface carpet.
- **Norman Brown, Newry**
drainage works, new goalposts and fence improvements.
- **Rostrevor Tennis Courts**
resurfacing.
- **Saintfield Sports Facility**
upgraded to synthetic hockey pitch.
- **Strangford Playing Fields**
drainage works, new goalposts and ball stop fence.
- **Warrenpoint Bowling Green**
new bowling pavilion.
- **Warrenpoint Tennis Courts**
new lights and fencing.



Community groups applauded for contribution

Local community groups play a huge part in delivering for their communities, working in partnership or on behalf of the Council. In fact, we could not deliver all our services without their help.

This important contribution was recognised by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Chairman, Councillor Mark Murnin, at a special ‘Thank You’ event in Kilkeel in June 2018, where community groups were



brought together to celebrate their hard work.

The community groups that work with the Council’s Community Services section operate high quality facilities and build all important community capacity. This capacity building enables local people to make change in their own communities – something that benefits the whole district and all who live here.

Over the coming year, we intend to help develop community groups with a programme of capacity building training alongside developing voluntary management committees. This programme will help community groups to enhance their skills — ensuring that the work volunteers do is as effective as possible.



Drumalane Quayside project injects new life into Newry community

Drumalane Quayside Close Community Centre was officially opened in April 2018, providing much needed modern community facilities for local residents.

Built on a site adjacent to Quayside Close sports pitches at the Albert Basin, the centre provides sports changing facilities for the adjacent playing fields. It also allows local volunteers to create a new community hub from which they can deliver programmes and activities for local people.

The project started life back in 2009 when community volunteers brought an expression of interest to the Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership seeking support. It was then pursued by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council’s Active and Healthy Communities Committee and the Department of Communities.

The investment of £330,000 has transformed this area of Newry and is building a new sense of hope for the future.

Downpatrick hosts a Walk for Life

A free event to mark World Suicide Prevention Day took place on 16 September 2018 and was organised in partnership with the Downpatrick District Electoral Area (DEA), the Flying Horse Ward Community Forum, Downpatrick Suicide Prevention Task Group and County Down Rural Community Network.

The day started with a teddy bear-led 1km walk around Dunleath Park, followed by a fun-filled activity day including bouncy castles, face painting and balloon modelling. This was a great opportunity for families throughout the district to come together to show their support for raising awareness of mental health and suicide prevention.

Local support groups were also available on the day to offer support and advice on suicide, mental health and addiction. These included the local Policing and Community Safety Partnership, Life Change/Changes Lives, Suicide Down to Zero, PIPS, Lifeline, the Samaritans, ASCERT and the local Men’s Shed.



Slieve Croob residents empowered to make funding decisions

Slieve Croob District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum recently held an exciting 'In It To Win It' event at Castlewellan Forest Park.

The event was the first of its kind in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area. Local people became the decision makers and got to choose which groups would be allocated funding.

Over 10 local groups participated and were each given three minutes to pitch for funding for a project that would improve the health and wellbeing of residents living in the Slieve Croob area. The forum was overwhelmed by the creativity and quality of pitches at the event, with some groups singing their pitches and others demonstrating their pitch while on static bikes.

Winning groups included Shimna Stars Special Olympics, Kilmegan VC Cycling Club and Clough Play Days.

Find out more about participating in Slieve Croob DEA events by getting in touch. Visit: www.newrymournedown.org/residents-district-electoral-area-dea-forums



Communities Leading Change

This year residents in the district were given the opportunity to decide which projects they would like to see funded through two 'Communities Leading Change' Participatory Budgeting initiatives. A total of 21 projects were awarded funding at the two events.

The first was an event for people and groups based in the Mournes District Electoral Area (DEA). Over 70 Mournes DEA residents voted at an event on 18 October in Newry Street Unite, Kilkeel, where nine projects pitched their ideas. The community decided that six projects would get funding, each tackling one or more of the three priority areas of rural isolation, mental health and emotional wellbeing, and improving the area.

At the second event, Youth Leading Change, 24 groups submitted ideas in short videos, all of which benefited the youth in our district. These videos were uploaded online and the local communities were asked to vote on their top three favourite projects. Over 5,000 votes were cast online.

The 15 successful projects were announced at a special awards ceremony hosted by Pamela Ballantine on Saturday 24 November 2018, in the Canal Court Hotel, Newry. Representatives from the organisations which entered a project attended and enjoyed the interactive event where everyone was able to view each other's project videos and have fun voting for best video, soundtrack and story.

Funding for the winning projects was provided by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, Southern Health and Social Care Trust, South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust, Northern Ireland Housing Executive and Department for Communities. The initiatives also received support from County Down Rural Community Network and the Confederation for Community Groups.

In 2019, the Community Planning partners are intending to meet with all the groups that have received funding to find out how their projects have made a difference within their communities.

New £2.3m funding programme for fishing communities launched



South East Area Fisheries Local Action Group (SEAFLAG) launched a £2.3m funding programme in June 2018. The investment programme is provided through Priority 4 of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, through the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.

SEAFLAG is made up of representatives from the public, private and voluntary sectors and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, in partnership with Ards and North Down Borough Council, who oversee the programme.

Applications are encouraged from the fishing communities of Ardglass, Kilkeel and Portavogie and surrounding areas. The programme is focused on promoting economic growth and job creation, social inclusion, and supporting labour mobility for coastal and inland communities that are dependent on fishing and aquaculture. The scheme is also there to help communities to diversify within fisheries and into other sectors of the marine economy.

For further information email sea@nmandd.org, or telephone 0300 013 2233.



Mourne, Gullion and Lecale Rural Development Partnership delivers £1m of rural funding

Mourne, Gullion and Lecale Rural Development Partnership is continuing to deliver funding for rural dwellers in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area, with over 45 businesses benefiting from £1m from the Local Action Group.

The Partnership is also delighted to be involved in a number of community-based initiatives, including developing Teconnaught GAC's community hub as well as the greatly anticipated Saintfield Community Centre, both of which are due for completion in early 2019.

The Local Action Group is pleased to be able to provide £500,000 to assist with the development of rural play parks across the district as well as providing significant village and town enhancements in 2019.

Work also continues on developing the relationship with our project partners in County Mayo and on developing the grounds around Derramore House, Bessbrook and Moorehall in Mayo. It is expected that these projects will be completed during 2019.



**Mourne,
Gullion &
Lecale**

Rural Development
Partnership



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk



'The European Agricultural Fund
for Rural Development: Europe
Investing in rural areas'.



Working in partnership with all our communities

Every year the Council supports activities and groups within the district to promote all types of community engagement.

In this last financial year, 2018/19, the Council received 668 applications for support under the Financial Assistance Funding Programme. Over £1.5m was distributed to 491 applicant groups and over £1m was awarded to community, sports and minor capital projects.

The range of projects eligible for funding included tourism, marketing and Irish language events, community engagement and safety days, sport development projects and summer schemes. The Down Your Street, Sports Active and Good Relations initiatives were also among those receiving assistance.

Rostrevor Men’s Shed host ‘Shedders’ from across the district

To mark International Men’s Health Week in June 2018, over 100 men from across the Council’s seven District Electoral Areas (DEA) visited Rostrevor Men’s Shed in the Crotlieve DEA to discuss issues that affect them. Rostrevor ‘Shedders’ shared the challenges they have faced in setting up their shed, and the successes they have achieved, with the visiting groups.

Rostrevor Men’s Shed delivers a range of projects including gardening, woodwork, historical talks and day trips. An equal part of their ethos is to contribute to the local community, sharing both their organisational skills and practical know how. The group was nominated by the Council for an IPB Pride of Place Award.

PEACE IV

This year, our Council welcomed £4.7m of EU funding for the PEACE IV Local Authority Action Plan—Beyond Tolerance.

As the lead partner, we are responsible for delivering those elements of the PEACE IV action

plan that promotes peace and reconciliation in three key areas: children and young people, shared spaces and services, and building positive relations.

As part of these themes, we have been involved in a number

of exciting projects including an archaeological dig in Downpatrick, the development of the cross-community choir and a media campaign to celebrate the region’s diversity.



Downpatrick archaeological dig

The archaeological dig that began near Down Cathedral at the end of July 2018 uncovered important artefacts – including a Mesolithic flint tool dating back to around 8,000 BC – and created a huge interest in the town. The dig is located within an ancient rath of the fort where Patrick was probably buried in the late 5th century and where a monastery was founded in his name in the 8th century.

The dig and its finds were exciting for all our communities as St Patrick is a key figure in the town’s shared history. These finds will help us interpret the history of Cathedral Hill and will

help us offer more information on St Patrick’s legacy to visitors to the Down Cathedral, Down County Museum and The Saint Patrick Visitor Centre.

Some 40 volunteers were involved in the dig over a four week period in August 2018, ranging in age from 12 to 70. Some of the volunteers came from the Down County Museum’s Young Archaeologists’ Club, students, local enthusiasts and retired people, all eager to uncover St Patrick’s legacy. Many other people came to the site, just to share in the excitement—over 2,500 people from 20 countries visited.

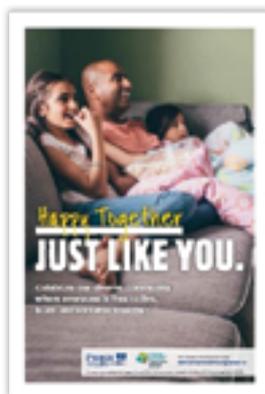




Together in song

Over 100 young people from 18 schools across the area have been involved in the 'Children Helping Children' Choir. Rehearsals took place on a cross-community basis, enabling the establishment of new relationships and cross-cultural learning, and were supported by EU PEACE IV funding.

The choir came together to raise awareness of the Cancer Fund for Children's Daisy Lodge residential support facility outside Newcastle. Helped by a local singer/songwriter, the choir was provided with the opportunity of attending a recording studio to record their vocals and were professionally filmed for the DVD.



Celebrating cultural diversity

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council is encouraging cultural diversity and greater community cohesion. As part of this goal, this year we launched a new thought-provoking campaign to combat racism, dispel lingering myths, and address misconceptions held about minority ethnic groups.

This initiative aligns with the Council's Good Relations Programme, which encourages and supports activity that promotes positive relations between people from different backgrounds to help improve their quality of life. The 'Beyond Tolerance' campaign was rolled out on radio, billboards, newspapers and across social media within our district area.



Investing for success

Helping young people and adults into worthwhile employment is an important goal for Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and one we are committed to.

The Council has responsibility for managing the £2.7m 'Work It' Programme, funded by The Executive Office's Social Investment Fund, which aims to improve social conditions and encourage economic growth in Northern Ireland where there is poverty, unemployment and dereliction.

The programme offered 48 weeks employment for 160 eligible young people and adults within the Newry and other Southern Zone areas. As part of the scheme, it provided the participants with accredited training, personal and professional skills development. The scheme presented candidates with opportunities to build confidence and achieve their potential—all aimed at improving future employability.

The programme has proved its worth—all participants achieved the desired goals and six months after the programme concluded, 126 remain in employment.

Mournes DEA promotes health and wellbeing

Working in partnership with the Southern Health and Social Care Trust, the Kilkeel Community Association and the Age-friendly Alliance, Mournes District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum held a health and wellbeing event in the Kilkeel area. The event was organised in response to local demand for more accessible services, a reduction in social isolation, and better education in respect of health and community safety.

The event brought together local residents with a number of service providers, including Dementia NI, Home Safety, PCSP, Action on Hearing Loss, Southern Area Hospice, Southern Health and Social Care Trust and others that provided valuable, life changing information and signposting for people living in the Mournes area.

Celebrating the Irish Language

Celebrating and promoting the Irish language is an important objective for our Council. As part of our participation in Seachtain na Gaeilge 2018 (Irish Language Week), we launched a £30,000 Irish Language Bursary Scheme. Of the 15 successful projects, a number involved new communities interested in engaging with the language.

In October 2018, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, along with Aonad na Gaeilge (Irish Language Centre, University of Limerick) was recognised for its achievements in promoting the Irish language at a celebratory event in Belfast City Hall.



Empowering communities to tackle crime and the fear of crime

‘Helping make communities safer and ensuring that the voices of local people are heard’ – that is the role of Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs), which work to ensure that local people are heard on issues such as anti-social behaviour, drugs and alcohol, gender based crime, road safety, rural crime and hate crime.

Newry, Mourne and Down PCSP aims to empower communities to work in partnership to develop solutions that will help tackle crime and the fear of crime.

The PCSP is made up of 10 councillors and nine independent members as well as representatives from the PSNI, Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service, Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Youth Justice Agency, Probation Board Northern Ireland, Education Authority and the Southern and South Eastern Health and Social Care Trusts.

For further information contact:
pcsp@nmandd.org

Follow Newry, Mourne and Down PCSP on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

- 🐦 @nmd_pcsp
- 📘 @newrymourneddownpcsp
- 📷 @nmdpcsp



Watching our businesses grow

Growing our local business base is one of our key priorities. We have launched a number of exciting support programmes that will provide one-to-one assistance to local businesses to overcome challenges in securing new customers or markets.

The range of programmes will support at least 1,000 businesses up to December 2023 through one-to-one mentoring support, workshops, thematic programmes and networking events. To find out how your business can access support through this programme visit www.newrymournedown.org/business or email business@nmandd.org

This project is part funded by Invest Northern Ireland and the European Regional Development Fund under the Investment for Growth & Jobs Northern Ireland (2014-2020) Programme.



Artisan markets come to Downpatrick and Newcastle



Summer 2018 saw the first artisan markets come to both Downpatrick and Newcastle. Downpatrick artisan market found a home in the historic Down County Museum Courtyard while the Newcastle market is located on Central Promenade.

Newcastle market is held on the first Saturday of the month and Downpatrick market is held on the third Saturday. Both are drawing a large and growing number of appreciative local and visiting customers. There is a lively atmosphere in the towns on market days, with producers and crafters welcoming the opportunity to promote their high quality offerings. With entertainment and activities for children, it really is a day out for the whole family.





Making it local

We are very proud of our local producers and crafters and are doing everything we can to encourage them to sell their goods to the widest audience.

The 'Make it Local' initiative, which is being promoted in all our towns and villages, has created separate brands for each key town to let people know where they can purchase the best that the area has to offer.



The digital revolution continues for small businesses

We are living in a time of incredible technological advances—not just through the internet, but also with the increasing use of sensors (IoT), augmented reality, virtually reality and artificial intelligence.

And while these new forms of communicating are exciting, they can also be challenging for small businesses to learn and use successfully if they are to compete.

To help small businesses the Council has introduced a pilot, Digital NMD, as a collaboration with the Council, Southern Regional College and South Eastern Regional College. The project's aim is to assist small businesses explore the benefits of these new technologies, stimulate innovation and develop their digital skills through expert one-



to-one mentoring and informative workshops.

To date Digital NMD has hosted over 10 business development workshops, attracting over 226 attendees, and provided one-to-one mentoring to nine local businesses in order to

develop concepts, prototypes or new business ideas.

We now hope to develop Digital NMD further and have submitted an European Regional Development Fund application to Invest NI to provide further support in 2020.



Historic Edwardian Warrenpoint Municipal Park reopens

Following the completion of work to restore and upgrade facilities, Warrenpoint Municipal Park was officially re-opened on 31 August 2018.

Funding of £850,000 was received from the Heritage Lottery Fund's (HLF) Parks for People Programme, with Newry, Mourne and Down District Council providing significant funding towards the project.

The park's restoration has transformed the play area, tennis court, gardens, pavilion and bandstand to its former glory.

We will be celebrating this historic gem with a programme of school and community events and we are asking local people and others who may have holidayed in Warrenpoint to recall memories of visiting the park. These memories will be shared through various exhibitions and events over the coming years.

Local volunteers are now being sought to assist with research projects, park events and tours. If you would like to know more, please contact the HLF Project Team at Warrenpoint Town Hall, telephone 028 4177 4381.

Carlingford Lough Greenway now open

The official opening of the Carlingford Lough Greenway from Newry to Victoria Lock took place on 27 July 2018 with the completion of the section from Dublin Road Bridge, Newry through the Albert Basin and along Middlebank as far as Victoria Lock.

We are now continuing to work on the remaining Victoria Lock to Omeath section. By 2020, a 20km greenway from Newry to Carlingford will be open for those wanting to walk or cycle within the wider cross border region.





Newry, Mourne and Down – truly a premier tourist destination

With our mountains, loughs, coastline and spectacular views, Newry, Mourne and Down district has all the natural beauty to thrill those who come to our region.

Tourism is a critical economic driver for our district and we have made becoming one of the premier tourist destinations on the island of Ireland a corporate objective.

Over the past three years, we have been working with both the tourism industry and our partners in central government to create exciting visitor experiences under the ‘Mountains, Myths and Maritime’ theme. We have also continued to develop new festivals under the Giant Adventures brand, bringing world-class events to delight our growing visitor market.



Our efforts are being rewarded—according to the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, since 2015, tourists have increased their spending in our area by 88% to £90.4m in 2017. This was the highest recorded increase across all the 11 local government districts.

New visitor experiences on offer

This year, we launched the first Visitor Experience Plan in Northern Ireland. This new approach encourages businesses to come together to offer tourists new kind of experiences, clustered around key themes and areas.

Already we have developed visitor experiences focusing on Game of Thrones and on our beautiful landscape, brilliant food and the stories of the people and characters from our region.

Over the coming year we will continue to engage with international tour operators to encourage opportunities for local businesses to give international visitors experiences that they will remember forever in one of the most beautiful regions.

The adventures just keep coming

GIANT

ADVENTURES

2018 saw the return of the Giant Adventures programme of events, with five remarkable events attracting huge crowds and helping to showcase the iconic landscapes, mountains and coastlines unique to this district.



Footsteps in the Forest

Footsteps in the Forest guided adventure-seekers through Slieve Gullion forest in a theatrical tour, to search for dragons and help overcome Gullion's witch, the Cailleach Bheara. It was an unforgettable weekend, full of story-telling, arts, culture, food and heritage, enjoyed by all ages.

Skiffie Festival

For the thrill seekers among us, July saw the much-loved Skiffie Festival return to Delamont Country Park. Despite challenging weather conditions on the first day of the festival, visitors were captivated by the numerous rowing races and skills on display. They also enjoyed the wide range of free family activities – boat trips, live music, model aircraft displays and food village.

Festival of Flight

August saw the return of the much-anticipated Festival of Flight. Unfortunately, the weather worked against us this year, which resulted in the air show being cancelled. Even without the air show, there were still some wonderful highlights enjoyed throughout the day—the STEM Village in Donard Park was a hit with young and old alike. We are already working hard on this year's programme and expect it to be even bigger and better.

Wake the Giant

Wake the Giant, one of our most highly anticipated events within the Giant Adventures programme, returned to Warrenpoint. This year the event moved to a new location in Clonallon Park. The two-day festival provided something for everyone with superb live music, theatre and children's craft workshops.



At the centre of the festivities was 36-foot sleeping giant Finn Mac Cumhaill, who was paraded through Warrenpoint town centre in the hope that residents and tourists would wake him up. The man charged with designing and creating the narrative for this year's show was renowned actor and writer, Dan Gordon.

City of Merchants

Newry's City of Merchants Festival celebrated the city's merchant, maritime and industrial heritage with theatre performances, historical tours, street entertainment and foodie delights at the much-loved Twilight Market. SPARK! provided an extravaganza of amazing drumming, costumes, choreography and light, leading crowds across the town to choose the best spot to view one of the most fantastic fireworks displays in the district.

Coming up this year

We had an amazing array of events this year in our district; many funded by the Council, including community Halloween and Christmas celebrations as well as important regional festivals such as the Ulster Fleadh in Castlewellan and the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association Championships in Newcastle.

Plans are being finalised for 2019, with a full calendar of exciting and innovative events, including another year of Giant Adventures. Details will be published in the coming months. For updates go to visitmournmountains.co.uk



Tackling dog fouling and keeping our neighbourhoods clean and green

Keeping our district and neighbourhoods clean and green is a high priority for all of us – in fact it is one of our corporate objectives. As part of this, we recently launched a new awareness campaign to remind dog owners of the part they need to play by picking up their dog's mess. This new campaign was rolled out after levels of dog fouling were found to have increased from last year – something that we believe is unacceptable to everyone.

Our strategy has two phases, the first is to remind all dog owners that they are responsible for their pets and that they can be issued with a fine of up to £80 if they don't clean up after them.

The second phase, to be launched later this year, will develop, from the theme of responsible dog ownership and remind everyone of what they need to do when they take on the responsibility of dog ownership. This includes ensuring that their dog is licensed, micro chipped, wears a collar and that owners keep control of their pets at all times and, of course, clean up after them!

So let's make sure that our district is clean, tidy and safe – pick up the poo!

Don't black bin it, blue bin it!

This year we have recycled nearly 11,000 tonnes of waste in our blue bins. This is a great achievement and has helped our Council to increase its recycling rate to 46%.

Households are also getting better at using blue bins and we are seeing less contamination in them.

But we could be doing more and we want to increase the blue bin recycling rate further. Sixty percent of what we place in our black bins could be recycled in the blue bin. This is a job for everyone – before you throw something in your black bin, check to see if it can be recycled. You will be surprised at how much you can recycle.





Protect and enjoy your local Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

The Strangford Lough and Lecale Partnership is continuing its work with local communities to protect and conserve the treasures of this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

As well as working with groups to conserve and protect our local biodiversity, the Partnership continues its work to tackle dangerous and unsightly marine litter around our beautiful coastline. In this year alone Strangford Lough and Lecale Partnership has organised six beach cleaning events with various community and outdoor recreation groups. In total, 230 volunteers, young and old, on land and at sea, have come together to clean approximately 2km of coastline, collecting and removing 2.5 tonnes of litter from our shores.

If you, or a group that you are part of, are interested in taking part in a beach clean, please get in touch with Judith Caldwell by emailing judith.caldwell@strangfordlough.org

Waste is our name, recycling is our game



The Council is responsible for collecting, depositing, treating, storing and disposing of all the waste in our district. It is important that we recycle as much as we can—not just to reduce costs but also to help protect our precious environment and reduce pollution.

The government target for recycling that has been set for all councils is 50%. We are currently at 46.1% so we need to work hard to increase our recycling—the percentage we need to recycle will only go up as additional recycling initiatives are introduced.

Last year we collected 76,000 tonnes of municipal waste, of which 25%, or 19,000 tonnes, were deposited at Household Recycling Centres.

We are also responsible for treating and disposing all the waste collected at our Household Recycling Centres. We currently have 10 centres in the district and most waste that residents bring along can be recycled by placing it into the correct skip. However, we are not recycling

all that we could. Our own target is to be able to recycle 75% of items received at Household Recycling Centres, but we are currently achieving 59%.

We would like to emphasise the need for waste to be pre-sorted before it is brought to any of our Household Recycling Centres. Pre-sorting is essential to ensure that recyclable waste is identified and placed into the correct skips—this will greatly help to increase our recycling rates and also reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.



Turning waste into compost

This year we recycled an additional 4,800 tonnes of food waste, equivalent to two million bags of waste food. This is a real achievement. Compost made from recycled food waste can be used in local parks or sold to farmers to enrich their soil as they grow more food. It really is a virtuous circle and we are striving to do even more in the coming year.

The Council is keen to help you recycle your food waste; to reduce the 'yuck' factor, we supply compostable liners for your small food caddy free of charge—check our website to find one of the 30 collection centres close to you.

Visit: www.newrymouredown.org/household-recycling-centres

Annual Report 2018/19

Facts and figures

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council is responsible for a wide range of services to businesses and residents, including building control, dog and entertainment licencing and ensuring the safety of our petrol stations.

During the 2018/19 year we received 2,763 building control applications and carried out 12,508 site inspections. As part of our service we can help designers, builders and the public to comply with building regulations.

Licencing is an important part of the Council’s functions and ensures that important health and safety regulations are followed. This year we issued 5,147 dog licences and 224 entertainment licences for a variety of events. The Council also issued 56 petroleum licences, making sure that petrol stations meet important safety controls as they store and distribute this flammable product.

What we did	
Inspections carried out	12,508
Dog Licences issued	5,147
Building Control applications received	2,763
Entertainment Licences issued	224
Petroleum Licences issued	56

Ratepayers urged to avail of Rate Rebate

The Council is urging tenants and homeowners who receive Universal Credit to check whether they are eligible for the new Rate Rebate scheme.

The scheme is being administered by Land & Property Services (LPS), part of the Department of Finance, to provide ratepayers in receipt of Universal Credit assistance with the payment of rates for the home they live in. Rate Rebate is being rolled out in conjunction with Universal Credit across Northern Ireland.

Tenants or homeowners should apply for Rate Rebate once they are awarded Universal Credit. Universal Credit details will be used to determine the amount of Rate Rebate that can be awarded. Any claim for Rate Rebate should be made within three months of the claimant’s first Universal Credit payment to ensure no partial loss of any subsequent award.

The application can be completed online at **www.nidirect.gov.uk/rate-rebate-scheme**. Claimants must first register for an online account using their own email address and, when they are registered, they can complete their online application.

For those who are not eligible to apply for Universal Credit, rates support will continue through Housing Benefit for Rates and/or Low Income Rate Relief. For help with the online application process, contact Land & Property Services on 0300 200 7802.



Are you receiving Universal Credit?
You may be eligible for Rate Rebate.

Land & Property Services
Northern Ireland
Department of Finance
Airgradient

For help with the online application process you can contact Land & Property Services on

T: 0300 200 7802

Marking the milestones of our lives

Marking the important moments in our lives — births, deaths, marriages and civil partnerships — is an important function for the Council's Registration Service, and we have had a busy time this year.

In the year ending 31 March 2018, we registered 2,475 births, 1,427 deaths, and 998 civil and religious marriages, with Council staff presiding over 381 of these ceremonies. While most of our civil ceremonies take place in the Registrar's Offices in Newry Town Hall and Downpatrick Civic Centre, we have also officiated at a number of approved civil venues throughout the district—these include hotels, restaurants, public buildings and private homes.

We are privileged to play a part in the most important moments of our residents' lives and we are determined to do this in a caring and sensitive manner. We continually review how we provide these services to ensure that we meet the needs and expectations, and we will continue to do this in the coming year.

You can find details of our offices in the Useful Numbers on the back page of this publication.

How we performed

In November 2018, the Local Government Auditor certified that Newry, Mourne and Down District Council carried out its responsibilities in relation to performance improvement and reporting.

Looking back

The Council is committed to continuously improving the way services are delivered and some of our performance highlights between April-September 2018 included:

What we have achieved



5.5% increase in attendances at Council leisure facilities when compared to April-September 2017.



73.5% of customers were satisfied with Council leisure facilities.



75 new jobs promoted and 83 new business starts supported.



Our five Giant Adventure Festivals attracted 113,500 visitors and generated an estimated £3.2m for the local economy.



The average processing time for local planning applications was reduced by 2.8 weeks to 15.2 weeks when compared to April-June 2017.



Increase of 7.5% in the rate of recycling when compared to April-June 2017.



60% reduction in the amount of waste going to landfill when compared to April-June 2017.



7% increase in blue bin waste and 34% increase in brown bin waste when compared to April - June 2017.



73.5% of the 668 applications to the Financial Assistance Scheme received over £1.5m funding.

Objectives for the coming year

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council has identified five draft performance improvement objectives for 2019/20, which are to:

- 1 Encourage healthy lifestyles through increased participation in leisure, sport and recreational activities**
- 2 Improve economic growth by creating new business starts, supporting the growth of existing businesses and promoting Newry, Mourne and Down as a premier tourist destination**
- 3 Deliver urban and rural regeneration initiatives that will create a district where people want to live, work and invest in**
- 4 Create a cleaner, greener, more attractive district**
- 5 Encourage and empower local communities to participate in Council engagement structures and initiatives.**

We welcome your feedback on the proposed performance improvement objectives and any suggestions you may have on how we can improve our services in the future, email: council@nmandd.org. Further information on our performance is available on the Council's website www.nmandd.org.

Residents' Survey

In June 2018, the Council commissioned a residents' survey. This was the first large-scale survey of residents to take place since Newry and Mourne District Council and Down District Council merged in 2015.

The purpose of the survey was to provide us with some basic information on your opinions and satisfaction levels across a number of our services. This will help us with future planning and decision-making.

Welcoming the findings of the survey, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Chairman, Councillor Mark Murnin, said,

“I would like to thank everyone who took the time to complete this survey. As a civic leader it is important that we listen to all feedback, both positive and negative, as this enables us to continue to develop services which meet the current needs and future aspirations of all our citizens. I am delighted to see that such a high proportion of residents feel safe in our community and believe the Council helps to make Newry, Mourne and Down a good place in which to live.”

Key findings

Satisfaction with Council

- **87%** of residents are satisfied with the Council overall, with **11%** neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, and **1%** dissatisfied.
- **96%** of residents had used at least one Council service in the last 12 months. The most commonly used Council service in the last 12 months was bin collection (**64%**).
- **75%** believe the Council helps to make Newry, Mourne and Down a good place to live, with a majority of residents saying they trust the Council (**73%**).



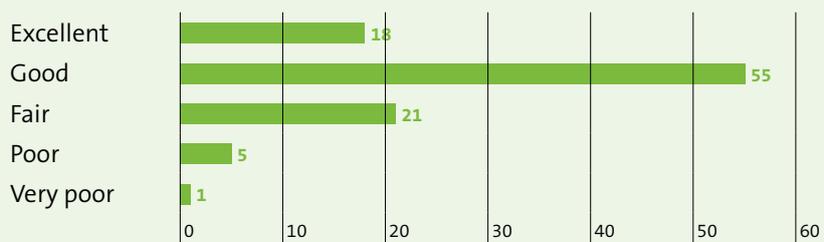
Satisfaction with Councils: NI 81%, GB 65%

Contact with Council

- **40%** of residents contacted or made an enquiry to the Council in the last 12 months, with phone contact accounting for more than half (**55%**) of all recent contacts.
- **73%** of those rated their most recent contact as either 'excellent' or 'good'.
- **44%** of residents engage with the Council via social media or online.
- **73%** of residents are supportive of the Council making more services available online.

Level: 40% had contacted Council

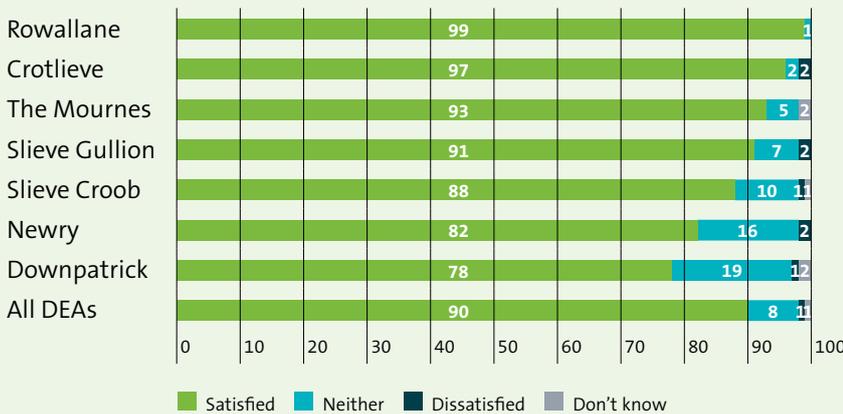
Contact mostly: by phone (**55%**), face to face (**15%**), email (**15%**) and website (**13%**)



Satisfaction Rates with Council Contact (%)

Satisfaction with area

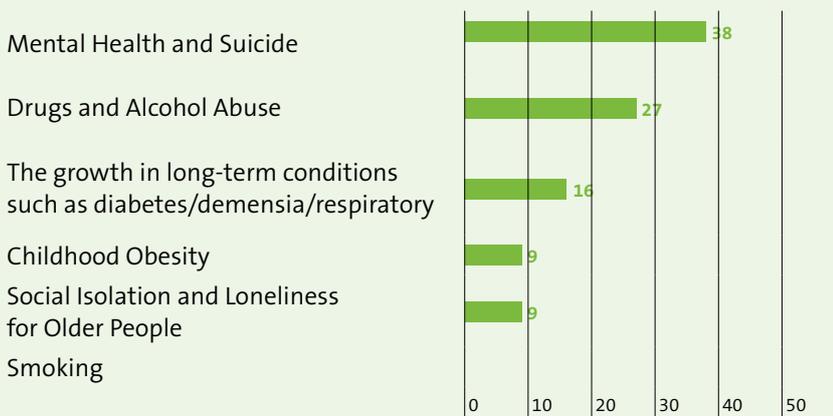
- 90% of residents said they are satisfied with their local area as a place to live.
- The most common problems reported by residents in their local area included: dog mess and fouling (56%); dogs barking (40%); people using or dealing drugs (34%); and, groups hanging around the streets (25%).
- 94% of residents feel safe in their local area during the day, while 87% feel safe in their local area after dark.



Satisfaction with the area: NI Councils 90%, GB Councils 78%

Health and Wellbeing

- 48% of residents said that investment to grow the economy, create jobs and attract tourists is the most important type of investment for the area.
- 38% of residents believe that mental health and suicide is the most important health and wellbeing issue in their area.
- 74% of residents said they would like to see more local services to improve mental health and wellbeing.
- 78% of residents undertook 30 minutes or more physical activity at least one day week.



Most important health and wellbeing issue in the Council area (%)

Community

- 22% of residents regularly take part in local groups / community activities.
- 35% of residents volunteered in the last 12 months.
- 86% of residents said recycling is important to them.

Corporate Plan

As we approach the end of the first four-year term of Council and our first Corporate Plan 2015-2019, we are now looking forward to developing a new Corporate Plan for our second term (2019-2023).

It has been a challenging period of change during which the Council has continued to define its new role and purpose, develop new policies and strategies, renew its key infrastructure, integrate and modernise its services and meet ever increasing statutory obligations whilst managing expectations and competing demands.

The current Corporate Plan 2015-2019 focused on eight strategic objectives which were to:

- Become one of the premier tourism destinations on the island of Ireland
- Attract investment and support the creation of new jobs
- Support improved health and wellbeing outcomes
- Protect our natural and built environment
- Lead the regeneration of our urban and rural areas
- Advocate on your behalf specifically in relation to those issues which really matter to you
- Empower and improve the capacity of our communities
- Transform and modernise the Council providing accessible as well as value for money services.

Over this period the Council successfully:

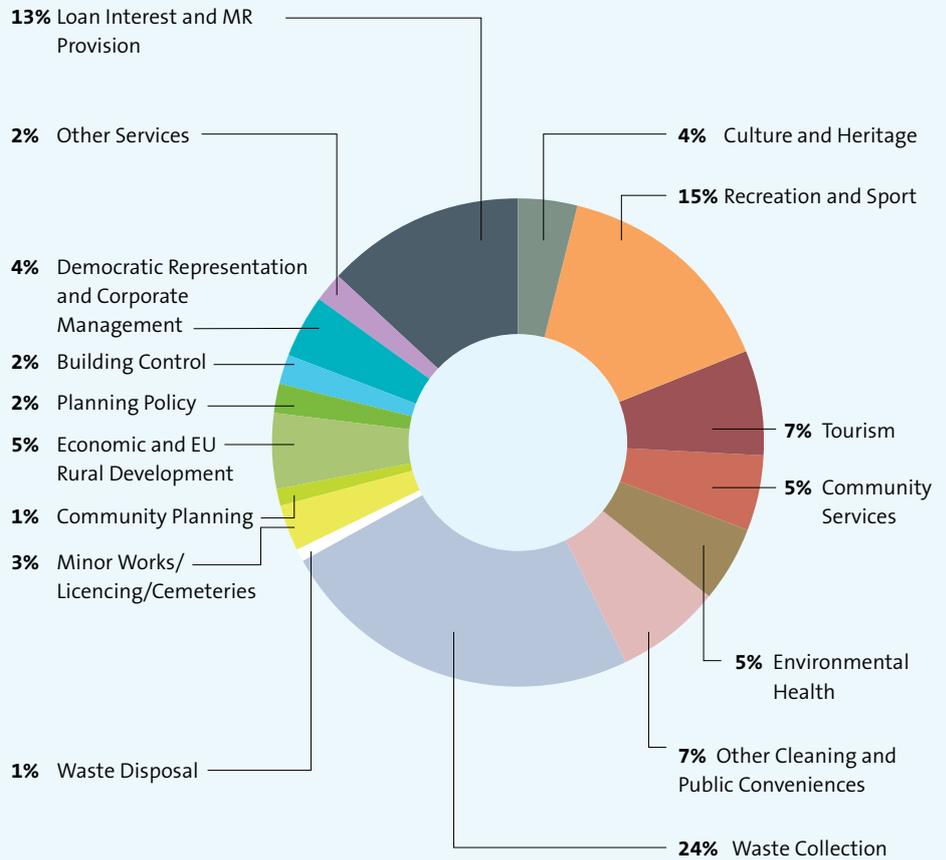
- Established the Giant Adventures Festivals, attracting more than 140,000 visitors per annum
- Helped increase tourism visitor numbers by 45% and visitor spend by 88%
- Worked to secure £850m of funding as part of the Belfast Region City Deal Investment Package to unlock a potential economic growth of well over £1b
- Led the £2.7m Social Investment Fund 'Work It' Programme: Young People's Essential Skills Programme
- Worked with 250 local businesses; promoted 168 new jobs and supported 167 new business starts per annum
- Reduced the amount of waste going to landfill by 84%
- Increased brown bin waste by 60%
- Launched the Local Biodiversity Action Plan

- Led a €8.3m CAAN Project between Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland
- Awarded £40,000 through Down Your Street – Live Here Love Here
- Improved processing time for local Planning applications
- Built state-of-the-art leisure centres in Newry and Downpatrick
- Allocated £5m to develop better outdoor facilities and play parks
- Created and updated 45 Village Plans
- Completed Carlingford Lough Greenway between Weir/ Victoria Lock
- Completed restoration of Warrenpoint Municipal Park
- Awarded £1.4m to 413 projects through the Financial Assistance Scheme
- Enhanced digital connectivity and high speed broadband across the district
- Established the Community Planning Partnership which has developed and is delivering local action plans
- Developed and started delivering a Community Support Plan
- Continued implementing seven DEA Action Plans
- Continued implementing the Peace IV Partnership £4.7m programme
- Reviewed existing models of service delivery to identify more efficient ways of doing business.

The Council wishes to develop an ambitious Corporate Plan for the next term which will continue to deliver for local people and communities. Over the next few months the Council will undertake a very inclusive, participative and accessible engagement and consultation process throughout the district with a wide range of stakeholders. The Council wants to listen to your views and opinions on the future priorities for the Council and will use this feedback to inform the development of our new Corporate Plan. All the consultation events will be widely published and you are encouraged to attend and have your voice heard.

For further information, email: info@nmandd.org

How we spend your money in 2018/19



Services	Cost per £'000	Services	Cost per £'000
Culture and Heritage	£2,516	Minor Works/Licencing/ Cemeteries	£1,767
Recreation and Sport	£8,941	Community Planning	£817
Tourism	£3,946	Economic and EU Rural Development	£2,780
Community Services	£2,997	Planning Policy	£1,162
Environmental Health	£3,031	Building Control	£915
Other Cleaning and Public Conveniences	£3,806	Democratic Representation and Corporate Management	£2,476
Waste Collection	£13,694	Other Services	£1,200
Waste Disposal	£321	Loan Interest and MR Provision	£7,635

Total budget: £58,005,000

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This document or its summary can be made available on request in other formats, including braille, large print, audio-tape and other languages. Should you require access to these services, please contact the Communications and Marketing Office on 028 4461 0841 or email marketing@nmandd.org

Getting in touch - useful numbers

Arts Centres and Museums

Down Arts Centre
Downpatrick
028 4461 0747

Down County Museum
Downpatrick
028 4461 5218

Newry & Mourne Museum
Bagenal's Castle, Newry
028 3031 3182

Sean Hollywood Arts Centre
Newry
028 3031 3180

Community Centres

Ballynahinch
028 9756 1950

Bessbrook
028 3083 9666

Bridge Centre
Killyleagh
028 4482 8648

Castlewellan
028 4377 0007

Cloughreagh
028 3083 8454

Crossmaglen
028 3086 1949

Dan Rice Hall
Drumaness
028 9756 1449

The Market House
Ballynahinch
028 9756 4050

Country Parks

Castlewellan Forest Park
028 4377 8664

Delamont Country Park
028 4482 8333

Kilbroney Park
028 4173 8134

Slieve Gullion Country Park
028 3031 3170

Leisure Centres

Ballymote Health and Wellbeing Centre
028 4461 2919

Down Leisure Centre
Downpatrick
028 4461 3426

Kilkeel Leisure Centre
028 4176 4666

Newcastle Centre Complex including Tropicana, Rock Pool and Castle Park
028 4372 5034

Newry Leisure Centre
(swimming pool)
028 3031 3190

St Colman's Sports Complex
028 3025 6166

Visitor Information Centres

Crossmaglen
028 3086 8900

Kilkeel
028 4176 2525

Newry
028 3031 3170

Newcastle
028 4372 2222

Downpatrick
028 4461 2233

Slieve Gullion
028 3084 8190

Warrenpoint Town Hall and Tourist Office
028 4175 2256

Household Recycling Centres

0300 013 2233
Ballykine, Ballynahinch
Bann Road, Castlewellan
Camlough
Cloonagh Road, Downpatrick
Crossmaglen
Drumanakelly
Hilltown
Kilkeel
Newry
Newtownhamilton
Warrenpoint

Others Useful Numbers

Telephone:
0300 013 2233
Building Control
Bulky Waste Collection
Cemeteries
• Lough Inch, Ballynahinch
• Monkshill, Newry
• Struell, Downpatrick
• Rostrevor
• Warrenpoint
Complaints
Dog Control
Environmental Health & Animal Welfare
Licensing
Policing & Community Safety Partnership
Pollution Control
Public Conveniences
Recycling
Refuse Collection
Registration Office (Births, Deaths and Marriages)
Street Cleansing
Waste Disposal

Planning Office:
0300 200 7830

0300 013 2233
www.newrymournedown.org

 /nmdcouncil

 @nmdcouncil



NMD Connect is published annually and incorporates the Council's Annual Report. We would appreciate your feedback on the publication and would be very grateful if you could complete the following short questionnaire and return it to: Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, Communications and Marketing Section, Downshire Civic Centre, Ardglass Road, Downpatrick, BT30 6GQ.

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements about NMD Connect?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
It is a good way for me to find out about the Council and how it spends my money					
It is a good way to find out about Council services					
It includes interesting articles					
It is easy to understand					
It appeals to people of all backgrounds					
It looks good and is well designed					

Overall how would you rate NMD Connect Excellent Good Average Poor Very Poor Don't Know

If you would like to see more articles/information in NMD Connect, or have any other comments, please provide details below:
