

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

February 2018

NMMD Connect

incorporating Annual Report 2017/2018



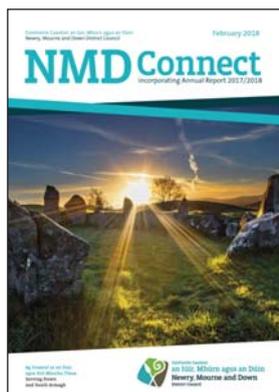
Ag freastal ar an Dún
agus Ard Mhacha Theas
Serving Down
and South Armagh



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

Contents

Chairperson's message	2
Chief Executive's message	3
Key Achievements	3
Empowering Our Community	9
Making a Difference	12
Protecting Our Environment	17
Planning for Our Future	19
Working in Partnership	22
Annual Report	
Recycling - It's the Law	26
Safer Neighbourhoods	27
How We Performed	28
How We Spend Your Money in 2017/18	28
Your Councillors	30



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Chairperson's message



As the Chairperson of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council since last May, I am proud to have met with so many of our local people, community groups and businesses throughout the district to see the innovative work that is contributing to making our district a more vibrant and welcoming place.

It has been my pleasure to support and champion a wide variety of events, community groups and business initiatives—ranging from festivals to improvements to our urban and rural environment, and initiatives to further improve the local economy and society. I have placed health and healthcare at the centre of my priorities and have been pleased to see a collaborative working

relationship develop with the Council, Southern and South Eastern Health and Social Care Trusts, Ambulance Service, and community groups to ensure a strategic and co-operative approach.

Empowering our community to work together for the benefit of all our citizens is crucial if we are to build a society that is inclusive and respectful. I was therefore delighted to see groups from Newry and Slieve Croob DEAs nominated for their work in strengthening their communities in the Pride of Place Awards.

I have been particularly keen to support the efforts of local companies to work in partnership with the Council as they grow their business, and nowhere can this been seen more than in the efforts to improve broadband speed and availability. Broadband plays a critical role in ensuring that we can compete locally, nationally and internationally and I applaud the efforts of our Council in mapping service black spots which will provide the evidence base needed to bring in schemes to significantly improve these services.

Our Make it Local initiative, which promotes buying local goods, services and food not only benefits and promotes sustainable growth, it also helps to make a difference and bring the community together. I am pleased that this year will see more artisan markets for food and crafts that will be coming to Downpatrick and Newcastle. I know these will be a great success and I look forward to supporting these efforts.

As a society we appreciate now, more than ever, the importance of leading active lives—not just for the impact on our own health, but also to improve the quality of life of all our citizens. I was proud to open our new flagship leisure centre in Newry which is now open for all our people to enjoy. I was particularly pleased to support the launch of our 'Be Active' campaign this year which will help individuals to improve their lifestyle as well as encouraging more people to get involved with sport and physical activity.

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

Chairperson
Councillor Roisin Mulgrew

Chief Executive's message



When we look back on what the Council has delivered in the past year, we can be proud of our achievements.

We have continued to deliver on our corporate strategic priorities to enhance the district's reputation as a place to be for tourism, leisure and business activities.

One of our flagship achievements this year was the opening of the new Newry Leisure Centre, a £22m, centre that is already transforming the way we provide sporting, wellbeing and exercise opportunities for our citizens. The introduction of the 'Be Active' campaign, will go a long way to fulfilling our goal of promoting a prosperous, healthy and sustainable district.

This year we worked closely with our partners in government, the EU and across the island of Ireland to improve the transport links and the way our towns and cities look. We have ambitious strategic plans for Ballynahinch, Downpatrick, Newry and Warrenpoint as well as for developing Kilkeel Harbour. When completed, these schemes will help us fulfil our potential as a premier district for both business and residents alike.

We have continued to deliver essential services to all of the district's citizens and have made strenuous efforts to improve the performance of everything we do. We have continued to reduce the amount of waste that we collect in black bins; this year we have seen a 7% reduction in black bin waste and a 45% increase in brown bin waste—a sure sign that more people are getting the message about recycling.

I know that we will continue to deliver for all our people over the year ahead and I look forward to taking forward the projects.

Chief Executive
Liam Hannaway



Silver award for Newcastle

Newcastle continued its winning streak in the Britain in Bloom competition with a Silver Gilt award this year, following on from its success in the competition last year. The award, which recognises the towns or villages with the most beautiful plantings and horticultural schemes, was hotly contested by 78 local and national finalists.

Chairperson Roisin Mulgrew with Britain in Bloom judge Richard Badge



Newry, Mourne and Down District Council takes top award for Sustainability

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council took the top award for 'Best Energy Manager' at the prestigious Sustainable Ireland Magazine Awards this year. The award recognised Ciarán Óg Mussen for his enthusiasm and expertise in bringing forward a number of energy management systems in his five years with the Council. Not only has he implemented these successful projects, but his projects have created annual savings for the Council of £86,000 as well as promoting energy efficiency awareness within the Council and to the wider public.

The festival year

Five events dominated the festival year in 2017 with the return of the Giant Adventure series, which was launched in 2016 with record crowds discovering a rich variety of landscapes, mountains and coastlines unique to the district.

#1 The year began with the Footsteps in the Forest event which combined heritage, walks and an artisanal food fair in Slieve Gullion Forest Park in June—a foodie’s paradise, with local producers showing just what the area has to offer.

Footsteps in the Forest



#2 If you fancied taking a more active part, then the Skiffie Festival, held in Delamont Country Park in July was the place to be. Over 1,000 people from far and near took part in the international rowing race while 50 community groups built their own skiffs before joining in the fun.

The Skiffie Festival



GIANT
ADVENTURES



Key Achievements

#3 The Festival of Flight is always a highlight of the season, with the famous Red Arrows showing-off their daredevil stunts as well as a magnificent display of aircraft including the iconic Spitfire.

The Festival of Flight



Wake the Giant

#4

The second Wake the Giant festival, inspired by the myth of a giant sleeping on the Cooley Mountains, took place in Warrenpoint at the end of August. Live theatre, music and children's craft workshops all contributed to the atmosphere as the witch Cailleagh Beara did her best to keep the giant Finn under her sleeping spell.



#5

The latest addition to the holiday line up was the three day City of Merchants festival which celebrated Newry's rich maritime and industrial heritage through an imaginative programme of events, entertainment, food and drink, culminating in one of the most spectacular fireworks displays ever seen in the district.

City of Merchants



This is only a flavour of what has taken place in the district.

The Council has funded many more events and activities over the year. Some 20 groups and organisations have been supported with their events, including Halloween and Christmas celebrations.

Plans are now afoot for a new tourism and events programme for 2018, including another year of Giant Adventures. Full details can be found at

www.visitmournemountains.co.uk





‘Be Active’ and start your journey to a healthier lifestyle

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council launched a new campaign aimed at encouraging all people to ‘Be Active’. We want to play our part in improving your quality of life and reducing health inequalities, through programmes, services and access to open spaces. The multifaceted ‘Be Active’ campaign will provide the perfect stepping stone to achieving this.



As part of this exciting programme, we have given our leisure facilities a new look and feel. We want to kick start your journey to a healthy and active lifestyle. Our facilities are accessible to everyone in society and can provide a vast range of activities to include in your active lifestyle.

The opening of the new premier Newry Leisure Centre in November 2017 coincided with the launch of our ‘Be Active’ campaign which is a drive to promote better physical health and mental wellbeing. With people leading increasingly busy lives, we often forget to look after our own physical and mental health.

We’ve also made it much easier to join a leisure centre or book sessions—you can now book the option that suits you online. There are many options to suit everyone! You can find out more about the joining and membership prices which range from £15.00 to £29.95 per month, with daily, monthly, 3, 6 and 12 month plans available at www.newrymournedown.org

Platinum All Inclusive

Multi-site access for indoor facilities at Ballymote Sports and Wellbeing Centre, Downpatrick, Newry and Kilkeel leisure centres, and Newcastle Centre.

Platinum Swim

Multi-site access for indoor leisure facilities at Downpatrick, Newry and Kilkeel leisure centres.

Gold

Multi-site access to Ballymote Sports and Wellbeing Centre, Downpatrick Leisure Centre, and the Newcastle Centre.

Silver

Facility of your choice that has gym, pool, sauna, steam room or classes at their designated off-peak times. This applies to Ballymote Sports and Wellbeing Centre, Downpatrick, Newry and Kilkeel leisure centres, and Newcastle Centre.

Our ‘Be Active’ campaign is for everyone and we’ve formed a partnership with Disability Sports NI (DSNI) to establish a Disability Sports Hub in the district. This allows us to provide a range of sports using wheelchairs, inclusive bikes and sports equipment to enable both children and adults with disabilities to participate in sports activities. We are also working hard to create a more inclusive society.

We’re working with clubs to provide facilities accessible to everyone and our partners DSNI will provide training as well as promoting positive attitudes towards people with disabilities.

It’s important that all people, including those with a disability, are able to live a full, active and healthy lifestyle through sport and active recreation.

Key Achievements



'Your Way Every Day'

Our programmes are aimed at encouraging people to be more active more often through sport and physical activity.

Every Body Active 2020 programme is targeted at increasing participation among those who have been traditionally underrepresented in sports: women and girls aged 14-25, people with a disability, and those living in areas of greatest social need. (Defined by being in the top 25% of wards designated by the NI Multiple Deprivation Measure Index 2010.)

For those groups and clubs participating in organised sport, the **SANDSA** (Sports Association Newry, Down and South Armagh) programme is for you.

SANDSA is designed to promote and support community sporting activity at a local level. It provides training and other resources, funding sourcing, administering the annual SANDSA Sports Awards Ceremony, promoting the Millennium Volunteers Goldmark Programme and promoting independent accreditation for clubs through their Governing Body or Sport Northern Ireland. SANDSA also works with the Council to establish a database of sports development information, enabling local clubs to provide educational, training and recreational programmes.

We have plans for the future. Our **Sports Facilities Strategy** was completed this year and looked at all sports facilities across the district, both public and private. We've identified what we need and what our priorities should be over the next few years. We've committed to investing £2.5m to develop outdoor facilities and £40m to build two new state-of-the-art leisure centres in Newry and Downpatrick.

We haven't forgotten about our children and young people either. We completed our **Play Strategy** this year which looked at what we provide for children and young people and committed £2.5m to provide new and improved play parks. The Strategy sets out how we will develop, maintain and roll out all types of play opportunities and what support can be given to local communities across the district.

Our Play Strategy takes into account local, regional and international policies and strategies including Article 31 of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child. It recognises the important place that play has in developing young people's lives.

As always, we consult with a wide range of groups and people when

we develop our strategies—sports clubs, the general public and schools. This enables us to see where the gaps are and what needs to be done. We work, and continue to work, with external partners and funders. We aim to make it possible for all our citizens to take part in activities that will improve health and wellbeing.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council has established a partnership with the **MacMillan Move More Programme**. This Programme works with people living with, and recovering from, cancer in a place that suits them. The Programme provides bespoke physical activities and also can refer people to cancer services. These include help with daily tasks, physiotherapy, counselling, transport, 'Look Good Feel Great' make overs and holistic therapies. For more information, please contact ryan.flynn@nmandd.org

You can find out about the range of programmes available under the schemes which are delivered throughout the district by contacting leisureandsport@nmandd.org

'Be Active' - Your Way Every Day



Newry leads the way with state-of-the-art leisure centre

The opening of the £22m Leisure Centre in November 2017 puts Newry on the map as the first all encompassing centre of its kind in Northern Ireland.



Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Chairperson, Roisin Mulgrew, along with distinguished guests, celebrated a new beginning for activity and sport in the district.

and keep track of their individual programmes and training wherever they are, through a downloadable app—truly a Leisure Centre for the 21st century!

The new Down Leisure Centre, opening in late 2018, will see another state-of-the-art facility in our district ensuring our citizens have access to a range of activities to encourage a healthier way of living.

The development of the facility has been central to the Council's strategic priorities to enhance both the social and economic development of the district, and shows the Council's determination to lead in reducing health inequalities for all its citizens. The new facility will also serve as a flagship sports centre to provide first class training for local athletes. Everyone, whatever their fitness level, will be able to access the wellness gym, spin studio, sports halls, indoor soft play area and state-of-the-art pool.

The new Leisure Centre has been years in the making—in 2015 Phase 1 opened with the launch of the 8 lane main swimming pool which benefited from a teaching pool with children's water features, a flume and a viewing gallery with Olympic standard seating. Needless to say, this has proved very popular with over 500 people availing of lessons each week.

The wide variety of facilities makes this new centre an attractive place for local schools, sporting clubs, community groups and individuals to train and become more active. Already the IFA's International Futsal Squad has visited the centre and showcase matches for the Irish National Wheelchair Basketball League have been held.

The centre has been developed with an eye on making technology work for both the casual and dedicated user. The new Wellness Connected Experience will allow users to connect



Irish language embedded in the everyday life of the district

Family fun days and Christmas Fairs were all popular events this year, run under the auspices of the new Fóram an Dúin agus Oiriaila (the Down and Oriel Forum). The Family Fun Day was held in Tí Chulainn in September while the two Christmas Fairs were held in Bunscoil an Iúir, Newry and Shimna College in Newcastle.

Schoolchildren from Sacred Heart Grammar and Abbey Grammar, Newry took to the radio waves and honed their radio production skills while making an Irish language radio programme. The young people were given the opportunity from a joint venture between Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Irish Language Unit, Irish language community radio station Raidió Fáilte 107.1fm and Sacred Heart Grammar School.



Three workshops offered pupils a chance to develop skills in research, script-writing, interview skills and technical experience in recording sound. We hope that this project is to be one of many involving a number of schools in the district over coming years.

The radio programme was broadcast on Wednesday 29 and Thursday 30 November on Raidió Fáilte 107.1fm. Both of these broadcasts are now available as a podcast on www.raidiofailte.com

Last but not least, this year the Irish language guided Winter Solstice walk was a hit and was fully booked within 48 hours.

Through our Irish Language Unit, the Council is committed to providing services in Irish to elected members and Council employees, and the Irish language community. We will build on our achievements throughout 2018. Contact gailge@nmandd.org or call 028 3031 3076.

Music and mystery usher in Christmas cheer

The Christmas season began on a high note with a charity concert combining music and magic at the newly refurbished Newry Town Hall. World famous mentalist David Meade delighted and baffled the audience with his uncanny abilities to read minds while the Accolade choir and the Newry, Mourne and Down Trad Youth Orchestra delighted the audience with seasonal and traditional musical offerings.

The event, which was attended by a large and appreciative audience, was in aid of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Chairperson Roisin Mulgrew's charities of the year. The three charities, Davina's Ark, the Mental Health Forum, and Women's Aid all work throughout the district helping vulnerable people and the funds raised from the concert will benefit local people throughout the year.





Fun day in the shadow of the Mournes

Keeping healthy can be fun and Killeel certainly proved the point with a fun day for children and parents.

Against the majestic setting of the granite mountain range, the activities attracted young people and their parents, with health stalls providing advice and support.

The event was in response to a public consultation where residents raised the issue of the scarcity of health providers in the Mournes and was organised by **The Mournes DEA**.

We're proud... Newcastle—the 1st Autism Friendly Town in Northern Ireland

Newcastle has been designated the first autism friendly town in Northern Ireland, following a partnership between the Council, Autism Initiatives NI and the Equality Commission. This exciting initiative is raising Newcastle's profile locally, nationally and internationally and rightly shows that Newcastle is a place where everyone is welcome. We are now working with businesses to promote the Every Customer Counts initiative—a sentiment worthy of the town and Council.



Photo courtesy of Neil Harrison Photography



Speech and language get a 'boost' in Downpatrick

A programme developed by ICAN, the children's communication charity, and funded through the **Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Programme** by the Department for Communities (DfC), is helping Downpatrick children in Primary 1 and 2 to develop their speech, language and communications skills.

'Talk Boost' delivers its programme in schools with teachers and classroom assistants receiving training by a speech and language

therapist and assessing the children in their own school. The benefits of this new programme are clear: children are assessed more quickly—a waiting time of two weeks compared to 9-13 weeks if they are sent to a specialist clinic. The programme has already shown results: besides improving children's skills, it is leading to increased engagement with parents.

A win win for everyone!



Pride in their Place

Pride of Place Awards take place annually and this year two community organisations from **Newry and Slieve Croob DEAs** were nominated. The awards recognise the work that community organisations do to empower people and strengthen their communities.

Newry Rainbow Community was nominated in the category 'Social Inclusion and Equality in the Cities'.

The group, which was established in 2004, is a one stop shop for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community, offering social engagement, a befriending service, support helpline and a resource centre.

Castlewellan Community Partnership was nominated for its contribution to Community Youth Based Initiatives.

Pride of Place judges visited both schemes and both groups were invited to the ceremony, hosted by Donegal County Council in Letterkenny.

On the night there was success for Newry Rainbow Community, which was delighted to be named runner-up in their category.

Senior Surfers

Knowing how to use a computer and navigate around the web is important for everyone, especially with so many services moving online. With the new computerised Welfare Reform Scheme, the **Downpatrick DEA** Action Plan identified a need for senior citizens to improve their computer skills.

During November and December, seniors from the Downpatrick area took part in a basic information technology course in the Ballymote Centre. By the time the course finished, the seniors were able to use a laptop and mouse, navigate around the keyboard and search the web. Not only did those taking the

course learn new skills, they also enjoyed the companionship of a very social occasion.

Information sessions will follow on the completion of welfare reform applications.



Regeneration proceeds apace

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council has been busy this year, implementing schemes across the district to make our towns and cities more attractive for business and tourism for both residents and visitors alike.

This year, we've been working on the **Ballynahinch** Masterplan which has ten priority areas for revitalising the town centre. These include identifying vacant and derelict properties which could lead to grants to improve the buildings, more events throughout the day and evening to draw in tourists and help the local economy, and better marketing of what the town has to offer.

The proposed **Ballynahinch bypass** is still in the planning stages and the Council has been working with Transport NI (TNI) to secure its approval. The bypass is something that everyone agrees will both improve access routes throughout the region and reduce congestion in the town centre.

An ambitious scheme for **Downpatrick** is being delivered in partnership with the Department for Communities (DfC) and TNI, with work to begin in summer 2018. The scheme will upgrade pavements, plantings and street furniture, giving a facelift to the town.

The former PSNI station on Irish Street is to be given a new lease of life with a plan now being developed by the Council, along with DfC and TNI.

Tourism opportunities in the town have not been forgotten with a planning application now submitted for a hotel development.

An application to the Heritage Lottery Fund to bring in a heritage

project in the Conservation Area has been developed. This plan would see rundown buildings improved.

The **Southern Relief Road** in Newry has now reached the community consultation phase. Three options are being presented for a new strategic road link between the A1 Dublin Road and the A2 Warrenpoint Road.

Developing **Kilkeel Harbour** is the flagship project within the South East Coast Masterplan. One third of the value of all fish landed in Northern Ireland comes into Kilkeel Harbour, so developing its potential is a high priority. The Council has been working with the Kilkeel Strategic Partnership, Invest NI and Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) to develop the harbour 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.





Planning for the future

24 newly updated Village Plans and 18 new Village Plans have been created, in consultation with 60 communities and over 500 individuals.

This project has included £50,000 from the Mourne, Gullion and Lecale Partnership awarded to the Council to aid the development of the plans. The plans reflect the concerns of local people, including improving the environment and infrastructure, tourism, leisure and recreation facilities and provision of services. Securing Rural Development Village Renewal funding in 2018 is a top priority to allow these projects to go ahead.

Both **Warrenpoint and Newry** are in line for projects to upgrade lighting, pavements, signage and planting. The scheme in Warrenpoint, which includes the re-routing of overhead services underground, will see £2.1m to carry out the improvements, while the Newry scheme has an investment of £860,000, all carried out in partnership with DfC. An extra £100,000 is being invested in revitalising the **Cathedral Corridor**

area of Newry, including improvements to shop fronts.

The historic **Killeavy Castle**, which sits impressively on the slopes of Slieve Gullion, is soon to be turned into a 45 bedroom luxury boutique hotel and wellness centre. This impressive transformation is being brought about with a £10m investment from Jaramas Investments (NI) with the Council providing £240,000 to the overall development costs.

Last, but certainly not least, the plans for a new **Civic Centre** and theatre for Newry is taking shape. We have held consultations with local businesses and the public.

This project will not only contribute to the regeneration of Newry city centre but will also provide much needed new cultural and arts facilities.



Artist impression of the Cathedral Corridor regeneration

Developing our local economy

Developing the local economy is a key priority for the Council—we know we offer an attractive environment for new businesses to set up and existing ones to grow.

We're working with a number of European Social Fund economic and employment projects, involving over 500 people and organisations in business development, mentoring,

work placements and bespoke accreditation training. This year we received a coveted **Purple Flag** accreditation for Newry city centre for the excellence of the evening and night-time economy.

During this year we launched a new Business Start Programme, in partnership with all the 11 Councils.

The **Go For It** programme will help anyone who has a business idea to turn it into a reality.

Over the coming months, we expect to support 167 new businesses, creating at least 155 new jobs. To find out more about the programme, visit www.goforitni.com or call 0800 027 0639.

You're never too old to learn new skills

We have also delivered a range of workshops and programmes to over 250 local businesses keen to expand, covering such key areas as building a brand, growing online and overseas sales, developing digital marketing techniques and learning how to tender. A monthly business e-zine which you can find at <http://www.newrymournedown.org/business> will help you stay in touch.

People and their skills are an important part of improving our local economy and we have been

working in partnership with the Southern Regional College to enhance the skills and employability of around 100 local people who are unemployed, inactive or on low income.

The **CREST** programme, which began in September 2017 and will conclude in June 2018, provides training across a range of sectors—manufacturing, hospitality, retail, creative and digital technologies. Everyone who takes part can also avail of courses leading to accredited

essential skills in literacy, numeracy and ICT.

A business breakfast, entitled **Ready, Steady, Innovate**, carried out in partnership with the Southern Regional College, recently saw 60 businesses learn about the funded support available to them as they grow and innovate. InterTradeIreland and Invest NI were on hand, along with InnovateUK, to demonstrate just what they could offer local business.



Acting local, thinking global

Helping our businesses grow means helping them find new markets, not just at home, but also overseas. This year 20 companies secured a Council funded place on the **Overseas Results** programme which enabled them to market their service or product directly to potential customers in an overseas market of their choice. The programme helped companies to identify up to ten potential new customers to target, removing some of the barriers that our companies face, including that

of language and customer engagement.

In addition to focusing our programmes on our local businesses, we are also one of six Councils taking part in the **Belfast Region City Deal**. This programme is focused on growing our economic performance and bringing better jobs, inclusive growth, improved skills and extending both domestic and foreign direct investment.

Where to go for help:

The Go For It 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.



To find out about new programmes for building your business coming on board during 2018 contact the Enterprise Employment and Regeneration section on 0300 013 2233 / business@nmandd.org

For further details on CREST training programmes please visit www.facebook.com/SRCCCommunityEducation or contact Southern Regional College on 0300 123 1223.





Bringing communities together through sport

Meeting your sporting heroes is a dream for most young people.

So when **Rowallane and Slieve Croob DEAs** teamed up this year to bring together schoolchildren from Ballynahinch High School and St Malachy's Castlewellan, they were onto a winning formula.

The young people had an

opportunity to get up close to Stephen Ferris of Ulster and Irish rugby fame and Mark Poland, a former Down GAA captain, as they showed-off their skills.

Stephen and Mark kept the ball in the air with anecdotes from their

respective careers, signed memorabilia and demonstrated that sport can bring all communities together while helping to promote both mental and physical health.

Sport around the world

Sports bring people together and no more so than in a programme for primary school children in the Crotlieve district.

Crotlieve DEA invited children to take part in a 'Sport around the World' programme which gave each school two sessions. The programme, which was delivered by Grassroots Football, allowed the children to take part in a number of sports—Gaelic football, soccer, rugby, basketball and cricket. The programme helped young people meet each other and provided a platform for future joint initiatives.

The celebration event, held in May, gave the children a chance to show-off the different sports they had learned.



Connecting young people with employment and learning

Helping people into employment and learning is crucial to growing the economy in the district and is a key action on the **Slieve Gullion DEA's** 2017 plan.

This year they organised an event designed to bring together young people to connect with employment and education services. Organisations including Volunteer Now, Work4You

Plus, Clanrye, Southern Regional College, Careers NI, Jobs and Benefits, Youth Action and the Education Authority came together to provide information to the secondary school students. The organisations showed the young people how many avenues are open to them, from apprenticeships to third level college courses, how to build a CV and hone their interview skills.

Drumalane Community Centre opening soon

A new community centre for the Drumalane Quayside Close area of Newry is almost completed, to the delight of locals. The project which was seven years in the making was part funded by DfC through its

Neighbourhood Renewal Investment Programme and the Council. The £245,000 project will help local community volunteers to build on their activities to tackle inequalities and reach more people.

Supporting our many communities

Our district is home to many different communities and the Council is determined to support all of them. The Ethnic Minority Support Centre works in partnership with Citizens Advice Newry, Mourne and Down, and with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. This year the Centre had 2,500 visits and helped hundreds of families and individuals in need, including recently arrived Syrian refugees. You can contact the Centre at ethnicsupport@nmandd.org

Addressing rural isolation at Christmas



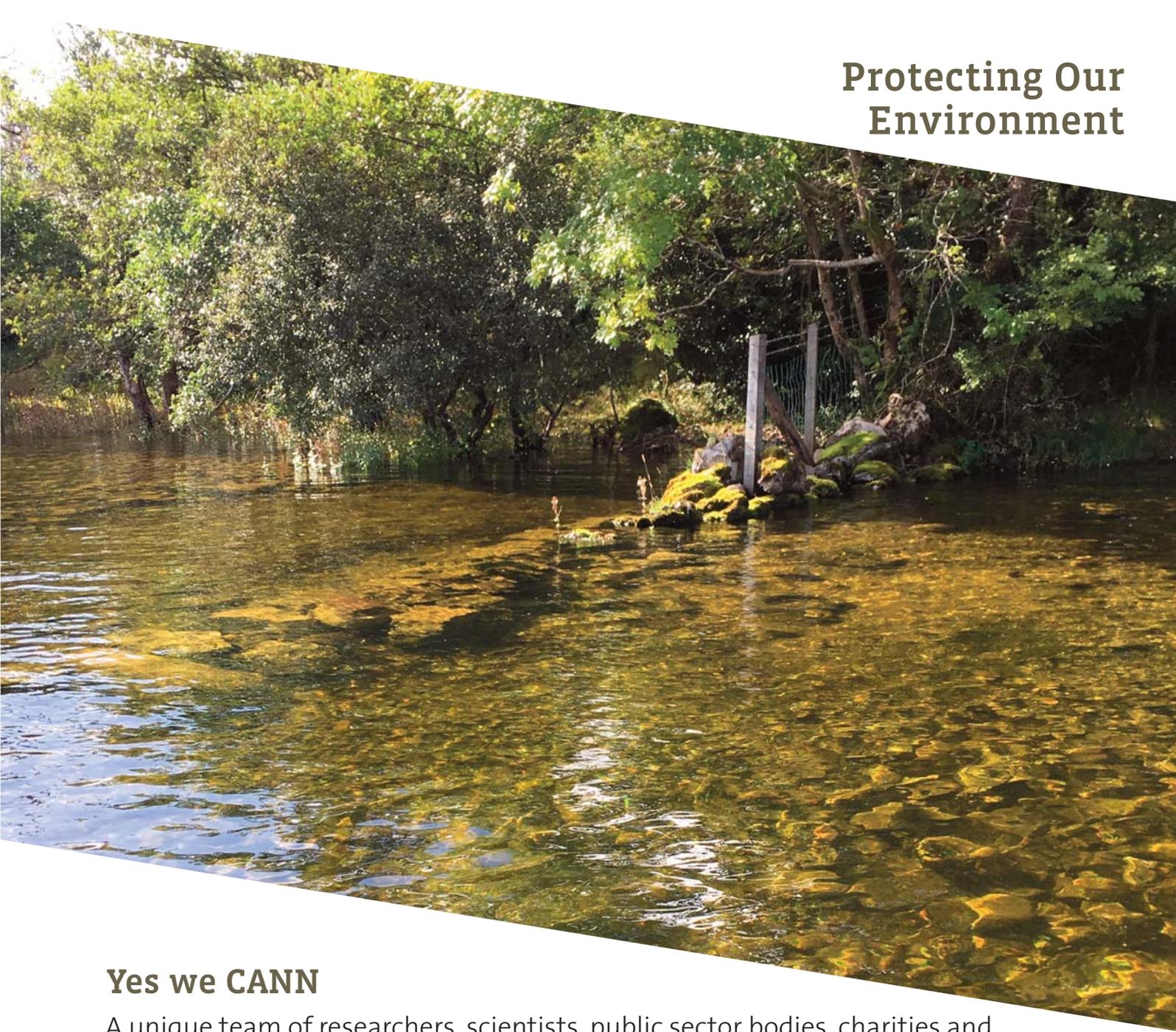
Rural isolation is a real concern for the district and this year **Downpatrick DEA**, in partnership with County Down Rural Community Network and Ballyhornan & District Community Association, held a Christmas event in the Ballyhornan Centre to address this issue and have some Christmas fun. Besides Santa, there were arts and craft activities, balloon modelling and face painting. The group also heard from the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service, Crime Prevention Office, Suicide to Zero and Domestic Violence on issues that affect rural dwellers.

Keep it Local



If you're keen on knowing where your produce, crafts or services come from, then the Make it Local initiative, rolled out in all towns and villages, is just what you need. Pictured is a Make it Local day in Kilkeel.

We're also looking forward to new artisan markets with unique crafts and mouth-watering local delicacies which are being piloted in Downpatrick and Newcastle. We look forward to seeing these on the monthly events calendar!



Yes we CANN

A unique team of researchers, scientists, public sector bodies, charities and community groups have come together on a significant conservation project spanning the three jurisdictions of Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

Led by the Council, this €8.3m project aims to improve the conditions of peatlands and wetlands and to protect the endangered animals and plants found there.

The team will work alongside communities to manage these iconic landscapes and species and will also carry out conservation measures. Within the Council area, the project will be focusing on the Special Areas of Conservation at

Turmennan near Crossgar, Lecale Fens near Downpatrick, Killough and Strangford.

This important project, called the Collaborative Action for Natura Network is supported by the European Union's INTERREG VA Programme, and managed locally by the Special EU Programmes Body which is the body responsible for managing both PEACE IV and INTERREG.





Living with our unique environment

With over 60 events around the two flagship festivals of Lúnasa and the Winter Solstice, the **Ring of Gullion Partnership** has made a big difference to all who live in South Armagh this year. Not only are the numbers attending events increasing, there were also over 3,000 hours spent by conservation volunteers, researching our priority species and habitats and helping out at events. Our Youth Rangers summer programme was a massive success with 30 applicants for the 10 places, and those who participated are now fired up to take

part in conservation activities in the future.

Our beautiful coastline is there to be enjoyed by all—but we also have a responsibility to protect and preserve it. The **Strangford Lough and Lecale Partnership** is working hard to achieve this and has now completed its draft Strangford Lough Marine Protected Area Scheme and AONB Action Plan. An aspect of this work is to tackle coastal litter and one outcome from this plan has been the removal of huge quantities of rubbish along the Lecale coast.

Slieve Gullion Forest Park is the focus of work being undertaken by the Ring of Gullion Partnership. Over the coming year, projects to improve paths, the designated Natura 200 site and capital work on Chambre House, as well as work on townlands, will be undertaken by the Ring of Gullion Partnership.

To keep up to date with all the Partnership projects, sign up to our monthly newsletter at www.ringofgullion.org

Helping hands

Young people in Newcastle and Rostrevor have been making their own contribution to creating a better environment for us all.

Working with the Council's Grounds Maintenance and Waste Collection Services, Unit T in

Newcastle, which works with a range of young people, helps to keep the Newcastle beach pristine.

Light 2000, based in Rostrevor, has focused its attention on planting trees in Kilbroney, with the help of three local primary schools and Council staff.



Improvements across the district

We are now hard at work, developing the next phase of improvements to Newry City and regeneration plans for environmental improvements across urban areas of the district for the next five years. We're working closely with DfC, as well as being the central coordinating point for government agencies, utilities and traders.

We are also now developing our Masterplans for **Ballynahinch**, **Downpatrick**, **Newry City**, and the South East Coast—**Kilkeel**, **Newcastle** and **Warrenpoint**, in conjunction with DfC.

One of the schemes that we are currently working on, in partnership with the Landfill Communities Fund, is restoration work to **Newry Canal Lock No. 5**. The project, which will cost £92,000, will renovate and clean the walls and chamber of the Lock. To encourage people to



use and appreciate this historic canal area and the role it played in the evolution of Newry, we will be installing interpretive signs for those using the towpath.

We also have big plans for **Downpatrick** and **Castlewellan**. We have already applied for Stage 1 funding to the Heritage Lottery Fund to make improvements to the Downpatrick Conservation Area. If we are successful, we will be making a further application to the Fund in 2018.

If you've ever been to Castlewellan Forest Park Arboretum and Annesley Garden you know what a special place it is. We have been developing a project to submit to the Heritage Lottery Fund to

further improve the wonderful Moorish Tower, Grange, Castle, and Annesley Garden and Arboretum.

Making the Strangford Lough, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, more accessible for recreational users is what the Local Action Group is concentrating on. They are currently carrying out a feasibility study to improve the uses and possible developments for access sites to encourage increased visitor numbers.

The **Strangford Local Action Group** is also working further afield. Along with partners in County Mayo, they are exploring the best way to link the historic but ruined house 'Moorehall' with Derrymore House in Bessbrook. The two houses are connected in relation to the signing of the Act of Union as well as having similar architecture and surrounding landscapes. The Local Action Group will be working with the Mourne, Gullion and Lecale Rural Development Partnership and representatives from County Mayo to lead on these developments.





Living Well Together

Improving public services from now to 2030 is the goal of the new 'Living Well Together' Community Plan.

The Plan was launched at an event in October 2017, with speakers drawn from What Works Scotland and Louth Public Participation Network who gave an insight into Scottish, Irish and international approaches to community engagement.

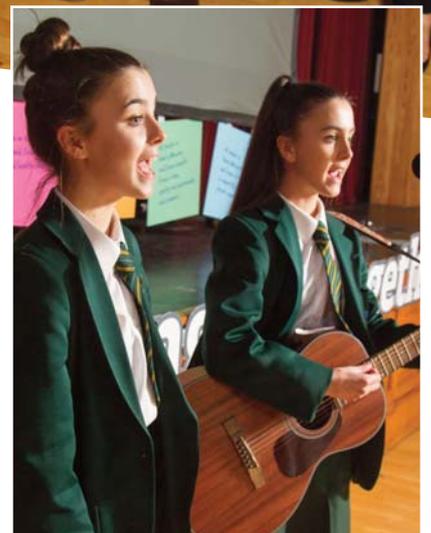
The Plan sets out a vision of Newry, Mourne and Down as 'a place with strong, safe and vibrant communities where everyone has a good quality of life and access to opportunities, choices and high quality public services which are sustainable, accessible and meet people's needs'.

Copies of the Newry, Mourne and Down Community Plan can be downloaded from www.newrymourneanddown.org

We've identified five key outcomes for people living in our district:

- Get a good start in life and fulfil their lifelong potential
- Enjoy good health and wellbeing
- Benefit from a clean, quality and sustainable environment
- Live in respectful, safe and vibrant communities
- Benefit from prosperous communities

In support of these outcomes, initial action plans have been developed which will provide the foundations for greater partnership working across our district. But we need communities, groups and individuals from the district taking part. To enable this, the Council along with its partners, will be engaging with groups across the area to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to play an active part in Living Well Together.



The green way to travel

What would be better than being able to leave your car at home and either walk or take a bike to work?

If you are in the Carlingford area, you just might be able to do that, and enjoy the Carlingford Lough Greenway on your way.

Phase 1 of the Greenway, from Dublin Road Bridge in Newry to the Weir on the Middlebank has now been completed. This phase was funded by the Council, through the Landfill Communities Fund, administered by Ulster Wildlife.

A stretch of 6.2km, carried out by Louth County Council, has already been completed from Omeath to Carlingford Marina and proved very

popular. Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, along with Louth County Council have now secured funding of €3.4m from the European Union's INTERREG VA programme which is managed by the Special EU Programmes Body, to deliver phase 2 of the project. Phase 2 will bring the Greenway from the Weir on the Middlebank to Omeath and from Carlingford Marina to Carlingford.

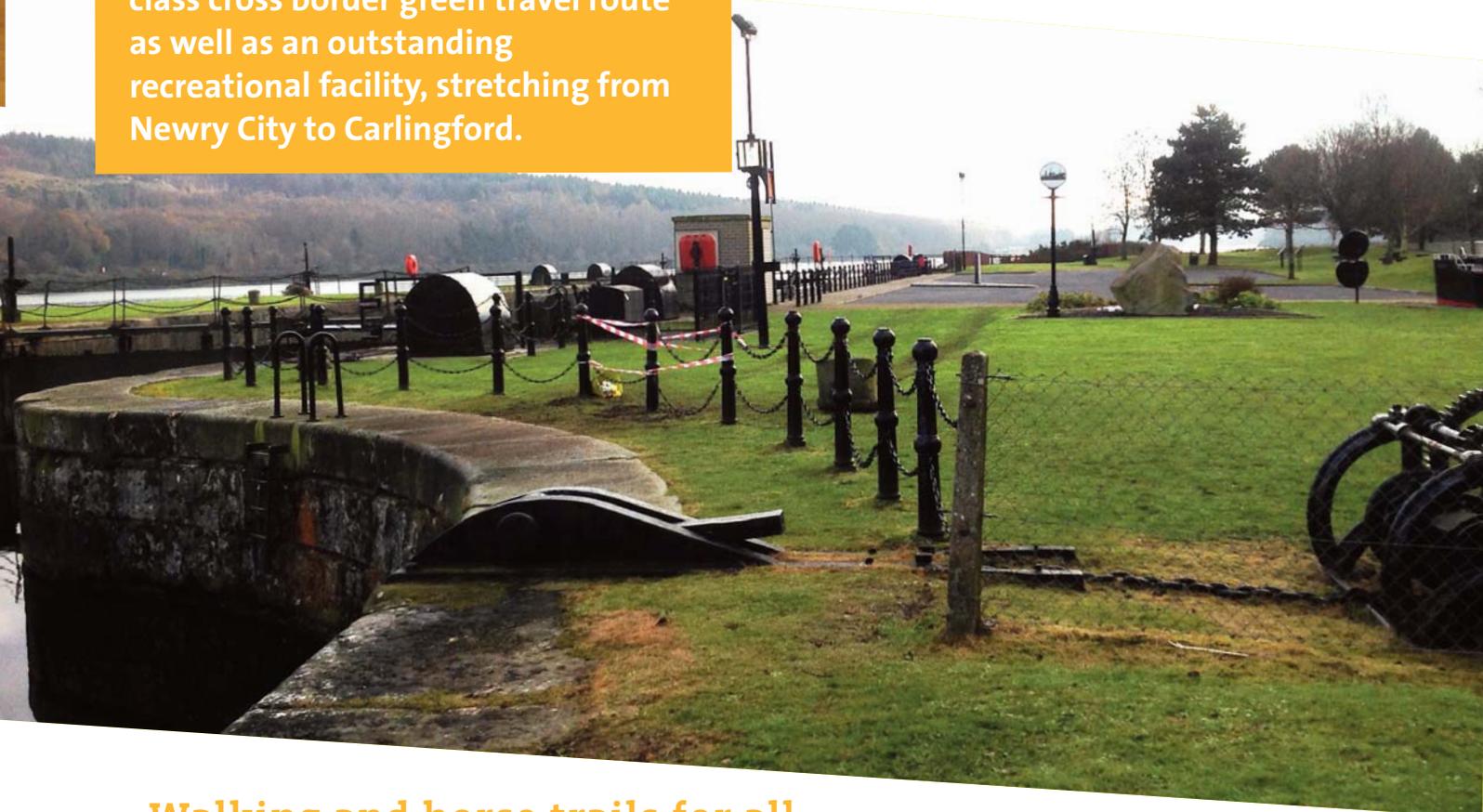
When completed by 2020, with sections from the Weir to Victoria Lock being open in early 2018, the Greenway will provide a world class

cross border green travel route as well as an outstanding recreational facility, stretching from Newry City to Carlingford.

The Greenway will link up with the existing Newry/Portadown Cycleway/Towpath—this will give an amazing 52km of Greenway along the east coast of Ireland. It will now be possible to walk or cycle between Belfast and Dublin, using the Sustrans Route 9 - the Great Eastern Greenway.

So get ready for an adventure!

The Greenway will provide a world class cross border green travel route as well as an outstanding recreational facility, stretching from Newry City to Carlingford.



Walking and horse trails for all

If you're looking for a fun day out, why not go horseback riding in Castlewellan Forest Park? The Council has adopted the horse riding trails, waymarking and the

maintenance of them. If bikes are more your passion, the Forest Park has excellent mountain bike and walking trails—to date they have hosted 42 events including the

Ulster Mountain Bike Championships and the Countryfile Ramble in aid of Children in Need.



Councillor Roisin Mulgrew with Nicholas McCrickard, Chairperson of Mourne, Gullion and Lecale Rural Development Partnership

Developing our rural community

Mourne, Gullion and Lecale Rural Development Partnership has been busy delivering Priority 6 of the Rural Development Programme.

There have been two calls for applications to the **Rural Business Investment Scheme**, totalling over £600,000 for local business and creating 54 full-time jobs over the next two years. There will be further investment in Spring 2018 and all areas, with the exception of the city and town boundaries of Newry and Downpatrick, are eligible.

In early 2018 the Mourne, Gullion and Lecale Local Action Group will be calling for applications to help organisations upgrade community facilities. The grant assistance will be up to £300,000 and will help to provide a better environment for local people.

Broadband speed and availability is an issue that affects many communities

in the Council area. During November and December 2017, the Council carried out a confidential survey of business owners about their current broadband internet service. The survey will be used to map 'not spots' and 'black spots'. The Council will be able to use this data to support funding bids and let both residents and businesses know about future broadband schemes. The project was supported by the Mourne, Gullion and Lecale Rural Development Partnership under the Rural Development Programme, funded by DAERA, and the European Union.

£2m has been allocated by the European Maritime Fisheries Fund, through DAERA, for communities dependent on fishing, including Ardglass, Annalong, Kilkeel and

Portavogie. The Council has been appointed to oversee the Programme's implementation. Applications should open in Spring 2018.



Following an award of £850,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund Parks for the People Programme, the Council will now deliver the **Warrenpoint Municipal Park** restoration and regeneration project. The Park will reopen in Summer 2018, and will include a programme of activities and events for both locals and visitors.



Working together for all our community

We can do a lot for our people, heritage and environment, but much more can be done in partnership with other bodies and organisations. Newry, Mourne and Down is fortunate to have long-standing working relationships with many different bodies. Here are some of our projects.

Promoting peace and reconciliation

£4.2m of EU funding under the Peace IV programme has been secured under the strand Local Authority Plan—Beyond Tolerance. As lead partner, the Council is responsible for delivering the Peace IV Action Plan which aims to promote peace and reconciliation, focusing on the three key themes of 'Children and Young People', 'Shared Spaces and Services' and 'Building Positive Relationships'. The funding will be used to deliver a range of community activities including sport, arts, culture and language.



Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty set for international recognition

Mourne, Ring of Gullion, and Strangford & Lecale are set for international recognition as a UNESCO Global Geopark. The designation, which is only given to areas with internationally important geological features, will use the region's unique natural heritage to promote sustainable tourism and encourage economic development, something that is a priority for the Council's Tourism Strategy 2017-2020.

Defining these Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty as a Geopark will put the district in a select group across the world. Thirty-five countries currently share 127 designated areas; and it will be only the fourth such site on the island of Ireland.

The dramatic volcanic landscapes of the Ring of Gullion, together

with the granite peaks of the Mournes and the drumlins of Strangford all present opportunities to brand the area as a premier destination for local, regional and international visitors, to the advantage of local businesses and communities.

The economic benefits cannot be overstated—one of the important advantages of Geopark designation is that it is not intended to hinder development but work in tandem with businesses and communities. It will encourage businesses, local people and organisations to build and work in partnership to market and manage the area's significant heritage holistically, bringing protection, education and sustainable development together.

Investing in our people

The Executive Office's Social Investment Fund provides the monies for the Work It Employment Programme. This £2.7m programme aims to improve the social conditions and encourage economic growth in parts of Northern Ireland which has high degrees of poverty, unemployment and dereliction.

The Council delivers this programme to those eligible in Newry, Portadown, Lurgan and Coalisland and provides 48 weeks' employment for 160 young people and adults. It has had some success: to date 90 of the 125 people taking part have moved into sustained employment; 500 community programmes have been delivered and there have been 352 accredited qualifications awarded.

For 2017/18 the Council has awarded £1,371,924 to fund some 403 community and voluntary projects. This funding will support an extensive range of community projects, from capital builds to summer schemes. This is the third year of the financial assistance programme and we expect a large number of groups to apply.



Policing & Community Safety Partnership

making Newry, Mourne & Down safer

The PCSP delivers a range of community safety programmes across the district.



Road Safety Event at Ballynahinch with the local Rugby and GAA players.



Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators event at Newcastle.



Mourne Mountain Adventure helping to provide diversionary activities for young people.



“Cuss the World” play tackling drugs and alcohol issues.

Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs) help make communities safer and ensure that the voices of local people are heard on policing and community safety issues. They work in partnership to develop solutions that will help tackle crime, the fear of crime and address anti-social behaviour. Newry, Mourne and Down PCSP works hard to develop and deliver projects which are innovative and reflect good practice and help make our community a safer place.

The members are drawn from the local council, the community and statutory agencies.

For further information contact the Newry, Mourne and Down PCSP staff:
email: pcsp@nmandd.org

O'Hagan House
Monaghan Row
Newry
BT35 8DJ
Tel: 028 3031 3078

Downshire Civic Centre
Downshire Estate
Ardglass Road, Downpatrick
BT30 6GQ
Tel: 0300 013 2233

@nmd_pcsp Newry, Mourne & Down PCSP



Elected Members



Cllr. Harry Harvey
Rowallane
M: 075 3181 5425



Cllr. Kate Loughran
Slieve Gullion
M: 077 9556 1755



Cllr. Michael Savage
Newry
M: 078 0853 0704



Cllr. Mickey Larkin
Slieve Gullion
M: 078 0124 7623



Cllr. Brian Quinn
The Mournes
M: 077 2948 2660



Cllr. Sean Doran
The Mournes
M: 075 1300 8344



Cllr. Michael Ruane
Crotlieve
M: 077 6432 0317



Cllr. Terry Andrews
Rowallane
M: 078 7999 8559



Cllr. Willie Clarke
The Mournes
M: 077 6224 2345



Cllr. David Taylor
Slieve Gullion
M: 077 3391 3021

Independent Members



Una Kelly
Downpatrick



Grace McQuiston
The Mournes



Jude Cumiskey
Crotlieve



Fiona Stephens
Newry



Declan Murphy
Slieve Gullion



Amy Ward
Crotlieve



Ewan Morgan
Newry



Audrey Byrne
The Mournes



To be appointed

DESIGNATED PARTNER AGENCIES ARE EQUAL MEMBERS OF THE PCSP



Recycling - It's the Law

From April 2017, recycling all food waste is a legal requirement, no food waste can be disposed of in your black bin, ALL food waste MUST go into your brown bin.

With a population of 178,000 in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, during the April 2016 to March 2017 year we generated 76,000 tonnes of household waste; or 9% of all household waste produced in Northern Ireland.

We recycle 40% of our household waste, but we need to do more. Legislation requires that we recycle 50% by 2020, rising to 65% by 2030. The Council is committed to achieving this target and during 2017 we focused on reducing the food waste that is deposited as general waste in the black bin.

Our strategy to tackle this included:

- ✓ Distributing 30,000 brown food waste recycling bins to all households in the district
- ✓ Informing all households of the plan to reduce food waste by placing a 'No food waste' sticker on all black bins
- ✓ Encouraging householders to recycle, using the correct bins and making black bin disposal a last resort.

The food waste project has been successful with the Council increasing its recycling rate to 47% between April to September 2017. Significant changes in the amount of black and brown bin waste from April to December 2017 are illustrated below.

In January 2018, the Council commissioned a waste composition analysis to look at the different categories and percentages of waste still being deposited in black bins. **The results show that more recycling is still possible—60% of black bin waste could be recycled.**

Graph 1: General waste present in the black bin illustrating 11% reduction



Graph 2: Food and garden waste present in the brown bin illustrating 45% increase



There's still more that we all can do:

Think before you put something in a black bin — maybe it could go in the brown or blue bin. Maybe it could be taken to your household recycling centre?

Make 'no recyclable waste in the

black bin' your New Year's resolution.

Recycling is good for everyone! Brown bin waste is composted and used to improve soil. It's good for the environment and creates jobs.

Just as important, recycling saves money which can be used for other Council services.

For more information on recycling please check out our webpage on www.newrymourneanddown.org

Safer Neighbourhoods

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council is responsible for thousands of building control applications and building inspections every year. We received 3,221 applications and carried out 13,296 site inspections last year.

We monitor and inspect as work progresses and we can help designers, builders and the public to comply with building regulations. One of our other responsibilities is to control dangerous buildings. We issue notices to the owners of dangerous buildings requiring them to make properties safe.

The Council also has responsibility for licensing—dogs, entertainment venues, and petrol filling stations. **Since 2012** all dogs must be microchipped to identify the name and address of their keeper. We're a dog loving area—this past year we issued

8,493 LICENCES



It's important that all entertainment venues have the appropriate arrangements in place to manage fire and other safety risks, as well as maintaining high standards of management. We inspect and ensure that these are in place, along with suitable insurance and hygiene facilities. Last year we processed

238

ENTERTAINMENT LICENCE APPLICATIONS

We also inspect and licence petrol stations to ensure that they meet safety controls when storing and distributing such a flammable product. The Council plays an important role in making sure that all petrol stations have, and look after, their facilities. Over this past year we issued

48

PETROLEUM LICENCES



Marking the milestones

Marking the milestones in life—births, deaths, marriages and civil partnerships—gives us an official record of the most important moments in our lives. The Registrar's Office in the Council is responsible for operating this important service and has two sites that you can access in person, by telephone, email or post. Not only is it essential to mark these important occasions, official records are used for many administrative purposes including obtaining a passport, national insurance number, transfer of property, or employment. In addition, the information gathered provides valuable statistical information for medical and social research as well as a tool for planning services in the coming years.

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

How We Performed

In accordance with the Council's duty of performance, the Local Government Auditor certified in November 2017 that the Council had met its performance improvement responsibilities.

We are committed to continually improving our services. Some of our performance highlights for this year are:

What we have set out to do	What we have achieved
4% increase in the number of attendances at indoor leisure centres	55.1% of target achieved by September 2017
Promote 155 jobs through business start-up activity	60% of target achieved by August 2017
Reduction in black bin waste collected	7% reduction in black bin waste by August 2017, compared to April-August 2016
Increase in brown bin waste collected	29% increase in brown bin waste by August 2017, compared to April-August 2016
Improve the processing time for local planning applications	The processing time improved by 7.4 weeks by June 2017, compared to April-June 2016
Support voluntary and community groups in delivering projects across a range of themes, including summer schemes, Christmas illuminations and community development	69% of the 552 applications to the financial assistance scheme received over £1.3m funding
Increase in the number of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes	By June 2017, 20% increase in the number of schemes over 2016/17.

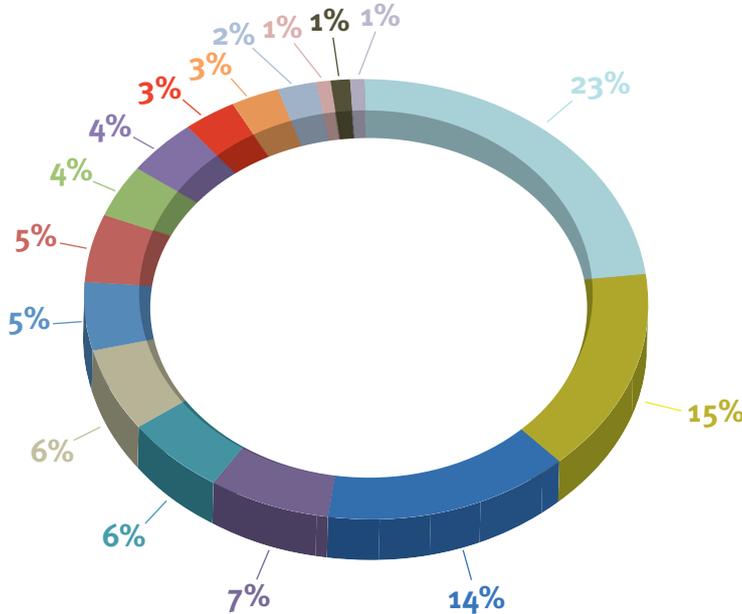
We will shortly be consulting with you on updating our performance improvement plan for next year and we welcome your feedback, as well as any suggestions you may have, on how we can improve our services in the future.

How We Spend Your Money in 2017/18

Service	£'000	% of Total
Waste Collection	£13,078	23
Financing our Capital Projects	£8,605	15
Recreation and Sport	£7,826	14
Tourism	£3,765	7
Other Cleaning and Public Conveniences	£3,556	6
Environmental Health	£3,313	6
Community Services	£2,588	5
Culture and Heritage	£2,577	5
Democratic Representation and Management	£2,467	4
Economic and EU Rural Development	£2,003	4
Other Services	£1,851	3
Minor Works/Licensing/Cemeteries	£1,554	3
Planning	£910	2
Building Control	£795	1
Waste Disposal	£512	1
Community Planning	£481	1
TOTAL	£55,881	100

How We Spend Your Money in 2017/18

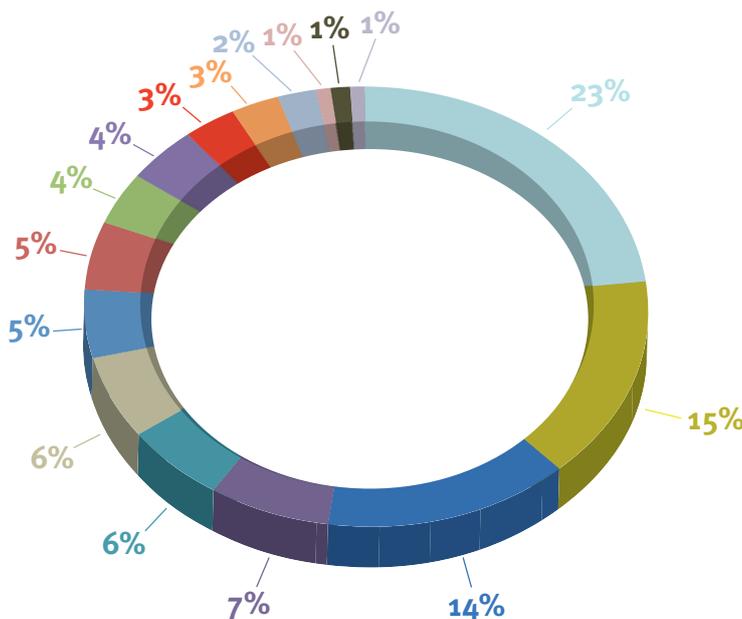
2017/18 Cost of Services per Household



Cost based on average £780 per household per annum

- Waste Collection (£183)
- Financing our Capital Projects (£120)
- Recreation and Sport (£109)
- Tourism (£53)
- Other Cleaning and Public Conveniences (£50)
- Environmental Health (£46)
- Community Services (£36)
- Culture and Heritage (£36)
- Democratic Representation and Management (£34)
- Economic and EU Rural Development (£28)
- Other Services (£26)
- Minor Works/Licensing/Cemeteries (£22)
- Planning (£13)
- Building Control (£11)
- Waste Disposal (£7)
- Community Planning (£7)

2017/18 Budget



Service Cost £'000

- Waste Collection (£13,078)
- Financing our Capital Projects (£8,605)
- Recreation and Sport (£7,826)
- Tourism (£3,765)
- Other Cleaning and Public Conveniences (£3,556)
- Environmental Health (£3,313)
- Community Services (£2,588)
- Culture and Heritage (£2,577)
- Democratic Representation and Management (£2,467)
- Economic and EU Rural Development (£2,003)
- Other Services (£1,851)
- Minor Works/Licensing/Cemeteries (£1,554)
- Planning (£910)
- Building Control (£795)
- Waste Disposal (£512)
- Community Planning (£481)

Your Councillors

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Slieve Gullion



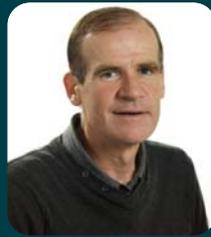
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The Mourne



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Laura Devlin, SDLP
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Jill Macauley, UUP
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Brian Quinn, SDLP
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This document or its summary can be made available upon 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

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

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

HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRES

Telephone: 0300 013 2233

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

LEISURE CENTRES

Ballymote Health and

Wellbeing Centre

Downpatrick
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

028 3031 3190

St Colman's Sports Complex

Newry
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

OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

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
Planning Office
0300 200 7830
Policing & Community Safety
Partnership
Pollution Control
Public Conveniences
Recycling
Refuse Collection
Registration Office (Births, Deaths and
Marriages)
Street Cleansing
Waste Disposal

www.newrymournedown.org