

NMD Connect

Incorporating Annual Report 2019/2020



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Get in touch!

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Chairperson's Welcome

Since becoming the Chairperson of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council in June 2019, it has been a privilege to meet some of the incredible people, groups and organisations that are working to make our area an even better place to live and work.

One of the things I have most enjoyed is meeting with our local charities and community organisations to find out about the work they do. Those who give their time to these groups are our unsung heroes - their efforts enrich our district and help those who need it most.

The theme that I have chosen for my year in office is 'Supporting Families'. I believe that families are the most fundamental parts of our lives - and the backbone of our society.

When I came into the office of Chairperson, I also wanted to focus on one of the Council's key strategic objectives - 'To Empower and Improve on the Capacity of our Communities'. The three charities that I am supporting this year, Autism Families, Birthwise and Cuan Mhuire, all have focused their activities on the family and they each make a real difference to people in Newry, Mourne and Down area.

This year I am particularly proud of the opening of the new, state-of-the-art community centre in Saintfield, with its first-class sports training facilities. As a Council, we are investing in our district and putting a firm focus on communities and their health and wellbeing, through the creation of flagship leisure and community facilities that can be enjoyed by present and future generations.

This year we have also put into place ambitious plans to boost the social and economic life of our area through the Newry City Centre Regeneration Scheme. The Council is investing £20m in a new Civic Hub and theatre/conference space for Newry as part of plans to increase vibrancy and footfall in the city centre, stimulate further investment, and facilitate the regeneration of the city for the benefit of the entire district.

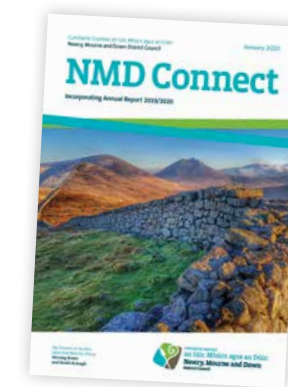
An additional £8 million from the Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) will allow significant additional public realm works to begin and an investment into new Grade A office accommodation, all helping to make our district an even better place to do business. Between public and private investment, I look forward to seeing up to £120m being invested in Newry through private and public partnership over the coming years.



We are continuing to build on our relationship with the city of Changchun, China and recently hosted a visit from Changchun Municipal Committee officials. These visits also contribute to our goal of promoting Newry, Mourne and Down as an excellent place to work and do business.

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

Councillor Charlie Casey
 Chairperson



Front cover photograph:
Slieve Muck by Dermot Mathers

Chief Executive's message

We have begun our second term as a unified Council and progressed ambitious plans to help promote the Newry, Mourne and Down area as one of the best places to live, work, invest in, and visit.



I was honoured to be selected as the new Chief Executive of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council in 2019, following Liam Hannaway, who led the Council through the biggest restructure of local government since 1972. After overseeing the amalgamations of Newry and Mourne District Council and Down District Council, Liam was instrumental in putting into place new governance and management structures. I am proud to be building upon his achievements.

This year we have delivered on a number of our key priorities and made significant progress on others. The Belfast Region City Deal, which will deliver important benefits for our district, will allow us to progress with the regeneration of Newry City and the development of the Southern Relief Road, as well as advance the Newcastle Gateway to the Mournes project. All in all, we are looking at initiatives that will bring greater prosperity to our area and seal our reputation as an excellent place to live, work and visit.

We are also developing a new Corporate Plan which will take us

to 2023. This follows extensive engagement and consultation and will provide us with our priorities for the next four years. I am particularly excited about the opportunity to regenerate Newry city centre as we progress plans for a new Civic Hub and theatre and conference space.

I also look forward to the launch of the regeneration of Downpatrick, working in partnership with our colleagues in the Department for Communities and the local business sector.

And while we are focused on improving the economic and social life of the Council area, we are equally committed to providing essential services for all our citizens. 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.

In 2018/19 we were the best performing council in Northern Ireland, sending less than 5% of collected waste to landfill. Compared to 2017/18, our annual black bin waste has decreased by 11.7% and brown bin waste increased by 26% – these are results we can all be proud of.

This year will bring both challenges and opportunities, but I know that we will work with our elected members to deliver the projects and initiatives that are critical to the continued success of our Council and our area.

Marie Ward
 Chief Executive

CITY DEAL a significant milestone for the district



In March 2019, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland approved the first City Deal for Northern Ireland, alongside City Deal partners and the Northern Ireland Civil Service.

This was a major milestone and its completion will see the UK Government invest £350m in to the Belfast Region over the next 15 years.

The City Deal will be further bolstered by co-investment of upwards of £150m from Belfast Region City Deal partners, and investment by the private sector is anticipated to bring the total investment package to over £1bn.

As one of the six City Deal council partners, securing the deal is a significant step forward for local economic development and regeneration of our district.

Locally, this means that we will now be able to progress project proposals for the regeneration of Newry City, the development of a Newcastle Gateway to the Mourne project, and develop the Southern Relief Road, a project led by the Department for Infrastructure.

These projects, combined with the wider City Deal investment initiatives, will create jobs and bring economic investment and tourism into our district, making it a better place to live and work for all our residents.

Across the Belfast Region City Deal area, it is intended that the deal will see the delivery of more than 20 projects, creating up to 20,000 new and better jobs. The deal is intended to drive an increase in productivity levels, as well as having a positive impact on the most deprived communities and delivering a balanced spread of benefits across the entire region.

NEWRY - A city with a vision for the future

Newry is beginning the most significant investment and development it has ever seen. Monies for new developments over the next five years have been agreed as part of the Council's Regeneration and Investment Plan. The plans, which include funds for construction totalling approximately £120 million, will help to regenerate the city centre and is being driven forward in conjunction with both statutory departments and private sector developers.

A new Civic Hub along with theatre and conference facilities was agreed this summer and will be constructed in the heart of the city's historical core. This will provide the infrastructure and resources necessary to advance the performing arts and culture sector, attract professional and aspiring artists, conferences and events to the area, and generate both economic and social benefits.

The Civic Hub will also provide a base for the work of the Council and create a better environment for the delivery of council services. In addition, the Council is encouraging the development of Grade A office accommodation which will enable new companies to locate in the city, delivering new employment opportunities for our citizens.

We have ambitious plans for our future - through investment in regeneration our Council can deliver and establish Newry as the 'Small City, with a Big Vision'.

Council welcomes Chinese delegation

In September 2019, we welcomed a delegation from the Changchun Municipal Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

The delegation's visit came after the relationship between our Council and the city of Changchun was amplified by the signing of a Friendship Agreement. The agreement builds on our aim of establishing mutual beneficial exchanges with international regions to develop the economy, tourism, skills and educational opportunities through cooperation.

During the delegation's visit to the district, they met with senior Council officials, members and officials from the Newry Chamber of Commerce and Trade, Southern Regional College, Invest NI, and a number of key businesses.

Local businesses were able to use their time with the Chinese delegates to outline their focus on international trade and the potential for further engagement with China in respect of possible trade deals. This visit laid the foundation for a future trade mission to China to further foster business-to-business engagement and trade opportunities.



SMALL CITY BIG VISION

FÍS
CHATHAIR
AN IUÍR

NEWRY
CITY
VISION

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Corporate Plan 2020-23

Following detailed consultation and engagement throughout the district, the Council will soon launch its second Corporate Plan.

This will be available to view on the Council's website.

Council unveils new Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy

Our region has a rich and celebrated tradition when it comes to culture, arts and heritage and it is vital to have a strategy to enhance these sectors.

Over the past few years we have carried out surveys, workshops, consultations and other research activities to help us develop an Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy. In our new agreed strategy, we have outlined where we are today and detailed the immediate and long-term challenges we face. This far-reaching document sets out an ambitious vision of transformation for our arts, culture and heritage and what we intend to offer to the public by 2025.

We are currently putting into place ambitious proposals to invest £10m in the redevelopment of Newry Town Hall and the Sean Hollywood Arts Centre to transform them into an internationally recognised arts, theatre and conference facility. The project will help to attract new audiences to Newry, provide a greater depth of arts and cultural activity and events for local residents, and generate significant economic benefits for local business and the wider district.

You can read all about our new strategy on the Council's website: newrymournedown.org/culture-arts-and-heritage-strategy

Delamont Country Park masterplan agreed

The future of Delamont Country Park has been secured, with the approval of the Masterplan 'Window to Strangford Lough'.

The Masterplan identified opportunities for future development after extensive research and consultation. The Plan will make the most of Delamont County Park's location, topography and proximity to Strangford Lough, which sets it apart from other parks in the area and around Northern Ireland.

The new vision will seek to create a quality green space, new visitor centre and enhancement of key natural and built heritage features. There will be better and more informative signage and a new network of walks to enable visitors to interact with the land and loughscape. Funding has also been secured to undertake an ecological survey of the site, which will help identify areas that can be enhanced in a programme of improved biodiversity.

Once the Masterplan has been implemented, visitors will be treated to unparalleled views and a new experience of the Lough, its shoreline and Delamont's distinctive landscape.

New Saintfield Community Centre opened

Saintfield's new community centre was officially opened on 27 June 2019 by our Chairperson, Councillor Charlie Casey. The new centre has two buildings, with Building A consisting of an indoor 3G pitch and Building B comprising of a main hall, studio and meeting room.

The new community centre has been designed to use renewable energy and to limit the amount of fossil fuel sources. This has been achieved by designing and installing solar PV panels to provide electricity, using air source heat pumps that run from the PV panels to heat the building and water, and installing solar thermal panels to heat water for under floor heating, boosted by the electric water heater run off the PV panels.

The £1.4m was made possible with significant investment from the Council, the Mourne, Gullion and Lecale Rural Development Partnership, the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, the European Commission (RDP), and the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

The centre is managed by Saintfield Community Trust through a Facility Management agreement with the Council.



New Household Recycling Centre opens in Downpatrick

A new Household Recycling Centre was opened in Downpatrick on Tuesday 29 October by Council Chairperson, Councillor Charlie Casey.

The new facility, which cost approximately £1m, will make it easier for residents to recycle their paper, wood, metal, mattresses, refrigerators, freezers, cardboard and biodegradable waste, and help us to reach the 75% recycling target for the site.

Everyone knows that it is no longer acceptable to throw recyclable waste in general waste skips, and that it is the responsibility of the householder to pre-sort all waste. These new facilities will make that chore just a little bit easier and help us all to help the environment.



Council to introduce new telephone numbers for services

We are committed to making it easier for residents, across the district, to get in touch with the services they need.

New telephone numbers were announced in January 2020 and all existing telephone numbers have now changed, including the Council's main contact number: **0330 137 4000**. New service numbers have also been introduced.

We also implemented a public awareness campaign, 'A New Way to Say Hello,' in January 2020 to help keep residents across the district informed of the changes. We are all currently experiencing the benefits of working with this new telephone system; it will contribute to an improved customer service experience for everyone and make our service delivery more convenient and efficient.

For more information on the key changes to our telephone numbers, please visit www.newrymournedown.org



Camlough Dam refurbishment scoops Construction Excellence Award

The Camlough Dam Refurbishment project has received a Construction Excellence Award from the Construction Employers Federation (CEF) in the hotly contested Transport and Utilities Infrastructure category.

The £3m project was delivered by a partnership between the Council and Northern Ireland Water. The team that delivered the project, including BSG Civil Engineering and AECOM, were also presented with a special judges' nomination for Excellence in Partnering. This special category recognises projects that demonstrate collaborative working and the best approach to partnering when delivering a scheme.



Refurbishing Camlough Dam has greatly improved the reservoir and provided an enhanced recreational and tourism resource, for now and in to the future. Some of the improvements to the scheme involved strengthening the reservoir embankment to provide extra security in the event of heavy rainfall and the construction of a valve tower to control flows from the lake.

Improvements set for rural villages

Improving our rural towns and villages is a key priority for the Council. In 2019 we brought forward a significant investment proposal that will see seven rural areas benefit from £4m environmental improvement works.

The areas to benefit include Annalong, Ballyhornan, Dundrum, Hilltown, Killyleagh, Meigh and Newtownhamilton.

During 2019 detailed design works were agreed, planning permission was granted and 75% grant aid secured from the Mourne, Gullion and Lecale Rural Development Programme.

Works will begin on site in 2020 and all seven areas are expected to be completed within a year. The improvements will focus on improving paths and pedestrian walkways, upgrading street lighting, landscaping and installing new street furniture.

Town Centre Revitalisation Schemes completed

We have recently completed two significant town centre revitalisation projects in partnership with the Department for Communities. Shop front enhancement schemes were completed in the Cathedral Corridor area of Hill Street, Newry and in Warrenpoint town centre.



In Newry, 28 properties benefitted from a makeover, with projects including painting schemes to complete new shop fronts and signage. The works have greatly enhanced the appearance of this part of the city centre.

In Warrenpoint, 24 shop fronts were improved through the scheme, helping to regenerate the town centre. The scheme also provided lamppost banners which highlighted places of interest in the Warrenpoint area, along with a Visitor Guide. The schemes are part of the larger 'Make it Local' brand as they contribute to the overall regeneration of the district and promotion of local products and services.



New Development for Derrymore Demense



Derrymore House and Demense is set for a regeneration scheme that will see new and extended recreational walkways, as well as a children's play area, visitor facilities and restoration of the early Christian Rath.

The house is an 18th century, cottage style house, standing in a picturesque demesne, now owned by the National Trust with an expanse of woodland and parkland perfect for walks and other outdoor activities.

We have been working with the National Trust and the Friends of Derrymore to regenerate the demesne and, in 2019, we successfully secured external funding to allow us to enhance the Demesne and what it can offer visitors.

Along with the new walkways and other facilities, there will be new site interpretation and directional signage to aid the public in making the most of their visit. The Demense and house will remain open through 2020 while work progresses, and it is expected that the regeneration will be completed in December 2020.

New play parks around the district

This year the Council has opened a number of play parks right across the whole district. The play parks, which are introducing state-of-the-art facilities, will be enjoyed by local residents for years to come.

Jonesborough and Cullyhanna

March saw the opening of major play parks in Jonesborough and Cullyhanna, funded by the Mourne, Gullion and Lecale Rural Development Partnership, a programme supported by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and the European Union, with the Council also making a financial contribution.

The play park at Jonesborough includes timber fitness trails which are designed to encourage physical development in a fun yet challenging way. A digital stopwatch display board is also featured that will allow children to test their speed and abilities on different pieces of equipment within the park. The Cullyhanna play park includes a matrix agility system which is the first in Northern Ireland. This cutting-edge play system provides the ultimate climbing experience for both agile teenagers and adults.

Meadowlands

The Meadowlands area of Downpatrick opened its new play park in May 2019. The project was designed and managed by the Council and the facilities were funded by the Department for Communities (DfC) with a £225,000 investment through the Neighbourhood Renewal Intervention Fund.

Part of the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme is to work with communities where there are high levels of deprivation. The Meadowlands Community Association, which serves the community, was involved with the project from the beginning and welcomed the new facility which will benefit the whole neighbourhood.

Saintfield and Killyleagh

Saintfield and Killyleagh saw the opening of new play parks early in 2019, both part funded by Mourne, Gullion and Lecale Rural Development Partnership, the European Union and the Council.

The design of Lislane Play Park, in Saintfield was carried out with support from primary schools, Academy and St Mary's. The pupils were delighted to try out the new equipment ranging from zip lines, a rota web climber to a hot shot target wall.

The Bridge Centre play park in Killyleagh also benefited from consulting with local schools and children, this time involving Killyleagh Integrated Primary School and St Mary's Primary School. Pupils enjoyed playing on the Rock 'n' Bowl, Double Zig-Zag Twister, and the Playtronic Daisy Chain Reactions game as well as signing their names using the free standing 'Sign Your Name' play panels.



Mourne, Gullion & Lecale
Rural Development Partnership

Carlingford Park, Newry

October saw the opening of a state-of-the-art play park in Carlingford Park, Old Warrenpoint Road, Newry. The Council consulted widely with local residents who requested that inclusive equipment be used in the park and that it should be accessible for all abilities. Inclusive equipment installed includes a basket swing, inclusive roundabout and a large ground level trampoline.

In addition to the park's facilities, an artist was commissioned to engage with local children to design and create a mural depicting local landmarks. The designer also created a sensory space within a quiet area in the park which includes visual, musical and kinetic experiences for all age groups. Finally, a planting area was also developed to add colour and offer children the option to experience different themes throughout the year.



Leisure centres are going from strength to strength

Our flagship leisure centres in Newry and Downpatrick have been instrumental in driving forward our Be Active campaign, which is committed to promoting better physical health and mental wellbeing.

Since the new Down Leisure Centre opened in November 2018, the centre has exceeded all expectations. Compared to the previous year, there has been a 896% increase in people using the gym, with a 600% increase in membership as well as a 180% rise in people taking part in group exercise classes.

It's easy to get involved and start your own journey to better physical and mental health - you can become a member and start your Be Active journey with us.

Download our NMD Be Active App

One way to get involved is to download our NMD Be Active app. The app is available on both iPhone and Android and will keep you up-to-date with information on all our leisure centres in your pocket.

By using the app you can book classes online, find out opening times, and be notified of leisure and sports events taking place around the district.

Check out our Be Active Facebook Page

Like our NMD Be Active Leisure Facebook page to keep up to date on all the latest deals, offers and information on swimming lessons, classes and activities near you.
facebook.com/NMDBeActive

Membership

Why not become a member and join us? We have a number of membership options and packages to suit everyone, all at the click of a button. Our membership prices range from £15-£29.95 per month,* with daily, 3, 6 and 12-month options. You can choose the centre and the activities that you want to take part in. For more information about becoming a member online newrymournedown.org/leisure-and-sport.

There are three levels of membership: platinum, gold and silver - so there is an option for everyone.

* Prices valid 31 March 2020

- Platinum**
 With Platinum (All Inclusive) membership you can use Down, Kilkeel and Newry Leisure Centres and have access to 3 learner pools, 3 25m swimming pools, 4 steam rooms, 4 saunas, 82 group exercise classes, 2 functional fitness areas and 3 group cycle studios
- Gold**
 Unlimited dual-site access to Ballymote Sports and Wellbeing Centre and Newcastle Centre. With this membership you can enjoy gym at both sites and access to the sauna and steam facilities in Newcastle Centre.
- Silver**
 Access to a single Leisure Centre that has gym, swim, sauna, steam or exercise classes at the allocated off-peak times.

For more information, you can email: indoorleisure@nmandd.org



Health and Wellbeing initiative comes to Ardglass

Over 200 people of all ages took part in the Downpatrick District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum's free Health and Wellbeing event which took place in August 2019 in The Meadow Playing Fields, Ardglass.

In partnership with County Down Rural Community Network, the Ardglass Festival Association and the Education Authority NI, attendees were treated to an array of activities.

Adults were able to take part in Zumba and yoga on the green and take advantage of the free health checks, while breast screening was available on the Action Cancer Big Bus.

The day also marked World Play Day and young people were encouraged to take part in activities including a climbing wall, mountain biking and archery. The creative arts were not neglected; Down Community Arts worked with the young people to design the new mural on the pavilion.

Exercise can bring a wealth of benefits

We are working hard to help all residents get more active—regardless of their level of health and ability. The Council's 'Be Active' campaign is about motivating everyone to undertake more activity, and we are working with both statutory and non-statutory agencies to offer a wide range of programmes.

Prevention is better than cure

We have been commissioned by the Southern and South Eastern Health and Social Care Trusts to deliver the 'Be Active for Health' programme. This scheme is aimed at people who are inactive and have risk factors, such as being overweight or glucose intolerant, or suffering from mild depression, anxiety or stress, that put them at increased risk of developing a long-term health condition.

The programme aims to advise and support those with risk factors, motivate participants to make informed choices about their physical activity, make sustained changes to their lifestyles and help them to become more involved in their community and clubs to improve wellbeing.

To be referred to this programme, you must be aged 19 or over, inactive and assessed as motivated and ready to change your physical activity behaviour.

To find out more about this programme, please contact Indoor Leisure on 0330 137 4026.



Supporting local people living with cancer

Our Move More Programme offers support and encouragement to anyone who has been diagnosed with cancer to build up or improve their fitness.

The programme offers a range of cancer specific exercise classes across the district. It also provides participants with other incentives, including three months free membership to our leisure centres.

For more information, or to join the Move More Programme, please contact Newry, Mourne and Down's Move More Coordinator, Laura McGrath, on 07769 285574 or email movemore@nmandd.org

MOVE MORE
NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN

Look good, feel better

We have launched free skincare and makeup workshops for women coping with the visible side effects of cancer treatment. This new initiative has been instituted in partnership with the Southern Health and Social Care Trust and the Look Good Feel Better charity.

The workshops take place in Newry Leisure Centre, and you can find out more by contacting Caroline Davies, Macmillan Support Worker. Telephone 028 3756 1001, or email: caroline.davies@southerntrust.hscni.net



Step into Health Physical Activity Referral Programme

Another programme that we have been commissioned to deliver by the Public Health Agency (Southern Area) is a programme designed to help those diagnosed with a number of medical conditions.

The project helps participants to take part in group-based settings and includes the use of the fitness suite, physical activity classes such as pilates and circuits, group walks and cycles, as well as court-based games.

It costs £20 per patient which provides a set of 16 exercise sessions over a 12-week period and there is a concessionary rate for those meeting the Council's concessionary criteria. All participants will be referred from a clinician and must demonstrate their commitment by attending the group-based sessions.

To be referred to this programme you must:

- be aged 19 or over
- be inactive
- be motivated to change
- have a BMI $\geq 25\text{kg/m}^2$ and $< 40\text{kg/m}^2$

and have one or more of the following conditions:

- Hypertension
- Hyperlipidaemia
- Impaired glucose levels or diabetes
- Family history of heart disease
- Asthma, Bronchitis or COPD
- Musculoskeletal conditions
- Mild or moderate mental health conditions

To find out more about this programme, please contact Indoor Leisure on 0330 137 4026.



It's good to talk and walk

Slieve Croob District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum, in partnership with County Down Rural Community Network, held a 'Walk for Life' event in September 2019 at Seaforde Gardens and Tropical Butterfly House.

Over 400 people met at the entrance to the Seaforde Estate to take part in a gentle walk along the pathways and then enjoyed an afternoon packed with music and family fun activities.

The event was organised to mark World Suicide Prevention Day and was an opportunity for people to connect, meet new friends and get important support information on mental health services available in their local area.

The event also was aimed at breaking down the stigma attached to mental wellbeing, encouraging people to open up and talk more about their feelings.

It's a Knock Out Kilkeel

A giant inflatable assault course in Kilkeel was the centre of a battle between 10 local teams who took on the challenge—while sliding around in lots of bubbles.

The inaugural 'It's a Knockout' event created a catalyst for young people in the area to come together and enjoy a day of friendly competition and fun. The day was also aimed at helping improve everyone's physical and mental wellbeing, and to foster good relations.

Improving health and embracing good relations within the community is one of the key priorities for Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, and features prominently in The Mournes District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum's action plan.

The winning team received a cup, and everyone took home a medal marking their participation. Local community groups were instrumental in providing stewarding services while the local Neighbourhood Policing Team and their colleagues gave invaluable support, ensuring that the day's events ran smoothly.



DEAs Focus on older people at Silver Screening event

For the third consecutive year Newry, Slieve Gullion, The Mournes, and Crotlieve District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums worked in partnership to deliver a Silver Screening programme at The Omniplex cinema in The Quays Shopping Centre.

The event in September provided an opportunity for people aged 50 and over to connect with support services and resources dedicated to improving their overall health and wellbeing.

The aim was to raise awareness of elder abuse, and the day featured over 15 different information stalls which provided free advice, information, and referrals.

Participants also enjoyed free information talks from the PSNI, Fire Safety Service, and Action on Elder Abuse, all of which focused on preventing and reporting elder abuse.

The talks were followed by a free screening of Downton Abbey and were attended by over 200 people.



Everybody Active 2020 #EBA2020

Working with Sport NI and other partners, Everybody Active 2020 (EBA 2020) encourages everyone to be more active, more often. In particular, we are targeting some traditionally underrepresented groups in our community which include:

- women and girls (specifically aged 14-25)
- people with a disability
- those living in areas of greatest social need.

EBA 2020 physical activity sessions are available across the district, in our leisure centres, community centres and parks. For further information please contact leisureandsport@nmandd.org

Council awarded £4.7m of PEACE IV funding

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council has been awarded £4.7m of EU funding to deliver the PEACE IV Local Action Plan – Beyond Tolerance.

As the lead partner, we are responsible for delivering those elements of the PEACE IV Action Plan that will promote peace and reconciliation in three key areas:

- Children and Young People,
- Shared Spaces and Services
- Building Positive Relations.

As part of these themes, we have been involved in a number of exciting projects including the Cross Border Civic Leadership programme for young people, the Hands on History Summer Scheme, and the 1798 Rebellion and the United Irishmen in County Down project.

Cross Border Civic Leadership Programme

As part of this programme, a group of young people from the local area recently went to Berlin on a study visit.

The project brought together young people from different backgrounds, so they could learn from and understand each other and was delivered in conjunction with the Education Authority Youth Service.

Before they made the journey, the young people participated in a number of workshops and seminars, delivered by outreach workers.

The group was accompanied by young people from Dundalk Youth Centre.



Hands on History

The Hands on History summer scheme gave young people from both sides of the community an opportunity to come together for a week at the Down County Museum.

The young people were able to explore their shared history and culture through a number of different topics and areas. These included archaeology, arts and drama activities, and their shared Christian and maritime heritage.

The programme helped the participants to explore different faiths and cultural roots as well as exploring the museum and other cultural and heritage collections to investigate the shared and diverse history of the district.



Peace
Northern Ireland - Ireland
European Regional Development Fund



1798 Rebellion and the United Irishmen in County Down

Participants investigating the 1798 Rebellion and the United Irishmen of County Down took part in several visits to increase their knowledge of that key historical era. As part of the initiative, the group visited Clifton House, St Malachy's College Belfast and the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI).

The goal of the programme was to provide a positive shared experience of learning about the past and using this to correct misconceptions and help shape a shared future.

The project finished with a one-day conference held in September at the Down County Museum where a booklet, 1798: Our Shared History, was launched. The booklet was created by the course participants who wanted to share what they had learned with the wider community.

The booklet contained a summary of the course, highlighted links between the participants and the 1798 Rebellion, as well as containing archive material and a series of poems written by the participants. Free copies of the booklet are still available from Down County Museum and other Council premises.

Northern Ireland Executive
www.northernireland.gov.uk
DELIVERING SOCIAL CHANGE
THROUGH THE SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND

Delivering on the needs of rural residents

We are required to take the needs of rural residents into account when developing, adopting, implementing or revising policies, strategies and plans, and designing and delivering public services.

Since the Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 Act was introduced, we have organised four training seminars for elected Members and officials on its implication and how we intend to implement it. We have also provided one-to-one guidance and support to officers on how to fill out rural needs impact assessments, which need to be completed for any strategy, policy or plan being designed.

During the period April 2018 to March 2019, we updated our corporate reporting template to include a section on rural needs implications and undertook 12 rural impact assessments.

To ensure that we are transparent about what we do and how we do it, we have put our Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Report for April 2018 to March 2019 on our website. This report sets out our corporate approach to implementing the Rural Needs Act, provides detail of the 12 rural needs impact assessments we have carried out, and is submitted to the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DEARA). This information can be accessed on our website: www.newrymournedown.org/equality.



Our fishing community is at the heart of our district and the South East Area Fisheries Local Action Group (SEAFLAG) is committed to providing essential funding support.

The £2.3m funded programme is aimed at supporting projects which focus on promoting economic growth, social inclusion and job creation. It supports labour mobility in coastal and inland communities depending on fishing and aquaculture, and focuses on the diversification of activities within fisheries and other maritime economy sectors.

This year, the group has funded projects totalling £200,000, including to businesses that give vital support for the fishing fleet, boat building manufacturers and new harbour facilities.

SEAFLAG is continuing to seek applications from the fishing communities of Ardglass, Kilkeel, Portavogie and surrounding areas. Grants are available under the themes of:

- Adding Value
- Diversification
- Environmental
- Social and Cultural
- Building Capacity

To find out more about these opportunities, including eligibility and grant rates, please contact SEAFLAG on 0330 137 4000, email sea@nmandd.org or visit www.seaflag.co.uk.

sea
South East Area
European Maritime
and Fisheries Fund

Living Well Together Community Plan - two years on

In the two years from the launch of the Living Well Together Community Plan, community planning partners and local communities have come together to deliver high quality services and opportunities. This ensures that local people have a say in what programmes and policies are implemented and is built on the understanding that more can be achieved when we all work together in partnership.

We are concentrating on what we can do together to achieve our goals. We have now more focused priorities including mental health, physical activity, tourism, access to quality housing, and implementing new initiatives such as Participatory Budgeting and the Community Support Partnership.

As part of our statutory responsibilities under the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, we are required to monitor progress against the objectives of the Community Plan. Every two years we are also required to publish a statement of the progress we have made. The summary document 'Our Journey' can be accessed on the Council website at newrymouredown.org/delivering-your-plan. This outlines what we have accomplished from 2015 to the present.

A brochure outlining last year's initiatives can be accessed here <https://www.newrymouredown.org/communities-leading-change>

Some of our main achievements are:

- Seven District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums have been established.
- The Communities Leading Change Participatory Budgeting initiative has been rolled out. A total of £30,000 has been allocated to community groups across the district, with 2000 people participating and 70 groups funded. Nine partners have contributed support or funding to this initiative.
- Development of a Housing Needs Action Plan to be implemented by the Housing Needs Subgroup. The action plan is available to download at: newrymouredown.org/delivering-your-plan
- Undertaken an Asset Mapping Project to identify surplus land and buildings that can be used more effectively.
- Establishment of a Community Support Partnership which ensures that key public services work together to respond to the needs of vulnerable people.
- Development of a project to better coordinate the referral of individuals to Council leisure facilities.



New Atlantic CultureScape project launched

A €2m project focusing on the Atlantic area and funded by the EU Interreg Atlantic Area Programme, was launched earlier this year.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council will be leading the three-year project, along with partners from six Atlantic area regions. The six partners are Brecon Beacons National Park Authority; Portugal's Rio Maior Municipality; Cork Institute of Technology; Spain's University of Vigo; the Regional Government for Cantabria, and the Andalusian Agency of Cultural Institutions. In addition, there are an additional 11 associate partners, including the Ring of Gullion Handcrafts and Art, and the Fiddler's Green Festival.

What makes this project distinctive is its emphasis on 'intangible' cultural heritage; the experience that distinguishes the Atlantic area from all others. The project sets out to address this by identifying and enhancing authentic cultural experiences which should lead to more visitors and richer visitor experiences.

In addition, the scheme will create new intangible cultural heritage products, an Atlantic Area route and a transnational marketing programme to create both recognition and visibility for the area.



Women 'Change the Narrative' in South Armagh

Over the course of three months, a group of 25 women from South Armagh came together to create five films under the common thread of 'Change the Narrative'.

The five film themes are songs of the area, women artists, women in sport, women in farming and the lace tradition. The films, which took 26 hours to capture, highlight the rich culture of the area, while also demonstrating the strong link between the different generations of women. The films are now available on the Ring of Gullion website.

The Ring of Gullion Partnership worked with the Women in the Archives partners to recruit local groups in South Armagh to develop their own ideas to highlight local women and their importance to the local community and its heritage.

This project brought the participants together using the creative arts and digital technologies to fire their imagination and unlock their creativity as well as highlighting their own lives and skills. The initiative gave the participants an opportunity to explore contentious history and identity and promote reconciliation.

The films were part of the Women in the Archives project, which is also part of a larger Making the Future programme. The regional programme is being delivered by a consortium of leading cultural organisations including the Nerve Centre, National Museums NI, Public Record Office of Northern Ireland and Linen Hall Library, supported through €1.82m of EU funding under the PEACE IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

Follow the Ring of Gullion on Facebook or Twitter to keep up to date on what's happening or visit their website on www.ringofgullion.org to sign up to their monthly email newsletter.



Crotlieve DEA hosts Positive Ageing afternoon tea dance

Over 100 people attended Crotlieve District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum's afternoon tea dance in October 2019.

The successful event, to celebrate Positive Ageing Month, was an opportunity for local people to connect with each other and combat rural isolation.

Attendees were also given the opportunity to talk to stallholders, who were there to provide information on services such as Make The Call, Home Secure, the Policing and Community Safety Partnership and Home Safety, as well as library, leisure and museum services.

Council awards £1.24m to community and voluntary sector

During the year 2019-2020, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council received 697 applications for financial assistance from groups in the community and voluntary sector. Of those, 497 groups were awarded £1.24 million.

The groups that applied provided help to fund a number of initiatives including summer schemes, programmes delivered by the Police and Community Service Partnership (PCSP), good relations schemes, community events and festivals, tourism events and community and sports facilities.



Youth Comedy Night in Newry

The Youth Comedy Night in Newry on 30 August was organised as the first of a series of youth events in Newry City Centre. The event brought alternative entertainment for teenagers in the area and was aimed at engaging positively with young people living locally.

The programme was supported by the Education Authority NI Youth Service, the Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) and the Newry Business Improvement District.



NMD Sports Awards

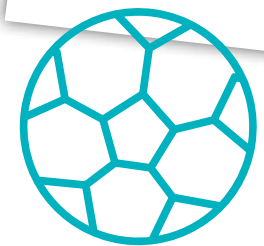
This year we are continuing to support the remarkable achievements of our local sporting community.

The NMD Sports Awards in association with the Sports Association Newry, Down and South Armagh (SANDSA) is returning after the success of its inaugural event in the Canal Court Hotel in Newry.

With so many exceptional achievements racked up by sporting stars across the district, competition is notable for the 11 awards on offer. Nominations are now closed and the winners will be announced in a gala awards ceremony in the spring. The awards will also pay tribute to the efforts of our community coaches, volunteers, mentors, teachers and parents who all help Newry, Mourne and Down to be an active and healthy district.

Award categories:

- Junior Club Team of the Year
- Senior Club Team of the Year
- Sportsperson/Team of the Year with a Disability
- Life-Time Services to Sport
- Young Sport Volunteer of the Year
- Senior Sport Volunteer of the Year
- Disability Coach of the Year
- Technical Official of the Year
- Coach of the Year
- Junior Sportsperson of the Year
- Senior Sportsperson of the Year



20



Bridge Centre Killyleagh celebrates 20th anniversary

Killyleagh's Bridge Centre recently celebrated its 20th anniversary, inviting present and past members of the Killyleagh Hall Steering Committee, current users and Rowallane councillors to an event held in the centre. Councillor Terry Andrews, the Council's Deputy Chairperson also attended the celebration.

Looking back over the 20 years, the Steering Committee spoke about the years spent in intense consultation and discussion with local groups, organisations and clubs

to identify the type of facility required, culminating in the opening of the Bridge Centre.

The group also recalled old times, viewed archive material of meetings, letters and local press publications, and also looked back on the work that the centre has been involved in over the years.

In recognition of the anniversary, Councillor Andrews presented Duty Manager, Roy Kelly with a plaque. The Bridge Centre is looking forward to the next 20 years!

Community centres at the heart of their local areas

We all know that community centres lie at the heart of their local areas and provide a place where people can come together and work to make their local area a better place to live.

This year funding has been provided to a number of communities for new centres, all contributing to providing better facilities for local residents.

£500,000 for new Saintfield Community Centre

Mourne, Gullion and Lecale Rural Development Partnership (RDP) was delighted to provide grant assistance of £500,000 towards the recently opened Saintfield Community Centre. The £1.4m community facility boasts a large indoor 3G pitch, changing rooms, a main hall, studio and meeting rooms.

The facility has the potential to significantly impact on the physical and social wellbeing of local residents. At the same time, the new centre provides a shared community space to help people effect change within their communities.

Mourne, Gullion and Lecale RDP is pleased to continue to provide funding to benefit rural citizens through promoting rural business investment, village renewal and rural basic services.

The Local Action Group was central to the success of the project and continues to provide continued benefits to the rural dwellers of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Further information email: RDP.Admin@nmandd.org

New centre for Kitty's Road

The Kitty's Road community were pleased to see the opening of their new community centre in August 2019. The new centre consists of two games rooms, an office, toilet facilities and a main hall that will suit a wide range of activities, including those designed to improve the health and wellbeing of local residents.

The new centre will help us to fulfil one of our key aims, that of providing high quality facilities along with partnership opportunities, to ensure that we can provide sustainable Community Services.

We are also keen to build community capacity to empower people to make changes in their local areas. To further this aim, the new centre will be managed by the Kitty's Road Community Association, through a Facility Management agreement with the Council.

We look forward to seeing the results of this in the coming months.

Castlewellan Community Centre

Castlewellan Community Centre has received £750,000 in funding from the Executive Office Social Investment Fund towards its renovation. The project was identified as a priority in the Castlewellan Village Plan due to the lack of appropriate community and youth facilities in the area.

The new centre will operate a youth club, early years' provision and other youth facilities. It will also increase the local and wider community's access to services such as a community playgroup, mother and toddler groups, and Home-Start.

This much needed renovation allows the Castlewellan Community Partnership, a voluntary organisation that runs the community facility, to increase access to community services for people from the Castlewellan and surrounding areas by providing a fit for purpose, safe and structured environment in which they can develop, acquire new skills and seek advice.



Keeping you safe from harm

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council believes everyone has the right to be safe from harm, to have their rights and choices protected and to be able to fulfil their potential.

We are committed to putting all children and vulnerable adults at the centre of what we do. As part of this, we have published Safeguarding advice leaflets for all those using our facilities.

These leaflets contain important information on what to do if you have any concerns about the safety of child or a vulnerable adult while using any of our facilities, including contact details for relevant officers and agencies.

It also provides useful information on the Council's Photography Policy, support for victims of domestic abuse, the responsibilities of parents and guardians or carers leaving or collecting children or adults at risk from our facilities, and the use of Leisurwatch to protect children and adults at risk.



RAPID development across the district

Disposing of unused prescription drugs has been made easier with the introduction of the community-led RAPID initiative.

The RAPID scheme is supported regionally by the PSNI and Public Health Agency, and locally by the Newry, Mourne and Down Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP). It facilitates the removal of all types of prescription drugs from the community by providing a safe facility for disposal of these items.

The PCSP has worked with community partners and local businesses to identify suitable locations for the RAPID drug disposal bin across our Council district. The first RAPID bin in our district was installed at the Nautilus Centre in Kilkeel in October 2018. Since then, RAPID bins have been installed at North Street Car Park, Newry, Hughes NISA Extra complex, Camlough, the Ballymote Centre, Downpatrick and Newry Leisure Centre.

Over 12,000 items of prescription medication have been removed from these RAPID bins in the last year - getting rid of them safely and keeping them from being misused. A win all round.



Safe driving techniques training for young people

Young drivers are more likely to be involved in accidents on the road than any other age group.

Mindful of this, Rowallane District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum, in partnership with other agencies, organised a safe driving event at Bishopscourt Race Track in September.

The event involved 32 young people from Ballynahinch High School and representatives from Driving Techniques, Bishopscourt Race Track, Evo Driving Simulator, the Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP), the PSNI and the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS).

Participants received a NIFRS presentation on safe driving and avoiding distractions when driving, then drove around the race circuit accompanied by a driving instructor and used the Evo Driving Simulator. They had the opportunity to learn about tyre safety and using virtual reality goggles and experienced, at first-hand, what it is like to be involved in a serious road traffic accident.

Newry, Mourne and Down leading digital investment



Fast, reliable digital connections have never been more important, and it is crucial that our district is keeping pace. The Council is a lead member of the Full Fibre Northern Ireland (FFNI) Consortium, which is comprised of the 10 local authorities outside of Belfast.

The Consortium has been awarded £15m from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) to implement a new collaborative programme to drive greater investment in fibre and digital infrastructure across Northern Ireland.

The Consortium's phased delivery programme will manage Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN) investment. It will also manage the delivery of further fibre broadband initiatives and ensure a vital local link for future digital programmes.

Business development programmes go from strength to strength

In 2019 we launched two business development and support programmes, providing free one-to-one mentoring support with professional business advisors.

Both programmes will be available up to December 2022, and during this time we are seeking to support up to 900 businesses right across the district. In addition to one-to-one mentoring support, there are also opportunities to take part in workshops, programmes and networking events, and hear from experienced business advisors, as well as network with other business managers and owners.

Find out how you and your business can access support through the NMD Business Growth programmes, by contacting the Business Development team: business@nmandd.org

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



NMD
BUSINESS
GROWTH



NMD
BUSINESS
GROWTH

New businesses sign up for growth programme

One hundred local businesses have signed up to the innovative NMD Business Growth Programme which is driving economic growth through a tailored programme of mentoring, networking, and targeted workshop events.

Growing our SMEs is a key focus for our Council and the NMD Business Growth Programme has been designed to help people grow and develop their business.

The initiative has an extensive number of professional business advisors, offering support in areas crucial to helping small businesses. One-to-one tailored mentoring is a key feature and ensures that businesses obtain the right advice and help to sustainably grow their companies.

The NMD Business Growth Programme is open to any small business that has fewer than 50 employees in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area. Businesses can apply by emailing business@nmandd.org.

Why not 'Go for It'?

If you are thinking of starting your own business, you can access a comprehensive package of support for your new business idea through the 'Go for it' Programme.

We can help you get the advice and assistance required to drive your business forward.

You can register now to get:

- a one-to-one business planning meeting with a business advisor
- tailored guidance to develop your business plan
- a finance and business planning workshop
- advice on how to access grants and funding
- best practice guides, tools, videos and more to help get you started.

If you are interested you can contact the free phone enquiry line for the Go For It Programme on 0800 027 0639, visit the programme website at www.goforitni.com or contact our Business Development team at: business@nmandd.org

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



We're for any business ideas. Big or small.

GO
for it

To arrange a **FREE** meeting to develop your business plan with your local council call **0800 027 0639** visit **goforitni.com**



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

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.

Council launches new online learning portal for Members and staff

Helping all our Members and staff access learning and development opportunities so they can contribute fully to our department and Council objectives is important to us.

'Learning Pool' is a new Council online learning environment hosting e-learning modules and resources accessible from any smart device, at a time, in a place and at a pace that suits the user best.

This new initiative will allow for a more flexible, 'blended' approach to learning and development to suit different learning needs and will enable employees and elected Members to effectively contribute to organisational success both now and into the future.

The e-Learning modules support a diverse range of Council roles such as Safeguarding, Health and Safety, Equality at Work and Code of Conduct. Also included is a wide variety of modules to support Microsoft Office skills, personal development, health and wellbeing and specific modules to assist elected Members in their role.

THINC lab secures funding

The Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership has been successful in securing additional capital funding to complete the new THINC lab at the WIN Business Centre in Newry. The Department for Communities has awarded the funding for this innovative new project.

The THINC Lab will enable people to meet, work, connect and learn, and provide them with a neutral facility to hold meetings, conferences and events.

The funding of £250,000 will upgrade a vacant unit at the business centre which, when completed, will offer a large, open plan ground floor space suitable for training, group facilitation and group work sessions, an informal meeting area suitable for break-out sessions and eight enterprise 'incubator pods' for test training.

The project is expected to be completed by February 2020.



Taste the Island comes to Newry, Mourne and Down

This year, the 'Taste the Island' initiative came to our district. Taste the Island promotes food and drink on the island of Ireland and this year Newry, Mourne and Down was able to celebrate the local food, drink, music and incredible quality, creativity and entrepreneurship of local producers.

From September through to November, we were joined by Tourism Northern Ireland, Fáilte Ireland and Tourism Ireland in a food and drink celebration, showcasing what we have in the area. Over 50 events took place ranging from distillery and brewery tours, afternoon teas and foraging adventures, along with a number of festivals and events, including a food festival at the newly opened Killeavey Castle. The festivals had fun for the whole family with pony rides, face painting, balloon modelling and popular food stalls, all with a wide selection of local treats.

Look out for more fantastic Taste the Island events in autumn 2020:
visitmournemountains.co.uk/tastetheisland



Making It Local

Our district has a huge range of both craft and food products and we are making the most of them.

The 'Making It Local' campaign, designed to encourage and promote local produce and crafts, is going from strength to strength this year.

There have been a series of successful events across the district as part of the initiative, including farmers' markets in Kilkeel, craft markets in Ballynahinch and pop-up craft events in Saintfield and Newcastle.



Local museums deliver 'excellent' visitor experience

This year has been especially busy for the Down County and the Newry and Mourne Museums, with activities for schools and families, talks and craft workshops as well as the unveiling of three new temporary exhibitions. A highlight was the four-star rating by Tourism NI in the 'Excellent' category for both museums, which continued to work with their strategic partners to enhance their visitor experience.

Newry and Mourne Museum was delighted to launch its new audio guide, which offers museum tours in English, Irish, German and French and includes a version geared at young people. The museum also took part in the 'The Late Shift' - a series of after-dark, adults-only happenings in museums across Northern Ireland, aimed at encouraging over 18s to try a different kind of night out at their local museum. For its 'The Carnival of Delights' event, Newry and Mourne Museum was transformed into a sideshow circus with fire dancers, accompanied by a 'dangerous harpist', comedians and magicians. The sold-out event, which featured the best of local food and drink, encouraged the audience to embrace their darker side and celebrate the rich performing arts history of Newry.

Down County Museum also has gone from strength to strength in 2019. By working with the Down Time Festival and the artisan market, the museum continues to attract new audiences.

Arts for all at local arts centres

Down Arts Centre and the Sean Hollywood Arts Centre are buzzing hives of live performances and community activity. Alongside their artistic programme, our arts centres in Downpatrick and Newry host activities that cover all demographics, from children's dance classes to an extensive programme for older people.

As well as its seasonal programme of live performances in Downpatrick, Down Arts Centre also programmes the 'Summer Days and Summer Nights' festival on Newcastle promenade during the summer months. Now in its 16th year, the festival enriches the entertainment offering for holidaymakers and locals during July and August.

Sean Hollywood Arts Centre has also presented a number of wonderful performances in 2019, including world class acts such as Paul Brady and the Fewes Ensemble, featuring Ciaran Hinds, adding vitality and cultural enrichment to Newry city.

If you would like to find out more about what's happening near you, pick up an Arts and Culture programme at one of your local arts centres or museums.

Festivals and Events



Mountains, myths and maritime fun

The iconic landscapes, mountains and coastlines unique to this district are always showcased in our flagship festivals and events.

Visitors and locals alike basked in glorious sunshine at our Giant Adventures during 2019: Footsteps in the Forest, Festival of Flight and Wake the Giant. The skies were extra kind on St Patrick's Day in both Newry and Downpatrick, ensuring a special day out for families enjoying the impressive parades.

The Ulster Fleadh returned once more to Castletwellan, and the Ulster Championship Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association competitions took place in Donard Park in Newcastle.

Our district also hosted the diverse and exciting SOMA, Fiddlers Green and Iuir Cinn Fleadh festivals, the anniversary year of Maidens of the Mournes, as well as Halloween and Christmas switch-on events in towns and villages. A host of sporting, community and outdoor events have been supported too.

Footsteps in the Forest

Footsteps in the Forest once again attracted crowds eager to help our hero Finn McCool defeat his longstanding nemesis, the Cailleach Bheara. A firm favourite location throughout the year, Slieve Gullion Forest Park delivered a fantastic backdrop for theatre, circus, storytelling, music and magic.

FOOTSTEPS IN THE FOREST



Festival of Flight

This year Newcastle's Festival of Flight was scheduled for June, to ensure the presence of the Red Arrows. And what a show it was! The Council's event was the only air show on the island of Ireland to secure the Red Arrows in 2019, and they dominated the skyline alongside a thrilling in-the-air display. With the event taking place on one of the best summer days of 2019, Castle Park was thronged with visitors, all enjoying the food, atmosphere and displays.

Wake the Giant

Warrenpoint welcomed thousands to enjoy two days of fun-filled mayhem and hijinks, as Finn the Giant (and his 'mini me' collectible) returned to the shores of Carlingford Lough. Upping the ante each year, the festival encouraged businesses and spectators to think of ever more ingenious ways to wake Finn, with a grand finale show in Clonallon Park to bring it to a close.

Keep an eye out on the Council and Visit Mourne websites. Our events planning for 2020 is already underway – you won't want to miss out.



Unmissable golfing events

What a terrific year for golf in the region. We were lucky enough to have many domestic and international visitors from The Open at Royal Portrush, who then played and stayed in our district.

Our own three-day Summer Trophy and Junior Competition were both huge successes in August. The Summer Trophy brought in over 150 players from 10 different countries and over 100 players in the Junior Competition, all competing for the title of 2019 Champions.

The Summer Trophy took to the golf courses at Spa and Ardglass, before the final round at the famous Royal County Down. The Junior Competition was played at Warrenpoint, Kilkeel, with the top 20 qualifying for a space to play Royal County Down. The event finished with a gala meal at the Slieve Donard Resort and Spa, a fitting end to a wonderful competition.



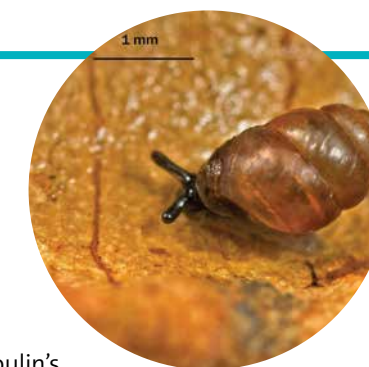
Doing what we CANN for the environment

Our Council has taken the lead on an important conservation project, spanning the three jurisdictions of Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland. The project, entitled Collaborative Action for the Natura Network (CANN), is supported by the European Union's INTERREG VA Programme, which is managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

The project is intended to improve the deteriorating condition of peatlands and wetlands, and to protect the endangered animals and plants found there.

The project team is carrying out conservation actions and working alongside communities to manage and secure the sustainability of these precious landscapes, iconic species and unique sites. The project includes working on the local Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) at Turmennan, near Crossgar, Lecale Fens near Downpatrick, Killough, and Strangford.

As part of the project, the CANN team has discovered a rare species of snail at the Lecale Fens SAC. The Desmoulin's whorl snail, known scientifically as *Vertigo moulinsiana*, was found by a team of specialists who were carrying out field surveys at the site.



The Desmoulin's whorl snail has been in decline in recent years, caused by wetland drainage and changes in land management practices. This finding is the first ever recorded in Northern Ireland.

Our involvement in this project demonstrates our continued commitment to the environment, both locally and on a global scale. For more information on the CANN project, please contact: 0330 137 4000.





NMD joins the Refillution revolution

Reducing the use of single use plastic containers is something the Council has been keen to encourage. As part of that, we are supporting Northern Ireland Water's new #Refillution campaign, which is encouraging everyone to commit to refilling a reusable water bottle rather than buying single use plastic bottles.

Northern Ireland uses 145 million single use plastic bottles every year. By switching to a reusable bottle, everyone can help to reduce plastic waste. Single use plastics are a huge problem, killing thousands of sea mammals and birds that either eat or become tangled up in plastic waste every year.

As part of this campaign, we have set up a working group to phase out single use plastics, including forks, knives, plates and cups, cleaning containers and packaging.

Our Health and Wellbeing Team recently provided all Council staff with a reusable water bottle to keep hydrated using tap water, reducing our impact on the environment. The council is also introducing additional mains water fountains across its buildings.

For the next phase of Refillution we will recruit local businesses to sign up to the Refillution campaign, with the first 100 businesses to sign up receiving 10 reusable bottles for their staff.

It's easy to get involved. Just hashtag #Jointherefillution #Refillution @niwnews @JoinRefillution and start sharing with your friends. For more information about the campaign visit www.niwater.com/refillution/

A very successful year for recycling

In 2018/19, our district increased the recycling rate from 46% to an impressive 51% in just one year. This personal best makes us the most improved district in Northern Ireland.

Not only that, but we are the best performing council in Northern Ireland when it comes to how we treat our waste: less than 5% of waste collected is sent to landfill.

We have tried to make recycling as easy as possible by standardising glass collection. We have also simplified our waste collection schedules

and it looks like it is working. In comparison to 2017-2018, our annual black bin waste has decreased by 11.7% and brown bin waste increased by 26%, despite providing over 5,000,000 bin collections every year. This is a fantastic result.

We also carried out a Household Survey which revealed that recycling is important to 86% of residents. It was good to know that 93% of those who have used the recycling services were satisfied.

Finally, our Waste Management and Recycling Team were finalists for the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) best team awards.

Let's keep up the good work!



Recycle Glass in your Blue Bin



Glass Recycling Guide Glass Bottles and Jars Only

YES (clean and dry)

- ✓ Bottles of any colour (eg beer, spirits, wine)
- ✓ Jars (eg baby food, jam, sauces)
- ✓ Non food bottles (eg aftershave, face creams, perfume)

NO

- ✗ All other types of glass (glassware, light bulbs, microwave plates, mirrors, nail polish bottles, pyrex, vases and window glass)
- Please dispose of these items in your black bin or at your local household recycling centre

Don't forget glass and other recyclable materials MUST NOT be placed in your black bin. All food waste MUST be recycled in your brown bin.



Phase II of Lough Inch Municipal Cemetery opens

At the end of October 2019, the Council opened Phase II of Lough Inch Cemetery, Ballynahinch. The first phase of Lough Inch Cemetery was opened in 1986 with three separate sections developed.

The first burial took place on 30 December 1989, and currently 350 persons are interred at this cemetery. With capacity limited, a new section was required. The extension will provide an additional 237 burial plots, with two burials per plot.

We have already completed an extension to the Struell Cemetery in Downpatrick and have plans in place to provide extensions to the remaining three cemeteries, Monkshill, Warrenpoint and Kilbroney.



Annual Report 2019/20

Facts and figures

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

During the 2019/2020 financial year we received 2624 building control applications and carried out 12,232 site inspections. As part of our service we are able to help designers, builders and the public to comply with building regulations.

Licensing is an important part of the Council's functions and ensures that important health and safety regulations are followed. This year we issued 5,312 dog licences and 276 entertainment licences for a variety of events. We also issued 40 street trading licences and 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	12,232
Dog Licences issued	5,312
Building Control applications received	2,624
Entertainment Licences issued	276
Petroleum Licences issued	56
Street Trading Licences issued	40

How we performed

In November 2019, 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 2019 include:

What we have achieved	
21% increase in attendances at Council leisure facilities when compared to April-September 2018.	△
264% increase in membership at Down Leisure Centre since it reopened November 2018.	△
2,365 children participated in community play sessions and summer schemes.	😊
101 new business starts supported and 91 new jobs promoted.	😊
139,954 visits recorded at Warrenpoint Municipal Park.	😊
Assistance provided towards 72 community clean ups .	😊
Increase of 2.2% in the rate of recycling when compared to April-June 2018.	△
10% increase in brown bin waste and 11% increase in blue bin waste when compared to April-September 2018.	△
71% of the 697 applications to the Financial Assistance Scheme received a total of £1.2m funding .	😊

Another busy year for our Registration Service








The Council's Registration Service remains busy marking the important milestones in our lives.

In the year ending 31 March 2019, we registered 2,385 births, 1,330 deaths and 941 marriages. Of these, 578 were religious marriages and 363 were civil ceremonies. A total of five Civil Partnerships were held during this period. Couples can now also give notice for Civil, Same Sex Marriage or Opposite Sex Civil Partnerships. We have 29 approved venues registered for Civil Ceremonies throughout the district.

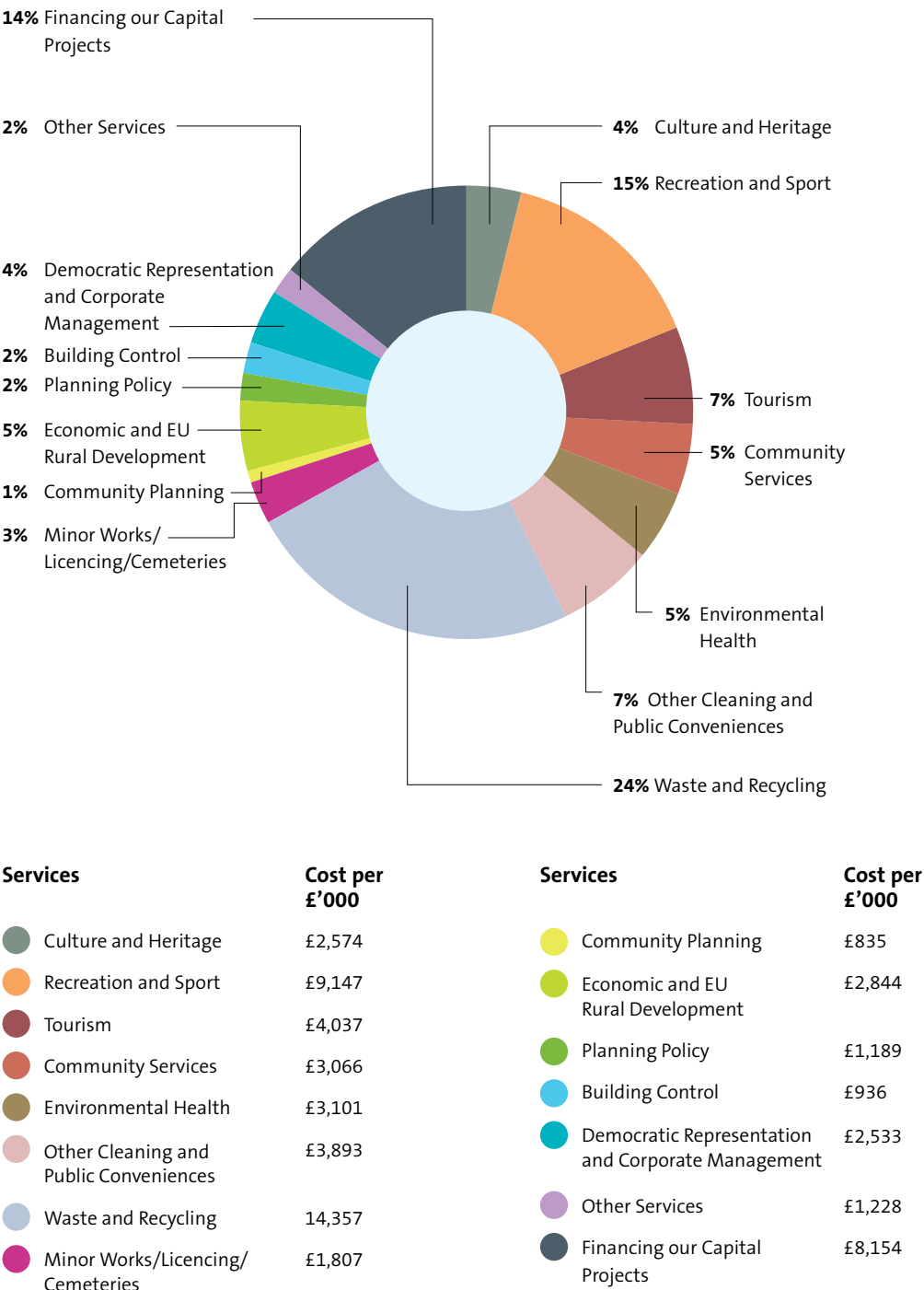
We aim to carry out our Registration duties in a caring and sensitive manner, and continually review how we provide our services. Details on how to contact us can be found in the Useful Numbers section on the back of this publication.

Our performance 2015-2019

Some of the Council’s key performance outcomes highlight how we have delivered the Corporate Plan during our first term as a new Council.

Progress		Status Trend
	11% increase in visitor numbers	△
	44% increase in visitor spend	△
	805 new jobs promoted and 776 new business starts supported through business start up activity	😊
	City Deal for the Belfast Region secured	😊
	Friendly exchange agreement in place with the City of Changchun, China	😊
	Consultation on the Preferred Options Paper for the Local Development Plan complete	😊
	Newry and Down Leisure Centres open	😊
	23% increase in attendances at Council leisure facilities	△
	3 new play parks open, 1 play park transformed and 13 parks upgraded	😊
	Increase of 12.5% in the rate of recycling, to 51.4%	△
	88.7% reduction in the amount of waste going to landfill	△
	21% reduction in black bin waste, 9% increase in blue bin waste and 119% increase in brown bin waste	△
	The restoration of Warrenpoint Town Park complete	😊
	Environmental improvement and revitalisation schemes in Downpatrick, Newry and Warrenpoint complete	😊
	Processing time for local planning applications improved by 16.8 weeks	△
	Processing time for major planning applications increased by 20.1 weeks	▽
	Newry, Mourne and Down achieved age friendly status from the World Health Organisation	😊
	10% increase in premises with superfast broadband, to 83%	△
	£4.5m awarded to 1,377 applications through the Financial Assistance Scheme	😊
	Seven DEA Forums established and delivery of local Action Plans ongoing	😊
	Implementation of Community Plan underway	😊
	87% of residents are satisfied with the Council	😊
	75% of residents believe Newry, Mourne and Down is a good place to live	😊
	Employee absenteeism reduced by 1.25 days	△

How we spend your money in 2019/20



Total budget: £59,702,000

Your Councillors

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New Councillor TBC
Sinn Féin

This document 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 0330 137 4006 or email marketing@nmandd.org

Getting in Touch - Useful Numbers

0330 137 4000

www.newrymouredown.org

 nmdcouncil  @nmdcouncil

Arts Centres and Museums

Down Arts Centre
Downpatrick
0330 137 4014

Down County Museum
Downpatrick
0330 137 4049

Newry & Mourne Museum
Bagenal's Castle, Newry
0330 137 4034

Sean Hollywood Arts Centre
Newry
0330 137 4032

Community Services

Ballynahinch
Bessbrook
Bridge Centre
Killyleagh
Cloughreagh
Crossmaglen
Dan Rice Hall
Drumaness
The Market House
Ballynahinch
0330 137 4008

Indoor Leisure

0330 137 4026

Visitor Services & Attraction Information

Delamont Country Park

Downpatrick Visitor Information Centre
Kilbroney Park

Newcastle Visitor Information Centre
Newry Visitor Information Centre

Slieve Gullion Country Park
Slieve Gullion Visitor Information Centre
0330 137 4046

Castlewellan Forest Park
028 4377 8664

Kilkeel Visitor Information Centre
028 4176 2525

Warrenpoint Town Hall and Tourist Office
0330 137 4926

Household Recycling Centres

Ballykine, Ballynahinch
Bann Road, Castlewellan
Camrough
Cloonagh Road, Downpatrick
Crossmaglen
Drumanakelly
Hilltown
Kilkeel
Newry
Newtownhamilton
Warrenpoint
0330 137 4047

Waste and Enforcement

Bulky Waste Collection
Domestic and Trade Waste
Pollution Control
Public Conveniences
Recycling
Refuse Collection
Street Cleansing
Waste Disposal
0330 137 4047

Planning Office:

0330 137 4036

Other Useful Numbers

Building Control
0330 137 4003

Cemeteries and Burials
• **Lough Inch, Ballynahinch**
• **Monkshill, Newry**
• **Struell, Downpatrick**
• **Rostrevor**
• **Warrenpoint**
0330 137 4005

Complaints
0330 137 4000

Dog Control
0330 137 4013

Health and Wellbeing
Pollution Control
0330 137 4024

Licencing
0330 137 4030

Policing & Community
Safety Partnership & Good
Relations
0330 137 4038

Registration Office (Births,
Deaths and Marriages)
0330 137 4041



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: