

A CITY WITH BIG VISION

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

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

This week, we are focussing on plans for the 15-acre Albert Basin Park and the Office Accommodation fund – integral to reenergising Newry City Centre for the benefit of both residents and the business community.



The **Albert Basin** is central to Council’s vision for the regeneration of Newry City Centre. Providing a world class city park for attracting investment, promoting tourism, creating jobs and sustaining our environment, it also aims to improve the physical and mental wellbeing of our citizens.

Key also to the regeneration of Newry City Centre is a fund to promote the delivery of **office accommodation** to help attract further investment and job creation.

Some Q&As on plans for the 15-acre Albert Basin Park and Office Accommodation fund can be found below.

In the next part of the series we will focus on plans for the Civic and Regional Hub. In the meantime, members of the public can submit questions on the Newry City Centre Regeneration Project to: info@nmandd.org



Albert Basin Park

- Q** What is happening now with the Albert Basin Park project?

A The Council undertook an independent public consultation in 2020 to identify the requirements of an initial concept design for the proposed 15-acre Albert Basin City Park in Newry. Since then the Council has engaged a consultant team who are considering the consultation feedback and preparing an initial design concept for the park.
- Q** What's the next step after the design concept is prepared?

A The consultant team is also reviewing existing surveys and investigations on the Albert Basin site and assessing statutory requirements to identify the technical challenges to be overcome to deliver the design concept. Once we have the design concept and the consultant report, the Council will be in a better position to inform the public of the next steps.
- Q** When will the design concept for the Albert Basin Park be ready?

A The consultant team is currently working on the design concept and are planning to have it ready to present to the Council this summer. We're excited to see their ideas for bringing the 15-acre park to life.
- Q** How will the Albert Basin Park be funded?

A It is anticipated the Albert Basin Park will be funded by a combination of Council funding, and funding secured through a range of local, regional, UK and EU funding programmes. The Council is already considering some potential funding sources. A business case is a key requirement in preparing funding applications, so the consultant report will also allow us to work towards developing the business case for the Albert Basin Park.
- Q** What can we expect to see included in the design concept?

A The consultant team is preparing the design concept based on the 2020 public consultation. Key findings and themes include Green Space, Woodlands, Play and Physical Recreation. The results of the public consultation can be found on the Council's website: www.newrymournedown.org/albert-basin-15-acre-city-park

Office Accommodation Fund

- Q** Newry has plenty of offices. Why does it need more?

A Research on Newry's office market indicates that Newry lacks office accommodation of appropriate size in the city core. All cities need office space to house growing local companies, to create jobs and opportunities, and to attract new investors to Newry. We want this opportunity for Newry.
- Q** But why is the Council investing in office accommodation?

A The Council is not investing directly, we want to use Department for Communities funding, via the Belfast Region City Deal, to create a fund that encourages the private sector to invest and deliver office accommodation in Newry. We want the office fund to unlock private sector investment.

