

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

Our Performance Looking Back, Going Forward

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

The Local Government (NI) Act 2014 sets out a general duty of improvement for local government, whereby all district councils must put in place arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of their functions.

Looking Back Assessment of Performance 2017-18



Looking Back

Assessment of Performance 2017-18

Every year, we are required to publish an Assessment of Performance to demonstrate whether planned improvements have been achieved. The Assessment of Performance sets out the Council's progress in delivering the:

- Performance Improvement Objectives 2017-18
- Statutory performance indicators and standards for economic development, planning and waste management
- Self imposed performance indicators, as outlined in the Corporate Plan 2015-19.

Our performance has been tracked against set targets and trends over time, using the legend below.

Status	Trend
 Target or objective achieved/ on track to be achieved	 Performance has improved since the previous year
 Target or objective partially achieved / likely to be achieved / subject to delay	 Performance is similar to the previous year
 Target or objective not achieved / unlikely to be achieved	 Performance has declined since the previous year

Progress at a Glance

Performance Improvement Objective	Progress	Status
 <p>Encourage healthy lifestyles through increased participation in leisure, sport and recreational activities</p>	Newry Leisure Centre complete	😊
	Down Leisure Centre complete	😊
	9.8% increase in attendances at Council leisure facilities	⚠️
	Average customer satisfaction rating of 73.5% across six Council leisure facilities**	😊
	Implementation of the Play Strategy and Sports Facility Strategy underway	😊
	1,175 children and young people took part in Community Play initiatives	😊
 <p>Improve economic growth by creating new business starts, supporting the growth of existing businesses and promoting Newry, Mourne and Down as a premier tourist destination</p>	168 new jobs promoted and 167 new business starts supported through business start up activity	😊
	The Carlingford Lough Greenway between the Weir and Victoria Lock complete	😊
	Our five Giant Adventure Festivals attracted 139,000 visitors and generated an estimated £4m for the local economy	😊
	3.2% increase in the number of visitors and 7.3% increase in overnight stays*	⚠️
	48% increase in visitor spend*	⚠️

Performance Improvement Objective	Progress	Status
 <p>Deliver urban and rural regeneration initiatives that will create a district where people want to live, work and invest in</p>	The restoration of Warrenpoint Town Park complete**	
	Three environmental improvement and revitalisation schemes well underway**	
	Forkhill Greenspace Project complete	
	45 Village Plans updated and created	
	Improved processing time for local planning applications	
	Increased processing time for major planning applications	
 <p>Create a cleaner, greener, more attractive district</p>	Increase of 6% in the rate of recycling	
	52% reduction in the amount of waste going to landfill	
	14% reduction in black bin waste, 4% increase in blue bin waste and 60% increase in brown bin waste	
	Downpatrick Household Recycling Centre delayed	
	£39,988 awarded through 'Down Your Street – Live Here, Love Here'	
 <p>Encourage and empower local communities to participate in Council engagement structures and initiatives</p>	Corporate Consultation and Engagement Framework adopted	
	Significant representation from the community, voluntary and business sectors on Council engagement structures	
	Over £1.4m awarded to 413 projects through the Financial Assistance Scheme	
	Review of community centres complete	

*Comparisons for tourism figures relate to 2016 and 2017

**Projects well underway or complete during 2018-19

Going Forward Performance Improvement Objectives 2018-19



Going Forward

Performance Improvement Objectives 2018-19

Every year, we are required to set performance improvement objectives for the services we provide, and to put in place arrangements to achieve these objectives. The Council has identified five performance improvement objectives for 2018-19 which are supported by a range of actions, some of which are summarised below. These objectives seek to address the issues which matter most to local people, and are:

Aligned to the seven strategic aspects of improvement	
Based on existing performance information	
Based on stakeholder consultation and engagement	
Linked to the Community Plan, Corporate Plan and Directorate Business Plans	

Objective 1

Encourage healthy lifestyles through increased participation in leisure, sport and recreational activities

What we will do

- Complete the refurbishment of Downpatrick Leisure Centre
- Upgrade and improve existing sports facilities through the implementation of the Sports Facility Strategy
- Provide and improve fixed and non fixed play opportunities through the implementation of the Play Strategy
- Engage children and young people in Community Play and other health and wellbeing initiatives
- Consider options to progress the development of a park at the Albert Basin, Newry
- Produce an Activity, Promotion and Development Plan to map out the provision of physical activity across the district.

Objective 2

Improve economic growth by creating new business starts, supporting the growth of existing businesses and promoting Newry, Mourne and Down as a premier tourist destination

What we will do

- Promote 155 new jobs and support 193 new business starts across the district
- Support the establishment and growth of local businesses and social enterprises
- Provide proposals to invest in the fishing dependent communities of Kilkeel, Annalong and Ardglass
- Progress the Belfast Region City Deal by working in partnership with participating Councils, HM Treasury and the Northern Ireland Office to submit an investment proposal to the Department for Communities and Local Government
- Submit an application for Global Geopark status for the Mournes and Ring of Gullion by November 2019
- Develop an Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy to increase participation in cultural activities
- Organise the five Giant Adventure Festivals across the district.

Objective 3

Deliver urban and rural regeneration initiatives that will create a district where people want to live, work and invest in

What we will do

- Restore the physical and cultural heritage of Warrenpoint Town Park
- Work with the Department for Communities to commence the delivery of the environmental improvement and revitalisation schemes in Downpatrick, Newry and Warrenpoint
- Secure funding towards the physical and environmental improvements identified within Village Plans
- Work in partnership with the relevant Departments to improve digital connectivity across the district
- Secure funding to progress the regeneration of the Derrymore Demesne, Bessbrook
- Consult on the Preferred Options Paper to advance the production of the Local Development Plan
- Improve the processing times for planning applications and enforcement cases.

Objective 4

Create a cleaner, greener, more attractive district

What we will do

- Develop the 'Neighbourhood Services' initiative, including the launch of a dedicated telephone number and online channels to report issues around street cleanliness, refuse collection and environmental crime
- Increase and support public participation in local clean up campaigns
- Raise awareness of the detrimental impact of environmental crime and the importance of recycling
- Increase the rate of recycling to 50% by 2020 and continue to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill
- Standardise how glass is collected across the district
- Open the Downpatrick Household Recycling Centre.

Objective 5

Encourage and empower local communities to participate in Council engagement structures and initiatives

What we will do

- Strengthen the level of engagement and participation in the Council's partnerships, including the District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums and Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships
- Promote the 'Neighbourhood Watch', 'Good Morning, Good Neighbour' and 'Home Secure' Schemes
- Through the Financial Assistance Scheme, support community groups to deliver projects across key areas including festivals, sports development and good relations
- Engage local groups in Council initiatives, including young people, older people and black and minority ethnic communities.

Have Your Say

We welcome your feedback and suggestions on how Council services can be improved in the future. Full copies of the following documents are available to download from our website:

- Performance Improvement Plan 2018-19
- Assessment of Performance 2017-18

www.newrymouredown.org

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