

# Ár bhFeidhmíocht Ag Amharc Siar, Ag Dul Chun Cinn

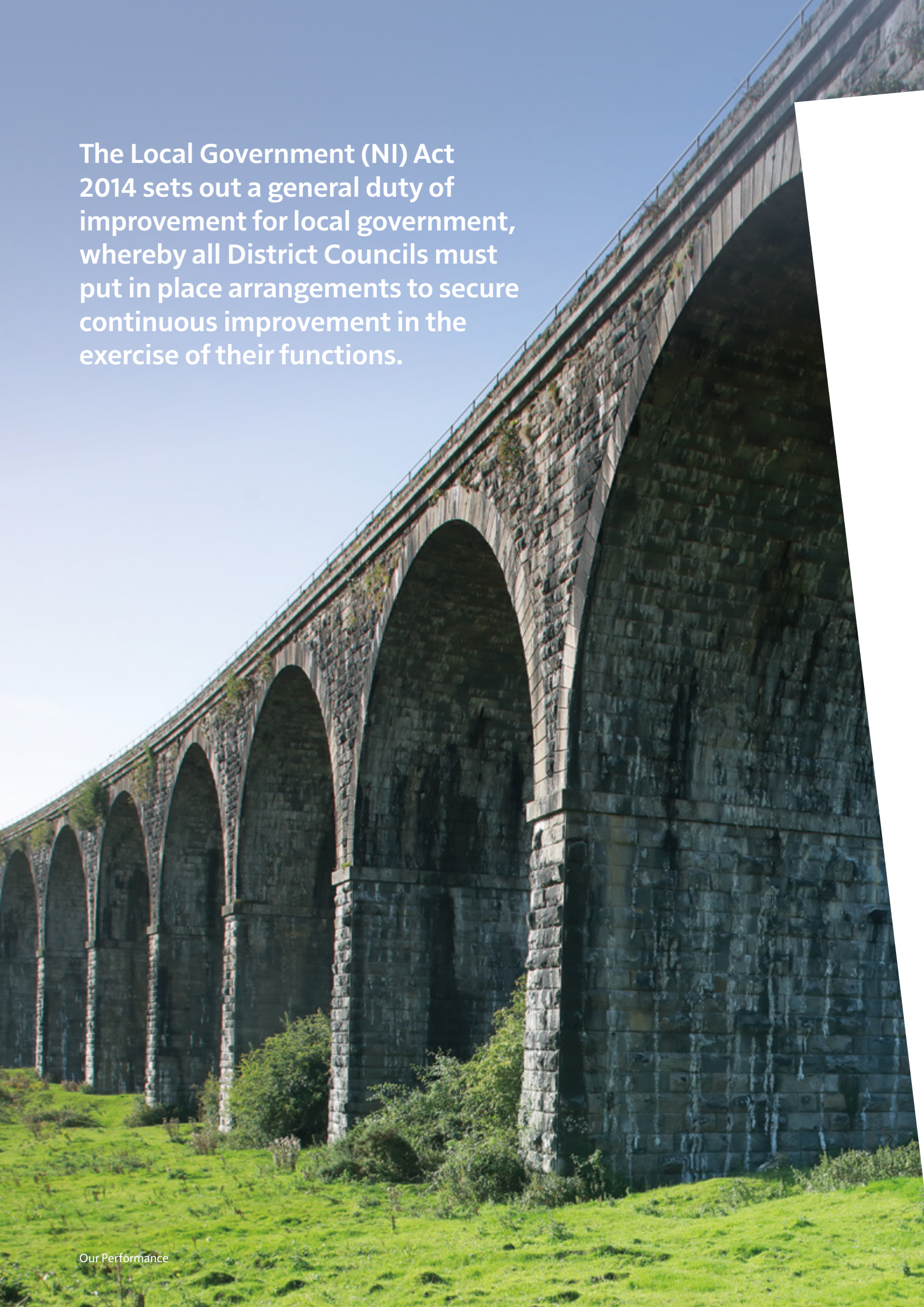
## Our Performance Looking Back, Going Forward



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

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



A large, multi-arched stone viaduct stretches across the frame from the bottom left towards the top right. The structure is built from dark, weathered stone blocks. Below the arches, there is a lush green field with some low-lying bushes. The sky above is a clear, bright blue. The text is positioned in the upper left corner of the image.

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 2024-25

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 progress against the current 'measures of success' within the:

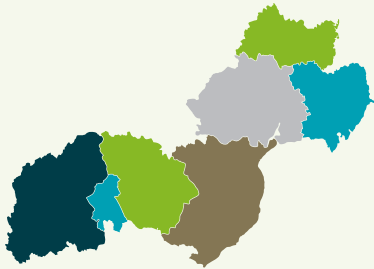
- **Corporate Plan 2024-27**
- **Performance Improvement Plan 2024-25**  
(including the statutory performance indicators and standards)

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



# Our District, Our Organisation, Our Performance



## District

Population: 182,074

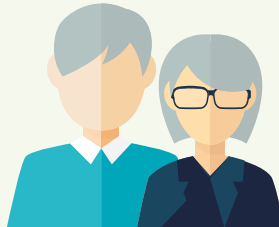
Households: 68,397

7 District Electoral Areas

41 Elected Members

1,000+ employees

88% of residents are  
satisfied with the Council



## Community

### Life expectancy:

Male: 78.9 years /

Female: 82.6 years

### Age Profile: 0-15 years:

22% / 65+ years: 17%

87% of residents agree  
that their local area is a place  
where people from different  
backgrounds get on well  
together

100% of residents feel safe  
during the day, 78% of  
residents feel safe after dark

55 Neighbourhood Watch  
Schemes

18,407 food parcels  
delivered to vulnerable  
households

£12.3m awarded through  
the Financial Assistance  
Scheme since 2015



## Tourism

### In 2023:

Numbers of overnight  
stays 482,585

Level of visitor spend -  
£79,139,615

Three Areas of Outstanding  
Natural Beauty

5 'green flag' parks and  
3 'blue flag' beaches

CROTLIEVE

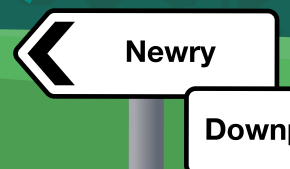
NEWRY



Newry  
Town Hall



Newry Leisure Centre





## Health and Wellbeing

82% of residents feel they are in very good or good health

83% of residents are physically active at least once a week for 30mins

73.5% of customers are satisfied with the Council's six leisure facilities

200k recorded visits at community trails

Over 525,000 recorded visits to Kilbroney and Slieve Gullion Forest Parks for the last 9 months of 2023-24



## Economy

Employment rate: 65.5%

9,515 VAT Registered Businesses

23.1% of the population aged 16 years and over have no qualifications

206 new jobs promoted through business start activity

231 businesses supported delivered through economic development programmes



## Environment

Recycling is important to 91% of residents

Top perceived problem for residents: Dog mess and fouling

Recycling rate: 49.0%

185 community clean ups supported since 2020

Second lowest level of waste to landfill across all NI Councils



Down Leisure Centre



Down Arts Centre

St Patrick's Monument

# Performance at a Glance

## A snapshot of the past year

Performance Improvement Objective	Progress	Status Trend
 <b>We will support the health and wellbeing of local people by improving our leisure facilities and services</b>	4% decrease in paid attendances at Council leisure centres	▽
	89% increase in the number of people participating in targeted health programmes	😊 ▲
	67% decrease in the number of young people participating in targeted youth health and wellbeing initiatives.	😞 ▽
	1.3% increase in the number of Council leisure centre memberships	😊 ▲
	4 capital leisure projects progressed	😊 ▲
	25% decrease in recorded visits of community trails	😞 ▽
 <b>We will grow the economy by supporting local businesses and creating new jobs</b>	206 new jobs promoted through business start activity	😊 ▲
	12 new social enterprise businesses supported and 16 new social enterprise jobs created	😊 ▲
	175 new enterprises created as a result of support	😞 ▲
	221 existing businesses supported to progress growth and scaling ambitions	😊 ▽
	Several 'Make it Local' campaigns rolled out across the District'	😊
 <b>We will improve the cleanliness of our District by addressing littering, fly tipping and dog fouling incidents</b>	31 fixed penalty notices issued and 26 paid	😞 ▲
	100% of community clean ups supported	😊
	Decrease in the rate of recycling, to 49.0%*	😞 ▶
	Second lowest levels of waste sent to landfill across all NI Councils	😊 ▲
	15 'Live Here, Love Here' environmental projects supported	▲
	Anti-littering and responsible dog ownership campaigns rolled out	😊

Performance Improvement Objective	Progress	Status Trend
 <b>We will improve our sustainability and reduce our impacts in relation to climate change</b>	1 vehicle within the Council fleet that has an alternative fuel source	😊
	0 Council supported EV charging points installed	😞
	79% of Council fleet younger than 8 years.	😊 ⚠️
	Biodiversity Strategy 2024-30 approved and launched	😊
	257 trees planted on Council managed estate	😞 ▼
 <b>We will improve the processing times of planning applications and enforcement cases by implementing the Planning Service Improvement Programme</b>	The Council received the third highest number of planning applications across the 11 Councils.	😊
	The processing time for local planning applications increased from 33.7 weeks in 2023-24 to 45.2 weeks in 2024-25	😞 ▼
	The processing time for major planning applications increased from 154.8 weeks in 2023-24 to 29.6 weeks in 2024-25	😊 ⚠️
	The number of planning applications in the system for 12 months or more increased from 352 by year end 2023-24 to 408 by year end 2024-25	😞 ▼
	The number of enforcement cases in the system for 12 months or more has increased from 599 in 2023-24 to 574 by year end 2024-25.	😞 ⚠️

\*The 2024-25 data in relation to the statutory performance indicators for waste management remains provisional, as the end of year validated data will be published by DAERA in Q3 2025-26.



# Going Forward

## Performance Improvement Objectives 2025-26



Every year, we are required to set performance improvement objectives for the services we provide, and to have in place arrangements to achieve these objectives. These objectives seek to address the issues which matter most to local people, and are:

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



#### Objective 1

**We will support the health and wellbeing of local people by improving our local facilities and services**

#### What you will see:

- 757,500 paid attendances at our six leisure centres by the end of 2025-26
- Increase in the number of people participating in targeted health programmes to 22,000.
- Increase the number of memberships being taken out to 10,100.
- 2 play parks upgraded
- 2 new build and/or upgraded capital leisure projects progressed.
- Works to be commenced on Kilkeel Leisure Centre upgrade.
- Planning permission and contract tender agreed for Jennings Park upgrade
- Financial assistance allocated for sports clubs to the value of £225,000 for capital projects.
- Leisure-Safe Accreditation being worked towards for all indoor leisure facilities.
- 'Mystery Visitor' Programme implemented and baseline established



#### Objective 2

**We will contribute to growing the economy by supporting local businesses and job creation**

#### What you will see:

- 289 business plans created for Start-Up businesses and employer enterprises
- Over 700 participants engaged across all Go Succeed activity
- Support provided to 220 existing businesses to progress growth and scaling ambitions
- 173 new jobs promoted via business start-up activity.
- 12 social enterprise start-ups supported and 12 social enterprise jobs created
- Continued support for new and established local businesses
- Continued support for the growth of new employment opportunities
- Continued support to grow a labour market that is economically active and prosperous



#### Objective 3

**We will improve the cleanliness of our District by continuing to promote recycling and addressing littering, fly tipping and dog fouling incidents**

#### What you will see:

- Increase in the number of fixed penalty notices issued and paid
- Responsible dog ownership and reduced levels of dog fouling, littering and illicit dumping
- Improved opportunities to report littering, dog fouling and illicit dumping
- Reduction in the disposal of paint from our Household Recycling Centre sites
- Opportunities to engage in community clean ups
- Increased awareness of environmental messaging on issues including recycling, dog fouling and littering
- A cleaner, greener District, with improved civic and community pride
- Street cleanliness inspection systems identified for use within Council



#### Objective 4

**We will improve our sustainability and reduce our impacts in relation to climate change**

#### What you will see:

- Publication of the Council's Climate Change and Sustainable Development strategy and Climate Change Adaptation Plan
- Implementation of the new Newry, Mourne and Down Biodiversity Strategy (2024-2030)
- Publication of Council's Tree Strategy
- 2,800 new trees planted across the District
- Carbon baseline established for Council estate
- Renewable energy baseline established for Council estate
- Energy consumption baseline established for Council estate
- Increase in the percentage of younger, less polluting vehicles within the Council fleet
- A reviewed Active Travel Master plan
- New electric vehicles operating within Council fleet
- Publication of the Climate Change Mitigation Report in accordance with The Climate Change (Reporting Bodies) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024



#### Objective 5

**We will improve the processing times of planning applications and enforcement cases by implementing the Planning Service Improvement Programme**

#### What you will see:

- A more efficient and effective planning service
- Improved processing times for local and major planning applications
- Improved processing times for planning enforcement cases
- Reduction in the number of live planning applications and enforcement cases in the system
- An empowered and motivated workforce
- Increased confidence in the Planning system
- Sustainable development and regeneration of the District
- Commencement of public representation on the Draft Plan Strategy



## 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 [www.newrymournedown.org](http://www.newrymournedown.org) as follows:

- **Performance Improvement Plan 2025-26**
- **Assessment of Performance 2024-25**

This document is available in alternative formats upon request.

## For more information, contact:

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