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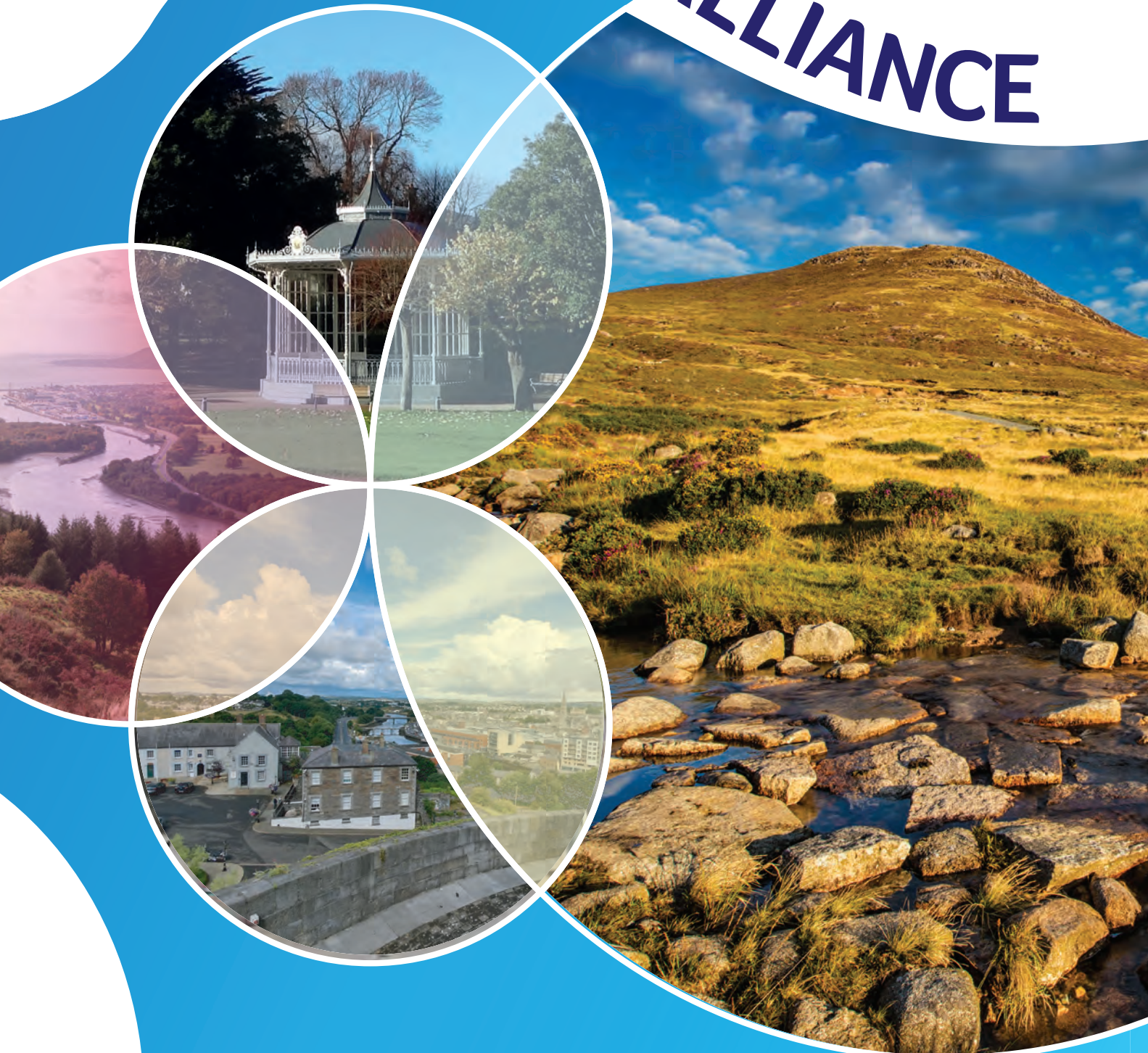
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Comhairle Ceantair
**an Iúir, Mhúrn
agus an Dúin**
**Newry, Mourne
and Down**
District Council

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STRATEGIC ALLIANCE



In 2015 the Strategic Alliance was reviewed following the Reform of Public Administration in Northern Ireland and the Review of Local Government in Republic of Ireland and both councils agreed that East Border Region Ltd should facilitate the Strategic Alliance as part of their role as the cross border organisation representing the Local Authorities.

Brexit poses a very real challenge to the Ireland/N Ireland border region in particular necessitating the need to review the Strategic Alliance Action Plan in spring 2017.

It was agreed to develop an Action Plan outlining realistic and time bound activities which can be delivered by both Councils under the auspices of the Strategic Alliance.

When the Strategic Alliance was first launched on 2 March 2011 in Brussels it was acknowledged as an extremely innovative approach. Colin Wolfe, EU Head for Territorial and Transnational Cooperation said:

“This is a first in Europe. I have studied the MOU and the supporting strategy for Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive growth and this is unique in Europe. I intend to showcase this model to other regions in Europe”.

In light of Brexit there is still an opportunity to showcase this strategic alliance as an example of best practice on a cross border basis and to use the Strategic Alliance as a mechanism to present worthy projects and proposals that support economic development in both councils areas, draw down funding for cross border cooperation and to represent the views of both councils in the area.



Statement of Intent

The Newry Mourne & Down and Louth Strategic Alliance is built on the strength of the long-standing Memorandum of Understanding between both councils that sets out the partnerships developed between Newry Mourne and Down District Council and Louth County Council which seek to support and promote the economic development and competitiveness of the region.

The key objectives of the alliance are:

- To promote, strengthen and stimulate the social, cultural and economic links within and between the people of the region.
- To provide an enabling framework to promote the region more effectively for inward investment and open up further opportunities for the sharing of services and coordinated management of key resources.
- To consolidate the long established working relationships between the parties, positioning them on a strategic long term footing, and with an outward looking focus
- To coordinate core functions of the Partners in selected areas of cooperation.
- To enhance the leadership position of the Parties within the cross border region and bolster their influencing and coordinating role for the benefit of the entire community.
- To develop links with other local authorities and regional stakeholders.

Mission

***Our Mission is:
To create 'Connected, Supported
and Sustainable Communities***

We will achieve this through collaborative working, civic leadership, lobbying and awareness raising with key stakeholders.

Key priorities

for the Newry, Mourne & Down / Louth Strategic Alliance

- Regenerated Economy and Social development
- Climate Change and the Environment
- Infrastructure and Digital Connectivity
- Health, Well-being and Education

