



September 12th, 2018

Notice Of Meeting

You are invited to attend the Strategy Policy and Resources Committee Meeting to be held on **Thursday, 13th September 2018 at 5:00 pm** in **Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre Downpatrick.**

The Members of the Strategy Policy and Resources Committee are:-

Chair: Councillor M Savage

Vice Chair: Councillor W Walker

Members:	Councillor R Burgess	Councillor P Byrne
	Councillor M Carr	Councillor S Doran
	Councillor C Enright	Councillor T Hearty
	Councillor D Hyland	Councillor O McMahon
	Councillor A McMurray	Councillor B O Muiri
	Councillor M Ruane	Councillor G Sharvin
	Councillor J Trainor	

Agenda

- 1 Apologies & Chairperson's Remarks
- 2 Declarations of Interest
- 3 Action Sheet arising from SPR Committee Meeting held on 16.8.18. (Attached).

 *Action Sheet SPR-16082018.docx*

Page 1


Planning

- 4 Proposed changes to the Planning Committee Scheme of Delegation & Operating Protocol. (Attached).

All Planning Committee Members invited to attend meeting for this item.

 *Proposed changes to the Planning Committee Scheme of Delegation and Operating Protocol.pdf*

Page 6

 *Appendix 1 DRAFT Scheme of Delegation August 2018.pdf*

Page 9

 *Appendix 2 DRAFT Operating Protocol August 2018.pdf*

Page 11

Equality and Policy

- 5 Report on Section 75 Policy Screening Report - Quarterly Report for period April-June 2018. (Attached).

 *Appendix 1 Quarterly Screening Report April - June 2018.pdf*

Page 27

 *Report on Section 75 Policy Screening Report - Quarterly Report for period April - June 2018.pdf*

Page 29

- 6 Report on Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Public Authority Statutory Equality and Good Relations Duties Annual Progress Report 2017-18. (Attached).

 *Report on N,MDDC Public Authority Annual Progress Report 2017-18 for consideration at SP&R meeting 13 September 2018.pdf*

Page 31

 *Appendix 1 N,MDDC Public Authority Statutory Equality and Good Relations Duties Annual Progress Report 2017-18.pdf*

Page 33

- 7 Report on Equality Action Plan 2017-18. (Attached).

 **Report on Equality Action Measures Plan 2018-2020 for consideration at SPR meeting 13 September 2018.pdf** **Page 57**

 **Appendix 1 Equality Action Measures Plan 2018-2020.pdf** **Page 59**

For Discussion/Decision

8 Assessment of Performance 2017/18. (Attached).

 **Assessment of Performance 2017-2018.pdf** **Page 67**

9 Draft Consultation Response to NILGA "Devolution within Northern Ireland" Report. (Attached).

 **Draft Consultation Response to NILGA.pdf** **Page 139**

 **Appendix I - Draft NMDDC Response.pdf** **Page 140**

 **Appendix II - NILGA Report.pdf** **Page 145**

10 ICO Registration Fees. (Attached).

 **Councillor's Annual ICO Registration Fees .pdf** **Page 167**


 **Appendix 1 - Legal Advice - ICO Registration Fees.pdf** **Page 170**

11 Action Sheet from SPWG meeting re CCTV - 11/9/18. (Attached).

 **11.9.18 Action Sheet from Special SPWGV1.1.pdf** **Page 172**

For Noting

12 Local Development Plan Steering Group - Minutes of meeting 13.4.18. (Attached).

 **Minutes of LDP Steering Group Meeting 13 April 2018.pdf** **Page 175**

13 Residents' Survey. (Attached).

 **SP&R - Residents Survey.pdf** **Page 177**

14 Participatory Budgeting Pilot Project. (Attached).

 **Participatory Budgeting Pilot Project.pdf** **Page 179**

15 Action Sheet from SPWG meeting - 11/9/18. (Attached).

FOR NOTING Items Restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014

16 EWG Action Sheet dated 3.9.18 (Attached).

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of para.3 of part 1 of schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person. The public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business

 EWG Action Sheet 3.9.18 .pdf

Not included

17 Albert Basin Task and Finish Action Sheet 2.8.18. (Attached).

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of para.3 of part 1 of schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person. The public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business

 Action Sheet 2.8.18.docx

Not included

Items Restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014

18 NLC, DLC update. (Attached).

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of para.3 of part 1 of schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person. The public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business

 NLC, DLC update .pdf

Not included

19 Update on Ballyedmond PROW. (Attached).

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of para.3 of part 1 of schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person. The public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business

 Update on Ballyedmond PROW.pdf

Not included

 Appendix 1 - TERMS OF SETTLEMENT.pdf

Not included

20 Update on Newry DEA Assets. (Attached).

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of para.3 of part 1 of schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person. The public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business

21 Use of Chief Executive's power to settle a claim. (Attached).

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of para.3 of part 1 of schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person. The public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business

ACTION SHEET – STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING (SPR) – THURSDAY 13 OCTOBER 2016 – ITEMS STILL IN PROGRESS OR ON-GOING.

ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2015					
SPR/236/2016	Right of Way Proposal at Ballyedmond, Killowen, Rostrevor	It was agreed to accept the officer's recommendations as follows: Approval of the details of the proposed Killowen Coastal Path around the Big Moat at Ballyedmond as per the presentation at the meeting, ie. the design drawings and technical specification. A joint application for Planning Permission will be submitted by the Ballyedmond Estate and the Council for the creation of the proposed Coastal Path as per the	C Mallon	Agenda Item.	N

ACTION SHEET – STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING (SPR) – THURSDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2016 – ITEMS STILL IN PROGRESS OR ON-GOING.

SPR/282/2016	Correspondence from the Department for Communities Regeneration Bill	Council to write to the Minister for Communities asking him to reconsider the decision not to progress the Regeneration Bill.	L Hannaway	To be completed once a Minister for Communities is in place.	N
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ACTION SHEET – STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING (SPR) – THURSDAY 12 APRIL 2018 – ITEMS STILL IN PROGRESS OR ON-GOING.

SPR/060/2018	Disposal of Land where Departmental Approval is required	It was agreed to note the content of the Officer's Report relating to disposal of Council land when, under legislation, Departmental approval is required and to invite Departmental representatives to meet with Council to discuss the matter.	L Moore	An invitation has been extended to the Department to meet with the Council. A response is awaited.	N
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ACTION SHEET – STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING (SPR) – THURSDAY 14 JUNE 2018 – ITEMS STILL IN PROGRESS OR ON-GOING.

SPR/081/2018	Engagement of External Consultancy	It was agreed to procure consultancy support to assist in an information management transformation programme.	A Robb	On-going	N
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SPR/088/2018	Sub-Lease to Drumanakelly Power Limited	It was agreed to note the contents of the officer's report and approve the recommendation in para 3.1 to agree an extension of the area at Drumanakelly leased to Drumanakelly Power Ltd as outlined on the report map, for the purposes of regularising their land use, and subject to the Council's legal costs being met by Drumanakelly Power Ltd, following a check by officers regarding comments	A Robb	In progress	N
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ACTION SHEET – STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING (SPR) – THURSDAY 16 AUGUST 2018

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SPR/096/2018	Action Sheet of SPR Committee Meeting held on 14 June 2018	It was agreed that the Action Sheet of 14 June be noted, and actions removed as marked.	D Services	Actioned	Y
SPR/097/2018	Planning Committee Scheme of Delegation & Operating Protocol	It was agreed to defer the decision on the revised scheme of delegation and operating protocol, and to hold a workshop to include all 41 Councillors before the next Committee Meeting. Members to submit any issues that wish to be raised at the workshop to the Director in advance.	M Ward	Workshop held on Wednesday 5 th September 2018. Agenda item	Y
SPR/098/2018	Confirmation of Diversion of Adders Loanin Public Right of Way, Ballyward	It was agreed to confirm the assertion of the proposed diversion as unopposed	H Wilson	Noted	Y
SPR/099/2018	Albert Basin Working Group – Update	It was agreed to approve the procurement of a specialist to review the current 2006 Contamination Report and the procurement of the Topographic and 3D Drone Survey	C Mallon	Noted	Y
SPR/100/2018	Albert Basin Working Group Reporting Arrangements	It was agreed to change the reporting arrangements to the following: * The Albert Basin Task and Finish Group reporting directly to the SPR Committee, with the option to report to AHC Committee in the future, when the project was further defined.	M Lipsett	Noted	Y

ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2015

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SPR/101/2018	Management Accounts	It was agreed to note the Management Accounts to 30 June 2018	K Montgomery	Noted	Y
SPR/102/2018	Access to the Countryside Policy and Procedures	It was agreed to note the contents of the officer's report and approve the adoption of the Access to the Countryside Policy and Procedures appended to the Report, with a review six months from the adoption of the Policy.	H Wilson	Noted	Y
SPR/103/2018	Policy re Conflicts of Interest	It was agreed to note the contents of the officer's report and approve the adoption of the Conflict of Interest Policy and Procedures appending to the Report, with a review one year from the adoption of the Policy.	L Moore	Noted	Y
SPR/104/2018	Updated Whistleblowing Policy	It was agreed to note the contents of the officer's report and approve the updated Whistleblowing Policy appended to the Report.	G Byrne	Noted	Y
SPR/105/2018	Report regarding Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman	It was agreed to note the contents of the officer's report and approve the recommendation in para 3.1 authorising a consolatory payment in the sum outlined in the report, as recommended by the NI Public Services Ombudsman.	A Robb	Noted	Y
SPR/106/2018	Recommendation for Approval Under RPA Staff Severance Scheme for Local Government	It was agreed to accept the officer's recommendation at para 3.1 under RPA Staff Severance Scheme for Local Government.	C Miskelly	Noted	Y
SPR/107/2018	Update on Treasury Management	It was agreed to note the contents of the officer's report containing an update on Treasury Management.	B Phillips	Noted	Y

SPR/108/2018	Action Sheet from Strategic Projects Working Group Meeting held on 26 June 2018	It was agreed to note the actions of Strategic Projects Working Group Meeting of 26 June 2018	D Carville	Noted	Y
SPR/109/2018	Action Sheet from Albert Basin Task and Finish Working Group Meeting held on 6 June 2018	It was agreed to note the actions of Albert Basin Task and Finish Working Group Meeting of 6 June 2018.	M Lipsett	Noted	Y
SPR/110/2018	Draft Minutes of the Community Planning Partnership Board Meeting held on 19 June 2018	It was agreed to note the draft minutes of the Community Planning Partnership Board Meeting held on 19 June 2018.	J McBride	Noted	Y

Report to:	Strategy Policy and Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	Thursday 13 th September 2018
Subject:	Proposed changes to the Planning Committee Scheme of Delegation and Operating Protocol
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Marie Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Anthony McKay, Chief Planning Officer

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-

For decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Decision required whether to accept the revised scheme of delegation and operating protocol.

1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p>The Planning Committee has held a series of workshops over recent months to review the delivery of the planning function within Council.</p> <p>A report was brought to Strategy Policy and Resources (SP&R) Committee on 16 August 2018 seeking acceptance of a revised scheme of delegation and operating protocol for the Planning Committee. SP&R deferred the matter to allow a further workshop to be held involving all Members of Council. The workshop was held on 5 September 2018.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>A wide ranging programme of work has been identified to build upon the many successes achieved in terms of delivery of a planning service but also to address the issues that impact on the quality of the service being delivered.</p> <p>The first key issue to be addressed and the subject matter of this report, is the need for a revised scheme of delegation and operating protocol for the Planning Committee.</p> <p>It is recognised that there is the potential for a significant backlog of applications to build up while awaiting consideration by the Planning Committee. This situation is arising largely as a result of the current requirement that all applications recommended for refusal must be determined by Planning Committee.</p>

	<p>With a mounting number of applications awaiting Committee decisions, it was agreed that there was a need to revisit the premise that all applications recommended for refusal should be determined by Committee.</p> <p>It was generally agreed that the process of referring all refusals of planning permission to Committee would be replaced with a call in system whereby the majority of recommendations on applications would be notified to all Members of Council. Members would have the opportunity to seek to call in applications for Committee consideration subject to valid planning reasons being advanced. Call in requests would be determined by a panel comprising members of the planning committee.</p> <p>The proposed change outlined in the paragraph above is the most significant change being advocated. Other changes proposed within the scheme of delegation and the operating protocol are the widening of speaking right for members allowing them to make representations on applications outside their DEA. In addition the revisions would now make clear that no new information will be accepted after the date that a recommendation is made by the Planning Department, except in exceptional circumstances. A further change would limit the submissions/representations to Planning Committee to 2 pages of A4.</p> <p>The proposed changes are set out in the attached draft scheme of delegation (Appendix 1) and the draft operating protocol (Appendix 2). They seek to build on a series of changes agreed by this Committee in early 2017. The proposed changes provide a mechanism for processing applications in a timely manner, while retaining decision making with Planning Committee members.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	That Committee agree the revised scheme of delegation and operating protocol
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	N/A
5.0	Equality and good relations implications
5.1	N/A
6.0	Rural Proofing implications
6.1	N/A
7.0	Appendices
	<p>Appendix 1 – Draft Scheme of Delegation</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Draft Operating Protocol</p>
8.0	Background Documents



Scheme of Delegation: Delegation of Planning Applications, Enforcement and other Planning Matters.

Introduction

Section 31 of The Planning Act (NI) 2011 requires that the Council must prepare a scheme of delegation by which any application for planning permission for a development within the category of local developments or any application for consent, agreement or approval required by a condition imposed on a grant of planning permission for a development within that category is to be determined by a person appointed by the Council.

Part 4 Section 7 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 allows a Council Committee to delegate certain matters to an Officer of the Council. In relation to the scheme of delegation for planning applications, enforcement and other planning matters the person appointed by the Council to exercise delegated powers is the Chief Planning Officer within the Council and those Officers nominated by this Officer in writing. Any reference to the Chief Planning Officer in Part 1-4 shall also be deemed to be a reference to those Officers.

Scheme of Delegation for Planning Applications

The scheme of delegation for the determination of applications has been agreed by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and is set out in the following paragraphs.

Part 1. Planning Applications required under the Planning Act to be determined by the Planning Committee

The Planning Act (NI) 2011 and the Planning (Development Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 state that the following categories of application cannot be delegated to officers:

- Applications which fall within the 'Major' category of development;
- An application for planning permission where the application is made by the Council or an elected member of the Council;
- The application relates to land in which the Council has an interest or estate.

Part 2. Delegated Planning Applications

The Chief Planning Officer is authorised to determine all planning applications that fall within the 'Local' category of development, applications in relation to tree preservation and those which relate to the issuing of consents and approvals with the following exceptions:

- Applications which are significant departures from the Local Development Plan and which are recommended for approval;
- Applications attracting six or more material planning objections from different addresses where the Officer's recommendation is for approval;
- Applications attracting a material planning objection from a statutory consultee, where the Officer's recommendation is for approval;

- An application which the Chief Planning Officer considers should be brought before and decided by the Planning Committee;
- Applications which are submitted by members of staff directly involved in the consideration of planning applications and Officers of the Council at the level of Head of Service or above.

Where a Member of Council has requested that an application which would ordinarily be delegated is referred to Committee, the Chief Planning Officer, in consultation with the Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson and two other members of the Planning Committee (which in total will reflect the three main political groupings on the Committee) will determine whether that application should be referred to Committee. In all cases a sound planning reason must be given for such a referral. The detailed arrangements for such requests and how they will be processed will be set out in the Committee's Operating Protocol.

The above provision will not apply to applications where there are associated live enforcement issues or where all necessary information pertaining to the application, having been reasonably requested and, without reasonable justification, has not been provided within the timescale stipulated in the written request.

Part 3. Delegation of Enforcement Matters

The Chief Planning Officer is authorised to carry out the enforcement responsibilities set out within The Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, together with all regulations and orders made under the said legislation, on behalf of the Council.

Part 4. Determination of Other Planning Matters

The following functions are also delegated to the Chief Planning Officer:

- The issuing of a certificate of lawful use or development;
- The making of a non-material change to a planning permission;
- The issuing of a correction notice;
- The screening of and determination decisions on development proposals required under the Environmental Impact Assessment or Habitats Regulations;
- Executing works in default of compliance with any notice or order or in an emergency, where empowered by statute, and recovering the costs of so doing;
- Temporary listing of buildings in urgent cases;
- Lodging objections, in consultation with the Chief Executive, in relation to local planning applications where the Council has been notified as part of the neighbourhood notification scheme;
- Generally carrying out all other statutory powers connected to the exercise of the planning functions which have been conferred upon the Council which are not specifically provided for within this Scheme of Delegation.

The Chief Planning Officer may, having taken legal advice, refer a decision back to Committee for reconsideration.

Comhairle Ceantair an Iúir Mhúrn agus an Dúin

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Planning Committee

Operating Protocol

INTRODUCTION

1. The following protocol has been developed for use by the Planning Committee ("the Committee"). It should be read alongside relevant provisions of the Council's Standing Orders and the Code of Conduct for Councillors and is not intended to replace either document. The key aims of the protocol are to ensure that the Committee makes decisions in a sound, lawful and transparent way and in a timely and efficient manner.

REMIT OF THE COMMITTEE

2. The primary roles of the Committee will include:
 - (a) Consideration of applications for planning permission and consents in accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation.
 - (b) Exercising the Council's powers and duties in relation to planning policies and plan strategies.
 - (c) Responding to consultations in relation to regionally significant or major applications to be determined by the Department for Infrastructure or relevant Department or any other Department.

- (d) Responding to consultations issued by the Department for Infrastructure or relevant Department, or any other Department, in relation to planning matters.

FREQUENCY & TIME OF MEETINGS

3. It is recommended the Committee shall meet every fourth week, though there should be flexibility for additional meetings if required.
4. Dates and times will be advertised at least 5 days in advance on the Council website and at the Council's main offices at Downpatrick and Newry.

SCHEME OF DELEGATION

5. As required by Section 31 of the Planning Act (NI) 2011 the Council will operate a scheme of delegation for planning, outlining delegation both to the Committee and Officers (this can be found on the Council's website and at the Council's main offices at Downpatrick and Newry). The overall objective is to ensure that arrangements for decision-making on applications for local developments are effective whilst ensuring that proposals that raise strong local views or issues for the district can be dealt with by elected members. Delegating determination of some planning applications to Officers is also seen as a critical factor affecting the overall performance of the development management process as it helps ensure that decisions are taken at the most appropriate level, procedures are clear and transparent, costs are minimised and Members of Council have more time to concentrate on complex applications.
6. The following applications cannot be delegated and therefore must be presented to the Planning Committee for determination:
 - Applications which fall within the Major category of development;

- An application for planning permission where the application is made by the Council or a Member of Council;
 - The application relates to land in which the Council has an interest or estate.
7. The Scheme of Delegation delegates all local development applications to Officers for determination, whether for approval or refusal, with the following exceptions:
- Applications which are a significant departure from the Local Development Plan and which are recommended for approval;
 - Applications attracting six or more material planning objections from different addresses where the Officer's recommendation is for approval;
 - Applications attracting material planning objection from a statutory consultee, where the Officer's recommendation is for approval;
 - An application which the Chief Planning Officer considers should be brought before and decided by the Planning Committee;
 - Applications which are submitted by members of staff directly involved in the consideration of planning applications and Officers of the Council at the level of Head of Service or above.
8. Enforcement activities are also delegated to The Chief Planning Officer. The Committee will receive regular reports on enforcement matters.

REFERRAL OF DELEGATED APPLICATIONS TO THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

9. The Scheme of Delegation provides that where a Member of Council has requested that an application which would ordinarily be delegated is referred to Committee, the Chief Planning Officer, in consultation with the Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson, and two other Committee Members (which in total will reflect the three main political groupings on the Committee) will determine

whether to do so. In all cases a valid and credible planning reason must be given for such a referral. That referral should set out why it is necessary for Committee to determine the application rather than officers.

10. A weekly list of recommended decisions will issue via email to all Members of Council on the first working day following the week in which the recommendations were formulated. The weekly list will also be published on the Council website.
11. A Member of Council has 5 working days from the date of the email notification sent under paragraph 10 above, in which to submit a request. That request must be submitted via email.
12. The Chief Planning Officer will liaise with a Call in Panel constituted of Committee Members to determine whether the reasons which have been set out in the request constitute valid and credible planning reasons so as to merit referral to Committee. The Call in Panel will comprise the Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson of the Committee together with two other Members of the Committee. The overall makeup of the Panel will reflect the three main political groupings represented on the Committee. The membership of the Call in Panel will be rotated every six months. Where a Panel Member is unable to attend a meeting, a substitute Committee Member shall attend. At all times the makeup of the group shall comprise membership from the three main political groupings represented on the Committee. The Call in Panel's purpose is to consider the strength of the reasons why the applications need to be determined by Committee, but not to determine the merits of applications themselves.
13. The Call in Panel shall meet every fourth week. There shall be flexibility for additional meetings if required.
14. All Members of Council will be advised by email notification as to which applications have been called in to Committee.
15. The above provisions will not apply to applications where there are associated live enforcement issues or where all necessary information pertaining to the

application, having been reasonably requested and, without reasonable justification, has not been provided within the timescale stipulated in the written request.

FORMAT OF MEETINGS

16. Committee Meetings (dates, times and papers) will be published on the Council's website at least 5 days in advance.
17. Case Officer Reports will also be available on the Northern Ireland Planning Portal.

18. Committee papers will typically include the following:

- a) Minutes of the previous meeting for approval;

For decision/discussion

- b) Details of non-delegated applications (including those brought back following deferral) for consideration by the Committee;
- c) Details of applications of regional significance with an impact upon the Council area in respect of which the Council is a statutory consultee or where it may wish to make representations;
- d) Correspondence received from statutory consultees

For noting

- e) Details of proposed pre-determination hearings;
- f) Details of delegated applications for noting only by the Committee;
- g) Details of appeals (notified and concluded).

19. Members, staff directly involved in the consideration of planning applications and Officers of the Council at the level of Head of Service or above must pass to the Planning Case Officer any representation(s) received in respect of a planning application for inclusion in the planning file.

20. A quorum, as outlined in the Council's Standing Orders, is required for the Committee to convene; the quorum being half (six) of the members of the Committee.
21. Committee Members will be required to declare an interest in any item on the agenda at the beginning of the meeting and must then leave the table when the matter in which they have declared an interest is being discussed. Once a decision had been made in respect of that item, the Committee Member will then be invited to return to the table before consideration of the next item commences. The Democratic Services Officer will record when Committee Members enter and leave the room during the course of the Meeting.
22. The Committee will discuss each application that has been presented, for a maximum of 20 minutes (with extension at the Chairperson's discretion), before taking a vote on one of the following options:
 - a) Approve the application with conditions as recommended;
 - b) Approve the application with amendments to the recommended conditions;
 - c) Approve the application contrary to Officer recommendations;
 - d) Refuse the application for the reasons recommended;
 - e) Refuse the application with additional, fewer or amended reasons;
 - f) Refuse the application contrary to Officer recommendations;
 - g) Defer the application with a direction for additional information or clarification; or for a Committee Members' site visit.
23. The Committee can defer consideration of an application to a subsequent meeting for further information, further negotiations or a site visit. Deferrals have an adverse effect on processing times, and the applicant can lodge an appeal after a period of time if the Council has not made a decision. The Committee will therefore generally only defer an application once. The Committee Member proposing deferral must provide clear relevant planning related reasons as to why a deferral is necessary. If a Committee Member was not present for the

initial discussion/debate in relation to a deferred application, or did not attend a site visit, he/she cannot participate in the discussion on, nor vote on that application when it is subsequently presented to Committee.

24. The Chairperson has a casting vote.
25. Committee Members must be present for the entire item, including the Officer's introduction and update, otherwise they cannot take part in the debate or vote on that item. However the Chairperson of the Planning Committee can use their discretion in exceptional circumstances in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders.
26. Following issue of the agenda Committee Members may request the attendance of statutory consultees and this request must be submitted through the Chief Planning Officer at least one week in advance of the Committee Meeting.

PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS

27. Meetings of the Committee will be open to the public, however, seating within the Committee Chamber will be limited according to the venue capacity and associated fire and safety regulations.
28. Seating for the applicant and/or their agent and objectors will be reserved but only for the time during which the relevant application is being considered. Otherwise seating will be on first come first served basis.
29. If a member of the public wishes to speak at Committee they must contact Democratic Services by telephone or by email (democratic.services@nmandd.org) at least 5 working days before the date of the meeting at which the application will be considered. Only those who have

made written submissions in respect of a planning application and registered a request to speak in respect of the application shall be permitted to make oral representations before the Committee.

30. The purpose of written and oral representations to Committee is to highlight the key points already made by or on behalf of the person throughout the processing of an application. If a person wishes to rely upon information it is important that is provided to officers as early as possible in the process. A deputation shall not be permitted to raise any new matters or produce information which was not before officers at the time the recommendation was made unless they can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Committee that the matter could not have been raised before that time, or that it's not being raised before that time was a consequence of exceptional circumstances.
31. Each deputation or individual requesting to appear before the Committee shall submit a prepared statement extending to no more than 2 A4 pages (at least Font Size: 11 if the submission is typed) at least 5 working days in advance of the date of the meeting at which the application will be considered. Each deputation or individual requesting to appear before the Committee who wishes to make use of a visual presentation (Powerpoint presentation) shall submit the presentation at least 5 working days in advance of the date of the meeting at which the application will be considered.
32. Deputations will not be permitted to circulate papers to Committee Members at the Committee Meeting.
33. All Committee papers will be available online. However, access to some documentation may be restricted by virtue of the Council's publication policy. Information which is determined to be exempt by virtue of Schedule 6 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Act 2014 may be published where the Council considers that the public interest in disclosing same outweighs the public interest in maintaining the exemption.

34. Documentation should not be provided directly to a Member of Council. However, if documentation is provided directly to any Member of Council in relation to a particular application it must be copied to Democratic Services Section and to the Chief Planning Officer.
35. Deputations shall be heard in the following order:
 - a) Objectors and/or their representatives;
 - b) Applicant and/or their representatives and/or those supporting the application
36. The Council will not notify applicants or those who have made representations in respect of a particular planning application that a request to address the Committee has been received. Applicants and those who have made representations in respect of a particular application that appears on the Committee agenda may contact Democratic Services in advance of the relevant meeting to ascertain whether there have been any such applications.
37. Only one deputation on behalf of those objecting to the application will be permitted to address the Committee. Only one deputation on behalf of the applicant and/or those supporting the application will be permitted to address the Committee. Additionally Members of Council may make the representations in accordance with this Protocol.
38. Deputations, unless otherwise agreed in advance by the Committee, shall consist of no more than 3 persons. Where there are 3 or more persons or groups wishing to address the Committee they will be required to arrange a single deputation to express their representations.
39. If more than 3 persons have registered a request to speak in support of or in objection to an application, the Council will notify, in so far as reasonably

practicable, those persons that they may not be guaranteed an opportunity to address the Committee. They will be invited to attend Council offices an hour before the Committee is due to start so that they can agree a deputation of speakers. If agreement cannot be reached the places on the deputation shall be allocated by Planning Officers so as to ensure that the deputation is representative of the range of issues raised by those who have made representations.

40. The applicants or their representatives, right to address Committee shall be prioritised over other persons/groups wishing to speak in support of an application.
41. Deputations shall be confined to the making of a 5 minute address either by each member of the deputation or, should they so wish, by their nominated spokesperson or legal advisor.
42. Each deputation shall be permitted a maximum of 5 minutes to address the Committee. Where more than one person wishes to speak, the 5 minutes will be shared between the members of the deputation.
43. All members of a deputation must continue to be seated and remain silent whilst other deputations are being made to the Committee.
44. Cross-examination, discussion or any type of debate between persons making representation to Committee shall not be permitted.
45. Once all deputations have been made, by invitation of the Committee Chairperson, the parties shall be permitted an opportunity to rebut any factual inaccuracies which may have arisen from the oral representations of another deputation but it will only be permitted in respect of a factual inaccuracy which they have not had a previous opportunity to comment upon. This will be strictly

limited to responding to any such issue and the party will not be permitted to rehearse representations which have already been made.

46. The Committee may, upon advice from officers, exclude any deputation from being present during the whole or part of the time due to the confidential nature of the information being presented; or for such other reasons as may be deemed appropriate having regard to Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.
47. The Committee may seek clarification from those who have spoken on any issues raised by them but must not enter into a debate.
48. Officers can address any issues raised during the course of representations from any deputation and the Committee may seek clarification from Officers.
49. The Chairperson will ensure that those making representation to the Committee adhere to the time limits set out in this protocol. These time limits will have been communicated to those making representations in advance of the meeting.
50. The Chairperson may at any time during the hearing of deputations, if they think it necessary to secure order, suspend the meeting and direct the removal of any individual from the meeting, or order that the meeting be cleared of all deputations.
51. When hearing deputations, the Chairperson will require Committee Members engaging in debate to desist, until such time as all relevant information has been received.
52. The Chairperson may bring the questioning of any person appearing before the Committee to a close provided s/he is satisfied that all relevant issues have been addressed. The Chairperson may also prevent duplication of questions being put.

53. If a Committee Member moves that the question be put to a vote and the Chairperson is of the opinion that the application before the Committee has been sufficiently discussed, s/he shall put the motion to the vote.

REPRESENTATIONS BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

54. Members of Council who wish to address the Committee, must notify Democratic Services 5 working days prior to the Committee meeting. The Member of Council shall have previously requested the application be referred to the Committee in accordance with Paragraph 9 of this Protocol.
55. The Member of Council shall also be subject to the provisions of paragraphs 30-32 of this Protocol in relation to their nature and content of their representations to Committee.
56. Members of Council who wish to address the Committee will be permitted to do so for a maximum of 2 minutes. This 2 minutes shall be shared among all Members of Council wishing to address the Committee, regardless of the number of Members of Council to speak.
57. Committee Members who wish to support or oppose an application are free to do so but cannot take part in the decision-making process. It is important that the public see that they are not acting in their capacity as a Committee Member. When that application is being discussed the Committee Member must leave their seat and sit with the other parties who are making representations. Once a decision has been made on that application the Committee Member can return to their seat as part of the Committee.

DECISIONS CONTRARY TO OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

58. The power to decide an application lies with the Committee and it is entitled to come to a decision contrary to Officers' recommendations.
59. Any such decision may be subject to legal challenge and Committee Members must therefore ensure that the rationale for the decision is fully explained and based on proper planning considerations.
60. The Chief Planning Officer or other Senior Planning Officer and/or the Council's Legal Advisor will always be given the opportunity to explain the implications of the Committee's decision prior to a vote being taken on any such proposal.
61. The reasons for the decision contrary to the Officer's recommendation must be formally recorded in the minutes and a copy placed on the planning application file/electronic record.

DECISIONS CONTRARY TO PLANNING POLICY

62. In general, planning decisions should be taken in accordance with the relevant Development Plan and any other associated planning policy documents. If a Committee Member proposes, seconds or supports a decision contrary to the local Development Plan they will need to clearly identify and understand the planning reasons for doing so, and clearly demonstrate how these reasons justify departure from the relevant Development Plan. The reasons for any decisions which are made contrary to the relevant Development Plan must be formally recorded in the Minutes and a copy placed on the planning application file/electronic record.

PRE- DETERMINATION HEARINGS

63. The Committee must hold pre-determination hearings for those major developments which have been subject to notification in accordance with Regulation 7 of the Planning (Development Management) Regulations (NI) 2015 (i.e. referred to the Department but returned to the Council for determination) prior to the application being determined.
64. If the Case Officer recommends approval in the circumstances set out within The Planning (Notification of Applications) Direction 2015, the application will be reported to Committee as a minded to approve report. If Committee is minded to agree with the Officer recommendation, the application must be notified to the Department who may decide to 'call in' the application. If the Department do not 'call in' the application, Committee must hold a pre-determination hearing and all those persons who submitted representations to the application should be afforded an opportunity to appear before the Committee, subject to the provisions of this Protocol. No decision is taken at a pre-determination hearing.
65. The Committee may also hold a pre-determination hearing, at its own discretion, where the Committee considers it necessary to do so.
66. A pre-determination hearing will take place after the expiry of the period for making representations on the application but before the Committee meeting which is due to determine the application.
67. After the pre-determination hearing, Officers will prepare a report taking into account the representations made and present that to a subsequent Committee which then proceed to determine the application. In exceptional circumstances the Committee may depart from that procedure and hold the pre-determination meeting and substantive decision making meeting on the same date.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

68. The Local Development Plan will be prepared by the Development Plan Team and considered and agreed by Council's Strategy Policy and Resources Committee in conjunction with the Planning Committee. It will then require approval by resolution of the Council.
69. The Strategy Policy and Resources Committee, in conjunction with the Planning Committee, shall ensure that the Local Development Plan is monitored annually, particularly in terms of the availability of housing and economic development land.
70. The Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee, in conjunction with the Planning Committee, shall review the Local Development Plan every five years.

SITE VISITS

71. Site visits may be arranged subject to Committee agreement. They should normally only be arranged where the impact of the proposed development is difficult to visualise from the plans and other available material and the expected benefit outweighs the delay and additional costs that will be incurred.
72. No one, other than Members of the Committee and Officers plus any other statutory consultees, may participate in a site visit.
73. Committee Members will not carry out their own unaccompanied site visits as there may be issues around permission to access the land, they will not have all of the relevant information from the relevant Planning Officer and, if a Committee Member is seen with an applicant or objector, it might lead to allegations of bias.

74. A nominated Officer shall attend the site visit and will record the date of the visit, attendees and any other relevant information. This record will be placed on the planning application file/electronic record.
75. The Chairperson, or Deputy Chairperson in the Chairperson's absence, with the assistance of Council Officers present, will ensure that the site visit is conducted in accordance with this Protocol and the Code of Conduct for Councillors and will ensure that the merits of the application are not discussed.
76. The Planning Officer will remind Committee Members, at the outset of the site visit, of the proposal and the main issues.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Section 75 Policy Screening Report
Quarterly Report April - June 2018

Policy	Details of policy	Screening Outcome
Disciplinary and Dismissal Procedure	The aim of the procedure is to ensure all Council employees are encouraged to achieve and maintain appropriate standards of conduct, performance and behaviour.	No EQIA considered necessary
Grievance Procedure	<p>The aim is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure the Council manages the grievance procedure in a way that which aims to bring about a prompt resolution; • ensure as far as possible a consistent approach in dealing with grievances; • ensure employees are treated fairly, sympathetically and with dignity throughout the process; and • provide managers with a framework for managing grievances. 	No EQIA considered necessary
Newry, Mourne and Down Local Development Plan 2030: Preferred Options Paper	<p>The Preferred Options Paper (POP) is a new feature of the Local Development Plan process specifically brought into effect by Part 3 of The Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and subsequent transfer of powers to Local Authorities in April 2015.</p> <p>The purpose of the POP is to set out the vision, strategy and objectives for the district up to 2030 and to identify key planning issues of strategic significance that are likely to influence the shape of future development in the district.</p> <p>The POP seeks to stimulate wide-ranging, yet focused debate on the identified key planning issues that have emerged or been identified through</p>	No EQIA considered necessary

	<p>the work undertaken in developing the evidence base for the LDP.</p> <p>It aims to ensure that all interested parties become involved in a more meaningful way at the earliest stage of the LDP preparation process.</p> <p>The POP is the first public consultation document to be issued in the LDP process. It focuses on strategic planning issues and any consultation responses received will be considered and feed into the next stage in the LDP preparation- the Plan Strategy which will establish the strategic direction of the LDP for the future development of the district.</p> <p>The key issues identified for the POP fall under the following broad strategic themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spatial Growth Strategy; • Social • Economic • Environmental 	
Installation of height restriction barriers at Downs Road and Glen River car parks in Newcastle	The aim is to maximise available parking capacity at specific sites and reduce parking contraventions.	No EQIA considered necessary

Report to:	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	13 September 2018
Subject:	Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period April - June 2018
Reporting Officer:	Regina Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning and Policy
Contact Officer:	Colin Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-

For decision	For noting only	X
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p>In line with Council's Section 75 statutory duties and commitments within our approved Equality Scheme, policy screening reports are published quarterly.</p> <p>The Quarterly Report for the period April - June 2018, including screening reports, is available on Council's website www.newrymournedown.org. This information has also been forwarded to all equality consultees.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>As per the Council's approved Equality Scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All policies Council proposes to adopt must be equality screened, prior to implementation, to assess the likely impact of the policy on the promotion of equality of opportunity and/or good relations. • Council must publish quarterly reports on equality screening which are available on Council's website and forwarded to equality scheme consultees.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To note the Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period April - June 2018.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	No financial or resources implications are anticipated.
5.0	Equality and good relations implications
5.1	<p>No equality and good relations implications are anticipated.</p> <p>Publishing quarterly reports, including screening reports, making them available on Council's website www.newrymournedown.org, and forwarding this information to all equality consultees is in accordance with the commitments contained within the Council's approved Equality Scheme.</p>
6.0	Rural Proofing implications
6.1	The Section 75 Policy Screening Report details policies screened within the designated period and does not fall within the scope of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.

7.0	Appendices
	Appendix 1: Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period January – March 2018.
8.0	Background Documents
	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Equality Scheme (approved by ECNI 25 March 2015)

Report to:	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	13 September 2018
Subject:	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Public Authority Statutory Equality and Good Relations Duties Annual Progress Report 2017-18
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Colin Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Colin Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy Suzanne Rice, Corporate Policy & Equality Officer

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-

For decision	For noting only	x
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	The report is in line with Council's Section 75 statutory duties and commitments within our approved Equality Scheme, wherein Council will prepare an annual report on the progress made on implementing the arrangements set out in its equality scheme to discharge its Section 75 statutory duties.
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>As per the Council's approved Equality Scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Section 75 annual progress report should be sent to the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland by 31 August each year and will follow any guidance on annual reporting issued by the Equality Commission. • The latest Section 75 annual progress report should be available on Council's website. • To meet the required deadline the draft report has been submitted by 31 August 2018 to the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland advising the report will be considered at the Council's Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee on 13 September 2018, the report of which will be adopted at the Council's Monthly meeting on 1 October 2018, and that they will be advised should any amendments arise.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To note Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Public Authority Statutory Equality and Good Relations Duties Annual Progress Report for the period 2017-18 for submission to the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Associated financial and resource implications relate to the implementation of commitments within the Council's approved equality scheme, including those related to an audit of inequalities, developing an action measures plan, consultation, monitoring and training.

5.0	Equality and good relations implications
5.1	No equality and good relations implications are anticipated. The report is in line with Council's Section 75 statutory duties and commitments within our approved Equality Scheme, wherein Council will prepare an annual report on the progress made on implementing the arrangements set out in its equality scheme to discharge its Section 75 statutory duties.
6.0	Rural Proofing implications
6.1	The annual progress report to the Equality Commission provides an update on positive actions undertaken by Council throughout the 2017-2018 financial year and does not fall within the scope of the Rural Needs Act Northern Ireland 2016.
7.0	Appendices
	Appendix 1: Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Public Authority Statutory Equality and Good Relations Duties Annual Progress Report 2017-18.
8.0	Background Documents
	None

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council



Public Authority Statutory Equality and Good Relations Duties Annual Progress Report 2017-18

Contact:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 75 of the NI Act 1998 and Equality Scheme 	Name:	Colin Moffett
	Telephone:	02830313081
	Email:	Colin.moffett@nmandd.org
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 49A of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and Disability Action Plan 	As above	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (double click to open)
	Name:	
	Telephone:	
	Email:	

Documents published relating to our Equality Scheme can be found at:

www.newrymournedown.org

Signature:



This report has been prepared using a template circulated by the Equality Commission.

It presents our progress in fulfilling our statutory equality and good relations duties, and implementing Equality Scheme commitments and Disability Action Plans.

This report reflects progress made between April 2017 and March 2018

PART A – Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and Equality Scheme

Section 1: Equality and good relations outcomes, impacts and good practice

- 1 In 2017-18, please provide **examples** of key policy/service delivery developments made by the public authority in this reporting period to better promote equality of opportunity and good relations; and the outcomes and improvements achieved.

Please relate these to the implementation of your statutory equality and good relations duties and Equality Scheme where appropriate.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council continues to view all of its programmes as work in progress. Accordingly, the key policy/service developments made by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to better promote equality of opportunity and good relations included:

- Engagement with relevant key stakeholders (both internal and external) to develop and produce the Council's Audit of Inequalities and Equality Action Plan in late 2017. The Plan was formally approved by Council in March 2018 and is currently open to a 12 week public consultation process which will close on the 17th August 2018. The plan details the Councils commitment to delivering positive actions from 2018-2020.
- Implementation of the Council's Financial Assistance Programme. Questions regarding how each applicant's project will promote equality of opportunity and improve good relations are integrated within the application form and the assessment process. The application form was amended in the 2017-2018 financial year and now addresses Equality of Opportunity and Good Relations as one specific question.
- Implementation of the Council's Good Relations Programme through the Good Relations Strategy 2015-18 which was as a result of an audit to identify strategic issues and priorities emerging for the Council area. The Council's Good Relations Strategy complements the themes outlined in the Together Building and United Community Strategy and the policy context both locally and regionally. Many of the actions detailed with the action plan are addressed at a local level through the council's seven DEA forums. In the 2017-2018 financial year each forum was allocated a budget of £8000 from the action plan to deliver good relations activities within their area. Examples of initiatives supported included cross community schools projects, cultural diversity events, crime prevention events for older people within the community, youth recognition awards and health and well-being events.
- The Good Relations action plan also supports a number of initiatives directly. Examples of this is the support for Travelling Community programmes through the Newry, Mourne and Down District Traveller Forum. The Newry, Mourne and Down Traveller Forum is facilitated by the Council and members include Elected Representatives, Education Authority, SCSCCT, voluntary and community sector organisations and members of the Travelling community. The Traveller Forum aims to promote an inclusive and civil society in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area by championing Traveller rights and addressing current provisions for

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the Traveller community within the district. The Forum meets quarterly. The Traveller Forum has engaged with the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission on the Traveller Accommodation study which was officially launched in March 2018. The Traveller forum is working towards actioning all the recommendations identified in the study for local authorities in the 2018-2019 financial year.

- The action plan also supports the Newry and Districts Interchurch forum which brings together representatives from different churches within the district. The forum meets monthly and organises events such as seminars and plays which aim to promote a better understanding and engagement amongst its members and the wider public. Support was also provided to the Castlewellan Churches forum whose events promote inclusion and like the Newry and district forum promotes engagement amongst its members and public
- Continued the Implementation of a Councillors' Equality and Good Relations Reference Group. The Councillors' Equality and Good Relations Reference Group is a facilitated discussion space. The reference group is the Council's vehicle for considering and discussing politically sensitive and contentious issues, including those relating to events, policy and procedure, single issues requiring specific consideration for advice, and guidance on the establishment of wider good relations fora etc with a view of reaching a common understanding, agreement and actions. The Reference group has held 6 meetings in the 2017-2018 financial year and continues to be an excellent resource to council for addressing sensitive issues such as Raymond McCreesh Park, Culture and Tradition, language and centenaries.
- In acknowledgement of the ongoing growth of migrant workers and ethnic minority community within the Newry and Mourne District Council area, the Council has continued to take forward a number of projects aimed at addressing the needs of Black and Minority Ethnic residents. The key initiative was maintaining and further developing the Ethnic Minority Support Centre based in Newry, and advice clinics in Newry Housing Executive, Newry Citizens Advice Bureau and Downpatrick. This has encompassed a number of projects aimed at addressing the needs of Black and Minority Ethnic residents, providing advice and support, signposting of services, and examining the barriers to services and cultural awareness. Advice and information is available in English, Bulgarian, Polish, Lithuanian, Russian and Romanian. In 2017 2542 people availed of the service with approximately 500 people in the first quarter of 2018. In this financial year, the centre has also established a weekly Arabic clinic for Syrian families and is held each Friday.
- Management and distribution of OFMDFM Crisis Fund: In November 2017 the Ethnic Minority Support Office received a total of £5000 from the OFMDFM crisis fund. As a source of financial support for families in need or homeless individuals, the money from the OFMDFM crisis fund was allocated to more than 80 beneficiaries who had been suffering hardship mainly due to the delays in processing their Job Seekers Allowance/Employment and Support Allowance/Tax credits claims.
- Continue to Implement the Shopmobility Scheme at Newcastle Centre, Newcastle. Used 101 times during the 2017/2018 reporting period, this initiative has had a positive impact for people with mobility issues, encouraging participation in public life through increasing access to services, and enhanced the tourism experience for people with disability. The Equality Action plan details this positive action and recommends investigating the expansion of the scheme to other towns within the

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district.

- The Council's Activity Officer (formally Disability Liaison Officer) continued to work with local disability organisations to identify opportunities for people with a disability to play an active role in society be it through sporting or social activities.
- Ongoing Member Accreditation from Employers for Disability Northern Ireland;
- Newry, Mourne and Down Intercultural Forum. Council is a member of the Newry, Mourne & Down Intercultural Forum, which is an inter-agency group committed to working together towards an inclusive community to create opportunities that embrace diversity. In the 2017-2018 financial year the forum secured funding from the PEACE IV programme to develop a strategy and action plan for the work of the forum going forward.
- Age related initiatives coordinated by Age Friendly Coordinator, including participation in Positive Ageing Week October 2017 event held in Newry Sports Centre. This event brought representatives from statutory agencies and support organisations for older member with approximately 300 people in attendance.
- Ongoing commitment and participation in the Local Government Staff Commission's Equality and Diversity in Local Council's initiative and appointment of Diversity Champions.
- Challenges for policing in a multicultural society. More than 70 police officers from the Police Service of Northern Ireland and An Garda Siochana took part In a workshop at which they outlined the challenges of policing and shared examples of best practise.

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- 2 Please provide **examples** of outcomes and/or the impact of **equality action plans/** measures in 2017-18 (*or append the plan with progress/examples identified*).

As part of local government reform, the Council's Corporate Policy and Equality Officer was formally appointed to post in December 2017. The officer reports directly to the Head of Corporate Policy and is responsible for a number of duties including:

- To identify and implement positive actions to promote an equality and diversity culture within the Council consistent with the principles of the Equality and Diversity Framework.
- Implementation of the Council's Equality Action Plan to ensure compliance with section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act.
- Assist in the co-ordination of the Council's Equality and Good Relations Reference group.

Since appointment, the Corporate Policy and Equality Officer in December 2017 has continued the consultation initiated by the Head of Corporate Policy and consulted with officials and representatives from external agencies to develop the Council's audit of inequalities and production of the Council's Equality Action plan 2018-2020. The Action plan was formally adopted by Council in March 2018 and is currently open to a 12 week public consultation period. The plan details 24 positive actions under five principles. A number of areas identified within the plan are rolling actions that continue to be addressed throughout the year. This includes the delivery of training, screening of policies and monitoring of data.

Positive actions in the 2017-2018 financial year include the following:

- Continue to Implement the Shopmobility Scheme at the Newcastle Centre in Newcastle. Used 101 times during the 2017/2018 reporting period, this initiative has had a positive impact for people with mobility issues, encouraging participation in public life through increasing access to services, and enhanced the tourism experience for people with disability. The Equality Action recommends officers investigate the expansion of the scheme to other towns within the district.
- Continue to implement the Ethnic Minority Support Centre and outreach clinics. The Centre operates 5 days a week and has four outreach clinics. There is a weekly advice clinic held in partnership with Northern Ireland Housing Executive in both Newry and Downpatrick. The centre also offers weekly welfare and employment rights clinic delivered by Newry and Downpatrick Citizens Advice and weekly Arabic clinic for refugees in conjunction with the Muslim Association of Newry and Barnardo's Belfast. The Profile of the clients has changed dramatically in the 2017-2018 year in comparison to 2016 and has seen Bulgarian Clients availing of the services of the centre.
- The Council's Equality and Good Relations Reference Group continued to be utilised within Council in the 2017-2018 financial year as the vehicle to discuss sensitive issues in a shared space outside the council chamber. The group is independently facilitated by John Kremer and six meetings of the reference group took place in the 2017 – 2018 financial year. Items discussed at the meetings of the reference group included

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Bilingual signage, culture and tradition, naming of Raymond McCreesh Park and the Councils Play strategy.

- Training programmes delivered for elected members and officials during the 2017-2018 financial year included Rural Needs Act, Code of Conduct, Dignity at Work, Standing Orders and Planning Committee Training.
- Delivery of Good Relations activity through the Council's seven District Electoral forums. Initiatives included cross community school events, engagement with old people's groups and women's groups.
- Support the development of the two youth councils in the district. Implementation of good relations events which included bringing together 30 youth council members to take part in seminars and workshops which concentrated on the impact of sectarianism and racism and celebrating cultural diversity in October 2017.
- Continued to support the Greater Mournes Good Relations Forum in 2017. The Forum consist of individuals from different religious and ethnic backgrounds who come together to openly discuss sensitive GR issues. Meetings took place in June and September 2017.
- Implementation of the Council's Good Relations financial assistance call in June 2017 with 32 groups awarded funding towards good relations related activity in September 2017.
- Establishment of both an Irish Language financial assistance theme and an Irish Language Bursary Scheme for the period 2018-2019.
- It was agreed that the Irish Language financial assistance scheme has two specific themes, as follows:
 - **Theme 1: Irish language community renewal and development**
An open call for projects / initiatives that encourage Irish language community capacity building, mentoring and volunteering. It is envisaged that this scheme will inspire better developed Irish language communities to partner with newer or developing language communities to share resources and build better networks and encourage volunteering.
 - **Theme 2: Positively engaging the Irish language**
An open call for community engagement projects /initiatives to build positive relations, raise awareness and understanding, address perceptions and promote respect for the Irish language.
- The purpose of the Irish Language Bursary Scheme is to assist individuals to improve Irish Language skills through providing scholarships or bursaries for accredited Irish language courses, including Gaeltacht colleges, intensive courses and third level courses.

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- 3** Has the **application of the Equality Scheme** commitments resulted in any **changes** to policy, practice, procedures and/or service delivery areas during the 2017-18 reporting period? *(tick one box only)*

☐ Yes ☒ No (go to Q.4) ☐ Not applicable (go to Q.4)

Please provide any details and examples:

- 3a** With regard to the change(s) made to policies, practices or procedures and/or service delivery areas, what **difference was made, or will be made, for individuals**, i.e. the impact on those according to Section 75 category?

Please provide any details and examples:

- 3b** What aspect of the Equality Scheme prompted or led to the change(s)? *(tick all that apply)*

☐ As a result of the organisation's screening of a policy *(please give details):*

☐ As a result of what was identified through the EQIA and consultation exercise *(please give details):*

☐ As a result of analysis from monitoring the impact *(please give details):*

☐ As a result of changes to access to information and services *(please specify and give details):*

☐ Other *(please specify and give details):*

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Section 2: Progress on Equality Scheme commitments and action plans/measures

Arrangements for assessing compliance (Model Equality Scheme Chapter 2)

4 Were the Section 75 statutory duties integrated within job descriptions during the 2017-18 reporting period? *(tick one box only)*

- ☐ Yes, organisation wide
- ☒ Yes, some departments/jobs
- ☐ No, this is not an Equality Scheme commitment
- ☐ No, this is scheduled for later in the Equality Scheme, or has already been done
- ☐ Not applicable

Please provide any details and examples:

The job matching and recruitment process continued during the 2017-2018 financial year. Examples of specifically relevant duties and responsibilities listed in new job descriptions include the following:

- Promote diversity across the organisation and in the Department by adhering to the Council's Equal Opportunity policies and procedures and avoiding all forms of discrimination both as an employer and a service provider.
- Promote Equality and Diversity across the organisation by demonstrating an open commitment to and actively promoting and celebrating diversity, promoting social inclusion and community cohesion.
- Work towards improving equality and diversity by ensuring that allocated targets to reduce inequalities and promote good relations are achieved.

5 Were the Section 75 statutory duties integrated within performance plans during the 2017-18 reporting period? *(tick one box only)*

- ☐ Yes, organisation wide
- ☒ Yes, some departments/jobs
- ☐ No, this is not an Equality Scheme commitment
- ☐ No, this is scheduled for later in the Equality Scheme, or has already been done
- ☐ Not applicable

Please provide any details and examples:

The **Council's Corporate Plan** outlines a commitment to core values to being citizen focused, accountable, collaborative, sustainable and fair. We are also committed to delivering on the promotion of equality of opportunity and good relations in accordance

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with our statutory duties as laid out in Section 75 of The Northern Ireland Act 1998.

The **Corporate Services Directorate Business Plan 2017-2018** made direct reference to the Section 75 statutory duties and actions relating to the implementation of the Council's Equality Scheme.

The **Council's Performance Improvement Plan** makes direct reference to its statutory duties and the performance improvement objectives will deliver positive outcomes for all citizens of the district in terms of Equality of opportunity and Good Relations.

In the 2017-18 reporting period were **objectives/ targets/ performance measures** relating to the Section 75 statutory duties **integrated** into corporate plans, strategic planning and/or operational business plans? *(tick all that apply)*

- ☐ Yes, through the work to prepare or develop the new corporate plan
- ☐ Yes, through organisation wide annual business planning
- ☒ Yes, in some departments/jobs
- ☐ No, these are already mainstreamed through the organisation's ongoing corporate plan
- ☐ No, the organisation's planning cycle does not coincide with this 2017-18 report
- ☐ Not applicable

Please provide any details and examples:

During the reporting period the Council's equality and policy functions were located within the Corporate Services Directorate, within the Corporate Planning and Policy Department. The Corporate Services Directorate Business Plan 2017-2018 made direct reference to the Section 75 statutory duties and actions relating to the implementation of the Council's Equality Scheme. This outlined key directorate actions, and a timetable / measure of success, related directly to Council's agreed Corporate Plan Objective of a transformed & modernised the Council, providing accessible as well as value for money services.

In addition, as stated previously, all employees of the predecessor organisations have transferred to Newry, Mourne and Down District Council under TUPE arrangements. Examples of specifically relevant duties and responsibilities listed in new job descriptions include the following:

- Promote diversity across the organisation and in the Department by adhering to the Council's Equal Opportunity policies and procedures and avoiding all forms of discrimination both as an employer and a service provider.
- Promote Equality and Diversity across the organisation by demonstrating an open commitment to and actively promoting and celebrating diversity, promoting social inclusion and community cohesion.

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- Work towards improving equality and diversity by ensuring that allocated targets to reduce inequalities and promote good relations are achieved.

Equality action plans/measures

7 Within the 2017-18 reporting period, please indicate the **number** of:

Actions completed:

4

Actions ongoing:

10

Actions to commence:

10

Please provide any details and examples (*in addition to question 2*):

Equality and Good Relations Training Programme – In the 2017-2018 financial year, training programmes delivered included four Rural Needs training sessions, two for elected representatives and two sessions delivered for officials between September 2017 and March 2018.. John Kremer delivered two training sessions on equality screening for council officials in February 2018.

Council continues to utilise the Councillors' Equality and Good Relations Reference Group with six meetings held in the financial year. The meetings were facilitated by John Kremer.

The Council's Good Relations Action Plan detailed support and assistance to each of the seven District Electoral Area forums. In the 2017 - 2018 financial year each forum was allocated a specific budget to deliver Good Relations initiatives in line with local need.

The equality screening of policies is an ongoing process and these are detailed within the quarterly screening reports tabled for consideration at the Council's Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council became a signatory to the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland's Every Customer Counts Charter in March 2018 and are currently working to ensure that Council meets its commitment to this initiative.

8 Please give details of changes or amendments made to the equality action plan/measures during the 2017-18 reporting period (*points not identified in an appended plan*):

As stated previously, the council is currently out to a 12 week public consultation on the draft Equality Action plan 2018-2020 agreed by Council in March 2018. The proposed positive actions are set out within the context of the five principles of the Local Government Staff Commission for Northern Ireland's Equality and Diversity in Local Councils Framework:

Principle 1: ensuring we work in a non – discriminatory environment, promote equality of opportunity and model of best practise in equality and good relations;

- Five positive actions identified

Principle 2: Ensuring all our decisions are based on evidence to assess the likely impact of a policy on the promotion of equality and good relations;

- Seven positive actions identified

PART A

Principle 3: Providing access to services, facilities and information;

- Six positive actions identified

Principle 4: Recruiting and employing people fairly;

- Four positive actions identified

Principle 5: Responding to and learning from complaints and incidents in a positive and proactive manner

- Two positive actions identified

A total of 24 positive actions are detailed under the five themes, and while some are actions which roll from year to year, the majority of the actions are yet to commence as the consultation period is still open.

- 9 In reviewing progress on the equality action plan/action measures during the 2017-18 reporting period, the following have been identified: *(tick all that apply)*

- ☒ Continuing action(s), to progress the next stage addressing the known inequality
- ☒ Action(s) to address the known inequality in a different way
- ☒ Action(s) to address newly identified inequalities/recently prioritised inequalities
- ☐ Measures to address a prioritised inequality have been completed

Arrangements for consulting (Model Equality Scheme Chapter 3)

- 10 Following the initial notification of consultations, a targeted approach was taken – and consultation with those for whom the issue was of particular relevance: *(tick one box only)*

- ☒ All the time ☐ Sometimes ☐ Never

- 11 Please provide any **details and examples of good practice** in consultation during the 2017-18 reporting period, on matters relevant (e.g. the development of a policy that has been screened in) to the need to promote equality of opportunity and/or the desirability of promoting good relations:

- 12 In the 2017-18 reporting period, given the consultation methods offered, which consultation methods were **most frequently used by consultees**: *(tick all that apply)*

- ☒ Face to face meetings
- ☒ Focus groups

PART A

- ☒ Written documents with the opportunity to comment in writing
- ☒ Questionnaires
- ☒ Information/notification by email with an opportunity to opt in/out of the consultation
- ☐ Internet discussions
- ☐ Telephone consultations
- ☐ Other *(please specify)*:

Please provide any details or examples of the uptake of these methods of consultation in relation to the consultees' membership of particular Section 75 categories:

13 Were any awareness-raising activities for consultees undertaken, on the commitments in the Equality Scheme, during the 2017-18 reporting period? *(tick one box only)*

- ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Not applicable

Please provide any details and examples:

14 Was the consultation list reviewed during the 2017-18 reporting period? *(tick one box only)*

- ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not applicable – no commitment to review

In line with GDPR regulations, the consultation list is currently being reviewed.

Arrangements for assessing and consulting on the likely impact of policies (Model Equality Scheme Chapter 4)

15 Please provide the **number** of policies screened during the year *(as recorded in screening reports)*:

19

PART A

16 Please provide the **number of assessments** that were consulted upon during 2017-18:

0	Policy consultations conducted with screening assessment presented.
0	Policy consultations conducted with an equality impact assessment (EQIA) presented.
0	Consultations for an EQIA alone.

17 Please provide details of the **main consultations** conducted on an assessment (as described above) or other matters relevant to the Section 75 duties:

N/A

18 Were any screening decisions (or equivalent initial assessments of relevance) reviewed following concerns raised by consultees? *(tick one box only)*

☒ Yes ☐ No concerns were raised ☐ No ☐ Not applicable

Please provide any details and examples:

As detailed in the previous annual progress report for the period 2016-2017, Council received a complaint from Imtac regarding Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Pavement Café Designation Policy and equality screening, requesting the policy be subject to an equality impact assessment.

Having considered Imtac's correspondence, Council updated the original equality screening as it did not reflect amendments of the policy and did not make direct reference to the potential impact upon older people, families and carers and young people.

However it was the view that this did not alter the original decision of screening that the pavement café designation policy is subject to an EQIA (with no mitigating measures required.)

This was on the basis that the guidance provided by Imtac was not a legislative requirement, and the Council's policy positively outlines the matters the Council shall take account of in determining the suitability of each proposed area covered by the licence, details to be provided by applicants, adequately addresses issues of clearance and appropriate screening of licensed areas, and advises the circumstances where the Council may revoke a pavement café licence.

Council was satisfied and confident the policy provides an effective framework to enable Council decide whether to designate a street or part thereof as a pavement café and whether to grant or refuse an application for a pavement café, and at this time does not consider the policy required to be subject to an equality impact assessment.

PART A

Arrangements for publishing the results of assessments (Model Equality Scheme Chapter 4)

- 19** Following decisions on a policy, were the results of any EQLAs published during the 2017-18 reporting period? *(tick one box only)*

☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ Not applicable

Please provide any details and examples:

Arrangements for monitoring and publishing the results of monitoring (Model Equality Scheme Chapter 4)

- 20** From the Equality Scheme monitoring arrangements, was there an audit of existing information systems during the 2017-18 reporting period? *(tick one box only)*

☐ Yes ☐ No, already taken place
☒ No, scheduled to take place at a later date ☐ Not applicable

Please provide any details:

- 21** In analysing monitoring information gathered, was any action taken to change/review any policies? *(tick one box only)*

☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Not applicable

Please provide any details and examples:

- 22** Please provide any details or examples of where the monitoring of policies, during the 2017-18 reporting period, has shown changes to differential/adverse impacts previously assessed:

N/A

- 23** Please provide any details or examples of monitoring that has contributed to the availability of equality and good relations information/data for service delivery planning or policy development:

N/A

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Staff Training (Model Equality Scheme Chapter 5)

- 24** Please report on the activities from the training plan/programme (section 5.4 of the Model Equality Scheme) undertaken during 2017-18, and the extent to which they met the training objectives in the Equality Scheme.

Focused training is provided for Elected Members through the Council's Elected Member Development Programme, and key employees within Council who are directly engaged in taking forward the implementation of our equality scheme commitments (for those involved in research and data collection, policy development, service design, conducting equality impact assessments, consultation, monitoring and evaluation).

Where appropriate, training is provided to ensure employees and Elected Members are aware of the issues experienced by the range of section 75 groups. When appropriate and on an ongoing basis, arrangements will be made to ensure employees and elected members are kept up to date with Section 75 developments. Training on the Section 75 statutory duties and related issues is developed and provided by the Council's Head of Corporate Policy and arranged through the Human Resources Department.

Examples of focused training during the reporting period included:

- Two Policy and Equality Screening training sessions delivered for officials by John Kremer in February 2018
- Recruitment and Selection training. Five training sessions took place between June 2017 and March 2018
- Building Resilience and Personal well-being training. Two training sessions took place in February 2018 for staff.
- Corporate induction training was delivered in July and September 2017 and February and March 2018.
- Emotional Intelligence training was delivered in February and March 2018
- Two Mediation training sessions delivered in March 2018.
- Seven Governance training sessions held in October and November 2018.
- Investigating Officer training in October 2017 and January 2018.
- Two Rural Needs training sessions delivered in September and November 2017.

- 25** Please provide any examples of relevant training shown to have worked well, in that participants have achieved the necessary skills and knowledge to achieve the stated objectives:

Delivery of Equality Screening training has further embedded the required processes to be undertaken by officers as part of the Council's policy development process.

Public Access to Information and Services (Model Equality Scheme Chapter 6)

- 26** Please list **any examples** of where monitoring during 2017-18, across all functions, has resulted in action and improvement in relation **to access to information and services**:

Complaints (Model Equality Scheme Chapter 8)

- 27** How many complaints **in relation to the Equality Scheme** have been received during 2017-18?

Insert number here:

1

Please provide any details of each complaint raised and outcome:

During the reporting period the Inclusive Mobility and Transport Advisory Committee (Imtac) raised a complaint with the Equality Commission alleging that Newry, Mourne and Down District Council had failed to comply with its approved Equality Scheme in relation to its Pavement Café Designation Policy.

Council received correspondence from the Equality Commission dated 30 January 2018 re: Complaint under Section 75, Schedule 9, Paragraph 10 of the NI Act 1998; failure to comply with an approved Equality Scheme in relation to the screening of the Council's Pavement Café Designation Policy, requesting any relevant information the ECNI Investigations Committee should take into consideration when making its decision on whether or not to authorise an investigation.

As of the 31 March 2018 Council had provided the following information to the Equality Commission:

- Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Equality Scheme
- Equality screening Pavement Café Designation Policy
- Updated equality screening of Pavement Café Designation Policy
- NMDDC letter of response to IMTAC complaint emailed 24 April 2017
- NMDDC email of 17 October 2017 and attached documentation responding to IMTAC email dated 12 October 2017
- Notice of a Stakeholder Meeting held on 22 September 2016 to discuss the implementation of the Licensing of Pavement Cafe Act (NI) 2014, the relevant Attendance Sheet and presentation given at the meeting

Section 3: Looking Forward

- 28** Please indicate when the Equality Scheme is due for review:

March 2020

- 29** Are there areas of the Equality Scheme arrangements (screening/consultation/training) your organisation anticipates will be focused upon in the next reporting period? *(please provide*

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details)

The Council formally appointed a Corporate Policy and Equality Officer in December 2017. The officers purpose of post is to support the delivery of Corporate Policy, Disability, Equality and Rural Needs and will be primarily focused on ensuring that the actions detailed in the Equality Action Plan are met in line with the timeframes identified. This will include the delivery of a training programme, extensive consultation with stakeholder groups and organisations and monitoring.

30 In relation to the advice and services that the Commission offers, what **equality and good relations priorities** are anticipated over the next (2017-18) reporting period? *(please tick any that apply)*

- ☒ Employment
- ☒ Goods, facilities and services
- ☒ Legislative changes
- ☒ Organisational changes/ new functions
- ☐ Nothing specific, more of the same
- ☐ Other (please state):

PART B

PART B - Section 49A of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (as amended) and Disability Action Plans

1. Number of action measures for this reporting period that have been:

8

Fully achieved

Partially achieved

Not achieved

2. Please outline below details on all actions that have been fully achieved in the reporting period.

2 (a) Please highlight what **public life measures** have been achieved to encourage disabled people to participate in public life at National, Regional and Local levels:

Level	Public Life Action Measures	Outputs ⁱ	Outcomes / Impact ⁱⁱ
National ⁱⁱⁱ			
Regional ^{iv}			
Local ^v	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council directly promotes positive attitudes towards disabled people through service delivery and programming which includes a disability programme under Active and Healthy Communities Sports Development. This is delivered by Council’s Activity Officer (formerly Disability Liaison Officer) which		

PART B

	<p>includes a disability leisure membership scheme, core classes and development of a disability sports hub.</p> <p>Raise awareness of the services and facilities for disabled people provided by the Council.</p> <p>Engage with disability forums in the district.</p> <p>Providing work experience and job opportunities for people with disabilities.</p>	<p>Continue with the implementation of a shopmobility scheme from Newcastle Centre, Newcastle. Used 101 times during the 2017-2018 reporting period.</p> <p>The Council's Activity Officer continued to work with local disability organisations to identify opportunities for people with a disability to play an active role in society be it through sporting or social activities.</p> <p>People with disabilities provided with work experience and job opportunities.</p>	<p>Positive impact and encouragement for people with mobility issues to participate in public life through increasing access to services and enhance tourism experience for people with disability.</p> <p>Development and promotion of programmes of activity involving people with a disability.</p> <p>Disabled people encouraged to directly participate in public life as valued employees.</p>
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PART B

2(b) What **training action measures** were achieved in this reporting period?

	Training Action Measures	Outputs	Outcome / Impact
1	Provide appropriate training to concerning the disability duties	Equality Screening Training 2 sessions held for Officials. 40 officials completed the training delivered by John Kremer.	Greater awareness and understanding of the Equality Screening process.
2	Recruitment and selection panels to be trained in the disability duties	Recruitment and Selection training 5 training sessions delivered to officials throughout the 2017-2018 financial year.	Interviewers participating in the Council's recruitment and selection process are aware of the Disability Duties and other employment related matters.
3	Include the new disability duties in staff training.	General Equality Awareness training delivered at induction training for new and seasonal staff.	This training provided participants with an overall appreciation of the employment equality legislation in Northern Ireland, raising awareness of key terms relating to equality legislation (including the disability duties), equality areas covered by employment equality legislation in Northern Ireland, examples of how discrimination can occur in relation to equality areas, and Council responsibilities and employee responsibilities under that legislation.

2(c) What Positive attitudes **action measures** in the area of **Communications** were achieved in this reporting period?

	Communications Action Measures	Outputs	Outcome / Impact
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PART B

1	Engage with the disability forums in the district.	The Council's Activity Officer (formally Disability Liaison Officer) continued the work with local disability organisations to identify opportunities for people with a disability to play an active role in society be it through sporting or social activities.	Development and promotion of programmes of activity involving people with a disability.
2	Raise awareness of the services and facilities for disabled people provided by the Council	Introduction of the Disability leisure membership scheme. (eg Buddy Card and concessionary rates)	Increased awareness of accessibility and access to Council services and facilities.
3	Embed the disability duties into the council's corporate consultation process.	Relevant employees aware of the requirement to mainstream equality and disability principles and considerations when undertaking consultation processes.	Arrangements for consulting reflect the importance of consultation in all aspects of the implementation of our statutory duties.

2 (d) What action measures were achieved to '**encourage others**' to promote the two duties:

	Encourage others Action Measures	Outputs	Outcome / Impact
1	N/A		
2			

2 (e) Please outline **any additional action measures** that were fully achieved other than those listed in the tables above:

PART B

	Action Measures fully implemented (other than Training and specific public life measures)	Outputs	Outcomes / Impact
1	Provide work experience for people with disabilities.	People with disabilities provided with work experience and Job opportunities.	Disabled people encouraged to directly participate in public life as valued employees.
2	All policymakers to take into consideration the disability duties when proposing or revising policy.	Corporate Policy Framework developed	Senior Management Team and Corporate Management Team aware of responsibilities with regard to policy development.

3. Please outline what action measures have been **partly achieved** as follows:

	Action Measures partly achieved	Milestonesvi / Outputs	Outcomes/Impacts	Reasons not fully achieved
1	N/A			

4. Please outline what action measures **have not been achieved** and the reasons why.

	Action Measures not met	Reasons
1	N/A	

PART B

5. What **monitoring tools** have been put in place to evaluate the degree to which actions have been effective / develop new opportunities for action?

(a) Qualitative

- Evaluation / feedback from training sessions
- Discussion / consultation with disability groups and individuals

(b) Quantitative

- Number of employees who have received training
- Number of Elected Members who have received training
- Number of documents requested in alternative formats
- Number of complaints received

6. As a result of monitoring progress against actions has your organisation either:

- made any **revisions** to your plan during the reporting period or
- taken any **additional steps** to meet the disability duties which were **not outlined in your original** disability action plan / any other changes?

No

If yes please outline below:

	Revised/Additional Action Measures	Performance Indicator	Timescale
1	N/A		

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7. Do you intend to make any further **revisions to your plan** in light of your organisation's annual review of the plan? If so, please outline proposed changes?

No

-
- ⁱ **Outputs** – defined as act of producing, amount of something produced over a period, processes undertaken to implement the action measure e.g. Undertook 10 training sessions with 100 people at customer service level.
 - ⁱⁱ **Outcome / Impact** – what specifically and tangibly has changed in making progress towards the duties? What impact can directly be attributed to taking this action? Indicate the results of undertaking this action e.g. Evaluation indicating a tangible shift in attitudes before and after training.
 - ⁱⁱⁱ **National** : Situations where people can influence policy at a high impact level e.g. Public Appointments
 - ^{iv} **Regional**: Situations where people can influence policy decision making at a middle impact level
 - ^v **Local** : Situations where people can influence policy decision making at lower impact level e.g. one off consultations, local fora.
 - ^{vi} **Milestones** – Please outline what part progress has been made towards the particular measures; even if full output or outcomes/ impact have not been achieved.

Report to:	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	13 September 2018
Subject:	Equality Action Plan 2018-2020
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Colin Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Colin Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy Suzanne Rice, Corporate Policy & Equality Officer

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-

For decision	For noting only	x
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p>To fulfil its Section 75 statutory duties, the Council has developed an Equality Scheme which has been approved by the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland.</p> <p>It outlines corporate responsibilities, legal commitments and specific actions, and Council must provide an annual report on the progress to the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland.</p> <p>The Council's draft Equality Action Plan 2018-2020 was considered at the 12 April 2018 meeting of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee and it was agreed to undertake a 12 week public consultation on the proposed draft plan as committed to within the Council's Equality Scheme. The Public consultation closed on Friday 17th August 2018.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>Following the closing of the 12 week public consultation period, Council will now begin to implement the positive actions identified in the Equality Action Plan 2018-2020.</p> <p>The equality action plan recommends key areas of activity and details positive actions relevant to Council functions. These have been developed taking account of specific commitments contained within Council's Equality Scheme, progress on which must be reported annually to the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland, an audit of inequalities and consideration of areas of Council work that may have an impact on certain Section 75 groups.</p> <p>The positive action measures have been set out under the five principles of the Equality and Diversity in Local Councils Framework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principle 1: Ensuring we work in a non-discriminatory environment, promote equality, and model best practice in equality and good relations • Principle 2: Ensuring all our decisions are based on evidence to assess the

	<p>likely impact of a policy on the promotion of equality of opportunity and good relations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principle 3: Providing access to services, facilities and information • Principle 4: Recruiting and employing people fairly • Principle 5: Responding to and learning from complaints and incidents in a positive and pro-active way
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<p>The Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee are asked to note the contents of this report.</p> <p>Following the closing of the 12 week public consultation period, Officers will now proceed to work with officials to implement the positive actions identified in the Equality Action Plan 2018 -2020.</p>
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	The Equality Action Plan designates specific action measures plan designates specific responsibilities for the positive action measures and therefore has potential to have an impact in terms of physical (time) and financial resources.
5.0	Equality and good relations implications
5.1	<p>As noted in section 1.1, to fulfil its Section 75 statutory duties, the Council has developed an Equality Scheme which outlines corporate responsibilities, legal commitments and specific actions, progress on which must be reported annually to the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland each year.</p> <p>As set out within section 2 of Council's Equality Scheme, Council is required to develop an action plan to promote equality of opportunity and good relations. The Equality Action plan will enable Council to identify potential functional areas for further or better discharge of its Section 75 duties and inform its key strategic actions.</p>
6.0	Rural Proofing implications
6.1	Due regard to rural needs has been considered and has been subject to a rural needs impact assessment.
7.0	Appendices
	Appendix 1: Equality Action Plan 2018-2020
8.0	Background Documents
	None

Equality Action Measures Plan 2018-2020

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Equality Action Plan					
Principle 1: Ensuring we work in a non – discriminatory environment, promote equality and model of best practice in equality and good relations					
Issue	Objective	Positive Action	Measure	Responsibility	Timeframe
Equality of Opportunity and Good Relations Statutory Duty Compliance	To continue to develop an understanding of the council's duty to promote Equality of Opportunity and Good Relations	Develop an Equality and Good Relations training programme for staff and elected members to embed an Equality and Good Relations culture and ethos across the organisation.	Number of training sessions/programmes delivered. Attendance figures of elected members participating in Equality and Good Relations training programmes	Corporate Services - Corporate Policy - Learning and Development	April 2018 - March 2020
		Examples of training programmes will include: - equality screening, - policy development, - cultural awareness, - Every Customer Counts, - Rural Needs, - Disability awareness.	Attendance figures of staff participating in Equality and Good Relations training programmes Evaluation and feedback from staff and elected members		
		To integrate objectives and targets relating to	Council has considered all s75 categories in	Chief Executive Office / Corporate	Ongoing

Equality Action Measures Plan 2018-2020

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		the Section 75 statutory duties into Council's strategic and operational business plans.	the development of Corporate Strategic and Operational business plans.	Planning and Policy	
		To utilise the Equality and Good Relations Reference Group as a discussion forum for elected members to address contentious and sensitive issues	Number of meetings of the Councillors' Equality and Good Relations Reference Group held	Corporate Policy	Ongoing
		Information on Equality and Good Relations for new staff	Number of induction sessions held	Corporate Policy	Ongoing
		Implementation of the Council's Good Relation Action Plan with the District Electoral Area Forums as the delivery mechanism for council	<p>Number of participants in Good Relations funded programmes</p> <p>Quarterly and annual reports to The Executive Office</p> <p>Number of people accessing the services of the Ethnic Minority Support Centre</p>	Active and Healthy Communities	Ongoing

Equality Action Measures Plan 2018-2020

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Principle 2 Ensuring all our decisions are based on evidence to assess the likely impact of a policy on the promotion of equality and good relations					
Issue	Objective	Positive Action	Measure	Responsibility	Timeframe
Equality Screening	To ensure that all policies and procedures are equality screened, i.e. to assess the likely impact of the policy on the promotion of Equality of Opportunity and/or Good Relations	All current and new policies are screened before council approval and implementation	Quarterly policy screening reports tabled at SPR Committee Annual report produced for Equality Commission NI Reports uploaded to council website and forwarded to equality consultee listing	Relevant officers	Ongoing
		Training provided for staff on the policy screening process	Number of screening training sessions provided per year	Corporate Policy	March 2019
		To review Council's Policy Development Framework	Production of a Policy Development Guide	Corporate Policy	June 2018

Equality Action Measures Plan 2018-2020

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Effective Consultation	To embed Council's Consultation & Engagement Framework	Development of a Corporate Consultation and Engagement toolkit	Production of the toolkit	Corporate Planning and Policy	March 2018
		Provide training to employees on the Corporate Consultation and Engagement toolkit	Number of training sessions delivered Number of staff in attendance at training	Corporate Planning and Policy	March 2019
		Develop a monitoring mechanism to record Corporate consultation	Number of consultations Type of consultation	Chief Executive Office Corporate Policy	June 2018
		Review and update Equality consultee list annually		Corporate Policy	September (annually)

Equality Action Measures Plan 2018-2020

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Principle 3 Providing access to services, facilities and information					
Issue	Objective	Positive Action	Measure	Responsibility	Timescale
Monitoring	To have relevant Section 75 data available	<p>Each service to introduce a system to gather relevant Section 75 data</p> <p>Engagement between Corporate Policy officials and relevant directorates to identify gaps in monitoring information</p>	Appropriate and relevant up to date data available to determine effectiveness of service provision	Corporate Policy / All Directorates	Ongoing
Access to information	Information on council services is accessible to all parts of the community	Production of a corporate 'Making Information Accessible' Guide for staff	<p>Number of council publications available in a variety of formats</p> <p>Number of requests for information in alternative formats</p>	Corporate Policy	September 2018

Equality Action Measures Plan 2018-2020

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		'Making Information Accessible' training sessions to be delivered across Council	Number of Council officials participating in 'Making Information Accessible' training sessions	Corporate Policy	September - October 2018
		Develop the corporate website ensuring it meets all accessibility requirements	Availability of an accessible corporate website	Corporate Services - Corporate Communications and Marketing	November 2018
Access to services and facilities	Services and facilities are accessible all parts of the community	Review of council facilities to ensure they are accessible to all members of the community Council to sign up to the Equality Commissions 'Every Customer Counts' Charter	Percentage of Council owned facilities meeting the requirements of the 'Every Customer Counts' accessibility checklist	All Directorates	Ongoing

Equality Action Measures Plan 2018-2020

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		Investigate the possibility of extending the Shop Mobility scheme which currently operates in the Mourne DEA across other towns in the district	Numbers of people using service Number of towns introducing the Shop Mobility Scheme	Economic Regeneration and Tourism Directorate / Active and Healthy Communities Directorate	
Principle 4 Recruiting and employing people fairly					
Issue	Objective	Positive Action	Measure	Responsibility	Timescale
Workforce diversity	To ensure that Council provides Equality of Opportunity to all in employment	Integration of Section 75 statutory duties within job descriptions		Corporate Services - HR	Ongoing
		Workforce monitoring related to Article 55 Reviews	Submission of three yearly Article 55 Report to ECNI	Corporate Services - HR	Ongoing / Submission of report every 3 years
		Engagement between Corporate Policy and HR to develop a Section 75 workforce profile and identify under representation	Relevant section 75 workforce data	Corporate Services – HR and Corporate Policy	September 2018

Equality Action Measures Plan 2018-2020

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		of Section 75 categories within workplace			
		Continue to facilitate requests for reasonable adjustments within the workplace	Number and type of requests for reasonable adjustments	All Directorates in conjunction with Health & Safety Section	Ongoing
Principle 5 Responding to and learning from complaints and incidents in a positive and proactive way					
Issue	Objective	Positive Action	Measure	Responsibility	Timescale
Support, advice, guidance and assistance	Complaints are addressed in a positive manner and realistic timeframe	Implementation of Council's Complaint Processes	Number of complaints	Corporate Services – Administration and Customer Services	Ongoing
			Number of Section 75 complaints	Corporate Policy	Annually
	To have a good and harmonious working environment.	To produce a corporate guide for council staff	Production of guide.	Corporate Services All directorates to disseminate guide.	March 2019

Report to:	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	13 September 2018
Subject:	Assessment of Performance 2017-18
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Johnny McBride – Assistant Director, Community Planning and Performance
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Kate Bingham – Head of Performance and Improvement

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-

For decision	X	For noting only	
1.0			Purpose and Background
1.1			<p>Part 12 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 requires district councils to put in place arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of their functions. Through the Act, the Council has a statutory requirement to produce and publish an Assessment of Performance before 30 September each year. The Assessment of Performance must outline the Council's progress in relation to the General Duty of Improvement, as well as planned improvements against the previous year's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance improvement objectives • Statutory performance indicators and standards for economic development, planning and waste management • Self imposed performance indicators and standards
2.0			Key issues
2.1			<p>The Assessment of Performance 2017-18 is attached at Appendix 1 and provides an overview of the Councils progress in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting the General Duty of Improvement • Delivering the performance improvement objectives 2017-18 • Meeting the statutory performance indicators and standards for economic development, planning and waste management • Delivering the 'supporting actions' and 'measures of success' within the Corporate Plan 2015-19 <p>Progress in relation to the performance improvement objectives, statutory performance indicators and standards and corporate priorities has been aligned to the outcomes within the Community Plan for Newry, Mourne and Down, and reported accordingly throughout the Assessment of Performance.</p> <p>In line with the recent guidance issued by the Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO), 'Performance Management for Outcomes', corporate performance scorecards have also been developed for the following three outcomes within the Performance Improvement Plan 2017-18:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council meets landfill and recycling targets • The Council provides a more efficient and effective Planning Service • Community groups receive financial support <p>It should be noted that monitoring, analysing and reporting information can be subjective and open to interpretation.</p>
2.2	<p>There is a statutory requirement to publish the Assessment of Performance 2017-18 on the Council's website by 30 September 2018. The Assessment of Performance will form a key part of the Improvement Audit and Assessment which is currently being carried out by the NIAO, and focuses on the following six themes, using a compliance based approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General duty to improve • Improvement objectives • Consultation on improvement duties • The Improvement Plan • Collection of information relating to performance • Use and publication of performance information <p>Through the Improvement Audit and Assessment, the NIAO will determine how effective and robust the Council's performance management arrangements are, as well as the Council's likelihood to comply with the duty to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<p>To consider and agree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Assessment of Performance 2017-18 • The publication of the Assessment of Performance by 30 September 2018, before full Council ratification, in order to meet the statutory deadline
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	There are no resource implications contained within this report.
5.0	Equality and good relations implications
5.1	There are no equality and good relations implications contained within this report.
6.0	Rural Proofing implications
6.1	There are no rural proofing implications contained within this report.
7.0	Appendices
	Assessment of Performance 2017-18
8.0	Background Documents
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Government Act (NI) 2014 (Part 12) • Performance Improvement Plan 2017-18 • Corporate Plan 2015-19

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Assessment of Performance 2017-18

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Introduction

Part 12 of 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. As part of the Act, District Councils are required to:

- Produce and publish an annual Performance Improvement Plan, setting out the performance improvement objectives, which should be aligned to the Community Plan
- Produce and publish an annual Assessment of Performance, demonstrating whether planned improvements have been achieved

The Assessment of Performance 2017-18 provides an overview of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's progress in delivering the following:

General Duty of Improvement

As set out in the Local Government (NI) Act 2014

Performance Improvement Objectives

As set out in the Performance Improvement Plan 2017-18:

1. Encourage healthy lifestyles through increased participation in leisure, sports and recreational activities
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
3. Deliver urban and rural regeneration initiatives that will create a District where people want to live, work and invest in
4. Create a cleaner, greener, more attractive District
5. Encourage and empower local communities to participate in Council engagement structures

Statutory Performance Indicators and Standards

As set out in the Local Government (Performance Indicators and Standards) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 and Performance Improvement Plan 2017-18:

- The number of jobs promoted through business start-up activity
- The average processing time of major planning applications
- The average processing time of local planning applications
- The percentage of planning enforcement cases processed within 39 weeks
- The percentage of household waste collected by District Councils that is sent for recycling (including waste prepared for reuse)
- The amount (tonnage) of biodegradable Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste that is landfilled
- The amount (tonnage) of Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste arisings







Self Imposed Performance Indicators	
As set out in the Corporate Plan 2015-19:	
Corporate Priority	Measure of Success
Become one of the premier tourist destinations on the island of Ireland	Increased number of visitors
	Increased dwell time of visitors
	Increased visitor spend
Attract investment and support the creation of new jobs	Increased number of new businesses started
	Increased levels of employment
	Major planning applications processed within 30 weeks
Support improved health and wellbeing outcomes	Two leisure centres constructed and operational
	Increase in the number of people using Council leisure facilities
Protect our natural and built environment	Level of waste to landfill – zero waste to landfill across the District
	Completion of flood defences at Camlough Lake
	70% of planning enforcement cases processed within 39 weeks
Lead the regeneration of urban and rural areas	Increased number of new jobs and businesses created in rural areas
Advocate on your behalf, specifically in relation to those issues that really matter to you	Increased broadband and mobile coverage
	Improved roads infrastructure
Empower and improve the capacity of our communities	Community Plan completed and published by mid 2016
	7 Community Fora established across the entire District with associated action plans
Transform and modernise the Council, providing accessible as well as value for money services	Increased citizen satisfaction
	Increased employee satisfaction
	Reduced absenteeism
	IIP/CSE accreditation
	Annual Improvement Plan validated by the Local Government Auditor

Where possible, progress in delivering the Corporate Plan 2015-19 and Performance Improvement Plan 2017-18 has been aligned to the Community Plan, in order to demonstrate how the Council is contributing to the achievement of community planning outcomes. The golden thread that exists between the Community Plan, Corporate Plan and Performance Improvement Plan is outlined further in Appendix 2.

All people in Newry, Mourne and Down enjoy good health and wellbeing	
All people in Newry, Mourne and Down benefit from prosperous communities	
All people in Newry, Mourne and Down benefit from a clean, quality and sustainable environment	
All people in Newry, Mourne and Down live in respectful, safe and vibrant communities	

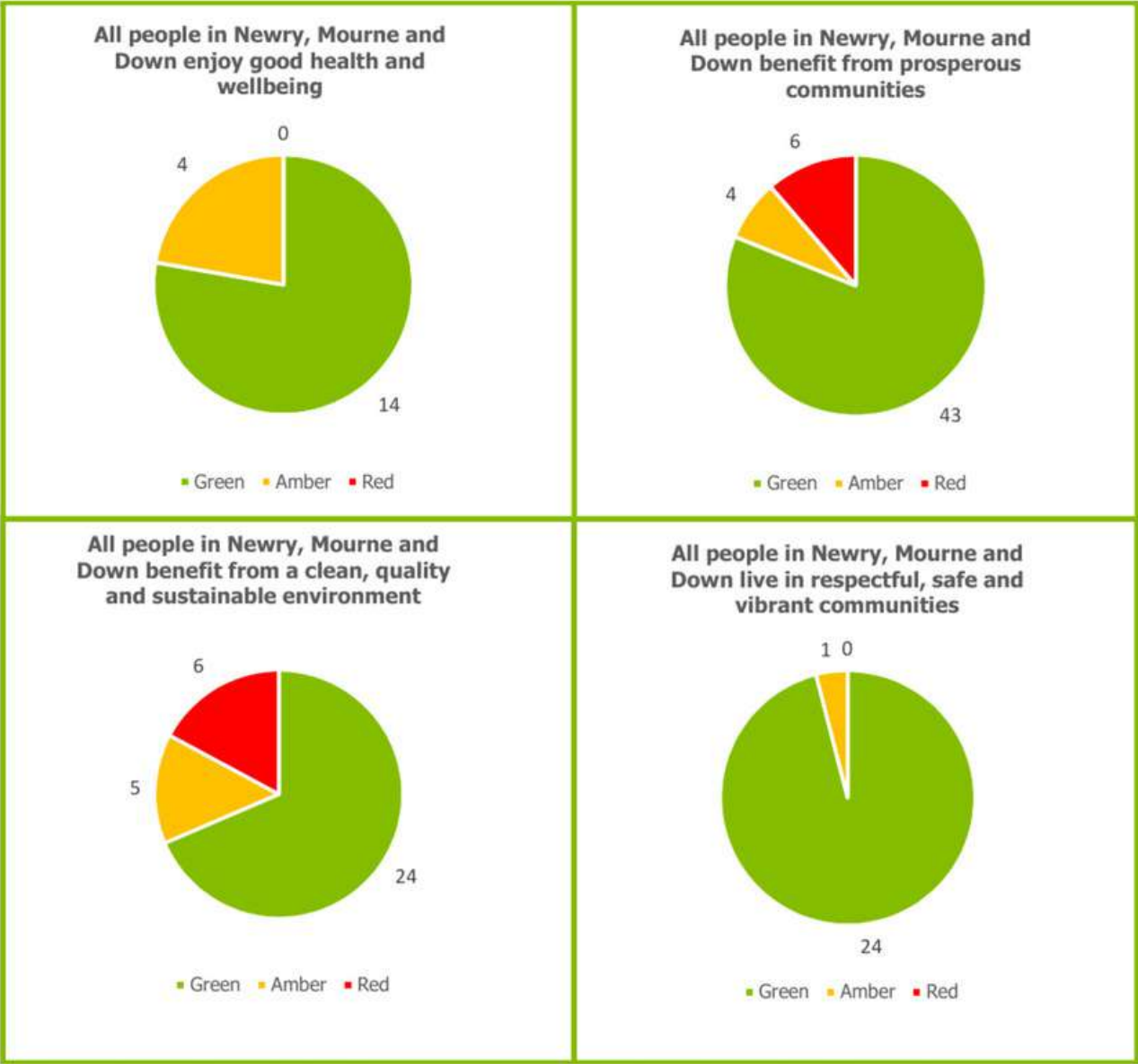
Progress in achieving the corporate priorities, performance improvement objectives, statutory performance indicators and standards and self imposed performance indicators has been tracked against targets, trends over time, and where possible, compared with the performance of local authorities across Northern Ireland, using the legend below:

Legend



















Status		Trend	
	Target or objective achieved / on track to be achieved		Performance has improved since the previous year
	Target or objective substantially 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


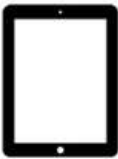
Progress at a Glance

The legend has been applied to the 'supporting actions' and 'measures of success' within the Corporate Plan and Performance Improvement Plan to provide an overview of progress against the four community planning outcomes.



*Where a 'supporting action' and 'measure of success' has been allocated a different status and trend, eg green and red, both have been counted in the charts.

Performance Improvement Objective	Progress	Status
Encourage healthy lifestyles through increased participation in leisure, sport and recreational activities 	Newry Leisure Centre complete	
	Downpatrick Leisure Centre delayed	
	9.8% increase in attendances at Council leisure facilities	
	Customer satisfaction surveys carried out at 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	
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 	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 over 139,000 visitors and generated an estimated £4m for the local economy	
	3.2% increase in visitor numbers and 7.3% increase in overnight stays*	
	48% increase in visitor spend*	
Deliver urban and rural regeneration initiatives that will create a District where people want to live, work and invest in 	The restoration of Warrenpoint Town Park commenced	
	Delay in commencing three environmental improvement and revitalisation schemes	
	Forkhill Greenspace Project complete	
	45 Village Plans updated and created	

Create a cleaner, greener, more attractive District 	Increase of 6.1% 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'	😊
	Improved processing time for local planning applications***	▲
	Increased processing time for major planning applications***	▼
Encourage and empower local communities to participate in Council engagement structures and initiatives 	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.

**2017-18 end of year waste data has not yet been validated by DAERA.

***Supporting actions and measures of success for planning have been included under performance improvement objective 3 for 2018-19.

Overall Assessment of Performance 2017-18

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council has come a long way since the merger of the two Councils in 2015, the transfer of new responsibilities from central government and the incorporation of Ballyward from the former Banbridge District Council. The reform of local government has presented an opportunity to do things differently and to do things better, and the Council remains focused on maximising performance and improving the quality of services provided.

The Local Government Act (NI) 2014 sets out a General Duty of Improvement, whereby all District Councils must put in place arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of their functions. The Council continues to strengthen its arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of its functions and has made significant progress in achieving the five performance improvement objectives 2017-18. The new premier Newry Leisure Centre opened in November 2017, attendances at leisure facilities continues to increase and over £1.4m was awarded through the Council's Financial Assistance Scheme.

The Council also performed well against the statutory performance indicators and standards for economic development and waste management. During 2017-18, we promoted 168 new jobs through business start up activity, exceeding our target by 8.4%, increased the rate of recycling by 6.1% to 46.2% and reduced the amount of biodegradable waste sent to landfill by 52% to 2,612 tonnes.

However, we recognise where we need to improve. Since 2015, planning has been a key priority for improvement, and whilst the Council did not meet the statutory standards for processing major and local planning applications and enforcement cases, performance has been improving. Over the past three years, the processing time for local planning applications has improved by 17.8 weeks, to 17 weeks, and the percentage of enforcement cases processed within 39 weeks has increased by 5.8%, to 59.9%. Whilst the processing time for major planning applications has increased over the past year, overall, these improvements demonstrate the Council's commitment to delivering a more efficient and effective Planning Service to customers.

The Council has also identified further areas of improvement to support the delivery of corporate priorities and performance improvement objectives. These include enhancing existing performance management arrangements, rolling out the Business Planning and Performance Management Framework across the organisation and building the capacity of Elected Members and employees to manage and scrutinise performance effectively, all of which will facilitate the development of a performance improvement culture.

Recognising our achievements and identifying areas for improvement provide a sustainable platform to deliver high quality, innovative public services, now and in the future. Through our Corporate Plan and Performance Improvement Plan, the Council will continue to improve the quality of life and environment for all local communities.

General Duty of Improvement

During 2017-18, the Council continued to strengthen and embed the arrangements it has put in place to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of functions, in order to improve the quality of life for all local communities. Following the Improvement Audit and Assessment 2017-18, the Northern Ireland Audit Office concluded that:

- The Council has discharged its duties in connection with (1) improvement planning and (2) publication of improvement information in accordance with section 92 of the Act and has acted in accordance with the Department for Communities' guidance sufficiently, including its guidance on the publication of improvement information in 2016-17.
- The Council has as far as possible discharged its duties under Part 12 of the Local Government Act and has acted in accordance with the Department for Communities guidance sufficiently.

Over the past two years, the Council has been progressing the 'proposals for improvement' which were put forward by the Northern Ireland Audit Office in 2016-17 and 2017-18, in accordance with the following themes:

- **General duty to improve**
- **Governance arrangements**
- **Improvement objectives**
- **Consultation**
- **Improvement Plan**
- **Collection, use and publication of performance information**

General duty to improve

- The Council's performance management arrangements have been constructed within the seven legislative criteria for improvement. Performance improvement objectives are outcome focused, clearly aligned to community planning outcomes and corporate priorities, and are being cascaded to Directorate Business Plans.
- The Business Planning and Performance Management Framework outlines the 'golden thread' that exists between the Community Plan, Corporate Plan, Performance Improvement Plan, Directorate Business Plans, Service Plans and Individual Performance Appraisal. The Framework has been included in the Performance Improvement Plan and Directorate Business Plans, demonstrating how employees contribute to the achievement of community planning outcomes, corporate priorities and performance improvement objectives.
- The monitoring, reporting and review arrangements across each level of the Business Planning and Performance Management Framework are being strengthened. A standard template has been developed to ensure a consistent and coherent approach to performance reporting using the red/amber/green status, with reports being considered and scrutinised by Elected Members and made available in the public domain.

- The Council continues to develop and refine suites of performance indicators across the various levels of the Business Planning and Performance Management Framework. This evidence base is used to monitor the overall health of the organisation, identify year on year trends, benchmark performance data where possible, address areas of under-performance and celebrate areas of good performance.

Governance arrangements

- The Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee and Audit Committee continue to carry out their respective roles in terms of performance and improvement. Both Committees consider and scrutinise retrospective performance information in relation to the delivery of the Performance Improvement Plan and Corporate Plan, as well as the forward looking Performance Improvement Plan. The Audit Committee also considered a report outlining progress against the 'proposals for improvement' which were put forward by the NI Audit Office in 2016-17 and 2017-18.
- The Standing Committees of the Council consider and scrutinise performance information in relation to their respective areas, including the annual review of Business Plans, progress against statutory performance indicators and standards, as well as the forward looking Business Plans.
- The Council publishes performance information via the corporate website and social media channels. This information is often summarised into a user friendly, accessible format, as evidenced through 'Our Performance, Looking Back, Going Forward' and NMD Connect.

Improvement objectives

- The Council's performance improvement objectives are outcome focused and underpinned by a range of 'supporting actions', 'measures of success' and 'outcomes for local communities and stakeholders'. The current suite of 'measures of success' enables the Council to monitor progress in delivering the performance improvement objectives.
- The Council continues to raise the profile of the performance improvement objectives, both internally and externally, by attending internal meetings and workshops, and engaging with external groups such as the Youth Council and Older Persons Forum.
- Performance improvement objectives have been developed using a robust and reliable evidence base, including reports which analyse internal performance information, as well as the key influences and emerging trends within the external environment.

Consultation

- Over the past two years, the Council carried out a robust and inclusive consultation and engagement process with key stakeholders on the proposed performance improvement objectives. Stakeholders included residents, Elected Members, community, voluntary and business sectors and community planning partners.

- In 2016-17, a total of 53 surveys were completed in addition to engagement with 115 stakeholders. In 2017-18, a total of 92 surveys were completed, in addition to engagement with 100 stakeholders. The results of the consultation and engagement activity have consistently revealed widespread support for the proposed performance improvement objectives.

Improvement Plan

- The Council published the Performance Improvement Plan 2018-19 by 30 June, in line with the statutory timescale. The plan is easily accessible on the Council's website.

Collection, use and publication of performance information

- In order to facilitate transparency, accountability and improvement, the Council has strengthened the governance arrangements around the development, approval, monitoring and review of key plans and strategies, including the Corporate Plan, Performance Improvement Plan and Directorate Business Plans.
- In the absence of a formal electronic performance management system, the Council has developed an interim excel based system to collate, measure and monitor progress against statutory and self imposed performance indicators at all levels of the Business Planning and Performance Management Framework.
- The Council has developed suites of self imposed performance indicators which underpin the Corporate Plan, Performance Improvement Plan and Directorate Business Plans. The Council is also part of APSE Performance Networks and has collated and analysed benchmarking data across a range of services over the past few years. The Council continues to build upon and strengthen the robustness of performance data, as evidenced through the recent Customer Satisfaction Surveys carried out across six leisure facilities.
- The Council continues to work in partnership with other local authorities and the Department for Communities regarding the effective application of the legislative requirements within the Local Government (NI) Act 2014.
- The Council's corporate website has been updated and now features a webpage dedicated to performance. This page provides further information regarding the Performance Improvement Plan, Assessment of Performance, Northern Ireland Audit Office Reports and guidance on how stakeholders can propose improvements in the future.




Community Planning Outcome




All people in Newry, Mourne and Down enjoy good health and wellbeing

Corporate Objective

Support improved health and wellbeing outcomes

Key Actions	Status	Progress
Replace the two existing Leisure Centres in Newry City and Downpatrick		Newry Leisure Centre completed in October 2017 and Downpatrick Leisure Centre is scheduled to complete during Q3 2018-19. Both major projects represent significant capital investment in providing state of the art leisure facilities for local communities. To date, Newry Leisure Centre has won multiple awards, including the Royal Institute of Architects Ireland award and the Royal Society of Chartered Surveyors award.
Develop targeted programmes to tackle obesity and diabetes		Over the past two years, 17,019 residents took part in Everybody Active 2020, participating in a range of physical activity programmes such as Couch to 5k, yoga and rugby. During 2017-18, 6,879 participants took part, representing 83.1% of the overall target. This included 3,874 women and girls, 1,023 people with a disability and 1,805 people from areas of high social need. Whilst there was a slight reduction in the overall number of participants in Everybody Active between 2016-17 and 2017-18, due to the lack of registration forms being submitted, the Council has put in place arrangements to address this issue and aims to engage 9,280 participants during 2018-19.
Promote increased physical activity levels		Through the Social Investment Fund, the Council has been awarded over £5.67m from the Executive Office and Department for Communities to provide 3G football pitches in Downpatrick, Ballyhornan and Kilcooley, and refurbish Castlewellan Community Centre, expanding community development activity, youth training and summer schemes. During 2017-18, the Council also continued to organise multiple physical activity programmes and






		events, including the 'Active Ageing' fitness classes in the Newcastle Centre, annual Mourne Mountain Adventure and the multi-sports programmes delivered in partnership with local schools. Through the Financial Assistance Scheme 2017-18, the Council awarded over £595k towards sports projects, including £445k towards sports capital projects and £52k towards sports development projects.
Implement a leisure facilities and play strategy		The Sports Facility Strategy and Play Strategy were adopted by the Council in 2016-17, representing a total investment of £5m towards the development of better outdoor facilities and provision of better play parks. All year 1 capital projects within the Sports Facility Strategy have been delivered within budget and the projects which fall within years 1 and 2 of the Play Strategy are underway.



Measures of Success	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Status	Trend	Explanatory Note
Two leisure centres constructed and operational	-	-	NLC complete		-	Newry Leisure Centre completed in October 2017 and Downpatrick Leisure Centre is scheduled to complete during Q3 2018-19.
Increase in the number of people using Council leisure facilities	1,435,558 attendances	1,453,107 attendances	1,595,269 attendances			Between 2015-16 and 2016-17, there was a 1.2% increase in the number of attendances at Council leisure facilities. This upward trend continued to 2017-18, when there was a further 9.8% increase, including a 23% increase in attendances at the Newry Leisure Centre.







Performance Improvement Objective

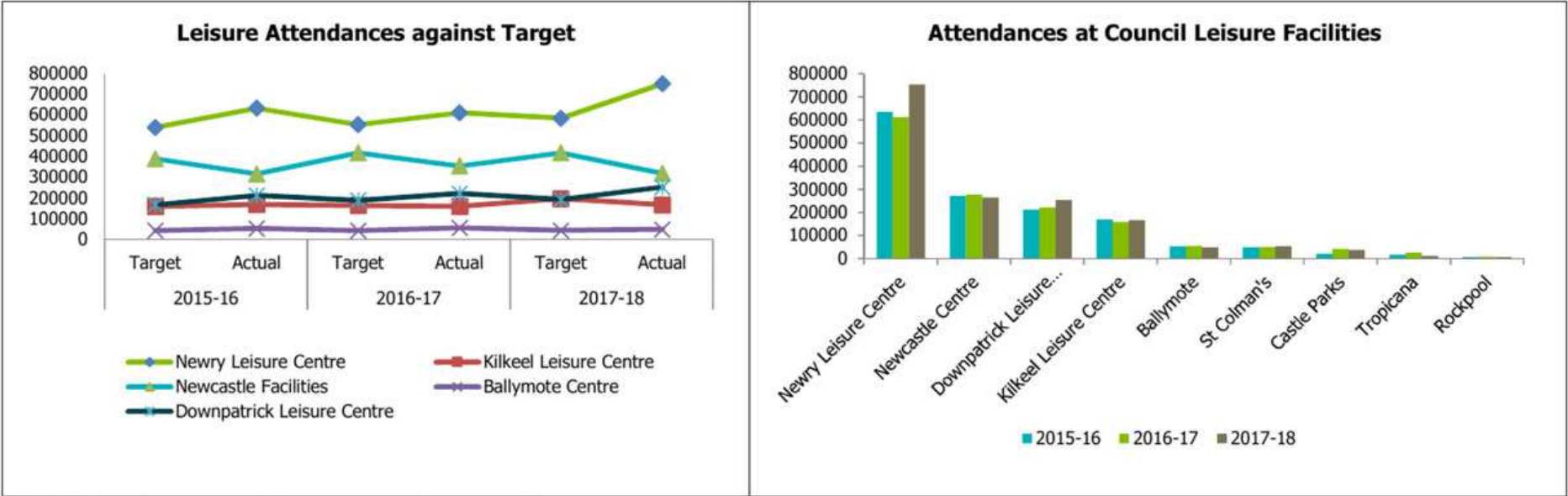
Encourage healthy lifestyles through increased participation in leisure, sport and recreational activities

Supporting action	Status	Progress
Provide and operate high quality indoor leisure facilities through the implementation of the Indoor Leisure Business Plan:		The Council continues to implement the Indoor Leisure Business Plan and deliver continuous improvement through the simplified membership structure, new pricing arrangements for customers aged 60 years and above and the expansion of the swimming programme to create an additional 130 spaces.

Complete Newry Leisure Centre by Summer 2017		Following a delay in the construction, Phase II of Newry Leisure Centre completed in October 2017, with the official opening taking place in November.
Complete Downpatrick Leisure Centre by Spring 2018		The completion of Downpatrick Leisure Centre has been delayed until Q3 2018-19, due to the re-design of the sub structure. The demolition of the existing leisure centre and construction of the new car park will complete by Q1 2019-20.
Improve the customer experience at indoor leisure centres through marketing, branding, mobile technology and targeted physical activity programmes		The 'Be Active' campaign was launched, encouraging individuals to improve their lifestyles and get more involved in sport and physical activity. The new leisure IT system improves customer accessibility to information and online booking, and the Wellness Connected Experience allows users to keep track of their individual training requirements and programmes. In partnership with Disability NI, the Council has also established a Disability Sports Hub to provide a range of sports wheelchairs, inclusive bikes and equipment to enable those with a disability to participate in physical activity.
Undertake a review of outdoor leisure facilities to determine the condition, current usage type and number of users at each location		The review of outdoor leisure facilities, which was delayed until the recruitment of tier 5 officers concluded in Q4 2017-18, is now underway and scheduled to complete during 2018-19.
Provide and improve fixed and non-fixed play opportunities for children and young people through the implementation of year one of the Play Strategy		The implementation of the Play Strategy was delayed until the recruitment of tier 5 officers concluded in Q4 2017-18. The contractor to design, build and install the fixed play areas has been appointed and the physical works at Meigh and Mayobridge play parks are scheduled to commence during Q2 2018-19. Several community consultations have also taken place, including Barcroft Community Centre/Raymond McCreesh Park (Newry), Backfield Play Area, (Newcastle) and Bridge Community Centre Play Area (Killyleagh).

Engage more children and young people in community play initiatives across the district		During 2017-18, 1,175 children and young people participated in Community Play initiatives at various locations across all District Electoral Areas, with the highest levels of participation in Russell Gaelic Union, Martin's Lane and Drumaness Gaelic Athletic Club.
Co-ordinate and launch a multi-stakeholder Activity, Promotion and Development Plan, which maps out the provision of physical activity across the district, suitable for all ages and abilities		The development of the Activity, Promotion and Development Plan was delayed until the recruitment of tier 5 Officers concluded in Q4 2017-18. The plan will be progressed through the Leisure and Play Partnership during 2018-19.

Measure of Success	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		Status Trend	Explanatory note
4% increase in the number of participants using indoor leisure facilities	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	 	Over the past three years, the Council exceeded the targets set for the number of attendances at all indoor leisure facilities, apart from the facilities in Newcastle**. This can largely be attributed to the reduced opening hours at some of the seasonal facilities and poor weather conditions during the Summer 2017. Between 2016-17 and 2017-18, there was a 9.8% increase in the total number of attendances, including a 23% increase at Newry Leisure Centre and a 14.4% increase at Downpatrick Leisure Centre. However, attendance levels have declined at the Ballymote Centre and all Newcastle facilities over the same period.
	1,300,712 attendances	1,435,558 attendances	1,367,060 attendances	1,453,107 attendances	1,436,739 attendances	1,595,269 attendances		
5-6% increase in the number of participants using Newry Leisure Centre	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	 	
	541,272 attendances	635,078 attendances	555,272 attendances	612,601 attendances	586,316 attendances	753,474 attendances		
9% increase in the number of participants using Downpatrick Leisure Centre by 2018-19	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	 	
	167,668 attendances	212,584 attendances	188,015 attendances	221,145 attendances	192,515 attendances	252,924 attendances		



*Attendances include participants and non-participants.
**Newcastle facilities include the Newcastle Centre, Tropicana, Castle Parks and the Rock Pool.

Measure of Success	Level of Customer Satisfaction with Leisure Facilities 2017-18	2017-18	Status	Explanatory note															
Level of user satisfaction with selected indoor leisure facilities	<table><tr><th>Facility</th><th>Satisfaction Level</th></tr><tr><td>Newry Leisure Centre</td><td>70%</td></tr><tr><td>St Colman's</td><td>74.8%</td></tr><tr><td>Newcastle Centre</td><td>71.2%</td></tr><tr><td>Ballymote Centre</td><td>84.8%</td></tr><tr><td>Downpatrick Leisure...</td><td>64.3%</td></tr><tr><td>Kilkeel Leisure Centre</td><td>76.1%</td></tr></table>	Facility	Satisfaction Level	Newry Leisure Centre	70%	St Colman's	74.8%	Newcastle Centre	71.2%	Ballymote Centre	84.8%	Downpatrick Leisure...	64.3%	Kilkeel Leisure Centre	76.1%	Newry Leisure Centre	70%		Customer satisfaction surveys have been carried out across six leisure facilities, and satisfaction levels range from 64% for Downpatrick Leisure Centre to 84% for the Ballymote Centre. Results compare favourably to the UK average of 73.19%, and further analysis will be undertaken through APSE Performance Networks and reported to the Active and Healthy Communities Committee.
		Facility	Satisfaction Level																
		Newry Leisure Centre	70%																
		St Colman's	74.8%																
		Newcastle Centre	71.2%																
		Ballymote Centre	84.8%																
		Downpatrick Leisure...	64.3%																
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Ballymote Centre	84.8%																		
Down Leisure Centre	64.3%																		
Kilkeel Leisure Centre	76.1%																		

Number of children and young people engaged in Community Play initiatives	<div><div>Participation in Community Play 2017-18</div><table><tr><th>Location</th><th>Participation</th></tr><tr><td>Martins Lane</td><td>150</td></tr><tr><td>Drumaness GAC</td><td>120</td></tr><tr><td>Kittys Road</td><td>70</td></tr><tr><td>Jonesborough</td><td>70</td></tr><tr><td>Darragh Cross GAC</td><td>120</td></tr><tr><td>Russell Gaelic Union</td><td>280</td></tr><tr><td>Hilltown</td><td>120</td></tr><tr><td>St Pauls High School</td><td>80</td></tr><tr><td>Lislea Community...</td><td>40</td></tr><tr><td>Ballykinlar GAA</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>Drungath GAC</td><td>40</td></tr><tr><td>Carnagat CA</td><td>30</td></tr><tr><td>Ballynahinch...</td><td>10</td></tr></table></div>	Location	Participation	Martins Lane	150	Drumaness GAC	120	Kittys Road	70	Jonesborough	70	Darragh Cross GAC	120	Russell Gaelic Union	280	Hilltown	120	St Pauls High School	80	Lislea Community...	40	Ballykinlar GAA	20	Drungath GAC	40	Carnagat CA	30	Ballynahinch...	10	2016-17	2017-18	<div>▲</div> <p>During 2017-18, 1,175 children and young people participated in the Community Play initiative, which represents an increase of 40.9% since 2016-17. The highest levels of participation were in Russell Gaelic Union, Martin’s Lane and Drumaness Gaelic Athletic Club.</p>
		Location	Participation																													
Martins Lane	150																															
Drumaness GAC	120																															
Kittys Road	70																															
Jonesborough	70																															
Darragh Cross GAC	120																															
Russell Gaelic Union	280																															
Hilltown	120																															
St Pauls High School	80																															
Lislea Community...	40																															
Ballykinlar GAA	20																															
Drungath GAC	40																															
Carnagat CA	30																															
Ballynahinch...	10																															
834	1,175																															





Community Planning Outcome

All people in Newry, Mourne and Down benefit from prosperous communities



Corporate Objective

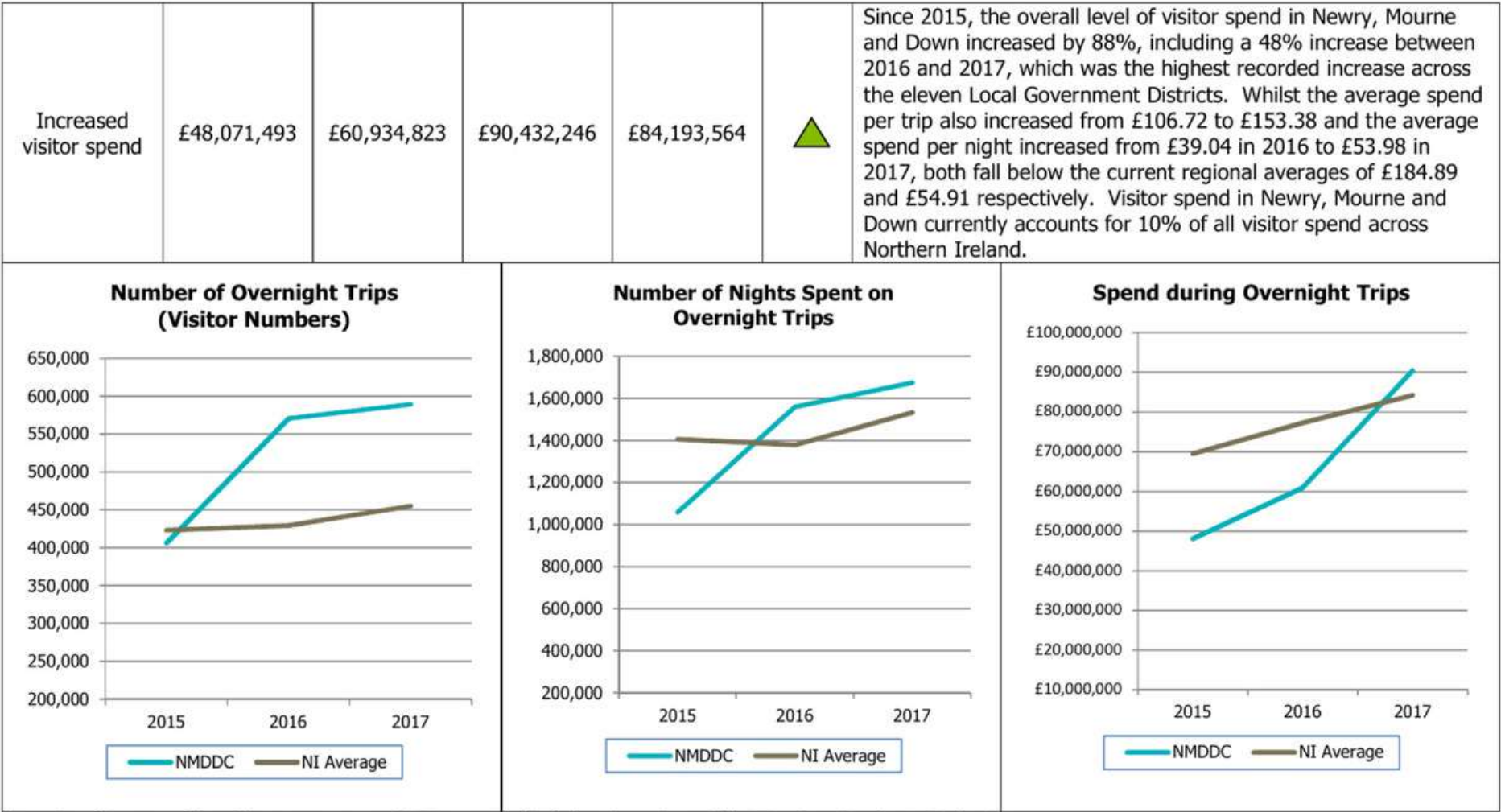
Become one of the premier tourism destinations on the island of Ireland

Key Actions	Status	Progress
Establish a recognised tourism brand for the District		The Tourism Strategy 2017-21 has been adopted and seeks to maximise tourism growth by focusing on the concept of 'mountains, myths and maritime' as a distinctive brand for the District. A Visitor Experience Plan and Tourism Marketing Plan were launched which recognise and promote the themes, stories and authentic experiences on offer across the District. County Down was also nominated as one of the Top 100 Green Destinations in Europe in 2017 and Newcastle gained the silver award for the Britain in Bloom competition, which recognises towns and villages with the most beautiful plantings and horticultural schemes.
Work with NITB, Tourism Ireland and other stakeholders to review and improve tourism infrastructure		The Tourism Strategy puts in place a framework for the Council to work with key partners to improve the tourism infrastructure of the District. Through ongoing partnership working with Tourism NI and via clusters of tourism stakeholders, the Council is collaborating with partners across the statutory, voluntary and community sectors to develop and deliver activities to promote tourism across the District. Through this ongoing collaboration, the Council continues to develop key tourism infrastructure projects, such as the Mournes Gateway Project, for the benefit of the local tourism industry.
Explore the potential for Geotourism along the east coast border areas		The Council continues to progress the tourism potential associated with UNESCO Global Geopark status for the three Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB's) of Strangford and Lecale, Ring of Gullion and the Mournes. UNESCO Global Geopark status will play a key role in differentiating the area through a stronger, cohesive market identity. In May

		2018, the Council hosted the 'Tale of Two Oceans' to share insights about the geological history of the area and how it is linked to sustainable tourism, recreation, natural assets and the economy. In June 2018, as part of the European Geoparks week, the Council also hosted a Geopark open day to encourage local people to learn about geotourism and get involved in educational activities.
Take a lead role in realising the tourism potential of hosting the Irish Open and other major events		The Council successfully supported the Irish Open in 2015 and continues to host and support a range of events across the District, including the Soma Festival, Blues on the Bay, Camlough Water Festival and the Home of St Patrick. Between 2016-17 and 2017-18, the overall economic impact of events increased from £9m to £13.5m*. During 2018-19, the Council will also include 'Tourism Events' as a funding stream within the Council's Financial Assistance Scheme, in order to support indigenous local events to grow audiences and attract more visitors to stay longer in the District.
Review the tourism infrastructure of Newcastle		In partnership with Tourism NI, the Council has completed the Mourne Mountains Gateway Study which explores the potential of a major flagship tourism project for the District. This project will be progressed as part of the Belfast Region City Deal.

*The methodology the Council used to assess the overall impact of events changed between 2016-17 and 2017-18, and year on year comparisons therefore remain indicative.



Measure of Success	2015	2016	2017	NI Average 2017	Trend	Explanatory Note
Increased visitor numbers	406,302	571,054	589,581	455,360		Since 2015, the number of visitors to Newry, Mourne and Down increased by 45%. In 2017, Newry, Mourne and Down recorded the third highest number of visitors across the eleven Local Government Districts, behind Belfast and Causeway Coast and Glens, exceeding the regional average.
Increased dwell time of visitors (number of overnights stays)	1,060,063	1,561,067	1,675,229	1,533,284		Since 2015, the overall dwell time of visitors increased by 58%. Whilst the average number of nights also increased from 2.7 in 2016 to 2.8 in 2017, it falls below the current regional average of 3.4 nights. The most popular reasons for visiting Newry, Mourne And Down was for 'holiday, pleasure and leisure', followed by 'visiting friends and relatives'.




*Tourism figures reflect the most recent 2017 report which has been issued by Tourism Northern Ireland.




Corporate Objective

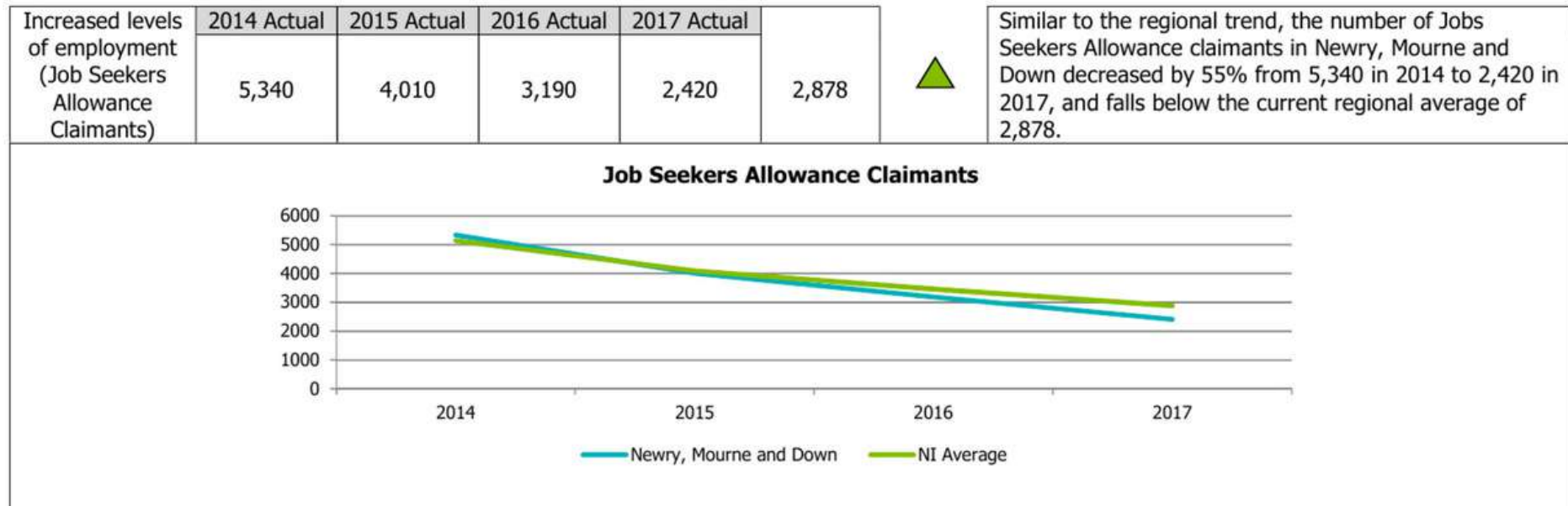
Attract investment and support the creation of new jobs

Key Actions	Status	Progress
Secure the District's position as a cross-border gateway for Dublin, Belfast and beyond		<p>On behalf of the Councils along the Border Corridor Region, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council commissioned a piece of research into the risks and opportunities presented by Brexit, focusing on the key business sectors, as well as the movement of commuters, goods and tourism. The Council presented the findings of this research at a Cross Border Brexit Conference in February 2018, which stimulated discussion and debate amongst key stakeholders on how to prepare for the challenges and opportunities ahead.</p> <p>Alongside the NI Executive, Westminster and other local authorities, the Council is participating in the Belfast Region City Deal which aims to secure an investment package to unlock economic growth, attract better jobs, improve skills and employability and secure foreign direct investment. A key proposal within the investment plan for the Belfast Region City Deal is the Southern Relief Road which will connect the A2 Warrenpoint Dual Carriageway and A1/N1 Belfast-Dublin Corridor, positioning Newry as a key strategic gateway to Dublin, Belfast and the European Union. This road will advance the economic infrastructure required to support business growth, new investment and the movement of workers and investors along the North South Corridor.</p>
Liaise with education and training establishments to ensure a steady flow of skilled employees for employers		Made up of representatives from local businesses and the education sector, the Economic Forum facilitates sustainable connectivity across key sectors to ensure future business needs and requirements are met. During 2017-18, multi-stakeholder working groups were established to support the Economic Forum, focusing on the key areas of 'skills', 'infrastructure' and 'Brexit'. Through the Skills Forum, education and industry representatives are working together to review local skills supply and demand, and plan for the future needs of the business and education sectors across the District.

		<p>The Council was also the lead partner in the £2.7m Social Investment Fund Southern Zone 'Work It' programme which enabled young people who were not in education, employment or training to access 48 week employment, essential skills training, team building and personal development services. The project has successfully concluded with a 78% into employment rate for the 160 participants who completed the programme and a 99.3% satisfaction rate. 500 community programmes have also been delivered and there have been 384 accredited qualifications awarded.</p>
<p>Successfully deliver Small Business Start and Growth Programmes, locally based</p>		<p>During 2017-18, the Council successfully worked with 250 local businesses to encourage business growth. Key programmes included the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Ready Steady Innovate' Business Breakfast, through which 60 businesses received advice on the support available to promote growth and innovation. • 'Overseas Results' programme, through which 20 businesses were provided with an opportunity to market their services or products to potential customers in overseas markets, such as Spain, Brazil and Germany. All participating businesses received the details of overseas clients which expressed an interest in engaging with them in the near future. <p>Through the European Regional Development Fund, the Council also secured funding to deliver the Business Growth Mentoring Programme which will engage up to 840 small and micro sized businesses and create 470 new employment positions over the next five years. In partnership with the Southern Regional College and South Eastern Regional College, the Council launched 'Digital NMD' in March 2018, which focuses on equipping local businesses with the confidence, skills and tools to benefit from rapid growth of digital and emerging technologies.</p>
<p>Prioritise infrastructure development and economic regeneration as part of the new Local Development Plan</p>		<p>In January 2018, the Planning Department transferred to the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Directorate, strengthening collaboration and joined up working in relation to key economic, tourism and regeneration projects. In June 2018, the Council published the Preferred Option Paper (POP) to stimulate debate and encourage feedback on key issues of strategic significance across the District. Feedback from the public consultation</p>

		exercise will inform the development of Local Development Plan (LDP). The next stage of the LDP will be the preparation and publication of the Draft Plan Strategy, followed by the Draft Local Policies Plan, both of which will be subject to Independent Examination prior to adoption. The current timetable programmes the LDP to be fully adopted in 2022-23.
Establish a new civic centre for Newry City		The regeneration plans for Newry City Centre are well underway, and seek to capitalise on the City's unique advantage as a regional gateway between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, by facilitating new investment, creating new jobs and attracting more visitors. The new Civic Centre, theatre/conferencing centre and new hotel/office developments, City Park and Southern Relief Road are central to achieving the overall vision of a vibrant and modern city.




Measures of Success	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		NI Average 2017-18	Status Trend	Explanatory Note
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual			
Increased number of new businesses started	207	233	197	172	167	167	160	 	Through the regional business start programme, the Council has supported 572 business start ups over the past three years. Whilst the Council achieved the targets set for 2015-16 and 2017-18, the 2016-17 targets were not met as the programme moved into interim delivery arrangements, which involved a reduced marketing structure and resulted in lower levels of participation across many Local Government Districts.
Major planning applications processed within 30 weeks	-	16.7%	-	14.8%	-	0%	26%		Since 2015-16, the number of major planning applications processed within the statutory standard of <30 weeks has declined, with no applications being processed within this time during 2017-18. This is largely due to the fact that 53.3% of the major planning applications processed in 2017-18 were legacy cases received prior to the transition of planning powers in 2015, which were very complex in nature. Over the past year, Newry, Mourne and Down processed the highest proportion of legacy cases across NI.






Performance Improvement Objective

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

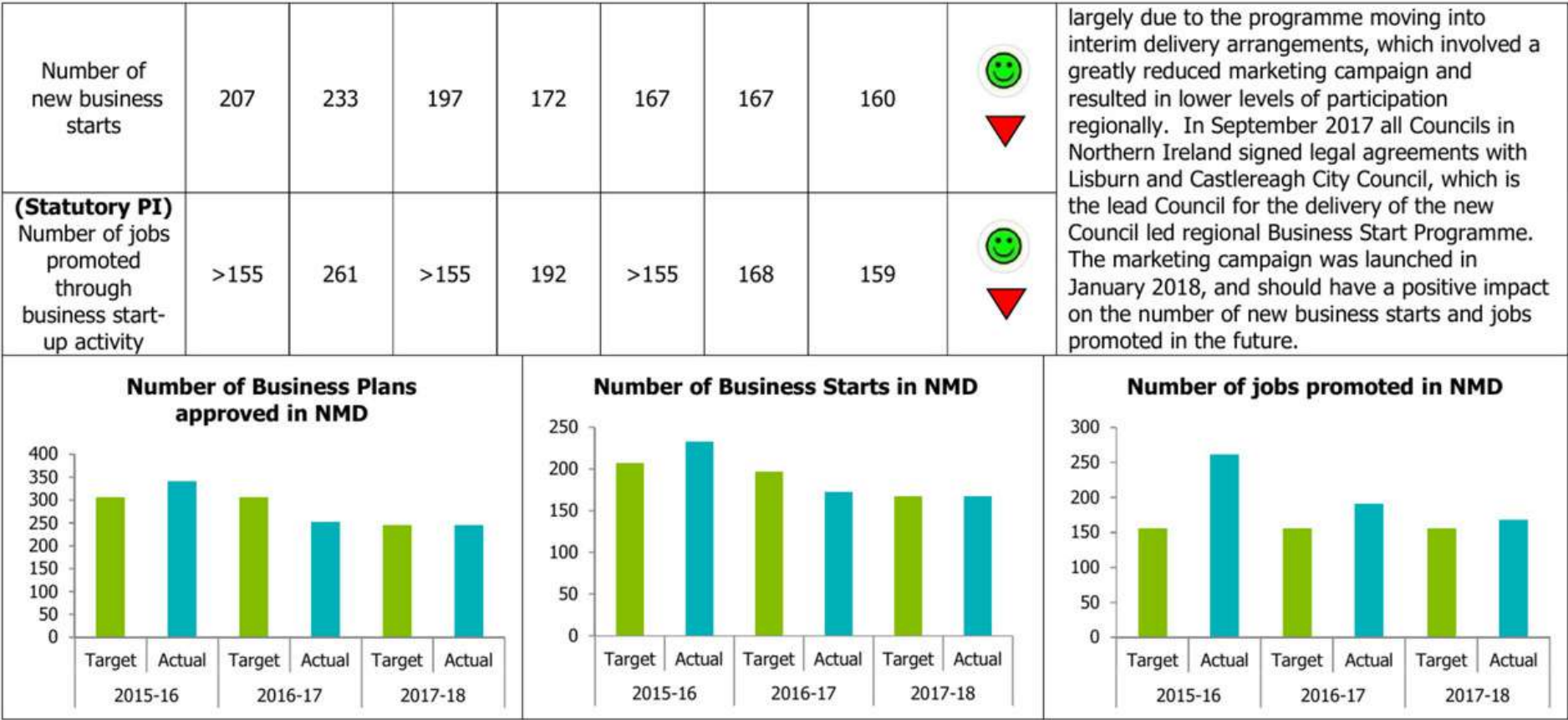
Supporting action	Status	Progress
Through the NI Business Start Up Programme, support the promotion of new jobs across the district		In September 2017, the NI 'Go for It' programme was launched to offer regional business start up support and activity and promote new jobs across the eleven Local Government Districts. Since 2015-16, the Council has met or exceeded all targets in relation to the promotion of new jobs through the regional business start programmes.
Support and develop the growth of the existing business and social economy base by delivering a		During 2017-18, the Council successfully worked with 250 local businesses to encourage business growth, through the Overseas Results Programme, 'Ready Steady Innovate' Business Breakfast and a series of short programmes which focused on brand development, online marketing and exporting. In partnership with the Southern

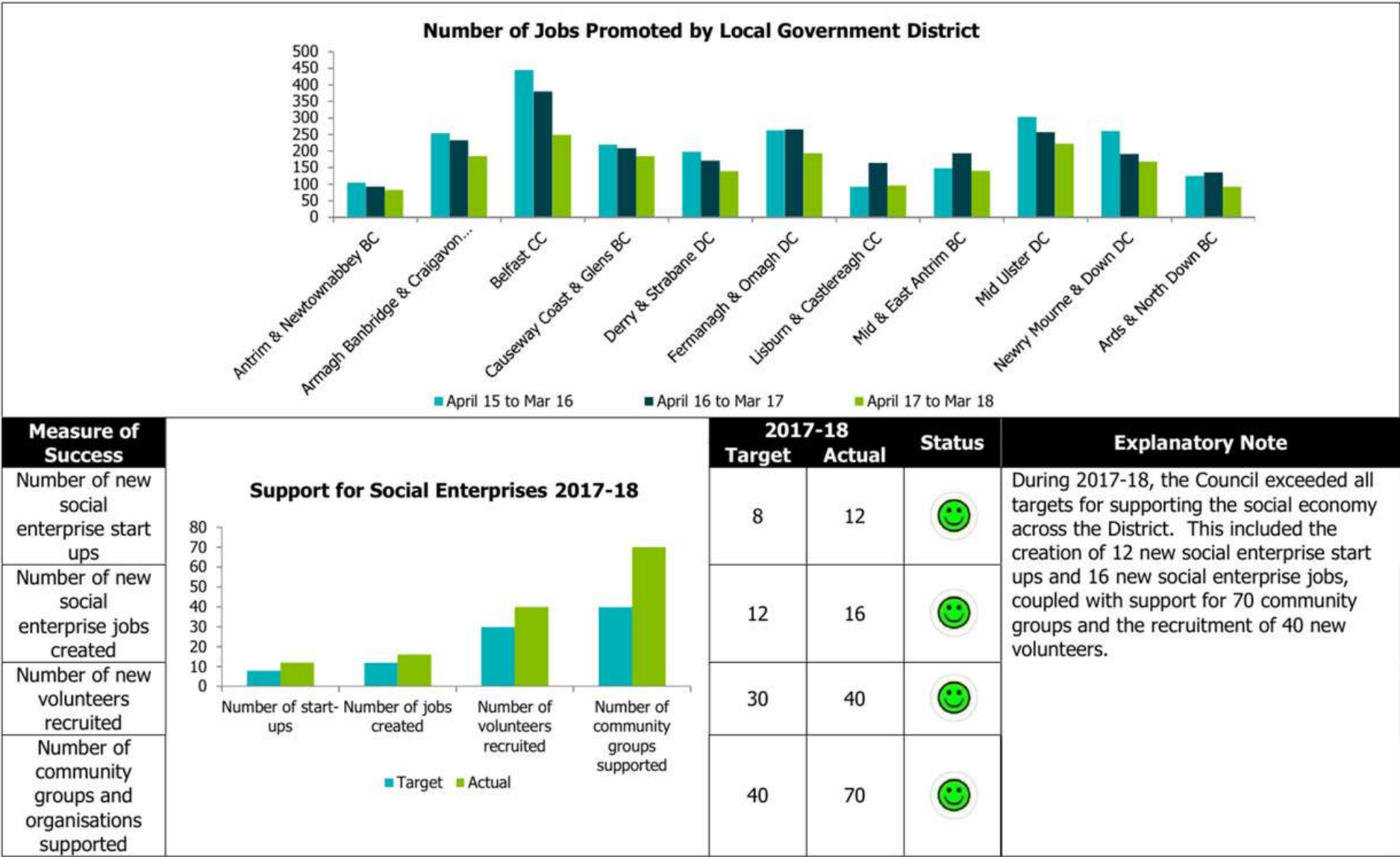
programme of activity to increase turnover, secure new contracts and create new employment opportunities		<p>Regional College, the Council also delivered the 'Crest' programme which enhanced the skills of over 140 residents who were unemployed, inactive or on low income. Skills programmes were delivered in the community, focusing on areas of employment with available job opportunities.</p> <p>Through the Social Economy Programme, the Council continues to support the establishment and growth of social enterprises, and during 2017-18, provided support to 70 community groups and organisations and recruited 40 new volunteers.</p>
Through the Rural Business Investment Scheme, invest £570,000 during 2017-2018 to support the establishment and growth of small and micro businesses, and the creation of new jobs in rural areas		The Mourne, Gullion and Lecale Partnership awarded £1m to 31 projects through Calls 1 and 2 of the Rural Business Investment Scheme, and to date, 15 projects have successfully availed of £485k grant funding. The Local Action Group is currently working on Call 3 and has held 10 pre application workshops which have attracted over 350 attendees. Over 120 expressions of interest have been submitted, with eligible projects working towards the submission of a full application by August 2018.
Implement the following key projects within the Tourism Strategy:		
Prepare and submit a revised application to the UK National Commission for UNESCO for Global Geopark status for the Mourne and Ring Gullion by 2019		The Council is working in partnership with the Geological Survey of Northern Ireland to progress Global Geopark status for the Mourne and Ring of Gullion. The Marketing and Engagement Plan has been developed and rolled out, and the Geopark Steering Group has been established. The Council is on track to submit the revised application for Global Geopark Status by November 2019.
Continue to develop the concept of the Great Eastern Greenway through the delivery of phase 2 of the Carlingford Lough Greenway		The Carlingford Lough Greenway is scheduled to complete in 2020. The new 10km off road trail will connect Newry, Omeath and Carlingford, and lead to more sustainable cross border transport and mobility. The 6.2km Greenway from Omeath to Carlingford was constructed in 2013 and attracted 53,000 users during 2016. A further 2.1km of



by June 2020, including the completion of the Greenway between the Weir and Victoria Lough by December 2017		Greenway from the Albert Basin to the Weir completed in December 2016, and the Greenway between the Weir and Victoria Lough completed in January 2018.
Develop two Destination Experience Development Plans to identify and create 'epic' moments by 2018, for: Mourne and Ring of Gullion The Mourne Coast		Extensive consultation and engagement with key stakeholders across the tourism industry has informed the development of the Visitor Experience Development Plan for Mourne, Ring of Gullion and the Mourne Coast. 40 businesses from the tourism and hospitality sector are engaged through six cluster groups to develop and bring authentic visitor experiences to life, across a range of themes including 'Fire and Ice', 'Giant Druids and Early Saints' and 'Livelihoods and Lifestyles'. This plan will be promoted to prospective visitors to increase tourism volume and revenue across the District.
Organise and promote five flagship festivals across the district:		Between June-September, the Council successfully organised and promoted five Giant Adventure festivals across the District:
Footsteps in the Forest (Slieve Gullion)		Footsteps in the Forest took place in June 2017, attracting around 9,000 visitors and generating an estimated total spend of £400,000, including £222,263 in direct spend. The event was rated very highly, with an average rating of 9.03 out of 10. 50% of respondents considered the event as 'extremely good', 62% considered the entertainment to be 'extremely good' and 95% felt that the event met or exceeded their expectations.
Skiffie Festival (Strangford Lough)		The Skiffie Strangford Lough festival took place in July 2017, attracting around 10,000 visitors, and generating an estimated total spend of £475,000, including £263,457 in direct spend. The event was rated highly, with an average rating of 8.84 out of 10. 34% of respondents considered the event as 'extremely good', 29% considered the entertainment to be 'extremely good' and 97% felt that the event met or exceeded their expectations.

Wake the Giant (Warrenpoint)		Wake the Giant took place in August 2017, attracting around 9,000 visitors, and generating an estimated total spend of £307,000, including £170,342 in direct spend. The event was rated highly, with an average rating of 8.73 out of 10. 40% of respondents considered the event as 'extremely good', 51% considered the entertainment to be 'extremely good' and 91% felt that the event met or exceeded their expectations.
Festival of Flight (Newcastle)		Festival of Flight took place in August 2017 and attracted around 103,000 visitors, generating an estimated total spend of £5.7m, including £3,175,974 in direct spend. The event was rated highly, with an average rating of 9.03 out of 10. 51% of respondents considered the event as 'extremely good', 52% considered the entertainment to be 'extremely good' and 94% felt that the event met or exceeded their expectations.
City of Merchants (Newry)		The first City of Merchants festival took place in September 2017, attracting around 8,150 visitors, and generating an estimated total spend of £276,000, including £153,120 in direct spend. The event was rated very highly, with an average rating of 8.83 out of 10. 47% of respondents considered the event as 'extremely good', 58% considered the entertainment to be 'extremely good' and 93% felt that the event met or exceeded their expectations.

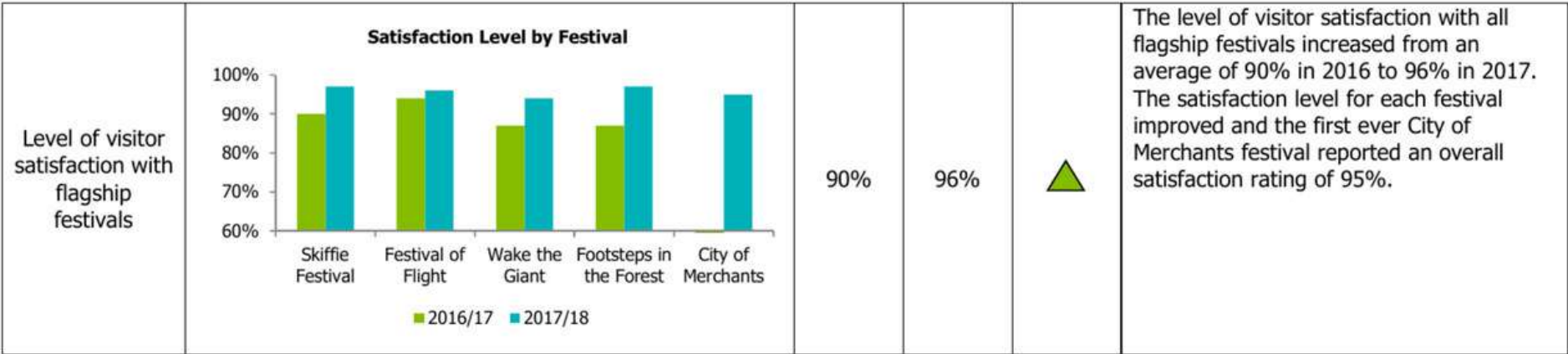
Measure of success	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		NI Average 2017-18	Status Trend	Explanatory note
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual			
Number of business plans approved	305	342	306	253	245	245	235	 	In 2015-16, the Council exceeded the targets set through the regional Business Start Programme by 13% for new businesses started and 68% for new jobs promoted. However, whilst the Council has continued to exceed the targets set for the number of jobs promoted, and is currently ranked 6/11 across Northern Ireland, overall, there has been a decline in performance. This is





Number of micro and small rural businesses created by March 2020	-	-	-	-		55	4	-	The Council has continued to successfully progress the implementation of the Rural Business Investment Scheme, with £1m being awarded to 31 projects through Calls 1 and 2. Whilst 4 new businesses and 5.5(fte) confirmed jobs have been created in rural areas under Call 1, it should be noted that there is a 'lag' between the initiation of the programme and the subsequent creation of businesses and jobs. The Rural Business Investment Scheme will continue to be monitored through the five year Rural Development Programme, and it is currently anticipated that the targets set will be achieved.
Number of micro and small businesses in rural areas supported by March 2020	-	-	-	-		30	15	-	
Number of new jobs created in rural areas by March 2020	-	-	-	-		147	5.5	-	
Measure of Success	2015		2016		2017		NI Average 2017	Status Trend	The general regional target for growth in overnight expenditure is 6%. Newry, Mourne and Down exceeded this target in 2016 and 2017 when there was an increase of 26.8% and 48.4% respectively.
	NI Target	NMD Actual	NI Target	NMD Actual	NI Target	NMD Actual			
Growth rate per annum in overnight expenditure in Newry, Mourne and Down	6%	(-10.4)%	6%	26.8%	6%	48.4%	8.9%	 	

Number of visitors to flagship festivals	<p>Number of Visitors by Festival</p> <table><tr><th>Festival</th><th>2016/17</th><th>2017/18</th></tr><tr><td>Skiffie Festival</td><td>25,000</td><td>10,000</td></tr><tr><td>Festival of Flight</td><td>95,000</td><td>105,000</td></tr><tr><td>Wake the Giant</td><td>10,000</td><td>10,000</td></tr><tr><td>Footsteps in the Forest</td><td>5,000</td><td>10,000</td></tr><tr><td>City of Merchants</td><td>0</td><td>10,000</td></tr></table>	Festival	2016/17	2017/18	Skiffie Festival	25,000	10,000	Festival of Flight	95,000	105,000	Wake the Giant	10,000	10,000	Footsteps in the Forest	5,000	10,000	City of Merchants	0	10,000	2016-17	2017-18	Trend	Between 2016 and 2017, the total number of visitors to the Giant Adventure festivals increased, particularly for the Festival of Flight and Footsteps in the Forest festivals. However, there was a significant decrease in the number of visitors to the Skiffie Festival in 2017, which can be attributed to the fact that the District hosted the Skiffie World Festival in 2016. An additional 8,150 visitors were recorded at the first ever City of Merchants Festival in 2017.
Festival	2016/17	2017/18																					
Skiffie Festival	25,000	10,000																					
Festival of Flight	95,000	105,000																					
Wake the Giant	10,000	10,000																					
Footsteps in the Forest	5,000	10,000																					
City of Merchants	0	10,000																					
	137,966	139,150																					
Estimated direct spend at flagship festivals	<p>Estimated Direct Spend by Festival</p> <table><tr><th>Festival</th><th>2016/17</th><th>2017/18</th></tr><tr><td>Skiffie Festival</td><td>£973,985</td><td>£263,457</td></tr><tr><td>Festival of Flight</td><td>£2,800,000</td><td>£3,200,000</td></tr><tr><td>Wake the Giant</td><td>£100,000</td><td>£100,000</td></tr><tr><td>Footsteps in the Forest</td><td>£200,000</td><td>£200,000</td></tr><tr><td>City of Merchants</td><td>0</td><td>£276,000</td></tr></table>	Festival	2016/17	2017/18	Skiffie Festival	£973,985	£263,457	Festival of Flight	£2,800,000	£3,200,000	Wake the Giant	£100,000	£100,000	Footsteps in the Forest	£200,000	£200,000	City of Merchants	0	£276,000	£4,215 m	£4,108 m		Between 2016 and 2017, there was a slight decrease in the amount of direct spend at the Giant Adventure festivals. This is largely due to the District hosting the Skiffie World festival in 2016 which generated an estimated direct spend of £973,985 compared to £263,457 in 2017. Estimated direct spend at all other festivals increased, with the first ever City of Merchants Festival generating around £276,000 in direct spend.
Festival	2016/17	2017/18																					
Skiffie Festival	£973,985	£263,457																					
Festival of Flight	£2,800,000	£3,200,000																					
Wake the Giant	£100,000	£100,000																					
Footsteps in the Forest	£200,000	£200,000																					
City of Merchants	0	£276,000																					



* 'Average spend per group at flagship festivals' has been substituted with 'estimated direct spend at flagship festivals', as a result of the amended methodology for evaluating events.


**The methodology for evaluating events changed between 2016-17 and 2017-18 and year on year comparisons therefore remain indicative.

**The 'level of visitor satisfaction with flagship festivals' is determined using the overall rating of events. This was calculated based on a score of 1-5 in 2016 (with scores 4-5 used to determine the satisfaction level) and 1-10 in 2017 (with scores 6-10 being used to determine the satisfaction level).

Corporate Objective

Lead the regeneration of urban and rural areas




Key Actions	Status	Progress
Implement master plans, including an up-to-date action plan for every town and village		<p>The Council continues to progress the implementation of the agreed masterplans for Ballynahinch, Downpatrick, Newry City and the South East Coast.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Developing Kilkeel Harbour as a strategic landing and processing port is a flagship project within the South East Coast Masterplan. The Options Feasibility Study and Stage 2 De Risking Study is now complete, which assesses the impact of the preferred option for the development in Kilkeel. The Council also continues to support key stakeholders to develop the future growth of the local fishing industry.The Council is progressing the Ballynahinch Masterplan which identifies 10 priority areas for revitalising the town centre, including the identification of vacant and






		<p>derelict properties and promoting what the town has to offer. The proposed Ballynahinch Bypass remains in the planning stages and the Council is working with Transport NI to secure approval.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The implementation of the Downpatrick Masterplan is underway and includes the Irish Street Public Realm scheme, which is scheduled to commence in January 2019 and will provide new pavements, street furniture and planting. The Council is also working with the Department for the Communities to progress a development brief for the former PSNI Station site on Irish Street, and a planning application has been submitted in relation to the development of a hotel in Downpatrick. The Newry City Masterplan is progressing well and includes the Southern Relief Road in Newry which will connect the A1 Dublin Road and A2 Warrenpoint Road.
Introduce a rolling programme of EI schemes across towns and villages		The environmental improvement schemes in Newry Cathedral Quarter and Warrenpoint are complete and both revitalisation schemes are due to commence when the funding is released by the Department for Communities during 2018-19. In addition to the Environmental Improvement Schemes, the Council is progressing an application for submission to the Heritage Lottery Fund around the Moorish Tower, Grange, Castle and Annesley Garden and Arboretum at Castlewellan Forest Park, and has also been awarded £2m to invest in the fishing dependent communities of Ardglass, Annalong, Kilkeel and Portavogie through the European Maritime Fisheries Fund.
Agree with the Department of Social Development (DSD) arrangements for the transfer of regeneration powers and functions	No longer relevant	Regeneration powers will no longer transfer from central to local government. The Council has been liaising with the Department for Communities to agree how future regeneration projects will be progressed through effective partnership working and collaboration.


Measure of Success	Target - 2020	Explanatory Note
Increased number of new businesses and jobs created in rural areas	55 new micro and small businesses created in rural areas	To be delivered and monitored through the Rural Development Programme 2015-2020.
	147 new jobs created in rural areas	

Performance Improvement Objective

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

Supporting action	Status	Progress
Restore the physical and cultural heritage of Warrenpoint Municipal Park by:		The Council is in the delivery phase of the Warrenpoint Municipal Park restoration project. The physical re-development works commenced in Q4 2017-18, and following completion in Q2 2018-19, the Council will progress obtaining the Green Flag award for environmental sustainability.
Completing the physical redevelopment of the park by May 2018		
Obtaining the Green Flag award for environmental sustainability by October 2018		
Implement the AONB Actions Plans for the Ring of Gullion and Strangford and Lecale		Both AONB Management Action Plans are currently being implemented by their respective partnerships. During 2017-18, around 50 funded projects were delivered, in addition to a wide range of training and engagement programmes such as Youth Rangers, Ambassadors and Conservation Volunteers, which resulted in approximately 3,500 hours of volunteer time. Key projects progressed in the Ring of Gullion AONB include the Sensory Trail, Iron Age Roundhouse, creation of a more sustainable path network and progressing plans to refurbish Chambre House into an interactive Family Heritage Centre. Key projects progressed in the Strangford and Lecale AONB include the development of an Outdoor Recreation Plan, completion of an access audit for Strangford Lough and Lecale, as well as a number of initiatives to remove coastal litter.

Invest in high quality environmental improvement and revitalisation schemes:		
Commence the delivery of the Irish Street, Downpatrick environmental improvement scheme, including the provision of increased parking, upgraded street lighting and improved landscape		Funding for the environmental improvement and revitalisation schemes in Downpatrick, Newry and Warrenpoint has not yet been released by the Department for Communities. It is anticipated that the Letter of Offer will be issued during 2018-19.
Commence the delivery of the Newry revitalisation scheme, including the Cathedral Corridor shop front scheme, shop local campaign, Newry BID and the purple flag award		
Commence the delivery of the Warrenpoint revitalisation scheme, including the shop front scheme and shop local campaign		
Complete the Forkhill Greenspace Project, including the creation of a village pathway by May 2017		The Forkhill Greenspace Pathway Project completed in May 2017 and the official launch took place in June 2017, representing the completion of another key project from the original masterplan for the former Forkhill Army Base. Funded by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, the £350k project includes an 800 metre circular pathway with seating, tree planting and artwork images designed by pupils from the local primary school.
Progress the implementation of the Rural Development Programme, including the development update of 42 Village Plans by March 2018 to		The Council secured £51,375 funding from the Mourne, Gullion and Lecale Partnership which contributed towards updating 25 existing Village Plans and creating 20 new Village Plans. 60 community groups and 500 individuals took part in the consultation around the development of Village Plans which identify

identify physical and environmental improvement projects across the district		improvements to the environment, infrastructure, tourism, leisure, recreation and the provision of services. The Mourne, Gullion and Lecale Partnership has also awarded the Council £500k to build and improve 16 play parks, as identified within the Village Plans.
Work in partnership with the relevant Departments to enhance broadband provision across the district.		<p>The Council has been proactively working with the relevant partner organisations and Departments to enhance digital connectivity across the District.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LPWAN – Delivered in partnership with the University of Ulster, Invest NI and all Councils in NI, this regional programme will facilitate the deployment of a 'Low Powered Wide Area Network', supporting Smarter City and the City Deal strategy. This infrastructure is also known as the 'Internet of Things' (IoT) and provides a unique opportunity for businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs to gain free access to the IoT network, allowing experimental research and development. • Gigabit Voucher Scheme – The Council is currently promoting the regional Gigabit Voucher Scheme for small businesses and the local communities surrounding them. This scheme enables applicants to access up to £3,000 towards the cost of a gigabit capable connection. • Broadband Survey – This Council led survey received over 924 responses which have highlighted connectivity issues across the district. The data will be used to support future applications to the Local Full Fibre Network in order to improve digital connectivity across the district.

Measure of success	2015-16	2018-19	2020-21	Explanatory note
Number of visitors to Warrenpoint Municipal Park	Actual	Target	Target	The baseline data was collated in 2015-16 and the next visitor survey will be carried out in Q3 2018-19.
	20,865	27,900	35,000	
Visitor satisfaction with Warrenpoint Municipal park	68%	74%	80%	The baseline data was collated in 2015-16 and the next visitor survey will be carried out in Q3 2018-19.

Number of people who believe Warrenpoint Municipal park enhances their quality of life	31%	40.5%	50%	The baseline data was collated in 2015-16 and the next visitor survey will be carried out in Q3 2018-19.
Increased footfall, improved business/visitor perception and reduced/sustained vacant properties by 2019-2020, following the completion of the Newry, Warrenpoint and Downpatrick environmental improvement and revitalisation schemes.	The post project evaluations for the three environmental improvement and revitalisation schemes will be delayed, due to the funding not being released.			



Community Planning Outcome

All people in Newry, Mourne and Down benefit from a clean, quality and sustainable environment

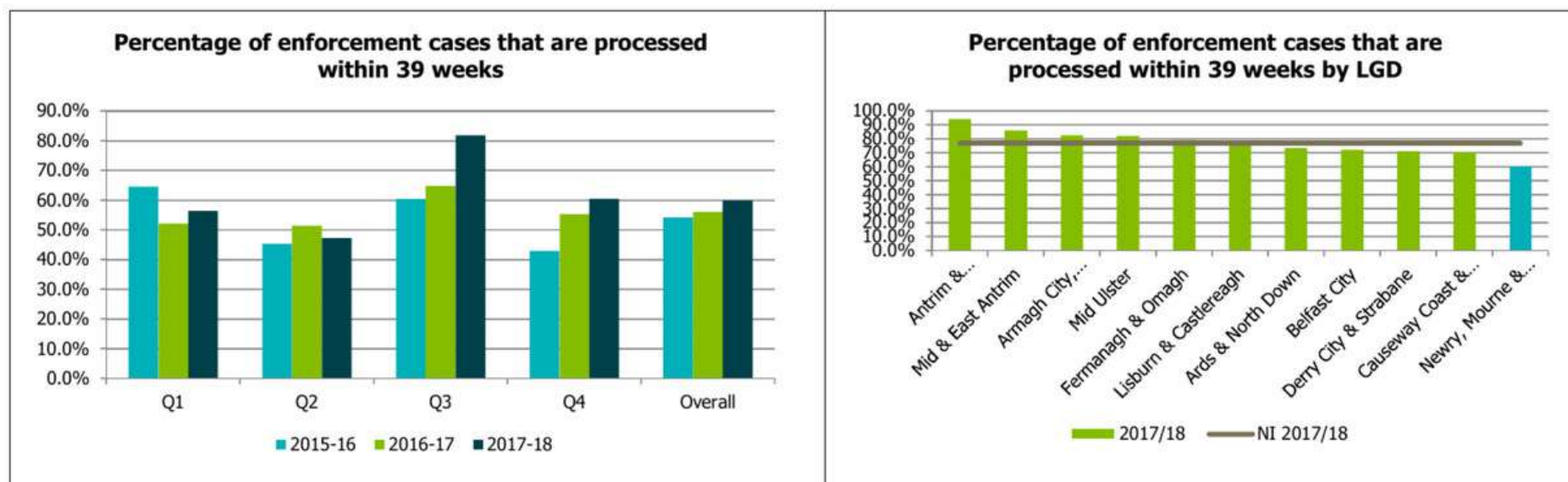
Corporate Objective

Protect our natural and built environment

Key Actions	Status	Progress
Close our existing landfill sites		Aughnagun and Drumanakelly landfill sites closed in 2015 and 2016.
Better manage the District's waste		Since 2015-16, the Council increased the rate of recycling by 7.3% to 46.2% and reduced the amount of biodegradable municipal waste that is sent to landfill by 84% to 2,612 tonnes, exceeding the 2017-18 target by 89%. The Council introduced a number of programmes to meet 2020 recycling target of 50%, including the provision of free food recycling kits, made up of a brown bin, kitchen caddy, caddy liners and instructional information, to all households which didn't receive one.
Reduce the risk of flooding in high risk areas		The Council has been collaborating with the Rivers Agency regarding areas of high risk flooding, ensuring flood mitigation and prevention is incorporated into the Local Development Plan. In partnership with NI Water, the Council completed the Camlough Lake Rehabilitation Scheme in May 2017.
Protect the District's rich natural and built heritage		Through the implementation of the Biodiversity Action Plan, the Council is committed to complying with the statutory duty of biodiversity, by protecting, maintaining, enhancing and restoring biodiversity across the District, and mainstreaming biodiversity conservation across all Directorates. The delivery of the Bee-licious project is well underway, and to

		<p>date, habitat improvements have taken place in Newcastle and Newry. Internal Biodiversity Implementation Plans have also been developed to ensure that biodiversity is considered and mainstreamed into the overall delivery of Council functions.</p> <p>The Council is also the lead partner in the €8.3m CANN (Collaborative Action for the Natura Network) project which involves 11 organisations and is funded through the INTERREG VA Programme. The project will help restore natural habitats and protect endangered species across selected sites in Northern Ireland, Ireland and Scotland.</p>
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Measure of Success	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		Status Trend	Explanatory Note
Level of waste to landfill – zero waste to landfill across the District (tonnes)	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	 	Since 2015-16, the amount of biodegradable local authority collected municipal waste that is sent to landfill reduced by 84% to 2,612 tonnes, and the Council exceeded the target set by 89%.
	<26,396	16,265	<25,036	5,393	<23,675	2,612		
Completion of flood defences at Camlough Lake	-		-		-			The Camlough Lake Rehabilitation Scheme completed in May 2017.
(Statutory PI) 70% of planning enforcement cases processed within 39 weeks	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	 	Whilst the Council did not meet the statutory standard of 70%, and is currently ranked 11/11 across Northern Ireland, the percentage of planning enforcement cases processed within 39 weeks has increased by 5.8% since 2015-16.
	70%	54.1%	70%	56.1%	70%	59.9%		











Performance Improvement Objective



Create a cleaner, greener, more attractive District

Supporting action	Status	Progress
Increase the recycling rate in 2017-2018 by:		
Introducing blue bin collections for commercial properties in the legacy Down area	😊	Blue bin collections are available to all commercial properties in the legacy Down area, and those properties which requested a blue bin have received one. The Council continues to circulate promotional material highlighting the cost and environmental benefits of recycling, and next steps include exploring options to implement alternate blue/black/brown bin collections for commercial properties.




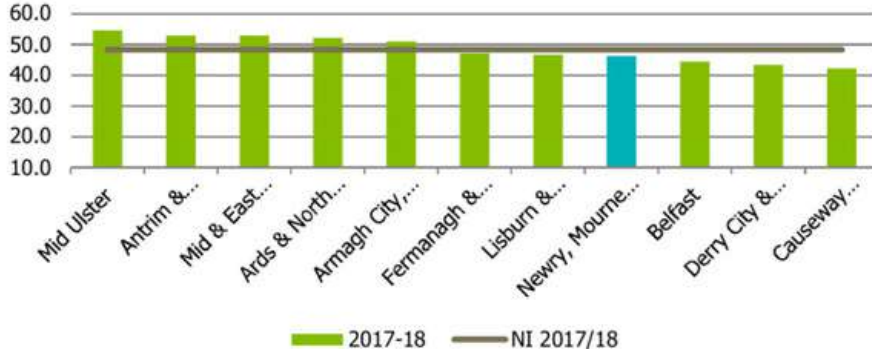


Standardising how glass is collected across the Newry, Mourne and Down District		A multi-disciplinary project team was established to explore options for standardising glass collection across the District. The standardisation process will commence on 1 April 2019, with glass being included in the blue bins of all households.
Opening the Downpatrick Household Waste Recycling Centre by Spring 2018		The completion of the Downpatrick Household Waste Recycling Centre has been delayed until Q4 2018-19 due to the requirement to carry out ecology surveys as part of the planning process.
Delivering a domestic food waste service across the district by extending brown bin collections and rolling out a district wide educational campaign		The domestic food waste service is now in place across the District and the education and awareness campaign has had a positive impact on the level of brown bin waste, which has increased by 60% since 2016-17. The success of the food waste recycling scheme is most evident between October-March when brown bin tonnages are maintained, despite the reduced levels of garden waste collected.
Undertaking 'targeted awareness raising' to promote the importance of recycling in all areas, particularly those with low recycling rates		<p>During 2017-18, the Council promoted the importance of recycling by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organising 120 visits to schools and community groups to deliver talks on waste management and recycling. • Hosting the Chairperson's Green Flag reception which seven schools attended. • Organising two Eco Schools Teacher information events, which teachers from 35 schools attended. • Ensuring all schools in the District are registered with the Eco Schools Programme, with 37 schools holding the green flag award. • Hosting the annual schools calendar competition which 60 schools took part in. This competition promotes the benefits of recycling and environmental issues to children and young people. • Distributing 15,000 copies of the calendar, free of charge to the 130 schools across the District. The inside two pages of the calendar provided information on brown bin recycling.

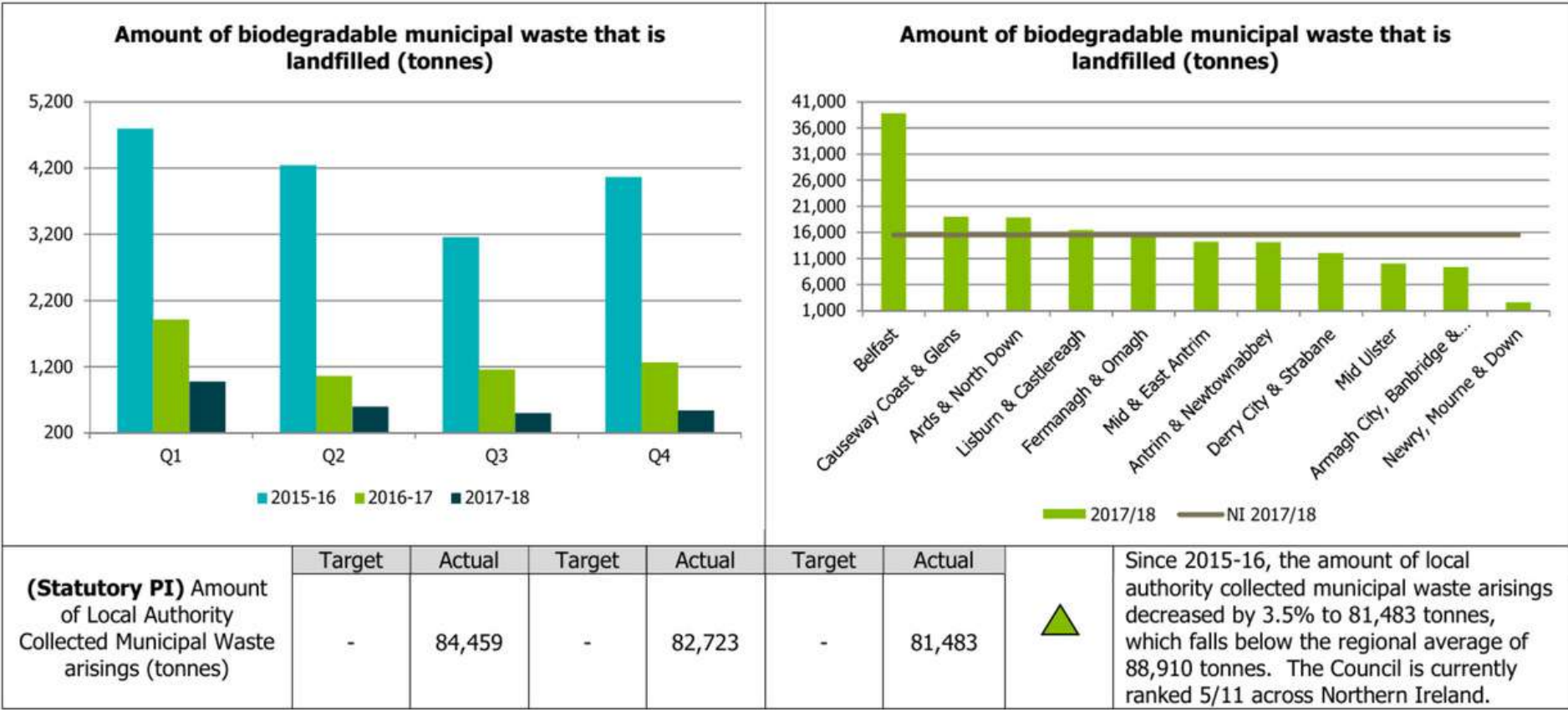
Reviewing and identifying the optimum routes for domestic and commercial refuse collection to provide a more equitable service across the district, deliver efficiencies and improve customer satisfaction		The specification and project plan for the routes optimisation project has been agreed and will now be progressed through the Neighbourhood Services Transformation Project during 2018-19.
Improve the quality and cleanliness of the local environment by:		
Developing and implementing a Litter Strategy for the district		The draft Litter Strategy has been developed and will now be progressed through the Neighbourhood Services Transformation Project during 2018-19.
Undertaking 'targeted awareness raising' to communicate the detrimental impact of littering, dog fouling, fly tipping, graffiti and fly-posting in areas with high environmental crime		The Council actively works with schools, community groups and volunteers to promote environmentally friendly practices by engaging visitors at festivals and carrying out leaflet drops in various neighbourhoods across the District. Litter and dog fouling bins in Warrenpoint have been rebranded and the recently developed Dog Fouling Strategy will be rolled out during 2018-19.
Promoting public participation in clean-up campaigns and initiatives such as 'Down Your Street'		The Council continues to actively support voluntary clean ups by loaning equipment, such as litter pickers, bags, vests and gloves, and removing the waste collected. During 2017-18, it is estimated that the Council assisted around 100 clean-ups which were carried out by local schools, community groups, businesses, as well as the events organised by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful, such as the Big Spring Clean and Coca Cola Clean Coasts. The two minute beach clean initiatives along the Warrenpoint, Cranfield, Tyrella, Newcastle and Lecale coast have also proved successful in removing coastal litter. The Council will continue to develop and strengthen its arrangements to monitor the support provided for clean up campaigns.

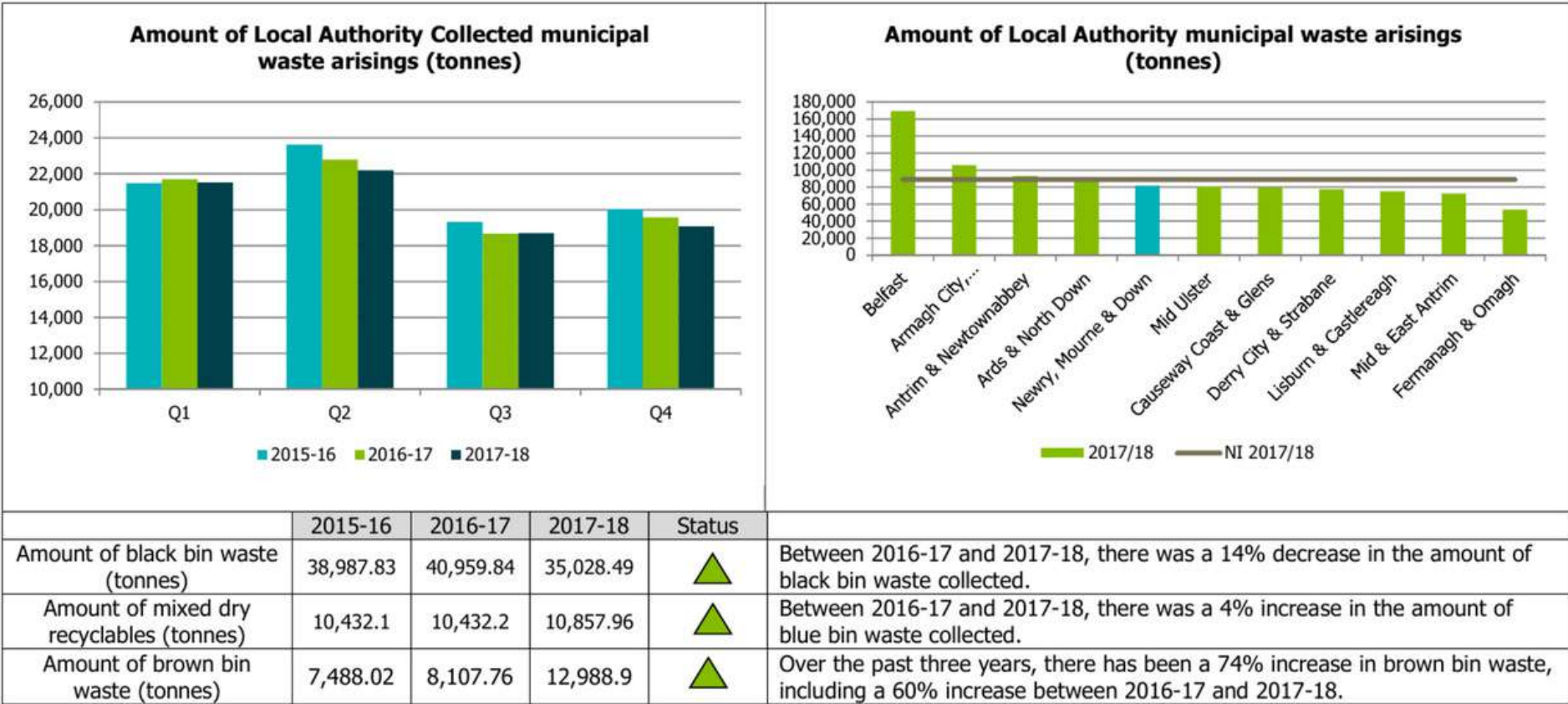
		Through the 'Down Your Street' initiative, the Council also awarded £39,988 to 18 projects to deliver a range of environmental improvements, including the Aboraetum and Walled Garden in Castlewellan and the beach and promenade clean up in Newcastle.
Developing a web-based scheme for the public to report environmental issues, including littering, graffiti and fly tipping		This scheme to report environmental issues electronically will now be progressed through the Neighbourhood Services Transformation Project during 2018-19.
Developing an in-house street cleanliness monitoring system for the district		As an alternative to developing an in-house street cleanliness system in 2017-18, the Council contracted Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful to measure and monitor street cleanliness across the District. Cleaner Neighbourhoods Surveys were carried out in August 2017 and April 2018, during which time the LEAMS score (Local Environmental Audit and Management System) decreased from 72 to 66, which falls below the average regional LEAMS score of 73 in August 2017. An action plan to address the key issues identified, specifically littering and dog fouling, is being finalised.
Reviewing and identifying the optimum routes for street cleansing to provide a more equitable service across the district, deliver efficiencies and improve customer satisfaction		The routes optimisation project for street cleansing will be progressed through the Neighbourhood Services Transformation Project during 2018-19.
Improve the performance of the Council's Planning service by:		During 2017-18, Newry, Mourne and Down received the second highest number of planning applications (1,570), reporting the greatest percentage increase across Northern Ireland since 2016-17 (5.3%). The Council also issued the second highest number of planning decisions (1,612) across Northern Ireland.
Reducing the backlog of historic Planning applications		The Council received the largest number of live legacy applications, which were submitted prior to the transfer of powers on 1 April 2015. Of the

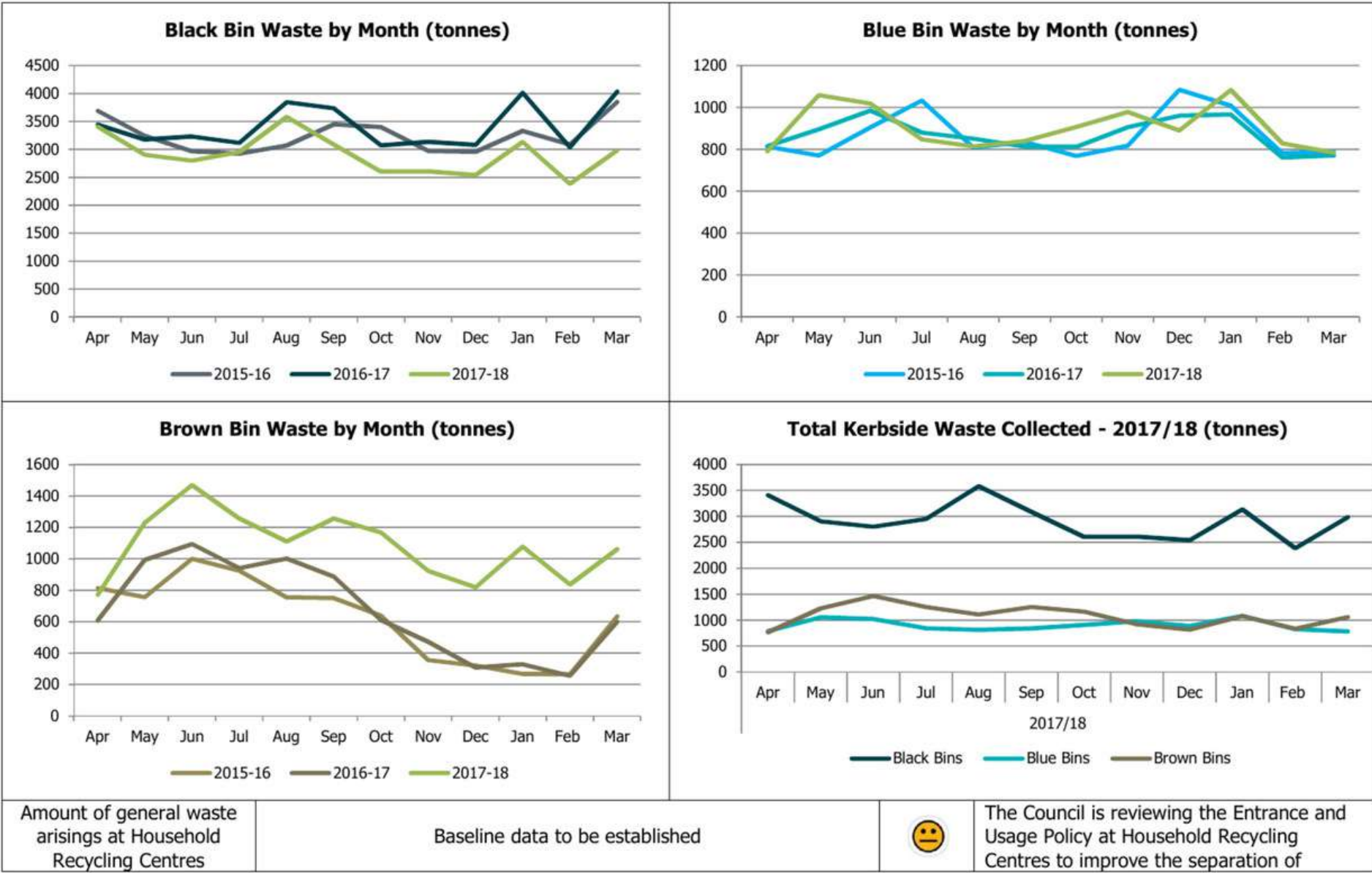
		1,183 applications which transferred, 19.4% were more than one year old. As at March 2018, 56 of these applications remain live, representing a 95.3% reduction in the number of live legacy planning applications at Newry, Mourne and Down since April 2015.
Improving the processing times of local planning applications		Newry, Mourne and Down reported the greatest increase in the number of local planning applications received, from 1,483 in 2016-17 to 1,562 in 2017-18, and issued the second highest number of local decisions across Northern Ireland (1,597). The Council also reported the greatest level of improvement across Northern Ireland, with processing times reducing from 23 weeks in 2016-17 to 17 weeks in 2017-18. The average processing time for legacy cases was 176.2 weeks compared to 16.2 weeks for Council received cases. During 2017-18, 44.7% of local planning applications were processed within 15 weeks compared to 35.2% in 2016-17.
Improving the processing time of major planning applications		Newry, Mourne and Down reported the longest processing time of 127.6 weeks across Northern Ireland for the 15 major planning applications processed. Over half of these applications were complex legacy cases which were received prior to the transition of planning powers in 2015, and had been in the system a considerable amount of time. However, the Council processed the highest proportion of legacy cases across Northern Ireland, which has resulted in the lengthy average processing time. The average processing time for legacy cases was 216.4 weeks compared to 91.8 weeks for Council received applications. No major planning applications were processed within 30 weeks during 2017-18 compared to 14.8% in 2016-17.









Measure of Success	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		Status Trend	Explanatory Note
(Statutory PI)	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual		

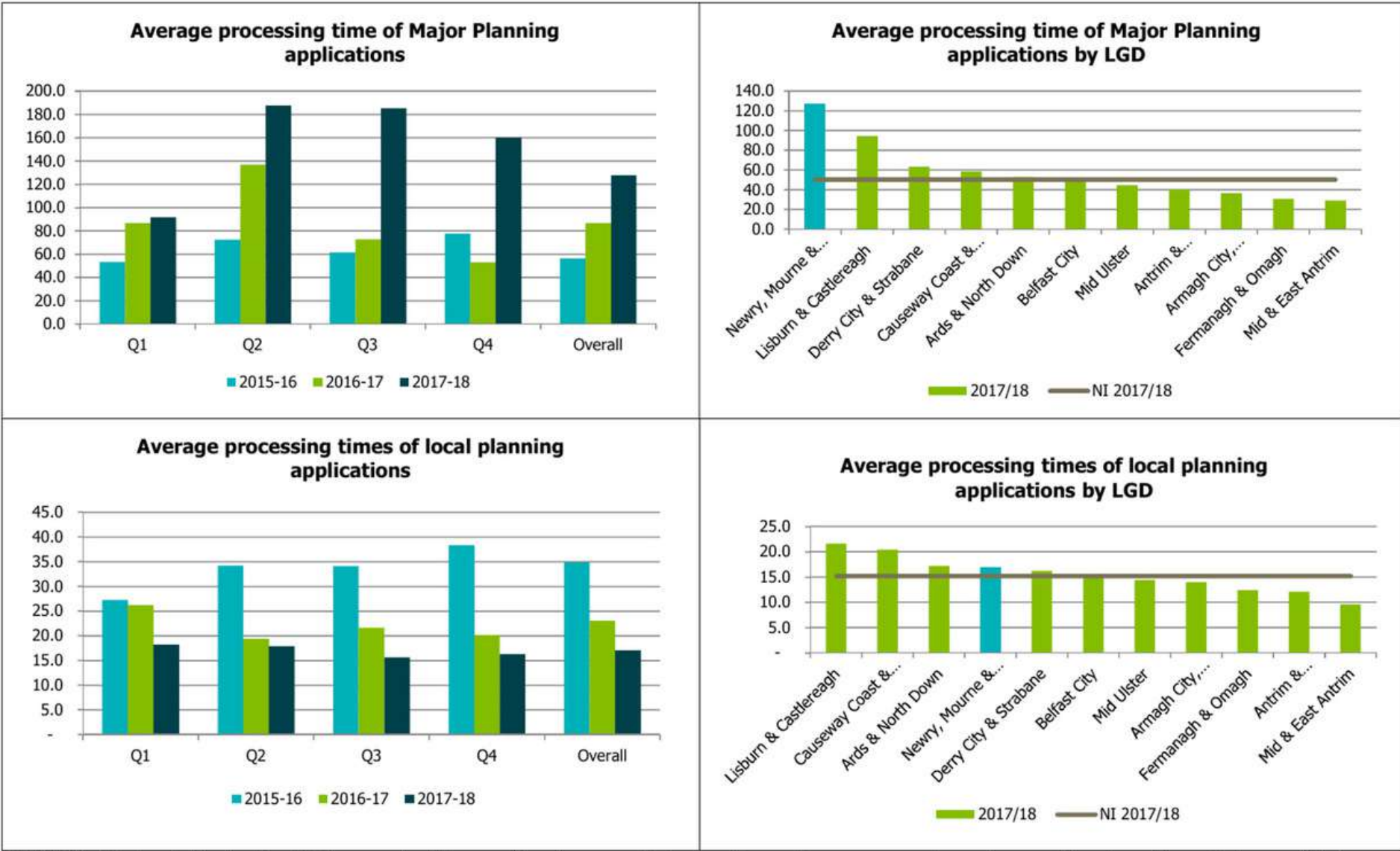
Percentage of household waste collected that is sent for recycling	50% by 2020	38.9%	50% by 2020	40.1%	50% by 2020	46.2%	<div><div></div><div></div></div> <div>Since 2015-16, the Council increased the overall rate of recycling by 7.3% to 46.2%, and is on track to meet the target of 50% by 2020. The overall recycling rate falls below the current regional average of 48.3% and the Council is ranked 8/11 across Northern Ireland.</div>
<div><div>Percentage of household waste collected by the Council that is sent for recycling</div></div>					<div><div>Percentage of household waste collected by the Council that is sent for recycling</div></div>		
<div>(Statutory PI) Amount of biodegradable municipal waste that is landfilled (tonnes)</div>	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	<div><div></div><div></div></div> <div>Since 2015-16, the Council decreased the amount of biodegradable waste sent to landfill by 84% to 2,612 tonnes, which falls well below the regional average of 15,556 tonnes. The Council is currently the best performing Council across Northern Ireland, exceeding the 2017-18 target by 89%.</div>
	<26,396	16,265	<25,036	5,393	<23,675	2,612	



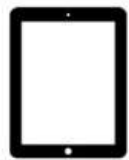




							general waste, which will increase the level of recycling and decrease general waste arisings. The arrangements to monitor this information will be developed in future years.
Percentage of bins collected on their scheduled day	Baseline data to be established						 The arrangements are currently not in place to monitor the percentage of bins collected on their scheduled day. Through the Neighbourhood Services Transformation Project, the Council will develop a system to monitor and report this information in future years.
Level of street cleanliness across the district	-	-	-	-	Actual Aug 2017 72	Actual Apr 2018 66	 The LEAMS score reduced from 72 in August 2017 to 66 in April 2018, primarily due to increased levels of littering and dog fouling.
(Statutory PI) Percentage of Planning enforcement cases that are processed within 39 weeks	Target 70%	Actual 54.1%	Target 70%	Actual 56.1%	Target 70%	Actual 59.9%	  Whilst the percentage of enforcement cases processed within 39 weeks has improved over the past three years, performance remains below the current regional average of 77%. And is ranked 11/11 across Northern Ireland.
(Statutory PI) Average processing time of major planning applications	<30 weeks	56.5 weeks	<30 weeks	86.6 weeks	<30 weeks	127.6 weeks	  The processing time for major planning applications is above the regional average of 50.2 weeks and has increased by 41 weeks since 2016-17. The Council is currently ranked 11/11 across Northern Ireland for processing major planning applications within 30 weeks.
(Statutory PI) Average processing time of local planning applications	<15 weeks	34.8 weeks	<15 weeks	23 weeks	<15 weeks	17 weeks	  Whilst the processing time for local planning applications is above the current regional average of 15.2 weeks, it has improved by 17.8 weeks since 2015-16. The Council is currently ranked 8/11 across Northern Ireland for processing local planning applications within 15 weeks.



*2017-18 data in relation to the statutory and self imposed performance indicators for waste management remains provisional, as the end of year data is currently being validated by DAERA.





Community Planning Outcome

All people in Newry, Mourne and Down live in respectful, safe and vibrant communities

Corporate Objective



Empower and improve the capacity of our communities





Key Actions	Status	Progress
Establish seven new Community Fora based on District Electoral Areas (DEAs) to allow for engagement and reporting at a local level		Operational since September 2015 the seven DEA Fora have successfully facilitated effective engagement, participation and locality based working between Elected Members, statutory partners and representatives from the community, voluntary and business sectors. During 2017-18, the DEA Fora held 88 meetings, including 26 community engagement events, which focused on themes such as crime prevention, health and wellbeing and external funding. Each Forum is also in the process of implementing their respective DEA Action Plan, which seek to facilitate the delivery of community planning outcomes at a local level.
Explore the potential for the community management of current Council facilities		The Council has completed the Audit of Effectiveness for community centres, examining how communities are supported through the provision of community facilities, with the overall aim of delivering more equitable service provision to all groups and communities in the future. The recommendations from the review have been approved by the Active and Healthy Communities Committee.
Develop a community engagement strategy for all aspects of Council services		The Community Engagement Strategy has been adopted and is supported by the corporate Consultation and Engagement Framework and Toolkit.
Develop and deliver a Community Support Plan		The Community Support Plan has been developed and is in the process of being delivered. Significant progress has been made in supporting Citizens Advice Newry,




(formerly the responsibility of the DSD)		Mourne and Down, delivering the Council's Financial Assistance Scheme to local community groups and reviewing community centre provision across the District.
Measure of Success	Status	Explanatory Note
Community Plan completed and published by mid 2016		The Community Plan for Newry, Mourne and Down was published in April 2017 and formally launched in October 2017. It is supported by four Thematic Delivery Plans for Health and Wellbeing, Economic Development, Regeneration and Tourism, Environment and Spatial Development and Safety and Good Relations, as well as seven DEA Action Plans. The Community Planning Partnership Board meets three times per annum and is responsible for leading the delivery of the Community Plan. The Thematic Delivery Groups meet on a quarterly basis and are responsible for leading the delivery of their respective Thematic Plan.
7 Community Fora established across the entire District with associated action plans		The seven DEA Fora have been operational since September 2015 and are currently made up of 41 Elected Members and 43 independent members, representing networks across the voluntary, community and business sectors. The implementation of the DEA Action Plans, which seek to address local issues and facilitate the achievement of community planning outcomes, is well underway.

Performance Improvement Objective

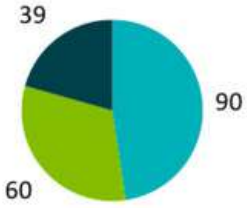



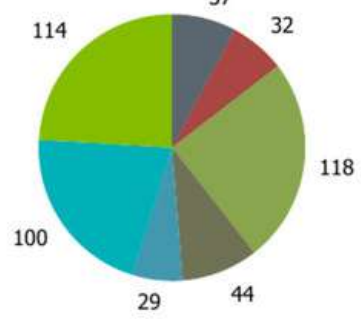

Encourage and empower local communities to participate in Council engagement structures



Supporting action	Status	Progress
Develop a corporate Consultation and Engagement Framework to improve the way the Council listens to and takes on board the views of local communities by September 2017		The Corporate Consultation and Engagement Framework was approved in August 2017, and provides a robust and meaningful foundation to actively encourage and enable citizens to have a voice on local issues that affect them. The Framework will help the Council to build a common understanding and coordinated approach to consultation and engagement, in support of local evidence based decision-making.
Further develop the level of engagement and participation in the following structures in 2017-2018:		Of the 189 spaces currently occupied through the four community engagement structures, 90 (48%) are taken by representatives from the voluntary, community and business sectors. Through regular meetings and capacity building events, stakeholders have the opportunity to inform and influence the local decision-making process and

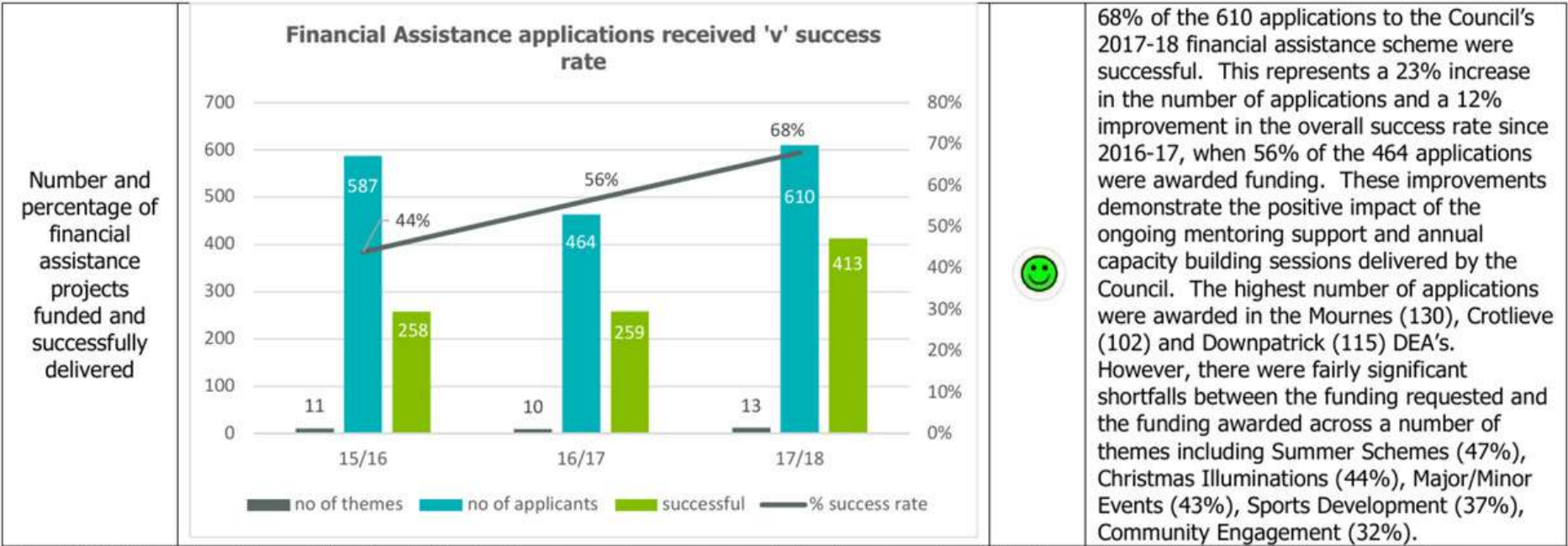
		collaborate with the Council and make a positive impact across key thematic areas including community safety, good relations, community development and health and wellbeing.
Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP)		With a total of 26 members, the PCSP is made up of 10 Elected Members, 9 Independent Members and 7 statutory organisations, including the NI Housing Executive and Southern Health and Social Care Trust. The PCSP and Policing Committee meet on a bi-monthly basis, and the PCSP is responsible for leading the implementation of the PCSP Action Plan.
Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships		With a total of 56 members, the Newry and Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships are made up of 23 statutory organisations and 33 representatives from the voluntary and community sectors. Both Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships meet on a bi-monthly basis, with regular thematic meetings taking place, and are responsible for leading the implementation of their respective action plans.
DEA Fora		The seven DEA Fora are currently made up of 84 members, including 41 Elected Members and 43 Independent Members, representing networks across the statutory, voluntary, community and business sectors. DEA Fora generally meet on a bi-monthly basis and hold around 3 public engagement events per annum. Following three workshops with a range of stakeholders, including Elected Members, staff and representatives from the community, voluntary and business sectors, the Terms of Reference and Operating Protocol have been revised to strengthen joined up working between the DEA Fora and Community Planning Thematic Groups.
Peace IV Partnership		With a total of 23 members, the PEACE IV Partnership is made up of 9 Elected Members, 9 social partners and 5 statutory organisations, including the PSNI and Education Authority. The partnership meets on a monthly basis and is responsible for leading the implementation of the £4.7m Peace IV Programme which aims to promote peace and reconciliation across the themes of 'children and young people', 'shared spaces and services' and 'building positive relationships'.

Reduce the risk of being burgled and address the fear of crime by promoting the Neighbourhood Watch, 'Good Morning, Good Neighbour' and 'Home Secure' schemes		At present, there are 177 Neighbourhood Watch Schemes across the District, with over 5,000 registered homes. At the end of 2017-18, the 303 service users registered with the 'Good Morning, Good Neighbour' scheme made a total of 44,584 calls, and 4,078 devices were fitted to 474 homes through the 'Home Secure' scheme. The 2016-17 Community Safety Survey revealed that 80% of respondents felt safe in their community and 58% thought their neighbourhood was a safe place to live.
Through the financial assistance scheme, allocate £1.3million to support local community and voluntary groups in delivering projects across key areas including festivals, sports development and community engagement		The Council received 610 applications for funding through the Financial Assistance Scheme 2017-18. 413 applications (68%) were awarded a total of £1,426,137.68 to deliver projects across a range of themes including summer schemes, capital projects, sports development, community events, good relations, community safety and Christmas illuminations. Of the 298 evaluation questionnaires returned by successful applicants, 90% indicated that, without financial assistance from the Council, their project would not have taken place, and 97.5% were satisfied with the level of support received from the Programmes Unit**.
Engage 50 local community groups in progressing the 'Audit of Effectiveness' for community centres and developing proposals for improvement		In 2016, the Council commissioned an Audit of Effectiveness to review existing operating and funding models for community centres across the District. 50 community groups, representing all DEA's, were involved in the process, and the recommendations from the review have been approved by the Active and Healthy Communities Committee.

Measure of success	2017-18	Status	Explanatory note																				
Number of meetings and public engagement events	<div><p>Level of Activity by Community Engagement Structure</p><table><tr><th>Category</th><th>DEA Fora</th><th>PCSP</th><th>PEACE IV Partnership</th></tr><tr><td>Meetings and Public Engagement Events</td><td>107</td><td>29</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>Events Delivered</td><td>85</td><td>50</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Events Supported</td><td>73</td><td>10</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Capacity Building Sessions</td><td>31</td><td>14</td><td>0</td></tr></table></div>	Category	DEA Fora	PCSP	PEACE IV Partnership	Meetings and Public Engagement Events	107	29	8	Events Delivered	85	50	1	Events Supported	73	10	0	Capacity Building Sessions	31	14	0		During 2017-18, 144 meetings and public engagement events took place, focusing on themes such as Neighbourhood Watch, health and wellbeing and crime prevention. 136 events were delivered across the District, with 450 young people taking part in the annual Mourne Mountain Adventure, 220 attending the YAFTA's (Youth and Future Talent Awards) and 1,275 participating in the 'Cuss the World' drug and alcohol awareness sessions. In addition, 260 older people participated in the Senior Shin Dig, 150 people attended the Traveller Living History event and 300 people took part in the Men's Health event. The DEA Fora also supported events such as the Village Plan consultations and Shared Schools Programme and 31 capacity building programmes were delivered, focusing on themes such as Safe Place, road safety and financial assistance.
Category		DEA Fora	PCSP	PEACE IV Partnership																			
Meetings and Public Engagement Events		107	29	8																			
Events Delivered		85	50	1																			
Events Supported	73	10	0																				
Capacity Building Sessions	31	14	0																				
Number of events delivered																							
Number of events supported																							
Number of capacity building programmes																							

<p>The effectiveness of Council run community engagement structures in facilitating stakeholder participation</p>	<p>Stakeholder Representation on Engagement Structures</p>  <p>■ Independent Representatives ■ Elected Members ■ Statutory Partners</p>	 <p>Of the 189 places currently occupied through the three community engagement structures, 60 are taken by Elected Members, 39 by partner organisations across the statutory sector and 90 by representatives from the voluntary, business and community sectors. This demonstrates the Council's commitment to working with key stakeholders, enabling them to have their say on shaping the future of the district.</p>				
<p>Number of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes</p>	<table><tr><th>2016-17 Actual</th><th>2017-18 Actual</th></tr><tr><td>150</td><td>177</td></tr></table>	2016-17 Actual	2017-18 Actual	150	177	  <p>Between 2016-17 and 2017-18, the number of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes across the District increased from 150 to 177. During 2017-18, the Council hosted three Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator Network meetings which reported around 270 attendances. The purpose of these meetings was to provide up to date information on crime prevention.</p>
2016-17 Actual	2017-18 Actual					
150	177					
<p>Number of beneficiaries of the 'Home Secure' scheme</p>	<p>Homes secured by DEA 2017-18</p>  <p>■ Crotlieve ■ Downpatrick ■ Newry ■ Rowallane ■ Slieve Croob ■ Slieve Gullion ■ The Mournes</p>	 <p>During 2017-18, 474 homes were secured with 4,078 devices. The majority of homes secured were in the Newry and Mournes DEAs whilst the Downpatrick and Slieve Croob DEAs reported the lowest number of homes secured. 94% of clients were aged 60 years and above, and the most popular devices fitted were padlock alarms (1,855) and window alarms (1,795), followed by light timers, door chains, door handle alarms.</p>				

Number of beneficiaries of the 'Good Morning, Good Neighbour' scheme	2017-18 Year End	2017-18 Year End		During 2017-18, 303 registered users made 44,584 calls through the scheme. 110 volunteers are currently registered on the scheme, 8 of which were recruited during 2017-18. 80 new referrals were made and volunteers accessed a range of training programmes, including text alert service and call handling.																									
	303 registered users	44,584 calls made																											
Percentage of respondents to the community safety survey who feel safer in their home	<div><p>How safe do you feel in your community?</p><table><caption>Community Safety Survey Data</caption><tr><th>Category</th><th>2015-2016 (%)</th><th>2016-2017 (%)</th></tr><tr><td>Don't Know</td><td>~2</td><td>~2</td></tr><tr><td>Very Unsafe</td><td>~2</td><td>~2</td></tr><tr><td>Fairly Unsafe</td><td>~1</td><td>~1</td></tr><tr><td>Neither</td><td>~6</td><td>~6</td></tr><tr><td>Fairly Safe</td><td>~48</td><td>~48</td></tr><tr><td>Very Safe</td><td>~29</td><td>~30</td></tr><tr><td>No Response</td><td>~5</td><td>~4</td></tr></table></div>			Category	2015-2016 (%)	2016-2017 (%)	Don't Know	~2	~2	Very Unsafe	~2	~2	Fairly Unsafe	~1	~1	Neither	~6	~6	Fairly Safe	~48	~48	Very Safe	~29	~30	No Response	~5	~4		In 2015-16, 79% of respondents felt very safe or fairly safe in their community, and this figure increased to 80% in 2016-17. The most prevalent safety issues affecting communities were 'people hanging about', 'environmental' and 'underage drinking' and the least prevalent were 'hate crime' and 'problems with parades'. In 2015-16, 57% of respondents thought their neighbourhood was a safe place to live, compared to 58% in 2016-17. Due to resource constraints, the results of the 2017-18 Community Safety Survey are currently being analysed.
Category	2015-2016 (%)	2016-2017 (%)																											
Don't Know	~2	~2																											
Very Unsafe	~2	~2																											
Fairly Unsafe	~1	~1																											
Neither	~6	~6																											
Fairly Safe	~48	~48																											
Very Safe	~29	~30																											
No Response	~5	~4																											






*The 2017-18 baseline data collated in relation to the community engagement structures remains indicative. The methodology will continue to be strengthened and data in relation to the Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships will be included and analysed further in future years.



**The Financial Assistance Scheme is delivered through internal and external funding streams.

Self imposed performance indicators – continued

Corporate Objective

Advocate on your behalf specifically in relation to those issues that really matter to you



Key Actions	Status	Progress
Establish a new Community Planning Partnership as a means to engage and involve statutory partners as well as communities in developing the District		The Community Planning Partnership meets three times per annum and the governance structure has been agreed with the statutory, community and voluntary sectors. The Partnership is supported by four Thematic Delivery Groups, Stakeholder Forum and seven DEA Fora which include representatives from the voluntary, community and business sectors, and involve local communities through public engagement events. All stakeholders have a key role to play in the development and delivery of local action plans, which are focused on improving the quality of life for all local communities across the District.
Attract public sector jobs to the District		The creation of jobs locally, including public sector employment is a key priority outlined within the Council's Economic Regeneration and Investment Strategy. The Council works closely with all Government Departments to ensure current public sector positions are retained, and the District continues to grow as a base for Public Sector services and employment.
Advocate for the introduction of high-speed broadband and enhanced mobile infrastructure across the District		The Council has met BT to discuss broadband provision across the District. A number of interventions have already taken place, including the 'Broadband Connection Voucher Scheme' which benefited local businesses and organisations. The Council is also supporting the Department for the Economy in implementing new connectivity projects, and in 2017, carried out a survey with residents and business owners around their current broadband internet service. The results of this survey will be used to map 'not spots' and 'black spots', to support future funding bids and broadband schemes. The Council is currently developing an application to the Department of Culture, Media and Sports to improve Fibre Connectivity across the district.


Lobby for the improvement of roads within and across the District		The Council hosts two meetings per annum with the Department for Infrastructure to highlight the improvements required to the roads infrastructure across the District. DEA Fora also have regular liaison with the Department to highlight, log and address specific issues with regards to roads and street lighting within their respective areas.
Promote good health care provision for all citizens		<p>The Council is committed to improving health and wellbeing outcomes for all. Through the Community Planning Health and Wellbeing Thematic Group, the Council is working with partner organisations on initiatives to promote physical activity, healthier living, mental and emotional wellbeing, sustainable schools and emergency responses. The recently established 'Health and Wellbeing Team' within the Active and Healthy Communities Directorate, is also focused on delivering initiatives around affordable warmth, home safety, employee wellbeing, health inequalities and developing an 'age friendly' District.</p> <p>The implementation of the Age Friendly Strategy is well underway and the 'dementia friendly' initiative is gaining momentum across the District. The Council continues to facilitate the Well Being Action Partnership which promotes joined up working with local voluntary organisations, and co-ordinate two Older People's Fora in Downpatrick and Newry, which involves 22 representatives from the community, voluntary and statutory sectors.</p>





Measure of Success	2016-17	Explanatory Note																																										
Increased broadband and mobile coverage	<p>Access to Broadband across NMD DEA's</p> <table><caption>Access to Broadband across NMD DEA's (2016-17)</caption><tr><th>DEA</th><th>% of premises able to receive 2Mb</th><th>% of premises able to receive 5Mb</th><th>% of premises able to receive 10Mb</th></tr><tr><td>Crotlieve</td><td>90</td><td>80</td><td>65</td></tr><tr><td>Downpatrick</td><td>90</td><td>75</td><td>65</td></tr><tr><td>Newry</td><td>100</td><td>100</td><td>92</td></tr><tr><td>Rowallane</td><td>95</td><td>85</td><td>80</td></tr><tr><td>Slieve Croob</td><td>85</td><td>70</td><td>55</td></tr><tr><td>Slieve Gullion</td><td>80</td><td>70</td><td>60</td></tr><tr><td>The Mournes</td><td>90</td><td>80</td><td>75</td></tr></table> <p>■ % of premises able to receive 2Mb ■ % of premises able to receive 5Mb ■ % of premises able to receive 10Mb</p>	DEA	% of premises able to receive 2Mb	% of premises able to receive 5Mb	% of premises able to receive 10Mb	Crotlieve	90	80	65	Downpatrick	90	75	65	Newry	100	100	92	Rowallane	95	85	80	Slieve Croob	85	70	55	Slieve Gullion	80	70	60	The Mournes	90	80	75	Baseline data reveals that the majority of premises across the District have access to broadband. 86% of premises can receive 2MB, 75% can receive 5MB and 66% can receive 10MB. However, there are significant geographic variations in the number of premises able to receive 10MB broadband, which equates to 92% of premises in the Newry DEA compared to 48% of premises in the Slieve Croob DEA.										
DEA	% of premises able to receive 2Mb	% of premises able to receive 5Mb	% of premises able to receive 10Mb																																									
Crotlieve	90	80	65																																									
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Slieve Gullion	80	70	60																																									
The Mournes	90	80	75																																									
Improved roads infrastructure	<p>Number of Road Improvement Schemes - Department for Infrastructure</p> <table><caption>Number of Road Improvement Schemes - Department for Infrastructure</caption><tr><th>Scheme Type</th><th>2016-17</th><th>2017-18</th></tr><tr><td>Asphalt Resurfacing</td><td>40</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>Bitumen Macadam</td><td>20</td><td>15</td></tr><tr><td>Surface Dressing</td><td>75</td><td>70</td></tr><tr><td>Footway Reconstruction</td><td>25</td><td>15</td></tr><tr><td>Drainage Maintenance</td><td>65</td><td>85</td></tr><tr><td>Structures</td><td>15</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>Structures with</td><td>5</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>Vehicle Restraints</td><td>5</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>Rural Roads Initiative</td><td>75</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Street Lighting Upgrade</td><td>15</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>Minor Works</td><td>5</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>Pedestrian Measures</td><td>5</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>Traffic Management</td><td>75</td><td>85</td></tr></table> <p>■ 2016-17 ■ 2017-18</p>	Scheme Type	2016-17	2017-18	Asphalt Resurfacing	40	20	Bitumen Macadam	20	15	Surface Dressing	75	70	Footway Reconstruction	25	15	Drainage Maintenance	65	85	Structures	15	10	Structures with	5	10	Vehicle Restraints	5	10	Rural Roads Initiative	75	0	Street Lighting Upgrade	15	10	Minor Works	5	5	Pedestrian Measures	5	5	Traffic Management	75	85	Over the past two years, the Department for Infrastructure completed a total of 743 road improvement schemes across the District, including 334 during 2017-18. 61% of the 743 schemes reported addressed issues around surface dressing, drainage maintenance and traffic management.
Scheme Type	2016-17	2017-18																																										
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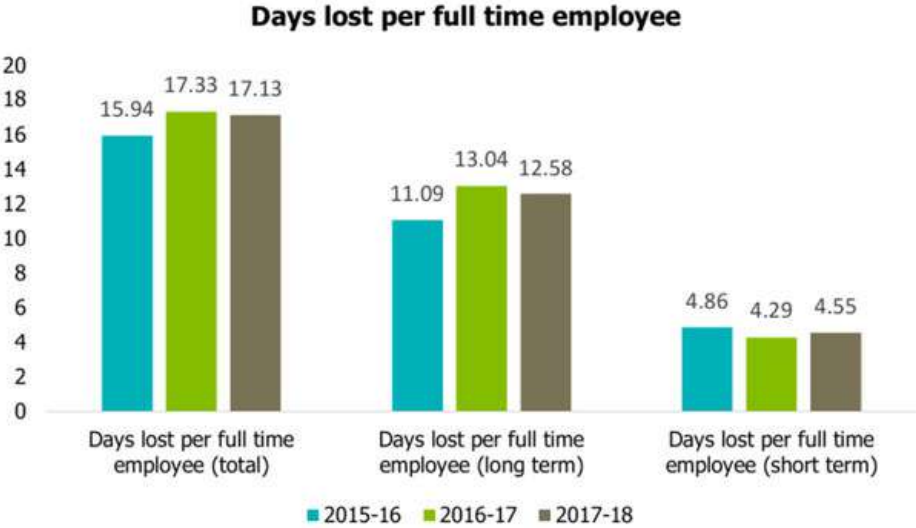
Corporate Objective

Transform and modernise the Council, providing accessible as well as value for money services

Key Actions	Status	Progress
Become an Investors in People (IIP) and Customer Service Excellence (CSE) accredited organisation		It has been agreed that the Council will not proceed with CSE and IIP at this time.
Develop a strategic financial plan to meet the capital and revenue needs of the Council		The Council has adopted a four year Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Budget.
Comprehensively review existing models of service delivery to identify more efficient ways of doing business		In response to local government reform and as part of the modernisation agenda, the Council's organisational structure has been agreed and is in the process of being implemented. This structure has been designed to support and facilitate business transformation and the delivery of more efficient and effective services to local communities. A number of inward and outward facing plans and strategies have been developed to facilitate this process and support the achievement of corporate objectives, including the IT Transformation Strategy, Review of Administration, Neighbourhood Services Project, Tourism Strategy and Play Strategy.
Implement an Improvement Plan to transform existing Council operations		The Council published the Performance Improvement Plan 2017-18 and received a certificate of compliance from the Local Government Auditor. The Council is currently progressing the 'proposals for improvement' which were put forward by the Northern Ireland Audit Office following the Performance Audit and Assessment in 2017-18.

Measure of Success	Status	Explanatory Note
Increased citizen satisfaction		In March 2018, it was agreed that a Household Survey will be commissioned to gauge resident priorities for the future and levels of customer satisfaction with the Council and its services. The Household Survey

		will be carried out in September 2018, in partnership with Mid and East Antrim Borough Council, and will underpin the development of the new Corporate Plan and Performance Improvement Plan.
Increased employee satisfaction		The Council actively seeks to improve the welfare and wellbeing of employees. During 2017-18, the Council carried out a Wellbeing Survey, which provided individual respondents with tailored advice on how to improve their overall wellbeing. The Council also carried out a Stress Audit, and the cross departmental Health and Wellbeing Working Group has led the development of an action plan to address the key issues highlighted by employees.
Reduced absenteeism		Between 2015-16 and 2016-17, the number of days lost per employee increased by 1.39 days to 17.33 days. However, this was followed by a reduction of 0.2 days lost per employee between 2016-17 and 2017-18. Whilst long term absenteeism per full time employee increased from 11.09 days in 2015-16 to 12.58 days in 2017-18, short term absenteeism decreased from 4.86 days in 2015-16 to 4.55 days in 2017-18.
IIP/CSE accreditation		The Council has agreed not to proceed with IIP/CSE accreditation.
Annual Improvement Plan validated by the Local Government Auditor		The certificate of compliance was received from the Local Government Auditor in relation to the Duty of Improvement 2017-18.



In addition to the performance measures within the Corporate Plan, the Council is in the process of developing and agreeing self imposed performance indicators at all levels of the organisation, in line with the Business Planning and Performance Management Framework. This is evidenced through the:

- Agreed suites of performance indicators included within Directorate Business Plans
- DEA Scorecards which are aligned to community planning outcomes
- Agreed suites of performance indicators for Building Control, Corporate Services, Community Development, Economic Development, Environmental Health, Environmental Services, Leisure and Planning, through the Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE)

As the Council's performance management arrangements continue to mature and embed, the self imposed performance indicators will be measured, analysed and reported, identifying trends over time and facilitating benchmarking and comparisons with Councils across Northern Ireland and neighbouring jurisdictions. This process will support Newry, Mourne and Down District Council in developing a performance improvement culture across the organisation and delivering sustainable improvements for local communities.

Appendix 1 – Performance Scorecards

The Northern Ireland Audit Office has issued 'Performance Management for Outcomes: A Good Practice Guide for Public Bodies'. This guide provides an overview of the outcomes based approach and offers a framework for developing performance management processes to support the planning and delivery of public services. The Programme for Government and Community Plan for Newry, Mourne and Down have both been developed using the outcomes based approach, and performance scorecards will be used to set out:

- How much has been done
- How well it has been done
- Whether anyone is better off

In line with the guidance issued, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council has developed corporate performance scorecards for the following three outcomes which have been identified within the Performance Improvement Plan 2017-18:

- The Council meets landfill and recycling targets
- The Council provides a more efficient and effective Planning Service
- Community groups receive financial support

Outcome: The Council provides a more efficient and effective Planning Service



How much did we do?

Overall Planning Applications



Received up by
5%

Decided down
up by 8%

Approved down
up by 8%

How well did we do it?

Since 2015-16:

Processing time for local planning applications improved by **17.8 weeks** to **17 weeks**

Processing time for major planning applications increased by **71 weeks** to **127.6 weeks**

Percentage of enforcement cases processed within 39 weeks increased by **5.8%** to **59.9%**



Average Processing Time of Local Planning Applications (Target: <15 weeks)



Average Processing Time of Major Planning Applications (Target: <30 weeks)



Is anyone better off?



Most improved processing time for local planning applications across NI

On track to meet the statutory standard of <15 weeks

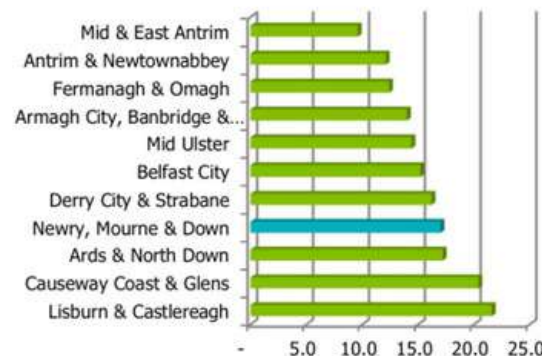
95% reduction in the number of legacy planning applications

Longest processing time for major planning applications across NI

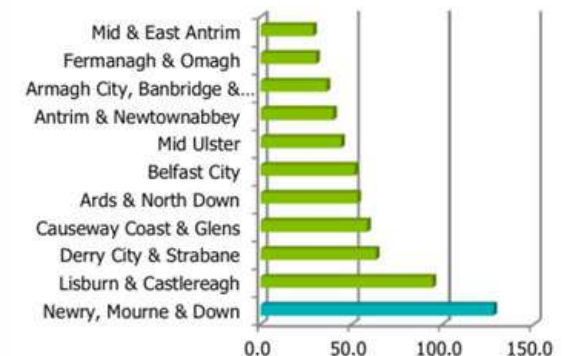
Lowest percentage of enforcement cases processed within 39 weeks across NI




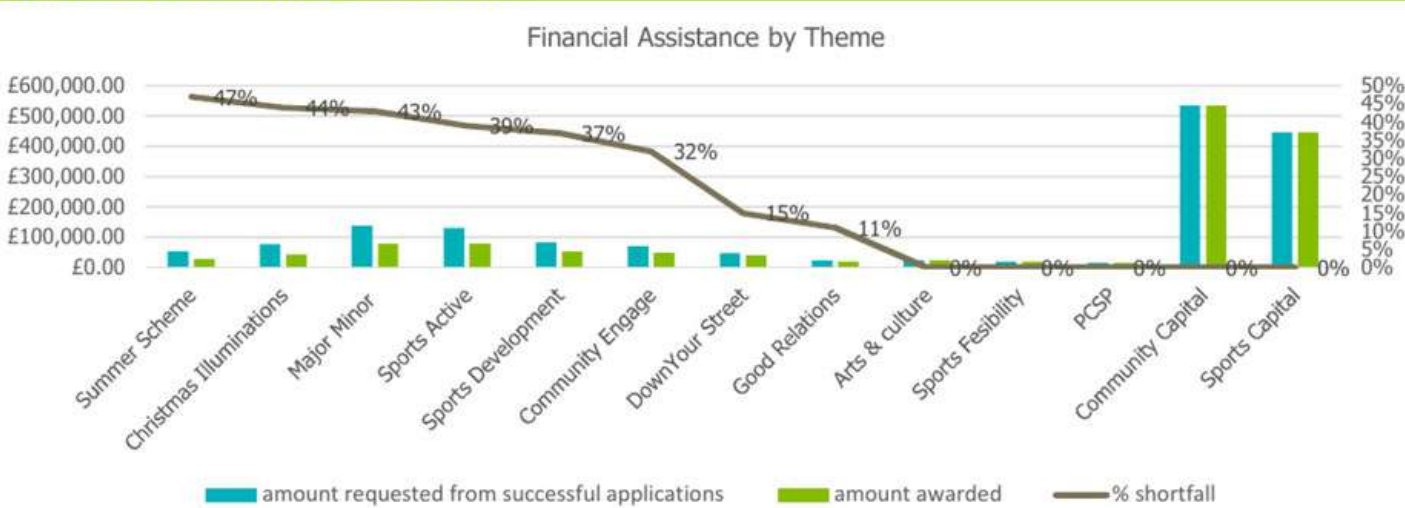


Average Processing Times of Local Planning Applications by LGD - 2017/18 (weeks)

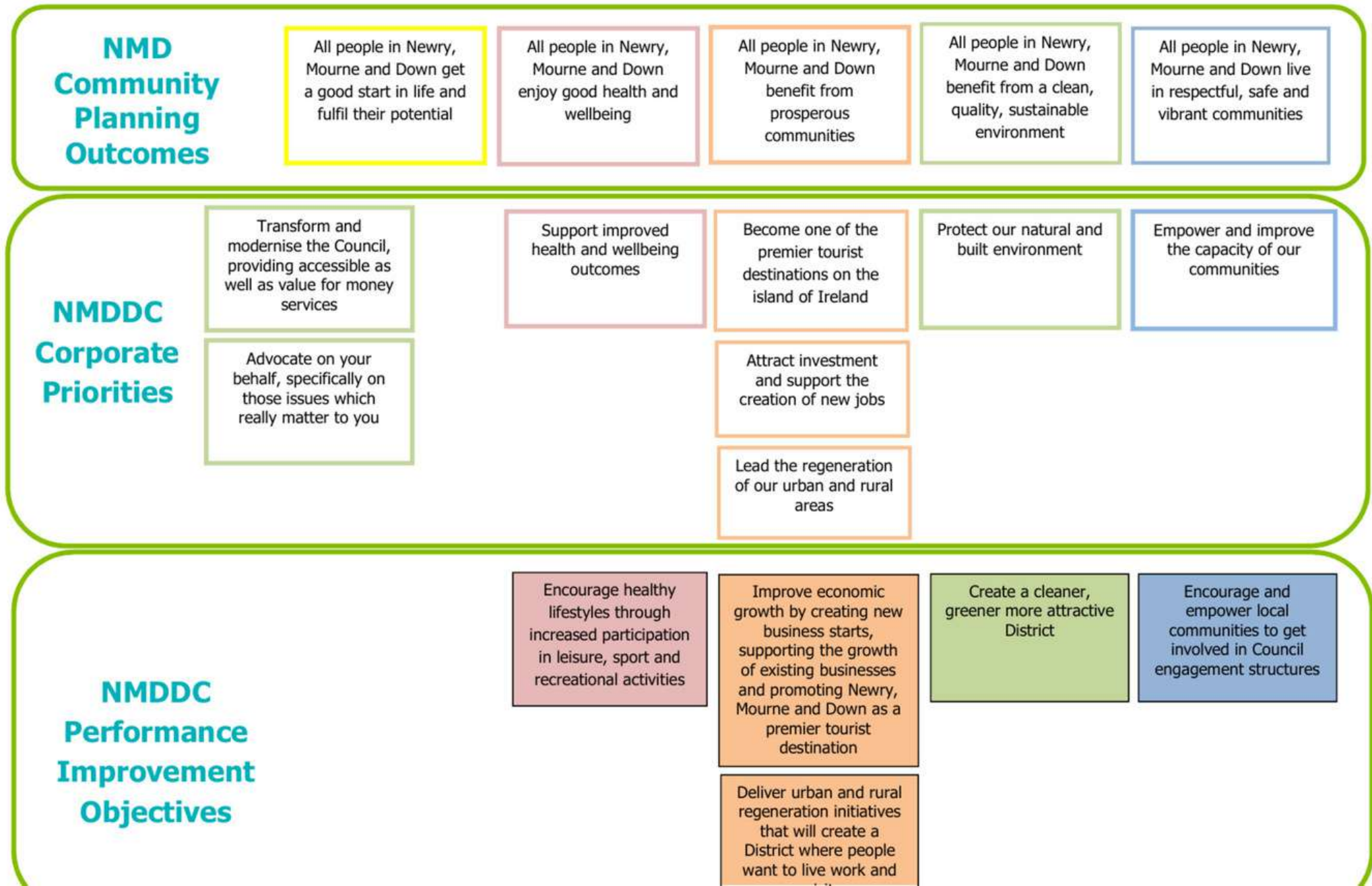


Average Processing Times of Major Planning Applications by LGD - 2017/18 (weeks)



Outcome: Community groups receive financial support																																																									
How much did we do?	How well did we do it?																																																								
<div><p>610 financial assistance applications were received</p></div> <div><p>Over £1.4m awarded to 413 applications</p></div> <div><p>Ongoing training and capacity building with groups and organisations</p></div>	<p>Application success rate increased from 44% to 68% since 2015-16</p> <p>Community demand exceeds financial assistance available towards Summer Schemes, Christmas illuminations, Major/ Minor events and Sports Active</p> <div><p>Financial Assistance by Theme</p><table><tr><th>Theme</th><th>Amount Requested (£)</th><th>Amount Awarded (£)</th><th>% Shortfall</th></tr><tr><td>Summer Scheme</td><td>~£50,000</td><td>~£50,000</td><td>47%</td></tr><tr><td>Christmas Illuminations</td><td>~£50,000</td><td>~£50,000</td><td>44%</td></tr><tr><td>Major Minor</td><td>~£150,000</td><td>~£100,000</td><td>43%</td></tr><tr><td>Sports Active</td><td>~£150,000</td><td>~£100,000</td><td>39%</td></tr><tr><td>Sports Development</td><td>~£50,000</td><td>~£50,000</td><td>37%</td></tr><tr><td>Community Engage</td><td>~£50,000</td><td>~£50,000</td><td>32%</td></tr><tr><td>DownYour Street</td><td>~£50,000</td><td>~£50,000</td><td>15%</td></tr><tr><td>Good Relations</td><td>~£50,000</td><td>~£50,000</td><td>11%</td></tr><tr><td>Arts & culture</td><td>~£50,000</td><td>~£50,000</td><td>0%</td></tr><tr><td>Sports Feisibility</td><td>~£50,000</td><td>~£50,000</td><td>0%</td></tr><tr><td>PCSP</td><td>~£50,000</td><td>~£50,000</td><td>0%</td></tr><tr><td>Community Capital</td><td>~£500,000</td><td>~£500,000</td><td>0%</td></tr><tr><td>Sports Capital</td><td>~£450,000</td><td>~£450,000</td><td>0%</td></tr></table></div>	Theme	Amount Requested (£)	Amount Awarded (£)	% Shortfall	Summer Scheme	~£50,000	~£50,000	47%	Christmas Illuminations	~£50,000	~£50,000	44%	Major Minor	~£150,000	~£100,000	43%	Sports Active	~£150,000	~£100,000	39%	Sports Development	~£50,000	~£50,000	37%	Community Engage	~£50,000	~£50,000	32%	DownYour Street	~£50,000	~£50,000	15%	Good Relations	~£50,000	~£50,000	11%	Arts & culture	~£50,000	~£50,000	0%	Sports Feisibility	~£50,000	~£50,000	0%	PCSP	~£50,000	~£50,000	0%	Community Capital	~£500,000	~£500,000	0%	Sports Capital	~£450,000	~£450,000	0%
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Is anyone better off?	<p>90% of successful respondents stated that their event would not have taken place without the funding from the Financial Assistance Scheme.</p> <p>98% were satisfied with the support provided by the Programmes Unit.</p> <p>'Would like to thank the Council for the financial help - small amounts of funding go a long way in the local community'.</p> <p>'The Committee would like to thank the Council for the funds that have helped deliver this amazing project for kids with learning disability'.</p> <p>'Excellent support and cooperation from the Council on this project'.</p>																																																								

Appendix 2: The Golden Thread



Report to:	Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	13 September 2018
Subject:	Draft Consultation Response to NILGA “Devolution within Northern Ireland” Report
Reporting Officer:	Johnny McBride - Assistant Director: Community Planning & Performance
Contact Officer:	Johnny McBride - Assistant Director: Community Planning & Performance

Decision(s) Required:							
<table><tr><td>For decision</td><td>X</td><td>For noting only</td><td></td></tr></table>				For decision	X	For noting only	
For decision	X	For noting only					
1.0	<u>Purpose & Background</u>						
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide Members with a draft response to NILGA consultation in relation to its “Devolution within Northern Ireland” report.						
2.0	<u>Key Issues</u>						
2.1	Members may already be aware that NILGA recently published a report, which examined the evidence for an extension of the responsibilities of Local Government in Northern Ireland. The report argues for the transfer to Councils of direct responsibility for services and the scrutiny by Councils of matters, which remain the direct responsibility of the NI Executive or its agencies.						
2.2	A draft response to the consultation document is provided at Appendix I , whilst a copy of the NILGA report is also provided at Appendix II . The closing date for submissions is Friday, 28 September 2018.						
3.0	<u>Resource Implications</u>						
	There are no resource implications contained within this report.						
4.0	<u>Equality & Good Relations Implications</u>						
	There are no equality and good relations implications arising from this specific report.						
5.0	<u>Appendices</u>						
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appendix I – draft response to the consultation document• Appendix II – NILGA “Devolution within Northern Ireland” Report						



Consultation: Devolution within Northern Ireland

31st July 2018 – 28th September 2018

RESPONSE TEMPLATE

NILGA is inviting councils to corporately respond to the questions outlined in this consultation and to provide any other comments and appendices that they wish to add by 28th September 2018, to Karen Smyth at the NILGA Offices (k.smyth@nilga.org).

Derek McCallan
Chief Executive

Date 31st July 2018

Q1: IN GENERAL, LOOKING AT PRINCIPLES AND CONTENT, WHAT IS YOUR COUNCIL'S OVERALL VIEW ON THE NPI REPORT "DEVOLUTION WITHIN NORTHERN IRELAND"?

THE COUNCIL WELCOMES THE REPORT AND THE DEBATE IT WILL CREATE CONCERNING THE POTENTIAL FOR THE TRANSFER OF NEW POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

THIS IS CONSIDERED TIMELY GIVEN WIDER MACRO-ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES (I.E. BREXIT & THE ABSENCE OF A NI EXECUTIVE) BUT ALSO AS LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEARS THE END OF ITS FIRST FULL TERM FOLLOWING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ELEVEN NEW COUNCILS IN 2015 AND IS FOCUSED ON THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE SECTOR.

OUR RECENT EXPERIENCES, PARTICULARLY IN RELATION TO PLANNING, OFF-STREET CAR PARKING, COMMUNITY PLANNING AND WIDER LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM, AND THE EFFECTIVENESS OF HOW THESE FUNCTIONS AND POWERS WERE TRANSFERRED IN THE PAST, ALL ADD VALUE TO ANY DEBATE ABOUT THE POTENTIAL TRANSFER OF NEW RESPONSIBILITIES.

A CRITICAL ISSUE THAT ANY FUTURE DEBATE MUST ADDRESS IS BRINGING CLARIFICATION TO THE

STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL LINKS BETWEEN LOCAL GOVERNMENT, THE NI ASSEMBLY AND ITS DEPARTMENTS, CONCERNING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNMENT OUTCOMES. THIS IS MORE THAN JUST ALIGNING AMBITION BUT MUST ALSO ADDRESS KEY ENABLERS JUST AS DEFINING SPECIFIC ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES, CIVIC PARTICIPATION, THE ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES, IMPLEMENTATION STRUCURES, AS WELL AS ISSUES OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND SCRUTINY.

FINALLY, THE ABILITY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO LOBBY FOR AND LEVERAGE CHANGE IN RELATION TO THE STATUS QUO IS CURRENTLY HAMPERED BY THE ABSENCE OF A FULLY FUNCTIONING NI ASSEMBLY. WITHOUT THIS, WE WILL STRUGGLE TO TURN OUR AMBITION FOR THE SECTOR INTO REALITY.

Q2: WHAT ARE YOUR COUNCIL'S COMMENTS REGARDING THE "POTENTIAL FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN NORTHERN IRELAND", AS PER PAGES 6 AND 7 OF THE NPI REPORT?

AS A GENERAL COMMENT, THE COUNCIL WOULD BE SUPPORTIVE OF THE SENTIMENT OF "THE POTENTIAL FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN NORTHERN IRELAND" SECTION IN THE REPORT, BUT WOULD ALSO WISH TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL COMMENTS.

1. ANY DEBATE ON THE POTENTIAL TRANSFER OF NEW POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES MUST FIRST ADDRESS THE DEFICITS CREATED BY THE ORIGINAL PACKAGE OF FUNCTIONS TRANSFERRED IN 2015. MOST NOTABLY IS THE RETENTION OF LOCAL REGENERATION POWERS BY THE NI ASSEMBLY AND THE CONSEQUENCES THIS HAS HAD FOR LOCAL ECONOMIC AND PLANNING PERFORMANCE.
2. THE COUNCIL NOTES THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMON BOUNDARIES AS ONE OF THE ARGUMENTS FOR DEVOLVING MORE POWERS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT. IN PRACTICAL TERMS, THE ABSENCE OF BOUNDARY CO-TERMINOSITY BETWEEN COUNCILS AND OTHER PUBLIC SECTOR ORGANISATIONS CONTINUES TO ACT AS A MAJOR BARRIER IN NORTHERN IRELAND. THIS ISSUE MUST BE ADDRESSED AS PART OF ANY FUTURE DEBATE.
3. LOCAL CITIZENS AND COMMUNITIES NOW EXPECT, AS AN ABSOLUTE MINIMUM, TO PARTICPATE AND BE INVOLVED IN LOCAL DECISION-MAKING, AND AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY. THE DEVOLUTION DEBATE MUST TAKE COGNISANCE OF THIS NEW DYNAMIC AND PLAN FOR AN ENHANCED ROLE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN FACILIATING PARTICPATIVE DEMOCRACY ACROSS ALL TIERS OF GOVERNMENT.
4. CONSIDERATION ALSO NEEDS TO BE GIVEN TO AN ENHANCED ROLE AND REPONSIBILITY FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN MAKING IMPROVEMENTS TO LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE (I.E. ENERGY AND MAJOR ROADS) GIVEN ITS IMPORTANCE TO ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL OUTCOMES, AS WELL AS RATES GROWTH. THIS MAY REQUIRE LEGISLAITVE CHANGE.

Q3: WHAT ARE YOUR COUNCIL'S COMMENTS REGARDING THE PREMISE OF DEVOLVING NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES TO COUNCILS IN NORTHERN IRELAND, AS PER PAGES 13 AND 14 OF THE REPORT?

THE COUNCIL WOULD BE SUPPORTIVE OF THE CONCEPT OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES AND HAS RECENTLY COMMENCED THE DESIGN OF A NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICE MODEL FOR NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN.

A KEY ENABLER THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN IDENTIFIED BY ELECTED MEMBERS IS THE ROLE THAT OTHER OPERATORS (I.E. DFI ROADS & NIHE) COULD PERFORM IN SUPPORTING THE COUNCIL'S CORE SERVICES. THIS HAS ALSO SUGGESTED OPPORTUNITIES FOR ECONOMIES OF SCALE IN RELATION TO SERVICE PROVISION IN SPECIFIC GEOGRAPHIES. THE COUNCIL CONSIDERS THE MODEL IS BEST ORGANISED AROUND THE DISTRICT'S SEVEN DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS AND THE OPPORTUNITIES THIS PRESENTS FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN SERVICE DESIGN. IMPLEMENTATION AND PERFORMANCE.

BY INCREASING THE SCOPE OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES TO INCLUDE OTHER PUBLIC SECTOR OPERATORS, IN PARTICULAR FOR THOSE WHICH ARE TRANSACTION-BASED IN NATURE (I.E. FACILITIES MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE), AN OPPORTUNITY IS ALSO PRESENTED TO ADDRESS THE CURRENT GAPS THAT EXIST BETWEEN LOCAL CITIZEN EXPECTATIONS OF WHAT THE COUNCIL IS RESPONSIBLE FOR AND WHAT IS IT ACTUALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR.

Q4: THE APPENDICES TO THE REPORT EXPAND ON WHAT ARE CONSIDERED TO BE 'NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES'. IF YOUR COUNCIL HAS ANY PARTICULARLY STRONG VIEWS ABOUT INDIVIDUAL SERVICES THAT YOU BELIEVE SHOULD OR SHOULDN'T BE INCLUDED IN THIS PROCESS, PLEASE COMMENT BELOW:

THE COUNCIL WOULD BE SUPPORTIVE OF THE SUGGESTED IN-SCOPE LIST, HOWEVER AS PART OF ANY FUTURE DECISION ON THE POTENTIAL TRANSFER OF NEW RESPONSIBILITIES, A ROBUST AND INDEPENDENT DUE DILIGENCE EXERCISE MUST BE COMPLETED TO IDENTIFY AND RESOLVE ANY ISSUES ATTACHED TO RESOURCING. THE LESSONS OF THE ORIGINAL TRANSFER MUST BE CONSIDERED.

THE COUNCIL CONSIDERS THAT FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES ARE ALSO PRESENTED THROUGH THIS MODEL, BY DEVOLVING MORE STRATEGIC OR SERVICE-PLANNING RESPONSIBILITIES TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT. THIS WILL ENABLE LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO ADDRESS IMPORTANT ISSUES SUCH AS RURAL ISOLATION AND TRANSPORT PLANNING; ALL WITHIN A FRAMEWORK PROVIDED FOR BY AGREED LOCAL COMMUNITY PLANNING OUTCOMES.

Q5: WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS ON HOW A DRIVE FOR DEVOLUTION OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES AND / OR OTHER POWERS & SERVICES COULD BE MATERIALLY LINKED TO THE PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNMENT, COUNCIL COMMUNITY PLANS AND THE ASPIRATIONS OF COUNCILS FOR THEIR RATEPAYERS AND THEIR DISTRICTS?

THE COUNCIL CONSIDERS THAT ALTHOUGH COMMUNITY PLANNING, AS A PROCESS, IS IN ITS INFANCY, RECENT EXPERIENCES SUGGEST THE IMPORTANCE OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HOUSING IN SUPPORTING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF LOCAL OUTCOMES. UNLESS LOCAL GOVERNMENT HAS A GREATER ROLE IN LOCAL ECONOMIC, HEALTH, HOUSING AND EDUCATION AFFAIRS, THEN THE POTENTIAL OF COMMUNITY PLANNING IN NORTHERN IRELAND WILL BE CONSTRAINED. THIS GREATER ROLE NEED NOT BE BUDGET RESPONSIBILITY BUT IN ITS ABSENCE MUST INCLUDE LOCAL OVERSIGHT AND SCRUTINY POWERS AS A MINIMUM.

A CRITICAL ISSUE THAT ANY FUTURE DEBATE MUST ADDRESS IS BRINGING CLARIFICATION TO THE STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL LINKS BETWEEN LOCAL GOVERNMENT, THE NI ASSEMBLY AND ITS DEPARTMENTS, CONCERNING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNMENT OUTCOMES. THIS IS MORE THAN JUST ALIGNING AMBITION BUT MUST ALSO ADDRESS KEY ENABLERS JUST AS DEFINING SPECIFIC ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES, CIVIC PARTICIPATION, THE ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES, IMPLEMENTATION STRUCTURES, AS WELL AS ISSUES OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND SCRUTINY.

Q6: WHAT ARE YOUR COMMENTS REGARDING THE SIX RECOMMENDATIONS AS PER THE CONCLUSION AND PRACTICAL NEXT STEPS SECTION OF THE REPORT (PAGES 17 AND 18)?

THE COUNCIL WOULD BE BROADLY SUPPORTIVE OF THE SIX RECOMMENDATIONS; HOWEVER THE ABILITY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO LOBBY FOR AND LEVERAGE CHANGE IN RELATION TO THE STATUS QUO IS CURRENTLY HAMPERED BY THE ABSENCE OF A FULLY FUNCTIONING NI ASSEMBLY.

Q7: WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS REGARDING THE 'ILLUSTRATIVE TIMELINE' TEMPLATE, ALSO PROVIDED (ATTACHMENT 4) ?

THE COUNCIL CONSIDERS THAT ANY TIMETABLE (ILLUSTRATIVE OR SPECIFIC) CAN ONLY BE DETERMINED ONCE BROAD CONSENSUS EXISTS ACROSS KEY STAKEHOLDERS ON THE POTENTIAL FOR GREATER DEVOLUTION TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND WHAT THIS MAY MEAN FOR THE FUTURE DESIGN OF COUNCILS IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

Q8: WHAT DOES THE COUNCIL THINK WOULD BE NECESSARY TO HAVE IN PLACE TO UNDERPIN ANY FUTURE TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITIES (INCLUDING THE TYPES OF MECHANISMS NEEDED TO BRING SUCH RESPONSIBILITIES FROM CONCEPT TO REALITY)?

ANY FUTURE PROCESS ON THE POTENTIAL TRANSFER OF NEW RESPONSIBILITIES MUST INCLUDE A ROBUST AND INDEPENDENT DUE DILIGENCE EXERCISE TO IDENTIFY AND RESOLVE ANY ISSUES ATTACHED TO RESOURCING BEFORE TRANSFER. THE LESSONS OF THE ORIGINAL TRANSFER MUST BE CONSIDERED IN FULL.

THE DESIGN OF ANY NEW MODEL MUST BE COLLABORATIVE IN-NATURE AND SEEK THE VIEWS AND INPUT OF BOTH LOCAL CITIZENS AND LOCAL COMMUNITY PLANING PARTNERS.

Disclaimer

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Devolution within Northern Ireland

A report for the Northern Ireland Local
Government Association

June 2018

Peter Kenway and Issy Petrie

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Executive Summary

This report examines evidence for an extension of the responsibilities of local government in Northern Ireland (NI) through devolution from Stormont. Its context is a drive towards greater power for cities and regions across the UK, the absence of a functioning Assembly, the proposed Augmentation Review as specified in the NI Local Government Act (2014) and the EU (Withdrawal) Bill. 'Devolution' includes the transfer to councils of direct responsibility for services and the scrutiny by councils of matters which remain the direct responsibility of NI Executive or its agencies.

The main findings are:

- Councils were responsible for under four per cent (£738m) of public spending in NI in 2015/16, compared with 27 per cent in Scotland and Wales. The NI Executive's 88 per cent share of total public spending was more than double that of the Scottish and Welsh Governments.
- Neighbourhood services are the main candidates for devolution of direct responsibility to councils. They cover highways and transport, cultural and related services, environment and regulation and planning and development. At present, councils are responsible for under half of them. If they took them all, they would be responsible for six to seven per cent of total NI public spending.
- A review of the arguments for devolution in England shows that what is key is local deliberation and decision-making about problems, priorities and solutions. Councils contain this local wisdom, but its source lies in the local community, including voluntary, third sector and business groups.
- Councils could also exercise scrutiny over areas of spending, for example aspects of social care and public health, which remain the responsibility of the Executive or its agencies. Scotland's Local Governance Review is a model which could be adopted to examine this approach in NI.
- To play this role, councils must be focused on outcomes and be willing to act as enablers as well as doers. What the councils bring which the agencies cannot is democratic legitimacy and the possibility of public engagement in the reform and delivery of services.

Whilst the lead must rest with NILGA and the councils, devolution within NI also requires initiatives by the Secretary of State, MLAs, the NI Executive and even the NI Affairs Committee (NIAC) in Westminster. As they wrestle with public service reform, NI agencies should consider what full involvement by and through councils could offer. Community, voluntary and business groups need to be engaged in identifying the different, better outcomes they want from public service provision in NI.

Introduction and focus

The purpose of this report is to consider evidence for an extension of the responsibilities of local government in Northern Ireland through greater devolution from Stormont. It has been written by the New Policy Institute (NPI), an independent think tank which carries out research across the United Kingdom. Over the last three years, this has included three devolution-driven studies for the Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE) on local government services.

The wider context for this report includes: a policy drive, both national and international, towards greater power for cities and regions, allied to localist, subsidiarity and place shaping policy momentum; the absence at the time of writing of a devolved legislative assembly in Stormont; and the EU (Withdrawal) Bill and the consequent transfer of legislative and regulatory responsibilities from the EU to the UK, devolved and local levels.

Public spending in Northern Ireland

In this section, we use HM Treasury data for 2015/16 to paint a picture of how much public money is spent in NI by whom (local government, devolved government or the UK government directly), on what and how this compares with Wales and Scotland. A separate annex has been made available from the Association of Irish Local Government in the Republic of Ireland, to highlight an additional key benchmark.

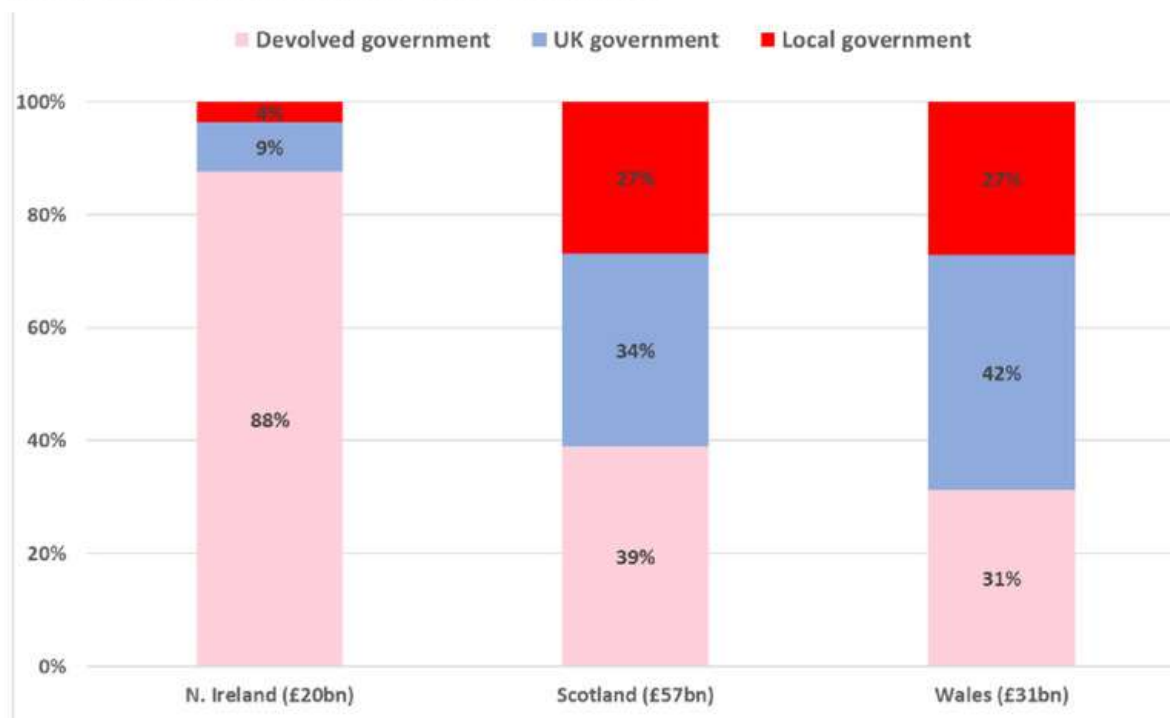
Spending at the local, devolved and UK government levels

In 2015/16, total public expenditure in NI by all levels of government combined totalled £20.3 billion. £19.0 billion of this counted as current expenditure and £1.3 billion as capital expenditure. Figure 1 compares NI with Wales and Scotland to show how responsibility for total public spending was split between the local, devolved and UK governments. There are two stand-out points for NI. The first is how low local government's share of this total is under four per cent (£738 million), compared with 27 per cent for each of the other two countries. This is after the Review of Public Administration which saw councils given new powers in April 2015. The second is how low the UK government's share is: nine per cent compared with 34 and 42 per cent in Scotland and Wales.

This second point is easily explained: spending on social security benefits (other than housing benefit) is retained at the UK level by the Department for Work and Pensions for Wales and Scotland but is devolved to the NI Executive (NIE). This was worth £5.8 billion in NI in 2015/16, 29 per cent of total public spending. If this were retained at the UK level instead of being devolved, the UK share of total public

spending in NI would (at 38 per cent) lie midway between the percentages for Wales and Scotland.

Figure 1: share of current and capital public expenditure on services, 2015/16: Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales¹



With this adjustment, there is no further need to look at spending at the UK level. All other spending by local and devolved government in NI totalled £12.8 billion in 2015/16. Of this, local government's £738 million represented six per cent. The comparable figure for local government in Wales and Scotland was 43 per cent. This gap supports the point made by [Garry and Pow](#) to the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee of the House of Commons (NIAC) that NI has been suffering from a democratic deficit since long before the suspension of the Assembly.

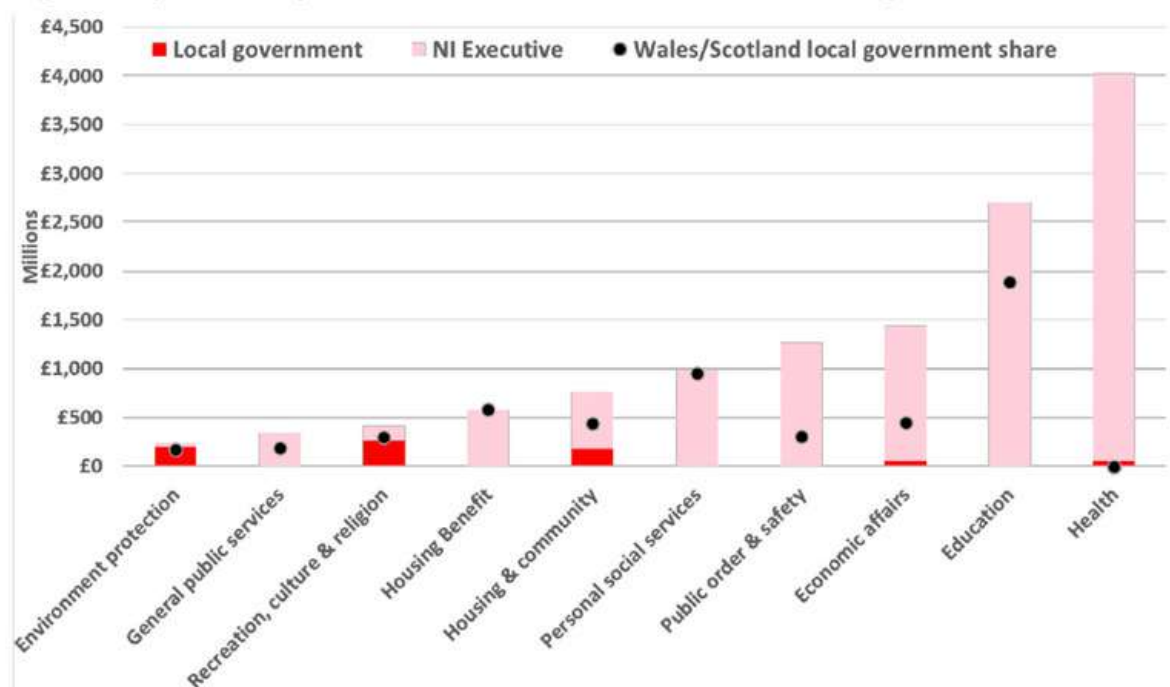
Figure 2 shows how this £12.8bn was spread across the different functions. As can be seen, local government spending was restricted to just five of the ten, namely: environment protection; recreation, culture and religion; housing and community amenities; economic affairs; health. Local government only accounted for a majority of the spending on the first two. On the last two its share was negligible.

Figure 2 also shows the proportion of spending on each function carried out by local government in Wales and Scotland. Comparing this with the proportion for local government in NI shows that the bulk of the difference arises from education,

¹ Source: HM Treasury, *Public Expenditure Statistical Analysis, 2017*, [table 9.21](#). Percentages don't always add to 100 because of rounding.

personal social services and the administration of housing benefit. There is also a smaller shortfall with economic affairs, housing and community amenities, general public services and public order and safety.

Figure 2: public expenditure, Northern Ireland 2015/16, by function



What is the potential for local government in Northern Ireland?

We have heard little whilst researching this paper to suggest that an appetite exists for local government in NI to take on responsibility for the administration of housing benefit, personal social services (social care), public order and safety or education. As these functions account for the bulk of the gap between NI and Wales and Scotland, a large gap is bound to persist. But for those functions where NI local government already has some responsibility, what happens in Wales and Scotland is a guide to what is possible. In short, it is economic affairs, housing and community amenities and the catch-all of general public services, where the main potential lies.

If local government spending for these three functions (and recreation, culture, and religion) took the same share as in Wales and Scotland, total spending by NI councils would rise by about £0.7 billion to around £1.4 billion (including current levels of spending on environmental protection and health). That total represents 11 per cent of spending by local government and the NIE combined or seven per cent of total public expenditure in NI including what is spent by the UK government directly.

These numbers show the potential for a second (numerically modest) step in terms of devolution but they are not in themselves an argument for it. Given the attention which the four per cent figure 1 has received since NILGA included it in its

evidence to the NIAC, this seven per cent figure is a useful counterpoint. What it is saying is that there is considerable potential for devolution within NI that will still leave NI far away from the norm in Wales and Scotland.

Arguments for devolution

In this section, we consider various arguments for devolution to local government that have been advanced in England.

Arguments for devolution are neither wholly portable – i.e. general ones which apply whatever the circumstances – nor wholly context-specific – i.e. NI is so different that arguments in favour of devolution, run-of-the-mill elsewhere, can have no relevance whatsoever. When thinking about such arguments for NI caution is therefore both normal and proper.

Devolution cannot be unconditional. Devolution deals in England (mainly so far to the Cities) may have started to reverse some of the problems of over-centralisation. Yet they have come into being during a period of austerity in which the poorest areas have usually seen the biggest cut in resources. In a country as unequal as England, enduring resource re-allocation from the centre is simply unavoidable. A report for APSE, calling for ‘real’ devolution deals which reduce but do not eradicate centralism, is an expression of this unavoidably awkward viewpoint.²

There is also a need to be cautious about claims for devolution which extend beyond better public services themselves to include wider benefits for local business and the economy. As a part of the public sector which is driven by local needs and gets things done, local government shares an outlook with business which favours devolution. But business and local government face different risks and rewards. Businesses, as well as some not-for-profit organisations, are in competition with one-another. If a competitor’s proximity to local government is thought to give them an unfair advantage, it may seem better that decisions should remain with a more remote but dis-interested devolved body.

Why devolution: four arguments from the English debate

In reviewing the arguments for devolution to local authorities in England, four basic arguments can be identified which carry over to NI. They are:

- Services can be better-designed when local knowledge is brought to bear.

² *The Real Deal: Pushing the parameters of devolution deals*, published by CLES and the Sheffield Political Economy Research Institute, 2016

- Services can be joined up more effectively at a local level.
- Services are better if decisions about them are made at the local level.
- Services designed locally offer more scope for innovation and diversity.

On the face of it, the idea that many services are better delivered when local knowledge is brought to bear seems common sense. But it raises the question of what kind of knowledge it is that can only be “local”. After all, when Google knows the whereabouts of traffic jams in real time, it can’t be the same answer as would have been given just a few years ago.

A report (by Policy Exchange) entitled *Smart Devolution* asserts that there is now a vast amount of under-utilised data which could improve decision making (including spending decisions) to inform public service reform, transport planning, supporting small business growth and better targeting frontline services. This may well be so, but held electronically, such “big data” cannot just be a local resource and therefore cannot be a reason for devolution. If “local” knowledge is to be a reason for devolution, it must be knowledge of a subtler kind, somehow less-systematic, probably part of the wisdom that goes into decision-making. Community Planning in NI can be harnessed fully in this vein.

The second argument for devolution is that by attributing primacy to the local area, services can be joined and made consistent in a way that is not possible at the regional or country-wide level. This argument has been made in a report by the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) for English counties – the upper of the two local government tiers in rural areas – with a special emphasis on health and social care in rural areas. Common boundaries, so it is said, present an opportunity for public service reform and for delivering more efficient and better value for money services. A similar argument is also made in the economic sphere, in favour of taking control at the local level of employment, skills, and business support.

As with the argument for “local” knowledge, the challenge here is to be clear why “joining-up” is an argument for devolution. The degree of diversity across NI, with differences between local government districts being large compared with the differences within each one, is part of the answer. As a result, the right joined-up solution for one district is likely to be different from the right joined-up solution for another – a series of bespoke outcomes which a single, joined-up authority for NI would struggle to conceive and deliver. NILGA argues that “service homogeneity” is not desirable but that “service consistency” – core performance challenges tailored to local communities, rural, metropolitan and in between – is desirable.

Yet like the local knowledge argument, the advance of big data which increases a remote agency’s capacity to grasp local specifics means that this argument too has

less force than it did. Since this conclusion applies to any technocratic argument, the case for devolution must be based on further grounds.

While repeating the hoped-for gain from more joined-up working, the Review of Public Administration in NI identified a different reason for devolution, namely, that common boundaries make services easier for the public to understand. Why does public recognition matter? Because to be successful, devolution is not just about economic growth and integrating services, but also about enhancing democratic involvement and accountability. In *Democracy: the missing link in the devolution debate*, the New Economics Foundation laments the absence of community engagement and the failure of devolution deals in England so far to strengthen democracy, increase citizen involvement and democratise local decision-making.

This viewpoint finds an echo in the [submission](#) from the Northern Ireland Council on Voluntary Action (NICVA) to the NIAC enquiry into the democratic deficit. Against the backdrop of the continued suspension of Stormont and the possibility of direct rule, NICVA argues that “consideration should also be given to formalizing the role of social partners and the role of a citizens’ assembly or civic forum mechanism”. While this call is directed to the level of NI, it rests on the belief that there is a civic wisdom which should be brought to bear. The same argument can be advanced for the voice and involvement of local businesses. NILGA has for many years voiced the view that councils are best placed to unlock this civic wisdom, now backed up by strategic partners such as Stratagem (NI) in partnership with the Carnegie Trust (UK) in terms of Community Planning and Wellbeing.

NICVA also calls for a greater role for local councils: “Consideration should be given”, it says, “to how policies and legislation can be progressed at council level, looking along the lines of the Programme for Government outcomes and whether these can be delivered at more local level”. There are two points here. One is that councils themselves are containing this civic wisdom, rather than being part of a remote central state. The other is that if they are to play this role to the full, they in turn must be open to local citizens. This is only possible if there is public recognition of, and identification with, the council based on the district it serves.

This ‘civic wisdom’ is not just local knowledge. Citizens’ assemblies, civic forums and indeed council meetings are not primarily places where people bring facts. Rather they are places where they deliberate – and in the case of councils, decide – what to do about them. In short, the third argument for devolution boils down to a belief in the superiority of local decision-making.

The fourth argument takes this social case for devolution several steps further. Eleven local authorities create opportunities for autonomy, innovation and diverse leadership in ways which are simply not possible if services are planned and

delivered by NI-wide agencies. Even if a data-rich central authority can provide services in different ways in different areas, those bespoke solutions would first have to be found.

It is not just about solutions: devolution also allows councils to identify problems and designate them as priorities. What looks like a priority at the local level may not look like one, if it is visible at all, at the NI level. Regeneration powers, still held centrally, restrict NI councils to identifying capital investment proposals within narrow geographical boundaries. Elsewhere in the UK, where these powers are devolved, this restriction does not apply. For example, disused canals and pathways within and beyond the principal boundary can be linked together in a common-sense way, benefiting local wellbeing, tourism and the economy.

Neighbourhood services and local government

In this section, we look at what have been called “neighbourhood services” – a broad grouping of some 70 individual local government functions – to explore the potential for devolution within NI in more detail. The comparisons in this section are with English local government. In the first place, that is just because the data is English. But because England has (at least) six different types of local authority each with its own mix of powers, the devolution question in NI can be seen in English terms as being about the type of local authority that NI councils could aim to be.

Neighbourhood services

Sometimes referred to as public realm or liveability services, neighbourhood services are one of the core functions of local government in England, Wales and Scotland.³ The term, chosen after consultation during [research](#) for APSE, covers four groups of services, namely:

- highways and transport
- cultural services
- environmental and regulatory services
- planning and development.

The reason for the single term “neighbourhood services” is to give an identity, and therefore a collective weight, to the services provided by local government which don’t come under the high priority headings of education or social care. As a share of

³ For a fuller discussion, see Kenway and Barker, 2017, *Redefining neighbourhoods: A future beyond austerity?* <http://www.npi.org.uk/publications/local-government/redefining-neighbourhoods-future-beyond-austerity/>

all local government spending in 2015/16, neighbourhood services accounted for between 15 per cent (Wales) and 19 per cent (England). In the classification used in England, some 70 individual services come under this heading. Most of them, once they are named, speak for themselves. Mundane rather than glamorous, most are also essential to maintaining the quality of everyday life. Appendix 1 provides a list. Appendix 2, which shows powers of councils in the Republic of Ireland, offers a comparison.

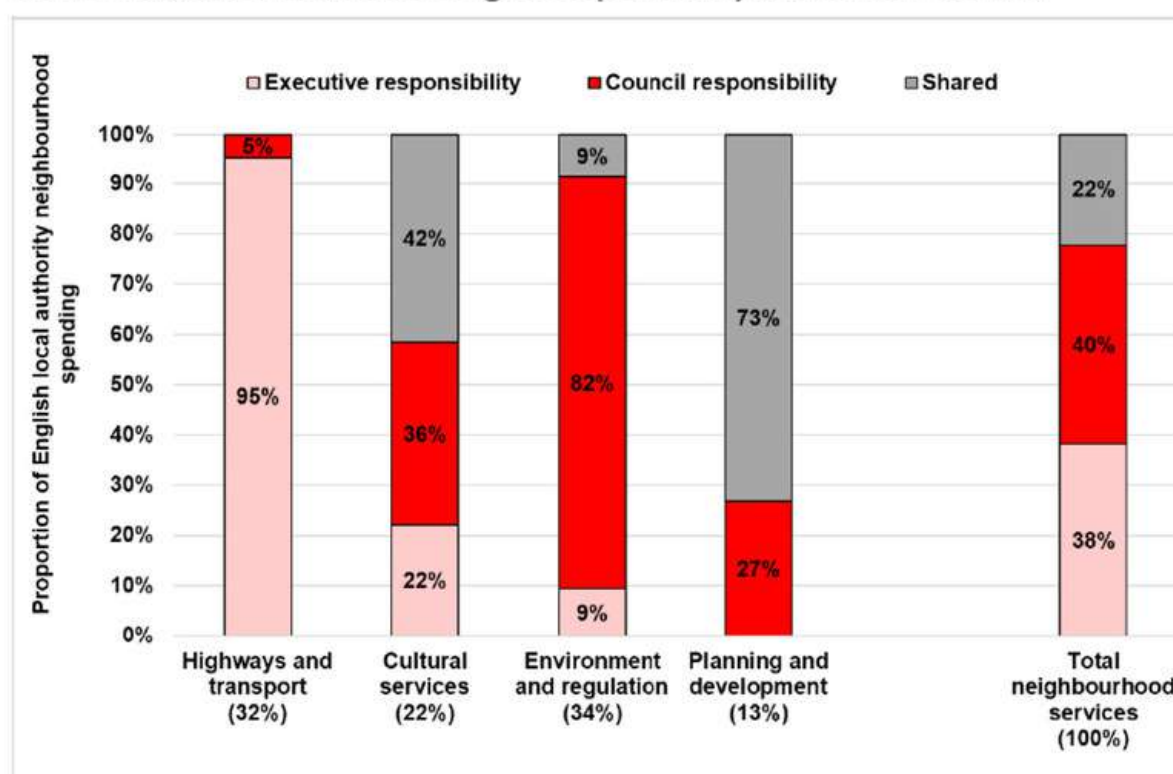
Responsibility for neighbourhood services in Northern Ireland

In NI, many of these functions are either the responsibility of the Executive and its agencies or shared between the Executive and councils. Of the 70 individual neighbourhood services, 16 are identified as being the responsibility of NI councils, 29 are the responsibility of the Executive and its agencies while 19 are shared between the councils and the Executive. The allocation of the other six is unclear. As a set of responsibilities currently administered by English local authorities, they appear to be a block of services that could be devolved to NI councils.

Figure 3 uses English local authority spending data on neighbourhood services to give a sense of the scale of devolution that this might imply. To do this, English local authority proxies have been selected for each of the 11 NI councils according to criteria measuring: i) the degree of rurality; ii) the share of working-age people in the total local population; iii) Gross Value Added per head (a measure of economic output); and iv) the employment rates. Using 2016/17 spending data for the 11 proxies, individual neighbourhood services were then categorised according to where current responsibility for them in NI is assessed as lying.

Overall, 40 per cent of what these English local authorities spend on neighbourhood services is the responsibility of councils in NI, with a further 22 per cent being the shared responsibility of the councils and the NIE. This differs greatly according to type of neighbourhood spending. Councils have a large share of spending relating to environmental services and regulation (82 per cent). By contrast, highways and transport is largely the domain of the NI Roads Service (95 per cent). Although councils are solely responsible for around a quarter of spending (27 per cent), there appears to be no category of spending on planning and development which is wholly the responsibility of the NIE.

Figure 3: spending on neighbourhood services in 11 English proxy local authorities, classified according to responsibility in Northern Ireland⁴



How far could devolution of neighbourhood services go?

At first sight, it looks like full devolution would mean councils becoming responsible for something like double their current spending on neighbourhood services (equal to 40 per cent of the total plus a share of the 22 per cent). Yet few, if any, English local authorities have sole responsibility for all these services. Of the English councils used here as proxies, the one that provides the widest range of services is Liverpool (the proxy for Belfast). Yet Liverpool is not responsible for waste services (provided instead by a Waste Authority covering the wider Merseyside area). Hartlepool (the proxy for Derry and Strabane) delivers most services including waste, but it does not, for example, deliver business support (which instead is the responsibility of the recently created Tees Valley Combined Authority).⁵

Liverpool is a metropolitan borough while Hartlepool is a unitary. The other nine councils have been identified with English shire districts.⁶ These districts are the lower level in an English two-tier system in which shire counties are the upper level.

⁴ Source: NPI and NILGA analysis of Local authority revenue expenditure and financing England, 2016/17.

⁵ Our spending totals include allocations of the spending by the Combined and Joint Authorities to both Liverpool and Hartlepool, based on their share of the relevant population.

⁶ Namely: Adur, Bassetlaw, Gedling, Mid Suffolk, South Holland, Stafford, Tendring, Weymouth and Portland, Wyre.

If the nine were responsible for all the neighbourhood services provided by English shire districts and if Belfast and Derry and Strabane had full responsibility in their areas, the eleven councils together would be responsible for around three quarters of total spending on neighbourhood services.

Identifying the other nine NI councils with English, lower-tier shire districts implicitly precludes the full devolution of neighbourhood services. This identification is not inevitable. Within neighbourhood services, it is mainly highways and transportation services that are at stake. That is, it is the upper tier, county councils which are responsible for almost all of them in the English two-tier areas.

Based on the size of the population, five councils could be unitary authorities (like Hartlepool or in effect Liverpool) and be responsible for all, not just lower-tier, neighbourhood services. The argument for five is that three councils – Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon, Newry, Mourne and Down and Ards and North Down – are all larger than Derry and Strabane. The council in the English borough of Bedford, which converted from district to unitary status in 2009, has a population about the same size as Newry, Mourne and Down. The five are also larger than every one of the 22 Welsh authorities, all of which are unitary. Since the smallest NI council (Fermanagh and Tyrone) is larger than seven of the 22 Welsh authorities, the example of Wales shows that there is no argument based on size alone against all the 11 NI councils being unitary. If some NI councils are still judged to be too small to take on full responsibilities for neighbourhood services, a second answer could involve some form of formal co-operation between two or more councils. A third answer could see responsibility for running the “upper-tier” neighbourhood services remaining with the NI Executive and its agencies, with councils acquiring a formal governance or oversight role.

Devolving neighbourhood services: observations from Northern Ireland

Before developing this last answer, we report some reactions from within NI to the idea of devolving powers to councils, in particular, neighbourhood services. These reactions reflect discussions we have been involved in with councillors, MLAs and council officers, as well as interviews with a senior figure in an NI Agency and each of the business, community and charity sectors.

In general – but with one important exception – the idea that NI councils should be responsible for neighbourhood services has been met with support. Arguments for it include: the inefficiency of detailed matters like on-street parking requiring the attention of ministers or senior civil servants; the unresponsiveness, including to councillors, of a centrally-run system; and the mis-match between the public’s perception that councils are responsible for this sort of thing and the reality that they

are not. A further, allied point is that devolution of matters like these to councils would help free the Executive (and the Assembly) to concentrate on the strategic questions facing NI.

Elsewhere in the UK, regeneration is made easier by highways and transportation and planning sitting under the same roof. To that extent, arguments for NI councils to have the power to lead regeneration are also, in effect, arguments for the devolution of neighbourhood services too. Yet while we have heard forceful arguments for regeneration sitting with councils (the crucial thing being their ability to *drive* regeneration), we have also heard doubts. To the extent that these doubts arise within the community, they merit attention.

Even if the general argument for devolving neighbourhood services is judged to be strong, individual service areas can still be exceptions. One such is responsibility for flooding, where the area covered by an individual council is unlikely to bear much relation to any sensible geographical unit (for example, a river basin) for dealing with it. This does not rule out councils still playing a coordinating role (for example, Derry City and Strabane, Fermanagh and Omagh, and Mid Ulster who drew together fast response teams from across multiple agencies in the most recent winter).

What of the exception to the general support for devolving neighbourhood services? The point being made here was not that neighbourhood service should *not* be devolved – but rather that asking what *powers* should be devolved was the wrong question. Instead of focusing on powers and responsibilities, the focus instead should be on goals and *outcomes*. In our view, argument for devolution of neighbourhood services that include responsiveness and conformity with what the public believes councils do are themselves arguments about outcomes. So too are arguments about the greater effectiveness and efficiency of NI government were most neighbourhood services to be devolved. In short, if the case for neighbourhood services is not undermined by a focus on outcomes, it is because it can answer in those terms.

The challenge to local government to concentrate on outcomes need not be restricted to those functions for which it has, or wants, direct responsibility. As one interviewee put it: this is about how local government sees itself, whether as a doer or also as an enabler. Even if NI councils were to take on neighbourhood services in their entirety, it would still leave them with just six or seven per cent of total NI public spending. Though that would be a big step for the councils, it would still leave the bulk of public spending in NI in the hands of the NIE and its agencies. If councils want to increase their role, focusing on the outcomes in some of these many other areas of public spending is a way to do it.

Other services and local governance

The choice, then, is not just between devolving, or not devolving, executive responsibility to NI councils. Instead, alongside devolving some responsibilities to councils, councils could also exercise powers of scrutiny and governance over areas of spending which remain the responsibility of the NIE or its agencies.

Scotland's Local Governance Review

Scotland's recently announced [Local Governance Review](#) may offer a model which could be adopted to examine this question in NI. Three principles make the Scottish review relevant here. First, it is not a review of local government but of all locally delivered public services. Second, recommendations will adhere to the principle of subsidiarity, that is, decisions taken at the right and lowest level possible. Third, there will be scope for variation, in other words, the answer in the Western Isles does not have to be the same as the answer in Glasgow.

The Review is running through 2018, with a first phase of consultation and engagement lasting until the summer. It is expected that the eventual conclusions will then inform a local democracy bill. As figure 1 confirms, Scotland is more centralised than Wales in terms of the spending share. While the reason for Scotland's relatively high centralisation are different from those in NI, arguments for greater devolution can expect to face resistance. Both the conclusions, not at all foregone, and the process itself are likely to be instructive.

Scrutiny and governance: observations from Northern Ireland

The potential for councils to play a scrutiny and governance role in relation to services which they are not themselves responsible for was also discussed during the research for this paper.

Free from responsibility for delivering the service, a body with the power of scrutiny must concentrate on outcomes. This is an advantage. It means that in preparing to exercise such a role, a council would have to form a view about how it wants a service delivered, with what objectives and according to what principles.

NICVA's call for scrutiny powers over the NIE suggests that there are significant issues here. One mentioned in the [Macmillan](#) submission to the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee concerns the extent to which patients with terminal cancer die in hospital as opposed to where most of them would prefer, namely at home, in a care home or in a hospice. Another subject mentioned to us was the prevention of diabetes, a public health issue to do with lifestyle rather than just something for the NHS to treat once diabetes is diagnosed.

In principle, each council's Community Plan provides a framework within which the scrutiny role could be exercised, for example, by challenging the statutory partners to the Community Plan over their contribution and impact. The Community Planning process has strong supporters and significant support. Yet comments have questioned how far statutory partners to the Plans and the statutory agencies more generally are genuinely open to scrutiny by local government. Procedures on paper open the possibility of scrutiny but the reality of it requires compliance.

Within the limits of this paper, we offer three observations. First, is a failure to treat local government seriously a sign of strength on the part of the NI Executive and its agencies or a sign of weakness? If service provision is at odds with what most people want or if public health crises remain unaddressed the more likely answer is the latter than the former.

Second, if it is weakness, isn't this an opportunity for local government? With few direct responsibilities, councils in NI have a freedom to pick and choose where to seek to assert themselves. As the only functioning element of formal democracy in NI, at the time of writing, they have a unique legitimacy.

Third, isn't the challenge here to make sure that councils really do speak for their communities and that this is evident both to those communities and to the agencies? This comes back to whether councils see themselves as enablers as well as doers. The trouble with appearing as just a doer is that it downplays the very thing that gives councils their edge, leaving them looking like just another agency.

We know that proposals for greater citizen involvement are viewed with suspicion by some politicians, both local and national. Yet an argument that says "devolve only unto us" is not persuasive. NI's local authorities now enjoy the advantage of size, being neither too large nor too small – though being relatively new, their identity is still being established. Living within the communities they serve, council officers and elected members are highly accessible, evidenced by councillors returning weekly activity reports showing 60-70 hours activity in many cases, and weekend engagements being the norm. As NILGA puts it, they (council personnel) don't "go" to work, they live in work. In this situation, advocating devolution at every level can only strengthen them. What should follow naturally is the other key tenets of arguments for greater devolution – better application of local knowledge, greater local efficiencies, better decision taking and greater innovation and diversity.

Conclusion and practical next steps

Devolution and the role of the Northern Ireland institutions

Our review of the arguments put forward for devolution concluded that what is decisive is local decision-making not just local knowledge. Local decision-making means that local judgements are being made about priorities and how to meet them. It fosters innovation. It is a prerequisite for co-operation between councils. It rests on a view of councils as bearers of a certain civic wisdom whose fount lies elsewhere, in the wider community which they represent. It is a view of councils that can only be expected to prevail when that openness and responsiveness to the wider community can be shown and not merely asserted.

But devolution is not independence. Devolution of authority to NI councils requires devolution of the financial means to allow them to exercise this authority. How much money to allocate and how the total sum is to be distributed between the councils is unavoidably a central decision. Since the reasonable demands on this money always outstrip what is available, this decision requires that judgements be made at the centre between competing, often incommensurate, claims. Decisions by the Welsh and Scottish governments have meant that the impact of austerity on local authorities in those countries has been different from its impact on local authorities in England. These decisions are political through and through. In the absence of political (Ministerial) decision taking, NILGA has re-convened an elected member forum, drawn from central-local government members of the statutory Political Partnership Panel, so that political scrutiny can take forward such work.

Decisions made in Belfast are an integral and enduring part of devolution to NI local government: not only do they provide the financial framework within which councils act, they are also fundamental to the acceptability of the devolution settlement. If the success of devolution depends ultimately on judgements at the local level, its legitimacy depends on judgements at the NI-wide level. It is hard to see how devolution to NI local government could flourish without the Assembly.

Practical next steps and who must take them

Making a reality of devolution within NI requires deliberation of a range of questions by a range of organisations. In identifying these questions, we assume that the lead rests with councils themselves, through NILGA, and with the NIE. But the organisations which need to be involved range much more widely, from community organisations in NI to MLAs and their political parties, and MPs.

1. *The Secretary of State, the Northern Ireland Executive and NILGA* should launch a Review of Local Governance, using all relevant avenues but

particularly the Central Local Elected Member Forum and the NIAC, based on the Scottish model and tailored to NI requirements. This should consider both the devolution of executive power to councils and the creation of scrutiny powers for councils over matters which remain the direct responsibility of the NI Assembly and the NI Executive or its agencies.

2. *NILGA and councils* should identify the executive powers over neighbourhood services they want, supported by a clear view of the different outcomes those powers can be expected to deliver to local communities. Community and business groups have a large part to play in forming this view.
3. *NILGA and councils* should identify a short list of subjects on matters for which NI agencies are responsible where local communities desire different outcomes from those delivered now. *NI agencies* should identify where local involvement, facilitated by councils, would help achieve different outcomes.
4. *The NI Assembly, NILGA and councils* should develop a process by which individual NI councils can apply and be considered for a status akin to Welsh and English “unitary” local authorities with the powers to match.
5. *MLAs, the NI Executive and NILGA* should consider the twin questions of the level of financial resources to make available for devolution to NI councils and how those resources should be distributed between councils (linked to the need to indemnify councils through appropriate “New Burdens” legislation).
6. The draft Programme for Government mechanisms should factor in successor activity, whether budgetary, strategic or governance activity, to foster greater executive and scrutiny roles for councils in the medium and long term.

Clearly (and in conclusion) this report can only serve to open a practical, tangible series of actions to create positive changes to the devolution picture in Northern Ireland. The need for positive change is inescapable, and NILGA as the representative and support body for the 11 councils is critical to it. Without the material, corporate and voluble involvement of the many partners which the Association has garnered in recent years, the opportunity will be lost. That would be a great shame for the communities and the economy of Northern Ireland, as well as the institutions which govern and serve them.

Appendix 1: current responsibility for neighbourhood services in Northern Ireland and English shires

Group	Service	NI	England
Highways and Transport	Highways maintenance planning, policy and strategy	NI-wide	County
	Public and other transport planning, policy and strategy	NI-wide	County
	Structural maintenance - principal roads	NI-wide	County
	Structural maintenance - other LA roads	NI-wide	County
	Structural maintenance - bridges	NI-wide	County
	Environmental, safety and routine maintenance - principal roads	NI-wide	County
	Environmental, safety and routine maintenance - other LA roads	NI-wide	County
	Winter service	NI-wide	County
	Street lighting (including energy costs)	NI-wide	County
	Bus lane enforcement	NI-wide	County
	Road safety education and safe routes	NI-wide	County
	Other traffic management	NI-wide	County
	On-street parking	NI-wide	County
	Off-street parking	Local	District
	Statutory concessionary fares	NI-wide	County
	Discretionary concessionary fares	NI-wide	County
	Support to operators - bus services	NI-wide	County
	Support to operators - rail services	NI-wide	County
	Support to operators - other	NI-wide	County
	Public transport co-ordination	NI-wide	County
	Airports, harbours and toll facilities	NI-wide	District
Cultural services	Archives	NI-wide	County
	Arts development and support	Both	District
	Heritage	Both	County
	Museums and galleries	Both	District
	Theatres and public entertainment	Local	District
	Community centres and public halls	Local	District
	Foreshore	Both	District
	Sports development and community recreation	Both	District
	Sports and recreation facilities, including golf courses	Local	District
	Open spaces	Both	District
	Tourism	Both	District
	Library service	NI-wide	County
me nt and	Cemetery, cremation and mortuary services	Local	District
	Trading standards	NI-wide	County

Group	Service	NI	England
	Water safety	Both	District
	Food safety	Both	District
	Environmental protection; noise and nuisance	Both	District
	Housing standards	Both	District
	Health and safety	Both	District
	Port health (excluding levies)	Local	District
	Port health levies	Unclear	District
	Pest control	Local	District
	Public conveniences	Local	District
	Animal and public health; infectious disease control	Both	District
	Licensing - Alcohol and entertainment licensing; taxi licensing	Both	District
	Crime Reduction	NI-wide	District
	Safety Services	Unclear	District
	CCTV	Unclear	District
	Defences against flooding	NI-wide	County
	Land drainage and related work (excluding levy / Special levies)	NI-wide	District
	Land drainage and related work - Levy / Special levies	NI-wide	District
	Coast protection	NI-wide	District
	Agricultural and fisheries services	NI-wide	County
	Street cleansing (not chargeable to Highways)	Local	District
	Waste collection	Local	District
	Waste disposal	Local	County
	Trade waste	Local	District
	Recycling	Local	District
	Waste minimisation	Local	District
	Climate change costs	Unclear	County
Planning and development	Building control	Local	District
	Development control	Local	District
	Conservation and listed buildings planning policy	Both	District
	Other planning policy	Both	District
	Environmental initiatives	Unclear	District
	Economic development	Both	District
	Economic research	Unclear	County
	Business support	Both	District
	Community development	Both	District

Appendix 2: overview of council powers in the Republic of Ireland⁷

In Ireland, 31 local authorities are responsible for approximately 8% of Government spending, which proportionately (based on a national spend of approximately €63 billion p.a.) is about €5 billion.

Following modernisation / legislation in 2014, councils in Ireland have approximately twice the service portfolio, and five times the expenditure of councils in Northern Ireland, with some housing and local regional roads maintenance (neighbourhood services) being their most distinct statutory responsibilities.

Councils provide an extensive range of public services and through community / spatial development promote the interests of local citizens, including the social, economic, environmental, recreational, cultural, community or general development of places.

Responsibilities of local authorities

These are typically broken down into the following broad categories:

- Housing
- Planning
- Roads
- Development incentives and controls
- Environmental protection including rivers, lakes, air and noise
- Recreation facilities and amenities

In addition to the functions outlined above, a fundamental role of democratically elected local government is the representation of local communities, voicing local concerns and responding to local needs.

Local authorities and housing

Local authorities provide and maintain housing in their area. They assess the housing needs for the area and build, buy and lease dwellings. They also provide loans for the repair and improvement of dwellings within the area.

⁷ Sources: Citizens Information Library and the Association of Irish Local Government (AILG). This appendix was sourced separately by NILGA from the rest of the Report.

Local authorities and recreation facilities and amenities

Local authorities provide amenities, facilities and services related to artistic and cultural activities, sports and games, general recreational and leisure activities, libraries, civic improvements such as monuments, environmental and heritage protection and the public use of amenities.

Local authorities and planning

The local authority is the planning authority. It decides whether to grant or refuse planning permission for building and development in your area. It also creates a Development Plan every 6 years, which sets out its planning policies.

Local authorities and essential services

Local authorities provide essential services such as roads and bridges, fire services and drainage. Irish Water is responsible for water and wastewater services.

Local authorities also control dangerous places and buildings, abattoirs and knackeries and provide and maintain graveyards and burial grounds.

Local authorities and environmental protection

The local authority has an important function in relation to pollution control and animal control. It issues licenses for waste disposal and for emissions into the air from plants. It collects or arranges for the collection of domestic and other waste and it monitors the environment for signs of pollution. It also issues licenses for keeping dogs and licenses for horses within its area.

The local authority grants licenses to street traders to allow them to sell goods on the street and to casual traders to allow them to sell goods at casual trading areas designated by the city, county, town or borough council.

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	13 September 2018
Subject:	Councillor's Annual ICO Registration Fees
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Dorinnia Carville, Director of Corporate Services
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Alison Robb, Assistant Director of Corporate Services (Administration)

<table><tr><td>For decision</td><td>x</td><td>For noting only</td><td></td></tr></table>		For decision	x	For noting only	
For decision	x	For noting only			
1.0	Purpose and Background				
1.1	<p>In April 2018 the matter of Councillor’s registration fees in respect of their role as Data Controllers was raised by the Party Representative’s Forum. The fee is £40 and is payable to the Information Commissioner’s Office.</p> <p>Any elected Councillor who is active in their constituency work is required to register. This is not a new requirement, Councillors were required to register under the Data Protection Act 1998 however with the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulation and new Data Protection Act, the matter has been illuminated further and the fine for failure to register now sits at £4,350.</p> <p>Following discussion at the Forum it was agreed to obtain legal advice on the matter, a copy of which is now attached.</p>				
2.0	Key issues				
2.1	<p>The two point conclusion at the close of the advice acts as a useful synopsis. Members will note there is no legal obligation for Council to pay or reimburse Councillors for the fee.</p> <p>A paper published by the Department for Communities (14th December 2016) entitled “Consolidated Guidance on Councillors’ Allowances for District Councils in Northern Ireland” issued under Article 31(5) of the Finance Act, provides that the Basic Allowance should be the same for each Councillor and is intended to incorporate <i>incidental and consumable</i> costs incurred by Councillors in their official capacity. One option therefore is to consider this cost an incidental one incurred in Councillor’s official capacity and covered within the scope of the Basic Allowance.</p> <p>However, a further option would be for the Council to reimburse Councillor’s for the registration fee, the Council would have the power (vires) to do so provided an amendment to the Scheme of Allowances was made.</p>				

	<p>In considering this matter members are asked to be mindful of the fact that the decision to be made will have a direct financial consequence for each Elected Member and therefore each would be considered conflicted in the decision making process. Under the Members' Code of Conduct Councillors are obliged to declare pecuniary interests and non-pecuniary interests (e.g. membership of outside bodies), this matter would constitute a pecuniary interest for every Councillor.</p> <p>The Forum considered the matter again at its meeting on 5 September 2018 with the benefit of the legal advice obtained.</p> <p>It was the consensus view of the Forum that members should be reimbursed for the ICO registration fee and the Scheme of Allowances be amended to allow the payment to be made. Further, any member who has already paid the registration fee for the current year should be reimbursed the £40 fee.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
	<p>It is recommended as follows:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Council pay the ICO registration fee on behalf of members; and 2 Council amend its Scheme of Allowances in order to have the vires to reimburse this cost; and 3 Council reimburse the registration fee to any member who has already paid same for the current year.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	<p>Financial – The £40 cost per Councillor of Registration</p> <p>Administrative costs in processing the payment/reimbursement – minimal.</p>
5.0	Equality and good relations implications
5.1	<p>This policy has been equality screened to assess the likely impact on the promotion of equality of opportunity and good relations. The policy will not be subject to an equality impact assessment at this time.</p>
6.0	Rural Proofing implications
6.1	<p>In the drafting of this report due regard to rural needs has been considered. The policy will not be subject to a rural needs impact assessment at this time.</p>
7.0	Appendices
	<p>Appendix 1 – Legal Advice in respect of ICO Registration Fees</p>
8.0	Background Documents
	<p>N/A</p>

Reimbursing Councillor's Annual Registration Fees

I have based my advices below on the instructions received from Mrs Lyndsey Moore of Newry Mourne and Down District Council. I have structured my advice based on the following questions posed:

Is there any legal obligation for Council to pay the registration fee on this occasion on behalf of Councillors or reimburse them for same?

And

Given that registration is required due to the constituency business of Councillors rather than official Council business, does Council have the vires to cover the registration costs (either by direct payment or reimbursement)?

The Data Protection Act 1998 and the General Data Protection Regulations require Councillors to register as Data Controllers if they are in active constituency work. Guidance provided by the Information Commissioner's Office states that "if individual Councillors are acting as a representative of the residents for their ward (e.g. taking forward complaints made by their local residents) then they would be a controller in their own right and would not be covered by the local authority's registration." A clear distinction is made which precludes Councillors from relying upon the Local Authority's registration and which requires them to register with the ICO in their own personal capacity.

The question arises as to whether or not Councils have the legal obligation to pay this registration fee on behalf of the Councillors?

The Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and the Local Government (Payment to Councillors) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 establish the legal framework by which Councils can legally make payments to Councillors.

The Local Government Finance Act at Article 31(1) states, "Regulations may provide for the payment by Councils of such allowances or other payments as may be prescribed to Councillors for, or in relation to anything done in connection with, service as Councillors." The Act allows Councils to make payments towards Councillor expenses for official and courtesy visits and for expenses incurred in attending conferences and meetings. Article 41 provides for the payment of reasonable subscriptions for the officers of a Council, however this does not extend to Councillors at present. The Local Government Finance Act does not provide any legal basis under which the Council are obliged to pay the registration fee on behalf of Councillors nor is there any legal obligation to reimburse Councillors for fees of this ilk which are incurred.

The Local Government (Payment to Councillors) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 outlines what payments Councils can lawfully make to Councillors. Article 3 makes Councils responsible for publishing a "Scheme of Allowances" to Councillors and Committee members each year. The scheme must specify the following amounts allowable as payment to Councillors:

- (a) Basic allowance
- (b) Special Responsibility Allowance
- (c) Dependants' Carers' Allowance
- (d) Travel and Subsistence Allowance

In terms of the Basic Allowance, Article 4(1) of the Legislation provides that the "Council may make a payment to each Councillor by way of an allowance ("basic allowance") for, or in relation to anything done in connection with, service as a Councillor, including an approved duty."

A paper published by the Department for Communities (14th December 2016) entitled "Consolidated Guidance on Councillors' Allowances for District Councils in Northern Ireland" issued under Article 31(5) of the Finance Act provides that the Basic Allowance should be the same for each Councillor and is intended to incorporate incidental and consumable costs incurred by Councillors in their official capacity.

The Regulations do however provide Councils with the ability to make allowances towards what is referred to as an "Approved Duty." An Approved Duty is defined in the Regulations as:

*"(a) attendance at a meeting of a Council, or any of its committees or sub-committees, or at a meeting of a joint committee or any of its sub-committees, or at a meeting of a group committee established under the provision of the Local Government (Employment of Group Building Control Staff) Order (Northern Ireland) 1994(2) or the Local Government (Employment of Group Environmental Health Staff) Order (Northern Ireland) 1994(3); or (b) **the doing of anything approved by a council** or, as the case may be, by a joint committee or anything of a class so approved, for the purpose of, or **in connection with, the discharge of the functions of the Council**, or any of its committees or sub-committees, or as the case may be, of the joint committee or any of its sub-committees."*

The Department for Communities has issued guidance on what duties, apart from attendance at Council or Committee meetings, should be considered as approved duties. The list is by no means exhaustive and is open to the respective Council to approve specific duties applicable to them.

Interpretation of this regulation would provide Council with the vires to cover the registration costs. For example, as noted in Schemes of Allowances published by a number of Councils, such Approved Duties have included for "Recurring Expenditure" or "Other duties in connection with the discharge of the functions of Council approved by the Chief Executive." Therefore, should a Council deem a Councillor's registration to be "in connection with the discharge of the functions of the Council" as they are representing ratepayers whom the Council is required to serve, the Council could therefore reimburse Councillor's for this expenditure.

In light of the aforementioned, my interpretation of both pieces of Legislation leads me to conclude:

1. The aforementioned pieces of legislation, the subject of these advices, do not place any legal obligation on the Council to pay or reimburse Councillors for their registration fees.
2. However, as to the question as to whether or not the Council has the Vires to cover the registration costs either by direct payment or reimbursement, so long as the Council has provided for this in their Scheme of Allowances as an Approved Duty, the Council would have the vires to reimburse the costs of registration.

SPECIAL STRATEGIC PROJECTS WORKING GROUP RE CCTV

TUESDAY 11th SEPTEMBER 2018 1PM,

COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOWNSHIRE CIVIC CENTRE, DOWNPATRICK

In attendance: Dorinnia Carville, Director of Corporate Services
Johnny McBride, Assistant Director, Community Planning and Performance
Gail Kane, Head of Facilities Management
Catherine Hanvey, PA

Councillor T Andrews
Councillor N Bailie
Councillor M Carr
Councillor C Casey
Councillor W Clarke
Councillor G Craig
Councillor C Enright
Councillor H Harvey
Councillor M Larkin
Councillor K Loughran
Councillor O McMahon
Councillor M Ruane
Councillor M Savage (Chair)
Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor J Tinnelly
Councillor J Trainor
Councillor B Walker

Apologies: Liam Hannaway, Chief Executive
Marie Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism
Michael Lipsett, Director of Active and Health Communities
Roland Moore, Interim Director of Regulatory and Technical Services

Councillor D Curran
Councillor M Murnin
Councillor G Stokes
Councillor D Taylor

Declarations of Interest: None

AGREED: Meeting Chaired by Councillor Michael Savage

ACTIONS ARISING:

Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
Public Space CCTV	<p>Read: Report from J McBride, dated 5 September 2018 on Public Space CCTV.</p> <p>It was AGREED on the PROPOSAL of Councillor M Ruane, SECONDED by Councillor W Clarke to suspend the decision of the Council on the 8 January 2018 in relation to public space CCTV.</p> <p>To authorise Officials to engage external technical assistance to complete a detailed scoping exercise, with key stakeholders, for the purposes of identifying future public space CCTV requirements. A final report to be presented to the SPWG in due course.</p> <p>To continue with the current arrangements in relation to public space CCTV, including essential maintenance, whilst the detailed scoping exercise is being undertaken.</p>	JMcB	To be considered at the Strategy, Policy & Resources (SP&R) Committee Meeting, 13 September 2018	N
END				

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Local Development Plan Steering Group Meeting

13 April 2018 at 2pm

Members Room 1, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick

Attendees:

Members: Cllr G Craig (Chair)
Cllr M Larkin (Deputy Chair)
Cllr W Clarke
Cllr M Ruane
Cllr R Burgess
Cllr D McAteer
Cllr C Enright
Cllr D Curran

Officials: Mrs M Ward Director of Economic Regeneration & Tourism
Mr A McKay Chief Planning Officer
Mr M McQuiston Senior Planning Officer
Mrs M McIlhone Business Support Manager (Secretariat)

Apologies: Cllr M Murnin, A Hay

1. Minutes of last meeting on 14 February 2018

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed on the proposal of Cllr Larkin and seconded by Cllr Ruane.

2. Update on Preferred Options Paper (POP)

Cllr Craig referred to the Local Development Plan Workshop held on 27 March 2018 in the Burrendale Hotel, Newcastle. He indicated that there was extensive consideration of the draft POP with all parties well represented.

Mr McQuiston advised that the comments and feedback from the Workshop was being taken into account in the on-going work to refine the document. He confirmed that the 24 key issues, associated options and preferred options remain unchanged.

Mr McQuiston advised that Mr Hannaway had highlighted that there was need for a regional approach to address coastal erosion and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs and the Department for Infrastructure were taking a joint lead on this. The maintenance of Sustainable Drainage Systems and cost implications for the Council had also been raised by Mr Hannaway. The Environmental Section has been updated to reflect both these issues.

Ireland 2040 National Planning Framework has been referenced in the Regional and Policy context section of the POP.

Reference to the NI electricity grid infrastructure has been added to the utilities overview in the introduction to the document.

3. Public Consultation

Mr McQuiston advised that the POP would be presented to a Special Council meeting on 1 May 2018 for approval. Following Council approval a 12 week public consultation period would start on 1 June 2018 and run to 24 August 2018. Mr McQuiston invited feedback from members regarding the public consultation.

Agreed: The Steering Group agreed that the POP be brought to the Special Council Meeting on 1 May 2018 for approval.

The Chair recognised the amount of work and effort involved in producing a comprehensive draft POP and indicated his appreciation of the range of workshops held. He stated that this document is the foundation stone to shape future development across the district.

Members discussed potential consultation opportunities including the varying approaches taken by other Councils. It was suggested that a mix of evening and daytime events at two locations within each DEA (Newry and Downpatrick would only require 1 location) should be held.

Agreed: It was agreed that a Programme of Public Consultation would be drawn up by the Local Development Plan Team for consideration at the next Steering Group meeting.

4. Any Other Business

Cllr Enright enquired if work would be undertaken to redraft PPS21. Mr McKay advised that the Department for Infrastructure were currently engaging consultants to carry out a review of planning policies including strategic planning policies for development in the countryside contained within the SPPS. Our revised countryside policies would therefore be informed by any changes to strategic policy within SPPS.

The Chair stated that we need to complete this part (POP) of the Local Development Plan work in order to have a Strategic direction.

Mrs Ward reiterated the importance of securing Council approval of the POP on 1 May 2018 to allow the Public consultation to commence on 1 June 2018, in line with the Development Plan Timetable. It was agreed that a note would be issued to all Councillors advising them of this.

Agreed: Officers to notify all Councillors about the POP being presented for approval at Special Council Meeting on 1 May 2018.

5. Date of Next meeting

A date for the next meeting will be arranged for early May to agree the Public consultation programme.

Report to:	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	13 September 2018
Subject:	Residents' Survey
Reporting Officer:	Johnny McBride - Assistant Director: Community Planning & Performance
Contact Officer:	Alan Beggs – Head of Evidence & Research

<table><tr><td>For decision</td><td>For noting only</td><td>X</td></tr></table>		For decision	For noting only	X
For decision	For noting only	X		
1.0	Purpose & Background			
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update in relation to the Residents' Survey.			
1.2	Members will be aware that the Council previously agreed to undertake a District-wide survey of residents in support of the development of the new Corporate Plan (2019-23), other important Council strategies and their subsequent performance management. This survey is also being undertaken in conjunction with Mid & East Antrim Borough Council.			
2.0	Key Issues			
2.1	Following a tender exercise, Social Market Research has been appointed to design and carry out the survey on behalf of the two Councils.			
2.2	Members are asked to note the following in respect of the survey: <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. The questionnaire comprises 59 questions (including optional questions), split into 6 sections. The questionnaire addresses issues around resident satisfaction with the Council and its services, resident wellbeing and residents' priorities for the future;ii. The survey will be conducted through face-to-face interviews only. Trained interviewers with appropriate scripts and showcards provided will carry out the survey. All interviewers will have photo identification and an authorisation letter from the Council;iii. A successful pilot survey was completed in August 2018 following which some amendments were made to ensure user accessibility and sustain participant interest;iv. The survey sample has been constructed ensuring that each of the Councils 41 Wards are fairly represented. The sample also includes quotas around gender, age and socio-economic background;v. The survey will be conducted during September 2018 with a press release being circulated to local newspapers to communicate the purpose and process of the survey; andvi. The findings of the survey will be compiled and presented to Elected Members by December 2018.			

3.0	Resource implications
	The cost to Council for commissioning Social Market Research to undertake the survey is £15,500; this is below the estimated cost of £20,000 provided at the March 2018 meeting.
4.0	Equality & Good Relations Implications
	There are no specific equality and good relations implications arising from this report, however it is likely that undertaking such a comprehensive exercise will have a positive effect on the Council's community relations with the wider general public and assist with its future equality screening obligations by providing a comprehensive evidence across the Section 75 categories.
5.0	Rural Proofing Implications
	The survey does not fall into the scope of requiring a rural impact assessment as defined within the Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016. However, it should be noted that the survey sample is designed to ensure proportionality of representation from rural areas. The results provided will allow the Council to better understand and address the needs of the rural population as distinct from the population generally.
6.0	Appendices
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None

Report to:	Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	13 September 2018
Subject:	Participatory Budgeting (PB) Pilot Project
Reporting Officer:	Johnny McBride - Assistant Director: Community Planning & Performance
Contact Officer:	David Patterson, Head of Community Planning

Decision(s) Required:			
For decision		For noting only	x
1.0	<u>Purpose & Background</u>		
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update Members on a Participatory Budgeting pilot project, which will be implemented across the District in October and November 2018.		
1.2	The primary purpose of the pilot project is to explore innovative new ways of community engagement in the allocation of public funds. This follows a decision of the Community Planning Partnership Board at its meeting on the 30 January 2018 to identify suitable projects and to make a submission to the Participatory Budgeting (PB) Works Project for support in developing a pilot project. This submission was successful in April 2018.		
2.0	<u>Key Issues</u>		
	What is Participatory Budgeting?		
2.1	Participatory Budgeting or PB can be best summarised as local communities deciding on how to allocate part of a public budget by enabling local groups to put forward their own ideas, collectively decide on the issues that matter to them, and ultimately vote for those that should receive funding. It is a means of community engagement, of sharing responsibility and enhancing local democracy, which is now used extensively across the UK and which is widely recognised as a means of supporting representative democracy. Effective community engagement and participation has been identified as being critical to Community Planning success.		
	How does PB work?		
2.2	In respect of grant-making, the process can be summarised as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A grant pot or community chest of funding is identified by statutory Partners, who are also responsible for establishing robust governance and control arrangements;• Local groups bid for small-scale funding (typically no more than £500 ea.) by presenting proposals to residents, including others making proposals, in one place with all interested present. Bidders are free to choose their method of presentation – no		

	<p>complicated application forms as its the local community who is judging;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All vote (methods may vary) on which proposals to support; and • Funding is allocated to the successful bidders for the implementation of the proposal (on the basis of the agreed governance and control arrangements). Successful projects are also subject to evaluation. 																
	NMD Pilot Project																
2.3	<p>Community Planning Partners have agreed that the scope of the pilot will involve two key events and will be branded as “Communities Leading Change”:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A locally-organised event in the Mournes DEA, hosted in Newry Street Unite Community Centre, Kilkeel, on Thursday 18 October 2018, piloting a ‘low tech’ (verbal pitches only / no hi-tech presentations) approach, open to all Mournes DEA groups, which will cover themes relevant to the local DEA Action Plan including rural isolation; mental health and emotional wellbeing; and A District-wide event, on Saturday 24 November 2018, targeting younger people under 24 years. We are currently working with Partners and with The Democratic Society (based on Edinburgh and part of the PB Works group providing advice) to develop a digital / online element of this event , to enable a wider level of participation by young people from across the District 																
2.4	<p>For the purposes of this pilot project, a budget of £14,400 has been secured from a variety of Community Planning Partners. A breakdown of the funding is as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>£2,500</td><td>NMDDC Community Planning & Performance</td></tr> <tr> <td>£3,000</td><td>NMDDC DEA</td></tr> <tr> <td>£2,500</td><td>Southern HSC Trust</td></tr> <tr> <td>£2,000</td><td>NI Housing Executive</td></tr> <tr> <td>£2,500</td><td>South Eastern HSC Trust</td></tr> <tr> <td>£1,000</td><td>PSNI</td></tr> <tr> <td>£900</td><td>Department for Communities</td></tr> <tr> <td>£14,400</td><td>TOTAL</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	£2,500	NMDDC Community Planning & Performance	£3,000	NMDDC DEA	£2,500	Southern HSC Trust	£2,000	NI Housing Executive	£2,500	South Eastern HSC Trust	£1,000	PSNI	£900	Department for Communities	£14,400	TOTAL
£2,500	NMDDC Community Planning & Performance																
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£2,500	South Eastern HSC Trust																
£1,000	PSNI																
£900	Department for Communities																
£14,400	TOTAL																
	Pilot Project Governance																
2.5	<p>It is critically important the Council and its Partners be assured that PB arrangements are suitably governed, in particular, that satisfactory financial governance procedures are in place. With PB Works support, a comprehensive Partners’ Agreement has been agreed, which also includes financial management arrangements, which are compliant with the Council’s own financial procedures. These have been produced in collaboration with the Assistant Director: Finance and the Assistant Director: Community Engagement. The pilot project is also supported by a Steering Group, which is comprised of Partner representatives. Researchers from KU Leuven University, Belgium will also be evaluating the success of the pilot project.</p>																
3.0	<u>Resource Implications</u>																

3.1	The pilot project will be developed and implemented within existing budget allocations, and with the support of Community Planning Partners’ agreed contributions.
4.0	<u>Equality & Good Relations Implications</u>
4.1	There are no equality and good relations implications arising from this specific report.
5.0	<u>Appendices</u>
5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None

STRATEGIC PROJECTS WORKING GROUP

TUESDAY 11th SEPTEMBER 2018

COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOWNSHIRE CIVIC CENTRE, DOWNPATRICK

In attendance: Dorinnia Carville, Director of Corporate Services
 Conor Mallon, Assistant Director, Estates and Capital Projects
 Conor Haughey, Head of Outdoor Leisure
 Anthony McKay, Chief Planning Officer
 Catherine Hanvey, PA

Councillor M Savage
 Councillor C Casey
 Councillor W Clarke
 Councillor G Craig
 Councillor G Sharvin
 Councillor C Enright
 Councillor N Bailie
 Councillor J Trainor
 Councillor O McMahon

Apologies:

Liam Hannaway, Chief Executive
 Marie Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism
 Michael Lipsett, Director of Active and Health Communities
 Roland Moore, Interim Director of Regulatory and Technical Services

Councillor D Curran
 Councillor M Murnin
 Councillor G Stokes
 Councillor D Taylor

Declarations of Interest: None

AGREED: Meeting chaired by Councillor Michael Savage

AGREED: In relation to the action sheet of 26.6.18 it was confirmed that same was an accurate record.

ACTIONS ARISING:

Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
Action Sheet from Albert Basin Task and Finish WG 2.8.18	It was agreed that same were an accurate record of the meeting.	ML	Action Sheet tabled at SP&R 13/9/18	
Report re Surplus Assets – Downpatrick DEA	<p>Lands at Gallows Hill/Upper Scotch Street Amenity Site</p> <p>Lands at Meadowlands Recreation Area and Ballyvange</p>	CM	<p>Members agreed that lands at Gallows Hill be referred to ERT for further consideration on the future tourism potential.</p> <p>Members agreed to defer a decision in relation to same. Officers to liaise with LPS to obtain valuations and carry out discussions with public sector bodies regarding interest and proposed use and revert to members.</p>	
Update on Newry DEA Assets – Verbal	Further to previous reports brought to SPWG, Conor Mallon confirmed 5 plots of land processed and with LPS to release/obtain expressions of interest via the D1 process.	CM	Noted	

Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
	<p>Further 4 plots of land with Legal Department and to be forwarded to LPS to commence D1 process.</p> <p>Re Market Stall in Newry, Conor Mallon advised LPS proposed modification and, therefore, Stage 1 and Stage 2 of D1 process are both being entered into simultaneously.</p> <p>Dorinnia Carville advised Playboard NI Valuation was undertaken of McCreesh Park and Barcroft. McCreesh Park scored 87 which designated it as a surplus asset. Barcroft scored 110.</p>		<p>Noted</p> <p>Members asked for a report to be tabled at SP&R in respect of McCreesh Park as a surplus asset for discussion and decision at SP&R.</p>	
END				