

April 17th, 2024

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the meeting to be held on Thursday, 18th April 2024 at 6:30 pm in Microsoft Teams & Downshire Civic Centre.

Committee Membership 2023 - 2024

Councillor S O'Hare **Chairperson**

Councillor C Enright **Deputy Chairperson**

Councillor P Byrne

Councillor O Hanlon

Councillor R Howell

Councillor T Kelly

Councillor A Lewis

Councillor A Mathers

Councillor D McAteer

Councillor L McEvoy

Councillor A Quinn

Councillor H Reilly

Councillor M Rice

Councillor G Sharvin

Councillor D Taylor

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 Action Sheet arising from Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 14 March 2024

 [SPR-Action Sheet arising from 2024 03 14.pdf](#)

Page 1

Notices of Motion

4.0 Notice of Motion - Ethical Procurement C/037/2024

For Decision

 [SPR - NOM - Ethical Procurement Policy.pdf](#)

Page 4

5.0 Notice of Motion – MMR Vaccinations - C/041/2024

For Information

 [35. 18.04.24 MMR PHA Public Information and Education Campaign Evaluation Report.pdf](#)

Page 7

6.0 Notice of Motion - Projected Rates Increase C/060/2024

For Decision

To be tabled at May Committee

Regeneration

7.0 Funding Opportunity

For Decision

 [Multiply funding SPR 18 4 24.pdf](#)

Page 11

For Consideration and/or Decision

8.0 Elected Member Development Charter




For Decision

 [Member Development Charter - SPR Report .pdf](#)

Page 14



9.0 Draft Performance Improvement Objectives

For Decision

 SPR Cover Report Performance Improvement Objectives 2024-25.pdf	Page 17
 Appendix 1 - Draft Performance Improvement Objectives 2024-25.pdf	Page 21
 Appendix 2 - Development of the Performance Improvement Plan 2024-25.pdf	Page 41

10.0 Local Government Staff Commission for NI

For Decision

 2024-04 - xx LGSC SLA and Contribution Arrangements (002).pdf	Page 44
 Appendix 1 - Letter LGSC for NI Continuing Operations 24-25.pdf	Page 46

For Noting

11.0 Planning Department Quarterly Update

For Information

 SPR - Planning Department Update.pdf	Page 47
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Items deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014

11.1 Planning Department Quarterly Update - Appendix 1

For Information



This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act Northern Ireland 2014- information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

 Appendix 1 - planning Dept.pdf	Not included
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12.0 Proposed Lease of Lands at Lismore Park, Crossmaglen

For Decision




This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act Northern Ireland 2014- information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

 Proposed Lease of Lands at Lismore Park Crossmaglen SPR 18th April 2024.pdf	Not included
 SPR Map Lands at Lismore Pk.pdf	Not included

13.0 Lease Proposal



For Decision

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act Northern Ireland 2014- information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
|  <i>SPR - AHC Lease Review.pdf</i> | <i>Not included</i> |
|  <i>Appendix 1 Lease of lands at Milltown to Warrenpoint Town FC 6 Jan 2013.pdf</i> | <i>Not included</i> |
|  <i>Appendix 2 WTFC Letter NMDC 25th Jan 2024.pdf</i> | <i>Not included</i> |

14.0 STA - Asset Management System

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act Northern Ireland 2014- information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
|  <i>Asset Managemnt System STA 2024-2027.pdf</i> | <i>Not included</i> |
|  <i>Appendix 1 - Real Asset Management System STA 2024-2027.pdf</i> | <i>Not included</i> |

15.0 Rate Support Grant Update

For Information

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act Northern Ireland 2014- information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
|  <i>Independent Review of Rates Support Grant.pdf</i> | <i>Not included</i> |
|  <i>Appendix 1 - DfC Letter to Solace - RSG.pdf</i> | <i>Not included</i> |

16.0 Communications

For Information

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act Northern Ireland 2014- information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
|  <i>36. 18.04.24 Communications.pdf</i> | <i>Not included</i> |
|---|----------------------------|

17.0 Exempt Minutes of Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board Meeting 5 Feb 2024

For Information

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act Northern Ireland 2014- information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

📄 *Minutes - Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board Mtg 05.02.2024 (restricted).pdf*

Not included

For Noting

18.0 Minutes of Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board Meeting 5 Feb 2024

📄 *Minutes - Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board Mtg 05.02.2024 (open).pdf*

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19.0 Minutes of Mourne Mountain Gateway Project Board Meeting 8 Feb 2024

📄 *Minutes of Mourne Mountain Gateway Project - Project Board Mtg 08.02.2024 (final).pdf*

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20.0 Response from Minister Murphy re Enhanced Flood Relief Scheme

📄 *COR-1194-2024- Response from Minister Murphy.pdf*

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Invitees

- Cllr Terry Andrews
- Cllr Callum Bowsie
- Fionnuala Branagh
- Cllr Jim Brennan
- Cllr Pete Byrne
- Mr Gerard Byrne
- Cllr Philip Campbell
- Mr Andrew Cassells
- Cllr William Clarke
- Cllr Laura Devlin
- Ms Louise Dillon
- Cllr Cadogan Enright
- Cllr Killian Feehan
- Cllr Doire Finn
- Cllr Aoife Finnegan
- Ms Joanne Fleming
- Cllr Conor Galbraith
- Cllr Mark Gibbons
- Cllr Oonagh Hanlon
- Cllr Glyn Hanna
- Cllr Valerie Harte
- Cllr Roisin Howell
- Cllr Jonathan Jackson
- Cllr Geraldine Kearns
- Mrs Josephine Kelly
- Cllr Tierna Kelly
- Cllr Cathal King
- Cllr Mickey Larkin
- Cllr David Lee-Surginor
- Cllr Alan Lewis
- Cllr Oonagh Magennis
- Mr Conor Mallon
- Cllr Aidan Mathers
- Cllr Declan McAteer
- Cllr Leeanne McEvoy
- Cllr Andrew McMurray
- Mr Colin Moffett
- Cllr Declan Murphy
- Cllr Kate Murphy
- Cllr Selina Murphy
- Cllr Siobhan O'Hare
- Cllr Áine Quinn

Cllr Henry Reilly
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Cllr Michael Rice
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Cllr Michael Ruane
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Cllr Gareth Sharvin
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Donna Starkey
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Nicola Stranney
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Sarah Taggart
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Cllr David Taylor
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Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly
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Cllr Jill Truesdale
.....
Mrs Marie Ward
.....

ACTION SHEET – STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING (SPR) –					
Thursday 18 January 2024					
Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken / Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet? Y/N
SPR/017/2024	Planning Department Update	It was agreed that Officer's table quarterly reports to update members on progress, or otherwise, against actions outlined in the report.	J McGilly	Agreed – Planning Report to be brought every quarter On April SPR Committee Agenda	Y
ACTION SHEET – STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING (SPR) –					
Thursday 14 March 2024					
Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken / Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet? Y/N
SPR/038/2024	Action sheet from meeting held 15.02.2024	It was agreed to note the action sheet	J Kelly	Noted	Y
SPR/039/2024	Notice of Motion – Ethical procurement	It was agreed to defer the item of business until April Committee	J Kelly	On agenda for April SPR Committee Agenda	Y
SPR/040/2024	Correspondence from the Ulster Scots Community Network	It was agreed that Officers proceed to undertake a review of Council's current approach to Ulster Scots, including consideration of the policy approaches being implemented within other local government authorities in NI, and prepare a paper for consideration at a future meeting of the Councillor's Equality & Good relations Reference Group.	C Moffett	Agreed	Y
SPR/041/2024	Officer report on Notice of Motion – Ending Violence against Women & Girls	It was agreed to note the notice of motion has been considered and discussed at the Councillor's Equality & Good Relations Reference Group on 05.03.2024 and it was agreed that NMD Council would write to the Minister calling for the delivery of a fully funded strategy to end violence against women and girls; and commits to instituting November 25 th as Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls Day across the district with a series of events to help educate, raise awareness and end this abhorrent humanitarian abuse.	C Moffett	Agreed	Y

		It was also agreed that the recommendation be forwarded to the Council's Women's Sub-Committee to progress events to acknowledge November 25 th as Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls Day and Council undertake an exercise to determine what support Council is currently providing in relation to this.		On Agenda for Women's Working Group Meeting scheduled for 1st May 2024.	
SPR/042/2024	Hybrid Meetings	It was agreed to note the contents of the report It was agreed a report be brought back to Committee regarding the new Chamber system and the resources required to manage it.	Democratic Services J Kelly	Noted Options being explored and report to be brought back to future meeting.	Y N
SPR/043/2024	Mourne Mountains Gateway Project – Contract for funding and funding agreement	The following was agreed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To note the project updates and next steps as outlined in the letter from DfE in Appendix 2 - That Council acknowledges that any costs over and above the £30m BRCD contribution are to be met by the Council - Approve the draft CFF and FA as per Appendix 3 and 4. - Council also look at the opportunity of sourcing external funding. 	C Mallon	Agreed	Y
SPR/044/2024	Bad Debt	It was agreed to approve the bad debt write off at March 2024 as outlined in the Officer's Report	G Byrne	Approved	Y
SPR/045/2024	16 The Square, Rostrevor	It was agreed to approve the recommendations as outlined in the Officer's Report	A Patterson	Approved	Y
SPR/46/2024	Proposed renewal of license for advertisement hoardings at Newry Tennis and Bowling Facility	It was agreed to grant a license to the party noted in the Officer's Report permitting them to operate the advertisement hoardings at Newry Tennis and Bowling Facility for a term of 3 years, subject to a yearly license fee to be determined by Council's valuer	P Rooney	Agreed	Y
SPR/047/2024	Proposed Lease of Lands adjacent to St Nicholas PS, Ardglass for a bus shelter	It was agreed to enter into a lease with the party noted in the Officer's Report in respect of the lands outlined in red on the map attached to the Officer's Report for a term of 25 years subject to a one off premium as outlined within the Officer's Report.	P Rooney	Agreed	Y

SPR/048/2024	Proposed Lease at Castlewellan Forest Park	The following was agreed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - that the commencement date of Phase 4 of the 2021 Lease is brought forward from 2029 until 2024, as per the content of the officer's report. - That Council grant the existing tenant identified within the officer's report, a lease until 31st December 2045 of the areas outlined in red on the map attached to the officer's report, subject to the yearly rent determined by Council's Valuer as set out at paragraph 1.6 of the officer's report. 	P Rooney	Agreed	Y
SPR/049/2024	Mourne Mountains Gateway Project – Appointment of ICT	It was agreed to approve the appointment of the preferred bidder for the ICT at the tendered sum as outlined in section 4.1 of the Officer's report, subject to updated approval from DoF.	C Mallon	Agreed	Y
SPR/050/2024	Management Accounts Period 9	It was agreed to note the quarter three 2023/24 Management Accounts	G Byrne	Noted	Y
SPR/051/2024	Treasury Management Update	It was agreed to note the quarter 3 Treasury Management Update	G Byrne	Noted	Y
SPR/052/2024	Minutes of Women's Working Group meeting held 01.02.2024	It was agreed to note the minutes	J Kelly	Noted	Y
END					

Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	18 th April 2024
Subject:	Notice of Motion – Ethical Procurement Policy
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Joesphine Kelly – Director of Corporate Services
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Caolain Boyd – Assistant Director: Capital Projects & Procurement

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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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p>At the full Council meeting on Monday 5 February 2024, the following was agreed:</p> <p>The Ethical Procurement Policy Motion was referred to the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p><i>Newry, Mourne and Down Council deplores those corporations that profit from protracted armed conflict and systematic violations of human rights, particularly in the context of Israel's continuing brutal assault on the people of Gaza and escalating settler terrorism in the West Bank; Russia's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine; and other conflicts around the world.</i></p> <p><i>With this motion, the Council encourages companies to meet their obligations to avoid contributing to adverse human rights impacts through their own activities, and to prevent or mitigate human rights abuses linked to their operations.</i></p> <p><i>The Council is aware of the crucial role of local authorities and their public procurement procedures in ensuring respect for human rights by companies, as well as their obligations under widely accepted business and human rights norms - as laid down in the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, and the Global Sullivan Principles (1999) - to promote respect for human rights by companies with which they do business.</i></p> <p><i>The Council affirms that every endeavour is made to ensure that Council's tender processes are consistent with the above principles, including under the Fourth Geneva convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and under customary international humanitarian law, prohibiting the importation or sale of goods or services originating in occupied territories.</i></p> <p><i>This Council resolves to adopt a rights-based Ethical Procurement Policy (EPP) that takes fully into account existing obligations and standards. The EPP will incorporate</i></p>

	<i>widely accepted and precisely formulated international standards and explain clearly how the policy will be implemented. The primary aim of the EPP is to ensure that human rights obligations are properly acknowledged, observed and respected at all stages of the procurement process."</i>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<p>The Council will be updating its Procurement Policy following the implementation of the new Procurement Regulations 2024.</p> <p>Within the new policy Newry Mourne & Down District Council affirms to consider a section under ethical procurement and will review the Council's tender processes.</p>
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Will be considered when the Policy is being reviewed.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>

5.3	<p>Proposal initiating consultation</p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	<p>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</p>
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	<p>Appendices</p>
	<p>None</p>
8.0	<p>Background Documents</p>
	<p>None</p>

Report to:	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	Thursday 18 April 2024
Subject:	<i>C/041/2024 - Notice of Motion – MMR Vaccinations</i> Public Information and Education Campaign
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Veronica Keegan Assistant Director Digital and Communications
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Patricia Murtagh Corporate Communications and PR Manager

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

For decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Members are asked to note the contents of this report which seeks to provide details of the effectiveness of the **MMR Vaccination Public Information and Education Campaign** which ran from 11-28 March 2024.

1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<i>At the full Council meeting on Monday 5 February 2024, the following was agreed:</i> <i>C/041/2024 - Notice of Motion – MMR Vaccinations</i> <i>It was agreed that in welcoming that between January and June 2023 that there were no cases reported of measles in the North, noting with concern the increase in measles across England and Wales, and emphasising the importance of having children up to date with MMR vaccinations, this Council affirms its support to maintain Northern Ireland as measles-free.</i>
1.2	The Council’s Marketing and Communications team, working in conjunction with the Public Health Agency undertook a public information and education campaign via print and social media from 11-28 March 2024, aimed at curbing the growing threat of measles and informing parents/guardians for anyone aged 12 months up to and including 25 years old, who hasn’t had one or both doses of MMR, catch-up vaccination was available until 31 March 2024.
2.0	Key Findings
2.1	A series of social media posts and key public health messaging in relation to PHA MMR Catch Up vaccinations/clinics were shared organically via Corporate social channels (Facebook and X/Twitter) using existing PHA assets.
2.2	In addition to the digital communications activities, a number of traditional communications methods were also implemented to boost the campaign: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A joint photocall was arranged with the Council Chairperson and Dr Joanne McClean, Public Health Director at the PHA with dedicated PR issued to all local media outlets emphasising how the Council was collaborating with the PHA by supporting and raising the awareness of the importance of the MMR vaccination.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement with the Council's Community Planning team and DEA co-ordinators was undertaken to ensure further dissemination and resharing of campaign messaging with community partners. A Chief Executive's Update on the MMR Campaign was issued internally to all Elected Members and Council staff.
2.3	NMDDC's meta-data illustrated the campaign generated a reach of 52,617 across the Council's Facebook and X platforms. (See Appendix 1: Social Media Assets)
2.4	The Council's Media Monitoring Agency found that the campaign's total potential reach across digital and print media channels was 387,220 .
3.0	Summary
3.1	The campaign performed well with 387,220 potentially seeing the campaign across Facebook, X and local press.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Communications and marketing activities were developed and delivered by the Council's Communications and Marketing Team as an organic campaign across Facebook and X. No expenditure was incurred.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p>

	Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Rationale:</i>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If yes, please complete the following: Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/>
7.0	Appendices
	Appendix 1: Public Health Agency Digital Assets: MMR Catch Up Campaign
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A

Public Health Agency Digital Assets & NMDDC PR

Appendix 1

11.03.24

Young people 25 years of age and under who missed their scheduled MMR doses can receive their first and second dose of MMR vaccine at a catch-up clinic.

MMR
Measles Mumps Rubella

HSC

15.03.24

12.03.24

Has your child had their MMR?

HSC Public Health Agency

20.03.24

13.03.24

MMR catch-up

Anyone aged between 12 months and 25 years of age missed their scheduled MMR doses can receive their first and second dose of MMR vaccine at a catch-up clinic.

MMR
Measles Mumps Rubella

HSC Public Health Agency

25.03.24

Dr Laurence Dorman
Mourne Family Surgery

The MMR is a vaccine that we give to children

MMR
Measles Mumps Rubella

27.03.24

2 doses of the MMR vaccine can stop your child becoming seriously unwell with measles.

www.nidirect.gov.uk/mmr

HSC Public Health Agency

28.03.24

MEASLES

Measles is not just a childhood disease it can make adults seriously unwell too

Getting the MMR vaccine is free and usually takes just a few minutes.

MMR
Measles Mumps Rubella

HSC Public Health Agency

Has your child had their MMR?

Personal Child Health Record

Please keep it safe

Check their red book or speak to your health visitor or GP practitioner

MMR
Measles Mumps Rubella

HSC Public Health Agency

MMR catch-up

The Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccination is the most effective way to protect against these diseases: you need two doses of MMR to be fully protected.

For anyone aged 12 months to 25 years who hasn't had one or two doses, catch-up vaccination is available.

www.nidirect.gov.uk/mmr

MMR
Measles Mumps Rubella

HSC Public Health Agency

Report to:	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	18 April 2024
Subject:	Multiply Programme – Funding opportunity
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Conor Mallon Director Economy, Regeneration and Tourism
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Aveen McVeigh, Head of Regeneration and Business Development

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"/>
1.0	Purpose and Background		
1.1	<p>Purpose</p> <p>To approve the recommendations as set out in section 3.1 of the report.</p>		
1.2	<p>Background</p> <p>The Department for Economy is in receipt of £5.9 million from DLUHC in respect of a Multiply Programme.</p> <p>The Programme is targeted at those individuals aged 19 and over who do not have Maths GCSE at grade C (or equivalent).</p> <p>Delivery is between 1st April 2024 and 31st March 2025 through FE Colleges, Universities and Labour Market Partnerships.</p> <p>The bid has 6 focused delivery areas with the aim to provide a mixture of qualifications and interventions (Maths for speakers of other languages, Numeracy for Mature learners, Industry led numeracy interventions, Numeracy bootcamps, Adult/child numeracy collaboration, Previous offenders/those in prison system).</p> <p>Interventions can include projects promoting the importance of work to help people to live healthier and more independent lives, alongside building their future financial resilience and wellbeing.</p> <p>There is the requirement to employ a Multiply Officer to deliver the Programme or allocate current staff to the Programme.</p>		
2.0	Key issues		
2.1	<p>DfE have outlined that the Officer will have responsibility for: Management and coordination of Multiply projects, project administration, including liaison with DfE, promotion and marketing of Multiply projects and Procurement.</p>		

	<p>Within the current structure of LMP there are two Skills and Employability Officers, one post was never recruited for due to the stop start nature of LMP in 23/24.</p> <p>An action plan must be submitted to DfE by 26th April 2024, there is an indicative budget of £200,000 per bid funded at 100%. Council can indicate that delivery will be in Q3 and Q4 of 2024 to enable time for recruitment, procurement etc.</p> <p>There has been early engagement with AHC regarding community interest and engagement is planned with SRC and SERC to ensure there is no duplication of delivery in the district regarding interventions and targets.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm to DfE that Council will recruit for a dedicated officer for Multiply Programme following receipt and acceptance of a LoO (for employment only). • Liaise with SRC and SERC to ensure there is no duplication of delivery in the district regarding interventions and targets. • Develop an action plan through LMP and Community Development and submit to DfE by 26th April 2024.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Skills and Employability Officer is in the payroll for 24/25 FY. The post is 100% funded.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>

<p>5.3</p>	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <hr/> <p><i>Rationale:</i> NA</p>
<p>6.0</p>	<p>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</p>
<p>6.1</p>	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>7.0</p>	<p>Appendices</p>
<p>8.0</p>	<p>Background Documents</p>

Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee (SP&R)
Date of Meeting:	18 th April 2024
Subject:	Member Development Charter
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Josephine Kelly Director of Corporate Services
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Sarah Taggart Democratic Services Manager (Acting)

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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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p>This paper seeks approval to commit to the requirements of the Member Development Charter (the Charter) and confirm the nominations from Members to progress this Charter’s requirements.</p> <p>Extract from NILGA website re the Member Development Charter</p> <p>“Learning and development is an important tool for councils, councillors and officers to deliver what our communities need. Inspiring local communities and ensuring the wellbeing of the people and places we represent takes ambitious leadership – and effective political leadership is at the heart of healthy democracy; with councillors who are well equipped and supported, resilient in times of challenge or disruption to business as usual, and confident to make a difference, deliver and be trusted.”</p> <p>The Charter helps councils to support councillor development and recognises those that have built an effective approach.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>Requirements for Charter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear commitment from the top political and managerial leadership • Cross-party councillor development group that meets regularly • Clear councillor development strategy which is embedded into practice and regularly reviewed. • Named councillor/s and officer/s responsible for councillor development. <p>This matter was discussed at the Party Leaders meeting on 11 April and it was agreed to bring recommendations to the next SP&R committee meeting for consideration.</p>
3.0	Recommendations

3.1	<p>It is recommended that members agree -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To commit to the requirements the Member Development Charter ➤ To nominate Party Leaders as the Members to progress this Charter requirements. ➤ Training / Development requirements for Councillors will progress through the Charter arrangements.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	<p>Councillor and officer time in investing in bringing forward any requirements.</p> <p>Any accreditation costs and future training costs will be taken from the budget for Councillor training.</p>
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)

<p>6.1</p>	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>7.0</p>	<p>Appendices</p>
	<p>None</p>
<p>8.0</p>	<p>Background Documents</p>
	<p>None</p>

Report to:	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	18 April 2024
Subject:	Draft Performance Improvement Objectives 2024-25
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Gerard Byrne – Assistant Director: Finance and Performance
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Catherine Hughes– Acting Head of Performance and Improvement

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

For decision	X	For noting only	
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	Part 12 of the Local Government (NI) Act 2014 sets out a General Duty of Improvement for local government, whereby all District Councils are required to put in place arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of their functions. Each financial year, Councils are required to set performance improvement objectives for the services they provide. These objectives can span more than one year, with intermediary milestones, which must be reviewed annually. The performance improvement objectives form part of the annual Performance Audit and Assessment which is carried out by the Northern Ireland Audit Office.
2.0	Key issues
	Draft performance improvement objectives 2024-25
2.1	<p>It is proposed that the Council carries forward four of the five performance improvement objectives from 2023-24. Performance improvement objective 2 has been amended to better reflect the link to the new draft corporate objective it supports, as well as the new economic programme 'Go Succeed' which is now in place. These objectives were developed within the context of the Corporate Plan 2021-23 and the Draft Corporate Plan 2024-27. These objectives are outlined in Appendix 1, and the 'supporting actions', 'measures of success' and targets have been developed and updated where appropriate and relevant.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We will support the health and wellbeing of local people by improving our leisure facilities and services. 2. We will contribute to growing the economy by supporting local businesses and job creation. 3. We will improve the cleanliness of our District by addressing littering, fly tipping and dog fouling incidents 4. We will improve our sustainability and reduce our impacts in relation to climate change. 5. We will improve the processing times of planning applications and enforcement cases by implementing the Planning Service Improvement Programme <p>As part of the Performance Improvement Audit and Assessment 2023-24, the Northern Ireland Audit Office has confirmed that it is evident that the performance improvement objectives have been developed in accordance with the strategic priorities of the Council and that the objectives align with the strategic aspects of improvement.</p>

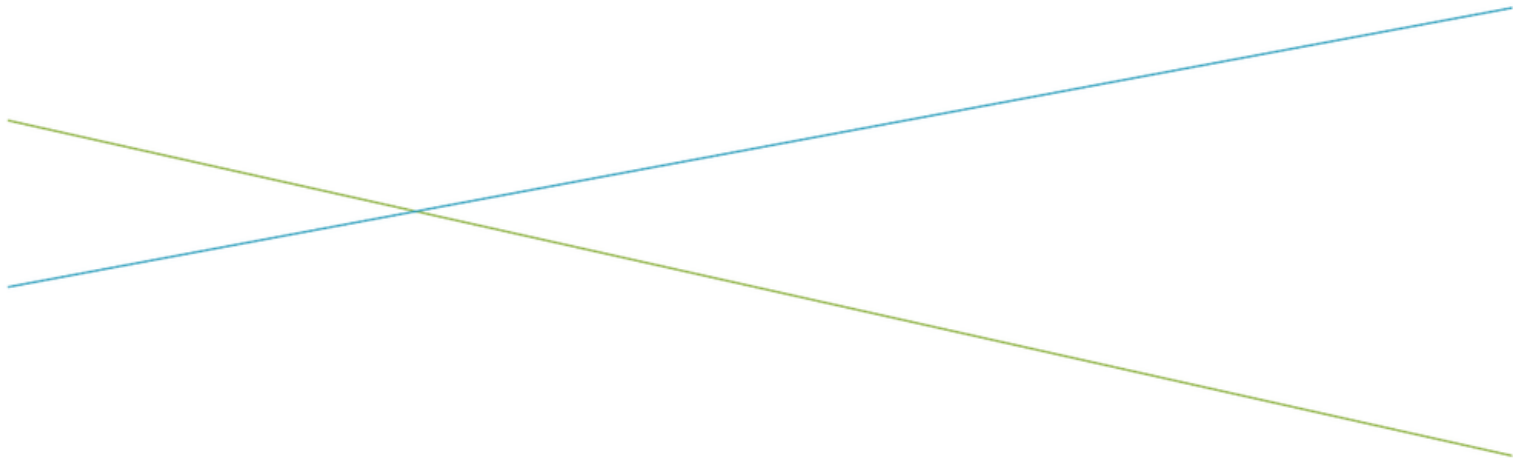
	Legislative context
2.2	<p>The guidance issued by the Department for Communities states that performance improvement is more than just quantifiable gains in service output or efficiency, or in the internal effectiveness of an organisation. Improvement should focus on activity that enhances the sustainable quality of life and environment for communities.</p> <p>Councils should therefore frame improvement objectives so as to bring about improvement in at least one of the following specified aspects of improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic effectiveness • Service quality • Service availability • Fairness • Sustainability • Efficiency • Innovation
2.3	<p>Councils should also determine their objectives for improvement based on critical self analysis, taking account of a wide range of evidence. All improvement objectives should relate to improving the functions and services to citizens, and be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legitimate • Clear • Robust • Deliverable • Demonstrable
2.4	<p>Councils are required to consult and engage a range of stakeholders, including citizens, businesses and partner organisations on the performance improvement objectives. The proposed six week consultation programme will run from 19 April - 31 May 2024 and will consist of the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speak NMD - This dedicated online space is facilitated through the Newry, Mourne and Down Community Planning Partnership and enables residents to participate in local consultation and engagement activities. To date, approximately 2,500 residents have registered to use this engagement platform and have their say on the issues and decisions which have an impact on their local area. Through Speak NMD, an electronic survey in relation to the draft performance improvement objectives 2024-25 will be published on the site. The overall consultation and engagement process will be promoted further through the Council's website and social media channels and circulated to key internal and external stakeholders. • Public advertisements in local newspapers • Engagement with DEA Forums and Section 75 groups, through Youth Voice and Older People's Forums <p>Consultation feedback will inform the final objectives which will form part of the Performance Improvement Plan 2024-25. An overview of the overall approach to develop and publish the Performance Improvement Plan by 30 June 2024, in line with statutory requirements, is outlined in Appendix 2.</p>
2.5	<p>Delivery plans for each performance improvement objective will also be developed. These plans will demonstrate, in practical terms, how the Council will manage the effective</p>

	delivery of each objective. Objective Delivery Plans are dynamic and will be reviewed and updated on a continuous basis, in order to ensure the Council has the necessary resources and processes in place to support the delivery of each objective.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<p>To consider and agree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The five draft performance improvement objectives 2024-25, as outlined in Appendix 1 • The proposed approach and timetable for publishing the Performance Improvement Plan 2024-25, as outlined in Appendix 2, including approval to commence the consultation and engagement process on 19 April 2024
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	There are no financial resource implications within this report.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

	<p><i>Rationale:</i> The draft performance improvement objectives 2024-25 have been equality screened and it is recommended that they are not subject to an equality impact assessment (with no mitigating measures required). In relation to the proposed six-week consultation process, whilst the Council’s Equality Scheme commits to holding consultation exercises relevant to the statutory duties for a minimum of twelve weeks, it also sets out exceptional circumstances where the twelve weeks may not apply. In this instance, it is proposed that the Council implements a six-week consultation process in order to ensure the deadline for publishing the Performance Improvement Plan 2024-25 by 30 June 2024 is met.</p> <p>It should also be noted that the performance improvement objectives 2024-25 have been developed based on the content of existing strategies, including the draft Corporate Plan 2024-27, which have been informed by a robust and reliable quantitative and qualitative evidence base, including Residents Survey 2022.</p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 1 – Draft Performance Improvement Objectives 2024-25 • Appendix 2 – Approach and timetable for publishing the Performance Improvement Plan 2024-25
8.0	Background Documents
	Performance Improvement Plan 2023-24

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Consultation on the
draft Performance Improvement
Objectives 2024-25



Our Duty of Improvement

Part 12 of The Local Government Act (NI) 2014 sets out a General Duty of Improvement for local government, whereby all District Councils are required to put in place arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of their functions.

The Council is required to set performance improvement objectives for the services it provides on an annual basis, and to have in place arrangements to achieve these objectives. Each performance improvement objective must bring about improvement in at least one of the following aspects of improvement:

- Strategic effectiveness
- Service quality
- Service availability
- Fairness
- Sustainability
- Efficiency
- Innovation

Improvement for Councils should focus on enhancing the sustainable quality of life for ratepayers and local communities, and each objective should be clearly linked to the community planning outcomes for the District.

The draft performance improvement objectives 2024-25 for Newry, Mourne and Down District Council have been carried forward from 2023-24. They have been developed based on extensive consultation and engagement with key stakeholders and are aligned to the following regional and local plans which influence the overall direction of travel of the organisation.

- Draft Programme for Government
- Newry, Mourne and Down Community Plan
- Draft Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Corporate Plan 2024-27
- Thematic Plans and Strategies, including the Regeneration and Economic Development Strategy

Once agreed, the performance improvement objectives 2024-25 will be published in the annual Performance Improvement Plan. This plan will provide more detail about what we want to improve, how we will deliver improvements, how our performance will be measured and what outcomes stakeholders will experience as a result of our improvement activity.







Our Draft Performance Improvement Objectives 2024-25

- 1. We will support the health and wellbeing of local people by improving our leisure facilities and services**
- 2. We will contribute to growing the economy by supporting local businesses and job creation**
- 3. We will improve the cleanliness of our District by addressing littering, fly tipping and dog fouling incidents**
- 4. We will improve our sustainability and reduce our impacts in relation to climate change**
- 5. We will improve the processing times of planning applications and enforcement cases by implementing the Planning Service Improvement Programme**

These objectives have been selected based on the following criteria:

- Does the objective support the delivery of the Programme for Government, Community Plan and draft Corporate Plan 2024-27?
- Do the objectives demonstrate improvement in at least one of the seven aspects of improvement? (strategic effectiveness, service delivery, service availability, fairness, sustainability, efficiency, innovation)
- Are the objectives SMART? (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, timebound)
- Are the resources in place to deliver the objective? (financial, human, leadership, skills, knowledge, governance, risk)
- Are the objectives based on robust and reliable evidence and will they make a visible difference in the local area?
- How well are we performing?

Legend:

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

*It should be noted that the performance information contained in the 'Looking Back' section of this report may be subject to change when the results are verified and reported through the Assessment of Performance 2023-24 in September 2024.

Community Plan for Newry, Mourne and Down

The Community Plan has been developed and agreed by the Community Planning Partnership Board. Entitled 'Living Well Together', the Community Plan provides a framework for collaborative working to deliver positive change for our communities, and sets out the following long term overarching vision for the District:

'Newry, Mourne and Down is a place with strong, safe and vibrant communities where everyone has a good quality of life and access to opportunities, choices and high quality services which are sustainable, accessible and meet people's needs'.

Through the Community Plan, the following five positive outcomes have been identified:

Our Outcomes

These are the positive outcomes we all wish to see in our community.



Draft Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Corporate Plan 2024-27

The draft Corporate Plan 2024-27 sets out the strategic direction of the organisation and ties together a number of plans and strategies that will enable the Council to achieve the following mission and eight strategic objectives. The Corporate Plan will also contribute the achievement of the overarching vision and outcomes within the Community Plan.

Draft Council Mission Statement

'To deliver sustainable services and empower our communities through transparent governance and collaboration.'

Draft Council Strategic Objectives

 <p>Support the continued growth and development of our local economy</p>	 <p>Improve the health and wellbeing of everyone in the district</p>
 <p>Protect and enhance our environment to secure a sustainable future</p>	 <p>Support regenerative tourism opportunities which promote our culture, heritage and environment</p>
 <p>Empowering communities to play an active part in civic life</p>	 <p>Develop and revitalise our district</p>
 <p>Deliver sustainable services</p>	 <p>Represent the voice of the district with our partners</p>

Your voice, your choice!

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council is inviting you to put forward your views on the draft performance improvement objectives 2024-25. We are keen to ensure that our performance improvement objectives have a positive impact on the quality of life of all stakeholders across the District, including citizens, local businesses, partner organisations in the statutory, voluntary and community sectors, employees and Elected Members.

A questionnaire has been included on page 18 of this document for all stakeholders to complete and return to:

Email: performance@nmandd.org
Address: Performance and Improvement
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
O'Hagan House, Monaghan Row
Newry, Co Down
N. Ireland, BT35 8DJ



















The questionnaire is also available on the Council's website and social media channels, as well as the Speak NMD website, through the following links:

www.newrymournedown.org/consultations
<https://speaknmd.commonplace.is>

Alternatively, if you prefer to provide comments in person, please contact us on:
Tel: 0330 137 4000
Email: performance@nmandd.org



















The closing date for responses is: 31 May 2024.

Performance Improvement Objective 1

We will support the health and wellbeing of local people by improving leisure facilities and services													
Why this matters	<p>You told us that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the top priorities for improving your local area was 'Improving people's health and wellbeing (and reducing health inequalities) • 17% of our residents are not active for a single day each week. • The third most important health and wellbeing opportunity you would like to see more of was 'physical activity opportunities such as leisure centres, gyms and sports facilities' • Between 2018 and 2022 there has been an increase in the number of residents satisfied with the leisure centres across the District, however residents did comment on issues such as the need for modernisation and improving cleanliness • 85% of respondents to our 2023-24 survey agreed with this objective <p>We know that keeping fit and active can help improve a person's health and wellbeing both physically and mentally and the provision of leisure facilities is key to achieving this. Newry, Mourne and Down District Council plays a key role in helping local communities to live long and healthy lives. The Council remains committed to promoting physical, mental and emotional well-being and encouraging residents to make healthy and informed lifestyle choices and as part of this we need to always be striving to improve our leisure facilities and offerings.</p>												
Looking Back: What we did between April - September 2023	<table border="1"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"></td> <td>385,878 paid attendances across the 6 leisure facilities</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"></td> <td>Recorded 120,264 recorded visits across a total of 10 community trails.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"></td> <td>9,904 memberships across the indoor leisure facilities</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"></td> <td>Progressed and completed a number of new build and/or upgraded capital projects including Kilkeel Bowling Pavilion and Play Park signage</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"></td> <td>10,452 attendances recorded of people taking part in targeted health programmes</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"></td> <td>14,099 attendances recorded of young people participating in youth health and wellbeing initiatives</td> </tr> </table>		385,878 paid attendances across the 6 leisure facilities		Recorded 120,264 recorded visits across a total of 10 community trails.		9,904 memberships across the indoor leisure facilities		Progressed and completed a number of new build and/or upgraded capital projects including Kilkeel Bowling Pavilion and Play Park signage		10,452 attendances recorded of people taking part in targeted health programmes		14,099 attendances recorded of young people participating in youth health and wellbeing initiatives
	385,878 paid attendances across the 6 leisure facilities												
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	10,452 attendances recorded of people taking part in targeted health programmes												
	14,099 attendances recorded of young people participating in youth health and wellbeing initiatives												
Looking Forward: What we will do in 2024-25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of paid attendances at indoor leisure facilities. • Continue to deliver a range of targeted, sustainable health programmes to encourage participation in physical activity. • Progress the leisure projects agreed within the Capital Programme • Maintain the number of recorded visits to Community Trails. 												

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work towards Leisure-Safe Accreditation for all indoor leisure facilities 					
How we will measure success	2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Actual	2022-23 Actual	Status Trend	Q1/Q2 2023-24 Actual	2024-25 Target
Number of paid attendances recorded at:						850,000
Newry Leisure Centre	27,253	183,224	307,153	△	178,672	
Down Leisure Centre	30,199	177,496	246,978	△	129,007	
Kilkeel Leisure Centre	10,367	66,987	69,797	△	31,674	
St. Colmans Sports Complex	2,945	36,717	54,024	△	19,964	
Newcastle Centre & Tropicana Outdoor Swimming Complex	2,778	33,801	25,517	△	16,018	
Ballymote Sports and Wellbeing Centre	1,754	10,309	15,365	△	10,543	
Number of people participating in targeted health programmes	2,270	322	9,309	△	10,452	20,000
Number of young people participating in targeted youth health and wellbeing initiatives	New measure		19,365	-	14,099	15,000
Number of leisure centre memberships	New measure		9,534	-	9,904	10,000
Number of capital leisure projects progressed	New measure				3	Not set
Number of recorded visits at community trails	96,563	211,718	225,795	△	120,264	226,000
What you will see by March 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 850,000 paid attendances at our six leisure centres by end of 2024-25 Increase in the number of people participating in targeted health programmes to 20,000. Increase in the number of memberships being taken out to 10,000. 226,000 recorded visits to community trails. A number of new build and/or upgraded capital leisure projects progressed. Leisure-Safe Accreditation being worked towards for all indoor leisure facilities. 					
Alignment						
Draft Corporate Plan 2024-27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the health and wellbeing of everyone in the District. 					
Community Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All people in Newry, Mourne and Down enjoy good health and wellbeing All people in Newry, Mourne and Down benefit from prosperous communities 					
Programme for Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We all enjoy long, healthy, active lives People want to live, work and visit here 					
7 aspects of improvement	Strategic effectiveness	Service quality	Service availability	Fairness		
Responsible Officer	Director: Active and Healthy Communities					
















Performance Improvement Objective 2

We will contribute to growing the economy by supporting local businesses and job creation													
Why this matters	<p>You told us that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Improving skills, employability and job prospects' was your top priority for improving the local area in the 2022 residents survey • 'Supporting local businesses, attracting investment and jobs' is in your top three priorities for improvement • Investment to grow the economy, create jobs and attract tourists is the most important form of investment • 81% of respondents to our 2023-24 survey agreed with this objective <p>Newry, Mourne and Down has recorded increases in the number of VAT/PAYE registered businesses, employee jobs and the birth rate of new businesses in the past year. When compared to 2020, the claimant count for unemployment benefit has also reduced but remains above pre-pandemic levels.</p> <p>Continuing to support and grow the economy of Newry, Mourne and Down remains a key priority for the Council. In the first six months of this year the Council created 69 new business starts as well as promoting 77 new jobs through business start activity.</p> <p>On the 13 November 2023, 'Go Succeed' launched across all Councils replacing all other Economic Development programmes including 'Go For It' which ceased implementation on the 30 September 2023. 'Go Succeed' is the new go-to source for free expert business advice focusing on the three pillars of starting, growing and scaling your business or business idea.</p>												
Looking Back: What we did between April-September 2023	<table border="1"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"></td> <td>69 new business starts created and 77 new jobs promoted through business start activity</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"></td> <td>8 new social enterprise start-ups supported, and 8 new social enterprise jobs created</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"></td> <td>144 existing businesses supported through Council run programmes to progress growth and scaling ambitions</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"></td> <td>'Make it Local' campaign delivered to stimulate footfall and the re-opening of businesses across the District</td> </tr> </table>		69 new business starts created and 77 new jobs promoted through business start activity				8 new social enterprise start-ups supported, and 8 new social enterprise jobs created				144 existing businesses supported through Council run programmes to progress growth and scaling ambitions		'Make it Local' campaign delivered to stimulate footfall and the re-opening of businesses across the District
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	144 existing businesses supported through Council run programmes to progress growth and scaling ambitions												
	'Make it Local' campaign delivered to stimulate footfall and the re-opening of businesses across the District												
Looking Forward: What we will do in 2024-25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in the social economy through the Social Enterprise programme and 'Go Succeed' • Engage individuals in pre-start activity • Support the establishment of new businesses through the 'Go Succeed' Programme 												

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the growth of existing businesses and creation of new jobs through the 'Go Succeed' Programme Continue to create opportunities for employability and skills through implementation of the LMP Action Plan. 					
How we will measure success	2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Actual	2022-23 Actual	Status Trend	Q1/Q2 2023-24 Actual	2024-25 Target
Number of social enterprise start-ups supported	12	12	12	▶	8	12
Number of social enterprise jobs created	14	13	12	▶	8	12
Number of participants engaged across all 'Go Succeed' activity	New measure				-	712
Number of business plans created for start-up businesses and employer enterprises	266	358	311	▼	128	361
Number of jobs promoted via business start-up activity	199.5	404	187	▼	77	170
Number of new enterprises created as a result of support	181	215	187	▼	77	195
Number of existing businesses supported to progress growth and scaling ambitions.	327	412	347	▼	144	220
What you will see by March 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 361 business plans created for Start-Up businesses and employer enterprises Over 700 participants engaged across all Go Succeed activity Support provided to 220 existing businesses to progress growth and scaling ambitions 170 new jobs promoted via business start-up activity. 12 social enterprise start-ups supported and 12 social enterprise jobs created More support for new and established local businesses and more employment opportunities across the District Continue to ensure the District becomes more economically active and prosperous 					
Alignment						
Draft Corporate Plan 2024-27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the continued growth and development of our local economy 					
Community Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All people from Newry, Mourne and Down benefit from prosperous communities 					
Programme for Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everyone can reach their potential Our economy is globally competitive, regionally balanced and carbon neutral People want to live, work and visit here 					
7 aspects of improvement	Strategic effectiveness	Service quality	Service availability	Innovation		
Responsible Officer	Director: Economy, Regeneration and Tourism					

*Updated 'Go Succeed' programme target for the number of jobs promoted in Newry Mourne and Down: 170. An amendment to the standard set out in the Local Government (Performance Indicators and Standards) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 is awaiting legislative passage and approval.













Performance Improvement Objective 3

We will improve the cleanliness of our District by addressing littering, fly tipping and dog fouling incidents											
Why this matters	<p>You told us that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog mess and dog fouling and rubbish or litter lying around are your top two perceived problems in your local area • 6% of the residents surveyed were dissatisfied with the cleansing service provided by the Council. • 91% of residents said recycling is important to them, an increase of 5% on the 2018 residents survey figure. • 83% of respondents to our 2023-24 survey agreed with this objective <p>Since 2019-20, the LEAMS* score for the District has remained at 64, which falls below the current regional average of 72. Issues around street cleanliness continue to escalate largely as a result of the increased number of illicit dumping, littering and dog fouling incidents reported to the Council.</p> <p>In order to improve the overall cleanliness of the District, the Council is currently reviewing cleansing operations to design a more effective model of service provision. The Council also remains committed to collaborating with partner organisations and local communities to promote responsible dog ownership, address issues around littering and illicit dumping and generate local pride in having a cleaner, greener District for everyone to enjoy.</p>										
Looking Back: What we did between April-September 2023	<table border="1"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"></td> <td>Issued 27 fixed penalty notices, 22 of which were paid</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"></td> <td>Supported 14 community clean-ups</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"></td> <td>9 environmental projects funded through the NI 'Live Here Love Here' Scheme</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"></td> <td>Anti-littering and responsible dog ownership campaigns rolled out</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"></td> <td>Increase in the rate of recycling, to 53.2%</td> </tr> </table>		Issued 27 fixed penalty notices, 22 of which were paid		Supported 14 community clean-ups		9 environmental projects funded through the NI 'Live Here Love Here' Scheme		Anti-littering and responsible dog ownership campaigns rolled out		Increase in the rate of recycling, to 53.2%
	Issued 27 fixed penalty notices, 22 of which were paid										
	Supported 14 community clean-ups										
	9 environmental projects funded through the NI 'Live Here Love Here' Scheme										
	Anti-littering and responsible dog ownership campaigns rolled out										
	Increase in the rate of recycling, to 53.2%										
Looking Forward: What we will do in 2024-25	<p>Address issues around littering, illicit dumping and dog fouling by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing to implement the Enforcement Improvement Plan • Promoting responsible dog ownership through publicity and social media campaigns • Working with Louth County Council to raise awareness of the impact of littering and illicit dumping along the border area • Encouraging residents to bring properly sorted surplus recyclable waste to our Household Recycling Centres • Supporting local community clean ups • Implementation of a Paint Re-Use Scheme at 7 Household Recycling Centres throughout the district. <p>Work in partnership with Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission surveys to monitor street cleanliness and identify emerging issues and hotspots • Promote the 'Live Here Love Here' campaigns 										

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage community groups to 'Adopt a Spot' Highlight the impact of littering on the marine environment 					
How we will measure success	2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Actual	2022-23 Actual	Status Trend	2023-24 Q1/Q2 Actual	2024-25 Target
LEAMS score (Keep NI Beautiful Cleanliness Index)	64	64	Data unavailable		-	65
Number of fixed penalty notices issued	52	118	110	▶	27	120
Number of fixed penalty notices paid	24	100	91	▶	22	96
Percentage of community clean up requests supported	33	94	39	▼	14	To support 90% of requests
Number of 'Live Here Love Here' environmental projects	24	18	10	▼	9	No target
The percentage of household waste collected by District Councils that is sent for recycling	52.6%	49.1%	49.6%	😊 ▲	53.2%	50% by 2020
The amount of biodegradable Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste that is landfilled	2,494t	2,685t	2,319t	😊 ▲	818	<20,954 tonnes (2019-20)
The amount of Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste arisings	86,980t	87,336t	82,842	▲	44,036	No target
What you will see by March 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the number of fixed penalty notices issued. Responsible dog ownership and reduced levels of dog fouling, littering and illicit dumping Improved opportunities to report littering, dog fouling and illicit dumping Reduction in the disposal of paint from our Household Recycling Centre sites. Opportunities to engage in community clean ups A cleaner, greener District, with improved civic and community pride 					
Alignment						
Draft Corporate Plan 2024-27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and enhance our environment to secure a sustainable future 					
Community Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All people from Newry, Mourne and Down benefit from a clean, quality and sustainable environment 					
Programme for Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We live and work sustainably - protecting the environment 					
7 aspects of improvement	Strategic effectiveness	Service availability	Innovation	Sustainability		
Responsible Officer	Director: Sustainability and Environment					






*Local Environmental Auditing Management System is carried out by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful.
 **The Q1/Q2 2023-24 data for the statutory waste management performance indicators remains provisional and will be finalised when the year-end data is validated and published by DAERA.
 ***The 2019-20 NI Landfill Allowance Scheme (NILAS) target has been included as the Council awaits more up to date targets from DAERA.

Performance Improvement Objective 4

<p>We will improve our sustainability and reduce our impacts in relation to climate change.</p>											
<p>Why this matters</p>	<p>You told us that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managing waste, reducing climate change, investing in renewable energy etc. was important to you. Green technology skills were the second most important training support needed to improve the growth of resident employability. 91% of residents said recycling is important to them, an increase of 5% on the 2018 residents survey figure. 79% of respondents to our 2023-24 survey agreed with this objective <p>Our climate is changing, and we need to prepare. Greenhouse gas emissions cause the Earth’s atmosphere to hold more radiation from the sun which increases the overall temperature of the planet. This change in temperature is altering our climate and causing one of the greatest threats of our time. In October 2019 Newry, Mourne and Down District Council declared a ‘Climate Emergency’.</p> <p>NMDDC is acutely aware of how intrinsic sustainability and care of our district is to its future. Within our new Council structure, a Sustainability Department has been created. This is led by a dedicated Assistant Director with responsibility for issues such as Energy, Council Fleet, Facilities Maintenance and Biodiversity.</p> <p>Environmental sustainability has become a key objective in the development of our capital projects, providing economic growth for the region in an inclusive and sustainable way. Newry, Mourne and Down District Council aims to embed the ethos of sustainability throughout its operations and to provide leadership for the community.</p> <p>The Council also forms part of the Local Government Climate Action Network which is helping to deliver the NI Climate Change Adaptation Programme. This network will enable us to collaborate with other Councils and relevant statutory partners to develop a strategic approach for climate action.</p>										
<p>Looking Back: What we did between April-September 2023</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"></td> <td>Installed 5 drinking water fountains across the District</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"></td> <td>Planted 80 trees across the District</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"></td> <td>Progressed the development of a Climate Change and Sustainable Development Strategy</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"></td> <td>Progressed the development of a Biodiversity Strategy</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"></td> <td>Continued the development of a Climate Change Adaptation Plan</td> </tr> </table>		Installed 5 drinking water fountains across the District		Planted 80 trees across the District		Progressed the development of a Climate Change and Sustainable Development Strategy		Progressed the development of a Biodiversity Strategy		Continued the development of a Climate Change Adaptation Plan
	Installed 5 drinking water fountains across the District										
	Planted 80 trees across the District										
	Progressed the development of a Climate Change and Sustainable Development Strategy										
	Progressed the development of a Biodiversity Strategy										
	Continued the development of a Climate Change Adaptation Plan										
<p>Looking Forward: What we will do in 2024-25</p>	<p>Address issues around climate change and sustainability by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completing the draft climate change and sustainable development strategy ready for consultation, review, approval and then publication. 										

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publishing the Council’s Climate Change Adaptation Plan • Implementing the newly published biodiversity strategy 2023-30 • Continuing to implement the Council’s Tree Strategy • Supporting the continued implementation of new Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points • Undertaking a baseline assessment of the Council’s carbon footprint and renewable energy output • Continuing to implement the Council’s fleet replacement programme 					
How we will measure success	2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Actual	2022-23 Actual	Status Trend	2023-24 Q1/Q2 Actual	2024-25 Target
Carbon footprint of Council estate	To Be Established					Not set - baselines to be established
Renewable energy generation	New measure – To Be Established					
Energy Consumption baseline	New measure – To Be Established					
Percentage of Council fleet younger than 8 years	New measure			-	61%	62%
Number of vehicles within the Council fleet that have an alternative fuel source	New measure			-	1	10
Number of trees planted on Council managed estate	New measure			-	80	100
Number of Council supported EV charging points	New measure			-	0	20
What you will see by March 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication of the Council’s Climate Change and Sustainable Development strategy • Publication of the Council’s Climate Change Adaptation Plan • Implementation of the new Newry, Mourne and Down Biodiversity Strategy (2023-2030) • 100 new trees planted • Carbon footprint of Council estate established • Renewable energy baseline of Council established • Energy consumption of Council buildings established • Increase in the percentage of younger, less polluting vehicles within the Council fleet • New electric vehicles ordered for use within the Council fleet. 					
Alignment						
Draft Corporate Plan 2024-27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance our environment to secure a sustainable future 					
Community Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All people from Newry, Mourne and Down benefit from a clean, quality and sustainable environment 					
Programme for Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We live and work sustainably - protecting the environment 					
7 aspects of improvement	Strategic Effectiveness	Efficiency	Innovation	Sustainability		
Responsible Officer	Director: Sustainability and Environment					

Performance Improvement Objective 5

We will improve the processing times of planning applications and enforcement cases by implementing the Planning Service Improvement Programme						
Why this matters	<p>Delivering a more efficient and effective Planning Service for customers is a key priority for improvement for the Council. Planning plays a significant role in promoting sustainable development, regeneration, economic prosperity, investment and job creation for present and future generations of our District. 83% of respondents to our 2023-24 survey also agreed with this objective.</p> <p>The implementation of the Planning Service Improvement Programme is well underway with a new planning portal launched in December 2022 allowing customers to submit applications online and track live planning applications. Work continues to address issues with the new portal and support staff accordingly. Engagement remains ongoing around the development of the enforcement modules.</p> <p>Staff retention and recruitment has proved challenging and following 7 recruitment exercises since 2022 vacancies still remain in the planning team across all functions as per agreed structures. This had had a significant impact on targets and performance. This remains a priority for Council and Senior Management with ongoing review and monitoring.</p> <p>The Council has not yet achieved the statutory standards for 2023-24, but we remain committed to delivering further improvements and providing a high-quality service to all customers.</p>					
Looking Back: What we did between April-September 2023		Opened 129 enforcement cases which was the sixth highest across all the Councils				
		Average processing time of 29 weeks for local planning applications, which is above the regional average of 19.2 weeks				
		Average processing time of 467 weeks for major planning applications, which is below the regional average of 34.7 weeks. This figure, however, is reflective of a low number of legacy major applications being determined within the reporting period.				
		Received 699 local planning applications, which is the highest across Northern Ireland and accounts for 14% of all the applications received regionally.				
Looking Forward: What we will do in 2024-25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the number of live planning applications and enforcement cases which have been in the system for over 12 months • Ongoing work with agents and architects to improve the standard of planning applications submitted • Support employees to deliver service improvements through ongoing training, capacity building and 'planning surgeries' 					
How we will measure success	2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Actual	2022-23 Actual	Status Trend	Q1/Q2 2023-24 Actual	2024-25 Target
Average processing time for local planning applications (weeks)	19	18.8	21.6		29	<15 weeks

				▽ ☹ ▽		
Average processing time of major planning applications (weeks)	64.6	44.3	89.0		467	<30 weeks
Percentage of planning enforcement cases progressed within 39 weeks	40.9%	48.5%	Data unavailable	-	Data unavailable	70%
Number of planning applications in the system for 12 months or more**	187	187	228	▽	312	150
Number of planning applications in the system for 12 months or less**	788	871	934	▽	1,066	700
Number of enforcement cases in the system 12 months or more**	551	472	503	▽	569	450
What you will see by March 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A more efficient and effective planning service • Improved processing times for local and major planning applications • Improved processing times for planning enforcement cases • Reduction in the number of live planning applications and enforcement cases in the system • An empowered and motivated workforce • Increased confidence in the Planning system • Sustainable development and regeneration of the District 					
Alignment						
Draft Corporate Plan 2024-27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver sustainable services 					
Community Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All people in Newry, Mourne and Down benefit from prosperous communities 					
Programme for Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People want to live, work and visit here 					
7 aspects of improvement	Strategic effectiveness	Service availability	Sustainability	Efficiency		
Responsible Officer	Director: Economy, Regeneration and Tourism					

*Annual planning figures will be validated by the Department for Infrastructure and published through the Annual Report 2023-24.

**The 2024-25 targets have been carried forward from 2023-24 and will be reviewed prior to the publication of the Performance Improvement Plan 2024-25, in June 2024.

Strategic Alignment

Performance Improvement Objective	Draft Corporate Objective(s)	Community Planning Outcome(s)	Duty of Improvement
We will support the health and wellbeing of local people by improving our leisure facilities and services	Improve the health and wellbeing of everyone in the District.	All people in Newry, Mourne and Down enjoy good health and wellbeing All people in Newry, Mourne and Down benefit from prosperous communities	Strategic effectiveness Service quality Service availability Fairness
We will contribute to growing the economy by supporting local businesses and job creation	Support the continued growth and development of our local economy	All people from Newry, Mourne and Down benefit from prosperous communities	Strategic effectiveness Service quality Service availability Innovation
We will improve the cleanliness of our District by addressing littering, fly tipping and dog fouling incidents	Protect and enhance our environment to secure a sustainable future	All people from Newry, Mourne and Down benefit from a clean, quality and sustainable environment	Strategic effectiveness Service availability Innovation Sustainability
We will improve our sustainability and reduce our impacts in relation to climate change	Protect and enhance our environment to secure a sustainable future	All people from Newry, Mourne and Down benefit from a clean, quality and sustainable environment	Strategic Effectiveness Efficiency Innovation Sustainability
We will improve the processing times of planning applications and enforcement cases by implementing the Planning Service Improvement Programme	Deliver sustainable services	All people in Newry, Mourne and Down benefit from prosperous communities	Strategic effectiveness Service availability Sustainability Efficiency

Consultation on the draft Performance Improvement Objectives 2024-25

I am responding:	as an individual	
	on behalf of an organisation (please state)	

Question 1

Which consultation group do you belong to? *Please tick all that apply.*

Resident	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elected Member	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local Business	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local Community Organisation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local Voluntary Organisation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Statutory Organisation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

If other, please provide further information below.

Question 2

Do you agree that the draft Performance Improvement Objectives are appropriate for our District?

Performance Improvement Objective 1	Agree	Disagree
We will support the health and wellbeing of local people by improving our leisure facilities and services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments:		
Performance Improvement Objective 2	Agree	Disagree
We will contribute to growing the economy by supporting local businesses and job creation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments:		
Performance Improvement Objective 3	Agree	Disagree

We will improve the cleanliness of our District by addressing littering, fly tipping and dog fouling incidents		
Comments:		
Performance Improvement Objective 4	Agree	Disagree
We will improve our sustainability and reduce our impacts in relation to climate change		
Comments:		
Performance Improvement Objective 5	Agree	Disagree
We will improve the processing times of planning applications and enforcement cases by implementing the Planning Service Improvement Programme		
Comments:		

Question 3

Would you suggest any alternative Performance Improvement Objective(s), 'supporting actions' and 'measures of success'?

Question 4

Which of the areas outlined below would you like to see Newry, Mourne and Down District Council make improvements to in the future? (please tick 3 areas)

Area	
Arts Centres and Museums	
Building Control	
Car Parking	
Cemeteries	
Cleansing Service	
Community Services/Centres	
Council Parks and Open Spaces	

Council Website	
Economic Development (Programmes to support the economy)	
Environmental Health	
Grants, Procurement and Finance	
Harbours and Marinas	
Leisure Centres	
Licensing (dogs, gaming, entertainment etc)	
Planning	
Play Parks	
Recycling	
Bin Collection	
Registration Services (Births, Deaths, Marriages and Civil Partnerships)	
Tourism Events	
Visitor Attractions	
Visitor Information Centres	
Other Services (please specify)	

What specific improvements would you like Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to make in future years?

Completed questionnaires or comments should be submitted by **31 May 2024** to:

Email: performance@nmandd.org

In Writing: Performance and Improvement
 Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
 O'Hagan House
 Monaghan Row
 Newry
 Co Down
 BT35 8DJ

Telephone: 0330 137 4000

Thank you for taking the time to respond to this questionnaire.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Overall approach and timetable to develop and publish the Performance Improvement Plan 2024-25

1	Development of the Performance Improvement Plan 2024-25	Timetable
1.1	Review baseline evidence to support the development of the Performance Improvement Plan, including a review of existing performance management arrangements across the organisation	Jan 2024
1.2	Develop and update the performance improvement objectives, supporting actions and measures of success, ensuring alignment to the seven criteria outlined in the legislation, as well as the Community Plan, Corporate Plan and other key strategies. Prepare Delivery Plans for each objective.	Jan-Feb 2024
1.3	Consider and agree the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft performance improvement objectives 2024-25, supporting actions, measures of success Overall approach and timetable for developing and publishing the Performance Improvement Plan 2024-25, ensuring compliance with the statutory Duty to Improve 	CMT: Apr 2024 SMT: Apr 2024 SPR: Apr 2024 Council: May 2024 AC: May 2024
1.4	Carry out an equality screening and rural needs impact assessment of the draft performance improvement objectives 2024-25	Feb 2024
2	Consultation on the draft Performance Improvement Objectives 2024-25	Timetable
2.1	The proposed 6 week consultation timetable with key stakeholders will consist of the following elements:	
2.2	Speak NMD – Electronic survey and ideas board published through Speak NMD website, promoted through the Council website and social media channels, and circulated to internal and external stakeholders	19 Apr-31 May 2024
2.3	Public Advertisements in local newspapers	W/B 22 Apr 2024
2.4	Pre-consultation, Consultation and engagement on the draft performance improvement objectives 2024-25 with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 75 groups, including Youth Councils, Older People’s Forum, Cedar Foundation and District Electoral Area Fora 	28 Mar-31 May 2024
2.5	Analyse feedback from consultation and engagement activity, and propose amendments to the performance improvement objectives, supporting actions and measures of success where appropriate	May/June 2024
3	Design, approval and publication of the Performance Improvement Plan 2024-25	Timetable
3.1	Finalise the Performance Improvement Plan 2024-25	May/June 2024
3.2	Carry out an equality screening and rural needs impact assessment of the Performance Improvement Plan 2024-25	May 2024
3.3	Consider the Performance Improvement Plan 2024-25, with proposed amendments following the consultation process	SMT: Jun 2024 CMT: Jun 2024

Overall approach and timetable to develop and publish the Performance Improvement Plan 2024-25

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		SPR: Jun 2024 (including request to publish the Performance Improvement Plan by 30 June 2024) Council: Jul 2024 AC: Jul 2024
33.4	Publish the Performance Improvement Plan on the Council's website and social media channels	Jun 2024 (before statutory deadline of 30 June)
3.5	Develop, translate into Irish (in line with Bilingualism Policy) and publish the summary performance document – 'Our Performance: Looking Back, Going Forward'	Sep 2024
4	Implementation of the Performance Improvement Plan 2024-25	Timetable
4.1	Publish the annual Assessment of Performance 2023-24, in line with statutory requirements	SMT: Sep 2024 SPR: Sep 2024 Council: Oct 2024 AC: Sep 2024
4.2	Monitor and report progress in implementing the Performance Improvement Plan 2024-25 through the Mid Year Assessment	SMT: Nov 2024 SPR: Nov 2024 Council: Dec 2024 AC: Jan 2025
5	Improvement Audit and Assessment 2024-25	Timetable
5.1	NI Audit Office carry out the annual Improvement Audit and Assessment to ascertain if the Council has fulfilled its statutory duty of performance improvement. This will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A forward looking assessment of the Councils likelihood to comply with its duty to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement • A retrospective assessment of whether the Council has achieved its planned improvements to inform a view regarding the Councils track record of improvement 	Jul-Oct 2024

Overall approach and timetable to develop and publish the Performance Improvement Plan 2024-25

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5.2	The NI Audit Office issue the S95 report, outlining the findings from the Improvement Audit and Assessment, which includes proposals for improvement to assist the Council in fulfilling its performance responsibilities in future years	Final report: 30 Nov 2024 Publication of report: Feb 2025
5.3	Consider the s95 Improvement Audit and Assessment Report	SMT: Dec 2024 SPR: Dec 2024 Council: Jan 2025 AC: Jan 2025

Report to:	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	18th April 2024
Subject:	Local Government Staff Commission – Continuing Operations April 2024 – March 2027
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Josephine Kelly, Director: Corporate Services
Contact Officers (Including Job Title):	Marina Hughes, HR & OD Manager

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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1.0 Purpose and Background	
1.1	The Local Government Staff Commission (the Commission) was due to be dissolved a number of years ago but the Dissolution Order was not enacted in legislation.
1.2	Until the Dissolution Order is enacted, Councils and NIHE are required to pay proportionately the running costs of the LGSC.
2.0 Key issues	
2.1	In accordance with Schedule 3, paragraph 7 of the Local Government Act (NI) 1972, the budget for the operation of the Commission is to be apportioned between all District Councils and the NIHE.
2.2	By virtue of the apportionment arrangements Newry, Mourne and Down District Council is required to pay 6.95% of £378,661 namely £26,316 (compared to £26,418 in 2023/2024). The communication received earlier this year is provided at Appendix 1.
2.3	Members are advised that the Department of Communities has informed the Commission that the provisional date for dissolution has been further extended to 31 March 2027.
3.0 Recommendations	
3.1	Members of the Committee are asked to approve the payment to the Commission of £26,316 from Newry, Mourne and Down District Council for the period April 2024 to March 2025.
3.2	As the provisional date for dissolution of the Commission has been extended, members of the Committee are asked to approve this ongoing contribution of running costs up until 31 March 2027.
4.0 Resource implications	
4.1	£26,316 has been included in the Human Resources (HR) budget, this will continue to be accounted for in future HR budgets as part of the Council's estimate/budget process.
5.0 Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)	
	1. General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes
	It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	<p>2. Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
	<p>3. Proposal initiating consultation</p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing, or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If no, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices
7.1	Appendix 1 – Letter from the Local Government Staff Commission for Northern Ireland dated 20 March 2024
8.0	Background Documents
8.1	None



CHAIRPERSON
Mr Bumper Graham

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20 March 2024

Mrs Marie Ward
Chief Executive
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
O'Hagan House, Monaghan Row
Newry BT35 8DJ

Dear Marie

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT STAFF COMMISSION FOR NORTHERN IRELAND
CONTINUING OPERATIONS 2024/25**

Further to my letter dated 25 January 2024 notifying you of the Department for Communities decision to extend the provisional date for dissolution of the Commission to 31 March 2027 I am writing to confirm the apportionment arrangements for your Council for 2024/25.

In accordance with the 2024/25 Management and Dissolution Plan, the Commission has estimated its total financial requirement to be £418,661 for the year ahead. Income from ongoing operations, which is offset against this figure is estimated at £40,000, leaving an amount of £378,661 to be raised from District Councils and the NIHE.

You will be aware that in accordance with Schedule 3, paragraph 7 of the Local Government Act (NI) 1972, the budget for the operation of the Commission is to be apportioned between all District Councils and the NIHE.

By virtue of the apportionment arrangements Newry, Mourne and Down District Council is required to pay 6.95% of £378,661 namely £26,316.

I would request that you issue a Purchase Order to the Commission for this amount, following receipt of which, an invoice will be submitted.

If you have any queries in relation to the work of the Commission or the services provided or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Diana Stewart'.

Diana Stewart
Director of Corporate Services

Cc (Marina Hughes)

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT STAFF COMMISSION
FOR NORTHERN IRELAND**

St Anne's House
15 Church Street
Belfast BT1 1ER

T: 028 9031 3200
E: info@lgsc.org.uk
W: www.lgsc.org.uk

Report to:	SPR
Date of Meeting:	18 April 2024
Subject:	Planning Department Update
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly Assistant Director Regeneration
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly Assistant Director Regeneration

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

For decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	*
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	Following consideration of Planning performance paper at January 2024 SPR committee a quarterly update report has been prepared to update members on actions taken since previous report.
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>MAJOR/LEGACY APPLICATIONS</p> <p>NISRA statistics published for QE June 2023 reported a processing time of 513 weeks for major applications. Since that report which was the focus of January SPR report the following has been reported QE September 2023 421 weeks QE December 2023 133.8 weeks While there has been significant improvement the NI average for Dec 2023 was 54.4 weeks against a target of 30 weeks.</p> <p>This team had been dealing with a significant number of legacy projects which have contributed to the processing time however significant progress has been made and legacy projects now stand at 20.</p> <p>LOCAL APPLICATIONS</p> <p>Processing times for local applications remains above target and NI Average. For QE December 2023 NMD received 292 applications and determined 210 For previous period QE Sept 2023 Received 329 application and determined 208.</p> <p>During this period posts that were vacant or long term absent in development management team were approximately 10</p> <p>QE Dec 2023 NMD receive the 2nd highest number of applications outside of Belfast.</p> <p>Processing times for QE Dec 2023 equates to 31.6 weeks, NI average is 23 weeks and the target is 15 weeks. In that period 4 councils met the NI target.</p> <p>A number of challenges were reported in January that were impacting on service delivery, in summary these were; 1. Staff recruitment and selection</p>

2. Statutory consultee response times
3. application quality
4. ongoing challenges with new portal

CURRENT ANALYSIS

Based on latest available data as of 8/4/24:

1776 live applications

Made up as follows:

1006 applications are allocated & processing, approx. 25% are awaiting consultee responses.

510 awaiting allocation, (these have been neighbour notified and consultations issued)

260 new applications to be validated.

Since the last report the number of unallocated files has reduced from by 110.

This has been facilitated by introduction of 5 new staff to development management who have taken up posts from December to February and have had ongoing training.

All unallocated files have had consultations issued and have been neighbourhood notified. Those that have been allocated have all consultations back, or are priority i.e Economic development impact, formal medical notification, can be processed quickly due to quality of application, reserved matters, or discharge of conditions etc.

This has been made possible by a number of staff agreeing to work overtime during February and March. This arrangement is not sustainable moving forward by way of numbers of staff able to commit, but will be continue where staff are willing to do so.

4 posts remain unfilled following trawl in late 2023 and following a further trawl in Jan - March 2024 offers have been made to 4 people, no start dates have been agreed and there will be training required for 8 -10 weeks for all these staff based on experience to date if offers are accepted.

Applications to be validated have increased, however this is due to a number of factors,

1. Focus has been on issuing unallocated application to consultees and neighbourhood notifications.
2. 2 staff have been seconded to TU duties and Democratic Services
3. In first quarter 2024 BSM and BSO trawls were completed and all posts are now filled with training ongoing – subject to full staff compliment validations will be on track in coming weeks

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Revised Development Plan timetable was agreed by Council in June 2023 and by the Department in September 2023. Based on this timetable a draft Plan Strategy will be completed by end of September 2024 and be consulted on up to December 2024.

A work plan has been agreed with the team and is being reviewed monthly. Monthly reports are tabled at planning Committee to update members against progress.

	<p>Finalisation of remaining Planning Policy Review papers is ongoing, and these will be presented to LDP working group and Planning committee over May to July 2024. Work is ongoing to procure consultant to undertake the assessment of existing open space provision and identify future needs.</p> <p>ENFORCEMENT</p> <p>The NI target for the Enforcement is that 70% of enforcement cases are concluded within 39 weeks of receipt. With a full staff complement post RPA the number of cases reduced from 1300 to 650. Due to staff resignations and internal promotions the team has been depleted and caseload has increased to approximately 900.</p> <p>By end of Q2 2024 this caseload should be reduced to 800 cases with further reduction of 150 by end of Q4 2024.</p> <p>Performance Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Majors and Legacy applications are being reviewed monthly with an agreed action plan to determine / close applications that have been in the system before 2020 • Weekly meetings with Senior Planning staff to review performance and agree actions to address challenges. • Monthly report on performance presented to SMT • Ongoing engagement with statutory consultees around response times. <p>See Appendix 1 for information on Staff Recruitment and Retention</p>
<p>3.0</p>	<p>Recommendations</p>
<p>3.1</p>	<p>Note the content of the report.</p>
<p>3.2</p>	<p>Officers continue to table quarterly reports to update members on progress or otherwise against actions outlined above.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Resource implications</p>
<p>4.1</p>	<p>none</p>
<p>5.0</p>	<p>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</p>
<p>5.1</p>	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	<p>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</p>
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	<p>Appendices</p>
	<p>Appendix 1</p>
8.0	<p>Background Documents</p>
	<p>NA</p>

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board Meeting
held on Monday 5th February 2024, 11.00am
Hybrid: Council Chamber, Newry & MS Teams**

In Attendance:

Programme Board Members

Councillor Declan Murphy - Chair
Councillor Aidan Mathers
Councillor Cadogan Enright
Councillor David Taylor (MS Teams)
Councillor Doire Finn (MS Teams)

NMDDC Officials

Conor Mallon, Director of Economy, Regeneration & Tourism
Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director - Regeneration
Paul Tamati, Assistant Director - Leisure and Sport (MS Teams)
Andy Patterson, Assistant Director – Economy, Growth & Tourism
Caolain Boyd, Assistant Director - Capital Projects & Procurement (MS Teams)
Conor McGeown, Strategic Capital Projects Manager
Conor Woods, Capital Projects Manager
Tracie McLoughlin PA, ERT Dept.

External Members: Neil Richardson, Dept for Communities

NCCR/185: Welcome and Apologies

Apologies received from Councillor K Feehan

NCCR/186: Declarations of Interest

The Chairman called for any Declarations of Interest, in particular reference to an email sent to the Program Board this morning from Councillor Enright regarding site selection of the Civic Hub.

Cllr Enright confirmed he circulated an email to the Program Board regarding site selection of the Civic Hub highlighting that evidence shows that other options within Newry City Centre, in particular the former Lidl area at Bagenal's Castle had not been considered as potential sites.

The Chairman said it appeared that the Councillor had been lobbied by the private Sector and believes this should be recorded as a declaration of interest. Cllr Enright refuted this.

The 5 questions in the email to Board Members were referred to by Cllr Enright as requiring consideration by the Board, Chairperson Declan Murphy commented that it would be a matter for the Board if the questions were to be addressed at the next meeting.

Mr Mallon advised that he was not included in the circulation of the email referred to but had been made aware of them that morning. Mr Mallon raised concerns in relation to allegations within the email that implied the evidence presented to date by officials in respect of the site selection process **“appeared to be untrue”**. Mr Mallon advised that he did not accept these allegations and asked Cllr Enright to present the evidence he was relying upon to make the allegations, he also asked Cllr Enright to withdraw the allegation made.

Cllr Enright acknowledged Mr Mallon was omitted from the email and said this was an oversight. Cllr Enright went on to say the consultation he was relying upon shows only 3 sites were considered and the Abbey Way site was not the most recommended.

Mr Mallon confirmed that the Cllr Enright was relying upon the Gray Design Report completed prior to the current site selection assessment, a report that was never endorsed by Council and had now been superseded by the site selection process by Deloitte and presented to councillors in 2019 which Mr Mallon confirmed considered 33 potential sites including the Lidl site referred to. Following this exercise the Abbey Way site was agreed in 2019 by Councillors as the preferred location for the Civic Hub.

Cllr Enright said he would speak to Mr Mallon after the meeting regarding this and will review. Cllr Enright asked that his other questions within the email be addressed which included queries on the running costs and cost of ownership.

NCCR/187: Project Board Minutes / Action Sheets

- a. Newry City Park Stakeholder Meeting held 7th November 2023
- b. Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board Meeting held 8th December 2023
- c. Newry City Centre Regeneration/BRCD Project Board Report – 18th January 2024
- d. Newry City Park Project Board Action Sheets
1st Feb 2024

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Aidan Mathers, seconded by Councillor Doire Finn it was agreed to ‘Note’ the Project Board Minutes & Action Sheets.

NCCR/188: Financial Assistance – Grade A Office Update

Mr Mallon provided an update on the Grade A Office Fund.

Officials are working on completing subsidy control checks which will be informed by the Deloitte review at FBC stage. A scheduled workplan for the preparation and launch of the scheme is being rolled out with anticipated opening April 2024 thereafter, Officers will engage with the private sector to gauge and address any queries from prospective applicants.

When background documents for the scheme are updated, Council will work with DfC on commencing a targeted media and engagement campaign It is expected that the scheme will be processed through the Councils online grant management system with a provisional live date of April 2024

EXEMPT ITEMS**NCCR/187: Project Manager Updates**

C McGeown referred members to Item 4 in the Agenda pack and provided an overview and update on the Regeneration Project.

The Chairman thanked the PM for the updates and welcomed the good progress on the Programme.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor A Mathers, seconded by Councillor D Finn, it was agreed to 'note' the updates provided on the:

- Civic & Regional Hub
- Theatre/Conference Facility
- Public Realm
- Newry City Park
- Grade A Office Space

This Meeting ended at 11:30am

**Approved by Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board 23 Feb 2024
For Noting at Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee 14 March 2024**

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Mournes Gateway Project - Project Board Meeting

**Thursday 8th February 2024 3.30pm
Downshire Civic Centre/MS Teams**

In Attendance:**Programme Board Members**

Councillor Willie Clarke - Chair

Councillor Glyn Hanna

Councillor Laura Devlin

Councillor Jill Truesdale

Councillor Pete Byrne

Councillor Michael Rice

NMDDC Officials

Conor Mallon, Director of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism

Caolain Boyd Assistant Director: Capital Projects & Procurement

Conor Woods, Strategic Capital Projects Manager

Michelle Boyle, Head of Tourism, Product Development & Visitor Experience

Tracie McLoughlin, PA

External Members

Carole Long, Tourism NI

Ainsley McWilliams, Tourism NI

Theresa Slevin, BRCD Regional Programme Services

MMGP/022: **Welcome and Apologies**

Apologies were noted from:

David Scullion, CPD, Dept of Finance

David Roberts, Tourism NI

Andy Patterson, NMDDC

MMGP/023 Minutes of Previous Meetings:

- i) 6 October 2023
- ii) 19 October 2023

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor L Devlin, seconded by Councillor G Hanna it was agreed to approve Minutes of Mourne Mountain Gateway Programme Board Meeting held on 6 October 2023.

In relation to the Minutes of MMGP held 19 October 2023, Councillor Devlin requested an amendment to read:

MMGP/020

'Cllr Devlin thanked officers for the detailed information provided and said this Project had been awarded £30m funding from BRCD to develop which will attract international visitors and be a significant boost to the economy. She said the mountains would not have been a big enough attraction on their own to draw visitors to the area in order to secure £30m funding. The project including the gondola aspect had been supported by all parties to date. She felt it was too far down the process to amend and submit alternative options now.'

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor G Hanna, seconded by Councillor P Byrne it was agreed to approve Minutes of Mourne Mountain Gateway Programme Board Meeting held on 19 October 2023 with Councillor Devlin's amendment to Item MMGP/020.

MMGP/024 National Trust Memorandum of Understanding

Mr C Mallon referred to the draft MOU circulated with the agenda papers and asked members for agreement to table the MOU for approval at Council's Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee.

Cllr Devlin said she welcomed the document to ensure engagement and interaction with the National Trust on the project.

Cllr Truesdale noted this did not include a lease of land.

Cllr Truesdale asked:

1. If there is an Environmental Impact Assessment that NT do not accept how do we progress forward on this?
2. Are there any previous commercially sensitive or financial Council reports that NT need to be aware before they enter into an agreement?
3. Clarification on the draft document, ie was it drafted by Council and sent to National Trust?

Mr Mallon provided responses to Cllr Truesdale's queries:

1. Agreed this was a good point to be raised and that clarity would be sought from NT on what NT deemed to be acceptable.
2. The sharing of reports was covered in the MOU.
3. The document was drafted by NT and forwarded to Council for review thereafter Council returned to NT with comments and the MOU as presented today is the resultant draft document.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor P Byrne, seconded by Councillor G Hanna it was agreed that the draft Memorandum of Understanding between National Trust and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council be tabled for approval at the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee.

MMG/025 Mournes Gateway Project – Local Stakeholder Group

Mr Mallon advised members that agreement is sought to approve the Terms of Reference for the establishment of a local stakeholder group for the MMGP.

Cllr Truesdale asked why would the stakeholders identified by the previous consultation not be carried forward and how would a constituted group apply. Mr Mallon confirmed that previous information would not be disregarded and advised that's as previously agreed by the Board an expression of interest process would be rolled out seeking applications. This will be advertised and promoted through Council's social media channels.

Cllr Truesdale asked if boundary landowners would be invited to sit on the Stakeholder Group. Mr Mallon advised that a range of stakeholders would be engaged throughout the project and that non statutory, constituted organisations could apply through the EOI process to ensure no one was left out.

Cllr Byrne said the proposed stakeholder group engagement process was used for the Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme. Actions from the Stakeholder Group meetings were fed back to the Programme Board and it worked well, therefore he would support this format for engaging stakeholders to the Mourne Mountain Gateway Stakeholder Group.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed to approve the Terms of Reference to establish a local Stakeholder Group for the Mourne Mountains Gateway Project.

MMG/026 Project Manager Updates

Mr C Woods provided an update on the summary programme as set out in the report presented:

Subsidy Control Update

Ms T Slevin advised the recent introduction of the Subsidy Control Act meant an assessment was required for the Project given it was over £10m. She advised an assessment was carried out and submissions returned to the Competitions and Markets Authority and was pleased to advise a positive result. She said there were a few minor areas for attention but the overall report was positive and therefore they will be in a position to sign the contract for funding when it is ready.

Project Risks:

Mr Woods said all risks were being managed in accordance with governance structures and contractual requirements and were listed in the first versions of Risk Register as circulated.

ClIr Truesdale said she had looked through the Risk Register and there appeared to be some typos or missing information and also asked the following series of questions:

These are summarised below

1. What does 'Planning for Real' mean?
2. What are the budget costs and how often are they reviewed?
3. The Irish News reports additional costs, what are they?
4. The measures are not completed in PGC/11 Stakeholder Support Risk in the Risk Register
5. It says 'National Trust MOU in place' in PGC/12
6. What lessons have been learned from the visit to Swansea to view a similar project?
7. What is the timeframe for the full Business case?
8. Where will the Park & Ride facility be located and where is the money coming from?
9. How does 'passive resilience' work in relation to cables and pylons?
10. Why does it indicate that stakeholders would have an effect on the assessment of the project as a tourist attraction?

Officers responded as follows:

1. CW – This forms part of the formal planning application as per guidance.
2. CM – Costs are included in the capital plan and OBC
3. CM – Confirmed the budget allocation for the project is as included within the approved OBC and the Councils Capital Plan.
4. CW – This was an oversight and will be completed.
5. CM – This was included as we are now in receipt of the MOU, but can be amended to - we have draft MOU for approval at SPR.

6. CW – Learnings include work on the procurement strategy which will be developed over time.
7. CM – anticipated to be Feb/Mar 2027
8. CM – the P&R is a requirement for Newcastle as a whole and will be considered by the ICT as part of their commission, it will form part of the overall transport solutions for Newcastle in general and will include Active Travel proposals with further options developed as the project develops and there are current opportunities for funding through Active Travel initiatives that we will progress with DfI.

At this point Mr Mallon advised the current Risk Register was developed to demonstrate potential risks and is based on assumptions at a very early stage of the project, this was to provide members assurances that risks are being identified and considered and it not presented as a final or complete assessment or mitigation of the risks listed. The development of the project risk register will be a task for the ICT when appointed and will rightly be subject to scrutiny by the board.

The Chairman agreed and said the ICT Team would be in a position to address these queries and he asked Cllr Truesdale to submit further queries in writing to Officers and highlight any potential typos after the meeting.

Cllr Truesdale said it is the role of the Project Board to understand and scrutinise the Project in advance of any proposals being brought forward to the SPR Committee. She said the only clear information available to her was the cost of the project at £30m and an artists impression and she was concerned about the speculative costs.

Cllr P Byrne also agreed with the Chairman and said it is the role of Members to support the Officers to deliver the project and said anyone against the Project should consider their role on the Project Board.

Cllr Truesdale said she was not against the initial proposed project but it is now down to a very narrow focused project with too much speculative spend and it required due diligence and scrutiny.

The Chairman disagreed that the project had been narrowed down.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor P Byrne, seconded by Councillor G Hanna it was agreed to 'note' the Project Manager's Update.

MMG/027 Date for Next Meeting.

The next meeting will be scheduled in 2 months' time.

This concluded the business of the Meeting. The Meeting ended at 4.35pm

**Approved by Mourne Mountains Gateway Project Board 23 February 2024
For Noting at Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee 14th March 2024**

**From the Office of the Minister
CONOR MURPHY MLA**

Marie Ward
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Our ref: COR-1194-2024
Date: 09 April 2024

Marie a chara

Enhanced Flood Support Scheme

Thank you for your correspondence of 21st March. Firstly, I would like to express my appreciation for your council taking the lead in delivering the Enhanced Flood Support Scheme (EFSS) as well as delivering the two Flood hardship support schemes.

Up to £100,000 of support is available to eligible businesses under the EFSS. Many of these businesses also received the £7,500 provided under the Flood Damage Business Grant Scheme. The level of support offered by the EFSS is significantly more generous than the equivalent support currently offered in England, Scotland and Wales. The £100,000 cap is broadly in line with what the South offered in its Enhanced Emergency Business Flood Relief Scheme which offered support of up to €100,000 for eligible businesses, though that scheme was more restrictive in comparison to the EFSS in that it is only available to businesses with up to 20 employees.

In December, the Executive Office announced that £10 million would be made available for flood support to businesses. My officials are working with your officials to ensure business owners receive support from the various flooding schemes as soon as possible. Once we have a sense of the level of expenditure required for the

EFSS and Hardship Schemes I am content to consider other proposals if there is still funding available within the £10 million earmarked for flooding relief.

Is mise le meas

A handwritten signature in brown ink, reading "Conor Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the "y".

CONOR MURPHY MLA
Minister for the Economy