

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT – 2015/2016

Under the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 the Council is required to publish information relating to its performance before 30 September immediately following the financial year to which it relates.

This report, for the year 1 April 2015 – 31 March 2016, has been developed looking back at how we performed against the Statutory Indicators set out in The Local Government (Performance Indicators and Standards) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 and seeks to provide an accurate picture of our progress towards achieving the objectives set out in the Corporate Plan 2015-2019.

Our Vision is that Ards and North Down will be a place to be proud of which is more prosperous, vibrant, healthy, sustainable and where people enjoy an excellent quality of life.

Our Purpose is to make Ards and North Down the best place to live, work, visit and invest.

Our Objectives



Performance: Ensuring we take time to understand our customer's need and manage our people, money and assets effectively so we can deliver on our objectives for the borough.

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How we have performed

 Economic Development:				
Indicator: ED1 – The number of jobs promoted through business start-up activity	Standard: EDS1 – To promote in each financial year the following number of jobs through business start-up activity	Target	Actual	Status
		85	125	
<p>The Invest NI Regional Start initiative is the national business start-up programme for Northern Ireland. The Council exceeded its target by 48%. Jobs were created mostly in the following sectors: Leisure/personal services: 25.5%; Professional services: 17.3%; Retail 17.3%; Manufacturing: 8% and Hospitality and Tourism: 6.7%. The majority of these jobs were created by individuals ranging from 35 to 44 years old (26.5%). 22.2% of the individuals came straight from full time employment whilst 21% had been unemployed for less than one year and 15% for more than one year (long-term unemployed).</p>				

 Municipal Waste:				
Indicator: W1 – The percentage of household waste collected by district councils that is sent for recycling (including waste prepared for re-use).	To progressively increase recycling to meet the statutory target of 50% in 2020.	Target	Actual	Status
		40%	40.4%	
Indicator: W2 - The amount (tonnage) of biodegradable Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste that is landfilled.	Standard: WS1 – To landfill no more than the following tonnages of biodegradable Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste	23,956	27,484	
Indicator: W3 - The amount (tonnage) of Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Arisings	To reduce LAC Municipal waste arisings % growth rate to below the NI average (1.6%)	97,732	99,766	
<p>W1. The Council has exceeded its target of 40% for the 2015/16 year and agreed a new Sustainable Waste Resource Strategy during November 2015 that set a very ambitious target of 65% recycling by 2020 which is 15% above the statutory 2020 target of 50%.</p> <p>W2. The Council did not manage to achieve its target to landfill no more than 23,956 and exceeded it by approximately 3,500 tonnes. The Council is introducing a series of measures to reduce the biodegradable Municipal Waste tonnage sent to landfill (food waste collection initiative and controls on waste disposal at Household Recycling Centres (HRCs)) with the aim of meeting targets in future years.</p> <p>W3. The Council currently has the highest household waste collected total in NI, this has been attributed to abuse of HRCs by the commercial sector and new measures have been introduced to curb abuse.</p>				

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Planning:

		Target	Actual	Status
Indicator: P1 – The average processing time of major planning applications	Standard: PS1 – Major applications processed from date valid to decision or withdrawal	within an average of 30 weeks	51.8 weeks	
Indicator: P2 – The average processing time of local planning applications	Standard: PS2 – Local applications processed from date valid to decision or withdrawal	within an average of 15 weeks	21.2 weeks	
Indicator: P3 – The percentage of enforcement cases processed within 39 weeks	Standard: PS3 - % of all enforcement cases progressed to target conclusion within 39 weeks of receipt of complaint	70%	82%	
<p>P1. In the first year post transfer Ards and North Down was amongst ten other councils that failed to meet the target average processing time for major applications. This can be attributed to the large volume of legacy cases transferred from DOE to the councils, many of which had been in the system a considerable time prior to transfer and on which negotiation and resolution of issues were ongoing.</p> <p>P2. The Council determined 903 local applications, and was among eight councils which failed to meet the target for local applications, with the average across NI being 19.4 weeks. The Council seeks to engender the core planning principles identified in planning policy relating to the achievement of sustainable development, so whilst cognisant of defined targets for processing times, will seek to work with developers/applicants to support good design and positive place-making through the development management process.</p> <p>P3. In line with its Enforcement Strategy the Council places great importance on protecting our communities, our heritage and the natural environment from unauthorised development that causes harm or which shows a disregard for the planning system. An enforcement case is opened when there has been an alleged breach of planning control. During the period 2015-2016 AND received 338 complaints, the second highest number after Belfast City Council. In the same period a total of 273 cases were closed as follows: Remedied (52); Planning Permission Granted (27); Not expedient (42); No breach (138); Immune (14). In the first half of 2016/2017 the Council received 110 new complaints, and a total of 68 cases have been concluded which represents a figure of 86.8% against the target figure.</p>				