

# Initial Suggestions on Implementing the Big Plan for Ards and North Down

Workshop responses

The Big Plan Launch Event, 5 April 2017

## **Introduction:**

At the official launch of the Big Plan attendees had the opportunity to participate in a workshop to put forward their initial suggestions on how the Big Plan could be implemented in Ards and North Down. The information contained within this document highlights the responses received. It is important to note that these actions have not been agreed. Over the coming months more in-depth discussions will take place with a wide range of stakeholders to establish a set of agreed actions for the delivery plans.

<b>(a) Outcome:</b> One and Four				
<b>(b) Proposed actions?</b>	<b>(c) Is this action new or has it been done before?</b>	<b>(d) How/why will the action make a lasting difference and how will we know?</b>	<b>(e) Anticipated Challenges?</b>	<b>(f) Will this action help to address any other outcome?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low cost</li> <li>• Quick win</li> <li>• Off the wall idea</li> </ul>		<p>How will we measure the impact?</p>	<p>What might hinder progress?</p>	<p>Which outcome and why?</p>
<p>More joined up working across council/government/industry and education.</p> <p>Forum to focus on raising work aspirations of young people and addressing the NI and Ards and North Down skills gap.</p> <p>Tap into corporate social responsibility of businesses.</p> <p>Support for educational underachievement, readiness for work and employability.</p> <p>Business in the Community can help to build stronger school/college and business links i.e. leading to more work experience opportunities, business mentoring, support for young people and leadership support for schools/colleges.</p>	<p>Attempts in the past but environment different.</p> <p>Skills/sustainability a real concern for employers.</p> <p>Some activity already exists.</p> <p>Much more could be done if council worked strategically with Business in the Community.</p>	<p>Better understanding of stakeholder needs leading to increased employment levels and a reduction in skills gaps.</p>	<p>Commitment/buy-in. Silo mentality – need to ensure everyone sees the purpose and value for participation. Clear roles/outcomes. Actions need to be focused and not a talking shop.</p>	<p>Economic development</p> <p>Enhanced self-worth, aspirations and health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Will help support outcome three – respect/safe and secure communities.</p>

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Medium win – more integration between SERC, sixth form colleges and businesses and related organizations. Forum to bring employers in touch with school’s forum and boards of schools and colleges. Localise every action – need to see value for all participating, takes time.	Has been done before but different pressure from employers and new perspectives now.	Higher employability of young people coming out of school/college. Feedback from employers.	Bodies abdicate responsibility or hand over to others. Need to identify clear, advisable, collective measures. Hinder – silos and what’s already in progress.	Influence outcome 4

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Quick win – maximise/exploit use of existing buildings/facilities to deliver objectives of outcome, e.g: schools not closing when pupils leave and future proofing new buildings to include ‘out of hours’ community use Potential uses: job clubs, friendship groups (social isolation). Extended reach of school/library to encompass community – e.g. to extend library opening hours without staff.	Yes – in some areas, e.g. F.A.S.T (funded), libraries – room hire and charity spaces.	Quantity of how much use and feedback from users.	Cost – audit, governance, safeguarding, insurance. Culture of support. Inequality of provision of facilities. Schools – perception that school might not have been a good experience.	Outcome two and three.

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Low cost – more organisations/businesses accepting volunteer placements from learning disability community.	Not new.	Quantity of placements increase. Feedback from service users. Benefits – reporting of less social isolation and feeling part of the community. % of service users going into employment. % of service users reporting independence.	Literacy/numeracy costs. Ability to make placement meaningful. Perception of people with learning disabilities – contribution.	Outcome two and three

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<p>Education with public services such as NIFRS/PSNI/Army</p>		<p>Giving young people career opportunities and aspirations.            Early message – young parents to give their children that message.            Business sponsorship CSR.            Funding awareness opportunities – who knows? Matching funding            Meanwhile leasing – leasing of buildings for free – volunteers e.g. Honesty Café at Titanic.            Approachable MLAs and Councillors.</p>	<p>Joined up approach.            Drug/alcohol            Funding/resources            Engagement – families/businesses.            Charges for council buildings – charities/NFP.            Shortage of building to lease – short term.            Community houses.            Council not always approachable.            Keeping youth engaged in education.            Charges for further education.</p>	



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<p>Community Planning outcomes embedded in each organisation. Corporate plan/business as usual.</p> <p>Rolling out best practice access across the council area e.g. care home, school initiatives, better connected networks in community sector and statutory sector/services.</p> <p>Big conversation about primary health care, needs to include other council areas.</p> <p>Better connections with business – tap into corporate/social responsibility commitments in private sector – digital initiatives, prescription drugs bin, can be non-prescription drugs.</p>	<p>Being done.</p> <p>New – more reflective on community</p> <p>New</p> <p>Being done but could be extended</p>	<p>Visible collaboration/partnership.</p> <p>Making people included/connected to their community. Agreed decisions, more informed users.</p> <p>Agreed decisions more informed users, innovative solutions and access to services.</p> <p>Low cost and improve access to programmes.</p>	<p>Buy-in all organisations/departments.</p> <p>Connections between Ards and North Down – what services are available.</p> <p>Funding</p> <p>Objection /access to services.</p> <p>Identifying businesses and develop effective partnerships.</p>	<p>Should address all outcomes</p> <p>Yes – connected individuals are less likely to access health services, feel vulnerable or victim of scams/crimes.</p> <p>Yes, safer communities.</p>

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Low cost - Age friendly initiative, include people under 65.  Engagement with older people and specific groups.  Social isolation.  Transport/accessibility.  Digital inclusion/online skills. Information, advice and communication.	Number of different programmes in place: social isolation, active aging, social groups.	OBA for each section.  Quality of life measure.  GHQ measure.  Attitude surveys.  Service user lead groups.	Data development agenda, gaps in local information to specific groups – sight, hearing, dementia etc.  Financial.  Breakdown of data.  Policy planning.  Council leading the implementation of the plan.	All

<b>(a) Outcome:</b> Two				
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Develop a central 'cleaning of house' of information where citizens can all one number for information about services, volunteer opportunities etc.  Actions needed to target those most in need.  Strengthen inter-departmental and inter-sectorial working to improve connections and reduce barriers between the sectors.  Continue real conversations with communities, especially those affected by poverty, so that they become empowered.  Strengthen community development and work.  Enable long term funding where projects are needed.  Exploit power of politicians to influence the agenda.		Should see more people in communities empowered.  These infrastructure type actions should contribute to the over outcomes of the indicators included in the plan, e.g. fewer anti-depressant prescriptions.		The actions listed will positively contribute to all five outcomes.

<p>Explore potential of the arts to positively impact on health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Do away with departmental budgets to remove barriers for collaborative working. This is off the wall – but apparently done elsewhere.</p>				
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\*Note: Interesting that the majority of the tables ideas for actions could be described as “systemic” or “infrastructure” issues rather than the development of a specific new programme or service. The table noted that community planning has the potential to address these systemic issues. This is a major opportunity for all involved in community planning.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low cost</li> <li>• Quick win</li> <li>• Off the wall idea</li> </ul>		How will we measure the impact?	What might hinder progress?	Which outcome and why?
<p>Collaborative working.</p> <p>Building relationships. Information sharing.</p> <p>Real collaborative/partnership working.</p> <p>Vulnerability project.</p> <p>Leeds example – children and young people</p>	<p>Pilot</p> <p>Derry City and Strabane</p> <p>Belfast</p> <p>Needed in Ards and North Down</p>	<p>Equality v Equity</p> <p>Identify people most in need placing demands on services. Each agency acting in isolation – on acting together without a necessary partner – statutory, voluntary, community and private sectors.</p> <p>Vulnerability/mental health/ drugs and alcohol.</p> <p>Anti-social behaviour forum but increased partners.</p>	<p>Focus on individual(s) – individuals may not give consent to participate.</p>	<p>Yes – across several outcomes.</p> <p>Proactive address health and wellbeing to prevent people coming to other point.</p> <p>Recurring links between all five outcomes.</p>

<b>(c) Outcome:</b> Three				
<b>(d) Proposed actions?</b>	<b>(c) Is this action new or has it been done before?</b>	<b>(d) How/why will the action make a lasting difference and how will we know?</b>	<b>(e) Anticipated Challenges?</b>	<b>(f) Will this action help to address any other outcome?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low cost</li> <li>• Quick win</li> <li>• Off the wall idea</li> </ul>		<p>How will we measure the impact?</p>	<p>What might hinder progress?</p>	<p>Which outcome and why?</p>
<p>Identify method of engagement for all communities/cultures particularly ethnic minorities within the borough to encourage active role – two-way process investing in the Big Plan.</p> <p>Literature/education – getting the message across to community groups and those outside it – hard to reach groups, how are you contributing.</p> <p>Contacts – letter, social media, known groups – we need communication, what’s going on – listings up. Use statutory bodies not just the Council inviting people along – create mechanism for active citizens to get involved.</p> <p>Council dialogue – complaint – rather than interested citing.</p>	<p>Yes, to varying degrees but still needs improved.</p>	<p>People to see willingness to look at problem, welcomed to contribute, allow realism to exist, see provision and outcomes in timeframe.</p> <p>Difficult for citizen to engage with large organisation.</p> <p>Celebration of diversity.</p> <p>Intention to include articulate to feedback for inarticulate.</p> <p>Community groups consider outside – better connected networks.</p> <p>Not just the council, so should be using all our partners.</p>	<p>Identifying those to be included, giving ownership and more opportunities to get involved.</p> <p>Without ownership nothing will be delivered.</p>	

<p>Front line staff need to know about the Big Plan.</p> <p>Groups see outcomes they can relate to – how do they engage and how do they get on board. One person owning delivery for each outcome – single point of contact, council, other statutory agencies, voluntary groups.</p> <p>Buying in for a lifetime of process. Bottom up approach and not top down. Council and statutory agencies can't provide it all.</p>				
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<p>Identify and link up existing communication networks.</p> <p>Set up a central feedback to connect and communicate with local networks.</p> <p>Ensure feedback – two-way communication.</p> <p>Intergenerational programme engaging with the heard to reach young people.</p> <p>Organise locally, central assistance with initiatives that work.</p>	<p>Always an issue with any social programme.</p> <p>Well-trodden path</p>	<p>Will contribute to the attainment of objectives, they will be proxy measurement.</p> <p>Better links environment for residents. Capturing young resident's energies more productively, reducing crime and anti-social behaviour statistics.</p>	<p>People not linked up to existing networks, reaching the hard to reach.</p> <p>Maintaining consistency and sustainability.</p>	<p>Will support better outcomes in all areas, but in particular the five outcomes of the Big Plan.</p>

<b>(a) Outcome:</b> Four				
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<p>Promotion of entrepreneurship from primary school age, including support at all stages of business development.</p> <p>Other areas discussed: Need for skills gap analysis within the council</p> <p>Encouragement and promotion of work experience opportunities for young people.</p> <p>Growth opportunities within the tourism sector.</p> <p>Opportunity to grow the local business base, with particular emphasis on a high performing business sector.</p>	<p>No – but challenge is to co-ordinate effort of current providers within the district to enable greater impact in a resource efficient manner.</p>	<p>Citizens will have a clear sense of job and business development opportunities starting from a young age.</p> <p>Will lead to growth of local business base.</p>	<p>Number of organisations active in business support have not been involved in community planning process to date, but very keen to be engaged.</p> <p>Council to provide a central co-ordinated role.</p> <p>Need for economic development plan to have a co-ordinator role of activity within council area.</p>	<p>Outcome 2 – contributes to health and wellbeing of local population.</p>

<b>(a) Outcome:</b> Five				
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low cost</li> <li>• Quick win</li> <li>• Off the wall idea</li> </ul>		<p>How will we measure the impact?</p>	<p>What might hinder progress?</p>	<p>Which outcome and why?</p>
<p>Quality green space.</p> <p>Benchmarking environmental quality on streets, parks etc. across NI and beyond.</p> <p>Build culture of community led environmental stewardship initiatives.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>% decrease in dog fouling, litter, graffiti etc.</p> <p>No sites holding international standards, such as Blue Flag, Seaside Award, Green Coast, Green Flag etc.</p> <p>No groups involved in voluntary action to improve where they live – number of people, number of days given.</p>	<p>Voluntary pride – volunteering.</p> <p>Building ownership/capacity building for leadership.</p> <p>Resourcing central infrastructure/knowledge support for adopt a spot.</p> <p>Finding the hard to reach or invisible communities.</p> <p>Growing the number of leaders/leadership.</p>	<p>Yes, tourism – inward investment</p>

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Identify and lobby key central government department to take the lead on coastal erosion and pooling of resources central/local government – Department of Infrastructure/DAERA.  Local Development Plan to consider flooding and coastal erosion in future development/zoning for housing.  Coastal NI Councils to look at co-ordination approach to issue/establish a forum.	Action Plan – new to NI			

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<p>Awareness raising – e.g. Strangford Lough (international significant).</p> <p>Audit of resources.</p> <p>Uniqueness of area – sell this. (great attractions)</p> <p>Linking of attractions together – tours/village plans.</p> <p>Future of volunteers in villages.</p> <p>Villages are doing this; Greyabbey – keeping this open, run by volunteers and community.</p> <p>Classical concert in Greyabbey.</p> <p>District resource – link this to selling this to people in the borough, i.e. to sell the benefits of volunteering in the area in the environment – people who are retired, being a resource.</p>	<p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p>	<p>Physical and mental wellbeing.</p> <p>Income generation.</p> <p>Ownership by the community.</p> <p>Use models used by National Trust to help others.</p> <p>Making linkages between villages/communities will leave a lasting legacy.</p>	<p>Funding.</p> <p>Perception of National Trust.</p> <p>Embed volunteering culture in kids.</p> <p>Raise awareness of volunteering.</p> <p>How to encourage people to look at places long term and use and have access to them.</p> <p>Does Council have the digital resource to be able to link people into opportunities available in the borough. Ability and resource to do this.</p> <p>Working relationships.</p> <p>Right to roam, public right of way, landowners, access to sits.</p>	<p>1,2,3.</p>

Links with SERC and U3A,  
courses on horticulture – maybe  
expand range of things offered  
to give life skills – self smarter.

Things to do:

Huge ambition – world heritage  
site.

Greenway – counters

Lead mines

Co. Down railway

Cruise ship culture - visit and  
see

Links to tourism –  
internal/external tourism market,  
who are they aiming at?

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<p>Council take ownership for coastal/shoreline management plan – review currently available data and identify gaps and commission research.</p> <p>Continue engaging with Newry, Mourne and Down Council on the issue.</p> <p>Map and categorise the quality of green space within the borough, not just council owned and identify new opportunities for connectivity between sites, feeding into the local development plan.</p> <p>Highlight current successes of community-led environmental initiatives. Promote schemes – live here, love here.</p> <p>Centralised calendar of community events – not just council-led.</p>	<p>New</p> <p>New</p> <p>New</p> <p>New</p>	<p>Plan produced</p> <p>Push plan forward</p> <p>Inform where there are opportunities for development and improvement.</p> <p>Encourage more community actions.</p> <p>More opportunities for people to get involved in their local heritage.</p>	<p>Statutory responsibility budget required.</p> <p>Need resources allocated to this.</p> <p>Resources.</p> <p>Identifying leaders and providing the right skills.</p> <p>Resource and buy-in.</p>	<p>Connectivity safe.</p> <p>Health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Links to others.</p>

<p>Create a register of built heritage assets and look at asset transfer options, opportunities to raise income. Reduced opening, particularly central government.</p> <p>Biodiversity Action Plan- not just on council land.</p>				
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