

**ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

29 November 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

You are hereby invited to attend a hybrid meeting (in person and via Zoom) of the Place and Prosperity Committee of the Ards and North Down Borough Council which will be held in the Council Chamber, 2 Church Street, Newtownards, on **Thursday 05 December** commencing at **7.00pm**.

Yours faithfully

Susie McCullough  
Chief Executive  
Ards and North Down Borough Council

**A G E N D A**

1. Apologies
2. Declarations of Interest

**Reports for Noting**

3. Economic Development Half Yearly Performance Report H1 2024-2025 (report attached)
4. Tourism Half Yearly Performance Report H1 2024-25 (report attached)
5. Taste AND - Food and Drink Sector Development Update Report 2024 (report attached)
6. Regeneration Half Yearly Performance Report 2024 - 2025 (report attached)
7. Progress on Village Plans 2025-2035 (report attached)
8. Strategic Capital Development Performance Report H1 2024-25 (report attached)
9. Notices of Motion referred to Committee by Council
- 9.1 Notice of Motion received from Councillor Morgan, Alderman Cummings, Councillor Douglas, Alderman Smith and Councillor Ashe

“The Comber representatives are delighted that Comber has won the Best Kept Medium Town Award this year and want to thank all the volunteers who have worked tirelessly to make this happen.

There is, however, a long-standing dilapidated hoarding in Castle Street which badly detracts from this important area of Town.

The Comber representatives recognise that Council officers and the Comber Regeneration Community Partnership have tried to address this issue, but this has not been successful. Considering this, Officers should do a report exploring all further options available to resolve this issue with some urgency.”

*This Notice of Motion has been deferred to the January meeting for discussion.*

### **ITEMS 10-14 \*\*\*IN CONFIDENCE\*\*\***

#### **Reports delegated for decision/approval – in Confidence**

10. Queen’s Parade Update Report (report attached)

#### **Reports for Noting – In Confidence**

11. Ards TT 2028 Event Working Group Minutes 12.9.24 for noting (report attached)

12. Pickie Quarter 2 Report July - Sept 2024-25 (report attached)

13. Bangor Marina Q2 Report July – Sept 24(report attached)

14. Exploris Q2 Report July – Sept 24 (report attached)

### **MEMBERSHIP OF PLACE AND PROSPERITY COMMITTEE (16 MEMBERS)**

Alderman Adair	Councillor Hollywood
Alderman Armstrong-Cotter	Councillor Kennedy
Alderman McDowell	Councillor McCollum
Councillor Ashe (Vice Chair)	Councillor McCracken
Councillor Blaney	Councillor McKimm
Councillor Edmund	Councillor McLaren
Councillor Gilmour (Chair)	Councillor Smart
Councillor Hennessy	Councillor Thompson

Unclassified

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## ITEM 3

### Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Place and Prosperity Committee
Date of Meeting	05 December 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Prosperity
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Economic Development (Acting)
Date of Report	27 November 2024
File Reference	160127
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Economic Development Half Yearly Performance Report H1 2024-2025
Attachments	N/A

#### Context

Members will be aware that Council is required, under the Local Government Act 2014, to have in place arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of its functions. To fulfil this requirement Council approved the Performance Management Policy and Handbook in October 2015. The Performance Management Handbook outlines the approach to Performance Planning and Management process as:

- Community Plan – published every 10-15 years
- Corporate Plan – published every 4 years (Corporate Plan Towards 2024 in operation)
- Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) – published annually in September
- Service Plan – developed annually (approved April/May 2023)

Not Applicable

The Council's 18 Service Plans outline how each respective Service will contribute to the achievement of the Corporate objectives including, but not limited to, any relevant actions identified in the PIP.

### Reporting approach

The Service Plans will be reported to relevant Committees on a half-yearly basis as undernoted:

Reference	Period	Reporting Month
Quarter 2 (Q2)	April – September	December
Quarter 4 (Q4)	October – March	June

The report for Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 is attached.

### Key points to note:

- The current budget spend against target is slightly below target due to staff retirement and the subsequent structure changes however it is anticipated to be on target at year end.
- The 2024-2025 job creation target is 123 jobs. The half yearly target is 60 jobs. Currently 32 jobs have been created through the Go Succeed Service. The target has not been met due to a number of reasons including the late implementation of the service by the delivery agent and technical issues linked to the development of the CRM system.

The Go Succeed Service Delivery Agent has confirmed that they have in place a remedial plan to address the under-performance, and it is anticipated that the number of jobs created will increase significantly in the last two quarters of the financial year.

### Key achievements:

- Despite the delay in receiving the Letter of Offer for funding for the LMP, the team managed to continue to deliver a full suite of interventions that have had an immediate and positive impact on individuals needing support to get into employment.
- Despite the challenging economic climate and steep rises in utility costs, the Operators of our facilities have managed their performance to continue to deliver across all contractual elements, continue to attract visitors and deliver value for Council.
- Successful delivery of DAERA allocated funding for the Seal Sanctuary

### Emerging issues:

- The Department for Communities has failed to confirm an annual budget allocation to date for the Labour Market Partnership for 2025-26. However, the 2025-26 and 2026-27 action plans have been presented to the Regional LMP and a response is expected imminently. This presents issues in terms of



Not Applicable

planning and delivery of support and security for staff until confirmation is received.

- The Go Succeed Service requires intensive input and resources to deliver and funding has only been confirmed to March 2025. Given that there are elements which are still being refined it is imperative that the service can continue as envisaged for an additional 2-year period.

**Action to be taken:**

- Collective action by all the 11 Councils, led by Belfast City Council continue with SPF to ensure future funding for Go Succeed.
- The pressure from all 11 Councils must be maintained to secure future funding for the Labour Market Partnership from DfC.

Identified KPI at Risk	Reasons as to why KPI has not been met	Action to be taken	Designated Officer	Date for Review
Number of Jobs created through the Go Succeed Service	The late implementation of the service by the delivery agent and technical issues linked to the development of the CRM system.	The Delivery Agent has confirmed that a remedial plan to address the performance is in place. It is anticipated that the number of jobs created will increase significantly in the last two quarters of the financial year.	Economic Development Manager	Jan 2025
% spend against budget	Staff retirement and subsequent staff changes	Ongoing monitoring of budgets	Head of Economic Development	Jan 2025

**RECOMMENDATION**







It is recommended that the Council notes the report.

Not Applicable

# Half yearly Performance Report - Economic Development

Generated on: 18 November 2024

Last Update H1 2024/25

Performance Data Traffic Light Icon	PI Short Name	Performance Data Current Value	Performance Data Current Target
	Number of Jobs created through the Go Succeed Service	32	60
	Number of people benefitting from the Health and Wellbeing Initiative	63	0
	Number of research assignments	54	30
	Number of surveys to identify needs and values of the ED and business support services	0	0
	% draw down of Seal Sanctuary claim from DAERA	100%	100%
	Appoint an Operator for Bangor Marina and Harbour	0	0
	Appointment of operator for Pickie Funpark	0	0
	Approval of OBC and creation of action plan to progress Innovation Hub concept	0	0
	Development of PEACE Plus project and funding application through EBR	0	0
	% spend against budget	92.05%	100%
	% staff attendance	97%	93.5%
	% of completed Employee Appraisals in the period September 2023 to March 2025	0%	0%
	Number of projects delivered in LMP Action Plan	4	3

Not Applicable

Unclassified

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## ITEM 4

### Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Place and Prosperity Committee
Date of Meeting	05 December 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Prosperity
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Tourism
Date of Report	27 November 2024
File Reference	TO/MAR4/160127
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Tourism Half Yearly Performance Report H1 2024-25
Attachments	N/A

#### Context

Members will be aware that Council is required, under the Local Government Act 2014, to have in place arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of its functions. To fulfil this requirement Council has in place a Performance Management Policy and Handbook. The Performance Management Handbook outlines the approach to Performance Planning and Management process as:

- Community Plan – published every 10-15 years
- Corporate Plan – published every 4 years (Corporate Plan 2024-2028)
- Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) – published annually in September
- Service Plan – developed annually (approved annually in March)

The Council's 18 Service Plans outline how each respective Service will contribute to the achievement of the Corporate objectives including, but not limited to, any relevant actions identified in the PIP.

Not Applicable

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## Reporting Approach

The Service Plans will be reported to relevant Committees on a half-yearly basis as undernoted:

Reference	Period	Reporting Month
Quarter 2 (Q2)	April – September	December
Quarter 4 (Q4)	October – March	June

The report for Quarter 2 is attached.

## Corporate Plan 2024-2028

In line with the Corporate Plan 2024-2028, our service has contributed to two outcomes as follows

### Outcome 2

*An environmentally sustainable and resilient Council and Borough meeting our net zero carbon targets*

#### Key achievements:

- Zero% waste contamination at events under the recycling initiative.

### Outcome 4

*A vibrant, attractive, sustainable Borough for citizens, visitors, businesses and investors*

#### Key achievements:

- Delivery of the Experience Development Programme - 11 experiences and 60% out of borough attendance.
- Delivery of 13 walks and tours with 27% out of borough attendance.
- Delivery of Chilli Fest event in conjunction with Parks, c.5000 attendees with 99% very satisfied/satisfied and 71% of those surveyed spending £10-£49 and 6% £50+
- Delivery of Taste Summer and Taste Autumn Food Festival third party programming and core event elements in collaboration with events.
- Attendance at two shows outside the borough to promote food and drink businesses via show attendance and awards entry support.
- Partnership development for the new eco event 'Shorelife Celebration' in collaboration with Castle Espie and National Trust East Down Property to showcase natural assets as per Borough Events Strategic Direction.
- All tourism Events, Grant aided Events, Experiences, Walks and Tours and Destination campaigns have been delivered by Comms and Marketing to raise the profile of the borough as a visitor destination resulting in significant growth in relevant channels.
- Support by Comms and Marketing has afforded good results with securement of PR articles ahead of target to key markets.

Not Applicable

- Visit AND digital channels have exponentially grown with web traffic up by 50% on prior year, and social media audience growing by 25% ahead of the growth target of 20% for 2024/5.
- Promotion for all Tourism Events have generated footfall levels which have exceeded targets.

**Emerging issues:**

As part of the commitment to continuous improvement the annual Service Plan is reviewed on a monthly basis. The Service Risk register has also been reviewed to identify emerging issues and agree any actions required detailed below:

Staffing for outreach purposes has been successful to date; however, availability of casual staff coming into Q3 has been flagged for primary VIC cover.

**Action to be taken:**

- VIC staffing kept under review for optimum models of delivery in the new season.
- One KPI not on target as below.

Identified KPI at Risk	Reasons as to why KPI has not been met	Action to be taken	Designated Officer	Date for Review
No. of training sessions for event capacity building.	Vacant post to support this activity – now filled	Three more sessions before end March 25	Events Manager	January 25

**RECOMMENDATION**












It is recommended that the Council note the report.

Not Applicable

Half yearly Performance Report - Tourism

Generated on: 14 November 2024

Last Update H1 2024/25

Performance Data Traffic Light Icon	PI Short Name	Performance Data Current Value	Performance Data Current Target
	Number of sessions delivered for training/capacity building via Festival Forum (*new KPI – 2023 no. of participants trained)	1	2
	Attendance at consumer-focused shows - tourism and food and drink	2	2
	No. of sites/events supported by visitor servicing outreach	15	15
	% increase in followers to Visit AND social media against previous year	25%	10%
	Number of targeted destination awareness AND PR/partnership articles – Food and one other theme to NI and ROI markets	14	6
	% engagement rate of ezines to tourism trade and consumer database	33%	30%
	% increase in followers to VisitStrangford social media against previous year	5%	2.5%
	Number of attendees at Tourism events	71,530	61,000
	% spend against budget	99.09%	>95%
	% staff attendance	98.03%	95%
	% of completed Employee Appraisals in the period September 2023 to March 2025	100%	80%



Not Applicable

Unclassified

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## ITEM 5

### Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Place and Prosperity Committee
Date of Meeting	05 December 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Prosperity
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Tourism
Date of Report	15 November 2024
File Reference	TOTD/182
Legislation	n/a
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Taste AND - Food and Drink Sector Development Update 2024
Attachments	Appendix 1 - Food and Drink Award Winners to date 2024

#### Introduction

Whilst 2024 has been a successful year for many Taste Ards and North Down Food network members, and there is generally more positivity across the sector due to more settled economic conditions, the primary challenges of staffing and much higher costs persist across the food and drink sector.

Inflationary pressures have eased; however, businesses continue to see increases in the cost of distribution and from the servicing and maintenance of equipment. The factors driving operational cost increases are shifting from energy costs to that of skilled labour coupled with the recent increase in staff costs resulting from the autumn budget.

Staff and recruitment issues are having an ever-increasing impact on the sector with restaurants continuing to face the most severe impacts. Restaurants are operating on fewer days and with reduced daily hours; the hospitality 'split shift' is becoming a thing

Not Applicable

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of the past. Training and, therefore, career progression is also seeing an impact which means there is a 'bleed' in advanced skills within the hospitality sector. 'Recruitment failure' is a growing problem for food production; businesses put this down to the double impact of Brexit and an education system that is not yielding the skills that are necessary for young people to work within the sector.

Whilst this is a somewhat gloomy background, the food, drink and hospitality sectors are learning to find new ways to appeal to customers and this is leading to increased collaboration and cooperation. Businesses are clearly more agile, resilient and willing to embrace innovation. More of what is made locally is staying local and those who lead newly formed businesses appear to be ambitious and prepared for the challenges of the food and drink sector as it is now as opposed to pre-2020.

## **Taste AND Food and Drink Destination Development Plan (FDDDP) 2023-2027 –**

The following highlights the activity and key achievements year to date.

### **1. Business Training Programme**

Training for businesses has settled around a core of in-person training support (attended by 62 people). This included:

- SALSA Accreditation six-week course finished in January
- Food Awards Preparation Lab with SERC (February)
- Digital Marketing Masterclass (March)
- Food Photography Masterclass (March)
- Market Operators Specialised Training (March)
- Risk management: Reducing Risk in the Workplace - Level 1 (June)
- Emergency First Aid at Work Level 2 (Scheduled for January 2025)

### **2. Food and Drink Careers Day**

One of the objectives of the FDDDP is to deliver an annual food and drink careers engagement event to help signpost careers in the sector with local schools, showcase what it is really like to work in the industry, and to demonstrate the diversity of the industry. On 9 April 2024, Tourism Development Officers delivered a first "*Hospitality and Tourism Take Over Day*" at the Culloden Hotel and Spa. SERC Culinary Arts also played a key role in delivery on the day with Tourism NI providing interactive equipment. 82 students from four schools attended (all secondary schools in the borough were invited to attend). Feedback from students and teachers highlighted the success of the event and therefore it is intended to run again in 2025.

### **3. Trade Shows**

In 2024, there have been a total of 22 partially, or fully, subsidised spaces for industry at trade shows and events outside the borough, which were shared among 17 producers.

- March: Love Your Food Show, Belfast (8 businesses)
- June: Garden Show Ireland, Antrim (3 businesses)
- August: Hillsborough Palace & Gardens Festival (4 businesses)
- September: Salmon and Whiskey Festival Bushmills (2 businesses)
- October Dingle Food Fest/Eat Ireland in a Day Showcase (5 businesses)

Not Applicable

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The 'Eat Ireland in a Day' Showcase at the Irish Food Awards had increased representation with five producers and one restaurant showcased across the three-day event. No 14 at the Georgian House in Comber provided a range of Ards and North Down-themed canapés for the launch of the event using local pork, beef, bread and dairy produce; Bow Bells, Bró Coffee, Mallow Makers, Habanero Steve's and Capparelli Cooks took part in the showcase pavilion, with tastings and talks with leading Irish Food Writers.

The first trade show of 2025 will be the Love Your Food Show with 12 businesses participating at the new location of the Maze site. We expect to see a decline in spaces which Taste AND can take at trade shows in comparison to 2024 due to restrictions in certain council areas, in addition to costs pressures and value for money.

#### **4. Ulster Fry Championship**

Tourism Development officers provided advice and organisational input into this new annual event run by Donaghadee Community Development Association. The competition itself attracted competitors from Armagh, Monaghan, Antrim, Belfast, Fermanagh and County Down. 12 Taste Ards and North Down businesses traded at this event across the weekend helping to grow the event from 2023.

#### **5. Taste Summer in Ards and North Down**

A total of 24 food and drink shoulder experiences and activities ran across the 12 days of the festival, with a majority developed and run by local businesses. This is a significant increase from 2023 participation with a move away from the previous Council dependency on delivery. At the main Comber Earlies Food Festival, the Food and Drink Officer along with Event colleagues managed the 'Taste AND Meet the Maker' feature which involved 12 Taste AND members. The shoulder food activities specific to the Comber event featured a Comber Earlies showcase dinner, kitchen garden demo weekend at No 14 The Georgian House, as well as the return of three activities at McBride's on the Square, including The Big Food (Charity) Quiz, Indie Fude's Beer and Raclette Night and the Sunday Comber Earlies Lunch Walk.

#### **6. Taste Autumn in Ards and North Down**

Chilli Festival 14-15 September was a success attracting 5,000 attendees, with Tourism Development Officers increasing the number of providers and activity at the event. Chilli-themed artisan producers, hot food and three local international-themed restaurants/producers featured on the demo kitchen hosted by SERC on the Saturday. This collaborative event with AND Parks and Cemeteries, provides valuable lessons and helps enforce food as a key strength of the Borough. Like the Taste Summer Festival local businesses participating in shoulder activity increased to a total of 18 experiences and activities during the wider festival period.

#### **7. Taste AND at Clandeboyne**

Part-funded by DAERA's NI Regional Food programme, this was developed to specifically showcase produce from members of the Taste Ards and North Down network and to promote local food producers to residents of the borough – a key objective within the FDDDP. 32 producers participated in the artisan market, whilst six local restaurants took part in kitchen theatre demos. Over 9,000 attendees were recorded at the two-day event with positive responses and high average spend of £39

Not Applicable

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per person reported with public surveyed. The trader survey showed significant support for running a similar event again, mid-autumn 2025, and accordingly submission to the NI Regional Food Programme will take place in the new year when the Fund is released.

### **8. Irish Food Writers' Guild Learning Journey**

During the weekend of Taste AND at Clondeboy, seven members of The Irish Food Writer' Guild took part in a food and drink learning journey within the Borough. The Guild visited Copeland Distillery, No 14 The Georgian House, Ballyboley Dexters, Capparelli at the Old Mill, The Walled Garden Helen's Bay, and Echlinville Distillery, as well as sampling food and drink from the 32 traders involved in the Taste AND at Clondeboy event. The media outputs from those guild members who attended, have been highly positive with features appearing in major Irish newspapers, podcasts and personal blogs to date. <https://www.irishexaminer.com/food-columnists/arid-41512055.html>

### **9. Award Winners 2024**

Throughout the year the Food and Drink Officer has continued to encourage local businesses to enter local, national and international awards through providing information and technical advice for entry. The 2024 awards season draws to a close in November, but to date it has been a highly successful year for both for Taste AND producers and restaurants.

The 'gold standard' food and drink awards in produce are the UK's "Great Taste Awards" announced in August and Ireland's "Blas na hEireann Awards" announced in September. For the alcoholic drinks producers, the gold standard class of awards are the "International Wine and Spirit Competition (IWSC)", the "World Gin Awards" and the "World Whiskey Awards" - collectively, the "Food and Drink Oscars". Other notable awards for food are the "Irish Quality Food Awards" and the "British Quality Food Awards. See Appendix 1 for the list of awards.

### **Looking forward to 2025**

#### **Taste Ards and North Down Local Food Heroes Awards**

To highlight the achievements of local businesses the 'Local Food Heroes' Honours Reception with the Mayor of Ards and North Down will be held on 5 March 2025 at Bangor Castle. We will also see the fourth Lady Dufferin Award for producer of the year and the second edition of the 'Local Food and Drink Champion' awarded to the business that gives most support to local produce selected by producer members.

#### **Food and Drink Network**

Following the introduction of amended criteria in 2024 to better structure membership, the Network currently sits at 75 members. Research into other similar Networks indicate a membership fee of £35 is appropriate and will be set for the incoming year.

Not Applicable

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### Summary

Whilst faced with continued uncertain times, the local food, drink and hospitality sectors have much to be encouraged about. There is a willingness to adapt in the face of pressure and to collaborate with other likeminded businesses and Council. All 13 actions of the FDDDP have made progress in year one with key deliverables across a range of areas.

### RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council notes this report.

## Food and Drink Award Winners – to date, October 2024

### **Blas na hÉireann 2024**

This year, Taste AND businesses lifted 15 awards, whilst slightly down on last year's record total of 19, it was for the third year in a row that a Taste AND member took the Best in County award with Clandeboye Estate Yoghurt adding the accolade to an individual product Gold, and Best New Product.

### **Great Taste Winners 2024**

A total of 15 awards were won by seven businesses, this is up five from 2023. As a result of being repeat winners at these prestigious awards six of the businesses have been admitted to the UK Guild of Fine Foods.

### **Ireland 'Free From' Food Awards and UK Quality Food Awards (QFA)**

Mash Direct took three 2024 Gold awards at "Free From", and Silver at the UK QFAs.

### **Irish Quality Food and Drink Awards**

Two Golds were collected by Clandeboye Estate and Bró38 Ltd with Glastry Ice-cream taking a Bronze.

### **NI Farming Life Awards**

Glastry Farm and Ballyboley Dexters backed up 2023 success once again securing top awards.

### **Belfast Telegraph Business Awards**

Primacy Meats Food Village took the prestigious Retail Sector Business or Retailer of the Year

### **Drinks Awards 2024**

Thirty-three awards in total were collected by our two distilleries, Echlinville and Copeland. Echlinville across the following awards: IWSC, Irish Whiskey Makers, World Gin Awards, World Vodka Awards, Irish Whiskey Awards (Echlinville taking Overall National Whiskey of the Year Award) and San Francisco World Spirits Competition.

### **Food-related Hospitality Awards**

#### **Georgina Campbell – The Irish Food & Hospitality Awards**

Awards collected by both No 14 Georgian House and The Old Inn Crawfordsburn.

### **National Pub and Bar Awards UK**

Dirty Duck Alehouse lifted both the County Pub of the Year and Northern Ireland Regional Pub of the Year.

### **Sunday Times 100 List /McKenna's Guide**

Hollywood was the big winner in these awards with Frae, Lynchpin and Noble all winners.

### **Michelin Guide**

Again, Hollywood the standout with both Fontana and Noble making the 2024 guide.

### **Asian Restaurant Awards UK**

Bangala was once again the Borough's standout Asian eatery as curry house finalists for the Northern Ireland Region.



## RAI Restaurants Association of Ireland Awards – Ulster/ All Ireland Finals

Eight awards were shared out of the available 12 by ANDBC businesses with Noble, Fontana, Frae, The Jamaica Inn, No 14 at the Georgian House and Indie Fude collecting the accolades.

At the All-Ireland Finals Noble, No 14 at the Georgian House and Indie Fude again secured awards.

2024 Award Winners by business	
	<b>Producer</b>
Ballyboley Dexters*	
Bró38 Ltd*	
Capparelli Cooks*	
Clandeboyne Estate Yoghurt	
Copeland Distillery*	
Echlinville Distillery *	
Glastry Farm Ice-cream	
Habanero Steve's	
The Mallow Makers	
Mash Direct	
Moorcroft Foods*	
Slice of Heaven	
Walled Garden Helen's Bay*	
	<b>Retail</b>
Primacy Farm Meats	
Indie Fude	
	<b>Hospitality</b>
Fontana, Hollywood	
Frae, Hollywood	
The Jamaica Inn, Bangor	
Lynchpin, Hollywood	
Noble, Hollywood	
No 14 The Georgian House, Comber	
The Old Inn, Crawfordsburn	

\* Business meets the shortlisting criteria of the Taste AND Lady Dufferin Award:

Summary of Awards by Competition	
Blas na hÉireann	15 (-4)
Guild of Fine Foods' Great Taste	15 (+5)
RAI Restaurant Awards	15 (+10)
Irish Whiskey Awards	11 (+2)
World Whiskey Awards	8 (-1)
IWSC	5 (+2)
San Francisco International Spirits	4 (+4)
Ireland Free From Food Awards	3 (-1)
Irish Quality Food and Drink Awards	3 (-6)
McKenna's/Times 100	3 (-)
Farming Life Awards	2 (-2)
Georgina Campbell Awards	2 (+1)
Michelin Guide	2 (-2)
National Pub & Bar Awards	2 (+2)
World Gin Awards	2 (-)
UK Quality Food Awards	1(+1)
Belfast Telegraph Awards	1 (-1)
Irish Whiskies Masters	1 (+)
World Vodka Awards	1 (+1)

Unclassified

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## ITEM 6

### Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Place and Prosperity Committee
Date of Meeting	05 December 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Place
Responsible Head of Service	Interim Head of Regeneration
Date of Report	27 November 2024
File Reference	160127
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Regeneration Half Yearly Performance Report H1 2024 - 2025
Attachments	n/a

### Context

Members will be aware that Council is required, under the Local Government Act 2014, to have in place arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of its functions. To fulfil this requirement Council has in place a Performance Management Policy and Handbook. The Performance Management Handbook outlines the approach to Performance Planning and Management process as:

- Community Plan – published every 10-15 years
- Corporate Plan – published every 4 years (Corporate Plan 2024-2028)
- Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) – published annually in September
- Service Plan – developed annually (approved annually in March)

Not Applicable

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The Council's 18 Service Plans outline how each respective Service will contribute to the achievement of the Corporate objectives including, but not limited to, any relevant actions identified in the PIP.

## Reporting Approach

The Service Plans will be reported to relevant Committees on a half-yearly basis as undernoted:

Reference	Period	Reporting Month
Quarter 2 (Q2)	April – September	December
Quarter 4 (Q4)	October – March	June

The report for Q2 is attached.

## Corporate Plan 2024-2028

In line with the Corporate Plan 2024-2028, our service has contributed to 5 outcomes as follows.

### Outcome 1

*An engaged Borough with citizens and businesses who have opportunities to influence the delivery of services, plans and investment*

#### Key achievements:

- 2 new village partnerships (Strangford and North Down) have enabled structured engagement with residents from rural communities.
- The completion of Phase 1 of the Village Plan 2025 – 2035 has resulted in over 1,500 responses. The responses are being analysed and collated with key priorities as identified by residents and businesses will contribute to each Village Plan.
- Representatives from the Borough's Chambers of Commerce are part of each of the C/TAG groups and have therefore the opportunity to influence future projects and services.

### Outcome 3

*A thriving and sustainable economy*

#### Key achievements:

- Support to the Chambers of Commerce through the Grants Scheme is contributing to key Chamber activities aimed at promoting a sustainable and growing economy within the Borough. For example, Christmas Events, Chamber membership workshops, and animation of the towns.
- Officers have engaged with DfC, interested groups and Chambers of Commerce to identify the interest of a Business Improvement District proposal within the Borough.

Not Applicable

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#### **Outcome 4**

*A vibrant, attractive, sustainable Borough for citizens, visitors, businesses and investors*

##### **Key achievements:**

- Portaferry Public Realm Scheme – the scheme was officially launched on the 30.10.2024 and was the culmination of significant internal and external stakeholder engagement, innovation, and resource allocation. Economic, Social and Environmental benefits are envisaged as part of this £2 million investment.
- The Paddington Bear Statue has been a significant attraction to Newtownards and enabled various economic and wellbeing benefits to the town and wider Borough. This has been highlighted by the number of visitors coming to Newtownards from all over the province.

#### **Outcome 6**

*Opportunities for people to be active and healthy*

##### **Key achievements:**

- Progress is continuing to be made on the Kircubbin Coastal Path upgrades, Greyabbey Community Park and Ballygowan Walking Trail which demonstrate a collaborative approach from residents of the villages and between internal and external stakeholders. The projects will utilise currently underutilised land and include environmental improvement elements, providing walking and cycling opportunities within close proximity to the village centres.

#### **Outcome 7**

*Ards and North Down Borough Council is a high performing organisation*

##### **Key achievements:**

- Demonstrated strong economic performance by successfully securing an additional £425,000 funding (£335K Urban Regeneration Programme and £95K Rural Business Grants) which will be strategically invested in the urban and rural areas to foster growth and development

##### **Emerging issues:**

As part of the commitment to continuous improvement the annual Service Plan is reviewed on a monthly basis. The Service Risk register has also been reviewed to identify emerging issues and agree any actions required detailed below:

1. % Spend against budget
2. % Staff attendance
3. Development of works to Marine Gardens and McKee Clock Arena

Not Applicable

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### Action to be taken:

1. Various tenders and quotes have been issued without return from external stakeholders delaying the completion of working up projects.
2. To continue to implement the Managing Absence policy and effectively delegate the workload amongst the team of staff.
3. A commencement date for Phase One has been provided by Bangor Marine (BG). The Directorate will continue to work with Corporate Communications and BG to ensure the communication on the commencement date and other relevant information is effectively managed.

Identified KPI at Risk	Reasons as to why KPI has not been met	Action to be taken	Designated Officer	Date for Review
% Spend against budget	Unsuccessful procurement processes	Review of procurement documents, reallocation of budget to enable increased budget	SUM	9.12.2024
	The Services' spend against budget is typically below target until Q4 upon completion of various projects	Profiling of budgets will be assessed and changes implemented however this will have a minimal impact	HoS and SUM	March 2025
% Spend against budget	1 long term absence	Continue to consult with HR and OH	SUM	As and when directed by HR

### RECOMMENDATION













It is recommended that this report is noted.

Not Applicable


Half yearly Performance Report - Regeneration

Generated on: 19 November 2024

Last Update H1 2024/25

Performance Data Traffic Light Icon	PI Short Name	Performance Data Current Value	Performance Data Current Target
	To create new Town/City Advisory Groups following the review that was undertaken	0	0
	To create 2no new village partnership groups - North Down and Strangford (equivalent to the Ards Peninsula Partnership Group)	2	2
	To commence a review of the village plans and agree with the various groups the key priority projects.	8	8
	To develop a master plan and outline business case for the delivery of a business park at the former NIE site on the Balloo Road, Bangor	No	No
	To oversee the development works to Marine Gardens and the McKee Clock Arena in keeping with the agreed Quality Specification as part of the Queen's Parade development scheme – anticipated 50% completed by March 2025	No	No
	To assess the outputs from the Town Chamber business plans and assist in growing the membership base	0	0
	To complete the delivery of the Portaferry Public Realm using funding secured from the Small Settlements Grant and undertake the PPEs	100%	0%
	To continue to work with the City/Town Advisory Groups by holding a minimum of 4 meetings per year with each group to develop regeneration improvements for the urban areas and act as a conjugate for other Council services	1	1
	To deliver projects using the Covid Recovery Small Settlements' Regeneration Programme	1	1
	% spend against budget	86.3%	100%
	% staff attendance	82.61%	93.5%
	% of completed Employee Appraisals in the period September 2023 to March 2025	0%	0%

Not Applicable

Performance Data Traffic Light Icon	PI Short Name	Performance Data Current Value	Performance Data Current Target
	To develop Urban/Rural projects to procurement stage to access funding streams	1	1



Not Applicable

Unclassified

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## ITEM 7

### Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Place and Prosperity Committee
Date of Meeting	05 December 2024
Responsible Director	Interim Director of Place
Responsible Head of Service	Interim Head of Regeneration
Date of Report	15 November 2024
File Reference	160135
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Progress on Village Plans 2025 - 2035
Attachments	N/A

### Background

As members will be aware officers within the Regeneration Service have been tasked with creating new Village Plans as the existing plans have now expired or nearing their end date. There is a need for new plans to ensure the continued growth and development of the rural villages.

The creation of the new Village Plans is a three-stage process:

- Stage 1 - Desktop Research & Public Engagement
- Stage 2 - Identify and Refine Priorities
- Stage 3 - Draft Plans for review

Not Applicable

## Stage 1- Desktop Research & Public Engagement

### Desktop Research

Officers conducted extensive desktop research for each of the villages which included a review of the former Village Plan, and an analysis of statistical data such as population, employment status, health, religion, education, housing, deprivation and economic activity. This research offered insights into each village's status, providing officers with a better understanding prior to the commencement of public engagement.

### Public Engagement

A comprehensive public engagement process began in May 2024 and was scheduled to conclude at the end of September 2024, this was extended by two weeks to mid-October to allow for additional responses to be submitted.

The engagement process was designed to gather a diverse range of input through various methods, including public workshops, involvement of community groups and local schools, engagement at public events and activity groups, conducting on-street surveys and offering an online survey.

- Community Group Engagement

Before launching the public engagement process, officers engaged with community groups from each village to provide a comprehensive overview of the process, actively seek their feedback, and aimed at cultivating their support for the initiative.

Village	Date	Group
Ballygowan	08 April 2024	Ballygowan & District Community Association
Ballyhalbert	25 January 2024 04 March 2024	Ballyhalbert Community Association
Ballywalter	11 January 2024	Ballywalter Community Action Group
Carrowdore	1 February 2024	Carrowdore & District Community Association
Cloughey	19 January 2024 05 March 2024	Cloughey & District Community Association
Conlig	26 April 2024	Conlig Community Association
Greyabbey	11 January 2024	Greyabbey & District Community Association
Groomsport	09 January 2024	Discover Groomsport
Helen's Bay & Crawfordsburn	05 January 2024 30 January 2024	Bayburn Community Association
Killinchy	09 May 2024	Killinchy & District Community Development Association
Kircubbin	10 January 2024	Kircubbin & District Community Association
Lisbane & Lisbarnett	23 January 2024	Lisbane & Lisbarnett Community Association
Millisle	08 November 2023	Millisle Community Association
Portaferry	18 April 2024	Portaferry Community Collective
Portavogie	13 February 2024	Portavogie Regeneration Committee

Not Applicable

In addition to the above meetings, officers have continued to provide timely updates to the various village community groups via the Partnership Meetings (Ards Peninsula Villages Partnership - monthly updates, Strangford Villages Partnership - quarterly updates, and North Down Villages Partnership - quarterly updates).

- Primary School Engagement

Officers visited each of the local primary schools within the villages to conduct interactive workshops with the pupils including a drawing competition. An age-friendly survey was created to enable the pupils to share their views, opinions and ideas for the future of their village.

An Awards Event hosted by the Mayor of Ards and North Down, Councillor Alistair Cathcart, was held in the City Hall, on the evening of Tuesday 25 June 2024 for the winners of the drawing competition and their family and teachers. The winning drawings will feature in the new Village Plan.

A total of 321 surveys were completed. In addition to the surveys, a series of comment boards were completed within each school.

- Public Engagement Sessions

Public Engagement Sessions were delivered in each village as an opportunity for residents, community members, and businesses to voice their ideas, discuss their concerns, and make suggestions for short-, medium-, and long-term improvements.

Attendance at the workshops varied between each village, however evidence demonstrates a peak in the number of online survey responses submitted for each village at the time of the public engagement sessions.

Attendees at the public engagement sessions were encouraged to participate in sharing their views, ideas and opinions on the comment boards which were focused on specific areas to encourage thinking and promote involvement. Attendees were also encouraged to complete the Village Plan survey.

Below is a summary of the number of attendees and comments submitted at each public engagement session:

Village	Date & Time	Location	Number of Attendees	Number of Comments Received
Ballygowan	Tuesday 25 June 4-6pm	Ballygowan Community Centre	14	31

Not Applicable

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Ballyhalbert	Wednesday 05 June 4pm-6pm	Talbot House	14	63
Ballywalter	Monday 10 June 4-6pm	Village Hall	6	26
Carrowdore	Wednesday 12 June 4-6pm	Carrowdore Community Centre	4	5
Cloughey	Thursday 20 June 4-6pm	The Pavilion	32	68
Conlig	Monday 24 June 4-6pm	Conlig Community Centre	20	55
Greyabbey	Thursday 27 June 4-6pm	Greyabbey Village Hall	12	41
Groomsport	Tuesday 09 July 4-6pm	Groomsport Boat House	48	81
Helens Bay & Crawfordsburn	Tuesday 18 June 4-6pm	Crawfordsburn Primary School	5	8
Killinchy	Thursday 08 August 4-6pm	Killinchy Community Hall	32	40
Kircubbin	Tuesday 18 June 4-6pm	Kircubbin Community Centre	25	31
Lisbane & Lisbarnett	Monday 01 July 4-6pm	Lisbane Community Hub	7	11
Millisle	Tuesday 20 August 4-6pm	Millisle Community Hub	43	86
Portaferry	Wednesday 28 August 4-6pm	Market House	45	97
Portavogie	Thursday 22 August 4-6pm	Portavogie Community Centre	12	42

In response to feedback received regarding the timings of the public engagement sessions, officers arranged additional drop-in sessions to accommodate a more convenient timeslot. Three additional sessions were delivered in central locations:

Saturday 14 September 10am-12noon Comber Leisure Centre

Saturday 21 September 10am-12noon Aurora Aquatic & Leisure Complex

Saturday 28 September 10am-12noon Ards Blair Mayne Wellbeing & Leisure Complex

- On-street Surveys

Officers visited each village to conduct on-street surveys during the engagement process, allowing the opportunity to increase awareness of the Village Plan process, increase community engagement and gather valuable feedback from residents and businesses.

Ballygowan - 14 August 2024 and 08 October 2024
Ballyhalbert - 06 August 2024
Ballywalter - 05 August 2024
Carrowdore - 07 June 2024 and 12 June 2024

Not Applicable

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Cloughey - 14 August 2024
Conlig - 09 August 2024
Groomsport - 01 August 2024
Helen's Bay & Crawfordsburn - 9 August 2024
Killinchy - 14 August 2024
Kircubbin - 14 August 2024 and 15 September 2024
Lisbane & Lisbarnett - 08 October 2024
Millisle - 25 July 2024 and 01 August 2024
Portaferry - 23 July 2024, 06 August 2024 and 25 September 2024
Portavogie - 06 August 2024 and 16 August 2024

#### ▪ Attendance at Public Events

To maximise outreach and enhance community engagement, officers attended public events, providing an opportunity for residents to engage directly, ask questions, and participate in discussions, ultimately fostering stronger relationships within the community.

Events attended during the Engagement Process:

10 August – Artisan Market, Greyabbey
24 August – Lisbane Summer Fair
26 August – Peninsula Kite Festival, Millisle
13 and 14 September – Portaferry Heritage Festival

#### ▪ Engagement with Activity Groups

Throughout the month of September officers contacted various activity groups within each of the villages to provide an opportunity to engage and ensure that their views are heard and valued.

It should be noted that although the following groups were contacted and offered a range of ways that they can participate in the engagement process not all groups responded.

Ballygowan	Youth at Ballygowan Presbyterian   Children and Young People Programmes & Events   Ballygowan FC   Ballygowan Girls Brigade   Ballygowan Boys Brigade   Ballygowan Community Choir
Ballyhalbert	Glastry College   Glastry Boys Brigade   Ards Peninsula Community Chat & News Page
Ballywalter	Ballywalter Flute Band   Ballywalter Youth FC   Ballywalter Community Action Group   Ballywalter Rec FC   Ballywalter Bowling and Rec Club   Ballywalter Young Farmers Club   Ballywalter Presbyterian Church   Ballywalter Mens Shed

Not Applicable

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Carrowdore	Carrowdore Parish Church   Carrowdore & Ballyfrenis Presbyterian Church   Strangford College   Carrowdore Shooting Club   Carrowdore Girls Brigade
Cloughey	Cloughey Heritage Group   Cloughey & District Tennis Club   Ballycran GAC   Cloughey Football Club
Conlig	Conlig Presbyterian
Greyabbey	Greyabbey is Great   Trinity Presbyterian Church   Rosemount Rec Football Club
Groomsport	Groomsport Presbyterian   Groomsport Parish   Groomsport Evangelical Presbyterian Church
Helens Bay & Crawfordsburn	Mums & Tots Helens Bay   Helen's Bay Presbyterian Church   Helen's Bay Tennis Club   Helen's Bay Golf Club, St Johns Church Helens Bay
Killinchy	Young Farmers   Whiterock Yacht Club   Killinchy Cycle Club   Killinchy Community Hall   PTA Killinchy Primary School   Killinchy Presbyterian Church   The Livingston Centre at Killinchy Parish   Killinchy and Kilmoed News
Kircubbin	Peninsula Healthy Living   Kircubbin Community Church   Kircubbin Parish   Kircubbin Sailing Club
Lisbane & Lisbarnett	Lisbane and Lisbarnett Community Association and After School Club
Millisle	Abbey Villa FC   Millisle FC   Millisle Youth Forum   Millisle Presbyterian Church   Millisle Baptist Church   Millisle Regeneration
Portaferry	Portaferry Gala Festival   Ballygalget GAC   Portaferry GAC   Mens Shed   Portaferry Sailing Club
Portavogie	Portavogie Ebenezer Gospel Hall   Portavogie Presbyterian Church   Knit and Natter Group

#### ▪ Online Survey

A user-friendly online survey was created. The survey consisted of 8 targeted questions, designed to gather valuable insights into the community's perspectives, aspirations, and innovative ideas for the development of the villages in the short-medium-long term, thereby fostering a comprehensive understanding of residents' needs and priorities.

A total of 1,534 surveys were completed, reflecting active engagement from the community.

A summary of the responses per village is detailed below:

Ballygowan	243	15.84%
Ballyhalbert	104	6.78%
Ballywalter	144	9.39%
Carrowdore	92	6.00%
Conlig	50	3.26%
Cloughey	102	6.65%
Greyabbey	60	3.91%



Not Applicable

Groomsport	61	3.98%
Helen's Bay & Crawfordsburn	59	3.85%
Killinchy	53	3.46%
Kircubbin	157	10.23%
Lisbarnett & Lisbane	37	2.41%
Millisle	131	8.54%
Portavogie	95	6.19%
Portaferry	146	9.52%

The engagement process has successfully fostered extensive public engagement across the villages, allowing residents to actively participate in discussions.

To compliment the engagement activities listed above, a monthly newsletter has been established to keep residents and businesses fully informed throughout the process. The newsletter is issued to subscribers on the last Friday of each month, below is a breakdown of the number of recipients for each month

June	69 recipients
July	83 recipients
August	88 recipients
September	98 recipients
October	136 recipients

## Stage 2 – Identify and Refine Priorities

Officers have commenced the process of analysing the data for each village, with efforts focused on compiling the information and identifying emerging themes, this will help establish a set of prioritised actions and insights.

Following the completion of the data analysis, officers will hold additional public engagement sessions to validate that the emerging themes and priorities reflect the community's needs, providing a platform for residents to contribute feedback and further refine these priorities.

Public engagement sessions will commence early 2025.

Officers will organise workshops with internal departments to gather their insights and contributions, recognising that many of the identified priorities will necessitate collaboration across various departments and sectors.

Additionally, it is proposed to convene a workshop for Elected Members to discuss the priorities for each village, ensuring that Members perspectives and expertise are integrated into the decision-making process.

It is hoped Stage 2 will be completed early March 2025, with Stage 3 – Draft Plans for Review commencing end of March/ early April 2024.

Not Applicable

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that this report is noted.

Unclassified

# ITEM 8

## Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	4. Exemption: consultations or negotiations
Council/Committee	Place and Prosperity Committee
Date of Meeting	05 December 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Place
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Strategic Capital Developments
Date of Report	06 November 2024
File Reference	
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Strategic Capital Development - Half Yearly Performance Report H1 2024-25
Attachments	

### Context

Members will be aware that Council is required, under the Local Government Act 2014, to have in place arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of its functions. To fulfil this requirement Council has in place a Performance Management Policy and Handbook. The Performance Management Handbook outlines the approach to Performance Planning and Management process as:

- Community Plan – published every 10-15 years
- Corporate Plan – published every 4 years (Corporate Plan 2024-2028)
- Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) – published annually in September
- Service Plan – developed annually (approved annually in March)

#### 4. Exemption: consultations or negotiations

The Council's 18 Service Plans outline how each respective Service will contribute to the achievement of the Corporate objectives including, but not limited to, any relevant actions identified in the PIP.

#### Reporting Approach

The Service Plans will be reported to relevant Committees on a half-yearly basis as undernoted:

Reference	Period	Reporting Month
Quarter 2 (Q2)	April – September	December
Quarter 4 (Q4)	October – March	June

The report for H1 2024/25 is attached.

#### Corporate Plan 2024-2028

**In line with the Corporate Plan 2024-2028, our service contributes to all outcomes outlined in our Service & Delivery Framework.**

Service Delivery Framework	Outcome Contributed to
<b>Project Prioritisation:</b> Contribute to the achievement of the economic, environmental and social corporate priorities through the prioritisation of capital projects, creating placemaking opportunities to support and attract new businesses increasing footfall in the Borough and secure Best Value for Money (BVfM) for stakeholders.	1,2,3,4,5,6
<b>Structured Project Delivery:</b> Utilising best practice tools and techniques recognised by Central Government, HM Treasury and Project Delivery Professionals, such as the Five Case Model, NEC Contracts, PRINCE 2, the Capital Handbook, MAG Design Reviews, Stakeholder Engagement, Community Participation, Equality and Sustainability Screening, and lessons learned from post project evaluations.	1,2,4,5,6,7
<b>Funding Partnerships:</b> Actively provide support and guidance to Council Directorates and Service Units during and or directly the application process to secure funding from various public sector departments and external sources to deliver our strategic capital projects to drive the economy and attract new visitors, businesses, and residents.	1,2,3,4,7
<b>Innovation &amp; Technology:</b> Strive to become a high-performing organisation by embracing technology, implementing innovative solutions, and ensuring officers are well trained and supplied with the necessary resources to deliver exceptional service.	1,2,3,4,7
<b>Robust Governance:</b> Implementing and promoting robust governance procedures across Council Directorates, emphasising the importance of risk management to effectively manage the complex and challenging situations that arise in the delivery of capital projects within Local Government and the Public Sector.	1,2,3,4,5,7

#### Outcome 1

#### 4. Exemption: consultations or negotiations

*An engaged Borough with citizens and businesses who have opportunities to influence the delivery of services, plans and investment*

Key achievements:

- **Portaferry Public Realm:** Effective communication was a cornerstone of the project's success. By asking targeted questions and prioritising specific qualities during the tender process, we secured an experienced contractor with strong public engagement strategies and phased work methodology minimising disruption. Additionally, the project team maintained transparency and engagement through a fortnightly project newsletter, distributed digitally and placed in public buildings. Quarterly updates to the steering group ensured key stakeholders remained informed, fostering trust and collaboration throughout the project.
- **Ward Park:** The successful delivery of the desilting works within budget marks a significant milestone in the project and paves the way for the next phase of the larger Ward Park redevelopment. Contractor procurement for this phase is currently underway and progressing on schedule. Stakeholder engagement remains an integral part of the programme, fostering co-design elements that ensure the community has a meaningful voice in shaping the redevelopment. In-person consultations have been complemented by the use of Citizen Lab allowing ongoing engagement, feedback, and collaboration with the public. This approach ensures transparency, inclusivity, and a shared vision for the future of Ward Park.
- **Bangor Waterfront Redevelopment:** Significant progress is being made on the Bangor Waterfront Redevelopment following the appointment of Integrated Consultant Teams (ICT) for the BYC Watersports Centre in May 2024 and Pickie Fun Park in August 2024. Stakeholder engagement has been integral to every aspect of the project, involving key stakeholder groups, community organisations, businesses, and environmental advocates to ensure their input shapes a shared vision for the redevelopment. In addition to targeted consultations, we have engaged with residents and the wider community through public information sessions, providing updates on proposals, the project vision, and progress in transforming the waterfront.

#### Outcome 2

*An environmentally sustainable and resilient Council and Borough meeting our net zero carbon targets*

Key achievements:

- **Capital Sustainability Policy Draft:** Recognising Council's objective to become more environmentally sustainable and resilient, the Head of Strategic Capital Development has drafted a Capital Sustainability Policy. This policy promotes sustainable practices in project delivery and is set to be adopted by all directorates. By embedding sustainable initiatives such as Passivhaus, PAS2080 and BREEAM standards into capital projects from the early design and tender stages, we align with Council's commitment to reducing carbon emissions.
- **Newtownards Citizens Hub:** Following a strong response at the initial PQQ Stage with thirteen submissions, eight candidates have been successfully shortlisted to progress to the ITT stage. The design team contract award is expected in early 2025 with the aim of achieving Passivhaus Status.
- **Civic and Office Rationalisation:** Significant progress has been made in developing the performance specification and brief for the future of the Council's Estate. This detailed and politically significant analysis has included the identification of a Council approved location for any new accommodation and the implementation of an office rationalisation programme optimising current assets and resources. These efforts align

## 4. Exemption: consultations or negotiations

with our corporate objectives of becoming an environmentally sustainable and high-performing organisation.

### Outcome 3

*A thriving and sustainable economy*

Key achievements:

- **Bangor Waterfront:** Following the appointment of the Integrated Consultant Teams (ICT) for both BYC Watersports Centre in May 2024 and Pickie Fun Park in August 2024, momentum is building on the Bangor Waterfront Redevelopment. We are currently out to tender for an ICT to deliver the Urban Waterfront and Public Realm which will transform five-character areas along the 2 mile stretch of coastline. This project will play a pivotal role in advancing the strategic objectives of the broader redevelopment programme, aligning with Council and Belfast Region City Deal's goal *"to accelerate inclusive economic growth for the whole region and deliver more and better jobs, accessible to people from all communities"*.

### Outcome 4

*A vibrant, attractive, sustainable Borough for citizens, visitors, businesses and investors*

Key achievements:

- **Portaferry Public Realm:** The successful delivery and completion of the works significantly under budget, allowing reallocation of surplus funding to other small settlements schemes within the Borough. The project has been well received by the local residents and business communities.
- **Ward Park:** The successful delivery and completion of the desilting works within budget, allowing progress to the next phase, where contractor procurement is currently underway and on track for the larger Ward Park redevelopment.
- **Greenways Newtownards – Bangor:** Contractor appointed and has begun onsite.
- **Whitespots Country Park –** Successful transition to RIBA Stage 2 Concept Design.
- **Civic and Office Rationalisation:** Site shortlisting complete with Brief Development in progress. This includes the appointment of a Cultural and Heritage Consultant to complete an OBC for the future of the Castle.

### Outcome 5

*Safe, welcoming and inclusive communities that are flourishing*

Key achievements:

- **Social Value:** As part of the procurement process, we are integrating social initiatives in our public tenders for construction and design services. These initiatives can help to promote community well-being, enhance social value, and support local development by:
  - Promoting & Creating Local Employment Opportunities
  - Supporting Skills Development through training & apprenticeship programmes
  - Encourage Social Inclusion
  - Enhance Community Benefits by delivering additional benefits such as improved public spaces, community facilities, and services.

### Outcome 6

*Opportunities for people to be active and healthy*

Key achievements:

- **Greenways Newtownards – Bangor:** Contractor appointed and has begun onsite.



#### 4. Exemption: consultations or negotiations

- **Ward Park:** The successful delivery and completion of the desilting works within budget, allowing progress to the next phase, where contractor procurement is currently underway and on track for the larger Ward Park redevelopment
- **Portavogie 3G Pitch:** Planning approval progressing.
- **Multi Use 3G Pitch Ards Peninsula:** Design Team appointed.

#### **Outcome 7**

*Ards and North Down Borough Council is a high performing organisation*

Key achievements:

- **Cross Directorate Collaboration:** The successful ongoing initiative of the Capital Projects Advisory Group (CPAG), chaired by the Head of Strategic Capital Development, continues to enable comprehensive engagement, sharing best practice and synergy across all Council Services. CPAG facilitates the sharing of information about work at hand, and lessons learned on all current and planned Capital Works.

#### **Emerging issues:**

As part of the commitment to continuous improvement the annual Service Plan is reviewed on a monthly basis. The Service Risk register has also been reviewed to identify emerging issues and agree any actions required detailed below:

1. **Significant delays in project delivery due to challenges posed by the Procurement, Planning, Land Acquisition and Stakeholder Engagement processes e.g. legal challenges and statutory consultee responses.**

Action (Continued Mitigation)

- Preparation of appropriate project information / documentation based on a clearly defined brief and business case in line with the Structured Project Delivery as detailed in our Service Objectives and Delivery Framework.
- Applying lessons learnt to ensure the planning application prepared by the ICT contains sufficient information to satisfy potential queries posed by Statutory Consultees.
- Actively contribute to stakeholder engagement, transparent communication and community participation at an early stage.
- Review, embed and communicate governance arrangements, processes, and procedures

2. **Budget: Significant additional costs (forecast or incurred) above allocated budget with potential impact on project delivery, benefits realisation, and Value for Money.**

Action (Continued Mitigation)

- Apply internal governance procedures to monitor and report on identified issues.
- Regularly review and maintain Individual Project Risk Registers and Cost Report with regular reporting to the Project Board.
- Test investment decisions via business cases (OBC & FBC) & Implement 5 case model.
- Appropriately test Strategic Need and Economic Viability at an early stage.
- Regularly monitoring budgetary forecasts in conjunction with appointed design teams.
- Review, embed and communicate governance arrangements and incorporate lessons learnt.



4. Exemption: consultations or negotiations

3. **Unplanned need to support delivery of non-strategic capital projects impacting on delivery of strategic capital programme of works.**

Action (Continued Mitigation)

- Increase awareness by participating at forums such as CPAG. Adopt consistent approach to capital delivery across the organisation by implementing best practice and sharing lessons learned.
- Develop and maintain collaborative relationships across all Directorates to review and confirm anticipated pipeline of capital works (irrespective of scale / scope / complexity).

Identified KPI at Risk	Reasons as to why KPI has not been met	Action to be taken	Designated Officer	Date for Review
No KPI's considered at risk within H1 2024-2025				

**RECOMMENDATION**













It is recommended that the Council notes the report.

4. Exemption: consultations or negotiations

Half yearly Performance Report - Strategic Capital Development

Generated on: 06 November 2024

Last Update H1 2024/25

Performance Data Traffic Light Icon	PI Short Name	Performance Data Current Value	Performance Data Current Target
	Support the delivery of the Capital Projects Portfolio	100%	0%
	Greenways - Floodgates Park to Green Road £5m Capital Build Progress on to site	100%	0%
	Greenways - Comber to Newtownards £7m Capital Build Progress through planning, currently been in the planning system for over 5 years	95%	0%
	Design teams appointed by 31st March 2025 to take forward a number of the Bangor Waterfront redevelopment projects	75%	0%
	Whitespots Phase 1 £10m Capital Build develop planning application with appointed consutants	100%	0%
	Newtownards Citizen Hub £15m Capital Build appoint design consultants and develop deisng towards a planning application	75%	0%
	Ward Park Redevelopment £5m appoint contractor	50%	0%
	Business case completed by 31st March 2025 to increase cemetery provision within the borough	75%	0%
	% spend against budget	104.09%	100%
	% staff attendance	97.17%	93.5%
	% of completed Employee Appraisals in the period September 2023 to March 2025		
	Professional development and accreditation	2	2

#### 4. Exemption: consultations or negotiations

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