

# HAVE YOUR SAY ON CONNECTED YOUR COMMUNITY PLAN

Public Consultation Document

Consultation Open 7 October 2024 – 12 January 2025

# CONNECTED A COMMUNITY PLAN

for Armagh City Banbridge & Craigavon Borough

2017-2030

DRAFT MID POINT REVIEW

OCTOBER 2024



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# INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC CONSULTATION

## OVERVIEW

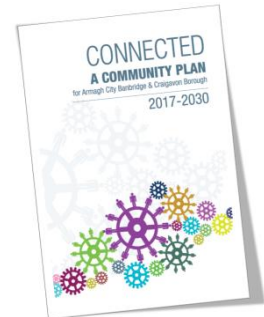
ABC Community Planning Partnership is consulting on the draft review of Connected: A Community Plan for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 2017-2030.

### What is community planning?

Community Planning is a process by which organisations who provide public services, business and voluntary groups and local communities work together to improve people's lives.

### What is a community plan?

The community plan sets out the long-term vision and ambition for the borough and is focused on how the Community Planning Partnership can improve the economic, environmental and social wellbeing of the borough.



## Connected: A Community Plan for Armagh City Banbridge Craigavon Borough 2017-2030

The first community plan for our borough, Connected, was published in April 2017 and its vision is that by 2030:

*We have a happy, healthy and connected community, a vibrant and sustainable economy and appealing places for living, working and learning.*

It contains nine long-term outcomes, arranged around the three strategic themes of Community, Economy and Place, and three cross-cutting themes of Connectivity, Equality and Sustainability.



### Have your say

We are inviting those who live, visit, work, study, invest or have an interest in the borough's future to complete the survey to give us your feedback on the Draft Reviewed Community Plan for the Borough.

*In addition to the online survey, there will be an opportunity to attend local public consultation and activity events across the borough to discuss your views on the plan. Further information can be found here <https://www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/resident/connectedreview/>*

### Why your views matter?

ABC Community Planning Partnership have considered the plan through a series of engagement sessions and one to one meetings. Details can be found in the Partnership Feedback Report listed below in the related documents section.

By taking part you will be entered into a draw to win **an activity voucher for a Council venue.**

- ◆ Overnight stay for up to 5 people in an Island Pod at Kinnego Marina, Oxford Island
- ◆ Annual pass for Gosford Park
- ◆ Market Place Theatre tickets
- ◆ Family snowtubing at Craigavon Golf and Ski (up to 6 people)
- ◆ Borough wide gym pass for 6 months

## INTRODUCTION TO THE SURVEY

The survey has been divided into five sections and respondents can complete the full survey or select a theme that is most relevant. Each section should take no more than XX minutes to complete.

<b>Section one: Community Theme</b> Outcomes – long-term aspirations Population Indicators – publicly available population statistics to measure progress towards outcomes Actions – taken forward by the community planning partnership to contribute to the long-term outcomes
<b>Section two: Economy Theme</b> Outcomes Population Indicators Actions
<b>Section three: Place Theme</b> Outcomes Population Indicators Actions
<b>Section four: Strengths and challenges in the ABC Borough</b>
<b>Section five: Impact Assessment</b> Equality Impact Assessment Rural Needs Assessment
<b>Section six: Equality Monitoring</b>

Please note only one theme can be selected at a time but you will be redirected should you wish to complete other sections.

1. The Sections under consideration in this public consultation are listed below. You can complete as many sections as you like. Please select where you would like to start:

- Section one: Community Theme
- Section two: Economy Theme
- Section three: Place Theme
- Section four: Strengths and challenges
- Section five: Equality and Rural Impact Assessments

## ABOUT YOU

1. Is this submission on behalf of an individual or an organisation/group?

Individual		Organisation	
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2. What is your name?

3. What is your email address?

4. Please provide your organisation's contact details below:

Organisation Name:

Organisation Email address:

5. Which of the following best describes the sector you work in?

- Arm's Length Body (ALB)
- Community, Voluntary and Social Enterprise
- Business
- Local Government
- Government Department
- Trade Union
- Church or faith group
- Media
- Academia
- Other: (please specify)

Other:

Does your organisation sit on ABC Community Planning Partnership?

Yes		No		Don't know	
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6. Would you like to be entered into the free prize draw?

(Required) Yes No

If yes, please enter your phone number

# FOREWORD

*Connected, A Community Plan for Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough 2017-2030* was published in 2017. It sets out the long-term vision and is the overarching plan for the borough. Its purpose is to make life better by improving social, economic and environmental wellbeing and it creates a two-way link between community plans at a local government level and any Programme for Government.

As a partnership we are proud of the plan and how we have worked together to realise its aspirations. Since the plan was published, we have formed a broad and inclusive partnership to oversee community planning in the borough and to support local collaboration. Every two years we have reported on progress towards outcomes at a population level and on delivery of our action plans through our Statements of Progress. As community planning partners we have also brought the plan back into our own organisations where it has influenced our wider work in the borough.

Our community planning partnership understands that there are ways of working that underpin the delivery of shared outcomes and a collective approach to improving wellbeing. We have focused on developing these ways of working that include practising shared leadership, involving the public in our decisions and actions and using evidence to inform our decisions. We believe that, through these ways of working we can make a real difference in the borough.

In the past we have reviewed our actions and our partnership structures but had not amended our long-term outcomes or population indicators. However, the borough has experienced the Covid-19 pandemic and continues to respond to increased demand for crisis support as a result of the current cost of living crisis. In addition, the legislative and policy context around environmental sustainability has changed. During the pandemic the partnership's priorities for collaboration also changed. Although much of the ambition and measurements in *Connected* remain relevant, we decided that, given these events, the time was right to revisit the plan as some changes were likely to be necessary.

This draft reviewed version of *Connected* is the result of a series of workshops and conversations across statutory community and voluntary and business partners. 105 people from 32 organisations from the wider community planning partnership took part. This draft is also informed by a review of statistics relating to poverty, mental health, environmental sustainability and equality. I would like to thank all partners who have enthusiastically taken part in this stage of the review and the Community Planning Team in the Council who have supported the process.

It is important that the plan fulfils the needs and ambitions of the people who live in the borough and over the next few months we will be listening to the people this plan is intended to benefit. We will be asking if the long-term aspirations are the right ones, but also what you would like to see happening on the ground to deliver your community plan. We are operating in a challenging financial climate in the public sector and, now more than ever, it is important that we are maximising the use of our collective resources. With this in mind, we will consider the regional initiatives that are relevant to the community plan and we will welcome the opportunity to play our part in a Programme for Government.

Colette Rogers,  
Head of Health and Social Wellbeing Improvement (South), Public Health Agency  
Chair of ABC Community Planning Partnership

# OUR 2030 VISION

We have a happy, healthy and connected community, a vibrant and sustainable economy and appealing places for living, working and learning.

As partners we are all committed to our vision for the borough. It is our aspiration to deliver on this vision through ongoing collaboration, review, development and delivery of more integrated people-centred public services. To help us achieve this we have agreed nine joint long-term outcomes. We hope our revised outcomes will continue to help us streamline the complexity of aligning a wide range of local priorities with those existing and emerging regionally.

We recognise that managing the relationship between national and local priorities is important. Delivering better outcomes for our borough relies on the interaction between and across these priorities. While an individual partner may lead on a particular outcome or action, success will depend on collective commitment and responsibility.

Our vision and outcomes have been developed through an ongoing period of data gathering, engagement and consultation. In this first review of Connected, we are proposing changes that would result in two new outcomes relating to an inclusive economy and environmental sustainability.

Further information on the review process is available to view at

<https://www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/resident/connectedreview/>

With the continued commitment of all partners, the support and engagement of local people and key stakeholders across the public, business and community and voluntary sectors we can make our 2030 vision a reality.

# OUR PLAN ON A PAGE





# CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

AT THE HEART OF EVERYTHING WE DO ARE OUR THREE CROSS-CUTTING THEMES:

## CONNECTIVITY

We believe connectivity is integral to improving quality of life. Through our plan we will work to transform and connect all areas of our borough physically, digitally and socially through shared collaborative approaches.

## EQUALITY

We are committed to promoting equality, good relations and inclusion and believe them to be central to improving quality of life for everyone. A peaceful and inclusive society is vital to ensuring that we have a welcoming, confident and safe community. As part of the review process we have updated our Equality Impact Assessment on our plan, considering the needs of section 75 categories<sup>1</sup>. The updated Equality Impact Assessment is available on our website.

## SUSTAINABILITY

We will work to improve everyone's quality of life economically, environmentally and socially, without compromising our future generation's ability to develop, grow and flourish. As part of the review of the plan we are also proposing the inclusion of an outcome on environmental sustainability under the Place theme.

Our cross-cutting themes have been central to the review of the community plan and we have considered how they can be strengthened. We have done this by suggesting changes to our outcomes and population indicators and will continue to ensure that they are central to our actions. We welcome the opportunity to consult on how we have embedded our cross cutting themes as part of this review process.

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<sup>1</sup> Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 requires public authorities to comply with two statutory duties. The first duty is the Equality of Opportunity duty, which requires public authorities in carrying out their functions relating to Northern Ireland to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between the nine equality categories of persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation; men and women generally; persons with a disability and persons without; and persons with dependants and persons without.

The second duty, the Good Relations duty, requires that public authorities in carrying out their functions relating to Northern Ireland have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion and racial group.

# OUR NINE OUTCOMES

Our nine outcomes are the core of our plan. They set out what we hope to achieve, why we believe it is important and how we will know if we are succeeding. They do not sit in isolation, they are closely linked and in places overlap with one another. Our nine outcomes are presented in the following pages. Each of the nine outcomes details:

## LONG-TERM OUTCOME

Our outcomes are about the wellbeing of people in our borough. The long-term outcome is our aspiration for the conditions all people in our borough will live in by 2030.

### INDICATORS

Our indicators will help us quantify our success. They are how we will recognise that we are achieving our outcomes. Our indicators, like our outcomes, are about the whole population. Our action plan contains performance measures and these will be updated as part of the review.

### THE STORY BEHIND THE OUTCOME

For each outcome we have included some information about why we believe this outcome is important, the current situation, what has been delivered to date and the types of actions that might be taken forward as we review our action plan.

### KEY STATISTICS

This section highlights a few of the most relevant statistics for each outcome.

# SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO OUTCOMES AND INDICATORS

Text in green reflect changes made.

OUTCOME	POPULATION INDICATORS
<b>COMMUNITY</b>	
<p><b>Connected Community:</b> Everyone has opportunities to <b>contribute to</b> community life and shape decisions – we have a strong sense of community belonging and take pride in our area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Percentage of people who feel that they have an influence when it comes to any of the local decisions made in their neighbourhood.</li> <li>▪ Percentage of people who feel a sense of belonging to their neighbourhood.</li> <li>▪ <b>Percentage of people who feel lonely at least some of the time (new indicator).</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Healthy Community:</b> People are making positive lifestyle choices. They are more resilient and better equipped to cope with life’s challenges.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Preventable deaths per 100,000 population.</li> <li>▪ Gap in life expectancy between the most deprived areas and the borough overall.</li> <li>▪ Percentage of people who participate in sport or physical activity on at least one day a week.</li> <li>▪ <b>Prescription rate for medication for mood and anxiety disorders (new indicator).</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Welcoming Community:</b> Our borough is a safe, <b>inclusive,</b> respectful and peaceful place.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Percentage of people reporting that fear of crime has a minimal impact on their quality of life.</li> <li>▪ Number of accidental dwelling fires.</li> <li>▪ <b>Number of hate motivated incidents (new indicator).</b></li> <li>▪ (Percentage of people see town centres as safe welcoming places for people of all walks of life moved to Place).</li> </ul>

OUTCOME	POPULATION INDICATORS
<b>ECONOMY</b>	
<p><b>Enterprising Economy:</b> Our borough is a centre of excellence for entrepreneurship, innovation and investment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Business birth rate.</li> <li>▪ Survival rate of newly born businesses.</li> <li>▪ Productivity – Gross Value Added (GVA) per hour worked (new indicator).</li> <li>▪ (Number of VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses – removed and replaced with productivity).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Inclusive Economy:</b> Everyone has a decent minimum living standard (new outcome).</p> <p><b>(Tourism Economy</b> Our borough is a destination of choice for international visitors, replaced by Inclusive Economy)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Percentage of children living in low-income households (new indicator).</li> <li>▪ Employment gap for disability (new indicator).</li> <li>▪ Gross Domestic Household Income (new indicator).</li> <li>▪ (Number of overnight trips made by visitors from outside Northern Ireland moved to Place)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Skilled Economy:</b> People are better equipped to take full advantage of the opportunities provided by the dynamic economy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The proportion of the workforce in employment qualified to level 1 and above, level 2 and above, level 3 and above, and level 4 and above</li> <li>▪ Employment rate (age 16-64)</li> <li>▪ GCSE attainment levels for students entitled to free school meals (new indicator)</li> </ul>

OUTCOME	POPULATION INDICATORS
<b>PLACE</b>	
<p><b>Creative Place:</b> Our borough is an inspirational and creative place offering quality, inclusive arts, cultural and heritage experiences.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Percentage of people (aged 16+) engaging with arts/cultural activities in the past year</li> <li>▪ Number of heritage at risk saved (moved from Enhanced Place)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Revitalised Place</b> Our distinctive, <b>inclusive</b> and vibrant urban and rural places are at the heart of community and economic life.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Level of social housing need</li> <li>▪ City and town centre vacancy rates</li> <li>▪ Percentage of people who see town centres as safe welcoming places for people of all walks of life (moved from Welcoming Community)</li> <li>▪ Number of overnight trips made by visitors from outside Northern Ireland (moved from Tourism Economy).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sustainable Place:</b> We value and protect our climate, biodiversity and natural assets. People understand the need to mitigate and adapt to climate change and our borough is on track to become net zero by 2050.</p> <p><b>(Enhanced Place:</b> Our rich and varied built heritage and natural assets are protected, enhanced and expanded for current and future generations to enjoy replaced by Sustainable Place).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Household concern for the environment (new indicator).</li> <li>▪ River Quality – Soluble Reactive Phosphorus (SRP) in rivers (new indicator).</li> <li>▪ Per capita Greenhouse Gas Emissions (new indicator).</li> <li>▪ (Number of heritage at risk saved - moved to Creative Place)</li> <li>▪ (Number of high quality parks/green spaces – removed and replaced with river quality).</li> </ul>

# COMMUNITY

## SECTION ONE: COMMUNITY THEME

Under the community theme there are three long-term outcomes:

- Connected Community
- Healthy Community
- Welcoming Community

In this section the partnership is proposing changes to two outcomes and the introduction of new indicators.  
**All changes are displayed underline and in bold.**

This section should take approximately 5 mins to complete.

# CONNECTED COMMUNITY

## ORIGINAL OUTCOME STATEMENT

Confident Community: Everyone has opportunities to engage in community life and shape decisions – we have a strong sense of community belonging and take pride in our area.

## SUGGESTED CHANGE TO OUTCOME:

**Connected Community:** Everyone has opportunities to **contribute to** community life and shape decisions – we have a strong sense of community belonging and take pride in our area.

## INDICATORS

- Percentage of people feel that they have an influence when it comes to any of the local decisions made in their neighbourhood.<sup>2</sup>
- Percentage of people feel a sense of belonging to their neighbourhood.<sup>3</sup>
- **Percentage of people who feel lonely at least some of the time<sup>4</sup> (new indicator)**

## THE STORY BEHIND THE OUTCOME

Strong, active and connected communities are an integral part of a happy and inclusive borough. They provide the foundations on which a thriving economy can be built and provide an environment within which people can lead fulfilling lives. An engaged and participative community is both innovative and resilient. It builds and supports networks, ventures and connections that help bring people together.

There is a rich and vibrant Community, Voluntary and Social Enterprise Sector across our borough. The sector organisations often fill gaps in service provision that may not be addressed by statutory agencies and play a key role in helping to address disadvantage and isolation in strong and dynamic communities by providing links to services and support. The sectors response to Covid was phenomenal responding to the crisis whilst strengthening communities. Unfortunately, after Covid many groups lost volunteers who haven't returned. Lack of funding and short-term budget cycles have compounded groups struggles so there is a greater need to support our CVS sectors in succession planning and capacity building.

Involving communities in decisions is important to our partners and for this reason the partnership has embedded public participation in decision making into its plans, strategies and governance structures. We believe that by increasing the opportunities that our residents and other stakeholders have to co-design and provide feedback on public services and their own wellbeing is essential to deliver the services that the public need and want. Tak£500+ the partnerships Participatory Budgeting programme has directed spend in local community led projects to address public health.

We are hearing that loneliness and social isolation is on the increase and our partners have told us that it is not just older people who may be lonely, and it is important to look across all age profiles and how services can be developed to be inclusive for everyone.

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<sup>2</sup> Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey (ARK)

<sup>3</sup> Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey (ARK)

<sup>4</sup> Continuous Household Survey (CHS), NISRA

The borough benefits from a well established Community and Voluntary Sector Panel bringing together over 60 groups and providing a voice for the sector locally and supporting many smaller community and voluntary groups to deliver much needed and valued community activities and services.

The partnership remains committed to creating opportunities for young people to take part in local decisions that are meaningful to them and recruitment for ABC Youth Voice is being undertaken. The Youth Voice aims to bring together distinct ideas opinions and knowledge from young people across our borough.

Through the panel and other networks including ABC Age Friendly Alliance and the Loneliness Network there are opportunities for organisations involved to share best practice and learning across the sector, both within the borough and beyond. Many people aspire to improve their own quality of life, and that of their neighbours. Therefore, we want to encourage civic mindedness across the borough and increase strong feelings of community spirit and belonging.

We recognise how issues such as clean, litter free streets, adequate parking etc. can impact on people's quality of life and are important in building pride in our area. It is important that people feel they have influence regarding decisions affecting their area and lives. We have a responsibility to nurture this, to understand our community's needs, to provide opportunities to engage and to support self-reliance and resilience. Valuing, encouraging and supporting volunteering and the community and voluntary sectors locally are important elements of this.

The Partnership through its place shaping agenda will continue to involve local people in planning their local area. To date 2069 people have been involved in the development of Place Plans for Armagh, Banbridge and Dromore. Further Place Plans for Craigavon, Lurgan and Portadown will be developed with local people.

## KEY STATISTICS

- 84% feel a sense of belonging to their neighbourhood compared to 82% in NI (2020-22)
- 19% feel they have an influence on local decisions made in their neighbourhood compared to 20% in NI (2020-22)
- Since 2020, 327 projects have been presented for a public vote, 12,660 voters aged 8 and over have directed spend in community led projects with 254 projects being funded totalling an investment of £213,943.32 being allocated.
- 2069 people engaged in placeshaping process<sup>5</sup>
- 21% of individuals carried out voluntary work within the last 12 months in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon which was the same for NI overall (2022/23)
- 22% of people aged 16+ reporting feeling lonely at least some of the time in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon compared to 19.4% in NI overall (2022/23)

**The percentage of people aged 16+ feeling lonely at least some of the time is available by age group for Northern Ireland overall:**

Age Group	% of people aged 16+ who felt lonely at least some of the time
16-24	18.4%
25-34	20.7%
35-44	17.0%
45-54	17.8%
55-64	20.9%
65-74	18.7%
75+	22.6%

<sup>5</sup> To date 2069 people have been involved in the development of Place Plans for Armagh, Banbridge and Dromore.



# HEALTHY COMMUNITY

## LONG-TERM OUTCOME:

People are making positive lifestyle choices. They are more resilient and better equipped to cope with life's challenges.

### INDICATORS

- Number of preventable deaths per 100,000 population (age standardised preventable mortality rate)<sup>6</sup>
- Gap in life expectancy between the most deprived areas and the borough overall<sup>7</sup>
- Percentage of people who participate in sport or physical activity on at least one day per week<sup>8</sup>
- **Number people prescribed medication for mood and anxiety disorders per 1,000 population<sup>9</sup>(new indicator)**

### THE STORY BEHIND THE OUTCOME

It is our aspiration that everyone is able to achieve the longest, healthiest and most fulfilling life possible. There are several factors that determine our health. Our lifestyles and health behaviours play an important role and there is growing recognition of the impact of the places and communities we live in on our health<sup>10</sup>. However, there is consensus that the wider determinants of health, such as having a good job, a good standard of housing and education make the biggest difference to our health outcomes.<sup>11</sup>

The fact that we have an increasing and ageing population is well documented and not specific to this borough. However, we have seen a higher than average population increase in recent years (9.5% in the Borough compared to 5.1% in NI 2011- 2021). While a growing population is positive for our social and economic wellbeing, it will impact upon local projected health and social care needs.

Covid-19 has impacted our health and our health system. Many people in the borough lost loved ones during the pandemic and we are hearing anecdotally that some have experienced long covid or the disease has compounded existing health conditions. Across Northern Ireland we saw a heroic effort by our health and social care services to respond to the pandemic as it unfolded and those services are still recovering, while facing yet more challenges such as a difficult financial climate for our public sector and meeting the needs of our ageing population.

Our health population indicators show no improvement in health inequalities or preventable deaths since our Community Plan was published. This is not surprising given the last few years. We know that poverty has a negative impact on our health<sup>12</sup>. Inequality gaps remain within the borough, as evidenced by different rates for life expectancy, hospital admissions for self-harm, drugs and alcohol and deaths due to drug and alcohol related causes.

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<sup>6&7</sup> Northern Ireland Health Inequalities Annual Report, Department of Health

<sup>8</sup> Continuous Household Survey, Department for Communities

<sup>9</sup> Northern Ireland Health Inequalities Annual Report, Department of Health

<sup>10</sup> King's Fund, 2018, A Vision for Population Health: Towards a Healthier Future

<sup>11</sup> Ibid

<sup>12</sup> King's Fund, 2024, Illustrating the relationship between poverty and NHS services

We know that our borough has similar rates of suicide to Northern Ireland overall, as well as comparable levels of drug and alcohol problems. However, these figures may mask more localised issues in certain parts of the borough. Partners are reporting a strong link between addiction and poor mental wellbeing. During and after the pandemic, mental health has consistently been the priority issue identified by partners and communities. We are hearing about increased levels of anxiety and loneliness, including among children and young people. Currently just over one in five people locally are prescribed medication for mood and anxiety disorders and this rate rises to more than one in four people in the most deprived areas in the borough.

However, we are seeing improvements in some of our health behaviours in the borough. We are seeing an increase in levels of physical activity, and the percentage of people in the borough who take part in sport at least one day a week has increased to 57%, now more than the Northern Ireland average. We know that regular exercise improves our physical and mental health and can lower the risk of developing long-term conditions such as heart disease, type 2 diabetes and stroke. These statistics are encouraging for our partnership as we have worked hard through our Get Moving Framework to increase levels of physical activity locally.

We want our borough to be one where people of all ages can live healthy and active lives and where everyone is treated with respect, regardless of their age. Our Age Friendly Strategy will help us to manage the challenges and unlock the potential of our ageing population. We will continue to deliver this strategy to ensure that an age friendly ethos is built into all our actions.

We will continue to act as a focal point for a range of health-related actions that will benefit everyone. Our hope is that the momentum we have generated around the Take 5 public health message through initiatives to address loneliness, support volunteering, promote physical activity and support communities to embed the practice of Take 5 will empower more people to improve and maintain their individual wellbeing. We also recognise that our actions on the themes of anti-poverty, place and community engagement will contribute to this outcome through their impact on the wider determinants of health. The roll out of a new Integrated Care System for Northern Ireland will present additional opportunities to join up our efforts to improve health and wellbeing, including to address health inequalities.

## KEY STATISTICS

- There were 163 preventable deaths per 100,000 population in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough for the combined years 2018-22 (263 per 100,000 in deprived areas in the Borough and 179 per 100,000 in NI overall)
- The gap in life expectancy between females living in the most deprived areas and the borough overall increased from 1 year in 2012-2014 to 1.2 years in 2020-2022. (Female Life Expectancy: ABC 82.8; ABC Deprived 81.6 and NI 82.3)
- The gap in life expectancy between males living in the most deprived areas and the borough overall has fallen slightly from 3.3 years in 2012-2014 to 2.9 years in 2020-2022. (Male Life Expectancy: ABC 78.8; ABC Deprived 75.9 and NI 78.4)
- 57% of people participate in sport on at least one day per week compared to 52% in NI overall (2019/20)
- 216 people per 1,000 population in the Borough are prescribed medication for mood and anxiety disorders (2022) (263 per 1,000 in deprived areas of the Borough and 225 in NI overall)

### Healthy Lifestyles

#### Diet & Nutrition – meeting ‘5 a day’ guideline

48% SHSCT 2021/22

44% NI 2021/22

#### Cigarette Smoking – current smoker

15% SHSCT 2021/22

17% NI 2021/22

**Adult Obesity** (question not asked in 20/21 or 21/22)

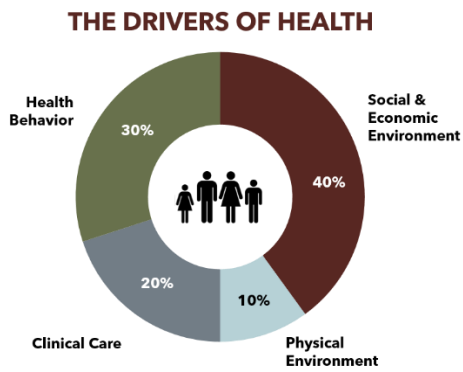
38% SHSCT 2019/20

38% NI 2019/20

**Physical Activity – meeting recommended levels** (question not asked since 2016/17)

58% SHSCT 2016/17

57% NI 2016/17



<https://www.sycamoreinstitutetn.org/tn-health-well-being-index/>

# WELCOMING COMMUNITY

## ORIGINAL OUTCOME STATEMENT

Welcoming Community: Our borough is a safe, respectful and peaceful environment.

## SUGGESTED CHANGE TO OUTCOME:

Welcoming Community: Our Borough is a safe, inclusive, respectful and peaceful place.

### INDICATORS

- Percentage of people reporting that fear of crime has a minimal impact on their quality of life<sup>13</sup>
- Number of accidental dwelling fires<sup>14</sup>
- **Number of hate motivated incidents<sup>15</sup>(new indicator)**
- **(Percentage of people see town centres as safe welcoming places for people of all walks of life moved to the Place theme).**

### THE STORY BEHIND THE OUTCOME

Creating a safe, respectful, inclusive and peaceful borough which welcomes people from all backgrounds involves a collaborative approach. Working together to ensure that our residents feel part of their community, enabling them to feel happy, healthy and connected.

Our partnership believes that inclusivity should be at the core of this outcome. Our society has become more diverse, with increasing positive interaction between people from different racial, religious and cultural backgrounds. We want our borough to be one that values the differences in people and recognises that people with different backgrounds, skills, attitudes and experiences bring fresh ideas and perceptions.

Since 2015/16 we have seen a 4% increase in people who felt fear of crime has a minimal effect on their quality of life which is testament to the work of the Policing and Community Partnership (PCSP). Accidental dwelling fires in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough has decreased and this could be attributed to several factors such as increased installation of smoke alarms, public safety campaigns, increasing numbers of home safety checks, community outreach programmes and information sessions.

Anti-social behaviour and in particular drug and alcohol abuse continue to feature as an issue of concern in our community. The provision of rapid bins to dispose of unwanted medication has continued in the borough with the PCSP and drug and alcohol awareness programmes have been well attended and will continue to be delivered through schools and youth groups.

In our society we want to see all our population indicators showing a positive change. We hope that this shift will happen through the existing work taking place and through new initiatives such as the PEACEPLUS programme, DfC's People and Place Strategy and will be strengthened by a new Programme for Government. Collaborative work is already ongoing to address integration through Community Partnerships, Community Development and the Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) through enhanced community policing and engagement that will offer education, engagement and integration programmes.

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<sup>13</sup> NI Crime Survey, Department of Justice

<sup>14</sup> Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue

<sup>15</sup> Police Service of Northern Ireland Statistics

Hate motivated incidents in the Borough have increased from 149 in 2010/11 to 289 in 2022/23. Targeted programmes aimed at lowering the number of hate motivated incidents will come through a multi-agency approach. We want our residents to have the opportunity to promote and encourage mutual respect and understanding between all communities.

We need to ensure that people feel safe both within their own homes and within their community. Rising numbers of cases of violence against women and girls has led to a Northern Ireland Executive Strategy to End Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) to be developed. We hope that by working together, we can decrease these number and bring about the change that is needed to end violence against women and girls.

Creating a welcoming community for all in our borough involves fostering an environment where everyone feels valued, respected and feels that they belong to and are proud of their community. Through all the Cross-cutting themes in our community plan though in particular through connectivity and equality we will strive to promote inclusivity, celebrate and appreciate diversity, encourage participation and volunteering opportunities, meaningfully engage and educate, support integration, connect people and communities and strive to make our borough a safe, respectful, inclusive and peaceful place to live and visit.

## **KEY STATISTICS**

- 73% of people in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough reported that fear of crime has a minimal impact on their quality of life, this was the same in NI overall (2021/22)
- Total of 70 accidental dwelling fires in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough in 2023 which equates to 9.7% of the 728 recorded in NI overall.
- There were a total of 289 hate motivated incidents in the Borough in 2022/23 which accounted for 9.2% of the 3,151 recorded in NI overall.

## **Domestic Abuse**

2,241 domestic abuse crimes in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough in 2022/23 which accounts for 10% of the 22,343 recorded in NI.

(3,541 incidents with a domestic abuse motivation in ABC in 2022/23 (10.8% of NI (32,875))

## COMMUNITY CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

### Connected Community

**1. Do you agree to the changes proposed to the Connected Community outcome statement?**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Don't know
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**2. Do you agree that the partnership should use these indicators to measure progress towards the Connected Community Outcome?**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Don't know
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**3. Please use the space below to add any further comments on the Connected Community Outcome.**

### Healthy Community

**4. Do you agree with the Healthy Community outcome statement?**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Don't know
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**5. Do you agree that the partnership should use these indicators to measure progress towards the Healthy Community Outcome?**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Don't know
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**6. Please use the space below to add any further comments on the Healthy Community Outcome.**

## Welcoming Community

### 7. Do you agree to the changes proposed to the Welcoming Community outcome statement?

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Don't know
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

### 8. Do you agree that the partnership should use these indicators to measure progress towards the Welcoming Community Outcome?

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Don't know
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

### 9. Please use the space below to add any further comments on the Welcoming Community Outcome.

## Partnership Actions

The partnership will review its actions as part of the review of the community plan. Our current action plan is the [Covid-19 Response and Recovery Plan](#) which contains 21 shared actions. These actions are cross-cutting and may contribute to more than one theme in the community plan.



Partnership Actions that contribute to the **Community Theme:**

### **Promoting Good Mental Health & Wellbeing**

- Develop and promote the Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing public health message and mental health first aid resources and projects
- Deliver Get Moving ABC Framework with the goal of becoming the most physically active council area
- Promote, champion and sustain Volunteering
- Support and grow the Loneliness Network
- Promote self-care of staff and volunteers within the CVSE sector.

### **Tackling Poverty & Social Exclusion**

- Emergency Need: Continue to provide food, energy and wraparound support to people experiencing poverty
- Housing: Enhance mix of tenure, and improve accessibility and affordability across the Borough's Housing
- Age Friendly Borough: Create a Borough that is welcoming, accessible and friendly borough for people of all ages
- Local co-design process to feed into the review of the Department for Communities' People & Place Strategy
- PEACEPLUS: Delivery of the ABC Community PEACE action plan

**Place**

- Continue to roll out [Place Plans](#) in urban areas across the Borough

**Shared Leadership & Community Engagement**

- Tak£500+ Participatory Budgeting programme
- Embed the Partnership's agreed actions and standard for public involvement in decision making through its Community Engagement Strategy
- Support the Community and Voluntary Sector Panel

**10. Do you agree with these actions?**

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Don't know
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

**11. Are there any actions missing?**

- Yes
- No

If yes, please use space to add in any suggestions you have:

**12. Please provide any other comments you have in relation to the Community Theme?**

**13. Would you like to:**

- Continue to the Economy Theme
- Continue to the Place Theme
- Move to the Strengths and Challenges in the ABC Borough



# ECONOMY

## SECTION TWO: ECONOMY THEME

Under the Economy theme there are three long-term outcomes:

- Enterprising Economy
- Inclusive Economy
- Skilled Economy

In this section the partnership is proposing to make changes to two of its outcomes. Inclusive Economy is a new outcome and has replaced Tourism Economy in the plan. This change reflects the fact that tackling poverty is one of the partnership's priorities for action. The Tourism Economy along with the indicator number of overnight trips is now reflected in our Place theme. Other changes in this section relate to our population indicators. **All changes are displayed underline and in bold.**

This section should take approximately 5 mins to complete.

# ENTERPRISING ECONOMY

## ORIGINAL OUTCOME STATEMENT

ENTERPRISING ECONOMY: Our borough is a centre of excellence for entrepreneurship, innovation and investment.

## SUGGESTED CHANGE TO OUTCOME:

Enterprising Economy: Our borough is a productive centre of excellence for entrepreneurship, innovation and investment.

## POPULATION INDICATORS

- Business birth rates<sup>16</sup>.
- Survival rates of newly born businesses<sup>17</sup>.
- **Productivity – Gross Value Added (GVA) per hour worked<sup>18</sup>.**
- **(Number of VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses – removed and replaced with productivity).**

## THE STORY BEHIND THE OUTCOME

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough is a thriving entrepreneurial area with more than 9,300 VAT and /or PAYE registered businesses. The Borough has a business birth rate of 9%, the second highest after Belfast and above the Northern Ireland average. Recent estimates show that almost 92% of businesses survived their first year in business with just less than half of all businesses surviving 5 years in business. Generating GVA of £4.3bn in 2021, the Borough accounts for 9.4% of Northern Ireland's total GVA.

With significant strengths identified in sectors such as life sciences and manufacturing, construction and transport and logistics, the Borough is also recognised as the food producing heartland<sup>19</sup> of Northern Ireland which now spans from 'field to fork' with farmers, producers, suppliers and restaurateurs all showcasing the strong local agri-food industry on a global platform. Our Borough is home to some of Northern Ireland's most successful companies and largest employers including Moy Park, Almac Group, Tayto Group, Kingspan Water & Energy, Clearway Disposals, James E McCabe and Gordons Chemist (N&R Gordon).

Part of the appeal for these businesses will be our geographic position along the Dublin – Belfast Economic Corridor (DBEC) which is Ireland's most sought-after investment destination. As one of eight Council areas that make up the DBEC, the Borough is strategically positioned in a centralised location where it enjoys a unique natural co-dependency with the Republic of Ireland in trade and investment, tourism and labour<sup>20</sup>.

In collaboration with Fermanagh and Omagh and Mid Ulster, the three areas form the Mid South West (MSW) Region which continues to be a major driver of the Northern Ireland economy with increasing shares of Northern Ireland's working population and increasing GVA. The Regional Economic Strategy aims to transform the MSW region's economy and boost productivity and the MSW growth deal will bring opportunities with business cases being developed for investment including reinvigoration in Armagh Gaol, Green Energy District in Carn - Seagoe and an Agri Bio Innovation Centre.

<sup>16</sup> Interdepartmental Business Register (IDBR), NISRA

<sup>17</sup> Interdepartmental Business Register (IDBR), NISRA

<sup>18</sup> Subregional productivity in the UK, Office for National Statistics (ONS)

<sup>19</sup> [Invest | Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council | Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor \(dbec.info\)](#)

<sup>20</sup> [Our Region - Mid South West Economic Engine \(midsouthwestregion.org\)](#)

While we are fortunate to have many strengths, there are a number of challenges that need to be addressed to ensure our Borough is able to continue to thrive. Productivity levels are lower than the Northern Ireland region and among the lowest in the UK. Productivity and Inclusive Growth was a key challenge identified throughout our consultation exercises as this is not only a means of boosting economic growth but is key to improving and sustaining peoples living standards over time which is particularly important given the current cost of living crisis. A recent report by the Productivity Institute, reported that "if growth is not inclusive, with the ultimate goals of well-being and sustainability, the UK's ambition of raising productivity will fail." <sup>21</sup> Improving productivity is also a key ambition of the Ministers Economic Vision<sup>22</sup>.

Another identified challenge is a need to provide more and better-paid jobs. In 2022, the Borough had an unemployment rate of 2.8%, the third highest of the eleven LGDs and above the Northern Ireland average of 2.3%. The partnership is working with local educational institutions to ensure training programmes and vocational courses are available in growth areas would enhance the employability of residents while promoting and encouraging entrepreneurship would help stimulate job creation and increase and sustain economic growth. With average earnings in Northern Ireland 8% below the UK average and the Borough still below the Northern Ireland average, a more competitive wage will also help to attract and retain employees in the Borough.

The business sector in the Borough is supported by the Business Partnership Alliance (BPA). A business led partnership providing a business support network for local businesses in both rural and urban locations across the Borough, giving them a strong voice to ensure local businesses are heard at all levels of government. A local Labour Market Partnership also support local people to have the skills, information, support and opportunities to succeed.

With green innovation, sustainability, productivity and connectivity identified as the cornerstone of economic growth we will continue to seek investment in these areas through opportunities including MSW, DBEC and others such as the Digital Transformation Fund. We will also continue to lobby for much-needed connectivity improvements in road and rail infrastructure across the Borough where it remains somewhat underdeveloped.

## KEY STATISTICS

- Business birth rates currently 9% in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough compared to 8.3% in NI overall (2022).
- The 5-year survival rates of newly born businesses (born in 2017) was 49% in 2022 which was equal to the NI average
- Gross Value Added (GVA) per hour worked (2021) estimated at £29.17 in the Borough compared to £32.96 in NI overall.

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<sup>21</sup> [TPI-Agenda-for-Productivity-2023-FINAL.pdf](#)

<sup>22</sup> The 10X strategy is a concept that embraces innovation to deliver a ten times (10X) better economy with benefits for all the people of Northern Ireland.

# **INCLUSIVE ECONOMY**

## **SUGGESTED NEW OUTCOME:**

**Everyone has a decent minimum living standard.**

### **INDICATORS:**

- Percentage of children (aged under 16) living in relative low-income families<sup>23</sup>
- Gap in the employment rate for people with disabilities<sup>24</sup>
- Gross domestic household income per head<sup>25</sup>

### **THE STORY BEHIND THE OUTCOME**

We believe that everyone who lives in the borough should have a decent minimum living standard. This means having enough money to pay for housing, food, household bills and other necessities.

However, we are deeply concerned about the levels of poverty in the borough. Over the past few years our partner crisis charities and advice services have been seeing increasing numbers of people who are unable to cover basic costs and are having to make difficult choices for their families of whether to 'heat or eat'. In 2023-2024 almost 14,000 people received food support and over 6,000 people benefited from support with fuel bills through the partnership.

Having a job is not always a protective factor. Food banks and other charities are seeing a significant number of people who are in employment, as low wages and insufficient working hours fuelled by zero hours contracts mean that they are unable to afford life's basics. Since 2021 the cost of living crisis has exacerbated poverty in our borough as prices have been increasing much faster than incomes. More people are renting their home from private landlords. Rents are becoming less affordable and supply of private rental accommodation is not keeping pace with the demand for housing. More people are presenting as homeless and partners are telling us how financial hardship is having a detrimental effect on people's physical and mental health and wellbeing.

There are groups who also face additional barriers to employment and who are disproportionately affected by the current economic situation. During our engagement to date we are hearing that the prohibitive cost of childcare is impacting on families, and especially women, preventing them from working or increasing their hours. There is an employment gap for people with a disability in the borough. Currently 40% of people with a disability are employed, and although this has been increasing over the past few years, there is still a significant gap between the percentage of people without a disability who have access to the labour market. Community and voluntary organisations are seeing increasing numbers of people coming to live in the borough from other countries, some of whom are facing additional barriers to accessing good work and education because of issues such as language barriers.

There is a rich and vibrant Community, Voluntary and Social Enterprise Sector in the borough. These organisations operate through a combination of funding and income generation to fulfil their social purpose. They attract government, philanthropic and private investment into the borough, employ a significant number of people and provide volunteering and training. However, there have been growing pressures on these services due to insecurity of funding and a lack of volunteers.

Our partnership prioritised tackling poverty and social exclusion in its Covid-19 Response & Recovery Plan. Building on the response to the pandemic, partners have achieved a high level of integration in the provision of food, fuel and wrap around support to people experiencing financial hardship. Local businesses have made an important contribution through donations of food and drink. This response has been highly effective

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<sup>23</sup> Children in low income families: local area statistics, Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)

<sup>24</sup> Local Labour Market Insight Dashboard, Department for Communities, Northern Ireland.

<sup>25</sup> Regional gross disposable household income, Office for National Statistics (ONS)

in maximising the use of available resources, but we believe that the hardship we are seeing should be prevented. Using the learning from our joined-up approach to crisis support, we will focus our future efforts on a more strategic course of action. This may involve seeking to influence the decisions of other layers of government.

Partners are already moving towards a more preventative approach to poverty. There are already four social supermarkets in the borough and we will explore how we can work together to maximise the impact of social value procurement and the jobs we provide locally. We need to understand poverty in the borough through lived experience.

Our Labour Market Partnership will continue to target its interventions to those groups with the most barriers to support them to fulfil their potential and achieve their goals.

We will continue to work together to increase the supply of mixed tenure affordable housing and on a coordinated approach to addressing homelessness. As a partnership we will work to ensure that externally funded programmes such as PEACE PLUS, the revised People & Place Strategy and others contribute to the realisation of this outcome for an inclusive economy.

## KEY STATISTICS

- 19.4% of children living in relative low-income households which is just slightly lower than the average of 19.5% for NI (2023)
- The disability employment gap was estimated at 44.4 percentage points in 2022, 2 percentage points higher than the NI gap (42.4 percentage points)
- Gross Domestic Household Income per head of population estimated at £17,216 compared to £17,636 in NI (2021)

# SKILLED ECONOMY

## LONG-TERM OUTCOME

People are better equipped to take full advantage of the opportunities provided by the dynamic economy.

### INDICATORS

- Percentage of the workforce in employment qualified to below level 2 and above, level 2 and above, level 3 and above, and level 4 and above<sup>26</sup>.
- Employment rate (age 16-64)<sup>27</sup>.
- GCSE attainment levels for students entitled to free school meals (FSME).<sup>28</sup>

### THE STORY BEHIND THE OUTCOME

It is our ambition to have a thriving and prosperous economy underpinned by the skills base of local people. The borough benefits from a diverse range of quality and accessible educational and training provision, dedicated staff and excellent relationships with a range of voluntary and community based groups, services and facilities that promote and support lifelong learning and advancement. Continuing investment in further education campuses across the borough will serve schools, students, employers and the community and will significantly transform the further education infrastructure as it provides the southern region with modern first class facilities.

However, statistics illustrate that employee wages are slightly lower in the borough, than in Northern Ireland as a whole, both for those employees who work in the area and those who live in the area. Furthermore, the proportion of our young people leaving school with 5 or more GCSEs at grade C and above (including English and Maths) is now more than 4 percentage points lower than the Northern Ireland average, while the attainment rate for FSME students in the borough is 7 percentage points below the Northern Ireland average. Just 49.5% of students in the Borough achieved 5+ GCSEs grades A\*-C including English and Maths in 2022/23, a fall of almost 9 percentage points since 2021/22.

The proportion of the workforce in employment and qualified to all levels has improved greatly since 2017 and the largest increase has been in the proportion of the workforce in employment and qualified to level 4 and above, however, this still remains below the NI average. The employment rate in the Borough in 2023 was 76.6% which is an increase of 1.4 percentage points in 2022 and 3 percentage points above the Northern Ireland average of 73.6%.

Engagement sessions have revealed skills shortages and mismatches within specific sectors and the economically inactive are facing barriers to work including lack of childcare, skills gaps or having a disability. Those migrating into our communities are contributing to the economy in many ways, though some are working in poorly paid jobs and less skilled jobs despite being over skilled and need support to progress. The ABC Labour Market Partnership has continued to run interventions supporting women from economically inactive to employment and worked with businesses to encourage flexible working arrangements to encourage more females back into the workplace.

A vibrant economy is characterized by innovation and high levels of employment and productivity and this needs to be supported. It is important that everyone, and in particular young people, are encouraged to reach their full potential. Education is very important for life chances and early years education is of the utmost importance for children for their future development and employment opportunities.

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<sup>26</sup> Labour Force Survey, NISRA.

<sup>27</sup> Labour Force Survey, NISRA.

<sup>28</sup> School Leavers Survey – Attainment, Department of Education, NISRA.

We must ensure that our potential workforce has access to clear and relevant pathways to employment to bolster economic recovery and quality of life within the area. Disadvantaged individuals need supported to secure meaningful employment that is commensurate with their level of skill and ability, whilst meeting the needs of the local economy.

To ensure a thriving economy we will also need to promote the benefits of lifelong learning and the upgrading of skills to ensure suitable transfer of skills from newcomers in our society to keep up with ever changing job market demands. In order to have a dynamic economy, we need to support closer collaboration between local businesses, education and training providers and the voluntary and community sector. We need to identify, understand and address skills gaps, work with employers to understand the options for skilled-based recruitment and better promote higher level apprenticeships and vocational pathways.

## KEY STATISTICS

- 92.1% of the workforce in employment in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough are qualified to below level 2 and above, 83% to level 2 and above, 64.3% level 3 and above, and 47.4% to level 4 and above (2021). (NI 92.8% qualified to below level 2 and above, 85.2% to level 2 and above, 69% level 3 and above, and 50.7% to level 4 and above).
- Employment rate (age 16-64) in the Borough was 76.6% compared to 73.6% for NI overall (2023). Just 49.5% of students entitled to free school meals (FSME) in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough achieve 5+ GCSE's grades A\*-C including GCSE English and Maths compared to 56.5% in NI overall (2022/23).

## **ECONOMY CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**

### **Enterprising Economy**

**14. Do you agree to the changes proposed to the Enterprising Economy outcome statement?**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Don't know
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**15. Do you agree that the partnership should use these indicators to measure progress towards the Enterprising Economy outcome?**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Don't know
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**16. Please use the space below to add any further comments on the Enterprising Economy Outcome.**

### **Inclusive Economy**

**17. Do you agree with including the new Inclusive Economy outcome in the community plan?**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Don't know
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**18. If you agree with including the Inclusive Economy Outcome do you agree that the partnership should use these indicators to measure progress towards the outcome?**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Don't know
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

The partnership is suggesting that the Inclusive Economy Outcome replace the Tourism Economy Outcome in the plan.

The Tourism Economy Outcome Statement is: Our borough is a destination of choice for international visitors.

The population indicator used to measure progress towards realising the outcome is the number of overnight trips made by visitors from outside Northern Ireland moved to Place.



**Do you agree with moving the Tourism Economy ambition and population indicator into the Revitalised Place Outcome? (see Place theme survey questions)**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Don't know
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**19. Please use the space below to add any further comments on the Inclusive Economy Outcome.**

### **Skilled Economy**

**20. Do you agree to the changes proposed to the Skilled Economy outcome statement?**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Don't know
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**21. Do you agree that the partnership should use these indicators to measure progress towards the Skilled Economy?**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Don't know
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**22. Please use the space below to add any further comments on the Skilled Economy Outcome.**

### **Partnership Actions**

The partnership will review its actions as part of the review of the community plan. Our current action plan is the [Covid-19 Response and Recovery Plan](#) which contains 21 shared actions. These actions are cross-cutting and may contribute to more than one theme in the community plan.



Partnership Actions that are most relevant to the **Economy Theme**:

**Tackling Poverty & Social Exclusion**

- Emergency Need: Continue to provide food, energy and wraparound support to people experiencing poverty.
- Housing: Enhance mix of tenure, and improve accessibility and affordability across the Borough’s Housing
- Labour Market Partnership annual action plan
- PEACEPLUS: Delivery of the ABC Community PEACE action plan

**Place**

- Implement, develop and roll out Place plans across the Borough

**23. Do you agree with these actions?**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Don’t know
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**24. Are there any actions missing?**

- Yes
- No

If yes, please use space to add in any suggestions you have:

**25. Please provide any other comments you have in relation to the Economy Theme?**

**26. Would you like to:**

- Go back to the Community Theme
- Continue to the Place Theme
- Move to the Partnerships Priorities for Action

# PLACE

## SECTION THREE: PLACE THEME

Under the Place theme there are three long-term outcomes:

- Creative Place
- Revitalised Place
- Sustainable Place (previously Enhanced Place)

In this section the partnership is proposing to make changes to all of the outcomes. Sustainable Place is a new outcome and has replaced Enhanced Place in the plan. The outcome Enhanced Place included aspirations for our built heritage and natural assets. These aspirations remain in the plan. Heritage has moved into the Creative Place outcome and natural assets are included in the new outcome Sustainable Place which also includes climate change. **All changes are displayed underline and in bold.**

This section should take approximately 5 mins to complete.

# CREATIVE PLACE

## ORIGINAL OUTCOME STATEMENT

**CREATIVE PLACE:** Our borough is an inspirational and creative place offering quality, inclusive arts and cultural experiences

## SUGGESTED CHANGE TO OUTCOME

**Creative Place:** Our Borough is an inspirational and creative place offering quality, inclusive arts and cultural and heritage experiences.

### INDICATORS

- Percentage of people (aged 16+) engaging with arts/cultural activities in the past year<sup>29</sup>
- **Number of heritage at risk saved<sup>30</sup> (moved from Enhanced Place)**

### STORY BEHIND THE OUTCOME

Arts, cultural and heritage play an important role in everyday life, enhancing our sense of place and improving well-being and quality of life.

After remaining relatively stable for several years, the latest figures for 2021/22 show that participation in Arts and Culture has fallen by more than 20 percentage points since 2019/20 highlighting the affect the pandemic has also had on this sector. We are committed to providing memorable and unique arts, culture and heritage visitor experiences for those that live and visit our borough. Our Borough already boasts a range of first class facilities. The Marketplace Theatre and Arts Centre attracts audiences from far and wide and despite the pandemic has had a steady increase in visitor numbers year on year. The F.E McWilliam's Gallery and Studio attracts a wide range of visitors welcoming approximately 46,657 in 2023. The Gallery and Studio are set to benefit from Levelling Up Funds with major investment planned, increasing the boroughs offering.

The borough is enriched by a thriving arts scene, populated with professional artists, creative industries, a host of localised arts-based interest groups and vibrant community festivals and celebrations. However, while the engagement process for the Place Plans reveals a strong arts community in the borough, many individuals and groups feel disconnected from each other.

A City of Culture bid was made in 2022 and Council as the lead partner were successful in making the longlist of cities for UK City of Culture 2025. The process of developing the bid generated a wave of support and excitement and created a renewed interest in and appreciation of the arts, culture and heritage of our borough. Although the Borough was not chosen as the City of Culture; Council and its partners are leveraging the momentum and recognition to continue to grow as a thriving creative hub.

<sup>29</sup> Continuous Household Survey (CHS), Department for Communities, NI.

<sup>30</sup> Ulster Architectural Heritage, Heritage at Risk Register Northern Ireland, Department for Communities, NI.

Archaeological and built heritage forms an integral part of our environment. They are important sources of information about our past and represent significant landmarks in the present townscape and countryside. Balancing modern creative pursuits with the preservation of the area's rich heritage can be a delicate task.

Our borough is also home to a rich heritage of archaeological sites, monuments and buildings, representing the aspiration and achievements of past societies and providing evidence of settlements from 9,000 years ago to the present day. We have one area of significant Archaeological Interest at Navan and our attractions are enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. We will work in partnership with the other Royal Sites of Ireland and partners in progressing World Heritage for Navan and support Armagh Observatory and Planetarium in their bid for World Heritage status.

Further showing our commitment to being a Creative Borough the Townscape Heritage Scheme is one action from the Armagh Place plan, with an initial investment of £6.3million 15 buildings have been identified for restoration over the next 5 years. One example of this scheme in action is the famous terraced No.1 Seven House dating back to the 1770's.

We will continue to seek investment to preserve and where possible enhance our heritage and places. ABC Heritage Places is a project aimed at preserving, celebrating and investing in the area's rich cultural legacy. Through collaboration and investment, this project will transform the boroughs historic fabric whilst protecting it for generations to come.

All of these combine to create an attractive and animated environment which enhances quality of life.

Through conversations with partners we have heard that is important that people should be exposed to arts, culture and this should be encouraged through schools as a way to connect the community to its roots. Considerations need to be given to how we can overcome barriers to engagement and increase recognition of the benefits of arts participation to individuals' quality of life.

We are committed to working with local partners to continue to develop creative talent, to innovate and grow the creative industries sector and to ensure that we deliver a vibrant, authentic, dynamic and inclusive arts and cultural offering that is accessible to everyone. Although it is historically difficult to quantify and qualify the positive impact of arts and cultural engagement, we will look at ways to help demonstrate the wide ranging nature of arts activities and their positive contribution to life-long learning, wellbeing, prosperity and sense of place.

## KEY STATISTICS

- In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, 64% of people (aged 16+) engaged in arts/cultural activities in the past year compared to 62% in NI
- A total of 30 heritage at risk sites have been saved since 2006 (9 since the baseline 2016) which accounts for almost 10% of the total of 297 saves in NI

### Visitors to FE McWilliam Gallery 22,562 (2023)

Total visitors to Centre in 2023 – 46,657

### Engagement in Arts & Culture (2021/22)

64% engaged in culture/arts activities in past 12 months in ABC (62% NI)

Arts attendance	ABC 48%	NI 46%
Arts participation	ABC 27%	NI 25%
Used the public library service	ABC 14%	NI 15%
Visited a museum or science centre	ABC 20%	NI 18%

# REVITALISED PLACE

## ORIGINAL OUTCOME STATEMENT

REVITALISED PLACE: Our distinctive and vibrant urban and rural places are at the heart of community and economic life.

## SUGGESTED CHANGE TO OUTCOME

Our distinctive, inclusive and vibrant urban and rural places are at the heart of community and economic life.

### INDICATORS

- Level of social housing need<sup>31</sup>.
- City and town centre vacancy rates<sup>32</sup>.
- **Percentage of people who see town centres as safe welcoming places for people of all walks of life<sup>33</sup>. (moved from Welcoming Community)**
- **Number of overnight trips made by visitors from outside Northern Ireland<sup>34</sup> (moved from Tourism Economy).**

### STORY BEHIND THE OUTCOME

Our borough has a rich offering of settlements including our city, towns, villages and rural areas. It is our aspiration that each urban and rural area values and protects its distinct identity and assets so that the borough's full potential as a vibrant place for living, working, visiting and investing can be achieved.

A revitalised place is important as it contributes to a sense of community, improving quality of life, attracting visitors, businesses and creating economic opportunities.

We recognise that placeshaping improves the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of the place, ensuring aspirations of the community are being realised and included in the process.<sup>35</sup> Through the Partnership we developed Armagh Place Plan, the first place plan in Northern Ireland followed by the Banbridge Place Plan. We are committed to developing further place plans which will be a catalyst for future projects related to investment, high streets, active travel, open spaces, tackling dereliction and connectivity, which will enhance spaces and places for everyone. During place plan engagement the core issues raised which were important by people are challenges faced by independent businesses, accessibility of the town centres, attractiveness of the places, housing availability, community activities on offer, and improvements to our built and natural environments. Through working with groups such as Age Friendly Alliance and the newly established Youth Voice Forum we will continue to ensure the voice of older and younger people is heard and that our city towns and villages are accessible for those who live and visit our borough.

The number of people in our borough who view town and city centres as safe and welcoming places for people of all walks of life is now less than 50% and this has declined steadily over the years. Similarly, through engagement the evening economy offering across the places has declined due to a range of

<sup>31</sup> Northern Ireland Housing Executive

<sup>32</sup> Town Centre Database, Department for Communities, NI.

<sup>33</sup> Northern Ireland Life & Times Survey (ARK)

<sup>34</sup> Tourism Statistics, NISRA.

<sup>35</sup> Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, Corporate Plan 2023-2027

factors and locals rate this offering as poor to fair. An active place day and night will contribute to the safety of the area. As a partnership, it is important that we continue to work together to deliver suggested actions across the place plans to improve the places for people to live here.

The rural character of the Orchard County, the upper Bann, Lagan valley and Lough Neagh southern shoreline must be maintained and enhanced for everyone to enjoy by taking a sustainable approach to new development. Tourism as a sector has been hugely affected by external factors not just across our borough but across the region. It is our aspiration that we capitalise on the borough's unique assets and our signature events and continue to provide high quality, memorable and unique visitor experiences. Our links to St Patrick, the Game of Thrones and the Food Heartland offering are all strengths that we can build on to attract people to our beautiful borough.

Housing remains a huge challenge for the borough despite sustained levels of investment in new social housing in Northern Ireland the gap between housing demand and supply continues to widen<sup>36</sup>. This is evident in the borough where the five year assessment for the period 2022-2027 2023-2028 shows a need for an additional 1,498 units. This forecast need is almost five time more than the need forecast for the period 2015-20 in our borough. Our partners have told us that there is a requirement for an increased supply of affordable homes which offer a mix of sizes, types and tenures to address the housing needs of a diverse population and contribute to vibrant and cohesive communities. The current ageing housing stock poses challenges in terms of energy efficiency and accessibility and we need to work with our partners to ensure that everyone has access to a home that is suitable for their current and future needs.

However, all residents, to include those living in rural areas, should benefit from good services, transport links and digital accessibility to ensure they fully participate in all aspects of civic life and future economic growth.

Our borough must be accessible, multifunctional and balanced - enabling business growth within a mutually supportive and sustainable setting. Sustainable development and regeneration will be a catalyst for further social, cultural and environmental renewal.

## KEY STATISTICS

- In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough there is an estimated 1,498 social housing units needed for the period 2023-2028 which accounts for 6% of the total need in NI (24,922)
- City and town centre vacancy rates at 30th April 2024
  - Armagh 16.4%
  - Banbridge 16.4%
  - Craigavon 7.9%
  - Dromore 24.4%
  - Lurgan 21.1%
  - Portadown 21.0%
  - Northern Ireland 22.4%
- 48.6% of people in the Borough see town centres as safe welcoming places for people of all walks of life compared to 48.5% in NI overall (2020-22)
- 122,600 overnight trips made by visitors from outside Northern Ireland (2017-19) which accounts for just 4% of NI's total of 2,961,526)

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<sup>36</sup> Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Housing Investment Plan Annual update for 2022-2023

# SUSTAINABLE PLACE

## ORIGINAL OUTCOME STATEMENT

(ENHANCED PLACE: Our rich and varied built heritage and natural assets are protected, enhanced and expanded for current and future generations to enjoy replaced by Sustainable Place).

## SUGGESTED NEW OUTCOME

We value and protect our climate, biodiversity and natural assets. People understand the need to mitigate and adapt to climate change and our borough is on track to become net zero by 2050.

### INDICATORS

- Household concern for the environment<sup>37</sup>
- River Quality – Soluble Reactive Phosphorus (SRP) in rivers<sup>38</sup>
- Per Capita Greenhouse Gas Emissions<sup>39</sup>

### STORY BEHIND THE OUTCOME

Climate change is affecting everyone, and the effects have been felt locally in recent years when extreme weather events caused homes and businesses in the Borough to be destroyed by flooding. The release of greenhouse gases through the burning of fossil fuels is the leading cause of climate change and efforts to limit the effects are focused on two areas: mitigating and adapting to climate change.

Mitigation means reducing emissions of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere while adaptation is about adjusting to the realities of a changing climate. Both involve the need to take action, and this is reflected in global, national and local policy and targets. The 2015 Paris Climate Agreement is a commitment by almost 200 countries including the UK and Northern Ireland, to achieve 'net zero' CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2050 and try to keep global warming to 1.5C. Locally, the Climate Change Act (NI) 2022 has introduced new duties on public bodies to report on their progress on both mitigation and adaptation.

Despite a gradual fall over time, per capita greenhouse gas emissions in the Borough have been consistently higher than the Northern Ireland levels. Agriculture, transport and domestic account for almost 75% of total emissions<sup>40</sup> in the Borough.

In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, the habitats, wildlife, landscapes and natural features are important assets that provide a range of opportunities for both enjoyment and economic activity, as well as environmental benefits. There are a number of nature reserves in the Borough, with many flora and fauna species that cannot be found elsewhere in Northern Ireland.

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<sup>37</sup> Continuous Household Survey, 2022/23

<sup>38</sup> Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics 2023 Annual Report

<sup>39</sup> Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Local Authority territorial greenhouse gas emissions estimates 2005-2021 (kt CO<sub>2</sub>e).

<sup>40</sup> Local Authority territorial greenhouse gas emissions estimates 2005-2021 (kt CO<sub>2</sub>e), Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.



Recently, water quality in Lough Neagh and in our rivers has attracted international attention due to the high levels of toxic algal blooms<sup>41</sup>. Long-term pollution from agriculture, wastewater, septic tanks and industrial processes was a key part of the problem<sup>42</sup> however, the effects of the pollution have been exacerbated by warmer water temperatures caused by climate change as well as the presence of the invasive zebra mussel, which all together have resulted in significant blooms in Lough Neagh and rivers and coastlines in Northern Ireland<sup>43</sup>.

The algal blooms have prompted public anger and community campaigns to 'save the lough'.<sup>44</sup> Public attitudes to environmental sustainability will be important for realising this Sustainable Place outcome. As new norms are established, people will change their own behaviour and expect more action from all levels of government in relation to mitigating and adapting to climate change.

As partners we all share a responsibility to act locally on climate change to protect future generations. Recent legislation has introduced new duties for public bodies to report on their progress on mitigating and adapting to climate change and Community Planning Statutory Partners have developed their own strategies to enable them to fulfil these duties. We believe that we can achieve more as a partnership and have begun to discuss how we can explore new technologies together, create economies of scale and develop mutually beneficial arrangements to contribute to environmental sustainability. It is hoped that the Mid South West Growth Deal will offer partners opportunities to be involved in innovative decarbonisation work which will also contribute to realising this outcome

There is a strong desire from our Community, Voluntary & Social Enterprise Sectors to contribute to progress and to ensure a just transition to 'net zero' as set out in current NI government policy.<sup>45</sup> Our Place Plans also include several actions that will contribute to the realisation of this outcome including, promoting active travel, enhancing our blue and green infrastructure, restore and reuse our built heritage, protect biodiversity and generate green jobs. In addition, DAERA's Lough Neagh Report and Action Plan will provide a focus for actions to improve local water quality.<sup>46</sup>

## KEY STATISTICS

- In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough in 2022/23, an estimated 75% of households were concerned for the environment compared to 80% in NI.
- Soluble Reactive Phosphorus (SRP) in rivers in Northern Ireland was measured at 0.073 mg/l in 2021
- Per capita greenhouse gas emissions in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough was 11tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2021 compared to 10.6 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in NI

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<sup>41</sup> BBC News, 2024, Lough Neagh: The year the UK's largest lake turned green.

<sup>42&7</sup> DAERA, 2024, The Lough Neagh Report, Blue Green Algae and Water Quality in Northern Ireland.

<sup>43</sup> DAERA, 2024, The Lough Neagh Report, Blue Green Algae and Water Quality in Northern Ireland

<sup>44</sup> Belfast Telegraph, 2024, 'Save Lough Neagh': Environmental campaigners stage protest outside Stormont.

<sup>45</sup> NI Executive, 2021, Draft Green Growth Strategy for Northern Ireland.

<sup>46</sup> DAERA, 2024, The Lough Neagh Report, Blue Green Algae and Water Quality in Northern Ireland.

## PLACE CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

### Creative Place

**27. Do you agree to the changes proposed to the Creative Place outcome statement?**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Don't know
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**28. Do you agree that the partnership should use these indicators to measure progress towards the Creative Place outcome?**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Don't know
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**29. Please use the space below to add any further comments on the Creative Place Outcome.**

### Revitalised Place

**30. Do you agree to the changes proposed to the Revitalised Place outcome statement?**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Don't know
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**31. Do you agree that the partnership should use these indicators to measure progress towards the Revitalised Place?**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Don't know
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**32. Please use the space below to add any further comments on the Revitalised Place Outcome.**

### Sustainable Place

**33. Do you agree to the changes proposed to the Sustainable Place outcome statement?**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Don't know
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**34. Do you agree that the partnership should use these indicators to measure progress towards the Sustainable Place?**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Don't know
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**35. Please use the space below to add any further comments on the Sustainable Place Outcome.**

**Partnership Actions**

The partnership will review its actions as part of the review of the community plan. Our current action plan is the [Covid-19 Response and Recovery Plan](#) which contains 21 shared actions. These actions are cross-cutting and may contribute to more than one theme in the community plan.



Partnership Actions that are most relevant to the **Place Theme**:

**Promoting Good Mental Health & Wellbeing**

- Deliver Get Moving ABC Framework

**Tackling Poverty & Social Exclusion**

- Housing: Enhance mix of tenure, and improve accessibility and affordability across the Borough's Housing
- Age Friendly Borough: Create a Borough that is welcoming, accessible and friendly borough for people of all ages
- Local co-design process to feed into the review of the Department for Communities' People & Place Strategy
- PEACEPLUS: Delivery of the ABC Community PEACE action plan

**Place**

- Implement, develop and roll out [Place plans](#) across the Borough
- Local co-design for People and Place Review

**Shared Leadership & Community Engagement**

- Tak£500+ Participatory Budgeting programme
- Embed the Partnership’s Community Engagement Strategy
- Support for the Community and Voluntary Sector Panel

**36. Do you agree with these actions?**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Don’t know
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**37. Are there any actions missing?**

- Yes
- No

If yes, please use space to add in any suggestions you have:

**38. Please provide any other comments you have in relation to the Place Theme?**

**39. Would you like to:**

- Go back to the Community Theme
- Go back to the Economy Theme
- Move to the Strengths and Challenges in the ABC Borough

# DELIVERY OF THE COMMUNITY PLAN

Delivery of our community plan is through thematic borough-wide actions and through locality place plans.

## Thematic

Our current thematic action plan has four themes.



## Locality

Place is one of three themes in our community plan and we started the development of our first Place Plan in 2020. Place Plans are a way for local people to set a vision for their places and foster a collaborative approach to place making. To date 2069 people have been involved in the development of Place Plans for Armagh, Banbridge and Dromore.



Launched May 2022



Launched March 2024



Draft Plan launching 2025

## ABC COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

We have formed a multisectoral partnership to oversee community planning in the borough. The partnership is a broad and inclusive network made up of over 150 people from more than 80 organisations.

The structures are designed to support delivery of the partnership's thematic action plan and locality place plans. We will keep our partnership under review to ensure it supports the delivery of our actions.



### Community Planning Strategic Partnership (CPSP)

The CPSP has overall responsibility for community planning in Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon. Membership includes the 12 Community Planning Partners named in the legislation<sup>47</sup> with duties to participate and four additional Support Partners who are central to our local process.<sup>48</sup>

#### CPSP Sub-Committees

There are four CPSP Sub-Committees. Their role is to drive the delivery of the community planning partnership's actions under each of the four themes:

- Promoting Good Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Tackling Poverty and Social Exclusion
- Place (includes locality Place Plans)
- Shared Leadership and Community Engagement

Membership includes CPSP and CVSP representatives, action leads and other partners who have an interest in the theme.

#### Community & Voluntary Sector Panel (CVSP)

The CVS organisations play a key role in improving the quality of life in the borough. CVSE organisations deliver services, are often the first to respond to crises and have a role in strengthening local communities. The Community & Voluntary Sector Panel was established in 2018 to ensure the involvement of these sectors as partners in community planning. The panel also has a role in connecting CVSE organisations from across

<sup>47</sup> Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council, Council for Catholic Maintained Schools, Education Authority, Housing Executive, Invest Northern Ireland, Libraries NI, Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service, Police Service of Northern Ireland, Public Health Agency, Southern Health & Social Care Trust, Southern Regional College, Sport NI.

<sup>48</sup> Business Partnership Alliance, Community & Voluntary Sector Panel & Department for Communities.

the borough. A steering group of up to ten members has responsibility for planning and taking forward actions on behalf of the panel. CVSP members are represented on all partnership structures and have leadership roles.

### **Other Partnerships**

We see our role as one of building connections and links between regional, sub-regional and other local partnerships. This is an evolving process to ensure that our efforts align, we avoid duplication and we make the best use of the resources available to our borough. There are a series of partnerships that already form part of the wider community planning structures. These include but are not limited to the Loneliness Network, the Age Friendly Alliance, the Labour Market Partnership, the Get Moving Partnership, the PEACE PLUS Partnership and the Participatory Budgeting (PB) Working Group. We will continue to create these links where we see the potential for added value for the people who live in the borough.

## **WAYS OF WORKING**

Our partnership has worked hard on developing the ways of working required to deliver shared outcomes and collective wellbeing.



### **Shared Leadership**

Community planning is about organisations working together for the benefit of citizens. Our community planning partnership is a broad multi-sectoral network operating across a range of policy areas. We are committed to building an ethos of shared leadership across our partnership to promote collaboration. Several of our partners have stepped into leadership roles and are chairing our structures and leading actions. We believe that it is important to support partners to take on those leadership roles and therefore we provide mentoring and peer support. We regularly measure the impact of the operation of our partnership and respond to any issues as they arise.

### **Community Engagement**

Community planning is about bringing decisions about local services and plans closer to communities. We believe that better community engagement leads to better decisions and increased levels of trust. As a partnership we are committed to delivering good quality engagement. Together we have developed our own Community Engagement Strategy and we want our engagement activities to be inclusive and bring together a diverse range of views and perspectives. We aim to create spaces for dialogue and deliberation, where people can look at evidence together to promote evidence informed decision making. It is important to us

that those who take part feel that their contributions are valued and that they can see the difference their input has made. This is why our Participatory Budgeting (PB) work is a priority for our partnership. We want to grow PB in our area so that it is incorporated into our decision making.

### **Using Evidence**

An outcomes based approach provides a useful framework for us to develop a set of long-term outcomes against which our progress can be monitored and evaluated. It encourages us to focus on the end goals of what we want our area to be like in 2030, whether anyone would be better off as a result of our plan and ensuring that we were using robust data to underpin our process.

Our community planning partnership brings together a wide range of evidence and knowledge. Local wisdom, practitioner knowledge and lived experience enhance research, population statistics and performance data, providing a sound base for decision making. We are committed to using our collective knowledge about local assets and needs to inform our decisions. We have demonstrated our commitment to accountability through the publication of our Statements of Progress. We are outwards looking and will continue to seek out opportunities to share learning with others.



## SECTION FOUR: STRENGTHS AND CHALLENGES IN THE ABC BOROUGH

**Q What do you think are the three biggest strengths or assets in the ABC Borough?**

Biggest strengths or assets	Select Top 3 and Rank 1,2,3		
	1	2	3
The people			
Heritage			
Arts and culture			
Local employment opportunities			
Community, voluntary and social enterprise organisations			
Green spaces			
Hospitality sectors			
Sense of community and belonging			
Biodiversity			
Shopping			
Partnership working			
Location			
Other 1			
Other 2			
Other 3			

**If you have selected other, please list them in order here:**

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**Please use this space if you would like to tell us more about the strengths/assets you have selected.**

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**Q What do you think are the three biggest challenges for the ABC Borough?**

Challenge	Select Top 3 and Rank 1,2,3		
	1	2	3
Poverty and cost of living			
Mental health and wellbeing			
Loneliness and social isolation			
Employment and skills			
Housing and homelessness			
Childcare			
Community safety			
Drugs and alcohol			
Climate change			
Pollution			
Access to services			
Transport			
Hate motivated incidents			
Other 1			
Other 2			
Other 3			

**If you have selected other please list them in order here:**

**Please use this space if you would like to tell us more about the challenges you have selected.**

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# SUMMARY TABLE OF NINE OUTCOMES

Our 2030 Vision

We have a happy, healthy and connected community, a vibrant and sustainable economy and appealing places for living, working and learning.

## COMMUNITY

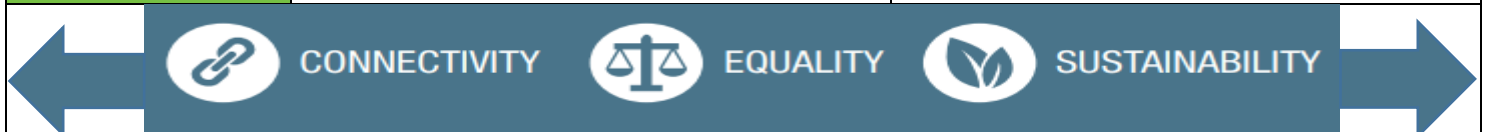
Long-term Outcome		Indicator
Connected Community	Everyone has opportunities to contribute to community life and shape decisions – we have a strong sense of community belonging and take pride in our area.	Percentage of people who feel they have an influence on local decisions in neighbourhood
		Percentage of people who feel a sense of belonging to their neighbourhood
		Percentage of people who feel lonely at least some of the time
Healthy Community	People are making positive lifestyle choices. They are more resilient and better equipped to cope with life's changes.	Number of preventable deaths per 100,000 population (age standardised preventable mortality rate)
		Gap in life expectancy between most deprived areas and the borough overall
		Percentage of people who participate in sport or physical activity on at least one day a week
		Number people prescribed medication for mood and anxiety disorders per 1,000 population
Welcoming Community	Our borough is a safe, inclusive, respectful and peaceful place.	Percentage of people reporting that fear of crime has a minimal impact on their quality of life
		Number of accidental dwelling fires
		Number of hate motivated incidents

# ECONOMY

Long-term Outcome		Indicator
Enterprising Economy	Our borough is a productive centre of excellence for entrepreneurship, innovation and investment.	Business birth rates
		Survival rate of newly born businesses
		Productivity – Gross Value Added (GVA) per hour worked
Inclusive Economy	Everyone has a decent minimum living standard.	Percentage of children (aged under 16) living in relative low-income families
		Employment rate for people with disabilities
		Gross domestic household income per head
Skilled Economy	People are better equipped to take full advantage of the opportunities provided by the dynamic economy.	The proportion of the workforce in employment qualified to level 1 and above, level 2 and above, level 3 and above, and level 4 and above
		Employment rate (age 16-64)
		GCSE attainment levels for students entitled to free school meals (FSME)

# PLACE

Long-term Outcome		Indicator
Creative Place	Our borough is an inspirational and creative place offering quality, inclusive arts, cultural and heritage experiences.	Percentage of people (aged 16+) engaging with arts/cultural activities in the past year
		Number of heritage at risk saved
Revitalised Place	Our distinctive and vibrant urban and rural areas are at the heart of community and economic life	City and town centre vacancy rates
		Level of social housing need
		Percentage of people who see town centres as safe welcoming places for people of all walks of life
		Number of overnight trips made by visitors from outside Northern Ireland
Sustainable Place	We value and protect our climate, biodiversity and natural assets. People understand the need to mitigate and adapt to climate change and our borough is on track to become net zero by 2050.	Household concern for the environment
		River Quality – Soluble Reactive Phosphorus (SRP) in rivers
		Per Capita Greenhouse Gas Emissions



# LINKS TO REGIONAL STRATEGIES

The Statutory Guidance for the Operation of Community Planning states that community planning partnerships can act as a bridge to link regional, local and neighbourhood priorities and resources more effectively. It is important that, as far as possible, we align with regional direction to ensure the best outcomes for individuals. While community plans must be driven by local people putting local needs at the heart of the plan, aligning these within the broader regional context will help many partners to better integrate community planning actions into their daily business which will be driven by regional strategies framed through a future Programme for Government.

There is strong alignment between the outcomes in our community plan and regional strategies and those that are currently in development. Delivery of the regional strategies in the table below, and others, will all contribute to the realisation of the outcomes in our community plan. The Draft Programme for Government will be reflected in the final plan.

OUTCOME	MOST RELEVANT REGIONAL STRATEGIES
<b>COMMUNITY</b>	
<p><b>Connected Community:</b> Everyone has opportunities to contribute to community life and shape decisions – we have a strong sense of community belonging and take pride in our area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Join In, Get Involved: Build a Better Future A Volunteering Strategy and Action Plan for Northern Ireland 2012, Department for Social Development</li> </ul>
<p><b>Healthy Community:</b> People are making positive lifestyle choices. They are more resilient and better equipped to cope with life’s challenges.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mental Health Strategy 2021-2031, Department of Health</li> <li>• Protect Life 2 Suicide Prevention Strategy, Department of Health</li> <li>• Making Life Better 2012-2023, Department of Health</li> <li>• Active Living- Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for Northern Ireland 2020 – 2030, Department for Communities</li> </ul>
<p><b>Welcoming Community:</b> Our borough is a safe, <b>inclusive</b>, respectful and peaceful place.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Safety Framework, Department of Justice</li> <li>• Ending Violence Against Women and Girls: A Strategic Framework (Draft), 2023, The Executive Office</li> <li>• Ending Homelessness Together – Homelessness Strategy 2022-27, NI Housing Executive</li> <li>• Children and Young People’s Strategy, 2019, Department of Education</li> <li>• Refugee Integration Strategy 2022-2027, (Draft) The Executive Office</li> <li>• Racial Equality Strategy 2015-2025, The Executive Office</li> </ul>
OUTCOME	MOST RELEVANT REGIONAL STRATEGIES
<b>ECONOMY</b>	
<p><b>Enterprising Economy:</b> Our borough is a productive centre for entrepreneurship, innovation and investment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DfE Economic Vision &amp; Sub-Regional Economic Plan</li> </ul>

<p><b>Inclusive Economy:</b> Everyone has a decent minimum living standard.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Place 10x - a sub-regional economic approach, Department for Economy</li> <li>• Anti-Poverty Strategy, Department for Communities (in development)</li> <li>• Child Poverty Strategy 2016-2019 Department for Communities (extended to May 2022)</li> <li>• Executive Early Learning and Childcare Strategy (in development)</li> <li>• Good Jobs Employment Rights Bill Consultation, 2024, Department for Economy</li> <li>• Independent Report to Advance Community Wealth Building in Northern Ireland, 2022, Department for Communities</li> <li>• Draft Housing Supply Strategy 2022-2037, DfC</li> </ul>
<p><b>Skilled Economy:</b> People are better equipped to take full advantage of the opportunities provided by the dynamic economy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skills for a 10x economy - Skills Strategy for Northern Ireland. Department for Economy</li> <li>• DfE Economic Vision &amp; Sub-Regional Economic Plan</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>OUTCOME</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MOST RELEVANT REGIONAL STRATEGIES</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PLACE</b></p>	
<p><b>Creative Place:</b> Our borough is an inspirational and creative place offering quality, inclusive arts, cultural and heritage experiences.</p>	
<p><b>Revitalised Place</b> Our distinctive, inclusive and vibrant urban and rural places are at the heart of community and economic life.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Ireland Strategic Rail Review, 2024, Department for Infrastructure &amp; Department for Transport</li> <li>• Regional Development Strategy 2035, Department for Infrastructure</li> <li>• People and Place Strategy (review ongoing), Department for Communities</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sustainable Place:</b> We value and protect our climate, biodiversity and natural assets. People understand the need to mitigate and adapt to climate change and our borough is on track to become net zero by 2050</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft Green Growth Strategy for Northern Ireland, 2021, Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs</li> <li>• The Lough Neagh Report, Blue Green Algae and Water Quality in Northern Ireland. 2024, Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs</li> <li>• Regional Development Strategy 2035, Department for Infrastructure</li> </ul>



# Community Planning Strategic Partnership

