



**Derry City & Strabane**  
District Council  
Comhairle  
**Chathair Dhoire &**  
**Cheantar an tSratha Báin**  
**Derry Cittie & Strabane**  
Deistrick Council



Derry City and Strabane District Council

# Annual Performance Report

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## 2017/18







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## Introduction

### Performance Improvement under the Local Government Act 2014

Part 12 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 puts in place a framework to support continuous improvement in the delivery of council services, in the context of strategic objectives and issues that are important to those who receive those services. Councils are required to gather information to assess improvements in their services and to issue a report annually on their performance against indicators which they have either set themselves or that have been set by Government Departments.

The Act also places a responsibility on councils to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of their functions.

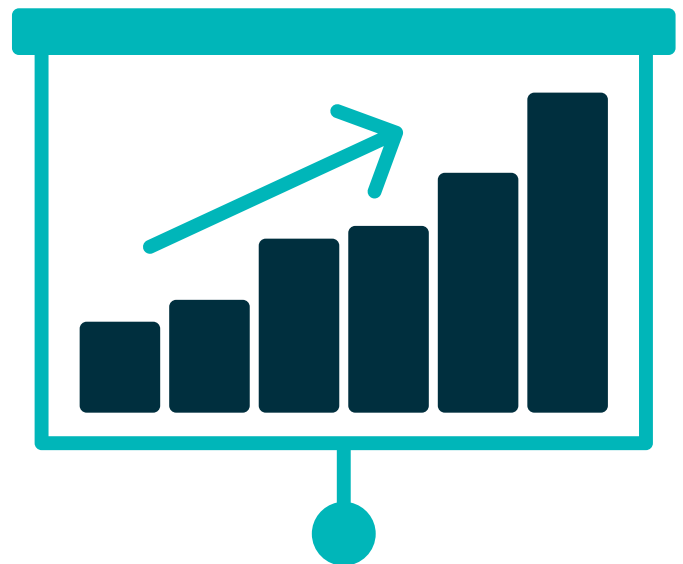
### What is Improvement?

'Improvement' means more than just gains in service output or efficiency, or the internal effectiveness of the Council. It is about activity that enhances the sustainable quality of life and environment for ratepayers and communities. Derry City and Strabane District Council is committed to ensuring that our improvement objectives are relevant, that the best arrangements for delivering them are in place, and that we can understand and demonstrate the impact on the outcomes for citizens.

In our 2017/18 Corporate and Improvement Plan, Derry City and Strabane District Council set out a number of improvement objectives/commitments under the headings of:

- **Business and Culture**
- **Environment and Regeneration**
- **Health and Communities**
- **Cross functional Support Services;**

and identified a number of local improvement indicators as well as the seven statutory performance indicators/standards.

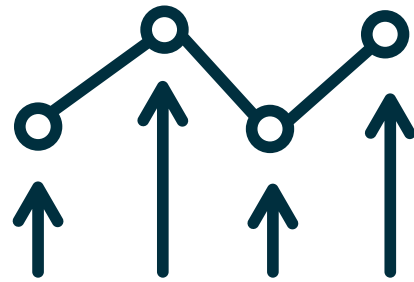


### Recording and Reporting Progress

Section 90 of the Act requires each council to collect information which will allow it to assess its performance in achieving its improvement objectives and to measure its performance against performance indicators or standards set by the Department or any other indicators or standards which the Council chooses to use.



Accordingly, Derry City and Strabane District Council collects evidence of progress in achieving our improvement objectives during the year. Evidence may include one or more of the following:



Performance indicators, both those set by the Council and by Government Departments; qualitative information such as citizen satisfaction surveys conducted by the Council or by other bodies;



Progress in introducing or completing programmes, facilities or ways of working which contribute to the attainment of improvement objectives;



The outcome of governance or scrutiny enquiries and other evidence from Members;



Other sources of evidence, (including Council's annual governance, value for money and sustainability statements etc that appear to be relevant

Derry City and Strabane District Council will use this information to determine if action is required to improve performance by assessing, where appropriate, its performance against:

- **A previous year's performance;**
- **As far as is practicable,** with the performance of other councils in the exercise of the same or similar functions.

The Council will publish the assessment and comparison information, where appropriate, relating to its performance before 30th September immediately following the financial year to which it relates.

## Engaging Our Stakeholders

The Council is committed to engaging with our stakeholders, including seeking views and keeping people informed about our services and initiatives. During 2017/18, we undertook consultations on a number of issues, including:

### Improvement Objectives for 2017/18 (public consultation)

- Alley Theatre  
Customer Feedback Survey
- Community Planning  
Local Plans
- Templemore Sports Complex  
and Riversdale Leisure Centre  
Consultation - users and non-users
- Jazz Festival 2017  
(venue feedback)
- Visitor Services  
Events Survey
- Slow Food Festival  
Exhibitor Feedback
- Waste Collection Survey
- Enterprise Week 2017 (business  
feedback)
- Sport NI - Everybody Active 2020
- LegenDerry Food Network

### Council seek public's input on arts and culture strategy 21 June 2017

Derry City and Strabane District Council have launched a consultation process to allow interested parties to have an input in shaping the region's arts and culture strategy for the next five years.

A Co-Design group of local representatives from a range of arts and culture disciplines has already been formed to assist Council officers and strategic partners on the development of the strategy.

The group held its first meeting at the Ulster Bank offices in the City last week and will now host a series of workshops from Monday June 26th until Wednesday June 28th.

The sessions are inviting individual artists, practitioners, organisations and venues to give their input for the strategy for 2017-2022 that will be finalised in September.





In addition, the Council used its website and social media to keep citizens informed.

### 2017/18 Figures



4518 Facebook posts  
501,529 clicks

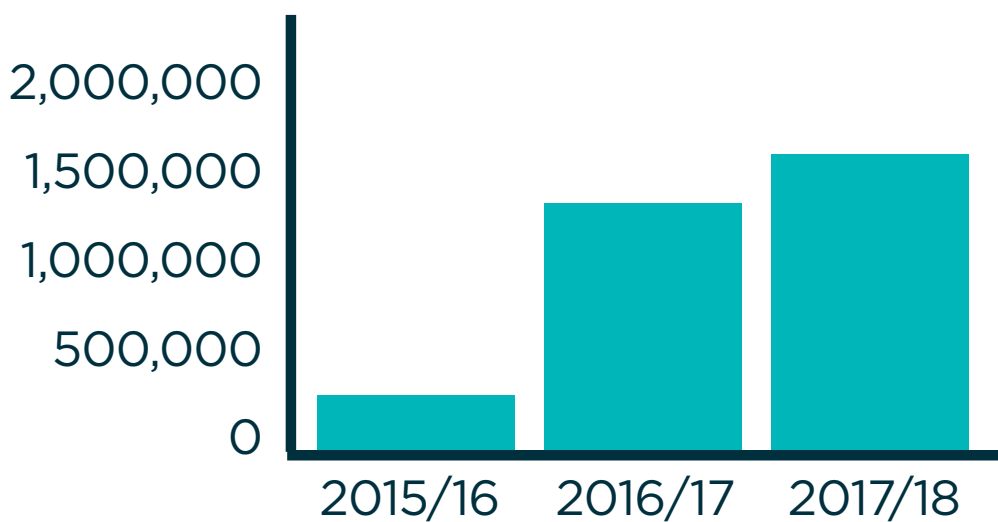


1949 Tweets



265 Instagram posts

### Number of website visits



## Planning, Improvement and Performance Review Framework



**The Council has many plans at strategic and operational levels, some of which are based on local needs and others that are required as a result of legislation.**

The highest level plan, is the community plan, entitled the “Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan 2017-2032” for the Derry City and Strabane District Council area. This strategy recognises that community planning is about people and organisations working together to improve services and to bring about sustainable improvements in the quality of life of local citizens, businesses and other stakeholders. As well as the Council, the “Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan 2017-2032” will also involve the commitment and resources of multi-agency partnerships whose purpose is to deliver the community plan objectives. Delivery of the vision and objectives set out in the “Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan 2017-2032” will be supported through the expression of objectives, priorities and actions in the Corporate Plan of Derry City and Strabane District Council (and the corporate plans of other stakeholder organisations).

Pending the completion of the Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan 2017-2032, the Council agreed a Corporate Plan for 2015/16 following a wide ranging engagement process. The Corporate Plan 2017/18 continued to reflect the mission and objectives set out in the Corporate Plan 2015/16.

As we did last year, annual Directorate Delivery Plans have been prepared to help ensure that those priorities set out at a corporate level are cascaded to and actioned. Work is also being progressed on defining individual contributions to the delivery of directorate and team plans and ultimately the Corporate Plan through our evolving employee development and appraisal process.


The Council also prepares an annual Improvement Plan containing improvement objectives, and monitors its performance throughout the year. Progress on the achievement against these objectives is set out in this report and is made available publicly.



In addition to these corporate management plans, plans will also continue to be developed in relation to thematic/service specific issues, for example, in relation to our capital development programme. Furthermore, the Local Development Plan (LDP) will guide the future use of land in the Council area and inform developers, members of the general public, communities, government, public bodies, representative organisations and other interests of the policy framework that is used to determine development proposals.

The LDP will take account of the Council’s Community Plan, providing a spatial expression to the community plan and thereby linking public and private sector investment through the land use planning system.

The planning and improvement framework outlined above comprising the “Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan 2017-2032”, Corporate Plan, Performance Improvement Plan and Directorate Plans is augmented by a performance review framework which includes:



At a district wide level a two yearly Area Performance Report which measures the district’s performance against the shared outcomes set out in the Strategic Community Plan.



At a Council level, an Annual Performance Report which sets out what we have achieved in the previous year and how we have met our performance improvement duty.



At a directorate level six monthly progress reports and directorate service delivery plans provide information on how we are performing.



At an individual level annual personal development and appraisal reviews.



The diagram below shows the key elements of the planning, improvement and performance review framework. The highlighted box represents this document – the Annual Performance Report.

## Corporate Planning, Improvement and Performance Review Framework (2018/19)

### Derry City and Strabane District **Council Area**: Plans and Performance Review

“Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan 2017-2032” The District’s integrated plan captures the shared outcomes for the area.

Derry City and Strabane District 2 yearly Area Performance Report. Measures the district’s performance against the shared outcomes set out in the “Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan 2017-2032”.

#### **Council**: Plans and Performance Review

Derry City and Strabane District Council – Corporate Plan 2018/19  
The Corporate Plan captures the Council’s contribution to the “Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan 2017-2032”. The resources required are reflected in the Annual Rates Estimates.

Improvement Plan 2018/19  
Improvement Objectives 2018/19 for the forthcoming year

**Annual Performance Report 2017/18**  
**Sets out what we have achieved in the previous year and how we have met our performance improvement duty.**

#### **Directorate** Plans and Performance Review

Directorate Delivery Plans  
Directorate delivery plans demonstrate how the Corporate Plan will be delivered and contain details about the work of the Directorate, its resources and how it is performing. Supported by six monthly progress reports.

#### **Personal** Performance and Development Reviews

These capture the individual’s contribution to Directorate and team plans.





## How we have performed - Review of Performance for 2017/18

This section sets out details of how the Council has performed in 2017/18, in five areas:

- Progress in delivering our Improvement Objectives identified on our Improvement Plan 2017/18
- Financial performance for 2017/18
- Key achievements in delivering our Corporate Plan Objectives
- The Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016
- Progress in relation to performance improvement areas/criteria



## Improvement Objectives: Performance 2017/18

In our Improvement Plan 2017/18 we set ourselves five Improvement Objectives. Details of each of these objectives, what we aimed to achieve and the progress we made during 2017/18 are set out below:

### Improvement Objective 2017/18

#### To prosper through a strong, competitive, entrepreneurial and innovative economy

##### Why we selected this as an Improvement Objective

The focus on the need for employment opportunities came through very strongly throughout the consultation process for the Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan 2017-32 (Community Plan) and hence the improvement target last year was in the area of job creation but specifically on one programme, the Business Start Up.

We decided that this year we would align the improvement objective more closely to the community plan and focus on the total job creation actions rather than one specific programme. In turn this should improve the quality of life of our citizens. This will also link to the economic strategy established by the council and the ongoing work on our investment proposition.

(Further detail on the rationale for selecting this improvement Objective is provided in our Corporate and Improvement Plan 2017/18).





Example initiatives taken forward in 2017/18 related to this Improvement Objective.

### **All Council Collaboration On New NI-Wide Business Start Up Programme**

**27 June 2017**

Local Northern Ireland councils have embraced the transfer of economic development powers from central government which included the transfer of responsibility for the NI Business Start Up Programme (NIBSUP), formerly managed by Invest NI.

Over recent years the well-known 'Go for It' programme was operated by Invest Northern Ireland and going forward this programme will now be the collective responsibility of all eleven councils.



### **29 new jobs for Rural Business Investment Scheme**

**10 May 2017**

Derry and Strabane Rural Partnership has awarded funding which will create 29 new jobs in the rural area through the roll out of its second call of the Rural Business Investment Scheme as part of the NI Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.

The Rural Business Investment Scheme was the first scheme to open in 2016/17 with grants of £323,000 awarded to nine businesses in September 2016, and the creation of 15.5 jobs. This second call for funding opened last October and grants of over £470,000 have now been awarded to eight projects, creating 29 new jobs in the rural community.

### **Fast track Council course offers GCSE maths in just four weeks**

**14 June 2017**

Derry City and Strabane District Council, in conjunction with the North West Regional College, are offering local people the chance to enhance their employment and education prospects in just four short weeks by studying for a GCSE equivalent level qualification in mathematics next month.

The Kickstart Maths Course is open to anyone resident in the Council area and prepares students to sit City and Guild Level 1 and 2 exams in the subject.

## **Jazz Fest 2017: ‘A colossal success’**

### **02 May 2017**

Once again, organisers of the 2017 City of Derry Jazz and Big Band Festival have said this year’s festival was a colossal success. The festival took place over the bank holiday weekend, from Thursday 27th April until Monday 1st May attracting tens of thousands of people.

Enticing international artists and visitors to the city, year on year, the festival, organised by Derry City and Strabane District Council, continues to grow with occupancy rates in local hotels, B&Bs and guest houses extremely high each year, as thousands of people fill venues, streets, bars, hotels and restaurants to enjoy the hundreds of performers on the programme. During the five days, over 50 venues provided over 300 live performances to packed audiences.



**Oonagh to shine as the Face of Fashion Fest**  
**28 September 2017**

Many teenagers dream of the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of Kate Moss by signing up with a modelling agency while they're still at school, but for 17-year-old Oonagh Canning, that dream is about to become a reality.

The St Cecilia's pupil has just been announced as the Face of Fashion Fest, the North West's biggest showcase of the local fashion industry, taking place on October 14.



The competition was organised by Derry City and Strabane District Council, working in conjunction with local agency Style Academy, and avid fashion fan Oonagh will now have the opportunity to pursue a career in modelling with a year's contract with the agency.

**Delivery / Achievements**

In our Improvement Plan for 2017/18, we set ourselves a number of target outcomes in respect of this Improvement Objective. An overview of what we have done / achieved is set out in the table below:

What did we aim to achieve? Target Outcomes	What we achieved in 2017/18	Delivered
Business Start Up - Jobs Promoted - 140	139 jobs promoted	
Business Boost Programme - 20	272 jobs promoted	✓
Rural Business Investment Scheme - 17	53.5 jobs promoted	✓
Kickstart to work - Into Employment - 42	124 participants into full-time employment and 1 into part-time employment	✓

**Overview/Assment**

By focussing on job creation as our Improvement Objective, we are ensuring that this key issue is addressed. Improvements are being made each year and there has been an increase in the net jobs being created in the Council area.

**Overview Trend/ Assessment:  
 Performance Improving**



## Improvement Objective 2017/18

**To help people develop long, healthy and fulfilling lives by increasing participation in high quality leisure, sport and healthy living activity.**

### **Why we selected this as an Improvement Objective**

A review of strategic policy for health and wellbeing was undertaken through the community planning process. This included a combination of stakeholder consultation; research reviews into the correlation between health, physical activity, diet and nutrition, and evaluation of programme activity undertaken by Council and partner organisations. The emerging community planning strategic and supporting outcomes provide key focus areas for health and well-being creating the opportunity to tailor the delivery of leisure, sport and healthy living activities to address:

- Physical and mental wellbeing
- Reduced health inequalities including addressing chronic conditions
- Increased physical activity
- Ageing actively and independently
- Making the most of the physical environment
- Strengthening collaboration for health and wellbeing



An analysis of population and health indicators for the Council area illustrates the health status of the area:

- **Projections up to 2037** show an ageing population which peaks at 150,525, with an additional 12,000 over 70s and 5,400 fewer under 19s.
- **The area exhibits life expectancy levels on a par** with NI but on closer inspection the urban deprived super output areas have levels far below those in affluent or rural areas. Health outcomes were worse in the most deprived areas than in the DCSDC as a whole across all 26 indicators.
- **Some 30,925 people (21%) live in areas defined as deprived** Analysis of super output data suggests there are forty output areas, almost half in rural areas, that contain deep pockets of multiple deprivation.
- **Within DCSDC** all health and wellbeing indicators were worse than the NI average with the exception of the standardised admission rate for circulatory disease.
- **Cancer rates**, prescriptions for anti-depressants, admission rates to A&E for residents from the most deprived areas are all multiples of the rates for NI in non-deprived areas.



The NISRA continuous household survey 2015/16 considers the levels of engagement in culture, arts and leisure by adults in NI. The DCSDC analysis which combines data across more than 1 year indicates that:

**44% of residents** had participated in sport within the last 12 months; this is however lower than the NI average of 53%

**47% of residents** who engaged in sport and physical activity participated at least once a week

**At a NI level the rate** of participation between deprived and non-deprived areas varies from 46% in the most deprived and increases to 65% in less deprived areas

The compelling body of research which demonstrates the value of sport and physical activity is articulated in summary by the Chief Medical Officer recommendations for exercise. 75 mins or more of vigorous activity or a combination of both moderate and vigorous activity per week is recommended. However, the NI health survey (2013) identified that only 53% met recommended levels. Of those 73% reported participation in moderate intensity aerobic activities and 40% in vigorous intensity activities.

(Further detail on the rationale for selecting this improvement Objective is provided in our Corporate and Improvement Plan 2017/18)

### Example initiatives taken forward in 2017/18 related to this Improvement Objective

#### Council's leisure centres offering activities for just £1 this summer 28 June 2017

Derry City and Strabane District Council's Leisure Centres are giving local young people an extra incentive to get out and active during the school holidays with the return of their popular £1 Summer initiative.

The deal offers a range of activities including swimming, squash, table tennis, badminton, five a side football and basketball for just £1 per session for under-18s in the months of July and August.

#### Council offer local youngsters a feast of summer sports camps 17 May 2017

Derry City and Strabane District Council have launched an exciting programme of sports camps to get local youngsters out of the house and active at their leisure facilities during the school holidays.



Local youngsters join exciting and new Sports Camps



**Last chance to enter as Strabane Lifford Half Marathon and 5k edges closer**

**24 April 2017**

A limited number of places remain available for next month's Strabane Lifford Half Marathon and 5k before entries officially close this Sunday April 30th. One of the biggest events on the local athletics calendar, the races will return for a fourth successive year on Sunday May 14th.

The cross border event has proven popular with seasoned and novice runners alike in recent years with runners from all over Ireland and beyond joining the sizeable local entry in the 2,000 strong field.



**Mayor encourages walkers to register now for 2017 Sperrins and Killeter Walking Festival**

**20 July 2017**

Walkers of all ages and abilities will be heading for the hills and exploring

the local hinterland when the Sperrins and Killeter Walking Festival returns on Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th September 2017. The popular festival, organised by Derry City and Strabane District Council in conjunction with local adventure company Far and Wild, will host a total of six walks over the two days, ranging from easy family friendly strolls to moderate treks and challenging hill walks all led by professional walking guides.



**Council invite Strabane sports clubs to hire pitches for 2017/18 league season**

**11 July 2017**

Derry City and Strabane District Council are inviting soccer, GAA and Rugby clubs in the Strabane area to apply now to secure their playing pitches for the 2017/18 league season before the deadline of Friday July 21st.

### **£1.4m 3G multi-sport facility for Melvin progressing well**

**16 January 2018**

Work on the new £1.4m multi-sport 3G facility at Melvin in Strabane is progressing well with works expected to be completed by early 2018, Derry City and Strabane District Council has revealed this week. Council has committed £1.4m towards replacing the existing sand synthetic pitch and grass football pitch with a new multi-sport surface that will primarily cater for football, rugby and Gaelic sport in the Strabane area. While some minor operational issues have caused some minor delays to the works programme it is expected to be completed early this year.



Mayor hails Brandywell Regeneration Project Council Investment

### **Mayor hails Brandywell Regeneration Project Council investment**

**26 February 2018**

Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council Cllr Maolíosa M<sup>c</sup>Hugh says the £7m Brandywell Regeneration Project marks a significant investment and commitment by Council to improve sports provision and the health and well-being of the City and District.



Pitches hired for 2017/18 league season



## Delivery / Achievements

In our Improvement Plan for 2017/18, we set ourselves a number of target outcomes in respect of this Improvement Objective. An overview of what we have done / achieved is set out in the table below:

What did we aim to achieve? Target Outcomes	What we achieved in 2017/18	Delivered
Peace 1V Shared Space Stage 2 Business Case Completed	Peace 1V Shared Space Stage 2 Business Case Completed for Waterside Shared Village at former Clondermott school site and shared space funding application for circa £6.9 undergoing final assessment	✓
Progress design and development of Council's Strategic Community Centre Investment Programme - (Ballymagroarty/Hazelbank, Top of the Hill, Galliagh CC, Shantallow CC, Culmore CC, Irish St CC, Lincoln Courts, Glenview CC)	3 new/refurbished community centres completed (Irish Street/Glebe/Victoria Bridge). New community centre build progressed to contractor select list appointment. (Lincoln Courts). 3 New Capital Build Community Centres progressed through the Design Stages (Galliagh/Shantallow/TOTH).	✓
Maintain leisure user visitor numbers (paid visits) of 917,735 visits per year	940,009 visits	✓
Achieve Everybody Active targets of 12,000 participants per year for targeted programmes	11,230 participants recorded	✓
Lead business case planning and design process for: Riversdale Leisure Centre, Templemore Sports Complex, Waterside Shared Village, Prehen Pontoon Development, Daisyfield/Brandywell Sports Centre Development, 2 SIF Pitch Projects (Leafair and Corrody Road)	Design team appointment for leisure centres in Strabane and at Templemore in place. Daisyfield/Brandywell Sports Centre Development design team appointments underway. 2 SIF Pitch Projects (Leafair and Corrody Road) ready to commence	✓



What did we aim to achieve? Target Outcomes	What we achieved in 2017/18	Delivered
Open new Brandywell Stadium for use	£7 million Brandywell Stadium Capital Development opened February 2018.	✓
Progress Construction work with new Melvin 3G Pitch	New Melvin 3G pitch opened Spring 2018 (with investment of £1.2m; arena pitch temporary changing facilities £70k in place)	✓
Progress Melvin Multi-Sport Hub Development, progress with design work and apply for funding to Sport NI	Initial design concept developed for Melvin Multi-Sport Hub Development completed and Sport NI funding application prepared	✓
Delivery of District Wide sports camps	Delivery of 6 seasonal District Wide sports camps with 250 participants.	✓
Deliver a District wide Physical Activity Referral Programme (PARP) Model at x3 Tier 1 sites and achieve 450 participation completion rate targeting designated special populations	Physical Activity Referral Programme (PARP) targeting designated special populations with roll out across 3 Tier 1 leisure centre sites and pre and post assessments undertaken.  385 participants completed	✓
Roll-out of Athlete Support Membership	Roll-out of Athlete Support Membership with 60 memberships allocated and 14 bursaries awarded.	✓
Delivery of 'Get Out Get Active' Disability Programme	Delivery of 'Get out Get Active' Disability Programme with 1100 participant opportunities created.	✓
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £120,000 secured from Sport NI for Prehen Pontoon Development</li> <li>• McMillan sports co ordinator for the Move More programme appointed</li> <li>• Peace IV sports development programme developed</li> <li>• 3,000 children participating in structured swimming programme</li> </ul>	



### Overview / Assessment

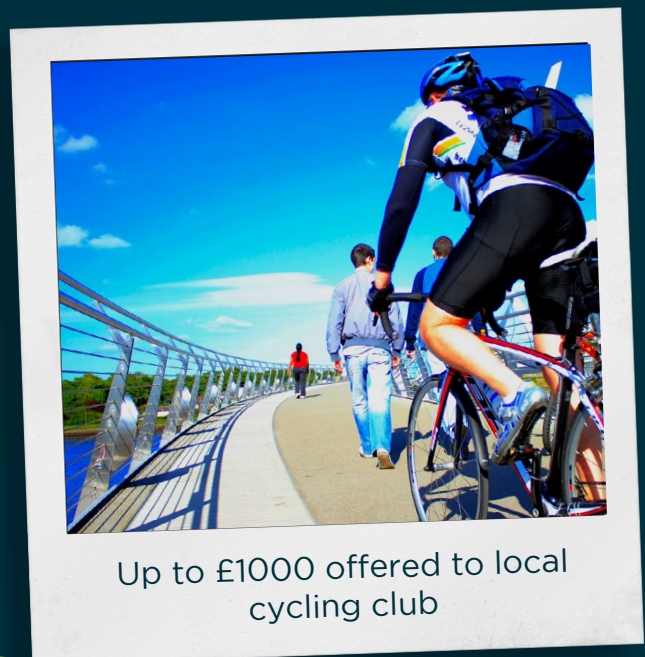
The overall trend in progressing delivery of our healthy living performance improvement objective in 2017/18 has seen a growth in delivery outputs from both an infrastructural development and participation perspective.

The potential future benefits from recently constructed facilities at the Brandywell and Melvin, along with ongoing construction at the Leafair Pavilion are laying the pathway for future growth in participation and improved outcomes for local people.

Significant progress and investment continues to be made in terms of design development, business case reviews and targeting external funding to deliver further phases of the infrastructural plan. Notably this includes new strategic leisure provision in the City at Templemore and in Strabane Town, Waterside Shared Village, Corrody Road pitches and Prehen Pontoon.

From a participation perspective, increased visits have been made to Council leisure centres, with 940,009 visits this year and the continued delivery of high quality initiatives including the Everybody Active and GP Physical Referral Programmes continuing to attract new participants annually (11,615). Trends towards improved healthy living outcomes remain strong with increased programming opportunities including the MacMillan Move More programme, opening up new opportunities for cancer survivors. Community centre provision within localities provides for much needed basic services and healthy living activity with 3 new facilities developed; facilities at Top of the Hill, Shantallow and Galliagh at advanced stages; and further planned investment across the City are in the early planning/design phases.

### Overall Trend/ Assessment: Performance Improving



Up to £1000 offered to local cycling club

## Improvement Objective 2017/18

**To protect and enhance the environment through creating and supporting a culture of environmental stewardship**

### Why we selected this as an Improvement Objective

This improvement objective relates directly to the Strategic Growth Plan objective that we live sustainably – protecting the environment, under the theme of Physical and Environmental Regeneration. This was a key theme that emerged during the significant engagement process carried out as part of the development of the Strategic Growth Plan. The improvement objective will allow us to pull together the actions that will demonstrate that we are protecting and enhancing our local environment and the partnership approach that we have taken to maximise effect.

(Further detail on the rationale for selecting this improvement Objective is provided in our Corporate and Improvement Plan 2017/18)

### Example initiatives taken forward in 2017/18 related to this Improvement Objective



Recycle Week 2017

### Active Travel Grant of up to £1,000 on offer to local groups

**19 May 2017**

Organisations in the North West are being offered the chance to avail of grants from Derry City and Strabane District Council and the Active and Sustainable Travel Forum to host events and training sessions that encourage travel by foot or bicycle.

The Active Travel Grant offers funding of up to £1000 for events or training and is open to organisations such as walking and cycling clubs, schools, universities, community groups and employers on a not for profit basis.

### Council green light for walking trail at Plumbridge and Woodland trail at Donemana

**05 May 2017**

Members of Derry City and Strabane District Council's Governance and Strategic Planning Committee agreed to commit £31,000 in Council match funding towards the development of a walking trail at Balix Hill, Plumbridge, and £125,000 of match funding towards the development of a new woodland trail in Donemana.

### Recycle Week kicks off at the Guildhall and Alley Theatre

**27 September 2017**

Derry City and Strabane District Council held the first of its events to mark Recycling Week on Monday with 'What Goes In My Bin?' Information events at the Guildhall and Alley Theatre.

## **Council keen to explore Circular Economy Zero Waste Strategy for the District**

**20 June 2017**

Zero Waste North West and Derry City and Strabane District Council held a Roundtable discussion last week at the City Hotel, Derry to inform the development of a Zero Waste Circular Economy Strategy for the Council area.

Representatives from over 20 organisations from the private, community and public sector discussed the opportunities provided by fully embracing the Circular Economy and in particular the potential for employment creation locally, linked directly to the sustainable management of products, materials and wastes.

## **Mayor performs official opening of Culmore Country Park**

**25 September 2017**

Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council, Councillor Maolíosa McHugh, officially opened the new Culmore Country Park on Saturday.

The former landfill site has been restored and redeveloped into park and nature reserve with stunning views of Lough Foyle at a cost of £7 million.

Saturday's opening ceremony was followed by a family fun day and also marked the start of an engagement with the public to hear their views on the future plans for the site.

## **Council's innovative tree planting scheme aims to cut air pollution**

**06 February 2018**

Derry City and Strabane District Council, in partnership with the Public Health Agency and the North West Regional College, have launched a unique tree planting scheme to mark the registration of significant life events in the Council area.




The Life Tree Project will see every birth, death and marriage registered in Council's District Registration Offices in Derry and Strabane marked by the planting of a native tree sapling as part of a wider strategy to improve air quality and the public's mental health.







### Delivery / Achievements

In our Improvement Plan for 2017/18, we set ourselves a number of target outcomes in respect of this Improvement Objective. An overview of what we have done / achieved is set out in the table below:

What did we aim to achieve? Target Outcomes	What we achieved in 2017/18	Delivered
We will have increased levels of household recycling and reduced the amount of waste sent to landfill	<p>Our recycling levels have increased from 40.5% in 2016/17 to 43.3% in 2017/18. The amount of biodegradable municipal waste that is being landfilled continues to reduce from 13,242 tonnes in 2016/17 to 12,074 tonnes in 2017/18, however, 2017/18 saw an increase in the total amount of local authority collected municipal waste which has been collected by the Council.</p> <p>Council were the first Council in Northern Ireland to adopt a Zero Waste Circular Economy Strategy supported by community partners Zero Waste North West.</p>	
We will have continued to develop a more integrated and effective planning and building control system which enables and encourages the provision of quality housing in sustainable urban and rural neighbourhoods	<p>An increase of 24% in planning decisions issued, a 29% increase in approved applications with an overall approval rate of 96.2%.</p> <p>Local Development Plan (LDP) – the LDP Preferred Papers Option (POP) was published in May 2017 followed by a consultation period from June to August 2017.</p> <p>In the 11 months to the end of February 2018, the Building Control section received applications with a construction value in the region of £166 million.</p> <p>Approved and issued the highest number of major residential developments in Northern Ireland, 6 so far in the first two quarters of 2017/18 and 9 which was the highest in NI for last year, culminating to a total of 1078 dwelling units, 835 Social and 243 Private. Many of these are also accompanied by legal planning agreements securing comprehensive development and facilitating associated infrastructure and open space in order to deliver sustainable communities.</p>	
We will have improved the opportunity for active travel and modal shift by progressing a number of greenway delivery projects	<p>Completion of Gransha Greenway Phase 4 through the Gransha Estate. Officers are currently working with WHSCT to extend this route beyond the Gransha Estate.</p> <p>Planning permission secured for £1.2m worth of greenways at Clooney and Kilfennan</p> <p>Recruitment of officer team and appointment of design team to take forward the €18m North West Greenways project – 46.5km of greenway across 3 cross border routes.</p> <p>Awarded Active Travel Workplace of the Year at the UK Healthy Streets Awards.</p>	



What did we aim to achieve? Target Outcomes	What we achieved in 2017/18	Delivered
<p>We will have increased the opportunity for outdoor play through the delivery of 5 play parks</p>	<p>Completion of two play parks at Brandywell (£700k) and Ballyarnett (£600k) and the commencement of £2m worth of works on site at play parks in Kilfennan and Ballymagroarty.</p> <p>Opening of the new £520k play park at Strathfoyle.</p> <p>The newly opened £5.7m Brooke Park achieved a number of accolades including: shortlisted for a National Association of Public Sector Excellence Award for Best Housing, Regeneration or New Build Initiative; highly commended at the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors Awards for Community Benefit and awarded a Green Flag Award by Keep NI Beautiful.</p> <p>Completion of £400k of public realm works at St Columb's Park House.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"></p>
<p>We will have supported communities who want to engage in environmental stewardship through community clean ups and environmental improvement schemes</p>	<p>Progressed the Climate Project in conjunction with project partners – the acronym stands for Community Led Initiative Managing and Transforming the Environment with the project supporting the region's readiness for anticipated climate change.</p> <p>Awarded Britain in Bloom Gold Award, awarded Best Kept City in Northern Ireland at Best Kept Awards, awarded winner in City category of Ulster in Bloom Awards.</p> <p>Completion of the shopfront enhancement scheme 'ReStore' on Clooney Terrace &amp; Strand Road, and the submission of a £250k Revitalisation shopfront enhancement scheme for Strabane town centre.</p> <p>Worked with two rural communities in Victoria Bridge and Magheramason to enter the Pride of Place Awards. Victoria Bridge were awarded a Pride of Place Award.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"></p>
<p>Other</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 'Best Place in Northern Ireland Award' was received from Royal Town Planning Institute for Derry/ Londonderry for historic core Peace Bridge and Ebrington.</li> <li>• Planning permission secured in respect of the proposed Ballynagard Social Housing &amp; Community Regeneration Project.</li> <li>• Council appointed a Built Heritage Officer as part of a joint initiative with Department for Communities' Historic Environment Division to develop a heritage strategy and encourage pride in local built heritage.</li> </ul>	

## Overview / Assessment

This improvement objective relates directly to the Strategic Growth Plan objective that we live sustainably protecting and enhancing the environment. During the year we significantly increased levels of household recycling from 40.5% to 43.3% and reduced the amount of waste sent to landfill.

We continued to develop a more integrated and effective planning and building control system and supported the provision of quality housing in sustainable urban and rural neighbourhoods. We improved the opportunity for active travel and modal shift by progressing a number of greenway projects including the Clooney Greenway and the North West Greenways Project.

We increased the opportunity for outdoor play by delivery of 5 new play parks. We supported a large number of communities by the substantial refurbishment of three existing community centres, developing designs for a further six new centres and by engaging in environmental stewardship through community clean-ups and environmental improvement schemes.

**Overall Trend/ Assessment:  
Performance Improving**



## Improvement Objective 2017/18

**To deliver improved customer satisfaction by improving customer support services and processes**

### **Why we selected this as an Improvement Objective**

The Council's mission is to deliver improved social, economic and environmental outcomes for everyone. This is supported by corporate values, including to be a centre of excellence and innovation with a clear focus on outcomes and delivery.

In delivering on these aspirations, Derry City and Strabane District Council recognises that today's citizens and stakeholders expect a high level of services and to be able to deal with the Council across a multitude of communications channels, including phone, e-mail, the Web, mobile devices, social media, as well as in person at our offices. Citizens and customers are at the heart of what we do as a public service organisation.

Consequently, we need to continuously strive to provide more-responsive services, better collaboration with customers, increased transparency to the general public, and more-proactive efforts to improve customer satisfaction.

(Further detail on the rationale for selecting this Improvement Objective is provided in our Corporate and Improvement Plan 2017/18)

### **Example initiatives taken forward in 2017/18 related to this Improvement Objective**

#### **Consumers get to have their say! 06 February 2018**

Residents in Derry City and Strabane District Council area will soon get to have their say on the consumer issues that concern them, thanks to The Consumer Council



Residents have their say

which is staging a 'Consumer Parliament', in partnership with Derry City and Strabane District Council, at the Guildhall on Friday, 23 March.

#### **Community-led meetings to be held to provide ongoing support after floods**

##### **20 October 2017**

A series of community-based meetings are to be held in Eglinton, Drumahoe and rural areas to offer continued support to those affected by the recent floods. The decision was made today following a multi-agency meeting that was facilitated by Derry City and Strabane District Council to get a collective response to the ongoing recovery operation that has been taking place since the floods last August.

#### **Alley Theatre launches new user friendly website**








##### **11 October 2017**

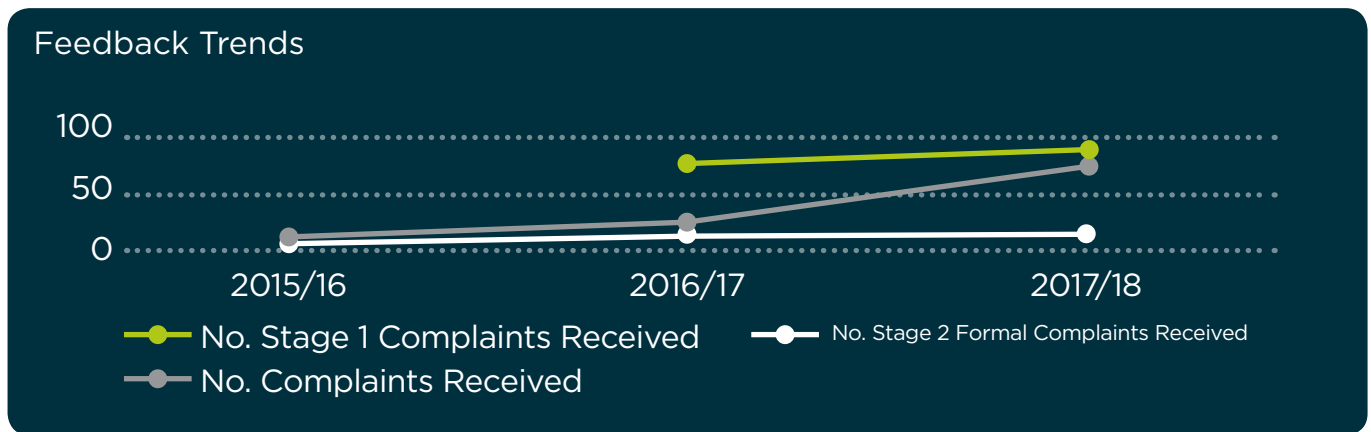
Regular visitors to the Alley Theatre in Strabane will be delighted with the launch of a new more accessible website which will make it even easier for customers to source information and book tickets.

The new improved site will ensure a hassle free experience for users as well as the option of printing tickets from home. The site also features the latest programme information, as well as up to date details on workshops, exhibitions and visitor information services.

### Delivery / Achievements

In our Improvement Plan for 2017/18, we set ourselves a number of target outcomes in respect of this Improvement Objective. An overview of what we have done / achieved is set out in the table below:

What did we aim to achieve? Target Outcomes	What we achieved in 2017/18	Delivered
Achieve more efficient call handling response times.	Achieved target call handling response times in the majority of service areas.	
Greater staff awareness of policies relating to customer care.	Improved staff awareness of policies relating to customer care. (Staff who attended training courses in relation to customer services, customer care and telephone services reported having improved their knowledge / understanding).	
We will have improved the opportunity for active travel and modal shift by progressing a number of greenway delivery projects.	<p>Completion of Gransha Greenway Phase 4 through the Gransha Estate. Officers are currently working with WHSCT to extend this route beyond the Gransha Estate. Planning permission secured for £1.2m worth of greenways at Clooney and Kilfennan.</p> <p>Recruitment of officer team and appointment of design team to take forward the €18m North West Greenways project – 46.5km of greenway across 3 cross border routes.</p> <p>Awarded Active Travel Workplace of the Year at the UK Healthy Streets Awards.</p>	
Evidence of customer satisfaction details being collated for at least two service areas.	Collated evidence of customer satisfaction over a range of service areas / events. Information is provided in Section 1 under the heading ‘Engaging Our Stakeholders’.	
Achieve “Louder Than Words” Charter for front line service areas – starting with Guildhall.	Implemented the recommendations to Adapt NI audit to promote accessibility for people with a disability (in lieu of seeking accreditation via the “Louder Than Words” Charter).	
Develop a guide for staff when organising meetings and events to ensure accessibility and inclusion.	Developed a guide for staff when organising meetings and events to ensure accessibility and inclusion.	
Increased levels of positive feedback from those achieved in 2016/17.	<p>Increased levels of positive public feedback from those achieved in 2016/17 (see graph)</p> <p>Achieved high satisfaction levels for the provision of Elected Member support services and for the provision of Irish Language Services.</p>	



### Overview / Assessment

The Council has delivered against the commitments it had identified in its Improvement Plan 2017/18 and this has already shown some impacts in terms of the effectiveness of its processes.

The feedback trends indicate increased levels of compliments and complaints. This can be attributable to a range of factors including better reporting/recording, greater visibility of the Council’s feedback processes and/or more engagement between the Council and its stakeholders.

Further work will be taken forward to improve the effectiveness of how we are dealing with feedback and the outcomes achieved.

**Overall Trend/ Assessment:  
Performance Improving**





## Improvement Objective 2017/18

To support Council's investment and capital aspirations by developing (1) a fully scoped efficiency plan for reinvestment in Council's growth objectives and (2) a funding strategy for Council's Strategic Inclusive Growth Plan (including capital aspirations) once finalised

### Why we selected this as an Improvement Objective

This Council is the least wealthy Council of the new 11 Councils in Northern Ireland evidenced by its reliance on Rates Support Grant and highest unemployment and deprivation levels. To address this, this Council has a very ambitious capital plan forming part of its Community Plan. Council has already made a statement of intent during the 2016/17 rates process by ring-fencing the majority of efficiency savings realised to date through the merger of the 2 legacy Councils for investment in growth as opposed to passing on to ratepayers in the form of reductions.

To achieve Council's significant capital aspirations will obviously require longer term financial planning and forecasting to ensure Council is aware of its available resources to fund its ambitions as set out in Inclusive Growth Plan 2017-2032, along with a significant focus on funding both in terms of maintenance of existing funding streams and securing new revenue streams.

(Further detail on the rationale for selecting this improvement Objective is provided in our Corporate and Improvement Plan 2017/18)

Example initiatives taken forward in 2017/18 related to this Improvement Objective.

### Members approve allocation of funding to advance with Council's Capital Projects

**02 May 2017**

Members of Derry City and Strabane District Council's Strategic Governance Committee gave their approval for Council to proceed with £2.152m of funding to advance with its ambitious capital development projects across the City and District. Members attending the monthly meeting at the Guildhall today, were given an update on the status of current projects completed by the new Council to the value of £35.146m, of which £16.156m was funded externally. They were also provided with details of a fully funded investment programme totalling £41.196m invested in projects that are approved but require £770,000 additional Council support to complete, and given a full report on £213m worth of projects that Council are currently developing and progressing.

### Council to progress discussions for major investment through City Deal

**03 October 2017**

Members of Derry City and Strabane District Council's Governance and Strategic Planning Committee today endorsed recommendations to take active steps to further progress a City Deal for the City and region.

**PEACE On Earth - PEACE IV  
European funding benefits  
local communities**

**15 December 2017**

The December snow has brought with it a flurry of PEACE IV project launches to local communities.

With over £2 million worth of contracts recently awarded to local community groups for cross-community reconciliation work, the funding from the Special EU Programmes Body under Derry City and Strabane District Council's PEACE IV Programme is already beginning to make a positive impact on the ground.



**Council funding allocated  
to progress with Ebrington  
Greenway plans**

**04 May 2017**

Members of Derry City and Strabane District Council's Governance and Strategic Planning Committee earlier this week gave their approval to release capital funds to support the Department for Infrastructure's funding application to SEUPB under the INTERREG Va programme for the delivery of the Ebrington Greenway as part of the wider North West Multi-Modal Transport Hub project.

This project will promote cross-border intermodal and sustainable mobility in the North-West region which will assist residents and visitors to move away from car journeys and towards active and sustainable travel through walking, cycling and using public transport.

## Delivery / Achievements

In our Improvement Plan for 2017/18, we set ourselves a number of target outcomes in respect of this Improvement Objective. An overview of what we have done / achieved is set out in the table below:

What did we aim to achieve? Target Outcomes	What we achieved in 2017/18	Delivered																								
Phase 3 efficiency plan completed	<p>Realised recurrent efficiency savings of £2.145m. This along with other income generation and new rates investment has enabled growth investment in Council's strategic growth plan aspirations as follows: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capital financing provision £1.495m</li> <li>• Tier 2 festivals additional funding £130k</li> <li>• Festivals and events team and major festivals fund £694k</li> <li>• Third party capital projects fund £75k</li> <li>• Community services- rural staffing and additional grant aid £167k</li> <li>• Tourism £55k</li> <li>• Cultural venues £40k</li> </ul> <p>TOTAL £2.656m</p>	✓																								
Completion of investment proposition	Work has been completed to identify Council's key strategic sites and their investment value and potential. This will form part of Council's City Deal proposal.	✓																								
5 year rates plan for capital development to be agreed	<p>As a result of the new capital financing provision, the new Council has now completely delivered and progressed the following capital investment:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="360 1189 1310 1742"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Council investment (£m)</th> <th>External funding secured (£m)</th> <th>Total investment (£m)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Projects completed</td> <td>21.20</td> <td>15.77</td> <td>36.97</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Projects in progress and fully financed</td> <td>12.89</td> <td>27.20</td> <td>40.09</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Projects in progress and not fully financed</td> <td>6.40</td> <td>12.50</td> <td>18.90</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Further fund available for capital investment</td> <td>25.0 est</td> <td>TBC</td> <td>25.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>65.49</b></td> <td><b>55.47</b></td> <td><b>120.96</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Council investment (£m)	External funding secured (£m)	Total investment (£m)	Projects completed	21.20	15.77	36.97	Projects in progress and fully financed	12.89	27.20	40.09	Projects in progress and not fully financed	6.40	12.50	18.90	Further fund available for capital investment	25.0 est	TBC	25.00	<b>Total</b>	<b>65.49</b>	<b>55.47</b>	<b>120.96</b>	✓
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<b>Total</b>	<b>65.49</b>	<b>55.47</b>	<b>120.96</b>																							

## Overview / Assessment

£2.145 million of efficiencies have been fully realised representing almost 4% of Council's total net expenditure budget. This is a significant achievement. Council will continue to work to identify further efficiencies going forward.

Over £120 million of capital projects have been fully funded as a result of Council's capital investment programme facilitated through Council's efficiency programme.

**Overall Trend/ Assessment: Objective Achieved**

## Financial Performance 2017/18

For the year ended 31st March 2018, Council approved a net expenditure budget as part of the rates process of £56,163,211.

The sources of funding were as follows:-

	£
Rates income (including de-rating grant)	51,615,800
Rates Support Grant	3,756,990
Transferred Functions Grant	340,421
Reserves (Forecast loss)	450,000
<b>Total expenditure budget</b>	<b>56,163,211</b>

As set out in the table below, the Council has delivered\*\* a surplus of £103K in 2017/18 as compared to a budget loss of £450k (£553k ahead of budget).

Area Budget	Revised Annual Budget	Net Expenditure	Surplus
Cross Cutting Corporate Services			
Governance, Finance & Legal	1,800,500	1,689,718	110,782
Chief Executive (including Legacy & Comms)	846,987	711,216	135,771
Human Resources	732,000	724,277	7,723
Performance & Improvement	1,759,763	1,646,995	112,769
Council	1,264,100	1,144,990	119,110
	<b>6,403,350</b>	<b>5,917,196</b>	<b>486,154</b>

Area Budget	Revised Annual Budget	Net Expenditure	Surplus
Health & Community			
Director of Health & Community	445,390	424,070	21,320
Health & Community Wellbeing	2,096,014	1,861,937	234,077
Community Development & Leisure	6,903,768	6,664,546	239,222
	9,445,172	8,950,553	494,619
Business & Culture			
Director of Business Culture	239,900	250,616	(10,716)
Off street car parking	(657,700)	(842,623)	184,923
Business	1,780,938	1,705,774	75,164
Culture	5,964,451	5,871,238	93,213
	7,327,589	6,985,005	342,584
Environment & Regeneration			
Director of Environment & Regeneration	494,900	487,049	7,851
Planning	964,500	753,979	210,521
Capital Development & Building Control	978,800	798,600	180,200
Environment	18,704,179	19,013,686	(309,506)
	21,142,379	21,053,314	89,065
Capital end loans	6,953,983	6,424,218	529,765
City of Derry Airport	2,650,768	2,750,263	(99,495)
Sundry	(1,393,886)	847,606	(2,241,492)
Bank interest and charges	(16,500)	(25,953)	9,453
Rates Support Grant	(3,756,990)	(3,607,115)	(149,875)
Rates (incl. derating grant)	(52,615,801)	(53,708,132)	1,092,331
Transferring Functions Grant	(340,421)	(340,421)	0
Transfers from Reserves	4,650,357	4,650,357	0
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>(52,062,855)</b>	<b>(53,005,311)</b>	<b>942,456</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>450,000</b>	<b>(103,108)</b>	<b>553,108</b>



A breakdown of the savings is set out in the table below:

Savings Details	£000
Directorate service outturn:-	
<b>Cross cutting corporate services</b> - mainly due to unfilled posts, salary recoupment, performance audit fee savings and building energy savings and prudent financial management. This has been offset by £101k of costs in relation to the European Capital of Culture Bid. A number of efficiencies have been identified in this area following amalgamation and have been reflected in 2018/19 budget and efficiency plan.	367
Council - savings on phone costs, travel costs and conferences. Efficiencies have been identified and removed as part of 2018/19 rates process and Council's efficiency plan.	119
<b>Health &amp; Community</b> - mainly due to Environmental Health staff savings and additional Grant Income for Tobacco & Food Control. Efficiencies have now been reflected in 2018/19 budgets. There is also an underspend of £239k in Community Development & Leisure. This is due to closure of Brandywell Stadium (£56k), additional Sports Development Grant (£67k), running costs of Leisure Centres (£81k) and savings in Community Centre running costs (£33k). £100k has been set aside for investing in new Spin Bikes across the Leisure Centres and £159k has been set aside for investment in Riversdale LC and other commitments.	494
<b>Business &amp; Culture</b> - Surplus in Off Street car parking of £185k due to increased income and savings in gritting costs (£49k) and Contracts costs (64k). Savings of £75k in Business due to unfilled post and PEACE match funding savings. Savings in Culture of £93k due to Marketing savings (£81k) and Tourism projects (£63k).	342
<b>Environment &amp; Regeneration</b> - Savings in Planning £211k due to increased income (£175k) and administration savings (before £35k). Building Control income has continued to increase and has exceeded budget by £178k. In Environment, Parks Development savings (£73k) have been offset by overspends in Street Cleansing (£167k) due to sickness costs, Refuse Collection wages costs (£87k) and Waste Management costs (£151k) for maintenance at Recycling Centres and sickness costs.	89
<b>Total Directorate Savings</b>	1,412
<b>Other areas:-</b>	
<b>Capital and loan charges and other costs</b> - normally savings arise due to budget not yet being fully committed and projects committed from budget which will not be complete until subsequent years. In this year these funds and those arising from Directorate savings have been allocated through this Committee to cover severance costs (£418k), flooding repairs costs (£1,050k), City Growth Deal progression (£200k), ESF Match Funding (£200k), Foras Na Gaeilge Match Funding (before £97k), NIEA Heritage Match Funding (£58k), Waste Management Campaign Manager (£50k).	(1,801)
Positive rates and de-rating grant finalisation as advised by Land & Property Services	942
<b>Total Council Saving as Compared to Budgeted Loss £450k</b>	553

During the year, the Council has adopted a prudent financial management approach with a focus on driving efficiencies to fund Council's growth ambitions as identified in the Strategic Inclusive Growth Plan (Community Plan) and Council's Capital Plan.

It is noted that the combined picture of Council's positive rates finalisation (£2.09m), planning income exceeding budget (£175k) and building control income exceeding budget (£178k) indicates positive growth and development activity in the Council area, which is key to delivering the objectives set out in the Strategic Inclusive Growth Plan.

In addition, whilst a number of significant savings have been realised, there are a number of known commitments and priorities, to the value of £2,250k, which have been identified. These have either been paid during the year or provided for in reserves and the remaining surplus of £103k will be carried into the Council's District Fund. This will ensure that the Council has a District Fund within the recommended threshold of between 5% and 7.5% of net expenditure. This will result in the following District Fund balance being carried forward:-



Opening District Fund balance	4,693
<b>Surplus</b>	<b>– 103</b>
Closing District Fund	4,796
Earmarked to fund 2018/19 rates £300k + £300K and 2019/20 rates £150k	<u>(750)</u>
Available District Fund	4,046
Net expenditure per 2018/19 Rates Estimates	58,541
District Fund %	6.91%

\*\* This outturn is subject to external audit with the final accounts being presented by NIAO to Audit Committee by 30th September 2018.



## Corporate Plan Objectives - Key Achievements 2017/18

Our Corporate Plan 2017/18 identified four strategic objectives:

- Protect our environment and deliver physical regeneration
- Grow our business and facilitate cultural development
- Promote healthy communities
- Provide effective and facilitative cross functional services

**These corporate objectives align to the three pillars of the “Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan 2017-2032”, namely environmental wellbeing, economic wellbeing and social wellbeing.**

Key achievements, under each of the Corporate Plan Objectives are highlighted below:

### Objective:

#### Protect our environment and deliver physical regeneration

- The newly opened £57m Brooke Park achieved a number of accolades including:
  - Being shortlisted for a National Association of Public Sector Excellence Award for Best Housing, Regeneration or New Build Initiative
  - Being highly commended at the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors Awards for Community Benefit
  - Being awarded a Green Flag Award by Keep NI Beautiful
- Opening of the new £520k play park at Strathfoyle
- Completion of £400k of public realm works at St Columb’s Park House
- Completion of two play parks at Brandywell (£700k) and Ballyarnett (£600k) and the commencement of £2m worth of works on site at play parks in Kilfennan and Ballymagroarty
- Completion of construction of new £7m football stadium and separate dog track at Brandywell
- Roll out and promotion of food waste collection service. At present more than 80% of households have a food waste collection service and plans are in place to ensure the service is rolled out to the remaining households by the end of May 2018
- Completion of Gransha Greenway Phase 4 through the Gransha Estate Officers are currently working with WHSCT to extend this route beyond the Gransha Estate
- Planning permission secured for £12m worth of greenways at Clooney and Kilfennan
- Recruitment of officer team and appointment of design team to take forward the €18m North West Greenways project - 465km of greenway across 3 cross border routes
- Progressed the Climate Project in conjunction with project partners – the acronym stands for Community Led Initiative Managing and Transforming the Environment with the project supporting the region’s readiness for anticipated climate change
- Awarded Britain in Bloom Gold Award, awarded Best Kept City in Northern Ireland at Best Kept Awards, awarded

- winner in City category of Ulster in Bloom Awards
  - Appointment of the Council's first District-wide Built Heritage Officer as part of the joint heritage development 3-year pilot initiative between Council and DfC Historic Environment Division
  - Planning permission secured in respect of the proposed Ballynagard Social Housing & Community Regeneration Project
  - On-site commencement of final 3 heritage-led regeneration capital projects as part of the Walled City Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI)
  - Preparation & submission of €85m Riverine funding application to the SEUPB's PEACE IV 'Shared Spaces' measure for a proposed community district park in Strabane & Lifford
  - Completion of the shopfront enhancement scheme 'ReStore' on Clooney Terrace & Strand Road, and the submission of a £250k Revitalisation shopfront enhancement scheme for Strabane town centre
  - Awarded Active Travel Workplace of the Year at the UK Healthy Streets Awards
  - Adopted Zero Waste Strategy in conjunction with Zero Waste North West
  - Upgraded Christmas lights in Donemana, Sion Mills and Newtownstewart
  - The team worked with two rural communities in Victoria Bridge and Magheramason to enter the Pride of Place Awards. Victoria Bridge were awarded a Pride of Place Award.
  - In the 12 months to the end of March 2018, the Building Control section received applications with a construction value in the region of £173 million
  - An increase of 119% in planning decisions issued, a 166% increase in approved applications with an overall approval rate of 97%
  - Local Development Plan (LDP) – the LDP Preferred Papers Option (POP) was published in May 2017 followed by a consultation period from June to August 2017
  - Approved and issued the highest number of major residential developments in Northern Ireland, 6 so far in the first two quarters of this year 2017/18 and 9 which was the highest in NI for last year, culminating to a total of 1078 dwelling units, 835 Social and 243 Private. Many of these are also accompanied by legal planning agreements securing comprehensive development and facilitating associated infrastructure and open space in order to deliver sustainable communities
  - The EU Improve pilot project continues successfully to offer enhanced engagement opportunities for stakeholders, statutory consultees and wider public to input into the LDP and expanded /integrated the program this year into Development Management function.
  - The 'Best Place in Northern Ireland Award' was received from Royal Town Planning Institute for Derry/ Londonderry for historic core Peace Bridge and Ebrington
-

## Objective:

### Grow our business and facilitate cultural development

#### Economic Development & Job Creation

- 139 jobs promoted as part of Northern Ireland Business Start Up Programme
- 272 jobs promoted as part of the Business Boost programme
- Social Enterprise NI - Highly Commended in Council of the Year Category
- Delivery of Enterprise Week 2017 (6th – 10th March); 18 Events, Over 700 Attendees, 96% of respondents rated Enterprise Week as excellent or good
- Delivery of Fashion Fest 2017 (14th October) - Over 350 attendees - 40% uplift on 2016; 23 designers participating
- Delivery of Christmas Market (14th -17th Dec); 29 traders; 83,913 visitors to the Guildhall Square over duration of the Christmas Market, this represents an increase of 38% from the previous weeks (51,695) footfall statistics. The busiest day of the Market was Saturday 16th December with 28,791 people through Guildhall Square, this was also the first day of performances from Bjorn the Bear
- Christmas Business Programme; 55 business participants re Rural Towns/ 12 Days of Christmas business promotion initiatives
- Strabane BID – Over 80 businesses signed up to participate in the Strabane Gift Card initiative

- Designer Start Up Programme; 10 designers showcasing at London Fashion Week
- Launched City Start Programme

#### City & Regional Investment & Opportunity

- Council leading Ireland Northwest Trade and Investment Mission to Boston, Massachusetts and Philadelphia in partnership with Donegal County Council
- Developing export potential of 8 local companies in DCSDC area having secured their participation in the trade mission to City of Boston
- Regional investment proposition for Ireland Northwest enhanced and supporting collateral refreshed in collaboration with Donegal County Council
- Secured Memorandum of Understanding with City of Boston
- Hosting first official Chinese government visit to City by Dalian and subsequent proposal by Dalian to establish friendly city relationship
- DCSD ranked in Top 10 Best European Small City for FDI Strategy Award (fDi Magazine's European Cities and Regions of the Future Awards 2018/19)
- Supported city secure MEGUK 2018 conference
- Hosting senior level corporate and government delegations to the City and District including Lord Mayor City of London, US Irish International Business Network, State of Pennsylvania





### Rural Development

- Rural Business Investment Scheme - opening of Call 2 & 3 and approval of 15 grants totalling £888,127, creating 535 FTE new jobs
- Rural Basic Services Scheme - opening of targeted Call 1 & 2 and approval of 12 grants totalling £94,777 (Call 1 to date)
- Village Renewal Scheme - completion of scoping study, selection of 13 settlements for capital support and commencement of 15 cluster village plans to cover all 49 rural settlements in the Council area
- Rural Broadband Scheme - mapping of current Broadband coverage and speed as well as best practice visit to Finland
- Rural Cooperation Scheme - completion of scoping study for Ulster-Ireland section of the International Appalachian Trail
- (Derry-Strabane as lead partner) and feasibility study for Rivers Access & Recreation Project (Causeway Coast & Glens as lead partner)
- Total of 36 pre-application/procurement workshops for potential applicants (580 attendees)
- Total of 35 other animation events (360 attendees) under Village Renewal and Cooperation schemes
- Marketing and promotional activity comprising 7 advert campaigns and 7 press and social media campaigns
- Recruitment of additional members to the Wider LAG, first annual general meeting of Derry & Strabane Rural Partnership and preparation of first annual report

### Employment, Skills & Training

- Delivery of the ESF Kickstart to Work project year 3 x engaged 356 participants
- Designed, delivered and joint funded with NWRC Software Fundamentals course with 8 ICT companies x 20 participants
- Designed, delivered and joint funded with NWRC Welding Academy with 8 companies x 15 participants
- Funded with NWRC a Neighbourhood Renewal programme of vocational training - engaged 240 participants
- The roll out of the World Host Food Ambassador programme in conjunction with Tourism NI for the food sector x 96 participants
- The rollout of the Worldhost principals of Customer Service in conjunction with Tourism NI for 60 x Translink Metro Staff and 14 x post primary schools
- One PfG public consultation events hosted on behalf of DfC
- Annual hosting of jobs fair with DEL's Jobs & Benefits Office x 637 attendees & 32 employers
- Acted as Secretariat to Education & Skills Delivery Partnership established to deliver on Strategic Growth Plan
- Delivery of UNESCO Learning Cities Workshop



## PEACE Programme

- June 2017 Securing of Letter of offer for £6,205,204 from the Special EU Programmes Body
- Launch 21st June 2017 (First participating council to launch programme) attended by 200+ participants from across council services and community and voluntary sector and representing a wide range of geographies and identities
- Design, development and delivery of a web based expression of interest and application process for PEACE IV Small Grants
- Design, development and delivery of an electronic, iPad/App based equality monitoring and baseline attitudinal evaluation system for the PEACE IV local programme. Sharing of this system with other councils through the PEACE IV Managers Forum
- Issue of 12 Letters of offer for grants to value of £394,255
- Issue of 12 Service Level Agreements (3 under Building Positive Relations totalling £582,799; 5 under Children and Young people totaling £1,107,250; 4 under Shared Spaces and Services totalling £1,130,054) with council led service areas across different directorates and service areas. A total of £2,820,103 for PEACE IV Programmes delivered by Council
- Issue of 13 Tendered contracts (4 under Shared Spaces and services to value of £739,272; and 9 under Building Positive Relations to the value of £1,201,643) worth a total of £1,949,914 to the local community and voluntary sector
- Submission of financial claims 1-7 to SEUPB and completion of financial forecasting/profiling for duration and value of entire PEACE IV programme
- Submission of 1st Annual Equality Return in January 2018
- October 2017 and January 2018 submission of further bids to SEUPB for a total value of £796,316
- 20th - 22nd November 2017 Invitation by SEUPB to exhibit at the European Parliament in Brussels Event attended by Commissioner Cretu, MEPs, Irish and UK Ambassadorial Representation
- 29th November Invitation by SEUPB to speak at the Peace Monitoring Committee (Overarching national and EU body overseeing the implementation of the PEACE IV Programme)
- 1st March 2018 Delivery of the first PEACE IV local programme networking event with all funded projects
- Establishment of Communications systems including monthly e-bulletins (280 subscribers) and bi-annual magazine (1500 distributed)
- Creation of 14 new jobs (6 within council and 8 within local community and voluntary sector) through PEACE IV programme



### Digital Services

- Expanded current IP telephony system to smaller out centres reducing call costs between sites, making Council more connected
- Rationalised all phone lines producing efficiencies in telecoms costs
- New server, San and DR project hardware installed and servers all moved over
- Initiated Airport Hardware refresh project
- Server uptime 98%
- Network uptime 98%
- Review of Council website and systems initiated

### Marketing

- Delivered a full range of marketing services (design, marketing campaigns, social media) to over 22 council services and cross cutting projects across 3 directorates
- Designed, developed and delivered marketing campaigns for over 17 festivals and events
- Successful completion of the Digital Marketing campaign for the NIBSUP. Recruited dedicated marketing officer starting April 2018 together with initiation and roll out of the full regional marketing and communications campaign on behalf of 11 Councils
- Completed Interreg NPA Programme Project – IMPROVE, generating €70,000 funding for the department and worked on European Capital of Culture Bid

### Tourism

- Developed Tourism Strategy for the region and established Tourism Strategic Group to support with implementation
- Developed Food & Drink Strategy & Action Plan for the region and established a Strategic Food Group to support with implementation
- Secured two new funded projects, Peace Tourism £318,805 and SAFER €192,28000 (Interreg AA) which in total the tourism team delivered 5 European funded projects totalling €1,217,626.20 to support marine, food, slow adventure, seafood sector and conflict/peace tourism development
- Secured £50k external funding to support delivery of 3 food events attracting 40,000 visitors and average hotel occupancy of 89%
- Appointment of dedicated Peace Tourism Officer under the Peace Tourism Project
- Secured £39k to deliver collaborative heritage project which will compliment EYCH18 & Walls Alive 400 Programme
- 13 new rural tourism products developed and launched, delivered marketing campaign achieving £321k Advertising Value Equivalent
- Supported Sperrins Future Search work to develop action plan for the AONB









### Museum and Visitor Services

- Achieved 2% increase in Visitor numbers to Guildhall and Tower Museum
- Agreed the 5-year strategy for the Service
- Delivery of Laurentic and Mabel Colhoun exhibitions
- Delivery of 5 key events, including the first Organ Festival
- Successful HLF Round 2 funding of £28m for the Maritime Museum Project
- Formal launch of the Speeches, Strikes and Struggles and creation of website
- Tower Museum accreditation complete
- Delivery of reminiscence programme and dementia awareness training
- Secured liquor license for the Guildhall until 2020

### Arts and Culture

- Securing of Quest accreditation, Disability Equality Charter of Excellence, Autism Friendly Venue status for the Alley Arts & Conference Centre
- Completion of the Alley 5-year Strategy
- Securing additional £158,245 from external funders to supplement delivery of the Access Improvement Programme for Cultural Venues
- Completion of 24 disability access audits for DCSDC cultural venues
- 15,000 participants in pan-disability programme activities across DCSDC
- Ongoing delivery of the ACNI Challenge Fund (Youth Arts

Development, Festivals Engagement, Audience Development, Visual Arts Engagement) and Arts & Older People Programmes

- Delivery of Culture Night and European Day of Persons with Disabilities
- Launch of DCSDC bid to be an Autism Friendly City and District



### Festival and Events

- Delivery of 18 tier one events including the largest ever Halloween, City of Derry Jazz Festival, Strabane Lifford Half Marathon, Waterside Half Marathon and Summer Jamm Events
- Achieved the Best Tourism/ Event Initiative Award from the UTV Business Eye Awards for Halloween in Derry
- Made efficiency savings of around 5% on production costs which was directly placed into programme budgets
- Ongoing delivery of the Community Festival Fund and the Headline Events Fund Awarded 32 events funding
- Increased the amount of business engagement and private sector involved in Council core events
- Coordinated 10 individual mentoring sessions for event organisers with Association of Festival and Events Ireland

Organised as part of Enterprise week Festival and Event Financial Management which had 20 attendees across Derry and Strabane



## Objective:

### Promote healthy communities



#### Community Development

- 3 new/refurbished community centres completed (Irish Street/Glebe/Victoria Bridge)
- 1 new community centre build progressed to contractor select list appointment (Lincoln Courts)
- 3 New Capital Build Community Centres progressed through the Design Stages (Galliagh/Shantallow/TOTH)
- 8 Draft Local Community Growth Plans and Governance Structures to complete by Spring 2018
- Advice Services: £718,299 Awarded to Generalist Advice providers
- Community Development Grant Aid Programme: £214,499 awarded
- Good Relations Grant Aid Programme: £200,000 Awarded

- UNICEF Child Rights Partner Programme: successful application made to UNICEF with multiagency engagement sessions and training planned to embed the Child Rights Framework across Council, WHSCT and Western Area Outcomes Group (WAOG)
- PEACE IV Youth Participation and Democracy: £212,040 secured to facilitate development of Youth Council
- Waterside Shared Space Programme approved - SEUPB (c72m)



#### Policing & Community Safety Partnership

- Financial Leverage Ratio of over 2:1: £718,321 of External Funding Secured
- Project Support Funding of £197,671 awarded for local community safety projects
- 41 Neighbourhood Watch Schemes supported
- Over 400 homes fitted with additional home security equipment
- Over 10,000 patrols carried out by Community Safety Wardens
- Received and actioned over 1000 Anti-Social Behaviour Referrals to Community Safety Wardens



### Leisure & Sport Service

- £7 million Brandywell Stadium Capital Development opened February 2018
- New Melvin 3G pitch opening Spring 2018
- Design Team procured for new leisure facilities in Templemore and Strabane
- Contractor appointed for Leafair and Corrody Road projects
- 940k leisure user visitor numbers (paid visits) during year
- Council wide Physical Activity Referral Scheme with 385 special population participants per year
- Implementation of new 'Spirit of 2012 Get out Get Active' Disability Programme
- Over 11,000 participants in Everybody Active 2020 Programme
- Sports Grant Aid of £160,040 awarded to local clubs



### Health & Community Wellbeing General

- 3686 Environmental Health service requests investigated and actioned in accordance with Council enforcement policies

### Food Safety

- Supported 246 New food business operators
- Conducted 761 Food Hygiene Inspections and 426 Food Standards Inspections
- Delivered 3 Menucal seminars in partnership with FSA on Caloriewise Initiative

- Conducted 270 inspections for Allergen Compliance Initiative
- Successful implementation of the mandatory Food Hygiene Rating Scheme with 93% of all premises having a 4 or 5 rating
- Funding obtained from Food Standards Agency for 3 projects
- 12 Approved Premises Files reviewed in line with FSA Guidance
- Procured food samples including participation in 5 National surveys



### Health & Safety/Consumer Protection

- 616 planned priority health and safety inspections; 207 advisory/compliance visits; 425 new premises registrations; 210 service requests; and 48 reportable accidents
- Production of guidance leaflets on consumer protection to local retailers and advice to consumers via various press releases
- Working in partnership with Trading Standards Officers in GB on a serious consumer complaint regarding children's bath foam
- Sunbed Test purchase exercise undertaken for under age sales with 100% of premises visited compliant
- Production of a Health and Safety Newsletter for small businesses
- Working in partnership with various organisations providing training and the production of advisory material in minority languages

- Working with Sport NI and local sporting organisations/clubs to ensure the highest level of spectator safety at our main sports grounds including the new Brandywell Stadium
- Achievement of HSENI/DC Joint Strategy targets for Better Regulation with regard to fireworks safety, sports grounds safety, sunbeds safety, and slips & trips initiative
- 8 outcome delivery partnerships established
- 8 outcome delivery plans developed



### Health & Housing

- Procurement of Community Crisis Intervention Service initiated
- Council has demonstrated its commitment to address ill health and poor wellbeing by working towards the goals of:
  - The WHO European Healthy Cities Network and the Copenhagen Consensus
  - Civic Forum: Alcohol, Drugs, Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing
  - A Community Toilet Scheme for the Council area has been Implemented
  - Health promotion and home safety is included as part of the Registration Service

### Communications

- Established effective press and media engagement through the placement of proactive media stories and initiatives to highlight the role of Council
- Improved management of media queries to ensure all queries are responded to
- Led on successful PR campaigns for Council organised events including the St Patrick's Day Spring Carnival, the City of Derry Jazz Festival, Fashion Fest, Enterprise Week, the NW Angling Fair, The Strabane Lifford Half Marathon and Halloween Festival
- Led on communicating with the public and stakeholders to encourage involvement in the Community Planning process and proactively promoting the objectives set out in the Strategic Growth Plan
- Delivered two Staff Newsletters to engage with staff and keep them informed of strategic aims
- Increased engagement on Council corporate social media platforms to keep public informed on Council initiatives and objectives

### Objective:

#### Provide effective and facilitative cross functional support services

Our strategic support services have also made significant progress during the year and we have delivered the following:

#### Strategic Partnerships

- Publication and launch of the Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan 2017-2032 in November 2017

- Increased the number of proactive press releases and features to secure increase number of media placements



### **Democratic Services and Improvement**

- Received an unqualified audit in respect of the Council’s compliance with its statutory performance improvement duties
- Implemented the CCTV Policy including Privacy Impact Assessments and delivery of training on the policy and procedures
- Policy unit delivered 15 training sessions on the Safeguarding (Children and Vulnerable Adults) Policy to staff across the leisure and visitor attraction facilities
- 7 Policies were screened in the 2017-18 year
- 2 meetings of the Quality Assurance and Oversight Group were held
- A robust equality impact assessment report was prepared for consultation on the Council’s Community Plan
- Completed in depth analysis of equality and rural impacts on the Council area due to cuts to the Rates Support Grant
- 5 awareness sessions on the Code of Practice on Producing Information were held
- Supported the development of indicators for regional benchmarking across Council services
- Achieved 100% Customer Satisfaction Rate with Irish Language services
- 912 subscribers to Council’s Irish Language Services and Information Page on Facebook
- Achieved highest numbers for audience participation in the Island Voices lecture series (145)
- Partnered with Libraries NI to secure funding to deliver Irish language poetry event
- Secured funding from Conradh na Gaeilge to deliver event to celebrate Bliain na Gaeilge (Year of Irish 2018)
- Partnered with a range of organisations to deliver Irish Language Week 2018
- Call handling etiquette developed
- Improved telephony recording and monitoring including submission of monthly reports to the Senior Leadership Team
- Delivered a member development programme including 13 training courses as part of work towards achieving Charter Plus
- Facilitated Elected Member workshops / working groups on key policy areas and hard issues such as ‘Flags and Emblems’ and ‘Language’
- Raised £8,000 for the Mayor’s Charity
- Serviced a programme of Mayoral events that saw more than 50,800 people engaged with the Mayor’s Office in the course of 976 engagements
- Prepared analysis to support regional lobbying position







- Worked in partnership with organisations such as Libraries NI, Foras na Gaeilge and Conradh na Gaeilge



### Human Resources

- Organisational structure well established across most areas
- Review of operational staff almost complete within Leisure Services
- Audit of key differences in terms and conditions of employment progressed and harmonisation achieved in some areas including pay scales
- Process agreed and implemented to pay holiday/overtime
- A formula agreed to buy out regular overtime and applied where opportunities to reduce overtime have been identified
- A review of recruitment processes completed and recommendations implemented
- A range of Health & Wellbeing initiatives progressed through BeWell
- A new attendance policy implemented
- 92% of line managers attended mandatory training on Managing Attendance
- 80% of employees attended awareness training on Attendance Policy
- Absence lost time rate reduced from 6.9% to 6.1%
- 70% of employees had full attendance
- Annual Employee engagement event held in June
- Staff recognition event held in December
- BeSocial launched
- Council Choir established
- Corporate team building event held in June
- Employee Engagement Strategy developed
- Alcohol and Drugs Policy agreed
- 90% of new employees inducted within 3 days of starting employment
- 26 employees for post entry training
- E learning system rolled out with 3 mandatory courses delivered
- 8 Managers participated in accredited leadership programmes



## Assurance

- Completion of planned audit work based on the approved audit plan and completion of unplanned work as required in order to provide appropriate levels of assurance to the Chief Executive, the Assurance, Audit & Risk Committee and the Northern Ireland Audit Office
  - Delivery of Fraud Awareness Training to over 200 staff in the organisation
  - Delivery of Fraud Awareness Training to CODA Operations Ltd
  - Detailed Audit Needs Assessment produced to inform audit work for the next 3 to 5 years
  - Completion of Audit Plan for CODA Operations Ltd
  - Risk reporting systems reviewed to ensure Council assurance requirements continue to be met
  - Risk structures reviewed and risk registers now in place for all service areas
  - Reporting system established to ensure that liability claims analysis is included as part of Corporate Health & Safety review processes
  - Delivered Claims Defence Training to Council staff in partnership with Council's Insurers and Council Legal Services team
  - Worked with Council Motor Insurers to deliver Fleet Management training to Managers and Supervisors with responsibility for Council Drivers
  - Continued savings realised in the very successful self-insurance programme
  - Retention of the Health & Safety OHSAS 18001 accreditation
  - OHSAS 18001 procedures reviewed and updated
  - Reduction in the number of RIDDOR incidents
  - Delivery of mandatory Health & Safety training to Elected Members
  - Payroll statutory reporting deadlines met and all staff paid correctly in accordance with agreed pay scales
  - Percentage of employees receiving pay slips via email increased to 60.72%
  - Led on Council's response to the recovery operations in relation to the significant flooding which occurred in August 2017
  - Effectively managed the Scheme of Emergency Financial Assistance to approximately 400 households throughout the year
  - Completion of a number of very successful emergency exercises
  - All emergency situations responded to in an appropriate manner
  - Ongoing work in relation to the development, validation and testing of Business Continuity Plans throughout the Council
  - Development, communication and training of staff in a number of key policies for the organisation - Counter Fraud, Whistleblowing, Anti-Bribery and Conflicts of Interest
  - Streamlining of procurement procedures and processes
  - Training delivered to Elected Members in relation to procurement procedures and processes
  - Use of Etenders NI for procurement activity under £30k is now underway
  - Upgrade of Agresso financial system was approved by Committee in June 2017 and contract was agreed and signed. Project plan has been
-

- developed with clear timeframes regarding implementation
  - Ongoing liaison with the Department of Transport to ensure the successful delivery of and drawdown of funds for the Public Service Obligation route from City of Derry Airport to London Stansted
  - Ongoing liaison with the Department of Economy and completion of tender documents in relation to Public Service Obligation route from City of Derry Airport to Manchester
  - Percentage of invoices paid within 30 days increased to 83.6%
  - Percentage of invoices paid within 10 days increased to 44.7%
- Strategic Finance and Funding**
- Year-end accounts for 2016/17 completed and audited in line with required timeframe
  - Rates estimates for 2018/19 completed by statutory deadline of 15th February 2018 including benchmarking of service costs, penny product and growth comparisons and medium term financial plan
  - Rates increase of 2.99% agreed including 1% investment in growth despite significant external pressures
  - Efficiencies of £2.145m achieved and reinvested into growth priorities, facilitating completion of £34m of capital projects and providing full financing for a further £63m of capital development
  - Analysis completed identifying development potential of Council’s key strategic sites as part of developing investment proposition for city and region
  - Strong financial management and monitoring to identify £1.05m surplus at January 2017 of which £710k has been reinvested in corporate priorities
  - Agreement of investment priorities and preparation of Draft Growth Deal Statement of Intent for the Derry/ Londonderry City Region and presented to relevant officials and Ministers
  - Securing £14m of funding for the NW Greenways Network from Interreg and submission of further significant funding applications for Riverine (SEUPB) and a number of Community Centres (DFC)
  - Completion and public launch of BREXIT report, including presentation to House of Commons, House of Lords and Oireachtas Committees
  - Completion of 8 business cases on behalf of The Executive Office to support the ongoing regeneration of the Ebrington site
  - Provision of baseline data, mapping and statistical analysis to support key strategic objectives, eg Year of Youth, European Capital of Culture, PEACE, SIF, City Growth Deal, Local Development Plan and University expansion

In overall terms, the Council made positive progress in 2017/18 in working towards its Mission of **“Delivering improved social, economic and environmental outcomes for everyone”**.

## **The Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016**

The Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 (the Act) came into operation for government departments and district councils on 1 June 2017. The Act requires policy makers and public authorities to have due regard to rural needs when developing and implementing policies and when designing and delivering public services.

In fulfilling these obligations, the Council has taken rural needs into consideration in respect of the:

- Development of the Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan 2017-2032 (Community Plan);
- Establishment of Local Growth Partnership Boards and the development of Local Growth Plans;
- Ongoing development of the Derry City and Strabane District Council Tourism Strategy 2018-25;
- Preparation of the rural proofing baseline and interim report for the Local Development Plan (LDP) Preferred Options Paper;
- Implementation of the Council's Revised Street Naming and Property Numbering Policy; and
- Ongoing development of the Derry City and Strabane District Council Arts and Culture Strategy 2019-24.

A core dimension of these initiatives has been ensuring that engagement processes have specifically included rural stakeholders in co-design processes.

At a strategic level, it is noted that the Inclusive Growth Plan has identified a number of specific needs pertaining to rural areas such as:

- The need for improved broadband connectivity in rural areas;
- The need for more direct transport links/connectivity with and to other regions and connectivity within and between local communities;
- The need to strongly improve and enhance rural social, economic and environmental regeneration;
- The need to conserve, enrich and protect environmental and built heritage assets in rural areas.



In order to address these needs, the Strategic Growth Plan has incorporated the following actions:

- Maximise job creation and investment opportunities in our City and Town Centres, regionally significant regeneration sites and rural areas.
  - Develop a pilot Rural Community Broadband Scheme and roll out in multiple locations
  - Deliver business start-up programmes and development support focused on areas of high economic inactivity and rural community hubs
  - Develop a heritage/conservation-led masterplan and renewal action plan for the village of Sion Mills and other settlements, including Newtownstewart town centre conservation area
  - Protect and promote our natural and built heritage assets through the establishment of multi-sectoral heritage partnerships, heritage education programmes, skills specialisms development and integration with our tourism product offering
  - Provide quality social and private housing in sustainable urban and rural neighbourhoods to meet the needs of our growing population providing attractive places to live within easy access to local services and amenities
- Promote neighbourhood and village enhancement through the development of local environmental improvement schemes and community play parks and facilities
  - Promote greater integration and inclusion within and between communities through animating shared spaces, services and facilities and the development of rural community clusters





At a community/service level, addressing rural needs and implementing the objectives of the Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan is being facilitated by the development of eight local community plans. As part of this development process, consultation workshops were held in the three rural District Electoral Areas (DEA) of Sperrin, Derg and Faughan. As a result, needs were identified which are specific to the three rural areas and have been highlighted within the three local growth plans for these DEAs. In addition, the establishment of Local Community Growth Partnership Boards in each of the three rural District Electoral Areas ensures a focus on identifying and addressing rural needs, maximising the potential, and improving the quality of life in rural communities.

Commitment to having due regard to rural need has also be reflected in the process for the development of a Preferred Options Paper (POP) as part of the emerging Local Development Plan. Planning officials undertook a series of 2017 meetings with stakeholders, Rural Focus Groups and Elected Members to ensure the development of the POP had due regards to rural needs and pertinent issues where fed in to inform option development. The publication of the POP in May 2017 was also accompanied by a three- month consultation period and an extensive social media campaign to extract feedback from across the entire District. Hard copies of the POP documents were also distributed to all Council Sports facilities, community facilities, libraries, and health practices to ensure they were widely distributed to maximise potential feedback. Public consultation events (am & pm) were also held in Claudy, Donemana and Castlederg to gather feedback.

It is noted that the Rural Proofing – Baseline and Interim Report for the Local Development Plan Preferred Options Paper stage addressed issues such as rural proofing, rural needs, definition of rural, rural statistics, rural planning- context and policy, and impact assessment.



The Council is committed to ensuring that due regard is given to rural needs when developing and implementing policies and when designing and delivering public services and in this context, work is continuing to be advanced in terms of:

- embedding rural needs impact assessment with the Council's decision making processes
- developing training programmes and policy guidance/templates
- identifying and sharing best practice and
- improving the monitoring of services and outcomes.

In order to fulfil its obligations under Section 3 of the Act, the Council will submit information to the Department and include information on the Rural Needs Act in its Annual Performance Report.

Further information on how the Council has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service is provided in Appendix 1.



## Performance Improvement Areas/Criteria

The Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 requires that councils make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the carrying out of its activities and highlights the following improvement areas/criteria:

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

Work is currently being progressed, in liaison with other Councils and the Association for Public Sector, Excellence to identify relevant indicators for performance measurement and benchmarking purposes, in relation to service delivery and improvement criteria, as appropriate, including identifying and quantifying customer views. Work is also being progressed in terms of linking corporate and service indicators to the outcomes set out in the community plan.

Performance indicators are also identified within our annual Directorate Plans and whilst our performance measurement approaches, data collection and analysis systems are evolving and baselines are being established, there is initial evidence of quantifiable improvements being made across a number of areas.



Examples of the indicators that we collect and performance trend details are provided in the table below.

Improvement Area	Performance Indicator	2015/16 Performance	2016/17 Performance	2017/18 Performance	2017/18 Target	Trend*
Strategic effectiveness	Number of leisure users	874,034	918,256	940,009	930,735	↑
Service quality	% Elected member satisfaction with support services	93%	97%	100%	85%	↑
	% Streets achieving grade B or above/	-	88%	90%	-	↑
Service availability	Number of house inspections carried out under the Private Tenancies Order	34	42	31	50	↓
	Total number of applications processed by Building Control	-	3822	4514	-	↑
	% Dog attacks investigated within 1 day	-	100%	100%	100%	↔
Sustainability	% invoices paid within 30 days	-	75%	82%	80%	↑
	% invoices paid within 10 days	-	34%	44%	35%	↑
Efficiency	% of staff receiving payslips via email	27%	42%	61%	100%	↑
	Number of dog licences issued	5864	7029	8162	8435	↑
Innovation	Number of international markets activated	2	4	4	4	↔

\*Key to Trend

- ↑ Performance improving / demand
- ↓ Performance declining / demand
- ↔ Performance / demand trend unclear or no change

Further information on performance indicators can be found in the Directorate Delivery Plans.

## Statutory Indicators

### Introduction

In September 2015, under the Local Government (Performance Indicators and Standards) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015, statutory performance indicators and standards have been set as part of the performance improvement arrangements for district councils. Performance measures have been specified for the functions of economic development, planning and waste management. The aim of the performance measures is to promote the improvement of service delivery.

### Statutory Performance Indicators and Standards

The statutory performance indicators and standards have been set by the relevant Central Government Department. In order to ensure consistency and reliability of performance data, reporting on these performance indicators and standards will be carried out centrally so as to allow for accurate comparison between councils across performance indicators and standards. Central reporting will also ensure that the relevant Department continues to meet its statutory obligations under the Code of Practice for Official Statistics when reporting performance at the Regional level.

Derry City and Strabane District Council is committed to meeting the following seven statutory performance indicators/standards.





Ref	Statutory Indicator	Standard to be met (annually), where applicable
ED1	The number of jobs promoted through business start-up activity (Business start-up activity means the delivery of completed client led business plans under the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment's Regional Start Initiative or its successor programmes.)	140
P1	The average processing time of major planning applications. [An application in the category of major development within the meaning of the Planning (Development Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015(a)]	Major applications processed from date valid to decision or withdrawal within an average of 30 weeks.
P2	The average processing time of local planning applications. [Local applications means an application in the category of local development within the meaning of the Planning (Development Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, and any other applications for approval or consent under the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (or any orders or regulations made under that Act)]	Local applications processed from date valid to decision or withdrawal within an average of 15 weeks.
P3	The percentage of enforcement cases processed within 39 weeks. [Enforcement cases are investigations into alleged breaches of planning control under Part 5 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (or under any orders or regulations made under that Act). (b).]	70% of all enforcement cases progressed to target conclusion within 39 weeks of receipt of complaint
W1	The percentage of household waste collected by district councils that is sent for recycling (including waste prepared for reuse). [Household waste is as defined in Article 2 of the Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997(a) and the Controlled Waste and Duty of Care Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013(b)]	
W2	The amount (tonnage) of biodegradable Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste that is landfilled. [Local authority collected municipal waste is as defined in section 21 of the Waste and Emissions Trading Act 2003(c)]	20,257 tonnes
W3	The amount (tonnage) of Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste arisings. [Local authority collected municipal waste arisings is the total amount of local authority collected municipal waste which has been collected by a district council]	

## 2017/18 Performance - Statutory Indicators

**Performance Indicator & Target**

W1 The percentage of household waste collected by District Councils that is sent for recycling (preparing for reuse, dry recycling and composting) (KPI (2a). Target: 50% by end 2020.

What this indicator shows	The % of household waste that has been sent for recycling, composting or reuse.				
Why this is important	Councils have been set a recycling target of 50% household waste by 2020.				
	Comparator	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	Are we Improving?
Our Performance and how we Compare	Derry City & Strabane District Council	33.30%	40.5%	43.3%*	Yes, we are improving - the percentage of household waste that is being recycled is continuing to increase
	NI Average	42.2%	44.4%	48.1%*	
What we have done to improve	Council has continued to roll out separate food waste collections across the district and is currently trialling the collection of co-mingled food and green waste from households. In addition Council has put in place measures to reduce the volume of contamination within blue recycling bins and encourage greater participation in the scheme.				
Future actions we will be taking to improve	Complete the roll out of food waste collections across the district. Look to increase the volume of green waste collected separately or co-mingled at the kerbside.				

**Performance Indicator & Target**

W2 The amount (tonnage) of biodegradable Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste that is landfilled (KPI(g). Target: less than 20,257 tonnes .

What this indicator shows	The volume of Biodegradable Municipal Waste (BMW) landfilled.				
Why this is important	Councils are under direction to reduce the volumes of BMW going to landfill in consideration of Northern Ireland Landfill Allowance Scheme and EU Landfill Directive targets.				
	Comparator	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	Are we Improving? Statutory Target met?
Our Performance and how we Compare	Derry City & Strabane District Council	13,429	13,242	12,074*	Yes, we are improving - the amount of biodegradable municipal waste that is being landfilled continues to reduce. Statutory Target achieved? Yes
	NI Average	19,900	18,580	15,572	
What we have done to improve	Council has continued to roll out separate food waste collections across the district and is currently trialling the collection of co-mingled food and green waste from households. In addition Council has put in place measures to reduce the volume of contamination within blue recycling bins and encourage greater participation in the scheme.				
Future actions we will be taking to improve	Complete the roll out of food waste collections across the district. Look to increase the volume of green waste collected separately or co-mingled at the kerbside.				

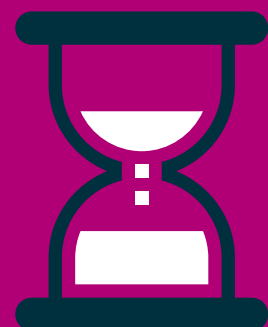
<b>Performance Indicator &amp; Target</b>					
W3 The amount (tonnage) of Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Arisings (LACMW) (KPI (j))					
What this indicator shows	This indicator shows the total amount of local authority collected municipal waste which has been collected by the Council and includes both household and commercial wastes.				
Why this is important	In keeping within our improvement objective, we aim to reduce this figure over time, however, as economic activity increases, the population expands, new housing developed etc waste arisings may also increase and our actions will minimise this as much as possible. For this reason, Council is committed to putting in place programmes to encourage consumers to reduce waste at source.				
Our Performance and how we Compare	<b>Comparator</b>	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>Are we Improving?</b>
	Derry City & Strabane District Council	70,901	74,481	77,707*	As detailed above waste arisings have grown as a consequence of increased economic activity, new housing and population growth.  Council remains below the NI average LA collected Municipal Waste Arisings.
	NI Average	88,105	89,636	88,892*	
What we have done to improve	Council has developed a ReUse Centre and actively encourages residents to donate unwanted items to this facility instead of more traditional disposal routes. Council has also promoted waste reduction activities encouraging residents and businesses to consider how they can prevent waste in the first instance. In addition Council has also recently adopted a Circular economy / Zero Waste strategy and will look to implement the actions identified within this strategy with key partners over the coming years.				
Future actions we will be taking to improve	Council has developed a ReUse Centre and actively encourages residents to donate unwanted items to this facility instead of more traditional disposal routes. Council has also promoted waste reduction activities encouraging residents and businesses to consider how they can prevent waste in the first instance. In addition Council has also recently adopted a Circular economy / Zero Waste strategy and will look to implement the actions identified within this strategy with key partners over coming years.				

\* Subject to verification

<b>Performance Indicator &amp; Target</b>					
PI The average processing time of major applications. Target: less than 30 weeks.					
What this indicator shows	This indicator shows how quickly major planning applications are processed.				
Why this is important	Effective processing of planning applications can have a positive impact on investment and regeneration activity in the Council area which in turn may lead to positive outcomes with regard to job creation/employment.				
Our Performance and how we Compare	Comparator	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	Are we Improving? Statutory Target met?
	Derry City & Strabane District Council	53.5 weeks (Legacy cases 53.6 weeks) (Council received cases 32.6 weeks)	304.8 weeks (Legacy cases 375.8 weeks) (Council received cases 46.2 weeks)	63.2 weeks (Legacy cases 332.4 weeks) (Council received cases 42.3 weeks)	Yes, our performance is improving. However, this average figure is distorted by legacy cases. Council only applications processing times have improved in the last 2 years from 46.2 to 42.3 weeks and now are 12.3 weeks from target and 7.9 weeks from NI Average.
	NI Average	46.4 weeks	68.6 weeks	50.2 weeks	
Why we have not achieved our statutory target	This indicator is an average figure and is distorted by legacy cases. Council only applications processing times have improved in the last 2 years from 46.2 to 42.3 weeks and now are 12.3 weeks from target and 7.9 weeks from NI Average. Resources displaced in order to deliver LDP and recruitment of professional and technical staff ongoing.				
What we have done to improve	Improvements have been made by set up of the Strategic Team within the Departmental structure and regular monthly reviews of applications.				
Future actions we will be taking to improve	Future actions will include identifying key timelines for project management by use of traffic light reports and regular Group meetings. A new staffing structure is being implemented.				



<b>Performance Indicator &amp; Target</b>					
P2 The average processing time of local planning applications. Target: less than 15 weeks					
What this indicator shows	This indicator shows how quickly local planning applications are processed.				
Why this is important	Effective processing of planning applications can have a positive impact on investment and regeneration activity in the Council area which in turn may lead to positive outcomes with regard to job creation employment.				
Our Performance and how we Compare	Comparator	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	Are we Improving? Statutory Target met?
	Derry City & Strabane District Council	17.0 weeks (Legacy cases 29.8 weeks)	19.1 weeks (Legacy cases 114.6 weeks)	16.2 weeks (Legacy cases 155.6 weeks)	Yes, our performance is improving. However, this average figure is distorted by ongoing legacy cases. Council only applications processing times have improved in the last 2 years from 16.2 to 15.4 weeks and now are 0.4 weeks from target and 0.2 weeks from NI Average.
		(Council received cases 12.8 weeks)	(Council received cases 16.2 weeks)	(Council received cases 15.4 weeks)	
NI Average	19.4 weeks	16.2 weeks	15.2 weeks	Statutory Target achieved? No	
Why we have not achieved our statutory target	This indicator is an average figure and is distorted by ongoing legacy cases. Council only applications processing times have improved in the last 2 years from 16.2 to 15.4 weeks and now are 0.4 weeks from target and 0.2 weeks from NI Average. Resources displaced in order to deliver LDP and recruitment of professional and technical staff ongoing.				
What we have done to improve	Improvements have been made by prioritising significant applications and regular monthly reviews by Head of Planning and Principal Planning Officers.				
Future actions we will be taking to improve	Future actions will include streamlining processes, applying a traffic light reporting system and holding regular Group meetings.				



<b>Performance Indicator &amp; Target</b>					
P3 The percentage of enforcement cases processed within 39 weeks. Target: 70%					
What this indicator shows	This indicator shows how quickly Enforcement cases are concluded.				
Why this is important	To ensure the Council's Planning Department takes appropriate and proportionate action in dealing with alleged breaches of planning control.				
Our Performance and how we Compare	Comparator	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	Are we Improving? Statutory Target met?
	Derry City & Strabane District Council	77.1%	75.9%	71%	A gradual reduction is reflected in performance. However the target has been met.
	NI Average	77.2%	80.7%	77%	Statutory Target achieved? Yes
What we have done to improve	The gradual reduction is due to resources being re-allocated to Development Management in order to assist with the Development Plan.				
Future actions we will be taking to improve	Future actions will include the re-deployment of team members back to the Enforcement Team, the implementation of weekly Group meetings and quarterly project plans to target reduction of open cases.				

<b>Performance Indicator &amp; Target</b>					
ED1 The number of jobs promoted through business start-up activity. Target 140 jobs					
What this indicator shows	No. Business Plans delivered and Jobs Promoted (0.61472 rate)				
Why this is important	Job promotion is key to improving economic activity in the Council area. This indicator illustrates the support provided to new business starts.				
Our Performance and how we Compare	Comparator	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	Are we Improving? Statutory Target met?
	Derry City & Strabane District Council	198	171	139	In line with the NI trend, performance in this area has declined, however, other areas of job creation have greatly outperformed their targets.
	NI Average	219	208	159	Statutory Target achieved? No
Why we have not achieved our statutory target	This is one aspect of job creation and has suffered through a lack of marketing overall in NI during 2017/18. This has now been addressed for future years. Changes in central government have also had an adverse impact on the uptake for this programme.				
What we have done to improve	Introduction of enhanced business support programmes to improve performance of NIBSUP in DCSDC area including £10k Business Start Up Challenge and City Start programme.				
Future actions we will be taking to improve	Continue to develop and deliver enhanced business support programmes to stimulate requirements for business plans.				

## Overall Assessment

This Performance Report highlights some of the significant work that Derry City and Strabane District Council has taken forward in 2017/18 in delivering its Mission and its Corporate Objectives which are linked to the Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan 2017-2032 (Our Community Plan).

Progress has also been delivered in achieving our Improvement Objectives which are again linked, as appropriate, to the Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan.

In respect of the Statutory Indicators, there is evidence of improvement and opportunities for further progress. Positive trends have also been identified in a number of areas where we currently collate performance data and the Council is committed to enhancing monitoring and reporting systems.

The Council has identified its arrangements for delivering its duty of continuous improvement and is continuing to enhance its Planning, Improvement and Performance Review Framework.

**The Council is committed to and has worked to discharge its general duty to secure continuous improvement in 2017/18.**

## Publishing our Performance

Our Annual Performance Report 2017/18 will be published on the Council's website at: **[www.derrystrabane.com](http://www.derrystrabane.com)** as soon as is practical and by 30th September 2018 in line with statutory requirements. Members of the public will also be able to access this information at the Council's offices and can comment on our Performance Report by emailing us at: **[improvement@derrystrabane.com](mailto:improvement@derrystrabane.com)**

## How to get involved

We are keen to get your feedback on any of the issues covered in this document. You can also propose new Improvement Objectives, or make comments on the existing ones by emailing the Council at: **[improvement@derrystrabane.com](mailto:improvement@derrystrabane.com)**.

We also have a dedicated Equality Assurance and Oversight Group which provides the opportunity to engage directly with Council Officers regarding the Council's activities. If you have any queries or would like to become a member, please email: **[equality@derrystrabane.com](mailto:equality@derrystrabane.com)** or simply contact the Equality Officer on **028 71 253 253** Ext **6705**.

The consultation web pages publish all current consultation being undertaken by the Council, and give information about how people can participate.

**Information to be compiled by Public Authorities under Section 3(1)(a) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.**

Reporting Period: April 2017 to March 2018

The following information should be compiled in respect of each policy, strategy and plan which has been developed, adopted, implemented or revised and each public service which has been designed or delivered by the public authority during the reporting period.

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
Development of a Community Plan for the Derry City and Strabane District Council Area - In line with Section 10 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014	Rural Tourism Rural Development Rural Businesses Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas Education or Training in Rural Areas Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas Broadband or Mobile Communications in Rural Areas Poverty in Rural Areas Deprivation in Rural Areas Agri-Environment Rural housing Health or Social Care Services in Rural Areas Rural crime or community safety Rural Development	Over 5,000 people were engaged in the co-design of the Strategic Growth Plan. This co-design process agreed the framework for the development of the plan and facilitated the establishment of eight thematic working groups to develop the outcomes, indicators and actions. Within these thematic working groups, a number of specific needs pertaining to rural areas were identified. These included (but were not limited to): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The need for improved broadband connectivity in rural areas;</li> <li>• The need for more direct transport links/ connectivity with and to other regions and connectivity within and between local communities;</li> <li>• The need to strongly improve and enhance rural social, economic and environmental regeneration;</li> <li>• The need to conserve, enrich and protect environmental and built heritage assets in rural areas.</li> </ul> All issues identified pertaining to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas were considered in the development of the Strategic Growth Plan. The final plan includes a long list of actions aligned to 8 outcomes. These were subject to a 16-week public consultation and amendments have been made to the final plan to address any issues raised as a result of the public consultation feedback.



Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
		<p>The Strategic Growth Plan includes the following actions which have been developed to address the specific needs of rural areas. The full list of actions aligned to the 8 outcome of the Strategic Growth Plan are detailed in the full document (<a href="http://www.derrystrabane.com/getmedia/1eb99e2e-e657-45a1-8b27-e2b35a36d65c/SGP_22-November2017_lowres.pdf">http://www.derrystrabane.com/getmedia/1eb99e2e-e657-45a1-8b27-e2b35a36d65c/SGP_22-November2017_lowres.pdf</a>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximise job creation and investment opportunities in our City and Town Centres, regionally significant regeneration sites and rural areas.</li> <li>• Develop a pilot Rural Community Broadband Scheme and roll out in multiple locations.</li> <li>• Deliver business start-up programmes and development support focused on areas of high economic inactivity and rural community hubs.</li> <li>• Develop a heritage/conservation-led masterplan and renewal action plan for the village of Sion Mills and other settlements, including Newtownstewart town centre conservation area.</li> <li>• Protect and promote our natural and built heritage assets through the establishment of multi-sectoral heritage partnerships, heritage education programmes, skills specialisms development and integration with our tourism product offering.</li> <li>• Provide quality social and private housing in sustainable urban and rural neighbourhoods to meet the needs of our growing population, providing attractive places to live within easy access to local services and amenities.</li> <li>• Promote neighbourhood and village enhancement through the development of local environmental improvement schemes and community play parks and facilities.</li> <li>• Promote greater integration and inclusion within and between communities through animating shared spaces, services and facilities and the development of rural community clusters.</li> </ul> <p>This plan has been screened to ensure that this strategic policy supports sustainable rural development in accordance with The Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016.</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 20161.	The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
<p>Local Community Planning Process - Development of 8 Local Growth Plans for 7 DEAs and Strabane Town. Three of DEAs are rural, Sperrin, Derg and Faughan.</p> <p>The establishment of 8 Local Community Growth Partnership Boards for Strabane Town, Ballyarnett, Moor, Waterside, Foyleside, Sperrin, Derg and Faughan to take forward the 8 Local Community Growth Plans.</p>		<p>The 8 local community plans have been developed via a co-design approach through consultation with residents from the specific DEAs including input from the Community &amp; Voluntary Sector and Statutory Partners. Consultation workshops have been held in the 3 rural DEAs of Sperrin, Derg and Faughan - the issues raised are specific to the 3 rural areas and have been highlighted within the 3 local growth plans for these DEAs. The local plans will be screened to ensure that they support sustainable rural development in accordance with this important statutory rule.</p> <p>The implementation of the local plans will lead to the development and improvement of the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of citizens in the three rural DEAs of Sperrin, Derg and Faughan.</p>
<p>A strategic programme of activity to maximize the region's tourism potential and position the (tourism) sector as a key driver of economic growth. The specific ambition of this activity will be to double visitor spend over the period (2018-2025) from £50mn to £100mn and to create an extra 1,000 jobs within the sector.</p> <p>Providing the road map for delivery is the document: Derry City &amp; Strabane District Tourism 2018- 2025: A New Level Of Ambition.</p> <p>It identifies a total of 64 key actions - relating to Product &amp; Experience; Visitor Serving and Destination Marketing - which will require development and investment to enable the achievement of our targets for growth.</p>	<p>Rural Tourism Rural Development Rural Businesses Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas Education or Training in Rural Areas Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas Broadband or Mobile Communications in Rural Areas Poverty in Rural Areas Deprivation in Rural Areas</p>	<p>Derry City &amp; Strabane District Tourism 2018- 2025: A New Level Of Ambition.</p> <p>The strategy and its actions have been informed by the Community Planning Process undertaken by Derry City &amp; Strabane District Council (and the due regards to rural needs it applied).</p> <p>The development of the strategy was informed by an extensive consultation process which included representation from citizens from throughout the region and from the private and community sectors and multi government agencies.</p> <p>The adoption of strategy was subject to the approval of elected representatives including those representing rural areas.</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 20161.	The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
Successful delivery will be dependent also on a collaborative approach being adopted by key stakeholders. To enable partnership working a Tourism Delivery Partnership has been created.	Agri-Environment	
Preparation of Rural Proofing – Baseline and Interim Report for Local Development Plan (LDP) Preferred Options Paper (POP) Stage published in May 2017. This is an interim report and a full Rural Proofing consideration of all the proposed draft LDP policies will be published at the draft Plan Strategy Stage expected in 2019.	This Preferred Options Paper (POP) is the first formal consultation stage in the preparation of the Council’s LDP for Derry City and Strabane District. The LDP will cover all aspects of planning policy that operate within the countryside including, housing, economy, infrastructural development, natural & built heritage, renewables, mineral extraction, waste etc.	The POP document published a series of preferred options which indicated Council’s preferred direction of travel in terms of the future development of planning policy which will be set out in the 2019 LDP Plan Strategy.  To develop these preferred options, Planning officials undertook a series of 2017 meetings with stakeholders, Rural Focus Groups and Elected Members to ensure the development of the POP had due regard to rural needs and pertinent issues were fed in to inform option development. The publication of the POP in May 2017 was also accompanied by a three-month consultation period and an extensive social media campaign to extract feedback from across the entire District. Hard copies of the POP documents were also distributed to all Council Sports facilities, community facilities, libraries, and Health practices to ensure they were widely distributed to maximise potential feedback. Successful public consultation events (am & pm) were also held in Claudy, Donemana and Castlederg to gather feedback.

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 20161.	The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
Good Relations Audit, Strategy and Action Plan 2018 – 2021	Social needs of persons in rural areas	A number of workshops have been held within each of the Rural DEAs – the information and needs identified at these workshops in the rural DEAs have been taken on board and reflected in the Good Relations Strategy and Action Plan for 2018 – 2021.
Implementation of revised Street Naming and Property Numbering Policy	Transport services or infrastructure in rural areas	<p>DCSDC revised the Street Naming and Property Numbering Policy which was in effect in the Legacy Council to include an explicit reference to ‘roads’ thereby allowing rural dwellers the opportunity to make applications for dual language road names in the area.</p> <p>This revised policy also makes provision for the inclusion of the relevant townland name in addition to the road name thereby preserving traditional place names. This policy was revised in consultation with rural communities in the Council area.</p>
Derry City and Strabane District Council commissioned the Arts & Culture Strategy 2019 - 2024. This strategy supports the ambitions of Derry City and Strabane District Council and its sector wide co-design and co-delivery partners in the pursuit of world-class arts, heritage and cultural offerings.	<p>Rural Tourism</p> <p>Employment in Rural Areas</p> <p>Transport Services and Infrastructure in Rural Areas</p> <p>Services in Rural Areas</p> <p>Rural Development</p>	<p>The Arts &amp; Culture Strategy 2019-2024 is designed to support the Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan. This Growth Plan was informed by the Community Planning Process including extensive consultation and engagement with rural citizens and representatives to ensure that rural needs were clearly articulated and addressed.</p> <p>For the Arts &amp; Culture Strategy we used a co-design methodology to promote creativity and collaboration, establishing a co-design group to drive the development of this ambitious strategy. Its members were drawn from across the city and district including those from rural areas as they led more than 150 groups, organisations and individuals from across the district to both identify the issues and innovative solutions. Five Elected Members and 18 representatives from statutory and support organisations were co-opted to help.</p>



Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 20161.	The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
<p>It is based on evidence about the current scope, scale and value of the arts and the relevant outcomes of the Derry City and Strabane District Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan 2017-2032 and the local area plans. It has reviewed key trends and statistics locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. It is based on extensive consultation with stakeholder organisations, individual artists, practitioners and interested parties, external strategic stakeholders and communities and establishes indicators directly aligned with the Community Plan.</p> <p>The strategy identifies synergies and potential collaborations with its key internal and external strategic stakeholders and establishes indicators directly aligned with the Community Plan. It identifies potential resource requirements, efficiencies and service design opportunities for Council and the Co-Delivery Working Group. The action plan is ambitious, achievable, time bound, evidence based, and costed to deliver against agreed indicators.</p>		<p>From the outset, the co-design group invested a significant amount of time and energy into tapping into the knowledge and expertise of the internal and external stakeholders, including rural communities engaged with the arts and culture sector in the Derry City and Strabane area. This process resulted in a collective view of how the sector's arts ecosystem could be strengthened through working and creating together.</p> <p>Key to stakeholders and strategies used to inform strategy design included; Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Growth Plan Delivery Partnerships, Local Growth Partnerships x 8 (Delivery bodies for Local Community Plans), North West Regional Development Group and the Rural Development Partnership.</p> <p>The Co-Design Process included cross party representation including Councillors from rural areas. Furthermore the adoption of strategy will be subject to the approval of elected representatives (including those representing rural areas) when presented to Business and Culture Committee in December 2018.</p>

Derry City and Strabane District Council

# Annual Performance Report

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## 2017/18



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**Derry City & Strabane**  
District Council

Comhairle  
**Chathair Dhoire &  
Cheantar an tSraitha B ain**

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**Derry Cittie & Str abane**  
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