



Annual Report 2015-16





Table of Contents

Foreword	4
Our Vision	6
Mission Statement	7
Corporate Improvement Governance Framework	8-9
Our Council	10
Elected Members	11-14
15 PLACE	15-18
Summary of Key Achievements 2015-16	
19 PEOPLE	19-22
Summary of Key Achievements 2015-16	
23 PROSPERITY	23-26
Summary of Key Achievements 2015-16	
27 PERFORMANCE	27-29
Summary of Key Achievements 2015-16	
Financial Overview	30
Statutory Indicators	31



Foreword and Introduction

Welcome to Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's first Annual Report on performance for the year 2015-16. In April 2015 we published our Corporate Plan, 2015-30 for the newly formed Council and outlined our commitment to delivering the long term vision to become a 'Prosperous Place, Inspired by our People, and Driven by Ambition'.

In this inaugural year, we have put in place an ambitious programme, focusing on delivering, improving and transforming services for the benefit of our customers and ratepayers. We will continue with this journey to achieve and excel on our customers and ratepayers behalf.

A copy of the Corporate Plan 2015-30, can be found on <http://www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/CorporatePlan>

Whilst this year has been an extremely busy one for the new Council, we are proud of the achievements during this period as set out in this report.

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council was established on 1 April 2015 as a result of the merger of two neighbouring Councils within the context of local government reform in NI. At the same time new powers were transferred to the Council which will provide us with the tools we need to deliver our vision. These include, local planning, local economic and tourism development, off-street parking and leading on the community planning process.

In combining the two organisations, the Council has taken the opportunity to introduce a new operating model, reduce costs, develop its people and improve and expand its services for our customers and residents.

This Annual Report 2015-16 provides an overview of the progress made in terms of the four strategic pillars set out in the Corporate Plan 2015-30. It also includes an overview of the Council's financial performance for 2015-16 and provides detail on how we performed against a number of key performance indicators.

I hope that you find this report informative and are encouraged by the Council's performance and commitment to make our Borough a prosperous place, working with and being inspired by our people and driven by the collective ambition of everyone.

I would like to thank all of our Elected Members, staff and partners for their hard work over the past year. We wish to continue our partnership approach with residents, local businesses, communities, statutory partners and other organisations to build upon the successful achievements of this our first year in local government and together we can look forward to a successful future.

JACQUI DIXON BSC MBA

Chief Executive

Strolling on Belfast Loughshore





Clotworthy House

Our Vision

A prosperous place
Inspired by our people
Driven by ambition

Mission Statement

To meet and exceed the needs and aspirations of our people and be recognised for leadership and excellence both locally and beyond.

Corporate Improvement Governance Framework

EXCELLENCE

We take pride in organisational and service excellence, delivering the highest quality services to customers through a professional, motivated and highly valued workforce. We use technology and innovation to improve our services and promote a proactive and modern approach to the development of our Borough.

INTEGRITY

We serve our Borough with integrity, honesty and fairness and treat all of our residents, visitors, stakeholders and employees with respect. We allocate our resources and provide our services in a fair and equitable way.

COMMITMENT

We are committed to placing the customer at the heart of everything we do, achieving value for money and positive outcomes through high quality services and community empowerment. We demonstrate leadership and team work, engaging with the public to understand their needs and exceed their expectations.

RESPONSIBILITY

We make responsible decisions and are accountable, consistent and transparent in all our actions and behaviours. We strive for economic, social and environmental sustainability.



Mossley Mill

EXCELLENCE



- Proactive
- Modern
- Responsive
- Professional

INTEGRITY



- Respect
- Honesty
- Fairness
- Consistency

COMMITMENT



- Citizen centred
- High quality services
- Positive leadership
- Value for money

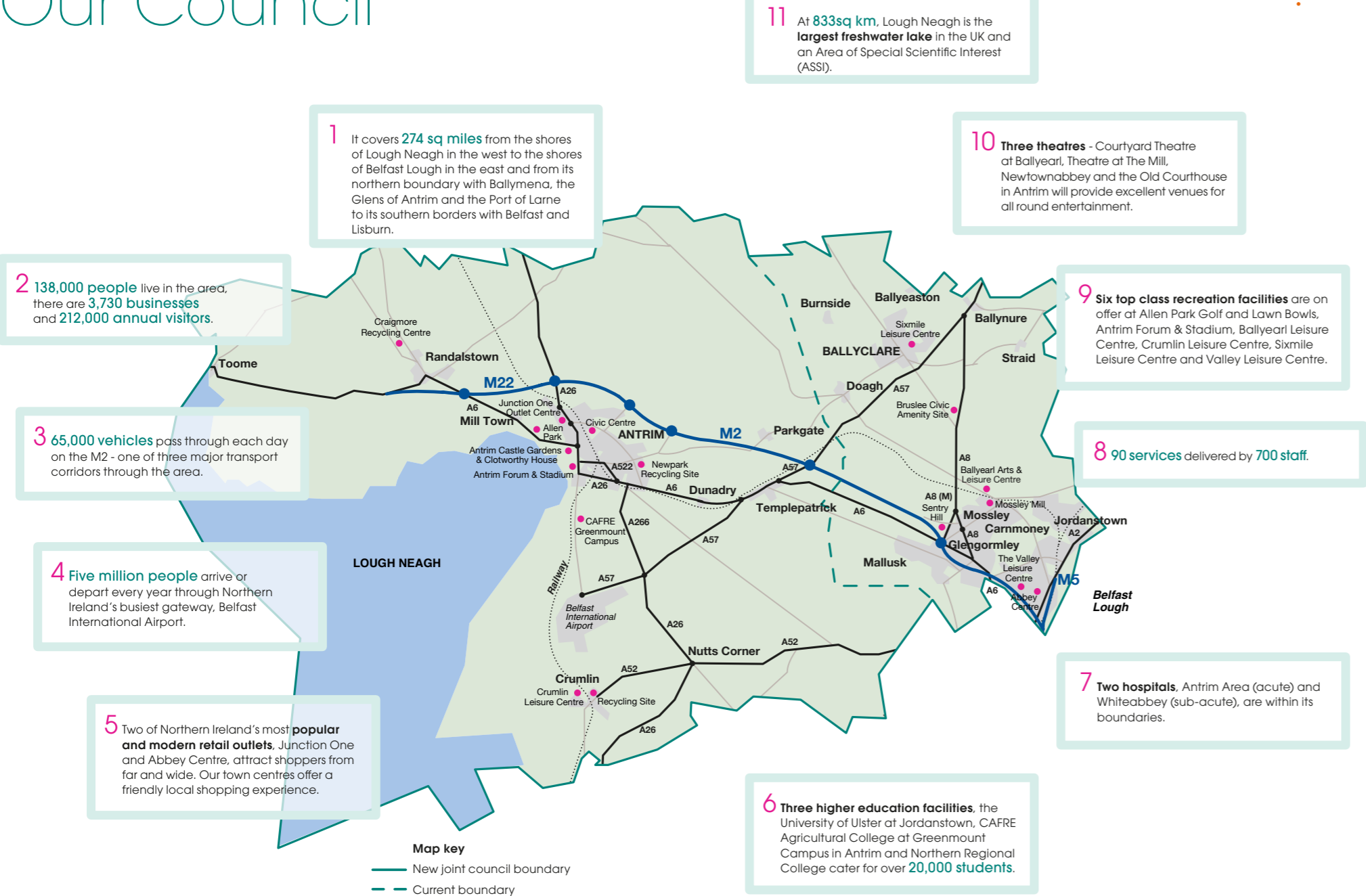
RESPONSIBILITY



- Transparent
- Accountable
- Economic, Social and Environmental Sustainability

Our Council

Annual Report 2015-16



Annual Report 2015-16

Elected Members

Airport District Electoral Area (DEA) covers Aldergrove, Clady, Crumlin, Mallusk and Templepatrick and consists of 5 members.

 <p>THOMAS BURNS SDLP T 07803 535094 E thomas.burns@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk</p>	 <p>ANNEMARIE LOGUE SINN FÉIN T 07533 353610 E annemarie.logue@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk</p>	 <p>MATTHEW MAGILL DUP T 07825 374019 E matthew.magill@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk</p>
 <p>PAUL MICHAEL UUP T 07587 657120 E paul.michael@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk</p>	 <p>MERVYN REA MBE UUP T 07860 590614 E mervyn.rea@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk</p>	

Antrim District Electoral Area (DEA) covers Antrim Centre, Fountain Hill, Greystone, Springfarm, Steeple and Stiles and consists of 6 members.

 <p>NIGEL KELLS DUP T 07825 418774 E nigel.kells@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk</p>	 <p>NEIL KELLY ALLIANCE T 07545 992615 E neil.kelly@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk</p>	 <p>ROISIN LYNCH SDLP T 07827 276840 E roisin.lynnch@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk</p>
 <p>JIM MONTGOMERY UUP T 07471 147666 E jim.montgomery@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk</p>	 <p>DREW RITCHIE UUP T 07713 864953 E drew.ritchie@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk</p>	 <p>JOHN SMYTH DUP T 07436 582180 E john.smyth@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk</p>

Key abbreviations
DUP Democratic Unionist Party
SDLP Social Democratic and Labour Party
UUP Ulster Unionist Party
TUV Traditional Unionist Voice

Elected Members

Ballyclare District Electoral Area (DEA) covers Ballyclare East, Ballyclare West, Ballynure, Ballyrobert and Doagh and consists of 5 members.



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Dunsilly District Electoral Area (DEA) covers Cranfield, Parkgate, Randalstown, Shilvodon and Toome and consists of 5 members.



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Key abbreviations
DUP Democratic Unionist Party
SDLP Social Democratic and Labour Party
UUP Ulster Unionist Party
TUV Traditional Unionist Voice

Glengormley Urban Electoral Area (DEA) covers Ballyhenry, Burnthill, Carnmoney, Collinbridge, Glebe, Glengormley and Hightown and consists of 7 members.



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Key abbreviations
DUP Democratic Unionist Party
SDLP Social Democratic and Labour Party
UUP Ulster Unionist Party
TUV Traditional Unionist Voice



Elected Members

Annual Report 2015-16

Macedon District Electoral Area (DEA) covers Abbey, Carnmoney Hill and consists of 6 members.



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MAYOR



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Threemilewater District Electoral Area (DEA) covers Ballyduff, Fairview, Jordanstown, Monkstown, Mossley and Rostulla and consists of 6 members.



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Key abbreviations

DUP	Democratic Unionist Party
SDLP	Social Democratic and Labour Party
UUP	Ulster Unionist Party
TUV	Traditional Unionist Voice

Annual Report 2015-16

PLACE

A place where we have vibrant and welcoming towns, villages, neighbourhoods and rural areas

The Council's commitment to **'PLACE'** as identified in the Corporate Plan states that from a civic leadership perspective, the community planning process and the preparation of a Local Development Plan will enable us to plan positively for the future of our Borough. We will ensure that lands are appropriately zoned and that our infrastructure is enhanced to develop the Borough for future generations.

We will support sustainable communities by empowering residents to take responsibility for their environment.

Specifically the Corporate Plan has set the following targets for 2030.

- A place where people take pride in their surroundings.
- A place where people feel safe.
- A place where we protect and enhance, where possible, our natural habitats and built heritage.
- We have vibrant and welcoming towns, villages, neighbourhoods, and rural areas and an efficient planning process that promotes positive development.
- A place where people choose to reuse or recycle their waste.



During 2015-16 we achieved the following results.

1. We achieved a number of accolades instilling pride in our surroundings.
 - Achieved 13 Green Flag Accreditations, plus 2 Heritage Green Flags and 2 Community Green Flag Awards for sites across our Borough.
 - Britain in Bloom Silver Gilt Award for Antrim Town.
 - 3rd place for Ballynure in the Ulster in Bloom Large Village category.
 - 3rd place for Ballyeaston in the Ulster in Bloom Small Village category.
 - Roses in Towns Overall winner for Antrim town in Ulster in Bloom.
 - 3rd place for Antrim town in the Ulster in Bloom Large Town Category.
 - Winner of the Large Housing Area Award for Merville Garden Village in the Best Kept Awards.
 - 2 towns shortlisted in the Welcome Award for Best Kept – Ballyclare and Glengormely Best Kept Large Urban Centre Award for Antrim town in Ireland’s Best Kept Towns.
 - 30 Volunteer Gardeners working at Antrim Castle Gardens.
 - Installation of public art at V36.
2. Issued 12,835 dog licences and 108 fixed penalty notices for dog straying, dog fouling and having no dog licence.



3. Achieved favourably low scores in the NI Environmental Cleanliness Index annual report for the Borough; to include, 12% for cleanliness pollution, 3% for graffiti pollution, 0% for fly posting pollution and 18% for litter pollution. (KNIB NI Pollution Report 2015-16).
4. Delivered an extensive education programme to support the reduction of environmental vandalism and issued 187 penalties for litter.
5. Implemented a Park Ranger scheme in Antrim Castle Gardens.
6. Conducted 2839 environmental health inspections throughout the year.
7. Responded to 4639 environmental health service requests throughout the year.

Annual Report 2015-16

8. Fulfilled the council’s statutory obligations with regard to Environmental Health legislation and reported the level of compliance via the appropriate statutory return.
9. Approved an environmental policy and implementation of an Environmental Management System.
10. Achieved of the environmental management standard ISO1400.
11. 1147 people participated in biodiversity events across the Borough.
12. Achieved 94% Energy Performance Certificate compliance.
13. Achieved 100% Display Energy Certificate compliance.
14. Achieved 96% Commercial Energy Performance Compliance.
15. Achieved 94% Air Compliance.
16. Funded a £22M Capital Project programme and successfully delivered 8 projects.
17. Delivered Randalstown and Ballyclare revitalisation schemes.

Annual Report 2015-16

18. Secured project funding for 4 further public realm schemes (Antrim, Randalstown, Ballyclare and Glengormley).
19. 116 Commercial properties were enhanced in Antrim, Ballyclare and Randalstown.
20. Commenced work on our new Local Development Plan which will set out our planning and land use issues up to 2030. We’ve published our planned timetable and statement of community involvement.
21. Achieved statutory targets for the processing times of planning applications.
22. The supply of land available for housing development is estimated at 15 years.
23. Conducted 9293 building regulation inspections throughout the year.
24. Remain on target to recycle 50% of our waste by 2020. Currently 47.46%.
25. Opened a ‘state of the art’ Recycling Centre at O’Neill Road.
26. Achieved 84% resident satisfaction in the way in which the Council deals with your household rubbish.
27. Achieved 85% resident satisfaction with the Council’s recyclable waste service.
28. Achieved statutory target for the amount of biodegradable Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Landfilled.





Antrim Train Station

Where people choose to live and where residents enjoy a high quality of life.

The Council's commitment to **'OUR PEOPLE'** as identified in the Corporate Plan is to be an area where people choose to live and where residents enjoy a high quality of life. Through the Community Planning process, we are committed to working with our partners to streamline service delivery and share resources.

We aspire to be a place where our people work together to encourage a culture of tolerance, diversity and respect. We aim to support and enrich the knowledge and skills of the community and voluntary sector to address disadvantage and promote opportunities.

Specifically the Corporate Plan has set the following targets for 2030.

- Our communities will have access to high quality Council services and facilities. The support we provide will lead to a more active, healthy and empowered community.
- Communities and agencies work together to plan and deliver better services, address disadvantage and improve the quality of life for everyone.
- Our community is inclusive and supportive and encourages a culture of tolerance, diversity and respect.
- We communicate clearly with our residents, listen to their feedback and respond to their needs. Customers will increasingly use the Council's website for its convenience and ease of use to order, pay for and request services.
- We will achieve excellence in customer and service quality standards and this will be recognised through accreditation schemes.



Outdoor Football at Crumlin Leisure Centre 3G Pitch

During 2015-16 we achieved the following results.

- 1. 8097 participants took part in the Active Communities Programme (Every Body Active).
- 2. 1,075,158 people used our leisure and community centres.
- 3. Crumlin Leisure Centre, which opened in March 2015, to include a multi-sports hub providing modern, state-of-the-art facilities. These include three 3rd generation flood lit pitches for rugby, football and gaelic football, plus a cardiovascular fitness suite and conference facilities.

The Centre has had a very successful first year, having exceeded annual membership targets by 47% and exceeded annual projected financial targets by 13.8%.

- 4. 699 patients referred through the Exercise Referral Scheme (Scheme funded by the Council and delivered in partnership with GP's and Health Trusts).
- 5. 250 patients completed the 12 week Exercise Referral programme in the Antrim Forum.
- 6. Technical appointment procedure substantially complete for consultants to carry out technical assessment of proposed burial sites at Ashley Road and Crumlin.



- 10. We established an interim Community Planning Partnership comprising, Councillors, Statutory Partners and Departmental representatives. We conducted widespread consultation, engaging with stakeholders and the general public to identify the main issues in our communities. The development of a robust and ambitious Community Plan is well underway.
- 11. 540 attendees at Community Planning consultation and engagement exercises.
- 12. We successfully delivered our Good Relations Action Plan and implemented a number of events and programmes.
- 13. We secured £140,317 funding from the NI Executive Office to deliver a small grants programme to address racism and sectarianism and build positive relations consistent with the NI Governments Together Building a United Community Strategy.
- 14. 12,228 participants attended Peace IV programme consultation events, including interviews and focus groups to inform the future direction of Good Relations within Council.
- 15. 74% overall Customer satisfaction with Council Services.
- 16. Over 8,500 online transactions for Council services.

- 17. 4325 Twitter followers.
- 18. 310,000 visits to our corporate websites.
- 19. Developed a new Residents Magazine which is delivered to 69,000 households on a bi-monthly basis.
- 20. Developed an external communication and marketing plan to maximise resources and utilise digital technology to meet the need of our customers.
- 21. Launched the 'Life' range of publications which is our direct route to communicate and engage with our residents and customers, acting also as our key promotional material. This suite of new publications refreshed and replaced comparable core legacy publications, and within the current financial year we have delivered efficiency savings of approximately £26,000.



- 22. Developed digital versions of our key customer publications e.g. Borough Life and Active Life.



- 23. Established a customer consultation schedule to support the delivery of service improvement.
- 24. Opened a state-of-the-art facility at V36 which is home to an adventure play area, a civic linear park and a floodlit third generation pitch for football, rugby and Gaelic sports.
- 25. Achieved the APSE Award for best Community and Neighbourhood Initiative for the Valley Park shared space project (V36 at the Valley).

- 26. Expanded the accessibility of our arts and culture performances and delivered 2 signed / captioned performances and 2 relaxed performances.
- 27. Delivered 168 successful arts/crafts and theatre programmes with 39,166 attendees (April 2015 – March 2016).





Having fun at a Borough play park

We encourage and support economic growth to create a vibrant and prosperous economy

The Council's commitment to '**PROSPERITY**' as identified in the Corporate Plan is that we will, through the community planning process, encourage and support economic growth in our Borough to create a vibrant and prosperous economy which is attractive to new and existing businesses. We will encourage innovation and support skills development to meet the future needs of local businesses.

We will support the physical regeneration of our Borough and make it attractive for residents, investors and visitors. We will build on the strengths of our area to maximise tourism opportunities.

Specifically, the Corporate Plan has set the following targets for 2030.

- We identify and support entrepreneurship, have a strong competitive business advantage and are a centre of excellence for leading edge companies. We have a world class infrastructure which attracts inward investment and supports productivity, exports and business growth. We stimulate business activity to sustain existing jobs and create new employment opportunities.
- We maximise tourism opportunities and have a strong arts and cultural economy.



Family Shopping in the Borough

During 2015-16 we achieved the following results.

1.

Supported 87 new businesses to get started.
2.

Promoted 105 job opportunities.
3.

Assisted 35 businesses with one-to-one mentoring support.
4.

Delivered 13 networking events delivered with 355 attending.
5.

Had 30 businesses complete Business Development Programmes (Bricks 'n' Clicks/STAR 2).
6.

Identified two demonstration sites at Crumlin and Ballyclare for rural broadband.
7.

Council helped to secure more than 50 vouchers for local businesses through the Superfast Broadband Connection scheme at a value of more than £120k for local businesses to help boost connectivity. Council helped to promote the Better Rural Broadband scheme in association with Avanti Communications, helping to deliver improved broadband connectivity through satellite technology.
8.

30 participants attending an Exploring Enterprise Programme (Joint programme Antrim Enterprise Agency/Mallusk Enterprise Park).
9.

640 school children attended workshops on entrepreneurship delivered by Young Enterprise NI.
10.

3% unemployment in the Borough.



Antrim and Newtownabbey

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Economic Development Support Measures:

Through <http://www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/Business>

Some options currently available to local businesses:

■ ASK Mentoring Programme;

■ LEAN Business Network – programme of events re-starting June 2016;

■ STAR 2 complete – STAR 3 expected to re-start September 2016;

■ Bricks & Clicks 3 – aimed at pre-start – to re-start in September 2016;

■ Business Downloads – useful links to training, business planning and loans; and,

■ NRC – Accountancy Apprenticeships.



Contact Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

Economic Development on 02890 340000

Annual Report 2015-16

11.

100 Invest NI clients across the Borough.

12.

64 vacant properties in town centres.

13.

3660 VAT Registered Businesses in the Borough.

14.

The Council supported 7 tourism events across the Borough. (May Day Steam Rally, Irish Game Fair, Beekeepers Conference, Koi Carp, Toome Horse Fair, Antrim Show, Garden Show Ireland).

15.

Attracted large audiences to Council run events across the Borough: May Fair, Dragon Boat Race, Teddy Bear’s Picnic, Shoreline Festival, Ghouls and Fools Halloween Spooktacular, Spooked Out and The Enchanted Winter Garden event at Antrim Castle Gardens.

16.

Had 199,940 overnight stays in the Borough.

17.

Visitor spending in the Borough equated to £37.2M.

18.

Attracted 350,000 visitors to Antrim Castle Gardens.

19.

Installed free libraries at Mossley Mill and Castle Gardens.

20.

Attracted regional audiences of approximately 44,000 for our theatre performances.

Annual Report 2015-16

21.

Delivered 168 successful arts and crafts workshops/ courses across the Borough.

22.

Our caravan parks secured 23,032 bookings.

23.

Our Caravan Parks attracted overnight stays from all over Europe, as well as America, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, South Africa, Swaziland and Uruguay.

24.

Reinstated the community gallery at Clotworthy to provide a dedicated display space for community exhibitions.

25.

Achieved 93% customer satisfaction rating with Six Mile Water Caravan Park.

26.

Achieved 98% customer satisfaction rating with Jordanstown Loughshore Park.

27.

Retained Museum Accreditation for Sentry Hill and Museum at the Mill.

28.

Retained the Trip Advisor Certificate of Excellence for Antrim Castle Gardens.

Performance of 'OLIVER' - Theatre at The Mill

24



PERFORMANCE

We are renowned for excellence in service delivery and recognised for good governance and our commitment to using a best practice approach to accountable decision making.

The Council's commitment to '**PERFORMANCE**' as identified in the Corporate Plan is to be a Council renowned for excellence in service delivery. We will do this by ensuring that our culture is constructive and provides employees with opportunities to reach their potential whilst achieving community outcomes. We will be recognised for excellence in governance and our commitment to using a best practice approach to accountable decision making.

WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE BY 2030

- To be at the forefront of good governance. The Council's decision making process will be conducted in an open and transparent manner.
- We are innovative and results focused, aiming to make the best use of resources available to us. We will deliver savings and improvement programmes across a range of services and we are committed to paying our suppliers promptly.
- We respect the welfare and safety of our staff and customers and deliver an effective emergency planning response.

Planning Officers on-site



During 2015-16 we achieved the following results.

- 1. We delivered a decrease of 0.49% in domestic rates within the Antrim area, while households in the Newtownabbey area saw a 0% increase.
- 2. We delivered a 0.49% reduction in the business rates across the Antrim and Newtownabbey area.
- 3. Managed our finances in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Finance Act (NI) 2011 and the Prudential Code.
- 4. Subjected the 2014-15 annual accounts to an unqualified audit opinion.
- 5. Controlled our net cost of services with an underspend of £1.3M, equating to a 3.3% underspend.
- 6. Produced six sets of audited Accounts.
- 7. Secured £5.4M external funding for the Borough.
- 8. Achieved the CIPFA Finance Team of the Year Award.



The Council receives the IIP Silver Award

- 9. All minutes and audio recording of Council and Committee meetings are uploaded to the website.
- 10. Over 850 Mayoral engagements.
- 11. Paperless working for Elected Members.
- 12. 97% of Freedom of Information responses were issued within legislative requirements.
- 13. Delivered Code of Conduct training for Councillors and employees.
- 14. Trained Councillors and employees on areas relating to governance (Financial Regulations, Information Governance, Health and Safety, Contract Management and Anti-Fraud and Bribery).

Annual Report 2015-16

- 15. Delivered training for Audit Committee Members.
- 16. 11% reduction in insurance premiums against budget.
- 17. 47% reduction in legal costs against budget.
- 18. Approved a Digital Transformation Strategy.
- 19. Introduced Optical Character Recognition for the swift processing of invoices.
- 20. Developed an electronic system for Elected Members' expenses.
- 21. Adopted a Buy Social Toolkit for Procurement, providing practical guidance on how to generate benefits to society and the local economy through our procurement practices.
- 22. Developed an Emergency Plan for the Borough and responded swiftly to emergency incidents for our community.
- 23. Developed a Risk Management Policy and Procedures with a robust risk management framework in place.

Annual Report 2015-16

- 24. Recorded no reportable health and safety incidents.
- 25. We introduced a Council wide reorganisation and restructuring programme.
- 26. 150 jobs on new structures have been filled.
- 27. Made savings of £1,092,194 on annual salary costs of those staff who have taken voluntary severance.
- 28. Embedded a robust Business Planning process.
- 29. Successfully implemented a number of key strands on our employee engagement strategy, including the development of a staff newsletter, a team brief and employee roadshows are held bi-annually.
- 30. We carried out an internal survey with staff and achieved some excellent results: 82% the Council invests in developing our capabilities and there is a culture of continuous improvement. 91% work is interesting and get the opportunity to use skills and abilities.
- 31. Received Investors in People Accreditation (Silver).

- 32. 48% of staff have achieved 100% attendance.
- 33. The average days lost per full time equivalent employee was 12.12 days. A robust system is in place and we will continue to manage absence.
- 34. Embedded a 100% electronic recruitment process.
- 35. Provided 26 placements to school children.
- 36. Assisted 11 people through employability programmes.
- 37. Delivered an ambitious capacity building programme to include 318 training events with 2654 staff attending.
- 38. Achieved the Elected Member Development Charter.
- 39. Delivered a very successful 'Youth in Democracy Day' for schools in the Borough.



Charter for Elected Member Development Award

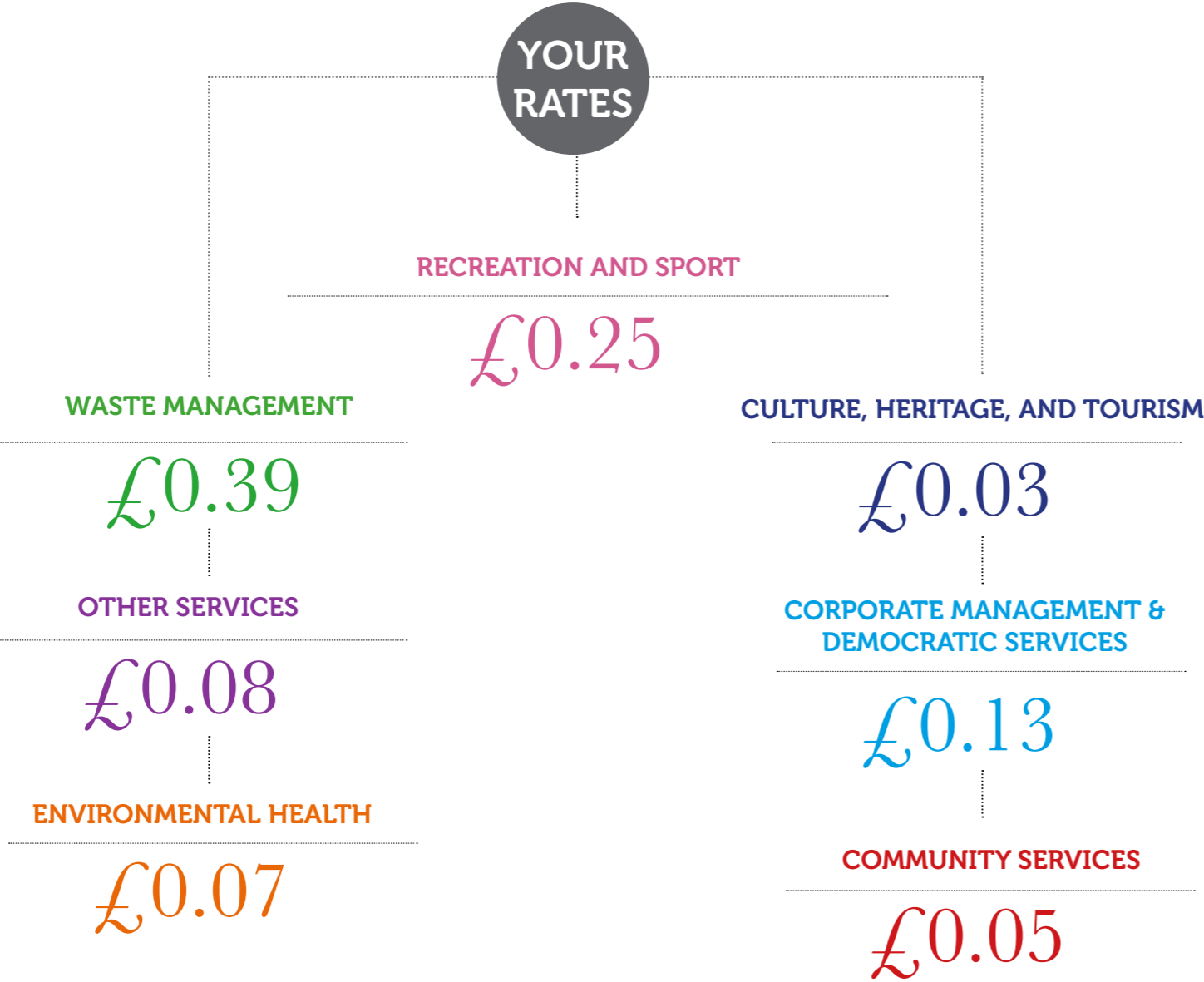
How well are we managing your money?

The Council kept expenditure within budget in 2015-16. Our financial performance is set against a backdrop of efficiency targets, over the past year we have achieved £1.3M in efficiency savings and we were able to maintain a freeze in the rates for our Borough.

HOW IS EVERY £ SPENT?

The financial overview opposite shows how every £ was spent by the Council in 2015-16.

Financial Overview



Statutory Indicators

INTRODUCTION

Section 89(5) of the Local Government Act 2014 specifically refers to the standards specified in the Local Government (Performance Indicators and Standards) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015, where specific targets have been identified for Planning, Waste Management and Economic Development. A summary of how Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council have performed against these statutory targets for 2015/16 is illustrated below.

PLANNING

Planning powers were transferred to local councils on 1 April 2015 as part of the local government reform process.

Planning is all about shaping the future of our Borough and endeavouring to achieve the right development in the right place at the right time.

The objective is to create a sustainable, prosperous and attractive place for residents and visitors alike, a place where people take pride in their surroundings, where we look after our natural and built heritage and support sustainable growth for future generations.

As the Council's Corporate Plan indicates we want to have an efficient planning process that promotes positive development.

During its first year the Council's new Planning Section has been seeking to introduce a speedier, simpler and a more streamlined process, making it easier for everyone living, working or undertaking business in the Borough to access and participate in the planning process. We are working hard to deliver faster and more predictable decisions and also keen to ensure there is stronger and more effective planning enforcement on the ground.

The primary driver for this change has been the Council's Planning Committee.

Working with the Committee almost 700 decisions on planning applications were issued during 2015-16, including over 100 decisions taken by the Planning Committee itself, with an overall approval rate in excess of 93%.

The Committee has also agreed to take formal enforcement action in some 26 cases to date and signed off the Council's new Enforcement Strategy.

Notably the Planning Committee held the first Pre-determination hearing for an application anywhere in Northern Ireland. This related to the proposed masterplan redevelopment scheme at the University of Ulster in Jordanstown.



It has also agreed several more pre-determination hearings for significant schemes to allow both the project sponsors and the local community to have their views heard before decisions are taken.

At the end of 2015-16, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council was the only Council to meet all its statutory performance targets.

The Council was also the first in Northern Ireland to have published its Statement of Community Involvement and Plan Timetable.

Performance against statutory targets

MAJOR APPLICATIONS

The target for major applications is to process 50% from submission to conclusion within 30 weeks. Council processed 20 major applications to conclusion with an average processing time of 28.2 weeks meaning that we achieved 52.4% which met the statutory target set.

LOCAL APPLICATIONS

The target for local applications is to process 50% from submission to conclusion within 15 weeks. Council processed 666 local applications to conclusion with an average processing time of 14 weeks meaning that we achieved 55.9% which met the statutory target set.

ENFORCEMENT CASES

The target for enforcement cases was to process to a conclusion 70% of cases within 39 weeks of receipt. Council opened 274 new cases with an average processing time of 19.5 weeks meaning that we achieved 84.2% which met the statutory target set.

New housing development approved in Randalstown



New Buildings for Parkhall Integrated College, Antrim



New Retail Development approved at Abbeycentre, Newtownabbey

Waste Management

The Council has made considerable progress in terms of meeting the statutory performance targets in relation to Waste Management, as demonstrated below.

Target 2015-16

W1. The percentage of household waste collected by district councils that is sent for recycling (including waste).

W2. The amount of (tonnage) of biodegradable Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste that is landfilled. (No more than 21,148 tonnes).

W3. The amount (tonnage) of LA Collected Municipal Waste arisings.

Result 2015-16

47.46%

18,873 tonnes

85,057 tonnes

The opening of the new O'Neill Road Recycling Centre





Local Business helped through the Business start-up service

Economic Development

Antrim and Newtownabbey are committed to supporting economic growth in our Borough to create a vibrant and prosperous economy which is attractive to new and existing businesses.

The Council is delivering a business start-up service which provides individual residents with hands-on support to develop a business plan that will help them to enter self-employment. During 2015-16, 105 new jobs were promoted through the delivery of this business start-up support service, provided to local residents.

The service, which is managed collaboratively by all 11 local Councils in Northern Ireland, offers free one-to-one advice and assistance to individuals intending to become self-employed.

PERFORMANCE AGAINST STATUTORY TARGETS



Promotion of the Business start-up programme





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