



Love Living Here



BASELINE REPORT

**ENVIRONMENTAL WELLBEING
(inc. Tourism)**

February 2017

Please Note

Some of the data in this document is sourced from sample survey data. Data from a sample survey means that the whole population of Northern Ireland has not been asked. Therefore, when looking at the figures, the confidence intervals/ranges associated with the figures should be noted.

A confidence interval represents the range of values in which the true population value is likely to lie. It is based on the sample estimate and the confidence level.

Example:

For example, the employment rate for Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council in 2015 was estimated to be 70.7%. This figure had a stated 95% confidence interval of +/- 5.8 percentage points. This means that we would expect that in 95% of samples, the true employment rate for 2015 for Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council was between 64.9% and 76.5%.

Also, due to some of the small numbers presented in some of the sub-categories, some caution should be taken when interpreting the figures.

Analysis by Local Government District

In most of the datasets used, individual records are attributed to Local Government Districts on the basis of their postcode. However, in some cases the postcode may be missing/invalid and cannot be assigned to a Local Government District but are included in the Northern Ireland totals.

As an example, in the School Leavers data (Department of Education), approximately 0.6% of pupils have incomplete or missing postcode information.

Therefore, the sum of the School Leavers in each of the Local Government Districts in 2014/15 is 22,224 pupils. The Northern Ireland total is 22,361 pupils.

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List of Acronyms

ANBC	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council
CHS	Continuous Household Survey
DAERA	Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
DEA	District Electoral Area
DENI	Department of Education Northern Ireland
DLA	Disability Living Allowance
FE	Further Education
FSME	Free School Meal Entitlement
HE	Higher Education
HEI	Higher Education Institutions
LAC	Local Authority Collected
LGD	Local Government District
NI	Northern Ireland
NISRA	Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

Tourism¹

Northern Ireland Overview

Overall Northern Ireland in 2015 there were 4.5 million overnight trips. Expenditure associated with these trips was £764m, up 3% from 2014. Last year overnight trips to Northern Ireland by external visitors stood at 2.3 million. This is the highest number on record and a 6% increase on 2014. Spend associated with these trips also grew by 7% to £545m in 2015.

The most popular visitor attractions were the Giant's Causeway (0.851 million visits) and Titanic Belfast (0.622 million visits) in 2015.

During 2015 hotel room occupancy was 67%, an increase of two percentage points from the previous year. In total 1.9 million hotel room nights were sold in 2015.

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

Estimated Overnight Trips

In 2015, there were 204,290 overnight trips made to the Borough equating to 4% of all overnight trips in Northern Ireland (4.6m²). Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough

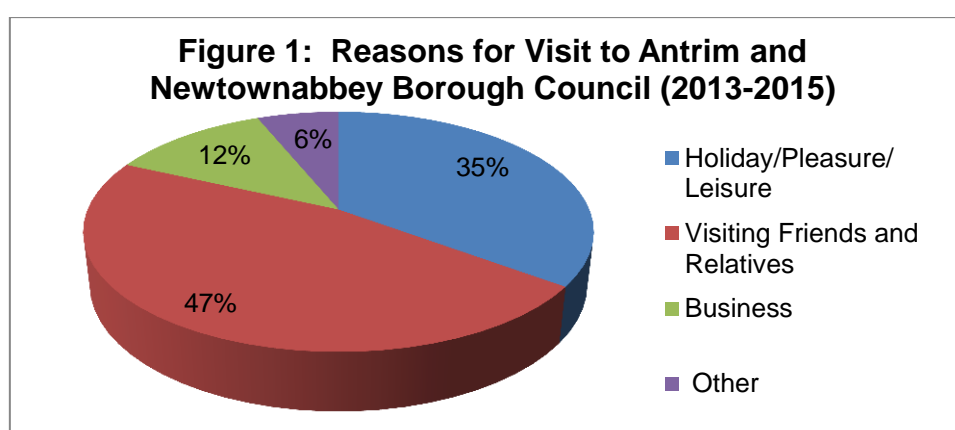
¹ Figures are derived from the Northern Ireland Passenger Survey (NIPS) conducted by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA), the Survey of Overseas Travellers (SOT) conducted on behalf of Fáilte Ireland, the Household Travel Survey (HTS) conducted by Central Statistics Office (CSO) and the Northern Ireland Continuous Household Survey (CHS) conducted by NISRA. All surveys are based on sample surveys and therefore have an associated degree of sampling error. Due to the nature of household surveys in Northern Ireland, users should be aware that statistics on overnight trips in Northern Ireland of Northern Ireland residents aged under 16 are excluded.

Council ranked eighth for the number of overnight trips across all councils. Almost half of all overnight trips in Northern Ireland were to Belfast (29%) and Causeway Coast and Glens (20%).

In 2015, 672,902 nights were spent in Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council by all visitors, 4% of all nights stayed in Northern Ireland. This is the lowest number of nights spent over the last five years within Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council.

During overnight trips, £34.2m was spent in 2015 in Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council, which represented an 8% decrease on what was spent in the previous year.

£167 per overnight trip was spent within Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council, fourth highest across all councils in 2015. This is higher compared to Northern Ireland overall (£164).



Source: NISRA Tourism Statistics Branch

In 2013-2015, the majority of overnight trips to Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council were to visit friends and relatives (47%), followed by holiday/pleasure/leisure (35%), business (12%) and other (6%).

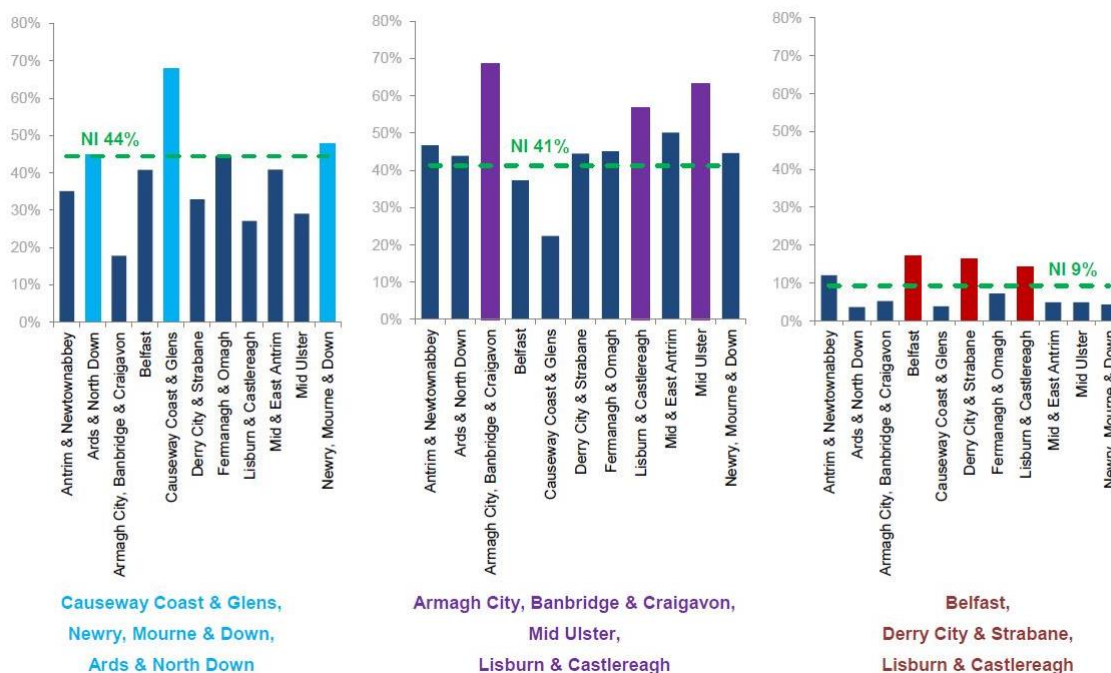
Figure 2: Reason for Overnight Trip in Northern Ireland by LGD (3 year rolling average 2013-2015)

Holiday/Pleasure/Leisure

Visiting Friends & Relatives

Business

² The 2015 Northern Ireland tourism statistics showed there were 4.5 million overnight trips, this figure is lower than the 'all LGD' total (4.6 million). The LGD figure is higher as someone may spend time in various locations during the one overnight trip to NI.



Source: NISRA Tourism Statistics Branch

From 2013-15, 42% of visitors to Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council came from within Northern Ireland, while 35% were from England, Scotland or Wales. Other European countries and North America accounted for 7% and 5% respectively and 'Other' 11%.

Accommodation³

The availability of commercial accommodation is an indicator of the supply side of tourism. In 2015, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council had 3,384 beds available in licensed accommodation, the fifth highest number of beds available across all councils and 8% of all beds available in Northern Ireland. However, the largest proportion of beds available within Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council in 2015 was 'Campus' accommodation (47%, 1,587 beds) on either University of Ulster at Jordanstown or CAFRE Agricultural College at Greenmount Campus in Antrim.

In 2015, within Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council there were ten hotels with a total of 631 rooms and 1,295 bed spaces.

Table 1: Certified Accommodation Stock Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council (2015)

	Stock	Rooms/Units	Bed
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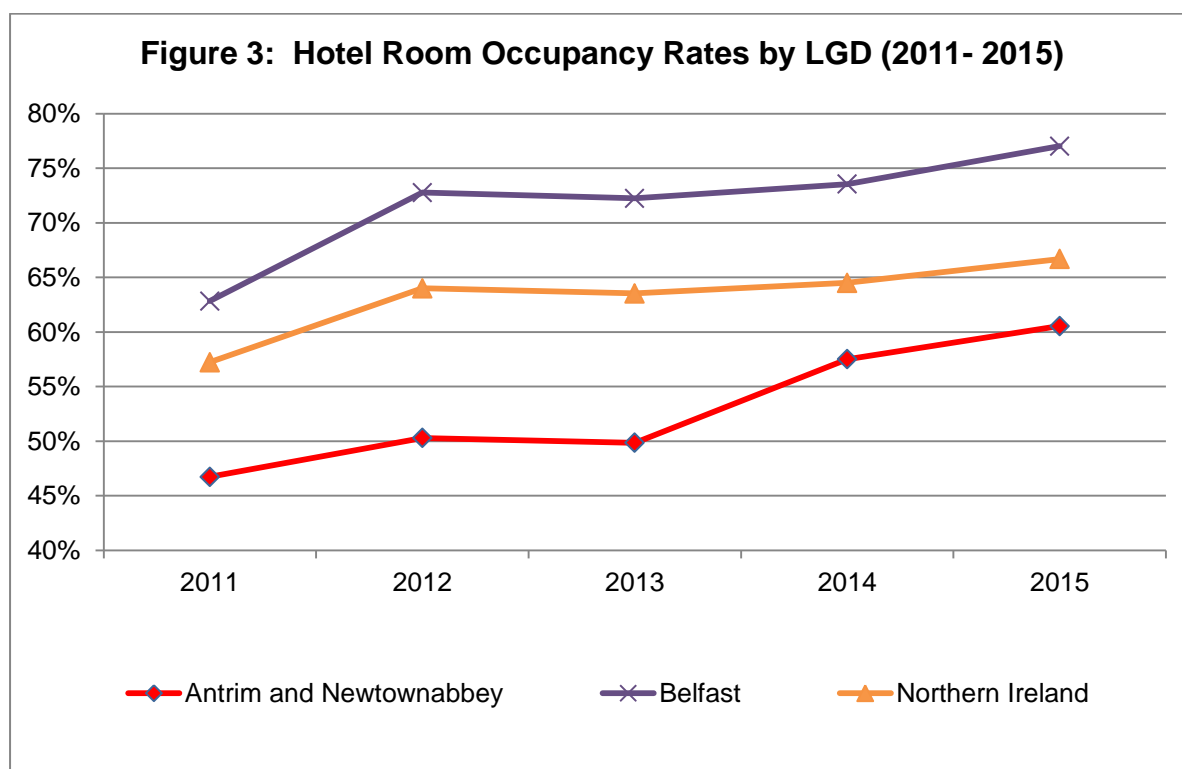
³ While data is not available on the number of second-homes and campsites or options to pitch tents/caravans, it is estimated that in 2015, 14% of all NI domestic overnight trips were to second homes and a further 11% were to campsites, caravan parks or trailer parks.

			Spaces
Hotels	10	631	1,295
Guesthouses	6	40	96
Bed and Breakfast	22	61	133
Self-Catering	14	145	263
Guest Accommodation	1	3	10
Campus	2	1,539	1,587
Total	55	2,419	3,384

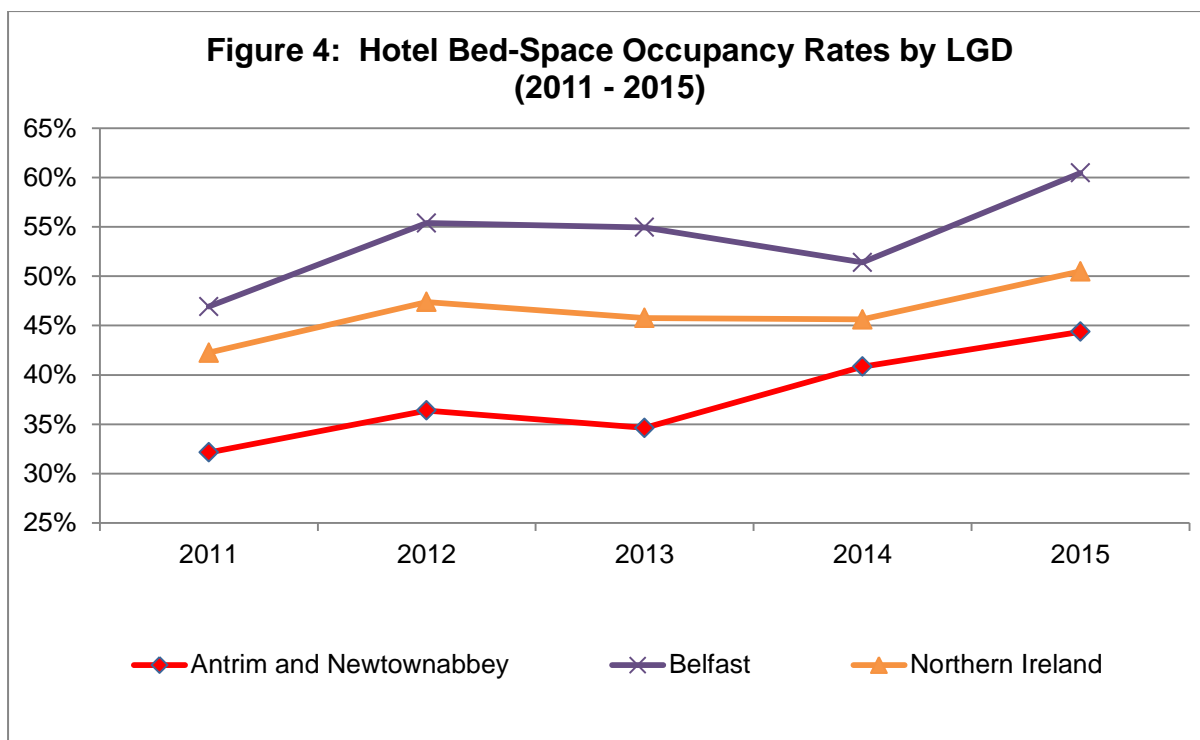
Source: NISRA Tourism Statistics Branch

Hotels

In 2015, the hotel room occupancy rate in Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council was 61% and bed space occupancy 44%. This is the highest both rates have been across the last five years in Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council. However, in 2015, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council was below the overall Northern Ireland hotel room occupancy rate (67%) and hotel bed space occupancy rate (50%).



Source: NISRA Tourism Statistics Branch



Source: NISRA Tourism Statistics Branch

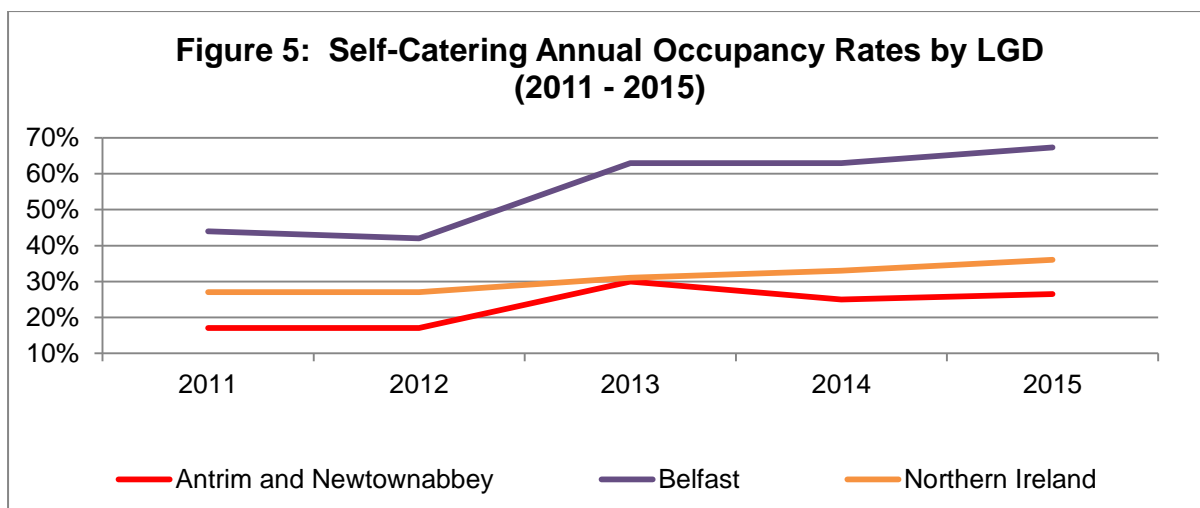
Bed & Breakfast, Guesthouses, Guest Accommodation and Self-Catering

In 2015, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council also had lower occupancy and bed space occupancy rates than Northern Ireland overall in bed & breakfast, guesthouses, and guest accommodation (23% occupancy rate and 17% bed space occupancy rate in Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council and 27% and 20% for Northern Ireland respectively).

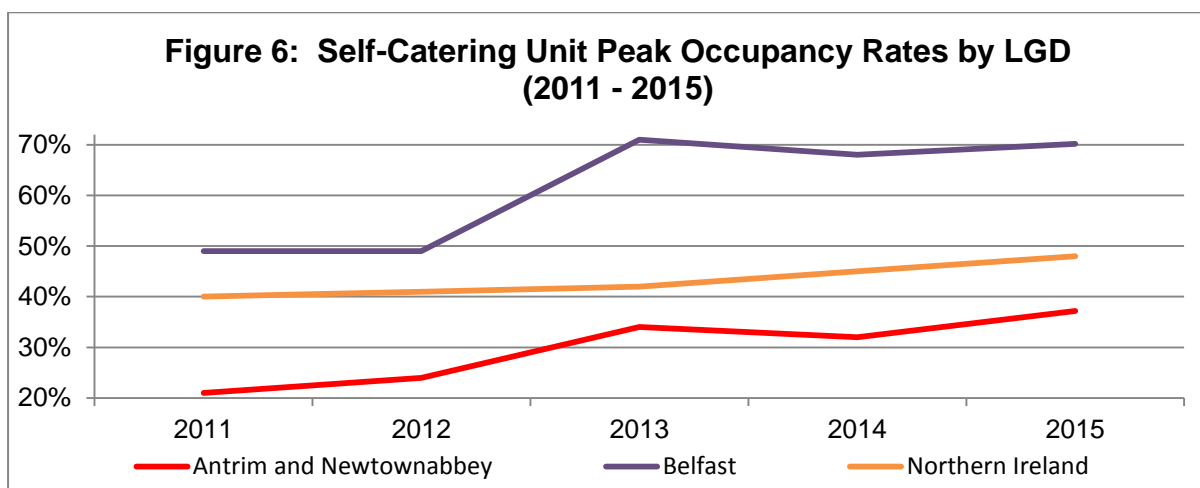
However, whilst the occupancy rates in Northern Ireland for Bed & Breakfast, Guesthouses, Guest Accommodation and Self-Catering have declined between 2014 and 2015, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council had a 10 and 7 percentage point increase between 2014 and 2015 for occupancy rates and bed space occupancy respectively.

Self-Catering

Again for self-catering unit occupancy, this was lower in Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council for both annual and peak rates than Northern Ireland overall in 2015 (26% occupancy annual rate and 37% occupancy peak rate for Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council and 36% and 48% for NI respectively).



Source: NISRA Tourism Statistics Branch



Source: NISRA Tourism Statistics Branch

Visitor Attractions⁴

In 2015, the top three visitor attractions in Northern Ireland were the Giant's Causeway (0.85 million visits), Titanic Belfast (0.62 million) and the Ulster Museum Belfast (0.47 million).

⁴ Under the annual survey a Visitor Attraction is defined as:

It must be feasible to charge admission for the sole purpose of sightseeing. The attraction must be a permanently established excursion destination, a primary purpose of which is to allow access for entertainment, interest, or education; rather than being primarily a retail outlet or a venue for sporting, theatrical, or film performances. It must be open to the public, without prior booking, for published periods each year, and should be capable of attracting day visitors or tourists as well as local residents. In addition, the attraction must be a single business, under a single management, so that it is capable of answering the economic questions on revenue, employment etc. and must be receiving revenue directly from the visitors. Some respondents wished their visitor numbers to remain confidential or they did not return their questionnaire and therefore visitor numbers for these attractions have been excluded from this table.

In Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council the top visitor attractions were Antrim Castle Gardens and Clotworthy House (357,051 visitors), Shanes Castle (40,000 visitors) and Clementsmount Fun Farm (16,000 visitors).

The number of visit to Antrim Castle Gardens and Clotworthy House more than trebled between 2012 (111,929 visitors) and 2015 (357,051 visitors) and similar for Patterson's Spade Mill between 2014 (712 visitors) and 2015 (2,800 visitors).

World of Owls visitor numbers increased by 84% between 2014 (5,814 visitors) and 2015 (5,410 visitors).

Table 2: Number of Visitors to Visitor Attractions within Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council (2011-2015)

Name of Visitor Attraction	Visitor Numbers				
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Antrim Castle Gardens & Clotworthy House	–	111,929	137,811	221,253	357,051
Shanes Castle	40,000	35,000	35,000	40,000	40,000
Clementsmount Fun Farm	14,897	15,000	15,300	16,026	16,000
World of Owls	4,542	5,731	5,750	5,814	10,693
Ballyrobert Cottage Garden & Nursery	4,500	4,975	4,900	4,980	5,410
Patterson's Spade Mill	469	497	610	712	2,800
Cafre - Greenmount Campus Nature Trail	–	3,000	2,359	–	–
Greenmount Nature Trail	3,515	3,000	2,359	–	–
Irish Landmark Trust Ballealy Cottage Shanes Castle Estate	–	–	205	250	–
Museum at The Mill	14,967	15,447	13,951	11,295	
The Whitehouse Heritage Centre	–	1,650	892	–	–

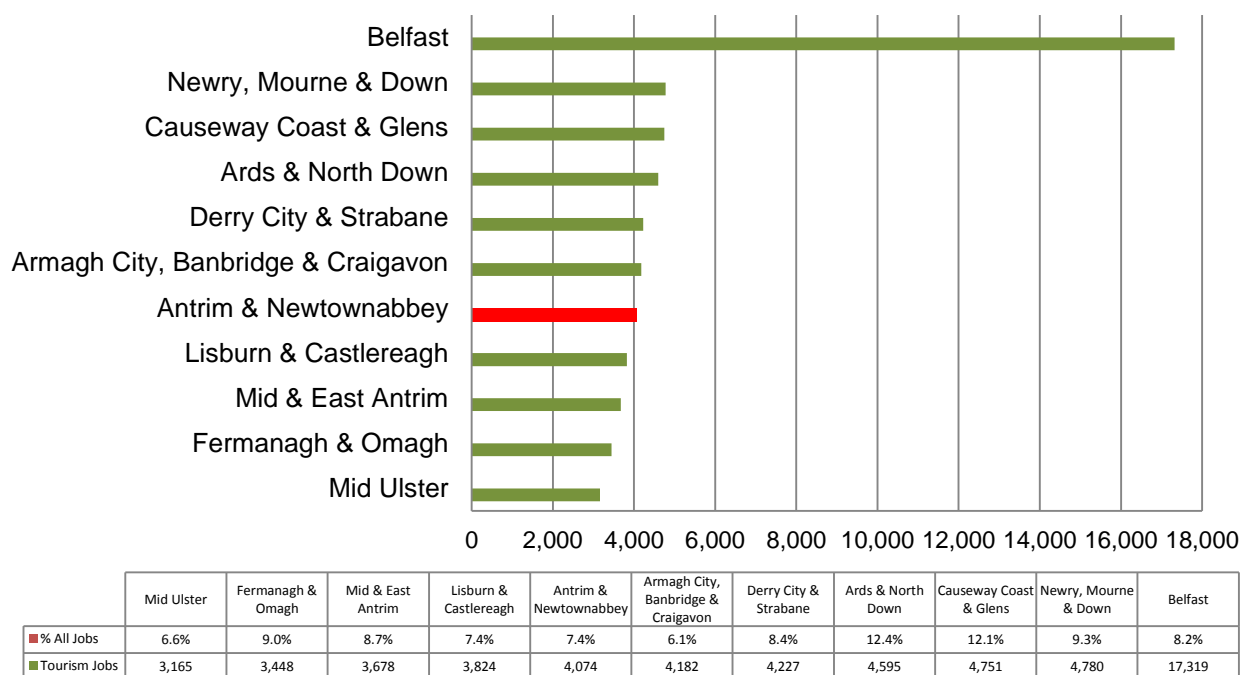
Source: NISRA Tourism Statistics Branch

Tourism Characteristic Employee Jobs

Employee jobs in tourism characteristic industries include 'Accommodation for Visitors', 'Food and Beverage serving activities', 'Transport', 'Sporting and recreational activities' and 'Other'.

In 2013, 8% (approx. 58,000) of all employee jobs in Northern Ireland were within tourism characteristic industries. The equivalent figure for Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council is 7% (4,074 employee jobs).

Figure 7: Employee Jobs in Tourism Characteristic Industries by LGD (2013)



Source: NISRA Tourism Statistics Branch

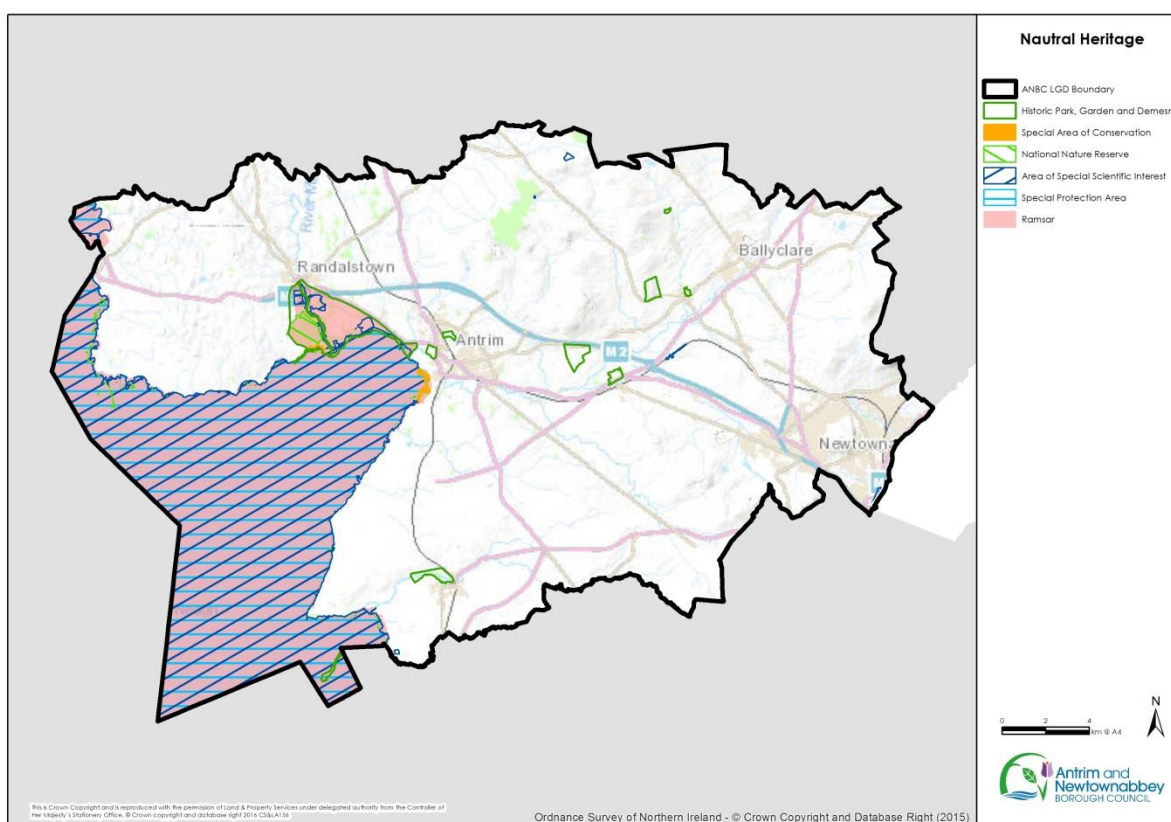
Environment

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council covers 274 sq. miles from the shores of Lough Neagh in the west to the shores of Belfast Lough in the east. Its northern boundary with Mid and East Antrim leads to the Glens of Antrim and the port of Larne, while to the south it borders Belfast and Lisburn and Castlereagh.

- 65,000 vehicles pass through each day on the M2 one of the major transport corridors through the area.
- Two of Northern Ireland's most popular and modern retail outlets, Junction One and Abbey Centre, attract shoppers from far and wide.
- Three higher education facilities, the University of Ulster at Jordanstown, CAFRE Agricultural College at Greenmount Campus in Antrim and the Northern Regional College campus at Whiteabbey
- Two hospitals provide acute and sub-acute services, Antrim Area and Whiteabbey, plus Muckamore Abbey and Holywell hospitals are all within its boundaries.
- The four hundred year old Antrim Castle Gardens, one of the most historically intact gardens in the UK and Ireland.
- Four top class recreation facilities are on offer at Antrim Forum and Stadium, Ballyearl Golf Fitness Arts, Sixmile Leisure Centre and Valley Leisure Centre.
- Newtownabbey Way path linking Mossley Mill with the shores of Belfast Lough and the trails around Lough Neagh offer many walking, cycling and recreational opportunities.
- Three theatres, the Courtyard Theatre at Ballyearl, the Theatre at The Mill, Newtownabbey and the Old Courthouse in Antrim, provide all year round entertainment.
- In addition to this there are a number of heritage sites; Sentry Hill Historic House, Mossley Mill, The White House Bawn and Pattersons Spade Mill.

Natural Heritage⁵

Map 1: Natural Heritage – Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council



Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council is located between Lough Neagh and Belfast Lough and is home to a wide range of rich and diverse natural heritage assets. Belfast Lough which is designated as a wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention and is also designated as a Special Protected Area, and an Area of Special Scientific Interest.

There are no Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty or National Nature Reserves.

The table below details the Natural Heritage areas that lie within or partly within the Borough.

⁵ The locations of natural heritage sites from the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) can be viewed here for all of Northern Ireland <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/services/protected-areas-web-viewer>

Table 3: Natural Heritage Assets

2 Ramsar Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lough Neagh • Lough Beg
2 Special Protection Areas (SPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lough Neagh and Lough Beg • Belfast Lough Open Water
1 Special Area of Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rea's Wood and Farr's Bay
9 Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aghnadarragh - designated due to geological features • Ballypalady - designated due to geological features • Inner Belfast Lough - designated due to fauna • Lough Beg - designated due to flora and fauna • Lough Neagh - designated due to flora, fauna geological and physiographical features • Outer Belfast Lough - designated due to flora, fauna and geological features • Sandy Braes ASSI - designated due to geological features • Shanes Castle ASSI - designated due to flora and fauna. • Tardree Quarry ASSI - designated due to geological features
4 Nature Reserves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farr's Bay Nature Reserve • Lough Neagh Islands Nature Reserve • Rea's Wood Nature Reserve • Randalstown Forest Nature Reserve
3 Areas of High Scenic Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carrickfergus Escarpment • Carnmoney Hill • Belfast Basalt Escarpment
2 Local Nature Reserves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monkstown Wood • Carnmoney Hill
3 Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antrim Town Centre • Merville Garden Village • Randalstown
28 Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCIs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brookmount Glen • Carnmoney Hill • Carnmoney Plug (Geodiversity) • Glas-Na-Bradán • Glas-Na- Bradán (Geodiversity) • O'Neil Road • Three Mile Water • Willowbrook • Hazelbank Park • Craig Hill, Ballyclare • Doagh River/Morley Bridge, Doagh • Baird's Brae, Craigarogan

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hillhead House, Hillhead • Dismantled Railway, Kingsbog Crossing, Kingsmoss • Ballymartin Water below Roughfort Bridge, Roughfort • Ballypalady (Geodiversity) • Ballyvoy Plantation • Boghill • Breckenhill and Drumadarragh • Carn Hill • Hydepark Dam • Kilgreel House • Rea Hill • Stoneyford East • Straidhill Plantation • Tildarg Dam • Cavehill/Colinward • Knockagh-Dorisland
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Source: DAERA and Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Local Development Plan Evidence Paper *'Shaping Our Environment'*

Built Heritage⁶

There are 6 State Care Monuments in the Borough.

- Cranfield Church - medieval church, graveyard, holy well, cross and penal site;
- Spring Farm Rath - circular earthen mound;
- Antrim Round Tower – early Christian monastic site, round tower and possible medieval church;
- Ballywee Enclosed Farmstead – early Christian settlement and souterrains;
- Muckamore Priory – medieval Augustinian Priory;
- Castle Lug – medieval tower house

There are 101 scheduled monuments within the Borough. Examples of these include a Premonstratensian Abbey at Whiteabbey, a motte at War Memorial Park, Ballyclare, a Tower House and Bawn at Toome and a motte at Donegore

Listed Buildings⁷

There are around 312 listed buildings within the Borough.

⁶ More details on sites and monuments can be viewed at:

<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/services/sites-and-monuments-record>

⁷ More details on listed buildings can be viewed at:

<http://appsc.doeni.gov.uk/buildings/build.aspx?Accept>

Buildings at Risk⁸

The Buildings at Risk Register highlights the vulnerability of our historic built environment and will act as a catalyst for its restoration and reuse. The Register contains a selection of listed buildings, scheduled monuments and other historic structures from throughout Northern Ireland - ranging from humble dwellings to large industrial complexes - which are currently at risk and require a sustainable future. It has been commissioned by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Built Heritage unit and is compiled by the Ulster Architectural Heritage Society.

Within Antrim (old LGD), there are 16 buildings listed and 5 within Newtownabbey (old LGD).

Table 4: Buildings at Risk

Antrim (old LGD)
Church of the Sacred Heart, Staffordstown Road, Carrigan
1, New Street, Randalstown
21, Main Street, Randalstown (Public House – Terrace)
2-6, Main Street, Randalstown (Shop – Terrace)
7, The Parade, Randalstown
Market Square, New Street, Randalstown (Market)
The Forge, John Street, Randalstown (Rural Industry)
Gate Lodge and Gates to Loughanmore 53 Loughanmore Road, Dunadry (Gates/ Screens/ Lodges)
Gateway Antrim Castle Town Parks (Gates/ Screens/ Lodges)
Court House Market Square, Antrim (Court House)
Protestant Hall, Railway Street, Antrim (Shop)
1 Bridge Street Antrim
892, Antrim Road, Templepatrick, Ballyclare
Ballyrobin Iron footbridge, over the Six Mile Water, south-east of Muckamore Bridge, adjacent to Seven Mile Straight Muckamore Antrim (Bridge)
Ben Neagh, 11 Crumlin Road (House)
5, Corbally Road, Aldergrove, Crumlin (House)
Newtownabbey (old LGD)
Stephenson Mausoleum Kilbride Presbyterian Church Graveyard, Moyra Road, Doagh
Old Bawn, 32-34 Whitehouse Park, Shore Road, Newtownabbey (Hall)
Abbey House, Whiteabbey Hospital, Station Road, Newtownabbey (Office)
684, Shore Road, Newtownabbey
Monkstown Abbey

Source: Department for the Environment

⁸ More details on Buildings at Risk can be viewed at:
<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/services/buildings-risk-register>

Woodland⁹

As at April 2016, there was a total of 2,538 (Ha) of woodland within Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council, equating to 2.3% of all woodland in Northern Ireland. Approximately 3.5% of the area within the Borough is woodland.

Almost half (47.4%) of the woodland within Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council consists of Broadleaf, compared to a quarter (25.6%) of all woodland in Northern Ireland.

Table 5: Woodland – Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council and Northern Ireland (2016)

	Broadleaf	Conifer	Mixed	Open Ground	Not Known	Short Rotation Coppice	Total (Ha)
Forest Service (Ha)	103.4	446.4	13.5	26.1			593.3
Not Forest Service (Ha)	1,099.4	332.5	297.1		215.9		1,944.8
Antrim & Newtownabbey Total (Ha)	1,202.8	778.8	310.6	26.1	215.9		2,538.1
Forest Service Total (Ha) NI	4,734.8	49,897.3	1,844.2	2,698.1			62,136.5
Not Forest Service Total (Ha) NI	23,960.2	6,060.3	9,802.9		9,397.2	708.7	49,929.2
Northern Ireland Total (Ha)	28,694.9	55,957.6	11,647.0	2,698.1	9,397.2	708.7	112,065.7

Source: Woodland Register DAERA

1.1 (Ha) Broadleaf, 2.7 (Ha) Conifer and 0.1 (Ha) Mixed are awaiting replant/natural regeneration in Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council.

Farms¹⁰

In 2015, there were 890 farms in Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council (3.6% of total farms in NI), which is the fourth lowest of the district councils. The majority of the farms in Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council were very small farms (69%, 617 farms). This is similar to NI overall, where over three in every four farms (77%) are very small.

⁹ The register is based on data taken from the Northern Ireland woodland basemap which has been compiled using a range of GIS datasets from statutory and non-statutory bodies.

¹⁰ More detailed information can be found in The Agricultural Census in Northern Ireland – 2015 report <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/agricultural-census-northern-ireland-2014>

Table 6: Number of farms by farm business size and by LGD (2015)

	Very Small	Small	Medium	Large	Total Farms
Antrim & Newtownabbey	617	135	48	90	890
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	2,397	379	181	289	3,246
Belfast	21	3	2	2	28
Causeway Coast & Glens	1,712	393	168	244	2,517
Derry City & Strabane	1,271	251	82	131	1,735
Fermanagh & Omagh	4,262	505	209	157	5,133
Lisburn & Castlereagh	627	94	49	91	861
Mid & East Antrim	1,310	264	102	130	1,806
Mid Ulster	3,227	466	243	219	4,155
Newry, Mourne & Down	3,190	371	123	157	3,841
Ards & North Down	444	90	42	119	695
Northern Ireland	19,078	2,951	1,249	1,629	24,907

Source: DAERA (Agricultural Census)

Farm business size classification is calculated from Standard Labour Requirements. 1 Standard labour unit = 1900 hours and 'Very Small' are <1 Standard Labour Unit. This approximately equates to 36.5 hours per week.

675 of the farms in Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council in 2015 were 'Cattle and Sheep' and 112 were 'Dairy Farms'. Both accounted for 88% of all farms within Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council.

In 2015, the area farmed in hectares within Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council (41,856 hectares) is the fourth lowest across all the councils, equating to 4% of the total area farmed in hectares in Northern Ireland overall. Belfast had the lowest (2,293 hectares), followed by Ards & North Down (32,835 hectares) and Lisburn and Castlereagh (35,675 hectares).

Standard Outputs (SOs)¹¹ are defined by the European Union and are calculated as reference values for a variety of farm products. In June 2015, the average Standard Output in the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council was 95,000 (Euros) compared to the NI average of 75,000 (Euros). Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council had the third highest Average SO/farm (€ '000) in 2015 across all councils.

¹¹ It is not feasible to estimate the value of outputs on a farm by-farm basis; therefore, Standard Outputs (SOs) are calculated as reference values for a variety of farm products. The SO of a specific product (crop or livestock) is the average monetary value (per ha or head) of agricultural output based on regional farm-gate prices over a 5 year period. The SO excludes direct payments and no costs are deducted. Once the numbers of livestock and hectares of crop for an individual farm have been multiplied by the relevant SOs, it is allocated to a type category depending on where most of the total SO comes from. To ensure a stable framework for comparison and analysis SO values, once calculated, are held constant for a number of years. The SO values in use at the moment cover the five year period centred on 2010.

Historic Parks¹²

There are a number of historic parks, gardens and demesnes (HPAGs) within the Borough. These are included on the Register of Parks Gardens and Demesnes of Special Historic Interest.

The four main sites within the Borough which are included on the full register are:

- Antrim Castle;
- Shane's Castle;
- Ram's Island; and
- Drumadarragh House, Burnside (designated in BMAP).

Parks¹³

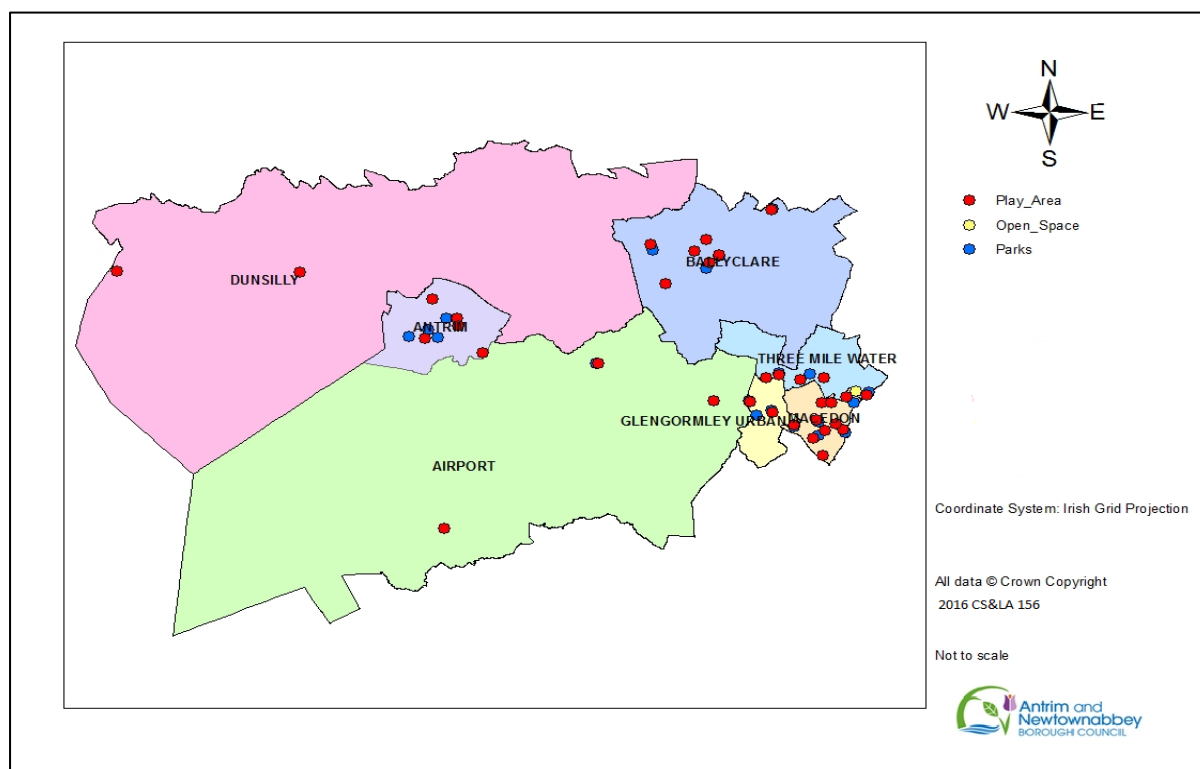
Parks within Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council are listed below

- Ballyclare War Memorial Park
- Ballynure War Memorial Park
- Burns Park
- Burnside Park
- Dunlop Park
- Glen Park
- Gideon's Green
- Hazelbank Park
- Jordanstown Loughshore Park
- Lilian Bland Community Park
- Mossley Park
- People's Park, Rathcoole
- Sandyknowes Park
- Sixmilewater River Park
- Threemilewater Park
- Valley Park
- Wallace Park (Templepatrick)

¹² The full list is available to view at <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/register-parks-gardens-and-demesnes-special-historic-interest>

¹³ More detailed information on parks can be viewed at <http://www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/Things-To-Do/Parks-Playgrounds/Parks>

Map 2: Parks and Play Areas – Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council



Playgrounds¹⁴

Playgrounds within Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council are listed below

- Abbeyglenn Play Area
- Anderson Park Play Area
- Ballyduff Play Area
- Bawnmore Play Area
- Derrycoole Way Play Area
- Erskine and Rashee Play Area
- Grange Play Area
- John Street Play Area
- Kings Park Play Area
- Mallusk Play Area
- Monsktown Play Area
- New Mossley Play Area
- Parkmore Terrace Play Area
- Lough Road, Antrim (beside Antrim Forum)
- Rathfern Play Area
- Steeple Play Area
- The Diamond Play Area
- Toome Play Park
- V36 Adventure Playground

¹⁴ More detailed information on playgrounds can be viewed at <http://www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/Things-To-Do/Parks-Playgrounds/Playgrounds>

Green Flag Award¹⁵

Awards are given on an annual basis and winners must apply each year to renew their Green Flag status. All green spaces are different and this diversity is welcomed, with each site being judged on its own merits and suitability to the community it serves.

Green Flag Award applications are judged against eight key criteria.

1. A Welcoming Place
2. Healthy, Safe and Secure
3. Clean and Well Maintained
4. Sustainability
5. Conservation and Heritage
6. Community Involvement
7. Marketing
8. Management

Green Flag Awards Within Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council (Nov 16)

- Antrim Castle Gardens & Clotworthy Gardens
- Antrim/Belmont Cemetery
- Ballyclare Cemetery
- Ballynure Cemetery
- Kilbride Cemetery
- Newtownabbey Way
- Six Mile Water Park
- Lilian Bland Park
- Mallusk Cemetery
- Rashee Cemetery
- Sentry Hill Historic House & Visitor Centre

¹⁵ More information on the awards and criteria can be viewed at <http://www.keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org/cgi-bin/generic?instanceID=28>

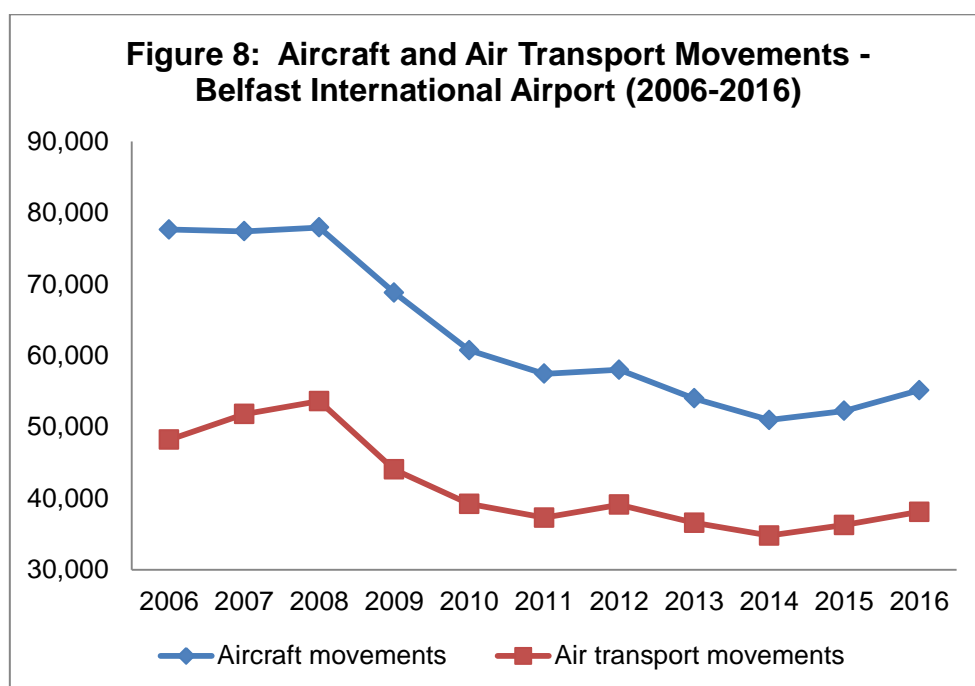
Belfast International Airport¹⁶

Belfast International Airport is Northern Ireland's Principal Airport and the second largest gateway on the Island of Ireland. Operating 24/7 all year round.

In 2016, Belfast International Airport was the tenth busiest commercial airport in the UK with 5.15 million terminal passengers. This accounted for 1.9% of all UK terminal passengers (for all reporting UK airports).

Belfast International Airport was also the fifth busiest airport in the UK for domestic terminal passenger traffic, with 3.56 million domestic terminal passengers in 2016.

In 2016 at Belfast International Airport, there were 55,155 aircraft movements and 38,104 air transport movements¹⁷.



Source: Department for Infrastructure (2006-2015) and Civil Aviation Authority (2016)

¹⁶ **Passengers:** All revenue and non-revenue passengers on air transport movement flights.

Terminal passengers: Travellers who board or disembark an aircraft on a commercial flight at the reporting airport. It therefore excludes transit passengers who remain on board aircraft which land at the airport and then depart for another destination. A passenger travelling between two reporting airports is counted twice, once at each airport.

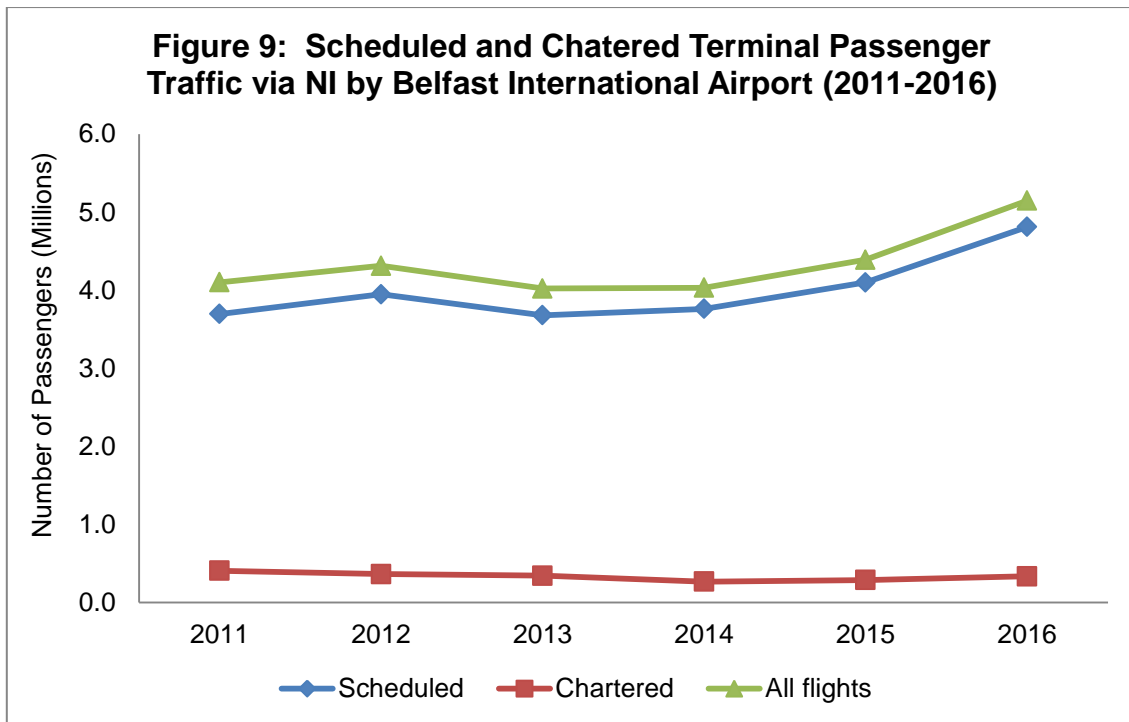
Scheduled services: Those performed according to a published timetable, available for use by the general public.

Charter services: All other services.

¹⁷ Excludes air taxi operations

Aircraft movement: An aircraft take-off or landing at an airport. These could be either commercial or non-commercial flights. For airport traffic purposes, one arrival and one departure are counted as two movements.

Air transport movements: Landings or take-offs of aircraft engaged in the transport of passengers, freight or mail on commercial terms. All scheduled movements including empty aircraft, loaded charter and air taxi movements are included. (Note that CAA statistics exclude air taxi operations).

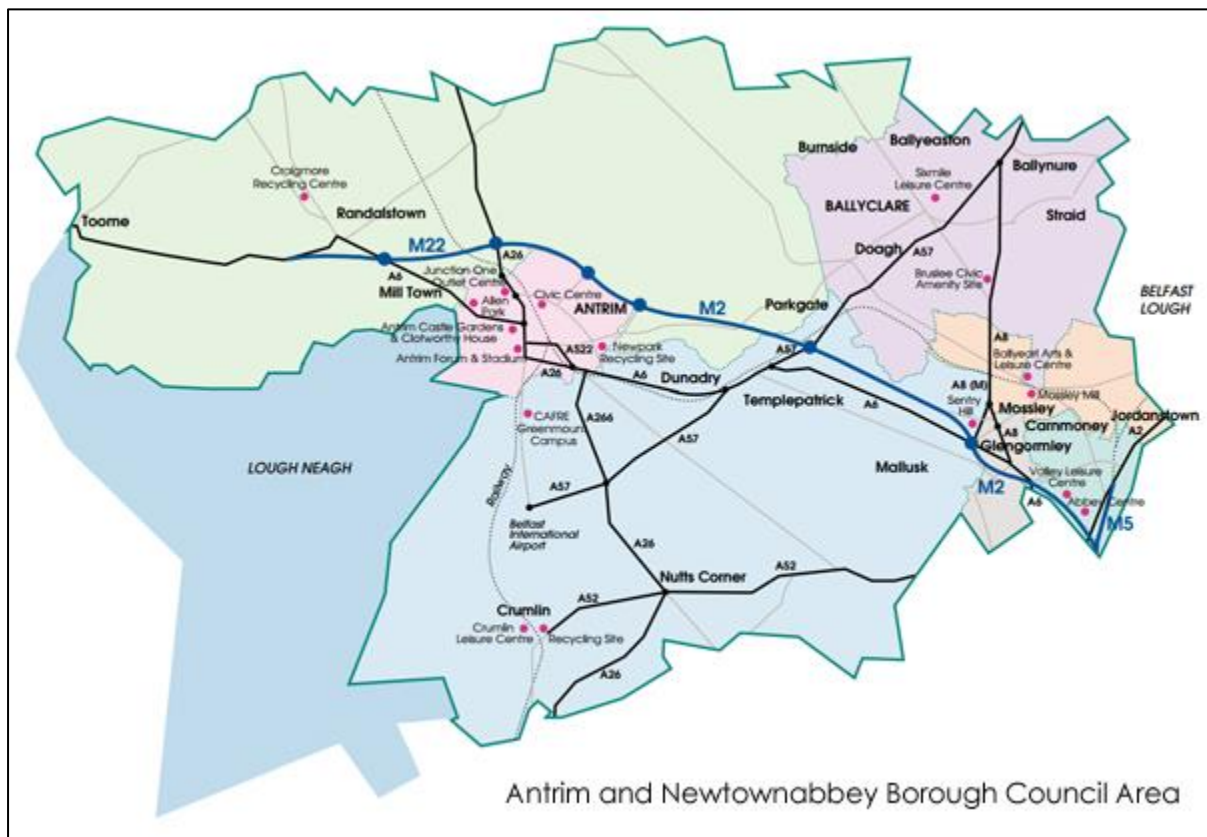


Source: Department for Infrastructure (2006-2015) and Civil Aviation Authority (2016)

Roads

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council had the greatest length of Motorway (39.3 km) across all councils in 2016 with 65,000 vehicles passing through each day on the M2, one of the major transport corridors through the area.

Map 3: Road Network – Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

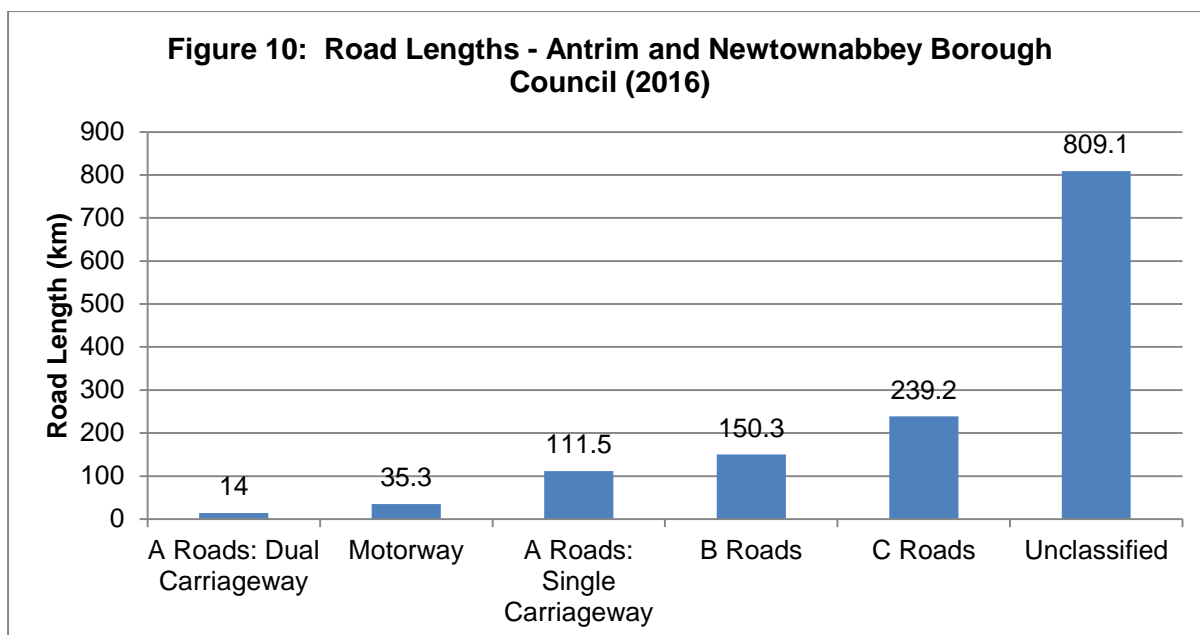


Source: <http://www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/Council/Elections-Voting>



Within the Borough there is a total road length of 1,359.3 km. Fermanagh and Omagh had the greatest total road length (3,977.4km) and Belfast the least (1,084km).

The A8 connects the Borough to Larne and the A1 to Belfast and the Causeway Coast and Glens.



Source: Department for Infrastructure

Cycle Routes¹⁸

Within Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council there are 192.5 miles of cycle routes

- Randalstown Viaduct Walkway and Cycle Path (1.7 miles)
- Antrim Town Loop (4.5 miles)
- Newtownabbey Way (9 miles)
- The Lagan and Lough Cycle Way - NCN Route 93 (21 miles)
- Lower Bann Cycle Way - NCN Route 96 (45 miles)
- Loughshore Trail - NCN Route 94 (113 miles)

Positive Effect on the Environment¹⁹

Between April 2013 and March 2016, 74% of respondents in Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council were concerned about the environment, compared with 70% for NI overall.

In the same time period, 86% of respondents within Antrim and Newtownabbey borough Council reused plastic bags or used a reusable bag (NI 81%), 79% used energy saving light bulbs (NI 75%) and 72% ensure clothes/furniture are reused (NI 68%). Lisburn and Castlereagh had the highest proportion of respondents within their area that have taken these three actions with 87%, 80% and 77% of respondents respectively.

¹⁸ <http://www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/Things-To-Do/Get-Active-Outdoors/Cycling>

¹⁹ The Continuous Household Survey is one of the largest continuous surveys carried out in Northern Ireland. It is based on a systematic random sample of 4,500 addresses and the questionnaire consists of both a household and individual interview with each person aged 16 and over. Data is based on three years of household data combined (2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/16).

Table 7: Actions taken by households that have a Positive Effect on the Environment (% of Households) Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council (2013/14 to 2015/16)

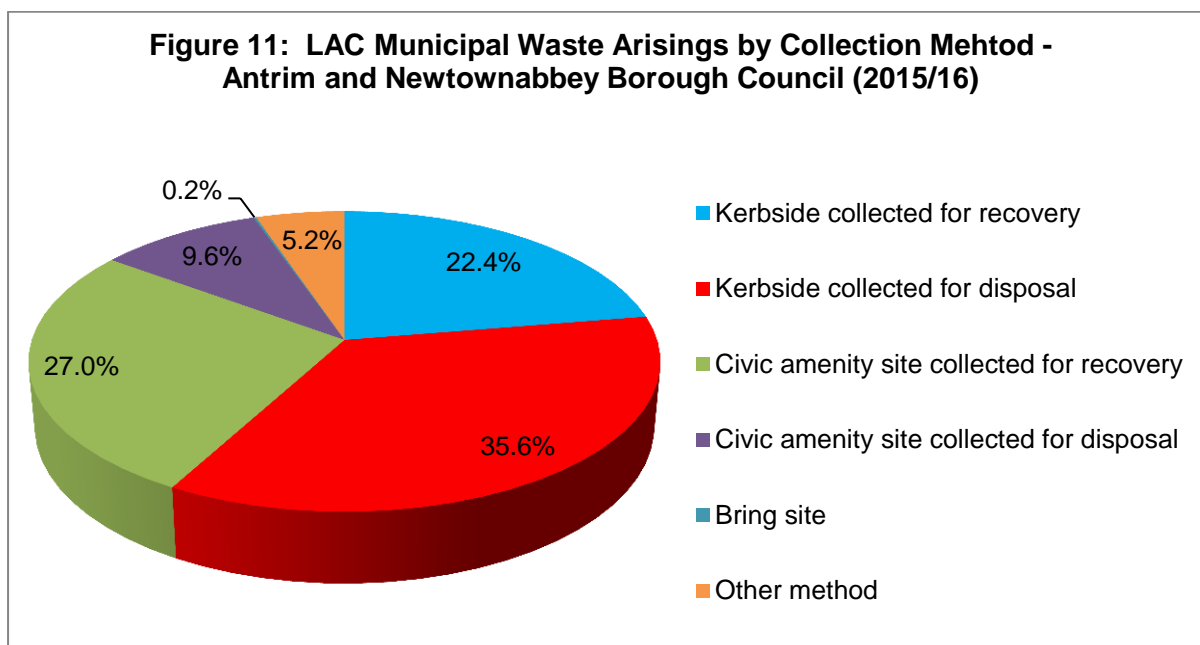
Actions	% of Households
Reused plastic bags or used a reusable bag	86
Used energy saving light bulbs	79
Ensure clothes/furniture are reused	72
Used the kerbside collection service, local amenity sites etc.	68
Cut down the amount of electricity/gas household uses	58
Avoided food waste	53
Used online services to give away, buy or sell used items	36
Deliberately used public transport/walked/cycled	33
Took action to encourage wildlife in your garden	32
Used rechargeable batteries	32
Bought clothes and items in charity shops	32
Avoided buying products which are thrown away	28
Cut down on the use of a car for short journeys	27
Hired tools or borrow from friends or family for odd jobs rather than buy own	24
Cut down on use of water	22
Bought items made from recycled paper	22
Bought organic food	21
Reduced the amount of junk mail received	20
Reduced waste by giving a gift experience/certificate instead of product	11
Not bought something because of packaging	9
Composted or used a wormery for garden and food waste	9
Used real nappies	1

Source: Continuous Household Survey NISRA (n=559 ANBC)

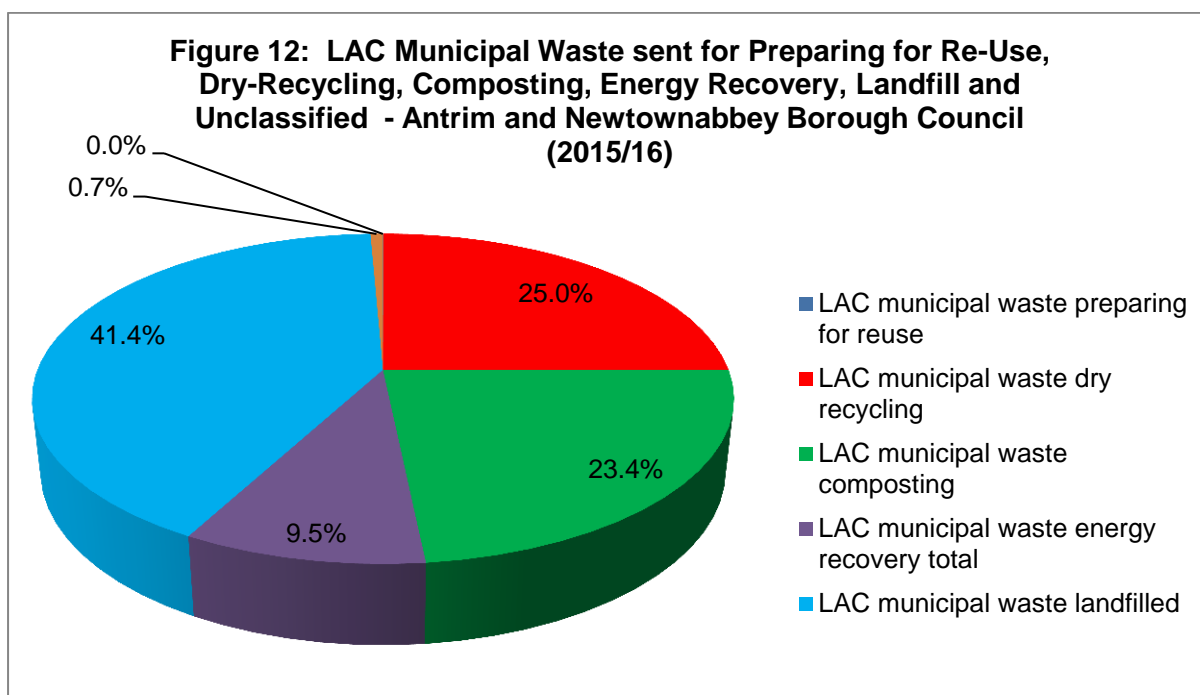
Municipal Waste

In 2015/16, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council had a total of 85,058 (tonnes) Local Authority Collected (LAC) Municipal Waste. 89% of this was household waste arising and the remaining 11% was non-household waste arising.

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council LAC contributed 8.8% towards the total LAC Municipal Waste arising within Northern Ireland overall during 2015/16.



Source: Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs



Source: Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

Table 8: Household Waste and Recycling Rates for Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council and Northern Ireland (2015/16)

	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	Northern Ireland
Household Waste Arising per household (tonnes)	1.355	1.179
Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Recycled and Composted (%)	48.3%	41.8%
Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Prepared for Reuse, Recycled and Composted (%)	48.4%	41.8%
Household Waste Recycled and Composted (%)	46.7%	42.2%
Household Waste Prepared for Reuse, Recycled and Composted (%)	46.8%	42.2%

Source: Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council had the second highest household waste arising per household (1.355 tonnes) across all councils, behind Mid Ulster (1.406 tonnes).

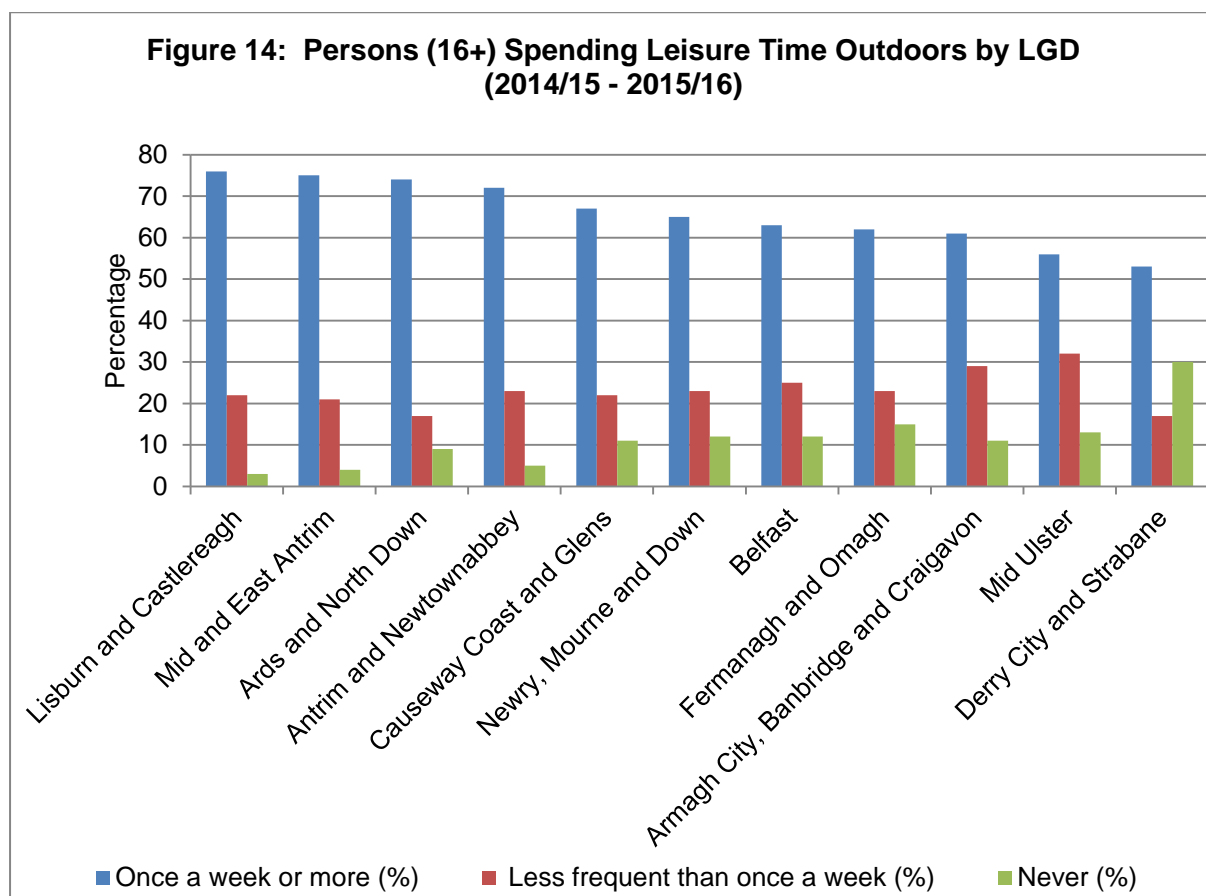
Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council also had the second highest percentage of Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Prepared for Reuse, Recycled and Composted (48.4%), behind Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon (48.7%) in 2015/16.

Figure 13: Household Waste – Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council (2015/16)



Leisure Time Spent Outdoors

72% of respondents within Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council spent leisure time outdoors at least once a week between 2014/15 and 2015/16. This is higher than NI overall (65%).



Source: NISRA Continuous Household Survey (n=488 ANBC)

Walking/ Cycling to Work/ School

In Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council (Source: CHS 2014/15):

Of the 145 respondents who travel to work*, 1% said that they normally cycle to work and from work. This is similar to the proportion of respondents in NI who cycle to work and from work (2%).

Of the 145 respondents who travel to work, 4% said that they normally walk to work and from work. This is lower than the proportion of respondents in NI who walk to work and from work (10%).

Notes: *The questions on cycling and walking to/from work were asked only of those persons aged 16 and over who were classified as being in employment, i.e. those that did paid work in the last week, or on a government supported training scheme, or away from a job/business, or unpaid work for own or family business. People who stated that they worked from home were also excluded from the analysis.

Northern Ireland Travel Survey (2013-2015)²⁰

The Travel Survey Northern Ireland is the only source of information on how, over the region as a whole, people use different forms of transport to meet their travel needs as individuals or family groups. The information below relates to three years of data combined to ensure the analysis carried out is robust (2013-2015).

Source: *Department for Infrastructure*

Some of the key findings relating to non-car journeys are detailed below;

- Walks accounted for 18% of all journeys in 2013-2015, the same as 10 years ago (18% in 2003-2005). They averaged 0.9 miles in length in 2013-2015 (the shortest journeys compared to other modes of travel).
- In 2013-2015, 5% of all journeys made were by public transport.
- Just over one seventh (15%) of all journeys were less than one mile long, and nearly two thirds (65%) of these short journeys were on foot.
- Around 8 minutes per day were spent walking.
- Children under 16 made 21% of their journeys as on foot. For adults (aged 16 and over), a lower proportion of journeys were made on foot (17%).
- Overall, 19% of respondents said they had some difficulty with travel due to a physical disability or long-standing health problem. As expected, this increases with age: 5% of 16-29 year olds had difficulty with travel compared to 36% of those aged 60 and over.
- Thirteen percent of households in Northern Ireland said that they would be able to get a bus from their nearest bus stop every 15 minutes, an increase from 9% in 2003-2005. Nearly 3 in 10 households (29%) said they did not know how often they could get a bus from their nearest stop.

²⁰ An In-Depth report can be found here: <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/system/files/publications/infrastructure/Travel-survey-for-Northern-Ireland-in-depth-report-2013-2015.pdf>

Cycling and Walking to/ from Work in Northern Ireland 2015/2016²¹

This publication presents information from the 2015/2016 Continuous Household Survey (CHS) in relation to the extent of cycling and walking to/ from work by persons in Northern Ireland.

Source: *Department for Infrastructure*

Key Points

Cycling to/ from Work

- Of the 1,663 respondents who said they travel to work, one in fifty (2%) said they normally cycle to work AND from work, a small percentage (0.1%) said they normally cycle to work OR from work and the majority (98%) said they do not cycle to or from work. These percentages are the same as in 2014/2015.
- Of the 27 respondents who reported that they normally cycle to work AND/OR from work, over two fifths (44%) cycle 2-3 miles, on average, in one direction. Over a fifth (22%) cycle 6 miles or more, just under a fifth (19%) cycle 4-5 miles and just over one in seven (15%) cycle 1 mile or less in one direction. These percentages are similar to 2014/2015.

Walking to/ from Work

- Of the 1,664 respondents who said they travel to work, a tenth (10%) said they normally walk to work AND from work, a small percentage (1%) said they normally walk to work OR from work and the majority (89%) said they do not walk to or from work. These percentages are the same as in 2014/2015.
- Respondents aged 16-24 (21%) were more likely to normally walk to work AND/OR from work than those aged 35-49 (9%) and 50-64 (10%). These percentages are similar to 2014/2015.
- Female respondents (14%) were more likely to normally walk to work AND/OR from work than male respondents (8%). These percentages are the same as in 2014/2015.
- Respondents from urban areas (15%) were more likely to normally walk to work AND/OR from work than those from rural areas (4%). These percentages are the same as in 2014/2015.
- Just over half (52%) of respondents who reported that they normally walk to work AND/OR from work said they walk 5 days per week on average. One in seven (14%) said they walk 3 days per week, just over one in eight (13%) said they walk 4 days per week and one in sixteen (6%) said they walk 2 days per week. Less than one in twenty said they walk 1 day per week and 7 days per week (4% and 3% respectively). These percentages are similar to 2014/2015. One in twelve (8%) respondents who reported that they normally walk to work AND/OR from work said they walk 6 days per week on average. This is an increase of five percentage points from 2014/2015 (3%).

²¹The full report can be found here: <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/system/files/publications/infrastructure/cycling-and-walking-to-from-work-in-northern-ireland-201516.pdf>

E-car buying

In Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council (Source: CHS 2014/15):

Of the 194 respondents who owned/had access to at least one car/van or had a driving licence but no access to a car/van, 4% indicated that they were 'quite likely' to purchase an electric vehicle while 2% answered 'very likely'. These figures are similar to Northern Ireland overall, 6% and 1% respectively.

Car Parks

At 1st January 2017, just over seven in ten (71.5%) car park spaces in Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council were free. There are a total of 11 car parks and 1,437 spaces, 1,028 of these are free car parking spaces.

Planning Activity

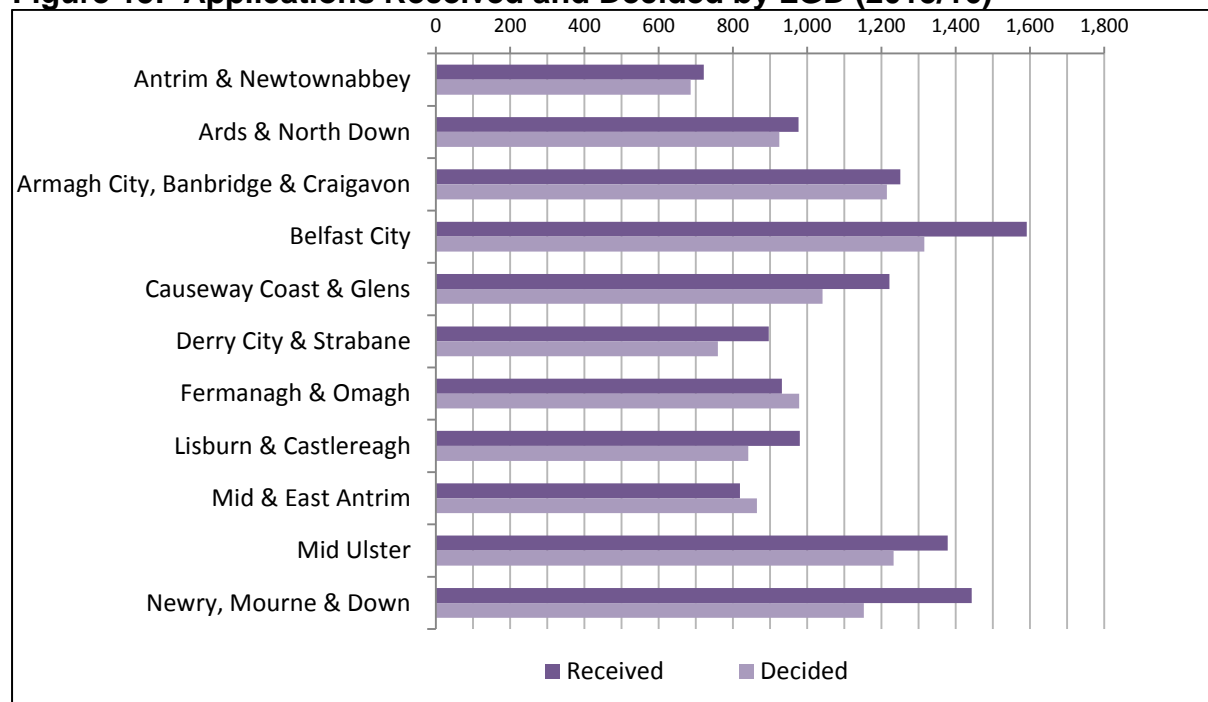
The number of planning applications received in Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council in 2015/16 was 722, the lowest across all the councils. Over the year the volume of planning applications received fell in six of the eleven councils with the largest decline in percentage terms occurring in Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council (-16.4%, -142 applications).

Mid Ulster and Causeway Coast and Glens received the most planning applications per 10,000 population in 2015/16 with 96.5 and 85.9 respectively. Belfast and Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council received the least with 47.3 and 51.6 respectively.

The number of planning decisions issued during 2015/16 in Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council was 686.

In 2015/16, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council had an approval rate of 93.4%. (NI: 93.7%)

Figure 15: Applications Received and Decided by LGD (2015/16)



Source: Department for Infrastructure

In 2015/16, the majority of applications within Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council were for Residential (444), followed by Government and Civic (82).

Table 9: Applications Received 2015/16 by Development Type by LGD²²

	Residential	Government & civic	Change of use	Commercial	Mixed Use	Agricultural	Industrial	Other	All applications
Antrim & Newtownabbey	444	82	34	28	28	13	9	84	722
Ards & North Down	639	80	34	38	21	9	7	149	977
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	749	146	59	65	39	33	10	150	1,251
Belfast City	694	71	107	123	126	1	12	458	1,592
Causeway Coast & Glens	744	147	40	56	48	18	13	156	1,222
Derry City & Strabane	406	86	47	76	23	13	17	229	897
Fermanagh & Omagh	535	155	33	23	37	39	23	87	932
Lisburn & Castlereagh	678	78	43	26	14	12	12	117	980
Mid & East Antrim	512	103	40	26	23	21	12	82	819
Mid Ulster	862	167	53	43	47	47	39	121	1,379
Newry, Mourne & Down	929	163	48	42	42	29	17	173	1,443
Northern Ireland	7,192	1,278	538	546	448	235	171	1,806	12,214

Source: Department for Infrastructure

In 2015/16, within Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council there were 11 major development applications and 711 local development applications.

Major developments have important economic, social and environmental implications. It is a statutory target for each council that their major development planning applications will be processed from the date valid to decision issued or withdrawal date within an average of 30 weeks. In 2015/16, the shortest processing time for major applications was 28.2 weeks in Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council (based on 20 decided and 1 withdrawn). Only Antrim and Newtownabbey

²² All applications received may not have had a decision issued within the same time period and applications decided may not have been received in the same time period. Applications received also include applications which may be subsequently withdrawn. This table excludes departmental applications. All other types of applications are put into the "Other" category and the majority of these are made up of works to facilitate disabled persons, signs/advertisements and listed buildings.

Borough Council met the target to process major applications to decision or withdrawal within an average of 30 weeks.

Local development planning applications are mostly residential and minor commercial applications received and determined by a council. In 2015/16 the shortest average processing time for local applications was 14.0 weeks in ANBC (based on 666 local applications decided and 34 withdrawn). Three of the eleven councils, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council (14.0), Fermanagh and Omagh (14.4) and Mid and East Antrim (14.4) were within the 15 week target.



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