



# Love Living Here

## Community PLAN REVIEW 2017 - 2023

Facilitated by





# Community

## PLAN REVIEW

**THE LOVE LIVING HERE COMMUNITY PLAN WAS PUBLISHED IN 2017 BY ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY BOROUGH COUNCIL AND IS THE KEY DOCUMENT OUTLINING THE PARTNERSHIP APPROACH TO INITIATIVES AND PROGRAMMES IN THE ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY AREA.**

As we approach the mid-way point in the Love Living Here Community Plan which runs to 2030, this is the opportune time to take stock of the successes achieved in partnership with statutory partners as well as looking to the future. It is also an opportunity to refocus on the priorities from the original plan and ensure that they are relevant for the current environment. After engagement with key statutory partners, the shift in context post Covid-19 and through the continuing cost of living crisis, it is now more crucial than ever that effective partnership working is used to deliver for our residents.

The review has explored the current structures of the Community Planning process and sought to align these more closely with the new Corporate Strategy for Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council and to be more reflective of the evolving priorities of our Statutory Partners.



# THE Outcomes

**1** OUR CITIZENS ENJOY GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING



**2** OUR CITIZENS LIVE IN CONNECTED, SAFE, CLEAN AND VIBRANT PLACES



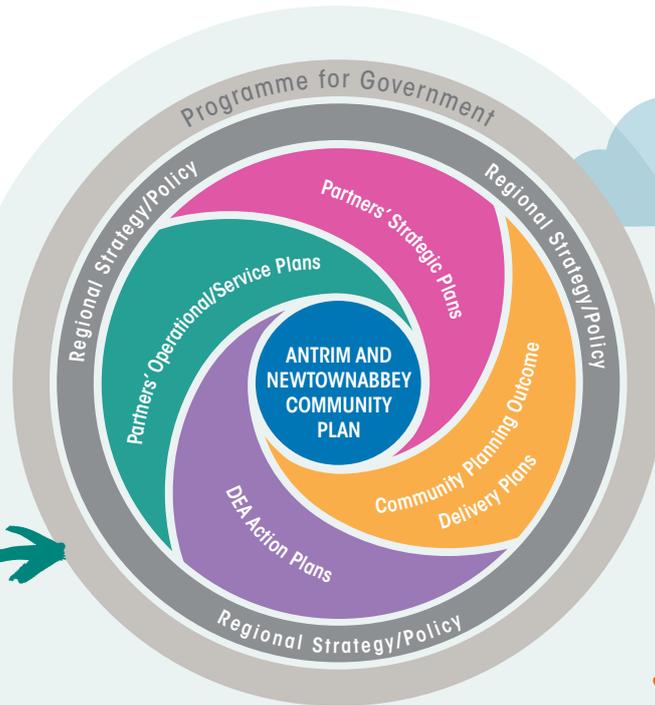
**3** OUR CITIZENS BENEFIT FROM ECONOMIC PROSPERITY



**4** OUR CITIZENS ACHIEVE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL



**WILDLY IMPORTANT GOAL**  
OUR VULNERABLE PEOPLE ARE SUPPORTED

**ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY COMMUNITY PLANNING FRAMEWORK**

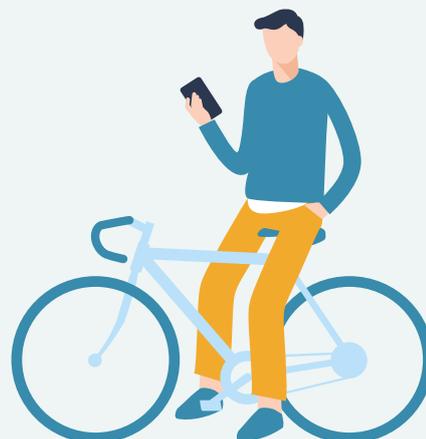


# THE WIDER Context

LOVE LIVING HERE OUTCOME	RELATED PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNMENT OUTCOME(S)
<b>1 OUR CITIZENS ENJOY GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING</b>	We enjoy long healthy active lives
	We care for others and help those in need
<b>2 OUR CITIZENS LIVE IN CONNECTED, SAFE, CLEAN AND VIBRANT PLACES</b>	We have created a place where people want to live and work, to visit and invest
	We connect people and opportunities through our infrastructure
	We have a safe community where people respect each other and the law
	We live and work sustainably - protecting the environment
	We are an innovative, creative society, where people can fulfil their potential
	We are a shared society that respects diversity
<b>3 OUR CITIZENS BENEFIT FROM ECONOMIC PROSPERITY</b>	We prosper through a strong competitive regionally balanced economy
	We have more people working in better jobs
	We have a more equal society
<b>4 OUR CITIZENS ACHIEVE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL</b>	We have an innovative creative society where people fulfil their potential
	We give our children and young people the best start in life
	We have a more equal society
<b>WILDLY IMPORTANT GOAL OUR VULNERABLE PEOPLE ARE SUPPORTED</b>	We care for others and help those in need
	We give our children and young people the best start in life
	We have a more equal society

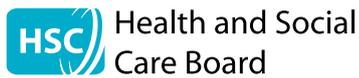
The Community Plan for Antrim and Newtownabbey sits within a framework of regional strategies and priorities for action. Each of the strategies aims to make life better for the people of Northern Ireland (NI) and improve our economic, social, educational and environmental prospects in the future. It is therefore important to capture and understand what the Community Plan can do to assist the achievement of these strategic objectives and how they can help to inform the actions we take at a local level.

At a regional level, the Programme for Government provides the framework for the development and delivery of public policy. The ambitions of our Community Plan echo at a local level the goals of the Programme for Government.



# OUR STATUTORY *Partners*

## OUR PARTNERS INCLUDE:



# PRINCIPLES

**THE FOUR OUTCOMES IN THE COMMUNITY PLAN ARE BASED ON THE FOLLOWING EIGHT PRINCIPLES. THE PRINCIPLES ARE IMPORTANT TO DEVELOPING A COMMUNITY PLAN WHICH WILL MEET THE NEEDS OF ALL THE CITIZENS OF OUR BOROUGH.**

## EQUALITY

The statistical evidence has shown that inequalities exist across the outcome themes. Proactive measures and targeting of areas most in need will aim to ensure that the varying social and economic needs of communities across the area are addressed. The overall aim will be to raise living standards in the most deprived areas up to at least the average of the rest.

## SUSTAINABILITY

We wish to adopt a sustainable approach to social, environmental and physical development. This means making sure that the impact of what we do is long term and based on the needs of our citizens. We also want to make sure we protect the valuable built and natural environment that exists in the Borough.

## CONNECTIVITY

We need to improve the social and physical connections throughout the Borough. This includes examining and seeking ways to improve our roads, paths, transport networks and digital connectivity.

We would also like to improve the social connections between residents across our Borough creating greater cohesion.

## OPPORTUNITY

We are fortunate that there are a lot of positive qualities about our Borough including our schools and colleges and the variety of high quality businesses based here. We want to build on this and increase opportunities for our citizens in training, education, and employment. We want our first class leisure facilities to continue to provide opportunities for participation in a range of leisure activities.

## INCLUSIVITY

We want to promote a culture of tolerance, acceptance and inclusivity for all our citizens, which will link all elements of the Community Plan.

## VITALITY

We need to increase or restore vitality to communities both physically and socially by providing citizens with opportunities to be part of popular and inclusive events and activity in their area.

## CAPABILITY

We want our citizens to be able to take advantage of any opportunities created through Community Planning. At the moment, this ability varies across different communities and we want to address this. The different skills levels across the Borough can act as a barrier to employment and enterprise and we want to find solutions to address this.

## COMPASSION

We want to care for and support our neighbours and the vulnerable within our community. Social responsibility will be built into the Community Plan and is reflected in our vision for Antrim and Newtownabbey.



# Community

## PLANNING PARTNERSHIP STRUCTURE 2017



## SETTING CONTEXT

# New Environment

### POST COVID-19

The pandemic impacted on all areas of life for our residents and Community Planning was no exception. All priorities for Council, Statutory Partners and the community voluntary sector within the Borough shifted toward minimising the impact of the pandemic. As we emerge from the pandemic this is now the chance to refocus on the Community Plan and how it can help to improve the lives of our residents.

Previous restrictions have transformed how our residents use the Council’s parks and open spaces for recreation, leisure and enjoyment. People have also changed their behaviours in the way that they shop and travel and we are all more aware about our impact on our environment. The challenge for the Community Planning Partnership is how to take cognisance of these changes in attitudes and lifestyles and align them to the Community Plan.



### COST OF LIVING

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council and its residents have not escaped the cost of living crisis which has been increasingly impacting on budgets and service provision. Many within the Borough are facing the impact of increasing energy, food and fuel prices, with inflation at its highest rate in 40 years.

This crisis has affected the most vulnerable people within the Borough most and as such working together with our Statutory Partners to lessen the impact of the crisis has become more important than ever.

# Statistics



**295**

**NEW VAT REGISTERED  
BUSINESSES IN THE  
BOROUGH - 2017 - 2022**



**GENERAL HEALTH  
PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS  
WHO DESCRIBED THEIR  
HEALTH AS VERY GOOD**

**2011 - 48%  
2021 - 50%**

**32%**

**OF THE RESIDENTS IN THE BOROUGH  
HAVE A LEVEL 4 QUALIFICATION  
OR ABOVE COMPARED TO**

**24% IN 2011**

LEVEL 4 = DEGREE (BA,  
BSC), FOUNDATION  
DEGREE, NVQ LEVEL  
4 AND ABOVE, HND,  
HNC OR PROFESSIONAL  
QUALIFICATION SUCH AS  
TEACHING OR NURSING.



**INSTALLED**

**125  
BIKE  
STANDS**

**AT 36 LOCATIONS**



**85%  
SATISFACTION  
WITH THE ATTRACTIVENESS  
OF THE BOROUGH**



**94.5%**  
RESIDENTS BELIEVE  
ANBC IS A SAFE  
PLACE TO LIVE - 2022

**11.4%**  
HOUSEHOLD  
LANDFILL  
REDUCTION  
2017 - 2022

SECURED OVER  
**£5.1 MILLION**  
FROM THE LEVELLING UP FUND

**8%**  
HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING  
RATE INCREASE  
2017 - 2022

**66** NEW COMMUNITY  
MENTAL HEALTH  
CHAMPIONS  
TRAINED - 2022

**£440,000**  
SECURED FOR THE  
LABOUR MARKET  
PARTNERSHIP

# ACTION LIST *People*



## ACTION

## STATUS

Antrim and Newtownabbey Age Well Initiative (to co-produce an Age Friendly Strategy for the Borough including Age Friendly Initiatives).



Antrim and Newtownabbey Age Friendly Initiative.



Develop a Take 5 framework for community groups and individuals.



Develop an age appropriate Take 5 framework and menu of age appropriate activity for implementation in schools.



Develop a Take 5 framework for workplace health initiatives.



Support an enhanced public health role for community pharmacy.



Promote and secure commitment to the principles underpinning Investing in Volunteers (IiV).



An increase in the percentage of people who are volunteers/ members of a group/sports club. Sub action - Employer Supported Volunteer Scheme.



Ensure there is a robust and resilient community and voluntary sector by developing the capacity of volunteer management committees – within 2 years.



Employer Supported Volunteering Scheme - within 2-5 years.



Community Growing Programme - within 2-5 years.



**Completed**



**In progress**



**Not started**

# PEOPLE CASE STUDY

## COST OF LIVING CRISIS RESPONSE

The unprecedented recent times of the first global pandemic and then a 'Cost of Living' crisis has required Civic Leadership from the Council as our citizens have looked to the Council for guidance and support in the midst of these difficult times.

The Council has engaged with a range of Community Planning statutory partners to provide support across the Borough to those most in need - a cohort of citizens very much expanded by the far reaching impact of the crisis have been effectively engaged with to provide support to those most vulnerable across our Borough.

The Council introduced schemes such as the **Warm Welcome Programme** which provided warm, safe places with engaging activities for our citizens.



### SCHOOL UNIFORM RE-USE SCHEME

In partnerships with local community groups to date:

- 19,500 items of school uniform donated.
- 955 families supported.

### COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TOY SCHEME

- Over 700 local families supported.
- Over 11,535 toys donated to Recycling Centres.



### SOCIAL SUPERMARKET

- In partnership with Community Advice Antrim and Newtownabbey.
- 1,197 people (614 adults/583 children) supported through the interim Social Supermarket.
- £130,000 + food vouchers have been issued.

### SAVE THE CHILDREN

The Council had an established partnership with **Save the Children** to provide focused support to families with children aged 5 years and younger, identified by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation as being at the greatest risk of poverty.



- 240 children supported.
- Over 700 new Christmas toys provided.
- £37,855 food vouchers and early learning support packs provided.

### PERIOD POVERTY

Council adopted a proactive approach to this issue by introducing free period product provision across Council buildings and leisure centres in 2019.



**Overall across the Council worked in partnership with a wide range of Statutory Partners and community groups to develop initiatives that positively impacted the 'Cost of Living' crisis and to provide much needed support to our citizens throughout the Borough.**

# PEOPLE CASE STUDY

## ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY SENIOR'S FORUM

**Antrim and Newtownabbey Senior's Forum**  
People are living longer. Currently, 1 in every 6 people are aged 65 years or older. This is set to increase and by 2043, almost a quarter of the population will be over 65.

Through the Community Planning process and working in collaboration with our Statutory partners, the Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors Forum was created to help better address the needs of the older people within our Borough. The Public Health Agency, Northern Health and Social Care Trust, Northern Ireland Housing Executive, PSNI, NIFRS and Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council amongst others has driven forward this important agenda.



The key focus of this work has been around a number of key action areas:

- *Collating information from an age friendly baseline survey which will help shape future action plans.*



- *Positive Ageing Month festival, celebrating older persons across the Borough through a range of events and activities.*
- *An Age Friendly Newsletter to inform and connect older residents in our Borough to events and support services.*
- *An Online mapping tool is being developed to showcase what is available for older persons across the Borough.*

Through partnership working the Antrim and Newtownabbey Senior's Forum is continuing to grow it's membership and its reach across the Borough . It is a vital cog in improving the lives of older people in Antrim and Newtownabbey. The Forum played an important role last winter as the cost of living crisis impacted the older people of the Borough, by sign posting to vital services and social opportunities. This partnership approach which developed the Antrim and Newtownabbey Senior's Forum will ensure that the Borough is a better place to grow older.

# PEOPLE CASE STUDY

## MULTI AGENCY HOARDING SUPPORT

**Antrim and Newtownabbey have operated a Multi-Agency Support Hub (MASH) from 2017. The aim of the MASH is to identify the most vulnerable people in our community and, through engagement, gain a better understanding of an individual's circumstances, and therefore be able to produce better outcomes.**

A frequently raised issue at the Antrim and Newtownabbey MASH has been hoarding. This proved to be highly complex as hoarding behaviours occurs for numerous reasons. The solution to hoarding cases was difficult to find, with no statutory partner having an evident or defined role. It was clear that a multi-agency approach to tackling the issue of hoarding case needed to be undertaken.

After reviewing the best practice approaches in the United Kingdom and beyond it was clear that developing a multi-agency hoarding protocol would be beneficial. This multi-agency protocol has been produced with the aim of ensuring that there is a meaningful, co-ordinated, multi-agency approach to support people who hoard.



It aims to reduce any duplication of services, ensuring a positive impact on the individual whilst also saving resources within the statutory agencies. The use of the protocol should facilitate positive and sustainable outcomes for people displaying symptoms of hoarding by involving them in the process at all stages.

The Hoarding Support protocol is the first of its kind in Northern Ireland and there has been significant interest in rolling it out on a regional basis. It has been estimated that significant savings will be made across statutory services when using the protocol and the accompanying clear out services. The saving has been as much as £40,000-£50,000 per case.

A hoarding support group has been developed for those who hoard to come together in a safe non-judgemental environment and it is hoped that a bespoke hoarding support training course will be developed to further support this work. This has been a clear success of the Community Planning ethos of collaboration and partnership working to achieve shared outcomes.

# ACTION LIST Prosperity

## ACTION STATUS

Undertake an integrated transport study which will inform development of actions to address connectivity in the Borough and accessibility of key services - within 2-5 years. 

Transport solutions to be developed based on pilot accessibility studies for each of the following themes: health, employment, education - within 2 years. 

Transition mentoring programme - within 2-5 years. 

Establish an Employability and Skills/Economic Think Tank Forum - Within 2 years. 

Enterprise programmes (Business School Linkages) - within 2 years. 

Employability Initiative - within 2-5 years. 

Develop an integrated approach across partner organisations to the development of a social clause policy - within 2-5 years. 

Develop an integrated approach across partner organisations to apprenticeships, internships, placements and work experience - within 2-5 years. 

Community planning partners engage with the development of the economic development strategy for the Borough - within 2 years. 

An integrated support structure for business and enterprise (including social) - within 2-5 years. 

Address the issue of young people who have disengaged, or are at risk of, disengaging with education - within 2-5 years. 

Address aspiration in working age population including parents - within 2-5 years. 

Address aspiration amongst primary and post primary school pupils through role models - within 2-5 years. 

 **Completed**    **In progress**    **Not started**

# PROSPERITY CASE STUDY



## ULSTER BAR CORNER

**After the Ulster Bar closed in the 1980s, the site known as “Ulster Bar Corner” on Antrim’s High Street lay vacant for over forty years.**

Working in partnership with the Department for Communities who became a joint funder of the project, a design was agreed in February 2022.

Work began in May 2023 to regenerate the site into a green community space, featuring green landscaping, seating and an open recreational area, with further plans for a multi-use shelter and dedicated meeting pods nearing completion.

The space is first and foremost a community asset, for use by residents, businesses and visitors to the town. To this end, on 07 July 2023, churches, schools, sports clubs and community groups were invited to a sneak peek event, to preview the space and discuss how the space could enhance and extend their services and provision, and how Council and Statutory Partners could assist.

The site was officially opened by Mayor and Antrim and Newtownabbey, Councillor Mark Cooper BEM, on 21st July 2023. Since that time, the space has hosted many smaller group gatherings, including a showcase by Ulster Music School.



# PROSPERITY CASE STUDY



## BACK IN BUSINESS

The programme was aimed at re-vitalising the main town centres following the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic with our towns and high streets in need of support.

Council's Economic Development team working in partnership with the Department for Communities developed the 'Back in Business' campaign to support local businesses to recover. The funding covered a wide range of activities, including roadshows, street performances, promotional initiatives, and prize giveaways.

The Borough-wide campaign was a great success, with over 200 businesses and 600 residents actively participating in its various marketing activities. The campaign had a strong impact across the Borough, reaching out to both businesses and residents alike.

The images showcase the range of businesses that benefited from the Back in Business campaign. The campaign helped aid with the recovery and gain business recognition within the local community.



# PROSPERITY CASE STUDY

## LABOUR MARKET PARTNERSHIP (LMP)

**In Antrim and Newtownabbey, the Labour Market Partnership (LMP) demonstrates the power of partnerships in enhancing the employability landscape and labour market conditions.**

Supported by the Department for Communities (DfC), LMPs have been established across Northern Ireland to achieve regional employment objectives through coordinated, multi-agency efforts while adapting to local conditions and fostering connections between employers and job seekers.

The cornerstone of LMP success lies in its collaborative approach. Antrim and Newtownabbey's LMP boasts a diverse membership, including representatives from all major political parties in the area, the Education Authority NI, Northern Regional College, DfE Department for Work and Pensions, Invest Northern Ireland, NI Careers Service, Enterprise Partners, the Northern Health Trust, as well as Universal Credit officials from Newtownabbey and Antrim.

Targeting claimants, underemployed and youth unemployed, with the backing of DfC funding amounting to £293,040.22, Antrim and Newtownabbey LMP offers a range of services aimed at assisting the target groups in securing new, or better employment while exploring new opportunities. These services encompass job and career fairs, employability academies, industry introduction days, and more. The LMP has already conducted 14 employability academies, facilitating the employment of over 60 residents, with additional academies scheduled throughout the year.

LMP also aim to support the next generation of employees by delivering a host of career pathway programmes including career fairs, industry introduction events and business - schools networking events.



# ACTION LIST *Place*

## ACTION

## STATUS

Improve access to and provision of play and recreational facilities across the Borough.



Rural Road Safety Programme focusing initially on the 18 villages in the Borough - within 2 years.



Improve access to and provision of play and recreational facilities across the Borough for people with a disability - within 2-5 years.



Develop the active travel infrastructure in the Borough - within 5-10 years.



Clean and Vibrant places action plans for each DEA and town in the borough - within 2 years.



 **Completed**
 **In progress**
 **Not started**



# PLACE CASE STUDY



## LEISURE - POOL POD

**Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council in partnership with Disability Sport Northern and Sport NI continue to work collaboratively to create more inclusive opportunities for local communities to enjoy, engage and excel in sport.**

In 2018 Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council received funding for a Disability Activity Hub, which included investment from Disability Sport NI through the Department for Communities and Sport NI, for the installation of a Poolpod in Antrim Forum. Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council then funded a second Poolpod at the Valley Leisure Centre.

Poolpod lifts enable independent, comfortable entrance to the pool, enabling rapid and simple swimming. They make it possible for those with disabilities to enter the swimming pool safely. More people with disabilities are now able to access the pool and take part within the aqua sports classes. As a result, of this, not only are participants more active but they are able to

socialise more with others, bringing benefits to both their physical and mental health.

Projects such as the Poolpods, demonstrate Council's strong commitment to enhancing access for its residents and demonstrates an example of partnership working ensuring our facilities are accessible for everyone.

A statement from local resident, Gareth McNeilly commented, "It's great to see these new Poolpods being introduced to help people with limited mobility gain safe access to the swimming pool. As a competitive disabled golfer I know the excellent benefits both physically and mentally of sport and exercise and I'm sure the new pods will encourage more people with limited mobility to consider swimming as a safe and enjoyable form of exercise."



# PLACE CASE STUDY



## ONE MILLION TREES INITIATIVE

Is an ambitious plan to plant one million native trees across the Borough over the next few years with partners, communities and landowners.

This initiative is one element in a wider effort to combat climate change, enhance green spaces and target a key objective within Council's Local Biodiversity Action Plan to increase woodland habitats.

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council are working closely with our Statutory partners to work toward the 'One Million Trees' target. There has been significant progress in this area for example, Dept of Infrastructure - planted 20,000 native trees within the Borough - Antrim, Toome and Templepatrick, NI Water - planted 25,000 native trees at the Dunmore Point Treatment site Antrim, and a private landowner in Antrim planted 20,000 trees (18 acres) on a plot of disused land at his property funded by Dept. of Agriculture Environment & Rural Affairs.



Council have also show their commitment to this initiative by working on the Queen's Green Canopy programme with local schools and by working in partnership with the Woodland Trust to plant more native trees in parks and open spaces around Council buildings such as, Valley Park, Rathcoole Leisure Park, Burney's Lane and Threemile Park.



# PLACE CASE STUDY

## BIODIVERSITY GROUP

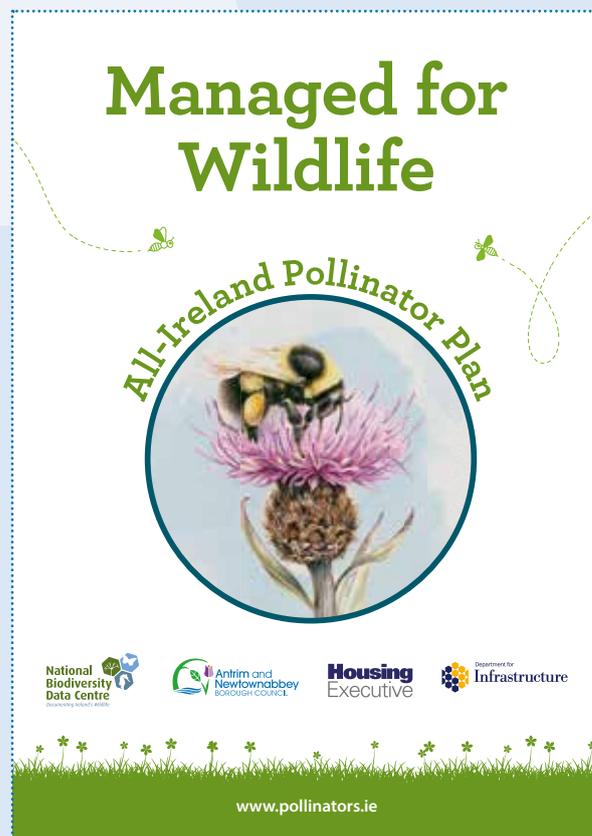
The Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Biodiversity Group, comprised of representatives from ANBC, DfI and NIHE, to open up discussions on how to improve biodiversity in partnership, within the Borough. The group are also seeking to attract future partners who will also be able to positively impact on issues identified by the group.

Some of the key achievements of the group thus far are:

A draft definition of rewilding was agreed: 'Letting Nature Lead' - i.e. allowing wildlife and natural processes to reclaim areas with minimal (or no) human intervention. Specific projects include: creation of pollinator corridors, wildflower meadows, native woodlands, wetlands and semi-natural grassland management.

A management regime was agreed for woodlands and meadows - to include an agreed cutting programme for meadows and the planting of an agreed list of native tree species only.

All partners agreed to sign up to the 'All Ireland Pollinator Plan' and a sign was approved, to be used on all their sites where rewilding is taking place - to raise awareness for general public.



All partners agreed to share maps of where native trees had been planted, wildflower meadows created and areas left to rewild, as well as presence of invasive species - the information will be amalgamated by Council and any gaps and future locations to be agreed.

This group will have an increasingly wider impact and voice as the need to address climate change through the Community Plan 'Love Living Here' increase over the life course of the plan.

# MOVING *forward*

**Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council are currently in the process of developing a new corporate strategy to 2030. Aligning the Community Plan to the priorities of the new Corporate Strategy will help create synergy and allow for a reduction in the need for additional data development and measurement.**

Our Statutory Partners along with Council are facing an increasing difficult budgetary environment, so it is more important than ever before that we work in a collective and collaborative manner. This will allow for the pooling of resources as well as budgets which was at the core of Community Planning ethos from the outset.

Moving into the second half of the time period of the Community Plan up to 2030 gives us a fresh opportunity to refocus on the priorities and to concentrate on delivery for our residents across the Borough. The new proposed structure of the Community Plan is designed with this in mind, to be committed and determined to achieve the high level priorities laid out in the original plan in 2017.

## DEA ENGAGEMENT

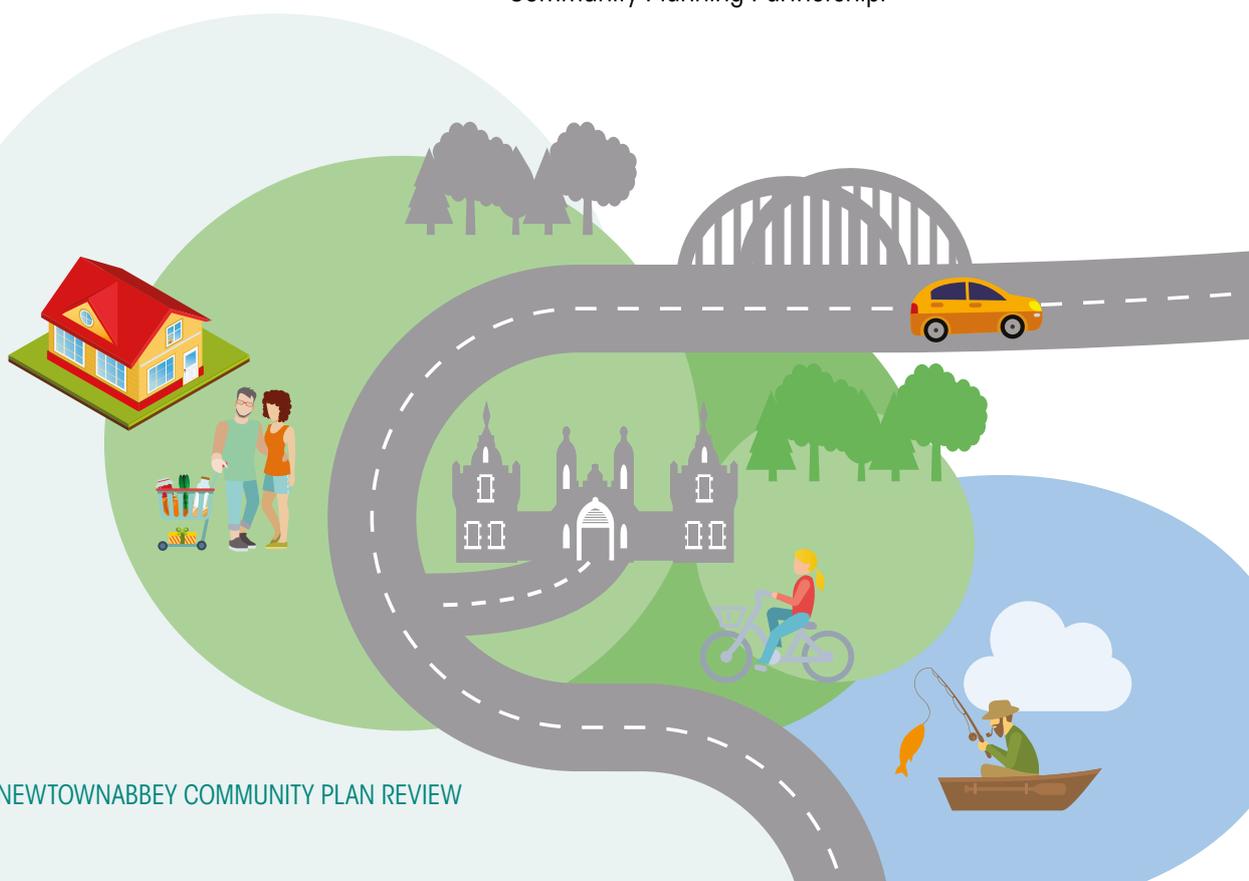
The DEA Engagement Groups will play an important role in localising the Community Plan and gives the opportunity to hear local opinions and issues which Community Planning Partners will work collaboratively to address.

## TASK AND FINISH GROUPS

These groups will be Action focused and committed to delivery. Each group will report back to Outcome Delivery Groups on the progress of their work using the Outcomes Based Accountability report card mechanisms.

## OUTCOME DELIVERY GROUPS

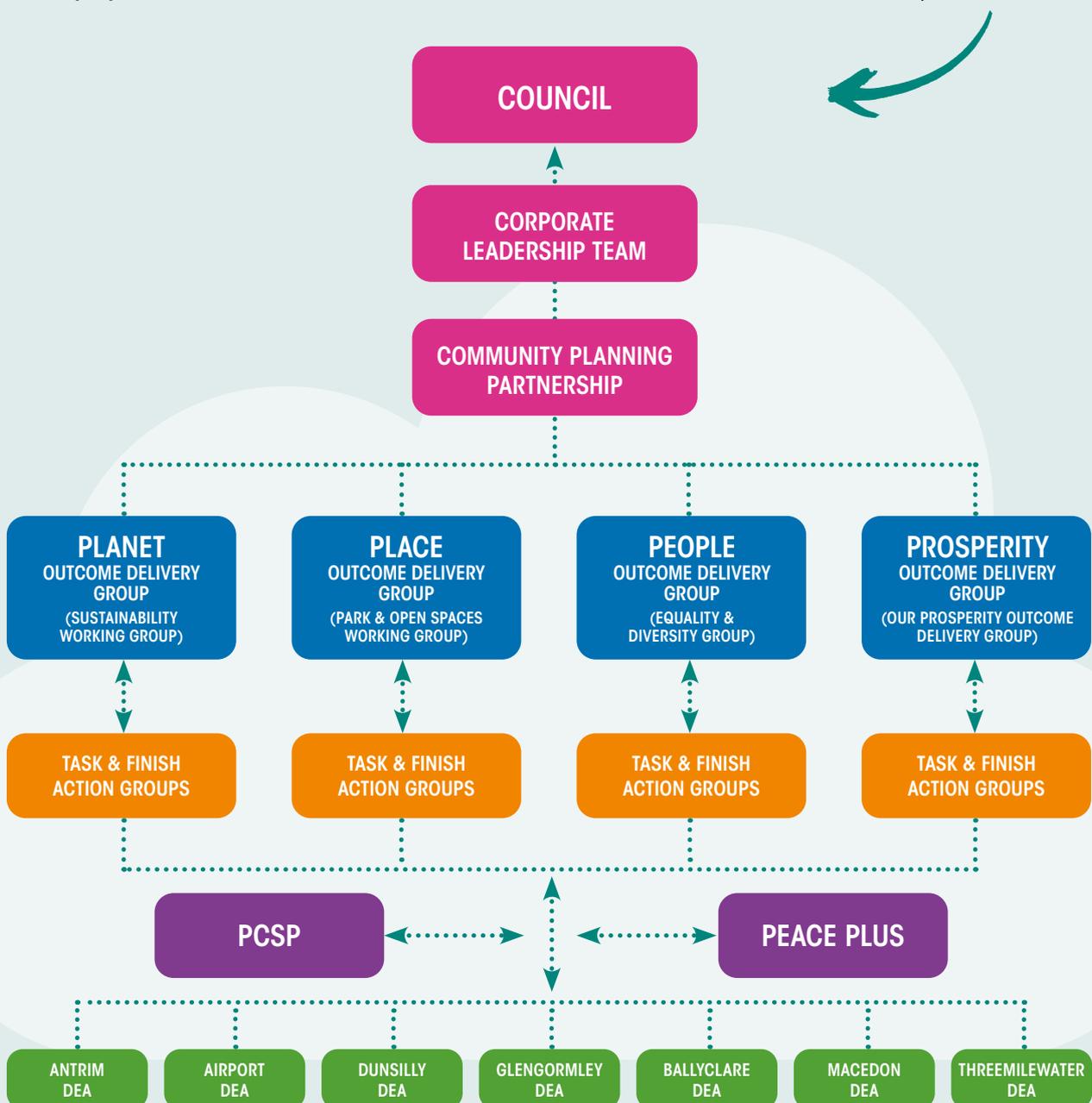
Outcome Delivery Groups monitor the progress of all actions within their remit. Opportunity for all partners to be around the table for discussion and support where required on specific actions. These boards will be tasked with reporting to Community Planning Partnership.



# PROPOSED NEW community PLANNING STRUCTURE

In line with the new Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Corporate Strategy and to reflect the emerging priorities of our Statutory Partners, the sustainability is now front and centre in these and the proposed structure reflects this.

By including a Planet Project Board, this gives us the opportunity to develop new programmes/projects to help tackle Climate Change and increase the sustainability of existing activities within the remit of the Community Plan.



# NOTES

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# NOTES





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