

PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST

The Mid and East Antrim Community Plan
A draft for consultation – January 2017

[www.midandeastantrim.gov.uk/
communityplanning](http://www.midandeastantrim.gov.uk/communityplanning)



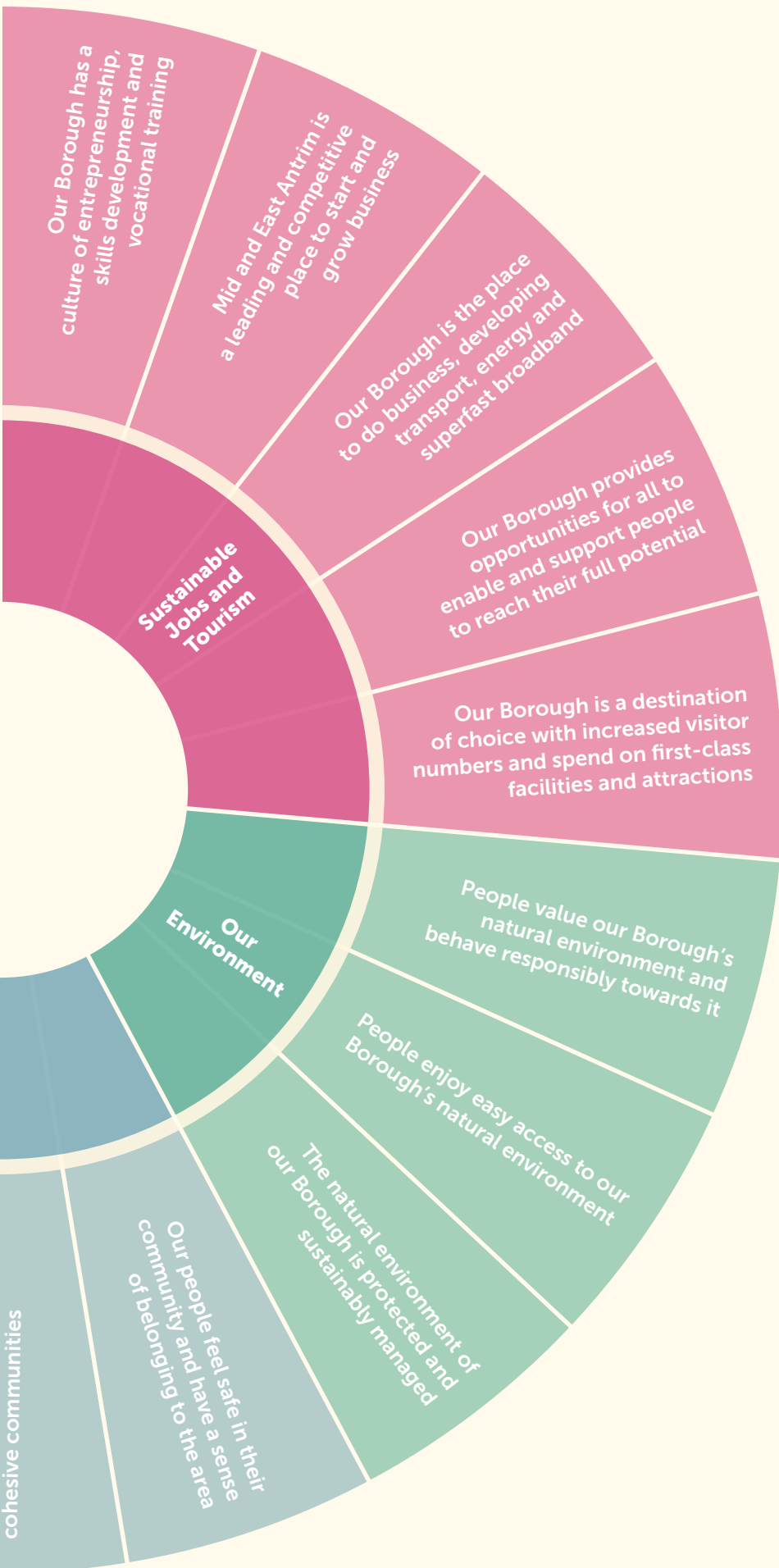
Led by

**Mid & East
Antrim**
Borough Council

The Mid and East Antrim Community Planning Themes and Outcomes

Mid and East Antrim will be a strong, vibrant, safe and inclusive community, where people work together to improve the quality of life for all.





We have identified 19 outcomes we want to achieve over the 15-year lifetime of this Community Plan.

These outcomes have been generated through the focused discussions, conversations and commitments on actions already made and agreed as part of this process.



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Introduction from the Chair of the Strategic Alliance



PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST

Welcome to the first Community Plan for Mid and East Antrim. This is a long-term plan for improving the wellbeing of this area and our citizens. It covers the period 2017 to 2032.

When the new councils were created in 2015, they were given a new power to grow wellbeing. To do this, Council set up the Community Planning Partnership.

The Partnership brings together the public, voluntary and private sectors to work alongside the community to develop a plan to improve all aspects of life in Mid and East Antrim.

Our aim is that this Community Plan will change the way in which public services are planned in this area. **The plan focuses on working together to address the issues that organisations working individually cannot address alone. We call this collaborative gain.**

Working together

The Community Planning Partnership's vision is that...

Mid and East Antrim will be a strong, vibrant, safe and inclusive community, where people work together to improve the quality of life for all.

We know that Mid and East Antrim is already a great place. Recently released figures from the Office of National Statistics show that we are the happiest place in Northern Ireland – and the second happiest in the UK.

However, we also know that there are a number of serious and significant issues that need to be addressed.

In developing this plan, the partnership has worked together with the community to review the evidence about this area. And to hear about the things that are important to you.

You have told us that the priorities you want us to address in the Community Plan are:

- Sustainable jobs and developing our tourism potential
- Good health and wellbeing
- Progress in education and improving aspirations for all
- Improving community safety and cohesion
- Our environment

Working together, we want to make this an even better place for all of our citizens.

This is therefore an ambitious plan and over the 15-year life of the plan, the partnership has identified a range of outcomes we want to deliver for Mid and East Antrim.

By 2032:

- We want to complete a number of major projects to benefit jobs and employment. These include developing the St Patrick's Barracks site in Ballymena, developing tourism so that we attract significant numbers of visitors to the Borough and making a better place to do business by developing transport, energy and superfast broadband.
- We want to make life better for our citizens by reducing crime and the fear of crime, by dealing with paramilitary activity, by growing community pride in local areas, by developing shared housing and by developing and growing community capacity.
- We want to improve the health and wellbeing of our citizens. We hope to achieve this by investing in services that focus on prevention and early intervention and support older people living in our communities, developing facilities and the environment within this area to help our people to be physically active more often.

- We want to develop projects that will support those who are most deprived in our Borough and are more at risk of poorer health, achievement and unemployment.
- We want to invest in initiatives that support education, training and learning. We want to make sure there are no barriers to anyone achieving their educational potential, so that we have a skilled and adaptable workforce and our people and communities place value on lifelong learning.
- We want all our citizens to have access to good quality green space. We want to protect our natural environment through partners working in association with communities. We want to have supported our communities to live and work sustainably.

Value for money

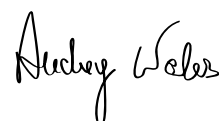
We know that the money available for delivering public services is under considerable pressure, with many services not able to fully meet demand.

Community planning lets us make better use of the public pound (the money spent by public sector bodies on your behalf in the Borough). We will do this by working in partnership to reduce duplication and find new and more efficient ways of delivering public services.

We know that when partners pull together we can achieve more than we can working alone. And we have already done this.

In recent months, a number of the community planning partners came together to support the Mid and East Antrim Agewell Partnership (MEAAP). MEAAP is a local, inter-agency based partnership aimed at improving the lives of people over 60 in the Ballymena, Larne and Carrickfergus areas.

MEAAP has recently been successful in securing almost £1million of funding from the Dunhill Medical Trust to fund a new programme of community-based care and support for older people. This is a great example of community planning in action and getting best value for the public pound.



Mayor Cllr Audrey Wales, MBE
Chair of the Strategic Alliance

Get involved

There are a number of ways to tell us what you think, please give us your views before **7 March 2017**:

1. **Tear off and complete the questions attached to the summary of the community plan which will be posted to all homes in the Borough in February. Post it to the freepost address provided. Or if you prefer scan it or take a photo of it and email it to us at the email address below. Alternatively drop it in to any Council venue – we don't mind how we receive it.**
2. **Complete the more detailed consultation questionnaire online at: www.midandeastantrim.gov.uk/communityplanning**
3. **Attend one of the consultation events taking place across the Borough. You will find more information about these in the local press and on social media over the next few weeks or at the web address above.**

If you have any questions, email us at:

communityplanning@midandeastantrim.gov.uk or call us on **028 2563 5036**.

WE'D LOVE
TO HEAR
FROM YOU!

Community Planning in Mid and East Antrim

Through this Community Plan, we want Mid and East Antrim to be 'a strong, vibrant, safe and inclusive community, where people work together to improve the quality of life for all'. We are putting people first.

What is Community Planning?

Community Planning is about public, private and voluntary organisations working together with communities to plan and deliver better services – making a real difference to people's lives.

It is about setting a 15-year vision for improving the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of this area, and helping to make change to improve our lives for today as well as for the future.

In April 2015, when the 11 new councils were created, they were given the responsibility of leading the community planning process for their area.

This means that councils must work together with other public sector organisations and their communities to develop and implement a shared vision for improving the wellbeing of their area, community cohesion and improving the quality of life of their citizens.

Who is responsible for developing the plan?

Development of this Community Plan is being led by Mid and East Antrim Borough Council.

Council set up the Community Planning Partnership to oversee the development and implementation of the Plan for Mid and East Antrim.

The Partnership brings together the public, voluntary and private sectors to work alongside the community to develop the plan.

Who sits on the partnership?

Representatives of the community have been involved throughout the community planning process in Mid and East Antrim.

The community is represented by the Elected Members, as well as by nominated representatives of community organisations from across the Borough.

As well as Council and community there are **12 partners** who must by law be involved in community planning, these are:

- Council for Catholic Maintained Schools
- Education Authority
- Health and Social Care Board
- Invest NI
- Libraries NI
- NI Fire and Rescue Service
- NI Housing Executive
- Northern Health and Social Care Trust
- Police Service for NI
- Public Health Agency
- Sport NI
- Tourism NI.

In Mid and East Antrim, these partners decided that a number of other organisations could also make a valuable contribution to the community planning process and were added to the partnership - they are:

- Galgorm Resort and Spa (on behalf of the tourism sector in the Borough)
- Michelin (on behalf of the business sector in the Borough)
- NI Water
- Northern Regional College
- Patient and Client Council
- Sustainable NI (on behalf of the environment sector in the Borough)
- Translink
- Transport NI, and
- Department of Justice

Together, all these groups and organisations form our Mid and East Antrim 'Strategic Alliance'.

How did we develop the plan?

In May this year, the partnership agreed that a Task and Finish Working Group process would be set up. This was to enable a wide range of people and organisations from across the Borough to be involved in the development of the plan.

1 What did we talk about?

Within Mid and East Antrim, the Community Planning Partnership has taken a very particular approach to the development of the Community Plan. We have focused on 'collaborative gain' and 'added value'.

This means that we have made a decision that the community planning process will not seek to duplicate or repeat what is already being done effectively by existing organisations.

Instead, we will use the community planning process to identify the areas that are not being addressed.

Or, the things that can be best delivered by working in partnership with others.

This 'collaborative gain' approach ensures that more can be achieved by the partners, the community and voluntary sector and other organisations and agencies working together rather than alone.

2 What else did we do?

To develop a plan with substance, we talked with and listened to a wide range of people and organisations in venues across Mid and East Antrim.

Many people and organisations representing all aspects of life in Mid and East Antrim have been part of this process. **This has included:**

Community Engagement:

Local people helped us to establish the key themes for the new Community Plan. In the future, we will continue to engage with local communities to make sure that the plan remains relevant and delivers on the things that you have told us are important for you. The community remains central to this plan.

Evidence Gathering:

We have developed a robust evidence base which provides us with a picture of what Mid and East Antrim looks and feels like.

This includes statistical data, as well as the views, opinions and ideas that have been gathered through speaking with the community.

Creating a governance structure:

We have worked with the community and voluntary sector and our partner organisations to develop a structure for managing community planning. This includes a Community Panel that represents the views of the local community, and works as an integral part of the Community Planning Partnership. You can read more about this structure later in the plan.

Community Planning is a new, creative process that presents a great opportunity for this area.

The partners recognised that if we engaged a wide range of people in developing this plan, we would end up with a better plan. And the connections made by those involved would be valuable when we come to implement the plan.

For this reason, we brought together a series of Task and Finish Working Groups. These groups were recruited via the local press and on social media. They were each chaired by a nominated member of the Partnership, with the process coordinated and supported by Council.

An organisation called CLES helped to facilitate the task and finish working groups. Their role was to ensure that everyone had an opportunity to contribute their views and that a report was completed for each theme.

You can read these reports on the community planning section of the Council's website.

The job of each working group was to:

- Review and consider the baseline evidence for the theme, to identify the issues that should be addressed;
- discuss what success would look like if the issues were to be addressed, and
- consider the actions which would make a difference.

During the three-month period from early September to the end of November 2016 a series of four working group meetings took place for each of the themes.

Lots of individuals and organisations from across Mid and East Antrim took the opportunity to get involved and help shape the plan that would affect their lives and the lives of their children.

The working group sessions generated great energy and enthusiasm amongst the various partners and community representatives who attended.

The sessions focused on identifying the areas of collaborative gain (the things that we can best deliver by working together and that we can't achieve by ourselves).

Through lots of discussion, we identified the areas which would be included in the plan.

The work that was done and the relationships developed within these working groups has set an invaluable foundation for the hard work of implementing the plan over the next 15 years.

Now that we have a draft plan, the job of these working groups is complete. Further groups will be convened to support implementation of the plan.

What's in the plan?

Through this process of dialogue and discussion, we have developed five overarching themes for the work of the Community Planning Partnership - these are our priorities. They are the key areas we will focus on now and during the 15 years of this plan. They are:



These five community planning themes are not isolated or stand alone. There are many connections, overlaps and

interrelationships between them. Indeed, it is only by making these connections and through the total combined contribution

of all of the themes that our ambitious goals for Mid and East Antrim will be realised.

Where does this Community Plan fit in?

There are important links between the Community Plan and other key strategies.

The Community Plan is the key plan for this area. All of the public sector organisations which deliver services in Mid and East Antrim need to consider what they can do to help deliver the Community Plan. Central government departments must also consider what they can do to help deliver the Community Plan.

One of the other key plans for this area is the Local Development Plan. In April 2015 local councils also took on responsibility for a range of planning functions which were previously delivered by central government.

These responsibilities include responsibility for developing a Local Development Plan for this area.

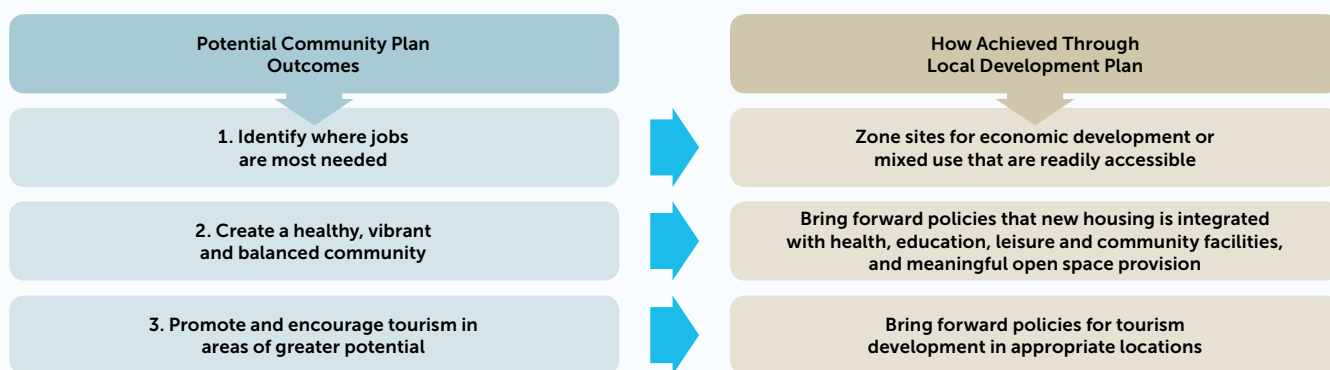
The Local Development Plan will:

- identify how and where our settlements will grow and estimate how much they will grow over the next 15 years;
- plan for anticipated developments in areas such as housing, economic development, retail, leisure and renewable energy;

- ensure that any planned development in the countryside meets the needs of rural communities yet safeguards rural amenity and character, and
- protect and, wherever possible, enhance areas and assets that are enjoyed by our citizens and visitors, including our environment, biodiversity and archaeology.

The Local Development Plan will take into account the priorities identified in the Community Plan. It will support the delivery of the community planning outcomes by linking public and private sector investment through the land use planning system.

How the two plans work together:



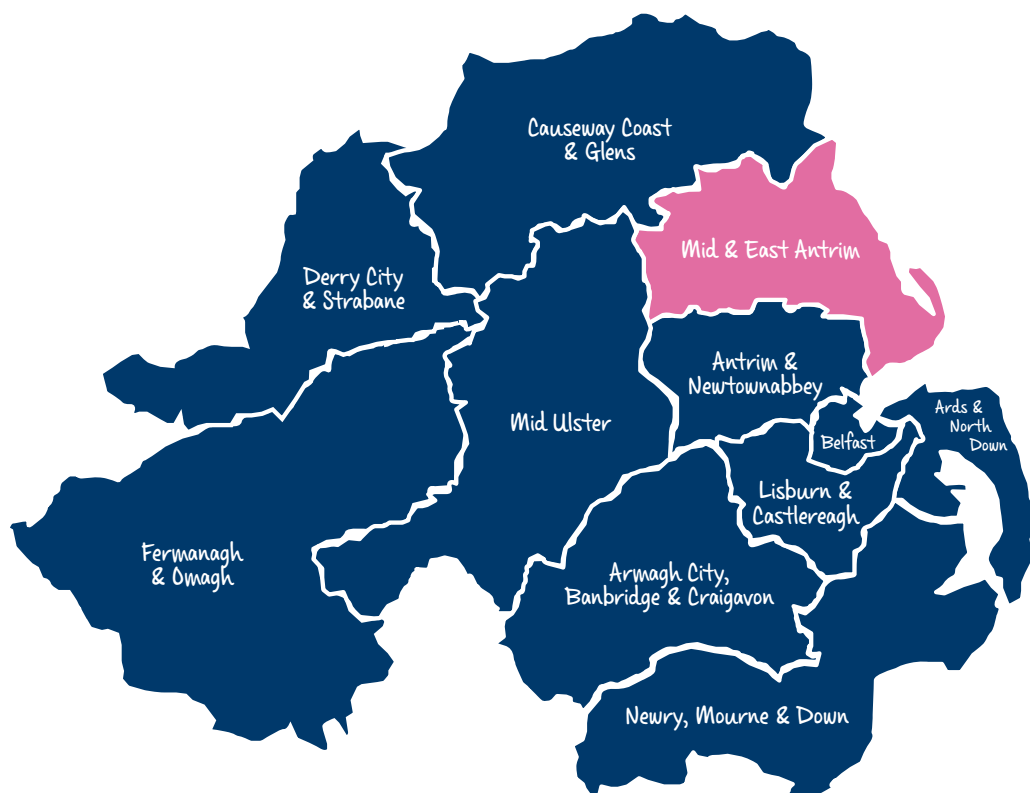
The Community Plan also fits in with the Northern Ireland Executive's Programme for Government. The Community Plan for Mid and East Antrim will

be the means of delivering the Programme for Government priorities at a local level. You will be able to see these connections in the table at the end of each of the theme chapters.

These tables illustrate how the 'national outcomes' in the Programme for Government link in with 'how we will measure success' at a Mid and East Antrim level for each theme.

Our Place

Mid and East Antrim Borough extends to 104,954 hectares (1,050 km²) from the Irish Sea/North Channel in the East to the River Bann in the West. It has a population of 137,223 (7.4% of the total NI population). This equates to a population density of 1.29, just below the NI average of 1.34.



Its rural/urban split reflects the overall NI average. 60% of the population is concentrated in three main towns with the remaining 40% located in small towns, villages, small settlements and the open countryside.

The estimated rural population of Mid and East Antrim is 53,467 (40% of total population).

Using the NI Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010 (where 1 is the most deprived and 26 is the least deprived), Ballymena was ranked in 11th place, Larne was in 13th place and Carrickfergus was in 14th place.

Mid and East Antrim is ranked 6th out of the eleven new councils in terms of deprivation, largely due to lack of access to services.

This lack of access to services is particularly noticeable in rural communities including Glenarm, Islandmagee, Carnlough, Glenravel, Grange, Glenwherry, Dunminning and Slemish.

Our People

Description	Northern Ireland	Mid and East Antrim
Population (2015)	1.85m	137,223 (7.4%)
Population (2030) Estimate	1.98m	142,164 (7.2%)
Geographical coverage	13,843 km ²	1,050 km ²
Population Density per Hectare (2011)	1.34	1.29
Birth rate (per 1,000 population)	13.3	11.6
Death rate (per 1,000 population)	8.0	8.5
External in-migration (per 1,000 population)	13.2%	11.2%
Median age (2011)	37	40
Population growth rate (2001–2015)	9.9%	8%

Population



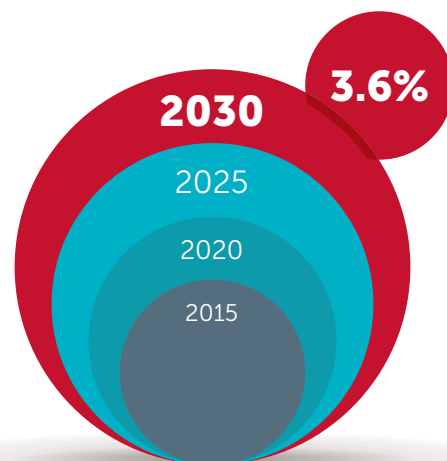
The population has increased **8%** since 2001, against growth of **9.9%** for Northern Ireland.



The **birth rate** (11.6 per 1,000 population) is significantly lower than the respective Northern Ireland figure (13.3).

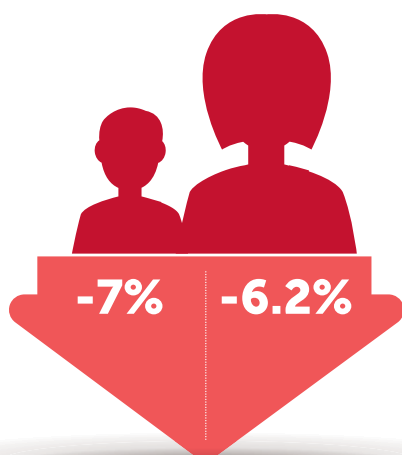


The death rate (8.5 per 1,000 population) **is slightly higher** than the respective Northern Ireland figure (8.0).

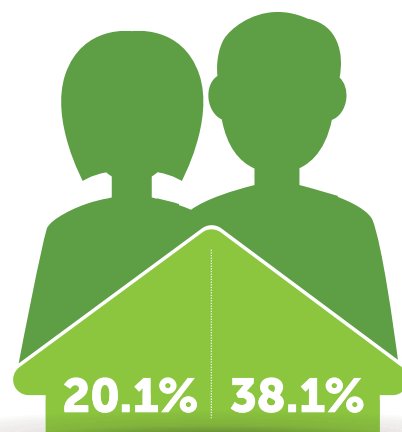


The population of Mid and East Antrim is predicted to **grow by 3.6% by 2030**. The rate of growth is half that projected for Northern Ireland (7%). Therefore our population will continue to grow over the next 15 years, but at a much slower rate than Northern Ireland and that previously experienced in the Borough.

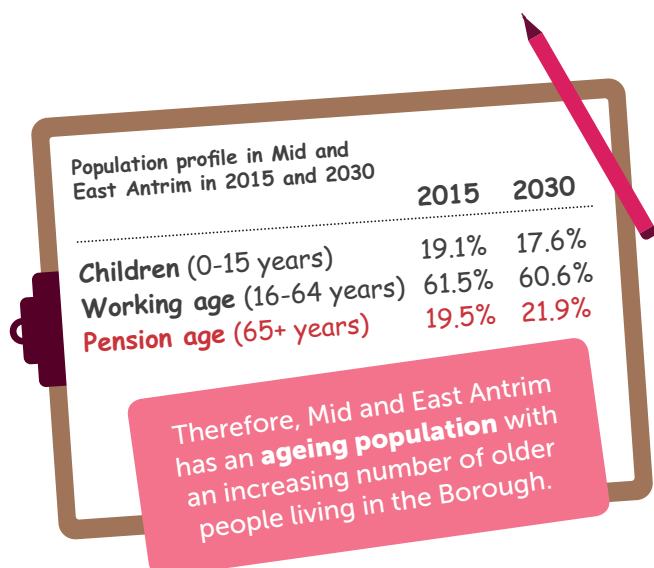
Age



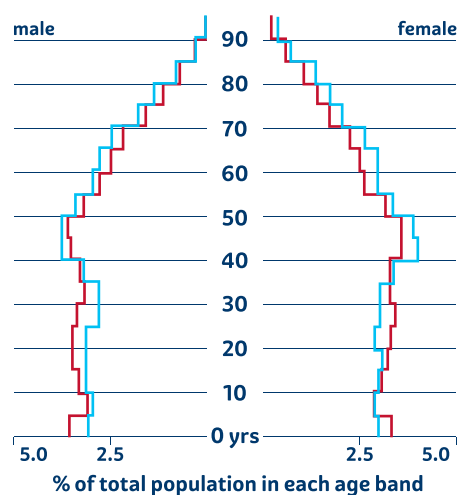
The age profile of our citizens - there has been a **slight decline** since 2001 in the 0-15 and 16-39 age groups (-7% and -6.2%).



There has been **significant growth** in the 40-64 and 65+ age groups (20.1% and 38.1% respectively). The growth of these two age groups is in part a result of a 75% decline in deaths under 75.

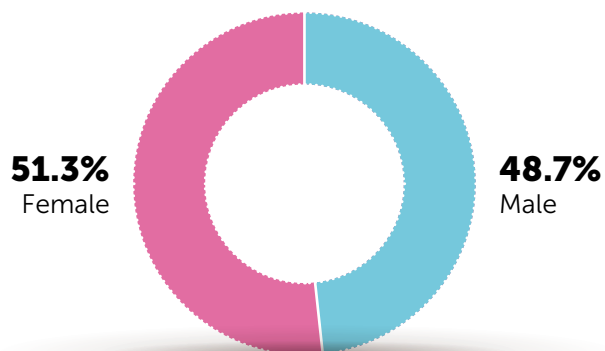


It is predicted that the 65+ age group will **continue to grow by 41%** by 2030.



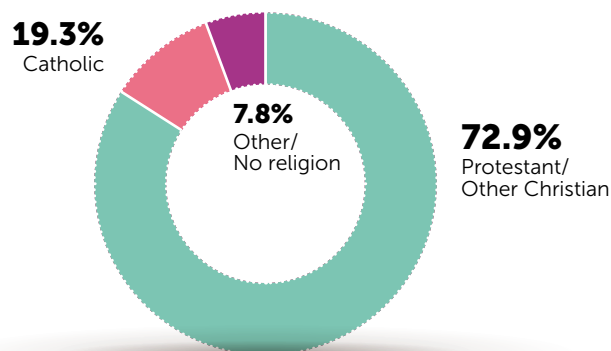
The present **median age of 40 is higher than the Northern Ireland average** and that trend will continue in the medium term with an older age profile for residents than Northern Ireland as a whole.

Gender



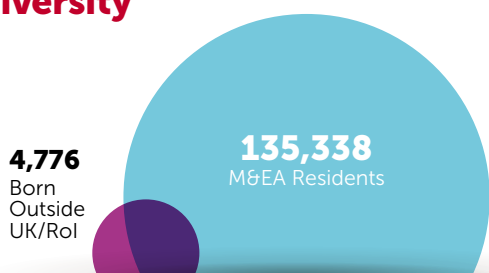
In 2011, the gender ratio was **48.7% Male, 51.3% Female**.

Community Background

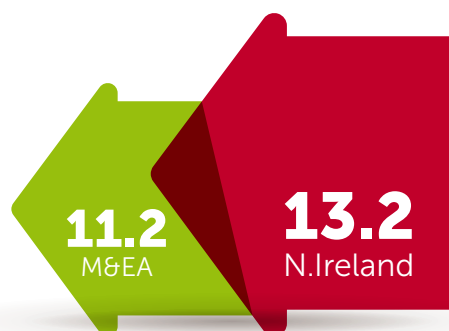


In 2011 the religious breakdown was **19.3% Catholic, 72.9% Protestant/Other Christian and 7.8% Other/No religion**.

Diversity



Of the 135,338 people resident in Mid and East Antrim at the time of the 2011 census, **4,776 were born outside the UK or Ireland**. This represents 3.5% of the population, which is below the Northern Ireland average of 4.5%.



The level of in-migration to the area has been lower than the Northern Ireland average: **11.2 compared to 13.2** per 1,000 population.

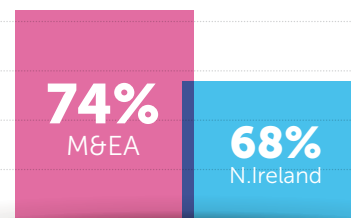
Economic Activity



In 2015, 77% of 16-64 year olds in Mid and East Antrim were **economically active** (this includes those in employment and those seeking work).



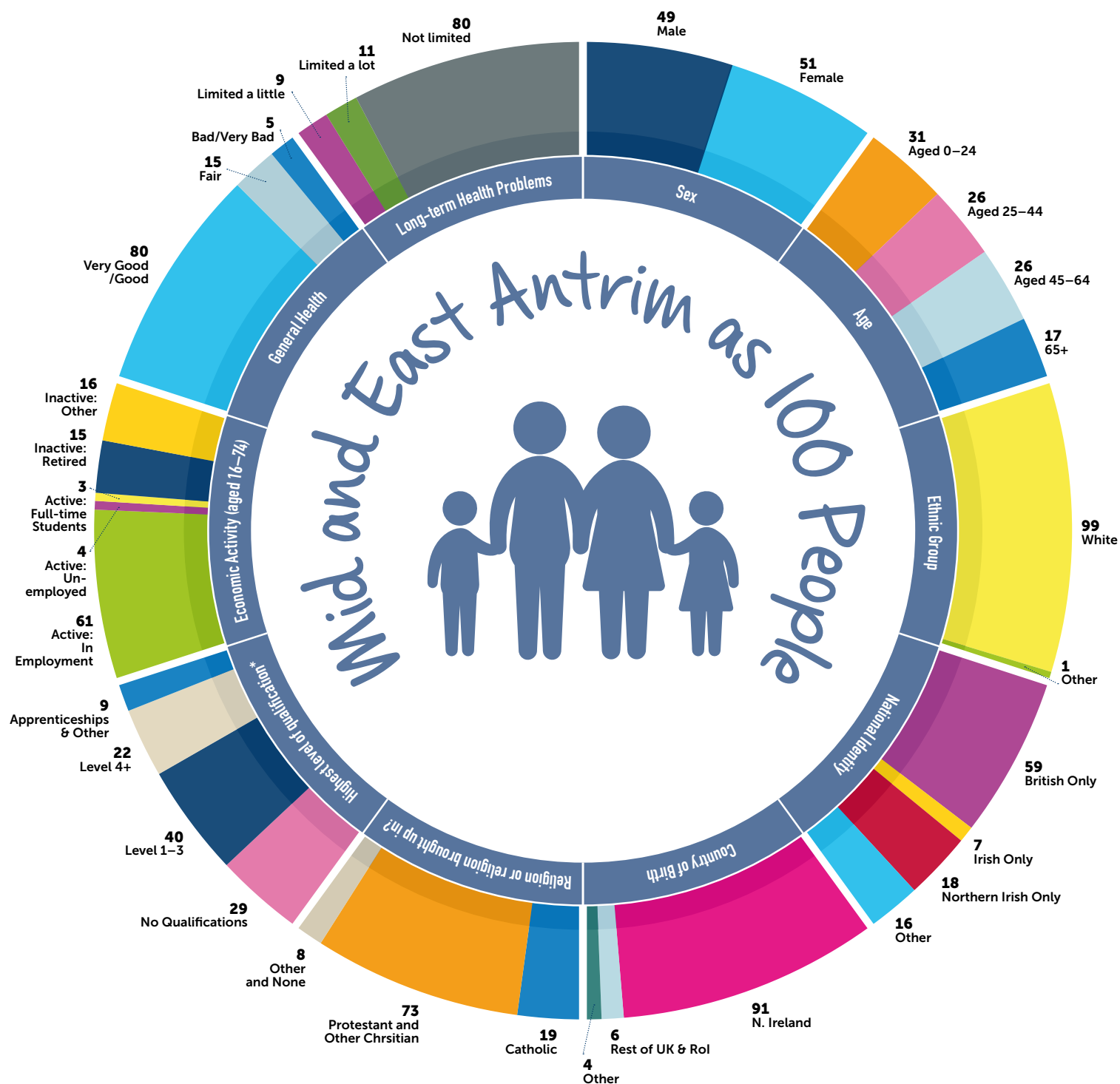
23% were **economically inactive** (not looking for work or not available for work. This includes those who are looking after a home, long-term sick or disabled, students and retired).



The **employment rate** for those aged 16-64 in the Borough was 74% which is higher than the NI average of 68%.

Mid and East Antrim as 100 People

The infographic below, is produced using 2011 census data gives a snapshot of some of the key socio-economic trends for Mid and East Antrim.



*Aged 16 and over

Theme 1: Sustainable Jobs and Tourism

'A proud, vibrant and ambitious place, which collaborates, encourages and supports economic and tourism growth and prosperity'

The community planning process has identified five strategic priorities for the Sustainable jobs and tourism theme, each of which has its own outcome:

Enterprise, entrepreneurship and innovation

'Mid and East Antrim is a leading and competitive place to start and grow business'

Employment and skills

'Our Borough has a culture of entrepreneurship, skills development and vocational training'

Infrastructure

'Our Borough is the place to do business, developing transport, energy and superfast broadband'

Inclusion and wellbeing

'Our Borough provides opportunities for all to enable and support people to reach their full potential'

Raising our tourism potential

'Raising our tourism potential – Mid and East Antrim is a destination of choice with increased visitor numbers and spend on first-class facilities and attractions'

"Throughout the Community Planning process, I have engaged with a wide range of individuals and organisations who have an interest in developing the economy of Mid and East Antrim. The community planning partnership presents a great opportunity to work with others to collectively address the challenges that we face in this Borough."



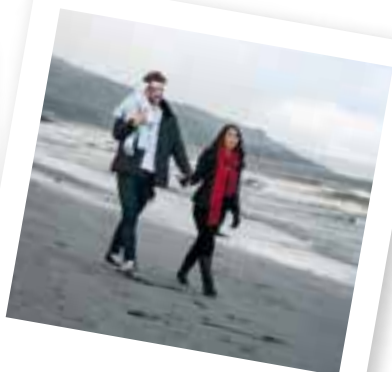
Noel Mulholland,
Michelin Tyres plc
and Working Group
Co-chair

"I recognise the opportunities that Community Planning can have in Mid and East Antrim through a collaborative approach to support our local economy and tourism growth. I am committed to this process, to ensure that Mid and East Antrim is a proud, vibrant and ambitious place for all its citizens and businesses."



Colin Johnston
General Manager
at Galgorm Resort
& Spa and Working
Group Co-chair

The Challenge



With regards to **Sustainable Jobs**, the Mid and East Antrim area traditionally has been one of Northern Ireland's manufacturing heartlands. However, the area has recently received major setbacks with two of its largest employers announcing they are to close over the next couple of years.

Research commissioned by the Mid and East Antrim Manufacturing Task Force has found that the two closures will result in over 2,000 jobs being lost in the local economy and the loss of between £194 million and £274 million in Gross Value Added (GVA). This represents between 9 and 13 per cent of total GVA output for the Borough. Gross value added is a measure of the value of goods and services produced in an area.

There is a challenge to ensure that the Borough is able to respond to this changing economy, and develop the skills in local people so that they can take advantage of future economic opportunities. We need to work hard to create a vibrant business culture building on our sectoral strengths in advanced manufacturing and agri-food.

In order to achieve our outcomes, we need a strong developed infrastructure, including transport, energy and superfast broadband providing the platform for attracting, retaining and growing our business base.

The availability of good, reliable high-speed broadband and 4G connectivity in Mid and East Antrim is essential for both visitors and tourism businesses. A recent report from OFCOM, the communications regulator, revealed that less than 70% of postal addresses in the Borough have broadband.

With regards to **Tourism**, the Causeway Coastal Route and the area's natural and built heritage offer good untapped potential for a strong brand identity, however several challenges remain. Mid and East Antrim, as a new administrative area, has no brand relevance at this point and we need to create this. We need to work hard to ensure the significant tourism assets are more closely associated with our area and its new branding.

The maturity and engagement of the tourism trade in Mid and East Antrim needs to be enhanced. We need to have active engagement and nurturing of tourist networks and clusters, which is so important for our tour operators to allow them to collaborate and package their products. The emerging clusters around the Gobbins, Causeway Coastal Route and Galgorm will significantly bolster efforts to create a compelling package for attracting visitors.

The Evidence

Jobs and Pay (2015)

In 2013 there were 50,243 jobs in Mid and East Antrim. **The 3 largest employment sectors** were Manufacturing, representing 21% which is nearly double the Northern Ireland level of 11%, Wholesale and Retail Trade (18%) and Health and Social Work (11%).



Compared to the UK as a whole, the area is over-represented in Manufacturing (21% compared to 8%) but under-represented in Information and Communication (1% vs 4%) and Professional, Scientific and Technical (2% vs 8%).

Mid and East Antrim's economy is currently worth around £2 billion in GVA (Gross Value Added) and has performed well in recent years, experiencing faster annual growth relative to the rest of Northern Ireland and the UK.

Although GVA is expected to grow in the coming years, this is largely expected to be job-less growth with a marginal net increase of 1% predicted between 2013 and 2030.

This is well below the forecast employment growth rate for the UK (12.6%) and Northern Ireland (9.5%) during this period.

In 2015, workers in Mid and East Antrim received an average weekly wage of £446 (£443 NI), this equates to an average annual salary of £24,900 (£23,600 NI).

Businesses (2015)

4,530 registered businesses in 2015 (7% of all businesses in NI). Largest sectors are Agriculture, forestry and fishing (30%), Construction (12%) and Retail (9%).

90% of businesses employ less than 10 people.

Business survival rates (2009)

63% of businesses set up in 2009 were still trading 3 years later and 41% after 5 years.

Labour market participation (2015)

In 2015, 77% of the working age population in Mid and East Antrim were **economically active** (73% NI).



74% of Mid and East Antrim's working age population were in employment (68% NI).

Tourism (2015)



In 2015 there were **82,224 overnight trips made to Mid and East Antrim, 4th highest across all 11 councils.**

There were 3,678 tourism jobs in Mid and East Antrim in 2013. This accounted for 9% of the total employee jobs in Mid and East Antrim. Tourism jobs in Mid and East Antrim increased by 6% between 2011 and 2013 while non-tourism jobs remained the same.

Average length of stay is 2.6 days compared to 3.3 days in NI as a whole.

£45.6m spent with an average spend of £119 per visitor per trip (£164 in NI).

Top 3 attractions are Carrickfergus Castle, The Braid Museum and Arts Centre and Carrickfergus Museum.

Mid and East Antrim had the 2nd highest hotel room and bed occupancy rates across all 11 councils (64% hotel room occupancy rate and 44% other commercial accommodation).

What are we going to do?

This is a Plan which takes us up to 2032 and the list of proposed actions below is not exhaustive but is focused on what we need to do initially. Throughout the task and finish working group process there were many actions and suggestions put forward. Each group was asked to prioritise these actions to highlight which should be addressed first. The actions listed below were deemed by participants to be the best way to begin addressing the priority – to complement existing work and services. Additional actions will be taken as we move towards our outcomes.

- The Mid and East Antrim Leaders' Programme: a focused project to develop capacity and economic leadership skills within Council and partners.
- A Local Business and Skills Barometer, including smart specialisation plan: a series of actions to produce a local data set to aid the understanding of businesses and skills in the Borough.
- The Mid and East Antrim Client Managers and Business Escalator programme comprises working with growth pipeline companies to provide support, a tailored programme of support for growth businesses, and establishing a new rapid redundancy response structure within the economy to deal with future shocks.
- Enterprise and Innovation Promotion Programme: an integrated suite of actions which will encourage a stronger culture of enterprise, entrepreneurship and innovation in all parts of the economy.
- Urban and rural regeneration: actions to help revitalise our main town centres and rural economies and development of an evening economy.
- Place promotion: an initiative to develop promotional material which can be used to sell the area as a place to live, work, study, visit and invest in.
- Integrated Property Programme: review of current business space in the Borough and creation of new facilities for start-ups and grow on space for more established businesses.
- Broadband Benefits Realisation Programme: aimed at stimulating demand for superfast broadband to support business growth and productivity.
- Tourism Strategy implementation: develop the Causeway Coastal Route, cultural and heritage assets, and building the regions image, brand and awareness in domestic, all-Ireland, UK and international markets.
- Other priority sector strategies: commissioning strategies for advanced manufacturing, agri-food, financial and business services, and digital sectors.

Under the banner of sustainable jobs and tourism there are also several strategic infrastructure projects that are either ongoing or being considered.

These include:

- Redevelopment of the St Patrick's Barracks site
- An Advanced Manufacturing Centre of Excellence and other efforts to meet the locational needs of targeted sectors, including new and emerging sectors
- Improving the infrastructure across the Borough including roads, energy and broadband development, and
- Masterplans for key tourism and regeneration projects.

What will success look like?

These statements describe what Mid and East Antrim will look like if we deliver on this plan.

- Mid and East Antrim is recognised as the 'place to do business' – there is a culture of entrepreneurship where businesses flourish in a business friendly environment which attracts and retains employment.
- We have positive economic growth opportunities supporting strong business performance in key growth sectors especially manufacturing and agri-food.
- We have a highly skilled and well-qualified workforce that ensures the Borough is an attractive place for business with ample availability of high value jobs.
- We have created employment opportunities, retained our own talent and the Borough is the place where people want to live, work and invest in.
- Mid and East Antrim offers packages of world-class visitor attractions and experiences within cohesive clusters which work together to maximise the benefit to all.
- We have a flourishing tourism economy and environment which attracts more visitors staying longer and spending more.
- We have built and developed the environment for the benefit of all who live and work in Mid and East Antrim.

How will we measure success?

The **outcomes** for each theme described below are statements of what we want Mid and East Antrim to look like in 15 years' time. The **indicators** are the means by which we will measure our progress towards achieving our outcomes. Indicators need to be drawn from reliable data sources. For this reason there are some areas where the partnership feels that we will need to develop new indicators.

Programme for Government Outcomes	Our Outcomes	Indicators
<p>We prosper through a strong, competitive, (regionally balanced) economy</p> <p>We have more people working in better jobs</p> <p>We have created a place where people want to live and work, to visit and invest</p> <p>We are a confident, welcoming, outward-looking society</p> <p>We are an innovative, creative society where people can fulfil their potential</p>	<p>Mid and East Antrim is a leading and competitive place to start and grow business</p>	<p>The number of VAT/PAYE registered businesses</p> <p>Business survival rate</p>
	<p>Our Borough has a culture of entrepreneurship, skills development and vocational training</p>	<p>Indicator development required</p>
	<p>Our Borough is the place to do business, developing transport, energy and superfast broadband</p>	<p>The number of business births</p> <p>Business turnover</p> <p>Additional indicator development required</p>
	<p>Our Borough provides opportunities for all to enable and support people to reach their full potential</p>	<p>The percentage of 16 – 64 year olds who are in employment</p> <p>The average weekly wage</p>
	<p>Mid and East Antrim is a destination of choice with increased visitor numbers and spend on first class facilities and attractions</p>	<p>The number of overnight visitor trips</p> <p>The average expenditure per visitor per overnight trip</p>



Theme 2: Good Health and Wellbeing

'Improving health, including the wider factors and causes of ill health'

"The Northern Health and Social Care Trust embraces the opportunity to work closely with our community partners to address the underlying causes of poor health and wellbeing. Lifestyle behaviour, social and economic wellbeing and the environment all impact greatly on the health of our shared community. By working collaboratively to secure improvements across all these areas, we will together enhance the quality of health and wellbeing for all."



Hugh Nelson
Head of
Community
Wellbeing, Northern
Health and Social
Care Trust and
Working
Group Chair

The community planning process has identified five strategic priorities for the theme of Good Health and Wellbeing, each of which has its own outcome:

Prevention and early intervention

'Our people are able to enjoy longer and healthier lives'

Health and work

'Our workplaces are for health as well as wealth'

Healthy places and lifestyles

'Our people are physically active more often'

Deprivation and health

'Our Borough has health equality for all'

Responding to an ageing society

'Our older people are active, respected and supported in their community'

The Challenge



The challenge is to adopt a deeper focus on the prevention of ill health, rather than the downstream treatment. This is vital as there are high rates of death from preventable causes in the Borough, with a concentration around specific diseases which lend themselves to early intervention.

There is also a challenge to ensure that the people in work in Mid and East Antrim are experiencing positive health and wellbeing outcomes because of gainful and decent employment. This is a particular problem for the more deprived areas in the Borough.

We must work harder to ensure that individuals' lifestyles contribute to healthy and happy lives and that the environment in which they live supports this.

In terms of lifestyles, it has been said that 'diet is the new smoking' and this is supported by evidence of increasing rates of diabetes, high blood pressure and obesity.

We must ensure that services and communities can respond to an ageing population.

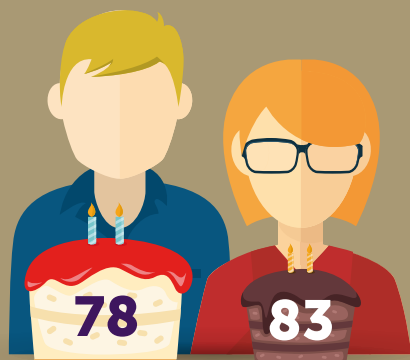
Ageing also leads to different challenges in terms of a rise in dementia and Alzheimer's, increasing demand for residential and home care services and how we support older people to live well at home and within their communities.

With the continuing restructuring and refinement of public services, there are challenges around people's access to services, particularly those who live in rural areas.

The Evidence

Life expectancy at birth (2011-2013 combined years)

Female life expectancy is 83 while males can expect to live to 78 (82 and 78 in NI).



Health Inequality gap (2010/11-2012/13 combined years)

In the most deprived areas within Mid and East Antrim, the admission rate for alcohol related causes was 127% higher than the Borough as a whole and 126% and 123% higher for drugs and self-harm admissions.

Three areas in Mid and East Antrim, classed as being in the top 20% most deprived areas in Northern Ireland in terms of health, are also deprived in terms of employment. These are Northlands, Ballee and Sunnylands.

Cause of Death (2014)

The three main causes of deaths in Mid and East Antrim in 2014 were cancer, circulatory diseases and respiratory diseases accounting for 70% of all deaths.

The Most Commonly Recorded Medical Conditions (2014/15)

The most commonly recorded medical conditions are high blood pressure (15%), obesity (12%), diabetes (6%) and asthma (6%). These are among the highest prevalence rates when compared to the other council areas.

Personal Wellbeing Measure (2015/16)

Residents in Mid and East Antrim reported having the highest life satisfaction (8.39 out of 10) and worthwhile levels (8.63) and are the second happiest (8.22) across all local authorities in the UK. Mid and East Antrim residents were ranked 8th least anxious in the UK (2.18).

In the 2011 Census 49.7% of residents in Mid and East Antrim aged 65 and over stated their general health was either good or very good (47.9% Northern Ireland).



Sports Participation (2011-13)

Mid and East Antrim (55%) was ranked 4th highest across the 11 councils and above the Northern Ireland average of 53% for participation in sport for 2011-13.



Childhood Obesity (2012/13)

The childhood obesity rate of Primary 1 pupils in Mid and East Antrim has fallen from 5.1% in 2008/09, to 4.9% in 2012/13. This is below the 5.2% Northern Ireland average and 3rd lowest across the councils.

What are we going to do?

This is a plan which takes us up to 2032 and the list of proposed actions below is not exhaustive but is focused on what we need to do initially. Throughout the task and finish working group process there were many actions and suggestions put forward. Each group was asked to prioritise these actions to highlight which should be addressed first. The actions listed below were deemed by participants to be the best way to begin addressing the priority – to complement existing work and services. Additional actions will be taken as we move towards our outcomes.

- Develop a comprehensive Healthy Eating and Activity Strategy to tackle obesity and other prevalent issues in the Borough.
 - Introduce a Healthy Places Incentive Scheme, with focus on young people.
 - Develop a Mid and East Antrim work-life balance charter in support of health and wellbeing for all employees.
 - Launch a Healthy Work for Healthy People initiative, including mind and body: a programme for educating employers around vulnerable people and civic responsibility.
 - Harness procurement power: ensure corporate social responsibility is written into procurement practices. This is supported by statutory agencies providing standards for good practice.
 - Creating greenways/pathways between areas, and reclaiming existing outdoor spaces including the development of an Urban/Community Growing Strategy to include the development of allotments.
 - Age and dementia friendly communities' programmes by delivering sustainable programmes promoting ageing well, reducing social isolation and delivering programmes including e.g. health literacy and education classes for older people and other vulnerable groups.
 - Encourage and support Credit Union developments to help people address debt issues.
 - Identify Locality Managers - maximise the use of people who are already on the ground, and ensure that there is a database created so that staff can signpost people to the most appropriate service.
 - All agencies should have the ability to use facilities for the good of the community.
- Under the banner of 'Good Health and Wellbeing' there are also several strategic infrastructure projects that are either ongoing, or are being considered.**
- These include:
- Housing developments and supported living to support the needs of older people and those with disabilities.
 - Open space developments and recreational developments to support more active lifestyles.
 - Integrated public open space and housing development.
 - Leisure provision.

What will success look like?

These statements describe what Mid and East Antrim will look like if we deliver on this plan.

- Longer, healthier and more active lives for all.
- Healthy work for healthy people – including mind and body.
- Work and training opportunities for all (this includes work experience, volunteering, self-employment, further education, adult education).
- Integrated services that work for people and deliver innovative early intervention programmes.

How will we measure success?

The **outcomes** for each theme described below are statements of what we want Mid and East Antrim to look like in 15 years' time. The **indicators** are the means by which we will measure our progress towards achieving our outcomes. Indicators need to be drawn from reliable data sources. For this reason there are some areas where the partnership feels that we will need to develop new indicators.

Programme for Government Outcomes	Our Outcomes	Indicators
<p>We enjoy long, healthy, active lives</p> <p>We give our children and young people the best start in life</p> <p>We care for others and we help those in need</p> <p>We have high quality public services</p> <p>We have a more equal society</p>	Our people are able to enjoy longer and healthier lives	<p>The number of preventable deaths per 100,000 population</p> <p>The percentage of people reporting the most commonly recorded medical conditions</p>
	Our workplaces are for health as well as wealth	Indicator development required
	Our people will be physically active more often	<p>The percentage of people who normally participate in sport or physical activity on at least one day a week</p> <p>Childhood obesity rate of P1 pupils</p>
	Our older people are active, respected and supported in their community	<p>The proportion of the over 65 population reporting they are in good health</p> <p>The number of recorded crimes where the victim is over 60</p>
	Our Borough has health equality for all	Gap in life expectancy between the most deprived areas in the Borough and the Borough as a whole



Theme 3: Progress in Education

'Developing educational achievement and aspirations'

"Community Planning presents a great opportunity for all sectors to work in partnership to ensure effective service delivery within Mid and East Antrim Borough and improve the wellbeing for all our citizens. I was delighted to be part of this process and welcomed this opportunity and the collaborative working approach. It is through this approach that we can tackle issues surrounding education to develop educational achievement and aspirations."



Clare O'Neill
Head of Business Development
Northern Regional College and
Working Group Chair

The community planning process has identified three strategic priorities for the theme of Progress in Education, each of which has its own outcome:

Qualifications of the working age population

'Our people and wider communities place value on life-long learning'

Inequalities in education

'In our Borough there are no barriers to stop anyone achieving their educational potential'

Delivering the skills for future economic development

'We have a skilled workforce able to adapt to the changing economy'

The Challenge



There are significant inequalities in educational attainment at a variety of levels in Mid and East Antrim. For example, there is a clear link between deprivation and educational attainment, and geographical inequalities persist, with Carrickfergus showing lower rates of attainment for key subjects at age 16 than elsewhere in the Borough.

In addition, there is a retained legacy within the working-class communities, with significant pockets of educational deprivation within Protestant and Catholic communities.

There are issues around the high proportion of the working age population of Mid and East Antrim who hold no qualifications and the low number of those with qualifications above Level 4.

It will be important to look at this issue by focusing on intergenerational solutions, where adults foster ambition in their young people.

There is also a challenge to have education viewed as a lifelong process which is valued throughout the community.

Current evidence suggests this is not the case, as certain areas have high rates of unauthorised absences from school and a low take-up of places on adult education courses.

There has been, and will continue to be, a shift towards a knowledge based economy in Northern Ireland. However, the Northern Ireland Skills Barometer indicates that there is a mismatch between the skills needs of the economy and the current supply of skilled individuals with relevant skills within the Borough.

In terms of softer skills, there is also a weakness in the work readiness and life skills of young people in the area.

It is recognised that access to broadband will be an important resource for citizens to ensure they are able to engage with a range of educational resources and to support a culture of lifelong learning.

The Evidence

Qualifications of school leavers (2014/15)

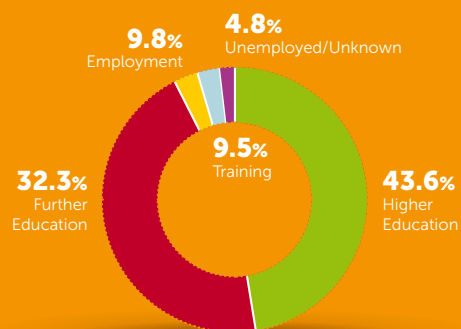
In 2014/15, 68% of school leavers achieved at least 5 GCSEs grade A*-C (incl. English and Maths) and 57% achieved at least 2 A-levels (NI 66% and 58%, respectively).



Deprivation (2010)

- A fifth of areas in Mid and East Antrim are ranked as being in the top 20% most deprived areas in NI in terms of education, skills and training.
- Ballee, Northlands, Love Lane, Dunclug and Ballyloran are the 5 most deprived areas in terms of education, skills and training.

Destination of school leavers (2014/15)



Inequalities (2014/15)

The percentage point gap in qualifications achieved between all school leavers and those leavers entitled to free school meals is:

- 27% in achieving at least 5 GCSEs grade A*-C (incl. English and Maths)
- 24% in achieving at least 2 A-levels

Newcomer Pupils (2015/16)

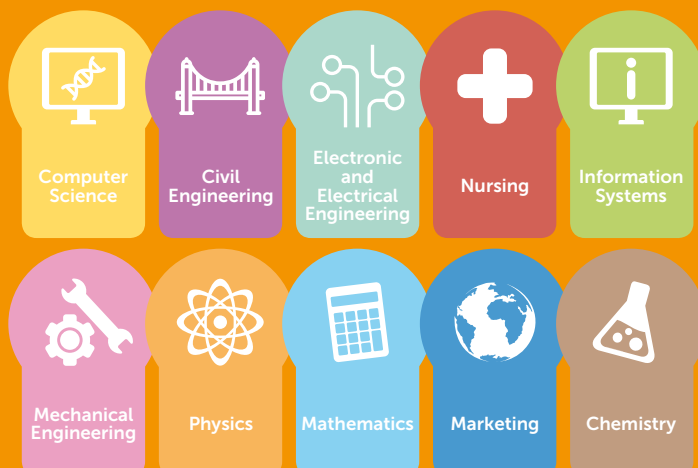
There was a 27% increase in newcomer pupils from 525 in 2013/14 to 665 in 2015/16.



Qualifications of Working Age Population (2015)

Qualifications of Working Age Pop (2015)	Mid and East Antrim	Northern Ireland	Rank Across 11 councils of NI
Achieved NVQ Level 4 and above (%)	26.0%	29.9%	3rd Lowest
Achieved below NVQ Level 4 (%)	57.5%	53.6%	4th Lowest
No Qualifications (%)	16.5%	16.5%	5th Lowest

More graduates are needed in the following subject areas:



What are we going to do?

This is a plan which takes us up to 2032 and the list of proposed actions below is not exhaustive but is focused on what we need to do initially. Throughout the task and finish working group process there were many actions and suggestions put forward. Each group was asked to prioritise these actions to highlight which should be addressed first. The actions listed below were deemed by participants to be the best way to begin addressing the priority – to complement existing work and services. Additional actions will be taken as we move towards our outcomes.

- Research on best practice to deliver a 5-year plan to raise aspirations of children and parents in relation to primary, post-primary and further education.
 - Explore family/parenting programmes – for example 'Incredible Years' which can empower families to engage and support their children in education. This includes the aspiration of having a family liaison worker in every school.
 - Build on existing work to assist newcomer pupils in specific schools.
 - Establish an employer/ stakeholder forum – with the Chamber of Commerce, or equivalent, as a delivery mechanism.
 - Including improvement of links between education providers and industry/businesses and careers advice.
 - Develop volunteering programmes with accredited qualifications as a bridge to employment and to support the social and vocational engagement of vulnerable people.
 - Develop an outreach essential skills programme.
 - Review the Northern Ireland Skills Barometer to identify skills needs and gaps in Mid and East Antrim Borough.
 - Establish a 'Muddy boots' working group made up of staff from industry, particularly trades, to determine the types of skills, attitudes and abilities they require to meet demand.
- Under the banner of 'Progress in Education' there are also several strategic infrastructure projects that are either ongoing, or are being considered. These are:**
- Schools Area Development Planning – considerations around ensuring that children and young people have access to appropriate educational pathways, delivered through a network of sustainable schools. Consideration should also be given to how this might help towards addressing issues such as community access to school buildings, community cohesion activities and deprivation.
 - Northern Regional College infrastructure developments.

What will success look like?

These statements describe what Mid and East Antrim will look like if we deliver on this plan.

- Families are engaged, empowered and supported in the education of their children.
- Everyone of working age has an accredited qualification.
- People have equal access to learning opportunities, regardless of location, religion or social standing.
- Education prepares young people for the working environment.
- Mid and East Antrim has greater levels of entrepreneurship.

How will we measure success?

The **outcomes** for each theme described below are statements of what we want Mid and East Antrim to look like in 15 years' time. The **indicators** are the means by which we will measure our progress towards achieving our outcomes. Indicators need to be drawn from reliable data sources. For this reason there are some areas where the partnership feels that we will need to develop new indicators.

Programme for Government Outcomes	Our Outcomes	Indicators
<p>We have a more equal society</p> <p>We give our children and young people the best start in life</p> <p>We care for others and we help those in need</p> <p>We are an innovative, creative society where people can fulfil their potential</p> <p>We have more people working in better jobs</p>	<p>In our Borough there are no barriers to stop anyone achieving their educational potential</p>	<p>Percentage point gap between % of school leavers and % of Free School Meals school leavers (FSME) achieving 5 GCSEs (including English and Maths)</p>
		<p>The percentage of school leavers achieving 5 GCSEs (including English and Maths) by District Electoral Area</p>
		<p>The percentage of school leavers achieving 5 GCSEs (including English and Maths) by Religion and Gender</p>
	<p>Our people and wider communities place value on life-long learning</p>	<p>The percentage of the workforce in employment with qualifications at level 1 and above, level 2 and above, level 3 and above and level 4 and above</p>
	<p>We have a skilled workforce able to adapt to the changing economy</p>	<p>Indicator development required</p>



Theme 4: Community Safety and Cohesion

'Reducing crime and creating good relations between people and communities'

"I was delighted to be asked to help contribute to the development of our community plan. The challenges that we have identified through consultation are complex, with many underlying causes. The answers will only be found through using the combined energy and strength of all of us working and living in the Borough. The PSNI are committed to community planning and determined to be full partners in delivering the plan."



Ryan Henderson
Superintendent
District Command
Unit: Mid and East
Antrim PSNI and
Working
Group Chair

The Community Planning process has identified three strategic priorities for the theme of Community Safety and Cohesion, each of which has its own outcome:

Those most at risk of creating crime

'Our Borough provides a strong support network to those most at risk of committing crime'

Vulnerable People

'Our people feel safe in their community and have a sense of belonging to the area'

Vulnerable Places

'Our Borough has vibrant, shared and cohesive communities'

The Challenge



Whilst levels of crime have reduced in recent years and the Borough is a comparatively safe place to live, there are certain places and people who feel the impact of crime and community tensions more.

There are clear links between levels of deprivation and crime in Mid and East Antrim. Indeed, the majority of the most deprived areas in the Borough have high rates of recorded crime, and incidents of antisocial behaviour.

We feel that identifying hotspots of criminal activity, particularly where drugs are concerned, and developing a partnership approach to working between the community, police, education providers and voluntary agencies is important to this.

There are also concentrations of people, who are especially vulnerable. This includes, but not exclusively, older people, victims of domestic violence, people with disabilities, those with mental health issues, ethnic minorities, and those in poor housing. Moving forward we believe that a more subtle understanding of individual vulnerability is required to allow vulnerable people to be identified, and that the development of cross-agency work is a priority.

It is also vital that we seek to improve integration across generations through mutual respect and encouraging a culture of community engagement and volunteering.

The NI Executive's Fresh Start Implementation Plan notes that the Department for Communities will ask local government to ensure that community plans address community safety and cohesion issues. And that community planning partnerships focus on building community confidence in the rule of law and embedding a culture of lawfulness.

The 2015 Good Relations Audit, conducted independently on behalf of Mid and East Antrim Borough Council, identifies the top 5 good relations issues as murals and flags, paramilitary flags, paramilitary activities, lack of dialogue and respect, and territorial markings.

The Evidence

Recorded Crime (2014/15)

5,793 crimes were recorded in Mid and East Antrim in 2014/15 - a decrease of 19% on 2008/09 (2nd largest reduction in recorded crime across the 11 councils), compared to a decline of 5% across Northern Ireland.



Hate Crime (2014/15)

In 2014/15 there were 141 hate crime incidents reported in Mid and East Antrim. Between 2008/09 and 2014/15 hate crime incidents fell by 23% compared to an increase of 16% across Northern Ireland.



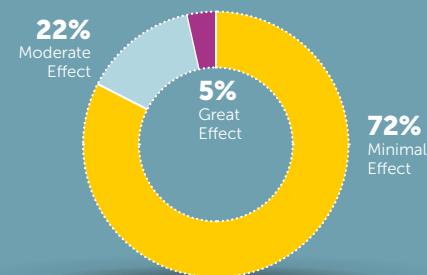
Sense of Belonging (2013/14 – 2014/15 combined years)

84% of residents feel a sense of belonging to their neighbourhood.



Fear of Crime (2014/15)

Perceptions of the effect of 'fear of crime' on quality of life:



Drug Related Crime (2014/15)

Between 2008/09 and 2014/15 drug offences increased by 32%.



Voluntary Work (2011)

15% of people in the Borough reported carrying out unpaid voluntary work.

Antisocial Behaviour (2014/15)

3,783 antisocial behaviour incidents were recorded in Mid and East Antrim in 2014-15. There was a 41% reduction in these incidents between 2008/09 and 2014/15 in Mid and East Antrim compared to a 28% reduction across Northern Ireland.

Deprivation (2010)

One fifth of the areas in the Borough were classed as being in the 20% most deprived areas in Northern Ireland when ranked by levels of crime and disorder.

Creating a Community (2015)

As part of the Mid and East Antrim Good Relations Audit in 2015 only 33% of respondents thought that 'enough was being done to create a community where division does not restrict the life opportunities of individuals and where all areas are open and accessible to everyone'.

What are we going to do?

This is a plan which takes us up to 2032 and the list of proposed actions below is not exhaustive but is focused on what we need to do initially. Throughout the task and finish working group process there were many actions and suggestions put forward. Each group was asked to prioritise these actions to highlight which should be addressed first. The actions listed below were deemed by participants to be the best way to begin addressing the priority – to complement existing work and services. Additional actions will be taken as we move towards our outcomes.

Concern hub

- A dedicated cross-agency group to focus on emerging issues of vulnerability and identification of those individuals most at risk, and
- a cross-partner sharing of information and knowledge with a view to developing appropriate support.

Safer places planning

- Scoping and identification of the most vulnerable places within the Borough;
- develop a multi-agency 'rapid reaction' problem solving team, to deal with emerging issues with regard to environmental issues and antisocial activity that is having the highest impact on people's quality of life, and
- statutory agencies work together to design out crime in areas where it has been repeatedly reported.

Support those most at risk of offending

- Establish appropriate cross-sectoral approach to information sharing and identification of young people at risk, and
- signpost to and/or develop a comprehensive range of programmes to promote good life choices amongst at risk young people.

Build and strengthen community cohesion

- Establish a tension monitoring framework to help predict and prevent community tension as opposed to reacting to it;
- support development of a public mediation service for the Borough, and
- build civic pride through the celebration of success within communities.

Under the banner of Community safety and cohesion there are also strategic infrastructure projects that are either ongoing, or are being considered. These are:

- Affordable, and social housing developments
- Public shared space developments
- Community hub projects
- Reimaging projects.

We will work with existing partnerships including the Mid and East Antrim Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) and Good Relations Programmes to deliver an integrated programme of work to improve community safety and cohesion across the Borough.

What will success look like?

These statements describe what Mid and East Antrim will look like if we deliver on this plan.

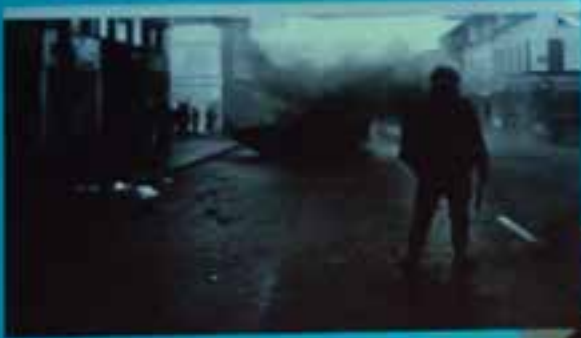
- There is a sense of pride in the local community.
- All young people are engaged in projects that positively contribute to society and benefit the individual involved.
- A preventative agenda is in place to resolve issues before they reach a threshold that requires specialist intervention.
- Partners are able to work together to design out crime in troubled areas.
- Those with responsibility for particular spaces take due care and attention to ensure these can be accessed safely by the whole community.
- Communities have a high level of confidence that concerns relating to community safety and cohesion are dealt with appropriately.

How will we measure success?

The **outcomes** for each theme described below are statements of what we want Mid and East Antrim to look like in 15 years' time. The **indicators** are the means by which we will measure our progress towards achieving our outcomes. Indicators need to be drawn from reliable data sources. For this reason there are some areas where the partnership feels that we will need to develop new indicators.

Programme for Government Outcomes	Our Outcomes	Indicators
<p>We have a safe community where we respect the law, and each other</p> <p>We are a shared society that respects diversity</p> <p>We give our children and young people the best start in life</p>	<p>Our people feel safe in their community and have a sense of belonging to the area</p>	<p>The percentage of people reporting that the fear of crime has a minimal impact on their quality of life</p>
		<p>The percentage of people who feel a sense of belonging to their neighbourhood</p>
		<p>The number of recorded crimes in each District Electoral Area (when available)</p>
	<p>Our Borough has vibrant, shared and cohesive communities</p>	<p>The number of hate crime incidents recorded</p>
		<p>The percentage of people who feel that their cultural identity is respect by society</p>
	<p>Our Borough provides a strong support network to those most at risk of creating crime</p>	<p>The number of antisocial behaviour incidents</p>
		<p>The number of young people involved with the Youth Justice Agency</p>

It's the 1970s, so it is!



Theme 5: Our Environment

*'Increasing awareness,
positive attitudes
and action for a clean
safe, protected,
vibrant environment'*

"Community Planning offers an unprecedented opportunity for all parts of the public sector to develop a genuine collaborative partnership to deliver more effective services that will enhance the quality of life for people in Mid and East Antrim. The workshops in which we have been shaping the plan have drawn on the local knowledge and detailed experience of people from all quarters of our community. Their optimism and enthusiasm has been invaluable, helping to identify the choices, challenges and opportunities in our Borough."



Jim Kitchen
Executive Director
of Sustainable NI
and Working
Group Chair

The community planning process has identified three strategic priorities for the theme of Our Environment, each of which has its own outcome:

Assets

'The natural environment of our Borough is protected and sustainably managed'

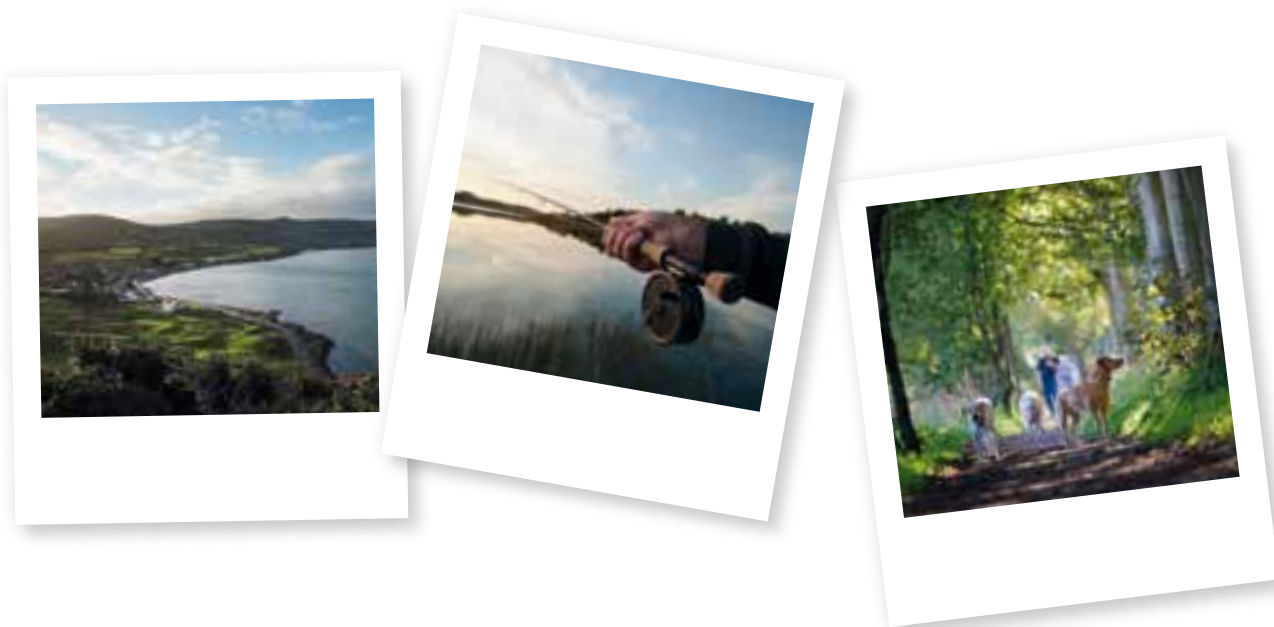
Attitudes

'People value our Borough's natural environment and behave responsibly towards it'

Access

'People enjoy easy access to our Borough's natural environment'

The Challenge



Mid and East Antrim is richly endowed with areas of real environmental significance. From the Garron Plateau along the incomparable Antrim coast to Larne Lough. Most of our natural environment is of good quality. However, some species are under threat, terrestrial and marine habitats are under threat and we continue to generate and dispose of an ever-growing volume of waste.

The natural world sustains us and provides us with essentials - the air we breathe, the food we eat and the water we drink. A well-managed environment can also reduce flood risk, process pollutants and provide enjoyment, inspiration and solace.

However, decisions about managing our environment often fail to take account of nature's ability to provide these ecosystem services.

Most of our land has more than one use. We grow food on it, build houses and roads, and much of our water filters through it. Intensive use of the land has resulted in degraded soils, loss of beneficial wetlands and disappearing biodiversity. Marine pollution and excessive exploitation has led to drastic reductions in Irish Sea fish populations.

In recent years, we have improved our recycling rates but we still send far too much waste to landfill sites. Our consumption and waste disposal represents a major challenge.

But the greatest global threat is climate change. We can expect more frequent heavy rainfall events, such as 2016's Storm Frank, which washed away the Gobbins access path. We must adapt to the inevitability of flooded fields and coastal land-slips. There is a challenge for us all to reduce our carbon footprint so as to limit climate change, as well as the need to adapt to its likely consequences.

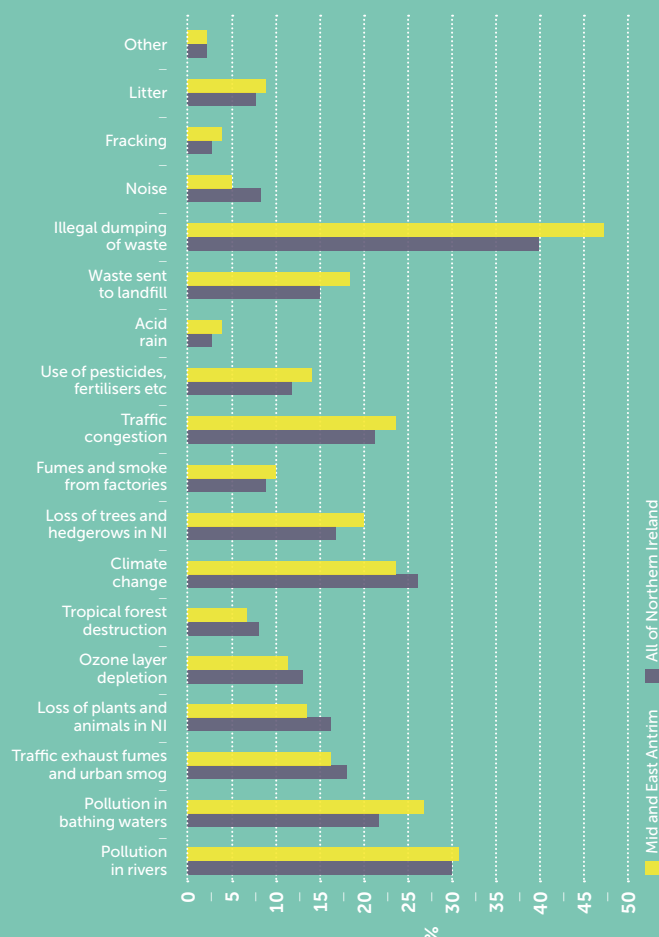
Above all, the natural environment can enhance our quality of life, nurture human health and wellbeing and underpin a growing visitor economy. By managing the environment properly, fostering community involvement and encouraging access, we will create a Borough we can be proud of.

The Evidence

Environmental concern (2013/14-2015/16 combined years)

In Mid and East Antrim between 2013/14 and 2015/16, 68% of residents expressed concern for the environment and this was similar to the 70% in NI as a whole.

Environmental Concerns (2012/13 – 2014/15)



Recycled Waste (2015/16)

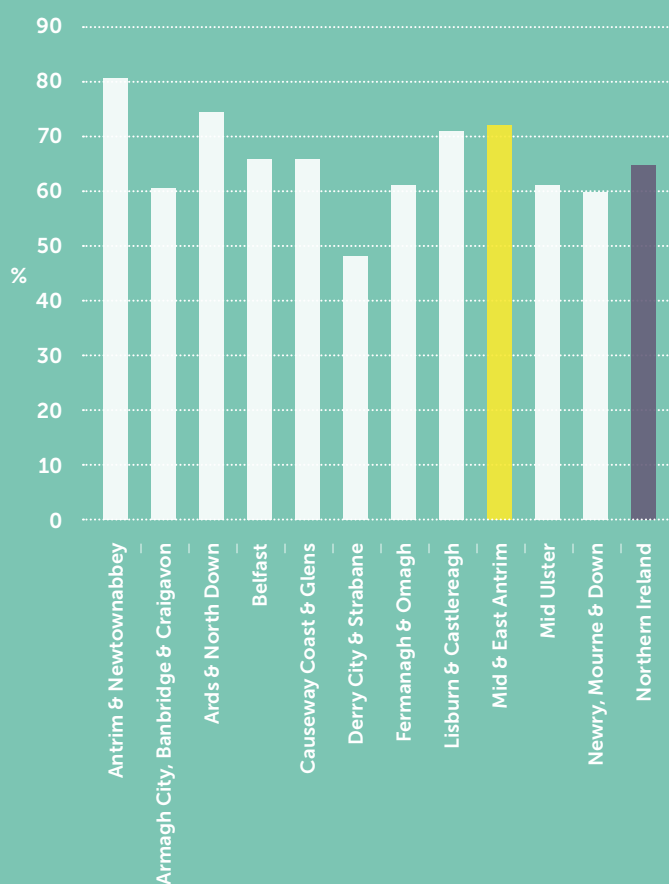
In 2015/16, 45% of local authority collected waste was prepared for reuse, dry recycling or composting (42% NI).



Accessing the natural environment (2014/15)

Almost three-quarters (73.5%) of residents in Mid and East Antrim access the natural environment at least once a week. This is the third highest across the 11 councils, behind only Antrim and Newtownabbey and Ards and North Down.

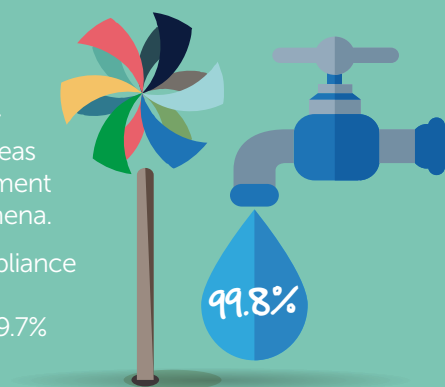
Percentage of respondents accessing the Natural Environment (at least once a week) 2014/15



Air and Water Quality (2015)

In 2015 the required annual air quality limits were met in all areas except the air quality management area of Linenhall Street, Ballymena.

In 2015 there was **99.8%** compliance with water quality standards at customer taps compared to 99.7% across Northern Ireland.



The Evidence



Awards (2015 and 2016)

In 2016, Mid and East Antrim was awarded Green Flag status for 7 of its parks and green spaces. These were:

- Bashfordsland Wood and Oakfield Glen
- Carnfunnock Country Park
- Diamond Jubilee Wood
- Dixon Park
- Ecos Nature Park
- Eden Allotment Garden
- The People's Park

The Borough was also awarded 3 Seaside Awards in 2015. These included:

- Carnlough
- Ballygally
- Browns Bay

What are we going to do?

This is a plan which takes us up to 2032 and the list of proposed actions below is not exhaustive but is focused on what we need to do initially. Throughout the task and finish working group process there were many actions and suggestions put forward. Each group was asked to prioritise these actions to highlight which should be addressed first. The actions listed below were deemed by participants to be the best way to begin addressing the priority – to complement existing work and services. Additional actions will be taken as we move towards our outcomes.

Attitudes

- Run a campaign to encourage environmentally responsible behaviour;
- develop and launch an Environmental Champions programme;
- deliver education programmes to raise awareness and promote the wider benefits of nature for health and wellbeing;
- start car clubs as an alternative to car ownership;

- expand community transport operations, and
- work together to ensure better provision for bicycles.

Access

- Create safe walking routes to schools and colleges;
- connect existing walking and cycling routes to encourage less dependency on cars;
- complete a green space mapping exercise and audit quality of same, and

- create a coastal access path.

Assets

- Promote 'Highway to Health' to publicise the facilities we have access to;
- transfer public land to communities;
- develop an environmentally sustainable tourism strategy, and
- manage development so as to avoid building in areas prone to flooding, coastal erosion and land instability.

What will success look like?

These statements describe what Mid and East Antrim will look like if we deliver on this plan.

- More environmental standards achieved in the Borough, including Green Flags and Blue Flags.
- All citizens of the Borough have access to good quality green space within walking distance.
- Our environment is protected and enhanced by partners working in association with local communities.

How will we measure success?

The **outcomes** for each theme described below are statements of what we want Mid and East Antrim to look like in 15 years' time. The **indicators** are the means by which we will measure our progress towards achieving our outcomes. Indicators need to be drawn from reliable data sources. For this reason there are some areas where the partnership feels that we will need to develop new indicators.

Programme for Government Outcomes	Our Outcomes	Indicators
<p>We live and work sustainably, protecting the environment</p> <p>We connect people and opportunities through our infrastructure</p> <p>We have created a place where people want to live and work, to visit and invest</p>	<p>The natural environment of our Borough is protected and sustainably managed</p>	<p>Percentage of residents using sustainable methods of travel</p> <p>Number of parks and green spaces awarded Green Flag status</p> <p>Number of beaches awarded Blue Flags</p>
	<p>People enjoy easy access to our Borough's natural environment</p>	<p>Percentage of residents accessing the natural environment at least once a week</p>
	<p>People value our Borough's natural environment and behave responsibly towards it</p>	<p>The level of concern for the Environment</p> <p>The percentage of local authority collected waste prepared for reuse, dry recycling or composting</p> <p>Litter levels</p>



Making Community Planning Work in Mid and East Antrim

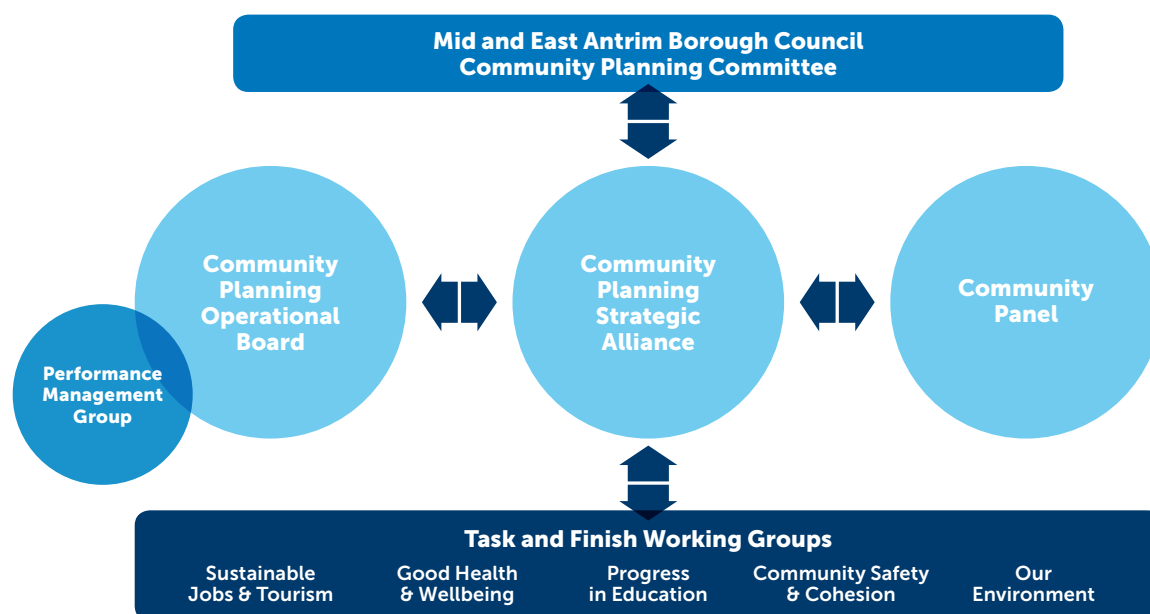
The Partnership Structure

The Community Planning Partnership Structure for Mid and East Antrim was designed with the involvement and engagement of the community planning partners, including the community and

voluntary sector and a wide range of other public sector organisations.

The membership of the Community Planning Partnership includes the designated statutory partners

set out in the legislation, community representatives and a range of other groups and organisations. This has established a broader partnership which will be integral to development and delivery of the Community Plan.



The Community Planning Partnership structure is designed to be strategic and delivery focused and to:

- Ensure effective oversight by elected representatives, through the role of Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Community Planning Committee and Councillor representation on other groups.

- Allow strategic collaboration to grow and allow decisions to be made through the Strategic Alliance.
- Be action and outcome focused through the Task and Finish Working Groups.
- Be an efficient and focused process through the work of the Community Planning Operational Board.

- Have robust performance management targets and monitoring and evaluation procedures through the Performance Management Group.
- Ensure an effective role for communities and citizens through the Community Panel. This is a dedicated group designed to ensure representation for the community which is woven intrinsically into the community planning process.

The Community Planning Strategic Alliance

Remit: To exercise strategic leadership by developing and communicating the vision, purpose, and intended outcomes of community planning for citizens and service users in Mid and East Antrim and ensuring effective delivery arrangements are implemented:

- To drive the aims of community planning in Mid and East Antrim and to exercise strategic leadership.
- To agree the strategic objectives for community planning within the Borough.
- To approve strategies and action plans proposed by the task and finish groups to meet the strategic objectives.
- To assume overall accountability for performance monitoring and reporting.
- To secure, approve and allocate departmental, agency or statutory partner resources, to enable delivery of the Community Plan.
- To champion partnership working and lead by example.
- To approve an annual Community Plan report.
- To approve the first Community Plan for Mid and East Antrim and review and amend the Plan in line with statutory requirements set out in the Local Government Act and statutory guidance.

Membership

- 6 Community Panel Members
- 8 Elected Members to include The Mayor, The Deputy Mayor and the Chair of each of the Council's Standing Committees
- Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Chief Executive
- Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS)
- Education Authority NI
- Galgorm Resort and Spa
- Health and Social Care Board
- Invest NI
- Libraries NI
- Michelin
- NI Water
- Northern Regional College
- Northern Health and Social Care Trust
- Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service
- Northern Ireland Housing Executive
- Northern Local Commissioning Group
- Police Service of Northern Ireland
- Public Health Agency
- Sport NI
- Sustainable NI
- The Consumer Council
- The Patient and Client Council
- Tourism NI
- Translink
- Transport NI, and
- Department of Justice



Cllr Audrey Wales, MBE
Chair of the
Strategic Alliance



Mrs Ivy Goddard, MBE
Vice-chair of the
Strategic Alliance

"Community planning gives the community a voice they did not have before. This structure has been welcomed by those involved and has created a strong foundation for the development of a robust and meaningful Community Plan for everyone in the Borough."

Norman Worthington,
Bann Maine West Community
Cluster, Chair of the
Community Panel.

The Community Panel

Remit: The Community Panel has a key and unique role in providing community representatives to input into other parts of the community planning partnership structure. Its remit is to:

- Devise a process by which Community Panel members are selected to play a role in the Community Planning Operational Board, the Community Planning Strategic Alliance and the Task and Finish Working Groups.
- Maintain that role of Community Panel representation on other groups.
- Share information on community planning with the community.
- Champion partnership working and lead by example.
- Ensure effective community processes are at the heart of community planning.
- Carry out an annual review of Community Panel progress and membership.
- Hear and discuss feedback from Community Panel members who sit on the Community

Planning Operational Board, the Community Planning Strategic Alliance and the Task and Finish Working Groups.



Norman Worthington,
Chair and **Wendy Kerr,** Vice
Chair of the Community Panel

Membership

- 4 representatives from the Ballymena Community Clusters
- 4 representatives from the Carrickfergus fora
- 4 representatives from the Larne fora
- 4 representatives from the North and South Antrim Community Networks
- 6 Councillors to be nominated onto the Community Panel (two from each predecessor council area)
- Chairperson of the Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Community Planning Committee
- Representatives from a range of Section 75 groups
- Ballymena East Rural Community Cluster
- Bann Maine West Community Cluster
- Carrickfergus Community Forum
- Larne Community Development Project
- North Antrim Community Network
- South Antrim Community Network

The Community Partners represented on the community planning partnership boards are:

- North Ballymena Community Cluster
- Ballymena South Community Cluster

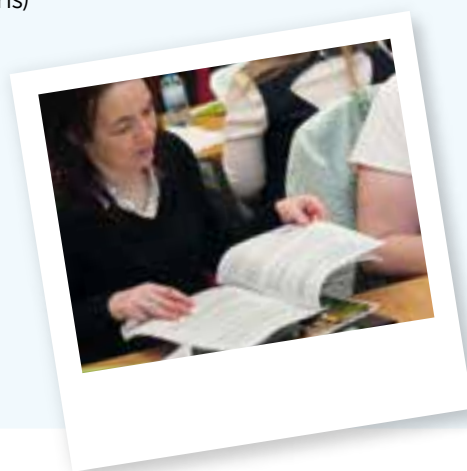
The Community Planning Operational Board

Remit: To support the achievement of the Mid and East Antrim Community Plan, including:

- To programme manage the community planning process
- To support Task and Finish Working Groups, the Community Panel and the Strategic Alliance.
- To work with, assist and direct the Task and Finish Groups and Community Panel, where appropriate.
- To oversee the work of the Performance Management Group (see below).
- To support the development and monitor the implementation of theme strategies and action plans.
- To solve problems and resolve issues raised by the Task and Finish Working Groups and the Community Panel.
- To scrutinise the use of resources and implement joint resourcing approaches.
- To champion partnership working and lead by example.
- To ensure effective community engagement is at the heart of community planning.

Membership

- Director of Organisational Development and Community Planning, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council
- Theme Chairs
- Head of Community Planning and Development
- Other council staff as deemed appropriate
- Other statutory and local partners as deemed appropriate
- Community Panel representatives (up to 6 persons)



Section 75 Partners

Where available, individuals or organisations who represent the interests of the Section 75 groups, as contained within the Northern Ireland Act, will be included as members of the community planning partnerships boards. Section 75 requires equal opportunity between the following:

- People of different racial groups.
- People of different age.
- People of different sexual orientation.
- People of different religious belief.
- People of different political opinion.
- People with a disability and people without.
- People of different marital status.
- People with dependants and people without.
- Men and women generally.

Current Section 75 partners include:

- Inter Ethnic Forum (Mid and East Antrim).
- Mid and East Antrim Agewell Partnership.
- The Rainbow Project.



The Community Planning Partnership would like to acknowledge the assistance of the **Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) in the Task and Finish Working Group process and the writing of this draft plan.**

So what happens next?

We want to give **everyone** in the Borough the chance to question and comment on the draft Community Plan.

This is an extremely important time, as it is your comments and views that will tell us if we are tackling the right areas. Also, it may provide us with some information which we haven't been aware of before.

The draft Community Plan is open for consultation from 10 January 2017 to 7 March 2017, a period of 8 weeks.

During that time, we are planning a series of events to showcase the draft plan, explain the process to date in developing it and take your views on the priorities and proposed actions.

There will be public events in the three main towns, Ballymena, Carrickfergus and Larne, as well as a number of small meetings and focus groups.

These events will be advertised by our partners on their social media and websites, we will also place notifications in the local press of the larger events.

These events will allow you to meet with our partner organisations, ask questions about the plan and find out what it means for you.

"As Chair of Council's Community Planning Committee I am delighted that we have reached the point of consulting the community on the draft community plan. I would strongly encourage individuals and groups within the Borough to take time to read the plan, attend a consultation session and provide us with your feedback."



Cllr Ruth Wilson
Chair of Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Community Planning Committee

Every household in the Borough will receive a booklet summarising the Community Plan and, hopefully, many of you will access the full plan which will be available in a range of formats.

Please do get involved. We would love to hear what you think.

Cllr Ruth Wilson,
Chair of the Community Planning Committee.

Get involved

There are a number of ways to tell us what you think, please give us your views before **7 March 2017**:

1. **Tear off and complete the questions attached to the summary of the community plan which will be posted to all homes in the Borough in February. Post it to the freepost address provided. Or if you prefer scan it or take a photo of it and email it to us at the email address below. Alternatively drop it in to any Council venue – we don't mind how we receive it.**
2. **Complete the more detailed consultation questionnaire online at: www.midandeantrim.gov.uk/communityplanning**
3. **Attend one of the consultation events taking place across the Borough. You will find more information about these in the local press and on social media over the next few weeks or at the web address above.**

If you have any questions, email us at: communityplanning@midandeantrim.gov.uk or call us on **028 2563 5036**.

**WE'D LOVE
TO HEAR
FROM YOU!**



Alderman Robin Cherry
Community Representative
Ward 9 West Antrim Borough Council



Making it happen...

Once we've received all the views and comments, we will consider them carefully and make changes to this draft plan. It will then be finalised by the Strategic Alliance and launched in April 2017.

From April onwards, our focus will be to turn the words into actions.

This will involve the creation of implementation groups – one for each theme.

These groups will be made up of people from a range of different backgrounds who will be responsible for working up action plans and timetables for the delivery of the Community Plan.

The work of the implementation groups will be supported by the partners through the Community Planning Operational Board and the Performance Management Group, who will help us see how far we have moved towards our outcomes.

We hope, from reading this draft Community Plan, you can see the opportunities and possibilities that community planning can bring to Mid and East Antrim.

It is an exciting and very real opportunity to create lasting change for the better, to make our Borough the best place by **putting people first.**



Putting People First.

Through this Community Plan, we want Mid and East Antrim to be 'a strong, vibrant, safe and inclusive community, where people work together to improve the quality of life for all'.



Led by

**Mid & East
Antrim**
Borough Council

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#ourMEA