

PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST

The Mid and East Antrim Community Plan
April 2017

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



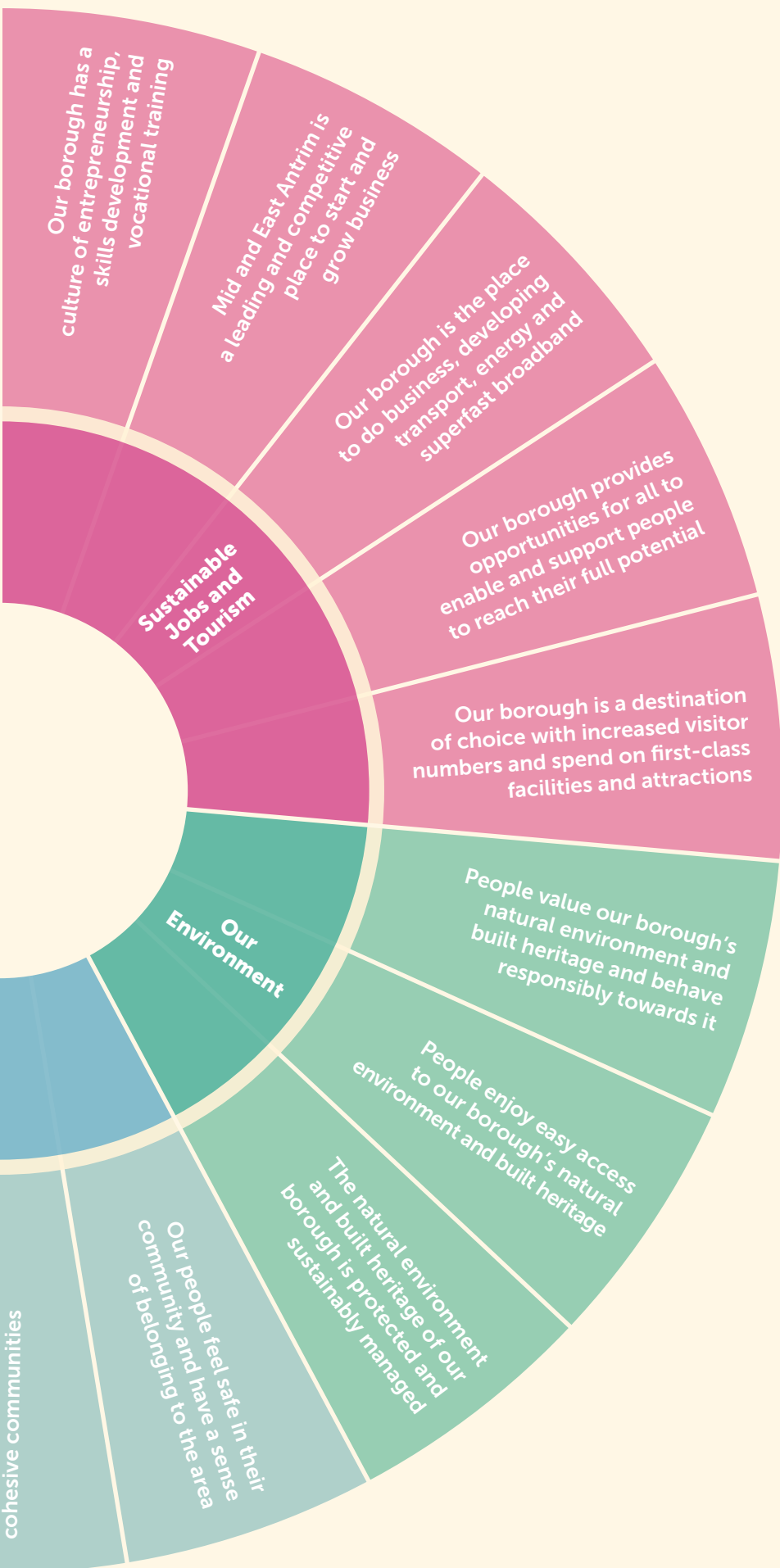
Led by

**Mid & East
Antrim**
Borough Council

The Mid and East Antrim Community Planning Themes and Outcomes

Our Vision:
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.

The Community Planning Partnership



Department for
Communities
www.communities-ni.gov.uk



Department of
Education
www.education-ni.gov.uk



Department of
Justice
www.justice-ni.gov.uk



ea Education
Authority

GALGORM
RESORT & SPA

Housing
Executive



Health and Social
Care Board



Northern Health
and Social Care Trust



Public Health
Agency

Invest
**Northern
Ireland**

libraries ni



**Mid & East
Antrim**
Borough Council



**Northern Ireland
Fire & Rescue Service**



NORTHERN
Regional College **nrc**

Patient and Client Council
Your voice in health and social care



**tourism
northern ireland**



Translink

transportni

We have a **Community Panel** which has a key and unique role in providing community representatives the opportunity to input into all parts of the community planning partnership structure. This group represents the community voice for Mid and East Antrim Borough.

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Putting People First

This is the first community plan for Mid and East Antrim, covering the period from 2017 to 2032. It is an ambitious plan which has been developed in partnership with a very wide range of people and organisations in the borough. The community planning partnership has brought together the public, private and voluntary sectors to work alongside the community to develop and implement this plan which aims to improve the wellbeing of our citizens and all aspects of life in Mid and East Antrim.

Within Mid and East Antrim, we have strong and proud communities, with a tradition of helping each other as well as supporting themselves. We believe that the role of our communities is central to the achievement of our shared vision. For this reason community representatives are involved in all parts of the partnership structures.

Our aim is that this community plan will change the way in which public services are planned and delivered in this borough. The plan focuses on working together to address the issues that organisations working individually, cannot address alone, we call this collaborative gain. This means that all of the partners will continue to deliver on their individual responsibilities but will come together within the community planning partnership to focus on the actions which can be delivered best through partnership working.

Our vision for 2032 is:

“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.”

All members of the community planning partnership are committed to achieving this vision. To do this we have identified five priority themes, of:

- 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.

Within the consultation process on the draft plan you, the public, have told us that you agree with the vision, the priority themes and the outcomes that we are trying to deliver in each of these themes. You also identified a number of other areas that you wanted to see included in the plan. This plan now includes amendments and additional actions.



Understanding Mid and East Antrim

Mid and East Antrim, with a population of 137,223 people, covers an area of just over 400 square miles. Extending from the River Bann in the west to the beautiful Antrim coast in the east, it includes part of the Antrim Coast and Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. As well as the main towns of Ballymena, Carrickfergus and Larne, the borough has a wide range of villages and other small settlements, many of which have been recognised locally and internationally for their achievements in Ulster in Bloom, Britain in Bloom and Communities in Bloom.

Mid and East Antrim has a strong industrial base with a history of manufacturing. Large employers within the area include local indigenous businesses like Wrightbus, alongside many international organisations including Ryobi, Schrader, Moy Park, Caterpillar Logistics and Terumo BCT. Other key employers in the area include AES Corporation at Ballylumford, P&O Ferries and Larne Harbour Ltd. There is a wide range of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) across the area and a strong agri-food sector.

The borough of Mid and East Antrim is rich in locations of historical interest and significance. From historic castles at Carrickfergus, Galgorm and Glenarm, the walled town of Carrickfergus and the Moravian settlement at Gracehill to the majestic Chaine Tower, Larne's 17th century Town Hall and many other significant churches, buildings

and other landmarks. The area also boasts strong American and Ulster-Scots connections, featuring the ancestral home of two United States presidents and the port of Larne, once a departure point for many Ulster-Scots emigrants, embarking on a new life in America.

However one of the features which sets Mid and East Antrim apart is the diversity of our natural environment. Blessed with a huge variety of natural resources, the area spans the wild and rugged beauty of the Antrim coastline, along with Slemish mountain and

many areas of parks and open countryside for everyone to enjoy. This landscape provides a wide range of opportunities for sport and leisure including freshwater and sea fishing, water sports at marinas in Carrickfergus, Glenarm and Portglenone, golf, mountain climbing, rambling and much, much more.

Mid and East Antrim also benefits from good infrastructure links to key gateways. This includes airports at Aldergrove and Belfast, the port of Larne and the A8 which acts as a strategic economic corridor for the borough and beyond.



Local Challenges

Jobs and Employment

Traditionally Mid and East Antrim has been one of Northern Ireland's manufacturing heartlands. However, the area has recently received major set-backs with a number of significant closures and threatened job losses. Research commissioned by the Mid and East Antrim Manufacturing Task Force has found that the closures will result in over 2,000 jobs being lost in the local economy. This represents a very significant loss to the area. The challenge is how we respond to this changing economy; to develop skills in local people so that they can take advantage of future economic opportunities. We will work hard to create a vibrant business culture, building on our sectoral strengths in advanced manufacturing and agri-food.

Tourism

Developing tourism within Mid and East Antrim is a key priority in the plan. The Causeway Coastal Route and the area's natural and built heritage offer good untapped potential. We will work to ensure our significant tourism assets are developed, packaged and well marketed to local, national and international visitors. The emerging clusters around The Gobbins, Causeway Coastal Route and Galgorm will significantly bolster efforts to create a compelling package for attracting visitors.

An Ageing Population

In 2015 18.1% of the population in Mid and East Antrim was aged 65 and over. By 2030 it is projected that this figure will have increased to 24.6%, the second highest level in Northern Ireland. Significant increases are projected in the population of those aged 85 and over during the next 15 years, which will have implications for the provision of many public services. Ageing also leads to different challenges in terms of a rise in dementia including Alzheimer's disease, increasing demand for residential and home care services and how we support older people to live well at home and within their communities. We will need to ensure that services and communities can respond to these demands.

Rural Communities

Mid and East Antrim spans a wide geographical area. Whilst 60% of the population live in urban areas primarily within the main towns

of Ballymena, Carrickfergus and Larne, 40% of the population live in smaller settlements and rural communities. Some of these rural communities are particularly isolated with regard to access to services such as welfare, education, employment, transport and health services. We will ensure the needs of these citizens are considered within the community plan.

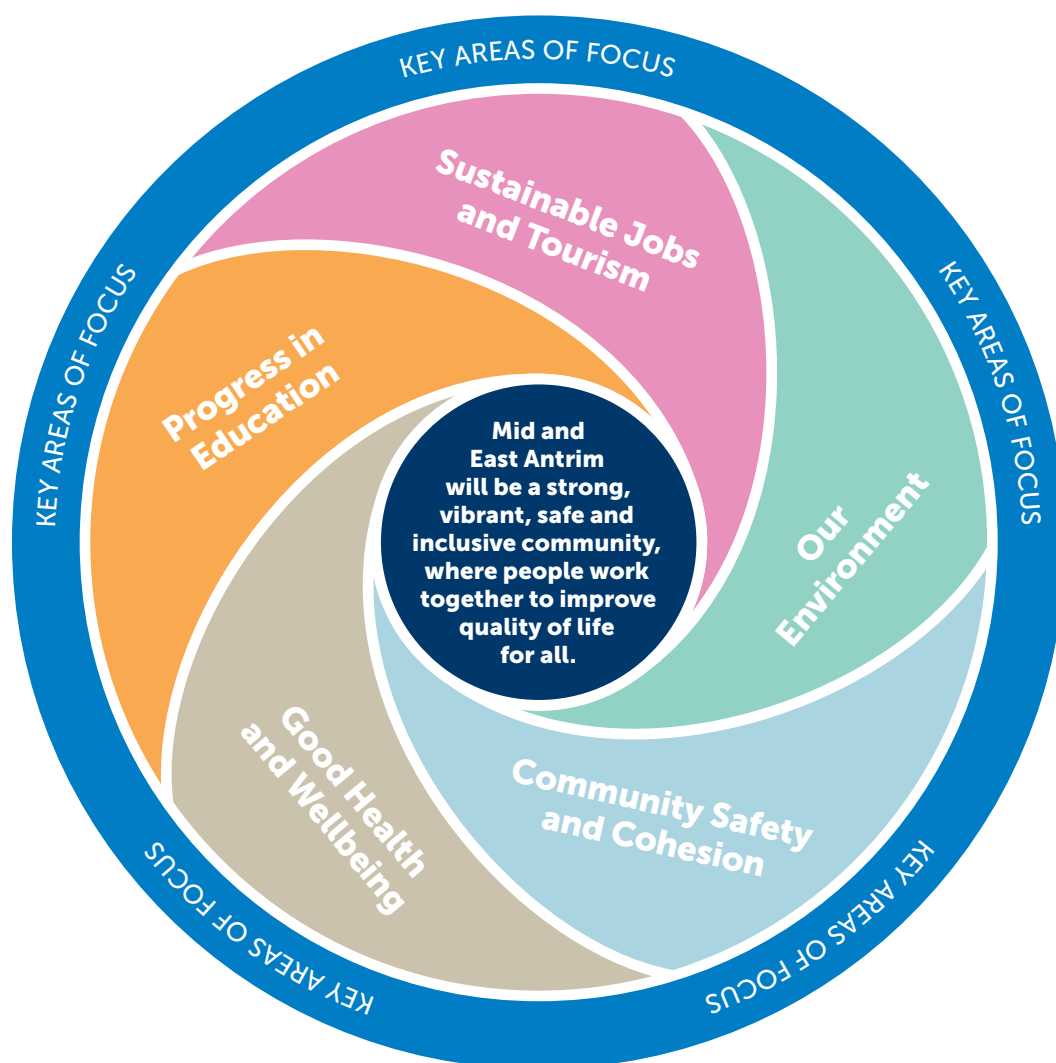
Poverty and Deprivation

Many parts of the borough are prosperous and Mid and East Antrim is a vibrant area in which to live, work and visit. However inequalities continue to exist in some parts and these inequalities impact on health, education and crime. The community plan commits to understanding and seeking to address the underlying causes. Addressing inequalities is a cross cutting theme within the plan and particular attention will be paid to those parts of our borough which experience these challenges.



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.

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 theme of Sustainable Jobs and Tourism, 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'

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'

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'

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 including the support for social enterprise and the introduction of 'Buy Social' clauses.
- A review of existing workspace capacity including the opportunity to develop additional business space throughout the borough.
- 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.
- 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.

Good Health and Wellbeing

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



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'

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.
- Work in conjunction with partners to seek to address the underlying causes of suicide by developing or promoting a programme(s) to improve emotional wellbeing and resilience such as "Take 5 steps to wellbeing".
- Consider the potential to augment actions within the community plan and add new actions which ensure the needs of citizens with disabilities are addressed.
- 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.
- Support and encourage the shared use of facilities within the public sector estate for example schools and buildings under the control of education, health, local and central government.

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 and adult education).
- Integrated services that work for people and deliver innovative early intervention programmes.

Progress in Education

*'Developing
educational
achievement
and aspirations'*



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'

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.
- Engage with NRC and other providers to support access and extend provision of further education and vocational training across the borough.
- 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.
- 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.

Under the banner of 'Progress in Education' strategic infrastructure projects will include:

- Consideration of how schools' infrastructure developments 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.

Community Safety and Cohesion

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



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 has structured arrangements to support and deter those most at risk of becoming involved in 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'

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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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

- To explore projects or interventions in conjunction

with regional departments and agencies to help to address concerns regarding paramilitary activity within the borough.

- 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.
- Build civic pride through the celebration of success within communities.
- Clearly define the intergenerational aspects of actions within future action plan.

Under the banner of 'Community Safety and Cohesion' there are also strategic infrastructure projects that are either ongoing, or are being considered.

These include:

- Affordable, and social housing developments.
- Public shared space developments.
- Community hub projects.
- Re-imaging 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 have the opportunity to be 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.

Our Environment

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



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 and built heritage of our borough is protected and sustainably managed'

Attitudes

'People value our borough's natural environment and built heritage and behave responsibly towards it'

Access

'People enjoy easy access to our borough's natural environment and built heritage'

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.
- Explore potential for development of additional cycle infrastructure.

Access

- Create safe walking routes to schools and colleges.
- Connect existing walking and cycling routes to encourage less dependency on cars.
- Extend the scope of the planned audit of green space across the borough to include brownfield sites in conjunction with the local development plan.
- Explore options for 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.
- 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.

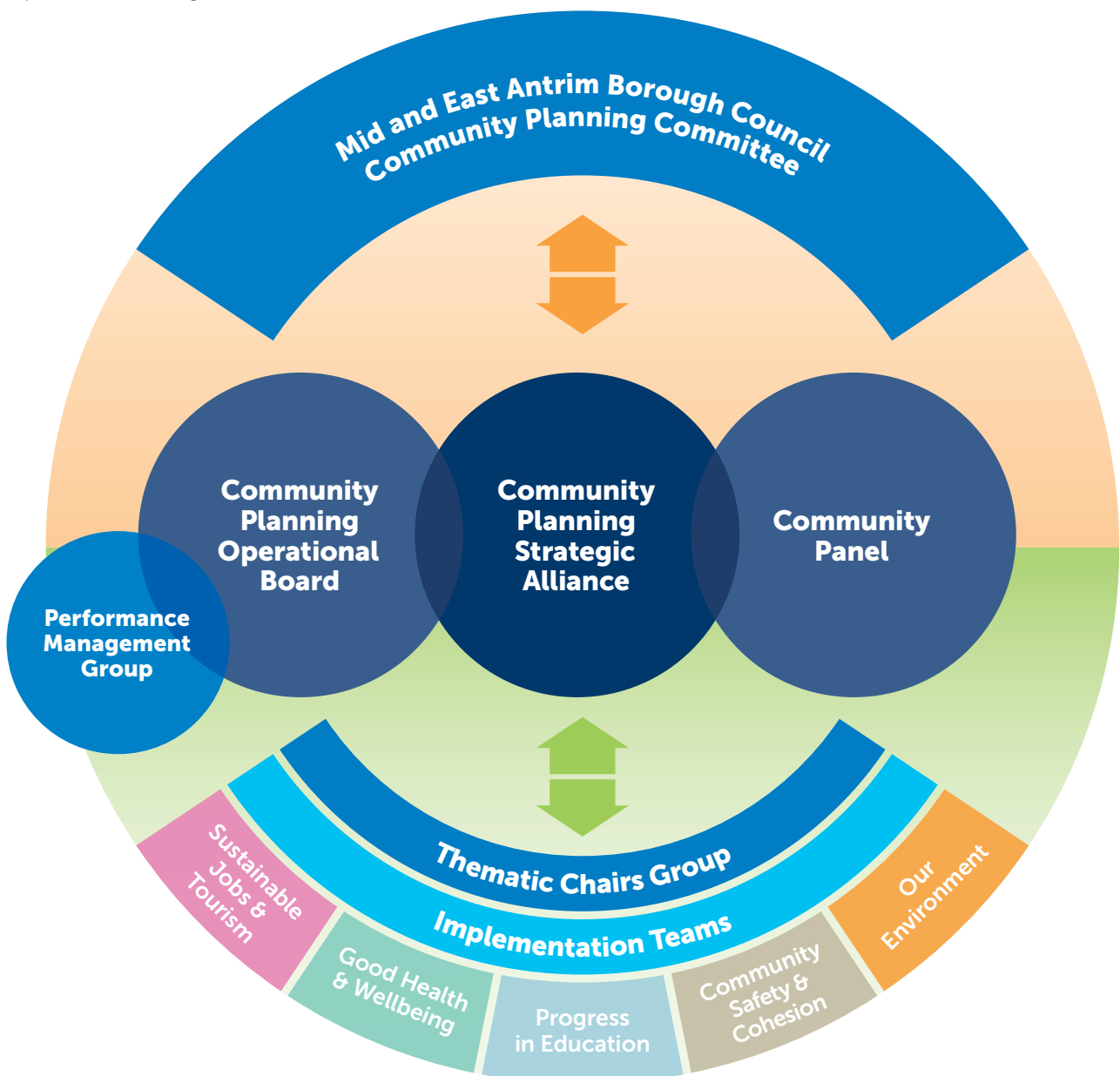
Making Community Planning Work in Mid and East Antrim

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 the ongoing development and delivery of the community 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 (The Community Panel).

As well as Council and community there are **12 partners** who must by law be involved in community planning, they 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 currently 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
- Department of Justice
- Department of Education
- Department for Communities
- Consumer Council

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

Section 75 Partners

Where available, individuals and organisations who represent the interests of the Section 75 groups, as contained within the Northern Ireland Act, will be included as members across the Community Planning Partnership structure.

Please Note

This plan has been screened in relation to the "Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulation (NI) 2004". It has been determined that a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required as the plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects. Other strategies and plans that may go on to support the delivery of the community plan will be subject to any required environmental assessment.

Our Beautiful Borough...





Visitor Information Centres

- 1 Ballymena
- 2 Carrickfergus
- 3 Larne

Aires de Service

- 1 Portglenone Marina
- 2 Carrickfergus Harbour Carpark
- 3 Bentra Golf Course
- 4 Houston's Mill

History & Heritage

- 1 St Nicholas' Church
- 2 Templecorran Church
- 3 Mid Antrim Museum
- 4 Carrickfergus Museum and Civic Centre
- 5 Larne Museum
- 6 Gracehill Village & Museum
- 7 Inver Museum
- 8 Olderfleet Castle
- 9 Carrickfergus Castle
- 10 Glenarm Castle
- 11 Arthur Cottage
- 12 Andrew Jackson Cottage and US Rangers Centre
- 13 Flame Gasworks
- 14 Harryville Motte & Bailey
- 15 Knockagh Monument
- 16 The Gobbins

Natural Assets

- 1 Slemish
- 2 Portglenone Forest
- 3 Glenarm Forest
- 4 Gleno Waterfall
- 5 Woodburn Forest
- 6 Black Arch

Parks

- 1 Carnfunnock Country Park
- 2 Marine Gardens, Carrickfergus
- 3 Peoples Park, Ballymena
- 4 Diamond Jubilee Wood
- 5 Ecos Centre Nature park
- 6 Dixon Park, Larne

Game of Thrones®

- 1 Game of Thrones®, Cairncastle
- 2 Game of Thrones®, Shillanavogy
- 3 The Steensons Economusee, Glenarm

Beaches & Marinas

- 1 Portmuck Beach
- 2 Browns Bay Beach
- 3 Drains Bay Beach
- 4 Ballygally Beach
- 5 Carnlough Beach
- 6 Carrickfergus Marina
- 7 Carnlough Harbour
- 8 Glenarm Marina
- 9 Portglenone Marina

Causeway Coastal Route

Additional Scenic Routes



Putting People First

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Our Place

Mid and East Antrim Borough extends to 104,511 hectares (1,045 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	1,045 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



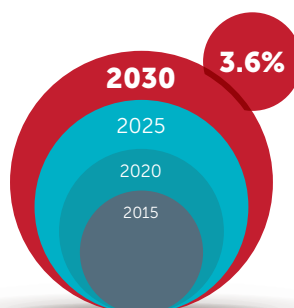
The population has increased **8%** since 2001, against growth of **9.9%** for Northern Ireland.



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

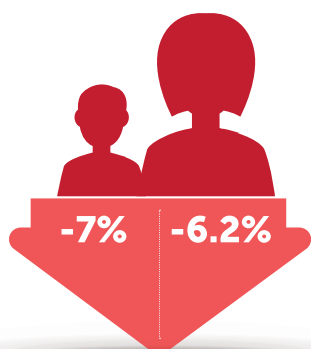


The **birth rate** (11.6 per 1,000 population) is significantly lower than the respective Northern Ireland figure (13.3).

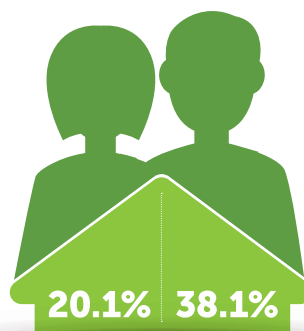


The population of Mid and East Antrim is predicted to **grow by 3.6% by 2030**. The rate of growth is half that projected for Northern Ireland (7%). Therefore our population will continue to grow over the next 15 years, but at a much slower rate than Northern Ireland and that previously experienced in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

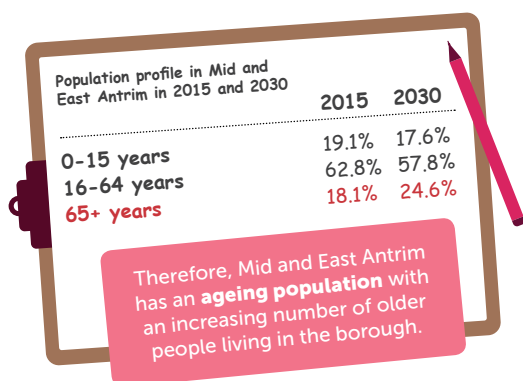
Age



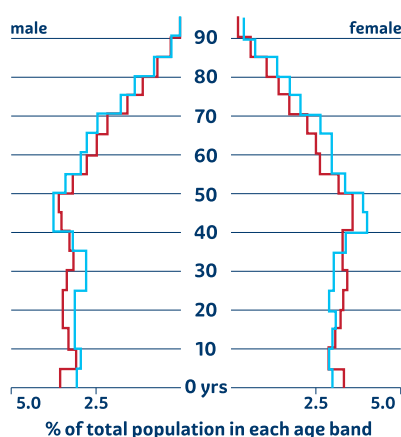
The age profile of our citizens - there has been a **slight decline** since 2001 in the 0-15 and 16-39 age groups (-7% and -6.2%).



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.

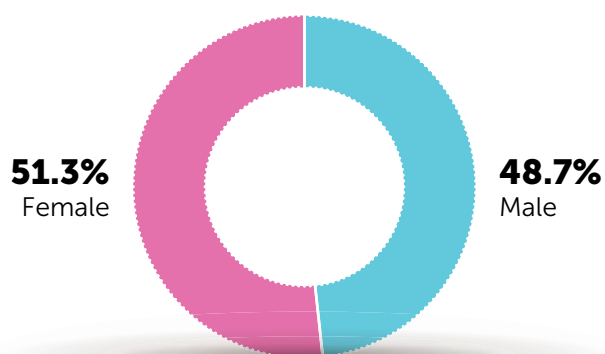


It is predicted that the 65+ age group will **continue to grow by 41%** by 2030.



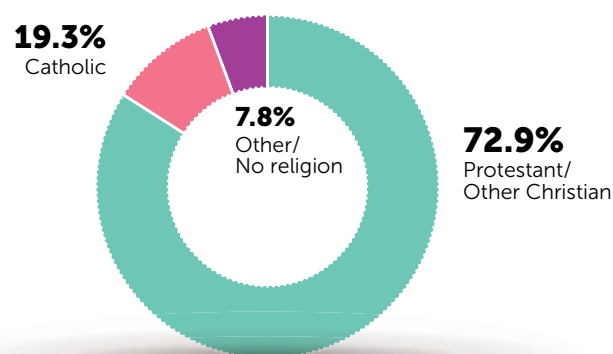
The present **median age of 40 is higher than the Northern Ireland average** and that trend will continue in the medium term with an older age profile for residents than Northern Ireland as a whole.

Gender



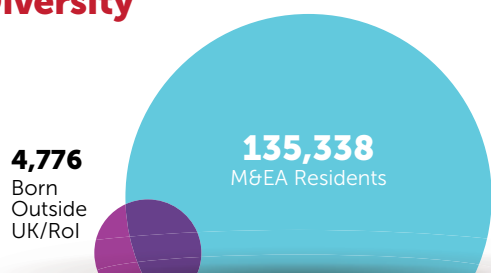
In 2011, the gender ratio was **48.7% Male, 51.3% Female**.

Community Background

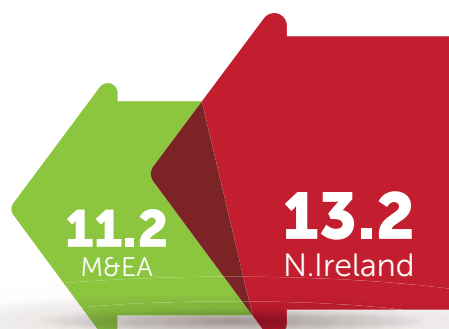


In 2011 the religious breakdown was **19.3% Catholic, 72.9% Protestant/Other Christian and 7.8% Other/No religion**.

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.

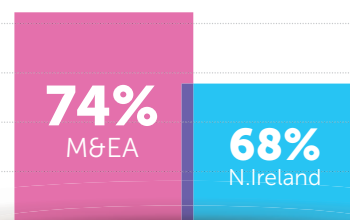
Economic Activity



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).



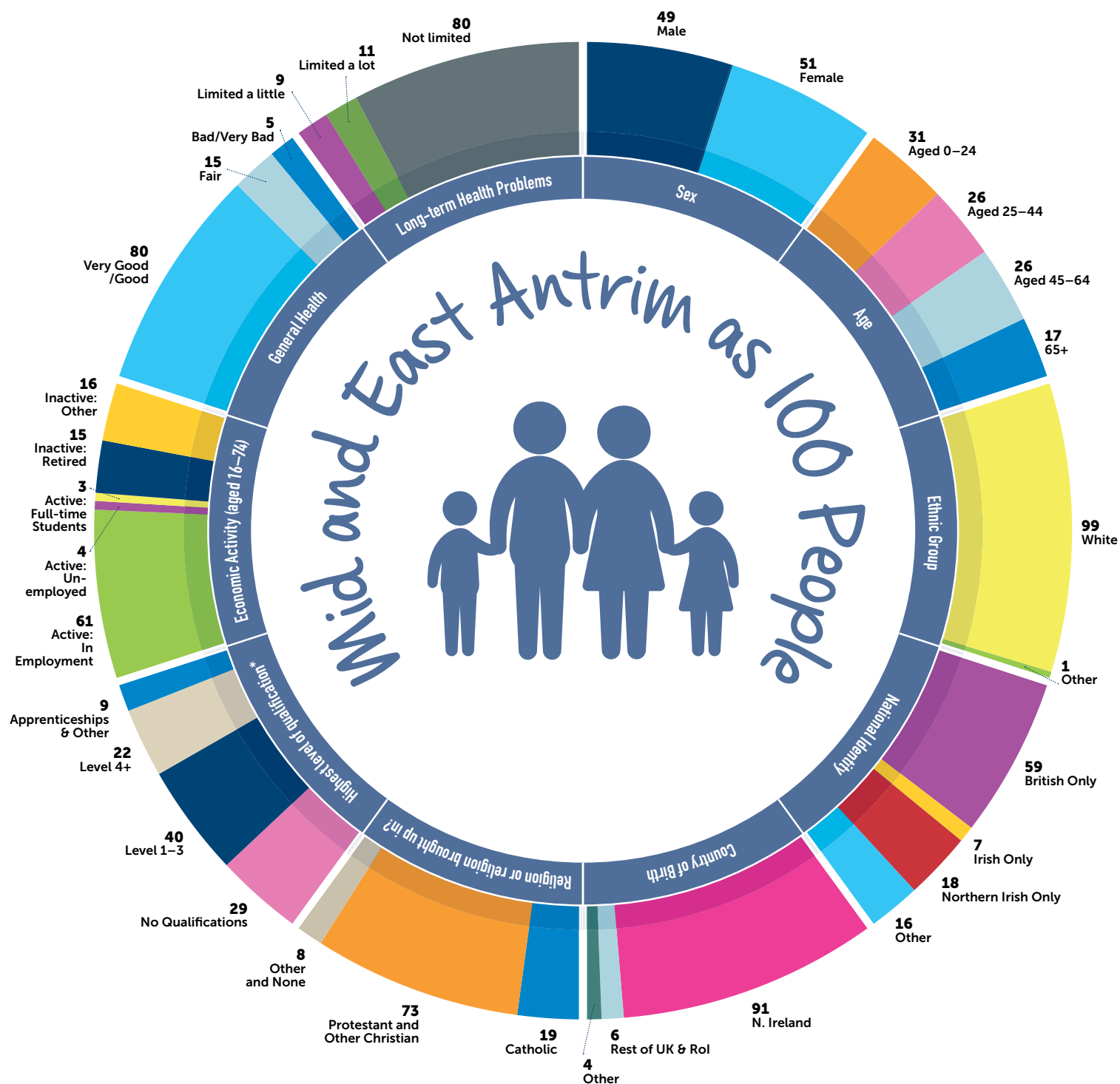
23% were **economically inactive** (not looking for work or not available for work. This includes those who are looking after a home, long-term sick or disabled, students and retired).



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.

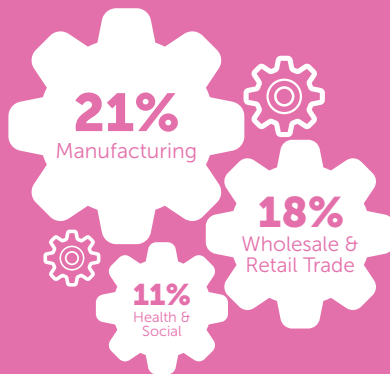


*Aged 16 and over

Sustainable Jobs and Tourism: 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%).

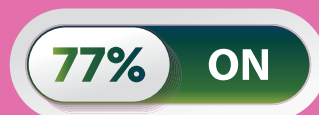
90% of businesses employ less than 10 people.

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 **382,224 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).

How will we measure success?

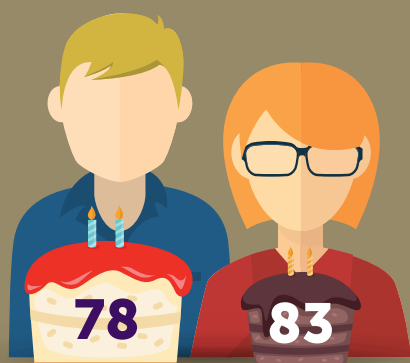
The **outcomes** for each theme described below are statements of what we want Mid and East Antrim to look like in 15 years' time. The **indicators** are the means by which we will measure our progress towards achieving our outcomes. Indicators need to be drawn from reliable data sources. For this reason 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> <p>The number of visitors to attractions</p> <p>Reason for visit</p>

Good Health and Wellbeing: 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).



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)

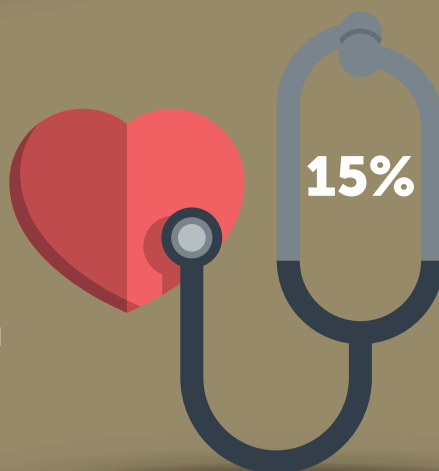
Residents in Mid and East Antrim reported having the highest life satisfaction (8.39 out of 10) and worthwhile levels (8.63) and are the second happiest (8.22) across all local authorities in the UK. Mid and East Antrim residents were ranked 8th least anxious in the UK (2.18).

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).

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.



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.

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.



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> <p>The standardised prescription rate for mood and anxiety medication</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 percentage of the over 75 population living in their own home</p>
	Our borough has health equality for all	<p>Gap in life expectancy between the most deprived areas in the borough and the borough as a whole</p> <p>Unfitness levels of housing accommodation</p>

Progress in Education: Evidence

Qualifications of school leavers (2014/15)

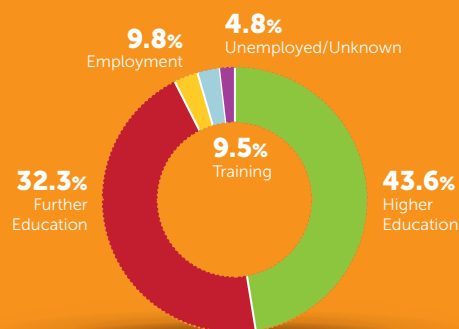
In 2014/15, 68% of School Leavers achieved at least 5 GCSEs grade A*-C (incl. English and Maths) and 57% achieved at least 2 A-levels (NI 66% and 58%, respectively).



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)

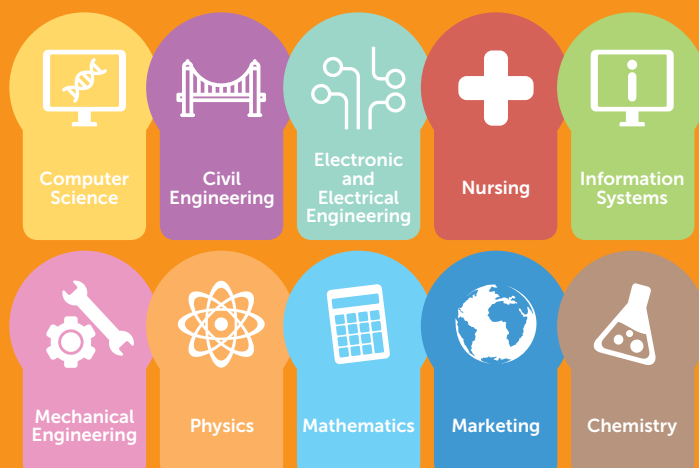
There was a 27% increase in newcomer pupils from 525 in 2013/14 to 665 in 2015/16.



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:



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>Our people and wider communities place value on life-long learning</p> <p>We have a skilled workforce able to adapt to the changing economy</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>The percentage of care leavers who, aged 19, are in education, training and employment</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>Indicator development required</p>

***Level 1:** 1-4 O Levels/CSE/GCSEs (any grades), Entry Level, Foundation Diploma, NVQ level 1, Foundation GNVQ, Basic/ Essential Skills.

Level 2: 5+ O Level (Passes)/CSEs (Grade 1)/GCSEs (Grades A*-C), School Certificate, 1 A Level/2-3 AS Levels/VCEs, Intermediate/Higher Diploma, Intermediate Diploma, NVQ level 2, Intermediate GNVQ, City and Guilds Craft, BTEC First/ General Diploma, RSA Diploma.

Level 3: 2+ A Levels/VCEs, 4+ AS Levels, Higher School Certificate, Progression/Advanced Diploma, NVQ Level 3; Advanced GNVQ, City and Guilds Advanced Craft, ONC, OND, BTEC National, RSA Advanced Diploma.

Level 4+: Degree (for example BA, BSc), Higher Degree (for example MA, PhD, PGCE), NVQ Level 4-5, HNC, HND, RSA Higher Diploma, BTEC Higher level, Foundation degree, Professional qualifications (for example teaching, nursing, accountancy).

Community Safety and Cohesion: 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.



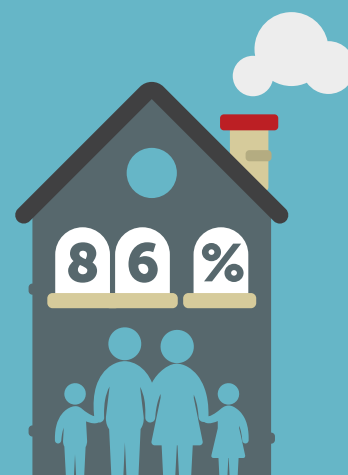
Hate Crime (2014/15)

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.



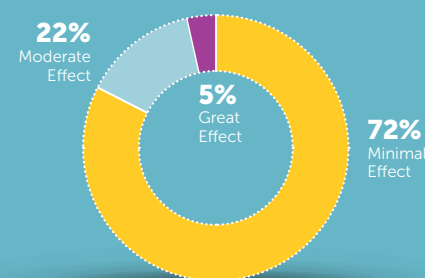
Sense of Belonging (2013-2015 combined years)

86% 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%.

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.

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.

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'.

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.

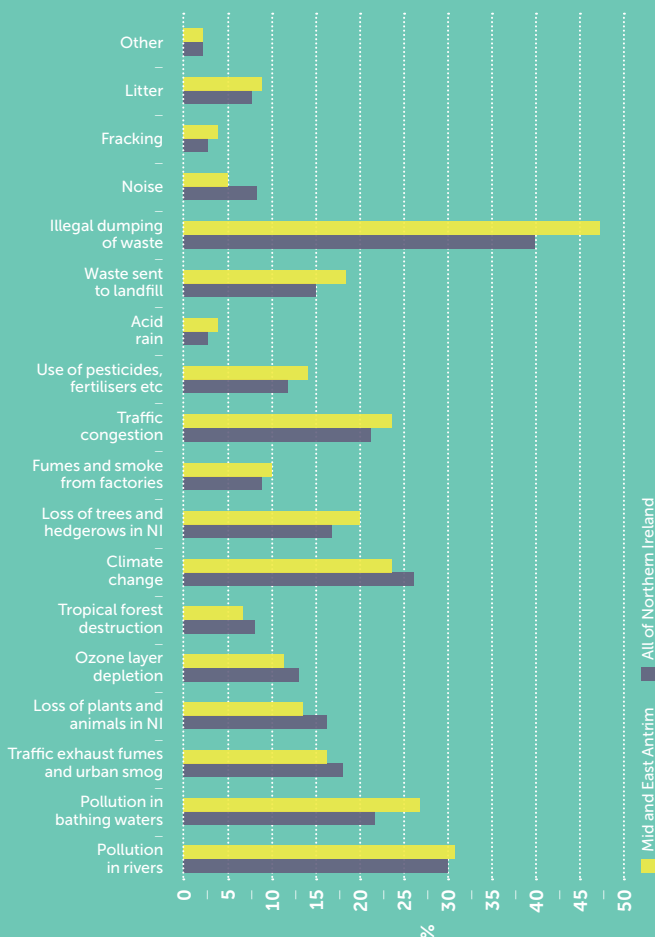
Programme for Government Outcomes	Our Outcomes	Indicators
<p>We have a safe community where we respect the law, and each other</p> <p>We are a shared society that respects diversity</p> <p>We give our children and young people the best start in life</p>	<p>Our people feel safe in their community and 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>The number of reported incidents with a domestic abuse motivation</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 respected by society</p> <p>The percentage of people carrying out unpaid voluntary work</p>
	<p>Our borough has structured arrangements to support and deter those most at risk of becoming involved in crime</p>	<p>The number of antisocial behaviour incidents</p> <p>The number of young people involved with the Youth Justice Agency</p>

Our Environment: Evidence

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

In Mid and East Antrim between 2013/14 and 2015/16, 71% 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.

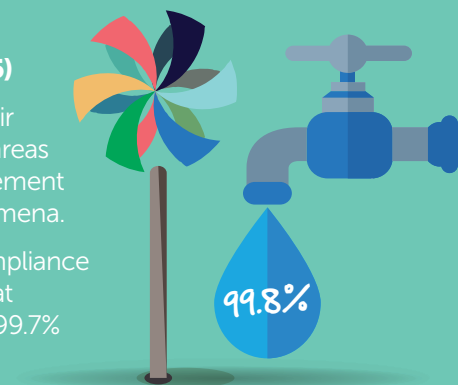
Percentage of respondents accessing the Natural Environment (at least once a week) 2014/15



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.





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

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 and built heritage of our borough is protected and sustainably managed</p>	<p>Percentage of all journeys which are made by walking/cycling/public transport</p> <p>Number of parks and green spaces awarded Green Flag status</p> <p>Number of beaches awarded Blue Flags</p> <p>Number of Local Nature Reserves</p> <p>The energy efficiency of homes</p>
	<p>People enjoy easy access to our borough's natural environment and built heritage</p>	<p>Percentage of residents accessing the natural environment at least once a week</p>
	<p>People value our borough's natural environment and built heritage 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>

Our Vision

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.



Led by

**Mid & East
Antrim**
Borough Council

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