



Carrickfergus Regeneration Investment Plan (CRIP) and Town Centre Strategy

How do YOU think Carrickfergus should be improved?

Please tell us your views about these regeneration projects.

What are the Carrickfergus Regeneration Investment Plan (CRIP) and the Town Centre Strategy?

CRIP is about the physical and economic regeneration of Carrickfergus Town Centre, its Conservation Area, heritage assets and its waterfront.

The Town Centre Strategy will help deliver positive changes in Carrickfergus.

In 2018, physical projects for the town were identified.

Study the boards and give us your views and suggestions about each project ... or the ones of interest to you.

Please challenge the draft projects and add value to them.

Ask us questions and tells us what you think.

Project 1: Developing Carrickfergus Castle and Town Walls as a must see visitor attraction

Project Description

This project will involve the necessary physical works to secure and maintain the fabric of the Castle and Walls. Visitor access to both the Castle and Walls will be improved by including a tourist trail, improved interpretation and signage. A new high quality visitor centre/visitor attraction in Harbour Square will be created and existing facilities from the Castle relocated to it. There will be investment in new interpretative facilities and an integrated lighting scheme for both the Castle and Walls.



Project 2: Welcome to Carrickfergus

Project Vision

To create a memorable arrival experience into Carrickfergus. Defined entrances into the town centre will create attractive gateways contributing to positive first impressions and improved perceptions.



Potential Town Centre Arrival

Project Description

This project will focus on the A2 road from the outskirts of Carrickfergus around Slowfield Drive to the roundabout at Irish Gate, and also travelling in a southward direction from Whitehead along the A2 Coast Road. The 1 mile (1.6km) stretch from Belfast plays a particularly important role in shaping first impressions of Carrickfergus. While some attractive views and buildings exist along the route, overall impressions of the town are compromised by unattractive road infrastructure, dereliction and low quality suburban 'edge of town' development.

The Potential Benefits for Carrick

- Improved physical environment
- New image and improved perceptions
- Reduced impact of the Marine Highway
- Improved priority given to pedestrians and cyclists
- Improved entrances will show Carrickfergus is a thriving destination
- Memorable arrival contributing to flourishing tourism economy, attracting more visitors, staying longer and spending more

Project 3: Castle Square

Project Vision

To create a high quality civic space at the heart of Carrickfergus, providing an appropriate setting for the historic Castle with improved connectivity to the Town Centre. Castle Square will be a functional and flexible space for a variety of events and uses, and an attractive and distinctive space which can be enjoyed by residents, workers and visitors alike.

Project Description

A greatly improved castle setting is needed that will reconnect the Castle with the Town. This will result in increased pedestrian activity and accessibility of the Town Centre. Creating a heart for Carrickfergus with a shared space for the town and visitors, one that will be used in the evening as well as the daytime, will contribute to a new 'open' narrative for the town.



Plan of potential Castle Square

The Potential Benefits for Carrick

- Improved physical environment
- New image and improved perceptions
- Improved movement and accessibility in the Town Centre
- Improved connections and settings for Carrickfergus Castle
- Increased tourist offer through high quality attractive and accessible space in the Town Centre and events encouraging visitors to stay longer
- A versatile space adding important activity and vitality to the Town Centre
- Improved pedestrian safety and crossings
- Reduced impact of the Marine Highway
- Creation of a new destination and public space
- Creation of a new space in front of the Castle
- Contribute to a lively evening town centre with shopping and entertainment

Project 4: Harbour Square and Centre

Project Vision

This will be a truly transformational project to greatly enhance both the visitor experience and physical setting of Carrickfergus Castle and Harbour and elevate the standing of this heritage site to one which the Belfast City Region and Northern Ireland, can be proud of. Cultural investment in high quality contemporary architecture will complement the town's heritage assets and underpin its position as a proposition of scale in the international tourism marketplace.



Potential Harbour Square and Centre

Project Description

Carrickfergus Castle currently welcomes around 72,000 visitors a year and should succeed in attracting higher numbers. The increased revenue resulting from this would greatly contribute to sustaining the upkeep of this nationally important landmark while also bringing much needed economic benefits to the wider town and area. The new visitor centre would provide learning, event and function space.

The Potential Benefits for Carrick

- Creation of new high quality visitor attraction and experience
- The proposed visitor attraction will attract other commercial activity through its management and day-to-day running
- Opportunities to volunteer and learn new skills connected to tourism and hospitality
- The volunteer programme will provide learning and skills development opportunities for local and international students as well as members of the local community
- New businesses can be created because of the increased number of visitors and tourists
- Better pedestrian access to Harbour Square and the surroundings from the Town Centre
- Generation of employment, apprenticeship and skills opportunities
- Educational programmes which link directly to school syllabuses

Project 5: Transport Hub and Heritage Station

Project Vision

Realizing the potential of an upgraded Transport Hub for Carrickfergus through the maximization of existing assets and introduction of new complementary infrastructure. The catering for all transport modes in this town centre location would follow a sustainable transport hierarchy, placing the needs of pedestrians and cyclists first. A unique opportunity exists for the hub to contribute to the town's visitor offer, involving restoration of the heritage station.



Potential Transport Hub Concept

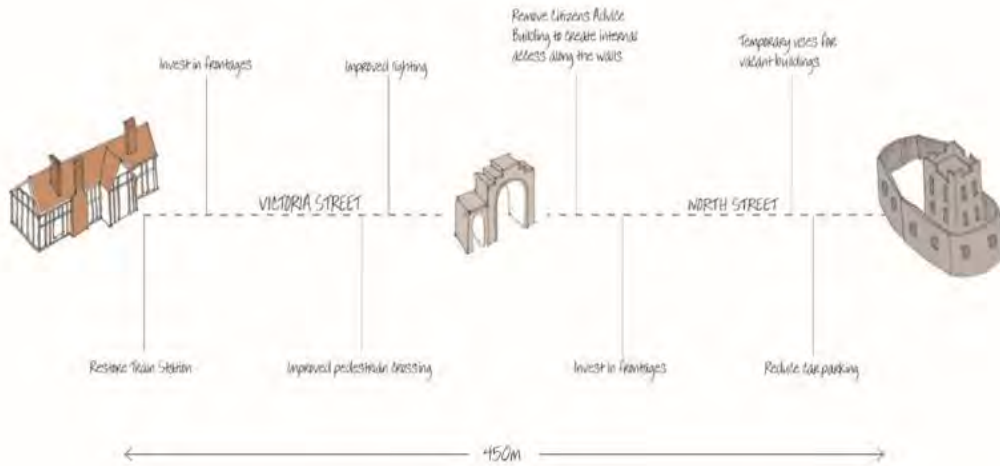
Project Description

This project will involve the development of the Carrickfergus Railway Station and surrounding areas into a Transport Hub. The project will ensure that the town's public transport facilities are second to none, so increasing the numbers of passengers and its attractiveness for visitors coming to Carrickfergus.

The Potential Benefits for Carrick

- Increased use of public transport, helping make services more frequent and sustainable
- Less use of private vehicles, reducing congestion and pollution in Carrickfergus and Belfast
- Improved facilities to attract investment and new residents to the town
- Development as a tourism attraction based on railway heritage and linked with nearby Whitehead

Project 6: North Street Walk



North Street Walk

Project Vision

A high quality public pedestrian corridor following a medieval roadway, connecting the station and Castle, while revitalising town centre economic activity

Project Description

The 450m linear route from Victoria Street to North Street links the train station with the Castle and is the first impression for many visitors arriving by rail into Carrickfergus. Outside the walls the route along Victoria Street travels through a residential area with poor quality common area creating an unfriendly and unwelcoming arrival into Carrickfergus. Within the walls, North Street is dominated by vacant units, cluttered signage and on-street parking. There is a need to strengthen the connection between the Castle and the railway station. North Street Walk will be much more than making the street look attractive and welcoming, it is about linking and bringing together the assets of Carrickfergus to propel the town forward as a visitor destination.

The Potential Benefits for Carrick

- Improved physical environment
- Improved town centre connections between the Castle and the railway station
- New image and improved perceptions
- Improved pedestrian safety and crossing on the route to the railway station
- New businesses can occupy the vacant units along North Street
- New commercial activity can take place

Project 7: Town Hall Masterplan

Project Vision

A re-imagined civic centre and town hall complex at Joymount will be brought back into greater use as a centre for the arts and culture and as a focal point for the historic town walls.



Potential Masterplan Layout

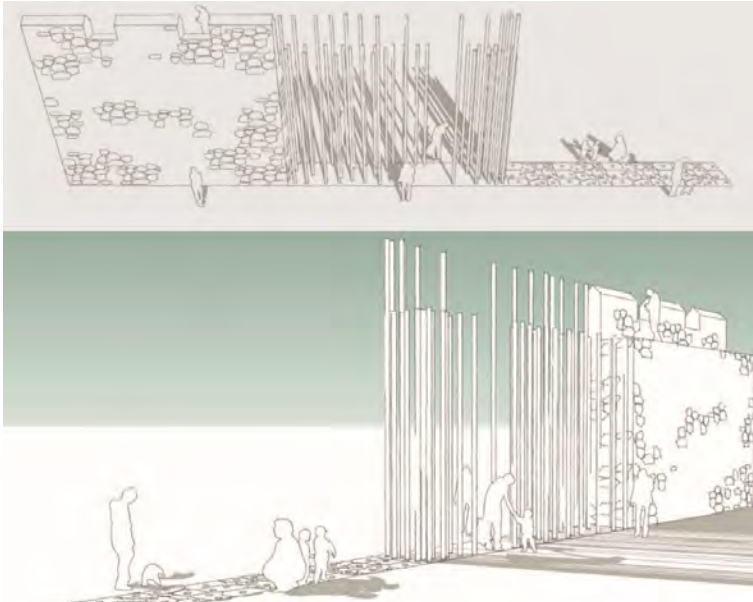
Project Description

Comprehensive redevelopment of the Town Hall and civic centre area will create an opportunity to provide enhanced access to the walls including the potential of allowing visitors to access the top. Offering a unique visitor experience, high-level access to the walls will facilitate day to day visitation as well as provide opportunities for events. Redesign of the gardens to the external perimeter of the walls, removing car parking spaces will further enhance the setting of the walls. A new outdoor amphitheatre space at the North-East bastion with good physical and visual connections through to the surrounding streets will offer a flexible events area, offering increased attractions and adding to a lively new town centre area.

The Potential Benefits for Carrick

- Creation of high quality visitor attractions and experiences
- Enhanced town centre destination
- Increased tourist offer through high quality attractive and accessible space in the Town Centre and events encouraging visitors to stay longer
- New businesses can be created because of the increased number of visitors and tourists
- Contribute to a lively evening town centre with shopping and entertainment
- Improved connections and access to the walls from the town centre
- Improved perceptions
- New businesses will generate employment opportunities and a demand for training and skills development in hospitality, retail and leisure sectors
- Improve the Council facilities people of Carrick and visitors use e.g. the Town Hall for events

Project 8: Town Walls West



Potential Town Wall Installation

Project Vision

Putting the historic town walls back on the map. A bold and exciting approach to the interpretation and presentation of missing sections of Carrickfergus Town Wall.

Project Description

Dating from the 16th Century, the Carrickfergus Town Walls are a nationally important heritage monument and a key asset of the town. Work is required to ensure that the walls are fully conserved, where appropriate restored and interpreted effectively for the public. This project focusses on the western sections of town walls, which are less intact than those in the east. Near complete stretches, such as those along the Lancasterian Street Car Park, require conservation and an improved physical setting to include lighting and signage. A continuous looped path around the walls must also be pursued.

The Potential Benefits for Carrick

- Make the town walls as a 'must see' visitor attraction
- Conserve and restore the heritage structures for the benefit of future generations
- Increase town centre footfall and general levels of activity
- Support the hospitality sector by increasing visitor numbers
- Improve the appearance of the town centre, introducing dynamic contemporary artworks

Project 9: Town Greenway Network and Wider Greenway Connections



Plan of Potential Greenway Network

Project Vision

Linking places, people and nature through a comprehensive network of foot and cycle connections

Project Description

This project will involve the establishment of a comprehensive, town wide network of greenways around Carrickfergus. It will build upon existing routes and investments to ensure wide geographic coverage across the town. Pathways will be of an appropriate design and routing to encourage increased instances of walking and cycling as a means of transport, as well as a leisure and fitness activity.

The Potential Benefits for Carrick

- Less use of private vehicles and more walking and cycling, so impacting on levels of health, fitness, pollution and congestion
- Improved quality of environment and wildlife habitats
- Communities and facilities will be better connected, such as schools, health centres and shops
- Green areas will be used better with connections away from the roads
- Attracting investment to Carrickfergus through improved quality of life and better use of our green areas

Project 10: Creative Placemaking Programme

Project Vision

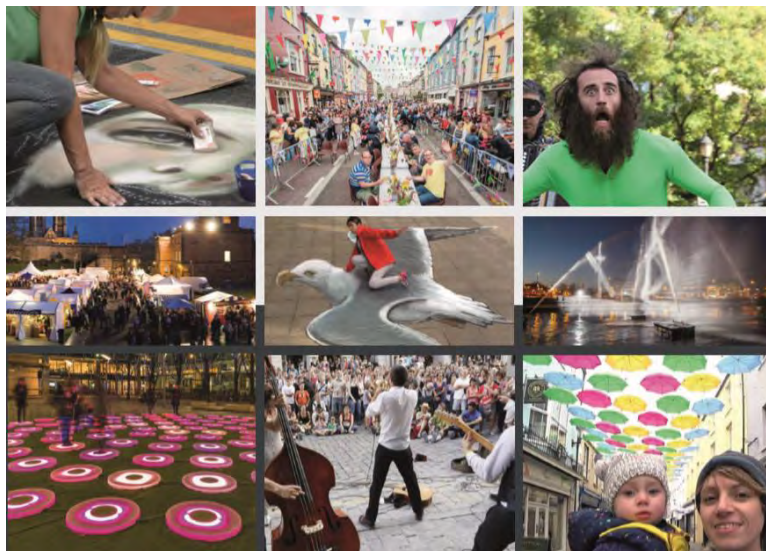
A sustained programme of placemaking initiatives to re-energise the town centre. Driven by local people through supported co-design, this project will sustain a town centre buzz.

Project Description

This project will involve a programme of creative initiatives and many will be relatively low cost and temporary. Inspiration is taken from recent projects in the town, such as the umbrella canopy along Irish Street. Key to this project will be an adequately resourced programme, so that multiple initiatives and events can be repeated. The town's unique culture and heritage will play a pivotal role in this place-making activity.

The Potential Benefits for Carrick

- Increased town centre footfall and retail activity
- Additional visitor attractions throughout the town
- Opportunities for people to meet socially across Carrickfergus
- Contribute to a lively evening town centre with shopping and entertainment
- Increased civic pride and improved perceptions
- Improved levels of real and perceived on-street activity
- Opportunities for local business start-ups



Examples of Placemaking Programmes and Initiatives

Project 11: Developing a Thriving Tourism Sector to underpin the regeneration of Carrickfergus

Council will invest in activating the business community's contribution to the regeneration effort, most importantly through encouraging and facilitating investment in new retail opportunities and hospitality businesses – food and drink, visitor accommodation, leisure services etc; but also in promoting the town, in organising community events and activities and in training for new skills requirements.

Council will also invest in engaging and activating the arts and culture sector and the local community to play their part in the regeneration effort by working to enhance the tourist visitor experience.

Project 13: Re-Positioning Carrickfergus as a Cultural Heritage Tourism destination

Council will work with Tourism NI and other partners to make Carrickfergus Castle, walls and town internationally visible, especially online, in order to realise their tourism potential.

Council will also work with partners and the local community to develop a new ambitious destination brand for Carrickfergus and promote it widely.

Project 12: Town Centre Living and Working Initiatives

Project Vision

Increasing the resident population of Carrickfergus Town Centre through the adaptation of existing buildings and development of appropriate new build projects. Homes will be mixed in type and tenure [or ownership] to help sustain a vibrant town centre community, while positively adding to the Conservation Area through quality, style and standard.

Project Description

Creating more good quality residential units and holiday accommodation within the town centre will reintroduce vitality. This project will be critical to sustaining the town centre, which cannot solely rely on shopping to generate activity, particularly in the evenings and at weekends. A greater presence of people living in the town centre will also help to make it feel safer after dark.

Council will work actively to attract creative industries, professional services businesses and start-ups to the town centre. Working with private sector partners, Council will set up a programme to create meanwhile and permanent uses for empty properties in the town centre, focusing on affordable business incubation spaces for the technology, creative and specialist services and sectors, with residential uses on the upper floors.

The Potential Benefits for Carrick

- Improved levels of real and perceived safety, especially after dark
- Increased town centre footfall and general levels of activity to support local business
- Restoration of heritage properties, safeguarding them for future generations
- Improved appearance as vacant sites and buildings will be occupied



Examples of town centre living in Killyleagh and Lisburn

Aspirational Project 1: The Result Schooner

Project Vision

To bring the Carrickfergus built schooner, The Result, home to her original mooring in the Harbour. The vessel will be fully restored as a maritime visitor attraction, on board which its fascinating stories will be shared with locals and visitors alike.

Project Description

Known as 'The last Ulster Schooner' the Result is living history of 125 years of a Carrickfergus-built sailing ship. The Result is the last schooner built in Carrickfergus Shipyard and has a long and interesting history. It is currently in storage at the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum under the ownership and care of National Museums of Northern Ireland. The project will involve a careful conservation and restoration process of the vessel, followed by its positioning back in the harbour in the vicinity of the Castle and will also involve the design of visitor interpretation facilities.



The Result, Carrickfergus

The Potential Benefits for Carrick

- Creation of a new high quality visitor attraction and experience
- Establishment and delivery of ongoing community role in the running of the ship attraction
- Restoration of an authentic Carrickfergus landmark that will positively contribute to wider regeneration goals, physical appearance of the town, local pride and external perceptions
- New businesses can be created because of the increased number of visitors and tourists
- Local specialist skills development and employment opportunities
- The proposed Result visitor attraction will attract other commercial activity through its management and day-to-day running
- Contribution to the heritage attractions in the area will create an excellent opportunity to showcase some of our best historic assets
- Given the Result's 'mystery ship' role in World War I educational programmes will link directly to school syllabuses

Aspirational Projects 2 and 4: Carrickfergus Marina and Harbour, and the Harbour Quarter



Potential scale of development (Whapping Wharf, Bristol)

Project Vision

A vibrant waterfront district that connects the town centre with its marina contributing to Carrickfergus's reputation as a leading location for maritime events and activities and a top destination for leisure and recreation visits.

Project Description

We need to invest in the modernisation of the Marina to ensure it offers top quality facilities into the future. In the longer term, the Council proposes to work with the private sector to create a vibrant waterfront district. The project will involve the comprehensive redevelopment of lands adjacent to the marina and harbour creating a new mixed-use quarter of apartments, hotels, offices, restaurants and cafes, providing a high-quality waterfront for both locals and visitors. The intention will be to provide a high quality waterfront district with new and enhanced pedestrian and cycle connections to the Town Centre.

The Potential Benefits for Carrick

- Creation of jobs
- Enhanced waterfront destination
- Improved connections between the waterfront and the town
- Increased tourist offer through high quality attractive and accessible space in the Town Centre and events encouraging visitors to stay longer
- New image and improved perceptions
- Improved physical environment
- Increased opportunities for high quality town centre living
- New businesses can be created because of the increased number of visitors and tourists
- Contribute to a lively evening town centre with shopping and entertainment

Aspirational Project 3: Clipperstown

Project Vision

A new town centre neighbourhood injecting further life and activity into Carrickfergus



Location of Clipperstown, Carrickfergus



Under developed land at Clipperstown

Project Description

The town centre is surrounded by large areas of under used green space, car parking and vacant land. The result is areas where not many people live within walking distance of the town centre. This proposal is to explore the potential for a new residential neighbourhood close to the town centre. Large areas of open space at Clipperstown is a potentially suitable site, although others in the area should also be explored. The project would involve a mixed type and ownership residential development. The project would promote sustainability, centred on excellent pedestrian, walking and public transport links close to the railway line.

The Potential Benefits for Carrick

- Increased town centre population in support of local businesses and amenities
- New high quality residential accommodation
- Higher levels of activity, contributing to a safe and lively place after dark
- A good mix of different people whose needs are met in the town centre
- Improved quality of built environment