



Love Living Here



**DRAFT
COMMUNITY
PLAN**



Led by



**Antrim and
Newtownabbey**
BOROUGH COUNCIL

ON THE ROAD TO A BETTER BOROUGH



FOREWORD

Welcome to the first Community Plan for the Borough of Antrim and Newtownabbey. This long term, ambitious plan will shape and inform how services are delivered across the Borough from now until 2030.

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council has led and facilitated the development of the Community Plan, working with our public sector partners and the community. Establishing the Community Planning Partnership in 2015 provided a sound foundation to develop a plan which reflects an ongoing commitment to collaboration and partnership working.

As the Community Planning Partnership has worked to develop this plan, members and officers have talked to individuals and families who live here and to large and small organisations which are based here. As a result of this engagement, we know that there are many reasons why our citizens **love living here** but we also know that there are aspects which could be improved.

Our aim is that the Community Plan will provide a framework through which we can sustain and grow the positives of life in Antrim and Newtownabbey, and challenge and change the things which need to be improved.

By reviewing the evidence and talking to our citizens and stakeholders, we have developed the Community Plan to reflect the issues which are important to the people who live here. These are reflected in the four outcomes stated in the plan.

The Community Planning Partnership's mission statement is that **"we will all work together to become a resilient and socially responsible community, where citizens experience a high quality of life."** Achieving this ambition will not be done through the work of any one organisation, but rather through ongoing collaboration and partnership working.

At a time when there are considerable pressures on public sector budgets, community planning and partnership working will help to ensure that we deliver the best possible services, reducing duplication and addressing the needs of our citizens.

What happens next?

The Community Plan sets out our ambitions for Antrim and Newtownabbey and how we will measure our success in achieving these. We know that to achieve these ambitions there is no "one size fits all" approach. During 2017, the Community Planning Partnership will begin to develop an action plan for each of the seven District Electoral Areas in Antrim and Newtownabbey. This area based approach will help us to tailor the implementation of the Community Plan to the specific needs of different parts of the Borough.

We need you to help shape the place where we live and work and help us to make the Community Plan a reality by sharing with us your views. The Community Planning Partnership set out to develop a plan which reflects the priorities of our citizens. Tell us how well you think we have done by being part of the consultation process.

Respond online: www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/communityplan

Attend a drop-in workshop in your area (details available at www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/communityplan)

Download and complete a questionnaire - post it, drop it into any of the Council buildings or scan/ photograph it and email it to: communityplanning@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk

The consultation period closes at 5.00pm on Wednesday 12 April.



Jacqui Dixon BSC MBA
Chief Executive of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council



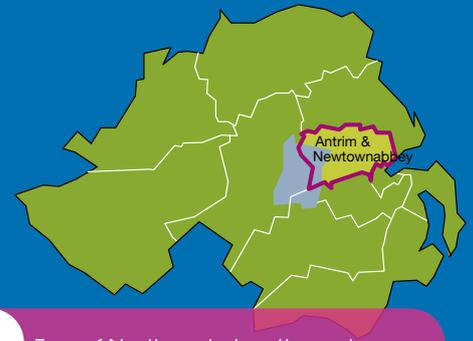
Councillor John Scott
Mayor of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council



Councillor Phillip Brett
Chairman, Antrim and Newtownabbey Community Planning Partnership

UNDERSTANDING ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY

10 facts about our Council area



- 1** It covers **274 sq miles** from the shores of Lough Neagh in the west to the shores of Belfast Lough in the east and from its northern boundary with Ballymena, the Glens of Antrim and the Port of Larne to its southern borders with Belfast and Lisburn.
- 2** Two hospitals, Antrim Area (acute) and Whiteabbey (sub-acute), are within its boundaries.
- 3** **140,467** people live in the area.
- 4** Two of Northern Ireland's most popular and modern retail outlets, Junction One and Abbey Centre, attract shoppers from far and wide.
- 5** **65,000** vehicles pass through each day on the M2 - one of three major transport corridors through the area.



- 6** Three third level education facilities Ulster University at Jordanstown, CAFRE Greenmount Campus in Antrim and Northern Regional College cater for over 20,000 further and higher education students.
- 7** At **833 sq km**, Lough Neagh is the largest freshwater lake in the UK and an Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI).
- 8** Six top class recreation facilities are on offer at Allen Park Golf and Lawn Bowls, Antrim Forum & Stadium, Ballyearl Golf Fitness Arts, Crumlin Leisure Centre, Sixmile Leisure Centre and Valley Leisure Centre.
- 9** Five million people arrive or depart every year through Northern Ireland's busiest gateway - Belfast International Airport.
- 10** Three theatres - Courtyard Theatre at Ballyearl, Theatre at The Mill, Newtownabbey and the Old Courthouse in Antrim provide excellent venues for all round entertainment.

MAP KEY

— Council boundary

DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The content of the draft community plan framework has been developed following two stages:

- >> Engaging with our stakeholders.
- >> Statutory Partners working together.

Engaging with stakeholders

Between March 2015 and February 2016 we engaged with our stakeholders in a number of ways. We ran a series of workshops, carried out surveys with citizens and held two conferences.

We received a great response from this process. 225 people attended workshops or conferences and a further 315 completed our survey, allowing us to gather important feedback and opinions.

This has helped us prioritise the key issues that now need to be addressed through the community plan.

Working together

The Statutory Partners have worked closely to agree the content of the draft community plan framework.

This has included establishing four outcomes for the plan, which are based on eight principles. We also identified 'enablers' important to support the plan and help achieve these ambitious outcomes.

To achieve the four outcomes a partnership approach is necessary. Each of the community planning partners has agreed to support or carry out actions which will help achieve outcomes.

The next step is to start planning these actions and developing performance measures. We will engage with our local communities once again during this stage.

MISSION STATEMENT

We will all work together to become a resilient and socially responsible community where citizens experience a high quality of life.



OUTCOME STATEMENTS

We have identified four outcome statements which reflect the needs and concerns of our citizens and the issues which are priorities for them.

1 Our citizens enjoy good health and wellbeing

For the high quality of life that we want for our citizens, it is important that they have the good health and wellbeing that will mean they can live well and enjoy life.



2 Our citizens live in connected, safe and vibrant places

It is important that our communities are well connected, with a good transport infrastructure and pathways. Social connections are equally important, as is having compassionate and close knit neighbourhoods.



We will all work together to become a resilient and socially responsible community where citizens experience a high quality of life.

3 Our citizens benefit from economic prosperity

We need to sustain and support existing businesses in the Borough, providing choice and opportunity for citizens in services, recreational pursuits and employment. It is also important to establish new businesses and grow existing ones.



4 Our citizens achieve their full potential

We need to ensure that no-one is left behind and that we do all we can to ensure that all of our citizens achieve and succeed.



PRINCIPLES

The four outcomes in the community plan are based on the following eight principles. The principles are important to developing a community plan which will meet the needs of all the citizens of our Borough.

Equality

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

Sustainability

We wish to adopt a sustainable approach to social, environmental and physical development. This means making sure that any activity is long term and based on the needs of our citizens. We also want to make sure we protect the valuable historic buildings and unique natural environment that exist in the Borough.

Connectivity

We need to improve connections throughout the Borough and our physical infrastructure. This includes looking at our roads, paths and transport networks. We would also like to improve the social connections between residents in our area.

Opportunity

We are fortunate that there are a lot of positive qualities about our Borough including our schools and colleges and the variety of businesses based here. We want

to build on this and increase opportunities for our citizens in training, education, employment. We want our first class leisure facilities to continue to provide opportunities to participate in a range of high quality leisure activity.

Inclusivity

We want to promote a culture of tolerance, acceptance and inclusivity for all our citizens. This will run through all elements of the community plan.

Vitality

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

Capability

We want our citizens to be able to take advantage of any opportunities created through community planning. At the moment, this ability varies across different communities and we want to address this. The different skill levels across the Borough can act as a barrier to employment and enterprise and we want to improve this too.

Compassion

We want to care for and support our neighbours and the vulnerable within our community. Social responsibility will be built into the community plan and is reflected in the community plan mission statement.



ENABLERS

Making the plan happen

Three core 'enablers' have been identified. These are support mechanisms which need to be in place to support the plan and will be vital to achieving outcomes. Identifying and delivering these 'enablers' will be critical in the early stages of the plan's development and delivery.



Physical assets (publicly owned/managed and community owned/managed)

There is a wealth of publicly and community owned and managed assets throughout the Borough. Some are no longer needed, under used or not being used to their full potential. Moving forward, the partners will consider how the use of these assets can be achieved e.g. by setting up asset management agreements, shared use of facilities or the transfer of assets.

Working together with the community

The community plan must be owned by the whole community. To do this we will continue to engage with our citizens. We must also recognise and understand the strengths and weaknesses of local communities and support them to be involved. It is also necessary for communities to be willing to work with the Community Planning Partnership to develop actions which can be delivered at a local level.



Support for development of the community and voluntary sector

It's really important that local groups and citizens get fully involved in community planning. By establishing a forum in each District Electoral Area, the community plan will support groups and individuals to develop the ability to be active participants in Community Planning. This will be crucial from an early stage, to encourage more involvement from communities in later phases.



RESULTS AND INDICATORS

The four outcomes in the Community Plan reflect our aim that Antrim and Newtownabbey will be place where our citizens are socially responsible and where the quality of life is high. These outcomes are ambitious and to achieve them some aspects of life here will change or improve. We will quantify our success by monitoring the results and measuring the indicators for each outcome.

OUTCOME	WE WILL LOVE LIVING HERE IF... (RESULTS)	WE WILL SEE THE DIFFERENCE THROUGH (INDICATORS)
<p>1 Our citizens enjoy good health and wellbeing</p>	<p>Our Citizens look after their physical and mental health in a variety of ways.</p> 	<p>% people registered as suffering from hypertension (high blood pressure). % people with prescriptions for mood/anxiety disorders.</p>
<p>2 Our citizens live in connected, safe and vibrant places</p> 	<p>Travel within and between different parts of the Borough, other than by car, is made easier.</p> <p>Town and village centres across the Borough are vibrant places where citizens spend their leisure time.</p> <p>Our citizens actively participate in community life through membership of groups/clubs or volunteering</p>	<p>Access to sustainable and affordable transport including walking and cycling routes, public transport services (proportion of non-car journeys).</p> <p>% of vacant non-residential units; town/village centre footfall.</p> <p>% people who volunteer; % people who are members of a group/sports club.</p>
<p>3 Our citizens benefit from economic prosperity</p>	<p>Our local economy is supported so that entrepreneurship and innovation are encouraged and businesses are sustained, can grow and provide employment.</p>	<p>% working age population who are employed/self employed; % working age population who are economically active.</p> 
<p>4 Our citizens achieve their full potential</p>	<p>We encourage a culture of lifelong learning in our communities and provide a range of ways – both formal and informal- to engage in learning.</p>	<p>% people who are engaged in learning; % working age population with no qualifications.</p>





WILDLY IMPORTANT GOAL

It was clear from engaging with our stakeholders that supporting the vulnerable people in our communities should be a high priority in the Community Plan.

We recognise that not everything can be done at once. Our plan looks out over a 14 year period, but some things need to be prioritised. These we have identified as our “Wildly Important Goals” the things that, if achieved will make a real difference, to the lives of those we are seeking to assist.

The “Wildly Important Goal” which the community plan will focus on in the first four years is that **our vulnerable people are supported**.

We are committed to all vulnerable people in our communities, however for the first four years; the community plan will focus on the elderly (over 75) and young people (aged 15-19).



WE WILL LOVE LIVING HERE IF...	WE WILL SEE THE DIFFERENCE THROUGH
<p>Our older people live active lives as part of their community.</p>	<p>% citizens over 75 living in their own home.</p>
<p>Our young people are supported to access opportunities which will enable them to fulfil their potential.</p>	<p>% school leavers progressing to further / higher education, training, employment or voluntary activity.</p>



OUR PLAN FOR A BETTER BOROUGH

The following pages show the results and indicators for each outcome in more detail.

Where available, trend baseline data is provided for the key indicator(s) and some additional key facts. Context is provided to the facts and figures by providing information about what engagement with stakeholders told us about the causes behind these issues (“The story behind the baseline”).

The “What could we do to be better?” section outlines potential actions that **could** be taken to achieve the desired outcomes. These actions are for illustrative purposes only and have not been agreed or confirmed. Actions which will be included in the community plan will be developed at the next stage, when we will once again engage and consult with a wide range of stakeholders and potential partners.

The Community Plan Framework

ENABLERS - MAKING THE PLAN HAPPEN

- Public and Community/Voluntary Sector Physical Assets
- Working together with the community
- Support for development of the community and voluntary sector

Our citizens enjoy good health and wellbeing

- > % people registered as suffering from hypertension (high blood pressure)
- > % people in receipt of prescriptions for mood/anxiety disorders

WILDLY IMPORTANT GOAL

- > % residents over 75 living in their own home



wellbeing

Our citizens live in connected, safe and vibrant places

- > Access to sustainable and affordable transport
- > % of vacant non-residential units: town/village centre footfall
- > % people who volunteer
- > % people who are members of a group/sports club



vibrant places

Our citizens benefit from economic prosperity

- > % working age population who are employed/self employed
- > % working age population who are economically active



economic prosperity

Our citizens achieve their full potential

- > % people of working age engaged in learning
- > % working age population with no qualifications

WILDLY IMPORTANT GOAL

- > % school leavers progressing to further / higher education, training, employment or voluntary activity



achieving potential

PRINCIPLES

EQUALITY - bringing the areas of highest disadvantage up to at least the average of the rest
 OPPORTUNITY CAPABILITY SUSTAINABILITY CONNECTIVITY VITALITY COMPASSION INCLUSIVITY

1 Our citizens enjoy good health and wellbeing



We will LOVE LIVING HERE if... our citizens look after their physical and mental health in a variety of ways.

We will see the difference through: A reduction in the % population registered as suffering from high blood pressure and a decrease in the % population receiving prescriptions for mood/anxiety disorders.

KEY FACTS

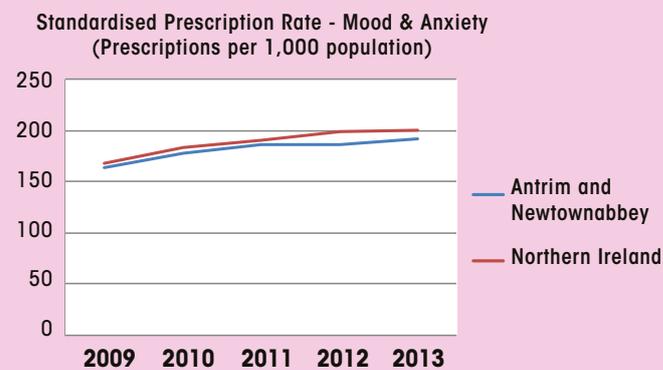
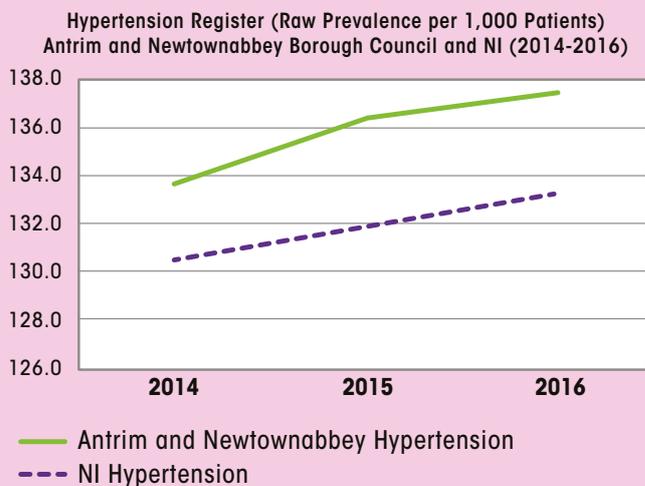
- >> Approximately **1 in 8** people in Antrim and Newtownabbey are registered as suffering from high blood pressure – it is the most commonly recorded disease in the Borough affecting more than twice as many people as either diabetes or heart disease.
- >> Life expectancy in the Borough is **78.4** years for men and **82.2** years for women which is comparable to Northern Ireland figures. Between 2009 and 2013 **27.1%** of all deaths were from causes considered premature and potentially avoidable.
- >> The 2011 census figures indicate that across the Borough **81.09%** of usual residents were in “good” or “very good” health, BUT this ranges across the Borough from **89%** (in Mallusk) to **65%** (in Whitehouse).
- >> **19%** of usual residents had a long term health problem, **10.7%** having a mobility or dexterity difficulty.
- >> Our citizens are active – **34%** of respondents to a Sport NI survey in 2010 did 30 minutes of physical activity 5 times per week. **19%** of respondents had been out walking.

WHAT COULD WE DO TO BE BETTER?

- >> “Take 5” for emotional wellbeing (encourage people to be active, to learn, to connect, to take notice and to give to improve their emotional health).
- >> Develop a more joined up approach to local delivery of health and wellbeing services.
- >> GP referral schemes.
- >> Community Pharmacy programmes.
- >> “Social” / “Green” Prescribing.

OUR BASELINE

The graphs below illustrate the rates of high blood pressure (hypertension) and of prescriptions for mood/anxiety disorders per 1,000 patients in Antrim and Newtownabbey compared with Northern Ireland.



THE STORY BEHIND THE BASELINE

- >> High blood pressure (hypertension) can have a number of causes relating to both physical and emotional health and wellbeing.
- >> The environment people live in, including their levels of access to open spaces impacts on their physical and mental health.
- >> Socio economic context indicates that health inequalities exist between more affluent areas and those with higher levels of deprivation.
- >> Lifestyle including education and awareness of issues impact on health and wellbeing.
- >> Stress, family history and obesity levels can all impact on hypertension levels.
- >> Access to and awareness of support and services also have an impact.
- >> There is a link between the age profile of the population and levels of good or very good health. Keeping our ageing population well so they can live active lives in their community is reflected in our “Wildly Important Goal”.

2 Our citizens live in connected safe and vibrant places



We will LOVE LIVING HERE if... travel within and between different parts of the Borough, other than by car, is easier.

We will see the difference through: An improved level of access to sustainable and affordable transport.

ENGAGEMENT WITH STAKEHOLDERS HIGHLIGHTED

- >> Physical connectivity across the Borough is an issue across a number of themes - access to health services and to employment were particularly highlighted.
- >> Availability of public transport varies considerably across the Borough and is particularly problematic in rural areas.
- >> Addressing connectivity will impact on the economy, employment, visitors, social isolation, community cohesion and health and wellbeing.

KEY FACTS

- >> **81%** of people here have access to one or more cars/vans (Northern Ireland Figure is **78%**).
- >> In Dunsilly **37%** people have access to 2 or more cars but in Macedon **34%** do not have access to either a car or van.
- >> There are **192.5** miles of cycle path in the Borough and **844.6** miles of road.

WHAT COULD WE DO TO BE BETTER?

- >> Expand and maintain existing walkways and cycle paths.
- >> Create new greenways.
- >> Adopt a pathway schemes (local ownership of maintenance).
- >> Accessibility by modes of transport other than private car as a key consideration in the location and design of development.
- >> Alternative transport options (e.g. community transport or home to hospital schemes).

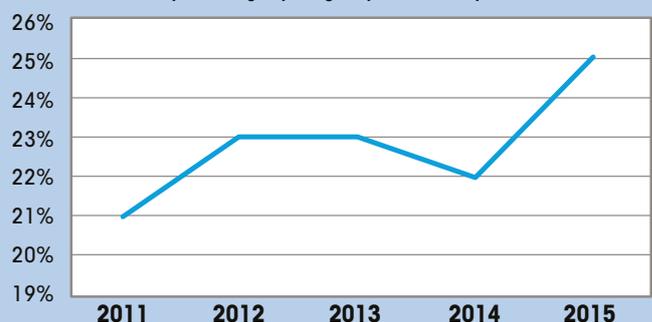
OUR BASELINE

The graph shows the proportion of all journeys in NI taken by walking, cycling or public transport.

Trend figures for the Borough are not currently available; however the 2011 census figures indicate that:

- >> Less than 1% of journeys to work or school are by bicycle.
- >> Less than 10% of journeys to work or school are on foot (this figure is as low as 5% in the Dunsilly DEA).
- >> Less than 13% of people with access to a car/van choose public transport.

% of all journeys in Northern Ireland taken by walking, cycling or public transport



THE STORY BEHIND THE BASELINE

- >> Planning – design of developments which are only easily navigated by car increases reliance on the car as a mode of transport.
- >> Transport infrastructure – roads / rail.
- >> Complexity of public transport routes. Radial network centred on Belfast which doesn't connect across the Borough making travel within the Borough difficult (e.g. no direct public transport route from the Macedon area to Mallusk).
- >> Public transport timetables, particularly in our rural areas where withdrawal of routes has made travel problematic.
- >> Availability of alternative / sustainable forms of transport.
- >> The challenge of the promotion of sustainable transport in the context of high levels of car ownership and access.
- >> Maintenance of cycle paths / walking routes – some routes become less safe to use in autumn and winter due to fallen leaves or poor lighting.

We will LOVE LIVING HERE if...
there is increased participation in community life and a willingness amongst people to help each other.

We will see the difference through:
An increased % people who volunteer or are a member of a group/sports club.

ENGAGEMENT WITH STAKEHOLDERS HIGHLIGHTED

- >> Our citizens value the sense of community and community spirit which they feel is part of living here.
- >> The awareness of the benefits of volunteering and the availability of opportunities to volunteer varies across the Borough.
- >> Not all areas have local groups or clubs which provide (age) appropriate activities and where they do exist not all residents are aware of them.

KEY FACTS

- >> **85.1%** respondents to the NI Life and Times survey felt a sense of belonging to their neighbourhood.
- >> **12%** usual residents provided unpaid care to family, friends or neighbours (Census 2011) – this figure was highest in Carrmoney at **15%**.
- >> **9%** households are lone parent households with dependent children (Census 2011).
- >> Participation in community life, whether as a volunteer or as a member of a group / organisation, is known to have a positive impact on mental and emotional wellbeing.
- >> Volunteering or participating in an activity or learning group widens the networks of those who may be socially isolated, and increases inclusion of individuals who are marginalised or vulnerable.

WHAT COULD WE DO TO BE BETTER?

- >> Involvement of vulnerable / marginalised groups in volunteering.
- >> Time banking and rewards system.
- >> Link volunteering to employability (transferable skills).
- >> Support groups to promote and encourage volunteering.

OUR BASELINE

- >> Average number of volunteers for Antrim and Newtownabbey area organisations: 26 (NI:42).
- >> Average number of volunteer committee members for local organisations: 8 (NI:9).
- >> Estimated number of volunteers affiliated with organisations in the area 9,244.
- >> Census data identified that 14% of people aged 16+ had volunteered.
- >> 44% of 315 survey respondents were members of a community group or organisation.
- >> 20% of Sport NI survey respondents in 2010 were members of a sports club.

THE STORY BEHIND THE BASELINE

- >> There are 291 community and voluntary groups registered on the Council's database but they are not evenly spread geographically.
- >> The awareness of, and availability of, opportunities to volunteer varies across the Borough.
- >> The benefits of volunteering such as transferable skills for employment or the emotional wellbeing benefits are under appreciated.
- >> Life stage impacts on people's willingness to participate – e.g. employed full time with no spare time or dependent children.
- >> Barriers to getting involved in organised activities such as sports, arts classes or other leisure activities – cost / transport / bureaucracy.



We will LOVE LIVING HERE if...
 town and village centres across the Borough are safe, vibrant places where citizens spend their leisure time.

We will see the difference through:
 A decrease in % of vacant non-residential units in town centres.

ENGAGEMENT WITH STAKEHOLDERS HIGHLIGHTED

- >> **83%** of 315 survey respondents stated that they use their local shops and **70%** that they use their local cafes.
- >> The potential for the growth of an evening economy is linked to the sense of safety around the area at night.
- >> Stakeholders suggested that there is a need to re-think the purpose of town centres and how they can be regenerated.
- >> A fear of crime in spite of a downward trend in crime and anti-social behaviour in recent years, and a **17%** overall decrease between 2005/06 and 2014/15.
- >> Insecurity / fear (especially between car parks and town centres).

KEY FACTS

- >> Town teams now operate in Antrim, Ballyclare, Crumlin, Glengormley and Randalstown.
- >> The Council is working in partnership with the Department for Communities on town centre regeneration planning.

WHAT COULD WE DO TO BE BETTER?

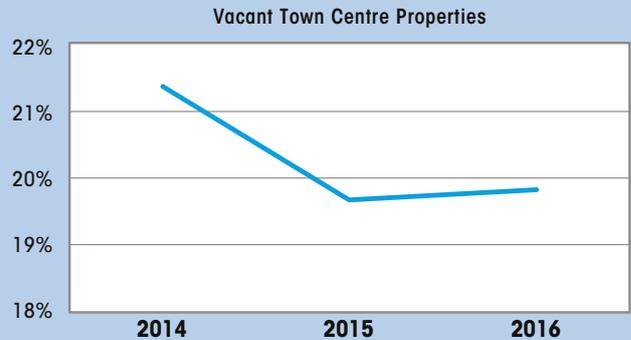
- >> Attract evening footfall / night time economy.
- >> Re-imagine the use of town centres.
- >> Develop an artisan and / or café culture.
- >> Alternate/meanwhile use for vacant properties.
- >> Hosting/organising events to attract people.
- >> Developing the competitiveness /attractiveness of our town centres.



OUR BASELINE

The graph shows the percentage of vacant non-residential town centre properties within the Borough.

The area has 4 designated town centres (Antrim, Ballyclare, Crumlin and Randalstown) plus Glengormley which is an urban centre (figures are not currently available for Glengormley).



THE STORY BEHIND THE BASELINE

- >> Longevity of new / small businesses – less than half (40%) of new businesses survive for more than 5 years leading to vacant units.
- >> Relationship of out of town shopping developments / outlets such as Abbeycentre and Junction One with town centres.
- >> Accessibility of towns and villages by public / sustainable transport can be problematic.
- >> Availability and cost of parking in and around town centres (at 1 January 2017, 7 in 10 off street car park spaces in Antrim and Newtownabbey were free).
- >> The need for the presence of “anchor” services or shops which attract footfall and the range of service/ shopping choice available.
- >> Whether or not there is a need for night time economy in the area.
- >> Planning policies regarding land use in town centres and around villages e.g. “town centre first”.
- >> Randalstown had the highest proportion of non-domestic vacant properties in April 2016 (29.2%), whilst Antrim had the highest number of vacant properties (50). Crumlin had the lowest proportion (14.9%) and the lowest number (14).

3 Our citizens benefit from economic prosperity



We will LOVE LIVING HERE if... the local economy is sustained and grown through support for existing businesses and new start ups or investment.

We will see the difference through: An increase in the % of working age residents in (self) employment and an increase in the Economic Activity Rate.

ENGAGEMENT WITH STAKEHOLDERS HIGHLIGHTED

- >> The importance of growing private sector employment and sustaining and growing existing businesses.
- >> The need to sustain large employers and their supply chains rated higher in terms of priority over attracting new investment from foreign companies.
- >> Impact on supply chains of the closure of major plants.
- >> Other elements of the community plan link closely to this theme, in particular **connectivity** and **skills** development.

KEY FACTS

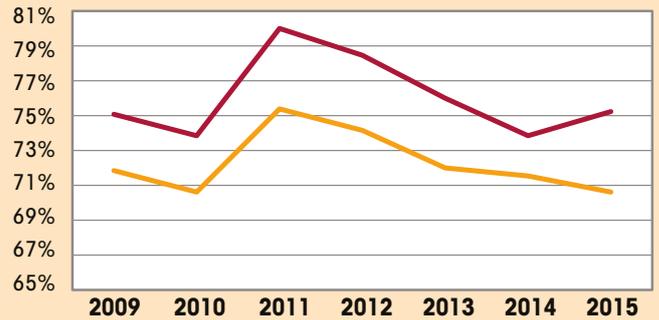
- >> **3,685** VAT/PAYE registered businesses are located here
- >> **55.6%** of those aged 16-74 who are in employment work in the Borough, **31.1%** work in Belfast.
- >> **19.6%** of jobs in the area are in the human health and social services sector and **19.4%** in retail, wholesale and motor vehicles.
- >> The employment rate in the Borough is **72%** and the unemployment rate is **2.6%**.

WHAT COULD WE DO TO BE BETTER?

- >> Develop skills base to meet emerging opportunities.
- >> Build entrepreneurship into education.
- >> Support "at risk" businesses to be sustainable and explore diversification.
- >> Encourage a culture of apprenticeships in businesses.

OUR BASELINE

The graph illustrates the Economic Activity and Employment Rates (2009-2015) for the Council.



- Antrim and Newtownabbey Economic Activity Rate
- Antrim and Newtownabbey Employment Rate

THE STORY BEHIND THE BASELINE

Economically inactive includes retired people, students, those at home caring for family and those who are long term sick

- >> The Number of jobs available in the Borough increased between 2011 and 2015 by 2.8% to 55,937.
- >> 70% of the working age population are employed in the private sector including some large employers such as Caterpillar, Canyon, Chain Reaction, Bombardier and Royal Mail.
- >> Growth in some sectors e.g. distribution, but contraction of others e.g. manufacturing. There were 486 redundancies in the Borough between 2013 and 2015 the majority of which were in the manufacturing sector.
- >> There are more than 3000 micro businesses with 9 or less employees in the area – these are often suppliers for much larger companies.
- >> Public sector reform/rationalisation (public sector jobs in Northern Ireland have decreased by 2.6%, 30% of Antrim and Newtownabbey residents of working age are employed in the public sector).
- >> Low levels of entrepreneurship (4.2% in Antrim and Newtownabbey compared to 5.1% in Northern Ireland and 6.6 in Mid-Ulster) measured by the number of business start ups.
- >> Education/Qualification levels (27.1% of the working age population are educated to degree level or above but 18.8% has no qualifications).
- >> The skills base in the Borough may not align with the skills required by emerging industries.

POTENTIAL PARTNERS: Business in the Community | Chamber of Commerce | Council | Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS) | Education Authority | Entrepreneurs | Health and Social Care Trust | Invest NI | Major Employers | Northern Regional College | Private Sector | Social Enterprise Hubs | Tourism NI | Ulster University | Voluntary Sector

4 Our citizens achieve their full potential



We will LOVE LIVING HERE if... we encourage a culture of lifelong learning in our communities and provide a range of ways - both formal and informal - to engage in learning.

We will see the difference through: An increase in % of residents of working age engaged in learning;

A decrease in % of working age population with no qualifications.

ENGAGEMENT WITH STAKEHOLDERS HIGHLIGHTED

- >> Encouraging a culture of lifelong learning has benefits in regards to employability, mental health and wellbeing and community cohesion.
- >> The potential for the development of initiatives which actively engage retired individuals as trainers or mentors could address social isolation.
- >> Educators and employers both identified the importance of skills to employability as well as relevant qualifications.

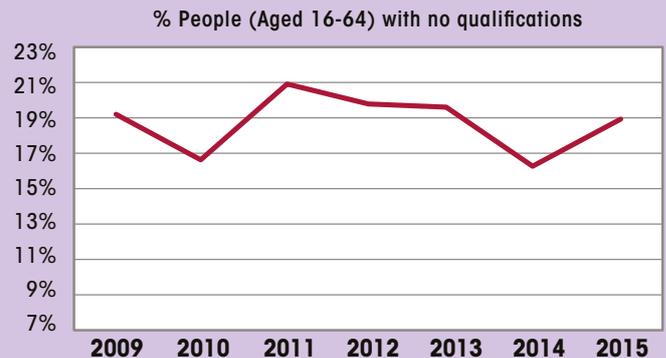
WHAT COULD WE DO TO BE BETTER?

- >> Programmes which offer learning opportunities to more marginalised or isolated groups such as older people e.g. Libraries NI programmes.
- >> "Take 5" for emotional wellbeing (encourage people to be active, to learn, to connect, to take notice and to give to improve their emotional health).
- >> Upskilling activities / programmes.
- >> Link learning to employability.
- >> Develop mentoring schemes for sharing of skills.
- >> Develop an employers forum to work with schools on skills development.

OUR BASELINE

The graph shows the % working age population with no qualifications over a 5 year period.

Whilst data is not readily available for individuals who are involved in learning on an informal basis (for example art or music classes or capacity building programmes) the figures available demonstrate that more than 13,000 Antrim and Newtownabbey citizens enrolled in Further Education (8,738) or Higher Education (4,545) in 2014/15.



THE STORY BEHIND THE BASELINE

- >> Availability of formal and informal learning opportunities – CAFRE, Northern Regional College and Ulster University all have campuses in the Borough. In addition we have 53 primary and 10 post primary schools.
- >> Older / ageing population which provides opportunities for intergenerational learning.
- >> Barriers to access such as transport or cost impacts on the level of uptake of training courses/learning opportunities.
- >> Availability of "hobby" courses and classes (20% of further education enrolments in 2014/15 were non-regulated hobby courses).
- >> Availability of apprenticeships / vocational courses as alternatives to academic qualifications.
- >> Ageing population which is working for longer leading to the need for re-training or upskilling.
- >> 81.8% of Further Education enrolments in 2014/15 were on a part-time basis.
- >> 28% of those who are unemployed in the Borough are long term unemployed. 27% are aged between 18-24 which is why ensuring our young people achieve their potential is reflected in our 'Wildly Important Goal'.
- >> Qualification levels vary significantly across the Borough with 20% of those in the Airport DEA having no qualifications but 35% of those who reside in the Macedon DEA.

“Wildly Important Goal” - our vulnerable people are supported

We will LOVE LIVING HERE if... our older people live active lives as part of their community.

We will see the difference through: An increase in the % residents over 75 living in their own homes.

ENGAGEMENT WITH STAKEHOLDERS HIGHLIGHTED

- >> With people living longer, their quality of life and ability to live independently is of value both to those already in their 70s and those who are planning for older age.
- >> The value of early intervention as a preventative measure especially regarding health and wellbeing.
- >> The impact on mental and physical wellbeing of older people becoming socially isolated and lonely.

KEY FACTS

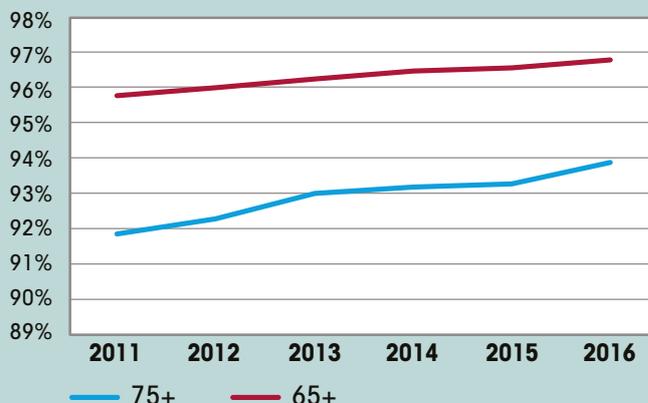
- >> Between 2005 and 2015, the population aged 85+ increased by **46.7%**.
- >> Between 2015 and 2030, the population aged 65+ is projected to increase by **42.1%**.
- >> **15.9%** of the population of the Borough is over 65 (**7%** - almost **10,000** people - is over 75).
- >> An estimated **11%** of households in the Borough are lone pensioner households.

WHAT COULD WE DO TO BE BETTER?

- >> Policies which enable family support (e.g. regarding adaptations/extensions to family home to accommodate parents/grandparents).
- >> Age friendly approaches to policy development.
- >> Ageing well initiatives to ensure safety and promote active living.
- >> Social inclusion - good neighbour programmes.
- >> Provision of advice and support to ensure our older residents access the benefits and support services available to them.

OUR BASELINE

The graph shows the % of residents aged 75+ and 65+ living in their own homes. Whilst both trends are positive, there is a notable gap (3%) between the figures for 65+ and those for 75+.



THE STORY BEHIND THE BASELINE

- >> Social isolation and its impact on both mental and physical wellbeing.
- >> Social inclusion – the availability of family or community support to enable older people to remain independent.
- >> Availability of appropriate housing (layout and adaptability).
- >> Security / fear of crime which impacts on the extent to which older people go out and the times they go out.
- >> Mobility Issues, which coupled with difficulty accessing public transport in some areas, impacts on the extent to which older people can participate in community life.
- >> Fuel Poverty (in 2011, between 38% and 42% of households in the Borough were in fuel poverty with particular concentrations around Ballyclare and Toome as well as known areas of deprivation such as Farranshane and Macedon).
- >> Health and Social Care policy.
- >> Availability of home-based support services to enable people to stay in their own homes.
- >> Availability of residential care / supported living.



POTENTIAL PARTNERS: Advice Agencies | Council | Health and Social Care Trust | Health and Social Care Board | Libraries NI | NI Fire and Rescue Service | NI Housing Executive | Policing and Community Safety Partnership | PSNI | Public Health Agency | Voluntary Sector

We will LOVE LIVING HERE if...
our young people are supported to access opportunities which will enable them to fulfil their potential.

We will see the difference through:
An increase in % of young people progressing to employment, further education, training or voluntary activity.

ENGAGEMENT WITH STAKEHOLDERS HIGHLIGHTED

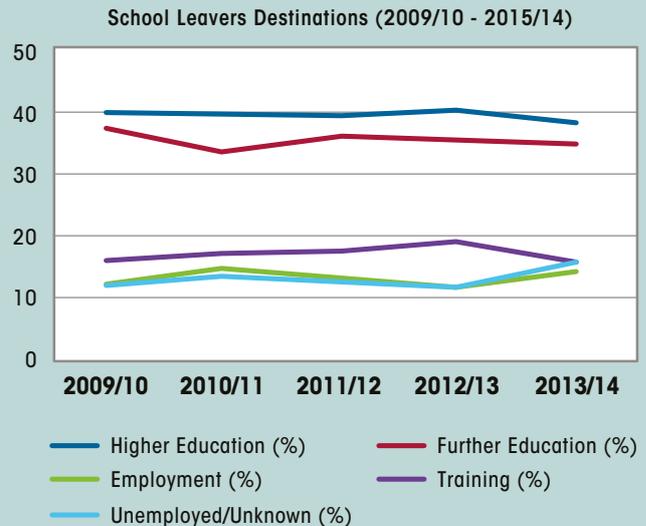
- >> By addressing access to training, employment pathways and employability, a positive impact can be made on other factors such as youth crime figures and anti-social behaviour incidents.
- >> The importance of partnership working in addressing needs and providing opportunities.
- >> The need for more information about:
 - the barriers to the provision of apprenticeships;
 - training / placement opportunities which exist;
 - the factors which create the tipping point when young people lose interest/aspiration in education/training.
- >> Availability of training (number of places) and accessibility of training (location) impact on the pathways young people choose when leaving school.
- >> Some educators describe a "poverty of aspiration" in some young people where they see no pathway to employment for themselves.
- >> Income from part-time employment can be more attractive to teenagers than education.

KEY FACTS

- >> **5.7%** school leavers in 2015 (**91** young people) had "no destination" i.e. were not progressing to employment or training. **30%** of these young people lived in Antrim Town DEA.
- >> **27%** of unemployment benefit claimants from the Borough are aged 18-24 (Northern Ireland **25%**).
- >> There were **109** youth justice referrals and **22** Juvenile Justice centre transactions regarding young people from the Borough in 2015/16.
- >> On census day 2011, **18.1%** of usual residents aged 16-24 had volunteered in the previous year.

OUR BASELINE

The graph shows where our school leavers move on to from post primary school.



THE STORY BEHIND THE BASELINE

- >> Exam Results:
 - 55.2% school leavers in 2015 achieved 2 or more A levels (57.7% in Northern Ireland);
 - 80.9% achieved 5 or more GCSEs (81.1% in Northern Ireland);
 - 66.8% achieved 5 or more GCSEs including Maths and English (66% in Northern Ireland).
- >> Ability to pay may impact on levels of progression however 37.2% of young people progressed to Further Education and 39.3% to Higher Education.
- >> Whilst figures for Antrim and Newtownabbey are not available, it is known that fewer school leavers who are entitled to free school meals progress to higher or further education than those who are not, (65.3% and 81.1% respectively).
- >> Availability / types of apprenticeships (at April 2016, there were 620 participants from Antrim and Newtownabbey on the ApprenticeshipsNI programme). Belfast International Airport and NIE are 2 local employers which offer apprenticeships.

WHAT COULD WE DO TO BE BETTER?

- >> Links between employers and schools.
- >> Apprenticeship and Internship programmes.
- >> Business / Sport ambassadors (inspiration).
- >> Promoting confidence, aspiration and coping skills in young people.



The Statutory Partners involved in Community Planning are:

- >> Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council
- >> Council for Catholic Maintained Schools
- >> Education Authority
- >> Invest NI
- >> Libraries NI
- >> NI Housing Executive
- >> Northern Health and Social Care Trust
- >> Health and Social Care Board (Northern Region)
- >> NI Fire and Rescue Service
- >> Police Service NI
- >> Public Health Agency
- >> Sport NI
- >> Tourism NI

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