Derry City and Strabane District Council

JULY 2026

Your Derry Strabane

News, updates and stories from across the city and district



www.derrystrabane.com

WELCOME

Welcome to the first edition of the Derry City and Strabane District Council Citizen Newsletter. We are delighted to introduce this new platform to keep our residents, businesses, and community partners informed, connected, and engaged. We will release a Citizen's Newsletter every quarter and look forward to sharing exciting updates on key projects, upcoming events, council initiatives, and opportunities to get involved across the district.

A message from our new Mayor

Hello everyone and welcome to the very first edition of our new quarterly community newsletter. I am incredibly honoured to serve you as your new Mayor for the next year ahead, and I look forward to the exciting year ahead of us, and what better way to introduce myself to you all than with our brand-new citizens newsletter! This newsletter is one of the ways we hope to keep you informed about what is happening locally, highlight the fantastic work taking place across our city and district, and ensure your voices continue to be heard.

Over the coming year, we have so much to look forward to. From local events like the Waterside Half Marathon and Derry Halloween, to new initiatives and projects across our city and district like Acorn Farm and the ongoing redevelopment plans for Strabane. We are committed to creating events and opportunities that bring people together and make our communities an even better place to live, work and visit.

I am truly excited for the year ahead and for all that we can achieve together. Whether you are attending one of our upcoming events, supporting local initiatives, or simply staying connected through this newsletter, your involvement plays an important role in shaping our community's future. We hope you find it useful, informative and enjoyable as we give you an insight into what's going on in your Council area.

Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to meeting many of you throughout the year ahead.

Best wishes,

Grace Uí Niallais
Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council



Teachtaireacht ónár Méara úr

Dia daoibh a chairde agus fáilte go dtí an chéad eagrán dár nuachtlitir phobail ráithiúil. Is mór an onóir dom freastal oraibh mar bhur Méara úr don bhliain atá romhainn, agus tá mé ag súil go mór leis an bhliain iontach atá romhainn, agus níl bealach níos fearr chun mé féin a chur in aithne daoibh ná lenár nuachtlitir úrnua do shaoránaigh!

Tá an nuachtlitir seo ar cheann de na bealaí atá muid ag iarraidh sibh a choinneáil ar an eolas faoi gach rud atá ag tarlú go háitiúil, aird a tharraingt ar an obair iontach atá ag tarlú fud fad ár gcathrach agus ár gceantair agus cinnte a dhéanamh go leantar ar aghaidh ag cluinstin bhur mbarúlacha.

I rith na bliana seo, tá muid ag súil leis an oiread sin rudaí. Idir imeachtaí áitiúla cosúil le Féile Mhuirí an Fheabhail atá ag tarlú faoi láthair, agus Leathmharatón Dhoire Trasna, mar aon le tionscnaimh agus tograí úra fud fad ár gcathrach agus ár gceantair, cosúil le Acorn Farm agus na pleananna athfhorbartha atá ar siúl faoi láthair don Srath Bán. Tá muid tiomanta i dtreo imeachtaí agus deiseanna a chruthú le daoine a bhailiú le chéile agus lenár bpobail a fhorbairt le bheith ina n-áit níos fearr le maireachtáil, le bheith ag obair iontu agus le cuairt a thabhairt orthu.

Tá lúcháir an domhain orm don bhliain atá romhainn agus do gach rud gur féidir linn a bhaint amach le chéile. Tá ról tábhachtach agat i dtodhchaí ár bpobail a mhúnlú, cé acu go bhfuil tú ag freastal ar cheann dár n-imeachtaí amach anseo, ag tacú le tograí áitiúla nó díreach ag fanacht i dteagmháil linn tríd an nuachtlitir seo. Tá súil agam go bhfuil sí úsáideach daoibh, go dtugann sí eolas daoibh agus go mbaineann sibh sult aisti agus muid ag tabhairt léargas daoibh ar cad é atá ag tarlú i bhur gceantar Comhairle. Go raibh míle maith agaibh as bhur dtacaíocht leanúnach agus tá mé ag súil go mór le bualadh le go leor agaibh i rith na bliana atá romhainn.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Grace Uí Niallais,
Méara Chomhairle Chathair Dhoire agus Cheantar an tSratha Báin

NEWS



Tourism Growth Reaches Record Levels

New figures show Derry and Strabane enjoyed a record tourism year in 2025, with almost 400,000 overnight trips generating £93.6 million in visitor spend across the district. Overnight trips increased by 35%, while visitors stayed for more than 1.2 million nights, significantly outperforming the Northern Ireland average.

The growth reflects the area's strong appeal as a destination for culture, events, heritage and short breaks, while continued investment in tourism, hospitality and connectivity is helping attract even more visitors to the region.

The latest NISRA figures for Northern Ireland recorded 5.1 million overnight trips in 2025, with associated expenditure of £1.2 billion across the region.

Mayor's Chosen Charity: Hive Cancer Support

Mayor Grace Uí Niallais has selected Hive Cancer Support as her chosen charity for the year ahead. Formerly known as the Pink Ladies Cancer Support Group, Hive provides personalised support services for individuals and families affected by cancer across the North West, while also delivering cancer awareness and prevention programmes within local communities.

A series of fundraising events and collections will take place throughout the Mayor's term, helping to raise vital funds and awareness for the charity's work. Residents can support initiatives at a range of civic events during the year and follow the Mayor's fundraising activities online.

Mayor Uí Niallais said: *"Hive Cancer Support provides a lifeline to so many people and families across our City and District. I'm proud to support the organisation and help ensure it can continue its outstanding work for those who need it most."*

For updates on fundraising events and to make a donation, visit the Mayor's web page **here**.

Details of future fundraising events will also be shared on the Mayor's social media channels on Facebook and X.

NEWS



North West Growth Plan and Health Partnership Launched

Political leaders, civic representatives and key stakeholders gathered at Stormont this week for the launch of the revised North West Strategic Growth Plan and the signing of a new cross-border Health Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

The plan sets out a shared vision for a connected, thriving and sustainable North West City Region, with a focus on infrastructure, skills, innovation, health and economic growth. The Health MOU will strengthen cooperation between health services in both jurisdictions to improve outcomes for communities across the region.

Mayor Grace Uí Niallais welcomed the initiative, describing it as a strong demonstration of partnership working and a commitment to delivering meaningful improvements for people across the North West.

Mullenan City Cemetery Now Open

The new Mullenan City Cemetery is now open for burials, providing a modern, accessible and peaceful place of remembrance for families across the city. This £5.2 million investment will serve as the primary burial site for the Derry area, helping to meet the city's future burial needs for many years to come.

Designed with dignity, accessibility and sustainability in mind, the cemetery offers approximately 3,500 burial plots, alongside a range of facilities including ashes plots, a Columbarium, a Garden of Angels, landscaped reflection areas and interdenominational burial provision. The site also features accessible pathways, visitor facilities and ample parking, creating a welcoming and respectful environment for all who visit.

Burial plots are arranged through local funeral directors. For further information, please contact the Cemetery team at **T: 028 7136 2615 (Derry)** and **T: 028 7125 3253 (Strabane)** 9am - 5pm, Monday to Friday.
Email: cemeteriesteam@derrystrabane.com

NEWS



Strabane shortlisted for UK Town of Culture 2028 title

Strabane is celebrating after being shortlisted for the prestigious UK Town of Culture 2028 title, marking a major milestone in the town's ambitious cultural journey. Selected as one of the final 15 from more than 400 applications, the achievement recognises Strabane's rich heritage, outstanding creativity and the incredible passion of its communities, artists, schools, businesses and organisations who came together to shape the bid.

The announcement has sparked excitement across the district, with the shortlist representing a once-in-a-generation opportunity to showcase everything that makes Strabane unique. The bid has the potential to drive investment, support regeneration, boost the local economy and shine a national spotlight on the town's vibrant cultural identity and community spirit.

With this exciting first stage complete, attention now turns to the next phase of the competition. Council and partners will begin developing a bold, inspiring final bid, working alongside local creatives, community groups and key stakeholders to create a vision that truly reflects Strabane's story and ambitions. There is a real sense of momentum building, and everyone involved is looking forward to the challenge ahead as Strabane continues its bid to become UK Town of Culture 2028.



Templemore Redevelopment Plans Open for Consultation

Residents are being encouraged to share their views on plans for a new state-of-the-art leisure and sports complex at Buncrana Road, Derry.

The proposed Templemore Strategic Leisure Project includes a 50-metre swimming pool, family water play facilities, fitness and wellness spaces, sports halls, outdoor pitches, a running track and walking trails.

Mayor Grace Uí Niallais said the project will be a transformative investment in sport, leisure and community wellbeing, and encouraged people to take part in the consultation.

The public can view the proposals and submit feedback via the Council's digital engagement platform until 10 August 2026.

Find out more and have your say here.

Guildhall Craft Fair 2026 Applications now open...

Applications are now open for the 2026 Guildhall Craft Fair, taking place from 13–15 November in Derry~Londonderry's historic Guildhall.

Recognised as one of Ireland's leading craft and design events, the fair attracts thousands of visitors each year looking for unique handmade gifts and artisan products. Around 43 exhibitors will be selected through a competitive assessment process celebrating excellence in craftsmanship, originality and innovation.

Applications are invited from designer-makers, artists and artisan food producers across a wide range of disciplines, with both returning exhibitors and first-time applicants encouraged to apply. The closing date for applications is 12 noon on Wednesday 5 August 2026.

For application forms and exhibitor information, visit Guildhall Craft Fair Applications.





Waterside Half Marathon coming soon!

The 43rd Waterside Half Marathon returns to the city on Sunday 6th September 2026.

While the event is currently sold out to new registrants, visitors and spectators are encouraged to line the streets and cheer on all our local athletes taking to the roads on September 6th.

Starting in Ebrington Square, the route takes runners across the river to the cityside, showcasing our parks, greenways and bridges before finishing at Ebrington Square.

Keep up to date on social media by following on Facebook - @**WatersideHalf**



Join us for Derry Halloween's 40th Anniversary in 2026

Europe's Largest Halloween Festival is just around the corner...

For four unforgettable nights in October, our ancient Walled City is transformed into Halloween HQ – and you're on the guest list.

Join ghosts, banshees and mystical Celtic creatures as they come out to play on our 400-year-old walls. Marvel at stunning light shows, acrobats and circus performers. Feel the warmth of the Derry welcome and dance alongside thousands of costumed revellers, under a sky filled with fireworks.

Halloween is coming to Derry. Are you?

Follow along across all social media platforms.

Keep up to date at
www.derryhalloween.com

derryhalloween.com

IRELAND HOME OF HALLOWEEN · The Executive Office · Northern Ireland | Embrace a Giant Spirit · VisitDerry · PROFILETREE



DNA Museum taking shape at Ebrington

Discover the Stories that shaped a city and district.

Work is progressing well on the new £15 million DNA Museum at Ebrington Square, with the landmark attraction on course for completion by Summer 2027. The project is transforming a former military barracks into a modern, inclusive, and sustainable visitor experience that celebrates the people, places and stories of Derry~Londonderry and the wider North-West.

Once open, the museum will explore the region's deep connections to the North Atlantic, telling stories of migration, maritime heritage, and community through six immersive galleries, interactive displays, Archive Discovery Zone, Reading Room, and dedicated genealogy service. Visitors will also be able to enjoy temporary exhibitions and modern learning spaces, along with a café and retail offering.

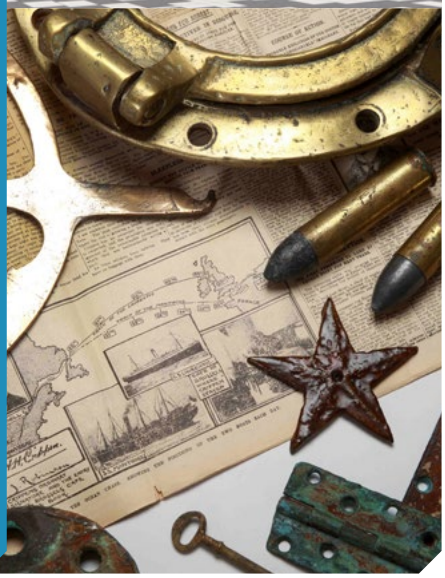
A major focus of the museum will be the preservation and presentation of significant local collections, including artefacts from the internationally important Armada Shipwreck – La Trinidad Valencera exhibition and selected elements of the Story of Derry collection. These treasures are currently undergoing conservation work to allow these significant objects to be interpreted, displayed and cared for in their new museum home.

The project is being delivered by McKelvey Construction, working alongside TODD Architects and exhibition specialists Tandem to create a world-class cultural attraction that will further enhance Ebrington Square as a vibrant destination for residents and visitors alike. Supported by a range of public and charitable funders, the DNA Museum will provide a lasting legacy, preserving and sharing the stories of the North-West for generations to come.

The project is funded by the NI Executive Inclusive Future Fund, UK Government, The Executive Office, The National Lottery Heritage Fund Department for Communities, Garfield Weston, the Wolfson Foundation, and Derry City and Strabane District Council.

Sign up to the DNA Newsletter **here** for exclusive updates and share the journey as the story unfolds!





What's on Derry Strabane

whatsonderrystrabane.com

HERE FOR ARTS & CULTURE

Council 2026 Events

September

Sunday 6th

Waterside Half Marathon

Friday 18th

Culture Night

October

Wednesday 28th October ~ Sunday 1st November

Derry Halloween

Saturday 31st

Strabane Halloween

November

Friday 13th ~ Sunday 15th

Guildhall Craft Fair

Friday 20th

Derry Christmas Lights Switch On

Saturday 21st

Strabane Christmas Lights Switch On



whatsonderrystrabane.com

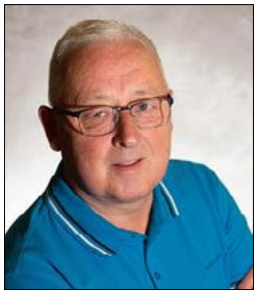
MEET YOUR COUNCILLORS



Cllr. Jason Barr
Sperrin
Independent



Cllr. Lilian Barr
Foyleside
Social Democratic Labour Party



Cllr. Raymond Barr
Sperrin
Independent



Cllr. Paul Boggs
Sperrin
Sinn Féin



Cllr. John Boyle
The Moor
Social Democratic Labour Party



Cllr. Amanda Clarke
Ballyarnett
Sinn Féin



Ald. Chelsea Cooke
Waterside
Democratic Unionist Party



Cllr. Shauna Cusack
Foyleside
Independent



Cllr. Caroline Devine
Derg
Sinn Féin



Cllr. Gary Donnelly
The Moor
Independent



Cllr. Alex Duffy
Faughan
Sinn Féin



Cllr. Sandra Duffy
Ballyarnett
Sinn Féin



Cllr. Rory Farrell
Ballyarnett
Social Democratic Labour Party



Cllr. Sean Fleming
Faughan
Sinn Féin



Cllr. Paul Gallagher
Sperrin
Independent



Ald. Darren Guy
Waterside
Ulster Unionist Party



Cllr. Shaun Harkin
Foyleside
People Before Profit



Cllr. Brian Harte
Sperrin
Sinn Féin



Cllr. Conor Heaney
Foyleside
Sinn Féin



Ald. Derek Hussey
Derg
Ulster Unionist Party

MEET YOUR COUNCILLORS



Cllr. Aisling Hutton
The Moor
Sinn Féin



Cllr. Christopher Jackson
Waterside
Sinn Féin



Ald. Keith Kerrigan
Derg
Democratic Unionist Party



Cllr. Fergal Leonard
Sperrin
Sinn Féin



Cllr. Patricia Logue
The Moor
Sinn Féin



Ald. Amanda Lynch
Faughan
Democratic Unionist Party



Cllr. Catherine McDaid
Ballyarnett
Social Democratic Labour Party



Cllr. Emma McGinley
The Moor
Sinn Féin



Cllr. Elizabeth McGowan
Waterside
Sinn Féin



Cllr. Ruari McHugh
Derg
Sinn Féin



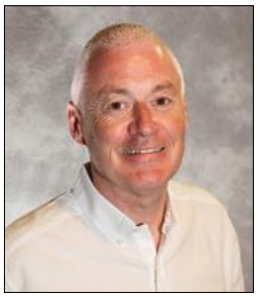
Ald. Niree McMorris
Waterside
Democratic Unionist Party



Ald. Janice Montgomery
Faughan
Ulster Unionist Party



Cllr. Sean Mooney
Waterside
Social Democratic Labour Party



Cllr. Pat Murphy
Ballyarnett
Sinn Féin



Cllr. Brian Tierney
Ballyarnett
Social Democratic Labour Party



Cllr. Grace Uí Niallais
Foyleside
Sinn Féin



Ald. Gary Wilkinson
Sperrin
Democratic Unionist Party



Cilr. Antaine Ó Fearghail
Derg
Sinn Féin



Cllr. Declan Norris
Faughan
Social Democratic Labour Party



Cllr. Martin Reilly
Waterside
Social Democratic Labour Party

USEFUL NUMBERS

Derry City and Strabane District Council

Derry Office
98 Strand Road
Derry
BT48 7NN
Tel: (028) 7125 3253
Email: info@derrystrabane.com

Strabane Office
47 Derry Road
Strabane, Co. Tyrone,
BT82 8DY
Tel: (028) 7125 3253
Email: info@derrystrabane.com

Council Services

- Derry City & Strabane District Council: **028 7125 3253**
- Waste Services: **028 7137 4107**
- Dog Warden: **028 7125 3253**
- Dog Warden (Out of Hours): **028 7125 3253**
- Registrar's Office: **028 7137 6520**
- Mayor's Office: **028 7137 6508**

Visitor Services

- Guildhall: **028 7126 2300**
- Tower Museum: **028 7137 2411**

Leisure Services

- Foyle Arena: **028 7137 6555**
- Templemore Sports Complex: **028 7137 6585**
- Brooke Park Leisure Centre: **028 7126 2637**
- Riversdale Leisure Centre: **028 7138 2672**
- Melvin Sports Complex: **028 7138 2660**
- Derg Valley Leisure Centre: **028 8167 0727**
- City Baths: **028 7126 4459**
- Bishop's Field: **028 7137 2194**

Emergency Services

- Police (Non-emergency): **101**
- Housing Executive: **03448 920 900**
- Housing Executive (Out of Hours): **03448 920 901**
- Flooding incident Helpline: **0300 2000**
- Flooding emergency: **999**
- Street lighting faults (emergency): **0300 200 7899**
- NI Water: **03457 440 088**
- Northern Ireland Electricity: **03457 643 643**

Charity

- Community Crisis Intervention Service: **028 7125 3253**
- Lifeline: **0800 808 8000**
- Samaritans: **116123**
- Childline: **0800 1111**
- Drinkline: **03001 231 110**

Social media ~ follow us!

- Facebook: **@derrycityandstrabanedistrictcouncil**
- X: **@dcsdcouncil**
- Instagram: **@dcsdcouncil**
- TikTok: **@derrystrabanecouncil**