



Derry City & Strabane  
District Council  
Comhairle  
Chathair Dhoire &  
Cheantar an tSratha Báin  
Derry Cittie & Strábane  
Destríck Cooncil

## Directorate Delivery Plan 2025/26

### Health & Community Directorate

Derry City and Strabane District Council

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## Health & Community Directorate

### Directorate Delivery Plan 2025/26

#### Section One: Directorate Profile / Summary

##### 1.1 Purpose of Directorate

The Health and Community Directorate comprising the Community Development and Leisure and Health and Community Wellbeing services is responsible for working collaboratively with partners across the statutory and third sector to support and develop core service delivery:

- Promoting and protecting the health of the public and the environment through enforcement and advisory activities
- Placing health and social wellbeing at the core of service delivery using cross sectoral and inclusive community development approaches across Directorate services
- Leading and supporting partnership approaches to address the underlying causes of poor health and reduce health inequalities
- Developing more resilient, engaged and sustainable communities who are supported and resourced to address disadvantage and inequalities
- Provision of people focused services and facilities which sustain vibrant communities through quality community services including embedding provision for Good Relations, Community Safety, Children and Young People's and Older Peoples Activities
- Supporting collaborative working and partnership with Government Departments, the statutory and the third sectors to ensure the benefits that arise from community planning are realised and opportunities for local engagement in shaping these outcomes is maximised
- Sustaining and increasing participation opportunities for sport and physical activity by ensuring places and spaces are increased, modernised and of sufficient quality to maximise the delivery of sports and physical activity programmes for performance and participation to achieve wider societal and cross sectoral benefits
- Leading on all aspects of social, community regeneration and wellbeing initiatives alongside partners to support the shared and interlinked objectives of economic development, the environment and regeneration across the Council
- The social pillar of the Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan sets out the challenges that our service delivery must respond to
- A changing age profile with a projected 66% increase in our over 65 age group and a 12% reduction in the under 16 age group by 2039

- A continued trend of health inequalities in comparison to the NI average
- Significant issues with drug and alcohol addiction
- Higher levels of deprivation in our urban and rural areas
- The legacy of the conflict and continued community tensions.

The community remains significantly impacted by both the outworkings of Brexit and the Cost of Living Crisis. Delivering services in this environment has seen an ongoing pressure resulting from sustained demands on services including the need for immediate and new crisis responses; regulatory activity; and civic responses such as to the resettlement of Ukrainians and the dispersal of asylum seekers.

- The strategic Community Planning outcomes arising from the Strategic Growth Plan have been reviewed during 2024 and a series of place based priority actions defined. These include:

Community Plan Outcome	Actions
<b>Community Development</b> We live in shared, equal and safe community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are more actively engaged and can influence decisions which affect us</li> <li>• We have safer communities</li> <li>• We have access to quality facilities and services</li> <li>• Our community and voluntary sector is more resilient and sustainable</li> </ul>
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b> We live long, healthy and fulfilling lives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have improved physical and mental health</li> <li>• Health inequalities are reduced</li> <li>• We are more physically active</li> <li>• We are active and more independent</li> </ul>
<b>Children and Young People</b> Our Children and Young People have the best start in life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our children and young people are safer, healthier, more respected and included</li> <li>• Our children and young people are better able to fully realise their potential and become active, responsible citizens</li> </ul>

<p><b>Older People</b></p> <p>We have a caring society that supports people throughout their lives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We address the health and social care needs of an ageing population, promoting positive attitudes to older people and tailoring support to enable them to participate fully in society.</li> <li>• We enable everyone to live their life in a fulfilling way as valued members of an inclusive society.</li> <li>• We provide access to the places, services, housing, information and support people, when needed.</li> </ul>
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## 1.2 Services Provided

The Health and Community Directorate outcomes support and align with the Derry City and Strabane District Council Corporate plan:

‘Deliver improved social, economic and environmental outcomes for everyone’ by growing our business and facilitating cultural development; protecting our environment and delivering physical regeneration; and promoting healthy communities and providing effective and facilitative cross functional support services.



208 Staff Employed

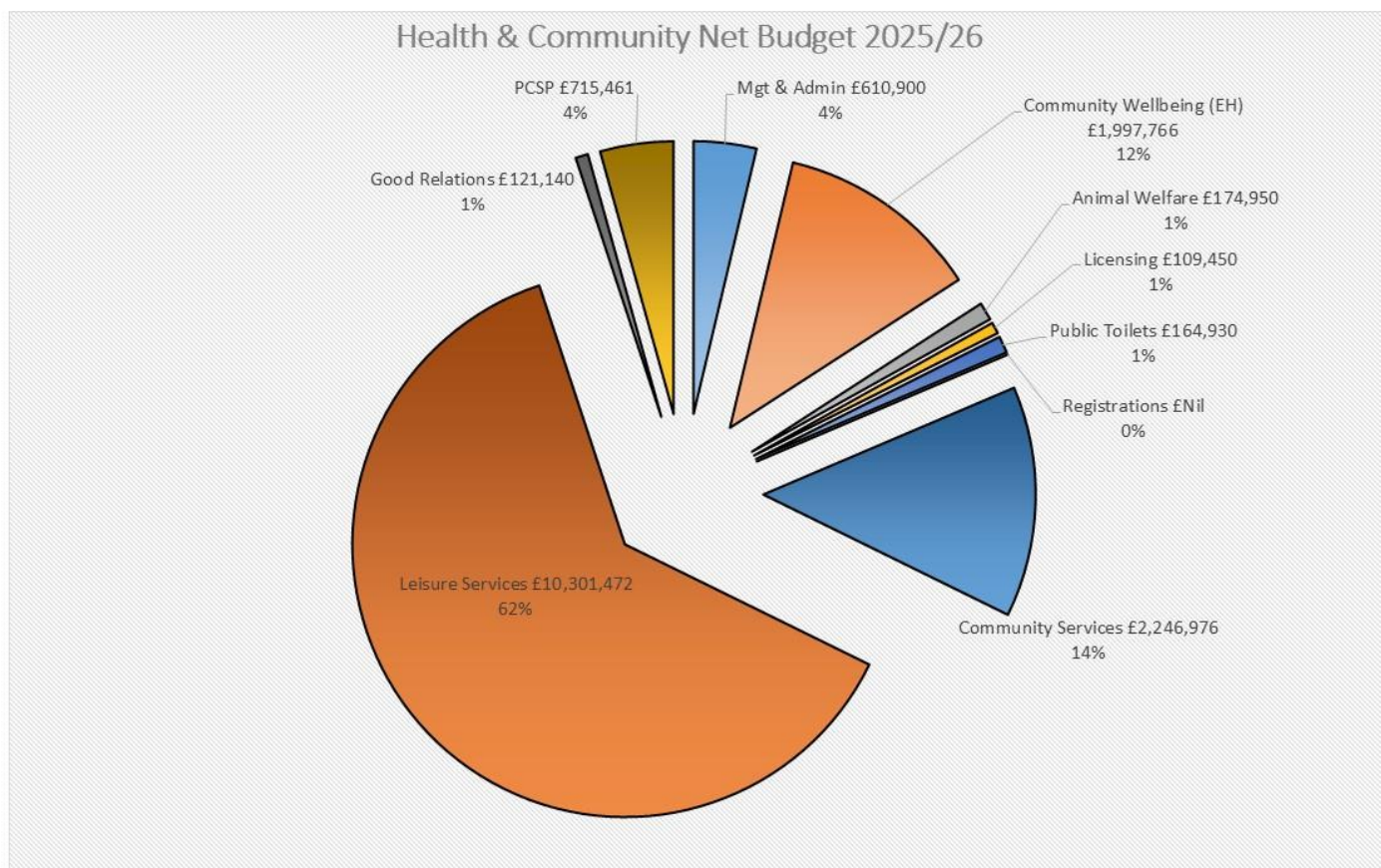


62 Staff Employed

### 1.3 Summary of Resources

#### Financial Resources

The Directorate has a net budget of £16,443,045 representing 20.09% of the Council's overall net expenditure budget of £81,850,422 for the 2025/6 year. A breakdown of these resources by service area is provided in the diagram below.



## Section Two: Achievements 2024/25

### 2.1 Highlights and Progress

#### Community Development

The Community Development Section is responsible for the following areas of work:

- Community Development support to the C&V sector
- Local Community Planning
- Good Relations
- Children & Young People
- Age Friendly
- 19 Council Owned Community Managed Centres
- Advice Services
- Neighbourhood Renewal (Strabane Town)
- Social Supermarket Programme (SSM)

The section also manages a number of Grant Aid programmes that supports the C&V sector in the Council area:

Community Centre Venues Fund	Community Support Fund
Good Relations grant aid – Consensual Action Plans and Strategic Priority Funding	Social Supermarket Programme (SSM)
PCSP Consensual Grant Aid and council wide strategic PCSP projects	DCSDC Consensual Grant Aid
Directed Interventions Programme	Active Citizenship Through Sport Programme
Ending Violence Against Women & Girls (EVAWG)	Full Dispersal Funding
Refugee Integration Funding	



In 2024-25, DCSDC moved towards a consensual approach to grant making for a pilot year, building on the existing consensual funding through DCSDC since 2019. This consensual model involves agreement at a local level, through the Local Growth Partnership Boards, to allocate funding to address Community Development, Good Relations and Community Safety needs including EAWG in local areas. Action Plans were developed for all 8 Local Community Planning areas and approved by DCSDC, the action plans aligned to the objectives of each of the funds, including the Strategic and Local Community Growth Plans.

The allocations for all Grant Aid programmes are outlined in the table below:

DEA	Consensual	Community Support Programme (CSP)	Good Relations *	PCSP **	Admin Support to embed Child Rights	Additional Good Relations	Age Friendly	EAWG	DEA Totals
Ballyarnett	£15,000.00	£37,443.00	£12,000.00	£24,700.00	£1,500.00	£4,000.00	£7,690.62	£5,000.00	£107,333.62
Derg	£15,000.00	£27,615.00	£12,000.00	£18,200.00	£1,500.00	£4,000.00	£7,690.62	£5,000.00	£91,005.62
Faughan	£15,000.00	£21,525.00	£12,000.00	£14,200.00	£1,500.00	£4,000.00	£7,690.62	£5,000.00	£80,915.62
Foyleside	£15,000.00	£22,156.00	£12,000.00	£14,600.00	£1,500.00	£4,000.00	£7,690.62	£5,000.00	£81,946.62
Moor	£15,000.00	£33,345.00	£12,000.00	£22,000.00	£1,500.00	£4,000.00	£7,690.62	£5,000.00	£100,535.62
Sperrin	£15,000.00	£17,975.00	£12,000.00	£11,900.00	£1,500.00	£4,000.00	£7,690.62	£5,000.00	£75,065.62
Strabane	£15,000.00	£20,250.00	£12,000.00	£13,400.00	£1,500.00	£4,000.00	£7,690.62	£5,000.00	£78,840.62
Waterside	£15,000.00	£34,190.00	£12,000.00	£22,600.00	£1,500.00	£4,000.00	£7,690.62	£5,000.00	£101,980.62
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>£120,000.00</b>	<b>£214,499.00</b>	<b>£96,000.00</b>	<b>£141,600.00</b>	<b>£12,000.00</b>	<b>£32,000.00</b>	<b>£61,524.96</b>	<b>£40,000.00</b>	<b>£717,623.96</b>

\*An additional £27,774 is allocated to a Strategic Priority Fund for GR with a theme of BAME

\*\* An additional £30,000 has been allocated for council wide strategic PCSP projects.

The Community Development section receives funding from the Department for Communities' Voluntary and Community Division (VCD) under the Community Support Programme (CSP). The CSP provides funding to Councils to support Council-managed community development and advice services.

In delivering the Community Support Programme (CSP), Councils match fund the Department for Communities' award and overlay lower-level objectives and targets to shape localised programmes for individual council areas. Councils are responsible for ensuring their programmes align with the high-level objectives for CSP, are properly managed and monitored and all procurement and statutory obligations are adhered to. CSP operates in the context of the following four high level objectives:

1. An active and organised community
2. An influential community
3. An informed community
4. A sustainable community

### **Community Development Team**

The CD team consists of 15 members of staff supported by an administration team of 6 and a Placement Student.

### **Community Development Achievements**

The Community Development section has **managed and administered** a wide range Community Development and Advice Services programmes. Further details of the specific programmes are outlined below:

**Community Centre Venues Fund (CCVF)** – Open call process for non-Council Owned Community Centre(s) / Facilities to apply for financial assistance under Tier one – (Maximum award of £12,000) targeting primarily Rural Centre(s) and Tier Two (Maximum award of £12,000) targeting primarily Urban Centre(s). **17 Community Centre / facilities** financially supported. Total amount of **funding awarded - £195,000.00**. In the rural areas, additional funding was secured to fund three additional centres during 2024-25 financial year only, at a cost of **£30,000**.

**Community Support Fund (CSF)** – Consensual Process adopted for this fund in the Urban areas, however, an Open call process to C&V Sector groups within rural DEAs of the DCSDC area to deliver programmes in line with the Community Support Programme (CSP) high level objectives outlined above. **18 C&V sector groups** financially supported across the rural DEAs. Total amount of funding awarded through the open call process for the Rural DEAs **£67,115.00**

#### **Strategic SLA**

- Rural Community Support (RAPID) - £70,000
- Newtownstewart 2000 Centre - £37,500
- Developing Healthy Communities - £15,000
- Foyle Search and Rescue - £15,000

**Advice Services Programme** – Three Advice Service providers funded, Advice North West, Dove House Community Trust & the Resource Centre Derry to provide Advice Services to residents living within the DCSDC area. Advice support has been provided under the following three categories:

- Generalist Voluntary Advice
- Welfare Reform Mitigation Tribunal Representation
- Welfare Reform Mitigation Face to Face

Two additional Trial Providers have been appointed to deliver generalist advice. The trial period commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> July to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024. The providers will be assessed on the quality of advice provided and if deemed to be of an acceptable standard, they will be commissioned to provide advice on a full-time basis from April 2025.

The total allocation of funding for **Advice Services** for the 2024/25 financial year is **£1,031,355.71**.

<b>Advice Service</b>	<b>Allocation</b>
Generalist Voluntary Advice	£781,913
Welfare Reform Mitigation Tribunals	£94,864.56
Welfare Reform Mitigation Face to Face	£124,578.15
Trial Provider	£30,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1, 031,355.71</b>

#### **Integrated Debt Advice Partnership Fund 2024-26**

DFC has approved an Integrated Debt Advice Partnership fund which DCSDC will receive an allocation of £114,548.04 over 2 years until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 (subject to LoO) which will focus on enabling better integration of funding and services, collaboration for early intervention and prevention to increase the reach of debt advice. CD Officers have engaged and consulted with the three existing Advice Providers and explored possible initiatives to deliver with all three providers interested in a collaborative project with Advice North West leading on behalf of the providers. The project will link with other advice providers, the two social supermarkets in terms of referrals and promotion of the service to ensure that as many people as possible are aware of the advice available in relation to Debt, with proposal to employ 2 full time debt advice workers.

**Neighbourhood Renewal (Strabane Town)** – The Community Development Section has responsibility for the coordination of the Department for Communities Neighbourhood Renewal Fund in the Strabane Town area and provides technical assistance support in order to implement the key agreed priorities in the Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan alongside the Local Growth Plan for the area. The Co-ordinator facilitates the Neighbourhood Renewal / Local Growth Partnership, which has responsibility for the delivery of the Local Community Plan and Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan across Strabane town. The Partnership brings together a representative mix for the area comprising of key community, political, statutory and private sectors, to take the lead in local planning, identification and implementation of agreed priorities and actions.

### **Good Relations Programme**

Good Relations policy is directed by The Executive Office (TEO), through the implementation of the Together: Building A United Community (TBUC) Strategy, and TEO is responsible for the delivery of the District Council Good Relations Programme across all 11 Councils. Councils make a bid to a competitive fund for resources on a three-year basis.

Council implemented a consultation process and a Good Relations audit which informed the Good Relations Strategy, and this in turn provided an evidence base on which to develop an Action Plan. The 2024-25 budget for GR is **£370,752.38**. Funding is received from The Executive Office (TEO) at a level of 75% with the remaining 25% coming from Council.

The revised action plan was agreed at Full Council on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2024. The revised action now includes **16 programmes** instead of the 19 programmes that was originally submitted to TEO in January 2024.

Aligned to the Together: Building a United Community (TBUC) Strategy, the Strategic and Local Growth Plans, the Councils' Good Relations Strategy, work is categorised into four key themes:

- Our Children and Young People: This theme includes good relations projects for primary and engaging young people in their communities.
- Our Shared Community: This theme covers the Good Relations Grant Aid Programme to groups, leadership programme and a Special DEA initiative
- Our Safe Community: Under this theme, there is an interfaces and contested spaces initiative,
- Our Cultural Expression: This theme allows officers to work on projects that encourage the celebration of culture. It covers the One World festival that is in conjunction with the Council's Festivals Team, the Let's Talk programme, our Good Relations Week activities, traveller awareness projects and a support programme for BME communities.

The GR team have consulted and engaged with the CVS in relation to developing an action plan for the 2025-2026 period, which was submitted to TEO for next financial year.

### **Refugee Integration Funding**

TEO provided Derry City and Strabane District Council funding to the value of **£50,000** to support Refugees within the Council area. Work has started on Phase II of the project; this will complement the work carried out during Phase 1 which started in 2023-24 and will see the implementation of a range of support services and programmes for Refugees living in the DCSDC area. People First has been

appointed to deliver this project and a range of programmes and events have been scheduled to support refugees in Q4. The CD team have been supporting People First in relation to this.

### **Full Dispersal Funding**

The CD section has received funding of £47,502 from TEO released by the Home Office to support projects which will support Asylum Seeker integration within the DCSDC area for the 2024-2025 financial year. The team have supported the open call inviting applications to this and it is expected an allocation of £11,000 will be awarded to 4 groups from the CVS in March 2025.

**Council Owned Community Managed Community Centres (COCMC)** – the section is responsible for the overall management of 19 Council Owned Community Centres. The Facilities Officer works closely with the C&V sector group who carries out the day-to-day operational management of the Centres to ensure that the Centres are operating in line with Council 45001 H&S management systems. A programme of work has commenced to undertake essential maintenance on the centres at a cost of £100,000.

### **Local Community Planning**

Officers from the Community Development team are represented on all 8 of the LCGP boards. Officers provide support to the local community planning process, including assisting to deliver on actions relation to Community Development within each of the 8 Local Community Growth plans. The Local Community Plans were reviewed, updated and published during this year.

Officers work closely with the C&V sector groups in each of the 8 LCP area to provide advice and support with project planning, funding application and governance advice including charity commission registration. Information pertaining to Community Development and potential Funding opportunities is circulated regularly on the 8 LCP databases.

### **Pride of Place Awards**

Co-operation Ireland, its local authority partners and its headline sponsor IPB Insurance-hosted the Pride of Place Awards Ceremony on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2024 in the Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan. The IPB Pride of Place Awards is an all-island competition that acknowledges and celebrates the work that communities are doing all over the island of Ireland.

The selection process undertaken for the Derry City and Strabane District Council (DCSDC) entries was carried out in consultation with the Local Community Growth Partnership Boards (LCGPB). The LCGP Boards were invited to put forward agreed nominations for the urban and rural areas respectively.

This year's nominations saw the submission of two local community groups providing a diverse range of services to our communities. The category headings that DCSDC Community Development put forward nominee groups to are as follows:

**Main Competition – Community Wellbeing Initiative:**

Aspace2 – A multisensory centre located in the rural community of Campsie which has been customised to an extremely high standard to meet the accessibility needs of all attending the centre.

**Cities Competition – Community Wellbeing Initiative:**

DEEDS – Dementia Engaged and Empowered Derry & Strabane - a community based social model of support for people living with dementia, their carers & families across the Derry City and Strabane District Council area, covering both urban and rural areas, enabling individuals to live well for longer within their own community.

Both organisations, DEEDS and Aspace2 received runners up awards at the prestigious All -Ireland event.

**Social Supermarket (SSM)**

Derry City and Strabane District Council received a Letter of Offer from the Department for Communities (DfC) for **£243,044.37** under the Social Supermarket Fund for 2024-25.

EOS Community Consulting carried out a Council wide consultation / engagement process with all stakeholders, develop an outcomes framework and a 3-year Action Plan for a Food Support/Wraparound Service Model for the Council area. The report highlighted that there is a gap in Social Supermarket provision within the Rural DEAs of the Council area. To address the gap in provision within the Rural DEAs, the two existing SSM's are extending their services to cover the Rural DEAs, engagement will continue with local community groups to raise awareness of the service available to rural dwellers who need support. The Strabane Community Project will cover Strabane Town, Sperrin and Derg DEAs and the Foyle Network Foundation will cover the Ballyarnett, Moor, Waterside, Foyle side and Faughan DEAs. This will ensure there will be access to services and support regardless of where you live within the Council area.

The CD section has been supporting the two providers and helping ensure community awareness and engagement of this service, in addition to preparing for the transition in 2025/2026 when the providers direct allocation from DfC is expected to transfer to DCSDC for future allocation to support the Social Supermarket Model.

**Age Friendly – Core funding of £51,131 for 2024-2025 (annually from PHA)**

Derry City & Strabane District Council is an affiliate of the WHO's Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities (GNAFCC) and the UK Network of Age-friendly Communities (UK Network) which supports the GNAFCC mission and aims to stimulate and enable UK cities and communities to become increasingly age-friendly. The Age Friendly Co-ordinator continues to address actions outlined within the older persons outcome of the Strategic Growth Plan in addition to the Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan.

The Public Health Agency provides annual funding (£51,131) each year towards the Age Friendly programme, which contributes to the salary costs for the Age Friendly Co-ordinator post. Similar to 23/24, the PHA has contributed an additional £8,000 to deliver programme activities within the Councils strategy and action plan. The Age Friendly Co-ordinator continues to facilitate the meetings of the Age Friendly Alliance, Over 50's Reference Group, Co-Design steering group, in addition to represent the area at the NI Age Friendly Network quarterly meetings and UK Network of Age-friendly Communities peer calls.

Recent achievements have included the production and launch of the Over 50s Guide to Services in the area, delivery of Positive Ageing Month 2024, worked in partnership with WHSCT, PHA & BBHF to assess PAM Small Grants Programme for 2024, organise events to mark World Alzheimer's Day, support employability workshops, whilst continuing to communicate through ongoing issue of Age Friendly Newsletters and joint chairing of the cross departmental working group for Age Friendly within Council.

The Age Friendly Co-ordinator led on the development of the Age Friendly Consensual Action Plans allocating £57,081.04 (£37,494.34 DfC contribution and £19,586.70 from TEO) across the 8 LCGP areas which incorporated a Good Relations theme and addresses social isolation and inclusion for persons aged 50+ years.

The Age Friendly Co-ordinator will represent the DCSDC area at the UK Network of Age-Friendly Communities Conference, which will be held on 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> March in Manchester.



This annual in-person event brings together members of the UK Network to hear from inspiring speakers, learn together and celebrate successes. This year, the conference forms part of a wider three-day event, "Age-friendly Futures Summit: advancing, leading and creating regions, cities and communities for an age-friendly world".

### **Children & Young People**

The Children & Young Peoples Co-ordinator continues to address actions outlined within the children and young person's outcome of the Strategic Growth Plan. Progress has been achieved in relation to embedding a child rights based approach in the design, delivery and review of action plans, SLA's contracts and tenders developed across the wider section.

During this period there has been a multi-agency review of the UNICEF action plan and preparations with partners to prepare and submit evidence required for the third progress review held in October 2024, which received an amber RAG rating. Progress is continuing to work towards the recommendations and prepare for recognition in 2025. Continue to facilitate the governance meetings required as part of UNICEF CFC (including Child Rights and Youth Participation Board, Cross Departmental Working Group, Political Champions) in addition to co-ordination and delivery of Child Rights Training and the UNICEF Short Series of training. In addition, progress has been achieved in relation to the development phases of rolling out of the Child Friendly Mapping across each of the 8 LCGPB areas, expected to be delivered across the 2025-2027 financial years.

Engagement and recruitment have been facilitated with key partners to recruit new members for the North West Ministry of Youth as the lived voices for the area. Involvement with the Mayors Initiative "Our Guildhall Our Space" with members of the NW Ministry of Youth has helped shape this initiative using a co-design approach, the CD team continue to support the Mayor in relation to facilitating these events, of which 4 will have been delivered in 2024-2025.

The Children & Young Peoples Co-ordinator has been linking with the University of Ulster in relation to the co-design of future Childcare Courses to help shape and embed Child Rights within this course for the future.

### **Pilots Row Community Centre**

The Community Development section co-ordinate the Pilots Row Working Group which is made of Elected Members, Management and representatives from the Education Authority. A key priority recently has been the consultation with centre user groups to establish the needs of users and what they would like to see in the centre in future. A public consultation exercise was completed in recently and the results are being compiled for presentation to the Working Group in February 2025.

### **LGBTQIA+ Working Group**

A Council Motion was passed unanimously at March 2024 Health and Community committee to establish a LGBTQIA+ Working Group to better engage with the sector and see how council can support groups. This Working Group is co-ordinated within the section and to date three meetings of the group have taken place, a draft TOR has been developed for the group and some actions developed.

### **PCSP Achievements**

- External funding support of 653,747.08 secured during 2024/25.
- £30,000 of Small Project Support allocated to 5 local groups to enhance the community safety of the city and district.
- £141,600 allocated via Consensual Grant Aid to 8 Local Growth Partnership Boards in the city and district.
- 118 homes fitted with additional home security equipment under the Safer Homes Initiative (to December 2024).
- Support for 44 Neighbourhood Watch schemes covering 3,500 homes.
- 9 Multi-Agency Support Hub meetings held with 149 referrals dealt with through the Support Hub (April to December 2024).
- 12,338 anti-social behaviour (ASB) hotspot patrols carried out by the Community Safety Wardens (to January 2025).
- Community Safety Wardens received and actioned 1,267 ASB referrals (to January 2025)
- 123 CCTV cameras monitored and independently dealing with 394 missing person reports, 182 attempted suicides and 683 suicide welfare concerns (to January 2025).
- 23 RAPID (Remove All Prescription and Illegal Drugs) Bins installed across the district to remove and destroy unwanted tablets/pills.

### **Sports Development Achievements**

- Delivery of £60,000 Support for Sport Grant Aid Programme
- Delivery of £45,000 Playing Pitch Maintenance Fund
- Cater for 640 clients through the GP Referral PARS
- Achieve 25% retention rate in relation to membership sales amongst the above clients
- Delivery of 'Be Active' Cancer Referral Programme catering for 100 clients annually
- Deliver Healthy towns programme to include minimum of 15 partnership programmes and 10 council led programmes to include physical activity programmes for young people, females, people with disabilities and older people. Target a completion rate of 70% for all programmes. As part of programme establish 2 new walking/running clubs that target sedentary and people with low levels of physical activity.

- Roll out of Coach Education programme to include CPD training. Target at least 60 foundation/introductory qualifications per year 30 level1 and 10 higher level qualifications. Deliver a minimum of 3 CPD courses.
- Deliver Sport and physical activity opportunities across a variety of settings achieving a number of key targets
- Deliver Summer Schemes targeting rural and urban setting.
- 71 Elite Athlete Gym Memberships
- 36 Travel Bursaries - £9,828
- RISE Women in Leadership Programme completed in partnership with Sport NI, 20 local women completed a capacity building and personal development programme through a series of workshops over 11 months.

#### **Leisure Services (up to 31 Dec 2024)**

- Leisure and sports services achieved paid user visits of 1.2m to date
- Over 7,000 children participated in leisure services centre based swim lessons.
- 90,000 participants in fitness classes
- Over 7,000 paid memberships now maintained each month
- City Baths reopened with a full programme of wetside and dryside activities.
- Teen gym instructor led fitness sessions now in place at Foyle Arena, Templemore SC & Riversdale LC
- Inclusive swim and play sessions across leisure services
- Council's leisure facilities have hosted a range of cultural and sporting events for example:
  - IPC Gilgal Cultural event
  - Choral Festival
  - Hive Cancer Support event
  - Walk of hope – Mental health & Suicide prevention charity awareness event
  - North West Angling Fair
  - Halloween Fun Day
  - Women's Wellness day
  - Try-a-tri events
  - Swimming galas

## **Health and Community Wellbeing Services**

The Health and Community Wellbeing section has ensured the ongoing delivery of statutory Environmental Health and other services relating to Housing, Public Health Protection and Development, Food Safety, Port Health, Health & Safety, Consumer Protection, Environmental Protection, Planning Consultation, Licensing, Safety Advisory Group, Animal Welfare, Dog Control and Registration Service (Births, Deaths, Marriages) with a key focus on ‘promoting health, safety and well-being, and safeguarding the environment by supporting communities and businesses through education and enforcement’.

### **Environmental Health Service Delivery (1st April 2024 – 31st December 2024)**

- 2942 Environmental Health service requests investigated and actioned in accordance with Council enforcement policies

### **Housing Service (Private Rented Sector) (1st April 2024 – 31st December 2024)**

- Participated on the DfC’s Affordable Rent Project Board and Intermediate Rent Working Group
- Participated on the Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Regional Monitoring Group regarding the delivery of the HMO function
- 210 HMO's licensed in the DCSDC area to date (6th February 2025)
- 286 Home Safety visits undertaken (to 31/12/24) with a resultant 196 signposting's to other schemes/services, and referrals to other services such as PCSP, NIFRS, Social Services, Occupational Therapy and assisted bin lift in council
- 164 service requests related to the private rented sector investigated (to 31/12/24)
- Service Level Agreement in place with the Drinking Water Inspectorate for Northern Ireland in relation to private water supplies. Samples and risk assessments of registered supplies undertaken in accordance with the SLA.
- Data Sharing Agreement in place with the Make the Call Team in DfC to enable referrals to be made to Make the Call and for Make the Call to refer into the Home Safety and Affordable Warmth teams
- Response to flooding incidents and assessment of homes in accordance with the Department for Communities Scheme of Emergency Financial Assistance

## **Public Conveniences**

- Continue the implementation of a Community Toilet Scheme

## **Health Development**

### **Alcohol, Drugs Mental Health and Homelessness**

- Civic Forum (Alcohol, Drugs, Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing and Homelessness) brings together a range of organisations to collaborate and share best practice, map current services and develop the scope of services, which may be required to support communities. Two meetings held to 31/12/24.

### **Obesity Prevention**

- Continued to work with partners to contribute to the delivery of obesity prevention objectives outlined in the regional obesity strategic framework. For example, working in partnership with the FSA in NI to implement the Calorie Wise scheme in the District and the continued promotion of Menucal to businesses in the District.
- Provided a consultation response on the new obesity strategic framework, 'Healthy Futures.'

### **Funded Programmes**

- £110,688.68 external funding secured to support Home Safety (£46,684) and Tobacco Control (£64,684) programmes (to 31 March 2025).
- Continued delivery of 'Life Project' (tree sapling provided/planted for each life event) through our Registration Service.
- Partnership Agreement in place with Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service and 49 eligible households referred for a Home Safety Fire check and to have smoke detectors installed where necessary. (to 31/12/24)
- The Home Safety Service attended the schools' education programme - Youths Educated in Safety (YES) Programme 15th-17th October 2024 – P6-P7 pupils and school staff members in attendance.

### **Food Safety and Port Health (April 2024 - January 2025)**

- Food Hygiene (FH) and Standards (FS) Work Conducted 545 Food Hygiene inspections and 239 Food Standards Inspections.
- 240 Food Hygiene and Food Standard inspections carried out in new premises.
- Provided support and guidance to 100% of all new food registered premises i.e. 125 new food business operators, before they opened.

- 466 other (non- programmed/alternative enforcement) FH interventions completed.
- 253 other (non-programmed/alternative enforcement) FS interventions completed.
- Investigated 585 Requests for Service, including 12 food incident reports from the Food Standards Agency (FSA).
- Continue to operate the mandatory Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS) with 95% of all premises having a 5 or 4 rating.
- Conducted 100% of all requested revisits under the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme.
- Undertook a National Food Hygiene Rating Scheme Consistency exercise.
- Liaised closely with the Councils Business section in the planning and operation of events (which included a food safety aspect) within the District. Inspections carried out of high risk food stalls at Foyle Maritime Festival and Halloween markets.
- Investigated 75 notifications of Infectious Diseases including participation in an out of hours rota with Fermanagh and Omagh District Council.
- Assisted the Public Health Agency in the investigation of two separate E Coli outbreaks.
- Procured 336 microbiological food samples; 188 chemical food samples, including participation in national surveys.
- Informal Alcohol sampling undertaken in 24 licensed premises prior during December 24.
- Contaminant sampling undertaken in order to comply with EU requirements.
- Representation on Environmental Health Northern Ireland (EHNI) food subgroups- NI Food Managers Group, Food Standards and Food Fraud, Food and Nutrition, Fish and shellfish, Food imports, exports and Port Health.
- Took the lead on behalf of NI Food Managers Group in the planning and delivery of a Food Safety Conference for EHO's in September 2024.
- The Food Service was the subject of an internal audit in Q1/Q2. The audit was successful, with only two minor recommendations made.

### **Support to Businesses**

- Food Safety Workshop delivered for Food Businesses in the DCSDC area delivered in October 2024 in association with Safefood.
- Utilised council's social media channels to signpost businesses to sector specific guidance developed by team on Food Safety messages. Included promotion of the Safefood Food Safety workshop in October 2024, promotion of the DCSDC allergen seminar recording in November 2024, and food safety information following the impact of Storm Eowyn in January 2025.

- Updated Council website with links to Food Hygiene guidance, forms and training materials.

### **Enforcement**

- 1 Voluntary Closure of a business undertaken until suitable works were completed.

### **FSANI Related Work**

- Completed 2 update returns to the FSA on team's performance in accordance with the Food Law Code of Practice.
- Continued to work with partners to contribute to the delivery of obesity prevention objectives outlined in the regional obesity strategic framework. For example, working in partnership with the FSA in NI to implement the Calorie Wise scheme in the District and the continued promotion of Menucal to businesses in the District.
- Provided a consultation response on the Consultation on Best Practice Guidance - Allergen Information for Non-Prepacked Foods.

### **Food Imports/Exports**

- Continue to participate in Foyle port working groups with FSA, DAERA, DEFRA and DEFRA Organics.
- Continue to work alongside DAERA, DEFRA, FSA, Planners and Foyle Port in application to EU for designation of Foyle Port as a BCP for importation of frozen fishery products.
- Undertook 19 Certificate of Inspection (COI's) Organic SPS checks at Foyle BCP. (Designated by EU as BCP in Feb 21 for Importation of Organics.)
- Responded to all verification queries from DAERA regarding Approved Premises for food export.
- Facilitated businesses applying to become part of the NI retail movement scheme (NIRMS) through providing food premises registration numbers.

### **Port Health**

- Reviewing of incoming ships to Foyle Port to verify health conditions of crew and validation of ship sanitation certificates. 149 shipping notifications dealt with.

- Inspection of vessels on request for Ship Sanitation Certificates as required under the Public Health (Ships) Regulations (NI) 2008.
- Checking the quality of water provided to and stored on ships.
- Engagement with the Public Health Agency on the implementation of their Port Health Plan and monitoring Maritime Declarations of Health submitted by vessels arriving at Foyle Port.
- Work with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency on mutual areas of interest so as to protect the welfare of crew and ensure vessels are safe.
- Ship Sanitation inspection training provided to staff members.

#### **Health & Safety and Consumer Protection Services (April 2024 – Jan 2025)**

- Joint Strategy between Councils and the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI) and working with the Health and Safety Liaison Group (HSLG) to progress implementation of the 2023/24 workplan.
- Working with the Northern Ireland Consumer Protection Sub Group to progress implementation of the 2023/24 work plan.
- Participated in regional working groups for Health and Safety and Consumer Protection, including development and delivery of joint plans.
- 480 health and safety and consumer protection visits carried out (April 24 – Jan 25).
- 391 health and safety and consumer protection requests for service were received (April 24 – Jan 25).
- 34 workplace accident notifications were received and responded to in accordance with relevant guidance (April 24 – Jan 25).
- Funding of £55k awarded from the Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS).
- All new premises visited were provided with Consumer Protection and/or Health and Safety guidance.
- Participated in regionally agreed & coordinated ongoing project work on Construction Products with OPSS and the other 10 councils.
- Worked with council's Business Team and Events Safety Advisory Group and other agencies in relation to signposting event organisers to health and safety and consumer protection guidance during key events.
- Follow up with businesses affected regarding OPSS product safety alerts.



- 231 premises written to on the OPSS safety alert regarding water beads & joint liaison with Home Safety & Early Years Social Workers.
- Health and Safety in Brow Bars leaflet produced and 130 businesses provided with guidance.
- Sports Grounds Safety regulatory work carried out with the Ryan McBride Brandywell Stadium and Celtic Park Stadium. This included stadium visits and participation on the Sports Grounds Safety Advisory Group and multi-agency work regarding the new North Stand at Brandywell.
- Provision of safety guidance to 6 businesses supplying E-bikes/E-Scooters.
- Press release issued and an associated radio interview provided regarding safety messaging on E-bikes/E-Scooters.
- H&S&CP website updated with guidance on E-bikes/E-Scooters and new EU GPSR regulations.
- Use of Council social media platforms and website to post guidance and information on Health and Safety and safety of consumer products, including promotion of the OPSS fireworks and Christmas products safety messaging.
- Carried out visits to specialist Halloween costume shops and produced and provided guidance on Consumer Protection requirements.
- Participated in a major tattoo convention held in the district with regard to health and safety advice and regulation.
- Infection Control Guidance produced and sent to 60 Barbers.
- Provided guidance to businesses regarding Sunday Trading.
- Proactive working with the Food Safety Service and council's Business Team, to provide advance CP and H&S guidance to business trading at the Maritime festival including 10 H&S visits and 24 CP visits (with 2 voluntary withdrawals of non-compliant products) at the Foyle Maritime Festival and subsequent follow up work.
- A butane (lighter refills) test purchase exercise was also undertaken and 25% of premises were visited with one sale detected which is being investigated. All premises visited were written to in advance.
- Sunbed guidance leaflet sent to 23 sunbed premises with Test Purchase letter.
- Sunbed Test Purchase Exercise completed with 50% of sunbed premises with 3 sales detected. 3 Fixed Penalty Notices of £250 each were issued to the premises concerned and all 3 were complied with and paid.
- Liaison with the Office of Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) regarding the provision of safe consumer products and the Health and Safety Partnership Officer regarding joint work between the 11 councils and HSENI.

- Gas Safe Register gas safety alert sent to 60 mobile premises.
- Supported the safety messaging for Gas Safety Week in conjunction with HSENI, Gas Safe Register and the other 10 councils.

## **Environmental Protection Services (April 2024 – March 2025)**

### **Air Quality Management**

- Continued monitoring of local air quality throughout the Council district as part of Local Air Quality Management framework which includes 5 continuous air monitoring sites air monitoring stations located at Rosemount, Dales Corner, Newtownstewart, Strathfoyle and Springhill.
- Servicing air monitors in the Brandywell area for the Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH) network and at Springhill for the black carbon network.
- Calibration of air monitoring equipment undertaken in accordance with Technical Guidance to achieve data capture of 90%.
- £39, 547 funding obtained from DAERA to support Councils Air Quality duties. Funding for continued maintenance of air quality monitoring stations and new PM monitor at Castlederg & portable PM monitor to be located at Jon Clifford Bull Park.
- Installed and initiated new air quality monitoring station at Castlederg Leisure Centre. Data collection will commence in 2025.
- Continued delivery of 'Life Project' (tree sapling to be planted for each life event) through our Registration Service. Local oak sapling growing initiative with North West Regional College Horticultural Unit and Creggan Country Park.
- Continue to support the Northern Ireland Radiation Monitoring Group's (NIRMG) continuous Argus gamma monitoring network and
- Environmental radiation sampling programme. Industrial Pollution Control Continued response to service requests in relation to noise and air quality from commercial and industrial premises.
- Planned inspections of Local Air Pollution Prevention and Control (LAPPC). 43 installations permitted with associated annual subsistence fee income.
- Ongoing discussions with NIEA on the review and transformation of Local Air Pollution Prevention and Control is regulated in Northern Ireland.
- Participated on NIEA regulatory Forum in relation to Pesticides and F-Gases
- Participated in Coal Sampling Programme through NIEPG to identify Sulphur content.

- Initiated formal discussions with A5 WTC Principal Contractor and attended online Placeholder meetings.

### **Noise Control**

- Continued response to service requests in relation to noise from commercial and industrial premises.
- Attended Safety Advisory Group in respect to large scaled music events
- Staff undertook acoustic qualifications to maintain professional competence.

### **Planning Consultations**

- Environmental Health staff assess proposed development including impacts associated with air quality, dust, odour, noise, contaminated land and artificial light.
- 720 planning consultations received between 1st April 2023 and 31st March 2024 (655 during the same period in previous year).
- Participated in Planning Appeal Commission hearings, and Public Inquiries.

### **Licensing Services (April 2024 – 31 January 2025)**

- 237 Licenses/permit/registration applications received.
- 208 licenses/permits/registrations issued.
- 12 Road Closure applications received
- 13 Road Closure applications issued.
- 113 responses to consultations under the Licensing (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 and Betting, Gaming, Lotteries & Amusements (Northern Ireland) Order 1985
- Continued development and review of policies, procedures and guidance relating to the licensing function, including:
- New entertainments licensing policy
- Development of new online entertainments licence application facility
- Revised pavement café licensing guidance, reflecting latest DfI guidance
- New procedure for road closures for special events
- New guidance on making representations

## **Representation on Licensing Forum Northern Ireland**

### **Safety Advisory Group (SAG) for events (April 2024 – 31 January 2025)**

- Continued administration of the multi agency Safety Advisory Group, promoting best safety practices for public events
- Provision of advice and guidance in support of 43 planned public events.
- 4 Special Safety Advisory Group meetings held to facilitate specific events: Foyle Maritime Festival, Extreme Funfair and the Kneecap concert.

### **Animal Welfare Service (1st April 2024 – 31st January 2025)**

- Animal welfare service through lead Council Fermanagh and Omagh District Council (FODC) ongoing.
- 430 animal welfare cases investigated with 478 visits, 15 Improvement Notices, 0 Formal Caution issued, and 2 cases with seizures in Derry City and Strabane District Council. There were 0 prosecutions in the Derry City and Strabane District Council area during this period.

### **Dog Control Service (April 2024 – 31st January 2025)**

- 1,231 Service requests, including 95 dog attacks (people, livestock and domestic pets), 313 stray dog complaints.
- 6469 dog licenses issued (including 24 block licenses) achieving approximately £34,380 income.
- Schools' education programme - Youths Educated in Safety (YES) Programme 70 presentations to 1036 P6-P7 pupils, 109 staff members from 23 schools. Further YES Programme workshops will take place on 25-27th February 2025. Pupils are provided with bespoke stationary to reinforce the responsible dog ownership message, including a QR code linked to council webpages.
- £1710.00 in Fixed Penalty payments (Dog Licensing/straying/fouling).
- Quarterly Cross Departmental Dog Control Working Group meetings held to promote better communication and cooperation in jointly tackling irresponsible dog ownership.
- 50,000 dog foul bags handed out to dog walkers by dog wardens, litter/enforcement officers, park rangers and cleansing staff to promote responsible dog ownership.
- Dog Wardens continue to use CCTV, where appropriate, to supplement monitoring of areas where dog fouling is an issue.

- Engagement with Media to promote the following messages: XL Bully Ban, Christmas Message, Sheep Worrying Keeping dogs safe during Summer heat, Halloween, Fireworks,
- XL Bully Ban resulting in registration and licensing of 41 exempt XL Bullies before 31st December. To fulfil all criteria for exemption all exempt XL Bullies must be neutered before 30th June 2025.
- Dog wardens continued to monitor compliance with Dog Control Orders implemented (Dogs on Leads; Dogs on leads by direction; Dog exclusion). Pavement stencilling has been carried out in parks and along popular pathways to promote compliance of DCOs. Dog Wardens proactively patrol areas and investigate all complaints of non-compliance.
- Participation in Green Dog Walker Scheme with 1,000 bespoke dog collar keyrings created with QR cods illustrating Dog Control Orders, and Green Dog Walker leads.
- “Walk this Way Initiative” - two pathways in Derry and Strabane continued to be monitored to determine their effectiveness,
- Council continues to maintain the Council owned dog shelter which is subject to a further tendering exercise. No unclaimed healthy dogs have been humanely destroyed except for stray dogs that were determined to belong to a banned breed list of “dangerous dogs”. It should be noted that dogs that are ill or have a history of aggression are not deemed capable of being rehomed.
- The Service works along with other councils, DAERA, PSNI, HMRC and Harbour Police in the “Paws for Thought” scheme aimed at tackling rouge dog breeder and pup traffickers transporting low welfare pups via the two main ports in Northern Ireland. Dog Wardens check all suspect addresses given where false declarations are suspected.
- Dog Wardens are also monitoring social media and current block licences to determine if there are any unlicensed breeding establishments within the council area.

#### **Registration Service (Births, Deaths, Marriages) (April 2024 - March 2025)**

- 1478 births registered within the District
- 3 still births registered
- 1,165 deaths have been registered
- 490 Marriages registered – religious 273, civil 146, belief 71
- 471 Marriage Notices and 1 Civil Partnership notice administered

- 3 Civil Partnership Notices
- 14 Approved Marriage/Civil Partnership venues inspected

### Section Three: Improvement Planning and Performance

The Directorate has set a number of improvement objectives for 2025/26 which aim to bring about improvement in one or more of the following improvement criteria:

- Strategic effectiveness (SE)
- Service quality (SQ)
- Service availability (SA)
- Fairness (F)
- Sustainability (S)
- Efficiency (E)
- Innovation. (I)

These improvement objectives may relate to improving the quality of life of our citizens (**outcome improvements**) and/or **service improvements** that will help bring about the delivery of more effective, quality and customer focussed services.

An overview of these objectives and the work we will be undertaking in 2025/26 is set out in paragraphs 3.1 – 3.3 below, under the headings of:

- 2025/26 Directorate Improvement Objectives (Outcome Improvement Objective, and Other Service Improvement Objectives)
- Mainstreaming the Equality and Disability Duties, Rural Needs and Climate Change

Details of how we will deliver these commitments and monitor and measure progress/success are set out in paragraphs 3.4 and 3.5.

### 3.1 2025/26 Directorate Improvement Objectives

An overview of the outcome and/or service improvement objectives and how they relate to the Community/Corporate Plan is set out in the table below.

Community/Corporate Plan Objective	Directorate Outcome / Improvement Objective / Service Objective 2025/6	Link to Improvement Criteria **
<b>Social Wellbeing Pillar Community Plan priority outcome areas:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Development – We live in a shared, equal and safe community:</li> <li>More actively engaged and can influence the decisions that affect us</li> <li>Have safer Communities</li> <li>Have Access to quality facilities and services</li> <li>Community and voluntary sector is more sustainable and resilient.</li> </ul> <b>Corporate Plan objectives:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote healthy outcomes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To increase participation in local planning, engagement and communication processes by developing collaborative approaches.</li> <li>To create opportunities to improve, extend and maximise access to facilities and services which deliver increased safety and cohesion within the community.</li> <li>Establish innovative practices which develop more sustainable rural communities and increase the capacity to engage rural, disengaged and excluded communities.</li> </ul>	SE, F, SA, SI  F, SQ, SA, I  I, F, SA, SQ
<b>Social Wellbeing Pillar Community Plan:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health and Wellbeing – We live long healthy and fulfilling lives</li> </ul>	<b>Outcome Performance Objective</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To assist a return to healthy lifestyles through regrowing participation in leisure sports and physical activity</li> <li>To re-engage and achieve user numbers of the Council's</li> </ul>	SA, SQ, E, F, I

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We age actively and more independently</li> <li>• Health inequalities are reduced</li> <li>• We are more physically active</li> <li>• We have improved physical and mental health</li> </ul> <p><b>Corporate Plan objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote healthy outcomes</li> </ul>	<p>leisure facilities (HC1A) with a target of 100% of baseline user numbers through retention and growth strategies achieve net gain within membership base</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To target under represented groups through inclusive leisure, sport and physical activity participation to lead more active lives (HC1B)</li> <li>• Maintain current high levels of customer satisfaction/net promoter score (HC1D)</li> <li>• To improve participation rates for those living in deprived areas (HC1E)</li> <li>• To promote health, safety and wellbeing and safeguard the environment by supporting communities and businesses.</li> </ul>	<p>SQ, SA, SE, F</p>
<p><b>Social and Wellbeing Pillar Community Plan</b> Children and Young People – Our children and young people have the best start in life; our children and young people are safer, healthier, more respected and included; our children and young people are better able to fully realise their potential and become active, responsible citizens.</p> <p><b>Corporate Plan objectives:</b></p> <p>Promote healthy outcomes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Embed a Child Rights Based Approach in the design, delivery and review of policy, strategy and services within the Derry City and Strabane Council area. The principle of participation will be the primary focus</li> <li>• Establish cross-organisational support for the Youth Voice (NW Ministry of Youth) including the development of a pathway of support for seldom heard voices, enabling all young people to have their voice heard in local and regional decision-making.</li> </ul>	<p>F, SQ, SA, E1</p>
<p><b>Older People</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have a caring society that supports people throughout their lives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We address the health and social care needs of an ageing population, promoting positive attitudes to older people and tailoring support to enable them to participate fully in society.</li> </ul>	<p>SE, SA, S, I, SQ, F</p>



<b>Corporate Plan objectives:</b> Promote healthy outcomes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We enable everyone to live their life in a fulfilling way as valued members of an inclusive society.</li> <li>• We provide access to the places, services, housing, information and support people, when needed.</li> </ul>	
<b>Improved service delivery</b>	Increase service cost effectiveness and corporate compliance	E, SE

## 3.2 Outcome Improvement Objective

**To assist a return to healthy lifestyles through regrowing participation in high quality leisure, sport and physical activity**

### Sub Objectives

- Support and deliver Sport & Physical Activity programmes that achieve targets of 8,000 participants per year including\*
  - Female participants - 4000
  - Children & young people - 3000
  - those living in the most deprived areas - 3000
  - Older people - 2000
  - People living with disabilities - 1000
  - Ethnic Minorities – 500
- Achieve 1.5million paid leisure centre user visits
- Achieve 7,000 paid gym memberships (includes direct debits, advanced payments, corporate and staff membership schemes)

\*please note that participants may cover a range of target areas and will be included in each of these categories when compiling attendance and participation.

Derry City and Strabane's Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan 2017- 2032 sets out the strategic community planning partnership's vision for health and wellbeing and the overall outcome to support people live long, healthy and fulfilling lives. Four key areas for improvement have been identified: active ageing and more independent living; reduced health inequalities; increased physical activity; improved mental health.

Engaging users in leisure, sport and physical activity has become an increasing priority at World, National, Governing body and local level. Notably at a Northern Ireland level both the Department for Communities and Sport NI have published new strategy documents and in addition APSE has published a report on Securing the Future of Public Sport and Leisure Services. All of these confirm the need for increased physical activity levels in order to address individual and societal health and wellbeing benefits.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) sets out a global Action plan which includes a focus on physical activity as a leading factor in health and wellbeing. According to the WHO, 4-5 million deaths per year could be averted if the global population was more physically active. Estimates indicate that 27.5% of adults and 81% of adolescents currently do not meet the 2010 WHO recommendations, with almost no improvement seen during the last decade. The key target is to reduce world physical inactivity by 10% in 2025 and 15% by 2030 through delivery of Active societies. There are significant differences in levels of physical activity between higher and lower income groups, and between countries and regions. The WHO's guidelines for staying fit and healthy are broken down by age group. For example, WHO recommends 150 - 300 minutes of moderate aerobic activity per week for all adults; and an average of 60 mins of moderate aerobic activity per day for children and adolescents.

Council has a specific role in providing a range of publicly accessible, universal, and targeted services and activities. We provide significant sports infrastructure to include leisure centres, community buildings, outdoor sports facilities including pitches and water-based access. This is augmented by the very substantial provision by the voluntary sports sector and sports governing bodies along with schools and higher education providers.

The NI Programme for Government has moved to an outcomes focused delivery-based approach which encourages cross departmental working to deliver on 9 key themes, including 'We all enjoy long, healthy, active lives' which most closely aligns to the outcomes for lifelong participation and engagement in sport and physical activity. However, the strategy will also contribute to the PFG outcomes of 'Children and Young people have the best start in life' and 'Everyone can achieve their potential.'

The Department for Communities in March 2022 published Active Living, the new strategy for Northern Ireland, which 'through its vision and associated key themes and goals, seeks to create a vibrant, welcoming, enjoyable, inclusive and successful sector for everyone, contributing significantly to a healthier and more resilient society.' The Active Living strategy overall vision is to have 'More people, More Active, More of the Time.' The strategy framework sets out this overall vision and the interconnectedness of the cross-cutting themes of anti-poverty, wellbeing and inclusion, sustainability and inclusive growth, agility and innovation. The strategy themes include Recovery from the impact of the pandemic on sport and physical activity; promoting participation, inclusion, and community

engagement; Promoting excellence in sport; promoting partnership and integration, providing inclusive and shared spaces and places and promoting the benefits of sport and physical activity.

There are inequalities, with girls and women being less active than boys and men in most countries. Sport NI has recently launched a campaign to encourage women and girls to participate in sport through their 'Be Seen, Be Heard, Belong'. The campaign focuses on levelling the playing field and ensuring women and girls have the same opportunities as men and boys to take part in sport and physical activity. 51% of the population is female, but women are less likely to take part in sport and physical activity than men, and female participation and club membership lags behind their male counterparts. Focus has been outlined within the Council's Be Active Physical Activity, Wellbeing and Sport Strategy to encourage participation from women and girls and also under represented groups into sport, with some of this year's actions and indicators focusing on this to ensure we achieve targets set. DCSDC are currently working with Ulster University in research looking at gender budgeting within leisure and sport.

Derry City and Strabane District Council has published their 'Be Active Physical Activity, Wellbeing and Sport' Strategy which was informed by a consultation process which sought views about participation in sport and physical activity including barriers to participation with residents, schools and activity providers. Among the findings of the study the following are issues Council along with partners need to address:

- Only 29% of respondents indicated that they achieved the WHO daily physical activity guidance of 30mins on 5 days per week; and some 19% indicating that they achieved this on one or no days
- All respondents agreed with the statement that 'being physically active can improve my general health and wellbeing'
- 71% indicated they participated in walking for recreation; 34% in jogging; 31% in aerobics; 29% in weight training and swimming; and 26% in cycling
- The top three responses as to why residents take up physical activity were. 75% to improve health and fitness; 67% to make me feel better; 61% to maintain my mental health
- The top reasons for not being physically active were. 42% due to lack of time or family commitments; and lack of facilities in my area. Other lesser rated reasons were poor weather, cost, being self-conscious, bored with what's on offer; and 1% just not interested
- 71% of schools have delivered sport and physical activity in partnership with Council
- A high percentage of schools would consider making their facilities available for community use if the barriers of insurance and staffing were addressed.

- Nearly half of schools have plans to expand their sports estate, with a strong interest in artificial turf pitches
- 53% of sports providers had delivered activity in partnership with council e.g. local sports clubs, community groups, disability groups have used Council leisure facilities and coaches
- 78% of providers had a willingness to deliver more activity; however, the need for more qualified instructors including those with skills to deliver to disability groups was noted as a need
- There is a network of facilities used for delivery including their own facility, community centres, green spaces

There are 4 themes contained within the strategy that reflect the priorities emerging from the consultation process and linked to the wider PfG Sport and Physical Activity Framework:

## Themes

Four strategic themes have been created to reflect the priorities emerging from consultation



### BE ACTIVE - SPORTS CLUBS

Working directly with the district's sports clubs and activity programmes aimed at the community beyond the club's membership.

#### OUTCOME

More people across the district feel they have opportunities to get involved in sport and/or be physically active.



### BE ACTIVE - EVERYDAY

Promoting lifestyle habits in being active from an early age and through the stages of adulthood. Highlighting the health benefits – physical, mental and emotional – to individuals, family groups and the community.

#### OUTCOME

Barriers understood and solutions created. Greater awareness of opportunities for sport and physical activity and the benefits of being active.



### BE ACTIVE – TOGETHER

Council continuing to work in partnership with key regional and local agencies, government departments and organisations, to complement and supplement similar sports and physical activity initiatives with Council-operated programmes.

#### OUTCOME

More achieved across society by working together.



### BE ACTIVE - SPREADING THE WORD

Messaging the benefits of being active in sport and physical activity is a vitally important element of Be Active. The challenge is to present the opportunities and benefits in a way that jolts people into action and to keep at it, especially those who are inactive.

#### OUTCOME

The perception that sport and physical activity is 'not for me' is reduced.

## The Sport and Physical Activity Framework

### Programme for Government Outcomes and Indicators

#### VISION

'Lifelong involvement in sport and physical activity will deliver an active, healthy, resilient and inclusive society which recognises and values both participation and excellence'

#### KEY THEMES

THEME:	THEME:	THEME:	THEME:	THEME:	THEME:
Recovering from the Impact of the Pandemic	Promoting Participation, Inclusion and Community Engagement	Promoting Excellence in Sport	Promoting Partnership and Integration	Providing Inclusive, Shared Spaces and Places	Promoting the Benefits of Sport and Physical Activity

#### CROSS-CUTTING PRINCIPLES

Developing Inclusive, Shared Communities	Developing Capacity and Governance	Developing National and International Linkages
Supporting sport and physical activity to be more inclusive and diverse while reducing the barriers to participation and ensuring the participation gaps for specific target groups continue to narrow	Developing an agile, well governed, adaptable and progressive sport and physical activity infrastructure, which is collaborative, driven by evidence and enabled by transformative technology	Ensuring that Northern Ireland is recognised as a competitive and attractive place of choice for world class events with high standards of sporting governance and integrity

#### DEPARTMENTAL CROSS - CUTTING THEMES

ANTI-POVERTY	WELLBEING & INCLUSION	SUSTAINABILITY & INCLUSIVE GROWTH	AGILITY & INNOVATION
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## Physical Activity Guidelines as set out by CMO

The UK Chief Medical Officer activity guidelines sets out an exemplar on how commonly delivered sports and physical activity can improve muscle function, bone health and balance. These range from pre-natal swim classes; crèche facilities; swimming lessons; holiday school clubs; teenage activities; multi sports clubs and fitness classes; fitness for well-being and older people; plus, exercise programmes for long term conditions, cancer patients and overweight individuals. The image below provides a diagrammatic representation on the types of activities that can deliver these benefits and contribute to meeting the physical activity guidelines.



The Sport NI Corporate Plan 2021-2026 sets out in its mission its commitment to the development of sport, 'We are passionate about maximising the power of sport to change lives. By 2026 we want the power of sport to be recognised by all.' This acknowledges that the power of sport individually and societally has become more important as a result of the pandemic. The emotional, physical, mental wellbeing derived from participating is seen as an important element of Covid recovery and Regrowth. The plan recognises the need for increased participation in sport across the wider community and the need to focus on parts of society that are underrepresented. Two outcomes have been defined:

- People adopting and sustaining participation in sport and physical activity
- Our athletes are among the best in the world

The key strands which will support the achievement of these outcomes include accessible quality infrastructure and safety; physical literacy development; supporting clubs and governing bodies; developing people to include coaches and referees; strategic partnership collaborations; promoting culture and good governance; delivery of events programme; and supporting high performers.

### **UK Government Funded Projects**

The Levelling Up paper notes the contribution of sport to delivering on 4 of its six capitals including physical, human, social and institutional where investment is needed to address inequalities and restore local pride. It recognises that sports can:

- Contribute to individual health and wellbeing including a broad range of physical and mental benefits
- Public facilities provide a place-based infrastructure through which services can be delivered across the most deprived communities
- Sport and leisure facilities are seen as a significant factor in determining a local community's sense of belonging and pride of place

Council has benefitted from the national Levelling Up Fund (total of £16m), now known as UK Government Funded Projects for 3 significant infrastructural projects within the district which are now well underway with construction completed at some stages of each project:

### **Daisyfield Community Sports Hub**

This project will see the regeneration of the Daisyfield pitches with the development of: a single storey sports centre with facilities for fitness classes, boxing, snooker and social area; six block changing room facility; upgrade to the existing natural 100m x 50m grass pitch; a FIFA 1 Star synthetic multi use games area; and car park and associated supporting infrastructure. Construction work is well underway with the facility due to open in the summer of 2025.

### **Derg Active**

The project is an integrated economic, health and well-being, social and environmental project focused on the rural town of Castlederg. Works have been completed in the Diamond area including high quality public realm and the Castle Park play facility. Greenway areas and the Castle Park event have also been completed. Construction is due to begin in March/April 2025 on the development of the 3G pitch and associated area at Mitchel Park.



### **Acorn Farm St Columb's Park**

The project will see the regeneration of the former Ministry of Defence site off St Columb's Park into an urban growing space (Acorn Farm) within the city, a new gate lodge (handed over to Council in March 2025), enhanced car parking, wider environmental improvements to include play provision, enhanced biodiversity signage and landscaping. The focus will be to develop a high quality innovative urban food growing hub; learning and skills development centre (Green Skills Academy); sustainable food events venue; high quality sustainable visitor infrastructure and experience; and support infrastructure.

### **Integrated Care System**

The planned development of Integrated care systems (ICSs) within Northern Ireland with the Partnership structures to be developed by 2024 provide the opportunity for increased health collaboration. Over recent years there has been a growing importance of the need for collaboration with health partners and the introduction of ICSs provides a new mechanism to focus on addressing inequalities and maximising prevention. Councils and the community sector have already shown that they can play their part in this by successfully collaborating on initiatives such as GP referral, Couch to 5K walking and running initiatives and the Macmillan Move More cancer rehabilitation programme which supports those with chronic conditions; and additionally, by a range of secondary prevention programmes which support people with different health and wellbeing needs. There is an imminent opportunity to transition both perception and the delivery of sport and leisure activities to those of an active wellbeing service. Among such examples might include the co-location of services perhaps to leisure and community venues to increase accessibility, increased provision of existing partnership programmes to target a specific neighbourhood, step up programmes as part of preventative care and more social prescribing. These opportunities will evolve as the outcomes of the Integrated Care Partnerships become established over the coming year requiring a focus on systems, behaviours, and places.

Derry City and Strabane District has been selected by the Department for Health and Public Health Agency as one of the early adopter sites exploring a Whole Systems Approach to Obesity Prevention which is being developed in Northern Ireland. This follows the publication of a report: A Whole Systems Approach to obesity prevention; a rapid synthesis of evidence to inform the Northern Ireland Strategy Project Board which focuses on improving the systems within which we are born, grow, live, work and age. The latest data shows that one in four adults (27%) and around one in sixteen children (6%) are living with obesity in Northern Ireland. Official data shows that the development of obesity is strongly linked to deprivation status. There has been a 12% increase in child obesity between 2011/12 and 2018/19 within primary one children living in the most deprived areas (36%) by comparison to those living in the least deprived areas. It is recognised that obesity increases the risk of developing chronic diseases, such as colon cancer, high blood pressure or type 2 diabetes, and is linked to substantial direct and indirect costs - estimated to be £370m in NI.



Council is working alongside PHA in the development and implementation of the project phases, with DCSD currently at phase 1, and now working with other NI Councils in reviewing mapping of activities and resources which will be available to the public in terms of access and locations of leisure activities, greenways, health services etc.

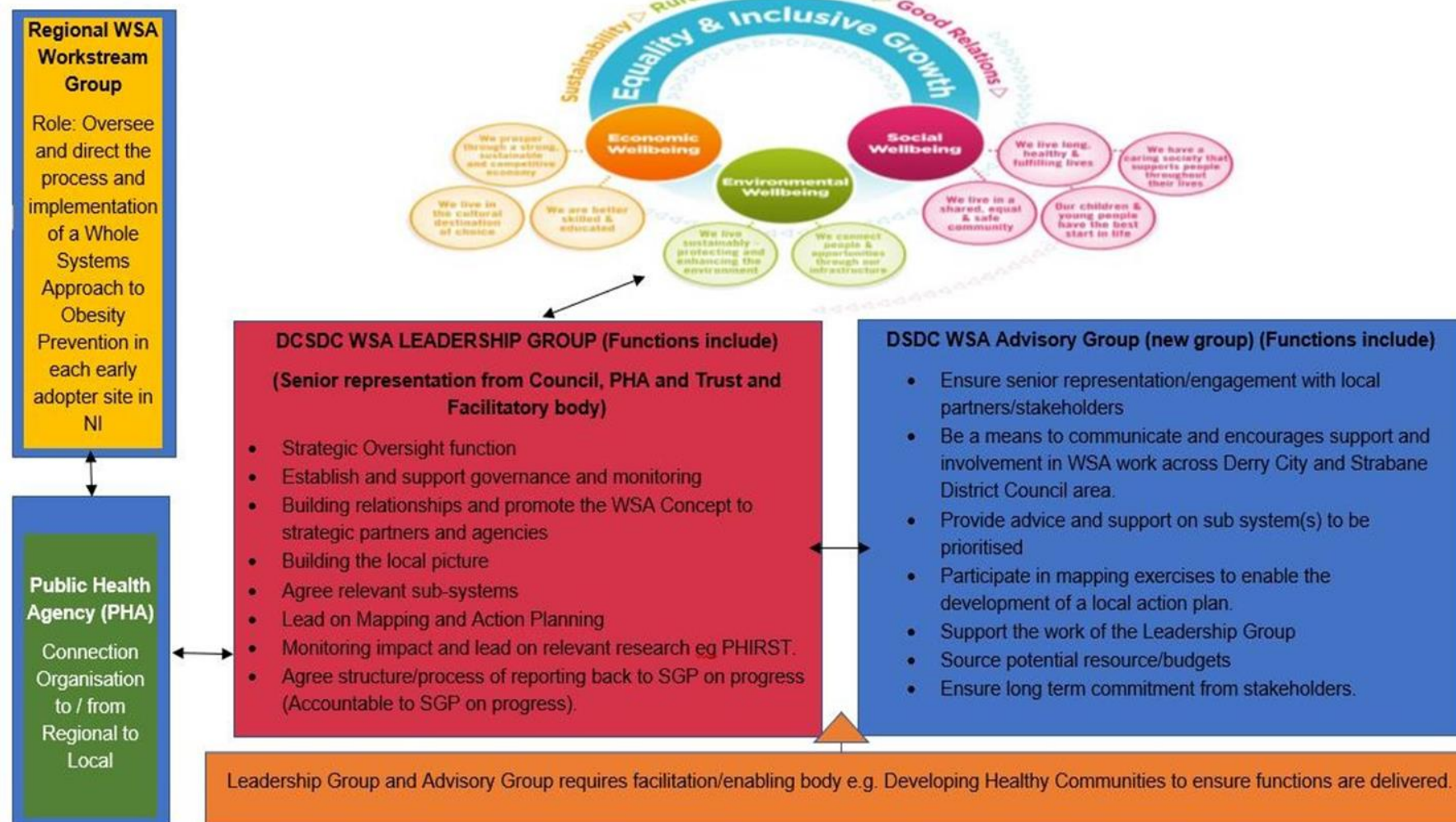
A governance structure has been developed to include PHA, WHSCT, DSDC and the local delivery partner Developing Healthy Communities.

## Governance Structure: Whole System Approach (WSA) for Derry City Strabane District Council (DCSDC)

Regional Structure/

LOCAL Structure/Accountability - SGP

Accountability – ROPIG



DOH 2022 health inequalities report shows that health outcomes in 26 of the 52 measures are worse than the NI average. The overall health status of the District with life expectancy lower than the NI average- men living in the top 20% deprived areas have life expectancy nearly 6 years less and women nearly 3 years less; prescription rates for mood, anxiety disorders, obesity and cancer are 13% higher; in school Year 8 obesity is significantly more prevalent; and 26 of the 52 health outcomes in the DOH 2022 report on health inequalities are worse than the NI average. The WHO state that physical inactivity is one of the risk factors in non-communicable diseases and death worldwide. It increases the risk of cancer, diabetes, heart disease and stroke by 20-30%. It is estimated that 4-5 million deaths per year could be averted if the global population was active.

As a result, the delivery of the Council strategy will focus on the vision of 'more people, more active, more often' with associated objectives around participation across all ages and abilities; supporting the sports clubs as key delivery partners; and developing further partnership working to grow participation and promote the role of sport and physical activity as a key part of a healthy lifestyle.

Developing Healthy Communities Northern Ireland have over 30 years' experience improving peoples' lives. The innovative programmes focus on improving mental, physical and social wellbeing. DHC supports communities, families and workplaces through mentoring, training and funding programmes, and champion healthcare needs with decision makers. Part of a global wellbeing initiative, DHC connect people and facilitate conversations in order to share best practice.

Part of the World Health Organisation's (WHO) initiative, Derry City & Strabane District Healthy City & District project brings health, housing, transport, education, environment, and community together to collaborate on a holistic health and wellbeing approach within the district. Derry and Strabane first joined this global network of cities in 2009 and remains one of only a handful of areas in Ireland and the UK to be leading the way through participation in this political movement which is designed to make health and wellbeing a central strategic approach.

Looking beyond the traditional approach, the Healthy Cities framework looks beyond statutory services and care providers as the sole means to deliver health. It brings together the concepts of **People, Place, Participation, Planet, Prosperity and Peace**. There will be specific focus on physical activity in the 2025/26 delivery plan.

### 3.3 Mainstreaming the Equality and Disability Duties, Rural Needs, and Climate Change

The Directorate will carry out the delivery of its functions and services taking cognisance of Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 which requires public authorities to carry out their functions to promote equality of opportunity and good relations across those with protected characteristics within the Act.

Our work will positively reflect:

- The promotion of opportunities for all
- Take cognisance of equality screening and equality impact assessment processes
- Engaging with elected members and wider stakeholders through consultation processes to shape and plan our service delivery
- Actively participate in internal groups such as the good relations panel, equality scrutiny panel, poverty and rural working groups

In 2024/25 the Directorate will have given consideration to the following issues pertinent to our mainstreaming objective:

- DCSDC consultation response to the Department for Communities Public Consultation on Policy changes to the Social Fund Winter Fuel Payment Scheme
- DCSDC Consultation response to NIFRS Community Risk Management Plan
- DCSDC Consultation response to the PSNI Race and Ethnicity Action Plan 2025-2027
- DCSDC Corporate Consultation response to - Our Plan: Doing What Matters Most Draft Programme for Government 2024 - 2027
- DCSDC Consultation response to The Executive Office Budget Allocation for 2024-25
- DCSDC Consultation response to Northern Ireland Housing Executive Building Safer Communities Together Community Safety Strategy 2025-2030
- DCSDC Consultation response to Department for Communities Budget Allocation 2024-25 Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)
- DCSDC Consultation response to the Registration Threshold for Charities in Northern Ireland
- DCSDC Consultation response NIHE Community involvement and cohesion strategy 2024-2029

## **Climate Change**

The majority of Council's leisure facilities developed from the 1970s onwards are in need of significant reinvestment and replacement and largely rely on traditional energy sources. Whilst Council has commenced a strategic reinvestment programme, a number of leisure facilities, pitch upgrades have been undertaken and City Baths has been closed for urgent repairs. It will take some time for this to complete as leisure facilities produce a significant proportion of direct carbon emissions and replacing/upgrading the leisure estate will be a crucial contributor in meeting our net zero targets.

As the Council plans the shape of its future leisure estate there is the opportunity to rethink what our communities will need from facilities and services and design more efficient and impactful solutions to help our communities to be active and stay healthier for longer. Equally the learning from Covid-19 has shown the increased propensity of our citizens to engage in outdoor based activity, including active travel and the shift to choices of walking, cycling or running to destinations. In addition to contributing to healthier lives it promotes benefits of improved air quality and reduced carbon emissions along with realising a more equitable, sustainable and prosperous world.

There is an increased understanding and value being placed on sport and leisure and recognition of their contribution to wider objectives of improving health and addressing health inequalities; lowering levels of obesity and cutting carbon emissions.

## **Sustainable Development Goals**

The activities of the Directorate contribute to sustainable development goals such as good health and wellbeing, reducing inequalities and supporting and improving standards of life, enhancing access to quality education and the conditions for decent work and economic growth. The directorate service plan takes into account the recent disability audit and audit of inequalities completed.

## **3.4 Improvement Delivery Plan**

In order to deliver our Directorate outcome and/or service improvement objectives we have identified a number of key activities, as set out below. These actions represent part of the work that will be progressed by the Directorate during 2025/26.



		obesity, diabetes or musculoskeletal conditions Deliver a Support for Sport Grant Aid programme		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver a Club Maintenance Grant Aid programme</li> </ul>	Mar 26	HCDL
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pilot a “Strategic Sport Partnership Programme” with sporting organisations to develop and deliver strategic action plans that will develop local sport systems, helping to provide local programmes to address identified local need.</li> </ul>	Mar 26	HCDL
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achieve ‘Athlete Support Membership’ target of 70 participants</li> </ul>	Mar 26	HCDL
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To develop and fund local sport and physical activity programmes and initiatives specifically designed to improve the health and wellbeing of disabled and inactive people.</li> </ul>	Mar 26	HCDL
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To facilitate and promote more initiatives focused on the provision of information, training, advice and funding which will encourage and support local sports clubs and physical activity providers to be more inclusive of disabled people.</li> </ul>	Mar 26	HCDL
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To facilitate and support the provision of locally available inclusive equipment which improves access to sport and physical activity opportunities for disabled people.</li> </ul>	Mar 26	HCDL

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver 4 Be Active Physical activity, Wellbeing &amp; Sport Roadshows across district showcasing and promoting opportunities to participate and increasing awareness and understanding, particularly amongst sedentary individuals of the benefits on being active</li> </ul>	Mar 26	HCDL
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and pilot a monitoring and evaluation framework to establish the social value generated by Sport Development projects including social return on investment</li> </ul>	Mar 26	HCDL
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver 10 district wide 'Sports Forum' and Sports Committee meetings.</li> </ul>	Mar 26	HCDL
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver annual Sports Awards to promote community pride in the district's sporting achievers</li> </ul>	Mar 26	HCDL
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a core set of KPIs for leisure services</li> </ul>	Mar 26	HCDL
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver high quality leisure and physical activity opportunities to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Enrolment of 8,500 in the centre based Learn to Swim programme</li> <li>○ Deliver school swimming programme to 7,000 children, achieving the standard as set out in the National Key Stage 2 Curriculum</li> <li>○ Achieve 7,000 paid gym memberships</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Mar 26	HCDL



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Achieve attendance of 100,000 participants at centre based fitness classes</li> <li>○ Achieve attendance of 300 participants in water safety courses</li> <li>○ Introduce new exercise classes focused on active aging participation</li> <li>● Review and roll out an improved Learn to Swim Programme with additional emphasis on skills based learning and additional water safety elements included</li> <li>● Increase awareness and participation of teen gym by 20%</li> <li>● Deliver 10 improvement initiatives in conjunction with community &amp; voluntary organisations and statutory agencies aimed at increasing physical activity opportunities for those with a disability</li> <li>● Introduce Menopause focused classes in 3 key sites</li> <li>● Promote sustainability – work with Green Infrastructure Lead to identify and implement actions within leisure facilities that can contribute to the Climate Mitigation Action Plan.</li> </ul>	<p>Mar 26</p> <p>Mar 26</p> <p>Mar 26</p> <p>Mar 26</p> <p>Mar 26</p>	<p>HCDL</p> <p>HCDL</p> <p>HCDL</p> <p>HCDL</p> <p>HCDL</p>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver the Shared Island funded project in Derg Valley, delivering enhanced eco friendly planting and replacement of internal lighting with energy efficient lighting.</li> <li>• Deliver 10 RLSS National Pool Lifeguard Qualification training courses</li> <li>• Deliver STA swim tutors course, upskilling existing team members to deliver Swim teachers courses</li> <li>• Deliver and facilitate 2 x STA disability swim teacher courses</li> <li>• Leisure &amp; Sport Pricing Policy EQIA, ongoing consultation and annual reviews</li> <li>• Implement JAM Card scheme across the service</li> <li>• Achieve breastfeeding friendly locations in tier one leisure centres</li> <li>• Continue delivery of inclusive swim sessions in wet centres</li> </ul>	<p>Mar 26</p> <p>Mar 26</p> <p>Mar 26</p> <p>Mar 26</p> <p>Aug 25</p> <p>Aug 25</p> <p>Mar 26</p>	<p>HCDL</p> <p>HCDL</p> <p>HCDL</p> <p>HCDL</p> <p>HCDL</p> <p>HCDL</p> <p>HCDL</p>
2	To Increase participation in local planning, engagement and communications processes by developing collaboration processes (HC2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued Cross departmental representation on LocalGrowth Partnership Boards.</li> <li>• Continue to explore opportunities to utilise the Consensual Grant Making Model to support the LCGPB's to deliver on programmes aligned to the local community plans for the DEA.</li> </ul>	<p>Mar 26</p> <p>Mar 26</p>	<p>HCDL</p> <p>HCDL</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cross Departmental Working within Council and across Statutory Agencies to deliver on the Age Friendly Strategy &amp; Action Plan for the DCSDC area.</li> <li>• Implementation of the Good Relations Action Plan 2025-26</li> <li>• Continued engagement with, including officer representation on, all 8 Local Community Growth Partnership Boards.</li> <li>• Support Children and Young People partnership structures to better align with Local Growth Partnership Boards/ Plans</li> <li>• Continue to embed Age Friendly across the community planning structures and across departments</li> </ul>	Mar 26	HCDL
			Mar 26	HCDL
			Mar 26	HCDL
			Mar 26	HCDL
			Mar 26	HCDL
<b>3</b>		<p>Deliver PCSP Action plan for 25/26 with the following outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide PCSP support to community based forums</li> <li>• Provide PCSP support via Small Project Support and Consensual Grant Aid to each of the 7 DEAs and Strabane Town.</li> </ul>	Mar 26	HCDL
<b>4</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To improve community confidence in policing by delivering joint awareness/engagement</li> </ul>	Mar 26	HCDL

		<p>activities with PSNI through the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Road safety initiatives</li> <li>• Youth engagement initiatives</li> <li>• Marking initiatives – bikes/trailers/farm equipment</li> <li>• Joint anti-burglary awareness campaigns</li> <li>• Neighbourhood Watch meetings and support</li> <li>• PCSP Policing Committee meetings, support Local Community Safety Forums Monthly Support Hub</li> <li>• meetings.</li> </ul>		
5	<p>Improve services for Children and Young People (CYP) by embedding a Child Rights based approach across partnership structures; creating formal structures and informal opportunities where CYP can be supported to be involved in decisions which affect them (HC3)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to embed a Child Rights Based Approach in the design, delivery and review of policy, strategy and services.</li> <li>• Adopt the Lundy Model of Participation to the design and evaluation of appropriate youth activities.</li> <li>• Identify resources to deliver a Children and Young Person Multi Agency Action Plan adhering to the duty placed on Council as a Children's Authority in the Children's Services Cooperation Act (NI 2015).</li> <li>• Work in partnership with EA Youth Service to develop sustainable youth participation</li> </ul>	<p>Mar 2026</p> <p>Mar 2026</p> <p>Mar 26</p> <p>Mar 26</p>	<p>HCDL</p> <p>HCDL</p> <p>HCDL</p> <p>HCDL</p>

		<p>structures for the NW Ministry of Youth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create child-friendly maps in each Local Community Planning areas.</li> </ul>		HCDL
6	To create opportunities to improve, extend and maximise access to facilities and services which deliver increased safety and cohesion within the community. (HC4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver a series of programmes and initiatives through the Good Relations Action plan which makes areas safer, shared and inclusive.</li> <li>• Deliver a Good Relations Grant Aid Programme.</li> <li>• Deliver a Community Venues Fund across the council area.</li> <li>• Ensure access to and provision of high quality Council Owned Community Managed Centres within the Council Area.</li> <li>• Enable the delivery of Advice Services Programme across the Council area.</li> </ul>	<p>Mar 26</p> <p>Mar 26</p> <p>Mar 26</p> <p>Mar 26</p> <p>Mar 26</p>	<p>HCDL</p> <p>HCDL</p> <p>HCDL</p> <p>HCDL</p> <p>HCDL</p>
7	Establish innovative practices which develop more sustainable and resilient communities and increase the capacity to engage rural, disengaged and excluded communities. (HC5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Development and Good Relations support to the 7 DEA's and Strabane Town.</li> <li>• Develop initiatives in conjunction with LCGP boards which address identified GR issues in local areas.</li> <li>• Community Development support to the 3 rural DEAs of Sperrin, Derg and Faughan.</li> <li>• Allocate Community Support Fund programme to the 7 DEA's and Strabane Town.</li> </ul>	<p>Mar 26</p> <p>Mar 26</p> <p>Mar 26</p> <p>Mar 26</p> <p>Mar 26</p>	<p>HCDL</p> <p>HCDL</p> <p>HCDL</p> <p>HCDL</p> <p>HCDL</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to implement the agreed Social Supermarket Model for the Council area.</li> </ul>	Mar 26	HCDL
8	Promote health, safety and well-being, and safeguard the environment by supporting communities and businesses through education and enforcement (HC6)	1. Support the local economy and businesses through clear advice, guidance and good regulation.	Mar 26	HHCWB
		2. Provide a quality statutory function promoting compliance through risk based inspection and sampling programmes and where necessary carry out enforcement activities in accordance with statutory provisions and council policies.	Mar 26	HHCWB
		3. Work with stakeholders to monitor, manage and produce an Air Quality Action Plan/Progress reports.	Mar 26	HHCWB
		4. Promote and support responsible dog ownership	Mar 26	HHCWB
		5. Provide high quality and accessible registration services within legislative framework and Council policies.	Mar 26	HHCWB
		6. Contribute to the Local Development Plan and respond to planning consultations to ensure sustainable development.	Mar 26	HHCWB
		7. Implement LAC 67 (2) V14 for prioritised planning of Health and Safety inspections and interventions	Mar 26	HHCWB

		8. Work with partners (FSA/DAERA/DEFRA) to facilitate the delivery of official Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) controls at the new shared Border at Foyle Port, due to open in April 2025	Mar 26	HHCWB
		9. Work towards adopting a Whole System Approach to Obesity in the Council area in partnership with a range of stakeholders including PHA (lead partner). This will help Incorporate the objectives of the new Obesity Strategy –‘Healthy Futures’.	Mar 26	HHCWB

### 3.5 Measures of Success and Performance

During 2025/26 we will continue our work to establish baseline and benchmarking information in order to promote continuous improvement. The following performance indicators/measures and targets have been identified for 2025/26.

Outcome / Service Improvement Objective Reference	Performance Measure/Indicator	2021/22 Performance	2022/23 Performance	2023/24 Performance	2024/25 Performance	Target 2025/26
HC6 (1)	<b>Continue to promote/support and participate in range of health and wellbeing initiatives linked to collaborative actions identified within</b>					

Outcome / Service Improvement Objective Reference	Performance Measure/Indicator	2021/22 Performance	2022/23 Performance	2023/24 Performance	2024/25 Performance	Target 2025/26
	<b>the Strategic Growth Plan (2017-2032), Health 2020 and the Making Life Better Strategy (2013-2023).</b>					
	<p>Support community, voluntary, statutory and business partners tackle issues affecting vulnerable members of our society through the Civic Forum (Alcohol, Drugs, Mental Health, Emotional Wellbeing, Suicide Prevention and Homelessness) which is led by the Mayor.</p> <p>Hold 3 Civic Forum (Alcohol, Drugs, Mental Health, Emotional Wellbeing and Homelessness) meetings/year</p> <p>Participate in the Homelessness Inclusive Health Network</p>	<p>2 Meetings Held</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>2 Meetings &amp; Homeless Heroes Event Held</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>2 Meetings Held &amp; Homeless Inclusive Health Event Held</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>2 Meetings held (to 31/12/24)</p> <p>3 Meetings Held</p>	<p>3 meetings</p> <p>4-6 Meetings</p>
	Continue to promote/support and participate in range of health and wellbeing initiatives linked to Making					



Outcome / Service Improvement Objective Reference	Performance Measure/Indicator	2021/22 Performance	2022/23 Performance	2023/24 Performance	2024/25 Performance	Target 2025/26
	LifeBetter Strategy: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Home Safety</li> <li>Smoke Free/Tobacco Control</li> <li>Air Quality</li> </ul>	8  1 1	8  1 1	8  1 1	8 1 1	8  1 1
	80% of service requests responded to within 3 working days	88%	90%	84.2% (to 31.1.24)	86% (to 31/12/24)	80%
	Adhere to targets set out in the following Service Level Agreements or contract with statutory partners:					
	PHA – Home Safety	39.8%	92%	55%	42%	100%
	PHA Tobacco Control/Smoke Free	95%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	NIEA – Drinking Water Inspectorate	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
HC6 (3)	<b>Support the local economy and businesses through clear advice, guidance and good regulation.</b>					

Outcome / Service Improvement Objective Reference	Performance Measure/Indicator	2021/22 Performance	2022/23 Performance	2023/24 Performance	2024/25 Performance	Target 2025/26
	Ensure new food, health and safety and consumer protection businesses receive advice and/or guidance upon registration/first visit. [Annually]	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	Provide construction product manufacturers with published statutory guidance and continue to work with OPSS on the inspection of concrete block manufacturers. [Annually] all	-	-	-	-	100%
	Produce new or update existing guidance documents/online resources to be used by business and/or consumers addressing relevant H&S, CP, Food or Licencing topics. [Annually]	100%	100%	100%	100%	Produce or update at least 3 guidance documents/on-line resources
HC6 (6)	<b>Provide a quality statutory function promoting compliance through risk based inspection and sampling</b>					

Outcome / Service Improvement Objective Reference	Performance Measure/Indicator	2021/22 Performance	2022/23 Performance	2023/24 Performance	2024/25 Performance	Target 2025/26
	<b>programmes and where necessary carry out enforcement activities in accordance with statutory provisions and council policies.</b>					
	Increase focus on food standards as a result of food fraud- Alcohol sampling in licensed premises	24	25	25	25	25
	Increase focus on food standards as a result of food fraud- Number of Food Standards Premises inspections	93	372	203	239	200
	Implement the new Food Standards Delivery Model scoring system as required by the Food Law Code of Practice.	-	-	-	-	90% of FS inspections to be scored using the new FSDM system in 25/26.
	Carry out programmed inspections of high risk premises- % of Food Hygiene premises inspected.	80% FH due to covid pandemic.	100% FH	100% FH	100%	98%
	80% of service requests responded to within 3 working days	88%	90%	97% FH	95%	80%

Outcome / Service Improvement Objective Reference	Performance Measure/Indicator	2021/22 Performance	2022/23 Performance	2023/24 Performance	2024/25 Performance	Target 2025/26
	Food Safety/Nutrition/Infectious Disease Control – Ensure the continued operation of the Mandatory FHRS in a fair, consistent and transparent manner:					
	% of FHRS notifications sent out within 14 days	100%	100%	100%	99.5%	98%
	% of FHRS revisits undertaken	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	Implement Port Health Plan and Review the health status documentation of incoming ships and crew to Foyle Port.	-	-	-	100%	90% of health status documentation to be reviewed.
	Develop procedures which facilitate the delivery of official Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) controls at the new shared Border and Develop procedures for SPS controls at Foyle Port.	-	-	-	-	Develop 4 procedures for SPS controls at Foyle Port.
	<b>Work with stakeholders to monitor, manage and Improve Local Air Quality.</b> (Dales Corner air monitor NO2 levels as	22 µg/m3	22 µg/m3	25 µg/m3	25 µg/m3	25 µg/m3

Outcome / Service Improvement Objective Reference	Performance Measure/Indicator	2021/22 Performance	2022/23 Performance	2023/24 Performance	2024/25 Performance	Target 2025/26
	PfG indicator -expressed against hourly annual mean limit of 40 µg/m3)					
	<b>Improve Local Air Quality through continuance of Local Air Quality Monitoring/Action Plan and inspect permitted Industrial Installations enforced by Council</b>					
	5 Air Quality Monitoring Stations and diffusion tube network maintained (24 sites)	5 (24)	5 (24)	5 (24)	5 (24)	6(24)
	PPC Inspections	Limited inspections during Covid 19. High risk premises inspected	(100%- High risk)) 80%)- Medium Risk ( 37.5%-Low (	(100%)	(100%)	100%
	<b>Contribute to the development of the Local Development Plan and respond to planning consultations to ensure sustainable development.</b>					

Outcome / Service Improvement Objective Reference	Performance Measure/Indicator	2021/22 Performance	2022/23 Performance	2023/24 Performance	2024/25 Performance	Target 2025/26
	Improve response times to planning: 15 working days response time for local applications	52% impacted by Pandemic and staff resources	Performance impacted with introduction of new Planning Portal and staff resource	TBC	TBC	Respond to 75% of local applications within 15 working days.
HC6 (1)	Work in collaboration with HSENI via the Health and Safety Liaison Group (HSLG) regarding the implementation of relevant targets as set out in the 2025/26 work plan – tbd by HSLG. [Annually]	Delivered on the Covid Restriction priorities as identified by HSLG	100%	100%	Ongoing	100%
	80% of accident notifications responded to within response times. (i.e. respond to all fatal accidents immediately and respond to all other accident notifications within 5 – 10 working days). [Quarterly]	100%	97.5	89%	Q1 – Q3 100%	80%
	DoJ – Storage of fireworks and explosives	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Outcome / Service Improvement Objective Reference	Performance Measure/Indicator	2021/22 Performance	2022/23 Performance	2023/24 Performance	2024/25 Performance	Target 2025/26
	Adhere to the targets set in the Storage of Fireworks and Explosives Service Level Agreement with DoJ. [Annually]					
	Achieve 80% compliance with the objectives set out in the Health & Safety and Consumer Protection Service Plan. [Annually]	Many of the targets were not relevant due to the covid pandemic.	86%	80%	Ongoing	80%
	Participate in a test purchase exercise on the sale of butane lighter fuel products or the sale of sunbed sessions, in at least 25% of premises offering the supply or use of these of these products. [Annually]	No visits due to coronavirus pandemic	25%	25%	25%	25%
	<b>Promote and support responsible dog ownership</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	Implement and deliver actions in Dog Control Work Plan	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	Investigate straying complaints Implement rehoming policy	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Outcome / Service Improvement Objective Reference	Performance Measure/Indicator	2021/22 Performance	2022/23 Performance	2023/24 Performance	2024/25 Performance	Target 2025/26
	Dog attacks investigated within 1 day	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	Implementation of Dog Control Orders created by cross departmental/multi-agency working group	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	Education talks – Schools/Community Groups	30	30	50	60	60
	Increase number of new dog licences	20%	10%	10%	5%	5%
	<b>Provide high quality and accessible registration services within legislative framework and Council policies.</b>					
	The publication of a new guide to the Registration of Marriage and Civil Partnership	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	Number of local businesses making application for Approved Venue status	8	14	14	14	14
	Service Delivery and Customer feedback from Funeral Director and bereaved family.	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	<b>Strategic Growth Plan (2017-2032), Health 2020 and the Making Life Better Strategy (2013-2023).</b>					



Outcome / Service Improvement Objective Reference	Performance Measure/Indicator	2021/22 Performance	2022/23 Performance	2023/24 Performance	2024/25 Performance	Target 2025/26
	Participate in the Healthy Communities Strategic Leadership Group (previously the Health and Wellbeing Outcome Delivery Partnership) and facilitate and support any partnership groups and / or agency, to deliver on the collaborative actions identified.	-	-	-	-	4 meetings planned
	Support community, voluntary, statutory and business partners tackle issues affecting vulnerable members of our society through the Civic Forum (Alcohol, Drugs, Mental Health, Emotional Wellbeing, Suicide Prevention and Homelessness) led by the Mayor. Hold 3 Civic Forum (Alcohol, Drugs, Mental Health, Emotional Wellbeing and Homelessness) meetings/year	No meetings held during Covid	2 Meetings Held	2 Meetings & Homeless Heroes Event Held	2 Meetings held (to 31/12/24)	3 Meetings
	Continue to promote/support and participate in range of health and wellbeing initiatives linked to Making					

Outcome / Service Improvement Objective Reference	Performance Measure/Indicator	2021/22 Performance	2022/23 Performance	2023/24 Performance	2024/25 Performance	Target 2025/26
	LifeBetter Strategy: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home Safety</li> <li>• Smoke Free/Tobacco Control</li> <li>• Air Quality</li> <li>• Nutrition/Obesity/Health at Work</li> </ul>	8 1 1	8 1 1	8 1 1	8 1 1	8 1 1
	<b>Support the local economy and businesses through clear advice, guidance and good regulation.</b>					
	Number of Safety Advisory Group meetings held to promote high standard of health, safety and well-being at public events	4 (Quarterly meeting schedule)	4 (Quarterly meeting schedule)	4 (Quarterly meeting schedule)	3 Scheduled meetings plus 4 special meetings	4 (Quarterly meeting schedule)
	Percentage of acknowledgements for licence, registration and permit applications sent to applicants within 5 working days of receipt	80%	90%	90%	90%	90%
	Percentage of licences, registrations and permits processed within approved	N/A	90%	90%	90%	90%

Outcome / Service Improvement Objective Reference	Performance Measure/Indicator	2021/22 Performance	2022/23 Performance	2023/24 Performance	2024/25 Performance	Target 2025/26
	target timescales					
	Percentage of applications for licences, permits and registrations made electronically	-	-	-	-	80%
	Review and revision of licensing policies	-	-	-	50%	100%
	Review of designated streets under the Street Trading Act (NI) 2001	-	-	-	10%	100%
	Implementation of new pavement café licensing procedure	-	-	-	-	100%
	Delivery of seminar for licensed premises on new entertainments licensing policy and on-line application procedure	-	-	-	-	1 seminar
	Revision of Safety Advisory Group Terms of Reference (TOR) and procedures, in liaison with internal and external partners	-	-	-	-	100%
	Development of a Licensing Compliance and Enforcement Options Toolkit for officers	-	-	-	-	100%
	Provide Port Health Service and Develop Service Plan					

## Section Four: Risk Management

### 4.1 Risk Register

Each area of the Directorate has a risk register and measures have been put in plan to mitigate identified risks. The risk register is reviewed regularly throughout the year.

## Section Five – Contact Details

### 5.1 Staff Contacts

Karen McFarland – Director of Health and Community

Email: [karen.mcfarland@derrystrabane.com](mailto:karen.mcfarland@derrystrabane.com)

Work Direct Line: 028 7138 1319

Work Mobile No: 07912 120 850

Lorraine Shields – PA to Director of Health & Community

Email: [lorraine.shields@derrystrabane.com](mailto:lorraine.shields@derrystrabane.com)

Tel No. 028 71 253 253 ext. 4291 or 6401

Work Direct Line: 028 7138 1319

## Heads of Service

<p>Barry O'Hagan – Head of Community Development and Leisure  Email: <a href="mailto:barry.ohagan@derrystرابane.com">barry.ohagan@derrystرابane.com</a>  Tel No. 028 71 253 253  Work Mobile: 07709 457 730</p> <p>Hazel Best  Business Services Officer  Email: <a href="mailto:hazel.best@derrystرابane.com">hazel.best@derrystرابane.com</a>  Tel No 028 71 253 253 ext. 6989</p>	<p>Seamus Donaghy – Head of Health and Community Wellbeing  Email: <a href="mailto:seamus.donaghy@derrystرابane.com">seamus.donaghy@derrystرابane.com</a>  Tel No. 028 71 253 253  Work Mobile: 07824469500</p> <p>Caroline McKittrick  Business Services Officer  Email:  <a href="mailto:caroline.mckittrick@derrystرابane.com">caroline.mckittrick@derrystرابane.com</a>  Tel No 028 71 253 253 ext. 4441 or 6952</p>
<p><b>Service Managers &amp; Officers (Community Development and Leisure)</b></p> <p><i>Community Development, Good Relations, Local Community Planning, Age Friendly, Children and Young People and Council Owned Community Managed Centres</i></p> <p>Teresa Bradley  Inclusive and Shared Communities Manager  Email: <a href="mailto:Teresa.bradley@derrystرابane.com">Teresa.bradley@derrystرابane.com</a>  Tel No. 028 71 253 253</p> <p>Angela Askin  Community Development Programme Manager  Email: <a href="mailto:Angela.askin@derrystرابane.com">Angela.askin@derrystرابane.com</a>  Tel No. 028 71 253 253</p>	<p><b>Principal Officers (Health and Community Wellbeing)</b></p> <p><i>Food Control and Infectious Diseases</i>  Marissa McCormick  Email:  <a href="mailto:marissa.mccormick@derrystرابane.com">marissa.mccormick@derrystرابane.com</a>  Tel No. 028 71 253 253</p> <p><i>Health &amp; Safety and Consumer Protection</i>  Eamonn Toner  Email: <a href="mailto:eamonn.toner@derrystرابane.com">eamonn.toner@derrystرابane.com</a>  Tel No. 028 71 253 253</p> <p><i>Licensing &amp; Public Events Safety</i>  Paul Rafferty  Email:</p>

<p>Ciara Burke Community Development Programme Manager Email: <a href="mailto:Ciara.burke@derrystrabane.com">Ciara.burke@derrystrabane.com</a> Tel No. 028 71 253 253</p> <p>Vanessa Russell PCSP Manager Email: <a href="mailto:Vanessa.russell@derrystrabane.com">Vanessa.russell@derrystrabane.com</a> Tel 028 7125 3253</p> <p>Ryan Deighan Area Manager – Sport Email: <a href="mailto:ryan.deighan@derrystrabane.com">ryan.deighan@derrystrabane.com</a> Tel No: 028 7137 6555</p> <p>Steve Setterfield Area Manager – Leisure Email: <a href="mailto:steve.setterfield@derrystrabane.com">steve.setterfield@derrystrabane.com</a> Tel No. 028 7137 6555</p> <p>Cathy Farren Area Manager – Leisure Email: <a href="mailto:cathy.farren@derrystrabane.com">cathy.farren@derrystrabane.com</a></p>	<p><a href="mailto:paul.rafferty@derrystrabane.com">paul.rafferty@derrystrabane.com</a> Tel No. 028 71 253 253</p> <p><i>Health, Housing and Public Conveniences</i> Alan Haire Email: <a href="mailto:alan.haire@derrystrabane.com">alan.haire@derrystrabane.com</a> Tel No. 028 71 253 253</p> <p><i>Dog Control</i> Enda Cummins Email: <a href="mailto:enda.cummins@derrystrabane.com">enda.cummins@derrystrabane.com</a> Tel No. 028 71 253 253</p> <p><i>Environmental Protection &amp; Neighbourhoods</i> Post currently vacant Email: <a href="mailto:EnvironmentalHealthDept@derrystrabane.com">EnvironmentalHealthDept@derrystrabane.com</a> Tel No. 028 71 253 253</p> <p><i>District Registrar</i> Roisin Scroggie Email: <a href="mailto:roisin.scroggie@derrystrabane.com">roisin.scroggie@derrystrabane.com</a> Tel No. 028 71 253 253</p>
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<p>Tel No. 028 7137 6585</p> <p>James Moore Area Manager – Leisure Email: <a href="mailto:james.moore@derrystرابane.com">james.moore@derrystرابane.com</a> Tel No 028 7138 2672</p>	
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## 5.2 Facilities / Office Details

Details on all facilities can be found at [www.derrystرابane.com](http://www.derrystرابane.com)