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## **Environmental Wellbeing Pillar:**

### **Infrastructure, Energy & Transport Thematic Working Group (TWG)**

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#### **TWG Workshop 1, 21 July 2016**

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**Attendees:** Joanne Wallace- **Wallace Consulting**, Alan Gilmore- **DART Partnership**, Anthony Soares- **Centre for Cross Border Studies**, Bernadette Convery, **Action Renewables**, Colette McKay, **Department of Economy**, Frankie Dodds, **Consumer Protection & Environmental**, Gary Mawhinney, **Translink**, John French, **NI Consumer Council**, Leo Strawbridge- **NI Energy Managers Forum Chairman**, Mark Mullan, **Translink**, Roy Bell, **SIB**, Thomas Kelly, **Transport NI**, Stephen Bill, **Tourism NI**, Sylvia Irwin, **Health Board**

**ABC Council-** Aidan Mallon, Ciaran Coleman, Colm Gallagher, Damien McEvoy, Gerard Enright, Greg Ferson, Helen Stoops, Janice Clarke, Jennifer Doak, Jonathan Hayes, Lynsey Daly, Noreen O'Callaghan, Paul Hanna, Paul Kavanagh, Paul McCullough, Sarah-Jane MacDonald, Sharon O'Gorman  
Tom Lavery, Councillor Marie Cairns

**Apologies:** Caroline Maguire- **NIEA Historic Building Branch/Senior Conservation**, Ciaran McKenna- **Transport NI**, Dean McBride- **DETI**, Gordon Clarke- **Sustrans**, James Kelly- **Transport NI**, Kate McCusker- **Cleaver Fulton Rankin Lawyers**, Lynn Barker- **GO Power**, Rachel Sankannawar- **Action Renewables**, Reynold Nicolson- **Transport NI**, **Roisin Ballantine- NIE**, Stephen Wood- **Dfi**, Stuart Wightman- **DETI**

**ABC Council-** Barry Patience, Damien Mulligan, Elaine Gillespie, Gemma Richardson, Gerard Houlahan, Gillian Topping, Lewis Porter

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## **1. Welcome & Introduction**

Noreen O'Callaghan from the Community Planning Team, ABC Council, provided an overview of the Community Planning process. Sharon O'Gorman, Position Directorate, ABC Council will provide strategic direction to TWG during the process.

## **2. Baseline Statistics**

Jennifer Doak, NISRA presented key statistics relevant to the TWG. A number of areas for further exploration were suggested:

- Planned investment in infrastructure - transport (e.g. road schemes, rail upgrades and other travel related projects), energy, utilities, water, waste disposal/treatment etc).
- Access to private vehicles by demographics (to identify any inequality issues for under-represented groups e.g. young, elderly, socially disadvantaged);
- Access to public / community transport by area;
- Identification of local cycle and pedestrian routes;
- Information to help explain why 57% of vehicle kms travelled on only 10% of NI roads?;

- Connectivity / proximity to transport links to identify growth opportunities;
- Availability of alternative options to car/van travel within ABC (eg. park & ride/share facilities).
- The outcome of the local ABC broadband pilot projects;
- Broadband quality / provision at more local level (the statistics are based on average speeds, which mask large variations) – both download/upload speeds and bandwidth;
- Include mobile phone coverage (e.g. Not-spots and 3G/4G provision);
- Breakdown of local renewable energy generation by source and user (domestic/business etc.), that makes up ABC's 1% of NI total;
- The capacity, accessibility and viability of the electricity grid;
- Ideal environmental conditions for various types of renewable energy production (e.g. geology, wind);
- How much energy are we using/consuming?;
- Energy efficiency of existing domestic/non-domestic buildings;
- Data on water supply – consumption, future capacity/projected needs;
- Waste water treatment – consumption and future capacity/projected needs;
- Identification of flood risk areas;
- Extent of gas supply network across ABC;
- Resilience of infrastructure, in terms of how long it takes faults to get fixed (e.g. damaged electricity line, digital connection failure, burst pipe etc.);
- Comparative data from beyond ABC boundary to better understand our performance within NI/UK/Ireland in terms of costs and benefits accrued from investments (across all areas).

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**Outcome:** Jennifer to look at the availability of additional statistics in response to areas raised. However, many of these requests are likely to be part of Action Plan scoping exercises.

### **3. Identified Issues**

Joanne Wallace, Wallace Consulting led a series of group discussions and feedback sessions. The issues identified during the discussions have been thematically grouped as follows:

#### *Physical Connectivity*

- Poor connectivity within the borough itself – in terms of ease of travel and modal choice between hubs/settlements and wider rural area;
- Impact that poor connectivity has on tourism (e.g. Armagh City and rural area);
- Standard of road infrastructure – increasing pressure with population increase;
- Rail network – limited service and coverage. Improvements needed. Potential link to Armagh and halt at Central Craigavon raised, along with need to address congestion issue at William Street, Lurgan caused by railway crossing;
- Poor integration between transport modes and between urban and rural networks;
- Ageing population – unsuitability of transport offering;
- Poor perception of public transport;
- Heavy reliance on private car in ABC (like NI as a whole) & limited availability of park & ride and park & share facilities etc. to help reduce car use;

- Inequality in public transport coverage and service

#### *Digital Connectivity*

- Poor broadband service / reliability (speed / bandwidth) – and the impact that this is having on rural businesses in particular (upload and download speeds both important);
- Poor mobile phone service – signal strength and coverage (e.g. ‘Not-spots’ and 3G/4G).

#### *Energy Efficiency*

- Fuel poverty – impact of fuel costs on households/communities and social well-being;
- Renewables – limited use of alternatives to wind (given ABC’s location and lesser potential for wind-energy than other parts of NI);
- Lack of awareness of energy efficiency benefits, measures and initiatives and alternative renewable energy sources;
- Limited sharing of knowledge, resources and expertise between stakeholders, interest groups and with other councils (cross-council and cross-border);

#### *Waste and Resource Management*

- Statutory requirement to meet 2020 waste targets;
- Explore the energy potential from waste.

## **4. Shared Priorities**

There was a high degree of consensus regarding the types of issues that needed to be prioritised and would benefit from a collaborative approach under community planning. The following agreed priorities are inter-linked:

#### *Physical Connectivity*

- Need a more joined-up approach between transport providers (public, community and private) to improve coverage and service;
- A more integrated and sustainable approach to the siting, layout and design of housing and places of work etc., to encourage public transport / walking / cycling.
- Need a more sustainable integrated transport network that encourages and increases public transport, walking and cycling use (and reduces car use);
- Transport Infrastructure Plan should be developed for ABC to deliver a sustainable co-ordinated programme of investment;
- Land-use planning – decisions on the allocation, siting, layout and design of new housing and other uses should help to reduce the reliance on the private car as far as possible (that is consistent with the Transport Infrastructure Plan).

#### *Digital Connectivity*

- Develop better partnership between local and central government and service providers to improve broadband and mobile phone service coverage, quality and resilience;
- Learn from local ABC broadband pilot projects and explore best-practice – (e.g. local rural broadband initiatives in UK).

#### *Energy Efficiency*

- Better partnership needed between local and central government to explore energy generating and saving potential, available assistance and how to reduce red-tape and delays for applicants (e.g. develop a central portal / point of contact);
- More engagement needed with providers to improve coverage and efficient resource use, deliver best value network upgrade and improve resilience;
- Need to explore best-practice in renewable energy and fuel-saving projects – (e.g. Community Energy Plans, energy efficiency in design and solar energy in housing schemes).
- Develop a more sustainable, cost-saving, collaborative approach between ABC Council, central government, utility providers and other partners to maximise energy generating potential and energy conservation, to increase consumer choice and to reduce fuel poverty;
- Improve awareness of benefits of energy efficiency;
- Explore best-practice solutions – (e.g. local Community Energy Plans, Anaerobic Digestion Plants and Solar Energy Schemes);
- Produce a long-term Energy Supply, Efficiency and Infrastructure Plan for ABC.

#### *Waste & Resource Management*

- Action to meet the statutory waste targets by 2020;
- Audit to establish how we are currently operating and to explore smarter, more sustainable ways of working;
- Produce a long-term Waste and Resource Management Plan for ABC.

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**Outcome:** TWG members agreed Physical Connectivity, Digital Connectivity, Energy Efficiency and Waste & Resource Management as shared priorities.

## **5. Long-term Outcomes**

Based upon the agreed priorities, TWG members discussed long-term goals (10-15 years) for the Community Plan. These have been developed as follows for discussion at Workshop 2 (see Table overleaf).

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**Outcome:** TWG members to discuss and agree long term outcomes at Workshop 2. Joanne Wallace to draft short and medium term outcomes based on existing information for discussion at Workshop 2.

Need / Problem	Priority	Long-term Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor connectivity within the borough itself – in terms of ease of travel and modal choice between hubs/settlements and wider rural area;</li> <li>• Impact that poor connectivity has on tourism (e.g. Armagh City and rural area);</li> <li>• Standard of road infrastructure – increasing pressure with population increase;</li> <li>• Rail network – limited service and coverage. Improvements needed. Potential link to Armagh and halt at Central Craigavon raised, along with need to address congestion issue at William Street, Lurgan caused by railway crossing;</li> <li>• Poor integration between transport modes and between urban and rural networks;</li> <li>• Ageing population – unsuitability of transport offering;</li> <li>• Poor perception of public transport;</li> <li>• Heavy reliance on private car in ABC (like NI as a whole) &amp; limited availability of park &amp; ride and park &amp; share facilities etc. to help reduce car use;</li> <li>• Inequality in public transport coverage and service</li> </ul>	<p><b>Physical Connectivity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need a more joined-up approach between transport providers (public, community and private) to improve coverage and service;</li> <li>• A more integrated and sustainable approach to the siting, layout and design of housing and places of work etc., to encourage public transport / walking / cycling.</li> <li>• Need a more sustainable integrated transport network that encourages and increases public transport, walking and cycling use (and reduces car use);</li> <li>• Transport Infrastructure Plan should be developed for ABC to deliver a sustainable co-ordinated programme of investment;</li> <li>• Land-use planning – decisions on the allocation, siting, layout and design of new housing and other uses should help to reduce the reliance on the private car as far as possible (that is consistent with the Transport Infrastructure Plan).</li> </ul>	<p><b>We have an accessible, integrated &amp; sustainable transportation system which enhances the economy, the environment and our quality of life</b></p> <p><i>[ST development ideas]</i>  <i>change of attitude and behaviour towards use of sustainable modes of transport, Improve access to public transport for all people and organizations by strengthening the conditions for sustainable transport modes; more efficient and integrated use of existing and planned transport and land-use infrastructure</i></p>

Need / Problem	Priority	Long-term Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor broadband service / reliability (speed / bandwidth) – and the impact that this is having on rural businesses in particular (upload and download speeds both important);</li> <li>• Poor mobile phone service – signal strength and coverage (e.g. ‘Not-spots’ and 3G/4G).</li> </ul>	<p><b>Digital Connectivity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnerships between local and central government and service providers to improve broadband and mobile phone service coverage, quality and resilience;</li> <li>• Learn from local ABC broadband pilot projects and explore best-practice – (e.g. local rural broadband initiatives in UK).</li> </ul>	<p><b>We have a modern, reliable, resilient, digital network that everyone can access throughout the Borough</b></p> <p><i>[ST development ideas]</i>  <i>Quality, inclusion - help businesses make smart use of information technology and data, ensure citizens benefit from the digital age, underpin economic growth</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fuel poverty – impact of fuel costs on households/communities and social well-being;</li> <li>• Renewables – limited use of alternatives to wind (given ABC’s location and lesser potential for wind-energy than other parts of NI);</li> <li>• Lack of awareness of energy efficiency benefits, measures and initiatives and alternative renewable energy sources;</li> <li>• Limited sharing of knowledge, resources and expertise between stakeholders, interest groups and with other councils (cross-council and cross-border);</li> </ul>	<p><b>Energy Efficiency</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnership between local and central government to explore energy generating and saving potential, available assistance and how to reduce red-tape and delays for applicants (e.g. develop a central portal / point of contact);</li> <li>• More engagement needed with providers to improve coverage and efficient resource use, deliver best value network upgrade and improve resilience;</li> <li>• Need to explore best-practice in renewable energy and fuel-saving projects – (e.g. Community Energy Plans, energy efficiency in design and solar energy in housing schemes).</li> <li>• Develop a more sustainable, cost-saving, collaborative approach between ABC Council, central government, utility providers and other partners to maximise energy generating potential</li> </ul>	<p><b>We have a secure, sustainable and affordable energy supply</b></p> <p><i>[ST development ideas]</i>  <i>awareness, more energy efficiency, Longer term investment in energy efficiency technology</i></p>

	<p>and energy conservation, to increase consumer choice and to reduce fuel poverty;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve awareness of benefits of energy efficiency;</li> <li>• Explore best-practice solutions – (e.g. local Community Energy Plans, Anaerobic Digestion Plants and Solar Energy Schemes);</li> <li>• Produce a long-term Energy Supply, Efficiency and Infrastructure Plan for ABC.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statutory requirement to meet 2020 waste targets;</li> <li>• Explore the energy potential from waste.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Waste and Resource Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Action to meet the statutory waste targets by 2020;</li> <li>• Audit to establish how we are currently operating and to explore smarter, more sustainable ways of working;</li> <li>• Produce a long-term Waste and Resource Management Plan for ABC.</li> </ul>	<p><b>The Borough demonstrates excellence in sustainable waste &amp; resource management</b></p> <p><i>[ST development ideas]</i>  <i>improved understanding of how waste can be prevented, reduction in waste to landfill based on waste hierarchy and encouraging recycling and reuse; We are making better use of our resources by reducing consumption &amp; increasing our efficiency</i></p>

## 6. Thematic Vision

TWG members developed their long-term vision, to be achieved under the Environmental Wellbeing Pillar. These suggestions have been integrated into the following statement, for discussion at Workshop 2:

*“ABC is a connected, forward-thinking Borough, with a sustainable approach to current & future infrastructure needs”*

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**Outcome:** TWG members to discuss & agree Thematic Vision at Workshop 2.

## 7. Parked Issues

These were raised as important and will be explored in subsequent TWG sessions and/or discussed under the Economic and Social Wellbeing Pillars.

*Overall*

- Need for infrastructure supply and supporting plan for ABC for all themes – to ensure co-ordinated and sustainable approach to infrastructure delivery;
- Need to consider neighbouring / other Community Plans due to cross-boundary issues;
- Neighbouring Councils should be invited to the TWG to input into and discuss cross-boundary issues and to encourage cross-council and cross-border co-operation;
- ‘Brexit’ – possible uncertainty caused by UK exit from EU in terms of regional co-operation and funding streams.
- Fuel poverty – impact on households and communities (economic / social well-being);
- Poor broadband connectivity – impact on local economy and social contact (Economic / Social Wellbeing);
- Poor public transport – impact on mobility, social exclusion and access to jobs (Economic and Social Wellbeing);
- Quality of public and community transport provision - impact on ageing population, social well-being and community development (Social Wellbeing);
- Limited cycling and walking provision – impact on health and social well-being of communities (Social Wellbeing);
- Use of renewable energy – potential to improve air quality – impact on health of communities (Social Wellbeing).

## 8. Next Steps

The remaining Workshops are scheduled as follows:

- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop will be on Friday 5 August 2016: 10:30-4:30pm (venue Lakeview 2, Craigavon Civic Centre (Council), Craigavon);
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> Workshop will be on Friday 9 September 2016: 9:30-1pm (venue Old Town Hall, Banbridge)

Workshop 2 will focus on:



- Revisions to draft Outcomes & Vision;
- Developing Short- and Medium-term outcomes;
- Identifying strengths/weaknesses;
- Actions & targeting.