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## **Environmental Wellbeing Pillar: Infrastructure, Energy & Transport (IET)**

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### **Thematic Working Group (TWG): Workshop 2, 5 August 2016**

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**Attendees:** Joanne Wallace- **Wallace Consulting**, Alan Gilmore- **DART Partnership**, Bernadette Convery- **Action Renewables**, Don Leeson- **NI Consumer Council**, Hilton Parr- **Translink**, James Kelly- **Transport NI (Dfi)**, Mark Mullan- **Translink**, Roy Bell- **Strategic Investment Board (SIB)**, Stephen Bill- **Tourism NI**, Tom Reid- **Department for Infrastructure (Dfi)**

**ABC Council** - Aidan Mallon, Colm Gallagher, Damien McEvoy, Elaine Gillespie, Gemma Richardson, Gerard Enright, Janice Clark, Jennifer Doak, Jonathan Hayes, Liz Drew, Lynsey Daly, Michelle Markey, Paul Kavanagh, Rebecca Flynn, Richard Griffin, Sarah-Jane McDonald, Sharon O’Gorman, Tom Lavery

**Apologies:** Anthony Soares- **Centre for Cross Border Studies**, Ciaran Coleman- **ABC**, Ciaran Tipping- **ABC**, Collette McKay- **Department for Economy (DfE)**, Damian Mulligan- **ABC**, Frankie Dodds- **Consumer Protection & Environmental**, Gary Mawhinney- **Translink**, Gillian Topping- **ABC**, Greg Ferson- **ABC**, Helen Stoops- **ABC**, Ian Wilson- **DART Partnership**, John French- **NI Consumer Council**, Kate McCusker- **Cleaver Fulton Rankin Lawyers**, Leo Strawbridge- **NI Energy Managers Forum**, Margaret Hamilton- **Gas to the West**, Noreen O’Callaghan- **ABC**, Pat Austin- **National Energy Action (NI)**, Paul McCullough- **ABC**, Reynold Nicholson- **TransportNI (Dfi)**, Shane Campbell- **Irish Cross Border Area Network (ICBAN)**, Shane Kelland- **ABC**, Stuart Wightman- **Department for Economy (DfE)**, Tara Love- **ABC**, Tom Reid- **Department for Infrastructure (Dfi)**

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## **1. Welcome & Introduction**

Joanne Wallace welcomed members as Facilitator of the IET TWG.

## **2. Baseline Statistics**

Jennifer Doak, NISRA updated the baseline report as per Workshop 1 requests:

- Car / Van Availability (NI data overall);
- Broadband Coverage (Download, Upload and Data Usage in Urban & Rural NI overall only);
- Mobile Coverage (Partial and Complete ‘Not-spots’ across NI overall);
- Energy Consumption (NI and ABC data);
- Energy Efficiency (NI data overall);
- Renewables (clarification on NI Renewables Obligation Support Scheme closing dates)

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**Outcome:** TWG members agreed that the draft report reflected the current situation.

## **3. Workshop 1 Report**

Joanne Wallace, Wallace Consulting provided a recap of the issues and priorities agreed at the previous session. The four inter-linked priorities were

- Physical Connectivity;
- Digital Connectivity;

- Energy Efficiency;
- Waste & Resource Management

Long-term outcomes for each priority were presented based upon the outputs of Workshop 1:

| Priority                    | Draft Long-term Outcome   | Agreed Long-term Outcome  |
|-----------------------------|---|---|
| Physical Connectivity       | We have an accessible, integrated and sustainable transportation system which enhances the economy, the environment and our quality of life | We have an accessible, <b>affordable</b> , integrated and sustainable transportation system which enhances the economy, the environment and our quality of life |
| Digital Connectivity        | We have a modern, reliable, resilient, digital network that everyone can access throughout the Borough                                      | We have a modern, reliable, <b>affordable</b> and resilient digital network that everyone can access throughout the Borough                                     |
| Energy Efficiency           | We have a secure, sustainable and affordable energy supply  | We have an <b>efficient</b> , secure, sustainable and affordable energy supply  |
| Waste & Resource Management | The Borough demonstrates excellence in sustainable waste and resource management  | The Borough demonstrates excellence in sustainable waste and resource management  |

Following on from member proposals at Workshop 1 and further discussion, the Vision is revised as follows:

| Draft Vision  | Agreed Vision  |
|---|--|
| <i>“ABC is a connected, forward-thinking Borough, with a sustainable approach to current and future infrastructure needs”</i> | <i>“ABC is a well-connected Borough with an innovative approach to meeting our infrastructure, energy, waste and transport needs in a sustainable way”</i> |

**Outcome:** TWG members to review the vision at the next workshop

#### 4. Short- and Medium-Term Outcomes

Joanne presented draft short- and medium-term outcomes, based on Workshop 1 discussions. The following suggested outcomes have been drafted on the basis of the discussions at Workshop 2 (see Table 4.1).

**Outcome:** TWG members to discuss & agree proposed Short-, Medium- & Long-term outcomes at Workshop 3.

**Table 4.1**                      **Priorities & Outcomes**

| <b>Priority</b>             | <b>Short-term (0-5 years)</b>   | <b>Medium-term (6-9 years)</b>  | <b>Long-term (10-15 years)</b>  |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|
| Physical Connectivity       | People are better informed about their travel options and providers are working together to make journeys more affordable, convenient and environmentally friendly.                     | Transport and land-use is more integrated, improving physical connectivity and leading to greater use of sustainable modes of travel.                 | We have an accessible, affordable integrated and sustainable transportation system which enhances the economy, the environment and our quality of life. |
| Digital Connectivity        | Local and central government are working with service providers to improve broadband and mobile phone service coverage, quality and resilience and more people are digitally confident. | Digital service quality, coverage and access levels have improved, facilitating economic growth and ensuring people can benefit from the digital age. | We have a modern, reliable, affordable, resilient digital network that everyone can access throughout the Borough.                                      |
| Energy Efficiency           | People have a greater understanding of the financial and environmental benefits of energy efficiency measures and are open to the use of alternative renewable energy sources.          | Targeted investment has led to greater innovation, availability and use of energy efficient technology.   | We have an efficient, secure, sustainable and affordable energy supply.   |
| Waste & Resource Management | People are better informed and motivated to prevent waste through reducing consumption and increasing recycling and reuse.  | We are making better use of our resources and reducing waste.   | The Borough demonstrates excellence in sustainable waste and resource management.   |

## 5. SWOT Analysis

Jonathon Hayes, ABC Borough Council, provided a snapshot of activities relevant to the priorities. Members conducted SWOT analyses on each priority to inform action planning.

| <b>Table 5.1: PHYSICAL CONNECTIVITY</b>  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>STRENGTHS</b>   | <b>WEAKNESSES</b>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ABC's good strategic position in NI and on ROI border;</li> <li>• Routes and networks already in place;</li> <li>• Key N/S and E/W corridors run through ABC (M1 Motorway and A1 Road);</li> <li>• Existing railway connection through ABC;</li> <li>• Single public transport operator (Translink);</li> <li>• Single roads authority (Dept. for Infrast.);</li> <li>• ABC and other authorities are committed to improvement;</li> <li>• Existing cycle network in Craigavon.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large dispersed rural population in ABC;</li> <li>• Poor / patchy local connectivity in ABC;</li> <li>• Rail connection – single route through ABC with limited stops (4) and services;</li> <li>• Limited regional rail connection;</li> <li>• Routes / networks not fully integrated;</li> <li>• Poor road conditions in places;</li> <li>• Lack of awareness of travel options;</li> <li>• Over-reliance on private car;</li> <li>• Disconnect in budgets and priorities;</li> <li>• Lack of cooperation and shared focus between NI/ROI Councils + stakeholders.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>OPPORTUNITIES</b>   | <b>THREATS</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spatial Delivery – Community Plan and Local Dev. Plan to work together;</li> <li>• To exploit good links to help ABC grow;</li> <li>• Collaborative working – between ABC, other councils and bodies;</li> <li>• To better integrate services and explore new interchanges to encourage modal change (eg. Craigavon Rail Halt?);</li> <li>• For voluntary / community sectors to pick up gaps in transport coverage;</li> <li>• Cycle / Walking Routes – (e.g. to extend good network in Craigavon Urban Area);</li> <li>• Land-use Planning – to provide a more integrated, sustainable approach;</li> <li>• To change negative perception of public transport and existing travel habits;</li> <li>• Potential key infrastructural upgrades (e.g. Armagh Bypass and Inner Ring Road);</li> <li>• Education/Awareness - to encourage focus on sustainability/active travel;</li> <li>• Align with Key Programme for Govt. Transport Indicators;</li> <li>• 'Brexit' – possibilities caused by a UK exit from EU (e.g. funding, lobby for change).</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Viability of services and investment caused by infrequent demand;</li> <li>• Over-reliance on private car – more convenient than public transport;</li> <li>• Perception / Habits – unwillingness of public/users to change;</li> <li>• Ageing population – accessibility issues and suitability of transport offering;</li> <li>• Housing Layout Design / Quality – developers' profit versus public interest. Market demands are not pushing developers to improve and innovate in terms of access to transport etc.;</li> <li>• Lack of stakeholder involvement/buy-in;</li> <li>• Political changes create uncertainty. Priorities change, with often no long-term vision;</li> <li>• Lack of long-term planning and strategy;</li> <li>• Funding / budgetary limitations;</li> <li>• 'Brexit' – possible uncertainty and change caused by a UK exit from EU in terms of regional co-operation and funding streams.</li> </ul> |

**Table 5.2: DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY**

| <b>STRENGTHS</b>   | <b>WEAKNESSES</b>  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existing NI infrastructure is reasonably good;</li> <li>• ABC and stakeholders are committed to improvement;</li> <li>• Project Kelvin (Fibre Optic link to North America) – Portadown and Armagh, 2 of 13 NI Towns connected;</li> <li>• 1 Terabyte (TB) potential – new-age of increased system memory / capacity;</li> <li>• ABC Interactive/Digital platforms (e.g. Bin-ovation App (Bin Collection and Recycling Information for Households)) and Shape ABC Consultation Platform</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor, unreliable broadband service (speed and bandwidth) in places;</li> <li>• Poor mobile phone service (signal strength and coverage) in places;</li> <li>• Dispersed population (rural) – added distance from broadband hubs/cabinets and added cost to extend and upgrade;</li> <li>• Limited data on digital coverage and localised service to identify deficiencies;</li> <li>• Poor collaboration on a regional scale to address deficiencies;</li> <li>• IT skills deficit (e.g. businesses, elderly);</li> <li>• Limitations of Government 10Mbps target by 2020;</li> </ul>   |
| <b>OPPORTUNITIES</b>   | <b>THREATS</b>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consumer demand drives innovation / improvement;</li> <li>• To improve access, speed and affordability of broadband (ABC target of 30Mbps by 2020 - 3 times Government 10Mbps target);</li> <li>• To exploit Project Kelvin connections;</li> <li>• 1 Terabyte (TB) potential – as above;</li> <li>• potential for growth and investment resulting from increased capacity;</li> <li>• Future proof – improve resilience;</li> <li>• Train/educate an IT-ready workforce;</li> <li>• Address IT skills deficit across targeted groups (e.g. businesses, elderly);</li> <li>• To learn from best practice models, ABC broadband pilot projects and surveys;</li> <li>• To improve collaborative working (across councils, cross-border, communities, public/private bodies etc.);</li> <li>• To lobby for increased funding;</li> <li>• Investment Potential – attracted by improved high-speed connectivity;</li> <li>• Digital platforms / Interactive Tools (e.g. Bin-ovation, Shape ABC Portal);</li> <li>• ‘Brexit’ – possibility of new opportunities caused by a UK exit from EU in terms of funding availability, influencing policy, change in priorities.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• British Telecom’s (BT) monopoly on infrastructure affects competition;</li> <li>• Costs and failure to invest adequately in improvements;</li> <li>• Network degradation (corrosion);</li> <li>• Avoiding measures to improve resilience future proof;</li> <li>• Lack of uptake of digital service;</li> <li>• Lack of IT skills (e.g. some social groups, parts of business community);</li> <li>• Perception (by some business owners) that internet is direct competition (rather than seeing its potential);</li> <li>• Impact on businesses and overall economy caused by poor connectivity;</li> <li>• Impact on social well-being and inclusion caused by poor connectivity (e.g. community outreach, online church services);</li> <li>• ‘Brexit’ – possible uncertainty and change caused by a UK exit from EU in terms of regional co-operation and funding streams (cuts).</li> </ul> |

**Table 5.3: ENERGY EFFECIENCY**

| <b>STRENGTHS</b>  | <b>WEAKNESSES</b>   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy efficiency continues to improve;</li> <li>• Good public awareness of need to save energy;</li> <li>• Effective legislation in place;</li> <li>• ABC’s good strategic location within NI and proximity to GB, ROI and Europe to avail of energy connections, sources, co-operative working, expertise etc.;</li> <li>• Willingness to work together.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dependency on oil – over other energy sources;</li> <li>• Slow uptake of renewable energy alternatives:</li> <li>• Old building stock in ABC with poor energy efficiency;</li> <li>• ABC – less wind-energy potential than other parts of NI;</li> <li>• High energy costs – impact on businesses and investment potential.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>OPPORTUNITIES</b>  | <b>THREATS</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To develop alternative renewable energy sources and reduce pollution/CO2 levels;</li> <li>• Collaborative working – explore sharing of knowledge, resources, procurement and funding;</li> <li>• Explore best practice and potential local initiatives;</li> <li>• To develop ‘circular economy’ (e.g. wood chip burning/willow production (both environmental and economic benefits));</li> <li>• The Council’s new responsibility for planning - to explore relaxation of controls and streamlining of processes to encourage renewable energy;</li> <li>• Address fuel poverty by broadening targeted groups;</li> <li>• Education/Awareness: greater sustainability focus in public, schools;</li> <li>• To influence policy makers, funders and companies on energy supply and cost;</li> <li>• To improve access to info./guidance to interested parties on energy efficiency options, available funding, application processes, points of contacts etc.</li> <li>• ‘Brexit’ – possibility of new opportunities caused by a UK exit from EU in terms of funding availability, influencing policy, change in emphasis / priorities;</li> <li>• To improve air quality in ABC;</li> <li>• To improve energy efficiency of existing buildings.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of aspiration and desire to change;</li> <li>• Public attitude – ‘I pay for it so I will use it’ approach.</li> <li>• Limited capacity of grid to take supply;</li> <li>• Poor perception of waste processing;</li> <li>• Balance between reducing waste and recovering energy from waste (the latter depends on waste) (also applies to Priority 4, Waste);</li> <li>• Downgrading or ending of funding streams / renewable grants;</li> <li>• Energy price fluctuations, cost increases – create uncertainty, affect confidence;</li> <li>• ‘Brexit’ – possible uncertainty and change resulting from a UK exit from EU in terms of regional co-operation, funding availability, renewable incentives (grants), changing government policy and priorities etc.</li> </ul> |

**Table 5.4: WASTE & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

| <b>STRENGTHS</b>   | <b>WEAKNESSES</b>  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ABC is one of the best NI performers – currently meeting and succeeding waste targets (currently 48% recycling rate);</li> <li>• Established contracts with processors already in place;</li> <li>• Regional procurement (group of Councils) – bigger buying power;</li> <li>• Local baseline data on waste and energy recovery available;</li> <li>• Willingness to work together and improve performance;</li> <li>• Good public awareness of need to prevent / limit waste;</li> <li>• ‘Assistant Lift’ – ABC Council Service to get your bins lifted (for those with mobility problems).</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confusion over different waste processing methods;</li> <li>• Lack of local end-market processors;</li> <li>• Exporting waste to Sweden – financial/environmental costs;</li> <li>• Existing contracts - fixed and inflexible;</li> <li>• Lack of collaboration at regional level;</li> <li>• No non-domestic waste or energy from waste recovery targets;</li> <li>• Difficulties and cost of recovering energy from certain waste;</li> <li>• Funding and budget limitations;</li> <li>• Poor public perception of waste processing sites (‘not in my back yard’);</li> <li>• Lack of enforcement of poor recycling;</li> <li>• Lack of awareness of ABC ‘Assistant Lift’.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>OPPORTUNITIES</b>   | <b>THREATS</b>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For ABC to be the best (e.g. highest recycling rates, lowest residual waste);</li> <li>• Sharing of knowledge, resources, procurement, funding and to drive NI-based waste recovery forward;</li> <li>• Instil greater sustainability and drive to reduce waste – increasing costs transport &amp; fuel;</li> <li>• Change perception of waste industry &amp; compatibility with residential developot;</li> <li>• Explore best practice and local initiatives:</li> <li>• To develop local end-market energy from waste options (e.g. anticipated new Bombardier facility, anaerobic digestion);</li> <li>• To influence policy makers, funders and companies on waste reduction, processing and energy conversion;</li> <li>• ‘Brexit’ – a UK exit from EU could stimulate new thinking &amp; focus.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public attitude / bad habits in relation to recycling, re-use and waste reduction;</li> <li>• Poor public perception of waste processing sites (‘not in my back yard’) – leading to objections / challenges to planning applications;</li> <li>• Negative media on waste issues;</li> <li>• Cost of non-domestic waste processing can lead to unauthorised dumping, fly-tipping, burning (environmental damage and financial cost of clean-up);</li> <li>• Balance between reducing waste and recovering energy from waste (which needs waste to work) (also applies to Priority 3, Energy Efficiency);</li> <li>• Uncertainty and change caused by exit from EU in terms of legislative requirements, funding streams, regional/national co-operation, competition and costs.</li> </ul> |

## 6. Proposed Actions, Beneficiaries & Indicators

Members discussed potential actions for each priority - presented on the following pages.

**Outcome:** TWG members to discuss & agree proposed activity tables at Workshop 3.

| <b>Proposed Actions</b> |  | <b>Detail</b>  | <b>Outcomes</b>   |
|-------------------------|--|--|---|
| 1                       | Audit/Review existing transportation system;<br>Stakeholder Consultation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within the Context of the emerging ABC Local Development Plan, audit existing transport modes, routes and travel patterns within / through ABC;</li> <li>• Review the coverage, quality, management and use of existing public transport services, infrastructure and supporting facilities (e.g. parking);</li> <li>• Consult (e.g. local communities, public bodies, business sector, landowners) to determine perceptions on the transportation system and on travel needs;</li> <li>• Identify stakeholder issues, service gaps and shortfalls.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Short Term</i><br/>People are better informed about their travel options and providers are working together to make journeys more affordable, convenient and environmentally friendly.</li> <li>• <i>Medium Term</i><br/>Transport and land-use is more integrated, improving physical connectivity and leading to greater use of sustainable modes of travel.</li> <li>• <i>Long Term</i><br/>We have an accessible, affordable integrated and sustainable transportation system which enhances the economy, the environment and our quality of life.</li> </ul> |
| 2                       | Collaborative Transport Infrastructure Plan & Partnerships               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnerships and collaborative working with central govt., other councils and stakeholders to agree objectives and responsibilities; share information, expertise and resources &amp; agree ABC's transport needs and priorities;</li> <li>• Transport Infrastructure Plan to deliver a sustainable, co-ordinated programme of investment and improvement to the transportation system - Local Development Plan;</li> <li>• Lobby for funding and explore cost-saving through partnerships;</li> </ul>  |   |
| 3                       | Design, Coordination, Education Initiatives                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raise awareness of existing travel options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improve travel information (e.g. timetables, bus stop displays, interactive app covering all modes and connections within and beyond ABC);</li> <li>- promote existing services &amp; routes, including cycle-ways, walk-ways, Park &amp; Ride</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Plan, co-ordinate and integrate transport services across ABC and beyond to encourage modal shift: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review existing policies &amp; planning framework as part of the new Local Development Plan process to encourage a more sustainable approach to the allocation, siting, layout and design of new housing and other uses that encourages public transport, walking and cycling (and reduces reliance on car)</li> <li>- Improve connectivity and leisure routes within urban centres and beyond, by extending cycle and walking network and developing safe linkages;</li> <li>- Develop connections to and support infrastructure around public transport hubs to encourage alternatives to car;</li> <li>- Explore potential for community transport sector to pick up rural service gaps;</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Improve connectivity to Belfast and Dublin (through ABC's road and rail links);</li> <li>• Explore viability of a rail link to Armagh &amp; Craigavon for commuting and tourism;</li> </ul> |   |



| Targeting:   | Potential Partners  | Potential Indicators  |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Citizens;</li> <li>• Community Groups, including Disadvantaged / Section 75;</li> <li>• Rural Community;</li> <li>• Schools, Colleges, Further Education;</li> <li>• Hospitals / Clinics / Health Trusts;</li> <li>• Businesses</li> <li>• Visitors/Tourists;</li> <li>• Commuters / Workers</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ABC Council (Internal Departments incl. Planning);</li> <li>• Central Government Departments (incl. DfI Transport NI);</li> <li>• Other Councils (NI and ROI);</li> <li>• Operators e.g. Translink, Community Transport Sector, Taxis;</li> <li>• Community, Voluntary and Charity Sector;</li> <li>• Schools, Colleges, Further Education, Education Authority;</li> <li>• Business Sector / Employers;</li> <li>• Other Groups e.g. Sustrans, TourismNI; Waterways Ire.; SustainableNI</li> <li>• Research Groups e.g. Irish Cross Border Area Network (ICBAN).</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved coverage and reliability of public transport;</li> <li>• Increased use of public transport (bus and rail);</li> <li>• Increased cycle and walking journeys;</li> <li>• Reduced car journeys.</li> </ul> |

| <b>Proposed Actions</b>   |   | <b>Detail</b>   | <b>Outcomes</b>  |
|---|---|---|--|
| 1   | Audit / Review of existing digital services; Stakeholder Consultation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audit existing service coverage and quality at localised level (to address data gaps) in consultation with service providers;</li> <li>• Consult/survey across ABC (e.g. local communities, groups / sectors) to determine satisfaction levels and to identify problems/deficiencies and particular digital needs;</li> <li>• Identify stakeholder issues, service gaps and shortfalls based on audit and consultation.</li> <li>• Research, develop and learn from best practice and ABC pilot projects</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Short Term</i><br/>Local and central government are working with service providers to improve broadband and mobile phone service coverage, quality and resilience and more people are digitally confident.</li> <li>• <i>Medium Term</i><br/>Digital service quality, coverage and access levels have improved, facilitating economic growth and ensuring people can benefit from the digital age.</li> <li>• <i>Long Term</i><br/>We have a modern, reliable, affordable, resilient digital network that everyone can access throughout the Borough.</li> </ul> |
| 2   | Digital Task Force & Action Plan through a partnership approach       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop partnerships and collaborative working with central govt., other councils and stakeholders to share information, expertise and resources;</li> <li>• Establish a Digital Taskforce / Forum with stakeholders to agree objectives, priorities and responsibilities;</li> <li>• Develop a Digital Action Plan to meet ABC's current and future digital needs and lobby/engage with service providers on where to target investment and explore cost-saving through partnerships</li> </ul>   |  |
| 3   | Digital connectivity Initiatives                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extend and tailor good practice across ABC, learning from local pilot projects; - -</li> <li>- Partnership projects to improve coverage, access levels, speed, bandwidth, affordability and resilience of broadband and mobile phone service across ABC</li> <li>- Create 'Super Hubs' in commercial centres to support business and attract investment;</li> <li>- Establish and promote free Wi-Fi areas (e.g. at key visitor attractions);</li> <li>• Education/awareness on IT – to improve skills and confidence, tailored towards different groups (business sector, elderly / community groups etc.);</li> <li>• Ongoing monitoring of coverage, service quality, cost-effectiveness &amp; resilience of broadband &amp; mobile phone services to address deficiencies &amp; future digital needs.</li> </ul> |  |
| <b>Targeting:</b>   |   | <b>Potential Partners</b>   | <b>Potential Indicators</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Citizens, Communities (including marginalised/Section 75/Rural);</li> <li>• Children/Young people;</li> <li>• Hospitals / Clinics / Health Trusts;</li> <li>• Employees, business, Visitors/Tourists.</li> </ul> |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operators / Service Providers, Ofcom (Regulator)</li> <li>• Central Government (incl. Dept for Economy), Other Councils (NI and ROI);</li> <li>• Business Sector/Employers, Community &amp; Voluntary Sector</li> <li>• Libraries NI, Schools, Colleges, Further Education, Education Authority, Research Groups e.g. Irish Cross Border Area Network (ICBAN).</li> </ul>  | Increased: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• access to high speed broadband &amp; mobile phone service;</li> <li>• reliability of coverage;</li> <li>• uptake in digital services.</li> </ul>   |

| <b>Proposed Actions</b> |   | <b>Detail</b>   | <b>Outcomes</b>  |
|-------------------------|---|---|--|
| 1                       | Audit / Review ABC's existing consumption and supply                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy consumption audit in consultation with stakeholders;</li> <li>• Identify stakeholder issues.</li> <li>• Engage with those affected by 'Fuel Poverty' &amp; stakeholders on measures to reduce fuel costs Engage with renewable energy experts and providers to explore local renewable energy options and efficient resource use</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Short Term</i><br/>To have greater understanding of the financial and environmental benefits of energy efficiency measures and the use of alternative renewable energy sources.</li> <li>• <i>Medium Term</i><br/>Targeted investment has led to greater innovation, availability and use of energy efficient technology.</li> <li>• <i>Long Term</i><br/>We have an efficient, secure, sustainable and affordable energy supply.</li> </ul> |
| 2                       | Develop Collaborative Energy Supply, Efficiency and Infrastructure Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop partnerships and collaborative working with central govt., other councils, utility providers and stakeholders to share information, expertise and resources; agree objectives and responsibilities and identify ABC's current and future energy needs and priorities;</li> <li>• Develop an Energy Supply, Efficiency and Infrastructure Plan to deliver efficient, secure and sustainable improvements to meet ABC's long-term energy needs &amp; address fuel poverty);</li> <li>• Lobby central government (policy makers), funders and providers on energy supply, choice, costs, efficiency-measures and alternatives to address ABC's specific needs;</li> <li>• Lobby government for funding for renewable energy sources and explore cost-saving and local funding sources for citizens/businesses through partnerships</li> </ul>   |  |
| 3                       | Action Programme – Information & Innovation                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information &amp; Awareness on Energy Efficiency &amp; Alternative Sources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Encouraging energy conservation; and providing information on energy efficiency measures and alternative sources; available funding, pre-application advice and points of contact etc. Explore feasibility of a central portal of information;</li> <li>- Schools &amp; Community energy conservation and consumption programme;</li> <li>- Promote alternative energy / fuel in everyday life (e.g. electric vehicles);</li> <li>- Improve access to information/advice to parties interested in alternative energy sources (e.g. workshops, planning advice);</li> <li>- fuel-saving initiatives (e.g. Local Community Energy Plans);</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Supporting &amp; Investing in Renewables <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prioritise and streamline energy infrastructure-related planning applications to encourage renewable energy and speed up delivery (Council's Planning Dept);</li> <li>- Potential renewable energy initiatives (e.g. solar energy in housing developments);</li> <li>- Explore and develop a variety of local, affordable, renewable energy sources to increase consumer choice and reduce costs and fuel poverty;</li> <li>- Develop a 'circular economy' of local energy supply e.g. wood chip burning and willow production</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |  |

| Targeting:   | Potential Partners   | Potential Indicators  |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Citizens, Communities, including Disadvantaged / Section 75;</li> <li>• Children &amp; young people;</li> <li>• Businesses, Environmental groups</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utility / Energy Providers;</li> <li>• Business Sector/Employers;</li> <li>• Central Government (incl. Dept for Economy);</li> <li>• Other Councils (NI and ROI);</li> <li>• Schools, Colleges, Further Education, Education Authority;</li> <li>• Utility Regulator (for Gas, Electricity, Water and Sewerage)</li> <li>• SONI (Licensed operator for electricity grid)</li> <li>• Community, Charity &amp; Voluntary Groups e.g. Age Concern, fuel poverty;</li> <li>• Advisory Groups Eg. Energy Wise, Sustainable NI;</li> <li>• Renewable Energy Experts Eg. Action Renewables, Environmental Interest Groups, Academia / Research Groups</li> </ul> | <p>Increased:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use of local renewable energy resources;</li> <li>• Energy Efficiency Levels;</li> </ul> <p>Decreased:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fuel poverty;</li> <li>• Pressure on the grid;</li> <li>• Dependency on oil;</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improvement in air quality (reduction in air pollution).</li> </ul> |

| <b>Proposed Actions</b>   |   | <b>Detail</b>   | <b>Outcomes</b>   |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1   | Review current waste and resource management practices  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review waste management policies, practices and standards against the future needs of ABC Review &amp; 'best practice', in consultation with waste industry / existing contractors and stakeholders;</li> <li>Audit current recycling practices to establish current participation levels, customer satisfaction, waste arisings, household behaviours etc. against the Statutory Waste Targets.</li> </ul>  | <p><i>Short Term</i><br/>People are better informed and motivated to prevent waste through reducing consumption and increasing recycling and reuse.</p> <p><i>Medium Term</i><br/>We are making better use of our resources and reducing waste.</p> <p><i>Long Term</i><br/>The Borough demonstrates excellence in sustainable waste and resource management.</p> |
| 2   | Develop a Waste Management Plan & partnerships  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a long term Waste Management Plan with the focus placed upon waste prevention;</li> <li>Develop partnerships and collaborative working with central govt., other councils, waste industry and stakeholders to share information, expertise and resources;</li> </ul>   |   |
| 3   | Deliver improvements in line with ABC Waste and Resource Management Plan with ongoing monitoring / review | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage waste awareness &amp; prevention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- programme of education / promotion across ABC to encourage active waste prevention, recycling and reuse (domestic and non-domestic);</li> <li>- local pilot projects on alternative waste management schemes (e.g. up-cycling schemes)</li> <li>- promote waste collection initiatives which assist Section 75 Groups (e.g. 'Assistant Lift' Bin collection for citizens with mobility problems);</li> <li>- Explore non-domestic waste targets through engagement with stakeholders</li> </ul> </li> <li>Energy Recovery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lobby central govt (policy makers), funders and waste industry providers on both regional NI and ABC-based energy recovery options (incineration, anaerobic digestion);</li> <li>- Develop/advance local alternative waste uses (e.g. energy from waste)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |   |
| <b>Targeting:</b>   |   | <b>Potential Partners</b>   | <b>Potential Indicators</b>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Citizens, Community Groups, Rural Community, children &amp; young people</li> <li>Businesses;</li> <li>Environment groups</li> </ul> |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waste Industry - Facilities / Processors, Central Government (incl. Regulation by Dept of Agric, Env &amp; Rural Affairs), Other Councils (NI and ROI), Business Sector/Employers, Schools, Colleges, Further Education; Community / Youth / Voluntary Groups; Waste Management Experts and Waste Facilities, Environmental Interests Groups, Advisory Groups (e.g. Energy Wise, Sustainable NI).</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved waste management targets (all streams);</li> <li>Reduction in residual (non-recyclable) waste;</li> <li>Locally based recovery of waste (energy from waste facilities);</li> <li>Increased reuse rates</li> </ul>   |

## **7. Considerations**

A range of issues raised at Workshop 1 & 2 have been incorporated into the Activity Tables. There are some general considerations that we still need to be mindful of when developing the Community Plan:

- Infrastructure theme impacts across each of the social, economic & environmental pillars – need a strategy to ensure co-ordinated and sustainable approach to infrastructure delivery;
- Need to consider neighbouring / other Community Plans due to cross-boundary issues and to encourage cross-council and cross-border co-operation.

## **8. Next Steps**

The remaining Workshops are scheduled as follows:

- The 3<sup>rd</sup> Workshop will be on Friday 9 September, 2016: 9:30-1pm (venue Old Town Hall, Banbridge).

Workshop 3 will focus on:

- Revisions/refinements to draft Activity Tables;
- Identification of Beneficiaries & Partners;
- Complementarity with other Pillars & TWGs;
- Links to Cross-cutting themes.