



Connected

A Community Plan

for Armagh City Banbridge & Craigavon Borough
2017-2030

Delivering Our Community Plan

Enhanced and Revitalised Place Resource Pack



CONTENTS PAGE

1. PREPARING OUR COMMUNITY PLAN3

2. DELIVERING OUR COMMUNITY PLAN.....10

3. MEASURING OUR PROGRESS.....14

4. VISION, OUTCOMES AND INDICATORS17

5. BASELINE23

6. DRAFT ACTION PLAN TEMPLATE32

7. DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE AND WORKSHOP DATES36

8. USEFUL DOCUMENTS AND LINKS42

1. PREPARING OUR COMMUNITY PLAN

PURPOSE

This document provides background information on:

- What is Community Planning?
- The Story so Far
- *Connected: A Community Plan for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough*
- How we will deliver 'Connected'

We hope you will find this resource pack useful as we progress onto delivery of the community plan through action planning. This is a live document which will develop and evolve throughout action planning and engagement activities.

INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNITY PLANNING

Community Planning is *“a process led by councils in conjunction with partners and communities to develop and implement a shared vision for their area, a long term vision which relates to all aspects of community life and which also involves working together to plan and deliver better services which make a real difference to people’s lives.”* Community Foundation Programme, Department of Environment

What does the legislation say?

The 2014 Local Government Act requires Councils to initiate and having done so, maintain, facilitate and participate in community planning for its district. Specifically, with regard to community involvement, the Legislation states;

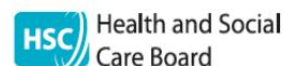
1. A Council and its community planning partners must seek the participation of and encourage the persons mentioned in subsection
2. to express their views, and take those views into account, in connection with –
 - a) community planning
 - b) the production of a community plan for the district; and
 - c) the review of community plans.
3. The persons are –
 - a) persons resident in the district;
 - b) persons who are not resident in the district but who receive services provided by the council or one of its community planning partners;
 - c) representatives of relevant voluntary bodies;
 - d) representatives of persons carrying on businesses in the district;
 - e) other persons who, in the opinion of the council, are interested in the improvement of the district’s social, economic or environmental well-being.

What does this mean?

Community Planning focuses on promoting positive outcomes for everyone within the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. It is about giving local people an opportunity to have their say on issues that matter to them and their communities. It is an exciting time for us and by working together we can explore new, innovative and creative ways to deliver public services that will make a positive impact and bring about real change to help improve quality of life for all.

Who's Involved?

Community Planning Partners are named in legislation and are required to participate in all stages of the process and to assist councils in carrying out their community planning duties. The Community Planning Partners' logos are listed below.



Whilst councils and Community Planning Partners have specific duties in legislation, we recognise that for community planning to be successful, a wide range of people and organisations will be involved.

DEVELOPING OUR COMMUNITY PLAN

The first community plan for the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough was developed with statutory partners, community and voluntary sectors, businesses, local people and central government through an inclusive and participatory process.

The community plan was progressed through six task and finish thematic working groups, one for each of the themes identified. The overall objective of the thematic working groups process was to support the development of the plan for each theme and gain consensus on a baseline data report.

Parallel to the thematic working group process, partners and council undertook extensive engagement with wider stakeholders enabling us to identify the priorities for our borough. The plan was published in March 2017 following a formal public consultation.

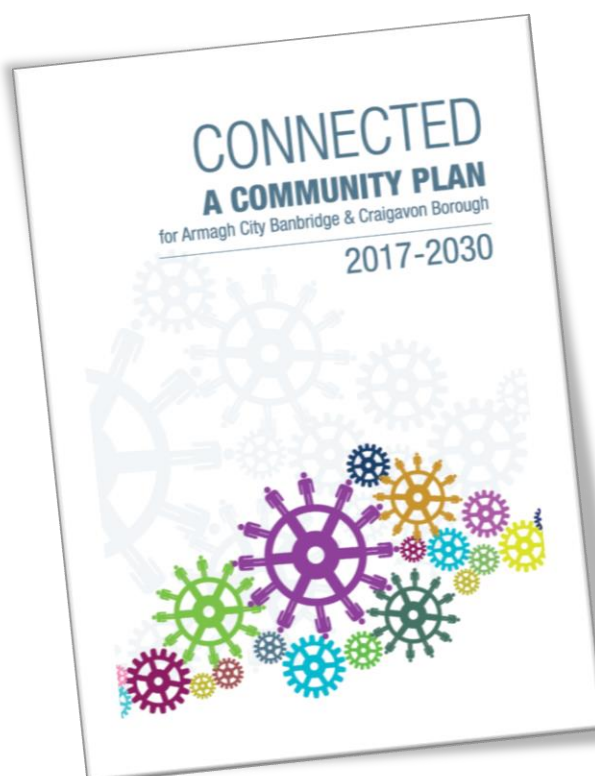
‘*Connected*’ aims to address the big issues affecting our borough and recognises that many of these will take joined up effort and time to change. In order to manage this process, we have adopted an Outcomes Based Approach which starts with the end results and works back to what needs to be done to achieve them.

Outcomes – the conditions of wellbeing we want for our children, families and the community as a whole

Indicators – a measure which helps to demonstrate how well we are progressing towards an outcome.

CONNECTED: A COMMUNITY PLAN 2017-2030

Connected: A Community Plan for the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 2017-2030 is the overarching strategic plan. It contains a long term vision and aspirations for the borough whilst providing a framework for other strategies and plans and for the development and delivery of public services. To achieve our vision, it is vital for us to begin the work now.



Our 2030 vision is the future aspiration that we want to realise for our borough:

*“We have a happy, healthy and connected **community**, a vibrant and sustainable **economy** and appealing **places** for living, working and learning.”*

To help us achieve our shared vision we have agreed nine long-term outcomes arranged under the strategic themes of **Community**, **Economy** and **Place**. The outcomes do not operate in isolation and the achievement of one outcome will impact on the success of the others.

In addition, three cross-cutting themes run throughout the plan: **connectivity**, **equality** and **sustainability**. These cross-cutting themes are at the heart of everything we do and will be integrated into our action plans.

Plan on a Page



Summary Table

Cross Cutting Themes



Community

Long-term Outcome

Indicator

Confident Community	Everyone has opportunities to engage in community life and shape decisions – we have a strong sense of community belonging and take pride in our area	Percentage of people who feel they have an influence on local decisions in neighbourhood
		Percentage of people who feel a sense of belonging to their neighbourhood
Healthy Community	People are making positive lifestyle choices. They are more resilient and better equipped to cope with life's challenges	Preventable mortality (age standardised preventable mortality rate)
		Gap in life expectancy between most deprived areas and the borough overall
		Percentage of people who participate in sport or physical activity on at least one day a week
Welcoming Community	Our borough is a safe, respectful and peaceful environment free from the fear of crime	Percentage of people reporting that fear of crime has a minimal impact on their quality of life
		Percentage of people who see town centres as safe and welcoming places for people of all walks of life.
		Number of accidental dwelling fires

Economy

Long-term Outcome

Indicator

Enterprising Economy	Our borough is a centre of excellence for entrepreneurship, innovation and investment	Number of VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses
		Business birth rates
		Survival rate of newly born businesses
Skilled Economy	We have a sustainable and vibrant economy with informed, flexible and skilled people	The proportion of the workforce in employment qualified to level 1 and above, level 2 and above, level 3 and above, and level 4 and above
		Employment rate (age 16-64)
Tourism Economy	Our borough is the destination of choice for international visitors	Number of overnight trips made by visitors from outside Northern Ireland

Place

Long-term Outcome

Indicator

Creative Place	Our borough is an inspirational and creative place offering quality, inclusive arts and cultural experiences	Percentage of people (aged 16+) engaging with arts/cultural activities in the past year
Enhanced Place	Our rich and varied built heritage and natural assets are protected, enhanced and expanded for future generations to enjoy	Number of buildings at risk saved
		Number of high quality parks/green spaces (those holding Green Flag Award® status)
Revitalised Place	Our distinctive and vibrant urban and rural areas are at the heart of community and economic life	City and town centre vacancy rates
		Level of social housing need

2. DELIVERING OUR COMMUNITY PLAN

WORKING TOGETHER

The agreed governance structure for community planning is two-tiered as shown in diagram below and will be established to ensure people of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough enjoy better outcomes.

To achieve optimum impact, it will be necessary to keep our governance structures under review to allow them to evolve as necessary. Flexibility in all aspects of the structure will ensure that it is fit for purpose.

While Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough facilitated the development of ‘Connected’, it is not a council plan. All Community Planning partners are responsible for its development, implementation and review.



Community Planning Strategic Partnership

This is the overarching strategic partnership for community planning within the borough. The partnership will initially be made up of four Elected Members and Chief Executives/Senior Directors of the thirteen Statutory Partners named in the Community Planning Partners Order (Northern Ireland) 2016. The CPSP will be governed by a terms of reference, with scope for the partnership to invite additional Support Partners from the private, public and voluntary sectors as their input is required at a strategic level.

The Community Planning Strategic Partnership (CPSP) will encourage collaboration to grow and allow decisions to be made collectively. The key roles of the CPSP are to provide strategic direction and commitment and to the implementation and monitoring of ‘Connected’ A Community Plan for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon on behalf of the organisations they represent.

Thematic Action Planning Teams

Thematic Action Planning Teams will be established to develop action plans on a thematic basis, aligning with the long-term outcomes set out in the community plan. Action plans will be for a two-year period, and will aim to contribute to the shared outcomes in the plan through increased collaborative actions. The teams will support the delivery and implementation of the community plan and carry out engagement activities.

Each Thematic Action Planning Team is led initially by a Statutory Partner and the relevant Head of Department from Council and will report to the CPSP.

The main roles and responsibilities of the Chair and Council Lead will include:

- Chairing and convening meetings
- Ensuring each action is attributed to an owner
- Ensuring the development and delivery of the Thematic Action Plans within the agreed timeframe
- Agreeing and reviewing performance management
- Ensuring that the group reports on progress at designated intervals

Community and Voluntary Sector Panel

A Community and Voluntary Sector Panel has been established to:

- Ensure the Community, Voluntary and Social Enterprise Sector is represented
- Promote ongoing Community Engagement
- Articulate the voice of the Community and Voluntary sector
- Support the development of Cross-sectoral Relationships and improved Partnership working

Thematic Action Planning Process

Each team will be required to develop, implement and monitor thematic action plans to ensure they are contributing to their relevant outcomes. Commonality and consistency across the teams should be maintained where possible but each team will have unique requirements.

The action plans are not necessarily about attracting additional resources, but identifying links where partners can work better together to use existing resources better to deliver real and meaningful change.

The action plans will be 'living documents' meaning that specific actions can be added or removed throughout their timespan to reflect emerging needs and what the evidence tells us about their effectiveness.

The action planning process will take a phased approach with three teams being convened in September.

The teams will work through a series of workshops. It is envisaged that the development of the action plans will require approximately four meetings over a 12-week period.

Thematic Action Planning Workshop Guidance

Preliminary meeting	With Statutory Partner Lead (Chair) and Council Lead (relevant Head of Department) to determine meeting schedule, membership of TAP Team and guest speaker.
Workshop 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guest speaker - Setting the scene - Presenting service mapping – who does what? - Agreeing terms of reference – how we work together
Workshop 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Issues/Strengths – baseline report - Story behind the baseline – agree engagement plan - Policy screening
<i>Members undertake engagement activities for workshop 3</i>	
Workshop 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Feedback from engagement activities - Collaborative gain - Identifying actions
Workshop 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finalise action plans - Agreeing roles for implementation
<i>Action coordinators to agree performance measures with Community Planning Team</i>	

3. MEASURING OUR PROGRESS

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

We are using an outcomes based approach for community planning - we will incorporate and use evidence in the planning, delivery and reporting stages. This evidence will feed into the two-year report of progress and review of action plans and subsequently the four-year review of the community plan.

There are two levels of monitoring:

At an overall borough level progress on the community plan will be monitored by population indicators which have been identified and documented for each theme in the community plan. These will measure progress towards achieving the nine long term outcomes and will be collated by the community planning team in council.

At a lower level, progress will also be monitored for each programme or project in the action plans. As part of the action planning, Thematic Action Planning Teams will agree a range of information that will feed into and inform the review. TAP Team members will collect:

- Performance measures for each action (how much, how well and is anyone better off?)
- Achievements – e.g. significant milestones or strategic projects
- Stories - case studies documenting personal/community impact

Performance Measures

For each project or programme in the action plans performance measures will be identified and agreed with TAP Teams. These will need to be in place at start so that data can be collected during project delivery by those on the ground delivering the programmes/projects. The measures will cover quantity (outputs), quality and impact. These will take the form of a short report card template included below. These report cards can be developed for both revenue and capital projects. The data will be collected on a regular basis and reported through the Thematic Action Planning Team to allow progress to be monitored.

Performance Measurement Template

Action:

Delivery Partner(s):

Who are the customers of this programme or project?

Date/time period:

<div><u>How much did we do? (Quantity of effort)</u></div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of customers served• Number of activities</div>	<div><u>How well did we do it? (Quality of effort)</u></div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Percentage of participants completing the training• Percentage reporting being treated well throughout their engagement with project</div>
<div><u>Is anyone better off? (Quantity and quality of effect - impact)</u></div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number and percentage of participants showing improved results• Number and percentage of participants reporting that the project helped them</div>	

4. VISION, OUTCOMES AND INDICATORS

PLACE

“The borough is a place of discovery, where unique cultural and natural assets are cherished and people are inspired to be creative, to grow and to flourish”



Enhanced Place Revitalised Place

This group will focus on the Enhanced and Revitalised Outcomes from the Community Plan. Over the pages you will find information relevant to this TAP team including:

- Relevant outcomes, indicators from the community plan
- Indicator Baselines
- Draft Action Plan Template
- Terms of Reference for Enhanced and Revitalised Place Thematic Action Planning (TAP) Team
- Dates for workshops
- Workshop one – Shared Learning;

ENHANCED PLACE

LONG-TERM OUTCOME

Our rich and varied built heritage and natural assets are protected, enhanced and expanded for current and future generations to enjoy.

SHORT-TERM OUTCOMES

- There is understanding of and respect for the contribution of the built and natural environment and the role it plays in improving the health and vitality of urban and rural communities, their sense of place, character and identity
- Our physical and environmental assets are accessible. Everyone appreciates and takes responsibility for their protection, preservation and enhancement

INDICATORS

- Number of buildings at risk saved
- Number of high quality parks/green spaces (those holding Green Flag Award® status)

Our borough's landscape is unique and remarkably diverse. Its protection, promotion and enhancement is a key priority for us.

There are a number of Nature Reserves in the borough with many flora and fauna species that cannot be found elsewhere in Northern Ireland. Our waterway networks link Lough Neagh and Portadown to Newry and the Irish Sea (Newry Canal), Lough Neagh to Belfast Lough (Lagan Canal) and the Ulster Canal (Maghera to Lough Erne and the Shannon). Angling, boating, jet skiing, canoeing, cycling, walking, rowing and sailing are all available along these waterways. Service facilities along the route are provided at Oxford Island on Lough Neagh, Scarva Visitors Centre on the Newry Canal and various points along the Lagan Towpath. We also have a rich heritage of archaeological sites, monuments and buildings, representing the aspiration and achievements of past societies and providing evidence of settlements from 9,000 years ago to the present day. We have one area of significant Archaeological Interest at Navan and our various attractions are enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.

However our engagement process highlighted a number of issues including a perceived lack of quality green spaces (particularly in rural areas). It was also suggested that there was a lack of community ownership, interest and pride in the environment and this may result in dereliction, littering and fly-tipping. Archaeological and built heritage forms an integral part of our environment. They are important sources of information about our past, and represent significant landmarks in the present townscape and countryside. Our habitats, wildlife, landscapes and natural features are also important assets that provide a wide range of opportunities for enjoyment, recreation, play and economic activity. Their conservation, enhancement and restoration is fundamental to the individual and collective wellbeing of our borough. We must maximise their role and use in a sustainable way as they form an important part of the character and identity of our place and attract visitors to our area.

It is important that residents feel connected to the wealth of heritage and natural attributes around them, regularly accessing and enjoying them, and contributing to their protection and enhancement.

KEY STATISTICS

Buildings at Risk (2016)



79 buildings at risk in the borough on the buildings at risk register.

From 2007

2 buildings at risk demolished

20 buildings at risk saved

Buildings at Risk Register, Department for Communities

Parks/Green Spaces (2016)



9

Green Flag parks and green spaces

Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful

Visitor Attractions (2015)



Top three attractions

220,928
visits

Oxford Island National Nature Reserve

209,027
visits

Kinnego Marina

133,437
visits

Lough Neagh Discovery Centre



Top three parks and gardens

140,074
visits

Edenvilla Park & Garden

139,435
visits

Tannaghmore Gardens & Rare Breed Animal Farm

126,123
visits

Peatlands Park

Tourism Statistics, NISRA

HOW WE MIGHT ACHIEVE THIS:

A working group of key partners will be tasked with developing an action plan for the delivery of outcomes. Below are a few examples of potential actions which may be taken forward:

- Create a combined register of public sector owned natural and built assets across the borough
- Raise awareness of local assets and the need to maintain and safeguard these for the future
- Develop a borough-wide community action programme

REVITALISED PLACE

LONG-TERM OUTCOME

Our distinctive and vibrant urban and rural areas are at the heart of community and economic life.

SHORT-TERM OUTCOMES

- We are delivering innovative solutions to physical, economic and social urban and rural renewal through more integrated investment, regeneration and planning policy and practice

INDICATORS

- City and town centre vacancy rates
- Level of social housing need

Our borough has a rich offering of settlements including our city, towns, villages and rural areas. It is our aspiration that each urban and rural area values and protects its distinct identity and assets so that the borough's full potential as a vibrant place for living, working, visiting and investing can be achieved.

Core issues were identified during our stakeholder engagement process. These highlight the difficulties that our independent traders face, including competition from large shopping centres, accessibility of car parking and off street parking, attractiveness of town and village centres, increased vacancy rates and difficulties in achieving investment.

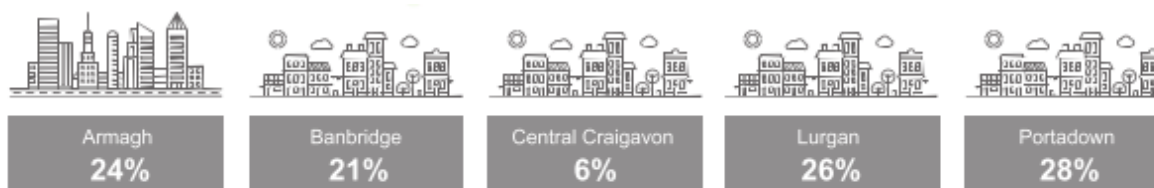
To achieve our goals, we must adopt a more collaborative and holistic approach to place shaping, building on the wealth of strategies, plans and initiatives already working to deliver on our desired outcomes. Our city, towns, villages and rural areas need to be places of choice.

Our growing and ageing population will pose challenges in terms of future service provision and settlement functionality. We want people to live in well-designed, sustainable and connected communities, benefiting from quality, affordable housing and accessible services and amenities. To ensure this, we will need to provide adequate housing for future population needs, to include appropriate land use and supporting infrastructure development. The rural character of the Orchard County, the Upper Bann, Lagan Valley and Lough Neagh southern shoreline must be preserved and developed for everyone to enjoy. However, all residents, to include those living in rural areas, should benefit from good services, transport links and digital accessibility to ensure they fully participate in all aspects of civic life and future economic growth.

Our borough must be accessible, multifunctional and balanced - enabling business growth within a mutually supportive and sustainable setting. Physical development and regeneration will be a catalyst for further social, cultural and environmental renewal.

KEY STATISTICS

City/Town Centre Vacancy Rates (2016)



Non-domestic vacancy rates
Town Centre Database, Department for Communities

Housing Stock (2011)

Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon



2011 Census, NISRA

Social Housing Need (2015/2020)

Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon



Northern Ireland Housing Executive

HOW WE MIGHT ACHIEVE THIS:

A working group of key partners will be tasked with developing an action plan for the delivery of outcomes. Below are a few examples of potential actions which may be taken forward:

- Develop a holistic revitalisation framework to enable change, stimulate investment and ensure collaboration
- Pilot initiatives to redefine the use of space in urban and rural centres
- Support initiatives to inform, coordinate and promote digital connectivity

5. BASELINE

Enhanced Place

Long-term outcome: Our rich and varied built heritage and natural assets are protected, enhanced and expanded for current and future generations to enjoy.

Two indicators are being used to monitor progress towards the enhanced place long-term outcome for the borough:

- Number of buildings at risk saved. Source: [Heritage at Risk Register, Department for Communities](#)
- Number of high quality parks/green spaces (those holding Green Flag Award® status). Source: [Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful](#)

Indicator: Number of buildings at risk saved.

The Heritage at Risk register for Northern Ireland highlights properties of architectural or historic merit that are considered to be at risk or under threat, and aims to act as a catalyst for their restoration and reuse. The register is funded and managed by Historic Environment Division of Department for Communities in partnership with Ulster Architectural Heritage.

As of December 2018 there were 87 properties in the borough on the Heritage at Risk register. From 2007 to 2018, 21 buildings at risk in the borough included on the register were saved, while 3 were demolished.

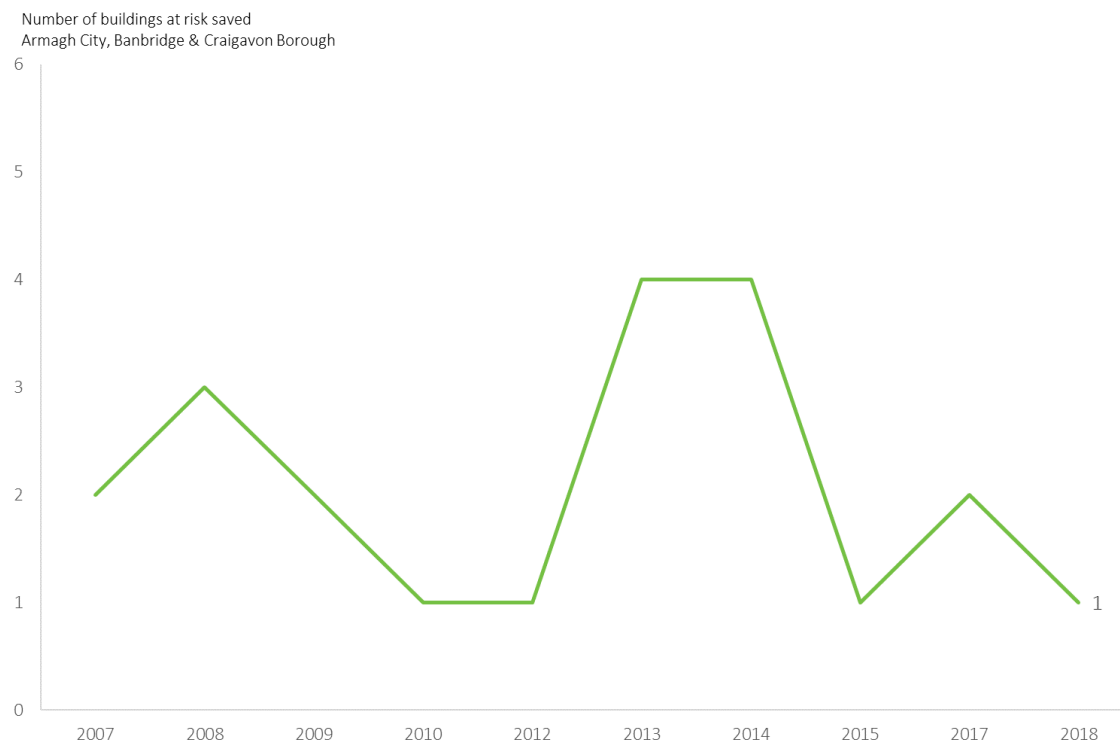


Figure 1. Number of buildings at risk saved, 2007-2018, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. Source: Heritage at risk register, Ulster Architectural Heritage and Department for Communities.

HB Reference	Address	Year removed from at risk list
HB14-01-033	57 Derrycarne Road (aka Robbs Ferry House), Portadown, Craigavon, Co Armagh BT62 1PT	2007
HB15-17-033 A	10 Russell Street, Armagh	2007
HB17	Dromore Castle	2008
HB17-02-003 C	170 Huntly Road Milltown Banbridge County Down BT32 3BJ	2008
HB17-02-003 D	172 Huntly Road Milltown Banbridge County Down BT32 3BJ	2008
HB15-11-018	The Old Court House, Main Street, Tynan	2009
HB17-15-036 A	40 Meeting Street, Dromore	2009
HB17-12-017	Balloley Cottage, Castlevennon Road , Balloolymore Garvaghy , Banbridge Co.Down	2010
HB15-04-013	180 Mullalelish Road, Derryhale, Portadown, Co Armagh BT62 3TQ	2012
HB15-08-002	Mill View House, Dundrum Road, Tassagh	2013
HB15-13-011 A	36 Main Street, Richhill	2013
HB15-14-012	Former Maddan County Primary School, Madden	2013
HB17-07-043	Original building, Lotus Ltd., 184 Newry Road, Banbridge	2013
HB14-01-020	Laurel Cottage, 34 Clantilew Road, Tartaraghan	2014
HB15-12-020 B	41 Knappagh Road, Killylea	2014
HB17-02-016A	Watch tower, Tullylish	2014
HB17-02-016B	Watch tower Tullylish (second watch tower)	2014
HB15-15-004	Former Drumbee National School, Drumbeebeg Road, Armagh	2015
HB15-16-005 F	55 Upper English Street, Armagh	2017
HB15-16-005E	No. 6 Seven houses, 53 Upper English St, Armagh	2017
HB15-02-071	Frizells Cottage Address Co. Armagh	2018
Total		21

Table 1. Buildings at risk saved, 2007-2018, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. Source: Heritage at risk register, Ulster Architectural Heritage and Department for Communities.

Notes on indicator data

The Heritage at Risk register has been compiled by Ulster Architectural Heritage as part of an agreement with Department for Communities. The register highlights buildings and monuments of architectural and historic interest whose future seems threatened but may be suitable for restoration and repair.

The Heritage at Risk register can be viewed here: <https://apps.communities-ni.gov.uk/Barni/>

Buildings and structures are identified at risk through several means e.g. brought forward by the Heritage at Risk Officer, Area Architects in the Department for Communities: Historic Environment Division (DfC:HED), the public, as well as through threat from planning applications, demolition and fire damage. All proposed additions are considered and reviewed by the Heritage at Risk Officer and Senior Architect in DfC:HED where a recent site visit will have been carried out for analysis of the building condition. The building is tested against a risk priority grading system before being added to the Heritage at Risk register which allows the progress of the building to be monitored over time.

A saved building will have been brought back to a state of good repair and occupied with a sustainable use for the future. A structure or monument will have been appropriately conserved with a conservation management plan in place to ensure the continuous preservation of its structure.

Indicator: Number of high quality parks/green spaces (those holding Green Flag Award® status).

In 2018, 11 parks and open spaces in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough were awarded the Green Flag Award.

The Green Flag Award® scheme, run by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world.

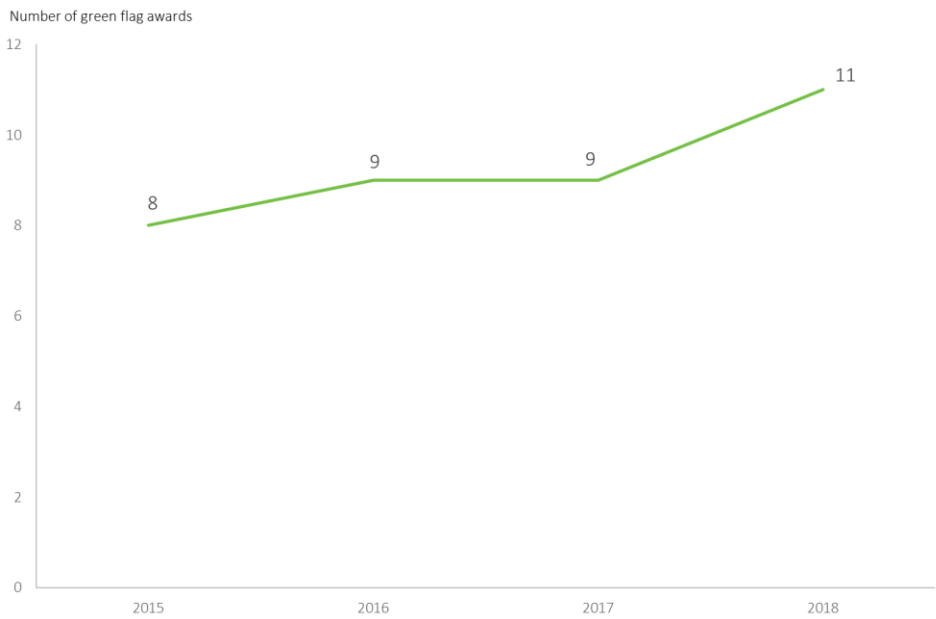


Figure 2. Number of green flag awards, 2015 to 2018, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. Source: Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful.

Over the four years 2015-2018, 15 parks or open spaces in total in the borough were awarded the Green Flag Award.

Park or Open Space	2015	2016	2017	2018
ABC Canal Greenway	-	-	Green flag	Green flag
Bann Boulevard	Green flag	-	-	-
Clare Glen	-	Green flag	-	-
Dromore Park	Green flag	Green flag	Green flag	Green flag
Edenvilla Park	Green flag	Green flag	Green flag	Green flag
Loughbrickland Park	Green flag	Green flag	-	-
Lurgan Park	Green flag	Green flag	Green flag	Green flag
Loughgall Country Park	-	-	-	Green flag
Oxford Island (Lough Neagh Conservation Area)	-	-	Green flag	Green flag
Palace Demesne	-	Green flag	Green flag	-
Portadown People's Park	-	-	-	Green flag
Scarva Park	Green flag	Green flag	-	Green flag
Solitude Park	Green flag	Green flag	Green flag	Green flag
Tannaghmore Gardens	Green flag	Green flag	Green flag	Green flag
The Mall Armagh City	-	-	Green flag	Green flag
Total	8	9	9	11

Table 2. Green flag awards, 2015 to 2018, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. Source: Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful. Note - In Armagh both Palace Demesne in 2017 and The Mall in 2018 also held Green Heritage Awards (number not counted in indicator total)

Notes on indicator data

The Green Flag Award® scheme, run by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful, recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world.

The awards aim to:

- ensure that everybody has access to quality green and other open spaces, irrespective of where they live.
- ensure that these spaces are appropriately managed and meet the needs of the communities that they serve.
- establish standards of good management.
- promote and share good practice amongst the green space sector.
- recognise and reward the hard work of managers, staff and volunteers.

Parks are assessed on eight main criteria by judges with a nature conservation, ecology, parks management or environmental background.

1. A Welcoming Place
2. Healthy, Safe and Secure
3. Well Maintained and Clean
4. Environmental Management
5. Conservation and Heritage
6. Community Involvement
7. Marketing and Communication
8. Management

Any green space that is freely accessible to the public and has a site specific management plan is eligible to apply for a Green Flag Award.

The Green Flag Award scheme was launched in NI in 2008; Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful has locally managed the scheme since 2012. In 2018, there were 71 Green Flag Award sites in Northern Ireland.

Revitalised Place

Long-term outcome: Our distinctive and vibrant urban and rural areas are at the heart of community and economic life.

Two indicators are being used to monitor progress towards the revitalised place long-term outcome for the borough:

- City and town centre vacancy rates. Source: [Vacancy rates for non-domestic properties, Town Centre Database \(using data from Land and Property Services\), NISRA, Department for Communities](#).
- Level of social housing need. Source: [Northern Ireland Housing Executive](#).

Indicator: City and town centre vacancy rates.

Vacancy rates are considered as an important indicator of how healthy a town centre is. Vacancy rates for non-domestic properties are available from the Town Centre Database produced by the Department for Communities (using data from Land and Property Services). The database contains details of 41 urban towns and cities shown across Northern Ireland. An urban town or city is defined as one located within a settlement with a population of 5,000 or more based on the 2011 census (default NISRA classification of urban rural).

In October 2018, non-domestic vacancy rates in town and city centres in the borough varied from 8.4% in Craigavon to 28.0% in Dromore. This compares to a Northern Ireland average vacancy level of 24.9%. The vacancy levels in the towns/cities in the borough have been similar, with some fluctuations, over the last four years. Craigavon has consistently seen the lowest levels across the time period.

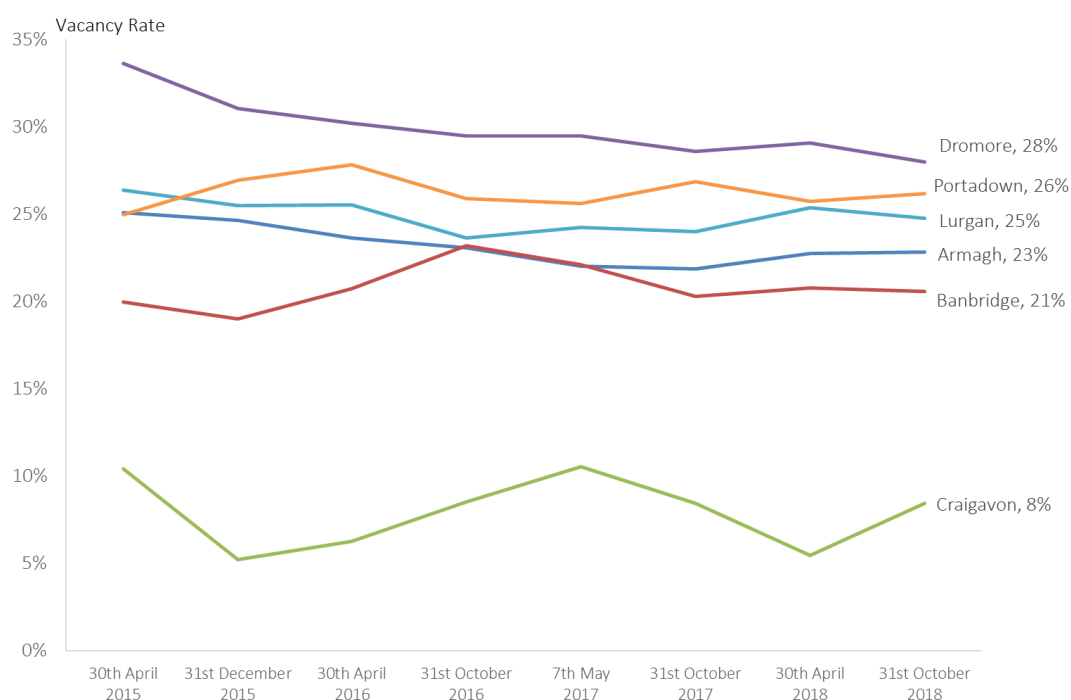


Figure 3. City/town centre non-domestic property vacancy rates, April 2015 to October 2018. Source: Land & Property Services via Town Centre Database, NISRA, Department for Communities.

City/Town Centre	31 st October 2018		
	No. of Properties	No. of Vacant Properties	% of Vacant Properties
Armagh	741	169	22.8%
Banbridge	418	86	20.6%
Craigavon	95	8	8.4%
Dromore	118	33	28.0%
Lurgan	505	125	24.8%
Portadown	696	182	26.1%
Northern Ireland	21,623	5,385	24.9%

Table 3. City/town centre non-domestic property vacancy rates as of 31st October 2018. Source: Land & Property Services via Town Centre Database, NISRA, Department for Communities.

Notes on indicator data

The Town Centre Database is produced by Analytical Services Unit within the Department for Communities (DfC). The Database aims to provide a clear, consistent set of statistics relating to the 41 urban towns and cities in Northern Ireland. Statistics include demography, crime, business data and information relating to non-domestic properties.

In the database an urban town or city is defined as one located within a settlement with a population of 5,000 or more based on the 2011 census (default NISRA classification of urban rural).

Vacancy rates for non-domestic properties in the Database use data from Land and Property Services (LPS). LPS collect, process and manage land and property information, which underpins the collection of rates. The breakdown of non-domestic properties and vacancy rates are based on Property IDs identified through Pointer on ArcGIS from the Town Centre Maps provided by DfC. The data includes all non-domestic properties which were in the Valuation List and liable for rates at the point the data was extracted e.g. at 31st October 2018.

Indicator: Level of social housing need.

The requirement for new social housing in the borough has remained generally consistent since 2014. The five-year assessment for 2017-22 shows a need for 327 units. Need is greatest in Armagh City, North Lurgan, and Banbridge Town.

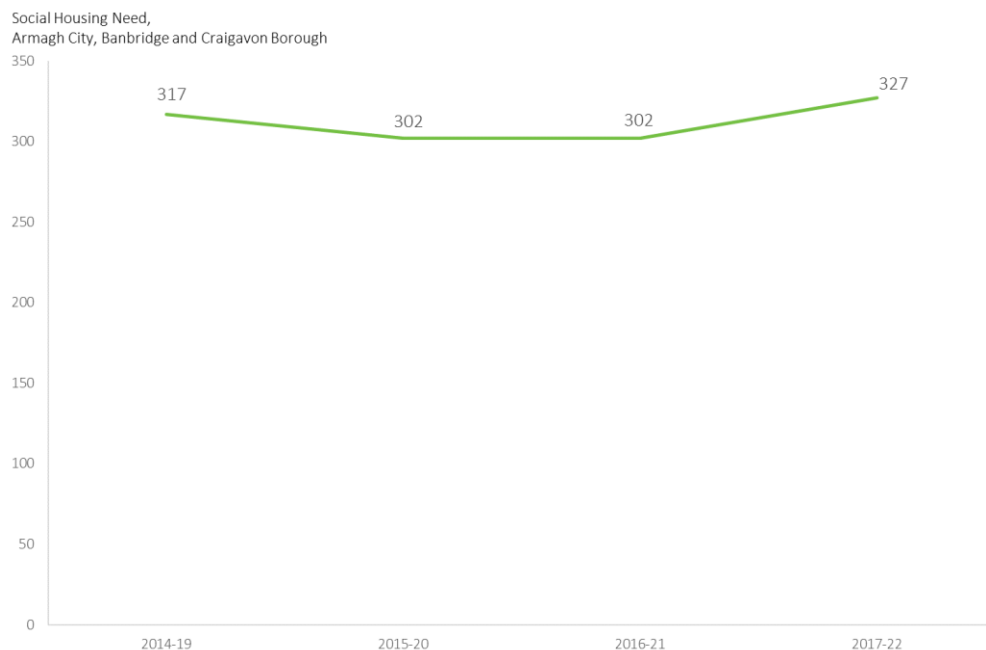


Figure 4. Social Housing Need Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 2014-19 to 2017-22. Source: Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon, NIHE Housing Investment Plan annual updates 2015 to 2018.

Settlement	Social Housing Need 2017-2022
Aghagallon	5
Annaghmore/Eglis	4
Armagh 1	73
Armagh 2	26
Banbridge Town	56
Charlemont/Blackwatertown/Carrickaness/Donnelly Hill	4
Derrymacash/Derrytrasna/Kinnego	22
Dromore	5
Loughbrickland	3
Loughgall	3
Middletown	4
North Lurgan	86
Portadown 1	20
Portadown 2	10
Poyntzpass	6
Total	327

Table 4. Social Housing Need by Settlement 2017-22. Source: Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon, NIHE Housing Investment Plan annual update 2018. Note - Housing Need has been met in locations not listed above as at March 2017, this will be reviewed on an annual basis.

6. DRAFT ACTION PLAN TEMPLATE

Draft Action Plan Template

THEMATIC ACTION PLANNING TEAM: ENHANCED AND REVITALISED PLACE

CHAIR: Ailbhe Hickey, NIHE

COUNCIL LEAD: Therese Rafferty, Head of Regeneration

Enhanced Place long- term outcome	Revitalised Place long- term outcome
Our rich and varied built heritage and natural assets are protected, enhanced and expanded for current and future generations to enjoy	Our distinctive and vibrant urban and rural areas are at the heart of community and economic life
Short-term outcome	Short-term outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is understanding of and respect for the contribution of the built and natural environment and the role it plays in improving the health and vitality of urban and rural communities, their sense of place, character and identity Our physical and environmental assets are accessible. Everyone appreciates and takes responsibility for their protection, preservation and enhancement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are delivering innovative solutions to physical, economic and social urban and rural renewal through more integrated investment, regeneration and planning policy and practice
Population Indicator	Population Indicator
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of buildings at risk saved Number of high quality parks/green spaces (those holding Green Flag Award® status) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City and town centre vacancy rates Level of social housing needs
Links to Programme for Government Draft Outcomes	Links to Programme for Government Draft Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We live and work sustainably – protecting the environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have created a place where people want to live and work, to visit and invest

Enhanced and Revitalised Place Action Plan

Our Actions	What will we do?	Suggested Partners	Time Frame	Resources	Suggested Action Coordinator	Performance Measure/data collection

Enhanced and Revitalised Place Detailed Summary

Enhanced Place long- term outcome

Our rich and varied built heritage and natural assets are protected, enhanced and expanded for current and future generations to enjoy

Short term Outcomes

- There is understanding of and respect for the contribution of the built and natural environment and the role it plays in improving the health and vitality of urban and rural communities, their sense of place, character and identity
- Our physical and environmental assets are accessible. Everyone appreciates and takes responsibility for their protection, preservation and enhancement

Population Indicator

- Number of buildings at risk saved
- Number of high quality parks/green spaces (those holding Green Flag Award® status)

Revitalised Place long- term outcome

Our distinctive and vibrant urban and rural areas are at the heart of community and economic life

Short term Outcomes

- We are delivering innovative solutions to physical, economic and social urban and rural renewal through more integrated investment, regeneration and planning policy and practice

Population Indicator

- City and town centre vacancy rates
- Level of social housing needs

7. DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE AND WORKSHOP DATES

Draft Terms of Reference

Enhanced and Revitalised Place Thematic Action Planning Team Terms of Reference

CONTEXT

Connected: A Community Plan for the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 2017-2030 is the overarching strategic plan. It contains a long term vision and aspirations for the borough whilst providing a framework for other strategies and plans. We have agreed nine long-term outcomes arranged under the strategic themes of Community, Economy and Place. A number of Thematic Action Planning (TAP) teams will be formed to develop, implement and monitor thematic action plans to ensure they are contributing to their relevant outcomes.

Thematic Action Planning (TAP) Teams

The key role of the Thematic Action Planning Teams is to agree collaborative actions that contribute to realising the long-term outcomes in the community plan. The action plans will focus on actions/activities where partners can achieve more by working together.

A number of teams will be convened based on each of the long-term outcomes, and where a close strategic link has been identified between outcomes these will be progressed through a single action plan. Table one below outlines the proposed TAP teams.

Strategic Theme	Thematic Action Planning Team	Chair	Council Lead
Community	Healthy	Gerard Rocks - SHSCT	Catriona Regan & Gillian Topping
	Confident and Welcoming	Barbara McNally PSNI	Seamus McCrory
Economy	Skilled and Enterprising	Ethna McNamee – Invest NI	Nicola Wilson
	Tourism Economy	Tourism NI	Brian Johnston
Place	Creative	Averil Morrow – Education Authority	Brian Johnston
	Revitalised and Enhanced	Ailbhe Hickey – Northern Ireland Housing Executive	Therese Rafferty

TAP Teams deliverables

A longer term goal for community planning is for joint planning and delivery of services for the borough. Action plans will be for a two-year period, and initially will aim to contribute to short-term outcomes in each thematic area through increased collaborative actions.

There are four key deliverables for each team

1. Develop clear, achievable and measurable shared action plans to cover a two-year period
2. Consult with stakeholders and promote involvement of Section 75 groups in this process
3. Implement performance management framework including review
4. Ensure cross-cutting themes of **equality, connectivity** and **sustainability** are integral to the action plans

Membership

The teams will be operational and therefore membership will consist of statutory partners and other relevant partners from public, private and voluntary sector. Wider community engagement on the

themes will happen in a parallel process. The Thematic Action Planning Team structure will be subject to review by the Community Planning Strategic Partnership.

Roles and Responsibilities

Education Authority is the statutory lead for this team and will be chaired by Averil Morrow, each team will also have a dedicated Council Lead and will be supported by the Community Planning Team. All members are required to demonstrate commitment and be willing to contribute to collaborative working.

All team members

Each team member will support the progression of the community plan by:

- Participating in action planning teams/working groups to deliver on the community plan
- Work with team members to identify actions, develop and agree action plans and ensure delivery against planned outcomes
- Taking a lead in actions when required
- Carrying out allocated tasks as agreed at meetings
- Contribute to effective community engagement in the development and implementation of action planning
- It will be the responsibility of each team member/organisation to engage with stakeholder groups within the borough. The participation and views of stakeholder in shaping action plans will ensure they are responsive and reflect local needs.
- To promote inclusivity teams will identify hard to reach groups and identify appropriate methods of engagement.
- Collecting data for performance management
- Develop relationships across the borough to foster collaborative working
- Each partner will be responsible for gaining the necessary approvals from their own organisation.

The Chair and the Council Lead – Ailbhe Hickey, Northern Ireland Housing Executive and Therese Rafferty, Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council

The chair and council lead will have additional roles to those outlined above these include:

- Chairing meetings
- Agreeing agendas
- Allocating/reviewing/co-ordinating work between meetings
- Ensuring each action is attributed to an owner
- Ensuring the development and delivery of the Thematic Action Plans within the agreed timeframe
- Ensuring that the team reports on progress at designated intervals
- Reporting back to partnership (Statutory Lead) every six months
- Agreeing and reviewing performance management
- To pass information about upcoming activities, opportunities to have your say and successful projects to the relevant communications lead
- To ensure they and their members are maintaining good communication practice in accordance with Communications Guidance for the partnership.

Action Co-ordinators

The key responsibilities of an Action Coordinator include:

- Coordinate the contributions of identified partners to define and agree the performance measures and the involvement of each identified partner towards the action.
- Act as a key point of contact for the chair of the thematic action planning team in relation to that action and collate reporting on progress of the action for the chair using the performance measures identified.
- The chairs of each thematic action planning team will collate and report progress on outcomes to the Community Planning Strategic Partnership.

- To pass information about upcoming activities, opportunities to have your say and successful projects to the chair.

Community Planning Team

The community planning team will have additional roles to those outlined above these include:

- Driving community planning across all service areas in council
- Providing action planning process and advisory role to community planning partners
- Supporting an evidence informed approach through provision of baseline data, engagement tools and performance management framework
- Convening action planning meetings
- Administration
- Providing and advising on templates and screening
- Establishing and facilitating the process
- Ensuring consistency/co-ordination between working groups
- Sense checking
- Coordinating and publishing a performance review every 2 years
- Thematic Action Plan Resource Pack.

Conflict of Interest

This is an open and transparent process and documentation in relation to the TAP Team will be publicly available. Conflicts of interest may arise during the action planning process. It is the responsibility of team members to identify any potential conflict and to declare it to the Chairs. Any conflict of interest will be recorded in the minutes.

Timeframe

It is envisaged that the development of the action plans will require approximately four meetings over a 12-week period. The TAP teams will implement the action plans once they have been approved by the Community Planning Strategic Partnership.

Reporting Arrangements

TAP teams are accountable to the Community Planning Strategic Partnership (CPSP). Implementation will also be subject to approvals of the CPSP. A consistent and concise reporting template has been developed to support the gathering of information for each of the six action plans. The chairs of the TAP Teams will report to the CPSP every six months and the partnership will report to the Department for Communities every two years. Progress will also be reported to stakeholders and the wider community.

Decision Making

All team members are required to demonstrate commitment and be willing to contribute to collaborative working. To enhance collaborative working decisions will be made by consensus as far as possible. Decisions taken should ensure team members can demonstrate the strong link between the action and the long-term outcome.

Enhanced and Revitalised Workshop Dates

We would encourage members to attend all 4 workshops in a particular theme, where possible to ensure consistency of membership and as each of the 4 workshops will cover different aspects of the action planning process.

Refreshments and lunch will be provided at all workshops.

Workshop	Date	Time	Venue
Workshop 1	Thursday 17 January 2019	9.30am – 1pm	Marlborough House, Craigavon
Workshop 2	Monday 28 January 2019	9.30am – 1pm	Double Syndicate Room, Armagh City Hotel, Armagh
Workshop 3	Thursday 28 January 2019	9.30am – 1pm	Old Town Hall, Banbridge
Workshop 4	Thursday 7 March 2019	9.30am – 1pm	Island View Room, Lough Neagh Discovery Centre, Craigavon

Workshop one Shared Learning



Adele Maher MRTPI, Strategic Planning Manager, London Borough of Tower Hamlets

Adele is an experienced town planner and urban designer. She was highly commended in the RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence 2016 as Young Planner of the Year. Adele is Strategic Planning Manager for London Borough of Tower Hamlets, responsible for planning policy, design and conservation. She is currently focused on the preparation of a new Local Plan to accommodate 40,000+ new homes and on the Opportunity Area Planning Framework for the Canary Wharf area with the GLA. Previously, Adele led Havant Borough's Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule to adoption in 2013; its Local Plan to adoption in 2014 and secured decisions on CIL spending in 2015. Adele managed the preparation of a sub-regional spatial growth plan on behalf of 12 planning authorities including Portsmouth, Southampton and Solent LEP from 2014 to 2015. Adele has also worked for the FERIA Urbanism design and planning practice on master planning in Liverpool, Weymouth and Bournemouth.

8. USEFUL DOCUMENTS AND LINKS

USEFUL DOCUMENTS

General

Connected, A Community Plan for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough

<https://www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/resident/community-planning/>

Developing Our Plan

<https://www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/resident/developing-our-plan/>

Connected Equality Impact Assessment

<https://www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/resident/community-planning/>

Draft Programme for Government October 2016

<https://www.northernireland.gov.uk/consultations/programme-government-consultation>

Enhanced and Revitalised

Place Thematic Working Group Workshop Reports 2016

Workshop one

https://www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/wp-admin/admin-ajax.php?juwpfisadmin=false&action=wpfd&task=file.download&wpfd_category_id=127&wpfd_file_id=13663&token=0305b222eb38136b613e70811aeab101&preview=1

Workshop two

https://www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/wp-admin/admin-ajax.php?juwpfisadmin=false&action=wpfd&task=file.download&wpfd_category_id=127&wpfd_file_id=13664&token=0305b222eb38136b613e70811aeab101&preview=1

Workshop three

https://www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/wp-admin/admin-ajax.php?juwpfisadmin=false&action=wpfd&task=file.download&wpfd_category_id=127&wpfd_file_id=13665&token=0305b222eb38136b613e70811aeab101&preview=1

Baseline Report
July 2016

https://www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/wp-admin/admin-ajax.php?juwpfisadmin=false&action=wpfd&task=file.download&wpfd_category_id=127&wpfd_file_id=13666&token=0305b222eb38136b613e70811aeab101&preview=1

Statutory Partners

<u>Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council</u>
<u>Council for Catholic and Maintained Schools (CCMS)</u>
<u>Education Authority (EA)</u>
<u>Health and Social Care Board</u>
<u>Invest NI</u>
<u>Libraries NI</u>
<u>Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS)</u>
<u>Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE)</u>
<u>Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI)</u>
<u>Public Health Agency (PHA)</u>
<u>Southern Health and Social Care Trust</u>
<u>Sport NI</u>
<u>Tourism NI</u>

Community Planning Team

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