

Fermanagh and Omagh  
Community Planning Partnership



4th Statement of Progress

# Progress and Partnership

Realising the Vision of the FO 2030 Community Plan

**June 2023 – June 2025**

Prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act (NI) 2014



A photograph of four children sitting inside a tent, smiling and looking towards the camera. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The text 'Our Shared Vision' is written in large, bold, white letters across the top half of the image.

# Our Shared Vision

**Our vision is of a welcoming, shared and inclusive Fermanagh and Omagh district, where people and places are healthy, safe, connected and prosperous, and where our outstanding natural, built and cultural heritage is cherished and sustainably managed.**

*Children enjoying the Summer Scheme in Irvinestown – Bringing the Community Plan to life*

## Message from the Chairperson



As Chair of the Fermanagh and Omagh Community Planning Partnership, I am delighted to present this Statement of Progress for the period June 2023 to June 2025. It marks a significant stage in our ongoing journey to deliver improved outcomes for the people who live, work, visit and invest in our district.

Over the past two years, the Partnership has demonstrated the value of collective leadership and collaboration. We have continued to strengthen our shared commitment to place-based working, guided by the vision set out in the Community Plan 2030.

Despite a challenging period marked by economic unpredictability, continued cost of living pressures, and increasing demand on public services, our partners have delivered meaningful progress.

This is demonstrated through the launch of the Community Plan Action Plan 2024–2028. This refreshed plan builds on the foundations of the past decade, setting out clear, shared priorities for the years ahead. Developments within the Action Plan include the establishment of the Integrated Wellbeing Network (IWN) and the Integrated Climate Action Network (ICAN), both providing powerful new platforms for joint working.

Initiatives including the expansion of wellbeing programmes and local economic support actions have made tangible differences to the lives of individuals, families, and communities. The development of rural connectivity projects, enhanced community engagement mechanisms, and our work on sustainable tourism and environmental resilience highlight the Partnership's responsiveness and innovation to cross-cutting issues.

Our progress would not have been possible without the tireless commitment of our community, voluntary, statutory and private sector partners. Almost 10 years on, the collective impact of community planning – bringing together knowledge, resources and influence to address complex issues like health inequalities, rural isolation, economic inactivity and climate change in a joined-up way – continues to emerge.

Yet, challenges remain. Many of the root causes of these issues require long-term, structural solutions. Budgetary pressures, resulting in short-term and fragmented funding, and significant capacity pressures on services have constrained our ability to scale and sustain local initiatives.

There remains a continued need for improved and meaningful collaboration between community planning and central government on a consistent basis. This is essential to unlocking the full potential of community planning and the achievement of better outcomes for all.

Looking ahead, there are real opportunities to build on what has been achieved. The Community Plan Action Plan will continue to be implemented, evolving to meet the needs of the District and being shaped by regional policy and community engagement.

I want to thank every partner and stakeholder for their contribution to this collective effort, both over the 2023–2025 period and the decade that has passed.

Community planning continues to evolve, but its purpose remains the same: to improve the lives of our residents and the prosperity of our places, through collaboration.

**Chairperson, Councillor, Rosemary Barton**

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# 1.0 About this Report

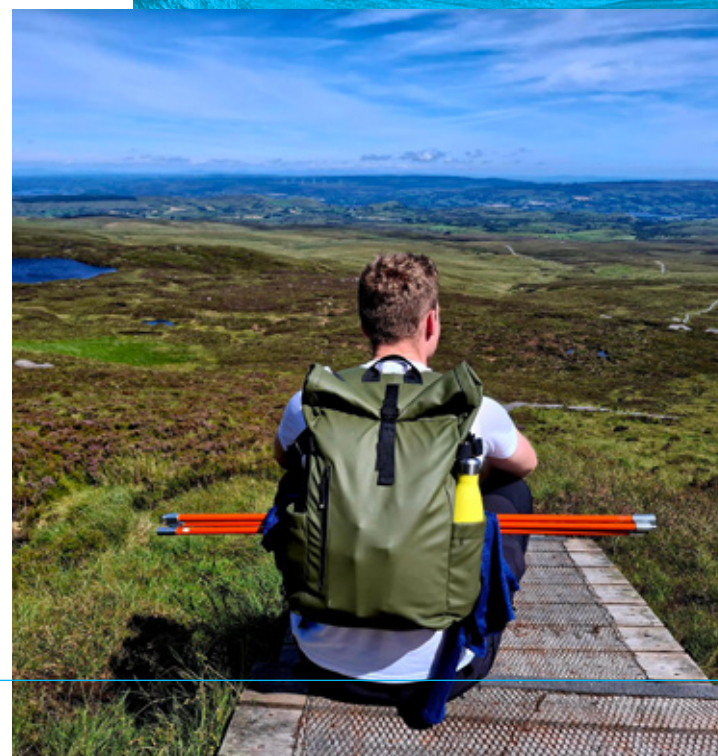
This fourth Statement of Progress covers the period 1 June 2023 to 30 June 2025 and is the first since the launch of the new Action Plan 2024–2028. It demonstrates how the Fermanagh and Omagh Community Planning Partnership is working together to deliver the priorities of the Community Plan 2030 (CP).

Prepared in line with Part 10 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014, the report fulfils the statutory duty to monitor and report on progress against the Community Plan updated six outcomes. It highlights actions delivered by partners, progress achieved and areas requiring further focus.

Drawing on data, partner reporting, case studies and community feedback, the Statement reflects what is working well, the challenges ahead and how collective action is making a difference. It also shows how the Partnership is aligning local priorities with wider regional frameworks, including the Programme for Government: Our Plan – Doing What Matters Most, the Local Development Plan, and other key strategies.

The Statement is designed to inform residents, partners and stakeholders, whilst promoting transparency, shared learning and continued collaboration. Statements were published in 2019, 2021 and 2023 and can be accessed [here](#).

**Please Note:** The FO 2030 Community Plan outcomes were reviewed and updated in November 2022 in line with legislative requirements.



*Cuilcagh Board Walk*

## 2.0 A Quick Recap of the FO 2030 Community Plan

### 2.1 Our Roadmap to Delivery

The Fermanagh and Omagh 2030 Community Plan, published in March 2017, provides the strategic framework for partners, setting out the shared vision, outcomes, indicators and values for the district. Using an Outcomes-Based Accountability approach, it directs action towards those most in need and measures progress against agreed indicators.

Over the past eight years, significant progress has been made. However, Community Planning remains robust and an evolving process, continuously reviewed through partner input, stakeholder engagement and public consultation. This ensures that outcomes, indicators and actions remain relevant to the political, social, economic and environmental context.

Outlined on page 7 is the updated high-level content of the Community Plan at 30 June 2025.



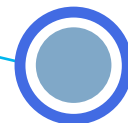
Omagh Town Centre

#### Introduction

#### Working Together

#### Engaging and Participating

#### Looking Ahead



Governance

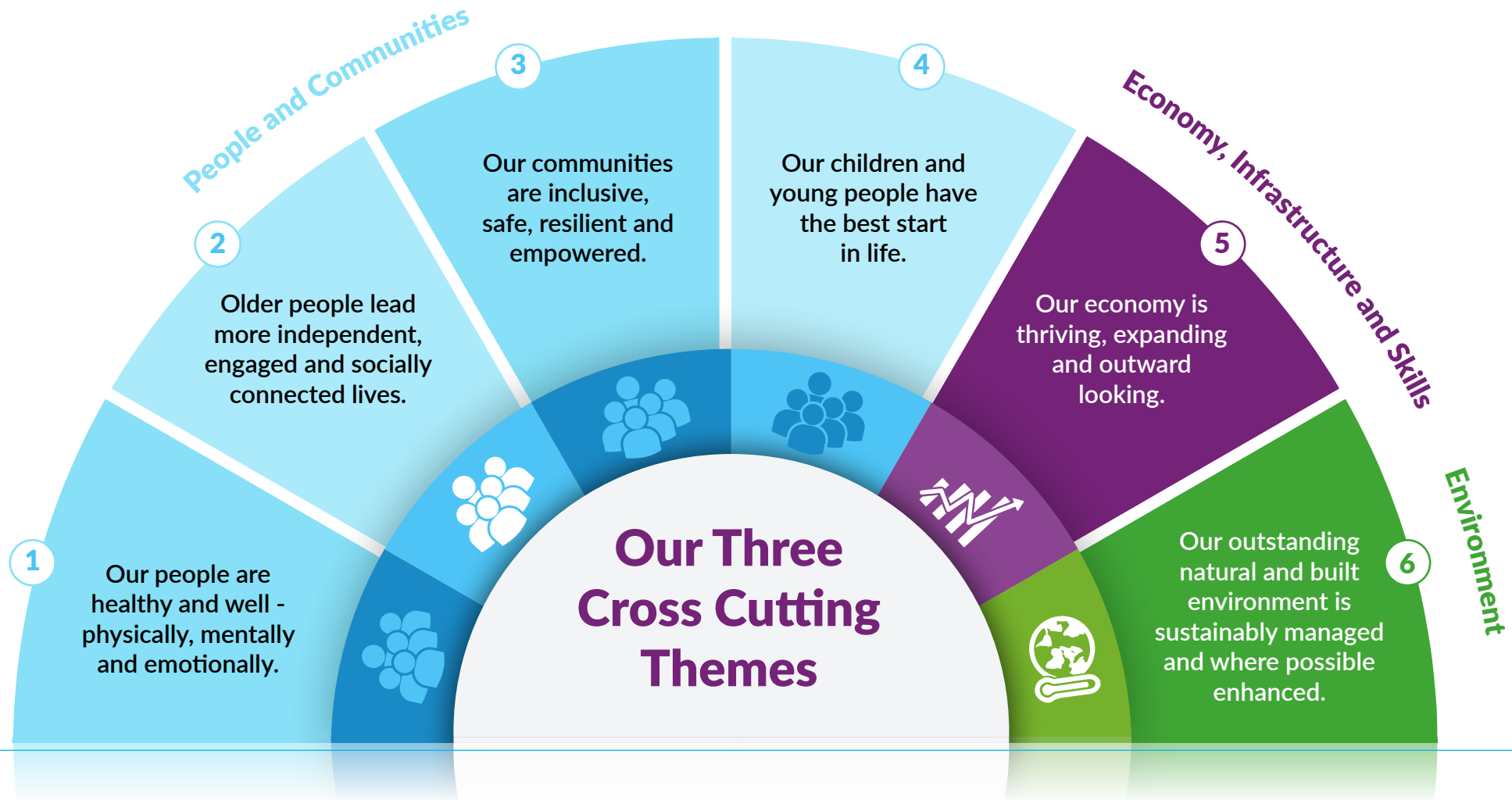
Action Plan  
2024-2028  
Delivery

Ensuring  
Alignment



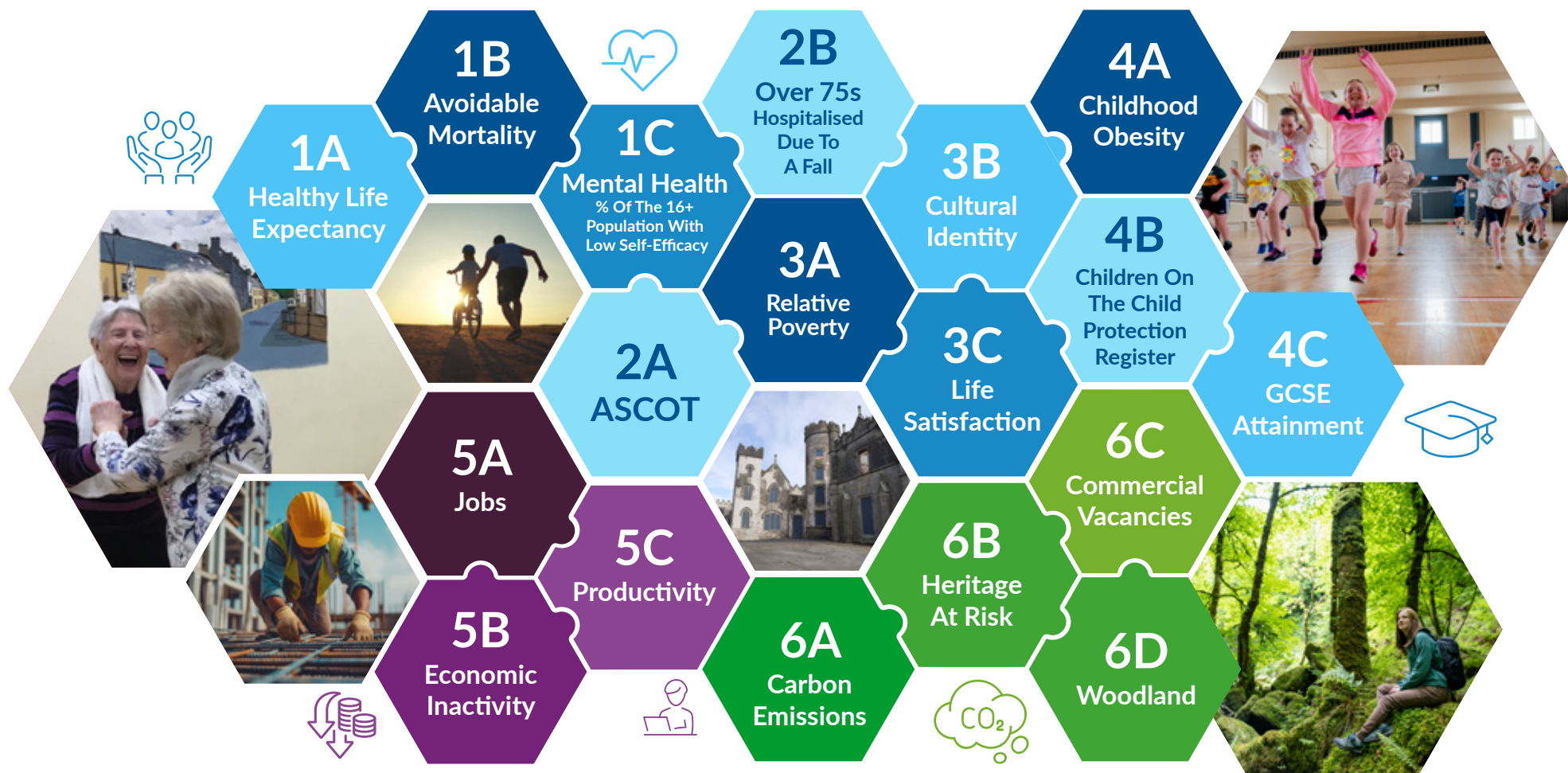
## 2.2 Shared Vision for Fermanagh and Omagh

Our vision is of a welcoming, shared and inclusive Fermanagh and Omagh district, where people and places are healthy, safe, connected and prosperous and where our outstanding natural, built and cultural heritage is cherished and sustainably managed.



## 2.3 Population Indicators

Progress towards the achievement of outcomes is measured using population indicators. These are reliable data sources that reflect the wellbeing of our target populations within Fermanagh and Omagh.



People and Communities

Economy, Infrastructure and Skills

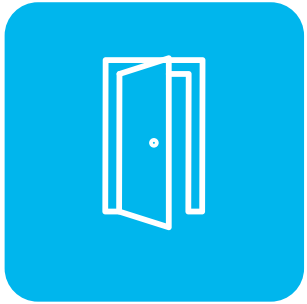
Environment

**Note:** The population indicators were revised and updated in September 2025. The analysis above, and throughout this document, refer to the population indicators in place from June 2023 to June 2025. The new population indicators from September 2025 are available [here](#).



## 2.4 Our Shared Values

Our shared values underpin how we work together and deliver positive outcomes for our communities across Fermanagh and Omagh.



Openness,  
Accountability and  
Transparency



Prevention and  
Early Intervention



An Evidence-Based  
Approach



Effective  
Engagement



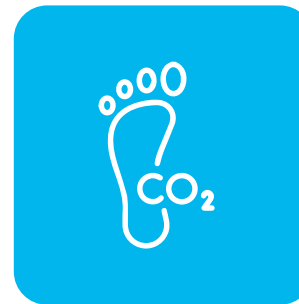
Equality



Addressing  
Deprivation



Working  
Collaboratively



Sustainability



Continuous  
Improvement

## 3.0 How We Work Together

### 3.1 A Collaborative Leadership Governance Model

Fermanagh and Omagh Community Planning use a Collaborative Leadership Governance Mode to support:



**Joint decision-making**



**Shared accountability**



**Joint action**

This approach ensures leadership is spread across:



**Statutory bodies**



**Community and voluntary groups**



**Wider stakeholders**

By aligning resources, co-designing solutions and measuring collective impact, partners work together to deliver the ambitions of the Community Plan in a transparent inclusive and coordinated way.

## 3.2 Partner Governance Arrangements, Roles and Responsibilities

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council (FODC) have statutory responsibility for Community Planning in the district, with leadership provided by the Community Planning Strategic Partnership Board (CPSPB) and delivery supported by operational groups. While the Council leads the process, progress relies on partners working together to achieve the ambitions of the Community Plan.

Operational delivery structures, now fully established, are jointly led by a Council Director and a Statutory Partner representative. This dual leadership approach ensures shared responsibility, balanced perspectives and stronger collaboration. Co-leads chair meetings, guide delivery and ensure decisions reflect local needs.

Operational management and delivery level membership of delivery networks/ groups are drawn from statutory, community, voluntary and private sector organisations, selected for their expertise and ability to contribute to priorities. Partners provide knowledge, resources and practical support, while also contributing to monitoring and reporting.

The CPSPB retains overall oversight. The Community and Voluntary Sector (CVS) Forum also play a key role, with its Co-chairs represented on the CPSPB. Delivery is designed to be agile, enabling partners to respond effectively to changing circumstances.

The Community Plan sits within a wider regional and local policy framework, aligning with the Programme for Government and departmental strategies, while also guiding local partner and community actions.





**Environment:** FODC, Director of Environment and Place and WHSCT

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### 3.3 Community Planning Strategic Partnership Board (CPSPB) Meetings

To support delivery, maintain oversight, and monitor progress against agreed outcomes, the CPSPB met eight times during the reporting period (June 2023 – June 2025). Attendance at these meetings remain strong, reflecting the ongoing commitment of partners to work together. Click on the links below to access meeting packs and view associated information.

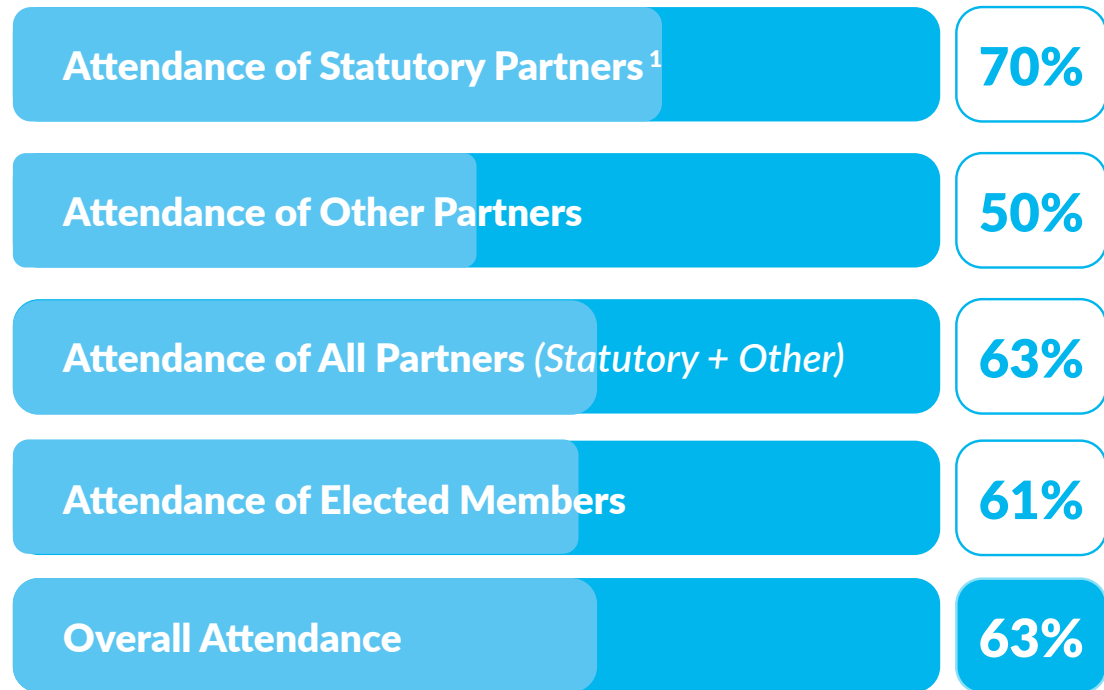


Diagram 2: CPSPB Governance and Meeting Schedule 2023-2025



**“Alone we can do  
so little; together  
we can do so  
much”.**

**Helen Keller**



Please refer to Appendix A for the attendance rates of nominated representatives and their deputies from all partners on the CPSPB.

At meetings of the Fermanagh and Omagh Community Planning Partnership Board, members have engaged in focused discussions to identify and prioritise the most pressing challenges facing the district. This approach reflects the role of the Community Planning Partnership as a space for collaborative leadership and evidence-informed decision-making. Some of the key expert speakers and areas highlighted are covered in Section 3.4.

<sup>1</sup> Statutory partners refer to those partners named in the legislation.

## 3.4 Sharing Knowledge, Building Collaboration

Across 2023-2025, the Community Planning Partnership has actively supported and contributed to regional policy development and cross-departmental collaboration – helping to shape better outcomes for local people.

**“Partnerships thrive when knowledge is shared, challenges are faced together, and learning becomes action”.**

Chair, CPSPB



Department of  
**Health**



September 2023

### **Integrated Care Systems: Local Collaboration in Action**

The Department of Health's Senior Planning Manager provided an update on the Integrated Care System NI (ICS NI) and its local delivery through Area Integrated Partnership Boards (AIPBs). In the Western Trust area, AIPBs will support joint planning across health, social care, councils and community partners to improve outcomes and reduce inequalities. Further updates were provided in May and December 2024.



February 2024

### **Local Development Plan 2030**

FODC's Lead Planner outlined the next phase of the Local Development Plan - the Local Policies Plan, which will set site-specific proposals for sustainable growth. Priorities include land zoning for housing, economic development and tourism, alongside environmental protection, infrastructure and community facilities.

# Housing Executive



May 2024

## Tackling Housing Need

The Housing Executive presented 2023–2028 projections, identifying demand for 905 new social housing units across the district (329 in Enniskillen, 287 in Omagh). NIHE continues to work with Council planners on the Local Development Plan, Affordable Housing Policy and site identification.



September 2024

## Mental Health and Wellbeing

To mark World Suicide Prevention Day, the Partnership hosted NI's Mental Health Champion, Professor Siobhan O'Neill. The discussion reinforced the importance of fully implementing the Mental Health Strategy 2021–2031, responding to rising demand linked to rural isolation, post-pandemic pressures and the cost-of-living crisis.



Department for the  
**Economy**



September 2024

## Sub-Regional Economic Plan

The Department for the Economy (DfE) presented the Sub-Regional Economic Plan, supported by £15m annually over three years for councils. Priorities include productivity, good jobs, decarbonisation and regional equity. Local Economic Partnerships will be established, with governance links to Community Planning.



Department of  
**Education**



September 2024

## Review of Special Educational

The Department of Education (DE) presented findings from the End-to-End SEN Review. With rising demand and costs forecast to reach £622m in 2024, the review highlights the need for early intervention, clear policy, workforce development and inclusive planning to improve outcomes.





September 2024

## Tourism NI Operational Plan

Tourism NI outlined the 2024–2025 Operational Plan and its role in shaping tourism in partnership with councils. Priorities focus on productivity, good jobs, sustainability and regional balance, alongside delivery of the Visitor Experience Development Plan for the district.



December 2024

## Entrepreneur Education

The Education Authority presented on entrepreneurship provision in schools. While embedded in the curriculum, no formal qualification exists. The “Drawing the Future” programme helps align primary pupils’ aspirations with labour market needs, strengthening the skills pipeline.



Dr. Lisa Wilson, Senior Economist at NERI, joins CPSPB to highlight how ‘Good Jobs’ drive down economic inactivity

April 2025

## Good Jobs and Economic Inactivity

Dr Lisa Wilson, Nevin Economic Research Institute, presented evidence on “Good Jobs” as a driver of wellbeing and productivity. She emphasised secure, fairly paid and meaningful work, aligning with DfE’s Good Jobs criteria and challenged the district to position itself as a model for inclusive employment.

# Housing Executive



June 2025

## Irish Traveller Accommodation Strategy

Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) updated on the ongoing review of the Irish Traveller Accommodation Strategy 2021–2026. Key needs include identifying transit sites, supporting the 2025 accommodation survey and strengthening collaboration through forums such as the Omagh Travellers Forum.



**Northern Ireland  
Fire & Rescue Service**



December 2024

## Community Risk Management Plan

The NI Fire and Rescue Service consulted on its 2025–2035 Community Risk Management Plan, which assesses foreseeable risks and outlines actions to adapt services, strengthen collaboration and enhance resilience.



Department of  
**Agriculture, Environment  
and Rural Affairs**



June 2025

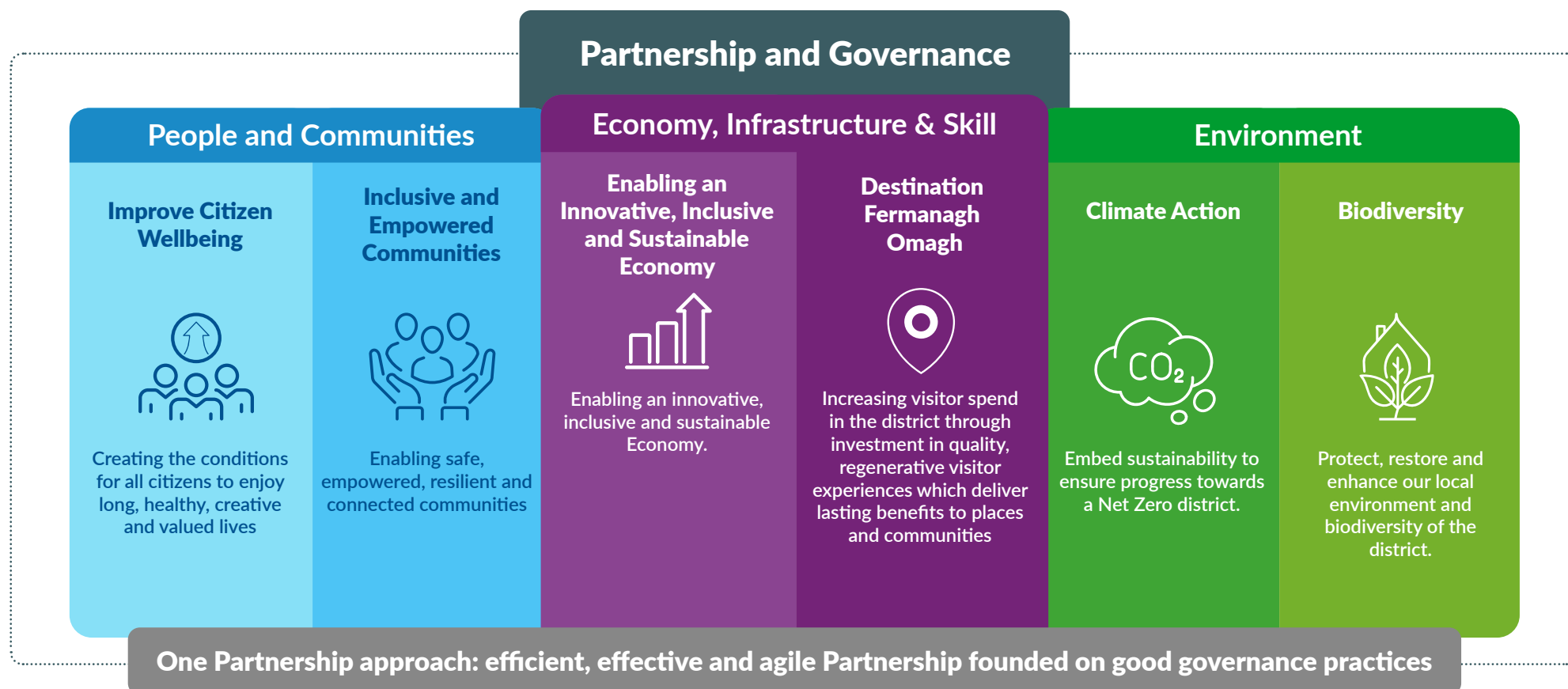
## Rural Policy Development

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) presented progress on a new evidence-based rural policy for Northern Ireland, co-designed with stakeholders and structured around three workstreams: championing, understanding and supporting rural communities. The presentation stressed the importance of cross-departmental collaboration.

## 3.5 FO Community Plan Action Plan 2024-2028

[The Community Plan Action Plan](#) for 2024–2028 outlines 21 agreed partner actions to support progressing the 6 outcomes in the Community Plan. It was developed through a co-design process following a review of the FO2030 Plan in 2022, which considered emerging challenges including the cost-of-living crisis, inflation, climate change legislation and global instability. The review involved over 80 organisations and almost 300 participants.

Diagram 3 illustrates the seven core priorities and four cross cutting themes adopted.





# A Message from our Co-Leads

## ● People and Communities

"The Public Health Agency (PHA) is pleased to be a Co-Lead for the People and Communities theme, working in partnership to drive forward a shared vision for healthier, more connected communities. Addressing health and inequalities remains a core priority and through the Integrated Wellbeing Network we have made significant progress in identifying local needs and shaping community-led responses. The recent Community Conversations in Lisnaskea and Lisanelly provided invaluable insights, reaffirming the power of local voices. As we focus on obesity, mental health and substance use, we remain committed to a collaborative, integrated approach that targets those most in need and supports better outcomes for all."

**Fiona Teague, PHA (Co-Lead)**

"As Co-Lead of the People and Communities Theme, FODC is proud to work alongside partners to deliver real improvements in the lives of local people. There has been significant progress made since June 2023 – from tackling health inequalities in Omagh and Erne East District Electoral Areas (DEA), to supporting those in poverty through the Western Response and Action Poverty (WRAP) programme and the development of an Age Friendly Strategy, ensuring that local voices are heard and supported to remain healthy, active and connected in their community. The networks developed and the commitment of partners throughout this time has laid a solid foundation and through continued collaboration, we will work towards the realisation of our shared Vision for the district and improve outcomes for our residents."

**John Boyle, FODC (Co-Lead)**



*Co-Chairs of the People and Communities Theme  
Fiona Teague (Public Health Agency) and John Boyle  
(Fermanagh and Omagh District Council).*



*Co-Chairs of the Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Theme Shirley Devlin (Invest NI), standing in for Ethna McNamee, and Sinéad McEvoy (Fermanagh and Omagh District Council).*

## ● Economy, Infrastructure and Skills

“Over the past two years, we have made significant progress in strengthening the foundations of our local economy, infrastructure and skills base. Through strong partnership working, we have attracted new investment, supported businesses to innovate, grow and expanded opportunities for people to access training and employment. Initiatives such as the Labour Market Partnership, Go Succeed and the Visitor Experience Development Plan (VEDP) are already delivering tangible results. Looking ahead, FODC will continue to work collaboratively to help businesses start and scale, reduce economic inactivity and maximise the benefits of the Sub Regional Economic Plan - building a more inclusive, resilient and sustainable economy for the people of Fermanagh and Omagh.”

**Sinead McEvoy, FODC (Co-Lead)**

“Between June 2023 to June 2025, the Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Theme has made significant progress, driven by strong collaborative working.

As co-lead for the theme, Invest NI has played an active role in advancing the Community Plan Action to promote greater uptake of business accessing relevant innovation supports to enable growth, scaling and productivity improvements, including adoption of new technology.” Progress against this objective has been realised through a range of targeted initiatives including the Business Innovation Grant (BIG), the Cluster Acceleration Programme (CAP), Lunch and Learn sessions and Supply Chain Workshops—all designed to build capability, encourage collaboration and drive innovation within the local business base.

In parallel, Invest NI supported the delivery of The Productivity Institute’s (TPI) Investment in Productive Places project, culminating in the publication of “Framing a Place-Based Investment Strategy for Fermanagh and Omagh.” Informed by extensive local consultation and economic analysis, the report will provide a strategic foundation for future investment planning in the area.

Invest NI also continues to contribute actively to the CPSPB, ensuring ongoing collaboration and reinforcing the alignment between local delivery and regional economic development objectives.”

**Ethna McNamee, Invest NI (Co-Lead)**



## ● Environment

“As Co-Lead of the Community Planning Environment Theme, I am proud of the strong partnership that has been built across our district. Together, we have taken real steps towards Net Zero – from installing EV chargepoints, to restoring peatlands and supporting local food producers through sustainable initiatives. The establishment of the Integrated Climate Action Network (I-CAN) has been a vital step in embedding sustainability and driving our collective journey towards Net Zero. Over the past year, Climate Action Network (I-CAN) has brought partners together to share knowledge, baseline emissions and practical actions around fleet, estates, behavioural change and public body reporting. The challenges ahead are significant, but the progress made shows what can be achieved when public bodies, businesses and communities work collaboratively. We are creating a greener, healthier and more sustainable future for Fermanagh and Omagh.”

**John News, FODC (Co-Lead)**

“The I-CAN group has now been firmly established, as all community partners continue to work towards achieving Net Zero. The group has held several informative workshops in a number of areas of Sustainability, in which case studies of innovative practice has been presented, providing collective learning for all partners. The challenges of sustainability are significant, however working in partnership is an instrumental tool in meeting current government targets.”

**Patrick McNulty, WHSCT (Co-Lead)**



Co-Chairs of the Environment Theme  
Patrick McNulty (Western Health and Social Care Trust)  
and John News (Fermanagh and Omagh District Council).





*Allison Forbes (South West Age Partnership),  
CPSPB Vice-Chair and CVS Forum Representative  
on the CPSPB*



*Barry Boyle (Fermanagh Rural Community  
Network) CVS Forum Representative on the CPSPB*

## ● One Partnership

Being a member of the CVS Forum has allowed us to work collaboratively to deliver projects, share our experiences and highlight the challenges the sector is facing. We are passionate about supporting those within our communities and ensuring that their needs continue to be considered at all levels of decision making.

**Allison Forbes and Barry Boyle,**  
Co-Chairs of the Community and Voluntary Sector Forum

**“Coming together is a beginning,  
staying together is progress, and  
working together is success.”**

**Henry Ford**



Members of the CPSPB, joined by representatives from the Department of Education, FODC, and SWC, following presentations on the Strule Shared Education Campus and the STRIDE Initiative, September 2025.



## 3.6 Key Milestones at a Glance










Peter Drucker

## 3.7 Population Accountability

Progress towards the achievement of the Community Plan Outcomes is tracked through 18 population indicators, giving a clear picture of wellbeing in Fermanagh and Omagh. These indicators, aligned to the six Community Plan outcomes have been reviewed regularly to ensure they remain relevant and reflective to local priorities.

Overall, 45% of the indicators are moving in the right direction since the baseline year. However, the purpose of population indicators is to be long term in nature. Thus, less emphasis should be placed on short-term trends. However, short term trends provide a useful basis to ensure ongoing work focused on addressing the areas of greatest challenge.

### 18 Population Indicators

-  8 / 45% moving in the right direction
-  6 / 33% moving in the wrong direction
-  4 / 22% no change

# Population Accountability: Performance at a Glance




● People and Communities

● Economy, Infrastructure and Skills

● Environment

Outcomes	Moving in the Right Direction [Positive Change <+ 3% from baseline]	Moving in the Wrong Direction [Negative Change >+ 3% from baseline]	No Change [Have changed ± 3% from baseline]
People are healthy and well – physically, mentally and emotionally.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decrease in healthy life expectancy.</li> <li>Increase in the percentage of the 16+ population with low self-efficacy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoidable mortality</li> </ul>
Older people lead more engaged, independent and socially connected lives.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decrease in the Adult Social Care Outcomes Toolkit (ASCOT).</li> <li>Increase in the falls of people over age of 75.</li> </ul>	
Our communities are safe, inclusive, resilient and empowered.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decrease in the number of people living in relative poverty.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decrease in the percentage of the population who believe their cultural identity is respected by society.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Life satisfaction of people with disabilities.</li> </ul>
Our people have the best start in life with lifelong opportunities to fulfil their potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decrease in the percentage of children (Primary 1 and Year 8 who are overweight or obese.</li> <li>Decrease in the number of children on the child protection register.</li> <li>Increase in the percentage of leavers achieving 5 GCSEs A* - C including English and Maths.</li> </ul>		

## Population Accountability: Performance at a Glance *continued*

Outcomes	<b>Moving in the Right Direction</b> [Positive Change <+ 3% from baseline] 	<b>Moving in the Wrong Direction</b> [Negative Change >+ 3% from baseline] 	<b>No Change</b> [Have changed ± 3% from baseline] 
Our Economy is expanding, thriving and outward looking.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in the number of jobs.</li> <li>• Decrease in the economic inactivity rate.</li> <li>• Increase in productivity rate.</li> </ul>		
Our outstanding natural and built environment is sustainably managed, and where possible, enhanced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction in the number of commercial premises that are vacant.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in heritage at risk</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carbon emissions (per capita CO<sub>2</sub>e).</li> <li>• Woodland</li> </ul>

Further analysis of the Population Indicators can be found [here](#).



## Cross Cutting Challenges

The Council and its partners continue to address several structural and contextual challenges which affect progress across the CP outcomes. They include:



### Budgetary Constraints:

Ongoing financial pressures across statutory and community sectors have limited the ability to invest in preventive services, infrastructure upgrades and innovation. This has had knock-on effects on service delivery, community development and project sustainability.



### Geopolitical Instability and Policy Uncertainty:

The continuing effects of Brexit, along with wider international tensions, have created uncertainty around trade, funding streams and investment – particularly affecting rural economies and cross-border collaboration.



### Apathy or Resistance to Change:

In some areas, there remains a lack of public engagement or hesitancy to adopt new ways of working – particularly in relation to climate action, digital transformation, or health and wellbeing initiatives.



### Workforce Capacity and Skills Gaps:

Many sectors are experiencing challenges in recruiting and retaining skilled staff, which undermines efforts to meet growing service demands and to scale up innovative programmes.



### Digital Exclusion:

Although extensive work has been undertaken in the area there are still some areas that have limited digital infrastructure combined with digital literacy in some rural areas remain barriers to accessing services, information and opportunities for education or employment.



### Rising Cost of Living:

The ongoing cost-of-living crisis continues to exacerbate social inequalities, placing additional strain on families and reducing participation in community programmes or training opportunities.



### Climate Pressures and Environmental Degradation:

Increasing flood risks, biodiversity loss and pressure on natural resources all pose long-term risks to both health and economic stability, requiring greater coordination and investment.

## 4.0 Action Plan Delivery: Two Years in Review

# Performance Level Accountability

This section provides a summary of Action Plan delivery over the past two years, highlighting key achievements, collaborative initiatives and areas of progress across the Community Plan priorities. It also showcases examples of good practice from partners, illustrating how joint working has delivered tangible benefits for local people and places. These case studies demonstrate the impact of collective action, share learning and highlight approaches that can be built upon to strengthen delivery in the years ahead.

Progress Reports are designed to keep partners and communities informed on delivery of the Community Plan Action Plan. They highlight key achievements, outcomes and challenges against each core priority over the previous six months and provide an overview of planned activities for the next six months. The first set of biannual reports was presented to the CPSPB in April 2025.

**“Performance is not only about results, it is about learning, adapting, and continually striving to deliver better outcomes for all”.**

**Alan Mitchell,**  
Lead Officer, Data Science and Intelligence





*Strule Arts Centre, Omagh*



4.1

# People and Communities



Information Fair at the Bawnacre Centre:  
Supporting citizen wellbeing and creating the conditions for older  
people to enjoy long, healthy, creative and valued lives.



## Core Priority 1

# Improve Citizen Wellbeing: Creating the conditions for all citizens to enjoy long, healthy, creative and valued lives

## How Much did we do? How well did we do it? Is anyone better off?

- IWN expanded membership and delivered Community Conversations with 139 residents in Lisnaskea and Lisanelly, identifying priorities on obesity, mental health and substance misuse for immediate action in Omagh and Erne East.
- The Public Health Agency was appointed Co-Lead for the People and Communities theme, strengthening cross-sector collaboration.
- Additional district-wide priorities were agreed, including improving health literacy, Traveller health, support for adults with learning disabilities and reducing self-harm among young girls.
- A service scoping exercise mapped over 100 services, highlighting gaps and avoiding duplication, ensuring better use of resources.
- CPSPB approved a Whole Systems Approach to Obesity Prevention, embedding prevention at the heart of delivery.
- The [Pathways Out of Poverty](#) Strategy was launched in December 2024, shaped by wide consultation including 59 survey responses, five written submissions and five workshops.
- WRAP programme supported 347 households (1,067 people, including 586 children) across 2023–2025.
- FODC secured £245,524 for a Hardship Fund and invested an additional £60,000 in winter support, including fuel, foodbanks and family assistance.
- 28 Community Wellbeing Plans delivered 432 activities across the district over two years.
- Older people's voices shaped future planning through the Age Friendly Survey (925 responses) and consultation on the Draft Age Friendly Strategy. More than 500 older residents took part in wellbeing initiatives, including Positive Ageing Month activities.
- The RAISE Programme secured £406,402 to deliver targeted interventions in five Super Output Areas (SOA), with a Locality Reference Group established to guide delivery
- WAOG developed a Children and Young People's Action Plan 2024–2027, focusing on early intervention, mental health and tackling poverty.

## Core Priority 2

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# Inclusive and Empowered Communities: Enabling safe, empowered, resilient and connected communities

### How Much did we do? How well did we do it? Is anyone better off?

- The CVS Forum played an active role in governance, holding 13 meetings and a dedicated workshop to strengthen alignment with Community Planning and improve communication with CPSPB.

#### Next Steps

Partners will continue to build momentum by advancing key actions. IWN will finalise and implement its Action Plan, while a new Anti-Poverty and Inequality Network will be established alongside a Poverty Support Programme to provide targeted help where it is most needed.

For older people, findings from the Age Friendly Consultation (July-October 2025) will shape the Age Friendly Strategy, due for launch later in 2025. The Strategic Area Plan for RAISE will also be completed and approved, opening local calls for applications and paving the way for targeted delivery in communities.

Together, these steps will ensure the Community Plan continues to move from planning into delivery, with clear and tangible benefits for people and places.





*Shaping Brighter Futures Together:  
Pictured, a child enjoying Tempo Play Park*

# Examples of Good Practice

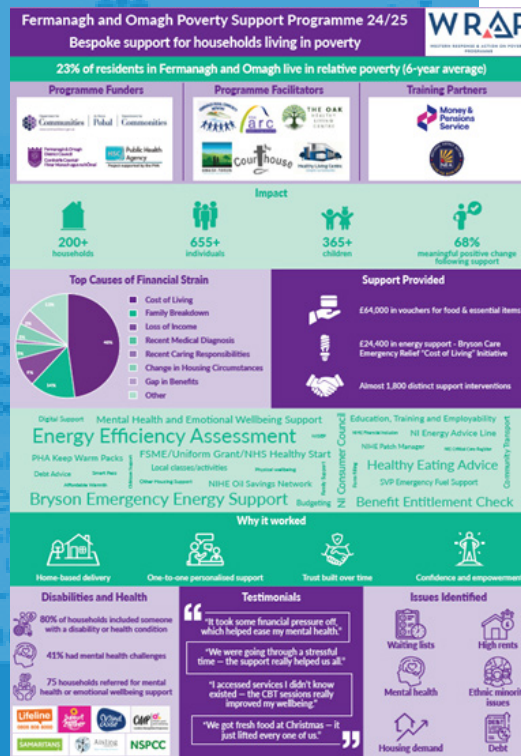
## Tackling Poverty in Fermanagh and Omagh

Addressing poverty and its wide-ranging impacts on health and wellbeing remains a key priority for the Fermanagh and Omagh Community Planning Partnership (CPP). Significant collaborative action was taken to support residents most affected by poverty, financial hardship and the ongoing cost of living crisis.

'Pathways out of Poverty' is the Council's 10-year anti-poverty strategy, launched in December 2024 in partnership with a range of statutory organisations and the community and voluntary sector. It outlines actions to mitigate, prevent and reduce poverty and to improve how services are designed and delivered for those most at risk. Developed through extensive engagement, the strategy focuses on three themes: mitigating the effects of poverty, preventing and reducing poverty and delivering responsive services. Implementation will be driven by a new Anti-Poverty and Inequality Network, promoting targeted programmes, collaborative practice and integrated planning to address disadvantage and reduce inequalities across the district. [Click here to view the Strategy.](#)

The [WRAP Programme](#) supports households facing poverty across the district. This initiative is funded by the Department for Communities' (DFC) Social Supermarket Fund and the Public Health Agency's Fuel Poverty Support Fund. It is delivered by a consortium of six community and voluntary organisations: Fermanagh Rural Community Network, Omagh Forum for Rural Associations, ARC Healthy Living Centre, Oak Healthy Living Centre, Lakeland Community Care and The Courthouse Kesh. FODC has appointed the consortium to provide tailored wraparound and financial support to households facing or at risk of food poverty. The WRAP Programme helps maximise income, cut costs and address debt, maximise benefits, health improvement, housing and employability, improving food security and overall wellbeing.

Alongside WRAP, the Council also secured £245,524 from the DfCs' Hardship Fund in 2023/24, which provided vital additional support to residents most affected by the cost-of-living crisis. Together, these initiatives demonstrate the ongoing commitment of partners to tackling poverty, improving food security and strengthening the wellbeing of households across Fermanagh and Omagh.





## Tackling Health Inequalities through Community Conversations

IWN, supported by PHA funding, commissioned a 'Community Conversation' to better understand local health challenges in Lisnaskea and Lisanelly. Between November 2024 and March 2025, community and voluntary sector partners (Fermanagh Rural Community Network, FOCUS, The Oak Healthy Living Centre and Omagh Forum for Rural Associations) led extensive engagement including six focus groups, meetings with vulnerable groups and 130 surveys, gathering insights from over 139 residents.

Key issues raised included mental health, substance misuse, poverty, isolation and poor access to health services. Based on these findings and local data, the IWN agreed an immediate focus on obesity, mental health and substance misuse, alongside broader work to improve traveller health, health literacy and support for vulnerable groups. A mapping exercise is now underway to align existing services and drive collaborative action to reduce health inequalities.

## Develop Fermanagh and Omagh as an Age Friendly District

Ensuring Fermanagh and Omagh is a great place to grow older is a key priority. A new Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan is being developed to support the health, wellbeing and quality of life of older people across the district.

Between July 2023 and January 2024, an Age Friendly Survey gathered the views of older people, highlighting barriers such as limited public transport, poor footpath conditions, lack of seating and the need for stronger links between community and health services to prevent frailty and reduce falls.

In response, the Age Friendly Alliance, supported by South West Age Partnership and a wide range of partners, shaped a Draft Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan. Launched for consultation in July 2025, the Draft Strategy focuses on four themes. For more information on the Age Friendly Strategy click [here](#).

Collaboration through the Age Friendly Alliance and Community Planning will be vital to delivering this vision. In addition, WHSCT and FODC are developing an Older People's Hub in Omagh to reduce frailty through community-based support.



*Participants at wreath making workshop at Omagh Leisure Centre*



## Belleek – A Village for All Ages

Belleek has taken a leading role in promoting inclusivity through its Age Friendly Village pilot project. In partnership with statutory agencies, schools and local businesses, the initiative aimed to make the village more accessible for older people and those with disabilities.

An Age Friendly checklist was completed by 18 businesses and a logo competition with three local primary schools led to a sticker now proudly displayed in participating shop windows. Local businesses completed Just A Minute (JAM) Card Training to support customers with communication needs.

A walkability study involving older residents and the Department for Infrastructure identified improvements, including a new disability parking space. Belleek's approach shows how local collaboration can create a more welcoming and accessible village for all.

## Thrive and Flourish

The Thrive and Flourish programme brought health and wellbeing to life across rural communities in Carrickmore, Fintona, Belleek and Maguiresbridge. Co-ordinated by South West Age Partnership (SWAP), the six-week programme was based on the Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing and attracted 78 participants, including many older people engaging with SWAP for the first time.

The diverse range of sessions included mindfulness, digital awareness, yoga, drumming, Thai cooking, decoupage and workshops on the value of volunteering. Feedback highlighted the positive impact on participants' wellbeing, confidence and social connection. The programme also produced unexpected benefits, with new friendships formed across community lines and neighbours connecting for the first time.

*SWAP Thrive and Flourish  
Programme*

## Communities Take Charge of Their Wellbeing

Community Wellbeing Plans provide a structured approach to improving quality of life by bringing together local residents, community and voluntary organisations and Statutory Partners. Promoting community wellbeing can enhance the resilience, empowerment and sustainability of communities. Since June 2023, 28 Plans have been developed across the district, supporting 266 activities in 2024/25. Each Plan is tailored to local needs, addressing themes such as health, climate action, safety and community development. Regular evaluation ensures they evolve with community needs, fostering resilience, empowerment, and stronger connections across all life stages.

## Children and Young People's Action Plan

The Western Area Outcomes Group (WAOG) has been working collaboratively to develop a draft Children and Young People's Action Plan for 2024–2027. This plan aims to address key challenges facing children and families across the Western Health and Social Care Trust area, with a particular focus on the Fermanagh and Omagh District.

The draft Action Plan identifies three key priorities:

- **Early Intervention and Family Support to provide timely help for families.**
- **Improved emotional mental health and wellbeing support for children and families, including those experiencing school disruption.**
- **Addressing poverty and the cost-of-living pressures impacting families.**

Work is ongoing with locality planning groups to create local action plans that reflect the specific needs of children and young people in Fermanagh and Omagh. This process is being informed by a recent needs assessment conducted by the Education Authority.



*Participants from the Shandon Park Community Consultation 2023, part of the Shandon/Lammy/Strule and Centenary Community Wellbeing Plan*

4.2

# Economy, Infrastructure and Skills



*Strule Shared Campus: Laying the foundations and building skills for Fermanagh and Omagh's future*



## Core Priority 1

# Enabling an innovative, inclusive and sustainable economy

## How Much did we do? How well did we do it? Is anyone better off?

- DfE Sub-Regional Economic Plan, launched in October 2024, will provide £15 million annually across NI councils, including £4.5 million per year for Fermanagh and Omagh over three years.
- The Fermanagh and Omagh Local Economic Partnership (LEP) held its first meeting on 28 March 2025, bringing partners together to drive local priorities.
- The Inclusive Economy Action Plan was finalised in June 2024, shaped by public consultation and en-gagement with 30 local businesses.
- In partnership with TPI, the district hosted a two-day visit and worked to develop the Framing a Place-Based Investment Strategy for Fermanagh and Omagh.
- The Fermanagh and Omagh Labour Market Partnership (FO LMP) secured £808,340 for employability and skills programmes across 2023/24 and 2024/25, including specialist funding for childminder and Special Educational Needs (SEN) training.
  - In 2023/24, 5 programmes were delivered: 130 participants enrolled, 125 (96%) completed, 84 (65%) gained employment, and 82 (63%) achieved a qualification.
  - In 2024/25, 9 programmes are underway with 258 participants recruited.
- Mini-Jobs Fairs proved highly successful:
  - 2023/24: 243 attendees, with 91% finding the events helpful and 35% applying for at least one job.
  - 2024/25: 566 attendees, with 86% finding the events helpful and 67% applying for at least one job.

## Core Priority 2

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# Destination Fermanagh and Omagh: Increasing visitor spend in the district through investment in quality, regenerative visitor experiences which deliver lasting benefits to places and communities

## How Much did we do? How well did we do it? Is anyone better off?

- The Visitor Experience Development Plan (VEDP) was launched in June 2023, with a partnership body established to oversee delivery.
- The Sperrin AONB Consultation Findings Report (Nov 2024) is shaping future landscape and tourism planning.
- The Tourism Through a Regenerative Lens Conference (Feb 2025) attracted 150 delegates, with almost all rating it high quality.
- A Cross-Border Working Group was formed to explore including the Fermanagh Lakelands in Ireland's Hidden Heartlands brand.
- €12 million Shared Island funding was secured for new trails in the Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark and Sliabh Beagh.
- Community engagement supported development of the Lough MacNea Canoe Trail (Dec 2024 and Apr 2025).
- A brand refresh strengthened the identity of the Fermanagh Lakelands destination.
- Sustainable Tourism Networks were established to drive collaborative growth in the visitor economy.
- Latest data showed strong performance: tourism spend grew by 3% year-on-year and now represents 24% of all cardholders spend. 314,000 overnight trips generated £66m expenditure, supporting 390 businesses and 3,680 jobs.
- The Geopark showcased best practice by hosting Tourism NI's Sustainable Destinations field trip in Nov 2025.

## Next Steps

Partners will continue to drive delivery across the economy, infrastructure, and skills theme. The Local Economic Partnership will consult on developing an action plan, followed by delivery. The Labour Market Partnership is on track to complete its 2024/25 Plan and begin development of the 2025/26 programme. The Rural Economic Action Plan and Go Succeed programme are both funded to March 2026, ensuring ongoing support for rural enterprise, business advice and skills development.

Major strategic programmes will also move forward. The Mid-South-West Growth Deal will see consultants appointed in 2025, followed by submission of the Outline Business Case by March 2026. Delivery of PEACEPLUS will begin in Autumn 2025 across 13 programme areas, supported by local engagement events.

Tourism development remains a key focus, with ongoing cluster meetings, a review of the Fermanagh Lakelands brand, and finalisation of the Sperrin Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan expected in early 2026, alongside consultation and shared projects such as Sliabh Beagh eco-tourism. These efforts, together with industry engagement, will shape the LEP Action Plan and Visitor Experience Development priorities.

Together, these actions will strengthen the local economy, improve infrastructure and enhance skills, ensuring communities and businesses are well positioned for sustainable growth.





*Driving Productivity Through Collaboration: The Productivity Institute Delegation at The Workhouse, Enniskillen, with workshop members contributing to the 'Investment in Productive Places' research*



# Examples of Good Practice

## Building a More Productive District through Community Planning

FODC, through the CPSPB, took part in TPI Investment in Productive Places project, the only NI council selected. The research explored how targeted investment can boost productivity while improving social wellbeing, opportunity and sustainability. Engagement included workshops, site visits and interviews with local stakeholders to identify challenges and opportunities. The final report will offer evidence-based recommendations to shape place-sensitive policies, align regional and local priorities and support data-driven decision-making. A sub-regional data toolkit will be delivered towards the end of 2025.

## Empowering Local Businesses Through Learning and Collaboration

As part of the commitment to enabling an innovative and sustainable economy, Invest NI delivered a series of impactful business support initiatives across the Fermanagh and Omagh District between October 2024 and March 2025.

The Lunch and Learn series, hosted at Invest NI's Western Regional Office, attracted over 60 businesses who benefited from expert-led sessions covering key topics such as research and development (R&D), digital transformation, market research, intellectual property and access to finance. These informal, information-rich events provided practical insights and opened new pathways for business innovation and scaling.

Additionally, in partnership with FODC, Invest NI delivered two Supply Chain Workshops in February and March 2025—held at Omagh Enterprise Centre and The Workhouse, Enniskillen. Attended by more than 30 businesses, these sessions focused on enhancing supply chain practices, improving operational efficiency, and identifying cost-saving opportunities.

Invest NI continues to develop strong, purposeful partnerships with local stakeholders, including those within the Community Planning process, to support the region's economic ambitions. This work is aligned with priorities outlined in the DfE Sub-Regional Economic Plan and reflects Invest NI's commitment to driving economic growth and opportunity across the region.



*Supply Chain Workshop in  
The Workhouse, Enniskillen*

## Supporting People into Employment

Through collaborative programmes such as the Fermanagh and Omagh Labour Market Partnership (LMP) and the Rural Economic Accelerator Programme (REAP), partners are working together to tackle economic inactivity by improving access to skills, training and employment opportunities. These initiatives are aligned to the Community Plan's commitment to inclusive economic growth and long-term employability support.

### Fermanagh and Omagh Labour Market Partnership (FO LMP)

FO LMP continues to play a vital role in reducing economic inactivity and improving employability outcomes across the district. Working collaboratively with local and regional stakeholders, the partnership ensures that skills development aligns with employer demand while addressing barriers to employment for underrepresented groups. The partnership has developed and delivered targeted action plans focused on supporting people furthest from the labour market, including those with disabilities and individuals with caring responsibilities.

In 2023/24, FO LMP delivered a range of programmes, including the Female Entrepreneur Programme, Transport Academy, Digital Skills Academy, and Employer-led Disability Programme. Following funding confirmation in August 2024 for the 2024/25 Action Plan, new initiatives commenced, including the Plant Operative Academy, Tourism and Hospitality Academy and Level 3 Classroom Assistant Training Academy. On 3 February 2025, DfC approved FO LMP's 2025/26 and 2026/27 Action Plans, with funding for the associated business case currently pending approval.

In line with the Community Plan action to advocate at partnership level for investment in childcare provision, FO LMP successfully secured £22,500 from the DE to deliver a Childminding Academy in collaboration with the Northern Ireland Childminding Association (NICMA). The programme enabled 13 local residents to become registered childminders, strengthening the availability of quality childcare and supporting families across the district.



*I am now finished the Childminding Academy and I can honestly say I couldn't be happier in the job I have chosen. It has given me a great work life balance having 3 children of my own, and I am providing a much-needed service in my local community"*

Catriona Childminding  
Academy Participant

## Rural Economic Accelerator Programme (REAP)

(REAP) launched in October 2023, led by South West College and local partners continue to deliver meaningful impact across Fermanagh and Omagh.

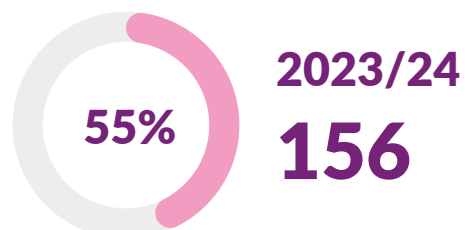
Participants have achieved certificates in areas such as employability, technical skills and life skills. The programme received approval for a one-year extension for 2025/26 at 60% of its original annual budget. The focus for 2025/26 will be on continued participant recruitment, delivery of tailored support and strengthening transitions into employment or further training. This extension ensures that inclusive economic development remains a core priority, particularly in harder-to-reach rural communities across the district.

*The REAP programme was much more than I expected. The quality of the course delivery was excellent by both internal and external providers and it was always done in an enjoyable and relaxed environment.*

*I had regular communication from staff with updates in regard to courses taking place, reminders and encouragement. They were always available to assist at short notice. The staff also assisted with completion of application forms, Access NI etc. I completed the following courses on the REAP programme - Autism Awareness, Child Protection, Manual Handling, Paediatric First Aid and Using Emails.*

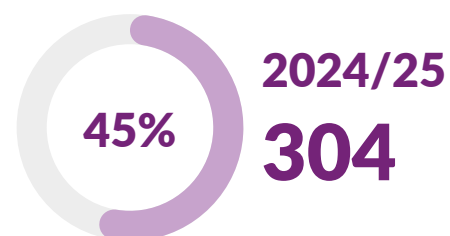
*I have now gained 16 hours paid employment as a Classroom Assistant in a local primary school working in their nursery. REAP helped me find this employment. I highly recommend the REAP programme and the training courses offered. The staff are always helpful, and I encourage anyone to attend.*

Andrea, REAP Participant



### New Participants

Progressed to further learning or employment on programme completion



### New Participants

Progressed to further learning or employment on programme completion



Left: Andrea, REAP Participant;  
Right: Cheryl, REAP Project Officer



## Demonstrating Collective Impact of Employment Initiatives

In December 2024, the CPSPB highlighted the need for improved monitoring of employment initiatives to better demonstrate collective impact across the district. In response, FODC coordinated with South West College and Invest NI to collate employment data for 2024/25.

This exercise brought together information from seven funded programmes, including Go Succeed, REAP, Step-Up, Youthscape Plus and Invest NI supports. The analysis showed that:



**566 jobs**  
were reported as  
created or supported,  
with **502 jobs** within  
the district.



**293 individuals**  
directly entered  
employment.



**268 projected jobs**  
are expected through  
business support and  
investment.  
A total of



**£5.2 million** in funding  
was allocated, with  
activity spread across  
both urban and rural  
areas.

The research demonstrated the value of collaborative data collation to evidence collective impact. While it acknowledges opportunities to improve data collection and measurement, the report clearly highlights how partners' combined efforts are driving stronger employment outcomes and supporting business growth.

## Supporting Rural Business Growth through the Rural Business Development Grant Scheme 2024/25

In October 2024, FODC launched the Rural Business Development Grant Scheme as part of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs' Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Programme (TRPSI). The scheme aimed to sustain and grow rural micro-businesses through small capital grants of up to £4,999.

The scheme played a key role in supporting rural businesses to invest in essential capital improvements, enhancing their sustainability and resilience.

## Tourism Through a Regenerative Lens Shaping a Sustainable Future

As part of ongoing efforts to deliver the Destination Fermanagh Omagh action, partners from across the tourism, business and community sectors came together for the 'Tourism through a Regenerative Lens' Conference at the Killyhevlin Hotel, Enniskillen in February 2025. The event welcomed over 150 delegates and explored how tourism can be a force for good, supporting economic growth while protecting the environment and strengthening local communities. Hosted by travel writer Pól O'Conghaile and featuring contributions from high-profile speakers including the Minister for the Economy, Dr Caoimhe Archibald MLA, the conference reflected a shared commitment to sustainable tourism. This approach is further supported by the (VEDP).

## Empowering Local Businesses Through Learning and Collaboration

In November 2023 the Council held an event as part of Global Enterprise Week to outline the opportunities available to tourism businesses in the district to participate in sustainable tourism networks across the District. At the event, tourism providers had the opportunity to hear success stories from Taste Causeway, the Burren and Kinsale and as well as how businesses are benefitting as part of the Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark Sustainable business network.

Following an open call, 50 expressions of interest were received, and the first network meetings took place in December 2023. Since then, the networks have had regular learning webinars including energy and water consumption, accessibility and inclusivity in tourism and collaborative marketing. Network members have had the opportunity to avail of Leave no Trace training and participated in a Learning Journey to observe what other businesses are doing to generate extra business.

The networks are made up of businesses from the following areas: (1) Omagh Sperrins area (2) Castle Archdale / Belleek / Irvinestown area, (3) Enniskillen Island Town, and (4) Lisnaskea/Sliabh Beagh area.

The Network meets bi-annually for expert-led sessions and undertake a learning journey to help them in their own business. These events are curated by their business mentors.



*Transforming Tourism Through  
Regenerative Practice: Economy  
Minister Dr Caoimhe Archibald  
MLA with speakers at the Tourism  
Conference in the Killyhevlin  
Hotel, Enniskillen*



4.3

# Environment



*Peatland Challenge Project (2024-2027):  
Protecting biodiversity and engaging communities for a sustainable future*



## Core Priority 1

# Embed sustainability to ensure progress towards a net zero district.

## How Much did we do? How well did we do it? Is anyone better off?

### Partnership and Leadership

- Established the I-CAN (May 2024), with the Western Health and Social Care Trust appointed Co-Lead alongside FODC.
- Engaged local businesses and stakeholders through surveys, workshops and collaboration with regional bodies including Invest NI and Enniskillen Business Improvement District (BID).
- Created a Net Zero baseline survey for CPSPB Partners and SharePoint hub to support joint working and knowledge exchange.

### Climate Action towards Net Zero

- Supported an Innovate UK bid to develop an Industrial Decarbonisation Knowledge Platform.
- Contributed to NI's Public Body Reporting framework and fleet decarbonisation planning.
- Commissioned the Carbon Trust to deliver a Fleet Electrification Feasibility Study.
- Secured installation of 12 EV chargepoints by Dec 2025 through the On-street Residential charge point Scheme (ORCS) scheme.
- Council closed Drummee Landfill (Autumn 2024) as part of its net zero commitment.
- Staff training advanced with a Climate Change eLearning Module (rollout Mar 2026).

### Innovation and Circular Economy

- Delivered a Zero Waste and Circular Economy initiative with schools and Mid Ulster Council.
- Partnered with Department for Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), (NILGA) and Strategic Investment Board to (SIB) to launch an Sustainable Business Research Initiative (SBRI) project using AI to boost recycling rates.
- Joined the Zero Waste Champions Programme to embed circular economy principles in schools.
- Secured €20,000 Shared Island funding for a reusable coffee cup scheme and refill stations in Enniskillen.
- The 'Refillution' water stations have dispensed almost 10,500 litres of water by March 2025, the equivalent of removing 21,000 (500ml) single-use plastic bottles

### Sustainable Energy and Food Systems

- Study visit with Invest NI, Dept for Economy and Mannok to Aberdeen City Council, informed local hydrogen and eFuel innovation, with ongoing Mid South West collaboration.
- Established a Sustainable Food Partnership, co-designing an Action Plan with local producers.
- Delivered seasonal Farmers Markets in Omagh and Enniskillen, attracting 15,800 attendees and generating £46,658 in direct sales for 37 local producers.
- Secured £77,000 National Lottery funding to develop an Energy Masterplan for Lisnaskea.

## Core Priority 2

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# Biodiversity: Protect, restore and enhance our local environment and biodiversity of the district.

## How Much did we do? How well did we do it? Is anyone better off?

### Nature, Biodiversity and Community Engagement

- Secured over £750,000 approx from DAERA, PEACEPLUS and Shared Island for peatland restoration, biodiversity and nature engagement.
- Hosted Nature Makes Sense events (Mar 2025) for 411 participants with a disability – over 95% enjoyed the events and all reported learning something new.
- Expanded 'Don't Mow, Let It Grow' to enhance biodiversity in urban parks.
- Delivered community planting projects in Drumquin, Belcoo, Garrison, Belleek and Fintona.
- Engaged 70 schools on biodiversity, native species and water quality.
- Supported youth engagement through the Environmental Youth Speak Project in partnership with South West College and Climate Champion Volunteer Scheme.

### Recognition and Partnerships

- Omagh named Best Kept Large Town 2024; Enniskillen runner-up (after winning 2023).
- Council teams participated in sustainable procurement training and community sustainability events, including Mount Lourdes Grammar School's Sustainability Roadshow.

## Next Steps

Partners will continue to collaborate to advance climate and environmental priorities across Fermanagh and Omagh. The I-CAN will drive delivery of local climate actions, supported by efforts to secure new funding, including cross-border opportunities, for low-carbon and environmental projects. Work on the Net Zero Strategy will progress with the first Mitigation and Adaptation Report submitted under Public Body Reporting, alongside pilot projects exploring hydrogen and other renewable solutions.

Innovation will continue through the SBRI project, moving into Phase 3 with the development of a waste and recycling app and the expansion of the Zero Waste Champions Programme to schools and communities.

Investment in infrastructure will remain central, with partners rolling out new EV charge points, awareness campaigns and the OZEV Depot Charging Scheme. At the same time, the Peatland Challenge Project will engage landowners and communities in restoration work, aiming for full completion by September 2027. Collectively, these actions represent a significant step forward in building a more sustainable, low-carbon and resilient district.

Lobby central Government Departments and other public bodies through public consultation processes and advocate for a just transition for those most affected by the impacts of Climate Change.



# Examples of Good Practice

## Growing a Sustainable Food Future in Fermanagh and Omagh

To promote sustainable food practices and drive positive environmental behavioural change a Sustainable Food Partnership was set-up by FODC. The inaugural meeting took place on 28 February 2024, bringing together a wide range of stakeholders, including local food producers, distributors, retailers, community groups and Statutory Organisations. The Partnership aims to raise awareness of the benefits of sustainable food, tackle food poverty and diet-related ill health, support a vibrant local food economy and address climate impacts across the food system, from production and supply chains to waste reduction. A local Action Plan has been co-developed, focused on creating a more resilient and environmentally conscious food landscape in the District.

Aligned with the goals of the Partnership, the Sperrin and Erne Food Partnership, supported by DAERA's Regional Food Programme, successfully delivered four Farmers' Markets in 2024, two in Omagh (3 October and 21 November) and two in Enniskillen (2 November and 21 December). These events showcased Northern Ireland food producers promoting economic value and the growing community interest in sustainable, locally produced food.



### 4 Farmers Markets (Oct – Dec 2024)



**37 NI Food Producers  
Showcasing Products**



**≥£46k (estimate) direct  
sales revenue for  
producers**



**4 Star Average  
Attendees Rating**



**15,800  
Attendees**

Showcasing local produce  
at the Farmer's Market at  
The Museum, Enniskillen

## Powering Change Together Launch of the Integrated Climate Action Network (I-CAN)

I-CAN was established in May 2024, bringing together Community Planning partners to coordinate climate action in line with the Climate Change Act (NI) 2022 and upcoming Public Body Reporting (PBR) requirements. Meeting quarterly, the group fosters collaboration, shared learning, and alignment toward net zero. An initial workshop was held to identify priority areas, four were agreed which are Fleet, Estate, PBR and Behaviour Change and Training. In January 2025 partners agreed the Terms of Reference and WHSCT were confirmed as Co-Lead.

A baseline survey of partner organisations revealed that all had calculated their Scope 1 and 2 emissions, while one-third had assessed Scope 3 emissions, which often account for up to 95% of total emissions in local authorities. Partners are now using this insight to inform priorities and identify opportunities for shared initiatives. Key meetings have focused on fleet decarbonisation, Electric Vehicle (EV) infrastructure, and practical energy solutions, including FODC's use of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) as a case study. The development of a SharePoint information-sharing platform is also underway to enhance collaboration and support public body reporting. Looking ahead, I-CAN will continue to facilitate peer learning, shape local climate responses, and advocate for the investment needed to turn commitment into action.



*Driving Climate Action Together: Members of the Integrated Climate Action Network (I-CAN) at South West Acute Hospital*

## Driving Positive Environmental Change Together: Nature Makes Sense

FODC, in partnership with the Public Health Agency, hosted two successful Nature Makes Sense events in March 2025 at Grange Park, Omagh and Smith's Strand, Lisnaskea, engaging 411 participants with additional needs. These inclusive, sensory-friendly outdoor wellbeing activities enabled residents with disabilities to connect with nature and learn new skills in accessible environments. Delivered with support from Council teams and partners including Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark, Natural World Products, Loughs Agency, An Creagan Centre and The Conservation Volunteers, the initiative supports the Community Plan by promoting environmental behavioural change. Feedback was highly positive, with strong demand for future inclusive, nature-based events.

## Sustainable Energy Communities NI- Lisnaskea Pilot Project

Lisnaskea is part of the Sustainable Energy Communities NI pilot scheme, funded by the National Lottery Community Fund, alongside Mount Vernon Community Development Forum, Ballymacash Sports Academy and Dolmens Climate Action Network. Delivered by Advice NI with partners including Atlantic Technological University, Co-operative Alternatives, Drumlin Wind Energy Co-operative, NEA NI and NI Community Energy, with FODC, Oak Healthy living, and Fermanagh Rural Community Network as co-partners, the project is community-led and tailored to each area. In Lisnaskea, activities include the Bringing Renewable Energy to Schools Initiative (BREESI), local outreach clinics, and a £30k commitment to tackling fuel poverty. The project will conclude with a local Energy Masterplan, outlining opportunities for energy generation, efficiency, and conservation, shaped by community needs.



Gathering feedback at Nature Makes Sense, Smith's Strand, Enniskillen



## Restoring Our Peatlands

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, in partnership with Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark, secured funding from DAERA's Environment Fund and the Irish Government's Shared Island Initiative to deliver the Peatland Challenge Project (2024–2027). In partnership with Cavan County Council and Geopark partners, the cross-border project will restore peatland habitats across Fermanagh, Tyrone and Cavan, supporting carbon sequestration, biodiversity and climate resilience. A Peatlands Engagement Officer has been recruited and will help raise awareness and promote community involvement. The Climate and Biodiversity Steering Group continue to meet regularly, focusing on peatland conservation and invasive species management, aligning efforts to safeguard ecosystems for future generations.



**Roisin**  
Peatland Engagement  
Officer

*FODC, in partnership with Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark, secured funding from DAERA's Environment Fund and the Irish Government's Shared Island Initiative to deliver the Peatland Challenge Project (2024–2027). In partnership with Cavan County Council and Geopark partners, the cross-border project will restore peatland habitats across Fermanagh, Tyrone and Cavan, supporting carbon sequestration, biodiversity and climate resilience. A Peatlands Engagement Officer has been recruited and will help raise awareness and promote community involvement. The Climate and Biodiversity Steering Group continue to meet regularly, focusing on peatland conservation and invasive species management, aligning efforts to safeguard ecosystems for future generations.*

Restoring Peatlands  
at Cuilcagh



## Wildflower Meadows

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council enhanced areas rich in biodiversity through the management of 17 wildflower meadows, supporting pollinators and improving the ecological management of public green spaces. This work reflects the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and the Community Plan's climate and biodiversity commitments. Building on the success of a dedicated pollinator bed at Broadmeadow in 2024, the Council expanded its efforts in Spring 2025 by sowing pollinator-friendly seed mixes across eight parks, including Forthill, Broadmeadow, Grange and St Julian's.

## Trees Planted

Between June 2023 and June 2025, a total of 25,043 trees has been planted across the district as part of ongoing efforts to enhance local biodiversity, improve climate resilience and restore woodland habitats. The majority of these trees are native species, selected to support Northern Ireland Priority Habitats, strengthen ecological networks, and provide long-term benefits for local wildlife and communities.

A significant portion of this work took place at Ecclesville Forest Park, where 11,000 native trees were planted to restore woodland lost during Storm Eowyn in January 2025. The storm caused extensive damage to areas of predominantly non-native coniferous woodland. The restoration project focused on replacing these lost trees with a mix of native broadleaf species to increase the site's biodiversity value, resilience to future climate events and its attractiveness for local recreation and education.

*Growing a Greener Future:  
Children learning to plant trees  
in St Julian's Park, Omagh*







4.4

# Partnership and Governance



*Strategic Partnership Board Members Sharing knowledge for an effective, efficient and agile partnership.*

## Core Priority 1

# One Partnership: Ensure an efficient, effective and agile Partnership founded on good governance practice

## How Much did we do? How well did we do it? Is anyone better off?

- The Community Plan Action Plan 2024–2028 was formally agreed in February 2024, providing a refreshed strategic focus for delivery.
- A new reporting framework to monitor progress against the updated Action Plan was agreed in May 2024, strengthening accountability and transparency.
- Fermanagh and Omagh Community Planning Officers represent the Community Planning Officer's Network (CPON) on the Mental Health Strategy Early Intervention and Prevention - Data and Outcomes Subgroup, supporting consistent impact measurement across council areas.
- Health Profiles have been developed for each (DEA) and the overall district, offering detailed data on population health and disease prevalence to inform local planning and funding applications.
- Officers have collaborated with the Community and Voluntary Sector (CVS) Forum to develop communication channels that ensure sector voices and challenges are heard at the CPSPB.
- The Council, working with Invest NI and The Productivity Institute (TPI), has developed a 'Framing a Place-Based Investment Strategy' report to inform evidence-based decision-making and support local productivity.
- Capacity-building and learning opportunities are being explored to support partners in embedding good governance, partnership behaviours, and evidence-based decision-making.

## Next Steps



The Partnership will continue to strengthen governance arrangements to ensure an efficient, effective, and agile approach to delivery. Priorities include reviewing and streamlining delivery structures, clarifying roles and responsibilities, and enhancing accountability and transparency across all levels of the Partnership. Work will also focus on improving performance monitoring and reporting, embedding co-leadership within delivery groups, and ensuring decision-making is inclusive and evidence based. Ongoing investment in partner and community engagement, skills development, and digital tools will further support good governance, build trust, and enable the Partnership to respond flexibly to emerging challenges and opportunities.



## 5.0

# Engaging and Participating

## 5.1 Community and Voluntary Sector Forum



Between June 2023 and June 2025, the CVS Forum convened 13 meetings, uniting members from a diverse range of organisations to address key issues affecting the sector, local people and communities. The collaborative spirit among CVS Forum members has been clear, with ongoing partnership and mutual support strengthening the sector as a whole. Membership continues to grow, reflecting sustained engagement and active participation within Community Planning governance structures. Recent process improvements have streamlined information sharing between the CPSPB and the CVS Forum. Now, the Forum provides regular updates at each CPSPB meeting and a concise one-page meeting overview is circulated to Forum members for wider dissemination. This approach has ensured that the sector's voice and that of the communities it represents, remains central to every discussion—an insight that members have found particularly valuable. Forum members also maintain active roles across various Community Planning governance groups.

In addition, Forum members have supported the Community Planning process by engaging with residents and gathering their views on issues that matter most to them. For example, Community Conversations held in Omagh and Erne East (DEA) focused on health matters (for more information see People and Communities Examples of Good Practice), directly informing the Action Plan of the Integrated Wellbeing Network. By responding to consultations, such as the draft Programme for Government, the CVS Forum has ensured that the sector's perspectives are heard and that local concerns—like rurality and access to services—are considered in policy and decision-making.



## 5.2 Co-Design and Co-Production of Action Plan 2024-2028

In response to changing needs in our district, including the cost-of-living crisis and climate change, the (CPSPB) agreed in September 2022 to review the FO2030 Community Plan and Emerging from Crisis Action Plan.

A key focus of this review was the co-design and co-production of actions, ensuring that partners shaped the Plan's priorities. Between March 2023 and February 2024, the Council worked collaboratively with partners across the statutory, business, education and community and voluntary sectors.

Key engagement included:

- Six “Turning the Curve” workshops, with 283 representatives from 82 organisations.
- One-to-one partner meetings, expert inputs and collaborative data reviews.
- A district-wide survey to test and refine draft actions.

Through this process, seven core priorities and twenty actions were identified, with each action jointly led by a Council Director and a Lead Partner, reflecting shared ownership. The new Action Plan 2024–2028 was formally agreed in February 2024, marking a significant example of co-designed, partnership-led planning shaped by local insight and collaborative leadership.

For more detail on the engagement process see:

[Indicator Review and Progress Update](#)

[Outcome Workshop Reports](#)

[Baseline Analysis Report](#)

[Consultation Report](#)

To read the full Action 2024-2028 Plan click [here](#).



## 5.3 I-CAN Shape a Greener Future

As part of establishing the Fermanagh and Omagh I-CAN, consultation was carried out with members to create a baseline for action. A survey revealed strong commitment across organisations, with 86% having a Climate Strategy (or one in development), 71% developing Climate Adaptation Policies, 67% progressing Fleet Strategies and all organisations working on or already implementing an Estates Strategy. Building on this, members came together in a workshop to agree priority areas and begin co-designing a four-year Action Plan to drive delivery of the Community Plan's environmental goals.

## 5.4 Sustainable Food Network

As part of exploring the potential for a Sustainable Food Partnership in Fermanagh and Omagh, extensive engagement was carried out with local stakeholders. An initial call for interest resulted in 22 local food businesses expressing their commitment to being part of a new Food Network.

FODC began working with food producers and organisations across the district in September 2023, holding the first Partnership meeting in February 2024. This event brought together 29 partners to co-design a draft action plan for promoting sustainable, affordable and high-quality food. Engagement was widened through a public competition to name the Partnership, with 101 submissions from residents, including children and young people.

Momentum continued at the second meeting in May 2024, where 23 partners refined priorities around local food production, healthy eating, economic growth, and environmental sustainability. More than 60 partners, including farmers, foodbanks, community groups and statutory agencies, have actively shaped the Partnership.

Responding to strong public demand for farmers' markets, FODC successfully piloted four markets across Enniskillen and Omagh, alongside targeted consultation. Feedback was gathered from 139 attendees and nine producers, ensuring future actions reflect community and business needs.



*Children learning to make compost at Nature Makes Sense events.*





*Cultivating a Greener Future:  
Food-growing activities at Gortin Community Gardens*



## 6.0

# Ensuring Alignment Regionally and Locally

The Fermanagh and Omagh Community Plan is closely aligned with both regional and local priorities, ensuring that our work contributes meaningfully to wider strategic goals. At a regional level, the Plan supports the Programme for Government (PfG), particularly its emphasis on improving wellbeing, tackling inequalities and delivering public services in a more integrated and outcome-focused way. The Community Plan also complements key strategies including the Green Growth Strategy, Mental Health Strategy 2021–2031 and the Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Framework, by translating their aims into place-based actions. Locally, the Plan aligns with the Council's Corporate Plan 2024–2028, the annual Performance Improvement Plan Objectives 2024–2028 and the priorities of emerging structures including the AIPB under the Integrated Care System. This integrated approach ensures coherence across planning, delivery and investment, allowing the Community Planning Partnership to act as a key vehicle for aligning local needs with regional ambitions.

## 6.1 Local alignment: Omagh and Enniskillen Place-Shaping Plans

Place-shaping is a central pillar of community planning in Fermanagh and Omagh, underpinning the Partnership's commitment to creating vibrant, inclusive and sustainable communities. It is embedded through a strong focus on local identity, active community participation and collaborative design of services and spaces that reflect the unique needs of both our main towns, Omagh and Enniskillen. Over the reporting period, progress has been made in advancing place-shaping priorities in both Omagh and Enniskillen, with targeted investment in regeneration, improved public realm, active travel infrastructure, and community-led initiatives. The Place Shaping Plans continue to be driven by continuous meaningful engagement with residents and stakeholders to co-design solutions that enhance wellbeing, connectivity, and economic opportunity. These place-based approaches are helping to build stronger, more resilient communities while aligning local delivery with the wider ambitions of the Community Plan. The focus in 2025-2027 will be on ensuring implementation is focused on assessing progress, identifying challenges and guiding mobilisation through Community Planning and aligned governance structures effectively.



*Launch of Enniskillen Place Shaping Plan at The Workhouse, Enniskillen*

## 6.2 Ensuring Local Evidence and Lived Experience Inform Policy Decisions

Fermanagh and Omagh Community Planning Partnership (FOCPP) has worked to ensure alignment between strategic priorities and the lived realities of communities facing significant socioeconomic challenges. Issues such as persistent poverty, limited access to services in rural areas and widening health inequalities have shaped the focus of the Partnership's work. Community Planning has provided a platform for coordinated action to address these complex challenges through research including Community Conversations to better understand local health challenges in Lisnaskea and Lisanelly. The Partnership has also supported targeted interventions through local food and fuel poverty initiatives, and collaborative work with health and education partners to improve outcomes for vulnerable families. These efforts reflect the strengths of community planning in delivering place-based, cross-sectoral responses that are responsive to local need while remaining aligned with broader policy frameworks.

**“We cannot express how much this support has meant to us. Before we were referred, we felt completely lost and overwhelmed by everything”**

**WRAP Participant**

**"Participants from both Lisnaskea and Lisanelly Community Conversations highlighted that the greatest strength of their area was the friendly, supportive communities and the people within them"**

**Community Conversations Project Evaluation Report**





*Lough Erne:  
A view from Lough Navar Viewpoint*





*Darach the Giant, overlooking the Sperrins, the largest Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in Northern Ireland.*

## 7.0

# Looking Ahead: Challenges and Opportunities

As the Partnership looks to the future, we recognise that there are challenges which require ongoing attention. Budgetary pressures across statutory services continue to limit capacity for joint delivery and structural inequalities persist, particularly in rural and border areas. Short-term government funding cycles also restrict long-term planning and financial stability. At the same time, deepening relationships between partners at local and regional levels are creating more coordinated approaches and there is growing expertise and ambition to lead on climate adaptation, mitigation and resilience.

Alongside these challenges, there are significant opportunities. Continued innovation in place-based and participatory models will strengthen local delivery. The expanded use of shared data platforms and digital engagement tools will improve decision-making and community involvement. Securing external investment will provide much-needed resources for community development and infrastructure. Importantly, delivery of the DfE Sub-Regional Action Plan offers a key opportunity to align local priorities with regional goals and drive coordinated, place-based improvements across the district.

(FOCPP) remains committed to improving the lives of all residents through collaboration, evidence-led decision-making, and strong community engagement. While challenges remain, we are building on a solid foundation of partnership working and shared ambition to deliver the outcomes of the Community Plan and contribute meaningfully to regional priorities.

**“As we look ahead, our focus is on creating the conditions for sustainable growth, strengthening our place, supporting innovation and ensuring every community has the opportunity to prosper”**

**Sinead McEvoy**  
Director of Regeneration and Planning, FODC



8.0

# We Want to Hear From You

Community Planning is about working with you and for you. The Fermanagh and Omagh Community Plan belongs to everyone and your voice matters. Whether you have an idea for your area, want to raise a concern, or simply share your views, we want to hear from you.

By getting involved, you can help shape services, influence priorities, and create a healthier, more connected and prosperous district for all. This is your plan, your community and your future – so let's shape it together.

## Get Involved



Phone:  
0300 303 1777



Text Phone:  
028 8225 6216



Email:  
[strategicplanning@fermanaghomagh.com](mailto:strategicplanning@fermanaghomagh.com)



For people who are deaf or hard of hearing:  
**SignVideo**



Live Web Chat:  
Available on our website - Mon–Fri, 9am–5pm

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**Writing:** Strategic Planning and Performance, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, The Grange, Mountjoy Road, Lisnamallard, Omagh BT79 7BL  
Alternatively, you may wish to speak to your local Councillor – contact details can be found at [www.fermanaghomagh.com/your-council/councillors](http://www.fermanaghomagh.com/your-council/councillors)





Castle Coole



## Appendix A: List of Community Planning Partners and Attendance Rate by Nominated Member

Representative/Organisation	Attendance		Of Which a Nominated Deputy Attended	
	Total Number of meetings	% Meetings	Total Number of meetings	% Meetings
Statutory Partners				
Council for Catholic Maintained Schools	0	0%	0	0%
Education Authority	4	50%	0	0%
Fermanagh and Omagh District Council	8	100%	1	13%
Invest NI	7	88%	3	38%
Libraries NI	6	75%	2	25%
Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service	8	100%	3	38%
Northern Ireland Housing Executive	8	100%	2	25%
Police Service of Northern Ireland	7	88%	3	38%
Public Health Agency	6	75%	0	0%
Sport NI	3	38%	1	13%
Tourism NI	3	38%	1	13%
Western Health and Social Care Trust	7	88%	1	13%



Representative/Organisation	Attendance		Of Which a Nominated Deputy Attended	
	Total Number of meetings	% Meetings	Total Number of meetings	% Meetings
<b>Other Partners</b>				
Community and Voluntary Sector Nominated representative (1)	7	88%	0	0%
Community and Voluntary Sector Nominated representative (2)	4	50%	0	0%
Department for Communities	8	100%	3	38%
Department for Education	2	25%	0	0%
Department for Infrastructure	0	0%	0	0%
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs	3	38%	0	0%
<b>Elected Members</b>				
Cllr Allan Rainey	5	63%	-	-
Cllr Barry McElduff	8	100%	-	-
Cllr Collette McNulty	5	63%	-	-
* Cllr Diana Armstrong / Cllr Rosemary Barton	7	88%	-	-
Cllr Errol Thomspen	7	88%	-	-
Cllr Garbhán McPhillips	0	0%	-	-
Cllr Patrick Withers	3	38%	-	-
Cllr Stephen Donnelly	3	38%	-	-
Cllr Thomas O'Reilly	6	75%	-	-

\* Cllr Rosemary Barton replaced Cllr Diana Armstrong during this elected term

## Appendix B: Acronyms

AIPB	Area Integrated Partnership Boards	LDP	Local Development Plan
AONB	Area of Outstanding and Natural Beauty	LEP	Local Economic Partnership
ASCOT	Adult Social Care Outcomes Toolkit	LMP	Labour Market Partnership
BID	Business Improvement District	NEANI	National Energy Action Northern Ireland
BIG	Business Innovation Grant	NI	Northern Ireland
BREESI	Bringing Renewable EnErgy to Schools Initiative	NICMA	Northern Ireland Childminding Association
CAP	Cluster Acceleration Programme	NILGA	Northern Ireland Local Government Association
Cllr	Councillor	OBA	Outcomes Based Accountability
CPON	Community Planning Officers Network	OZEV	OZone Electric Vehicle
CPP	Community Planning Partnership	PBR	Public Body Reporting
CPSPB	Community Planning Strategic Partnership Board	PFG	Programme for Government
CVS	Community and Voluntary Sector	PHA	Public Health Agency
DAERA	Department for Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs	REAP	Rural Economic Accelerator Programme
DEA	District Electoral Areas	R&D	Research and Development
EA	Education Authority	SBRI	Sustainable Research Business Initiative
EV	Electric Vehicle	SEN	Special Educational Needs
FO	Fermanagh and Omagh	SIB	Strategic Investment Board
FODC	Fermanagh and Omagh District Council	SOA	Super Output Areas
FOLMP	Fermanagh and Omagh Labour Partnership Partnership	SOP	Statement of Progress
FOCPP	Fermanagh and Omagh Community Planning Partnership	SWAP	South West Age Partnership
HVO	Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil	TPI	The Productivity Institute
ICAN	Integrated Climate Action Network	WAOG	Western Area Outcomes Group
ICSNI	Integrated Care System Northern Ireland	WHSC	Western Health and Social Care Trust
IWN	Integrated Wellbeing Network	VEDP	Visitor Experience Development Plan
JAM	Just a Minute	WRAP	Western Response and Action Poverty

## The CPSPB includes the following organisations:



**Northern Ireland  
Fire & Rescue Service**





Fermanagh and Omagh  
**Community Planning Partnership**

