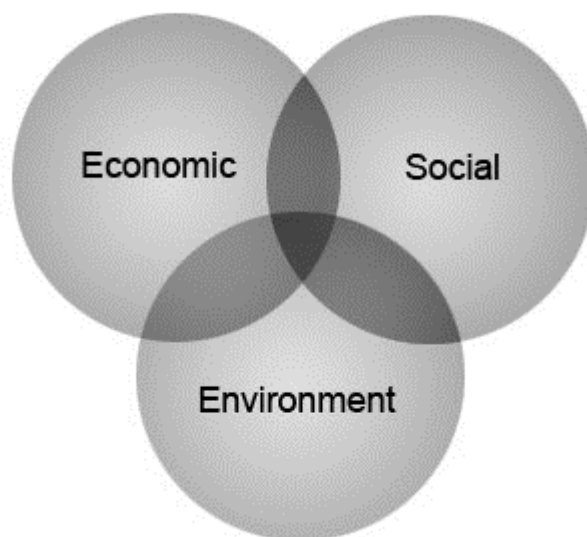




Fermanagh & Omagh
District Council
Comhairle Ceantair
Fhear Manach agus na hÓmaí

Sustainable Development Action Plan 2018/19



May 2018

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Section 1: Introduction

1.1 What is Sustainable Development?

Sustainable development is about meeting the needs of people today and providing them with a good quality of life without compromising the quality of life of future generations. It is characterised typically as achieving an optimum balance between social, environmental, and economic considerations. In achieving this balance, sustainable development aims to maximise the benefits of social, environmental and economic initiatives by mitigating negative and increasing positive impacts.

1.2 Duties of District Councils

Under the Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council is required in the exercise of its functions, to act in the manner it considers best to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development in Northern Ireland, except to the extent that it considers that such action is not reasonably practicable.

The Council must be aware of, and have regard for, any strategy or guidance relating to sustainable development issued by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) or any other Northern Ireland Department.

The Council's statutory duty to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development was further reinforced in the Community Planning element of the 2014 Local Government Act and in the new Strategic Planning Policy Statement.

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council's Corporate Plan 2017-19 sets out the Council's strategic aims, priorities and values. Within the Corporate Plan, the Council has identified a commitment to sustainable development and will ensure that this is embedded in all plans, policies and actions.

By working in accordance with our Sustainable Development Policy, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council will:

- Consider sustainability in all its actions and decisions
- Progressively integrate sustainability principles into its daily activities
- Seek to increase the awareness of sustainable development generally
- Ensure that where possible, council activities support the achievement of sustainable development
- Strive to act as an exemplar for sustainable development, ensuring policies and actions provide a lead to the local and wider community

Section 2: Sustainable Development Action Plan

The Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 requires a council, for each financial year, to set itself improvement objectives for improving the exercise of its functions and to have in place arrangements to achieve those objectives.

A Corporate Improvement Plan has been produced for 2018/19, which was subject to a full public consultation process, beginning 19 February 2018 and closing on 16 April 2018.

Contained within the Corporate Improvement Plan are five corporate improvement objectives and five improvement projects that are linked to the objectives. The objectives are as follows:

1. We will aim to promote economic growth by supporting an inclusive approach to entrepreneurship and business starts.
2. We will support our local town centre economy by making it easier for residents and visitors to access car parking when visiting our key towns and service centres.
3. We will continue to invest in environmental programmes which will reduce waste going to landfill and improve recycling efforts.
4. We will continue to develop better relationships with service users and suppliers through ongoing improvements to our services and the supporting systems/processes.

Each improvement objective must aim to bring about improvement in one of the following seven specified aspects of improvement:

- Strategic effectiveness
- Service quality
- Service availability
- Fairness
- Sustainability
- Efficiency
- Innovation

Out of the five improvement projects, four projects include sustainability as one of the statutory aspects of improvements.

For this reason and for the purpose of our Sustainable Development Action Plan 2018/19, we will include these four projects within our Plan. In addition, we will also include other projects and initiatives within Fermanagh and Omagh District Council which positively contribute towards the achievement of sustainable development within our district.

Sustainable Development Action Plan Projects

Project 1: Heart of Ancient Ulster Landscape Heritage Lottery Scheme (A joint project with Mid Ulster District Council)

Project Contact: George Bradshaw

Related Community Planning Outcome:

- Our outstanding natural environment and built and cultural heritage is sustainably managed and, where possible, enhanced
- Our district is an attractive and accessible place

Action to be taken during 2018/19:

- Prepare a Local Conservation Action Plan
- Plan agreed by Partnership Board and Grantee Board

Samples projects include:

Built Heritage

- Undertake LIDAR, Near Infra-Red Aerial Photography
- Research excavation at five archaeological sites
- Access to archaeological sites and improved signage trail
- Five new heritage trails totalling 10km. 2 short and 3 longer
- Designation of ancient road leading into Davagh
- Designation of Green Road, Greencastle
- Training programme to train local people/ volunteers in archaeological field survey
- Develop an apprenticeship programme for 9 local people in archaeological skills
- Develop an education and outreach programme for schools, farmers and the wider community
- Build two replica buildings from the past e.g. crannog, Neolithic long house
- Series of festivals and events based on Spirituality, Cosmology, Star Gazing, and connections between people, earth and sky
- Create a Dark Skies exhibition and viewing platforms within the landscape
- Former route of the Great Northern Railway from Dungannon to Omagh via Pomeroy, Carrickmore, Sixmilecross and Beragh.
- PEACE IV project Routes of our Roots.
- Examine potential to restore and reuse vernacular buildings?
- Provide training as local guides

Natural Heritage

- Essential bog restoration
- Employee staff member to work with local farmers
- Conifer removal and replanting with native species
- Establish a local nursery
- Collection of seeds and growing of native trees
- Develop a replanting programme in specialist sites
- Keep local gene pool and identity
- Plant 100,000 native trees with 50 conservation volunteers
- 3rd party grants
- Fund
- Best practise farm

- Improve designations of Ballinderry, Owenkillew and Camowen
- Improve fencing along rivers
- Reduce number of animals accessing rivers through water pump scheme.

Cultural Heritage

- Develop project to discover the meaning behind place-names such as townlands and field-names
- Research and publish a book on the medieval history of the area
- Develop 3 landscape exhibitions
- Commission 2 musical composition of interpretation of the landscape
- Pipe and flute bands CD/DVD
- Collate and record old local songs and music
- Ceilidhs and country music
- Record and collate headstones in graveyards for ancestry database
- Record and collate 19th baptisms and marriages from Protestant churches in landscape

Which of the seven aspects of Improvement does this project relate to?

- Strategic effectiveness
- Service quality
- Service availability
- Fairness
- Sustainability
- Efficiency
- Innovation

How will we measure success?

- Obtain approval from HLF for Delivery Stage of Project worth £2.9m (early 2019 and deliver by 2023)

What is the visible improvement that citizens can expect?

- Accessible infrastructure in the landscape so people can explore and learn more about the local natural, built and cultural environment
- An improved knowledge of the environment and increased sense and pride of “this place!”

Project 2: Preparing the Draft Plan Strategy as required under Part 2 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 which will be subject to public consultation and Independent Examination. The Plan Strategy is the first stage of the two stage local development plan process

Project Contact: Michelle Walker

Related Community Planning Outcome:
All

Action to be taken during 2018/19:

- Draft Plan Strategy
- Independent Examination

Which of the seven aspects of Improvement does this project relate to?

- Strategic effectiveness
- Fairness
- Sustainability
- Innovation

How will we measure success?

- Annual land use monitor for housing and industrial development to the uptake of land.
- Retail and town centre health checks to monitor unit vacancies and the overall vitality and viability of the towns.
- Number of buildings on the Buildings at Risk (NI) Register
- The number of walkways and cycle routes registered to see if there has been an increase to access to the countryside

What is the visible improvement that citizens can expect?

- Better living environments through place making and various house types
- Access to recreation both active and passive (more open space, green ways and blue ways)
- An improvement to the overall management and aesthetics of our natural environment, built and cultural heritage.

Project 3: Inclusive Sports Project

Project Contact: Keith Collen

Related Community Planning Outcome:

- Our people are healthy and well – physically, mentally and emotionally
- Our communities are inclusive, safe, resilient and empowered
- Our district is an attractive and accessible place

Action to be taken during 2018/19:

1. Develop two disability sports hubs. This will include providing the necessary equipment, working in partnership with DSNI as well as local clubs. Supporting local clubs and governing bodies of sport so as they can assist in providing a fully inclusive environment within their clubs.
 - (i) We will need to purchase equipment and identify access and storage at OLC and FLF- June 2018 to have a plan in place on how to establish and set up clubs. Approx £90,000 of disability equipment has been purchased and most of it is on site at present. We are still awaiting delivery of the last few items. Still some issues with storage but this will be resolved in due course. In January 2018, Omagh Leisure Complex was awarded the Inclusive Sports Facility Accreditation and this will support the establishment of the disability sports hub on site.
 - (ii) Clubs are in place as per proposed plan with DSNI. We have provided two pilot projects to try out some of the equipment as well as gauge the local interest. We met with DSNI and have agreed a plan to go forward with the initial roll out of activities in April 2018 and building this up throughout the year.
 - (iii) We have a plan in place with DSNI and it is planned to provide Wheelie Clubs and Disability opportunity schemes in both leisure facilities.
 - (iv) M&E will be put in place and will be in alignment to the Disability Hub Programme.
2. We are also in the process of installing 2 new pod systems (In FLF & Omagh LC.) These will be in place by 1st April 2018.
3. Peace IV project-To work alongside the Inclusive Sports Project, so as to focus on Inclusive outcomes. Disability activities and the establishment of disabled clubs is included as part of the Peace IV programme and will help support the Disability Hubs programme as well as the local clubs.

Which of the seven aspects of Improvement does this project relate to?

- Service quality
- Service availability
- Fairness
- Sustainability

How will we measure success?

1. Sport Hubs provided at FLF and Omagh LC.
2. Pool pod systems in place at Omagh LC and FLF.
3. Clear understanding of roles and work between projects.

What is the visible improvement that citizens can expect?

The visible improvement for our citizens will be the increase and improvement of access to leisure facilities and activities for people who have a disability.

Project 4: Rainwater Harvesting System– Vehicle Wash Killyvilly

Project Contact: Ronan Mc Sherry

Related Community Planning Outcome:

- Our outstanding natural environment and built and cultural heritage is sustainably managed and, where possible, enhanced

Action to be taken during 2018/19:

- Construct a rainwater harvesting system to collect rainwater from the roofs at Killyvilly Depot to be used for washing approximately 80 vehicles at the new wash bay area - to be completed Summer 2018

Which of the seven aspects of Improvement does this project relate to?

- Service quality
- Sustainability
- Efficiency
- Innovation

How will we measure success?

- Reduction in water bills, save money
- Reduction in mains water usage

What is the visible improvement that citizens can expect?

- Environmental friendly method of washing vehicles improving the safety of road going vehicles by maintaining a cleaner fleet.

Project 5: We will encourage a growth in entrepreneurship and new business starts amongst under-represented groups (Corporate Improvement Project)

Project Contact: Kieran Mc Crory

Related Community Planning Outcome:

- Our economy is thriving, expanding and outward looking

Action to be taken during 2018/19:

- (i) Continue to deliver entrepreneurship programmes/Business start-up programme;
- (ii) Undertake activities aimed at encouraging increased involvement of women and young people in entrepreneurship/Business Start Up Programme;
- (iii) Undertake activities aimed at promoting opportunities for social entrepreneurship

Which of the seven aspects of Improvement does this project relate to?

- Strategic effectiveness
- Service availability
- Fairness
- Sustainability

How will we measure success?

The following performance measures will be used to measure success (baseline available for 2017/18 year):

- Number of jobs promoted through Business Start Up activity
- Numbers of (i) social entrepreneurs; (ii) young entrepreneurs; (iii) female entrepreneurs, supported through Business Start Up activity
- Numbers of participants in Social Economy Support Project
- Numbers of participants in Female Entrepreneur activities
- Numbers of participants in Young Entrepreneur activities

What is the visible improvement that citizens can expect?

Citizens will benefit from:

- (i) Ongoing availability of support for business start-ups with more identifiable and inclusive support available to social entrepreneurs, young entrepreneurs and female entrepreneurs;
- (ii) Potential for new jobs to be created providing additional employment opportunities within the district

Project 6: We will support our local town centre economy by making it easier for residents and visitors to access car parking when visiting our key towns and service centres (Corporate Improvement Project)
Project Contact: Gregory Young/Patricia Mc Gough
Related Community Planning Outcome: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our economy is thriving, expanding and outward looking • Our district is an attractive and accessible place
Action to be taken during 2018/19: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Agree a Car Parking Strategy and commence delivery of the Action Plan, including improving/introducing better signage so that shoppers, service users, visitors can more easily access town centres and services in those areas. (ii) Review and increase number of accessible parking bays in car parks in line with the roll out of the Refurbishment Programme (where practical). (iii) Undertake an Occupancy rate survey to ascertain turnover rates.
Which of the seven aspects of Improvement does this project relate to? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic effectiveness • Service quality • Service availability • Fairness • Sustainability
How will we measure success? <p>The following performance measures will be used to measure success:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Number of additional accessible car parking spaces; (ii) Number of additional Coach Parking spaces within the towns (both on-street and off-street); (iii) Turnover rates in car parks (baseline figure will be identified to measure future improvement)
What is the visible improvement that citizens can expect? <p>Citizens will benefit from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Better awareness of the location of available car parking spaces (ii) Identification of appropriate car parking locations for long stay users; (iii) Increased numbers of accessible spaces in line with the Refurbishment Program for the Car Parks in the District; (iv) Improved provision for coach parking thereby increasing the number of visitors to the key towns.

Project 7: We will continue to invest in environmental programmes which will reduce waste going to landfill and improve recycling efforts (Corporate Improvement Project)

Project Contact: John Mc Cullagh/Anthea Owens

Related Community Planning Outcome:

- Our outstanding natural environment and built and cultural heritage is sustainably managed and, where possible, enhance
- Our district is an attractive and accessible place

Action to be taken during 2018/19:

- (i) Continued roll out and promotion of food waste collection service - ongoing from last year's plan with a particular focus on extending service too hard to reach properties;
- (ii) Identification of recycling champions (Community Plan action 7.1);
- (iii) Programme of reuse/recycling promotional activities

Which of the seven aspects of Improvement does this project relate to?

- Strategic effectiveness
- Service availability
- Sustainability
- Efficiency

How will we measure success?

The following performance measures will be used to measure success:

- W1: % of household waste collected by district councils that is sent for recycling (including waste prepared for reuse)
- W2: The amount (tonnage) of biodegradable Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste that is landfilled
- W3: The amount (tonnage) of Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Arisings
- No of additional food caddies delivered/homes serviced;
- Increases in food waste tonnages collected;
- Number of recycling champions identified;
- Number of communication/engagement activities undertaken

What is the visible improvement that citizens can expect?

Citizens will benefit from:

- (i) Extension of the food waste collection service to a number of hard to reach properties;
- (ii) Confidence that efforts are being made to ensure environmental sustainability through reductions in amount of waste being landfilled and reductions in the generation of associated greenhouse gases;
- (iii) Identification of and access to recycling champions within a number of communities;
- (iv) Communications providing clear information re recycling and reuse.

Project 8: We will make it easier to communicate and do business with the Council (Corporate Improvement Project)
Project Contact: Heads of Services from Corporate Service and Governance Directorate
Related Community Planning Outcome: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are a proactive, effective and well governed organisation providing strong civic and community leadership
Action to be taken during 2018/19: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Ongoing roll out of customer services improvements through Project Citizen and Connect Centres aimed at addressing queries, as far as possible, at the first point of contact; (ii) Progress delivery of customer Services Action Plan; (iii) Progress delivery of Communications Strategy/action plan; (iv) Lean Review of complaints system/procedures and implementation of resultant action plan; (v) Ongoing delivery of improvements to turnaround times for creditor payments; (vi) Delivery of project re online booking system for leisure and arts in line with project timeframe; (vii) Continuation of review of grant processing through pilot project
Which of the seven aspects of Improvement does this project relate to? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic effectiveness Service quality Service availability Sustainability Efficiency Innovation
How will we measure success? <p>The following performance measures will be used to measure success:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customer satisfaction levels at Connect Centres; Improvement in complaint resolution times; Increasing numbers of social media followers; Improvements in turnaround times for creditor payments; Online booking system progressing in line with project plan; (ultimately) increase in no of online bookings and improved customer satisfaction Reductions in turnaround times for grants processing (pilot project); Number of older person's groups benefitting; Satisfaction levels with pilot project; <p>In addition, the achievement of milestones to open the new Connect Centre in High Street, Omagh during 2018/19 and progress work on the Connect Centre at County Buildings, Enniskillen in line with the anticipated timeframes will be a measure of success.</p>

What is the visible improvement that citizens can expect?

Citizens will benefit from:

- Establishment of a dedicated customer support team and opening of new Connect Centres in Omagh and Enniskillen
- Clear communication of how and where to access Council services;
- More accessible and understandable information about council services;
- Quicker resolution of complaints;
- Quicker access to payment for suppliers;
- Progress of online booking system procurement and installation of service;
- Quicker processing times and increased grant uptake for pilot project target group alongside improved satisfaction levels

Section 3: Monitoring and Reporting of Action Plan

This Sustainable Development Action Plan is a working document and as such, a procedure to regularly monitor progress in implementation is necessary. This will ensure achievements are noted, delays or issues are addressed and that actions are updated to enable consistent improvement in integrating sustainability across all Council functions.

A Sustainable Development Implementation Group has been formed comprising representatives from all relevant departments. This group will meet 4 times per year to review progress against the Plan. The group will be coordinated by Charlotte Daly, Emergency Planning and Sustainable Development Officer, who will chair meetings.

To monitor and capture achievements, the existing internal reporting mechanism will be adopted. This is based on a simple three point dash board system of performance management with the status of each priority at the date of reporting assessed using a traffic light system of Red, Amber and Green (RAG) status.

- **Red** – Performance is below target and/or a high risk of non-delivery has been identified.
- **Amber** – Performance is below target or a low to moderate risk of non-delivery has been identified.
- **Green** – Delivery is on schedule or has been completed.

Following the fourth Implementation Group meeting per annum, in addition to reviewing annual progress, an annual report should be written to summarise the achievements, highlight difficulties and present an updated Action Plan for the following year.

Implementation of the Plan will be monitored and scrutinised by the Policy & Resources Committee on an annual basis. The annual sustainability report summarising achievements will be presented by the Head of Policy & Strategic Services. The Council Committee will also sign off on the new Action Plan. The annual sustainability report should then be made available on the Council website.