

# engage

Community Planning in Ards and North Down #myvoicemyAND

DATE: May 2018

JOIN ARDS AND NORTH DOWN'S  
**Big Conversation**  
#myvoicemyAND

## Welcome

to the May edition of engage!

We are now one year into delivering community planning in Ards and North Down, and what year it has been! Thanks to the support of our partners and you, we have achieved a great deal... but there is still a lot to do!

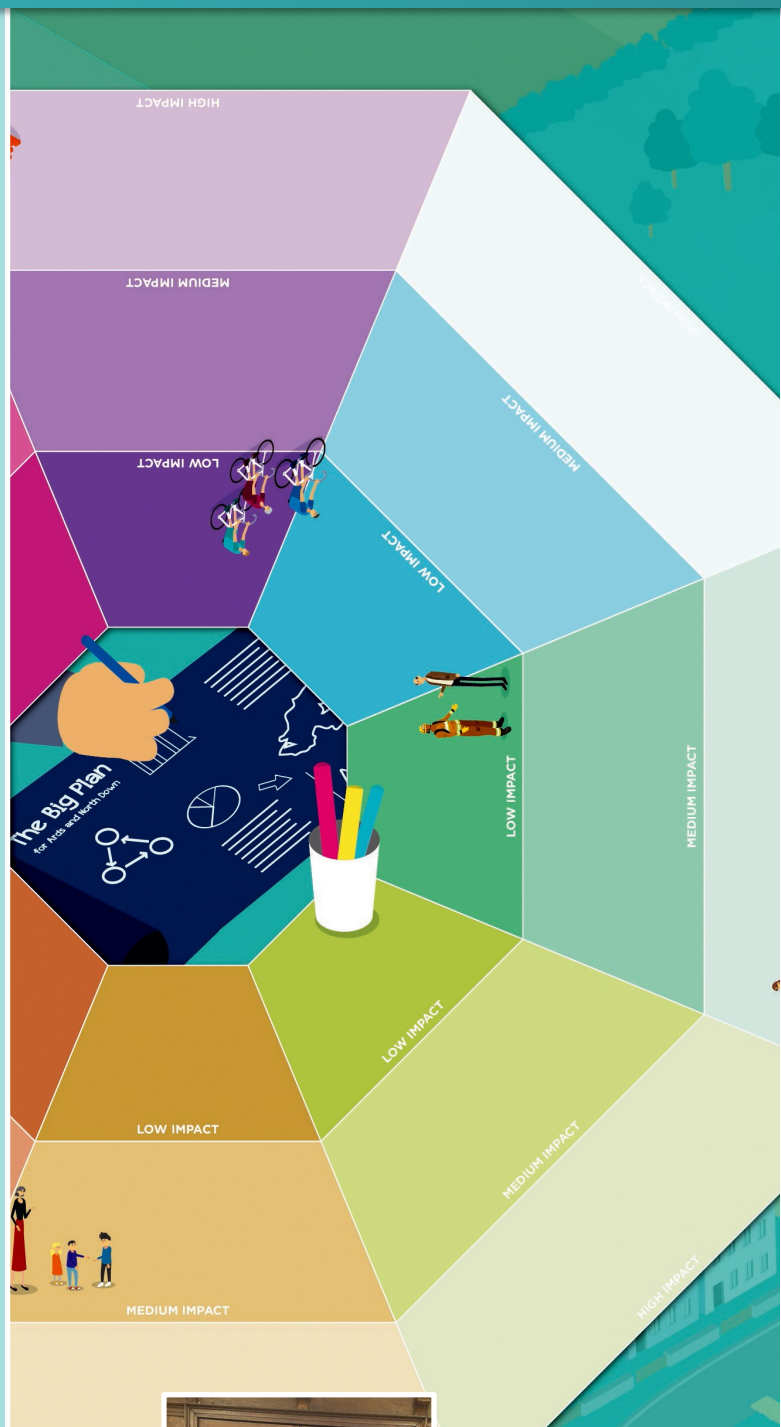
## In this edition

We explore what community planning has achieved, one year on from the publication of the Big Plan, in March 2017.

We introduce you to the Big Game and explain how you can get involved in the latest phase of the Big Conversation.

Meet Bethan, a 20 year old English student who joined the community planning team for five weeks on work placement.

Find out more about Ards and North Down's first Integrated Strategy for Tourism, Regeneration and Economic Development. What are the aspirations of the strategy how does it link with community planning?



Delivering  
the Big Plan  
2-3



Meet Bethan  
P4-5



The  
Integrated  
Strategy  
P 6

Find out the next steps to...

# Delivering the Big Plan for Ards and North Down

Since the publication of the Big Plan in March 2017, work has been ongoing to create a Delivery Plan to address the issues you highlighted during the Big Conversation. Your feedback helped to identify the five outcomes that make up the Big Plan.

Implementing the Big Plan will help ensure that by 2032 all people in Ards and North Down:

1. Fulfil their lifelong potential
2. Enjoy good health and wellbeing
3. Live in communities where they are respected, are safe and feel secure
4. Benefit from a prosperous economy
5. Feel pride from having access to a well-managed sustainable environment

The Big Plan is **not** a council plan, but the ambition and responsibility of all community planning partners to improve the outcomes of people living in Ards and North Down. For a full list of partners, please see page 8.

An initial set of actions has been agreed by Ards and North Down's Strategic Community Planning Partnership. This list of actions is not absolute and additional actions will be added throughout the 15-year lifespan of the Big Plan. A newly established 3rd Sector Community Planning Forum (see page 8) is currently working with the Council's Community Planning Service to ensure community and voluntary sector actions are reflected and incorporated into the delivery plan. Community planning is about recognising the collective impact of all actions that are needed to address the issues identified within the Big Plan for Ards and North Down.

**DELIVERING**

# The Big Plan

FOR ARDS AND NORTH DOWN

Ards and North Down Strategic Community Planning Partnership

### Outcome 1

All people in Ards and North Down fulfil their lifelong potential

**Which actions would you prioritise?**  
Use the postcard to let us know what is important to you.

**Key ambitions**

- This is a great place for all people to gain educational and emotional support and it is easy to gain skills needed for learning, life and work
- People at all stages of life can grow older in comfort with lots of choices and easy access to services and support

**Headline actions**

1. Develop programmes and initiatives to reduce educational underachievement
2. Work with local business owners to increase the number of locations that are officially breastfeeding friendly
3. Provide programmes to help people of all ages work towards alternative qualifications that widen their skills set
4. Make public spaces and services accessible 'friendly' for everyone i.e. dementia friendly, age friendly and autism friendly
5. Improve the quality and availability of volunteering opportunities
6. Develop programmes and support services that reduce social isolation and loneliness
7. Provide and promote support services that work with people to prevent them becoming homeless
8. Redesign the existing work experience model to better prepare young people for the world of work

**Who will work in partnership to implement these actions?**

- Education Authority
- Public Health Agency
- South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust
- Sport NI
- Ards and North Down Borough Council
- Police Services of Northern Ireland
- NI Ambulance Service

### Outcome 2

All people in Ards and North Down enjoy good health and wellbeing

**Which actions important to you?**

**Key ambitions**

- People are confident, take control of their own wellbeing and make sensible life choices
- Exercise and leisure activities are valued as important ways of helping people to stay healthy and happy

**Headline actions**

1. Develop support programmes and services that address the factors that influence a person's mental health and physical wellbeing
2. Create a community of life savers to increase survival rates of people suffering cardiac arrests
3. Tackle serious and organised crime to take drug dealers off the street and remove opportunities for people to use illegal drugs
4. Improve how outdoor spaces are connected to increase opportunities for people to take part in leisure and recreational activities
5. Increase opportunities for people to take part in sporting activities
6. Develop and run outdoor education programmes for young people
7. Use workplaces to educate people about health and develop programmes for businesses to help their employees improve their own health and wellbeing
8. Increase out of school opportunities for children to lead more active lifestyles

**Who will work in partnership to implement these actions?**

- Education Authority
- Public Health Agency
- South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust
- Sport NI
- Ards and North Down Borough Council
- Police Services of Northern Ireland
- NI Ambulance Service

### Outcome 3

All people in Ards and North Down are respected and live in communities where they are safe and feel secure

**Have you identified your top three actions?**

**Key ambitions**

- An increased amount of quality shared space and neutral space where everyone feels welcome and all communities and cultures understand, respect and value each other
- People are safe and feel secure in their homes, in their communities and when they are out in public

**Headline actions**

1. Make Ards and North Down a place where everyone is welcome regardless of ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or political opinion
2. Tackle paramilitary activities and develop programmes to promote education and lawfulness as better long-term options
3. Address conflict that arises due to flags, bonfires and emblems
4. Increase co-ordination and enforcement across public bodies to reduce anti-social behaviour
5. Increase the effectiveness of interagency work by providing tailored support to keep vulnerable people safe
6. Implement programmes, including enforcement, to reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured in road traffic collisions
7. Implement measures to minimise injuries and deaths caused by home accidents and fires
8. Increase the number of businesses with a safe space for people affected by domestic violence

**Who will work in partnership to implement these actions?**

- Ards and North Down Borough Council
- Police Service of Northern Ireland
- Northern Ireland Housing Executive
- Public Health Agency
- Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service
- Education Authority
- Libraries NI

## We want your feedback

Please read the summary delivery plan leaflet and tell us which of the actions are important to you. How would you prioritise these actions and are there actions you would like to see implemented that are not yet listed?

## There are two ways to provide feedback...

### 1. Complete a postcard

The *'Delivering the Big Plan for Ards and North Down'* leaflet summarises a list of actions agreed by the Community Planning Partnership to implement the Big Plan. We would like to gather feedback to help the Partnership direct resources to where they are most needed. We also need to know if actions that could address issues that are of importance to you have been missed.

The leaflet contains a **survey postcard**.

You can complete the postcard by circling your top three actions under each of the five outcomes of the Big Plan, either post it back to us for **FREE** or leave it in one of the designated post boxes throughout the borough (see opposite for details).

The postcard also contains a space for you to tell us what's missing. We ask for your postcode to see if we have gathered feedback from across the borough.

## Use the postcard and tell us your priorities

Please use the four questions below to provide feedback on the list of initial actions:

1. How would you prioritise the current list of actions? Using the information provided under each of the outcomes, circle the three actions you think should be a priority over the next two years.

Delivery Plan Outcomes	Delivery Plan Actions							
	Circle your top 3 priorities for each outcome							
<b>Outcome 1</b> Fulfil their lifelong potential	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>Outcome 2</b> Enjoy good health and wellbeing	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>Outcome 3</b> Live in communities where they are respected, safe and feel safe	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>Outcome 4</b> Benefit from a prosperous economy	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>Outcome 5</b> Feel pride from having access to a well-managed sustainable environment	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

2. What additional actions (not already listed under each outcome) do you think should be included in the Delivery Plan?

3. Have you taken part in a previous version of the Big Conversation (either by completing an earlier postcard, undertaking an online survey or attending a meeting/workshop?)

Yes  No  Can't remember

4. If you have previously taken part in the Big Conversation, can you see your feedback reflected in either the Big Plan or within the Delivery Plan actions?

Yes  No  Not sure

What is your postcode? \_\_\_\_\_ (this will only be used to show if we have reached everyone)

## Pick up a leaflet and postcard from:

- Council Office - 2 Church Street, Newtownards
- Council Office - Town Hall, Bangor
- Your local library - Newtownards, Bangor, Holywood, Comber, Donaghadee or Portaferry
- Your local leisure centre - Newtownards, Bangor, Holywood, Comber and Portaferry

## Post Box locations:

- Council Office - 2 Church Street, Newtownards
- Council Office - Town Hall, Bangor
- Donaghadee Library
- Comber Library
- Portaferry Library

## 2. Complete an online survey

Visit the council's website and complete the online survey.

## Do you belong to a community or special interest group?

See **page 7** for more information on how the Big Game may help you provide feedback to influence how the Big Plan is implemented.

### Outcome 4

All people in Ards and North Down benefit from a prosperous economy

Are we missing important actions from those listed?

#### Key ambitions

- Everyone has enough money to live on and has access to affordable housing, food and utility services
- There are lots of jobs and thriving businesses which are supported to maximise growth potential which encourages local businesses to flourish

#### Headline actions

1. Implement programmes and run support sessions to prepare people and families for the introduction of universal credit, welfare reform and money management issues
2. Develop digital infrastructure to improve how people access public services e.g. broadband and mobile phone coverage
3. Run employability programmes and promote the skills and qualifications that will help people gain employment locally
4. Create sustainable communities through the promotion of social enterprises
5. Review the skills and qualifications on offer so they match the needs of existing and future businesses
6. Improve the quality and diversity of local jobs to reduce the need for people to travel outside of the borough for employment
7. Encourage entrepreneurship and the growth of new business opportunities e.g. tourism, digital, and creative industries
8. Provide support for rural businesses to create new employment opportunities

Who will work in partnership to implement these actions?  
Ards and North Down Borough Council  
• Department for Communities  
• Invest NI  
• Tourism NI  
• Northern Ireland Housing Executive  
• South Eastern Regional College

### Outcome 5

All people in Ards and North Down feel pride from having access to a well-managed sustainable environment

Tell us the actions that will provide the greatest benefit to you?

#### Key ambitions

- People can access the natural and historic environment and its health and economic benefits are valued
- The quality of the physical environment is managed to protect natural assets and built infrastructure such as roads, water, coastal defences and housing
- Neighbourhoods are regenerated to promote wellbeing and connect people to jobs, leisure and transportation

#### Headline actions

1. Improve options available to encourage people to move towards alternative low carbon travel options e.g. greenways, electric charging points and access to public transport
2. Manage and protect our natural and historic environment
3. Use digital technology to improve how people explore and interpret their natural and historic environment
4. Protect local infrastructure from the effects of severe weather such as flooding, storm surges, erosion and other natural disasters
5. Deliver priority regeneration programmes identified in village and urban master plans
6. Improve disability access to the natural and historic environment
7. Empower communities to take increased ownership of natural spaces and historic assets
8. Increase the amount of affordable housing available for first time buyers

Who will work in partnership to implement these actions?  
Ards and North Down Borough Council  
• Department for Communities  
• (The Historic Environment Division)  
• Department for Infrastructure  
• Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (inc. Northern Ireland Environment Agency)  
• National Trust  
• Northern Ireland Housing Executive





# Meet Bethan...

Bethan is a twenty year old English student from St Mary's University College Belfast who joined the Community Planning team for five weeks on work placement. We asked Bethan a few questions to find out what she thought of community planning and what her hopes and aspirations are after graduation.

## **What do you think is the biggest challenge facing graduates today from Ards and North Down?**

I honestly think that the biggest challenge today for graduates is the negativity surrounding getting a job after graduation. I have a lot of friends studying a range of subjects all being told "there's no jobs in that field", which is extremely disheartening for hardworking students. With regards to Ards and North Down, I think that it's challenging that in order to obtain a higher paying job, it seems necessary to travel to Belfast or further out of the borough. Although the money is an incentive to travel further, it would be great to be able to have access to these higher paying jobs a little closer to home.

## **Why did you choose community planning for your work experience?**

I chose Community Planning for my work experience because after a lot of research, I was extremely interested in "The Big Plan" and its effects on the community that I am a part of. Equally, after reading about the links that Community Planning has with a number of different partners (both statutory and non-statutory) I felt that it would be beneficial to witness the cooperation between them first hand. Community Planning has taught me the benefits of working together to achieve a common goal.

## **After graduation what are your plans?**

After graduating, I plan to do a lot of volunteering for a year or two in order to build up my experience alongside my current part time work. Due to being involved in part time work commitments and full time education up until June when I graduate, I haven't had the time to get involved with the charity work that I would like to become a part of. I hope that this will eventually lead me to a permanent job in the third sector. I would also be interested in taking part in a sign language class.

## **What have types of experience have you gained in community planning?**

I have gained invaluable experience and knowledge through attending a number of meetings which proved to me that it is possible for the strategic partners to work together to improve the general quality of life in the borough. Equally, I have been made aware of a number of charities and organisations that offer services that I otherwise wouldn't have known existed. Community Planning has taught me the importance of working together in order to achieve common goals.

**Which outcome is most important to you and why?**

I feel that outcome one, the social aspect of the "Big Plan" is the most important to me. In particular, "All people in Ards and North Down fulfil their lifelong potential". I think that the wording of this outcome is particularly important as it takes into consideration that people have very different skills and qualities and allows them to fulfil their own personal potential without being compared to one another.

**Where do you see yourself in five years?**

In five years, I would like to be in a comfortable job in the third sector where I truly believe I could make a difference to society. I would like to have moved into my own house and be encouraging others to volunteer. I hope to have experienced the food in a number of countries too by the time I'm 25. I always thought when I was younger that I had to have my dream job as soon as I stepped out of university, but now I'm realising that being happy is the most important thing- so if I'm still happy, healthy and surrounded by friends in five years, I'll consider myself very lucky.

**What actions would you like to see in the delivery plan?**

There are no actions that I would like to add to the delivery plans but I would take a keen interest in seeing if the provision for mental health facilities could be improved in our borough. As mental health is no longer stigmatised and increasing numbers of people are reaching out for support, I feel that it's of great importance that the services are there to support the citizens within the borough. It would be interesting to explore different ways that this issue could be dealt with, and note practical ways in which volunteers could get involved.

## A focus on education in Ards and North Down

### What the statistics show:

Out of **1,749** people from Ards and North Down who left school in 2015/16:

**84%** had achieved at least 5 GCSEs grades A\*-C

**71%** had achieved at least 5 GCSEs grades A\*-C including English and Maths

**59%** had achieved 2 A-levels or equivalent

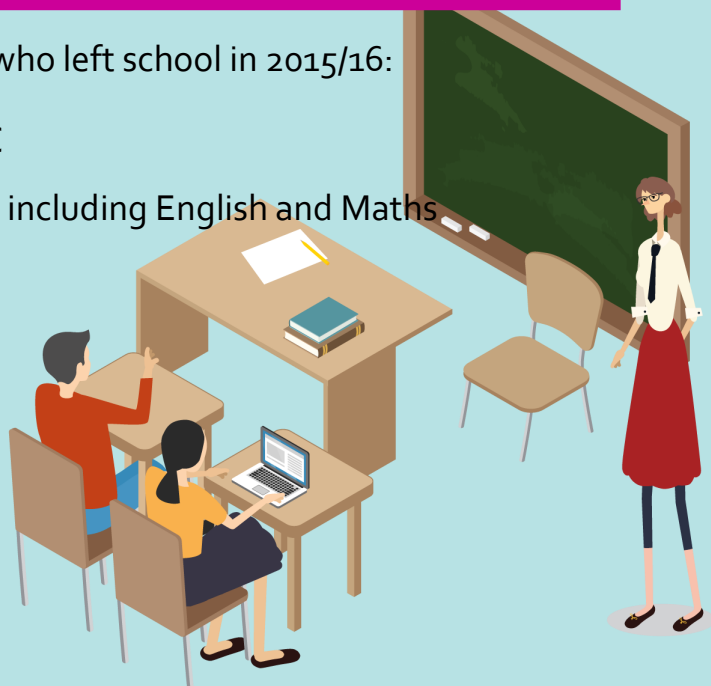
**41%** went to higher education

**40%** went to further education

**6%** went into training

**10%** were unemployed

**3%** unknown



# The Integrated Strategy for Tourism, Regeneration and Economic Development 2018-2030

Ards and North Down Borough Council launched the first Integrated Strategy of its kind for the borough at a special event in Orange Tree House on Wednesday, 28 March 2018.

At the event attendees were introduced to the Integrated Strategy which sets out an ambitious plan for the future of the borough for the next 12 years.



Built on an evidence base that identifies the key assets of the borough and engagement with stakeholders from the public, private and community sectors, the Integrated Strategy has taken its lead from community planning and has been developed to support the vision and outcomes of the Big Plan for Ards and North Down.

Centred around three key themes: **place**, **visitor** and **investment** and six thematic priorities, the borough wide strategy focuses on a holistic and partnership approach to achieve job creation, increased economic productivity and increased visitor overnight trips and expenditure.

The Integrated Strategy concentrates on three particular strengths of Ards and North Down:

1. **The natural landscape of sea, loughs and land—a blue green space.**
2. **The creativity of our people, from earliest times to present day producers, artisans, designers and engineers.**
3. **Our proximity to places of opportunity—to Belfast, neighbouring districts, to the Republic of Ireland and Great Britain, to Europe and the world beyond.**

Throughout the strategy's 12 year life span, the Council and its many partners will work to deliver 19 integrated actions . These actions will help us achieve outcomes 4 and 5 of the Big Plan, which focuses on economic development, skills and employment, tourism and the natural, built and digital environment.

The Integrated Strategy should act as a point of reference for all those contributing to the growth of our economy, the welcoming of visitors and the improvement of our places, both urban and rural.

For a more information and a copy of the strategy , please visit:  
[www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk](http://www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk)



# The Big Game—be the first to play!

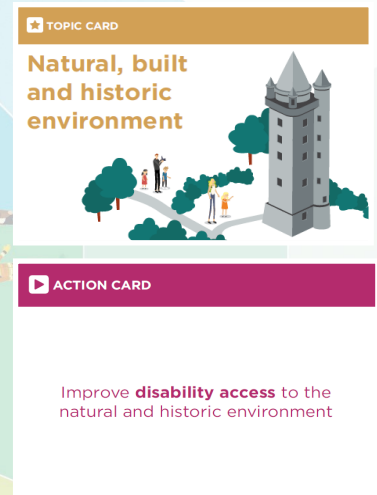


We are always thinking of new ways to interest people in the Big Plan so we can use your local knowledge and experience to improve public services. Your feedback helps to make the Big Plan and its delivery relevant to you and the issues you feel should be prioritised by Community Planning Partners in Ards and North Down!

To try and get the best feedback we needed to come up with something interactive and fun. After a long brainstorming session we came up with our very own community planning board game, we call it **The Big Game!**

**The Big Game** can be played in teams or with a small group of people. The board game is divided into 8 topic areas including connectivity and transport and the natural, built and historic environment.

The aim of **The Big Game** is to identify what actions players would prioritise from the Delivery Plan under the 8 topic areas. Players will be asked to choose what partners need to be involved to implement the action and how the action will be funded.



**The Big Game** doesn't end there... no matter how much we plan, we need to be ready for the unexpected!

Players will be dealt a shock card—this card can contain a number of different unexpected events which could have an impact on the players chosen action, the partners chosen and the funding required. It will be up to the players to decide what to do next—maybe they will need a new action to help address the issue, a new partner or a different funding method?

**We are looking for players!**

If you fancy playing **The Big Game**, please e-mail: [communityplanning@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk](mailto:communityplanning@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk)



# The Big Plan

for Ards and North Down

## Update on activities

Community Planning in Ards and North Down has created opportunities for collaborative working to take forward a number of key issues identified in the Big Plan. Please see a few examples below:

### Age friendly Alliance

The number of older people aged 65+ is projected to increase from 31,000 in 2014 to around 50,000 by 2030. As a result we need to respond to the needs of the people who live in the borough.

An Age-friendly Alliance, established in March 2018, will help make Ards and North Down an age-friendly borough and a great place for people to grow older. The Age-friendly Alliance is developing a strategy which is being populated via input from services users across all age categories.

### Community resuscitation group

The Big Plan is focused on increasing wellbeing by developing individual and community resilience. A specialist interest group is creating an action plan that will help improve knowledge of cardiac resuscitation within communities, schools and businesses and promote the Chain of Survival.

### 3rd Sector Community Planning Forum

People are at the heart of community planning. The 3rd Sector Forum was established in December 2017 to ensure the voice of the community and voluntary sector is reflected in the delivery and monitoring of the Big Plan for Ards and North Down.

## CONTACTING US

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## Stay informed!

Stay part of the conversation by signing up for this [newsletter](#), following us on [twitter](#) or view the community planning section hosted on Ards and North Down Borough Council's [website](#).

### Ards and North Down's strategic partners include:

