



Community Planning



What is Community Planning?

Community Planning is the process by which organisations who provide public services, business and voluntary groups and local communities work together to improve people's lives.

Who?

In NI Community Planning operates at local council level. Community planning involves lots of different organisations who individually deliver important public services that help people across Northern Ireland. Community planning is led by the Council but the other partners, some of whom are named in legislation, are required to take part and work with the other partners.

The Council is responsible for bringing together a range of partners including: 11 public bodies named in legislation (known as 'Statutory Partners') government departments, agencies, businesses and community and voluntary organisations. The partners also work with the local residents and community groups directly.

Community Planning Partners:



What?

Community Planning Partnerships work together to identify long-term objectives to improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area.

Each Partnership develops a Community Plan.

A community plan is a document telling people the outcome or shared vision of each Community Planning Partnership. It sets out the issues within the council area and tells readers the things the community planning partnership hope to improve.

The Plan describes how the partners will work together to deliver projects and actions locally. Community Planning involves all aspects of public services—from education, health, housing and the environment to arts, culture and heritage.

The Community Plan

Brings together the following Pieces:





Where?

Community Planning Partnerships have been established in each council area and Community plans developed by collecting local evidence, talking to local people and listening to the experience of the community & voluntary sector. Each Community Plan reflects local need.

View plans for local areas on [nidirect](#)



When?

Community Planning Partnerships meet regularly to discuss local needs and plan how they can work together to meet those needs. Each Partnership has a long-term (about 10-15 year) Community Plan which sets out key issues and what actions to take as a Partnership to address those issues and improve the local area. They agree the 'outcomes' they wish to achieve and monitor the plan regularly,

publishing progress reports every two years. Every four years they review the plan and if needed, change it, to ensure they are working towards their agreed outcomes.

Why?

Community Planning is ultimately about improving people's lives. It's about improving well-being—ensuring everyone has what they need now and in the future. Community Planning is designed to strengthen the interaction between the public, voluntary and business sectors in local Council areas. The point of Community Planning is that by working together—and sharing resources—partners can achieve better results and address the needs of local people and communities. The role of Councils, Statutory partners and Government Departments in Community Planning is set out in legislation (The Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014) which describes what is required.

