

Report on	Improvement Objectives 2019-2020 (proposed) and Consultation from February - March 2019
Date of Meeting	Thursday 7 th February 2019
Reporting Officer	P Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Contact Officer	L Jenkins, Performance & Quality Officer

Is this report restricted for confidential business? If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	
	No	x

1.0	Purpose of Report															
1.1	To consider and agree improvement objectives for 2019/20 and the initiation of public consultation on Improvement Objectives as set in compliance with the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 (the Act).															
2.0	Background															
2.1	The 2014 Local Government Act places a general duty on the Council to “.... <i>make arrangements to secure continuous improvement....</i> ” in the exercise of its functions.															
2.2	The council previously approved 4 improvement objectives be set for the two year period 2017-18 to 2018 -19. Officers subsequently developed the council’s performance improvement regime around the 4 improvement objectives.															
2.3	Following consideration by senior management, moving forward, three of the current four improvement objectives are recommended to progress through into the new financial year, to provide sufficient time to bring about increased tangible outcomes for citizens, with the addition of one new improvement objective. Appendix One details the draft Corporate Improvement Objectives 2019 to 2020 together with a rationale for each (see 2.4 below).															
2.4	Each improvement objective has a Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) assigned, along with a project team, to develop and embed a body of work to deliver improvement outcomes for citizens specific to the objectives for which they are responsible. The Objectives are:															
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Improvement Objective</th> <th>SRO</th> <th>Status</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>To assist in the growth of the local economy by increasing the number of visitors to our district.</td> <td>Director, Business & Communities</td> <td>Existing</td> </tr> <tr> <td>To improve the average processing time of Local Planning Applications</td> <td>Planning Manager</td> <td>New</td> </tr> <tr> <td>To improve the accessibility of our services by increasing the number available online.</td> <td>Director, Finance</td> <td>Existing</td> </tr> <tr> <td>To support people to adopt healthier lifestyles by increasing usage of council recreational facilities.</td> <td>Director, Leisure & Outdoor Recreation</td> <td>Existing</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Improvement Objective	SRO	Status	To assist in the growth of the local economy by increasing the number of visitors to our district.	Director, Business & Communities	Existing	To improve the average processing time of Local Planning Applications	Planning Manager	New	To improve the accessibility of our services by increasing the number available online.	Director, Finance	Existing	To support people to adopt healthier lifestyles by increasing usage of council recreational facilities.	Director, Leisure & Outdoor Recreation	Existing
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3.0	Main Report
3.1	Statutory Guidance issued by the Department for Communities to Councils on taking forward the general duty on improvement, requires that the council consult on a yearly basis on their improvement objectives. This requirement on consultation falls from section 87 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014.
3.2	There is no statutory duty to consult on the improvement plan, but rather the improvement objectives. Three of the existing improvement objectives and progress towards same have been reviewed, and it is considered that they remain, as previously set for the period 2017-19, with the addition of one new objective moving forward into the new financial year.
3.3	A report on delivery of the improvement objectives, detailing key deliverables throughout 2018-19, will be provided to April committee.
	Consultation & Improvement Plan 2019/20
3.4	It is recommended that arrangements to consult on the Improvement Objectives, as referred to in section 2.4 above, commence following the Policy & Resources Committee meeting and run from 8 th February to 15 th March 2019.
3.5	The following is an outline timeline for the consultation and development of the Council's 2019-20 Improvement Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation from Friday 8th February to Friday 15th March • Outcomes Report on the Consultation considered by April P&R Committee • Draft Performance Improvement Plan (2019-2020) to be considered at June P&R Committee
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: not applicable
	Human: not applicable
	Risk Management: Non-initiation of the consultation would be outside the requirements of the Department statutory guidance on improvement leading to a risk of non-compliance under the Act.
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: not applicable at this stage
	Rural Needs Implications: not applicable at this stage

5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	That members consider and approve the four improvement objectives for 2019 to 2020 (three existing improvement objectives for a further 12 month period [2019-20], and the addition of one new improvement objective for the incoming financial year), and the initiation of consultation on same together with associated timeline.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix One - Draft Corporate Performance Improvement Objectives 2019- 2020