

2021-22 ACTIVITY REPORT

Newry and Mourne Co-operative Limited incorporating
Newry and Mourne Developments Limited and
Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency

Newry and Mourne Co-operative is a Charity
(Charity number: XT25288).

Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency is a member
of Enterprise Northern Ireland, the federation of Local
Enterprise Agencies.

WIN - Work in Newry & Mourne

NEWRY & MOURNE
CO-OPERATIVE &
ENTERPRISE AGENCY



Percentage Change in Trade Value
By Direction

thinklab

Stephen Kelly @Big_Kells · 6d
No grandstanding, gaslighting or
grabbing headlines, just getting
down to business talking through the
problems and pitching the solutions.
Great to join colleagues in Newry this
morning talking technicalities with
EU VP Maroš Šefčovič and team on
the operation of the NI Protocol

RTE News

STAFF / AGENDA

2021-22 NEWRY AND MOURNE ENTERPRISE ACTIVITY REPORT

2021-22

www.nmea.net

presented at the forty-eighth Annual General Meeting of NEWRY & MOURNE CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED incorporating NEWRY & MOURNE ENTERPRISE AGENCY and NEWRY & MOURNE DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED

Held on Monday the 12th of December 2022 at 1:00pm.

AGENDA

1. Chairman's Business, Chairman, Peter McEvoy.
2. Apologies.
3. Minutes of last Annual General Meeting.
4. Chairman's Report.
5. Enterprise Agency Report.
6. Financial Director's Report.
7. Auditor's Report.
8. Elections to Board of Directors.
9. Election of Corporate Representatives to Annual General Meeting of Newry and Mourne Developments PLC.
10. To re-appoint Fitzpatrick & Kearney Accountants as Auditors to the company.
11. Guest speakers.

By Order of the Board, Kevin Starrs, Hon. Secretary.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman: Peter McEvoy
Vice-Chairman: Kevin Starrs
Secretary: Michael Hughes
Directors: Gordon Coulter MBE, Ronan Dennedy, Brendan Jackson, Davy Hyland, Claire McCullough, John MacMahon, Kevin Magill and Frank O'Connor.

BANKERS

Ulster Bank, Hill Street, Newry.

AUDITORS

Fitzpatrick & Kearney,
10c Marcus Square, Newry.

SOLICITORS

Donnelly, Neary & Donnelly,
Downshire Road, Newry.

NEWRY & MOURNE CO-OPERATIVE STAFF 2021-2022

Dr Conor Patterson	Chief Executive
Liam Quinn	Financial Controller and Principal Business Advisor
Kieran Mathers	Innovation Programme Manager (Retired June 2022)
Jennifer Malone	Business Development Executive (Property)
Colin Hanna	Information, Research and Computer Technology Co-ordinator
Stephen McClelland	Social Economy Advisor
Pauline Coghlan	Work4Uplus Programme Manager
Ciara McKenna	Work4Uplus Programme Administrator
Maeve McParland	Education to Employment Programme Manager
Maria Coyle	Finance Officer
Michelle Frost	Receptionist
Carol Magee	Administrator
Rory Carroll	Digital Content Producer

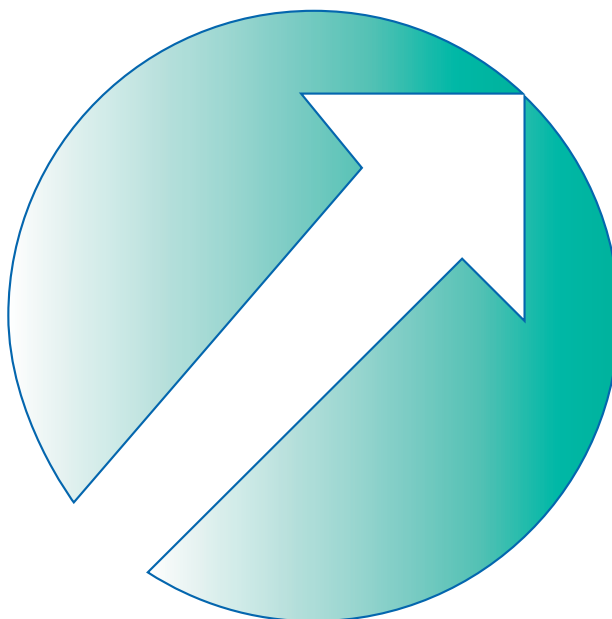
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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2021-22 NEWRY AND MOURNE ENTERPRISE ACTIVITY REPORT

This report covers the period from April 2021 to March 2022, a time still very much marked by the Covid 19 pandemic with restrictions in place for much of 2021. The Russian invasion of Ukraine in late February 2022 came just as people were beginning to rebuild their lives, businesses were trying to meet a surge in demand and workers were getting back to in-person employment or in many cases agreeing with their employers new arrangements which allowed them to continue to work from home for some or all of their time. Energy prices rapidly rose, inflation surged and a cost-of-living crisis quickly developed which is still with us. For us in Newry, South Down and South Armagh all of that has been exacerbated by the continued failure of the British government to resolve the Brexit crisis and the absence of a devolved administration to design and implement a response to the crisis. That mix of political chaos in London and Belfast, Brexit uncertainty and inflation presents us with a complex set of challenges.

In my time as a voluntary director of this great organisation we have faced what seemed to be insurmountable problems before and we and our community worked hard and do what we could to overcome them – we “worked in Newry” – when we had a third of our population without work, some of our best young people leaving never to return, daily violence, armed military constraining our freedom of movement – we worked to understand our problems and find ways to mitigate them. So we face up to what lies before us today and refuse to be intimidated by its scale or complexity. We may not be able to solve whole problems but if we find ways to work around them, if we can make things a bit easier for some, then making a difference is worth the effort – because what we know from experience is that many little initiatives guided by a carefully considered diagnosis together can be transformative. Newry and Mourne becoming Northern Ireland’s most robust local economy as reported in the Belfast Newsletter in May 2021 didn’t come about from nowhere. It happened because our community made it happen.

In September 2021 we met with the EU’s Chief Brexit Negotiator, European Commission Vice President Maroš Šefčovič, hosting him at Flurrybridge and WIN Business Park in Newry. That followed a meeting with Lord David Frost, the UK’s lead Brexit negotiator at WIN in June 2021. The fact that the leading protagonists on both sides of the internationally significant Brexit negotiations chose to meet with ourselves and the representatives of the principal business and farming organisations in N. Ireland at WIN was hugely significant for us. It was a recognition that, though we are a relatively small organisation in terms of financial resources, we are regarded as insightful, considered, objective and creative. The canvas on which Newry and Mourne’s continued transformation is now being shaped may today be much larger and under an international spotlight but we have the skills to help direct a future which is in the best interests of our citizens.

To achieve sustainable economic development there must be a supportive ecosystem which includes good quality education, skilled employees and sources of investment. But there also needs to be good public services, good leisure opportunities, well connected infrastructure and adequate housing to encourage young people to stay in our area and to attract talent to live and work here. So for us working with other stakeholders to protect public services and to improve quality of life is a key part of our mission.

Our community was filled with anxiety when it was announced in February 2022 that emergency surgery would no longer be available at Daisy Hill Hospital. This was a complex politically sensitive issue, a “hot potato”, but it is hugely important to the population of Newry and Mourne. We decided to work with people whom we knew were also concerned and who had expertise, firstly to better understand what was happening with the health service and then to see whether we could put together a strategy to secure Daisy Hill’s status as an acute healthcare hub providing safe accessible services for people across the east border region. So we formed a Daisy Hill Hospital Future Group as a partnership of elected politicians, the Daisy Hill Pathfinder group, the Newry Chamber of Commerce, clinicians and health service planners. This was an exercise in flexing the soft power of our community to challenge an orthodoxy which had peripheralized our area. We know we have a long road ahead. However, already our informed engagement strategy has secured a commitment from Government to transform Daisy Hill into an overnight elective care centre while maintaining its 24/7 emergency department and teaching hospital status. With that commitment will come investment, new diagnostic capacity, new buildings, new beds, and new specialist staff. Our work on this will continue as a priority.

We also believe that we can make a valuable contribution to the ongoing regeneration effort in which our District Council plays such an important role alongside central government departments by helping to ensure that their plans can be transformed into developments which have the support of businesses and local people. We are potentially on the cusp of a period of improvement in the townscape of Newry which will be unparalleled in the last 100 years. That alongside the removal of hundreds of heavy goods vehicles from the centre of Newry when the Southern Relief Road is completed before the end of this decade will bring an immeasurable improvement to quality of life in the City and make South Down more accessible for traders and tourists. Helping those with the resources and statutory authority to make positive change happen does work!

Of course, we continue to focus most of our expertise and our resources on our core mission to help businesses to start up, develop and generate prosperity; to help communities and especially young people challenged by adversity; and to exchange knowledge internationally so that we better understand how the world that our young people are facing into is changing.

With financial assistance from Newry Mourne and Down District Council and central government we are able to provide vital support to entrepreneurs either starting new or growing existing businesses in Newry and Mourne. The numbers choosing self-employment in South Armagh, South Down and Newry remain the highest per capita in these islands, increasing rather than falling in the wake of the pandemic. We have also been able to give significant help to the very important social enterprise sector in our District increasing its capacity to deliver important public services to groups in society which get little or no attention from government. That commitment of our Council to help us in our work is all the more important as we face into Northern Ireland losing its access to EU structural funds after March 2023 because of Brexit.

We have also maintained our commitment to tackle some of the adversities that limit the education and future employment options of vulnerable young people in our area; and we have continued to participate through our WIN(EU) company based in Dundalk in cross-border and EU knowledge exchange programmes to promote trade and to address how the world of employment is changing as gig working becomes an increasingly important feature of the labour market.

The NI Protocol (with adaptations) is the only framework through which Brexit can happen without requiring the re-imposition of a hard economic border on the island of Ireland. It gives our companies both unfettered access to the British market and to the enormous EU market, an advantage which is unique in the world. The protocol however only addresses trade in manufactured goods and agri-food products. Unresolved issues of huge significance for our area remain with respect to trade in services and citizens rights. Our efforts to ensure that the Newry and Mourne border region will not be damaged by Brexit will continue in 2023.

This Activity Report speaks to the creativity and dedication of our Enterprise Agency team led by Dr Conor Patterson. I urge you to read through the detail of the various initiatives reported here. Behind all the facts and figures are hundreds of people who this year were the better for working with that team.

In conclusion, I would like to thank my fellow voluntary directors for their continued support. I would like to also thank all of those who helped us during the year: the Department for Communities and the Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership, Newry Mourne and Down District Council who continue to show faith in the work that we do, The Big Lottery Fund, Invest Northern Ireland, Newry Chamber of Commerce and Trade, the County Armagh Development Trust, Kilkeel Development Association, the Confederation of Community Groups, Enterprise Northern Ireland, the Louth County Council Local Enterprise Office, the Dundalk Chamber of Commerce, the Meath Local Enterprise Office, Southern Regional College, Dundalk Institute of Technology, the institutions of the European Union, our European knowledge exchange partners, our local politicians and the press, local, national and international.

Peter McEvoy
Chairman
12th December 2022

Section 1

PROVISION OF WORKSPACE

2021-22 WIN - Work In Newry

PROVISION OF WORKSPACE

THE ENTERPRISE AGENCY DIVISION'S Mission Statement is "to contribute to the growth and prosperity and thus the social and political stability of the Newry & Mourne region by undertaking enterprise, business, economic and community development initiatives independently and in partnership with others"

Our two main objectives are:

- 1) To increase the stock of new businesses and increase the competitiveness of existing businesses in the Newry & Mourne area; and
- 2) To assist in the strategic development of the region by advising on the efficient allocation of resources, promoting the region as an investment location, and contributing to central and local government policy-making and service delivery.

The range of initiatives which we are now involved in are outlined in this report under the following headings:

- Provision of workspace
- Development of new business and employment
- Cross border/transnational partnerships and trade development
- WIN Consultants (EU)
- Community development
- Influencing policy and promoting the region
- Enterprise Northern Ireland

1. PROVISION OF WORKSPACE

1.1 Affordable workspace - vital economic infrastructure

In 2021/2022 WIN Business Park in Newry city centre, Warrenpoint Enterprise Centre next to Warrenpoint port, Flurrybridge Enterprise Centre on the A1/N1 Newry to Dublin road in South Armagh, Binnian Enterprise Centre at the harbour in Kilkeel and the Regional Development Centre at WIN provided 192,830 sq.ft. of light industrial and office space within which approximately 700 people were employed.

In 2021/22 we did not lose any of our tenants or see vacancy on our sites increase, something which had been a real concern at the start of the pandemic. In June 2021 we completed a face-lift of the Enterprise House building at WIN Business Park with financial support from the District Council.

At Flurrybridge, the Enterprise Agency now manages almost 60,000 square feet of high quality light industrial workspace, all of which remained fully occupied during the year. The Flurrybridge site is co-owned with the County Armagh Development Trust (CADET) under the auspices of a joint venture company, Oriel Developments Ltd. Our efforts at Flurrybridge are supported by the Louth Local Enterprise Fund which is represented on the Board of Oriel Developments Ltd.

Binnian Enterprise Centre in Kilkeel is a partnership with Kilkeel Development Association, under the auspices of a joint venture company, Binnian Developments Ltd. During 2021/2022 all of the available workspace at the site was fully occupied.

1.2 Affordable workspace - vital economic infrastructure

In March 2021 the Enterprise Agency Board agreed to accept an offer of a 999 year lease from Warrenpoint Harbour Authority for a portion of land within the curtilage of Warrenpoint Enterprise Centre over which title had not been formally secured when the site was first acquired to develop Warrenpoint Enterprise Centre in the mid-1980s.



WIN Business Park,
Newry

Binnian Enterprise Centre, Kilkeel, South Down



Warrenpoint Enterprise Centre, South Down



The New ThinkLab at WIN Business Park

Section 2

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT CREATION



2021-22 NMEA ACTIVITY REPORT

1.3 ThinkLab

The ThinkLab is a hi-tech resource at WIN Business Park like no other in the region which we can deploy to support the development of our economy for the benefit of all in our community during what are likely to be difficult years ahead.

During the periods when the lockdown was eased, we did host meetings of the young person's mental health support group, the Crisis Café, Community Restorative Justice, the Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership, the Newry DEA, the Newry Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Newry Vision Partnership and several social enterprises and charities. We met in the Thinklab with UK Brexit negotiator Lord David Frost in June and EU Brexit negotiator, Maroš Šefčovič in September. We were also able to use the facility and its equipment to produce online content to support the virtual delivery of our programmes when social distancing restrictions prevented us from providing in-person training and mentoring.

In August 2021 we submitted a bid for funding to the Department For Communities to allow us to extend the hosting capacity of the ThinkLab.

2. BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT CREATION

2.1 The 'Exploring Enterprise' Programme

We are committed to stimulating more enterprise in our society through the promotion of self-employment. Between April 2021 and March 2022, Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency along with Down Business Centre delivered the Department for the Economy and Newry Mourne and Down District Council-funded Exploring Enterprise Programme. 'Exploring Enterprise' was a pre-business start programme the aim of which was to help improve the prospects of unemployed and economically inactive people by helping them to enhance their employability or to explore the possibility of setting up their own businesses. The Programme was open to anyone of any age not in full-time education, employment or training, with low or no qualifications. Participants had the opportunity to secure a QCF level 1 qualification in Understanding Business Enterprise (accredited by the CCEA). During the year 8 people had personal development pre-assessments completed, with 5 of those going on to complete the training modules required by CCEA to obtain the accredited qualification. All 5 successfully qualified and graduated with a Level 1 certificate in "Understanding Business Enterprise."

2.2 Business Start training and counseling during financial year 2021/2022

Developing the skills of prospective business owner/managers is the key to their future business success.

In the period from April 2021 - March 2022 Newry & Mourne Enterprise Agency continued to provide a comprehensive service package to support the creation of new businesses in the Newry & Mourne area (i.e. South Down, Newry City and South Armagh).



The NI Business Start-Up Programme, a partnership between the Enterprise Agency, Newry Mourne & Down District Council and the Department for the Economy.



NMEA's Principle Business Advisor, Liam Quinn.



NMEA's, Rory Carroll in the WIN Thinklab editing video for broadcast to schools.

Section 2

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT CREATION



2021-22 WIN - Work In Newry

In 2021/2022 the Enterprise Agency and its partner in mid and east Down, Down Business Centre, delivered the Go-For-It NI Business Start-Up Programme in the Newry Mourne and Down district. The Programme was jointly funded by all of the District Councils in Northern Ireland (including Newry Mourne and Down) and the Economy Department. In March 2023 the EU financing which has made this and other economic development programmes possible for the last 25 years will end. What will replace it is unclear. Liam Quinn led this effort for NMEA providing specialist finance training and advice via a combination of online zoom meetings and face-to-face meetings. From April 2021 to March 2022 he helped entrepreneurs in South Down, Newry and South Armagh to produce an average of 16 new start business plans per month (196 start-up business plans were completed over the twelve months from April 2021 to March 2022, 36 ahead of target) As a result of this support 192 new businesses were established during the year in the Newry & Mourne area, creating an estimated 251 jobs. An independent evaluation of this form of support in Northern Ireland has concluded that the survival rate of the early stage businesses which take advantage of it is 80%.

Since 1984, 10,096 people in the Newry and Mourne area have received business start-up support from Enterprise Agency staff.

In the 21 years from April 2001 to March 2022, the Enterprise Agency has helped 2,860 new businesses to set up in South Down, Newry City and South Armagh creating an estimated 4,866 jobs generating tens of millions in additional income for our local economy every year. In aggregate over the last two decades more than £1 billion in local purchasing power has been generated by these micro-businesses and the jobs they have supported.

2.3 The Newry Mourne & Down Labour Market Partnership Start-up Business Development Programme

The Newry Mourne and Down Labour Market Partnership was set up in April 2021 by the Department For Communities and Newry Mourne and Down District Council to work with employer representatives, educationalists, development agencies and business lobby groups in the Newry Mourne and Down District to adapt the local economy to changes in the labour market as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic and to support the development of a higher skilled workforce, create opportunities for those who are underemployed or unemployed. The Enterprise Agency and Down Business Centre were together appointed by the Partnership in September 2021 to deliver a specialised "accelerator" assistance package to recently established businesses set up by people who had been unemployed or part-time employed in the District with the potential to develop rapidly and become generators of employment and income for the local community. Under the auspices of this initiative NMEA assisted 15 businesses in Newry, South Armagh and South Down in 2021. The package included a £1k grant for each business as well as 5 days of specialised mentoring, a portfolio of support for new start businesses the like of which has not been available in Northern Ireland for more than 20 years. Other projects supported with financing from the Labour Market Partnership and DFC included specialist training programmes delivered by SRC, an employer survey, a careers fair and a promotional programme delivered by Newry Chamber of Commerce. In March 2022 Conor Patterson was elected as Chair of the Newry Mourne and Down Labour Market Partnership by its members. Also in March funding was secured for another Start-Up Business Development Programme cycle in 2022/23.

NMEA's Social Enterprise Advisor, Stephen McClelland.



Social enterprise networking in the Crisis Café, Newry.



Colin Hanna and social enterprise, Fringe Coffee.

2.4 NM&D Business Growth Programme

NMEA and Down Business Centre together with private sector consultants, Full Circle Ltd, provided support to 28 businesses (16 of which were from the Greater Newry Area) under the Newry Mourne and Down District Council-funded Business Growth Programme. This EU-funded Programme ends in December 2022. Liam Quinn delivered the NMEA elements of the programme.

2.5 The Social Enterprise Newry Mourne & Down Programme (SENMD)

Funded by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, the Social Enterprise Newry Mourne Down Programme (SENMD) was co-ordinated and delivered by the Agency's Principal Social Enterprise Advisor, Stephen McClelland, in partnership with Down Business Centre.

Social Enterprises make an important and unique contribution to the local economy of the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area. They create jobs for people, provide vital services for people who might not get them otherwise, reinvest their surpluses back into community projects and in many cases protect the environment.

Section 2

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT CREATION

2021-22 NMEA ACTIVITY REPORT

There are now over 200 organisations in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area involved at some level in social enterprise activity.

During 2021/2022 the SENMD programme helped social entrepreneurs and community groups across the Newry Mourne and Down District to develop sustainable social enterprises with the motivation, the skills and resources to ameliorate social problems and improve the lives of citizens in the area. NMEA's bespoke support draws on this organisation's understanding as a social enterprise itself of what it takes to be a successful change-maker.

During the year 40 organisations received one-to-one mentoring support in Idea Development and 80 individuals from 40 organisations received one-to-many mentoring support at workshops in Newry, South Armagh and South Down. With assistance from the Programme, 10 new social enterprises started up creating 14 jobs and 40 volunteering opportunities. In addition, SENAM levered £1 million of additional funding into social enterprises participating in the programme. We have calculated that 1,500 people in the district benefitted from the services delivered by these social enterprises during 2021/2022.

The programme helped many local social enterprises to get media coverage, notably on TG4, BBC television and BBC Radio Ulster, the Local Women magazine, the Belfast Telegraph, Irish News and Farmweek as well as other local newspapers. We organised visits to local social enterprises by among others Department of Finance Permanent Secretary Sue Gray, Stormont Finance Minister Conor Murphy, and Mental Health Champion Professor Siobhan O'Neill.

As a member of the Newry Mourne & Down Strategic Stakeholder Partnership we worked together with other local community/voluntary sector organisations, the District Council and statutory organisations to help social enterprises to adapt their services to the Covid-19 crisis. The contribution of the SENMD team in supporting individuals and organisations in the District impacted by the Covid19 pandemic was acknowledged by the District Council when the Enterprise Agency was presented with an award for the role it played in helping to coordinate the voluntary sector response across Newry, Mourne and Down District.

The organisations we assisted during the year included: Fit Club, Peak Health & Mind, Made in Mourne, Crisis Café Newry, YMCA Newcastle, Moneydarragh Community Hub Attical, MYMY Newcastle, Café Amach Silverbridge, Changing Cycles Meigh, Light Theatre Company Rostrevor, Harry's Place Ballynahinch, Centred Soul Newry, Newry.ie Newry, Fringe Coffee Co, Rostrevor.

2.6 Collaboration with Newry Mourne and Down District Council

Under the auspices of an "Economic Initiatives" Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Newry Mourne and Down Council, NMEA and Down Business Centre carried out two impact evaluations and a survey on behalf of the Council as well as organising the Council's 2021 Enterprise Week programme.

2.7 Newry Mourne & Down Enterprise Week 8 – 12 November 2021

NMEA in partnership with Down Business Centre co-ordinated the Newry Mourne and Down District Council-sponsored 2021 Enterprise Week Programme of online events which together attracted 1,273 event participants, 28,553 video views and 17,235 post views. 946 pupils at schools across the district participated in online events. We were able to engage with many more people using virtual tools than would have been possible at traditional in-person events.



School and FE Principals from Newry and Mourne meet at WIN.

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN

**ENTERPRISE
WEEK 2021**

**BALANCING CAREER
DESTINATION CHOICES
AND WELL-BEING FOR
POST 16'S**

Wed 10th November 2021
from 10:40-11:15am

To register, contact us at:
mmcparland@nmea.net

zoom

An online career pathways seminar for schools in the district delivered during Enterprise Week 2021.



Media Training.



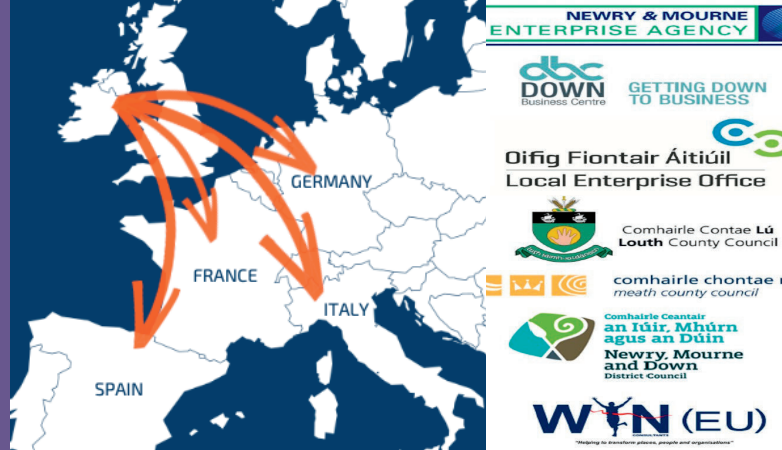
A schools event during Enterprise Week 2021.



Colin Hanna and Meath County Head Of Enterprise, Joe English, at an EU partner meeting, Lucca Italy, October 2021.

Section 3

CROSS BORDER AND TRADE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES AND TRANSNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS



2021-22 WIN - Work In Newry

3. CROSS BORDER AND TRADE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES AND TRANSNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

3.1 The Cross Border Co-Innovate Programme

From 2017 to 2022, **Kieran Mathers** and **Maria Coyle** co-ordinated across the 12 county Interreg zone (i.e the 6 counties of Northern Ireland and the 6 border counties in the Irish Republic) the delivery of three of the five strands of the €16.5m **EU-funded NI/RoI/Scotland Co-Innovate Programme**. InterTrade Ireland had overall responsibility for the management of the Programme. Across 12 counties Co-Innovate helped 1,056 companies to become more innovative and thus more competitive. The NMEA team co-ordinated delivery of the Co-Innovate support package through the Enterprise Northern Ireland network of Local Enterprise Agencies (including NMEA) and the RoI border county Local Enterprise Offices.

By April 2022, across the 12 county eligible region, 100% of the target number of companies had been recruited and were completing their innovation journey. Of these 62 were from the Newry & Mourne area.

The Co-innovate Programme ended in June 2022 as one of the most successful cross border EU business support programmes in 25 years. Our colleague, Kieran Mathers, decided at that point to retire as a full-time employee of the Enterprise Agency after 19 years of service.

3.2 The Cross Border Local Enterprise Partnership

NMEA continued during the year to act as the secretariat for the "Cross Border Local Enterprise Partnership" which brought together the N. Ireland Local Enterprise Agencies and the southern border county Local Enterprise Offices to work on various cross border initiatives.

3.3 Peace-Plus Programme funding bid in Partnership with Intertrade Ireland, Enterprise NI and the RoI Local Enterprise Offices

During the year NMEA began work with InterTradeIreland, Enterprise NI and the border county Local Enterprise Offices on a bid for €22m of EU PeacePlus funding for a new six year cross border business innovation programme. Kieran Mathers was appointed by the enterprise agency/office partners to coordinate that effort on a part-time basis, agreeing to come out of retirement to do so.

3.4 WIN CONSULTANTS (EU)

www.winconsultants.ie

Our WIN (EU) division was set up to enable the Co-op & Enterprise Agency's expert team to continue to tender for EU Programme contracts, participate in EU knowledge exchange programmes and to work with partners in the Republic and across the EU after Brexit. The company is registered in the Irish Republic and headquartered at the Creative Spark Centre for Creativity and Innovation in Dundalk.

Through WIN (EU) our intentions are to:

- 1) Secure an income which the Co-operative can then invest in projects which support economic development and social harmony in Newry & Mourne, and
- 2) Be able to operate more effectively beyond Newry & Mourne, in the Republic of Ireland, the EU and other international markets.

As well as deploying the skills of the Co-operative's team, WIN Consultants can use the skills of a wider network of associates involved in community and business development across the island of Ireland and the European Union.

During the year the Louth County Council Local Enterprise Office and the Meath County Council Local Enterprise Office appointed WIN (EU) to be the Republic of Ireland delivery agent for the cross border Newry Mourne & Down/Louth/Meath InnovateAccelerateEurope programme.

3.5 InnovateAccelerateEurope Programme

InnovateAccelerateEurope is a cross border programme (Newry Mourne & Down/Louth/Meath) designed by NMEA and WIN (EU) the purpose of which is to prepare local companies who haven't before traded outside the island of Ireland for the complexities and opportunities associated with trading into Europe. Ultimately our hope is that these companies will be able to internationalise successfully, create more jobs, generate higher profits and survive the challenges presented by Brexit.

In April 2021 funding was again secured from Newry Mourne & Down Council, Louth County Council and Meath County Council to enable us to continue delivering InnovateAccelerate Europe Programme support to local companies in 2021 and 2022.

Between September and December 2021 with the help of a team of mentors 21 company owner/managers drew up a set of internationalisation objectives.

Four online training sessions also took place during Quarter 4 2021. Slackpress Productions Limited produced 21 promotional videos, one for each of our 21 client businesses. This was delivered as part of an intense work schedule during November and December 2021.

The international business to business collaboration element of the programme got underway in November and December 2021. A panel of EU-based agents helped client companies to target key EU markets (The Vision Works in Germany, MindShare in France, LimEU in Italy and INDA Iniciativas Spain). This culminated in two Virtual B2B Meet events in February and March 2022 when our 21 client companies were brought together virtually to engage in direct one-to-one dialogues about business collaboration opportunities with food and drink companies based in Germany, France, Italy and Spain. Each of our 21 local businesses was allocated its own virtual meeting room where it was able to host meetings with the "visiting" companies from Germany, France, Italy and Spain. Each local business had at least two one-to-one meetings with potential business collaborators based in one of the four key continental European markets targeted by the Programme. The primary purpose of those meetings was to give participants the experience of pitching, listening and sharing ideas with an owner manager in the same sector operating in a different country.

innovate
Accelerate
Europe

Section 3

CROSS BORDER AND TRADE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES AND TRANSNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

2021-22 NMEA ACTIVITY REPORT

The 21 companies from the region who participated in the Programme during 2021/22 were:

Bolster Community	Newry & Mourne
Green Cube	Newry & Mourne
Made In Mourne	Newry & Mourne
Eco Depo	Newry & Mourne
White Rock Studio	Newry & Mourne
McGreevy Guitars	Down
Sleeper Coffee	Down
Soak Tech	Meath
Four Acre Foods	Meath
Mermaids & Dragons	Meath
Xpress Pantry	Meath
Cleo Prickett	Meath
Asta Fashions	Meath
ERA Service	Meath
Brubiotics	Meath
Aroma Buff	Louth
Seapark	Louth
Grills Spirits	Louth
Esker Fields	Louth
Project Engineering	Louth
Garrett Mallon Jewellery	Louth

Colin Hanna co-ordinated the delivery of the Programme in Newry, Mourne & Down, Louth and Meath.

3.6 EU GIG Economy Programme

In July 2019 a transnational partnership led by Meath County Council, of which our EU programme division, WIN (EU), was a part, secured funding from the EU Commission for 3 years to investigate the implications of the "Gig" or freelance economy for local economic development agencies in the European Union. Because of the pandemic the deadline for completion of the Programme was extended until September 2022.

To that end we gave a presentation on the implications of the Gig economy at a virtual cross border conference attended by the Taoiseach in March 2022 and earlier in the year we delivered a certified training programme on "how to be an effective freelancer" to a group of young people.

Our task was to produce a training programme to raise awareness of the "Gig Economy" and its implications and to establish an alliance to promote initiatives which would help local authorities, employers, workforce representatives, central government and others to adapt



Entering the Gig Economy (a European project in which WIN (EU) is playing a leading role)

their programmes and policies to mitigate the potentially negative effects of the Gig economy and to maximise its positive aspects. The Gig economy is a spectrum. On one end workers are poorly paid, have few rights and have no financial and therefore life security. Their lives are described as precarious. At the other end of the spectrum are freelancers who are self-employed by choice and command higher annual incomes than they would if they were full-time employees. For some businesses the importation of freelance expertise allows them to experiment and ultimately to innovate. There is evidence that this process is an engine for the creation of entirely new full-time jobs. As the delivery agent for the primary front-line central and local government-funded self-employment promotion initiative in the Newry & Mourne area, the Business Start Programme, these insights are helping us to ensure that our support continues to meet the needs of entrepreneurs. Our project partners are Meath County Council, a local authority from northern Spain, an agricultural co-operative from northern Spain, an FE College from the Netherlands, an enterprise agency from the Netherlands, a local authority from the Tuscany region in Italy and a workers co-operative and training organisation also from Tuscany.

In October 2021 the project partners met in Italy to take their first opportunity since the pandemic to work together face-to-face on the learning materials which they would ultimately disseminate to economic development practitioners free-of-charge EU-wide. Conor Patterson and Colin Hanna represented NMEA/WIN (EU).

3.7 EU Giggin Policy Programme

In 2021/2022 we also worked with a group of development agencies and higher/further education institutions from the Netherlands, Spain and Italy as well as Louth and Meath counties on another EU-funded project focused on bringing young people into the policy debate on the challenges and opportunities associated with the Gig Economy – **GIGGIN POLICY**.

Our focus was on gathering the latest knowledge about the gig economy from across the EU and sharing it widely, highlighting the implications for young people preparing to enter the world of work. We believe that young people should be able to help shape the changes that will affect their future prospects by sharing their experiences of the gig economy and involving them in the design of new policy instruments. We will test this departure from the status quo in a series of Policy Innovation Co-Design Labs, one of which will be in Newry.

During the year our WIN (EU) team created the website for the project as well as producing a series of e-zines to share information about the work of the projects.

Our partners were: Friesland College; Learning Hub Friesland; Friese Poort; The Municipality Of Leeuwarden; Meath County Council; Dundalk Institute Of Technology; Barcelona Chamber Of Commerce; EDUCEM (Catalonia); and KSPMC (Lithuania).



The Giggin Policy website
(www.gigginpolicy.com)
designed by the NMEA team

The Giggin Policy
project e-zines

Section 4

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



2021-22 WIN - Work In Newry

Work4UPlus trainees in the "youth haven" at WIN Business Park.

4. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

4.1 Big Lottery-funded WORK4UPLUS2 Programme

In 2021/2022 NMEA continued to deliver its transformative individualised support package for vulnerable young people in the Newry Mourne and Down and Armagh, Banbridge, Craigavon Council areas who had endured adversity from early childhood. In 2018 the Enterprise Agency secured £500k from the UK Big Lottery "Reaching Out and Empowering Young People" Fund to continue this Work4Uplus2 programme until 2023. This was the second allocation of funding by the Big Lottery to the Enterprise Agency for this important work bringing its total financial commitment to the Agency over 10 years to £1m, a measure of the value it placed on the work of the team at WIN.

The core aims of the Programme were to help improve young people's confidence and self-esteem, to develop their life skills and to help them to be "work ready". The Enterprise Agency was assisted in this effort by two "primary delivery partners", the Education Authority and Future Proof (previously REACT). The Work4Uplus2 Programme was managed by Pauline Coghlan supported by Ciara McKenna.

In April 2021 government 'lockdown' restrictions were eased allowing us to return to group and face-to-face meetings with the cohort of 25 vulnerable young people whom we had been supporting remotely since September 2020. They were able to finish their training in-person, graduating in June 2021 when their achievement was celebrated at a special graduation event in Formula Karting, Newry, where they were presented with their completed portfolios and special awards for attendance and volunteering.

In September 2021 we recruited a new group of 25 vulnerable young people onto the Programme. We sought for the first few months to maximise outdoor activity opportunities as a counter to the unprecedented lockdown restrictions which had so blighted their young lives over the previous two years. During this period the trainees created a series of wall murals at WIN depicting historical landmarks recalling Newry's mercantile past, including The Albert Basin, MacNeill's Egyptian Arch, Craigmore Viaduct, Newry Town Hall, The Old Newry Courthouse and tall ships sailing up the Newry Canal.

A group of fourteen young people who had previously participated in the programme signed up during the year as 'peer mentors' for a group of younger boys as part of a positive affirmation art project.

Dr Ken Harland attended a Work4Uplus2's Reference Group meeting in November 2021 to speak to our programme partners about his research work on 'Taking Boys Seriously' and his insights on masculine identities, male violence, the reasons why so many boys under-perform at school, adolescent development and youth work practice in conflict societies.

Because of lingering concerns about transmission of the Covid virus after consultation with our trainees, we agreed to run our biannual careers fair as an online event. 11 local businesses and "Work4U champions" filmed videos to share advice about what they would look for when recruiting a young person. We filmed a further 12 videos covering a range of topics relevant to young people trying to carve out a career (themes included "Staying in Education"; "Apprenticeships"; "Searching for Employment"; "Self-employment", and "The 20 top vacancies since Covid"). We subsequently shared our resources with schools.

Since the programme began in April 2018, 141 young people have together participated in 733 one-to-one support meetings to develop mind maps, set goals, draw up CV's and personal statements and secure work placements, attended 810 group training sessions and participated in 118 remote training sessions covering a wide range of topics."

Practical hands-on training was provided both in the young people's "haven" at WIN and in the Retail Training Unit also at WIN. During 2021/22 50 vulnerable young people completed training on communication and customer service skills and how to use an EPOS system (cash register with a card payment terminal). In addition, 67 trainees completed a furniture upholstery course and 41 completed a silver service training programme which incorporated the hosting of 2 inter-generational four course meals for groups of older people from within the local community.

The Work4Uplus2 Programme's impact is measured as a mix of so called hard and soft "outcomes". For those who completed the 2021/22 programme, the hard outcomes were:

- 105 obtained an Emergency First Aid Certificate
- 34 achieved a Level 2 in Food Hygiene
- 47 achieved a Level 1 in ICT
- 94 obtained certificates for the 'Hour Of Code', an introduction to computer science
- 25 achieved Blue or Bronze Award certificates in Velotech Cycle Maintenance
- 61 achieved certificates for a B-Positive Mental Health awareness course
- 50 achieved a Retail Training Certificate
- 44 obtained a Silver Service Training Certificate

'Softer outcomes' are considered harder to measure, but using the "Rickter Scale" technique to uncover how the young people on the Programme felt and how their attitudes had changed as a result of their participation in the programme we found that a high proportion of students reported that their overall confidence had increased, that they were less easily influenced by others, their drug and alcohol consumption had reduced and they were less stressed. They said that they were better able to deal with differences and see others' points of view and that this had resulted in improved relationships, health and well-being and a more positive outlook regarding employment training or education options.



Work4UPlus trainees in the Retail Training unit at WIN Business Park.

Section 4

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

2021-22 NMEA ACTIVITY REPORT

4.2 Newry Neighbourhood Renewal – EDUCATION TO EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME (E2E)

With continued financial support from the Department For Communities' Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Programme in 2021/2022, the Agency delivered the Education2Employment programme virtually until we were able to return to face-to-face activities. The aims of the Programme were to introduce young people from the Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Area (i.e. half of the urban area of Newry which is designated as falling within the most economically disadvantaged 10% of small areas in Northern Ireland) to the workings of the modern economy and the world of work and to provide them with guidance on the career and personal development pathways available to them. The Programme had four distinctive elements: class study visits, work placements, mentoring provided by local 'business champions', and career guidance events. It targeted secondary school pupils aged 11-18 years living in the Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Area and Primary 7 pupils attending the 5 primary schools which service the Neighbourhood Renewal Area.

4.3 Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership

Throughout the year the Co-operative and Enterprise Agency was represented on the Department For Communities Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership and hosted the Partnership's meetings in the Thinklab at WIN. The members of the Partnership during the year were: The Department For Communities, Newry Mourne and Down Council, Newry & Mourne Enterprise Agency, the Confederation of Community Groups, and Southern Regional College. The Southern Health & Social Services Trust, The Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Drumalane & Quayside Close Community Association, Ballybot Community Association, and Barcroft Community Association. Martin's Lane Community Association, Carnagat Community Association, Derrybeg Community Association, Meadow and Armagh Road Association, the Greater Linenhall Community Association, the Three Ways Community Association (High Street). The Partnership has invested £15m in the Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Area since it was established in 2005. During that time it has funded three significant modernisation projects at WIN Business Park, including the fitting out of the WIN Conference Centre and the development of the ThinkLab Innovation Centre.



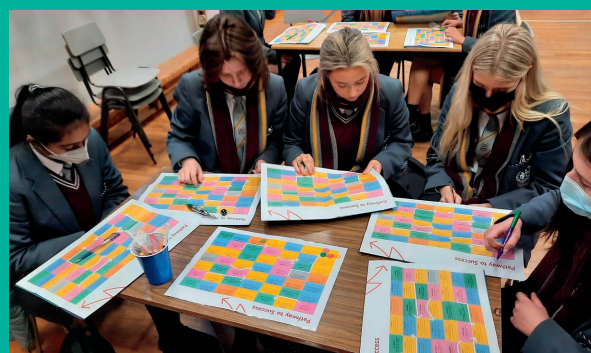
The Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership met 8 times during the year online or when it was possible in-person in the WIN ThinkLab.



Filming online content for broadcast to schools, WIN ThinkLab.



An Education2Employment Computer Coding Camp at Whitegates Community Centre, Newry.



Education2Employment Study Skills session at Newry High School.

Section 4

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

2021-22 WIN - Work In Newry

4.4 Community Planning

During 2021/2022, Newry & Mourne Co-operative and Enterprise Agency continued to participate as a "key stakeholder" in community planning meetings convened by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to promote the well-being of the District and to make more efficient use of scarce resources.

The Enterprise Agency was represented by Stephen McClelland on the Economic Development, Regeneration and Tourism thematic group and the Community and Voluntary Sector Stakeholder Group and by Colin Hanna on the Newry DEA. In 2021 their deliberations focused on measures to mitigate the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on the citizens of the area and in 2022 how organisations could better collaborate to help those most affected by the cost-of-living crisis.

4.5 The Newry Mourne Down Faith-Based and Church Programme (GLUE)

The purpose of this initiative was to improve relations between law enforcement agencies north and south of the border and various faith and political communities and to build as much cross community consensus as possible and improve inter-community relations. It was funded through the 'Faith-Based and Church Programme' managed by the Newry Mourne and Down District Council Peace IV EU programmes team.

During 2021/22 NMEA in partnership with the former CEO of the NI Medication Network and former Victims Commissioner, Brendan McAllister, the former CEO of the Community Relations Council and current Professor of History at Ulster University, Dr Duncan Morrow and the former Deputy Leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, Danny Kennedy, convened a series of zoom and in-person meetings to bring together a cross community GLUE group (Growing Leadership which can Unite Everyone) to discuss issues of concern, as part of a revised programme which was agreed with the Special EU Programmes Body. The GLUE group drew its membership from Newry, South Armagh and County Louth.

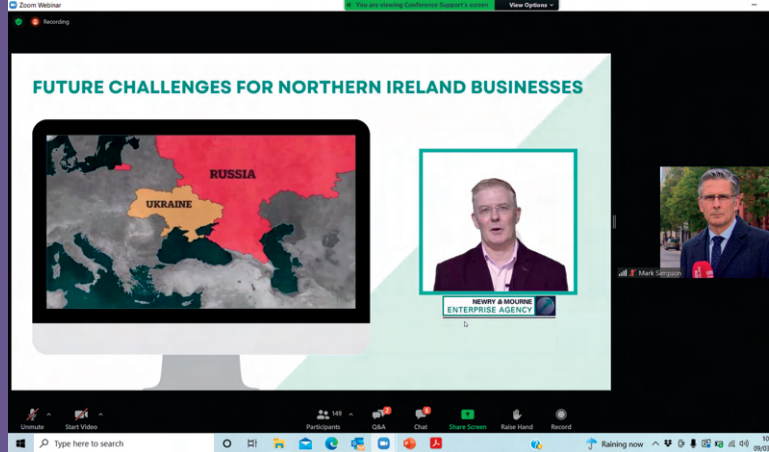
At the final meeting of the group in September 2021, Brendan McAllister gave a presentation on his work with the UN in Afghanistan and led a conversation on how to encourage greater reconciliation between nationalist and unionist communities in Northern Ireland.

4.6 Compass Points inter-cultural dialogue group

Conor Patterson was an active participant during the year in the Compass Points initiative. It brought together key influencers and representatives from across the island of Ireland with the aim of building relationships and providing a space for comprehensive engagement on issues outstanding from the conflict and currently causing concern and division. During the year the group met five times. The format of the meetings generally involved a presentation on an agreed topic, followed by a facilitated plenary discussion and time for the participant to mix and have their own conversations. In addition, specialist sub-groups met separately during the year and reported back to the main group.

4.7 Other Community Support Initiatives

- The Co-operative sponsored a prize at St Joseph's High School's annual achievement recognition event.
- The Co-operative sponsored an annual prize for business planning on the Business Studies course at Southern Regional College.
- The Newry City Runners Charity Race was hosted at WIN.
- The International Young Economist All-Ireland Team used the ThinkLab to present its research in a livestream to a team of international judges.



Virtual Cross-border conference, March 2022.



The Daisy Hill Future Group Development Prospects.



Liam Quinn welcomes NIO Minister, Conor Burns MP to Enterprise House.

Throughout 2021/2022 the Co-operative worked closely with its host community in Mourneview, Murphy Crescent and Canal Street in Newry.

4.8 Financial support to good causes

During the year the Co-operative made contributions to the following:

- Breast Cancer Now
- Head Injury Support
- Barcroft Community Association
- NCo&T (Charity Lunch)
- NI Children with Cancer
- PIPS
- KBRT (Liam Quinn Camino)
- Killeavy Camogie GAC
- Ballyholland Camogie GAC

Section 5

INFLUENCING POLICY AND PROMOTING THE REGION

2021-22 NMEA ACTIVITY REPORT

5. INFLUENCING POLICY AND PROMOTING THE REGION

During the year Newry & Mourne Co-operative and Enterprise Agency lobbied those with the power to address economic and social development issues affecting Newry & Mourne and the wider east border region.

5.1 Directorships

Chairman, **Peter McEvoy** represented the Enterprise Agency on the Enterprise Northern Ireland Council.

Dr Conor Patterson, Chief Executive, sat on the Board of Enterprise Northern Ireland and served as a co-operative representative on the Enterprise Northern Ireland Council. He continued during the year to serve as a member of the Maze Long Kesh Development Corporation and as a board member of Intertrade Ireland. He also during the year served as the secretary of Oriel Developments Ltd, the secretary of Binnian Developments Ltd, a member of the Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership, a trustee of the Murphy Trust, a director of Newry Chamber of Commerce and Trade, a board member of the Creative Spark Incubation Centre and its "Fab Lab" division in Dundalk, a member of the Greater Newry Vision Partnership and a co-opted advisor to the board of the Confederation of Community Groups in Newry. **John MacMahon** served as a Director of Oriel Developments Ltd and a Director of Binnian Developments Ltd. **Gordon Coulter (M.B.E.)**, as well as being a Director of Kilkeel Development Association, served as a Director of Binnian Developments Ltd. **Claire McCullough** served as a Director of Binnian Developments Ltd. **Kevin Starrs** served as a Director of Oriel Developments Ltd. **Ronan Dennedy**, Manager of the Louth County Enterprise Fund, served as a Board member of Oriel Developments Ltd. During the year **Liam Quinn** retired from his role as Chairman of the Board of Governors of St Colman's College after 23 years of service as a governor and then chair. **Jennifer Malone** sat on the Prince's Youth Business Trust Southern Region Steering Committee.

5.2 Brexit

During 2021/2022 Conor Patterson held meetings with political stakeholders in N. Ireland, the Irish Republic, Britain and the EU as well as giving press interviews to highlight the challenges which Brexit posed for the Newry border region.

The highlights were:

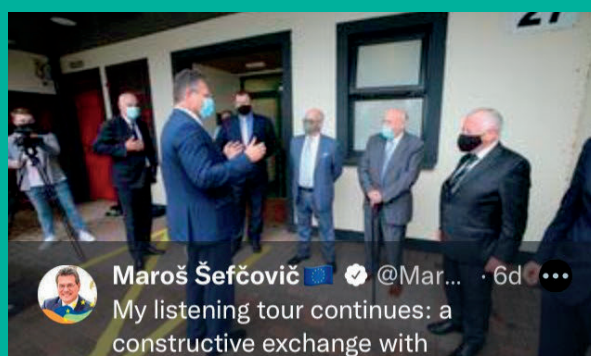
- Meeting Irish Government advisor, Jim D'Arcy
- Meeting Greek Foreign Minister, Georgios Katrougalos, at WIN
- Visit to Flurrybridge by Sinn Féin President, MaryLou McDonald
- Visit to Flurrybridge by European Commission Vice-President and the EU's Chief Brexit negotiator, Maroš Šefčovič followed by a visit to WIN Business Park where he held a meeting with representatives from N. Ireland's leading business and farming organisations including the CBI, the UFU, Manufacturing NI and Retail NI.
- Visit to WIN Business Park by Lord David Frost, the UK's then Chief Brexit negotiator.
- Visit to WIN by UK Government Minister, Conor Burns MP
- Visit to WIN by the Swedish Ambassador to the UK, Mikhaela Kumlin Granit.
- Visit to WIN by the Swiss Ambassador to the UK and a group of Swiss parliamentarians
- Visit to WIN by Dame Collette Bowe, member of the Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee
- Visit to WIN by the UK Government's Small Business Minister, Paul Scully MP



Maroš Šefčovič meets John McMahon and Conor Patterson at Flurrybridge, September 2021.



Conor Patterson meets the Swedish Ambassador at WIN Business Park.



Maroš Šefčovič meets the Enterprise Agency Board at WIN Business Park.
(Picture: Frank O'Connor, Peter McEvoy, Gordon Coulter MBE and Michael Hughes)



Chief UK Brexit negotiator, Lord David Frost, meets with Conor Patterson and Julie Gibbons, Newry Chamber of Commerce President and Colm Shannon, Newry Chamber CEO at the WIN ThinkLab, June 2021.

Interviews with:

- German Press Agency, DPA
- The Financial Times
- Stern Magazine (Germany)
- Augsburg Allgemeine (Germany)
- Frankfurter Rundschau (Germany)
- RedaktionsNetzwerk Deutschland

Section 5

INFLUENCING POLICY AND PROMOTING THE REGION

NEWRY CITY CENTRE RE:GENERATION

Newry is the district's city, a strategic gateway between Belfast & Dublin. It is a key investment location that can stimulate economic growth and provide new and better employment opportunities for the whole district.

The Newry City Centre Regeneration programme aims to create an active city centre, diversifying its offer to attract visitors to an all-day economy, increasing the city's performance and resilience.

PROJECTS



£12m Theatre/Conference & Digital Innovation Hub
will enhance the cultural, digital production and business conferencing offer of the city



Civic & Regional Hub of £9m
will create conditions for modern ways of working and service delivery for Council and other public sector partners



£5m Public Realm
will create linkages, places and focal points around the city's heritage for people to socialise and animate



Office Accommodation Fund of £3m
will help realisation of additional high quality office accommodation to support business growth and job creation



A budget Hotel
will serve the increasing visitor market, anticipated as privately funded in response to the funded programme elements



Albert Basin Park
will create a new 15-Acre park at the heart of the city's maritime past for leisure, exercise and play

2021-22 WIN - Work In Newry

5.3 The Daisy Hill Future Group

The Daisy Hill Hospital Future Group was formed in February 2022 in response to widespread public concern about the future of Daisy Hill Hospital following the announcement by the Southern Health and Social Care Trust that it was suspending emergency surgery at Daisy Hill. The group met throughout 2022 in the Thinklab at WIN under the chairmanship of Conor Patterson. It has lobbied politicians, civil servants and clinicians north and south of the border promoting an ambitious development prospectus for Daisy Hill. This vital work is ongoing.

5.4 Partnership with Down Business Centre

NMEA delivers all its Newry Mourne and Down district-wide initiatives in partnership with Down Business Centre under the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the organisations in 2010.

5.5 Newry Chamber of Commerce & Trade

The Agency played a significant role in supporting the work of Newry Chamber of Commerce during 2021/2022. Conor Patterson is a director of Newry Chamber of Commerce & Trade.

5.6 The Greater Newry Vision

During 2021/2022 the Enterprise Agency continued to promote the development of Newry City and its hinterland under the auspices of the **Greater Newry Vision Partnership**, alongside representatives of the Newry Chamber of Commerce and Trade, Newry Mourne and Down District Council, Southern Regional College, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Warrenpoint Harbour Authority, the Southern Health and Social Care Trust, the Department For Communities, the Department of Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs and Invest Northern Ireland. The Partnership met fortnightly during the height of the Covid-19 crisis to share information and to co-ordinate support for citizens. Transformative projects championed by the partnership which are expected to progress in 2024 are: a Newry City Park at the Albert Basin, a civic administration Centre and a theatre and arts centre both in Newry city centre.

5.7 The Newry Mourne Down Louth MOU Advisory Forum

In 2021/2022 Conor Patterson represented the Enterprise Agency on the stakeholder Advisory Forum set up by Newry Mourne and Down Council and Louth County Council to help them maximise the impact of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which commits the Councils to work collaboratively in the fields of business support, tourism, the environment and emergency planning.



A transformation of Newry City Centre is planned.

5.8 The Labour and Education Forum

In March 2022 Conor Patterson was elected as Chair of the Newry Mourne and Down Labour Market Partnership by its members (i.e. employers, educationalists, and economic development practitioners from across the District).

6. ENTERPRISE NORTHERN IRELAND (ENI)

The Agency was one of the founders of Enterprise Northern Ireland which represents the interests of Northern Ireland's 29 Local Enterprise Agencies, contributes to policy making and develops and implements Northern Ireland-wide business development programmes. During the year Conor Patterson represented the Newry Mourne and Down District on the Board of Enterprise Northern Ireland.

As well as representing Enterprise Agencies and the interests of their client base in discussions with government and others, Enterprise Northern Ireland co-ordinates the delivery of a portfolio of programmes through all of its Local Enterprise Agency members across Northern Ireland. Collectively Enterprise Northern Ireland members have 220 staff, are assisted by 335 voluntary directors, have 2.5m square feet of workspace under their management, and have 5,000 active client companies. The network operates from 40 business parks and enterprise centres across Northern Ireland.

7. CONFERENCING AND OFFICE SERVICES

Our Conferencing and Office Services, which include conference room hire and servicing, a postal service, word processing, photocopying and colour printing are available to businesses, community organisations, statutory bodies, voluntary organisations and individuals.

8. QUALITY ACCREDITATION

The Enterprise Agency has been registered as an ISO 9001 (BS5750) quality assured body since June 1989. During the year the Agency had its internationally recognised accreditation renewed by the UK National Quality Assurance (NQA) organisation following an in-depth audit of its systems.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & ENTERPRISE AGENCY STAFF 2020-21



2021-22 WIN - Work In Newry

9. NEWRY & MOURNE CO-OPERATIVE - BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Chairman
Peter McEvoy



Vice-Chairman
Kevin Starrs



Secretary
Michael Hughes



Director
John MacMahon



Director
**Gordon Coulter
M.B.E.**



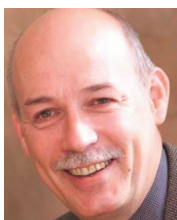
Director
Frank O'Connor



Director
Claire McCullough



Director
Kevin Magill



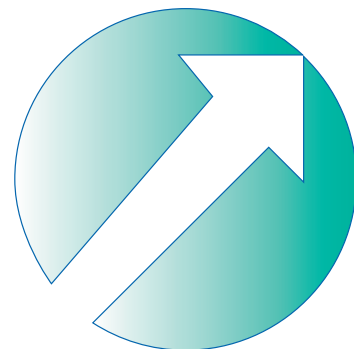
Director
Ronan Dennedy



Director
Davy Hyland



Director
Brendan Jackson



10. NEWRY & MOURNE ENTERPRISE AGENCY - STAFF 2021-22



**Dr Conor
Patterson**
Chief Executive



Liam Quinn
Financial
Controller



Kieran Mathers
Innovation
Programme Manager
(Retired June 2022)



Jennifer Malone
Business
Development
Executive (Property)



Colin Hanna
Information,
Research &
Computer
Technology
Co-ordinator



**Stephen
McClelland**
Social Economy
Advisor



Pauline Coghlan
Work4UPlus
Programme
Manager



Maeve McParland
Education to
Employment
Programme
Manager



Michelle Frost
Receptionist



Ciara McKenna
Work4U
Programme
Administrator



Maria Coyle
Finance Officer



Carol Magee
Administrator



Rory Carroll
Digital Content
Producer

2021-22 ACTIVITY REPORT



WIN - Work in Newry & Mourne

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