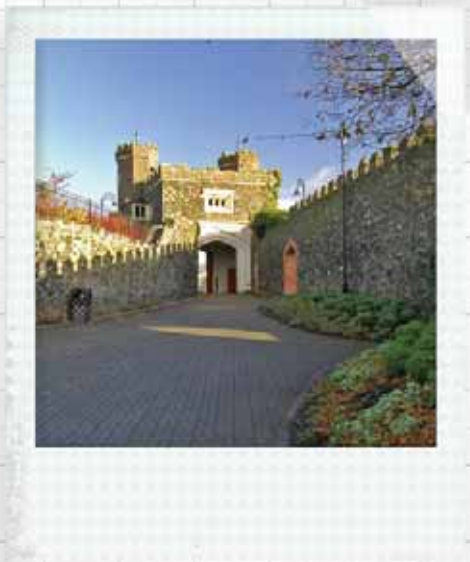


Antrim town



Barbican Gate

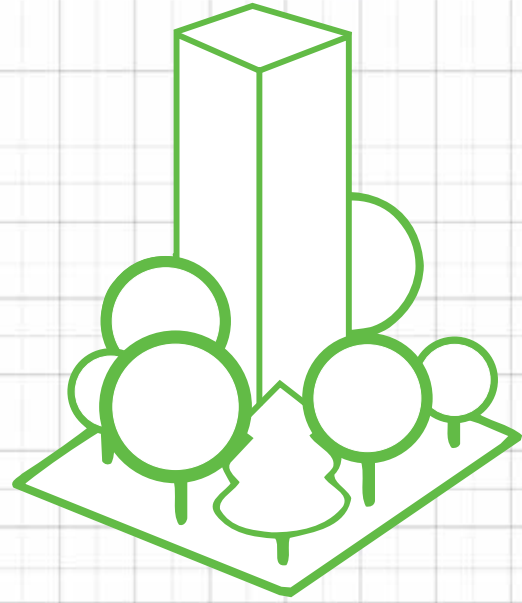


European Union
Structural Funds

Please address any comments or enquiries to:

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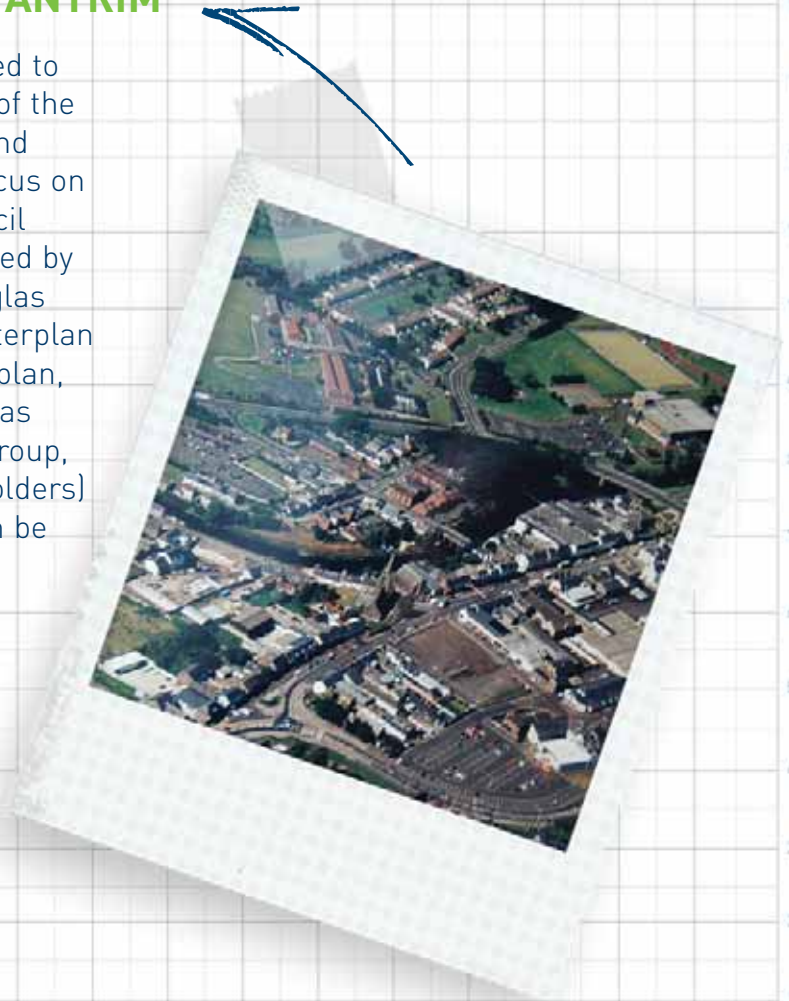
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ANTRIM TOWN MASTERPLAN SUMMARY

A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR ANTRIM

Antrim Borough Council is committed to the development and enhancement of the towns and villages in the Borough and recognises the particular need to focus on Antrim town. For this reason, Council commissioned a professional team led by Willie Miller Urban Design and Douglas Wheeler Associates to create a Masterplan for Antrim town centre. The Masterplan, completed at the end of May 2005, has been summarised by the Steering Group, (representing a range of key stakeholders) so that residents of the Borough can be kept informed of what is involved.



Antrim Aerial View

WHAT IS THE ANTRIM TOWN MASTERPLAN?

The Antrim Town Masterplan is a document that gives:

- a view of Antrim town as it is now
- a vision for how we would like it to be
- a plan for how we go about making the changes that are needed

In other words, it looks at what is good about the town and what else it needs to make it a great town centre that residents will be proud of and visitors want to come to.

WHO IS INVOLVED?

Council has been very keen to work with its local partners and with local people. As part of the consultations process, a total of four workshops were held in the town centre which were designed to give local people a chance to have their say as well as the traders and government bodies who provide services in the town. Street surveys were also undertaken and a special workshop for young people was held in the Spring.

These activities have directly shaped the vision for Antrim town: the programmes and projects that have emerged will help us to achieve our common vision which is...

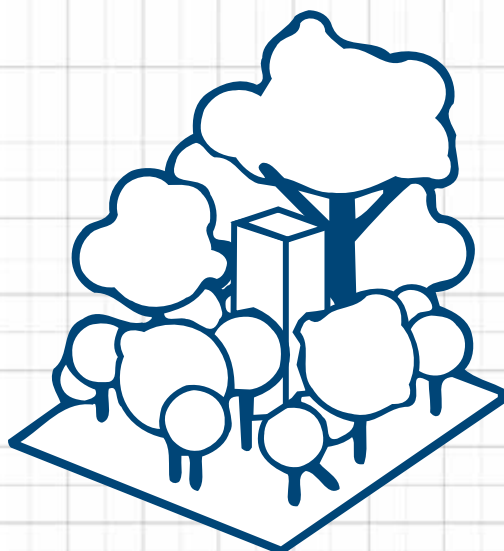
Group Meetings



‘a strong, well-designed and safe town which can respond positively to new social, economic and market changes. The town centre will be the heart of the community containing a diverse mix of retail, business, residential, learning, culture and leisure facilities. Together with Junction One, Antrim town will be able to develop and grow by providing a wide and enhanced retail offer made up of independents, multiples as well as international outlets. Key improvements in the streetscape and landscape will include a refurbished Court House and restored Castle Gardens as distinctive cultural and heritage attractions for both residents and visitors. Antrim will become the natural gateway to Lough Neagh and the network of inland waterways.’

The outcome of the consultation sessions was general agreement on a total of eight key challenges facing the Steering Group:

- to **invest in retail and residential activity**
- to **restructure and redevelop the town centre** using clear urban design principles
- to make the town more **pedestrian friendly and improve traffic circulation** and access
- to invest in **environmental improvements** that will transform the appearance on the town
- to deliver the Masterplan as part of a targeted and **integrated regeneration strategy**
- to **promote the town** more effectively using the Antrim brand
- to use the **arts and cultural heritage** of Antrim to help drive regeneration
- to use **learning and enterprise** to ensure that Antrim becomes a much more competitive place to live and work



HOW WILL WE DO IT?

The Masterplan sets out an exciting basis for the regeneration and future development of Antrim town. It contains thirty-one actions focusing on the reconfiguration of the Castle centre, Market Square, Ulster Bar Corner and other derelict or vacant sites throughout the town centre, improvements to the quality and variety of the shops, improvements to the streets, open spaces, traffic management, transport and also suggestions for better parking and pedestrian access. The range of other projects include proposals to bring back an 'evening economy' to the town centre, ideas for using the river as a natural townscape feature, introducing landmark lighting and raising the profile of Antrim in ways not previously tried.

No one organisation can make all of this happen, nor can all the government agencies of Council working alone. The way forward is for Council, the private sector, local traders, local people and government agencies to join together to achieve the goal of a well-designed and safe town, a town centre that is at the heart of the community. Council and its local partners on the Masterplan Steering Group are firmly committed to finding means to making the vision a reality.

The Council now seeks the views of residents, local businesses, public and private sector partners on the Masterplan. The full document is available through the Council's website (www.antrim.gov.uk), alternatively, please contact us for a hard copy.

Six Mile Water River Walk



Bridge Street