



# Context

March 2022

MAG publish **Living High Streets Craft Kit**

March 2022

**High Streets Task Force NI**, publish “Delivering a 21st Century High Street” Report with their 14 recommendations

November 2022

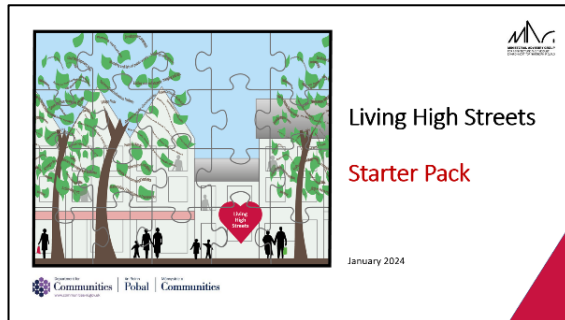
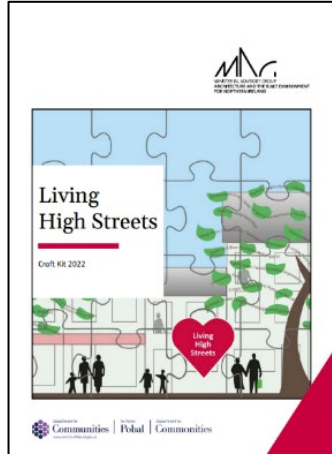
DfC announce **Downpatrick Pilot**

September 2023

Downpatrick Regeneration Working Group **launch their Living High Streets Framework**

February 2024

MAG launch **Living High Streets Starter Pack, Benefits Pamphlet and Next Steps**



# Approach to Living High Streets



Community-led approach to placemaking, empowers local communities to:

- understand their collective needs
- identify uniqueness of their place
- reimagine their high streets
- translate ideas into practical actions
- co-design their Living High Streets Framework

Aims to enable places to become sustainable and thriving - socially, environmentally and economically

# Place Change Model

Six themes and twenty-one questions to guide conversations at Workshops

**Theme 1 People:** growing your skills and resources

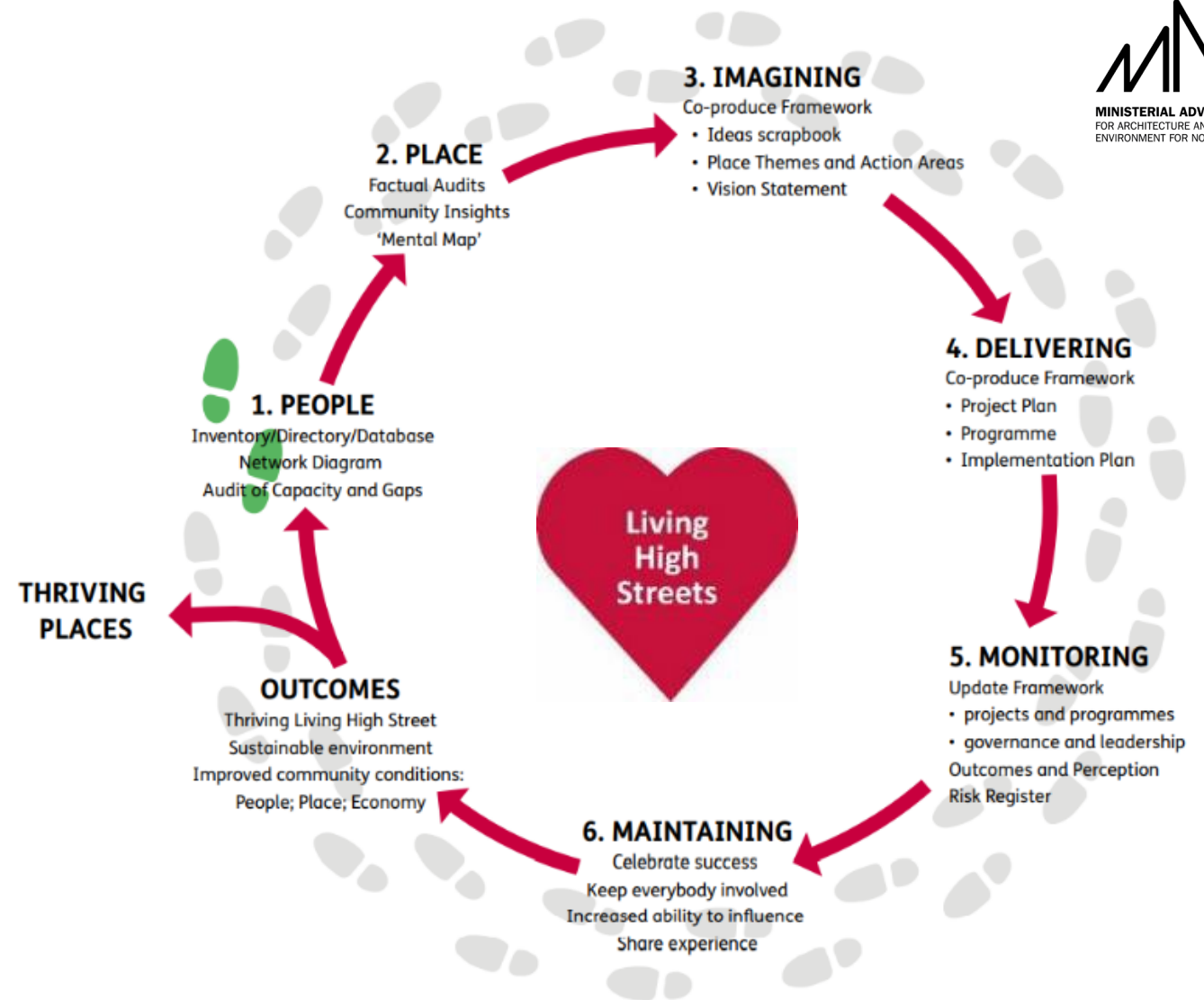
**Theme 2 Place:** knowing your high street

**Theme 3 Imagining:** what your high street could be

**Theme 4 Delivering:** how to focus and prioritise

**Theme 5 Monitoring:** confirming progress

**Theme 6 Maintaining:** loving your place



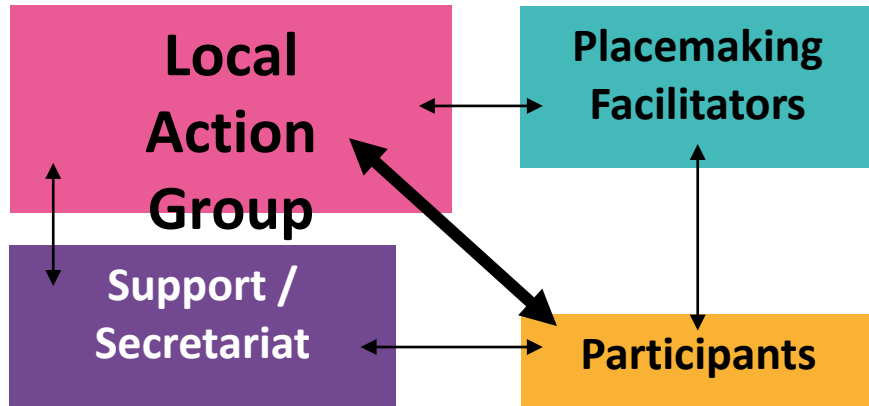
# Maximise Participation

Not a Design Guide or Consultation Exercise,  
it is **meaningful participation** which will  
increase everybody's skills and experience to  
play their role in their place!

**Councils**  
**Residents**  
**Statutory bodies**  
**Older generations**  
**Councillors and MLAs**  
**Children and young people**  
**Town centre / BID managers**  
**3rd sector voluntary groups**  
**Businesses and services**  
**- owners, operators and investors**  
**Local Chamber of Commerce and Industry**  
**Service providers - housing, health, education etc.**  
**Social enterprises and circular economies**  
**Community representatives**  
**Department for Communities**  
**Heritage - Council Heritage Officer,**  
Historic Environment Division,  
Historic Buildings  
Council, Ulster Architectural Heritage, Local Groups  
**Northern Ireland Housing Executive**  
**Department for Infrastructure**



# Essential Components



**Local communities know their high streets best,** requires significant local commitment

**Local Action Group owns the Process** and bring enthusiasm, skills, local knowledge and strong networks

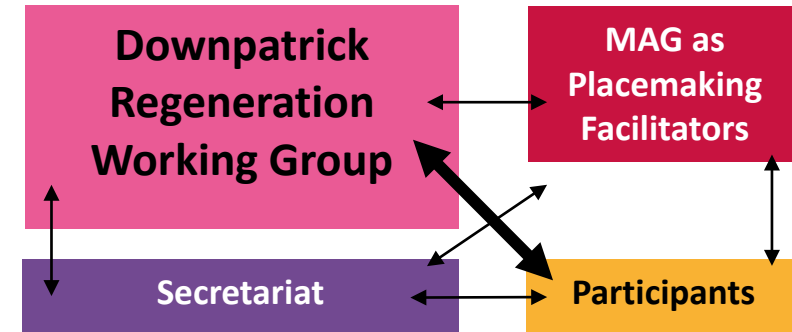
**May need Support / Secretariat**

**Maximise Participation** with wide community participation and a diversity of voices and all ages

**Placemaking Facilitator** with mentoring skills to guide the process and conversations

# Downpatrick Regeneration Working Group

Launched Downpatrick Living High Streets Initiative - 21<sup>st</sup> November 2022



In collaboration with: Department for Communities; and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

MAG provided guidance and advice through the process as expert placemaking facilitators, on behalf of DfC



**Theme One**  
People: growing your skills and resources



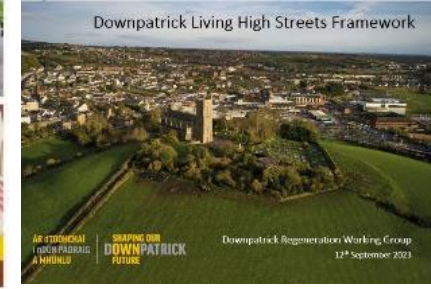
**Theme Two**  
Place: knowing your high street



**Theme Three**  
Imagining: what your high street could become



**Theme Four**  
Delivering: how to focus & prioritise



**Workshop 1:**  
Introduce Living High Streets Initiative and share your skills

13<sup>th</sup> December

**Workshop 2:**  
Knowing your high street

17<sup>th</sup> January

**Workshop 3:**  
Imagining what makes a good place?

7<sup>th</sup> February

**Workshop 4:**  
Imagining what could we do in Downpatrick?

21<sup>st</sup> February

**Workshop 5:**  
Co-design your Framework: prioritising what to do when?

23<sup>rd</sup> March

**Launch**  
**Downpatrick Living High Streets Framework**

12<sup>th</sup> September

DRWG Working Session

DRWG Working Session

DRWG Working Session

DRWG Working Session

DRWG Working Session

DRWG Working Session

DRWG Working Session

DRWG Working Session

Public event

Engaging Young People

Public Digital Engagement Platform



# Downpatrick Living High Streets Framework



ÁR dTODHCHAI  
i nDÚN PÁDRAIG  
A MHÚNLÚ

SHAPING OUR  
**DOWNPATRICK**  
FUTURE

Download from NMDDC website  
[downpatrick living high streets  
framework - 12 sept 2023.pdf](https://www.newrymouredown.org/download-downpatrick-living-high-streets-framework-12-sept-2023.pdf)  
([newrymouredown.org](https://www.newrymouredown.org))

## 1 Introduction

Purpose; Context; Plans, Policies & Strategies; Facts about Downpatrick;  
Community Insights; Process to Co-Design the Framework

## 2 Vision

Downpatrick, at the Heart of the Story of Ireland!  
Objectives

## 3 Action Plan

The Strategies

- A: Communications & Marketing
- B: Making the Most of Existing Assets
- C: Activating & Connecting Streets & Spaces
- D: Image - Tackling Vacancy, Frontages & Gateways
- E: Community Needs & Wants

The Projects

## 4 Next Steps

Maintaining Momentum  
Governance Matters  
Funding Opportunities

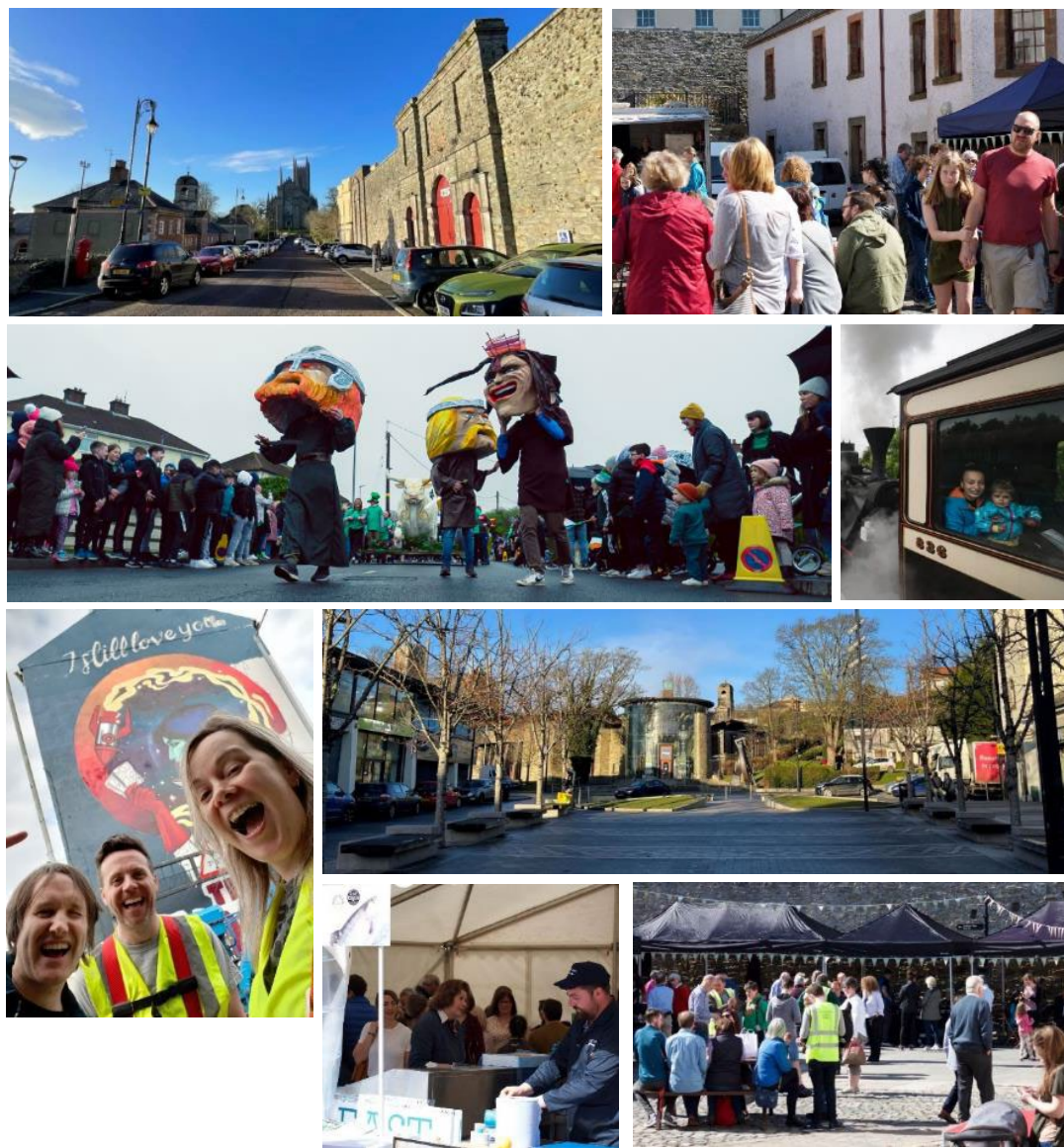
Appendices

# Vision

Downpatrick doesn't only have a past; it has a bright and vibrant future. It continues to be a centre of learning with its renowned secondary schools and further education colleges. It is a place where families can thrive, close to the sea, with beautiful rolling countryside on the doorstep.

There are activities for all to enjoy from golf, to sailing, through field sports of every kind, to horse racing. It is a town to be discovered with heritage on every street, and a town full of ambition. It is a town determined to be pedestrian friendly, where people can linger and soak up the hospitality of the locals and be amazed by the skills and talents of the growing artistic community. It is a place focused on having fun and giving joy. A welcoming place. A place which aims to thrive. A place which wants to be great, as it always was.

A place, of which, we can all be proud!



ÁR dTODHCHAÍ  
i nDÚN PÁDRAIG  
Á MHÚNLŪ

SHAPING OUR  
DOWNPATRICK  
FUTURE

# Benefits



**Benefits of Using the Living High Streets Craft Kit**

This participatory approach brings people together to consider their local high streets, tackle common issues and enable places and communities to thrive.

**It focuses on:**

- Building an understanding of collective needs in a place
- Identifying and valuing the uniqueness of a place
- Imagining the future
- Translating ideas into actions
- Co-designing a Living High Streets Framework

The diagram illustrates a cyclical process for creating 'Living High Streets'. At the center is a red heart labeled 'Living High Streets'. Surrounding it are six numbered steps: 1. PEOPLE, 2. PLACE, 3. IMAGINING, 4. DELIVERING, 5. MONITORING, and 6. MAINTAINING. Each step includes specific actions and goals. The process is supported by 'THRIVING PLACES' and 'OUTCOMES'.

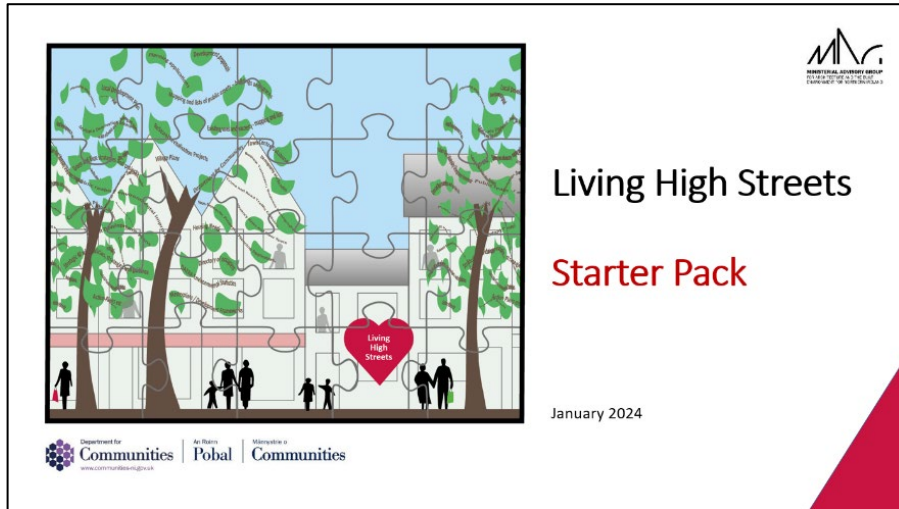
## Co-designed Framework

- Reflects uniqueness of place and its community
- Clear actionable steps
- Co-designed Actions means buy-in
- Place-based Business Plan rather than a Masterplan

## Group grows through process

- They own next steps to make their place thrive
- Increase skills and experience to reduce reliance on consultants, and local or central government to lead the delivery of change
- Increase confidence of Group and wider community to have a voice and influence positive change
- Increase pride in place and its people with community becoming skilled stewards

# Purpose of Starter Pack



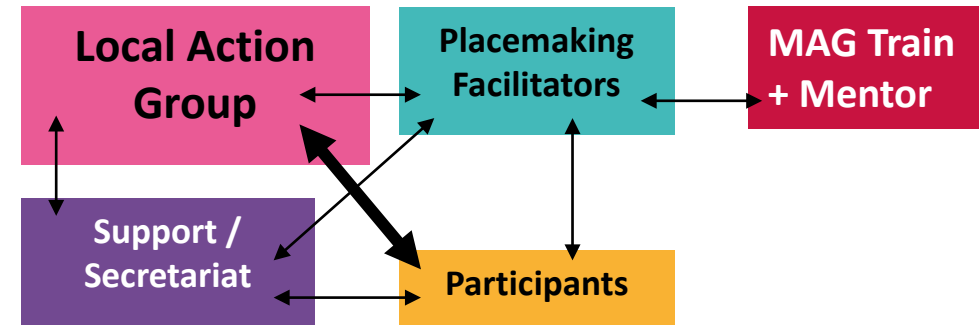
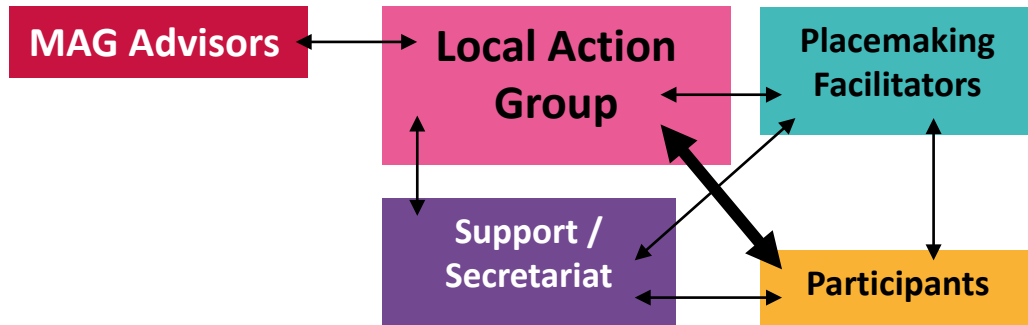
- To assist others using the Living High Streets Craft Kit
- For Placemaking Facilitators and | Useful for Local Action Groups
- Includes additional guidance, presentation slides and guidance notes for use in workshop

1	Getting Started	3-11
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6	.....	
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# Next Steps for MAG

- From March** Train Placemaking Facilitators (DfC, Councils, NIHE, Community leaders, Practitioners etc.)
- Assess Requests for Support** to Use the Craft Kit
- Act as Mentors and Advisors** for Placemaking Facilitators and / or Local Action Groups, subject to budgets and capacity



Thank You

Invite Questions & Answers

