

One Council. One Trusted View. Best in Class Decisions.

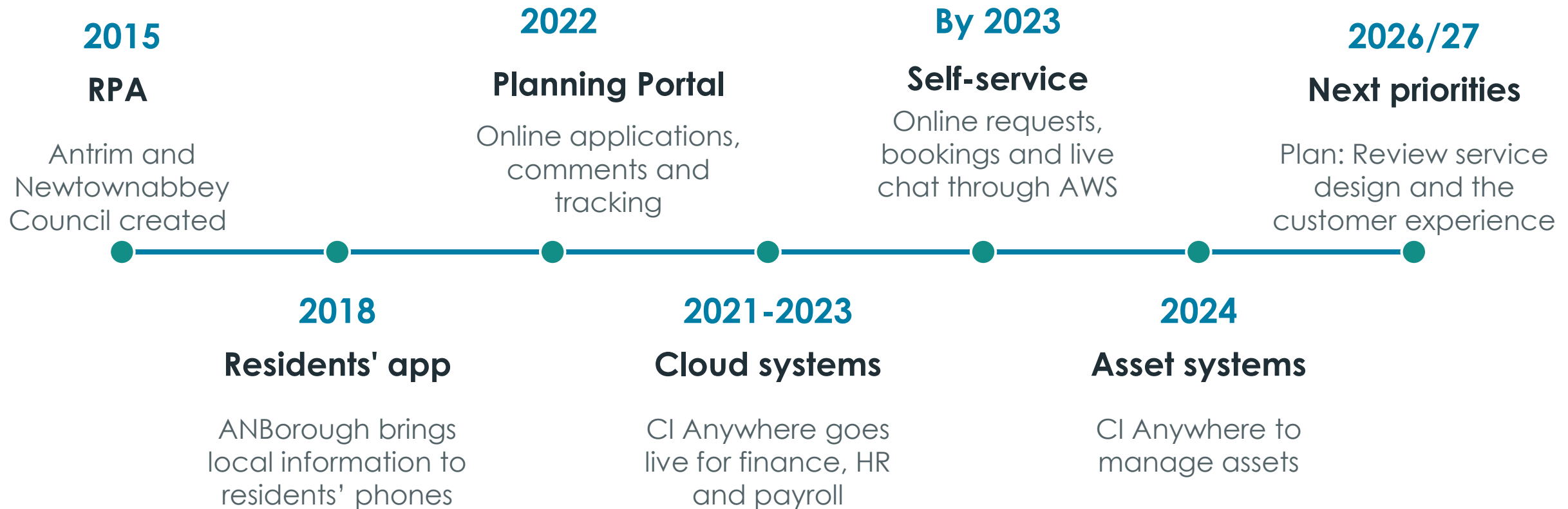
Our Vision for a Data-Informed Antrim and Newtownabbey

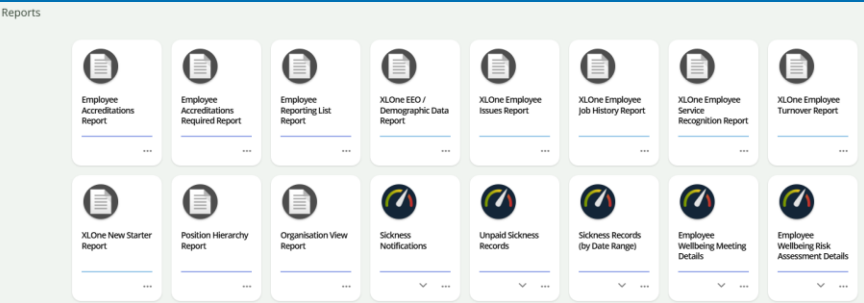
Majella McAlister

Deputy Chief Executive of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

Our Journey

Our Digital Data Journey



A screenshot of the 'PLANNING PORTAL' website. The top navigation bar includes 'Home > My Planning Portal > Your application'. The main heading is 'Your application'. Below it are tabs for 'Overview', 'Forms', 'Supporting Documents', 'Fees', and 'Check, Pay & Submit'. The 'Forms' tab is active, showing a section titled 'Trees and Hedges' with a 'Help' button. The form contains two questions: 'Are there any trees or hedges on your own property or on adjoining properties which are within falling distance of your proposed development?' and 'Will any trees or hedges need to be removed or pruned in order to carry out your proposal?'. There are radio buttons for 'Yes' and 'No'.

Investment and Growth in Antrim and Newtownabbey

EDM 2672: tabled on 26 January 2026

Tabled in the 2024-26 session

Council praised at Westminster



Motion Text:

That this House welcomes the recent report naming the borough of Antrim and Newtownabbey as one of the UK's top business growth hotspots for 2026; acknowledges that this recognition reflects the borough's unique status as a gateway for advanced manufacturing and logistics; further welcomes the success of the Invest Antrim Newtownabbey showcase held at Westminster in December 2025; and calls on the Government to support the borough's economic vision for economic prosperity and job creation.



LGAO Absence Statistics

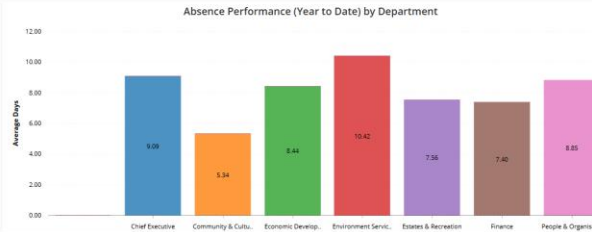
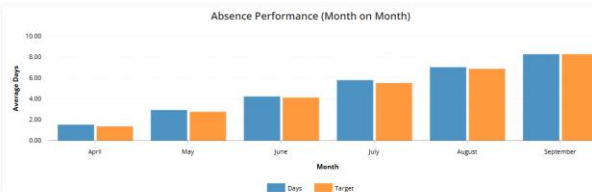
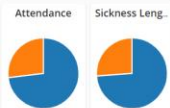
Date shown is for sickness absence data from 2025-04-01 to 2025-05-30

Select Department

- ☐ Select All
- ☐ Chief Executive
- ☐ Community & Culture
- ☐ Economic Development & Planning
- ☐ Environment Services & Sustainability

Select Section

- ☐ Select All
- ☐ Arts, Culture, Tourism & Events
- ☐ Building Control
- ☐ Capital Projects
- ☐ Chief Executive's Office
- ☐ Community Planning

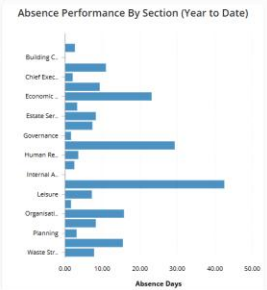
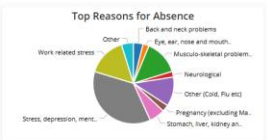


Antrim and Newtownabbey named as one of the UK's top 10 locations for high-growth business potential

By Claire Cartmill & John Dunbar

Contributor

Published 26th Jan 2026, 09:28 GMT | Updated 27th Jan 2026, 09:17 GMT



Mayor of Antrim and Newtownabbey, Councillor Leah Kirkpatrick

Antrim and Newtownabbey has been named as one of the UK's most promising places for business growth in 2026, according to new analysis released by Growth Flag, the UK data intelligence platform. This ranking also saw it identified as the strongest performing region in Northern Ireland with 12 per cent high growth potential.

The Changing World

Why this matters

Demand, complexity and expectations are rising faster than resources

The risk is not a lack of data but an oversaturation of data that often arrives too late, lacks context and fails to inform decision-making.

- **Pressures on public services:** more demand and less tolerance for delay
- **Fragmented views:** useful data exists but often in separate systems
- **Faster Change:** digital, AI and customer expectations are influencing services
- **Data sustainability:** increased spend on systems, how can we demonstrate value for money to rate payers
- **Changing Demographics:** Gen Z want more and expect more from leadership



Data in Action

Demonstrating value through real service delivery, not just a technology project

Speed and Business Confidence

Using Planning insight to improve performance

Measure / statutory target	NI 2023/24	NI 2024/25	NI 2025/26	Council 2025/26
Local applications: average weeks Target: within 15 weeks	20.8	19.0	19.6	13.0
Major applications: average weeks Target: within 30 weeks	46.5	39.6	41.4	26.0
Enforcement concluded within 39 weeks Target: at least 70%	74.2%	70.7%	75.1%	93.7%



DHL, 16 weeks = £15million

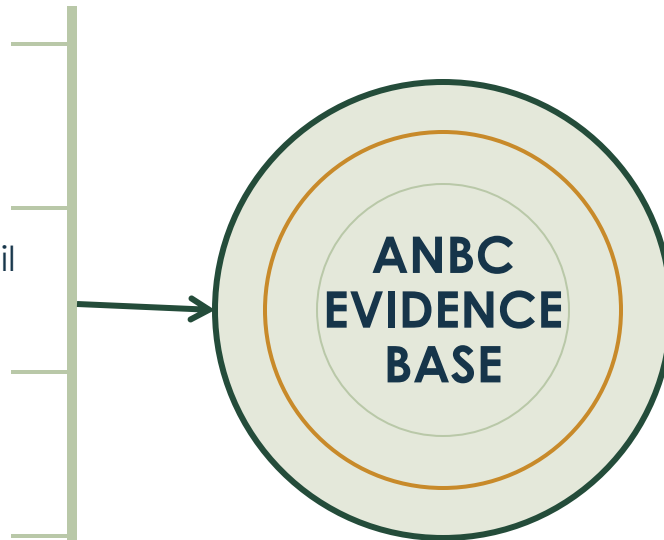
2025/26: all three Council targets met – only Council in Northern Ireland

Turning Local Data into Spatial Choices

The Local Development Plan

LOCAL DATA

- **PEOPLE & HOMES**
Population, households, housing need and land supply
- **ECONOMY**
Employment, business land, retail and investment
- **PLACE & MOVEMENT**
Settlements, transport and infrastructure capacity
- **ENVIRONMENT**
Heritage, habitats, landscape and flood risk



WHAT THE DATA INFORMS

- **GROWTH STRATEGY**
How development is distributed across the Borough
- **HOUSING & JOBS**
The scale and location of land needed
- **INFRASTRUCTURE**
Where capacity or investment affects delivery
- **POLICIES & DECISIONS**
The tests applied to planning proposals

Town Centre Vacancy

A Trusted Local Baseline: Tackling Vacancy Rates with Data

Town	Total units	Vacant units	Vacancy
Antrim	171	14	8%
Ballyclare	132	14	11%
Crumlin	74	13	18%
Glengormley	121	6	5%
Randalstown	82	15	18%

NI Average 22% commercial vacancy



Turning Vacancy Data into Targeted Policy

Move From Simple Vacancy Count to Understanding

Unit Size/Type	Annual Vacant Rates Bill	Annual Occupied Rates Bill	Additional Generated Income (50% for the Council)
Small Retail Unit (1,000 sqft)	£2,250	£6,000	£3,750 (£1,875)
Medium Retail Unit (2,500sqft)	£4,500	£12,000	£7,500 (£3,750)
Large Town Centre Unit (5,000sqft)	£9,000	£24,000	£15,000 (£7,500)
Anchor Site (10,000 sqft+)	£15,000	£40,000	£25,000 (£12,500)



Map



Engage & Listen



Test



Targeted Support

Our Commitment

***Make data trusted.
Make decisions transparent.
Make improvement visible.***

Thank You