



Draft Corporate Strategy

Easy Read Guide
2025–2030

NNNi
NATIONAL
MUSEUMS NI

Contents

About this guide	2
Our principles	4
Our mission	6
1 Identity	7
2 Peacebuilding	10
3 The environment	13
4 Innovation	15
Things that will help us deliver our plans	18
1 Supporting our people	19
2 Developing our infrastructure	20
3 Managing our money	21
4 Good governance	22

About this guide



National Museums NI is the name of a group of four museums in Northern Ireland. The four museums are:



the **Ulster Museum**



the **Ulster Folk Museum**



the **Ulster Transport Museum**



the **Ulster American Folk Park**



At National Museums NI, we look after a lot of interesting things from history.



We share these so people can learn about the past. If people understand the past, they can help make better plans for the future.



This report is our strategy. It is our plan to help make a better future.

Our principles



We have three principles or beliefs that guide everything we do.



Our principles are:

- 1. Making sure everyone feels welcome in our museums.**

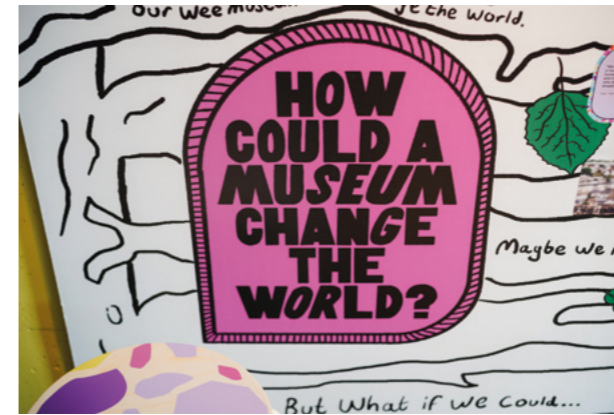
This includes taking steps to remove things that might stop people enjoying our museums.

Our mission



2. Involving people in what we do

We ask local communities, researchers and other experts about how we should collect and share their stories.



Our mission or main task is to use our museums and the things in them to get people to think about how we can change the future for the better.



3. Making best use of what we have

We work hard to raise money, and we spend it carefully. We also work with others who can help us.



Our strategy plans to make change in four areas.

- 1 Identity
- 2 Peacebuilding
- 3 The environment
- 4 Innovation

These line up with the **Programme for Government**, which is a plan by the politicians who run Northern Ireland.

1 Identity



This is about how we will support and celebrate different people and the different ways they live and lived in the past.

This is important because history and tradition are important to lots of people.



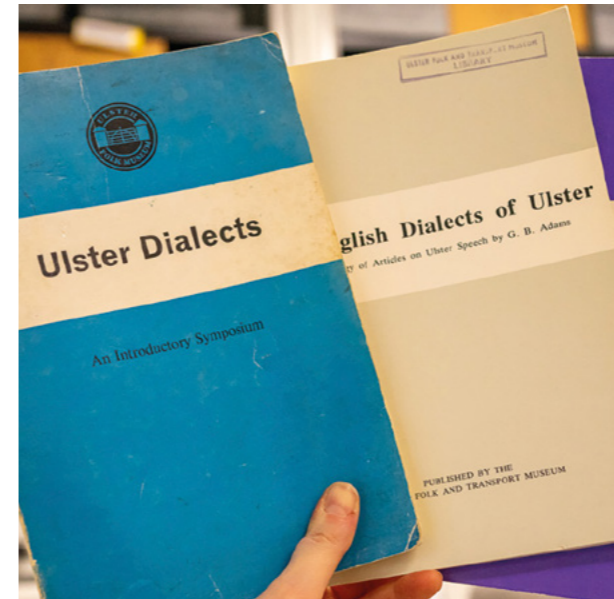
It is also important because lots of different people live here now.

Our museums and the objects in them can encourage people to think about how other people feel.



One way we have started to do this is called **Inclusive Global Histories**. This is how we are sharing the stories of lots of different people and places.

These stories are from here and from around the world. It helps people understand other people who are different from them.



Another way we are doing this is called **Languages of Ulster**. This looks at different local languages, such as Irish, Ulster Scots and Hiberno-English.

This helps people understand how different languages make us see ourselves and others differently.

2 Peacebuilding



What we will do over the next five years

We will:

- encourage people to talk about different people and identities in a positive way.
- make sure we include people from different backgrounds in everything we do.
- work to “decolonise” the museum and things in it. This means we will make special effort to share different stories about history.
- encourage people to have braver conversations about the future.



This is about encouraging people to talk about how we can move towards lasting peace. This can make a difference to how well we get on with each other and in our own lives.



It is important because different people see **The Troubles** in different ways. And a lot of people still live with bad memories and hurt.



Our museums can encourage people to think again about the way they think about the world and other people. We can do this by collecting stories from people about their experiences.



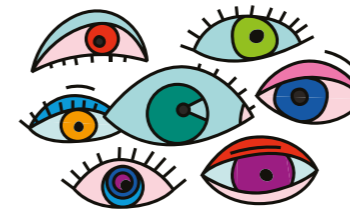
We opened the **Troubles and Beyond** exhibition in the Ulster Museum. This tells stories about ordinary life during The Troubles.

We did this because we want people to understand what **The Troubles** meant to different people. We think this will help us live better together.



We also set up the **Conflict Legacy Interpretive Network**. This is how we work with other museums to make sure stories about The Troubles are told well.

We also use education, exhibitions and other activities to help people learn and feel better.



What we will do over the next five years

We will:

- be confident and brave.
- remember that everyone sees things differently.
- connect with other people and organisations, here and in other countries.
- make sure that more people can be heard.

3 The environment



This is about encouraging people to protect our environment. The environment includes our animals, seas, rivers, land, plants, trees and weather.

This is important because we live in a beautiful place. And life on earth is in danger.



We help visitors to our museums to learn and talk about the environment.

We work with schools, communities and nature organisations to tell people how they can help make things better.



At the Ulster Folk Museum, people of different ages can volunteer to help nature, for example, by laying hedges or gardening. This is done with an organisation called **The Conservation Volunteers**.



DiSSCo UK is the name of a project that helps more people enjoy things from the past that are kept in museums. It does this by putting objects about the environment online.



What we will do over the next five years

We will:

- do our work in a way that helps the environment.
- do more to tell people how they can help the environment.
- add more and different plants, animals and insects to the gardens and outdoor spaces at our museums.

4 Innovation



Innovation means having new ideas. New ideas help us solve problems and have better lives.



Our museums are places where people can explore and learn about inventions from the past. They can use these to come up with great new ideas.



We work with schools and do activities about history, science and art. This helps young people think about the different sorts of work they might do as a career.



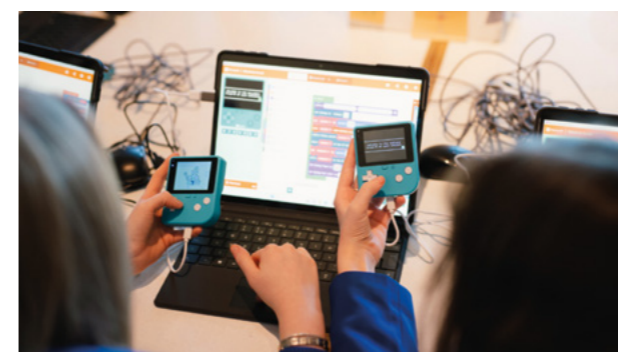
We give young adults the chance to work with us. This means they get experience which can help them get a job.

We give volunteers of all ages the chance to grow new skills and confidence.



The Museum of Innovation is at the Ulster Transport Museum. It tells stories of local people who made important changes in space, transport and engineering.

This helps younger people think about being inventors or engineers.



The **STEAM Studio** at the Ulster Museum helps young people learn robotics, coding, design and art. This helps them get ready for the sort of work they will have in the future.



What we will do over the next five years

We will:

- create more chances for people of all ages to learn.
- work with schools, universities, businesses and communities.
- help young people find out about science, technology, engineering, art and maths.
- put together exhibitions of great innovations from the past and present.



Things that will help us deliver our plans



We want our organisation to grow and be ready for the future.

We will do this by:

1. Supporting our people who work for us
2. Developing our museums, other buildings and digital infrastructure
3. Managing our money
4. Good governance

1 Supporting our people



We cannot be successful without the people who work for us.

We will encourage them to work with each other and develop new ideas. We will support them to become leaders and to manage change well.



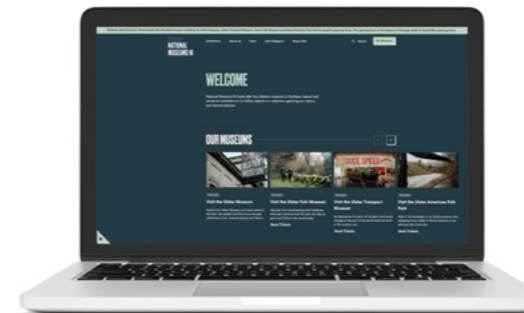
We will make sure the people who work with us come from lots of different backgrounds and communities. We will listen to them so that we can make good decisions about what we do.

2 Developing our infrastructure



Our infrastructure includes our buildings and how we look after the things we keep in them.

We will work hard to raise money so that we can keep them in good condition. We will also make changes that make things better.



Infrastructure also includes computers, broadband, internet, software, mobile technology and more.

We will make changes to our digital infrastructure so that more people can enjoy our museums. We will also use digital tools to help us run our organisation better.

3 Managing our money



This is very important as we get less money from the government than we used to.

We want to find new ways to make money. And we will spend the money we have carefully.

4 Good governance



This is about how well we run our organisation.

We will let people know what we have done, why we decided to do it and what the result was.

We want everyone to feel that we are doing a good job. And we want everyone who works for us to feel that they can help us succeed.



**Ulster
Museum**

**Ulster
Folk
Museum**

**Ulster
Transport
Museum**

**Ulster
American
Folk Park**

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