



November 18th, 2022

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the **Active and Healthy Communities Committee 2022/23** to be held on **Monday, 21st November 2022** at **6:00 pm** in **Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre & MS Teams.**

Chairperson Councillor Gallagher

Deputy Chairperson Councillor Malone

Councillor Brennan

Councillor Casey

Councillor Finnegan

Councillor Lee-Surginor

Councillor Lewis

Councillor McAteer

Councillor McEvoy

Councillor McKeivitt

Councillor Moore

Councillor O'Hare

Councillor Ó Muirí

Councillor Sharvin

Councillor Tinnelly

Agenda

1.0 Introduction and Apologies

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 Action Sheet arising from Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 17 October 2022

For Approval

 *Action Sheet 17 October 2022 - Final to AHC.pdf*

Page 1


Directors Papers

4.0 Mid-Year Business Plan Assessment 2022/23

For Decision

 *AHC Directorate Mid Year Assessment of Business Plans 2022-23 Cover Report.pdf*

Page 11

 *Appendix 1 - Assessment of Business Plan 2022-23.pdf*

Page 13

Community Engagement

5.0 Financial Assistance Report - Call 1

For Approval

 *Financial Assistance Report - November 2022.pdf*

Page 24

6.0 District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums Update Report

For Approval

 *DEA Fora report AHC Committee November 2022.pdf*

Page 27

 *Appendix 1- DEA Fora Update November 2022.pdf*

Page 30

 *Appendix 2 - Downpatrick DEA Forum October.pdf*

Page 32

 *Appendix 3 - Newry DEA Action Sheet 13 October 2022.pdf*

Page 36

 *Appendix 4 - Crotlieve DEA Private Forum Meeting November 2022.pdf*

Page 38

7.0 Community Co-Ordination Hub - Update Report

For Approval

 *CCH update report for AHC November 2022.pdf* *Page 42*

 *Appendix 1 - CCH meeting 19 October 2022.pdf* *Page 44*

Community Planning and Well-being

8.0 Service Level Agreement with the Education Authority

For Approval

 *Service level Agreement with the Education Authority_.pdf* *Page 49*

Health & Wellbeing

9.0 Liaison Agreement for the Investigation of Work Related Deaths

For Approval

 *Liaison Agreement for the Investigation of Work Related Deaths Nov 22.pdf* *Page 52*

 *Appendix 1 - Investigation of Work-Related Deaths NI Agreement for Liaison.pdf* *Page 55*

10.0 Nuclear Free Local Authorities Membership Fee 2022/23

For Approval

 *NFLA Membership.pdf* *Page 67*

 *Appendix 1 - NFLA Item E - Work Plan.pdf* *Page 70*

 *Appendix 2 - NFLA October 2022 Newsletter.pdf* *Page 75*

 *Appendix 3 - A362 (NB248) Developments and NFLA Progress Report Sept 2022.pdf* *Page 78*

 *Appendix 4 - A367 (NB253) Developments and NFLA Progress Report Oct 2022.pdf* *Page 91*

11.0 Council Partnership Proposals to support Sustainable Food Places Programme

For Approval

 *Council Partnership Proposals to support Sustainable Food Places programme_.pdf* *Page 115*

12.0 Sustainable Food Places - Applying for Bronze Accreditation

For Approval

13.0 Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2028

For Approval

📄 *Biodiversity Strategy Nov 2022.pdf*

Page 122

📄 *Appendix 1 - Local Biodiversity Action Plan Review 2022.pdf*

Page 125

Start of Closed Session

Items deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014

14.0 Financial Assistance - Major Sports Capital (referred back from Council)

For Approval

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person, (including the Council holding that information) and the public may by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

📄 *Financial Assistance Nov 2022 Leisure and Sport.pdf*

Not included

15.0 Home to Hospital Schemes for Mournes and Slieve Gullion DEAs

For Approval

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person, (including the Council holding that information) and the public may by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

📄 *Home to Hospital schemes.pdf*

Not included

16.0 Open Space Strategy - Business Case

For Approval

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person, (including the Council holding that information) and the public may by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

📄 *Open Space Strategy Nov 2022.pdf*

Not included

For Noting - Exempt Information Items

17.0 Update regarding Derrybeg Community Centre

For Information

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person, (including the Council holding that information) and the public may by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

Appendix 1 - Open Space Strategy Business Case Nov 2022.pdf

Not included

18.0 Leasing of Council Land - Eol for Annsborough and Lisdrumgullion

For Information

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person, (including the Council holding that information) and the public may by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

Appendix 1 - Open Space Strategy Business Case Nov 2022.pdf

Not included

19.0 Newry Leisure Centre - Swimming Pool

For Information

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person, (including the Council holding that information) and the public may by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

Appendix 1 - Open Space Strategy Business Case Nov 2022 I.pdf

Not included

End of Closed Session

For Noting

20.0 Update on Mullaghbawn Community Centre - Termination of Lease

For Information

21.0 Peace Plus Local Action Plan

For Information

22.0 Initiatives for use of Community Buildings

For Information

Invitees

- Cllr Terry Andrews
- Cllr Jim Brennan
- Cllr Robert Burgess
- Cllr Pete Byrne
- Cllr Charlie Casey
- Mr Andrew Cassells
- Cllr William Clarke
- Mrs Linda Cummins
- Cllr Dermot Curran
- Cllr Laura Devlin
- Mr Eoin Devlin
- Ms Louise Dillon
- Cllr Cadogan Enright
- Cllr Aoife Finnegan
- Cllr Hugh Gallagher
- Cllr Mark Gibbons
- Cllr Oonagh Hanlon
- Cllr Glyn Hanna
- Cllr Valerie Harte
- Mrs Janine Hillen
- Cllr Roisin Howell
- Miss Veronica Keegan
- Mrs Josephine Kelly
- Mrs Sheila Kieran
- Cllr Mickey Larkin
- Cllr David Lee-Surginor
- Cllr Alan Lewis
- Mr Michael Lipsett
- Cllr Oonagh Magennis
- Mr Conor Mallon
- Cllr Gavin Malone
- Colette McAteer
- Cllr Declan McAteer
- Cllr Leeanne McEvoy
- Cllr Harold McKee
- Patricia McKeever
- Cllr Karen McKevitt
- Cllr Andrew McMurray
- Cllr Yvonne Moore
- Cllr Roisin Mulgrew
- Cllr Declan Murphy
- Cllr Barra Ó Muirí

Cllr Gerry O'Hare
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Cllr Kathryn Owen
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Cllr Henry Reilly
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Cllr Michael Rice
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Cllr Michael Ruane
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Cllr Michael Savage
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Cllr Gareth Sharvin
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Donna Starkey
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Cllr Gary Stokes
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Sarah Taggart
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Paul Tamati
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Cllr David Taylor
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Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly
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Cllr John Trainor
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Mrs Marie Ward
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ACTIONS OUTSTANDING FROM PREVIOUS ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES MEETINGS

1

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2014					
AHC/168/2020	Warrenpoint Community Centre	Accept the business case for professional fees attached to the officer's report and proceed to develop the scheme to planning application stage.	J Hillen	Ongoing. Meeting to be arranged with officials regarding Playpark at Clonallon Park to be discussed. The proposed development plans will be available to view on 8 November between 4-8pm at Warrenpoint Town Hall. An online public consultation will be live from Friday 4 November to Monday 14 November 2022	N
A171/2021	Business Case – Minor Works Scheme at Cloughreagh Community Centre	It was agreed to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approve the business case as attached to the officer's report for the upgrade work at Cloughreagh Community Centre; Approve to procure and appoint a consultant to complete a survey, including a bill of quantities; Approve to appoint and procure a contractor to carry out the necessary works. 	J Hillen	Ongoing Survey is complete and report, has been provided to council. Updated business case to be drafted and brought to committee for approval.	N
AHC/220/2021	Lease of commercial space at the McGraths Centre	It was agreed that as per the Acquisition and Disposal of land procedure to approve the use of an Agent to market and lease the commercial ground floor space at the McGrath Centre, Newry.	J Hillen	Ongoing. TDK – Commercial Property Consultants were asked to advertise the commercial space at McGrath Centre. Newry for a lease arrangement for approx. the next 5 years. The property has been on the market since the 20 July 2022 and the closing date was 9 September 2022 for all interested parties to make their strongest proposal. TDK advised there was a reasonable interest in the property and provided the top 3 highest proposals along with references. Report to AHC Report to AHC October Committee – Awaiting November full Council minutes for approval. Next step liaise with Legal	N

AHC/23/4/2021	No 16 the Square, Rostrevor	It was agreed to note the contents of section 2.7 of the officer's report.	J Hillien	Ongoing Possible completion date to be reviewed on 31 st October 2022	N
AHC/011/2022	Leasing of Council Land - Expression of interest, Killough Road Community Centre, Downpatrick	Amendment to report noted. It was agreed to approve the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An expression of interest process be carried out for the land at Old Killough Road Community Centre, Downpatrick. A valuation being sought for the leasing of this site over a 21-year period. The EOI process be publicly advertised for a period of two weeks. 	JH	Stage II Underway Report to AHC on completion of assessment process Awaiting full council minutes to provide Legal to begin issuing a lease agreement	N
AHC/06/0/2022	Mullaghbawn Community Centre – Roof Repair	It was agreed that Mullaghbawn Community Centre remained closed for the foreseeable future or until the roof repair works were completed, as the building was a health and safety risk and currently not fit for purpose. It was further agreed Council gave the Landlord a reasonable timeframe (12 weeks) to complete the structural repairs and in the event that this was not complied with that Council take actions to terminate the lease.	J Hillien	Legal department have written to the parish to advise of council recommendation. Termination of lease with Legal Department Termination of lease with Legal Department – keys to be returned to Parish before the end of October 2022	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
AHC/074/2022	Cross Sector Sustainable Food Training Initiative	<p>In response to query raised by Councillor Sharvin, Mr Devlin confirmed that part of the further work to be done would be how best to identify the most useful organisation bodies to partake and he would revert back to Councillor Sharvin in due course.</p> <p>It was agreed to approve Officers procuring an educational provider to develop, recruit and deliver training for a cohort of local stakeholders re: sustainable food. Trainer to create a digital forum as a legacy follow up to maintain the network and seek funding for follow up support.</p>	E Devlin E Devlin	Procurement taking place STA issued	Y
AHC/075/2022	Feasibility Study for Community Social Farm	<p>Mr Devlin stated that officers were currently looking at the feasibility of the project at this stage and he would circulate further information to Members in order to provide more background on the initiative and level of funding required.</p> <p>It was agreed to approve Officers procuring an initial feasibility study for development of a social farm on identified land at Castlewellan Forest park. Scope of the study will be to provide a general report for consideration of need and community support for a farm facility on council land.</p>	E Devlin E Devlin	Ongoing Procurement exercise underway	N N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
AHC/076/2022	Edible Landscapes 'We can grow' Pilot Programme	<p>It was agreed to increase the scope of the scheme to have 6 community projects in order that each DEA would benefit from one of the schemes.</p> <p>It was agreed to approve officers procuring one or more horticultural contractors to supply and deliver 6 community projects with follow up support for one growing season.</p>	E Devlin E Devlin	ongoing	N
ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2014					
AHC/080/2022	Business Case – Hilltown Car Park and AAR letter of offer	<p>It was agreed to approve the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accept the business case for the external works at Hilltown Community Centre including the associated professional fees. Determine whether potential scheme can be funded from capital underspend within the 22/23 financial year or include for consideration in the 23/24 rate estimates. If suitable funding is secured proceed with the procurement of a suitably qualified design team and contractor to carry out the necessary works. 	J Hillen	Ongoing To be completed by 31 st October 2022.	N

AHC/08/1/2022	Down High School Lights and 3G Pitch	It was agreed to approve the following recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To progress a planning application for enhanced sports facilities at Down High School as per 2.1 of the officer's report. To approve a budget spend as outlined in section 4.1 of the officer's report. 	P Tamati	On going	N
AHC/09/6/2022	Dunleath Park Enhancement	It was agreed to establish a skate park and pump track at Dunleath Park as part of a phase 1 development as per the budget outlined in 4.1 of the officer's report.	P Tamati	On going – Levelling Up application submitted.	N
AHC/09/8/2022	Leasing of Council Land – Expressions on Interest	It was agreed to progress an Expressions of Interest (EOI) Process in line with NMDDC Sports and Community Facility Management and Leasing Policy (2016) for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Lisdrumgullion Recreation Area Armagh Road, Newry Annsborough Playing Fields, Castlewellan Station Avenue, Castlewellan 	P Tamati	Ongoing	N
AHC/11/6/2022	Market House Refurbishment	It was agreed to approve the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The business case contained within the officer's report for the internal refurbishment of the Market House Ballynahinch (Appendix 1 Business Case) To procure and appoint a contractor to carry out the refurbishment works immediately (in advance of full council approval in July) 	J Hillen	Ongoing To be completed by 31 st October 2022	N
AHC/11/8/2022	Upgrade Works at Barcroft and Three Ways Community Centre	It was agreed to note the revised estimated costs for completion of upgrade works to Barcroft and Three Ways Community Centres from previously approved Business Case (January 2022), subject to consultation with the user groups in the centre.	J Hillen	Ongoing Tender documents have been logged on PECOS for Purchasing.	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
AHC/151/2022	Peace IV – Update Report	It was agreed to note the report.	J Hillen	Work ongoing as per report	N
AHC/152/2022	Ukrainian Crisis Report	<p>It was agreed to note the report and a request that any changes to the operational hours of the Newry Ukrainian Crisis Assistance Centre be communicated to users of the facility well in advance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A follow-up letter be sent to the Executive Office regarding the £350 payment to be given to families hosting Ukrainian refugees. Note that consideration be given to establishing a second Crisis Assistance Centre in the Downpatrick area. 	J Hillen	The revised opening days and times have been uploaded to NI Direct and Council website and issued via social media. Information sent to Councillors and stakeholders. A response from the Executive Office has been received. Current numbers do not support the opening of an Assistance Centre in Downpatrick. This will be reviewed in line with visas granted, expected arrivals and attendance at the centres.	N

ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2014

AHC/156/2022	Warrenpoint Community Centre	It was agreed to note the report and associated appendices and approve the project moving to the next stage namely RIBA Stage 3, to secure full planning approval, commence the IST and PQQ process to identify suitably qualified Design & Build Contractors.	M Lipsett J Hillen	Ongoing	N
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AHC/159/2022	Expressions of interest for the leasing of Council land and facilities	It was agreed to note the contents of the report and that Expressions of Interest for the following land and facilities would progress to stage 3 of the Sport and Leasing Policy 2016: 1. Lisdrumiliska Recreation Area, Glen Hill, Newry 2. Section of Land at St. Anne's Park Recreation Area, Mayobridge	P Tamati	On going, decision going to SP&R	N
AHC/160/2022	Expression of interest for the leasing of land at Old Killough Road Community Centre, Downpatrick	It was agreed to approve to issue a lease agreement between Council and Downpatrick Autism Family Support Group in relation to land at Old Killough Road Community Centre, Downpatrick.	J Hillen	Awaiting approval from full Council	N

ACTIONS ARISING FROM ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING – 17 OCTOBER 2022

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
AHC/163/2022	Action sheet Committee Meeting held on Monday 22 September 2022	The action sheet from the Committee Meeting held on 15 August 2022 was noted.	All	Noted	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
AHC/164/2022	Financial Assistance Report – Call 3 2022 and Call 1 2023	<p>It was agreed to approve the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The recommendations for Call 3 as per appendixes attached and issue Letters to associated groups. The recommendations as outlined in Section 1.1 of the officer's report to approve themes and timeframe for Call 1 2023-2024. To note the issues in Section 2.1 of the officer's report and undertake the recommendations associated with each to procure additional services through the EGMS delivery agent. To action the appeals panel outcome and issue a letter of offer to project 3462 if budget is available 	J Hillen	Letters of offer for Call 3 will be issued upon full Council ratification in November 2022. Ongoing work with EGMS to ensure delivery of Call 1 in line with proposed time frame. Letter of Offer re appeals panel decision to be issued upon ratification in November 2022.	Y
AHC/165/2022	District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums Update Report	<p>It was agreed to note the report and approve the actions for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slieve Croob DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 20 September 2022 	J Hillen	All DEA Action Sheets being actioned accordingly.	Y
AHC/166/2022	Community Co-ordination Hub	It was agreed to note the report and approve the actions in the Action Sheet attached for the Community Coordination Hub (CCH) Meeting held on Wednesday 21 September 2022.	J Hillen	Action Sheets being actioned accordingly.	Y
AHC/167/2022	Consultation Response - draft HSENI Corporate Plan for 2023-2028	It was agreed to agree to return the Consultation response, as attached to the officer's report. It was noted the response had been submitted by the required date (10 October 2022) on the proviso that it was subject to Council approval.	E Devlin	Response returned	Y
AHC/168/2022	Proposed Cosmetic Regulation	It was agreed to approve the sending of the letter to the Department for Health as attached to the officer's report.	E Devlin	Correspondence sent to DoH	Y
AHC/174/2022	Kilkeel Leisure Centre Update	It was agreed to note the report	M Lipsett	Noted	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
AHC/175/2022	Peaceplus Local Action Plan	It was agreed to note the report.	J Hillen	Noted	Y
AHC/176/2022	PeaceIV Local Action Plan	It was agreed to note the report.	J Hillen	Noted	Y
AHC/177/2022	Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Report	It was agreed to note the above Report and note the Minutes of the Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Meeting held on Wednesday 29 June 2022, as approved at Newry NRP Meeting held on Wednesday 21 September 2022.	J Hillen	Noted	Y
AHC/178/2022	Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Report	It was agreed to note the Report and the Minutes of the Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Meeting held on Tuesday 24 May 2022, as approved at Downpatrick NRP Meeting held on Wednesday 21 September 2022.	J Hillen	Noted.	Y
AHC/179/2022	Policing & Community Safety Partnership (PCSP)	It was agreed to note the report the Minutes of the Policing Committee and Policing & Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) Meeting held on Tuesday 26 July 2022, as approved at the Policing Committee and Policing & Community Safety Partnership Meeting held on Tuesday 27 September 2022.	J Hillen	Noted.	Y
AHC/180/2022	Update re: Ukrainian Assistance Centre	It was agreed to note the report.	J Hillen	Noted	Y
AHC/181/2022	Drinking Water Inspectorate Annual Report	It was agreed to note the above Report. It was agreed Mr Eoin Devlin Assistant Director Health & Wellbeing contact the Drinking Water Inspectorate to seek clarification on whether the timeline to address high levels of aluminium in drinking water at Drumaroad are sufficient and that the lack of funding for this Department will not endanger public health.	E Devlin	Noted.	N

ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2014						
AHC/169/2022	Financial Assistance	It was agreed to approve new financial assistance arrangements for Sports Capital as outlined in 2.1.A and 2.1.B of the Officer's Report with a review after a 2 year initial period.	M Lipsett P Tamati	On going	N	
AHC/170/2022	Play Strategy Review	It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor seconded by Councillor McAteer to appoint consultants to complete a desktop review of the Councils Play Strategy 2017/18 – 2022/23 as per the points outlined in section 2.1 of the officer's report.	P Tamati	Approved	Y	
AHC/171/2022	Play Strategy Update	It was agreed to approve the revised project cost as outlined in 2.1.B of the Officer's Report.	P Tamati	Approved	Y	
AHC/172/2022	Public Tender – Pulse Fitness Equipment	It was agreed to approve the Business Case as per Appendix 1 of the officer's report, for Fitness Equipment Servicing, Repairs and Maintenance in Killeel Leisure Centre, Newcastle Centre, Ballymote Sports and Wellbeing Centre and Bridge Centre Killyleagh and approve procurement via a public tender for these services and supplies. It was also agreed that officers undertake the appropriate evaluation of the above public tenders in line with procurement guidelines and appoint a preferred bidder and enter into a contract for up to 4 years to the value outlined on the business case.	P Tamati	Approved	Y	
AHC/173/2022	Commercial Property Lease – McGrath House, Newry	It was agreed that the Council issue a lease following final discussions with Bidder A, for a 5 year period.	J Hillen	Actioned		

Report to:	Active and Healthy Communities
Date of Meeting:	21 November 2022
Subject:	Active and Healthy Communities' Directorate Business Plan 2022-23 – Mid Year Assessment
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Michael Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Eoin Devlin, Assistant Director of Health and Wellbeing Janine Hillen, Assistant Director of Community Engagement Paul Tamati, Assistant Director of Leisure and Sports

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-

	For decision	X	For noting only	
1.0	Purpose and Background			
1.1	Directorate Business Plans form an essential part of the Council's Business Planning and Performance Management Framework, which drives and provides assurance that corporate objectives are being delivered.			
1.2	Directorate Business Plans demonstrate how planned activity during 2022-23 will contribute to the achievement of strategic outcomes in relation to the Community Plan, Corporate Plan, Performance Improvement Plan and other key strategies.			
2.0	Key issues			
2.1	A Mid Year Assessment of each Directorate Business Plan has been undertaken in order to provide an overview of progress between April-September 2022. This exercise is an important part of the Council's statutory obligations to strengthen the way performance is monitored, reviewed and reported at all levels across the organisation.			
2.2	The Mid Year Assessment of the Active and Healthy Communities' Directorate Business Plan is outlined at Appendix 1.			
3.0	Recommendations			
3.1	To consider and approve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mid Year Assessment of the Active and Healthy Communities' Directorate Business Plan 2022-23 			
4.0	Resource implications			
4.1	There are no financial resource implications within this report.			
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)			
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i>			

	It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i> Consultation not required.</p>	
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)	
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	
7.0	Appendices	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appendix 1 – Mid Year Assessment of the Active and Healthy Communities' Directorate Business Plan 2022-23 	
8.0	Background Documents	
	Directorate Business Plan 2022-23	

Active and Healthy Communities Directorate

Mid-Year Assessment Business Plan 2022-23



Introduction

This report provides an overview of progress in delivering the Active and Healthy Communities Directorate Business Plan 2022-23 between April-September 2022, across the following service areas:

- Leisure and Recreation
- Parks and Open Spaces
- Sports Development
- Environmental Health
- Sustainability
- Health Improvement
- Engagement and Community Development
- Strategic Programmes
- Community Services, Facilities and Events




The delivery of the Active and Healthy Communities Directorate Business Plan 2022-23 supports the achievement of the following corporate objectives, and performance has been tracked using the legend below.

Continue to improve the health and wellbeing of everyone in the district and reduce health inequalities

Enable and support people engage in inclusive and diverse activities in their communities




Enhance, protect and promote our environment




Legend



Status	
	Target or objective achieved / on track to be achieved
	Target or objective partially achieved / likely to be achieved / subject to delay
	Target or objective not achieved / unlikely to be achieved







Directorate objectives, supporting actions and measures of success


Key Directorate Objectives / Actions	
Leisure and Sport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote increased levels of activity and develop targeted programmes to support improved health and wellbeing outcomes
Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a strong community base to improve empowerment and, capacity within our communities and ensure the views of our community are fully represented. partners
Health and Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote sustainability both within the organization and externally, support improved Health and Wellbeing outcomes and ensure Councils obligations in relation to their statutory functions are fulfilled





Leisure and Sport			
OBJECTIVE	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
Promote increased levels of activity and develop targeted programmes to support improved health and wellbeing outcomes	Continue to improve the health and wellbeing of everyone in the district and reduce health inequalities		
Supporting actions	Timescale	Status	Progress
Continue to Progress and implement the review of Leisure Services	Q1 – Q4		Ongoing, MSLD in place in KLC
Increase usage of Indoor Leisure Facilities as part of the leisure COVID-19 recovery plan	Q1 – Q4		April – Sept 317,192 paid attendances across the 6 leisure sites
Progress the leisure projects agreed within the Capital Programme	Q1 – Q4		Delivery: 7 projects complete, 11 projects progressed. Shovel Ready: 2 projects complete, 4 projects progressed. Feasibility and Scoping: 1 project complete, 10 projects progressed.




Re-establish post COVID and deliver a range of targeted health programmes to encourage participation in physical activity and improve health outcomes for all	Q1 – Q4		Physical Activity Referral Programme: 177 participants to date. McMillian Move More Programme: 130 participants to date. Summer Activity Programme: 4925 participants. Be Active for Life Programme: 3843 participants.
Identify and complete delivery, scoping and feasibility for potential Community Trails across the seven District Electoral Areas	Q1 – Q4		2022/23 SLA with ORNI in place. Two delivery projects and 3 feasibility projects being progressed
Complete the strategic reviews of the Multi Sports Hub and Play Strategy, progress an Open Spaces and Sports Development Strategy.	Q1 - Q4		Multi Sports Hubs complete, remaining strategies moving to tender process.




Community Engagement			
OBJECTIVE Create a strong base to engage, empower and build the capacity of local communities, ensuring their views inform the work of the Council and its partners	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
	Enable and support people engage in inclusive and diverse activities in their communities		
Supporting actions	Timescale	Status	Progress
Comply with statutory responsibilities in relation to Community Engagement service provision (including PCSP, Peace IV & DEAs)	Q1-Q4		Ongoing Partnership meetings undertaken/governance arrangement and reporting mechanisms effective
Engage, develop and consult on a draft:	Q1-Q4		Peaceplus Partnership formed Community Facilities

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Peace Plus Plan - Community Facilities Strategy 			Strategy Ongoing
Continue to logistically support local community run events and festivals	Q1-Q4		Booking system/deliveries and collections ongoing
Positively engage through Ethnic Minority Support Centre (Downpatrick & Newry)	Q1-Q4		Centre Operational Extended provision for Ukrainian Refugees
Work with internal and external to deliver a minimum of 2 Financial Assistance Calls per annum, and roll out external training sessions	Q1 – Q4		Training undertaken 3 Financial Assistance Calls undertaken
Develop and deliver the 7 DEA Fora Action Plans and strengthen the alignment with the outcomes within the Community Plan	Q1-Q4		Action Plans developed and meeting agreed targets
Develop and implement the District wide Good Relations Programme, PCSP Action Plan, NHR Action Plan (Downpatrick & Newry) and PEACE IV Local Action Plan	Q1-Q4		Action Plans developed and meeting agreed targets
Further develop levels of engagement and participation through existing structures (eg DEAs. NHR, PCSP, PEACE IV) following review of Covid 'lessons learned'	Q1 – Q4		Community Coordination Hub establishment and reporting through existing structures








Health and Wellbeing			
OBJECTIVE Promote sustainability both within the organization and externally, support improved Health and Wellbeing outcomes and ensure Councils obligations in relation to their statutory functions are fulfilled	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
	Continue to improve the health and wellbeing of everyone in the district and reduce health inequalities		
Supporting actions	Timescale	Status	Progress
Carry out statutory functions in relation to Food Safety, Health	Q1-4		On track including ongoing BCP at



and Safety at Work, Public Health and Housing, Environmental Protection and Consumer Protection			Warrenpoint Port
Facilitate Biannual formal engagement between Council, the local Health Trusts and NIAS	October / February		Meetings proceeding as per plan
Support 2 no. Home to Hospital Volunteer Driver Schemes to help rural access to Health services in The Mournes and Slieve Gullion DEAs	Q1- Q4		Ongoing
Develop a range of services to promote employee Health and Wellbeing including an action plan for issues identified in Staff survey	Q1 – Q4		Follow up to staff survey completed and action plan developed
OBJECTIVE Promote sustainability both within the organization and externally, support improved Health and Wellbeing outcomes and ensure Councils obligations in relation to their statutory functions are fulfilled	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
	Enhance, protect and promote our environment		
Supporting actions	Timescale	Status	Progress
Deliver an awareness raising programme on sustainability issues, including staff training, workshops and media and social media messages promoting sustainable lifestyles and resilient communities, climate change and other sustainability issues for the public, industry, communities, local schools and Council staff.	March 2023		The Sustainability Team has delivered a comprehensive awareness programme both internally and externally engaging council staff and schools, community groups, businesses and the general public. This has included extensive Social Media campaigns on Climate Change, Energy Efficiency, Litter and Dog Fouling, Case Studies for the COP26 Climate summit, as well as talks and workshops with schools and community groups. We developed a Sustainability Module for our Staff E-Learning





			programme. We also worked with local groups on Community Growing, Sustainable Food, Fairtrade, Active Travel, Single Use Plastics and Marine Litter as well as delivering the Live Here Love Here and Eco Schools programmes locally.
Develop a Climate Change Adaptation Plan for the Council working alongside key Council Departments	March 2024		Work continuing and on schedule
Lead on implementation of the Active Travel Masterplan for The District working with DFI and through the Community Planning Active Travel Working Group Deliver the 'Leading the Way' employee scheme Deliver 3 Active travel training workshops for schools Deliver 3 community active travel workshops	March 2023		Proceeding according to plan We also facilitated a Climate Adaptation programme for Council staff and ran Active Travel programmes for Schools, communities and employees of local organisations
Develop a Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan to follow on from the existing Newry, Mourne and Down Local Biodiversity Action Plan. The strategy will focus on improving biodiversity on Council managed estate as well as increasing awareness and action for biodiversity across the rest of the district.	March 2023		

Measures of Success – Leisure and Sport				
Measure of Success	2022-23		Status	Explanatory note
	Target	YTD Actual		
Number of attendances at all indoor leisure facilities, including Newry and Downpatrick Leisure Centres	800,000 paid attendances	April – Sept 317,192 paid attendances across the 6 leisure sites		Largest usage period traditionally October to March.
Number of participants engaged in physical activity programmes and health and wellbeing initiatives	Physical Activity Referral Programme Members: 300 McMillian Move More Programme Members: 150 Summer Activity Programme Participants: 4,800 Be Active for Life Programme Participants: 1500	Physical Activity Referral Programme: 177 participants to date. McMillian Move More Programme: 130 participants to date. Summer Activity Programme: 4925 participants. Be Active for Life Programme: 3843 participants.		Exceeding targets.
Number of recorded visits at community trails	Over 120,000	109,433		Exceeding target

Measures of Success – Community Engagement			
Measure of	2022-23	Status	Explanatory note

Success	Target	YTD actual		
Number of meetings, events delivered	No target set	8 (PU) 170 (PCSP/GR/DEAs/NR)		<p>Not including FA funded projects data as these outputs should be reported by the budget holder to avoid duplication.</p> <p>3 PEACE IV meetings, 5 PEACE IV events, 5 capacity building sessions held for FA. 20 programmes delivered under PEACE IV.</p> <p>Wide range of meetings, events, programmes and activities delivered via the Policing & Community safety Partnership (PCSP), Good relations (GR) Programmes, District Electoral Areas (DEAs) and Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships (NRPs).</p>
Number of events supported	No target set	87 (CS) 150 (PCSP/GR/DEAs/NR)		
Number of capacity building programmes delivered	No target set	3 (CS) 5 (PU) 70 (DEAs/NRPs)		
Number of programmes delivered	No target set	46 (CS) 20 (PU) 41 (PCSP/GR/DEAs/NRPs)		
Number of meetings, including public meetings organised	No target set	55 (PCSP/GR/DEAs/NRPs)		
The effectiveness of Council run community engagement structures in facilitating stakeholder participation	No target set	See explanatory note		
Number of Neighbourhood Watch	No target set	114 (PCSP)		There are currently 114 active and fully accredited NHW schemes across the district. The PCSP

Schemes				continues to encourage and engage with people who would like to sign up for the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. The PSNI and PCSP staff remain in regular contact with NHW co-ordinators across the district.
Number and percentage of financial assistance projects funded	No target set	Application 5		Call 1 & 2 data only
		304		
		Success rate		
		67.8%		
Number of contacts recorded through the Ethnic Minority Support Centre	No target set	1600		Regular clinics held in Newry and Downpatrick. Specialist clinics: Syrian, Roma and Ukrainian. Ukraine Assistance Centre set up in Newry Leisure Centre.

Measures of Success – Health and Wellbeing				
Measure of Success	2022-23		Status	Explanatory note
	Target	YTD Actual		
Percentage of service requests responded to within 3 days	85%	88%		
Percentage of general planning applications processed within 15 working days of receipt by Environmental Health	80%	56%		Increased levels of more complex planning consultations plus resource issues
Net cost of the 5 core services per head of population (excluding CEC*)	No target set	£6.49		
Percentage of premises within the scope of the Food Hygiene Scheme that meet the standard of 'broadly compliant'	No target set	99.1%		

Number of proactive/planned Health and Safety inspections as a percentage of total premises within jurisdiction	No target set	8.3%		Inspection are on target. Only premises assessed by risk rating are inspected routinely. This is the relevant APSE indicator
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Report to:	Active Healthy Communities
Date of Meeting:	17 th November 2022
Subject:	Financial Assistance
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Janine Hillen Assistant Director Community Engagement
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Ciara Burns – Project Coordinator Alison Henderson – Project Support Officer

For decision	X	For noting only	
1.0			Purpose and Background
1.1			<p>Call 1 2023-2024</p> <p>Call 1 will open as follows 6 December 2022 with the following amendments to Call 1 themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Capital for Community Facilities - • Community Engagement • Community Events & Festivals and Summer Schemes • Community Facilities Minor Capital Items • Community Growing 'Let's Grow NMD' • Facility Management Agreement 2023-2027 (closed call) • Irish Language • Local Biodiversity Enhancement (pending approval) • Minority Communities Fund • Service Level Agreements for Community Facilities 2023-2027 • Suicide Prevention and Emotional Wellbeing • Tourism and Arts Events <p>Arts and Culture Projects will be moved to Call 2 (budgets needs to be confirmed) and the Community Events and Festivals and Summer Schemes will be combined as one theme. This will avoid duplication of funds and ensure more groups are supported.</p> <p>The revised timeframe for Call 1 is recommended as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open call December 2022 – all grant aid will be subject to budget availability. • Close revenue calls on 17th January 2023 with panel recommendations to AHC in March 2023 and full ratification in April. • Close capital calls) February 14th 2023 with panel recommendations to AHC in April 2023 and full ratification in May 2023. • Throughout December and January there will be online training sessions delivered for potential applicants. In addition, there will be an online training PowerPoint available.
2.0			Key issues
2.1			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letters of offer will be issued post Council ratification period and budgets will be allocated through the budget holder.
3.0			Recommendations:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To open the Call on 6th December 2022 and close in Jan 2023 to ensure letter of offer are with groups by start of finance year to allow planning. - To merge Community Events and Festival and Summer Schemes into one theme to reduce duplication - To move Arts and Culture and any other relevant themes to Call 2.
3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve the recommendations for Call 3 as per appendix attached and issue
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Revenue/Payroll: Funding will be allocated from internal Council Budget
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices

8.0	Background Documents

Report to:	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting:	21 November 2022
Subject:	District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums Update Report
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Janine Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Damien Brannigan, Head of Engagement

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either: -

For decision For noting only

1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p>Purpose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To note the report. • To consider and agree to approve the actions in the Action Sheets attached from the DEA Forum Private Meetings listed in 3.1 below. <p>Background</p> <p>The information in Appendix 1 attached is provided to update the Committee on recent DEA activity and on activity planned to be undertaken by the DEAs.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	None.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<p>That the Committee: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the report. • Agree to approve the actions in the Action Sheets attached for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Downpatrick DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 11 October 2022. ➢ Newry DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Thursday 13 October 2022. ➢ Crotlieve DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 1 November 2022.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Support and assistance from partners to deliver actions in the DEA action plans.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i>

	It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>	
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)	
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	
7.0	Appendices	
7.1	<p>Appendix 1: Update on the ongoing work of the DEAs. Appendix 2: Action Sheet of Downpatrick DEA Forum Private Meeting, 11 October 2022. Appendix 3: Action Sheet of Newry DEA Forum Private Meeting, 13 October 2022. Appendix 4: Action Sheet of Crotlieve DEA Forum Private Meeting, 1 November 2022.</p>	
8.0	Background Documents	
8.1	None.	

Appendix 1

The following information is provided to update the Committee on recent DEA activity and on activity planned to be undertaken by the DEAs.

All People in Newry, Mourne and Down Enjoy Good Health and Wellbeing:

Level of Health Status:

The Rowallane DEA partnered with Ballynahinch Suicide Prevent Group to organise a Festival of Hope to highlight World Mental Health Day 2022. The festival, which ran from Tuesday 4th to Sunday 9th October, included a crafting session with a Seniors group, alpaca and donkey therapy sessions, intergenerational fun evening, and a Walk for Hope at the Millbrook Lodge Hotel with Papyrus and Lifeline support organisations in attendance. In addition, there were talks and Coffee and a Connect event hosted by Harry's Place CIC where attendees had the opportunity to get information on sources of help and support if in crisis.

Newry, Crotlieve, Mournes and Slieve Gullion DEAs hosted a Silver Screening Event in partnership with their colleagues at PCSP, PSNI and Age Friendly Alliance. 150 older people were invited to the social engagement where they were provided with information relating to health, safety and older people's services.

Downpatrick, Rowallane and Slieve Croob DEAs in partnership with the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust have recently organised a series of creative pottery sessions for adult carers with Preaching House Pottery, Killough, with a Halloween twist. Participants had the opportunity to talk to others who understand what they are going through and build relationships. A celebratory event showcasing their finished pieces also took place.

In partnership with the YMCA, Lisburn, the Downpatrick, Rowallane and Slieve Croob DEAs are rolling out the Building Resilience Programme to Primary 6 and 7 pupils in Cumran, St Bridget's and Academy Primary Schools. Young people will gain vital techniques to help when experiencing mental health issues, along with confidence building exercises and information on support available.

Crotlieve DEA is working in partnership with the Promoting Wellbeing Team at the SHSCT to provide the Autism Friendly Bus in Ballyholland on Thursday 24th November.

Crotlieve DEA is working in partnership with the Education Authority to deliver an 8 week youth diversionary programme in Warrenpoint during November and December.

Downpatrick, Mournes, Rowallane and Slieve Croob DEAs are providing a Christmas themed intergenerational project in each of their DEAs. Older people will have a morning of entertainment including a carol service from one of the local primary schools, followed by music. The young people will receive a visit from the local 'Grinch'.

In partnership with County Down Rural Community Network, the Downpatrick, Mournes, Rowallane and Slieve Croob DEAs are rolling out their Silver Screening morning in the Downpatrick Omniplex on Thursday 8th December. This event will provide participants with an opportunity to come together in a warm environment for a free event involving the screening of a movie and light refreshments.

On Friday 9th December, the local young people who participate in the Thursday Night Club at the Ballymote Youth Wing will roll out their Christmas evening of family fun. It has been an excellent opportunity for them to gain experience of event management and increase their organisational skills. The initiative, which is being organised by the young people in partnership with the Education Authority, is being supported by the Downpatrick DEA and the PCSP.

All People in Newry, Mourne and Down Live in Respectful, Safe and Vibrant Communities

31

Level of Civic Participation and Good Relations:

Newry DEA hosted a Diwali Festival event with CCG, SHSCT and Swagat Indian Families Group. The event celebrated the Festival of Light Diwali with 120 local people and families celebrating culture with music, dance and food.

Reimaging Project Killean, Edentubber area, was undertaken by Newry DEA in partnership with the local community to turn a bus stop into an artistic feature of the area.

Slieve Gullion and Newry DEAs will be delivering the Shared Schools Education Programme in November. The programme will focus on Good Relations and will engage 120 students from four different schools.

The Mournes and Slieve Gullion DEAs will be hosting clinics for upcoming financial assistance applications in November and December for community groups applying for assistance.

The Mournes DEA will be delivering a series of 4 interactive Christmas Around the World Workshops which will explore Christmas traditions in other countries.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

**Action Sheet of Downpatrick District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum Private Meeting
held on Tuesday 11th October 2022 at 5.15 pm via Microsoft Teams**

Chairperson:	Councillor Oonagh Hanlon
In Attendance:	Councillor Dermot Curran Councillor Gareth Sharvin
Independent Members:	Jim Masson, Down Business Connect Jenny Lavery, Housing Community Network Dan McEvoy, Downpatrick Community Collective Lisa Perry, Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal
Statutory Partners:	Mel Murray, Education Authority
Council Officials:	Katrina Hynds, Downpatrick DEA Co-Ordinator Aisling Rennick, Engagement and Development Manager Judith Thompson, PCSP Officer
Others in Attendance:	None
Apologies:	Councillor John Trainer Damien Brannigan, Head of Engagement Maurice Denvir, East Lecale Communities Daniella McCarry, County Down Rural Community Network

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed.
DEA/DPK/22/01	Apologies	As recorded above.	Noted.
DEA/DPK/22/02	Declaration of Interest	No Declarations of Interest were made.	Noted.
DEA/DPK/22/03	Action Sheet of Meeting held on 9 th August 2022	It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Hanlon to adopt the action sheet.	Noted.
DEA/DPK/22/04	Update on Strangford/Killough Revitalisation Scheme	The DEA Co-Ordinator presented members with an update from the Regeneration and Business Support Officer on progress of programme. The Steering Group has been established and a list of proposed works have been received which will need to be prioritised and included in the Action Plan. Council are progressing with the appointment of a Quantity Surveyor.	Regeneration and Business Support Development Officer to keep Forum updated on progress.

DEA/DPK/22/05	Update from Education Authority	<p>The Education Authority Officer advised members of the current programme for the area. In addition to their five nights of activity in the Ballymote Centre, engagement work takes place with pupils in both St Mary's and the De La Salle High Schools.</p> <p>Officers are also involved in outreach work within the Ballymote Estates and establishing need of the young people.</p> <p>Education Officer to provide Jenny Lavery with further details of the Youth Support Worker Training.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Education Officer to provide information on Youth Support Worker Training to Jenny Lavery.</p>
DEA/DP/22/06	Update from PCSP	<p>The PCSP Officer gave members a brief overview of the two public meetings that recently took place. A similar meeting for local businesses is to be organised. In relation to the Rapid Bins, additional sites are being investigated.</p> <p>Officer to consider request for Community Safety Wardens to be present in Downpatrick on Halloween night.</p>	<p>Request for Community Safety Wardens to be referred to PCSP for consideration.</p>
DEA/DPK/22/07	Report on DEA/Good Relations Initiatives	<p>The DEA Co-Ordinator presented her report to members.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

DEA/DPK/22/08	Date of Next Meeting	Date of Next Meeting to be held on 13 th December – time to be confirmed by Officer.	DEA Co-Ordinator.
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The meeting ended at: 6.20 pm

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Action Sheet of Newry District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum Private Meeting held on Thursday 13th October 2022 at 1.00pm via Microsoft Teams

Chairperson: Councillor Roisin Mulgrew

In Attendance: Councillor Charlie Casey
Councillor Valerie Harte

Independent Members: Eamonn Connolly, Newry BID
Raymond Jackson, Confederation of Community Groups
J Linden, Family Support Hub
Colin Hanna, Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency

Statutory Partners: Warren Roberts, PSNI

Council Officials: Kerri Morrow, Newry DEA Coordinator
Aisling Rennick, Engagement & Development Manager
Shannon Creaney, PCSP Officer

Others in Attendance: None

Apologies: Councillor Gavin Malone
Councillor Michael Savage
Noreen Rice, Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership
Donna Weir, EA Youth Service
Brian Lockhart, Orange Order
Catherine McInerney, Dept for Infrastructure
Niall Fitzpatrick, NIHE
Kelly Gibson, PSNI
Martin Connell, SHSCT Promoting Wellbeing Team

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed
DEA/N/2022/10	Declaration of Interest.	No declarations made.	COMPLETED.
DEA/N/2022/11	Matters arising from Action Sheet from meeting held 18 th August 2022.	Action sheet confirmed as a true and accurate record.	COMPLETED.
DEA/N/2022/12	Camlough Road Wall damage.	Request urgent update from Building Control re wall.	DEA Coordinator to progress.
DEA/N/2022/13	Vandalisation at Arch at Greater Linen Hall area.	Liaise with appropriate stakeholders regarding cleansing of site.	DEA Coordinator to progress.
DEA/N/2022/14	Peace IV Capital Project Engagement.	Meeting to be scheduled with Peace IV reps for an update.	Progress to relevant department for consideration.
DEA/N/2022/15	Newry Towpath and Canal.	Recommendation to remove weeds from Bridies Lock to Victoria Lock as part of maintenance plan.	Progress to relevant agency for consideration.

The meeting ended at: 2.10pm

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Action Sheet of Crotlieve District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 1st November 2022 at 18.00 pm via Microsoft Teams:

Chairperson:

Councillor Michael Ruane

In Attendance:

**Councillor Karen McKeivitt
Councillor Declan McAteer**

Independent Members:

**Claire Shields - County Down Rural Community Network
Tania Baille – Confederation of Community Groups**

Statutory Partners:

**Martina McAloon - MDT Southern Health and Social Care Trust
Carie Crawford – Education Authority**

Council Officials:

**Shirley Keenan – Crotlieve DEA Co-ordinator
Aisling Rennick – Engagement & Development Manager
Shannon Creaney - PCSP Officer**

Others in Attendance:

Laurence Bradley - Confederation of Community Groups

Apologies:

**Councillor Mark Gibbons
Councillor Jarlath Tinnelly
Councillor Gerry O'Hare
Damien Brannigan – Head of Engagement
Deirdre Magill - Southern Health and Social Care Trust**

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed.
DEA/C/27/2022	Declaration of Interest.	There were no declarations of interest declared.	COMPLETED.
DEA/C/28/2022	Matters arising from Action Sheet from meeting held September 2022.	Action sheet confirmed as a true and accurate record.	COMPLETED.
DEA/C/29/2022	DEA Co-ordinator's Report/ Spend and Action Plan.	Planned projects agreed by Forum Members along with associated budget.	DEA Co-ordinator to continue with delivery and implementation. Proposed by Cllr McKeivitt and seconded by Cllr McAtear.

DEA/C/30/2022	SHSCT Update.	Update provided by Mrs M McAloon, Multi-Disciplinary Team SHSCT.	COMPLETED.
DEA/C/31/2022	PCSP Update.	Update provided by Ms S Creaney, PCSP Officer.	COMPLETED.
DEA/C/32/2022	Education Authority Update.	Update provided by Mrs C Crawford. Opportunities for Joint Working with DEA Forum discussed.	COMPLETED.
DEA/C/08/2022	COVID-19 Pandemic Impact – Loneliness.	Request from Cllr McAteer to address loneliness as an issue in the DEA.	To be included in DEA action plan. Ongoing.
DEA/C/07/2020	Warrenpoint Town FC.	Request from Warrenpoint Town Football Club via Cllr Mark Gibbons for Council to erect lighting inside Council property boundary.	DEA Co-ordinator to refer matter to relevant Council department. COMPLETED. ITEM TO REMAIN ON AGENDA.

DEA/C/09/2020	Update on Toilets in Warrenpoint Park.	DEA Co-ordinator to obtain update.	Request from Cllr McAteer to ascertain from relevant officer what the timeline is for resolving this issue and what engagement there has been with NI Water. COMPLETED.
DEA/C/69/2021	Update on Warrenpoint Baths.	Item to remain on agenda.	Councillors were recently updated by ERT Department and will continue to be updated.
DEA/C/33/2022	Date of next meeting.	The next meeting date: 17 th January 2023.	DEA Co-ordinator to forward papers and Teams Link.

The meeting ended at: 19:00pm

Report to:	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting:	21 November 2022
Subject:	Community Coordination Hub (CCH) Update Report
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Janine Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Damien Brannigan, Head of Engagement

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either: -

For decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input type="checkbox"/>
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p>Purpose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To note the report. To consider and agree to approve the actions in the Action Sheet of the Community Coordination Hub (CCH) Meeting held on Wednesday 19 October 2022. <p>Background</p> <p>The information in Appendix 1 attached is provided to update the Committee on recent CCH activity and on activity planned to be undertaken by the CCH and its member organisations.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	To coordinate actions to mitigate the impact of Covid-19 on individuals and groups in the community.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	That the Committee: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note the report. Agree to approve the actions in the Action Sheet attached for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Community Coordination Hub (CCH) Meeting held on Wednesday 19 October 2022.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Support and assistance from partners to deliver actions in the CCH action sheet.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	<p>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</p>
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	<p>Appendices</p>
7.1	<p>Appendix 1: Action sheet of the CCH Meeting held on Wednesday 19 October 2022.</p>
8.0	<p>Background Documents</p>
8.1	<p>None.</p>

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Community Coordination Hub Meeting Wednesday 19 October 2022 @ 2:00pm

In Attendance: **Chair:** Damien Brannigan (Engagement)

Sarah McClory (Programmes Unit)
 Eoin Devlin (Health & Wellbeing)
 Aisling Rennick (DEAs)
 Alan Beggs (Community Planning)
 Raymond Jackson (Confederation of Community Groups and Strategic Stakeholder Forum)
 Rosemary McDonnell (Community Advice Newry, Mourne & Down and Strategic Stakeholder Forum)
 Nicholas McCrickard (County Down Rural Community Network and Strategic Stakeholder Forum)
 Aidan McCabe (SHSCT)
 James Elliot (DFC)
 Lynda Vladeanu (SEHSCT)
 Caroline Gray (Programmes Unit)

Apologies:
 Michael Lipsett (Active & Health Communities)
 Julie McCann (Community Services)
 Janine Hillen (Community Engagement)
 Sonya Burns (Programmes Unit)
 Justyna McCabe (Programmes Unit)
 Martina Flynn (PCSP)
 Gerard Rocks (SHSCT)

	Agenda Item	Discussion and Action Agreed	Raised by/ Referred to
1.	Welcome & Apologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everyone welcomed to the meeting and apologies given. 	
2.	Actions from last meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actions from last CCH meeting held attached and considered. 	All
3.	Funding Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding Opportunities for NI Community. Copy attached for information and distribution as appropriate. 	All
4.	Community Assistance Centre for Ukrainian Refugees Updates	<p>SMcC updated as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The four Community Assistance Centres within Northern Ireland – Newry, Craigavon, Ballymena and Belfast are now to open once a month to assist Ukrainian families and individuals, commencing 26 October 2022 in Newry. Opening times for centres will be reviewed for November and December 2022 on demand of enquiries. 	SMcC
5.	Update from DfC	<p>Update from JE (DfC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No further funding available from unallocated funds due to budget constraints and no Executive being in place. DEARA spoken with in relation to liaising with food businesses to see if there would be any support for providing food for distribution to those in need. Energy providers being targeted. Bid in to fund Bryson Scheme but no Executive to undertake a decision. The rising cost of living and soaring increases in energy bills continues to have major impact on people who are finding it harder to cope. No definite date set for payment of energy monies to consumers or decision taken on how it is to be made or received. It is believed it will be made at source through the Energy providers. In the Ards and North Down Borough Council area a pilot Social Supermarket (SSM) was launched on the 4 October 2022. 	JE

DB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DB advised that he heard at a SSM Progress meeting DfC held with Councils that in the Mid-Ulster Council area due the time it would take to establish a SSM Model in the area and the need that exists now to assist with the Cost of Living Crisis they are using a SSM Hybrid Food/Wrap Around Scheme which is utilising 12 existing foodbanks and St Vincent De Pauls to respond to the Cost of Living Crisis. DB asked the CCH if this is the type of scheme that we should initially use in NMD in order to support the Cost of Living Crisis, help with the demand on foodbanks, and given the time it will take to progress and establish the type of SSM Model that DfC envisage for each Council area. JE highlighted that in some areas some foodbanks don't wish to be involved in a SSM Model. In the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council area a HUB has been set up with a wraparound element providing advise/support to the community, working with trusted partners and foodbanks. JE advised that DfC would be accepting of a Cost of Living SSM Hybrid Food/Wrap Around Scheme in NMD and would be flexible in relation to the type of wraparound services provided for advise/support but that <u>Emergency Fuel Support could not be provided as part of the scheme</u>. JE also requested that the planning and operation of the Cost of Living SSM Hybrid Food/Wrap Around Scheme run in parallel with work to establish a SSM Model in NMD. DB proposed a parallel approach to the NMD Strategic Stakeholder Forum (SSF) establishing the SSM and setting up the Cost of Living SSM Hybrid Food/Wrap Around Scheme which was seconded by RJ (subject to SSF consideration and acceptance, and AHC Committee approval), with the Cost of Living SSM Hybrid Food/Wrap Around Scheme to be operated by the SSF through an "Expression of Interest" (EOI) scheme incorporating key information/requirements from DfC's SSM Funding Memorandum of Understanding. All in attendance agreed with the proposed parallel approach. Also, given that the DfC SSM funding has to be allocated/spent by financial year end 31 March 2023 it was discussed and recommended (subject to AHC Committee approval) that given the urgent need to progress the District's 	DB/RJ/NMmC/RMcd
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6.	Cost of Living Crisis/Warm Spaces	<p>Pilot SSM that the SSF undertake the appointment of a lead partner(s) for the District's Pilot SSM through an EOI with members of the SSF (to be followed by a full business case, application, and recruitment process).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AB advised that he issued a survey to SSF groups to establish Warm Spaces available within the district. 12 responses received and list circulated with CCH agenda. • AB asked if this is something that should be sign posted with other similar warm space initiatives to community groups and through the SSF. All agreed it should and AB will update the list circulated with the agenda by contacting and drawing in information from community/voluntary/statutory etc sectors. • AR advised of pilot scheme in Newry Leisure Centre – Open House commenced with 60 people with varying degrees of needs availing of tea and coffee in a warm space from 9.00 am – 2.00 pm (on Mondays). Arranged at short notice over a week. Tea and coffee provided by local businesses and young people enquiring if they can provide scones. Received positively by community groups. • Martin Lewis has also put out pointers on his programme in relation to Warm Spaces. • Public Libraries also provide free tea and coffee and a warm space. • Do these approaches need to be highlighted and sign posted to community workers/groups by flyers for individuals/familied to be made aware of. • Use of Council facilities for warm spaces may require SMT to be made aware of approach being taken as heating costs and staff availability would have to be reviewed. • Newry DEA Forum and Newry DEA Councillors are aware of approach being taken in relation to Open House in Newry Leisure Centre and there are no additional costs or staffing requirements. 	<p>AB</p> <p>AB</p> <p>AR</p> <p>JE</p> <p>SMcC</p> <p>SMcC</p> <p>ED</p> <p>AR</p>
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7.	Updates and Progress to date on DfC funded Programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community update • SSF meeting to be arranged for 21 October 2022. • Due to the Cost of Living Crisis, Chamber of Commerce have been approached to contact larger businesses and direct them to CCH for donations of food and clothing to be provided. • Trusts update • 12 programmes continuing to run in 12 schools in relation to Healthy Eating – reaching out to 3,000 students. • 250 places provided for training on Cook Smart with Slow Cookers. Tips being provided. • Loneliness campaign on going, information to be shared with partners and within CCH as further support will be needed in next few months. • Council update • DfC Funding Update Report circulated with agenda – permission from DfC to carry forward £81,929.69 of 2021/2022 SSM funding into this financial year 2022/2023 which must be used/allocated by 31 March 2023. • Council's Sustainable Food Programme ongoing and RJ and NMCC to provide update on recent funding allocated to SSF via CCG and CDRCN. • Affordable Warmth Scheme continuing within Council area and within Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council area. • Keep Warm packs which contain a fleece and a blanket continuing to be distributed in Southern and South Eastern areas. • Home Safety, Age Friendly and Health and Equality talks being provided in various hubs with leaflets available. • Work is to be coordinated within the Community Planning Partnership. 	RJ/RMCD/NMCC RJ AMCC AMCC LV DB DB/RJ/NMCC ED ED ED AB
8.	AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information that CCH members would like shared to be sent to Patricia Oakes for circulation to CCH members and then for onward distribution as appropriate. 	All
9.	Date of next meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 16 November 2022 at 2.00 pm 	

Next Meeting: Wednesday 16 November 2022 at 2.00 pm

Report to:	Active Healthy Communities
Date of Meeting:	21 November 2022
Subject:	Service level Agreement with the Education Authority.
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Michael Lipsett- Director of Active and Healthy Communities
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Alan Beggs- Head of Evidence and Research

For decision	X	For noting only	
1.0			Purpose and Background
1.1			<p>Youth Voice NMD (Youth Council) exists to provide young people in Newry Mourne and Down District with the opportunity to engage with local decision making and increase levels of civic participation amongst young people. It was established in 2021 and replaced the previous Youth Councils as a single structure across the entire NMD area.</p> <p>At the Active and Health Communities Committee held 16th August 2021 it was agreed that:</p> <p>"The Council endorse the new Youth Voice initiative and seek to provide support and assist them with their goal of engaging with local decision makers around issues of importance to them".</p> <p>It was further recommended within the paper that the Community Planning team continue to work with the Education Authority to consider any requirement for financial assistance for the Youth Voice initiative. After further discussion, it is now proposed that Council will provide EA with £5,000 from the Community Planning budget in order to facilitate the development of Youth Voice, support their social action project delivery and enable them to engage further with young people across the District</p> <p>Council shall therefore issue the Education Authority a Service Level Agreement to accommodate the Facilitation of "Youth Voice NMD", the District's youth council.</p> <p>The proposed SLA should be at the value of £5,000.</p>
2.0			Key issues
2.1			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The financial assistance provided will be used to facilitate the groups project development work and allow them to engage widely with Young People across the District. Youth Voice is overseen by a Project Board which is made up of officer representation from across Council departments as well as our statutory and community voluntary sector partners.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Voice provides a quarterly scorecard to the Community Planning partnership which highlights the activity they have undertaken and the outcomes they have achieves. • Youth Voice will continue to assist Council in fulfilling its statutory and legislative requirement to enable young people to have a say in the development of services and policies that affect their lives, as set out in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014, ○ Statutory Guidance for Community Planning 2015 ○ Children’s Services Co-Operation Act (NI) 2015 ○ United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child – Article 12 ○ Priorities for Youth (2013)
3.0	<p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To issue a Service Level Agreement through the Council Programmes Unit, verified in line with Council procedures.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Revenue/Payroll: Funding will be allocated from internal Council Budget and SLA administered by Council Programmes Unit. Budget of £5,000 allocated and cost code provided.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p>

	Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Rationale:</i>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If yes, please complete the following: Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/>
7.0	Appendices
	n/a
8.0	Background Documents
	n/a

Report to:	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting:	November 2022
Subject:	Liaison Agreement for the Investigation of Work Related Deaths
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Eoin Devlin Assistant Director of Health and Wellbeing
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Sinead Trainor Head of Environmental Health (Commercial)

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either: -

For decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input type="checkbox"/>
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval to sign up to the revised liaison agreement for the Investigation of Work Related Deaths, also known as the Work Related Death Protocol (WRDP).
2.0	Key issues
2.1	District Councils have a statutory responsibility to investigate potential criminal offences relating to breaches of health and safety legislation in workplaces for which they are the relevant enforcing authority. Where a fatality occurs in such a premise, the district council will be responsible for leading the investigation and liaising with the other relevant parties. This agreement for liaison is between the Health and Safety Executive for NI (HSENI), the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland (PONI) and the Northern Ireland district councils. The original document was signed in 2007 and this new revision brings the agreement up-to-date. This revised protocol ensures that the liaison arrangements remain in place, enabling parties to work together effectively during investigations of work-related deaths.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	It is recommended that the Committee consider the request and grant approval for Council to sign up to the revised liaison agreement for the Investigation of Work Related Deaths.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	None
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i>

	It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale: N/A</i></p>	
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)	
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If no, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	
7.0	Appendices	

	Appendix 1: Investigation of Work-Related Deaths – Northern Ireland Agreement for Liaison document
8.0	Background Documents
	n/a

INVESTIGATION OF WORK-RELATED DEATHS

Northern Ireland Agreement for Liaison

October 2022


FOREWORD

The partners to this agreement are the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland, the Police Service of Northern Ireland, the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland district councils through their representative body, Environmental Health Northern Ireland. The agreement is designed to emphasise the importance of the appropriate investigative agencies working together to ensure that a thorough investigation is carried out of work-related deaths in Northern Ireland.

We are acutely conscious of the strength of public feeling about workplace fatalities, and how these tragic incidents devastate people's lives.

All of the signatory organisations recognise the need for investigating authorities to talk to each other and to share information and best practice. We appreciate that people want to be confident that we are doing all that we can to co-ordinate our efforts and to co-operate with each other in the best interests of public safety and of those affected by work-related deaths.

We endorse this agreement. We believe that it provides an effective framework for liaison, and that its introduction will help ensure that all signatory organisations work in partnership to deliver the high standard of professionalism that the public requires and deserves.



**Detective Superintendent
Serious Crime Branch
Police Service of
Northern Ireland**

**Deputy Chief Executive
Health and Safety Executive for
Northern Ireland**

**Environmental Health
Northern Ireland**

**The Police Ombudsman for
Northern Ireland**

INTRODUCTION

This agreement for liaison is between the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI), the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland (PONI) and the Northern Ireland district councils through their representative body, Environmental Health Northern Ireland.

It sets out the principles for effective liaison between the parties in relation to the investigation of work-related deaths in Northern Ireland. In particular, it deals with incidents where, following a death, there is a suspicion that criminal offences such as manslaughter and breaches of health and safety legislation, may have been committed. The agreement addresses issues concerning general liaison and is not intended to cover the operational practices of the signatory organisations.

HSENI, PSNI, PONI and the district councils have different roles and responsibilities in relation to a work-related death.

At present, only PSNI can investigate serious criminal offences, not involving police conduct, within the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act such as manslaughter. PSNI will also have a duty in establishing the circumstances surrounding a work-related death in order to assist the coroner's inquest.

HSENI and district councils are responsible, under Article 20 of the Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 (HSWO), for making adequate arrangements for the enforcement of health and safety legislation with a view to securing the health, safety and welfare of workers and protecting others, principally the public.

The Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland and district councils have statutory responsibilities to investigate potential criminal offences relating to breaches of health and safety legislation. Each regulator has specific areas of responsibility, further details of which are set out in Annex A of this agreement.

PONI have a responsibility under the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 1998 to, inter alia, investigate any matter which appears to the Police Ombudsman to indicate that a member of the police service may have committed a criminal offence or behaved in a manner which would justify disciplinary proceedings if it appears that it is desirable in the public interest to do so. In addition, the PSNI have a duty to report any matter to the Police Ombudsman where it appears to indicate that the conduct of a member of the police service may have resulted in the death of some other person. In such cases it is the responsibility of the PONI to fully investigate the matter.

Whilst HSENI, the district councils, the PSNI and PONI have a role in investigating work-related deaths, only the Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland (PPSNI) (formerly the Director of Public Prosecutions for

Northern Ireland) can decide whether a prosecution in such a case of manslaughter will proceed.

The underlying principles of this agreement are as follows:

- Appropriate recommendations concerning prosecution will be made to the PPSNI based on a sound investigation of the circumstances surrounding work-related deaths;
- PSNI will conduct an investigation into potential criminal offences, such as offences within the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act (formally gross negligence or corporate manslaughter). The Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland and district councils will conduct investigations into potential criminal offences relating to breaches of health and safety legislation.
- There will usually be a joint investigation, but on the rare occasions where this would not be appropriate, there will still be liaison and co-operation between the investigating parties;
- PONI will conduct an investigation if the requirements of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 1998 apply. Where this occurs, PONI may take similar investigative measures as the PSNI otherwise would have, and will retain ownership of the investigation;
- The bereaved and witnesses will be kept suitably informed; and
- The parties to the agreement will maintain effective mechanisms for liaison.

There are other authorities that have responsibility for enforcing other similar legislation. Whilst these organisations are not signatories to this agreement they may wish to take onboard the principles enshrined within it.

IN WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES WILL THIS AGREEMENT APPLY?

For the purposes of this agreement, a work-related death is a fatality resulting from an incident arising out of, or in connection with, work¹. The principles set out in this agreement also apply to cases where the victim suffers injuries in such an incident that are so serious that there is a clear indication, according to medical opinion, of a strong likelihood of death.

There will be cases in which it is difficult to determine whether a death is work-related within the application of this agreement; for example, those arising out

¹ "Work" as defined in Article 2(4)(a)(b)(c) and (5) of the Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 as amended.

of some road traffic collisions², or in prisons, or health care institutions, or following a gas leak. Each fatality must be considered individually, on its particular facts and a decision made as to whether it should be classed as a work-related death. In determining the question, the enforcing authorities will hold discussions and where possible agree upon a conclusion without delay.

1. STATEMENT OF INTENT

- 1.1 In the early stages of an investigation, whether any criminal offence has been committed is not always apparent. The parties to the agreement are committed to ensuring that any investigation into a work-related death is thorough and appropriate, and agree to liaise closely together in order to achieve this. Decisions in relation to who will lead the investigation, and the direction it will take, should be timely, informed by the best available evidence and technical expertise, and should take account of the wider public interest. Should there be any issue as to who is to be involved in investigating any work-related death, then the parties will liaise together to reach a conclusion.
- 1.2 The provisions of the ECHR as given effect by the Human Rights Act 1998 will apply to investigations carried out under this agreement.
- 1.3 Article 2 ECHR, the right to life, requires, by implication that there should be some form of effective official investigation when there is reason to believe that an individual has sustained life-threatening injuries or death in suspicious circumstances. The investigation must be capable of establishing the cause of the injuries and the identification of those responsible with a view to their punishment.

2. INITIAL ACTION

- 2.1 A PSNI or PONI officer attending an incident involving a work related death should arrange to carry out duties, according to the officer's own general orders governing unexplained deaths, including:
 - identify, secure, preserve and take control of the scene, and any other relevant place;
 - supervise and record all activity including photography and mapping;
 - inform a senior supervisory officer (PSNI in accordance with the Service Instruction SI2016);
 - enquire whether the employer or other responsible person in

² "Collisions" can include any incident on the roads where a person or persons are killed.

control of the premises or activity has informed HSENI, the district council or other relevant authority; and

- contact and discuss the incident with HSENI, the district council or other relevant authority, and agree arrangements for controlling the scene, for considering access to others, and for other local handling procedures to ensure the safety of the public.
- consider the need for seizing of any physical or documentary evidence.

2.2 A PSNI or PONI officer of supervisory rank should ordinarily attend the scene and any other relevant place to assess the situation, review actions taken to date and assume responsibility for the investigation. See Service Instruction SI2016. Before leaving the site, PSNI or PONI officer of supervisory rank should also arrange for a follow-up meeting with staff from relevant authority.

2.3 It shall be assumed that the PSNI or PONI has primacy in the case unless Section 4.2 of this document is applicable.

2.4 Should any other investigating or enforcing authority have staff in attendance before the police or PONI arrive, it should ensure that the police or PONI have been called, and preserve the scene in accordance with the initial actions (above) until the police or PONI get there.

3. JOINT INVESTIGATIVE STRATEGY

3.1 A Joint Investigative Strategy should be drawn up at the follow-up meeting and subsequently recorded as agreed. The purpose of this document is to ensure that investigations are always managed professionally, with communications between the relevant signatory organisations continually maintained and expectations of the parties clearly set out.

3.2 PSNI, PONI, HSENI, the district councils and/or other relevant authority, as part of drawing up the Joint Investigation Strategy, should consider and agree upon:

- Investigative primacy and cooperation between relevant authorities (see Sections 4.1 and 4.2).
 - How evidence is to be shared, used and disclosed between the parties;
 - How, and to what extent, corporate or organisational

- failures should be investigated;
 - The mechanism by which the PSNI, PONI, HSENI or the district council or other relevant authority will keep the progress of the investigation under review; and
 - What liaison if any, may be required with the PPSNI at an early stage and throughout the course of investigation;
- Witness/suspect status.
 - Agreement on how witnesses and suspects will be approached and interviewed (recognising that a witness for one agency may be a suspect for another).
- Sourcing of expert or forensic requirements.
 - How the instruction of experts and the forensic examination of exhibits is to be coordinated; and
 - Identification and use of established frameworks for sourcing.
- Investigative funding.
 - Equal division of costs between relevant parties for expert/forensic requirements;
 - Who will take the lead in specific contracts; and
 - If applicable, the need for budgetary approval of costs.
- Liaison with other interested parties.
 - Consideration should be given to a single point of contact with the agency who has primacy. This should include how the bereaved, and other interested parties such as the coroner, will be informed of developments in the investigation and level of information shared; and
 - The need for media liaison to take account of media interest and the sensitivities of the bereaved and those involved in the incident, and to encourage consistency of approach in responding to such queries.

4. DECISION MAKING

- 4.1 At the initial follow-up meeting, consideration should be given to determining if the investigation gives rise to a suspicion that a criminal offence, within the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act, or police officer conduct may have caused the death. If so, PSNI (or PONI) will continue to have primacy for the joint investigation. The arrangements for joint working will be set out the in the Joint Investigation Strategy.
- 4.2 Where it becomes apparent during the investigation that there is insufficient evidence that a criminal offence within the Corporate

Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act, or police officer conduct caused the death, the investigation should, by agreement, be taken over by HSENI, the district council or other relevant authority. Such a decision must be recorded in writing³. Arrangements, subject to legal restriction, should be made to allow access to or release of, if appropriate, exhibits which were in the possession of PSNI or PONI and are relevant to the investigation.

- 4.3 Where HSENI, the district council or other enforcing authority is investigating the death, and new information is discovered which may assist PSNI or PONI in considering whether a criminal offence (other than a health and safety criminal offence) has been committed, or police conduct may have led to the death, then the enforcing authority will pass that new information to PSNI or PONI. The police or PONI should then consider whether to resume primacy for the investigation. The decision and reasons should be recorded in writing⁴.
- 4.4 Where PSNI or PONI no longer maintain primacy for an investigation, the relevant enforcing authority will establish contact with the Coroner's Office to advise of a continuing criminal investigation which may result in criminal proceedings. Close liaison between the relevant enforcing authority and the PSNI (acting as the Coroner's Officers) will be necessary to ensure any action by the Coroner's Officers does not adversely impact or conflict with the criminal investigation.
- 4.5 There will also be rare occasions where as a result of the coroner's inquest, judicial review or other legal proceedings, further consideration of the evidence and surrounding facts may need to be made. Where this takes place PSNI or PONI and the enforcing authority with primacy for the investigation will liaise to ensure an early decision on the need for further investigation.

5. SHARING AND DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION AND MATERIAL

- 5.1 Sharing and disclosure must always follow the established law and procedure.
- 5.2 Where there has been an investigation, any material obtained should be shared, subject to any legal restrictions, between PSNI, PONI, HSENI, the district council or other relevant authority as appropriate. Special handling procedures may be necessary in certain cases. The organisation responsible for retaining the exhibits, documents and other relevant material should also be agreed upon.

³ The PSNI / PONI should officially inform HSENI or the relevant District Council in writing of such a decision.

⁴ As above

6. SPECIAL INQUIRIES

- 6.1 In the case of some incidents, particularly those involving multiple fatalities, the Government Department concerned or HSENI may undertake a public inquiry. Alternatively, the Government Department concerned or HSENI may authorise any other person to investigate and produce a special report.
- 6.2 In such circumstances, PSNI or PONI will provide any necessary support and evidence to the person appointed to conduct the public inquiry, or to the special investigation, subject to the relevant regulations and legal constraints.
- 6.3 Complex legal issues may arise when there are parallel public inquiries and criminal investigations or prosecutions. The signatories will aim to keep inquiry chairs informed of the progress of the investigation so far as is possible.
- 6.4 Sometimes the report of a public inquiry may be delayed to await the conclusion of criminal proceedings, and on other occasions, there may be no such delay because of strong public interest in publishing the report and the recommendations of a public inquiry quickly. In either event, the signatories to the agreement will liaise together to ensure that any recommendation regarding prosecution is made as expeditiously as possible.
- 6.5 Consideration will be given to legislation covering inquiries including the Inquiries Act (2005).

7. REVIEW OF AGREEMENT

- 7.1 The Signatory Organisations will review the operation of the agreement as appropriate and consider the need for changes to the arrangements.

ANNEX A

ENFORCING AUTHORITIES UNDER THE HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 1978 (HSWO) AND RELATED LEGISLATION

Enforcement of the HSWO and the related legislation is generally shared between HSENI and district councils. A general guide to the allocation of the main activity is detailed below. In circumstances where it is unclear as to who the enforcing authority is, advice can be sought from HSENI (see below for contact details).

Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI)

HSENI enforces health and safety at work legislation in:

- factories
- building sites
- farms
- motor vehicle repairs
- quarries
- chemical plants
- schools and universities
- leisure and entertainment facilities
- fairgrounds
- hospitals and nursing homes
- district council
- fire and police
- government departments
- domestic gas installation, maintenance or repair
- any other workplace not listed under District Councils below

Contacting HSENI

Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland
83 Ladas Drive
Belfast
BT6 9FR

Tel: 028 9024 3249

Web: www.hseni.gov.uk

HSENI operates an out of hours contact system to respond to major incidents. Outside normal working hours, calls are redirected via the 028 90 243249 number who will pass on your call to the HSENI Out of Hours Inspector to respond.

This should only be used for emergency situations within HSENI's enforcement remit, where an incident is related to a work activity and involves:

- a fatality;
- an injury which is so severe that it may result in a fatality; or
- a matter of public safety related to a work activity.

The Out of Hours System does not respond to routine notifications of minor incidents.

District Councils

District Councils enforce health and safety at work legislation in:

- offices
- retail and wholesale shops
- tyre and exhaust fitters
- restaurants, take away food shops, mobile snack bars and catering services
- hotels, guest houses, residential homes, etc.
- wholesale and retail warehouses
- leisure and entertainment facilities (privately owned)
- exhibitions
- religious activities
- undertakers
- therapeutic and beauty services
- animal care

Contacting district councils out of hours

There will be local arrangements in place for contacting the authorised health and safety inspectors within district councils. Contact can usually be made through the local town hall or council offices during office hours and on an emergency number out of office hours.

Report to:	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting:	21 November 2022
Subject:	NFLA Membership Fee 2022/2023
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Eoin Devlin Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Eamonn Keaveney, Sustainability Officer

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-

For decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input type="checkbox"/>
---------------------	-------------------------------------	------------------------	--------------------------

1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	To consider and approve payment of the 2022/23 Membership Subscription to NFLA (Nuclear Free Local Authorities).
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>The NFLA (Nuclear Free Local Authorities) group is a local authority group made up of Councils from England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. It raises issues over all aspects of nuclear policy and energy policy in order to assist local government in meeting its commitment to sustainable development, energy policy development, environmental protection and public safety.</p> <p>A NFLA All Ireland Forum was established in 2001 (following on from a number of annual UK and Ireland Conferences on Nuclear Hazards). In 2019, Forum councillors, agreed to refocus the Forum to assist local authorities with advice and best practice on dealing with the climate emergency, promoting sustainable energy and mitigating the worst effects of climate change.</p> <p>Newry, Mourne and Down District Council has held the Chair and Vice Chair positions for the NFLA in Ireland and also provides secretariat support. NMDDC Councillors attend meetings and receive correspondence and information sheets regularly.</p> <p>NFLA regularly produces useful and informative Reports and Informational Sheets on Climate Change and Energy as well as Nuclear issues. NFLA also organise and host relevant events and meetings across the UK and Ireland engaging respected international expert speakers on current topics. The NFLA Work Plan for 2022 is included in Appendix 1, along with Progress Reports for Sept and Oct 2022 (Appendices 2 and 3) and the latest NFLA Newsletter Oct 2022 (Appendix 4).</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To approve paying the annual subscription for membership of the NFLA to the value of £1283.00.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Annual Membership Subscription Fee of £1283.00 is within existing budgets.

5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p>

	Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/>
	If no, please complete the following:
	The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs <input type="checkbox"/>
7.0	Appendices
	Appendix 1 2022 NFLA Work Plan Appendix 2 NFLA October 2022 Newsletter Appendix 3 NFLA Progress Report Sept 2022 Appendix 4 NFLA Progress Report Oct 2022
8.0	Background Documents
	None



NFLA SC 23 Sept 2022

Item E – Work Plan

Activity / Event	Date	Notes
Highlight activities since last SC meeting		
Meeting - Nuleaf in-person meeting in Bridgwater	15-16 June	Nuleaf meeting in Bridgwater, presentations on Hinkley Point A and B, and visit to the Hinkley Point C exhibition. Evening meeting with two Stop Hinkley C activists
Conference -1 Meeting of the States Parties to the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and Mayors for Peace events, Vienna	20-23 June	Manchester's Lead Member for Mayors for Peace, Cllr Newman, and Secretary attended the 1MSP, a Mayors for Peace side event (at which Cllr Newman was a speaker), an Executive Cities meeting and a meeting of the European Chapter Board (where Cllr Newman provided closing remarks).
Webinar - Nuclear is no solution to energy crisis	28 June	In relation to NFLA, we also met with the Secretariat of Cities for a Nuclear Free Europe to reopen a dialogue on partnership working.
Conference - Sizewell C: More questions than answers in Saxmundham, Suffolk.	2 July	With CND, Linda Pentz Gunter and other partners. The current and former NFLA Secretaries were both involved in organising and promoting this.
Meeting - West Mersea Town Council, Essex.	4 July	The NFLA Chair and Secretary spoke at this conference and then had an visit to the Sizewell site. Conference attended by sixty people
Webinar – Promoting take up of the nuclear treaty ban communities' resolutions to Councils	19 July	The NFLA Secretary made a presentation to Councillors about Bradwell and SMRs. Attended by a dozen Councillors. Joint webinar with CND. NFLA Secretary was a speaker.
Conference - A United Welsh Front against Nuclear Power in Caernarfon.	23 July	The NFLA Secretary was the opening speaker of the conference. The bespoke Caernarfon Declaration, written by the Secretary, was signed by representatives of most of the Welsh anti-nuclear groups. Attended by 30 people plus a similar number online.

<p>Events - Hiroshima and Nagasaki commemoration days</p> <p>Presentation on Preston nuclear waste incinerator to New Horizons campaign meeting, St Annes</p> <p>Conference - Nuclear Decommissioning Authority Stakeholder Summit, Edinburgh</p> <p>Event - Formal launch of the new NDA NGO Forum</p>	<p>6 & 9 August</p> <p>15 August</p> <p>7-8 Sept</p> <p>7-8 Sept</p>	<p>The NFLA Chair, Cllr Newman and Secretary played prominent roles in the events held in Leeds and Manchester</p> <p>Representing Radiation Free Lakeland as well as NFLA.</p> <p>Attended by forty people</p> <p>Attended by the NFLA Chair, Cllr Newman and Secretary C/o Nuleaf.</p> <p>At the NDA Stakeholder Summit. NFLA Secretary signed the founding document and was invited to say a few words from the main stage. This was a workstream that the former NFLA Secretary was engaged in.</p>
<p>Visit - Nuleaf Visit to the Submarine Decommissioning Project, Rosyth</p> <p>Membership Drive Letters sent out to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District Councils Network • County Councils' Network • National Association of Local Councils / Local Council Review • Cooperative Councils' Innovation Network • Northern Ireland Local Government Association • LGMA (Republic of Ireland LGA) • Solace (Society of Local Authority Chief Executives) • LGA Labour Group • LGA Liberal Democrat Group • LGA Independent Group • Association of Labour Councillors • Association of Lib Dem Councillor's • National Association of Councillor's • Institute of Public Administration / Local Authority Times (RoI) • SERA - Labour's Environment Campaign • Green Liberal Democrats • Alba Party (via website) • Sinn Fein 	<p>8 Sept PM</p> <p>12 September</p>	<p>Organised by Nuleaf and attended by the NFLA Secretary. This was a workstream the former NFLA Secretary was engaged in.</p> <p>Have offered to write copy for magazines, a circular for members and to speak at meetings and conferences.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Democrat and Labour Party, Northern Ireland (via website) • Alliance Party of Northern Ireland • Plaid Cymru Councillors' Association • National Association of Councillors in Northern Ireland • Municipal Journal • Local Government Chronicle • First Magazine 			
Webinar - The EPR – the future of nuclear expansion or rather a failed technology? Media releases issued since last SC meeting	19 Sept	Pending	
Briefings issued since last SC meeting	27 May to present	36 media releases issued	
Newsletters issued since last SC meeting	27 May to present	12 briefings issued	
27 May to present		4 newsletters issued	
Activities in next quarter (to calendar year end)			
Membership Fees and Membership Drive			
NFLA Secretary to contact English, Irish and Welsh member authorities about 2022-23 fees and to ensure invoices are sent and followed up	From early October		
Letters to be sent to prospective new member authorities in England, Ireland and Wales, and interested parties followed up	From early October		
Briefings			
FOI responses to questions on nuclear weapons convoys	By early October	A summary of the responses received from Local Resilience Forums and the MOD to a question set on their preparedness for convoy accidents	
Status of the submarine decommissioning programme	By early October	An update following the visit to the decommissioning project on 8 Sept	
In-Person Meetings and Events			
Tour of Heysham AGR power station	24 Oct	Arranged to attend incognito as part of a public tour	
ONR NGO Forum	15-16 Nov	Novotel, Manchester	

Visit to the RAIN (Robotics and Artificial Intelligence in Nuclear) project at the University of Manchester	Possibly 15-16 Nov	The RAIN Hub is a consortium of universities led by the University of Manchester. info.rainhub.org.uk
NFLA Wales Forum meeting at Pierhead Building, Cardiff	6 Dec	The Pierhead building is booked for the afternoon, the Forum to follow-on from a high-level event by CND Cymru with AMs at the Senedd on the arrival of the Wales: 40 years nuclear free exhibition.
On-line Meetings and Events		
Nuclear Emergency Planning meeting	11 Oct	This was requested by NFLA. We have raised issues of iodine distribution in advance of any nuclear accident as policy and the utility of the Rimnet radiation monitoring system.
NFLA Scotland Forum	14 Oct	
Mayors for Peace General Conference	19-20 Oct	Held in Hiroshima. Cllr Newman as Manchester City Council's permanent representative and the Mayors for Peace Secretary attending online.
Lecture to the University of New England, Australia	1 Dec.	The NFLA Secretary has been requested to deliver a Zoom lecture on peace to Australian academics and staff at the University of New England, Armidale as part of the 40 th anniversary celebration of the establishment of a Peace Studies Department.
Webinar - Onshore Wind	???	With Community Energy England, the charity Possible, Ripple and the Lawrence Weston onshore wind project.
Webinar – Crowdfunding / Community Municipal Investment Bonds	???	With Abundance Finance, Councils who have used CMIs
Administration		
Refresh website	By AGM	Website is quite difficult to navigate with items posted under various categories and in various places = needs tidying up
Review communications	By AGM	Would be useful to create a database of all postings by category, date, number etc to ease navigation
Activities in new calendar year		
Internship with the Mayor of Hiroshima's office	By AGM	Last review carried out for 2020/21 AGM
Visit to the Culham Centre for Fusion Energy in Oxfordshire' combined with in-person meetings in Oxford and Reading	11-25 January 2023 Spring 2023	

Hi Richard,

Your enquiry about UKAEA's open days was sent across to me. All of our open evenings have been virtual for the last 2 or so years due to COVID-19. However, now that it's much safer for in-person events, I am planning to bring the on-site open evenings back for the summer months, so our virtual events will be put on hold for a few months.

The first will likely be in June/July however I do not have confirmed dates as of yet and first places will be given to those that had their tours cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic. They will happen on one Wednesday evening a month. As soon as tickets are available to book (for free), they will be published on our UKAEA Eventbrite page: [UK Atomic Energy Authority Events | Eventbrite](https://uk.atomic-energy-authority.events.eventbrite.com). We'll also announce the dates on our social media channels @ukaeaofficial and website <https://ccfe.ukaea.uk/about-ccfe/visit-ccfe/>.

We do not have plans yet to bring back the open days that happened on a Saturday in May and November. I will be having the website updated – so sorry for any confusion this caused! If/when we decide to bring back the open days, they will be advertised on our social media and Eventbrite pages, the same as open evenings.

I hope this helps and I hope to see you at one of our virtual or in-person open evenings/events in the future. Apologies again for any confusion.

Kind regards,
Paige



UK Atomic Energy Authority

Paige Cull

Communications Assistant
United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority
Culham Science Centre, Abingdon, OX14 3DB, UK
Email: paige.cull@ukaea.uk

Nuclear Free Local Authorities

Councils working for a renewable, safe and peaceful future



NFLA Newsletter

October 2022
Volume 14, Issue 10

75

NFLA SC Chair and the NFLA
English Forum Chair
Councillor David Blackburn

NFLA/MFP Chapter Secretary
Richard Outram

NFLA All-Ireland Forum Chairs
Councillor Karen McKeivitt (NI)
Councillor David Healy (RoI)

NFLA All-Ireland Secretary
Eamonn Keaveney

NFLA SC Vice-Chair (England)
Vacant

NFLA Scotland Convener
Councillor Paul Leinster

NFLA Scotland Vice-Convener
Councillor Audrey Dolg

NFLA SC Vice-Chair (Scotland)
Councillor Bill Butler

NFLA Scotland Secretary
Cathy Birrell

NFLA Welsh Forum Chair
Cllr Sue Lent

Contents:

Page 1 – Three in a row –
another change at the top.

Page 2 – Halloween plea
to major investors not to
back Sizewell C
nightmare.

It's just resting: Bradwell
situation akin to Python
parrot sketch.

NFLA meets with
regulators to discuss
graphite cracking
concerns.

Page 3 – Democratising
decision-making on the
nuclear waste dump.

NFLA urges government to
issue iodine.

Update on rail safety

Mayors for Peace marks
40th anniversary in
Hiroshima.

NFLA Secretariat, City Policy,
Level 6, Town Hall Extension,
Library Walk, Manchester,
M60 2LA.

Richard.outram@manchester.gov.uk Tel:

+44 (0)7583097793

Websites / partner links:

NFLA:

<http://www.nuclearpolicy.info>
(Also links to Facebook & Twitter)

CNFE: <http://www.cnfe.eu>

Mayors for Peace globally and in Europe:

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org>

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.eu>

KIMO:

<http://www.kimointernational.org>

ICAN: <http://www.icanw.org>

ICAN UK: <http://www.ican-uk.org>

Right: A vision of a
nightmare: The NFLA
has written to nine
investment funds urging
them not to invest in
Sizewell C, which will be
threatened by rising sea
levels in future years.

**Painting by Lee
Norton.**



Three in a row – yet another change at the top

The installation of Rishi Sunak as the third prime minister in as many months displacing the increasingly beleaguered Liz Truss after only a few weeks has so far been a mixed blessing.

Truss appeared wedded to reintroducing fracking and preventing the development of any more solar farms on agricultural land, whilst Energy Secretary Jacob Rees-Mogg was adamant that the last of the North Sea gas and oil should be ruthlessly extracted 'to the last drop'.

However Liz Truss was willing to change the rules to permit onshore wind developments for the first time since David Cameron imposed a blanket ban in England, and her universal support for energy bill payers would have lasted for several years not months.

Sunak for his part confirmed in a reponse to a parliamentary question from Green MP Caroline Lucas that he would be reimposing the moratorium on fracking in line with established Conservative Party policy, but he has previously made

statements opposing any loosening of the ban on onshore windfarms.

On the question of preventing further solar farms, we do not have the answer. The original proponent of the plan, Environment Secretary Ranil Jayawardena has now gone, replaced by Therese Coffey. The Country Landowners Association, natural allies of the Conservatives, are in uproar at the plan, citing the impact on farm incomes.

We have already been quick to redirect our plea to institute a comprehensive windfall tax on the obscene profits of energy extractors, generators and suppliers, and to require the industry to apply profit-free tariffs for the remainder of the energy crisis.

The NFLA wants to see the money raised used to pay for an emergency national programme to fit insulation and energy efficiency measures into Britain's cold and damp homes, for amongst European nations our housing stock is recognised as the worst insulated.

This will bring down energy bills, make homes healthier, reduce our carbon footprint, and create many jobs.

We have also urged the Prime Minister to provide enhanced support with energy bills for the most vulnerable customers.

Neither Johnson nor Truss found time to reply to our letter, but maybe Mr Sunak will stay in office long enough to write back.

We have also written to Chancellor Jeremy Hunt asking him to immediately improve the public finances by relieving the taxpayer of any obligation to support Sizewell C.

In one of his last acts of bravado, Johnson pledged £700 million to this Suffolk White Elephant, whilst Truss agreed a concordat with President Macron for the British and French to each take at least a 20% equity in this boondoggle.

Over solar farms and onshore wind, we expect to join battle with ministers shortly....

NFLA media releases,**October 2022:****(On website)**

- Halloween plea to major investors not to back Sizewell C 'nightmare' – 31 Oct
- Third time lucky: NFLA hopes for reply to windfall tax plea sent to latest PM – 26 Oct
- Irish Nuclear Free Local Authorities welcome Minister's rejection of nuclear – 25 Oct
- Editorial for RTME railway magazine on nuclear rail safety – 21 Oct
- Chancellor urged to leave Sizewell 'well alone' – 20 Oct
- Off the hook: UK government absolves nuclear operators from accident liability – 18 Oct
- NFLA urges government to distribute iodine tablets to help prepare for nuclear threat – 17 Oct
- Community Partnerships urged to follow example set by South Copeland and go still further to make meetings more 'accessible and transparent' – 12 Oct
- South Copeland Community Partnership urged to make meetings more 'accessible and transparent' – 11 Oct
- Blinded by science: Energy Secretary struck with fusion delusion – 6 Oct

NFLA briefings,**October 2022:****(On website)**

- No 253: Developments and NFLA Progress Report
- No 252: Government response to NFLA's Global Wind Day appeal
- No 251: Justice delayed – Britain's atomic and nuclear test veterans
- No 250: Update on the AGR closure programme
- No 249: Dialogue on Nuclear Rail Safety

Halloween plea to major investors not to back Sizewell C nightmare

On Halloween, the NFLA sent letters to the Chief Executives of nine major investment firms urging them not to invest in the 'nightmare' of the proposed Sizewell C nuclear power station and to instead back green energy.

The targeted companies, *Abrdn, Aviva, Brookfield Asset Management, Centrica, Greencoat Capital, the Phoenix Group, Rothesay, the Scottish Widows – Lloyds Banking Group, and the*

Universities Superannuation Fund, are amongst the biggest investors in UK infrastructure projects. Barclays Bank has been appointed by the government to approach these and other likely investors asking them to back Sizewell C.

Last month, Prime Minister Truss and President Macron agreed to each take a 20% stake in the project, but most of the backing will need to come from private finance. And with the project estimated to cost £30 billion that's a lot of backing.

It's just resting: Bradwell situation akin to Python parrot sketch

In a real-life situation where life appears to imitate art, the Chinese-State backed-Bradwell B team are insisting, like the shopkeeper in the famous Monty Python parrot sketch, that their nuclear power project is 'not dead, [it's] resting'.

In a response to a recent NFLA media release that information received from local residents (that the site compound will soon be cleared and bore holes used for ground condition surveys will soon be filled)

indicated that the project was effectively 'dead', the Bradwell B team is persisting that there are still plans to take forward further 'feasibility studies' on the site.

This optimism seems ill-judged given the many pronouncements by government ministers that Chinese investment in major British infrastructure projects, including at Sizewell C and Bradwell B, will be curtailed. New legislation has even been enacted to enable ministers to restrict or prevent such investments in the interests of

For NFLA Chair, Councillor David Blackburn, backing Sizewell makes no sense:

"There is fierce public opposition to the project and an ongoing legal action by objectors, there is an insufficient supply of potable water, and the site will soon be threatened by rising sea levels caused by climate change."

"Nuclear projects are always delivered very late and way over budget – far better to do our planet a favour and back renewables."

'national security'.

Now the NFLA has been joined by local campaign groups, Blackwater against New Nuclear Group (BANNG) and Bradwell B Against Nuclear (BAN) in writing to the China Research Group. The group is led by MPs Alicia Mearns, who also the Chair of Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, and Sir Ian Duncan Smith.

The letter asks them to make representations to government ministers about bringing an end to Chinese involvement at Bradwell.

NFLA meets with regulators to discuss graphite cracking concerns

In September, the NFLA met senior staff from the Office of Nuclear Regulation to discuss their concerns about plant safety being compromised at Britain's aging Advanced Gas Cooled reactor fleet by graphite core cracking. Now the NFLA has published a briefing.

The remaining AGR plants at Hartlepool, Heysham 1 and 2, and Torness are scheduled to close between 2024 and 2028. However, citing the energy crisis, operator EDF Energy has announced that it is considering making a Safety Case to the regulators to seek to keep these old reactors going for longer.

The NFLA is concerned that cracks in the graphite core will impede the ability of the operator to insert the control rods to shut down the reactor.

Worryingly ONR has raised the permissible level of cracking from 20% to 40% but has reassured us they are working with the operator to monitor the situation more regularly.

Mayors for Peace marks 40th anniversary in Hiroshima

Last month, the Mayor of Hiroshima hosted the 10th General Conference of Mayors for Peace in that city, marking the 40th anniversary of the organisation.

Mayor Matsui serves as President of Mayors for Peace, established by his predecessor at the United Nations in 1982, to campaign for a nuclear weapon free world.

Now under its latest PX-Vision, its over 8,200 member authorities also work to develop a 'culture of peace' and promote peace education and community cohesion.

The conference in Hiroshima was also addressed via video by UN Secretary General Antonion Guterres on the importance of its work.

Manchester as a Vice-Presidential and Executive City and the UK / Ireland Chapter attended proceedings virtually. Councillor Eddy Newman representing the city, and Richard Outram, the Chapter, participated online.

Delegates appointed the Vice-Presidential Cities; agreed to a new Mayors for Peace Supporters Scheme open to individuals, and issued the Hiroshima Declaration.

The next General Conference will be held in Nagasaki in 2025.

Democratising decision-making on the nuclear waste dump

One core concern for the NFLA has been the lack of accountability and transparency to date in the process being overseen by Nuclear Waste Services to bring a toxic nuclear waste dump to one of four unlucky communities in England.

In Allerdale, Copeland and Theddlethorpe, first Working Parties and more recently Community Partnerships have been formed to take forward plans to build a Geological Disposal

Facility under either the Irish or North Seas. Until recently these have been packed with Councillors and nuclear industry staff, rather than local people, and until recently all met behind closed doors.

Now in recent months things have finally begun to change – the campaign group Guardians of the East Coast has accepted a place on the Theddlethorpe partnership, local members are being recruited, and the South

Copeland Partnership has just held its first meeting in public.

The NFLA recently wrote to them urging them to go still further, by publishing agendas and papers online before meetings, by making all meetings public, allowing public questions, holding them in accessible venues, by livestreaming or recording proceedings, and by inviting the press.

As NFLA Chair Cllr Blackburn said: *"This is common best practice in local government."*

NFLA urges government to issue iodine Update on rail safety

With the threat of tactical nukes, a dirty bomb or radiation from a damaged Ukrainian reactor looming, Eastern European governments and the Biden Administration have been busy stockpiling and distributing iodine tablets to their citizens, and the NFLA has written to government ministers urging them to follow suit.

NFLA Chair David Blackburn explained why: *"Britain was hit by radioactive fallout from the Chernobyl disaster, and should the worse happen there must be a possibility, however remote, of Britain being contaminated again."*

Gasmasks were distributed to the British public before World War 2 as the situation in Europe grew graver.

With the deteriorating situation in Ukraine, we believe that iodine tablets should now be stockpiled and distributed as a precautionary measure."

Stable iodine tablets can, if issued by the government in advance of a nuclear emergency to the general population, provide protection to our citizens against thyroid cancer triggered by exposure to radiation.

This would be particularly effective for infants, children, and adolescents.



Following the letter sent to Nuclear Transport Solutions about nuclear rail safety, campaign groups, the NFLA, Close Capenhurst, Radiation Free Lakeland and Highlands against Nuclear Transport, now have a response which reiterates the industry excellent 'track' record on safety and their continued commitment to upholding the highest standards, whilst being subject to domestic and international scrutiny.

But campaigners still have a lot of questions that need answers, so we pleased that industry leaders have told us that they would like to keep our conversation going by next holding an online meeting and then hosting a visit to one of their nuclear rail depots.

We shall be looking to take up these offers in the near future, and to updating you on how we went on in this magazine in due course.

NFLA Policy

Briefing No. 248



Date: 28 September 2022

Subject: Developments and NFLA Progress Report, September 2022

1. *Introduction (Slide 1):*

This paper outlines the work of the NFLA Secretary and recent developments within the civil nuclear industry, renewable technology, and in connection with Mayors for Peace and nuclear disarmament in September. This includes the briefing given to NFLA Steering Committee members at our meeting on 23 September, with additional updates gleaned subsequently.

In the last few days, there have been important pronouncements from both the new Conservative Government and Labour Opposition over energy.

In the autumn mini-statement last Friday Chancellor Kwasi Kwarteng outlined his Growth Plan. Whilst the media focused mostly on his proposal to scrap the highest rate of income tax and increase public borrowing, which has sent Sterling into a tailspin, the Chancellor also announced plans to streamline the progress of large infrastructure projects, specifically naming amongst them Hinkley Point C and Sizewell C, by reducing requirements to consider environment and ecology and by minimizing public consultation. Mr Kwarteng has also announced plans to encourage pension funds to invest in new nuclear projects.

Meantime, new energy secretary Jacob Rees-Mogg has been talking up the prospects for the renewal of fracking (contrary to the founder of Cuadrilla who says that in the UK it is dead) and referencing the need to extract every last drop of oil and gas from the North Sea.

It would be remiss of me not to reference the sad passing of HM The Queen, the late Queen Elizabeth II, who personally launched the British civil nuclear power programme when she opened Calder Hall on October 17, 1956 (Slide 1). Although at the time, many claims were made that the plant was all about the generation of electricity through nuclear fission its true purpose was to create the plutonium necessary to develop Britain's first hydrogen bomb. RIP Your Majesty.

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT VOICE ON NUCLEAR ISSUES:
41 YEARS WORKING FOR A RENEWABLE, SAFE & PEACEFUL
FUTURE**

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2. The work of the NFLA Secretary

2a. Consultation and Lobbying (Slides 2+3):

This was a summation of some of the key activities carried out by the Secretary from June until September:

Seismic Testing:

I worked closely with Radiation Free Lakeland to oppose the seismic testing that recently took place off the coast of Copeland. This has now been completed.

This campaign really raised the NFLA's profile – we featured in a wide range of publications ranging from the Morning Star to The Guardian and also on the international stage where environmental and marine welfare groups from all along the West Coast and across the Irish Sea in the Republic were galvanised to protest. There was also an online petition of over 50,000 signatures.

Although NWS pressed ahead with testing, it was a PR disaster as they amassed considerable opprobrium for the way in which they chose (sneakily) to claim an exemption from licensing from the MMO and so any requirement to consult.

I would cite this as an excellent example of a joint campaign where the NFLA has been a 'force-multiplier' by combining our strengths with the enthusiasm and commitment of a local campaign group to enable them to make a real impact over a very important issue

Onshore wind appeal:

On Global Wind Day (15 June), we sent a letter to the Prime Minister and environment ministers in support of the campaign by Possible asking them to remove the planning conditions preventing inshore wind developments and provide support to community wind projects with more financial support and easier access to the electricity market.

Now we have a new PM intention is to revisit this and I hope to organise a webinar with Possible– have talked about this and so far been unable to do.

Nuclear Waste Incinerator, Springfields, Preston

Springfields Nuclear Fuels signed an agreement with Permafrix in March to build a plant to treat Intermediate and Low-Level Waste on site outside Preston.

Around 5 million tons of ILW and LLW in storage or anticipated to be generated in the future because of decommissioning.

The Permafrix Bulk Processing Unit will compact and incinerate waste – less than 3 miles from the centre of the city. We have real concerns about atmospheric pollution and radioactive slurry.

The NFLA Secretary periodically contacts the Environment Agency, Planning Inspectorate and Lancashire County Council for progress update to ensure we are kept in loop and treated as interested parties. Westinghouse and Permafrix are in talks with the EA over permitting requirements.

In August, a talk was given to 40 activists in St Annes and letters were sent to potential allies in Preston.

Now Liz Truss has now announced the resumption of Fracking, the Lancashire campaign at Preston will resume and opposition to this can also be combined with opposition to the incinerator,

The NFLA Secretary is exploring whether we can hold a day of action in Preston in the new future with relevant environmental groups, trades unions, political parties and elected members etc to coalesce an alliance of opposition

AGR lifetime closures

The Chair, Pete, Policy Advisor and NFLA Secretary met with Office for Nuclear Regulation staff on 1 September for a productive discussion about graphite core cracking, boiler defects and online refuelling at AGR (Advanced Gas Cooled Reactor) plants and to discuss the closure programme. We prepared a comprehensive question set which we sent to the regulators in advance and the discussion was very productive. Pete and the NFLA Secretary have drafted a briefing paper which has been sent to the ONR to review and comment on to ensure it reflects their position. This will be circulated when ready.

Key issues were 1. ONR have permitted up to 40% cracking in graphite core (double the 20% we thought was permissible); 2. That it is not the number of cracks that determine the safety case but the nature of the cracking. It is vital that cracking does not cause debris that impedes the insertion of control rods for safety; 3. Inspections of the graphite core can take place up to every 6 months.

The NFLA Secretary has arranged a personal visit to Heysham at the end of October as part of public tour and is trying to do the same at Torness.

The ONR has also agreed that this also be an agenda item at the ONR NGO in-person Forum to be held in Manchester in November, and the NFLA Secretary will circulate the briefing paper to participants to provoke discussion.

Environment Agency consultation on dry storage at Hinkley Point C

In response to a consultation by the EA on EDF Energy's request for a change from 'wet' to 'dry' storage for the future nuclear waste produced by Hinkley Point C, once operational, the NFLA responded with its preference for 'dry' on safety grounds – a rare situation in which our view concurred with that of the operator.

Nuclear Transport

After a discussion with colleagues in Close Capenhurst, Highlands Against Nuclear Transport and Radiation Free Lakeland a comprehensive question set about nuclear train safety was sent to the Director of Nuclear Transport Services.

As well as answers we are seeking a meeting and an ongoing dialogue.

Anti-nuclear activists have some good suggestions to improve safety and it is also clear that the International Atomic Energy Agency stipulations for waste containers are deficit.

The NFLA Secretary met the head of communications of Nuclear Transport Services at the NDA Stakeholder Summit. She promised to respond to the questions, look to arrange online meeting and also organise a visit to a rail depot.

Windfall Tax

A letter was sent to newly-appointed Prime Minister Liz Truss in her first few days in office urging to force energy companies to introduce cost-only tariffs, without profit, at this critical time and he wants to see a proper Windfall Tax on the excess profits of businesses engaged at all layers of the energy industry, whether in the extraction of oil and gas; the generation of electricity; the transmission of gas and electricity; or in supplying customers. Not just on oil and gas companies which they can evade through reinvestment. The NFLA wants the money raised to raise billions to offset bills, particularly for the elderly, sick and disabled, parents with young families and low income and claimant households, and to pay to an emergency programme to retrofit insulation and energy efficiency measures in Britain's coldest and dampest homes

Enhanced Insurance

The new rules increasing the financial compensation payable by the nuclear industry in the event of an accident have been welcomed by the Nuclear Free Local Authorities, and a letter has been sent to a government energy minister seeking assurance that the British public will be properly protected.

Under amendments to the Paris Convention so far approved by most signatory states, including Britain, the liability of nuclear plant operators to pay compensation has increased to €700 million, with this figure increasing by a further €100 million in each of the next five years. Smaller amounts are payable by companies involved with the transportation of nuclear materials. In the UK, the impact will be felt to the bottom line of EDF Energy, which operates Britain's nuclear power plants, and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, with responsibility for transporting nuclear materials.

Councillor David Blackburn, Chair of the NFLA Steering Committee, has written to Lord Callanan, Minister of State with responsibility for corporate governance and regulation in the nuclear industry, to seek reassurance that nuclear operators will be required to take out suitable insurance with private sector providers or make some other financial provision to pay compensation in respect of an accident. He is particularly concerned that ministers may attempt to subsidise the industry by underwriting insurance provision or by downgrading their operations to 'low risk' to reduce their liability.

The NFLA Secretary will also raise this at the ONR NGO Stakeholder Summit in November to seek reassurance that proof of adequate insurance will be included within requirements for nuclear operating licensing.

Diablo Canyon nuclear power station, California

Californian Governor Gary Newsom has proposed legislation approached by state legislature to keep the state's one remaining nuclear power plant open beyond its agreed closure in 2025 with a \$1.4 billion non-repayable loan and a promise to waive environmental legislation.

The California Energy Commission recently held hearings and invited responses to a consultation, and the NFLA sent in objections in support of our American counterparts in Mothers for Peace, a local campaign group looking to uphold the agreed closure date.

The Diablo Canyon situation mirrors that with our AGRs in the UK – a knee jerk response by legislators to keep old plant running seemingly desperate to keep the lights on. The circumstances favouring closure are also similar too – too old, too costly to run, unsafe and with an outdated unlawful cooling system and no plan for dealing with nuclear waste. But in California the plant is also situated close to earthquake fault lines!

Zaporizhzia

A letter was sent to the United Nations Secretary General and the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency urging them to work to ensure Russia and Ukraine observe their obligations under the 1949 Geneva Convention not to attack nuclear plants nor initiate offensive operations from them. There are real fears missile or artillery strikes against a critical safety feature, such as cooling ponds or the cables supplying electricity to maintain the plant, could lead to a release of radioactive contamination and turn the plant into a 'dirty bomb'. Nuclear power plants are simply not designed to withstand a military assault.

Canadian GDF

Ontarians in Canada are threatened with a GDF at Ignace and South Bruce by the Great Lakes. The South Copeland Community Partnership has boasted about holding a meeting with the Ignace GDF team to discuss lessons learned and on hearing the news that Canadian activists had held a protest march the NFLA Secretary immediately wrote to the main opposition groups there suggesting an online meeting with British counterparts. This met with an immediate favourable response so we will look to arrange that soon.

2b. Media (Slide 4):

In September the Secretary has issued the following media releases:

- Save the fish: Nuclear Free Local Authorities call for acoustic deterrent at Sizewell C – 28 Sept
- Chancellor plots to railroad through new nuclear plants by the end of 2023 – 27 Sept
- Magnificent Seven pledge to make world nuclear weapon free – 23 Sept
- NFLA seeks assurance over enhanced compensation provision for nuclear accidents – 22 Sept
- Beating Retreat at Bradwell? – 20 Sept
- NFLAs call upon UN Secretary General to prevent catastrophe at Ukraine nuclear plant – 15 Sept
- Getting the conversation going: new stakeholder forum launched at Edinburgh summit – 12 Sept
- NFLA calls on Prime Minister Truss to tax profiteering energy companies to reduce bills and insulate cold homes – 7 Sept
- Safety a 'top priority' for anti-nuclear groups seeking answers on nuclear rail transport – 5 Sept
- 'Go nuclear, go large': out-of-touch Johnson compares ordering Sizewell C to French Fries – 2 Sept
- Tore and Tim ride a tandem: Bike for Peace rides in to see Mayor of Rochdale – 2 Sept

The Secretary also did an on-air radio interview with Radio Tircoed in Swansea.

A summary of media releases and briefings issued June to September is in Slide 4. A monthly newsletter has also been issued in each month.

2c. Briefings:

None issued in September other than this one.

2d. Meetings, Seminars and Webinars (Slides 5+6):

Some highlights in meetings attended by the NFLA Secretary (and, sometimes, Chair) since the May Steering Committee

June**Meeting with Cities for a Nuclear Free Europe:**

Whilst attending IMSP on Wednesday 22 June, we also met with David Reinberger and Jan Dictus, who are the Secretariat of Cities for a Nuclear Free Europe, in Vienna.

Cities for a Nuclear Free Europe is an informal network of cities and city leaders who wish to reduce or avoid the risks, dangers and costs of nuclear power in Europe. Manchester is a member city.

In our meeting, we discussed developments in nuclear in Europe and the UK and sought to identify the key issues of common upon which we can work together.

The three core issues we agreed to work on were opposing any extension to the operational life of aged nuclear reactors (in the UK, this references the AGRs and there are moves in European nations to do the same following the onset of the Ukraine conflict); opposing the introduction of so-called small modular reactors and opposing nuclear waste dumps (or Geological Disposal Facility as Nuclear Waste Services refers to them; one has just been established in Finland).

David has since announced that he will be leaving CNFE for another post but we have held a follow up online meeting with Jan at which we also discussed working on a campaign around the safety of nuclear transport.

We have since had a second meeting between the NFLA Chair and Secretary and the Secretariat at Cities for a Nuclear Free Europe. Amongst the topics discussed was the possibility of collaboration with other campaigns against nuclear transport in Europe.

July:

Chair and Secretary spoke at the Sizewell C - More Questions than Answers conference on Saturday 2nd July in Saxmundham. Also had a tour of the Sizewell site and some lovely fish and chips!

Secretary spoke at a meeting held in West Mersea Town Council on 4 July about Bradwell. Very useful to meet in person with Cllr John Akker, Andy and Varrie Blowers of BANNG and Lind Gemmill of BAN. We talked about engaging local councils in the work of the NFLA.

The Secretary was the opening speaker at A United Welsh Front against Nuclear Power rally and conference held in Caernarfon to launch a united campaign against plans to develop new nuclear at Wylfa and Trawsfynydd. The Secretary wrote much of the bespoke Caernarfon Declaration – in Welsh as well as English – that six Welsh campaigning organisations signed at the conference alongside the NFLA.

This received a lot of social media, local press and BBC Wales coverage (but the only showed the event on Wales Cymru meaning my interview was axed!)

These events have been great as opportunities to write out to local councils and councillors with information about the work of the NFLA – so far hundreds of emails have been sent! And some promising contacts to follow up – the big issue is CAPACITY.

August:**Nuclear Waste Incinerator, Springfields, Preston**

On 15 August, the Secretary gave a presentation on the proposal to develop a nuclear waste incinerator at Springfields, near Preston. The event was attended by around 40 members and the presentation lasted 90 minutes followed by Q+A. There was a great deal of interest amongst attendees – some of whom lived near the plant - becoming involved in a campaign against the plan.

September:**NDA Stakeholder Summit, Edinburgh**

The Chair, Cllr Newman and Secretary attended the NDA Stakeholder Summit in Edinburgh as guests of Nuleaf.

A range of speakers covering the four pillars of the One NDA business – Magnox/Dounreay; Sellafield; Transport; Waste.

There was a big emphasis upon bringing forward young professionals within industry – this was a showcase for the Nuclear Young Professionals, who were sickeningly gung-ho about new nuclear showing a nauseating dance routine they did at COP26 lauding nuclear as the answer to achieve net zero.

The anti-nuclear campaign group attendees challenged many of the speakers.

On the positive side it was a good opportunity to meet in person with activists, especially from Scotland, and we were able to launch our new NDA NGO Stakeholder Forum.

We also met a robot dog.

Visit to Submarine Decommissioning Project, Rosyth

At the end of the Stakeholder Summit, the NFLA Secretary joined the Chief Executive, Chair, Vice-Chair and an officer from Copeland Borough Council in a visit to the submarine decommissioning project at Rosyth. Here RN submarine HMS Repulse was in dry dock for decommissioning. The intention is to remove the nuclear materials from this boat and the other six subs awaiting disposal and send these to Capenhurst. The reactor vessels will end up in the GDF. It is still early days as there have been many delays to progress. A fuller report will be circulated as a briefing in the near future.

Also in September, the Secretary has attended the following meetings:

- Online meeting Nuleaf – 15 Sept
- Online meeting with Green Councillors, Cumberland Shadow Authority – 21 Sept
- Online meeting with NDA – 21 Sept
- In-person meeting with Tore Naelsand Bike for Peace – 22 Sept
- Online meeting with CND Cymru – 22 Sept
- In-person meeting with Sarah Taverner, Mines Advisory Group – 22 Sept

3 **British Government and Regulators (Slide 7):**

New Government – see first Introduction

The appointment of Jacob Rees-Mogg as Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy shocked the world.

But the announcement that Graham Stuart would take on the climate brief and be attending cabinet was welcomed by Net Zero supporting Tories, including chair of the Climate Change Committee, Lord Deben.

Squeezing "every last cubic inch of gas" from the North Sea, re-starting fracking, rejecting windfarms in favour of fossil fuels are some of the policies espoused by Rees-Mogg,

Truss also announced a review of the government's net zero strategy. The review will be chaired by Chris Skidmore, who chairs the net zero group of Conservative MPs and is a key proponent of meeting the targets. The government said it would aim "to ensure we are meeting our net zero 2050 target in an economically-efficient way, given the altered landscape" and that "delivering the target is not placing undue burdens on businesses or consumers". Chris Skidmore is tasked with reporting back to the government before the end of the year, however he has already ruled out fracking (so mixed messages on this).

Out of date inspection guides at ONR:

The UK's nuclear regulator is using out-of-date security documents as part of its inspections in the civil nuclear sector amid the ongoing energy crisis, raising concerns about oversight standards in the industry. It is believed that dozens of inspections have been carried out this year without appropriate documents regarding nuclear cyber security and physical security available for inspectors to use. A total of nine nuclear security "technical inspection guides" currently being used by the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) were due to be reviewed and replaced in January 2022.

As of 29 August 2022, no review process has been completed and the out-of-date guides are still being used, according to analysis of the documents by the investigative journalism organisation Point Source. The out-of-date security guides being used by the ONR cover a wide range of topics including physical protection systems, cyber security, policing, supply chain security, and emergency response preparations.

The NFLA was asked to comment on this article and Chair Cllr Blackburn is quoted saying the use of out-of-date security documents by the ONR is "extremely concerning".

In our recent meeting with ONR officials to discuss the AGR closure programme, we were reassured that none of the out-of-date guides were used in carrying out inspections of the graphite cores and critical components, and that in any case the update of these guides was now being prioritised with the revision dates in any case being more for the purpose of internal administration rather than safety criticality.

The NFLA Secretary will raise this issue again with ONR officials by seeking an update at the November Stakeholder Summit.

4. **Hinkley Point C (Slide 8):**

- EDF seeking accommodation for more workers – up to 8,500 – taking over Pontins Brean Sands holiday camp and looking at hundreds of caravans
- The Environment Secretary rejected the appeal by EDF Energy not to have to install an acoustic fish deterrent at HPC – Company will now either have to launch judicial review, install the AFD or pay compensation
- Means more cost to developer
- Roy Plumley of Stop Hinkley said "should help to prevent millions of fish over the lifetime of Hinkley Point C coming to a messy end in the water intake pipes."
- HPC's cooling system described as an 'underwater plughole' that will suck in 130,000 litres of sea water a second
- Company's plans for marine life preservation rejected as inadequate
- EDF will be obliged to make changes in reactor design to take account of lessons from Taishan-1 accident

5. **Sizewell C (Slide 9):**

- Development Consent Order granted July by Minister Paul Scully instead of S of S, probably because NFLA complained to Perm Sec about S of S misconduct in breach of ministerial code.
- DCO granted despite PI urging refusal – lack of potable water and damage to environment.
- The Planning Inspectorate had rejected the scheme saying: "*unless the outstanding water supply strategy can be resolved and sufficient information provided to enable the secretary of state to carry out his obligations under the Habitats Regulations, the case for an order granting development consent for the application is not made out*".
- TASC, Stop Sizewell and RSPB looking at joint application for Judicial Review to prevent scheme progressing – seeking crowdfunding.
- In one of his last acts, Johnson visited Sizewell site and announced £700 million in funds (which was actually repledged money) – but no Financial Investment Decision has been made and EDF have threatened to walk away because of the uncertainty about the timescale and commitment by UK Government.
- Most of the compulsory purchase orders necessary for Sizewell C have already been agreed. As part of the nuclear power project, land is being purchased to build link roads, railways, sports pitches and park and ride terminals.
- Government decision on Acoustic Fish Deterrent at Hinkley Point C means this also more likely to be required at Sizewell C.

6. **Bradwell (Slide 10):**

- Led by majority shareholder, the China General Nuclear Power Group (CGN), a Chinese-state owned energy corporation (66.5%), with junior partners, EDF Energy (33.5%)

- CGN proposed to install two of its own UK HPR1000 reactors designed specifically for the plant.
- Design received approval from the Office of Nuclear Regulation only in February 2022.
- China is now out of favour; the National Security and Investment Act was passed to preclude Chinese investment. Ministers have frequently talked openly about their determination to terminate Chinese involvement in the Bradwell project
- Householders have now received letters that appear to indicate that the Bradwell B project team is indeed making a withdrawal from the site.
- Exploratory boreholes dug 2018-20 will be filled in from mid-September
- 'Closing the current site compound' and 'removing the temporary site offices' 'by the end of the year'.
- No plans to 'conduct further temporary ground investigation and load testing works', for which planning approval has been granted, in 2023.
- EDF unlikely to want to take rest of share and would need own reactors – is Bradwell a dead letter and an SMR now only show in town?

7. Trawsfynydd and Wylfa (Slide 11):

- Welsh Government company, Cwmni Egin, established to redevelop the Trawsfynydd site is embarking on a programme to bring new nuclear projects there, beginning in 2027.
- CEO is Alan Rayment, ex Bradwell B, ex Horizon in Wylfa.
- The site may host a medical radioisotope research reactor to produce radionuclides for use in cancer diagnostics and treatment.
- Government is also pushing for Traws to be the first site for a Rolls Royce SMR. NDA told to support development.
- The NFLA Steering Committee Chair and NFLA Welsh Forum Chair sent a message of solidarity to the marchers on the Trawsfynydd – Wylfa march (4-10 Sept) who are protesting plans to build new Small Modular Reactors at both Welsh sites. The marchers were young activists from CND Cymru, which this year has a touring exhibition celebrating the 40th anniversary of 1982 when the original Welsh county councils declared they would be nuclear-free and now at a time when the nuclear threat is back.
- At the various stop offs it was gratifying to see the Caernarfon Declaration presented to elected members and officials. There is growing interest amongst elected members in the NFLA's work and Secretary is about to write out to interested persons and explore whether through PAWB (People Against Wylfa B) we can start to explore involvement in the NFLA's work – with a view to membership.

8. Smaller Modular Reactors (Slide 12):

- Rolls Royce design has entered the Generic Design Assessment process with the Office of Nuclear Regulation, expected to take up to 4 years (2026). Rolls Royce and some Ministers are pressing for quicker resolution, but the ONR told NFLA ministerial interference is an anathema
- Rolls-Royce looking to establish factory, six sites under consideration. The potential factory locations are: Richmond in North Yorkshire, Deeside in Wales, Ferrybridge, Stallingborough in Lincolnshire, Sunderland and Carlisle.
- The government wants to build 16 Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) in the next 25 years to 'secure the UK's energy supply and hit its net-zero target' by 2050.
- They would be built on a production line and assembled at existing sites.
- The creation of the Rolls-Royce Small Modular Reactor (SMR) business was announced in November following a £195m cash injection from private firms and a £210m grant from the government.
- It is hoped the new company could 'create up to 40,000 jobs' by 2050.
- Trawsfynydd appears to be first preferred site.

9. Fusion Reactors (Slide 13):

- Five sites under consideration to host Spherical Tokamak for Energy Production (STEP) programme. Decision on siting by end of 2022.
- The sites, listed here alphabetically, are:
 - Ardeer (North Ayrshire)
 - Goole (East Riding of Yorkshire)
 - Moorside (Cumbria)
 - Ratcliffe-on-Soar (Nottinghamshire)
 - Severn Edge (South Gloucestershire & Gloucestershire)
- A consortium led by Atkins as prime contractor has been appointed by the UK Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA) as Engineering Delivery Partner
- The aim for the first phase of work on STEP is to produce a 'concept design' by 2024. The UK government is providing £220 million of funding for the first phase of STEP.
- The next phase of work will include detailed engineering design, while all relevant permissions and consents to build the prototype are secured by 2032.
- The final phase is construction, with operations targeted to begin around 2040.
- First Light Fusion, an Oxford-based startup, is seeking £400 million in financing to fund the next stage of its research. The firm announced a major breakthrough earlier this year when it achieved a sustained fusion reaction using its method of firing projectiles at nuclear fuel.
- Scientists in South Korea claimed to have achieved a sustained nuclear fusion reaction of temperatures in excess of 100 million °C for 30 seconds for the first time. A team from Seoul National University and the Korea Institute of Fusion Energy experimented with the reactor at

the Korea Superconducting Tokamak Advanced Research (KSTAR), allegedly managing to achieve an improved technique for containing the plasma at the core of the reactor.

10. Geological Disposal Facility (Slide 14):

Since May, the Secretary has been heavily involved in the opposition to the seismic testing in Cumbria.

Three more things.

Support for the Millom and District against the Nuclear Dump group:

On the back of the seismic testing campaign, a resident of Millom established a Facebook group, Millom and District against the Nuclear Dump, protesting the plan to establish a GDF being advanced by the NWS and South Copeland Community Partnership.

Within just a few days, several hundred local residents have registered their support for the group, and a protest with 20 locals was held outside an NWS consultation event in nearby Haverigg.

The Secretary has provided advice and information to the founder and group members over aspects of the GDF, and also personal support to the founder who is a local councillor over council procedures.

Nuclear types appointed to Allerdale Community Partnership:

Despite the Community Partnership in Allerdale allegedly recruiting independent members, the NFLA was quick to point out that three of the four members they appointed had established professional contacts to the nuclear industry – having worked for or owned a prominent business in this field.

Cumberland Authority:

This new Council replaces Allerdale, Copeland and Carlisle Councils on 1 April 2023 and will become the Relevant Principal Local Authority. Elections have been held. Will be Labour led. The Chair and Secretary have met with the two Green Councillors to start to explore how we can raise awareness on a cross-party basis of the impact of GDF on West Cumbria.

11. Mayors for Peace (Slide 15):

The Secretary of the NFLA also serves part-time as Secretary of the Mayors for Peace UK/Ireland Chapter.

Attending 1 MSP:

In the third week of June, Manchester City Council's permanent representative to Mayors for Peace, Cllr Newman and the Secretary attended the 1st meeting of the states parties to the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons held at the United Nations in Vienna.

We attended a side event hosted by ICAN/Mayors for Peace at which Cllr Newman spoke and also a Mayors for Peace Executive Cities Meeting with the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and a Board meeting of the European Chapter at which Cllr Newman provided the closing remarks.

In August, events were held throughout the country to mark Hiroshima and Nagasaki Days.

The Secretary organised the first Hiroshima and Nagasaki Day event on the new Peace Garden in Lincoln Square in Manchester, where the Lord Mayor of the City as Vice-President of Mayors for Peace and Councillor Newman spoke. As Secretary of the NFLA also attended the Nagasaki Day event held in Leeds at which the Chair of the NFLA spoke.

Bikes for Peace:

The Secretary organised meetings with the mayors at Carnforth, Skipton, Preston and Rochdale as part of a North of England tour by Bikes for Peace. The Secretary met with the Mayor and riders at Rochdale.

Support for atomic and nuclear test veterans on International Day against Nuclear Testing:

The NFLA Secretary endorsed a letter from Labrats to the outgoing Prime Minister on the International Day against Nuclear Testing urging him to honour the promises he made to atomic and nuclear test veterans when members of the veterans community visited Downing Street in June.

Richard Outram,
NFLA / Mayors for Peace Secretary
28 Sept 2022

NFLA Policy

Briefing No. 367



Date: 31 October 2022

Subject: Developments and NFLA Progress Report, October 2022

1. *Introduction:*

This paper outlines the work of the NFLA Secretary and recent developments within the civil nuclear industry, renewable technology, and in connection with Mayors for Peace this month.

In October, we have witnessed the resignation of Britain's shortest-serving Prime Minister Liz Truss and the appointment of Rishi Sunak in her place. Truss's tax-cutting mini-budget has been overthrown as have many of her Ministers. Jacob Rees-Mogg resigned as Business and Energy Secretary: we now have Grant Shapps instead. In a response to a question in Parliament from Green MP Caroline Lucas, PM Sunak agreed to reinstate the moratorium on fracking as per the Conservative Party manifesto, reversing Rees-Mogg endorsement of its resumption.

The government chaos has unnerved the financial markets, with a run on the pound, forcing the Bank of England to buy bonds and raise interest rates. In the meantime, inflation continues to rise and energy price increases have kicked in from 1 October.

Further along the line, the nation is faced with energy rationing and blackouts over the winter with the National Grid warning that there will be a risk of shortages during cold weather if wind speeds are low and electricity cannot be imported. In desperation, Truss appealed to European leaders (with no sense of irony) for help to keep the lights on...

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2022/oct/06/national-grid-warns-households-could-face-three-hour-power-cuts-this-winter>

Chancellor Jeremy Hunt's announcement that universal current aid with energy bills will cease from next April, being then replaced with a scheme targeting the most vulnerable, has not helped with predictions that the number of people in fuel poverty will increase to 11 million.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-63283436>

The latest World Nuclear Industry Status Report shows that nominal net nuclear generating capacity fell by 0.4 GW between 2020 and 2021, bringing the share of nuclear power in the global electricity mix to below 10% for the first time in four decades.

<https://www.worldnuclearreport.org/World-Nuclear-Industry-Status-Report-2022-870.html>

And while fiddles play for nuclear, and Rishi Sunak refuses to attend the COP27 summit (or allow the King to go), the world burns and the UN reports that we are "very, very close to irreversible changes (to our climate)... time is really running out very, very fast".

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/oct/27/world-close-to-irreversible-climate-breakdown-warn-major-studies>

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT VOICE ON NUCLEAR ISSUES:
41 YEARS WORKING FOR A RENEWABLE, SAFE & PEACEFUL
FUTURE**

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2. *The work of the NFLA Secretary*

2a. *Consultation and Lobbying:*

Windfall Tax: A letter was sent to PM Sunak (as it was to Truss and Johnson before him) asking the government to introduce a real windfall tax on the previous excess profits of energy generators and suppliers, as well as obliging them to deliver not-for-profit tariffs during the current energy crisis.

The NFLA wants the money raised from the Windfall Tax to pay for an emergency programme of retrofitting insulation and energy efficiency measures in Britain's coldest and damp homes, and to provide further financial support towards energy bills for vulnerable households.

So far, no Prime Minister has been in office long enough after receiving the letter to reply; will this be third time lucky?

Sizewell C: The NFLA sent a letter to Chancellor Jeremy Hunt asking him to reverse the commitment made by former PM Boris Johnson to provide £700 million funding and to reverse the recent commitment made by outgoing PM Liz Truss to take a 20% equity stake in the project.

On Halloween, letters were sent to nine of the largest investment funds asking them not to invest in the 'nightmare' of Sizewell C, and to instead back renewables.

Bradwell B: Following the response of the Bradwell project team that they will go ahead with phase two feasibility studies in response to NFLA claims that the Chinese led project is dead, the NFLA has been joined by Blackwater Against New Nuclear Group and Bradwell B against Nuclear in writing a joint letter to the China Research Group of MPs asking them to intervene with government ministers to end Chinese involvement in the project. See also section 6.

Nuclear Liability: Lord Callanan, Energy Minister, has responded to the Chair's letter about the liability of nuclear operators to pay 700 million Euros in the event of an accident by stating that the government intends to take on the liability in return for the payment of an 'economic charge'. As this sounds like another public subsidy de-risking nuclear operations (in effect for the French Government as the expense of British taxpayers), we have submitted an FOI to BEIS seeking further details of the so-called 'economic charge' paid by nuclear operator EDF Energy to allow them to evade their legal responsibilities.

Iodine Tablets: Faced by the possibility that Britain might be contaminated by radiation from Ukraine should a nuclear plant there be damaged or a tactical nuclear weapon exploded in theatre, we wrote to the Business Secretary Jacob Rees-Mogg and Health Secretary Thérèse Coffey asking them to stockpile and distribute iodine tablets which help prevent thyroid cancer as per the action being carried out by the US and numerous Eastern European Governments.

Democratising the Community Partnerships: Letters were sent to the Chairs of each of the four GDF Community Partnerships urging them to follow best practice established in local government to make their meetings accessible and transparent, particularly by following the lead just set by South Copeland in making their first meeting public with public questions, but also by publicizing the papers in advance, livestreaming and recording proceedings, inviting the press and using only accessible venues. Early responses have been received from three of the four CPs stating our suggestions are under consideration. Allerdale has offered to meet.

Payments to Interim Chair: An FOI from the NFLA to Nuclear Waste Services has revealed that the Interim Chair at the Theddlethorpe GDF Community Partnership still receives £750 per day for two days per week for his work; still this is a reduction on his early remuneration package of £1,000 per day when he was Chair of the Working Party before it. Contrast this to the £92.50 per day median salary received by a typical full-time employee working in the district.

Motion to Cumberland Authority: The Green Group submitted a motion to the authority seeking a review of the boundaries of the areas of search for the GDF as the current areas are based on outdated electoral wards that will be abolished with the Allerdale and Copeland Councils in April 2023. We provided advice and support with drafting. Although the motion was overwhelmingly defeated, the Council Leader indicated that he had raised the issue of boundary revision with Nuclear Waste Services.

Contact with other authorities: Councillors in the GLI Group (Green, Liberal Democrat and Independents) at East Suffolk Council have been contacted about becoming active with the NFLA after posting about their opposition to Sizewell C. Most members have signalled their agreement to meeting online. Supportive Plaid and Labour Councillors in Ynys Mon and Gwynedd have also been contacted and it is hoped that an online meeting can be held in mid-Nov.

Nuclear train safety: A response has been received from Nuclear Transport Services in reply to the question set we submitted with NGO partners and a briefing has been prepared. A follow-up email has been sent to NTS requesting an online meeting to explore the response received and also to make arrangements to visit an NTS rail depot.

Advanced Gas Cooled Reactor closure programme: Following an online meeting in September with senior officials, a briefing was produced which was reviewed by the Office of Nuclear Regulation before issue to ensure their responses to our question set were faithfully recorded. The greatest revelation is that up to 40% of the graphite moderator bricks in the AGR core can be cracked and the plant could still be permitted to operate, provided that the cracking does not compromise the ability to insert the control rods necessary to stop or slow the reaction. We were under the impression it was only 20%. Although graphite core degradation is under regular inspection this relaxation is a real worry, and there is still a possibility that EDF Energy may seek to make a Safety Case to continue to operate the AGRs beyond the planned 2024-8 closure dates. One to watch.

Contribution to Parliamentary report on nuclear energy: The Secretary was interviewed by a Parliamentary researcher about a draft report which was very pro-nuclear. He was happy to convey the NFLA's views as to why we are opposed to civil nuclear power for inclusion.

Environment Agency consultation on dry storage at Hinkley Point C: Following the consultation, to which the NFLA responded favourably, the Environment Agency has now agreed to the change to dry storage.

Diablo Canyon nuclear power station, California: Despite local (and NFLA opposition) the California legislature approved Governor Gary Newsom's legislation to keep the state's one remaining nuclear power plant open beyond its agreed closure in 2025 with a \$1.4 billion non-repayable loan and a promise to waive environmental legislation.

Canadian GDF: Ontarians in Canada are threatened with a GDF at Ignace and South Bruce. The South Copeland Community Partnership has boasted about holding a meeting with the Ignace GDF team to discuss lessons learned, and on hearing the news that Canadian activists had held a protest march the NFLA Secretary immediately wrote to them suggesting an online meeting with their British counterparts. This met with an immediate favourable response, and the Secretary hopes to arrange this in the future.

2b. Media:

In October, the Secretary has issued the following media releases:

- Halloween plea to major investors not to back Sizewell C 'nightmare' – 31 Oct
- Third time lucky: NFLA hopes for reply to windfall tax plea sent to latest PM – 26 Oct
- Irish Nuclear Free Local Authorities welcome Minister's rejection of nuclear – 25 Oct
- Editorial for RTME railway magazine on nuclear rail safety – 21 Oct
- Chancellor urged to leave Sizewell 'well alone' – 20 Oct
- Off the hook: UK government absolves nuclear operators from accident liability – 18 Oct
- NFLA urges government to distribute iodine tablets to help prepare for nuclear threat – 17 Oct
- Community Partnerships urged to follow example set by South Copeland and go still further to make meetings more 'accessible and transparent' – 12 Oct
- South Copeland Community Partnership urged to make meetings more 'accessible and transparent' – 11 Oct
- Blinded by science: Energy Secretary struck with fusion delusion – 6 Oct

2c. Briefings:

- This briefing
- NFLA Policy Briefing 252: Government response to NFLA's Global Wind Day appeal – 25 Oct
- NFLA Policy Briefing 251: Justice delayed - Britain's atomic and nuclear test veterans – 24 Oct
- NFLA Policy Briefing 250: Update on the AGR closure programme – 17 Oct
- NFLA Policy Briefing 249: Dialogue on Nuclear Rail Safety – 17 Oct

2d. Meetings, Seminars and Webinars:

In October, the Secretary has attended the following online meetings:

- Meeting with Chris Matthews, Researcher at the House of Commons – 26 Oct
- Mayors for Peace General Conference – 19 and 20 Oct.
- Meeting with Manchester City Council Finance Team about NFLA Budget – 18 Oct
- NFLA Scotland Forum – 14 Oct
- Meeting with Cllr Sue Lent and Mary Jones to discuss Welsh Forum on 6 Dec – 13 Oct
- Meeting with Cllr Stephen Churchman, Gwynedd Council – 13 Oct
- Meeting with Northern Ireland LGA to discuss membership drive – 13 Oct
- Joint BEIS / ONS NGO Forum – 12 Oct
- Nuleaf Emergency Planning Webinar – 11 Oct

3. British Government and Regulators:

The Government has been keen to give largesse to the energy industry permitting cash-strapped energy companies to take out Covid-style support loans this winter on condition they plan for net zero and stop paying dividends, bonuses or share buybacks. The £40bn Energy Markets Financing Scheme, announced by the Government and the Bank of England last month, will provide emergency cash to help suppliers, generators and shippers facing soaring gas and electricity prices.

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2022/10/17/energy-suppliers-using-40bn-support-scheme-will-forced-prove/>

The Business Department has just concluded a consultation on the government's approach to delivering its net zero target, as part of an Independent Review of Net Zero. The review will report at the end of 2022. As part of the review, the Chair, Chris Skidmore MP, consulted widely with a diverse range of stakeholders, including investors, industry, and experts in different fields, through a series of roundtables and direct meetings.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/review-of-net-zero-call-for-evidence>

For its part, Labour unveiled plans for a new publicly owned clean energy generator. Great British Energy would own, run and invest in new, clean energy infrastructure. Operating as a generating company, not energy retailer, Labour says it would have the potential both to reduce our household fuel bills and pay dividends to the public purse. Public ownership of renewables is already commonplace - nearly half the UK's offshore wind capacity is owned by foreign governments, as of course is EDF Energy.

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/sep/28/labour-public-ownership-affordable-energy-net-zero-britain>

Unfortunately, government and industry propaganda promoting nuclear as an energy crisis solution is gaining traction amongst the public. A YouGov tracker data reveals that Britons are increasingly supportive of nuclear energy. From late 2019 to summer 2021, Britons were divided on using nuclear power. Around four in ten over that time-period supported doing so, while a similar number opposed it. Since then, support has been on the rise. Almost half (48%) of Britons now back the use of nuclear energy, compared to 31% who are opposed.

<https://yougov.co.uk/topics/politics/articles-reports/2022/10/04/britons-are-becoming-more-positive-towards-nuclear>

Truss's environment secretary, Ranil Jayawardena, was opposed to solar panels being placed on agricultural land, arguing that it impedes food production, and ordered officials to redefine "best and most versatile" land (BMV), which is earmarked for farming, to include lower quality land. Planning guidance says that development on BMV land should be avoided, although planning authorities may take other considerations into account. The Minister has now left office and it is uncertain whether this will be taken forward by the Sunak Government.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/oct/10/ministers-hope-to-ban-solar-projects-from-most-english-farms>

The government is set to cap the price of electricity from older renewable and nuclear facilities. The plans could hit the profits of energy companies including SSE, Scottish Power, RWE and EDF Energy. Firms are concerned that further price limits could upset the UK's reputation for a stable regulatory environment and deter future investment. Energy bosses will discuss their concerns with the government.

Currently, the price of electricity generated in older facilities is linked to the cost of gas. This is different at newer facilities, who produce power at an agreed price. Historically, electricity generated by gas was cheapest, not now, and so those nuclear and renewable producers are making very significant excess profits. The price of gas has rocketed, but their costs of production have not. These profits have prompted calls for a windfall tax on them.

The UK's move follows similar efforts in Europe, where the European Union has proposed setting a price limit of 180 euros (£158; \$175) per megawatt hour (MWh) on the revenue renewables generators get for selling their power in the market.

Reports by the Financial Times suggest prices of about £50 to £60 per megawatt hour have been mentioned as a starting point for the UK cap, but no final decisions have been taken.

It is expected the new Energy Bill could come into force in England and Wales at the start of next year. The government is consulting with the Scottish government to see if it can extend the legislation there and will also make allowance to permit the rules to come into force in Northern Ireland.

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-03/0159/220159.pdf>

The Tony Blair Institute for Global Change has estimated that such a move could rake in £14 billion in extra revenue for the government, whilst Conservative think tank Onward estimated it could earn the government between £4.1 billion and £10.2 billion, assuming about 25 per cent of generators are receiving bumper profits from higher wholesale power prices. Onward said a £10 billion windfall would equate to relief of up to £364 per household. Those at risk of being hit by the tax say the windfall will be much smaller.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/renewable-energy-giants-face-14bn-windfall-tax-vw6m0xq9t>

Plummeting global gas prices have slashed the cost of the UK's energy price cap and may ultimately reduce the monthly subsidy to zero, greatly alleviating the strain on Government borrowing. NatWest Markets estimates that the price guarantee would cost approximately £30bn over the first six months based on current futures contracts, half the £60bn figure assumed by the Treasury and the rating agencies.

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2022/10/09/liz-truss-may-winning-gamble-energy-price-cap/>

Just weeks after former prime minister Liz Truss performed a U-turn to ease onerous planning restrictions for onshore wind power projects, new prime minister Rishi Sunak has performed another about-turn on one of the UK's cheapest forms of renewable energy. The 360-degree revolution on onshore wind puts the Conservative Party back to the same stance it implemented almost a decade ago under David Cameron – a move which has added a total of £2.5bn to people's energy bills since 2014. During his earlier, failed leadership bid, Mr Sunak pledged to halt Conservative efforts to bring back onshore wind – a move which saw opposition parties accuse him of "economic illiteracy".

<https://www.independent.co.uk/climate-change/news/rishi-sunak-u-turn-energy-wind-b2211054.html>

The analysis by Uplift found that more than a third of the locations being offered for North Sea oil and gas licenses clash with protected habitat zones. Hundreds of the locations being offered to companies to explore for oil and gas in the North Sea overlap with marine protected areas (MPAs) home to threatened species, new analysis has revealed. The North Sea Transition Authority has formally launched a licensing round for exploration and potential development in the North Sea.

The analysis by the campaign group Uplift found that 352 of the 898 locations being offered – more than a third – fall across areas designated to protect species and habitats among other important environmental features. Some of those overlaps are tiny, but 166 of the locations fall fully within the protected zones, it added.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/climate-change/news/north-sea-oil-gas-licenses-ocean-protection-arctic-b2198022.html>

The Chief Nuclear Inspector Mark Foy at the Office of Nuclear Regulator has in his Annual Report stated he intends to focus on the nuclear industry's response to climate change in nuclear site inspections.

<https://www.onr.org.uk/documents/2022/cni-annual-report-2022.pdf>

The Welsh Government has revealed plans to establish a publicly owned renewable energy developer to tackle energy security, the cost-of-living crisis and decarbonise the energy system. Profits made from the energy developer will be used to deliver wider benefits for the population in Wales. The government stated that the funds would go back into the public purse to be reinvested in improving energy efficiency in homes alongside boosting clean energy jobs.

<https://www.current-news.co.uk/news/welsh-government-to-establish-publicly-owned-renewable-energy-developer>

French Government and EDF:

The media have reported tense relations between EDF's outgoing boss, Jan-Bernard Lévy, and the French state. State representatives delayed signing off on the Sizewell C plant as Lévy wanted demanded more time to finish new audit reports and the meeting descended into acrimony, a situation an attendee described as 'messy.'

Lévy's successor, Luc Rémont, will take over as chief executive and chair just as Paris executes a plan to buy out the 16 per cent of EDF it does not already own. While nationalisation clarifies the ownership structure, the company could still be subject to demands from the French state that have not always been in its immediate interest, including that it shields consumers from soaring energy prices.

Rémont, currently a senior executive at industrial conglomerate Schneider Electric, will need to solve the group's short-term problems while also preparing EDF to take on some of France's biggest nuclear construction projects in two decades, all of which are over time and budget.

The company's electricity output is on course to reach all-time lows this year, after corrosion problems at the company's nuclear plants added to maintenance stoppages and led to the outage at one point of more than half the French fleet of 56 reactors. That has turned France into a net power importer for the first time.

French officials have so far insisted that the Sizewell C plant in Britain will go ahead, adding that the state had commissioned extra audits simply to calculate the financial consequences of removing a Chinese state-backed company from the project. But the government may eventually want to revisit some of its choices, bankers and union representatives close to EDF said, particularly as the group grapples with costly investments.

By the end of this year, EDF's net debt is already forecast to swell to about €60bn, while its French construction programme alone could cost another €52bn.

<https://www.ft.com/content/559ce578-fa0d-4bbe-9860-9d512b1510e1>

EDF is considering whether to make a safety case to the Office of Nuclear Regulation seeking to extend the life of the Hartlepool and Heysham 1 nuclear power plants beyond their current

expected closure date in 2024. It follows calls in June from unions the GMB and Prospect for the two reactors to be saved beyond 2024. The company said it was also working on plans for advanced modular reactors at its Hartlepool site to support industrial decarbonisation and it was keen to explore other options at the Heysham site, including both new nuclear technologies and hydrogen production.

It is by no means certain that EDF will submit a Safety Case or that it will be approved by the Office of Nuclear Regulation.

EDF said: *"The actual end of generation dates for these four power stations will be determined by the condition of the graphite making up the reactor cores, which is regularly inspected, and subject to rigorous assessment by the independent regulator. Inspections provide reassurance and allow us to meet external regulations."*

In light of the severity of the energy crisis and the results of recent graphite inspections, EDF will look to review the case for a short extension for Heysham 1 and Hartlepool to generate beyond the current forecast of March 2024. This will depend on the results of graphite inspections over the coming months. It is important that preparations for defueling continue so that if the stations do end generation in the next 18-months we are operationally ready to start defueling."

<https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/edf-review-case-keeping-open-uk-nuclear-plants-set-close-2024-2022-09-28/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-lancashire-63067125>

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/EDF-to-examine-extensions-for-Hartlepool-and-Heysham>

Strikes over pay have put back maintenance plans to bring back into service nine EDF-operated reactors in France.

France will be short of between 5 and 15 gigawatts (GW) of power at peak demand this winter depending on the temperature and will need to mainly rely on imports, according to forecast models developed by EDF's works council CSE. France will have to buy electricity on the market this winter or produce it from gas, and there is no guarantee that neighbouring countries will be able to sell their electricity, CSE representative Philippe Page le Merour has said, given the energy crisis in Europe. Unsurprisingly then the Express reports that EDF will take a £28 billion pound hit on its full-year earnings

<https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/edf-says-strike-hits-third-french-nuclear-plants-delaying-maintenance-work-2022-10-15/>

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/1688454/emmanuel-macron-news-edf-nuclear-power-france>

Meanwhile over in Finland, generation at the French-built, EPR plant at Olkiluoto 3 has had to be postponed AGAIN until 27 December. The plant has had a succession of equipment failures throughout this year when operations were finally due to start. Olkiluoto 3 was originally due to deliver power in 2009. Like the accident with an EPR at Taishan-1, the setbacks at Olkiluoto hardly represent a great advertisement for the European Pressurised Reactor, with which EDF Energy also intends to equip Hinkley Point C and Sizewell-C. TVO has reported cracks on all four of the feedwater pumps.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/finlands-ol3-nuclear-reactor-regular-output-postponed-until-dec-27-2022-10-19/>

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Feedwater-pump-damage-delays-Finnish-EPR-commissio>

And to further add to EDF's woes...The Russian security service has launched an investigation into their activities. The magazine Intelligence Online reports that Russia's internal security service, the FSB, is assembling an investigation that directly affects the interests of EDF, via the activities of its former Tomsk subsidiary, TRK.

<https://www.intelligenceonline.com/international-dealmaking/2022/10/03/french-public-electricity-group-edf-under-threat-from-fsb-investigation-in-moscow,109829865-art>



Austria has filed a legal challenge to the European Commission's inclusion of natural gas and nuclear energy as "green" investments. At issue is the Commission's so-called taxonomy, a rulebook defining which investments can be labelled climate friendly and designed to guide investors toward green projects that will help deliver the bloc's emissions-cutting targets. There are already two legal challenges - one by Greenpeace, and the other by a coalition including the World Wildlife Fund and Client Earth.

Kwasi Kwarteng when Business Secretary talked of changing the rules in the UK to make it more commercially and ethically acceptable for investment funds to put money into nuclear.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/anti-nuclear-austria-files-legal-challenge-eu-green-investment-rules-2022-10-07/>

4. **Hinkley Point C:**

After a consultation to which the NFLA favourably responded, the Environment Agency has agreed to permit dry waste storage on site.

Dry storage will see used nuclear fuel stored in sealed containers within a facility before it is sent to the GDF. The permit covers the associated discharges, not the storage of waste. However, a change to the permit was required to remove or amend specific conditions related to the previous wet storage technology that are no longer relevant. The operator has said altering the storage

method will not change the expected radiation dose from discharges to the general public or the wider environment. Such doses will remain extremely small.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/change-to-storage-of-radioactive-waste-granted-for-hinkley-point-c>

Under legal agreements signed before the power station was approved, Somerset West and Taunton Council was given 'step-in rights', where it could take over the site and return the land to its original state if the nuclear facility could not begin generating power by the end of 2025. But the council has now waived these rights, and up to £63m of funding needed to carry out any restatement of the land, claiming that it is "extremely unlikely" these powers or funding will be required.

The NFLA Secretary has asked Sizewell campaigners if the same step-in rights exist at Sizewell.

<https://www.somersetlive.co.uk/news/somerset-news/council-gives-up-right-take-7634608>

Brean business owners have expressed concern at plans by EDF to take over Pontins holiday park for three years for Hinkley Point workers. They say thousands of tourists will no longer visit the village, taking away vital trade, if the Pontins site is closed and turned into accommodation for around 900 Hinkley workers. EDF says it hopes to undertake a multi-million pound refit of the Brean Pontins holiday park to ensure the accommodation is the right quality for its workers – and then hand it back to Pontins owner Britannia Hotels in three years' time to be returned for tourism use. However, members of Discover Brean have called for a full economic assessment to be undertaken to gauge the negative impact on shops, pubs and food retailers.

<https://www.burnham-on-sea.com/news/brean-tourism-businesses-concerned-at-edfs-plans-to-take-over-pontins-holiday-park/>

5. **Sizewell C:**

Prime Minister Liz Truss and French President Emmanuel Macron issued a joint statement at a meeting of the European Political Community in which they included a pledge of "full support" for Sizewell C, led by French energy company EDF. France's involvement has since received the necessary political ratification.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-suffolk-63166558>

<https://ukdaily.news/the-sizewell-c-nuclear-power-plant-is-one-step-closer-as-the-french-government-gives-the-green-light-to-the-project-168484.html>

Some media reports suggest that the UK and France (EDF) could each take a 50% equity stake, squeezing out the Chinese (CGN) at least until the Final Investment Decision and then seek to offload a large proportion to private investors (assuming any will bite). EDF has stated that it will not ultimately hold above 20% equity.

<https://www.ft.com/content/f08d1070-9c90-4a3c-ab38-27327a1edd2a>

Campaigners have slammed claims by developers of the new Sizewell C (SZC) nuclear power station that "nearly two-thirds of people in East Suffolk" were backing the project in a poll. The survey, conducted by polling company ICM, showed that 61% of respondents supported plans for the new power station, while 24% were opposed.

<https://www.eadt.co.uk/news/business/campaigners-slam-sizewell-poll-9298664>

The application for judicial review against the government's decision to grant a Development Consent Order to Sizewell C despite the Planning Inspectorate recommending refusal has been denied on first presentation to the High Court. Now Together Against Sizewell C, supported by Suffolk Coastal FoE and Stop Sizewell C, is seeking an oral hearing. Pete Wilkinson, Chair of TASC, describe the High Court's decision as 'a predictable and unreasonable response' to a public examination of the government's support for Sizewell C. They have instructed their lawyers, Leigh Day, to "use the group's procedural right to ask for its judicial review claim to be redetermined at an oral hearing in front of a different judge.

<https://www.eadt.co.uk/news/23082932.high-court-rejects-sizewell-legal-challenge/>

In an attempt at greenwashing, EDF is undertaking a conservation project to mitigate the impacts of the development of the nuclear power station on marsh harriers. A 4.52ha of high-quality wetland habitat comprising wet reedbed, 20-30% open water and 1km of lowland ditch habitat near Lower Abbey Farm in Leiston is being created or maintained by the company.

<https://www.eadt.co.uk/news/business/sizewell-wetland-to-save-harriers-9308656>

6. **Bradwell:**

Based on news from a local informant that the project team intends to carry out on-site remedial work and remove the site compound, the NFLA's assertion in a media release that the Chinese-led Bradwell project is effectively dead drew a strong protest from the Bradwell Power Generation Company Limited that 'feasibility studies' will continue to go ahead.

The Chinese may not have a saying equivalent to that of the British 'Throwing good money after bad', but the reality is that the political landscape and the passage of new legislation precluding Chinese involvement in new nuclear means any future development there will not be led by Chinese-stated owned CGN.

<https://www.maldonandburnhamstandard.co.uk/news/22572041.feasibility-studies-underway-bradwell-nuclear-station/>

<https://www.gazette-news.co.uk/news/22572041.feasibility-studies-underway-bradwell-nuclear-station/>

Bradwell Parish Council has signed up for NFLA membership. The NFLA Secretary spoke at a meeting hosted at West Mersea Town Council in July where the Parish Council was represented. The Parish Council has been invited to nominate a representative.

7. **Smaller Modular Reactors:**

Rolls-Royce SMR is carrying out site visits of the eight locations now in the running to host its first factory for small modular reactors. In July the company announced six potential locations for the factory, saying the shortlist was selected against a clear set of criteria, picked from more than 100 submissions from local enterprise partnerships and development agencies. They were: Sunderland in Tyne and Wear, Richmond in North Yorkshire, Deeside in Wales, Ferrybridge in Yorkshire, Stallingborough in Lincolnshire and Carlisle in Cumbria. Two more locations - Shotton, Deeside, in North Wales and Teesworks, Redcar, in north east England - have now been added after the sites met the shortlist criteria for the first of three expected factories in the UK, which will produce the vessels for the 470 MWe pressurised water reactor.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Two-sites-added-to-Rolls-Royce-SMR-s-UK-factory-sh>

The Welsh Government has established a company, Cwmni Eginio, to redevelop the Trawsfynydd site with new nuclear projects. The CEO is Alan Rayment, ex Bradwell B, ex Horizon in Wylfa. The site may host a medical radioisotope research reactor to produce radionuclides for use in cancer diagnostics and treatment, and more likely will be the first site to be a 'test bed' for an SMR, probably from Rolls-Royce.

Now the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, which owns the site, has signed an agreement with Cwmni Eginio to share information on how best to reinvigorate the site. Mr Rayment wants work to start on site in 2027.

Our Welsh anti-nuclear friends have been quick to raise fears of nuclear development on the site releasing a statement backing renewables instead, following the well-publicised march by CND Cymru activists between Trawsfynydd and Wylfa last month.

<https://www.dailypost.co.uk/news/north-wales-news/nuclear-reactors-plan-gwynedd-takes-25230786>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/agreement-to-progress-development-of-new-uk-small-modular-reactors>

<https://nation.cymru/news/anti-nuclear-campaigners-raise-fears-about-trawsfynydd-mini-nuke-test-bed-plans/>

The survival of Welsh language is at odds with 'dystopian' future under Westminster says the new Cymdeithas yr Iaith Chair. Robot Idris also called for bold action in the face of hostility towards Wales from Westminster when he addressed the group's AGM. He referred to the group manifesto – A Free Wales, A Green Wales, A Welsh Wales – which considers Welsh language and communities in the context of the climate crisis and the campaign for independence. Mr Idris is an active campaigner in community and national groups, including Pobl Atal Wylfa B (People Against Wylfa B). [He chaired the Caernarfon Conference at which the NFLA Secretary was the opening speaker].

<https://nation.cymru/news/survival-of-welsh-language-at-odds-with-dystopian-future-under-westminster-says-new-cymdeithas-chair/>

8. Fusion Reactors:

Instead of one of the five primary sites, the reserve site of the former West Burton A power station in Nottingham has been approved by government as the location of the pilot Spherical Tokamak for Energy Production (STEP) fusion reactor.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/site-of-uks-first-fusion-energy-plant-selected>

UK Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA) and Tokamak Energy have signed a five-year framework agreement to enable closer collaboration on developing spherical tokamaks as a route to commercial fusion energy. The agreement covers joint technology development, shared utilisation of equipment and facilities and associated secondment of staff between the two organisations.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukaea-and-tokamak-energy-to-collaborate>

Canada's General Fusion and the UKAEA will collaborate on projects to "advance the commercialisation of magnetised target fusion energy". The projects will help "hone" the design of General Fusion's demonstration machine being built at the UK's "fusion cluster" at Culham, Oxford.

The UKAEA carries out fusion energy research on behalf of the UK government, overseeing the country's fusion programme, including the MAST Upgrade (Mega Amp Spherical Tokamak) experiment as well as hosting JET - Joint European Torus – with scientists from around Europe.

General Fusion's Magnetised Target Fusion approach involves injecting hydrogen plasma into a liquid metal sphere, where it is compressed and heated so that fusion occurs. The heat from the fusion of the hydrogen atoms is transferred into the liquid metal. General Fusion says its approach to fusion "maximises the reapplication of existing industrialised technologies, bypassing the need for expensive superconducting magnets, significant new materials, or high-power lasers". This is different to the tokamak approach, which is used in JET and MAST Upgrade.

General Fusion is based in Vancouver, Canada, with locations in Oak Ridge, Tennessee in the USA and in London in the UK.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/General-Fusion-and-UKAEA-to-collaborate-on-fusion>

The newly completed GBP10 million (USD11.4 million) extension has doubled the size of the UK Atomic Energy Authority's (UKAEA) Materials Research Facility (MRF) at Culham Science Centre in Oxfordshire.

Specialist materials that can withstand extreme conditions are a critical part of delivering fusion energy. They are also essential in the development of STEP. The investment has seen an additional 12 shielded research rooms, used to hold high-end analytical instrumentation, added to the facility, as well as extensive new active chemical laboratory space, for scientists and engineers to develop more neutron-tolerant materials.

"Developing novel materials for resilience to fusion's triple whammy of tritium permeation, transmutation and atomic displacement effects is one of the *grand challenges* in delivering fusion power to the grid by mid-century," MRF Director Amanda Quadling said. She described the extended facility as "one of the best of its kind in the world", providing collaborative space to bring together academic and industrial researchers. "Also, by co-locating experimentalists and modellers, we hope to incubate new approaches to materials qualification for fusion," she added.

The MRF is supported by the UK government's National Nuclear User Facility and Fusion Foundations programme. It is also part of the Henry Royce Institute for Advanced Materials and bridges the gap between university and nuclear licensed site laboratories.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/UK-materials-facility-upgraded-to-support-fusion-r>

The National Nuclear Laboratory (NNL) has moved to Space Park Leicester. The NNL is the UK's national laboratory for nuclear fission and is working with academics and industry partners to develop spacecraft systems for the European Space Agency (ESA) that provide reliable, long-lived power for harsh environments.

It has created a process to extract Americium 241 from plutonium and re-purpose it as fuel for systems developed by the University of Leicester, with support from the UK Space Agency, for use in future space missions.

<https://www.machinery-market.co.uk/news/33282/National-Nuclear-Laboratory-moves-to-Space-Park-Leicester>

9. Dounreay:

The highest numbers of 'harmful' radioactive particles have been found in 26 years at Dounreay. Fragments of irradiated nuclear fuel have been detected at the shoreline near the power plant and nuclear testing facility, with experts from independent Dounreay Particles Advisory Group saying they "pose a realistic potential to cause harm to members of the public". The radioactive material is said to be at the highest levels almost three decades - with 73 per cent of the particles found deemed "significant", according to a report. A survey found 15 particles on the shoreline, the most since 1996 when 17 were found. It comes after research suggested the leaks occurred sometime between 1958 and 1984. In response to ongoing concerns, Dounreay Site Restoration Ltd, said it was closely monitoring the situation.

<https://www.scottishdailyexpress.co.uk/news/scottish-news/dounreay-nuclear-plant-radiation-scare-28358121>

10. Geological Disposal Facility:

GOTEC (the Guardians of the East Coast), an anti-GDF group of residents opposed to plans to develop a nuclear waste dump in Lincolnshire, have taken up a place on the Community Partnership after being assured that joining in no way implies any weakening of their position and that no non-disclosure agreement would have to be signed. Most group members consulted agreed to join. The group also recently held an Extraordinary General Meeting to elect new officers and the NFLA sent them a message of solidarity on this occasion.

<https://www.gotec.org.uk/post/gotec-invited-to-join-the-community-partnership>

Nuclear Waste Services has published a document claiming that a GDF will create 4,000 jobs over 25 years. The *GDF - (Geological Disposal Facility) Creating Jobs & Skills: A First Look* report, which was published today by Nuclear Waste Services (NWS), sets out how the multi-billion-pound programme is expected to create thousands of skilled, well-paid jobs for over a century. NWS claims that work on a GDF will carry on for about 175 years, generating an expected average of 2,000 jobs in any given year. NWS says it is committing to utilizing a local supply chain and recruiting locally where possible with 75% of job roles estimated to be for candidates with A-level qualifications or below.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1107784/GDF_Creating_Jobs_Skills_A_First_Look.pdf

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/gdf-to-create-more-than-4000-jobs-within-the-first-25-years>

GOTEC, which has genuine fears that such a project would have a massive impact on jobs in tourism and agriculture, has challenged these assumptions. Ken Smith, chairman of the group, said: "A nuclear waste dump and a bucket-and-spade resort don't go well together either. For every job created there, one could be lost in the tourism industry. And investment won't come while the possibility of the nuclear waste is hanging over Theddlethorpe".

<https://thelincolnite.co.uk/2022/10/a-nuclear-waste-dump-and-seaside-resort-dont-go-well-together/>

South Copeland Community Partnership has finally opened its first meeting to the public and have allowed questions to be tabled at it. Several questions were tabled by members of the Millom and District Against the Nuclear Dump group. The NFLA also wrote to the Community Partnership (and indeed the other three partnerships) urging them to be more accessible and transparent in their proceedings.

A motion tabled by the Green Group of Councillors on the new Cumberland Shadow Authority calling for a review of the boundaries of the search areas for the three Cumbria-based Community Partnerships was heavily defeated. Cumberland will replace Carlisle, Allerdale and Copeland Councils from April 2023, and Councillors have been elected to different wards than those applicable to Allerdale and Copeland around which the search areas were based. The two councillors called for a review from April with a view to making search areas align with the new wards and to withdraw from areas where there was clear opposition. The Leader Councillor Mark Fryer said he had already raised boundary revisions in discussions with Nuclear Waste Services and Copeland's Nuclear Portfolio holder Cllr David Moore said that all of the Community Partnerships were now looking at this.

Sky News accompanied Bruce Cairns, chief policy adviser at the UK's Nuclear Waste Services, on an underground visit to the Onkalo GDF under development in Finland.

<https://news.sky.com/story/inside-the-worlds-first-nuclear-waste-tomb-in-finland-12723295>

A group of nuclear experts have launched an advisory service - The Nuclear Waste Advisory Associates (NWAA) - on the issue of toxic waste management: "Although NWAA is an advisory agency, we find it difficult to justify support for the government's new nuclear programme as the high level waste that would be generated would complicate disposal as it is much hotter and radioactive than the legacy waste, so would require more space underground, and would almost certainly require the identification of more than one [geological disposal facility] GDF, possibly as many as three".

<https://www.geplus.co.uk/news/nuclear-waste-disposal-advice-service-launched-06-10-2022/>

11. Renewables:

One hundred universities in the UK have pledged to divest from fossil fuels, the Guardian revealed.

This equates to 65% of the country's higher education sector refusing to make at least some investments in fossil fuel companies, and endowments worth more than £17.6bn now out of reach for the corporations.

https://www.theguardian.com/education/2022/oct/27/uk-universities-divest-fossil-fuels?CMP=share_btn_link

Insulation

Low-income homes in England are to have their energy efficiency improved under a £1.5bn government plan that will also address poor insulation. Funding is being made available to local authorities and social housing providers with the aim of upgrading 130,000 homes. Wall and loft insulation, double glazing, heat pumps and solar panels are all measures that could be funded. The UK currently has some of the least energy efficient homes in Europe. The £1.5bn will come from £6.6bn that was announced in 2021 as part of the government's Heat and Building Strategy. "By making homes warmer and cheaper to live in, we are not only transforming the lives of households across England," said Business Secretary Jacob Rees-Mogg in a statement. "We are creating huge growth in the economy, backing the green energy sector and supporting thousands of high-skilled jobs." Local authorities and registered social housing providers will bid for the money with the projects being delivered from early 2023 to March 2025. The funding will be used to retrofit private, off-gas grid housing and social on and off-gas grid houses that have an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating below C.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-63069445>

The funding is being made available through two existing 'Help to Heat' schemes – the Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) and the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF). HUG is receiving up to £700m and the remaining £800m will be allocated to the SHDF. HUG provides money from Government coffers to local authorities, which are then required to use it to invite households to book in for replacements to their heating systems and wall and roof insulation. HUG was first announced in early 2021 and the initial funding round, of £67m, was made earlier this year. In total, the Government has pledged to provide at least £950m for HUG. The SHDF provides funding to social housing providers looking to bring existing properties to EPC band C or higher. Funding can be used to fit insulation, replace windows and install technologies like heat pumps and solar panels. Housing providers are asked to match the funding provided by Whitehall.

<https://www.edie.net/uk-government-opens-1-5bn-tranche-of-funding-for-energy-efficient-homes/>

Jobs

More than 65 million people worked in the global energy sector in 2019, according to a new report from the International Energy Agency (IEA). Clean energy jobs now account for more than half of employment in the sector. To reach net-zero emissions by 2050, the world will need to create 14 million new clean energy jobs by 2030, says the IEA.

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2022/09/iea-clean-energy-jobs/>

A new report shows more than 27,000 jobs were supported by Scotland's renewable energy sector.

<https://www.johnogroat-journal.co.uk/news/new-report-shows-more-than-27-000-jobs-supported-by-scotland-289708/>

An offshore energy skills summit will be held on 2 Nov to help break down barriers faced by oil and gas workers in the shift away from fossil fuels. Led by Scottish Government Energy Secretary Michael Matheson, the summit is a result of a direct call to action by SNP MSP Gillian Martin who surveyed more than 500 oil and gas employees on the just transition. Her work showed one in 10 workers in the North Sea oil and gas industry say they have enough opportunities to switch to renewables. The Scottish Government plans to publish its draft energy strategy for Scotland by the "end of the year", along with a just transition plan for offshore workers.

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/politics/scottish-politics/3771193/offshore-jobs-summit/>

Hydrogen

Tees Valley will host a new £20 million Hydrogen Transport Hub competition, run by Innovate UK, in which businesses and research groups will collaborate to discover how hydrogen can be used as a reliable fuel source.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/tees-valley-hydrogen-hub-boosted-by-20-million-competition>

Developer Carlton Power has secured planning permission for phase one of a £300 million scheme to develop a 200MW Trafford Green Hydrogen scheme in Greater Manchester to harness renewable energy to produce green hydrogen fuel for transportation and heating.

<https://www.current-news.co.uk/news/carlton-power-granted-green-light-for-phase-one-of-200mw-trafford-green-hydrogen-scheme>

Energy giant SSE has proposed producing 1,600 tonnes of hydrogen gas a year using surplus electricity from a Highland wind farm. The hydrogen could be used as an alternative fuel for vehicles, heating systems and industrial processes. SSE has notified Highland Council's north planning applications committee of its hope to build a hydrogen electrolyser plant at its Gordonbush Wind Farm near Brora in Sutherland. The plant would be powered by electricity surplus to the needs of the national power grid. Separately, similar projects have been proposed for sites on the Cromarty Firth in Easter Ross, the Western Isles and in Inverness.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cedv9811k4lo>

A new £1 million research project has launched in Edinburgh to develop cost-effective technologies to produce hydrogen from agricultural and animal waste. The project is a partnership between Heriot-Watt University and Malaysian oil and gas company Petronas. It will operate under Petronas Centre of Excellence in Subsurface Engineering and Energy Transition (PACESET), one of the three global technology centres set up by the energy giant.

https://www.herakscotland.com/business_hq/23050636.1m-biomass-project-launches-scotland/

Plans for a Hydrogen Hub on Anglesey have been approved paving the way for the first development of its kind in Wales. The project will see the Hub built at Parc Cybi, Holyhead by social enterprise, Menter Môn, working alongside the Isle of Anglesey County Council. Green hydrogen will be produced at the site and distributed as fuel for zero emission hydrogen-powered vehicles.

<https://www.wales247.co.uk/plans-for-holyhead-hydrogen-hub-receive-green-light>

Carbon Capture

RWE has signed a deal with carbon capture specialist Fluor to explore the potential of transforming its 2.2GW gas-fired power station in Southwest Wales into a power generation, CCUS, and hydrogen production hub. The German energy giant is set to undertake a six-month study alongside Fluor that will look at the feasibility of retrofitting Pembroke Power Station - the largest gas-fired power plant in Europe - with post-combustion carbon capture utilisation and storage technology (CCUS).

<https://www.businessgreen.com/news/4057543/rwe-eyes-ccus-hydrogen-retrofit-pembroke-gas-power-plant>

Solar

Construction will begin at the vast BP Lightsource Tilt Farm development in Nottinghamshire next month. When complete, it will have a maximum output of 61 megawatts of power. The development is part of plans to increase Lightsource's near-6MW output to 25GW by 2025 – or enough to power 19m homes – revised up from an original target of 10GW by 2024.

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2022/oct/06/light-fantastic-bps-solar-venture-launches-biggest-uk-project-yet>

Scottish Water's most ambitious solar energy scheme to date is now under construction at the utility giant's largest energy intensive asset. The £5m investment by Scottish Water Horizons, the utility's commercial subsidiary, will see 8,448 ground-mounted solar Photovoltaic (PV) panels installed at Balmore Water Treatment Works in Torrance, to the north of Glasgow. Balmore is one of the largest treatment plants in Scottish Water's portfolio, treating water from Loch Katrine and

Loch Lomond for supply to 565,000 customers in East Dunbartonshire, Glasgow, North Lanarkshire, the Falkirk and Grangemouth areas, and West Lothian.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/environment/super-solar-scheme-aimed-at-tackling-climate-change-is-underway-in-east-dunbartonshire-3866393>

Horsham District Council is delighted to be working with newly formed resident-led group Community Energy Horsham to install energy efficient photovoltaic (PV) panels on council-owned buildings. The decision was taken to partner with Community Energy Horsham at the Council's Cabinet meeting on 29 September.

<https://www.horsham.gov.uk/news/2022/09/council-to-partner-with-community-energy-horsham-to-reduce-carbon-emissions>

Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council have backed plans to fund a solar farm which will power electric bin lorries used by the Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service.

Greater Cambridge Shared Waste is a partnership between the councils and collects recycling and waste from around 127,000 households across the two areas.

<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/news/2022/10/11/plans-for-waste-depot-solar-farm-progress>

Thousands of solar panels could be installed at Swansea's Tir John landfill site. Swansea Council chiefs outlined plans to use part of the Port Tennant site for solar energy in 2019, and now a full planning application has been submitted. Around 5,500 solar panels would occupy a third of the sprawling site, which closed this year for good to black bag waste. The land is synonymous with Swansea's industrial past. Mining took place before the Tir John coal-fired power station was built in the 1930s, later switching to oil before it was decommissioned in 1976.

<https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/solar-farm-swansea-energy-bills-25352997>

Leeds City Council proposes contaminated land for solar farms. The city council wants to install ore solar panels on sites across the city, as long as the chosen land could not be used for food, farming or housing. Permission was given for a huge solar energy farm between Kippax and Allerton Bywater in east Leeds last year. Councillor Helen Hayden said more parks could be created, but warned publicly owned sites once used for landfill or mining were at a premium. Speaking at a meeting of the council's climate emergency advisory committee, Ms Hayden said: "We are looking at land that can't be used for housing and can't be used for agriculture - contaminated land - for solar farms, to provide Leeds City Council's energy use."

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leeds-63388526>

<https://www.yorkshireeveningpost.co.uk/news/politics/council/leeds-council-could-build-solar-energy-farms-on-contaminated-land-across-the-city-3892736>

Plans for a new solar farm to be built just outside Lancaster which would power almost 8,000 homes are to go before city councillors next month.

<https://www.lancasterguardian.co.uk/business/solar-farm-near-lancaster-would-power-up-to-8k-homes-if-given-green-light-3892690>

A 200-acre (81-hectare) scheme has been approved at Bloy's Grove near Norwich. The solar farm off Brick Kiln Lane, between Mulbarton, Newton Flotman and Swainsthorpe, is expected to generate enough energy to power 14,000 homes.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-norfolk-63421453>

Newcastle International Airport has announced that construction has started on a solar farm that will power its airport terminal operations. The airport said the start of the project was a "major milestone" in its ambitious strategy to become a "net zero" emission airport by 2035. The 16MW solar plant, which is planned on land owned by the airport adjacent to its runway, is being developed in four phases after securing planning permission earlier this year. Newcastle International Airport said the first phase of the solar plant would cost £3.5m and provide 3MW of energy, which it said would mean it would save roughly 150,000 tonnes of carbon over its lifetime.

<https://www.businessgreen.com/news/4059033/newcastle-international-airport-breaks-ground-16mw-solar-project>

Sussex County Council's investment in low carbon, renewable energy is continuing to pay dividends according to the latest annual report. Over the past decade the authority has steadily increased the amount of clean, green electricity it generates by installing solar panels on its buildings and schools and using surplus land to develop two solar farms at Tangmere and Westhampnett near Chichester. In line with its Energy Strategy the County Council is also investing in energy storage and developing 'grid scale' battery sites. The batteries provide a service to the electricity grid and can store and supply electricity as required, for example, to help maintain grid stability as intermittent sources of renewable power, such as solar farms and wind farms, fluctuate throughout the day.

<https://sussexlocal.net/county-council-solar-power-projects/news/sussex-news-news/>

Wind

A £1.8bn wind farm is taking shape in the Bay of St Brieuc, some 23 miles south-west of Jersey. It will eventually feature an offshore substation and 62 wind turbines.

<https://jerseyeveningpost.com/news/2022/10/06/pictures-offshore-wind-farm-taking-shape-23-miles-from-jersey/>

A new wind farm with 90 turbines could be built off the coast of Guernsey, providing 15 times the amount of energy needed to power the Channel Island. The plans were put forward in a new government report, which suggests a 1,500-megawatt wind farm could attract up to £5 billion of inward investment while also producing a similar amount of electricity as two nuclear reactors. If built, the wind farm could offset the need for tax increases in Guernsey as well as reduce fuel poverty.

<https://www.itv.com/news/channel/2022-10-18/proposals-to-build-36-mile-long-wind-farm-off-quernseys-coast>

The Celtic Sea region offers a huge opportunity to develop commercial floating offshore wind, according to energy giant RWE, which has commissioned a Swansea-based firm to develop a project plan for bringing forward up to 1GW of floating wind using the ports ABP Port Talbot and Pembroke Dock for foundation assembly and turbine assembly. Swansea-based Marine Power Systems (MPS) has been tasked with creating the study which will also identify what materials and components could be sourced from South Wales and the wider supply chain.

<https://www.insidermedia.com/news/wales/celtic-sea-opportunities-to-be-detailed-in-new-study>

The first 50MW of power capacity has come online at ERG's Sandy Knowe onshore wind farm in south Scotland, with the remainder of the project to be commissioned early next year. Situated in Dumfries and Galloway, the wind farm is set to have a total installed capacity of 86.4MW once it all comes online next year, offering annual production of just over 250GWh of generation, enough to meet the needs of around 55,000 average homes each year. With the first 50MW of power capacity having been commissioned at the wind project, the remaining 36MW is expected to enter service during the first half of 2023, bringing forward the timeline earlier than ERG had originally expected, it said.

<https://www.businessgreen.com/news/4058134/erg-switches-50mw-onshore-wind-capacity-scotland>

Winter electricity prices forecast to tumble by 2027 thanks to offshore wind. The report highlights the important role that a handful of offshore wind projects, planned by 2030 in the Irish Sea from Louth to Cork, will play in driving winter prices lower. The all-Ireland electricity will hit the target of generating 80% of its power from renewables thanks to offshore wind by 2030, and winter electricity costs will tumble as early as 2027. The assessment comes from leading energy consultancy Cornwall Insight Ireland and pierces the gloom over energy bills and the cost-of-living crisis sparked by the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The Cornwall Insight report says winter electricity prices will fall below their long-term pre-Covid levels as offshore wind and solar projects deliver on their promise to reduce the island's huge dependence on gas-fuelled power stations.

<https://www.irishexaminer.com/business/economy/arid-40991828.html>

Siemens Gamesa recently tweeted that their 14–222 DD prototype wind turbine produced a record-smashing 359 MWh of energy in 24 hours. That is an insane amount of power! It is enough to fully charge a Tesla Model S 3,590 times from flat, which would let you drive it a whopping 1,453,950 miles! Alternatively, it is enough to power the average US home for 11,967 days, or 32.76 years. It can even fully charge Tesla's massive 150 MWh grid battery in Australia 2.3 times. All that from a single turbine in only 24 hours!

<https://medium.com/predict/the-record-breaking-wind-turbine-with-game-changing-technology-7582d01b594a>

Hydro

The BBC recently featured the benefits of membership of a small hydro project in North Wales.

Energy bills are a worry right now, but people in one village are slashing their bills by using green technology.

Some residents in the Ogwen Valley, in Gwynedd, joined an energy club which uses a hydro-electric scheme. As a result, they get electricity for 8p a unit at certain times of day - instead of 34p a unit.

A separate scheme sells excess power back to the grid, funding grants for local charities and fitting solar panels in the area.

The Ogwen Valley is one of several places in Wales with community energy projects.

About 140 homes in the area are part of a club called Energy Local along with the National Trust, which owns a hydro-electric turbine nearby. The homes are not plugged directly into the turbine -

they get their power from the National Grid, the same as everyone else. But the energy club members' use is matched to the amount of power the turbine is generating.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-63287373>

Heat Pumps

An off-grid north Wales village is to get a £1 million home heating scheme.

Denbighshire Council's cabinet backed plans to proceed with fitting ground-source heat pumps at the village of Betws Gwerfil Goch.

They appointed contractor Kensa and the design stage is set to take around 12-16 weeks. The cabinet heard how the council had engaged with residents as part of a consultation, and 26 homes wanted to sign up to the scheme – with others interested.

<https://nation.cymru/news/1m-home-heating-scheme-go-ahead-for-off-grid-village/>

British Gas has announced it has installed more than 1,500 air source heat pumps since January, including the first installation supported by the government's Boiler Upgrade Scheme. The company announced the sales milestone as it confirmed it would be now offering installations of standard air source heat pumps with up to 7Kw of capacity at a price point of £4,999. The fee covers mechanical and electrical installation, as well as a dumb cylinder with a capacity of up to 200L.

<https://www.businessgreen.com/news/4058639/british-gas-chalks-500-heat-pump-installations>

Storage

Asset manager Foresight Group has invested in a co-located 1.6GWh pumped hydro energy storage and wind project in Scotland. The project, at the disused 1,547-acre Glenmuckloch opencast coal mine near Kirkconnel, will see the construction of a 210MW/1,600MWh capacity pumped hydro energy storage plant along with a 33.6MW wind farm. The eight-hour system (7.62 to be exact) will utilise two 105MW reversible hydroturbines and help balance the UK grid as more renewable energy resources come online. The adjoining wind farm will comprise eight 4.2MW turbines and will be able to power the pumped hydro plant.

<https://www.current-news.co.uk/news/foresight-group-investing-in-integrated-pumped-hydro-and-wind-project-at-disused-coal-mine-site>

Cambridge Power has confirmed it has received planning permission for a 50MW battery energy storage system (BESS) situated in Essex. The BESS project will replace a previously proposed gas-peaker plant on the same site making the Lawford Substation more environmentally friendly and sustainable. This project will add to the firm's BESS portfolio having secured planning permission for 259MW of BESS storage with a further 407.5MW currently submitted for planning.

https://www.solarpowerportal.co.uk/news/cambridge_power_secures_planning_permission_for_50mw_bess_project_in_essex

The company building Britain's first battery "gigafactory" is in emergency talks with investors including a major carmaker amid fears it could run out of money before the end of the year. Britishvolt, a government-backed developer of battery cell technologies, is reportedly holding talks with seven potential investors after recent market turmoil led to prospective backers pulling out of

its latest funding round. The company yesterday admitted its plans had been "refocused and sharpened given the negative global economic situation".

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/britishvolt-seeks-200m-in-emergency-funding-bb0sv9xpd>

Output

Renewable energy generation in Scotland has reached a record high. The 7,358 gigawatt hours (GWh) produced in April, May and June of this year was a 36 per cent increase on the same period last year and more than 25 per cent greater than any second quarter previously recorded. It contributed to 18,568 GWh of renewable electricity being generated in the first half of this year, up 29 per cent on last year, the Scottish government said. Higher wind speeds, increased rainfall and additional capacity coming online are understood to have contributed to the increases. Michael Matheson, the net zero and energy secretary, said that the achievement would help deliver on Scotland's climate obligations. Renewable energy capacity increased by 10.5 per cent from June last year to 13.3GW in the same month of this year, driven largely by new wind farms becoming operational.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/high-winds-and-heavy-rainfall-generate-record-for-renewable-energy-9xrxd669v>

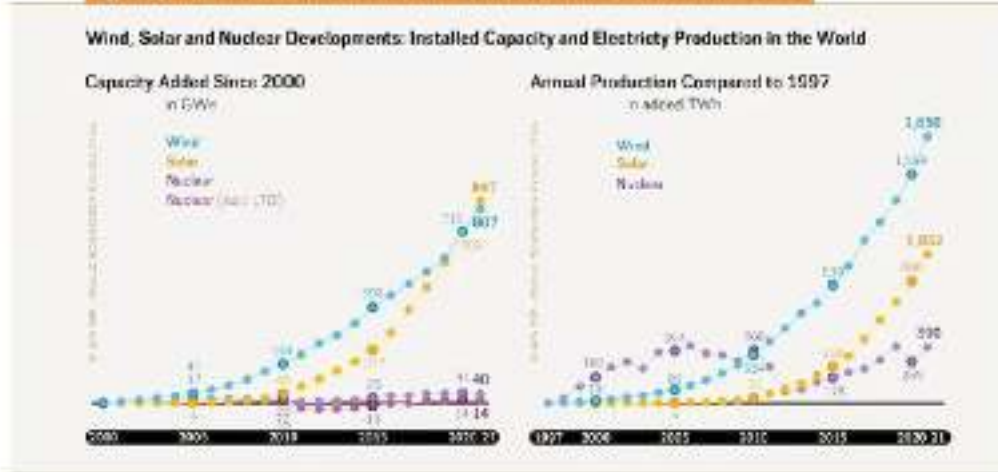
Analysis by the UK-based Ember climate think tank concludes that wind, solar, and hydropower prevented any growth in coal- or gas-powered electricity production around the world in the first half of 2022. Without renewables, Ember says in a release, fossil-fired generation would have grown 4% in just six months. Replacing those projects with clean renewables prevented 230 million tonnes of carbon pollution and saved countries US\$40 billion in fuel costs. It still isn't the depth or speed of emission reductions that we need. But against the huge scale and entrenched interests of the fossil industry and other big carbon polluters, this is what a win looks like.

<https://energymixweekender.substack.com/p/taking-the-win>

The world's energy infrastructure is at "significant" risk from climate change, as extreme weather events threaten dams, thermal power plants and nuclear stations, the World Meteorological Organization said in its latest report. The WMO said existing energy infrastructure was already "under stress" and climate change was likely to directly affect fuel supply, energy production and the physical resilience of existing and future energy projects. Flood and drought risk was particularly highlighted. In 2020, 87 per cent of the global electricity generated from thermal, nuclear and hydroelectric systems directly depended on water availability, the WMO said, but some of the facilities are located in areas that were experiencing water stress. The WMO said a third of thermal power plants that relied on freshwater availability for cooling were already in areas of water stress, as were 15 per cent of existing nuclear power plants and 11 per cent of hydroelectric capacity. About a quarter of the world's existing hydropower dams, and almost a quarter of projected dams, were situated within river basins that already have a "medium to very high risk" of water scarcity, the WMO said.

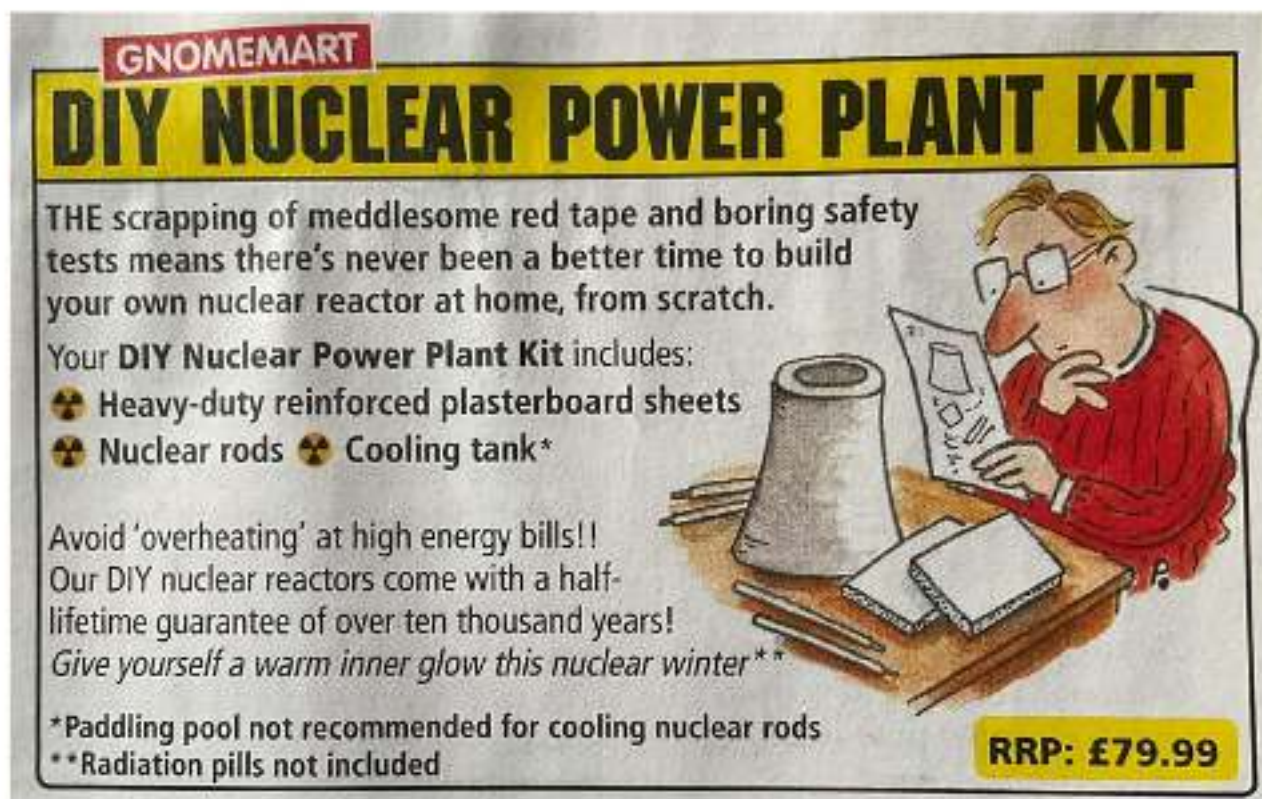
<https://www.ft.com/content/3dd9ad29-40cf-4270-b0d9-74c03c85a3aa?amp>

Figure 23: Summary of Wind, Solar and Nuclear Capacity and Electricity Production in the World



Source: WSI with ICA, IRE, IRENA, ICF Statistic Review, 2022

Lastly in a poke at Johnson’s claim that there could be a nuclear reactor in every back garden, Private Eye published this cartoon



11. Nuclear Weapons / Mayors for Peace:

Almost 2,000 staff at the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE), wholly owned by the Ministry of Defence, which develops and maintains Trident warheads, have been balloted over strike action over pay. The ballot amongst Prospect and Unite members will last for two weeks. The Prospect union will also ballot members working for AWE on the HMNB Clyde site in Argyll and Bute.

<https://www.scottishdailyexpress.co.uk/news/scottish-news/workers-maintaing-trident-nuclear-weapons-28280503>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-berkshire-63315716>

A sculpture dedicated to Britain's nuclear test veterans has been unveiled at the Royal Engineers Museum in Kent, to coincide with the 70th anniversary of Operation Hurricane and the conference of the British Nuclear Test Veterans' Association.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-63136372>



At the beginning of October, Swansea Council passed a resolution calling upon the UK Government to sign the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

On 13 October, the Secretary took part in the planting of a ginkgo tree grown from a seed from an a-bomb survivor tree in the newly created peace garden at Lyndhurst Primary School in Oldham. The school had in 2018 and 2019 made paper peace cranes that were sent to Hiroshima for display in the children's memorial garden for the 6 August Commemoration. The school is also a signatory of the Pledge to Peace.

The 10th General Conference of Mayors for Peace was held in Hiroshima on 19 and 20 October. This was attended virtually by Councillor Eddy Newman, representing Manchester as Executive and Vice-Presidential City, and by Richard Outram, Secretary of the UK/Ireland Chapter. A full report on the conference will be circulated separately.

Richard Outram,

NFLA / Mayors for Peace Secretary
31 Oct 2022

Report to:	Active and Healthy Communities
Date of Meeting:	21 November 2022
Subject:	Council Partnership Proposals to support Sustainable Food Places programme.
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Eoin Devlin Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Rodney McBride Sustainable Food Places Coordinator

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-

For decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input type="checkbox"/>
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	That Committee consider and agree to NMDDC supporting both the 'Guardians for Grub' and 'Feeding Britain' campaigns.
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>Background:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council have partnered with the UK Sustainable Food Partnership (SFP) network organisation since December 2021, reporting quarterly on issues and local actions. • A Live Action Plan is currently being put in place under a number of headings including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food Poverty, Food Economics and Procurement, Local Food Movement Tackling Climate Emergency and Food Waste <p>WRAP is a UK wide organisation aiming to protect the planet by changing the way things are produced, consumed and disposed of.</p> <p>Triterra (an environmental consulting firm) are currently working in partnership with WRAP and have approached council to ask that we consider their 'Guardians of Grub' Campaign (https://guardiansofgrub.com) to support businesses within NMDDC. They are aiming for support from all Councils across NI.</p> <p>Stated aims are to encourage local partnerships, and to help raise the profile of reducing food waste through the hospitality and food sector in a bid to help save businesses money, and resources, especially at a time when operational costs are already so high. It is thought that the average cost of food waste for these businesses is approximately £10,000 per year.</p>

	<p>This will allow the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the FREE Guardians of Grub tools and resources to help save food and money • Share our participation via social media, flagging #GuardiansofGrub and using relevant social media handles. • Encourage staff to complete the free 15-minute Cost Saving Skills Course (https://guardiansofgrub.com/courses) • Share our passion, achievements and food saving tips with our networks and actively try to get others involved in reducing and reporting wasted food with Guardians of Grub • Post during and publicise Food Waste Action Week every March <p>In addition we wish to give support for the 'Feeding Britain' Campaign</p> <p>Feeding Britain is an award-winning charity with a vision of a UK where no one goes hungry. They support a national network of 60 regional anti-hunger partnerships comprising more than 600 local organisations – ranging from community centres and schools, to local authorities and social enterprises.</p> <p>Any Feeding Britain campaign titles would be adapted for local publicity eg. 'Feeding Newry, Mourne and Down'.</p> <p>By piloting innovative and effective new projects, and showing how food insecurity can be prevented, Feeding Britain are designing a road map for eliminating hunger from the communities served. By sharing this knowledge with others and using it to work for systemic changes at a national level, they aim to ensure hunger becomes a thing of the past.</p> <p>Further information is available at https://feedingbritain.org/</p> <p>Both organisations offer policy and practical support to enhance our commitment to the Sustainable Food Places network.</p> <p>Subscribing to these organisations and availing of the supports available will enhance our application for the Bronze Award from Sustainable Food Places.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	That Committee agree that Council signs up to both Guardians of Grub and Feeding Britain campaigns
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	There is no cost to using the resources of either organisation.

5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p>

	Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/> If no, please complete the following: The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7.0	Appendices
	None
8.0	Background Documents

Report to:	Active and Healthy Communities
Date of Meeting:	21 November 2022
Subject:	Bronze Award (Sustainable Food Places)
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Eoin Devlin Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Rodney McBride Sustainable Food Places Coordinator

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-	
For decision	x
For noting only	
1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	That Committee consider and agree to NMDDC submitting an application to the Sustainable Food Places network for consideration of their Bronze Award.
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>Background:</p> <p>Council have partnered with the UK Sustainable Food Partnership (SFP) network organisation since December 2021, reporting quarterly on issues and local actions. A Live Action Plan is currently being put in place under a number of headings including:</p> <p>Food Poverty Food Economics and Procurement Local Food Movement and Tackling Climate Emergency Food Waste</p> <p>The award is a first step to recognising the ongoing efforts within the AHC directorate in supporting sustainable living and encouraging healthier diet and lifestyle choices.</p> <p>Future aims will be to upgrade the recognition to a Silver and then Gold award, as local actions develop to increase impact across a range of themes and initiatives.</p> <p>The Sustainable Food Places Award is designed to recognise and celebrate the success of those places taking a joined up, holistic approach to food and that are achieving significant positive change on a range of key food issues.</p> <p>The Award is open to any place - borough, county or district - which is a member of the Sustainable Food Places Network.</p>

	<p>Award winners are formally announced each year at the national conference. Belfast City Council was the first to receive the Bronze Award. No other NI Councils have applied but Derry City and Strabane are also proposing to make a Bronze application for the 2023 round.</p> <p>Further information is available at https://www.sustainablefoodplaces.org/awards/</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	That committee agree that an application for the Bronze Award is submitted
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	none
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p>

	Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/>
	<i>Rationale:</i>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If yes, please complete the following: Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/> If no, please complete the following: The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7.0	Appendices
	None
8.0	Background Documents

Report to:	Active and Healthy Communities
Date of Meeting:	21 November 2022
Subject:	Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2023 - 2028
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Eoin Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Danielle Begley, Biodiversity Officer

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either: -

For decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input type="checkbox"/>
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	That Committee consider and agree to produce a 5 year Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for the District
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>The current Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) for NMDDC was launched in 2018. The plan highlights the amazing variety of habitats and species across the district and lists those selected for priority action. The LBAP reaches its' conclusion at the end of this year (2022).</p> <p>The protection of the environment remains high on Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's agenda and we are committed to fulfilling our Statutory duty for biodiversity. The implementation of LBAPs has served our District well over the years and will continue to be a feature of our Biodiversity work going forward.</p> <p>A review of the LBAP was carried out early in 2022 (Appendix 1) providing a summary of the many successes achieved by implementation of the current plan. It also identifies limitations of this specific methodology, such as working with stakeholders with competing priorities especially during periods of covid restriction. It is however important to acknowledge the role of external stakeholders and partners in working to protect and enhance local biodiversity.</p> <p>Moving forward, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council should seek to champion and promote biodiversity and be an exemplar of good practice. A Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for the Council which embeds best practice across all our operations will ensure we play our part in enhancing biodiversity in everything we do. Strategic partners can be involved as required and where opportunities arise.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	That the Committee agree to the Biodiversity Officer drafting a Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for NMDDC to lead biodiversity action across the district for the next 5 years.
4.0	Resource implications

4.1	Within existing estimates
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p> <p><i>The consultation for the previous LBAP document was less than 12 weeks and this was adequate. It is important to get the new Biodiversity Strategy in place as soon as possible.</i></p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p>

	<p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed ☒</p> <p><i>A Rural Needs Impact Assessment was completed for the current LBAP. This will be updated as required for the new Biodiversity Strategy.</i></p>
7.0	Appendices
	Appendix 1: LBAP Review 2022
8.0	Background Documents

Review of the Newry, Mourne and Down Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) 2018 – 2022

The overarching objectives and key actions of the Newry, Mourne and Down LBAP are to;

- Conserve and enhance the rich biodiversity of the District for both current and future generations;
- Educate and raise awareness of the importance and variety of biodiversity found within the Newry, Mourne and Down District, and;
- Encourage local ownership of Newry, Mourne and Down District's biodiversity.

Please note the following partner abbreviations used throughout the document;

NMDDC - Newry Mourne and Down District Council

RoG – Ring of Gullion

MHT – Mourne Heritage Trust

SLLP – Strangford Lough and Lecale Partnership

RSPB – The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

UW – Ulster Wildlife

NT – National Trust

DAERA – Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

Strategic Objective	Key Actions	Lead Partner	Key Milestones
1. Conserve and enhance the rich biodiversity of the district for both current and future generations	1.1 Ensure NMDDC deliver on the statutory biodiversity duty through implementation of the NMDDC LBAP, delivery of internal Biodiversity Implementation Plans (BIPs) and input into relevant projects and programmes	NMDDC	LBAP actions and BIPs reviewed annually

The current Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) for Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC) was launched in 2018. The plan highlights the amazing variety of habitats and species across the district and lists those selected for priority action (below).

Broad habitats selected for priority action are;

- Coastal and marine habitats
- Grassland/arable field margins
- Peatlands
- Urban habitats/gardens
- Wetlands
- Woodlands and hedgerows

Species selected for priority action are;

- Bats
- Breeding waders
- Bumblebees
- Fish species
- House sparrow
- Juniper
- Marine mammals
- Marsh fritillary
- Otter
- Red Kite
- Red squirrel
- Yellowhammer

This list of habitats and species is not exhaustive and can be updated and changed throughout the course of the LBAP. The protection of the environment remains high on Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's agenda. The Council have committed £10,000 annually to a 'Local Biodiversity Enhancement' theme within our Financial Assistance call. This allows local community groups to access funding for small biodiversity improvement projects across the district which meet targets for our LBAP. The creation and implementation of the LBAP ensures that the Council fulfils its duty for Biodiversity.

"It is the duty of every public body, in exercising any functions, to further the conservation of biodiversity so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions."

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

To clearly demonstrate how the duty is being met, a Biodiversity Implementation Plan (BIP) was produced. The BIP highlights specific actions whereby the Council can show that biodiversity is being taken into account in their everyday functions in all relevant departments/sections. The BIP was last reviewed and updated in 2020, but will need updated again to suit the changing structure within Council.

Strategic Objective	Key Actions	Lead Partner	Key Milestones
1. Conserve and enhance the rich biodiversity of the district for both current and future generations	1.2 Develop a Local Non-native Invasive Species Strategy	NMDDC, RoG, MHT	- Non-native Invasive Species Strategy drafted by April 2019 - Local problem areas identified and control options/funding investigated by September 2019

An Invasive Alien Plant Species (IAPS) Management Action Plan was developed for the Ring of Gullion Area (2017-2022). The purpose of an IAPS management action plan is to provide guidance for the control and/or eradication of high priority IAPS and to prevent their further dispersal as a result of treatment works. At the request of the Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership, INVAS Biosecurity (INVAS) was commissioned to prepare the plan for the area. In late October 2016, an IAPS survey was carried out in Newry and the Ring of Gullion Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) by INVAS. The management action plan analysed the results of the survey and developed a list of priority species and areas to be targeted. Several high impact IAPS were detected during the survey, including Giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*), Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), giant knotweed (*Fallopia sachalinensis*), Himalayan knotweed (*Persicaria wallichii*), winter heliotrope (*Petasites fragrans*) and Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*). A five year timetable for eradication/control of each species is provided in the action plan.

There is a lack of invasives data for the rest of the District. Larger Council owned sites were surveyed by the Council Biodiversity Officer during 2020. These data sets were then mapped as a new layer on the Council GIS. The Council have also liaised with DfI Roads and collated their invasive species records across the district to form a better picture of problem areas. This layer will be further populated with IAPS records as and when they are surveyed. Grounds maintenance staff are due a training session on Invasive plant species ID before the end of 2022. This is currently being co-ordinated with the Grounds maintenance manager and the NIEA invasive species Officer, taking into account COVID restrictions.

Strategic Objective	Key Actions	Lead Partner	Key Milestones
1. Conserve and enhance the rich biodiversity of the district for both current and future generations	1.3 Participate in and encourage landscape-scale biodiversity conservation projects across the district	All	- 2 projects ongoing by 2020

NMDDC are involved with a number of landscape scale biodiversity conservation projects both within our own district and much further afield.

Council are committed to managing our land holdings more sustainably while improving them for biodiversity. From 2016-2019, Newry Mourne and Down District Council were involved in the Heritage Lottery funded Bee-licious project. 'Bee-licious' was a partnership project across 8 councils in Northern Ireland to restore semi-natural habitat to benefit pollinating insects. The project focussed on bringing people together to appreciate natural heritage through pollinators. It improved semi-natural habitats across Northern Ireland, making them more 'pollinator friendly'. In Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area, 4 sites were restored, including Clonallon Park, Warrenpoint, and greenspace at Dundrum bay. As part of the project, the Council ran free family friendly events across the District to raise awareness of the importance of pollinators and how everyone could do their bit to help them. Over 200 people attended these events during the course of the project. Following on from Bee-licious, the Grounds Maintenance team, in conjunction with the Biodiversity Officer, have undertaken a 're-wilding initiative'. The initiative will improve Council owned sites for biodiversity, either through changes in the grass mowing regime or through additional planting of native wildflowers and plants. Council have recently procured new equipment which will allow grassland habitats to be managed more effectively for wildlife. Several plans are in place for future improvement of Council owned sites. To date, 33 Council owned areas have been re-wilded.

A separate 'tree strategy' has also been developed for Council owned sites to help us achieve woodland coverage equal to the National target of 12% by 2030. We currently have a number of small scale woodland planting schemes underway at various locations, including 7,500 trees along roadsides, 2,000 in Delamont Country Park and 2,000 in Island's Park, Newcastle. Since 2015 40,000 trees were given out in partnership with One Million Trees in a Day and the Woodland Trust. 15 farm plans were provided to farmers in the district to improve tree cover on their farms. 3 farmers were supported to access woodland creation grants and 15ha of new woodland has been created within the district.



Warrenpoint Roundabout



Belfast Road, Downpatrick

Newry Mourne and Down District Council are the lead partner on the Interreg funded CANN project. This landscape scale cross border environmental project aims to improve the condition of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) within NI, the border region of

Ireland and Scotland (25,000 ha). With €9.4 million of funding from the INTERREG VA programme, the CANN project team will produce Conservation Action Plans and carry out practical projects on 3,650 hectares of these SACs, all with an aim to help and guide the habitats and species found at these sites towards a favourable conservation status.

Newry Mourne and Down District Council are partners in the Rkite project, which aims to secure the future of the Red Kite in NI. This project was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, RSPB NI, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council, with support from the Northern Ireland Raptor Study Group and the Mourne Heritage Trust. It focussed on a dedicated public engagement programme reaching out to 40 schools in counties Down and Armagh, young people and members of the public in communities where the red kites are present, as well as working alongside the Mourne Heritage Trust’s Youth Rangers programme. The work aimed to ensure that the population of red kites in Northern Ireland thrived, flourished and expanded despite the many challenges that they face. As part of the project, interpretation panels were also placed in two viewing points within the district; at Tullyree road carpark and at Lighthouse road carpark. Although the funding has now ended, Newry Mourne and Down District Council continue to work with RSPB to deliver educational workshops on Red Kites across the district and raise awareness of this priority species.



Tullyree road car park panel

Strategic Objective	Key Actions	Lead Partner	Key Milestones
2. Educate and raise awareness of the importance and variety of biodiversity found within the Newry, Mourne and Down District	2.1 Host and promote a programme of biodiversity themed events, talks and workshops	NMDDC, RSPB, UW, SLLP, NT and others	- Biodiversity events included in weekly 'what's on guides' from the visitors information centre and updated quarterly on Council and Biodiversity NI websites and facebook pages - Other events to be fed through biodiversity officer for publicising on NMDDC and Biodiversity NI pages

A programme of events is run each year to raise awareness of biodiversity and its importance. These events tie in with other national days and themes to ensure a strong message is achieved e.g. Big garden birdwatch, world wetlands day and national tree week.

Since the start of the LBAP in 2018, Newry Mourne and Down District Council have led almost 70 events and workshops, raising awareness of the importance and variety of biodiversity found within the district. Other partners have organised their own similar biodiversity related events, further increasing awareness and engagement, not just within the district but across NI as a whole.



Strategic Objective	Key Actions	Lead Partner	Key Milestones
2. Educate and raise awareness of the importance and variety of biodiversity found within the Newry, Mourne and Down District	2.2 Publicise information about biodiversity through the media using press releases and any other opportunities	NMDDC	As required

The use of press and social media channels is a key tool for raising awareness of biodiversity. In particular, when the Council were unable to hold public events during the lockdowns of 2020, social media was essential in getting messages out to the public. The creation of a community woodland in partnership with Assumption Grammar School to celebrate National Tree Week in December got great press coverage.



Another biodiversity project that received a lot of publicity is the Aughnagun Honeybee project. Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, working in partnership with County Louth Beekeepers Association, has placed 4 beehives on the old Aughnagun landfill site in Mayobridge. The beekeepers have been given permission to use Aughnagun as a new home for their native Irish black honeybees.

The native Irish black bee was almost threatened with extinction in the eighties due to other bee species being imported. County Louth beekeepers, along with others, are working to increase the population of our native bee. Newry, Mourne and Down District Council are official partners of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and this project reinforces our commitment to improving our district for pollinators.



The Biodiversity Officer was interviewed by BBC Newsline and by 'The One Show' about the initiative.

Strategic Objective	Key Actions	Lead Partner	Key Milestones
2. Educate and raise awareness of the importance and variety of biodiversity found within the Newry, Mourne and Down District	2.3 Encourage national and regional wildlife recording schemes and the submission of all wildlife records to CEDaR and National Biodiversity Data Centre	All	Seasonal recording schemes promoted every year e.g. the Big Garden Birdwatch, Butterfly Count etc

Biodiversity events are often linked to national and regional wildlife recording schemes to ensure a strong, co-ordinated message is achieved. Throughout the year, events focus on various species, depending on their life cycles. For example, in January the Big Garden Birdwatch takes place, the UK ladybird survey runs from May to autumn, the Big butterfly count takes place in July and August and bats are best recorded in late August/early September. Volunteers across the district have also provided data for Red Squirrel, Pine Marten, Bumblebee and Plant surveys as well as Invasive Species Surveying.

When running an event to co-incide with any national or regional survey, the Biodiversity Officer signs up to the scheme and submits all species records afterwards to CEDaR (Centre for Environmental Data and Recording).



Strategic Objective	Key Actions	Lead Partner	Key Milestones
2. Educate and raise awareness of the importance and variety of biodiversity found within the Newry, Mourne and Down District	2.4 Produce local biodiversity interpretation and signs at sites of wildlife interest across the district	All	Minimum of one produced per year

Interpretation panels play a key role in relaying important and interesting information to the public. They can be used to highlight the biodiversity features of particular sites, and/or in raising awareness of a particular project. As part of the Heritage Lottery funded 'Bee-licious' project, signs were placed at the sites that were improved for pollinators either through planting or by changing grass mowing.



Abbey way



Kilclief

The Council re-wilding initiative has also seen signs being placed at various locations across the district, informing the public that these areas are being managed for wildlife and biodiversity. Using signage in this way is extremely important as it informs the public that these areas are still being managed and have not been left abandoned.



Signage from Kilbroney Park



Strategic Objective	Key Actions	Lead Partner	Key Milestones
2. Educate and raise awareness of the importance and variety of biodiversity found within the Newry, Mourne and Down District	2.5 Assist local schools with relevant eco-schools targets e.g. biodiversity and school grounds objectives	NMDDC	As required

A large part of the Biodiversity Officer's role involves education and raising awareness of Biodiversity. Every school within Newry, Mourne and Down District is registered with the Eco-schools programme. As of October 2021, there are 37 schools currently holding the highest award of the Green Flag. A number of Council officers provide advice and assistance where required to schools on relevant objectives within the Eco schools programme.



Strategic Objective	Key Actions	Lead Partner	Key Milestones
3. Encourage local ownership of Newry, Mourne and Down District's biodiversity	3.1 Help and signpost local communities in developing wildlife projects such as planting mini woodland, creating patches of wildflower meadow or organising wildlife themed events	NMDDC, RoG, SLLP, MHT	Minimum of 3 projects or events annually
	3.2 Provide encouragement and support to key	All	As required

	stakeholders, local environmental organisations and communities		
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Improving our District for biodiversity could not be achieved without partnership working and working with local community groups.

The Biodiversity Officer has provided biodiversity advice and assistance with funding applications to many local community groups across the District. Since 2019, the Council have committed £10,000 annually to a 'Local Biodiversity Enhancement' theme within our Financial Assistance call. This allows local community groups to access funding for small biodiversity improvement projects across the district which meet targets for our Council LBAP. A total of 31 groups have been funded under the Local Biodiversity Enhancement theme since it began. Projects have ranged from setting up wildlife feeding stations, to planting wildflower meadows and native trees, and even to combatting coastal erosion.



Strangford Residents Association planting wildflowers



Red squirrel feeder in Kilbroney Park

The Biodiversity Officer regularly liaises with key stakeholders and other Environmental organisations on relevant issues across the District.

In 2019 a group was set up to tackle anti-social behaviour in Daisy Hill Wood, Newry. The group consisted of representatives from NMDDC, the Woodland Trust, ROG, PCSP and the PSNI. We worked together to develop and install signage at the wood (no drinking signs). Shrubs and undergrowth were cleared from the front of the wood to create a clear sightline and help reduce anti-social behaviour. Although the group have not met in person since the beginning of lockdown in 2020, we remain in contact via email when needed.

When a number of complaints were received in relation to quad activity in the Mournes in 2020, the Biodiversity Officer made contact with the PSNI, NIEA and MHT to try to tackle the issue. A socially distanced meeting was held on site with Trustees of the Mournes to assess the damage. A system for reporting vehicle registration numbers and other relevant information was devised. A number of repeat offenders were contacted by PSNI. The issue is ongoing and the group remain in contact via email/phone.

Strategic Objective	Key Actions	Lead Partner	Key Milestones
3. Encourage local ownership of Newry, Mourne and Down District's biodiversity	3.3 Highlight opportunities for people to get involved in nature conservation and outdoor activities which in turn lead to better mental and physical health	All	Regular email circulars and press releases on local opportunities

Since the onset of Covid in 2020 the number of opportunities for people to get involved in nature conservation and outdoor activities has severely diminished. However previous to that there have been numerous public events, clean-ups and conservation projects for the local community to get involved in.

There is a strong core volunteer work force of 29 members with around 100 transient volunteers within the ROG AONB for example. A total of 393 people have volunteered with the AONB programme over the last four years. 39 Youth Rangers have been trained, with four of them having gifted over 100-hours of volunteering. Across other areas of the District, individuals regularly attend beach clean-ups and citizen science recording days. In 2019, the Biodiversity Officer co-ordinated a Bioblitz in Castlewella forest park as part of its Heritage Lottery Funded project. A bioblitz involves recording as many species as possible in an area over a 24-hour period. A number of experts and members of the public took part in the bioblitz and over 300 species were recorded within the park.



All volunteering opportunities are advertised in local press and on social media sites.



Strategic Objective	Key Actions	Lead Partner	Key Milestones
4. Protect and conserve designated sites	Fully implement AONB Management Action Plans	RoG, SLLP, MHT, NMDDC, DAERA and others	The full success of the implementation programme will be determined by external funders.




The Council own/manage several sites across the district which are included within or are adjacent to designated sites. We are currently working with NIEA on a MOSS (Management of Special Sites) funded project at Tyrella ASSI to bring the dune system back into favourable condition. Works include conservation grazing and removal of invasive species such as sea buckthorn.




The AONB Management Plans are meeting all targets required by funders. Slieve Gullion SAC management plan has been created and implementation of the plan is underway. Council have also been working to improve the condition of Strangford SAC. Strangford Lough Marine Site Management Scheme has been drafted.



The Interreg funded CANN project, for which NMDDC are the lead, aims to improve the condition of SACs within NI, the border region of Ireland and Scotland (25,000 ha). Conservation Action Plans will be developed, and practical projects will be carried out on 3,650 hectares of these SACs, all with an aim to help and guide the habitats and species found at these sites towards a favourable conservation status.




Due to the recent devastating fires across the Mourne a large scale regeneration conservation project is currently being developed. Almost £350,000 has been allocated through the Environment Challenge fund to help the Mourne Mountains recover.


Priority Species Review

Species	Local Actions	Review 2022
<p>Bats</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guide Council and other organisations on their legislative duties with regards bats and development • Provided advice to members of the public on bat conservation • Raise awareness of bats through bat walks and talks in the area in partnership with the NI Bat Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Biodiversity Officer (BO) continues to give advice both internally and to members of the public when required. - Bat talks and walk held annually at the end of August. Unfortunately, recent bat walks were cancelled due to Covid.
<p>Breeding Waders</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage responsible rambling in sensitive areas • Highlight the threats to waders through media and guided walks and talks • Promote the recording of waders across the district • Work with landowners where waders occur to encourage sensitive management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council encourage responsible rambling on social media outlets and through AONB websites. - Share the Shore project is ongoing within the district, highlighting the importance of keeping dogs on leads to protect waders and other wildlife. Signage has been placed at Killough. - RSPB work with landowners where waders occur and advise on sensitive management.
<p>Bumblebees and Pollinators</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage key council owned sites to improve for pollinators and act as best practice examples • Raise awareness of the plight of the bumblebee, the threats they face and how to help through the media and events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Following on from the 'Bee-licious' project, Council are now 're-wilding' areas to improve them for pollinators and other wildlife. - BO is working with Neighbourhood Services and Local Beekeepers to Pilot a project involving Bee Hives at Aughnagun Landfill. The Biodiversity Officer was interviewed for

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in partnership to improve roadside verges and other greenspace across the District 	<p>BBC Newline and The One Show. - BO has contacted DfI Roads with regards improving roadside verges across the district. No suitable sites identified yet.</p>
<p>Fish Species</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to develop fish population studies for a number of important rivers and tributaries in the district • Work with DfI Rivers to improve the habitat where appropriate 	<p>- Fish population studies were carried out a number of years ago for all of the lakes in South Armagh to assess the Sustainability of the fisheries there, however these are now out of date. Awaiting an update from DfI Rivers.</p>
<p>House Sparrow</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness of the House Sparrow through media and events • Promote wildlife friendly gardening and recording of the House Sparrow 	<p>- Big Garden Birdwatch (BGBW) events are held annually in January to coincide with the national survey (cancelled due to Covid). - Council social media pages are used to promote wildlife friendly gardening and relevant recording schemes such as the BGBW.</p>
<p>Juniper</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness of the species through education and events • Promote further recording through talks with public and landowners • Work with partners such as MHT, to help create more self-sustaining populations of juniper 	<p>MHT managed to get more Juniper material for propagation this year than previously thanks to the plants they have grown on in the nursery as a stock for propagation. These plants are becoming well established and starting to produce good quantities of berries/cones. In January they got 410 seeds from processing of the cones collected - 330 of these coming from stock plants. The seed is in cold stratification now.</p> <p>Seed collected last year has recently been planted</p>

		<p>in trays and is starting to germinate. 15 germinated so far from 80 seeds.</p> <p>They also took cuttings as usual with 191 potted, 145 of these from stock and the rest from plants in the Annalong Valley.</p>
<p>Marine Mammals</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist/support local groups with coastal clean-ups • Organise one event per year to promote recording in the district • Promote schemes such as WiSe, through talks with landowners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council continue to provide support to local groups carrying out clean-ups across the district. – Events held annually to celebrate World Oceans Day in June (cancelled due to Covid). - The WiSe course was cancelled last summer, but the 'Leave no Trace' course ran for leaders of outdoor recreation groups.
<p>Marsh Fritillary</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist with monitoring of populations where possible • Raise awareness of the marsh fritillary and promote recording through the media and events, such as the big butterfly count • Work with partners to improve habitat for marsh fritillary across the district 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Butterfly Conservation continue to work on protection of the Marsh Fritillary (MF) and its habitat. The population at Murlough is surveyed every year and is remaining stable. A population of MF was discovered at Turmennan Fen by CANN staff and is being surveyed yearly. - Big Butterfly Count events held annually in July/August. These are advertised on social media.

<p>Otter</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness of the importance of otters through the media and events/talks • Promote recording and surveying otters • Construct an artificial otter holt by way of demonstration to the public • Work with public bodies, including DfI Rivers and DAERA 	<p>- Awareness of otters and their importance is highlighted at all Biodiversity workshops/talks throughout the year.</p> <p>- BO has contacted DfI Rivers regarding working together to improve riparian habitat for otters and other biodiversity. Potential sites to be identified.</p>
<p>Red Kite</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to support the RKites project and assist with raising awareness of the Red Kite • Help to promote responsible rodenticide use • Work with RSPB and other partners to hold one public event/talk per year focussing on the Red Kite 	<p>NMDDC have part funded the RSPB RKites project for three years and the BO sits on the steering group for the project. All schools in the District have been sent a copy of the Red Kites Activity Booklet, and some have come back requesting further copies. The RSPB run Red Kite talks annually to raise awareness and encourage recording.</p>
<p>Red Squirrel</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold events to raise awareness of the red squirrel, such as red squirrel week • Promote recording of the red squirrel by members of the public and local groups • Support local efforts to re-establish or increase red squirrel populations • Work with the local red squirrel groups to raise awareness 	<p>Red Squirrel day events are held annually in October across the district. A lot of great work is being carried out by local red squirrel groups (RSG) within Newry, Mourne and Down. The Ring of Gullion and Cooley RSG, The Heart of Downs RSG, Tollymore RSG and Rostrevor RSG all work hard to protect Reds. The groups continue to supplementary feed and monitor their populations. Some culling of greys also takes place. NMDDC have supported two of these groups so far with funding from the Local Biodiversity</p>

		<p>Enhancement Fund. The Heart of Down group purchased a high-spec camera for monitoring numbers of reds in Montalto estate and the Rostrevor RSG set up feeding stations with their funding.</p>
<p>Yellowhammer</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase awareness and recording through at least one engagement with the media and one event per year • Pilot suitable sites for giant bird tables on Council owned land • Support the RSPB and other partners in their work with yellowhammers • Work with DAERA to promote entry and commitment to arable options in agri-environment schemes 	<p>The RSPB continue to work to halt and reverse the decline of yellowhammers across NI. They do this through the County Down Farmland Bird Initiative (CDFBI) which is a group project facilitated by the RSPB NI within the Environmental Farming Scheme (EFS). In this group, farmers / landowners receive ongoing support, training and advice from the RSPB as well as being invited to various events, workshops and farm demos to ensure they feel fully equipped and inspired to deliver on their EFS agreement and help get the best results not just for nature but for the farm too. Within NMDDC Delamont has been identified as an ideal location for a giant bird table to benefit yellowhammers. This will be progressed once the master plan is finalised.</p>

Report to:	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting:	21 st November 2022
Subject:	Mullaghbawn Community Centre - termination of lease completed
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Janine Hillen Assistant Director Community Engagement
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Julie Mc Cann Head of Community Services, Facilities and Events
For decision	For noting only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	That the Committee note: Mullaghbawn Community Centre termination of lease has been completed as and from the 31st October 2022, and the keys have been returned to the Parish.
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>February 22 – Mullaghbawn Community Centre was closed as the building was a health and safety risk and not fit for purpose. There were many leaks and roof repairs were required.</p> <p>AHC March 22 - Council gave the Landlord a reasonable timeframe to complete the structural repairs and in the event that this did not take place the Council would take actions to terminate the lease.</p> <p>AHC July 22 - Council agreed to proceed to terminate the lease for Mullaghbawn Community Centre, as the Parish advised it would not be feasible for them to carry out the repairs.</p> <p>Confirmation that Council have terminated the lease for Mullaghbawn Community Centre as and from the 31st October 2022, and the keys have been returned to the Parish.</p> <p>Therefore Council have no longer any responsibility for this building.</p> <p>The Programmes unit, Building Maintenance and Insurance have all been advised of the termination.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<i>That the Committee note:</i> <i>Mullaghbawn Community Centre termination of lease has been completed as and from the 31st October 2022, and the keys have been returned to the Parish.</i>
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	None
5.0	Equality and good relations implications
5.1	No equality impact assessment is required at this time;
6.0	Rural Proofing implications
6.1	A rural Needs Impact Assessment is not required at this time
7.0	Appendices
	None
8.0	Background Documents
	None

Report to:	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting:	November 2022
Subject:	PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Janine Hillen, Assistant Director: Community Engagement
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Sarah McClory – Programmes Coordinator

<input type="checkbox"/> For decision <input type="checkbox"/> For noting only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> x	
1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p>The inaugural meeting of the PEACEPLUS Partnership took place on the 8th September 2022. Second Partnership meeting was held on 6th October 2022.</p> <p>The report and minutes (6th October meeting) are for noting only.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEACEPLUS Partnership nominated Cllr Michael Rice as Chairperson and Nicolas McCrickard as Vice Chair. • Partnership meetings to take place monthly. • Partnership agreement; updated from PEACE IV; be issued to all partners to sign
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To note the contents of this report.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Project 85% funded by the EU and 15% by the two Governments.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i>

	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices
	Minutes of Partnership meeting 6 th October 2022
8.0	Background Documents
	None

Report to:	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting:	21 November 2022
Subject:	Initiatives for use of Community Buildings
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Michael Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Michael Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities

	For decision	For noting	x
1.0	Purpose and Background		
1.1	Council has agreed initiatives to help with the Cost of Living crisis which are outlined in this report.		
2.0	Key issues		
2.1	<p>The Active and Healthy Communities Department have agreed a number of initiatives to help with the cost of living crisis during the Winter in the Leisure/Community Centres.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newry leisure Centre – Café Area or Pool Viewing Area* • Downpatrick Leisure Centre – 1st Floor Breakout area* • Kilkeel Leisure Centre – Pool Viewing Area* • Newcastle Centre – Foyer Area* • Crossmaglen* • Killyleagh* • Ballynahinch* • Market House* • 3 Ways* • Barcroft* • Dan Rice Hall* • Cloughreagh* <p>*Café Area or Pool Viewing Area: No access to hot drinks, food/cold drinks limited to vending machines, shops in close proximity.</p> <p>The Health and Wellbeing Department are also involved in the following initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering the Affordable Warmth Scheme in partnership with NIHE and Department for Communities • Issuing Keep Warm Packs for older people • Issuing Energy Efficiency Advice • Potential Thermal Imaging Camera Project <p>It is now also proposed to facilitate two 'Cost of living Information Events' one in Newry and one in Downpatrick where we will bring together relevant stakeholders both statutory and voluntary as well as Council to provide advice and assistance to those in need. These will take place in early January and although the primary focus will be on older people we will not restrict the scope in attendance.</p>		

	We would seek to give advice on Benefits, Energy Efficiency, Home Safety, Nutrition and Mental Wellbeing
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To note the contents of this report
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p>

	Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/>
7.0	Appendices
	None
8.0	Background Documents
	None