

February 11th, 2021

**Notice Of Meeting**

You are invited to attend the Active and Healthy Communities Committee meeting to be held on **Monday, 15th February 2021 at 6:00 pm in Microsoft Teams.**

**Chair: Cllr L McEvoy**

**Vice: Cllr G O'Hare**

**Members:**

**Cllr T Andrews**

**Cllr C Casey**

**Cllr A Finnegan**

**Cllr H Gallagher**

**Cllr M Gibbons**

**Cllr G Malone**

**Cllr C Mason**

**Cllr K McKevitt**

**Cllr A McMurray**

**Cllr B Ó'Muirí**

**Cllr D Taylor**

**Cllr J Trainor**

**Cllr W Walker**

# Agenda

## 1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

This item is deemed to be exempt under 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.

## 2.0 Declarations of Interest

## 3.0 Action Sheet arising from Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 18 January 2021

 *Action Sheet 18 January 2021.pdf*

*Page 1*

---

### *Notices of Motion*

---

## 4.0 Outdoor Recreation NI

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor McMurray:-

‘In light of the increase on visitors accessing outdoor amenities which are prevalent in our district, this Council shall, within its structures, create a group regarding Outdoor Recreation within the district. The primary objectives of this group will be to Manage, Promote and Educate regarding outdoor recreation within our district. This will be a constituted group within Council. Its makeup will be representative of both statutory and voluntary sector agencies. As well as those who have a remit for development & management of outdoor recreation. Communication will be made in the first instance with National Governing Bodies and Agencies to ascertain what role Councils in other areas of Ireland, Britain and Europe have had in positively managing access and recreation with our outdoor spaces.’

 *Notice of Motion Outdoor Recreation NI Feb 2021.pdf*

*Page 15*

---

### *Community Engagement*

---

## 5.0 Peace IV Local Action Plan




 *Peace Report - Feb 2021.pdf*

*Page 18*

 *Appendix 1 - PEACE IV Partnership Meeting minutes 05 Nov 2020.pdf*

*Page 21*

## 6.0 Hire Charges for Community Centres

 <i>Community Facility hire charges feb 2021.pdf</i>	<i>Page 24</i>
 <i>Appendix 1 - Community Centre Hire Charges - Insurance teirs.pdf</i>	<i>Page 26</i>
 <i>Copy of Appendix 2 - Community Centres Hire Charges - Community centres pricing scale 2020 2021.pdf</i>	<i>Page 27</i>

## **7.0 Service Level Agreement with Southern Regional College and South Eastern Regional College**

 <i>SLA with SRC and SERC.pdf</i>	<i>Page 28</i>
--	----------------

## **8.0 Community Facilities Strategy**

 <i>Community Facilities Strategy feb 2021.pdf</i>	<i>Page 30</i>
---	----------------


## **9.0 Community Coordination Hub**

 <i>CCH Update Report for February AHC Committee 2021.pdf</i>	<i>Page 32</i>
--	----------------

 <i>Appendix 1 - CCH Minutes 27 January 2021.pdf</i>	<i>Page 35</i>
--	----------------

## **10.0 DfC 3rd Tranche COVID-19 Community Support Funding**

 <i>DfC 3rd Tranche COVID 19 Community Support Funding - Report for 15.2.2021 AHC Committee Meeting.pdf</i>	<i>Page 38</i>
--	----------------

 <i>Appendix 1 - Covid 19 Community Support Fund MOU between DfC and Councils ( 3rd Tranche).pdf</i>	<i>Page 42</i>
---	----------------

## **11.0 District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums Update Report**

 <i>DEA Fora Update Report for February AHC Committee 2021.pdf</i>	<i>Page 47</i>
---	----------------

 <i>Appendix 1- DEA Fora Update Feb 2021.pdf</i>	<i>Page 50</i>
---	----------------

 <i>Appendix 2 - Action Sheet Mournes DEA January 2021.pdf</i>	<i>Page 52</i>
---	----------------

 <i>Appendix 3 - DEA Report - Downpatrick DEA Feb.pdf</i>	<i>Page 57</i>
--	----------------

---

## **12.0 Play Strategy Update**

 <i>Play Strategy Update Feb 2021.pdf</i>	<i>Page 61</i>
--	----------------

---

## **13.0 DAERA Climate Bill Consultation Response**

 *DAERA Climate Bill Consultation Response.pdf* *Page 65*

 *Appendix 1 - NMD Response Draft NI Climate Bill Jan 2021.pdf* *Page 68*

## **14.0 Consultation on Clean Air Strategy for NI**

 *Clean Air Strategy Report.pdf* *Page 77*

 *Appendix 1 - Clean Air Strategy Consultation Questions with answers.pdf* *Page 80*

## **15.0 Memorandum of Understanding in relation to Food Fraud**

 *MoU - Food Fraud Report.pdf* *Page 95*

 *Appendix 1 - Food Fraud.pdf* *Page 98*

## **16.0 Consultation on Organ Donation**

 *Organ Donation Report.pdf* *Page 108*

 *Appendix 1 - Organ Donation Consultation.pdf* *Page 111*


---

### *For Noting - Community Engagement*

---

## **17.0 Policing & Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) Report**

 *PCSP Report.pdf* *Page 136*

 *Appendix 1 - PCSP Policing Committee Minutes - 26 November 2020 FINAL.pdf* *Page 139*

## **18.0 Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership (NRP) Report**

 *Newry NRP Report for Feb 2021 AHC Committee.pdf* *Page 148*

 *Appendix 1 - Newry NRP meeting Nov 2020.pdf* *Page 150*

## **19.0 SIF Update**

 *SIF report AHC Feb.pdf* *Page 160*

 *Appendix 1 - SIF minutes 16 November 2020.pdf* *Page 163*

---



## **20.0 Newry Leisure Centre Disabled Parking Upgrade**

 *NLC Disabled Car Parking Upgrade Feb 2021.pdf*

*Page 167*

 *Appendix 1 - NLC Disabled Car Park Upgrade.pdf*

*Page 170*

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

## **21.0 Financial Assistance**

 *Financial Assistance Report.pdf*

*Not included*

## **22.0 Scheme of Delegation Report**

This item is deemed to be exempt under 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.

 *Scheme of Delegation Report - Feb 2021.pdf*

*Not included*

 *Appendix 1 - Scheme of Delegation Schedule - ML AHC Feb.pdf*

*Not included*

## **23.0 Feasibility Study for Council Solar Farm**

 *Feasibility Study Solar Farm Pilot.pdf*

*Not included*

 *Appendix 1 - Solar Farms Report Dec 2020.pdf*

*Not included*

# Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews

Mr Alan Beggs

Ms Kate Bingham

Cllr Patrick Brown

Cllr Robert Burgess

Cllr Pete Byrne

Mrs Dorinnia Carville

Cllr charlie casey

Cllr William Clarke

Cllr Dermot Curran

Ms Alice Curran

Cllr Laura Devlin

Mr Eoin Devlin

Ms Louise Dillon

Cllr Sean Doran

Cllr Cadogan Enright

Cllr Aoife Finnegan

Cllr Hugh Gallagher

Cllr Mark Gibbons

Cllr Oonagh Hanlon

Cllr Glyn Hanna

Cllr Valerie Harte

Mr Conor Haughey

Mrs Janine Hillen

Cllr Roisin Howell

Cllr Mickey Larkin

Cllr Alan Lewis

Mr Michael Lipsett

Cllr Oonagh Magennis

Mr Conor Mallon

Cllr Gavin Malone

Cllr Cathy Mason

Mr Johnny Mc Bride

Colette McAteer

Cllr Declan McAteer

Cllr Leeanne McEvoy

Cllr Harold McKee

Patricia McKeever

Cllr Karen McKevitt

Cllr Andrew McMurray

Cllr Roisin Mulgrew

Cllr Declan Murphy

Cllr Barra Ó Muirí  
.....  
Linda O'Hare  
.....  
Cllr Gerry O'Hare  
.....  
Cllr Kathryn Owen  
.....  
Cllr Henry Reilly  
.....  
Cllr Michael Ruane  
.....  
Cllr Michael Savage  
.....  
Cllr Gareth Sharvin  
.....  
Donna Starkey  
.....  
Cllr Gary Stokes  
.....  
Sarah Taggart  
.....  
Paul Tamati  
.....  
Cllr David Taylor  
.....  
Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly  
.....  
Cllr John Trainor  
.....  
Cllr William Walker  
.....  
Mrs Marie Ward  
.....

# **ACTIONS OUTSTANDING FROM PREVIOUS ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES MEETINGS**

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
AHC/120/2019	Application to DfC: New Model Farm Community Centre proposal, Downpatrick	It was agreed to accept the following recommendations: • that the Committee agree to proceed with an application to DfC for a replacement facility for the Trojan Horse, Downpatrick. Including the development of a business case, design proposals and submission of a planning application.	K Hynds	Ongoing.  Funding application to be completed by NHR Officer & CDRCN for submission to DfC.  Project meetings ongoing.	N
AHC/148/2019	Healthy Vending Machines in Leisure Centres	It was agreed to note that when clear guidance on minimum nutritional standards (MNS) for Council Catering Outlets and Vending is established, a future report will be brought back to Active and Healthy Communities Committee regarding the potential implementation of these standards.	P Tamati	Tender to be progressed, however, held until full re-opening of Leisure.	N
AHC/202/2019	Sport NI Your School Your Club Funding	It was agreed the update on Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Projects that applied for Your School Your Club was agreed and approval given for the commissioning of the Tennis Bubble Project at Our Lady's in Newry.	P Tamati	Awaiting Building Control approval.	N
AHC/206/2019	Adoption of Suicide Down to Zero	It was agreed that: Council formally adopt the approach and aspiration of Suicide Down to Zero. A suitable	E Devlin	Ongoing Virtual Suicide prevention awareness training to be offered to all members in Feb/March	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<p>launch and media statement to be prepared for Council Chairperson.</p> <p>An amount of £10,000 is allocated to a Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Small Grants Scheme administered through a Financial call subject to the estimates process.</p> <p>A working group involving the Council, the Southern and South Eastern Health Trusts and local relevant Voluntary Organisations is created to examine ways of attaining the goal of zero suicides across the District.</p>			
AHC/4/2020	Overflow Car Park at Donard Park	<p>It was agreed to proceed: with 'winter arrangements' for the unofficial overflow car park at Donard Park to remain in place until Easter 2020 as per historical arrangement.</p> <p>Winter arrangements – closed from the 1<sup>st</sup> November to Easter 2020 (10<sup>th</sup> April)</p> <p>If a budget became available in the interim, the opening of the overflow car park could be brought forward on busy days prior to Easter 2020.</p> <p>The proposed establishment of an official and permanent overflow car parking arrangements at Donard Park as per appendix 1, and commit £250k to Council Capital Programme. Following such approval, a</p>	P Tamati	Planning application submitted Jan 2021	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		detailed capital proposal will be brought back to Committee for further consideration.			
AHC/6/2020	Annual Licence Agreement with Communities Facilities	It was agreed to replace existing tenancy arrangements within Council Community Facilities to updated Licence Agreements.	J Hillen	Ongoing	N
AHC/96/2020	Expression of interest, Derryleckagh Road	It was agreed that the business case submission from Newry Rugby Club for Derryleckagh Field, had been evaluated and met the minimum threshold under the Sports & Community Facility Management & Leasing Policy (2016).  It was also agreed to progress to a public expression of interest process in line with the Sports & Community Facility Management & Leasing Policy (2016).	P Tamati	Ongoing	N
AHC/97/2020	Expression of interest, Generator House, Newcastle and vacant land adjacent to Burren Village Green	It was agreed that the expression of interest for leasing of the Generator House and Vacant Land Adjacent to Burren Village Green was progressed in line with Councils Sports and Community Facility Management and Leasing Policy (2016).	P Tamati	Ongoing	N
AHC/99/2020	Development of a walking/cycling strategy.	It was agreed to approve Council Officers examining the development of a Walking and Cycling Strategy for the District.	E Devlin	ongoing	N



AHC/114/2020	Action Sheet from 20 September 2020	<p>It was agreed item AHC/102/2020: Autism Friendly Swimming Session to remain on the action sheet.</p> <p>Action sheet was noted.</p>	P Tamati	<p>As per AHC/102/2020</p> <p>Noted</p>	N
AHC/161/2020	Everybody Active 2020	<p>To note that the Sport NI Funding for Council's Everybody Active 2020 programme would be discontinued from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.</p> <p>That efficiencies and provisions be made within the rates estimates process to help absorb the impact of discounted EBA 2020 funding within the Council area. It was further agreed the Council write to the Chief Executive of Sport NI extending an invitation to meet with the Council to discuss matters regarding the discontinuation of Sport NI funding for the Everybody Active 2020 programme and to advise on any other funding avenues which may be available from Sport NI going forward. On receipt of relevant details, Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure &amp; Sport, to update Councillor McKevitt regarding problems with online bookings and cancellation fees at Newry Leisure Centre.</p>	P Tamati	<p>Email sent to Chief Executive of Sport NI seeking her to attend either February or March AHC meeting.</p> <p>Complete</p>	N
AHC/163/2020	Public Health Agency – Leading the Way Programme Pilot	To approve the development of a Service Level Agreement with the Public Health Agency to deliver a pilot Active Travel programme based on the 'Leading The Way' programme.	E Devlin	Ongoing	N

ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2014					
AHC/036/2020	Threeways Community Centre – Refurbishment of Ropework Pitch	It was agreed to: Incorporate the legacy Service Level Agreement into the current Facility Management Agreement for Threeways Community Association in line with other similar facilities. Review booking over the period detailed in the Facility Management Agreement and present options to Council in order to inform potential future investment in the facility.	J Hillen	Ongoing	N
AHC/102/2020	Autism Swimming Sessions Update	It was agreed to retain this item on the Action Sheet.	P Tamati	Suspended until further notice, due to COVID -19	N
AHC/126/2020	Leasing of Jack Mackin Pitch to St John Bosco	It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor McKevitt, to enter into a formal key holding arrangement with St John Bosco GAC to allow vehicular access to the Car Park at Newry Leisure Centre when access is required to Jack Mackin Park and the St John Bosco Club house outside of Newry Leisure Centre opening hours.	P Tamati	Commissioning meeting held with the Club on 5 <sup>th</sup> November 2020 – ongoing  Awaiting response from St John Bosco legal team.  Ongoing	N



AHC/166/2020	Lease of Land The Links Playing Fields Strangford	To adhere to the terms of the Lease between Council and Strangford and District Playgroup Association and After Schools Club regarding lands at The Links Playing Fields Strangford and the recommencement of ground rent payments at a cost of £140 per annum with effect from 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2021.	P Tamati	Complete	Y
AHC/167/2020	Leisure Public Tenders	The Business Case as per appendix 1 for servicing, repairs and maintenance for facility alarms and CCTV and approve procurement via a public tender for these services and supplies. The Business Case as per appendix 2 for Washroom Services and approve procurement via a public tender for these services and supplies.	P Tamati	Ongoing	N
AHC/127/2020	Leasing of land, Ballymartin Play Park	It was agreed to enter into a 25-year lease of Mullagh Close in Ballymartin (appendix 1 of officer's report) to facilitate the establishment of a play park in the Ballymartin area as per the Councils Play Strategy.	P Tamati	Ongoing  With NIHE legal dept - awaiting sign off.	N

		<p>The Business Case as per appendix 3 for Uniforms and approve procurement via a public tender for these services and supplies.</p> <p>The Business Case as per appendix 4 for servicing, repairs and maintenance for pool moving floors and approve procurement via a public tender for these services and supplies.</p> <p>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 3 years to the value outlined on each business case.</p>	P Tamati	Ongoing	N
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	N
		<p>Accept the business case for professional fees attached to the officer's report and proceed to develop the scheme to planning application stage.</p> <p>Approve the inclusion of an additional £100,000 in 21/22 rate estimates to cover any associated costs with getting the scheme to planning stage.</p> <p>Approve the updating of the 2018 feasibility study to include virtual consultations in Jan 2021.</p>	J Hillen	Complete	Y

**ACTIONS ARISING FROM ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING – 18 JANUARY 2021**

<b>Minute Ref</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Actions taken/ Progress to date</b>	<b>Remove from Action Sheet Y/N</b>
<b>AHC/004/2021</b>	Notice of Motion on Financial Call for Assistance for Community Groups in Newry, Mourne & Down	It was agreed to approve the motion along with the allocation of a £10,000 Financial Assistance Scheme to allow a spread of applications from community groups across the Newry, Mourne and Down District, subject to approval in the rates process.	<b>E Devlin</b>	<b>Amount allocated in HWB estimates</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>AHC/005/2021</b>	Notice of Motion on Dunleath Park	It was agreed that an update on Dunleath Park be brought to a meeting of the Downpatrick DEA Councillors as soon as possible and any recommendations from that would come to the Active & Healthy Communities Committee.	<b>P Tamati</b>	<b>Meeting scheduled for Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February.</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>AHC/006/2021</b>	Renewal of Wayleave Agreement between Council and Clanrye Group	It was agreed to note the report provided and approve the following: Annual Wayleave and consent agreement between Council and the Clanrye Group to be renewed. Officers to explore the opportunities to extend approval for a 3 year period once this Agreement requires renewal.	<b>J Hillen</b>	<b>Wayleave Agreement being processed.</b>	<b>Y</b>

AHC/007/2021	Capital Financial Assistance	<p>It was agreed to note the report provided and approve the following:  <i>Capital Call 2021-2022</i>  Capital themes to be open for 8 weeks and the revenue themes for 6 weeks. Capital theme recommendations going to the May AHC meeting.</p> <p>It was further agreed to delay a decision on the following and await presentation of more detailed information on existing capital projects at the next Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting:  <i>Extension Allowances for Capital Projects 2021-2022 Capital Projects.</i>  Council to cap the extension period for projects to no more than 6 months post letter of offer end date. Projects which initiate some elements of delivery before this end date will only be considered for further extension.  <i>Existing Capital Projects.</i>  Capital project for the period 2019-2020 or earlier, which require an extension beyond 31st March 2021 should only be considered if the project has been initiated. If the project confirms it has not initiated, then the Letter of Offer will be withdrawn. Funds which are not utilised will be put back into the Capital Grants funds for reallocation and any groups which have de-committed or not been allowed further extension can re-apply with new timeframe.  <i>Deed of Charge costs for projects which do not make a finance claim or decommit.</i>  Approval for this cost to be paid through the most appropriate cost code.</p>	J Hillen	Capital has been extended by 2 week period. Further report on Capital Project the extensions and implications for Deed of Charge to be tabled at future AHC meeting.	
AHC/008/2021	Community Coordination Hub	It was agreed to note the report provided and approve the actions attached for the Community	J Hillen	Ongoing	Y

		Coordination Hub Meeting held on Wednesday 16 December 2020.			
<b>AHC/009/2021</b>	District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums update	It was agreed to note the report provided and approve the actions in the actions sheets for: Downpatrick DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 15 December 2020. Slieve Croob DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 15 December 2020. Rowallane DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Thursday 17 December 2020.	<b>J Hillen</b>	<b>Actioned</b>	<b>Y</b>
<b>AHC/010/2021</b>	CAAN Project	It was agreed to approve Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to submit an extension request to the funder to allow for CANN project completion.	<b>E Devlin</b>	<b>Actioned</b>	<b>Y</b>
<b>AHC/011/2021</b>	Sustainability and Climate Change Forum	It was agreed to approve the actions from the Sustainability and Climate Change Forum Meeting held on 17 December 2020.	<b>E Devlin</b>	<b>Actioned</b>	<b>Y</b>
<b>AHC/012/2021</b>	Service Level Agreement in relation to the Affordable Warmth Scheme	It was agreed to approve the signing of the Service Level Agreement as attached to the report with the Department for Communities in relation to the provision of the Affordable Warmth Scheme.  It was further agreed for representation to be made to DfC regarding concerns that means tested benefits such as PIP and attendance allowance were considered under the Affordable Warmth Scheme.	<b>E Devlin</b>	<b>SLA signed</b>  <b>Letter sent to DFC to raise members concerns</b>	<b>Y</b>
<b>AHC/013/2021</b>	Service Level Agreement with Public Health Agency for Delivering of 'Leading the	It was agreed to approve the signing of a Service Level Agreement with Public Health Agency NI to run a Pilot Active Travel Programme within the District, based on the 'Leading the Way' programme.	<b>E Devlin</b>	<b>SLA signed</b>	<b>Y</b>

	Way' Programme Pilot with Newry, Mourne and Down				
<b>AHC/014/2021</b>	Disability Access onto Newcastle Beach	<p>It was agreed to officers explore options for accessibility onto Newcastle Beach.</p> <p>It was agreed to note that the disabled toilet facilities were currently not suitable to accommodate a large changing table and therefore would not be suitable for disabled beach access facilities similar to Cranfield. The Council was currently developing a Public Toilet Strategy which would be brought to the Neighbourhood Services Committee for consideration in the Spring.</p>	<b>M Lipsett</b>	<b>Report to AHC – Feb 2021</b>	<b>N</b>



ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2014					
Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
AHC/015/2021	Sport NI Your School Your Club Funding Update	It was agreed to note the update provided on Your School Your Club Funding as per the contents of the officer's report and appendix 1. It was agreed to approve 100% funding and delivery of projects at Kilkeel High School in Kilkeel and St Marys High School in Newry as outlined including: • Kilkeel High School, Ball Stop • St Marys High School, Changing Room and Gym Upgrade	P Tamati	Ongoing	N
AHC/016/2021	Shimna Integrated College, long term access agreement for Donard Park Sports Facilities	It was agreed to enter into a long-term access agreement with Shimna Integrated College in relation to Sports Facilities at Donard Park and a report brought back to Active & Healthy Communities Committee for approval once the detail of the access arrangement had been agreed with the school	P Tamati	Ongoing	N
AHC/017/2021	Sports Facilities Strategy, Sports Hubs	It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor Casey, to appoint consultants to develop a sports development strategy for the Council and further develop and prioritise the establishment of Sports Hubs across the District including progressing these to detailed design and planning stage as appropriate.  It was also agreed the budget as outlined in the officer's report for the above is	P Tamati	Ongoing	N

		added to Councils Capital programme as part of Councils Sports Facilities Strategy list of projects.			
AHC/018/2021	Active & Healthy Communities Directorate Procurement Action Plan.	It was agreed to approve the Active and Healthy Communities Services Directorate Procurement Action Plan.	M Lipsett	Approved	Y
AHC/019/2021	Purchase of Drinking Water Fountain	It was agreed to approve the use of a Single Tender Action to procure the Drinking Water Fountain from MIW Water Cooler Experts part funded by the Sea Changers Charity for installation at Cranfield Beach.	E Devlin	In progress	Y
AHC/020/2021	Single tender actions for facility alarms within community facilities	It was agreed to approve the following single tender actions to the value listed within the officer's report to be completed to extend current Facility Alarm contracts (Intruder & Fire) until a Corporate procurement exercise has been completed (Est - April 2021). 1. Atlas 2. CHUBB Fire & Security Group 3. Digital Fire & Security 4. Electronic and Security Services Ltd 5. JBC Security Services	J Hillen	Ongoing	N
AHC/021/2021	Extension of Leisure Software Solution, Legend.	It was agreed by all to note the contents of the officer's report and that an extension of the software solution for Leisure Management, Legend be extended up to 11th January 2029.	P Tamati	Noted	Y





<b>Report to:</b>	Active and Healthy Communities Committee (AHC)
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> February 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Notice of Motion – Outdoor Recreation NI
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Paul Tamati, Assistant Director: Leisure and Sport
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Conor Haughey, Head of Outdoor Leisure.

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

For decision	For noting only	x
1.0	Purpose and Background	
1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is to note and acknowledge the Notice of Motion for Outdoor Recreation NI received by Councillor McMurray.</p> <p><b>‘In light of the increase on visitors accessing outdoor amenities which are prevalent in our district, this Council shall, within its structures, create a group regarding Outdoor Recreation within the district. The primary objectives of this group will be to Manage, Promote and Educate regarding outdoor recreation within our district. This will be a constituted group within Council. Its makeup will be representative of both statutory and voluntary sector agencies. As well as those who have a remit for development &amp; management of outdoor recreation. Communication will be made in the first instance with National Governing Bodies and Agencies to ascertain what role Councils in other areas of Ireland, Britain and Europe have had in positively managing access and recreation with our outdoor spaces.’</b></p>	
2.0	Key issues	
2.1	<p>Outdoor recreation is a broad and prevalent dynamic throughout the NMDDC area. The facilitating, promoting, managing, and maintaining Outdoor Recreation activities, events and facilities sits with a range of Council departments, external statutory and community and voluntary partners.</p> <p>A coordinated approach to Outdoor Recreation both internally and externally will be considered as part of this notice of motion.</p>	
3.0	Recommendations	
3.1	<p><b>That AHC Committee note the Notice of Motion and that officers will now consider the Notice of Motion and table a report at March 2021 AHC Committee outlining the next steps.</b></p>	
4.0	Resource implications	

4.1	<p><b>Revenue:</b> There are no anticipated revenue budget implications associated with this report.</p> <p><b>Capital:</b> There are no identified capital budget implications associated with this report.</p>
5.0	<b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b>
5.1	<p><b><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></b></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><b><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></b></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><b><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></b></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	<b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b>
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"/>
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	None
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Background Documents</b>
	None

<b>Report to:</b>	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	15 February 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Peace IV Local Action Plan</b>
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Janine Hillen, Assistant Director: Community Engagement
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Justyna McCabe, Programme Coordinator

<table><tr><td>For decision</td><td>X</td><td>For noting only</td><td></td></tr></table>		For decision	X	For noting only	
For decision	X	For noting only			
1.0	<b>Purpose and Background</b>				
1.1	<p>The Peace IV Partnership met on 14 January 2021 via Zoom and recommendations arising from this meeting require AHC Committee approval.</p> <p>The purpose of the report is to consider and agree to recommendations of the PEACE IV Partnership contained in 2.1.</p>				
2.0	<b>Key issues</b>				
2.1	<p>The following recommendations were agreed by the Partnership on 14 January and require AHC Committee approval:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Procure and appoint relevant facilitators to deliver Capacity Building Programmes for Community Groups in the area of Risk Assessment and Health &amp; Safety in response to Covid-19 situation across the 7 DEAs. Estimated Cost £35,000.</li></ul> <p>Additionally, it was agreed by the Partnership on 10 September to withdraw project I.8 (Ballyhornan) due to time and budget constraints, and to re-allocate budget to I.12 (BMX Track) if no additional funding became available.</p> <p>As no additional funding has become available, approval is requested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>To re-allocate £50,957 from I.8 (Ballyhornan) to I.12 (BMX Track) (subject to SEUPB approval).</li></ul>				
3.0	<b>Recommendations</b>				
3.1	<p>That the Committee agree to the recommendations of the PEACE IV Partnership as set out in 2.1.</p>				
4.0	<b>Resource implications</b>				
4.1	<p>No cost to Council. Project 85% funded by the EU and 15% by the two Governments.</p>				

<b>5.0</b>	<b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b>
5.1	<p><b><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></b></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><b><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></b></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><b><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></b></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>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b>
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>
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	Minutes of PEACE IV Partnership meeting (November 2020).

8.0	Background Documents
	None

## **PEACE IV Partnership Meeting**

### **Zoom**

**Thursday 05 November 2020**

#### **Present:**

Cllr Mickey Ruane (Chair)  
Cllr Sean Doran  
Cllr Terry Andrews  
Cllr William Walker  
Cllr Declan Murphy  
Paul Yam, Social Partner (Vice Chair)  
Helen Honeyman, Social Partner  
Seamus Camplisson, Social Partner  
Martina Byrne, Social Partner  
Sean O'Baoill, Social Partner  
Mairead McGeough, Social Partner  
Martin Connell, Social Partner

Ruth Allen, SHSCT

Rebecca Smyth, NIHE (obo Owen McDonnell)

#### **Officers Present:**

Justyna McCabe, NMDDC  
Theresa McLaverty, NMDDC  
Elaine Carr, NMDDC  
Sonya Burns, NMDDC

#### **In attendance:**

Julie-Anne Harte, NMDDC

#### **Apologies noted from:**

Cllr Karen McKevitt  
Owen McDonnell, NIHE  
Ryan Duffy, PSNI  
Martina Flynn, NMDDC

### **1. Welcome and apologies**

Cllr Mickey Ruane chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone. Newly recruited Social Partners were invited to introduce themselves and to the group.  
Apologies noted.

### **2. Conflict of interest**

New Social Partner Sean O'Baoill declared potential future conflict of interest regarding some projects he is involved in. It was advised should these projects be on the agenda at any stage in the future then he could declare it at that time.

### **3. Election of new Chair and Vice Chair**

Cllr Terry Andrews was elected Vice Chair.  
Proposed: Cllr Walker  
Seconded: Cllr Doran

Cllr Terry Andrews accepted the nomination with thanks and thanked Cllr Ruane and Paul Yam for how they carried out their respective roles in the past year, especially during these difficult times.

Several attendees were losing connection and it was decided the Social Partners would meet separately and elect a Chairperson as not all Partners were present at the time.

### **4. Minutes from previous meeting 10 September 2020**

No matters arising.  
Proposed: Cllr Sean Doran  
Seconded: Cllr Declan Murphy



## 5. Management Report

- Justyna McCabe presented the Management Report verbally.

Conflict of Interest forms will be updated and will be sent out to all new Social Partners for completion. The Partnership Agreement is to be extended and an updated copy will be sent to members once available. A request to extend the PEACE programme until March 2022 due to Covid was submitted, if approved the Partnership will be updated with the new letter of offer. A new Newsletter is underway and once it is ready it will be distributed to all members.

## 6. Partner Delivery Reports

- Elaine Carr presented Children and Young People report.

All Programmes that were being delivered online due to Covid continue to do so and are meeting the outputs required by SEUPB.

2 projects have had to be put on hold due to Covid as they cannot be delivered online, PEACE continues to work alongside these groups and an extension for delivery has been requested from SEUPB.

One project put on hold as it cannot go out to Tender due to Covid but hopefully will be able to early next year.

- Elaine Carr and Justyna McCabe presented Shared Spaces and Services report.

The main build of Ballykinlar Hut is complete and at the next stage of interior fitting, the launch is planned for May 2021.

The amended proposal is in place for Derrymore Project and it is hoped it will be ready to go to SEUPB for approval in the next week. The Partnership will be updated when it is approved by the National Trust and SEUPB.

The 7 Drive in Cinema events with workshops had been approved by SEUPB and was currently out to Tender.

Elaine was due to attend a meeting regarding the Forkhill Military Site development on 17/11 and would be able to report on any developments afterwards.

Delegated Authority sought in line with timeline in papers for Tom Dunn Project and BMX Track. An update can be provided in January.

Proposed: Cllr Doran

Seconded: Cllr Murphy

- Theresa McLaverty presented the Building Positive Relations report.

Most projects are delivering online, facilitators have been appointed for the Intercultural Forum and the John Mitchell Project.

Partners were encouraged to recommend participants to any of the projects within the reports.

The first online TV Programme for the Growing Relations project will be shown this coming Saturday night showcasing all the local animation projects going on throughout the district and a link will be forwarded to all members.

All members of the Partnership are encouraged to promote the DEA Fora Programme which will offer 3 OCN accredited qualifications to participants. Theresa is happy to be contacted by Partners for any further information or questions.

**Action: Details on the engagement programme aimed at the Traveller community will be forwarded to Martin Connell.**

Delegated authority was sought regarding BME engagement focusing on the Syrian Community.

Proposed: Seamus Camplisson

Seconded: Cllr Murphy

- Justyna presented the PCSP report on behalf of Martina Flynn

SPACE has recently been appointed to deliver the second phase of the Youth Leadership Seasonal Project and hope to recruit in November.

Co-Operation Ireland have been appointed to deliver the Preparatory Programme for disengaged Communities & Leaders and recruitment is almost completed and it is hoped to start online workshops in November.

#### **7. Date of next meeting**

04 March 2020, 6pm Downpatrick Chambers or Online

<b>Report to:</b>	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> February 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Community Centre Scale of charges
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Janine Hillen Assistant Director Community Engagement
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Julie Mc Cann Head of Community Services, Facilities and Events

<table><tr><td>For decision</td><td>x</td><td>For noting only</td><td></td></tr></table>		For decision	x	For noting only	
For decision	x	For noting only			
1.0	<b>Purpose and Background</b>				
1.1	<p>To consider and agree to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maintain the hire charge pricing that had been adopted for the 2020/21 financial year for a further year.</li><li>• Adopt the tiered insurance level approach to hirers within Community Facilities for the next two financial years.</li></ul>				
2.0	<b>Key issues</b>				
2.1	<p>The Community Services section carries out an annual analysis of its pricing mechanisms and therefore presents this in the form of its scale of charges for Council consideration to take effect from the 1st April – 31st March each year.</p> <p>Users of Community Facilities have been negatively affected by the COVID pandemic with centres in most cases remaining closed for almost ¾ of the financial year with some groups not being able to hire for almost 12 months.</p> <p>At the SPR meeting in Aug 2020 (SPR/108/2020) council adopted a Conditions of Hire Policy. This will impact how some groups are categorised in relation to concession/non-commercial and commercial and may impact on their charges by a small amount.</p> <p>The new Council Policy also stated that £10million was the sum required in terms of Public Liability insurance for all groups hiring Council owned facilities.</p> <p>Following discussion with some user groups, we have been advised that moving from £5 million to £10million would increase costs by approx. £90 per annual and that groups will struggle to meet this rise, especially this year given the ongoing impact of the pandemic.</p> <p>Officers have discussed this issue with Council insurance department and propose the tiered approach outlined in Appendix 1 for the next two-year financial years to allow groups to re-establish bookings and a level of income to meet overheads.</p>				
3.0	<b>Recommendations</b>				

3.1	<p><b><i>That the Committee agree</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To maintain the hire charge pricing that had been adopted for the 2020/21 financial year for a further year.</li> <li>• To adopt the tiered insurance level approach to hirers for, the next two financial years.</li> </ul>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	<b>None.</b>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Equality and good relations implications</b>
5.1	<b>No equality impact assessment is required at this time;</b>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Rural Proofing implications</b>
6.1	<b>A rural Needs Impact Assessment is not required at this time</b>
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	<p>Appendix 1 – Tiered insurance levels</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Hire Charges for 2020/2021</p>
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Background Documents</b>
	<b><i>None</i></b>

## Appendix 1

The SHEP Department who are currently managing the Insurance section within Council liaised with Willis, Towers, Watson; Councils Insurance Broker.

The following guide was providing highlighting indemnity limits Council should request from Third Parties who use our facilities. This will be public or products liability insurance cover.

<b>LOW HAZARD -</b>	Min £2 million – e.g. meeting rooms, community / volunteer groups, market stalls, lease of shop units etc.
<b>MEDIUM HAZARD -</b>	Min £5 million – e.g. activities involving hot food, physical activity, minor contracts etc.
<b>HIGH HAZARD -</b>	Min £10 million – e.g. fairground operators, bouncy castles / inflatable / trampolines, motorised sports, water based sports, contact sports or dangerous activities, large contracts, contracts involving heat, fireworks displays etc.

Council do not manage and/or have limited control over these activities mentioned above and therefore a level of cover is required.

For activities **Council can control**, such as a small group of people booking a room in a Community Centre to have a discussion or meeting - the risk can be accepted as a low and can be covered through existing insurance provision (without any need for public liability cover). We can set the location, numbers allowed for example but we must have a level of control. An acceptable risk which is for the benefit of the residents in the District.

## 27

[illegible]



<b>Report to:</b>	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> February 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	SLA agreement with SRC and SERC
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Janine Hillen Assistant Director Community Engagement
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Julie Mc Cann Head of Community Services, Facilities and Events

<table><tr><td>For decision</td><td>x</td><td>For noting only</td><td></td></tr></table>		For decision	x	For noting only	
For decision	x	For noting only			
1.0	<b>Purpose and Background</b>				
1.1	<b><i>To consider and agree to:</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Explore the Development of a three-year service level agreement with both the Southern Regional College and South Eastern Regional College to progress &amp; manage recreational/accredited training programmes to be facilitated in Council Community Facilities.</li></ul>				
2.0	<b>Key issues</b>				
2.1	<p>The Community Engagement section runs a wide range of training programmes both recreational and accredited within Community Facilities funded through Areas at Risk/Neighbourhood Renewal and other revenue sources.</p> <p>Post COVID it is envisaged that there will be an even greater need to develop such activities in a wider range of council facilities.</p> <p>At present the council has an ad hoc arrangement with the SRC via its Areas At Risk programme and both parties feel that they would benefit from a more formal arrangement that could be explored for use throughout the entire section and across the District.</p>				
3.0	<b>Recommendations</b>				
3.1	<b><i>To consider and agree to:</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Developing a three-year service level agreement with both the Southern Regional College and South Eastern Regional College to progress &amp; manage recreational/accredited training programmes to be facilitated in Council Community Facilities.</li></ul>				
4.0	<b>Resource implications</b>				
4.1	<b>Revenue:</b> <p>Funding for training programmes will be sourced from external funders or existing budgets agreed as part of the rates estimates process.</p>				

<b>5.0</b>	<b>Equality and good relations implications</b>
5.1	No equality impact assessment is required at this time
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Rural Proofing implications</b>
6.1	A rural Needs Impact Assessment is not required at this time
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	None
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Background Documents</b>
	None



<b>Report to:</b>	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> February 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Community Facilities Strategy
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Janine Hillen Assistant Director Community Engagement
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Julie Mc Cann Head of Community Services, Facilities and Events

For decision		x	For noting only	
1.0	Purpose and Background			
1.1	<b>Committee to consider and agree to;</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Postpone further development of the Draft Community Facility Strategy in order to explore and incorporate strategic priorities as a result of lessons learned from Covid 19.</b></li></ul>			
2.0	Key issues			
2.1	<p>In Aug 2018 Council agreed to develop a Community Facilities Strategy to identify gaps in provision and make recommendations on how we address current and future needs”.</p> <p>COVID 19 has had a major impact on the operation of Community Facilities across the District. Council officers and community volunteers have adapted and responded to the challenging circumstances presented and have identified key learning points which could result in more effective ways to utilise services/programmes and buildings.</p> <p>The priorities and aims of the original Community Facilities Strategy therefore needs revisited through a series of Officer and Elected Member workshops.</p>			
3.0	Recommendations			
3.1	<b>Committee to consider and agree to;</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Postpone further development of the Draft Community Facility Strategy in order to explore and incorporate strategic priorities as a result of lessons learned from Covid 19.</b></li></ul>			
4.0	Resource implications			
4.1	There are no resources arising from this report.			
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)			
5.1	<b>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</b> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations</p>			



5.2	<p><b><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></b></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><b><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></b></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><b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b></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> <p>If no, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	<p><b>Appendices</b></p>
	<p><b>None</b></p>
8.0	<p><b>Background Documents</b></p>
	<p><b>None</b></p>

<b>Report to:</b>	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	15 February 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Community Coordination Hub (CCH) Update Report
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Janine Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Janine Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement

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

<b>For decision</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>For noting only</b>	
---------------------	----------	------------------------	--

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>
1.1	<p><b>Purpose</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To note the report.</li> <li>To consider and agree to approve the actions in the Action Sheet of the Community Coordination Hub (CCH) Meeting held on Wednesday 27 January 2021.</li> </ul> <p><b>Background</b></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>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues</b>
2.1	To coordinate actions to mitigate the impact of Covid-19 on individuals and groups in the community.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
3.1	<p>That the Committee: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note the report.</li> <li>Agree to approve the actions in the Action Sheet attached for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Community Coordination Hub (CCH) Meeting held on Wednesday 27 January 2021.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	Support and assistance from partners to deliver actions in the CCH action sheet.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b>
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><b><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></b></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><b><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></b></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	<b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b>
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	<b>Appendices</b>
	Appendix 1: Action sheet of the CCH meeting held on Wednesday 27 January 2021.
8.0	<b>Background Documents</b>
	None.



**NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Community Coordination Hub Meeting  
Wednesday 27 January 2021 @ 2:30pm**

**In Attendance:**

**Chair:** Janine Hillen (Community Engagement)

Damien Brannigan (DEAs)

Aisling Murray (Coordination and Logistics)

Sinead Trainor (Health and Wellbeing)

Alan Beggs (GIS Mapping)

Rosemary McDonnell (Community Advice NI & Strategic Stakeholder Forum)

Julie McCann (Community Services)

Sonya Burns (Programmes Unit)

Raymond Jackson (Confederation of Community Groups & Strategic Forum)

Ruth Allen (SHSCT)

Lynda Vladeanu (SESCT)

Nicholas McCrickard (CDRCM)

Michael Lipsett (Active & Healthy Communities)

**Apologies:**

Martina Flynn (PCSP)

Eoin Devlin (Health & Wellbeing)

Item	Issue Raised	Agreed:	Referred to	Action taken
3.	Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding available up to £95,000 for Food Pallet Scheme eg Food and Sanitary items. Clanrye Group to co-ordinate Pallet Scheme at 3 distribution points, Down Area, Mourne Area and Newry Area.</li> <li>Food banks being provided by St Vincent De Paul and Sure Start. Trusted Partners arrangement for food delivery. White goods are also to be considered. Control to be managed by ordering once a week from Lynas Food.</li> <li>Demand in the community increasing for food but is manageable at present. Final delivery is to be organised and community transport may be required.</li> <li>Trusted Partners Scheme is not advertised but is based on Norbrook Model.</li> <li>DfC happy to meet to discuss scheme. Council help can be provided if requested to assist Groups. Any individuals in need or groups can be referred to scheme who are Triaged to assess the support they may require.</li> <li>Support is being provided by volunteers helping in Downpatrick and students supporting Clanrye within the centres available.</li> <li>Alan to assist officers as required for the relevant information to be retrieved for families and individuals who require support through monitoring and reporting documents.</li> <li>Update to be provided to DEA Officers on Tuesday 2 February at 11.30 am.</li> <li>Statistical information to be provided as required with support provided by Alan.</li> <li>Helpline Opening hours have been extended on Tuesday and Thursday 4.00pm - 7.00pm and Saturday 9.00 am-12pm. The Community Advice website has also been updated. Referrals to be fast tracked as required and support to be provided for people in debt. A leaflet drop is to be undertaken in the Newry, Mourne and Down area.</li> <li>Bryson Scheme funding through DFC - families and individuals to be triaged due to needs.</li> </ul>	<p><i>RJ, NMCC, RMCD</i></p> <p><i>JH</i></p> <p><i>AB</i></p> <p><i>AR</i></p> <p><i>RMCD</i></p>	
4.	DFC Covid 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AHC Committee – DcC have awarded further funding which must be spent before March 2021. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food &amp; Essential Supplies - £191,638.83</li> <li>Warm, Well and Connected Fund £49,728.77</li> <li>Volunteering Support Fund - £47,909.71</li> </ul> </li> <li>Funding being provided for Physical Activity, Mental Support, Fuel Poverty, Neighbourhood Renewal Areas, Areas of Risk and Pockets of Deprivation.</li> </ul>	<i>DB</i>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some areas of funding appear to be duplicated. Concerned raised if funds can be allocated by 31 March 2021.</li> <li>Groups are to be considered for vouchers which are specific for food items allowing individuals to purchase what they require. Vouchers cannot be issued by the Council. Trusted Partners are to help with the funding being allocated appropriately.</li> <li>Food banks are finding it hard to avail of fresh meat and vegetables due to more checks and customs paperwork being required. Precooked meals could be allocated as required.</li> <li>Risk Areas to be reviewed by teams for allocation of funding in Bessbrook, Crossmaglen and Mourne areas.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update from Trust – Vaccinate and Go has provided support for older people through Community Transport although not being provided in Newry and Mourne area. Ards and North Down Council providing support for white goods.</li> <li>Covid Recovery Fund to help families purchase laptops for children in supporting their education.</li> <li>Working and funding Mental Health support has been extended.</li> <li>Affordable Warmth Scheme – Keep Warm packs. Funding to be used for fleeces and blankets coordinate with Damian to avoid duplication.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Programmes Unit reviewing Claims submitted providing funding for relevant Groups approved by Budget Holders.</li> </ul>	<i>AR &amp; RJ</i>  <i>NMcC &amp; DB</i>  <i>JMcC &amp; AR</i>   <i>LV &amp; RA</i>   <i>ST</i>   <i>SB</i>	
6.	Date of next meeting.	Wednesday 24 February 2021 at 2.30pm		

**Next Meeting: Wednesday 24 February 2021 at 2.30pm**



<b>Report to:</b>	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	15 February 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	DfC 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tranche COVID-19 Community Support Funding
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Janine Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Damien Brannigan, Head of Engagement

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

<b>For decision</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>For noting only</b>	
---------------------	----------	------------------------	--

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>
<b>1.1</b>	<p><b>Purpose</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ To note the report.</li> <li>➤ Agree to give approval to the Council's COVID-19 Community Coordination Hub (CCH) to distribute, allocate or award £213,916.85 of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tranche of DfC COVID-19 Community Support Funding of £225,175.63, provided by the Department for Communities (DfC), in keeping with the purposes of and conditions of the funding.</li> <li>➤ Agree to Council using up to a maximum of 5% (£11,258.78) of the funding of £225,175.63 to fund internal council costs, such as staffing and overheads.</li> </ul> <p><b>Background</b></p> <p>Since April 2020, DfC has awarded additional funding to Councils through DfC's District Councils' Community Support Programme to assist councils support voluntary and community organisations undertaking actions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>In seeking to ensure a coordinated approach and best use of this additional funding, the Council's COVID-19 CCH, with approval sought from the AHC Committee, has channelled the funding to support community and voluntary sector COVID-19 activity through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ several Council Financial Assistance Calls.</li> <li>➤ working in partnership with and awarding some of the funding to the 'Confederation of Community Groups', 'County Down Rural Community Network' and 'Community Advice Newry, Mourne &amp; Down', in order to provide community organisations with support or funding as quickly as possible to enable them to respond as soon as possible to immediate and emerging community need.</li> <li>➤ giving approval to the Council's COVID-19 Community Coordination Hub (CCH) to distribute, allocate or award some of the funding as appropriate and in keeping with the purposes of and conditions attached to the funding.</li> </ul> <p>The three voluntary organisations named above, along with the two local Health &amp; Social Care Trusts, are members of, and provide the linkage between, the Council's COVID-19 CCH, 'Newry, Mourne &amp; Down Community Planning Strategic Stakeholders Forum' and the community and voluntary sector.</p>

	<p>The awarding of some of this DfC funding to these three key voluntary organisations via their current SLAs with Council has sought to ensure that a due process has been adopted in working with them.</p> <p>Councils have recently been awarded a 3<sup>rd</sup> Tranche of COVID-19 Community Support Funding from DfC. This funding is provided to assist councils support voluntary and community organisations which are undertaking actions in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The sum awarded to Newry, Mourne and Down District Council by DfC is £225,175.63. Like the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Tranches of COVID-19 Community Support Funding (£98,250.00 and £143,674.86 respectively) awarded since April 2020, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tranche of Funding should be distributed by councils to community-based organisations to support actions in line with the following interventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Financial</b> - to those on low income and at risk due to financial stress.</li> <li>➤ <b>Food</b> - access to food (whether due to cost or availability) for those most in need.</li> <li>➤ <b>Connectivity</b> - to those living alone or in rural and border areas that are likely to experience greater challenges in accessing services.</li> </ul> <p>A Maximum 5% (ie £11,258.78) of the funding of £225,175.63 is available to fund internal council costs, such as staffing and overheads.</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues</b>
2.1	<p>The following are matters that have been considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The continuing need to support community and voluntary activity which is being undertaken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.</li> <li>➤ That as far as is possible community and voluntary activity in response to the COVID-19 pandemic is coordinated in keeping with the work of the Council's COVID-19 CCH.</li> <li>➤ That to remain flexible, reactive and effective, some CCH actions may have to be undertaken in advance of AHC and full Council approval. This will only be in exceptional circumstances and will require Director sign off before implementation.</li> <li>➤ The need to ensure that all activities associated with the funds adhere to Government guidance and regulations related to COVID-19.</li> <li>➤ The adoption of a due process in distributing, allocating or awarding the funding.</li> <li>➤ DfC timescales attached to additional resources. Council have issued initial correspondence to DfC requesting year end flexibility around spend.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
3.1	<p>That the Committee: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note the report.</li> <li>• Agree to give approval to the Council's COVID-19 Community Coordination Hub (CCH) to distribute, allocate or award £213,916.85 of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tranche of DfC COVID-19 Community Support Funding of £225,175.63, provided by the Department for Communities (DfC), in keeping with the purposes of and conditions of the funding.</li> <li>• Agree to Council using up to a maximum of 5% (£11,258.78) of the funding of £225,175.63 to fund internal council costs, such as staffing and overheads.</li> </ul>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	<p>There is no requirement for Council to match the additional funding of £225,175.63 awarded by DfC.</p>

<b>5.0</b>	<b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b>
5.1	<p><b><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></b></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><b><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></b></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><b><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></b></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>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b>
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>
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>

7.1	Appendix I: DfC Memorandum of Understanding for COVID-19 Community Support Fund Tranche 3.
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Background Documents</b>
8.1	None.

# COVID-19 Community Support Fund – Tranche 3

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN:

## Department for Communities and Newry, Mourne and Down Borough Council

### 1. Overview

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic continues to have far reaching consequences for health and our economy. Locally, the voluntary and community sector plays a vital role in supporting communities and individuals during these challenging times.

In April 2020 the Minister agreed policy to help mitigate the impact of this unprecedented crisis, her primary focus on ensuring financial interventions target those citizens who are in most need of urgent support. Community Support Fund (CSF) was developed as part of this policy. The principles underpinning CSF are sufficiently broad to empower decision making at local level where need can be determined and met in a more responsive way. The approach is based on the recognition that councils have a unique insight and reach into communities that can ensure that support benefits and protects those citizens most impacted. This is the Third and final Tranche of CSF distributed to councils in 2020/2021

### 2. Purpose of this Document

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is to provide a framework for how we will work, individually and together, to achieve our shared vision of alleviating hardship and ensuring that citizens get safely through this pandemic crisis. This MoU for the COVID-19 Community Support Fund:

- Sets out the Fund's duration and scope;
- Describes the roles and responsibilities;
- Sets out the financial arrangements; and
- Provide arrangements for governance and accountability.

### 3. Duration

COVID-19 Community Support Fund applies within the financial year beginning 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. All activities supported by the fund must take place within this period.

The total amount of funding awarded for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tranche will be released immediately after return of the electronically signed Letter of Variance, this Memorandum of Understanding and the written high level proposal on how the funding will be used.



(Proposal will allow us to tailor and agree a bespoke reporting mechanism see point 8).

This funding is provided to assist councils support voluntary and community organisations which are undertaking actions in response to the coronavirus pandemic, Should further COVID-19 Community Support Fund funding be required it will be subject to evidence of need, funding available to the Department, and in the context of wider priorities.

An assessment of the total COVID-19 Community Support Fund 20/21 will be carried out by the end-of May 2021

#### 4. Scope

The COVID-19 Community Support Fund should be distributed by councils to community based organisations.

A Maximum 5% of funding is available to fund internal council costs, such as staffing and overheads.

The funding is not available to provide direct payments to vulnerable people.

The funding must align to the Community Support Programme objectives and support actions in line with the following interventions:

- **Financial** - to those on low income and at risk due to financial stress.
- **Food** - access to food (whether due to cost or availability) for those most in need.
- **Connectivity** - to those living alone or in in rural and border areas that are likely to experience greater challenges in accessing services.

The funding should be also be targeted where possible in line with the Communities Minister's key priorities to target objective need, tackle poverty and embed a rights based approach.

Councils are required to direct grassroots groups in receipt of funding to operate in line with a formal protocol for regulated volunteering, ensuring both volunteers and vulnerable and shielded individuals, are protected.

<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/volunteering-regulated-activity-protocol>

Actions under the COVID-19 Community Support Fund should be coordinated with other voluntary and community sector responses to COVID-19, for example, from Community Foundation NI, National Emergencies Trust, National Lottery Community Fund, and also other government COVID related funds to avoid overlap or duplication and to maximise reach.

## 5. Roles and Responsibilities

At Council level officials will:

- Set lower level objectives and targets in line with their Community Plans, to shape their localised COVID-19 Community Support Programmes for individual council areas;
- Be responsible for ensuring the Programme aligns with the high level objectives set out by the Department, is properly managed and monitored and all procurement and statutory obligations are adhered to;
- Assign points of contact (expected to be community development officers) to liaise with Departmental officials to provide regular verbal and written updates;
- Establish effective working arrangements based on co-operation, partnership and mutual assistance between local statutory, voluntary and community sector organisations;
- Collaboratively agree appropriate protocols and procedures for determining the approach to interventions;
- Work closely with funded organisations to ensure
  - they adapt the formal protocol for regulated volunteering; ensuring both volunteers and vulnerable individuals, are protected <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/volunteering-regulated-activity-protocol>
  - that there are adequate arrangements to provide a continuous responsive service to deal with urgently arising problems;
  - that there is mandatory reporting on money spent and impact;
- Provide guidance around the safety and protection of staff engaged in assessing and delivering interventions supported through the fund; and
- Ensure that where disputes arise between organisations and cannot be resolved quickly, they are escalated to higher levels of management within the respective organisations.
- Maintain effective working relationship based on co-operation, partnership and mutual assistance with Departmental Officials.

At Departmental level, officials will:

- Release funds immediately upon receipt of the electronically signed Letter of Variance, Memorandum of Understanding and the written high level proposal for allocation of funds;
- Provide support, guidance and where appropriate, share central government information from across departments, including data relating to needs as this emerges around coronavirus;
- Maintain regular contact with council through designated points of contact to request updates and information, and to discuss emerging needs;
- Brenda Magill and Siobhan Toner will be the Department's primary points of contact: [Brenda.magill@communities-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Brenda.magill@communities-ni.gov.uk) 07926 075 944 and Siobhan Toner [Siobhan.toner@communities-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Siobhan.toner@communities-ni.gov.uk) 07704 383 616.



- Department officials will collate information received from councils and record any emerging issues to create a formal written record of interventions and an assessment of future needs; and
- Departmental officials will carry out an assessment of CSF 20/21 and provide a brief to the Minister.

## 6. Financial Arrangements

The COVID-19 Community Support Fund will be provided through the established Community Support Programme arrangements.

- There is no requirement for councils to match fund this provision.
- The COVID-19 Community Support Fund is subject to the same local government audit as other Council spend.

## 7. Governance and Accountability

The Minister is accountable to the Assembly for the funding policy and ensuring that it has been properly spent as designated. To this end, leadership at local level will be needed more than ever to ensure that those citizens requiring assistance receive the necessary help to come safely through this crisis. Each council area will have their own pressures and difficulties and it is important that help reaches those in need in a timely way. It is recognised that normal procurement guidance around best value may be difficult to uphold, but it is important to ensure that public funding delivers maximum impact.

This continues to be a fast moving crisis and public and political interest remains high throughout the crisis. It is therefore important to ensure that public money is spent in an accountable and transparent way. It is also important that the governance arrangements are proportionate and recognize the uniqueness of this intervention.

## 8. Monitoring & Reporting

To ensure that Government is fully aware of events unfolding on the ground, each council shall provide regular updates in writing, on data available, to demonstrate the impact of the funding.

The reporting mechanism will be proportionate and tailored to each council in line with their submitted proposed spend of funding. It is imperative that the proposal is received promptly so that the reporting mechanism can be developed and agreed at the earliest stage.

Reporting will include at a minimum:

- Where the proposed action sits in line with the lower level objectives and targets of their Community Plans
- COVID-19 Community Support Fund budgetary 4 weekly spend by council.
- Details of the interventions and the impact / outcome.

Bespoke reporting templates will be tailored and provided to each Council following receipt of their proposal of spend.

A final report on spend is required by end April 2021 however officials may request interim reports before that date.

Finally, I understand that this continues to be a fast paced and evolving situation and you may need to adapt quickly and beyond the scope set out within this Memorandum of Understanding. The Department commits to collaborating with you in a flexible way to ensure that the needs of people always come first. Any concerns that council officials may have should be raised through the Departmental points of contact who will work with you to ensure councils can deliver in ways that best meet local needs.

### Formal Commitment to Memorandum

Signed *Bebhinn Ní Bhriain*  
On behalf of DFC

Dated 11 January 2021

Signed  
On behalf of XXXXXXXX Council

Dated

<b>Report to:</b>	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	15 February 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums Update Report
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Janine Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Damien Brannigan, Head of Engagement

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>
1.1	<p><b>Purpose</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To note the report.</li> <li>To consider and agree to approve the actions in the Action Sheets attached from the DEA Forum Private Meetings listed in 3.1 below.</li> </ul> <p><b>Background</b></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 (subject to COVID-19 restrictions).</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues</b>
2.1	Any activity undertaken by the DEAs must be compliant with COVID-19 guidance and restrictions.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
3.1	<p>That the Committee: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note the report.</li> <li>Agree to approve the actions in the Action Sheets attached for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Mourne DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Wednesday 27 January 2021.</li> <li>➤ Downpatrick DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 2 February 2021.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	Support and assistance from partners to deliver actions in the DEA action plans.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b>
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><b><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></b></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><b><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></b></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	<b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b>
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	<b>Appendices</b>
	<p>Appendix 1: Update on the ongoing work of the DEAs.</p> <p>Appendix 2: Action Sheet The Mournes DEA Forum Private Meeting 27 January 2021.</p> <p>Appendix 3: Action Sheet Downpatrick DEA Forum Private Meeting 2 February 2021.</p>

8.0	Background Documents
	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 (subject to COVID-19 restrictions).

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

#### ***Level of Health Status:***

An online Youth Comedy Quiz and Musical Show took place on Tuesday 25 January 2021 with 30 young people from the Newry, Slieve Gullion and Crotlieve DEAs invited to come spend virtual time together, support one another therefore increasing their social interaction and supporting their mental health. This project was supported by the Council's Health Inequalities Officer, the Education Authority Youth Service and DEA Coordinators.

100 packs comprising of health products such as dental items and screening information were distributed to local BAME people across the Newry, Slieve Gullion and Crotlieve DEAs for those who are vulnerable and at risk of homelessness, financial hardship and/or social isolation. The project was delivered in partnership between the Council's Health Inequalities Officer, PCSP, SHSCT and DEA Coordinators.

Slieve Gullion, Mournes, Crotlieve, and Newry DEAs will be delivering a four-week virtual gardening programme linking local Men's Sheds with local groups of older people. The project will focus on sustainable growing and planting and aims to improve the mental health and well-being of participants by creating a virtual space for older people to share and interact. The programme will begin in February and continue into March 2021.

Downpatrick, Rowallane and Slieve Croob DEAs are delivering a Mini Medics Programme to 7 rural primary schools within the area. The programme will teach basic first aid skills, including when to call 999, treating cuts/burns and how to perform CPR.

Downpatrick, Rowallane and Slieve Croob DEAs are rolling out a Dance Programme in February and March 2021 to 9 primary schools within the area. This programme will help improve physical and mental health and instil the importance of physical activity to young people. Dates may be rescheduled due to current COVID-19 restrictions.

Each of the DEAs will be hosting two sessions each for young carers focusing on health and relaxation. The sessions are to be delivered in February and March 2021 and will involve participants from across the SEHSCT and SHSCT areas. The sessions will teach participants the benefits of relaxation to improve not only their physical but also mental health and wellbeing. All those taking part will develop a new way of relaxing in a supported environment and will have the chance to meet new people which will reduce their sense of isolation and improve their mood.

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

#### ***Level of Civic Participation and Good Relations:***

The 7 DEAs are working in partnership with the SEHSCT Carers Support to deliver Zoom Cookery sessions for young carers to help improve health and well-being during lockdown. The sessions will include preparing balanced nutritious meals with ingredients from across the globe and introduce participants to new cooking methods. The sessions will provide an opportunity for the young carers to develop new skills and learn about ingredients and cooking methods from across the world which will improve their knowledge and understanding of other cultures. They will also be able to interact with each other and develop support structures and meet new contacts.

Downpatrick DEA in partnership with Down Community Arts, Phoenix Natural Gas and Clanmill Housing Association is rolling out a Reimaging Project with the 4 primary schools in Downpatrick town. The project will involve the delivery of a mural on the old Downe Hospital site depicting the history of Downpatrick and how it has evolved throughout the years.

Slieve Gullion DEA is continuing to work with the Council's Ethnic Minority Support Centre to deliver key information and support to BAME communities in the area. Additional voice notes and information packs with updated information on COVID-19 restrictions will be delivered in the month of February.

Downpatrick, Rowallane and Slieve Croob DEAs are working in partnership with SEHSCT Carers Support to deliver a 4-week sketching programme to 20+ adult carers to improve health and well-being during this period of isolation. This provides an opportunity for carers to develop new skills and build relations with people from different backgrounds and discuss issues and coping mechanisms.

### ***Level of Personal Safety and Crime:***

The Slieve Gullion, Mourne, Crotlieve, and Newry DEAs will be delivering a series of anti-drug awareness workshops aimed at young people in secondary schools. Two workshops will be delivered in each of the areas by Theresa Burke who sadly lost her son as a result of drug overdose.



## **Newry, Mourne and Down District Council**

---

### **Action Sheet of The Mournes District Electoral Area Private Meeting held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 12.00 noon via Zoom**

---

<b>Chairperson:</b>	<b>Councillor Glyn Hanna</b>
<b>In Attendance:</b>	<b>Councillor Sean Doran Councillor Laura Delvin Councillor Willie Clarke Councillor Harold McKee</b>
<b>Independent Members:</b>	<b>Paula Nixon, County Down Rural Community Network Andy Hall, SANSA Tom Franklin, Bolster Community Ann Grant, RCN Donna McConnell, Kilkeel Development Association</b>
<b>Statutory Partners:</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Council Officials:</b>	<b>Kathleen Magee, DEA Coordinator Shirleen Cornelissen, DEA Coordinator Aisling Rennick, Engagement &amp; Development Manager</b>

**Kevin Scullion, Assistant Director Facilities Management & Maintenance**  
**Paul Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure**  
**Conor Hughey, Head of Outdoor Leisure**

**Others in attendance:**        **None**

**Apologies:**                    **Jacinta Linden, Bolster Community**  
**Rosie Carey, Education Authority**  
**Eileen Murphy, WAP**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>DECISION</b>	<b>FOR COMPLETION – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed</b>
MOU/2021/1	Declaration of Interest	No Declarations of Interest were made.	Noted.
MOU/2021/2	Play Area Provision Ballymartin	Update from Assistant Director Leisure and Head of Outdoor Leisure regarding Ballymartin Play Area Development.  On the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Doran Agreed: Contact to be made with NIHE regarding the transfer of land at Ballymartin and	DEA Coordinator to progress.

		the subsequent disappointment at the delay.	
MOU/2021/3	Play Area Provision Annalong	Update from Assistant Director Leisure and Head of Outdoor Leisure regarding consultation on proposals for play area reconfiguration at Annalong.	Noted.
MOU/2021/4	Bus Shelter Policy	<p>Update from Assistant Director Facilities Management &amp; Maintenance regarding Council's Bus Shelter policy.</p> <p>On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Doran, Assistant Director Facilities Management &amp; Maintenance to make a report to the NS Committee in February concerning progress with Translink providing bus shelters which they had previously confirmed they were progressing with for the village of Annalong and other areas.</p> <p>Report to consider Council writing to Translink on this issue seeking clarification on its programme for delivering bus shelters in this Council</p>	DEA Coordinator to progress in consultation with Assistant Director Facilities Management & Maintenance.

		area and seeking confirmation that they have a budget available to undertake these works.	
MOU 2021/5	Rock Pool Newcastle	Agreed DEA Coordinator to contact Assistant Director Leisure regarding amended date for Rock Pool site meeting.	DEA Coordinator to progress.
MOU/2021/6	RE-Wilding Programme	Updated email from Danielle Begley, Biodiversity Officer, regarding rewilding proposals for additional areas.  Agreed: email to be forwarded to members to respond.	DEA Coordinator to action.
MOU/2021/7	Flooding at Newcastle	Councillor Laura Delvin advised that the Rivers Agency were scheduled to begin removing trees in the area that flooded.	Noted.
MOU/2021/8	Street Lighting at Newry Street	Matter has been raised with Department for Infrastructure who have agreed to investigate the issue.	Noted.
MOU/2021/9	DEA Coordinators' report	Report from DEA Coordinators regarding ongoing programme of work including on line drug and alcohol awareness programme, smartphone photography	Agreed to approve report.

		course, and gardening project in partnership with Unit T.	
MOU 2021/10	Home Schooling	After some discussion regarding provision of printing facilities for home schooling it was agreed that Parent Teacher Associations be made aware of the Covid-19 related funding programmes available which could possibly be used to assist projects to address this issue.	DEA Coordinator to work with CDRCN to advise PTAs.
MOU/2020/33	Date of next meeting	Agreed to arrange the next meeting of the Forum in March 2021.	DEA Coordinator to progress.

The meeting ended at: 1.10 pm

**Newry, Mourne and Down District Council**

---

**Action Sheet of Downpatrick District Electoral Area Private Meeting  
held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 at 4.00 pm via Microsoft Teams**

---

<b>Chairperson:</b>	<b>Councillor Oonagh Hanlon</b>
<b>In Attendance:</b>	<b>Councillor Gareth Sharvin Councillor Dermot Curran</b>
<b>Independent Members:</b>	<b>Dan McEvoy, Downpatrick Community Collective Maurice Denvir, East Lecale Communities Jenny Lavery, Housing Communities Network Daniella McCarry, County Down Rural Community Network</b>
<b>Statutory Partners:</b>	<b>Mona Conway, NIHE Paula Aiken, NIHE</b>
<b>Council Officials:</b>	<b>Katrina Hynds, Downpatrick DEA Co-Ordinator Aisling Rennick, Engagement &amp; Development Manager</b>
<b>Others in Attendance:</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Apologies:</b>	<b>Councillor John Trainor Damien Brannigan, Head of Engagement</b>

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed.
DEA/DPK/21/01	Apologies	Received from Councillor Trainor and Damien Brannigan.	Noted.
DEA/DPK/21/02	Declaration of Interest	No Declarations of Interest were made.	Noted.
DEA/DPK/21/03	Actions of Meeting held on 15 December 2020	Read: Action sheet from Meeting held on 15 December 2020.  Irish Street Consultation Process – Members requested update be brought back to next DEA Forum Meeting.	Report on Irish Street Consultation Process to be brought back to April DEA Forum Meeting.



DEA/DPK/21/04	Representative from NIHE re Housing Update for Downpatrick DEA	Presentation was made by the NIHE on the current position in relation to Housing in the Downpatrick DEA. Members were advised that rural needs were assessed along with the Downpatrick requests for housing. Applicants need to stipulate housing area of choice to help identify the need for housing in a specific area. At present rural needs assessment are currently underway for the Saul, Raholp & Ballyalton areas.	Councillors to advise residents of housing policy and importance of expressing interest in a specific geographical area. In particular the rural needs assessment for the Saul, Raholp & Ballyalton area  NIHE to forward copy presentation to DEA Co-Ordinator for distribution to Councillors on a confidential basis.
DEA/DPK/21/05	Report on DEA/Good Relations Initiatives	The DEA Co-Ordinator gave members an update on initiatives. Members requested that, if possible, more Coffee & Reconnect mornings are organised.	DEA Co-Ordinator to organise more Coffee & Reconnect mornings when this will be possible and whilst adhering to Covid-19 regulations.
DEA/DPK/21/06	Schedule of DEA Forum Meetings for 2021/22	Schedule of Meetings were presented and noted.	Noted.
DEA/DPK/21/07	Update on Food Pallet Scheme & Fare Share Initiative	It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin seconded by Councillor Hanlon that an item be	Food Poverty to be included on agenda on a quarterly basis.

		<p>placed on the Downpatrick DEA Forum Meeting agenda regarding Food Poverty within the area and how the Forum can contribute to addressing the issue.</p> <p>In relation to the Food Pallet initiative members requested further details on the scheme including criteria for the scheme and details of the "Trusted Partners".</p>	<p>DEA Co-Ordinator, Engagement &amp; Development Manager and relevant partners to forward further details of the scheme to members.</p>
DEA/DPK/21/08	Down Area Plan	<p>Representative from the Downpatrick Planning Service to be invited to the next DEA Forum Meeting to give update on the progress of the Down Area Plan.</p>	<p>DEA Co-Ordinator to invite representative to next DEA Forum Meeting.</p>
DEA/DPK/21/07	Date of Next Meeting	<p>Next Meeting in scheduled to take place on 13 April 2021 at 6.00 pm</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

The meeting ended at: 5.15 pm

<b>Report to:</b>	Active Health and Communities Committee (AHC)
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> February 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Play Strategy Update
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Paul Tamati, Assistant Director: Leisure and Sport
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Conor Haughey, Head of Service: Outdoor Leisure

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

For decision	x	For noting only																							
1.0			<b>Purpose and Background</b>																						
1.1			<p>The purpose of this report is for AHC committee to consider and agree the following play strategy projects for 2021/22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>New Builds</b><table><tr><td>1. Mullagh Close, Ballymartin</td><td>£140,000</td></tr><tr><td>2. Darragh Cross, Barnamaghery</td><td>£140,000</td></tr><tr><td>3. Techonnacht, Kilmore</td><td>£140,000</td></tr><tr><td>4. Martin’s Lane, Newry.</td><td>£220,000</td></tr><tr><td>5. Downs Road, Newcastle.</td><td>£180,000</td></tr></table></li><li><b>Upgrades</b><table><tr><td>6. Kitty’s Road, Kilkeel.</td><td>£50,000</td></tr></table></li><li><b>Consolidations</b><table><tr><td>7. Bessbrook, 4 to 2 Charlemont, College, Fr Cullen and Pond field.</td><td>£80,000</td></tr><tr><td>8. Rowallane, 2 to 1 Hillfoot 1 &amp; Hillfoot 2.</td><td>£80,000</td></tr><tr><td>9. Newry, 2 to 1 Windmill and Heather Park.</td><td>£100,000</td></tr><tr><td>10. Newry, 2 to 1 Springhill and Shandon Park.</td><td>£80,000</td></tr><tr><td>11. Annalong, 2 to 1 Cornmill and Mona View.</td><td>£100,000</td></tr></table></li></ul> <p>In February 2017 Council approved the NMDC Play Strategy and allocated a Capital Budget of 2.5 million over 5 years.</p> <p>In December 2017 Council approved a 3-stage consultation process with regard to the procedure for delivery of upgraded &amp; transformed play parks.</p>	1. Mullagh Close, Ballymartin	£140,000	2. Darragh Cross, Barnamaghery	£140,000	3. Techonnacht, Kilmore	£140,000	4. Martin’s Lane, Newry.	£220,000	5. Downs Road, Newcastle.	£180,000	6. Kitty’s Road, Kilkeel.	£50,000	7. Bessbrook, 4 to 2 Charlemont, College, Fr Cullen and Pond field.	£80,000	8. Rowallane, 2 to 1 Hillfoot 1 & Hillfoot 2.	£80,000	9. Newry, 2 to 1 Windmill and Heather Park.	£100,000	10. Newry, 2 to 1 Springhill and Shandon Park.	£80,000	11. Annalong, 2 to 1 Cornmill and Mona View.	£100,000
1. Mullagh Close, Ballymartin	£140,000																								
2. Darragh Cross, Barnamaghery	£140,000																								
3. Techonnacht, Kilmore	£140,000																								
4. Martin’s Lane, Newry.	£220,000																								
5. Downs Road, Newcastle.	£180,000																								
6. Kitty’s Road, Kilkeel.	£50,000																								
7. Bessbrook, 4 to 2 Charlemont, College, Fr Cullen and Pond field.	£80,000																								
8. Rowallane, 2 to 1 Hillfoot 1 & Hillfoot 2.	£80,000																								
9. Newry, 2 to 1 Windmill and Heather Park.	£100,000																								
10. Newry, 2 to 1 Springhill and Shandon Park.	£80,000																								
11. Annalong, 2 to 1 Cornmill and Mona View.	£100,000																								
2.0			<b>Key issues</b>																						
2.1			<p>Public consultations, designs and planning approval is in place for play parks at Mullagh Close, Ballymartin and Martins Lane, Newry.</p> <p>Public consultations are imminent or ongoing for play parks in Darragh Cross, Kilmore, Annalong, and Downs Road.</p> <p>Lease arrangements and progressing or pending for play parks in Ballymartin, Darragh Cross and Kilmore.</p>																						

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>																						
3.1	<p><b>That AHC Committee consider and agree the following Play Strategy Projects and budget to be progressed in 2021/22:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>New Builds</b> <table> <tr> <td>12.Mullagh Close, Ballymartin</td><td>£140,000</td></tr> <tr> <td>13.Darragh Cross, Barnamaghery</td><td>£140,000</td></tr> <tr> <td>14.Techonnacht, Kilmore</td><td>£140,000</td></tr> <tr> <td>15.Martin's Lane, Newry.</td><td>£220,000</td></tr> <tr> <td>16.Downs Road, Newcastle.</td><td>£180,000</td></tr> </table> </li> <li> <b>Upgrades</b> <table> <tr> <td>17.Kitty's Road, Kilkeel.</td><td>£50,000</td></tr> </table> </li> <li> <b>Consolidations</b> <table> <tr> <td>18.Bessbrook, 4 to 2 Charlemont, College, Fr Cullen and Pond field.</td><td>£80,000</td></tr> <tr> <td>19.Rowallane, 2 to 1 Hillfoot 1 &amp; Hillfoot 2.</td><td>£80,000</td></tr> <tr> <td>20.Newry, 2 to 1 Windmill and Heather Park.</td><td>£100,000</td></tr> <tr> <td>21.Newry, 2 to 1 Springhill and Shandon Park.</td><td>£80,000</td></tr> <tr> <td>22.Annalong, 2 to 1 Cornmill and Mona View.</td><td>£100,000</td></tr> </table> </li> </ul>	12.Mullagh Close, Ballymartin	£140,000	13.Darragh Cross, Barnamaghery	£140,000	14.Techonnacht, Kilmore	£140,000	15.Martin's Lane, Newry.	£220,000	16.Downs Road, Newcastle.	£180,000	17.Kitty's Road, Kilkeel.	£50,000	18.Bessbrook, 4 to 2 Charlemont, College, Fr Cullen and Pond field.	£80,000	19.Rowallane, 2 to 1 Hillfoot 1 & Hillfoot 2.	£80,000	20.Newry, 2 to 1 Windmill and Heather Park.	£100,000	21.Newry, 2 to 1 Springhill and Shandon Park.	£80,000	22.Annalong, 2 to 1 Cornmill and Mona View.	£100,000
12.Mullagh Close, Ballymartin	£140,000																						
13.Darragh Cross, Barnamaghery	£140,000																						
14.Techonnacht, Kilmore	£140,000																						
15.Martin's Lane, Newry.	£220,000																						
16.Downs Road, Newcastle.	£180,000																						
17.Kitty's Road, Kilkeel.	£50,000																						
18.Bessbrook, 4 to 2 Charlemont, College, Fr Cullen and Pond field.	£80,000																						
19.Rowallane, 2 to 1 Hillfoot 1 & Hillfoot 2.	£80,000																						
20.Newry, 2 to 1 Windmill and Heather Park.	£100,000																						
21.Newry, 2 to 1 Springhill and Shandon Park.	£80,000																						
22.Annalong, 2 to 1 Cornmill and Mona View.	£100,000																						
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>																						
4.1	<p><b>Revenue:</b> It is not anticipated at this stage there will be additional revenue implications arising from the recommendations in the report.</p> <p><b>Capital:</b> In February 2017 Council approved the NMDDC Play Strategy and allocated a Capital Budget of 2.5 million over 5 years. In addition to this, Council has also received funding for enhancing some play parks within the strategy which has led to increased budget requirement for designated play parks when compared to original costings. Annual reviews of Councils capital programme have seen the allocated play strategy budget vary from year to year, however an allocation of £1,310,000 is required for 2021/22 to deliver the projects outlined in this report.</p>																						
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b>																						
5.1	<p><b><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></b></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><b><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></b></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 checked="" 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><b><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></b></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	<b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b>
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> <p>If no, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	<b>Appendices</b>
	<b>None</b>
8.0	<b>Background Documents</b>
	<b>None</b>



<b>Report to:</b>	Active and Healthy Communities
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	15 February 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Consultation from DAERA on NI Climate Bill
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Eoin Devlin Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Sheena McEldowney Head of Sustainability

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>
1.1	That the Committee agree to return the attached Consultation response. The response has been returned by the required date on the proviso that it will be subject to Council Approval.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues</b>
2.1	<p>The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) is seeking views on policy options for a Climate Change Bill for Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Climate change is at the forefront of public concern, and in February 2020 the Northern Ireland Assembly declared a 'Climate Change Emergency'.</p> <p>Northern Ireland does not have its own climate change law, unlike all other parts of the UK. Northern Ireland is currently tackling climate change through a UK-wide Climate Change law, called the 'UK Climate Change Act 2008'.</p> <p>In 2019, the UK Climate Change Act 2008 was updated by the UK Government, to include the requirement that emissions of Greenhouse Gases must be reduced enough to achieve 'UK Net Zero', by the year 2050.</p> <p>The aim of a proposed Climate Change Bill will be to establish a long-term structure to drive greater efforts and actions to reduce Green House Gas emissions and to manage the just transition towards a low carbon Northern Ireland whilst helping to ensure that Northern Ireland is better prepared to adapt to the impacts of unavoidable climate change. It will also underpin the Executive's Green Growth Strategy and Delivery Framework.</p> <p>The consultation document sets out and analyses options for Northern Ireland specific climate change legislation. Main areas for consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DAERA has developed 2 Options on how Northern Ireland can tackle climate change. These options and a description of them are set out below: Option 1: Local climate change law - with targets for achieving Net Zero within Northern Ireland by 2050.</li> </ul>



	<p>Option 2: Local climate change law - with targets for Northern Ireland to contribute fairly to UK Net Zero by 2050</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Checkpoints on the way to Net Zero 2050</li> <li>• Reporting requirements</li> <li>• Expert climate change advice</li> </ul> <p>This response was considered by members at the Sustainability and Climate Change Forum and comments included</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
3.1	That the Committee agree to return the attached Consultation response. The response has been returned by the required date on the proviso that it will be subject to Council Approval.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	None.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b>
5.1	<p><b><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></b></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><b><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></b></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><b><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></b></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>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b>
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>
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	Appendix I: NMDDC Consultation Response
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Background Documents</b>
	<a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/climatechangediscussion">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/climatechangediscussion</a>

## Discussion Document on a Northern Ireland Climate Change Bill



Newry Mourne and Down District Council is supportive of the direction of travel set out in the Discussion Document. The Bill represents a positive step forward for Northern Ireland which will help provide a long-term vision to guide detailed climate change policymaking over the coming decades. We recognise taking forward the vision for a low-carbon, resilient and sustainable society is a shared endeavour between the Northern Ireland Executive, the public, private, third sectors and communities across Northern Ireland.

We are supportive of legislation that sets ambitious and stretching decarbonisation targets for Northern Ireland in line with the rest of the UK. Strong early action is the most effective strategy in halting climate change and economic studies have shown the benefits of early action on climate change significantly outweigh the costs of inaction (Stern Report, 2008). When setting targets, decision makers must keep in mind the long-term costs of climate change and put the wellbeing of current and future generations before short-term economic needs. Putting the needs of our generation ahead of future generations is unjust and putting our economic needs ahead of social and environmental needs is not sustainable.

As the Climate Change Committee stated, there is no scientific or technical reason why net-zero cannot be achieved, but it will require a reduction in agricultural output and everyone will need to eat less but better quality meat and dairy. This is not an easy choice, but it is a necessary one. Farmers can be encouraged to diversify into cleaner, greener, more resilient enterprises over the next 30 years, with the right policy instruments and support. This doesn't mean the meat and dairy industry in Northern Ireland will disappear, it will simply be a part of a much broader mix of agricultural outputs, with the remaining livestock emissions offset by carbon 'sinks'.

The World Economic Forum ranks climate change as the single biggest risk facing the global economy. When managing any risk or threat, a balanced appraisal of wellbeing (i.e., the social, environmental and economic costs versus benefits) should be used in

deciding on an appropriate mitigation strategy.

Given that the scientific and economic evidence is overwhelmingly in favour of a net-zero transition as soon as possible, we therefore recommend legislation committing Northern Ireland to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero by 2050 in line with the Paris Agreement.

## Determination of Targets

**Question 1:** Which of the following high-level options do you think is appropriate for Northern Ireland to take forward?

Option 1: Northern Ireland Climate Change Bill setting interim emission reduction targets and a long-term target of net zero emissions in Northern Ireland by 2050 (long term target does not consider expert climate change advice).

Option 2: Northern Ireland Climate Change Bill setting interim emission reduction targets and a long-term target for Northern Ireland by 2050, the long-term target is an equitable contribution to achieving UK-wide Net Zero by 2050 (long term target considers expert climate change advice).

Option 1. It is important that Northern Ireland plays its part in helping to roll back the effects of climate change and sets an ambitious target for carbon neutrality, given that Northern Ireland has contributed the least to UK carbon reduction efforts to date.

It is imperative that Northern Ireland's contribution to climate change ends definitively within a generation. We therefore support legislation committing Northern Ireland to becoming a net-zero society by 2050 in line with the Paris Agreement target to limit global warming to well below 2°C and pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5°C. According to an IPCC scientific report on global warming from 2018, global emissions should reach net-zero by 2050 if the 1.5 °C target is to be met. Northern Ireland must rise to the challenge and set targets based not on what it can achieve but what it should achieve – which according to the IPCC is net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

Given that the EU is developing an overarching policy objective of climate neutrality by 2050, and the UK Climate Change Act has set a similar target, Northern Ireland would not be on a par with either the current EU or UK climate targets, if it pursued Option 2.

The proposed Climate Change Bill must demonstrate leadership on climate action. At present, Northern Ireland has reduced its emissions by around 20 per cent since 1990 – this is the lowest contribution out of all four nations of the United Kingdom due in part to a lack of legislation and regulation on climate change, and the pursuance of government policies not conducive to climate protection, for example, the Going for Growth Strategy and Onshore Petroleum Licensing Regulations.

The next phase of Northern Ireland's journey to net-zero emissions will, undoubtedly, require different, and in many cases much more difficult choices than has been the case to date but it is clear that people across Northern Ireland want to see action. An



opinion poll carried out by RSPB NI showed that 74% of people are in favour of a Climate Change Act. While there may be some uncertainty over the precise route that can be taken, we believe it is right to be as ambitious as possible to drive the action required to make the changes we need.

We disagree with the premise of the question which implies that a long-term net-zero target does not consider expert climate change advice, given that the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C approved by governments<sup>1</sup> states that 'Global net human-caused emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) would need to reach net-zero by 2050'. We also note the Committee on Climate Change report recommends 'a target to reduce all GHGs by at least 82% by 2050' and that this is an advisory target. The guidance does not seek to limit Northern Ireland's ambition on climate change, it is simply advice on what would be equitable and achievable.

The letter from Lord Deben, Chair of the Committee on Climate Change goes on to say:

*"There is no purely technical reason why net zero is not possible for Northern Ireland...getting to net zero in Northern Ireland would require a substantial reduction in output from Northern Ireland's livestock farming sector"*

This means Option 1 is not outside of Northern Ireland's capabilities, but would require a substantive change in agri-food policy, which historically has promoted exponential growth in agricultural output which has led to an acute ammonia problem in Northern Ireland. Ammonia pollution has major implications not only for biodiversity, but it has also been directly linked to our poor air and water quality - and therefore is detrimental to human health.

In 'Lay of the Land - the RSA Food, Farming and Countryside Northern Ireland Report'<sup>2</sup> commissioners outlined the need for a complete transformation in our food and farming system in order to respond to the climate emergency and restore biodiversity, improve the public's health and wellbeing. We believe a holistic approach should be taken when considering what would be an appropriate greenhouse gas reduction target for Northern Ireland, in other words putting environmental and social concerns on a par with economic arguments. Additionally, the proposed timescales are long enough to ensure farmers are not subjected to any immediate shocks, but are supported and guided onto a more economically, socially and environmentally advantageous trajectory long term.

We believe to interpret Option 1 as 'not considering expert climate change advice' to be misleading. By selecting Option 2, there is a heightened risk of delayed action to reduce agricultural emissions, which would not in our opinion be serving the best interests of present or future generations in Northern Ireland.

**Question 2:** Do you have any opinions on what would be the most important criteria to be considered when setting or updating long term and interim emission reduction targets?

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ipcc.ch/2018/10/08/summary-for-policymakers-of-ipcc-special-report-on-global-warming-of-1-5c-approved-by-governments/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.thersa.org/reports/lay-of-the-land>

Newry Mourne and Down District Council considers it important that any criteria developed to establish greenhouse gas emission reduction targets are aligned to sustainable development objectives and informed by 'just transition' principles. This means that any overarching climate targets and measures implemented in support of these must also:

- (a) support jobs and growth of jobs that are climate resilient and environmentally and socially sustainable;
- (b) support net-zero carbon investment and infrastructure;
- (c) create work which is high-value, fair and sustainable;
- (d) reduce inequality as far as possible;
- (e) reduce, with a view to eliminating, poverty and social deprivation;
- (f) achieve the proposals set out in plans within the timeframe that is specified in the plans.

### **Elements of a Climate Change Bill**

**Question 3.** Do you think flexibility should be built into the Bill, to allow consideration of new emerging evidence and science on climate change (such as for example on long lived and short-lived pollutants) when setting emission reduction targets?

Climate change policy, and any targets set within it, needs to be informed by and take into consideration the best available and most up to date climate change science. The science on climate change is constantly evolving, therefore we would consider it prudent that the Bill incorporates the necessary flexibility to allow consideration of emerging evidence around, for example, changes in the rate of global warming and any new or revised targets at international and national level.

Newry Mourne and Down District Council would advise against a dual approach involving separate emissions targets for long- and short-lived pollutants, because it may be incorrectly interpreted as a 'free pass' for methane and other agricultural emissions, further delaying what is considered to be overdue change in this sector – effectively kicking the can down the road.

**Question 4.** Do you agree that a Northern Ireland Climate Change Bill should include a duty for 5 yearly carbon budgets to set a statutory cap (interim emission reduction targets) on total greenhouse gases that can be emitted in Northern Ireland?

Yes, we agree that statutory carbon budget caps should be set on GHG emissions as a means of setting interim GHG emission reduction targets. We also agree that these should be informed by independent expert advice which would take into account a number of factors such as latest climate change scientific evidence and relevant international developments, as well as socio-economic factors unique to Northern Ireland. This should be done on consideration of evidence from relevant bodies, which would include:

- (a) the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;
- (b) the United Kingdom Committee on Climate Change; and

(c) the Republic of Ireland Climate Advisory Council.

## Reporting Powers & Duties

**Question 5.** Should provision for reporting on adaptation measures by 'major player' public bodies be included in a Northern Ireland Climate Change Bill?

Yes. There must be provision for a Public Body Climate Change Duty within the Bill that makes it mandatory for public bodies to report on their contribution to the delivery of mitigation targets, delivery of programmes for adaptation and sustainability. This ensures that organisations undertake the exercise to report and that there is appropriate allocation of resources to support delivery. However, the reporting framework should not become an unnecessary regulatory burden. Reporting methods should be commensurate with the organisation's size and capacity, and not detract from delivery. Adequate support and training should be provided to ensure organisations in scope can fulfil their statutory reporting requirements.

We recommend the Duty be extended beyond 'major players' to reflect the call for strong public sector leadership on climate action. We recommend the proposed reporting duty apply to all "Northern Ireland public bodies" meaning a body to which the following statutory provisions apply:

- articles 8 and 9 of the Audit (Northern Ireland) Order 1987 (No. 460 (N.I. 5)); and
- article 5 of the Audit and Accountability (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 (No. 418 (N.I. 5)).

We would welcome a commitment to a version of these duties also being extended to organisations that fulfil public services such as Housing Associations and Arm's-Length Bodies (ALBs).

**Question 6.** Should provision for reporting on mitigation measures by 'major player' public bodies be included in a Northern Ireland Climate Change Bill?

Yes. We recommend the Duty be extended to all Public Bodies and organisations that fulfil public services. The public sector, and in particular local government, is in a leading position to demonstrate carbon emission reductions through their activities and behaviour as an example of best practice to residents and local businesses. By calculating their own emissions and making in-house reductions, in addition to increasing awareness and supporting local businesses and residents, carbon emissions can be reduced across each local authority area and therefore across the Region as a whole, meeting the government's climate change targets.

In addition to annual Public Body Climate Change Reporting described above, we recommend the introduction of three National Indicators for local councils within the Programme for Government's Performance Reporting Framework:

- a) Percentage CO2 reduction from local authority operations
- b) Per Capita CO2 emissions in the local area
- c) Planning to Adapt to Climate Change



## Independent Advisory Body

**Question 7.** In addition to continuing to avail of the expertise of the UK Climate Change Committee, should we also include provision in the Bill, for an independent Northern Ireland advisory body on climate change?

Yes, Northern Ireland is unique to other jurisdictions due to its greenhouse gas emission profile and shared land border with the Republic of Ireland. On this basis special consideration must be given to fiscal, economic and social circumstances specific to Northern Ireland, as well as the transboundary element of carbon and current North/South governance arrangements, such as the Integrated Single Electricity Market.

It is therefore recommended there is provision in primary legislation for the establishment and powers of an independent body to provide advice and scrutiny over progress towards the achievement of Northern Ireland's climate change objectives. It is envisaged this will take the form of annual reports and periodic reviews by independent experts providing:

- oversight of delivery against climate change targets, including by public bodies;
- recommendations as to amendments to current policy considered necessary and desirable in order to ensure the achievement of climate objectives;
- oversight of just transition measures put in place to ensure that livelihoods of workers and of communities are protected and social equity is enhanced.

Due to the transboundary elements of carbon, the Northern Ireland advisory body may consider recommendations and advice from all relevant bodies, which includes the United Kingdom Climate Change Committee and the Republic of Ireland Climate Change Advisory Council.

In addition to the independent advisory and scrutiny body, we recommend that a consultative citizens' assembly is established in relation to climate change; in order to validate advice from relevant bodies and guarantee climate protections for the people of Northern Ireland.

**Question 8.** Do you have any other comments in respect of the issues raised in this discussion document?

## Scope

The overall objective, set out in the Bill, should be the establishment in Northern Ireland of a net-zero carbon, climate resilient and sustainable economy by the year 2050.

**Question 9.** Are there any important issues you feel have not been adequately covered at this early discussion stage?

## Climate Action Plan

The Bill should mandate the Executive to lay before the Assembly a Plan, equivalent to a Climate Action Plan, within a specified and limited time period, to achieve the overarching climate objective. This is considered essential in ensuring a co-ordinated approach to addressing the climate emergency and would centralise climate related targets and measures across all Executive strategies and plans. The Government's Climate Change Strategy / Plan should have executive weighting over all new and existing government strategies and plans. We would also welcome alignment of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals across future climate change plans and policies.

## Co-ordination

We call for the integration of energy and climate policy, which currently spans 5 or more government departments. We recommend the establishment of a single department for energy and climate change, as is the case in Scotland, England and the Republic of Ireland. A recent review<sup>3</sup> by the University of Exeter argued for the creation of a single department – the Department for Climate and Energy Transition – with academics adding “this would simplify the currently complex energy decision making and encourage leadership”. This consolidation of policy would help increase efficiency and co-ordinate climate change delivery across the Northern Ireland government.

## Resourcing

In order to achieve the ambitious targets in the Climate Change Bill, action will need to increase immediately across every sector of Northern Ireland. Adequate resourcing will be required for statutory bodies, businesses and communities to deliver on these ambitious targets.

The role played by local authorities, community groups, schools and individuals in driving change should not be underestimated. While acknowledging the essential role of strong policies and frameworks, and investment in green infrastructure, we call for a greater emphasis to be put on empowering people to take action on climate change. Dedicated funds, such as the Climate Challenge Fund in Scotland, will be essential in this regard.

Specific NI Factors to address the unique local characteristics referenced by the CCC:

- 1. The smaller number of power stations.** On the face of it, NI does appear to have a smaller number of power stations, we are in fact part of the all-Island energy market with many more power stations. The All-island market is on a fast track to zero-carbon in its energy sector. The RoI jurisdiction has a far more aggressive stance on climate change and

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.irishnews.com/news/northernirelandnews/2020/11/02/news/leaked-report-highlights-lack-of-coherence-and-party-political-influence-in-development-of-stormont-energy-policy-2116069/>

owns the grid across the Island of Ireland. Thus NI is likely to be propelled towards the 2050 target rather more quickly than the CCC expects in this area.

2. **A land boarder with another EU State.** Again, this is likely to be more of an advantage than a disadvantage given the far more aggressive targets that the RoI has in all areas of Climate Change. It would also allow NI to have economics of scale that it could not have acting on its own if it were to follow a common set of policies in key areas like the green new deal for retrofitting housing, electrification of transport, public transport and so forth.
3. **More dispersed rural communities leading to impacts with regard to, for example, transport.** There may be several advantages to living in dispersed rural communities (and see point 4 below) that would not be so easily realisable in the big towns and cities of the rest of the UK. For example in transport. Electric cars and vans have now reached the 'tipping point' where for most journeys they provide the cheaper option. As rural households have a higher average expenditure than town-based communities, the 'break-even point' for switching to electric is likely to be achieved at an earlier date. Rural areas usually have their own parking and thus charging points are easier to install whereas many town car-owners across the rest of the UK have to park on the street and thus cheap overnight charging at home is not such an easy option.
4. **Greater reliance on oil for home heating. The CCC pointed out that switching to gas as was done in Britain in the 80's and 90's is not such a practical proposition across much of NI.** Again, this is an advantage, not a disadvantage. Switching to gas did hugely reduce emissions in Britain – but now Britain is faced with the problem of how to move all these gas consumers to zero carbon technologies. NI came late to addressing the climate change issue and new technologies have become commercial in the meantime. Rural NI can 'leap-frog' the technologies of the 80's and 90's and move directly to the electrification of the home for heat, light and transport. PV panels are now the cheapest source of power. Only lack of regulations and supports in NI is holding back 'electrified solutions' to climate change. Lack of regulation is a fixable problem for NI Inc. Rural areas and rural homes are ideal for their deployment. Whilst lack of incentives to convert to zero-carbon has not yet brought these technologies to NI they do exist across the rest of the UK – here is an example from Tesla (GB)  
[https://www.tesla.com/en\\_GB/solarroof](https://www.tesla.com/en_GB/solarroof) Where heat, light and transport are all provided for with an in-house battery system.

The Grid in NI does not yet provide compensatory payments yet for owners of these systems in NI – but large-scale deployment in other jurisdictions suggest that these sort of technologies can be integrated into the grid at a local level and save millions in grid upgrades. For instance as in South Australia -  
<https://homebatteryscheme.sa.gov.au/about-the-scheme> This sort of scheme would enable NI to 'leap-frog' the rest of the UK and indeed calls into question the economic viability of, and desirability of, the £90 million currently being spent to extend the gas network to smaller towns – a scheme like that of the South Australian Government would provide a lot more climate change 'bang' for the same 'buck' and lower or eliminate fuel bills. It should be noted that the mild

temperate maritime climate makes temperatures lower in NI – and not too low in winter. But temperature does not affect solar radiance. Ireland is on the same solar track in the Northern Hemisphere as Paris – and receives the same solar radiance regardless of prevailing temperature. Hence PV works as well here as it does in Paris.

**5. Greater reliance on the agricultural sector.** Page 30 of the discussion document makes it clear that ‘quick-wins’ in this decade are more valuable than carbon reductions in the 2040’s – as the real problem that needs to be tackled is the cumulative amount of carbon and other gasses in the atmosphere. Many local farms could make substantial short-term reductions in carbon if local NI regulations from planning and by NIE were more sympathetic and if farming supports were more like those in other jurisdictions. For example, farmers in NM&D producing haylage for export must use diesel generators to produce the power they need for compaction as the price NIE charges for a connection to run renewable energy for many farms is unaffordable. The cost of connection could be spread across the grid as is done in other countries, giving a zero cost to connection. All fish processing plants in NM&D use diesel generators for similar reasons. Lack of connection from NIE and lack of regulatory supports for on-site energy storage. Planning regulations hold back farmers switching to renewable too, with dairy farms in SE Down using diesel generators where they could use PV or wind if they could get planning, or if they could get affordable connections or if they were incentivised to Tesla-style solutions as in point 4 above. Most farms in Co Down can get none of these 3 options – but all 3 will be needed to tackle climate change. Again, the sort of public investment to help farmers install German-style anaerobic digestors for slurry to produce gas and power on site would help too. The only area where UK-wide policy can assist NI legislators is in farm vehicles. NI does not have the critical mass to effect the electrification of farm vehicles and would have to rely on a national or trans-national approach. But electrified vehicles could be fuelled by on-farm renewables and batteries if NI-based regulation was more reasonable. A similar UK-wide observation could be made regarding emissions from livestock based on emerging replacements for the EU farm supports. There are many ‘quick-wins’ to be made in the agricultural sector with better regulation in NI by NI government actors.

26<sup>th</sup> January 2021

**This response is subject to Council Approval in early March 2021.**



<b>Report to:</b>	Active and Healthy Communities
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	15 February 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Clean Air Strategy for Northern Ireland- A Public Discussion Document
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Eoin Devlin Assistant Director of Health and Wellbeing
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	James Campbell Head of Environmental Health-Residential

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

<b>For decision</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>For noting only</b>	
---------------------	----------	------------------------	--

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>
1.1	That Committee consider and agree to submit the attached consultation response
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues</b>
2.1	<p>In November 2020 the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) publicised a Clean Air Strategy for NI.</p> <p>In Northern Ireland, we face similar issues with air pollution to the rest of the UK and Europe- most notably, levels of nitrogen dioxide found in urban centres, arising principally from road traffic, in particular diesel engines. In addition to this, we have problems with emissions from household heating and from agriculture. This strategy document represents a comprehensive review of air quality policy and legislation in NI and invites views on possible solutions to take forward.</p> <p>The Strategy can be found at;  <a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/clean_air_strategy_discussion_document">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/clean_air_strategy_discussion_document</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The health effects of air pollution are now well established and backed up by research that shows clear links between air pollution and negative health outcomes</li> <li>• There are a significant number of towns in Northern Ireland in which there is no air quality monitoring. This can create a misleading picture to the public as the current monitoring would suggest that air pollution levels are only a problem in particular locations. Currently this Council monitors air quality in Newry and Downpatrick.</li> <li>• The principal challenges in dealing with air pollution fall under the following categories, road transport emissions, household solid fuel emissions, agricultural emissions, industrial emissions, local air quality management and communications.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
3.1	That the Committee agree to return the attached Consultation response.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>

4.1	None to Newry Mourne and Down District Council. Within current resource.
5.0	<b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b>
5.1	<p><b><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></b></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><b><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></b></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><b>DAERA Strategy document. DAERA will be responsible for screening.</b></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><b><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></b></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><b><i>Rationale:</i></b>  <b>DAERA Strategy document. DAERA will be responsible for any consultation.</b></p>
6.0	<b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b>
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p><b>DAERA Strategy document. DAERA will be responsible for screening.</b></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 type="checkbox"/></p>
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	<p>Appendix 1: NMDDC Consultation Response</p> <p>Appendix 2: DAERA Clean Air Strategy for NI-A Public Discussion Document.</p>
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Background Documents</b>
	None



## **Clear Air Strategy for Northern Ireland – A Public Discussion Document – November 2020**

Clean air is vital for human health and our natural environment. Increasingly, research is showing us that the effects of air pollution on human health are more complex and widespread than previously thought.

In Northern Ireland, we face similar issues with air pollution to the rest of the UK and Europe - most notably, levels of nitrogen dioxide found in urban centres, arising principally from road traffic, in particular, diesel engines. In addition to this, we have problems with emissions from household heating and from agriculture.

Northern Ireland has not had its own dedicated Clean Air Strategy before now. There is, however, increasing recognition that existing air quality policy and frameworks are not delivering the expected improvements in air quality.

There are a wide range of policy options set out in the Clean Air Strategy Public discussion document. They are based on research, on examples of best practice elsewhere, and on our understanding of the air quality problems in Northern Ireland.

The public discussion document poses a number of questions under different themes, these are addressed below.

### **Chapter 1 - Sources and Effects of Air Pollution**

#### **1. Should there be legally binding targets for particulate matter, which are based on WHO guidelines?**

Research is increasingly pointing to the conclusion that - for exposure to particulate matter PM<sub>2.5</sub> at least - there is 'no safe level' of air pollution, and that exposure to incremental levels of PM<sub>2.5</sub> even below objectives can have associated effects on mortality. The WHO has now classified outdoor air pollution as 'carcinogenic to humans'

WHO publish Air Quality Guidelines to support the setting of air quality standards worldwide by considering the body of evidence for key pollutants including particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub>). These guidelines represent recommended maximum levels for pollution in ambient air that countries should aim to achieve and are set purely on an understanding of the human health impacts. In setting these guidelines, WHO does not consider the practicalities of policy development and implementation, including issues of costs and proportionality. Rather, the guidelines are intended to inform the process of setting standards alongside policy discussions.

WHO guidelines for particulate matter both PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> are more stringent than the corresponding EU Air Quality Directive or UK Air Quality Standard objectives and target values already set.

The Scottish government has already written into legislation the requirement to comply with the WHO guideline on PM<sub>2.5</sub> with England likely to follow suit.

However, it should be noted that significant levels of PM<sub>2.5</sub> come from natural and agricultural sources (bio-aerosols) which are difficult to regulate or attenuate. There is the potential for exceedances of the WHO guidelines across Northern Ireland and further afield, during seasonal periods (pollen release) or weather conditions (winds from the Sahara Desert), indicating poor air quality without a means of resolution.

Elevated levels of PM<sub>2.5</sub> can also be an indicator of household fossil fuel burning, though existing measurements of SO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> also provide such an indicator.

Acknowledging the above and in recognition of the general direction of travel in GB, it is recommended that the WHO guidelines for particular matter are adopted. However, the difficulties to deliver on effective control measures should be recognised for certain seasonal and weather conditions and clear policy measures should be identified in the Clean Air Strategy defining actions to ensure they are met.

## **2. Should all automatic monitoring sites measure at least NOx and PM?**

The main source of Particulate matter (PM) is domestic/industrial whereas NOx is road traffic therefore having a single monitoring location for both pollutants would not always be appropriate, particularly where the site is in a residential area.

Measuring both pollutants at roadside sites may be beneficial however, some existing site locations may not allow for an additional monitor to be located at it e.g. NOx analyser enclosures located at roadside locations may only be capable of holding one monitor.

Air pollutants are measured at 20 automatic monitoring sites in Northern Ireland. The pollutants measured at these sites are: nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, ground-level ozone, sulphur dioxide, heavy metals, benzene, carbon monoxide and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons.

The current approach for air quality monitoring was established to support assessment of compliance with air quality objectives; it was not set up to provide information to inform air quality alerts. Thus, only specific pollutants are monitored at specific locations, where, according to predefined criteria, they are deemed to present a problem. During a widespread air pollution episode, it is likely that sites measuring PM will register 'HIGH' levels, while sites measuring only NOx could measure 'MODERATE' or even 'LOW' levels. This presents a misleading picture to the public, since, looking at the Air Quality Interactive map would suggest that air pollution levels are only a problem in particular locations and not others, while the overall extent of the problem is merely limited by available monitoring.

The availability of a greater number of air quality monitoring sites measuring a greater range of pollutants can only improve the resolution of the Air Quality Interactive Map and hence better inform wider society of the air quality in their locality. However, this comes at a cost. Given ever tightening council budgets, it is recommended that additional monitoring equipment only be included within existing automatic monitoring sites, or where new or altered emissions necessitate new monitoring sites in line with current LAQM Technical Guidance. Monitoring should continue to be provided with sufficient funding from central government.

### **3. Should the current urban air quality monitoring network be expanded?**

District Councils review their air quality monitoring network annually through the current Review and Assessment Process and extend or reduce the monitoring sites accordingly. The adoption of the WHO guidelines for particulate matter including PM<sub>2.5</sub> would require further monitoring sites to be established to ensure guideline levels are met. Expansion of the current monitoring network would be encouraged but must be supported financially.

### **4. Should a targeted approach to exposure, based on population, be used to expand the current monitoring network?**

The current approach of monitoring based on relevant locations has been effective in identifying areas of exceedance of air quality standards. However, Local Air Quality Management has not been successful in reducing traffic emissions as Councils do not have the necessary powers to deal with roads investment or public transport.

There are a significant number of towns in which there is no air quality monitoring. A targeted approach based on human exposure could set a population threshold - for example, 10,000 people - and require that air quality monitoring is carried out in any settlement with a greater population than this. If this approach were adopted, then the following towns and villages would become part of Northern Ireland's air quality monitoring network:

- Cookstown, Dungannon, Limavady, Enniskillen, Banbridge, Larne, Omagh, Antrim, Coleraine, Carrickfergus and Newtownards.

This would bring to 31 the number of monitoring stations in Northern Ireland, if at least one station was sited in each of the above towns and would provide much greater knowledge about the air quality within these populated areas. Such a network could also be used to raise public awareness and engagement in the issue.

There is a greater recognition that there is no safe level of air pollution (especially with fine particulate matter) and where monitoring networks have previously focussed on areas where a limit value was likely to be exceeded even where only 1 individual is exposed – there is merit in understanding the levels of air pollution where the greatest number of our population reside. Additionally, this will allow the focus of improvements in air quality to made across NI as a whole using broad interventions in relation to bituminous coal or petrol and diesel cars. In this way the 'hotspot' areas of limit value exceedance may be tackled whilst also producing benefits for the health of the entire population.

### **5. What are your views on using a population figure of 10,000 as a threshold that triggers the requirement to monitor air quality?**

We agree in principle to expanding an appropriately funded air quality monitoring network, this should provide a wider picture of air quality across the centres of population whilst not precluding the need for monitoring in smaller, discrete areas where it is known that air pollution is a problem due to traffic flow or topographical effects. A population figure of 10,000 seems appropriate in the context of Northern Ireland.

## **6. Should biomass heating be discouraged in urban areas or in areas with poor air quality?**

The UK Committee on Climate Change produced a report in February 2019, 'Reducing Emissions in Northern Ireland', setting out how Northern Ireland can reduce its greenhouse gas emissions between now and 2030 in order to meet UK-wide climate change targets. The report recognises there are '*...wider benefits to climate action through reduced air pollution and other health benefits.*' Specifically, in relation to biomass, the report recommends that, '*Biomass for heating in urban areas should not be supported due to air quality concerns.*'

Biomass heating is associated with elevated levels of Particulate Matter emissions. The recent addition of large scale biomass heating in schools and leisure centres within urban areas contributes the elevated levels of PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>.

In those areas where existing air quality is poor as a consequence of PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> (whether urban or otherwise) it is recommended that biomass heating be discouraged.

## **7. Should the connectivity between air quality and noise issues be improved through requiring consideration of each in Noise and Air Quality Action Plans?**

In its assessment of the environmental burden of disease in the European region, the World Health Organisation has ranked air and noise pollution as the two leading stressors impacting upon human health.

Air and noise pollution share many of the same sources such as industry, aircraft, railways and road vehicles. Improving the quality of air can have a subsequent impact on improving the quality of noise, but only where mitigation measures are complementary. There is the potential that in undertaking improvements to air quality (e.g. inclusion of an additional lane of traffic) this can have a detriment for noise impact (i.e. bring road noise closer to resident), therefore holistic measures are required.

This can be achieved through better connectivity between the Noise and Air Quality Action Plans however it must be recognised that the key authorities who can 'action' the action plans lie outside of local government (i.e. Department for Infrastructure, Translink, Northern Ireland Environment Agency) and without ownership, improvements to air quality will not be achieved.

## **8: Given that air pollution, carbon emissions, and noise often share the same sources, what are your views on including noise and carbon emissions as a consideration in Low Emissions Zones?**

Low Emissions Zones are primarily focused on transport but could be widened to also include industrial and household emissions. There is a significant public awareness of climate change issues and these are intrinsically linked with the air pollution and noise pollution issues in urban areas – particularly transport emissions. We feel that there is a significant opportunity to use LEZs to tackle all of these issues and to gain a much higher level of public engagement and support than if they were tackled discretely.



## Chapter 2 - Transport Emissions

Efficient transport movements are vital to our economy and way of life, and yet road transport is one of our most significant sources of air pollution.

While road transport is responsible for a range of pollutant emissions, those of greatest concern are in particular nitrogen oxides and particulate matter.

High concentrations of nitrogen dioxide monitored at ground level in our towns and cities are largely due to vehicle exhaust emissions.

### **9: Are there any potential measures not included here that you believe could help encourage a shift away from private car use to walking, cycling, and public transport?**

The discussion document presents a number of typical measures to encourage a shift away from private car use.

Additional considerations would be reduced transport fares, fare subsistence and enhanced working from home policies.

With regard to encouraging working from home, the current Covid-19 pandemic has demonstrated the effectiveness of home working or blended working (part home/part office) for a large proportion of the population. This has significantly reduced journeys and eased the morning and evening rush-hours with a notable improvement in air quality.

There may also be the possibility of developing Public Sector hubs as an alternative to traditional decentralisation. These would provide shared 'hot-desk' office accommodation for a range of government departments/public services in smaller towns across Northern Ireland. This could reduce the need for long commuter journeys to larger urban centres and would increase the likelihood of workplaces being accessible by walking or cycling. There may also be economic benefits in regional towns as they could make use of vacant commercial property which is a common blight of high streets in Northern Ireland.

Design of our public spaces and urban centres is a vital consideration. Emphasis should be placed on the attractiveness of such areas for the pedestrian and cyclist rather than the private car.

### **10: What would encourage you to consider buying an electric vehicle as your next car?**

Electric vehicles have a number of air quality benefits with none of the exhaust emissions at source associated with petrol and diesel vehicles. In addition, the electricity can be generated by a renewable power supplier.

Until such times as the cost of ownership of an electric car falls below that of conventional propulsion, there is unlikely to be a major uptake of electric vehicles. The strategy of interest free loans, improving the existing charging infrastructure and improvements in vehicle range are all positive steps in encouraging uptake. The UK Government commitment

to the phase out of new petrol and diesel engine sales is also welcomed as a key indicator for the need for supporting industries and technologies to develop to support this ambition.

Travel subsistence policies in the public and private sector could also be amended to incentivise the use of electric vehicles.

**11: Do you think that DAERA should develop a Low Emissions Zone Framework for dealing specifically with transport emissions in Northern Ireland?**

**Or**

**Would you be in favour of Low Emissions Zones for urban areas also covering other sources of pollution, for example those from household heating?**

Low Emission Zones can incorporate many measures, such as might already be found in AQMA Action Plans, but at their most stringent they entail the restriction of certain vehicle types or introduce monetary charging for vehicles to enter. They are a means of providing an overarching umbrella approach to tackling air quality in areas of exceedance.

A Low Emissions Zone Framework should be developed specifically dealing with transport emissions only as the paper states that Low Emission Zones are suited to NO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the city centre and not trunk roads (p69). Household emissions can continue to be addressed through AQMAs and Smoke Control Areas.

However, if it is preferred that Low Emissions Zones will incorporate all sources of pollution within a designated zone, we would request the publication of a discussion paper on the Low Emissions Zone Framework and further detail on the likely outworking and outcomes.

**12: What are your views on vehicle charging cordons for entry to the most polluted parts of urban areas in Northern Ireland?**

Vehicle charging cordons introduced in England have been successful in improving air quality in urban centres such as London, Manchester and Birmingham. The introduction resulted in a modal shift to public transport, with the public still wishing to enter the cities. However, alternatives to the car in Northern Ireland are less attractive due to public transport outside of Belfast providing a limited service.

Until such times as viable alternatives to the car are available, vehicle charging cordons are unlikely to provide the necessary reductions in emissions and may result in increasing traffic at other locations/junctions and could potentially result in AQMA or LEZ implementation at these locations.

### Chapter 3 - Household Emissions

Emissions from household heating present a significant problem for local air quality. The primary pollutants studied here are particulate matter, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and to a lesser extent sulphur dioxide. These pollutants are indicative of the level of pollution from household combustion of solid fuels. The levels of pollutants emitted by home heating activity depend on a) the fuel being burned, and b) the appliance used to burn the fuel.

The highest levels of pollutants are emitted from solid fuels, such as coal, peat and wood, although emissions are significantly reduced in the case of 'smokeless' coal and other 'smokeless' fuel products, which include manufactured fuels such as ovoids. Oil and, to an even greater extent, natural gas emit far less air pollution.

We note with concern the levels of PAHs and Black Carbon as indicators of pollution from household emissions. It is very concerning that levels in Northern Ireland appear disproportionately high and are in line with highly industrialised areas of England and Wales. The information contained with the discussion document points towards household burning from a small percentage of properties and irregular use of stoves as being a key factor in Northern Ireland and strongly indicates the need for change.

It is suspected that the general public has little understanding of these levels or the impacts of their actions. Enforcement action from Central Government and Local Councils is likely to be resisted or perceived negatively without some awareness raising amongst the population. It is strongly recommended that this is carried out across Northern Ireland and co-ordinated centrally in advance of any of the new enforcement measures discussed in this chapter.

#### **13: Should urban areas, in their entirety, be designated as Smoke Control Areas?**

The Clean Air (NI) Order of 1981 introduced controls for the emission of smoke in urban areas. Under the Order, district council can declare parts of their district as Smoke Control Areas (SCAs). In a SCA, the emission of smoke from a chimney is prohibited. Households may only burn 'authorised fuels' in any appliance, or use 'exempted appliances' when burning specifically prescribed fuels other than authorised fuels. This means that the burning of bituminous ('household' or 'smoky') coal in an open fire would be prohibited entirely within urban areas be it for primary or secondary heating.

Using the existing Clean Air Order framework, when new/extended Smoke Control Areas are declared, then district councils and the Department must contribute to the cost of any work that householders must carry out (for example, installing oil-fired or gas heating systems) to ensure that they are able to comply with Smoke Control provisions.

We strongly agree that designating urban areas in their entirety will allow for easier enforcement by combining the existing patchwork of Smoke Control Areas into a single area. The benefit will be a reduction in the habitual burning of 'smoky' fuels, with the associated improvements to air quality albeit involving only a relatively small number of dwellings.

Overall costs to support householders with respect to conversion works should not be extensive as only a very small percentage of dwellings will be eligible for grant support. Those built post 1964 and/or those with a primary smokeless means of heating will not attract grant support.



The change involving larger numbers of households will therefore be to prohibit the burning of smoky fuels such as peat, wood and household coal within secondary heating systems such as stoves. The use of such secondary heating through stoves has become a popular trend within the past 10 years and will require some buy-in from the public to be successful.

A full review of enforcement powers for Council officers will be necessary should Government wish to ensure a high level of compliance. Officers will need the power to contemporaneously inspect the fire and fuel within it at the same time as the emission is observed from the chimney pot rather than being required to provide a period of notice to the homeowner. The chain of evidence breaks down when inspecting residential fuel supplies 2-3 days after the smoke has been observed and is much less likely to result in enforcement action where a smoky chimney is witnessed.

In addition, powers will be needed to take samples of the fuel being combusted to establish whether it is or is not smokeless fuel.

Councils remain concerned that some fuels labelled as smokeless do not perform as such after the lighting up period. The offences as currently drafted only relate to smoke caused by the burning of a fuel that is not smokeless.

#### **14: Should the law should be changed so that non-smokeless fuels may not under any circumstances be sold in Smoke Control Areas?**

Legislation states that unauthorised fuels are only allowed to be sold in Smoke Control Areas where the use is not intended within the Smoke Control Area. In practice, this is difficult to monitor and enforce. A further restriction whereby non-smokeless fuel may not be sold in a SCA will make it more difficult to obtain smoky fuel but not prohibitively - those wishing to flout the law, or simply to purchase cheaper fuels could still purchase 'smoky' fuels outside of the Smoke Control Area.

#### **15: Should government ban the sale to the general public of smoky/bituminous/household coal in Northern Ireland?**

The strongest evidence for air pollution from household heating comes from levels of PAHs monitored at sites here in Northern Ireland. The three Northern Ireland monitoring sites – Derry/Londonderry Brandywell, Ballymena Ballykeel and Kilmakee Leisure Centre - have recorded the first, fifth and sixth highest annual mean values of Benzo[a]Pyrene in the UK in 2017.

B[a]P monitored in urban settings in Northern Ireland are comparable in magnitude to those monitored in locations with heavy industry in England and Wales illustrates that there is a different emissions profile here. It also demonstrates a significant problem with B[a]P levels in residential settings in Northern Ireland.

The Republic of Ireland recently banned the sale of 'smoky' coal in towns over 10,000 population and have already noted improvements to air quality, although some unauthorised burning still occurs.

The ban of smoky coal in Northern Ireland would significantly improve air quality in local residential settings. It would also have the benefit of reducing regulatory burden as it could

be argued that the need for smoke control areas has been negated through lack of provision of 'smoky' coal.

### **16: Should government ban the import, into Northern Ireland, of high-sulphur coal?**

Burning high sulphur fuels leads to increased emissions of sulphur dioxide and particulate matter in the atmosphere.

Regulations currently specify that the content of sulphur that is permitted in solid fuels for sale in Northern Ireland may not exceed 2 per cent. Importation of high-sulphur coal is not prohibited however a ban on the importation would be expected to have little effect upon local air quality assuming compliance with the regulatory requirements but would be nonetheless welcomed as a general means of pollution reduction.

We note with concern that some manufactured smokeless fuels and household coal can have levels in excess of this limit. Councils in Northern Ireland have recently communicated with local coal suppliers to remind them of the need to ensure compliance with the 2% sulphur content limit. A failure of compliance in this regard will result in higher sulphur dioxide and particulate matter in urban areas reliant upon solid fuel burning. The 2% limit is set in 1998 regulations and it is strongly recommended that these be reviewed to reflect modern analytical methods to enable Councils to effectively enforce these requirements.

### **17: Should government ban the sale to the general public of unseasoned wood in Northern Ireland at retail outlets?**

Defra (England) have in recent years been actively addressing the issue of household emissions, in particular those from wood burning. All wood sold for domestic combustion in volumes under 2m<sup>3</sup> must have a moisture content of 20% or less. This is in line with measures within the Republic of Ireland.

Banning the sale of unseasoned wood in Northern Ireland will assist with reducing emissions and would therefore be welcomed.

Not all unseasoned wood burned in Northern Ireland is purchased by retail sale. Often wood is sourced from fallen trees, waste etc. and this is rarely seasoned adequately. It would appear impossible to enforce a prohibition on the use of unseasoned wood; however, efforts should be made to raise awareness of the pollution impact of its use amongst the general public. This is particularly important as many may well perceive that their use of a renewable fuel source is actually good for the environment.

### **18: Are there any further things you think that central and local government could be doing to address air pollution from burning solid fuels?**

A small levy on solid fuels would assist in shifting the public away from burning solid fuels to other alternatives. Income raised could be ring-fenced to support conversions to less-polluting heating systems for those in need of financial support.

Smoke Control Areas are historically difficult to enforce, largely due to the way that the regulations are written. The use of fixed penalty notices for breaches of smoke control legislation, combined with amendments to the legislation itself to make evidence-gathering more effective, would assist with swift and targeted enforcement.

We consider it necessary to raise awareness across Northern Ireland of the need to use less polluting solid fuel and especially the need to cease the use of unseasoned wood. Changes to behavioural habits across our urban areas are unlikely to be well-received or widely complied with unless those affected are informed about why the changes are happening and the benefits that will result to human health and the local environment.

## **Chapter 4 - Agricultural Emissions**

Agricultural activities can give rise to a number of different air pollutants.

Particulate matter, emitted directly from poultry and pig farming, is estimated at 22.7% of Northern Ireland's total PM<sub>10</sub> emissions in 2015. The main pollutant of concern from agricultural activities is ammonia. As well as acute effects at high concentrations, ammonia can indirectly have significant impacts on human health, through the formation of secondary inorganic (ammonium) compounds, which are a component of fine particulate matter, specifically, PM<sub>2.5</sub>.

### **19: Do you think that the process in place to address ammonia emissions in Northern Ireland is appropriate?**

Ammonia is not classed as a local air quality pollutant. This means that there are no limits or targets for ammonia in ambient air in the EU ambient air quality directives 2008/50/EC and 2004/107/EC, which cover, for example, pollutants like NO<sub>x</sub>, PM and SO<sub>2</sub>. Nor are there limits in ambient air for ammonia in the UK Air Quality Strategy; district councils do not measure levels of ammonia in urban centres.

Ammonia is to some extent, controlled under the Pollution Prevention and Control Regulations, which specify the amount of ammonia which may be emitted from each individual industrial premise or agricultural installation exceeding certain specified thresholds. The thresholds are for example: for poultry installations, 40,000 birds; pig farms with more than 750 sows or 2,000 production pigs of at least 30kg. However, there is currently no overall statutory means of limiting ammonia emissions across Northern Ireland.

The management and application of manure from livestock housing is the key driver of ammonia emissions in Northern Ireland and is responsible for a combined 85% of all agricultural emissions. Given ammonia's significance in concentrations of PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> within Northern Ireland it is impossible to separate agricultural emissions from local levels of particulate pollution.

The Department has set up an Ammonia Project Board, specifically tasked with examining the issues and evidence surrounding the ammonia problem in Northern Ireland, its negative impacts on biodiversity and habitats, and the difficulties it presents for the expansion of the agricultural sector in Northern Ireland.

The Ammonia Project Board is welcomed. It is hoped that this Project Board will bring about significant reductions of ammonia within the agricultural sector which will allow the necessary headroom for industrial expansion to meet economic drivers. The Project Board should be required to have consideration of the health-based impacts of PM10 and PM2.5 levels within air quality standards as agriculture is the key emitter. Currently the focus of the Board is very much upon environmental protection, however, it is important that the work of the Project Board is not treated separately to the human-health focussed control of local PM10 and PM2.5. In addition, decreasing the thresholds for IPPC for poultry and pig installations will bring more of the industry under regulation and provide the opportunity to further reduce emissions from numerous smaller installations.

## **Chapter 5 - Industrial Emissions**

Industrial activities play an important role in the economic well-being of Northern Ireland by contributing to sustainable development and growth, but this can also have a significant impact on the environment. The industrial sector accounts for a significant proportion of air pollution emissions in Northern Ireland and the sources include various types of activities ranging from large power stations to petrol station forecourts. Air pollution emissions from industry are, however, subject to strict regulation.

### **20: Are there any industrial sectors or air pollutants that require new or further investigation?**

It is noted that there is a recent trend in diesel car and HGV modification to remove the diesel particulate filter to improvement efficiency, performance or bypass an error code that would fail an MOT/PSV. Persons who provide such a service openly advertise on social media, business websites and trade publications. Given the significant increase in emissions as a consequence of diesel particulate filter removal, focus should be given to this growing sector.

It is noted that the Clean Air Strategy Public Discussion Document focuses on environmental air pollutants. Consideration should be given to advice produced by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) on air pollution which includes recommendations on indoor air quality.

## **Chapter 6 - Local Air Quality Management**

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002, as amended, requires local government councils to review the quality of the air within their districts. Part of this review is an assessment of the quality of air against an agreed set of standards. Where these standards are failing to be achieved the council may designate Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAS), and an Action Plan must be developed for each area. This management system lies at the foundation of improving air quality in Northern Ireland.



### **21: Should councils more widely adopt low-cost air quality monitoring systems, for screening purposes?**

With the emergence of low-cost monitoring technologies, there is now scope for increased monitoring of pollutants such as PM and NO<sub>x</sub>. It is acknowledged that the accuracy of these instruments cannot be validated in the same way as certified automatic monitoring systems in place at permanent monitoring stations. However, there is perhaps a place for these monitors in the LAQM system, for screening purposes. Under the LAQM grant scheme, councils could consider purchasing and installing low-cost monitors, which would enable them to undertake screening assessments for air quality. These screening assessments could help councils decide whether or not more detailed assessments of air quality are needed and whether certified automatic monitoring equipment should be installed.

The use of low-cost air quality monitoring systems for screening purposes is welcomed, with co-location tests demonstrating good correlation with certified equipment.

### **22: Should AQMAs be discontinued and replaced instead with Low Emissions Zones, which cover all aspects of air quality, including Smoke Control?**

Low Emission Zones can incorporate many measures, such as might already be found in AQMA Action Plans, but at their most stringent they entail the restriction of certain vehicle types, or introduce monetary charging for vehicles to enter. They are a means of providing an overarching umbrella approach to tackling a specific air quality issue in broad areas of exceedance.

As previously stated, our preference is that Low Emissions Zones should be developed specifically for dealing with transport emissions and other aspects of air quality including smoke control should be dealt with separately through AQMAs and Smoke Control Areas.

We would welcome a discussion paper on a Low Emissions Zone Framework and further detail on the likely outworking and outcomes prior to determining a preference of the existing AQMA approach.

### **23: Where applicable, should the entirety of urban districts should be declared as AQMAs (or Low Emissions Zones)?**

The current approach with AQMAs has been to focus on pollutant hotspots. This has proven unsuccessful in dealing with transport emissions. However, emerging best practice suggests solutions to air pollution hotspots are more readily achieved by spreading the focus to wider urban areas; for example, traffic emissions at a particular junction are best considered in the context of wider urban infrastructure. This approach means that there is less risk of pollution simply shifting from the known hotspot to another location.

A shift from localised AQMAs to wider urban LEZs could see the following:

- Expanded geographic coverage for improving and safeguarding air quality;
- Consideration of all aspects of air pollution;

- A greater focus on the use of transport and the mitigation of emissions across the wider population rather than just for those who happen to live in or drive through hotspot areas;
- Improved public communications on air quality;
- Unlike AQMAs, the impetus would not be to revoke the LEZ, but rather to keep it in place to continue to safeguard air quality. Instead, the goal would be to improve and then maintain the status of the LEZ.

Thus where applicable, we would support wider urban AQMAs/LEZs in improving air quality.

#### **24: What are your views on having a traffic-light system for councils to report on?**

Such a system would aid understanding by the general public with respect to air quality in their area, which in turn could help obtain support to address air quality issues and provide accountability to relevant authorities.

However, it must be highlighted that the divergence between LAQM reporting and central Government reporting for (pre-EU exit) Directive compliance creates significant confusion. The vast majority of AQMAs are not reported upon by central Government which leads to the perception that outside of the Belfast urban area there are no air pollution issues. Furthermore, the measures required to address transport emissions for Directive compliance (electric vehicle infrastructure, public transport investment etc.) are exactly the same as those necessary to address AQMAs (albeit involving smaller numbers of exposed persons).

We strongly believe that the systems of central and local Government reporting must be aligned such that they complement each other. Measures that are being carried out centrally by Government Departments must be reflected in Local Air Quality Action Plans as to omit them leaves the Action Plan only populated by 'lighter', educational and promotional measures within the remit of Local Councils.

Therefore, we recommend that central Government reports annually on the measures being developed and carried out at that level and that this information is then incorporated into each of the Council's LAQM Action Plan progress reports.

An aligned system will place the focus on national measures where this is required – as LAQM has not had the ability to tackle transport emissions – and will be easier for stakeholders and members of the public to understand.

#### **25: What are your views on the proposals to change the LAQM process, in particular to grant funding for outcome-based measures as opposed to monitoring?**

There is a need to provide grant funding for both monitoring and outcome-based measures. Without continued monitoring, it will be difficult to determine the success of outcome-based measures.

## **26: Are there any further measures you would suggest to help achieve a significant reduction or revocation of all AQMA's by 2021?**

Newry Mourne and Down District Council currently have 2 AQMA's one for PM10 and the other was declared for exceedance of the annual mean objective for nitrogen dioxide (40 µg/m³). The main source of nitrogen dioxide at these locations is road traffic. These 2 AQMA's are located along main arterial routes at

1. Canal Street, Newry (PM10)
2. Urban centre of Newry City(NO2).

There are currently no further measures to assist with the revocation of these AQMA's by 2021 however the department are aware that during the current pandemic increased home working etc. has led to reduced traffic and eased the morning and evening rush-hours with a notable improvement in air quality.

## **Chapter 7 - Communication**

### **27: Do you have any suggestions for the membership of the Air Quality Forum?**

DAERA has committed to setting up an Air Quality Forum, which is intended to, among other things, oversee measures associated with improving the air quality indicator, as well as to discuss any reforms coming from this review of air quality policy. DAERA feel that the Forum would also be the ideal place to discuss, with stakeholders, the more effective communication of air quality impacts and the role that individuals can play in reducing air pollutant emissions.

We would agree that an Air Quality Forum would also be the preferable platform to discuss, with stakeholders, the more effective communication of air quality impacts and the role that individuals can play in reducing air pollutant emissions.

It is imperative that local government is suitably represented at the AQ Forum, along with those bodies that influence outcomes (e.g. Translink, industry etc.), with a strong commitment from central government including DFI and DFC, (e.g. Land Use Planning Regime). Other agencies that should be considered in membership include EA and NIHE

### **28: Is increasing awareness of air quality impacts at a local level is the best way of promoting behaviour change by individuals to reduce air pollution?**

Local public awareness has a role alongside the use of penalties and incentives where appropriate. Regional initiatives such as Clean Air Day are worthwhile and initiatives highlighting linkages other strategies such as climate change and sustainability may help to promote behavioural change.

However, heating of homes and transport emissions are necessities of daily working and living. Drivers do not sit in traffic congestion because they want to; it is not simply a matter of informing the public regarding emissions and hoping that their conscience will bring about a behaviour change.



Better alternatives must be presented to the public driven by Government investment and where necessary support for technological developments. The most obvious focus will be expected to be in relation to electric vehicles.

Additionally, use of appropriate regulation to phase out the most polluting activities combined with support for those adversely affected by any such change.

Successful examples for this type of intervention already exist. The introduction of Smoke Control Areas made a huge improvement in urban air quality and smog is now a very rare occurrence rather than a regular one. Lead emissions were all but eliminated by regulation phasing out 4-star fuel combined with support for the development of unleaded fuel and engines.

**29: Do you have any further comments or suggestions on how the impacts of policy interventions can be tracked in Northern Ireland.**

The continuation of air quality monitoring is key to tracking progress. Other sources of information include the use of health statistics, counts of cycling, walking or vehicle activity.

<b>Report to:</b>	Active and Healthy Communities
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	15 February 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Memorandum of Understanding with National Food Crime Unit in relation to Food Fraud
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Eoin Devlin Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Eoin Devlin Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing

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

<b>For decision</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>For noting only</b>	
---------------------	----------	------------------------	--

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>
1.1	To consider the report and agree that the Chief Executive sign the Memorandum of Understanding
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues</b>
2.1	<p>The NFCU has the remit within the FSA for tackling serious fraud and related criminality within food supply chains. It will normally investigate offences appropriate for prosecution under the Fraud Act 2006 or as conspiracy to defraud under Common Law. The unit covers England, Wales and Northern Ireland, but not Scotland. NFCU will lead on a small number of the most serious and complex investigations each year, and they will have some capacity to support and co-ordinate investigations led by partners, where appropriate. In considering whether to lead, support or co-ordinate any investigation, the Head of the NFCU will consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the strategic priorities of the NFCU as set out in its control strategy;</li> <li>• the geographical scope and scale of the suspected offending;</li> <li>• the nature and extent of the actual, potential or intended harm to the public, a food business operator and/or the confidence in the UK food industry.</li> </ul> <p>The Head of the NFCU will also consider, where appropriate, any representations made by any partner that may be impacted by their decision. Such representations can be by conversation or email.</p> <p>Food Teams are defined for the purposes of this MOU to be those teams within Local Authorities that enforce Food Safety and/or Food Standards related matters. These teams will continue to have powers to take enforcement action in respect of Food Safety Act 1990 and Food Regulations offences including food fraud. The Food Safety Act 1990 and EU withdrawal legislation confer powers on the "food authority".</p> <p>The Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 is the comparative piece of legislation for enforcement and offences in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>The Appendix 2 sets out details of responsibilities/powers of the relevant partners to this MoU.</p>

	<p>This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets out the high-level framework of how “the parties” will co-operate to assist one another and prevent duplication of work in relation to food crime. It is not intended to set out in detail precisely what work will be taken forward by any party, as that level of prescription is unlikely to lead to effective food regulation. Each case will need to be dealt with based on the facts of the individual case, resource implications, and the relevant legal and policy position of any affected party.</p> <p>A referral process is proposed by which each party can expect consistency in how intelligence and early investigations of food fraud, as it escalates to food crime, will be received and assessed by the NFCU. Similarly, a referral process is required to enable dissemination of intelligence and information of potential investigation opportunities between the parties.</p> <p>In Northern Ireland correspondence between the NFCU and Food Teams is facilitated through the NFCU Belfast office using agreed local protocols.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
3.1	That Committee consider and agree that the Chief Executive signs the attached Memorandum of Understanding
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	None
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b>
5.1	<p><b><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></b></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><b><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></b></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><b><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></b></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><b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b></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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input 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	<p><b>Appendices</b></p>
8.0	<p><b>Background Documents</b></p>



## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) IN RELATION TO FOOD FRAUD ACTIVITIES

### BETWEEN

**Local Authority Food Teams in England, Wales and Northern  
Ireland and**

**The National Food Crime Unit (NFCU), part of the Food Standards  
Agency (FSA).**

#### 1. Purpose and Scope

**This Memorandum of Understanding agrees the relationship between Local Authority Food Teams, ACTSO and the National Food Crime Unit, part of the Food Safety Agency, referred to as “the parties” throughout this MOU.** It is impracticable to agree an MOU with each authority or group of authorities that captures their single or two tier model. By engaging with national food safety group leads and ACTSO, agreement of this MOU has been reached to promote collaborative working to help protect the public from food crime.

In Wales such food teams are represented by the Directors of Public Protection Wales (DPPW), a collective organisation representing officers heading up Welsh Local Authority Public Protection Services.

Food teams in England, Wales and Northern Ireland can have responsibility for both food safety and food standards or just one of those functions, reflecting the differing local government landscapes, and include Trading Standards and Environmental Health professionals. Regions across England operate two tier models in some areas. In Wales, there is a single tier approach to local



## OFFICIAL

99

authority services. District councils in Northern Ireland have teams that jointly cover both food safety and standards.

### **Responsibility across the three countries is tasked to Food Teams that are integral to front line delivery to enforce food safety and standards.**

In 2015 the FSA set up the NFCU. Following the Kenworthy review as reported in 2017, the NFCU expanded in 2018, and this included an uplift in its investigative capability and capacity. In respect of its investigation function, the purpose is to identify and investigate offences of food crime, particularly food fraud. The NFCU's enhanced 4P (Prevent, Protect, Pursue, and Prepare) capability now includes a Pursue strand that will enable it to lead on a limited number of food crime/fraud investigations.

The NFCU has the remit within the FSA for tackling serious fraud and related criminality within food supply chains. It will normally investigate offences appropriate for prosecution under the Fraud Act 2006 or as conspiracy to defraud under Common Law. The unit covers England, Wales and Northern Ireland, but not Scotland. NFCU will lead on a small number of the most serious and complex investigations each year, and they will have some capacity to support and co-ordinate investigations led by partners, where appropriate. In considering whether to lead, support or co-ordinate any investigation, the Head of the NFCU will consider:

- the strategic priorities of the NFCU as set out in its control strategy;
- the geographical scope and scale of the suspected offending;
- the nature and extent of the actual, potential or intended harm to the public, a food business operator and/or the confidence in the UK food industry.

The Head of the NFCU will also consider, where appropriate, any representations made by any partner that may be impacted by their decision. Such representations can be by conversation or email. There is no formal proposed mechanism for this.

The Association of Chief Trading Standards Officers (ACTSO) is the single membership organisation representing senior Trading Standards Managers from local authorities across England and Wales. ACTSO is focussed on providing effective leadership at the national level while supporting members to lead their services both locally and regionally. NFCU and National Food Group leads have worked together in agreeing this MOU.

Food Teams are defined for the purposes of this MOU to be those teams within Local Authorities that enforce Food Safety and/or Food Standards related matters. These teams will continue to have powers to take enforcement action in respect of Food Safety Act 1990 and Food Regulations offences including food fraud. The Food Safety Act 1990 and EU withdrawal legislation confer powers on the "food authority".

The Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 is the comparative piece of legislation for enforcement and offences in Northern Ireland.



The Appendix 2 sets out details of responsibilities/powers of the relevant partners to this MoU.

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets out the high-level framework of how “the parties” will co-operate to assist one another and prevent duplication of work in relation to food crime. It is not intended to set out in detail precisely what work will be taken forward by any party, as that level of prescription is unlikely to lead to effective food regulation. Each case will need to be dealt with based on the facts of the individual case, resource implications, and the relevant legal and policy position of any affected party.

A referral process is proposed by which each party can expect consistency in how intelligence and early investigations of food fraud, as it escalates to food crime, will be received and assessed by the NFCU. Similarly, a referral process is required to enable dissemination of intelligence and information of potential investigation opportunities between the parties.

Any assessment and determination around adoption of investigations will inevitably include an assessment of capacity and capability. The capability of partners is acknowledged, notwithstanding some lines of enquiry (e.g. requesting evidence from foreign national partners through International letters of request, or assistance under Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty arrangements) may require specific support and assistance.

## 2. Information sharing

2.1 The parties aim to co-operate by sharing information and intelligence where appropriate and where legally permissible. A general basis for information and intelligence sharing is to investigate and detect crime and protect the public (Data Protection Act 2018). Information will always be exchanged expeditiously and securely as per the below paragraphs. The dissemination of intelligence should always be timed to maximise its value in protecting the public. Such sharing should also aim to minimise risk, enable expeditious lines of enquiry to be identified, to clarify facts and recover evidence.

2.2 The communicating of information and intelligence between the parties will enable NFCU and LAs to analyse data and to identify both trends and other lines of enquiry that may support Food Teams. Additionally, such analysis will enrich the understanding of food crime across England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

2.3 Intelligence is recorded on the platforms as used by the relevant parties. Presently those platforms include Clue (NFCU) and IDB for Trading Standards teams. In the absence of having mutual access to each other's systems, then the intelligence will be shared by other appropriate means.

2.4 Specific information or enquiries requiring a direct response will generally be communicated by the NFCU to the relevant Food Team via a designated, secure email contact at the Food Team office, and from them to the NFCU via [foodcrime@food.gov.uk](mailto:foodcrime@food.gov.uk).

## OFFICIAL

101

In Northern Ireland correspondence between the NFCU and Food Teams is facilitated through the NFCU Belfast office using agreed local protocols.

2.5 Where possible, information available to any of the parties that is relevant to the responsibilities of the other parties will be shared where requested, and parties will aim to process information requests within 5 working days or as current capacity allows. In addition, if any of the parties considers that information it has gathered would be of material interest to the other parties, it will proactively offer such information to the other parties without a request.

2.6 It should be noted that presently the NFCU have limited statutory executive powers, being the same as apply to the Food Standards Agency. The current, and interim, expectation is that the NFCU will, in order to access wider executive powers, seek support from Home Office Police forces through ongoing discussion with the National Police Chief's Council, or will seek such support through the wider FSA core membership of the Government Agency Intelligence Network (GAIN). It is the aim of the NFCU to secure executive powers through primary legislation.

2.7 In the event of an investigation being adopted and tasked to an Investigations team by the NFCU as a result of a referral from a Food team and where executive powers are identified as necessary for that enquiry, then on the basis of that referral, the NFCU may apply to the Secretary of State for Health for the granting of specific powers under S.6 of the Food Safety Act 1990, and as related to that specific investigation only.

2.8 Where information is received from third parties, the ability to share such information between the parties to this MOU may in some instances be constrained by the terms of agreements with those third parties, or by other legal restrictions. However, the parties will seek to ensure that these instances are minimised. The default position will be to share unless the handling code at point of receiving the original intelligence from the disseminating source is such that it is clearly sensitive and not to be further shared without the authority of the originating organisation. Efforts will be made to secure consent to share the intelligence in those circumstances and this will also enable the development of better informed strategic and tactical assessments.

### **3. Co-operation and Co-ordination**

3.1 In all areas of work where there is a joint interest, the parties will endeavour to co-operate closely with each other. The parties will work to maintain oversight of this and to provide a forum for the parties to raise any concerns. Early identification, discussion and resolution of any issue is always the aim. There exist across England, Wales and Northern Ireland existing frameworks to co-ordinate, and these will continue. The Regional intelligence officers from the NFCU working with Food teams and relevant partners continue to develop the flow of information and intelligence around food crime with the aim of identifying appropriate interventions, escalation and

support to partners in dealing with the problem. This MOU seeks to compliment and advance those rather than in any way compete.

#### 4. Enforcement and agreeing primacy

4.1 Notification to each party of their food fraud investigations is desirable and recommended. It will enable support to be offered by way of intelligence checks. It will also enable identification of matters in respect of which the parties are likely to have, or are known to have, an interest. It will also seek to avoid taking regulatory or enforcement actions that are incompatible or even in conflict. This will enable prevention of the duplication of resources, investigating the same subjects in ignorance of partners' investigations, and provide clarity of direction and ownership.

4.2 There are likely to be two broad scenarios: firstly, where an issue is identified by the NFCU and they want to act against a subject or, secondly, where a Food Team identifies an issue and seeks support from the NFCU. These are dealt with below.

4.3 In terms of agreeing "primacy" in any case – this will be agreed between the parties on a case by case basis. This will depend on many factors. The indicators listed below are simply those that may weigh the decision one way or the other BUT no single one will be a defining factor. It will be the totality of the nature and scope of any cases, along with the capacity and capability of NFCU and partners.

4.4 Any case involving death will be referred to local police for investigation ownership (in line with the Work-Related Deaths Protocol) and they will determine any support required from the NFCU or Food Team.

<b><i>Indicators where NFCU may be best placed to lead</i></b>	<b><i>Indicators where the LA Food Team may be best placed to lead</i></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National and international investigations.</li> <li>• Ongoing or relevant and now past significant risk (including financial) to the public and/or UK plc</li> <li>• Clear intelligence of organised methodology in the planning, co-ordination and control of such criminal network as is identified to be involved in such criminality</li> <li>• Capacity and capability exist to undertake the investigation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More limited geographical scope</li> <li>• Already significant investment into an investigation</li> <li>• Where there are links to other existing LA regulatory/fraud investigations (within or co-terminus)</li> <li>• Capacity and capability exist to undertake the investigation</li> </ul>



## **5. Instances where NFCU becomes aware of an issue and wishes to act**

5.1 The NFCU will contact the relevant Food Team at the earliest possible opportunity and both parties will share all relevant information to help ensure the most appropriate way forward.

5.2 In the absence of any operational justification for taking a different approach, the default position will be that the NFCU will not carry out any on-site visits to any business or person in any Food Team area and where the Food Team have responsibility for those premises, without first notifying the relevant Food Team or undertaking a joint visit.

5.3 Where the NFCU identify investigative opportunities that may exist or require an initial response outside of their remit as set out at the start of this document, then such information will be shared with the relevant Food Team to enable them to decide in respect of any required response.

5.4 Where there are already investigations ongoing by NFCU and one or more relevant Food Teams, then both sides will discuss how the case will be conducted and agree who will lead, support or co-ordinate. The decision should be recorded in writing (proportionate to the scale and nature of the case) which outlines the role of each party. This should, among other things, include the following:

- Who will take decisions on the case?
  - Who will institute proceedings?
  - What resources partners will provide?
  - Procedural issues such as CPIA disclosure, storage of exhibits, examination of digital devices etc.
  - How any confiscated assets will be dealt with?

## **6. Instances where Food Teams become aware of an issue where the NFCU is likely to have an interest and/or the Food Team seeks support from the NFCU or to refer it to them.**

6.1 Food Team officers are increasingly using the national "Management of Risk in Law Enforcement" (MORiLE) framework to assess investigations and match resource to demand. The same framework is used within the NFCU around assessing tasked investigations. This offers the opportunity for commonality going forward in respect of how referrals may be made and received.

6.2 A process for referral of such cases is currently being rolled out whereby the NFCU regional liaison officers (Appendix 1) should be the first contact point for Food Teams. This will enable the earliest assessment of the potential investigation to be made, as well as identifying through mutual discussion, support and other lines of enquiry that may be considered by the Food Team.

## OFFICIAL

104

6.3 Where the decision by the Head of the NFCU is to support or co-ordinate an investigation, then the best placed officer from the NFCU and Food Team will discuss how the case will be conducted and agree who will lead, co-ordinate, support.

6.4. Where the decision is to task within the NFCU a referred investigation as may have been received by a Food Team, then the tasked Lead Investigator from the NFCU and the similarly best placed officer from the Food Team will agree and record the transfer of any lead responsibility to the NFCU. The discussions of such matters should progress outside of the tasking mechanisms used by the respective parties where investigative considerations so necessitate.

6.5 In respect of 6.3 and 6.4, the decision should be recorded in writing (proportionate to the scale and nature of the case) which outlines the role of each party. This should, among other things, include the same considerations as at 5.4.

6.6 Matters of a more time critical nature should be brought to the attention of the NFCU expeditiously and without putting the public at any increased risk or losing evidence, either by contacting the NFCU Regional Liaison Officer (RLO) or contacting the NFCU Intelligence Bureau, via [foodcrime@food.gov.uk](mailto:foodcrime@food.gov.uk). In Northern Ireland contact will be via the NFCU Belfast office.

6.7 Nothing in this document should stop any officer from any of the parties taking the necessary steps to deal with any identified imminent risk of harm to the public involving food.

## 7. Review of Memorandum of Understanding

The parties will meet regularly to review the effectiveness and efficiency of this MOU. In Wales this will be through the NFCU (Wales) Assurance Forum.

OFFICIAL

-----signatories to be identified from Food Safety Group leads -----

Signed	Signed
Dave Holland	Darren Davies
Chair, DPPW	Head of NFCU, FSA.
Date	Date

Wendy Martin  
CEO, ACTSO  
Date

Signed  
Ian Andrews  
Chair, Food Hygiene Focus Group (England)  
  
Date

Signed  
  
Northern Ireland  
Date



## Appendix 1 – Regional Contacts

### **National Food Crime Unit – Regional Liaison Officers**

Ed McDonald – Northern Ireland – [Ed.Mcdonald@food.gov.uk](mailto:Ed.Mcdonald@food.gov.uk)

Nick Smith – West Midlands and North West regions [nick.smith@food.gov.uk](mailto:nick.smith@food.gov.uk)

Steve Rowe – East Midlands, Eastern regions [Steven.rowe@food.gov.uk](mailto:Steven.rowe@food.gov.uk)

Jane Rawling – Wales [Jane.Rawling@food.gov.uk](mailto:Jane.Rawling@food.gov.uk)

Will Simpson - South East and South West [Will.Simpson@food.gov.uk](mailto:Will.Simpson@food.gov.uk)

Please note that the Yorkshire and Humber and North East post is currently vacant

Steve Smith – Head of Outreach [Steve.smith@food.gov.uk](mailto:Steve.smith@food.gov.uk)

### **Trading Standards Regional Coordinators**

Gaynor Jackson – South East – [gaynor.jackson@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:gaynor.jackson@surreycc.gov.uk)

Stephen Knight – London – [Stephen.knight@londontradingstandards.org.uk](mailto:Stephen.knight@londontradingstandards.org.uk)

Lisa Peters – South West – [lisa.peters@tssw.org.uk](mailto:lisa.peters@tssw.org.uk)

Dai Jones – Wales – [daijonesrc@outlook.com](mailto:daijonesrc@outlook.com)

Nick Harrison – West Midlands – [nickharrison@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:nickharrison@warwickshire.gov.uk)

Sandra Roberts – East Midlands – [sandra.roberts@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:sandra.roberts@lincolnshire.gov.uk) Marie Meadows – East of England – [marie.meadows@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:marie.meadows@suffolk.gov.uk)

Suzanne Simmons – Yorkshire and Humber – [yahtsq@wyjs.org.uk](mailto:yahtsq@wyjs.org.uk)

Nicola Pearson) – North East – [Nicola.pearson@durham.gov.uk](mailto:Nicola.pearson@durham.gov.uk)

Kate Pike – North West – [kpike@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:kpike@warrington.gov.uk)

### **Environmental Health Regional Coordinators**

Graham Perry – Wales - ([grahamperrywork@outlook.com](mailto:grahamperrywork@outlook.com))

Contact details correct as at 07/02/20

## **Appendix 2 Powers/responsibilities of relevant partners**

### **NFCU**

Due to currently limited statutory powers, the NFCU have arranged for the Police to provide support when asked with powers of arrest and search. The NFCU will continue to look to LAs for support in using their powers outlined below.

### **Local Authorities**

Food Team officers are authorised with the full range of powers as set out in law and the Food Law Code of Practise. These include, but not limited to:

- Power of entry and to take others into a premise
- Power to take samples and to submit these for analysis
- Power to inspect, detain or seize any records
- Power to seize or detain food
- Power to serve Detention Notices, Hygiene Improvement or Emergency Prohibition Notices
- Power to prohibit an activity or process

<b>Report to:</b>	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	15 February 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Public Consultation Document on the introduction of a statutory opt-out system for organ donation for Northern Ireland
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Eoin Devlin Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	James Campbell Head of Environmental Health-Residential

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

<b>For decision</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>For noting only</b>	
---------------------	----------	------------------------	--

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>
1.1	That Committee consider and agree to submit the attached consultation response
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues</b>
2.1	<p>The consultation document and questionnaire have been published by the Department of Health in order to consult the public about proposals to change the current system of consent for organ donation in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>The objective of the proposed change is to increase the current rate of consent for organ donation to proceed after a person's death. Doing so will increase the overall number of donors, and ultimately the number of lifesaving organs available for transplantation.</p> <p>This requires new legislation to change the current system in Northern Ireland, in which people can choose to 'opt in' or 'opt out' on the NHS Organ Donor Register (ODR), to a new statutory opt-out system. This is sometimes known as deemed consent.</p> <p>Organ and tissue donation saves and improves many lives each year and one donor has the potential to save 9 lives. Last year in Northern Ireland there were 51 deceased donors, resulting in 113 transplants throughout the UK. In total, 87 Northern Ireland residents received transplants.</p> <p>It is proposed that a statutory opt-out system for organ donation would function as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It will be considered that everyone living in Northern Ireland agrees to donate their organs when they die, unless they have confirmed otherwise, or they are from one of the excluded groups (those under the age of 18; people who lack the mental capacity; visitors to Northern Ireland and temporary residents);</li> <li>• Individuals will still have the choice about whether they want to become a donor;</li> <li>• Families will continue to be consulted (this is known as soft opt-out); and,</li> <li>• Decisions based on faith and belief will continue to be respected.</li> </ul>

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
3.1	That the Committee agree to return the attached Consultation response supporting the proposed statutory opt-out system of organ donation.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	None
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b>
5.1	<p><b><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></b></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><b><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></b></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><b>Department of Health consultation document. DOH will be responsible for screening</b></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><b><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></b></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> <p><b>Department of Health consultation document. DOH will be responsible for consultation</b></p>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b>

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><b>Department of Health consultation document. DOH will be responsible for screening</b></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	<b>Appendices</b>
	Appendix 1: Public Consultation Document on the introduction of a statutory opt-out system for organ donation for Northern Ireland and NMDDC Consultation Response.
8.0	<b>Background Documents</b>
	None



## Department of Health

# Public Consultation Document on the introduction of a statutory opt-out system for organ donation for Northern Ireland

**Date of issue: 11 December 2020**

**Responses to be returned by: 19 February 2021**



# Contents

	Page
<b>Foreword by the Minister for Health, Robin Swann MLA</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Organ Donation – Key Information</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Organ Donation – Key Figures</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Purpose of the Consultation</b>	<b>6</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What is the objective?</li> <li>- What is being proposed?</li> <li>- What information is required?</li> <li>- What will happen next?</li> <li>- Living organ donation</li> <li>- Additional information</li> </ul>	
<b>Organ Donation and Transplantation in Northern Ireland</b>	<b>9</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The current ‘opt-in’ system</li> <li>- Why move to an ‘opt-out’ system?</li> <li>- Improving the Consent Rate for Organ Donation in Northern Ireland</li> <li>- Comparing Consent Rates across the UK</li> <li>- Promoting Organ Donation in Northern Ireland</li> <li>- Further Information</li> </ul>	
<b>How to Provide Your Views</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Consultation Response Form/Questionnaire</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Privacy, Confidentiality and Access to Consultation Responses</b>	<b>25</b>

## Foreword by the Minister for Health, Robin Swann MLA

***I believe that the time is now right for us to revisit the issue of consent for organ donation.***

*I am privileged as Health Minister to be able to speak about the positive attitudes of the people of Northern Ireland when it comes to organ donation, the selfless generosity of our donors and donor families, our fantastic intensive care clinicians and specialist nurses, and our world class kidney transplantation service.*



*With that said, I am ever mindful of the 11 people who died last year in Northern Ireland waiting on an organ transplant, and of the 115 people who are currently on a transplant waiting list.*

*Almost a million people (48%) in Northern Ireland have joined the NHS Organ Donor Register. Many more (over 80%) have said that they would consider donating an organ. However, when faced with the decision, we know that around a third of families will decide not to proceed with donation. Whilst this is fully understandable in these tragic circumstances, it is often because they do not know what their loved one would have wanted, or what decisions they have made.*

*Today, 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020, marks what has proudly become known as our day of discussion about organ donation in Northern Ireland. A day when we are all encouraged with the message to “tell your loved ones” about your organ donation decision. A decision and a discussion that can bring new life and new hope for up to nine others. That is why I am launching this public consultation today on proposals that I believe will encourage those discussions, and ultimately save more lives.*

*We must do everything we can to increase the rate of consent and, in so doing, the number of organs available for lifesaving transplantation. With many more people willing to consider donating an organ than are actually registered as donors, I am proposing a move to a soft opt-out system of consent to help to address the current shortage. Importantly, the decision on whether or not your organs are considered for donation remains with every individual, and families will always be consulted about this.*

*As very few of us will die in hospital, that is, in circumstances where donation may be clinically possible, it is vitally important that our decisions are known, and that is why the NHS Organ Donor Register will continue to play an important role.*

*In launching this consultation I want to pay tribute to all the people who have given the ultimate gift of life by donating their organs for the benefit of others. Words cannot truly express the difference they have made to countless people in Northern Ireland and further afield.*

*The changes I am proposing in this consultation will take several years to come into full effect, however it is more important than ever that we plan for the future healthcare needs of all our citizens. 2020 has been the most challenging year in the history of our Health and Social Care services. As it draws to a close I want to encourage families to take a moment to talk about organ donation, to read this document and to join this vital discussion.*

## Organ Donation – Key Information

- Organ donation is where a person, living or dead, donates their organs and tissues for transplant. A transplant can be life-saving, or improve the health and quality of life for patients suffering from chronic illness, and their families and carers, whilst also bringing great comfort to donors' families.
- One person's decision to donate their organs after they die is a gift that can save and improve the lives of up to nine other people.
- Living donations can include a kidney, part of a liver and some tissue.
- Donations after death can include kidneys, heart, liver, lungs, pancreas, small bowel, corneas and tissues.
- Currently in Northern Ireland, your organs and tissue will only be considered for donation after you die if you have given prior consent (e.g. by having joined the NHS Organ Donor Register, or ODR), or if a close friend or relative gives consent on your behalf after your death.
- The health service can also benefit through the reduced cost of treating patients, whose health has been improved through this altruistic act, by releasing resources to provide treatments for patients suffering from other ill-health conditions.
- Anyone can join the NHS Organ Donor Register. Children aged 14 and over in Northern Ireland can sign the register themselves and parents/guardians can sign their child on to the register regardless of the child's age - even at the time of birth.
- Further information about organ donation in Northern Ireland, including FAQs and 'mythbusters', is available at [www.organdonationni.info](http://www.organdonationni.info)
- The NHS Organ Donation Website contains further information, including links to the ODR – [www.organdonation.nhs.uk](http://www.organdonation.nhs.uk)



## Organ Donation – Key Figures

- Currently in Northern Ireland, 913,224 people have signed the ODR, accounting for 48% of the population<sup>1</sup>.
- At present, around 115 people in Northern Ireland are on the transplant waiting list and every year around 10-15 people in Northern Ireland die waiting on an organ transplant.
- The majority of people in Northern Ireland are in favour of organ donation and would accept a donated organ if they needed one, however, much fewer have stated their intentions either by joining the ODR or by talking with family and friends.
- Only a small number of us, approximately 1%, will die in circumstances where organ donation after our death would be clinically possible. It is therefore important that when these circumstances do arise, the opportunity to help others is not lost.
- In 2019/20, the consent rate for donation to proceed after death in Northern Ireland was 64%. The current UK-wide strategy (2013-2020) sets a target consent rate of 80%.
- To understand how donation in Northern Ireland compares internationally, using data from 1 January 2019 - 31 December 2019, it can be seen that -
  - In 2019, Northern Ireland had 20.7 deceased donors per million of its population (pmp), compared to the UK average of 24.7 pmp (making the UK the world's eighth leading nation). The five leading countries were Spain (49.6 pmp), USA (36.1 pmp), Portugal (33.7 pmp), Croatia (32.0 pmp) and France (29.4 pmp).
  - In 2019, Northern Ireland had 38.3 living donors per million of its population (pmp), compared to the UK average of 15.6 pmp (making the UK the world's third leading nation). The five leading countries were Netherlands (30.6 pmp), USA (22.4 pmp), UK (15.6 pmp), Denmark (15.0 pmp) and Sweden (14.9 pmp).

---

<sup>1</sup> Current to 30 November 2020 using ODR registration data and Office of National Statistics (ONS) 2019 midpoint population estimate data.

## Purpose of the Consultation

This document and questionnaire have been published by the Department of Health in order to consult the public about proposals to change the current system of consent for organ donation in Northern Ireland.

### What is the objective?

The objective of the proposed change is to increase the current rate of consent for organ donation to proceed after a person's death. Doing so will increase the overall number of donors, and ultimately the number of lifesaving organs available for transplantation.

This would require new legislation to change the current system in Northern Ireland, in which people can choose to 'opt in' or 'opt out' on the NHS Organ Donor Register (ODR), to a new statutory opt-out system. This is sometimes known as **deemed consent**.

A **soft opt-out system**, such as those now operating in Wales and England, incorporates additional safeguards and conditions which include seeking authorisation from the person's family or loved ones.

A **statutory soft opt-out system** therefore refers to the legislation that would introduce and underpin a new soft opt-out system of consent.

### What is being proposed?

In brief, it is proposed that a statutory opt-out system for organ donation would function as follows:

- It will be considered that everyone living in Northern Ireland agrees to donate their organs when they die, unless they have confirmed otherwise, or they are from one of the excluded groups (those under the age of 18; people who lack the mental capacity; visitors to Northern Ireland and temporary residents);
- Individuals will still have the choice about whether or not they want to become a donor;
- Families will continue to be consulted (this is known as **soft opt-out**); and,
- Decisions based on faith and belief will continue to be respected.

### What information is required?

The consultation seeks the public's views on how to introduce an 'opt-out' framework for consent for organ donation in Northern Ireland, including the following:

- Your current intentions or decisions about donating your organs/tissue after you die;
- Whether you have shared this decision with your loved ones;
- Whether a move to a statutory opt-out system would change your decision;
- The groups of people who should be exempt from the proposed changes;
- The role that your family and loved ones should play;

- The scenarios in which deemed consent should not be applied, e.g. donation for research purposes, or for novel and rare types of transplants; and,
- How we should engage with the public to raise public awareness of the proposed changes in the law, and the focus for future communications.

To assist people in completing the consultation questionnaire, information is provided below to explain the current system for organ donation, to describe the rationale for the proposed changes, and how these would work in practice. Links are provided to external sources of additional information where appropriate, to assist people in forming their responses.

### What will happen next?

The views expressed in this consultation will inform the development of a draft Bill for consideration by the Northern Ireland Assembly, in order to enshrine the proposed changes in law. The first step will be to secure the approval of the Executive to introduce the draft Bill. Thereafter, any change to the current system will be subject to economic appraisal and available resources.

It is therefore important that the transplant community, the wider public, clinicians, patient representatives and other stakeholders take the opportunity to inform this process by contributing their views through this consultation exercise.

### Living Organ Donation

It should be noted that this consultation, and the proposed changes in the law, do not relate to living organ donation (kidneys, part of the liver, and tissue). Northern Ireland has a world class living donor kidney transplantation programme, which will not be impacted by the proposals outlined in this consultation. The proposals relate only to the system of consent for organ donation to proceed after a person has died.

### Additional information

To help set the context for the proposals under consideration, it is necessary to provide clarification on the following current issues:

- COVID-19

The proposals set out in this document will require a change in the law which will take several years to progress through the Assembly and come into effect. By then, it is envisaged that the coronavirus pandemic will have ended, and that COVID-19 will be managed through ongoing global monitoring and vaccination.

In the meantime, it should be noted that organ donation cannot proceed where the potential donor has, or is suspected of having, COVID-19. In addition, transplant recipients have to be immunosuppressed and many will require intensive care. Therefore, for the duration of the pandemic, i.e. within the current system for organ donation and transplantation, transplant clinicians and patients will continue to carefully assess any risk from COVID-19 when deciding whether



it is clinically appropriate to proceed with a transplant operation. Detailed clinical guidelines have been developed to assist clinicians with these decisions.

- EU Exit

The transition period for the UK's exit from the European Union is set to end on 31 December 2020. At the time of publication of this consultation document, the UK and EU remain in negotiations with a view to agreeing the arrangements for the post transition period. Regardless of the outcome of these negotiations, the Department of Health does not envisage any impact on UK transplant services or on the proposed changes outlined in this consultation.

## Organ Donation and Transplantation in Northern Ireland

Organ and Tissue donation saves and improves many lives each year and one donor has the potential to save 9 lives. Last year in Northern Ireland there were 51 deceased donors, resulting in 113 transplants throughout the UK. In total, 87 Northern Ireland residents received transplants.

Northern Ireland, along with England, Scotland and Wales, is part of an equitable UK organ sharing scheme. This means that Northern Ireland citizens benefit from being part of the UK 'pool', in which organs from donors anywhere in the UK are transplanted into individuals with the greatest need and the best chance of success. The system, including the [NHS Organ Donor Register](#)<sup>2</sup>, is operated by [NHS Blood and Transplant](#)<sup>3</sup> (NHSBT) on behalf of all regions of the UK.

Northern Ireland patients who need a heart, lung, liver, pancreas, or small bowel transplant are required to travel to specialist hospitals in the UK to have their operations and the same is true for some tissue transplants. The specialty of renal surgery and transplantation means kidney transplants, from both living and deceased kidney donors are normally provided at Belfast City Hospital.

### The current 'opt-in' system

Currently in Northern Ireland there is an 'opt-in' framework for consent for organ donation to proceed after a person's death. This means that donation will only ever proceed if a person had given their express consent for organ donation, usually by signing on to the ODR and / or the person's family supports the donation proceeding. In the absence of a decision being recorded on the ODR, or the family are unaware of their loved one's donation intentions, they are asked to make a decision on their behalf.

Only a small proportion of people (around 1%) die in circumstances where it may be possible for their organs to be donated. Usually this will be in a hospital intensive care setting, and in these circumstances families are given the option of consenting to organ donation on behalf of their loved one. They are usually referred to a *Specialist Nurse - Organ Donation* (SNOD) working within the intensive care unit and equipped with the specialist knowledge and skills to discuss organ donation and, if known, their loved one's intentions or decisions.

Whilst over 80% of the population supports organ donation, only 48% have recorded this decision on the ODR. Although this figure has increased steadily from 30% since 2013 through local and national awareness-raising campaigns, the ODR is not yet truly representative of the Northern Ireland population's willingness to donate their organs and tissue after their death, as 52% of people have not formally recorded a decision.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.organdonation.nhs.uk/register-your-decision/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nhsbt.nhs.uk/>

### Why move to an opt-out system?

A number of other countries have adopted an 'opt-out' system of consent as a means of increasing the number of organs available for transplantation, and better reflecting the levels of public support for organ donation. Instead of requesting that everyone who supports organ donation should 'opt in' and record their decision on the ODR, it is considered that everyone – with the exception of certain exempt groups – would be willing to donate their organs unless they have formally opted out on the ODR, or expressed an objection to a close friend or relative during their lifetime that they do not want to be a donor after their death. This is sometimes referred to as 'deemed consent'.

Since 2015, when Wales introduced a statutory opt-out system for organ donation, all residents of the UK have been able to record a decision not to be an organ donor. In Northern Ireland, approximately 2000 people (0.1% of the population) have used the ODR to formally record a decision not to donate.

### Improving the Consent Rate for Organ Donation in Northern Ireland

The 'consent rate' is an internationally used measure to indicate the number of potential donors for whom consent to proceed with donation is confirmed. It is measured by the number of families who agree to support donation going ahead divided by the number of potential donor families approached for donation. The consent rate is always higher in cases where families already know their loved one's intentions.

The international standard for world class performance is recognised to be an 80% consent rate. This is the target consent rate to which all UK regions have aspired within the current UK-wide strategy (2013-2020). However the current overall consent rate across the UK (for the year 2019/20) is around 70%. The consent rate in Northern Ireland is 64%, and has not increased significantly for several years despite consistently high levels of support for organ donation and consistent growth in registrations on the ODR.

This means that each year, almost four out of ten families in Northern Ireland, when faced with the decision, did not give their consent for donation to proceed, sometimes against the known intentions of their loved one. Understanding and addressing the reasons for their refusal in these difficult circumstances is key to improving the consent rate.

### Comparing Consent Rates across the UK

Consent rates for the year 1 April 2019 - 31 March 2020 in each region of the UK are summarised in the table below:



Nation	Deceased Organ Donors (per million population)	Consent Rate (%)
England	23.5	68.3
Northern Ireland	26.1	64
Scotland	18.4	64.8
Wales	27.1	70.7

Since the introduction of the opt-out system in Wales in 2015 and the corresponding information campaigns, there has been an increase in both consent rate and donation rate. The consent rate increased from 58% in 2015 to 70.7% in 2020, although the impact was not immediate and took several years to take effect, following an extensive media promotion and information campaign by the Welsh government<sup>4</sup>.

In England, a new opt-out system came into effect from 20 May 2020, however it is too soon to analyse any impact on consent rates. Scotland's opt-out system will come into effect from 26 March 2021.

In Northern Ireland, it is proposed that the introduction of opt-out legislation could contribute towards an increase in the consent rate over time, similar to Wales, which will mean:

- If you want to be a donor, you can still register to be a donor (opt in) on the NHS Organ Donor Register and inform those close to you of this decision;
- If you don't record a decision to be a donor or let those close to you know your donation decision, you will be considered as having no objection to becoming a donor (i.e. 'deemed consent');
- If you do not want to be a donor, you must either register not to be a donor (opt out) on the ODR, or otherwise make your decision known to those close to you; and,
- You can also nominate a representative to make the decision for you after your death.

It is important to note that the proposed move to an opt-out system for Northern Ireland would not change the fact that individuals remain responsible for decisions about what happens to their organs after they die.

#### Promoting Organ Donation in Northern Ireland

It is acknowledged that legislative change alone will not achieve an organ donation consent rate of 80% or above. Rather, it is seen as a potential enabler of further progress towards this target, if combined with increased public awareness. Countries with mature opt-out systems and high rates of consent, e.g. Spain, tend to also have high levels of public support and understanding around the benefits of organ donation and transplantation. Any move to an opt-out system for Northern Ireland must therefore be combined with appropriate public education and communication for the maximum benefit to be realised.

<sup>4</sup> <https://associationofanaesthetists-publications.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/anae.15055>

The Department of Health in Northern Ireland already has a statutory duty<sup>5</sup> to promote organ donation, and in 2018 published a [policy statement](#)<sup>6</sup> outlining its key commitments to deliver this. The overall objective of the policy is, and remains, to promote a positive, cultural, long term change in attitudes and behaviours in relation to organ donation. The Department is working with the Health and Social Care (HSC) system, the public sector (including local government and the education system), and wider society, to promote organ donation through a coordinated and sustained programme of communication. These commitments are not impacted by the proposed move to a statutory opt-out system, and will remain in place during and after implementation of any new system.

#### Further Information

For further information including Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and mythbusting facts about organ donation and opt-out legislation, please visit [www.organdonationni.info](http://www.organdonationni.info)

---

<sup>5</sup> Part 4 of the Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 2016

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/consultations/health/organ-donation-policy-statement.pdf>



## How to provide your views

Written responses should be provided by 5:00pm on 19 February 2021.

You can submit your views in the following ways:

- Submit your responses using our online questionnaire through the link available at: [www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/organ-donation](https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/organ-donation)
- Download this form and email it to us at: [organdonation@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:organdonation@health-ni.gov.uk)
- Download, print and post this form to:

**Organ Donation Consultation  
Department of Health  
Room 1 Annexe 1  
Castle Buildings  
Stormont Estate  
Belfast BT4 3SQ**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we will not be holding face to face stakeholder events; however, a series of virtual events will be taking place. Details will be published in due course at <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/organ-donation> and publicised on the Department and Public Health Agency's social media channels.

This document is also available in alternative formats on request. Please contact the Department, at the address above, to make your request.

CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

Public Consultation on the introduction of a statutory  
opt-out system for organ donation for Northern Ireland

I am responding:

As an individual \_\_\_\_\_

As a health and social care professional \_\_\_\_\_

On behalf of an organisation ☒ \_\_\_\_\_

(please tick one option)

About you or your organisation:

Name:	James Campbell
Job Title:	Head of Environmental Health-Residential
Organisation:	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
Address:	Health and Wellbeing Department Newry Office Monaghan Row Newry BT35 8DJ
Tel:	03301374000
E-mail:	ehealth@nmandd.org

## Your Organ Donation Decision

The majority of people in Northern Ireland are in favour of organ donation and would accept a donated organ if they needed one.

The following questions will help us to understand the starting views and intentions of those who are responding to the consultation in relation to organ donation and the proposed change to an opt-out system.

### **Q1. Would you be willing to donate your organs and / or tissue after your death [under the current legal system of consent in Northern Ireland]?**

- ☐ Yes – all organs and tissue
- ☐ Partly - Some organs / tissue
- ☐ No – I would not like to donate any organs or tissue
- ☐ Not made a decision

### **Q2. Have you already recorded your donation decision, e.g. by joining the NHS Organ Donor Register or otherwise?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know

### **Q3. If you answered 'yes' to the above, have you shared your decision with your loved ones? Please tick all that apply**

- ☐ Face to face conversation
- ☐ Social media platform (e.g. WhatsApp, Facebook)
- ☐ In written form (text, email, as part of a Will)
- ☐ Other
- ☐ I have not shared my decision

### **Q4. Would a move to a statutory opt-out system change your decision regarding organ donation?**

- ☐ No - It would make no difference
- ☐ Yes - It would make me want to become an organ donor after my death.
- ☐ Yes - It would make me no longer want to become an organ donor after my death.

## Exemptions to Opt-out Legislation

All residents of Northern Ireland are encouraged to make a decision about donation, record that decision on the NHS Organ Donor Register and make sure that their family know what they would like to happen. To support this, the Department of Health has a responsibility to promote awareness of organ donation.

In a statutory opt-out system, it will be considered that everyone living in Northern Ireland agrees to donate their organs when they die, unless they have confirmed otherwise by opting out, or they are from one of the excluded groups.

In the case of a child or young person under the age of 18, the family will be informed if there is a decision recorded on the NHS Organ Donor Register, so that they can take this in to consideration. There are several other groups for whom it is proposed that opt-out legislation should not apply, for example, where there may be concerns about a person's ability to make a decision and fully understand the consequences of recording a decision on the NHS Organ Donor Register.

It will therefore be necessary for the Assembly to decide whether the law should be applied to the following groups of people:

- Children and young people under the age of 18
- Adults who lack capacity to understand the new system, for example, an adult with advanced dementia or severe learning difficulties
- Visitors to Northern Ireland – for example, tourists, cross-border workers who reside in the Republic of Ireland (RoI)
- People who are temporarily resident in the Northern Ireland – for example students, overseas Armed Forces personnel temporarily based in Northern Ireland, people on work placements from overseas or the RoI.
- People whose identity is unknown
- Prisoners who may be placed in any prison in Northern Ireland

**Q5. To what extent do you agree that opt-out legislation should NOT apply to children (those under 18 years) and that the donation decision should be made by those with parental responsibility? Rate your agreement with this statement.**

- ☐ Strongly Agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither agree or disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree



**Q6. Do you think that any of the following people should be exempt from deemed consent for organ donation and the family should provide that consent? (please tick all those that apply)**

- ☐ Adults who lack capacity
- ☐ Visitors, including cross-border workers from ROI & tourists to Northern Ireland
- ☐ People who are only temporarily resident in Northern Ireland (e.g. students from overseas or ROI, overseas Armed Forces personnel), people on work placements from overseas or ROI
- ☐ Prisoners
- ☐ People whose identity is unknown
- ☐ Others – Please specify



## The Role of the Family and Loved Ones

Currently, people in Northern Ireland are encouraged to record a decision on the NHS Organ Donor Register and tell their family and loved ones whether they want to be a donor after their death. It is the responsibility of the individual to ensure that people know their decision. Knowing a loved one's decision greatly reduces the burden on the next of kin at the time of donation.

If an individual has recorded a decision to donate on the NHS Organ Donor Register, the family are informed of this decision. If there is no decision on the NHS Organ Donor Register the family are asked at the time that donation is a possibility, to inform the Specialist Nurse if their loved one had ever told them about whether they would have wanted to donate. If there had never been a discussion, the family are asked to decide on behalf of their loved one, based on their knowledge of the values and beliefs of their loved one.

Under opt-out legislation, it is proposed that the family would continue to be consulted about donation. This is for two important reasons. First, to determine the last known decision of their loved one (which may be different to a decision recorded on the NHS Organ Donor Register). Second, in cases where there was a known decision to donate, the family need to provide advice about past health and lifestyle (e.g. trips abroad, recent illness etc), to help determine whether organs would be safe to transplant.

**Q7. To what extent do you agree that, in situations where there is a known decision to donate recorded on the NHS Organ Donor Register, the family should always be asked about the last known organ donation decision of their loved one, to ensure it's still accurate?**

- ☐ Strongly Agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither agree or disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

There are around 100 cases every year in the UK where the family over-rules a decision to donate on the NHS Organ Donor Register. The most common reason given is that the family were not aware that their loved one had signed on to the NHS Organ Donor Register and they do not know what their loved one would have wanted.

The new legislation seeks to improve individual autonomy through placing the emphasis on whether the individual would have wanted to donate, rather than whether the family want donation to proceed.

**Q8. To what extent do you agree that, in situations where there is no known organ donation decision, the family should always be asked about whether their loved one would have objected to organ donation?**

- ☐ Strongly Agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither agree or disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

It is proposed that, under new opt-out legislation, it will not be possible to proceed with organ donation if there is an opt-out decision recorded on the NHS Organ Donor Register, or if there is a known decision not to donate.

**Q9. Which of the following statements best summarises how the introduction of opt-out legislation would influence your support for donation of a loved one's organs and/ or tissues?**

- ☐ I currently support organ donation and would continue to do so.
- ☐ I currently do not support organ donation and would continue to not support
- ☐ It would make me more likely to support organ donation
- ☐ It would make me less likely to support organ donation

**Novel and Rare Transplants**

When recording a decision on the NHS Organ Donor Register to donate, it is possible to choose which organs or tissue you are willing to donate after your death. For example, you can state that you are only willing to donate your kidneys, liver, bowel and pancreas and The NHS Organ Donor Register is checked to determine which (if any) organs and tissues you choose to donate.

The number and type of organs and tissues that can be donated has changed over time, as clinical practice improves and new forms of transplantation are developed. These types of transplantation fall into two categories; novel and rare transplants. Face and uterine transplants would be examples of novel transplants. There have been no face or uterine donations in the UK, although there is work ongoing within the NHS to explore whether this might be possible. Limb transplants do happen in the UK but are rare. Currently, limb donation is only possible in England and since 2012, there have been 6 limb transplants in the UK.

It is proposed that under the new legislation, novel and rare types of donation should be excluded from deemed consent. This would mean that, in the unusual event that such a type of donation might be possible, the family would always be asked about this potential and their explicit consent would be required before donation could proceed.

<p><b>Q10. To what extent do you agree that organs and tissues that could be used for rare or novel types of transplantation (e.g. limb or face) should be excluded from opt-out legislation?</b></p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Agree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree or disagree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Disagree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree</p>



## Research

Where consent is given for donation, every effort is made to ensure that all organs are transplanted whenever it is safe to do so. Prior to retrieving any organs, there is always an examination to determine whether the organs would be suitable for transplantation (for example, looking for visible signs of disease). There are some situations where an organ may not be safe to transplant (for example due to a tumour being found). In these cases, it is possible that the organ could be used for research purposes instead.

Organs removed during the donation operation may be entered into a healthcare research programme if all of the following are in place:

- It is confirmed that the organ cannot be safely transplanted.
- The family has given consent for any organs that could not be transplanted to be donated for research.
- The research project has been reviewed by NHS Blood and Transplant and is on their approved list of research projects.

There is no function available on the NHS Organ Donor Register to formally record a decision to donate for research, if transplantation is not possible. Instead, the option of research is discussed with the family, who decide whether or not to consent to research. More information about how Organ Donation research is governed can be seen on NHSBT's YouTube channel here: [https://youtu.be/yHxSA2\\_g\\_WY](https://youtu.be/yHxSA2_g_WY)

It is proposed that the current consent process for donating organs and/ or tissues for research purposes should not be changed. Therefore, opt out would not apply for donation for research purposes and the family would continue to be approached for express consent.

**Q11. To what extent do you agree that the donation of organs and tissues for research purposes should be excluded from statutory opt-out and the family approached for express consent?**

- ☐ Strongly Agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither agree or disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

## Faith and Beliefs

The families of potential organ donors are always asked if their loved one had any faith or beliefs that would need to be taken into consideration as part of the donation discussion. The family is also asked if they would like a faith or belief leader present to support them. Whilst all the major UK religions support organ donation, there are some factors that need to be considered, such as final rites, where a faith/ belief leader can provide advice.

Recently, a new voluntary declaration on the NHS Organ Donor registration form was introduced to enable individuals to state whether they want faith/ beliefs taken into consideration as part of the donation discussion. After registration, people can also download a digital faith-specific organ donation card, which can help them to share donation decisions.

There are no plans to change the current commitment to honouring an individual's decision regarding faith/ beliefs and the support and advice available to families.

**Q12. To what extent do you agree that people's faith or beliefs should continue to be taken into consideration as part of the donation discussion after any move to an opt-out system?**

- ☐ Strongly Agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither agree or disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree



## Raising Awareness of the Change in Legislation

Should opt-out be introduced, there will be a need to inform the public about the change in legislation.

A programme of communication and education would target all members of society. There will also be additional targeting of audiences who may be hard to reach or require additional support to raise awareness and understanding of organ donation.

This would include members of the BAME community, who are more likely to need a transplant, but significantly less likely to agree to donation proceeding and currently have to wait longer for a transplant, and for groups such as people with no permanent fixed place of residence, who may not be exposed to marketing campaigns and may therefore not be aware of any proposed change in the law, how it might affect them or have the opportunity to record a decision on the NHS Organ Donor Register.

### Q13. What do you think is the most important and effective activity for raising awareness of the law change? (please select no more than 3)

- ☒ TV, radio
- ☐ Social media adverts
- ☒ Out of home advertising (e.g. posters on public transport, bill boards etc)
- ☐ Adverts in print media (e.g. newspapers, magazines etc)
- ☐ Mail drop to all houses in N. Ireland
- ☒ GP surgeries
- ☐ Places of worship
- ☐ Local councils
- ☐ School / Curriculum resource
- ☐ Other – please specify

### Q14. If you have any other comments or views you would like to express in relation to the proposed opt-out legislation, please comment below.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council support the introduction of soft opt-out organ donation legislation which will follow the example led by the introduction of the same legislation in Wales (2015), Scotland and England (2020) and the calls from the previous Minister of Health in the South of Ireland, Simon Harris for the same to be introduced there.

Council not only calls for the introduction of this legislation in N. Ireland but to introduce a high profile communication and awareness raising strategy.

Furthermore, it would also be a call for investment in our health system in terms of recruitment of specialist organ donation nurses and in our intensive care units.

**Q15. If you have comments or views you would like to express in relation to the Equality Screening, Disability Duties and Human Rights Assessment Template or Rural Screening Document that accompany this consultation document and can be found at <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/organ-donation>, please comment below.**

## Privacy, Confidentiality and Access to Consultation Responses

For this consultation, we may publish all responses except for those where the respondent indicates that they are an individual acting in a private capacity (e.g. a member of the public). All responses from organisations and individuals responding in a professional capacity will be published. We will remove email addresses and telephone numbers from these responses; but apart from this, we will publish them in full. For more information about what we do with personal data please see our consultation [privacy notice](#)<sup>7</sup>.

Your response, and all other responses to this consultation, may also be disclosed on request in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR); however all disclosures will be in line with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA) and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (EU) 2016/679.

If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential, so that this may be considered if the Department should receive a request for the information under the FOIA or EIR.

---

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/DoH-Privacy-Notice.pdf>

<b>Report to:</b>	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	15 February 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Policing & Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) Report
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Janine Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Damien Brannigan, Head of Engagement

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>
1.1	<p><b>Purpose</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To note the report.</li> <li>To note the attached Minutes of the PCSP &amp; Policing Committee Meeting listed in 3.1 below.</li> </ul> <p><b>Background</b></p> <p>The attached Minutes of the PCSP &amp; Policing Committee Meeting listed in 3.1 below are provided to update the Committee on the ongoing work of the PCSP.</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues</b>
2.1	None.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
3.1	<p>That the Committee:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note the report.</li> <li>Note the following PCSP &amp; Policing Committee Minutes as attached: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Minutes of the PCSP &amp; Policing Committee Meeting held on Thursday 26 November 2020, approved at the PCSP &amp; Policing Committee Meeting on Tuesday 19 January 2021.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	All actions are budgeted for in the PCSP Action Plan.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b>



5.1	<p><b>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</b></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><b>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</b></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><b>Proposal initiating consultation</b></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><b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b></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	<b>Appendices</b>
	Appendix I: Minutes of PCSP & Policing Committee Meeting held on Thursday 26 November 2020
8.0	<b>Background Documents</b>
	None

## **POLICING COMMITTEE AND POLICING & COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP**

### **Minutes of the Newry, Mourne & Down Policing Committee and Policing & Community Safety Partnership Meeting held at 2.00pm on Thursday 26 November 2020 via Microsoft Teams**

#### **Present:**

Councillor J Trainor **(Chair)**  
 Councillor W Clarke, NMDDC  
 Councillor D Murphy, NMDDC  
 Councillor S Doran, NMDDC  
 Councillor M Ruane, NMDDC  
 Councillor O Hanlon, NMDDC  
 Councillor A Lewis, NMDDC  
 Councillor M Savage, NMDDC  
 Councillor W Walker, NMDDC  
 Audrey Byrne, PCSP Independent Member  
 Briege Jennings, PCSP Independent Member  
 Dan McEvoy, PCSP Independent Member  
 Sarah Murphy, PCSP Independent Member  
 Pat McGreevy, PCSP Independent Member  
 Richard Orme, PCSP Independent Member  
 Michelle Osborne, PCSP Independent Member  
 Superintendent Norman Haslett, PSNI  
 Chief Inspector Joe McMinn, PSNI  
 Chief Inspector Nigel Henry, PSNI  
 Inspector Darren Hardy, PSNI  
 Inspector Amanda Ford, PSNI  
 Inspector Kelly Gibson, PSNI  
 Sergeant Ryan Duffy, PSNI  
 Donna Weir, EANI  
 Roisin Leckey, PBNI  
 Annie Clarke, SHSCT  
 Liam Gunn, NIHE

#### **In attendance:**

Damien Brannigan, Head of Engagement  
 Martina Flynn, Safer Communities & Good Relations Manager  
 Judith Thompson, PCSP Officer  
 Clare Loughran, PCSP Officer  
 Shannon Creaney, PCSP Student  
 Kerri Morrow, Newry DEA Co-Ordinator  
 Fidelma Tweedy, PCSP Admin  
 Linda O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer

## **1 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks**

Apologies were received from Michael Heaney, Tara Campbell and Ruth Allen.

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting including Superintendent Haslett who was attending his first meeting as District Commander and Mr Liam Gunn from NIHE who was attending in place of Loma Wilson who had taken up a new role. The Chairperson also

thanked Mrs Grace McQuiston who recently resigned from the Partnership for the positive contribution she had made over the years.

The Chairperson reminded everyone it was very difficult and challenging times due to the pandemic especially coming up to the Christmas period and with the new strict restrictions coming into place tomorrow, highlighting it was important a message was sent to members of the public to behave in a responsible and appropriate manner to ensure the safety of the public.

## 2 Declarations of Interest

The Chairperson Councillor Trainor declared an interest in Item 6 – Small Grants Scheme as he works for the Patrician Youth Centre and was aware they had received funding from the Scheme and would remove himself from any discussions.

## 3 Draft Minutes of Policing Committee and PCSP Meeting dated 29 September 2020

Read: Minutes of Policing Committee and PCSP Meeting held on 29 September 2020 (copy circulated).

**Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to approve the Minutes of the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting held on 29 September 2020 as a true and accurate record.**

## 4 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

## 5 District Commander's Report – Period 5.

Read: District Commander's Report – Period 5. (copy circulated).

Superintendent Haslett thanked Members for the kind words of welcome saying he looked forward to working with the partnership, he paid thanks to Superintendent Humphries and wished her well in her new role. Superintendent Haslett then presented the Executive Summary of the District Commander's Report to the Committee.

Following the presentation, discussion took place and the following points were raised:

### General

Members thanked Superintendent Haslett for a fully comprehensive and detailed report and looked forward to working with him in the future.

Superintendent Haslett advised that the initial report into the Review of Policing in South Armagh was being discussed at a Senior Executive level within the PSNI and a meeting had been arranged for 27 November to discuss further.

Mr Dan McEvoy asked for an update in relation to sickness levels of Officers and what percentage of these would be Covid related and the impact of this on the new Neighbourhood Policing Teams. He further queried would it be possible to have an indication of absence levels within the command area going forward to have an idea of resource implications?

Superintendent Haslett responded that he did not have exact figures but would revert back in due course with details via email and seek advice if an update can be provided for future meetings in relation to sickness levels. The impact of Covid is affecting the delivery of service right across the board in general with availability of 85% - 90% of Officers available at present. The internal contact tracing system is working very well and protected the workforce from the virus across the District. Mechanisms are in place if there are gaps in service and these can be quickly filled through PSNI operational planning. There has been no real deficit in being able to deliver to the communities in relation the Neighbourhood Policing Teams.

### **Victim Update and Support**

Councillor Lewis said he was pleased to see 93.5% victim update rate, it is important to ensure there is confidence if a crime is reported no matter how small or insignificant it may seem and that it is being followed up.

Superintendent Haslett advised that victim updates were critically important and the first contact people have with the police needs be a good one to make a good first impression and it was vital for people to keep reporting these incidents no matter how small.

### **Anti-Social Behaviour & Drugs**

Members welcomed the recent drugs seizures especially in the Ballynahinch and Kilkeel areas, however drugs continue to be on the increase and remain a serious problem throughout the District.

Concern was again expressed regarding the increase of ASB in the District which may have partly been due to the Covid 19 restrictions and the Halloween period.

Councillor Clarke said there was a real surge in drug dealing in the Newcastle area and noted that social media was being used to encourage young people to buy drugs, there was a real frustration with residents and the community due to drug dealers awaiting trial and still continuing to openly sell drugs. The abuse of fireworks in the lead up to Hallowe'en was also alarming (especially in the Bracken Avenue and Burrendale Estate - highlighting an incident which involved an attack on a wild animal), with these being sold openly through social media.

Councillor Hanlon advised that there had been a lot of reports of ASB in the Downpatrick area in the run up to Hallowe'en and messages on social media encouraging younger members of the community to gather outdoors at specified locations with little intervention taking place, this needs to be managed better with a multi-agency approach. It would appear to have been used as some sort of distraction for wider criminality as it stopped so

suddenly. It was noted that burglaries seem to be on the increase, especially in rural areas and older people.

Superintendent Haslett confirmed this had been one of the most successful Hallowe'en periods to date particularly in the Crossmaglen area and appealed to partner agencies to support the PSNI with other activities for young people. There had been a number of successful stop and searches, seizures of vehicles associated with crime and imitation firearms – further proactive searches are planned right across the District to tackle drugs and anti-social behaviour over the coming months. Superintendent Haslett noted that the support of the PCSP and individual partner agencies would be crucial in supporting this work.

Superintendent Haslett further acknowledged that there is a frustration in the community in relation to seeing things happen openly and gave an assurance that these activities can be disrupted, asking Members to support the PSNI in encouraging people to come forward with information needed to conduct the searches and make the arrests to take these people of the streets.

Inspector Darren Hardy confirmed he will speak to Councillor Hanlon separately regarding concerns raised.

### **Road Safety**

Members welcomed the visible presence of the PSNI over the past week during Road Safety Week all across the District and noted that the recently installed Speed Indicator signs seemed to be working well. Councillor Walker asked how many mobile speed indicators do the PSNI have and how these can be requested for deployment in a particular area where there are speeding issues?

Councillor Lewis said that there seemed to be increased incidents of speeding at night and queried if there was anything more could be done to ensure this was detected particularly in rural areas.

Chief Inspector Joe McMinn confirmed that the PSNI currently have two mobile speed trailers - however they are only indicators and there is no detection facility on them. He advised that Members should liaise with local Inspectors about deployment in local areas and also report areas of community concern directly to DfI.

Superintendent Haslett further confirmed that speed guns did work at night and they are fully aware that speeding happens at all times of the day and night and that Officers are active right across the district so that they are in a position to respond at all times.

Inspector Darren Hardy confirmed he would get the Neighbourhood Team to take a look at the concerns raised by Councillor Savage in relation to the Ballymaglave Road, Spa.

### **Covid**

Councillor Lewis said some guidelines with regards to enforcement were unclear, and queried what level of engagement takes place before penalties are issued especially if someone is unclear if regulations have been breached.



Councillor Savage advised that he had received reports of overcrowding in households on the Armagh Road in Newry and felt that the PSNI did not act on this.

Superintendent Haslett confirmed that sometimes the changes in the Health Protection Regulations can become confusing, the Criminal Justice Department are constantly updating Officers in relation to those changes. Reports in relation to Covid are received centrally which is staffed 24/7. Each situation is judged on its own merits - it is not an automatic fine, people will be encouraged to adhere to relevant Health Protection Regulations and all avenues exhausted before the final step of enforcement.

### **Domestic Abuse**

Councillor Murphy highlighted incidents are on the increase. Concern is that despite people being on bail they are still able to get access to former partners, referring to a recent incident in Newry.

Superintendent Haslett welcomed the recent news that the Justice Minister is considering bringing in legislation which would help in relation to issues raised by Members, stating the police would oppose bail in these incidents - however bail is granted by the court, not the police.

### **Hate Crime**

Councillor Trainor noted a rise in homophobic hate crime. Was there any reasoning why this was taking place and where these crimes are being recorded from?

Inspector Hardy confirmed the majority of increases were towards the beginning of reporting period - there was no specific trend noted and appears to be to do with an increase in confidence in reporting these types of crimes.

## **6 PCSP Action Plan 2021/2022**

Read: PCSP Action Plan 2021/22. :(copy circulated).

Mrs Flynn highlighted the following points:

- We are working in extraordinary times and services have had to adapt accordingly.
- The Action Plan is a high level strategic document, agreement to continue with the key thematic areas is required.
- Dedicated planning session event would take place in New Year (likely late February/March) when hopefully we will be in a better place with regards to Covid.
- Budgets are indicative against each thematic area and are based on historical budget values and can be amended subject to approvals of Change Controls by the Joint Committee.
- The content and aims of Strategic Priorities 1 and 3 remain constant.

Councillor Hanlon proposed that the PCSP ASB Sub Groups have their own Action Plan

to give the Sub Groups more of a purpose and focus in terms of delivery and to potentially resource those Sub Groups from the allocation within the action plan. This was seconded by Councillor Walker.

On completion of the presentation, the following issues were raised:

- Agreement that all current thematic areas within Strategic Priority 2 of the Action Plan should be carried forward to the 2021/22 Action Plan.
- ASB remains an important area and must remain a key thematic area. Need to look at how PCSP can work closer with communities to achieve results.
- The provision of the Community Safety Warden Scheme is an area of high expenditure for PCSP. It was agreed that the Partnership would benefit from more information provided in the form of a bi-monthly report to see areas covered by the Wardens, level of patrol hours and how effective they have been.
- It was also noted that the presence of the Wardens has had a positive significant impact across the District. Some concerns were noted about service visibility in the Downpatrick area.
- Youth Service could offer additional training with Community Wardens in relation to 'Circle of Courage' scheme.
- Small grants are an essential part of the PCSP and allows small community groups to access funds.
- The Speed Indicator Signs have been particularly effective and the installation of further Signs was welcomed.
- Home Secure Scheme – the Partnership would benefit from further information on the Scheme, including the number of referrals and beneficiaries. It was noted that Members are encouraged to promote the Scheme and encourage referrals. Positive feedback was noted.
- Social Alarm Scheme – any feedback on what this scheme is?
- Has the Safer Communities & Good Relations Officer post been considered appropriately within Council?

Mrs Flynn took on board issues raised and responded as follows:

- PCSP is a statutory function of Council, Council is responsible for elements of financial management including procurement.
- The Partnership agreed the Terms of Reference for the ASB Sub Groups and these no longer include any elements of having reports for Community Safety Wardens.
- The service provider provides weekly reports on Community Safety Warden activity to Council's Safer Communities & Good Relations Manager (Mrs Flynn) – these are considered within the context of the service contract. However, the content had been summarised for Members and included in Officer Reports for PCSP meetings. This reporting can be enhanced further if useful for Members - additional information can be provided regarding how Wardens operate and details of deployment.
- The contract is managed in line with the specification and Mrs Flynn as contract manager has no concerns with how the contract is being delivered. A similar level of information had previously been provided for Partnership meetings with no concerns raised.

- There is funding for a further 7 Speed Indicator Signs which have already been allocated to specific areas, there may be further underspend in budget and intention is to advise Members in January in relation to the position on this.
- Home Secure Scheme remains fully operational throughout Covid 19, appropriate risk assessments are carried out prior to any visit. Additional information in relation to the uptake of the scheme within permitted guidelines can be provided; ongoing promotion of the Scheme is very important.
- Social Alarm Scheme – Independent Members were briefed on the Scheme during their induction training. A provider has not been identified but it is hoped that one can be appointed in the coming weeks; the intention is to provide specialist support to those who may need it in their home via a PSNI referral as the demand is likely to be high. The Scheme typically involves the wearing of a pendant around the neck where by people can seek immediate assistance if needed.
- There is a responsibility for Members to encourage referrals for both the Social Alarm Scheme and Home Secure Scheme, the majority of referrals to Home Secure to date have come from Elected Members. Independent Members have a strong role to play in the promotion of the scheme in their own areas.
- The recruitment of the Safer Communities & Good Relations Officer post has been progressed in line with Council protocol and all necessary approvals obtained.

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon seconded by Councillor Walker, it was agreed that the PCSP ASB Sub Groups have their own Action Plan to give the Sub Groups more of a purpose and focus in terms of delivery and to potentially resource those Sub Groups from the allocation within the action plan.

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Doran seconded by Councillor Savage, it was agreed that the Committee:

- Note the report.
- Approve the attached draft Action Plan for the PCSP for 2021/22.
- Approve up to 50% salary costs for the Safer Communities & Good Relations Officer post to be included in the Action Plan for 2021/22.
- Approve procurement for the following services for 2021/22 as below (and as per Action Plan values): -
  - Community Safety Wardens
  - Home Secure Scheme
  - Social Alarm Scheme (or similar)

## **7 PCSP Officer Report – November 2020**

Read: PCSP Officer Report - November 2020. (copy circulated).

Mrs Flynn thanked Members who assisted with the distribution of over 2,500 Home Safety packs across the District in recent weeks.

**Noted:** It was agreed to note the PCSP Officer Report – November 2020

**8 ASB Sub Group Report**

Read: ASB Sub Group Report - November 2020. (copy circulated).

**Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon seconded by Mr Dan McEvoy it was agreed that the Committee:-**

- **Note the report.**
- **Agree the attached Draft Action Sheets of ASB Sub Group 2 held on 25 September 2020 and 29 October 2020, and ASB Sub Group 1 held on 12 October 2020.**

**9 PSNI New Uniform Trial**

Superintendent Haslett highlighted the purpose of the consultation was to ascertain if the style, suitability and affordability of the proposed new uniform is sustainable, and emphasised that this is a trial and no final decision has been made. The Chief Constable is keen to hear the views of the PCSP Members.

The following points were made:

- The PSNI should listen to what the Officers want given that they will be wearing the uniform.

**At this point in the meeting the network quality was poor**

- A further workshop to discuss is not required.
- It is important that the user finds the uniform fit for purpose, recognisable, comfortable and practical.
- More informal might be more approachable in the community especially with engaging younger people.
- PCSP would engage and consult with the community and voluntary sector through the usual appropriate channels.

The Chairperson advised Members could forward any further comments on the uniform trial by e-mail to Superintendent Haslett.

**Noted: It was agreed to note the PSNI New Uniform Trial Report**

**10 Statutory Partner Update**

Donna Weir (EA) provided a brief update stating they have been able to step up their work engaging with young people in the voluntary sector and control sector in a safe and controlled way. EA are also hoping to step up a number of detached outreach programmes in the coming weeks.

**11 Update from PSNI on implications of, and preparations for Brexit in relation to Policing in Newry, Mourne and Down (Standing item)**

Superintendent Haslett highlighted the main issues which could impact Newry, Mourne and Down over the EU exit including the Port of Warrenpoint and the road structure running from NI to Republic of Ireland. Local Operational Plans in respect of contingencies which may or may not occur have been recently updated and refreshed. There will likely be an increase in the police footprint towards end of year.

Councillor Savage said he had received concerns from people involved in installation of work at Narrow Water in relation to security at the site.

Superintendent Haslett confirmed he would consider this further.

## **12 Date of Next Meeting**

The next Policing Committee and PCSP Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 19 January 2021. (Venue TBC).

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 16.52pm.



<b>Report to:</b>	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	15 February 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership (NRP) Report
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Janine Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Damien Brannigan, Head of Engagement

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>
1.1	<p><b>Purpose</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To note the report.</li> <li>To note the attached Minutes of the Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership (NRP) Meeting listed in 3.1 below.</li> </ul> <p><b>Background</b></p> <p>The attached Minutes of the Newry NRP Meeting held on Wednesday 25 November 2020 are provided to update the Committee on the on-going work of Newry NRP.</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues</b>
2.1	None.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
3.1	<p>That the Committee:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note the report.</li> <li>Note the following Newry NRP Minutes as attached: &gt; Minutes of Newry NRP Meeting held on Wednesday 25 November 2020, approved at Newry NRP Meeting held on Wednesday 20 January 2021.</li> </ul>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	None.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b>
5.1	<p><b><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></b></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><b><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></b></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><b><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></b></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><b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b></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><b>Appendices</b></p>
	<p>Appendix I: Minutes of Newry NRP Meeting held on Wednesday 25 November 2020.</p>
8.0	<p><b>Background Documents</b></p>
	<p>None.</p>



# **Minutes of the NR Partnership held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 7.00pm via Zoom and WIN**

## **In Attendance:**

<b>Geraldine Merendino,</b>	<b>Chairperson</b>
<b>Sinead Jennings,</b>	<b>Ballybot CA</b>
<b>Noreen Rice,</b>	<b>Meadow Armagh Road CA</b>
<b>Madaleine Mc Crink,</b>	<b>Southern Health and Social Care Trust</b>
<b>Karen Gracey</b>	<b>Department for Communities</b>
<b>Ruth Allen,</b>	<b>SHSCT</b>
<b>Sean Mc Kevitt,</b>	<b>NMDDC</b>
<b>Patricia O’Gorman,</b>	<b>Threeways CA</b>
<b>Joanne Mc Ateer</b>	<b>Threeways CA</b>
<b>Maureen Ruddy,</b>	<b>Martins lane CA</b>
<b>Kathleen Lowry</b>	<b>Greater Linenhall Area CA</b>
<b>Dr Conor Patterson,</b>	<b>Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency</b>
<b>Maeve Mc Parland,</b>	<b>NMEA</b>
<b>Collie Hanna,</b>	<b>Barcroft CA</b>
<b>Raymond Jackson,</b>	<b>Confederation of Community Groups</b>
<b>Aisling Rennick,</b>	<b>NMDDC</b>
<b>Gerry Coyle,</b>	<b>Drumalane Quayside Close CA</b>
<b>Catriona Regan,</b>	<b>Southern Regional College</b>
<b>Bernie Mooney,</b>	<b>Education Authority NI</b>

## **Others attending**

<b>Marian Cully</b>	<b>Daisly Hill Pathfinders Project</b>
---------------------	--

**Apologies:**

**No apologies received**

**Agenda**

1. Welcome/apologies
2. Pathfinders project
3. Minutes/matters arising
4. Conflict of interest
5. Programme updates
6. Community updates
7. DfC update
7. A.O.B.
8. Date of next meeting and format

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR ACTION – to include progress/date for completion/by whom
1.	Welcome /apologies	Apologies noted	
2.	Pathfinders project (Marian Cully NRP rep)	<p>Update: ED in Daisy Hill had been closed during pandemic. The Pathfinder group met weekly with the Trust to emphasise the real need to get ED back operating 24/7.</p> <p>Daisy Hill ED was now back up and running and staff transferred back to Daisy Hill.</p> <p>New way of working was being developed with 5 Urgent Care centres in N.I to ease the pressure on Emergency Departments. The centre in Craigavon covers this area A New Regional "Call First" had been developed. Before presenting at ED</p>	



		<p>patients should call this number, they would then be triaged to the appropriate service.</p> <p>In life threatening situations, 999 should always be called.</p> <p>An issue was raised regarding gaps in ambulance cover – due to staff self-isolating.</p> <p>Some issues raised over GP practices – GP's involved with Pathfinder.</p> <p>Marian thanked for her attendance and input.</p>	<p>Marian to feed responses back to Parthfinders group.</p> <p>Marian will forward any information to the members.</p>
3.	Minutes/matters arising	<p>Sean raised the item relating to the plaque with NR members names.</p> <p>Information requested on Makoton training.</p> <p>Minutes proposed by Patricia O'Gorman, seconded by Kathleen Lowry.</p>	<p>Conor to collate names of LSP members.</p> <p>Ruth to circulate.</p>
4.	Conflict of interest	None declared.	

5.	Programme updates	<p><b>E2E</b> – “Chill skills” to primary schools - delivering to 100 children. Working on virtual event for Champions. Working with primary schools on “Codor Dojo”. Ready steady programme – 60 x yr12 students.</p> <p><b>SHSCT</b> –Action Cancer- 15<sup>th</sup> October – 22 appointments. Outdoor mindfulness postponed until January. Chest heart and Stroke postponed, rescheduled for 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> December at Ballybot House – 9.30am – 2.30pm. Healthy eating programme in the schools progressing. Small number of physical activity programmes were held outdoors.</p> <p><b>SRC</b> – Actively recruiting for” TOPS” programme - numbers quite good. Information on SRC facebook etc.</p>	
----	-------------------	--	--

		<p>OCEANS programme– postponed until February – 2 from Newry.</p> <p>Funding from Department of Education– work with NMDDC and Co Down Rural Community Network- “ what works for men”- free courses – seeking unemployed men.</p> <p><b>EANI –</b></p> <p>Working with schools and youth services –to find what is possible.</p> <p>All calls to youth engagement – 9 approved. Letters have been sent out.</p> <p><b>Social Renewal</b> – Out of hours learning/homework clubs.</p> <p>Discussions had been held with 2 communities.</p> <p>Recent death of Gemma Brolly, facilitator for Greater Linenhall had been huge shock for everyone and this had delayed programmes.</p> <p>Family learning – 15 parents involved.</p> <p>“Count read succeed” – 7 schools- action plans submitted.</p>	
--	--	---	--

		<p>Some online support- working with children in bubbles at very difficult time. Schools require more support.</p> <p><b>NMDDC Community Renewal CCG –</b></p> <p>Supporting the CA’s- with advice/information/governance/charity commission.</p> <p>Exploring new training eg Holding AGM in pandemic, Reopening of centres.</p> <p>Issues over risk assessments.</p> <p>Some pots of funding for Covid response available.</p> <p><b>Community updates</b></p> <p>The NR Community groups are continuing to deliver some programmes to include:</p> <p>Centres all closed – Play groups still active.</p> <p>Barcroft – In lockdown – issuing vouchers to local community – plans for Christmas to distribute packs –</p>	
--	--	---	--

		<p>walk around the community – all activity outside.</p> <p>Ballybot -distributing vouchers – all other programmes postponed until at least January – subject to restrictions.</p> <p>Drumalane Quayside – distributed 60 Halloween activity packs.</p> <p>Distributed face masks through our sewing club members.</p> <p>Plans for Santa walk around at Christmas – circulate packs to children and older people. Thank DfC/NR, Council and Sean for their help.</p> <p>All other programmes postponed.</p> <p>Greater Linenhall-Distribute vouchers to families in need.</p> <p>Plans for Christmas – Meet Santa – held outside – distribute packs to older people and selection boxes to the children.</p> <p>Martins lane – Successful Halloween – 200 packs distributed</p> <p>300 packs for Christmas and 50 vouchers to be distributed to families</p> <p>MARCA- Christmas activity planned – Meet Santa – use Gazebo with one way system – distribute packs to the</p>	
--	--	--	--



		<p>community. Centre closed to all. Play group still operating</p> <p>Thanks to Raymond and CCG for support.</p> <p>Threeways- Successful Halloween drive in cinema. Plan to host similar activity at Christmas – 100 cars allowed- Santa will be there. Strict guidelines in place.</p> <p>All vouchers distributed.</p> <p>CA's attending meetings with external agencies via online platforms. Some face to face meetings but restricted numbers attending.</p> <p>All the Communities thank the DfC for their continued support.</p> <p><b>NMDDC -Outdoor activity –</b></p> <p>A number of activities delivered – programme reduced due to all current restrictions –</p> <p>All 9 groups have engaged in the programme to date.</p> <p>All planned residentials currently on hold.</p>	
--	--	--	--

6.	DfC update	<p>On behalf of the department, Karen offered sincere thanks to all the community and voluntary groups and statutory agencies delivering programmes in such difficult circumstances.</p> <p>New funding stream for I.T and PPE. Run by RCN.</p> <p>New applications for 2021/22 NRP programmes to be sent out soon – simplified process.</p>	
7.	A.O.B	<p>Geraldine wished everyone a happy and safe Christmas.</p> <p>No other business.</p> <p>All members thanked for attending and thank NMEA for the hospitality.</p>	
8.	Date and time of next meeting	<p>Wed 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021</p> <p>At 7.00pm</p> <p>Format to be confirmed</p>	Sean to circulate details

<b>Report to:</b>	AHC
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	15 February 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Social Investment Fund – Capital
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Janine Hillen - Assistant Director: Community Engagement
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Sonya Burns – Head of Programmes Unit Sarah McClory – Programmes Coordinator

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>
1.1	<p>The Council is covered by two Social Investment Zones – Southern (legacy Newry and Mourne) and South Eastern (legacy Down). The Council has completed the 'Work It' programme in the Southern Zone. The South Eastern Zone includes two programmes: Castlewellan Community Centre and Community Operated Sports Facilities (Ballyhornan and Kilkooley).</p> <p>The Ballyhornan site has been handed over to the group on 9 October 2020 with a provisional launch date yet to be agreed.</p> <p>Castlewellan Community Centre's final claim is in the process of being completed.</p> <p>Project Board meetings continue and attached are the minutes of the November meeting.</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues</b>
2.1	<p><b>Castlewellan Community Centre</b> The project is fully completed with the group undertaking the OBA data collection and reporting. The centre was launched on Friday 24 January 2020.</p> <p><b>Ballyhornan</b> The site was handed over however an official launch date has not yet been agreed due to ongoing restrictions.</p> <p><b>Kilkooley</b> Planning permission was not granted so project cannot proceed.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
3.1	That the Committee note the report and minutes.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	Council contribution: Ballyhornan £125K

<b>5.0</b>	<b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b>
5.1	<p><b><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></b></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><b><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></b></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><b><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></b></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>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b>
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	
	Minutes of SIF Board Meeting in November	
8.0	Background Documents	



## NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF SIF CAPITAL PROJECT BOARD MEETING Monday 16th November 2020 @ 10 am, via Zoom

**CHAIRPERSON:** Colin Quinn - Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

**Others Present:**

Kenny Knox – Strategic Investment Board Limited  
 Stephen Courtney – The Executive Office  
 Francesca Dowler – Ards and North Down Borough Council  
 Raphael Crummy – Department for Communities  
 Paul Brannigan – Newry, Mourne and Down District Council  
 Sarah McClory – Newry, Mourne and Down District Council  
 Janine Hillen - Newry, Mourne and Down District Council  
 Sonya Burns - Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

**Apologies:**

Anita Waite – Department for Communities  
 Colin Bell - Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council  
 Kirk Marshall - Ards and North Down Borough Council  
 Ciara Burns - Newry, Mourne and Down District Council  
 Michael Lipsett - Newry, Mourne and Down District Council  
 Fearghal O'Connor – Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

**1. INTRODUCTIONS:**

Colin Quinn welcomed all the members of the Project Board and thanked all those in attendance.

**2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST:**

No conflicts of interest were raised.

**3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (12th October 2020)**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

**4. ACTION SHEETS (12th October 2020)**

**Thomas Davis** - Stephen Courtney to attend meeting with ABC Council and consultant to find resolution to issues. Ongoing.

**Castlewellan** - Sarah McClory to submit final claim to TEO once the two final certificates have been paid to HBK Architects. Completed

**Kilcooley** - Francesca Dowler to contact DfI Rivers to ascertain if they are aware of the reason for the reservoir being drained. Ongoing.

**Kilcooley** - Paul Brannigan to ensure the Design Team submit their final invoice for payment omitting the remainder of this project. Completed.

**Ballyhornan** - Paul Brannigan to ensure Council receives copy of insurance for the new facility. Ongoing.

**Ballyhornan** – NMDDC to complete legal charge (Fearghal O'Connor). Ongoing.

**Ballyhornan** - Sarah McClory to liaise with Lorraine Braniff re official opening of the pitch. Ongoing - delayed due to Covid.

**Ballyhornan** - Sarah McClory to issue Project Agreement outlining OBA requirements to Community Association. Ongoing - draft with Fearghal O'Connor.

**Ballyhornan** - Sarah McClory to ensure final construction OBA report card is completed. Ongoing.

## **5. PROJECT UPDATES**

### **5.1 THOMAS DAVIS:**

- Colin Bell (not present) provided an update on this project.
- The contractor has revised their programme of works, the estimated completion date is now 18 June 2021. However, this programme has not been agreed and is currently being discussed.
- Design Team (DT) Issues:  
The Council/TEO have grave concerns relating to the following:
  - General Administration/Management of the NEC 3 Contract.
  - Compensation events not being dealt with and assessed in a timely manner due to inadequate paperwork and lack of information.
  - Request for Information (RfI's) schedule/timeframes is inadequate.
  - Quality and costs concerns.
  - Design changes leading to delays on site.
  - Revised drawings not being issued in a timely manner.
- Colin Bell added - as you are aware from previous correspondence ABC issued the DT with a termination notification letter to the DT basically stating they had four weeks to sort things out or we may terminate the contract. The four-week notification period ran from 02 -30 October 2020 and within that period the ABC saw little to no improvement.
- On the 12 November 2020 ABC and TEO met with legal advisers and we currently await further clarity around a few points.
- Stephen Courtney noted that the Optimum Bias has spiralled from £47,000 to £164,000. Construction is ongoing but there are cost costing exercises ongoing.
- The contractor is threatening legal action as there are OB's that have been completed however not approved by TEO.
- TEO will be meeting with ABC's legal team on Thursday however it can be a three-month process to change the Design Team.
- TEO will endeavour to complete the project however the costs are prohibitive.

#### **Actions:**

- **Stephen Courtney to continue attending meetings with ABC Council to find resolution to the outstanding issues.**

### **5.2 Castlewellan: Community Centre**

- Sarah McClory noted that final claims have been submitted to TEO.

**Actions: None**

### **5.3 Community Operated Outdoor Facility- Kilcooley:**

- Francesca Dowler noted that Kilcooley Community Forum wrote to the Department for Communities Minister who agreed to write to The Executive Office Minister requesting that budget allocated through SIF be ringfenced for another development.
- Kirk Marshal and Francesca met with Desi Clayton on Thursday. Desi confirmed that he had informed the Minister that the Forum had several options they would propose, such as renovating their offices.
- Stephen Courtney noted that any new project would require a new business case and the TEO had not withdrawn funding but that statutory approvals were not obtained and therefore they could not progress with the project.
- Francesca has been unable to obtain information from the Rivers Agency re Clandeboye lake drainage.

**Actions:**

- **Colin Quinn to pass contact details for the Rivers Agency to Francesca Dowler.**
- **Francesca to continue to pursue Rivers Agency ref: the draining of Clandeboye lake**

### **5.4 Community Operated Outdoor Facility - Ballyhornan:**

- Paul Brannigan noted that the facility handover and demonstration with Ballyhornan Community Association took place on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> Oct 2020.
- Paul Brannigan confirmed that Ballyhornan Community Association has insurance in place for the new facility. Council to receive a copy.
- Final invoices to be submitted by contractor this week.
- Sarah McClory is liaising with The Executive Office to agree a date for the official opening of the centre.

**Actions:**

- **Paul Brannigan to ensure Council receives copy of insurance for the new facility.**
- **Council to complete legal charge (Fearghal O'Connor).**
- **Sarah McClory to liaise with Lorraine Braniff re official opening of the pitch.**
- **Sarah McClory to issue Project Agreement outlining OBA requirements to Community Association.**
- **Sarah McClory to ensure final construction OBA report card is completed.**

## **6 UPDATE FROM DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES (DfC)**

- DfC confirmed that they have transferred their funds to The Executive Office for the Thomas Davis project.

## 7 **FINANCE**

- Kenny Knox noted that there were no issues that have not already been discussed.

## 8 **OBA NISRA REPORT CARDS**

- Final construction OBA report card to be returned.

## 9 **AOB**

- Next meeting to take place on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021, via the Zoom virtual platform. Invitations to be issued by Sarah McClory.

Signed:        Colin Quinn  
                    Chairperson

Date:            8<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

<b>Report to:</b>	Active and Healthy Communities Committee (AHC)
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> February 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Newry Leisure Centre (NLC) – Disabled Car Parking Upgrade
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Paul Tamati, Assistant Director: Leisure and Sport
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Conor Haughey, Head of Outdoor Leisure.

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

For decision	For noting only	x
1.0	Purpose and Background	
1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is to note the upgrade works planned for Newry Leisure Centre (NLC) Disabled Car Parking as per appendix 1.</p> <p>NLC has had numerous complaints in relation to non-disabled users parking in disabled car parking bays.</p> <p>Continued efforts by centre management to address the issue and confront those that abuse the use of disabled park bays have been unsuccessful and often resulted in reoffending.</p> <p>Enforcement powers such as parking tickets for those that abuse the use of disabled car parking spaces do not extend to Council owned car parks.</p>	
2.0	Key issues	
2.1	<p>Management recently applied and have secured £29,925 of funding form the Department for Communities Access and Inclusion Fund to implement a new access-controlled system and redesigned disabled car parking plan at Newry Leisure Centre.</p> <p>The upgrade works as illustrated in appendix 1, will ensure an access-controlled system is in place for designated disabled car parking bays. Those that park in the area will be required to present their blue badge at reception in order to receive a passcode that will allow users to exit the car park.</p>	
3.0	Recommendations	
3.1	That AHC Committee note the planned upgrades works for NLC Disable Car Parking as per appendix 1 and the securing of £29,925 of funding form the DFC Access and Inclusion Fund.	
4.0	Resource implications	
4.1	<p><b>Revenue:</b> There are no anticipated revenue budget implications associated with this report.</p> <p><b>Capital:</b> It is anticipated the DFC funding of £29,925 will accommodate all of the planned works for this project and there will be no costs to Councils budget.</p>	



<b>5.0</b>	<b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b>
5.1	<p><b><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></b></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><b><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></b></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><b><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></b></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>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b>
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>

	The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>	
	None	
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Background Documents</b>	
	None	



Comhairle Ceantair  
an Iúir, Mhúrn  
agus an Dúin  
Newry, Mourne  
and Down  
District Council

Building:

\*\*\*\*\*

Council reference no.:

\*\*\*\*\*

Drawing Title:

\*\*\*\*\*

Drawing no.:

\*\*\*\*\*

Scale:

\*\*\*\*\*

Drawn by:

\*\*\*\*\*

Date:

\*\*\*\*\*

