

November 16th, 2021

**Notice Of Meeting**

You are invited to attend the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting to be held on **Tuesday, 16th November 2021 at 6:00 pm** in **Mourne Room Downshire and Microsoft Teams.**

**Committee Membership for 2021-2022**

- Cllr. K Owen (Chair)
- Cllr. A Finnegan (Deputy Chair)
- Cllr. T Andrews
- Cllr. P Brown
- Cllr. C Casey
- Cllr. W Clarke
- Cllr. D Curran
- Cllr. O Magennis
- Cllr. G Malone
- Cllr. H McKee
- Cllr. K McKevitt
- Cllr. D Murphy
- Cllr. M Ruane
- Cllr. G Stokes
- Cllr. D Taylor

# Agenda

## 1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks.

## 2.0 Declarations of "Conflict of Interest".

## 3.0 Action Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 19 October 2021. (Attached).

 *NS Action Sheet - 19 Oct 2021.pdf*

*Page 1*

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### *For Consideration and/or Decision*

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## 4.0 Neighbourhood Services Directorate – Six monthly review of the Directorate Business Plan (April 2021 – September 2021). (Attached).

 *NS Directorate Six Month Review Business Plan - Cover Report 16 11 21 (002).pdf*

*Page 10*

 *NS - Six Month Review of Business Plan 2021-22 - Appendix I.pdf*

*Page 12*

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### *Facilities Management and Maintenance*

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## 5.0 Report into the removal of bamboo at Kilbroney Forest. (Attached)

 *NS Committee - Removal of Bamboo Planting in Kilbroney Park - 16 11 21 (5).pdf*

*Page 20*

 *Appendix I - Biodiversity Action Plan.pdf*

*Page 25*

 *Appendix II - Ecology Report Redacted.pdf*

*Page 69*

## 6.0 Public Convenience Strategy – Governance Arrangements. (Attached).

 *Report Public Toilet Strategy Governance Arrangements (002).pdf*

*Page 78*

 *Appendix 1 NS Working Group TOR.pdf*

*Page 82*

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### *Waste Management*

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## 7.0 Household Recycling Review. (Attached)

 *NS Committee - HRC Review Update 16.11.21.pdf*

*Page 85*

## 8.0 Enforcement Improvement Plan Update. (Attached)

 *NS Committee - Enforcement Improvement Plan Update 16.11.21.pdf*

*Page 88*

 *Appendix 1 - Enforcement Improvement Plan Nov 2021 Update.pdf*

*Page 92*

## 9.0 Schedule for Power Washing. (Attached)

 *NS Committee - Extension of deep cleansing schedule 16-11-21.pdf*

*Page 105*

## 10.0 Christmas and New Year Arrangements. (Attached).

 *Report - Christmas New Yr Arrangements 2021 - 16-11-21.pdf*

*Page 108*

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### *Exempt Information Items*

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## 11.0 Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting In Committee Minutes Thursday 30 September 2021. (Attached).

 *ARC21 - JC061-28Oct21-Item6-JCInCommMins30Sept21.F.pdf*

*Not included*

## 12.0 Business Case for Maintenance of Town Clocks. (Attached)

 *Report and Business Case for maintenance of Town Clocks.pdf*

*Not included*

 *Appenndix 1 Report Maintenance of Town Clocks August 2019.pdf*

*Not included*

 *Appendix 2 Summary of Town Clock Condition Surveys 2019.pdf*

*Not included*

 *Appendix 3 Business Case for maintenance of Town Clocks.pdf*

*Not included*

 *Appendix 4 Photographs of four sides of Dan Rice Hall Tower Drumaness.pdf*

*Not included*

## 13.0 Mixed Dry Recyclables Contract. (Attached).

 *NS Committee - Mixed Dry Recyclables Contract - 16 11 21.pdf*

*Not included*

## 14.0 Neighbourhood Services Procurement Action Plan Update (Attached)

 *NS Committee - NS Procurement Action Plan - 16 11 21.pdf*

*Not included*

 *NS Committee - Procurement Action Plan - Appendix I.pdf*

*Not included*

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*For Noting*


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**15.0 Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting Minutes Thursday 30 September 2021. (Attached).**

 *ARC21 - C061-28Oct21-Item3-JCMins30Sept21.F.pdf*

*Page 112*

**16.0 Arc21 Joint Committee Members' Monthly Bulletin held on 28 October 2021. (Attached).**

 *ARC21 - JC061-28Oct21-JC MembersBulletin.F.pdf*

*Page 118*

**17.0 Quarterly DAERA recycling Statistics. (Attached).**

 *NI Local Authority Collected Municipal WM Statistics.pdf*

*Page 123*

**18.0 Issue of Fixed Penalty Notices. (Attached).**

 *Report - Update on FPN issued - 16-11-21.pdf*

*Page 139*

**19.0 Historical Action Sheet (Attached)**

 *NS Historic Actions Tracker Sheet (updated Nov 2021).pdf*

*Page 142*



**ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM NS MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 19 OCTOBER 2021**

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
NS/147/2021	Monthly Action Sheet  Overgrown Section of Newry Canal – O Reillys Lock to Fearons Lock	<b>Action Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 21 September 2021 be noted and actions removed as marked.</b>  <b>Council Officials to contact Rivers Agency and report back re overgrown section of Newry Canal – O Reilly's Lock – Fearon's Lock.</b>	K Scullion	Report to be provided at December NS Committee Meeting.	Y
<b>FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE</b>					
NS/148/2021	Christmas Illuminations & Celebrations Group Meeting – Monday 11 October 2021	<b>To note the contents of Report dated 19 October 2021 from Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director Facilities Management and Maintenance and the Action Sheet arising from the Christmas Illuminations and Celebrations Group Meeting held on Monday 11 October 2021, and</b>	K Scullion	In Progress	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<p><b>approve the recommendations contained therein as per Section 2.2 – 2.6.</b></p> <p><b>It was also agreed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Council contact Newry Cathedral administrators requesting they consider allowing public access to view the Crib this coming Christmas</b></li> </ul>	K Scullion	<p>Contact has been made seeking their consideration to allow access to the garden. Advised that arrangement would be as in previous years without public access to gardens. Concerns around potential ASB and liability issues.</p>	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Council Officials to examine the sustainable Christmas trees in Culloville and Crossmaglen, and if necessary, add these two locations to the list for replacement sustainable trees.</b></li> </ul>	K Scullion	Both trees inspected and deemed not requiring replacement at this time.	Y
NS/149/2021	Report re Council Sites receiving Green Flag Awards	<p><b>To note the contents of Report dated 19 October 2021 from Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director Facilities Management and Maintenance regarding 5 No. Council sites which have received the Green Flag Award 2021-2022, and the Special Green Flag Heritage Award, following inspections by Tidy NI in August/September 2021, as follows:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Kilbroney Park Rostrevor</b></li> <li><b>Slieve Gullion Forest Park</b></li> <li><b>Warrenpoint Municipal Park (Heritage)</b></li> <li><b>Delamont Country Park</b></li> <li><b>Newry Canal (Heritage)</b></li> </ul>	K Scullion	See below	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<p><b>It was also agreed Mr Scullion address the following issues:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Report back to the Neighbourhood Services Committee regarding Council invitations to the Green Flag Award presentation ceremony.</b></li> <li><b>2. Investigate Tidy NI criteria for Green Flag awards with the view to possibly having Newcastle Harbour included for future consideration for a Green Flag award.</b></li> <li><b>3. To update Councillor H McKee regarding a clean-up at Kilkeel River.</b></li> </ol>		<p>No local Green Flag Award Ceremony organised by Tidy NI. Councils ERT Directorate led on PR release</p> <p>In Progress</p> <p>Site meeting held on 09.11.21</p>	<p>Y</p> <p>N</p> <p>Y</p>
NS/150/2021	Report re: Social Enterprise Partnership Offer – Planing Trees on Council Land	<b>a) Council seek through an expression of interest exercise, to form a partnership with a not for profit organisation who would link</b>	K Scullion	In Progress	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<p><b>Council with individuals who wish to have a tree or trees, planted on Council designated land. The agreement to be for an initial two year period and may be extended for a further two years subject to Council approval.</b></p> <p><b>b) Officers to determine suitable sites and tree species for the scheme.</b></p> <p><b>c) Any agreement to be formalised through a Licence Agreement drawn up by Council Legal Advisors.</b></p> <p><b>d) It was agreed Mr J McBride Director Neighbourhood Services (Acting) refer a request for Dunleath Park to be included for the tree planting scheme, to the Active &amp; Healthy Communities directorate.</b></p>		Completed	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<b>WASTE MANAGEMENT</b>			
NS/151/2021	Provision of Restricted Access Litter Bins	<p><b>To approve the plan for the location of restricted access litter bins in the District, as outlined in Report dated 19 October 2021 from Ms S Murphy Acting Assistant Director Waste Management.</b></p> <p><b>It was also agreed Ms S Murphy contact Councillor McKee regarding the inclusion of Moor Road Kilkeel for a litter bin.</b></p>	S Murphy		
<b>FOR NOTING</b>					
NS/158/2021	Arc21 JC Minutes – 26 August 2021	<b>It was agreed to mark this correspondence noted.</b>		Noted	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
NS/159/2021	Arc21 Joint Committee Members' Monthly Bulletin – 30 September 2021	<b>It was agreed to mark this correspondence noted.</b>		Noted	Y
NS/160/2021	Climate Change Summit	<b>To note details for a Joint Workshop for Public Representatives and Council Management regarding community based climate action, to be held on Thursday 11 November 2021.</b>		Noted	Y
NS/161/2021	Scheme of Delegation	<b>To note decisions taken by the Director of Neighbourhood Services (Acting) from 01 April 2021 to 30 September 2021.</b>		Noted	Y
NS/162/2021	Historic Actions Tracking Sheet	<b>Agreed the Historic Actions Tracking Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meetings be noted and actions removed as marked.</b>		Noted	Y
<b>IN CLOSED SESSION</b>					
NS/152/2021	Arc21 In Committee	<b>To note the Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting Minutes held on Thursday 26</b>		Noted	Y



Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
	Joint Committee Meeting Minutes – Thursday 26 August 2021	<b>August 2021.</b>  <b>Representatives from both Arc21 and Regen be invited to make presentations to the Neighbourhood Services Committee.</b>		In Progress	N
NS/153/2021	Biodiversity Pedestrian Collection Mower	<b>To approve the recommendations contained in the Business Case for the purchase of a Ride-on Collection Biodiversity Mower, as per option 3, ie, Purchase high powered compact collection mower to enable biodiverse and re wilded grass cutting with aid of DAERA funding.</b>	K Scullion	In Progress	N
NS/154/2021	Fleet Replacements (Capital)	<b>To approve the Business Case and Economic Appraisal as per Appendix 1, contained in Report dated 19 October 2021, from Ms S Murphy Acting Assistant Director Waste Management, for the replacement of Refuse Collection Vehicles that have been identified as requiring priority replacement by 31 March 2023.</b>	S Murphy	In Progress - future Fleet Replacement update to be brought to committee.	Y



Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
NS/155/2021	Fleet Operators Licence – Fleet Management Action Plan	<b>To approve the Fleet Management Action Plan Update dated 14 October 2021.</b>	S Murphy	Ongoing. Further update to be provided in 3 months	Y
NS/156/2021	Report re Residual Waste Price Increase	<b>To note the price increase for the collection, treatment and processing of HRC residual waste, as set out in Section 2.1 of Report dated 19 October 2021 from Ms S Murphy Acting Assistant Director Waste Management.</b>	S Murphy	No further action	Y
NS/157/2021	Safety Training re: Work on Public Highways	<b>To approve the Business Case to procure a contract for delivery of LANTRA Sector Scheme 12D Training.</b>	S Murphy	Training to be procured	Y
<b>END</b>					

<b>Report to:</b>	Neighbourhood Services (NS) Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	16 November 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Neighbourhood Services Directorate – Six Month Review of the Directorate Business Plan (April 2021 – September 2021)
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Johnny McBride, Director: Neighbourhood Services (Acting)
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	Sinead Murphy, Assistant Director: Waste Management (Acting) Kevin Scullion, Assistant Director: Facilities Management & Maintenance

<table border="1"> <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			
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose &amp; Background</b>				
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Committee to the six-month review of the Neighbourhood Services Directorate Business Plan. This review covers the period from April 2021 to September 2021.				
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues</b>				
2.2	A copy of the six-month review of the Neighbourhood Services Directorate Business Plan (2021-2022) is provided at <b>Appendix I</b> .				
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>				
3.1	<b>Members are asked to:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Approve the six-month review of the Neighbourhood Services Directorate Business Plan (April 2021 – September 2021).</b></li> </ul>				
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>				
4.1	There are no additional resources implications for the Committee to consider as the business plan will be funded from the agreed budget for the Directorate for 2021-22.				
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b>				
5.1	<b><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></b>  It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <span style="float: right;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></span>				
5.2	<b><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></b>  Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

	<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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Appendix I</b> – Six-Month Review of the Neighbourhood Services Directorate Business Plan (April 2021 – September 2021).</li> </ul>
8.0	<p><b>Background Documents</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Neighbourhood Services Directorate Business Plan (2021-2022), Neighbourhood Services Committee, 23 June 2021</li> </ul>

# Neighbourhood Services

## Mid-Year Assessment Business Plan 2021-22

Introduction

This report provides an overview of progress in delivering the Neighbourhood Services Business Plan 2021-22, between April-September 2021, across the following service areas:

Waste Management

- Refuse Collection & Disposal
- District Cleansing
- Fleet Management & Maintenance
- Recycling

Facilities Management and Maintenance




- Grounds Maintenance
- Buildings Maintenance
- Cemeteries & Public Conveniences
- Civic Centre Domestic Services (Receptions, Canteens, Caretakers/Security)

The delivery of the Neighbourhood Services Business Plan 2021-22 supports the achievement of the following corporate objectives, and performance has been tracked using the legend below.

Provide accessible, high quality and integrated services through continuous improvement

Enhance, protect and promote our environment



Legend



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






## Directorate objectives, supporting actions and measures of success



Directorate Objectives
<b>Neighbourhood Services Transformation:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and implement transformational change for the Directorate. Through this, successfully drive out the efficiencies and improvements that both Members and the public demand for the delivery of the Directorate key services.</li> </ul>
<b>Facilities Management and Maintenance:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To deliver on grounds and building maintenance reactive and planned maintenance programmes.</li> <li>Provide advice, support and guidance to all departments across the Council in the management of all Council assets.</li> <li>To manage and develop the Council's Public Toilet and Cemeteries Services.</li> </ul>
<b>Waste Management:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To both manage and continuously improve the delivery of key frontline (Refuse Collection, Cleansing, Enforcement and Household Recycling Centres) and support (Business Support, Waste Processing and Fleet) services both within the Directorate and across other Directorates.</li> </ul>





Neighbourhood Services Transformation			
OBJECTIVE	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
<b>Develop and implement a new neighbourhood model of providing cleansing and maintenance services</b>	Provide accessible, high quality and integrated services through continuous improvement		
Action	Timescale	Status	Progress
Finalise a detailed vision for a new Neighbourhood Services model for NMDDC.	Q3		Q3 Directorate targets for the development of new NS model will not be met as management focus is currently on service stabilisation.
Identify Overall Project Timeline and Key Work Packages for Neighbourhood Services Transformation.	Q3		Q3 Directorate targets for the development of new NS model will not be met as management focus is currently on service stabilisation.
OBJECTIVE	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
<b>Implement policies and procedures and monitoring arrangements to ensure corporate legislative compliance in respect of</b>	Provide accessible, high quality and integrated services through continuous improvement		

<b>key statutory obligations, including Equality, Disability, Rural Needs, Health &amp; Safety, Employment and Procurement legislation</b>			
<b>Action</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Complete the implementation of the Directorate Procurement Action Plan.	Q3		Significant progress being made, however specific procurements are subject to delay.
Manage the actions arising from the Directorate Risk Register.	Ongoing		








Facilities Management and Maintenance			
<b>OBJECTIVE</b> <b>Delivery of Facilities Management and Maintenance Services to meet Council needs</b>	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
	Provide accessible, high quality and integrated services through continuous improvement		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Develop and implement a service recovery plan in relation to COVID-19 impacts.	Q1		While service continues to be impacted on because of the COVID-19 the full range of FM&M services are operational.
Finalise a new service model and structures for the Facilities Management & Maintenance Department	Q2		New Service model developed and reviewed by SMT. Agreed that detail to be developed with Payroll & HR prior to further review by SMT.
Progress the Department projects agreed within the Capital Programme.	Ongoing		Extension to Warrenpoint Cemetery complete. Planning application for extension to Monkshill Cemetery submitted. Approval for phase 2 extension to Kilbroney cemetery agreed in outline. Ongoing work to develop and submit planning application for Phase 3 extension to Kilbroney cemetery.









			Limited progress on roll out of agreed Public Toilet Strategy.
<b>OBJECTIVE</b> <b>Manage Council Estate in a way which promotes sustainable development and climate change adaptation</b>	<b>ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN</b>		
	Enhance, protect and promote our environment		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Develop, agree and start implementation of Council Tree Strategy.	Q2		Tree work ongoing with final version of Tree Strategy to be presented to NS Committee for approval in Q3.
Review Maintenance Services to address Climate Adaptation and Carbon Reduction Strategies.	Ongoing		Limited progress.

<b>Waste Management</b>			
<b>OBJECTIVE</b> <b>Deliver a high quality, modern and flexible Refuse Service</b>	<b>ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN</b>		
	Provide accessible, high quality and integrated services through continuous improvement		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Develop and implement a service recovery plan in relation to COVID-19 impacts.	Q1		Recovery plan agreed with Committee in Q1, however the service continues to be impacted by COVID-19. Where this occurs, continuity plan is enacted.
Progress and implement new refuse collection policy and procedures	Q3		Q3 target will not be met as management focus is currently on service stabilisation
Finalise a new refuse collection service model	Q4		Ongoing
Complete a business case and outline specification for the procurement of information technology	Q4		Ongoing
<b>OBJECTIVE</b> <b>Deliver a Cleansing Service that meets the needs of the district</b>	<b>ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN</b>		
	Provide accessible, high quality and integrated services through continuous improvement		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Progress</b>



Develop and implement a service recovery plan in relation to COVID-19 impacts	Q1		Recovery plan agreed with Committee in Q1, however the service continues to be impacted by COVID-19 arising from resources being redeployed to refuse collection.
Finalise a new cleansing service model (clarify links with Street Scene)	Q4		Ongoing
Support community-based cleansing programmes	Ongoing		Ongoing
<b>OBJECTIVE</b> <b>Implement an Interim Green Fleet Transition Strategy</b>	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
	Enhance, protect and promote our environment		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Implement the interim fleet transition plan as agreed with the Council	Ongoing		
<b>OBJECTIVE</b> <b>Review Fleet Services to ensure it meets Customer Demands into the future</b>	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
	Provide accessible, high quality and integrated services through continuous improvement		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Implement the fleet replacement programme in accordance with the schedule (taking cognisance of interim transition plan)	Ongoing		Additional resources have been identified to progress with the Fleet Replacement Programme and procure priority vehicles.
Complete outstanding audit recommendations to ensure on-going compliance with the fleet Operator's Licence	Ongoing		Action plan agreed with NS Committee. Quarterly updates provided to NS Committee.
Complete a review of garage workshop operations	Q2		Q2 Directorate targets for a review of garage workshop operations have not be met due to re-prioritisation exercise within Fleet Management
<b>OBJECTIVE</b> <b>Review of Household Recycling Centre Services to ensure they meet Customer Demands into the future</b>	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
	Provide accessible, high quality and integrated services through continuous improvement		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Progress</b>

Develop and implement a service recovery plan in relation to COVID-19 impacts	Q1		Recovery plan agreed with Committee in Q1, however the service continues to be impacted by COVID-19 arising from the deployment of additional resources in accordance with COVID-19 risk assessment
Implement a permit system for the Household Recycling Centres	Q3		Introduction of a permit system forms part of the conclusion of HRC Review Phase I. Likely to be delayed
Complete Phase II of the review of Household Recycling Centres	Q3		Q3 Directorate targets to complete Phase II of the review of Household Recycling Centres will not be met. Likely to be delayed
<b>OBJECTIVE</b> <b>Work with communities and other statutory and non-statutory agencies to tackle environmental crime</b>	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
	Enhance, protect and promote our environment		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Working with communities and other statutory and non-statutory agencies through a range of statutory and non-statutory mechanisms to tackle environmental crime	Ongoing		Ongoing

Measures of Success				
Measure	Target	YTD Actual	Status	Explanation
Percentage of household waste collected that is sent for recycling	65% by 2030	Q1		Whilst the Council has exceeded the current statutory standard of 50% by 2020, the rate of recycling continues to reduce. The Q1 2021-22 rate of recycling was 50.4% which falls below the regional average of 52.1% and the Council is currently ranked 8/11 across Northern Ireland.
		50.4%		
Amount of biodegradable municipal waste that is landfilled	No target set	658 tonnes		During Q1 2021-22, the Council sent 658 tonnes biodegradable municipal waste to landfill which was the second lowest across the Northern

				Ireland, and has only used 3.1% of the current NILAS allowance of 24,059 tonne (carried over from 2019-20).
Amount of Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste arisings	No target set	24,059 tonnes	-	When compared to Q1 2020-21, the amount of local authority collected municipal waste arisings increased by 19.3%, from 20,174 tonnes to 24,059 tonnes. This increase is similar to the regional trend and may be attributed to less waste being collected at Household Recycling Centres during Q1 2020-21, when many Household Recycling Centres were closed.
Reduction in black bin waste collected	No target set			
Increase in mixed dry recyclables collected	No target set			
Increase in brown bin waste collected	No target set			
Reduction in general waste arisings at civic amenity sites	No target set			
Level of street cleanliness across the district	64	-	-	The annual Cleaner Neighbourhoods Survey results for the 2021-22 financial year will be published by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful in July 2022 and the LEAMS score for Newry, Mourne and Down will be reported through the annual Assessment of Performance 2021-22.



<b>Report to:</b>	Neighbourhood Services (NS) Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	16 November 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Report into works relating to the removal of Bamboo Planting in Kilbroney Park, Rostrevor
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Johnny McBride, Director: Neighbourhood Services (Acting)
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Johnny McBride, Director: Neighbourhood Services (Acting)

<b>For Decision</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>For Noting Only</b>	
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose &amp; Background</b>			
1.1	The purpose of this report is to present the Neighbourhood Service Committee with a timeline of events pre and post the works relating to the removal of bamboo planting in Kilbroney Park, Rostrevor. This was an action arising from the Council Meeting on the 1 November 2021 where it was agreed a report be presented at the next Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting.			
1.2	In presenting this report, Officials recognise both the upset and disappointment created for the local community and local Councillors in relation to the maintenance work recently undertaken in Kilbroney Park, Rostrevor to control the growth of bamboo.			
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>			
	<u>Context</u>			
2.1	Policy context in relation to the works has been identified as the Council's Biodiversity Action Plan (2017-22) which was approved by the Active & Healthy Communities Committee at its Meeting on the 17 October 2017, and subsequently ratified by Full Council at its Meeting on the 6 November 2017. This Plan sets-out the Council's planned response in accordance with its statutory Biodiversity Duty and considers that non-native invasive species are the second biggest threat to biodiversity after habitat loss. A copy of the Biodiversity Action Plan (2017-22) is provided at <b>Appendix I</b> .			
2.2	Furthermore, four invasive plant species have been identified in Kilbroney Park, namely: Laurel, Rhododendron Ponticum, Pheasant Bush and Bamboo. Bamboo at Kilbroney Park has been subject to four separate herbicide treatments in the last 18 months as part its wider control, most recently on the 16 September 2021. The Ground Maintenance Team at the Park operates to a two-week planned schedule, which includes all aspects of grounds maintenance, including the management of non-invasive species which are subject to spraying at peak times and cutting during post-peak times.			
2.3	Additional context has also been identified in a decision arising from an item on the Neighbourhood Services Committee Agenda on the 16 March 2021, where it was agreed Officers (would) collate information regarding proposed felling of trees in Council parks which had reached the end of their life span or had been identified as a health and safety risk, and that this information be circulated to Councillors. This decision was subsequently ratified by Full Council at its Meeting on the 7 April 2021.			

### Timeline of Events

2.4 A review of the period pre and post works has identified the following timeline of events.

1. **June 2021** - A procurement exercise was completed to appoint a contractor to undertake various maintenance works at Hilltown (PRoW) and Kilbroney Park. This included various flail works at the Kilbroney site as the Council does not have the required plant for this type of work.
2. **June 2021 – September 2021** – standard ongoing maintenance at the Park in relation to grass cutting, litter picking and trail maintenance.
3. **16 September 2021** – last episode of spraying of the bamboo at the arboretum. Left for several weeks for the herbicide to take effect.
4. **7 October 2021** - Email correspondence between a Council Officer and a number of local Councillors on the 7 October 2021 advising of tree works commencing the next day in Kilbroney Park
5. **21 October 2021** - Further email correspondence between the same Council Officer and local Councillors on the 21 October 2021 advising of invasive growth and brash clearance in Kilbroney Park around the Narnia Trail and the Arboretum area.
6. **21 October 2021** - Works commenced on the removal of the bamboo (non-native invasive species) from the area around the Canning Arboretum on Thursday, 21 October 2021.
7. **26 October 2021** - Communication between a Council Officer and a local Councillor
8. **27 October 2021** – Works on the removal of bamboo was stopped on Wednesday, 27 October 2021 to allow for a Halloween event.
9. **30 October 2021** - Council was referred to the PSNI by a member of the public on the 30 October 2021 in relation to the alleged disturbance of a badger sett.
10. **1 November 2021** – the Council self-reported itself to the PSNI. The Council also contacted the NIEA with a voicemail message left.
11. **1 November 2021** - PSNI Wildlife Liaison Officer visited the location on Monday, 1 November 2021. Subsequently advised by the PSNI that no enforcement action would be taken as in its view the Council did not breach the relevant statute.
12. **3 November 2021** – Ecologist commissioned by the Council to undertake a badger survey of the Arboretum area in Kilbroney Park.
13. **5 November 2021** – field survey undertaken by Ecologist.
14. **9 November 2021** - Ecologist's report into a badger survey at Kilbroney Park received on Tuesday, 9 November 2021. The ecology report identified that the specific badger sett was dis-used / not currently in use, however the same report also made several recommendations for future action. A redacted copy of the ecology report is provided at **Appendix II**

	<u>Lessons Identified</u>
2.5	<p>The review of the incident has identified several "lessons" which the Committee is asked to consider.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Although a small number local Councillors were advised via email on the 21 October 2021 of invasive growth and brash clearance in Kilbroney Park, there is no evidence to suggest that all Crotlieve Councillors were notified in relation to this matter.</li> <li>2. The previous Neighbourhood Services Committee Minute of the 16 March 2021 refers to "Officers collate information regarding proposed felling of trees in Council parks which had reached the end of their life span or had been identified as a health and safety risk, and that this information be circulated to Councillors". However, bamboo, is classified as a grass and therefore would not fall within the scope of this previous decision<sup>1</sup>.</li> <li>3. Linked to the above, the Council considers new procedural arrangements for the future management of specific grounds maintenance activities. Further information is provided in the next section of the report. This should include best practice on assessment of areas prior to work to ensure no detriment to local ecology, including the engagement of specialist advice such as an Ecologist Clerk of Works (ECoW)</li> </ol>
	<u>Future Procedural Arrangements</u>
2.6	It is recommended that new procedural arrangements be developed where the Neighbourhood Services Committee be notified in advance of any planned works, specifically in relation to the management of non-native invasive species, rewilding and the Council's tree strategy.
2.7	It would be envisaged the Committee would be provided with an annual schedule of planned works in these specific areas and that all DEA Councillors would be informed of planned works to the Council's parks and open spaces which are considered locally important for environmental reasons or otherwise. The only exception would be where this did constitute a risk to public health. The Council's DEA structures are considered the best-placed and most appropriate forum for ensuring this engagement is undertaken in advance of any planned works.
2.8	Although not considered within the scope of this report, Council as a responsible authority continues to adopt best practice when undertaking maintenance and capital works. An example of this would be the recent delivery of the walking trail network by the ERT Directorate and the comprehensive range of specialists engaged by the Council to assist in the delivery of this project, and others, to ensure protection of the habitat and compliance with relevant statute.
	<u>Conclusions</u>
2.9	It is acknowledged the removal of the bamboo at Kilbroney Park has resulted in significant local community and Councillor upset and lessons have been learned to prevent recurrence. In this case there is no evidence to suggest that there has been any negative ecological impact arising from these actions. This is supported by the removal of non-native invasive

<sup>1</sup> Source: Invasive Species Ireland <http://invasivespeciesireland.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/NIEA-ID-Guide-Broad-leaved-and-Arrow-Bamboo-1.pdf>



	species which is consistent with the Council's Biodiversity Action Plan and the ecology report which has assessed the badger sett present was dis-used / not currently in use.	
<b>3.0</b>	<b><u>Recommendations</u></b>	
3.1	<p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Approve the report into works relating to the removal of Bamboo Planting in Kilbroney Park, Rostrevor; and</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Agree to the development and implementation of new procedural arrangements whereby the Neighbourhood Services Committee be notified in advance of any planned works, specifically in relation to the management of non-native invasive species, rewilding and the Council's tree strategy. Local DEAs to be consulted on any specific local issues.</b></li> </ul>	
	<u>Next Steps</u>	
3.2	Member approval of this report will enable a series of key actions to be undertaken, including: the implementation of the recommendations contained within the report; the implementation of actions arising from the Ecology Report, as well as a social media statement from the Council on the report's concluding findings.	
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>	
4.1	There are no resource implications attached to this specific report.	
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b>	
5.1	<b><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></b>	
	It is not anticipated the report 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>	
	The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened	<input type="checkbox"/>
	The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.3	<b><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></b>	
	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"/>

	Consultation period will be 12 weeks	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<i>Rationale:</i>	
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b>	
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service	
	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	If yes, please complete the following:	
	Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Appendix I</b> - Biodiversity Action Plan (2017-22)</li> <li>▪ <b>Appendix II</b> - Ecologist's report into a badger survey at Kilbroney Park</li> </ul>	
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Background Documents</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Biodiversity Action Plan (2017-22), Active &amp; Healthy Communities Committee, 17 October 2017</li> </ul>	





Comhairle Ceantair  
an Iúir, Mhúrn  
agus an Dúin

25

**Newry, Mourne  
and Down**  
District Council

# **Newry, Mourne and Down Local Biodiversity Action Plan**

**2017-2022**

# Contents

Foreword	3
Introduction	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is Biodiversity?</li> <li>• The Importance of Biodiversity</li> <li>• Biodiversity: It's Our Duty</li> </ul>	
Threats to Biodiversity	5
Biodiversity: It's Our Duty	6
Newry, Mourne and Down Council Local Biodiversity Action Plan	7
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area	8
Priority Habitats and Species in Newry, Mourne and Down	10
Habitats across Newry, Mourne and Down	11
Local Action for Species	31
Do your bit for Newry, Mourne and Down's biodiversity!	37
Finding out more about biodiversity	39
Where to report wildlife crime and pollution	40
Appendix 1. Newry, Mourne and Down Local Biodiversity Action Plan	41

## Foreword

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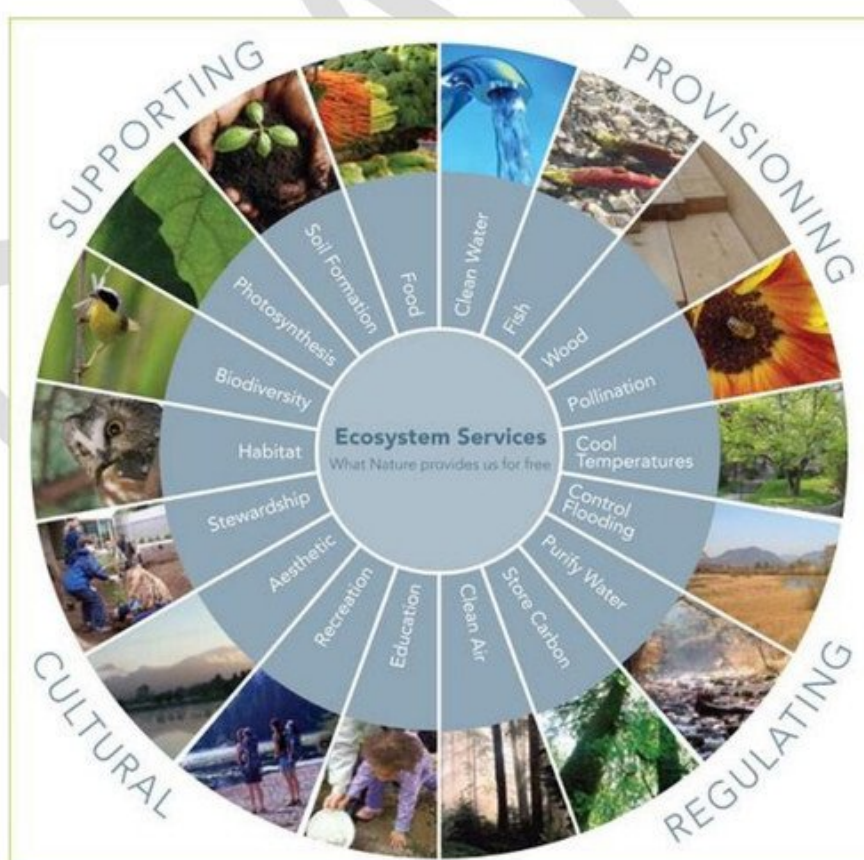
## Introduction

### What is biodiversity?

Biodiversity is the short term used for 'biological diversity', which is 'the total variety of all living plants and animals, and the habitats in which they live'. The biodiversity we see today is the result of millions of years of evolution, shaped by natural processes and, increasingly, by the influence of humans. It is found all around us, in our gardens, parks, woodlands, fields, mountains, lakes and rivers. Biodiversity adds character and distinctiveness to an area. The Newry, Mourne and Down District is truly distinctive and varied from the Mountains of Mourne and Murlough, to the fens of Lecale and the Ring of Gullion. Indeed, this natural beauty has helped to shape our culture and inspire our artists, writers and composers.

### Why is it important?

Biodiversity is a key measure of the health of our planet and therefore vital for our survival. It provides us with essential goods and services (ecosystem services) that we could not live without, such as the oxygen we breathe, water we drink, and food that we eat, as well as adding beauty and variety to our surroundings.



source: [metrovanancouver.org](http://metrovanancouver.org)

## **Threats to Biodiversity**

Many habitats and species across Northern Ireland are in decline. Some of these declines can be attributed to global causes while others have more local origins. Legislation and policy guidance is attempting to close the gap on these but of course, implementation, monitoring and enforcement are key.

### **Habitat loss and fragmentation**

Habitat loss is the greatest threat to biodiversity worldwide either from damage, drainage, development, inappropriate management or fragmentation. For example over 90% of species rich grasslands or meadows were lost over a 50 year period in the UK as farming intensified post war and hay production changed to silage. This has resulted in the decline of many species dependant on meadows such as the Irish hare, specialised butterflies and moths and the complete loss of the corncrake.

### **Non-native invasive species, pests and diseases**

Non-native invasive species are the second biggest threat to biodiversity after habitat loss. Human activities are the main cause of the introduction and spread of invasive species through accidental and deliberate releases, stowaways in imported goods or escapees from gardens and large estates. As invasive species tend to be highly adaptable and strong competitors, they can out-compete native species for food and space. Key invasive species already affecting our area include Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam, giant hogweed and grey squirrel, with potentially many more on the horizon.

### **Pollution**

Pollution is the introduction of contaminants into the natural environment that cause adverse change. It can take the form of chemicals into water, litter, or sewage into our seas. Pollution still remains a serious problem for our environment and directly for biodiversity as it can kill species (fish kills in rivers and lakes, wildflowers and hedges sprayed with weed killer) and destroy habitat over time.

### **Climate change**

Climate change will have significant impacts on both the distribution of species and habitats in our area and their ability to function as ecosystems. For example, species that exist only within certain ranges or temperatures could be pushed northwards and to higher altitudes, restricting their natural range and compromising their future. Healthy ecosystems will become more important to maintain and protect as we rely on efficient water regulating by bog lands and woodlands in our river catchments to reduce flooding.



## **Biodiversity: It's Our Duty**

In 2011, the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern-Ireland) 2011 (WANE)<sup>1</sup> came into force, replacing the Wildlife Order (NI) 1985. This legislation is the primary tool for the conservation and protection of Northern Ireland's threatened or endangered wildlife. Whilst the WANE Act has introduced new species to protected lists, tightened controls on invasive species and increased penalties for wildlife crime, a significant change for Council was the introduction of a new Biodiversity Duty for all public bodies.

*"It is the duty of every public body, in exercising any functions, to further the conservation of biodiversity so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions."* Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern-Ireland) 2011

### **Why is the Duty required?**

To halt the loss of biodiversity European, National and Regional targets have been set. The EU vision is for better protection of biodiversity by 2050. The target set by Northern Ireland, in the NI Biodiversity Strategy, is to significantly reduce overall biodiversity loss. The biodiversity duty is considered a key measure to contribute to these targets and at a Council level, adopting Biodiversity Implementation Plans (BIPs) that focus on internal Council actions and coordinating Local Biodiversity Action Plans, is agreed as an appropriate way to help meet this duty.

### **What's involved?**

In essence, the aim of the duty is to raise the profile and visibility of biodiversity and to make it an integral part of policy and decision making. Public bodies when undertaking their functions, have to take into account the following five areas:

- The protection of biodiversity
- The maintenance of biodiversity
- Enhancing biodiversity
- Restoring biodiversity
- Promoting the understanding of biodiversity both within and outside the organisation

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nia/2011/15/contents>

## **Newry, Mourne and Down Council Local Biodiversity Action Plan**

The publication of a Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) is the result of a number of international, national and local processes. It all began in 1992, which saw the gathering of world leaders from over 150 countries at the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit. This agreement led to the UK committing to produce an Action Plan to sustain and conserve biodiversity. In 1995, the UK Biodiversity Strategy was developed, followed by the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy in 2002. The NI Biodiversity Strategy has since been reviewed in 2015. Valuing Nature - A Biodiversity Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020 sets out how Northern Ireland plans to meet its international obligations and identifies local targets to protect biodiversity, ensuring that the environment can continue to support our people and economy into the future.

To achieve the recommendations of these strategies, local biodiversity action must be taken. Local Biodiversity Action Plans do just that, developing local action for local wildlife. They also link in with and help deliver other plans within an area such as, Council Corporate Plans, Tourism Area Plans and AONB Management and Action Plans. The Local Biodiversity Action Plan, or LBAP process as it has become known, is a fantastic way to promote biodiversity throughout NI.

This new LBAP for Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area has been developed using the legacy Newry and Mourne and Down Council plans. Protecting the environment has remained high on the Council's agenda and this is reflected in our mission in the corporate plan 2015-2019, "Our mission as a council is to lead and serve a district that is prosperous, healthy and sustainable". This will be achieved through the Council's strategic objectives, which include protecting our natural and built environment.

[illegible]

Of the eight Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) designated in Northern Ireland, three of them lie within our District; Mourne AONB, Ring of Gullion AONB and Strangford and Lecale AONB. The districts varied landscape combines to provide an important and unique biodiversity resource. A large number of sites in the district have been designated through legislation to protect key areas or habitats for nature conservation. The area has 62 Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI), 11 Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), 3 Special Protection Areas, (SPA), 4 Ramsar sites, 7 Nature Reserves and 187 Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCI). This reflects the importance of the area for biodiversity. Beyond these protected sites, in the wider countryside, land is managed for agriculture some of which will be



under agri-environment scheme agreements. These are designed to encourage the adoption of environmentally friendly management practices which can have great benefits for our biodiversity

The Newry, Mourne and Down Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) outlines a plan of action to:

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

The project strives to ensure that the biodiversity of Newry, Mourne and Down is maintained and enhanced through the preparation and implementation of individual action plans, covering a range of habitats and species, which reflect European, national and local priorities. It is based largely on the targets set out in the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy, translating regional strategy into local action.

Everyone who lives in the District has an important part to play, and only with your support can we help protect our valuable flora and fauna!

## Priority Habitats and Species in Newry, Mourne and Down

The following habitats and species have been selected for priority action on the merits of national and regional priority, conservation status, extent, rarity and importance to local people. Key species for action also include those that are iconic or will help to inspire people to take action. This list is not exhaustive and will be updated throughout the course of the LBAP.

Broad habitats selected for priority action in Newry, Mourne and Down:

- Coastal and Marine habitats
- Grassland/Arable Field Margins
- Peatlands
- Urban habitats/gardens
- Wetlands
- Woodlands and Hedgerows

Species selected for priority action in Newry, Mourne and Down:

- Bats
- Breeding waders
- Bumblebees
- Fish Species
- House Sparrow
- Juniper
- Marine Mammals
- Marsh Fritillary
- Otter
- Red Kite
- Red Squirrel
- Yellowhammer

The many diverse habitats and species found in Newry, Mourne and Down will now be summarised. Each broad habitat category details the priority habitats in the District, where they occur locally, what key species they support and examples of the objectives and actions required to conserve them.

## Habitats across Newry, Mourne and Down

### Coastal

The coastline is a characteristic feature of the Newry, Mourne and Down district extending from Killyleagh to Newcastle, through Bloody bridge to Carlingford Lough. It supports an array of valuable coastal habitats as well as many important species. There are maritime cliffs and slopes, coastal vegetated shingle and coastal saltmarsh habitats present as well as extensive sand dune systems.

Key Threats	Local Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reclamation</li> <li>• Coastal squeeze</li> <li>• Inappropriate management</li> <li>• Erosion</li> <li>• Invasive species</li> <li>• Pollution</li> <li>• Unregulated shore based shellfish collection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raise awareness of coastal biodiversity through talks, events and press releases</li> <li>• Encourage the development of bye-laws to manage the coast for the benefit of people and wildlife</li> <li>• Encourage the monitoring of the coastal environment by local community groups</li> <li>• Help deliver current and new management plans for coastal and marine protected areas e.g. Strangford Lough SAC</li> </ul>

### Maritime Cliff and Slopes

These include hard and soft cliffs, which extend from the splash zone (above the high water mark) at the base of the cliff to the land at the cliff top which is influenced by salt spray. Maritime cliffs are often significant for their populations of breeding seabirds, which can reach numbers of international importance. They provide nesting sites for breeding birds such as the guillemot, kittiwake, razorbill, raven and peregrine falcon. Examples include the cliffs of moraine at Killard Point (NR), which formed from debris deposited as the ice melted during the last Ice Age, and the cliffs at Maggie's Leap, Newcastle, which support a large population of kittiwakes.

### Coastal Vegetated Shingle

Coastal vegetated shingle is defined as sediment with particle sizes larger in diameter than sand (>2mm) but smaller than boulders (<200mm). Vegetated shingle banks occur at the upper end of the shore where conditions are favourable, usually in high energy environments. They occupy long strips but typically have a small surface area and support specialised plant and invertebrate communities.

In Northern Ireland coastal vegetated shingle is found mainly along the low, rocky parts of the County Down coastline. Extensive areas include Gransha Point, Strangford Lough, Minerstown and Glassdrumman. Rare plants such as sea kale, oysterplant and yellow horned poppy are found in these areas. Coastal vegetated shingle also supports breeding birds such as ringed plover and oystercatcher.

### **Coastal Saltmarsh**

Saltmarshes are a highly productive habitat dominated by species that are tolerant of flooding by seawater. They occur mostly in the upper vegetated areas of mudflats, in sheltered areas of low wave energy. Saltmarsh is a very important habitat as the vegetation consists of a limited number of salt tolerant species adapted to regular covering by the tide. As well as this it is also very important for wading birds and wildfowl such as oystercatcher, redshank, lapwing, golden plover and curlew.

Saltmarsh is now a rare habitat in Northern Ireland as the majority of the original habitat has been reclaimed and improved for agriculture. Strangford Lough and Mill Bay in Carlingford Lough (ASSI) support the most extensive areas of saltmarsh in Northern Ireland. The Sheepland Coast (ASSI) also has saltmarsh areas in sheltered bays and inlets along the coast.

### **Coastal Sand Dunes**

Sand dunes develop when wind-blown sand is trapped by specialised dune building grasses, such as marram (*Ammophila arenaria*), above the high water mark. Sand dunes are diverse habitats that support a range of common and rare plants, mosses, insects, birds and mammals. They support a large proportion of our butterfly, moth, ant, bee and wasp species. Sand dunes also provide nesting habitat for breeding birds such as the skylark and meadow pipit.

Two of the largest sand dune systems in Northern Ireland are found within the Newry, Mourne and Down District: Dundrum Bay and Killard (NNR). The Dundrum Bay dunes include Murlough National Nature Reserve (NNR), which is a fragile 6,000 year old dune system, owned and managed by the National Trust. Murlough NNR supports the largest population of the marsh fritillary butterfly in Northern Ireland. Also, keep your eyes peeled for the secretive common lizard. Dundrum Bay dunes support rare plants such as Shepherd's cress, one of only three sites that this species has been seen in the past 30 years. Tyrella Beach (ASSI) is a small enclosed dune complex within Dundrum Bay. The 2km long flat, sandy beach is backed by 25 hectares of mature dunes in a conservation area. Killard Point (ASSI) sand dune system remains largely unmodified and is of vital importance for a number of rare plants and animals. It is one of the best sites in Northern Ireland for grassland and heath invertebrates.

## Key Coastal Species

### Yellow-horned Poppy

The yellow-horned poppy is a rare plant found on bare shingle along the County Down coast. Each individual plant produces one to several rosettes with a single flower stalk emerging from each. The waxy leaves are greyish-green and covered with fine short hairs which protect the leaf surface from the salty conditions in which it lives.

### Light-bellied Brent Goose

The light-bellied Brent goose is a small, dark goose with a pale belly. Strangford Lough and Carlingford Lough are the most important sites for the species in the UK and Ireland, where they can be seen from September to April. These geese have one of the longest migrations, travelling from their wintering grounds in Ireland via Iceland and Greenland to their summer breeding grounds in arctic Canada. Killough Bay (ASSI) is the last staging post in Ireland before their lengthy return to Canada. Their main food plants are eel grass (*Zostera* species), green algae and saltmarsh grasses.

### Curlew

The curlew is a large wading bird, well known for its very long, decurved bill. Its haunting two-note call and bubbling song was once a familiar sound of the open countryside. However, it has declined as a breeding species in Northern Ireland and elsewhere in northern Europe over the last twenty years. Outside the breeding season, birds arrive from the north and east to winter mainly around the coast. Strangford Lough is one of the most important wintering sites in Northern Ireland for the curlew.



## Grassland

Grassland is a major habitat type in the Newry, Mourne and Down district, which includes lowland meadows, calcareous grassland and purple moor grass and rush pastures. These grasslands differ depending on the soil type and vegetation cover. Agriculture is a major industry within the area and, if managed appropriately, farmland can provide food and shelter for many native plants and animals.

Agriculture is one of the main industries in the district. Some changes in agricultural practices in recent times have resulted in reduced wildlife value in many farming areas. However, agri-environment schemes developed by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) have encouraged farmers and landowners to adopt environmentally friendly management practices which benefit biodiversity.

Key Threats	Local Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scrub encroachment</li> <li>• Inappropriate management/grazing</li> <li>• Changes in agricultural practice e.g. a shift from hay to silage as well as the overuse of fertiliser</li> <li>• Abandonment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raise awareness of the importance and value of grasslands for biodiversity through events, talks and press releases</li> <li>• Liaise with Transport NI and other governmental organisations to enhance the biodiversity value of roadside verges through appropriate management</li> <li>• Pilot wildflower meadows on publically accessible land to improve areas for pollinators and act as best practice examples</li> </ul>

## Arable Field Margins

Arable field margins are strips of land between cereal crops and the boundary of the field. They are deliberately managed under agri-environment agreements to benefit farmland wildlife. Arable field margins provide nesting and feeding sites for many birds such as skylark and linnet, not to mention the huge variety of insects including butterflies, grasshoppers and plant bugs. Many species of priority wildflowers can be found in these margins.

## Lowland Meadows

A lowland meadow is defined as unimproved neutral grassland found on enclosed land, normally on a well-drained mineral soil with a sward rich in wildflowers. Such meadows are found in former hay meadows or in non-agricultural sites such as churchyards or roadside verges. In Newry, Mourne

and Down several examples of lowland pastures can be found in the Crossmaglen drumlins and Newcastle valleys. Traditional management practices in Tullyard ASSI for example, have brought about a great diversity in species composition, both of grasses and herbs. Levallymore ASSI and Tullyratty ASSI are also excellent examples of species rich meadows.

### **Calcareous Grassland**

Calcareous grasslands are species-rich grasslands occurring on shallow, lime-rich soils most often derived from chalk and limestone rocks. This habitat is mainly associated with Fermanagh where it occurs on limestone; however this excludes the habitat when it occurs on other substrates. In the Newry, Mourne and Down district small pockets of calcareous grassland are scattered across the Mourne mountains, with species such as wild thyme and wet acid grasslands dominated by purple moor-grass, rushes and sedges providing additional habitat diversity.

### **Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh**

This is pasture that is periodically inundated by water or meadows with ditches containing standing brackish or fresh water. Coastal grazing marshes occur in flat coastal areas typically behind coastal defences or natural barriers (e.g. sand dunes) and are drained by ditches of standing water. Floodplain grazing marsh is found near slow-flowing rivers and lakes, where they can also be drained by a network of ditches. In the Newry, Mourne and Down District this habitat is found at Strand Lough (ASSI) and the Quoile Pondage (NNR). These habitats usually support a high proportion of herbs such as marsh thistle, meadowsweet, water mint and marsh bedstraw and wading birds including curlew, redshank and lapwing.

### **Lowland Dry Acid Grassland**

Lowland dry acid grassland occurs in nutrient-poor, well-drained acid soils. There are no large areas of lowland dry acid grassland in Northern Ireland. Instead, it is most likely to be found in very small patches in a matrix of other grassland types. This habitat may also occur in old gardens, churchyards and other amenity areas. In Newry, Mourne and Down it can be found on the lowland slopes of the Mourne and in south Armagh. Lowland dry acid grassland contains plant species such as common bent, sheep's sorrel and tormentil and supports species such as the Irish hare and skylark.

### **Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pasture**

This habitat occurs on poorly drained, acidic soils in lowland areas often as fragments within farmland in wet hollows or field corners. Purple moor grass is always present in the mix, with many other species of grasses, sedges, rushes and wildflowers such as orchids, wild angelica, meadow thistle, devil's bit scabious and self-heal. This habitat, in association with others, provides ideal sites for a number of Northern Ireland's Priority bird species such as the skylark, curlew, reed bunting and snipe. The Irish lady's tresses orchid and marsh fritillary butterfly may also be found in this habitat. In the Newry,

Mourne and Down District this habitat occurs within the Quoile Valley Lowlands, Killough Bay and Strand Lough (ASSI).

## **Key Species**

### **Yellowhammer**

The yellowhammer is a member of the bunting family and a characteristic resident species of lowland arable and mixed farmland. In the summer they can be found in highly productive areas of farmland whereas in winter they form flocks and feed in mixed farmland on stubble fields. The yellowhammer was once a familiar farmland bird but its numbers have declined in recent years.

### **Skylark**

The skylark is a small brown farmland bird which is renowned for its display flight. It flies vertically up in the air and then hovers whilst in song. The skylark likes open countryside, from lowland farmland to upland heath. It can be found in the uplands in Newry and Mourne, however its numbers have been declining recently.

### **Pink Meadow Waxcap**

The pink waxcap is a fungi with a pinkish-lilac conical cap and a slightly greasy appearance. Fungi acquire nutrients from living or dead plants, animals or other fungi. This species is found all over NI in mossy lawns and semi-natural grasslands. Silent Valley in the Mourne is a good site for waxcaps.

## Marine

The marine environment supports over half of the UK's biodiversity. A number of very important marine habitats occur within the Newry, Mourne and Down District. Strangford Lough was designated as Northern Ireland's first Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) in 2013, with Carlingford Lough being designated as a MCZ in 2016. These zones safeguard vulnerable or unique marine species and habitats of national importance in the Northern Ireland inshore region based on an ecosystem approach. Marine Conservation Zones fulfill the obligations of The Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013 (the "Act") to contribute to an ecologically coherent UK network of Marine Protected Areas as well as wider biodiversity commitments at a European and global level.

Key Threats	Local Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physical disturbance e.g. dredging/trawling</li> <li>Over exploitation of marine resources</li> <li>Water pollution</li> <li>Marine litter</li> <li>Invasive species</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Help deliver current and new management plans for marine protected areas such as Strangford Lough SAC</li> <li>Collaborate with the Council's tourism and education programmes to promote the biodiversity, tourism and educational importance of the marine environment through talks and events</li> <li>Work in partnership with local environmental organisations to hold 'shore clean-ups'</li> <li>Promote recording of key marine species such as cetaceans</li> <li>Promote marine recording schemes such as Coastwatch and Shore-thing</li> </ul>

## Horse Mussel Beds

The horse mussel, *Modiolus modiolus*, is a long-lived, slow reproducing marine mollusc that can occur in isolated clumps or together in large beds. These beds form a vital habitat for the attachment of many marine animals (approximately 272 species) that would not otherwise be found in the area. These include brittlestars, the rugose squat lobster and the commercially important queen scallop. Some of the mussels within beds can be 25 years old or more. The beds occur in 4 areas in Northern Ireland, the largest of which is found in Strangford Lough. Due to deterioration of the Strangford Lough beds a permanent ban was placed on mobile fishing gear. The restoration plan recommends 'total protection' in areas of the lough where fishing activities prevent the recovery of the beds.



### **Maerl Beds**

Maerl is the term used to describe several species of calcified marine algae. Although it is slow growing, over long periods its dead calcareous skeleton can accumulate into deep deposits. With an additional thin layer of living maerl, beds are formed. Maerl beds are typically found in sheltered conditions with some tidal flow, including the narrows and rapids of sea loughs. These habitats can support communities of sea pens and sea cucumbers. Maerl beds are found in Strangford Lough at Zara Shoal off Castleward Bay, Jane's Rock in the centre of the Lough and Rainey Island near Whiterock.

### **Mudflats**

Mudflats are intertidal habitats created by sedimentary deposition in low energy coastal environments, particularly in estuaries and other sheltered areas such as sea loughs. They are highly productive areas, which, together with other intertidal habitats, are of great importance to large numbers of birds and fish providing vital feeding and resting areas for internationally important populations of migratory, over wintering and breeding waterfowl. Mudflats can be found at the western end of Carlingford Lough and throughout Strangford Lough. Intertidal mudflats are also found within Inner Dundrum Bay and Killough Bay (ASSI).

### **Mud Habitats In Deep Water**

Mud habitats in deep water typically occur below 20-30m in many areas of the UK's marine environment. As a fairly stable habitat, communities of burrowing animals often become established, such as the Dublin bay prawn and seapens. Several Northern Ireland Priority Species use these habitats, including the rugose squat lobster. Beds of Dublin bay prawns have been recorded off Newcastle and are found in the centre of Strangford Lough on extensive areas of mud plains. Mud habitats in deep water can also be found in Carlingford Lough.

### ***Sabellaria alveolata* reefs**

*Sabellaria alveolata* reefs consist of tightly packed honeycomb - like masses of tubes constructed by a small worm called the polychaete. The reefs can be up to 50cm thick, forming sheets, hummocks or massive formations. Compared to young formations, older reefs seem to support a higher level of biodiversity due to their increased amount of crevices. Recent surveys have located these reefs at three sites within the district: Glassdrumman where there is a high quality reef, Minerstown and Coney Island.

### **Saline Lagoons**

Saline lagoons are water bodies with a restricted connection to the sea due to natural or artificial barriers. As a result, the salinity of the water is neither marine nor fresh but may vary from brackish to fully saline. Organisms found in saline lagoons range from marine and freshwater species to lagoon specialists. Saline lagoons are also important habitats for large numbers of wildfowl and waders. In the Newry, Mourne and Down District, saline lagoons



are found at Killough Bay and Strand Lough (ASSI). Strand Lough is a brackish lake but many of the surrounding fields contain plants characteristic of saline conditions. It is the last remaining site in Ireland that supports the Northern Ireland Priority Species, the crawling water beetle, *Haliphus apicalis*.

### **Seagrass Beds**

Seagrasses are marine flowering plants which often grow in dense, extensive beds in shallow, coastal areas on sheltered sandy or muddy substrata. This creates a highly productive habitat that provides food and shelter for other plant and animal species. Seagrass beds also provide nursery and foraging areas for commercially important fish, improve water quality by removing dissolved nutrients, stabilise sediments and are a valuable food resource for wildfowl such as the light-bellied Brent goose. Seagrass beds can be found in Strangford Lough, Carlingford Lough, Dundrum Bay and Killough Harbour.

### **Key Marine Species**

#### **Harbour porpoise**

The Harbour porpoise is the smallest and most common cetacean (whale/dolphin) found in the coastal waters of Northern Ireland. It is dark grey with a pale belly and white extending up the sides. It has no forehead or distinct beak and can often be detected by the sound of its short, sharp blows. The population is believed to have decreased over the last 50 years – which may be due in part to thousands of porpoises getting caught and drowning in commercial fishing nets every year around the UK coast. The best places to see Harbour porpoises are headlands and bays when the sea is calm.

#### **Seapen**

The slender seapen, *Virgularia mirabilis*, is a marine invertebrate in the same group as corals and anemones. True to its name, the sea pen looks like an old fashioned quill that can retract into the mud when disturbed. In the Down District communities of this seapen can be found in sandy and muddy habitats in Strangford Lough, Dundrum Bay and part of the Quoile River.

#### **Common Seal**

The common seal is the smaller of the two seals found along the County Down coastline. It can be recognised by its short muzzle and V-shaped nostrils, compared to the longer, doglike muzzle of the grey seal. The common seal can be seen hauled out on rocky shores and sandbanks from July to September. Strangford Lough holds a significant population of these marine mammals in Northern Ireland.

## Peatlands

Peatlands are a characteristic part of the Irish landscape due to the Islands cold, wet climate. NI contains a significant proportion of the remaining bog resource in Europe and therefore the importance of these bogs cannot be over-emphasised.

Key Threats	Local Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitat loss and fragmentation</li> <li>• Drainage</li> <li>• Inappropriate grazing</li> <li>• Extensive peat extraction</li> <li>• Scrub encroachment</li> <li>• Non-native invasive species such as rhododendron</li> <li>• Trampling and disturbance</li> <li>• Inappropriate development e.g. wind farms</li> <li>• Liming and burning</li> <li>• Commercial forestry</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raise awareness of the importance of bogs and heath for biodiversity through events, talks and press releases</li> <li>• Develop initiatives at suitable sites to help enhance their value for wildlife</li> <li>• Promote the use of peat free compost within Council and at wildlife gardening events/talks for the public</li> <li>• Promote the new environmental farming scheme</li> </ul>

### Lowland Raised Bog

Lowland raised bogs are peatland ecosystems that are found in lowland areas generally below 150m. In NI, they are typically found in wide river valleys or between glacial hilly drumlins. Due to their harsh conditions, only a limited number of specialised plants can live in these habitats, including cotton grasses, cross-leaved heath and bog asphodel. The main building block of peat is Sphagnum mosses. These mosses hold water like a sponge contributing to the waterlogged, acidic conditions. In Newry, Mourne and Down small patches of lowland raised bog have been found in the Strangford drumlins and islands and the Mourne Mountains. Unfortunately many have been cut-over in the past and some have subsequently been reclaimed into grassland while others developed into diverse sites with fen, carr woodland, and remnant patches of bog.

### Blanket Bog

Blanket bog generally occurs in upland areas and is a layer of peat and associated vegetation covering the land like a 'blanket'. Similar to lowland raised bogs, sphagnum mosses are the main component of a blanket bog. Other dominant plant species include heather and cross-leaved heather, cottongrass, deergrass and sundews. Within the Newry, Mourne and Down district, blanket bog is found mainly on the higher slopes of the Carrigatuke Hills, Slieve Roosley and the Mourne Mountains. Kilbroney red bog above Rostrevor is one example occurring in the Mournes mountains. However very

little of the blanket bog in the Mourne and Carrigatuke remains intact, most has eroded and is thin and other areas of deeper peat have been cut-over or indeed cut-away.

### **Lowland Heathland**

Lowland heath occurs on mineral soils and thin peat generally below 300m and supports a range of flora and fauna not found on upland heath. It is characterised by the presence of dwarf shrubs such as heather and bell heather. The majority of the NI resource can be found in the Newry, Mourne and Down District on the lower slopes of the Mourne mountains and the Ring of Gullion. Lowland heath in the Mourne is important for a number of UK and NI priority species for example the keeled skimmer dragonfly and green hairstreak and marsh fritillary butterflies.

### **Upland Heathland**

Upland heathland occurs on acidic soil and thin peat in upland areas on the higher slopes, generally above heights of around 300m. Upland heath often forms part of a mosaic with other habitats such as acid grassland, fen and bog, which enhances its value for wildlife. The Mourne support some of the most extensive and important tracts of upland heath in NI, which are also of European importance. The upland heathland on Slieve Gullion ASSI is one of the largest expanses in NI of this rare habitat. It is dominated by heather and where there is no intervening forestry, there is a transition downslope to lowland heaths and acid grassland and fens. Cowberry can also be found here. Other important species found in upland heath in the district include the Irish hare, peregrine falcon, and juniper.

### **Montane Heath**

Montane heath is found in areas that lie above the natural level of tree development, generally above 600m. Northern Ireland is towards the southern edge of the natural range for this habitat. It consists of a range of short dwarf shrubs such as heather, grasses, sedges and specialised mosses and lichens. Montane heath occurs on several summits in the Mourne Mountains, most notably Slieve Binnian. Species present are similar to those found in upland heathland and blanket bog, for example meadow pipit.

### **Key Peatland Species**

#### **Irish Hare**

The Irish hare is a unique hare species only found in Ireland. It has a russet brown coat, long ears with black tips and eyes set high in the head. The species occurs in Newry, Mourne and Down in upland sites but also on lowland sites such as bogs, farmland and coastal grassland.

#### **Green Hairstreak Butterfly**

The Green hairstreak is an unmistakable small green butterfly that is found in bogs and heaths with plenty of scrub. The green hairstreak always rests with its wings closed showing its striking metallic green undersides that have a

faint line of white spots. This is a clever form of camouflage as it resembles a newly opened leaf. Food plants include bird's-foot-trefoil, gorse, bilberry, cross leaved heath and bramble. Green hairstreak has been recorded at various sites across the district including Tollymore Forest Park and Silent Valley.

### **Juniper**

Juniper is one of only three conifers native to Ireland. It is a slow growing prickly shrub which can be found growing either low to the ground or upright. It is mainly found in montane habitats and around limestone pavement or calcareous rocky outcrops and cliffs. Juniper was one of the first plants to recolonise the landscape of Northern Ireland post-glaciation. It is thought to have declined by up to 60% throughout Britain since the 1960's, possibly due to increased agriculture and overgrazing by cattle, sheep and goats. Juniper found in the Mourne is genetically unique.



## Urban Habitats and Gardens

Often overlooked, urban habitats and gardens are very important for a wide range of species. These urban greenspaces have special importance for biodiversity as they are where wildlife and people can interact. Habitats include gardens, urban parks, walks, golf courses, cemeteries, industrial sites and brownfield or abandoned sites.

Key Threats	Local Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urban development</li> <li>• Non-native invasive species</li> <li>• Unsympathetic management including excessive chemical use and grass cutting which results in a rye grass dominated monoculture</li> <li>• Landfill and dumping</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raise awareness of wildlife friendly gardening through public events and the media</li> <li>• Collaborate with the Council's Parks department to improve the biodiversity value and interpretation of local parks</li> <li>• Create and manage a network of Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) in Council owned sites</li> </ul>

## Urban Greenspace

Small pockets of green space in urban settings can provide ideal habitats for a wide range of plants and animals. Sites such as golf courses, cemeteries, roundabouts and small parks provide safe havens for wildlife in busy towns and cities. In the Newry, Mourne and Down District there are many examples of small parks and green spaces which are of benefit to people and wildlife alike.

Parks are generally larger and more mature than gardens, therefore tend to have a more diverse range of wildlife associated with them. Parks are typically managed for formal and informal recreation but many could be developed to enhance their biodiversity value. Good examples of public parks in the district include Castlewellan Forest Park, Tollymore Forest Park, Kilbroney Park and Slieve Gullion forest park.

## Gardens

Gardens link urban greenspace with the wider countryside, forming a mosaic of wildlife habitats. Every garden, big or small, has the potential to be a mini nature reserve. Many gardens already support some level of biodiversity, but with a little more planning for wildlife in mind, we could be making a much more valuable contribution to protecting our native plant and animal species.

## Industrial and Business Sites

Many industrial sites have areas within their premises that are of benefit to wildlife. Neglected corners provide a refuge for a range of plants and animals.



Old derelict buildings can provide shelter for bats and nesting places for birds such as the starling, swallow and house martin. New industrial sites can also be valuable for wildlife if landscaped using native flowers, shrubs and trees.

## **Key Species**

### **House Sparrow**

The house sparrow lives happily alongside humans nesting under roof tiles and sometimes in existing swallows nests. It has suffered decline recently due to a lack of insect food in the summer and winter seed and is consequently a NI priority species.

### **Bumblebee**

There are six common bumblebee species that can be found in gardens, including the white-tailed and red-tailed bumblebees. During the summer bumblebees are 'busy', collecting nectar and in turn, pollinating native plants and agricultural crops. Sadly, bumblebees are declining as there is not enough natural habitat left for them to live. Although species-rich grassland is the preferred habitat for most bees, urban gardens are providing an important haven for this declining group.

### **Hedgehog**

The western European hedgehog was selected as a UK priority species in 2007 due to a decline in numbers. They are common in parks, gardens and farmland throughout mainland Britain and Ireland, and prefer woodland edges, hedgerows and suburban habitats where there is plenty of food such as beetles, worms, caterpillars and slugs.

## Wetland Habitats

Wetlands are extremely important habitats as they support a variety of plants and animals such as invertebrates, fish, amphibians, mammals and birds. Newry, Mourne and Down District has many good quality examples of wetland habitat including lakes, rivers and streams, reedbeds and fens.

Key Threats	Local Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nutrient enrichment of water through pollution, such as agricultural run-off</li> <li>• Changes in water levels through drainage and inappropriate management</li> <li>• Non-native invasive species e.g. Japanese knotweed, Giant hogweed and Himalayan balsam</li> <li>• Salmon farms which can negatively impact wild salmonoid populations through spread of sea lice for example</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raise awareness of the importance of wetlands for biodiversity through specific guided walks, talks and press releases</li> <li>• Develop initiatives at suitable wetland sites to help enhance their value for wildlife</li> <li>• Promote and increase the recording of key wetland species</li> </ul>

## Lakes and Ponds

Standing open water, including lakes and ponds, are quite an extensive habitat across Newry, Mourne and Down and Northern Ireland as a whole. Lakes can be classified by the levels of nutrients that occur naturally in the water. Eutrophic waters have high nutrient levels and, in their natural state, associated high levels of biodiversity. Examples in the District include Great Dam, Mill Pond and Derryleckagh Lough. Mesotrophic lakes have moderate nutrient levels and in the District include Altnadua Lough, Aughnadarragh Lough (ASSI) and Camlough Lough. Marl lakes have high alkalinity and low nutrient levels (oligotrophic). The Lecale region includes an area of marl lakes and fen peat pools of high biodiversity importance at Loughkeelan, east of Downpatrick. The Loughkeelan (ASSI) supports large numbers of rare stoneworts and the UK Priority Species, Marsh Stitchwort, occurs in adjacent fen areas.

Ponds are found within interdrumlin areas across East Down, ranging from large pools surrounded by fringes of fen or woodland to small ponds with more extensive fens. Lakes and ponds support invertebrates such as dragonflies, beetles, mayflies and pondskaters. They also support many species of breeding and wintering waterfowl and plants such as the yellow water-lily and duckweeds.

## **Rivers and Streams**

Rivers and streams are of great value to wildlife and because of this are recognised as an important habitat locally. No two rivers are alike and neither are their assemblages of plants and animals. They support many priority and important species such as Atlantic Salmon, Brown Trout, Otter and bat species. Newry river flows through Newry city acting as a border between counties Down and Armagh, eventually emptying into Carlingford Lough. This provides a valuable wildlife corridor for species movement along with the canal and other rivers present in the District. Another important river is the Shimna River (ASSI) in Tollymore Forest Park. It is in a highly natural state and provides an excellent habitat for populations of Atlantic salmon, brown trout and sea trout.

## **Fens**

A fen is a wetland with a permanently high water level at or just below the surface. They often form on peaty soils in river valleys or hollows and receive the majority of their water and nutrients from soil, rock and ground water. Fens support a rich variety of sedges, grasses and mosses, as well as invertebrates such as the Irish Damselfly and the whirligig beetle. Breeding waders also depend on fen wetlands habitats. In Newry, Mourne and Down District, rich fen occurs at the Fens of Lecale (SAC), Ballybannan (ASSI), Ballycam (ASSI) and Carrowcarlin (ASSI). The latter site supports invertebrates including rare water beetles, spiders and pond skaters.

## **Reedbeds**

The term reedbed describes a wetland habitat dominated by common reed in areas where the water table is at or above ground level for most of the year. This habitat is widely distributed on the margins of water bodies, along lowland and upland streams, estuaries, reservoirs, clay pits, sewage treatment works, industrial lagoons and as successional habitat on fens and bogs. In Newry, Mourne and Down reedbeds can be found in Killough Bay and Strand Lough (ASSI), Turmennan (SAC, ASSI) and Ballykilbeg (SAC, ASSI). Ballykilbeg supports a number of scarce plants and a well-established colony of the marsh fritillary butterfly. Reedbeds also provide excellent cover for birds such as the reed bunting.

## **Key Wetland Species**

### **Otter**

Otters live on the banks of rivers, lakes and the coast feeding on fish, shellfish, smaller mammals and birds. They have a long streamlined body and tail and can be found sleeping in holes in the riverbank called holts. They are quite widespread in the Newry, Mourne and Down District, especially along Newry canal and the Quoile river (ASSI).

### **Irish Damselfly**

The Irish damselfly is a delicate blue damselfly found in Ireland around small lakes and is concentrated in Armagh, Down, Fermanagh and Tyrone. Within

Newry, Mourne and Down, it has been recorded at Drumlougher Lough outside Crossmaglen and Black Lough (ASSI). The Irish damselfly is a NI priority species and only occurs in areas where there is good water quality, as it is very sensitive to pollution.

### **Atlantic Salmon**

The Atlantic salmon is known as the 'king of fish' due to its vast migrations across the North Atlantic. In autumn, adults make their way upstream to spawn in riverbeds, often leaping over obstacles such as waterfalls to do so. One year after moving to the sea, young salmon use their homing instinct to return to the river of their birth to spawn themselves. Major threats include over fishing, introduction of non-native salmon stocks, physical barriers to migration and increased mortality at sea. These fish can be found in rivers in the Mourne Mountains. The Footstick Bridge in Tollymore Forest Park is a 'hot spot' for leaping salmon.

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## Woodland

There was a time when Northern Ireland was almost completely covered in woodland. However, as a result of agriculture and development, it is now the least wooded region in Europe, with only 6% woodland cover, 1% of which is native broad-leaved woodland.

Key Threats	Local Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitat loss and/or fragmentation</li> <li>• Inappropriate management</li> <li>• Tree diseases such as Ash dieback</li> <li>• Non-native invasive species e.g. grey squirrel, Japanese knotweed and Rhododendron</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raise awareness of the importance of woodlands and hedges through guided walks, talks and press releases</li> <li>• Increase the woodland cover of our district through promotion of funded schemes e.g. agri-environment schemes and the Woodland Trust schemes for restoration, restocking or creation</li> <li>• Pilot new woodland planting schemes on appropriate publically accessible land</li> <li>• Promote and increase the recording of key woodland species</li> </ul>

## Mixed Ashwoods

Mixed ashwoods are woodlands where ash is the dominant species in association with other broadleaf native species such as oak, downy birch and hazel. Other trees such as rowan and the non-native species sycamore and beech may also be common. Mixed ashwoods support a rich and colourful ground flora of spring-flowering herbs such as wood-anemone, bluebells, primrose and wild garlic.

In Newry, Mourne and Down district, mixed ashwoods are found on Fathom mountain and in the Newcastle valleys. Small unidentified pockets of mixed ashwoods can also be found across the district that may have importance locally for wildlife.

## Oakwoods

Oakwoods are dominated by the two native oak species in Northern Ireland, sessile oak and pedunculate oak in association with other species such as downy birch, rowan, holly and hazel. The ground layer is often rich in ferns, woodland wildflowers including bluebells, wild garlic and great wood-rush, and shrubs such as bramble and bilberry. These woods can also contain many rare species of fungi and lichen.



Rostrevor Oakwood overlooking Carlingford Lough is the most established oakwood in the District. It is designated an ASSI as well as a National Nature Reserve (NNR) and is open to the public. Another Oakwood in the District is Bohill Forest Nature Reserve. This small deciduous woodland contains native trees that have naturally regenerated since the site was clear felled in the past. The reserve was established and is now managed to protect the holly blue butterfly. This woodland also supports red deer and woodland birds such as the jay, goldcrest and tit species.

### **Wet Woodland**

Wet woodlands are a range of woods that occur on poorly drained or waterlogged soils such as around lake shores, along streams, on hill-side flushes and on fens and cutover bogs. Typically wet woodlands are dominated by willow, alder or downy birch and can often occur as habitat mosaics with other woodland types.

Examples of wet woodland in the District can be found at Cappagh Lough and St. Peter's Lough which are predominately willow and alder carr. Wet woodland has also developed undisturbed in Hollymount Forest (NNR) since 1745 and, under the dense canopy of alder and willow trees, yellow flag iris and other wetland plants dominate the ground.

### **Parkland**

Parkland is a special type of woodland that is generally not common in NI. They are designed landscapes associated with significant houses or demesnes. There is generally a mosaic of habitats including open grown veteran trees set in pasture or heathland, specimen trees, boundary features, woodland blocks, streams, rivers and natural or constructed lakes. Parklands are important for a wide variety of species from grasses, lower plants and invertebrates to birds, bats and mammals.

Examples of parkland in Newry, Mourne and Down District include Mourne Park, Creggan Poet's Glen, Derrymore House, Castleward, Delamont Country Park, Castlewellan Forest Park and Seaforde House.

### **Species-rich Hedgerows**

Hedges are defined as linear boundaries, comprised of planted shrubs. Species-rich hedgerows are those which contain five or more native woody species on average in a 30 metre length or those with a rich flora of herbaceous plants such as primrose, wood anemone, lords and ladies, bluebell and herb-robert at their base. Hedges are an integral part of Ireland's landscape and a valuable habitat for local biodiversity.

Hedgerows act as very important wildlife corridors for many species, providing connectivity between habitats allowing dispersal and movement. They support many species of birds, mammals and insects.

Hedgerows are found throughout the District, typically adjacent to semi-natural habitats and low intensity farmland.

## **Key Woodland Species**

### **Red Squirrel**

Catching a glimpse of our native red squirrel is a moment to be treasured. As a shy creature, the red squirrel spends most of its time in the tree tops of mainly coniferous woods. The biggest threat comes from the grey squirrel, which was introduced from North America. The grey squirrel is bigger, bolder and has a less specialised diet compared to the red. It also transmits the deadly pox virus to the reds. As the grey squirrel expands its range, it is replacing the red squirrel, especially in deciduous woodland.

The Tollymore and Ring of Gullion and Cooley Red Squirrel Groups are actively involved in conserving the red squirrel population through recording and providing supplementary food.

### **Song Thrush**

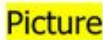
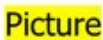
A familiar and popular songbird whose numbers are declining seriously. It is a brown bird with a white (or yellow-white) chest densely sprinkled with arrow head spots. It occurs in gardens, farmland and woodland edges and feeds on insects, worms and snails.

### **Pipistrelle Bats**

There are three species of pipistrelle in Northern Ireland: common, soprano and the newly recorded, nathusius' pipistrelle. These flying mammals forage along edges such as tree lines, large hedgerows and water edges. Using echolocation (use of echoes), a single individual can eat up to 3,000 insects in one night! Hibernation occurs from November to April after which females give birth to a single pup that they can recognise individually by smell and sound. For further information on local bat species visit the Northern Ireland Bat Group's website: [www.bats-ni.org.uk](http://www.bats-ni.org.uk)

## Local Action for Species

Of the wide variety of species found in the Newry, Mourne and Down District, 12 (individual species and groups of species) have been selected for priority action (see the table below). Other species not selected for specific action will still benefit from the Habitat Action Plans (HAPs).

Species	Description	Threats	Local Actions
Bats 	Bats are one of the smallest mammals in NI, commonly found in buildings, trees, caves and bridges. Despite their widespread occurrence, they are afforded European protection due to their sensitivity to habitat change and vulnerability to persecution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of roost sites, such as buildings, trees and bridges</li> <li>• Loss of foraging areas and wildlife corridors</li> <li>• Poisoning e.g. water pollution and chemicals used in timber treatment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raise awareness of bats through bat walks/talks in the area in partnership with the NI Bat Group</li> <li>• Guide Council and other organisations on their legislative duties with regards bats and development</li> <li>• Provide advice to members of the public on bat conservation</li> </ul>
Breeding Waders 	Breeding waders live and breed in wetland habitats, wet grassland, hay meadows, unimproved pasture and in some upland areas where there is a good supply of invertebrates. They include lapwing, redshank, curlew and snipe.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drainage</li> <li>• Agricultural improvement</li> <li>• Predation on small fragmented populations</li> <li>• Disturbance relating to development and dogs</li> <li>• Encroachment of scrub on breeding water sites</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with landowners where waders occur to encourage sensitive management</li> <li>• Highlight the threats to waders through media and guided walks and talks</li> <li>• Encourage</li> </ul>



			<p>responsible rambling in sensitive areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the recording of waders across the district</li> </ul>
<p>Bumblebees</p> <p>Picture</p>	<p>There are 20 species of bumblebee on the island of Ireland of which one third are threatened with extinction and an additional 3 species are near threatened. Most people will see 6 bumblebee species in their gardens and this makes up 95% of the bumblebees present in NI. They are normally associated with flower rich grasslands, vibrant gardens and species rich hedgerows.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fragmentation and loss of suitable habitat due to development and the intensification of agriculture</li> <li>Pesticides</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raise awareness of the plight of the bumblebee, the threats they face and how to help through press releases and events</li> <li>Manage key Council owned sites to improve for pollinators and act as best practice examples</li> <li>Work in partnership to improve road side verges and other greenspace across the district</li> </ul>
<p>Fish Species</p> <p>Picture</p>	<p>Fish play an important part in freshwater habitats in NI and contribute greatly to our economy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pollution</li> <li>Physical barriers to migration</li> <li>Exploitation from netting and angling</li> <li>Physical degradation of spawning and nursery habitats</li> <li>Salmon farms which threaten wild salmon</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work to develop fish population studies for a number of important rivers and tributaries in the district</li> <li>Work with rivers agency to improve the habitat where appropriate</li> </ul>

House Sparrow <a href="#">Picture</a>	A common bird in many gardens. Numbers have dropped in certain areas due to a lack of insect food in summer and winter seed.	populations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of food and winter stubble</li> <li>• Predation by cats and sparrowhawks</li> <li>• Reduction in nest sites due to modern building methods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raise awareness of the House sparrow through media and events</li> <li>• Promote wildlife friendly gardening and recording of the house sparrow</li> </ul>
Juniper <a href="#">Picture</a>	A prickly shrub which tends to be found in exposed areas such as rocky outcrops. It is one of only three conifers native to Ireland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grazing</li> <li>• Burning</li> <li>• Scrub clearance</li> <li>• Vegetational succession</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raise awareness of the species through education and events</li> <li>• Promote further recording through talks with public and landowners</li> <li>• Work with partners such as MHT to help create more self-sustaining populations of Juniper</li> </ul>
Marine Mammals <a href="#">Picture</a>	Northern Ireland has two species of seals and 24 species of cetacean (whales, dolphins & porpoises) have been recorded in Irish waters, with 8 species regular visitors or residents to our shores.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pollution – agricultural run-off, litter, oil spills and acoustic pollution</li> <li>• Ship/boat strikes</li> <li>• Open net fishing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organise one event per year to promote recording in the district</li> <li>• Promote schemes such as WiSe through talks with local boat owners</li> <li>• Assist/support local groups with coastal clean-ups</li> </ul>
Marsh Fritillary <a href="#">Picture</a>	The marsh fritillary is a medium-sized colourful butterfly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss and reduced quality of breeding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raise awareness of the Marsh Fritillary and</li> </ul>



	<p>The bright orange, yellow and white chequers on the wings are in contrast with the dark brown background. Both sexes look similar but the female is the larger. In June and early July the marsh fritillary is on the wing.</p>	<p>habitat as a result of agricultural improvement along with fragmentation of habitat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parasitic wasps and other predators such as spiders, bugs and ground beetles can also cause fluctuations in populations</li> </ul>	<p>promote recording through press releases and events such as the Big Butterfly Count</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with partners to improve habitat for marsh fritillary across the district</li> <li>Assist with monitoring of populations where possible</li> </ul>
<p>Otter</p> <p>Picture</p>	<p>Otters live in a variety of habitats including freshwater rivers, lakes and coasts. Signs of otters have been recorded throughout the district.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pollution e.g. farm waste, pesticides and oil spills</li> <li>Habitat loss through drainage and removal of bankside vegetation</li> <li>Accidental death e.g. road traffic accidents and drowning in fishing equipment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raise awareness of the importance of otters through press releases and events/talks</li> <li>Promote recording and surveying for otter</li> <li>Construct an artificial otter holt by way of demonstration to the public</li> </ul>
<p>Red Kite</p> <p>Picture</p>	<p>This magnificently graceful bird of prey is unmistakable with its reddish-brown body, angled wings and deeply forked tail. It was saved from national extinction by one of the world's longest running protection programmes, and has now been successfully re-introduced to NI (in</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poisoning - Illegal poison baits set for foxes or crows are indiscriminate and kill protected birds and other animals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to support the 'RKites' project and assist with raising awareness of the Red Kite</li> <li>Work with RSPB and other partners to hold one public event/talk per year focusing on the red kite</li> <li>Help to</li> </ul>

	2008).		promote responsible rodenticide use
<p>Red Squirrel</p> <p>Picture</p>	<p>Our native squirrel is a shy creature of a reddish colour, with a bushy tail and ear tufts. They spend most of their time high in the tree canopy mainly in coniferous woodland. The spread of the non-native grey squirrel is threatening the reds.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grey squirrels – outcompete the red for habitat and food</li> <li>• Disease - The parapox virus which is carried and spread by the greys</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold events to raise awareness of the red squirrel e.g. Red Squirrel Week</li> <li>• Promote recording of the red squirrel by members of the public and local groups</li> <li>• Work with the local red squirrel groups to raise awareness</li> <li>• Support local efforts to re-establish or increase red squirrel populations</li> </ul>
<p>Yellowhammer</p> <p>Picture</p>	<p>These buntings occur in arable and mixed farming areas in the District. The male yellowhammer is unmistakable with his bright yellow head and chest. During the winter they feed on grain and seeds whereas throughout the summer breeding season they feed on insects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes in land management from mixed farming to livestock production</li> <li>• Use of pesticides</li> <li>• Inappropriate management of hedgerows</li> <li>• Changes in spring sown cereals to autumn sown cereals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase awareness and recording through at least one press release and event per year</li> <li>• Support the RSPB and other partners in their work with yellowhammers</li> <li>• Work with DAERA to promote entry and</li> </ul>

			<div>commitment to arable options in agri-environment schemes</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pilot suitable sites for giant bird tables on council owned land</li></ul>
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## **Do your bit for Newry, Mourne and Down's biodiversity!**

In order for the Newry, Mourne and Down LBAP to be successful, it is important to have the support and involvement of local people and local organisations. There are a number of ways in which you as an individual or organisation can get involved and play a vital part in enhancing and maintaining Newry, Mourne and Down Districts biodiversity.

### ***Farmers and Land owners***

You can greatly contribute to this LBAP through managing your land or sections of it in a way that will benefit local wildlife, particularly farmland birds. For example;

- Sign up to an agri-environment scheme if eligible, to add further benefit to wildlife
- Follow the codes of good agricultural practice
- Leave field margins uncut later in the season for birds, insects and mammals
- Restrict any cutting of hedgerows to every other year to allow some stretches to flower and fruit each autumn
- Cut hedgerows as late as possible in the season, ideally February, so seeds, nuts and berries are available to wildlife

You can find out more about Agri-environment schemes by contacting your local DAERA office.

### ***Community Groups***

- Create a community wildlife garden and increase your local sense of pride and stewardship for the environment
- Help plant a woodland or preserve a local bog for the future
- Work in conjunction with a local school to develop biodiversity projects
- Help implement your LBAP by starting a community project – contact the Newry, Mourne and Down Biodiversity Officer to find out how

### ***Businesses***

- Sponsor a local biodiversity project and help make it happen
- Create your own wildlife garden in your company grounds. You could build an insect hotel or even sow a small wildflower meadow
- Take part in team building days by allowing staff to volunteer on local conservation projects which will give them new skills and help local biodiversity

### ***Individuals***

- Help build a better picture of local biodiversity and become a wildlife recorder. Record any sightings of important wildlife and report these to the Biodiversity Officer or directly to the Ulster Museum's recording centre, CEDaR ([www.nmni.com/CEDaR](http://www.nmni.com/CEDaR)).

- Have a go at wildlife gardening and enjoy the small wonders in your own patch. Or why not create a street garden and encourage your neighbours to do one thing for biodiversity in their gardens too!
- Use natural resources more sensitively, for example create your own compost heap, reducing your waste and the need for peat compost, or use a water butt to reduce water usage.
- Report wildlife crime. Incidents such as dumping and water pollution should not be ignored as these have an impact on local biodiversity. See our signposting page for contact details of where to report wildlife crime.
- Volunteer! There are always local projects that need the help of volunteers and give people a chance to learn about helping their local wildlife. These could be tree planting days, bird box making or scrub clearance for example. Not only will you learn about conservation techniques but you will also be getting fit in the process!

To find out more about the Newry, Mourne and Down LBAP project please contact:

Newry, Mourne and Down Biodiversity Officer  
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Offices  
O'Hagan House  
Monaghan Row  
Newry  
BT35 8DJ

Telephone: 0300 013 2233 Email: [ehealth@nmandd.org](mailto:ehealth@nmandd.org)  
Web: [www.newrymournedown.org](http://www.newrymournedown.org)



## Finding out more about Biodiversity

If you would like to find out more about biodiversity, please visit the websites listed below or contact the organisations.

- Biodiversity in Northern Ireland - [www.biodiversityni.com](http://www.biodiversityni.com)
- British Trust for Ornithology - [www.bto.org](http://www.bto.org)
- Butterfly Conservation - [www.butterfly-conservation.org](http://www.butterfly-conservation.org)
- Centre for Environmental Data and Recording (CEDaR) [www.nmni.com/cedar](http://www.nmni.com/cedar)
- Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs - [www.daera-ni.gov.uk](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk)
- Ecoschools - <http://www.eco-schoolsni.org/>
- Farm Wildlife – <https://farmwildlife.info/>
- Forest Service - [www.dardni.gov.uk/forestry](http://www.dardni.gov.uk/forestry)
- Habitas - [www.habitas.org.uk](http://www.habitas.org.uk)
- Loughs Agency - [www.loughs-agency.org](http://www.loughs-agency.org)
- Mourne Heritage Trust - [www.mournelive.com](http://www.mournelive.com)
- National Biodiversity Data Centre - <http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/>
- National Trust - [www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk)
- Northern Ireland Bat Group - [www.bats-ni.org.uk](http://www.bats-ni.org.uk)
- Northern Ireland Environment Link - [www.nienvironmentlink.org](http://www.nienvironmentlink.org)
- Northern Ireland Fungi Group - [www.nifg.org.uk/](http://www.nifg.org.uk/)
- Ring of Gullion AONB - [www.ringofgullion.org](http://www.ringofgullion.org)
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds - [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk)
- Strangford Lough and Lecale Partnership – [www.strangfordlough.org](http://www.strangfordlough.org)
- The Conservation Volunteers - [www.tcv.org.uk](http://www.tcv.org.uk)
- Ulster Wildlife - [www.ulsterwildlife.org](http://www.ulsterwildlife.org)
- Walk NI – [www.walkni.com](http://www.walkni.com)
- Waterways Ireland - <http://www.waterwaysireland.org/>
- Water Management Unit - [www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/water](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/water)
- Woodland Trust - [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk)

1. DOES YOUR ORGANISATION HAVE A PROJECT OR SCHEME THAT AIMS TO DELIVER ON ACTIONS WITHIN THIS LBAP IN THE NEXT 5 YEARS? IF SO, PLEASE RESPOND TO THIS CONSULTATION WITH YOUR DETAILS AND THEY WILL BE INCLUDED IN THIS SIGNPOSTING PAGE.

## Where to report wildlife crime and pollution

### Police Service NI

Wildlife crime includes offences like poaching, killing or disturbing protected species or damaging their breeding and resting places. Where you suspect that an incident is a wildlife crime then you should report it to the local PSNI either at the nearest police station or by telephoning 101. Make sure you state that you believe a 'wildlife crime' has taken place and always ask for a crime reference number to allow you to follow up any action.

### Water Pollution Hotline

There is a hotline for urgent water pollution incidents. Members of the public are asked to call the following telephone number if they become aware of such an incident **Tel: 0800 80 70 60**. This service must be used to report all **urgent** water pollution incidents.

### Grounded or injured bats in your building

Call CEDaR (Centre for Environmental Data and Recording) in the first instance to report the case. Email: [cedar.info@nmni.com](mailto:cedar.info@nmni.com), or telephone: 028 9039 5264. Outside of hours, contact the Northern Ireland Bat Group or see their website for guidance <https://www.bats-ni.org.uk/what-to-do-if-you-find-a-bat/>

## Appendix 1. Newry, Mourne and Down Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2017 – 2022

This table outlines the overarching objectives and key actions of the Newry, Mourne and Down LBAP;

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

Strategic Objective	Key Actions	Lead Partner	Key Milestones
1. Conserve and enhance the rich biodiversity of the district for both current and future generations	1.1 Ensure NMDDC deliver on the statutory biodiversity duty through implementation of the NMD LBAP, delivery of internal Biodiversity Implementation Plans(BIPs) and input into relevant projects and programmes	NMDDC	- NMD LBAP launched by September 2017 - NMD Corporate Biodiversity Implementation Plan drafted by September 2017 - LBAP actions and BIPs reviewed annually
	1.2 Develop a Local Non-native Invasive Species Strategy	NMDDC, RoG, MHT, SLLP	- Non-native Invasive Species Strategy drafted by April 2019 - Local problem areas identified and control options/funding investigated by September 2019
	1.3 Participate in and encourage landscape-scale biodiversity conservation projects across	All relevant partners	- 2 projects ongoing by 2020

	the district		
2. Educate and raise awareness of the importance and variety of biodiversity found within the Newry, Mourne and Down District	2.1 Host and promote a programme of biodiversity themed events, talks and workshops	NMDDC, RSPB, UW, SLLP, NT and RoG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Biodiversity events included in weekly 'what's on guides' from the visitors information centre and updated quarterly on Council and Biodiversity NI websites and facebook pages</li> <li>- Other events to be fed through biodiversity officer for publicising on NMDDC and Biodiversity NI pages</li> </ul>
	2.2 Publicise information about biodiversity through the media using press releases and any other opportunities	NMDDC, SLLP, MHT, RoG and others	As required
	2.3 Encourage national and regional wildlife recording schemes and the submission of all wildlife records to CEDaR and National Biodiversity Data Centre	All relevant partners	Seasonal recording schemes promoted every year e.g. the Big Garden Birdwatch, Butterfly Count etc
	2.4 Produce local biodiversity interpretation and signs at sites of wildlife interest across the district	All relevant partners	Minimum of one produced per year
	2.5 Assist local schools with relevant eco-	NMDDC, RoG, RSPB	As required

	schools targets e.g. biodiversity and school grounds objectives		
3. Encourage local ownership of Newry, Mourne and Down District's biodiversity	3.1 Help and signpost local communities in developing wildlife projects such as planting mini woodland, creating patches of wildflower meadow or organising wildlife themed events	NMDDC, RoG, SLLP, MHT	- Minimum of 3 projects or events annually
	3.2 Provide encouragement and support to key stakeholders, local environmental organisations and communities	All relevant partners	As required
	3.3 Highlight opportunities for people to get involved in nature conservation and outdoor activities which in turn lead to better mental and physical health	All relevant partners	Regular email circulars and press releases on local opportunities
4. Protect and conserve designated sites	Fully implement AONB Management Action Plans	RoG, SLLP, MHT, NMDDC, DAERA and others	The full success of the implementation programme will be determined by external funding

Partner abbreviations:

NMDDC – Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

RoG – Ring of Gullion AONB and Landscape Partnership

MHT – Mourne Heritage Trust



SLLP – Strangford Lough and Lecale Partnership  
 RSPB – The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds  
 UW – Ulster Wildlife  
 NT – The National Trust  
 DAERA – Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

DRAFT

# Badger Survey at Kilbroney Park, Rostrevor

November 2021



# CONFIDENTIAL

Prepared for



Comhairle Ceantair  
an Iúir, Mhúrn  
agus an Dúin

Newry, Mourne  
and Down  
District Council

**DRYAS**  
E C O L O G Y

Contents

INTRODUCTION..... 2

SCOPE OF THIS REPORT..... 2

LEGISLATION ..... 2

METHODOLOGY ..... 3

OBSERVATIONS..... 3

REFERENCES ..... 6

APPENDIX 1 - FIGURE..... 7

FIGURE 1: SITE MAP SHOWING LOCATION OF TARGET NOTES ..... 8

## Introduction

1. On 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 Dryas Ecology Ltd. was commissioned by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to undertake a Badger Survey at [REDACTED]. The purpose of this survey was to determine the status of a suspected Badger sett [REDACTED] as part of ongoing site improvement works to benefit biodiversity, and to detail suitable mitigation measures.
2. Note: contents of this report which detail the location of Badger setts and other field signs relating to Badgers should be redacted prior to sharing or uploading to public fora, to ensure the protection of Badger populations from undue disturbance and harassment.

## Scope of this Report

3. The Badger survey was carried out on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021 to search for signs of Badger *Meles meles*, undertaken according to NIEA Specifications:
  - *Badger Surveys: NIEA Specific Requirements* (February 2017);

## Statement of Authority

4. Fieldwork was conducted by Consultant Ecologist Karl Hamilton BSc (Hons) of Dryas Ecology Ltd.; Karl also produced this report.
5. Karl acquired a BSc (Hons) in Environmental Biology from the Queen's University of Belfast in 2001, after which he took up the post of Senior Reserve Warden and Biodiversity Officer for the Wildfowl Wetlands Trust within Northern Ireland. This role included hands-on management of a variety of terrestrial and aquatic habitats, surveying and monitoring of flora & fauna, managing volunteers and work placements, and surveying designated sites to inform a large-scale wetland and grassland habitat recreation project.
6. In 2010 Karl commenced his career in ecological consultancy as a freelance ecologist, engaging in contract and sub-contract work throughout Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, undertaking primarily Preliminary Ecological Assessments, Protected Species Surveys (including dozens of Badger Surveys), Invasive Species Surveys and Ecological Impact Assessments. He also regularly provides training courses in a wide range of biological subjects for environmental NGOs, academic institutions, statutory organisations and other ecologists.

## Legislation

7. Badgers are fully protected under Schedules 5, 6 and 7 of the Wildlife (NI) Order 1985 as amended, making it an offence to:
  - wilfully kill, injure, take, possess or mis-treat a badger
  - intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to badger sett
  - disturb a badger while it is occupying a sett – this includes digging or



- clear scrub within 25m of the sett. Advice should be sought prior to carrying out these activities.

In addition any person who knowingly causes or permits to be done an act which is made unlawful by any of these provisions shall also be guilty of an offence.

Methodology

8. The field survey conducted on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021 comprised a walkover survey of the area of recent bamboo clearance as well as a buffer zone of 25 metres extending outwith. Badger field signs such as tracks, trails, setts, latrines, snuffle holes and hair snagged on fencing were methodically searched for. Any Badger field signs were photographed and logged as target notes (TNs).

Observations

9. The locations of features mentioned below are shown in Figure 1. Field signs are summarised as Target Notes within Table 1 and Photos 2-6.

Table 1. Target Notes

Target Note	Description	Photo
1	Badger sett entrance at [REDACTED] Tunnel co.40cm wide x 30cm high, oriented to north. Heavy litter within tunnel from recent vegetation cutting and layer of older leaf litter beneath this, indicating currently disused. Also lack of clear trails leading from burrow.	2
2	2nd Badger sett entrance at [REDACTED] Tunnel c.45cm wide x 30cm high, oriented to east and with old leaf litter in tunnel beneath fresh litter layer from recent cutting. Also lack of clear trails from burrow, indicating disuse.	3
3	3rd Badger sett entrance a [REDACTED] Tunnel c.45cm diameter, oriented to north-east and with old leaf litter within tunnel beneath thick layer of fresh litter from recent vegetation cutting. This and lack of clear trails from burrow indicate currently not in use.	4
4	4th Badger sett entrance at [REDACTED]. Tunnel c.50cm wide x 30cm high, oriented to north-east and with old leaf litter within tunnel beneath litter from recent bamboo clearance, indicating disuse. Also lack of clear trail leading from burrow.	5
5	5th Badger sett entrance at [REDACTED] Tunnel c.50cm wide x 20cm high, oriented to east-north-east and with old litter within mouth of tunnel beneath thick layer of fresh litter from recent clearance of bamboo; together with lack of clear trails leading from burrow indicates currently not in use.	6





Photo 1.



Photo 3.



Photo 4.



Photo 5.

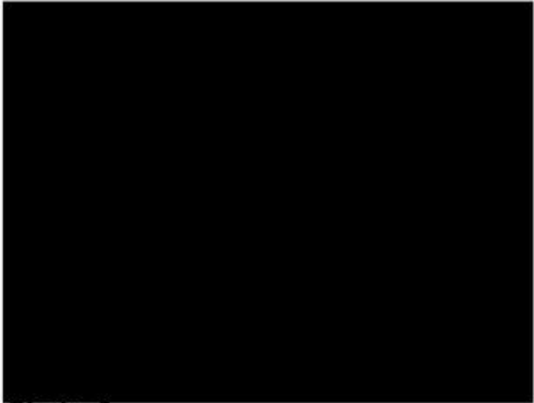


Photo 6.

**Badger Survey**

10. The survey area consisted of [redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted] (Photo 1).

11. [redacted]

12.

## Survey Constraints

13. All parts of the site were accessible at the time of survey, and weather conditions were favourable to enable a thorough search for

## Recommendations

14. Although all five sett entrances were in a state of disuse at the time of survey, even Badger setts which are not currently occupied by Badgers receive protection under the Wildlife (NI) Order 1985 (as amended), as Badgers may return and re-excavate one or more sett entrances at any time.
15. it is recommended that the area with whips of a range of native tree species of local provenance such as Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Holly *Ilex aquifolium* and Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*. Such whips should be planted approximately within the footprint extending beyond this were required, so that when mature it will effectively shelter the Badger sett entrances from disturbance by people and dogs.
16. Tree whips should not be planted within 5 metres of any existing Badger sett entrance, as Badger tunnels can be relatively shallow in depth for some distance underground (particularly where they are supported by tree roots) and digging activities may cause subsidence which would constitute an offence under the Wildlife (NI) Order 1985 (as amended).
17. The under-planting of a range of native understorey, shade-tolerant tree species will also benefit local biodiversity by providing safe places for a range of woodland birds to nest, roost and forage, and the recommended tree species will also provide berries in autumn which can be an important food source for birds.
18. To augment protection of the existing Badger sett entrances, a temporary fence-line should also be erected around the area of planting to both prevent damage to the young trees by people and dogs, but also to prevent disturbance of the sett entrances until such times as the trees alone provide adequate protection. At this stage, the fence-line should be removed.
19. All tree planting and fence installation works must only proceed following receipt of a Wildlife Licence, issued by NIEA, which is required for any works which would take place within 25 metres of a Badger sett. Any works should involve the use of hand tools only. Note that NIEA may place restrictions on the timing and methodology of any works.
20. Prior to the commencement of any works, an ecologist should be contracted to act as an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECow) to oversee tree planting and fence installation works, to ensure that these comply with conditions imposed by the above licence.
21. Should site personnel or members of the public become aware of Badger activity prior to the planting of tree whips and installation of fencing, any works must cease immediately and advice sought from NIEA Wildlife Team on how best to proceed.



**References**

NIEA (2017) *Badger Survey: NIEA Specific Requirements. February 2017.* Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Belfast

## Appendix 1 - Figure

## Figure 1: Site Map showing location of Target Notes



<b>Report to:</b>	Neighbourhood Services Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> November 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Public Toilet Strategy – Governance Arrangements
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Kevin Scullion, Assistant Director: Facilities Management & Maintenance Department
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Gail Kane, Head of Facilities Management

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>	
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<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>
1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is to provide Councillors with an update on an action from the Neighbourhood Services Committee meeting held in August 2021 concerning governance arrangements for delivery of the Public Toilet Strategy.</p> <p>At the NS Committee in August 2021 the following was recommended:</p> <p>"...governance arrangements for the delivery of the Public Toilet Strategy would be via a Project Board and that a report be brought back to the September Committee Meeting on the establishment of such a Board; Membership and draft terms of reference".</p>
1.1	<p>Following on from this action, which was approved at the full Council Meeting in September 2021, it has been identified that Council previously accepted that the formation of a Project Board type structure would only be agreed through the Council's SP&amp;R Committee and for a very limited number of projects of significant scale. This was approved at the SP&amp;R Committee meeting of December 2019 and subsequently by full Council.</p> <p>As an alternative mechanism there is an established Neighbourhood Services Working which was set up in 2018 to provide political direction and support to the development and implementation of the Neighbourhood Services project.</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues</b>
2.1	<p>The Council approved its Public Toilet Strategy in June 2021.</p> <p>At the Neighbourhood Services Committee in August 2021 the following priorities were agreed in relation to the Public Toilet Strategy.</p> <p><u>Initial Priorities under the Public Toilet Strategy</u></p> <p>Providing a Public Toilet Cleaning/Maintenance Service which is cost effective, efficient and meets customers' expectations.</p>

	<p>Bring forward proposals for how to address the significant usage of the Public Toilets in the Newcastle area.</p> <p>Identify those public toilets which are to remain, but which need general repair/refurbishment. Bring a business case to Committee for approval for a project to repair/refurbish these facilities.</p> <p>Consider the use of portable toilets as part of Council provisions in specific areas on a trial basis.</p> <p>Identify and secure the additional support required to deliver the project in its entirety at which point a fully costed proposal for completion of the strategy can be tabled at Committee for approval.</p> <p><u>Mode of delivery of the Public Toilet Service</u></p> <p>Undertake market testing on what is available on the market and bring back a report to Committee on the findings.</p> <p><u>Governance arrangements for the delivery of the Public Toilet Strategy</u></p> <p>Governance arrangements for the delivery of the Public Toilet Strategy would be via a Project Board.</p>
2.2	<p>Through discussion with colleagues within the Council's Corporate Services Directorate it was agreed that the Public Toilet Strategy would not fall within the type of project considered suitable for a Project Board type structure and that a more suitable format for providing Councillor involvement would be through the Neighbourhood Services Working Group which was established in October 2018. The purpose of this Working Group was to provide political direction and support to the development and implementation of the Neighbourhood Services project.</p> <p>The Working Group has not met for some time and so it is proposed that it will be reconvened and become the mechanism for Councillor involvement in Neighbourhood Services projects including the Public Toilet Strategy.</p> <p>A copy of the existing Terms of Reference for the Neighbourhood Services Working Group is provided at Appendix 1. It is proposed that Officers update the Terms of Reference of the Neighbourhood Services Working Group and to report back for Committee consideration.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To note contents of this report.</li> <li>• To approve that governance arrangements for the delivery of the Public Toilet Strategy will be through the Neighbourhood Services Working Group.</li> <li>• Officers to review the Terms of Reference of the Neighbourhood Services Working Group and to report back for Committee consideration.</li> </ul>

<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	<p>Officer time and spend within agreed budgets on operation of Public Toilet service.</p> <p>Work arising from implementation of the work packages will be agreed through the Council business case process.</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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input 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>
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

	<div>If yes, please complete the following:</div> <div>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed<div>⊗</div></div>
7.0	Appendices
7.1	Appendix 1: Terms of Reference for Neighbourhood Services Working Group
8.0	Background Documents
8.1	None

## Neighbourhood Services Working Group - Terms of Reference

82

67



### Neighbourhood Services Working Group

#### Document Reference

<b>Version:</b>	1.0 (DRAFT FOR AGREEMENT)
<b>Report Status:</b>	▪ Draft for agreement at RTS Committee, 20 September 2018
<b>Date Issued:</b>	13 September 2018
<b>Date(s) of Review:</b>	20 September 2018



## Purpose

The purpose of the Neighbourhood Services Working Group ("the Working Group") is to provide political direction and support to the development and implementation of the Neighbourhood Services project.

The Working Group will be responsible to the Regulatory & Technical Services (RTS) Committee for the successful development and implementation of the project and its constituent activities. This Committee is accountable to Full Council.

## Scope

The Working Group shall be authorised to and responsible for:

- Providing political direction and support to the implementation of the project, its governance structures, as well as its activities;
- Ensuring the project and its work packages are delivered, and subsequent benefits realised, in accordance with the desired outcomes and objectives of the project;
- Resolving directional issues (i.e. competing aims, competing resources etc.) between in-scope supporting activities;
- Escalating issues, where appropriate, to the Regulatory & Technical Services (RTS) Committee for redress;
- Overseeing the management of the project's risks;
- Continually monitoring and reviewing the performance of the project (i.e. timetable, cost, quality etc.);
- Overseeing stakeholder communications and engagement; and
- Making recommendations to the Regulatory & Technical Services (RTS) Committee in respect of all aspects to the development, implementation and closure of the project (i.e. project stages, business case approvals, procurement, change requests etc.)

## Methodology

The project will be managed in accordance with a recognised project management methodology.

## Membership Arrangements

Membership of the Working Group shall be comprised of the following appointed Councillors:

Sinn Fein	C Casey
	W Clarke
SDLP	G Stokes
	Additional nomination
DUP	W Walker
UUP	J Macauley
Smaller Parties/Indp	J Tinnelly

Appointments to this Working Group shall be made at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Council.

The Working Group shall be supported by the Acting Director of Neighbourhood Services, as well as by other senior officials from the Neighbourhood Services Directorate and the Council.

## Frequency of Meetings

A schedule of meetings shall be agreed by the Working Group.

## Secretarial Support & Project Documentation

Secretarial support shall be provided to the Working Group by the Neighbourhood Services Directorate<sup>1</sup>.

An appointed Project Manager shall be responsible for maintaining all project documentation relating to all aspects of the project and the operation of the Working Group.

## Working Group Reports

The Working Group shall be required to maintain an action sheet (where relevant) for all Meetings and submit them to the Regulatory & Technical Services (RTS) Committee for adoption.

The Working Group shall also receive regular progress reports from the (Officer) Neighbourhood Services Project Board. These progress reports shall also be tabled at the Council's Efficiencies Working Group (EWG) meetings for noting.

<sup>1</sup> In the absence of this resource, secretarial support shall be provided on an interim basis by the PA to the Interim Director of Neighbourhood Services.

<b>Report to:</b>	Neighbourhood Services Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	16 November 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Household Recycling Centres Update
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Sinead Murphy: Acting Assistant Director Waste Management
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Liam Dinsmore: Head of Waste Processing and Enforcement

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	The purpose of this Report is to update Committee with respect to the review of operations at the Council's Household Recycling Centres (HRCs). Committee has previously approved a two-phase review of (HRCs) at August 2019 and October 2019 Neighbourhood Services Committee meetings, committee minute references NS/038/2019 and NS/075/2019 respectively.	
1.2	The Council operates ten sites across the District with varying site operational capacity and staffing arrangement. The primary rationale for reviewing the operations and policies governing access to and the usage of the Council's HRCs was to secure standardisation across all of the Council's HRC sites, as well as to reduce the amount of (non-recyclable) residual waste currently being receipted and processed through these facilities.	
2.0	Key Issues	
2.1	All 10 Household Recycling Centres are currently operating on a restricted basis across the district in terms of opening hours and non-acceptance of Trade/Commercial Waste with the exception of recyclable cardboard. Covid Risk Assessments are under review and along with government guidance will inform the path to full recovery, including future re-acceptance of Trade/Commercial Waste at identified Commercial sites.	
2.2	While Phase 1 of the HRC Review has progressed, it has been delayed due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. It is intended as part of our Covid-19 recovery programme to reignite the phased review process at the HRC sites across the District.	
2.3	<p>For Phase 1, progress has been made with the implementation of policies governing access to and the usage of the Council's HRCs in relation to general access &amp; usage, Construction/DIY materials and re-use of materials.</p> <p>A common entrance policy with respect to materials accepted is in place across all sites. To facilitate this height restriction barriers have been installed at Castlewellan and Ballynahinch sites to seek to restrict access for larger vehicles. Access control options are also currently about to be launched at the Hilltown and Kilkeel sites to seek to manage vehicle access and to allow staffing ratios to be restored to pre-Covid levels. Options to implement overhead barriers and automated traffic control at other sites are also being considered.</p>	

2.4	The proposed Permit System to facilitate entrance to and usage of HRCs by householders who operate commercial-type vehicles (i.e. vans) and Trailers and for Trade/Commercial customers has been delayed. It is anticipated that this will now be in place by the end of Qtr 4 2021/22.
2.5	Phase 2 of the review, which includes standardising operating hours will recommence and a paper will be reported to a future Neighbourhood Services Committee meeting.
2.6	Any change to operations at HRC sites requires NIEA site licence modifications and revised site signage. This will incur additional cost.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
3.1	Members are asked to <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Note and approve the contents of this report</b></li> <li><b>2. Note an update report on HRC Review will be provided at a future meeting of the NS Committee</b></li> </ol>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	Additional costs may incur with changes to NIEA site licence conditions and for the installation of automated traffic control barriers and site signage. Provision to be made to Rates Estimates
<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><b><i>Previous applies</i></b> <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>Previously provided 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><b>None</b></p>
8.0	<p><b>Background Documents</b></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>August 2019 NS Committee Minutes, Ref. NS/038/2019</b></li> <li>• <b>October 2019 NS Committee Minutes, Ref. NS/075/2019</b></li> <li>• <b>WRAP Commercial &amp; Industrial Waste and Recycling Drop-Off Centres Guide (2019)</b></li> </ul>




<b>Report to:</b>	Neighbourhood Services Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	16 November 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Enforcement Improvement Plan
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Sinead Murphy, Assistant Director: Waste Management (Acting)
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Liam Dinsmore Head of Waste Processing and Enforcement Laura Hughes Waste Facilities & Enforcement Manager

<b>For decision</b>		<b>For noting only</b>	<b>X</b>
1.0	<b>Purpose and Background</b>		
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update the Committee regarding implementation of the Enforcement Improvement Plan for dog fouling and illicit dumping. The Enforcement Improvement Plan was approved by Committee in March 2021 with direction by members for regular updates, with second quarterly update provided here.		
2.0	<b>Key Issues</b>		
2.1	A full update on Enforcement Improvement Plan can be found in Appendix 1, with a summary of the key Action Points and progress detailed below:		
	<b>Action Points from Report approved in March 2021</b>	<b>Progress Summary Report</b>	
	1. Trial for Enforcement /GIS Mapping App.	Developed app now currently on trial by Enforcement / Authorised Council Officers.	
	2. Provide Benchmarking Report as to FPN issued.	Complete and considered by Committee.	
	3. Recruitment <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 Temporary Vacancy (Down)</li><li>• 2 Seasonal Vacancies (1 X Down + 1 X Newry)</li></ul>	The current compliment of Enforcement Officers is 3 Full Time staff, working across the District seven days per week. A further recruitment exercise is underway to fulfil current vacant posts – 1 X Temporary Enforcement Officer (Down) and 2 X Seasonal Enforcement Officers (Down & Newry)	
	4. Additional litter bins	Addressed by Head of Refuse/Cleansing	
	5. Raising Awareness	Promotional Plan, as approved by Committee implemented June /July 2021, detail below.	
	6. Cleaner/Greener initiative	Interest in clean-ups has been significant with 79 official requests supported since 14 <sup>th</sup> April 2021	
	7. Community Ambassadors	No Progress due to Covid restrictions	




8. Public Reporting	FPN reporting provided monthly to NS Committee. Plans to report monthly figures on the Council Website are in progress with a view to going live in Quarter 4 2021/2022
9. School Outreach	Proposal submitted to and adopted by Council to provide 10 x kitchen caddies and litter pick kits to schools with view to issuing for new school term.
10. Communications Plan	<p>Program as approved by Council to increase awareness of littering and responsible dog ownership was implemented and rolled out between Friday 18 June – Friday 30 July</p> <p>For the Live Here Love Here (LHLH) Anti-littering campaign there were 292,792 Facebook video views, with a total reach to 91,910 people across all social media channels</p> <p>For the LHLH Dog-Fouling campaign there were 43,470 Facebook video views, with a total reach to 172,658 people across all social media channels</p> <p>Program deemed to be a success with combined reach across all social media channels for both campaigns at 264,568 people</p>
11. Use of CCTN/Bodycams	Work in Progress
12. DNA Testing for dogs	Matter reviewed and recommendation for 'no action' approved by Council.
13. Partnering Arrangement	Arrangement continues with Louth C.C. Video has been recorded in July 2021 and currently at final edit stage.
14. Joint Meeting with KNIB	Meeting held with KNIB with involvement secured for several publicity and photo call events. Partnering secured for both Dog Fouling and Littering Communications June – July 2021
15. Availability of Dog Waste Bags	<p>40,000 dog waste bags and 10 dispensers have been purchased</p> <p>Dispensing unit placements have been identified across the District to include Ashgrove Avenue, Bessbrook, Clonallon Park, Killyleagh Harbour Walkway, Newcastle</p>



		Promenade and Warrenpoint Seafront with a view to be in place by December 2021. Comms to be provided to Council social media platforms to promote awareness when available for use.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>	
3.1	Members are asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To note the content of this update report.</li> </ul>	
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>	
4.1	There are no additional resource implications associated with this update report.	
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b>	
5.1	<b><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></b>  <b>N/A</b> <span style="float: right;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></span>	
5.2	<b><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></b>  Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  If yes, please complete the following:  The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/></span>  The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/></span>	
5.3	<b><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></b>  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 <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/></span>  Consultation period will be 12 weeks <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/></span>  Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/></span>  <b><i>Rationale:</i></b>	


<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 1 - Enforcement Improvement Plan March 2021 (November 2021 update)
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Background Documents</b>
8.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notices of Motion (February 2019),</li> <li>• Elected Member workshop on the issue on the 22 March 2019, as considered 19 June 2019.</li> <li>• NS Committee Report (August 2020 and March 2021)</li> <li>• Live Here Love Here Assets (Static Assets for Dog Fouling &amp; Litter for use on Social Media Channels/Paid Campaign on Facebook)</li> <li>• Enforcement Improvement Plan March 2021</li> </ul>

Theme	Supporting Action	Timeframe	Comments	Progress Updates as at August 2020/March 2021:	Status	Comment as at 11 November 2021
<b>Management Information</b>	Recording, categorisation & mapping of fly-tipping incidents and removal / processing costs	S/T	Analysis of this information will support the identification of "hot-spots" & the corresponding targeting of resources. Enabled by access to Tascomi system.	<p><b>August 2020:</b> All fly-tipping incidents reported have been collated from 2016 from the Tascomi System- ready to be sent to the GIS team.</p> <p>Asbestos related tipping has also been filtered- awaiting cost analysis.</p> <p>Attempt to attribute cost to removal of flytipping had begun however, due to COVID and staff shortages, the work has been postponed</p> <p><b>March 2021:</b> Two Council web applications for the recording, categorisation and mapping of fly-tipping incidents in development by the GIS Officer.</p> <p>Trial underway of Enforcement GIS mapping app. Anticipated rollout April/May 2021</p>		<p><b>In Progress:</b> GIS mapping app finalised and currently on trial by Enforcement / Authorised Council Officers. Officers to feedback to GIS Officer as to any issues presenting</p> <p>Basic design of a public reporting app has been constructed.</p> <p>Further consultation and development required to address GDPR compliance and end user final design</p> <p>Tascomi address list to be updated.</p> <p>These developments will facilitate the identification of "hotspots" to improve targeted enforcement</p>









Mapping & analysis of Dog Licences	S/T	<p>This will potentially identify specific parts of our District where take-up is under-performing.</p> <p>Subsequent analysis can also be used to identify high-volume areas &amp; corresponding targeting of resources.</p>	<p><b>August 2020/March 2021:</b> Mapping of licenses is complete.</p> <p>Meeting to be set up when feasible to liaise with GIS team regarding updating data and analysis.</p>		<p><b>In Progress:</b> Meeting to be convened with GIS Team to progress</p>
Analysis of LEAMS (Local Environmental Audit & Management System) scoring for litter pollution & dog fouling.	S/T	<p>Our on-going participation in this scheme (via Keep NI Beautiful) will enable our performance to be tracked over-time.</p> <p>Analysis of scores will identify areas for improvement.</p>	<p><b>August 2020:</b> We continue to work with Keep NI Beautiful to track our performance overtime. Head of Performance and Improvement had analysed the trends which are to be published in the Performance and Improvement Plan Assessment 2019-20 (September 2020).</p> <p>Collaboration between Head of Enforcement and Waste Processing, the Head of Refuse and Cleansing and the Head of Performance and Improvement could help identify areas of improvement.</p> <p><b>March 2021:</b> 2019/2020 NMDDC LEAMS score = 64</p>		<p><b>In Progress:</b> 2021/2022 target to achieve or surpass NI average 2020/2021 LEAMS =</p> <p>2020/2021 NMDDC LEAMS score = 64</p>
Collection & analysis of benchmarking information with	S/T	Continual performance & process (activity) benchmarking with other Councils, specifically in relation to	<p><b>August 2020:</b> We continue to work with Keep NI Beautiful to track our performance over time.</p>		<p><b>Completed:</b> Press release observed highlighting low levels of FPNs issued South of Ireland in 2020.</p>

	other (NI) Councils		LEAMS scoring & the issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) will inform the development of new actions.	<p>Head of Performance and Improvement had analysed the trends which are to be published in the Performance and Improvement Plan Assessment 2019-20 (September 2020).</p> <p>Collaboration between Head of Enforcement and Waste Processing, the Head of Refuse and Cleansing and the Head of Performance and Improvement could help identify areas of improvement.</p> <p><b>March 2021:</b> Benchmarking information provided to Council December 2020.</p>		<p>Monthly tracking in progress for FPNs issued by Enforcement Team and payments</p> <p><b>In Progress:</b> Request statistics for England, Wales, Scotland for benchmarking</p> <p>Meeting to be convened with Departments Heads as stated</p>
<b>Legal Provisions &amp; Policy</b>	Extend the number of Dog Control Orders to other locations	S/T	Enabled by The Clean Neighbourhoods & Environment (NI) Act 2011. Current geographical scope is limited. Opportunity to extend to other Council land assets. Partly supported by the identification of hot-spots & extending enforcement powers to other Council Officers.	<b>August 2020/March 2021:</b> Areas to be identified by liaising with the GIS team. If areas are identified, an opportunity to work collaboratively with parks and grounds staff could be explored		<b>Action Required:</b> Liaise with Assistant Director of Tourism, Culture and Events to seek extend enforcement powers to Park Wardens/Mourne Heritage and other potential options.
	Explore increased use of powers to require the removal of waste	M/T	Enabled by Article 28 of The Waste & Contaminated Land (NI) Order 1997. Will require	<b>August 2020:</b> Work was underway with the Senior Environmental Health		<b>Ongoing:</b> Monthly Enforcement Team Review meeting extended to Heads of EH & Cleansing and




	unlawfully deposited (fly-tipping)		legal clarification & (potentially) supporting protocols.	<p>Officer to identify areas of responsibility.</p> <p>Progress halted by COVID, however, will be continued as soon as feasible.</p> <p><b>March 2021:</b> Joint working in place with EH Officers</p> <p>Wastes dumped in private gardens addressed by EH and wastes dumped on lands in country side by Enforcement</p>		other regulatory body officials to address areas of responsibility
	Extend powers to issue Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) to other Council Officers	M/T	This has the potential to supplement existing Enforcement Officer resources. Potential human resource implications.	<p><b>August 2020:</b> No progress on extending powers to staff.</p> <p>However, successfully recruited two seasonal enforcement officers (23/07/2020) and interviewing for two permanent officers (07/08/2020)</p> <p><b>March 2021:</b> Enforcement Section appointed 2 x Permanent staff 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020 with training concluded 31<sup>st</sup> December</p>		<p><b>Completed:</b> 1 X Seasonal Officer appointed into post 24<sup>th</sup> May to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021</p> <p>1 X Permanent Officer appointed into post 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021</p> <p><b>In Progress:</b> Recruitment process underway for one temporary officer based at Down</p> <p>Recruitment process also currently underway for two seasonal enforcement officers – 1 X Down based and 1 X Newry based</p> <p>Intention for Seasonal Officers to be strategically assigned to identified "hotspots" where</p>








						there has been an increase in dog-fouling and littering offences.
	Litter Bin provision policy	M/T	Development of a litter bin provision policy (based on an assessment of need) governing kerbside and other Council land asset provision, as well as bin-type and frequency of emptying.	<b>August 2020/March 2021:</b> Policy has been developed and approved by Council.		<p><b>Completed:</b> 31 Public Health Litter &amp; 6 Littering Tascomi service requests received by Enforcement Team from 01/04/2021-11/11/2021</p> <p>6 (16.2%) specific requests for additional litter bin provision.</p> <p>Cleansing section consulted on requests received</p> <p><b>In Progress:</b> Further litter bin review with Head of Cleansing in light of current littering issues.</p>
<b>Awareness Raising &amp; Education</b>	Dog Fouling Strategy (Phases I & II)	S/T	Continue with the promotion of responsible dog ownership (Phase I) but officially launch Phase II (greater focus on enforcement). Supporting publicity campaign.	<b>August 2020/March 2021:</b> With the COVID pandemic, the Strategy has been put on hold however, we have continued with the promotion of Responsible Dog Ownership (Phase I) by providing information on responsible dog ownership on the council website and social media channels during the COVID pandemic.		<p><b>Completed:</b> Public information as to issues of Flytipping/Littering and Responsible Dog-Ownership updated to Council web site – June/July 2021</p> <p>Enforcement representation at NIDAG Group meetings since February 2021</p> <p><b>In Progress:</b> Detail ref Responsible dog ownership provided to Head of Licensing for inclusion on dog-licence registration form</p> <p>Collaborative joint Enforcement / Licensing officer patrols to be</p>

						conducted in identified "hotspot" areas  Intention for recruited Seasonal officers to be strategically assigned to identified "hotspots" where there has been an increase in dog-fouling and littering offences
Cleaner, Greener Communities pilot	S/T	Review the effectiveness of the recent pilot & prepare a business case to roll-out in future years.	<b>August 2020/March 2021:</b> Reviewed by the Head of Sustainability, decided to not proceed with the project in the future.		<b>Completed</b> Interest in clean-ups has been significant with 79 official requests supported since relaunch 14 <sup>th</sup> April 2021  Raise with Head of Sustainability as to continuation arrangements for 2022/2023	
Temporary suspension of cleansing regimes	S/T	Consider the feasibility of suspending local cleansing regimes to highlight the scale of the problem in local hot-spots.	<b>August 2020/March 2021:</b> Please refer to Head of Refuse and Cleansing for update.		Not progressed  <b>Action Required</b> Please refer to Head of Refuse and Cleansing for update.	
Signage	S/T	Consider the erection of suitable signage at all Council land assets (i.e. play parks etc.). Possible financial implications.	<b>August 2020/March 2021:</b> Recommend that signs should be erected however, cannot progress due to budgeting issues.		<b>In Progress</b> Seek Departments to review this aspect and to provide low cost identifiable signage under 2022/2023 rates estimate provision	
Community Ambassadors	M/T	Opportunity to appoint local ambassadors to supplement Council enforcement activities to approach offenders in local areas. Will require legal clarification & risk assessment.	<b>August 2020/March 2021:</b> Work had begun with Tidy NI regarding a Dog Fouling pilot with local ambassadors, however, progress has halted due to the COVID pandemic.		This Project continues to be delayed due to Covid  <b>In Progress:</b> As an alternative joint Enforcement / Dog Warden patrols to be set up at key sites:	









						<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dog Licence</li> <li>2. Carrying of dog waste bags</li> <li>3. Dog chipped/licensing</li> <li>4. Education</li> </ol>
	Public reporting of performance information	M/T	Opportunity to highlight the scale of the problem in local areas by periodically reporting the number of recorded incidences and FPNs issued (District-wide & DEA). Enabled by short-term management information actions.	<p><b>August 2020:</b> With staffing issues during the COVID pandemic the data has not be analysed and reported at DEA level. However, the Performance and Improvement Plan Assessment 2019-20 when published in September 2020 will include district wide trend analysis.</p> <p><b>March 2021:</b> All FPNs are continually recorded and are mapped</p>		<p><b>Completed:</b> All FPNs continue to be recorded and mapped</p>
	Local Schools Education Programme	M/T	Develop an education programme for local schools highlighting the health and environmental hazards of dog fouling, littering & fly-tipping. Links with Environmental Health.	<p><b>August 2020:</b> We were in contact with Patrick McShane regarding uptake. Progress has halted with the COVID pandemic, will continue once feasible</p> <p><b>March 2021:</b> Schools reopening w/c 08/03/2021 on phased basis</p>		This Project is in progress and due to fully recommence in Quarter 4 with the issuing of litter pickers and food waste caddies to schools as previously approved by Council in May 2021
	Local Community Reporting (including naming & shaming of offenders)	M/T	Will require legal clarification & an assessment of data protection implications etc.	<p><b>August 2020/March 2021:</b> Legal opinion was sought. Name and shame is not an option when a person pays their fine/ However, if the case is brought to court, the details will be in the public arena.</p>		<p><b>Completed:</b> FPN reported to NS Committee and to be provided monthly.</p> <p><b>In Progress:</b> Extended plans to report monthly figures by DEA on the Council Website with a view to</p>

				<p>We could however, present data visually by postcode for example and community level reporting would be possible.</p> <p>Possible discussion to be had with the GIS team.</p>		going live in Quarter 4 2021/2022
	Communications	S/T	Raise awareness of related littering and dog-fouling issues	<p><b>August 2020:</b> This aspect due for release</p> <p><b>March 2021:</b> Target roll out end - March 2021</p>		<p><b>Completed:</b> LHLH Anti-Littering &amp; Responsible Dog Ownership Comms Project – Rolled out June/July 2021</p> <p>Public information as to issues of Flytipping/Littering and Responsible Dog-Ownership updated to Council web site – June 2021</p> <p>Co. Louth Anti-Flytipping video recorded July 2021 and at final edit stage</p> <p>Monthly FPN stats provided to NS Committee</p> <p><b>In Progress:</b> Bill-board advertising ref: Dog-fouling / Anti-Littering</p> <p>Lobby Central Govt to raise fines</p> <p>Radio advertising ref: reporting of littering/flytipping and dog-fouling</p> <p>Use of CCTV/Body Cameras</p>



						Chalk stencilling at hotspots
	Establishment of a Community Fund	M/T	Opportunity to explore the potential of a community fund (secured from grant-aid funding or from other income sources) to support anti-dog fouling, littering & fly-tipping activities.	<p><b>August 2020/March 2021:</b> Unaware of grant aid funding or other income to support anti-dog fouling, littering &amp; fly-tipping activities.</p> <p>However, there is an opportunity to discuss with "Live Here, Love Here" for support in the activities.</p>		<p><b>Action Required:</b> Raise with Head of Sustainability</p>
Technology	CCTV	M/T	Explore the feasibility of using temporary / mobile CCTV to support enforcement activities.	<p><b>August 2020/March 2021:</b> Protocol and Policy needs to be developed by Facilitates to progress this action.</p> <p>Possibility of receiving grant aid from NIEA.</p>		<p><b>In Progress:</b> Discussion underway to implement appropriate CCTV and bodycams.</p> <p>Engagement with neighbouring/other Councils currently availing/utilising cameras to explore best fit solution and policy development requirements</p>
	Bodycams & Hand-held Devices	M/T	Explore the potential use of Bodycams to collate evidence & hand-held devices to process FPNs.	<p><b>August 2020/March 2021:</b> Once all necessary staff has been recruited a pilot will be conducted.</p>		<b>As above</b>
	DNA Testing for Dog Waste	L/T	This option is not feasible	N/A		<p><b>No further action to be progressed at this time</b></p> <p>No legal power to insist owners register for this service. Project not considered to be financially deliverable and does not deal with dogs as are brought into Council District from other locations.</p>



						<p>1. Cost at approx. £44 per initial sample to identify dog</p> <p>2. Cost of tests thereafter £70 per sample not including collection costs</p>
	Mechanised Cleansing Equipment	M/T	Explore the potential for the increased use of mechanised cleansing equipment (i.e. small scrubber sweepers & quad-type vehicles) to assist with cleansing activities. Enabled by Cleansing review.	<b>August 2020/March 2021:</b> Please refer to the Head of Refuse and Cleansing.		<b>Action Required:</b> Refer to Head of Cleansing as reduced levels of cleansing impacts on Leams and visibility of dog-fouling
<b>Partnership Working</b>	Louth County Council Joint Working	S/T	Prepare action plan with Louth County Council to address shared fly-tipping issues.	<p><b>August 2020:</b> Last meeting was held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020 regarding the action plan, however due to the COVID pandemic, process has halted. Work will continue once feasible.</p> <p><b>March 2021:</b> Target delivery for promotional video of 30 June 2021</p>		<b>Completed:</b> Co. Louth working group is active. Promotional video regarding Fly-Tipping along shared border has been commissioned and recorded on 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2021. Video complete and currently at final edit stage. Anticipated to be released in Quarter 4 2021/2022
	NIEA / Neighbouring Councils	S/T	Explore the potential for collaboration with the NIEA and neighbouring Councils specifically in relation to support for the improvement plan.	<p><b>August 2020/March 2021:</b> Currently working with NIEA and Louth County Council regarding actions/implementations to support the improvement plan.</p> <p>Work is currently on hold with the COVID pandemic, will continue once feasible.</p>		<p><b>Completed:</b> NIEA contacted and have recently collaborated to remove wastes in South Armagh area. Further meetings programmed</p> <p>Current collaborative engagement with ABC Council Neighbourhood Environmental &amp; Community Engagement team</p>

	Dogs Trust	S/T	Working with Building Control & Licensing and Environmental Health to develop a partnership agreement with The Dog's Trust (promotion of responsible dog ownership)	<p><b>August 2020:</b> Currently working with the Dog's Trust and using their PR material to promote responsible dog ownership.</p> <p><b>March 2021:</b> No progress due to Covid</p>		<p>No further progress due to Covid.</p> <p>Once feasible with the COVID pandemic, progress will resume.</p>
	Keep NI Beautiful	S/T	Work with Keep NI Beautiful to review improvement plan & support improvement initiatives.	<p><b>August 2020/March 2021:</b> We keep regular contact and work with Keep NI Beautiful. Once the LEAM's and FPN data has been analysed fully, more targeted progress and collaborative work can begin.</p>		<p><b>Action Required:</b> Meeting to be convened Enforcement, Cleansing Services and KNIB.</p>
<b>Resources</b>	Recruitment	S/T	Complete recruitment to seasonal & permanent posts.	<p><b>August 2020:</b> Two seasonal enforcement officers have been recruited starting Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2020. Interviews for two permanent enforcement are due to take place Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2020.</p> <p><b>March 2021:</b> Permanent appointments made October 2020</p>		<p><b>Completed:</b> 1 X Seasonal Officer appointed into post 24<sup>th</sup> May to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021</p> <p>1 X Permanent Officer appointed into post 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021</p> <p><b>In Progress:</b> Recruitment process underway for one temporary officer based at Down</p> <p>Recruitment process also currently underway for two seasonal enforcement officers – 1 X Down based and 1 X Newry based</p> <p>Intention for Seasonal Officers to be strategically assigned to identified "hotspots" where there has been an increase in</p>



						dog-fouling and littering offences.
	Enforcement Workforce Plan	M/T	Identify future workforce requirements to support improved enforcement performance. Enabled by Neighbourhood Services Transformation Project (NSTP).	<p><b>August 2020:</b> Assessed and proposed to increase enforcement bodies by using private firms or council staff with targeted initiatives.</p> <p>Plan to also have 4 permanent enforcement officers and 4 seasonal.</p> <p><b>March 2021:</b> Enforcement establishment set at 2 X Seasonal and 4 X Permanent</p>		No further action
<b>Performance Management</b>	Performance Indicators	S/T	Develop a suite of performance indicators to support enforcement improvement plan.	<p><b>August 2020:</b> Data is collated regarding FPN's and payment of fines, with a target of 10% increase by the end of 2020-21.</p> <p>Data is collated, analysed and currently reported by the Performance and Improvement Plan 2020-21.</p> <p><b>March 2021:</b> 2019/20 (54 FPN)</p>		<p><b>Completed:</b> 10% increase in FPN issue not realised from 2019-2020 v 2020-2021 due to impact of COVID-19 restrictions and risk control measures with regards to waste inspections and physical distancing for approaches to person further to incident observation. Also issues presented with return of DVLA requests during the period</p> <p>2021/2022 YTD FPNs issued are currently significantly surpassing 2019/20 and 2020/21 totals demonstrating a 65% increase</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2019/20 (54 FPN)</li> <li>• 2020/21 (52 FPN)</li> <li>• 2021/22 (86 FPN) YTD</li> </ul>



<b>Report to:</b>	Neighbourhood Services Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	16 November 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Deep Cleansing of Paved Surfaces
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Johnny McBride, Director Neighbourhood Services (Acting)
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Sinead Murphy, Assistant Director Waste Management (Acting)

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>	
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<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an update on the schedule of deep cleansing of paved surfaces to other areas within the District.
1.2	<p>Following business case approval by Committee in March 2021 and subsequent procurement exercise, a contractor has been appointed. The contractor has carried out deep cleaning in the following high profile realm areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newcastle</li> <li>• Downpatrick</li> <li>• Warrenpoint</li> <li>• Newry</li> </ul>
1.3	<p>Committee further approved the deep cleansing of paved surfaces in the remaining public realm areas of Kilkeel and Ballynahinch, as well as Crossmaglen within existing budgets at the September 2021 meeting. The deep cleaning of these areas is scheduled to commence next week.</p> <p>In addition, committee approved Officers to review the potential to extend the schedule of deep cleansing of paved surfaces to other areas within the District, subject to identifying additional funding to support this exercise.</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues</b>
2.1	The key messages of 'stay local' and 'staycation' being directed at the public throughout the Covid 19 pandemic have resulted in increased footfall in our local areas and increased staining of the paved footpaths in some areas within the District. Deep cleansing of these paved areas will assist with covid recovery within our community and local businesses.
2.2	<p>Officers have identified areas within the District to extend the schedule of deep cleansing of paved surfaces. These areas have been identified as proposed Tier 2 settlements in the Local Development Plan 2030 as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Saintfield</li> <li>• Killyleagh</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Castlewellan</li> <li>• Bessbrook</li> </ul> <p>It is estimated that the cost of cleansing these areas is approximately £18,000.</p>
2.3	Upon completion of cleansing of the identified surfaces in the Tier 2 settlements, the feasibility of extending the schedule of deep cleansing of paved surfaces to Tier 3 settlements will be explored. This will be subject to availability of funding.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
3.1	Members are asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Approve the Deep Cleansing schedule as set out in section 2.2 of this report</b></li> </ul>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	The existing budget is sufficient to fully support the cleansing of the additional areas laid out in the schedule as it has been supported through DAERA funding.
<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>

	<i>Rationale:</i>
<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 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>
	None
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Background Documents</b>
	<p><b>NS Committee report - Schedule of Deep Cleansing of Paved Surfaces in Public Realm Areas (September 2021)</b></p> <p><b>Newry Mourne and Down District Council’s Local Development Plan 2030</b></p>



Report to:	Neighbourhood Services Committee
Date of Meeting:	16 November 2021
Subject:	Christmas and New Year arrangements – Refuse Collection & Household Recycling Centres
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Sinead Murphy, (Acting) Assistant Director Waste Management
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Liam Dinsmore, Head of Waste Processing and Enforcement Peter Whyte, Head of Refuse & Cleansing

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-			
	<b>For decision</b>	<b>For noting only</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>		
1.1	The purpose of this report is to inform Members of arrangements for Refuse Collection Services and opening of Household Recycling Centres for the 2021 Christmas and New Year holiday period.		
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>		
2.1	<p>This year's recognised Christmas and New Year holidays are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christmas Eve (Friday 24 December 2021)</li> <li>• Christmas Day* (Monday 27 December 2021)</li> <li>• Boxing Day* (Tuesday 28 December 2021)</li> <li>• Day after Boxing Day (Wednesday 29 December 2021)</li> <li>• New Year's Day* (Monday 3 January 2022)</li> </ul> <p>*Moved due to holiday falling on a weekend</p>		
2.2	In addition, the decision of the SPR Committee was ratified at this month's meeting of full Council and granting two Special Appreciation Days in addition to this year's recognised Christmas Holidays. These days can be taken from 1 December 2021 to 31 March 2022.		
2.3	Householders have been informed of their Refuse Collection arrangements for the current financial year, including holiday periods, through their individual Recycling Collection Calendar 2021/22. This individual household information is also available to via the Council website at <a href="https://www.newrymournedown.org/bin-collection-information-and-calendar">https://www.newrymournedown.org/bin-collection-information-and-calendar</a>		
2.4	Details of the current opening hours for the Household Recycling Centres may be viewed at the Council website. The Council website will be updated with the proposed Christmas and New Year opening arrangements. This information will also be made available on social media and the Council's 'out of hours messaging'. Details as to opening hours for		

	the Household Recycling Centres will also be displayed at the HRC sites, from 13 December 2020.																								
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>																								
<b>3.1</b>	<p>Members are asked to note the arrangements in 3.2 for Refuse Collection Services and 3.3 for Household Recycling Centres for the 2021 Christmas and New Year holiday period to be publicised as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Publicised on Council website</li><li>• Posted on social media outlets</li><li>• Details to be recorded on 'out of hours' messaging</li><li>• Holiday arrangements to be displayed prominently at HRC sites from 13 December 2021</li></ul>																								
<b>3.2</b>	<p>Refuse Collection Services</p> <table><tr><th>Day</th><th>Date</th><th>Service Provision</th></tr><tr><td>Christmas Eve</td><td>Friday 24/12/21</td><td>Normal Collection</td></tr><tr><td>Christmas Day</td><td>Monday 27/12/21</td><td>No collection in Down Normal collection in Newry</td></tr><tr><td>Boxing Day</td><td>Tuesday 28/12/21</td><td>Normal Collection</td></tr><tr><td>Statutory Day</td><td>Wednesday 29/12/21</td><td>Normal Collection</td></tr><tr><td>Covid-19 Special Appreciation Day</td><td>Thursday 30/12/21</td><td>Normal Collection</td></tr><tr><td>Covid-19 Special Appreciation Day</td><td>Friday 31/12/21</td><td>Normal Collection</td></tr><tr><td>New Year's Day</td><td>Monday 03/01/22</td><td>No collection in Down Normal collection in Newry</td></tr></table>	Day	Date	Service Provision	Christmas Eve	Friday 24/12/21	Normal Collection	Christmas Day	Monday 27/12/21	No collection in Down Normal collection in Newry	Boxing Day	Tuesday 28/12/21	Normal Collection	Statutory Day	Wednesday 29/12/21	Normal Collection	Covid-19 Special Appreciation Day	Thursday 30/12/21	Normal Collection	Covid-19 Special Appreciation Day	Friday 31/12/21	Normal Collection	New Year's Day	Monday 03/01/22	No collection in Down Normal collection in Newry
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<b>3.3</b>	<p>Proposed arrangements at Household Recycling Centres</p> <table><tr><th>Day</th><th>Date</th><th>Service Provision</th></tr><tr><td>Christmas Eve</td><td>Friday 24/12/21</td><td>10:00 - 15:45</td></tr><tr><td>Christmas Day</td><td>Monday 27/12/21</td><td>CLOSED</td></tr><tr><td>Boxing Day</td><td>Tuesday 28/12/21</td><td>CLOSED</td></tr></table>	Day	Date	Service Provision	Christmas Eve	Friday 24/12/21	10:00 - 15:45	Christmas Day	Monday 27/12/21	CLOSED	Boxing Day	Tuesday 28/12/21	CLOSED												
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<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b> <p>Staffing costs will be covered at agreed rates, for service provision during the period.</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 outcome</i></b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><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>												
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<b>7.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	None
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Background Documents</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual Refuse Calendar <a href="https://www.newrymournedown.org/bin-collection-information-and-calendar">https://www.newrymournedown.org/bin-collection-information-and-calendar</a></li> <li>NS Committee Report, NS/040/2021 - REFUSE COLLECTION HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS 2021/22</li> </ul>

**ITEM 3**  
**ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting No 060**  
**MINUTES**  
**Thursday 30 September 2021**

**Members Present:**

Councillor A Bennington  
 Councillor R Kinnear  
 Alderman R Gibson (*Chair*)  
 Alderman A Carson  
 Alderman D Drysdale  
 Councillor S Lee  
 Councillor M Gregg  
 Councillor D Reid  
 Councillor H McKee

Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council  
 Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council  
 Ards & North Down Borough Council  
 Ards & North Down Borough Council  
 Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council  
 Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council  
 Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council  
 Mid & East Antrim Borough Council  
 Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

**Members' Apologies:**

Councillor M Goodman  
 Councillor A McDowell  
 Councillor F Ferguson  
 Councillor P McReynolds  
 Councillor JJ Magee  
 Alderman R Cherry  
 Councillor I Friary  
 Councillor W Clarke (*Deputy Chair*)  
 Councillor W Walker

Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council  
 Ards & North Down Borough Council  
 Belfast City Council  
 Belfast City Council  
 Belfast City Council  
 Mid & East Antrim Borough Council  
 Mid & East Antrim Borough Council  
 Newry, Mourne & Down District Council  
 Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

**Officers Present:**

T Walker  
 G Craig (*Secretary*)  
 H Campbell  
 K Boal  
 M Lavery  
 D Lindsay  
 N Martin  
 C Mathews  
 J McConnell  
 H Moore  
 D Carey  
 J McBride

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 Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council  
 Ards & North Down Borough Council  
 Ards & North Down Borough Council  
 Belfast City Council  
 Belfast City Council  
 Lisburn & Castlereagh Borough Council  
 Mid & East Antrim Borough Council  
 Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

**Officers' Apologies:**

G Girvan  
 P Thompson  
 J Green

Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council  
 Mid & East Antrim Borough Council  
 arc21

The Chair was informed that Councillor Goodman had been unwell and unable to attend the meeting. It was agreed to forward a letter of best wishes to him on behalf of the Committee.

**Action: The Chair**



**Item 1 - Update on Coronavirus Regulations**

Mr Craig reported that the coronavirus regulations had been updated and, from 27<sup>th</sup> August 2021 to 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022, Members are now allowed again to make decisions at remote meetings.

**Action: Noted**

**Item 2 - Conflicts of Interest Statement**

The Chair read out the Conflicts of Interest Statement. There were no conflicts noted.

**Action: Noted**

**Item 3 - Apologies**

Apologies were noted.

**Action: Noted**

**Item 4 - Minutes of Joint Committee Meeting 059 held on 26 August 2021**

Following discussion, the Joint Committee approved the minutes of Joint Committee meeting 059 held on 26 August 2021.

**Action: Agreed**

**Item 5 - Matters Arising**

Mr Craig discussed the Declaration of Members Interests forms to be completed by Members and reported that to date he had still five outstanding and advised that he would send out another reminder along with the relevant form to ask those remaining five Members to complete and send back to him as soon as possible in order that he can update the Local Government Auditor accordingly.

**Action: Mr Craig & Members**

Mr Craig advised that Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council had kindly offered their facility at Lagan Valley Island, Lisburn, in order to hold a joint physical and virtual hybrid meeting for October's Joint Committee meeting. Mr Craig advised that Members and Officers would be updated on the details in due course.

**Action: Mr Craig**

**Item 6 - Contracts & Operations Briefing Report**

Ms Boal provided the Joint Committee with an overview of issues pertaining to contracts and operations.

She reported that contractors continue to provide services across the arc21 contracts with COVID-19 preventative measures in place. Whilst a number of contractors have had positive Covid cases, services related to arc21 contracts have been maintained.

She also provided an update on rejected loads delivered to NWP and Bryson Recycling, an overview of contract tonnages and supplies orders.

In response to a previous request for information a breakdown of rejected loads by council and contract for the period April 2019- August 2021 was presented for information. Ms Boal re iterated that the overall tonnages delivered through the contracts that were rejected were, as a proportion of total tonnage delivered, very small but did cause operational and administrative inconvenience.

Ms Boal highlighted that lead times for many of the supplies such as bins and caddy liners had been growing and price increases were also occurring. She advised that Council Officers had been asked to consider this when planning their orders.

Following discussion, the Joint Committee noted the report.

**Action: Noted**

## IN COMMITTEE

The Chair recommended that the meeting would now move "in committee" for items 7 to 11 of the Agenda which was agreed.

Matters of a confidential and commercially sensitive nature were discussed under these agenda items.

Following discussion on the commercially sensitive matters, the Chair recommended that the meeting would now return to the main agenda, which was approved, but whilst "*in committee*" there were five matters discussed as follows:

### Item 7 - Minutes of Meeting 059 held on 26 August 2021 'in committee'

**Action: Agreed**

### Item 8 - Matters Arising

**Action: Noted**

### Item 9 - Residual Waste Treatment Project

**Action: Noted**

### Item 10 - Commercially Sensitive Contract & Procurement Issues

**Action: Agreed**

### Item 11 - Council Covid-19 Waste Management Financial Losses

**Action: Noted**

## OUT OF COMMITTEE

Members agreed to return to the main Agenda.

### Item 12 - Revenue Estimates

Mr Craig presented the Joint Committee with the proposed Revenue Estimates of arc21 for the three-year period from 2022/23 to 2024/25, for approval, in order that partner councils can make appropriate Budgetary Provision within their own individual financial plans.

The financial highlights are:

- Estimates for 2022/23 are £1.284m compared to £1.386 in 2021/22 (down by £102k)
- Further General Reserves have been applied to reduce the financial burden on councils with £315k applied in 2022/23 (£445k in 2021/22)
- Council contributions in 2022/23 are proposed at £960k compared with £941k in 2021/22 representing a 2% uplift year in year.
- As before, the costs are apportioned based on the mid-year population statistics as provided by NISRA.

Following discussion, the Joint Committee approved the Revenue Estimates.

**Action: Agreed**

**Item 13 - Plastic Packaging Tax**

Mr Craig presented the Joint Committee with guidance from HMRC regarding the introduction of the Plastic Packaging Tax which will come into effect on 1 April 2022.

He reported that the UK Plastic Packaging Tax (PPT) Policy is coming into force in April 2022 and HMRC has issued two useful guidance documents to assist organisations with determining if their activities in dealing with plastic packaging bring them into the scope of the tax and, if so, if they need to register for compliance.

He advised that PPT applies to public sector bodies too although it is unlikely that any NI Council would be involved in the type of activities that the tax regime would apply to.

Following discussion, the Joint Committee noted the report and the HMRC publications attached.

**Action: Noted**

**Item 14 - Annual Report for the Year to March 2021**

Mr Walker presented the Joint Committee with the arc21 Annual Report for the year to March 2021 reflecting the progress made in the first year of the new Corporate Plan 2020-2024.

Following discussion, the Joint Committee noted the Annual Report to March 2021.

The Chair congratulated the team at arc21 for all their hard work during a difficult year.

**Action: Noted**

**Item 15 - Audit Committee Meeting 24 September 2021 Report**

Mr Craig presented a report to update the Joint Committee on the issues presented to the Audit Committee at the meeting held on 24 September 2021.

One of the main issues for Members to note was the final Draft Statement of Accounts for the 2020/21 year which Mr Craig reported that the Local Government Auditor (LGA) had certified without qualification, at the Audit Committee meeting held on 24 September, confirming that the Statement of Accounts were fully compliant to enable them to signed off.

The only minor issue raised by the Auditor related to the fact that not all Members' Declarations of Interests had been submitted which was being addressed, as noted earlier in the minutes under matters arising.

Councillor Drysdale congratulated Mr Craig and the accounts team and all the staff at arc21 for achieving such an excellent result from the LGA once again.

He did however raise an issue regarding compliance with the CIPFA code and he asked that the meeting record that, *'arc21 comply with the CIPFA code except to the extent of the fact we have split accountability arrangements between the ACEO/DACEO. This arrangement is under review to ensure compliance with CIPFA and arc21 Scheme of Delegation and Financial Regulations'*.

Mr Craig advised that the Accounts would now be published on the arc21 website.

The Chair commended the work of the Audit Committee and Mr Craig and his team.

Following discussion the Joint Committee noted the report and the Executive Summary for the meeting held on 24 September 2021.

**Action: Noted**

### **Item 16 - Waste Management Plan**

Mr Walker provided a verbal report on the ongoing review of the Waste Management Plan, including the role arc21 has provided to date in supporting the review of the current plan, and proposals to develop a new version which is based on an 11-council model.

He reported that the WMP Group, made up of Mr N Martin, Mr M Lavery and Mr T Walker as the arc21 representatives, had attended update sessions throughout the summer in order to keep to a tight timescale to complete the arc21 review by September 2021.

He reported that the arc21 Waste Management Plan had now been screened by WRAP and delivered on a chapter-by-chapter basis to the WMP Group, which had identified where there are gaps to be addressed.

In order to meet the WRAP timescale to return responses by week ending 24 September, Steering Group officers were asked to forward their comments to the WMP Group so that a collective response could be submitted by the deadline of Friday 24 September. Following receipt from these officers, the WMP Group developed a collective response and submitted it in accordance with the requested timescale and a copy of the proposed response was presented for Members' information.

As the work with WRAP had proceeded over the summer, and following discussions with DAERA, Mr Walker reported that it was now being considered that the preparation of a single Waste Management Plan was unlikely and, instead, an addendum for each of the former Plans to cover the next number of years may be the most appropriate outcome at this stage. Mr Walker advised that the next step would be to liaise with WRAP to produce an appropriate addendum for consideration by the Joint Committee and councils.

Following discussion, the Joint Committee noted the approach adopted by the NI WMP Group over the summer, and the subsequent submission of "our" comments on the finalised chapters.

**Action: Noted**

### **Item 17 - AOB**

There was no further business discussed.

**Action: Noted**

### **Item 18 - Next Meeting**

The Chair advised that the next Joint Committee meeting would be held as scheduled on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> October and would take the form of a hybrid meeting with both physical and virtual attendance. He reported that Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council had kindly agreed to host the meeting in the Council Chamber, at Lagan Valley Island, Lisburn, and details will be circulated accordingly by Mr Craig.

**Action: Mr Craig**

At this point Alderman Drysdale asked that Members go in committee and requested that Officers leave the meeting.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_



**MEMBERS' MONTHLY BULLETIN**

The purpose of this Bulletin is to provide Members with an executive summary of the various agenda items which will be considered by the Joint Committee at its forthcoming meeting.

The titles highlighted in blue relate to the various agenda items.

**Item 1 - Conflicts of Interest**

The Joint Committee are reminded of their personal responsibilities and asked to declare any conflicts of interest that might arise during the meeting.

**Item 2 - Apologies****Item 3 - Minutes of Joint Committee Meeting 060 held on 30 September 2021****For approval**

The Joint Committee's approval is sought for the minutes of the meeting JC60 held on 30 September 2021.

**Item 4 - Matters Arising****Item 5 - Contracts & Operations Briefing Report****For noting**

Services continue to operate well, apart from the collection of fridges from Household Recycling Centres where there have been issues due to capacity at the processing plant at Toomebridge.

Tonnage statistics show a general decrease in September when compared with the corresponding month last year.

The report provides an update on information provided on the website of NWP, the contractor who processes the arc21 organic waste, related to environmental benefits of the composting process and end-product.

Price and extended delivery timeframes for the supply of bins, caddy liners etc. are highlighted.

The Joint Committee is asked to note the report.



### **'IN COMMITTEE' ITEMS - COMMERCIALY CONFIDENTIAL**

#### **Item 6 - Minutes of Joint Committee Meeting 060 held on 30 September 2021 'in committee'**

##### **For approval**

The Joint Committee's approval is sought for the minutes of the meeting JC060 held on 30 September 2021 'in committee'.

#### **Item 7 - Matters Arising**

#### **Item 8 - Residual Waste Treatment Project**

##### **For approval**

Procurement and planning - arc21 Officers continue to monitor the planning portal. The contents of the High Court judgement in the case of a judicial review of the granting of planning permission for the North South Interconnector are being considered.

Communications & Community Liaison - the programme of outreach consistent with arc21's mission to deliver the Councils statutory waste management plan continues.

UNECE - Waste-to-Energy Projects for the Circular Economy - The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) are currently undertaking an on-line survey to gather additional feedback and information from stakeholders on the Guidelines on Promoting People-first Public-Private Partnerships Waste-to-Energy Projects for the Circular Economy published in 2020. The UNECE are seeking input from organisations familiar with both energy from waste projects and the circular economy.

The Joint Committee is asked to:

- note the High Court judgement in relation to the North South Interconnector;
- note the communications and community liaison activities; and
- approve the submission of the UNECE survey return on Waste-to-Energy Projects for the Circular Economy attached to the report.

#### **Item 9 - Commercially Sensitive Contract and Procurement Issues**

##### **For approval**

Governance in relation to landfill capacity for use by Ards & North Down Borough Council, Belfast City Council and Lisburn & Castlereagh Council has been completed.



Extensions are sought in relation to the Haulage Contract, the Receipt and Processing of Mixed Dry Recyclables, Lot 2 Contract, the Bring Bank Service and the Street Sweeping Contracts.

A decision will be required regarding a request for a variation on the haulage contract. The matter is currently under consideration with the contractor, but it is anticipated, subject to those discussions to be able to circulate a recommendation prior to the Joint Committee meeting.

The Joint Committee is asked to approve the recommendations and to consider the remainder of the report.

### **OUT OF COMMITTEE & RETURN TO MAIN AGENDA**

#### **Item 10 - Financial Report for the Year to March 2021**

##### **For noting**

Members are presented with a summary of the certified Statement of Accounts for the year to March 2021, following the issuance of the Annual Report to those Charged with Governance from the Local Government Auditor.

Once again, the Local Government Auditor has been able to certify the accounts of arc21 without qualification, providing ongoing assurance to the Joint Committee around the financial management and governance of the organisation.

Members are presented with the main financial highlights for the year, which are as follows:

Total Income is up overall on the previous year by over 10% - £32.6m compared to £29.5m. Contract Income - £31.5m compared to £28.3m – is up by over 11% largely due to the increase in household waste arisings from home working during Covid-19.

A modest overall surplus of £71k was achieved in the year and added to the General Reserves to increase the level to £1.6m.

The cash balances at 31 March 2021 were down year on year (£3.3m compared to £3.7m in the previous year) but remained sufficient to meet the monthly contractual obligations of arc21, which average out at around £3m.

The deficit on the Pension Scheme continues to increase and, at 31 March 2021, was £1.2m (up from £1.1m at March 2020).

An extract from the certified Statement of Accounts is attached to the report.

The Joint Committee is asked to note the report.

**Item 11 - Waste Tonnage Trends****For noting**

The report highlights the trends in the landfill, mixed dry recycling, organic waste processing and street sweeping contracts.

In terms of the landfill and garden waste tonnages collected in August/September 2021, they followed a similar track as they did in the same period in 2020.

The peak in the collection of food and garden waste occurred in June, while the materials delivered to Bryson Recycling have flat-lined over the last couple of months; materials delivered to ReGen had been rising but this has started to level off.

Street Sweeping waste remained lower when compared to other years.

The Joint Committee is asked to note the report.

**Item 12 - Schedule of Meetings 2022****For approval**

The Joint Committee is presented with a proposed schedule of meetings for next year, January to December 2022, and is asked to consider and approve the proposed dates.

It is also recommended that the dates are forwarded to Members Services of the participant councils to help avoid meetings being scheduled in councils during these dates and times, and Members are asked to endorse this approach.

At this stage, it is hoped that the meetings next year will be able to get back to being held in a physical setting with Members present in person, subject of course to Public Health Agency guidance regarding the ongoing pandemic emergency.

Given the success of meetings being held remotely in a virtual format, there will also be the opportunity to hold hybrid meetings in future, with some Members being present in person and others participating remotely.

Members should also note that the current legislation enabling lawful decisions to be made in virtual meetings only extends to March 2022, and the impact on the ability of the Joint Committee to make lawful decisions, when a quorum is not present physically, will be considered at that time.

The Joint Committee is asked to approve the schedule of meeting dates for 2022 and note the rest of the report.





Item 13 - AOB

Item 14 - Next Meeting Tuesday 7 December 2021

CONFIDENTIAL





# Northern Ireland Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management Statistics

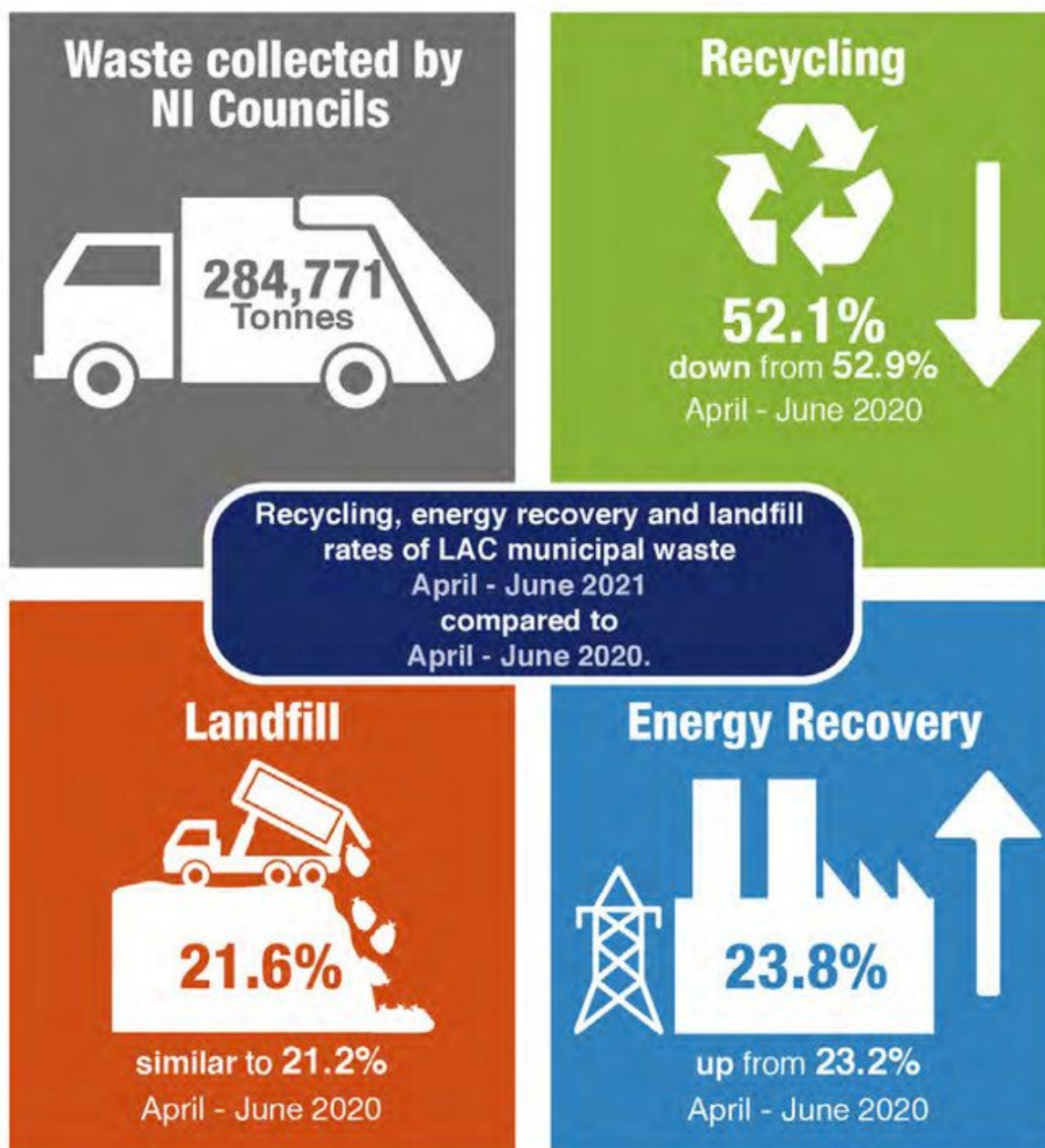
*Quarterly provisional estimates for April - June 2021*



*A living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.*



## Northern Ireland waste management statistics – April to June 2021





## Key Points

- Northern Ireland's councils collected 284,771 tonnes of waste during April to June 2021, a 20.4 per cent increase compared to April to June 2020.  
It should be noted that measures were introduced during April to June 2020 in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, including the closure of civic amenity sites. The full resumption of these services is primarily responsible for the extent of the increase in arisings reported.
- During April to June 2021, 52.1 per cent of waste collected by councils was sent for recycling, 0.8 per cent lower than the recycling rate for April to June 2020.
- The landfill rate for waste collected by councils was 21.6 per cent in April to June 2021, a fall from 72.5 per cent in April to June 2006, and similar to the 21.2 per cent recorded during April to June 2020.
- Almost a quarter (23.8 per cent) of waste arisings were sent for energy recovery in April to June 2021, higher than the 23.2 per cent reported in April to June 2020, and the 0.1 per cent rate during the same quarter in 2010.
- Household waste accounted for 88.2 per cent of all waste collected during this period.
- The recycling rate for household waste was 52.1 per cent, down from 54.4 per cent in April to June 2020. The landfill rate for household waste was 21.5 per cent, an increase from 20.7 per cent compared to the same quarter last year.

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## Contents

Overview	1
Waste arisings	2
Recycling	4
Energy recovery	6
Landfill	8
National Statistics Status	11

### Reader Information

This document may be made available in alternative formats, please contact us to discuss your requirements. Definitions of key terms used in this publication are available in [Appendix 2 – Glossary](#) of the latest Annual Report.

### Purpose

This is a quarterly publication which reports provisional statistics on the key measurements of local authority collected municipal waste for councils and waste management groups in Northern Ireland.

The data contained are used by local authorities, waste management groups, Devolved Administrations, UK Government and the EU to measure progress towards achieving targets from various waste strategies including:

- The revised Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy
- The draft Programme for Government Framework 2016-2021
- The EU Waste Framework Directive

The data are also used by media, the general public and special interest groups to inform policy and lifestyle choices related to the treatment of waste.

Further details are available in [Appendix 1 – Main Uses of Data](#) of the Annual Report.

### Next Updates

- Provisional statistics for July to September 2021 are scheduled for publication in January 2022.
- Finalised data for 2020/21 are scheduled to be published in November 2021 and will supersede previously published data from the four quarterly returns for that financial year.
- The scheduled dates for all upcoming publications are available from the GOV.UK statistics release calendar: [www.gov.uk/search/research-and-statistics](http://www.gov.uk/search/research-and-statistics)

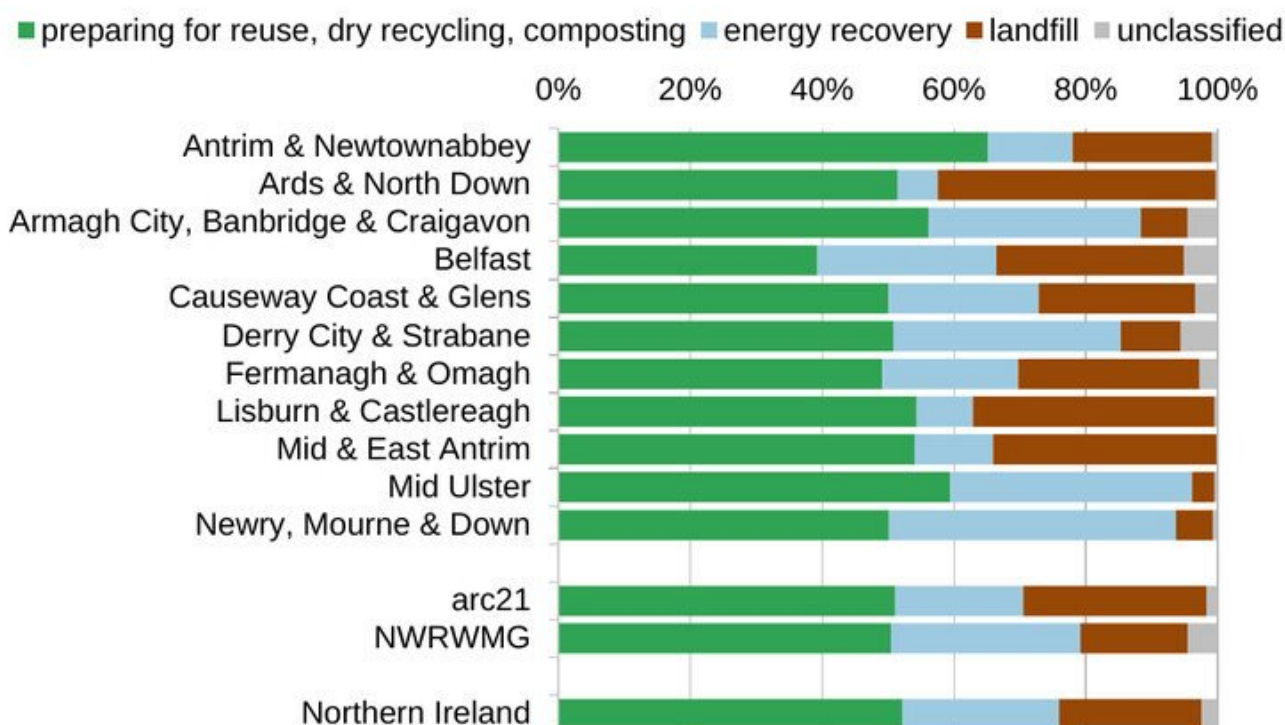


## Overview

This report presents information on the quantities of local authority collected municipal waste managed in Northern Ireland between April and June 2021. The report is split into four sections, each of which cover local authority collected (LAC) municipal waste and, where appropriate, household waste:

- waste arisings (pages 2-3),
- **recycling (pages 4-5),**
- **energy recovery (pages 6-7),**
- **landfill (pages 8-10).**

**Figure 1: Waste preparing for reuse, dry recycling, composting, energy recovery and landfill rates by council and waste management group**  
Northern Ireland, April to June 2021



At the Northern Ireland level, 52.1 per cent of waste collected by councils was sent for preparing for reuse, dry recycling and composting between April and June 2021. Energy recovery accounted for 23.8 per cent and 21.6 per cent was landfilled. The remaining 2.5 per cent unaccounted for is likely to involve moisture and/or gaseous losses. Each of the rates are discussed in detail in the appropriate section of the report.

The rate of waste sent for preparing for reuse, dry recycling and composting decreased by 0.8 percentage points compared to April to June 2020. The energy recovery rate increased by 0.6 percentage points and the landfill rate remained at a similar rate to April to June 2020. Household waste accounted for 88.2 per cent of total waste collected by councils. Household waste includes materials collected directly from households via kerbside collections, material taken to bring sites and civic amenity sites as well as several other smaller sources.



## Waste arisings

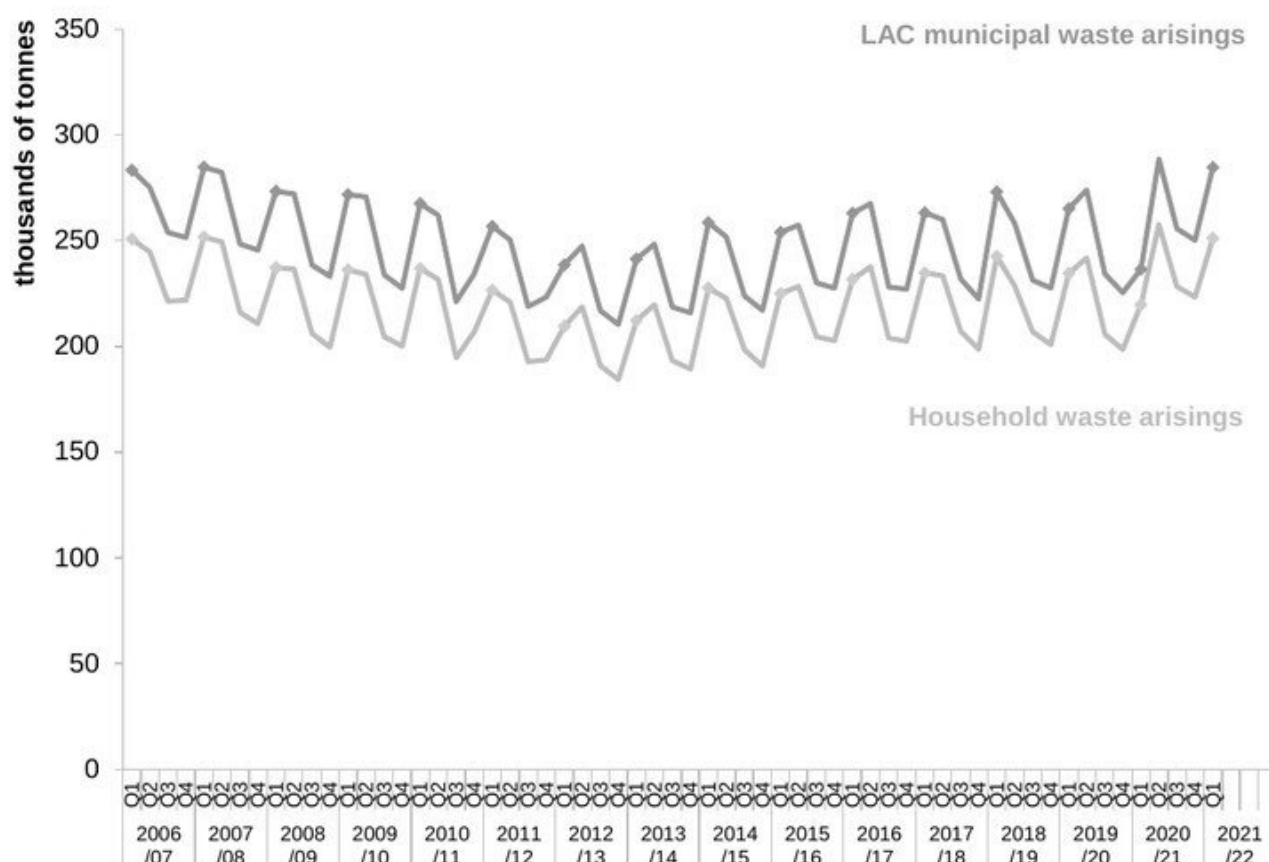
Northern Ireland's councils collected 284,771 tonnes of waste between April and June 2021. This was 20.4 per cent higher than the 236,560 tonnes collected during the same three months of 2020. The extent of this increase can primarily be explained by an almost threefold increase in the quantity of waste collected at civic amenity sites compared to the same quarter in 2020. In April to June 2020, measures were introduced in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, including the closure of many civic amenity sites, resulting in a large reduction in the quantity of waste collected during this period.

The total quantity of local authority collected (LAC) municipal waste arisings is a key performance indicator, KPI (j). This indicator is also used to monitor performance under the Local Government (Performance Indicators and Standards) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015.

Since 2006/07 household waste has accounted for 86-90 per cent of total waste collected by councils each quarter, apart from April to June 2020 when Covid-19 restrictions resulted in a larger than normal proportion of household waste being collected. During April to June 2021 household waste accounted for 88.2 per cent. The remaining 11.8 per cent was non-household waste such as rubble/soil and commercial/industrial waste.

**Figure 2: Waste arisings**

Northern Ireland, quarterly from 2006/07 to 2021/22 KPI (j)

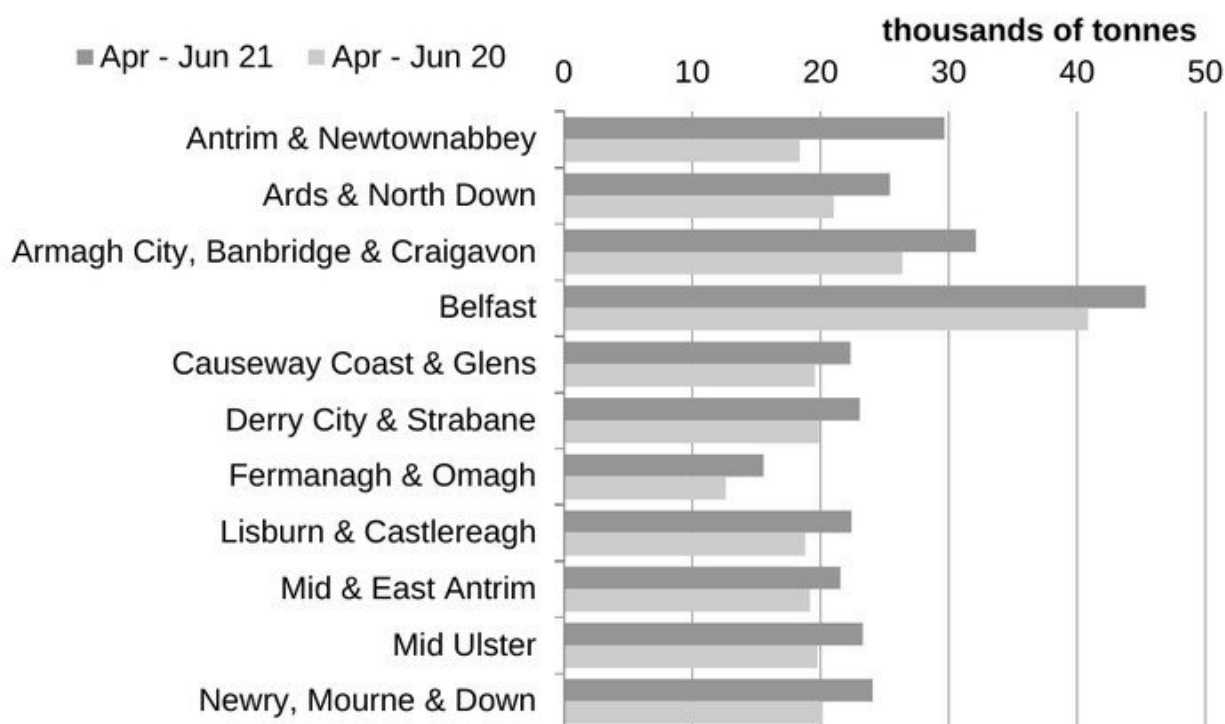


The longer term trend for April to June saw a gradual reduction in waste arisings of 16.2 per cent across five years, from a high of 284,813 tonnes between April and June 2007 to

a low of 238,613 tonnes between the same three months of 2012. Since 2012, arisings have gradually increased, excluding the sharp drop reported in 2020 due to the effects the Covid-19 pandemic had on the provision of waste collection services and facilities.

### Figure 3: Waste arisings by council

Northern Ireland, April to June 2020 and April to June 2021, KPI (j)



The proportion of waste collected by each council broadly reflects the population within the councils. Belfast collected the most waste at 45,362 tonnes, whilst Fermanagh and Omagh collected the least at 15,553 tonnes.

All councils reported an increase in total arisings in April to June 2021 compared to the same period in 2020, with the largest increase recorded in Antrim & Newtownabbey at 61.5 per cent. The quantity of waste collected at civic amenity sites in Antrim & Newtownabbey increased sevenfold compared to April to June 2020, indicating waste collection services for this council were particularly affected by the closure of civic amenity sites during this period.

These statistics can be found in Table 1 accompanying data tables spreadsheet and in the [time series dataset](#).



## Recycling

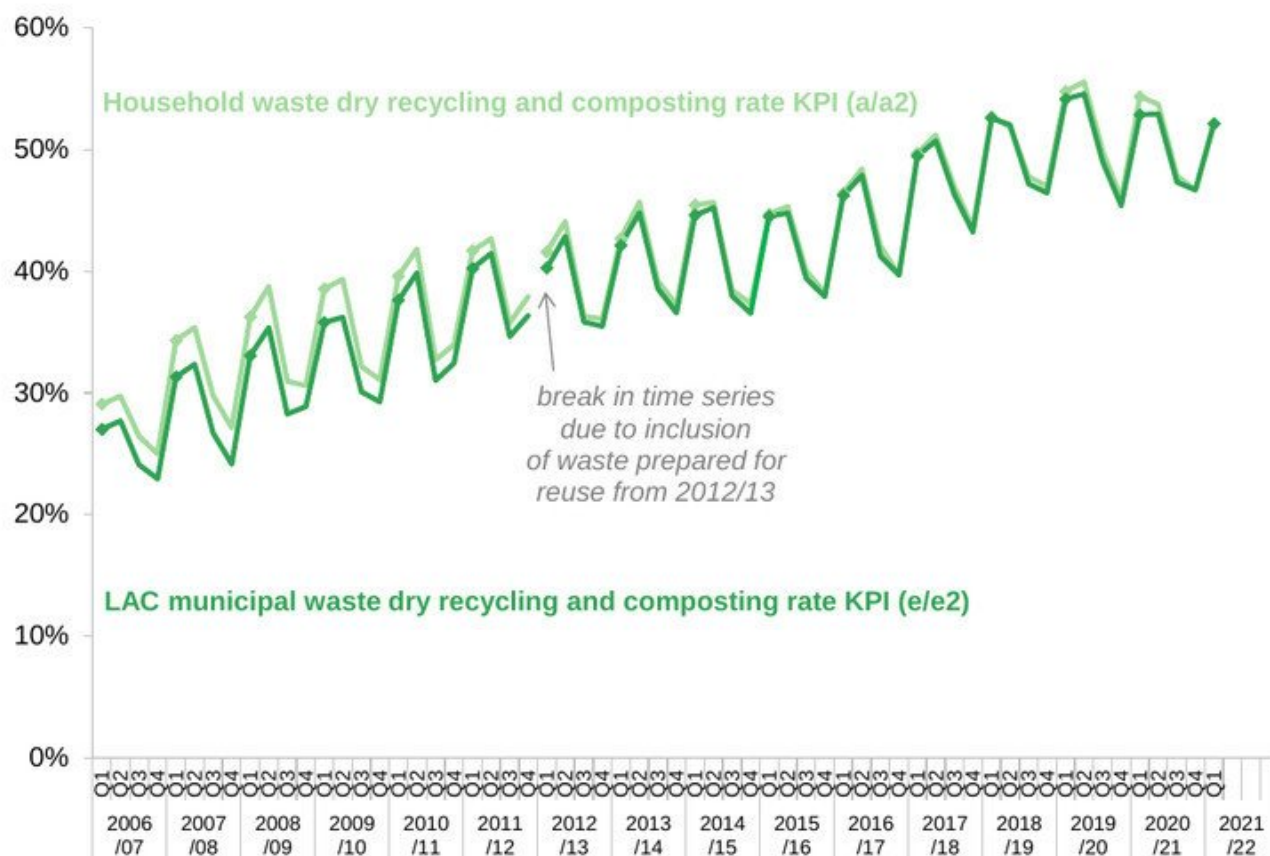
This section of the report looks at local authority collected (LAC) municipal waste and household waste recycling rates, both of which include waste sent for preparing for reuse, dry recycling and composting.

There were 148,449 tonnes of waste sent for preparing for reuse, dry recycling and composting (referred to as 'recycling' for the rest of this section) between April and June 2021. The waste recycling rate was 52.1 per cent. This was a decrease of 0.8 percentage points on the 52.9 per cent of waste sent for recycling between April and June 2020.

The recycling rate for household waste only was also 52.1 per cent between April and June 2021, lower than the 54.4 per cent recorded during the same three months of 2020. The proportion of household waste sent for dry recycling made up 22.6 per cent, composting 29.3 per cent and preparing for reuse 0.3 per cent. Last year the equivalent rate for preparing for reuse was 0.0 per cent, whilst the dry recycling and composting rates were 22.0 per cent and 32.3 per cent respectively.

Waste sent for recycling is included in a number of key performance indicators, KPI (a), (a2), (e), and (e2). These indicators are used to monitor performance under the Local Government (Performance Indicators and Standards) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015. The household waste annual recycling rate was a population indicator for [Programme for Government \(PfG\)](#) 2016-2021 and is being proposed as an indicator for the next PfG.

**Figure 4: Waste sent for preparing for reuse, dry recycling and composting**  
Northern Ireland, quarterly from 2006/07 to 2021/22, KPIs (a), (a2), (e) and (e2)

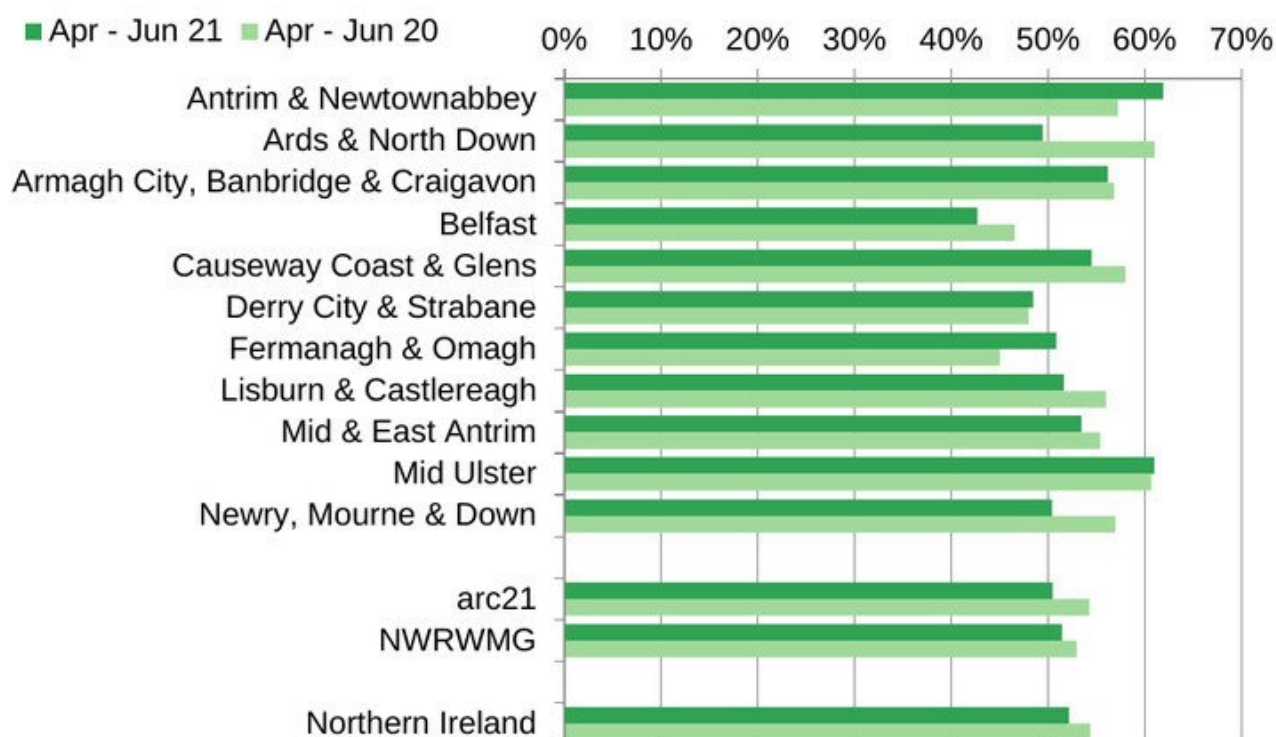


These statistics show seasonal variation which is driven by the quantities of garden waste sent for composting. Greater quantities of garden waste are collected and sent for composting during the spring and summer quarters, April to June and July to September.

The longer term trend for household waste recycling during this quarter has been a steady increase from 29.1 per cent in April to June 2006 to 54.8 per cent in 2019, however the rate has decreased to 52.1 per cent in 2021. Waste sent for preparing for reuse (655 tonnes this quarter) has been included since 2012/13 and adds 0.3 percentage points to the overall household recycling rate in April to June 2021.

**Figure 5: Household waste preparing for reuse, dry recycling and composting rate by council and waste management group**

Northern Ireland, April to June 2020 and April to June 2021, KPI (a2)



Ards & North Down reported the largest decrease in their household recycling rate compared to April to June 2020 at 11.5 per cent, with a decrease in waste sent for composting the main contributing factor for this fall. Six other councils reported decreases in their household recycling rates, whilst the rate increased in Fermanagh & Omagh and Antrim & Newtownabbey by 5.8 and 4.7 percentage points respectively.

These statistics can be found in Tables 4 and 12 of the accompanying data tables spreadsheet and in the [time series dataset](#).



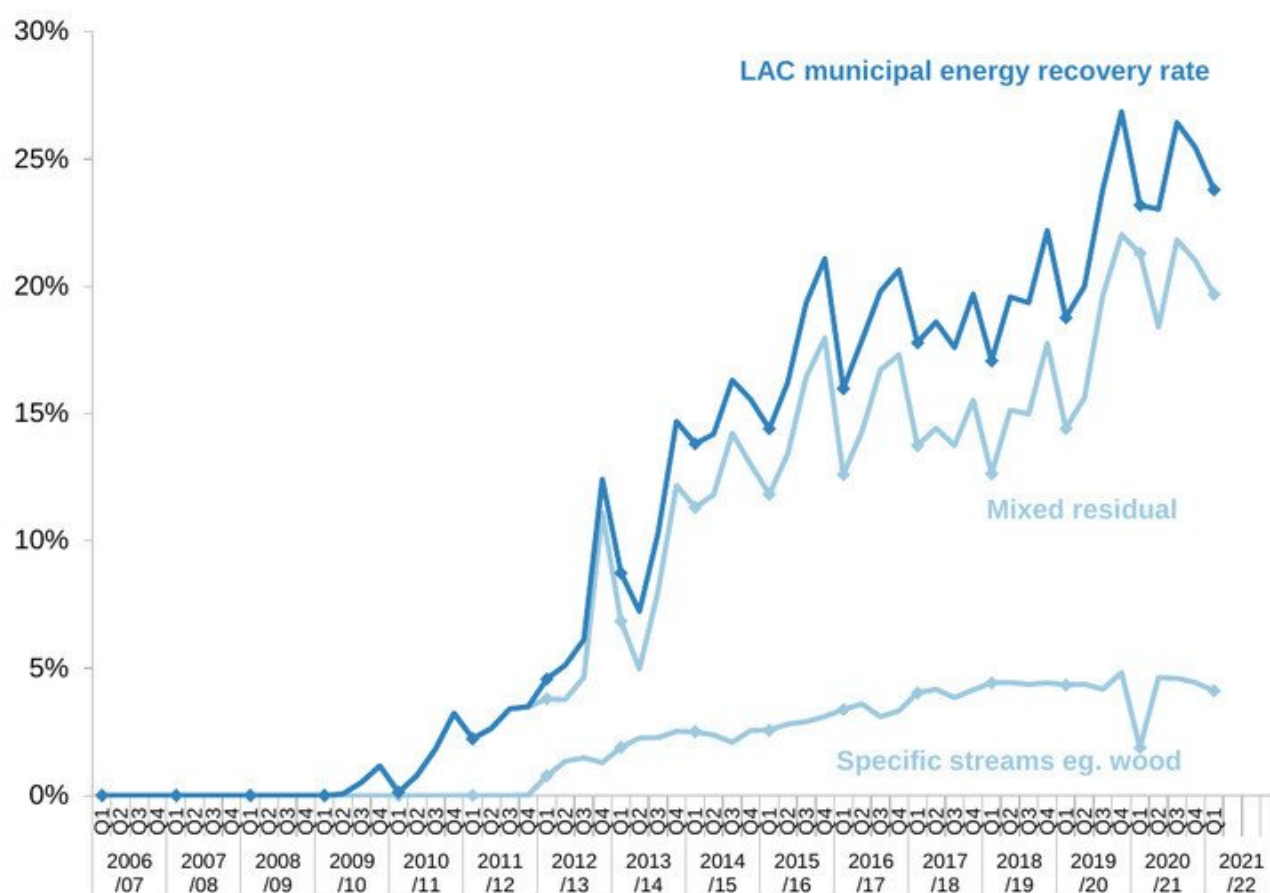
## Energy recovery

This quarterly report includes statistics on energy recovery, which is the term used when value is gained from waste products by converting them into energy. All energy recovery statistics reported in this section are derived from material sent for energy recovery via incineration, although other technologies exist. Energy recovery via anaerobic digestion is not included in this section and is explained further in [Appendix 1 – Limitations of Data](#) of the latest Annual Report.

Between April and June 2021, 67,766 tonnes of waste arisings were sent for energy recovery. This produced a waste energy recovery rate of 23.8 per cent, higher than the 23.2 per cent rate reported for the same period in 2020. For each period, the majority of energy recovery was from mixed residual waste, with a smaller proportion from specific streams, e.g. wood.

**Figure 6: Waste sent for energy recovery via incineration**

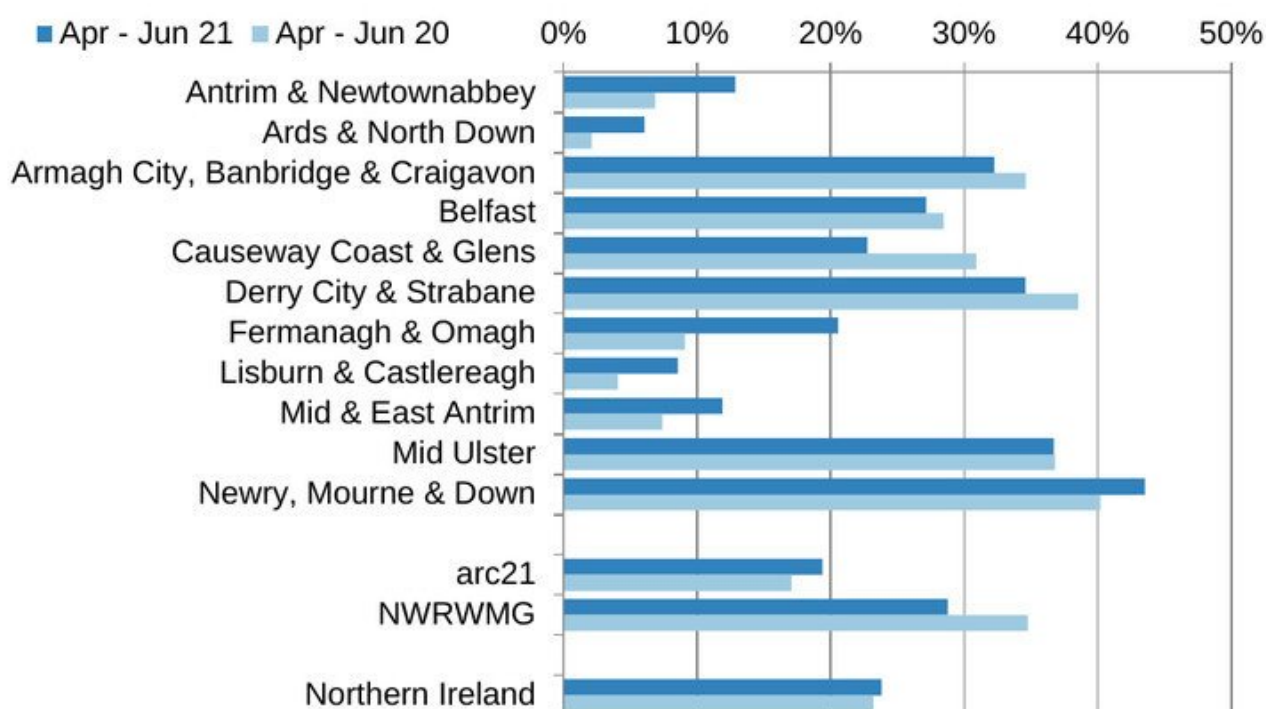
Northern Ireland, quarterly from 2006/07 to 2021/22



There was zero, or very small quantities, of waste sent for energy recovery before 2010/11. Strong growth began during 2010/11 with the energy recovery rate increasing from 0.1 per cent during April to June 2010 to a high of 23.8 per cent for the same three months of 2021. Most of the growth since 2009/10 has been driven by mixed residual waste sent for energy recovery (from 0.1 per cent during April to June 2010 to 19.7 per cent in April to June 2021). The specific stream proportion was 4.1 per cent in April to June 2021.

Mixed residual waste sent for energy recovery is combustible residual waste collected from the kerbside and from civic amenity sites which is processed into refuse derived fuel at material recovery facilities. The specific streams element of energy recovery is mostly wood but also includes furniture, carpets and mattresses, mostly collected from civic amenity sites. The widespread closure of civic amenity sites in April to June 2020 explains the sharp drop in the specific streams element of energy recovery during that quarter.

**Figure 7: Waste energy recovery rate by council and waste management group**  
Northern Ireland, April to June 2020 and April to June 2021



The highest waste energy recovery rate was recorded in Newry, Mourne & Down at 43.5 per cent, up from 40.2 per cent between April and June 2020. The lowest rate recorded was 6.0 per cent in Ards & North Down. A large increase in the waste energy recovery rate was recorded in Fermanagh & Omagh, increasing by 11.5 percentage points to 20.6 per cent, whilst the rate fell by 8.1 percentage points in Causeway Coast & Glens.

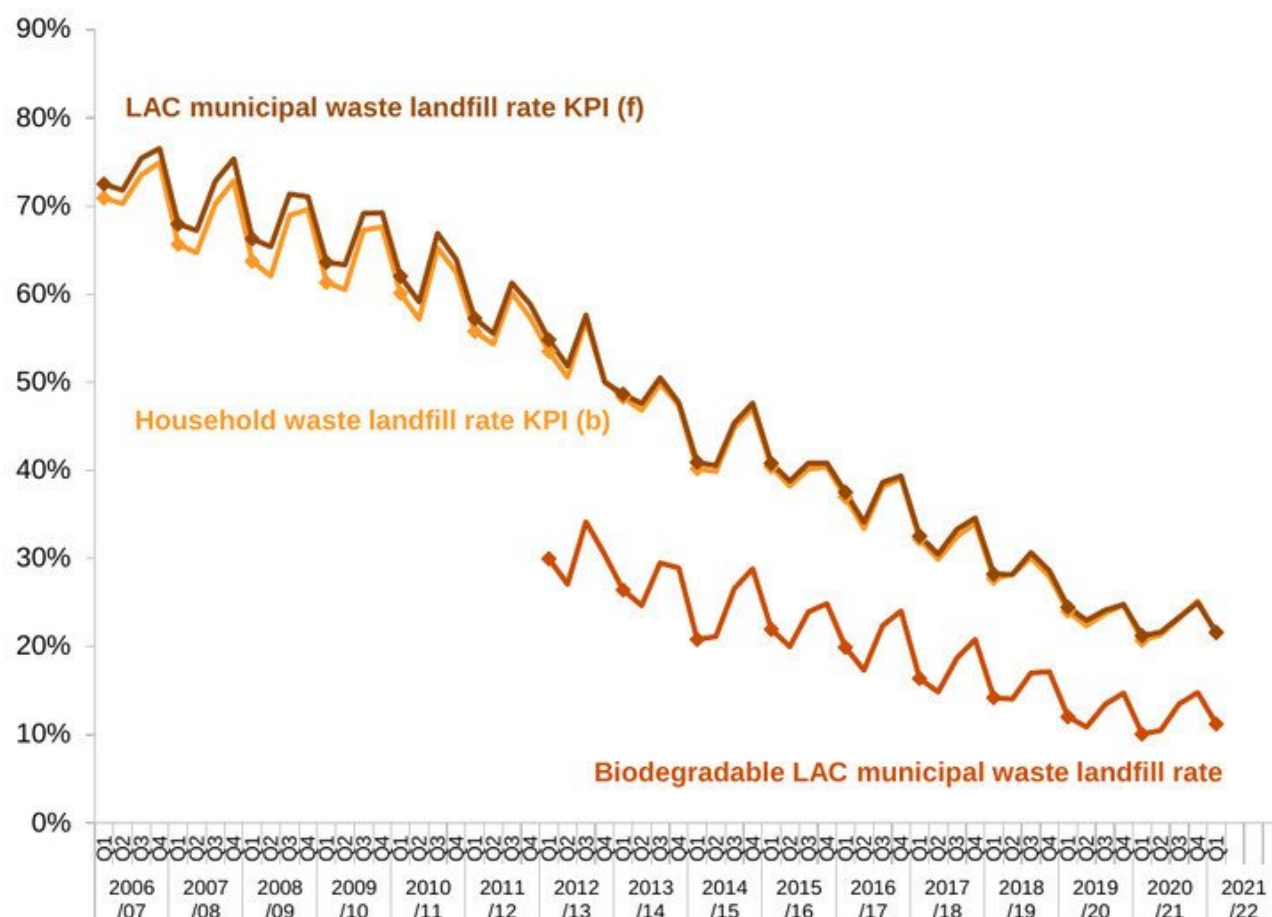
These statistics can be found in Tables 3 and 4 of the accompanying data tables spreadsheet and in the [time series dataset](#).

## Landfill

The quantity of LAC municipal waste sent to landfill increased by 22.5 per cent, from 50,224 tonnes during April to June 2020 to 61,525 tonnes between April and June 2021. This gave a quarterly landfill rate of 21.6 per cent, similar to the 21.2 per cent recorded during the same quarter of 2020. The latest quarterly landfill rate for household waste only is 21.5 per cent, an increase of 0.9 percentage points on the same three months of 2020.

**Figure 8: Waste sent to landfill**

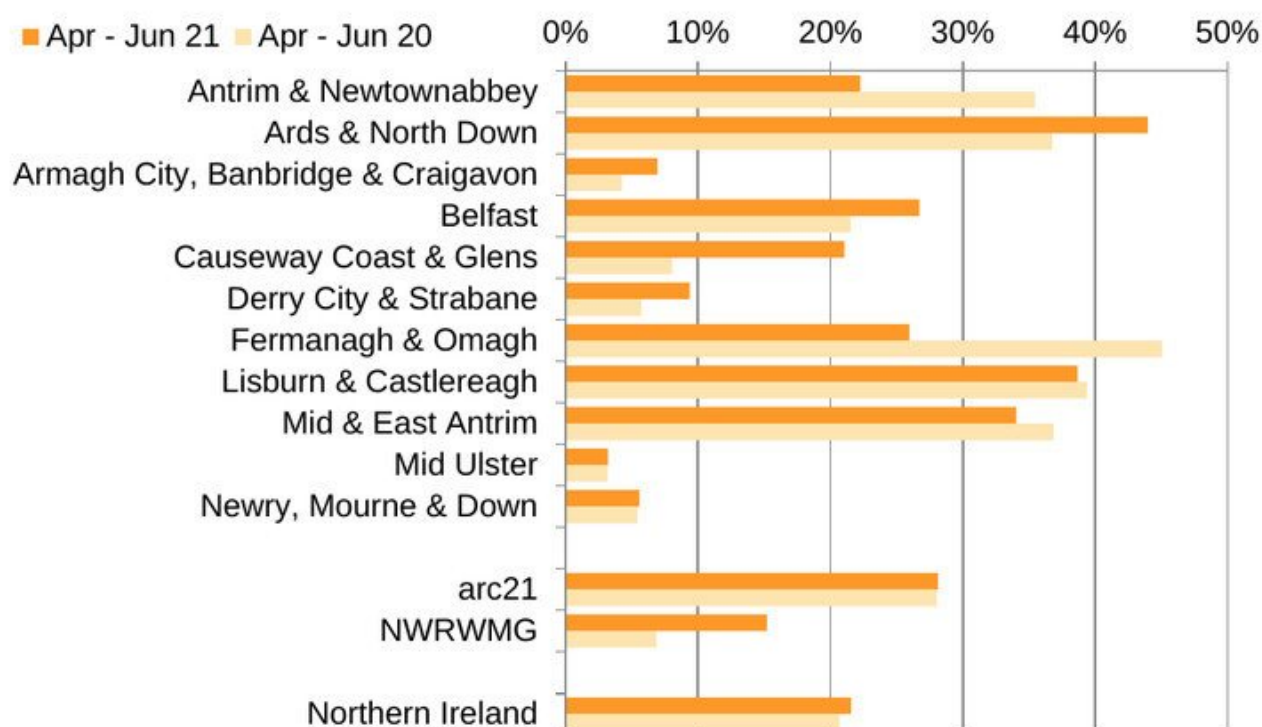
Northern Ireland, quarterly from 2006/07 to 2021/22, KPIs (b) and (f)



The long term trend has seen the April to June household waste landfill rate fall from 70.9 per cent in 2006 to the 21.5 per cent recorded in 2021. Note that the landfill rate exhibits seasonality and the April to June and July to September quarters tend to have lower rates than October to December and January to March. The seasonality stems from the higher level of compostable garden waste arising during spring and summer.



**Figure 9: Household waste landfilled by council and waste management group**  
Northern Ireland, April to June 2020 and April to June 2021, KPI (b)



The household waste landfill rate increased for five councils in April to June 2021 compared to the same three months in 2020, with Causeway Coast & Glens reporting an increase of 13.0 percentage points. A reduction in waste sent for energy recovery is the main contributing factor for this increase. Four councils reported a fall in the household waste landfill rate whilst the remaining councils showed a similar rate to April to June 2020. Fermanagh & Omagh and Antrim & Newtownabbey reported the largest decreases to their household waste landfill rate of 19.1 and 13.2 percentage points respectively.

The statutory requirement for all councils in Northern Ireland to provide households with a container for food to enable its separate collection has contributed to a drop in landfill rates, though increasing energy recovery rates for some councils have also contributed.

### Biodegradable waste to landfill

The Landfill Allowance Scheme (NI) Regulations 2004 (as amended) placed a statutory responsibility on councils, in each scheme year, to landfill no more than the quantity of biodegradable waste for which they had allowances. The scheme concluded at the end of the 2019/20 financial year, however the continued monitoring of Biodegradable waste is required for [existing target commitments](#) which specify that it must be reduced to 35 per cent of the total amount (by weight) of biodegradable municipal waste produced in 1995.

Northern Ireland's councils sent 31,940 tonnes of biodegradable waste to landfill between April and June 2021, which was 51.9 per cent of all waste sent to landfill. During the same quarter last year, 23,800 tonnes of biodegradable waste was sent to landfill which was 47.4 per cent of all waste sent to landfill.



Figure 10 displays the tonnages of LAC biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste sent to landfill by each council, comparing them with other councils and to the same quarter last year.

**Figure 10: Biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste to landfill by council**  
Northern Ireland, April to June 2020 and April to June 2021,



There is considerable variation between councils in the quantities of biodegradable waste sent to landfill, as well as the proportion of biodegradable waste in total landfill. In Fermanagh & Omagh, 62.5 per cent of all waste sent to landfill was biodegradable, the highest figure reported.

## National Statistics Status

National Statistics status means that our statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value, and it is our responsibility to maintain compliance with these standards.

These statistics were first designated as National Statistics, and underwent a full [assessment](#) against the Code of Practice, in January 2014 by the UK Statistics Authority.

A compliance check [assessment](#) was completed for the waste statistics produced by each of the UK regions in 2020 with the results of the finding published in October 2020.

The trustworthiness, quality and value of the statistics, including the coherence of the data source, methods and quality assurance (QA) arrangements, and the presentation of the statistics were reviewed with a final outcome that the statistics can continue to be designated as National Statistics.

The conclusion of the compliance check cited the following actions as strengths:

- Ongoing quality assurance of the data contained within the report by reviewing methods on a quarterly basis.
- Improved statistical output by creating a [time series](#) of Northern Ireland local authority collected municipal waste management statistics to accompany the report and tables. This [dataset](#) is also available on Open Data NI along with a [time series](#) of materials collected at Northern Ireland local authority waste management sites.
- Improved statistical output by creating [infographics](#) to accompany the report and tables.
- Improved statistical output by creating an [interactive dashboard](#) to accompany the report and tables.
- Hosted a workshop with users in February 2020 to review publications and statistical outputs.
- Sought and implemented recommendations from GSS good practice team to improve the publication.

Some areas for minor improvement were also suggested and these will be addressed as we continually improve the statistical output.

One suggestion was to liaise with the other UK regions to produce a guide on how waste is defined as recycled and explain the main definitional differences in recycling rates between countries. The recycling explainer is now available at the following link: [Recycling Explainer](#)

Policy, Economics and Statistics Division  
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs  
Dundonald House  
Upper Newtownards Road  
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BELFAST BT4 3SB



Department of  
**Agriculture, Environment  
and Rural Affairs**  
[www.daera-ni.gov.uk](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk)



**INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE**

<b>Report to:</b>	Neighbourhood Services Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	16 November 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Update to Council: Issue of Fixed Penalty Notices
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Sinead Murphy, (Acting) Assistant Director Waste Management
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Liam Dinsmore; Head of Waste Processing Laura Hughes; Waste Facilities & Enforcement Manager

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>An Enforcement Improvement Plan was approved by Committee in March 2021. An update for the Plan has also been provided in a separate report at November meeting of NS Committee.</p> <p>The purpose of this report to update Committee as agreed, with respect to Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) issued and paid in the current financial year as agreed action from the Enforcement Improvement Plan.</p>																																																																							
1.2	<p>The current compliment of Enforcement Officers is 3 Full Time staff, working across the District seven days per week. A further recruitment exercise is underway to fulfil current vacant posts – 1 X Temporary Enforcement Officer (Down) and 2 X Seasonal Enforcement Officers (Down &amp; Newry)</p>																																																																							
1.3	<p>FPN as issued in last 2 financial years as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• April 2020/March 2021 = 52</li><li>• April 2021/March 2022 (to 31/10/2021) = 82 issued with 64 (78.0%) Paid</li></ul>																																																																							
	Issue of FPN																																																																							
2.1	<p>A FPN, as issued must comply with a Procedure requiring Name and Address for person against notice is to be served. As such some notices may take several months to be processed pending response to information enquiries issued to external parties and other agencies.</p>																																																																							
2.2	<p>Fixed penalty notices served and enquiries in process in financial year 2021/2022 to date are as follows:</p> <table><tr><th>Month</th><th colspan="2">FPN Issued</th><th colspan="2">FPN Paid</th><th colspan="2">Enquiries in Process</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>Dog Foul</td><td>Litter/FT</td><td>Dog Foul</td><td>Litter/FT</td><td>Dog Foul</td><td>Litter/FT</td></tr><tr><td>April</td><td>9</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>May</td><td>3</td><td>10</td><td>2</td><td>7</td><td>0</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>June</td><td>9</td><td>9</td><td>9</td><td>6</td><td>0</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>July</td><td>2</td><td>16</td><td>2</td><td>15</td><td>0</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>August</td><td>0</td><td>9</td><td>0</td><td>9</td><td>0</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>September</td><td>0</td><td>6</td><td>0</td><td>6</td><td>0</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>October</td><td>1</td><td>7</td><td>0</td><td>5</td><td>0</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>Totals</td><td>24</td><td>58</td><td>15</td><td>49</td><td>0</td><td>22</td></tr></table>		Month	FPN Issued		FPN Paid		Enquiries in Process			Dog Foul	Litter/FT	Dog Foul	Litter/FT	Dog Foul	Litter/FT	April	9	1	2	1	0	0	May	3	10	2	7	0	1	June	9	9	9	6	0	4	July	2	16	2	15	0	2	August	0	9	0	9	0	4	September	0	6	0	6	0	2	October	1	7	0	5	0	9	Totals	24	58	15	49	0	22
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2.3	<p>A total of 82 FPNs have been issued by Council Enforcement Officers between April – October 2021, with an averaging trend of 12 FPNs issued per month. A further 22 enquiries, all relating to incidents of Flytipping/Littering, are pending</p> <p>Of the 82 FPNs issued to date, 29.3% (24) relate to incidents of Dog Fouling, with 70.7% (58) relating to incidents of Littering/Flytipping</p> <p>It is anticipated that the majority of pending enquiry notices will result in FPN issue.</p> <p>A consistent trend of FPN issue by the Enforcement Officers is being demonstrated.</p> <p>Enforcement officers are continuing to follow up on the remittance of overdue fines with 64/82 (78.0%) of fixed penalty notices paid.</p>
3.0	<p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Note the contents of the report</b></li> </ul>
4.0	<p><b>Resource implications</b></p>
4.1	<p>No financial resourcing issues arise from this Report.</p>
5.0	<p><b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b></p>
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><i>n/a</i> <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> <p><i>n/a</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 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>
	None
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Background Documents</b>
	<b>Enforcement Improvement Plan: March 2021</b>

**NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE****HISTORIC ACTIONS TRACKING SHEET**

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
<b>NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES MEETING – 19 JUNE 2019</b>					
NS/011/2019	Defective wall at Shimna River, Newcastle	<b>Note the contents of the above report and, depending on the outcome of the Structural Engineer's Report, if there were emergency issues, that authority be given to officers to proceed quickly with the necessary works.</b>	K Scullion	<b>In Progress – Application submitted to Rivers Agency for proposed works – Project being taken forward with assistance of Council Estates and Project Management Team to include works on both sides of river at this location and also a separate location within Castle Park.</b>	<b>Y</b>
<b>NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES MEETING – 23 OCTOBER 2019</b>					
NS/073/2019	Proposed Property Maintenance Policy and Strategy 2019 to 2023	<b>Council's Facilities Management and Maintenance Department develop for agreement with the NS Committee a Property</b>	K Scullion	On hold as part of Neighbourhood Services Review.	<b>N</b>

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<b>Maintenance Policy and Strategy for the Council to cover the term of this Council 2019 to 2023. If required to assist officers in the development of this Strategy, external support to be procured in accordance with Council Procurement Procedures.</b>		Carrying out various tenders for Electrical, Plumbing and construction which will have a major effect on policy	
NS/075/2019	Household Recycling Centres (HRC) Update	<b>Investigation to be made through WRAP Capital Fund for grant-aid toward additional container capacity at selected sites.</b>		Ongoing	<b>N</b>
<b>NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING – 20 OCTOBER 2020</b>					
NS/230/2020	Business Case – Provision of new public toilet in Killough	<b>Agreed to note the content of the report and associated Business Case and to accept the conclusion of the business case that the Council proceed with the proposal to provide a new public toilet in Killough.</b>	K Scullion	<b>In progress</b>	<b>N</b>
NS/231/2020	Business Case – Provision of Electrical Maintenance and Minor Projects	<b>Agreed to note the content of the report and associated Business Case and to accept the conclusion of the business case</b>	K Scullion	<b>Addressed by NS Procurement Action Plan</b>	<b>Y</b>



Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		that that the Council proceed with Option 3. Option 3 will see the appointment of a NICEIC and SparkSafe Registered Electrical Contractor to support the Councils Electrical Maintenance Service and to provide minor electrical works, for a three-year period or up to the maximum value of the overall contract (£450,000). The service to be procured through tender or through use of suitable Framework.			
NS/232/2020	Business Case – Provision of Minor Construction Works	Agreed to note the content of the report and associated Business Case and to accept the conclusion of the business case that the Council proceed with Option 3. Option 3 will see the appointment of a minor construction works contractor to complete minor works contracts across the Council for a three-year period or up to the maximum value of the overall	K Scullion	Addressed by NS Procurement Action Plan	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		contract (£180,000). The service to be procured through tender or through use of a suitable Framework			
<b>NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING 17 NOVEMBER 2020</b>					
NS/243/2020	Notice of Motion – Green New Deal Strategy	<b>Grant approval to Officers to further scope the issues contained within the Notice of Motion and to prepare a report which summarises the status of existing and planned activity in this area. A report to be tabled at a future Meeting of the Neighbourhood Services Committee and to also write to the Northern Ireland Executive clarifying what actions are currently being taken and what actions are being planned by the NI Executive in respect of climate change.</b>	L Dinsmore	<b>Response received from DAERA Minister and considered by NS Committee.</b>  Scoping of the issues delayed by on-going COVID-19 pandemic.	<b>N</b>

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
<b>NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING 15 DECEMBER 2020</b>					
		<b>Household recycling centres permit scheme for private operators – expressions of interest be sought now to gauge demand.</b>	L Dinsmore	<b>Report at NS Committee (Nov-21)</b>	<b>Y</b>
<b>NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING – 20 JANUARY 2021</b>					
NS/008/2021	Business Case for the refurbishment of Struell Cemetery Amenity Building	<b>Agreed to note the content of the report and to accept the conclusion of the business case that option 2 be approved. Option 2 would see the appointment, through tender, of a competent contractor to undertake refurbishment works to Struell Cemetery amenity building which was extensively fire damaged in 2020.</b>	K Scullion	<b>Works started and to complete March 2022.</b>	<b>Y</b>
<b>NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING 17 FEBRUARY 2021</b>					
NS/028/2021	Business case for the supply of feminine hygiene products	<b>Agreed to note the content of the report and approve the findings of the business case presented in that Option three was the preferred option. Option three</b>	K Scullion	<b>Addressed by NS Procurement Action Plan</b>	<b>Y</b>

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		would see the appointment of a contractor to supply and service feminine hygiene products and similar services in Council facilities for the next 36-month period or up to a maximum value as detailed in the report			
NS/029/2021	Business case for the provision of as required cleaning services	<b>Agreed to note the content of the report and approve the findings of the business case presented in that Option three was the preferred option. Option three would see the appointment of a competent cleaning contractor to provide "as required" cleaning services for the Councils 31 Public Toilets, Newry Market and Chapel of Ease, to cover any future staff shortages for the next 12-month period or up to a maximum value as detailed in the report.</b>	K Scullion	Addressed by NS Procurement Action Plan	Y



Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
<b>NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING – TUESDAY 16 MARCH 2021</b>					
NS/041/2021	Siting of bee hives on former Council landfill at Aughnagun	<p><b>Agreed to note the content of this report and recommend Council give permission to the Beekeeping organisation to place 6 hives on the former landfill site at Aughnagun, initially for 1 x year subject to:</b></p> <p><b>1.Successful engagement with local residents and on-site gas-extraction partner, to support the placing of beehives on the Aughnagun site.</b></p> <p><b>2.Meeting to be held with Beekeeping Organisation and to seek assurances regarding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- access arrangements to site and to hives</li> <li>- location for hives</li> <li>- communications with Local residents</li> <li>- ongoing review</li> <li>- renewal dates/periods</li> <li>- any potential insurance implications</li> </ul>	L Dinsmore	Ongoing	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		- <b>Strict guidance with respect to attendance on site to be adhered to</b>			
NS/046/2021	Business Case for the provision of Hire of Building Maintenance and Grounds Maintenance Plant and Machinery	<b>Agreed to note the content of the report and approve the findings of the business case presented in Option three which would see the appointment of suitable hire firm(s) to supply ad hoc plant and machinery for the next 12 month period with an option to extend or up to a maximum value of £80,000.</b>	K Scullion	<b>Complete</b>	<b>Y</b>
NS/049/2021	Business Cases for the replacement of Medium-Size Chassis Cab Vehicles (Cover Report)	<b>Agreed to note the content of the report and approve the business cases for the replacement of medium-size chassis cab vehicles.</b>	T Daly	<b>Addressed by Fleet Replacement Update</b>	<b>Y</b>
NS/050/2021	Business case for the replacement of 5 x 3,500 – 6,500 Kg Medium-Size Chassis Cab Vehicles for Cleansing (Appendix II)	<b>Agreed to approve the business case at Appendix II for the replacement of 5 x 3,500 – 6,500 Kg Medium-Size Chassis Cab Vehicles for Cleansing</b>	T Daly	<b>Addressed by Fleet Replacement Update</b>	<b>Y</b>

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
NS/051/2021	Business case for the replacement of 10 x 5,000 – 6,500 Kg Medium-Size Chassis Cab Vehicles for Facilities Management & Maintenance (Appendix III)	<b>Agreed to approve the business case at Appendix III for the replacement of 10 x 5,000 – 6,500 Kg Medium-Size Chassis Cab Vehicles for Facilities Management &amp; Maintenance.</b>	T Daly	Addressed by Fleet Replacement Update	Y
NS/052/2021	Business case for the replacement of 5 x 3,500 Kg Medium-Size Chassis Cab Vehicles for Facilities Management & Maintenance (Appendix IV).	<b>Agreed to approve the business case at Appendix IV for the replacement of 5 x 3,500 Kg Medium-Size Chassis Cab Vehicles for Facilities Management &amp; Maintenance.</b>	T Daly	Addressed by Fleet Replacement Update	Y
<b>NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING 21 APRIL 2021</b>					
NS/062/2021	Feasibility study for EV infrastructure at the Council's Depots	<b>Agreed to note the content of the report and to approve the recommendation that a Business Case be prepared which examined the investment and benefits of the EV charging system, together with costings.</b>	K Scullion	In Progress	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<p><b>It was further agreed as part of the Business Case, that officials consider the need for a generator at the proposed sites, in the event of an interruption to electricity supply.</b></p> <p><b>It was also agreed officials investigate potential sources of funding for the provision of electric vehicle charging points from the East Border Region Committee.</b></p>			
NS/074/2021	Business Case for the supply of Vehicle Hire Services	<b>Agreed to note the content of the report and approve the economic appraisal to procure a contract for the supply of vehicle-hire services</b>	T Daly	Addressed by NS Procurement Action Plan	Y
<b>NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING</b> <b>19 MAY 2021</b>					
NS/079/2021	Monthly Action Sheet Wind-blown litter at Damolly Retail Park	Mr Dinsmore said he had engaged with the owners and the restaurant franchise and would now formalise the request that a green fence be	L Dinsmore	Ongoing	N



Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
	Litter pickers for schools	erected at this location and that he continue to update Cllr. Casey on progress  The Sustainability Officer to advise Councillors on how litter pickers would be distributed to schools	L Dinsmore	Litter pickers currently being procured	N
NS/089/2021	Purchase of new industrial heavy grade tractor and side arm flail/cutting unit for grounds maintenance at various locations District wide	<b>Agreed to note the content of the report and associated Business Cases and accept the conclusion of the Business Cases that Option 3 from each be chosen as the preferred option. This would see the procurement of an industrial tractor and a side arm flail.</b>	K Scullion	In Progress	N
NS/090/2021	Business case looking at options for strategic maintenance of Council artificial sports pitches and surfaces 2021 to 2023	<b>Agreed to note the content of the report and associated Business Case and approve the recommendation from the Business Case that Option 2 be accepted. Option 2 would see a hybrid model for maintenance of these surfaces whereby Council staff undertake maintenance works</b>	K Scullion	Complete	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<b>with support from an external contractor for more specialised tasks. The external contractor would be appointed for up to a three-year period.</b>			
NS/091/2021	Economic appraisal – supply of vehicle parts and external fleet maintenance services	<b>Agreed to approve the economic appraisal to procure contractors for the supply of vehicle parts and external fleet maintenance services.</b>	T Daly	Addressed by NS Procurement Action Plan	Y
<b>NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING 23 JUNE 2021</b>					
NS/097/2021	Neighbourhood Services Recovery Plan	<b>Agreed to note the contents of the report and approve the Neighbourhood Services service recovery plan.</b>	J McBride	Noted	Y
NS/099/2021	Proposed Memorial Gardens Landscape Scheme	<b>Agreed to recommend approval of the choice of locations for both Memorial Gardens as outlined in the report and the implementation of the proposed design for each site.</b>	K Scullion	In Progress	N
NS/100/2021	Applications for bus shelters in Crossgar and Saintfield	<b>Agreed to note contents of this report and to approve the recommendations in Appendix 1 circulated for the erection of a</b>	K Scullion	Both recommendations on hold pending:	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<p><b>bus shelter at Comber Street Saintfield and the relocation of a shelter at Downpatrick Street, Crossgar.</b></p> <p><b>**</b> At the Council Meeting held on Monday 5 July 2021, in relation to NS/100/2021: Applications for bus shelters in Crossgar and Saintfield, it was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Curran, to defer the decision in relation to the bus shelter at Crossgar and that officials take on board the points raised by Councillor Andrews in relation to the consultation process and also the points raised by the redevelopment at this stage and for other options and locations to be taken into account now.**</p>		<p>1 Consultation with HED for type of bus for Saintfield as area is a Conservation Area.</p> <p>2. As per recommendation of Council Monthly Meeting noted in column.</p>	
NS/101/2021	Provision of restricted access litter bins	<p><b>Agreed to note the content of this report.</b></p> <p><b>It was also agreed officersemail Councillors to ascertain what areas they would like the bins to be placed in and these requests would then be assessed and Councillors</b></p>	P Whyte	Locations & schedule for deployment agreed with Committee in Oct-21	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		advised of the outcome in due course.			
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING WEDNESDAY 18 AUGUST 2021					
NS/120/2021	Public Toilet Strategy Work Packages	<p><b>Agreed to</b></p> <p><b>Note contents of this report</b></p> <p><b>To agree the recommendations as set out in section 2.2</b></p> <p><b>Agreed that the governance arrangements for the delivery of the Public Toilet Strategy would be via a Project Board and that a report be brought back to the September Committee Meeting on the establishment of such a Board; Membership and draft terms of reference.</b></p>	K Scullion	In Progress	
NS/121/2021	Bus shelter requests	<p><b>Agreed to Note the content of the report.</b></p> <p><b>Approve erection of new Bus Shelter at Bridge Rd, Burren</b></p>	K Scullion	In Progress	<p><b>N</b></p> <p><b>Y</b></p>



Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<p><b>Approve the removal of old bus shelter at Corlat Rd, Whitecross</b></p> <p><b>Approve the replacement of existing bus shelter at Ardfreelin, Newry</b></p>		See NS/137/2021 below for updated action	
NS/122/2021	Christmas Illuminations and Celebrations Group Meeting – 5 August 2021	<p><b>Agreed to note the content of this report and the Action Sheet of the Christmas Illuminations Group Meeting held on 5 August 2021 and to approve the following recommendations set out in Section 2.3 and 2.5:-</b></p> <p><b>Subject to consultation with affected local community groups involved with this project, to replace the existing trees at Belleeks, Drumaroad, Newcastle &amp; Ballykinelar with either Carpinus betulus 'Fastigiata' or Pinus nigra trees.</b></p> <p><b>Agree to the replacement of the cut tree previously provided in Gargory for a sustainable Christmas tree in Leitrim.</b></p>	K Scullion	In Progress	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<b>Also agreed that officials look again at the possibility of providing some type of Christmas illuminations on English Street, Downpatrick for this year and that discussions be held with local businesses to see if any compromise agreement can be reached. Officers bring back an options paper for consideration at the September Committee Meeting.</b>			
NS/125/2021	Distribution of compostable food bags and food waste caddy bins	<p><b>Agreed approval of Option 1 for the distribution of compostable food waste bags and option 3 for the distribution of caddy bins</b></p> <p><b>Agreed to that Officers explore the feasibility of deploying brown bins to residents of high-rise buildings, who were not previously provided with these, and a report be brought back to the next Committee Meeting.</b></p>	S Murphy	<p><b>In Progress</b></p> <p>Report to be presented at future committee meeting</p>	<p><b>N</b></p> <p><b>N</b></p>
NS/126/2021	Fleet replacement update	<b>Agreed to note the content of this report.</b>	S Murphy	<b>Update report to be presented at NS</b>	<b>Y</b>

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<b>Agreed officers investigate the revenue potential of having advertisements on Council vehicles, similar to a scheme introduced by APSE and report back to Committee.</b>		Committee (Dec-21)	
NS/127/2021	Enforcement Improvement Plan	<p><b>Agreed to note the content of this report.</b></p> <p><b>Agreed that officers prepare a report for the next Committee Meeting on options for future staffing levels to improve the enforcement service, including the possibility of supplementing the service with a contractor on a short-term basis.</b></p> <p><b>Also agreed officers replace the existing signage with updated Newry, Mourne and Down signage, in relation to keeping dogs on a lead on Newry Towpath.</b></p>	S Murphy	Report to be presented at future committee meeting	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
NS/133/2021	Business Case for the replacement of safety tiles with wet-pour surfacing in various Council play areas	<p><b>Agreed to:-</b></p> <p><b>Note the content of the report.</b></p> <p><b>Approve the findings of the Business Case presented.</b></p> <p><b>Accept Option 3 – Replacement of defective safety tiles with a Wet Pour surface to safety standards required for each of the 24 Play Parks under consideration over the financial years 2021/22 to 2022/23.</b></p> <p><b>Project to proceed subject to budget availability.</b></p>	K Scullion	In Progress	N
<p align="center"><b>NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING</b>  <b>TUESDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2021</b></p>					
NS/137/2021	Translink proposed programme – Bus Shelters in Council area	<p><b>To approve Option 2 – to delay installation of a bus shelter in Burren pending outcome of Translink’s deliberations in October / November 2021 with the option to reconsider this position if Translink were deemed to be making limited</b></p>	K Scullion	Noted	N



Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<b>progress in providing the bus shelter in Burren.</b>			
NS/138/2021	Distribution of Compost for Community Groups	<p><b>1. Note and approve contents of this Report.</b></p> <p><b>2. Note an update report on Compost week will be provided at a future meeting of the NS Committee.</b></p> <p><b>3. Direct requests for the supply of compost from local community groups to <a href="mailto:recycling@nmandd.org">recycling@nmandd.org</a></b></p> <p><b>4. Note an update report on future delivery of compost will be provided at a future meeting of the NS Committee</b></p> <p><b>It was also agreed that Ms Murphy contact Arc21 regarding the delivery charges for the compost to see if there would be an option for community groups to collect the compost themselves, or if</b></p>	S Murphy	<p><b>Actions 1 &amp; 3 complete</b></p> <p>Report to be provided regarding compost week, future delivery of compost and delivery charges at future Committee Meeting.</p>	<p><b>Y</b></p> <p><b>N</b></p>

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		there could be a reduction in the £25 delivery charge. Ms Murphy to report back to Committee on this matter as part of a future options report.			
NS/139/2021	Power Washing Schedule	To approve the schedule as set out in sections 2.1 and 2.2 of the Report.	S Murphy	Deep cleansing completed at areas identified in sections 2.1 of the report. Areas identified in sections 2.2 to commence October 2021.	Y
NS/140/2021	Review of District Cleansing	<p>It was agreed an Elected Member workshop being organised as part of the initiation of a Review of District Cleansing.</p> <p>Officers to look at a date and start time which would enable as many members as possible to attend and participate in the workshop.</p>	S Murphy	Workshop scheduled for 24 November 2021.	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
NS/143/2021	Arc21 JC Minutes – 24 June 2021	<b>It was agreed to mark this correspondence noted.</b>		Noted	Y
NS/144/2021	Arc21 Joint Committee Members' Bulletin – 26 August 2021.	<b>It was agreed to mark this correspondence noted.</b>		Noted	Y
<b>END</b>					