

## Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Sustainability & Environment Committee meeting to be held on Wednesday, 24th January 2024 at 6:00 pm in Boardroom Monaghan Row.

### **Committee Membership 2023 - 2024**

Councillor T Andrews **Chairperson**

Councillor W Clarke **Deputy Chairperson**

Councillor C Enright

Councillor K Feehan

Councillor D Finn

Councillor J Jackson

Councillor G Kearns

Councillor M Larkin

Councillor O Magennis

Councillor L McEvoy

Councillor K Murphy

Councillor H Reilly

Councillor M Rice

Councillor D Taylor

Councillor J Truesdale

# Agenda

## 1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

## 2.0 Declarations of Interest

## 3.0 Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee meeting held on 20 December 2023

 *Draft Action Sheet - December 2023 inc. historic actions (final).pdf*

*Page 1*

---

### *Notices of Motion*

---

## 4.0 Report on Notice of Motion - Flood Defences

*For Decision*

 *Flooding Defence Motion.pdf*

*Page 13*

## 5.0 Report on Notice of Motion - Flood Preparedness

*For Decision*

 *Flooding Preparedness Motion 220124.pdf*

*Page 19*

---

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

---

## 6.0 Business Case for Fire Fighting Equipment Contract

*For Decision*

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

 *Report Fire Fighting Equipment Business Case.pdf*

*Not included*

 *Business Case - Firefighting Equipment Contract signed 040124.pdf*

*Not included*

## 7.0 Update on Financial Costings for Consultants regarding Cemetery Capital Projects

*For Decision*

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local

Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

 ***Report Financial Update on N O'Dwyer re Cemetery Projects.pdf***

***Not included***

## **8.0 Waste Contract Extensions**

*For Decision*

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


 ***SE Committee - Extension of Mixed Dry Recyclables Contracts - 24.01.24.pdf***

***Not included***

## **9.0 Single Tender Actions**

*For Decision*

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


 ***SE Committee Report - STA Extension 24.01.24.pdf***

***Not included***

## **10.0 Energy Contracts 2024-25**

*For Decision*

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

 ***SandE Committee Report Jan 24 - Energy Contracts 2024.25 (003).pdf***

***Not included***

 ***Appendix 1 - Draft Electricity 12month extension.pdf***

***Not included***

 ***Appendix 2 - Draft Natural Gas 12month extension.pdf***

***Not included***

## 11.0 Report on Christmas Illuminations

*For Information*

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


 *Report - Christmas illuminations 2023.pdf*

*Not included*

## 12.0 Arc21 Joint Committee Members' Monthly Bulletin held on 5 December 2023

*For Information*

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

 *ARC21 - JC083-5Dec23-JC MembersBulletin.F.pdf*

*Not included*

## 13.0 Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting in Committee Minutes of Thursday 26 October 2023

*For Information*

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

 *ARC21 - JC083-5Dec23-Item5-JCInCommMinutes26Oct23.F.pdf*

*Not included*

---

### *For Noting*

---

## 14.0 Update report on October/November Flood Recovery and Response

*For Information*

 *SE Committee Report - Post Flood Review 24.01.23.pdf*

*Page 26*

## 15.0 Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting Minutes of Thursday 26 October 2023

*For Information*

 *ARC21 - JC083-5Dec23-Item3-JC Minutes26Oct23.F.pdf*

*Page 30*

# Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews  
.....  
Cllr Callum Bowsie  
.....  
Mrs Fionnuala Branagh  
.....  
Cllr Jim Brennan  
.....  
Cllr Pete Byrne  
.....  
Cllr Philip Campbell  
.....  
Mr Andrew Cassells  
.....  
Cllr William Clarke  
.....  
Cllr Laura Devlin  
.....  
Ms Louise Dillon  
.....  
Cllr Cadogan Enright  
.....  
Cllr Killian Feehan  
.....  
Cllr Doire Finn  
.....  
Cllr Aoife Finnegan  
.....  
Ms Joanne Fleming  
.....  
Cllr Conor Galbraith  
.....  
Cllr Mark Gibbons  
.....  
Cllr Oonagh Hanlon  
.....  
Cllr Glyn Hanna  
.....  
Cllr Valerie Harte  
.....  
Cllr Roisin Howell  
.....  
Ms Catherine Hughes  
.....  
Cllr Jonathan Jackson  
.....  
Cllr Geraldine Kearns  
.....  
Miss Veronica Keegan  
.....  
Mrs Josephine Kelly  
.....  
Cllr Tierna Kelly  
.....  
Mrs Sheila Kieran  
.....  
Cllr Cathal King  
.....  
Cllr Mickey Larkin  
.....  
Cllr David Lee-Surginor  
.....  
Cllr Alan Lewis  
.....  
Cllr Oonagh Magennis  
.....  
Mr Conor Mallon  
.....  
Aidan Mallon  
.....  
Cllr Aidan Mathers  
.....  
Cllr Declan McAteer  
.....  
Cllr Leeanne McEvoy  
.....  
Cllr Andrew McMurray  
.....  
Cllr Declan Murphy  
.....  
Sinead Murphy  
.....  
Cllr Kate Murphy  
.....

Cllr Selina Murphy  
.....  
Cllr Siobhan O'Hare  
.....  
Cllr Áine Quinn  
.....  
Cllr Henry Reilly  
.....  
Cllr Michael Rice  
.....  
Cllr Michael Ruane  
.....  
Mr Conor Sage  
.....  
Cllr Gareth Sharvin  
.....  
Donna Starkey  
.....  
Sarah Taggart  
.....  
Cllr David Taylor  
.....  
Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly  
.....  
Cllr Jill Truesdale  
.....  
Mrs Marie Ward  
.....

**SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT 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 COMMITTEE MEETING 26 JANUARY 2022</b>					
NS/004/2022	Trade Waste and Caravan Refuse Collection Services	<p><b>Agreed to approve the report and recommendations:-</b></p> <p><b>1. Alternate Weekly Commercial Waste Collection Service</b></p> <p>Commercial refuse customers (shops and businesses) to be contacted and advised of the proposed move to an alternate weekly collection cycle of residual and dry recyclable waste, where this is achievable.</p> <p>Commercial customers, (not including Caravan Operators) to be provided with appropriate bins to facilitate this change, so there is no cost burden to customers as a result of this change.</p>	S Murphy	In progress	N
<b>NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING 21 APRIL 2022</b>					

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
NS/052/2022	Compost Week 2022	<p><b>Note and approve the additional activities in 2.2 to highlight and promote the importance of recycling food waste.</b></p> <p><b>Note and approve the launch of an application process, with set criteria, to establish demand for deploying brown bins to residents of high rise buildings who were not previously provided with these.</b></p>	S Murphy	In progress	N
NS/057/2022	Various issues concerning the Events Space Kilkeel	<p><b>Note the contents of the report.</b></p> <p><b>Approve the Officers recommendation that the legal position of the Council regarding its maintenance of the events space, Kilkeel, is reviewed with a separate report to be provided to the Council once this has been considered further.</b></p>	K Scullion	In progress	N
<b>NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING 22 JUNE 2022</b>					
NS/091/2022	Enforcement Improvement Plan Update	<b>Agreed to note the content of this update report and to agree review of key actions from the Enforcement Improvement Plan to be incorporated into a timebound programme of work for 2022/23 and annually</b>	S Murphy	In progress	N



Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		thereafter.  Test case footpaths – small footpath leading to WIN – officers to examine this area for dog fouling.			
<b>SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 18 OCTOBER 2022</b>					
SE/143/2022	Notice of Motion – revenue from EVCharging Infrastructure	Agreed to endorse the recommendation made at the Strategic Finance Working Group Meeting of 16 June 2022 as set out in Section 2.2 of the report and that officers consider the most appropriate way forward in relation to identifying appropriate spaces that may be suitable for the proposal as outlined in the Notice of Motion.	A Cassells	In progress	N
<b>SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE TUESDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2023</b>					
SE/016/2023	Economic Appraisal for the appointment of a Metal Fabrication and Repair Contractor	Agreed to note the content of the report and associated Economic Appraisal and accept the conclusion of the Economic Appraisal that Option 4 be chosen as the preferred option. Option 4 would see the appointment, through a tender process, of a contractor to provide metal fabrication and repair	K Scullion	In Progress	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		services. In addition to this an independent Metallurgical and Mechanical Engineering Consultancy Service would be appointed to provide advice to Council Officers on the procurement and management of this service.			
SE/018/2023	Business Case for the appointment of a contractor to undertake Legionella Control Measures on behalf of the Council	<p><b>Agreed to:-</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note the content of the report.</li> <li>• Accept the conclusion of the Business Case that Option 3 be chosen as the preferred option. Option 3 would see the appointment, through a tender process, of a competent contractor to undertake a number of duties under the Council's Legionella Management Plan for a three-year period.</li> </ul>	K Scullion	<b>In Progress</b>	<b>N</b>
SE/019/2023	Business Case for the appointment of a contractor to undertake asbestos control measures on behalf of the Council	<p><b>Agreed to:-</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To note the content of the report.</li> <li>• Accept the conclusion of the Business Case that Option 3 be chosen as the preferred option to the appointment, through a tender process, of a competent contractor to undertake a number of duties under the Council's Asbestos Management Plan for a three-year period.</li> </ul>	K Scullion	<b>In Progress</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING</b>					

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
<b>22 MARCH 2023</b>					
SE/035/2023	Removal of Bring Bank sites	<b>Agreed to approve the removal of bottle bank "Bring Back" provision at caravan sites as listed in Appendix 1.</b>	S Murphy	<b>In progress</b>	<b>N</b>
SE/039/2023	Business Case for replacement vehicles 2023-2025	<p><b>Agreed to approve the Business Cases/Full Economic Appraisals at:-</b></p> <p><b>Appendix 2 for the replacement of Refuse Collection Vehicles</b></p> <p><b>Appendix 3 for the replacement of and additional Mechanical Sweeping Vehicles</b></p> <p><b>Appendix 4 for the replacement of medium size chassis tipping vehicles</b></p> <p><b>Appendix 5 for the replacement of small and large vans with Electric Voltage (EV) small and large vans</b></p> <p><b>Appendix 6 for the replacement of small and large vans with Diesel small and large vans</b></p> <p><b>Appendix 7 for the replacement of small vans and Four by Four vehicles</b></p> <p><b>Appendix 8 for the replacement of ATV vehicles</b></p>	SM	<b>Completed</b>	<b>N</b>

<b>Minute Ref</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Actions taken/ Progress to date</b>	<b>Remove from Action Sheet Y/N</b>
		<b>Appendix 9 for the replacement of Ride-on Mowers</b>			

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 17 OCTOBER 2023					
SE/105/2023	Notice of Motion – Clean Indoor Air	<b>It was agreed to adopt the Notice of Motion subject to including that before proceeding with any works, that officers obtain costings for air filtration systems in Downshire Civic Centre and the new civic centre in Newry and report same back to the Sustainable and Environment Committee for consideration in due course.</b>	A Cassells	In Progress	N
SE/106/2023	Notice of Motion – Review of Waste Collection Service	<b>It was agreed to setting up a Cleansing, refuse Taskforce led by the Chairperson of Council to work with all department heads of service, to ascertain what the problems are and develop a framework to resolve them.</b>  <b>This review should include analysis of the volume of missed bins and broken bins reported both across the entire District and by DEA. This Council is committed to delivering basic Council services efficiently and cost effectively. Every ratepayer should be delivered a quality service.</b>	S Murphy	In Progress	N
SE/107/2023	Notice of Motion – Animal Welfare	<b>It was agreed to remove the final sentence of the notice of motion. It was agreed to defer a decision on the Notice of Motion until the</b>	A Cassells	In Progress	N

		<b>outcome of the legal process was known.</b>			
SE/114/2023	Procurement of Deep Cleansing Services	<b>It was agreed to procure Deep Cleansing Services as outlined in appendix 1 of the officer's report.</b>	S Murphy	<b>In Progress</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 22 NOVEMBER 2023</b>					
SE/125/2023	Report on Notice of Motion in relation to Livestock worrying	<b>It was agreed that a meeting be organised with relevant partners to discuss a way forward to produce a publicity campaign highlighting the importance of ensuring dogs are kept under control in the Mourne Mountains</b>	A Cassells	<b>In Progress</b>	<b>N</b>
SE/126/2023	Consultation response on creating a smokefree generation and tackling young vaping	<b>It was agreed to approve the consultation response to the UK Government and devolved administrations consultation on creating a smokefree generation and tackling youth vaping in Appendix 1</b>	S Murphy	<b>In Progress</b>	<b>N</b>
SE/128/2023	Upgrade to Town Centre CCTV and Council Facilities CCTV	<b>It was agreed that members note the content of the report, and a business case be developed and brought to the committee with a number of options for a way forward for the proposed development of a new suite of digital CCTV systems for the Council's facilities</b>	G Kane	<b>In Progress</b>	<b>N</b>
SE/129/2023	Summer Pitch Maintenance 2024-2026	<b>The committee agreed to endorse the key pitch work principles and the commencement of the tender process</b>	A Mallon	<b>In Progress</b>	<b>N</b>

		<b>for maintenance works as outlined in Section 2 of the report</b>			
SE/131/2023	Business Case for CCTV Town Centre Maintenance and Pest Control	<b>It was agreed to note the contents of the report and approve the following</b> <b>- Business Case for the maintenance of the town centre CCTV systems for a 2 year period from 1<sup>st</sup> April</b> <b>- Business case for the continuation of the Council's pest control service for a 5 year period from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024</b>	G Kane	In Progress	Y
SE/135/2023	NFLA Membership	<b>It was agreed to retain membership of the NFLA and to pay the current 2023/24 membership fees as outlined within the officer's report. It was also agreed to seek representation on the NFLA Steering Committee via Party Leaders and that as part of the Council's membership we look at the possibility of hosting an event.</b>	A Cassells	In Progress	N
SE/137/2023	Business case for the purchase of Forklift Truck	<b>It was agreed to approve the business case for the purchase of a replacement forklift truck</b>	S Murphy	In Progress	N
SE/141/2023	Sustainable Food Places Bridging the Gap Funding Application	<b>It was agreed to note the recent support for the "Bridging the Gap" funding application. Committee would be advised on the outcome of the application at the earliest opportunity</b>	A Cassells	In Progress	N
SE/142/2023	Biodiversity Strategy	<b>It was agreed to note the draft Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, along with the attached consultation questions, and the</b>	A Cassells	In Progress	N

		<b>proposed public consultation. Members to provide any further feedback through NMD Speak Service or <a href="mailto:besustainable@nmandd.org">besustainable@nmandd.org</a></b>			
<b>SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 20 DECEMBER 2023</b>					
SE/146/2023	Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 22 November 2023	It was agreed that the Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 22 November 2023 be noted.	Democratic Services		
<b><u>ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2014</u></b>					
SE/147/2023	Business case for renewal of service contract for supply of Wood Pellets to Greenbank Council Depot, Newry.	It was agreed to note the contents of the report and to approve the business case for the supply of wood pellets for the Greenbank Depot biomass boiler for a 5 year period.	G Kane	<b>In Progress</b>	<b>N</b>
SE/148/2023	Review of Public Convenience opening/closing times	It was agreed to note the contents of the report and approve the opening/closing times contained within Appendix 1 of the officer's report, based on the review of the cleansing review and liaison with Council's HR department to ensure consideration of aspects contained within point 2.4 of the officer's report.	G Kane	<b>In Progress</b>	<b>N</b>
SE/149/2023	Tender for supply of Summer & Winter bedding plants for	It was agreed to endorse the themes as contained in the officer's report and commence the procurement for supply of	A Mallon	<b>In Progress</b>	<b>N</b>



	public spaces 2024 - 2026	bedding plants as outlined in Section 2 of the officer's report.			
SE/150/2023	Single Tender Action for Metal Fabrication and Repair Contractor	It was agreed to note the contents of the report and approve the attached Single Tender Action form.	A Mallon	In Progress	Y
SE/151/2023	Business Case for Occasional Hire of Hook Loader Vehicle and Driver.	It was agreed to approve the business case expenditure to procure a contract for the occasional hire of hook loader vehicle and driver.	S Murphy	In Progress	N
<b><u>FOR NOTING – These items are deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014</u></b>					
SE/152/2023	ARC21 – Joint Committee Members Monthly Bulletin	It was agreed to note the arc21 Joint Committee Members Monthly Bulletin from 5 December 2023.	A Cassells	Noted	Y
SE/153/2023	ARC21 Joint Committee Meeting in Committee Minutes of 26 October 2023	It was agreed to note arc21 Joint Committee Meeting In Committee Minutes of 26 October 2023.	A Cassells	Noted	Y
SE/154/2023	Update on rebranding/ redevelopment of Newry Market	It was agreed to note the contents of the report.	G Kane	In Progress	N
SE/155/2023	Faster EV Project with EasyGo.	It was agreed to note the final Service Level Agreement with EasyGo, as part of the FASTER project.	A Cassells	Noted	Y
SE/156/2023	Fleet Operator's License – Fleet	It was agreed to note the contents of the report.	S Murphy	Noted	Y

	Management Action Plan Update.				
<b>FOR NOTING</b>					
SE/157/2023	ARC21 Joint Committee Meeting Minutes of 26 October 2023	It was agreed note the minutes.	A Cassells	<b>Noted</b>	<b>Y</b>
SE/158/2023	NI Waste Management Statistics 2022/23	It was agreed note the contents of the report.	A Cassells	<b>Noted</b>	<b>Y</b>
SE/159/2023	Shared Island Project on Fleet Decarbonisation	It was agreed to note the report produced as part of the Shared Island funded project on fleet decarbonisation in Appendix 1 of the officer's report.	A Cassells	<b>Noted</b>	<b>Y</b>
END					

<b>Report to:</b>	Sustainability and Environment Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	24 January 2024
<b>Subject:</b>	Report on Notice of Motion: Flood Defences
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Cassells, Director of Sustainability & Environment
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Andrew Cassells, Director of Sustainability & Environment

For Decision	X	For Noting Only	
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose &amp; Background</b>		
1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is to facilitate discussion on the Notice of Motion received from Councillor Enright as deferred from the Council Meeting of 4 December 2023 concerning Flood Defences.</p> <p>Clearly this Motion has its roots in the unprecedented flooding that took place across the Council area in late October/early November 2023 and the significant resulting damage to infrastructure, domestic properties and commercial businesses.</p>		
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>		
2.1	<p>At the Council Meeting of Monday 4 December 2023, the following Notice of Motion was tabled by Councillor Enright; at the Council Meeting it was agreed that this be referred to the Sustainability and Environment Committee.</p> <p>C243/2023 Notice of Motion: Flood Defences</p> <p>Notice of Motion received from Councillor Enright:</p> <p>"Recent flooding has exposed the clear inadequacy of flood defences within the District. To address this, and in the absence of a functioning Stormont Executive to swiftly invest in flood defence infrastructure, council will work with Louth County council, the Irish Government and relevant Stormont Departments to submit a funding application to the Shared Island unit for upgrades to relevant flood defence systems in the district. In particular this work will consider: The ongoing Newry Flood Alleviation projects; The Shimna and Burren River Flood Alleviation Schemes in Newcastle; The lack of capital investment in Downpatrick with particular reference to water flow at the New Belfast Road Bridge and the lack of capacity and ability of the Quoile Barrier to release enough water between high tides; To seek a replacement for the Quoile Barrier in a similar manner to the Lagan River Barrier with a design suitable for the next 100 years; Examine the outcome of work undertaken in the past in areas like Rostrevor, Flurry Bridge and other areas to assess the effectiveness of investment and</p>		

	<p>any future plans; Seek an update on the adequacy of the schedule of rivers maintenance work across the District".</p> <p>Seconded; Councillor Truesdale</p> <p>Agreed: The Motion was referred to the Sustainability and Environment Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.</p>
2.2	<p>This Motion breaks down into four main sub-sections as follows;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. in the absence of a functioning Stormont Executive to swiftly invest in flood defence infrastructure, council will work with Louth County Council, the Irish Government and relevant Stormont Departments to submit a funding application to the Shared Island unit for upgrades to relevant flood defence systems in the district.</li> </ol> <p>An overview of the Shared Island Fund is provided below along with a web link at 8.1. Further investigation would be required to determine whether or not any such application would be permitted.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. In particular this work will consider: The ongoing Newry Flood Alleviation projects; The Shimna and Burren River Flood Alleviation Schemes in Newcastle; The lack of capital investment in Downpatrick with particular reference to water flow at the New Belfast Road Bridge and the lack of capacity and ability of the Quoile Barrier to release enough water between high tides; To seek a replacement for the Quoile Barrier in a similar manner to the Lagan River Barrier with a design suitable for the next 100 years</li> </ol> <p>This is essentially a matter for DFI Rivers; members may wish to consider inviting DFI Rivers to a future meeting of the Committee. It is understood that the maintenance of the Quoile Barrier is the responsibility of DFI Rivers and that they have no current plans to replace or upgrade same.</p> <p>That said the flooding review will have a technical element that will consider holistically the performance of the drainage infrastructure in Downpatrick. This will include the performance of the Quoile Barrier and pondage. DFI Rivers will be led by the specialist independent consultant on this aspect. Elected representatives and interest groups will be afforded an opportunity to meet with the consultant during this review. It is suggested therefore that any technical concerns around the performance of the barrier/pondage should be addressed through the auspices of the review.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Examine the outcome of work undertaken in the past in areas like Rostrevor, Flurry Bridge and other areas to assess the effectiveness of investment and any future plans;</li> </ol> <p>Assessing the effectiveness of past schemes and any future investment plans would also be a matter for the relevant statutory authorities; however Members should be</p>

aware that given the current changes in climate being experienced that the original assumptions for any historic schemes may well have been overtaken by events.

4. Seek an update on the adequacy of the schedule of rivers maintenance work across the District.

Within the remit of their statutory obligations Rivers Agency will carry out maintenance on the designated waterways for which they have responsibility; assessing the adequacy of their planned maintenance schemes would not be something that the Council would have the technical capabilities to consider.

- 2.3 The Council should be mindful of its own responsibilities and be aware of those in relation to flooding of the other statutory agencies such as DFI Road, DFI Rivers and NI Water. A summary of the responsibilities of DFI Rivers is provided below for the information of Members.

#### 2.4 Shared Island Fund Overview

The Shared Island initiative involves:

- working with the Northern Ireland Executive and the British Government to address strategic challenges faced on the island of Ireland
- further developing the all-island economy, deepening North/South cooperation, and investing in the North-West and border regions
- fostering constructive and inclusive dialogue and a comprehensive programme of research to support the building of consensus around a shared future on the island

A Shared Island unit in the Department of the Taoiseach acts as a driver and coordinator of this whole of government initiative.

The Shared Island Fund was announced in Budget 2021, with €500m in capital funding available between 2021-25, ring-fenced for investment in collaborative North/South projects.

The Programme for Government and revised National Development Plan (2021-2030) set out a significantly-enhanced level of ambition for collaborative all-island investment.

The goal is a more connected, sustainable and prosperous island for all communities. This is backed by a total all-island investment commitment of more than €3.5billion out to 2030, through the Government's Shared Island Fund; Project Ireland 2040 funds; resourcing for North/South cooperation; and the PEACEPLUS programme, delivered with the European Union, UK Government and Northern Ireland Executive. The Shared Island Fund - with a commitment of at least €1billion out to 2030 - is ringfenced funding to enable delivery of all-island investment commitments and objectives. The Government is deploying the Shared Island Fund, working through all-island partnerships, with the Executive, UK Government, Local Authorities, education institutions and through island-wide funding programmes.

2.5

Most recently, on 10 June 2023, the Government announced funding of up to €56 million from the Shared Island Fund for a number of significant cross-border investments. To date, €247 million has been allocated from the Shared Island Fund. The Government will continue to invest at this unprecedented level in the time ahead, demonstrating and harnessing the value of ambitious North/South and East/West cooperation, for the island of Ireland.

### DFI Rivers

DFI Rivers are the responsible statutory authority with the responsibility to protect property flooding from rivers and the sea in addition to being the Lead Government Department with responsibility for the co-ordination of the Emergency response to flooding incidents.

They are also responsible for the construction and maintenance of flood defences and maintaining the designated water course network.

### Vision

Our (DFI Rivers) vision is to manage the flood risk to facilitate the social, economic and environmental development of Northern Ireland.

### Aims

To support this vision DfI Rivers aims to reduce the risk to life and damage to property as a result of flooding from rivers and the sea. This involves undertaking watercourse and coastal flood risk management in a sustainable manner.

To achieve our aims and vision, we will as resources permit, take forward the implementation of the NI Flood Risk Management Plans 2015-21, developed as a requirement of the EU Floods Directive.

### Objectives

In support of these aims DfI Rivers' objectives are to:

- Implement sustainable flood risk management policies to facilitate development management and planning decisions. This assists in meeting society's social, environmental and economic needs;
- reduce the number of properties currently at risk of flooding from rivers and the sea;
- maintain flood defence and drainage infrastructure in a satisfactory condition;
- maintain as necessary the designated watercourse network;
- provide flood maps and risk information;
- discharge our Lead Government Department responsibility of the co-ordination for the Emergency response to flooding incidents.
- support and motivate all our people to achieve DfI Rivers' objectives; and
- deliver quality services for our customers and stakeholders in a fair and equitable way.

Statutory authority

	<p>The powers delegated to DfI Rivers by the Department for Infrastructure as the statutory Drainage and Flood Defence authority for Northern Ireland derive from the Drainage (NI) Order 1973 as amended.</p> <p>Enabling legislation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Drainage (Northern Ireland) Order 1973 - the legislative basis for carrying out watercourse maintenance work and flood defence schemes.</li> <li>2. The Lough Neagh and Lower Bann Drainage and Navigation Act (Northern Ireland) 1955 - sets the statutory duty to regulate the levels of the Lough within prescribed limits as far as weather permits.</li> <li>3. The Lough Neagh Drainage (Amendment) Act 1970 - extended the Department's obligation to take account of other interests with regard to Lough level management.</li> <li>4. The Drainage (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 - applies to all drainage and flood defence proposals and ensures an assessment of the environmental impact and public consultation on all drainage works and schemes.</li> <li>5. The Drainage (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 - gives the Department two new powers namely:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a power to make orders to dissolve drainage trusts</li> <li>• a power to make regulations to charge for drainage infrastructure works to facilitate development</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
<p><b>3.0</b></p>	<p><b>Recommendations</b></p>
<p>3.1</p>	<p>That Members consider the Motion and: Provide Officers with direction with regards to progressing the issues outlined in the Notice of Motion should Members so agree.</p>
<p><b>4.0</b></p>	<p><b>Resource Implications</b></p>
<p>4.1</p>	<p>Will require assessed should the Motion be agreed by Council but as it stands it would clearly involve significant office officer time with any non-budgeted expenditure requiring further approvals.</p>
<p><b>5.0</b></p>	<p><b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b></p>
<p>5.1</p>	<p><b><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></b></p>
<p></p>	<p><i>n/a</i> <span style="float: right;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></span></p>
<p>5.2</p>	<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></p>	<p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/></span></p>

	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> n/a	
<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>	
7.1	None	
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Background Documents</b>	
8.1	<a href="http://www.gov.ie">gov.ie - Building a Shared Island (www.gov.ie)</a>	



<b>Report to:</b>	Sustainability and Environment Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	24 January 2024
<b>Subject:</b>	Report on Notice of Motion: Flood Preparedness
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Cassells, Director of Sustainability & Environment
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Andrew Cassells, Director of Sustainability & Environment

	For Decision	X	For Noting Only	
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose &amp; Background</b>			
1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is to facilitate discussion on the Notice of Motion received from Councillor Truesdale as deferred from the Council Meeting of 4 December 2023 concerning Flood Defences.</p> <p>Clearly this Motion has its roots in the unprecedented flooding that took place across the Council area in late October/early November 2023 and the significant resulting damage to infrastructure, domestic properties and commercial businesses.</p>			
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>			
2.1	<p>At the Council Meeting of Monday 4 December 2023, the following Notice of Motion was tabled by Councillor Truesdale; at the Council Meeting it was agreed that this be referred to the Sustainability and Environment Committee.</p> <p>C244/2023 Notice of Motion: Flood Preparedness</p> <p>Notice of Motion received from Councillor Truesdale:</p> <p>"That this council commits to establishing a multi-agency emergency response task force to improve defences, preparedness, response and communication during emergencies. This taskforce will include (but is not limited to) the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Setting up key sandbag refilling and coordination storage points in conjunction with DfI and elected members, including access for trusted local partners.</li> <li>-Purchasing and storing of sand-less sandbags and flood barriers and exploration of other forms of more environmentally conscious flood defences suitable for a range of flooding incidents and sewage protection.</li> <li>-Writing to the NIEA calling for the immediate implementation of a flood warning system in line with England, Scotland and Wales, and fully implement the creation of Community Flood Plans such as those used by the Environment Agency.</li> </ul>			

	<p>-Meeting with the Drainage and Flooding Council and Rivers Agency to explore the adequacy and performance of their flood-defence capital investments in the District - To examine the maintenance schedules in NM&amp;D District for shores, road sheughs , gullies and major drains like the plank or Saul drains in Downpatrick between the different agencies.”</p> <p>Seconded; Councillor McMurray</p> <p>Agreed: The Motion was referred to the Sustainability and Environment Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.</p>
<p>2.2</p>	<p>The Motion can be broken down into a number of subsections as follows;</p> <p>That this council commits to establishing a multi-agency emergency response task force to improve defences, preparedness, response and communication during emergencies.</p> <p>This taskforce will include (but is not limited to) the following actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Setting up key sandbag refilling and coordination storage points in conjunction with DfI and elected members, including access for trusted local partners.</li> </ol> <p>DfI Rivers through their flooding resilience groups already provide sandbag stores.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Explores the Purchasing and storing of sand-less sandbags and flood barriers and exploration of other forms of more environmentally conscious flood defences suitable for a range of flooding incidents and sewage protection.</li> </ol> <p>Members should note that the Council has no statutory obligation to provide sandbags and has made no specific budget provision for same.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Writes to the NIEA calling for the immediate implementation of a flood warning system in line with England, Scotland and Wales.</li> </ol> <p>Clearly the implementation of such a system would have considerable resourcing implications for the Department’s involved. Members should be aware that the environment agencies in the devolved administrations have differing responsibilities and that Northern Ireland is the only region that does not have an independent/arm’s length environment agency.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Fully implement the creation of Community Flood Plans such as those used by the Environment Agency.</li> </ol> <p>A description of the (English) guidance on Community Flood Plans is set out later in this report.</p>

5. Meets with the Drainage and Flooding Council and Rivers Agency to explore the adequacy and performance of their flood-defence capital investments in the District.

The functions of the Northern Ireland Drainage Council are as set out below whilst those of DFI Rivers are as set out in a sister report on Flood Defences also being presented to the Sustainability & Environment Committee on 24 January 2024.

6. Examines the maintenance schedules in NM&D District for shores, road sheughs, gullies and major drains like the plank or Saul drains in Downpatrick between the different agencies.

This would be an extensive exercise and involve DFI Roads and DFI Rivers; it is unclear what the intent of this element of the motion is; the Council would not have the technical expertise in house to comment on the effectiveness of planned maintenance schedules of other statutory bodies.

- 2.3 The Council should be mindful of its own responsibilities and be aware of those in relation to flooding of the other statutory agencies such as DFI Road, DFI Rivers and NI Water. A summary of the responsibilities of DFI Rivers is provided below for the information of Members.

#### 2.4 Northern Ireland Drainage Council

The Drainage Council ('the Council') for Northern Ireland is a non-Departmental Public Body constituted under the Drainage (NI) Order 1973. The Council has a general scrutiny role in relation to the Department's drainage functions and has a statutory duty to ensure uniformity of treatment of drainage throughout Northern Ireland.

##### Functions of the Drainage Council

The Drainage Council for Northern Ireland is responsible for ensuring the impartial and uniform application of the DfI Rivers' drainage and flood defence programme throughout the province.

##### Designation of watercourses

It is the Council's responsibility to decide which watercourses and sea defences should be maintained by the DfI Rivers at public expense. The Council 'designates' such watercourses and sea defences. Over 6,800 kms of watercourses and 26 kms of sea defences have been designated since the Council was established in 1947.

##### Parameters for designation

In deciding to designate a watercourse the Council must be satisfied that any drainage works needed are outside the capability of landowners and that works at public expense on the watercourse would provide value for money.

Council decisions on designation or de-designation of watercourses are open to review by the Lands Tribunal on appeal by any aggrieved party.

#### De-designation

The Council may also decide to de-designate a watercourse or sea defence if circumstances change and its maintenance at public expense is no longer justified. Recommendations for designation / de-designation of a watercourse may be put forward to the Drainage Council by any member of the public as well as by the DfI Rivers or Government Departments.

### 2.5 Community Flood Plans (Extract from English Guidance)

Taking simple steps can go a long way to help protect your community from flooding. Preparing in advance will make it easier to respond to and recover from a flood. Read our [personal flood plan advice](#) for core steps to take to stay safe in a flood.

#### 1. Before a flood

Actions you can take to protect your community include to:

- think how information will be communicated to residents and emergency services during a flood
- describe or map emergency routes and evacuation points
- list contact information and locations of residents who need help and who could provide help
- list volunteers and their contact information
- think about how to scale up your response if a flood gets worse

Make sure you comply with [GDPR regulations](#) when gathering personal information from people.

Think what a flood would look like in your area, so you know what signs to look out for.

These could include:

- water level trigger points on a bridge or lamppost
- the condition of any local flood defences
- the direction a flood could come from
- the latest [river, sea, groundwater and rainfall levels](#)

Think how to help people in your community. Volunteers could help:

- with communication and administration
- to move furniture and other possessions
- to check on vulnerable neighbours

#### 1.1 Test your flood plan

Regularly check if your flood plan will work, and the information is up to date.

You could ask your [local Environment Agency office](#) and council to help you carry out a simulated flooding event.

Think about who you could share your community flood plan with, for example your local council.

	<p>2. Community flood plan checklist</p> <p>Some examples of information you could include in your plan are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the flood warnings that you are registered for</li> <li>• local flood triggers, for example if the water reaches the bottom of a bridge</li> <li>• a list of locations at risk of flooding</li> <li>• their trigger level and actions to take</li> <li>• any equipment you might need</li> <li>• what timescale you might need to do your plan</li> <li>• emergency contact information</li> <li>• location and contact details of vulnerable people</li> </ul> <p>Make sure you comply with <a href="#">GDPR regulations</a> when gathering personal information from people.</p> <p>Make a list of important contacts, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• building services</li> <li>• utility suppliers</li> <li>• volunteers/flood wardens</li> </ul> <p>Make a list of information about people who can help and how. For example, people who can help with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• installing flood protection products</li> <li>• moving people to safe locations</li> <li>• emergency storage</li> <li>• emergency supplies</li> <li>• medical support</li> <li>•</li> </ul> <p>3. Immediately before a flood</p> <p>The emergency services are responsible for making sure the public are safe and co-ordinating the incident response.</p> <p>Do not put yourself or others at risk.</p> <p>4. When a flood happens</p> <p>Follow your flood plan. You can also follow advice in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">personal flood plan</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">what to do before or during a flood</a></li> <li>•</li> </ul> <p>5. After a flood</p> <p>Follow your flood plan. You can also follow advice in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">personal flood plan</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">what to do after a flood</a></li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
3.1	<p>That Members consider the Motion and:</p> <p>Provide Officers with direction with regards to progressing the issues outlined in the Motion should Members so agree.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>

4.1	Will require assessed should the Motion be agreed by Council but as it stands it would clearly involve significant office officer time with any non-budgeted expenditure requiring further approvals.	
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b>	
5.1	<b>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</b>	
	n/a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5.2	<b>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</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	<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>Proposal initiating consultation</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> n/a	
<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>	
7.1	None	
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Background Documents</b>	

8.1	<a href="http://www.gov.uk">Community flood plan - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
-----	--

<b>Report to:</b>	Sustainability and Environment Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	24 January 2024
<b>Subject:</b>	October/November 2023 Floods – Post Flooding Review
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Andrew Cassells, Director: Sustainability & Environment
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Sinead Murphy, Assistant Director: Environment

<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, following the Flood Emergency experienced across the District in October and November 2023, to inform members of ongoing internal and external multi-agency reviews that are currently underway and update on the next phase of funding from Department of Finance to be distributed via Councils.	
1.2	<p>Members will be aware that in line with the Council's Emergency Management Plan and 'NI Civil Contingencies Framework: Building Resilience Together' the Council responded during the flooding events and in the post-flood recovery period, with staff from across all Departments providing assistance and mutual aid support provided by colleagues in Belfast City Council, Lisburn and Castlereagh Borough Council and Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council. During the response period, an estimated 32,000 sandbags were distributed to businesses and residents across the District and placed as flood barriers along the canal and rivers.</p> <p>Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) visited and provided advice to 280 commercial businesses across the District and confirmed that 235 businesses were impacted internally, at varying degrees, by the flood waters. Through a newly developed online platform, Economic Development officers and EHOs provided access to grant assistance of £7,500 from Phase 1 Funding Support for businesses affected by the flooding funded by central Governments £15million support package. 257 commercial businesses applied through the scheme and 114 businesses that meet the scheme criteria received a payment, with a total of £855,000 paid out through the scheme.</p> <p>Council staff also facilitated multi-agency clinics to provide information and support to impacted businesses in both Downpatrick and Newry.</p> <p>Businesses were supported by Council staff during the post flood clean up through the provision of physical assistance to clear premises. Skips were provided to remove contaminated waste and dehumidifiers were issued to businesses to assist with drying the buildings.</p> <p>Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) also visited or made contact with 306 domestic properties who applied for the Department for Communities: Scheme of Emergency Assistance (SEFA) which is designed to aid individual householders who have suffered severe inconvenience as a result of internal flooding to their properties. 119 householders who were deemed eligible under the criteria laid out in the scheme guidance received a £1,000 payment to assist with making homes habitable again as quickly as possible.</p>	



	<p>The Council’s Corporate Communications team dealt with and provided response to 52 media enquiries and in partnership with DFI, 5 joint statements were issued by the multi-agency partner. In addition, businesses and residents were kept updated through the Council’s social media channels of all information relevant to the flooding including access to funding and rates relief for impacted businesses.</p>
<p><b>2.0</b></p>	<p><b>Key Issues</b></p>
<p>2.1</p>	<p><u>Internal Debrief and Review</u></p> <p>An internal organisational debrief and review of the October/November 2023 flooding event that impacted NMDDC was held on 12 December 2023, in line with the Council’s Emergency Management Plan and ‘NI Civil Contingencies Framework: Building Resilience Together’. The debrief and review was facilitated in partnership by NMD SHEP Team and Southern Resilience Manager (Ray Hall) and captured organisational learning and feedback for the upcoming multi-agency review.</p> <p>The internal debrief and review was an interactive meeting that was attended by members of the Council Emergency Management Team with representatives from all Directorates responsible for preparation, response and recovery aspects of emergencies. The JESIP – Principles of Joint Working were used to ensure all key areas were covered; co-locate, communicate, co-ordinate, jointly understand risk, shared situational awareness and focused on ‘least successful and most successful’ aspects of preparation and response for each department and ‘changes to improve’ preparation and response in the future.</p> <p>A wider questionnaire to capture feedback from Elected Members and staff involved in the flood response and recovery phases will be issued in the coming weeks. A debrief and review report, which will include agreed recommendations and associated action plan, will be reviewed by the NMD Emergency Planning Implementation Group (EPIG) and will feed into the external multi-agency review.</p>
<p>2.2</p>	<p><u>Multi-agency Review</u></p> <p>Due to the significant impacts of the flooding in areas of Co Down and Co Armagh in October/November 2023, and in accordance with NI Civil Contingencies Framework arrangements, a joint organisation learning review has been instigated to capture learning identified in terms of preparedness, response and recovery in order to inform future collective civil contingencies preparations.</p> <p>A planning group, comprising of key responding partners/departments and an independent consultant, has been formed and are currently progressing arrangements for the collection of a range of information including feedback from debriefs within the organisations involved as well as a planned multi-agency debrief.</p> <p>Stakeholder contributions will be sought via written submissions and in-person at a series of engagement events, which will be hosted across both the NMD and ABC council areas to ensure that those affected have the opportunity to contribute to the review.</p> <p>Details of the stakeholder engagement will be provided once processes, locations and dates are confirmed.</p> <p>It is intended that a formal report will be compiled by the independent consultant by the end of June 2024 and will be publicly available. The report and any recommendations will</p>

	be presented to the Civil Contingencies Group (NI) to ensure appropriate governance and implementation oversight is achieved.
2.3	<p><b>Business funding – Phase 2</b></p> <p>The Department for Economy (DFE) is working closely with the district Council on the details of the follow up scheme to assist the most severely affected small and medium sized businesses. In developing the details, DFE have also been looking at how they design the details of the support scheme to address some of the issues that have been raised with them by businesses and local representatives to make sure that it will effectively deal with the realities on the ground.</p> <p>The business case for the scheme, which is required as a condition of the Treasury's allocation of funding, is currently being developed. The scheme will open for applications when the approvals have been secured. The department and local councils will be working together on the administration of the support.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	Members are asked to note the contents of the report.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	There are no additional resource issues associated with this report.
<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><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> <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  Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:  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>
	<a href="#">Principles for joint working - JESIP Website</a>

**ITEM 3**  
**ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE**  
**Virtual Meeting No 82**  
**MINUTES**  
**Thursday 26 October 2023**

**Members Present:**

Councillor E McLaughlin	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
Councillor A Cathcart	Ards & North Down Borough Council
Councillor B Smyth	Belfast City Council
Councillor P Kennedy	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Councillor G McKeen ( <i>Deputy Chair</i> )	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
Councillor C Enright	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council
Councillor K Murphy	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

**Members' Apologies:**

Councillor M Goodman ( <i>Chair</i> )	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
Alderman P Michael	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
Councillor C Blaney	Ards & North Down Borough Council
Councillor J Cochrane	Ards & North Down Borough Council
Councillor T Kelly	Belfast City Council
Councillor E McDonough-Brown	Belfast City Council
Councillor A Givan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Alderman S Skillen	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Councillor R Quigley	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
Councillor A Wilson	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
Councillor T Andrews	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

**Officers Present:**

T Walker	arc21
H Campbell	arc21
K Boal	arc21
B McKeown	arc21
M Laverty	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
D Lindsay	Ards & North Down Borough Council
N Martin	Ards & North Down Borough Council
B Murray	Belfast City Council
R Harvey	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
J Knox	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
P Thompson	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
D Carey	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council

**Officers' Apologies:**

J Green	arc21
C Matthews	Belfast City Council
J McConnell	Belfast City Council
A Cassells	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

**Councillor McKeen chaired the meeting in Councillor Goodman's absence.**

**Item 1 - Conflicts of Interest Statement**

The Chair read out the Conflicts of Interest Statement, and none were noted.

**Item 2 - Apologies**

Apologies were noted.

**Action: Noted**

**Item 3 - Minutes of Joint Committee Meeting 081 held on 28 September 2023**

An amendment was made to the minutes on the attendance names and councils as follows:  
J Knox – Mid & East Antrim Borough Council changed to Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

The Joint Committee approved the minutes. Proposed by Councillor Kennedy and seconded by Councillor Smyth and agreed by all.

**Action: Agreed**

**Item 4 - Matters Arising**

Declaration of Interests forms – raised under AOB

Site visits – Mr Walker encouraged all to register their interest to visit the facilities which had previously been highlighted to (i) the Biffa landfill site and/or (ii) the Warrenpoint and ReGen facilities to get an understanding of the scale and scope of what arc21 is dealing with, and requested that anyone wishing to visit the sites should advise arc21 accordingly asap.

**Action: JC Members**

Future meetings – discussed later in the meeting.

Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council (ANBC) correspondence – Mr Walker reported that responses are in the process of being completed and it was hoped to issue in due course.

**Action: arc21**

**IN COMMITTEE**

The Chair recommended that the meeting would now move “*in committee*” which was agreed. Proposed by Councillor Enright and seconded by Councillor Murphy and agreed by all.

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*” during this section of the meeting, there were five matters discussed.

<b>Item 5</b>	<b>Minutes of Joint Committee Meeting 081 held on 28 September 2023 ‘in committee’ (approved)</b>
<b>Item 6</b>	<b>Matters Arising (noted)</b>
<b>Item 7</b>	<b>Residual Waste Treatment Project (noted)</b>
<b>Item 8</b>	<b>Commercially Sensitive Contract &amp; Procurement Issues (approved)</b>
<b>Item 9</b>	<b>Revenue Estimates 2024-25 (approved)</b>

## OUT OF COMMITTEE

Proposed by Councillor Murphy and seconded by Councillor Enright and agreed by all.

### Item 10 - Governance

#### 1. Audit Committee

Mr Walker reported that in order to deal with the inability to form an Audit Committee and to ensure that arc21 can continue to demonstrate effective governance arrangements, it was proposed that four times a year, the Joint Committee, in addition to their main business, would receive the governance reports that would have previously gone to the Audit Committee. The reporting officers would endeavour to provide the Joint Committee with a succinct update on these governance reports in order to minimise the prospect of the regular meeting being unduly prolonged.

An appendix with the details was presented to the meeting.

He advised that it was hoped that this would only be a temporary arrangement for 2023/24 and that, once Members had become more familiar with arc21 business, arc21 would seek to revisit this decision at the end of a year in order to form an Audit Committee for 2025/26, in line with best practice.

#### 2. Consultations

Mr Walker reported that at the last Committee meeting, it was agreed that arc21 would not respond to consultation exercises which were eight weeks or less, except in particular instances and in these cases any response would be agreed with the Chair in advance of submission and presented to the Joint Committee for retrospective approval.

Consequently, he advised that two consultation exercises had been received as follows:

1. Approach to 10x Technologies and Clusters – opened on 29 September and closes on 24 November 2023. As this is an 8-week consultation, in line with the points made last month, he advised that arc21 would not be responding to this consultation exercise.
2. UK-Wide Consultation on a proposed ban on the manufacture, supply and sale of wet wipes containing plastic – consultation was launched on Saturday, 14 October and runs for six weeks until 25 November 2023. As above, due to the limited consultation timescale, he advised that arc21 would not be drafting a response.

As per the discussion following last month's paper, he advised that arc21 would write to the relevant Departments and inform them of our decision not to respond, along with the rationale.

#### 3. Policy Forum for Northern Ireland – Next Steps for the Development of a Circular Economy for Northern Ireland Conference

Mr Walker reported that this conference is to be held in early 2024 and that the Chair had brought it to his attention and asked him to bring this to the Members' attention to ask if his [the Chair] attendance could be ratified.

Given the relevance of the conference, Mr Walker proposed that the Joint Committee should approve the attendance of the Chair and Deputy Chair (or their nominees) to this conference along with the Chief Executive (or his nominee).

The Joint Committee were asked to approve the recommendations as follows:

1. four times a year, the Joint Committee, in addition to their main business, receives governance reports that would have ordinarily gone to the Audit Committee;
2. arc21 would not respond to the two consultations listed but instead would write to the relevant Departments and inform them of our decision, along with the rationale; and
3. Members approve the attendance of the Chair and Deputy Chair (or their nominees) to the Northern Ireland Circular Economy conference in January, along with the Chief Executive (or his nominee).

The Joint Committee approved the recommendations. Proposed by Councillor Enright and seconded by Councillor Murphy and agreed by all.

**Action: Agreed**

## **Item 9 - Contracts & Operations Briefing Report**

### Service Status

Ms Boal reported that all services were operational during the month of September 2023 and none of the contractors needed to draw upon any of their contingency measures.

### Performance

She reported that turnaround times had been reviewed and in all cases, where issues were noted, contractors provided adequate reasons for these and therefore service credits were not applied.

She noted that overweight vehicles for the Landfill and Organics contracts were still high and councils' officers were asked to liaise with their operational teams or contractors working on behalf of the councils and relay this data to reduce the numbers going forward. She advised that there had been some reporting issues with ReGen in that arc21 did not receive some reports when required, and therefore service credits were applied.

In terms of the Bring banks, she reported that there was 1 x Bottle Bank sites (LCCC) and 1 x Paper Skip (BCC) that did not have the specified capacity available. The contractors were notified, and these banks were serviced as soon as possible. There were no service credits applied this month.

### Health and Safety

#### Incidents

Ms Boal reported that during September 2023, there were 4 x Health & Safety incidents reported to arc21 by contractors and councils. She advised that there were some trends appearing over the last 12 months and that arc21 is considering the best way to respond to these and to ensure that the councils and contractors are fully engaged with us in terms of the things happening on site.

She noted that council officers had been asked to liaise with their H&S officers and operational managers, including those of external contractors, to ensure that operational teams understand their Health & Safety obligations and abide by the relevant site rules at each site.

#### External Health and Safety Audits

She reported that there had been no external Health and Safety audit visits in September. She noted that a review of the issues log for the current year showed that there is only one outstanding action remaining from previous audits to do with signage and that arc21 is following up on this.

#### Rejected Loads

Ms Boal reported that there were no loads rejected at any of the sites in September 2023.

#### arc21 Contract Tonnages

The contract tonnages for September 2023 were presented and Ms Boal highlighted the following in comparison to the same period the previous year:

- an increase of 9.3% for MDR material delivered into Bryson;
- a 7.1% decrease for MRF Lot 2 for MDR material delivered to ReGen;
- a minor decrease of 0.2% for Type 1 material for the Organics Contract;
- an increase of 23.7% for type 2 material for the Organics Contract; and
- a 28.3% decrease for the Landfill Residual Waste Contract. No residual waste was sent direct to landfill by BCC in September 2023.

#### Supplies

Ms Boal provided a summary of the aspects pertinent to the supplies contract and noted that there had been no non-compliances.

Following discussion, the Joint Committee noted the report.

**Action: Noted**

### **Item 11 - Waste Tonnage Trends**

Ms Boal presented a report showing the waste tonnage trends for materials delivered into the arc21 contracts and highlighted the following:

- Landfill – down to around 8.5k tonnes with the BCC tonnage extracted and following a similar trend to the 2022/23 year. She advised that a graph for the BCC contract tonnage had now been included in the report and a starting point to start comparing the trends;
- Organics – Type 1 (garden waste from civic amenity sites) had dropped from the bumper August levels and at the same point of the 2022/23 year, and for Type 2 – (food and garden waste through kerbside collection schemes) was significantly higher than the 2022/23 year.

The other contracts were also presented in graph form for information.

Following discussion, the Joint Committee noted the report.

**Action: Noted**



### **Item 12 - WRAP Report - Behaviours, Attitudes and Awareness Recycling Tracker Survey in Northern Ireland -Spring 2023**

Ms Boal presented a report to provide Members with an overview of the information contained within a recently issued WRAP report on behaviours, attitudes and awareness in relation to recycling.

She advised that the report highlighted that recycling has become a normalised behaviour and that the public largely recognise the recycling logo. It identified specific waste streams such as tin-foil, glass perfume / aftershave bottles, aerosols, plastic trays and plastic pots and tubs where more could be captured, and that whilst there is high engagement in participating in food waste collections smell, leaks and maggots were barriers to participation.

She noted that the report also highlighted that the public had less certainty in terms of Extended Producer Responsibility and the Deposit Return Scheme.

She also noted that the report looked at two key areas of the recycling: dry recycling and food waste recycling.

She advised that over the next couple of months, arc21 would be bringing an update on the consultation which is expected to come out from DAERA on future recycling which will be significant in terms of the next steps and direction of travel.

Following discussion, the Joint Committee noted the report.

**Action: Noted**

### **Item 14 - Customer Survey**

Ms Boal presented the results of the arc21 annual customer survey. She advised that in normal circumstances this would be sent to the Joint Committee, along with the CEXs and Steering Group officers. However, due to the timing of the survey and the break for elections and the formation of a new committee, it was considered more appropriate to focus on the Chief Executives and Steering Group Officers only and then do the next survey to include all around May/June 2024.

She noted that the number of respondents was low and therefore had had an impact on the results.

She reported that, generally, the satisfaction levels were good but there were some areas which looked as if they could be improved. She advised that the arc21 SMT will be working on to change the "don't know" or "dissatisfied" levels and will be exploring other areas to provide further information as requested. However, she noted that comments either in the responses or at a recent Steering Group meeting had not identified any specific issues that could be addressed.

She advised that the next stage would be that the results will be considered, along with stakeholder feedback that is currently being gathered as part of the development of the next Corporate Plan by the SMT.

The Chair suggested that arc21 should take it as a positive sign on the low returns meaning generally good levels of satisfaction.

Following discussion, the Joint Committee noted the report.

**Action: Noted**

## **Item 15 - Schedule of Meetings 2024**

Mr Walker presented a report on the proposed schedule of Joint Committee meetings for 2024.

He reported that on approaching the councils to consider a more suitable day for members attendance, Thursday still appears to be the best option. However, Members were asked to consider whether a different time of day would be more suitable.

Discussion ensued and it was agreed that Thursday morning remained the most suitable time, starting at 10.30am to enable Members to travel to venues, if required.

Councillor Cathcart noted that he was only available for online attendance, but was happy with the hybrid option for those able to attend.

Mr Walker advised that to hold a hybrid meeting, arc21 would need attendance levels confirmed a couple of weeks in advance to make the necessary arrangements, and with low attendance confirmed, less than 6, we would revert to solely online.

Councillor Enright advised that attending a meeting in person, although he saw the benefits in this, would be difficult when considering the travel time either side and that it was easier for Members to attend for a couple of hours online with their other commitments.

The Chair suggested that arc21 consider the option to offer a hybrid once a quarter and for arc21 to progress accordingly.

Mr Walker also advised that additionally, from time to time, there may be a requirement to call a Special Meeting of the Joint Committee and it is anticipated that this ad-hoc arrangement be continued if and when necessary, and Members notified accordingly, should such circumstances require.

It was recommended that the Joint Committee approve the dates, 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 arc21 to progress with the option to hold hybrid meetings once a quarter.

### **Dates**

**Thursday 25 January - hybrid**

**Thursday 29 February**

**Thursday 28 March**

**Thursday 25 April - hybrid**

**Thursday 30 May**

**Thursday 27 June**

**July – no meeting**

**Thursday 29 August - hybrid**

**Thursday 26 September**

**Thursday 31 October**

**Tuesday 3 December - hybrid**

The Joint Committee agreed to the recommendations. Proposed by Councillor Enright and seconded by the Chair and agreed by all.

**Action: Agreed**

**Item 16 - AOB**

Mr Walker reported that there were still a number of Declaration of Interests forms outstanding, and reminded Members to complete and return to Ms Campbell asap as they are a fundamental aspect to our governance arrangements and a point of comment and criticism from both internal and external auditors.

**Action: JC Members**

**Item 17- Next Meeting Tuesday 5 December 2023 using the MS Teams platform**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Chairman:** \_\_\_\_\_