

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Sustainability & Environment Committee meeting to be held on Wednesday, 21st February 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 24 January 2024.

For Approval

[Draft Action Sheet - January 2024 inc. historic actions Final 150224.pdf](#)

Page 1

Notices of Motion

4.0 Climate Change

For Decision

[Climate Change Motion Report.pdf](#)

Page 14

For Consideration and/or Decision

5.0 Private Tenancies Act 2022 - Fixed Penalty Notices

For Decision

[SE Committee - Private Tenancies Act 2022 report 21.02.24.pdf](#)

Page 28

6.0 Home to Hospital Schemes

For Decision

[SE Committee Report - Home to hospital scheme 21.02.24.pdf](#)

Page 32

7.0 Refuse Collection and HRC Arrangements for Public Holidays 2024/25

For Decision

[SE Committee - 2024-25 Public Holiday Arrangements 21.02.24.pdf](#)

Page 35

8.0 Waste and Environmental Health Charges 2024/25

For Decision

[SE Committee Report - Waste Environmental Health Charges 2024-25 - 21.02.2024.pdf](#)

Page 39

9.0 Revision of Facilities Management charges for financial year

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

10.0 Business Case for Minor Construction Works*For Decision*

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

 ***Report Business Case for provison of Minor Construction Works v1.pdf*** ***Not included***

 ***Appendix 1 Business case for Minor Construction Works.pdf*** ***Not included***

11.0 Business Case for upgrade to fuel pumps and vehicle wash at Greenbank Depot*For Decision*

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

 ***Report Business Case Upgrade to Works at Greenbank Newry.pdf*** ***Not included***

 ***Business Case - Upgrade to Fuel Pumps Vehicle Wash.pdf*** ***Not included***

12.0 STA Extension*For Decision*

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

 ***SE Committee Report - STA Extension 24.01.24.pdf*** ***Not included***

13.0 STA for Additional repairs to Christmas illuminations*For Decision*

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act

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

[Report on Christmas Illuminations Repairs 2023.pdf](#) **Not included**

[STA2 Christmas Illuminations 2023.pdf](#) **Not included**

14.0 Recycling of paper at HRC's

For Decision

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

[SE Committee Report - Recycling of Paper at HRCs 21.02.24.pdf](#) **Not included**

15.0 Action Sheet and Presentation from the Cleansing and Refuse Task Group on 24 January 2024

For Information

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

[Action Sheet arising from the Refuse Review Meeting held on Wednesday 24 January 2024.pdf](#) **Not included**

[Refuse and Cleansing Taskgroup.pdf](#) **Not included**

16.0 Arc21 Joint Committee Members' Monthly Bulletin held on 25 January 2024 and "In Committee" Minutes of Tuesday 5 December 2023

For Information

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

[ARC21 - JC084-25Jan24-JC MembersBulletin\(complete\).pdf](#) **Not included**

[ARC21 - JC084-25Jan24-Item5-JC InCommMinutes5Dec23.F.pdf](#) **Not included**

For Noting

17.0 Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting Minutes of Tuesday 5 December 2023

For Information

📄 [ARC21 - JC084-25Jan24-Item3-JC Minutes5Dec23.F.pdf](#)

Page 49

Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews
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Cllr Callum Bowsie
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Mrs Fionnuala Branagh
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Cllr Jim Brennan
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Cllr Pete Byrne
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Cllr Philip Campbell
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Mr Andrew Cassells
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Cllr William Clarke
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Cllr Laura Devlin
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Ms Louise Dillon
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Cllr Cadogan Enright
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Cllr Killian Feehan
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Cllr Doire Finn
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Cllr Aoife Finnegan
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Ms Joanne Fleming
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Cllr Conor Galbraith
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Cllr Mark Gibbons
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Cllr Oonagh Hanlon
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Cllr Glyn Hanna
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Cllr Valerie Harte
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Cllr Roisin Howell
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Ms Catherine Hughes
.....
Cllr Jonathan Jackson
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Cllr Geraldine Kearns
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Miss Veronica Keegan
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Mrs Josephine Kelly
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Cllr Tierna Kelly
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Mrs Sheila Kieran
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Cllr Cathal King
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Cllr Mickey Larkin
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Cllr David Lee-Surginor
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Cllr Alan Lewis
.....
Cllr Oonagh Magennis
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Mr Conor Mallon
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Aidan Mallon
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Cllr Aidan Mathers
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Cllr Declan McAteer
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Cllr Leeanne McEvoy
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Cllr Andrew McMurray
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Cllr Declan Murphy
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Sinead Murphy
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Cllr Kate Murphy
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Cllr Selina Murphy
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Cllr Siobhan O'Hare
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Cllr Áine Quinn
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Cllr Henry Reilly
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Cllr Michael Rice
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Cllr Michael Ruane
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Cllr Gareth Sharvin
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Donna Starkey
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Sarah Taggart
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Cllr David Taylor
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Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly
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Cllr Jill Truesdale
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Mrs Marie Ward
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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
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING 26 JANUARY 2022					
NS/004/2022	Trade Waste and Caravan Refuse Collection Services	<p>Agreed to approve the report and recommendations:-</p> <p>1. Alternate Weekly Commercial Waste Collection Service</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
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING 21 APRIL 2022					

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
NS/052/2022	Compost Week 2022	<p>Note and approve the additional activities in 2.2 to highlight and promote the importance of recycling food waste.</p> <p>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.</p>	S Murphy	In progress	N
NS/057/2022	Various issues concerning the Events Space Kilkeel	<p>Note the contents of the report.</p> <p>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.</p>	K Scullion	In progress	N
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING 22 JUNE 2022					
NS/091/2022	Enforcement Improvement Plan Update	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	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.			
SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 18 OCTOBER 2022					
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
SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE TUESDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2023					
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>Agreed to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the content of the report. • 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. 	K Scullion	In Progress	N
SE/019/2023	Business Case for the appointment of a contractor to undertake asbestos control measures on behalf of the Council	<p>Agreed to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To note the content of the report. • 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. 	K Scullion	In Progress	N
SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING					

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

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

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 17 OCTOBER 2023					
SE/105/2023	Notice of Motion – Clean Indoor Air	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.	A Cassells	In Progress	N
SE/106/2023	Notice of Motion – Review of Waste Collection Service	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. 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.	S Murphy	Group Established First Meeting held 24 January 2024	Y
SE/107/2023	Notice of Motion – Animal Welfare	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	A Cassells	In Progress	N

		outcome of the legal process was known.			
SE/114/2023	Procurement of Deep Cleansing Services	It was agreed to procure Deep Cleansing Services as outlined in appendix 1 of the officer's report.	S Murphy	In Progress	N
SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 22 NOVEMBER 2023					
SE/125/2023	Report on Notice of Motion in relation to Livestock worrying	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	A Cassells	In Progress	N
SE/126/2023	Consultation response on creating a smokefree generation and tackling young vaping	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	S Murphy	In Progress	N
SE/128/2023	Upgrade to Town Centre CCTV and Council Facilities CCTV	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	G Kane	In Progress	N
SE/129/2023	Summer Pitch Maintenance 2024-2026	The committee agreed to endorse the key pitch work principles and the commencement of the tender process	A Mallon	In Progress	N

		for maintenance works as outlined in Section 2 of the report			
SE/135/2023	NFLA Membership	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.	A Cassells	In Progress	N
SE/137/2023	Business case for the purchase of Forklift Truck	It was agreed to approve the business case for the purchase of a replacement forklift truck	S Murphy	In Progress	N
SE/141/2023	Sustainable Food Places Bridging the Gap Funding Application	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	A Cassells	In Progress	N
SE/142/2023	Biodiversity Strategy	It was agreed to note the draft Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, along with the attached consultation questions, and the proposed public consultation. Members to provide any further feedback through NMD Speak Service or besustainable@nmandd.org	A Cassells	In Progress	N
SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 20 DECEMBER 2023					
SE/146/2023	Action Sheet of the Sustainability and	It was agreed that the Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee	Democratic Services		

	Environment Committee Meeting held on 22 November 2023	Meeting held on 22 November 2023 be noted.			
<u>ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2014</u>					
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	In Progress	N
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	In Progress	N
SE/149/2023	Tender for supply of Summer & Winter bedding plants for public spaces 2024 - 2026	It was agreed to endorse the themes as contained in the officer's report and commence the procurement for supply of bedding plants as outlined in Section 2 of the officer's report.	A Mallon	In Progress	N
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	Complete	Y
<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>					

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
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**SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
24 JANUARY 2024**

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SE/003/2024	Action Sheet of the Sustainability & Environment Committee meeting held 20.12.2023	It was agreed to note the action sheet	All		
SE/004/2024	Report on Notice of Motion – Flood Defences	The following was agreed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Further investigate the possibility of a Shared Island application to assist with flood defences - Write to DFI Rivers and request a river maintenance schedule. - Seel legal advice to clarify if a meeting with DFI Rivers and the Drainage & Flooding Council would compromise the ongoing 	A Cassells	In Progress	N

		independent review of the recent flooding in the district.			
SE/005/2024	Report on Notice of Motion – Flood Preparedness	The following was agreed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Liaise with local DEA forums to discuss and plan the set up of Community Resilience Groups - Investigate the facilitation of sandbag availability and management through these Community Resilience Groups - Look into sharing information the website from the Regional Community Resilience Group 	A Cassells	In Progress	N
SE/006/2024	Business Case for firefighting equipment contract	It was agreed to note the content of the report and associated business case, and to accept the conclusion of the attached Business Case	C Sage	In Progress	
SE/007/2024	Update on financial costings for consultants regarding cemetery capital projects	It was agreed to approve the recommendations within the officer's report in relation to Capital Expenditure sought	C Sage	In Progress	Y
SE/008/2024	Waste Contract Extensions	The following was agreed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extension of the contract for the receipt and processing of mixed dry recycling with Re-Gen Waste LTD from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 • The extension of the current haulage contract with Natural World Products LTS from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 Both subject to approval of the arc21 Joint Committee.	S Murphy	Complete	Y

SE/009/2024	Single Tender Actions	It was agreed to approve the extension of the Single Tender Action for the collection, treatment and processing of residual waste, rigid plastics and missed paper from Downpatrick, Ballynahinch and Castlewellan Recycling Centres as outlined in section 2.3 of the officers report.	S Murphy	Complete	Y
SE/010/2024	Energy Contracts 2024-2025	It was agreed to approve the second year 12 month extension of electricity and natural gas contracts with GoPower, commencing in May 2024	A Cassells	Completed	Y
SE/011/2024	Report on Christmas Illuminations	It was agreed to note the contents of the report	All		Y
SE/012/2024	Arc21 Joint Committee Members Monthly Bulletin held 05.12.2023	It was agreed to note the minutes	All		Y
SE/013/2024	Arc21 Joint Committee Minutes of meeting held 26.10.2023	It was agreed to note the minutes	All		Y
SE/014/2024	Update on report on October/November 2023 Flood Recovery and Response	It was agreed to note the contents of the report	All		Y
SE/015/2024	Arc21 Joint Committee Minutes of meeting held 26.10.2023	It was agreed to note the minutes	All		Y

Report to:	Sustainability and Environment Committee
Date of Meeting:	21 February 2024
Subject:	Report on Notice of Motion: Climate Change
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Cassells, Director of Sustainability & Environment
Contact Officer:	Andrew Cassells, Director of Sustainability & Environment

For Decision	X	For Noting Only	
1.0	Purpose & Background		
1.1	The purpose of this report is to facilitate discussion on the Notice of Motion received from Councillor McMurry as deferred from the Council Meeting of 8 January 2024 concerning Climate Change.		
2.0	Key Issues		
2.1	<p>At the Council Meeting of Monday 8 January 2024, the following Notice of Motion was tabled by Councillor McMurry; at the Council Meeting it was agreed that this be referred to the Sustainability and Environment Committee.</p> <p>C/017/2024 NOTICE OF MOTION – CLIMATE CHANGE</p> <p>The following motion was received from Councillor McMurray:</p> <p>“That this Council acknowledges the work done to date to help address the climate emergency; reaffirms previous motions regarding the degenerating global situation; and again, reiterates that the crisis is the biggest threat posed to our constituents, our district and our planet. Further acknowledges, however, that recent data collated by Climate Emergency UK ranks NMDDC 8th out of the 11 Councils within NI; and thus, pledges to include ambitious targets in the forthcoming Sustainability and Climate Strategies and Action Plans to expedite implementation. Considers that political instability hinders a transition to a greener economy and thus agrees to write to the Secretary of State for NI, the Shadow Secretary of State for NI, and the Irish Republic’s Minister of Foreign Affairs to press the urgent need to reform the institutions of the Good Friday Agreement and accept the recommendations contained within the report of the Westminster’s Northern Ireland Affairs Committee evaluating their effectiveness”.</p> <p>The motion was seconded by Councillor Kelly.</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>The Motion appears to break down into three constituent parts;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That this Council acknowledges the work done to date to help address the climate emergency; reaffirms previous motions regarding the degenerating global situation; and again, reiterates that the crisis is the biggest threat posed to our constituents, our district and our planet. <p><i>Observed Warming and its Causes¹</i> <i>Human activities, principally through emissions of greenhouse gases, have unequivocally caused global warming, with global surface temperature reaching 1.1°C above 1850-1900 in 2011-2020. Global greenhouse gas emissions have continued to increase, with unequal historical and ongoing contributions arising from unsustainable energy use, land use and land-use change, lifestyles and patterns of consumption and production across regions, between and within countries, and among individuals.</i></p> <p><i>Observed Changes and Impacts</i> <i>Widespread and rapid changes in the atmosphere, ocean, cryosphere and biosphere have occurred. Human-caused climate change is already affecting many weather and climate extremes in every region across the globe. This has led to widespread adverse impacts and related losses and damages to nature and people (high confidence). Vulnerable communities who have historically contributed the least to current climate change are disproportionately affected. It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land.</i></p> <p><i>Current Progress in Adaptation and Gaps and Challenges</i> <i>Adaptation planning and implementation has progressed across all sectors and regions, with documented benefits and varying effectiveness. Despite progress, adaptation gaps exist, and will continue to grow at current rates of implementation. Hard and soft limits to adaptation have been reached in some ecosystems and regions. Maladaptation is happening in some sectors and regions. Current global financial flows for adaptation are insufficient for, and constrain implementation of, adaptation options, especially in developing countries.</i></p> <p><i>Current Mitigation Progress, Gaps and Challenges</i> <i>Policies and laws addressing mitigation have consistently expanded. Global GHG emissions in 2030 implied by nationally determined contributions (NDCs) announced by October 2021 make it likely that warming will exceed 1.5°C during the 21st century and make it harder to limit warming below 2°C. There are gaps between projected emissions from implemented policies and those from NDCs and finance flows fall short of the levels needed to meet climate goals across all sectors and regions.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Further acknowledges, however, that recent data collated by Climate Emergency UK ranks NMDDC 8th out of the 11 Councils within NI; and thus,

¹ CLIMATE CHANGE 2023; Synthesis Report Summary for Policymakers; THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE; 2023.

pledges to include ambitious targets in the forthcoming Sustainability and Climate Strategies and Action Plans to expedite implementation.²

Headlines

- Council Climate Action Scorecards published today by Climate Emergency UK
- The first ever assessment of climate action across all UK councils and all council functions
- Just 41 councils score 50% or more
- Average score is 32%

Climate Emergency UK, working with a team of trained volunteers, have assessed all UK councils on their progress toward net zero. The results are published on 18 October 2023 in their Council Climate Action Scorecards and can be explored in full at <https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/>.

This nationwide data exercise, the first of its kind, makes it possible to see which councils are making good progress to net zero and where others are not. According to Climate Emergency UK's detailed criteria of the Action Scorecards, **only 41 councils in the UK scored 50% or more for their climate action, the average score being 32%.**

The Scorecards questions were created after 9 months of research and consultation with over 80 organisations and experts individuals within the climate sector such as Friends of the Earth, Ashden, councillors and council staff and mySociety (Scorecard partners). Councils are assessed according to a 3 stage marking process using primarily publicly available data from council websites, as well as national data and FOI responses from councils.

The average score for Scottish councils was 35%, closely followed by Welsh and English councils on 32% and Northern Ireland councils on 21%. Within that, there is a wide variety of scores across all council types. For example, no council in Scotland scored below 17% whereas there are over 30 councils in England that scored 17% or lower.

Four years after councils started declaring climate emergencies, CE UK found that the majority of UK councils are underperforming with national barriers a key reason for councils underperformance. But a number of councils score well in specific sections. 36 councils, including Leeds, Cornwall, and the Vale of Glamorgan score over 80% in different sections, such as Planning & Land Use, Waste Reduction and Food and Collaboration and Engagement respectively. Greater Manchester Combined Authority is the only authority who scored full marks in any one section, in Buildings and Heating.

Action Scorecards

Climate Emergency UK assessed all UK councils on the actions they've taken towards net zero. The Scorecard assessment consists of 91 questions or less, depending on council type, across 7 different sections, created in consultation with over 90 different organisations and individuals. Each council was marked against these criteria and given a right to reply before the scores underwent a final audit. This work was completed between January and August 2023.

² [Northern Ireland Councils' Climate Action Scorecards | Climate Emergency UK \(councilclimatescorecards.uk\)](https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/)

	<p>3. Considers that political instability hinders a transition to a greener economy and thus agrees to write to the Secretary of State for NI, the Shadow Secretary of State for NI, and the Irish Republic’s Minister of Foreign Affairs to press the urgent need to reform the institutions of the Good Friday Agreement and accept the recommendations contained within the report of the Westminster’s Northern Ireland Affairs Committee evaluating their effectiveness”.</p> <p>Appendix 2 as attached for information provides the Conclusions and Recommendations from the House of Commons Northern Ireland Affairs Committee: The effectiveness of the institutions of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement: First Report of Session 2023–24 Report, together with formal minutes relating to the report. Dated 29 November 2023.</p>
3.0	<u>Recommendations</u>
3.1	<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>
4.0	Resource Implications
4.1	<p>Will require assessed should the Motion be agreed by Council but as it stands it would clearly involve office officer time with any non-budgeted expenditure requiring further approvals.</p>
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p><i>n/a</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p>
	<p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p>
	<p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>

5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves</p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks</p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
<p><i>Rationale:</i> n/a</p>		
<p>6.0 Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</p>		
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p>	
Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed		<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>7.0 Appendices</p>		
7.1	Appendix 1: NI Councils Climate Action Scorecard table.	
7.2	Appendix 2: Conclusions and Recommendations from the House of Commons Northern Ireland Affairs Committee: The effectiveness of the institutions of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement: First Report of Session 2023–24 Report, together with formal minutes relating to the report: 29 November 2023.	
<p>8.0 Background Documents</p>		
8.1	House of Commons Northern Ireland Affairs Committee: The effectiveness of the institutions of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement: First Report of Session 2023–24 Report, together with formal minutes relating to the report: Ordered by the House of Commons to be printed 29 November 2023.	

Appendix 1: NI Councils Climate Action Scorecards³

Council	Total	Heating & Buildings	Transport	Planning & Land Use	Governance & Finance	Biodiversity	Collaboration & Engagement	Waste Reduction & Food
Belfast City	43.00%	50.00%	38.00%	42.00%	25.00%	60.00%	50.00%	46.00%
Derry City & Strabane	27.00%	35.00%	0.00%	8.00%	26.00%	50.00%	39.00%	54.00%
Mid & East Antrim	26.00%	30.00%	12.00%	8.00%	29.00%	50.00%	18.00%	44.00%
Ards & North Down	20.00%	35.00%	0.00%	8.00%	6.00%	40.00%	18.00%	46.00%
Lisburn & Castlereagh	19.00%	30.00%	12.00%	8.00%	10.00%	40.00%	23.00%	21.00%
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	19.00%	35.00%	0.00%	17.00%	7.00%	40.00%	18.00%	28.00%
Mid Ulster	19.00%	55.00%	0.00%	17.00%	7.00%	20.00%	0.00%	28.00%
Causeway Coast & Glens	18.00%	55.00%	0.00%	17.00%	0.00%	20.00%	9.00%	23.00%
Newry, Mourne & Down	18.00%	55.00%	0.00%	8.00%	6.00%	20.00%	18.00%	46.00%
Antrim & Newtownabbey	14.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	2.00%	60.00%	9.00%	33.00%
Fermanagh & Omagh	13.00%	5.00%	12.00%	0.00%	6.00%	20.00%	50.00%	15.00%
NI Average	21.00%	33.00%	7.00%	14.00%	11.00%	38.00%	23.00%	35.00%

³ [Northern Ireland Councils' Climate Action Scorecards | Climate Emergency UK \(councilclimatescorecards.uk\)](https://www.councilclimatescorecards.uk/)

Appendix 2

House of Commons Northern Ireland Affairs Committee

The effectiveness of the institutions of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement

First Report of Session 2023–24 Report, together with formal minutes relating to the report

Ordered by the House of Commons to be printed 29 November 2023

Conclusions and Recommendations (Extract)

Introduction

1. In the years leading up to the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement, considerable groundwork had been laid through patient negotiation, compromise, and determination to end the Troubles, a period of conflict which had claimed the lives of more of more than 3,500 people. We commend those who established what would become the pillars of the Agreement and thank them for their contribution to the peace process. The final talks did not exist in isolation, and it is important to recognise that the architecture of peace was achieved through a long and difficult period of dialogue prior to April 1998. (Paragraph 7)

2. In its 25th anniversary year, we acknowledge the achievement of those who negotiated and agreed the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement, which brought peace to Northern Ireland after three decades of conflict. We recognise the considerable leadership and bravery shown, especially by the leaders of the Northern Ireland parties and peacebuilders, including women's groups, in Northern Ireland, and commend the constructive and determined attitude shown by the leaders of the British and Irish governments. Twenty-five years on, there is a temptation to see the achievement of peace as an inevitable outcome, but while the foundations were laid in the years leading up to 1998, reaching a settlement with broad consensus was far from a foregone conclusion. As we look to the future, we remain mindful of the hard work that was necessary in order to achieve agreement, and of the fact that in the modern media environment, such an outcome might not have been possible. (Paragraph 10)

3. The Belfast/Good Friday Agreement is the basis of devolved government in Northern Ireland. Several key provisions are codified in both domestic and international law and it has overwhelming democratic legitimacy—from which is derived a nearuniversal understanding that Northern Ireland should never again be blighted by violent conflict. It also includes clear imperatives upon the parties in Northern Ireland and the British and Irish governments to regularly review its operation and to take remedial action where necessary to address difficulties in accordance with their treaty obligations. (Paragraph 21)

4. As we will set out, this inquiry has found that there is scope for reform of the Agreement's institutions—as is reflected in the findings that follow. It has also found that there is notable public interest in options for reform. We are mindful, however, of the specific provision made for review and remediation within the text of the Agreement, and while we believe our findings go some way to identifying changes that need to be made and areas which require focused and sustained attention, we emphasise that only on the basis of calls for substantive change from people in Northern Ireland can the Government, in partnership with the Government of Ireland, and in partnership with the Northern Ireland parties, take this work forward. (Paragraph 22)

5. As such, we call upon the Government, in partnership with the Government of Ireland and in close consultation with the Northern Ireland parties, to commission a formal, independently led review (hereafter “the Review”) into the operation of the institutions of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement. The Review should: • examine the institutions' ability to provide effective and stable government in Northern Ireland, with broad cross-community inclusion; • explore the extent to which the North/South and East/West bodies have supported effective governance in Northern Ireland and facilitated effective cooperation across these islands; • include mechanisms for substantive consultative engagement with Northern Ireland society; and • make recommendations on how the institutions could be reformed with a defined roadmap for the achievement of those reforms. (Paragraph 23)

Strand One - democratic institutions in Northern Ireland

6. In the 25 years since their inception, numerous attempts have been made at strengthening the viability and stability of the Strand One institutions in complex and challenging political circumstances. The successor agreements—and subsequent legislative alterations to the institutions—serve to illustrate the delicate context in which the institutions operate, and the near-constant effort required from the Northern Ireland parties and the British and Irish governments to facilitate their continued existence. We recognise that they have not had all-party consensus or involvement and remain the subject of continued criticism. It is also apparent that it is difficult for the institutions to reform themselves without the input of the British and Irish governments. Nonetheless, the very existence of successor agreements and the changes they have instituted illustrates that reform of the Agreement's institutions is possible, even if such reform is piecemeal and sometimes lacking in implementation. (Paragraph 40)

Strand One - an evaluation

7. Cross-community safeguards were a fundamental aspect of the Strand One institutions' design. They recognised and accommodated the politics of a deeply divided, post-conflict society and were undoubtedly fundamental to securing agreement between Unionist and Nationalist parties in 1998. With an understanding

drawn from that time, the institutions have facilitated successfully cross-community government and we recognise the continued importance of Unionist/Nationalist representation to the legitimacy of government in Northern Ireland and the wider stability of the region. However, there is an emerging sense that “cross-community” should take account of the growing section of Northern Ireland society which does not identify as either Unionist or Nationalist. In this sense, it is difficult to maintain that the institutions truly deliver cross-community governance when a significant—and growing—number of elected representatives do not enjoy the same powers within the institutions as their Unionist/Nationalist-designating colleagues. (Paragraph 48)

8. There is broad consensus that the Strand One institutions are unstable and prone to collapse. The current system of nomination to the positions of First Minister and Deputy First Minister gives, in effect, a single party a veto over Executive formation and thus the continued functioning of democratic government in Northern Ireland. It also prevents the proper functioning of the institutions under Strands Two and Three of the Agreement. There is also consensus that even when functioning, the threat of collapse looms large over the institutions, with a pervasive culture of dispute rather than business-like cooperation. It is also apparent that there is insufficient incentive for parties to avoid exercising their power of veto. The result is a highly temperamental system of government. (Paragraph 51)

9. In spite of their instability—owed in part to stringent cross-community safeguards—the institutions have shown that they can be effective in terms of legislative output. During periods of relative stability, by that metric the Assembly arguably outperforms its counterparts in Scotland and Wales. Evidence also shows that the institutions have presided over the development of key industries in Northern Ireland. We commend this achievement and recognise that the institutions can constitute an active legislature and that their work has led to good policy outcomes in certain areas. (Paragraph 55)

10. The Strand One institutions have failed to address a number of critical policy issues in Northern Ireland. There is broad consensus that a deficit of governance has—and continues to have—a detrimental impact on policy development and outcomes. Such a deficit can be rectified only by elected representatives in Northern Ireland, and not by their counterparts in Westminster or civil servants. (Paragraph 61)

11. While the design of the institutions—primarily through the use of vetoes and a system of mandatory coalition—stymies the effectiveness of government in Northern Ireland, we also recognise that the success of the institutions in turn depends on the political will of the actors who inhabit them and the working relationships between those actors. Structural weaknesses do not make the institutions inherently ineffective, but when compounded with political realities in Northern Ireland, a poor and highly unsatisfactory record is likely. The achievement of good government in

Northern Ireland is a process rather than an event, and too often successor agreements have been seen merely as a means to end impasses and not as binding obligations to deliver on promised outcomes. (Paragraph 71)

Strand One - options for reform

12. We understand the cautionary arguments against short-term reform to the process for the election of the Speaker. In previous instances of institutional boycott, the possibility of reforming the thresholds for electing key institutional roles such as Speaker of the Assembly was not seriously considered. This, coupled to the passing of time, is insufficient reason to preclude limited, purposeful intervention to make the institutions more operable in times of crisis for Northern Ireland, when stable and effective government is perhaps needed more than ever. The ability of the Assembly to elect a Speaker is fundamental to this and we see it as a priority that the Assembly has a Speaker in place as soon as possible. (Paragraph 77)

13. We recommend that the Government, in close consultation with the Government of Ireland and the Northern Ireland parties, legislates to amend the Northern Ireland Act 1998 such that the Speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly is elected by MLAs on a supermajority basis of two-thirds. This change should take effect as soon as practicable. (Paragraph 78)

14. Despite what political realities may have dictated in 1998, there is no justifiable reason why the titles of First Minister and Deputy First Minister should not be formally known as 'Joint First Ministers.' There is little dispute over the equal powers of the offices and there is consensus that the separate titles can infer a senior and a junior, with potentially distortionary electoral consequences. There is also agreement that when the Executive Office functions well, the First Minister and Deputy First Minister are seen to be acting jointly in the best interests of Northern Ireland. The misleading titles ascribed to these roles run the risk of positive powersharing outcomes being diluted. Furthermore, an accurate representation of the jointness of the offices would, 25 years on, reinforce the Agreement's principle of parity of esteem between the two main communities and send a signal that the Executive Office acts in the interests of them both. This could begin to restore faith in the institutions at a time of crisis. (Paragraph 83)

15. We recommend that the titles of First Minister and Deputy First Minister be renamed 'Joint First Minister'. Accordingly, the Government, in close consultation with the Government of Ireland and the Northern Ireland parties, should legislate to amend the Northern Ireland Act 1998 to that effect, with the change coming into force at the beginning of the next Assembly mandate. (Paragraph 84)

16. The change in nomination procedure for the offices of First and Deputy First Ministers resulting from the St Andrews Agreement in 2006 undermined the core principles of the Agreement. The offices are held jointly and their powers are equal. The nomination procedure instituted in 1998 was designed to reflect this and the

Assembly's position as the prime source of authority in Northern Ireland. It is also clear that the present system of nomination enables either of the two largest Assembly parties to prevent the formation of an Executive by refusing to nominate for the position to which they are entitled, with no means of overcoming the instability this creates. We also recognise that to revert to the pre-2007 arrangement of a cross-community vote to elect the First and Deputy First Ministers would also likely result in an effective veto for either of the two largest parties. However, there is precedent within the Agreement for key votes in the Assembly to be taken on a supermajority basis, rather than through either parallel consent or weighted majority, to demonstrate a form of cross-community support for nominees. (Paragraph 88)

17. Therefore, we recommend that the Government, in close consultation with the Government of Ireland and the Northern Ireland parties, legislates to amend the Northern Ireland Act 1998 such that the two holders of the office of Joint First Minister are elected by the Assembly on a supermajority basis of two-thirds, with nominations open to any two MLAs of any two parties who run on a joint slate. This change would take effect from the beginning of the next Assembly mandate. (Paragraph 89)

18. We note with interest various proposals for reforming the broader system of Executive formation. We believe that there is scope for a system which will allow for greater cohesiveness within a coalition but are acutely aware of the potential drawbacks of departing from 'mandatory' coalition as we currently see under d'Hondt. While mandatory coalitions can be unwieldy and impede the development and implementation of an Executive's agenda, we consider it more important to Northern Ireland's political stability in the short term to at least have an Executive in place in the first instance—hence our previous recommendation to broaden the criteria through which First Ministers can be appointed, without whom no further ministerial portfolios can be allocated. As such, we recommend that the Government incorporates into the Review a full evaluation of how the present system of Executive formation might be reformed to increase coalition cohesiveness while maintaining cross-community representation. (Paragraph 93)

19. We note with interest the lively discussion both within and without this inquiry regarding the future of community designation and its application to voting procedures in the Northern Ireland Assembly and Executive. As already acknowledged, Northern Ireland has changed since 1998 and the understanding employed by the Agreement of what should constitute cross-community government is in need of an update. There is merit in removing designations and, with safeguards, introducing, for example, qualified majority voting to ensure support throughout the Assembly. However, Northern Ireland remains a society with sectarian divisions and we believe that it would not be appropriate for us to pass judgment on the future of the overall role that community designation plays in the institutions. While we believe reforms can—and should—soon be made which could improve the stability of the institutions in the short to medium term, we recommend

that the Government incorporates into the Review a full evaluation of the effect of community designation in facilitating effective, stable and—in the broadest sense—cross-community governance in Northern Ireland. (Paragraph 98)

20. We are aware of work already underway to strengthen the behaviours and working practices within the Strand One institutions. We concur with the argument that institutions can only be made effective by those who inhabit them and in this regard we endorse efforts to improve behaviours and best practice among MLAs in both the Assembly and Executive, as well as practical suggestions to improve the smooth and effective functioning of government in Northern Ireland. We recognise that improvements can only come with sustained attention over time, and so we recommend that the Government incorporates into the Review a module on how the behaviours and working practices of the Strand One institutions could be improved, with a view to developing a programme dedicated to upholding the Agreement's core principles of good faith, trust and mutual respect and delivering good government in the best interests of all in Northern Ireland. (Paragraph 103)

21. The Northern Ireland parties have a fundamental role in shaping the future of the institutions to which they are elected by the people of Northern Ireland. As co-guarantors of the Agreement, however, the British and Irish Governments have an immutable obligation to nurture and support what is still a young and developing system of government, mired by structural complexities and operating in the context of sectarian division. Over the past 25 years, this is not an obligation that has always been met. Therefore, in light of the current impasse and the body of evidence presented in this report, we urge the Government to renew its commitment to the Belfast/Good Agreement in Northern Ireland by commissioning the independently led Review of its institutions, as set out in our earlier recommendation, and to act swiftly upon further recommendations made in this report. (Paragraph 106)

Strand Two - North/South institutions

22. We note with concern the weight of evidence which suggests that the potential for the Strand Two institutions to deliver meaningful cooperation on the island of Ireland for the benefit of all its citizens, North and South, has not been realised. However, we also commend efforts which have seen pragmatic cooperation outside of the formal structures of the institutions, with the benefits that have resulted. Nonetheless, we conclude that cooperation is best achieved through regular, formal, substantive participation in structures dedicated purely to the purpose of cooperation for mutual benefit, and we call for a renewed commitment on the part of the parties of Northern Ireland to realising the possibilities Strand Two created. To this end, we recommend that the Government incorporates into the Review a comprehensive evaluation of the structure and working practices of the NSMC and the implementation bodies, including the necessity or otherwise of the ministerial veto on attendance, such that maximum participation from the two administrations can be achieved and meaningful results delivered. (Paragraph 119)

Strand Three - East/West institutions

23. As with Strand Two, we recognise the importance of Strand Three to the overall character and successful functioning of the Agreement. Ostensibly—and evidenced by the way in which they have largely been used—the institutions under Strand Three serve to provide structures to support the operation of the Strand One institutions. This is indeed an important function, but it is a limited understanding of the role and potential of Strand Three, which the Agreement clearly saw as providing opportunities to discuss and agree mutual cooperation across these islands, and not merely as a support mechanism for one territory. We welcome the recent rapprochement between the British and Irish governments, but we stress the ready-made opportunity which the Strand Three institutions provide to share insights and understanding, to cooperate on policy issues for mutual benefit and, in essence, to constitute a bedrock of support for each constituent territory against future challenges. (Paragraph 133)

24. As such, we recommend that the Government increase the level of Prime Ministerial attendance at meetings of both the BIIGC and BIC, with relevant Cabinet Ministers attending in addition or deputising as necessary and incorporate into the Review a comprehensive assessment of how Strand Three could be better utilised to tackle shared policy issues for the benefit of the United Kingdom and its constituent nations and territories. (Paragraph 134)

Public opinion

25. It is clear from our own commissioned research—and that undertaken by others—that there is widespread public dissatisfaction with the stability and effectiveness of the Strand One institutions. There is also evidence of growing dissatisfaction with the emphasis placed on cross-community safeguards in the institutions, despite a recognition that these measures were a fundamental element of the Agreement. On that account, a measure of caution is still shown toward a drastic departure from those arrangements, with mixed levels of knowledge on the possible options for reform. Nonetheless, there is clear and compelling evidence that much of the public are further ahead of, and more open to change than, much of the political class. As such, we conclude that, given the right support, a formal informed public debate is essential to the substantive development of the Agreement's institutions, and there is significant majority support for reform of some kind to the Strand One institutions. (Paragraph 147)

Routes forward

26. We understand the logic in waiting for the institutions to get back up and running before embarking on a significant review and/or reform process. If the position of the two Governments and the majority of the Northern Ireland parties is that some measure of stability has to precede the Review—which as we have set out must be comprehensive and systematic—then we would accept that. However, we contend

that there will be no perfect time to embark on a reform process and the fact remains that it is unclear when the institutions will return. In view of the danger presented by increased separation of opinion between the political classes and the general public, we urge the Government to take heed of the groundswell of opinion that is moving towards institutional change, act upon our recommendations to bolster the institutions' viability in the short to medium term, and make preparations for the Review as soon as possible thereafter. Furthermore, given the recent history of collapses of the institutions, a review remains desirable after restoration to increase their stability and reduce the risk of future breakdowns. (Paragraph 155)

27. Given the limited further evidence we received on the specific issue of ascribing legal and democratic legitimacy to any substantive reforms made to the institutions, we recommend that expert consultation on this issue should also form part of the Review. We also emphasise that the prospect of review and reform should not include any possibility of reversion to a time before the Agreement. With overwhelming legal and democratic legitimacy, it remains the only viable basis for government in Northern Ireland. The question at hand is when, and by what means, its necessary and foreseen evolution should be instituted. (Paragraph 156)

28. The potential for meaningful, substantive engagement with civic society has already been formally acknowledged by both governments and the Northern Ireland parties as a means of finding a pathway through Northern Ireland's most intractable issues. Citizens' assemblies have the potential to empower people to find solutions and reach across deep divides in a way which politicians—except perhaps in the case of events leading up to Good Friday 1998—rarely can. We regret that past provisions made for formal civic engagement have largely failed to get off the ground, but we are encouraged by the commitment made in New Decade, New Approach toward the idea's rejuvenation. (Paragraph 161)

29. Accordingly, we urge the Government to begin preparations for establishing a Northern Ireland Citizens' Assembly. Its first undertaking should be to examine, alongside the Review, the issues of institutional reform discussed in this inquiry and it should aim to report its findings to the Review authority before any such body concludes its work. (Paragraph 162)

Report to:	Sustainability & Environment Committee
Date of Meeting:	21 February 2024
Subject:	Private Tenancies Act 2022 – Fixed Penalty Notices
Reporting Officer	Sinead Murphy, Assistant Director, Environment
Contact Officer	James Campbell, Head of Environmental Health (Residential)

For decision	X	For noting only	
1.0	Purpose and Background		
1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Sustainability & Environment (S&E) Committee regarding The Smoke, Heat and Carbon Monoxide Alarm Regulations (NI) and the Electrical Safety Standards Regulations (NI) as part of the new provisions contained in The Private Tenancies Act (NI) 2022 and to approve the proposed levels for the fixed penalty fine for the offence created under the Smoke, Heat and Carbon Monoxide Alarm Regulations (NI).</p> <p>Members are requested to note the fixed penalty level offence amount for the Electrical Safety Standards Regulations (NI) will be brought to Committee for decision at a later date when the legislation is due to be enacted.</p>		
2.0	Key issues		
2.1	<p>Active and Healthy Committee members were previously appraised at the February 2023 Committee of the new provisions contained in The Private Tenancies Act (NI) 2022. The report provided the details of the elements of the new Act that come into effect on the 1 April 2023 for the following provisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenancy Information Notice • Receipts for cash payments • Changes to Tenancy Deposits • Increase in time for requirements relating to tenancy deposits • Removal of the 6-month time barrier to prosecution of tenancy deposit offence • Change in length of notice to quit 		
2.2	<p>It was noted in February 2023 that there were still a number of provisions in the Act which required further consultation i.e. regarding new requirements to provide smoke, heat and carbon monoxide alarms and changes to electrical safety standards in private rented sector properties.</p>		
2.3	<p>The Private Tenancies Act creates new offences for which the Council will have powers to issue fixed penalty notices. The Regulations propose a maximum fixed penalty of £500 for the offences relating to the alarms and £1000 for the Electrical Safety standards.</p>		
2.4	<p>The Committee should note that the Smoke, Heat and Carbon Monoxide Alarm Regulations are now in place. However, the Electrical Safety Standards Regulations are paused, awaiting the reconvened Assembly to progress them.</p>		

2.5	<p><u>The Smoke, Heat and Carbon Monoxide Alarm Regulations (NI).</u></p> <p>The requirements under the above new regulations are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be a lead in time of 12 months for landlords to comply. • Landlords will ensure there is a smoke alarm in the room which is most frequently used by the occupants for general daytime living purposes (normally the living room/lounge, except where the room includes an open kitchen) The definition of a room includes an integral garage. • Landlords will be required to ensure there is a smoke alarm in every circulation space (hall, stairs, landing or corridor) on each storey • Landlords will be required to ensure there is a heat alarm in every kitchen • Landlords will be required to ensure there is a carbon monoxide alarm installed in any room or circulation space of the dwelling-house which contains a fixed combustion appliance • Where the proximity of an open fireplace would make a smoke alarm impracticable, a heat alarm may be fitted. • Smoke and heat alarms must be interlinked, excluding carbon monoxide alarms: • Installed alarms which may either be hard wired or battery sealed or a combination of both • Smoke and heat alarms must be installed and maintained in accordance with British Standards BS 5839-6(b) • Carbon monoxide alarms which must be installed and maintained in accordance with British Standards BS 50292(c) • Battery sealed alarms should be tamper-proof units with long life batteries. • Where a dwelling-house let under a private tenancy consists of a part of a building, the landlord may be required to position appliances in a part or parts of the building not comprised in the tenancy. <p>Enforcement of these proposed regulations will be via the option of the fixed penalty process, with a maximum penalty of £500 (set by the Council) or a maximum level 4 fine (£2500) imposed by the courts upon conviction.</p> <p>It is proposed that the fixed penalty level offence is set by the Council at £500</p>
2.6	<p><u>Electrical Safety Standards Regulations (NI).</u></p> <p>The requirements under the above new regulations are as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be a lead in time of 12 months for landlords to comply. • The Regulations require landlords to have the electrical installations in their properties inspected and tested by a qualified person at an interval of at least every 5 years. • Supply a copy of this report to the existing tenant within 28 days of the inspection and test. • Supply a copy of this report to a new tenant before they occupy the premises. • Supply a copy of this report to any prospective tenant within 28 days of receiving a request for the report. • Supply the appropriate district council with a copy of this report within 7 days of receiving a written request for a copy. • Retain a copy of the report to give to the inspector and tester who will undertake the next inspection and test. • Where the report shows that further investigative or remedial work is necessary, complete this work within 28 days or any shorter period if specified as necessary in the report.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply written confirmation of the completion of the further investigative or remedial works from the electrician to the tenant (and the appropriate district council within 28 days of completion of the works if linked to previous council intervention) • District councils may, with the consent of the tenant, arrange to carry out remedial work in the following circumstances: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If a landlord does not comply with a remedial notice. 2. If the electrical safety inspection report indicates that urgent remedial action is required, and the landlord has not carried out the work within the period specified in the report. 3. The district council can recover the costs incurred. <p>Enforcement of these proposed regulations will be via the option of the fixed penalty process, with a maximum penalty of £1000 (set by the Council) or a maximum level 5 fine (£5000) imposed by the courts upon conviction.</p> <p>It is proposed that the fixed penalty level offence amount for these Regulations will be brought to Council at a later date when the legislation is due to be enacted.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<p>Members are asked:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To note the new legislative powers to be enforced by Councils in relation to the private rented sector regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Smoke, Heat and Carbon Monoxide Alarm Regulations (NI) ▪ The Electrical Safety Standards Regulations (NI) • To approve the proposed level for the fixed penalty fine for the offence created under the Smoke, Heat and Carbon Monoxide Alarm Regulations (NI) as outlined in section 2.5 of this report.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	The new Regulations will provide Councils with additional enforcement powers to deal with issues in the private rented sector which will place resource demands on our existing resources. There is no financial support available from the Department for Communities (DfC) to assist Councils with these additional powers. The fixed penalty regime introduced for these offences may provide some income, but it will not cover the additional staffing and administrative resources required.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

	<p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p>Proposal initiating consultation</p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices
7.1	None
8.0	Background Documents
8.1	<p>AHC Committee, February 2023 -</p> <p>Private Tenancies Act (NI) 2022 https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nia/2022/20/contents/enacted</p> <p>Smoke, heat and carbon monoxide alarms guidance https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/consultations/communities/fc-consultation-section8-smoke-heat-carbon-monoxide-alarms-private-tenancies-ni-guidance-notes.pdf</p> <p>Electrical Safety Guidance https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/consultations/communities/dfc-consultation-section10-electrical-safety-standards-private-tenancies-ni-guidance-notes.pdf</p>

Report to:	Sustainability & Environment Committee
Date of Meeting:	21 February 2024
Subject:	Home to Hospital Schemes for Mourne and Slieve Gullion DEAs
Reporting Officer	Sinead Murphy, Assistant Director: Environment
Contact Officer	James Campbell, Head of Environmental Health (Residential)

For decision	X	For noting only	
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1.0 Purpose and Background

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Sustainability & Environment (S&E) Committee to

1. Provide continued funding from 1 April 2024 to support Home to Hospital Volunteer Driver Schemes in Slieve Gullion and Mourne DEAs
2. Seek Expressions of Interest from suitable Community/Voluntary sector organisations to administer the scheme from 1 April 2024

2.0 Key issues

2.1 Residents within the more rural areas of the District Due often experience major difficulty in accessing hospital appointments in Craigavon, Belfast and beyond, particularly in the Slieve Gullion and Mourne DEAs. This is a particular issue for our increasingly older population.

The Council has facilitated a Volunteer Driver Home to Hospital scheme for the last number of years within both DEAs which are most affected by their rural nature and distance from necessary Health Services. At the November 2022 meeting of the Active and Health Communities Committee, members approved the extension of the scheme until 31 March 2024.

2.2 This scheme has proved to be successful from the point of view of the local people who receive the help with the transport and from those volunteers who provide the transport. The table below indicates the number of users of the schemes up to the end of Quarter 3 2023/24.

Mourne Home to Hospital	Slieve Gullion Home to Hospital
393 registered users	110 registered users
385 Trips to medical facilities	79 Trips to medical facilities

We wish to continue to provide funding for this scheme to meet the needs of the population in South Armagh and the Mourne and will continue to seek partners to assist us in this regard. Should this proposal be continued to be supported the potential costs to Council are in the region of £30,000 pa.

Spend on the scheme up to December 2023, is approximately £18,000. It is now considered timely to give consideration to considering the feasibility of extending the scheme to other DEAs within the current budget allocation.

2.3	Another welcome outcome of these hospital to home services is the added benefit this service has in not only taking residents to hospital but linking them with additional supports, such as Home Safety, NIFRS and into social groups and activities.
3.0	Recommendations
	<p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve the continued funding for Mournes and Slieve Gullion Home to Hospital Volunteer driver schemes from 1 April 2024 and • Council to seek Expressions of Interest from suitable Community/Voluntary sector organisations to administer the Schemes subject to funding being identified.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Estimated annual cost of the scheme is £30,000, as detailed in section 2.2 of the report. This is included in 2024/25 budget estimates.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>

7.0	Appendices
7.1	None
8.0	Background Documents
8.1	AHC Committee report – AHC/196/2022

Report to:	Sustainability & Environment Committee
Date of Meeting:	21 February 2023
Subject:	Refuse Collection and HRC arrangements for Public Holidays 2024/2025
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Sinead Murphy, Assistant Director Environment
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Grainne McKinley, Head of Waste Processing, Enforcement and Business Support

<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											
1.0	Purpose and Background												
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Sustainability and Environment Committee for service provisions on Public Holidays applying to the 2024/25 financial year.												
1.2	Public Holidays applying to the 2024/25 financial year have been reviewed alongside operational provision for Refuse Collection services and Household Recycling Centres. Revised operational arrangements are agreed with staff and waste receiving centres to ensure operational arrangements are coordinated. These revised arrangements are communicated to Householders through their individual household Bin Collection Calendars and on print and social media.												
2.0	Key Issues												
2.1	<p><u>Public Holiday Arrangements 2024/25</u> Proposed operational arrangements and schedule for 2024/25 Public Holiday arrangements in relation to Refuse Collection Services and the opening of Household Recycling Centres are detailed in Appendix 1.</p> <p>Alternative arrangements for refuse collections at Christmas 2024 and New Year’s Day 2025, reflect the legacy operating arrangements and are as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="240 1563 1407 2018"> <thead> <tr> <th>Public Holiday</th> <th>Date of Public Holiday</th> <th>Alternative Refuse Collection Day</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Christmas Day</td> <td>Wednesday 25/12/2024</td> <td>Alternative collection (all areas): Saturday 21 December 2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>St Stephens Day</td> <td>Thursday 26/12/2024</td> <td>Alternative collection: Downpatrick: Monday 23 December 2024 Newry: Saturday 28 December 2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>New Year’s Day</td> <td>Wednesday 01/01/2025</td> <td>Alternative collection: Downpatrick: Monday 30 December 2024 Newry: Saturday 4 January 2025</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Public Holiday	Date of Public Holiday	Alternative Refuse Collection Day	Christmas Day	Wednesday 25/12/2024	Alternative collection (all areas): Saturday 21 December 2024	St Stephens Day	Thursday 26/12/2024	Alternative collection: Downpatrick: Monday 23 December 2024 Newry: Saturday 28 December 2024	New Year’s Day	Wednesday 01/01/2025	Alternative collection: Downpatrick: Monday 30 December 2024 Newry: Saturday 4 January 2025
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2.2	<p>Bin Collection Calendars</p> <p>At March 2023 S&E Committee, to reduce the environmental and financial impact of producing paper copies of the Bin Collection Calendars, members approved the publication of individual household Bin Collection Calendars for residents online at https://www.newrymournedown.org/bin-collection-information</p> <p>A PR campaign highlighted to residents that the Bin Collection Calendars were available to easily access and download and the importance of recycling right. Residents who wished to have a paper copy could print their Bin Collection Calendar from the Council’s website or request a copy to be emailed or printed and posted. From 73,156 households, 77 requested a copy of their calendar to be individually printed and posted. These residents will be issued with a copy by post this year.</p>
3.0	<p>Recommendations</p>
	<p>Members are asked to approve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Alternative Refuse Collection Services and opening arrangements for Household Recycling Centres on Public Holidays applying to the 2024/25 financial year.
4.0	<p>Resource implications</p>
4.1	<p>No additional resource implications associated with this report.</p>
5.0	<p>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</p>
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p><i>n/a</i> <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p>

	<p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <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>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices
	Appendix 1 – Schedule of Public Holiday Arrangements
8.0	Background Documents
	None

Appendix 1

Refuse Collection and HRC arrangements for Public Holidays 2024/2025

Public Holiday	Date of Public Holiday	Alternative Refuse Collection Day	Household Recycling Centre arrangements
Easter Monday	Monday 01/04/2024	No collection in Down Normal collection in Newry	Open - 9:30-16:30
Easter Tuesday	Tuesday 02/04/2024	Normal collection	Open - 9:30-16:30
May Day	Monday 06/05/2024	No collection in Down Normal collection in Newry	Open - 9:30-16:30
Late May Bank Holiday	Monday 27/05/2024	No collection in Down Normal collection in Newry	Open - 9:30-16:30
12 th July	Friday 12/07/2024	Normal collection	Open - 9:30-16:30
13 th July	Monday 15/07/2024	No collection in Down Normal collection	Open - 9:30-16:30
August Bank Holiday	Monday 26/08/2024	No collection in Down Normal collection in Newry	Open - 9:30-16:30
Christmas Eve	Tuesday 24/12/2024	Normal collection	Open - 9:30-16:30
Christmas Day	Wednesday 25/12/2024	Alternative collection (all areas): Saturday 21 December 2024	CLOSED
St Stephens Day	Thursday 26/12/2024	Alternative collection: Downpatrick: Monday 23 December 2024 Newry: Saturday 28 December 2024	CLOSED
Statutory Day	Friday 27/12/2024	Normal collection	Open - 9:30-16:30 (Selected sites – to be confirmed)
New Year's Day	Wednesday 01/01/2025	Alternative collection: Downpatrick: Monday 30 December 2024 Newry: Saturday 4 January 2025	CLOSED
St Patrick's Day	Monday 17/03/2025	No collection in Down Normal collection in Newry	CLOSED

Report to:	Sustainability & Environment Committee
Date of Meeting:	21 February 2024
Subject:	Waste and Environmental Health Charges 2024/2025
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Sinead Murphy, Assistant Director Environment
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Grainne McKinley, Head of Waste Processing, Enforcement & Business Support Sinead Trainor, Head of Environmental Health (Commercial)

For decision	x	For noting only
1.0		Purpose and Background
1.1		<p>The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Sustainability and Environment (S&E) Committee in relation to the charges applied by the Environment section for various supplies and services.</p> <p>This report presents the annual review of the scale of charges for 2024/2025, which are proposed to take effect from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025, for Committee consideration.</p>
2.0		Key Issues
2.1		<p><u>Waste Charges</u></p> <p>The Waste Management section currently charges for the following services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase of Wheeled Bins and spare parts • Trade/Commercial Waste Collection Services • Trade/Commercial Wastes received at Household Recycling Centres • Domestic Bulky Collection Service <p>Annually, the pricing structure for waste collection charges and new and replacement bins and parts are reviewed. Council are obliged to apply charges, calculated on bin size, for collection of wastes at Commercial Premises.</p> <p>Council Waste Strategy seeks to encourage recycling and minimisation of black bin wastes. Charges for collection and disposal of non-recycling wastes are notably higher.</p> <p>The current charging structure has been reviewed and a 6% increase has been applied. Full details of the proposed pricing structure for 2024/25 is detailed in Appendix 1.</p>
2.2		<p><u>Environmental Health Charges</u></p> <p>Environmental Health Officers issue Ship Sanitation Exemption and Ship Sanitation Control Certificates on request by shipping vessels owners or their agents on arrival to shipping ports (mainly Warrenpoint Harbour) in the District. The legal basis for charging is detailed within Regulation (EU) 2017/625 on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law.</p>

	<p>Newry, Mourne and Down District Council are a Corporate Member of The Association of Port Health Authorities (APHA). APHA has recommended that all members institute a standard charging regime for the issue of Ship Sanitation Exemption and Ship Sanitation Control Certificates.</p> <p>The revised charges for 2024/25 are as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="268 443 1305 1025"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">SHIP SANITATION INSPECTION CHARGES 2024/2025</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Gross Tonnage</th> <th>Old Rate (2023/24)</th> <th>New Rate (2024/25)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Up to 1000</td> <td>£125</td> <td>£135</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1001 to 3000</td> <td>£170</td> <td>£185</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3001 to 10000</td> <td>£250</td> <td>£270</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10001 to 20000</td> <td>£325</td> <td>£355</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20001 to 30000</td> <td>£415</td> <td>£450</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Over 30000</td> <td>£480</td> <td>£520</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vessels with 50 – 1000 persons</td> <td>£480</td> <td>£520</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vessels with 1000 Persons</td> <td>£820</td> <td>£890</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Extensions</td> <td>£95</td> <td>£105</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	SHIP SANITATION INSPECTION CHARGES 2024/2025			Gross Tonnage	Old Rate (2023/24)	New Rate (2024/25)	Up to 1000	£125	£135	1001 to 3000	£170	£185	3001 to 10000	£250	£270	10001 to 20000	£325	£355	20001 to 30000	£415	£450	Over 30000	£480	£520	Vessels with 50 – 1000 persons	£480	£520	Vessels with 1000 Persons	£820	£890	Extensions	£95	£105
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3.0	Recommendations																																	
	<p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve the Proposed Waste Management Services Scale of Charges 2022/23 as set out in Appendix 1. 																																	
4.0	Resource implications																																	
4.1	Officer time – to make staff aware of pricing and to update and configure literature and computerised systems.																																	
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)																																	
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6.0	<p>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</p>
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	<p>Appendices</p>
	<p>Appendix 1: Proposed Waste Management Scale of Charges 2024/2025.</p>
8.0	<p>Background Documents</p>
	<p>None</p>

Appendix 1 – Waste Management Scale of Charges 2024/2025**1. Bin Purchases**

BIN PRICES (Domestic & Trade)	BLACK RESIDUAL BINS	BLUE RECYCLING BINS	BROWN RECYCLING BINS
140 litre bin	£32.00	£21.00	£23.00
240 litre bin	£37.00	£26.50	£26.50
360 litre bin	£69.00	£53.00	N/A
660 litre bin	£122.00	£106.00	N/A
1100 litre bin	£154.00	£138.00	N/A
Delivery charge (per delivery)			£5.00

2. Replacement Bin Parts

REPLACEMENT PARTS	
Axles & Wheels collected from depot (140 litre & 240 litre)	£6.00
Replacement Lid collected (140 litre & 240 litre)	£16.00
Replacement parts delivered (currently only available Greenbank)	£5.00

3. *Bulky Household Waste

	2023/2024
Bulky Collection (maximum 5 items)	£12.75

4. *HRC Commercial Charges (Downpatrick, Camlough & Kilkeel Sites only)

Quantity of Waste	2023/2024
Car Boot	£8.00
Car Full	£37.00
Small van up to 1.5 GVW	£37.00
Small trailer up to 2 x 1.5 1.5 m	£37.00
Large van assumed weight 0.84 tonne	£117.00
Large trailer (twin axel)	£117.00
Commercial recyclable waste (max 6 x bags or equivalent)	FREE
Car Tyre (No commercial tyres accepted) per tyre (max x 4)	£2.00

*Note: Prices are V.A.T. inclusive

5. **Trade Waste Kerbside Collection Charges

	Residual Waste (Black bin)	Dry Recyclable Waste (Blue bin)	Organic Waste (Brown/Green bin)
140 litre bin	£5.30	£4.20	£4.20
240 litre bin	£6.30	£5.30	£5.30
360 litre bin	£9.00	£6.30	N/A
660 litre bin	£16.50	£11.10	N/A
1100 litre bin	£26.50	£17.00	N/A

** Note: Collection charges are V.A.T. exempt

6. Charities

Charities to pay for purchase of bin, but receive free collection service for 1x240L black, 1x240L blue & 1 x 140L brown per fortnight. Anything over this usage is subject to standard Trade Waste Charges.

Report to:	Sustainability & Environment Committee
Date of Meeting:	22 nd February 2023
Subject:	Revision of Facilities Management Charges for Financial Year 2024/2025
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Conor Sage, Assistant Director Sustainability
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Gail Kane, Head of Facilities Management

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

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

1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	The purpose of this report is to recommend an increase of 10% to charges levied by the Facilities Management Section for its services.
2.0	Key Issues
2.1	Service charges covered include charges for the Council's burial service and Markets. See attached at Appendix 1, tables 1 and 2 of current charges and recommended revised charges. These charges were last amended at the beginning of financial year 2023/24.
2.2	The level of increase applied to all charges is 10% which is in line with the agreed rates increase for 2024/25 with prices rounded up to the nearest pound.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	It is recommended to adopt the Facilities Management Charges as set out in Appendix 1 and 2 for the financial year 2024/25.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Increased fees have the potential to increase income for these services, however overall, the provision of these services by the Council is at a cost which is provided for under the Council's agreed Revenue budget.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i> It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i>

	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
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6.0	<p>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</p>
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7.0	<p>Appendices</p>
7.1	<p>Appendix 1: Table 1 - Revised Charges for Burial Services for 2024/25 Table 2 - Revised Charges for Markets for 2024/25</p>
8.0	<p>Background Documents</p> <p><i>This relates to meeting requirements outlined in Part 8 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, Access to Meetings and Documents, wherein for four years after a meeting the following must be available at the Council Offices and on the website:</i></p> <p><i>Background papers which are defined as those documents relating to the subject matter of a report which:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a) Disclose any facts or matters which in the opinion of the Chief Executive, the report or an important part of the report is based upon; and</i> <i>b) Have, in the Chief Executive's opinion, been relied upon to a material extent in preparing the report.</i>

	<p><i>These are documents on which the report, or an important part of the report, is based upon and have been relied upon to a material extent in preparing the report.</i></p>
8.1	None.

Appendix 1 – Revised Charges for Burial Services**Table 1: Cemetery Services Charges**

Type of Facility/Activity	Details	Charges (£)	Charges (£)
		2023/24	2024/25
Private Grave	Resident	£290	£320
	Non-Resident	£575	£640
First Opening	Resident	£240	£265
	Non-Resident	£687	£750
Second Opening	Resident	£240	£265
	Non-Resident	£690	£750
Burial of Cremated Remains/Burials	Resident	£60	£65
Under Headstones	Non-Resident	£115	£125
Transfer Burial Rights	Resident	£45	£50
	Non-Resident	£110	£120
Duplicate Grant Per Plot	Resident	£45	£50
	Non-Resident	£110	£120
Exhumations	Resident	£460	£505
	Non-Resident	£460	£505
Additional charge for burials after 3.00pm	Resident	£60	£65
	Non-Resident	£60	£65
Search fees (Deeds not produced)	Resident	£0	£0
	Non-Resident	£0	£0
Approval for Erection of Headstone	Resident	£60	£65
	Non-Resident	£60	£65
Burials of Under 18's		£0	£0

Table 2: Market Services

Type of Facility/Activity	Charges (£) or €	Charges £ or €
	2023/24	2024/25
Newry Market Stall	£26.00	£29.00
Newry Market outside Pitch	£23.00	£25.00
Crossmaglen Market Stall	£16.00	£18.00
Crossmaglen Market Stall	€22.00	€24.00
Kilkeel Market Stall	£20.00	£22.00

ITEM 3
ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE
Virtual Meeting No 83
MINUTES
Tuesday 5 December 2023

Members Present:

Councillor M Goodman (<i>Chair</i>)	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
Councillor A Cathcart	Ards & North Down Borough Council
Councillor T Kelly	Belfast City Council
Councillor A Givan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Alderman S Skillen	Lisburn & Castlereagh 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 T Andrews	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

Members' Apologies:

Councillor E McLaughlin	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 B Smyth	Belfast City Council
Councillor E McDonough-Brown	Belfast City Council
Councillor R Quigley	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
Councillor A Wilson	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
Councillor K Murphy	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

Officers Present:

T Walker	arc21
H Campbell	arc21
K Boal	arc21
B McKeown	arc21
J Green	arc21
M Laverty	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
L Daly	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
C Matthews	Belfast City Council
J McConnell	Belfast City Council
B Murray	Belfast City Council
J Knox	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
D Carey	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council

Officers' Apologies:

D Lindsay	Ards & North Down Borough Council
N Martin	Ards & North Down Borough Council
R Harvey	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
P Thompson	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
A Cassells	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

In attendance for Items 9-11

Ms Nicola Coles and Mr John Martin, Audit Governance & Risk Services Belfast City Council (AGRS)
 Mr Nigel Rainey, Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO)

Mr Walker advised that there was a new addition to the Conflicts of Interest statement to be read at the beginning of the meeting which explicitly requested that Members register Gifts and Hospitality.

Action: Noted

He further advised that the next meeting of the Joint Committee would take the form of a hybrid meeting, and was scheduled to be held on Thursday 25 January, hosted by Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council at Antrim Civic Centre. He requested if Members could advise of their "*in-person*" attendance to Ms Heather Campbell by 11 January in order for her to confirm numbers and to permit the Council to make appropriate arrangements. However, should only six Members or less be able to confirm their ability to attend in person, Mr Walker highlighted that the meeting would then revert to online only and Members would be notified accordingly.

Action: ALL

Item 1 - Conflicts of Interest, Gifts and Hospitality Statement

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

Item 2 - Apologies

Apologies were noted.

Action: Noted

Item 3 - Minutes of Joint Committee Meeting 082 held on 26 October 2023

The Joint Committee approved the minutes. Proposed by Councillor Enright and seconded by Councillor McKee.

Action: Agreed

Item 4 - Matters Arising

There were no specific matters arising, and updates on relevant issues were provided during the meeting.

Action: Noted

IN COMMITTEE

The Chair recommended that the meeting would now move "*in committee*" which was agreed. Proposed by Councillor Enright, seconded by Councillor Givan.

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 seven matters discussed.

Item 5 **Minutes of Joint Committee Meeting 082 held on 26 October 2023 'in committee' (approved)**

Item 6 **Matters Arising**

Item 7 **Residual Waste Treatment Project (approved)**

Item 8	Commercially Sensitive Contract & Procurement Issues (<i>approved</i>)
Item 9	Audit Committee Report: Internal Audit progress report (<i>noted</i>)
Item 10	Audit Committee Report: Update on the corporate risk register (<i>noted</i>)
Item 11	Audit Committee Report: NI Audit Office reports (<i>noted</i>)

OUT OF COMMITTEE

Proposed by Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Givan, and agreed by all.

Item 12 - Governance Report

(i) Belfast Castle Offices

Mr Walker advised that the lease for the arc21 offices at Belfast Castle expired on 30 Nov 2023 but, following an exchange of emails with the Council regarding delays in the issuance of the new lease agreement, this had temporarily been extended until 31 Mar 2024 on the present terms.

He noted that the new lease agreement offer was again for 5 years, with an annual cost of £25,400, which includes a break at year 3 at the discretion of either party. There was also a separate annual service charge which covers costs such as electricity, heating, security, cleaning etc, at an annual cost of circa £10,000.

The Joint Committee approved the lease renewal. Proposed by Councillor Kennedy and seconded by Councillor Enright.

Action: Agreed

(ii) Corporate Plan Update

Mr Walker reported on the development of the new Corporate Plan 2024-2028 and presented a paper on the skeleton Corporate Plan, along with the consultant's draft findings from the internal staff workshop and stakeholder interviews for Members' consideration. He advised that it was hoped to present a first draft Corporate Plan early in the New Year in order to allow Members to review the initial work and ensure that delivery of the Plan is completed in a reasonable timescale to permit its issuance for consultation with the constituent councils.

The Joint Committee noted the development of the skeleton Corporate Plan and the proposed timetable. Proposed by Councillor Enright and seconded by Councillor Givan.

Action: Noted

Mr Walker was asked to leave the meeting for this discussion.

(iii) Extension of Acting Chief Executive Secondment Term

The Chair presented a report in regard to the proposed extension of the Acting Chief Executive's secondment term.

Discussion ensued regarding the length of extension, the Belfast City Council terms of secondment, the SIB/SoLACE paper on future waste management arrangements and the direction of the constituent councils.

Following discussion, it was agreed to extend Mr Walker's extension for two years to December 2025, subject to approval by Belfast City Council, and the Chair and Deputy Chair would continue to review the situation. Proposed by Councillor McKeen and seconded by Councillor Givan.

Action: Agreed

Mr Walker returned, along with other officers who had left the meeting.

Item 13 - Contracts & Operations Briefing Report

Service Status

Ms Boal reported that all services were operational during the month of October 2023. She advised that one contractor had to use contingency arrangements for the organics contract as there was a weighbridge failure.

Performance

She reported that turnaround times had been reviewed for October and in nearly all cases, the contractors provided adequate reasons where the contract service level has been exceeded.

She noted that number of loads going into the organics was beginning to fall, but this was seasonal and as expected.

She advised that there had been no reporting issues this month.

In terms of the bottle banks, in October she noted that there were 2 x Bottle Bank sites, 1 x Textile Bank (LCCC) and 1 x Paper Skip (ANBC) that did not have the specified capacity available. The contractors were notified, these banks were serviced as soon as possible and no Service Credits had been applied this month.

Health and Safety Incidents

During October she noted that there were 2 x Health & Safety incidents reported to arc21 by contractors and these related to landfill services provided to arc21 by a contractor. She advised that arc21 had contacted NWP and asked for them to liaise with their staff and sub-contractors to ensure that these incidents do not re-occur and for an assurance that they abide by site rules at all times.

Rejected Loads

Ms Boal reported that there had been no contaminated loads delivered into the MRFs, however there had been 2 rejected loads into the Organics delivery sites in October. Again, officers were asked to continue to review their protocols to ensure that systems are in place so that vehicles are fully emptied before collecting another material stream.

arc21 Contract Tonnages

The contract tonnages for October 2023 were presented as follows:

- an increase of 13.6% for MDR material delivered into Bryson;
- a 0.8% increase for MRF Lot 2 for MDR material delivered to ReGen;
- a 13.5% increase for Type 1 material for the Organics Contract;
- an increase of 20.9% for type 2 material for the Organics Contract; and

- a 25.6% decrease for the Landfill Residual Waste Contract. No residual waste was sent direct to landfill by BCC in October 2023.

Supplies

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

Persistent Organic Pollutants – Working Group

Ms Boal provided an update on the Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) which she advised was currently focused on domestic soft seating and that arc21, along with councils across Northern Ireland, were waiting on the Regulatory Position Statement (RPS) to be issued by DAERA.

She advised that the first meeting of a working group looking into POPs had taken place on 18 Oct. The group was comprised of representatives from DAERA, NIEA Regulatory Enforcement Division and councils. She advised that no representatives from NIEA were present at the first meeting.

The key discussion points and actions arising were noted in her report and she highlighted the following:

- It is clear that councils would have no input in terms of the design of the RPS but, in terms of fact finding, DAERA was keen to understand what impacts it was likely to have on councils. Also, in terms of the way DAERA was talking about managing the materials, it was likely there would be an impact on councils, the financial impact is still to be determined on how councils would be allowed to treat them at the end.
- It is likely when the RPS is issued, DAERA would move relatively quickly to avoid the material continuing to go to landfill.
- The issue for arc21 will be to see whether any materials like this which are currently going through residual interim processes could still be treated in this manner and, if not, then the cost impact for the constituent councils could be significant. There are also issues in the way councils collect their materials and the way they store materials when they come into their HRCs.

As an outworking of the meeting, she advised that it had been agreed that a survey would be completed by councils, and DAERA took away a number of points particularly on how councils were currently handling the material from the meeting to consider. DAERA emphasised that even if new "New Burdens" funding was available, it would be unlikely to make its way to councils.

She noted that it had been anticipated that the group would meet on a six-weekly basis, but no further meeting date had been set. An update was sought regarding the issue of the RPS but to date no clarity had been provided.

Following discussion, the Joint Committee noted the report. Proposed by Councillor Enright and seconded by Councillor Givan.

Action: Noted

Item 14 - Waste Tonnage Trends

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

- Combined landfill - not a lot of change when compared to last year considering the BCC tonnage has now been taken out.
- Organics - November was the end of the contract year and shows that the amount of material coming out of the HRCs (Type 1) was up by 5.7% on the previous year and the mixed food and garden waste, or separately collected food waste, (Type 2) was up 3.17%, but neither at the levels that they were in the two years prior to that which was a bumper year.

She noted that there was an enhancement in the contract for giving a rebate back for all the material that has been collected through the kerbside collections over and above the 100k, and that this calculation would be completed over the next couple of weeks. It was anticipated that once this was complete, it would quantify whether the tonnage thresholds had been reached which could mean there would be a rebate issuable to the councils. She noted that ac21 is also considering the mass balance share to see whether any third-party revenue share is due to be rebated and will report back accordingly, along with providing an update on the MRF revenue share position.

- MRF – Lot 1 higher when compared to the last 4 years and Lot 2 on lower end but when combined arc21 tonnages are in a similar position as to that of 2020/21.

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

She reported that the NI waste statistics for 2023/23 had just been released by NIEA and advised that these were gathered through the information councils input quarterly into WasteDataFlow. She noted that at a high level, the report shows that recycling percentages have remained static, whilst landfill tonnages had fallen slightly and energy from waste tonnages had increased slightly. She advised that the arc21 recycling rate was deemed to be 48.9% which was just slightly below the NI average of 49.7%.

She highlighted two headline figures from the tables presented in the report as follows:

- looking at the total municipal waste it fell regionally from just over a million to 971k, and in arc21 it fell 6% from 610k to 574k which is encouraging but she noted that arc21 still needed to consider the other recycling and landfill rates presented for the constituent councils against the rest of NI as a whole.
- arc21 was still landfilling over 29% of the material overall and the collective recycling rate was 48.9% - slightly below the NI rate, and that could be a particular challenge for councils to increase these figures.

She advised that arc21 continues to wait for DAERA to issue the consultation paper on future waste collections guidance for NI.

Following discussion, the Joint Committee noted the report. Proposed by Councillor Givan and seconded by Councillor Enright.

Action: Noted

Item 15 - Update On Digital Waste Tracking

Ms Boal provided a report to update the Committee in relation to Mandatory Digital Waste Tracking. She advised that the Government response to the consultation, which took place in 2022, had been published in Oct and the aim of the system is to track waste and resources in real time throughout the economy. The tracking system is intended to replace the existing requirements to complete waste transfer notes and hazardous waste consignment notes.

She noted that this is due to be introduced from 2025 and will:

- *provide a comprehensive way to see what is happening to the waste produced in the UK;*
- *help support more effective regulation of waste;*
- *help businesses comply with their duty of care with regards to waste;*
- *help us move towards a more circular economy by enabling us to maximise the value we extract from our resources; and*
- *reduce the ability for waste criminals to operate and undercut legitimate businesses through their systemic mishandling of waste, illegal exports, and fly tipping.*

She noted that, whilst most of waste policy is a devolved matter, Government and the devolved administrations have agreed to work together to develop a UK-wide waste tracking service to provide a seamless system across the whole of the UK. As such, Government's and environmental regulators across the UK have reviewed the responses provided and worked together to agree the positions set out in this document. The final decision for Northern Ireland will be made by a future DAERA minister.

The key implications of the consultation response from a council perspective were presented in the report. Other key general aspects were also noted in the report.

She advised that a discussion had been held at the last Steering Group meeting following which it was agreed that contact would be made with the DAERA to develop greater understanding of the proposals and the associated resource implications for councils. As it was unclear what aspects would be subject to final Ministerial decision and what the timescale for implementation would be, it was anticipated that any correspondence would also seek to clarify these points.

Following discussion, the Joint Committee noted the report. Proposed by Councillor Enright and seconded by Councillor Givan.

Action: Noted

Item 16 - Benchmarking Report 2021-22

Mr Walker presented Members with the outcome from the final benchmarking exercise undertaken for the 2021/22 year comparing its cost and performance against similar local government waste management partnerships in GB year-on-year.

The aim of the benchmarking review was to identify good practice, to take advantage of opportunities to improve its services to its constituent councils (and others) and to provide the Joint Committee with an assurance in terms of arc21's performance.

He advised that this was the fourth review using the same methodology as in prior years to compare arc21 with five other waste management organisations which had similar governance models to arc21, typically with a number of Members appointed to the governing body on behalf of each representative council including: North London Waste Authority; East London Waste Authority; West London Waste Authority; Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority; and Somerset Waste Partnership.

He reported that arc21 had a lower cost base than the benchmarked collaborations and noted:

- *total cost per head of population is £30.35, compared to an average of £59.10 for the other partnerships; and*
- *there is also a lower contract cost per tonne of £89.09, compared to £122.89 for the other partnerships.*

He advised that this performance had been consistent throughout each of the four survey years.

He reported that this was the last of the planned annual benchmarking reviews as arc21 was approaching the end of the current Corporate Plan. Once the new Corporate Plan was finalised, arc21 would consider if further benchmarking exercises would be relevant, appropriate and economical.

Councillor Enright inquired if arc21 had considered other partnerships which may be more comparable and outside the London area (e.g. Scotland), however Mr Walker advised that there were few that served more than one council area and neither Scotland or Wales formed similar partnerships. As there were few similar council groupings in GB, this is why Somerset and Merseyside had also been included which would also permit greater consideration of the issues between rural and urban settings. He offered to provide further details for any Member who might be interested.

He added that there was an issue with regard to the reserves position which had been highlighted in the report, where it shows that arc21's reserves as 4.1% of turnover, was much lower compared to 17.55% for the other partnerships. He added that as a consequence of this situation arc21 was operating in a high-risk litigious market to support activities on behalf of its constituent councils, but with lower level of reserves. The Chair suggested that this could be discussed in more depth at the next meeting.

Following discussion the Joint Committee noted the report, proposed by Councillor Givan and seconded by the Chair.

Action: Noted

Item 17 - AOB

There was no further business discussed.

Item 18 - Next Meeting Thursday 25 January 2024 (hybrid) to be hosted by Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council in the Antrim Civic Centre.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending, the officers for their reports and cooperation in completing the agenda and wished everyone a Happy Christmas. He concluded saying that he looked forward to seeing everyone again in the New Year.

Date: _____

Chairman: _____