

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Sustainability & Environment Committee meeting to be held on Wednesday, 22nd November 2023 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 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 M Savage

Councillor D Taylor


Councillor J Truesdale

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

2.0 Declarations of 'Conflicts of Interest'

3.0 Action Sheet of Sustainability & Environment Committee Meeting held on 17 October 2023

 *Action Sheet - October 2023 inc. historic actions.pdf*

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For Discussion/Decision

4.0 Report on Notice of Motion in relation to Livestock Worrying

 *SE Committee Nov 2023 - Report on Notice of Motion by Councillor Clarke Animal Welfare (002).pdf*

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5.0 Consultation Response on Creating a Smokefree Generation and Tackling Young Vaping

 *SE Committee Report - Response to consultation on creating a Smokefree Generation and Tackling Youth Vaping 21.11.23.pdf*

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 *Appendix 1 - Proposed NMDDC Consultation on smokefree generation and tackling youth vaping.pdf*

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6.0 Fleet Replacement

 *SE Committee Report - fleet replacement update 21.11.23.pdf*

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Start of Closed Session

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

7.0 Upgrade to Town Centre CCTV and Council Facilities CCTV

 *Report Update for Facilities Town Centre CCTV Nov 2023.pdf*

Not included

8.0 Summer Pitch Maintenance

 *Report Summer Pitch Maintenance 2024 - 2026 Committee.pdf*

Not included

 *Business Case - Sports Pitches 2024 to 2026 Comittee.pdf* *Not included*

9.0 Update on Castlewellan May Fair

 *Report Update on Castlewellan May Fair.pdf* *Not included*

10.0 Business Case for CCTV Town Centre Maintenance and Pest Control


 *Report on Business Case's for Pest Control Town Centre CCTV Maintenance.pdf* *Not included*

 *Appendix 1 Business Case for Maintenance of Public Space CCTV.pdf* *Not included*


 *Appendix 2 Business Case for pest control services.pdf* *Not included*


11.0 Business Case for Bedding Plants 2024

 *Report Bedding Plant Supply 2024 - 2026 (003).pdf* *Not included*

 *Business Case - Short - Bedding Plants 2024 (002).pdf* *Not included*

12.0 Business Case for Appointment of Contractor to Undertake Asbestos Control Measures

 *Business Case for the appointment of a contractor to undertake Asbestos Control Measures on behalf of the Council.pdf* *Not included*

 *Appendix 1 Business Case for the appointment of a contractor to undertake Asbestos Control Measures.pdf* *Not included*

13.0 FASTER EV project update and Legal Agreement with EasyGo

 *SandE Committee Report Nov 23 - FASTER EV project update.pdf* *Not included*

 *Appendix 1 - Draft FASTER legal agreement.pdf* *Not included*

14.0 NFLA Membership

 *SE Paper 2023 NFLA Membership Nov 23.pdf* *Not included*

15.0 Revised Response to Department for Economy/Utility Regulator Call For Evidence on Connection Charges

 *SandE Committee Report Nov 23 - Revised Call for Evidence Response Electricity Connection Policy Framework Review.pdf* *Not included*

 *DfE.UR CfE Revised Response Nov 23.pdf*

Not included

16.0 Business Case for the Purchase of Fork Lift Truck

 *SE Committee Report - Business case for forklift truck 21.11.23.pdf*


Not included

 *Appendix 1 - Business Case for Forklift Truck.pdf*

Not included

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

17.0 ARC21 - Joint Committee Members Bulletin & Minutes - 26 October 2023

 *ARC21 - JC082-26Oct23-JC MembersBulletin.pdf*

Not included

18.0 ARC21 Joint Committee Meeting In Committee Minutes of Thursday 25 September 2023

 *ARC21- JC082-26Oct23-Item5-JCInCommMinutes28Sept23.F.pdf*

Not included

End of Closed Session

For Noting

19.0 Sustainable Food Places Bronze Award

 *SE Nov2023 SFP Bronze Award.pdf*

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20.0 Sustainable Food Places Bridging the Gap Funding Support

 *SE Nov2023 Bridging The Gap Application.pdf*

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21.0 Biodiversity Strategy

 *SE Biodiversity Strategy Report Nov 23.pdf*

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 *Appendix 1 - Draft Biodiversity Strategy.pdf*

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 *Appendix 2 - Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan Draft Final.pdf*

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 *Appendix 3 - Public Consultation on the Biodiversity Strategy for 2024 Questions.pdf*

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22.0 ARC 21 Joint Committee Meeting Minutes of Thursday 25 September 2023

 *ARC21 - JC082-26Oct23-Item3-JCMinutes28Sept23.F.pdf*

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SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT SERVICES COMMITTEEHISTORIC ACTIONS TRACKING SHEET

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING WEDNESDAY 18 AUGUST 2021					
NS/127/2021	Enforcement Improvement Plan	Agreed to note the content of this report. Agreed that officers prepare a report for the next Committee Meeting on options for future staffing levels to improve the enforcement service, including the possibility of supplementing the service with a contractor on a short-term basis.	S Murphy	Report to be presented at future committee meeting	N
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING 26 JANUARY 2022					
NS/004/2022	Trade Waste and Caravan Refuse Collection Services	Agreed to approve the report and recommendations:- 1. Alternate Weekly Commercial Waste Collection Service 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,	S Murphy	In progress	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		where this is achievable. 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.			
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING 21 APRIL 2022					
NS/052/2022	Compost Week 2022	Note and approve the additional activities in 2.2 to highlight and promote the importance of recycling food waste. 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.	S Murphy	In progress	N
NS/057/2022	Various issues concerning the Events Space Kilkeel	Note the contents of the report. Approve the Officers recommendation that the legal position of the Council regarding its maintenance of the events space, Kilkeel, is reviewed with a	K Scullion	In progress	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		separate report to be provided to the Council once this has been considered further.			
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 thereafter. Test case footpaths – small footpath leading to WIN – officers to examine this area for dog fouling.	S Murphy	In progress	N
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	A Cassells	In progress	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		outlined in the Notice of Motion.			
SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE WEDNESDAY 20 DECEMBER 2022					
SE/17/1/2022	Newry Market Revitalisation	Agreed to note the content of the report and agree to the recommendations contained within section 2.3 of the report.	K Scullion	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 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.	K Scullion	In Progress	N
SE/018/2023	Business Case for the appointment of a contractor to	Agreed to:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note the content of the report. 	K Scullion	In Progress	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
	undertake Legionella Control Measures on behalf of the Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 			
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 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	Agreed to approve the Business Cases/Full Economic Appraisals at:- Appendix 2 for the replacement of Refuse Collection Vehicles	SM	Completed	N

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

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING			
19 SEPTEMBER 2023			
SE/088/2023	Memorandum of Understanding Partnering Arrangements for the Removal of Snow and Ice from Town Centre Footways and Pedestrian Areas	<p>It was agreed to approve the proposal and extend for a further three years, in accordance with the 'Scope of the Agreement' Clause 3 and Appendix 1 of the officers report as amended, and to sign the updated MOU with additional locations.</p> <p>It was also agreed that Council Management follow up and look into using council street sweepers to grit streets during icy weather instead of sending employees home.</p>	<p>A Mallon</p> <p>In progress, awaiting signed MoU from Chairperson</p> <p>N</p>
SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING			
17 OCTOBER 2023			
SE/105/2023	Notice of Motion – Clean Indoor Air	<p>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.</p>	<p>A Cassells</p> <p>In Progress</p> <p>N</p>
SE/106/2023	Notice of Motion – Review of Waste Collection Service	<p>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</p>	<p>S Murphy</p> <p>In Progress</p> <p>N</p>

SE/107/2023	Notice of Motion – Animal Welfare	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.	A Cassells	In Progress	N
SE/114/2023	Procurement of Deep Cleansing Services	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 outcome of the legal process was known.	S Murphy	In Progress	N
SE/116/2023	Call for Evidence Response Electricity Connection Policy Framework Review	It was agreed to note the submission of the attached Call for Evidence response, subject to amendments presented by Councillor Enright.	B Rankin		N
END					

Report to:	Sustainability and Environment Committee
Date of Meeting:	22 November 2023
Subject:	Report on Notice of Motion in relation to Livestock Worrying.
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 Clarke as deferred from the Council Meeting of 6 November 2023 concerning Animal Welfare.		
2.0	Key Issues		
2.1	<p>At the Council Meeting of Monday 6 November 2023, the following Notice of Motion was tabled by Councillor Clarke; at the Council Meeting it was agreed that this be referred to the Sustainability and Environment Committee;</p> <p>C/222/2023 NOTICE OF MOTION – Livestock Worrying</p> <p>Notice of Motion received from Councillor Clarke:</p> <p><i>"This Council notes with concern the increasing prevalence of livestock worrying in the High Mournes; In response, Council will seek to develop an initiative alongside relevant partners that aims to raise awareness of the impact that dogs off leads can have on livestock; Furthermore, Council will roll out a publicity campaign in conjunction with any such initiatives in order to effectively get the message out to people in the district in relation to this important issue".</i></p> <p>The motion was seconded by Councillor Ruane.</p> <p>Agreed: The Motion was referred to the Sustainability and Environment Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.</p>		
2.2	Dog worrying of livestock, particularly during lambing season, is a key concern for farmers. Worrying of livestock does not just mean attacking or killing an animal; it includes chasing livestock and causing serious stress which results in any form of suffering to the animal.		

	<p>Under the Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1983, it is an offence to allow a dog onto land containing livestock if it is not under control and to cause worrying to any animal. The Order defines 'under control' as 'restrained by a chain or other sufficient leash held by someone exercising proper control over the dog'.</p> <p>The person in charge of any dog that is guilty of such an offence is liable to a fine of up to £1,000 and a court may call for the dog to be destroyed.</p> <p>Livestock worrying can cause significant distress to animals in terms of injury or death. It can also lead to distress and financial loss for the owners.</p> <p>In the past year 26 instances of livestock worrying have been reported and investigated by the Dog Wardens. On the occasions where the dog owners were identified a number of different actions have been taken to prevent recurrence to include formal cautions, control conditions, dogs put down by owners, dogs surrendered to Dog Warden, fixed penalty notices and some investigations remain ongoing with a view to potential prosecution.</p> <p>A lot of the complaints were resolved between the parties i.e. they paid for the loss of sheep or vets costs and complainant was content;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Formal Caution was issued 3 Control conditions 4 x Dog put to sleep by owner 2 x Dogs surrendered to council 2 x Ongoing with potential prosecution 1 x Fixed Penalty Notice issued 11 x Dogs unable to be identified
3.0	<u>Recommendations</u>
3.1	<p>That Members consider the Motion and:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide Officers with direction with regards to progressing the issues outlined in the Motion should Members so agree.
4.0	Resource Implications
4.1	Will require assessed should the Motion be agreed by Council but would clearly involve officer time and printing/publication costs.
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>n/a <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i>

	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	If yes, please complete the following:	
	The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened	<input type="checkbox"/>
	The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.3	Proposal initiating consultation	
	Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Consultation period will be 12 weeks	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<i>Rationale:</i> n/a	
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)	
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	If yes, please complete the following:	
	Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.0	Appendices	
7.1	None	
8.0	Background Documents	
8.1	Animal Welfare Service: Proposed Funding Withdrawal; Report to Strategy Policy and Resources Committee of 19 September 2023.	

Report to:	Sustainability and Environment Committee
Date of Meeting:	22 November 2023
Subject:	Consultation response on creating a smokefree generation and tackling youth vaping
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Sinead Murphy, Assistant Director Environment
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Sinead Trainor, Head of Environmental Health (Commercial)

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

For decision	X	For noting only	
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek S&E Committee approval on the draft response the UK Government and devolved administrations consultation on creating a smokefree generation and tackling youth vaping.
1.2	<p>Smoking is the single most entirely preventable cause of ill health, disability, and death in the UK. It is responsible for around 80,000 deaths a year, including about 2,200 deaths per year in Northern Ireland (as reported by the Northern Ireland Department of Health's tobacco control information).</p> <p>Smoking causes harm throughout people's lives, not only for the smoker but for those around them. It is a major risk factor for poor maternal and infant outcomes, significantly increasing the chance of stillbirth and can trigger asthma in children. Smoking causes around 1 in 4 of all UK cancer deaths and is responsible for the great majority of lung cancer cases. Smoking is also a major cause of premature heart disease, stroke and heart failure, and increases the risk of dementia in the elderly. Smokers lose an average of 10 years of life expectancy, or around 1 year for every 4 smoking years. As a result, smoking puts significant pressure on the NHS.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	On 4 October 2023, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) published a command paper Stopping the start: our new plan to create a smokefree generation setting out proposed action to protect future generations from the harms of smoking by creating the first smokefree generation, which the UK Government and devolved administrations are now seeking to consult on. The command paper also set out measures to crack down on youth vaping. The Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) report Use of e-cigarettes among young people in Great Britain shows that the number of children using vapes has tripled in the past 3 years and a staggering 20.5% of children in Great Britain had tried vaping in 2023. According to the Northern Ireland Young persons behaviour and attitudes survey 2022 , 21.3% of 11 to 16 year olds in Northern Ireland reported having ever used an e-cigarette.

	<p>The consultation asks questions in 3 areas for which new legislation would be needed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creating a smokefree generation: on smoking, the case for change is clear and the UK Government and devolved administrations are consulting on the smokefree generation policy and its scope to inform future legislation. 2. Tackling youth vaping: while there is also significant evidence for action to tackle youth vaping, within each proposal the UK Government and devolved administrations are consulting on several options to ensure we take the most appropriate and impactful steps, building on England's analysis of the youth vaping call for evidence. 3. Enforcement: the consultation also asks questions on the proposal to introduce new powers for local authorities in England and Wales to issue fixed penalty notices to enforce age of sale legislation of tobacco products and vapes.
2.2	The draft consultation response to the UK Government and devolved administrations consultation on creating a smokefree generation and tackling youth vaping is in Appendix 1.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<p>Members are asked to approve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The consultation response to the UK Government and devolved administrations consultation on creating a smokefree generation and tackling youth vaping in Appendix 1.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	There are no resource implications associated with this report.
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> <p>If no, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices
	Appendix 1 - NMDDC Consultation Response: Creating a smokefree generation and tackling youth vaping.
8.0	Background Documents
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy paper: Stopping the start: our new plan to create a smokefree generation. Stopping the start: our new plan to create a smokefree generation Young persons behaviour and attitudes survey 2022 - substance use data tables. Young person’s behaviour and attitude survey 2022

Open consultation

Creating a smokefree generation and tackling youth vaping: your views

Published 12 October 2023

Summary

Background

Smoking is the single most entirely preventable cause of ill health, disability, and death in the UK. It is responsible for around 80,000 deaths a year, including about:

- 64,000 deaths per year in England (as reported by the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities in [Local tobacco control profiles](#))
- 8,300 deaths per year in Scotland (as reported by the [Scottish Public Health Observatory's information on smoking attributable deaths](#))
- 5,600 deaths per year in Wales (as reported by the [Public Health Wales Smoking in Wales report](#))
- 2,200 deaths per year in Northern Ireland (as reported by the [Northern Ireland Department of Health's tobacco control information](#))

No other consumer product kills up to two-thirds of its users. The Office for National Statistics' [Adult smoking habits in the UK 2022](#) reported that 6.4 million people in the UK were current smokers. This was 12.9% of people in the UK, and:

- 12.7% in England
- 14.1% in Wales
- 14.0% in Northern Ireland
- 13.9% in Scotland

Smoking causes harm throughout people's lives, not only for the smoker but for those around them. It is a major risk factor for poor maternal and infant outcomes, significantly increasing the chance of stillbirth and can trigger asthma in children. Smoking causes around 1 in 4 of all UK cancer deaths and is responsible for the great majority of lung cancer cases. Smoking is also a major cause of premature heart disease, stroke and heart failure, and increases the risk of dementia in the elderly. Smokers lose an average of 10 years of life expectancy, or around 1 year for every 4 smoking years.

As a result, smoking puts significant pressure on the NHS. In England, almost every minute of every day someone is admitted to hospital because of smoking, and up to

75,000 GP appointments could be attributed to smoking each month - equivalent to over 100 appointments every hour.

That is why, on 4 October 2023, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) published a command paper [Stopping the start: our new plan to create a smokefree generation](#) setting out proposed action to protect future generations from the harms of smoking by creating the first smokefree generation, which the UK Government and devolved administrations are now seeking to consult on.

Devolved administrations is a collective term for the executive bodies in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales: the Northern Ireland Executive, the Scottish Government and the Welsh Government.

The command paper also set out measures to crack down on youth vaping. The Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) report [Use of e-cigarettes among young people in Great Britain](#) shows that the number of children using vapes has tripled in the past 3 years and a staggering 20.5% of children in Great Britain had tried vaping in 2023. According to the [Northern Ireland Young persons behaviour and attitudes survey 2022](#), 21.3% of 11 to 16 year olds in Northern Ireland reported having ever used an e-cigarette.

Due to nicotine content and the unknown long-term harms, vaping carries risks to health and lifelong addiction for children. The health advice is clear: young people and people who have never smoked should not vape.

The UK Government and devolved administrations have a duty to protect our children from the potential harms associated with underage vaping, while their lungs and brains are still developing. So, the UK Government and devolved administrations are consulting on several proposals on youth vaping including:

- restricting flavours
- regulating point of sale displays
- regulating packaging and presentation
- considering restricting the supply and sale of disposable vapes
- whether regulations should extend to non-nicotine vapes
- taking action on the affordability of vapes

These will need to balance having the biggest impact on youth vaping with ensuring vapes continue to support adult smokers to quit.

The command paper also focused on new measures to ensure the law is enforced. Underage and illicit sales of tobacco, and more recently vapes, are undermining the work of the UK Government and devolved administrations to regulate the industry and protect public health. In England and Wales, the government is seeking to introduce new powers for local authorities to issue fixed penalty notices (on the spot fines) to clamp down on those irresponsibly selling tobacco products and vapes to underage people.

Consultation overview

The consultation asks questions in 3 areas for which new legislation would be needed:

1. **Creating a smokefree generation:** on smoking, the case for change is clear and the UK Government and devolved administrations are consulting on the smokefree generation policy and its scope to inform future legislation.
2. **Tackling youth vaping:** while there is also significant evidence for action to tackle youth vaping, within each proposal the UK Government and devolved administrations are consulting on several options to ensure we take the most appropriate and impactful steps, building on England's [analysis of the youth vaping call for evidence](#).
3. **Enforcement:** the consultation also asks questions on the proposal to introduce new powers for local authorities in England and Wales to issue fixed penalty notices to enforce age of sale legislation of tobacco products and vapes.

The UK Government and devolved administrations would like to understand the impacts on businesses and on people, and if there are any impacts on groups with protected characteristics (see [Discrimination: your rights](#)). We want to hear from:

- the public - from young people, parents, carers and teachers
- the retail sector and the independent vaping industry
- local authorities across the UK
- clinicians and medical professionals
- public health stakeholders and academic experts
- employers and trade unions

The UK Government and devolved administrations would like to receive as much detail as possible under each of the themes of the consultation. For each multiple choice question, you will be able to provide additional information and evidence to support your answer through free text boxes.

The UK Government and devolved administrations will only make any decisions on these proposed measures after fully considering:

- the consultation responses we receive
- the evidence provided in those responses
- a further review of the international evidence base

Following this, impact assessments will be published.

The UK Government, Scottish Government and Welsh Government intend to bring forward legislation as soon as possible. In Northern Ireland, the outcome of this consultation will inform decisions of incoming ministers and the Northern Ireland Executive, or in the absence of ministers, those decisions that can be taken under

the [Northern Ireland \(Executive Formation etc\) Act 2022](#). This applies to all proposals in the consultation document.

Territorial extent

Health policy is a devolved matter in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. DHSC in England, the Directorate for Population Health in Scotland, the Health and Social Services Group in Wales and the Department of Health in Northern Ireland are each responsible for improving public health. This includes reducing tobacco use by implementing comprehensive tobacco control strategies and minimising the health risks of youth vaping.

Environmental policy, like health policy, is a devolved matter. DHSC, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the devolved administrations will work together to agree a policy across the 4 nations on restricting disposable vapes and other appropriate measures.

While the legislative proposals in the command paper [Stopping the start: our new plan to create a smokefree generation](#) set out an approach for England only, governments across the UK are now consulting to understand whether they should take action in the areas outlined in the paper. So, with agreement with the devolved administrations, DHSC is leading this consultation UK-wide.

Tobacco industry declaration

The UK is a party to the [World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control](#) and so has an obligation to protect the development of public health policy from the vested interests of the tobacco industry.

To meet this obligation, we ask all respondents to disclose whether they have any direct or indirect links to, or receive funding from, the tobacco industry.

Legislating to create a smokefree generation

There is no more addictive product that is legally sold in our shops than tobacco. Three-quarters of smokers would never have started if they had the choice again.

As outlined in the command paper [Stopping the start: our new plan to create a smokefree generation](#), we want to stop the start of addiction, as it is much easier to

never start smoking than to have to quit. The UK Government, Scotland and Wales will bring forward legislation making it an offence to sell tobacco products to anyone born on or after 1 January 2009.

The law will stop children turning 14 this year or younger from ever legally being sold tobacco products. In effect, raising the smoking age by a year each year until it applies to the whole population. The Department of Health in Northern Ireland will consider measures relating to a smokefree generation following this consultation.

Policy summary

This policy will make it an offence for anyone born on or after 1 January 2009 to be sold tobacco products (and in Scotland, also an offence for anyone born on or after 1 January 2009 to purchase tobacco products).

This follows a similar approach to New Zealand who became the first country in the world to introduce a restriction on the sale of tobacco to anyone born after a specified date, as part of its [Smokefree Aotearoa 2025 Action Plan](#). The New Zealand legislation makes it an offence to sell smoked tobacco products to anyone born on or after 1 January 2009, to first take effect in January 2027.

The UK Government, Scotland and Wales will also make it an offence for anyone at or over the legal age to purchase tobacco products on behalf of someone born on or after 1 January 2009 ('proxy purchasing'). The Department of Health in Northern Ireland will consider appropriate measures relating to a smokefree generation following this consultation.

Products in scope of the new legislation will mirror the current scope of age of sale legislation for tobacco products. This includes a wider range of products (see 'Product scope' below) than the New Zealand legislation, which only included smoked tobacco. However, New Zealand is taking forward other measures which the UK Government is not proposing, including through a licensing scheme to significantly reduce the number of retail outlets that can sell tobacco and through new limits to reduce the nicotine strength of cigarettes.

Product scope

In England and Wales, the current age of sale restriction is imposed under the [Children and Young Persons Act 1933](#). The age of sale restriction applies to tobacco products and cigarette papers.

In Scotland, the age of sale restrictions are set out Part 1 of the [Tobacco and Primary Medical Services \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#). Those restrictions apply to tobacco products and cigarette papers, which are defined in section 35 of that act.

In Northern Ireland, the age of sale restrictions for tobacco are set out in the [Health and Personal Social Services \(Northern Ireland\) Order 1978](#) and through subsequent amendments.

We propose that all tobacco products, cigarette papers and herbal smoking products would be subject to the proposed age of sale.

Products that would be in scope of the change include:

- cigarettes
- cigarette papers
- hand rolled tobacco
- cigars
- cigarillos
- pipe tobacco
- waterpipe tobacco products (for example shisha)
- chewing tobacco
- heated tobacco
- nasal tobacco (snuff)
- herbal smoking products

All other products such as vapes and nicotine replacement therapies would be out of scope for the smokefree generation proposal, because they do not contain tobacco and are often used as a quit aid for those who smoke.

Age of sale statements

In England and Wales, the [Children and Young Persons \(Protection from Tobacco\) Act 1991](#) requires retailers selling tobacco to display a notice in a prominent position at the point of sale stating that "it is illegal to sell tobacco products to anyone under the age of 18".

In Scotland, this requirement is contained in the [Tobacco and Primary Medical Services \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#).

In Northern Ireland, this requirement is contained in the [Children and Young Persons \(Protection from Tobacco\) \(Northern Ireland\) Order 1991](#).

In light of this, the UK Government, Scotland and Wales propose that display statements will need to be changed and required to read "it is illegal to sell tobacco products to anyone born on or after 1 January 2009".

The Department of Health in Northern Ireland will consider measures relating to age of sale statements following this consultation.

Prohibiting anyone born on or after 1 January 2009 from ever being sold tobacco products (and also from purchasing tobacco products, in Scotland) will impact children who are turning 14 or younger in 2023. Setting this date will mean the change in the law would come into effect in 3 to 4 years' time from January 2027, when this group of children turns 18.

Question

Do you agree or disagree that the age of sale for tobacco products should be changed so that anyone born on or after 1 January 2009 will never be legally sold (and also in Scotland, never legally purchase) tobacco products?

- Agree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

There has been overwhelming evidence that the use of tobacco products causes illness and premature deaths with a high cost to the economy as well as the personal impact. Despite increasing restrictions such as advertising bans, display bans, age restrictions, health warnings and graphic images on packaging, 14% of the adult population in NI continue to smoke and underage sales continue to be difficult to police. The introduction of a lifetime ban on selling to our future populations would be the best option to prevent more tobacco related deaths and illness without impacting on those already addicted.

Proxy sales refer to a person at or over the legal age of sale purchasing a product on behalf of someone under the legal age of sale. Proxy sales are prohibited under existing tobacco age of sale legislation. In this context, prohibiting proxy sales would mean that anyone born before 1 January 2009 would be prohibited from purchasing tobacco products on behalf of anyone born on or after 1 January 2009.

Question

Do you think that proxy sales should also be prohibited?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

We agree that the current provision prohibiting proxy sales should be extended to mean that anyone born before 1st January 2009 should be prohibited from purchasing tobacco products on behalf of anyone born on or after 1st January 2009. In doing this

it is hoped that fewer children will start smoking as they will be unable to easily obtain cigarettes. Failure to introduce a ban on proxy sales would completely dilute the impact of any lifetime ban legislation. Whilst this type of law is often difficult in practice to enforce it has been used to good effect in other legislation and acts as a deterrent.

The following products would be in scope of the new legislation:

- cigarettes
- cigarette papers
- hand rolled tobacco
- cigars
- cigarillos
- pipe tobacco
- waterpipe tobacco products (for example, shisha)
- chewing tobacco
- heated tobacco
- nasal tobacco (snuff)
- herbal smoking products

This mirrors the current scope of age of sale legislation in England and Wales. Existing age of sale requirements in Scotland currently cover products consisting wholly or partly of tobacco and which are intended to be smoked, sniffed, sucked or chewed. Insofar as the products listed would not be within the scope of the existing restrictions, it is proposed that the scope of the Scottish legislation be expanded to include them.

Question

Do you agree or disagree that all tobacco products, cigarette papers and herbal smoking products should be covered in the new legislation?

- Agree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

The wider the scope of the legislation in relation to tobacco & tobacco related products, the more difficult it is to introduce potential loopholes or exemptions. This will also assist in removing ambiguity when it comes to the enforcement of the various products on the market.

It is currently a legal requirement for retail premises to display the following statement 'it is illegal to sell tobacco products to anyone under 18'. This requirement would need to be changed to align with the new age of sale.

Question

Do you agree or disagree that warning notices in retail premises will need to be changed to read 'it is illegal to sell tobacco products to anyone born on or after 1 January 2009' when the law comes into effect?

- Agree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

Point of sale signage is a recognised means of raising awareness of the legislative provisions and also acts as a deterrent to potential underage buyers and sellers. Such a significant shift in the law would need to be communicated as widely as possible and that includes point of sale signage. It may however be beneficial to also introduce wording to the signage to reflect the ban on proxy sales. "It is also illegal for anyone to buy or procure tobacco products for anyone born on or after 1 January 2009".

Tackling the rise in youth vaping

Vapes are an effective tool for adult smokers to quit, especially when combined with expert support. Ensuring vapes can continue to be made available to current adult smokers is vital to supporting current smokers to quit. However, vaping is not recommended for children, or indeed non-smokers, and carries risk of future harm and addiction. The number of children vaping has risen sharply over the past few years. In England, we carried out a [youth vaping call for evidence](#) and received a variety of suggested measures to reduce the appeal and availability of vapes to children.

The [Tobacco and Related Products Regulations 2016](#) sets product standards for nicotine vapes including restrictions on maximum nicotine strength, refill bottle and tank size limits, packaging and advertising (including prohibiting advertising on television and radio) in the UK.

In 2022, the Scottish Government consulted on proposals to make regulations under existing powers in the [Health \(Tobacco, Nicotine etc. and Care\) \(Scotland\) Act 2016](#) to restrict the advertising and promotion of nicotine vapour products (nicotine vapour products include both nicotine and non-nicotine vapes). The proposals included restrictions on advertising, brand-sharing in products and services, free distribution and nominal pricing and sponsorship.

In Wales, the [Public Health \(Wales\) Act 2017](#) introduced regulatory making powers to introduce a national register of retailers of tobacco and nicotine products. In Northern Ireland, the [Health \(Miscellaneous Provisions\) Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2016](#) provides a power to ban vape sales from vending machines.

As outlined in the command paper [Stopping the start: our new plan to create a smokefree generation](#), it is important to consult on a set of proposals to reduce youth vaping, ensuring we get the balance right between protecting children and supporting adult smokers to quit. The proposals being consulted on include:

- restricting vape flavours
- regulating vape packaging and product presentation
- regulating point of sale displays
- restricting the supply and sale of disposable vapes
- exploring further restrictions for non-nicotine vapes and other nicotine consumer products such as nicotine pouches
- action on the affordability of vapes, exploring a new duty on vapes

The 'Stopping the start: our new plan to create a smokefree generation' paper also set out an existing plan to legislate in order to close the loophole in our laws which allows industry to give free samples of nicotine and non-nicotine vapes (and other nicotine products) to under 18s, as well as to introduce an age restriction for non-nicotine vapes. These would apply to England and Wales only, but we will explore the possibility of inclusion of the other devolved administrations in such provisions where appropriate.

Restricting vape flavours

Evidence on vape flavours

Research shows that children are attracted to the fruit and sweet flavours of vapes, both in their taste and smell, as well as how they are described. Restricting flavours has the potential to significantly reduce youth vaping.

In Great Britain, the ASH 2023 report [Use of e-cigarettes among young people in Great Britain](#) shows that the most frequently used vape flavouring for children is 'fruit flavour', with 60% of current children using them. Seventeen per cent of children who vape choose sweet flavours such as chocolate or candy.

However, [research by London South Bank University](#) has found that there is evidence that flavoured vaping products can assist adults to quit smoking. So, any

restriction on flavours needs to be carefully balanced with ensuring vapes continue to be available and accessible to support adults to quit smoking.

This is why the UK Government, Scotland and Wales are considering the options for how vape flavours and descriptions could be restricted in legislation. The Department of Health in Northern Ireland will consider measures relating to flavours following this consultation.

More information on the range of flavours and types of devices is available in Annex 1: vape types and flavours.

Options for how we can restrict vape flavours

Option 1: limiting how the vape is described.

Vape flavours can be restricted by the way they are described. For example, New Zealand has done this by mandating vape flavour descriptions, in their [Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Amendment Regulations 2023](#), to a specified list that includes generic flavour names such as 'tobacco' or 'berry'. This means that vapes could be called 'blueberry', but not 'blueberry muffin' for example.

Option 2: limiting the ingredients in vapes.

Vape flavours can be restricted by only permitting certain ingredients to be used in the product. In the Netherlands, for example, there is a specified list of ingredients that can be used in vapes, which are those that produce a 'tobacco' taste and pose almost no health harm.

Option 3: limiting the characterising flavours (the taste and smell) of vapes.

The characterising flavours of vapes (the way a vape smells or tastes to a consumer) can be restricted. In 2020, when menthol flavoured cigarettes were banned in the UK, they were restricted based on the characterising flavour of menthol. Finland, for example, has restricted all characterising flavours for vapes, apart from the flavour of tobacco.

Options for which flavours vapes should be limited to

As well as consulting on how the UK Government and devolved administrations should restrict vape flavours, we are also asking which flavours vapes should be limited to. We are considering restricting flavours to one of the following options:

- Option A: flavours limited to tobacco only
- Option B: flavours limited to tobacco, mint and menthol only
- Option C: flavours limited to tobacco, mint, menthol and fruits only

We will also consider regulating non-nicotine vapes in the same way.

Question

Do you agree or disagree that the UK Government and devolved administrations should restrict vape flavours?

- Agree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

We believe that vape flavours should be restricted for a number of reasons.

It is important to minimise the attractiveness and appeal of such products to users, particularly young people. Fruit, mint and menthol smells and tastes are much more appealing than tobacco – by restricting flavours to tobacco only, the appeal is significantly reduced.

If vapes are being used as an aid to quit smoking then should be limited to tobacco flavour and made as unattractive as possible to discourage new users.

In addition restricting flavours will assist in regulating the safety of vapes on the market and allow consistent enforcement.

Question

Which option or options do you think would be the most effective way for the UK Government and devolved administrations to implement restrictions on flavours? (You may select more than one answer)

- Option 1: limiting how the vape is described
- Option 2: limiting the ingredients in vapes
- Option 3: limiting the characterising flavours (the taste and smell) of vapes
- Don't know

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

Evidence is showing that more young people are trying vapes than cigarettes and are likely to do so regardless of parental behaviours, therefore strong measures are

needed to reduce the appeal of vapes. Every possible measure should be considered and implemented.

Question

Which option do you think would be the most effective way for the UK Government and devolved administrations to restrict vape flavours to children and young people?

- Option A: flavours limited to tobacco only
- Option B: flavours limited to tobacco, mint and menthol only
- Option C: flavours limited to tobacco, mint, menthol and fruits only

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

As previously stated, it is essential that vapes are made completely unappealing to children and young people. By ensuring they are restricted to tobacco flavour only, they are more likely to be used as a smoking cessation aid rather than a recreational pastime in their own right. Whilst research is indicating that flavoured vapes have more appeal for adults using them in an attempt to quit smoking, this is offset by the evidence that young people are more attracted to fruit and sweet flavoured vapes. The priority must be to prevent more people taking up the habit rather than weakening legislation on the basis that flavoured vapes are a preferred smoking cessation aid. The use of vapes are not without health risks and to promote them as a smoking cessation product creates the illusion that they are a safe product when the long-term health effects are not fully known. They may be considered "safer" than cigarettes but they are not "risk free".

Question

Do you think there are any alternative flavour options the UK Government and devolved administrations should consider?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

Flavours should be made as unattractive as possible to children and young people to prevent uptake and avoid future addiction.

Question

Do you think non-nicotine e-liquid, for example shortfills, should also be included in restrictions on vape flavours?

- Yes

- No
- Don't know

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

We believe that the non-nicotine e-liquids should be included in the restrictions on vape flavours. There is evidence to suggest that vaping without nicotine may still cause harm to health and this could act as a gateway for users starting vaping nicotine e-liquids.

In addition as they can be mixed with nicotine containing e-liquids and could provide a loophole for users to make their own flavoured e-liquids. This would make the other proposed flavour restrictions on vapes pointless with such an easy workaround.

Regulating point of sale displays

Unlike tobacco products, vapes are currently allowed to be displayed at the point of sale. Children can see and handle vapes in retail outlets where they are often displayed alongside confectionery and on accessible shelves. The ASH report [Public support for government action on tobacco](#) found that 74% of adults in England support the prohibiting of point of sale promotion of vapes.

The UK Government and devolved administrations want to limit the exposure of children to vapes and keep them out of sight and reach of children. However, it is important not to inhibit people who currently smoke from accessing vapes as a quit aid, so they must remain visible enough.

Specialist vape shops are retail outlets that specialise in the sale of vaping products. The UK Government and devolved administrations want to consider if they should be an exception to any restrictions, as they usually have a wider selection of devices and products available. Also, some shops have staff trained by the [National Centre for Smoking Cessation and Training](#), to offer more tailored advice for smokers wanting to quit. The UK Government and devolved administrations are keen to hear responses on this and we have included a specific question on this.

The UK Government, Scotland and Wales will also consider regulating non-nicotine vapes and non-nicotine e-liquids in the same way. The Department of Health in Northern Ireland will consider measures relating to non-nicotine vapes, following consultation. There is the opportunity to provide your opinions and evidence about this in the section on non-nicotine vapes.

There are 2 options for regulating point of sale displays of vapes:

- Option 1: vapes must be kept behind the counter and cannot be on display, like tobacco products
- Option 2: vapes must be kept behind the counter but can be on display

Question

Which option do you think would be the most effective way to restrict vapes to children and young people?

- Option 1: vapes must be kept behind the counter and cannot be on display, like tobacco products
- Option 2: vapes must be kept behind the counter but can be on display

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

We believe that in order to prevent people from starting to vape and to assist those wishing to quit vaping, all vapes and vaping paraphernalia must be kept behind the counter and not on display. Evidence has shown that marketing of tobacco products encourages young people to smoke and the point of sale display restrictions have been successfully implemented in retailers and could easily be extended to vapes.

In addition we believe that a registration scheme for retailers selling vapes should be introduced. This could be similar to the current register for retailers of tobacco products in Northern Ireland, through the Tobacco Register NI, including similar sanctions. This would provide councils with a comprehensive list of retailers who sell vapes without the excessive cost or administrative burden for both businesses and councils that a licensing scheme would likely introduce.

We also believe that mandatory age identification checks should be introduced and the acceptable forms of ID be specified.

In addition vending machines supplying all vapes should be prohibited to prevent access to young people. We are aware vending machines supplying vapes for sale exist at a range of premises across N. Ireland. This would ensure vapes are brought in line with the prohibition of cigarette vending machines in Northern Ireland.

Question

Do you think exemptions should be made for specialist vape shops?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

We do not agree that exemptions should be made for specialist vape shops. Unlike specialist tobacco retailers, which are rare, there are a large number/proliferation of specialist vape shops.

It is known that vapes are currently of particular appeal to children and young people. The relaxation of any display ban regulations relies on a secure entry system to the premises to ensure that those underage are not admitted to the shop in the first place. There are concerns that there would not be the same controls in place in specialist vape shops, many of which currently occupy prominent high street locations.

Question

If you disagree with regulating point of sale displays, what alternative measures do you think the UK Government and devolved administrations should consider?

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

We believe that additional measures should be included, along with point of sale restrictions. Registration of premises selling vapes should mirror the current register for retailers of tobacco products in Northern Ireland, through the Tobacco Register NI. This would provide councils with a comprehensive list of retailers who sell vapes without the excessive cost or administrative burden for both businesses and councils that a licensing scheme would likely introduce.

Regulating vape packaging and product presentation

The [youth vaping call for evidence](#) in England showed that children are attracted to vapes through brightly coloured products and packaging and child friendly images such as cartoons. They are designed to appeal to children, and this must stop.

[Research on vape packaging published by the JAMA Network](#) has shown that standardised vape packaging with reduced brand imagery can decrease the appeal to young people who have not previously smoked or vaped, without reducing the appeal of vapes to adult smokers.

Options for regulating vape packaging

The UK Government, Scotland and Wales are considering further regulating the packaging of vapes. The Department of Health in Northern Ireland will consider measures relating to regulating vape packaging following this consultation. We want to ensure that no part of the vape device, nor its packaging, is targeted at children. This includes:

- any unit packet (first wrap or container of an item)
- any container pack (the portable device in which a material is stored, transported, disposed of or handled)
- the presentation of the vape device

There are several possible options for how packaging and presentation of vapes can be restricted.

Option 1: prohibiting the use of cartoons, characters, animals, inanimate objects and other child friendly imagery, on both the vape packaging and vape device. This would still allow for colouring and tailored brand design.

Option 2: prohibiting the use of all imagery and colouring on both the vape packaging and vape device. This would still allow for branding, such as logos and names.

Option 3: prohibiting the use of all imagery and colouring and branding for both the vape packaging and vape device. This is equivalent to the standardised packaging rules on tobacco.

Question

Which option do you think would be the most effective way for the UK Government and devolved administrations to restrict the way vapes can be packaged and presented to reduce youth vaping?

- Option 1: prohibiting the use of cartoons, characters, animals, inanimate objects, and other child friendly imagery, on both the vape packaging and vape device. This would still allow for colouring and tailored brand design
- Option 2: prohibiting the use of all imagery and colouring on both the vape packaging and vape device but still allow branding such as logos and names
- Option 3: prohibiting the use of all imagery and colouring and branding (standardised packaging) for both the vape packaging and vape device

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

Question

We believe that standardised packaging for both the device and packaging of vapes should be introduced. This has been successfully introduced for tobacco and will reduce the appeal to young people and for those trying to quit vaping.

Recognition must be given to the fact that the long-term health effects of vapes are still not fully known but they have become appealing to young people and their popularity is increasing. Every effort must therefore be made to restrict their use and minimise their appeal to potential new users, in particular those underage. It

therefore makes sense to impose similar restrictions on the imagery, colouring and branding (standardised packaging) that exists for tobacco.

If you disagree with regulating vape packaging, what alternative measures do you think the UK Government and devolved administrations should consider?

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

Restricting the supply and sale of disposable vaping products

The use of disposable vaping products (sometimes referred to as single-use vapes) has increased substantially in recent years. Disposable vapes are products that are not rechargeable, that are not refillable or that are neither rechargeable nor refillable. In contrast, a reusable vape is a product which can be recharged and fully refilled an unlimited number of times by the user. Products can contain vape liquid with or without nicotine.

There is growing concern over the environmental impacts of disposable vapes given their lithium batteries and hard to recycle components and the increasing frequency in which these products are littered or thrown in the bin. Recent [research on vape disposal by YouGov commissioned by Material Focus](#) found that almost 5 million disposable vapes are either littered or thrown away in general waste every week.

There are measures already in place to ensure responsible production and disposal of waste electrical and electronic items through the [Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2013](#) (WEEE) and obligations under the [Waste Batteries and Accumulators Regulations 2009](#). However, evidence suggests compliance with these obligations is low, given the recent surge of businesses supplying disposable vapes. Both the WEEE and batteries regulations are being reviewed, with consultations planned.

In 2023, the Scottish Government commissioned Zero Waste Scotland to examine the environmental impact of single-use vapes and consider options to tackle the issue. Environmental impacts highlighted by Zero Waste Scotland's [Environmental impact of single-use e-cigarettes](#) review include:

- the impact of littering
- fire risks associated with unsafe disposal of their contents, including lithium batteries and chemicals
- greenhouse gas emissions and water consumption generated in their manufacture

There is also evidence of a significant and widespread increase in the use of disposable vapes by children. ASH's [Use of e-cigarettes among young people in Great Britain](#) survey found that 69% of vape users aged 11 to 17 mainly used disposable vapes in 2023. Northern Ireland's [Young person's behaviour and attitude survey 2022](#) shows that 85.7% of 11 to 16 year olds in Northern Ireland who currently use e-cigarettes reported that they used disposables.

There are a range of policy options to tackle the environmental impact of single-use vapes, including improved product design, increasing access to responsible disposal options, public communication campaigns, as well as potential restrictions on single-use vapes.

The UK Government, Scotland and Wales are considering restrictions on the sale and supply of disposable vaping products (including non-nicotine vapes), including prohibiting the sale of these products, due to the environmental impacts of disposable vapes. Northern Ireland will consider measures relating to disposable vapes following this consultation.

The approach to the enforcement of any restrictions would be a matter for individual nations, with civil sanctions such as fixed penalty notices being the preferred enforcement mechanism where appropriate.

Question

Do you agree or disagree that there should be restrictions on the sale and supply of disposable vapes?

That is, those that are not rechargeable, not refillable or that are neither rechargeable nor refillable.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

The Council agrees that the sale and supply of disposable vapes should be prohibited. Disposable vapes are particularly used by children and young people due to their accessibility, ease of use and cost.

It is important that urgent measures are put in place to prevent the continued environmental impact of disposable vapes made from hard to recycle components and containing lithium batteries.

Question

Do you agree or disagree that restrictions on disposable vapes should take the form of prohibiting their sale and supply?

- Agree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

We believe that disposable vapes should be prohibited from being sold and supplied. There are alternative types of vapes available for those using vaping as a tool to quit smoking. The vast majority of young people and children who vape use disposable vapes due to their accessibility, ease of use and cost.

Banning disposable vapes completely would also be the most effective longer term environmental solution as well as removing the most popular type of vape for young people from the supply chain.

Question

Are there any other types of product or descriptions of products that you think should be included in these restrictions?

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

We believe it is crucial that any restriction should be clearly defined to include any novel and innovative products, including rechargeable disposables and limits should be placed on the amount of nicotine sold per pack.

Question

Do you agree or disagree that an implementation period for restrictions on disposable vapes should be no less than 6 months after the law is introduced?

- Agree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

Question

The Council believes that there should be a shorter limit of no greater than 3 months to sell through existing stock.

Are there other measures that would be required, alongside restrictions on supply and sale of disposable vapes, to ensure the policy is effective in improving environmental outcomes?

All disposable vapes should be banned and for those remaining on the market consideration should be given to implementing an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme for Vapes and associated funding. This would then place responsibility for the end-of-life management of vape devices on manufacturers, encouraging them to design products with recycling in mind.

Safe storage at collection points and onward transportation to final end destinations should be given greater consideration.

Communications on disposal and recycling of Vapes should be clearer and readily available

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

Non-nicotine vapes and other nicotine consumer products

Non-nicotine vapes

Non-nicotine vapes (or nicotine-free vapes) are covered by the [General Products Safety Regulations \(GPSR\) 2005](#) in the UK.

Like nicotine vapes, they can come in liquid form to be used in a device or already contained as a liquid in a device. There are 3 categories of these types of non-nicotine vapes:

- shortfill and longfill vapes
- disposable (single-use) vapes
- alternative non-nicotine vapes

Alternative non-nicotine vapes are often advertised as wellness vapes. They are not currently subject to the same age restrictions or product standards as nicotine-containing vapes and there are some calls for non-nicotine vapes to be regulated in the same way as nicotine vapes.

There is evidence that children are accessing these products and the UK Government and devolved administrations want to prevent potential future health harms from non-nicotine vapes. Scotland has already introduced age of sale requirements for non-nicotine vapes.

So, the UK Government and the Welsh Government will seek to introduce legislation to prohibit the sale of non-nicotine vapes to under 18s as a first step to protect children from accessing and using these vapes. The Department of Health in Northern Ireland will consider measures relating to non-nicotine vapes to under 18s following this consultation.

The UK Government and devolved administrations are also interested in views on whether we should also impose further restrictions on non-nicotine vapes that we have outlined in this consultation for nicotine vapes.

Other nicotine consumer products

There are other consumer nicotine products in the UK market such as nicotine pouches. They are not regulated under the [Tobacco and Related Products Regulations 2016](#) but by GPSR. There are no mandated age of sale restrictions in the UK, but the UK Government, Northern Ireland and Wales have regulatory making powers to mandate these.

[Recent research on tobacco-free nicotine pouch use in Great Britain](#) suggests that although nicotine pouch use is low among adults (0.26% or 1 in 400 users in Great Britain), it is more popular with younger and middle-aged men who also use other nicotine products and have a history of smoking. Northern Ireland's [Young person's behaviour and attitudes survey 2022](#) shows that 4.8% of year 11 and year 12 pupils reported ever having used nicotine pouches in 2022.

Question

Do you have any evidence that the UK Government and devolved administrations should consider related to the harms or use of non-nicotine vapes?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

Question

Do you think the UK Government and devolved administrations should regulate non-nicotine vapes under a similar regulatory framework as nicotine vapes?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

We believe that non-nicotine vapes should be restricted in the same way as those containing nicotine. The long term health effects of vaping are currently unknown and they could act as gateway for users switching to nicotine containing vapes or even smoking cigarettes.

Ensuring that new restrictions are similar will also assist retailers in complying and enforcement officers in ensuring consistency.

Question

Do you have any evidence that the UK Government and devolved administrations should consider on the harms or use of other consumer nicotine products such as nicotine pouches?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

Question

Do you think the UK Government and devolved administrations should regulate other consumer nicotine products such as nicotine pouches under a similar regulatory framework as nicotine vapes?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

Nicotine is highly addictive and as such all products should be regulated in the same way to prevent addiction and users moving onto other more harmful products.

Affordability

Price difference between vaping and smoking

There is currently a significant difference in price between vapes and tobacco products, in part because vapes are only subject to VAT, whereas tobacco has VAT and duty (at least a £7.87 duty on a packet of 20 cigarettes). Smoking is 3 times more expensive than vaping, and it is estimated that the average smoker in England could save around £670 per year from switching to vaping. This price differential is important, as it can encourage smokers to switch from cigarettes to vapes.

However, this also means that vapes are more readily accessible to young people and other non-smokers, especially disposable and refillable devices.

Cost of vapes

Disposable vapes are considerably cheaper to buy than other vape products. The most popular disposable vape among young people in 2022 was the Elf Bar, which costs around £5, compared to a reusable Elf Bar which costs around £8. Mod or tank devices vary in price, but are in the region of £40 to £50, with additional costs for the e-liquid.

Table 1: average cost of vapes across different product categories

Product category	Unit cost (average)
Disposable	£6
Reusable: pre-filled pod kits	£12

Product category	Unit cost (average)
Reusable: vape kits (refillable cartridges)	£40

Duty and taxes on vapes

Fifteen European countries including Germany and Italy have introduced a national tax on vapes and Canada has introduced a vaping duty. American research on the intended and unintended effects of e-cigarette taxes on youth tobacco use shows that taxes on vapes are associated with reductions in vaping, but at the potential risk of increasing youth smoking.

The effect of increasing the prices of vapes

The majority of respondents in DHSC's [youth vaping call for evidence](#) (64%) said price increases would reduce the demand for vapes. Thirty-six per cent of respondents said vapes are affordable and within the average child's buying power and that price has a significant impact on the appeal of vapes, with a further 22% stating that disposable vapes specifically are affordable.

A quarter of respondents thought there was a risk that price increases may have a negative impact on smoking cessation progress, given the use of vapes as an aid to quit smoking. Eleven per cent of respondents stated that the price differential between vapes and cigarettes increased the appeal of vaping.

Policy considerations

This consultation covers a range of measures to reduce the appeal and availability of vapes to children. To support this agenda, the UK Government thinks that there is a strong case to take action on affordability and so is exploring options, including a new duty on vapes as other countries have done, while ensuring that there is a significant differential between duty on vapes and duty on tobacco products.

Question

Do you think that an increase in the price of vapes would reduce the number of young people who vape?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

We believe that the price of vapes, particularly disposables, should be increased to prevent accessibility for young people. In addition there should be a restriction on price promotions on vapes by retailers.

Enforcement

A strong approach to enforcement is vital if the smokefree generation and youth vaping policy is to have real impact. Underage and illicit sale of tobacco, and more recently vapes, is undermining work to regulate the industry and protect public health.

In [Stopping the start: our new plan to create a smokefree generation](#), additional steps were set out to clamp down on those illegally selling tobacco products and vapes to underage people and to prevent illicit products from being sold.

One of these measures is introducing new powers for local authorities to issue fixed penalty notices to enforce age of sale legislation for tobacco products and vapes in England and Wales.

In Scotland, local authorities already have powers to issue fixed penalty notices to retailers and individuals who commit an offence under the [Tobacco and Primary Medical Services \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#). In Northern Ireland, there is local enforcement through the [Tobacco Retailers Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2014](#). It is proposed that the existing enforcement regime would continue to apply to age of sale restrictions.

Introducing on the spot fines for underage sales

Local authorities take a proportionate approach to enforce age of sale restrictions on tobacco products and vapes, that reflects the level of offence committed. For

example, in England, penalties can be escalated, starting with a warning through to a maximum fine of £2,500. In the case of the most serious or repeat offences, local authorities can apply for a court order to prevent the offending retailer from opening for a period of time.

The current penalty regime requires local authorities to prosecute the individual or business in question and for the individual or business in question to be convicted in a magistrates' court. Trading standards officers say this time-consuming court procedure limits their ability to issue fines and is a significant gap in their operational capabilities.

Question

Do you think that fixed penalty notices should be issued for breaches of age of sale legislation for tobacco products and vapes?

Powers to issue fixed penalty notices would provide an alternative means for local authorities to enforce age of sale legislation for tobacco products and vapes in addition to existing penalties.

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

In Northern Ireland we have the option of a Fixed Penalty Notice for the sale of tobacco products and it has been an efficient and effective way of dealing with people who sell to children.

Question

What level of fixed penalty notice should be given for an underage tobacco sale?

- £100
- £200
- Other

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

In Northern Ireland we currently have a £250 Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) for selling both tobacco products and vapes to children.

We believe that the fixed penalty amount should be £250 and recommend a sliding scale for FPNs with the amount increasing for repeat offenders. In addition we support the introduction of an offence for non-payment of a FPN.

Question

What level of fixed penalty notice should be given for an underage vape sale?

- £100
- £200
- Other

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

In Northern Ireland we currently have a £250 Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) for selling both tobacco products and vapes to children.

We believe that the fixed penalty amount should be £250 and recommend a sliding scale for FPNs with the amount increasing for repeat offenders. In addition, we support the introduction of an offence for non-payment of a FPN.

How to respond

This consultation seeks feedback on the proposed measures, to inform future legislation. On youth vaping, there are a number of options proposed, to ensure the UK Government and devolved administrations take the most appropriate and impactful steps, building on existing evidence.

The consultation closes on 6 December 2023 at 11:59pm and you can respond via our [online survey](#).

Report to:	Sustainability and Environment Committee
Date of Meeting:	22 November 2023
Subject:	Fleet Replacement Update
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Sinead Murphy, Assistant Director: Environment
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Barry Torley, Interim Head of Fleet Peter Whyte, Interim Head of Fleet

	For decision	For noting only	X																																																							
1.0 Purpose and Background																																																										
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide an update to members on the progress made to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • deliver and procure new vehicles through the Fleet Replacement programme and • dispose of replaced vehicles. 																																																									
2.0 Key Issues																																																										
2.1	<p>Fleet Replacement 2022</p> <p>Following initial business case approval and procurement through the Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation (YPO) Framework, orders were placed with preferred suppliers in April 2022 for 73 vehicles identified as requiring priority replacement by 31st March 2023. A further order was placed for 3 Hook Lift vehicles through YPO in November 2022.</p> <p>Orders, by YPO Tender Lot, for vehicle to be replaced with estimated delivery time is detailed in Appendix 1 and is summarised with replacement cost in Table 1 below. From the point of order estimated delivery ranged from 16 to 78 weeks.</p> <p>Table 1</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Lot</th> <th>Vehicle Type</th> <th>No.</th> <th>Estimated Delivery</th> <th>Final cost (Ex VAT)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>3.5T Medium Chassis Vehicles</td> <td>7</td> <td>Delivered</td> <td>£287,204</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>5/6T Medium Chassis Vehicles</td> <td>24</td> <td>56-78 weeks</td> <td>£1,187,370</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="3">3</td> <td>12T Refuse Collection Vehicles</td> <td>7</td> <td>4 delivered/end Dec 2023</td> <td>£938,336</td> </tr> <tr> <td>26T Refuse Collection Vehicles</td> <td>19</td> <td>Delivered</td> <td>£3,358,744</td> </tr> <tr> <td>32T Refuse Collection Vehicles</td> <td>4</td> <td>Delivered</td> <td>£779,328</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>7.5T Beavertail Vehicles</td> <td>2</td> <td>59 weeks</td> <td>£99,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="4">5</td> <td>Compact 2.5T Sweeper vehicles</td> <td>1</td> <td>Delivered</td> <td>£74,562</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4.5T Sweeper vehicles</td> <td>2</td> <td>Delivered</td> <td>£168,068</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7.5T Sweeper vehicles</td> <td>3</td> <td>Delivered</td> <td>£440,385</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12T Sweeper vehicles</td> <td>3</td> <td>52 weeks</td> <td>£439,758</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>Mule Vehicles</td> <td>2</td> <td>No returns</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Lot	Vehicle Type	No.	Estimated Delivery	Final cost (Ex VAT)	1	3.5T Medium Chassis Vehicles	7	Delivered	£287,204	2	5/6T Medium Chassis Vehicles	24	56-78 weeks	£1,187,370	3	12T Refuse Collection Vehicles	7	4 delivered/end Dec 2023	£938,336	26T Refuse Collection Vehicles	19	Delivered	£3,358,744	32T Refuse Collection Vehicles	4	Delivered	£779,328	4	7.5T Beavertail Vehicles	2	59 weeks	£99,000	5	Compact 2.5T Sweeper vehicles	1	Delivered	£74,562	4.5T Sweeper vehicles	2	Delivered	£168,068	7.5T Sweeper vehicles	3	Delivered	£440,385	12T Sweeper vehicles	3	52 weeks	£439,758	6	Mule Vehicles	2	No returns	
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	7	Hook Lift Vehicles	3	39 weeks	£510,300																											
	TOTAL				£8,283,055																											
	No tender returns were received for the mule vehicles. An alternative competition will commence for the procurement of these vehicles.																															
2.2	<p>Fleet Replacement 2023-2025 At the February 2023 S&E Committee, members approved a four year fleet replacement plan and subsequently at the March 2023 S&E Committee, members approved a suite of business case for vehicles as outlined in Table 2.</p> <p>Table 2</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Lot</th> <th>Vehicle Type</th> <th>Estimated date to commence procurement</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>26T Refuse Collection Vehicles</td> <td>w/c 27 November 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Sweeper vehicles</td> <td>w/c 4 December 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>Medium Chassis Vehicles</td> <td>w/c 8 January 2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>Electric small and medium vans</td> <td>w/c 29 January 2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>Diesel small and medium vans</td> <td>w/c 29 January 2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>4x4 Vehicles</td> <td>w/c 8 January 2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>ATV Vehicles</td> <td>w/c 4 December 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>Mowing machines</td> <td>w/c 29 January 2024</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Specifications for the new vehicles are currently being agreed and finalised with the relevant services. Table 2 provides an indicative timetable for the procurement of the vehicles. Estimated delivery times will be determined through the procurement process.</p>					Lot	Vehicle Type	Estimated date to commence procurement	1	26T Refuse Collection Vehicles	w/c 27 November 2023	2	Sweeper vehicles	w/c 4 December 2023	3	Medium Chassis Vehicles	w/c 8 January 2024	4	Electric small and medium vans	w/c 29 January 2024	5	Diesel small and medium vans	w/c 29 January 2024	6	4x4 Vehicles	w/c 8 January 2024	7	ATV Vehicles	w/c 4 December 2023	8	Mowing machines	w/c 29 January 2024
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2.3	<p>Vehicle Retention and Disposal As vehicles are being delivered the replaced vehicles are either disposed of via auction or as scrap, depending on their individual value. In line with the Fleet replacement policy, a number of vehicles have been retained as spare vehicles to enable continuation of services during servicing and in the event of breakdowns.</p> <p>Appendix 1 indicates which vehicles replaced in the 2022 Fleet Replacement programme have been disposed of or retained as spares. Appendix 2, lists the vehicles were disposed of that were previously utilised as spare vehicles or are no longer viable for use and the value received at auction.</p> <p>Table 3</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>VRN of New Spare Vehicle</th> <th>Model</th> <th>Year</th> <th>Vehicle Type</th> <th>VRN of Replaced Spare Vehicle</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>WJZ 3917</td> <td>Mercedes Econic</td> <td>2014</td> <td>26T RCV</td> <td>PJZ 2755</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ASZ 6500</td> <td>Mercedes Econic</td> <td>2017</td> <td>26T RCV</td> <td>NJZ 5187</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CSZ 6691</td> <td>Mercedes Econic</td> <td>2018</td> <td>26T RCV</td> <td>SHZ 3403</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					VRN of New Spare Vehicle	Model	Year	Vehicle Type	VRN of Replaced Spare Vehicle	WJZ 3917	Mercedes Econic	2014	26T RCV	PJZ 2755	ASZ 6500	Mercedes Econic	2017	26T RCV	NJZ 5187	CSZ 6691	Mercedes Econic	2018	26T RCV	SHZ 3403							
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	ASZ 6501	Mercedes Econic	2017	26T RCV	VJZ 5743
	ASZ 6502	Mercedes Econic	2017	26T RCV	RJZ 7101
	ASZ 3031	Mercedes Econic	2017	26T RCV	TJZ 6559
	The total income from disposed vehicles is £66,100.				
3.0	Recommendations				
	Members are asked to note the contents of this report.				
4.0	Resource implications				
4.1	No additional resources are associated with this report.				
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)				
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i>				
	n/a				<input type="checkbox"/>
5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i>				
	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
	If yes, please complete the following:				
	The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened				<input type="checkbox"/>
	The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation				<input type="checkbox"/>
5.3	<i>Proposal initiating consultation</i>				
	Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves				<input type="checkbox"/>
	Consultation period will be 12 weeks				<input type="checkbox"/>
	Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided)				<input type="checkbox"/>
	<i>Rationale:</i>				
	n/a				
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
	<p>Appendix 1 – 2022 Vehicle Replacement Schedule</p> <p>Appendix 2 - Vehicle Disposal List</p>
8.0	Background Documents
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> February 2023 SE Committee Minutes, Ref. SE/021/2023 March 2023 SE Committee Minutes, Ref. SE/039/2023

Appendix 1 – 2022 Vehicle Replacement Schedule

YPO Tenders (Bundle/Lot)	REG NO.	MAKE & MODEL	YEAR OF REG	Disposed / Spare	REPLACEMENT VRN	Replacement Model	Actual cost (Ex VAT)	Delivered/ Anticipated delivery
1_1	OJZ 1647	Ford Transit NW 350	2008	D	BMZ 9147	3.5 T Single cab tipper	£32,326	Delivered
1_1	OJZ 1648	Ford Transit NW 350	2008	S	BMZ 9146	3.5 T Single cab tipper	£32,326	Delivered
1_1	VKZ 7681	*Renault Traffic SWB S127dc	2008		BMZ 9031	3.5 T Single cab tipper	£32,326	Delivered
1_2	MJZ 3134	crew cab cage tipper	2007	D	BMZ 9382	3.5 T Single cab caged tipper	£32,651	Delivered
1_3	UJZ 6403	Iveco Daily 35S11	2013	D	BMZ 9281	3.5 T Single cab luton body	£30,894	Delivered
1_3	MJZ 3135	Iveco Daily Med Van	2007	D	BMZ 9369	3.5 T Single cab luton body	£30,894	Delivered
1_3	FJZ 7713	DAF Tipper	2003	S	BMZ 9284	3.5 T Single cab luton body	£30,894	Delivered
1_3	*Perm hire	Luton body van	-	D	BMZ 9262	3.5 T Single cab luton body	£30,894	Delivered
1_4	LJZ 1811	*Iveco Daily 35C12CH	2006	D	CMZ 1841	3.5 T Double cab tipper	£33,998	Delivered
2_1	IJZ 5494	Iveco Daily Model 50C13	2005	D	ON ORDER	5 T Double cab tipper	£46,280	Dec-23
2_1	OJZ 1328	Iveco Daily Model 50c 15	2008		ON ORDER	5 T Double cab tipper	£46,280	Dec-23
2_1	WJZ 3007	Iveco Crew Cab	2014		ON ORDER	5 T Double cab tipper	£46,280	Dec-23
2_1	WJZ 3008	Iveco Crew Cab	2014		ON ORDER	5 T Double cab tipper	£46,280	Dec-23
2_1	WJZ 3009	Iveco Crew Cab	2014		ON ORDER	5 T Double cab tipper	£46,280	Dec-23
2_1	WJZ 3011	Iveco Crew Cab	2014		ON ORDER	5 T Double cab tipper	£46,280	Jan-24
2_1	FJZ 7762	Iveco Daily C-Cab Tipper 50C13	2003	D	ON ORDER	5 T Double cab tipper	£46,280	Jan-24
2_1	OJZ 3864	Iveco 5T Tipper Crew - Grounds	2008		ON ORDER	5 T Double cab tipper	£46,280	Jan-24
2_1	PJZ 1602	Iveco 5T Tipper Crew - Grounds	2009	D	ON ORDER	5 T Double cab tipper	£46,280	Jan-24
2_1	GJZ 8700	Iveco daily crew cab	2004	D	ON ORDER	5 T Double cab tipper	£46,280	Jan-24

2_1	IJZ 5046	Iveco daily crew cab 35C15	2005	D	ON ORDER	5 T Double cab tipper	£46,280	Jan-24
2_2	IJZ 5499	Iveco Daily Model 50C13	2005	D	ON ORDER	5T Double cab with crane	£53,340	Feb-24
2_2	MJZ 6989	Iveco Guigaro Chassis Cab with Dropside body	2007		ON ORDER	5T Double cab with crane	£53,340	Feb-24
2_2	MJZ 6990	Iveco Guigaro Chassis Cab with Dropside body	2007	D	ON ORDER	5T Double cab with crane	£53,340	Feb-24
2_2	GJZ 7350	Iveco Daily Crew Cab	2004	D	ON ORDER	5T Double cab with crane	£53,340	Feb-24
2_2	OJZ 3865	Iveco 5T Crewcab	2008	D	ON ORDER	5T Double cab with crane	£53,340	Feb-24
2_2	OJZ 3866	Iveco 5T Crewcab + HIAB	2008	D	ON ORDER	5T Double cab with crane	£53,340	Feb-24
2_3	PJZ 4062	Crew Cage Litter	2009	D	ON ORDER	6T Single cab caged with bin lift	£53,600	Dec-23
2_4	PJZ 4063	Crew Cage Litter	2009	D	ON ORDER	6T Double cab caged tipper with bin lift	£53,840	Dec-23
2_4	VJZ 5189	Crew Cage Litter	2014	D	ON ORDER	6T Double cab caged tipper with bin lift	£53,840	Dec-23
2_4	OJZ 7183	Renault Mascot ISO DXI	2008	D	ON ORDER	6T Double cab caged tipper with bin lift	£53,840	Dec-23
2_5	HJZ 6372	Iveco 5T Beavetail - Grounds	2004	D	ON ORDER	6T Beavetail	£47,710	Jan-24
2_5	LJZ 1812	Iveco 5T Beavetail - Grounds	2006	D	ON ORDER	6T Beavetail	£47,710	Jan-24
2_5	PJZ 4061	Iveco 5T Beavetail	2009	D	ON ORDER	6T Beavetail	£47,710	Jan-24
3_1	JXZ 3328	ISUZU Macpack	2016		ON ORDER	12T Refuse Collection Vehicle	£134,048	Dec-23
3_1	KXZ 3519	Isuzu Macpack	2017	S	GSZ 7570	12T Refuse Collection Vehicle	£134,048	Delivered
3_1	UJZ 3578	Isuzu Macpac rvc	2012		ON ORDER	12T Refuse Collection Vehicle	£134,048	Dec-23
3_1	VJZ 9083	Isuzu Macpac	2014	D	GSZ 7567	12T Refuse Collection Vehicle	£134,048	Delivered
3_1	SJZ 4061	Iveco Flat Back rvc	2011	D	ON ORDER	12T Refuse Collection Vehicle	£134,048	Dec-23
3_1	TJZ 7520	Farid Body on DAF	2012		GSZ 7574	12T Refuse Collection Vehicle	£134,048	Delivered
3_1	*Perm hire	Compact RCV	-	D	GSZ 7566	12T Refuse Collection Vehicle	£134,048	Delivered

3_2	BV58 OUK	Mercedes RVC	2008	D	GSZ 8557	26T Refuse Collection Vehicle	£176,776	Delivered
3_2	NJZ 5187	Mercedes - RCV	2008	D	HSZ 3338	26T Refuse Collection Vehicle	£176,776	Delivered
3_2	PJZ 2755	Mercedes - RCV	2009	D	HSZ 2641	26T Refuse Collection Vehicle	£176,776	Delivered
3_2	RJZ 7101	Mercedes Econic	2010	D	GSZ 3339	26T Refuse Collection Vehicle	£176,776	Delivered
3_2	SHZ 6053	Mercedes - RCV	2014	D	HSZ 2642	26T Refuse Collection Vehicle	£176,776	Delivered
3_2	SJZ 3403	Mercedes - RCV	2011	D	GSZ 6678	26T Refuse Collection Vehicle	£176,776	Delivered
3_2	SJZ 3488	Mercedes - RCV	2011	D	HSZ 2114	26T Refuse Collection Vehicle	£176,776	Delivered
3_2	SJZ 4057	Dennis Elite EURO 5	2011	D	HSZ 3336	26T Refuse Collection Vehicle	£176,776	Delivered
3_2	SJZ 4058	Dennis Elite EURO 5	2011	D	HSZ 3334	26T Refuse Collection Vehicle	£176,776	Delivered
3_2	TJZ 6559	Dennis Elite EURO 5	2012	D	HSZ 1131	26T Refuse Collection Vehicle	£176,776	Delivered
3_2	UJZ 5984	Mercedes - RCV	2013	D	HSZ 2643	26T Refuse Collection Vehicle	£176,776	Delivered
3_2	UJZ 5985	Mercedes - RCV	2013	D	HSZ 3330	26T Refuse Collection Vehicle	£176,776	Delivered
3_2	VJZ 5742	DENNIS ELITE	2013	S	GSZ 6117	26T Refuse Collection Vehicle	£176,776	Delivered
3_2	VJZ 5743	DENNIS ELITE	2013	D	GSZ 8337	26T Refuse Collection Vehicle	£176,776	Delivered
3_2	WJZ 3917	Mercedes - RCV	2014	S	HSZ 3332	26T Refuse Collection Vehicle	£176,776	Delivered
3_2	WJZ 9921	26T Mercedes Benz Econic	2015	D	HSZ 1134	26T Refuse Collection Vehicle	£176,776	Delivered
3_2	WJZ 9923	26T Mercedes Benz Econic	2015	D	GSZ 8558	26T Refuse Collection Vehicle	£176,776	Delivered
3_2	WJZ 9924	26T Mercedes Benz Econic	2015	D	FSZ 5322	26T Refuse Collection Vehicle	£176,776	Delivered
3_2	WJZ 9925	26T Mercedes Benz Econic	2015	D	HSZ 1133	26T Refuse Collection Vehicle	£176,776	Delivered
3_3	WJZ 9922	26T Mercedes Benz Econic**	2015	D	HSZ 2113	32T Refuse Collection Vehicle	£194,832	Delivered
3_3	MJZ 5708	Mercedes Econic with Phoenix Body	2007	D	GSZ 6115	32T Refuse Collection Vehicle	£194,832	Delivered
3_3	UJZ 7894	Mercedes Benz Econic	2013	D	GSZ 6116	32T Refuse Collection Vehicle	£194,832	Delivered
3_3	VJZ 9349	Dennis Elite RCV	2014	D	GSZ 6114	32T Refuse Collection Vehicle	£194,832	Delivered
4_1	TFZ 2261	Iveco Daily 50c15 Crew Cab	2014		ON ORDER	7.5T Beavertail	£49,500	Nov-23

4_1	MJZ 3133	Iveco 5T Crewcab + HIAB	2007	D	ON ORDER	7.5T Beavertail	£49,500	Nov-23
5_1	HXZ 2738	Hako Citymaster HC 1250	2015	S	FSZ 4731	Mini sweeper	£74,562	Delivered
5_2	VJZ 7682	Schmidt Swingo Compact Road Sweeper	2014	D	FSZ 4734	Compact sweeper	£84,034	Delivered
5_2	VJZ 7683	Schmidt Swingo Compact Road Sweeper	2014	D	FSZ 4733	Compact sweeper	£84,034	Delivered
5_3	HXZ 4195	Johnston Sweeper	2015	D	GSZ 7667	7.5T Sweeper	£146,795	Delivered
5_3	SJZ 5903	Mechanical Road Sweeping Vehicle	2011	S	GSZ 7665	7.5T Sweeper	£146,795	Delivered
5_3	NFZ 4837	Johnson GX201	2013	D	GSZ 7666	7.5T Sweeper	£146,795	Delivered
5_4	SJZ 4065	Dual Sweep Street Cleansing Vehicle	2011		ON ORDER	12T Sweeper	£146,586	Dec-23
5_4	TJZ 4916	Jonston Dual Sweep DAF LF	2012	D	ON ORDER	12T Sweeper	£146,586	Dec-23
5_4	MJZ8378	Scrab Sweeper	2007	D	ON ORDER	12T Sweeper	£146,586	Dec-23
7	RJZ6962	DAF REL	2010		ON ORDER	32T HOOK LOADER	£170,100	Nov-23
7	SJZ 4063	Iveco Trakker	2011	D	ON ORDER	32T HOOK LOADER	£170,100	Nov-23
7	UJZ 5343	Iveco Trakker	2013		ON ORDER	32T HOOK LOADER	£170,100	Nov-23

Appendix 2 - Vehicle Disposal List

TYPE	REGISTRATION	Value
TIPPER 5 TON	PJZ 1602	£1,200
TIPPER 5 TON	OJZ 3866	£1,600
TIPPER 5 TON	IJZ 5499	£1,300
SWEEPER 10T	SJZ 4061	£2,500
RCV 26T	BV58 OUK	£2,500
RCV 26T	NJZ 5187	£2,550
RCV 26T	WJZ 9924	£3,400
RCV 26T	WJZ 9925	£3,300
RCV 26T	SHZ 6053	£2,600
RCV 26T	UJZ 5984	£2,700
RCV 26T	UJZ 5985	£2,600
RCV 26T	SJZ 3488	£2,500
RCV 26T	PJZ 2755	£2,600
RCV 26T	RJZ 7101	£2,500
RCV 26T	TJZ 6559	£2,350
RCV 26T	SJZ 4057	£2,400
RCV 26T	SJZ 4058	£2,200
RCV 7.5T	VJZ 9083	£1,500
RCV 32T	SJZ 4063	£3,500
SWEEPER 7.5T	HXZ 4195	£1,050
SWEEPER 12T	TJZ 4916	£2,100
DOBLO 3.5T PICK UP	PNZ 7948	£300
ECONIC 32T RCV	UJZ 7894	£3,100
ECONIC32T RCV	MJZ 5708	£2,200
EAGLE 32T RCV	VJZ 9349	£3,200
DAILY 3.5T VAN	UJZ 6403	£1,800
SWINGO 200 4.5T SWEEPER	VJZ 7682	£1,400
SWINGO 200 4.5T SWEEPER	VJZ 7683	£1,400
DAILY 3.5T VAN	IJZ 3462	£550
ECONIC 26T RCV	WJZ 9921	£3,200
CAGE WAGON	VJZ 5189	SORN/AWAITING SALE
TIPPER 5 TON	MJZ 3133	SORN/AWAITING SALE
12T SWEEPER	SJZ 4062	SORN/AWAITING SALE
RENAULT 3.5T VAN	SJZ 8646	SORN/AWAITING SALE
FORD CONNECT 3.5T VAN	OJZ 4794	SORN/AWAITING SALE

Report to:	Sustainability and Environment
Date of Meeting:	22 November 2023
Subject:	Sustainable Food Places Bronze Award Success
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Andrew Cassells, Director Sustainability and Environment
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Rodney McBride, Sustainable Foods Officer

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

For decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	To advise Committee of Council's successful Sustainable Food Places (SFP) Bronze Award application
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>An update on the work of Council, relating to Sustainable Foods, was provided to Committee in September 2023, highlighting our live action plan covering four main areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Food poverty ▪ Food economics and procurement ▪ Local food movement and tackling climate emergency ▪ Food waste <p>The previous update noted that Council were submitting a bronze award application to submission to SFP, to highlight the range of initiatives which have been progressed on our council area.</p> <p>We are pleased to inform Committee that our application was successful and we are now one of only two councils currently holding this award recognition in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>The award reflects the commitment by Council to supporting a range of local groups who champion the benefits of community growing and education. Projects are largely volunteer led and small in scale. Our Sustainable Foods Officer has been in post for almost two years to network and support producers, growers, community and voluntary sector throughout the district.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To note Council's success in being awarded a SFP Bronze Award.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	N/A

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>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If no, please complete the following:</p>

	The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7.0	Appendices
8.0	Background Documents

Report to:	Sustainability and Environment
Date of Meeting:	22 November 2023
Subject:	Bridging The Gap Funding Application (Sustainable Food Places)
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Andrew Cassells, Director of Sustainability and Environment
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Brian Rankin, Head of Sustainability

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

For decision	For noting only	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	To note a recent 'Bridging the Gap' funding application relating to Sustainable Food Places (SFP) support for organic food producers (social farms) partnerships.
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>An update on the work of Council, relating to Sustainable Foods, was provided to Committee in September 2023, including the support provided by Sustainable Food Places (SFP).</p> <p>SFP are currently providing financial support to match fund our part time Sustainable Foods Officer for two years, to the end of 2023, to enhance Councils support for producers and growers alongside the community and voluntary sector who champion horticultural activities.</p> <p>From 2024, SFP funding will change priority to focus on community support for groups who champion sustainable living and particularly growing and selling organic produce.</p> <p>'Bridging The Gap' is a project which will explore ways to enable people on low incomes to access climate and nature friendly food.</p> <p>Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) have a community engagement team in Newcastle, who are currently exploring ways to support families and individuals living in social housing, with a particular focus on the Burrendale Estate (Castlewellan Road).</p> <p>Our Sustainable Foods Officer has provided support for an application involving a local collaboration between NIHE and The Ark Community Gardens in Newcastle. If the application is successful, the project would provide financial support for 80 – 100 families to purchase small weekly amounts of organic produce and provide workshops to educate on healthy cooking options with a focus on organic fruit and vegetables. Successful projects are expected to run on a pilot basis from February 2024 - December 2024.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<p>To note the recent support for the above 'Bridging the Gap' funding application.</p> <p>It is anticipated that successful applications will be announced in December 2023 and so Committee will be advised on the outcome of this application at the earliest opportunity.</p>

4.0	Resource implications
4.1	If successful there would be no financial cost to Council to support the 'Bridging The Gap' project.
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>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p>

	Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/>
	If no, please complete the following:
	The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7.0	Appendices
8.0	Background Documents

Report to:	Sustainability and Environment Committee
Date of Meeting:	22 nd November 2023
Subject:	Draft Biodiversity Strategy and associated Action Plan
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Andrew Cassells, Director Sustainability and Environment
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Brian Rankin, Head of Sustainability

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

For decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	To provide a draft copy of the new Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC), advise of the planned public consultation, and welcome feedback from elected representatives as part of the consultation process.
2.0	Key issues
	<p>The protection of the environment remains high on Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's agenda and we are committed to fulfilling our Statutory duty for biodiversity.</p> <p>The Active and Healthy Communities Committee previously agreed to the drafting of a new Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (AHC/194/2022) for the next 5 years.</p> <p>We have now proposed to move from a 5-year plan to instead take the plan to 2030. This is in line with the 30 by 30 target agreed at COP15 last year. This global target aims to protect 30% of the planet for nature by 2030. This timeline will also align with our future Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy.</p> <p>The newly drafted Biodiversity Strategy (Appendix 1) and Action Plan (Appendix 2) will focus conservation action mainly on our own estate, with opportunities for partnership working when funding and resources allow.</p> <p>The Biodiversity Strategy is a public facing document, which will be launched online and available for all to read. The Action Plan will be an internal, working document, that will ensure we work towards protecting and conserving biodiversity across the Council estate.</p> <p>Public consultation is intended to take place from 1st December 2023, through the NMD Speak service, where respondents will be asked to consider a number of set questions (with a copy of questions provided as Appendix 3). Public consultation was intended to last for 8 weeks, although this has been extended by 2 weeks to make allowance for the Christmas period.</p> <p>The draft strategy and action plan will be revised in light of any relevant feedback received through the consultation process and a final version will be brought back to Committee at the earliest opportunity for approval.</p>

3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<p>It is recommended that Members note the draft Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, along with the attached consultation questions, and the proposed public consultation.</p> <p>We would particularly welcome any further feedback from elected representatives as part of the public consultation process through the NMD Speak service, or alternatively any additional feedback can be sent to besustainable@nmandd.org.</p>
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	<p>As the strategy is intended to be a public facing document, there will be a financial cost for design works, which has been estimated at around £2,390, although this will vary based on final drafts and proposals. Available budget will need to be secured for this in 2024/25.</p> <p>Any future resource requests will be considered annually when required. External funding will also be applied for when available.</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>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Note that Equality screening was carried out on previous Local Biodiversity Action Plans and identified no adverse impact on equality. This will be reviewed following public consultation and in advance of a final draft being brought to Committee for approval.</i></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 checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p>

	<p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i> Equality screening was carried out on previous Local Biodiversity Action Plans and identified no adverse impact on equality of opportunity or good relations, therefore these documents were out for public consultation for 8 weeks. We have proposed to increase the consultation from 8 to 10 weeks to allow for the Christmas period.</p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If no, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Note that a Rural Needs Impact Assessment was completed for the most recent Local Biodiversity Action Plans. This will be updated as required for the new Biodiversity Strategy in advance of a final draft being brought to Committee for approval.</i></p>
7.0	Appendices
	<p>Appendix 1 - Draft Biodiversity Strategy</p> <p>Appendix 2 - Draft Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan</p> <p>Appendix 3 - Biodiversity Strategy Consultation Questions</p>
8.0	Background Documents
	<p>Public consultation will be available at NMD Speak (see https://speaknmd.commonplace.is/proposals/biodiversity-strategy-public-consultation/step1)</p>

Newry, Mourne and Down

District Council

Biodiversity Strategy

2024-2030



Comhairle Ceantair
**an Iúir, Mhúrn
agus an Dúin**

**Newry, Mourne
and Down**
District Council

Introduction

What is Biodiversity and why is it important?

Biodiversity is the web of life. It is the total variety of of all living plants and animals, and the habitats in which they live. Biodiversity is vital for our survival and we depend on it for the very basics of life. The Ecosystem services it provides include food, clean air and water, as well as timber and other materials. A healthy environment helps regulate climate change and supports soil formation, pollination and nutrient cycling. Areas managed for the benefit of biodiversity provide us with recreation which boosts our health and wellbeing.



Source: [Ecosystem.jpg \(700x687\) \(sustainablesolutionsllc.net\)](https://www.sustainablesolutionsllc.net)

Threats to Biodiversity

Biodiversity is in crisis, not just locally, but across the world. Species are disappearing faster now than ever before in human history. How we use the land and sea is one of the main driving forces behind the loss of our biodiversity.

Habitat loss and fragmentation

The loss and fragmentation of natural habitats is the greatest threat to biodiversity worldwide. For example, 97% of wildflower meadows were lost over a 50-year period in the UK as farming intensified and around 10,000km² of wetlands were drained in the 1970's (State of Nature Report 2019). Many species dependant on these habitats have declined as a result. An abundance indicator based on nine butterfly species has decreased by 43% since 2006 and an indicator of average abundance in 36 wintering waterbird species has declined by 24% over the past 10 years.



Fire in the Mournes (MHT)

Non-native invasive species, pests, and diseases

After habitat loss, non-native invasive species are the second biggest threat to biodiversity. Invasive species continue to be introduced to the UK and Ireland through accidental and deliberate releases, stowaways in imported goods or escapees from gardens and large estates. Around 12% of established non-native

species cause adverse economic, environmental, or societal impacts. Their spread is most likely being facilitated by climate change (State of Nature Report 2019). Key invasive species already affecting Newry, Mourne and Down District include Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam, giant hogweed, and grey squirrel, with potentially many more on the horizon.



Giant Hogweed

Pollution

The by-products of our everyday lives often become pollutants in the natural environment. Pollutants can take the form of plastic waste or litter, chemicals in water, soil or air, and even light and noise pollution. One of the most damaging forms of pollution is nutrient enrichment of sensitive habitats. Studies have shown the detrimental impact this can have on plant species across a wide range of habitats. Legislative controls have resulted in some progress towards reducing harmful emissions and there are some signs of recovery in fish stocks for example.



Flytipping

Climate change

Sometimes people think of climate change as a problem that exists elsewhere in the world. However, the effects of climate change can be seen across the UK and NI. Research indicates that climate change is affecting biodiversity at a faster rate than ever before. Certain habitats and species are more vulnerable than others, for example coastal habitats are showing the effects of sea level rises. Occurrences of extreme weather and flooding are also becoming more common, impacting humans and biodiversity. The State of Nature 2019 report found that populations of the UK's most important wildlife have fallen by 60% over the last 50 years. In February 2020 a Climate Emergency was declared by the Northern Ireland Assembly. Newry, Mourne and Down District Council had already declared a climate emergency in October 2019 and agreed to develop a Climate Adaptation Plan to cope better with the effects of climate change across the district.



The new Climate Change Act (NI) 2022 sets a target of at least 100% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) is required to produce 5-year Climate Action Plans (CAPs) to set out policies and proposals on how the emissions targets will be achieved.

CAPs must include annual greenhouse gas emissions targets as well as air quality, soil quality and biodiversity targets.

DAERA has drafted a Green Growth Strategy, which sets out an ambitious vision and a framework for tackling the climate crisis.

Legislation and Policy

Biodiversity: It's Our Duty

The principle piece of legislation for the conservation and protection of wildlife in Northern Ireland is the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern-Ireland) 2011 (WANE). The WANE Act replaced the Wildlife Order (NI) 1985 and brought with it a statutory duty for biodiversity for all public bodies.

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

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council are working to embed biodiversity across all relevant operations, ensuring that we play our role in enhancing biodiversity through our everyday functions. With the development of this Biodiversity Strategy, the Council aim to provide leadership and best practice examples for others. To guide our work over the coming years we will focus on the five key areas of the duty;

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

Links to other Strategies, policies, and plans

This Biodiversity Strategy considers a range of national, regional, and local policies and plans to ensure it does not sit in isolation. The key commitments are outlined below.

International

COP15 – Governments from around the world met at the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in December 2022 in Montreal, Canada. Here they agreed on a new set of goals to guide action through to 2030 on nature across the world. The Global Biodiversity Framework adopted at COP15 aims to ensure that nature's ecosystem services are valued, maintained, and enhanced. And by 2050, the shared vision of living in harmony with nature is fulfilled.

COP27 – The 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Egypt agreed further actions to support the implementation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol, and the Paris Agreement.

The five key takeaways from the conference were;

Establishing a dedicated fund for loss and damage – a breakthrough agreement was reached to provide funding for vulnerable countries affected by floods, droughts, and other climate disasters.

A clear intention to keep 1.5°C warming within reach – Greenhouse gas emissions need to peak before 2025 at the latest and be reduced by 43% by 2030. The world is currently off target for this goal.

Holding businesses and institutions to account – ensuring commitments made by sectors, businesses and institutions are delivered on.

More financial support for developing countries – finance is needed to undertake mitigation and adaptation to combat climate change.

Making the change towards implementation – climate pledges need to be turned into action!

National

EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 – is a comprehensive and long-term plan to protect nature and reverse the degradation of ecosystems. The strategy aims to assist with the recovery of Europe's biodiversity by 2030.



Source: [The European Commission Adopts EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030](#) > Resource Library | SWITCH-Asia

Nature Positive 2030 report

In order for the UK to meet its 30 by 30 commitments set out in the Global Biodiversity Framework, its five statutory nature conservation bodies came together to produce the Nature Positive 2030 report. The report looks at best practice across the UK and presents solutions that can be scaled up to achieve change.



Regional

Biodiversity Strategy for NI (pending)

The Biodiversity Strategy for NI to 2020 has been reviewed and consultation has begun on a new Strategy. It is hoped that the Strategy will be out for public consultation by the end of 2023.

The Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022

The Climate Change Act (NI) 2022 sets a target of at least 100% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) is required to produce 5-year Climate Action Plans (CAPs) to set out policies and proposals on how the emissions targets will be achieved.

CAPs must include annual greenhouse gas emissions targets as well as air quality, soil quality and biodiversity targets.

Green Growth Strategy

The draft Green Growth Strategy is the Northern Ireland Executive's multi-decade strategy to 2050, balancing climate, environment, and the economy in Northern Ireland. It sets out the long-term vision for tackling the climate crisis in the right way.



Local plans

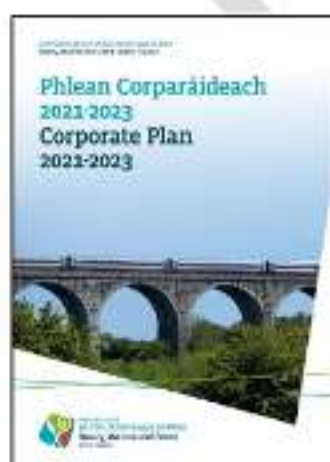
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council recognises the importance of a healthy environment, rich in biodiversity. This is evidenced by the role that biodiversity plays across many of our Council plans.

Corporate Plan 2021-2023

Our mission as a council is:

"To support and advocate for a welcoming district which is progressive, healthy and sustainable, providing better economic, environmental and social outcomes for all".

Of the eight strategic outcomes listed in the corporate plan, those specific to the environment are:



2. Continue to improve the health and wellbeing of everyone in the district and reduce health inequalities.
3. Enhance, protect and promote our environment.
4. Support sustainable forms of tourism which value our environment and cultural heritage.

Living Well Together – A community plan for Newry, Mourne and Down to 2030

The first community plan for Newry, Mourne and Down district describes a vision of

"a place with strong, safe and vibrant communities where everyone has a good quality of life and access to opportunities, choices and high-quality services which are sustainable, accessible and meet people's needs".



The positive outcomes of the community plan relevant to the environment include;

- All people in Newry, Mourne and Down enjoy good health and wellbeing.
- All people in Newry, Mourne and Down benefit from a clean, quality, and sustainable environment.

Performance Improvement Plan 2023-2024

The Council's performance improvement objectives aim to enhance the sustainable quality of life for ratepayers and local communities.

Objectives with relevance to the Biodiversity Strategy are;

1. We will support the health and wellbeing of local people by improving our leisure facilities and services.
3. We will improve the cleanliness of our district by addressing littering, fly tipping and dog fouling incidents.
4. We will improve our sustainability and reduce our impacts in relation to climate change.

Local Development Plan

Newry, Mourne and Down district council has commenced work on a Local Development Plan (LDP) which will support economic and social needs in the district in line with regional strategies and policies, while providing the delivery of sustainable development. The rich and diverse natural environment within the district plays a vital role as a tourist attraction and contributes towards economic development. The objectives and policies of the LDP when finalised, will seek to protect, conserve, and enhance our environment.

Local Climate Adaptation Plan

Climate change is the long-term shift in average weather patterns across the world and is arguably the most serious threat we face today to our way of life. Newry, Mourne and Down District Council declared a climate emergency in October 2019. A Climate Change Symposium 'Our Climate – Our Challenge' was held on 12 March 2020 at Killeavy Castle. This high-profile event brought together a range of internationally renowned expert speakers as well as councils and community organisations from across the UK and Ireland who have demonstrated best practice in dealing with climate change and who have achieved practical solutions and carbon reductions on the ground. Leading on from this, council agreed to develop a local climate adaptation plan to mitigate the impacts their operations have on the climate. Working with Climate NI, the process is led by a Cross-Departmental Officer Working Group. The plan will include positive action to reduce our impacts on climate change (Mitigation) and increase our resilience to deal with its impacts (Adaptation).



Speakers at the Climate Change Symposium

In addition to the aforementioned documents, the Biodiversity Strategy will also compliment several other action plans and strategies (many of which are currently being drafted). These include the Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy, Open Spaces Strategy, Ring of Gullion AONB Management Plan, the Strangford Lough and Lecale AONB Management Plan, the Mourne AONB Management Plan, The Mourne, Gullion and Strangford UNESCO Global Geopark Plan, Marine Protected Area Management Plans for Carlingford Lough, Murlough and Strangford Lough, and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Tree Strategy.

Moving forward with action for Biodiversity

The Biodiversity Strategy and associated Action Plan will guide the protection and enhancement of biodiversity across Newry, Mourne and Down District over the next 7 years to 2030. The realistic, achievable plan will focus mainly on Council managed estate, but opportunities for partnership working will be explored and developed.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council manage a diverse range of green space across the district. Mapping of Council maintained areas is still being carried out, as more areas are added to the Council register. Managed assets include forest parks, coastal areas, play and amenity areas, graveyards, playing fields, rights of way and many buildings, structures, and monuments. Green spaces and open areas are places in which biodiversity can thrive, if managed appropriately. Managing our green spaces for biodiversity will increase their ability to capture and store carbon. They also provide recreation for people and offer health benefits associated with connecting with nature.

This Biodiversity Strategy will continue with the aims of our previous Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs), which are:

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

To ensure Council meets our biodiversity commitments and delivers on the biodiversity duty, we will focus action on 5 key themes. These over-arching themes will allow for biodiversity management options to be implemented across a range of habitat types.

The themes will be:

Trees and woodland

Pollinators and other invertebrates

Invasive Alien Species

Raising awareness and education

Working with partners

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Trees and woodland

Trees and woodlands are some of our most valuable natural assets. Not only do they provide us with the air that we breathe, but they are also home to many species of plants and animals, some of which are threatened or vulnerable. Other ecosystem services of trees include carbon sequestration, flood alleviation, soil stability, natural play areas and many more.

Our trees and woodlands face a challenging combination of pressures, including:

- Climate change
- Inappropriate development
- Pollution
- Attack from deadly tree disease and pests

"Northern Ireland ranks badly as one of the least-wooded regions in Europe, with just 8.7% woodland cover compared with the European average of 37%. In addition, almost 60% of our woodland is in the form of recent conifer plantations."
(Woodland Trust, 2021)

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council understand the importance of planting native trees and hedgerows. They are vital in tackling climate change and reducing biodiversity loss, acting as homes and natural corridors for wildlife. The Council are currently finalising a Tree Strategy for the district, which aims to direct future woodland planting and management. Newry, Mourne and Down has only 5.58% woodland cover. The tree strategy aims to increase woodland cover across the district in line with the 13% by 2030 target. Council is aware of the importance of conserving and protecting existing old, large trees. Where these trees need to be replaced, Council will replant larger, standard varieties where possible.

Planting Schemes

The council will continue to work in partnership with businesses, community groups and schools to plant native trees and hedgerows within Newry, Mourne and Down. Ring of Gullion AONB, recently joined by Strangford Lough and Lecale AONB, have done a yearly give away of at least 10,000 free trees for biodiversity since 2015. Another project saw Newry, Mourne and Down Council work with ABP Newry to plant 2000 native trees across the district as part of the food group's environmental targets.

Pilot at Islands Park

Following a climate symposium held in March 2020, the Council began development of a Climate Adaptation Plan to help mitigate the effects of climate change within the district. It was decided that Council would use Islands Park in Newcastle to demonstrate best practice techniques and to showcase interventions to mitigate and adapt to Climate Change. The project will see better management of habitats including wildflower meadows, community orchards, managed wetlands, 'wilding' areas and native tree planting to help mitigate against the effects of our changing climate. A Shimna River flood alleviation scheme has also been extended into the park by the Department for Infrastructure. This project will provide enhanced flood protection for homes and businesses in the Newcastle area. Interpretation panels will be used to explain the threats of climate change on the area and inspire people to take action.

Native Tree Nursery at Castlewellan

Building on from the success of the volunteer run native tree nursery at Tí Chulainn in Mullaghbane, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council have relocated the nursery to Castlewellan Forest Park, where a permanent member of staff will be there to lead the project. The Council will continue to work with volunteers to collect, plant and nurture native trees to distribute locally for planting.

Ash Dieback

Ash dieback is a disease caused by a fungus called *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*. It causes ash trees to lose their leaves and eventually die. It is now widespread across the UK and Ireland and will kill up to 80% of ash trees, changing the landscape forever and costing an estimated £15 billion to manage (Woodland Trust). The loss of ash trees from our landscape will have a devastating impact on the biodiversity of our woodlands, as well as a major loss in connections between habitats as we lose hedges and individual trees outside of woods. Newry, Mourne and Down Council will continue to monitor ash trees on land we manage for disease and potential health and safety implications.

Pollinators and other invertebrates

It is almost impossible to over-emphasise the important role that pollinators and other invertebrates play in nature. Ecosystem services include pollination, aerating and creating soil, cleaning the environment and water, natural pest control, and acting as food for other species.

All Ireland Pollinator Plan (AIPP)

Pollinators play an important role in our environment and include species such as bumblebees, solitary bees, hoverflies and other insects.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council are formal partners of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (AIPP). The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan for 2021-2025 is a five-year road map that aims to help bees, other pollinating insects, and our wider biodiversity.

Insects are pollinators of 80% of all plant species in Europe, including most fruits, many vegetables, and some biofuel crops (DEFRA). In Ireland, the pollination services provided for 'free' by wild pollinators have an estimated value of €900 million to the Irish economy (EPA, research 291). In the UK (and globally) £690 million of crops are pollinated annually by bees, moths, butterflies, hoverflies, flies and beetles (The Wildlife Trusts).

Rewilding Newry, Mourne and Down

Newry Mourne and Down District Council began a new initiative in 2020 to 're-wild' areas across the district. This project involves improving Council owned greenspaces for wildlife by either changing the grass mowing regime or through planting native wildflowers, shrubs and trees.

By leaving areas of grass uncut, plants already present in the soil have the chance to grow and bloom, providing food and shelter for important pollinators and other wildlife. This method has been carried out in some of our larger parks such as Kilbroney Park in Rostrevor and Islands Park in Newcastle.

Council has also planted native wildflowers in areas, which are not only beneficial for the environment but also provide a wonderful display of colours, smells and the sound of buzzing insects feeding on them. The Council was awarded funding from the Environment Fund to purchase a new grillo mower which will help to manage these wildflower meadows more effectively in the future.



Strangford Road, Downpatrick

Newry, Mourne and Down district council has been working with DfI Roads to plant native wildflowers at suitable roadside verges across the district. These sites will become part of our rewilding sites and we aim to continue to work in partnership to deliver action for pollinators and other invertebrates.

Invasive Alien Species

Invasive alien species are defined as non-native animals, plants, or pathogens whose introduction or spread has been caused by human activity. In some cases, invasive species arrive here accidentally, on our vehicles or belongings, but in many cases, they have been intentionally introduced, as plants in our gardens, or as pets.

Invasive species pose a significant threat to our native wildlife and the functioning of our ecosystems. The estimated annual cost of invasive species to the economies of Ireland and Northern Ireland is over €261 million euro (Kelly *et al.*, 2013 report).

Legislation

The Wildlife Order (NI) 1985 requires all landowners to prevent the spread of key Invasive Alien species on their land. Article 15 of this legislation states it is an offence to introduce, grow in the wild, allow to escape into the wild, any species of plant listed under Schedule 9, part II of the order. Listed species include Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam and Giant Hogweed.

The Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, introduced new provisions and amended the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 to reflect the increasing significance of protecting Northern Ireland's biodiversity.

The Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order (NI) 2019 brought further sanctions for the introduction and control of Invasive Alien Species. A list of 66 Widely Spread Species of Union Concern is included within the Order, which landowners are legally obliged to put management measures in place for. Species listed include grey squirrels and giant hogweed. More information on each species and their distribution can be found on the Invasive Species Northern Ireland website <https://invasivespeciesni.co.uk/>

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council have surveyed and mapped Invasive Alien Species on our managed estate using GIS to assist with ongoing management and

eradication. A full survey of Invasive Species in the Ring of Gullion AONB was carried out by INVAS Biosecurity in 2016 and an action plan is currently being delivered. The Woodland Trust surveyed Delamont on behalf of Council in 2021 and produced a woodland restoration management plan, which includes the removal of invasive rhododendron and cherry laurel. The Council have also liaised with DfI Roads service and collated their invasive species records across the district to form a better picture of problem areas. Newry, Mourne and Down District Council will continue to eradicate and control invasive alien species across our managed estate with the aim of reducing their impact on our native biodiversity.

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Raising awareness and education

Raising awareness of the importance of biodiversity and a healthy environment both internally within Council and externally among schools and the local community is a key element of the Biodiversity Strategy.

When people connect with nature and understand the role it plays in improving our health and wellbeing, they are more inclined to want to protect it.

Biodiversity Education at Schools

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council delivers biodiversity education to local schools through the Council Biodiversity Officer and the Ring of Gullion and Strangford and Lecale AONBs team.

Eco-schools programme

Every school in Newry, Mourne and Down Council area is registered with the Eco-school's programme. The programme, coordinated by Keep NI Beautiful, provides an ideal way for fostering environmental awareness in the entire school, linking to many curriculum subjects. The primary aim of the Eco-Schools programme is to educate and empower young people to make positive decisions and become change makers for an environmentally sustainable world.

The Council provides support to schools, on request, when undertaking action for topics under the Eco-schools programme. There are eleven Eco-schools' topics, one of which is Biodiversity. Other relevant topics include climate action and outdoor learning.



Educating the public on biodiversity issues

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council use interpretation panels, information leaflets, workshops and training days to educate members of the public and relevant stakeholders about key environmental issues.

WiSe Training Scheme

WiSe is the UK's national training scheme for minimising disturbance to marine wildlife. The waters around our district are home to a fantastic variety of marine wildlife, whether visible from the shore or from a boat. However, these wild animals are vulnerable to disturbance if not encountered in a wildlife safe way. Strangford and Lecale AONB staff coordinate WiSe training days for relevant stakeholders, including boat operators and recreational users of the lough and our marine and coastal habitats.

Events and Awareness Raising

The Council runs a series of biodiversity and environmental themed events throughout the year hosted by the Biodiversity Officer, Ring of Gullion and Strangford and Lecale AONB teams, as well as the tourism department.

Events include big butterfly counts, bat walks, coastal activities, and red squirrel days. Other 'citizen science' events, where members of the public undertake scientific work, are organised in partnership with professional scientists and organisations such as CEDaR (Centre for Environmental Data and Recording).

Training members of the public in species ID and recording is a vital tool in monitoring populations and deciding on whether action is needed to recover or control the species.

R: Looking at species under the microscope at the Bioblitz.





L: A group of local school children at the Castlewellan Bioblitz held in 2019 in partnership with CEDaR.

Promoting Biodiversity

Biodiversity is promoted through the Council website, eLearning platform, internal council newsletters and emails. Press releases and social media channels are used to highlight specific events as and when they occur.



The use of interpretation panels and signage to raise awareness of a particular project, habitat, or species, is another vital tool in educating the public about biodiversity.



Examples of signage used for various projects.

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Working with Partners

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council have worked in partnership with other stakeholders to implement biodiversity action since the LBAP process began in 2007. A biodiversity steering group consisting of representatives from governmental departments, environmental organisations, and local community groups, led the development and implementation of LBAPs within the council area.

Partnership working with other councils North and South of the border has allowed a more landscape scale approach to biodiversity action. Newry, Mourne and Down District Council have acted as the lead partner on large Interreg funded, cross border projects such as 'Action for Biodiversity' and 'CANN'. These projects have delivered significant outcomes for biodiversity, protecting priority habitats such as peatlands and wetlands.



Newry, Mourne and Down District Council representatives at the CANN closing conference.

Other Heritage Lottery Funded (HLF) projects such as 'Biodiversity Games' and 'Bee-licious' have also achieved targets for biodiversity recording and pollinators and highlighted the benefits of partnership working.



A bat recording event organised through the Biodiversity Games project.



Native wildflower planting carried out as part of the Beelicious project.

The Ring of Gullion and Strangford and Lecale AONB management plans also work in partnership with a variety of organisations and stakeholders to protect and conserve the important habitats and species present within them.

UNESCO Global Geopark

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council has established a UNESCO Global Geopark. The Mourne Gullion Strangford UNESCO Global Geopark (UGGp) land boundary follows the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council administrative boundary. The marine part of the UGGp encompasses the Marine Protected Areas (MPA) bordering the land part of the UGGp: Murlough Bay MPA, Strangford Lough MPA and Carlingford Lough MPA. The UNESCO Global Geopark brand will use the shared geological heritage of the three areas as a mechanism for sustainable tourism; generating economic benefits, providing recreational opportunities and increasing awareness of the natural capital of the entire area.



Newry, Mourne and Down District Council will continue to work in partnership with other organisations and groups to promote, protect and improve biodiversity within the district.

Monitoring and Reporting

Monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy and associated Action Plan is extremely important.

Newry, Mourne and Down Council recognises the need for adapting to changes in the wider strategic and legislative environment relating to biodiversity. The Action Plan will be reviewed and updated as appropriate in response to new strategies and legislation developed.

Performance outcomes including numbers of native trees planted and hectares of species rich meadow created and maintained will be reported on annually, both internally and externally to relevant stakeholders. Council will also review the resources required to deliver on our actions annually and seek external funding and support when required. Actions will also be updated as and when additional partnership and funding opportunities arise.

NMDDC Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan 2024-2030

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

Background

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council are working to embed biodiversity across all relevant operations, ensuring that we play our role in enhancing biodiversity through our everyday functions. With the development of this Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan, the Council aim to provide leadership and best practice examples for others. To guide our work over the coming years we will focus on the five key areas of the biodiversity duty;

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

The Biodiversity Strategy will guide the protection and enhancement of biodiversity across Newry, Mourne and Down District over the next 5 years. The realistic, achievable plan will focus mainly on Council managed estate, but opportunities for partnership working will be explored and developed.

To ensure Council meets our biodiversity commitments and delivers on the biodiversity duty, we will focus action on 5 key themes. These over-arching themes will allow for biodiversity management options to be implemented across a range of habitat types. The themes will be:

Trees and woodland

Pollinators and other invertebrates

Invasive Alien Species

Raising awareness and education

Working with partners

Trees and Woodland

Ref Number	Action/Target	Who	When	Status	Performance Measure
1.1	Finalise Tree Strategy, which includes a plan of action to increase tree cover across the district in line with the 13% by 2030 target	Grounds Maintenance Manager	September 2023	Ongoing – being brought to committee in September	Final Tree Strategy ratified by Council
	Implement actions in Tree Strategy, including; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement of old, diseased trees, and sustainable tree planting projects, ensuring a minimum of 90% native species are used. • Work with local community groups, businesses and other stakeholders on creation of new woodlands across the district. • Continue with annual public tree giveaway coordinated by the AONBs and Geopark staff. • Development of a tree nursery in Castlewellan Forest Park, growing local provenance species. 	Grounds Maintenance Staff	Ongoing		<p># of trees planted (including % native and biodiversity friendly).</p> <p># of trees planted on community and public land with support from NMDDC.</p> <p># of local provenance trees grown in the tree nursery and used for planting</p>
		Grounds Maintenance staff, AONB/Geopark staff, DEA Coordinators, Biodiversity Officer, MHT and others.	Applications open Nov 2024, planting in Feb/Mar 2025	Funding dependent	
			2023		

Trees and Woodland				
Ref Number	Action/Target	Who	When	Status
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue working on a heritage tree project with partners across Ireland. 	<p>Grounds Maintenance staff</p>		<p>schemes across the district.</p> <p># of heritage trees planted</p>
1.2	<p>Manage existing Council woodland sites for biodiversity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before carrying out any ground works or tree felling, make sure to survey the area for protected species e.g. badgers, bats etc Erect and maintain bat boxes in suitable woodland/parkland sites, near rivers, canals and other water bodies. Extend the 'rewilding initiative' into suitable parkland/woodland sites to 	<p>Maintenance staff, Biodiversity Officer, AONB/Geopark Staff</p>	Ongoing	<p>Record of survey/checks completed.</p> <p># of bat boxes erected.</p> <p># and area of meadows created and managed.</p>

Trees and Woodland					
Ref Number	Action/Target	Who	When	Status	Performance Measure
	improve the habitat for pollinators and other invertebrates.				
1.3	Continue with removal of invasive species from Council owned/managed woodlands to allow regeneration of native woodland flora.	Grounds Maintenance Staff	Annually	Ongoing	Annual management programme completed
1.4	Finalise Local Climate Adaptation Plan, which will include targets to increase woodland cover across the district.	Sustainability Officer	March 2024	Ongoing	Published Climate Adaptation Plan.
1.5	Develop a native planting leaflet, to be included into the receipt at application stage of new builds to encourage residents to plant native trees and hedges	Biodiversity Officer, Building Control staff	Ongoing	Ongoing	# of leaflets posted out to applicants.

Pollinators and other Invertebrates

Ref Number	Action/Target	Who	When	Status	Performance Measure
2.1	Continue as an official partner of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (AIPP) by promoting their messages and improving Council owned greenspace for pollinators.	Biodiversity Officer, Grounds Maintenance Staff	Yearly	Ongoing	Actions reported annually to AIPP.
2.2	Continue to roll out the 'rewilding initiative' across the district with the aim of increasing species-rich meadow habitat (ensuring seeds used are native and of local provenance).	Grounds Maintenance Staff, Biodiversity Officer, AONB/Geopark Staff	Ongoing	Ongoing	# and area of rewilding sites created and managed for pollinators.
2.3	Reduce the frequency of amenity grassland cutting per year at selected sites, particularly during No Mow May (Use signage to raise awareness that area is being managed for pollinators).	Grounds Maintenance Staff, MHT	2024		# and area of sites where reduced mowing has been implemented.
2.4	Work in partnership with DfI to manage key roadside verges for pollinators	Grounds Maintenance Staff, Biodiversity Officer, DfI	Ongoing	Ongoing	# and area of roadside verges managed.

Pollinators and other Invertebrates

Ref Number	Action/Target	Who	When	Status	Performance Measure
2.5	Reduce and phase out the use of Peat on Council owned land by 2025 in line with the NI Peatland Strategy.	Grounds Maintenance Staff	Annually	Ongoing	Peat usage phased out by 2025.
2.6	Reduce the quantity of pesticides used on Council managed land. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and declare pesticide free zones (protected and natural habitat sites etc.) 	Grounds Maintenance Staff	Ongoing	Ongoing	% reduction from baseline taken in 2019. # and area of sites that are pesticide free.
2.7	Participate in and promote citizen science pollinator recording schemes e.g., Big Butterfly Count, Flower-Insect Timed Count, Bumblebee recording scheme.	Biodiversity Officer, AONB/Geopark Staff	Annually	Ongoing	# of schemes participated in and promoted annually.

Invasive Alien Species					
Ref Number	Action/Target	Who	When	Status	Performance Measure
3.1	Continue with removal of known invasive alien plant species from Council owned/managed sites.	Grounds Maintenance Staff, AONB/Geopark staff, Biodiversity Officer	Annually	Ongoing	Control programme completed annually.
3.2	Provide invasive species identification, control, and management training to relevant Council staff. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to record/map invasives on Council owned land 	Biodiversity Officer, NIEA, Grounds Maintenance Staff, Capital projects staff, GIS Officer	Biennially	Ongoing	# of staff trained.
3.3	Ensure Council fulfil their requirements under the Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order NI 2019 e.g. control of grey squirrels and reporting to NIEA.	Grounds Maintenance Staff, Biodiversity Officer, Local red squirrel groups.	2024 onwards	Setting up partnerships with Local Red Squirrel Groups and Ulster Wildlife.	# of culled greys recorded.
3.4	Highlight invasive species week in May every year, focussing on the themes chosen for that year.	Biodiversity Officer, Marketing	Annually	Ongoing	# Social media posts and PR.
3.5	Continue to provide advice to members of the public on invasive species and their control.	Biodiversity Officer	Ongoing	Ongoing	# Requests for information on Tascomi.

Raising Awareness and Education

Ref Number	Action/Target	Who	When	Status	Performance Measure
4.1	Organise an annual programme of Council led Biodiversity related events.	Biodiversity Officer, AONB and Geopark staff, Tourism staff	Yearly	Ongoing	# of biodiversity related events held annually.
4.2	Encourage participation in nationwide citizen science wildlife projects and engage the public in biodiversity recording and awareness e.g. Big garden birdwatch, Big butterfly count etc.	Biodiversity Officer, AONB/Geopark Staff	Annually	Ongoing	# of citizen science schemes promoted through events and social media.
4.3	Educate the public and relevant stakeholders about wildlife disturbance through use of interpretation panels, leaflets and training workshops e.g. WfSe scheme	AONB/Geopark staff, Biodiversity Officer	Annually	Ongoing	# attending training workshops
4.4	Continue to provide biodiversity educational visits/workshops to schools on request as part of their Eco-schools programme.	Biodiversity Officer	Ongoing	Ongoing	# of school site visits and workshops carried out.
4.5	Continue to inform the public where land is being managed for biodiversity using	Biodiversity Officer, Grounds Maintenance Staff, Marketing	Ongoing	Ongoing	# of signs and PR.

Raising Awareness and Education					
Ref Number	Action/Target	Who	When	Status	Performance Measure
	interpretive signs, social media, and press releases.				
4.6	Raise awareness of biodiversity and relevant priority habitats and species both internally among staff and externally through newsletters, social media, PR and events e.g. Red squirrel conservation, bats and development, red kites, peatlands etc	Biodiversity Officer, AONB/Geopark staff	Ongoing	Ongoing	# of social media posts, PR and newsletter articles.
4.7	Encourage the public to get involved in practical activities and habitat restoration projects to increase the numbers of our priority species.	Biodiversity Officer, AONB/Geopark staff, Tourism staff	Ongoing	Ongoing	# of volunteers annually.
	Recruit a Volunteer and Outreach Officer as part of the Geopark to coordinate a conservation volunteer programme.		2024		

Working with Partners					
Ref Number	Action/Target	Who	When	Status	Performance Measure
5.1	Continue to provide funding through the Local Biodiversity Enhancement Fund for community groups/schools to deliver local conservation projects.	Programmes Unit, Biodiversity Officer	Annually	Ongoing	# of groups funded annually.
5.2	Continue to work in partnership with DfI to manage key roadside verges and roll out the 'rewilding' initiative across the district	Grounds Maintenance Staff, Biodiversity Officer, DfI	Yearly	Ongoing	# and area of roadside verges managed.
5.3	Engage with and support partnerships between Council and other landowners/businesses to increase the extent of land managed for biodiversity across the district.	Biodiversity Officer, Grounds Maintenance Staff, AONB/Geopark staff	Ongoing	Ongoing	# of partnerships created.
5.4	Continue to work with relevant stakeholders and partners to manage our coastal and marine sites for biodiversity.	AONB/Geopark staff, Grounds Maintenance staff, Biodiversity Officer	Ongoing	Ongoing	
	Two new Marine (MPA) Officers to be recruited as part of the Geopark to deliver the Marine Protected Areas Action Plans.		2024		MPA Action plans implemented

Working with Partners					
Ref Number	Action/Target	Who	When	Status	Performance Measure
	Continue to support and assist local community groups and stakeholders with dune restoration projects across Council managed sites e.g. Kildief, Tyrella		Ongoing		# of projects funded/supported
5.5	Work in partnership with relevant statutory bodies, NGO's and local groups to support the conservation of priority species e.g. badgers, bats, red squirrels, red kites etc	Biodiversity Officer, AONB/Geopark staff, NGO's	Ongoing	Ongoing	Evidence in annual report.

Public Consultation on the Biodiversity Strategy for 2024-2030

The Biodiversity Strategy continues with the aims of our previous Local Biodiversity Action Plans;

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

1. Please tell us how important protecting biodiversity is to you.

- Extremely important
- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not so important
- Not at all important

2. Do you agree with the 3 aims of this Strategy?

- Yes
- No

If you disagree with the proposed aims of the Biodiversity Strategy, please tell us why:

3. Are there any additional aims you feel should be included within the Strategy?

- Yes
 No

If yes, please provide details here:

4. Theme 1: Trees and Woodland

The Strategy identifies Trees and Woodland as a key theme. Do you agree with the proposed approach within the strategy for this theme?

- Yes
 No

If you disagree, please provide specific details here:

5. Are there any other actions which you feel should be included for Trees and Woodlands?

- Yes
 No

If yes, please provide details here:

6. Theme 2: Pollinators and other invertebrates

The Strategy identifies Pollinators and other invertebrates as a key theme. Do you agree with the proposed approach within the strategy for this theme?

- Yes
 No

If you disagree, please provide specific details here:

7. Are there any other actions which you feel should be included for Pollinators and other invertebrates?

- Yes
 No

If yes, please provide details here:

8. Theme 3: Invasive Alien Species

The Strategy identifies Invasive Alien Species as a key theme. Do you agree with the proposed approach within the strategy for this theme?

- Yes
 No

If you disagree, please provide specific details here:

9. Are there any other actions which you feel should be included for Invasive Alien Species?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details here:

10. Theme 4: Raising awareness and Education

The Strategy identifies Raising awareness and Education as a key theme. Do you agree with the proposed approach within the strategy for this theme?

Yes

No

If you disagree, please provide specific details here:

11. Are there any other actions which you feel should be included for Raising awareness and Education?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details here:

12. Theme 5: Working with Partners

The Strategy identifies Working with Partners as a key theme. Do you agree with the proposed approach within the strategy for this theme?

Yes

No

If you disagree, please provide specific details here:

13. Are there any other actions which you feel should be included for Working with Partners?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details here:

14. If you have any other comments to make about the Strategy, please tell us here:

ITEM 3
ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE
Virtual Meeting No 81
MINUTES
Thursday 28 September 2023

Members Present:

Councillor M Goodman (<i>Chair</i>)	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
Councillor E McLaughlin	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
Councillor A Cathcart	Ards & North Down Borough Council
Councillor J Cochrane	Ards & North Down Borough Council
Councillor P Kennedy	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Councillor A Givan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Alderman S Skillen	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:

Alderman P Michael	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
Councillor C Blaney	Ards & North Down Borough Council
Councillor T Kelly	Belfast City Council
Councillor E McDonough-Brown	Belfast City Council
Councillor B Smyth	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
J Green	arc21
K Boal	arc21
B McKeown	arc21
M Lavery	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
D Lindsay	Ards & North Down Borough Council
N Martin	Ards & North Down Borough Council
B Murray	Belfast City Council
N O'Malley	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
P Thompson	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
J Knox	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
A Cassells	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

Officers' Apologies:

C Matthews	Belfast City Council
R Harvey	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Item 1 - Conflicts of Interest Statement

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

The Chair reported that there were still a number of outstanding Declaration of Interests forms, and reminded Members to complete and return to Ms Campbell as a matter of urgency. This was also discussed later in the meeting.

Action: JC Members

Item 2 - Apologies

Apologies were noted.

Action: Noted

Item 3 - Minutes of Joint Committee Meeting 080 held on 31 August 2023

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

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 Givan and seconded by Councillor McLaughlin.

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 four matters discussed.

Item 5 - Minutes of Joint Committee Meeting 080 held on 31 August 2023 "*In Committee*" - approved.

Item 6 - Matters Arising - noted.

Item 7 - Residual Waste Treatment Project - noted.

Item 8 - Commercially Sensitive Contract & Procurement Issues - noted.

OUT OF COMMITTEE

Proposed by Councillor Givan and seconded by Councillor Kennedy.

Item 9 - Contracts & Operations Briefing Report

Ms Boal provided a report on the high-level performance statistics for August.

Service Status

She reported that all services were operational during the month of August 2023. She noted that Natural World Products Ltd (NWP) put contingency measures in place for a half day as they were tarmacking the access road to the Antrim Transfer Station, but advance notice was received and alternative arrangements advised.

Performance

She reported that there were some reporting issues from one contract which arc21 staff were working with the contractors to address.

She advised that a lot of work was being done in regard to the overweight vehicles relating to the haulage contracts, and council officers have been asked to review the data provided to them and to seek to reduce the numbers.

In terms of the bring bank sites, she reported that there were only a couple which did not have the specified capacity available. The contractors were notified and these banks were subsequently serviced as soon as possible. There were no Service Credits applied this month.

Odour Complaints

Cottonmount Landfill

Ms Boal provided an update on the odour complaints allegedly related to the landfill site at Cottonmount and advised that arc21 officers had held various meetings with Biffa to review the situation.

She included some of the comments on the daily inspections carried out by Biffa for information and the work they were doing to manage operations, including frequent installation of gas capture infrastructure and temporary capping to assist with the management of landfill gas.

She reported that Biffa had confirmed they had not detected odours off-site in the majority of the locations that the NIEA had reported receiving complaints from. She noted that NIEA had been conducting visits to the site but had advised arc21 that they had not detected an issue.

She advised that this was a live issue and that Biffa intend to write to Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council (ANBC) offering Members a site visit.

It was also proposed that should Members wish to visit the landfill site, arc21 were happy to arrange and they should contact Ms Campbell to register their interest.

Action: JC Members

Warren Point Harbour – RDF Storage Point

Ms Boal also reported on the recent media reports in relation to a smell purportedly coming from the RDF bales stored at Warrenpoint Harbour. She reported that this site is used in the recently awarded ReGen residual waste treatment contract for Belfast City Council (BCC). The contractor treats residual waste and prepares it for export via this port.

She advised that no mal-odours were recognised when NIEA visited the site on 5 September but arc21 officers are actively monitoring the situation with ReGen and undertaking frequent site visits.

It was also proposed that should Members wish to visit the site, arc21 were happy to arrange a site visit and they should contact Ms Campbell to register their interest.

Action: Noted

In relation to the landfill site, the Chair inquired if Biffa were disputing the odour complaints. Ms Boal advised that they weren't, but that some of the complaints had been difficult to investigate due to the time delay from receipt of the complaints and their investigation, but that they [Biffa] openly acknowledged them and they were looking into all the complaints. She noted, however, that when they are doing capping work or fitting new gas valves etc this may temporarily cause smells, and they want to address the complaints more promptly and would like to liaise more closely with ANBC. As above, they are happy for Members to visit the site.

The Chair said that his understanding was that it was not localised to one small area and that odours were arising from several potential locations and were causing ongoing concern in the area. Councillor McLaughlin said that these were being noticed as far as the Hightown Road and seemed to be being experienced several times a week.

Ms Boal advised that they [Biffa] were seeking to be proactive and intended to issue an invitation to visit the site to all the ANBC Councillors.

The Chair commented that this had been an ongoing for a number of years and had been a significant cause for concern.

Ms Boal advised that the facility is an operational landfill site and, as it is disposing of waste, there is a risk that it will never be completely odour free. This was amongst the reasons why arc21 are seeking to move up the hierarchy by developing new infrastructure. In relation to this site, she advised that the NIEA intend to be more proactive in terms of giving Biffa the information as quickly as possible in order for them to consider how best to address.

Mr Walker reiterated the offer to Members to visit the facilities to get an understanding of the scale and scope of what arc21 is dealing with, and requested that anyone wishing to visit the sites should advise arc21 accordingly.

Action: JC Members

Health and Safety

Incidents

Ms Boal reported that during August 2023, there was 1 x Health & Safety matter reported to arc21 by contractors and councils regarding an operative smoking in a non-designated area. The relevant council had been informed.

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

Audits

She reported that the external Health & Safety consultants continue to undertake Health and Safety audits and in August, an audit was conducted at the BCC Transfer Station at Dargan Road. No issues were reported during this audit. Also, during this month, an audit was conducted of the Enva NI Ltd site and during a Bring Bank collection. Minor Health & Safety issues were identified during this audit and arc21 is working with the contractor to resolve these as quickly as possible.

Rejected Loads

Ms Boal reported that in August the organics delivery sites rejected 2 x loads due to contamination while Bryson rejected 1 x load for the same reason.

Officers were requested 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 August 2023 were presented and Ms Boal highlighted the following in comparison to the same period the previous year:

- a decrease of 0.4% for MDR material delivered to Bryson;
- a 10.6% increase for MRF Lot 2 for MDR material delivered to ReGen;
- an increase of 32.3%, for Type 1 material for the Organics Contract;
- an increase of 22.5% for type 2 material for the Organics Contract; and
- a 21.3% decrease for the Landfill Residual Waste Contract. No residual waste was sent direct to landfill by BCC in August 2023.

Supplies

Ms Boal provided a summary of the aspects pertinent to the supplies contract and advised of 1 x non-compliance with one delivery not booked in advance.

Persistent Organic Pollutants In Domestic Soft Seating

Ms Boal reported that SEPA are progressing with the advancement of advice on persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and will shortly issue their regulatory position statement (RPS) for dealing with this waste stream, an initial guidance document already being in place. It is understood that a similar approach to what occurred in England with the issue of letters to landfill operators will occur in September 2023 and SEPA have made it clear that landfill is not an option as a contingency arrangement.

She reported that DAERA have advised that there is to be discussion at the next Waste Forum meeting, with a view to establishing a working group that would meet in October 2023.

Members were asked to inform arc21 should they wish to avail of the site visits to be organised to the landfill site at Cottonmount and/or the RDF bale storage area at Warrenpoint, and to note the remainder of the report.

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

Action: Noted

Item 10 - Waste Tonnage Trends

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

- Landfill – shows a dip as the BCC material has now come out in the new contract and it was likely that no more than 10% will be landfilled;
- Organics – Type 1 (garden waste from civic amenity sites) shows the highest tonnage ever and for Type 2 – (food and garden waste through kerbside collection schemes) not the best year and again when we get the end of contract year in Nov there will be an assessment to see if there is any gate fee rebate; and
- MRF – Lot 1 and 2 tonnages combined – a similar trend to the 2022/23 year.

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

She noted that the second part of the report provided an overview of statistics in relation to percentage landfill and recycling against potential future targets for each council and performance and gaps were shown in the graphs.

She advised that work remained to be done to take food waste out of the residual bins and some councils will also be looking at removing glass from the system.

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

Action: Noted

Item 11 - Statement of Accounts 2022/23

Mr McKeown presented the Statement of Accounts for the year to March 2023, following the outcome of the annual statutory audit carried out by the Local Government Auditor.

He advised that this was a slight variation to previous years as this would normally have gone through the Audit Committee, but as an Audit Committee had still not been formed, and following discussions with both internal and external audit functions, it was agreed to change the process and present directly to the Joint Committee. He also noted that there had been a slight delay in the audit itself with the audit office delayed for 3 x weeks in starting the process due to resource issues.

He reported that the audit had been completed and the audit office had released "*The Report To Those Charged With Governance*" which had been circulated to Members. He reported that they were giving an unqualified audit without modification with only one recommendation noted in it and that related to the outstanding Members' Declaration of Interests forms.

He noted that the "*Statement Of Accounts*" will not be published until after the deadline of 30 September 2023, which is a consequence of resource issues within NIAO. The DfC have already been informed of this issue and they are content with the situation.

He also noted that the "*Statement of Accounts*" had been prepared on the basis of the following reports:

- Updated Code of Governance;
- Annual Governance Statement, including the significant governance issues declared;
- Head of Audit, Governance and Risk Services' Annual Assurance Statement; and
- Self-assessment against the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

and, due to their volume, these were available for Members review on request.

Role of the Audit Committee

Mr McKeown reported that the variation to the year-end process had been driven by the delay of NIAO being able to begin the audit process, together with an Audit Committee not being re-established following the local government elections in May and, although nominations had been sought, only one Member had volunteered to date.

He advised that it would be greatly appreciated if Members could revisit their availability to sit on this Committee as it provides sufficient assurance over governance, risk and control helping to ensure there are adequate arrangements in place for both internal challenge and public accountability.

Financial Position

The financial highlights for the year were presented and Mr McKeown highlighted the following:

- Total Income is up overall on the previous year by 5.2% - £35.6m compared to £33.8m;
- The Usable Reserves decreased by £393k from £1,378k to £986k, largely due to the agreed return of £315k of reserves and the in-year cost of the Judicial Review of £109k;
- The cash balances at 31 March 2023 increased to £4.2m compared to prior year balance of £3.7m. This is a timing difference related to the improved collection of debtors. Working capital remains healthy and sufficient to meet the contractual obligations of arc21, which average out at around £3.5m per month; and
- The deficit on the Pension Scheme improved by £723k to an asset of £78k, compared to a liability of £(645)k as at 31 March 2022.

Mr McKeown noted that, from a financial point of view, the outcome had been satisfactory for the Joint Committee, with strong cashflow management throughout the year, although there were pressures on general reserves which needed to be addressed in the current year.

The Chair also encouraged members to consider volunteering for the Audit Committee as the commitment was only 4 x meetings a year and provided a key role in the governance, risk and control arrangements for the organisation.

It was recommended that the Joint Committee approve the Statement of Accounts 2022/23.

The Joint Committee agreed to approve the recommendation. Proposed by Councillor Enright and seconded by the Chair and noted by all.

Action: Agreed

Item 12 - Consultation Responses

Mr Walker presented the Joint Committee with the arc21 proposed responses to three recent consultations including:

1. [Consultation on the draft Producer Responsibility Obligations \(Packaging & Packaging Waste\) Regulations 2024](#)

This consultation was based on the draft regulations which will introduce the measures to make those producing packaging to be responsible for the final costs of disposal and are due to come into effect in October 2025.

2. Plastic Packaging Tax – Chemical Recycling & Adoption of a Mass Balance Approach Consultation

This consultation explores the case for allowing a mass balance approach, the different mass balance models, and the use of certification schemes to track recycled content through the plastics value chain.

3. Consultation on NI's 2030 & 2040 Emissions Reduction Targets & First Three Carbon Budgets & Seeking views on Climate Change Committee (CCC) Advice Report: The path to a Net Zero Northern Ireland

This Consultation was on the carbon budget and the recommendations arising from the Climate Change Committee (CCC) and their advice report recommending some serious actions in a variety of different sectors including the waste sector.

The Chair suggested that should any Member wish to raise any questions with Mr Walker to do so by close of business Friday 29 September, following which Mr Walker would be submitting the responses and circulating to the councils for information.

Mr Walker also discussed the concerns raised at the previous meeting for Members to be permitted to review the consultation responses in advance of their submission. He noted that over the current Corporate Plan timescale, arc21 had responded to 40 x papers, with the average timescale for response being 12-14 weeks. As anything less than this would make it difficult to prepare a response and take through governance, he proposed that arc21 would not respond to consultation responses 8 x weeks or less due to the governance timeframe.

In terms of this proposal the Chair suggested that arc21 consider how a process could be developed to allow arc21 to respond while presenting an opportunity for Members and councils to review, as they are being submitted on behalf of the Joint Committee and accepted as the considered view of the councils.

The Chair agreed that he felt that 8 weeks or less was not adequate to be able to respond to a consultation.

It was therefore recommended that the Joint Committee approve the three proposed arc21 consultation responses with any final comments to be submitted to Mr Walker by Friday 29 September:

1. **Consultation on the draft Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging & Packaging Waste) Regulations 2024;**
2. **Plastic Packaging Tax – Chemical Recycling & Adoption of a Mass Balance Approach Consultation (responses to be submitted by 10 October); and**
3. **Consultation on NI's 2030 & 2040 Emissions Reduction Targets & First Three Carbon Budgets & Seeking views on Climate Change Committee (CCC) Advice Report: The path to a Net Zero Northern Ireland**

The Chair also recommended that arc21 does not respond to any consultations of 8 weeks or less and develop an appropriate process, in liaison with Mr Walker, which would allow time to share with Members for approval.

Councillor Enright proposed that arc21 should inform those Departments issuing consultation exercises of 8 weeks or less of this decision.

Mr Walker suggested that there is a proviso, however, if there is an instance where he felt he needed to respond as there were areas of work when arc21 is asked for a response in a short timescale (e.g. pension, HMRC etc). In such instances, he would consult with the Chair and bring the response back to the Joint Committee for ratification.

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

Action: Agreed

Item13 - Governance & HR Matters

Mr Walker provided a report on a number of governance and human resources matters.

(1) Roles & Responsibilities for Joint Committee Members

Mr Walker reported that Members from the last Joint Committee had raised issues concerning the roles and responsibilities which fell to Members in discharging their arc21 duties and following HR and legal discussions, the roles and responsibilities of the Joint Committee Members had been prepared and were presented.

(2) Declaration of Interests

Mr Walker advised that the auditors had requested that arc21 secure Members' Declarations of Interest as a matter of urgency and as such a further form was included in the papers. He thanked all those who had responded to date and encouraged those outstanding to return their forms to Ms Campbell by return.

(3) Audit Committee

Mr Walker referred to the earlier discussion in relation to seeking members for the Audit Committee. He advised that the previous Audit Committee was served by five Members.

He noted that the role of the Audit Committee was to provide an independent and high-level focus on the adequacy of governance, risk and control arrangements and to ensure there is sufficient assurance over governance, risk and control gives greater confidence to all those charged with governance that those arrangements are effective. It is a cornerstone of good governance, and it is important that it is established as soon as possible.

Members were again asked to revisit their availability to sit on this Committee.

(4) Recruitment of Chief Executive

The Chair advised that he felt that there was a conflict of interest with Mr Walker being in attendance and noted his concerns over any further discussion at this stage. He suggested that he and Mr Walker would have the discussion on how the Joint Committee can get the appropriate HR advice to progress.

Mr Walker noted that the current temporary HR advisor to arc21 would be leaving at end of the week, and he would discuss further with the Chair offline.

Councillor Enright advised that he had read the Solace report referred to in the paper and noted a number of issues associated with it including the assumption that all 11 councils would seek to collaborate. If so, the councils would need to consider how their waste streams could be processed, how the tension regarding some extant arc21 proposals could be addressed, how personnel would be recruited, etc.

It was recommended that the Members:

- (i) approve the Roles & Responsibilities outlined in the appendix to the report;
- (ii) complete the Declaration of Interest forms and return these to arc21 offices as a matter of priority;
- (iii) consider volunteering to sit on the Audit Committee; and
- (iv) the CEX recruitment should be taken out of the report and the Chair would progress offline with Mr Walker and then bring a report back.

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

Action: Agreed

Item 14 - Annual Report for the Year to March 2023

Mr Walker presented the Joint Committee with the arc21 Annual Report for the year to March 2023 reflecting the progress made in the third year of our Corporate Plan 2020-2024. He noted that since the last meeting no comments had been received and it was proposed that the Joint Committee adopt the Annual Report for the year to March 2023 for uploading onto the website.

The Joint Committee noted the Annual report to March 2023. Proposed by Councillor Andrews and seconded by Councillor Given and agreed by all.

Action: Agreed

Item 15 - AOB

ISO9001

Mr Walker provided a verbal update of arc21's recent success in being re-accredited for ISO9001 for a further three years with no observations being made at the recent exercise.

The Chair commended the organisation on this achievement.

Action: Noted

Future meetings

The Chair reported that, following discussions at the August Committee meeting, it was hoped to hold the September meeting in a hybrid format allowing in person attendance, and ANBC had offered to host the meeting. However, due to a small number of Members being able to attend, it had been considered appropriate to hold the meeting online. He therefore inquired whether Members wished to continue with virtual or hybrid type meetings, and if arc21 should continue to organise accordingly.

Councillor Andrews noted that where possible he was keen to attend meetings in person. Councillor Cathcart advised that although he was happy for hybrid, he would be unable to attend in person due to work commitments – Councillor McLaughlin agreed with this position.

The Chair suggested that he would discuss further with Mr Walker to discuss the potential for hybrid meetings in order to facilitate accommodating those wishing to attend in person. Mr Walker noted that to hold an in-person meeting, arc21 would need an early declaration from Members on their intention to attend, otherwise the presumption would be to use the MS Teams option only but would discuss further with the Chair.

Action: Chair & Mr Walker

Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council (ANBC) correspondence

The Chair raised a matter of outstanding correspondence with ANBC and Mr Walker advised that responses would be provided in the near future.

Action: arc21

Item 16 - Next Meeting 26 October 2023

Mr Walker asked Members to stay on to discuss one final administrative matter and officers left the meeting.

Date: _____

Chairman: _____