

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: SE/2026

Minutes of Sustainability & Environment Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 23 September 2026 at 6.15pm in Boardroom, Warrenpoint Town Hall

Chair: Councillor M Ruane

In attendance in

Chamber:	Councillor Andrews	Councillor J Jackson
	Councillor D Murphy	Councillor K Murphy
	Councillor J Truesdale	Councillor H Young

Committee Members in

Attendance via Teams:	Councillor P Campbell	Councillor M Hearty
	Councillor S O'Hare	Councillor H Reilly

Officials in Chamber: Mrs S Murphy, Director, Sustainability and Environment
Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability
Mrs S Trainor, Assistant Director of Environment
Ms F Branagh, Democratic Services Officer

SE/107/2026: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Feehan and Finn.

SE/108/2026: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

SE/109/2026: ACTION SHEET: SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19 AUGUST 2026

Read: Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 19 August 2026. (Copy circulated)

SE/045/2025 – Notice of Motion re Memorial Garden

Councillor Truesdale requested an update on the memorial garden, to which Mr Sage advised that clarification was needed from the Department regarding the wording on the memorial stone. He acknowledged the delay and confirmed that it would be followed up as soon as possible.

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Jackson, it was agreed to note the Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 19 August 2026.

FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION**SE/110/2026:****MOU WITH DfI ON SNOW AND GRITTING**

Read:

Report from Mrs S Murphy, Director of Sustainability & Environment, presented by Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability, regarding MoU for Clearance of Snow and Ice. (Copy circulated)

Mr Sage outlined the report, advising that it was to seek Committee approval for the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Council and DfI Roads for the emergency clearance of snow and ice from town centre footways during prolonged periods of severe winter weather. He advised that a similar arrangement had previously been in place and that approval was now being sought for the remainder of the MOU term covering the 2026/27 & 2027/28 financial years. Mr Sage noted that the work was not a statutory function of either Council or DfI Roads but provided a framework for cooperation during extreme weather events.

Councillor Truesdale commented that the arrangement relied on contributions from both Council and DfI Roads but remained limited in scope. She asked whether, during periods of severe winter weather, Council could use its social media channels to alert residents to icy conditions and provide appropriate health and safety advice.

Mr Sage advised that when a severe weather event occurred, Council responded in accordance with its emergency plan. He confirmed that this included issuing public communications through Council's social media channels, similar to the approach taken during flooding or high wind events, and that the same arrangements would apply during periods of extreme cold weather.

AGREED:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor K Murphy, seconded by Councillor D Murphy, to approve the renewal of a Memorandum of Understanding between Council and DfI Roads to assist with emergency clearance of snow and ice.

SE/111/2026:**OPSS FIREWORKS AND PYROTECHNICS CONSULTATION RESPONSE**

Read:

Report from Mrs S Trainor, Assistant Director of Environment, regarding Consultation on Regulatory Proposals Under Fireworks Legislation. (Copy circulated)

Mrs Trainor presented the report seeking Committee approval to submit Council's response to the consultation on regulatory proposals under fireworks legislation. She advised that the key issues were set out within the report and that the overall aim of the proposals was to balance the enjoyment of fireworks for celebrations with the need to prevent harm and distress to others. She requested that Members consider the response drafted by the Environmental Health Department, as detailed in Appendix 1, for submission on behalf of Council.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor Andrews, the response drafted by the Environmental Health Department on behalf of Newry Mourne and Down District Council to the Department of Business and Trade on regulatory proposals under fireworks legislation as detailed in appendix 1 of the officers' report was agreed.**

SE/112/2026: CONSULTATION AND RESTRICTION OF PRODUCTS HIGH IN FAT, SUGAR AND SALT

Read: Report from Mrs S Trainor, Assistant Director of Environment, regarding Consultation on Restriction of Products High in Fat, Sugar and Salt (HFSS). (Copy circulated)

Mrs Trainor advised that the report detailed a public consultation launched by the Food Standards Agency and the Department of Health which sought views on proposals to introduce restrictions on the promotion and placement of products high in fat, sugar and salt (HFSS) in Northern Ireland. She advised that the proposed measures would apply to certain volume price promotions, the placement of HFSS products in prominent retail locations, and free refill promotions for sugar-sweetened soft drinks. She noted that similar restrictions were already in place in England and Wales, with equivalent measures due to be introduced in Scotland from October 2026.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor D Murphy, seconded by Councillor Young, to approve the consultation response seeking views on proposals to introduce restrictions on the promotion and placement of high in fat, sugar and salt in Northern Ireland as detailed in appendix 1 of the officers' report.**

ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2014

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor K Murphy, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the following items, which related to exempt information by virtue of para. 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local /Government (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor K Murphy, seconded by Councillor Young, it was agreed to come out of closed session.

The Chairperson advised the following had been agreed whilst in closed session:

RESTRICTED – FOR DECISION

SE/113/2026: WASTE MANAGEMENT CONTRACTS

Read: Report from Mrs S Trainor, Assistant Director of Environment, regarding Waste Management Contract Extensions. (Copy circulated)

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor K Murphy, seconded by Councillor Jackson, to approve the contract extension detailed in appendix 1 of the officers' report.

SE/114/2026: BUSINESS CASE – WASTE SERVICES

Read: Report from Mrs S Trainor, Assistant Director of Environment, regarding Household Recycling Centre Material Business Case. (Copy circulated)

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Young, seconded by Councillor K Murphy, to approve the Outline Business Case and the preferred procurement option for the receipt, collection, treatment, processing, recycling and recovery of paints and varnishes, waste oils, rubble, wood, scrap metal and street cleansing residues arising from the Council's Household Recycling Centres and street cleansing operations.

FOR NOTING - ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2014

SE/115/2026: ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING IN-COMMITTEE MINUTES OF THURSDAY 25 JUNE 2026 & JOINT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS' MONTHLY BULLETIN HELD ON 28 AUGUST 2026

Read: Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting In-Committee Minutes of Thursday 25 June 2026 & Joint Committee Members' Monthly Bulletin Held On 28 August 2026. (Copy circulated)

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor K Murphy, seconded by Councillor Young, to note the documents.**

FOR NOTING

SE/116/2026: **ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 28 MAY 2026**

Read: ARC21 Joint Committee Meeting No 107 Minutes Thursday 25 June 2026. (Copy circulated)

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor K Murphy, to note the document.**

SE/117/2026: **POSITIVE AGEING REPORT**

Read: Report from Mrs S Trainor, Assistant Director of Environment, regarding Positive Ageing. (Copy circulated)

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor K Murphy, to note the Positive Ageing Events to be held across the District.**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 6.43pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 5 October 2026.

Signed: _____
Councillor M Ruane
Chairperson

Signed: _____
Mrs Sinead Murphy
Director of Sustainability & Environment