

At the Council meeting held on 6 June 2025 the following amendment was notified and agreed by Members:  
SE/056/2025, the vote was as follows:

FOR	11
AGAINST	2
ABSTAIN	1

## **NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Ref: SE/2025**

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### **Minutes of Sustainability & Environment Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 21 May 2025 at 6pm in Council Chamber, Monaghan Row, Newry**

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**Chair:** Councillor G Kearns

**In attendance in  
Chamber:**

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor W Clarke
Councillor C Enright	Councillor K Feehan
Councillor D Finn	Councillor V Harte
Councillor J Jackson	Councillor O Magennis
Councillor H Reilly	Councillor D Taylor

**Committee Members in  
Attendance via Teams:**

Councillor J Brennan	Councillor M Larkin
Councillor M Ruane	

**Non-Committee Members**

**In Attendance via Teams:** Councillor G Sharvin      Councillor J Truesdale

**Officials in Chamber:**

Mrs S Murphy, Director Sustainability and Environment  
Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability  
Mrs F Branagh, Democratic Services Officer  
Mr C Smyth, Democratic Services Officer

**Officials in attendance  
Via Teams:**

Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager

**SE/052/2025:**

**APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillor Young and Mrs S Trainor, Assistant Director, Environment.

**SE/053/2025:**

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**SE/054/2025:**

**ACTION SHEET: SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT  
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 29 APRIL 2025**

Read: Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 29 April 2025. **(Copy circulated)**

*SE/036/2025 – Home to Hospital Update*

Councillor Andrews enquired whether an update was available in respect of above. Mrs Murphy advised that she would revert to the Member with an update.

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to note the Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 29 April 2025.**

**FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION**

**SE/055/2025:**

**UPDATE ON NOTICE OF MOTION – CLEAN AIR**

Read: Report from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability, regarding Update on Notice of Motion – Clean Air. **(Copy circulated)**

Mr Sage presented the report and explained that no additional costs were required to install air filtration units in Down Civic Centre and that all costs for ventilation systems, including filtration, were included within the specification and estimated costings for the proposed new Civic Centre in Newry.

Councillor Truesdale referred to section 2.4 of the report and noted that the information was available on the HSC website. She suggested that, given the importance of fresh air exchange and for educational purposes, the Council could create an explanatory poster and share it via social media to raise awareness. Mr Sage advised that he would revert to the Councillor outside of the meeting in respect of this.

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Enright, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to note the following:**

- **Mechanical ventilation systems in Downshire Civic Centre are fitted with suitable levels of filtration that comply with the required guidance.**
- **The Newry Civic Centre has been designed to include suitably filtered fresh air in accordance with the required standards.**
- **There are no additional costs associated with supply of suitably filtered fresh air in the above facilities.**

**OFFICER REPORT ON NOTICE OF MOTION – FOSSIL FUEL  
NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY & AIR QUALITY  
MANAGEMENT AREAS**

Read: Report from Mrs S Murphy, Director of Sustainability & Environment, regarding Officer Report on Notice of Motion – Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty & Air Quality Management Areas. **(Copy circulated)**

Mrs Murphy advised that the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative was a global effort to foster international cooperation to accelerate a tradition to Safe, Renewable and Affordable Energy for All. She advised that net zero targets were legislatively based and aligned with the Council's Strategy on Sustainability and Climate Action and stated that 135 cities and some national governments, including Councils in the UK and Ireland, had either formally endorsed the Treaty or signed a merged declaration.

Mrs Murphy explained that there were two Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) within the Council area, both located in Newry City—one for nitrogen dioxide and the other for PM<sub>10</sub> and officers carried out air pollutant monitoring using two continuous monitors located in Market Street, Downpatrick and Canal Street, Newry. She stated that Environmental Health Officers continued to work with NIEA regarding PM<sub>2.5</sub>, a pollutant not currently monitored, and are seeking additional funding in the 2026/27 financial year to enable extended monitoring.

Councillor Truesdale thanked Mrs Murphy for the comprehensive report and welcomed the proposal for additional PM<sub>2.5</sub> monitoring. She stated that a tangible, binding plan was needed to end the expansion of fossil fuel projects and manage a global transition and she emphasised the need for an equitable phase-out that left no worker, community, or country behind. She stated that, if agreed by Members, this would be the first Council in Northern Ireland to sign the Treaty.

Councillor Reilly cautioned against a rushed transition to renewables, citing a recent power outage in Spain due to over-reliance on solar energy and he argued that fossil fuels remained necessary until viable alternatives such as hydrogen became available. He criticised the UK's green policies, noting its small share of global emissions compared to rising emissions in countries like the US, China, and India. He expressed concern about the economic impact on vulnerable people and opposed the motion, calling for a more balanced approach.

Councillor Finn enquired whether funding for PM<sub>2.5</sub> testing could be used to expand monitoring to other locations. Mrs Murphy clarified that testing had not ceased, but levels remained below exceedance thresholds, and if this continued, monitoring in those areas would no longer be required. She confirmed that information on future monitoring sites would be shared at upcoming S&E meetings.

Councillor Finn proposed that the Council write to other Councils in Northern Ireland to share information on the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative, advise that NMDDC endorsing the Treaty and also urge them to support the initiative. This was seconded by Councillor Enright.

Ms Taggart stated as there was dissent in the chamber, a vote was required.

The Chairperson then put the proposal to vote, the results of which were as follows:

<b>FOR</b>	11
<b>AGAINST</b>	3

**ABSTAIN      1**

The proposal was carried.

**AGREED:**

**On the proposal of Councillor Finn, seconded by Councillor Enright, the following was agreed:**

- **Members approved the endorsement of the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and agreed to write to the Northern Ireland Executive urging them to support this initiative.**
- **Members noted the current on-going review process on the effectiveness of the Council's Air Quality Management Areas in liaison with DAERA and the potential expansion of the number of air quality monitor stations throughout the District, subject to funding.**
- **To write to other Northern Ireland Councils to inform them that Newry, Mourne and Down District Council have endorsed the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty urging them also to support this initiative.**

**SUSTAINABILITY**

**SE/057/2025:**

**SUSTAINABLE NI ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION**

Read:

Report from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability, regarding Sustainable NI Annual Membership Subscription.  
**(Copy circulated)**

Mr Sage advised the report recommended that Members approve the accelerator membership level and the signing of a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Sustainable NI for 2025/26 as it had been included as part of the rate-setting process.

**AGREED:**

**On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Riley, it was agreed to approve the Accelerator Membership Level and signing of an SLA with Sustainable NI for 2025/26**

**SE/058/2025:**

**KEEP NI BEAUTIFUL ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION**

Read:

Report from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability, regarding Keep NI Beautiful Annual Membership Subscription.  
**(Copy circulated)**

Mr Sage presented the report on the request for financial support and signing of a new SLA, highlighting there was an additional request for funding related to the delivery of an annual Green Flag Award Ceremony, bringing the total requested amount to £32,975.00.

Councillor Finn asked whether officers could approach Live Here Love Here to work alongside the Council to assist Newry in becoming the best kept city in the North. Mr Sage advised that he would make enquiries and revert to Councillor Finn directly.

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Enright, seconded by Councillor Finn, it was agreed to approve the financial support as outlined in section 2.2 and an SLA for the period of 2025 – 2026 to support the Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful (KNIB) Live Here Love Here campaign and Eco Schools Programme across the District.**

**SE/059/2025: NEWRY MARKET CHRISTMAS EVENT**

Read: Report from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability, regarding Newry Market Christmas Event. **(Copy circulated)**

Mr Sage stated there had been a request from an external party to host a Christmas market at Newry Variety Market in 2025 with the proposed event due to run from Thursdays to Sundays for five weeks, from mid-November to Christmas. It was noted that a well-organised market could boost footfall and the report recommended was to proceed with the Christmas market event, with suggested charging as outlined in section 2.2 of the officer's report.

Councillor Finn commended the plan and stated that it would be excellent for that part of Newry in terms of its impact on local businesses. She asked whether Council officers could explore the possibility of reducing costs for both the organiser and stallholders. Mr Sage confirmed that this could be explored and advised he would revert to Councillor Finn in relation to this.

Councillor Feehan concurred with Councillor Finn regarding the positive impact on the area and local businesses and supported the exploration of cost reductions.

Councillor Harte welcomed the plan to enhance Newry Market. She asked whether existing market stallholders would also be charged the fee, noting that the goods they sell may not align with typical Christmas market items. Mr Sage advised that it was his understanding that current stallholders were interested in participating in the market.

Councillor Harte suggested a two-week pilot scheme for the market to assess whether footfall would be sufficient to sustain it through to Christmas. Councillor Taylor welcomed the report and concurred with Councillor Harte on the need for a pilot scheme to ensure adequate attendance. He emphasised the importance of having a clear strategy and promoting the event well in advance.

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Finn, seconded by Councillor Feehan it was agreed to proceed with**

**the Christmas Market Event with recommended charging as outlined in section 2.2 of the Officer's Report.**

**SE/060/2025:**

**REQUEST TO APPROACH DFI ABOUT TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF CARPARKS**

Read: Report from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability, regarding Request to Approach DFI about Transfer of Ownership of Car Parks. **(Copy circulated)**

Mr Sage advised Members were asked to approve Council officers to formally approach the Department for Infrastructure (DFI) and research the feasibility of a land transfer of their portion of the parking area at The Square, Warrenpoint into Council ownership.

Councillor Ruane stated that he had brought the issue to the attention of Council due to illegal parking negatively impacting local businesses and welcomed the request to formally approach DFI.

Councillor Feehan asked for an update from officers regarding Newry city centre parking and noted that a previous Notice of Motion had been brought forward in relation to the matter. Mrs Murphy stated that she would revert to Councillor Feehan on this matter.

**AGREED:**

**On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Taylor, it was agreed to approve the request for Council Officers to formally approach DFI and research the feasibility of a land transfer of their portion of the site into Council ownership.**

**ENVIRONMENT**

**SE/061/2025:**

**CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE FOOD LAW CODE OF PRACTICE AND PRACTICE GUIDANCE**

Read: Report from Mrs S Trainor, Assistant Director: Environment, regarding Consultation on Proposed Amendments to the Food Law Code of Practice and Practice Guidance. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:**

**On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to approve the submission on behalf of Council of the draft response to the Food Standards Agency Consultation on the proposed amendments to the Food Law Code of Practice (Northern Ireland) and Practice Guidance, as set out in Appendix 1 of the Officer's Report**

**Councillor Taylor left meeting at 6.59pm.**

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

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Harte, seconded by Councillor Enright, 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 Harte, seconded by Councillor Finn, 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/062/2025: AWARD OF ENERGY CONTRACTS 2025 – 2027**

**Read:** Report from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director: Sustainability, regarding Award of Energy Contracts 2025 - 2027. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Enright, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to approve the following:

- That Council proceed with the process and note the appointment of the successful supplier to supply Electricity and Natural Gas following completion of the joint procurement exercise with the other NI Councils.
- That Council opt for the "Green" Electricity Premium due to the significant reduction in the cost of the Green Electricity premium from the supplier named in the officer's report to set an example and drive the market demand for green electricity.

**SE/063/2025: BUSINESS CASE FOR MAINTENANCE OF COUNCIL FACILITIES CCTV SYSTEMS**

Read: Report from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director: Sustainability, regarding Business Case for Maintenance of Council Facilities CCTV Systems. (**Copy circulated**)

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to approve the procurement of CCTV monitoring and maintenance services in line with the recommendations of the business case as presented with the Officer's Report.**

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

**SE/064/2025: FLEET UPDATE**

Read: Report from Mrs S Murphy, Director: Sustainability & Environment, regarding Fleet Update. (**Copy circulated**)

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Enright, it was agreed to note the contents of the Officer's Report.**

**FOR NOTING**

**SE/065/2025: PROVISIONAL NORTHERN IRELAND LOCAL AUTHORITY COLLECTED MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STATISTICS, OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2024, RELEASED 1 MAY 2025**

Read: Provisional Northern Ireland Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management Statistics October – December 2024, released 1 May 2025. (**Copy circulated**)

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Feehan, it was agreed to note the documents.**

Councillor Andrews expressed his thanks to Councillors Kearns and Enright as this was their last meeting as Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.07pm

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 2 June 2025

**Signed: Councillor Geraldine Kearns**  
**Chairperson**

**Signed: Mrs Sinead Murphy**



**Director of Sustainability & Environment**