

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: SE/2025

**Minutes of Sustainability & Environment Committee Meeting held on
Tuesday 19 August 2025 at 6.15pm in Council Chambers,
Downshire Civic Centre**

Chair: Councillor M Hearty

In attendance in Chamber: Councillor T Andrews

Committee Members in Attendance via Teams:

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|---------------------|---------------------|
| Councillor K Feehan | Councillor D Finn |
| Councillor M Larkin | Councillor K Murphy |
| Councillor M Ruane | Councillor D Taylor |
| Councillor H Young | |

Non-Committee Members In attendance in Chamber: Councillor C Bowsie

Non-Committee Members In Attendance via Teams: Councillor G Hanna

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

SE/082/2025: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Jackson, Magennis, O'Hare and Reilly.

SE/083/2025: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Bowsie declared an interest in a matter raised under the Action Sheet – SE/005/024 – Report on Notice of Motion – Flood Preparedness.

SE/084/2025: ACTION SHEET: SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18 JUNE 2025

Read: Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 18 June 2025. **(Copy circulated)**

SE/073/2025 - BT Line Rental for Town Centre CCTV Systems

In response to a query from Councillor Andrews, Mr Sage advised that the Council awaited the final programme from the PSNI / BT and were hopeful the programme would be confirmed in time for the next Committee Meeting.

SE/005/2024 - Report on Notice of Motion – Flood Preparedness

Councillor Young expressed concern that the Newcastle Flood Resilience Group was at risk of disbanding due to insufficient support from statutory agencies and enquired whether Council could assist. Mrs Murphy advised that the group was supported through Active & Healthy Communities and stated she would request the relevant officers to respond directly to Councillor Young regarding this matter.

In response to a query that Councillor Andrews raised on behalf of Councillor Galbraith, Mr Sage confirmed that he would provide Councillor Galbraith with the requested update. Councillor Bowsie declared an interest in the matter, citing his membership of the Drainage Council.

SE/091/2024 - Notice of Motion – Dog Fouling

Councillor Young asked whether the dog fouling reporting tool had been developed and if the mapping exercise had been completed, if not, requested the potential timeframe for its completion. Mrs Murphy advised that some initial work had commenced and stated she would follow up directly with Councillor Young to provide an update on the anticipated timeframes.

SE/036/2025 - Home to Hospital update

Councillor Young enquired whether a suitable volunteer sector had been secured, highlighting that the service did not currently cover the Newcastle area. Mrs Murphy responded that a volunteer sector was now in place and asked that Councillor Young forward any information, which could be shared with the officer responsible for the scheme.

Although not appearing on the action sheet, Councillor Finn took the opportunity to ask whether the management of weeds and graffiti was within the responsibility of the Council and highlighted difficulties in reading signage in several areas within Newry which posed challenging for tourists. Mrs Murphy responded that responsibility for weed management was shared between the Council and the Department for Infrastructure, depending on the location of the growth and advised that the matter would be addressed as part of the initial rollout of the Cleansing Review. Regarding graffiti, Mrs Murphy advised that the Council was responsible for Council owned buildings and facilities, while other areas could potentially be addressed through regeneration programmes. She also confirmed that the signage issues raised by Councillor Finn would be reviewed to determine whether cleaning or replacement was required.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Young, it was agreed to note the Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 18 June 2025.**

FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION

SE/085/2025: CONSULTATION RESPONSE TO DAERA - NEW RULES FOR SELLING AND SUPPLYING PUPPIES AND KITTENS

Read: Report from Mrs S Murphy, Director of Sustainability & Environment, regarding Consultation on proposed new rules for the sale and supply of puppies and kittens in Northern Ireland.
(Copy circulated)

Mrs Murphy summarised the proposals in sections 1.2 and 1.3 of the report, which aimed to strengthen animal welfare protections by introducing a registration system for individuals transferring ownership of puppies and kittens under six months old. She noted that while the proposals promoted transparency and safeguarding, they posed significant practical and financial implications for councils in terms of enforcement and administration.

Councillor Andrews welcomed the consultation, describing the proposals as long overdue and important to constituents. He supported the requirement for individuals to register with Councils when transferring ownership of young animals, noting it addressed concerns around irresponsible breeding. He expressed frustration that central government expected Councils to deliver services without adequate funding, especially following DAERA cuts and endorsed the Council's response and concerns over resourcing.

Councillor Young noted that five years had passed since the introduction of Lucy's Law in England, which banned third-party sales of puppies and kittens to improve animal welfare. She expressed concern that Northern Ireland was falling behind in regulating large-scale breeding, which often involved inhumane practices and misled the public about animal health.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to approve the DAERA consultation response in appendix 1, on the proposed new rules for the sale and supply of puppies and kittens in Northern Ireland.**

SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE

SE/086/2025: **FOOD SERVICE PLAN 2025/26**

Read: Report from Mrs S Murphy, Director of Sustainability & Environment, regarding Food Service Plan 2025/26 (**Copy circulated**)

Mrs Murphy presented the report seeking approval of the Food Service Plan 2025/26 advising that the Council maintained the plan in line with Food Standards Agency requirements, ensuring it was regularly reviewed and publicly accessible. The plan outlined how food law was enforced and reflected joint working with other Councils.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to note the report and agree to adopt the Food Service Plan 2025/26 attached in appendix 1.**

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

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor K Murphy, seconded by Councillor Ruane, 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 Larkin, 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/087/2025: SUSTAINABILITY CONTRACTS

Read: Report from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director: Sustainability, regarding Sustainability Contracts. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor K Murphy, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to approve the awards of contracts as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.**

SE/088/2025: CYCLE TO WORK SCHEME

Read: Report from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director: Sustainability, regarding Appointment of Provider for Cycle to Work Salary Sacrifice Scheme. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Ruane, the following was agreed:**

- To proceed with the appointment of a new Provider for the Council's Cycle to Work Scheme as detailed in section 2.2 of the report.**
- To increase the upper limit for purchases via the Cycle to Work scheme and that the scheme remains open for applications all year round as detailed in section 2.3 of the report.**

SE/089/2025: VARIATION TO FUEL CARD CONTRACT

Read: Report from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability, regarding Variation to Fuel Card Contract. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor K Murphy, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to approve the extension of the Fuel Card Contract to the end of March 2026.**

SE/090/2025: FLEET FUEL VERIFICATION PROCESS

Read: Report from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability, regarding Enhancements to Fuel Infrastructure and Monitoring. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Larkin, it was agreed to approve the recommended fuel infrastructure changes, as detailed in table 2, to ensure that the Council's fuel stock counting procedure are consistent, robust and meet the recommendations highlighted in the Fuel Management Audit.**

SE/091/2025: WASTE CONTRACTS

Read: Report from Mrs S Murphy, Director: Sustainability & Environment, regarding Waste Management Contracts. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Larkin, it was agreed to approve the Direct Award Contract extensions as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.**

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

SE/092/2025: ACTION SHEET FROM SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP ON WEDNESDAY 18 JUNE 2025

Read: Action Sheet from Sustainability and Environment Working Group on Wednesday 18 June 2025 **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Finn, seconded by Councillor Larkin, it was agreed to note the document.**

SE/093/2025: ARC 21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERS' MONTHLY BULLETIN HELD ON 26 JUNE 2025 & JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING IN COMMITTEE MINUTES OF THURSDAY 29 MAY 2025

Read: ARC 21 Joint Committee Members' Monthly Bulletin Held On 26 June 2025 & Joint Committee Meeting in Committee Minutes of Thursday 29 May 2025. **(Copy circulated)**

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

FOR NOTING

SE/094/2025: **ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 29 MAY 2025**

Read: ARC21 Joint Committee Meeting No 096 Minutes Thursday 29 May 2025. **(Copy circulated)**

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

SE/095/2025: **NORTHERN IRELAND LOCAL AUTHORITY COLLECTED MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STATISTICS FOR JANUARY TO MARCH 2025**

Read: Northern Ireland Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management Statistics for January to March 2025. **(Copy circulated)**

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

SE/096/2025: **CLEANSING REVIEW UPDATE**

Read: Cleansing Review Update. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Councillor Bowsie left the meeting at 6.59pm.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.01pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 1 September 2025.

Signed: **Councillor Martin Hearty**
Deputy Chairperson

Signed: **Mrs Sinead Murphy**
Director of Sustainability & Environment