

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: SE/2025

Minutes of Sustainability & Environment Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 16 September 2025 at 6.15pm in Boardroom, Warrenpoint Town Hall

Chair: Councillor O Magennis

**In attendance in
Chamber:**

Councillor T Andrews
Councillor J Jackson
Councillor S O'Hare

Councillor K Feehan
Councillor K Murphy
Councillor M Ruane

**Committee Members in
Attendance via Teams:**

Councillor W Clarke
Councillor Doire Finn
Councillor M Larkin
Councillor D Taylor

Councillor C Enright
Councillor M Hearty
Councillor H Reilly
Councillor Helena Young

**Non-Committee Members
In Attendance via Teams:**

Councillor P Byrne

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
Mr C Smyth, Democratic Services Officer

SE/097/2025: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

There were no apologies.

SE/098/2025: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

**SE/099/2025: ACTION SHEET: SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19 AUGUST 2025**

Read: Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee
Meeting held on 19 August 2025. **(Copy circulated)**

SE/128/2023 – Upgrade to Town Centre CCTV and Council Facilities CCTV

Councillor Jackson requested an update on the above item and raised concerns about anti social behaviour near Lisburn Street Car Park, Ballynahinch, suggesting the installation of a camera in the area. Mr Sage advised that further investigations had been required and no

official completion date had been confirmed. He stated that the priority remained upgrading existing systems to digital, though options for additional proposals would be considered. Councillor Andrews supported Councillor Jackson's comments regarding the need for a camera at Lisburn Street Car Park.

SE/034/2025 - Officer Report on NOM – Street Lighting

Councillor Finn requested an update on the work undertaken by officers to date and asked whether a response had been received to the letter issued to DFI Roads in March 2025. Mr Sage stated that he would revert to the Member outside of the meeting.

Although not listed on the action sheet, Councillor Jackson enquired about the Public Conveniences Strategy, specifically regarding toilet upgrades in the Rowallane area. Councillor Andrews reported receiving several complaints from constituents in Crossgar about the poor condition of public toilets. Mr Sage advised that upgrade projects in Newcastle and Dundrum had been completed, and a risk matrix had been finalised for all other facilities across the District. Mr Sage confirmed that an update would be provided at a subsequent meeting.

Councillor Feehan expressed concern about the number of agenda items held in closed session and asked whether more information could be extracted to allow Members to better inform the public. Mrs Murphy explained that the exempt items were primarily business cases and contract-related matters, but noted that Members' comments would be taken under consideration.

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to note the Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 19 August 2025.

FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION

SE/100/2025:

DAERA NICAAP CONSULTATION RESPONSE

Read: Report from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability, regarding DAERA Consultation on NICCAP3 (the Third Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaption Programme). (**Copy circulated**)

Mr Sage outlined the report in relation to Council's response to the DAERA consultation on NICAAP3. He advised that the response was broadly supportive of the approach proposed by DAERA, however officers had identified several areas where the approach could have been strengthened and improved. He confirmed that the submission had met the deadline outlined in Appendix 1, with the caveat that it remained subject to Council approval.

Councillor Hearty expressed disappointment that the consultation had made no reference to an all-Ireland dimension, highlighting the Council's existing sustainability agreement with Louth County Council and stated that DAERA had an obligation to address environmental issues on an all-Ireland basis, noting that the Climate Change Act recognised Ireland as a single biogeographic entity.

Councillor Hearty proposed that the Council's response to the Climate Change Adaptation Programme be amended to reflect the importance of all-island co-operation on environmental and climate issues, particularly in relation to Newry, Mourne and Down as a border region with a significant agricultural sector and proximity to Carlingford Lough. He further requested that

the response acknowledge the Council's sustainability agreements with Louth County Council. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Magennis.

Councillor Feehan supported Councillor Hearty's comments but requested clarity on the specific all-island elements to be incorporated into the amended response.

Councillor Finn proposed an additional amendment to page 15 of the consultation response, suggesting the inclusion of comments encouraging cross-border collaboration with Government departments, the Irish Government, and other local County Councils to facilitate resource sharing and best practice.

Councillor Enright left the meeting at 6.42pm.

The Chairperson advised that, in accordance with Standing Orders, only one amendment could be considered at a time. However, given the similarity of the two proposals, the Chairperson suggested they be treated as a joint proposal.

Although Councillor Finn had initially expressed a preference not to combine the two proposals, citing material differences, she agreed to do so and requested to replace Councillor Magennis as the seconder. Councillor Magennis agreed to the change.

Councillor Reilly stated that Northern Ireland had a distinctly different agricultural sector compared to the Republic of Ireland, which he noted had been significantly affected by EU regulations and its government's net zero policies. He stated that alignment with those rules would be unnecessary and counterproductive.

As there was dissent within the Chamber, the matter was put to a recorded vote, with the results as follows: (Copy attached)

FOR:	11
AGAINST:	3
ABSTENTIONS:	0

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Hearty, seconded by Councillor Finn, it was agreed to amend the DAERA consultation response on NICCAP3;

- **To reflect the importance of all-island co-operation on environmental and climate issues, particularly in relation to Newry, Mourne and Down as a border region with a significant agricultural sector and proximity to Carlingford Lough.**
- **To acknowledge the Council's sustainability agreements with Louth County Council.**
- **The inclusion of comments on page 15 of the response, encouraging cross-border collaboration with Government departments, the Irish Government, and other local County Councils to facilitate resource sharing and best practice.**

SE/101/2025:

CONSULTATION ON GREY MARKET GOODS

Read:

Report from Mrs S Trainor, Assistant Director of Environment, regarding Consultation on Local Authority and District Council Guidance on Grey Market Goods in the United Kingdom. (**Copy circulated**)

Mrs Trainor outlined Council's response to the consultation, which had sought feedback on guidance issued by the Food Standards Agency to assist enforcement authorities in addressing food not intended for the UK market.

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to approve the FSA consultation response in Appendix 1, on Local Authority and District Council Guidance on Grey Market Goods in the United Kingdom.

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

Agreed:

On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor O'Hare, 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 Jackson, seconded by Councillor Ruane, 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/102/2025:

FLEET BUSINESS CASES

Read:

Report from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability, regarding Fleet Business Cases. (**Copy circulated**)

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor K Murphy, it was agreed to approve the recommendations of the business cases attached at appendices 1, 2 and 3 of the officer's report.

SE/103/2025:**ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT SURVEYS BUSINESS CASE**

Read:

Report from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability, regarding Business Case for Asbestos Management Surveys. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor K Murphy, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to approve the findings of the business case as detailed at Appendix 1 of the officer's report.

SE/104/2025:**NEWRY CANAL WATER LEVEL MONITORING**

Read:

Report from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability, regarding Automatic Water Level Monitoring. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Feehan, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to approve the recommendations of the business case as detailed in Appendix 1 of the officer's report.

SE/105/2025:**SUSTAINABILITY CONTRACT**

Read:

Report from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability, regarding Sustainability Contract. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Jackson, it was agreed to approve the award of the contract as detailed in Appendix 1 of the officer's report.

SE/106/2025:**WASTE CONTRACTS**

Read:

Report from Mrs S Trainor, Assistant Director of Environment, regarding Waste Management Contracts. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Jackson, it was agreed to approve the price uplift and contract modification as detailed in section 2.2 of the officer's report.

SE/107/2025:**DEEP CLEANSING BUSINESS CASE**

Read:

Report from Mrs S Trainor, Assistant Director of Environment, regarding Deep Cleansing Contract. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Jackson, it was agreed to approve award of the contract for deep cleansing of the district as detailed in section 1.3 of the officer's report.

SE/108/2025:

CORPORATE HEALTH & SAFETY TRAINING

Read:

Report from Mrs S Trainor, Assistant Director of Environment, regarding Corporate Health & Safety Training. (**Copy circulated**)

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor K Murphy, seconded by Councillor Larkin, it was agreed to approve the recommendations of the business case attached at appendix 1 of the officer's report.

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

SE/109/2025:

ACTION SHEET AND PRESENTATION FROM CLEANSING AND REFUSE TASK GROUP MEETING OF 19 AUGUST 2025

Read:

Action Sheet and Presentation from Cleansing and Refuse Task Group Meeting of 19 August 2025. (**Copy circulated**)

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor K Murphy, it was agreed to note the action sheet and presentation.

SE/110/2025:

ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING IN COMMITTEE MINUTES OF THURSDAY 26 JUNE 2025 & ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERS' MONTHLY BULLETIN HELD ON 28 AUGUST 2025

Read:

ARC21 Joint Committee Meeting in Committee Minutes of Thursday 26 June 2025 & ARC21 Joint Committee Members' Monthly Bulletin Held On 28 August 2025. (**Copy circulated**)

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor K Murphy, it was agreed to note the documents.

FOR NOTING

SE/111/2025:

ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 26 JUNE 2025

Read:

ARC21 Joint Committee Meeting No 097 Minutes Thursday 26 June 2025. (**Copy circulated**)

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor O'Hare, it was agreed to note the document.

SE/112/2025:

CLEANER NEIGHBOURHOODS REPORT 2024/2025

Read:

Cleaner Neighbourhoods Report 2024/2025. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor O'Hare, it was agreed to note the report.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.09pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 6 October 2025.

Signed: Councillor Oonagh Magennis
Chairperson

Signed: Mrs Sinead Murphy
Director of Sustainability & Environment

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 16/09/25 VENUE: Warrenpoint Town Hall MEETING: Sustainability and Environment

SUBJECT OF VOTE: Item 4: DAERA NACAAP Consultation Response

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
T Andrews	1			
W Clarke	2			
C Enright				1
K Feehan	<u>3</u>			
D Finn	4			
M Hearty	5			
J Jackson		1		
M Larkin	6			
O Magennis	7			
K Murphy	8			
S O'Hare	9			
H Reilly		2		
M Ruane	10			
D Taylor		3		
H Young	11			
TOTALS	11	3	0	1