

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: SE/2025

Minutes of Sustainability & Environment Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 19 November 2025 at 6.15pm in Boardroom, Warrenpoint Town Hall

Chair: Councillor O Magennis

In attendance in Chamber: Councillor T Andrews
Councillor M Larkin
Councillor M Ruane
Councillor M Hearty
Councillor S O'Hare

Committee Members in Attendance via Teams: Councillor W Clarke
Councillor K Feehan
Councillor K Murphy
Councillor D Taylor
Councillor C Enright
Councillor J Jackson
Councillor H Reilly
Councillor H Young

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

Officials in Attendance via teams: Ms F Branagh, Democratic Services Officer

SE/129/2025: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

An apology was received from Councillor Finn.

SE/130/2025: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

SE/131/2025: ACTION SHEET: SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 22 OCTOBER 2025

Read: Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 22 October 2025. (**Copy circulated**)

SE/123/2025 – Business Case – Provision of Dog Kennelling Services

Councillor Andrews asked for an update on the above item. Mrs Murphy confirmed that officers were working through the procurement documents.

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 22 October 2025.

FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION

SE/132/2025: CLIMATE MITIGATION REPORT

Read: Report from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability, regarding Submission of Climate Change Mitigation Report by the Council to DAERA as required by The Climate Change (Reporting Bodies) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024. (**Copy circulated**)

Mr Sage outlined the report, confirmed that suggested changes or additions could be incorporated and forwarded to DAERA and noted that the first Climate Change Mitigation report had been submitted to meet the deadline of 31 October 2025.

Councillor Andrews acknowledged the work undertaken to date in relation to climate change mitigation.

Councillor Reilly stated that the DUP were increasingly concerned about climate mitigation, noting that the Department for Infrastructure had announced £800,000 for a cycle path between Clough and Dundrum and, when asked why this funding had not been directed towards improvements to the A2 carriageway between Newcastle and Annalong, Members were advised that 10% of the DFI budget must be allocated under the Climate Act to active transport. He expressed concern that this was inappropriate given the poor condition of local roads.

Councillor Reilly also stated that some countries had indicated to the EU that they would not adhere to zero carbon targets due to the impact on their economies. He confirmed that the DUP group on the Council would be voting against the report.

Mr Sage clarified that the report was one of two required to be submitted by all Councils in Northern Ireland under the Climate Change Act.

Councillor Taylor stated that, despite being a legislative requirement, he shared the concerns highlighted by Councillor Reilly, described some of the targets as unrealistic and confirmed that he would not be supporting the report.

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 Andrews, seconded by Councillor Larkin, it was agreed to approve submission of the report to DAERA and to allow DAERA to analyse and publish information from the submitted report as required by the Climate Change (Reporting Bodies) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004.

SE/133/2025:

**MID-YEAR ASSESSMENT OF S&E DIRECTORATE
BUSINESS PLAN**

Read:

Report from Mrs S Murphy, Director of Sustainability and Environment, regarding Mid-Year Assessment of Sustainability and Environment Directorate Business Plan 2025-26. (**Copy circulated**)

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Andrews, the Mid-Year assessment of the Sustainability and Environment Directorate Business Plan 2025-26 was agreed.

SE/134/2025:

HEALTH FORUMS

Read:

Report from Mrs S Murphy, Director of Sustainability and Environment, regarding Health Fora. (**Copy circulated**)

Mrs Murphy reported that in August 2017 it had been agreed to establish Southern and South Eastern Health Trust working groups, meeting twice yearly with elected Members to discuss health service provision, with the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service also invited.

She advised that meetings scheduled for February and March 2023 had not proceeded, though the Trust attended a special Council meeting in November 2023. It was recommended, subject to availability, that the next working group meetings be held in February 2026, followed by a special Council meeting on health in March with future meetings being arranged by the working group.

Councillor Larkin asked if there had been a positive response from the Trusts. Mrs Murphy confirmed that the February 2023 meeting had not taken place due to lack of attendance and explained that the purpose of the report was to re-engage the groups to enable discussion six weeks prior to Council meeting.

In response to a further enquiry from Councillor Larkin regarding membership, Mrs Murphy advised that representation would be brought forward through Party Leaders.

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Hearty, seconded by Councillor O'Hare, it was agreed to approve the Membership update and Meeting schedule as detailed within 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 Larkin, seconded by Councillor Hearty, 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 O'Hare, seconded by Councillor Hearty, 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/135/2025: **WASTE CONTRACTS**

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

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor O'Hare, seconded by Councillor Larkin, it was agreed to approve the contract modification to two contracts as detailed in Appendix 1 of the officer's report.**

SE/136/2025: **CCTV CONTRACT**

Read: Report from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability, regarding Contract Modification – Town Centre CCTV Maintenance. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to approve the contract modification as detailed in section 2 of the officers' report.**

SE/137/2025: **BUSINESS CASE FOR DRIVER LICENCE TRAINING**

Read: Report from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability, regarding Business Case for C1+E Driving Licence Training. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to approve the findings of the Business Cases as detailed in Appendix 1 of the Officers' report.**

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

SE/138/2025: **ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING IN-COMMITTEE MINUTES OF THURSDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2025 & JOINT**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS' MONTHLY BULLETIN HELD ON 30 OCTOBER 2025

Read: Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting In-Committee Minutes Of Thursday 25 September 2025 & Joint Committee Members' Monthly Bulletin Held On 30 October 2025. (**Copy circulated**)

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor K Murphy, it was agreed to note the documents.**

FOR NOTING

SE/139/2025: **ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE AGM AND MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2025**

Read: ARC21 Joint Committee AGM and Meeting No 099 Minutes Thursday 25 September 2025. (**Copy circulated**)

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

SE/140/2025: **S&E WORKING MEETING SCHEDULE**

Read: S&E Working Group incorporating Cleansing and Refuse Task Group Revised Schedule of Meetings 2025-2026. (**Copy circulated**)

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

SE/141/2025: **CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR ARRANGEMENTS - REFUSE COLLECTIONS AND HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRES**

Read: Report from Mrs S Murphy, Director of Sustainability and Environment, regarding Christmas Holiday Arrangements for Refuse collection and Household Recycling Centres. (**Copy circulated**)

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Larkin, seconded by Councillor O'Hare, it was agreed to note the report.**

SE/142/2025: **NI LOCAL AUTHORITY COLLECTED MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STATISTICS Q1 2025-26**

Read: NI Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management Statistics - quarterly provision estimates for April to June 2025. (**Copy circulated**)

AGREED:

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

SE/143/2025:

DAERA CONSULTATION ON NI CLIMATE ADAPTATION PLAN

Read:

Report from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability, regarding Revised Consultation Response – DAERA Public Consultation on Northern Ireland's draft Climate Action Plan 2023-2027. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Reilly reiterated his Party's concern regarding the implementation of the Climate Action Plan.

AGREED:

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

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

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

Signed: **Councillor Oonagh Magennis
Chairperson**

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

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 19/11/25 VENUE: Warrenpoint Town Hall MEETING: Sustainability and Environment

SUBJECT OF VOTE: Item 4: Climate Mitigation Report

OUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
T Andrews	1			
W Clarke	2			
C Enright	3			
K Feehan	4			
D Finn				1
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