

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: SE/2025

Minutes of Sustainability & Environment Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 17 December 2025 at 6pm in Boardroom, Warrenpoint Town Hall

Chair:	Councillor O Magennis	
In attendance in Chamber:	Councillor T Andrews Councillor J Jackson Councillor H Reilly	Councillor M Hearty Councillor M Larkin Councillor M Ruane
Committee Members in Attendance via Teams:	Councillor C Enright Councillor D Finn	Councillor K Feehan Councillor K Murphy
Officials in Chamber:	Mrs S Murphy, Director, Sustainability and Environment Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability Mrs S Trainor, Director of Environment Mr C Smyth, Democratic Services Officer	
Officials in Attendance via teams:	Ms F Branagh, Democratic Services Officer	

SE/144/2025: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors O'Hare, Taylor and Young.

SE/145/2025: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

**SE/146/2025: ACTION SHEET: SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19 NOVEMBER 2025**

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

SE/134/2025: Health Fora:

Following a request from Councillor Andrews regarding progress on the Health Fora, Mrs Murphy advised that the proposed date of the next meeting was February 2026, with an update to be provided in the new year.

*SE/141/2025: Christmas and New Year Arrangements – Refuse Collections and Household
Recycling Centres:*

Councillor Reilly noted the Christmas bin collection arrangements and queried when this information would be shared with residents. He advised that he had received a number of complaints from residents in Kilkeel, Cranfield and Annalong regarding missed bin collections and queried what the underlying issues might be. He also noted that a local business owner had informed him that they had transferred their waste collection to a private provider, potentially resulting in a loss of income to the Council, and asked whether waste charges could be reviewed to ensure the Council remained competitive.

Mrs Murphy stated that she was not aware of any complaints regarding bin collections but confirmed that she would look into the matter. In relation to the Christmas collection arrangements, she confirmed that information would be shared on social media, alongside stickers being placed on bins to ensure those residents affected were aware of the changes. She also asked Members to share this information with residents as opportunities arose. With regard to commercial waste collections, she confirmed that the pricing schedule had remained unchanged from the previous year and that the service operated on a cost-recovery basis rather than for profit, and therefore there would be no loss of income.

Councillor Reilly welcomed the distribution of the stickers and thanked Mrs Murphy for the update.

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

Councillor Finn queried whether there was an update on her Notice of Motion, stating that she had yet to receive a written response.

Mr Sage apologised for the lack of a written response but confirmed that engagement had taken place with DfI and that he would revert to Councillor Finn.

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 November 2025.**

FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION

SE/147/2025: **NUCLEAR FREE LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERSHIP FEE 2025/26**

Read: Report from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability, regarding NFLA Membership Fee 2025/26. **(Copy circulated)**

Mr Sage outlined the paper, confirming that the recommendation was for Members to approve the renewal of the membership, noting that the membership fee remained unchanged from the previous year.

In proposing the report, Councillor Andrews commended the efforts of Members on the Nuclear Free local authority.

Councillor Reilly welcomed the report, noting that regular monitoring for the presence of radiation was undertaken, which he stated should be reassuring for the local community.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Reilly, it was agreed to approve renewal of the annual subscription for the membership of the NFLA.**

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 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 Jackson, seconded by Councillor Andrews, 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/148/2025: BUSINESS CASE - CLEANING OF DRAINS, INTERCEPTORS AND SEPTIC TANKS

Read: Report from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability, regarding Business Case for Cleaning of Drains, Gullies & Interceptors. (**Copy circulated**)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Larkin, seconded by Councillor Hearty, it was agreed to note the report and approve the associated Business Case as outlined in Appendix 1 of the Officers report.

SE/149/2025: BUSINESS CASE - ELECTRICAL TESTING, MAINTENANCE AND MINOR WORKS

Read: Report from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability, regarding Fixed Wire Testing, Emergency Lighting and Minor Electrical Works Contract. (**Copy circulated**)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Larkin, it was agreed to note the content of the report and approve the findings of the Full Economic Appraisal as outlined in Appendix 1 of the Officers report.

SE/150/2025:

BUSINESS CASE – WINTER GRITTING

Read:

Report from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability, regarding Winter Gritting and Adverse Weather Management at Council Locations. (**Copy circulated**)

AGREED:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Larkin, seconded by Councillor Ruane, to note the content of the report and approve the findings of the Business Case as outlined in Appendix 1 of the Officers report.

It was also agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hearty, seconded by Councillor Magennis, that Council write to DFI to ask for flexibility in gritting routes to deal with unexpected road issues and diversions.

SE/151/2025:

WASTE CONTRACTS

Read:

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

AGREED:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Hearty, to approve the Direct Award Contract extensions 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/152/2025:

ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING IN-COMMITTEE MINUTES OF THURSDAY 30 OCTOBER 2025 & JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERS' MONTHLY BULLETIN HELD ON 2 DECEMBER 2025

Read:

Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting In-Committee Minutes Of Thursday 30 October 2025 & Joint Committee Members' Monthly Bulletin Held On 2 December 2025. (**Copy circulated**)

AGREED:

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

SE/153/2025:

ACTION SHEET FROM THE S&E WORKING GROUP MEETING OF 19 NOVEMBER 2025

Read: Action Sheet from S&E Working Group 19 November 2025 & S&E WG Presentation 19 November 2025. **(Copy circulated)**

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

FOR NOTING

SE/154/2025: **ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE AGM AND MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 30 OCTOBER 2025**

Read: ARC21 Joint Committee AGM and Meeting No 100 Minutes Thursday 30 October 2025. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Andrews offered his thanks to Councillor K Murphy for her work on ARC21.

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

SE/155/2025: **THE NORTHERN IRELAND LOCAL AUTHORITY COLLECTED (LAC) MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STATISTICS ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024/25**

Read: LAC Municipal Waste 2024-25 Infographic. **(Copy circulated)**

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

There being no further business the meeting ended at 6.33pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 12 January 2026.

Signed: **Councillor Oonagh Magennis**
Chairperson

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