

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: SE/2025

**Minutes of Sustainability & Environment Committee Meeting held on
Wednesday 18 February 2026 at 6.15pm in Boardroom, Warrenpoint Town
Hall**

Chair: Councillor O Magennis

In attendance in Chamber:

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor M Hearty
Councillor M Larkin	Councillor K Murphy
Councillor M Ruane	

Committee Members in Attendance via Teams:

Councillor W Clarke	Councillor K Feehan
Councillor D Finn	Councillor J Jackson
Councillor H Reilly	Councillor H Young

Non-Committee Members in Attendance via Teams:

Councillor P Byrne	Councillor C King
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Officials in Chamber:

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

Officials in Attendance via teams:

Ms F Branagh, Democratic Services Officer

SE/010/2026: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors O'Hare and Taylor.

SE/011/2026: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

SE/012/2026: ACTION SHEET: SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 28 JANUARY 2026

Read: Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 28 January 2026. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Hearty, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to note the Action**

**Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment
Committee Meeting held on 28 January 2026.**

FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION

**SE/013/2025: OFFICER REPORT ON NOTICE OF MOTION – SOLAR
POWERED CCTV CAMERAS**

Read: Report from Mrs S Trainor, Assistant Director of Environment,
regarding Notice of Motion – Solar Powered CCTV Cameras.
(Copy circulated)

Mrs Trainor advised that the report was to facilitate discussion on the notice of motion from Councillor C King regarding solar-powered CCTV cameras, which had been deferred from the Council meeting of 12 January 2026. She reported that the Environment Department had strengthened its operational capacity through recent recruitment, enabling a more coordinated and proactive approach to environmental crime and confirmed that an update report would be presented to the Sustainability and Environment Working Group in Quarter 1 of 2026/27.

Councillor C King welcomed the report and thanked officers. He stated that illegal dumping remained a serious and persistent issue across the district and highlighted the environmental, public health and financial impacts. He explained that his motion sought practical and innovative solutions and referred to County Louth's use of solar-powered CCTV as part of an anti-dumping strategy, noting detections, enforcement outcomes and the value of their evaluation process. He welcomed recent recruitment within the Environment Team and the inclusion of illegal dumping within the educational enforcement plan. He added that collaboration with Louth County Council was practical given their experience and early results, and emphasised that deterrence, enforcement and environmental protection were central to the issue.

Councillor Young proposed an amendment to include an amnesty for mattress collection, noting its success in County Louth. Councillor C King did not accept the amendment. Mrs Trainor advised that mattresses were already accepted at Household Recycling Centres and through the bulky-item collection service.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Reilly regarding governance of CCTV cameras, Mrs Trainor advised that as part of the process, officers would complete a feasibility study and business case, with an update to be provided in due course.

Councillor Finn welcomed the motion, noting that fly-tipping remained a significant problem in Newry, particularly along the A1 slip roads. She asked whether Councillor C King would accept an amendment to write to the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) to clarify responsibility for cleaning along these routes and to support identification of potential CCTV locations.

Councillor Magennis advised that any proposals should relate to the officer's report rather than the original motion.

Councillor Larkin queried the need to write to DfI if responsibilities were already known.

In response to Councillor Finn's enquiry, Mrs Murphy confirmed that the Council was already collaborating with DfI on A1 slip-road issues and explained the practical challenges of litter management in high-speed traffic areas. She noted that the maintenance of the A1 was administered by a contractor on behalf of DfI and that collaboration would continue.

Councillor Magennis stated that, given existing collaboration, she did not consider it necessary to write to DfI. Councillor Larkin concurred.

Councillor K. Murphy proposed acceptance of the officers' recommendation, seconded by Councillor Larkin.

Councillor Byrne sought clarity on whether Councillor Finn's request would be incorporated into the recommendations, noting the proposal in the officer's report to identify opportunities for joint learning and shared resources.

Councillor Magennis highlighted that acceptance of the officers' recommendation had already been proposed and seconded.

Councillor Byrne emphasised the importance of clearly outlining engagement with DfI.

Councillor Finn noted that she had been unaware of the ongoing collaboration at the time of her proposal and stressed the importance of progressing such work through formal channels.

Mrs Murphy advised that she would share details of ongoing collaboration and programme work with DfI as it progressed.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor K Murphy, seconded by Councillor Larkin, it was agreed to consider the Notice of Motion and note the proposed actions by the Environment Department of Council and to write to the DAERA Minister requesting information on the available support and funding for tackling illegal dumping effectively across the District.**

SE/014/2025: **CONSULTATION ON A SINGLE CONSTRUCTION REGULATOR PROSPECTUS**

Read: Report from Mrs S Trainor, Assistant Director of Environment, regarding Consultation on a single construction regulator prospectus. **(Copy circulated)**

Mrs Trainor advised that the purpose of the report was to seek Committee approval to submit the Environmental Health Department's consultation response to the Government's proposals for regulatory reform.

Councillor Andrews welcomed the report, acknowledged the work undertaken since the Grenfell tragedy to strengthen regulatory protections, and proposed to accept the officer's recommendations.

Councillor Hearty stated that while regulatory uniformity was welcome, he remained concerned that the proposals would be England-centric and would not reflect the differing circumstances in the North of Ireland. He emphasised the importance of maintaining close alignment with the EU and particularly the South of Ireland, in relation to these regulations. He added that any new regulatory body would, at a minimum, require a base or branch in the North of Ireland and should recognise the need for continued EU alignment given the cross-border nature of many businesses.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Hearty, it was agreed to approve the submission of the Environmental Health Department's consultation response to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government on Government proposals for regulatory reform and the development of a single construction regulator as detailed in Appendix 1 of the officers report.**

SE/015/2025: DFC CONSULTATION ON NOTICE TO QUIT PERIODS

Read: Report from Mrs S Trainor, Assistant Director of Environment, regarding Consultation on Notice to Quit Periods. **(Copy circulated)**

Mrs Trainor outlined the report, noting the proposed changes to notice-to-quit legislation and associated guidance to be enforced by councils in the private rented sector, and sought approval for submission of the consultation response to the Department for Communities as set out in Appendix 1.

Councillor Hearty described the proposed legislation as a half-measure, albeit in the right direction. He highlighted that some elements would reduce notice periods for tenants and stated that no-fault evictions should be prohibited. He confirmed his support for the Council's consultation response.

Councillor Andrews welcomed the proposed legislation but agreed that it did not go far enough. He referred to numerous cases of private tenants losing their homes with no alternative accommodation available and stressed the need for additional resources to increase housing stock.

Councillor Reilly concurred with the need for more housing provision. He welcomed the legislation as a positive step forward and cited a constituent who, after 12 years in the same property, had been given one month's notice to vacate despite having recently invested significantly in redecorating. He noted that under the proposed legislation the tenant would have been entitled to seven months' notice.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Hearty, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to note the proposed changes to notice to quit legislation and guidance to be enforced by Councils in relation to the private rented sector and to approve the return of the consultation response to DfC.**

SE/016/2025: RETHINKING RESOURCES

Read: Report from Mrs S Trainor, Assistant Director of Environment, regarding Rethinking Our Resources Consultation. **(Copy circulated)**

Mrs Trainor outlined the report, noting that the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) had launched the draft *Rethinking Our Resources: Northern Ireland Resources and Waste Management Strategy* consultation, and that Members were asked to

agree to write to DAERA requesting an extension to the consultation deadline.

In response to a query from Councillor Young regarding which Councils had sought an extension, Mrs Trainor confirmed this was not yet known.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Hearty, it was agreed to note the content of the report and agree that Council write to DAERA requesting an extension to the consultation deadline in line with other Councils.**

SE/017/2025: HEALTH WORKING GROUPS

Read: Report from Mrs S Trainor, Assistant Director of Environment, regarding Health Working Groups. **(Copy circulated)**

Mrs Trainor noted that the purpose of the report was to inform Members of the forthcoming Working Group meetings to be held in March 2026 and of the Special Council meeting on Health scheduled for 28 April 2026. Members were asked to agree that officers review and seek additional attendees for the Health Working Groups from established organisations within the district with an interest in the health sector, and to note that revised terms of reference would be presented at those meetings for approval.

Councillor Andrews proposed to accept the officer's recommendations, emphasising the importance of local input into decision making.

Councillor Reilly welcomed and seconded the proposal, noting that he had sought such an approach since Council amalgamation. He stated that the model reflected the successful practice of the former Newry and Mourne Council and advised that, as a member of the Area Integrated Partnership Board, he believed the forthcoming neighbourhood partnerships would bring health-care management to a more local level. He considered the changes significant and complementary to the Board's work.

In response to enquiries from Councillor Feehan regarding reassessment of community groups and whether the initial Working Group meeting in March 2026 would address community representation, Mrs Trainor confirmed that a review would take place and that community representation would be discussed at the initial meeting.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Reilly that the proposed terms of reference as outlined in appendix 1 of the officer's report is put forward for discussion and agreement at the planned working group meetings and that officers review and seek attendees for the Health Working Groups from established groups within the District with an interest in the health sector.**

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 Ruane, seconded by Councillor Larkin, 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/018/2026: DRIVER TRAINING CONTRACT

Read: Report from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability, regarding Contract Modification – Driver Training and Assessment. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Larkin, seconded by Councillor K Murphy, to approve the contract modification as detailed in section 2 of the officers' report.

SE/019/2026: THE PATH TO NET ZERO – FLEET FUEL OPTIONS

Read: Report from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability, regarding The Path to Net Zero – Fleet Fuel Options. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hearty, seconded by Councillor Andrews, to approve the transition from diesel to HVO in line with Council's transition towards a Net Zero Council and to achieve targets set by the Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy.

SE/020/2026: SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF BEV FORKLIFT

Read: Report from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability, regarding Supply and Delivery of BEV Forklift. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Larkin, seconded by Councillor Ruane, to approve the

additional expenditure as outlined in the officers' report to allow the purchase of a forklift truck and the associated maintenance and repair package.

SE/021/2026: WASTE CONTRACTS

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

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Larkin, seconded by Councillor K Murphy, to approve the contract extensions as outlined in the officers' report.

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

SE/022/2026: ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING IN-COMMITTEE MINUTES OF TUESDAY 2ND DECEMBER 2025

Read: Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting In-Committee Minutes of Tuesday 2nd December 2025. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hearty, seconded by Councillor Andrews, to note the document.

FOR NOTING

SE/023/2025: ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 2ND DECEMBER 2025

Read: Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting Held on Tuesday 2nd December 2025. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor K Murphy, to note the document.

SE/024/2025: PROVISIONAL NORTHERN IRELAND LOCAL AUTHORITY COLLECTED MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STATISTICS - JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2025

Read: LAC Municipal Waste Q2 2025-26 infographic. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor K Murphy, to note the document.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.13pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 2 March 2026.

Signed: Councillor Oonagh Magennis
Chairperson

Signed: Mrs Sinead Murphy
Director of Sustainability & Environment