

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: SE/2025

**Minutes of Sustainability & Environment Committee Meeting held on
Wednesday 29 April 2026 at 6.00pm in Boardroom, Warrenpoint Town Hall**

Chair: Councillor O Magennis

**In attendance in
Chamber:**

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor M Hearty
Councillor J Jackson	Councillor M Larkin
Councillor K Murphy	Councillor M Ruane
Councillor H Young	

**Committee Members in
Attendance via Teams:**

Councillor W Clarke	Councillor K Feehan
Councillor D Finn	Councillor S O'Hare
Councillor H Reilly	Councillor D Taylor

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/041/2026:

APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

There were no apologies.

SE/042/2026:

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

SE/043/2026:

**ACTION SHEET: SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18 MARCH 2026**

Read:

Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee
Meeting held on 18 March 2026. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

**On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by
Councillor Hearty, it was agreed to note the Action
Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment
Committee Meeting held on 18 March 2026.**

SE/030/2026 – Home to Hospital

In response to a query from Councillor Andrews, Mrs Trainor advised that discussions had taken place within the Environment Department, which confirmed coverage of the Mourne DEA area. She further advised that an expression of interest would be issued imminently for the 2026–27 period, with a determination to be made based on the information received.

SE/031/2026 – Houses in Multiple Occupations – License Fee

In response to a query from Councillor Andrews, Mrs Trainor advised that representatives from the Belfast HMO Unit would attend the S&E Working Group meeting on 20 May 2026 to deliver a presentation and that all interested Members were invited to attend. In relation to housing stock and its replenishment, she confirmed that this matter would be followed up with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION

SE/044/2025: OFFICER REPORT ON NOTICE OF MOTION – LISLEA MEN'S SHED PROPOSED WILDFOWL & WILDLIFE PRESERVE AT CAMLOUGH LAKE

Read: Report from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability, regarding Notice of Motion – Lislea Men's Shed Proposed Wildfowl & Wildlife Preserve at Camlough Lake. (**Copy circulated**)

Councillor Magennis spoke to her motion and advised that the initiative was first presented to the Council in 2019 and had received political support at that time and subsequently. She confirmed that the proposal sought recognition of an area known locally as the Commons as a wildfowl and wetland centre, with the aim of protecting wildlife habitats and supporting education and community engagement. She noted that, despite delays arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, Lislea Men's Shed had continued to progress the proposal with support from organisations including the RSPB and BirdWatch Ireland.

She advised that a recent Council-funded community awareness event demonstrated local interest and highlighted the area's biodiversity. Councillor Magennis referred to the availability of external funding and stated that the project would not place a financial burden on the Council, as ongoing maintenance would be undertaken by Lislea Men's Shed and partner organisations.

Mr Sage presented the report, which was to facilitate discussion on Councillor Magennis' notice of motion. He noted that Camlough Lake was a local natural asset with recognised biodiversity, recreational and landscape value, and that Lislea Men's Shed, working with partner organisations, had been progressing a community-led proposal for a wildfowl and wetland centre. He stated that the project aligned with Council sustainability priorities and advised that Members were asked to note the report, approve officer engagement with Lislea Men's Shed to obtain further information, with a subsequent update to be brought to the Committee.

Councillor Magennis welcomed the report and asked that officer engagement take place at the earliest opportunity and requested that, if possible, a further report be brought back to the Committee prior to the summer recess.

Councillor Andrews commended the motion and referred to the excellent work of Lislea Men's Shed and similar groups across the District.

Councillor Taylor advised that he had engaged with Lislea Men's Shed regarding the project and had attended a community consultation event in recent weeks. He referred to the work undertaken by the group to date and noted that further progress would require Council engagement. He highlighted the recommendations relating to officer involvement and stated that early engagement would be beneficial. He requested that officers engage with the group as soon as practicable and that updates on progress be provided to the Committee.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Hearty, to note the report and approve officers to engage with Lislea Men's Shed to obtain a detailed understanding of the project and bring back a further report to S&E Committee.**

SE/045/2025: CONSULTATION ON NEW GENERAL SAFETY REQUIREMENT (GSR) FOR CONSTRUCTION PRODUCTS

Read: Report from Mrs S Trainor, Assistant Director of Environment, regarding Consultation on a New General Safety Requirement (GSR) for Construction Products. **(Copy circulated)**

Mrs Trainor outlined the report, which sought approval to submit a consultation response prepared by the Environmental Health Department on behalf of Council to the Government's proposals on the General Safety Requirement for construction products. Members were asked to note the report and approve the draft consultation response as set out in Appendix 1.

Councillor Andrews indicated agreement with the contents of the report and proposed the recommendations.

In response to a query from Councillor Larkin regarding the introduction of civil monetary penalties in the North and responsibility for enforcement, Mrs Trainor advised that the position was not yet clear and that further information would be provided when available.

Councillor Larkin raised concerns that a number of consultation questions were not relevant to the North, as the necessary powers did not currently exist, and suggested that the local context had not been fully reflected. Mrs Trainor advised that these issues had been highlighted within the consultation response.

In response to a further query regarding whether processes would be established for Councils to adopt or enforce any future regulations, Mrs Murphy advised that clarity on this matter was being sought through the consultation response.

Councillor Andrews concurred with the views expressed and stated that any associated costs should be met by central government rather than local Councils.

Mrs Trainor noted the comments raised by Members and advised that the consultation response would be reviewed to reflect these points.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor K Murphy, to approve the draft consultation detailed in Appendix 1 of the officers' report, to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, on**

Governments proposals for regulatory reform as detailed in the Construction Products General Safety Requirement.

SE/046/2025: CONSULTATION ON CONSTRUCTION PRODUCTS REFORM WHITE PAPER

Read: Report from Mrs S Trainor, Assistant Director of Environment, regarding Consultation on Construction Products Reform White Paper. (**Copy circulated**)

Mrs Trainor advised that the purpose of the report was to seek Committee approval to submit a consultation response prepared by the Environmental Health Department on behalf of the Council to the Government's Construction Products Reform White Paper on regulatory reform. Members were asked to approve the consultation response set out in Appendix 1.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Hearty, to approve the Environmental Health Department's consultation response, detailed in Appendix 1, to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government on the proposed regulatory reforms set out in the Construction Products Reform White Paper.**

SE/047/2025: CONSULTATION ON NORTHERN IRELAND WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

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

Mrs Trainor outlined the report, which sought approval on the proposed response to the DAERA consultation as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

Councillor Young commented on the proposals and outlined her party's position on recycling policy. She stated that moving away from co-mingled recycling systems could reduce cross-contamination and improve recycling quality, particularly for paper and card. She referred to the benefits of a more circular economy, including economic, environmental and employment outcomes.

Councillor Young also noted recent reforms that were progressed by Minister Muir's department relating to waste and resource management and advised that additional funding had been made available to Northern Ireland Councils through the extended producer responsibility scheme, ring-fenced for recycling and waste service improvements. She further advised that Northern Ireland was due to implement a deposit return scheme for bottles and cans from October 2027, which would contribute to increased recycling rates.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hearty, seconded by Councillor Larkin, to approve the DAERA consultation response in Appendix 1 of the**

of officers' report on the proposed Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy.

SE/048/2025: MEMBERSHIP OF ASSOCIATION OF PORT HEALTH AUTHORITIES AND SHIP SANITATION INSPECTION FEES

Read: Report from Mrs S Trainor, Assistant Director of Environment regarding Membership of Association of Port Health Authorities. **(Copy circulated)**

Mrs Trainor outlined the report, which sought Member approval for the payment of the Council's corporate membership fee to the Association of Port Health Authorities for the 2026–27 financial year, and for the revised fees for ship sanitation inspections of international shipping, as detailed in section 2.2 of the officer's report.

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Larkin to approve the payment of corporate membership fees to the Association of Port Health Authorities for 2026/27 and revised fees for ship sanitation inspection of international shipping vessels.

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 K Murphy, 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 Hearty, seconded by Councillor K Murphy, 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/049/2026: WASTE MANAGEMENT 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 Andrews, to approve the Direct Award Contract extensions as detailed in Appendix 1 of the officers' report.

FOR NOTING

SE/050/2026: **PROVISIONAL NORTHERN IRELAND LOCAL AUTHORITY COLLECTED MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STATISTICS FOR OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2025 (DAERA)**

Read: LAC Municipal Waste Q3 2025-26 Infographic. (**Copy circulated**)

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

SE/051/2026: **UPDATE REPORT ON FSA AUDIT**

Read: Report from Mrs S Trainor, Assistant Director of Environment, regarding Food Standards Agency's Audit Report. (**Copy circulated**)

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

There being no further business the meeting ended at 6.27pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday 5 May 2026.

Signed: **Councillor Oonagh Magennis**
Chairperson

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