

## **NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Ref: SE/2025

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### **Minutes of Sustainability & Environment Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 20 May 2026 at 6.15pm in Boardroom, Warrenpoint Town Hall**

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**Chair:** Councillor O Magennis

**In attendance in  
Chamber:**

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor M Hearty
Councillor M Larkin	Councillor M Ruane
Councillor D Taylor	Councillor H Young

**Committee Members in  
Attendance via Teams:**

Councillor K Feehan	Councillor D Finn
Councillor K Murphy	Councillor H Reilly

**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/052/2026:**

**APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

An apology was received from Councillors Jackson and O'Hare.

Councillor Magennis noted this was her final meeting as Committee Chair and expressed thanks to officers and Vice-Chairperson Hearty for the support offered over the past year.

Councillor Andrews recorded his appreciation to Councillors Magennis and Hearty for their service in the roles of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.

**SE/053/2026:**

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**SE/054/2026:**

**ACTION SHEET: SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT  
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 29 APRIL 2026**

Read:

Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 29 April 2026. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to note the Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 29 April 2026.

**FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION**

**SE/055/2025:** **CONSULTATION ON THE UK'S NEW PRODUCT SAFETY FRAMEWORK**

Read: Report from Mrs S Trainor, Assistant Director of Environment, regarding Consultation on the UK's new Product Safety Framework. **(Copy circulated)**

Mrs Trainor presented the report advising that it sought approval to submit a consultation response on the UK's new product safety framework, as detailed in Appendix 1.

**AGREED:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Ruane, to approve the submission of the consultation response to the Department for Business and Trade on proposals on a new, modernised and enhanced core product safety framework as detailed in Appendix 1 of the officers' report.

**SE/056/2025:** **CONSULTATION ON UK'S MARKET SURVEILLANCE AND ENFORCEMENT FRAMEWORK**

Read: Report from Mrs S Trainor, Assistant Director of Environment, regarding Consultation on UK's Market Surveillance and Enforcement Framework **(Copy circulated)**

Mrs Trainor outlined the report, which sought approval for the submission of a consultation response to the Department for Business and Trade on proposals for new, modernised and enhanced reforms to UK product regulation, market surveillance and enforcement, as detailed in Appendix 1.

Councillor Andrews noted that technology was continually evolving and welcomed the consultation response.

**AGREED:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Larkin, to approve the submission of the consultation response to the Department for Business and Trade on proposals on a new, modernised and enhanced reforms to UK product regulation market surveillance and enforcement as detailed in Appendix 1 of the officers' report.

**SE/057/2025:** **CONSULTATION ON THE FIRE SAFETY OF DOMESTIC UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE**

Read: Report from Mrs S Trainor, Assistant Director of Environment, regarding Consultation On The Fire Safety of Domestic Upholstered Furniture. (**Copy circulated**)

Mrs Trainor advised the purpose of the report was to seek approval to submit a consultation response, prepared by the Environmental Health Department on behalf of the Council, to Government proposals for new regulations on the safety of domestic upholstered furniture.

**AGREED:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Hearty, to approve the consultation response on Fire Safety of Domestic Upholstered Furniture to the Department for Business and Trade as detailed in Appendix 1 of the officers' report.**

**SE/058/2025: SUSTAINABILITY MEMBERSHIPS & SLAS**

Read: Report from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability regarding Sustainability Memberships & SLAs. (**Copy circulated**)

Mr Sage advised the purpose of the report was to consider and agree financial support to Sustainable NI, Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful, and the NI Resource Network for the Council's sustainability and climate change, eco-skills, Live Here Love Here, and circular economy initiatives for the 2026/27 financial year. He confirmed the resource allocation was already contained within the current year's budget.

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Hearty, seconded by Councillor Magennis, the following was agreed;**

- **To provide support to SNI at Accelerator Membership Level £10,000 and approve signing of an SLA with Sustainable NI for 2026-27 year.**
- **To provide support to KNIB of £39,770 – includes as follows:**
  - **Eco Schools at Option 1 Basic Level = £3,100,**
  - **Live Here Love Here support at = £32,500**
  - **Green Flag Awards support at = £4,170 and approve signing of an SLA with Keep NI Beautiful for 2026-27 year.**
- **To pay membership of the NI Resource Network at £400f or support with Circular Economy and Waste Prevention initiatives**

**SE/059/2026: DRAFT PARKING ORDER**

Read: Report from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability regarding NMDDC Draft Off-Street Parking (Public Car Parks) Order. (**Copy circulated**)

Mr Sage advised the purpose of the report was to update Members on an aspect of the off-street parking function transferred to Councils in 2015. The report focused on the legislative parking order governing the use of Council off-street car parks and the progress of the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Draft Off-Street Parking (Public Car Parks) Order 2026.

He advised that Council-controlled car parks operated under the Off-Street Parking Order 2000, enacted by the Department for Infrastructure, which significantly restricted the Council's ability to manage its car parks. He further advised that other Council sites were governed by byelaws, which presented enforcement challenges, while some sites had no legislative cover.

He noted that the off-street parking landscape had evolved, with Councils moving away from the Department for Infrastructure model and developing their own enforcement arrangements to meet increasing demands for effective parking management. This had led to the need for Councils to develop their own parking orders, and it was essential these were progressed and agreed prior to the removal of Department for Infrastructure legislation.

Mr Sage confirmed the core provisions of the proposed Council parking order remained consistent with the existing order, with key changes outlined at Sections 2.3 and 2.4 of the report.

Councillor Ruane requested that the provision of parking bays for mothers and children be considered across Council car parks within the district. He noted that, while not legislated for, such provision existed in other settings, such as supermarkets.

Mr Sage confirmed this could be examined from a legislative perspective and would revert to Councillor Ruane outside the meeting.

Councillor Reilly raised the issue of e-scooters and suggested specific byelaws were required to address this, similar to those introduced for anti-social behaviour and alcohol use in public areas.

Mrs Murphy advised the introduction of byelaws would require discussion with the Council's Legal Services. She further advised that a Notice of Motion regarding off-road vehicles had been considered at a recent Active and Healthy Communities Committee and that Councillor Reilly's query would be referred to that Committee.

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Young, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to approve the Newry Mourne & Down District Council 'DRAFT' Off-Street Parking (Public Car Parks) Order and to authorise release for the Public Consultation Process.**

**SE/060/2026:** **CLIMATE ADAPTION REPORT TO DAERA**

Read: Report from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability regarding Climate Adaption Report to DAERA (**Copy circulated**)

Mr Sage presented the report, which sought Members' approval for the submission of the

Climate Change Adaptation Report, as required under the Climate Change (Reporting Bodies) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024. He confirmed that any suggested changes or additions could be added and submitted to DAERA for inclusion in the report.

He noted that the first Climate Change Adaptation Report had been submitted on 31 March 2026 and that reports were required every five years. He further noted that the report was required to include governance arrangements; objectives and strategies addressing climate adaptation; the methodology used to identify and assess climate change impacts; identified climate risks; and proposed adaptation actions.

Councillor Taylor noted that discussions had taken place in recent months regarding climate change targets and that he and others had raised concerns regarding their realism and the need for review.

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Hearty, seconded by Councillor Magennis, 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) 2024.**

**SE/061/2026: HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPANCY–UPDATED SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS**

Read: Report from Mrs S Trainor, Assistant Director of Environment, regarding Houses In Multiple Occupancy–Updated Service Level Agreements. **(Copy circulated)**

Mrs Trainor advised the purpose of the report was to seek Committee approval of the Service Level Agreements between Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and Belfast City Council in relation to the HMO service, as detailed in Appendices 1 to 3 of the report.

She advised that Belfast City Council’s HMO service, operating on behalf of the 11 Councils, was responsible for managing the HMO licensing application process, while decisions regarding the grant, refusal, variation and revocation of HMO licences rested with the Council.

Mrs Trainor further advised that the previous SLA between the Council and Belfast City Council, approved in 2019, had been drafted in the future tense prior to the HMO service becoming operational, and that the updated SLAs reflected the current operation of the service.

Councillor Hearty stated that, despite arguments presented at the Sustainability and Environment Working Group held earlier that day regarding the need for HMOs, he continued to have concerns regarding their location in certain areas.

He noted that Belfast City Council had recently increased fees for processing HMO applications and queried whether this continued to provide value for money and whether it would be feasible for the Council to deliver the service independently.

Mrs Trainor advised that Belfast City Council employed staff centrally and had the necessary systems in place. She further advised that she was not aware of any other Council seeking to deliver the service independently and that the costs of doing so had not been assessed. She confirmed this could be examined and that she would revert to Councillor Hearty outside the

meeting.

Mrs Murphy advised that, at the previous month's Committee, a revised fee structure had been approved, and it had been highlighted that the structure was based on cost recovery for Belfast City Council. However, she noted there was a statutory cap on the amount that could be charged, meaning full cost recovery was not achieved. She further advised that Belfast City Council had raised the issue of achieving full cost recovery, which was being progressed through the SOLACE grouping.

Councillor Reilly sought clarification that the report related to the certification of HMOs and associated costs and did not represent the Council encouraging HMOs within the District. Mrs Trainor confirmed this, advising that the report concerned the continuation of the service and that the SLA was drafted in the present tense.

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Young, it was agreed to approve the Service Level Agreements between Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and Belfast City Council in relation to HMO Service as detailed in appendices 1-3 of 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 Young, 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/062/2026: SUSTAINABILITY CONTRACTS**

**Read:** Report from Mrs Gail Kane, Head of Facilities Management, Presented by Mr Conor Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability regarding Sustainability Contracts. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Hearty, to award a Direct Award Contract for Town Centre CCTV Systems in Newry, Warrenpoint and Kilkeel and a further Direct Award Contract for the repair and maintenance of Council Facility CCTV systems, as detailed in section 2 of the officers' report.**

**SE/063/2026:** **BUSINESS CASE FOR MAINTENANCE OF ARTIFICIAL SPORTS PITCHES**

Read: Report from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability regarding Business Case for Maintenance of Council artificial sports pitches and surfaces 2026-2029. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Larkin, to approve the business case for the procurement of a contract for the provision of specialist maintenance services for artificial pitch maintenance.**

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

**SE/064/2026:** **ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING IN-COMMITTEE MINUTES OF THURSDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2026 & JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERS' MONTHLY BULLETIN HELD ON 30 APRIL 2026**

Read: Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting In-Committee Minutes Of Thursday 26 February 2026 & Joint Committee Members' Monthly Bulletin Held On 30 April 2026. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Young, seconded by Councillor Ruane, to note the documents.**

**FOR NOTING**

**SE/065/2026:** **ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2026**

Read: ARC21 Joint Committee Meeting No 103 Minutes Thursday 26 February 2026. **(Copy circulated)**

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

**SE/067/2026:** **HMO ANNUAL REPORT**

Read: Report from Mrs S Trainor, Assistant Director of Environment, regarding Annual Report on NIHMO Service Activity from 2025 - 2026. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Larkin, seconded by Councillor Hearty, to note the activity of the NIHMO Service during the financial year 2025/26.**

**SE/068/2026:** **UPDATE ON TOBACCO AND VAPES BILL**

Read: Report from Mrs S Trainor, Assistant Director of Environment, regarding Update on Tobacco and Vapes Act. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Larkin, seconded by Councillor Hearty, to note the report.**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 6.48pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 1 June 2026.

**Signed:** **Councillor Oonagh Magennis**  
**Chairperson**

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