

March 12th, 2021

Notice Of Meeting

You are invited to attend the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting to be held on **Tuesday, 16th March 2021 at 6:00 pm in Microsoft Teams.**

Committee Membership:

- Councillor O Magennis (Chair)
- Councillor T Andrews (Deputy Chair)
- Councillor C Casey
- Councillor W Clarke
- Councillor D Curran
- Councillor A Finnegan
- Councillor G Malone
- Councillor C Mason
- Councillor H McKee
- Councillor K McKevitt
- Councillor D Murphy
- Councillor K Owen
- Councillor H Reilly
- Councillor G Stokes
- Councillor D Taylor

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks.

2.0 Declarations of "Conflict of Interest".

3.0 Action Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 17 February 2021 (Attached)

 *NS Committee Action Sheet - 17 February 2021 (002).pdf*

Page 1

Facilities Management and Maintenance

4.0 Report on Glycophosphate Review. (Attached).

 *Report on Glycophosphate Review March 2021.pdf*

Page 10

5.0 Report on the Council's Tree Strategy (Attached).

 *Council Tree Strategy.pdf*

Page 24

Waste Management

6.0 Report on Enforcement Improvement Plan Update. (Attached).

 *Report - Enforcement Improvement Plan.pdf*

Page 82

7.0 Report on waste management Charges (2021-22). (Attached).

 *Waste Management Charges NMDC Agreed 2021-2022 Final.pdf*

Page 102

8.0 Report on Refuse Collection Holiday Arrangements (2021-22). (Attached).

 *Report to NS March 2021 Ref Public Holiday arrangements Refuse and HRC sites.pdf*

Page 111

9.0 Report on Siting Bee hives on former Council Landfill at Aughnagun. (Attached).

 *Report re. Siting Bee hives on formal Council Landfill at Aughnagun.pdf*

Page 115

For Noting

10.0 Arc21 Joint Committee Members' Bulletin of 25 February

2021. (Attached).

 *ARC21--JC MembersBulletin.pdf*

Page 118

11.0 Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting Minutes held on Thursday 28 January 2021. (Attached).

 *ARC21 25Feb21-Item2-Minutes28Jan21.F.pdf*

Page 121

12.0 Historic Action Sheet. (Attached).


 *NS Historic Actions Tracker Sheet (Fleet updated February 2021) 23-02-2021.pdf*

Page 129

Exempt Information Items

13.0 Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting Minutes held on Thursday 28 January 2021. (Attached).

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 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.

 *ARC21 -25Feb21-Item6-InCommMins28Jan21.F.pdf*

Not included

14.0 Business Case for the provision of Hire of Building Maintenance and Grounds Maintenance Plant and Machinery. (Attached).

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 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.

 *Report for Tender of Plant Machinery for Building Grounds Maintenance.pdf*

Not included

15.0 Business Case for Deep Cleaning of Paved Surfaces in Public Realm Area. (Attached)

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 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.

 *Report BC- Deep Cleansing of Paved Surfaces.pdf*

Not included

16.0 Business Case for Supply and Delivery of 120L Street Litter Bins. (Attached).

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 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.

📎 ***NS Committee - Supply and delivery of 120L street litter bins Business Case - Cover Report - v0.2.pdf***

Not included

17.0 Business Cases for the replacement of Medium-Size Chassis Cab Vehicles (Cover Report) (Attached).

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 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.

📎 ***Cover Report NS Committee - Priority Medium-Size Vehicles Business Case.pdf***

Not included

18.0 Business case for the replacement of 5 x 3,500 – 6,500 Kg Medium-Size Chassis Cab Vehicles for Cleansing (Appendix II). (Attached).

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 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.

📎 ***NS Committee - Appendix II - Priority Medium-Size Vehicles 5x3500-6500kg 16 03 21.pdf***

Not included

19.0 Business case for the replacement of 10 x 5,000 – 6,500 Kg Medium-Size Chassis Cab Vehicles for Facilities Management & Maintenance (Appendix III). (Attached).

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 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.

📎 ***NS Committee - Appendix III - Priority Medium-Size Vehicles -10x5-6500kg 16 03 21.pdf***

Not included

20.0 Business case for the replacement of 5 x 3,500 Kg Medium-Size Chassis Cab Vehicles for Facilities Management &

Maintenance (Appendix IV). (Attached).

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 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.

 ***NS Committee - Appendix IV - Priority Medium Size Vehicle - 5x3500kg 16 03 21.pdf***

Not included

21.0 Business Case for Miscellaneous Services. (Attached).

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 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.

 ***NS Committee - Miscellaneous Services Business Case - Cover Report - 16 03 21.pdf***

Not included

22.0 Business Case for HRC Small Skip Servicing. (Attached).

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 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.

 ***Business Case - Hilltown HRC Small Skip Servicing - Cover Report - 16 03 21.pdf***

Not included

23.0 Business Case for the Purchase of Wheeled Bins. (Attached).

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 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.

 ***NS Committee - Supply of Wheeled Bins - Cover Report - 16 03 21.pdf***

Not included

Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews

Mr Alan Beggs

Ms Kate Bingham

Cllr Patrick Brown

Cllr Robert Burgess

Cllr Pete Byrne

Mrs Dorinnia Carville

Cllr charlie casey

Cllr William Clarke

Cllr Dermot Curran

Ms Alice Curran

Cllr Laura Devlin

Ms Louise Dillon

Cllr Sean Doran

Cllr Cadogan Enright

Cllr Aoife Finnegan

Cllr Hugh Gallagher

Cllr Mark Gibbons

Cllr Oonagh Hanlon

Cllr Glyn Hanna

Cllr Valerie Harte

Cllr Roisin Howell

Mrs Sheila Kieran

Cllr Mickey Larkin

Cllr Alan Lewis

Mr Michael Lipsett

Cllr Oonagh Magennis

Mr Conor Mallon

Cllr Gavin Malone

Cllr Cathy Mason

Mr Johnny Mc Bride

Colette McAteer

Cllr Declan McAteer

Cllr Leeanne McEvoy

Cllr Harold McKee

Patricia McKeever

Cllr Karen McKevitt

Cllr Andrew McMurray

Cllr Roisin Mulgrew

Cllr Declan Murphy

Cllr Barra Ó Muirí

Linda O'Hare

Cllr Gerry O'Hare
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Cllr Kathryn Owen
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Mr Joe Parkes
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Cllr Henry Reilly
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Cllr Michael Ruane
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Cllr Michael Savage
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Mr Kevin Scullion
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Cllr Gareth Sharvin
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Donna Starkey
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Cllr Gary Stokes
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Sarah Taggart
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Cllr David Taylor
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Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly
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Cllr John Trainor
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Central Support Unit
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Cllr William Walker
.....
Mrs Marie Ward
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ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM NS MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2021

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
NS/010/2021	Chairperson's remarks – Enforcement Improvement Plan	Update on status of NS Enforcement Improvement Plan to be taken to March Committee Meeting and as part of that report to include the number of fly tipping incidences reported to Council and the corresponding response rate	J McBride	Update tabled at NS Committee Meeting (Mar – 21)	Y
NS/012/2021	Monthly Action Sheet	Noted and actions removed as marked.	DSO	Completed	
NOTICES OF MOTION					
NS/014/2021	Big District Clean Up	<p>Approval to Officers to develop a scheme, similar to the “Cleaner, Greener Communities Initiative” in 2019, to be implemented later in the year. This would be subject to the easing of COVID-19 Regulations, as well as the availability of the necessary supporting resources. A report to be brought back to a future meeting of the Neighbourhood Services Committee on the detail of the proposed scheme.</p> <p>It was also agreed that the Council engage with external groups, including</p>	L Dinsmore	Report to be tabled at April 21 NS Committee Meeting	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		Statutory Agencies, to encourage them join in this initiative.			
FACILITIES MANAGEMENT A AND MAINTENANCE					
NS/015/2021	Review of Council Bus Shelter Policy	Agreed to note the content of the report and that Council write to Translink seeking clarification on its programme for delivering bus shelters in this Council area and seeking confirmation that they have a budget available to undertake these works.	K Scullion	Report to be tabled at April 21 NS Committee Meeting	N
NS/016/2021	Bus shelter on Main Street, Hilltown	Agreed to defer taking a decision on this issue and that further discussions be #carried out with local residents/objectors in conjunction with the PCSP and PSNI to address any potential anti social behaviour concerns.	K Scullion	Ongoing	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
NS/018/2021	Christmas Illuminations and Celebrations Working Group Meeting – 14 January 2021	<p>Agreed to note the content of this report and the Action Sheet of the Christmas Illuminations Group Meeting held on 14th January 2021 and to approve the recommendations as set out in Section 1.2 to 1. 6 on the report.</p> <p>Agreed that Killyleagh Street, Crossgar, be added to the list for the provision of potential future Christmas lighting and that officials add this location to the list to bring back to Committee with costings.</p>	K Scullion	In Progress	N
		WASTE MANAGEMENT			
NS/018/2021	Provisional NI Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management Statistics	Agreed to note the content of this report and that the Waste Management Department continue to promote recycling initiatives. It was noted that this was considered essential to support household recycling efforts.	L Dinsmore		Y
NS/019/2021	Fleet replacement	Agreed to note the content of this report and approve the recommendation to adopt an	J McBride	Business Cases tabled for 3,500 – 6-5000 GVW	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		incremental approach at this stage for transitioning the Council to fleet to alternative, greener fuels in-line with green vehicle technology and supporting infrastructure; approve the presentation of business cases for the replacement of prioritised 3,500kg – 6,500kg GVW vehicles at the Neighbourhood Services Committee in March 2021; and subject to the completion of the depot survey referred to in section 2.9, present business cases for the replacement of vehicles <3,500kg GVW prioritising the procurement of alternative, greener fuels at the Neighbourhood Services Committee in April 2021.		vehicles at NS Committee (Mar 21)	
FOR NOTING					
NS/023/2021	Historic Actions Tracking Sheet	<p>Agreed the Historic Actions Tracking Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meetings be noted and actions removed as marked.</p> <p><u>NS/070/2019 – Notice of Motion Memory Gardens</u></p>	<p>DSO</p> <p>K Scullion</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<p>Mr Scullion advised this issue had not been progressed due to pressure on staff resources as a result of the pandemic. However it remained on the action sheet as work to be progressed.</p> <p><u>NS/171/2020 – Bring Sites Review</u></p> <p>Mr Dinsmore confirmed the documentation to seek tenders had been prepared and tender for removal was ready to be sought. Mr Dinsmore added that it was hoped to start to take in Bring Banks by mid-March.</p> <p><u>NS/170-2020 – Notice of Motion Delivery of small brown food waste bins and caddy bags</u></p> <p>Mr Dinsmore said the intent was to bring a report to Committee within the next couple of months on this issue.</p>	<p>L Dinsmore</p> <p>L Dinsmore</p>	<p>Contractor to be appointed in Mar-21 for removal for redundant sties</p> <p>Report to be tabled at April 21 NS Committee</p>	<p>N</p> <p>N</p>
IN CLOSED SESSION					
NS/025/2021	Business Case for minor works	Agreed to note the content of the report and accept the conclusion of the business case that option 3 be	K Scullion	Ongoing	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
	maintenance across Council Play areas	approved. Option 3 would see the appointment through tender of a competent contractor or contractors to undertake council wide minor works contract within Council play parks and MUGA'S (costs not exceeding the maximum value per works order as detailed in the report).			
NS/026/2021	Proposed extension to Monkshill Cemetery	Agreed to note the content of the report and that Committee approve the recommendations within section 1.5 of this report	K Scullion	Ongoing	N
NS/027/2021	Proposed extension to Kilbroney Cemetery	Agreed to note the content of the report and that Committee approve the recommendations within section 1.6 of this report.	K Scullion	In Progress	
NS/028/2021	Business case for the supply of feminine hygiene products	Agreed to note the content of the report and approve the findings of the business case presented in that Option three was the preferred option. Option three would see the appointment of a contractor to supply and service feminine hygiene products and similar services in Council facilities for the next 36-month period	K Scullion	Ongoing	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		or up to a maximum value as detailed in the report			
NS/029/2021	Business case for the provision of as required cleaning services	Agreed to note the content of the report and approve the findings of the business case presented in that Option three was the preferred option. Option three would see the appointment of a competent cleaning contractor to provide "as required" cleaning services for the Councils 31 Public Toilets, Newry Market and Chapel of Ease, to cover any future staff shortages for the next 12-month period or up to a maximum value as detailed in the report.	K Scullion	Ongoing	N
NS/030/2021	Business Case for Maintenance of Council public space CCTV	Agreed to note the content of the report; approve the findings of the business case presented for Town Centre CCTV Repairs and Maintenance and accept Option 3 - to issue a tender for 2 + 1 year to appoint competent CCTV Maintenance Contractor to provide maintenance of Council Public CCTV systems	K Scullion	In Progress	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
NS/031/2021	Proposed rent review for Ballykine HRC Ballynahinch	<p>Agreed to note the content of the report and recommend that subject to final confirmation by the Council's Assistant Director of Corporate Services (Finance), that the rent increase as detailed in Appendix 2 applies, and Council approve that the annual rental will increase in accordance with the terms of the lease.</p> <p>It was further agreed that the Assistant Director of Corporate Services (Finance) confirm no miscalculation would apply, with appropriate adjustment to be made to the Council's Rent Register and that the Landlord be advised that Council accepted the rental increase as per the terms of the Lease.</p>	L Dinsmore	Currently in progress	Y
NS/032/2021	Business case – servicing and maintenance for compactors and skip	Agreed to note the content of the report and recommend approval of Option Two in the business case to procure a contract for the servicing	L Dinsmore	Procurement exercise now being undertaken	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
	units located at Council HRC sites	and maintenance for compactors and skip units located at Council HRC sites.			
END					

Report to:	Neighbourhood Services Committee
Date of Meeting:	22 nd March 2021
Subject:	Use of Herbicides Across the NM&DDC Estate
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Kevin Scullion, Assistant Director Facilities Management & Maintenance
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Aidan Mallon, Head of Maintenance Jonathan Ellis, Grounds Maintenance Manager

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either: -

For decision	X	For noting only	
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an update on progress in the developing Sustainable Weed Control Programme within Grounds Maintenance and to seek approval to continue the Operational Process for controlling weeds identified to date.</p> <p>The last report on 22nd January 2020 requested that Officers continue with a sustainable control programme with reduced herbicide application across the Council Estate. This may contain glyphosate as a means of controlling weeds and invasive species. This would enable a phased practical reduction scheme, and Officers would bring back a report to the NS Committee with recommendations and further details within a 12-month period.</p> <p>Grounds Maintenance section have attempted to control weed species by a variety of methods while utilising the smallest practical amount of the best industry standard herbicides available. 'The Developing Sustainable Weed Control Regime'.</p> <p>Since this last report Officers have embarked on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contacting local bodies as per recommendation to ascertain how, or if at all, they are managing without applying glyphosate. • Continuing the consultation exercise through best practice, advice from agencies including APSE, DAERA and Pesticide Action Network. Updated network queries via APSE across the UK have also been utilised to ascertain current methodologies. Direct contact has also been undertaken with councils in the south of Ireland. • Officers have continued discussions with local service providers, including Councils to share operational methodology(s). • Research continues into the effects and practicalities of controlling weeds across the district utilising suggested and developing methods • The proposed Operational Method with a phased reduction programme has been fully embraced during 2020 and to date during 2021. • Fundamental to this process has been the unprecedented Covid effects, grounds maintenance did well to achieve a acceptable level of maintenance district wide during 2020. To effectively pursue a fully detailed accurate study was unachievable, but the significant work ongoing is advancing the reduced herbicide programme and adhering to reduced application guidance.

	<p>Officers previously fully outlined the suggested strategy for sustainable weed control from a developing operations perspective, this has proven to be a pragmatic effective model. Many organisations UK wide have had to draw back from previous commitments and undertake herbicide applications.</p> <p>Officers wish to highlight practical realities during 2020 to the Committee for consideration and endorsement. Many key operational effects are outlined in section 2 and 4 of this report.</p>
2.0	Key Issues
2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbourhood Services research is resulting in controls going beyond the UK Regulatory Authority recommendations, staff are receiving further refresher & progressive training, information, instruction and utilising better equipment. • Grounds Maintenance are practically reducing herbicide application on an ongoing basis, this reduced application will result in the stipulated 50% less herbicide being applied during 2021. • Legislative control pursuing invasive weeds during 2020 has increased – The Invasive Alien Species Order (NI) 2019 - resulting in DAERA Invasive Species Team Enforcement Notices. Council must now not only control these weeds but provide an accurate forecast of how and when we hope to eradicate these species completely. Much of this is currently only effective with the herbicides being utilised. • Invasive weeds were controlled historically, but this lacked a strategic coordinated approach, both DAERA and private individuals are now formally requesting effective control and management programmes of invasive species. This has resulted in more geographic requests for immediate monitored action. • Council is also adopting more sites district wide – for example previous Northern Ireland Forest Service areas etc, these complicated locations require specific treatments and virtually all currently have invasive species decimating the biodiversity pool. • Various alternative herbicide methods of control are underway, and council has purchased several machines to pursue this. • Even with the sustainable control methods undertaken, there has been an impact on service delivery, particular areas of concern have included <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cemeteries – apparent ‘wildness appearance’, problems local to water tops (better germination locations), brick paving structures degrading etc. (An educative process is suggested as cemeteries were never historically acres of minute mown, manicured grass). • Play Parks – initially untidy weed growth, has progressed into early infrastructural effects with safety surfacing and kerb lines etc being expanded. Strimming is the current short-term control method. • Some prime public spaces – hard surfacing becoming untidy and weed ingress starting, as an effective alternative mechanism currently is not available. Amenity displays were largely controlled during 2020, however with application amounts now 50% reduced for 2021 more weed ingress will be inevitable. <p>The above negative factors are only starting as the dry spring during 2020 luckily reduced weed germination. Council have also taken control methods via herbicides almost as far as possible while reducing applications (residual controls, enhanced uptake products etc).</p>

	Much more negative feedback and issues will become evident during 2021 when work toward a 50% application amount.
2.2	<p>The main points of note within the current study are: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roundup is still approved for application worldwide; no alternative effective method has been developed to date. (see appendix 2) • Council still utilise herbicide with the highest COSSH rating, the most effective uptake through the plants vascular system and the highest approval rating for working near water etc. • Herbicide application has been reduced with recently expanded Controlled Droplet Application units (distributing a reduced application amount) – being utilised where effective. Training courses have been undertaken in early March to ensure effective minimum application amounts. • For specific brushwood and tree control etc, specific control methods continue to be utilised to maintain the integrity and functioning of watercourses etc. This is even more important with council now adhering to the legislative competency requirements for effective management of waterbodies within our remit. • Herbicide application to sports surfaces continues in reduced amounts to enable functional play. • Current council developments include utilising adjuvants and enhancers which improve the uptake and effectiveness of herbicides via moving active ingredients across both the surface (epidermal) and sub-cuticular wax layers. • Councils and other bodies which have apparent bans on roundup are often not accurate – detailed liaison with other officers has clarified Some authorities have had to return to members during 2020 to enable spraying of artificial pitches, roadside locations, some also undertook site wide applications when parks etc were closed during the 2020 Covid pandemic. The most recent APSE queries with 11 detailed responses across England & Scotland, has clarified all continue to use Glyphosate and all alternative practices to date have proved ineffective. None are further on operationally than NM&DDC. • Organisations which are apparently not applying herbicides have still no operational alternative.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	Note the content of the report The Use of Herbicides Across the NM&DDC Estate
3.2	Enable Grounds Maintenance to continue to utilise herbicides in an integrated control process with the intention of reducing applications where practical (working toward an eventual cessation) and progressing all emerging alternative solutions.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	<p>Officer time to study implications, progress best practice operations and additional front-line grounds maintenance operatives resource times. Improvements will continue during 2021 via training, work studies, demos, new machinery purchases and application methods etc.</p> <p>Several machines have been purchased including</p> <p>Additional CDA applicators (applying 70% less active herbicide) – circa £375.00 each.</p> <p>A weed ripper which physically scrubs weeds from surfaces (in use from Feb 2020 across Down legacy locations). Larger scale models are being considered during 2021. Small unit £4k, medium mechanised unit £9k, Avant efficient multi tool unit £42K.</p> <p>Commercial detritus suckers largely for play areas to reduce detritus and foreign objects at point of source – circa £1600.00 each.</p>

	<p>A Foam Weed Control machine will be investigated further (its several thousand pound to hire and approx. £55,000.00 to purchase, additionally £32,000.00 per annum operational costs).</p> <p>The none herbicide control is still largely falling within resource cost increases of 10 to 1 at best, and upwards of 20 to 1 on complicated locations.</p> <p>To conclude every practical effort is being made to find alternatives, despite unprecedented difficulties during 2020, grounds maintenance section will pursue all effective options during 2021 and beyond.</p> <p>To date however the anticipated effective glyphosate alternative does not commercially exist.</p>
5.0	Equality and good relations implications
5.1	It is not anticipated that the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity and good relations.
6.0	Rural Proofing implications
6.1	Due regard to rural needs are incorporated.
7.0	Appendices
	<p>Appendix 1: - Council roundup notice following committee meeting January 2020</p> <p>Appendix 2: - Alternatives to Chemical Weed Control</p> <p>Appendix 3 – The Current Council Herbicides</p> <p>Appendix 4 - Summary of Actions being taken by Councils and other organisations ref the Use of Glyphosate.</p> <p>Appendix 5 – Alternative Control Methods</p>
8.0	Background Documents
	<p><i>This relates to meeting requirements outlined in Part 8 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, Access to Meetings and Documents, wherein for four years after a meeting the following must be available at the Council Offices and on the website:</i></p> <p><i>Background papers which are defined as those documents relating to the subject matter of a report which:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a) Disclose any facts or matters which in the opinion of the Chief Executive, the report or an important part of the report is based upon; and</i> <i>b) Have, in the Chief Executive's opinion, been relied upon to a material extent in preparing the report.</i> <p><i>These are documents on which the report, or an important part of the report, is based upon and have been relied upon to a material extent in preparing the report.</i></p>

Background

Three main legislation elements that have an impact on UK pesticides application are;

- The Directive on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides 2009/128/EC
- The Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC
- Hard Surface Regulations (42/2011)

Council adhere to all the above, and the stipulations provided by the amenity forum

Appendix 1 - Council roundup notice following committee meeting January 2020.

The Council has not committed to stop using Glyphosate at this time, but rather phase out. This was agreed at February Council meeting, I have copied decision for ease of reference;

NS/112/2020: Evaluation of alternatives to use of Herbicides containing Glyphosate for controlling weeds and invasive

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Walker to amend the minute to read as follows:

To undertake a 12 month review with a target to phase out completely the use of herbicides containing glyphosate for controlling weeds and invasive species on Council property within 3 years or as soon as possible.

Agreed: The Minutes of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 22 January 2020 were adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Owens.

Appendix 2 Alternatives to Herbicide Weed Control			
Method	Use	Advantages	Disadvantages
Steam Practical local machines not available during 2020.	Hard surfaces	Relatively safe to use around people and animals safely.	Heat is rapidly lost to the atmosphere, immediately reducing its effectiveness as the plant is not kept in the "kill zone" for long enough. Loses its effectivity when treating soft surfaces due to poor ground penetration. Multiple applications across the season due to little to no effect on the plants root structure. This makes it costly Expensive – time & labour Diesel consumption pollution.
Hot Water Trailed on several locations – control not effective weeds re-emerge within 14 - 28 days.	Hard surfaces	Relatively safe to use	Atmosphere impacts temperature of hot water with rapid heat loss. Only kills around 50-60% of targeted weeds - multiple applications are required due to intact root structure. Expensive – time & labour Diesel consumption pollution.
Foamstream With Covid & staffing issues a block hire of machine was not possible intension for 2021 block utilisation.	For weeds and moss on hard surfaces. Play area safety surfacing; grass growth around trees	biodegradable foam, travels down the stem & into root, sufficiently killing the plant. Useable in all weather.	Costs (£25k for machine + 20k for van Cost of operative Diesel consumption and pollution.
Flame weeding Not considered due to H&S implications.	Hard surfaces	No chemicals	Health and safety issues Vegetation quick to grow back, regular treatments to prevent regrowth - 14 times a season.
Electricity Not considered due to H&S implications.		No Chemicals	High health and safety risk. If not used correctly, electrical currents have potential to initiate fire or cause death or serious injury.
Acetic acid Not considered due to H&S implications.	Hard surfaces	No licence required. Kill most vegetation by burning through wax coating of leaves.	Strong and unpleasant smell, cause of irritation to the airway and headaches for operatives. Only used in dry weather conditions.

Mechanical methods Significant operational studies underway following purchase of first weed ripper.	Hard Surfaces	Cleans detritus from kerblines reducing the chances of weeds growing	Brushes often don't fully remove the plant structure below ground which leads to fast regrowth. Repeated treatments are required over the season to keep weeds at bay. Diesel consumption and pollution
Strimming Extensively utilised being short term practical alternative	Hard surfaces	Aesthetics	Strimming ineffective long-term solution Disturbs the seed bed & spreads seeds increasing total weed coverage. and Causes rapid regrowth across area
Manual weeding Extensively utilised being short term practical alternative	All surfaces	Very targeted approach to controlling weeds Instantly visible results	Speed of regrowth high Weed coverage increases year on year - disturbed seed bed, spreading of seeds when pulling out weeds. Increasing time and cost of treating the same area. Labour costs and operators can also suffer from repetitive stress injuries – bending continually
Doing nothing Not an effective alternative but materialised (at the lowest number of locations intended) during 2020 due to Covid staffing & resources issues	NA	Cost savings. Some environmental benefits	Negative impact on public perception. Organisations have a responsibility to control weeds to Maintain aesthetics of area, Preserve infrastructure Avoid health and safety risks for the public. The cost of doing nothing leads to a dramatic increase in the seed bank, increasing overall weed population. This Dramatic increase in future cost and time controlling unwanted vegetation. Irreparable damage to playing fields & bowling greens. Infrastructure damage – weeds grow, expand into pavements, roots expand, further detritus gathers, weeds increase & become stronger. Stronger growth expands the surfaces further opening more degradation? If alternatives not employed. Perennials and self-sown trees start to emerge which will ultimately significantly degrade infrastructure.

Appendix 3 – The Current Council Herbicides.

Using the system, utilises up to a **70% reduction in glyphosate usage**, this can be achieved annually when compared to conventional glyphosate application. The herbicides require far less glyphosate to be effective, and the use of residual herbicide, further reduces the number of applications needed.

Key Benefits vs Alternatives

- **No water required** – Recent reports show that the UK will not be able to meet demand for water within 20 years. The TDC requires no water or mixing. (Hot foam and hot water treatments require numerous water intensive operations).
- **Low dosage of glyphosate** – the current herbicides contain a much lower dosage of glyphosate than conventional herbicides.
- **Lower cost** – budgetary pressures for councils are high, targeted herbicide is a significantly lower cost approach to controlling weeds (demonstrated in the Thanet Study that non-chemical approaches were around 10 x more expensive).
- **Zero carbon emissions** – The application of TDC herbicide generates no carbon emissions. Alternatives (including many hot water, hot foam, weed burning and electrical controls) rely heavily on fossil fuel inputs, especially diesel which is a known carcinogen.
- **Safer applications** – The system ensures targeted application, with virtually no spray drift and no breathable droplets.
- **No trip hazard** – The use of the current system means there are no trailing cables and hoses. Hot foam, hot water, and electrical controls can present a trip hazard during application.
- **Quicker & easier to use** – TDC application is simple, efficient, and can be undertaken in a fraction of the time needed for non-chemical approaches, which normally require specialist machinery.

Appendix 4 - Summary of Actions being taken by Councils and other organisations re the Use of Glyphosate.

A broad representation has been tabulated below reference usage, reduction, alternatives and current methodology.

Council	Currently use herbicides containing glyphosate?	Opted to reduce or cease using herbicides containing glyphosate in future	What herbicides are you using instead?	Other methods currently used
Antrim & Newtownabbey	Yes	Attempting and have reduced application amounts.	N/A	Considering options.
NI Forest Service	Yes	Attempting to reduce	None effective to date.	Trying other options.
Louth Co Council	No	Yes	Katoun Gold Icade (triclopyr & aminopyralid) for invasive weeds.	Trailing other methods. Parks limited in scale compared to NM&DDC resorting to physical removal in places.
Office of Public Works	Yes	Attempting to reduce	Katoun Gold Icade (triclopyr & aminopyralid) for invasive weeds.	Trailing other methods.
Donegal Co Council	Yes	Attempting to reduce	Katoun Gold Icade (triclopyr & aminopyralid) for invasive weeds.	Considering Options
Monaghan Co Council	Yes	Attempting to reduce	Katoun Gold Icade (triclopyr & aminopyralid) for invasive weeds.	Parks limited in scale compared to NM&DDC resorting to physical removal in places

Fermanagh & Omagh	Yes	Currently evaluating usage & locations etc for working group.	Glyphosate etc	Considering options.
Armagh Banbridge Craigavon	Yes	No	None effective to date	N/A
Lisburn & Castlereagh	Yes	Attempting to reduce	None	CDA applicators to reduce amounts.
DFI Roads Section	Yes	Attempting to reduce	Glyphosate based herbicides	
Translink / N.I. Railways	Yes	Attempting to reduce		
NI Water	Yes	Yes - Applied in reduced amounts under contract around important infrastructure.	Replacing selective herbicides with controlled application is priority works. NI. Water catchment partnership is driving this.	Working toward herbicide free over several year process.
Northern Ireland Housing Executive	Yes	Yes, other methods sought. Bark mulching etc.	Reduced applications actively considering alternatives	Working toward reduced amounts moving forward.
Sheffield City Council	Yes	Reduced application amounts	Significant trials underway Chikara / Katana (Flazasulfuron),	Foam Stream and hot water solutions were not effective
North Warwickshire Borough Council	Yes	Reduced the amount of chemical used and the type of site treated.	N/A	
Leicester City Council	Yes	Reduced use of Glyphosate products still using Glyphosate within service area.		Hot Water/foam treatments. Demonstration of equipment, method too time consuming, cumbersome to use trailing pipes & creating H&S implications. trips, slips and falls. No longevity, weeds soon re-emerged.
Cumbria County Council	Yes	Attempted		Currently, Glyphosate most cost effective way

				of treating urban weeds.
South Lanarkshire Council	Yes	Attempted		<p>Used hot foam within very short period we had regrowth on deep rooted weeds & brambles, did knock the annual stuff down, units very expensive.</p> <p>Katoun Gold (Pelargonic acid) Areas didn't get a great kill rate, some deep-rooted weeds simply discoloured but grew back in short period had to re-treat area with Glyphosate.</p>
Torfaen County Borough Council	Yes	Attempted		A lot of work but have failed to identify cost effective alternative to glyphosate. Other options act as contact herbicides, requiring repeat treatments, all are far costlier.
Falkirk Council	Yes	Attempted		Hasn't been trialling any alternative Glyphosate product, reduced yearly sprays from 3 to 2. Use external contractor for treatment to hard surfaces, use the latest technology leading to 80% reduced use of Glyphosate.
Reading Borough Council		Considering an 'opt out' option for streets to 'opt out' of glyphosate spraying - residents to manage situation themselves.	<p>Alternative options</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Hand removal •Steam •Hot air 	Not able to find effective alternative to Glyphosate in process of alternative trials. We have selected an area to trial alternatives and analyse the results.

Denbighshire County Council				Existing arrangement most economical and effective treatment. Other alternatives do not use Glyphosate products but limitations in terms of effectiveness, speed of treatment, regeneration of weeds and cost.
Cardiff Council			hoping to undertake a yearlong trial using two alternatives to glyphosate pesticides during 2021, alternatives •Foam-stream – using their specialist equipment •New-way Weed Spray (active ingredient Acetic Acid) – applied through the Weed IT system which is used currently to apply glyphosate.	
Newcastle City Council			still use glyphosate and have found the alternatives much more expensive. We have reduced use of glyphosate by mixing it with Katana.	
West Lothian Council			trialled Thermal Treatment, Acetic Acid and Flame in 2017 with varying results.	continue using Glyphosate as the most efficient method of weed management, however are now looking at alternative ways of reducing the amount we use, recycling shredded material from arbour works to mulch shrub beds, re-landscaping beds

				that are not fit for purpose, e.g. reinstating to grass, changing to wild flower areas or replanting with more robust groundcover species, as part of an integrated management approach. Continuous refresher training for staff has also been introduced.
2020 Study				

The Developing Newry Mourne & Down District Councils **Tree Strategy** (early March 2021)



Photo above - Castlewellan Council drone footage May 2020 – A site of international significance and game changer for NM&DD Councils Green Space, Educational and Arboricultural Portfolio.

Developing the NM&DDC Council Tree Strategy

Following Notice of Motion to Develop a Tree Strategy, Grounds Maintenance initiated the process via questioning how we manage our stock

- legislation
- resources

Climate Emergency Plans

Oxford Dictionary has chosen **climate emergency** as the word of the year 2019, defining it as "a situation in which urgent action is required to reduce or halt **climate** change and avoid potentially irreversible environmental damage resulting from it."

The European parliament has declared a global "climate and environmental emergency" urging all EU countries to commit to net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

There has come however as scientists warned that the world may have already crossed a series of climate tipping points, resulting in "a state of planetary emergency".

Council Climate Adaption Plan is a progressing process

Develop Draft Tree Strategy for Presentation to Committee in March 2021.

An Action Plan is drafted for initiating Political Support

Immediate Action Plan		
Define Areas for Progression & Create Political Support		
Area for Progression	Relevant Officer / Body	Completion date
Input from Council Climate Emergency & Sustainability Issues	Sheena Mc Eldowney	Meetings ongoing via Climate Focus Group.
Identify areas of relevant council lands for planting via NIFS.	J Ellis with Dermot Smyth completed Nov 2020.	All maps passed to NIFS Planning Section
Identify SAC & ASSI	Locations which can't be planted	Locations ESRI mapped
Sizes of Potential Planting ref funding	Now Categorised for various funding streams	Completed to date
Identify Potential Leasing etc		Ongoing Potential woodland Carbon Scheme
Detail Areas for Woodland Carbon Scheme with Potential Income	Can provide reliable estimates of the amount of carbon sequestered or locked up as a result of the tree planting	Feb 2021 onwards

	J Ellis	
Clarify Trees / Turf for Amenity Council Locations	J Ellis with GM staff Links compiled links with rewilding	Progressing
Meet with Woodland Trust to progress Strategy / Action Plans (WT 220 hec by 2020)	J Ellis underway	J Ellis 19/12/2019 Dec J Ellis Progressing
WT	Longer lease possible with woodland carbon scheme – 6k per hec annually (increasing),	WT / council split? Carbon 35 year lease. min 5 hectares plant & lease
WT	15-50 year lease trees on constant path	Min lease 10 years
WT Conacre conditions in GI grants	Environmental management scheme? Locations to be pursued with estates – J Ellis	
Clarify More Woods for funding etc	Up to 90 funding % Cover up to 60% cost If council plant 75% cost	J Ellis underway
Liaise with NI water ref interagency works NI Water 11000 acres within Mournes liaising with the W T 2019, to identify suitable lands	Re Foresting Mourne Locations Fofany Car Park planting unification? MHT & NI Water started WT identified NIW ownership which would benefit from being planted. NIW progressing legalities for WT to take to the Forest Service for Forestry Expansion Scheme funding application (legal negotiations etc.) open for submissions until May 2020. Some submissions in this year. Mournes is part of a larger NI Water tree-planting initiative across Province.	Contacted by JE progressing 2021
Woodland Creation Carbon Storage	J Ellis Progress with	5 year project with KPI's
Woodland condition	Species for effective GI values, locations assessed for condition From this renovation could be outlined.	Rhodo removal Kilbroney – funding via WT etc?
Offset carbon from residents	Via tree planting schemes	E.g. include "Living Life – plant a tree for each birth death & marriage". Linear Orchards

Hedgerow Progression Carbon storage & Width for wildlife corridors	J Ellis Progress with GIS Officer ref identification and potential ESRI mapping layer	2021
UCD for S. Ireland Sustainability projects	J Ellis to approach John Gilland	Requests sent
Cross Border Working Progress MOU Certainly, Carbon capture will feature and opportunities for joint funding applications should be explored.	Louth Council - Tangible deliverable Project – Newry Canal & Greenway	Louth Co Council has adopted a Climate Adaptation Strategy working on areas of common interest. Priorities and timelines progressing.
Southern Bodies	Tree Council of Ireland Woodlands of Ireland	Requests sent
QUB Belfast Climate Change Just Transition	John Barry & J Ellis Request sent.	No reply
Ards & North Down Progress waste recycling, Circular Economy etc	John McConville.	contacted John M Connell (to progress recycling funding)
Other Tree Strategies	J Ellis with Derry, Dublin & AA Association.	Request sent to Derry & AA Derry reply received
Derry Council	Cathy Burns & GM	Completed Derry & S Green Infrastructure Plan 2019 -2032 Working with Carnegie Trust & Vivid Economics to develop Natural Capital Account, include annual carbon storage of trees on Council greenspaces. Late January, following Council approval. Considering internal tree policy
Approach carbon trust Link with Building Efficiencies, Fleet Operations etc	A Mallon to progress	
Green capital accounting	Derry consulting firm	
Private landowners	13 farms implementing woodland Mourne area 40 hectares Aughrim , Kilkeel	
	Concepts may include Green barns planted in poor drainage locations. Green shelters across NM&DDC locations.	Ongoing 2021

Newry Canal Riparian landscapes	Water framework directive – up to 50% planting within 20m of waterside J Ellis to pursue Linear Social Forestry as flagship scheme.	2021 Progression Victoria Locks planted 2020
Undertake Heritage Project for Trees “The Heritage Trees of Ireland” to be planted in Castlewellan.	Heritage trees have the best genetic potential to combat climate change and ensure species survival.	J Ellis initiated sept 2019 with material being sourced from across Ireland. First e.g. Armagh’s Mall Trees
Castlewellan to be a Biophylic Park – health, wellbeing, climate amelioration etc	Plans formulated by J E	2021 HLF funding dependant
To be expanded to UK trees via botanic gardens etc.		J Ellis initiated sept 2019 responses from Edinburgh, Kew etc
Archangel Ancient Tree Archive based USA. “The trees we work with provide real solutions to air, water & soil pollution. They are the world’s filter systems. They stabilize against climate change.”		Specific request sent J Ellis asking if NM&DDC can be flagship partner for NI.
Area for Progression	Relevant Officer / Body	Completion date
Green Legacy Hiroshima Initiative Established to safeguard and spread worldwide the seeds and saplings of Hiroshima’s A- Bomb survivor trees. Partners become active ambassadors in their countries of Hiroshima, its peace message and its green legacy seeds were collected from trees that survived the devastating Hiroshima atomic bomb some 75 years ago. Seeds of the “Hibaku-jumoku” (Japanese for survivor trees) through the Green Legacy Hiroshima Project Initiative are entrusted to partner organisations in countries around the world. The seeds carry the double message of caution and hope, recalling both the destructive power of war but also the resilience of mankind and nature. The seedlings raised are being planted in Botanic Gardens and Colleges throughout the world as a	J.E. Being a border council, we are very active in peace building and the North and South of Ireland working together for all. Central to many of our projects is the involvement of cross community groups furthering good community relations and the Northern Ireland Peace Process. The genetic retention with environmental education for younger people within Northern Ireland would be a great benefit and educational promoter for bringing communities together.	Tree / seeds secured for 2022

living symbol of peace for the generations to come.		
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179,000 residents in borough – 10 tonnes of carbon per resident, we need 4475 hectares of additional planting for effective carbon offset.

Human produces 60 tonne of carbon per annum.

Woodland creation

Carbon offsetting

The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) detailed that unprecedented changes are needed to reach climate change objective targets. This takes direction from the Paris agreement pledging to keep temperature increases between 1.5C and 2C.

The 2030 climate crisis date has been adopted by council to achieve woodland land coverage equal to the National Target of 12% by this date.

The government in late 2019 set out how it will go further and faster to tackle climate change, in response to recommendations from the Committee on Climate Change (CCC). This comes 4 months after the UK became the first major economy to legislate for net zero emissions by 2050. The government's response to the CCC's recommendation includes plans to strengthen governance to galvanise government to do more to tackle climate change and a bold and ambitious plan to accelerate UK decarbonisation.

The zero-carbon target of 2050 set by the UK government however needs brought forward to 2030 according to many climate experts.

Develop - A Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy for NM&DDC,

An overarching document that provides the strategic framework for the different elements that comprise green and blue infrastructure.

Since 1970's there has been a 67% fall in species population of special conservation concern in the UK.

Create resilient landscapes – those that can absorb and recover from natural & human pressures, adapt to future change and retain a diverse range of wildlife and benefits for people.

Action on the landscape scale proposed here create multiple benefits

Air & water quality

Flood alleviation

Create a network of intelligent landscapes expanding across S Armagh / S Down.

Urban & Rural Canopy Cover Action Plan

This Action Plan drives how council will undertake its urban & rural forestry trees.

Paramount to the Infrastructure Strategy of direct relevance to NM&DDC trees is

"Effective and appropriate urban & rural tree, woodland planting & management."

Council Area	Population	Total Ha Council Area	Current Ha Woodland	% Woodland Cover	New Woodland required to meet 12% Govt Target	Offset Carbon Woodland required	Pop % to enable 2 Ha+ wood within 500m
Newry Mourne & Down DC	179,000	163,300	9,115	5.58%	10481	4,475	58.8

Area of additional planting 4,475 Ha is required this does not include peat & maritime carbon reduction, therefore the hectarage required will be smaller. This is aimed for 2030 – 447.5 hectares by 2030.



Above left – Mourne Mountains, amongst the most iconic and stunning landscapes in the country but devoid of Forestry, this location is prime for re forestation both from a landscape restoration and Green Infrastructural perspective. Right - Slieve Gullion Trail – the infamous AONB of the Ring of Gullion again devoid of what a stunning matrix of forestry and unique landscape should be.

Planting mechanisms

1 – Lease to WT – min of 5 hectares

2 – Plant ourselves – forestry expansion scheme – 5 hectares, small forest scheme applications underway response mid March.

3 – More Woods – covering 60% contractor costs, 75% council supply & plant costs – minimum of ½ hectare spread over several pockets.

The Forestry expansion and More Woods can be amalgamated on sites.

More Woods:

500+ trees are planted as woodland on at least half a hectare, WT help design woodland, supply agreed trees & tree protection - cover up to 75% of costs. For contractor to plant the trees it covers up to 60% of all costs.

More Hedges

WT subsidise up to 75% of cost if planting more than 100 metres of hedging & allowing a large tree to grow every six metres.

4 - Targeting tree disease packs

Trees and woods are crucial; but they're under threat. 60 million trees have already been taken by Dutch elm disease and 126 million trees in UK woods are at risk of ash dieback. 19 pests and diseases are attacking our native trees, six of which have reached epidemic levels, 11 more diseases are nearing our borders.

The pack is subsidised (part-funded) by W T to help restore existing woodland, hedgerows & regenerate countryside threatened by disease.

(The tree provenance attempts to match local location; 45 hardwood stakes & to ensure you can get a pack to suit your location:

UK sourced and grown: Every cell grown sapling is UK sourced and grown to minimise the risk of pests and diseases.

The Woodland Trust is funding approximately 50% of the cost of these tree packs).

The Formal Developing Action Plan

The Action Plan mirrors the developing Tree Strategy:

- 1.- Sustainable Management
- 2.- Appropriate Planting
- 3.- Effective Protection
- 4.- Innovative Involvement
- 5 – Partnership Working TBC

The aims take direction from the key principles set out in the Trees and Design Action Group Publication **Trees in the Townscape**. The Trees and Design Action Group (TDAG) is an open collaborative forum facilitating cross-sector and cross-disciplinary dialogue and projects promoting the role of the urban forest throughout the U.K.

The action plan incorporates suggestions by partners including the **Woodland Trust** and **City of Trees**. The Action Plan has been developed collaboratively, working with a range of organisations and agencies, referencing existing and new partners. The list of actions to be delivered by all partners and stakeholders, illustrating commitment to a sensible, sustainable and essential future for trees and woodlands across the district.


Its driven by the realisation of the actives illustrated below and an ongoing passion to support the true value of trees to the District; making commitments to enhance and protect the NM&DDC treescape

1 –Sustainable Management

Defined Action	Activity / Resultant	Delivery Body	Timescale
ESRI map and monitor changes & distribution of trees across NM&DDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refine datasets of tree and woodland cover Link with ancient forest. Initiate landscape connection concepts. 	GM	
Define & Develop NMDDC Tree Resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop NM&DDC tree management system Drive a network of data gathering and information sharing e.g. Universities access to canopy data for research Value NM&DDC tree stock utilising for e.g. I Tree Eco The development of an ecosystem services valuation of treescape 	GM	
Sustainable management of trees and woodland with best practice approaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt best practice ref all design, landscape and management issues referring to BS standards and Professional Bodies. BS 3998:2010 'Tree work – Recommendations' – the latest British Standard applying to work carried out on trees. BS 5837:2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction. 	GM	

	Recommendations' – the latest British Standard applying to tree protection in relation to works carried out close to trees		
Identify Ancient Tree Cover, Promote Stratification, Address Tree Management at Landscape & Local Scales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect & protect heritage & biodiverse locations. • Plan tree management and planting for the benefit of all from district wide landscape impact to individual resident's benefits. 	GM	

2 – Appropriate Planting

Defined Action	Activity / Resultant	Delivery Body	Timescale
Drive climate resilient tree planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective species mix to create resilience against pests and diseases • Effective Pest & Disease Protection Measures 	NMDDC GM Biosecurity Policy Written	
Healthy tree canopy cover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustained tree and woodland canopy cover of 13% by 2030 (current 5.58%) • Undertake sustainable tree planting projects in line with the Council Strategy, • Adopt as a minimum a one for one tree replacement for council trees • Aim to plant 4,500 Ha district wide by 2030 (this will be reduced) • Commit to planting 2 hectares annually? 		
Planting linear & community orchards	Involve local communities ref food production etc Council Climate Action Conference in March Councillors suggested developing a 'Climate Park' Islands Park Newcastle part of which involve planting an orchard on this site. JE linear orchard with elected members & promotion.	Islands Park Started May 2020	
Investigate funding for tree planting, management, & maintenance	Involve Woodland Trust, HLF, Newry Bid, Environment Challenge Funds etc		
Join and Utilise Specialist Organisations / Professional Bodies	<p>Join the Tree Charter</p>  <p>Charter for Trees, Woods and People sets out principles for society in which people & trees stand together. Launched in Lincoln Castle 6 Nov 2017; the 800th anniversary of 1217 Charter of the</p>	J.E to sign Tree Charter	Jan 2020 Current

	Forest. Its rooted in over 60,000 'tree stories' gathered from across the UK. Utilise Arboricultural Association	J.E. Professional AA Member.	
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3 - Effective Protection

Defined Action	Activity / Resultant	Delivery Body	Timescale
Effective tree replacement & compensation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measure & develop appropriate schemes 		
Adopt effective Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designate new controls & enforce existing protection as appropriate 		
Utilise planning conditions to enforce high standard of tree works & management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBC 		

it is paramount to conserve and maintain existing old and large trees. Replacing old trees with newly planted ones is essential, but for new trees to replicate the benefits of older larger trees they need to be replaced at a rate of approximately 40 to 1. Alternatively, we can wait for 30 – 50 years for their value to increase naturally. Older and larger urban trees in particular are currently under-valued and should not be removed unless essential.

4 - Innovative Involvement

Defined Action	Activity / Resultant	Delivery Body	Timescale
Drive community led and focussed tree projects and food growing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heritage Trees Linear Orchards 	J Ellis - May 2020 onwards many locations completed.	
Cultivate awareness of tree benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing promotion of tree related information via DEA coordinators, managers councillors & local communities to include tree activity in DEA activities 		Covid issues.
Create opportunities for Community engagement & involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ireland Best Kept awards In Bloom Groups, Ulster & Britain in Bloom RHS Awards, Community greening projects Nominate Champion / Notable Trees reference trees in Britain and Ireland Register 		Covid issues.
NM&DDC as attractive place to live, work and visit With exceptional landscapes & Green Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create NM&DDC Heritage Trees Programme Promote Castlewellan as one of the World's best arboretums Expand this outward to Kilbroney, Slieve Gullion and other identified arboretum towns / locations. Initiate NM&DDC Linear Arboretum Programmes. 	<p>Ongoing J E</p> <p>Ongoing April 2020</p>	Many planted

		Ongoing J E & HED	
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5 Partnership Working

Defined Action	Activity / Resultant	Delivery Body	Timescale
<p>Drive working with current & potential partners to include N.I. Water</p> <p>Mourne Heritage Trust Woodland Trust Private Landowners</p> <p>Other Councils Ards & North Down Council Derry & Strabane Council Louth County Council</p> <p>Locks Agency, Rivers & HED</p> <p>HLF</p> <p>Forest Service</p>	<p>To help reach the national target of 12% tree cover</p> <p>Undertaking woodland creation programme – The Mourne is a central location. Large landowner Mourne</p> <p>Help to achieve tree cover %, help establish connectivity networks. Best practice</p> <p>Advice / Progression</p> <p>Greenway / Tangible Cross Border Project</p> <p>Rivers approved linear forest scheme, HED not, Direct advice & legislative control on Newry Canal – Greenway Progression. Funding - Currently Active Castlewellan Forest Connect with existing locations – e.g. Fathom Forest.</p>	J E	Started Dec 2019

Continuation of 5

Defined Action	Activity / Resultant	Delivery Body	Timescale
<p>N.I. Water</p> <p>Mourne Heritage Trust</p> <p>Woodland Trust Private Landowners</p> <p>Other Councils Ards & North Down Council Derry & Strabane Council Louth County Council – Cross Border</p>	<p>Biggest Mourne Landowner</p> <p>To help reach the national target of 12% tree cover</p> <p>Direct assistance with Mourne Landscape & Management</p> <p>Large landowner Mourne</p>	J E	<p>Started Dec 2019</p> <p>Ancient trees purchased</p>

Locks Agency			
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Monitoring, Review and Progress Reporting Actions

Defined Action	Activity / Resultant	Delivery Body	Timescale
Review & update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake an annual review against the Action Plan 		
Key performance indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The total area of trees & woodland within management plans The percentage of tree canopy cover across NM&DDC The number of trees removed and replaced annually Numbers involved via volunteer activity etc Number of tangible schemes in prime locations. 		
Website and news promotion			

The Formal Developing Tree Strategy



Above - Flagstaff Viewpoint – Forestry and structure tree planting forms swathes of woodlands enframing iconic topography from one of the country's best panoramic scenes over Carlingford Lough.



Vernacular stone walling contrasts with the enclosing mature perimeter line of *Fagus* sp. which create a strong sense of place at Killeavey Old Graveyard S Armagh

NM&DDC have Formulated A Tree Strategy Which ...

- o 1 - A Tree Strategy which sets out our strategic objectives that form and guide the council decisions.
- o 2 - The Tree and Hedge Management Guidelines which provides the detail around sourcing, planting, establishing and managing trees under the ownership and influence of the Council.
- o 3 - A Tree Risk Management Policy & Strategy which outlines processes we will use to manage the risks from tree stock

Trees are our history and also our future. They define our landscape. Research which is currently emerging proves that humans feel much better in the company of trees. Especially in urban areas we need contact with the natural world, trees bring this right into urban centres, minimizing the impact of the built environment by providing colour, shade and shelter via the tactile link with nature. They act as way-markers and signposts for us and provide homes for wildlife. By careful species selection it is possible to provide trees that contribute to improved air quality, reduce noise and control run-off from heavy rain. Trees are integral to our wellbeing, health and overall quality of life.

is it essential that existing trees are conserved and managed to ensure they bring benefit to future generations, we also however need to identify and action ways to increase tree numbers across the District in both urban and rural locations. This is the overriding objective of the Tree Strategy.



Photos above – Mature Tilia Trees forming sculptural specimens along Forkhill Main Street - July 2019.

Historic Tree Management	Current Arboricultural Tree Resource Management
Trees as Visual Amenity ornaments	•Trees viewed as critical Ecosystem Services infrastructure
Focus on individual tree	Focus on complete canopy cover, population structure and diversity
Trees traditionally managed as low priority	Trees have equal priority to other infrastructure such as roads and services.
Individual tree maintenance	Overall tree population management
Aesthetic based design only	Multi-purpose-based design
Ownership boundaries dictate tree Management	Tree population managed as a shared resource regardless of ownership boundaries
Focus on smaller ornamental species	Focus on larger longer-lived canopy forming structural trees
Trees have no monetary or economic value	Economic value of trees identified, measured and valued

The Tree Strategy aims to do this by providing:

- o An overview of the existing urban & rural tree, woodland and forestry resources across NM&DDC.
- o An increased understanding of the importance of urban & rural forestry in promoting well-being, environmental sustainability and improving quality of life.
- o An overview of existing information about trees, a process underway to audit the districts existing tree resource with a framework for improving the quality of information available.

- o Illustrate a variety of practical projects to inform and inspire people to improve their knowledge and management of trees.
- o increase understanding of the existing legislation, policies and management practices which protect the districts trees; with a framework for proactive use of these where protection is required.
- o A policy framework to define and justify decisions made by the Council and others in relation to tree management.
- o A system for identifying new landscape opportunities, forming a medium / long term approach to the replacement of declining trees, and improving the protection of existing council trees.
- o Creating a vision that can be used to motivate and bring together interested parties for improving NM&DDC urban & rural forestry resources.
- o Driving an Action Plan to be implemented by NM&DDC, with stakeholders including public agencies, local communities and all with an interest in council's trees and wider landscape.

Development

The Tree Strategy was developed via Stakeholder engagement from mid-2019 onwards.

Meetings with interested parties, and creating an Urban & Rural Forest Strategy Group.

A review of existing policies and legislation for the protection of the districts trees.

Extensive research to enable appreciation & understanding of the extent and quality of NM&DDC's tree, woodland & forestry resource.

An appraisal of previous management and programmes within council, public agencies and other key organisations.

Physical Actions

Creation of this Strategy to include -

An industry standard system of recording tree data with locations and conditions etc

Creation of voluntary tree wardens during 2020

GIS Mapping and investigation via ESRI of forestry resources within council remit.

An extensive risk management and assessment process created and undertaken from late 2019 with all processes spatially recorded.

Management plan and process for significant sites innated from late 2019

Delivering on x practical projects per annum with specific benefits and details promoted

Undertaking all projects with the intention of addressing the specific history, cultural and local landscape significance for each scheme.

Mitigation of climate change

Trees mitigate climate change in many ways via removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, encouraging walking & cycling through creating of more attractive routeways

and providing shade in hot weather. Council Climate Change Strategy includes action points on (TBC)

Mitigation of airborne pollution

In the UK it is estimated that trees remove four million tonnes of carbon from the atmosphere each year. Within the right context (right tree species, right planting layout) trees and hedges can decrease air pollution by trapping dust and absorbing air pollutants such as ozone. Council Climate Change Strategy references trees in the context of air quality within Northern Ireland.

Trees & flooding

Trees and green infrastructure create benefits to surface water management via

- Interception – reducing the amount of water that reaching the ground.
- Transpiration – evaporated water by trees into the air.
- Increased infiltration and water attenuation – roots and soil in the planting areas increase the capacity of the ground to hold water by retaining soil structure. The retained water is used by vegetation or will infiltrate into nearby soft ground.
- Phytoremediation – harmful chemicals are transformed less harmful elements

Utilising and planting with a range of tree pits and containers collects and slows the flow of water during heavy storm.

Trees must remain healthy to effectively deliver surface water management benefits and assist in managing erosion along the many slopes adjacent to rivers or roads.

(To be completed).

Diagram – the Specific Benefits of Trees within NM&DDC.

Biodiversity

Trees are vital in our urban & rural ecosystem, providing wildlife benefits. Mammals, birds and invertebrates use trees, scrub and hedgerows as roosts, breeding, roosting and feeding locations, deadwood associated with mature tree habitats is essential for a variety of organisms including bacteria, lichens and fungi which directly feed on the

deadwood. Protection is given to bats, red squirrel and nesting birds under European and UK legislation. Any planned work on trees and woodland on council land will address this.



Tree or Shrub Insect Species	Number of Supported Species
Oak (pedunculate & sessile)	284 - 423
Willow species	266 - 450
Birch (silver & downy)	229 - 334
Hawthorn	149
Blackthorn	109
Poplar species (inc aspen)	97
Crab Apple	93
Alder	90
Elm	82

Trees also host to a wide range of lichens; these rare species are created by a mix of fungus and algae and form a green/yellow colouration. Lichens are highly sensitive to air pollution and are classic indicators of local air quality. In urban location few lichen species are evident as most cannot tolerate the levels of air pollution. It currently appears that the presence of lichens is increasing across NM&DDC with sightings in central urban locations.



Photo above - *Acer palmatum* Cvv creating a rare spectacle of intricate tree crown contrasting with the lichen covered sculptural branch network in Castlewellan Walled Arboretum 2019.

Ecological Connectivity

The districts parks and trees must connect to each other or other green spaces in order to provide corridors for wildlife to move through and within the district. These 'wildlife corridors' are essential for "ecological connectivity". Impenetrable fencing, large areas of hard landscaping, and densely built up areas act as barriers to this movement of NM&DDC wildlife. Trees where practical will be grouped together in order to reproduce the linkages required. 'Urban Forestry' is utilised across NM&DDC in built up locations to provide the green sources to link green spaces to provide wildlife corridors even in developed areas.

Species - Native or Non-Native

Within the concept of tree conservation, debate reference whether non-native or native trees should be planted is high on the agenda. In general (but not always), non-native species (introduced genera from other countries) support less species therefore having a lower biodiversity value.

Very relevant to area are examples of coniferous woodland which due to a higher proportion of recently introduced species, generally have lower biodiversity than a broadleaved woodland. Council are working with Forest Service NI addressing these issues on joint authority locations. It must be remembered however FSNI primarily produce timber for commercial harvest and some of the landscapes created by coniferous species provide unique spatial experiences and recreational environments within the canopy structure.

The species of trees planted has a paramount effect on the local character of an area. Planting non-native species in ancient woodland would appear incongruous. Local areas maybe recognised by the type of tree planted, the introduction of starkly contrasting species would adversely affect the visual and landscape experience of the location.

TBC

Photos above Local Trees of Historic Recognition

Non-native species are aesthetically beautiful, and can occupy locations inappropriate for our native species, due to the size of root system or period of leaf fall particularly within developed locations. Examples include TBC , where TBC .

Non-native trees can play an important role across NM&DDC. GM priority is to ensure that, at all times, the right species of tree is planted in the right place to enhance wildlife Provide effective GI benefits and maintain local landscape character.

Trees create a sense of well-being and community spirit; they also help to reduce crime and disorder. Trees can also be used as natural structural barriers to deter the use of unauthorised quads & motorbikes and associated antisocial activities within greenspaces. On the other hand, dense, twisted unruly undergrowth or unnecessarily high hedges can create perceptions of risk, and provide shelter for antisocial activity. The concept of the right plant or tree in the right place is fundamental to enhancing as opposed to negatively reducing the quality of council open spaces.

Trees also significantly reduce energy costs. Strategically placed trees can prevent heat loss from homes, schools or offices in the winter by sheltering from the strong winds and allowing maximum solar gain, (see Knockree Tree Planting) they can also reduce air conditioning costs by utilising deciduous trees to shade buildings in the summer months – even in N Ireland.

Health and wellbeing benefits

Research has proven that urban trees provide 'breathing spaces' in urban areas, decrease respiratory problems, encourage physical activity, reduces traffic speeds and help reduce stress. 'Funding Trees for Health' The Nature Conservancy report demonstrates trees provide economic value by decreasing NHS spend.

Sharing space with trees reduces stress levels and blood pressure in less than 20 minutes. Studies conducted by Texas University detailed that biological symptoms of stress reduced within 3-5 minutes of seeing trees. From a vehicular perspective even driving along a tree-lined avenue reduces blood pressure, relax muscles, lower stress levels and generally reduces travel speed. This is evident at Belfast Road Downpatrick where DFI interworking has been paramount.

TBC

Photos above – Roughal Park, Belfast Road Downpatrick, extensive Council Landscaping 2020 & 2021.

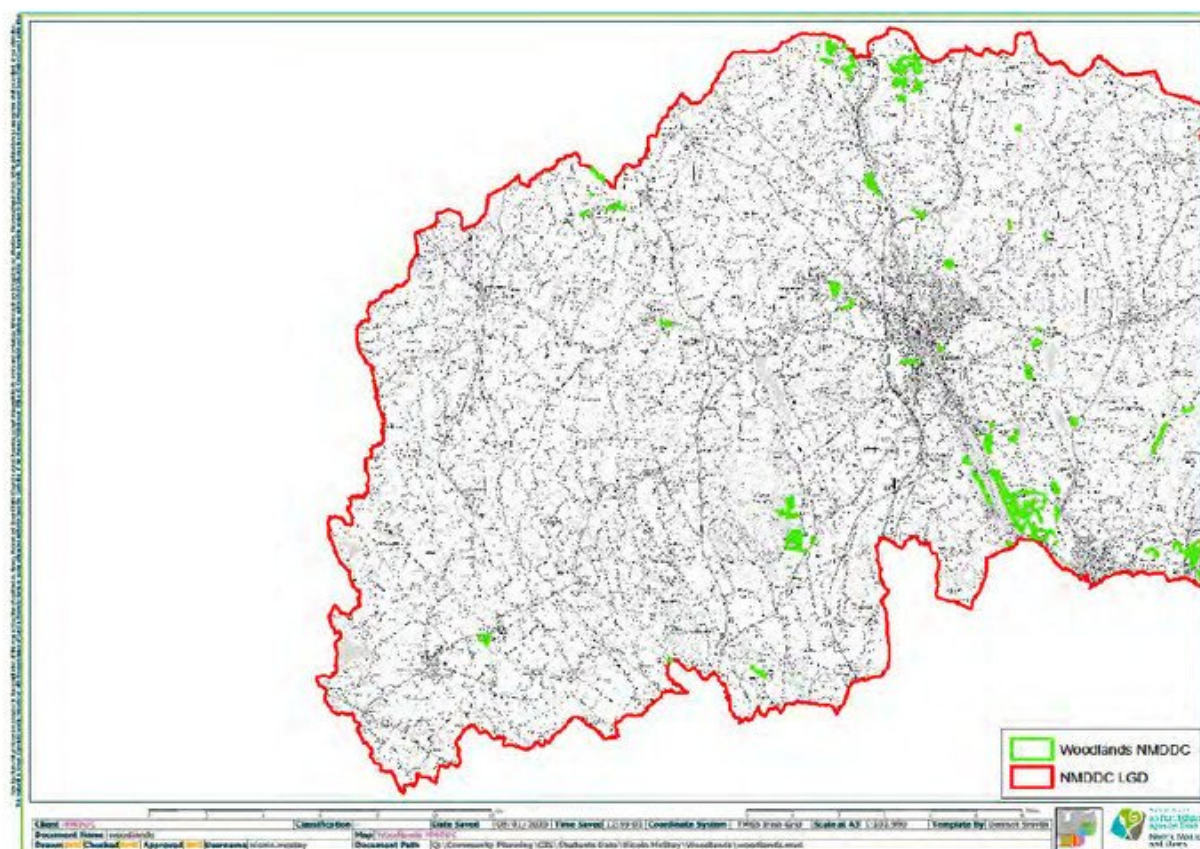
Economic benefits of trees

Inward investment can be greatly increased where Industrial areas with natural green space often have more productive employees, shopping locations are greatly benefited by quality tree & landscapes via increased footfall. Quality green leafy environments create economic benefits including property value increases of between 5-18% , high quality mature trees give the largest gains.

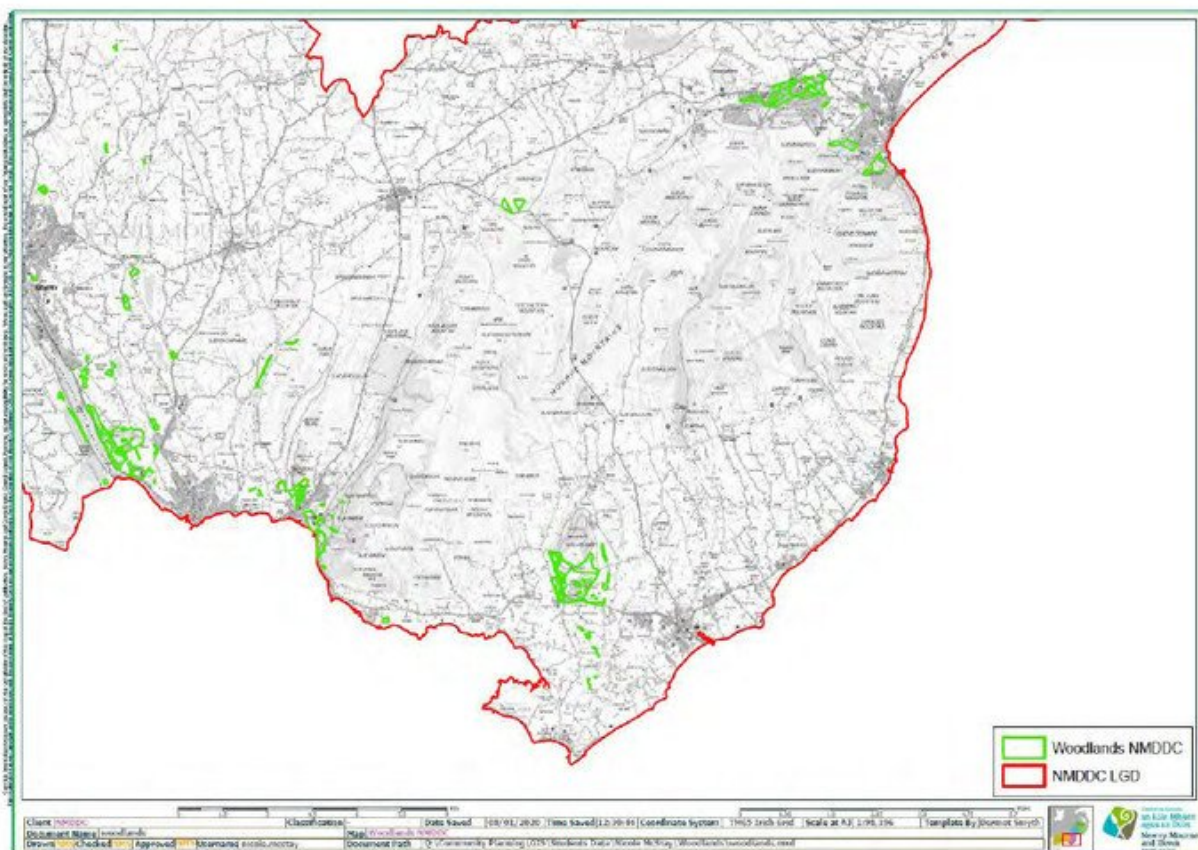
Negative effects from Trees

trees may conflict with modern urban life by causing damage to structures, seasonal branch, sap and leaf drop, pollen and excessive shade can vary according to specific location. Appropriate management and maintenance will mitigate against this. The Council Tree Operational Policy guides these issues. Planting of effective species and professional design will address these factors to ensure the 'right tree is planted in the right place'.

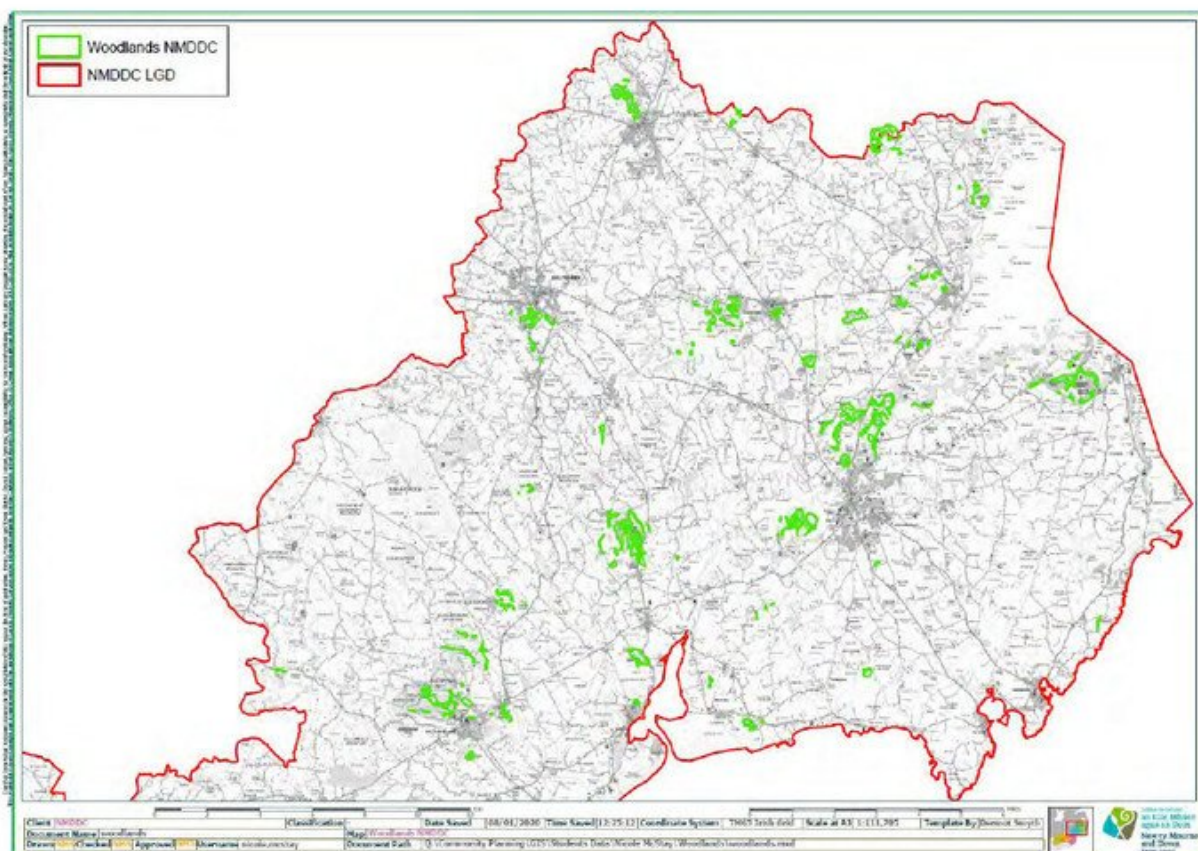
Geographical Context



Map above - Significant Woodland Locations within Western NM&DDC Area (Newry City & S. Armagh)



Map above - Significant Woodland Locations within Central NM&DDC Area (Mournes, Newcastle, Kilcoo etc)



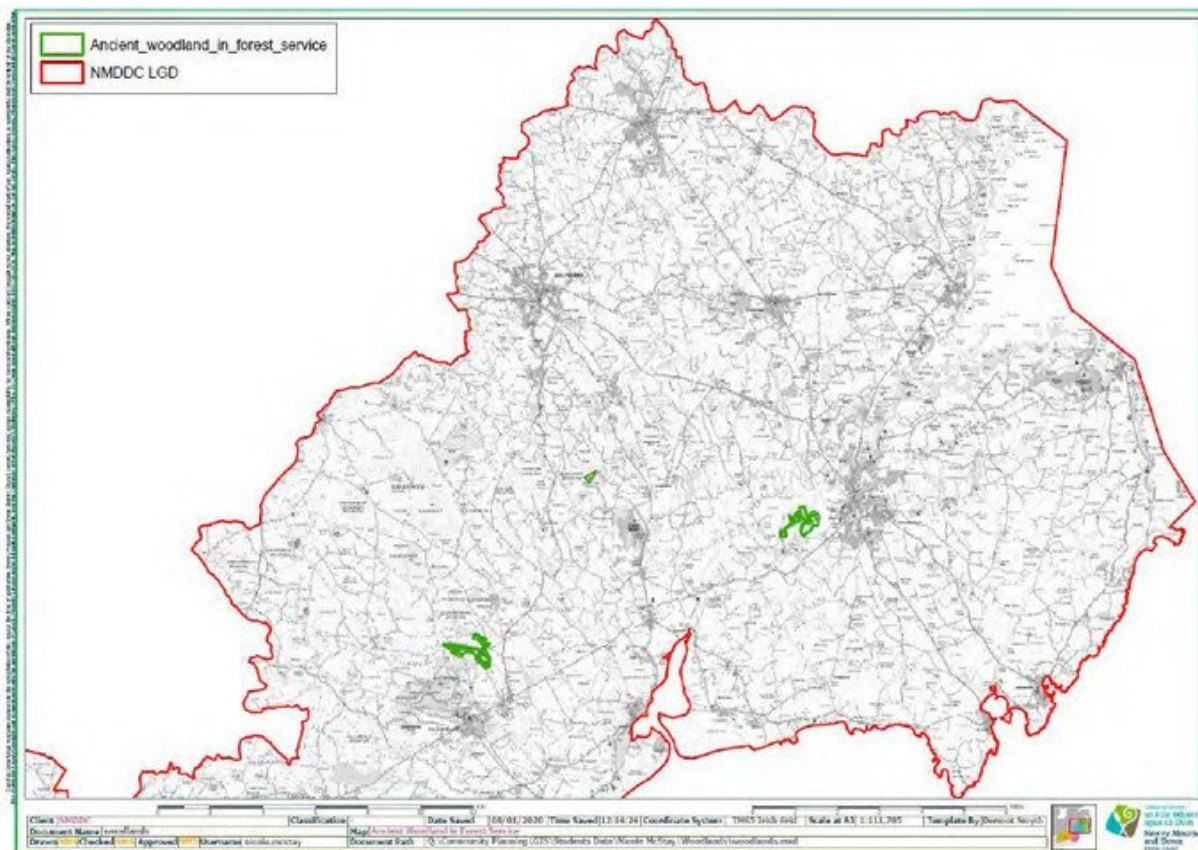
Map above - Significant Woodland Locations within Eastern NM&DDC Area (Castlewellan, Downpatrick, Ballynahinch)

Map of council area – tree cover etc

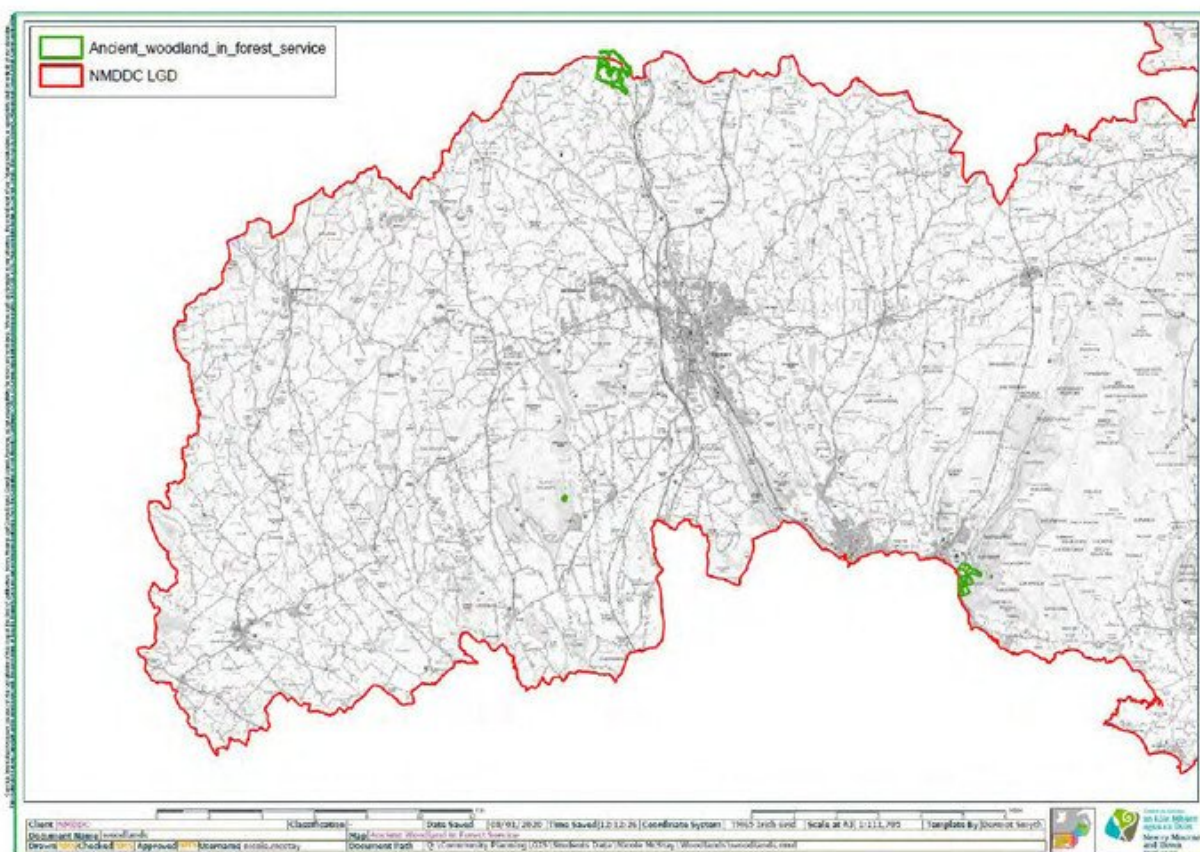
NM&DDC forms the southern boundary of NI with the Irish Sea.

Landscape etc

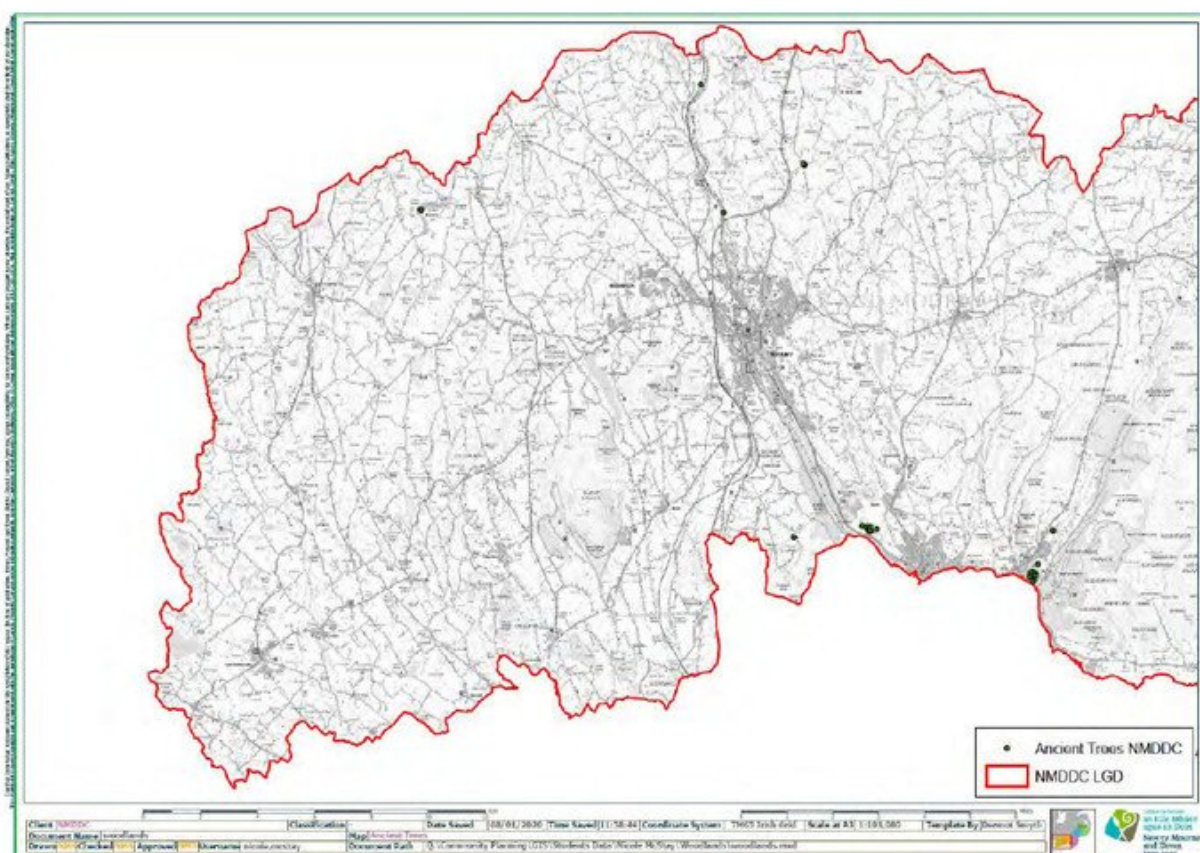
The Treescape forming our Landscape & Heritage



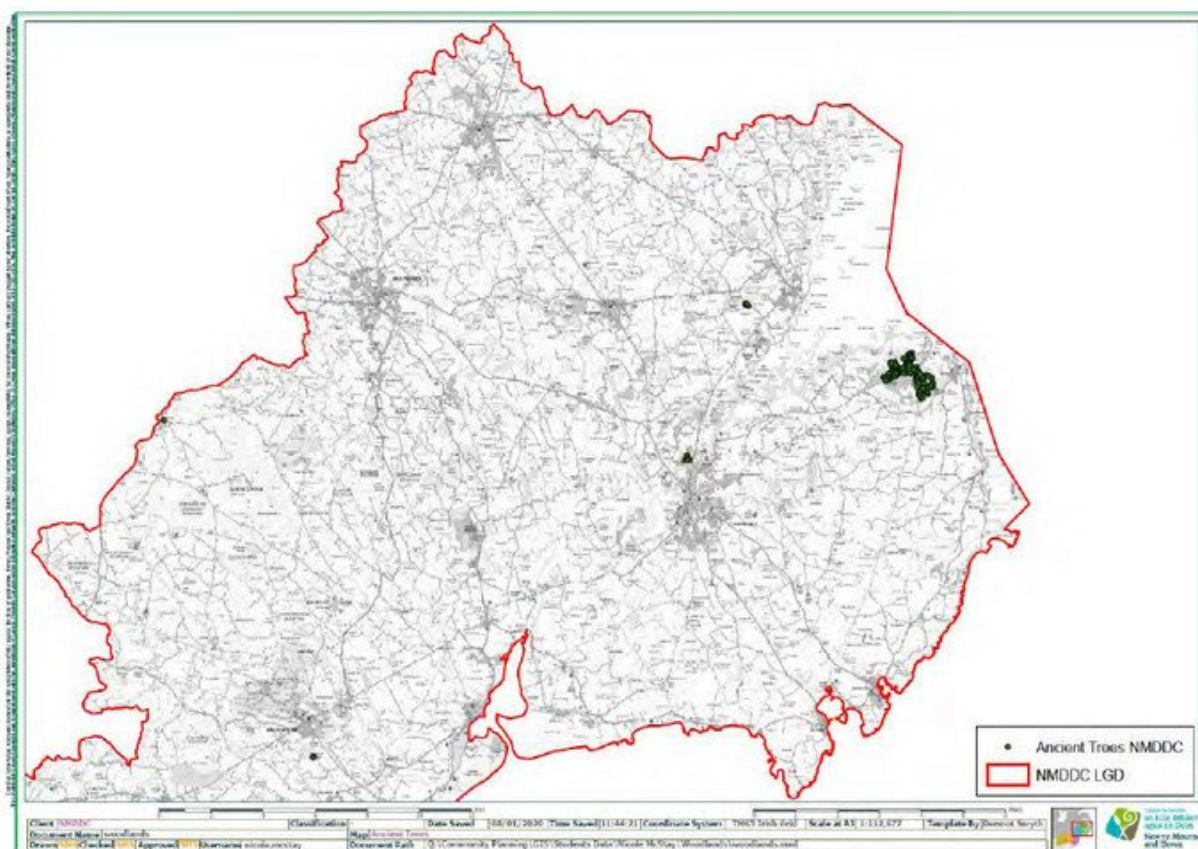
Map above - Significant Ancient Woodland Locations within Eastern NM&DDC Area



Map above - Significant Ancient Woodland Locations within Western NM&DDC Area



Map above - Significant Ancient Tree Locations within Western NM&DDC Area



Map above - Significant Ancient Tree Locations within Eastern NM&DDC Area

Landscape value and features are important to cities with trees and hedges adding to this value by providing physical features such as structural & historical boundaries, forests and woodlands.



Photos above – the *Tilia* trunks form an enclosing dynamic space leading the eye along the pathway to the archway exit. Right mature *Quercus* form an enclosing canopy across the roadway between castle & rural landscape screening the expanding scene, creating concealment & revelation when travelling out of the village.

The NI Landscape Character Assessment cites trees as being essential to their character and architectural from driving place-making at many locations. On a local scale they improve the

quality of our environment via screening, creating a sense of generic and specific scale, reducing glare from buildings & hard surfaces, directing and separating pedestrians and reducing vehicular traffic speed. They create colour, form and texture across our urban and rural locations. A few locations have trees of international quality which draw visitors from many countries.

The two administrative & shopping hubs are Newry & Downpatrick as an initiator to this Strategy both urban locations were quantified as below.

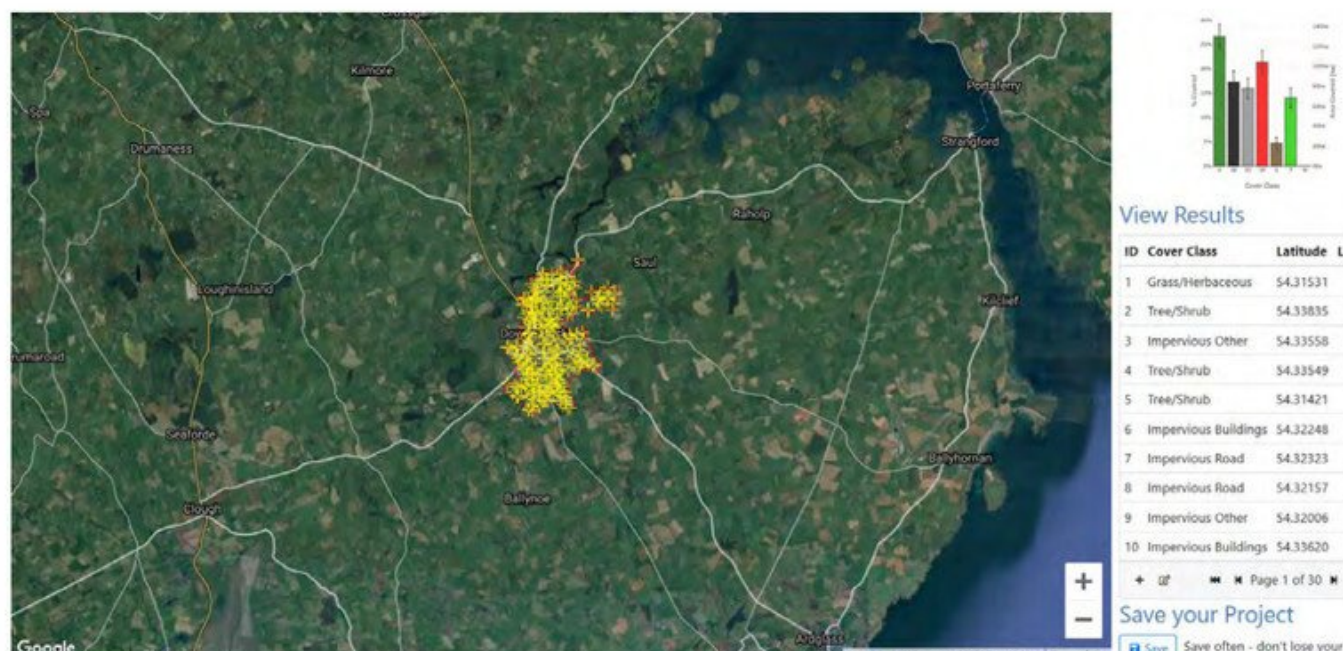
I tree Canopy Study of Newry & Downpatrick Urban Areas.

This process undertaken by the author April 2020 utilises cutting edge software which estimates the tree cover % and benefits for the developmental footprint of Newry City and Downpatrick Town via a random sampling process, whereby classification is detailed for each specific ground cover type.

The result is a quantification of ecosystem services, and the benefit values of trees and forests at the regional town scale for both sites. The study then measured the significance of the Urban Forest in terms of pollution mitigation, storm water run-off reduction, carbon sequestration and storage. While developed for the N America situation, the most similar climatic and geographical location were chosen in the USA to produce as accurate of value generations as possible.

As a result of this initial study, the aim is to improve tree and forest management, plan strategically, increase awareness, engage decision makers and build new partnerships across Newry Mourne & Down District Council area.

Downpatrick Town



Abbr.	Cover Class	Description	Points	% Cover ± SE	Area (ha) ± SE
H	Grass/Herbaceous		80	26.67 ± 2.55	130.19 ± 12.46
IB	Impervious Buildings		52	17.33 ± 2.19	84.62 ± 10.67
IO	Impervious Other		48	16.00 ± 2.12	78.12 ± 10.33
IR	Impervious Road		64	21.33 ± 2.37	104.15 ± 11.55
S	Soil/Bare Ground		14	4.67 ± 1.22	22.78 ± 5.95
T	Tree/Shrub		42	14.00 ± 2.00	66.35 ± 9.78
W	Water		0	0.00 ± 0.00	0.00 ± 0.00
Total			300	100.00	488.22

Tree Benefit Estimates: Carbon (Metric units)

Description	Carbon (t)	±SE	CO ₂ Equiv. (t)	±SE	Value (USD)	±SE
Sequestered annually in trees	209.15	±29.93	766.90	±109.74	£19,660	±2,813
Stored in trees (Note: this benefit is not an annual rate)	5,252.63	±751.62	19,239.63	±2,755.96	£493,747	±70,653

Currency is in USD. Standard errors of removal and benefit amounts are based on standard errors of sampled and classified points. Carbon sequestered is based on 3.060 t/ha/yr. Carbon stored is based on 76.848 t/ha. Carbon is valued at £25.64/t. (Metric units: t = tonnes, metric tons, ha = hectares)

Tree Benefit Estimates: Air Pollution (Metric units)

Abbr.	Description	Amount (kg)	±SE	Value (USD)	±SE
CO	Carbon Monoxide removed annually	60.58	±8.67	£89	±13
NO ₂	Nitrogen Dioxide removed annually	483.75	±69.22	£172	±25
O ₃	Ozone removed annually	2,954.92	±422.83	£9,352	±1,338
PM ₁₀ *	Particulate Matter greater than 2.5 microns and less than 10 microns removed annually	1,014.85	±145.22	£7,012	±1,003
PM _{2.5}	Particulate Matter less than 2.5 microns removed annually	228.70	±32.73	£36,950	±5,287
SO ₂	Sulfur Dioxide removed annually	173.68	±24.85	£23	±3
Total		4,916.47	±703.52	£53,399	±7,670

Currency is in USD. Standard errors of removal and benefit amounts are based on standard errors of sampled and classified points. Air Pollution Estimates are based on these values in kg/ha/yr @ £/kg/yr: CO 0.896 @ £1.47 | NO₂ 7.077 @ £0.36 | O₃ 43.232 @ £3.16 | PM₁₀* 14.848 @ £6.91 | PM_{2.5} 3.346 @ £161.57 | SO₂ 2.541 @ £0.13 (Metric units: kg = kilograms, ha = hectares)

Tree Benefit Estimates: Hydrological (Metric units)

Abbr.	Benefit	Amount (kl)	±SE	Value (USD)	±SE
AVRD	Avoided Runoff	601.89	±86.13	£1,421	±203
E	Evaporation	2,389.88	±341.98	N/A	N/A
I	Interception	2,405.36	±344.19	N/A	N/A
T	Transpiration	1,417.02	±202.77	N/A	N/A
PE	Potential Evaporation	7,835.25	±1,121.15	N/A	N/A
PET	Potential Evapotranspiration	6,645.09	±950.88	N/A	N/A

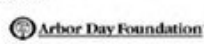
Currency is in USD. Standard errors of removal and benefit amounts are based on standard errors of sampled and classified points. Hydrological Estimates are based on these values in kl/ha/yr @ £/kl/yr: AVRD 8.806 @ £2.36 | E 34.965 @ N/A | I 35.191 @ N/A | T 20.732 @ N/A | PE 114.633 @ N/A | PET 97.220 @ N/A (Metric units: kl = kiloliters, ha = hectares)

About i-Tree Canopy

The concept and prototype of this program were developed by David J. Nowak, Jeffery T. Walton, and Eric J. Greenfield (USDA Forest Service). The current version of this program was developed and adapted to i-Tree by David Ellingsworth, Mike Binkley, and Scott Maco (The Davey Tree Expert Company).

Limitations of i-Tree Canopy

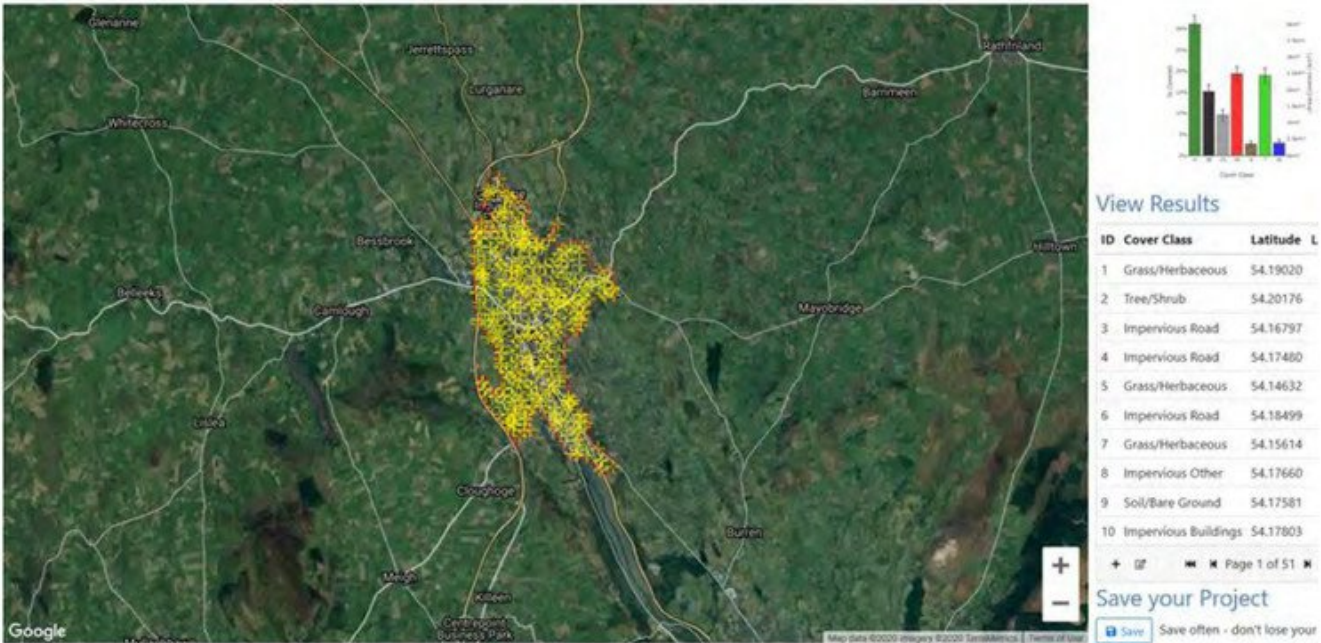
The accuracy of the analysis depends upon the ability of the user to correctly classify each point into its correct class. As the number of points increase, the precision of the estimate will increase as the standard error of the estimate will decrease. If too few points are classified, the standard error will be too high to have any real certainty of the estimate.



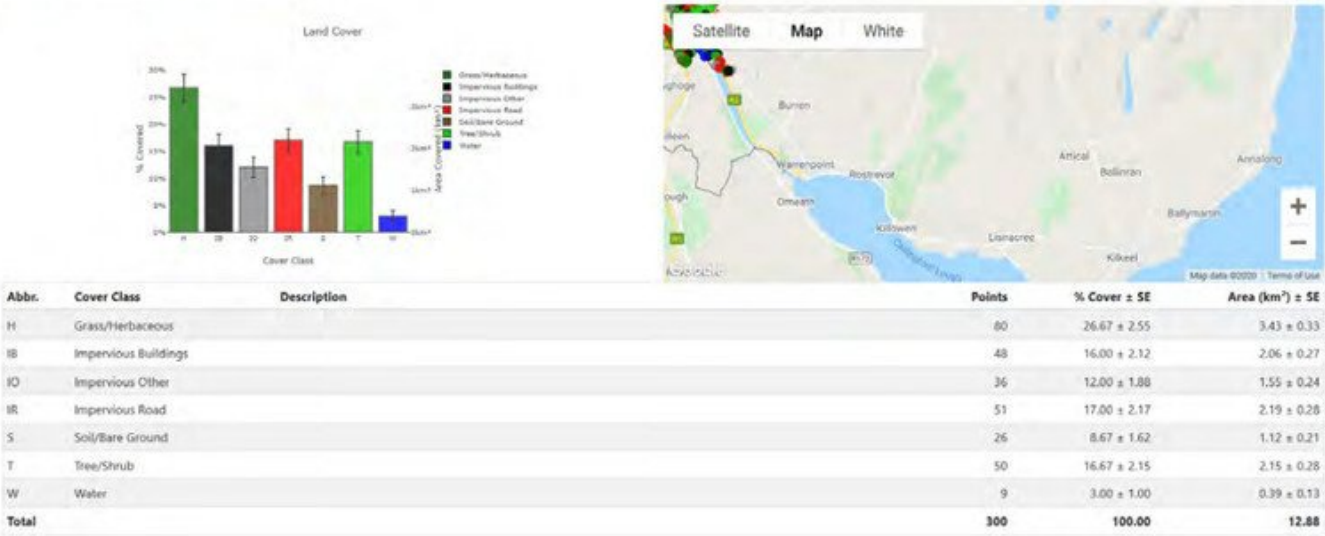
Use of this logo indicates acceptance of the ISA.



Newry City



i-Tree Canopy v7.0
Cover Assessment and Tree Benefits Report
Estimated using random sampling statistics on 5/9/2020



Tree Benefit Estimates: Carbon (Metric units)						
Description	Carbon (t)	±SE	CO ₂ Equiv. (t)	±SE	Value (GBP)	±SE
Sequestered annually in trees	656.74	±64.78	2,408.03	±310.88	£49,761	±6,424
Stored in trees (Note: this benefit is not an annual rate)	16,493.10	±2,129.25	60,474.72	±7,807.25	£1,249,680	±161,333
Currency is in GBP. Standard errors of removal and benefit amounts are based on standard errors of sampled and classified points. Carbon sequestered is based on 306,000 t/km ² /yr. Carbon stored is based on 7684,808 t/km ² . Carbon is valued at £20.66/t. (Metric units: t = tonnes, metric tons, km ² = square kilometers)						

Tree Benefit Estimates: Air Pollution (Metric units)					
Abbr.	Description	Amount (kg)	±SE	Value (GBP)	±SE
CO	Carbon Monoxide removed annually	189.43	±24.45	£224	±29
NO2	Nitrogen Dioxide removed annually	1,650.97	±213.14	£575	±74
O3	Ozone removed annually	10,908.99	±1,418.67	£36,615	±4,727
PM10*	Particulate Matter greater than 2.5 microns and less than 10 microns removed annually	3,442.96	±444.48	£19,176	±2,476
PM2.5	Particulate Matter less than 2.5 microns removed annually	697.34	±90.03	£105,011	±13,557
SO2	Sulfur Dioxide removed annually	608.47	±78.55	£85	±11
Total		17,578.15	±2,269.33	£161,686	±20,874
Currency is in GBP. Standard errors of removal and benefit amounts are based on standard errors of sampled and classified points. Air Pollution Estimates are based on these values in kg/km ² /yr @ £/kg/yr: CO 88.261 @ £1.18 NO2 769.253 @ £0.35 O3 5,120.216 @ £3.33 PM10* 1,604.215 @ £5.57 PM2.5 324.918 @ £150.59 SO2 283.512 @ £0.14 (Metric units: kg = kilograms, km ² = square kilometers)					

Tree Benefit Estimates: Hydrological (Metric units)					
Abbr.	Benefit	Amount (Ml)	±SE	Value (GBP)	±SE
AVRO	Avoided Runoff	81.10	±10.47	£154,311	±19,921
E	Evaporation	255.72	±33.01	N/A	N/A
I	Interception	257.63	±33.26	N/A	N/A
T	Transpiration	145.41	±18.77	N/A	N/A
PE	Potential Evaporation	767.70	±99.11	N/A	N/A
PET	Potential Evapotranspiration	661.59	±85.41	N/A	N/A
Currency is in GBP. Standard errors of removal and benefit amounts are based on standard errors of sampled and classified points. Hydrological Estimates are based on these values in Ml/km ² /yr @ £/Ml/yr: AVRO 37.786 @ £1,902.82 E 119.151 @ N/A I 120.039 @ N/A T 67.754 @ N/A PE 357.703 @ N/A PET 308.264 @ N/A (Metric units: Ml = megaliters, km ² = square kilometers)					

Is more explanation needed.

Tree Canopy Cover in the District

Tree canopy cover (TCC) and urban tree canopy cover (UTCC) is the area of leaves, branches, and stems of trees covering the ground when looking from above.

Quantifying urban tree canopy cover and setting canopy cover targets is an important first step in the management of urban tree populations allowing new management by identifying tree populations as essential green infrastructure paramount to the district.

Trees can live many hundreds of years, but their lifespan is not infinite. Trees must be planted regularly to replace older species. Leaf cover is a phrase used to encompass many of the benefits provided by a tree. Increased leaf

Cover results in increased conversion of carbon dioxide to oxygen, increased shade, more food to support insects and other species. The amount of leaf cover across the district is a better indicator of tree benefits than the number of trees. To retain leaf cover amounts, it is necessary to plant around six new trees to replace one mature species.

Newry City & Downpatrick Town Tree Specifics

photos to be added etc.

In the suburbs, trees feature prominently in the river & canal valleys, along the roads and streets, private gardens (an area prime for improvement). Trees enhance the surrounding scenery and have aesthetic value in their own right, while also providing essential screens to block out unwelcome and unsightly views. Much recent development from an industrial and distribution perspective has lowered the landscape quality outside the historic architecturally rich core of Newry & Downpatrick.

Climate change & Species Diversity

Climate change will impact the trees and woodlands with more extreme

weather such as high winds, heavy rainfall and drought. Declining tree health may occur in some species and increased difficulty establishing young trees. Mature trees will be lost through both direct causes often via windthrow resulting from storms or indirectly as weather patterns make them more stressed decreasing tolerance to pests and diseases. Increased winter rainfall creates water logging, which affects tree roots and stability. If our woodlands are affected, this has a deferential effect on the plants and animals living there.

This is the greatest issue affecting the landscape & tree components in the long-term. There are many uncertainties in the extent and range of climate change, and its likely impact on trees, ecosystems, native species and management operations. Key to risk planning and management is diversification; from broadening the choice of genetic material, mixing tree species in stands, to varying management systems and the timing of operations.

Climate change research covering important aspects of climate change impacts, adaptation and mitigation aims to improve management practice. It supports biosecurity policy and relates strongly to the ecosystem services approach paramount to the canal via evaluating the goods and services that trees, woodlands and landscape provide to society

Pests and diseases

Climate change will change and extend the range of pests and diseases which will affect the council area as new pests and diseases become more prevalent. Possible Disease Threats to the Tree Resource include -

- Acute oak decline – a disease affecting oak trees in parts of Britain, in which bacteria, including one species previously unknown to science, are believed to be involved.
- Bleeding canker of horse chestnut (*Pseudomonas syringae* pathovar *aesculi*) – a bacterium that causes death to horse chestnut trees. Up to half of Britain's horse chestnut trees have symptoms.
- Great spruce bark beetle (*Dendroctonus micans*) – is present throughout much of the Eurasian region, practically everywhere that spruce trees grow.
- Oak processionary moth (*Thaumetopoea processionea*) – defoliates oak trees and can cause them to die. Trees are weakened and become prone to attack by other pests.
- *Phytophthora kernoviae* – has so far only been found in Britain, and only in a very few trees. It can damage a number of tree species, including beech and English oak.
- *Phytophthora ramorum* – a fungus-like organism which attacks a range of trees and shrubs. Japanese larch has recently been found to be a host.
- Pine tree lappet moth (*Dendrolimus pini*) – has been captured in pine forests in Inverness-shire. A serious defoliator of pine and other conifer species in its native range in northern and eastern Europe and Russia.

New plants will be sourced from nurseries working in accordance with strict bio-security policies and will use, wherever possible trees raised entirely in the UK & Ireland. (see Council Biosecurity Policy)

The Cultural Link and Heritage Value

Trees not only contribute to the area's landscape - they have a substantial cultural and historical significance. Trees play a major part in artwork, culture, literature, myth, stories and local craftsmanship. Trees were important in religion, literature and art. Trees were also planted as memorials commemorating special people or historical events. This is often due to the fact that they are able to outlive us.

Photos TBC – NM&DDC cultural trees

Many trees across NM&DDC are accompanied by local legends and folklore providing a direct link for people connecting with their ancestral and cultural heritage. (See Abbey Way Landscape scheme).

Trees from Sustainable Resource Banks

Initiatives have been established where consumers can choose wood and associated products from locations managed to a high standard of biodiversity, which replant trees at appropriate rates to ensure leaf cover, landscape value and wood availability does not suffer. The Forest Stewardship Council certification scheme for wood products specifically for wood products from sustainable sources has been fully adopted by FSNI. Council are closely working with them at some of the country's most prominent locations to ensure landscape quality is improved for ourselves and future generations. Silviculture systems are being fully embraced for example in Castlewellan where council and FSNI are directly progressing "the art and science of controlling the establishment, growth, composition, and quality of forest vegetation for the full range of forest resource objectives."



Map above – NM&DDC & FSNI Castlewellan Management Plan where Forestry Management is Fundamental.

The logo is on a wide range of paper and wood products, reassuring consumers they are not contributing to unsustainable loss of some of the world's most biodiverse habitats.

Damages & Loss through Development.

Council will aim to prevent unnecessary damage to trees within all development in accordance with the current version of BS5837 Trees in relation to (more to include) enforcement action will be pursued where appropriate if trees are damaged or destroyed.

Installation and modification of utility services.

Street trees are vulnerable to damage which can causes loss in vigour and often death, both of which can take several years to become evident. This poses a health and safety risk if trees become unstable (severing of major roots) with work hidden afterward.

Specification, planting and maintenance

Unless a tree reaches maturity and is healthy, it cannot deliver its full benefits. Many of the trees in urban areas are merely 'surviving, not thriving' often wasting time and finance invested in species purchase and planting. Planted trees must reach their full potential, therefore correctly sourcing, planting, establishment and maintenance must be undertaken.

Poor planting with trees planted too deep, in tree pits with inappropriate surfacing or small soil volumes either kills or stunts the trees. Poor establishment maintenance (particularly insufficient watering), tree guards, stakes and grilles left in place so damaging to bark and stems and a lack of thinning of plantations also reduces the value our tree stock.

Informed species choice for the final setting of mature trees is essential at the initial design stage.

Damage and vandalism

Damage to trees, both deliberate and is common. Criminal damage includes cutting down or lopping lighting fires beneath trees and other attempts to kill Council trees.

Damage related to vehicular use and roadway maintenance causes compaction of rooting areas, branches maybe ripped of by high vehicles and contamination from salt in grit or hydrocarbons. Enforcement action will be taken against individuals who damage Council trees.

Detailed Surveys

When resources allow I Tree Eco-surveys will be undertaken which produce a fiscal value for the ecosystem benefits created by council trees this includes

- Storm water attenuation and assess their current value.
- Annual carbon storage and value
- Annual amount to carbon sequestered and value
- Amount of pollution removed annually and value
- Energy savings attributed to trees in relation to buildings

This will provide Council with information policy makers can use to take account of trees for future decision making.

Urban Canopy Cover

- Accurate figures are not available to date, however council intend to increase this by 2% , 2050 is a realistic target to achieve considering that tree number which can be planted is governed by a number of restricting factors included availability of planting land, funding etc. methods to achieve this include
- Use of planning conditions and obligations in Development

Working with community partners on funding bids,

Using opportunities within the design of Council schemes to increase tree planting,

Working with agencies such as the Woodland Trust and Forestry Commission, giving advice, encouragement and raising awareness,

Creating an NM&DDC Trees website – more to be done

Tree planting

There are many factors must be considered when planting urban and rural trees involving both species selection and the actual future physical growing and living conditions for the trees.

Reference maybe sought for right choice of trees, this will include resources such as

'Tree Species Selection for Green Infrastructure: A Guide for Specifiers' by TDAG.

BS8545 Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape – Recommendations.

(Construction Industry Research and Information Association) guidance, 'The benefits of large species trees in urban landscapes: a costing, design and management guide

Defining Factors will include

where trees are planted in relation to infrastructure, property and outlook,

- species choice for appropriate mature size and shape – a wider range beyond that which is often adopted of common apparent failsafe varieties will be avoided
- species diversity including non-native genera / species and those from different countries allowing for climate change to enable resilience to pests and disease,
- planting size to reduce maintenance requirements and improve establishment.

Introduced species can disrupt a stable, biodiverse habitat by out-competing or overshadowing valued existing species and ecosystems, careful landscape assessment is undertaken at each location prior to any replanting schemes.

Previously insufficient consideration was given to some species of tree used for urban street tree planting across NM&DDC. Problems have also occurred due to development changes, such as increased underground electrical supplies and pipes, and the installation of impermeable, inflexible paving. Overhanging branches may cause safety concerns and pavement breakage has resulted, this has often not been evident to individuals who enjoy

the tree's aesthetic value. Conflicts of interest then occur between users, managing bodies and service providers.

The district must have large and mature trees delivering the widest range of environmental benefits in urban & rural areas. There must also be trees in varying age classes enabling replacement of mature trees as they decline and die. Allowance must also be made for loss of vulnerable younger age classes from damage, poor maintenance and disease etc so future planting programs deliver the anticipated tree canopy level values.

Trees deaths or those made vulnerable through climate change need to be replaced with more resilient species.



Photos above - Tree production at The Council Ring of Gullion Tree Nursery, June 2019.

Trees in hard landscapes

It is necessary to plant trees in areas within hard surfacing including car parks, streets and pedestrianised areas. It is better to plant in open areas, where this is not possible, special planting techniques will be used which ensure adequate soil volumes are utilised to ensure the trees reach their full potential.

These areas are the most challenging urban environments for growing trees but are also the areas that benefit most from urban forestry. Council will encourage the use of well researched and developed planting techniques to achieve successful tree establishment and growth.

Tree & Forestry Types with the NM&DDC District

Within the Urban Forest

Street Trees

Street trees are planted along various urban locations including roadsides, verges and in pavements.

These are managed by Council, who undertake a programme of checks, ongoing seasonal maintenance and emergency work which may occur.

The trees planted on our streets are mainly ornamental species, there are still significant native and notable / veteran trees thriving within the urban locations. Current trees are located so to avoid issues with building foundations and blocking natural light etc. The primary defining issue with these trees are the planting medium or often lack of it, leaving many stressed and unable to reach their full structural potential.

Woodlands

There are six main types of woodland found across NM&DDC.

Semi-natural woodland

This is distributed across the council area, with smaller isolated bodies of mature oak woodland. Some of these woodlands have good structure and diverse ground flora, X being an example.

Wet woodland

A UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) priority habitat, this supports a diverse range of flora and fauna. Examples include Willow-carr Woodland at X. Alder-Carr woodland along the mid sections of The Newry Canal. The Carr woodlands often occur as part of larger woodland bodies, the ground flora of these is often being more diverse than the adjoining area.

Ancient woodland sites

Locations which have had continuous woodland cover since at least 1600AD. Having been established for a long time they support a rich and diverse flora and fauna. Examples of Ancient woodland include Kilbroney Forest, Rostrevor.

Plantation woodlands

These have occurred over the past approximately twenty-five years due to the Community Forest Initiatives etc. Older planted locations often have many exotic species for example white poplar, grey alder, horse chestnut and sycamore with little wildlife value. Some of these locations are raising issues with rapidly maturing trees in conflict with nearby developments and services. Canal Wood, Newry Canal is a good example.

Mixed woodland

Comprising both deciduous and coniferous trees, for example lower Donard Wood, Newcastle.

Young self-seeded woodland

This occurs on under and less maintained locations vacant lands etc, the tree canopy is generally pioneer species for example birch, sycamore and willow etc. While often frowned upon from a design and arboricultural perspective this does provide valuable wildlife corridors within urban locations with associated GI benefits. With the concept of rewilding this is an area of potential future progression.

Connecting the Urban & Rural Forests

Green interlinking networks are being developed across urban locations as part of Environmental Improvements, Regeneration, Waterways, The Roundabout and Roadside Environmental Improvements 2020 and the developing Linear Arboretums 2021. Projects. Parks and green spaces are being interlinked to join up with the existing network of open spaces and woodland edges along urban road, walkways and rivers etc.

These will be developed and improved upon. While improving the public realm from an amenity perspective, creating links with existing and new forestry enables wildlife to move through and within urban areas. The result is dissolving the barriers between people's perceptions of 'urban' and 'the countryside' which is the driving concept of the NM&DDC urban & rural forest strategy.

The Urban & Rural Forest's objective.

With NM&DDC trees and woodlands maturing and now being managed sustainably. The primary aim is to create a varied stratified, living landscape that is appropriately managed, driven by innovative contemporary concepts with a strengthening resilience increasing each year.

Hedgerows

NM&DDC has many examples of maturing hedgerows across the estate, information regarding the quantity and quality of hedgerows pre-strategy was virtually non-existent. Hedgerows are vital by not only contributing to the attractiveness of the local landscape fabric but also creating a vital habitat for a variety of species. They function as corridors via which species can travel across living habitats. Recent mass removal of hedgerows has threatened many plants and animals. Half the total species of British lowland mammals and 14 out of the 91-recognised species of birds live in hedgerows. Within the U.K. from 1984 and 1990 121,000 km of hedgerows were lost (Department of the Environment Report).

Urban hedgerows an area often forgotten, are affected by inappropriate management, poor maintenance and a general apathy for the annual cutting required, causing a decline in habitat for wildlife. New building developments and urban regeneration result in damage and removal of many hedgerows. The trend for hardscape low maintenance front gardens and parking areas, threatens those remaining. Highways regulations defining sight line requirements to new properties, lead to further loss of hedgerows. It is essential to identify planting opportunities for new hedgerows and identify alternatives to hedge removal wherever practical. More to add.



Photo above - Hedge laying at Glasdrummond, S. Armagh 2019

Trees growing on Privately Owned Lands

This includes along roadsides (TNI), railways, schools, churches, golf courses, business premises and private residential gardens. The management of these trees is the responsibility of the private owner, problems may arise where landowners do not have adequate expertise, time or resources to ensure adequate maintenance of their trees. The standard of care of trees on the varied private lands within NM&DDC ranges from a complete lack of interest to those who undertaking great pride in their trees and management, devoting time and money toward effective sustainable management.

Issues can arise when tree owners do not appreciate the aesthetic value attributed to their trees by the community and then removing trees without consultation. Large trees may cause a nuisance to neighbouring properties by overshadowing gardens or windows, blocking or greatly reducing access to natural light. Residents can contact the Council who will explore opportunities to negotiate an agreeable settlement. As a last resort, and after all other options have been investigated, the Council may decide to place an Improvement Notice under the Antisocial Behaviour Act 2003 to remedy the nuisance. If trees become unsafe on commercial premises, the Health and Safety Executive may become involved. Private landowners and companies can relatively do as they see fit with their trees unless they are located in a conservation area, unreasonably blocking visual amenity, or protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). Good practice and common courtesy would indicate however to consult neighbours before undertaking arboricultural works which could adversely affect the local NM&DDC character.

Transport NI

Council have transformed many prominent locations across the district during 2020 into sustainable memorable landscapes.

Photos above – Pound Lane Downpatrick & The Burren Roundabout Warrenpoint July 2020.

Schools

Trees are essential raise awareness and understanding of the importance of nature through school-based initiatives. Often utilised as an 'outdoor classroom' where pupils can undertake curriculum focused activities. The Eco Schools environmental award scheme accredits schools which have made commitments to continuously improvement of their environmental stewardship. NM&DDC council is working with XX schools, helping them attain the Eco Schools standard. School grounds are key to the standard, well-managed trees play a vital role in raising the school's environmental credentials an improving the wider NM&DDC landscape. These pupils will be the stewards of our future environment and treescape, early buy in is paramount to the future success of our current work.

Old Churchyards and Cemeteries

Old Churchyards

Trees are a traditional feature of historic churchyards and cemeteries; much of NM&DDC's tree resource of old and characterful trees are located within them. While the mature trees enhance the landscape they can cause problems, including obscuring grave structures by tree roots and branches. It is often only within these often-restricted locations however that trees can naturally mature, with informal unique characters, where a lower risk threshold can be adopted creating unique historical locations.

Photos above - TBC

Trees create a peaceful atmosphere within the cemetery locations of which, council has 6 current municipal cemeteries, a maturing reflective landscape is essential to these. The tree's are managed and condition is checked regularly. Historically, particular species within churchyards carried great significance these include

Tree species Significance

Individual Tree Species	Historical Significance
Irish Specifics to be added	
Holly (Ilex aquifolium)	Believe circulated that the bushes protected monuments from lightning strikes.
Oak (Quercus robur)	Leaves were inscribed on tombs as symbols of Power and authority
Yew (Taxus baccata)	Yew was considered amongst the most sacred of trees due to its longevity, living up to 3,000 years
Rowan (Sorbus aucuparia)	Was believed to discourage negative spirits from disturbing the dead

Consultation and Engagement

(Details to be added)

To achieve the Strategy's objectives, especially achieving the increased canopy cover requires not only Council commitment but also engagement and involvement of large land owners, businesses, schools, volunteer groups and the public to achieve buy in and active participation. We will involve and consult with the public as much as we can in order to create a sense of shared ownership. Council will commit to keep the public as informed as possible.

Management of Council Trees

To ensure that work to trees and hedges on Council land is carried out in accordance with council Tree Management Guidelines, only the Council's Grounds Maintenance team will specify and Undertake or contract externally if specialist work on Council trees.

Tree pruning and removals etc

A high volume of requests is received from the public and other sources relating to trees each year. Ranging from requests to remove trees completely through to minor pruning. No form of arboricultural work will be undertaken to trees without arboricultural justification. This document Management Guidelines set out the circumstances within which work will be undertaken. All management and maintenance work will be undertaken in accordance within arboricultural best practice guidelines and the current version of BS3998.

Replacement trees

Replacement planting is essential to ensure continuity of trees, apart from cases of woodland or plantation thinning replanting will take place. A young tree will take many years to achieve the scale of a large mature species, and one for one replacement does not give the same benefit, nor does it enable the increased canopy cover which is essential. When

trees are removed appropriate replacement will be undertaken in order to help us achieve our tree canopy cover target by 2030. Replacement trees may not be in the same spot as the felled species: nearby locations may be more effective and appropriate.

Council lands - Permitted Development

Local Authorities have some Permitted Development Rights and council policies will ensure tree retention, protection and replacement is given due consideration and in accordance with the BS5837 procedures.

Outside remit of strategy - They will include the need for a pre-development tree survey, prior to design of the scheme an arboricultural impact assessment, an arboricultural method statement and arboricultural supervision for any work within the (RPA) root protection

area of the retained tree and a tree protection plan. No-dig construction will be used there is work within the RPA.

Tree related damage claims

The Council's Insurance Section, supported by Grounds Maintenance and Planning section as appropriate, manage all claims relating to Council-owned trees. Where a Council tree is implicated as having caused damage to property, the onus is on the claimant to provide evidence that the tree is the cause. If trees are of high visual amenity value and where they would be worthy of protection by a TPO, the Council will require the submitted evidence and information to be similar to what would be expected for a TPO tree.

Tree management plans

Trees and woodlands need long term strategic management to ensure their current and future value. Several high-profile council sites will have detailed long-term management plans completed.

Included in any sites leased from forest service is a requirement to have woodland management plans which adhere to industry forest standards.

Staff skills and training

Arboricultural inspections and works will be carried out to the relevant British Standards and follow industry best practice guidance. All staff dealing with trees whether in planning, landscape, design, or operational context will hold the relevant skills, experience and qualifications to undertake their duties.

Trees on private land

Most tree owners appreciate the contribution the trees make to both their land value and the wider landscape benefits, this document itself is structured in an educative capacity. The majority of land in urban locations is in private ownership, hence it is important for private landowners to become involved. This Tree Strategy aims to influence the management of trees and hedges through a combination of education, promotion, consultation, involvement, conditions on planning consents and statutory protection through TPOs and conservation

areas. The Council will encourage private land owners to look after and increase tree stock but do not have resources to become practically involved.

Green Infrastructure, Trees and the Natural Environment

The aim is an extensive mosaic framework of interconnected green infrastructure spaces, offering ease of movement and an appealing natural environment for people and wildlife will be provided by:

- Maintain, protect and enhance the integrity, connectivity, multifunctionality and accessibility of the Strategic Green Infrastructure Network.
- Protection, enhancement and management of green infrastructure assets which include:
 - o Biodiversity and geodiversity assets, including designated sites wildlife corridors and priority habitats and species
 - o Distinctive landscape character, recognising the importance of our and topographic features, resident plant species and rivers etc
 - o Trees, woodland, forestry and hedgerows.
- Address gaps in the network and undertake improvements in Opportunity Locations.
- Improving and extending linkages to and within the Strategic Green Infrastructure Network.
- Protecting and enhancing open spaces, sport and recreational facilities in accordance with agreed standards with National Policy.
- Improving access to, along and onto Council High profile locations, without adversely impacting on the local ecology or damaging the landscape habitats.

Trees, Woodlands, Forests and hedgerows, including street and other urban trees, are important for the attractiveness of the NM&DDC landscape, while also being a key component of ecosystems.



Photos above left - Bluebells Slieve Gullion 2019, Right- Wood Sorrel Ring of Gullion.

The baseline is the retention, protection, and enhancement of woodlands, trees forests and hedgerows, and where appropriate, additional provisions via new developments.

Trees contribute to cooling and shading in urban areas and create linkages in the Green Infrastructure Network. Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Area designations protect many of the most important assets.

Policy and Legal Framework

Legislation, agreements, policies and initiatives are in place on an international, national, regional and local basis to help protect the world's tree resources. This section provides an overview of the main measures in place.

The Rio Summit -1992

Ecosystem protection Agreements were formulated to protecting forests and woodlands, World forests were declining at approximately 90,000 sq km per annum then.

The Helsinki Agreement - 1993

Relevant resolutions determinations adopted at Helsinki included:

- o The implications of climate change
- o The conservation of their biodiversity
- o The sustainable management of European forests
- o Forestry co-operation with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

Planning Policy Statements (PPS)

Define the Government's national policies relating to varying aspects of land use planning in the UK. PPS 1 (Delivering sustainable development) and PPS 9 (Biodiversity and Geological Conservation) stipulate for the protection and enrichment of biodiversity and varying natural habitats.

DEFRA publication "Tree Preservation Orders - A Guide to the Law and Good Practice"

This book gives a very good explanation of tree preservation orders and the issues surrounding them. Outlining suggestions for conditions which may be applied to planning applications to ensure appropriate tree protection and aftercare is adhered to. It highlights problem areas for example the importance of ensuring that developers identify and manage trees close to site access routes, or locations affected by the laying of services or roadways beyond the site boundary. Enforcing aftercare processes to ensure trees planted during the planning process are effectively established is important,

Regional Plan / Spatial strategy / LDP TBC

Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)

These are used to protect selected trees and woodlands where their removal likely to have, 'a significant impact on the environment and its enjoyment by the public'. These can vary from a single tree to a group of trees. Priority is given to trees which are considered possibly under threat, for example, if imminent development is proposed in a location.

Conservation areas

NM&DDC has TBC conservation areas. As a rule, all trees within conservation areas have outline protection. Persons proposing to undertake arboricultural works such as pruning or felling must submit notice of intention to the Council six weeks' in advance. This enables time for Council to consider the proposal and determine whether or not TPO(s) may be required.

Case Studies & Management Initiatives.

Innovative Involvement

Roots of NM&DDC

Residents of all ages and various geographical locations across the Council are creating habitats for wildlife and improve the appearance of their local environment and wider landscape in general via working in partnership with council.

The programme raises awareness of the importance of trees and the natural environment and encourages greater community ownership of newly planted trees in the programme.

Climatic Forest Expansions.

Concentrates on increasing tree cover, encouraging investment and visitors to the area and plays a pivotal role in greening and improving the wider NM&DDC landscape on a regional scale.

Extensive details to be added April 2021

The Roundabout & Roadside Environmental Arboretums

Underway several locations –

Downpatrick Belfast Road

Newry – Greenbank

Fiveways

Carnbane

Burren Warrenpoint

Castlewellan

Clough

Newry Canal & Greenway

Linear Orchard & Social Forestry

GM has developed an holistic approach to tackling the problem of sections of bleak and uninspiring landscape.

Kilkeel – TBC

Linear

Ring of Gullion – Farmland, Hedgerow & Green barn Creations.

The management teams of the Ring of Gullion, the Mourne and Strangford and Lecale AONBs (Areas of Outstanding Nature Beauty) have teamed up with the Woodland Trust to the farming community to sign up for a virtual information night on resilient farm businesses

Project which is working closely with farmers to partner them in trialling a new approach to delivering sustainable, improved and diversified farm businesses. Using 'green infrastructure' and management changes as an essential part of farming production. Farming is still the mainstay of the rural community forming the bedrock of the rural economy. However, farming, especially hill farming, is coming under significant pressure, with increases in costs and decreasing profits.

With time and money at a premium, many farmers are now looking for more efficient ways to make farming pay. One option involves exploring the benefits of green and living infrastructures such as hedges, trees, sward changes and even stock changes.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Chairperson, Councillor Laura Devlin said "As well as the increasing daily costs, rain, wind and disease have become and increasing issues for many of our farms. The prolonged wet cold winter this year caused considerable issues at many levels. Outside shelter from hedges and trees are vitally important in protecting swards and stock and if properly planned can be a vital tool towards farm viability.

Trees also prove an important contribution in reducing water from soil which is a major factor in the production of fluke, which species rich swards can increase growing season and reduce the amounts of artificial fertilizer required."

The Woodland Trust, know that they need to work closely with farmers and help support them in their primary business of food production, focusing on supporting communities and using the many benefits that trees provide to help achieve this. Shelter and trees are only a part, the farm survey work will, offer support and signposting towards information of pasture management, stock changes and diversification opportunities and more.

Islands Park, Newcastle – Climate Change Action Park.

Council has passed a Notice of Motion to transform Islands Park in Newcastle into a 'Climate Change Action Park' and taken forward by the Council's Sustainability and Climate Change Forum (SCCF).

Applying for funding from DAERA via the Environment Fund - 50% funding, council need to find 50% match funding internally or through Match Funding in Kind. Inter departmental project with the Sustainability team.

Existing and planned activities or works in the area and with other initiatives e.g. Re-wilding of sites, Wildflower planting, recycling facilities, car parks, drainage or SUDs work in the area, Flood alleviation or Flood protection plans in the area.

We also need to work out what is permitted development and what requires planning.

The funding deadline is Noon on Tuesday 28th July 2020 so we would hope to have a good plan with costings for work and evidence of Match Funding in place for the application – see attached. A very positive and innovative project for the Council and the local community.

Developing a Community Growing & Climate Change Initiatives

Several community groups and schools interested in doing some tree planting in local villages/areas in the coming months via tree planting grants available from Tree Council and others.

Community Orchards where the locals plant and look after the trees and distribute the fruit to locals.

If more existing green grassy or derelict areas were allowed to have tree planting it would be less maintenance and grass cutting for your teams, especially if local community groups took over or shared maintenance and upkeep.

In the first instance I have a group 'Castlewellan Climate Group' who are hoping to identify an area of land to plant trees on in the Castlewellan town area.

They are also possibly looking at a Community Orchard and eventually an area for community Grow Your Own Veg.

Are there any areas of land which you know of which would suit any of these in Castlewellan?

This group and others will be applying for Tree Planting Grants now and need to show they have a plot of land with permission to plant on.

See Eamonn Keaveney Sustainability Officer

Opportunities

Via strategic approaches to the management of NM&DDC trees, an understanding of existing assets, weaknesses, key opportunities and potential threats that may affect our ability to provide a diverse tree resource can be summarised as:

Strengths

Over TBC no of parks and tree-rich open spaces

An international, regional and locally important tree resource

A developing charity and volunteer network

A developing inter agency network

An in house developed industry leading GIS system to enable mapping, measuring & sharing tree information of new and existing tree stock

Weaknesses

Lack of previous coordinated and accessible information on the total tree resource

The loss of tree specimens in recent years due to disease, age and development

Inappropriate previous design & planting leading to tree losses, particularly in street tree population

Underfunded to enable sustained maintenance

Opportunities

A current realisation of climate change issues transforming public attitude with significant elected member support for this

Developing availability of IT based information and hardware

Increasing use of wood-based fuel to provide climate efficient fuels
 Extensive Involvement & Engagement with various agencies
 Utilising tree planting as a catalyst for community involvement and ownership

Threats

Pollution, Impact Damage and Climate Change
 Lack of awareness of the benefits of trees in sustainable development
 Vandalism
 Current inappropriate development

Vison & Priorities for Developing The NM&DDC Urban & Rural Forest

- 1.- Sustainable Management
 Extensively promote the value and importance of trees and GI across all the district
- 2.- Appropriate Planting
 Plant more effective trees via extensive design, Improving the landscape value and diversity
- 3.- Effective Protection
 Protect the districts trees via a defined forward-thinking process.
- 4.- Innovative Involvement
 Stimulate the value and importance of trees district & NI wide via engagement & education.
- 5 – Partnership Working
 Via actively involving stakeholders across the district.

Practical Development Action Plan

A five-year action plan is proposed. The Action Plan provides a range of themed initiatives, grouped according to their contribution to the each of the main objectives. All those with an interest in trees and GI improvement across the borough must innovatively work together to deliver this.

An annual update maybe provided to Neighbourhood Services Committee.

Objective	Lead	Directly Involved	2020	2021	2022	2023

Community Groups have a key role to play in maintaining the NM&DDC tree resource. Involvement with local tree planting initiatives and identify notable trees in specific areas is all key to supporting the delivery of the development of The NM&DDC Tree Strategy and its Action Plan. There would be considerably less trees in the district if it were not for the

willingness of the public to support planting and especially maintaining the specific trees. Contact details for groups with interest in trees in local areas may be obtained from DEA managers.

Appendix 1 Flagship Schemes (ongoing)

Slieve Gullion



Photos above left - Footsteps in the Forest - Giant Adventure 2017 Slieve Gullion Forest Park, middle – Irelands most mystic mountain



Photo above – The Giants Liar imbedded within Forestry – Slieve Gullion.

Roundabout & Roadside Environmental Arboretums - part of "the linear forest".

'Roads for Nature' work demonstrates that 'Tree-lined roads serve as ecological corridors to numerous organisms which are endangered due to tree removal linked to infrastructure development. Knowledge of their ecology is essential for effective conservation.'

Tony Sangwine of Highways England argues, 'The value of tree-lined roads is indisputable. We have to consider temperature moderation, drainage, habitat, screening, integration, carbon uptake, dust filtering and aesthetics.'

'clear zones' (or 'safety zones'), i.e., areas

observation and simulator studies report a significant decrease in driving speeds in the presence of trees, with reductions of up to 5%. Driving in an environment with trees increases drivers' tolerance of frustration, trees lead to calmer and safer driving. Roadside trees, and in particular avenues, play an important role in the 'explanation', signalling bends, crossroads and approaches to built-up areas more efficiently than road signs.

Greenbank Roundabout – Newry.

5 Ways Roundabout Newry

Pound Land Downpatrick

Inner Bay Dundrum

Knockree Avenue Kilkeel Landscape Improvement Schemes - Trees & Respiratory illness

The recent health crisis can potentially bring out the best in us and bring people together as a community across NM&DDC.

Emerging clearly from the Covid-19 crisis is the importance of trees in purifying our air and reducing respiratory illness. Over 1,500 die a year in Ireland from air pollution. We require trees more than ever to keep us strong and healthy and able to withstand emerging viruses.

Trees play a hugely important role in human respiratory health

Ireland has the second lowest number of trees in Europe, Northern Ireland has just 8% tree cover compared to a European average of 38%. Correspondingly Ireland has the 4th highest levels of respiratory illness in the world with over 475,000 current asthmatics. It also is third in the highest rates of cardiac illness and cancer. Trees, especially urban trees, directly benefit our health.

The Immediate Importance of Trees in Fighting Coronavirus and Climate Change Cannot be Underestimated.

Many studies indicate our destruction of nature is largely responsible for virus outbreaks including Covid. As habitat and biodiversity loss increase globally, the coronavirus outbreak may be just the beginning of mass pandemics. Humanity's destruction of biodiversity maybe creating the conditions for new viruses and diseases to proliferate.

A new discipline, planetary health, is emerging that focuses on the increasingly visible connections between the wellbeing of humans, other living things and entire ecosystems.

This is a significant threat to global health, security and economies - the more we disturb the forests and habitats the more danger we are in, solutions start with education, awareness and action.

We must make people aware that things are different now.

Many of the forests of the world have been reduced to charcoal, toilet paper, building material and dust, those which remain offer us an essential immune boost. Nearly 1,000 scientific studies "prove: Nature is not only nice to have, but it's a have-to-have for physical health and cognitive function," according to the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies.

- Nature restores attention and improves concentration
- Nature enhances short-term memory
- Nature revitalizes mental energy
- Nature boosts mental capacity and creativity
- Nature improves physical health
- Nature relieves stress and boosts bliss

Studies with students & the elderly show spending time in nature significantly reduces inflammation. Research from the Nippon Medical School in Japan illustrates time spent in forests increases the number of natural killer cells, which promote our immune defense, while expanding the functional activity of these antiviral cells.

Research proves that forest visits increase the amount of intracellular anticancer proteins and this effect lasts for a full week after the trip. None of these effects were observed after city trips.

Other studies show that natural aromas secreted by evergreen trees, known as phytoncides, are associated with improvements in the activity of human frontline immune defenders. Nature's health benefits are thus wide-ranging and strong associations between access to nature and longer, healthier lives are increasingly revealed by science. A study in Environmental Health Perspectives of 2016 for example, found a 12% lower mortality rate in people that live near nature, even after correcting for socio-demographic background and smoking habits, with the biggest improvements related to reduced risk of death from cancer, lung disease or kidney disease.

Your immune system needs a forest - a healthy urban and rural forest network, not sterile over manicured landscapes.

These times of lock-down where many activities were canceled, was the perfect time to reflect on how NM&DDC Grounds Maintenance can improve the districts immune system. The concept of every settlement having its own urban forest, driving health & wellbeing is a primary model to aim toward.

Nature is better for our health than any health care system.

Nature, too, is an amazing, complex, and remarkably effective technology—our biggest and most overlooked ally in the fight against climate change.

Methods for optimizing nature's ability to store carbon are known as natural climate solutions. The word natural, it turns out, is as key as the word solutions—these are strategies that have a lot of potential, but that also work in complex ways that can be difficult for us to understand and re-create.

Education, Awareness and Action

1 - Knockchree Avenue Kilkeel – Urban Tree Planting & Environmental Improvements Scheme

The Kilkeel location was chosen as it

- Is a primary dual carriageway bisecting the Town and used by both residents and tourists
- Forms a connection between the South Down coastline and the Mourne Northward.
- Illustrates a sterile, characterless engineered streetscape.
- The area has one of the lowest tree cover values in all N.I.
- The local community were very supportive of any potential improvements



Above - Google Street View Photos – South Eastwards toward the shore, the stark engineered landscape does little to enhance the Irish Sea panorama and Kilkeel's primary green space at the bottom of the road. Below – North Westwards inland, the Mountains of Mourne rise centrally behind the road end, again the barren streetscape and monoculture of grass detracts from what should be a unique high quality vista.



The Practalities



Photo above left – only inches are left to spare following precise measurement and practical testing with council mowing equipment to enable safe ongoing grass cutting and the proposed tree planting. Specific analysis was required for sightlines and DFI approval etc. Right – the authors sketches illustrating the proposed spatial form & aesthetic improvements.



Photo above – specific trees being hand picked from a local Co Down Nursery following sustainable local province species production.

The Physical Result

40 Trees were planted forming a very attractive tree lined routeway

Each tree was planted and adopted by a local family

The entire scheme was measured using the I Tree Calculator with the Specific Long-term Environmental Benefits Detailed including

- Greenhouse Gas (GHG) sequestered and avoided (owing to reductions in energy use)
- Energy conserved
- Air pollutants captured and avoided
- Stormwater filtered

This then formed part of the long-term promotion for the first small scale urban roadside improvement scheme of its type in N.I.



Photos above – Council staff & local community members undertaking practical planting on site June 2020.

Photos above – the finished planted scheme – trees will create visual interest, structure and a strong punctuation element transforming the roadway. The specific species types create genetic diversity forming a sustainable lasting landscape.

Photos above – The Specific Long-term Environmental Benefits were Detailed and Illustrated on Signage Promoting the Councils Urban & Rural Forestry Strategy, on site Sept 2020.

Ecosystem Services Planting Calculator - Knockchree Avenue Kilkeel

(All Benefits Have Been Calculated Over a 25-year period from time of planting).

Specific Benefits Summary

Specific Benefits	Total Values
CO (Carbon Dioxide) Benefits - CO Sequestered (£)	£1902.84
Energy Benefits – Fuel Saved (£)	£625.59
Ecosystem Services – Runoff Avoided (£)	£2445.47
Air Benefits	
O (Ozone) Removed (pounds)	193.8
NO (Nitrogen Dioxide) Removed (pounds)	38.9
SO (Sulphur Dioxide) Removed (pounds)	7.5
PM (Particulate matter smaller than 2.5 micrometres in diameter) Removed (pounds)	3.1

	CO (Carbon Dioxide) Benefits			
Specific Tree Planted 13-20m from buildings that were built post-1980 with heat	CO (Carbon Dioxide) Avoided (pounds)	CO Avoided (£)	CO Sequestered (pounds) CO	CO Sequestered £
Acer Platanoides Drummondii	2,849.6	66.27	17,949.1	417.44
Acer Platanoides "Crimson King"	2,849.6	66.27	17,949.1	417.44
Acer rubrum 'October Glory' Tree	2,849.6	66.27	17,949.1	417.44
Acer Princeton Gold	2,849.6	66.27	17,949.1	417.44
Betula U. Jacquemontii	1,410.1	32.80	2,240.3	52.10
Quercus robur	5,096.0	39.23	7,781.9	180.98
Totals				1902.84

	Energy Benefits			
Specific Tree Planted 40-59 feet and north (0°) of buildings that were built post- 1980 with heat	Electricity Saved (kWh) (Kilowatt- Hours)	Electricity Saved (£)	Fuel Saved (MMBtu) (Millions of British Thermal Units)	Fuel Saved (£)
Acer Platanoides Drummondii	N/A	N/A	N/A	93.04
Acer Platanoides "Crimson King"				93.04
Acer rubrum 'October Glory' Tree				93.04
Acer Princeton Gold				93.04
Betula U. Jacquemontii				87.04
Quercus robur				166.39
Totals				£625.59

	Ecosystem Services			
Specific Tree Planted 40-59 feet and north (0°) of buildings that were built post-1980 with heat	Tree Biomass (short ton)	Rainfall Interception (gallons)	Runoff Avoided (gallons)	Runoff Avoided (£)

Acer Platanoides Drummondii		163,334.2	51,414.5	459.44
Acer Platanoides "Crimson King"		163,334.2	51,414.5	459.44
Acer rubrum 'October Glory' Tree		163,334.2	51,414.5	459.44
Acer Princeton Gold		163,334.2	51,414.5	459.44
Betula U. Jacquemontii		150,266.7	20,784.1	185.73
Quercus robur		150,015.6	47,222.0	421.98
Totals		953,619.10	273,664.10	£2445.47

	Air Benefits			
Specific Tree Planted 40-59 feet and north (0°) of buildings that were built post-1980 with heat	O Removed (pounds) (Ozone)	NO Dioxide) Removed (pounds) (Nitrogen Dioxide)	SO Dioxide) Removed (pounds) (Sulfur Dioxide)	PM (Particulate Matter smaller than 2.5 micrometers in diameter) Removed (pounds)
Acer Platanoides Drummondii	36.3	7.3	1.4	0.6
Acer Platanoides "Crimson King"	36.3	7.3	1.4	0.6
Acer rubrum 'October Glory' Tree	36.3	7.3	1.4	0.6
Acer Princeton Gold	36.3	7.3	1.4	0.6
Betula U. Jacquemontii	19.8	4.0	0.8	0.3
Quercus robur	28.8	5.7	1.1	0.4
Totals	193.8	38.9	7.5	3.1

Appendix 2 - Glossary

Carbon sequestration

The process by which atmospheric carbon is absorbed into carbon sinks for eg. the oceans, peat bogs, forests and soil.

Ecosystem

The living interrelationship between air, land, water, animals and plants etc.

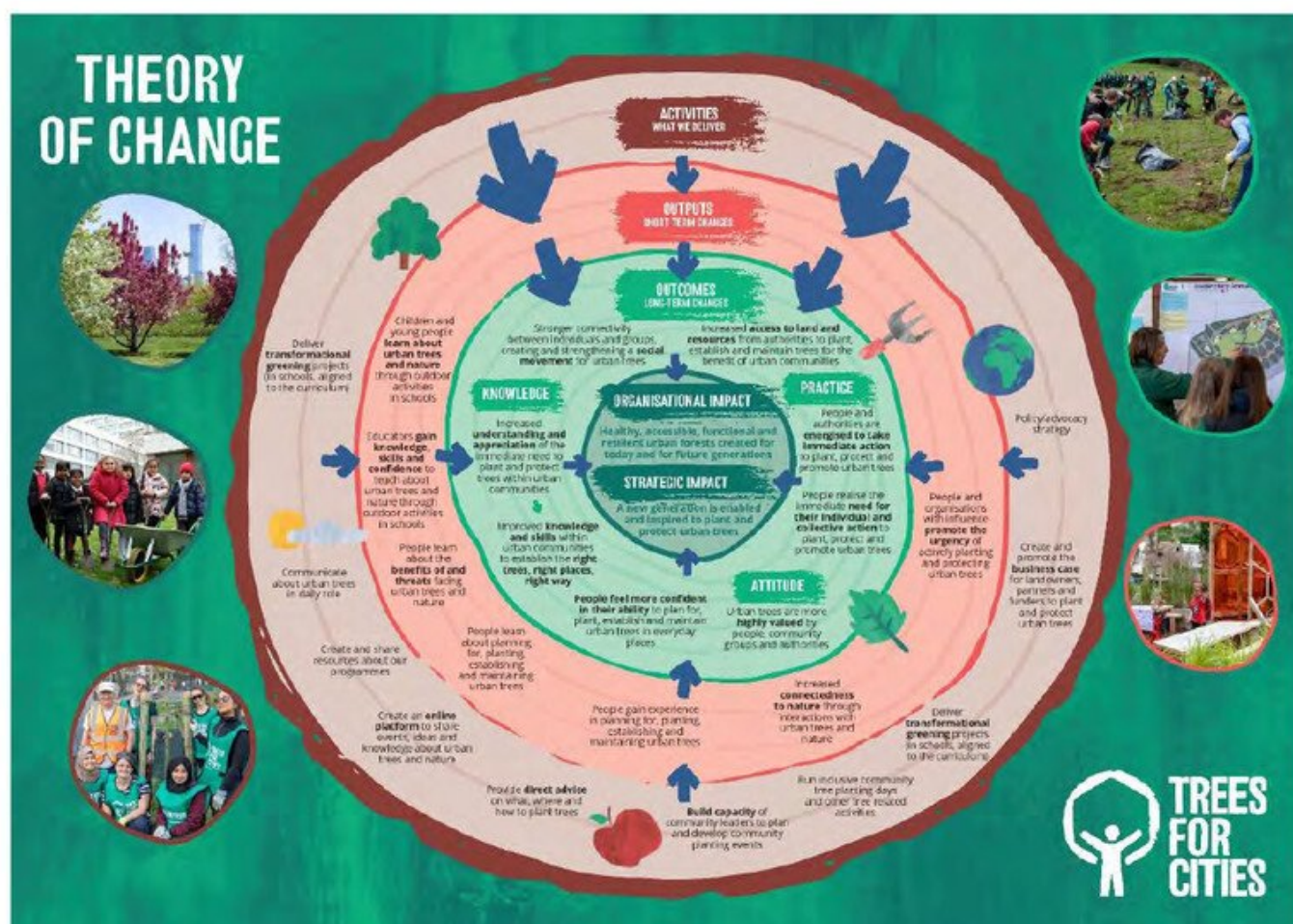
Photosynthesis

The process by which green plants use sunlight to synthesize nutrients from carbon dioxide & water.

Species

A set of animals or plants in which the members have characteristics to each other and can breed with each other. Often a specific closely related type of Tree.

Tree Cities of the World - January 2021





Appendix 3 Involved Partners

Woodland Trust

Kilkeel Chamber

Notes

Governance & Consultation Process – 6 to 9 months.

Below Various Developing Details etc

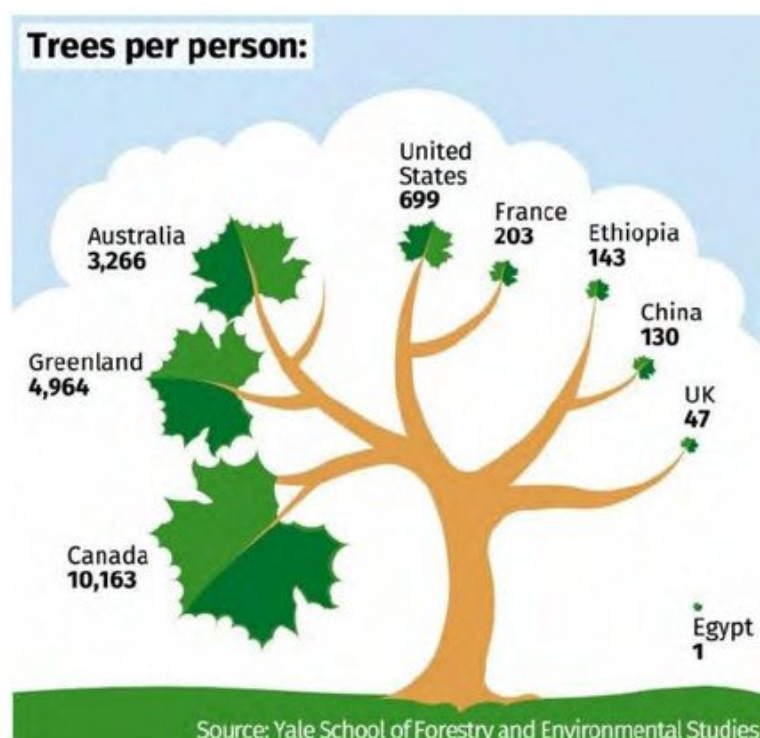
On average, one **acre** of new forest **can** sequester about 2.5 tons of carbon **annually**. Young **trees absorb CO2** at a rate of 13 pounds per **tree** each **year**. **Trees** reach their most productive stage of carbon storage at about 10 **years** at which point they are estimated to **absorb** 48 pounds of **CO2** per **year**.

As recommended by the [Committee on Climate Change](#) (CCC) the government has legally committed to net zero [greenhouse gas emissions by the United Kingdom](#) by 2050 and the [Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit](#) (ECIU) has said it would be affordable. A range of techniques will be required including carbon sinks ([greenhouse gas removal](#)) in order to counterbalance emissions from agriculture and aviation. These carbon sinks might include reforestation, habitat restoration, soil carbon sequestration, [bioenergy with carbon capture and storage](#) and even direct air capture.

UK peatlands cover around 23,000 km² or 9.5% of the UK land area and store at least 3.2 billion tonnes of carbon. A loss of only 5% of UK peatland carbon would equate to the total annual UK anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions. Healthy peat bogs have a net long-term 'cooling' effect on the climate. Peatlands rely on water. When drained, peatlands waste away through oxidation, adding carbon dioxide to the atmosphere. Damaged and degraded peatlands place a substantial financial burden on society because of increased greenhouse gas emissions, poorer water quality and loss of other [ecosystem services](#).

DEFRA plans to consult on a new tree strategy after failing to meet its target to plant new trees across 5,000 hectares of land in England every year by a wide margin. Official figures from Forest Research show DEFRA falling short of the target by 71%, having succeeded in planting only 1,420 hectares in the year to March.

Across the UK, 13,390 hectares of newly created woodland were planted, with Scotland faring the best at 11,210 hectares of new tree planting and Wales and Northern Ireland with 520 and 240 hectares respectively.



Appendix 1 DAERA an Environment Strategy for Northern Ireland

A Common Purpose for Our Environment

This 'Common Purpose' is our response to the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs' public discussion document on an Environment Strategy for Northern Ireland (September 2019). It is the result of a collaborative discussion between a range of sectors, networks and organisations held at NICVA in November 2019. The aim of the Common Purpose is to set out a brief number of key actions and principles which we (the signatories) believe are required to create an Environment fit for current and future generations.

Our environment, which is essential to our future health, well-being and prosperity, has never been under more pressure: our biodiversity is in decline, our air and the quality of the water in our rivers and lakes remains poor, and climate change is impacting upon all areas of life.

We need an ambitious long-term Environment Strategy to help reverse this decline and then, critically, set Northern Ireland on a new path of renewal and environmental regeneration.

We believe that:

Our environment is our health and wellbeing, our food and water, our heritage and history, our wildlife, our children's future and our economic foundation. Crucially, it's for everyone, equally, bringing a sense of community cohesion and shared enjoyment.

Our environment provides spaces and places for people to be active in; supports our economy through tourism, cultural heritage and inward investment; and provides educational opportunities.

Our land and landscape, unique historic environment, rich freshwater network and our enviable coastline and marine habitat provide a wealth of riches for our people and visitors to enjoy. We believe that an ambitious environment strategy for Northern Ireland is the best way to ensure its preservation.

The Environment Strategy for Northern Ireland must:

Have clear lines of accountability. All government Departments and public bodies should be included in the design not just of the strategy but the crucial actions that need to be clearly set out within it; and they should have a proactive duty to implement it and be held accountable for the impacts of decisions taken. Be independently monitored with robust mechanisms to hold government to account. Have statutory footing and binding targets that are clear, measurable and ambitious and in line with the SDGs. Effective environmental governance is essential for any framework of environmental policy; a strategy that is not backed up in law with effective enforcement mechanisms is essentially no more than a wish list. Be matched by appropriate and significant additional direct investment to enrich our environment and land/sea resource and a commitment that future public payments are directed towards delivering public benefits. In addition, we believe it is fundamental to the future of Northern Ireland that: A Northern Ireland Environment Bill is created to give the Environment Strategy a binding, legal footing. Creation of an Independent Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Northern Ireland remains the only part of these islands without an EPA. We need an EPA to ensure independent and robust monitoring and appropriate mechanisms to hold government to account. Introduction of a NI Climate Change Act. Given the implications of Climate Change for all aspects of NI society and our massive over-dependence on imported fossil fuels despite our abundant local sources of renewable energy, NI urgently requires a Climate Change Act. It should include an action plan with short, medium, and long-term targets for GHG emissions reduction and renewable energy generation. Mainstreaming of UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). All future Departmental Strategies/ Policies (including the Programme for Government) must help deliver on our commitment to implementation of the UN SDGs and include: specific NI indicators; Compulsory incorporation into the local council community plans; Appointment of SD champions in each government department; and the Executive Office should be responsible for implementation/reporting.

A NI 'Well-being of Future Generations Act. Based on the Welsh example, this Act would improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of NI by encouraging cross-departmental cooperation; and improve partnership working with people and communities to undertake long-term planning to prevent problems through a more joined-up approach. It would help create a NI that people will want to live in, now and in the future. Creation of a NI Environmental Citizens Advisory panel. Such a Panel would improve citizen information, engagement and participation in the design of environmental policies and strategies that affect NI. As the island of Ireland and its surrounding seas represent a single biogeographic unit, consideration could be given to the future development of an all-island Environment Plan and a cross-border environmental advisory panel tasked with exploring an island wide response to environmental issues that affect all citizens.

Sustainable agri-food Sector Support. A growth strategy to support sustainable small-scale farming should be developed with provision of incentives for farmers/landowners to support environmental initiatives such as combatting climate change and restoring nature in our countryside. Farming subsidies should provide an incentive for farmers to farm in a way that helps protect the environment. This should be progressed through a 'Public Money for Public Goods' approach.

A Cross-Departmental Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development is developed. This strategy should lead to a systemic change in teaching and access to environmental education for all age groups and encourage long-term attitudinal and behavioural change in relation to our interaction with the environment. It should include ambitious targets for outdoor learning.

If you wish to sign up to this Common Purpose please email info@nienvironmentlink.org, providing name of organisation and contact details.

Report to:	Neighbourhood Services Committee
Date of Meeting:	16 March 2021
Subject:	Enforcement Improvement Plan
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Liam Dinsmore Head of Waste Processing and Enforcement
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Laura Hughes Waste Facilities & Enforcement Manager

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-

For decision	x	For noting only	
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1.0 Purpose and Background

1.1 The purpose of this report is to further update Members regarding implementation of the Enforcement Improvement Plan, relating to Dog Fouling and Illicit Dumping.

The Plan and timetable as previously developed has been delayed due to Covid and staffing restrictions during 2020 but with relaxation of restrictions anticipated it is considered that the Plan can now be advanced.

Details as to The Enforcement Improvement Plan are as attached Appendix 1, detailing areas as are currently receiving attention.

Staffing issues were addressed during October 2020, with 2 new Enforcement Officers appointed. Position as Waste Facilities & Enforcement Manager was also filled 30th November 2020.

Staff are currently pro-active and operational, with a further 2 no. seasonal positions to be filled, target April 2021. Several high-profile events regarding Illicit Dumping have recently been addressed by Enforcement Staff.

Staff are currently operational across the Council District, with performance reviewed on a monthly basis

1.2 Table 1 below highlights the increased levels of Enforcement Tascomi service requests being referred to Council's Enforcement Team to address from January 2018 – February 2021

	Deceased Animals	Illicit Dumping	Littering	Public Health Litter	Totals	% Change Pr Yr (+/-)
2018	55	439	62	312	868	
2019	36	409	61	310	816	-5.99%
2020	71	717	29	247	1064	30.4%
Jan/Feb 2021	9	126	5	64	204	15.0% (Prorata)

Table 1 – Analysis of Enforcement Tascomi Service Requests received

Council Enforcement has experienced a 75% increase in reporting of Illicit Dumping incidents in 2020 (717) compared to 2019 (409)

571 Illicit dumping incidents reported (79.6% of 2020 total incidents) occurred during the pandemic period between March – December, compared to 288 incidents reported for the same period in 2019

Reports are responded to and recorded to a central recording system.

Reports are followed up, with evidence retrieved, where available

698/717 Illicit dumping incidents reported in 2020 are concluded indicating a 97.35% completion rate achieved by the Enforcement Team considering the pandemic pressures. The 19 outstanding incidents reported are undergoing management audit review to ascertain completion status, with the majority understood to be addressed following onward referral

Available staff during the period responded to all reports of Illicit Dumping, with increases in Illicit Dumping rising from an average of 10 reported incidents per week to a height of 23 incidents per week, before falling back to approximately 15 incidents per week. (Refer Chart 1 below).

On average, 60 Illicit dumping incidents were reported to the Enforcement Team per month in 2020

There is a continuing trend in 2021 for Illicit dumping incident reporting, with 121 incident requests received from 01/01/2021 – 28/02/2021

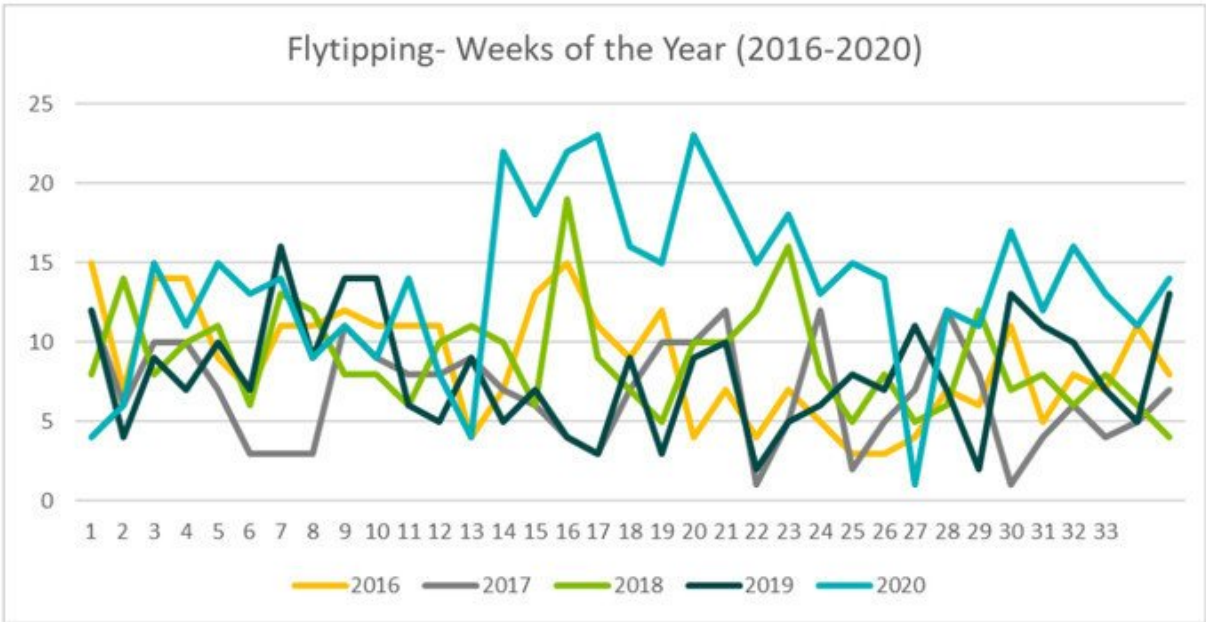


Chart 1: Reported Fly-Tipping 2016-2020

- 1.3
- The Covid Pandemic has also brought greater challenges with respect to cleansing operations in our District, with more people walking and reportedly higher frequency of dog-fouling. Detail provided by KNIB does indicate an increase in dog-fouling (Refer Chart 2 below as details that fouling has returned to 2015 levels).

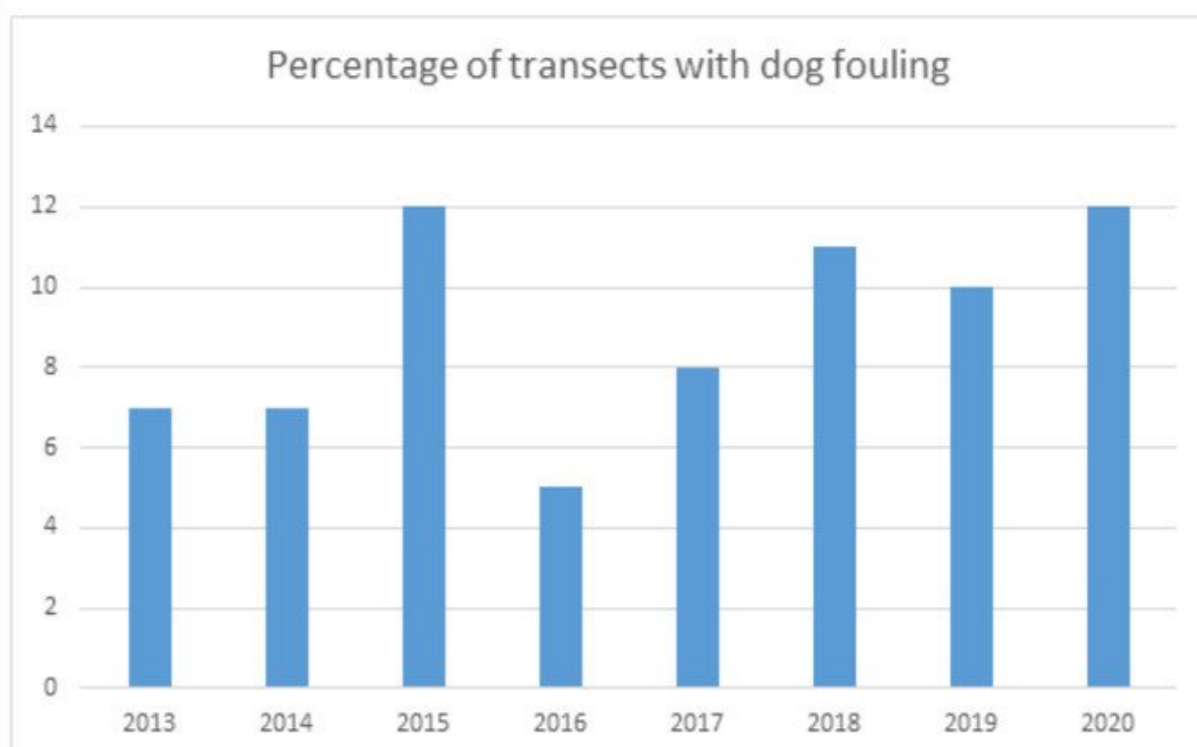


Chart 2: Incidence of Dog-Fouling

1.4	<p>FPNs relating to Illicit Dumping, Littering and Dog-Fouling incidents are issued where process allows.</p> <p>In the year to date (1st Jan- 8th Mar 2021), 22 no. FPN have been issued, with a further 12 enquiries either through Article 20 Notices and enquiries to DVLNI raised. It is anticipated that the majority of these enquiries will result in a FPN being issued.</p> <p>Enforcement Management will continue to keep this important aspect under review and will implement monthly reporting of FPN, with reporting considered by Electoral area.</p>
2.0	<p>Enforcement Management have reviewed current operations and are satisfied that operationally, staff are responding to all Reports of Illicit Dumping and are actively following up on evidence provided</p> <p>Patrol areas are regularly reviewed</p> <p>Enforcement Management have actively engaged with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Dog Wardens to initiate joint patrols • Keep NI Beautiful • Northern Ireland Dogs Advisory Group(NIDAG) • Internet Links for Best Practice • Northern Ireland Environment Agency • Other Council Departments to review shared areas of responsibility. This is ongoing. • Other Local Councils • Dogs Trust
2.1	<p>Investigations into availability of CCTV for remote sites is actively being considered with intent to view operations at another Council.</p>

	A Policy relevant to the deployment of cameras needs to be developed in conjunction with the Compliance Team and this matter will be addressed in parallel with review for use and siting of cameras e.g. Privacy Impact Assessments
2.2	<p>A publicity programme is being developed with Target Roll-out by June 2021. The programme proposes a variety of approaches as detailed, to heighten awareness of dog-fouling and litter awareness. Programme to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publishing details of Responsible Dog Ownership to Licence Holders • Use of LHLH posters to implement social media messaging regarding littering and dog fouling • Continued implementation of the Enforcement Improvement Plan, with updates, as attached. • As soon as practical, to implement Community Action initiatives to highlight Dog-Fouling incidence e.g. chalk stencilling, awareness poster/media campaigns, issuing of dog foul bags, etc • Implementation of joint patrols, Enforcement with Dog Wardens at key locations, to further underpin awareness of Responsible Dog Ownership • Initiatives to inform the public as to responsibility with respect to littering and dog-fouling, to include radio advertisements and development of reporting apps. for use by the public. • Consultation with other Council Departments to seek joint initiatives eg signage and enforcements to address issues of dog-fouling in Public Places. Liaison with Cleansing Services regarding response times for removal of Illicit Dumping, siting of litterbins and cleansing operations.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	It is recommended that Committee note the detail of this Report, including update for the Enforcement Improvement Plan.
3.2	A further update to be provided to the NS Committee, May 2021.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	There are no resource implications relevant to this Report, with costs already anticipated and in-budget.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p>

	<p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices
	<p>Appendix 1 - Enforcement Improvement Plan updated 8 March 2021</p> <p>Appendix 2 – KNIB Cleaner Neighbourhood Report Information 2019/2020</p> <p>Appendix 3 – Responsible Dog Ownership Detail</p>
8.0	<p>Background Documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notices of Motion (February 2019), • Elected Member workshop on the issue on the 22 March 2019, as considered 19 June 2019. • NS Committee Report (August 2020)

Theme	Supporting Action	Timeframe	Comments	Progress as at Aug 2020	Status	Comment as at March 2021
Management Information	Recording, categorisation & mapping of fly-tipping incidents and removal / processing costs	S/T	Analysis of this information will support the identification of "hot-spots" & the corresponding targeting of resources. Enabled by access to Tascomi system.	<p>All fly-tipping incidents reported have been collated from 2016 from the Tascomi System- ready to be sent to the GIS team.</p> <p>Asbestos related tipping has also been filtered- awaiting cost analysis.</p> <p>Attempt to attribute cost to removal of flytipping had begun however, due to COVID and staff shortages, the work has been postponed.</p>		<p>Two Council web applications for the recording, categorisation and mapping of fly-tipping incidents are in development by the GIS Officer.</p> <p>Trial currently underway of Enforcement GIS mapping app. Anticipated rollout April/May 2021</p> <p>Basic design of a public reporting app has been constructed. Further consultation and development required to address GDPR compliance and end user final design</p> <p>Tascomi address list to be updated.</p> <p>These developments will facilitate the identification of "hotspots" to improve targeted enforcement</p>

Mapping & analysis of Dog Licences	S/T	<p>This will potentially identify specific parts of our District where take-up is under-performing.</p> <p>Subsequent analysis can also be used to identify high-volume areas & corresponding targeting of resources.</p>	<p>Mapping of licenses is complete.</p> <p>Meeting to be set up when feasible to liaise with GIS team regarding updating data and analysis.</p>	<p>Meeting to be convened with GIS Team to progress</p>
Analysis of LEAMS (Local Environmental Audit & Management System) scoring for litter pollution & dog fouling.	S/T	<p>Our on-going participation in this scheme (via Keep NI Beautiful) will enable our performance to be tracked over-time.</p> <p>Analysis of scores will identify areas for improvement.</p>	<p>We continue to work with Keep NI Beautiful to track our performance overtime. Head of Performance and Improvement had analysed the trends which are to be published in the Performance and Improvement Plan Assessment 2019-20 (September 2020).</p> <p>Collaboration between Head of Enforcement and Waste Processing, the Head of Refuse and Cleansing and the Head of Performance and Improvement could help identify areas of improvement.</p>	<p>2021/2022 target to achieve or surpass NI average LEAMS 2019/2020 = 68</p> <p>2019/2020 NMDDC score = 64</p> <p>(Statistics Source - KNIB Cleaner Neighbourhoods Report 2019/2020 attached – Appendix 2)</p>
Collection & analysis of benchmarking information with other (NI) Councils	S/T	<p>Continual performance & process (activity) benchmarking with other Councils, specifically in relation to LEAMS scoring & the issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) will inform the development of new actions.</p>	<p>We continue to work with Keep NI Beautiful to track our performance over time.</p> <p>Head of Performance and Improvement had analysed the trends which are to be published in the Performance and Improvement Plan Assessment 2019-20 (September 2020).</p>	<p>Benchmarking information provided to Council December 2020.</p> <p>Press release observed highlighting low levels of FPNs issued South of Ireland in 2020.</p>

				Collaboration between Head of Enforcement and Waste Processing, the Head of Refuse and Cleansing and the Head of Performance and Improvement could help identify areas of improvement.	Request statistics for England, Wales, Scotland for benchmarking Monthly tracking in progress for FPNs issued by Enforcement Team and payments Meeting to be convened with Departments Heads as stated
Legal Provisions & Policy	Extend the number of Dog Control Orders to other locations	S/T	Enabled by The Clean Neighbourhoods & Environment (NI) Act 2011. Current geographical scope is limited. Opportunity to extend to other Council land assets. Partly supported by the identification of hot-spots & extending enforcement powers to other Council Officers.	Areas to be identified by liaising with the GIS team. If areas are identified, an opportunity to work collaboratively with parks and grounds staff could be explored	Liaise with Assistant Director of Tourism, Culture and Events to seek extend enforcement powers to Park Wardens/Mourne Heritage and other potential options.
	Explore increased use of powers to require the removal of waste unlawfully deposited (fly-tipping)	M/T	Enabled by Article 28 of The Waste & Contaminated Land (NI) Order 1997. Will require legal clarification & (potentially) supporting protocols.	<p>Work was underway with the Senior Environmental Health Officer to identify areas of responsibility.</p> <p>Progress halted by COVID, however, will be continued as soon as feasible.</p>	Joint working in place with EH Officers. Wastes dumped in private gardens addressed by EH and wastes dumped on lands in country side by Enforcement

					Monthly Enforcement Team Review meeting extended to Heads of EH & Cleansing and other regulatory body officials to address areas of responsibility
	Extend powers to issue Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) to other Council Officers	M/T	This has the potential to supplement existing Enforcement Officer resources. Potential human resource implications.	<p>No progress on extending powers to staff.</p> <p>However, successfully recruited two seasonal enforcement officers (23/07/2020) and interviewing for two permanent officers (07/08/2020)</p>	<p>Enforcement Section appointed 2 x Permanent staff 1st November 2020 with training concluded 31st December</p> <p>Recruitment process currently underway for two seasonal enforcement officers – 1 X Down based and 1 X Newry based. Intention for officers to be strategically assigned to identified "hotspots" where there has been an increase in dog-fouling and littering offences.</p>
	Litter Bin provision policy	M/T	Development of a litter bin provision policy (based on an assessment of need)	Policy has been developed and approved by Council.	70 Public Health Litter & 5 Littering Tascomi service requests received by

			governing kerbside and other Council land asset provision, as well as bin-type and frequency of emptying.		<p>Enforcement from 01/01/2021-01/03/2021</p> <p>7 (9.33%) specific requests for additional litter bin provision.</p> <p>Head of Cleansing consulted on requests received</p> <p>Consider litter bin review with Head of Cleansing in light of current littering issues.</p>
Awareness Raising & Education	Dog Fouling Strategy (Phases I & II)	S/T	Continue with the promotion of responsible dog ownership (Phase I) but officially launch Phase II (greater focus on enforcement). Supporting publicity campaign.	With the COVID pandemic, the Strategy has been put on hold however, we have continued with the promotion of Responsible Dog Ownership (Phase I) by providing information on responsible dog ownership on the council website and social media channels during the COVID pandemic.	<p>1. Detail provided ref: Responsible dog-ownership to web site – Appendix 3</p> <p>2. Detail ref Responsible dog ownership provided to Head of Licensing for inclusion on dog-licence registration form</p> <p>3. Collaborative joint Enforcement / Licensing officer patrols to be conducted in</p>

					identified "hotspot" areas 4. Enforcement representation at NIDAG Group meetings 5. Intention for Seasonal officers to be strategically assigned to identified "hotspots" where there has been an increase in dog-fouling and littering offences
Cleaner, Greener Communities pilot	S/T	Review the effectiveness of the recent pilot & prepare a business case to roll-out in future years.	Reviewed by the Head of Sustainability, decided to not proceed with the project in the future.		Project reviewed and will be relaunched April 2021. Please refer to Head of Sustainability for more information.
Temporary suspension of cleansing regimes	S/T	Consider the feasibility of suspending local cleansing regimes to highlight the scale of the problem in local hot-spots.	Please refer to Head of Refuse and Cleansing for update.		Not progressed
Signage	S/T	Consider the erection of suitable signage at all Council land assets (i.e.	Recommend that signs should be erected however, cannot		Seek Departments to review this aspect and to

			play parks etc.). Possible financial implications.	progress due to budgeting issues.		provide low cost identifiable signage
	Community Ambassadors	M/T	Opportunity to appoint local ambassadors to supplement Council enforcement activities to approach offenders in local areas. Will require legal clarification & risk assessment.	Work had begun with Tidy NI regarding a Dog Fouling pilot with local ambassadors, however, progress has halted due to the COVID pandemic.		This Project continues to be delayed due to Covid. As an alternative joint patrols to be set up at key sites: 1:Dog Licence 2.Carrying of dog waste bags 3.Dog chipped 4.Education
	Public reporting of performance information	M/T	Opportunity to highlight the scale of the problem in local areas by periodically reporting the number of recorded incidences and FPNs issued (District-wide & DEA). Enabled by short-term management information actions.	With staffing issues during the COVID pandemic the data has not be analysed and reported at DEA level. However, the Performance and Improvement Plan Assessment 2019-20 when published in September 2020 will include district wide trend analysis.		All FPNs are recorded and are mapped .
	Local Schools Education Programme	M/T	Develop an education programme for local schools highlighting the health and environmental hazards of dog fouling, littering & fly-tipping. Links with Environmental Health.	We were in contact with Patrick McShane regarding uptake. Progress has halted with the COVID pandemic, will continue once feasible.		This Project currently on hold pending Covid restriction relaxation. Schools reopening w/c 08/03/2021 on phased basis
	Local Community Reporting (including naming & shaming of offenders)	M/T	Will require legal clarification & an assessment of data	Legal opinion was sought. Name and shame is not an option when a person pays their fine/ However, if the case		This aspect to be extended with FPN numbers issued to be published

			protection implications etc.	is brought to court, the details will be in the public arena. We could however, present data visually by postcode for example and community level reporting would be possible. Possible discussion to be had with the GIS team.	monthly by Electoral area
	Communications	S/T	Raise awareness of related littering and dog-fouling issues	This aspect due for release	Target roll out end - March 2021 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comms Project 2. Co. Louth Anti-Flytipping 3. Publish stats ref: FPNs 4. Bill-board advertising ref: Dog-fouling 5. Lobby Central Govt to raise fines 6. Comms ref: Responsible Dog-Ownership 7. Radio advertising ref:reporting of littering/flytipping and dog-fouling 8. Use of CCTV 9. Chalk stencilling at hotspots
	Establishment of a Community Fund	M/T	Opportunity to explore the potential of a community fund (secured from grant-aid funding or from other income sources) to support anti-dog	Unaware of grant aid funding or other income to support anti-dog fouling, littering & fly-tipping activities. However, there is an opportunity to discuss with	Raise with Sustainability

			fouling, littering & fly-tipping activities.	"Live Here, Love Here" for support in the activities.		
Technology	CCTV	M/T	Explore the feasibility of using temporary / mobile CCTV to support enforcement activities.	Protocol and Policy needs to be developed by Facilitates to progress this action. Possibility of receiving grant aid from NIEA.		Discussion underway to implement appropriate CCTV and bodycams. Engagement with neighbouring/other Councils currently availing/utilising cameras to explore best fit solution and policy development requirements
	Bodycams & Hand-held Devices	M/T	Explore the potential use of Bodycams to collate evidence & hand-held devices to process FPNs.	Once all necessary staff has been recruited a pilot will be conducted.		As above
	DNA Testing for Dog Waste	L/T	This option is not feasible			No legal power to insist owners register for this service. Project not considered to be financially deliverable and does not deal with dogs as are brought into Council District from other locations.

					<p>1. Cost at approx. £44 per initial sample to identify dog</p> <p>2. Cost of tests thereafter £70 per sample not including collection costs</p>
	Mechanised Cleansing Equipment	M/T	Explore the potential for the increased use of mechanised cleansing equipment (i.e. small scrubber sweepers & quad-type vehicles) to assist with cleansing activities. Enabled by Cleansing review.	Please refer to the Head of Refuse and Cleansing.	Refer to Head of Cleansing as reduced levels of cleansing impacts on Leams and visibility of dog-fouling
Partnership Working	Louth County Council Joint Working	S/T	Prepare action plan with Louth County Council to address shared fly-tipping issues.	Last meeting was held on 13 th March 2020 regarding the action plan, however due to the COVID pandemic, process has halted. Work will continue once feasible.	Co. Louth working group is active. Promotional video regarding Fly-Tipping along shared border has been commissioned. Target delivery 30 June 2021.
	NIEA / Neighbouring Councils	S/T	Explore the potential for collaboration with the NIEA and neighbouring Councils specifically in relation to support for the improvement plan.	Currently working with NIEA and Louth County Council regarding actions/implementations to support the improvement plan. Work is currently on hold with the COVID pandemic, will continue once feasible.	NIEA contacted and have recently collaborated to remove wastes in South Armagh area. Further meeting programmed. Current collaborative

					engagement with ABC Council Neighbourhood Environmental & Community Engagement team
	Dogs Trust	S/T	Working with Building Control & Licensing and Environmental Health to develop a partnership agreement with The Dog's Trust (promotion of responsible dog ownership)	Currently working with the Dog's Trust and using their PR material to promote responsible dog ownership.	No further progress due to Covid. Once feasible with the COVID pandemic, progress will resume.
	Keep NI Beautiful	S/T	Work with Keep NI Beautiful to review improvement plan & support improvement initiatives.	We keep regular contact and work with Keep NI Beautiful. Once the LEAM's and FPN data has been analysed fully, more targeted progress and collaborative work can begin.	Meeting to be convened Enforcement, Cleansing Services and KNIB.
Resources	Recruitment	S/T	Complete recruitment to seasonal & permanent posts.	Two seasonal enforcement officers have been recruited starting Monday 27 th July 2020. Interviews for two permanent enforcement are due to take place Friday 7 th August 2020.	Permanent appointments made October 2020. Recruitment commenced relating to seasonal staff (2) for 2021 season.
	Enforcement Workforce Plan	M/T	Identify future workforce requirements to support improved enforcement performance. Enabled by Neighbourhood Services Transformation Project (NSTP).	Assessed and proposed to increase enforcement bodies by using private firms or council staff with targeted initiatives. Plan to also have 4 permanent enforcement officers and 4 seasonal.	Enforcement establishment set at 2 X Seasonal. 4 X Permanent.

Performance Management	Performance Indicators	S/T	Develop a suite of performance indicators to support enforcement improvement plan.	<p>Data is collated regarding FPN's and payment of fines, with a target of 10% increase by the end of 2020-21.</p> <p>Data is collated, analysed and currently reported by the Performance and Improvement Plan 2020-21.</p>	<p>2019/20 (54 FPN)</p> <p>10% increase in FPN on target to be achieved in 2020-2021</p>
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Appendix 3 – Dog Fouling & Litter Enforcement Information

Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful (KNIB)

KNIB Cleaner Neighbourhood Report 2019/20 provides a detailed analysis of Local Environmental Quality data since the establishment of the eleven new councils. This includes details of Fixed Penalty Notices issued by Councils relating to litter and dog fouling.

Below is a summary of Fixed Penalty Notices Issued 2019/20.

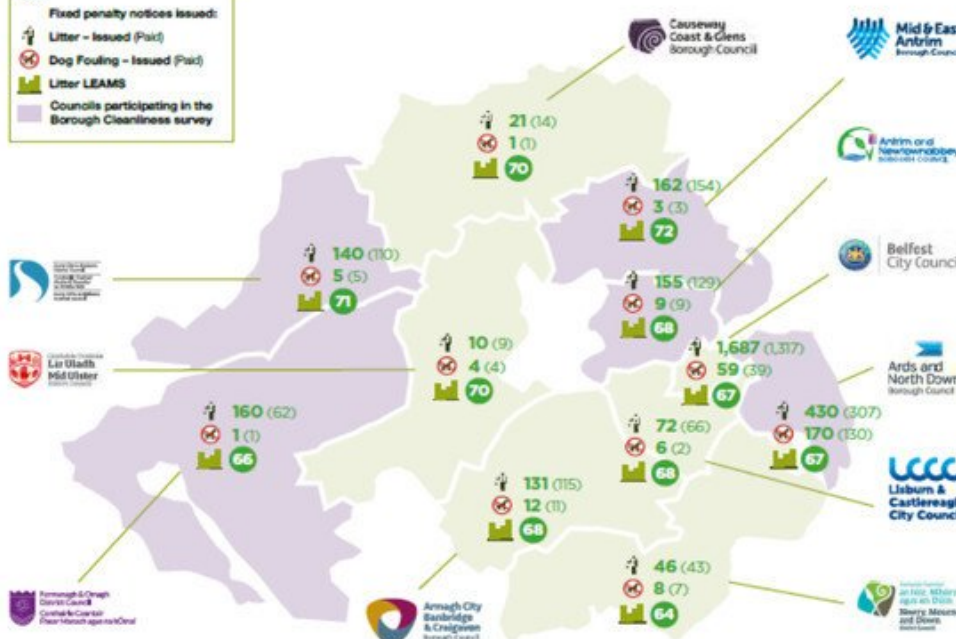
Council	Litter Issued	Litter Paid	Dog Fouling Issued	Dog Fouling Paid	LEAMS	Taking part in Survey
Antrim & Newtownabbey	155	129	9	9	68	Y
Ards & North Down*	430	307	170	130	67	Y
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon*	131	115	12	11	68	N
Belfast City	1687	1317	9	9	67	N
Causeway Coast & Glens	21	14	1	1	70	N
Derry City & Strabane	140	110	5	5	71	Y
Fermanagh & Omagh	160	62	1	1	66	Y
Lisburn & Castlereagh*	72	66	6	2	68	N
Mid & East Antrim	162	154	3	3	72	Y
Mid Ulster	10	9	4	4	70	N
Newry, Mourne & Down	46	43	8	7	64	N

* Councils that border on Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Fixed penalties notices for dog fouling and litter

Setting KPIs as outputs, such as the number of fines, is not viewed as suitable. So whilst we view fine around 1 in every 150 litterers as necessary to effect behaviour change, the KPI we are seeking to measure might revolve around the amount of rubbish placed in the bins compared to that littered on the streets.

KEY
Fixed penalty notices issued:
Litter - Issued (Paid)
Dog Fouling - Issued (Paid)
Litter LEAMS
Councils participating in the Borough Cleanliness survey



AVERAGE FOR ALL OF NI:

274 (211)
25 (19)
68

Surveyor's comments

"Local residents cleaning up footpath"

High obstruction street Gracehill

"Pristine!" Main road Irvinestown

"Tidiest wee town"

Secondary retail Portlengone

"Residents complained about lack of Council cleaning"

High obstruction street Gracehill

"Fly tipping of lorry wheels and tyres behind broken glass"

Industrial area Mullusk

"Pristine area with beautiful views"

Low obstruction residential street Derry

"Hedge line full of litter"

Main road Ballysitan

"Absolutely disgusting"

Industrial area Mullusk

"There was dog poo right beside the bin!"

Public Park Holywood

Ag freastal ar an Dún
agus Ard Mhacha Theas
Serving Down
and South Armagh



Comhairle Ceantair
an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúir 100
Newry, Mourne and Down
District Council

Update 17.04.2020 Responsible Dog Ownership

Are you a responsible dog-owner? Do you clean up after your dog?
Please keep our streets and open areas clean from dog-poo, especially now during the current Coronavirus pandemic.

If you are walking your dog, please remember:

- avoid large gatherings
- maintain social distancing
- please take litter and dog-foul home.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council seeks to promote and encourage responsible dog ownership. Responsible dog ownership means more than simply owning a dog. Dog ownership requires significant commitment of the owner's time and energy as well as appreciation that dogs need to be exercised, trained, provided with mental stimulation and socialised.

Responsible dog ownership also means that your dog must be under control at all times and that you should clean-up after it.

Controlling your dog in public

If you are the person in charge of a dog, then you are responsible for controlling the dog's behaviour in public. If you or the dog owner need help with dog training, you should contact a dog trainer.

When a dog is 'under control'

A dog is considered 'under control' if it is on a lead held by someone able to control the dog. For example, a large dog would not be under control if its lead was held by a child who would be unable to restrain the dog if it strained against the lead. Dogs off leads are not under control and this is an offence under NI

Chief Executive, Marie Ward

Oifig an Iúir, Newry Office, O'Hagan House, Monaghan Row, Newry BT35 8DJ

Oifig Dhún Pádraig, Downpatrick Office, Downshire Civic Centre, Downshire Estate, Ardglass Road, Downpatrick BT30 6GQ

Ag freastal ar an Dún
agus Ard Mhacha Theas
Serving Down
and South Armagh



Comhairle Ceantair
an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúir 101
Newry, Mourne and Down
District Council

legislation. Dogs off leads can also lead to attacks, and may also lead to a prosecution.

It isn't necessary for dogs to be leashed at all times. However, dogs must be kept on a lead in designated pedestrian zones and on land where livestock is present. Newry, Mourne and Down District Council have bye-laws to show the areas where leashing is required, such as in public parks.

Check list for responsible dog owners:

Legal requirements

- A dog is licensed and microchipped
- A dog wears a collar and has a name/ID tag
- Owner cleans-up any dog mess deposited by their dog

Other requirements

- A dog has regular meals and is exercised regularly as part of a daily routine
- Owner carries and uses 'dog-waste bags' and makes sure these are placed into an appropriate bin
- A dog is vaccinated and free of fleas, ticks and worms
- A dog understands the 5 basic commands: **SIT, STAY, DOWN, COME, HEEL**
- A dog is neutered
- A dog has a dog bed that is clean and dry.

To report any problem with Dog Fouling in your area, please contact a member of our Enforcement Team on 0330 137 4047.

Chief Executive, Marie Ward

Oifig an Iúir, Newry Office, O'Hagan House, Monaghan Row, Newry BT35 8DJ

Oifig Dhún Pádraig, Downpatrick Office, Downshire Civic Centre, Downshire Estate, Ardglass Road, Downpatrick BT30 6GQ

Report to:	Neighbourhood Services Committee
Date of Meeting:	16 March 2021
Subject:	Waste Management Scale of Charges 2021/2022
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Liam Dinsmore, Head of Contracts, Waste Processing & Enforcement
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Carrie Webster, Business Support Officer (Commercial)

Decisions required:	
To note the contents of the report, and consider and agree to:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale of Charges for Purchase of Wheeled Bins • Scale of Charges for Waste Collection Services; Trade Waste 2021/22 • Scale of Charges for wastes received at Civic Amenity Sites • Scale of Charges for Bulky Collection Service • Scale of Charges for Caravan Sites 	
1.0	Purpose and Background:
1.1	Each year, the Waste Section carries out an analysis of its pricing mechanisms and therefore presents this in the form of its scale of charges for Council consideration for 2021/2022 and to take effect from 1 st April 2021 to 31 st March 2022.
2.0	Key issues:
2.1	<p>Waste Collection charges apply for collection of wastes at Commercial Premises. Charges are levied based on bin size, service requirements and frequency of collection.</p> <p>Council Waste Strategy seeks to encourage recycling and minimisation of black bin wastes.</p> <p>Appendix 1</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identifies the relevant bin sizes and collection prices for Trade Waste. A 1.59% increase has been applied in relation to Black, Blue & Brown Bin Collections. 2. Details charges as apply for receipt of Commercial Wastes at commercial Civic Sites. A 1.59% increase has been applied, rounded to facilitate issue of change, administration and cash handling. Commercial Wastes are currently not being received at HRC sites, currently under review. 3. Details scale of charges for Purchase of Wheeled Bins. A 1.59% increase has been applied to All Bin Types. 4. Details charges for Bulky Collection Service. A 1.59% increase has been applied, rounded to facilitate issue of change, administration and cash handling.

	<p>5. Details charges at Caravan Sites. Charges to be based on per bin per collection basis. A 1.59% increase has been applied. Caravan Site Charges will be further reviewed during 2021, with respect to charge to apply from 1 April 2022.</p> <p>Reference: Report to RTS Committee, 17 October 2018 - Scale of Charges at Caravan Sites.</p>
3.0	Recommendations:
3.1	That the Committee adopt the Proposed Waste Services Scale of Charges 2021/22 as set out in section 2.1 – Appendix 1.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Officer time – to make staff aware of pricing and to update and configure literature and computerised systems.
5.0	Equality and good relations implications:
5.1	It is not anticipated that the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity and good relations.
6.0	Appendices
	Appendix 1: Proposed Waste Management Scale of Charges 2021/2022.

WASTE MANAGEMENT CHARGES 2021/2022**1. Bin Purchases**

BIN PRICES	BLACK (RESIDUAL BIN)	BLUE & BROWN RECYCLING BINS (Domestic & Trade)
140 litre bin collected from Depot	40.54	19.88
240 litre bin collected from Depot	42.69	20.93
360 litre bin collected from Depot	89.67	43.95
660 litre bin collected from Depot	296.64	148.32
1100 litre bin collected from Depot	335.10	167.54
140 Litre bin delivered	45.62	24.96
240 Litre bin delivered	47.77	26.01
360 Litre bin delivered	99.83	54.11
660 Litre bin delivered	327.12	178.80
1100 Litre bin delivered	365.58	198.02
Axles & Wheels collected from depot (140 litre & 240 litre)	12.82	12.82
Axles & Wheels fitted (140 litre & 240 litre)	17.06	17.06
Lid delivery & fitting (only available Greenbank 140 litre & 240 litre)	13.87	13.87

2. *Bulky Household Waste

Bulky Collection	2021/2022
£10.70 (maximum 5 items)	10.70

3. *HRC Commercial Charges (Camlough & Kilkeel Sites Only)

Quantity of Waste	2021/2022
Car Boot	6.70
Car Full	31.00
Small van up to 1.5 GVW	31.00
Small trailer up to 2 x 1.5 1.5 m	31.00
Large van assumed weight 0.84 tonne	96.00
Large trailer (twin axel)	96.00
Commercial recyclable waste (max 6 x bags or equivalent)	FREE
Car Tyre (No commercial tyres accepted) per tyre (max x 4)	1.60

*** Note: Prices are V.A.T. inclusive**

4. **Trade Waste Residual Bins

Residual Waste	2021/2022
140 litre bin collected	4.34
240 litre bin collected	5.30
360 litre bin collected	7.44
660 litre bin collected	13.91
1100 litre bin collected	22.56

5. **Trade Waste Dry Recyclable

Dry Recyclable Waste	2021/2022
140 litre bin collected	3.34
240 litre bin collected	3.56
360 litre bin collected	4.76
660 litre bin collected	9.31
1100 litre bin collected	14.22

6. **Trade Waste Organic

Organic Waste	2021/2022
140 litre bin collected	3.34

**** Note: Collection charges are V.A.T. exempt**

***** 7. Caravan Trade Waste Collection Charges: -**

Bin Size / Type	2021/2022
1100L Black	14.22
1100L Blue	7.62
240L Black	2.84
240L Blue	1.52
140L Brown	1.52

***** Note: Previously agreed at October RTS 2018**

8. Charities

Charities to pay for purchase of bin, but receive free collection service for 1x240L black, 1x240L blue & 1 x 140L brown per fortnight. Anything over this usage is subject to standard Trade Waste Charges.

WASTE MANAGEMENT CHARGES 2021/2022

		2020/2021	Proposed 2021/2022	2020/2021	Proposed 2021/2022	
BIN PRICES	BLACK (RESIDUAL BIN)	BLACK (RESIDUAL BIN)	BLUE & BROWN RECYCLING BINS (Domestic & Trade)	BLUE & BROWN RECYCLING BINS (Domestic & Trade)		
140 litre bin collected from Depot	£39.91	£40.54	£19.57	£19.57	0.634569	
240 litre bin collected from Depot	£42.02	£42.69	£20.60	£20.60	0.668118	
360 litre bin collected from Depot	£88.27	£89.67	£43.26	£43.26	1.403493	
660 litre bin collected from Depot	£292.00	£296.64	£146.00	£146.00	4.6428	
1100 litre bin collected from Depot	£329.86	£335.10	£164.92	£164.92	5.244774	
					0	
140 Litre bin delivered	£44.91	£45.62	£24.57	£24.57	0.714069	
240 Litre bin delivered	£47.02	£47.77	£25.60	£25.60	0.747618	
360 Litre bin delivered	£98.27	£99.83	£53.26	£53.26	1.562493	
660 Litre bin delivered	£322.00	£327.12	£176.00	£176.00	5.1198	
1100 Litre bin delivered	£359.86	£365.58	£194.92	£194.92	5.721774	
					0	
Axles & Wheels collected from depot (140 litre & 240 litre)	£12.62	£12.82	£12.62	£12.62	0.200658	
Axles & Wheels fitted (140 litre & 240 litre)	£16.79	£17.06	£16.79	£16.79	0.266961	
Lid delivery & fitting (only available Greenbank 140 litre & 240 litre)	£13.65	£13.87	£13.65	£13.65	0.217035	

1. *Bulky Household Waste

Proposed Rounded

	2021/2022		
£10.50 (maximum 5 items)	£10.67	£10.70	0.16695

2. *HRC Commercial Charges (Camlough & Kilkeel Sites Only)

		Proposed 2021/2022	
Car Boot	£6.60	£6.70	0.10494
Car Full	£30.50	£30.98	0.48495
Small van up to 1.5 GVW	£30.50	£30.98	0.48495
Small trailer up to 2 x 1.5 1.5 m	£30.50	£30.98	0.48495
Large van assumed weight 0.84 tonne	£94.55	£96.05	1.503345
Large trailer (twin axel)	£94.55	£96.05	1.503345
Commercial recyclable waste (max 6 x bags or equivalent)	FREE	FREE	#VALUE!
Car Tyre (No commercial tyres accepted) per tyre (max x 4)	£1.55	£1.60	0.024645

* Note: Prices are V.A.T. inclusive

1. **Trade Waste Residual Bins

		Proposed 2021/2022	
140 litre bin collected	£4.27	£4.34	0.067893
240 litre bin collected	#####	£5.30	0.082998
360 litre bin collected	£7.32	£7.44	0.116388
660 litre bin collected	£13.69	£13.91	0.217671
1100 litre bin collected	£22.21	£22.56	0.353139

0

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0

2. **Trade Waste Dry Recyclable

		Proposed 2021/2022	
140 litre bin collected	£3.29	£3.34	0.052311
240 litre bin collected	£3.50	£3.56	0.05565
360 litre bin collected	£4.69	£4.76	0.074571
660 litre bin collected	£9.16	£9.31	0.145644
1100 litre bin collected	£14.00	£14.22	0.2226

3. ****Trade Waste Organic**

		Proposed 2021/2022
140 litre bin collected	£3.29	£3.34

** Note: Collection charges are V.A.T. exempt

*** 1. Caravan Trade Waste Collection Charges: -

Bin Size / Type	2020/21	Proposed 2021/2022
1100L Black	£14.00	£14.22
1100L Blue	£7.50	£7.62
240L Black	£2.80	£2.84
240L Blue	£1.50	£1.52
140L Brown	£1.50	£1.52

2. **Charities**

Charities to pay for purchase of bin,
but receive free collection service for
1x240L black, 1x240L blue & 1 x 140L
brown per fortnight. Anything over
this usage is subject to standard
Trade Waste Charges.

*** Note: Previously agreed at October RTS 2018

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0.02385

Report to:	Neighbourhood Services Committee
Date of Meeting:	16 March 2021
Subject:	Arrangements for Refuse Collections and opening for HRC sites, at Public Holidays, during period 1 April 2021-31 March 2022
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	L Dinsmore: Head of Waste Processing and Enforcement
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	L Dinsmore: Head of Waste Processing and Enforcement

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either: -

For decision		For noting only	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	A schedule for Public Holidays applies in each Financial Year, with arrangements to be communicated to Householders as appropriate.
2.0	Revised operational arrangements are required to be agreed in advance with staff and waste receipting centres, to ensure operational arrangements are coordinated.
2.1	Proposed operational arrangements and schedule for alternative Public Holiday arrangements in relation to Refuse Collection Services and opening for HRC sites in 2021/22 are as detailed in the Report.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<p>It is recommended that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative Refuse Collection Services for period 1 April 2021-1 March 2022 apply as per Appendix 1. Opening arrangements for HRC sites during period 1 April 2021-31 March 2022 apply as per Appendix 1. Notification be provided in local press and appropriate Council communications, in advance of each Public Holiday, where deemed necessary.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	No additional Resource Implications apply, above those already anticipated in Operational Service Plans.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	<p>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</p>
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	<p>Appendices</p>
	<p>Appendix 1 :Schedule of Public Holiday arrangements.</p>
8.0	<p>Background Documents</p>
	<p>None</p>

2021/22 Public Holiday Refuse Collection Arrangements: **Appendix 1**

Public Holiday	Date of Public Holiday	Alternative Collection Day	HRC arrangements
Easter Monday	Monday 5/4/21	No collection in Down Normal collection in Newry	WPH Open 10:00-15:45
Easter Tuesday	Tuesday 6/4/21	Normal collection	WPH Open 10:00-15:45
May Day	Monday 3/5/21	No collection in Down Normal collection in Newry	WPH Open 10:00-15:45
May Bank Holiday	Monday 31/5/21	No collection in Down Normal collection in Newry	WPH Open 10:00-15:45
12 th Holiday	Monday 12/7/21	No collection in Down Normal collection in Newry	WPH Open 10:00-15:45
12 th Holiday	Tuesday 13/7/21	Normal collection	WPH Open 10:00-15:45
August Bank Holiday	Monday 30/8/21	No collection in Down Normal collection in Newry	WPH Open 10:00-15:45

Christmas Eve	Friday 24/12/21	Normal collection	WPH Open 10:00-15:45
Christmas Day	Monday 27/12/21	No collection in Down Normal collection in Newry	CLOSED
Boxing Day	Tuesday 28/12/21	Normal collection	CLOSED
Statutory Day	Wednesday 29/12/21	Normal collection	WPH Open 10:00-15:45
New Year's Day	Monday 3/1/22	No collection in Down Normal collection in Newry	CLOSED
St Patrick's Day	Thursday 17/3/22	Normal collection	CLOSED

Report to:	Neighbourhood Services
Date of Meeting:	16 March 2021
Subject:	Siting Bee hives on former Council landfill at Aughnagun
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Mr Liam Dinsmore , Head of Waste Processing and Enforcement
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Danielle Begley, Biodiversity Officer

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-

For decision	X	For noting only	
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p>The Council were contacted by a local Bee keeping organization who have a keen interest in expanding the native Irish black honeybee in our area. Their organisation has been particularly active in recent months during the current Covid19 pandemic, with more people wanting to get involved with their efforts in the future.</p> <p>Given the amount of local interest they are seeking new Apiary sites and they feel that some of the old council facilities would be perfect. Brownfield sites such as these have great potential for wildlife and biodiversity. They are usually covered in flowering plants, which would provide plenty of food for pollinators.</p> <p>The group have asked Council for permission to place 6 hives on the former landfill site at Aughnagun.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>Unsupervised personnel are not allowed on the site at Aughnagun, and so access to the hives would need to be coordinated at a time when Council staff are on site.</p> <p>The group have informed Council that from April to September they would only need to access the hives once a week. From September to April access requirement reduces to once per month.</p> <p>When the site was in operation, some local residents identified issues with flies. Honeybees should not give rise to complaints as they only leave the hive to feed and return relatively quickly. It is however identified that local residents should be contacted and provided with appropriate information. Council Biodiversity Officer has written to 113 households within a 2 mile radius of Aughnagun and will address any questions or concerns that may arise.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	The use of a Council brownfield site for the benefit of biodiversity and wildlife meets targets for the Council Local Biodiversity Action Plan. Providing additional apiary sites for

	<p>this local Beekeeping organisation would benefit the population of the native Irish black honeybee.</p> <p>It would be a good news story for the Council and would lead to positive PR.</p> <p>It is recommended Council give permission to the Beekeeping organisation to place 6 hives on the former landfill site at Aughnagun, initially for 1 x year subject to:</p> <p>1.Successful engagement with local residents and on-site gas-extraction partner, to support the placing of beehives on the Aughnagun site.</p> <p>2.Meeting to be held with Beekeeping Organisation and to seek assurances regarding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • access arrangements to site and to hives • location for hives • communications with Local residents • ongoing review • renewal dates/periods • any potential insurance implications • Strict guidance with respect to attendance on site to be adhered to
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	<p>There are no identified cost implications.</p> <p>This proposal would require Beekeeping Organisation to coordinate their planned visit at a time when a Council staff member will be on site.</p>
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>

5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices
	None
8.0	Background Documents
	None



MEMBERS' MONTHLY BULLETIN

The purpose of this Bulletin is to provide Members with an executive summary of the various agenda items which will be considered by the Joint Committee at its forthcoming meeting.

The titles highlighted in blue relate to the various agenda items.

Item 1 - Conflicts of Interest

The Joint Committee are reminded of their personal responsibilities and asked to declare any conflicts of interest that might arise during the meeting.

Item 2 - Apologies

Item 3 - Minutes of Joint Committee Meeting 053 held on 28 January 2021

For approval

The Joint Committee's approval is sought for the minutes of the meeting JC053 held on 28 January 2021.

Item 4 - Matters Arising

Item 5 - Contracts and Operations Briefing Report

For noting

All services are being provided by service providers with limited impacts from COVID-19 and BREXIT.

There were three loads rejected in January.

Generally contract tonnages have risen when compared with the period April to January 2019/20 however overall the organic waste contract did see a fall in green waste received from household recycling centres/civic amenity sites.

Deliveries of supplies orders have settled following initial issues with the two early loads delivered in January 2021.

The Joint Committee is asked to note the contents of the report.

'IN COMMITTEE' ITEMS - COMMERCIALLY CONFIDENTIAL

Item 6 - Minutes of Joint Committee Meeting 053 held on 28 January 2021 'in committee'

For approval

The Joint Committee's approval is sought for the minutes of the meeting JC053 held on 28 January 2021 'in committee'.

Item 7 - Matters Arising

Item 8 - Council Covid-19 Waste Management Financial Losses

For noting

Members are presented with an update on the DAERA funding support for the 11 councils arising from the Covid-19 emergency in relation to the 2020/21 year and 2021/22 year.

DAERA has provided a total Funding Package of support to councils to date of £15m which will be allocated to 2020/21 (£13m) and then £2m to provide support in the first quarter of 2021/22. arc21 councils account for around £7m of the losses incurred in 2020/21.

Engagement continues with DAERA officials in order to ensure that the Department is fully updated on the financial impacts caused by Covid-19 on an ongoing basis and to ensure that the maximum amount of funding support can be sought for councils.

A good outcome overall has been achieved by and for the councils, and support from the DAERA officials has been critical to this outcome and is much appreciated.

In terms of arc21, the main impact of losses has been the revenue share from the sale of textiles in the Bring Banks contract due to a significant downturn in the global markets during the year.

The Joint Committee is asked to note this report.

Item 9 - Commercially Sensitive Procurement and Contract Issues

For approval

The contracts for the Loading Haulage and Transfer of Residual Municipal, Co-mingled Dry Recyclable and Organic Wastes, Street Sweepings and Bulky Wastes (Lots 1 and 2) and the Receipt, Processing, Treatment, Recycling and Disposal of Street Sweepings Waste (Lots 1 and 2) will be due to expire later in the year. Due to the impact of COVID-19 and uncertainties around BREXIT these procurements have not yet commenced.

The report recommends further extensions to enable the procurements to be undertaken and the award process completed.

The Health and Safety Consultancy contract is due to expire at the end of May 2021. The report recommends extending the contract by a year as provided for in the contract.

Consideration is being given to interim requirements for residual waste treatment. The report outlines the next steps that are intended to be taken.

The Joint Committee is asked to agree the recommendations and to note the remainder of the report.

Item 10 - Residual Waste Treatment Project Update - written report for noting

OUT OF COMMITTEE & RETURN TO MAIN AGENDA

Item 11 - Customer Survey - verbal report for noting

Item 12 - AOB

Item 13 - Next Meeting Thursday 25 March 2021

ITEM 3
ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE
Meeting No 053
MINUTES
Thursday 28 January 2021

Members Present:

Councillor M Goodman
 Alderman R Gibson (*Chair*)
 Councillor Gavin Walker
 Councillor F Ferguson
 Councillor M Gregg
 Alderman D Drysdale
 Councillor S Lee
 Councillor D Reid
 Councillor I Friary
 Councillor H McKee

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council
 Ards and North Down Borough Council
 Ards and North Down Borough Council
 Belfast City Council
 Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
 Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
 Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
 Mid and East Antrim Borough Council
 Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
 Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

Members' Apologies:

Councillor T McGrann
 Councillor N Kelly
 Alderman A Carson
 Councillor P McReynolds
 Councillor JJ Magee
 Alderman R Cherry
 Councillor W Clarke (*Deputy Chair*)
 Councillor K Owen

Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
 Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council
 Ards & North Down Borough Council
 Belfast City Council
 Belfast City Council
 Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
 Newry, Mourne & Down District Council
 Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

Officers Present:

T Walker
 G Craig (*Secretary*)
 K Boal
 H Campbell
 M Lavery
 D Lindsay
 B Murray
 J McConnell
 H Moore
 P Thompson
 J McBride

arc21
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 Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council
 Ards & North Down Borough Council
 Belfast City Council
 Belfast City Council
 Lisburn & Castlereagh Borough Council
 Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
 Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

Officers' Apologies:

G Girvan
 S Toland
 J Green

Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
 Belfast City Council
 arc21

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

Item 1 - Conflicts of Interest Statement

The Chair read out the Conflicts of Interest Statement. There were no conflicts noted.

Action: Noted

Item 2 - Apologies

Apologies were noted.

Action: Noted

Item 3 - Minutes of Joint Committee Meeting 052 held on 1 December 2020

The minutes of the Joint Committee meeting 052 held on 1 December 2020 were agreed.

Action: Agreed

Item 4 - Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Action: Noted

The Chair advised Members that the meeting would now go "In Committee", which was proposed and seconded accordingly.

IN COMMITTEE

Matters of a confidential and commercially sensitive nature were discussed under these agenda items.

Following discussion on the commercially sensitive matters, the Chair advised members that the meeting would now return to the main agenda but whilst "*in committee*" there were three matters discussed as follows:

Item 5 - Minutes of Joint Committee Meeting 052 held on 1 December 2020 'in committee'

Action: Agreed

Item 6 - Matters Arising

Action: Noted

Item 7 - Residual Waste Treatment Project

Action: Noted

The Chair advised members that the meeting would now come out of the "in committee" process and return to the main agenda, which was agreed.

Action: Agreed

OUT OF COMMITTEE

Item 8 – Audit Committee Meeting 15 December 2021 Report

Mr Craig presented a report to update the Joint Committee on the issues presented to the Audit Committee at the meeting held on 15 December 2020, and to seek retrospective approval to publish the Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2020 as required by law. These were published on the arc21 website by 31 December 2020 to meet this requirement.

He reported that, once again the Accounts of arc21 have been certified without qualification which is reassuring for Members as it provides independent confirmation that high standards of financial management continue to remain in place.

Mr Craig also took the opportunity thank the staff at arc21 for their support in complying with the financial management policies and procedures and especially Mr Brian McKeown, Principal Financial Accountant, for achieving such an excellent result.

The Chair also noted his thanks to the Audit Committee.

Mr Craig reported that the concluding documentation from the Local Government Auditor had now also been received – Annual Audit Letter and Report to Those Charged with Governance and copies of these were presented to the meeting. He advised that these would be formally reviewed at the next Audit Committee meeting to be held in March.

Mr Craig also reported on the declaration of interest forms which are deemed important by the Local Government Auditor. He advised that he would be reviewing these for the new financial year and, should any be outstanding, he would be in contact with the relevant Member accordingly.

Following discussion the Joint Committee agreed to note the report and to grant retrospective approval to publish the certified Statement of Accounts for the year to March 2020.

Action: Agreed

Item 9 - Contracts and Operations Briefing Report

Ms Boal presented an overview to the Joint Committee of the arc21 contracts and supplies orders.

She reported that there had been no issues with regard to service continuity. However, Bryson Recycling did have to implement contingency measures due to the delivery of increased tonnages over the Christmas period.

There were increases in tonnages delivered to the Mixed Dry Recycling Contracts, the Organic Waste Treatment Contract and Landfill Contracts.

Due to the changes in protocols arising from BREXIT, she reported that there had been some impact on the delivery of supplies in early January, however these have settled down. She also reported that price increases for supplies are likely in the future and that arc21 were monitoring this accordingly.

Ms Boal provided an update on the WEEE regulations which came into effect in January 2021. She also noted that the Secretary of State had approved a Compliance Fee mechanism for the 2020 WEEE Compliance period. The methodology and administration of the Compliance Fee will be announced on 1 February 2021.

Following discussion the Joint Committee commended Ms Boal and her team for ensuring business-as-usual was maintained during the current situation and agreed to note the report.

Action: Noted

Item 10 - Council Covid-19 Waste Management Financial Losses

Mr Craig presented a report to update the Joint Committee on the Waste Management Financial support sought from Government in regards to the losses being incurred by councils arising from the Covid-19 emergency.

He reported that the councils had now submitted their claims for the actual losses for the period March until June 2020 and have come in £2m below estimates- £3.8m compared to £5.7m. Councils are now asked to urgently review the position to March 2021.

He reported that the main impact on arc21 contracts remains the loss of income on the Textiles Bring Bank service.

He reported that meetings were continuing with DAERA officials every two weeks and lobbying continues.

Following discussion the Joint Committee agreed to note the report.

Action: Noted

Item 11 - Provision of Human Resources Support Services

Mr Craig presented a report to recommend the commencement of a tender exercise for the provision of Human Resources support service on a more strategic/longer-term basis.

He reported that one of the Corporate Strategic Objectives in the Learning & Growth section of the Corporate Plan is Developing & Implementing a Human Resources Strategy.

Following preparation of a business case, it has been recognised that a broader arrangement would be more appropriate to deliver the Corporate Plan and arc21's needs than the current short-term arrangements.

In accordance with the thresholds in arc21's scheme of delegation, there is a requirement to seek four written quotations if the estimated cost of the services are likely to be in the range from £8,000 to £30,000. It is estimated that over the remaining three years of the Corporate Plan, a human resources support service would be in this range.

Accordingly, it was recommended that the Joint Committee approve the commencement of a procurement exercise to secure a human resources support service up to 31 March 2024.

Following discussion the Joint Committee agreed to approve the recommendation.

Action: Agreed

Item 12 - Consultation - Discussion Document on a Northern Ireland Climate Change Bill

Mr Walker presented a report to inform the Joint Committee of DAERA's consultation on the policy options for a Climate Change Bill for Northern Ireland. The proposed arc21 response was presented for consideration and approval.

He reported that the discussion document sets the detailed context for the discussion, by providing:

- an overview of Climate Change's priority status within public and political agendas on a national and international level, including key advancements made in a political and legal context in tackling climate change;
- the current legal and policy framework for tackling Climate Change in Northern Ireland;
- Northern Ireland's current greenhouse gas emissions status, sequestration status of greenhouse gases and greenhouse gas projections for the future; and
- the latest rationale, options appraisal and policy proposals for a Northern Ireland Climate Change Bill (legislation / law).

He noted that the document was for discussion only and does not introduce any new policies at this stage.

Councillor Goodman raised concerns about the wording in the paragraph:

*“arc21 shares the UK Governments concern
.....world-wide focus on prevailing problems”*

He noted his concerns in the way it could possibly be read with regards to arc21 being seen in its totality and that all 6 councils support the facility proposed for Hightown, Mallusk, which is not the case at this time by Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council. Mr Walker advised that he specifically had not referenced any specific site and that he was just reflecting the proximity principle agreed in our Waste Management Plan. However, following discussion, it was agreed that Mr Walker and he would review and refine the wording as appropriate. The response would then be recirculated to Members for any final comments prior to submission by the deadline of 1 February.

Following discussion the Joint Committee agreed to approve the response for submission by the deadline, in principle, subject to any final amendments.

Action: Agreed

Item 13 - Consultation - The Local Government Pension Scheme Amendments

Mr Craig presented Members with a proposed arc21 response to the Department for Communities consultation on proposed changes to the transitional arrangements in the 2015 Local Government Pension Scheme in Northern Ireland for approval.

He reported that arc21 welcomes the proposals by the Department to make supplementary changes to the LGPS (NI) to ensure that the revised arrangements work effectively and consistently for all qualifying members.

Following discussion the Joint Committee agreed to approve the proposed response to the consultation so that it could be sent to DfC by the deadline of 31 January 2021.

Action: Agreed

Item 14 - Annual Report for the Year to March 2020

Mr Walker presented the Joint Committee with the arc21 Annual Report for the year to March 2020 reflecting the progress made in the final year of the two year Corporate Plan 2018-2020.

He reported that 2019/20 had been another challenging but successful year for arc21 with notable achievements across the organisation over a range of areas.

Members welcomed the report and especially the inclusion of a record of Members' attendance reported at the back of the document. Discussion ensued as to whether it would be beneficial to have this published and promoted further and Mr Walker advised that he would discuss this with our PR company, but in the meantime it would be uploaded onto the arc21 website.

Following discussion the Joint Committee agreed to note the report.

Action: Noted

Item 15 – ISO 9001 Accreditation Annual Compliance Review

Ms Boal provided a verbal report on the recent ISO 9001 external audit.

She reported that, due to the outbreak of Covid in March 2020, and the staff working remotely and independently, a considerable amount of rewriting had been required on a number of procedures and processes including the process for the payment of suppliers etc. and these had to be implemented. In addition she reported that the education vehicle was no longer operational due to the outbreak of Covid-19.

She reported that we had again achieved the accreditation with no non-conformances which was an excellent achievement especially during such a difficult year.

Ms Boal advised that it was a testament to the arc21 staff and noted a special thanks to John Hamill for his work on achieving this result.

The Chair noted his congratulations and his thanks to all the staff within arc21 and indeed all those within the arc21 councils working under these difficult conditions.

Following discussion the Joint Committee agreed to note the report.

Action: Noted

Item 16 - Update of the Scheme of Delegation and Financial Regulations and renewal of Insurance Broker Services

Mr Craig presented a report to provide an update of the Scheme of Delegation and Financial Regulations to the Joint Committee for approval.

He reported that our internal auditors, (Audit, Governance & Risk Services) had recommended that arc21 should update the Scheme of Delegation and Financial Regulations to take into account occasions when we make a direct award to procure services over a value of £3,000.

Accordingly, the Scheme of Delegation and Financial Regulations has been updated and the Audit Committee, at the meeting held on 15 December 2020, endorsed the updated scheme for consideration and approval by the Joint Committee.

It was recommended that the Joint Committee approve the updated Scheme of Delegation and Financial Regulations.

He also reported that in terms of making a direct award for services over £3,000, the services of our Insurance Broker, Marsh Ltd, to date have been procured using this approach. arc21 have a range of insurance policies in place to manage the risks associated with our activities which are market tested each year by Marsh to ensure that they represent value-for-money. The insurance policies are annual and are due for renewal at 1 April 2021.

In particular, the most critical insurance cover required by arc21 relates to Professional Indemnity Insurance (PII) and, in the waste sector, PII cover is limited to a few insurance companies. Given the timescale, the access to the PII market for the waste sector and the specialist knowledge of Marsh in the PII market and experience of the requirements for arc21, Mr Craig recommended that Marsh be asked to continue to renew the insurance policies required by arc21.

It was recommended that the Joint Committee re-appoint Marsh Ltd as insurance brokers to provide the range of insurance policies required by the Joint Committee to mitigate the financial risks associated with our activities.

Following discussion the Joint Committee agreed to approve the two recommendations.

Action: Agreed

Item 17 - AOB

Members raised the following issues:

Length of meetings - discussion ensued as to the length of the meetings and the time spent on some of the key issues, and it was suggested that maybe specific times are given to each item, or perhaps, if required, a separate meeting. The Chair advised that arc21 could perhaps look at restructuring the meetings dependent on the items to be discussed.

arc21 resources - concerns were raised at the amount of staff within arc21, the amount of work being carried out, and the extra hours staff may be working during this pandemic to get the work done. It was suggested that this was something that the management may need to consider once there is a return to the office and normal working hours and the potential for a drop in resource.

Human Resources Support – as discussed earlier in the agenda it was suggested that if any council could perhaps offer support then this could perhaps be looked at. Mr Craig advised that he had been in contact with all six councils but due to Covid-19 all the councils were unable to offer support at this time, but when going out to procurement they would be made aware of this and can review their positions at that time.

Action: Noted

Item 18 - Next Meeting

The Chair advised that the next scheduled meeting of the Joint Committee is due to be held on Thursday 25 February 2021 at 10 30am.

Action: Noted

arc21 staff and council officers left the meeting prior to discussion on the following item

Item 19 - Personnel Matters

Members in Attendance Cllr D Reid (MEABC), Cllr M Goodman (ANBC), Ald D Drysdale (LCCC), Cllr S Lee (LCCC), Ald R Gibson (ANDBC), Cllr H McKee (NMDBC)

Mr Walker provided background to a personnel issue and that, to address the matter, he had taken legal advice that had confirmed that Article 2.29 of arc21's Scheme of Delegation could be used to secure additional support.

Mr Walker was using HeadsTogether Ltd and JCB solicitors and costs to date were in the region of £7,500 and £5,000 respectively.

Further, HeadsTogether Ltd have been reviewing arc21 policies over the past year. They had been appointed in 2019 to undertake a Resilience Review but this project was terminated due to wider consideration of the future delivery mechanisms for local government waste services and COVID delaying the start of this work.

In light of the time elapsed, it was considered that the initial price was no longer valid. In order to progress the HR review, the rates from this review were used and almost £4,500 has been spent, with a further £1,000 anticipated to conclude this work.

Mr Walker stated that he was hoping to resolve the personnel issue as timely as possible. Should this not be achieved or additional steps be taken a further report would be presented to the Committee for consideration. Following a discussion, the Members approved the action taken and the costs outlined above.

Action: Noted

Date: _____

Chairman: _____

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE**HISTORIC ACTIONS TRACKING SHEET**

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES MEETING – 19 JUNE 2019					
NS/011/2019	Defective wall at Shimna River, Newcastle	Note the contents of the above report and, depending on the outcome of the Structural Engineer's Report, if there were emergency issues, that authority be given to officers to proceed quickly with the necessary works.	K Scullion	In progress – Application submitted to Rivers Agency for proposed works- not approved – further discussion with Rivers Agency ongoing. Report to NS Committee once agreed	N
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES MEETING – 23 OCTOBER 2019					
NS/070/2019	Notice of Motion – Memory Gardens	Approve the Notice of Motion and that Officers identify two locations for Memorial Gardens in the district, one in each Health Trust area and Officers to develop designs for such locations to include plants, materials	K Scullion	In Progress Currently seeking availability of sites within Heath Trust. Delayed due to current pandemic priorities.	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		requirements and costs to establish and maintain Further report to be brought back to the December Meeting of the NS Committee			
NS/073/2019	Proposed Property Maintenance Policy and Strategy 2019 to 2023	Council's Facilities Management and Maintenance Department develop for agreement with the NS Committee a Property Maintenance Policy and Strategy for the Council to cover the term of this Council 2019 to 2023. If required to assist officers in the development of this Strategy, external support to be procured in accordance with Council Procurement Procedures.	K Scullion	On hold as part of Neighbourhood Services Review. Carrying out various tenders for Electrical, Plumbing and construction which will have a major effect on policy	N
NS/075/2019	Household Recycling Centres (HRC) Update	To further illustrate changes at the new HRC site at Downpatrick, a HRC competition to be promoted at all primary schools at Downpatrick. Photocalls to be arranged to further publicise initiatives e.g. Official Opening, changes in	J Parkes	Completion of HRC Review Phase 2 has been impacted upon by Covid-19 service response. Timetable to be agreed with the NS Committee for the completion of the review	N N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<p>procedures of sites at Castlewellan and at Ballynahinch and commencement of Permit System.</p> <p>Reference FAQ'S to be drawn up relating to Permit System and placed on Web-site.</p> <p>Investigation to be made through WRAP Capital Fund for grant-aid toward additional container capacity at selected sites.</p>			<p>N</p> <p>N</p>
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES MEETING – 22 JANUARY 2020					
NS/112/2020	Evaluation of alternatives to use of Herbicides containing glyphosate for controlling weeds and invasive species on Council property	<p>It was agreed the following proposed amendments to the Officer's report: -</p> <p>To undertake a 12-month review with a target to phase out completely the use of use of herbicides containing glyphosate for controlling weeds and invasive species on Council property within 3 years.</p>	K Scullion	<p>To be undertaken at 12-month review period January 2021</p> <p>GM Manager carrying out review</p>	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<p>Officers prevent the use of herbicides containing glyphosate at Council play areas and use alternative methods only for these areas.</p> <p>Council write to the relevant Stormont Minister stating the Council's position on this issue and seeking the position of all Government Bodies in Northern Ireland.</p>		<p>Actioned</p> <p>Complete – No response to date</p>	
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES MEETING 19 FEBRUARY 2020					
NS/121/2020	Draft Public Convenience Strategy	<p>Agreed to note the content of the above report and recommend approval for the draft Public Toilet Strategy as presented and approve the commencement of a 12-week public consultation on the recommendations from the draft Strategy.</p> <p>Also agreed a Rowallane DEA Councillors site visit be organised with relevant Council Officials to discuss public convenience provision in Saintfield and that a</p>	K Scullion	In progress	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		report be brought back to the Neighbourhood Services Committee for consideration.			
NS/126/2020	DAERA Waste Prevention Programme 2019 – Stopping Waste In Its Tracks	Agreed arc21 would be responding on behalf of the 6 Councils who are members and also that if Councillors had any additional comments they should advise Mr Moore/Mr Parkes.	J Parkes	Awaiting finalisation of Arc21 response	Y
NS/127/2020	Study visit to Dulkeek EFW Plant	Agreed to visit the Indaver Facility, Duleek, County Meath on Thursday 4 April 2020 and also agreed the proposed programme	J Parkes	Postponed due to COVID-19	N
NS/129/2020	Historic Actions Tracking Sheet	Agreed an update report on proposed memory gardens would be brought back to the Neighbourhood Services Committee	K Scullion	In progress - Delayed due to current pandemic priorities	N
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING 18 MARCH 2020					
NS/137/2020	Christmas Illuminations & Celebrations Group Meeting – 13 Feb 2020	Officers proceed to issue an Expression of Interest to support a maximum of seven towns and villages to provide a recognised group with a planted sustainable Christmas Tree under the same	J Hillen	To be issued August 2020	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<p>terms as last year with the additional selection criteria referred to in Section 2 of this report, for the event that more than seven eligible applications are received. The programme to be delivered over a maximum eighteen-month period.</p> <p>-Officers proceed to procure the required sustainable Christmas trees and supporting infrastructure to support this programme.</p>	K Scullion	<p>Speaking to AJC for 2021 Christmas additional lights.</p> <p>Report to be provided to NS Committee August 2020.</p>	N
NS/139/2020	Presentation Re: Green Fleet	It was agreed to note this item be deferred.	J McBride	NS Committee agreed a way forward for fleet replacement in Feb 21	Y
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING 17 JUNE 2020					
NS/157/2020	Notice of Motion Re: Changing Places (CP) Toilets (Cllr McMurray)	Agreed to note the Notice of Motion and the proposed action for each respective element as detailed within section 2.2 of the report dated 17 June 2020	K Scullion	In Progress	N
NS/158/2020	Fleet Transition Strategy	Note the content of the report dated 17 June 2020 and agree to:-	J McBride	Please refer to NS/139/2020	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<p>The recommendation to appoint suitable external technical expertise for the purposes of developing a fleet transition strategy, estimated at a cost of £30,000 - £40,000; and</p> <p>The recommendation to prioritise specific vehicle registration numbers (VRNs) on a case-by-case basis for replacement until the fleet transition strategy exercise has been completed</p>			
NS/167/2020	Business Case – Annual Servicing and Maintenance of Lifts in Council Buildings	<p>Note the content of the report and associated Business Case and accept the conclusion of the Business Case that Option 3 was chosen as the preferred option. Option 3 would see the appointment, through a tender process, of a competent contractor to service, maintain and complete safety checks on all 32 No. lifts in the Council asset register. It would also see the appointment of a consultant to assist with auditing the performance of the successful contractor and quotations for repairs outside the scope of the contract.</p>	K Scullion	In Progress – Tender issued	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
NS/168/2020	Business Case – Inspection, Testing and Maintenance of Councils Fire Alarm Systems	Note the content of the report and associated Business Case and accept the conclusion of the Business Case that Option 2 was chosen as the preferred option. Option 2 would see the appointment, through a tender process, of a competent contractor to inspect, test and maintain Council Fire Alarms throughout Council premises at recommended intervals ensuring Councils legal compliance.	K Scullion	In progress- Tender being prepared	N
NS/169/2020	Business Case – Annual Servicing, Maintenance and Monitoring of Intruder Alarm Systems in Council Buildings	Note the content of the report and associated Business Case and accept the conclusion of the Business Case that Option 3 was chosen as the preferred option. Option 3 would see the appointment, through a tender process, of a competent contractor to service, maintain and monitor all 45 No. intruder alarm systems in the Council asset register.	K Scullion	In Progress – Tender being prepared	N
NS/171/2020	Bring Sites Review	Note the content of the report and agree to:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A reduction in the current number of bottle bank 	J Parkes	Contractor to be appointed in Mar 21 re. removal of redundant sites	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<p>"bring sites" across the District. Future provision to be restricted to the twenty-two (22) sites set-out at Appendix I as circulated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The use of the contractor for the future safety inspection and maintenance of "bring sites" at a cost per annum detailed in the report; and ▪ To authorise Officials to explore income generation opportunities attached to the disposal of the redundant stock of "bring sites" <p>It was also agreed that when removing the sites, that potential recycling options for Island Park, Newcastle be considered.</p>			
NS/172/2020	Business case – RCV's	Approve the business cases for the replacement of the six Refuse Collection Vehicles (RCVs) as circulated at Appendix II.	J McBride	Please refer to NS/139/2020	Y
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING 19 AUGUST 2020					

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
NS/170/2020	Notice of Motion – Delivery of small brown food waste bins	Committee agree to the Motion and that Officers undertake necessary research and report back to NS Committee presenting options and costs for consideration and approval. Also that officers look at options both for brown bin caddies and liners and report back to Committee.	J Parkes	To be considered at a future Committee Meeting, along with previous Council Motion in relation to distribution of bio-bags/caddy bin liners.	N
NS/190/2020	Recycling of Mattresses	Agreed to note the content of the report and agree to the recommendations contained at 2.3 and 2.4 of the report in relation to the recycling of mattresses.	J Parkes	In progress. Business case currently being developed.	N
NS/192/2020	Business case for the supply and delivery of biomass wood pellets	Agreed to note the content of the report and associated Business Case and accept the conclusion of the Business Case to proceed to Tender for a Biomass Wood Pellet Supplier for an initial 12-month contract with a view to extending to 24 months.	K Scullion	In progress – Tender being prepared	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
NS/193/2020	Business case for the annual servicing and maintenance of fire fighting equipment in Council buildings	Agreed to note the content of the report and associated Business Case and accept the conclusion of the Business Case to see the appointment, through a tender process, of a competent contractor to inspect, maintain and testing of all Fire Fighting Equipment in Buildings in the Council's asset register.	K Scullion	In progress – Tender being prepared	N
NS/194/2020	Neighbourhood Services Procurement Action Plan	Agreed to note that services will continue "out of contract" until new contracts are awarded and also to approve the recommended Neighbourhood Services Directorate procurement action plan. Also agreed a quarterly update on the Plan would be provided to Committee.	J McBride	In Progress. Quarterly update to be presented to Apr 21 Meeting	N
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING 22 SEPTEMBER 2020					
NS/205/2020	Shimna River Wall Repairs	A report to be tabled at October NS Meeting	K Scullion	In progress	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
NS/207/2020	Public Convenience Strategy – 12 week public consultation	Agreed to note the content of the report and the update from Mr Scullion that the findings from the consultation would be brought back to Committee for review.	K Scullion	In progress	N
NS/209/2020	Update on HRCs reopening plan	Agreed to note the update in relation to the next phase of the re-opening of the Council's Household Recycling Centres (HRCs).	J Parkes	Considered by NS Committee (Feb 21)	Y
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING – 20 OCTOBER 2020					
NS/222/2020	Review of Council Bus Shelter Policy	Agreed to note the content of the report and that Officers proceed to review the current Bus Shelter Policy and revert to Committee with a revised Policy. It was also agreed to write to DfI and Translink to seek additional funding for public transport bus shelters across the entire region and that Officers look if there was any other funding opportunities	K Scullion	In progress – Draft policy presented to NS Committee 17 February for comment	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<p>available e.g. rural development funding for the roll out of bus shelters across rural areas.</p> <p>It was further agreed Officers to circulate the information that was available on who owned the shelters across the District – Translink; a company for Translink or Council owned so that Councillors would know who to contact if any issues arose</p>			
NS/224/2020	Update on HRCs reopening plan	Agreed to note the above report.	J Parkes	Please refer to NS/209/2020	Y
NS/225/2020	Hire/Replacement of small vans for refuse collection	Agreed to confirm approval to hire thirteen vans to ensure the Refuse Service, and other Services within NS, meet their Services' delivery standards (noting spend is unbudgeted), while complying with Covid controls and also to endorse recommendation to replace up to 13- No small vans under the current Capital Vehicle Replacement Budget. These, or	J Parkes	Ns Committee agreed a way forward for fleet replacement in Feb 21	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		the vehicles they displace, would then eliminate the requirement to hire 13-No escort vans, saving £1,250.00/week.			
NS/230/2020	Business Case – Provision of new public toilet in Killough	Agreed to note the content of the report and associated Business Case and to accept the conclusion of the business case that the Council proceed with the proposal to provide a new public toilet in Killough.	K Scullion	In progress	N
NS/231/2020	Business Case – Provision of Electrical Maintenance and Minor Projects	Agreed to note the content of the report and associated Business Case and to accept the conclusion of the business case that that the Council proceed with Option 3. Option 3 will see the appointment of a NICEIC and SparkSafe Registered Electrical Contractor to support the Councils Electrical Maintenance Service and to provide minor electrical works, for a three-year period or up to the maximum value of the overall	K Scullion	In progress – Tender being prepared Tender being compiled and finalised for end of March	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		contract (£450,000). The service to be procured through tender or through use of suitable Framework.			
NS/232/2020	Business Case – Provision of Minor Construction Works	Agreed to note the content of the report and associated Business Case and to accept the conclusion of the business case that the Council proceed with Option 3. Option 3 will see the appointment of a minor construction works contractor to complete minor works contracts across the Council for a three-year period or up to the maximum value of the overall contract (£180,000). The service to be procured through tender or through use of a suitable Framework	K Scullion	In progress – Tender being prepared for end of March.	N
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING 17 NOVEMBER 2020					
NS/243/2020	Notice of Motion – Green New Deal Strategy	Grant approval to Officers to further scope the issues contained within the Notice of Motion and to prepare a report which summarises the	J Parkes	Response received from DAERA Minister and considered	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		status of existing and planned activity in this area. A report to be tabled at a future Meeting of the Neighbourhood Services Committee and to also write to the Northern Ireland Executive clarifying what actions are currently being taken and what actions are being planned by the NI Executive in respect of climate change.		by NS Committee. Scoping of the issues delayed by on-going COVID-19 pandemic.	
NS/246/2020	Fly Tipping Revised Shared Protocol	Agreed the Council now sign up to the Fly Tipping Revised Shared Protocol and review after 12 months	J Parkes	No progress since last Committee Meeting. Please refer to NS/075/2019	N
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING 15 DECEMBER 2020					
		Household recycling centres permit scheme for private operators – expressions of interest be sought now to gauge demand.	J Parkes	No progress since last Committee Meeting	N

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
NS/270/2020	Business Cases – Pest Control Services across Council facilities	Agreed to accept the findings of the Business Case presented at Appendix 1 of this report. This would see the Council appoint, through a tender process or framework, a suitably competent pest control operator to provide both planned and reactive pest control service for all Council facilities over a three-year period or up to a maximum value of £90,000.	K Scullion	In progress – Tender being prepared	N
NS/271/2020	Maintenance of Council Public Space CCTV	<p>Agreed to note the content of the report and approve the recommendations as detailed in Section 1.6 of the report.</p> <p>It was also agreed to write to the Justice Minister at Stormont on assistance with the maintenance costs of Council public space CCTV.</p>	<p>K Scullion</p> <p>K Scullion</p>	In progress – Tender being prepared	N
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING –					

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
20 JANUARY 2021					
NS/008/2021	Business Case for the refurbishment of Struell Cemetery Amenity Building	Agreed to note the content of the report and to accept the conclusion of the business case that option 2 be approved. Option 2 would see the appointment, through tender, of a competent contractor to undertake refurbishment works to Struell Cemetery amenity building which was extensively fire damaged in 2020.	K Scullion	In Progress. Tender pack being prepared.	N
END					