

Sustainability and Environment Statement

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC) provide a wide range of services, such as household waste collection, leisure, environmental health, building control, economic development, tourism, and planning. In providing these services we recognise that our activities may both directly and indirectly have an impact on the environment, and we understand that we are in a unique position to positively encourage change and influence our stakeholders and residents.

We recognise and accept our obligation to comply with all relevant legislation and other relevant requirements and we are committed to reducing our impact on the environment, preventing pollution and protecting the environment, whilst also positively encouraging others to do likewise.

Sustainability is about creating opportunities for all residents in NMDDC to prosper without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Climate Change is the greatest threat to our planet and is expected to impact our council area, businesses and residents in a number of ways, including increased instances of rainfall and flooding, storminess, extreme heat and drought, and extreme cold weather anomalies in winter. Our Council recognises the need to take action to both mitigate against these impacts and adapt our services.

Our Sustainability and Environment Statement gives a commitment that Council will embed sustainable decision making within our activities and functions, and take action in a variety of ways, including:

- To develop a Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy by 2024
- To develop the first annual Sustainability and Climate Change Action Plan by 2024
- To develop a Climate Change Adaptation Plan by 2024

The above commitments will result in a range of actions being taken forward by Council, with a focus on activities over which we have greatest influence and are most cost effective. This will include taking further action on climate change, climate resilience, environmental improvement, energy, waste management and transport.

In order to meet our future ambitions we recognise the need to demonstrate strong leadership, to engage with staff, stakeholders and residents, and to regularly review our actions to ensure there is continual improvement.

Our Sustainability and Environment Statement will be communicated in an effective and accessible manner to our employees, and will also be available to the public via our website. It will be reviewed no later than March 2025.

Andrew Cassells

Director of Sustainability and Environment

10 August 2023