September 22nd, 2026

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the meeting to be held on **Wednesday, 23rd September 2026** at **6:15 pm** in **Boardroom, Warrenpoint Town Hall, Warrenpoint.**

Committee Membership 2026-27

Councillor M Ruane **Chairperson**

Councillor T Andrews **Deputy Chairperson**

Councillor Jim Brennan

Councillor Philip Campbell

Councillor Killian Feehan

Councillor Doire Finn

Councillor Martin Hearty

Councillor Jonathan Jackson

Councillor Declan Murphy

Councillor Kate Murphy

Councillor Siobhan O'Hare

Councillor Henry Reilly

Councillor David Taylor

Councillor Jill Truesdale

Councillor Helena Young

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 Action Sheet from Sustainability & Environment Committee Held 19 August 2026

Report to follow

Attachment: Action Sheet - 19.08.2026 inc. historic actions updated.pdf ***Page 1***

For Discussion/Decision

4.0 MoU with DFI on Snow and Gritting

Attachment: SE Committee Report - MOU Clearance of Snow and Ice.pdf ***Page 11***

Attachment: Appendix 1 - MoU NMD Removal of Snow and Ice.pdf ***Page 14***

5.0 OPSS Fireworks and Pyrotechnics Consultation Response

Attachment: Report - Consultation on regulatory proposals under fireworks legislation.pdf ***Page 23***

Attachment: Appendix 1 - Consultation Response Fireworks and pyrotechnics.pdf ***Page 26***

6.0 Consultation and Restriction of Products High in Fat, Sugar and Salt

Attachment: SE Committee Report - Consultation on the HFSS 1.pdf ***Page 35***

Attachment: Appendix 1 - Consultation Response on HFSS.pdf ***Page 38***

Items deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014

7.0 Waste Management Contracts

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

Attachment: Report - Waste Contract.pdf ***Not included***

Attachment: App 1 - Waste Contracts.pdf ***Not included***

8.0 Business Cases - Waste Services

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

Attachment: S&E Committee Report - Household Recycling Centre Material Business Case 23.09.26.pdf ***Not included***

Attachment: Appendix 1 - Household Recycling Centre Material Business Case (1).pdf ***Not included***

FOR NOTING Items deemed to be exempt under Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014

9.0 Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting in Committee Minutes of Thursday 25.06.2026 & Joint Committee Members' Monthly Bulletin held on 28.08.2026

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

Attachment: JC107-25June26-inCommMinutes-e-signed.pdf ***Not included***

Attachment: JC108-28Aug26-JC MembersBulletin.F.pdf ***Not included***

For Noting

10.0 Arc21 Joint Committee meeting held on 25 June 2026

Attachment: JC107-25June26-Minutes-e-signed.pdf ***Page 53***

11.0 Positive Aging Report

Attachment: SE Committee Report - Positive Ageing.pdf ***Page 59***

Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews

Cllr Callum Bowsie

Mr Caolain Boyd

Fionnuala Branagh

Cllr Jim Brennan

Lorraine/Emma Burns/McParland

Cllr Pete Byrne

Cllr Philip Campbell

Cllr William Clarke

Cllr Laura Devlin

Cllr Cadogan Enright

Cllr Killian Feehan

Cllr Doire Finn

Ms Joanne Fleming

Cllr Conor Galbraith

Cllr Mark Gibbons

Cllr Oonagh Hanlon

Cllr Glyn Hanna

Cllr Valerie Harte

Mr Conor Haughey

Cllr Martin Hearty

Cllr Roisin Howell

Cllr Tierna Howie

Cllr Jonathan Jackson

Ms Aileen Jones

Cllr Geraldine Kearns

Miss Veronica Keegan

Mrs Sheila Kieran

Cllr Aurla King

Cllr Cathal King

Ms Elaine Kirk

Cllr Mickey Larkin

Cllr Niall Lawlor

Cllr David Lee-Surginor

Cllr Alan Lewis

Cllr Oonagh Magennis

Mr Conor Mallon

Cllr Aidan Mathers

Cllr Declan McAteer

Jonathan McGilly

Mr Martin McKibbin

Ms Tracie McLoughlin

Cllr Kate Murphy

Cllr Declan Murphy

Sinead Murphy

Cllr Selina Murphy

Ms Patricia Murtagh

Cllr Siobhan O'Hare

Mr Andy Patterson

Cllr Áine Quinn

Cllr Henry Reilly

Cllr Michael Rice

Ms Alison Robb

Ms Maria Rogan

Cllr Michael Ruane

Mr Conor Sage

Conor Smyth

Mrs Amanda Smyth

Donna Starkey

Sarah Taggart

Cllr David Taylor

Mr David Telford

Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly

Ms Sinead Trainor

Cllr Jill Truesdale

Mrs Marie Ward

Cllr Helena Young

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

HISTORIC ACTIONS TRACKING SHEET

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING 21 APRIL 2022					
Minute Ref	**Subject**	**Decision**	**Lead Officer**	**Actions taken/ Progress to date**	**Remove from Action Sheet Y/N**
NS/052/2022	Compost Week 2022	Note and approve the additional activities in 2.2 to highlight and promote the importance of recycling food waste. Note and approve the launch of an application process, with set criteria, to establish demand for deploying brown bins to residents of high rise buildings who were not previously provided with these.	S Trainor	**Included within the Education and Enforcement Plan 2026-2029** **In progress**	**N** **N**
NS/057/2022	Various issues concerning the Events Space Kilkeel	Approve the Officers recommendation that the legal position of the Council regarding its maintenance of the events space, Kilkeel, is reviewed with a separate report to be provided to the Council once this has been considered further.	C Sage	**Legal position and maintenance of the events space being confirmed. Meeting to be arranged with Residents group to confirm current position.**	**N**

				Meeting to take place with Kilkeel Community Association confirm current position.	
SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 17 OCTOBER 2023					
SE/107/2023	Notice of Motion – Animal Welfare	It was agreed to remove the final sentence of the notice of motion. It was agreed to defer a decision on the Notice of Motion until the outcome of the legal process was known.	S Trainor	**On hold pending legal process**	**N**
SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 24 JANUARY 2024					
SE/004/2024	Report on Notice of Motion – Flood Defences	The following was agreed: - Further investigate the possibility of a Shared Island application to assist with flood defences - Write to DFI Rivers and request a river maintenance schedule.	S Murphy	**In Progress** **Complete – DFI Rivers maintenance schedule for 26/27 has been received.**	**N** **Y**

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 20 MARCH 2024					
SE/036/2024	Former landfill site review – Aughnagun and Drumanakelly	It was agreed that officers develop a Business Case for the installation of Solar Panels at the former landfill sire Aughnagun for further consideration. It was agreed that Council further explore the benefits of installing reed beds at both sites in order to make the sites self-sustaining in terms of the management of the leachate generated on site.	S Murphy S Murphy	**In Progress** **In Progress**	**N** **N**

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 18 DECEMBER 2024					
SE/150/2024	NOM – Vaping	it was agreed that the Council recognised the 2024 Northern Ireland Audit Office report on tackling the public health impacts of smoking and vaping that showed an increase in 11-16 year olds vaping; that Council is concerned that children vaping in schools is detrimental to a child's health and educational outcomes; agrees that greater awareness must be raised with children in schools about the risks of vaping; acknowledges that teachers and school staff must have the support and resources they require to raise awareness and inform children on the risks of vaping; agree to write to both the Minister of Education and Health urging them to bring forward a plan to end vaping in school grounds, to reduce the number of young people vaping and to eradicate the sale of vapes to children. It was also agreed to write to all Councils in the North asking them for support in tackling this issue.	S Murphy	**In progress** **Council has obtained funding from PHA to host a Year 10 Vaping Awareness Event on Wednesday 7th October 2026 at NLC.** **Topics covered: Health effects of vaping, nicotine addition and dependency, the influence of marketing advertising and social media, peer pressure and decision making and much more.** **Event will be evaluated and brought to S&E Committee in October for Information.**	**N**

SE/151/2024	NOM – Newry Canal	it was agreed to request support from support from Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council to write to the Minister for Infrastructure and the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs for the urgent establishment of a multi- agency Newry Canal regeneration taskforce to work in partnership to deliver on the potential of inland waterways across both Council areas.	S Murphy	**In progress** **Newry Canal Regeneration Working Group has been established with ABC and meetings have taken place in September, November 25 & September 26 with representatives from ABC Council.**	**N**
SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 19 FEBRUARY 2025					
SE/018/2025	NOM – Vital Role of trees	Council will also write to other Councils request support of this motion	C Sage	**In Progress**	**N**
SE/020/2025	Application for bus shelter at Hilltown Road, Newry	It was agreed to the installation of a new bus shelter at Hilltown Road, Newry as per the recommendations stated in Appendix 1 of the officer's Report	G Kane	**In progress**	**N**
SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 19 MARCH 2025					
SE/034/2025	Officer Report on NOM – Street Lighting	It was agreed to write to DFI Roads to advise of concerns in relation to areas that have little of no street lighting and request that a scoping exercise is undertaken to identify areas that could avail of additional street lighting across the district.	C Sage	**In progress**	**N**

		It was also agreed that Council owned green spaces would be reviewed to identify any areas that could avail of additional lighting across the District	C Sage	**In Progress**	**N**
SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 29 APRIL 2025					
SE/045/2025	Notice of Motion re Memorial Garden, Newcastle	It was agreed to approve the proposal to create a memorial garden to acknowledge the 180th anniversary of the Newcastle Fishing Disaster	C Sage	**Works on site and nearing completion**	**N**
SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 21 MAY 2025					
SE/056/2025	Officer Report on Notice of Motion – Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty & Air Quality Management Areas	the following was agreed: •Members considered and approved the endorsement of the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and agree to write to the Northern Ireland Executive urging them to support this initiative. •Members noted the current on-going review process on the effectiveness of the Council's Air Quality Management Areas in liaison with DAERA and the potential expansion of the number of air quality monitor stations throughout the District, subject to funding.	C Sage S Trainor	**In Progress** **In Progress**	**N** **N**
SE/060/2025	Request to approach DFI about transfer of ownership of Carparks	it was agreed to approve the request for Council Officers to formally approach DFI and research the feasibility of a land transfer of their portion of the site into Council ownership	C Sage	**Complete**	**Y**

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 18 MARCH 2026					
SE/030/2026	Home to Hospital	it was agreed to provide continued funding for the Mournes and Slieve Gullion DEA's Home to Hospital Volunteer driver schemes from 01 April 2026 to 31 March 2027, provide funding to pilot the Home to Hospital Volunteer driver scheme in Crotlieve DEA from 01 September 2026 to 31 March 2027 and seek Expressions of Interest from suitable Community / Voluntary sector organisations to administer the Schemes.	S Trainor	**The Mournes and Slieve Gullion Home to Hospital for 2026/27 is ongoing.** **Crotlieve Home to Hospital Expression of Interest has concluded and pilot scheme now in place within Crotlieve DEA from 01 September 2026 to 31 March 2027. This will be evaluated and brought back to Council.**	**Y**

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 20 MAY 2026					
SE/059/2026	Draft Parking Order	It was agreed to approve the Newry Mourne & Down District Council 'DRAFT' Off-Street Parking (Public Car Parks) Order and to authorise release for the Public Consultation Process.	C Sage	**In Progress** NMDDC Parking Order is currently out for Public Consultation	**N**

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 17 JUNE 2026					
SE/073/2026	Officer Report on Notice Of Motion – Water Courses	It was agreed to consider the recommendations of the Notice of Motion and note the ongoing work by Council as detailed in section 2 of the officers' report.	C Sage	**In Progress**	N
SE/076/2026	Bus Shelter Requests	It was agreed to approve the request to relocate and replace the existing shelter at Ballymacarn Road, Spa and for the erection of two new bus shelters at Annacloy Road, Teconnaught.	C Sage	**In Progress**	N
SE/083/2026	Newry Market Report	It was agreed to readvertise an Expression of Interest (EOI) for a third party to assist Council with the revitalisation of Newry Market and that the charges for the Christmas Market remain the same as detailed in section 2.4 of the officers' report.	C Sage	**In Progress**	N

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 19 AUGUST 2026					
SE/096/2026	Action Sheet: Sustainability And Environment Committee Meeting Held On 17 June 2026	It was agreed to note the action sheet.	S Murphy	**Noted**	Y
SE/097/2026	Sustainability And Climate Change Strategy	It was agreed to note the contents of the report and the outcomes of the public consultation process and to approve progression of the final draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy for publication and launch.	C Sage	**Noted**	Y
SE/098/2026	Consultation On Proposals Under the Tobacco And Vapes Act	The submission of the Environmental Health Department's consultation response detained in appendix 1 of the officers' report, to the Department of Health and Social Care proposals for regulatory reform on packaging, appearance and display requirements was agreed.	S Trainor	**Complete**	Y
SE/099/2026	The Toy Safety Regulations: Call for Evidence	It was agreed to approve the submission detailed at appendix 1 of the officers' report, in response to the call for evidence from the Office for Product Safety & Standards on considerations for recognition of new EU product requirements to The Toy (Safety Regulations) within UK.	S Trainor	**Complete**	Y
SE/100/2026	DAERA Consultation on The Draft Air Quality (Amendment) Regulations	It was agreed to note the contents of the report concerning DAERA proposals to tighten annual average particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5) limits, targets and objectives in Northern Ireland, approve the proposed consultation response detailed at appendix 1 of the officers report and agree that it is submitted to DAERA by the consultation deadline of 31 August 2026, subject to approval at Full Council.	S Trainor	**Complete**	Y

SE/101/2026	Business Case – Vehicle and Grounds Maintenance Equipment Parts	It was agreed to approve the recommendations of the business case as detailed in section 2.6 of the officers' report.	C Sage	**To be progressed as part of the S&E procurement programme.**	Y
SE/102/2026	Business Case – Forest Park Routeways and Associated Landscape Works	It was agreed to approve the recommendation of the business case as detailed at section 2.5 of the officers' report.	C Sage	**To be progressed as part of the S&E procurement programme.**	Y
SE/103/2026	Contract Extensions	It was agreed to approve the contract extensions as detailed at Appendices 1 and 2 of the officers' report.	S Trainor	**Noted**	Y
SE/104/2026	Mixed Dry Recyclables	It was agreed to approve the extension of the contract for the receipt and processing of Mixed Dry Recyclables from 30 September 2026 to 31 March 2027.	S Trainor	**Noted**	Y
SE/105/2026	Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting In-Committee Minutes of Thursday 28 May 2026 & Joint Committee Members' Monthly Bulletin Held On 25 June 2026	It was agreed to note the documents.	S Murphy	**Noted**	Y
SE/106/2026	Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting Held on Thursday 28 May 2026	It was agreed to note the document.	S Murphy	**Noted**	Y

Report to:	Sustainability & Environment Committee
Date of Meeting:	23rd September 2026
Subject:	MoU for Clearance of Snow and Ice
Reporting Officer and Job Title:	Sinead Murphy, Director Sustainability & Environment
Contact Officer and Job Title:	Conor Sage, Assistant Director Sustainability

Purpose of Report:

For Decision

1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval for the renewal of a Memorandum of Information between Council and DFI Roads to assist with emergency clearance of snow and ice from town centre footways during prolonged periods of wintry weather. The Council previously had a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with DfI Roads in relation to the Clearing of busy town centre Footways and Pedestrian areas of snow and ice. The latest version of the MoU is attached as Appendix 1 to this report. The proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) from DFI was originally requested to commence in October 2025. As a result, approval is now sought for the remainder of the MoU term only, namely the financial years 2026/27 and 2027/28.
2.0	Key Issues
2.1	Article 8 of the Roads (NI) Order 1993 (the 'Roads Order') of the Roads Order imposes a statutory duty to maintain roads (including footways) adopted for maintenance by the Department. While DfI Roads has no statutory obligation to salt Roads Article 9 of the Roads Order provides the Department with the legal right to exercise a discretionary power to take such steps as it considers reasonable and practicable to prevent snow and ice interfering with the safe passage of persons or vehicles using a road. The purpose of the MoU is to set out the basis of partnering arrangements between DfI Roads and Newry Mourne and Down District Council for the treatment of snow and ice from busy town centre footways during prolonged periods of wintry weather. It is anticipated that footways will generally only be considered for treatment after significant snow and ice events although there may be occasions when footways could be pre-treated if freezing is forecast following heavy rain.
2.2	Neither DfI Roads nor Newry, Mourne and Down District Council have a statutory obligation to salt footways. Newry, Mourne and Down District Council are not resourced for this work, however, under the MoU, in the event of significant snow or ice events and depending on available resources, footway clearance and salt/grit spreading may be undertaken by DfI Roads and/or Newry, Mourne and Down District Council staff. Officers are liaising with Trade Union representatives in

	relation to the MoU and staff would only be deployed in this respect following relevant risk assessments and appropriate training and supervision. Appendix 1 of the MoU names the Settlements and their corresponding roads, streets and pedestrian areas that are covered by the MoU and whether the areas are considered Priority 1 or priority 2. The MoU can be enacted by DfI Roads in consultation with the Council as to when a salting operation should be carried out on the basis of conditions, weather information and the availability of resources.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	Note the content of the report. Approve the renewal of a Memorandum of Information between Council and DFI Roads to assist with emergency clearance of snow and ice.
4.0	Resource Implications
4.1	Resource implications are difficult to quantify. There is no dedicated budget for footway snow and ice clearance and, provided DfI Roads supplies the salt and staff are redeployed during normal working hours, no direct costs are anticipated. However, additional resource requirements would arise for work undertaken outside normal hours (including evenings, weekends and bank holidays), and staff training would be required.
5.0	Due Regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations
5.1	General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations
5.2	Does the proposal relate to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision No If yes, please select one of the following: Choose an item.
5.3	Proposal initiating consultation The consultation 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 Please select the consultation period: Choose an item. Rationale:

6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs
6.1	Does the proposal relate to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service. No – The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs
7.0	Appendices
7.1	Appendix 1: MoU NMD Removal of Snow and Ice
8.0	Background Documents
8.1	None

Memorandum of Understanding

Of

Partnering Arrangements

between

DfI Roads and Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

for

Clearing Busy Town Centre Footways and Pedestrian Areas of Snow and Ice.

Introduction

1. The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to set out the basis of partnering arrangements between DfI Roads and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council for the treatment of snow and ice from busy town centre footways during prolonged periods of wintry weather. It is anticipated that footways will generally only be considered for treatment after significant snow or ice events although there may be occasions when footways could be pre-treated if freezing is forecast following heavy rain.
2. It is appreciated that neither DfI Roads nor Newry, Mourne and Down District Council have a statutory obligation to salt footways and are not resourced for this work but under this MOU footway clearance and salt/grit spreading may be undertaken by DfI Roads and/or Newry, Mourne and Down District Council staff, depending on resources available at the time.
3. This MOU sets out a broad framework of key principles agreed by the DfI Roads, the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) to be put forward for consideration and agreement by individual local councils.
4. It is anticipated that these key principles will be specifically tailored at local level, to take account of council preferences/restraints. For example should existing local arrangements between DfI Roads Section Offices and local councils be deemed appropriate by all parties, these arrangements can be retained, subject to agreement and to a schedule of work being agreed by all.

Objectives

5. The objectives of the Memorandum of Understanding are to:
   - Provide an agreed framework which local offices can build on to formalise the level of service to be provided by each organisation in those areas;
   - Define each organisation's duties and obligations in delivering this service;
   - Establish a schedule of footways to be treated in the event of prolonged periods of wintry weather;

- Promote an efficient and co-operative working relationship between both organisations.

The Role and Commitments of DfI Roads

6. DfI Roads shall lead consultation, ultimately to be agreed by individual councils, on a schedule of main village/ town/ city centre footways to be treated. This is attached as Appendix 1.

7. DfI Roads shall lead consultation, ultimately to be agreed by individual councils, when a salting operation should be carried out, on the basis of conditions, weather information and the availability of resources. The rationale supporting this decision making process should be developed locally.

8. DfI Roads will provide Newry, Mourne and Down District Council with salt, or a salt/grit mix, free of charge to treat those footways on the schedule, when required. DfI Roads shall confirm the availability of and determine the release of salt or salt/grit mix required; and such availability and its release will be subject to DfI Roads resources and it being required by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.

9. DfI Roads will extend the indemnity being offered to Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and their authorised agents, as defined in paragraph 14 of this MOU.

The Role and Commitments of Councils

10. During extreme conditions following heavy snowfalls or prolonged freezing council staff may assist the Department with footway clearance and salt/grit spreading on an agreed schedule of footways depending on resource availability at the time.

11. Newry, Mourne and Down District Council will nominate a representative to be responsible for the council's contribution to the treatment of snow and ice from busy town centre footways during prolonged periods of wintry weather and to attempt to resolve any difficulties or problems that may arise.

12. Newry, Mourne and Down District Council will assist DfI Roads in developing a rationale for when a salting operation should be carried out, on the basis of conditions, weather information and the availability of resources etc.

13. Newry, Mourne and Down District Council may delegate their responsibilities under this Memorandum in whole or in part to businesses, trading organisations, and community groups ("authorised Council Agents") within their council areas, which are willing to undertake this work. Newry, Mourne and Down District Council shall be responsible for coordinating and supervising the work of their authorised Council Agents.

14. Newry, Mourne and Down District Council will work in close liaison with the DfI Roads Section Engineer's staff in order to maximise efforts and co-ordinate the deployment of the DfI Roads and the Council's workforce, which may comprise both the employees and contractors of the Council, their Trading Organisation Agents and community groups.

15. Newry, Mourne and Down District Council shall provide sufficient supervisory staff for the personnel employed to carry out the work. Personnel employed to carry include the servants and employees and contractors of the Council and the authorised Council Agents.

Legislation

16. Article 8 of the Roads (Northern Ireland) Order 1993 ("the Roads Order") of the Roads Order imposes a statutory duty to maintain roads (including footways) adopted for maintenance by the Department. While DfI Roads has no statutory obligation to salt roads Article 9 of the Roads Order provides the Department with the legal right to exercise a discretionary power to take such steps as it considers reasonable and practicable to prevent snow and ice interfering with the safe passage of persons or vehicles using a road.

17. For that purpose it may also enter into agency arrangements with any persons for the treatment of roads affected by snow and ice.

18. Newry, Mourne and Down District Council is empowered by Sections 104 and 105 of the Local Government Act (NI) 1972 to exercise functions on behalf of and to enter into arrangements with a government department for the supply of services.

19. Under these arrangements DfI Roads is prepared to offer Newry, Mourne and Down District Council the same range of defences that are available to the Department. This indemnity will include groups of traders or community groups operating on the Councils behalf.

20. This means that Councils that enjoy discretionary delegated powers can run the same defences as are available to DfI Roads. Newry, Mourne and Down District Council shall indemnify DfI Roads against any claims made against DfI Roads arising from allegations of negligence or fault on the part of the Council, their staff, contractors or authorised Council Agents in carrying out work under this MOU.

Terms and Conditions of the Memorandum.

21. The Memorandum shall commence on 1st October 2025 and will remain in force for a period of 3 years. It replaces any previous winter service agreements between DfI Roads and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.

22. Either DfI Roads or the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council may seek amendments to the Memorandum at any time.

23. Subject to the consent of both DfI Roads and Newry & Mourne District Council the Memorandum may be extended at one year intervals.

24. The Memorandum may be terminated by either party with 6 months written notice.

25. The effectiveness of these arrangements will be reviewed in April of each year. Further analysis of actual costs to carry out this work in order to advocate the finances necessary to undertake this work will also be undertaken in April of each year.

The Signatories

Both organisations signify below their acceptance of the Memorandum on the terms and conditions set out

Signed on behalf of Newry Mourne & Down District Council.

Date:

Signed on behalf of DfI Roads.

- Date:

APPENDIX ONE

FOOTWAYS AND PEDESTRIAN AREA

ICE AND SNOW CLEARANCE – PRIORITY 1 / PRIORITY 2

ROAD	EXTENT	OTHER COMMENTS
		Refer to attached schedules identifying locations agreed with Councils

Appendix One lists the footways to be treated in priority order

APPENDIX ONE

FOOTWAYS AND PEDESTRIAN AREA

ICE AND SNOW CLEARANCE – PRIORITY 1 / PRIORITY 2

ROAD	EXTENT	OTHER COMMENTS
	PRIORITY ONE	
DOWNPATRICK		
Market Street	Irish Street to entrance to Leisure Centre	
Irish Street	From Scotch Street to entrance to Irish Street car park	
English Street	From Church Street junction for a distance of 50m	
Church Street	From Scotch Street to entrance to Church Street car park	
Scotch Street	From Church Street junction for a distance of 50m	
NEWCASTLE		
Main Street	From Railway Street to Central Promenade	
Central Promenade	From Main Street to Bryansford Road	
Railway Street	From entrance to car park at Percy French to Junction with Donard Street	
Donard Street	From Railway Street to Bryansford Avenue	
Bryansford Avenue	From junction with Main Street for a distance of 50 m	

Appendix One lists the footways to be treated in priority order

ICE AND SNOW CLEARANCE – PRIORITY 1 / PRIORITY 2

ROAD	EXTENT	OTHER COMMENTS
BALLYNAHINCH		
Main Street and High Street	From Harmony Road to Dromore Road roundabout	
	PRIORITY TWO	
BALLYNAHINCH Harmony Road, Windmill Street	From Main Street junction to High Street Junction	
CASTLEWELLAN Main Street/Dublin Road	From Clarmont Place to Bann Road roundabout	
Upper Square	Main Street	
Newcastle Road	From Main Street to petrol filling station	
	PRIORITY TWO Lower Square Castlewellan	
KILLYLEAGH Catherine Street, Cross Street	From Plantation Street to Frederick Street	
High Street	From Castle to Catherine Street	

Appendix One lists the footways to be treated in priority order

ICE AND SNOW CLEARANCE – PRIORITY 1 / PRIORITY

ROAD	EXTENT	OTHER COMMENTS
NEWRY		
Priority 1 Hill Street and John Mitchell Place, Newry	Kildare Street to William Street	Including Marcus Street and Mall to Bus Centre Pedestrian Entrance
Priority 2 Monaghan Street, Newry	Merchants Quay to Patrick Street	Including Patrick Street to SRC
Other Areas		
Mill Street, Buttercrane Quay and Bridge Street	Hill Street to Francis Street to Dublin Bridge to jct Bridge Street car park access road	

Appendix One lists the footways to be treated in priority order

ICE AND SNOW CLEARANCE – PRIORITY 1 / PRIORITY

ROAD	EXTENT	OTHER COMMENTS
KILKEEL	***Priority 2***	
Bridge Street, Kilkeel		
Greencastle Street, Kilkeel	From Bridge Street to Hotel	
Newry Street, Kilkeel	From Bridge Street to Town Hall	
Newcastle Street, Kilkeel	From Bridge Stret to Asda	
WARRENPOINT	Priority 2	
The Square/Main shopping area, Warrenpoint	The Square Church Street Duke Street Dock Street	
	Priority 2	
CROSSMAGLEN	Footpaths around O'Fiaich Square	
CAMLOUGH	Newry Road	
HILLTOWN	Newry Road/Castlewellan Road	

Appendix One lists the footways to be treated in priority order

Report to:	Sustainability and Environment Committee
Date of Meeting:	23 September 2026
Subject:	Consultation on regulatory proposals under fireworks legislation
Reporting Officer and Job Title:	Sinead Trainor, Assistant Director: Environment
Contact Officer and Job Title:	Geraldine O'Callaghan, SEHO (Health and Safety, Consumer Safety and Tobacco Control)

Purpose of Report:

For Decision

1.0	**Purpose and Background**
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval to submit the response, drafted by the Environmental Health Department, on behalf of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to the Department of Business and Trade on regulatory proposals under fireworks legislation. The consultation seeks views to propose reforms to fireworks legislation, focused on their key harms associated with their misuse – their noise, and contribution to antisocial behaviour – whilst still allowing individuals to enjoy fireworks safely and responsibly for the important community and cultural celebrations they play a part of to the Department of Business and Trade. Fireworks play an important role in many public celebrations, community events and personal milestones, and are enjoyed responsibly by millions of people each year. Many people have expressed serious concerns about the noise, safety risks and distress that fireworks can cause, and these concerns have driven an unprecedented level of public campaigning for change. Under current Regulations, the Explosives (Fireworks) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2002, most fireworks may only be purchased, possessed and used by individuals who hold a valid fireworks licence issued by the Department of Justice. Retailers must be registered and may only supply fireworks in accordance with that licensing framework. For consumers, the principal benefit would be increased protection from products that are most likely to cause injury, nuisance, anti-social behaviour, distress to vulnerable people and animals, or property damage.

2.0	**Key Issues**
2.1	The department are seeking views on proposals to: • restrict the availability of noisier fireworks to the general public, with louder products only available to professional users, • add products deemed to be carrying unacceptable risks to the list of existing banned pyrotechnic products set out in regulation 33 of the Pyrotechnic Articles (Safety) Regulations 2015 (as amended) ("the 2015 Regulations"), and • review the regulations for fireworks and pyrotechnic products currently classified as lower risk to better reflect the different levels of risk they pose The goal is to find an approach that preserves the enjoyment of fireworks for celebrations while preventing harm and distress to others.
3.0	**Recommendations**
3.1	Members are asked to approve the response, drafted by the Environmental Health Department, on behalf of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to the Department of Business and Trade on regulatory proposals under fireworks legislation, as detailed in Appendix 1.
4.0	**Resource Implications**
4.1	None
5.0	**Due Regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations**
5.1	General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations
5.2	Does the proposal relate to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision No If yes, please select one of the following: Choose an item.
5.3	Proposal initiating consultation The consultation 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 Please select the consultation period: Choose an item. Rationale:

6.0	**Due regard to Rural Needs**
6.1	Does the proposal relate to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service. No – The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs
7.0	**Appendices**
7.1	Appendix 1 - Consultation response on regulatory proposals under fireworks legislation.
8.0	**Background Documents**
8.1	None

Department for Business & Trade

Office for Product Safety & Standards

Consultation: fireworks and pyrotechnics in the UK

Response form

Introduction

Fireworks are enjoyed by many for celebrations and cultural events. However, their use has become a growing concern, as seen from public complaints, parliamentary debates, and petitions calling for stronger controls due to the negative impacts on neighbourhood safety, vulnerable people, and animals.

This consultation explores these issues, in support of the UK Government's Safer Streets Mission to tackle anti-social behaviour. The goal is to find an approach that preserves the enjoyment of fireworks for celebrations while preventing harm and distress to others.

Why are we consulting

Before making any changes to fireworks regulations, we are seeking views on our proposals to ensure we receive all relevant evidence and perspectives. This will allow us to refine the policy to reduce unintended consequences and maximise the potential benefits. We are seeking views on proposals to:

- restrict the availability of noisier fireworks to the general public, with louder products only available to professional users.
- add products deemed to be carrying unacceptable risks to the list of existing banned pyrotechnic products set out in regulation 33 of the Pyrotechnic Articles (Safety) Regulations 2015 (as amended)
- review the regulations for fireworks and pyrotechnic products currently classified as lower risk to better reflect the different levels of risk they pose

Please complete this form and return to:
fireworksconsultation@businessandtrade.gov.uk

Consultation Closes: 23:59 on 7 October 2026

Confidentiality and data protection

DBT is committed to protecting the privacy and security of your information. Details on how we collect and process your personal data in accordance with data protection legislation when you respond to one of our public consultations are provided in the Confidentiality and data protection section of the consultation document.

You can also read the Public consultations privacy notice. Wherever possible please avoid including any additional personal data in free-text responses beyond that which has been requested or which you consider it necessary for DBT to be aware of.

Your Details		
1. Your name	Amy McShane	
2. Your email address	amy.mcshane@nmandd.org	
3. Are you responding:		
As an individual? Please go to 'Consultation Questions'		
On behalf of an organisation? Please continue		✓
4. Name of organisation	Newry Mourne and Down District Council	
5. Number of employees		
1 to 9		
10 to 49		
50 to 249		
250 or more		✓
6. Type of organisation		
Business		
Trade Association		
Test House or Laboratory		
Consumer Body		
Charity, community or campaign group		
NHS or healthcare organisations		
Local Authority and Trading Standards		✓
Fire and Rescue Service, police or security		
Devolved Government or Government Body		
Other (Please specify)		

Consultation Questions	
1. Are there any other particular F2 and F3 fireworks products that you think the general public should not be allowed to buy? Please state which products and give your reasons.	
Products:	N/A
You can provide reasons in the space below.	
Newry Mourne and Down District Council advises that, in Northern Ireland, Category F2 and F3 fireworks cannot be purchased by members of the public over the counter in the same way they can in many parts of Great Britain. Anyone wishing to purchase, possess, or use these categories of fireworks must hold a valid fireworks licence issued by the Department of Justice. Category F2 and F3 fireworks may only be sold by licensed retailers.	
2. If more products are added to the regulation 33 banned list, what consequences might there be for consumers, industry, enforcement authorities, professional users, and others? Please give your reasons	
You can list consequences and provide reasons in the space below.	
In Northern Ireland, the consequences of adding further products to the Regulation 33 prohibited list should be considered alongside the existing controls under the Explosives (Fireworks) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2002. Under these Regulations, most fireworks may only be purchased, possessed and used by individuals who hold a valid fireworks licence issued by the Department of Justice. As public access to fireworks in Northern Ireland is already more restricted than Great Britain, the direct impact of additional product prohibitions on lawful consumers may be comparatively limited. For consumers, the principal benefit would be increased protection from products that are most likely to cause injury, nuisance, anti-social behaviour, distress to vulnerable people and animals, or property damage. A possible adverse consequence is that some individuals may seek to obtain prohibited items through illegal sources including unlicensed sellers, online marketplaces, using cross-border routes or informal supply networks. This is already a concern in Northern Ireland, and any expansion of the prohibited list should be accompanied by robust public awareness campaigns, and intelligence-led enforcement. As regulators within a market surveillance authority, the Council is not in a position to comment in detail on the costs, savings or administrative burdens that may arise for businesses, however for industry, including importers, distributors and Department of Justice registered retailers operating in Northern Ireland, the introduction of additional prohibited products may result in increased costs. These impacts may be felt most by seasonal retailers and smaller businesses. However, a clearer prohibited products list could also provide benefits for reputable businesses, reducing ambiguity, supporting consistent advice to licence holders, and helping to prevent unsafe or non-compliant products entering the legitimate Northern Ireland market. For enforcement authorities, the impact would be mixed. A clearer list of prohibited products could assist District Councils, Trading Standards, the Department of Justice, PSNI and other relevant agencies in identifying and taking action where prohibited products are found.	

It may also support greater consistency in advice provided to retailers, licence applicants and the public.

However, the addition of further prohibited products may enforcement requirement. This could include a greater need for inspections, test purchasing exercises, intelligence gathering and sharing, online monitoring, product seizure, safe storage and disposal of fireworks, and investigations into illegal sales.

This is particularly relevant in Northern Ireland, where unlawful possession or use of fireworks can occur outside the licensing system and may involve products obtained from unregistered or illegal sources.

3. Do you agree that regulation 33(1)(g) should be amended to make explicit that a firework comprising more than one shot tube is banned from sale to the general public? Please give your reasons.

Agree	✓
Neither agree nor disagree	
Disagree	

You can provide reasons in the space below.

Newry Mourne and Down District Council agrees that regulation 33(1)(g) should be amended to make it explicit that a firework comprising more than one shot tube is prohibited from sale to the public. Clear wording would reduce ambiguity for suppliers, retailers, licence applicants and enforcement authorities, and would assist in providing consistent advice for businesses and the members of the public on which products may lawfully be supplied.

This is particularly relevant in Northern Ireland, where most fireworks may only be purchased, possessed and used under a valid fireworks licence issued by the Department of Justice. Retailers must be registered and may only supply fireworks in accordance with that licensing framework. Making the prohibition explicit would help ensure that the existence of a fireworks licence is not misunderstood or interpreted as permitting access to multi-shot tube products, where such products are intended to be unavailable for public supply.

From an enforcement perspective, explicit wording would assist District Councils, Trading Standards, the Department of Justice, PSNI and other relevant agencies by providing greater clarity on the types of products that must not be supplied to members of the public.

It would also support more consistent checks of retailers, investigations into illegal supply, and public messaging around fireworks safety.

Multi-shot tube products can present greater risks where they are misused, used in inappropriate locations, or obtained outside the licensing system. A clear prohibition would therefore support public safety, reduce nuisance and anti-social behaviour, and help protect vulnerable individuals, animals and property.

4. Do you agree that the age limit for purchasing Christmas crackers should be removed? Please give your reasons.	
Agree	✓
Neither agree nor disagree	
Disagree	
You can provide reasons in the space below.	

Under the Windsor Framework, the EU age limit of 12 years for the purchase of Christmas crackers would continue to apply in Northern Ireland.

Newry Moure and Down District Council agrees that the age restriction on the purchase of Christmas crackers should be removed. In practice, Christmas crackers are a low-risk seasonal product and are widely used in family, hospitality, school, community and workplace settings. Removing the specific age restriction would be a proportionate measure that reflects the relatively low risk posed, and would reduce unnecessary regulatory complexity for retailers and consumers.

The Council considers that removing the age restriction should not affect existing product safety requirements. Christmas crackers placed on the Northern Ireland market should continue to comply with the relevant product safety, labelling and conformity requirements. Retailers, importers and suppliers should still ensure that products are safe, correctly labelled and suitable for normal consumer use.

5. Are there any other specific F1 and P1 pyrotechnics that should have their regulatory requirements increased or decreased? Please state which products, what regulatory requirements you think they should have and give your reasons.

Products:	Marine/Distress flares, smoke canisters

You can provide reasons in the space below.

Newry Mourne and Down District Council considers that increased regulatory requirements should apply to certain pyrotechnics, particularly marine distress flares and smoke canisters, due to the significant risks they can pose to public safety when misused.

Marine distress flares and smoke canisters are designed to generate intense heat, bright light or dense smoke. Many of these products can burn at extremely high temperatures, are difficult to extinguish using water and generate toxic fumes.

They are of particular concern as they are frequently smuggled into sports grounds, concerts and events with large gatherings, where they can create significant safety hazards to persons and crowd management.

Any such measures should be supported by effective enforcement, appropriate penalties for unlawful possession or use, and public awareness initiatives to ensure that these products are used only for their intended emergency purposes.

6. Do you agree the decibel level of fireworks consumers use should be lowered? Choose one of the following options:	
No, the maximum noise limit for fireworks should remain at 120 dB (A,imp)	
Yes, to 110 dB (A,imp) (reducing perceived loudness by approximately half)	
Yes, to 100 dB (A,imp) (reducing perceived loudness by approximately three-quarters)	
Yes, to 90 dB (A,imp) (reducing perceived loudness by approximately seven-eights)	✓
Don't know	

7. What might be the positive impacts of reducing the maximum decibel level of fireworks available to the general public? Please explain your answer, providing evidence where possible.

You can provide your answer and explanation in the space below.

Reducing the maximum decibel level of fireworks available to the public in Northern Ireland could have significant positive impacts for residents, animals and local communities. While fireworks are already subject to stricter controls in Northern Ireland through the fireworks licensing system, noise from both lawful private use and illegal or informal use can still cause considerable distress. Unexpected firework activity, particularly in residential areas can lead to fear and sleep disturbance for local residence. A reduction in the maximum permitted noise level would lessen the intensity of sudden explosive bangs, and could therefore reduce nuisance, fear and sleep disturbance for people living nearby.

A reduction to 110 or 100 dB is unlikely to have a material benefit which would outweigh the regulatory requirements to enforce this change. At 110 or 100 dB there is still a strong likelihood of human startle and disturbance where such fireworks are set off in a residential environment and particularly when the ignition is unexpected and not part of a display. Given the sensitivity of animals to such sounds 110 or 100 dB is not going to prevent adverse impacts. Therefore, we recommend that the limit is set to 90 dB so that any such change can have noticeable beneficial effect. It is also noted that professional displays will remain 'louder'.

In Northern Ireland, a reduction in the maximum decibel level of fireworks would complement the existing licensing regime by helping to ensure that those products available to the general public are less harmful to neighbours, vulnerable residents, livestock, pets and wildlife.

The measure would be most effective if introduced alongside clear guidance from the Department of Justice on licensing requirements, advice and support for retailers, public awareness campaigns promoting good practice in use, and continued enforcement action against illegal supply.

8. What might be the negative impacts of reducing the maximum decibel level of fireworks available to the general public? Please explain your answer, providing evidence where possible.

You can provide your answer and explanation in the space below.

The main impact for lawful consumers is likely to be a reduction in product choice. In Northern Ireland, consumers must already hold a valid fireworks licence to buy, possess and use most fireworks, and only the fireworks listed on the licence may be purchased. The introduction of a maximum lower noise limit could result in some products currently available through registered retailers no longer being available for sale for licensed private use. It may also require updates to licence applications and retailer guidance.

There may likewise be implications for registered fireworks retailers, importers and suppliers operating within Northern Ireland. Businesses may need lead-in time to identify affected stock, amend product ranges, source alternative compliant lower-noise products, update staff training and ensure that products supplied to licence holders comply with revised requirements. Seasonal businesses may be particularly affected if changes are introduced shortly before Halloween and New Year, when stock is often ordered well in advance. Where lower-noise products are more expensive or less readily available, additional costs may be passed on to consumers or may reduce the viability of some lawful sales.

A further consideration is the potential for displacement into illegal supply channels. If consumers perceive the lawful licensed market as limited, some may seek higher-noise fireworks through unregistered sellers, online marketplaces, or cross-border informal supply. This could undermine the intended safety benefits, as illegally supplied products may not meet relevant safety standards, may be incorrectly labelled, poorly stored and transported, and may be unsuitable for domestic use.

Professional display operators may experience increased demand if higher-noise products become restricted to professional use, which could be positive for organised displays but may also create capacity, cost and scheduling pressures around peak periods.

Community groups, sports clubs and local event organisers in Northern Ireland may face increased costs if displays move from licensed private use to professional displays. For some organisations, particularly those operating with limited budgets, the additional expense may affect the viability of holding lawful community celebrations or encourage smaller informal displays if professional provision is not affordable or available, potentially reducing compliance with the intended regulatory framework.

There may also be enforcement implications arising from the introduction of a revised maximum decibel limit. District Councils, Trading Standards, the Department of Justice, PSNI and other agencies would require clear technical guidance on how the revised decibel limit will be measured, recorded and enforced. Short-lived firework noise can be difficult to investigate after the event, and evidence from animal welfare organisations has noted that the nature of firework noise can make it difficult to locate the source. If the rule is not simple to understand and enforce, there may be inconsistent advice to businesses and the public.

Finally, the benefits for animals and vulnerable people may be reduced if the public assumes that “low noise” means “silent” or harmless. Animal welfare bodies note that there are no truly silent fireworks and that bright flashes and unpredictability can still cause distress. Therefore, any reduction in decibel limits should be accompanied by clear public messaging, retailer advice, continued promotion of organised displays and alternatives where appropriate, and strong action against illegal supply. On

balance, the negative impacts appear manageable if there is a suitable lead-in period, clear guidance and coordinated enforcement across Northern Ireland.

It should be noted that it is not practically possible to measure the noise from a firework in 'field conditions' and that all enforcement of a maximum noise level will have to be achieved through a retail offence checked by compliance statements and, if necessary, testing. Testing will be required to be undertaken in controlled conditions and will incur costs to the enforcing authority.

9. How much lead in time would businesses need to prepare for the changes proposed in this consultation and why? Please state a lead in time in months or years, and explain your answer, providing evidence where possible.

Lead in time in months or years:	12 months aligning with buying times for Halloween

You can provide your explanation in the space below.

Businesses would require sufficient time to understand and implement any revised legal requirements. This may include reviewing product lines, update procurement arrangements, training staff, amending sales procedures, and ensuring that only compliant products are supplied to licence holders.

Newry Moure and Down District Council considers that a minimum transition period of 12 months would be appropriate. Fireworks are a seasonal product and the main retail period in Northern Ireland is the period leading up to Halloween. Stock is likely to be ordered well in advance, and a shorter implementation period could leave businesses with products that can no longer be lawfully sold. A 12-month lead-in period would allow businesses to run down existing lawful stock, source alternatives such as lower-noise fireworks, update supplier contracts and avoid introducing changes immediately before the busiest sales period.

A shorter lead-in period could increase the risk of non-compliance, wasted stock, inconsistent advice and displacement into illegal supply. A reasonable transition period assist reputable businesses to adapt, while allowing District Councils, Trading Standards, PSNI sufficient time to prepare consistent public messaging and enforcement activity.

10. What other things should we consider when setting a lead in time? You may wish to reference the impact on people who buy fireworks, enforcement bodies, police or the general public.

You can provide your answer in the space below.

Newry Moure and Down District Council notes that the existing regulatory framework for fireworks in Northern Ireland is significantly more restrictive than that which applies in much of Great Britain. In Northern Ireland, the purchase, possession and use of most fireworks is subject to a licensing regime administered by the Department of Justice, whereas access to fireworks is generally less restricted elsewhere in Great Britain.

In considering any further restrictions on the sale or use of fireworks, OPSS may wish to examine incident, injury and enforcement data from Northern Ireland and compare it with equivalent data from Great Britain. Such analysis could provide a useful benchmark for assessing the effectiveness of stricter regulatory controls and determining whether additional restrictions are likely to deliver measurable safety benefits.

Please email this response form to: fireworksconsultation@businessandtrade.gov.uk

Report to:	Sustainability and Environment Committee	
Date of Meeting:	23 September 2026	
Subject:	Consultation on Restricting Promotions of Products High in Fat, Sugar and Salt (HFSS)	
Reporting Officer and Job Title:	Sinead Trainor, Assistant Director: Environment	
Contact Officer and Job Title:	Sarah Davidson, Senior Environmental Health Officer	

Purpose of Report:

For Decision

1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	The Food Standards Agency in Northern Ireland and the Department of Health have launched a public consultation seeking views on proposals to introduce restrictions on the promotion and placement of products high in fat, sugar and salt (HFSS) in Northern Ireland. The proposed restrictions would apply to certain volume price promotions, the placement of HFSS products in prominent retail locations, and free refill promotions for sugar-sweetened soft drinks. Similar measures are already in place in England and Wales, with Scotland due to introduce equivalent measures from October 2026.
2.0	Key Issues
2.1	The purpose of this consultation is to seek views on proposed measures to: • Reduce people's exposure to HFSS promotions and impulse purchase drivers. • Support healthier shopping environments and shift the balance of promotions to increase the affordability of healthier options. • Ensure Northern Ireland maintains policy coherence with the rest of the UK food market to minimise complexity for industry. The proposals are intended to support healthier food environments, reduce exposure to promotions that encourage the purchase of less healthy products, and maintain a broadly consistent approach across the UK. other amendments to reflect legislative change, provide clarity, improve consistency, and keep pace with current practices.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	Members are asked to approve the consultation response, seeking views on proposals to introduce restrictions on the promotion and placement of products high in fat, sugar and salt in Northern Ireland, as detailed in appendix one of this report.
4.0	Resource Implications
4.1	None

5.0	Due Regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations
5.1	General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations
5.2	Does the proposal relate to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision No If yes, please select one of the following: Choose an item.
5.3	Proposal initiating consultation The consultation 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 Please select the consultation period: Choose an item. Rationale:
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs
6.1	Does the proposal relate to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service. No – The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs
7.0	Appendices
7.1	Appendix 1 – Response to Consultation on Restricting Promotions of Products High in Fat, Sugar and Salt (HFSS)
8.0	Background Documents
8.1	None

Consultation on restricting promotions of products high in fat, sugar and salt

Launch date: 29 July 2026
Respond by: 21 October 2026

This document will be of most interest to:

- Large retailers, supermarkets, convenience stores and non-grocery retailers that also sell food (DIY shops, clothing stores and pharmacies).
- Online retailers selling food and drink products.
- Out-of-home food businesses.
- Trade associations representing food retail, food manufacturing and the out-of-home sector.
- Public health organisations, NGOs and consumer advocacy bodies.
- Local councils.
- The general public.

Purpose of the consultation

In Northern Ireland, the Food Standards Agency and the Department of Health are considering the introduction of legislative restrictions on the promotion and placement of food and drink high in fat, sugar and salt (HFSS). Regulations to restrict the promotion of HFSS products by location and volume price have already been implemented in England and Wales, and Scotland are introducing restrictions in October 2026.

Evidence shows that:

- Volume-based price promotions, such as multibuys, significantly increase purchasing and overconsumption of HFSS food, particularly among children[1].

[1] Public Health England (2015) Sugar Reduction: The evidence for action - Annexe 4: An analysis of the role of price promotions on the household purchases of food and drinks high in sugar https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7f9a6040f0b623026907cd/Annexe_4._Analysis_of_price_promotions.pdf

- Placement of HFSS products in prominent locations increases impulse purchasing and contributes to unhealthy dietary patterns[2].

- The consumption of HFSS food and drink is a key driver of overweight and obesity, which in turn increases the risk of diet related noncommunicable diseases including type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease and some cancers[2].

The purpose of this consultation is therefore to seek views on proposed measures to:

- Reduce people's exposure to HFSS promotions and impulse purchase drivers.

- Support healthier shopping environments and shift the balance of promotions to increase the affordability of healthier options.

- Ensure Northern Ireland maintains policy coherence with the rest of the UK food market to minimise complexity for industry.

Please note that it is advised that respondents should first read the consultation document before attempting to respond to these consultation questions.

How to respond

The consultation will be open for 12 weeks from Wednesday 29 July 2026. Responses should be received by 23:59 on Wednesday 21 October 2026.

Responses can be submitted via the online questionnaire available at https://consultations2.nidirect.gov.uk/doh-1/consultation-on-restricting-promotions-of-hfss

Alternatively, please send your response via the form below to Executive.Support@food.gov.uk

Or write to:

Food Standards Agency in Northern Ireland

10A-C Clarendon Road

Belfast BT1 3BG

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[2] Department of Health and Social Care (2020; updated 2025). Impact assessment: Restricting checkout, end of aisle and store entrance sales of HFSS products. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1008423/impact-assessment-restricting-checkout-end-of-aisle-and-store-entrance-sales-of-HFSS.pdf

Questions asked in this consultation:

1. Are you responding on behalf of an organisation?

Yes ☒

No ☐

2. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please state what type of organisation it is.

Retailer ☐

Out of home food business ☐

Trade association ☐

Public health organisation ☐

NGO ☐

Consumer advocacy body ☐

Local council ☒

Community and voluntary organisation ☐

Not applicable ☐

Other (please add your organisation below) ☐

3. Do you agree that restrictions on the promotion and placement of products high in fat, sugar and salt (HFSS) should be introduced in Northern Ireland?

Yes ☒

No ☐

Not Sure ☐

4. Do you agree that a legislative approach should be considered for Northern Ireland similar to England, Scotland and Wales?

Yes ☒

No ☐

Not Sure ☐

5. Are there any considerations specific to Northern Ireland that should be taken into account regarding the proposals in this consultation?

Northern Ireland (NI) Councils are structured differently from those in England. English authorities were able to use Trading Standards officers employed by Local Authorities, which meant that Environmental Health Officers' (EHO's) did not always have the enforcement burden, depending on the type of Authority (County Council/District Council/Unitary Authority). Here in NI, Trading Standards are a separate entity from Local Councils, employed by the Department of the Economy. Consideration should be given to the NI Trading Standards Service being designated to enforce these Regulations when made. Trading Standards have responsibilities for marketing, pricing and advertising standards, which this area of work may be more suited to. It is the opinion of NMDDC that NI Councils would not be able to effectively enforce these regulations without significant financial support and appropriate guidance. NI Council Environmental Health Officers have enforcement powers in relation to food safety and food standards matters, of which this is neither. In addition, NI Council EHO's are already facing resource and workforce constraints. Officers must abide by an enforcement code that is based on proportionality of risk which prioritises resources on regulations addressing the highest health and safety risks, such as, food safety and allergens. In the absence of additional allocated Government funding for enforcement of the new Regulations, it is inevitable that regulations addressing high risk would take precedence over HFSS regulations because they involve immediate and clear threats to public health. This could mean that enforcement of HFSS regulations by NI EHO's would be primarily advisory based. Environmental Health Departments in NI have recently been subject to a number of changes in relation to Food Hygiene and Standards procedures, which have taken up much resource and are still being embedded e.g. the Food Standards Delivery Model and changes to the Food Law Code of Practice. Adding an additional enforcement remit to these Environmental Health teams without additional resources, will place further stress and pressures to existing high workloads.

Northern Ireland is unique in its retail landscape. Most small retail businesses here operate under a franchise arrangement or trade under a symbol group banner. Therefore, most small local retailers e.g. Spar, Costcutter, Nisa etc. will fall within the scope of the volume restrictions, despite them not meeting the staff and area exemptions individually. NMDDC believes that smaller retailers and franchise stores are likely to be less familiar with the regulations and may face greater challenges in achieving compliance. Unlike larger retail chains, they may have limited resources available to support implementation. FSA research indicated that for NMDDC 51.6 % of grocery premises will be in scope for volume restrictions, to say nothing of placement and free refill restrictions. This has the potential to create a large body of work for NI Council EHO's to educate and enforce in these premises, most of which are situated in rural locations. For these reasons, NMDDC would welcome further refinement of this aspect of businesses in scope.

6. Do you agree with the proposed product categories that would be subject to HFSS promotion restrictions in Northern Ireland?

Yes ☒

No ☐

Not Sure ☐

7. Do you agree that non-prepacked products should remain out of scope (consistent with England, Wales and Scotland), except for soft drink refills?

Yes ☒

No ☐

Not Sure ☐

8. Which approach should be used to determine which products are in scope of restrictions? Option 1) Use the existing 2004/05 Nutrient Profiling Model; Option 2) Use the updated 2018 Nutrient Profiling Model; or Option 3) Use the 2004/05 Nutrient Profiling Model and review at a later date.

Option 1 ☐

Option 2 ☒

Option 3 ☐

9. Do you have evidence on the challenges or operational issues businesses may face if the 2018 Nutrient Profiling Model is applied in Northern Ireland, including impacts on product classification?

As stated above in Q5, most small local retailers here in NI e.g. Spar, Costcutter, Nisa etc. will fall within the scope of the volume restrictions, despite them not meeting the staff and area exemptions individually. It is the belief of NMDDC that smaller retailers and franchisee stores will be less familiar with the regulations and more likely to encounter challenges in complying. Unlike larger retail chains, they have limited resources available to support implementation.

Learning from the implementation of equivalent regs in England, ("It was a force for good but…": a mixed-methods evaluation of the implementation of the high in fat, sugar and salt (HFSS) legislation. (Elsevier Journal on Food Policy)) has shown that retailers described difficulties in accurately classifying products as HFSS or non-HFSS due to the complexity of the Nutrient Profiling Model. Reliance was made on suppliers to provide the necessary information. Retailers also reported that significant effort was required to train staff across all areas of the business. This report stated that there is a critical need for an open, regularly updated food composition database to support consistent implementation, compliance, enforcement and timely evaluation of the legislation.

The BMC research article "If government is saying the regulations are important, they should be putting in funding to back it up."- An in-depth analysis of local authority officers' perspectives of the Food (Promotion and Placement) (England) Regulations 2021' found that English Local Authorities said the new regulations are more complex because they require officers to understand how to calculate NPM scores to determine compliance. Officers found the determining compliance a time-consuming and arduous task because each individual store needed assessment at three levels: in-scope business (depending on store size and number of employees), in-scope locations within stores, and in-scope products at those locations. It will therefore be a challenge to effectively and consistently advise and educate businesses, particularly smaller businesses on such complex issues.

NMDDC believes that in light of the findings of the English evaluations above, the Nutrient Profile Model will pose difficulties due to its complexity, will be time consuming for officers to correctly classify in-scope and out-of-scope products, and will require a dedicated resource to deliver.

10. Do you agree with the proposal to restrict multibuy and volume promotions (e.g., "3 for 2", "BOGOF", extra-free offers) for HFSS products in Northern Ireland?

Yes ☒

No ☐

Not Sure ☐

11. Do you agree with restricting the placement of HFSS products in the following in-store locations: a) store entrances; b) covered external areas; c) checkouts and queuing areas; and d) aisle ends?

Yes ☒

No ☐

Not Sure ☐

12. Do you agree that equivalent restrictions (both volume price and location) should apply to online retail environments (e.g., homepages, pop-ups, checkout pages)?

Yes ☒

No ☐

Not Sure ☐

13. Do you agree with prohibiting free refills of sugar sweetened soft drinks in Northern Ireland?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Not Sure ☒

14. Do you agree that the volume price and location restrictions should apply only to retailers with 50 or more employees?

Yes ☒

No ☐

Not Sure ☐

15. Do you agree that location restrictions should apply only to stores with a relevant floor area of 2,000 square feet or more?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Not Sure ☒

16. Should specialist retailers that sell one type of food product e.g. chocolatiers or confectioners, be exempt from location restrictions?

Yes ☒

No ☐

Not Sure ☐

17. Do you agree with the proposed exemptions (e.g., micro and small businesses, care homes, educational settings)?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Not Sure ☒

18. Do you have evidence on how the proposals may impact small and micro-businesses that may be in scope due to an association with a franchise or symbol group?

As stated above in Q5 and Q9, most small local retailers here in NI e.g. Spar, Costcutter, Nisa etc. will fall within the scope of the volume restrictions, despite them not meeting the staff and area exemptions individually. It is the belief of NMDDC that smaller retailers and franchisee stores will be less familiar with the regulations and more likely to encounter challenges in complying. Unlike larger retail chains they have limited resources to support implementation.

As regulators within an enforcing authority, NMDDC is not in a position to comment in detail on the costs, savings or administrative burdens that may arise for businesses. However, there may be perceived financial impacts on small businesses that are independently owned but under a symbol franchise. These perceived impacts may come from costs in training staff,

potential lost revenue from product offers, and possibly financial impacts from enforcement sanctions due to challenges in achieving compliance.

19. Do you agree that local councils should be the enforcing authorities for HFSS promotion restrictions in Northern Ireland?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Not Sure ☒

20. Which enforcement approach do you consider most appropriate for Northern Ireland, and why? Option 1) Enforcement through improvement notices and criminal prosecution only; or Option 2) Explore the introduction of monetary sanctions as an alternative to criminal prosecution (while progressing the policy initially with the approach outlined in Option 1).

Option 1 ☒

Option 2 ☐

Why did you choose option1 or 2

NMDDC regard that neither option is ideal. Option 1 will require amendments to existing food law as improvement notices can only be served for food hygiene or food standards matters, of which this is neither. In addition, only authorised and competent food officers can issue improvement notices. This will put pressure on Food Safety teams within Environmental Health Departments as no other officers or technical support staff would have the necessary competencies in place. The effective enforcement of the Regulations would necessitate the provision of additional funding and resources. In the event of non-compliance, Option 1 may necessitate criminal proceedings at cost and resource for Councils and a criminal conviction for businesses, but allows for an incremental approach to enforcement with advisory actions available in the first instance.

Option 2 may be initially perceived to be less onerous and be a source of revenue generation. However, NMDDC foresees difficulties in issuing on-the-spot monetary sanctions due to the complexity of the legislation, including the assessment of in-scope products and floor space calculations, which could create uncertainty for officers, increase the risk of inconsistent enforcement and may put Officers in a difficult enforcement position. This option would also require the introduction of new legislation.

21. If local councils were to enforce the policy, what resources do you think would be required to support enforcement?

As described in earlier questions, NI Councils are facing resource and workforce constraints and in line with their enforcement policy / Food Law Code of Practice already have to prioritise those regulations addressing the highest risk to health. Enhancing enforcement activity will require additional funding to provide the necessary staff capacity for busy Environmental Health Departments to deal with this. If option 1 for enforcement is selected, improvement notices under existing food law regulations are required to be served by authorised officers. Qualification requirements mean that this must be an EHO rather than a technical or support officer – an alternative which could have reduced the burden for EHO's. Provision of central training would also be required to increase officer confidence in interpreting the regulations and guidance and assessing business non-compliance. Setting up a central Nutrient Profile Model score calculator that is accessible to both businesses and officers, aiming to promote consistency, prevent confusion, and offer technical guidance on products falling within the relevant categories would be required. NMDDC feels that the Nutrient Profile Model is complex and would take significant officer time and training to interpret and advise businesses proficiently.

Consideration could be given to adopting a model similar to that of Tobacco Control enforcement within Northern Ireland where dedicated, ringfenced, funded officers are responsible for enforcing requirements relating to the display and placement of tobacco products within retail premises. This approach enables officers develop expert knowledge on legislation, enabling a consistent approach and reduces the burden within Environmental Health Departments.

22. Do you have evidence on any challenges that may affect the ability to enforce the policy in a proportionate and consistent way in Northern Ireland?

As outlined in Q5, NMDDC believes that NI Council EHO's are already facing resource and workforce constraints. Officers must abide by an enforcement policy / or Food Law Code of Practice that is based on proportionality of risk and prioritises resources on regulations addressing the highest risk to health, such as, food safety and allergens. In the absence of additional allocated Government funding for enforcement of the new Regulations, it is inevitable that regulations addressing a risk to health would take precedence over HFSS regulations. This could mean that enforcement of HFSS regulations by NI EHO's would be primarily advisory based.

NMDDC believes that NI Councils will require appropriate funding and comprehensive training if these regulations are to be introduced and enforced in Environmental Health Departments. For consistent enforcement, a central Nutrient Profile Model score calculator that is accessible to both businesses and officers, aiming to promote consistency, prevent confusion, and offer technical guidance on products falling within the relevant categories would be required as outlined above in Q21. NMDDC also believes that training referred to must enable officer confidence when interpreting regulations, guidance and assessing business non-compliance.

NMDDC welcome centralised dedicated Government support e.g. from the Food Standards Agency to assist with consistency of approach. However, NMDDC are concerned that such oversight may incur additional burdens to local authorities in terms of audits or returns to be submitted, when they are already subject to scrutiny on official food controls and any addition to this would be unwelcome.

NMDDC feels that the proposed rules are complex and do not align with existing regulatory frameworks, such as those governing Sunday trading. In NI, Sunday trading legislation applies to stores with a floor area exceeding 3,014 square feet, whereas the proposed Regulations would introduce a lower threshold of 2,000 square feet. This difference will require officers to adopt new rules that are not consistent with existing enforcement practices and officers would need to identify ways to obtain and interpret data on store dimensions, layouts, and employee counts. The BMC research article analysing local authority officers' perspectives of the Food (Promotion and Placement) (England) Regulations 2021 shows that English Authorities have experienced similar issues.

23. Do you agree that a lead in period of 12 months is appropriate to allow preparation for implementation of the policy?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Not Sure ☒

24. Are there specific operational barriers that should be considered when determining implementation timelines?

NMDDC feels that, if enforcement falls to NI Councils, a 12-month implementation timeline may be insufficient. This is because, depending on the enforcement model adopted, amendments to legislation will be required. If funding is provided for extra resource, time for staff recruitment will be needed. Time will also be required for the development and publication of good quality technical guidance for both businesses and enforcement officers. This will be especially important in relation to the Nutrient Profile model which is complex. As described in Q9 and Q22, a centralised NPM score calculator, or database would be desirable and as such would take time to develop. Significant time spend will be required for officer training to ensure consistency of approach and understanding of the rules, so that appropriate advice can be delivered to affected businesses. As outlined in Q5, NI has many small retailers which will fall under the rules due to being part of a franchise arrangement or trade under a symbol group banner. Therefore, more time will be needed ahead of implementation to support these smaller businesses.

25. Do you have evidence on the potential health impacts of the proposed restrictions in Northern Ireland?

NMDDC are aware of the health impacts of overweight and obesity. Council is cognisant of the NI Department of Health Obesity strategic framework (Healthy Futures) and the Department of Health- Health Survey Northern Ireland: First results 2024/25.

NMDDC is also aware of the findings of the Elsevier Journal on Food Policy 2026 evaluation of the implementation of the high in fat, sugar and salt (HFSS) legislation in England. This evaluation found that the HFSS legislation marks a substantial shift in the UK government's approach to addressing obesity by enforcing changes to the retail food environment. However, it highlighted challenges in implementation and enforcement, namely the need for clearer, timely guidance, adequate support and access to data, and more co-production to ensure the legislation is effective and contextually appropriate. One of its recommendations was to ensure healthier food is more accessible and affordable. Future legislation should go further, by not only restricting placement and promotion of less healthy foods but by increasing the affordability and accessibility of healthier foods through incentivisation and promotion in prominent locations. This is particularly important to support healthier purchases among lower-income households.

26. Do you have evidence on how the proposed restrictions may impact businesses, including compliance costs, operational and supply chain impacts, product reformulation, and competitiveness between larger and smaller retailers?

As outlined in Q5 and Q18, NMDDC believes that many small retailers in NI will be affected by this Legislation, despite them not meeting the staffing or floor space scope. As regulators within an enforcing authority, NMDDC is not in a position to comment in detail on the costs, savings or administrative burdens that may arise for businesses. However, there may be perceived financial impacts on small businesses that are independently owned but under a symbol franchise. These perceived impacts may come from costs in training staff, potential lost revenue from product offers, and possibly financial impacts from enforcement sanctions due to challenges in achieving compliance.

NMDDC is aware of the findings of research published by the Elsevier Journal on Food Policy, ("It was a force for good but…": a mixed-methods evaluation of the implementation of the high in fat, sugar and salt (HFSS) legislation.) This research highlighted businesses impacts, including excessive staff training costs, costs due to changes to business layouts in order to comply e.g. whole store refits and moving products to different locations" (i.e., off aisle ends). This research also detailed how retailers aimed to use novel approaches to promote in-scope HFSS products without violating the legislation, including using "digital advertising" amongst other things. This was perceived to not be in the spirit of the Legislation and created some competitive practices between retailers. Product reformulations were also highlighted as part of this research which generated significant costs to manufacturers in order to bring their products out of scope.

27. Do you have evidence on the potential impacts of the proposed restrictions on consumers, including impacts on household food budgets, consumer perceptions of fairness and choice, the extent to which promotions influence purchasing behaviour, and whether the restrictions may support healthier default choices for families?

NMDDC have no specific evidence in relation to this area. However, we believe there will be a perceived impact on customer food budgets in that less discount offers may be available in retail outlets. The fact that the legislation covers such a wide range of foods may exasperate this and NMDDC would have concerns that the cost of the consumer 'shopping basket' may increase.

NMDDC is of the opinion that increasing the affordability and accessibility of healthier foods through incentivisation and promotion of these in prominent locations would be more desirable. This is particularly important to support healthier purchases among lower-income households.

28. What impacts, if any, do you think the proposed policy would have on people on the basis of their: age, sex, race, religion, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, disability, gender reassignment and marriage/civil partnership?

No comment

29. Are there population groups or communities who may be disproportionately affected, positively or negatively, by the proposals. Please list below

No Comment

30. Do you have any additional comments or evidence not covered elsewhere in this consultation?

NMDDC responses on specific questions where there is no space for comments are outlined below.

Q3- Restriction of free refills of sugar-sweetened soft drinks. NMDDC believes that this is not common practice in NI, therefore this aspect may have minimal impact.

Q12- NMDDC query how enforcement bodies would effectively monitor police this as this may pose difficulties. Much officer time and resource would be required to monitor online retail environments. What is the expectation for NI Councils in this respect?

Q14- NMDDC refer to answers in questions 5, 9 and 18 in as far as this exemption will not be applicable to many small businesses in Northern Ireland that operate under a franchise or symbol group banner. NMDDC considers this to be detrimental to these businesses and will significantly increase resources required for NI Councils to enforce the Legislation.

Q15- NMDDC would comment as Q14 above.

Q17- NMDDC considers that thought should be given to the inclusion of educational facilities. Some secondary level schools may have till end sales of in scope products and have a large customer base of children.

Q19- NMDDC refers to the answer given in question 5. Whilst NI Councils support the principle behind this legislation and appreciate the need for action, NMDDC would not be able to effectively enforce these regulations without significant financial support and appropriate guidance.

Consideration should be given to other enforcement bodies where these Regulations may be a better fit to their current remits.

NMDDC also have the following questions/comments which we do not feel have been explained in the document:

- ***50 or more employees- Is this people or FTE positions? Ie will part-time or casual staff count?***
- ***Other retailers that sell food or drink are included in scope e.g. DIY Stores, pharmacies, clothing stores and garden centres. NI Council EHO's are generally not routinely present in these types of establishments to perform official food controls. This is because they are very low risk in terms of food safety and the NI Food Law Code of Practice allows alternative enforcement strategies for these types of businesses. Having to visit to enforce these Regulations in these types of businesses will therefore pose an additional burden on Environmental Health Departments.***
- ***Section 4 of the consultation document lists impacts for health, business and the consumer. Impacts on the proposed enforcement authorities are not considered.***

Thank you

We thank all respondents for their engagement with this consultation and for providing their views and evidence.

ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE
Meeting No 107
MINUTES
Thursday 25 June 2026
Hybrid meeting hosted by Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council in Mossley Mill

Members Present:

Councillor A Bennington *(Chair)*	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
Councillor J Cochrane	Ards & North Down Borough Council
Alderman O Gawith	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Councillor A Givan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Councillor U Mackin	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Alderman M Morrow	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
Councillor C King	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

Members' Apologies:

Councillor H Cushinan	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
Councillor M Goodman	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
Councillor C Blaney	Ards & North Down Borough Council
Councillor E Thompson	Ards & North Down Borough Council
Alderman S Copeland	Belfast City Council
Councillor M Collins	Belfast City Council
Councillor E McDonough-Brown	Belfast City Council
Councillor G McKeen *(Deputy Chair)*	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
Councillor T Andrews	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council
Councillor D Lee-Surginor	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

Officers Present:

M Kelly	arc21
T Walker	arc21
H Campbell *(Secretary)*	arc21
K Boal	arc21
J Green	arc21
M Laverty	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
G Bannister	Ards & North Down Borough Council
K Patterson	Ards & North Down Borough Council
B Murray	Belfast City Council
A McCann	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
G Patterson	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
W Muldrew	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
R Moore	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
C Hunter	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
S Murphy	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

Officers' Apologies:

S Leonard	Belfast City Council

The Chair welcomed the new Members Cllr Mackin and Cllr King to their first meeting and also the newly appointed arc21 Chief Executive, Mark Kelly.

Item 1 - Conflicts of Interest Statement

The Chair read out the Conflicts of Interest Statement, and none were noted.

Action: Noted

Item 2 - Apologies

Apologies were noted.

Action: Noted

Item 3 - Minutes of Joint Committee Meeting 106 held on 28 May 2026

The Joint Committee approved the minutes. Proposed by Cllr Givan, seconded by Ald Morrow, and agreed by all.

Action: Agreed

Item 4 - Matters Arising

Structured mentoring programme for new CEX - the Chair reported that she had approved a structured mentoring programme through the LGSC for the new CEX for the next 6 months, which included a one in person meeting followed by 6 monthly online meetings. She noted that this was within the arc21 £3k financial threshold.

There were no other matters arising.

Action: Noted

IN COMMITTEE

The Chair recommended that the meeting would now move "*In Committee*" which was agreed. Proposed by Ald Gawith and seconded by the Cllr Givan.

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

Following discussion on the commercially sensitive matters, the Chair recommended that the meeting would now return to the main agenda, which was approved, but whilst "*In Committee*", there were six matters discussed.

Item 5 - Minutes of Joint Committee Meeting 106 held on 28 May 2026 'in committee' - approved

Item 6 - Matters Arising - noted

Item 7 - Residual Waste Treatment Project - noted

Item 8 - Commercially Sensitive Contract & Procurement Issues - approved

Item 9 - Financial Report for the year to March 2026 - noted

Item 10 - Audit Committee Meeting 2 June 2026 Report - noted

OUT OF COMMITTEE

Proposed by Ald Gawith and seconded by Cllr Givan.

Item 11 - Contracts & Operations Briefing Report

Ms Boal presented a report to provide the Joint Committee with an update in relation to contracts and operations.

Service Status

She stated that all services had operated well throughout May.

Performance

She provided an update on contractor performance across all the contracts in May and highlighted where some service credits had been applied for turnaround times, the number of overweight vehicles, reporting issues by contractors, and the bring contracts rectification requests issued and serviced.

She reported that in the month of June all contractor sites had been visited and there were some actions arising from a number of those visits.

She noted that overweight vehicles had increased compared to previous months and advised that officers continue to be asked to liaise with their operational teams and sub-contractors to seek to reduce the occurrence of these going forward.

She also noted that the turnaround times for the residual contracts continue to be monitored and in the majority of contracts no service credits were applied and no service credits were applied to the Bring Bank contracts.

Health & Safety

She reported that there were no health and safety (H&S) incidents during May which was a positive result.

Audits

She reported that the external H&S audit programme continued with one conducted at an NWP site and no issues had been identified during this audit.

Health and Safety Workshop

She reported that arc21 was arranging a workshop for council officers in September to try and focus on some of the issues identified on sites.

Rejected Loads

She reported that in May there had been no rejected loads into Bryson Recycling, however there had been three into NWP Glenside due to mixed waste in vehicles.

arc21 Contract Tonnages

Details of the tonnages delivered in May for the main contracts were provided, along with a comparison against the same period last year and these were discussed more fully in the Waste Tonnage Trends report.

Supplies

A summary of the orders and deliveries of supplies for May 2026 was included in Ms Boal's report and she noted that there had been no non-conformances. She reported that due to ongoing issues in the middle east and increased demand council officers were being reminded to place their orders well in advance.

Following discussion, the Joint Committee noted the report. Proposed by Cllr Givan and seconded by Ald Gawith.

Action: Noted

Item 12 - Waste Tonnage Trends

Ms Boal presented a report showing the tonnage comparisons for material received through the arc21 contracts and an analysis of current performance against future landfill and recycling targets using information from WasteDataFlow (2025/26 unvalidated). She noted that the data presented graphically highlighted the increases and decreases in the tonnage trends over these time periods.

In comparing with the same period last year, she highlighted the following:

- Residual - Lot 1 kerbside collected residual waste, there was a 5% decrease in residual waste in May 2026 in comparison to May 2025; for Lot 2 a 4.3% increase; and for Lot 3 a 4.3% increase in residual waste, however Newry and Mourne region commenced waste under this lot in April 2026.

- Organics - decreases in Type 1 and Type 2 tonnages which had resulted in not being able to achieved any gate fee rebate. She advised that the Waste Compositional Study was due for release in September and it is expected that the results will show that food waste has increased by around 25% in residual bins.

- MRF - decreases in both contracts, which may be due to collection days in month, however she noted that proportion of Lot 1 contract waste had moved from co-mingled to kerbsort.

The other smaller contracts were also presented and she noted that the textiles tonnages were similar to last year, but that we are not seeing the same increases. She advised that she was due to meet the contractor and would report back to the next meeting.

The second part of the report highlighted that the current residual waste treatment contracts had enabled all councils to send less than 10% to landfill (2035 target) and showed the deficit for each council to achieve recycling rates of 60% and 65%. She noted that further interim residual waste procurements would be needed prior to 2035.

Following discussion, the Joint Committee noted the report. Proposed by the Chair and seconded by Ald Gawith.

Action: Noted

Item 13 - Consultation - Waste Prevention Programme 2026 - From Waste to Worth- Overview

Ms Boal presented the proposed arc21 response to the consultation – Waste Prevention Programme 2026 – From Waste to Worth.

She reported that she had presented a high level overview at the previous Committee meeting along with the actions from the previous Programme and that, following discussion at two Steering Group meetings, the response presented now reflected the outcome from those discussions along with any further feedback received.

She noted that whilst arc21 supports a number of the proposed initiatives a significant number of the proposals lack detail and are not presented with quantifiable and measurable outcomes and the response therefore highlights that there may be benefits from amending accordingly.

Mr Walker advised that the comments in our response were also reflected at the recent OEP first year review of the Environmental Plan which also highlighted the lack of tangible metrics in the EIP and lack of crossover across the other strategies not reflected in EIP.

Ms Boal advised that, subject to any further comments, she intended to submit it in advance of the deadline of 10 July.

Following discussion, the Joint Committee approved the response for submission. Proposed by Ald Gawith and seconded by Cllr Givan.

Action: Agreed

Item 14 - Governance Matters

Mr Kelly presented a report covering a number of different matters for consideration and approval.

These included a:

- new arc21 Generative AI Policy – presented for adoption;
- general policy update – a proposal to update the arc21 current policies to make amendments in relation to names/positions as appropriate to reflect staff changes, noting that a more formal review will be carried out within the period of the current Corporate Plan and presented to Members for consideration; and
- Bank Mandate – approval of a new bank mandate reflecting the appointment of the new CEX, with the new authorised signatories being: Mark Kelly (Chief Executive); Karen Boal (Acting Policy & Operations Director); and Brian McKeown (Principal Financial Accountant).

The following recommendations were presented for approval:

- **the new Generative AI Policy;**
- **updating of current policies to reflect staff changes; and**
- **the new bank mandate.**

Following discussion the Joint Committee approved the recommendations. . Proposed by Cllr Givan and seconded by Ald Gawith.

Action: Agreed

Item 15 - arc21 Annual Report for the Year to March 2026

Mr Walker presented the Annual Report for the year to March 2026. He noted that this reflected the progress made in the second year of our Corporate Plan 2024-2028. He noted that once approved it would be uploaded onto the arc21 website.

Following discussion the Joint Committee approved the Annual Report 2025-2026. Proposed by the Chair and seconded by Cllr Givan.

Action: Agreed

Item 16 - AOB

Customer Survey for the year 2025-2026

Ms Boal advised that she was preparing the annual customer survey for circulating to members and officers and, due to poor response in the past, encouraged all to respond as feedback was welcomed.

The Chair suggested that Ms Boal circulate a wider survey to all the Councillors from the 6 participant Councils and Ms Boal advised that she was happy to do so and would tailor accordingly.

Action: Ms Boal

Item 17 - Next Meeting Thursday 27 August 2026 at 10.30am, using MS Teams

The Chair advised that the next meeting was scheduled to be held on 27 August using the MS Teams platform and encouraged all to attend.

Action: Noted

Date: 28 August 2026 **Chair:** A Bennington

Report to:	Sustainability & Environment Committee
Date of Meeting:	September 2026
Subject:	Positive Ageing
Reporting Officer and Job Title:	Sinead Trainor, Assistant Director, Environment
Contact Officer and Job Title:	James Campbell, Head of Environmental Health (Residential)

Purpose of Report:

For Noting

1.0	**Purpose and Background**
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update members on the Positive Ageing Events that are taking place across Council.
1.2	The International Day of Older People (IDOP) takes place each year on 1 October. The day recognises both the opportunities and challenges of ageing populations, while promoting the development of a society that works for people of all ages. To mark IDOP, Newry Mourne and Down District Council Age Friendly Coordinator has organised Positive Ageing events running from October to December supporting the Centre for Ageing Better theme, "What's on Your Doorstep?". These events include partnership work with Council DEA's and other statutory and voluntary organisations.
2.0	**Key Issues**
2.1	There are several Positive Ageing events being planned across all DEA's Council areas to celebrate Positive Ageing for all our local older people in the district.: **Newry DEA** Positive Ageing Day taking place on 1 October 2026 in The Quays Shopping Centre, Newry. **Downpatrick, Rowallane, Slieve Croob** 'Good Morning' Project being held on 17 November 2026. **Downpatrick, Rowallane, Slieve Croob** Intergenerational Music Festive Event on 10 December 2026. **Crotlieve October** Intergenerational Tea Dance and Community event on 27 October 2026. **Slieve Gullion DEA October/November** Intergenerational Physical Activity and Crafting Programme with Local Primary Schools. Date to be confirmed. **Slieve Gullion, Mournes, Crotlieve October** Men's/Hens Shed and Youth Engagement Programme. Dates to be confirmed. These events foster social connections between our local schools, our local Health, Voluntary and Council Services. It helps to counteract loneliness and isolation within

	the community and empowers our older people with knowledge of what is available to them.
3.0	**Recommendations**
3.1	Members are asked to note the Positive Ageing events which will be held across the District.
4.0	**Resource Implications**
4.1	The PHA funding for Age Friendly will assist with partially funding the Positive Ageing events.
5.0	**Due Regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations**
5.1	General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations
5.2	Does the proposal relate to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision No If yes, please select one of the following: Choose an item.
5.3	Proposal initiating consultation The consultation 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 Please select the consultation period: Choose an item. Rationale:
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs
6.1	Does the proposal relate to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service. Choose an item.
7.0	**Appendices**
7.1	None
8.0	**Background Documents**
8.1	None