

April 24th, 2026

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the meeting to be held on **Wednesday, 29th April 2026 at 6:00 pm** in **Boardroom, Warrenpoint Town Hall.**

Committee Membership 2025-26

Councillor O Magennis **Chairperson**

Councillor M Hearty **Deputy Chairperson**

Councillor T Andrews

Councillor W Clarke

Councillor C Enright

Councillor K Feehan

Councillor D Finn

Councillor J Jackson

Councillor M Larkin

Councillor K Murphy

Councillor S O'Hare

Councillor H Reilly

Councillor M Ruane

Councillor D Taylor

Councillor H Young

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

2.0 Declarations of Interest


3.0 Action Sheet of Sustainability & Environment Committee Meeting Held 18 March 2026

 *Action Sheet - 18.03.2026 inc. historic actions updated.pdf*

Page 1


For Discussion/Decision

4.0 Officer Report on Notice of Motion – Lislea Men's Shed proposed Wildfowl & Wildlife Preserve at Camlough Lake

 *SE Committee Report - Notice of Motion - Lislea Men's Shed proposed Wildfowl & Wildlife Preserve.pdf*

Page 13

5.0 Consultation on new General Safety Requirement (GSR) for construction products

 *SE Committee Report Update on consultation response for General Safety Requirement (GSR) for construction products .pdf*

Page 15

 *Consultation Responses on the General Safety Requirements for Construction Products March 26.pdf*

Page 18

6.0 Consultation on Construction Products Reform White Paper

 *SE Committee Report Update on Construction Regulator prospectus consultation document (002).pdf*

Page 29

 *Consultation Responses on Construction Products Reform White Paper 24.4.26.pdf*

Page 32

7.0 Consultation on Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy

report to follow

8.0 Membership of Association of Port Health Authorities and Ship Sanitation Inspection Fees

report to follow

Items deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local


9.0 Waste Management Contracts

report to follow

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.

For Noting

10.0 Provisional Northern Ireland local authority collected municipal waste management statistics for October to December 2025 (DAERA)

 [lac-municipal-waste-q3-2025-26-infographic.pdf](#)

Page 39

Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews
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Cllr Callum Bowsie
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Cllr Jim Brennan
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Lorraine/Emma Burns/McParland
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Cllr Pete Byrne
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Cllr Philip Campbell
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Cllr William Clarke
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Cllr Laura Devlin
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Cllr Cadogan Enright
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Cllr Killian Feehan
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Cllr Doire Finn
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Cllr Conor Galbraith
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Cllr Mark Gibbons
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Cllr Oonagh Hanlon
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Cllr Glyn Hanna
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Cllr Valerie Harte
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Cllr Martin Hearty
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Cllr Roisin Howell
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Cllr Jonathan Jackson
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Joanne Johnston
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Cllr Geraldine Kearns
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Miss Veronica Keegan
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Mrs Sheila Kieran
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Cllr Aurla King
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Cllr Cathal King
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Ms Elaine Kirk
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Cllr Mickey Larkin
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Cllr Niall Lawlor
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Cllr David Lee-Surginor
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Cllr Alan Lewis
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Cllr Oonagh Magennis
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Mr Conor Mallon
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Cllr Aidan Mathers
.....
Cllr Declan McAteer
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Mr Martin McKibbin
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Cllr Kate Murphy
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Cllr Selina Murphy
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Sinead Murphy
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Cllr Declan Murphy
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Cllr Siobhan O'Hare
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Mr Andy Patterson
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Cllr Áine Quinn
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Cllr Henry Reilly
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Cllr Michael Rice
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Ms Maria Rogan
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Cllr Michael Ruane
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Mr Conor Sage
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Conor Smyth
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Sarah Taggart
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Cllr David Taylor
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Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly
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Ms Sinead Trainor
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Cllr Jill Truesdale
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Mrs Marie Ward
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Cllr Helena Young
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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	<p>Note and approve the additional activities in 2.2 to highlight and promote the importance of recycling food waste.</p> <p>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.</p>	S Trainor	<p>In progress</p> <p>In progress</p>	<p>N</p> <p>N</p>
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. Report to be brought back to S&E Committee.	N

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					
22 NOVEMBER 2023					
SE/125/2023	Report on Notice of Motion in relation to Livestock worrying	It was agreed that a meeting be organised with relevant partners to discuss a way forward to produce a publicity campaign highlighting the importance of ensuring dogs are kept under control in the Mourne Mountains.	S Trainor	In Progress - Refer to Education and Enforcement Plan 2026 – 2029 (to be presented at S&E Working Group on 20/05/2026)	N
SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING					
24 JANUARY 2024					
SE/004/2024	Report on Notice of Motion – Flood Defences	The following was agreed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	N
SE/005/2024	Report on Notice of Motion – Flood Preparedness	The following was agreed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Look into sharing information the website from the Regional Community Resilience Group 	S Murphy	In progress – The SHEP team are working with the Marketing Department on this matter.	N

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 21 FEBRUARY 2024					
018/2024	Report on Notice of Motion – Climate Change	<p>It was agreed that this Council acknowledges the work done to date to help address the climate emergency; reaffirms previous motions regarding the degenerating global situation; and again, reiterates that the crisis is the biggest threat posed to our constituents, our district, and our planet.</p> <p>Further acknowledges, however, that recent data collated by Climate Emergency UK ranks NMDDC 8th out of the 11 Councils within NI; and thus, pledges to include ambitious targets in the forthcoming Sustainability and Climate Strategies and Action Plans to expedite implementation.</p> <p>It was also agreed that a benchmark report would be brought back to Committee regarding Council actions and progress to mitigating climate change impact.</p>	C Sage	<p>Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy was presented at S&E Working Group – September 25. Draft Strategy Public Consultation, closed in March 26. Update to be presented at S&E WG in May.</p> <p>Climate mitigation report completed and submitted on 31st October 25 in accordance with Climate Change Act (NI) 2022. This includes carbon copying baseline reporting.</p> <p>Climate Adaptation report submitted on 31/03/2026. 1 Month extension in place to upload evidence.</p>	<p>N</p> <p>N</p>

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 site Aughnagun for further consideration.	S Murphy	In Progress	N
		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	In Progress	
SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING					
23 APRIL 2024					
SE/046/2024	Notice of Motion – Newry Market	Officers continue their commitment to revitalise the market through engagement with traders, the business community and other potential stakeholders.	C Sage	A focused social media campaign has been completed.	N
		It was also agreed that Officers reach out to other local councils with successful markets and explore additional uses to encourage footfall, including with arts and community groups	C Sage	Council Officers met with Belfast City Council colleagues to review St George’s market.	
		It was further agreed that a report be brought back to committee in 6 months to provide detail of any progress made.	C Sage	An update on Newry Market was provided at S&E Working Group in February 2026. Next Steps to be considered	
SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING					
21 AUGUST 2024					

SE/091/2024	Notice of Motion – Dog Fouling	it was agreed that a mapping exercise to be undertaken by Officers of identified hotspots or problem areas against litter bin provision data to determine if additional litter bins can be provided to assist with the disposal of dog fouling.	S Trainor	In Progress - Refer to Education and Enforcement Plan 2026 – 2029 (to be presented at S&E Working Group on 20/05/2026) Enforcement officer patrols within hotspots are ongoing.	N
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SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 18 DECEMBER 2024					
SE/150/2024	NOM – Vaping	<p>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.</p>	S Murphy	In progress	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 with representatives from ABC Council. A further meeting has been arranged for March 26.	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 180 th 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •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	In Progress	N
			S Trainor	In Progress	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	In Progress	N

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 18 FEBRUARY 2026					
SE/013/2026	Officer Report on NOM – Solar Powered CCTV Cameras	it was agreed to consider the Notice of Motion and note the proposed actions by the Environment Department of Council and to write to the DAERA Minister requesting information on the available support and funding for tackling illegal dumping effectively across the District.	S Trainor	In progress	N
SE/016/2026	Rethinking Resources	it was agreed to note the content of the report and agree that Council write to DAERA requesting an extension to the consultation deadline in line with other Councils.	S Trainor	In progress	N
SE/019/2026	The Path to Net Zero – Fleet Fuel Options	It was agreed to approve the transition from diesel to HVO in line with Council's transition towards a Net Zero Council and to achieve targets set by the Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy.	C Sage	Procurement options being reviewed.	N

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 18 MARCH 2026					
SE/027/2026	Action Sheet: Sustainability And Environment Committee Meeting Held On 18 February 2026	It was agreed to note the Action Sheet	S Murphy	Noted	Y
SE/028/2026	Draft Nature Recovery Strategy Response	it was agreed to approve the response to DAERA's Draft Nature Recovery Strategy Consultation as detailed at Appendix 1 of the officers' report, subject to the additional recommendation relating to items 6, 8, 11, 14, 17 and 20 in the consultation response, an additional recommendation be included stating that any biodiversity strategy should involve working with counterparts across the rest of Ireland to deliver all-Ireland biodiversity approaches.	C Sage	In Progress	N
SE/029/2026	Sustainability Charges for Financial Year 2026/27	it was agreed to reject the suggested increase in facility charges for 2026/27 until the next financial year.	C Sage	Complete	Y
SE/030/2026	Home to Hospital	it was agreed to provide continued funding for the Mourne 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	In progress	N

SE/031/2026	Houses in Multiple Occupation – Licence Fee	<p>it was agreed to approve the following,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The increase of the HMO licence application fee to £62 per person per year from the 1 April 2026 • The costs of varying a HMO license as detailed in section 2.4 of the officers' report. 	S Trainor	Complete	Y
SE/032/2026	Refuse Collection/HRC arrangements for Public Holidays 2026/27	It was agreed to approve the alternative Refuse Collection Services and opening arrangements for Household Recycling Centres on Public Holidays applying to the 2026/27 financial year.	S Trainor	Approved	Y
SE/033/2026	Environment charges for financial year 2026/2027	It was agreed to approve the Proposed Waste Management Services Scale of Charges 2026/27 as set out in Appendix 1 of the officers' report.	S Trainor	Decision overturned at Council meeting	Y
SE/034/2026	Mixed Dry Recyclables Contract	It was agreed to approve the extension of the contract for the Receipt and Processing of Mixed Dry Recyclables from 31 March 2026 to 30 September 2026 and the extension of the current haulage contract with the organisation named in the officers' report from 31 March 2026 to 30 September 2026.	S Trainor	Approved	Y
SE/035/2026	Contract Extensions	It was agreed to approve the Contract / Direct Award contract extensions as detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 of the officers' report.	S Trainor	Approved	Y

SE/036/2026	Business Case – Vehicle Tyres	It was agreed to approve the business case at appendix 1 of the officers' report.	C Sage	To be progress as part of the S&E Procurement Action Plan	Y
SE/037/2026	Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting In-Committee Minutes Of Thursday 29 January 2026 & Joint Committee Members' Monthly Bulletin Held On 26 February 2026	It was agreed to note the documents	S Murphy	Noted	Y
SE/038/2026	Action Sheet And Presentations from The S&E Working Group Meeting Of 18 February 2026	It was agreed to note the documents	S Murphy	Noted	Y
SE/039/2026	Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting Held On Thursday 29 January 2026	It was agreed to note the document	S Murphy	Noted	Y
SE/040/2026	Biodiversity Strategy – Action Plan Review	It was agreed to note the many achievements for biodiversity across the district this year as outlined in Appendix 1 of the officers' report.	C Sage	Complete	Y

Report to:	Sustainability and Environment Committee
Date of Meeting:	29 th April 2026
Subject:	Notice of motion – Lislea Men's Shed proposed Wildfowl & Wildlife Preserve at Camlough lake
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Conor Sage, Assistant Director: Sustainability
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Eamonn Keaveney, Head of Sustainability

For decision	X	For noting only	
1.0			Purpose and Background
1.1			The purpose of this report is to facilitate discussion on the Notice of Motion received from Councillor Magennis as deferred from the Council Meeting of 13 th April 2026, in accordance with standing order 16.1.16.
1.2			<p>The following Motion was received from Councillor Magennis:</p> <p><i>"That this Council; Recognises the huge environmental, educational, and recreational potential of the Camlough Lake Wildfowl and Wetland Centre, as promoted by Lislea Men's Shed; Commends the Lislea Men's Shed group for their efforts so far, including the excellent Wildfowl and Wetlands Family Festival; acknowledges the Council's commitment to, "embedding sustainability across all its operations and providing leadership for the wider community"; recognises that Council's support for the project is both welcome and necessary, and innkeeping with its own sustainability goals; commits to working with Lislea Men's Shed and their partners, to deliver this project as a key environmental initiative, with educational, recreational and tourist potential and further commits to engaging with relevant funders, both internal and external, to see this project through to completion."</i></p> <p>The Motion was seconded by Councillor D Murphy.</p>
2.0			Key Issues
2.1			<p>Camlough Lake is a significant local natural asset with recognised environmental, biodiversity, recreational and landscape value.</p> <p>Lislea Men's Shed, in collaboration with partner organisations, has been progressing a community-led initiative to develop a Wildfowl and Wetland Centre at the lake.</p>
2.2			<p>Officers welcome the considerable environmental, educational and recreational potential of the Camlough Lake Wildfowl and Wetland Centre initiative and commend the work undertaken by Lislea Men's Shed to date.</p> <p>The project aligns strongly with Council Sustainability priorities and offers an opportunity for positive, high-impact partnership working.</p> <p>It would be appropriate to consider how the proposed Wildfowl and Wetland Centre aligns with and adds value to the approved Camlough Lake Recreational Hub project.</p>

	It would be beneficial for Council Officers to engage with Lislea Men's Shed and partners to further Council's understanding of the project concept, delivery model and phasing and bring a further report to committee for consideration.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	Members are asked to note the report and approve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officers to engage with Lislea Men's Shed to obtain a detailed understanding of the project and bring back a further report to S&E Committee.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	No additional resources associated with this report.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i> n/a <input type="checkbox"/>
5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If yes, please complete the following: The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/> The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/>
5.3	<i>Proposal initiating consultation</i> Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/> Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Rationale:</i> n/a
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If yes, please complete the following: Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/>
7.0	Appendices
	None
8.0	Background Documents
	None

Report to:	Sustainability and Environment Committee
Date of Meeting:	29 April 2026
Subject:	Consultation on a New General Safety Requirement (GSR) for Construction Products
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Sinead Trainor, Assistant Director: Environment
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Geraldine O'Callaghan, SEHO (Health and Safety, Consumer Safety and Tobacco Control)

For decision	X	For noting only	
1.0			Purpose
1.1			<p>The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval to submit the consultation response, drafted by the Environmental Health Department, on behalf of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to the Governments proposals for a General Safety Requirement (GSR) for Construction Products.</p> <p>This consultation seeks views on proposals for reform of the construction products regime to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).</p>
2.0			Background
2.1			Arising from the Grenfell Tower inquiry, the proposal aims to ensure all products placed on the market are safe, covering the ~63% currently unregulated by specific standards and to address the systemic failures identified by the Grenfell Tower Inquiry.
2.2			The proposed risk-based General Safety Requirement, potentially mandatory by late 2027, mandates that manufacturers, importers, and distributors ensure product safety under normal and foreseeable use, strengthening accountability across the supply chain.
3.0			Key issues
3.1			The pursuit of consistency with the reformed EU regime where this aligns with the objectives for safe products, safely used to restore public trust in construction products, and support long term economic growth for the industry.
3.2			New regulatory requirements for products not covered by regulations and proposed new requirements to ensure all products are safely used, particularly those critical to safe construction.ie licensing regime for conformity assessment bodies.
3.3			Manufacturers and importers must conduct risk assessments, manage product safety, and ensure compliance before placing products on the market.
3.4			Economic operators must monitor products to identify and address safety risks, investigate and record complaints, and take corrective actions such as amending information or enabling the withdrawal of unsafe products from the market.
3.5			New obligations are planned for online platforms, alongside stricter third-party testing and enforcement mechanisms. The proposals aim to balance safety with proportionality. This means avoiding unnecessary burdens on business to unlock innovation, investment and long-

	term growth, while delivering safer homes, buildings and infrastructure for people and communities.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	Members are asked to approve the draft consultation response detailed in Appendix 1, to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, on Governments proposals for regulatory reform as detailed in the Construction Products General Safety Requirement.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	None
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided)</p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>

6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If no, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices
7.1	Appendix 1 – Draft Consultation response
8.0	Background Documents
8.1	https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/general-safety-requirement-for-construction-products/consultation-on-the-general-safety-requirement-for-construction-products

Appendix 1 – Response to Consultation on the General Safety Requirements for Construction Products

Question 1: Do you agree that previously used products should be regulated in the same way as new products, unless the exemption applies?

Agree

Please explain your answer and include any changes you would make to the proposals.

Councils support regulating previously used construction products in the same way as new products, except where a clear exemption applies. Re-use markets are expanding, and many high-quality products can be safely and effectively reused. However, the safety risks associated with reused products can be equal to—or greater than—those of new products, due to wear, damage, or missing safety information. It is therefore important that clear requirements are in place to protect consumers.

Consistent regulation also ensures traceability, accountability, and a level playing field for all operators. For products critical to safe construction, it is essential that they undergo a documented risk assessment and appropriate compliance checks to confirm that they continue to meet current requirements.

Question 2: Do you agree with the proposal set out above of an overarching safety requirement on economic operators?

Agree

Please explain your answer and include any changes you would make to the proposals.

An overarching duty is essential to clarify responsibilities throughout the supply chain. It mirrors duties already present in Northern Ireland's consumer protection legislation and supports more effective enforcement. It also places responsibility on those best positioned to identify and mitigate risks before products reach the market.

The definition of 'use' does not include installation by professionals, leaving a gap in legislation and putting professionals and consumers at risk from unsuitable products being installed.

The definition of a construction product needs to be clear so that enforcement officers can determine whether a product falls within the scope of the regulations. The current definition is ambiguous.

We support the proposal in principle, as a general safety requirement is necessary to close regulatory gaps and ensure all construction products are subject to a baseline duty of safety. However, its effectiveness will depend on:

- Clear, practical guidance on what constitutes compliance
- Proportionate obligations tailored to risk and business size
- Alignment with existing regulatory frameworks to avoid duplication
- Robust and consistent enforcement

Question 3: Do you agree that the measures described as part of the process for assessing risk are reasonable and proportionate?

Agree

Please explain your answer and include any changes you would make to the proposals.

The outlined measures align with existing risk-based regulatory practice and are proportionate to the potential harm associated with unsafe construction products. They reflect a risk-based approach that allows obligations to scale according to the nature and potential hazards of the product, and they are consistent with good practice among responsible economic operators. A structured assessment helps operators focus on foreseeable hazards, supporting better compliance and more efficient enforcement.

However, their proportionality will depend on clear, practical guidance on the expected scope and depth of risk assessments, particularly for SMEs.

It will also be important to ensure that these requirements do not duplicate existing obligations under other regulatory regimes, and that concepts such as foreseeable use and misuse are applied in a balanced and proportionate way.

Question 4: Do you think the above list of criteria for product information is proportionate, as well as sufficient to support decisions to select the right product? If not, what further information do you think would be helpful?

No

Please explain your answer and include any changes you would make to the proposals.

In addition to what is included in the above list of criteria for product information, we recommend including the following:

- **Clear identification of safety-critical products:** Any product identified as critical to safe construction—such as those relating to fire safety, structural integrity, or life-safety systems, as highlighted in the Construction Products Reform White Paper—should be clearly flagged to the purchaser or end user. These higher-risk products should be subject to correspondingly higher expectations on economic operators.
- **Information on prior use and condition for reused products:** For products being reused, information on previous modifications, repair history, and any known performance limitations should also be provided.

Including this information would support professional and safe decision-making by installers and end users. Clear and accessible product information is essential for both safety and traceability.

Question 5: Do you agree with the proposals on product labelling?

Disagree

Please explain your answer and include any changes you would make to the proposals.

We agree with the proposed product labelling requirements; however, we do not agree that a product's unique identifier alone is sufficient to trace a specific batch. This requirement should be expanded to explicitly include a batch or serial number. Such information could be incorporated within a digital product passport, ensuring consistency with both NI and EU requirements.

A system such as digital product passports would enable economic operators, regulators, and downstream users to link each product to its exact production batch. This would strengthen traceability, support targeted and efficient safety recalls, and improve accountability across the supply chain. It would be especially valuable for safety-critical products where even small batch-level variations can have significant implications.

Consideration should also be given to avoiding information overload. Excessive or overly technical documentation may reduce clarity rather than enhance it. Product information should remain targeted, relevant, and easy for its intended audience to understand.

Additionally, alignment with existing requirements under other regulatory frameworks will be essential to prevent duplication and ensure a coherent, streamlined system for product information.

Overall, the proposals are appropriate and proportionate, but their effectiveness will rely on clarity, usability, and the practical implementation of information requirements across the supply chain.

Question 6: Do you agree that the manufacturer should maintain records of such actions for a period of 10 years beyond the last supply of the product?

Agree

Please explain your answer and include any changes you would make to the proposals.

A 10-year period aligns with the existing requirements under product safety frameworks. This duration supports effective post-market monitoring and enforcement.

Question 7: Do you agree with the proposals for the responsibilities of importers?

Neither agree nor disagree

Please explain your answer and include any changes you would make to the proposals.

Any definition of an importer must take into account the specific position of Northern Ireland. In NI, an importer is defined as someone bringing a product in from outside the EU, which includes goods arriving from Great Britain. Guidance should therefore clarify what checks are required, and at what point they must be carried out, for items entering NI. Depending on the product's origin, the role may fall to either a distributor or an importer, and the guidance needs to reflect this distinction.

Importers play a critical role as the first point of entry into the UK market, including NI. The proposals correctly recognise the need for importers to verify conformity, ensure documentation is available, and maintain oversight of supply chains.

Question 8: Do you agree with the proposals to make importers label products as set out above?

Neither agree nor disagree

Please explain your answer and include any changes you would make to the proposals.

Any definition of an importer must take into account the specific position of Northern Ireland. In NI, an importer is defined as someone bringing a product in from outside the EU, which includes goods arriving from Great Britain.

Clarity is needed on whether a Northern Ireland business receiving a product from Great Britain is required to relabel it to meet UK regulations.

Guidance should also address whether a manufacturer can appoint a responsible economic operator within NI or the EU, so that NI distributors are not all required to undertake relabelling themselves.

Question 9: Do you agree with the proposed requirements on importers to retain records as set out above?

Agree

Please explain your answer and include any changes you would make to the proposals.

Any definition of an importer must take into account the specific position of Northern Ireland. In NI, an importer is defined as someone bringing a product in from outside the EU, which includes goods arriving from Great Britain.

A 10-year period aligns with the existing requirements under product safety frameworks. This duration supports effective post-market monitoring and enforcement.

Question 10: Do you agree with the proposed requirements on distributors as set out above?

Agree

Please explain your answer and include any changes you would make to the proposals.

Any definition of a distributor must take into account the specific position of Northern Ireland. In NI, a distributor is defined as someone placing a product from NI or the EU onto the NI market. However, if they place a product from Great Britain onto the NI market they are an importer. Guidance therefore needs to clearly reflect this NI-specific issue.

Distributors are often the last line of defence before products reach the market. Their storage and transportation responsibilities should be strengthened, as they may hold products for extended periods and are responsible for delivering them to their final destination.

Question 11: Do you think the requirement of creating records of purchase and supply and retaining such records for 10 years to allow for traceability is proportionate?

Yes

Please explain your answer and include any changes you would make to the proposals.

A 10-year period aligns with the existing requirements under product safety frameworks. This duration supports effective post-market monitoring and enforcement, and modern digital systems now make long-term record retention both feasible and cost-effective.

Question 12: Do you agree with the proposed requirements on fulfilment service providers as set out above?

Agree

Please explain your answer and include any changes you would make to the proposals.

Online marketplaces are an increasingly common supply route for construction products. Bringing fulfilment service providers into scope closes an important regulatory gap, prevents avoidance of responsibility, and ensures parity with importers and distributors.

To support safe and informed purchasing, online listings should display all the information that would be available at the point of sale in a physical shop, including:

- **Intended use** of the product.
- **Technical information** sufficient for users, specifiers, or purchasers to determine whether the product is appropriate for its intended application.
- **Safety information** covering aspects of normal or reasonably foreseeable use that fall outside intended use, including warnings, prohibited uses, and relevant testing.
- **Details of any voluntary standards or third-party certifications** the product meets, where applicable.
- **Instructions for safe use, disposal, installation, assembly, and maintenance**, including training or competency requirements for installation and information on compatibility with systems, kits, materials, or other products.

- **Instructions for safe storage and transportation.**
- **Guidance on where or how the product should not be used**, where relevant.

If a product is identified as **critical to safe construction**, this must be clearly highlighted to the purchaser or end user.

For **reused products**, information on previous modifications, repair history, and any known performance limitations should also be provided.

Presenting clear and comprehensive information in this way supports safe, professional decision-making by installers and end users

Question 13: Do you agree that we should require economic operators to make sure that the way they store, or transport, products does not cause them to become unsafe?

Agree

Please explain your answer and include any changes you would make to the proposals.

Improper storage or transport can compromise a product's integrity. This requirement is reasonable and aligns with existing due-diligence expectations within supply chains.

Question 14: Do you agree or disagree with the proposals for economic operators to monitor construction products that have been placed on the market?

Agree

Please explain your answer and include any changes you would make to the proposals.

Post-market surveillance is essential for detecting systemic issues, product failures, or emerging safety risks. A clear monitoring duty improves accountability and helps economic operators and enforcement authorities act swiftly.

Post-market surveillance is essential for identifying systemic issues, product failures, and emerging safety risks. A clear monitoring duty strengthens accountability and enables enforcement authorities to respond quickly and effectively when problems arise.

There should also be a straightforward system for economic operators and individuals to report risks, poor practices, or concerns about non-compliance—consistent with the approach outlined in Chapter 9 of the Construction Products Reform White Paper.

Similar mechanisms already exist in other sectors, such as the MHRA's Yellow Card scheme, the SUE reporting model for cosmetics, and the EU's consumer and business safety reporting gateways, which allow users to flag safety concerns directly.

Introducing an accessible and trusted reporting process would support early detection of issues, improve transparency across the supply chain, and enhance overall product safety.

Question 15: Do you agree that economic operators should have a duty to co-operate and carry out actions when they are asked to by an enforcement authority?

Agree

Please explain your answer and include any changes you would make to the proposals.

Such duties are standard within product safety law and are essential for effective enforcement. Timely cooperation with Market Surveillance Authorities is critical to enable thorough investigation of unsafe products, implement protective measures, and safeguard both professionals and consumers.

Question 16: Do you agree that enforcement authorities should be able to accept an undertaking instead of taking formal enforcement action?

Agree

Please explain your answer and include any changes you would make to the proposals.

Councils recognise that undertakings can be a proportionate and efficient alternative to formal enforcement, and this approach is consistent with the Council's enforcement policy. Councils also consider it important to support businesses and contribute to economic growth.

However, authorities must retain the ability to escalate enforcement where undertakings are breached or where a serious risk exists.

Question 17: Do you agree with the proposal to introduce civil monetary penalties for non-compliance with requirements under the GSR?

Don't know

Please explain your answer and include any changes you would make to the proposals.

Civil monetary penalties are not currently used by Northern Ireland councils, so we do not have direct experience with this enforcement mechanism. However, we would welcome their introduction if they prove to be an effective tool for securing compliance. If such a system were to be introduced in Northern Ireland, careful consideration would be needed on how the framework would be implemented, as these powers do not presently exist in NI.

Question 18: Do you agree with the proposal to not extend powers to issue civil monetary penalties to LATS under the GSR, recognising their reduced role in enforcing construction product regulations?

Don't know

Please explain your answer and include any changes you would make to the proposals.

Within Northern Ireland, product safety enforcement—including the enforcement of construction products regulations—is carried out by Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) based within District Councils.

Section 8.5 states that: *“Local authority trading standards (LATS) (or environmental health, in Northern Ireland) currently hold regulatory powers to carry out market surveillance and enforcement to remove non-compliant products from the UK market. However, evidence suggests that LATS do not always have the resources and skills, nor do they necessarily prioritise enforcement of construction product regulation.”*

However, Environmental Health Officers are then omitted in Section 2.8, which states: *“Enforcement will be strengthened through enhanced powers for the national regulator for construction products, including market surveillance, investigatory powers, and proportionate intervention measures such as suspension, recall, and prohibition. Local authority trading standards (LATS) will also be equipped with these powers to complement the role of the national regulator.”*

They are also omitted in the definition of *Enforcement Authorities*, which refers only to: “the national regulator for construction products and local authority trading standards.”

Given that EHOs within NI District Councils currently undertake this enforcement role, clarity is required from the UK Government on how their role will be reflected within the new framework.

Question 19: Do you agree with the proposal on cost recovery notices that the enforcement authority is able to issue?

Don't know

Please explain your answer and include any changes you would make to the proposals.

Cost recovery notices are not currently used by Northern Ireland councils, so we do not have direct experience with this enforcement mechanism. However, we would welcome their introduction if they prove to be an effective tool for securing compliance. If such a system were to be introduced in Northern Ireland, careful consideration would be needed on how the framework would be implemented, as these powers do not presently exist in NI.

Question 20: Do you have views on whether LATS should have powers to issue cost recovery notices, as well as the national regulator for construction products?

Don't know

Please explain your answer and include any changes you would make to the proposals.

Within Northern Ireland, product safety enforcement—including the enforcement of construction products regulations—is carried out by Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) based within District Councils.

Section 8.5 states that: “Local authority trading standards (LATS) (or environmental health, in Northern Ireland) currently hold regulatory powers to carry out market surveillance and enforcement to remove non-compliant products from the UK market. However, evidence suggests that LATS do not always have the resources and skills, nor do they necessarily prioritise enforcement of construction product regulation.”

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*They are also omitted in the definition of *Enforcement Authorities*, which refers only to: “the national regulator for construction products and local authority trading standards.”*

Given that EHOs within NI District Councils currently undertake this enforcement role, clarity is required from the UK Government on how their role will be reflected within the new framework.

Cost recovery notices are not currently used by Northern Ireland councils, so we do not have direct experience with this enforcement mechanism. However, we would welcome their introduction if they prove to be an effective tool for securing compliance. If such a system were to be introduced in Northern Ireland, careful consideration would be needed on how the framework would be implemented, as these powers do not presently exist in NI.

Question 21: Do you agree with the time periods that an economic operator has to lodge their appeal?

Agree

Please explain your answer and include any changes you would make to the proposals.

The proposed timescales strike a fair balance between allowing operators sufficient time to prepare an appeal and ensuring that enforcement action is not unduly delayed. This timeframe is in line with other Environmental Health regulatory functions.

Report to:	Sustainability and Environment Committee
Date of Meeting:	29 th April 2026
Subject:	Consultation on Construction Products Reform White Paper
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Sinead Trainor, Assistant Director: Environment
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Geraldine O'Callaghan, SEHO (Health and Safety, Consumer Safety and Tobacco Control)

For decision	X	For noting only	
1.0	Purpose		
1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval to submit the consultation response, drafted by the Environmental Health Department, on behalf of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to the Governments proposals for Construction Products Reform White Paper on regulatory reform.</p> <p>This consultation seeks views on a package of proposals for reform of the construction products regime to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).</p>		
2.0	Background		
2.1	<p>The Grenfell Tower tragedy in June 2017 led to a devastating loss of life and revealed a crisis with national repercussions. The subsequent Inquiry and two independent reviews exposed a construction products regulatory regime that failed its most basic purpose: to keep people safe in their homes.</p>		
2.2	<p>This white paper sets out proposals for regulatory reform of the construction products regime and guidance to support industry to understand their responsibilities regarding products critical to safe construction.</p>		
2.3	<p>The white paper is consulting with industry and regulators in relation to methods to close longstanding gaps in regulatory coverage and establish a robust regime that gives confidence in this large and complex sector to ensure all products are safely used, particularly those critical to safe construction.</p>		
2.4	<p>By eliminating unsafe products, enhancing scrutiny, and improving transparency, to safeguard people in their homes and communities, preventing future tragedies and avoiding the risk of costly remediation for developers/ homeowners.</p>		
3.0	Key issues		
3.1	<p>The pursuit of consistency with the reformed EU regime where this aligns with the objectives for safe products, safely used to restore public trust in construction products, and support long term economic growth for the industry. New regulatory requirements for products not covered by regulations and proposed new requirements to ensure all products are safely used, particularly those critical to safe construction. ie licensing regime for conformity assessment bodies</p>		

3.2	Benefits to enable employment protections for individuals reporting risks, bad practices and non-compliances within their own organisations to enforcement regulator/s.
3.3	Use of EN 15804 +A2 to encourage the use of good environmental performance without undermining essential safety obligations.
3.4	Introduction of a robust and transparent framework to include clear statutory obligations on all parties including the design and installation stages where decisions are sometimes driven by costs rather than safety.
3.5	The implementation plan should consider the uniqueness of the NI dual-market context to ensure NI stakeholders can implement changes effectively and without disadvantage with a NI based office to support consistent implementation and advice.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	Members are asked to approve the Environmental Health Department's consultation response, detailed in Appendix 1, to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government on the proposed regulatory reforms set out in the Construction Products Reform White Paper.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	None
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>

5.3	<p>Proposal initiating consultation</p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If no, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices
7.1	Appendix 1 – Draft Consultation response
8.0	Background Documents
8.1	https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/construction-products-reform-white-paper/construction-products-reform-white-paper#chapter-8-assurance-and-oversight-of-testing-conformity-assessment-and-certification

Appendix 1 – NMDDC Draft Consultation response to Construction Products Reform White Paper

Questions

Chapter 6: Regulating Products

The following question is from Chapter 6 of the Construction Products Reform White Paper. Please read the white paper before responding ([available here on GOV.UK](#)).

Top of Form

1. What should be included in guidance to support industry to understand their responsibilities regarding products critical to safe construction?

Guidance should clearly set out industry responsibilities for ensuring that products critical to safe construction are selected, installed, and maintained in a way that supports building safety. Key elements should include:

- **A defined list of products considered critical to safe construction**

The guidance should provide a clear and regularly updated list of product categories that fall under this designation, helping key parties understand when enhanced safety requirements apply.

- **Requirements for robust product-specific risk assessment**

Industry should be supported to undertake proportionate risk assessments that consider product safety, intended use, interaction with other building systems, and potential safety impacts if the product fails.

- **Reference to approved Codes of Practice or harmonised standards**

For products identified as critical to safety, the guidance should signpost relevant standards or approved Codes of Practice. These should include clear instructions for safe installation, integration with other systems, and performance expectations. If standards or CoPs do not already exist, they should be developed to allow manufacturers to follow them.

- **Use of third-party accreditation and verification systems**

Guidance should emphasise the importance of selecting products and suppliers that have been independently accredited. It should also outline how verification systems operate and how organisations can determine whether an accredited party is legitimate and competent.

- **Competency requirements for contractors, subcontractors and installers**

Clear expectations should be set for the competency of those installing or assessing safety-critical products. This should include reference to recognised competency schemes, training requirements, and the responsibilities of principal contractors and key parties to ensure competency is maintained throughout the supply chain.

- **Tailored advice for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)**

The guidance should include practical, proportionate advice for SMEs, recognising the distinct challenges they face. This may include simplified tools for risk assessment, signposting to support programmes, and accessible explanations of standards and accreditation processes.

Chapter 8: Assurance and Oversight of Testing, Conformity Assessment and Certification

The following questions are from Chapter 8 of the Construction Products Reform White Paper. Please read the white paper before responding ([available here on GOV.UK](#)).

Top of Form

2. Do you agree that the above principles should underpin the licensing regime for Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs)?

Yes

Please explain your answer. Please outline how you think a licensing regime for CABs could work operationally.

A licensing regime for CABs should be designed to ensure consistency, integrity and high standards across all organisations carrying out assessments for construction products. To operate effectively, the regime would require clear conditions, strong oversight, appropriate enforcement powers and adequate resourcing. The following key areas should be included:

- A defined licence period with clear renewal requirements based on ongoing compliance and audit outcomes.
- A transparent and robust framework outlining minimum requirements for competence, independence, reporting, and quality assurance.
- Regular surveillance, scheduled and unannounced audits, and strong technical oversight to ensure continued compliance.
- Standardised processes for identifying, categorising and addressing non-conformance, including corrective actions and follow-up.
- The national regulator should have the authority to impose conditions, issue sanctions, suspend operations or revoke licences where necessary.
- Licensing should be mandatory.
- The licensing regime must have sufficient long-term funding and specialist expertise to deliver effective oversight and maintain industry confidence.

NI businesses may continue to access EU-based CABs, including those in the Republic of Ireland. The licensing model should accommodate this to avoid disadvantaging NI businesses.

Councils consider that a mandatory, independent and well-resourced licensing regime has the potential to significantly raise standards across the construction sector. By establishing minimum requirements for third-party certification, ensuring consistent oversight and enabling transparent performance monitoring, such a regime can promote greater and more uniform levels of safety.

However, the success of this system relies on trust—achieved through independence, transparency, proper resourcing and competent oversight.

Bottom of Form

3. Do you agree that this national testing and research facility would lead to the highlighted benefits?

Yes

Please explain your answer.

Yes, we agree that a national testing and research facility would deliver the highlighted benefits, particularly for Northern Ireland. At present, there are no accredited test houses in NI, and the nature of many construction products makes transporting them to facilities in Great Britain difficult and costly. A national facility with sufficient capacity, appropriate expertise and full accreditation would significantly reduce these barriers and provide essential support to both businesses and enforcing authorities.

Such a facility would also offer genuinely independent testing, which is important for building confidence in compliance processes. For enforcers, the availability of an impartial laboratory—willing and able to act as an expert witness in court—is a major benefit, ensuring that evidence is both robust and reliable.

To maximise value for NI, the facility would need to consider the region's unique dual-market position, including the need for testing recognised under both UK and EU frameworks. Ensuring adequate building size, specialist staff and technical capability is essential so that the full range of construction products can be tested.

Overall, a well-resourced, fully accredited and independent national testing and research facility would help reduce costs, support enforcement, improve access to testing, and enhance safety standards across the UK, with particularly strong benefits for Northern Ireland.

4. What opportunities are there for government to establish partnership models to establish new public sector testing and research capacity?

We consider it essential that the government plays an active role in supporting research and development to ensure that testing and research capacity keeps pace with technological innovation. Sustained government involvement will help maintain the UK's ability to respond effectively to emerging risks and opportunities.

UK-based bodies could collaborate with central government to develop distributed testing networks. This would provide enforcers with support on logistical and transportation challenges, contributing to a more resilient and geographically dispersed testing system. However, strong governance arrangements would be required to avoid conflicts of interest.

Government could support a wider range of UK-based organisations to become accredited test bodies. This investment could expand domestic expertise, enhance competitiveness, reduce reliance on overseas laboratories, and enable enforcers access to independent second opinions.

Opportunities for partnership models include public-private partnerships, partnerships with academic and research institutions, partnerships with established local authority testing bodies.

Chapter 9: Role and Responsibilities of Regulators

The following question is from Chapter 9 of the Construction Products Reform White Paper. Please read the white paper before responding ([available here on GOV.UK](#)).

Top of Form

5. Would there be a benefit to enabling employment protections, for individuals reporting risks, bad practices and non-compliance within their own organisation, to the national regulator for construction products?

Yes

Please explain your answer.

Yes, there would be a clear benefit in enabling employment protections for individuals who report risks, bad practices or non-compliance within their organisation to the national regulator for construction products. Any such protections should be aligned with existing whistleblowing legislation to ensure consistency, fairness and legal clarity. Strong protections would give employees the confidence to raise concerns without fear of retaliation, which is essential for effective intelligence gathering.

Surveillance across the whole system is critical to identifying unsafe practices, and this relies on accurate, timely intelligence. Providing staff with a safe route to report concerns directly to the national regulator would support more proactive identification of risks and systemic issues. To be effective, there should be a clear, easy-to-use reporting mechanism—ideally a public, anonymous digital reporting platform—supported by widely publicised guidance on how to make a report. Consideration should also be given to providing an option for local enforcement bodies to be notified when relevant.

To ensure the credibility of the system, procedures must be in place to sift out malicious, vexatious or unfounded reports while still protecting those who raise genuine concerns. This balance is essential for maintaining trust among employers, employees and regulators.

Given the need for intelligence-led regulation, a central reporting mechanism for consumers, tradespeople and employees would provide valuable insight into emerging issues across all construction products. Such a system, supported by appropriate employment protections, would strengthen the national regulator's ability to act on reliable information, target high-risk areas and improve overall safety across the construction sector.

Bottom of FormChapter 10: Environment and Sustainability

The following question is from Chapter 10 of the Construction Products Reform White Paper. Please read the white paper before responding ([available here on GOV.UK](#)).

Top of Form

6. We would like to raise awareness and encourage the use of EN 15804+A2 as the methodology for producing an Environmental Product Declaration. **What other opportunities could support best practice for products not covered by a designated standard?** Please explain your answer.

Please explain your answer.

Yes, promoting EN 15804+A2 as the preferred methodology for Environmental Product Declarations is beneficial, but additional opportunities can help support best practice where no designated standard exists. Environmental compliance should operate in harmony with safety requirements, ensuring neither area compromises the other and both contribute to a shared objective of safe, sustainable products.

Where specific standards are not available, the use of PAS documents, recognised Codes of Practice, and Common Specifications could provide appropriate, consistent methodologies. These frameworks can offer clear guidance, ensure alignment with safety requirements, and support manufacturers in demonstrating good environmental performance without undermining essential safety obligations.

Chapter 11: Competence and Accountability

The following question is from Chapter 11 of the Construction Products Reform White Paper. Please read the white paper before responding ([available here on GOV.UK](#)).

Top of Form

7. Are there any specific roles or points where you think **accountability is not clear**?

Yes

If yes, please explain your answer and include who should be responsible.

Yes, we believe there are several points across the construction product lifecycle where accountability is not currently clear. The existing regime is fragmented, with inconsistent responsibilities, limited oversight and a lack of statutory clarity for key parties. There must be clear statutory obligations on all relevant parties, with legal consequences for non-compliance, rather than relying on individuals or organisations informally “assuring themselves.” A more robust and transparent framework is required.

Accountability gaps are also evident at the design and installation stages, where decisions are sometimes driven by cost rather than safety. Without clear, enforceable duties at these early stages, risk can be introduced long before a regulator is involved.

To address these issues, we are of the view that the National Regulator should operate transparently, with strong oversight of all parties involved in design, specification, installation and approval.

In summary, accountability is currently unclear across multiple points in the system. A single national regulator, combined with clearer statutory duties and better integration between building safety and product regulations, is essential to ensure that safety is placed at the forefront rather than cost.

Chapter 12: Implementation Plan

The following questions are from Chapter 12 of the Construction Products Reform White Paper. Please read the white paper before responding ([available here on GOV.UK](#)).

Top of Form

8. Do you have views on appropriate lead times or transition periods relating to specific reforms set out in this white paper?

We agreed with the lead times and transition periods detailed in 12.4 of the consultation.

Bottom of Form

9. What should we take into account when developing the proposed tranches and sequencing?

Please explain your answer.

When developing the proposed tranches and sequencing, it is essential that the unique position of Northern Ireland is considered at every stage. Guidance for NI should be published in parallel with GB guidance, not after it, to avoid delays, inconsistencies and further regulatory divergence. Any new framework should actively work to integrate NI within the wider UK legislative system rather than create additional separation.

Consideration must also be given to NI's dual-market context, where businesses often need to comply with both UK and EU requirements. This reality should shape both the timing and content of tranches to ensure that NI stakeholders can implement changes effectively and without disadvantage.

In addition, the national regulator must have a visible, operational presence in all parts of the UK—including Northern Ireland—from the outset. This should include dedicated NI-based offices and officers responsible for market surveillance and all other regulatory functions. Ensuring early and embedded regulatory presence in NI will support consistent implementation, improve compliance, and provide confidence to industry and enforcement bodies.

Chapter 13: Next Steps

The following questions are from Chapter 13 of the Construction Products Reform White Paper. Please read the white paper before responding ([available here on GOV.UK](#)).

Top of Form

10. Do you have any views, evidence or insights regarding the impact that reforms might have regarding the costs and benefits to businesses, as well as any wider impacts?

We consider this matter to fall outside the remit of Market Surveillance Authorities, and therefore we are not in a position to provide a detailed response to this question.

Bottom of Form

11. Do you have any other useful information that you wish to share that is not covered by your previous answers?

A key consideration is the unique situation of Northern Ireland, where regulators must operate within both the UK and EU legislative frameworks. To ensure effective enforcement and consistency for businesses, construction product legislation must not become fragmented from manufacture through to end use. Alignment between construction product safety requirements and building control regulations is essential, and definitions, responsibilities and regulatory approaches must remain consistent across the UK. Any divergence—either regulatory or operational—creates unnecessary complexity and increases the risk of non-compliance.

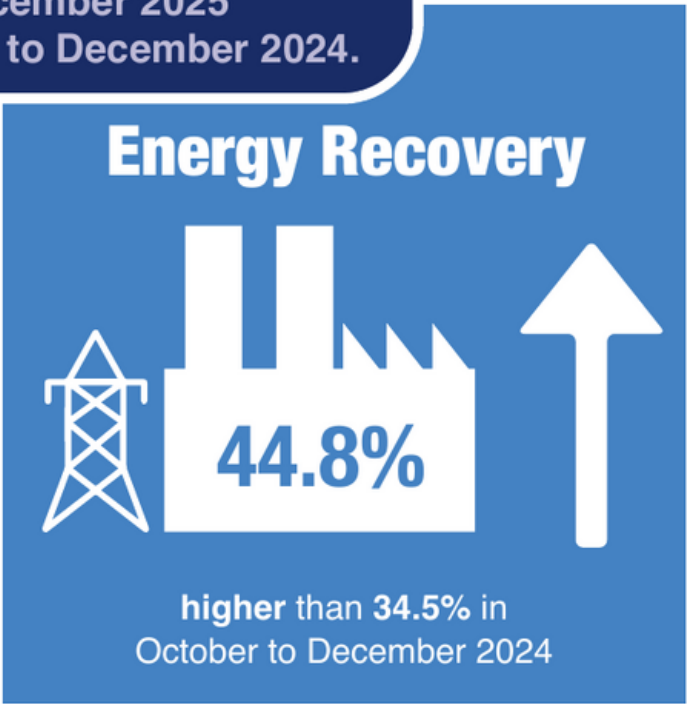
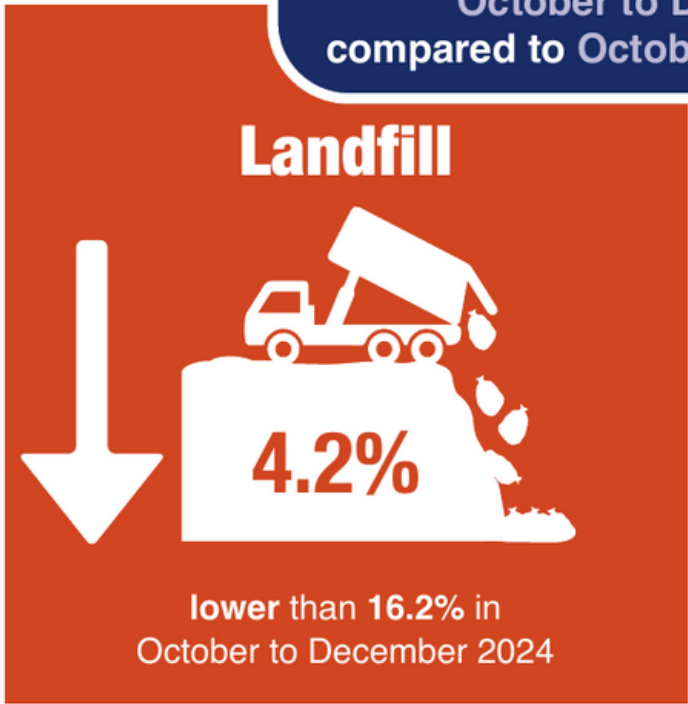
For Northern Ireland-based regulators, consistency is especially important. The ability to apply a harmonised approach across both UK and EU requirements supports clear enforcement, reduces ambiguity for businesses operating in dual markets, and prevents the development of conflicting obligations. To maintain this consistency, the wider legislative framework must be designed to integrate NI, rather than creating further separation.

It is also important to acknowledge the significant pressures faced by existing enforcement bodies. Those currently responsible for regulating construction products work across a very wide range of product types and legislation, yet many are under-resourced and face competing priorities. Constraints around financial support, staffing levels, technical expertise and access to training all affect the ability of regulators to carry out meaningful market surveillance and enforcement activity. These capacity challenges must be addressed for any new system to function effectively.

Waste Collections by NI Councils October to December 2025



**Recycling, energy recovery and landfill rates of LAC municipal waste
October to December 2025
compared to October to December 2024.**



Northern Ireland Environment Agency
Gníomhaireacht Comhshaoil Thuaisceart Éireann
Norlin Airlan Environment Agency



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**Agriculture, Environment
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agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Department of
**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**